

MR. PAUL M. ADLER

Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Biology

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences 1977 ~ 2020



Paul Adler began his studies at Carnegie Mellon University as an undergraduate engineering student but switched to biology due to his excitement with the discovery of the genetic code and the accomplishments of the early days of molecular biology. He was introduced to *Drosophila* and developmental biology, which became the focus of his career while a Jane Coffin Childs Fellow at the University of California, Irvine. There, he learned about classic studies on the planar polarity exhibited by the insect exoskeleton. A few years after joining UVA, he initiated his studies on the genetic basis for planar polarity, which remained his lab's principal focus for most of his career. Adler gave the inaugural address at the international meeting focused on this pathway, and is considered the "father" of the field. He

published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and reviews, and his former graduate students and postdoctoral fellows work in both academia and industry across North America, Asia and Europe. Convinced that a general lack of scientific literacy was a key problem for society, Adler taught a course for non-scientists that discussed genetics and how it impacts society. This class grew to more than 200 students and offered a remarkably rewarding experience.

Within the biology department, Adler was known for his breadth of interests, his frequent questions at seminars, and his sense of humor. He stood out by continuing to work at the "bench" throughout his career. He also participated on search committees which led to the recruitment of 10 current faculty members, an important service to the department and university. An active member of the larger research community, Adler reviewed papers for 56 different journals and grant proposals for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and 19 other granting agencies from around the world.

Paul has been married to Dr. Ann Beyer, a professor in the microbiology department at the UVA School of Medicine, for more than 40 years. Paul and Ann plan to spend much of their retirement in Dallas, Texas, where their daughter and two grandchildren live, and also look forward to making frequent visits to California to see their son.

MS. CLAIRE R. CRONMILLER

Ph.D., Princeton University

Professor of Biology

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences 1990 ~ 2019



Claire Cronmiller has taught a range of courses including biology major courses from introductory to advanced levels as well as a University Seminar for first-year students.

The rationale she employs is that teaching science should reflect the very nature of science. That is, it should embrace the process of discovery. Cronmiller's approach to scientific teaching combines active learning strategies with a broad range of teaching methods and activities that can engage students with diverse backgrounds and learning style preferences.

Cronmiller's research interests and passion have always focused on the field of genetics and developing students' abilities to understand and evaluate scientific discoveries and theories, while also addressing broader societal issues and their implications. Through this lens, she explored human disease genes, pre-symptomatic genetic diagnosis, gene therapy, genes and behavior, the nature of uses for human genome information, Genetically Modified Organisms, and the opportunities and challenges of personal genome testing.

MR. DEFOREST MELLON JR.

Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

Professor of Biology

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences 1963 ~ 2020

Fifty Years of Service

DeForest Mellon Jr. joined the Biology Department faculty as an assistant professor in 1963, having been recruited by department chair Dietrich Bodenstern.

In graduate school at Johns Hopkins University, and as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, Mellon gained expertise in electrophysiological experimentation. His subsequent career has been devoted to sensory physiology and neuroethological studies with mollusks and arthropods, primarily those of crustaceans.

The mechanisms and systems Mellon has studied include taste reception in blowflies, central reflexes in mollusks, oculomotor reflex organization in crayfish, organization of the central olfactory system in large crustaceans, and mechanisms of very fast synapse transmission in marine shrimp. His final experimental paper, entitled "Numerical Analysis and Modeling of Impulse Conduction Velocity in Sensory Neurons Associated with Near-field Receptors on the Crayfish Cephalothorax" was submitted for publication in February of this year.

Mellon's honors and awards include pre- and postdoctoral fellowships from the U.S. Public Health Service, election as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, appointment as a Guggenheim Fellow, and Thomas Jefferson Visiting Fellow at Downing College, Cambridge.



MR. MICHAEL MENAKER

Ph.D., Princeton University

Commonwealth Professor of Biology

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences 1987 ~ 2020



Mike Menaker was born in Vienna, Austria, while his American parents were studying psychology at Freud's Institute. Both parents completed Ph.D. degrees in Austria and in 1935, due to the rise of Nazism, the family returned to New York and settled in Manhattan, where Menaker grew up in an environment that richly supported his developing interest in biology, living across the street from the American Museum of Natural History.

Menaker received his B.A. from Swarthmore College. At Princeton University, he worked with C.S. Pittendrigh, a founder of circadian biology (Menaker's career-long field). He did postdoctoral work at Harvard University and became assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of Texas, Austin, where he remained faculty for 17 years. In 1979, he became the founding director of the University of Oregon's Institute of Neuroscience. Menaker came to UVA in 1986 as chair of the Department of Biology and became Commonwealth Professor of Biology. Menaker authored more than 240 scientific papers, 26 of which are in the renowned journals *Science* and *Nature*. He has received an NIH career development award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Photobiology, Virginia's Outstanding Scientists and Industrialists: Life Achievement in Science Award, the Peter C Farrell Prize in Sleep Medicine from Harvard, the UVA Distinguished Scientist Award, the Directors Award for Mentoring from the Society for the Study of Biological Rhythms, and the Aschoff Honma Prize. He was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1983, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1999.

Students, particularly first years and Ph.D. students, have been the joy of his professional life. Mike feels that it is wonderful to see and play a small part in the intellectual and personal development of undergraduates who come to the University seeking answers and brimming with untested ideals and unbounded curiosity. His 26 Ph.D. students and 37 postdoctoral fellows form an extended scientific family. Their progress in their careers, particularly their scientific accomplishments, keep Mike connected to them and to the science that has enriched his life.