

University of Delaware Honorary Degree

**BURNABY
MUNSON**
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
honoris causa

Noted analytical and physical chemist, you earned bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry and a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. After working for nearly a decade as a researcher at Esso, predecessor company to ExxonMobil, you left private industry to begin teaching at the University of Delaware.

Throughout your career, you have maintained an active schedule of research that has resulted in important contributions to the science of chemistry. Most noted was your research on mass spectrometry, which earned numerous awards. Your work on chemical ionization mass spectrometry was cited by the Nobel Committee in 2002 as vital preliminary work that made possible the achievement of that year's chemistry prize winners John Fenn and Koichi Tanaka.

You have been honored for your contributions to chemistry by the American Society for Mass Spectrometry and the American Chemical Society, which named you a fellow of the society in 2018.

Effective and beloved professor, you began your career at the University of Delaware in 1967 as an associate professor, and within five years you were named professor. You later were named C. Eugene Bennett Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Upon your retirement, you were honored with the title of UD Professor *Emeritus* of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

During your five decades of teaching, you taught more than 46,000 students and oversaw some 8,000 class sessions. Your influence on generations of UD students is unparalleled. And, of course, we must also mention your Wednesday night study breaks, an appetizing spread of snacks that you've been providing weekly to hard-working and grateful students since 1979.

You have been honored several times throughout your career for excellence in teaching by Mortar Board, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the University of Delaware. In addition, you were named Outstanding Faculty Member in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1994 and listed in Outstanding Educators of America.

UD Honors Program pioneer, you were instrumental in starting the Honor Program at the University in the mid-1970s. You served twice on the program's advisory board and as director of the program four times. You taught in the Honors Program from 1976 until your retirement. In recognition of your commitment, the Munson Fellows—upper-division students who mentor first-year students in the Honors Program—were named after you.

Psychologist Carl Jung has noted the importance of the human connection in the learning environment. He said, "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

Dr. Munson, you were the rare teacher who combined brilliance and warmth. You expected much of your students, but you also knew how to instill in them both passion for the subject and belief in their abilities. You have been a gift to your students and to the greater University of Delaware community.

Therefore, under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, I have the pleasure and honor of conferring upon you, Burnaby Munson, the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* and do declare you entitled to all the rights, honors, and privileges to that degree appertaining throughout the world. In testimony thereof, I am pleased to present to you this diploma.

John R. Cochran, Chair
June 1, 2019