

tion in which 48 Baptist colleges and universities participated, he led the group for a decade, travelling around the world establishing exchange agreements and programs.

After a tornado damaged downtown Arkadelphia in 1997, city officials consulted with Dan in planning for reconstruction. Always active in the community, in his 90s he was still leading the singing at the Rotary Club meeting every Friday. He served as a deacon, sang in the choir, and participated in local missions' projects at First Baptist Church.

Dan Grant was a renowned global educator whose student body extended beyond campus classrooms to his fellow academicians, to public administrators and the citizens they serve, and to people of faith seeking to relate politics and religion. His legacy looms large.

—Harold F. Bass, Jr., Douglas L. Reed,  
Ouachita Baptist University  
—John S. Jackson III, Southern Illinois University

## Jyotirindra “Jyoti” Das Gupta

The field of political science and Asian studies lost an important scholar on March 17, 2022, when Dr. Jyotirindra “Jyoti” Das Gupta passed away. His enormous academic contributions to the field will continue to shape scholarship for decades to come, especially in understanding the relationship between pluralism/multiculturalism and federalist institutional structures in promoting integrative accommodation in multi-ethnic postcolonial countries including India.

Professor Das Gupta’s distinguished professional career at the University of California, Berkeley spanned from 1966 to 1995 when he retired with emeritus status from the Political Science Department, although he continued with select advising duties and especially his scholarship up until his passing. Along with his research and teaching duties, Prof. Das Gupta established and chaired the Development Studies program in 1976 and later served as the chair of Center of South and Southeast Asian on campus. He also was a core advisor and a faculty member of the Group in Asian Studies.

During his academic career, professor Das Gupta produced groundbreaking works that promoted an understanding of both inclusionary and exclusionary processes in the developing world. His first major book, *Language Conflict and National Development: Group Politics and National Language Policy in India* (University of California, 1970) remains a foundational work for understanding the use of language identity during the mobilization for India’s partition by various political groups and, more importantly, how supposedly divisive “language conflicts” actually became instrumental in integrating various linguistic groups into post-partition democratic India. His deep research revealed nationalistic dynamics in the pre-partition phase that shaped the unfolding of the partition and made Urdu, a minority language, an official language of Pakistan and Hindi an ongoing contentious issue in India. The linguistic reorganization of Indian states, he demonstrated, was eventually central to the construction of an overarching and integrative Indian national identity after partition. His research remains critical for understanding the role of language in Indian politics.

Professor Das Gupta’s subsequent book, *Authority, Priority, and Human Development* (Oxford University Press, 1982) also represented a major contribution to the field of comparative development studies and the dynamics of democracy in postcolonial societies. It

examined the interplay of official government policy and various local stakeholders in the development process in rural India. This book argued that the concepts of “authority” and “priority” were derivative of the political process both within and between the official government structures and competing political interests at the local level.

Over his long and illustrious career, professor Das Gupta also produced important articles and book chapters on numerous topics relating to Indian politics, nationality construction, and federalism. This included scholarship on the effects of multi-layered federalism in accommodating insurgent ethnic groups in the Northeast, the role of intra and inter-group bargaining within a democratic political context to facilitate postcolonial nation-building in multicultural India, and the impact of various forms of political leadership in either escalating or ameliorating ethnic conflict/separatism in postcolonial societies. In recent years, he continued to write on important contemporary movements such as the Right to Information (RTI) and its relationship in democratic development and elections in India.

Das Gupta’s sensitivity and deep knowledge of such subjects was perhaps due to the fact he born in Kolkata in pre-partition Bengal in 1933 and was a witness to India’s independence and the violent partition. He also actively engaged in India’s independence movement by attending Mohandas Gandhi’s civil action meetings and participated in the country’s democratization movements as a college student. He later brought these ideas into his teaching of political development and accommodation as a professor at University of California after getting his PhD from Berkeley in 1966. This personal background and experience also contributed to professor Das Gupta’s exceptionally polite and gracious personality, which made him closely attentive to the individual needs of his students.

Professor Das Gupta leaves behind a wife, a daughter, a son-in-law, a granddaughter whom he loved tremendously, and numerous students over the decades who owe him a debt of gratitude for his mentorship which ranged from introduction to important scholarly sources, regular lunches in new restaurants in Berkeley, exposure to new Indian music (especially classical), and a commitment to promoting his students which never wavered even after he retired as a full professor of political science. He will be missed tremendously by those who had the distinct honor and privilege of having known him as dear friend and intellectual mentor.

—Anshu Chatterjee, Naval Postgraduate School  
—Jugdep S. Chima, Hiram College

## Frank Safford

Frank Safford, who died on June 16, 2022 at the age of 87, was a social scientist’s historian. He made sense of history through theory, and he generated sensible theory through the study of history.

Safford’s second book, enviably titled *The Ideal of the Practical*

(University of Texas, 1976), exemplifies this synergy. The *Ideal of the Practical* takes aim at those who would explain Colombia’s delayed industrialization by pointing solely to “cultural factors” or “societal values” such as the country’s alleged disdain for manual labor or its purported worship of legal studies. Safford shows instead that topography and external economic conditions often conspired to make manufacturing (and even mechanized agriculture) unprofitable in nineteenth-century Colombia. It was cheaper to ship

goods 8,000 miles from Liverpool to the head of the Magdalena River, in central Colombia, than it was to move them from there up through the mountains to Bogotá, less than 100 miles away. When these constraints lifted—as new transportation technology conquered the Andes, and as the world grew addicted to coffee—Colombia quickly responded. No “backward culture” barred the way.

