

**RETIREMENT OF S. LAURIE SANDERSON  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

Professor S. Laurie Sanderson received a B.A. in Zoology (High Honors) from the University of Hawaii in 1981 and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa the same year. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard University in 1984 and 1987, respectively.

Concurrently with a series of lecturer positions, she completed NSF-funded post-doctoral research in Environmental Biology at UC-Davis and earned a President's Fellowship for Research in their Department of Mathematics in 1990. She joined the William & Mary faculty in 1992 as an Assistant Professor of Biology, was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 1997, and promoted to Professor in 2003.

Professor Sanderson has maintained an active research lab, garnering over \$800,000 in grants to conduct research focused on the filtration mechanics of suspension feeding by fish, and has made novel conceptual connections with heat transfer in electronic equipment and the mechanics of hydrocyclone particle separators. Throughout her career, she has regularly published papers with students and faculty colleagues in top tier journals. Her research led to a patent in 2016, and in 2023 she was the keynote speaker at an international conference in Germany on biological filters.

Professor Sanderson taught an introductory course in General Zoology, as well as upper-level lecture, laboratory and seminar courses in Vertebrate Biology and Functional Ecology.

Professor Sanderson has provided years of service to the university at all levels. She served as interim chair of the Biology Department during the trying times of Covid in 2020-21, for many years chaired the department Personnel Committee, and was instrumental in updating and revising the Biology Department Policies and Procedures. For the university, she served as Dean of Graduate Studies and Research from 2005-2012, leading Arts & Sciences graduate programs to increased prominence at William & Mary. An eponymous award for Graduate Student Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring was created in 2012 to honor her exemplary service. Professor Sanderson also served on the Educational Policy Committee, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, and many search, review and advisory committees in Arts & Sciences and at VIMS. Professor Sanderson was presented with an 'Excellence in Advising' award and received honorable mention for Faculty Advisor of the Year in 2015.

Professor Sanderson's hallmark traits are her empathetic, inclusive, and caring approach to students, staff, and faculty, as well as her thoughtfulness and meticulous attention to detail. Faculty colleagues and student mentees across the William & Mary community have relied on her for sage advice throughout her career.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the William & Mary Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of S. Laurie Sanderson, expresses its profound appreciation for her many contributions to William & Mary; and approves, with deep gratitude for her thirty-two years of service, a change in status from Professor of Biology to Professor of Biology, Emerita.

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