

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

James P. Reilly  
1950 – 2022



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James Patrick “Jim” Reilly, 71, died at Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana, on February 13, 2022, after a valiant struggle with cancer.

Jim 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 A.B. in chemistry from Princeton University in 1972. 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 returned to Europe as a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute, where he conducted research on the development of UV lasers and their applications.

Jim joined the chemistry department at Indiana University Bloomington in 1979, receiving the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Young Faculty Award 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 received tenure in 1984 and was promoted to full professor in 1987. He was a truly beloved instructor of physical chemistry and analytical chemistry. Indeed, he was the instructor of “Chem C613 Mass Spectrometry and Stable Isotopes” at the time of his passing. Jim served as the department chair from 2007 to 2010. His time as chair was distinguished by a year during which 5 new faculty were hired, including two women.

Over the course of his career at IU, Jim’s research footprint expanded from his original area of electronic spectroscopy. Jim and his research group advanced the capabilities and resolution of matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF) and they applied their mass spectrometric methods toward bacterial fingerprinting, protein identification by peptide mass mapping, and oligonucleotide characterization. Results of these fingerprinting studies motivated further exploration of ribosomal proteins by MALDI and multi-dimensional liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry. Jim and his colleagues additionally advanced efforts in peptide sequencing using VUV photofragmentation of biomolecules and creating cross-linkers to probe protein tertiary structure. Jim published over 200 papers during his career and received approval on approximately 15 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 athletes whose primary sport was not

rowing in the spirit of his belief 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. Jim cycled to work most days, even in the worst weather. He also enjoyed camping at national parks and riding his motorcycles. If that wasn't enough, he could and did fix just about everything in his house.

Jim 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.

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(Personal information contributed by Mary Reilly)