



James Patrick "Jim" Reilly

August 29, 1950 - February 13, 2022

James Patrick "Jim" Reilly, 71, died at Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana, on February 13, 2022, after a valiant struggle with cancer. He was born on August 29, 1950, in Mt Vernon, New York, to James Reilly and Catherine (Daly) Reilly. After graduating from Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, in 1968, he earned an AB in chemistry from Princeton University in 1972. From there he went on to Cambridge University as a Winston Churchill Scholar, gaining a certificate of postgraduate study in physical chemistry in 1973. He completed his graduate studies in physical chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, working with Profs. George Pimentel and Brad Moore, pioneers in the use of lasers in electronic spectroscopy. He then spent time as a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute in Munich, Germany.

He joined the Chemistry Department at Indiana University in 1979, receiving the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Young Faculty Award in the same year. In 1982, he was recognized as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, and in 1983, was named a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar. He was tenured in 1984 and promoted to full professor in 1987. Jim served as the chair of the department from 2007 to 2010. His time as chair was distinguished by a year during which five new faculty were hired, including two women. Jim published over 200 papers during his career, and succeeded with approximately fifteen patents.

Outside of work, Jim had many interests and hobbies. He was an avid and

competitive athlete, participating in many sports, but especially track and field. He started out as a runner and high jumper in high school and ended as a decathlete in college and graduate school. He earned his blue at Cambridge on a rowing crew composed of other athletes who were not rowing specialists based on his theory that a good athlete could excel at other sports. He passed his love of sports and exercise to his sons and spent many happy years coaching little league baseball and traveling to track meets and baseball tournaments. He bicycled to work most days, even in the worst weather. He also enjoyed camping at national parks and riding his motorcycles. He could and did fix just about everything in his house.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Mary (Filkins) Reilly; two sons, Colin and Austin; his sister Anne Reilly and brother-in-law Sandy Shapiro; his niece Claire Reilly-Shapiro; his nephew Neil Reilly-Shapiro and wife Becky; and many friends, past and present students, and colleagues.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Fr Dennis Woerter at St Paul Catholic Center, 1413 E 17th Street in Bloomington, Indiana, on Tuesday, February 22, at 10 a.m.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Catholic Center
1413 East 17th Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

AR

“ My brother Jimmy and I, born 23 months apart, were an interesting combination of opposites and similarities. In our earliest years our mother was always saying 'stop wrangling!' but as we matured the differences didn't seem to matter. We accepted one another with our strengths and weaknesses. The relationship grew. As kids we were pals and enjoyed being active--riding bikes, exploring the woods up the street from our house, playing badminton and croquet in the backyard and in winter sledding, skating and of course snowball fights. Jimmy was a great playmate. In my senior year of high school, I entered a girl's fitness competition and, as I'd never trained before, Jimmy coached me. My favorite memories are of him holding a stop watch and timing my runs, sit-ups, and other events. As always he took this very seriously and pushed me to get stronger and faster. I couldn't have done it without him! Later, as young adults, we travelled together, both adventure seekers. I recall feeling very safe with him because of his calm demeanor and his ability to meet challenges. I admired Jimmy for his brains and accomplishments, his competence in so many areas, his focus and love of solving problems, his strength and persistence, his steadiness and his love of adventure. Although much of his adult life is defined by his work, I was fortunate to know him outside of an office or lab. After 71 years of relationship he is irreplaceable and sorely missed.

Anne Reilly

Anne Reilly - February 26, 2022 at 09:18 PM

JM

“ Jim was one of the first persons I met when we were incoming Freshmen at Princeton. My triple room and his were the only Freshmen rooms in an upperclass dorm so we developed a natural friendship. I was struck by his warmth, intelligence and, being from Phoenix, his striking NY accent. We shared one particular passion during our years 1968-1972 and that was table tennis in which he excelled. Being a fairly good player myself, I could never beat him in all our practices and matches. Though we went our separate ways, I becoming an Infectious Disease Physician, I look fondly at the years at Princeton and having met and been one of Jim's friends. My condolences.

Joe Marzouk, '72

Joseph Marzouk - February 24, 2022 at 08:10 PM

KR

“ I have many nice memories of Jim. He was a perfect gentleman and always spoke clearly and thoughtfully. While our work did not overlap most of the time, we did collaborate on an exciting research project for about 2 years. This is one of Jim's primary areas of research involving photodissociation of peptides. After several thoughtful discussions, we came up with a model to explain some unusual dissociation patterns, performed the necessary experimental (Jim's Lab) and computational (my Lab) work to corroborate the model, and published 2 excellent joint papers in 2010 and 2012. One of them was published as a highly prestigious JACS communication. While we did talk about further collaborations, they did not progress beyond potentially interesting ideas. Finally, my wife (Akola) and I sat together with Jim and Mary at several departmental events, and had some delightful conversations, including Princeton education among the many topics of mutual interest.

Our best wishes to Mary and the family during these hard times.

Krishnan Raghavachari

Krishnan Raghavachari - February 22, 2022 at 11:27 AM

JM

“ In 1980 I moved from the Physics Department to become Jim's first student and spent a very enjoyable four years with Jim building a lab from scratch. Thanks to Jim's overall guidance and introducing me to analytical chemistry and mass spectrometry I got the job that I still have today. A few years ago I was lucky to work with Jim again and made a memorable visit to Bloomington. Rosemary and I send our deepest condolences to Mary, Colin, and Austin.

