

political and economic devastation. He documented the Asian country's deterioration under authoritarian rule in such books as *The Burma Road to Poverty* and *Totalitarianism in Burma*, which were based, in part, on interviews with Burmese citizens who had fled the regime. "The military rulers' relentless control of not only the life of the people but also the natural resources has been and will be the hardest problem of economic development confronting Burma," he wrote in 1993.

That year, he was among 200 international leaders invited by former President Jimmy Carter to participate in a conflict-resolution program at the Carter Center at Emory University in Atlanta, at which he called for an embargo on Burma until its military rulers ceded power to the winners of a multiparty democratic election. "There is no ethical reason to support a junta that has slaughtered thousands of innocent people," he said in an interview with the *Boston College Chronicle*.

Maung, a native of the Burmese capital of Rangoon, studied in the United States in the late 1950s before returning to Burma in 1961 as head of the economics department of the national military academy. In 1963, a year after a military coup in the country, Maung left Burma following disagreements with his superiors over what he could and could not teach under the new regime.

He never lost a passionate concern for the land he had left behind, "When you are born in a certain country, I don't think you can ever get rid of that," he said in a 1991 interview. "It stays inside you. When you start speaking about that country, you can get completely involved again. You can see through what a Western observer may not."

Maung joined Boston College as an associate professor in 1966 and was promoted to full professor in 1975. He had taught as an assistant professor of economics at South Dakota State University from 1964 to 1966, and at Kansas State Teachers College from 1963 to 1964. Maung also served as associate professor and chair for the Economics Department at the Defense Services Academy in Burma.

While on the CSOM faculty, Maung was a visiting fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii and the Centre for International Studies of the London School of Economics and Political Science. He also served as a research associate in international development studies during 1969–71 and 1973–74 at the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Maung's educational background was in economics, with a minor in political science and philosophy. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Rangoon in 1953 and a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1957, and then went on to obtain a doctorate from the Catholic University of America in 1961. His dissertation was "The Genesis of Economic Development in Burma: The Plural Society."

MARK SULLIVAN
Boston College

MYRON WEINER (1931–1999)

Myron Weiner, doyen in the field of Indian political studies in North America, died at his home in Vermont on the morning of June 3, 1999, at the age of 68, the consequence of a cancerous tumor embedded in his brain that had been diagnosed after last Thanksgiving. He was buried, according to Jewish tradition, the next

morning, June 4, in the Jewish section of the Montpelier cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, and two children, Saul and Beth.

Myron was born in New York in 1931, graduated from the City College, New York, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1951, and received his Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University in 1955. He began his teaching career at Princeton as a lecturer the year after he received his degree, moved to Chicago the following year where he remained as Assistant Professor of Political Science until 1961. After 1961, he moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he progressed from Associate Professor of Political Science to Professor, Chairman of the Department, and Ford International Professor of Political Science. He had also been Director of MIT's Center for International Studies between 1987 and 1992. During his career, he held several visiting appointments at Harvard, Oxford, the Hebrew University, Delhi University, and the University of Paris. He was also the recipient of numerous fellowships, awards, and research grants. He was active as well in many professional and public service organizations and editorial boards.

Myron will be long and best remembered in the field for his scholarship and teaching. During his enormously productive career, he published thirteen books of his own of outstanding quality, nineteen books coedited with others, and a great many articles in other books and scholarly journals. His most recent book on India, *The Child and the State in India: Child Labor and Education Policy in Comparative Perspective*, published by Princeton University Press in 1995, has had a powerful impact beyond the academic world, throwing an entirely new light on the issues of child labor and illiteracy and completely changing the terms of discussion among policy makers as well as scholarly observers.

Most of the most productive scholars in the field of Indian political studies in the United States today are former students of his. He was a model for all those of us lucky enough to have been his students, setting standards that none of us have yet fully reached.

