



**Dr. LESLIE, James "Jim" David** – Passed away peacefully on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at age 79, surrounded by his loving family at Columbia Forest Long Term Care, after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Beloved husband and father, he is survived by his cherished wife of over 50 years, Dr. Josephine Naidoo; his three devoted children, Drs. Kenneth, Christina, and Michèle Leslie; and five adorable grandchildren, Journey, Phoenix, Jayanti, Padma, and Priya.

Jim was the son of James McGonigle Leslie, from Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and Sarah "Sadie" Dalton Graham, from Glasgow, Scotland, both immigrants to Canada. Jim was born in Toronto on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1935. He was the youngest of three children, and is survived by his two older siblings, May and Bill. He was raised in Toronto and earned a degree in Engineering Physics from the University of Toronto in 1957. He was appointed a Lecturer in Physics in 1958 during the early days of the University of Waterloo (UW). He went on to get his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Illinois in Champagne-Urbana, where he met Josephine, of Asian Indian ancestry from Durban, South Africa. She was studying to get her Ph.D. in Social Psychology on an American scholarship. They came from opposite ends of the earth, and their love transcended the ethnic and cultural barriers of the time. They were married on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1964 at St. John's Catholic Chapel at the University of Illinois. Jim returned to UW in 1963 as a professor in the Physics Department, where he conducted research in solid state physics, published scientific articles, supervised graduate students, and taught undergraduates in Physics and Engineering. He was on the faculty of UW for 38 years, and was appointed full professor in 1975 and professor emeritus in 2002. In 2003 he was named Honorary Member of UW at the Eighty-Sixth Convocation in recognition of his distinguished teaching, research and administrative career.

In 1968 this young and energetic professor fretted over high school teachers having to drive in winter storms to continue their physics education and thought that there must be a better way. Through his dogged efforts, UW's unique correspondence program was born. He formulated the idea and put it into motion, doing so on a 'shoestring' budget while carrying a full teaching and research load. His innovative program used cassette tape technology to make university lectures available to students at home. Jim wanted to express his sincere thanks to all the faculty, staff, administration, and students who made UW's Distance Education program a success. In 1993 he was awarded the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation commemorative medal for his contribution to higher education in Canada.

Jim was a successful entrepreneur and initiated various companies, including Waterloo Distance Education and Waterloo Digital Electronics. He was also instrumental in developing new image compression technology.

Jim was an adventurous spirit, loving and world-minded partner to Josephine, attentive and creative father, and a dynamic teacher. Others sought him out for his wise counsel, and he helped several newcomer Canadians get established.

Jim's family wishes to thank the doctors, nurses, personal support workers, administration and staff at Columbia Forest Long Term Care for their kind attention to Jim during his three and a half year stay at the centre and their exceptional care during his final days. A *Cremation Service* will take place at Parkview Cemetery Chapel, 335 University Ave. E., Waterloo at 11 am on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Reception to follow. There will be a *Celebration of Life* at the University of Waterloo Faculty Club in July, date to be announced by email and in the Record. Donations to the Salvation Army can be arranged by contacting the funeral home at [www.erbgood.com](http://www.erbgood.com) or 519-745-8445.