

Walter Eggert Beach

With Walter Beach's passing in November 2006, a host of communities lost a valued and dedicated friend. When Walter was presented APSA's Frank J. Goodnow Award in 1998 for his sustained contributions to the discipline, if his political science colleagues who knew him less well were enormously impressed by the vast extent of his civic engagements, they had to be mind-boggled by the depth of his contributions. These contributions went far beyond his 15-year service to APSA as staff associate, director of the Congressional Fellowship Program, and, finally, assistant director; they also included his 10-year engagement at the Brookings Institution, and his 16-year engagement with Heldref Publications and the Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation. It was as if Walter never met a worthy endeavor for which he would not become a benefactor—from his life-long commitment to his 1956 alma mater Dickinson College (along with brother Alan, 1955) from which he was given the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992, to his service as trustee of the Hillwood Museum and Gardens Foundation, to his directorship of the International Eye Foundation, to his endowment of the National Capital Area Political Science Association, to his vigorous support of the Southern Political Science Association, to his service on the board of the Washington Center for Internships, to his fundraising prowess for George Washington University's Gelman Library and Mount Vernon College, among others. These will be the focus of a fuller tribute to be published in the April 2006 issue of *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

For now, the staff of APSA want to pay tribute to a tireless and loving friend who set the benchmark for what it is to be a colleague. Even if simply delivering a message at our 1527 New Hampshire Avenue offices, Walter could not escape the building in less than an hour because he would stop to chat with each employee, or we with him. Few of us have not received periodic news clippings reminding us of all-but-forgotten members of the political science community that we serve. There was no aspect of our efforts for which he did not have a kind word and helpful contribution. Walter Beach represented the true

definition of *sui generis*—he constituted a class alone.

APSA Staff

Deborah J. "Misty" Gerner

Professor Deborah J. Gerner, known to colleagues and friends as "Misty," died on June 19, 2006, at her home in Vinland, Kansas, after a long struggle with cancer.

Gerner earned her doctorate in political science at Northwestern University, and taught at Birzeit University, the University of Iowa, Hamilton College, and the American University in Cairo. In 1988, she joined the department of political science at the University of Kansas, where she eventually became full professor. Her substantive research interests initially focused on arms trade, foreign aid, nationalism, and American foreign policy in the Middle East, and more recently addressed questions of conflict and conflict resolution, human rights, and democratization. Her work in these areas was informed by her expertise in Middle East politics in general and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in particular. She was author of *One Land, Two People: The Conflict over Palestine*, published by Westview press in 1980 and updated in a second edition published in 1994, and editor of *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East*, published by Lynne Rienner in 2000 and revised in 2003 with assistance from Jillian Schwedler. As a member of the Quaker Working Party, Gerner was also a core contributor to *When the Rain Returns: Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel* (2004). Her articles have appeared in *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Two qualities emerged in Gerner's early work that remained constant throughout her career. First, she stressed the use of multiple methods: neither case studies nor quantitative evidence alone would suffice to adequately explore hypotheses. Second, she was able to bridge subfields by tying together broader questions of comparative politics (such as nationalism, social movements, conflict, and area studies) with questions resonating in international relations (such as comparative foreign policy and international dimensions of conflict).

Gerner's focus on the nexus between quantitative/qualitative as well as comparative/IR propelled her into the world of events data analysis of politics—in particular, conflict and mediation in the Middle East—a field in which she helped pioneer new methods, new theories, and new empirical findings. Along with Philip Schrodtt, Gerner developed the Kansas Events Data System (KEDS), an automated content analysis package used to create large amount of events data from machine-readable news sources. While many in international relations had used events data for over 20 years, researchers had been hamstrung by the lack of updated, replicable data sets.

Gerner and the KEDS project were instrumental in making the creation of such data feasible. Yet, a key reason KEDS succeeded was Gerner's contribution of region-specific knowledge. For any quantitative data, validity is the major concern; Gerner's Middle East expertise and her training in IR ensured that the KEDS data was both valid and useful for theory testing. Gerner and Schrodtt secured multiple National Science Foundation grants and authored numerous publications in top journals throughout the 1990s and 2000s relating to the creation and analysis of events data concerning the Middle East. The substantive topics tackled with this new tool ranged from the development of early warning predictors to studies of reciprocity in conflicts to studies of third party mediation in conflicts. Gerner's recent work grew out of a new project on mediation entitled CAMEO (Conflict And Mediation Event Observations), which uses the successor program to KEDS (named TABARI) to chart conflict mediation by state and sub-state actors.

Tireless even when dealing with the metastatic cancer that developed in 2002, in 2005 Gerner began work on a three-year collaborative project (with six colleagues at four universities) funded by the National Science Foundation that utilizes multiple methods to explore the relationship between repression and dissent in the Middle East. In December 2005, she traveled to Palestine and Israel to undertake field research for her portion of the project.

Among her many contributions to her profession over the years, Gerner was active in the Palestinian American Research Center (PARC), the Middle East Studies Association, and numerous