

Press Release

DU Visiting Professor Joseph T. O'Connell passes away

Professor Dr. Joseph T. O'Connell, Visiting Professor of the Department of World Religions & Culture, University of Dhaka and Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies, Toronto University, Canada passed away due to massive brain hemorrhage in New York on Saturday, May 5, 2012. He was 72. He left behind his wife, a daughter, two sons and many admirers to mourn his death.

It may be mentioned that Professor O'Connell had been working as a visiting Professor in the Department of World Religions and Culture since 2001 and he had immense contribution in academic development of this Department and Dhaka University as a whole. He was born in USA but was a citizen of Canada as an immigrant. He did his PhD on Bengal Vaishnavism in Harvard University, USA and had been teaching this tradition for a long time. He was one of the famous scholars of North America who did their researches on South Asian culture and religion. His unexpected death, undoubtedly, is a great loss for the Department of World Religions and Culture as well as University of Dhaka.

DU VC's Condolence

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed his deep shock at the sudden death of Professor Dr. Joseph T. O'Connell. In a condolence message today, May 8, 2012 the Vice-Chancellor said, 'Professor O'Connell was very lively, active and energetic person who contributed

a lot for the development of the academic standard in Dhaka University.’ The Vice-Chancellor specially acknowledged his contribution towards development of the Department of World Religions & Culture in the University. He expressed his deep sympathy with the bereaved family of Dr. O’Connell and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

(Md. Ashraf Ali Khan)
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