He was chair of the department (1974-81) during a period of substantial growth. His work as chair was particularly distinguished by his qualities as a decisionmaker. He also served one term on the college council, two terms in the university senate, and many years as a board member of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, an undergraduate advisor for the department, and director of the International Relations Certificate Program.

He gave valuable administrative service to the profession as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Political Science Association (1973-78), and as a member of the Association’s executive council (1979-81).


Professor Kimball was a fine teacher. He was thesis director for many master’s candidates, especially in Middle East studies, and also for several doctoral students.

He served as president of the United Nations Association of Utah from 1969 to 1971, and was appointed by the governor of Utah to chair the state’s observance of United Nations Day in 1973. He participated in many panels at the university on the Middle East, and was a speaker at many civic group meetings on Middle East topics, the United Nations, and American foreign policy. He had a great concern for protecting the environment.

Strongly oriented toward public service, Professor Kimball continued to make major contributions to the University of Utah’s Middle East Center even after retiring, serving as its director of outreach programs from 1987 to 1996.

An able, conscientious, hard-working, respected colleague who accomplished a great deal in his career, Kent Kimball is missed by those who knew him.

Dalmas H. Nelson  
University of Utah  
J. D. Williams  
University of Utah

Charles J. Spindler

Charles J. Spindler, associate professor of political science at Auburn University, died on May 5, 2000. He was just 49 years old, and his death came as a terrible shock to all of us. Our feelings are well conveyed in the poem that an anonymous former student placed on his door:

Without you here,  
things will never be the same  
You touched all our lives  
in so many ways  
A wonderful sense of humor  
and a vivacious laugh  
That cheered up the darkest of days.

Thank you, Dr. Spindler for being a part of our lives. We’ll miss you.

Robert A. Bernstein  
Auburn University

Charlie was a mainstay of the public administration program at Auburn, and a highly respected scholar and teacher. His research focused on public budgeting and finance, especially the implications for state budgets of offering business incentives to move to the state and establishing government lotteries.

With substantial support from MCI, Charlie created the first course at the university taught entirely over the Internet. Just before his death, he had been nominated for the College of Liberal Arts Award for Outstanding Professor in the Core Curriculum, an award that was conferred posthumously.

He was also working on revisions for a textbook on American political economy at the time of his death. We hope to see that come out soon.

Charlie was active in the Southeastern Conference of Public Administration. He served on its executive committee and had been its treasurer since 1995.

He left behind a wife and a small daughter. Pi Alpha Alpha, the public administration honor society—which we brought to campus and advised every year—has created an award in his memory to be given to the outstanding teacher, student, or alumnus in public administration each year.

Robert A. Bernstein  
Auburn University