

## People in Political Science

undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago, and Chicago was her home. How could anyone from Second City be a hick? That was her principle and we loved her for it.

Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr.  
*Harvard University*

Glen Thurow  
*University of Dallas*

## J. David Greenstone

J. David Greenstone, William M. Benton Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, died on February 21, 1990. He was 52 years old. J. David was born in Rochester, New York, where his mother, Helen Greenstone, still lives. He was a graduate of Harvard College. He received an M.A. in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1963 in political science at the University of Chicago. He joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1963.

His career was notable in many ways. He was an exceptional scholar who had two intellectual careers as a political scientist. His first interest was in urban labor politics. In 1968 his book *Labor in American Politics* was published by Alfred A. Knopf. The book was republished with a new introduction in 1977 by the University of Chicago Press. This analysis has continued to be a significant contribution to the understanding of the role of labor in the evolving politics of the twentieth century. J. David was also the author, along with his student, close friend and colleague, Paul Peterson, of *Race and Authority in Urban Politics: A Study of the War on Poverty*, published by Russell Sage in 1973 and republished with a new introduction in 1976 by the University of Chicago Press. Through 1977 he published a number of articles in the area of urban and interest group politics. The breadth of his interests was reflected in the topics of several of his articles, "Racial Change and Citizen Participation: The Mobilization of Low Income Communities Through Community Action," in Robert H. Haveman, ed., *A Decade of Federal Antipoverty Programs* (New York,

1977); and "Ethnicity, Class, and Discontent: The Case of the Polish Peasant Immigrants," *Ethnicity*, II, 1(March, 1975), pp. 1-9. In these areas he served twice as a section chair for the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, in 1969 and 1976.

While J. David continued to be interested in the problems of urban and interest group politics, this interest was already undergoing transformation in the years 1972-75 when he was serving as chair of the department at Chicago. Finding that his time for active writing and research was diminished by the heavy demands of chairing an unusually restive department, J. David characteristically sought the most intellectually efficient way to use his time. He chose to pursue a line of development which, for the time being, would require mostly reading, a pursuit possible during the small amounts of time allotted to him by his service to the department. He began what was to be a long, intensive study of Wittgenstein. He saw in Wittgenstein's view of language as a form of practical reason a way in which one might come to understand some of the anomalies and persistent currents of American political thought and behavior and a means by which he could continue his lifelong commitment to understanding the criteria for membership in the American political community. The absence of formal schools of American political thought related directly to the powerful strains of practical political reason emanating from Lincoln and his predecessors made Wittgenstein's approach especially appealing to J. David.

This interest led to several articles reflecting his new direction: "Dorothea Dix and Jane Addams: From Transcendentalism to Pragmatism in American Social Reform," *Social Service Review*, LIII, 4, 1979; and "Lincoln's Political Humanitarianism: Moral Reform and the Covenant Tradition in American Political Culture," *Workshop on Covenant and Politics*, Center for the Study of Federalism, Temple University (May, 1982). This new direction was also the focus of his contributions to the volume he edited in honor of his teacher, Grant

McConnell, *Public Values and Private Power in American Politics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982). Within a very short time J. David's attention became riveted on Lincoln as the centerpiece of the development of American political thought. He began a work of major proportions on Lincoln and the various strains of the practical reason of American political thought which gave to Lincoln his place of eminence in our moral and political history. At his death, J. David was hard at work on the volume, the largest portion of which he had completed. Completion of the volume is now the responsibility of a group of colleagues and students.

J. David Greenstone's commitment to intellectual matters was matched by his commitment to the University of Chicago. From the time he entered into graduate training in 1958 until his death J. David was absent from the university for an extended time only twice: in 1963-64 as a visiting professor at Makerere University College, Kampala, Uganda, to which he remained deeply attached, and in 1970-71 as a visiting professor at Columbia University. He viewed neither of these as permanent possibilities. He had very early committed himself to the university and the community in which it existed—a community endeared to him all the more because it had nurtured his wife, Joan, and now nurtured his children, Michael and Daniel. His loyalty to the university made him an easy target for his colleagues and the administration of the university who recognized that J. David was that rare object—an intelligent, loyal individual with a capacity for creating collegiality even in barren soil. He was ingenious in this, once converting his love of basketball into a faculty fan club for the Chicago Bulls. His colleagues elected him chair of the department from 1973-75. After serving his term he continued to be recognized as the senior statesman of the department. Each succeeding chair of the department had numerous occasions to thank heaven for J. David's unstinting willingness to help in managing the department.

J. David's loyalty and commitment to the university were recognized in a

number of ways. He served as Master of the Social Science Collegiate Division and Associate Dean of the Division of the Social Sciences and the College from 1982-1984. In 1984 the university conferred on him the William M. Benton Distinguished Service Chair. In the following year President Gray asked him to serve as Chair of the Committee on the Future Composition of the University of Chicago Faculty and Student Body. The Report of the Greenstone Committee submitted in 1986 has become the basic blueprint for the development of the size of the faculty and the student body. In addition, he served on a large number of other committees at the college and university level. Because of his intelligence, great practical reason, and personal warmth and integrity

J. David was in great demand to serve on committees. He could not refuse any request for service to the university and, indeed, to the community as well.

J. David Greenstone was also an extraordinarily effective teacher. He was good with both graduate and undergraduate students and with colleagues. He treated them all with the same irreverent unpatronizing equality which earned him their affection and admiration. They all learned a great deal from J. David whose mind and interests were not limited to his current work. For his undergraduate teaching he was voted the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1988. His excellence as a teacher of graduate students was confirmed constantly by the many dissertation committees on

which he sat. His excellence as a teacher of his colleagues is recognizable by how deeply he is missed by them. J. David Greenstone was a mentor and exemplar. He possessed all those qualities which we as students and teachers and professing political scientists admire. He was without cant and intellectual snobbery. He considered each individual, whether colleague or student, with equal respect. He was intellectually tolerant. His intellectual and personal integrity were unbreachable. He was really smart, and he was always kind.

We are diminished by his going but replenished by his memory.

Bernard S. Silberman  
*University of Chicago*