An interview with: James (Jim) Justin Beatty

Family:
   Wife: Anne Beatty, Deloitte & Touche Chair in Accounting at OSU
   Children: Linus is 17 and Zoe is 14.

Research area: Experimental Particle Astrophysics- dealing with the highest energy particles in the Universe

Title at OSU: Chair and Professor of Physics and Professor of Astronomy

# of years at OSU: 10

Favorite foods: Chicago style pizza, and Indian food. When a trip to Chicago is not possible, he makes the Chicago style pizza at home, but is working on perfecting the crust.

Hobbies: Musician – Has played the guitar for 40 years, and the bass for 4. He is bassist and occasional vocalist in his band The Dealio- which will play a show at O’Tooles on Broad St. Dec. 5th 7-10:00 PM

What was your first job?
   At 14 or 15 I worked in a small college cafeteria making toast for 1,000 people every morning at 5AM for the 7:00 breakfast crowd. I fed bread into a toast machine and then buttered it with a paintbrush when it came out. Then I moved up to dishwashing.

What is the most interesting place you’ve ever visited?
   Hanoi or Antarctica- “In Antarctica everyone wears the same clothes, so you can’t tell scientists apart from anyone else. Everyone became very equal. I liked to hang out with the ‘fuelies’ who operate the generators; they were a fun group. And at capacity 60% of the people there are to keep the place running.”

If you weren’t a physicist, what would you be doing as a career?
   Rockstar! (musician)

What is your favorite place on campus (Not PRB)?
   I go to the top floor of the library if I want a quiet place and a great view.

If you could stay a certain age forever, what would it be?
   Right Now- I don’t want to go back, you learn so much; and I don’t want to go much further downhill.

What is your most memorable experience or proudest accomplishment?
   Proudest Accomplishment: Making the Pierre Auger Observatory work. I headed the electronics group that turned on the first detectors. [http://www.auger.org/]
   Most Memorable Experience: Flying High Altitude Balloons. It’s a gas.

When did you start wearing Hawaiian shirts?
   In the 90’s, before they became trendy.

Why did you start wearing Hawaiian shirts?
   I went to Hawaii and liked them, and they’re comfortable.

Do you have a favorite Hawaiian shirt?
   I have a favorite designer: Tori Richard.

Where would we find you on the morning of a home football game?
   Watching College Game Day at home with the family

What do you think you will do after you retire?
   Hang out on the beach of Hawaii’s Big Island, play lots of Rock and Roll, and travel.

Any other interesting facts?
   I was awarded a French knighthood in 2009 for working with the French on the Auger project. My title is: Officier, Ordre des Palmes Académiques.
   I’ve been to all seven continents, but still haven’t seen everything.