

2025-2026

# Distinguished Faculty Award & Lecture

Formally the John C. Livingston Distinguished Faculty Lecture



## Dr. Ronald M. Coleman

Department of Biological Sciences  
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

### ***"... and the Pursuit of Happiness"***

**Dr. Ronald M. Coleman is the recipient of the 2025-2026 Distinguished Faculty Award and Lecture**

This important phrase, part of the Declaration of Independence, means different things to different people. To Dr. Coleman, it means striving for life-long self-improvement and contributing to the betterment of others.

As an immigrant, a foreign citizen, and the first in his family to get a bachelor's degree, he is acutely aware of the opportunities which Sac State has provided him. His goal has been to take what skills and knowledge he has to help others, particularly those who have challenges, move towards their personal goals.

One of the true joys of working at Sac State is encountering so many diverse people, not just in culture or ethnicity, but also in what they dream of as success. Even within the narrow scope of biology, goals differ. Success for one might be getting into medical school. Others dream of becoming a teacher. Some love research. And for some, being the first in their family to graduate with a college degree is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, no matter how long it takes. His passion is to help them get there.

He has accomplished this by teaching over two dozen different courses. He has conducted research with about two hundred students, including graduating 33 master's students. He has served on many committees, often with a bent towards technology and he loves bringing his science to the general public through workshops and presentations around the country.

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Dr. Ron Coleman has been a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University, Sacramento, since 2001. His teaching focuses on evolution, ecology and animal behavior. He teaches the gamut from introductory biology for majors and non-majors, a dinosaur course for non-majors, upper division courses in animal behavior and the study of fishes to graduate courses in these areas. His research focuses on evolutionary ecology, namely the study of why organisms do the things that they do, with particular emphasis on reproduction and parental care in fishes. He is an authority on New World cichlid fishes and has made over 30 research trips to the rainforests of Costa Rica.



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