



Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D.

March 30, 1949 - October 17, 2018

G. James (Jim) Pinchak, Ph. D. of Worthington, Ohio, died on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 after a 5+ year battle with stage 4 Prostate Cancer. Dr. Pinchak was born in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania on March 30, 1949 to George Frank Pinchak and Angelina Maria Pinchak. He is preceded in death by his parents, two infant brothers and his loving wife Deborah Jane Paul. He is survived by his incredible son Nicolo (Nico) Paul Pinchak, Nico's partner Kelly Holmes and numerous friends, students and extended family.

Jim believed he was able to continue to teach and live a full life for so long because of the heroic efforts of the physicians and staff of The OSU Wexner Medical Center and Hospitals.

Jim's career in Education spanned 50 years. He began his career as a teacher aide and progressed through the ranks as an academic, career & technical teacher and special needs teacher earning degrees at Miami University, Kent State University, and Bowling Green State University. Jim served over twenty years as a high-level administrator in the Ohio Department of Education before becoming Principal & Director of the Tolles Technical Center in Plain City. He became the first person promoted to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor in The Ohio State University, College of Education & Human Ecology for Career & Technical Education. His OSU graduate program was ranked first among American graduate schools for 2017, 2018 and 2019 by USNWR. He was a leading advocate for Vocational Education and Career Development known throughout the nation and world.

Near the end of life, he became a participant and supporter of “adaptive” and wheel chair sports.

A celebration of Jim’s life will be held Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 10-2 PM in The Tolles Technical Center, Plain City, OH. His cremains will be interred in a private ceremony in the Scatter Garden at the First Unitarian Church of Columbus next to his wife Debbie and Sister-in-law, Ann Lashley. Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements. Leave online condolences: www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

First Unitarian Universalist Church

93 W Weisheimer Road
Columbus, OH 43214

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D.*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dear Nico, Please accept my condolences. I am your father's friend from Cincinnati with whom you spit cherry pits into a trash can when you were a tween many years ago. I wrote him an email recently then sadly found his obituary. What a force of like he was and will always be in my memory. Sincerely, Mary Ann Heekin*

Mary Ann - March 08, 2019 at 03:22 PM



“ *Dear Nico*

My deepest sympathy at the loss of your dad. I was privileged to get to know him when I first arrived at Ohio in 2007 and since then he became a dear friend. I looked forward to his cards and emails sharing about what he was doing and especially in the area of vocational and technical education.

I thoroughly enjoyed having both of you in Singapore and also seeing both of you in Cleveland in 2014. These will remain precious memories.

Do take care of yourself and carry on the good work that you're doing.

*Angela Lim
Singapore*

Angela Lim - December 23, 2018 at 09:13 PM

PK

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Nico and family. Dr. Pinchak was close to perfect. A model professional, great educator, mentor, problem solver, amazing father to his son, and a gentleman.

Jim has touched the lives of many in a personal and professional manner. He touched so many in so many ways.

Hearts are Heavy. Thank you Dr. Pinchak for making the world a better place.

Pamela Kariofiles

Butler Tech

Pamela kariofiles - November 09, 2018 at 06:38 AM

BS

“ My condolences to Nico and family. Jim was a wonderful advisor. He cared deeply for his students and there was no doubt that he would see them through to successful careers. May you find peace in knowing that he touched so many lives. Peace be with you.

Budi Santosa, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Budi Santosa - November 01, 2018 at 09:34 AM

TT

“ My condolences to Nico and family. Dr. Pinchak was a warm and thoughtful mentor who helped confirm my beliefs in and advocate for CTE. His professionalism and sincerity were so heartfelt that you couldn't help but follow his path. He will be missed. Peace be with you.

Tony Thivener

Tony Thivener - October 27, 2018 at 12:16 PM

TF

“ My condolences to Nico and family. Dr. Pinchak was such a respected and knowledgeable professor for Career Tech Education. His compassion towards educators and students was heartfelt and he will truly be missed!

Tina Francis

Tina Francis - October 27, 2018 at 11:51 AM

JB

“ In remembrance of Dr. G. James Pinchak a Memorial Gift has been made to The American Cancer Society by Dr. John A . Boggess.

John Boggess - October 22, 2018 at 05:10 PM



“ Lord's Prayer 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D..



October 22, 2018 at 02:53 PM

DZ

“ Jim was a wonderful colleague! He cared deeply for his students and there was no doubt that he would see them through to successful careers. May you find peace in knowing that he touched so many lives.

