Avery Leiserson

Avery Leiserson died February 14, 2004, at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, Roxy, of Nashville, Tennessee; three sons, Michael of Spokane, Washington, John of Winchester, Massachusetts, and Alan of Nashville; and a daughter, Nancy Welles of New York.

Avery Leiserson was born on June 27, 1913, in Madison, Wisconsin. He was the first of seven children born to William Morris Leiserson and Emily Bodman Leiserson. His father was of Estonian Jewish descent, a member of the faculty at Antioch College, and one of the first three members of the National Labor Relations Board. His mother was an exceptionally brilliant and charming New England Yankee. Avery completed his A.B. degree from the University of Illinois as a Phi Beta Kappa in 1934, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1941.

In the years leading to the completion of his doctoral work, Leiserson was in government service with the National Recovery Administration (1934–1935) and the National Labor Relations Board (1938–1940), and spent the summer of 1941 as a Mediation Officer for the National Defense Mediation Board. Later public service included the U.S. Bureau of the Budget (1942–1945), the Chicago Regional Stabilization Board (1951–1952), and the Secretary of Labor's Advisory Council on Welfare and Pension Plans (1962–1964). These rich governmental experiences were major contributions to his work within the field of public administration, providing materials for his doctoral dissertation and his influential book, *Administrative Regulation* (1942).

Avery Leiserson taught at Princeton University and the University of Chicago before being recruited to Vanderbilt University in 1952 by Chancellor Harvey Branscomb as professor and chair of the department of political science. He served as chair through 1965 with a one-year gap in 1962–1963 when he was visiting research scholar at the Brookings Institution. As chair, he built a nationally recognized graduate program. His continuing commitment to graduate education by the political science department was seen when he was willing to assume in 1967 the duties of director of Graduate Studies to administer the largest group of graduate students admitted by the department. He also made it a practice to read all of the department's dissertations and attend all of the dissertation defenses. His questions were to the point and often disconcerting.

On November 1, 2003, over 40 of Avery's former graduate students and colleagues gathered in Nashville to honor him for his contributions to each of their lives. At that session it became clear that in different ways Avery taught each person with whom he came into contact how to better live the life of the mind.

Avery also became deeply involved in the development and maintenance of many aspects of campus life beyond the department. He was active in the development of a Black Studies Program (which later grew into the African-American Studies Program) and the still-operating governance structure for the College of Arts and Science. In addition to his early efforts helping to develop the Urban and Regional Development Center, he actively worked on the original definition of the follow-up institution, the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. In 1966–1967, he was named the Branscomb Distinguished Service Professor. He retired in 1978, honored as Professor of Political Science, Emeritus.

Avery Leiserson provided a dynamic presence nationally throughout scholarly research institutions. He served on the Board of Directors of the Social Science Research Council (1959–1962) after earlier being honored as one of their fellows (1937–1938). He was first appointed to his continuing position as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1963. In 1966, he served as president of the Southern Political Science Association and as vice—president of the American Political Science Association. He is well remembered within the SPSA as the editor of its *Journal of Politics* (1962–1965), in which capacity he edited a special volume of *Journal* essays, *The American South in the 1960s,* which was also published as a book in 1965. For the APSA, Leiserson served as book review editor of the *American Political Science Review* (1959–1961). His intellectual leadership and service to the profession led to his election as president of the APSA in 1974.

In addition to *Administrative Regulation* and *The American South in the 1960s,* Leiserson wrote *Parties and Politics* (1958) and co-authored *Government and Politics* (1966). Several of his published essays underscore Leiserson's vision of political science as broad and integrative. These include "Problems of Methodology in Political Research" (*Political Science Quarterly,* 1953), "Empirical Approaches to Democratic Theory" (*Political Research and Political Theory,* ed., Oliver Garceau, 1968), and "Scientists and the Policy Process" (*American Political Science Review,* 1965), as well as his presidential addresses to the SPSA (*Journal of Politics,* 1967) and APSA (*American Political Science Review,* 1975). In introducing Avery Leiserson's presidential address before the APSA, Samuel Patterson made an insightful observation concerning disputes during the discipline's so-called behavioral era that underscores Leiserson's legacy and also why he did not lead or dominate a school of thought or approach: "If we had been able to listen more closely to Professor Leiserson, the trivialities of the less-than-cosmic confrontation of behavioral versus institutional political science might have been avoided" ("Introduction," *American Political Science Review,* 1975, p. 173).

Overall, it is difficult to summarize the contributions of Avery Leiserson to Vanderbilt and to political science here and nationally. No matter whether considering his efforts in rewriting the Constitution of the College of Arts and Science or any of his myriad efforts building Vanderbilt collegiality and programs, one always knew his energies would push us forward. He was called by more than one dean, and many of his colleagues, the "conscience of the faculty." Departmental activities often appeared controlled by a hierarchy, yet his leadership style was to keep critical discourse engaged until a consensus would emerge. This often led to longer meetings than one wanted, but also to outcomes in which one was proud to share. Within the broad fields of political science, Avery's interests seemed to range everywhere. He saw the need to compare parties across nations and cultures to develop theoretical understanding of American institutions. He saw political science as a pursuit that was defined by politics, not by subfields or narrow methodological concerns. Avery's desire to know and his willingness to pursue knowledge down every relevant path marked him as an

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intellectual driven by the search itself rather than someone with personal aspirations that would lead to academic politics. His energies seemed to rub off on anyone in his office or seminar room.

