

of the Congressional Fellowship Advisory Committee.

Barbara Lakeberg, political science department, Brown University, has received \$14,520 from the Fund for Research on Dispute Resolution to study racial and ethnic relations in Norway, focusing on discrimination in housing practices.

Barbara A. Presnall and Lybeth Hodges, Texas Woman's University, received a university grant to research "The Private Sphere/Public Sphere Orientation of Japanese Women."

Kathryn Sikkink, assistant professor, University of Minnesota, was selected as one of ten recipients of the University of Minnesota's McKnight-Land Grant Professorship.

Laura Lynn Stoker, assistant professor of political science, University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a Distinguished Dissertation Award by the Council of Graduate Schools for "Morality and the Study of Political Behavior."

Michael Suleiman, department of political science, has been named by Kansas State University as a University Distinguished Professor.

C. Neal Tate, Regents Professor, University of North Texas.

In Memoriam

Frank Bourgin

Frank Bourgin, who became a national figure in 1988 when the University of Chicago granted him the Ph.D. for a dissertation that had been submitted 43 years earlier, died on December 12, 1990, in Washington, D.C.

Bourgin was born in Ely, Minnesota, in 1910. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1930 and took an M.A. at the Claremont Colleges in 1932. He entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago in 1933, but after one year went back to Minnesota to teach at the junior college level. Returning to Chicago in 1939 on a fellowship, he worked principally with Charles E. Merriam, who was heavily involved with the Roosevelt administration and as

chairman of the National Resources Planning Board. He suggested that Bourgin study the views of the American founders, particularly Hamilton, Jefferson, and Madison, on national economic policy. Bourgin concluded that in the first forty years of the Republic, it was not *laissez faire* but national planning that guided national policy. He and Merriam published a joint article on the subject in the journal *Ethics*.

Bourgin began a dissertation, but it went slowly. Since he had a family to support, he was forced to drop out of the University, and he held various employments. But he continued research independently, and in 1945 presented to the department a 600-page manuscript. By this time Leonard D. White had succeeded Merriam as chairman. White was perturbed by Bourgin's long absence from academia and the lack of any departmental guidance in his research. On March 13, 1945, White wrote to Bourgin saying that to get a degree he would have to take time off from his business affairs "at some convenient stage" and return to the University. It does not appear that White checked with Bourgin to see whether a return would be possible, nor does it appear that Bourgin ever appealed to White or Merriam to explain that this decision meant the end of his academic career. Instead he reconciled himself to being a government employee rather than an academic.

So he might have ended his days, except that over forty years later he chanced on a new book by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., *Cycles of American History*, which seemed to verify the basic conclusions of his dissertation. He wrote to Schlesinger, who agreed to read the manuscript. He gave Frank a very positive report. With this support, Frank was emboldened to ask the Chicago department to reconsider its action. But he knew no one at Chicago. However, he recalled that I had been a graduate student with him in 1939, and from some source he learned that I had been chairman, was still alive, and living in California. He phoned, asking permission to send me a copy. After reading it I wrote to Joe Cropsey at Chicago: "In my judgment this is not only an acceptable doctoral dis-

sertation by University of Chicago standards; it is a major research effort which successfully supports the author's thesis that the American founders believed in and practiced 'affirmative government.'" Cropsey then organized a committee at Chicago, which approved the thesis, and secured from the University administration a ruling that the degree could be awarded under these unusual circumstances.

The story was broken by Linda Greenhouse in *The New York Times* on April 22, 1988. A nationwide flood of publicity followed. The degree was awarded on June 10, 1988, as Frank rolled down the aisle in Rockefeller Chapel (polio of his youth had returned) and President Gray, presenting the hood, led the applause.

With Schlesinger's support, the dissertation was published in 1989 by George Braziller under the title, *The Great Challenge: The Myth of Laissez Faire in the Early Republic*, with a Foreword by Schlesinger recounting the troubled history of the book. Frank's wife did not live to see publication of the book. Frank was able to travel and he gave some academic lectures, but treatment for cancer was unsuccessful. He died on December 12, 1990.

C. Herman Pritchett
*University of California,
Santa Barbara*

Ronald J. Fiscus

Ronald J. Fiscus, associate professor of government at Skidmore College, died of AIDS on May 18, 1990, in Albany, New York. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Carleton College in 1968, majoring in government and international relations. After college Ron spent two years in Chad working for the Peace Corps and then entered graduate school in political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1970. His dissertation, "Before the Velvet Curtain: The Connecticut Contraceptive Cases as a Study in Constitutional Law and Supreme Court Behavior," is a monumental study of the origins of the constitutional right of privacy. At the time of his death Ron was completing a manuscript on *The*