John Delano received his PhD in geochemistry from Stony Brook University, and retired in late 2016 from the University at Albany, State University of New York as a professor at the Distinguished rank. During his academic career, he served as the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University, an Associate Director of a NASA Astrobiology Institute involving a consortium of five universities, and was the recipient of several university awards including the President's Award for Exemplary Public Engagement. He served on more than two dozen scientific advisory panels for both NASA and the National Science Foundation. His research was funded principally by NASA that resulted in 70 peer-reviewed articles in professional journals. Since arriving in Williamsburg, he has published two additional scientific papers, taught six courses for the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at William and Mary, and made more than 80 presentations to regional organizations. He is also a volunteer at York River State Park doing trail maintenance, a member of the James City County Rotary Club and the Capital Club of Williamsburg, and a volunteer interpreter in the Archaeology Department at Colonial Williamsburg. He and his wife, Susan, of 42 years, whom he refers to as 'the much better half, have one child.