Those standards were not just of scholarly production. He was also a model of dedication in teaching, scholarly and personal integrity, energy and enthusiasm for his work, discipline and drive, commitment to Indian studies and close relations between India and the United States—all carried off utterly without pretension of any sort. Moreover, his commitment to the scholarly life was absolute. He never sought office, power or recognition in professional or any other organizations and associations, though he was always ready to serve when asked to do so.

Although his productivity was prodigious and his commitment to scholarship exemplary, he was also a whole person, who enjoyed life, his family, his colleagues, friends, and students to the utmost. He lived life enthusiastically and traveled extensively both in his work and for pleasure. His last major trips were across the Silk Road and, less than two months before his death, in March, to South Africa—in between bouts of treatment for his tumor—for a safari, fulfilling a promise to Sheila.

Myron was loved by those who knew him. He had boundless time for everyone who needed his help or who just wanted to discuss something with him, academic or otherwise. A phone conversation to Myron required an allocation of at least an hour of time, if not two. A visit to his office might take two or three hours, during which Myron's attention, conversation, and interest never flagged.

Myron lived and died gracefully and graciously. There was not a shred of remorse, self-pity, or resentment in his attitude to life or death. Although he lost his short-term memory and was extremely weak during his last days, he retained his mental capacities, his sense of humor, and his wit until the end. He died peacefully in the

morning after a light breakfast. He will remain a model in the way he faced death as he lived his life. Myron will be long remembered and sorely missed.

PAUL R. BRASS
Seattle, Washington

ALAN WOLFE (1944–1998)

Alan Wolfe, professor of Japanese literature and chair of the department of East Asian Studies at the University of Oregon, died of pancreatic cancer on January 21, 1998, in Eugene, Oregon, at the age of 53. A literary scholar of uncommon acuity, a passionate teacher, and a person of deep political commitment and high moral integrity, Alan combined these qualities into a life of intellectual achievement and human connection that spanned Japan, France, and the United States. Although he died at home, lovingly cared for by his wife Marie-Pierre, and his children Mikael and Marika, Alan was briefly hospitalized the week before his death. Dozens of friends came to visit, and a party-like atmosphere prevailed on his corridor, as they shared food, drink, and talk. Alan was too weak to participate but his friends' "bending the hospital rules just a little bit," as one colleague put it, seemed entirely in keeping with Alan's expansive, adventurous life and his uncompromising, *nil admirari* spirit.

Equally brilliant as scholar, critic, and teacher, Alan Wolfe transformed professional relationships primarily into friendships, at the same time that he found friends everywhere in the broader social world he regarded as fundamentally interwoven with his professional one. To get to know Alan was to embark on a long-term conversation, and while his focus was always disproportionately on interrogating and listening to his companions, he occasionally engaged in reflection on what made him what he was. Required, as a child growing up in Boston, to attend Hebrew school everyday after public school, Alan became a prankster and a rebel. Yet he mastered Hebrew, and the linguistic skill he acquired there formed a basis for his later study of Japanese and French. Connected to this early experience must have been the powerful openness to other cultures that eventually manifested itself in Alan's cosmopolitan spirit and intolerance of cultural chauvinism of any kind. As a student at the Brookline High School in Massachusetts in the late 1950s, Alan participated in debates over civil rights and followed the movement of older classmates in radical political directions, including participation in SNCC and CORE-related civil rights action in the Southern United States. Throughout his life he would aggressively analyze and protest against all forms of discrimination based on class, gender, race, or ethnicity, and affirm the struggles for self-determination of victims of state violence, however overt or subtle. It was a position he never wavered in. Today, his many devoted students and two extraordinary children continue to provide proof of his rigor, abiding commitment to his principles, and his generosity.

As an undergraduate at Columbia College, Alan was one of a handful of undergraduates studying Japanese in the 1960s. After graduating with a joint degree in History and Asian Studies in 1965, he traveled to France, where he met his future wife, Marie-Pierre. Alan entered graduate school at Columbia, and in the protest year of 1968 he helped found a chapter of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars. In