

RETIREMENT OF BRIAN W. BLOUET SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Prior to attending university, Brian W. Blouet completed two years of National Service in the British Royal Air Force. After training as a fighter plotter, at R.A.F. Middle Wallop, he was posted to Malta where he served in the fighter control unit. He received his undergraduate degree in 1960 in Geography from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, and his Ph.D. from the same institution in 1964. After completing his doctorate in Geography, he accepted a position at the University of Sheffield, England. Professor Blouet's first appointment in North America was as a visiting associate professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln from 1966-1967. Two years later, he returned to Nebraska, eventually chairing the Department of Geography and directing the Center for Great Plains Studies. In 1983, he was selected to head the Department of Geography at Texas A&M University. Professor Blouet was appointed Huby Professor of Geography and International Education in 1989 at William & Mary.

During his 34 years as a William & Mary faculty member in the School of Education, Professor Blouet has fulfilled the roles of teaching, scholarship and professional service jointly appointed in the School of Education and the Department of Government. His role in the School of Education was to provide geography courses to enable students to qualify as social studies teachers. To meet this need, he created geography classes within the Department of Government including Introduction to Human Geography. Other courses he created included the Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Political Geography of Europe, which focused on the European Union in the modern world. In the Department of Government, Professor Blouet also taught a Political Geography seminar, which served Government majors, International Relations majors, and School of Education students.

Within the School of Education, Professor Blouet has served on several committees, often chairing the deliberations. He was also an engaged faculty member in departmental meetings. During the whole of his career at William & Mary, Professor Blouet has been instrumental in assisting students in designing individual degree programs, many going on to pursue graduate degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies. Professor Blouet has developed relationships with many of his students and has frequently served as a reference source and beacon of professional guidance.

Given Professor Blouet's primary areas of expertise, he has written or contributed to textbooks in all these fields. He is particularly grateful for graduate assistants in the School of Education who have seen textbooks on Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union through the submission and production process. Other research interests include Sir Halford Mackinder (1861-1947), a geographer and educational innovator, on whom Professor Blouet has written a biography and several published articles. Professor Blouet is considered an expert on Sir Halford and is a leading member of the Mackinder Forum, a scholastic group which continues to analyze Mackinder's educational contributions and his ongoing involvement in debates concerning foreign policy. Since Professor Blouet's National Service, the island of Malta remains an area of his research and the ninth edition of *The Story of Malta* was published in the fall of 2022.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Brian W. Blouet; expresses its deep appreciation for his 34 years of service; and approves a change in status from Professor of Geography and International Education to Professor of Geography and International Education, Emeritus.

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