Deb Zabloudil - October 22, 2018 at 03:18 AM

JP

“ I am so sorry for the loss of this wonderful educator and person. I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Pinchak at one of the most confusing times of my life. I have been changed for the better because of the hours we spent. He said something about people at a certain point in their lives become wizards...he was definitely a wizard, and he helped me to become a butterfly. Prayers for peace to family and friends.

Julie Vish, PhD - October 21, 2018 at 08:43 PM

JK

“ Dr Pinchak was a friend and mentor to all in the CTE World. His guidance and thoughtfulness helped myself and others through challenges and successes. His spirit lives on in the many lives he touched over the years.

With prayer and sympathy,

Jackie Kuffel

Jackie Kuffel - October 21, 2018 at 05:30 PM

YU

“ Dear Nico,

I am truly sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Please accept my condolences to you and your families. Please also know that your friends at IPR/Sociology are all here for you, and please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything that I could help you with, especially during this very difficult time.

*With sympathy,
Yue*

Yue - October 20, 2018 at 08:13 PM

ME

“ *I had the privilege of having Dr. Pinchak as a professor for 3 classes at OSU. I learned a lot from him, and I know my classmates did, too. He will be greatly missed by Ohio's career-tech community. Rest in peace, Jim. ~Melissa Meeker*

Melissa - October 20, 2018 at 03:26 PM

MC

“ *I worked with Jim for many years at ODE. Jim was an ultimate professional. I attended many of out of State conferences with him and was proud to have him representing the State of Ohio's Department of Education.
Jim was admired and respected by all who worked with him.
My condolences to his family.*

Margaret Callaghan

Margaret Callaghan - October 20, 2018 at 03:03 PM

BS

“ I am so sad to learn of the death of Dr. Pinchak and I will never forget the time he spent in my classroom at West High School. His example as an educator has guided me throughout my career in education.

I know he was always so proud of Nico and any mention of his son brought a smile to his face. My condolences to Nico, Kelly and all who knew Dr. Pinchak.

Becky Senger

Becky Senger - October 20, 2018 at 08:32 AM

OS

“ Ohio Association Career Technical Superintendents purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D..



Ohio Association Career Technical Superintendents -
October 19, 2018 at 03:36 PM



“ Jim was a education leader and mentor to hundreds of you educators. He definitely left a legacy of quality and value for all educators to emulate. He will be remembers by professionals for many years to come. thank you Jim for your great contributions to Ohio education.

Dan Stacy - October 19, 2018 at 01:50 PM

MP

“ Nico,

Please accept our deepest sympathies for the loss of your Dad.

Marvin will always be glad for having your Dad as a friend and boss. He was a caring, dedicated person willing to talk or help when asked.

Shirley and I know he adored you and treasured time with you.

We were able to visit with your dad on Thursday, October 10, 2018. The visit was an enjoyable one. We told him that we had sent the Christmas cards that we received from you and him, but they had not arrived before we saw him. He was genuinely appreciative to have another set of the cards.

Your Dad will be greatly missed.

Marvin & Shirley Philpott

Marvin Philpott - October 19, 2018 at 01:23 PM

TO

“ *The AHDC Team at OSU purchased the Celestial Love for the family of Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D..*



The AHDC Team at OSU - October 19, 2018 at 12:33 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D..*



October 19, 2018 at 11:15 AM



“ *OCTA purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D..*



OCTA - October 19, 2018 at 08:50 AM



“ *Jim was and will continue to be such an inspiration to me. Brilliant, funny, warm, caring, an incredible dad to his amazing son, Nico, and a true friend. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to Nico and the entire Pinchak family. Hugs and heartfelt sympathy, Kristi Morris*

Kristi Morris - October 19, 2018 at 07:52 AM



“ *I am shocked to hear this tragic news. Jim was intelligent and caring as a co-worker, husband and father. I know he adored his son and treasured time with him. Rest in peace, my friend, knowing that you left such a positive mark on this earth. Pat Huston (praying in Uganda)*

Pat Huston - October 18, 2018 at 03:16 PM

GN

“ *Dr. Pincahk*

Was one of the most dedicated educators, friends, and fathers I have ever meet. He was always there to help. Not only did he teach me to be a great educator, but he also taught humility, to strive for greatness, and to be inspiring even when the cards were stacked against you. He was diagnosed with cancer right before I graduated from OSU. But he never seemed to let that get him down, and was always in good spirits when we spoke. We stayed in touch after OSU and I would occasionally run into him and his son Nico on the bus during home football games. I always looked forward to running into him so that we were able to catch up. I will always remember him, his lessons, and his courage.

