

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

H. Kim Bottomly

To: The Wellesley College Community
From: H. Kim Bottomly
Subject: Sad News About Professor Emeritus Ed Stettner
Date: March 12, 2013

I am saddened to inform you that Professor Edward Stettner, Ralph Emerson and Alice Freeman Palmer Professor Emeritus of Political Science and former Associate Dean of the College, died on Sunday evening at the age of 73. Ed Stettner taught at Wellesley from 1966 until his retirement in 2008.

During his 42-year tenure, Professor Stettner gave tirelessly of his time to the College. He was a wise and well-respected leader and mentor, known for his gentle patience. He served as Associate Dean of the College for a total of eight years during the 1970s and 80s, stepping in as Acting Dean twice during the 1980s, and was department chair of the Political Science Department. He was also active in and directed the Wellesley in Washington internship program, a program that remains vital today.

Professor Stettner's teaching focused on political theory—from introductory courses to advanced seminars. In 1997, he was awarded the Anna and Samuel Pinanski Teaching Prize, recognizing his excellence in and out of the classroom. As one student nominator wrote at the time, "He gives thoughtful and constructive advice and serves as a stabilizing force in the lives of students."

Professor Stettner's research focused on American political thought. His major publication, *Shaping Modern Liberalism: Herbert Croly and Progressive Thought* (1993), was hailed by the *American Historical Review* as "a concise, intelligent, and highly readable study." He also wrote on issues including political obligation and vigilantism, and edited a symposium on European politics held at Wellesley in 1969.

After his retirement in 2008, Professor Stettner remained active in teaching, service, and in the life of the College community, serving on the Wellesley College Faculty Emeriti Steering Committee. He was also a member of the Mount Ida College Board of Trustees, and taught courses with the Sherborn Lifetime Learning program.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 16 at St. Andrews Church in Wellesley. I wish to extend my condolences to Professor Stettner's family, friends, and colleagues at this difficult time.

