

Alumni Hall of Fame 2019

Michael Donaldson '76

College of Science graduate Michael Donaldson retired in 2014 as president and CEO of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, Valent BioSciences Corporation and Pace International, and executive officer for Sumitomo Corporation. Donaldson's career has focused on both biorational products (a range of low environmental impact substances or productions biologically derived) and conventional chemicals for agriculture, forestry and public health. His pioneering work in the area of biorational products spanned more than 35 years and included research and development, as well as business management positions with Sandoz Crop Protection, Abbott Laboratories and Sumitomo. In these roles, he led efforts to integrate biorational products as partners with conventional chemistries for pest management and the enhancement of crop quality and yield. During his last 14 years with Sumitomo, Donaldson's leadership significantly increased the global footprint of the Sumitomo biorational portfolio, culminating in the construction of the first world-class, dedicated manufacturing facility for biorational products located in Osage, Iowa.

Donaldson held various technical and business leadership positions in a major pharmaceutical company, as well as a global agricultural chemical company. He served on boards of the Biopesticide Industry Alliance Organization, Illinois Biotechnology Industry Association and MeisterPro Publications (Meister Media Worldwide).

Donaldson and his wife, Debbie, continue their involvement with the university in many ways. Currently they are working with the College of Business and Economics, the College of Science and others to help provide business training to enhance the skillset of students enrolled in technical degree programs.

For his leadership and contributions to the fields of agriculture and biotechnology, the University of Idaho Alumni Association proudly inducts Michael Donaldson into the Alumni Hall of Fame.