Avery Leiserson was an exceptional individual who continued the traditions of an outstanding family, who provided an extension of the dynamic growth of the discipline of political science, who built a nationally recognized top-20 political science department for Vanderbilt University as he aided in the development of stronger university governance and the development of the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies, and who also found time to provide essential energy for the development and growth of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville. Avery Leiserson contributed greatly to the lives of everyone around him and his actions continue to be with us on each of the paths he took.

George J. Graham, Jr.
Vanderbilt University

William V. O'Brien

William V. O'Brien, Professor of Government Emeritus at Georgetown University, died on July 8, 2003, at his home in Washington of head injuries suffered in a fall.

Specializing in international law and ethics, O'Brien was one of the world's leading experts on just war doctrine and international law dealing with the use of military force. He was the author of many books in this area, including: *The Conduct of Just and Limited War; Law and Moralitaz Israel's War with the PLO; Nuclear War, Deterrence, and Morality; and War And/Or Survival.*

O'Brien received his B.S.F.S., M.A., and Ph.D. from Georgetown and joined the University's faculty in 1950. A masterful teacher, he taught thousands of undergraduate and graduate students until his retirement in 1993. He was often praised by his students for his brilliant and engaging lectures. During his tenure at the University, O'Brien was chair of the Institute of World Policy and twice served as chair of the government department. He was instrumental in establishing the Goldman Visiting Israeli Professorship at the University. In recognition of his deep devotion to Georgetown, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University in 1992. The following year, the University established the William V. O'Brien Lecture in International Law and Morality as a lasting tribute to his life's work.

O'Brien joined the U.S. Army Reserve Office Training Corps while in college and was called into active duty during World War II. In 1952, he was commissioned as an officer in the Army Reserve and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his time as a reserve officer, his work took him to the Pentagon and a variety of other assignments.

Dr. O'Brien was an active Catholic layperson and was called upon to offer advice to Church leaders on a number of occasions. He was active in the Catholic Association of International Peace and was elected as its president in 1961. In 1967, he chaired the International Relations Committee at the Third World Congress of the Law Apostalate held at the Vatican. He was also deeply committed to ecumenical work and was quite active in the Council on Religion and International Affairs (now the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs).

O'Brien was married to the former Madge L. Roberts, who passed away in 1996. He is survived by his sister Kathleen O'Brien and his brother Daniel O'Brien.

Anthony Arend
Georgetown University
and
Robert J. Lieber
Georgetown University

Wilma L. Rule

It is with the deepest regret that I report the death on January 15, 2004, of Wilma L. Rule who collaborated with me on a number of research projects relating to the election of women and members of certain minority groups to elective office in the United States and other nations. She was a long-time member and secretary-treasurer of the Section on Representation and Electoral Systems of The American Political Science Association whose members continue to appreciate her research and service to the profession.

Wilma was an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada, Reno at the time of her death. She was born in Basin, Wyoming, and received her B.A. in political science and in journalism in 1949, her M.A. in political science in 1950 from the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Hawaii in 1968. In addition, she held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Inter-University Consortium for Political Research at the University of Michigan and engaged in additional post-doctoral work in Organization Behavior at Northwestern University. She served as assistant professor of political science at Northern Illinois University, 1969–1975.

Her influential article—"Political Implications of Gender Roles: A Review of the Literature"—was published in the *American Political Science Review* in 1974 and was a product of her life-time research focusing upon the various types of electoral systems in terms of how they facilitated or hindered the election of women and underrepresented minorities to public office. Her theoretical work had a practical dimension; i.e., promotion of electoral reform in the United States and other nations throughout the world. The underpinning of her theoretical interest was empirical research devoted to explaining why, at the time, women members of the United States House and Senate constituted only 5% of the membership of Congress in contrast to women occupying nearly 40% of the seats in each Scandinavian Parliament.

Wilma was the author of 28 articles in professional journals, presented more than 25 papers at professional meetings in the United States and abroad, and was co-editor with Joseph F. Zimmerman of *United States Electoral Systems* (1992), *Electoral Systems in Comparative Perspective* (1994), and *The U.S. House of Representatives: Reform or Rebuild?* (2000). Her interviews of Russian legislators and political leaders served as the basis of *Russian Women in Politics and Society* co-edited with Norma C. Noonan of Augsburg College in Minnesota. She was working on her latest book—*Equal Gender Politics: 21st Century*—at the time of her death and consequently we are deprived of her insight and findings on the subject.

Wilma was married to Irving Krauss, a sociology professor, who shared her special interest in electoral reform and was a constant and staunch supporter of her research. They lived for 10 years in Hawaii and for 16 years in Illinois prior to retiring to Alpine County, Nevada on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Irving and several cousins are survivors.

