

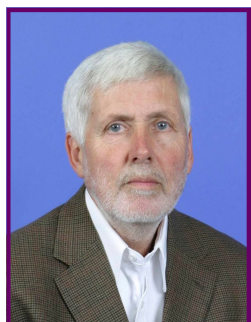
The Carillon

The Official Newsletter of the
Caledonia Education Foundation

Fall 2015

CEF recognizes Dr. James L. Slater as the 2015 CEF Honored Alumnus

The Caledonia Education Foundation is pleased to honor Dr. James (Jim) L. Slater, Ph.D., Caledonia High School Class of 1963, as its 2015 Honored Alumnus. Jim is recognized for his many years of teaching and making a difference in the lives of his students as well as his many contributions in the field of chemistry. Jim will be



honored on Oct. 9, 2015, at the Annual Foundation Fest Tailgate Party held before the homecoming football game.

Jim attended Caledonia schools from kindergarten through high school as well as his sister, Sandy Slater Barnaby. He has fond memories of many teachers that helped him develop an interest in the natural world. His chemistry and physics teacher, Mr. Blocker encouraged his interest in atoms and molecules. "He was a caring gentle intellectual man that really liked the field of chemistry," Jim recalls.

He spent the mornings of his senior year with Mr. Blocker taking his physics and advanced chemistry class and worked with him as a chemistry lab assistant.

Jim also recalls learning life lessons from football coach, Mr. Albee and basketball coach, Mr. Bramble. He played football for two years but excelled at basketball where he eventually became the starting forward despite having been cut from the team as a freshman. While working hard at improving his skills, he developed life-long friendships. Many of his friends were people of character that he still keeps in touch with today.

Dianne Palmer was a young woman he met at CHS as a sophomore. They dated their junior year, fell in love, and later married. They have two daughters Jill Teramana (Albert) of Toronto, Ohio and Beth Atkinson (Bob) of Skaneateles, New York. They have four grandchildren: Shane, Wesley, Jimmy, and Hannah.

Jim went on to study chemistry at Michigan State University for his undergraduate degree and then earned his doctorate at Florida State University. Jim recalls, "College was fun, exciting and intellectually

stimulating. College was so great that I never left the college environment. I taught chemistry and did research for over forty years." He saw himself earning a living as a chemist and thought it might allow him to travel as well.

In 1974, Jim moved to Steubenville, Ohio to teach chemistry at the Franciscan University. Steubenville had terrible pollution at the time and Jim wondered if this was affecting his health and family so he began to research air and water pollution. This led him to work with a group of researchers from Harvard University on a project called the Harvard Six Cities Study. Jim supervised an air pollution monitoring station. The results of the study were used later to write various air pollution laws. This partnership also led to an opportunity for Jim to spend a year at Harvard as a Visiting Scholar in 1987 as well as collaborate on a second research project with the Harvard School of Public Health in 2000 on personal exposure to particulate and gaseous pollutants.

Jim also had the honor of participating with the University of Michigan on the Mercury Project. Mercury is an impurity in coal. Most coal is burned in power plants where mercury becomes air pollution. Mercury then finds its way into the water, fish and

eventually the food chain. People are exposed to the mercury and experience health problems. The Mercury Project tried to understand how the mercury goes through chemical reactions to go from the air to the water. The results showed that mercury should be controlled and Jim believes it will be in the near future. Jim wrote and presented a paper on the findings at an international mercury conference in Guiyang, China in 2009.



Jim poses with a traditionally dressed Chinese woman at the International Mercury Conference in Guiyang, China in June of 2009.

Publishing papers and journal articles was another accomplishment of Jim's career. Beginning in 1971 and spanning to 2009, Jim wrote 26 chemistry and air pollution papers and journal articles.

continued on page 2

Dr. James L. Slater continued

Many of them he presented at symposiums throughout the United States.

