

Tribute

Dr. James Albert Pooler, 1951-2007

Dr. James Albert Pooler, born February 14, 1951 in Fort Erie, Ontario, passed away unexpectedly in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on June 20th, 2007. While Jim had been battling cancer for over a year, he remained active at work and in the community. In fact, just before his death, Jim chaired an oral defense for a Master's student. At the time of his passing, he was working closely with Dr. Murray Rice (a former student) on the special issue of *Geography Research Forum* in which this tribute appears. Jim and Murray were also looking forward to publishing their article, "Subsidiary Headquarters: the Urban Geography of the 'Second Tier' of Corporate Decision-Making Activity in North America" (the article is currently forthcoming in *Urban Geography*).

After obtaining his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario, Jim joined the Department of Geography at the University of Saskatchewan in 1983 where he excelled in teaching and research. He was a member of the Canadian Association of Geographers. His interest in the practical side of urban geography led Jim to become a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. Shortly afterwards, Jim became the Chair of the University of Saskatchewan's professionally accredited program in Urban Planning. Over the years, he supervised a number of graduate students and served on many graduate committees.

Jim published extensively, serving as editor of international journals and authoring three books. His last book, entitled *Why We Shop: Emotional Rewards and Retail Strategies*, explored why people make the shopping decisions they do, and the emotions of it all. More broadly, Jim's research interests focused on spatial analysis, population migration modeling, retail geography, and world development. Jim was the founding editor of the international journal entitled *Geographical & Environmental Model-*

ling. He also served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Population Geography*, *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, and *Geography Research Forum*.

Despite his research success, of all of his professional work, Jim's true passion was teaching. Jim subscribed fully to the 'Teacher-Scholar Model', where the nature and results of research work are incorporated into the classroom. Jim also was a big believer in developing in his students a healthy skepticism, encouraging them to probe and question both sides of every argument on issues from global warming to foreign aid. He found that this approach kept students on the cutting edge of thinking, and encouraged them to reach higher to achieve their full potential. An excellent, engaging teacher, Jim was a deserving nominee for the University of Saskatchewan Students Union's 'Teaching Excellence Award'.

Jim was also a devoted family man. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Priscilla Pooler (Loomis) for 33 years. As a caring and compassionate father of two children, Sarah (27) and David (25), Jim and Priscilla had a rich and rewarding life together. In his free time, Jim enjoyed traveling with his wife and kids, and also liked hockey, golfing, and country music. He especially took joy in the simple pleasures of just passing time with family, friends, and Max the "small dog with a big attitude" at the cabin on Wakaw Lake. Jim truly enjoyed every moment of his life, and with his characteristic humor, generosity, and love, he made sure those around him did as well.

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