

## **2021 Kenelly Voss-Distinguished Emeriti Award**

This award was established by the late John Kenelly to recognize emeritus faculty member who have made outstanding contributions to the Emeritus College, Clemson University, the greater Clemson community, and to society. The name of the award also pays tribute to John's late wife, Charmaine Voss. In addition to recognition by the Emeritus College, the award provides \$500 toward the purchase of library materials for donation to Clemson Libraries in the award recipient's name. This year the College celebrated two recipients of the award.

### **Mr. Charlie White, Associate Professor Emeritus of PRTM and Director, CU Outdoor Lab**



Judith and Charlie White

The Outdoor Lab which sits on the shores of Lake Hartwell in Anderson County was conceived 50 years ago by the university as a summer operation. Today, the Outdoor Lab has become a multi-million dollar, year-round operation which serves thousands of people annually from local, state

and national groups. Charlie White and his Department Chair, Dr. Herbert Brantley, were at the foundational level of the Outdoor Lab in the early 1970s. An admirable quality of Charlie, as an administrator, was that he worked side-by-side with his staff and volunteers to build these residential camp programs and conference center facilities into much of what it is today. The Outdoor Lab has been built with state and federal funds, grants, private donations and substantial civic club support. Charlie worked with individuals and groups to establish endowments with the University's Foundation. One endowment is very special to Charlie in that he developed a relationship with Doris Buffett, sister of Warren Buffett. Through her foundation, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, she contributed substantial funds for facility improvement and, at Charlie's retirement, established a one million-dollar endowment at Clemson University for the Outdoor Lab in his honor.

Since his retirement in 2006, Charlie has continued to volunteer at the Outdoor Lab and through his work with the Clemson Sertoma Club. This local service club sends and pays for 25-30 disadvantaged and speech/hearing impaired children to attend Camp Sertoma each summer. The campers stay for a week and participate in numerous outdoor activities while building relationships, gaining confidence, and developing independence. Charlie manages the camper recruitment process and works with local school teachers and community organizations to identify children eligible for camp. He works to convince parents that Camp Sertoma is fun, safe, and a wholesome place for their children and he works to insure that required registration forms are completed. Charlie volunteers throughout summer camp weeks, particularly as

needed for arrival and check-in days for 240 children over 6 one-week sessions.

Charlie also volunteers with numerous community charitable organizations as an auctioneer for fundraisers. Through the Fort Hill Clemson Club, he has helped raise tens of thousands of dollars to provide scholarships to local students attending Clemson University. For 10 years, he has delivered food for Meal on Wheels, and through his church, he helps with Family Promise and Helping Hands.

Charlie White has received numerous honors for his work including the Algernon-Sydney-Sullivan Award from the university, the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary, and the Service to Mankind Award from Sertoma. We are indeed blessed to have Charlie and his wife, Judith, as part of the Clemson family. Congratulations Charlie on receiving the 2021 Kenelly-Voss Distinguished Emeriti Award for your extraordinary volunteer work not only for the Clemson community but also for the state of South Carolina.

## **Dr. John Morse, Professor Emeritus of Entomology**



Suzanne and John Morse

Dr. Morse is an internationally renowned caddisfly systematist studying the identification, biology and evolution of this *Trichoptera* insect order since 1967. This caddisfly work covers the arc of his career as well as his retirement years. Through John's research and that of other scientists, caddisfly populations can be used to monitor freshwater pollution. The cleaner the water, the greater the diversity of caddisfly species and the more likely that population-intolerant species will be among them.

In John's retirement all of his contributions are voluntary and many are directed to Clemson University including co-advising 12 graduate students in addition to the 30, he advised pre-retirement. He continues to teach four undergraduate and entomology graduate courses at Clemson in his area of expertise. He has participated in numerous Creative Inquires, many of which resulted in published undergraduate research. Since retirement, he has published nearly 50 publications in addition to the 148 pre-retirement publications. and has given more than 30 invited seminars in the United States and abroad. John's self-confessed motivation for his continuous stream of work both pre- and post-retirement is the pleasure that he finds in working with students and learning new things about

our natural world.

In his community volunteer work, he has worked with several high school students through the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics and through the South Carolina Olympiad. Beyond Clemson, in most summers John teaches aquatic insect field courses at the Highland Biological Station in North Carolina. He has taught several aquatic insect workshops overseas pre-and post-retirement in ten Asian countries. These Asian countries then use the monitoring of aquatic insects to improve water quality in their respective countries.

John has received several honors since retirement including SC Governor's School's Distinguished Research Leadership Award in 2015; the CAFLS Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 2017; the Emeritus College's Research Award in 2019 and most recently John was named a Fellow by the Society of Freshwater Science in 2021.

Lastly, we recognize his contributions through the John C. and Suzanne E. Morse Endowed Chair position in Arthropod Biodiversity which is now occupied by Professor Michael Caterino. We are indeed blessed here in to have John and his wife, Suzanne, as part of the Clemson Family. Congratulations John on receiving a 2021 Kenelly-Voss Distinguished Emeriti Award for your extraordinary and voluntary work on teaching and research at Clemson University and for your state, national and international service on water quality issues.