

To Honor and Remember:

Former Criminal Justice faculty member, Dr. Thomas Earl Sullenberger, passed away late last week. The faculty and staff of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice would like to honor his memory by encouraging current and future students to aspire to his life-long dedication to learning and excellence in higher education.

Dr. Sullenberger loved to learn, to read, to understand, and to exchange knowledge with students, staff, and fellow members of the faculty. After training to be an electronics technician in the US Navy, he attended Tarleton State University and studied English, History, and Foreign Languages. He taught English in Dalhart Texas for a time before attending North Texas State University to earn a Masters Degree in English Literature.

He taught at various colleges and universities for the following eight years before attending Sam Houston State University to earn Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. He next taught at Marshall University in West Virginia and the University of Texas at Arlington before finding a permanent home at Southeastern Louisiana University in 1988. Dr. Sullenberger's knowledge of various academic disciplines and his experience teaching and writing at numerous universities allowed him to quickly become a leader in the Department and an important mentor to young faculty members and students.

Dr. Sullenberger always said that of all the colleges and universities at which he taught, Southeastern was by far the best in terms of educational quality. He called it, "the best kept secret in the south". Upon retirement in 2008, his lifelong dedication to education was recognized by the creation of the 'Dr. Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice', which he was proud of and always said that its creation, and purpose to further the educational aspirations of future students, validated his academic career.

The family wishes that anyone wishing to offer their condolences should consider donating to the scholarship rather than sending cards and/or flowers to the family. The faculty and staff in the Department of Criminal Justice wish to pay homage to Dr. Sullenberger and his ongoing commitment to knowledge, to learning, and to our unquestionable right to question.