

Among his several journal articles, John published in the *American Political Science Review* (with Jim Kuklinski), *Journal of Politics* (with former student Wayne McIntosh), and *American Journal of Politics* (with Jim Sheffield). Highly significant was his article “Judicial Protection of the Criminal Defendant against Adverse Press Coverage,” a 75-page article that appeared in *William and Mary Law Review*. This work was later cited in the *United States Constitution Annotated* as the definitive work on the issue of fair trial versus free expression.

Stanga, a native of Louisiana, received his BA from Southeastern Louisiana College, an MA from Louisiana State University, and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. At the latter, he was influenced by Joel Grossman, Herb Jacob, and his dissertation supervisor, David Fellman. As the recipient of an NEH Fellowship, he later took a summer seminar from Nelson Polsby, who afterwards let many others know of his high regard for John as a political scientist.

He began his career as a journalist covering Louisiana state politics, served as an instructor at Lamar Tech for two years, and as a Wichita State faculty member from 1968 to 2008. For six years he chaired the WSU department and was appreciated as one who encouraged his faculty while using a light touch rather than a heavy hand. John never forgot his Louisiana roots and was an unmatched raconteur when entertaining friends with fascinating stories about the Long family and Lyndon Johnson. Among his varied interests were the avid support of personal liberties, wagering small bets on horses, and excelling as a gourmet cook in serving family and friends Cajun food, Louisiana gumbo, and his special bread pudding.

Stanga, unusually rigorous and demanding in the classroom, earned the highest respect from his students as both a teacher and debunker of myths. His teaching manifested the maxim of Pericles, “The mind is a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled.” As a gifted writer himself, he demanded lucid and grammatically correct writing in all his classes. Moreover, his take-home exams in Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties achieved legendary status throughout the university. Uniquely, he created original hypothetical cases that did not lend themselves to correct or incorrect judicial decisions. Rather, he evaluated students on the quality of their logical analysis and legal reasoning. An indication of

his unusually tough grading policy was the student scuttlebutt, “if you earn a C from Professor Stanga in Civil Liberties or Public Law, you have the ability to succeed at a good law school.”

Stanga’s lasting impact is demonstrated by the careers of many former students. Political scientists at quality universities, successful attorneys, and judges at all levels, including the federal bench, provide vivid testimony to his legacy. In honor of John’s sterling legacy, former students and colleagues have joined with his sons in creating a pre-law scholarship in his honor. John Stanga definitely achieved our highest esteem as teacher, scholar, colleague, and friend.

Melvin Kahn
Wichita State University

BRUCE M. UNGER

Dr. Bruce M. Unger, professor of political science at Randolph-Macon College, died of cancer at his home January 31, 2008. A native of Brooklyn, and life-long *Brooklyn Dodgers* fan, Bruce received his BA at Queens College in 1964, MA at Tulane University in 1967, and Ph.D. at Tulane in 1973. He joined the faculty at Randolph-Macon in 1968, and served 39 years on the faculty. He was Charles J. Potts Professor of Social Sciences when he retired in 2007.

I could never imagine Bruce retiring. He was so energized by the classroom, and he dedicated his considerable enthusiasm to re-crafting his lectures to reach new generations of students. He loved teaching! As one alumnus wrote in remembrance, “It is rewarding to see someone come in day in and day out for nearly 40 years and still see the passion for teaching in their eyes.” So I was surprised when Bruce told me he would retire after his fortieth year at R-MC, but his illness forced him to leave the classroom a year earlier than he had planned.

As a political scientist, Bruce was first and foremost a highly skilled teacher and mentor to his students. He taught courses in international relations, political theory, American politics, research methods, and environmental policy. His students remember him for holding them to the highest academic and ethical standards, as well as for his humor and ability to engage them in his passion for his discipline. A former student, now a well-known political scien-

tist, recalls that Bruce told him, “You may not know it yet, but you’re going to be a political science professor.’ He took me under his wing, practically forcing me to take a tutorial with him that I hadn’t asked for.” An alumna wrote, “His inspiration led me to pursue a career in public service—nearly 30 years on Capitol Hill.” Many alumni note how they became friends with Bruce after graduation and maintained ties to the college through him. If they were in public service, they also became providers of documents and reports that Bruce assiduously collected and distributed to students and colleagues.

Another alumnus recalls Bruce’s “endearing earnestness.” His integrity was of the highest order, but always leavened by his love of laughter and a good story, and he knew many of these. One former student called him “fair, funny, human, and, at times, fatherly.” Another wrote, “I never worried about fairness—it defined him. No where else did I get as much academic sense of achievement. Not only one of the smartest men I was educated by, he was generous with his time, immeasurably dedicated. His imprint of strong ethics carries me today, and survives his passing.”

Bruce was a truly kind and gentle person, but his high standards, presented in class with a New Yorker’s directness and strong Brooklyn accent, tended to intimidate students. He was, as one alumnus recalled, “demanding in the best sense of the word. He expected you to be prepared, rewarded your good performances, and held you accountable for anything less.” But it did not take long for students to embrace him. I am particularly amused by one alumna’s favorite memory of Dr. Unger as “the hot dog stand umbrella (‘Hebrew National: We Answer to a Higher Authority’) he kept in his office. Somehow it always seemed to make me feel welcome.”

