

In Memoriam

Donald R. Farmer

Donald R. Farmer taught for 38½ years at Pacific Lutheran University, and was retired for several years prior to his death on May 7, 1996, at the age of 73.

In World War II Don served as a translator and scout with Patton's 3rd Army, seeing action in the Battle of the Bulge and surviving near-fatal wounds received in the Rhineland. After his recovery he studied at the University of Minnesota, receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science and Russian Studies in 1954.

In 1955 Don became the first political scientist hired by what was then Pacific Lutheran College. He taught a wide range of courses, established the department, and served the profession and the university in many capacities. He was the guiding force in the creation of the University's faculty constitution, and founded the student Republican and Democrat clubs. He was one of a few faculty from universities in the region who established the Washington State legislative intern program. He served a term as president of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, and was a longtime supportive member. He also served as president of the Tacoma-Pierce County Association for the United Nations and the Tacoma-Pierce County World Affairs Council.

Don was accomplished in many areas. He spoke a dozen languages, and had a memory for detail. His most recent language was Latvian, which he learned in order to serve as faculty director of a Baltic exchange program in 1989. He was active in politics, serving in 1980 as the chair of the Board of Freeholders that wrote Pierce County's home rule charter, and was for many years a member of the Pierce County Republican Central Committee and a party precinct officer. He was an elder and choir member in the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Tacoma, Washington, and a member of the Normanna Male Chorus. He nurtured several hundred acres of trees on a farm in the shadow of Mt. Ranier, knowing full well he would

receive no economic return—he loved seeing the trees grow. He kept active in all these areas, showing remarkable courage and strength in the face of the cancer that eventually killed him.

Pacific Lutheran University has established the Donald R. Farmer Memorial Scholarship Fund, administered by the Development Office, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, 98447.

Dick Olufs
Pacific Lutheran University

Jack Benton Gabbert

Jack Benton Gabbert, Professor Emeritus at Washington State University, died on March 9, 1996, at the age of 75.

A native of Missouri, Gabbert graduated Phi Beta Kappa in political science from the University of Missouri in 1942. He returned there to earn a master's degree in 1947. In 1963 he earned his doctorate at the University of Texas, with an emphasis on Latin American government.

His four years as a U.S. Marine Corps officer included assignments as a field artillery commander in island campaigns on Saipan and Iwo Jima. At the end of World War II, and after graduate work, he entered the U.S. Foreign Service, and served at stations in the Middle East, Latin America, and in Washington, D.C.

Returning to academic life after a decade as a foreign service officer, he joined the department of political science at Washington State University in 1961. He significantly broadened the Department's Latin America offerings and helped develop the University's Canadian Studies program as well. He remained a stable presence in the Department, helping his peers with the curriculum and providing a strong mentoring arm to junior faculty until his retirement in 1982.

Also known for his editorial and writing skills, he co-edited, with Taketsugu Tsurutani, *Chief Executives: National Political Leadership in the United States, Mexico, Great Britain, Germany, and Japan* after he retired.

He is survived by a nephew, numerous nieces, and many friends.

Paul R. Hagner
University of Memphis
Walfred H. Peterson
Charles H. Sheldon
Thor Swanson
Taketsugu Tsurutani
Washington State University

David M. Kovenock

David Mayer Kovenock died suddenly on August 3 at Orono, Maine, at the age of 62. He was one of the most creative empirical researchers of his generation. He was a gifted political scientist, an inventive survey research methodologist, a compelling teacher, an enthusiastic and loving family man, and a vivid and witty human being.

Dave was born in Milwaukee, WI, and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin, where his mentors included Ralph Huitt. From there he entered the Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina, studying with, among others, Donald Matthews, James Prothro, Fred Cleaveland, and Ben Walter.

Dave's brilliance as a political scientist was apparent to his fellow graduate students at Chapel Hill, and to all who worked with him subsequently. "From time to time in seminars," recalls Don Freeman of the University of Evansville, "we had to remind him to tone his brilliance down a bit so that the rest of us could survive. It was tough to be questioned by the faculty, but in the give and take of a seminar, Dave's questions were more telling than those from the faculty. . . . Dave's working schedule redefined industry and initiative."

As a Brookings Research Fellow in 1961–1962, he worked on an ambitious dissertation project: a communications audit of the members of a House Education and Labor subcommittee, to determine who they interacted with and where their voting cues came from. Brilliantly conceived, it was also fiendishly difficult to carry off, inasmuch as it entailed winning the confidence of busy politicians and getting them to bare their daily experiences to an inquiring graduate student. But Dave won them over, developing close personal friendships with several of them.

