

In Memoriam

Patrick J. Fett

On September 1, 1996 Patrick J. Fett died after a long battle with cancer. Pat was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Memphis. His untimely death at the age of 37 robbed the profession of one of its most promising young scholars. More importantly, it robbed us of one of the most genuinely good-hearted people to touch the lives of those lucky enough to have known him.

Pat grew up in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of a public school teacher. He earned his baccalaureate degree from the University of Iowa and his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. He held faculty positions at Vanderbilt University (1988-1993) and the University of Memphis (1993-1996).

During his all-too-brief career Pat Produced some extraordinary scholarship that demonstrated his eye for the enduring questions in politics and his commitment to rigorous scientific method. His ability to combine formal theory with empirical methods resulted in a body of works that have enhanced significantly our understanding of how institutional features of the U.S. Congress (its rules and structure) affect its operations and its interactions with the executive branch. During Pat's tenure review, Richard F. Fenno, Kenan Professor of Political Science at the University of Rochester and one of the discipline's best known scholars on Congress, characterized Pat's work as follows:

His body of research on presidential legislative priorities is, to my mind, the best political science work on that subject. It makes a substantial contribution to the study of presidential leadership generally. And it pioneers, first, in the use of presidential messages as indicators of presidential priorities and, second, in the use of individual votes to measure legislator response and—in addition to cumula-

tive support scores—to analyze executive-legislative relations.

Two of his articles developed our understanding of the way in which national agendas emerge from the interplay between Congress and the president. "Presidential Legislative Priorities and Legislators' Voting Decisions: An Exploratory Analysis" (*Journal of Politics*, 1994) and "Truth in Advertising: The Revelation of Presidential Legislative Priorities" (*Western Political Quarterly*, 1992) are theoretically sophisticated empirically grounded works that go beyond anecdote to offer tests of how presidential communication styles affect the voting behavior of legislators. The latter work is cited in virtually every current article on presidential-congressional relations.

In "A Content Based Analysis of Personal Presidential Lobbying of Congress" (*Southeastern Political Review*, 1993), Pat broadened his focus to examine the persuasiveness of presidents with Congress, not through speech-making but through the direct appeals to individual legislators by the president and his congressional liaison staff. Using specific policy battles to anchor the analysis, Pat compares presidential success in the House and Senate. His research design for this study was clever, innovative, and appropriate to the question. As in his other works, Pat advanced our understanding of executive-legislative interactions by developing an innovative research design that allowed him to explain the behavior of actors in the executive branch and both houses of Congress in their interaction over specific policy matters. His analysis corroborates the limited extent of the president's influence over legislative outcomes and the importance of political context in determining the extent and form of that influence when it does occur. His analysis is especially powerful in its ability to test for general patterns in political behavior and to recom-

mend new avenues of research on legislative-executive interaction.

The agility of his intellect was demonstrated in two additional articles on the term limits movement, in which he brought to bear suitable social scientific methods to the analysis of an issue that is currently prominent in the public arena. "Congressional Term Limits, State Legislative Term Limits and Congressional Turnover: a Theory of Change" (with Daniel Ponder in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 1993) was exceptional for its exposition of some likely outcomes of term limit legislation, outcomes that were largely ignored in the public debate surrounding the issue. Specifically, term limits on state legislatures will alter the make-up of the U.S. Congress by altering the pool of candidates for seats in the U.S. Congress. State legislators who reach the term limit in the state legislature will run for the U.S. Congress rather than retire from public life. "The Implications of Turnover and Term Limits on Institutional Stability" (with Scott Ainsworth and Itai Sened) received the Pi Sigma Alpha Award for the best paper presented at the 1995 Midwest Political Science Association convention. It combined formal theoretic analysis and statistical tests to estimate the likely effects of term limits on the instability of legislative institutions. By using this combination of approaches, Pat and his co-authors speak to two audiences that are often artificially separated by their distinctive methodologies. Richard Fenno praises it both for its use of formal, rational choice analysis of institutions and for "push[ing] that somewhat abstract literature in the direction of some hard-headed empirical analysis of important, real world problems. That . . . is a very large contribution, and it is . . . Pat's great talent as a political scientist. It is a talent much to be valued, in my judgment, and much to be husbanded in our discipline."

