

## Milton Feder

Milton Feder, Professor of Government Emeritus at Beloit College, died March 19, 2000, at the age of 77. Milt was a New Yorker; born in the Bronx and raised in Brooklyn. He served in Air Force Intelligence during World War II, and saw combat in Italy. Later, he enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he was awarded the B.A., M.A., and, in 1957, the Ph.D. in political science, specializing in international politics and Near Eastern studies.

In 1955, Milt joined the faculty of the department of government at Beloit and stayed until his retirement in 1992. He was promoted to full professor in 1967, and was the inaugural appointee to the Anger Family Chair in International Relations. Milt was an exemplary colleague, earning the respect and appreciation of his fellows through his frequent and outspoken service on key committees and his caring encouragement of other faculty and staff, especially younger people. He inspired genuine affection, not only in his colleagues but in all sorts and conditions of other fellow citizens. He was a man of tough mind, tender heart, and considerable ironic humor. One of his greatest joys in life was taking sabbatical leaves to study in London, a place dear to his heart.

Milt was primarily a teacher, both in the classroom and out. He was a close follower and shrewd, realistic analyst of international affairs. He held his students to rigorous standards of scholarship, which he inspired them to achieve. He was an extraordinarily empathetic mentor and counselor. He sent into the worlds of diplomacy, teaching, and business dozens of successful professionals, and many hundreds of other appreciative, liberally educated citizens. He was twice chosen teacher of the year at Beloit College.

Milt is survived by his wife, Miriam, two daughters, two grandchildren, a brother, a sister, and

many grateful colleagues and students.

Harry R. Davis  
Beloit College

## Joseph R. Fiszman

Joseph Fiszman, a noted scholar and Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Oregon, died on April 17, 2000, at Sacred Heart General Hospital in Eugene, Oregon. He was 81 years old, and died from complications related to diabetes.

Fiszman devoted much of his professional life to studying and writing about comparative and East European political systems from the period following World War II up to the dismantling of the Soviet system and the opening of the Iron Curtain throughout Eastern Europe.

He was born in 1918 in Siedlce, Poland, into a family of writers and publishers. His family moved to Warsaw when he was two. As a young man, he was an active member of the Jewish Labor Bund.

In 1939, in the face of the Nazi invasion of Poland, Fiszman, together with his father, Jacob, fled eastward to Vilnius in what was then the Soviet-occupied northeast corner of prewar Poland. Under the terms of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, the Soviet Union had turned the city, claimed by the Lithuanians as their ancient capital, over to Lithuanian control in exchange for military bases throughout the country. Lithuanian-controlled Vilnius was sympathetic to Jewish cultural autonomy, and Fiszman, together with many other Jewish refugees, remained there until the summer of 1940, when the Red Army occupied Vilnius and annexed Lithuania. At this point, he resumed his flight eastward.

Fiszman and his father were able to obtain safe conduct certificates from the British ambassador in Lithuania that reaffirmed their status as Polish citizens at a time when both Hitler and the Soviets had de-

clared Poland nonexistent. From Chiune Sugihara, the now-recognized Japanese *charge d'affaires* in the Lithuanian capital of Kaunas, he was able to obtain a Japanese transit visa, stamped directly onto the British-issued safe conduct certificate, which granted him permission to travel to Curaçao via Japan. He traveled the Trans-Siberian railroad across the Soviet Union to Kobe, Japan, where subsequent developments made further travel to Curaçao impossible. He stayed in Kobe until the summer of 1941, when, following the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union, the Japanese government ordered the Polish Embassy in Tokyo to close. The Polish ambassador took up residence in the Polish Consulate in Shanghai, and many Polish Jewish refugees, including Fiszman and his father, followed him from Kobe to Shanghai.

Fiszman spent the remaining war years and the immediate post-war years in Shanghai, which was occupied by the Japanese in December 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Jewish community trapped in Shanghai was large, highly politicized, and relatively well organized, with large populations from Poland, Russia and Soviet-occupied Europe, Germany, and Austria. During this time, Fiszman worked as a reporter for several Yiddish newspapers then in existence in Shanghai, including the *Unzer Velt*, and he published many short stories.

In the immediate postwar years, Fiszman worked in Shanghai for the International Refugee Organization, an agency of the United Nations responsible for the repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons and refugees. He left Shanghai in 1949 for New York City in the face of the Chinese communist conquest of the city.

After spending several years in New York City, Fiszman earned a master's degree from Emory University in Atlanta and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He moved to Eugene, Oregon, in 1959

to take a position in the University of Oregon's department of political science, then ranked among the top departments nationwide.

