



**Roy L. Williams**

Roy L. Williams, 77, longtime Virginia Academy of Science member, and Old Dominion University Emeritus Professor of Chemistry died Monday, July 28, from complications that developed after he underwent surgery to repair a fractured pelvis.

Few people in the institution's nearly 85-year history could match Williams' length of association with ODU. He received a bachelor's degree in sciences from the Norfolk Division of The College of William & Mary in 1960 and later received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Delaware. In 1965 he returned to an alma mater that had become Old Dominion College as an assistant professor of chemistry. He retired from ODU in 2005, but often visited campus in later years, sometimes to share his wine knowledge.

Williams' first conducted research in polymers, and then drug synthesis. He began work on the chemistry of natural products, which included grapes and wine. This resulted in the founding of ODU's Enological Research Center in 1991 where he served as director until 2004. In 2001 Roy was named "Virginia Wine Industry Person of the Year" by the Commonwealth. He served as a wine columnist for the Hampton Roads Daily Press and was the creator and organizer of the Town Point Virginia Wine Competition for 22 years. Longtime Hampton Roads wine educator, Roy taught wine appreciation classes for over 25 years.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry Williams; daughters, Elise Cofer of Virginia Beach and Valerie Williams of Silver Spring, MD; son-in-law Richard Cofer and granddaughters Elena and Carmen; son-in-law Gregory Harry and granddaughter Morgan. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to scholarships in his memory--the Roy L. Williams Carisbrooke Scholarship Fund or the Roy L. Williams Isle of Wight League Artist Scholarship at <https://www.regonline.com/roywilliamsscholarships>.