In addition to teaching chemistry for 38 years, Jim was also the chemistry department chair for nearly 20 years. Within that time, he also had the privilege to work with 10 other faculty members in planning and designing the Cosmas and Damian Science Building. This group worked for 10 years designing the spaces and placements of everything down to the sinks, windows and drawers. "Not many people have this opportunity to design their own work space. It was a unique opportunity and a lot of fun to spend 10 million dollars on your future work space. I had a special warm feeling every time I came to work in that place," recalls Jim. The building won an architectural award. Students were thrilled with the labs and study spaces that were attractive and functional.

Just before retirement, Jim taught chemistry in Gaming, Austria for one semester for the Franciscan University semester abroad program. The school was housed in a castle where he taught his classes. He had

the opportunity to travel throughout 9 countries with the highlight being a 10 day trip to Rome with the students. It was a magical, fairytale experience that included Oktoberfest, Salzburg, Vienna, St. Hilarion Castle known as the Snow White castle, the Hitler's Eagle's Nest and many other fantastic sites.

Jim retired after the 2012 commencement ceremonies at Franciscan University. He took great pride in his day to day teaching of chemistry. Seeing former students maturing and graduating to bigger and better things confirms his calling to this career. Jim encourages students to be diligent in their studies. "I think that if we make ourselves smarter, we can better deal with the problems of the world," remarks Jim. He led his life by example, showing students how to research a problem and then make a difference by becoming involved in finding the solution to that problem. Jim enjoys keeping in touch with former students and sharing in their successes.

Retirement will allow Jim more time to travel and pursue his hobbies. He enjoys reading, golfing, and line dancing. Sports have been a big part of his life as well. He

was a soccer referee and played basketball until he turned 66 years old.

Jim is excited to return to Caledonia for a visit. He has fond memories of growing up in a classless community where there were no rich and poor divisions or racial

divisions. "We were all alike," recalls Jim, "All country small town kids. We learned to value people for their individual qualities, good or bad. We were egalitarian, totally unlike most places in the world."



In choosing a career in the field of chemistry, Jim hoped it would permit him to travel. His wishes came true when in June of 2009 he was able to travel to China to present a paper on the findings of the Mercury Project.

Jim poses with his wife, Dianne Palmer, Class of 1963 as they visited the Forbidden City in Beijing (above) and as they stood in front of the Great Wall of China (below).



CEF Small Grants Fill the Gaps



The Education Foundation introduced a new small grant program at the beginning of 2015. In the first 5 months of the program, 4 small grants were awarded totaling \$2000. CEF saw the need to give Caledonia district staff and volunteers an opportunity to apply for small grants on a monthly basis with a dollar amount of \$500 or less. Previously, grants could only be applied for during the April and November grant cycles. "Often teachers would come to me and have an idea for a grant but the timing did not coincide with our grant cycle. The teachers came up with projects or programs that would enhance what they were doing in the classroom but they just didn't have the funds to cover the costs," commented Denise Blunk, CEF Executive Director.

A short, easy small grant application can be filled out, submitted by the 15th of the month and if approved by the CEF Board, the funds are distributed by the end of that same month. Examples of Foundation small grants include non consumable materials or equipment for special projects or programs, or payment for learning experiences brought to the classroom. After-school programs and parental involvement projects are also eligible for funding. Small grant budgets may include any items that strive to deepen student engagement and promote active leaning, as long as there is a strong rationale in the application for the purchase of these items.



Small Grants awarded

Weighted vest and lap pads for students

Human Anatomy Heart Models

Advance Placement Language Nonfiction Books

Whitecaps Special Education Field Trip

Grant Administrator

Kimberly Pyper, Occupational Therapist

Kyle DeHorn, Science Teacher

Ben Stancil, English Teacher

Jen Amorose, Special Ed Teacher Consultant

Organization

Caledonia School District

Occupational Therapy Department

Caledonia High School

Caledonia High School

Special Education Department