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## In Memoriam: Benjamin A. Most

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bodiment of the committed intellectual who takes seriously the obligations and responsibilities of higher learning.

Dick's service to the College carried well beyond his successes in the classroom. Of the many things he did, his chairmanship of the Faculty Steering Committee in 1981-82 was the most noteworthy, and for him the most satisfying. He was the driving force behind the College's adoption of new procedures for written communication with nontenured faculty, a change that represents a signal advance in the fairness of its reappointment and tenure processes. And it was largely a result of his initiative, hard work, and skillful leadership that the College expanded the range of fringe benefits to such important areas as dental insurance.

Finally, a word should be said about Dick's role in the Political Science Department. In a department not widely known for its calm and conciliatory approach to collective decisionmaking, he was more often than not the key player in the usually productive deliberations of that highly contentious group of strong-willed people. He had the skills necessary for inducing compromise, but he was not a compromiser. What he possessed most of all was the ability to listen, to comprehend what was sensible in alternative positions, to discern the inconsistencies as well as the possibilities in what others said. We often thought that the reason our meetings were so painfully long was that Dick had the strange habit of not speaking unless recognized by the Chair, while the rest of us exercised our interruptive privileges to meander our way to unsatisfactory conclusions.

Blessed with a wonderful and growing family, steadily cementing his position within the network of nationally prominent political theorists, producing work of ever broadening reach and significance, Richard Krouse was not destined to live to see the ripened fruits of his love, his thoughts, intellectual energy and power. One cannot make sense of the cruel wastefulness of his death and it is ultimately unproductive to attempt it. Yet the manner of his life ought to become part of the lives of those who knew him, no less than becoming part of the fabric and tradition of Williams College.

A memorial fund in his name has been established at Williams College, and contributions may be sent to The Richard W. Krouse Memorial Fund, Williams College, Williamstown, MA 01267.

Gary J. Jacobsohn  
Kurt P. Tauber  
Williams College

## **Benjamin A. Most**

Benjamin A. Most, associate professor of political science at the University of Iowa, died in Iowa City on November 10, 1986, of heart failure. His sudden and untimely death is a tragedy, not only for his family, friends and colleagues, but for the discipline as a whole. At the age of 38, Ben Most was only beginning to make his mark on the study of international relations, policy and methodology.

Ben was born May 19, 1948, in Canton Pennsylvania. He grew up in Pennsylvania, and attended Franklin and Marshall College, where he received his A.B. in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University in 1979. From 1977-81 he taught at Brown University before moving to the University of Iowa. The product of this intellectual journey was a scholar of immense ability and a man of great character. Ben was a recognized expert in the study of war and international conflict, especially in the application of geo-political models and approaches to war, the study of borders and the analysis of the diffusion of violent conflict. But Ben's interests and expertise also ranged across the study of public policy and the policy process, comparative politics and methodology. At the time of his death he was in the process of revising two pieces which had been accepted for publication—monographs on the foreign policy process, and on the analysis of changing authoritarian political systems in Argentina (he had field experience in Mexico, Bolivia, and Argentina). He was also preparing a co-authored book on the logic of inquiry and theory in international relations. Having recently joined the Executive Council of the newly formed Midwest Consortium for International Security Studies, he was

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also deeply involved with the effort to bring the United States Institute of Peace to Iowa. He had just been designated as the new editor of *International Interactions*.

Friends and colleagues will particularly miss his intellectual vibrancy. Ben was always seeking for and striving for more important questions and more satisfying answers. He was never satisfied with pat answers, with traditional orthodoxies of method or theory, or with intellectual complacency. He was a superb methodologist, with both a highly trained critical eye and a talent for theoretical and conceptual synthesis. He was the "complete" scholar. With Ben there was always the intense probing, the intense creativity, the broad sweep of ideas, yet also incredible care and attention to detail. Ben was *always* thinking—thinking through old problems, thinking about new ones and ways to get *at* them, thinking about new connections between the various issues which concerned him. His energy seemed boundless. Ben read everything, invariably bringing his critical faculties to all he read.

Ben was the "complete" colleague and friend as well. All of us who knew him, even casually, likely got more in the way of wisdom, cheer and support than Ben ever asked of us. He was a concerned teacher who achieved a natural rapport with students, graduate and undergrad-

uate alike. He studied war and authoritarianism because he wanted to do something about them and to improve the world in which his children—all children—would grow up. He was the kind of person who truly enjoyed giving of himself, whether to colleagues, students, or his Boy Scout troop. Most of us like to think of ourselves in this way, but in the final analysis we usually come up short. Ben didn't. Ben was a gifted and talented scholar, teacher and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

Ben is survived by his wife, Sandy; his son, Matthew, and daughter, Meagan; his mother and two brothers. At the request of his family, a Benjamin A. Most Memorial Fund has been established at Indiana University for the support of the study of international relations. Contributions from friends and colleagues are welcome. Checks should be made out to the Indiana University Foundation—Benjamin Most Memorial Fund, and sent to the Department of Political Science, Woodburn Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

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