
Promotions

Richard Bensel, Texas A&M University: assistant professor.

Jon Bond, Texas A&M University: assistant professor.

In Memoriam

Wesley R. Fishel

On April 14, 1977, Wesley R. Fishel died in Lansing, Michigan, following by a few days a massive cerebral hemorrhage from which he did not recover consciousness. Wes Fishel had been in good health and he had been actively planning a year of study and teaching in Japan with Mrs. Fishel and a group of students. His sudden passing came as a shock to his family, his students and his many colleagues and friends. Wes Fishel was 57 when he died. His active career as a political scientist specializing in international relations and as an authority on the Far East brought him international recognition; a wide circle of friends, colleagues, and intellectual adversaries; and in East Lansing, where he taught and worked for 26 years, a loyal group of student followers.

Professor Fishel combined scholarship with action. His willingness to speak out, having formed his views carefully, demonstrated a high degree of courage as well as precision. As a person drawn into the turbulence which surrounded the period of Vietnam conflict, Wes Fishel's views were frequently sought and, in later years, often attacked. He met his critics forthrightly, from a base of knowledge and scholarship on the Far East which few among his adversaries possessed.

In the years immediately preceding World War II, Wes Fishel attended Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and then Northwestern University, completing his B.S. degree there in 1942. Following a tour of military service which included Japanese language and area training and service in the Pacific, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1948. After three years as instructor in political science at UCLA he joined the faculty at Michigan State University in 1951 as assistant professor of political science and assistant director of the Governmental Research Bureau. In 1957 he was promoted to professor and ten years later, jointly appointed as professor in James Madison College, a residential college within the university devoted to the study of public policy. He helped to shape the international portion of the new curriculum of the college which provides an excellent approach to the study of international policy.

While at Michigan State, Wes Fishel took leave to serve as visiting professor at the University of Hawaii in 1961, and as visiting University

Professor in Government at Southern Illinois University in 1969-70 where he also served as Senior Consultant to the Vice President. He was frequently called upon as lecturer and consultant on the Far East, particularly on Vietnam and Southeast Asia as those areas on which he possessed special knowledge and expertise received more public attention. He lectured before a wide range of public and university audiences during the 1960s, and taught periodically at the National War College, and the Foreign Service Institute. He was also called upon as a consultant to the U.S. State Department, the International Cooperation Administration and the Operations Research Office of Johns Hopkins University.

Wes Fishel became widely known as a close and influential friend of Ngo Dinh Diem whom he befriended several years before Diem's appointment by Bao Dai as Prime Minister of Vietnam. In 1955 he served as adviser to Diem and on numerous visits to Saigon in the years which followed, he was called upon for advice.

In an article immediately following Wes Fishel's death in April, *The New York Times* summarized his role:

Dr. Fishel's role in the complex history of American-Vietnamese relations began in the early 1950s when, as a specialist on Japan, China, and Korea, he was introduced to Mr. Diem while on a trip to Japan.

Mr. Diem, who left Vietnam as a protest against the French administration, was reportedly eager to hear the views of an American political scientist. As a result of their initial talks, the two men became close friends, and Dr. Fishel served as Mr. Diem's adviser in his quest for American support and at the Geneva conference that partitioned Vietnam in 1954.

As a result, Dr. Fishel became one of the nation's few academic experts on Vietnam and his services were eagerly sought by the government, which named him adviser to the military advisory mission to Saigon when Mr. Diem became Prime Minister in 1954.

The next year Dr. Fishel helped set up the government-financed Michigan State Aid group, which advised Mr. Diem and his government on a wide variety of issues. Dr. Fishel served as the program's chief administrator in Saigon from 1956 to 1958, returning to Lansing after his two-year tour.

The program continued until 1962, when it was canceled by President Diem as part of his general disenchantment with the United States and the mounting criticism of his administration.

Wes Fishel was an influential figure during the early years of the Diem government and continued active on policy issues related to Vietnam during much of the sixties. Because of this he became an active target of the anti-war movement and came under severe criticism which he met with courage and forthright statements in support of his views. In the flow

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of harsh, hindsight commentary which has surrounded and inundated the Vietnam Era a number of observations on Fishel's role might be permitted of one who was close to it during the Diem years.

