



Michael Finkes would have graduated from the department in 1969 but after his second year he enlisted in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Eventually, he graduated with a BS degree in chemistry in 1973. Immediately after graduation he found employment at a small pharmaceutical company. In 1974 he joined Monsanto and spent 37 years until his retirement in 2010. Michael was a synthetic organic chemist until 1989 and finished his career as a quality assurance specialist. In retirement, he worked part time at Monsanto until just recently. While at Monsanto he was one of the first students to enroll in the MS program and received his degree in 1978. Over the years, we called

upon him to give presentations to chemistry students on careers and related topics—he has been a most supportive and loyal alumnus. In 2005 he became a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. That year Mike was instrumental in helping set up the *Monsanto Endowed Scholarship* for students in the Biochemistry and Biochemistry degree program. While in the Alumni Association, he was very active, serving as chair of various committees. He is the past chair of the Student Engagement Committee, served as 2nd Vice President of the Alumni Association from 2010-2013, was President of the Alumni Association from 2014-2015, and currently serves as the Past President. During his two-year term as President, he also served on the Chancellor's Council. In 2010, he helped design and implement the "Dinner with Twelve Strangers" program, which was recently adapted for use with chemistry students and alumni. Many times he presented the welcome message of the Alumni Association to graduates at Commencement ceremonies. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the department was his involvement in the establishment of the Chemistry Alumni Council, which recently became an official "Alumni Affinity Group" of the Alumni Association. Mike and his wife Linda, BA political science, have been very generous to the department, recently funding the Linda & Michael Finkes Scholarship in Chemistry and bequeathing a portion of their estate for future chemistry scholarships.