

him from his books and his papers, thereby hampering production of the fifth and final volume of his magnum opus, the *Diplomatarium of the Crusader Kingdom of Valencia: The Registered Charters of Its Conqueror, Jaume I, 1257-1276*, 4 vols. to date (Princeton University Press, 1985-2007). Despite this setback, Father Burns soldiered on until his death, working from a typescript of the final volume that he had sent to him. Death overtook him before he could complete this task to the standard of which he was capable, and at present there remains some question about the disposition of the final volume.

Paul E. Chevedden
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John Damis **1940-2009**

JOHN DAMIS, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Director Emeritus of the Middle East Studies Center at Portland State University, passed away on June 10, 2009, in Portland, Oregon, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Damis grew up in a loving Greek family in Portland, and graduated from high school as valedictorian, class president, and outstanding athlete, earning eight varsity letters in three sports. Entering Harvard College in 1958, he excelled academically and athletically. He played three years of varsity football, as well as rugby and basketball. He graduated *magna cum laude* in history in 1962. He then earned an M.A. in Middle East studies at Harvard, followed by an M.A. in law and diplomacy, and a Ph.D. in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, administered jointly by Harvard and Tufts University. He received a Fulbright fellowship for study in Morocco in 1964, the first of three Fulbright awards to Morocco and the beginning of a love affair with that country where he formed many deep and lasting friendships.

Beginning his career in the political science department of Portland State University (PSU) in 1972, Dr. Damis taught politics of the Middle East and North Africa, along with international politics and American foreign policy. From 1975 to 1977, he served as U.S. State Department policy analyst for the Middle East and prepared daily briefings for Secretary of State Henry

Kissinger. He was a visiting professor at Harvard, Stanford, the University of Washington, and Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. He served as chair of PSU's political science department, received the Bradford Price Millar Award for faculty excellence, and became director of the Middle East Studies Center in 2004. As director, he traveled widely in the Middle East, organized PSU alumni gatherings in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE, added faculty positions, had frequent media interviews, and increased fund-raising. He was an advisory editor for a number of scholarly journals, including *The Middle East Journal*, *The Maghrib Review*, and *Mediterranean Politics*.

Considered one of the world's foremost experts on North African politics, particularly the long-running dispute over the Western Sahara, Dr. Damis was the author of four books and monographs and over 100 scholarly articles. He was invited to consult with the United Nations on the referendum process in the Sahara and spent several summers directing a UN team in El Aiyoun, Morocco. In 2000, he was decorated by H.M. King Mohammed VI of Morocco with the Medal of Honor (Alawite Wissam) and appointed Commander of the Alawite Order, the Kingdom's highest honor. He served on the board of directors of the American Institute for Mahgrib Studies and the Tangier American Legation Museum Society.

Dr. Damis was highly respected by colleagues, students, and community members as a gentleman and a scholar. A lover of travel, opera, sports, political discussions, and Moroccan cuisine, his greatest pleasure was spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife, Maria Wulff, his children Gregory and Alexa Damis-Wulff, his brother, James Damis, his sister Virginia Demos; and nine nieces and nephews. Donations to the John Damis Middle East Scholarship, for PSU students majoring in political science or international studies with a Middle East focus, should be made out to PSU Foundation, and sent to the Middle East Studies Center (MESC), Portland State University, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207.

Jean Campbell
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