First, Wes Fishel exercised a positive, progressive influence on Diem. He attempted to help President Diem move in a democratic and populist direction, one not opposed by Diem during the early years of the divided Vietnam. In fact, some momentum toward political and economic development did occur in the initial years, and Wes Fishel was eagerly greeted during his various visits in the late 1950s by those who wanted to continue the momentum.

It is not generally known, furthermore, that Wes Fishel was one of the few in a position to speak forthrightly to Diem and in a critical vein when needed. Both Vietnamese and Americans turned to him to relay their fears and concerns about what appeared to be an increase in excessive measures of control by government officials in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Such concerns were, in fact, stated and discussed with Diem who turned increasingly toward immediate members of his family and household for guidance. Moving in an increasingly repressive direction, Diem relied less on outsiders. Wes Fishel was still welcomed and consulted by many in the situation, but his role diminished.

A final point, Wes opposed a massive military build-up, a move opposed by Diem as well. It could only occur after the coup which removed Diem from office and turned the government into a military dictatorship.

Paul Kattenberg, retired foreign service officer now professor of political science at the University of South Carolina and an early advocate of withdrawal from Vietnam according to the Pentagon Papers, has contributed the following testimonial on Fishel:

We first met in 1953 when he arranged meetings with Ngo Dinh Diem (then exiled in a New Jersey seminary) for those of us at State who had been impressed in Vietnam by Diem's reputation there as an incorruptible nationalist. Diem was the man of the hour for the mid-fifties and Fishel's assistance to him and counsel to us were precious in helping Diem establish South Vietnamese independence. In the early 1960s, when things turned sour for Diem and Vietnam, it was Fishel again who early in a still unwritten chapter of the history of this period recognized the need to remove the nefarious influence of Diem's brother Nhu on the government in Saigon and, failing that, to start afresh if the independence of the South were to be preserved. He provided significant advice to the U.S. government during this period.

From early 1964 on, Fishel and I came to a parting of the ways politically, as I sought U.S. withdrawal through negotiations for a coalition government whereas Fishel remained firm on his conviction that a non-communist Vietnam was vital for U.S. security and that the Viet-

namese themselves, properly assisted but without U.S. combat forces, could do the job. Despite our profound disagreements during the following decade, we remained close friends, arguing long into the night. No-one could have been more, and more unjustly, maligned. Wes Fishel was a fine educator, an energetic and practical operator on the international arena, a patriotic American, and above all a very fine and magnanimous human being. Those who knew him through the years realize with sorrow the great gap his death will leave in American scholarship on Asia and international affairs.

Although he was an excellent writer, expressing his views and using data with precision and unusual clarity, Wes Fishel resisted the encouragement of his friends to write intimately of the Vietnam period. His years of scholarship on Asia yielded a number of important published works, seven books or monographs and numerous articles in both scholarly and popular journals. Early in his career he contributed *The End of Extraterritoriality in China*, published by the University of California Press in 1952 and republished in 1974 by Farrar, Strauss, and Cudahy as an Octagon Book. In 1961, he edited and co-authored *Problems of Freedom: South Vietnam Since Independence*, published by the Free Press of Glencoe; and in 1968, he edited and co-authored another volume on Vietnam which was published by F. E. Peacock Publishers, *Vietnam: Anatomy of a Conflict*. He contributed to a number of encyclopedia volumes and derived much professional satisfaction through his role as Editor-in-Chief of *Southeast Asia*, an international quarterly which he helped to found and sustain from 1970 until his death.

Wes Fishel was active in many professional associations nationally and a leading participant in university and community affairs. He helped to found the Asian Studies Center at Michigan State, served on the Faculty Affairs Committee of the University and chaired the University Faculty Tenure Committee from 1972 to 1975, an elective office. He was active in the American Friends of Vietnam, serving as Chairman of the Board from 1964 to 1966. His Vietnamese interests were also reflected in his participation in the Southeast Asia Development Advisory Group as a founding member from 1967 onward. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1961-62 for research in Japan and Southeast Asia and was named as a Senior Specialist by the Institute of Advanced Projects of the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii in 1970.