Wilma was a dedicated researcher who always had a positive attitude. This was reflected in the fact that much of her research was conducted after she suffered serious health problems. She was committed to assisting others through her research and civic activities in Alpine County where, among other activities, she served as a member of the county's redistricting committee in 1991. Her professional colleagues and

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members of the electoral reform community will miss her penetrating analysis of the various electoral systems, her service to the Association, and her collegiality.

Joseph F. Zimmerman
State University of New York at Albany

James R. Townsend

On January 17, 2004, our friend and colleague, Jim Townsend, died peacefully in the midst of his family after a long illness. For many years a leading figure among China scholars, Jim received his Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley in 1965. He was a member of the political science department at Berkeley between 1963 and 1968 when he moved to the University of Washington. He remained at the University of Washington until he retired prematurely in 1992 after a diagnosis of prostate cancer. Defying the odds, he continued to live a happy and productive life for more than a decade after his retirement, a decade during which he saw his beloved wife Sandy Perry through her own losing battle with breast cancer.

Jim was one of the very first Ph.D.s trained in Chinese politics after the establishment of the People's Republic of China (along with his former Berkeley colleague, Chalmers Johnson, and John Wilson Lewis, emeritus of Stanford). As a scholar, Jim was a first-rate thinker and sophisticated comparativist. His scholarship was careful, wondrously detached (at a time when, during the cold war, few scholars really were), and analytical to a fault. They reflect and transcend the time in which they were written, not least because Jim was not inclined to methodological or interpretive fads.

His study of political participation in China (*Political Participation In Communist China,* 1967, 1969) and his textbook contribution on Chinese politics (*Politics in China,* 1974, 1980, 1986), along with essays on Chinese nationalism, all remain worth reading. *Politics in China* was in the famous Little Brown series in comparative politics, but it was no "mere" textbook. Generations of students of Chinese politics were raised on *Politics in China,* which synthesized the literature on comparative politics and China in state of the art ways. His scholarly work is remarkable for the elegance of his writing and for its clarity—no ideas left blurry or undeveloped, no pretentious language, no false or unnecessarily arcane notes. Intellectually honest and straightforward, he was irritated by academic pretension, arrogance, and self-importance masquerading as intellect.

Jim taught in much the same way that he wrote: with careful preparation, concentration, and simplicity. He took education seriously, allowing it priority over all the other work by which he seemed constantly burdened. During the 1980s Jim served on and chaired more graduate student committees than anyone in the University of Washington political science department. But he was particularly proud of several stints at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American studies where he was teacher and mentor to many Chinese students, some of whom joined him at the University of Washington and who remain devoted to him. His graduate students now hold appointments in universities across the U.S. and Asia.

Jim saw his work in Nanjing as part of a broader project to contribute to the gradual accommodation between China and the United States. Jim was the only social scientist invited by the National Academy of Sciences to travel with the first group of health professionals to visit China when its doors began to open in the early 1970s. The many tributes to Jim at his memorial service reflected a deep influence on his students, on the Nanjing Center, and perhaps even on U.S.-Sino relations.

There were two particularly prominent and contradictory strands in Jim's character. He was, on the one hand, modest to a fault, with a gargantuan sense of responsibility that followed him around everywhere, a weight he could not shake. His intelligence, his good sense, and his utter reliability made him particularly vulnerable in and out of the university. He did so much on and off campus that he really did not want to do, but ultimately could not bring himself to turn down. Always precisely on time, always done by the date promised, always more thorough than just about anyone else would have thought essential, and always hoping he wouldn't have to do it again. It governed his career as scholar and as teacher, and kept his other self too often in wraps and under guard.

That other self, evident enough to his friends and family but often otherwise obscured, evinced a love of art, in which he had a confident and capable eye, of music, of good company and conversation and banter, of his own physical existence and skill, of open air and nature. This was the Jim that Jim himself liked best or enjoyed most, for perfectly good reasons. His wry, sly, and dry sense of humor was as intrinsic to his personality as was his sense of responsibility. To know Jim well was to be needled by Jim and to be invited to needle return the favor. Consider the consolation he offered to a colleague who had undergone traction: "Isn't getting your neck stretched really a hanging?" With reference to that same colleague's wife, Jim reported: "Lee sent me an inappropriate request but if she won't tell you what it was, neither will I."

Especially revealing of the Jim that we treasure is what he had to say to his son Matt with respect to the impending prospect of hospice care:

> People should know that I accept this. I've led a good life. I'm satisfied and proud of my career, more so after writing my memoirs. I'm happy that I lived so long after my initial diagnosis with illness—even teaching two more years in Nanjing. I'm proud of my sons. I'm very glad to have the [grand] kids grow nine years. I'm glad that I could care for Sandy. I feel I've contributed to U.S.-Sino relations. I want you to tell people this. I feel I lived a moral life and if there's a heaven, that's where I'm going.

To that we and Jim's family and friends can only say Amen!

Daniel Lev, David J. Olson, and Stuart Scheingold
University of Washington

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