Like so many of Safford’s ideas, these still feel fresh. Current work on economic growth often echoes *The Ideal of the Practical*. One hot-off-the-press working paper, for example, argues that the professionalization of engineering in Britain was key to sustaining the gains of the industrial revolution (Hanlon 2022), bringing to mind Safford’s emphasis on the rise of Colombian engineers: the growing number of engineering students at top universities, the proliferation of engineering specialities (industrial, petroleum, chemical, etc.), and the eventual ascendance of engineers to the highest social ranks and to cabinet appointments lie at the center of Safford’s story of Colombian development.

Another new paper uses a rich quantitative data set to classify Bogotá in 1800 as “self-sufficient,” meaning that Bogotanos had all the food they needed within arm’s reach, and argues that self-sufficiency was (perhaps paradoxically) bad for long-term economic growth (Haber et al. 2022). Safford, writing nearly half a century ago, alighted on the same theme. He quotes a nineteenth-century visitor who observed that “there is not perhaps a place in the world which can provide for itself the elements necessary to enjoy such an absolute independence and isolation from the rest of the world.” Self-sufficient, indeed. As for the long-term consequences, Safford writes: “This superficially ideal situation tended to stultify the economy, discouraging the development of a national market ... as it was possible to get along using the products of the immediate area, there was not a strong imperative to improve roads.”

In *The Ideal of the Practical*, as in his other work and his teaching, Safford deftly defends his thesis with vivid detail about individual nineteenth-century Colombians. He claims that the Colombian elite of that era, far from rejecting technical education, often promoted it. As evidence, Safford introduces us to men like

Mariano Ospina, who was then Secretary of the Interior and who later served as president of Colombia. Writing to his sons—one of whom became head of state, another of whom fathered a third President Ospina—Mariano Ospina exhorted them not to take up “overrefined” subjects like higher mathematics; impractical sciences like zoology; or literature, “which tires the mind without profit.” Instead, Ospina wished his sons to pursue mechanical engineering: “not so much theoretically as practically,” which is to say, he wanted them to man pulleys, saws, water wheels, mills, and “the construction of wooden bridges, etc.”

These details—the tone of Ospina’s letters, his liberal use of “etc.,” the texture of his parental aspiration—are often considered the province of the humanities, useful for the political scientist (even the qualitative political scientist) only as background, or to enhance readability. Safford shows us that these seemingly minute details are the best way to truly understand and evaluate his proposal that substantial faction of the Colombian elite embraced “the ideal of the practical.”

Safford also set an example of how to engage with other people’s research. *The Ideal of the Practical* never trucks in backhanded compliments or accusations. And yet throughout the text there runs an undercurrent of gentlemanly indignation at those who “so confidently pronounce judgment on other cultures,” as he puts it. For colleagues who had merely done fieldwork in Colombia—rather than living there, loving the country, and returning regularly over the course of an entire life, as Safford did—he has gentle reminders (“It is well to remember also that not all the plans of Latin Americans go awry”) but no slights. On that count, Safford was ahead of his time, keenly aware of his positionality as a gringo writing about Latin America, conscious of the privilege of being let into someone else’s society. But he was never sanctimonious, in writing or in person. Pancho—as he was christened by his nanny in El Paso—was warm and welcoming and exuberant.

Pancho is survived by his brilliant wife, Joan Safford; by his two children and their partners, whom he adored; by his beloved granddaughter; and by countless lucky students, including me.

—Dorothy Kronick, University of California, Berkeley

## Susan Welch

Longtime academic and philanthropic leader Susan Welch passed away on March 28, 2022. Welch was born October 3, 1943, in Galesburg, Illinois, to Delbert and Marie (nee Satterfield) Welch and grew up in nearby Bushnell. She enrolled at the University of Illinois in 1961 with the intent of majoring in mathematics.

She also enjoyed history, however, and continued to study it during her first three years at the University of Illinois. Her instructors at Illinois nurtured that interest in history to the point that she changed her major at the beginning of her senior year.

She later changed disciplines again, this time to political science, and eventually earned her doctorate in political science from the University of Illinois in 1970.

“Susan was a role model, pioneer, visionary and incredible leader who helped make Penn State into the world-class university it is today,” said Penn State President Eric J. Barron.

Welch became an assistant professor of political science at the

University of Nebraska after graduation, embarking on a more than 50-year career where she established herself as one of the foremost political science scholars of her generation.

She wrote more than 170 peer-reviewed articles and authored or co-authored eight books—including her renowned *Understanding American Government*, a three-time winner of the American Government Textbook Award from the Women’s Caucus for Political Science and currently in its 14th edition.

Her published works have been cited more than 11,000 times, and her article “The Impact of Gender on Activities and Priorities of State Legislators,” co-written with Sue Thomas for *Western Political Quarterly* in 1991, is the most cited work on women in politics and considered a breakthrough in the study of women’s potential political behaviors.

Read Penn State’s Tribute to Professor Welch (<https://www.psu.edu/news/liberal-arts/story/penn-state-liberal-arts-community-mourn-passing-susan-welch/>) or learn more about her here (<https://polisci.la.psu.edu/people/sxw11/>).

—Karima Scott, American Political Science Association ■