Diane Blair

Diane Blair died on Monday, June 26, 2000, at the age of 61. She left family, thousands of students, and friends all the way from Arkansas to the White House. Her loss is felt keenly by a large, admiring number of political scientists to whom she was always the best of colleagues and the most delightful of friends.

Her New York Times obituary notes some of the significant benchmarks in her life: Diane was born in Washington. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University in 1959 and received an M.A. in political science from the University of Arkansas in 1967. In between, she worked as an analyst for the President’s Committee on Government Contracts, a researcher for the Senate Special Committee on Unemployment, and legislative secretary to Senator Stuart Symington (D-MO). After moving to Arkansas, she served Governors Dale Bumpers and David Pryor in various ways.

Political scientists know the Diane who taught and practiced politics in Arkansas for 30 years, almost all of them at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She was a mainstay of the Democratic Party. She loved politics and she loved Southern politics most of all.

But those of us who knew and loved her knew that she had a very special affection and concern for women and politics, and for scholarship about them. More than 20 years ago, when gender politics scholars were thin on the ground and lightly regarded, Diane brought her inimitably stylish, incisive, energetic mind to bear on advancing women’s fortunes at the polls and in the scholarly literature. As Diane D. Kincaid, in the same year that saw her marry Jim Blair, she published Silent Hattie Speaks: The Personal Journal of Senator Hattie Carway (Greenwood Publishing, 1979). Diane was enduringly fond of Senator Carway, the first woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate. (Senator Carway of Arkansas was appointed to replace her late husband, then won election to fill his unexpired term, and subsequently won election to two more terms.) In that year, as we’ve said, she also married Jim, with Bill Clinton officiating at the ceremony, and Hilary Rodham Clinton standing as “best person.” The Blairs then raised their blended family of two sons and three daughters, while Diane went on teaching, writing, and working for women in American politics.

Most know of the intellectual excitement of Diane’s last decade—her status as a senior campaign advisor in 1992, her work as the official campaign historian of the 1992 Clinton-Gore election campaign, her appointment to the Board of Governors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, all while teaching and writing and giving to her beloved Arkansas. All of this, as astonishing as it sounds, seemed merely routine for Diane. In all the years we knew her, she showed us how to fill each moment of life with productive action, quick intelligence, and even quicker laughter. She was a zestful and generous colleague who taught all how to savor the essence of life.

We would encourage all of Diane’s friends to make a donation to the fund for APSA’s Victoria Schuck Award for the Best Book in the field of gender politics or to the fund for the Marguerite Ross Barnet Award, in Diane Blair’s memory. We miss her much, but celebrate her wonderful life.

Sue Tolleson-Rinehart, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Virginia Sapiro, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Edward M. Goldberg

Edward M. Goldberg, who served in a variety of administrative and academic posts at California State University, Los Angeles, died on August 21, 2000, at the age of 69, from lung cancer. Ed was brought up in Brooklyn, New York, and received his B.A. in 1953 from Brooklyn College, an institution he often remembered with fondness. He received an M.A. from the University of New Mexico in 1956 and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1965. He taught at the University of New Mexico, San Diego State University, the University of Southern California, and CSU-Los Angeles, joining the faculty there in 1961 and rising through the ranks from assistant to full professor. He was drafted to serve in the Army during the Korean war.

Ed had a distinguished career on campus, where, at one point, he knew virtually every staff member and a good portion of the faculty as a result of his serving in several administrative and academic positions. He chaired the department of political science from 1972 to 1977. He was assistant dean of the School of Letters and Sciences from 1968 to 1970 and associate dean of that school and its successor, the School of Natural and Social Sciences from 1981 through 1989. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for over a decade and served as both vice chair and chair of that body. He was the senate member on the president’s cabinet and a member of virtually every senate and administrative committee on campus over the course of his career. He chaired many of these.

He had received the campus Outstanding Professor Award, the campus’ highest honor, in recognition of his teaching, research, and service, in 1985. His was one of only four Outstanding Professor Awards received by the more than 30 faculty who served in the department of political science since the 1960s.

Ed taught American constitutional law, judicial process, and comparative judicial studies over the course of his career. His senior seminar on legal research was renowned for preparing students to succeed in law school. Students who had to take