In "Vote Visibility, Roll Call Participation and Legislative Compromise in the U.S. House" (forthcoming, *Congress and the Presidency*) Pat once again fit the method to the problem by employing a longitudinal design to examine a new proposition concerning strategic absenteeism from roll call votes. This work enhances our understanding of the connection between vote visibility, conflict, and participation in legislative voting. His data spans twelve congresses and six presidents. Few scholars have tested for trends over time as Pat did in this work.

For those of us who were fortunate enough to know him, Pat was far more than just a first-rate scholar. His basic kindness, decency, and good humor turned his professional relationships into warm friendships, not just with his colleagues on the faculty but with students in his class and the department's office staff. At Vanderbilt he initiated an undergraduate research methods class that enhanced the ability of undergraduates to compete effectively in quality graduate programs. He had a similar impact on the quality of University of Memphis graduates when he introduced a social choice course to the undergraduate curriculum. In a profession where advising students is seldom appreciated and rarely rewarded, Pat pursued it with an enthusiasm, commitment, and compassion that made him a favorite mentor and confidante among undergraduate and graduate students alike. Pat's door was always open, and the collection of toys he maintained in his office made him a favorite among the children of students, staff, and faculty as they waited on a parent to finish a class or a meeting. From his own child-like love of life grew a genuine empathy and appreciation for others. While in graduate school, he taught American Politics to hearing-impaired students at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. He was so successful and so well-liked by the students that he was offered a full-time position there after he graduated. Other examples of this commitment to others are too numerous to list and some too personal to publicize. Many we will

never know of because Pat was not one to advertise his own acts of kindness. Many we only learned of at his memorial service: facing down the spouse of a battered woman, helping a troubled veteran realize his talents and develop his commitment to scholarship, accompanying an ill friend to get tested for a life-threatening condition when he knew his own cancer had reappeared. Pat was a genuinely good person.

Pat's courage, grace, and humor in the face of his rapidly progressing cancer were extraordinary. Though he knew his life was ending, he simply refused to permit the disease to change the way he lived. His commitment to living as he always had was so great that most of his students and colleagues had no idea that he was sick. He only stopped teaching when he believed that his diminished energies would hurt his students. He continued to live at his own home, to tease and joke with his friends, and to amass silly toys. Most astonishing to many of us, he continued to think of others ahead of himself.

Just as his commitment to scholarship came from a profound, genuine, and deeply rooted love for knowledge, unpolluted by mere ambition for career advancement, so his commitment to his family, his friends, his colleagues and his students grew out of a genuine love of life. His scholarship has advanced our knowledge in one area of the discipline. His humanity enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Scott Ainsorth
University of Georgia

Glenn Chafetz
T. David Mason
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Harry Friedman

We, in Political Science Department at the University of Hawai'i lost a dear friend and valued colleague when Harry Friedman died last May. During the 34 years that Harry worked at the University of Hawai'i, he exemplified hospitality personally, making everyone who shared his world feel welcome, and

was instrumental in building a hospitable, participatory public life in the department. Harry, his wife Cappy, and daughter Alexis came to Hawai'i in the fall of 1962, when Harry took a joint appointment in the political science department and the East-West Center. In addition to his expertise in the fields of public administration and South Asian politics, Harry arrived with considerable experience as an advisor in community development projects, having worked and consulted in India and Pakistan on village-level projects in participatory democracy in the late 1950's. Combining his knowledge of public administration with an interest in rural development and a lifelong commitment to democratic decision making, Harry continued his work in the general area of development administration in South Asia and, later, the Philippines, where he worked under the auspices of Ford Foundation sponsorship for two years (1967–1969).

Harry was deeply committed to pedagogy. During his first term (of 3) as Department Chair in the mid 1960's, he helped build a strong graduate program. Because of his knowledge of several fields in the discipline, his supportive attitude toward students, and his specific field experiences, Harry served on a disproportionate number of Masters and Ph.D. committees. Generations of graduate students from all over the world benefitted from his guidance and support; many cherished him as a mentor and friend.

Harry loved life and contributed greatly to the quality of life for others. A communitarian in academic life as well as outside of it, he was active in national professional associations, and he helped found the South Asian Studies Committee at the University of Hawai'i, and he served on it continuously as well as on numerous other University committees.

Harry was an avid sports fan, buying season tickets annually to University football and basketball games. Having grown up in the East, his fan loyalties were to New York area teams, the football Giants, and New York Knicks basketball team for example. Most intensely, however, he was a life-long fan of the