

# In Memoriam

## Daniel R. Grant

**D**aniel R. Grant, a member of the Vanderbilt University Political Science Department, 1948-1970, died May 25, 2022. His extraordinarily productive 98 years featured abiding commitments to academic and Christian excellence. Dan was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He grew up nearby on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, where his father was the president, 1934-1949.

After graduating from Ouachita in 1945, he began his graduate study in political science as a member of an early cohort of the Southern Regional Training Program, an innovative effort to educate aspiring public servants in which several flagship universities in the region participated. Dan received his master's from the University of Alabama and entered the PhD program at Northwestern University, where he studied with such disciplinary luminaries as Charles Hyneman and William McGovern. After completing his dissertation, *The Governor of Arkansas as Administrator*, and earning his doctorate, Dan joined the Vanderbilt faculty.

Historians of our profession will recall the reorientation the behavioral revolution wrought in the post-war era. Hired by a traditionalist, D. F. Fleming, Dan successfully navigated the transformation of the department undertaken by the incoming chair, Avery Leiserson. Indeed, Dan was the only non-tenured assistant professor when Leiserson arrived ultimately to be awarded tenure.

Dan's departmental niche was state and local. He co-authored a textbook that went through six editions. His narrower focus was metropolitan government, and his laboratory was Nashville-Davidson County. He drafted the original plan for consolidation of city-county offices and services that was eventually instituted in 1962. This experience gained him an international reputation as a consultant for communities considering this reform. He founded and directed Vanderbilt's Urban Research Center. He published his research findings in books he authored and co-authored, in journal articles, including the *Journal of Politics*, *Western Political Quarterly*, *Public Administration Review*, *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, *Law and Contemporary Problems*, *National Civic Review*, *National Municipal Review*, and *Annals of the American Academy of Political Science*, as well as numerous chapters in edited collections.

On campus, Dan was widely respected by his faculty colleagues and highly regarded by the Vanderbilt students, especially the graduate students. He was accessible, friendly, and always eager to help with their research projects. He willingly embraced the committee responsibilities that shared governance entailed. His unsurpassed expertise regarding local government structures and issues made him the obvious resource for fellow faculty and staff seeking information and insight. He was active in the Southern Political Science Association, presenting papers and chairing panels at annual meetings, serving on the executive council, and editing the "News and Notes" section of the *Journal of Politics*.

In 1958-1959, Dan broadened his horizons, travelling to Bangkok, Thailand, where he taught municipal government and planning at Thammasat University and consulted with the city government. This experience gave him exposure to disciplinary currents

in comparative government and political development and kindled in him an interest in and commitment to international study that would expand significantly in the years to come.

A distinctive feature of Dan's disciplinary identity was its integration with his devout Christian faith. He was a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Nashville's First Baptist Church. Southern Baptist Convention officials regularly called on Dan to serve on boards and commissions, and to speak at denominational gatherings. Dan targeted his fellow believers for instruction in Christian citizenship. His 1968 book, *The Christian and Politics*, represents this dimension of his scholarship.

In 1969, at the peak of his career in our discipline, Dan received an invitation to return to Ouachita Baptist University as president. His departmental colleague, Leiper Freeman, memorably attributed Dan's decision to accept the offer to "God, Father, and Alma Mater." Dan's tenure as Ouachita's president, 1970-1988, featured remarkable advances in facilities, faculty recruitment, faculty development, and financial stability. Drawing on his professional expertise in public administration, he combined visionary leadership with managerial skill. He was a careful listener who weighed and balanced competing perspectives and prioritized deliberation and consensus in decision making. He understood that policies were rarely self-executing, and he was attentive to the challenges of implementation. He excelled in maintaining positive denominational relations without compromising academic standards.

Dan maintained his political science bona fides throughout his presidency. He taught the "State and Local" class for several years, and he continued to revise his textbook. He was a founding member of the Arkansas Political Science Association, delivering the keynote address at the inaugural meeting. He also served on the editorial board of the *Arkansas Political Science Journal*. His weekly column in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, "One Layman's Opinion," provided him a forum for his guidance on Christian citizenship. He initiated the international studies program at Ouachita that now bears his name, along with that of his beloved wife, Betty Jo, who merits additional mention in this memorial. She typed and proofread his manuscripts, and she compiled the indices for his books. Her strong support and sage advice were invaluable assets for Dan throughout their 72 years of marriage.

After retiring as president, Dan continued to enhance his sterling professional reputation. He maintained a departmental office and taught or co-taught an occasional course. He revised his textbook for its sixth edition. Generations of students came by to interview him for class projects and papers, and to seek career advice. He was a faithful attendee at faculty colloquia and guest lectures, where he could always be counted on to ask a penetrating question about subject matter being presented. He continued to attend annual meetings of the Arkansas Political Science Association. Four decades after his inaugural keynote speech, he reviewed and updated his remarks for the assembled membership.

The commitment to public service present at the outset of his career found expression in a tour of duty as a gubernatorial appointee to the Higher Education Coordinating Board. He also joined corporate and denominational boards and commissions. Having been instrumental in establishing the Consortium for Global Educa-

tion in which 48 Baptist colleges and universities participated, he led the group for a decade, travelling around the world establishing exchange agreements and programs.

