

Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association

June 23 at 8:59 AM

To our Florida Tech community:

It is with sadness we report the passing of Professor Emeritus J. Clayton Baum, who for 37 years in the Florida Tech Department of Chemistry provided award-winning teaching and mentorship to scores of students.

Dr. Baum passed away Sunday [June 21, 2020].

After earning his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Princeton University, serving as a postdoctoral research associate at Florida State University, and working as a visiting assistant professor at the Bowdoin College chemistry department, Dr. Baum arrived at Florida Tech in 1979 as an assistant professor. He was later promoted to associate professor and then full professor, a position he maintained until his retirement as professor emeritus in 2016.

His research included the application of molecular spectroscopy and/or computational chemistry to the solution of a selection of chemical issues, and the improvement of applications which included fluorescent sensors. He published more than 40 peer-reviewed studies and research papers and received more than \$1 million in funding for his research.

Dr. Baum was recognized repeatedly for his excellence in the classroom and beyond. He was a four-time recipient of the Florida Tech Presidential Award for University Excellence, as well as receiving the Andrew W. Revay Jr. Award for Excellence in Service and the Lynn Edward Weaver Award for Lifetime Achievement in Service. In recognition of his teaching and mentoring, alumni, students and friends established the endowed J. Clayton Baum Scholarship, given to an outstanding chemistry major in his or her junior year based on academic standing and research achievements.