Wes Fishel was a man of great personal energy who devoted long days to his combined activities of scholarship and action. He pursued his professional goals vigorously. He established himself as an outstanding teacher and at the time of his memorial service at the University, a former student provided touching testimony to the human qualities and devotion demonstrated time and again by Professor Fishel. These qualities were well known to his many friends and colleagues at Michigan State, throughout

the political science association and in the countries abroad, particularly in Asia, with whom he associated so closely and warmly over the years. Above all, perhaps, Wes Fishel will be remembered by his friends as a professional colleague who made a real difference through his presence. He used his knowledge of political science and of Asia and international politics in ways that commanded respect, whether in group conversation, university or community meetings, or more broadly on the national and international scene which he knew so well. He will be sadly missed.

Ralph H. Smuckler
Michigan State University

Warren Lee Kostroski

Warren Lee Kostroski died of a cerebral hemorrhage on January 4, 1978. At only 32 years of age, a recipient of a Ph.D. from Washington University and an M.A. from the University of Illinois, Warren already had compiled a distinguished record as a teacher and scholar in political science, a field he loved dearly. Warren taught at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, from 1968 to 1970 and was appointed Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wittenberg University in 1972, where he subsequently received tenure. He was Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, in 1974-75. His publications were in the area of the American legislative process. They appeared in the *American Political Science Review* ("Party and Incumbency in Postwar Senate Elections: Trends, Patterns and Models," December, 1973) and in the *Policy Studies Journal* ("Elections and Legislative Reform: External and Internal Influences on Legislative Behavior," June, 1977). Another article is forthcoming in *The Journal of Politics* ("The Effect of the Number of Terms on the Re-election of Senators, 1920-1970"). At the time of his death he had submitted four other manuscripts for publication in professional journals and a manuscript for a book. Additionally, Warren was active at professional meetings, having presented ten papers since 1972 at meetings of the Midwest, Southern and American Political Science Associations. He was organizing a section of seven panels for the 1978 Midwest meeting at the time of his death.

Warren Kostroski's enthusiasm for learning was infectious. Many students and faculty at Wittenberg can recall conversations with Warren when he was bubbling over the excitement of a discovery or a new idea. He encouraged his students and colleagues alike to share his commitment to research and professional activity and he helped them develop opportunities to do so. Warren was committed to the proposition that political life and governmental processes could be known and understood through the application of rigor, scientific methods. His undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, led him more deeply into the study of physical sciences and

mathematics than is common among social scientists. Perhaps the roots of his scientific approach can be found here. Warren also believed that becoming educated included the development of the capacities for clarity and precision in the use of the spoken and written word, as well as sensitivity to questions of political values. He held most firmly to these goals in his approach to teaching and scholarship.

Most recently, Warren was on a year's leave from Wittenberg as a faculty fellow in the U.S. Civil Service Commission, helping organize seminars on Congress for high-level civil servants. In his characteristic way, he had become immersed in a range of activities related to his new job and his profession. When he visited Springfield during the holiday season he was filled with enthusiasm about the learning and insight he was gaining from being in Washington. He outlined a new study of administrative reorganization he and a Washington colleague were launching. We laughed with him as he contemplated the effect that might be achieved when he appeared before classes next fall dressed in his best Washington bureaucrat's uniform—a blue, pin-striped, vested suit.

In the brief time he was among us, Warren Lee Kostroski left his mark in many areas of Wittenberg University. He demanded much of himself. He contributed much to us and to his profession. The promise left unfulfilled by time cut short seems a cruel denial. But let us remember his contribution and pursue in our own ways the excellence to which Warren was committed.

Joe H. Bindley
William I. Buscemi
Richard S. Flickinger
George E. Hudson
Jeffrey Y. Mao
Department of Political Science
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Charles Griffith Nelson

Charles Griffith Nelson died January 22, 1978, in Washington, D.C., at the age of 37 years.

He was reared in Oak Park, Illinois. His maternal grandfather, Charles Clayton Morrison, was a Presbyterian minister, founder of the *Christian Century* magazine, and an influential publicist in behalf of the Kellogg-Briand Pact. His father, who was graduated in his early 20s from the University of Chicago School of Medicine, is a physician.

Charles Nelson had a brilliant mathematical mind. As an undergraduate at Amherst College, he majored in physics. After a tour of Europe he returned to this country and Indiana University, from which he received an M.A. in economics and the Ph.D. in political science.

He wrote his dissertation on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development