Jim Welsh received his PhD from Stanford University in 1952: his dissertation was a study of Yellowstone blackspotted trout. He was one of the early founding science faculty members at CSU Los Angeles, but transferred to HSU Fisheries program in 1967. Jim’s teaching specialties were marine fish ecology and commercially important invertebrates. He took the lead role in securing HSU’s second oceangoing research vessel - the Admiral.

Jim was recognized as one of the most gifted lecturers at HSU and, at will, could quite literally bring his audience to tears or laughter – within minutes of one another!

Among Jim’s important long-term contributions to the HSU Fisheries programs was his key role in founding the international Fresh-Water Ecology (Limnology) program in partnership with Uppsala University in Sweden. Many HSU Fisheries students have successfully combined this Uppsala Limnology program in their Fisheries program of study. Jim was also very active in Rotary and helped a number of students receive Rotary support for their international experiences.

Toward the end of his HSU career, Jim became greatly concerned about acid rain, partly from his travels and experiences in Sweden with his Swedish wife, Birgitta. Jim taught several well-attended special topics classes on acid rain problems while at HSU.