Dr. Vernberg accepted an invitation and a challenge in 1969 to be the founding Director of the newly formed Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences. Showing vision and tenacity, he developed it into a world class research Institute during his 27 years as its Director. He was also an educator and the driving force behind the genesis of the interdisciplinary Marine Science Program. His scientific contributions have helped advance numerous aspects of the marine ecology and coastal sciences fields. In all aspects of his career, he shared his enthusiasm with students, faculty, and the public. His pioneering efforts have promoted and expanded the concept of sustainable resource management within and beyond the state of South Carolina. Our sincerest thanks are extended to him for his guidance and inspiration.