



Dr. Rodney A. Anderson

February 6, 1966 - March 7, 2012

Services for Dr. Rodney A. Anderson will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012, at the Geneva United Methodist Church with Pastor Ron Harris officiating. Graveside services will follow the funeral at the Geneva Public Cemetery in Geneva, Nebraska.

A public visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva. Memorials are directed to the family, the Geneva United Methodist Church, or to the Rodney A. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Rodney Allen Anderson was born to Rodger D. and Roine R. (Heath) Anderson on February 6, 1966 in Geneva, Nebraska and he passed away on March 7, 2012 at his home in Fresno, California. Rodney was one of three children in the family.

Rodney was a member of the Geneva United Methodist Church and was baptized on May 15, 1966 and he was confirmed on May 16, 1979. Rodney grew up on the family farm and graduated from the Geneva High School with the class of 1984. While in high school, Rodney participated on the Speech Team and he excelled in the Extemporaneous speaking competitions. Rodney was also involved in the Geneva High School FFA and in 1983 he took an FFA Leadership Trip to Washington D.C. where he enjoyed seeing the Gettysburg Battlefields and other historic sights around Washington D.C. He also served as Secretary of the Geneva FFA during the 1983-84 school year. After high school, Rodney earned his bachelor's degree at the University of

Nebraska at Lincoln and graduated in 1988 with Highest Distinction. He earned his masters and doctorate degrees in Political Science at the Ohio State University in 1994.

Upon earning his doctorate, Rodney taught for one year at Ohio State University and then he filled in for a professor at Arizona State University for a brief time. In 1996 he took a position at Fresno State University and served there until his passing. Rodney taught 200 students in five classes every semester and was known for taking on a variety of classes and enjoying a wide range of interests. Among the subjects he taught were introductory American politics, statistics, political behavior and comparative politics. He also was a volunteer mentor for students as part of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

Aside from his political teachings, Anderson's other loves were baseball and football. He attended the College World Series on several occasions, loved the Fresno State Bulldogs, Nebraska Cornhuskers, the Ohio State Buckeyes and enjoyed trivia games. Special times were had by Rodney and his family at Rosenblatt Stadium during the College World Series, especially when Fresno State won the National Championship in 2008. When Rosenblatt Stadium closed for good, Rodney had the opportunity to purchase two seats like the ones that he sat in during the 2008 Fresno State Baseball Championship, which he in turn donated back to the Fresno State Bulldog Baseball Program. Rodney also had a vast collection of movies, movie posters, and other movie memorabilia totaling over a thousand pieces and dating back from black and white movies to modern movies. He had a dedicated room in his apartment to house all of his collections.

Rodney will be remembered as a caring and compassionate educator and friend and one that was committed and dedicated to the education of his students.

Rodney was preceded in death by his mother, Roine Anderson; grandparents Melvin and DeVee Anderson, Arthur Heath; Grandmother and step grandfather Merl and Irene Archer; and Uncle Ron Heath.

He is survived by his father Rodger Anderson of Geneva; brothers Ronald Anderson of Lincoln and Larry Anderson of Phoenix, Arizona; Uncles and Aunts Bernard and Carol Anderson of Henderson, NE, Lowell Anderson of Geneva, NE, Gary and Pat Anderson of Kearney, NE; Aunt Bonnie Heath of Lincoln, NE; and by many cousins, colleagues, and friends.

Tribute Wall

NB

“ Dear Mr. Anderson,
Imagine my shock when I thought I would telephone Rodney this evening, and found out he had just passed away. I am so very sorry. Rodney has a special place in my heart. I was so proud of him and his accomplishments -- and to think, he wandered into my office in 1985 and never really left until he went to grad school. I will miss his sincerity and kindness and his very dry with. With great sorrow,
Nancy Bocskor

Nancy Bocskor - March 22, 2013 at 09:23 PM

SW

“ Rodney was my best friend in elementary school. We both loved comic books; Rodney even wrote a comic book magazine that was in the school library.
I still have an issue that he let me help write.

Shane Wise - September 10, 2012 at 11:14 AM

MM

“*Dr. Anderson was my favorite professor at Fresno state. I graduated back in 2004 and i remember taking my first class with him, political science 1, like it was yesterday. Right away I knew he was a special teacher. Dr Anderson was a brilliant man whom I looked up to during the years earning my degree. I recall the day of my graduation and I introduced my mom and brother to him. We got to take pictures with him afterwards and they were both intrigued by him.*

I took every class i could with him because of his passion for teaching. I will miss his quirky laugh, and how he always focused his attention to me and zeroed in on a few of us during class, because he knew how passionate I was about the subject material. He was an encyclopedia of knowledge of political science, and that's was made him so special. He had the answers to all my questions. His teaching style was a times dry and very monotone, but thats what made him different from the rest of the staff in political science department. Dr Anderson only needed some chalk , a blackboard, and a few notes to teach his students.

Dr Anderson was a very influential person during the course of my education. I did two independent study papers with him and he always made time for me. He worked hard to push me so I could achieve success in all of his classes. I could talk with him about issues that i felt were important, and he would help me bring those issues about in all the papers i wrote. He would steer me in the right direction for research, and most importantly he helped make me a better writer and researcher.

I referred my old brother to take all of his classes when he decided to become a political science major, as well as friends and future students thinking about earning a degree in polsci. He will truly missed. I'm still in shock in the passing of Dr. Anderson and I pray for him and his family during this difficult time.

Michael Murphy - March 19, 2012 at 02:13 PM

SM

“ Dr. Anderson was my Political Science Professor from fall 2004 through Spring 2006. He inspired me to become a teacher. I will never forget you Dr. Anderson! God Bless you and your family!

Steve Murphy - March 19, 2012 at 01:14 PM

RL

“ Our prayers and sympathies to Ron, Larry, and Rodger.

Rick and Sue Lange - March 15, 2012 at 12:03 AM

DW

“ We were so sad to hear the news of Rodney's passing. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time and we know you will cherish the many memories you have.
Love, Debra, Dave, Leo, Lucy, and Vivienne Speranza

Debra Witt - March 13, 2012 at 09:22 PM

DW

“ Our deepest sympathies to Rodger, Ronald and Larry. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. David and Kinuyo Witt

David Witt - March 13, 2012 at 03:40 PM