

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Steve C. Poe, Professor of Political Science at the University of North Texas. Dr. Poe suffered a heart attack while enjoying one of his favorite activities – playing tennis with his daughters. He is survived by his wife Sunny and three daughters, Mary, Jamie, and Megan.

Steve Poe received his PhD from the University of Iowa in 1989 and joined the faculty of the Department of Political Science at the University of North Texas in 1989. Steve Poe was a pioneer in the study of human rights studies. His teaching and research in that field have made him a well-respected scholar in the field. He has always been passionate about his work, and he sincerely believed that his passion is what allowed him to be successful.

Aside from making a significant contribution to our understanding of international politics, Dr. Poe was actively involved in human rights organizations, such as the local chapter of the Center for the Survivors of Torture. Steve Poe was the first Johnnie Christian Family Peace Professor from 1998-2000 and the founder of UNT's Peace Studies Program, which is the only Peace Studies program in the region that offers a minor and a certificate. He also took the lead in establishing four endowed scholarships in Peace Studies at UNT. He had been serving as Editor-in-Chief of International Studies Quarterly since 2003.

Dr. Poe was a favorite among students because of his accessibility and his genuine concern for the welfare of his students. During his time at UNT he won almost every teaching award for which he was eligible, and deserved them all. While a professor at the University of North Texas, he accumulated a following of students whom he inspired both professionally and personally. His doctoral students have gone on to build successful careers as teachers and researchers.

Dr. Poe far exceeded his duties as professor, serving for many years as a mentor to students involved in the McNair Program and also as an unofficial mentor to all. The McNair Program pairs faculty with promising students who are the first in their family to attend college. One of Steve's McNair advisees went on to earn a law degree from Harvard and is currently working on a Ph.D. at George Washington. Another is in the Ph.D. program at Binghamton University. He has mentored more McNair scholars than any other faculty at this university and all have gone on to successful careers.

Dr. Poe was a dedicated husband, father, teacher, and scholar, and he managed to excel in all these roles. As an avid sports fan and former college athlete, he always managed to make time for recreation, using sports as a way to bond with colleagues and students alike. Those who spent time with Dr. Poe will miss him dearly, and he will be remembered by all for his kindness, generosity, and sincere interest in the lives of others.