Jim Hershberger

Obituary provided by the family

James William Hershberger, 57, of Oxford died early Thursday morning July 28, 2011. Jim was a beloved husband, father, and teacher. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 23, 1954 to John and Alice (Carr) Hershberger.

He graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1976 and earned his PhD in Organic Chemistry from Iowa State University in 1981. He was Associate Professor of Chemistry at Miami University, having joined the faculty in 1984. He taught general and organic chemistry, supervised undergraduate and graduate students in organometallic research, and encouraged high school students in the Cincinnati Academy of Mathematics and Science-Hughes Scholars program. He led a collaborative research program between Miami and the AVISTA OIL Group that resulted in an oil recycling process implemented in Denmark, Germany, and Saudi Arabia.

He relished professional, community, and musical endeavors: he served as a member and chair and trustee of the American Chemical Society Cincinnati Section, board member for the Environmental Mobile Unit, and treasurer of the Oxford Kiwanis Club, and was organist and member of the Faith Lutheran Choir, and a member of the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Chorale. He enjoyed bicycling, the perfect sport for the gentle hills and valleys of southwest Ohio and eastern Indiana.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Hershberger; his wife of thirty-two years, Susan (Smith); two daughters, Margaret (Stefan Kilyanek) and Monica; and three brothers, Robert (Denise) Hershberger, John (Sharon) Hershberger, and Richard (Anne) Hershberger.

A memorial service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 420 South Campus Avenue, Oxford, OH at 10 AM on Saturday August 20, 2011. The family will receive friends at 9AM prior to the service. A simple reception will follow the service.

Memorials to the Jim Hershberger Memorial Fund for student scholarships in Chemistry and Biochemistry at Miami University are suggested and can be sent to the Miami University Foundation c/o the Jim Hershberger Memorial Fund, 725 E. Chestnut Street, Oxford OH 45056.
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