

**RETIREMENT OF RANDOLPH A. COLEMAN
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

Randolph (Randy) A. Coleman received an A.B. in Chemistry from Susquehanna University in 1966. He earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Purdue University in 1970, working under Prof. Herbert C. Brown, who received a Nobel Prize in 1979. He joined the William & Mary faculty in 1970 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1976, and to Professor in 2017.

Professor Coleman has received both of William & Mary's highest faculty awards: In 1998, he was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award, which recognizes significant service through their personal activities, influence and leadership. In 2018, he received the Thomas A. Graves, Jr. Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching.

As confirmed by these honors, Professor Coleman has been a dedicated, innovative teacher. He has inspired generations of students to pursue medical and research careers through his joy of teaching. His foundational courses, including *Organic Chemistry* and *Biochemistry*, have challenged students for decades. His freshman seminar/COLL course, *The Chemistry of Emotion*, has been immensely popular with new students. His engaging senior-level COLL course, *Neurochemistry*, has introduced students to cutting-edge scientific literature and been a longtime staple of the Neuroscience program. In addition, Randy has initiated many students into scientific research through his research group, often working with 20 or more students at a time.

Outside the classroom, Professor Coleman has significantly transformed the student experience. He initiated William & Mary's premedical advising program and was its heart and soul for a remarkable thirty-five years. He also founded our undergraduate academic advising program, serving as the first faculty head of the Office of Academic Advising, and helping to bring the *Banner* system to campus.

After leaving the Office of Academic Advising and returning to Chemistry in 2005, Professor Coleman embarked on a completely new research direction in biochemistry. Engaging a large number of undergraduate researchers his research, and partnering with researchers at Eastern Virginia Medical School, he has used mathematical models to better understand neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and Multiple Sclerosis. Demonstrating relevance and critical importance of his research, Randy's work has been supported by the Commonwealth Health Advisory Board and the Virginia Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Fund. His results have been published in numerous high-impact neuroscience journals, illustrating the potential impacts of undergraduate research.

Professor Coleman has been a wise and generous mentor for his students, for his advisees, and for his colleagues. He is irreplaceable, and he leaves William & Mary a better, kinder place.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the William & Mary Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Randolph A. Coleman; expresses its deep appreciation for his fifty-four years of service; and approves a change in status from Professor of Chemistry to Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus.

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