

## 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.