Bruce oversaw the college’s internship programs at the United Nations and in Washington. He always made sure the internship site provided serious learning opportunities for students, and impressed students and supervisors alike with his site visits that included lunch at Bruce’s favorite restaurants.

Bruce won the college’s Thomas Branch Teaching Award six times, which may be the campus record. He also won the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry of the United Methodist Church’s Award for Exemplary Teaching at a United

Methodist-Related Institution of Higher Education in 1999, and the Virginia State Council of Higher Education's Outstanding Faculty Award in 1988. In 1987, he was silver medalist in the Council for Advancement and Support of Higher Education Professor of the Year Award Program.

Bruce's research focused on nuclear disarmament, and for many years he served as Disarmament and Arms Control Advisor to the United Nations Office of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. Bruce's influence as a political scientist was most felt inside the United Nations, as he produced internal analyses for the UMC regarding the First (1978) and Second (1982) Special Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992), and the Non-Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference (1995). He also conducted research for the Institute for Defense Analysis during the Geneva Conference on Disarmament Chemical Weapons (1990–91).

The college awarded its Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Professor Award to Bruce in 1980, after his having served just 12 years on the faculty. Bruce would contribute much, much more to Randolph-Macon over the 27 years to follow! He was a founder of the new international studies and international relations majors in 1992, and served for 10 years as director of the International Relations Program. He chaired the department of political science from 1999–2002 and on an interim basis in 2003–2004. Bruce had been the junior member of the department's faculty from 1968 until I arrived in 1996 (!), and then led the department through a generational shift where he quickly became the senior member. He was a wonderful mentor to junior faculty and always had time to discuss teaching and career-building strategies.

The Randolph-Macon faculty prides itself on defending its role in shared governance, and no member of the faculty fought harder for that role and earned the trust of both administration and the faculty for the responsible exercise of shared governance. As a young activist in the mid-1970s, Bruce was part of the first unionization effort at a private college in the South. The union drive fell short, but the effort won for the faculty the Handbook provisions that with amendments still govern

the institution today. Bruce served on just about every policy-setting committee and task force over the course of his career. He chaired our tenure and promotion and committee, and served on the curriculum committee and Executive Committee. He was elected seven times to serve as the Faculty Representative to the Cabinet and to the Board of Trustees, where he represented the faculty with great vigor. As a political scientist, Bruce understood that when lobbying relationships have to be built over time, data have to be carefully researched and honestly presented, and that sometimes you have to come back year in and year out with the same argument before you are successful. Over the last several years the board has finally adopted, after Bruce had just left the Faculty Representative post, one of Bruce's key endowment-management proposals.

Bruce served on strategic planning committees, two reaffirmation of accreditation self-study committees, and three dean/provost search committees. In 1998–1999 he served very successfully as interim dean of the college.

A lover of many forms of music, as long as it was written and performed before 1964, Bruce capped his career with a local radio show, "Stay Loose with Bruce," during which he would play folk, early rock and roll, cowboy music, and dedications to his faculty friends. Bruce could also recite the lines from the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan. Indeed, he had a phenomenal memory, especially for the titles and theses of works he read 40 years earlier and for the precise meals he enjoyed at restaurants around the world.

Bruce's departure from the faculty leaves us with the enormous challenge to meet his high standards. One former student wrote, "Between Dr. Unger and the sorely missed late Dr. [Howard] Davis I dare say Randolph-Macon's political science department was comparable to any of the 'elite' small college and 'ivy league' political science departments. The one difference that in my mind made R-MC superior to other political science departments was that Bruce and Howard always had time for their students." This is the legacy we most aspire to honor in our teaching.

Another former student remembered, "I know that he was proud of his children and loved his family very much because of the stories that he told and the way his face lit up when speaking about them." Bruce is survived by his wife, Arlene; daughter,

Ashley; son, Erik; and daughter-in-law, Heather.

Brian Turner
Randolph-Macon College

C. SYLVESTER WHITAKER, JR.

C. Sylvester Whitaker, Jr., passed away on November 29, 2008, in Waterville, Maine, after a long battle with cancer. He was 73 years old.

Syl Whitaker will be remembered as a good friend, thoughtful scholar, engaged teacher, and creative university administrator. A path-breaking political scientist, throughout his life Whitaker was a true pioneer who opened many doors for others who were to follow after him. His early scholarship on Africa was important and impeccable, and has remained essential reading for nearly 50 years. Throughout his lifetime, he influenced many generations of younger scholars, and set the standard for serious consideration of the endurance of indigenous political values and institutional structures in non-Western societies. His work on the emirates of northern Nigeria is the starting point for scholarship on Nigeria, and remains essential reading for those who study political development, political change, and issues of democratization.

Born in 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (where his parents owned a funeral home), Whitaker was the first African American male to graduate from Swarthmore College (in 1956) and the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton University (in 1962). In the mid 1960s, he was the sole African American on the faculty at UCLA. In 1970, he became the first African American tenured at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, and in 1976 the first African American to receive tenure in political science at Rutgers University.

During his long and distinguished career, he held tenured appointments at UCLA, Princeton University, The City University of New York (where he held the Martin Luther King Chair), Rutgers University, and the University of Southern California. He held Fulbright Professorships at the University of Lagos and Bayero University Kano (in Nigeria). At UCLA he served as associate dean of the Graduate School, at Princeton University he founded the Africana Studies Program, at Rutgers