

**RETIREMENT OF CLAYTON M. CLEMENS
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

Clayton (Clay) M. Clemens received his B.A. from William & Mary in 1980 with a double major in Government and History, graduating *Phi Beta Kappa*. He went on to The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts, earning his M.A. in 1983, and Ph.D. in 1987. After joining William & Mary as an Instructor of Government in 1985, he was hired as an Assistant Professor in 1986, promoted to Associate Professor in 1992, and Professor in 2000. He held the Hamilton Chair in Government (2003-2006) and was named Chancellor Professor of Government in 2007.

Professor Clemens served on the Arts & Sciences Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee, as well as the Faculty Affairs and Academic Advising committees. At the University level, he was on the Faculty Assembly (including its Executive Committee), the Faculty Research Committee, various Career Services advisory groups, and several senior administrative searches. For many years he served on the Commencement Policy Committee and as a Faculty Marshal. Other roles included the Special Interest Housing Committee, chairing a task force to revise the Honor system and helping select student nominees for national scholarships through the Charles Center.

Within the Government Department, Professor Clemens has been Associate Chair twice (2002-2010 and 2015-2019), during which time he also edited its alumni newsletter. At various points he has served on the Scholarship, Personnel, and Curriculum committees. Finally, he has also managed the Department's Irwin Scholarship selections.

Professor Clemens' research interests and publications have focused on German politics. His work includes *Reluctant Realists: The CDU/CSU and West German Ostpolitik* (Duke University Press, 1989), *The Kohl Chancellorship* (Frank Cass, 1995, co-edited with William Paterson) and *The German Election of 2005* (co-edited with Thomas Saalfeld). He has published articles in *West European Politics*, *Armed Forces and Society*, and *International Affairs*; contributed periodically to *German Politics* and *German Politics and Society*; and authored a number of chapters for edited volumes. His scholarship has also been delivered at academic conferences, most frequently those of the German Studies Association, but also the American Political Science Association, the European Studies Association and others. Finally, he has been an invited speaker at events sponsored by the U.S. and German governments, as well as think tanks.

Over the span of nearly four decades, Professor Clay Clemens, usually accompanied by a Golden Retriever or two, has been a cornerstone of the Government Department, renowned for his quick wit, infectious humor, and unparalleled approachability. His classrooms have been vibrant forums of learning and debate, transforming them into must-attend experiences for generations of students. As such, his courses have become a rite of passage for those majoring in Government, with many alumni attributing their success and understanding of the subject to his engaging teaching methods.

Beyond the classroom, Professor Clemens has been a quintessential mentor, his office a hub of guidance for those navigating their academic and professional journeys. His influence on student lives is unparalleled within the history of the Department, having touched more futures with his insight and supportive presence than any other faculty member to date. This profound impact is further evidenced by his longstanding role as the Candlelight speaker at graduation—a testament to his esteemed place in the hearts of students spanning two generations. For 20 years, his words resonated with the graduating classes, a tradition that underscores the breadth and depth of his contributions to their lives.

In honoring Professor Clemens as he steps into retirement, we celebrate not just a stellar academic but a cherished educator whose legacy is etched in the personal and professional growth of thousands of students. He leaves a Department that has been immeasurably enriched by his dedication, a student body that has been profoundly inspired by his teachings, and a collective memory that will forever hold his tenure here as the golden years of student mentorship and academic excellence.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the William & Mary Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Clayton M. Clemens; expresses its deep appreciation for his thirty-nine years of service; and approves a change in status from Chancellor Professor of Government to Chancellor Professor of Government, Emeritus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy delivered to Professor Clemens with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.