



UNCW Center for Marine Science Creates Hodder Hall of Mentors to Honor Dedicated Volunteers, Supporters



UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

WILMINGTON, NC - The University of North Carolina Wilmington Center for Marine Science has established the Hodder Hall of Mentors to honor Walter James Hodder and Katherine Hanson Hodder, volunteers and donors.

Last semester, the Wilmington couple established a retained life estate agreement that enables them to give their house and property to the university following their deaths. In the past, the Hodders gave a vehicle to CMS for faculty and staff to use during commutes from the center's Myrtle Grove location to the university's main campus. The couple's contributions to UNCW exceed \$350,000.

"The Hodder Hall of Mentors is the largest tiered lecture classroom at CMS, and it is the venue for the Planet Ocean public lecture series and for the center's formal science seminar programs. The Hall of Mentors is envisioned as a place of recognition for mentors in all walks of life," said CMS Director Daniel

Baden. "The Hodders are recognized in this regard for their many years of service to, and interest in, educational efforts of the center's programs. The Hodders are stalwart advocates who have participated in marine science program development since 1999."

The Hodders' Coronado Drive home is near the center, and Katie Hanson Hodder is an alumna, having attended classes at UNCW in the early 1970s. The Hodders and several other volunteers formed the Flounders, a service group that cleans and maintains the tanks in the laboratories, feeds the aquarium fish and provides general assistance at CMS. They are also founding and lifetime members of the CMS Bluefish Society and active supporters of the Planet Ocean seminar series.

"Katie and I were early volunteers down at the center. We fell in love with the place," Jim Hodder said. "As volunteers, we did pretty much anything they wanted - cleaned the tanks, built a stand for an observation tank, and fed the fish that live in the aquarium."

Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo said, "Jim and Katie Hodder are dedicated volunteers, generous supporters and true friends to UNCW. The Hodder Hall of Mentors symbolizes their commitment to our Center for Marine Science. The students, faculty and staff at UNCW deeply appreciate their generosity."

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