Professor Emeritus, Dr. Jim Platt passed away June 28 after a battle with cancer. A scientist, scholar and teacher, Jim had a 40 year career at DU and will be sorely missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Jim was born in Greensburg, IN. He received a BA and MAT degrees in zoology from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1966 & 1967. He earned his PhD at University of Colorado, Boulder, in 1974. His early studies made contributions to the understanding of hormone action in development, using the tiger salamander as a model organism. As his career progressed, Jim developed a strong interest in K-12 and undergraduate science education, receiving grants from NSF, NIH, Colorado Department of Education and private foundations for STEM education and outreach. He was also instrumental in developing and evaluating biology curricula for both majors and non-majors. He was honored by DU as Burlington-Northern Outstanding teacher of 1988, and the Colorado Biology Teachers Association with its Outstanding Service Award in 1992, among other honors.

Jim was an avid student and teacher of evolution, and a keen collector of fossils.

He is survived by his wife Kathy and her family, and by his daughter Andrea, son-in-law Brian Heinke, and grandchildren Connor and Makayla.