retention, and advancement of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in STEM. As fellow team-member Magda Hinojosa, wrote, "Mala wasn't just the intellectual architect of the project—she was our fearless leader, always ready to ask the most uncomfortable of questions and interrogate assumptions. In small individual efforts and big system-changing ways, Mala sought to make the academy a place where everyone could belong."

It is not an exaggeration to say that Mala's mentoring proved pivotal in advancing the careers of many people. She advocated ferociously for junior colleagues, providing encouragement at key moments and generously folding them into her research. She co-authored with more than 50 people, many of them younger scholars at universities throughout Latin America.

Mala was a dazzling scholar, but she was also super fun and often outrageous. As Dawn Teele remembered, "It was Mala who first showed me that you can have a serious talk about your research while making dinner; that the messiness of life–kids scrambling for ballet slippers or getting onto the bus–could be paired with a serious commitment to one's own work. She also loved to sneak in a little shopping any time we were at a conference." She lit up every room she entered with her mischievous intensity and magnetism. Long before selfies were commonplace, Mala brought a selfie stick to APSA and made everyone she saw stop and take a photo with her. She brought her kids–Zander, Livia, and Elinor–with her on work trips whenever she could. More than once at a conference, she would plunk them down on the floor in the middle of a crowded hall and change their diaper. Mala loved her kids and her husband, Doug Turner, fiercely. They were always at the center of her vast orbit.

Mala had an outsized impact on the world through her cutting-edge research, committed teaching, and evidence-based policy work. Mala's family has created the Mala Nani Htun Endowed Faculty Chair at the University of New Mexico to honor and extend her legacy of excellence and high standards in scholarly research and her exemplary record of turning research insights into meaningful change.

— Lisa Baldez, Dartmouth College and Kathleen Thelen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Robert E. Gilbert

It is with great sadness that his colleagues in the Political Science Department at Northeastern University report the passing of Robert E. Gilbert, professor emeritus, who died on May 25, 2025, at The Valley Hospital in Paramus, NJ, following a lengthy illness.

Professor Gilbert, or "Bob," as he was known around the department, was born in the Bronx on October 20, 1939. After earning undergraduate and master's degrees at Fordham University, he received his PhD in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1967. Following an initial appointment on the faculty of Boston College, Bob joined Northeastern's Department of Political Science in 1973. He held this position for 44 years before retiring in 2016.

A productive scholar throughout his career, Bob published several books as well as dozens of articles in respected journals like *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Political Psychology*, and *Politics and the Life Sciences*. He was an influential early contributor to the field of illness and the presidency. His pathbreaking volume *The Mortal Presidency* (1992) traced the consequences—administrative as well as political—when the nation's Chief Executives have contended, often secretively, with an assortment of serious health problems, among them the aftermath of polio (FDR), cardiovascular disease (Eisenhower), debilitating back pain (JFK), and cancer (Reagan). A follow-up work, *The Tormented President* (2003), focused on mental illness in The Oval Office. Here the spotlight fell on Calvin Coolidge, whom Bob described as a misunderstood figure plagued by morbid bouts of grief and depression after his sixteen-year-old son died during the president's early months in office. Cutting-edge research of this kind drew interest beyond the discipline of political science. As an example, the prestigious Countway Medical Library in Boston invited Bob to deliver a presentation on Calvin Coolidge's ordeal as part of its 2004 lecture program.

Fueled by his concern with presidential illness, Bob also studied the 25th Amendment in depth. In a string of articles appearing in *The Fordham Law Review* and other venues, he questioned the Amendment's adequacy for responding to all the circumstances that might give rise to, or accompany, cases of "inability" or vacancy in the presidency. Significantly, Bob did not confine his work in this area to a narrow scholarly audience. He served as a member of the distinguished Working Group on Presidential Disability, a body formed in 1994 with support from the Charles A. Dana Foundation. Then, in his 2000 edited volume, *Managing Crisis*, Bob assembled his own disparate gathering of experts from academia, government, medicine, law, and journalism to discuss the background and workings of the 25th Amendment. Years later, in April of 2014, Bob capped his tenure as Edward W. Brooke Professor of Political Science at Northeastern by organizing a multi-university conference on campus devoted to presidential disability and succession.

In addition to "The American Presidency," Bob's teaching assignment typically included sections of "American Government," a foundational course for the political science major. A teaching award recipient, he earned his popularity with students through his love of the subject matter and impressive command of it. Bob was a gifted lecturer who appreciated the value of the colorful anecdote, the carefully chosen illustration, when explaining the intricate workings of American democracy. Conscientious in fulfilling his duties as an advisor, he took pleasure from getting to know students on a one-to-one basis. At times a strong connection developed, and some students maintained contact with him for years after they had graduated.

From 1978 to 1990, Bob chaired the Northeastern Department of Political Science. He was very effective in this position, which spanned a period of monumental change as the university set its sights on increased selectivity in admissions and becoming a foremost center of scholarship across the arts and sciences as well as such professional domains as law, engineering, and business. Bob took concrete steps to align our department with this institutional vision, adopting it as a guide in recruitment decisions, graduate program expansion, curriculum planning,

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support for faculty development, and other advancements. His advocacy on behalf of the department was tireless. Aside from his one "research day" each week, it was rare to find him away from the office, not even if one knocked on his door late Friday afternoon. It was a level of commitment that gained him enormous respect among the faculty.

