Andrew W. Foshee, 56, passed away Dec. 29, 2010. He died from septicemia and massive organ failure.

His first college experience was at West Point. Although he did not graduate from West Point, he lived up to their motto, “Duty, Honor, Country.” But he would have been quick to add “family.”

Andrew graduated from McNeese State University in 1975 and earned his M.S. (1976) and Ph.D. (1980) from Louisiana State University. As director of his dissertation in economics from L.S.U., I came to know and work closely with Andrew for more than thirty years.

His dissertation was entitled, Agrarian Political Economy: The Order of Ends and Means. The very title captures the essence of Andrew’s academic work. First you consider the ends of political and economic life, then, and only then, you worry about the means. In the agrarians, from Thomas Jefferson to the Twelve Southerners, he found sympathetic thinkers who identified with the South as a culture and a way of life.

His devotion to his family anchored him at McNeese University for his entire teaching career from 1978–2010. Lake Charles was home, and to home he would return. He was a Professor of Economics whose interests were general economic theory, history of economic thought, and economic history. Not only did he win six teaching awards for excellence, but he also served on numerous college committees. He authored study guides and test banks for several textbooks in economics.

His religious journey was long and very fulfilling. Whether it was the Methodist Church or the Catholic Church, he read, studied, and applied what he learned. He participated actively in the Association of Christian Economists, a professional group of economists who would meet at the American Economic Association meetings for fellowship and exchange of ideas. One paper that he gave there was “Centesimus Annus and the Political Economy of the Third Way.” The title reflects his great unrealized hope to write a book on Catholic social and economic thought.

Over thirty of his articles have been published in scholarly journals such as Faith & Economics, History of Political Economy, and most notably, “The Political Economy of the Southern Agrarian Tradition” in Modern Age. Andrew joined the Society of Catholic Social Scientists (SCSS) in 1992. He and I wrote, “Catholic Social Encyclicals and Wilhelm Roepke’s Political Economy of the ‘Third Way’” for The Catholic Social Science Review.
Andrew was also a loyal member of The Philadelphia Society whose mission is to promote ideas of ordered liberty. Andrew believed in economic liberty tempered by moral order. He also served on the Intercollegiate Studies Institute’s Civic Literacy Program and was a judge for the Templeton Enterprise Awards for five years.

He loved music, movies, and art. His heroes were an unlikely combination: John Wayne and Mel Tormé, the velvet fog. John Wayne exemplified the West Point virtues and defense of family. He was so fond of Mel Tormé that his wife, Brenda, chose his name for the code word to get into the ICU unit when he was dying.

His love of art was reflected in the detailed guide he wrote for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles. In his parish, he served in numerous religious positions, including the Ecumenical Director of the Diocese of Lake Charles, teacher of RCIA, and several committees at First United Methodist Church and St. Louis Catholic High School. He was active in the Boy Scouts program with his son, John. He served as the chair of the ICCS Accreditation Committee and as a judge of social studies fairs at area schools.

Perhaps most important was the delight that he took in Brenda’s teaching art at Our Lady Queen of Heaven School in Lake Charles. Andrew supported her total devotion to her calling with love and enthusiasm.

May he rest in peace.