After a tornado damaged downtown Arkadelphia in 1997, city officials consulted with Dan in planning for reconstruction. Always active in the community, in his 90s he was still leading the singing at the Rotary Club meeting every Friday. He served as a deacon, sang in the choir, and participated in local missions' projects at First Baptist Church.

Dan Grant was a renowned global educator whose student body extended beyond campus classrooms to his fellow academicians, to public administrators and the citizens they serve, and to people of faith seeking to relate politics and religion. His legacy looms large.

—Harold F. Bass, Jr., Douglas L. Reed,  
Ouachita Baptist University  
—John S. Jackson III, Southern Illinois University

## Jyotirindra “Jyoti” Das Gupta

The field of political science and Asian studies lost an important scholar on March 17, 2022, when Dr. Jyotirindra “Jyoti” Das Gupta passed away. His enormous academic contributions to the field will continue to shape scholarship for decades to come, especially in understanding the relationship between pluralism/multiculturalism and federalist institutional structures in promoting integrative accommodation in multi-ethnic postcolonial countries including India.

Professor Das Gupta’s distinguished professional career at the University of California, Berkeley spanned from 1966 to 1995 when he retired with emeritus status from the Political Science Department, although he continued with select advising duties and especially his scholarship up until his passing. Along with his research and teaching duties, Prof. Das Gupta established and chaired the Development Studies program in 1976 and later served as the chair of Center of South and Southeast Asian on campus. He also was a core advisor and a faculty member of the Group in Asian Studies.

During his academic career, professor Das Gupta produced groundbreaking works that promoted an understanding of both inclusionary and exclusionary processes in the developing world. His first major book, *Language Conflict and National Development: Group Politics and National Language Policy in India* (University of California, 1970) remains a foundational work for understanding the use of language identity during the mobilization for India’s partition by various political groups and, more importantly, how supposedly divisive “language conflicts” actually became instrumental in integrating various linguistic groups into post-partition democratic India. His deep research revealed nationalistic dynamics in the pre-partition phase that shaped the unfolding of the partition and made Urdu, a minority language, an official language of Pakistan and Hindi an ongoing contentious issue in India. The linguistic reorganization of Indian states, he demonstrated, was eventually central to the construction of an overarching and integrative Indian national identity after partition. His research remains critical for understanding the role of language in Indian politics.

Professor Das Gupta’s subsequent book, *Authority, Priority, and Human Development* (Oxford University Press, 1982) also represented a major contribution to the field of comparative development studies and the dynamics of democracy in postcolonial societies. It

examined the interplay of official government policy and various local stakeholders in the development process in rural India. This book argued that the concepts of “authority” and “priority” were derivative of the political process both within and between the official government structures and competing political interests at the local level.

Over his long and illustrious career, professor Das Gupta also produced important articles and book chapters on numerous topics relating to Indian politics, nationality construction, and federalism. This included scholarship on the effects of multi-layered federalism in accommodating insurgent ethnic groups in the Northeast, the role of intra and inter-group bargaining within a democratic political context to facilitate postcolonial nation-building in multicultural India, and the impact of various forms of political leadership in either escalating or ameliorating ethnic conflict/separatism in postcolonial societies. In recent years, he continued to write on important contemporary movements such as the Right to Information (RTI) and its relationship in democratic development and elections in India.

Das Gupta’s sensitivity and deep knowledge of such subjects was perhaps due to the fact he born in Kolkata in pre-partition Bengal in 1933 and was a witness to India’s independence and the violent partition. He also actively engaged in India’s independence movement by attending Mohandas Gandhi’s civil action meetings and participated in the country’s democratization movements as a college student. He later brought these ideas into his teaching of political development and accommodation as a professor at University of California after getting his PhD from Berkeley in 1966. This personal background and experience also contributed to professor Das Gupta’s exceptionally polite and gracious personality, which made him closely attentive to the individual needs of his students.

Professor Das Gupta leaves behind a wife, a daughter, a son-in-law, a granddaughter whom he loved tremendously, and numerous students over the decades who owe him a debt of gratitude for his mentorship which ranged from introduction to important scholarly sources, regular lunches in new restaurants in Berkeley, exposure to new Indian music (especially classical), and a commitment to promoting his students which never wavered even after he retired as a full professor of political science. He will be missed tremendously by those who had the distinct honor and privilege of having known him as dear friend and intellectual mentor.

—Anshu Chatterjee, Naval Postgraduate School  
—Jugdep S. Chima, Hiram College

## Frank Safford

Frank Safford, who died on June 16, 2022 at the age of 87, was a social scientist’s historian. He made sense of history through theory, and he generated sensible theory through the study of history.

Safford’s second book, enviably titled *The Ideal of the Practical*

(University of Texas, 1976), exemplifies this synergy. The *Ideal of the Practical* takes aim at those who would explain Colombia’s delayed industrialization by pointing solely to “cultural factors” or “societal values” such as the country’s alleged disdain for manual labor or its purported worship of legal studies. Safford shows instead that topography and external economic conditions often conspired to make manufacturing (and even mechanized agriculture) unprofitable in nineteenth-century Colombia. It was cheaper to ship