Local and national media frequently contacted Bob for his perspective on happenings in the news. He was pleased to oblige such requests whenever possible. Among the issues that he commented on were presidential illness and succession—of course!—and other topics that ran the gamut from presidential debates, to elections, to media and politics, to public policy. One highlight of his long-term relationship with the media came in 1993 when he sat for an hour-long interview on "The Larry King Show" to talk about his book, *The Mortal Presidency*.

Bob was not only a great talker, he was a great walker too. For decades he resided in the town of Brookline, approximately 2 miles away from the Northeastern campus. As a full-time faculty member, Bob's daily routine usually began and ended with the trek between these end points, a habit he maintained in all but the worst weather conditions. After retirement, Bob continued to complete this hike on a regular basis, taking advantage of a modest workspace set aside by the department for emeritus faculty, where he happily labored on his latest conference paper or journal manuscript. He was a delightful lunch companion if you could pry him away from his computer. Often this was a losing battle, however, since Bob preferred to work straight through lunch. A work ethic acquired over 50 years of research and writing did not fade away easily.

That said, as a retired faculty member Bob enjoyed his continued interaction with political science faculty and staff, particularly Janet-Louise Joseph, the department administrator, who became a cherished friend. Much teasing and joking around enlivened the relationship between the two, such as the lark when Janet-Louise and an accomplice seated a lifelike theatrical manikin of Abe Lincoln at Bob's desk before his arrival one morning. (He took it in stride). At the same time, Janet-Louise looked after "Father Bob." Mindful that he lived on his own, when the cold months descended she supplied Bob with large containers of home-made soup to help ensure the wholesomeness of his diet.

Bob Gilbert's memory will long live on in the department whose future he did so much to shape. And at this moment in our country's history when the physical and mental condition of American presidents has come under close scrutiny, one wishes for more of his learned insights on this issue.

— David A. Rochefort, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Northeastern University

Joseph Nye

For my entire career as an international relations professor, my colleagues in the academy have furiously debated whether and how academics can "bridge the gap" and have "impact" on the wider world. Joseph Nye rarely engaged in this debate, likely because he would have found it deeply puzzling. While other scholars viewed this question through an academic lens, Nye simply did not see any gap to bridge. That is because he crossed between academia and policymaking as effortlessly as the rest of us cross the street. Furthermore, he excelled in both areas. In both his ideas and in his actions, Joe Nye had a considerable impact on American foreign policy.

In honor of Nye's passing in May 2025 at the age of 88, it is worth stepping back to appreciate his significant contributions to the discipline. As the former Dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as well as a Distinguished Service Professor of the University, Nye performed yeoman service as a university administrator. However, his real contribution, was as a scholar and policy practitioner. He was responsible for developing ideas that demonstrated considerable staying power within the discipline.

Along with Robert Keohane, Nye developed the idea of complex interdependence. Building on their prior work that stressed the role of non-state actors, Keohane and Nye argued that –contra realism– interdependence had profound effects on the international system. In particular, the fungibility of power is restricted; power resources are limited to specific issue areas. They explicitly acknowledged that military power dominates economic power in the security realm, but also argued that military power is of limited utility at best in arenas outside the security sphere. In essence, Keohane and Nye suggested that complex interdependence could constrain actors in a way that Hobbesian anarchy might have overlooked. The effects of complex interdependence remain a subject of contestation today. While concepts like "weaponized interdependence" push back on Keohane and Nye's work, it remains part of the conversation. Complex interdependence is a concept that will provide analytical leverage well into the 21st century.

A running debate in 2025 is whether the Trump administration heralds the death of American soft power and the possible effects that would have on American foreign policy. This debate is predicated on Joseph Nye's original conception of the term, which he first developed in 1990 and then fleshed out in multiple subsequent books. For Nye, successful policies beget even more attractive forms of power, getting others to want what the actor wants. Again, this is in sharp contrast to realism's balance-of-power dynamic. Furthermore, Nye argued that soft power can build off of hard power capabilities. Soft power has a multiplier effect in Nye's rubric, extending the reach of hard power: "the resources often associated with hard power behavior can also produce soft power behavior depending on the context and how they are used. Command power can create resources that in turn can create soft power at a later phase—for example, institutions that will provide soft power resources in the future."

Based on a PolicyCast podcast Nye recorded less than a month before his death, it would seem that Nye would have agreed that president Trump was eroding American soft power. He said, "When you come into office, the first things you say are that you're going to take Greenland from Denmark, a NATO ally, no matter what; or you say that we're going to retake the Panama Canal, which reawakens all of the Latin American suspicions about American imperialism; or you abolish AID, which is an agency which makes Americans look more benign through its assistance. Basically, these suggest that you're not even thinking about America first, you're thinking about America alone."

Nye deserves credit for developing multiple important con-

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