*Thank you Dr. P!
Your friend and colleague
Gregg Needles*

Gregg Needles - October 18, 2018 at 03:12 PM

LO

*To Nico & family,
I'm very sorry for your loss. I remember you and your dad as friends with great sense of self and humor. All my best.
Lisa Olmstead*

Lisa Olmstead - October 26, 2018 at 10:43 AM

EL

“ *I elida representing students participating in visiting scholar program in 2008/2009 from Padang State Univetsity Indonesia. According to grieving abd feelling lost on the departure of James Phinchak Ph.D. memories with him will not be forgotten. He is good man.*

Elida - October 18, 2018 at 10:53 AM

DB

“ Dorothy Blaner lit a candle in memory of Dr. G. James Pinchak, Ph.D.



Dorothy Blaner - October 18, 2018 at 09:28 AM

DB

Sending deepest sympathy on the passing of your father. Jim was such a great person to talk, ask questions and deal with vo-ed as needed. Dedicated individual who was always willing to assist when asked. Sending prayers for strength to Jim's family during this sad time. God bless you.

Dorothy Blaner - October 18, 2018 at 09:32 AM

JE

“ *Dr. Pinchak was an amazing mentor to me and provided me with a wealth of teaching knowledge that I now share with students today. He was an incredible advocate for career and technical education and cared deeply for each student he interacted with. He always took the time for me to stop by his office and allow me to share whatever was on my mind. His support and wisdom guided me through my program at Ohio State.*

Thank you, Dr. Pinchak.

Jeremy Jeffery

Jeremy - October 18, 2018 at 08:53 AM

BM

“ Nico:

I'm was so sorry to hear your dad had passed. He was an amazing man and a good friend.

Bob McCarthy

Bob McCarthy - October 18, 2018 at 08:46 AM

LH

“ *I worked with Jim for 9 years at the Ohio Department of Education and we were friends in the many years that followed. He was a kind and thoughtful mentor at ODE and I always appreciated that he would work late and offer to walk any of the rest of us to our cars across the river in Franklinton if it was dark or after hours, so we were safe. I was there when Nico was born and remember his great joy in becoming a father later in life. He considered that his greatest accomplishment and when I would see him each year at the All-Ohio Counselors Conference there was always a Nico update and a big smile. Jim will be greatly missed by the career-tech community.*

Lynne Hall

Lynne Hall - October 18, 2018 at 07:52 AM

DA

“ *Dr. Jim Pinchak was a true friend and mentor to me. I will never forget his unending kindness. When I was a very young teacher in a juvenile correctional school, he agreed without hesitation to be my mentor as part of the 1992 Ohio Vocational Education Leadership Institute (OVELI). His encouragement, insight, experience and superior intellect made him the best mentor I could ever have. I am sure that I am one of many lives he touched in a very positive and supporting way.*

*With gratitude,
Dwight Anstaett*

Dwight Anstaett - October 18, 2018 at 07:22 AM



“ *Jim hired me into his data processing division of Vocational Education and he was the fairest boss I ever had. There was no one that worked harder than Jim. And he always had a smile on his face. We have all lost another good one and I am sorry for his families loss. Rest in Peace Jim, you deserve it Thomas Bream*

Thomas Bream - October 18, 2018 at 07:21 AM

LJ

“ Jim was a kind and well respected colleague. I very much enjoyed serving on EHE College Council with him. I will always remember him as a very passionate advocate for students. His office was located down the hall from mine. He always greeted me with a big smile and cheerful words every time I passed him in the hallway, in the elevator, and in the mail room. Thanks Jim for making my work days much brighter. Sending prayers to Jim's family. Rest in peace Jim. You will be greatly missed at OSU.

Warmly,
Laurice Joseph

Laurice Joseph - October 17, 2018 at 11:33 PM

KW

“ Dr. Pinchak was an outstanding educator and leader. He guided teachers and students toward their best possible results both personally and professionally. It was a privilege having him as my principal and advisor. My prayers go to the Pinchak family and friends.

Kathy Williams - October 17, 2018 at 10:29 PM

DW

“ When thinking about all of the wonderful memories that I have for Dr. Pinchak, I do not know where to begin. He was always a positive teacher who eventually became my mentor and friend. OSU has lost a marvelous instructor and promoter of Career Technical Education. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Pinchak's friends and family.

You will be greatly missed my friend,
Dawn Weaver

Dawn L Weaver - October 17, 2018 at 09:08 PM

SO

“ He was an amazing educator, researcher and great proponent of CTE. Most importantly a kind man. His legacy will live on and he will be sadly missed. Condolences to his family.

Sondra - October 17, 2018 at 07:35 PM

CM

“ Jim was a great educator and friend. He will be missed. Cliff Migal.

Cliff Migal - October 17, 2018 at 06:55 PM