

Proposition 24-09/10

Sponsor: Patti Wojahn (A&S)

Proposed Committee Assignment: Emergency Legislation

Title: A Memorial in Honor of Dr. Stuart C. Brown

Dr. Stuart Brown, friend and colleague to many on this campus and across the country, passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2010. Dr. Brown was 54 when he passed away, leaving behind a beloved wife.

A Professor in the Department of English, Stuart was respected and admired by faculty, students, and staff at NMSU. A dedicated teacher and administrator, Stuart taught writing at all levels of the curriculum and for ten years directed the writing programs at NMSU. In that role, he positively influenced the thousands of NMSU students who completed general education writing courses and the hundreds of graduate teaching associates and other instructors who taught those courses during his term. Many of us remember him most for the support he offered those teaching associates and students.

During his time as Writing Program Director, he established a writing program grounded in rhetoric, which he saw as applicable to most any circumstance and encounter. In discussing the role of rhetoricians, he stated that they “study the ways people use language to construct knowledge and to do things in the world.” Stuart’s contributions to both of these endeavors were many.

A prolific scholar, he published nine books and over forty-five articles, book chapters, reviews, and technical reports in rhetoric, composition, and professional communication. A committed colleague, Stuart believed in professional service and made contribution after contribution to academic and other types of organizations and initiatives. Stuart was active nationally in his field and in a wide range of department and university projects. He collaborated with and mentored many of us on projects on and off campus. He spoke his mind and was relied on for “telling it like it is.”

As administrator and instructor, he taught numerous types of writing courses—from ethics and first-year composition to research methods and document design—across disciplines such as engineering and nursing and at all levels—first-year rhetoric and composition to PhD courses in rhetoric and professional communication. Beyond his full-time career as scholar, instructor, administrator, researcher, and active university committee member, Stuart served his own home communities as a volunteer fire fighter, an emergency medical technician (EMT), an EMT instructor, and a grant writer seeking funding for equipment for fire fighters and others saving lives.

In his article “Have Rhetoric, Will Travel,” Stuart states, “Rhetoric, I am only just realizing, is the compass by which to follow . . . stories, our own as well as others. It is a gift I do not fully appreciate, still touched with the wonder of it. I have followed rhetoric to many places. I suspect it will take me to many more.” Rhetoric did take Stuart far, and many of us are indebted to him for his endeavors, those that contributed to studies of “how people use language to construct knowledge” as well as those that “did things” in the world.

Stuart’s contributions to NMSU, his colleagues, and his students will long be remembered with gratitude.

The NMSU Faculty Senate extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to the family, friends, students, and colleagues and all others who knew and admired him.