

of undergraduates at Albany and served on various New York state committees for the study of the region.

Beyond his professorial duties, Professor Elbow had two great loves: his church (Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, where he was a senior member; he also received the James and Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award from the Capital Area Council of Churches in Albany) and the United Nations Association of America.

Professor Elbow was of a generation that valued community, teaching, students, and broad interests, rather than—as today—scholarship narrowly viewed as the activity of “independent contractors” out for fame and fortune. This is one reason for his receiving the State University of New York’s Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1979. He brought the Middle East to thousands of students who otherwise would have been denied the opportunity. His long and rich life will be remembered by those students, and by his colleagues.

Karl K. Barbir
Siena College

Deborah Gerner (1956-2006)

Deborah J. “Misty” Gerner, a full professor of political science at Kansas University who had spent more than 25 years writing and teaching about the Middle East, passed away at her Kansas home on June 19, 2006. Her 1994 book *One Land, Two Peoples: The Conflict Over Palestine* (Westview Press) and her 2000 book *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Reinner Publishers), co-authored with Jillian Schwedler, have been used in college classes throughout the United States. She was an inspiring teacher who won teaching awards for the courses she developed and taught on Middle Eastern politics, international relations, women in politics, U.S. foreign policy, and human rights. She did pioneering work (in collaboration with Phil Schrodt) in developing the Kansas Event Data System, a set of computing tools used to analyze political trends in Palestine and other conflict-wracked Middle Eastern societies. She gave considerable service to the Middle East studies and International studies communities, including service on the boards of the International Studies Association and the Palestinian American Research Center, and on the editorial boards of *Arab Studies Quarterly*, *MERIP*, *International Studies Perspectives*, and *International Studies Quarterly*.

Gerner was a supportive role model for many younger women at KU (where she was inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame), and in the International studies community more broadly. Among the awards she won were the International Studies Association’s Ladd Hollist Award for outstanding service, the Susan Northcutt Award for outstanding service to women scholars, and the Distinguished Alumna Award from Earlham College.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from Earlham College in 1977 and her master’s and doctoral degrees in Political Science from Northwestern University in 1979 and 1982, respectively. Her professional engagements in the Middle East included numerous research trips and terms of service as a visiting professor at Birzeit University, and the American University in Cairo.

Gerner worked tirelessly for increased international understanding and for peace in the Middle East. She was a member of Oread Friends Meeting (Quakers) in Lawrence, Kansas and sought to live out the traditional Quaker testimonies of peacemaking, honesty,

simplicity, and human equality. I came to know her best when we were both part of a 14-member, mainly Quaker, team that made a fact-finding trip to Israel and Palestine in 2002 and then produced a book-length report, which was published by the American Friends Service Committee in 2004 under the title *When the Rain Returns: Toward Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel*. As we traveled together in Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries, she introduced us to many of the friends she had made there over the years and spent long days explaining the intricacies of the Israeli-Palestinian encounter to group members seeing it for the first time. Later, she made numerous contributions to the book as it evolved, and she also served as an anchor of loving calm for our whole, 14-person collaborative writing process.

Misty lived the last eleven years of her life with cancer. When our Quaker group started its work she had just learned that her original breast cancer had metastasized in a severe way. She responded with complete honesty and a renewed determination to live as fully and as long as she could. At the end of 2005, after learning about the appearance of new, worse tumors, she and Phil Schrodt went to a conference on nonviolence in Bethlehem; they also braved the Israeli checkpoints to visit Ramallah and Gaza. She returned to Kansas and taught for just about all the spring semester.

Misty is survived by her spouse, Phil Schrodt and her parents, Henry and Dorothy Gerner. She left behind a substantial legacy in the results of her scholarship, her teaching, her institution-building, and her peace activism. But she also enriched all who knew her personally through the way she so shared her luminous gifts of friendship, wonder, and spirituality. Contributions in her memory may be made to the 'Ad Mundum' Fund that she established to help support study-abroad programs at Earlham College.

Helena Cobban
The Christian Science Monitor

Omeljan Pritsak (1919-2006)

Omeljan Pritsak, an eminent Altaicist and Turkologist, as well as founder of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard, died 29 May 2006. Omeljan was born April 7, 1919 in Luka, Ukraine, and from an early age was attracted to the steppes of Central Eurasia. He studied with the Orientalist Krimsky at Kiev, but was drafted into the Soviet army. Captured by the Germans, because of his anti-Soviet sentiments and the friendship of Krimsky with Richard Hartmann in Berlin, he was able to avoid imprisonment. I first met Omeljan in 1951 in the office of H.H. Schaefer in Göttingen, where Omeljan received his degree. Schaefer praised him highly for having fruitful ideas. His first work was on the Kharakhanid dynasty of Central Asia where he entangled the difficult history of this dynasty. He continued to work on Altaic subjects and his articles in *Studies in Medieval European History* (Variorum, 1981) are the best collection of his work on the subject. He also published an interesting text on Khazarian-Hebrew documents of the 10th century and also the Pechenegs (1977). But his main work was on the *Origin of the Rus* (Cambridge, 1981), and he was working on a second volume at his death. In it he showed the intense trading activities of the Varangians and the wide spread vista of their activities. He also had many titles in Ukrainian.