Fizszman taught undergraduate and graduate students. He edited three editions of *The American Political Arena* (Little, Brown), an important collection of political science writings, which moved undergraduate political science courses away from the traditional focus on civics and formal political institutions to a focus on the various forces, including informal social and cultural forces, which lead to political action and results.

His primary focus, however, was on the communist political systems of Eastern Europe. He had a deep understanding of the history of the region, the political infighting among various political and social groups, and the cultural background of the peoples of the area. He focused on areas of human activities that were traditionally viewed as nonpolitical but that are politically relevant inasmuch as they have an immediate bearing on people's attitudes, perceptions, social values, and styles.

Although East Europeans tend to relate politics to most social and public activities, the communist regimes of the 1950s and 1960s allowed easier access to traditionally nonpolitical areas of the society and Fizszman took advantage of this during extensive research trips in Czechoslovakia and Poland, where he lived with his family for much of 1965 and 1966. He talked with educators, musicians, writers and others who were not formal political figures. He was the first U.S. citizen permitted to do field research of this type in an East European country during the Iron Curtain period, and he report much of his research in *Revolution and Tradition in People's Poland* (Princeton University Press, 1972).

Fizszman was eventually expelled from Poland by the Polish government in the summer of 1966 and was not permitted to return until 1982. He did, however, maintain close contacts and helped many key persons active in the major democratic upheavals in Poland during 1968 and the transition period that

followed, which led to the end in late 1970 of the regime of Wladyslaw Gomulka, who had dominated the Polish political scene since October 1956. A generation of intellectuals in Poland dedicated to forging democracies while destructing long term dictatorships viewed Fizszman as an important spokesman for truth and integrity. He understood that his writings, while the product of solid academic research, were also a form of political action that could and did influence people and policies in ways that contributed to fundamental political change.

Fizszman returned to Czechoslovakia during the Prague Spring of 1968, leaving just before the Soviet invasion, and he lived and worked with his family in Yugoslavia during much of 1973 and 1974.

In the United States, Fizszman was active in many social causes. He was one of the first professors at Oregon to openly and actively oppose U.S. participation in the Vietnam War and was a prime organizer of one of the first nationwide campus sit-ins.

Fizszman was a colorful and powerful character who could both captivate and exasperate students and colleagues with his stories, strong opinions, and unswerving insight. He was known as a man of sharp intelligence, a true intellectual who understood how history and culture shaped the major political events of his time. Throughout his life and despite great distance, he maintained a close circle of friends from his prewar years in Poland, with whom he visited and corresponded regularly. He was witty, sometimes biting so, and had a well-developed and fearless sense of irony and humor. He understood the theoretical underpinnings of various political movements but also recognized that dogma and narrow specializations are injurious to truthful understanding. He was practical. He was a man of integrity who could be harsh if he felt someone compromised his or her political integrity, but was never unforgiving personally. He loved literature, especially the writing of East European authors who placed their characters, however subtly, within a political context. He loved music and intelligent conversation.

Fizszman contributed documents and other items to the Flight and Rescue exhibition, which opened at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, in May, to tell the story of the 2200 Polish Jews who escaped Nazi destruction by going east via Japan with the help of Sugihara and the Dutch diplomat Jan Zwartendijk.

Fizszman is survived by his wife of 49 years, Rachele Noto Fizszman; two daughters, Gale Fizszman and Sula Fizszman; and two granddaughters.

Rachele Noto Fizszman

## Leigh Edmund Grosenick

Leigh Edmund Grosenick, professor of political science and public administration at Virginia Commonwealth University, passed away on December 27, 1999, after a long and valiant struggle with leukemia. He was born on March 24, 1935, in Alexandria, Minnesota, and was a graduate of its public schools. Leigh completed his formal education by attending the University of Minnesota, where he earned a B.A. in political science in 1960, an M.A. in public administration in 1965, and a Ph.D. in political science in 1968.

Leigh led a very long and distinguished career in academe and the larger public sector. He served as the research director of the League of Minnesota Municipalities from 1965 to 1968, then accepted an appointment, as assistant professor, to the department of government and foreign affairs at the University of Virginia. In 1973, Leigh became director of state-federal relations for the State of Minnesota.

Leigh spent the majority of his academic career at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he served as the chair of the department of public administration from 1975 to 1981, and again from 1991 to 1994. He was the founding director of the Master of Public Administration Program in 1975, and he established the Doctor of Public Administration Program in 1981. He served with enormous dedication and distinction on a number of im-