Jon Meek - February 21, 2022 at 10:06 PM

JA

“ *Dear Mary and family,*

So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a wonderful man and I enjoyed cleaning his teeth at Dr. Tom Watkins office. Jewell Arthur dental hygienist.

jewell arthur - February 21, 2022 at 08:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



February 21, 2022 at 05:16 PM

BD

“ *Bing Zhao, Silvia Ma, Matt Davisson purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



Bing Zhao, Silvia Ma, Matt Davisson - February 20, 2022 at 05:34 PM

CR

“ I always loved visiting my Uncle Jimmy. As a kid, he seemed to have this interesting and fulfilling life. He was clearly driven and professional but seemed to easily take everything in stride. He had a calm manner and a kind, quiet smile. I have memories of him biking around the IU campus, watching baseball in his Yankees cap, and tending to his birds. As I got older, I remember being struck at his devotion to Mary and his sons. Now, as a mom myself, I appreciate how he prioritized Colin and Austin’s educations — not just with school but with their sports and activities, trips, and exposure to the world. When I lived in Philadelphia, he and Colin stayed with me during a college tour, and he was perfectly content to sleep on the floor of my tiny 1 bedroom apartment. The last time I saw Jimmy was in Yellowstone a few years ago. As always, he was organized, collected, fit, up for every activity. He was always gracious about asking about my life without saying much about his own. Above all, his calm elegance is what I will remember most and try to carry with me.

Claire Reilly-Shapiro - February 20, 2022 at 11:26 AM

JS

“ Joel Silver & Judith Van Sant purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.



Joel Silver & Judith Van Sant - February 19, 2022 at 04:06 PM

CF

“ Chalmer Thompson and Family purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.allencares.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.

Chalmer Thompson and Family - February 19, 2022 at 11:18 AM

JL

“ *Jan Sorby and Jon Lawrence purchased the Cherished Memories for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



Jan Sorby and Jon Lawrence - February 18, 2022 at 03:08 PM

JF

“ *Jim's softball friends purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



Jim's softball friends - February 18, 2022 at 02:55 PM

TF

“ *The Gass family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



The Gass family - February 18, 2022 at 10:04 AM

AS

“ *Anne Reilly and Sandy Shapiro purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.allencares.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*

Anne Reilly and Sandy Shapiro - February 17, 2022 at 10:56 PM

MS

“ *Milos Novotny and Helena Soini purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



Milos Novotny and Helena Soini - February 17, 2022 at 08:43 PM

RW

“ Jim was an extraordinary person, family man, teacher, researcher, athlete and friend. It has been an honor to have had him as a friend for over 50 years. He was 2 years ahead of me at Princeton. When I was a freshman, we met in the Chemistry Department library where he recognized me from track practice. He was a high jumper and triple jumper. I was a decathlete. Jim saw the challenge and enjoyment that I was experiencing. So Jim, with more athletic ability than I, took up the decathlon with a vengeance, excelled and during his senior year, set a school record of 7,128 points, which qualified him for the 1972 NCAA Championships. He competed in that meet, causing him to miss his graduation ceremony at Princeton. The following year as a graduate student at Cambridge, he improved to over 7,500 points, and was widely covered by British national newspapers for his performance in the Oxford-Cambridge meet. At Princeton, in addition to being training partners on the track, Jim and I were frequent bridge partners, occasional beer drinking buddies, and took a music appreciation course together. We saw each other occasionally after that, but not enough, including at UC Berkeley when he was a graduate student there, and at my wedding in New Orleans in 1981. Also, I visited him twice in Bloomington when I was in master's track meets in Indianapolis, and then again for his wedding, where I was his best man. In 1995, we both competed in a master's indoor pentathlon in Chicago. Unfortunately, that was the last time we saw each other. More recently, we talked about Colin's high jumping and my recent purchase of a home in La Jolla, CA, where his sister Anne has lived for 40 years, hoping that we could see each other when he visited her. Sadly, those visits never happened.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Richard Watson - February 17, 2022 at 03:29 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly.*



February 17, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ *During Jim's tenure as Chair of the department, I had the honor of getting to know him and serving under his leadership as his assistant. He was extremely patient, thoughtful, caring, professional and a great listener. Even after his time of being Chair ended, he would often stop by the office to ask how my husband and I were doing and what new motorcycle trip had we taken. He loved hearing about our trips. The most admirable characteristic that touched my heart was Jim always made me feel valued; his kindness was one of his greatest gifts--Judi Roberts*

My prayers go out to the family at this time and for the days ahead.

Judi Roberts - February 17, 2022 at 11:16 AM



“ *Jim was a a caring and calm person, and my interactions with him as a Chemistry staff member were much enriched by his guidance and presence in the department. He will be greatly missed.*

Cheryl Johnson - February 17, 2022 at 10:36 AM

TF

“ *Trish Filkins sent a virtual gift in memory of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly*



Trish Filkins - February 16, 2022 at 10:46 PM

TF

“ *Trish Filkins sent a virtual gift in memory of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly*



Trish Filkins - February 16, 2022 at 10:46 PM

TF

“ *Trish Filkins lit a candle in memory of James Patrick "Jim" Reilly*



Trish Filkins - February 16, 2022 at 07:23 PM

JR

“ Jim was one of the first people I met and worked closely with in the Chemistry Department at Indiana University. In addition to being a good teaching mentor, he was supportive of me as a young, female colleague in many ways. Jim carried on as if nothing was unusual when I brought my (crying) newborn daughter to one of our meetings. He provided constructive and supportive evaluations for me. While I was a new hire, he valued my contributions and let others know I knew my stuff. I am very grateful for his support and friendship over the years. He will be missed!

Jill R - February 16, 2022 at 12:52 PM

SI

“ Jim not only hired me to the best job of my life, he also inspired me every day at the gym.

si - February 16, 2022 at 11:59 AM