When his subjects were on the House floor, he would scurry to the galleries to check up on their perambulations (because people in the visitors galleries aren't allowed to take notes, he would hide slips of paper in his socks, reaching down surreptitiously to jot notes). His subjects were so well trained that one of them, about to exit the chamber, turned toward the gallery, cupped his hands, and said in a quite audible voice, "I'm going to the bathroom!"

A 1973 article in *American Politics Quarterly* summarized his findings and suggested what a landmark study he had undertaken.

Dave launched his teaching career at Dartmouth College (1962–1968). Later he taught at the University of North Carolina (1968–1973), Duke University (1976), and the University of Maine at Orono (1977–1984). An unforgettable teacher, he challenged his students to think in new ways about politics but never coddled them (he was a demanding grader). At Dartmouth, he and his colleague Roger Davidson offered presidential-year seminars in which students designed, implemented, and analyzed surveys replicating classic voting studies. For the 1968 primary the students braved icy roads to cover sample precincts over the entire state of New Hampshire. The result turned out to be the best prediction of the momentous Democratic primary. President Lyndon Johnson, who expected to capture 70–75 percent of the vote, was the choice of only about half of the respondents; yet only 20 percent were antiwar "peaceniks." The remaining 30 percent were still on the fence. Such results confounded the media gurus, whose polls told them Johnson would win in a walk. But the survey was light on the mark: although Johnson won the popular-vote "beauty contest" with 49 percent, the undecided voters sided overwhelmingly with antiwar voters to give 42 percent to challenger Eugene McCarthy. It was rightly interpreted as a stunning defeat for the president, the rest, as they say, is history.

At Dartmouth, Dave also co-directed an unprecedented survey of House members and their attitudes toward congressional reform. Spon-

sored by the Public Affairs Center and aided by an able corps of Dartmouth undergraduates, the study included interviews with a basic sample of 88 Representatives and a leader oversample, 102 lawmakers in all—one of the largest congressional surveys ever attempted. With his colleagues, he testified before the 1965 Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress and the next year published the results (Davidson, Kovenock, and O'Leary, *Congress in Crisis*, 1966).

His research skills led him back to Chapel Hill, where he was named co-principal investigator for several large-scale studies, the most notable of which was the elaborate Comparative State Elections Project (1968–1974), underwritten by the Ford Foundation. Because even national elections (1968, in this case) are actually collections of state contests, the project involved parallel surveys of voting-age citizens nationally and in thirteen selected states. Results were published as *Explaining the Vote: Presidential Choices in the Nation and the States, 1968* (Kovenock, Prothro et al, 1973). Other projects he helped direct were the 1972 American National Election Study and a pilot study of public opinion on national priorities (1972–1974).

Dave's sharp insight into survey data is perhaps best illustrated by an unpublished research note ("Responsible Voting and Responsible Analysis," 1977) that explains how citizens' knowledge appears quite different, depending on whether respondents are asked to volunteer a candidate's name or to pick it from a list of names presented. A simple, straightforward observation now accepted as commonplace; but he was perhaps the first to point out that commonly-used measures may understate citizens' knowledge levels.

In 1977 Dave returned to New England to direct the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Maine (1977–1984). During his years there he authored or coauthored at least twenty three reports on a wide variety of subjects. In 1984 he joined Northeast Research, Inc., in Orono, and four years later became president and co-owner of the firm with his wife, Nancy W. Bauer. There he published some thirteen

studies and prepared numerous others for a wide range of clients.

Dave's untimely passing leaves not only his family, to whom he was devoted, but a host of former colleagues and students who will always remember him with special affection. Donations for the David Kovenock Scholarship may be made to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Avenue, Madison WI 53708.

Roger Davidson
University of Maryland

Daniel Kovenock
Purdue University

Joyce M. Mitchell

Joyce M. Mitchell died May 28th, 1996, after a long struggle with an often debilitating illness. Her friends remember her as a gifted person, one who was an intellectual catalyst for students and colleagues and, simultaneously, a political catalyst for women at the University of Oregon and in the discipline of Political Science during the difficult and defining early days of the Womens' Movement in academia. Her formal academic accomplishments were substantial: B.A. *Magna Cum Laude* from Pomona (1952); M.A. from Berkeley (1954); a Congressional Fellowship (1957–58); Ph.D. from Berkeley (1964); numerous papers and reports dealing with aspects of American political life and with the status of women in academia; and a major text (co-authored with William C. Mitchell) introducing a generation of scholars to the power of a political economy perspective on American political processes.

As with many gifted scholars, however, Mitchell's life was multi-dimensional, characterized not only a formidable scholarly commitment, but also a deep involvement with current political and social issues. She was a witty, energetic and always informed critic of scholarly ideas that have little grounding in real political and social life, and political activism uninformed by the best of scholarly thought. We are among her friends, all of us influenced in important but somewhat different ways by her life, who feel that the best way to convey the richness, complexity and impact