Judith Van Houten
Professor of Biology Emerita
College of Arts and Sciences

Judith Van Houten, you have spent your 38-year career at the University of Vermont, having earned your PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Your research gained international recognition for your use of the single-celled organism *Paramecium* as a model for understanding how cells respond to external chemical stimuli. Your knowledge and passion for your tiny subjects, which you lovingly refer to as “little swimming neurons,” have made you a sought-after expert in this research field. You received the Manheimer Award for Career Achievements in the Chemical Senses in 1996.

Throughout your career, you have advocated forcefully and successfully, in Montpelier and in the halls of Congress, for research and development in Vermont. You secured the two largest federal grants in the history of UVM for the Vermont Genetics Network and Vermont EPSCoR, both of which are still going strong today.

Your vision and advocacy have helped to mold the Biology Department into the research-intensive, intellectually rigorous department that it is today. You served your colleagues faithfully as Chair from 1995 to 2005. You are one of the most—if not the most—decorated faculty members in the history of the department, having achieved three of the four highest honors UVM bestows on faculty: an endowed professorship in 1997, one of the first four University Distinguished Professor awards in 2009, and the inaugural President’s Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award in 2014.

The University of Vermont, and science research and education throughout the state, have been profoundly shaped by your wisdom, leadership, and advocacy. We are lucky to have been the home for your long and distinguished career. We wish you the best as you head off into new adventures and warmer weather.