

giving back

A CHANCE TO HELP STUDENTS

From an early mentoring relationship with Dr. Jim Frey, Jim Hamilton has a lifelong connection to DC

by Cindy Shaffer '03, Senior Director of Advancement Services and Gift Planning

A Science Fair project during his junior year of high school put Jim Hamilton '72 in touch with Dr. Jim (Zeke) Frey, professor of biology at Defiance College and one of the Fair judges. It was the start of a mentoring relationship that attracted Hamilton to the College and refined his interest in science. Jim recalls that Dr. Frey “took me under his wing and helped to build vision for my future.”

When he was growing up, Jim’s family owned a dairy on Hopkins Street, an integral part of the Defiance community. He graduated Defiance High School at a time when many of his classmates and their parents considered landing a job at the local General Motors plant to be the key to an outstanding future. However, Jim had other plans. At the age of 13, his parents told him that if he wanted to attend college, he would have to pay for it himself, and Jim knew that he was going to have to work hard to achieve the goals he had set for himself. He earned money by mowing a lot of grass, and when he was a little older, he managed to hold down three jobs and play music on the weekend to feed his college fund.

Dr. Frey recruited Jim to attend Defiance College and to work as his assistant in the Tenzer Hall labs. “That paved the way for my success. It all started here at DC,” he reflects. In 1967, Jim was offered an internship at the Defiance Hospital lab, which fueled his interest in health care. From the laboratory, Jim moved to executive health care leadership after completing a master of business administration degree. He worked in administration at Parkview Health Systems in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Community Health Associates in Bryan, Ohio and as a consultant to the healthcare industry through his own company, Ambulatory Management Services.

Teaching is another passion for Jim, and he has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels at Purdue University, Cardinal



Above, Jim Hamilton and son, Stephen, conduct a session at the Science Olympiad held on the DC campus. At left, Jim and Vicki Hamilton

Stitch University, and Indiana Wesleyan, and with the University of Phoenix online graduate program.

In 2011 Jim and his wife Vicki created an endowed scholarship for an upper-class student from northwest Ohio who is considering a career in the life sciences. Jim is especially interested in helping someone who is a pre-professional student (medicine, dentistry, optometry, veterinary), and who demonstrates financial need.

“Science was the root of my training here (at DC). Personally knowing that I have returned something back to the next generation, especially in the science area, is very satisfying. It is one thing to return knowledge through teaching, but another to help someone financially to achieve their goals.”

Jim and Vicki reside in Spencerville, Ind., and Jim is a member of the Defiance College Board of Trustees. ◆