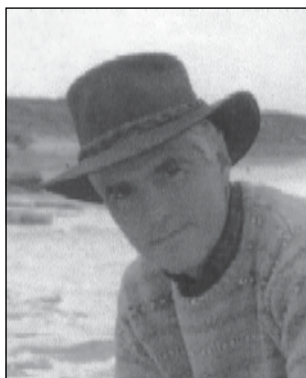


---

 IN MEMORIAM
 

---

**JAMES H. GAPINSKI**  
**1944.-2000.**


What James Gapinski gave to the Department of Economics was a certain charm. This served him well with students, colleagues, and a wide circle of friends. He was also a good man-honest, reliable, trustworthy, industrious, and dedicated.

He traveled to Europe, Australia, and to other exotic places such as Armenia and Asia.

One of his many contributions was undertaken while working in a joint project with the Ekonomski Institut in Zagreb and Florida State University in the 1980s. Tom Zuchlke tells us that this work was summarized in a series of publications including “A Model of Yugoslav Economic Performance”, in the *Journal of Comparative Economics and Modeling the Economic Performance of Yugoslavia*, published by Praeger Press (New York). A large scale project, the model consisted of twenty-eight identities and twenty-nine structural equations in the parameters estimated from annual data for the period 1952 through 1984. The model was used to compare the effects of remedial policy proposals on Yugoslav economic performance.

Gapinski enthusiastically participated in our exchange with Yerevan State Institute of Economics in Armenia, spending time there and quickly forging deep friendships. He also visited Taiwan and Indonesia at the invitation of former graduate students and spent much time in Western Australia with the Curtin University “mates”, who quickly became only coincidentally former students. He came back from his trips with renewed energy, new ideas, and always beautiful photographs. Shortly before he entered the hospital for the last time, he told Jim Cobbe that one of the few things he regretted was that he had never done a “round-the-world” air ticket because there were so many places he still wanted to see.

His extraordinary efforts during the Florida Board of Regents (BOR) review of all economics departments in the state university system are singular. He was in charge of hosting the BOR team visiting Florida State University’s Department of Economics. He prepared before their first visit and managed their visit and various interviews on campus. Bill Laird tells us that Gapinski carried the burden gracefully and did a significant job of representing the Department of Economic’s program and accomplishments. The BOR designated the Department as an “Exemplary

Program”, the only economics department in Florida so designated. Many of us now fully understand how much his work on this and other important projects benefitted the Department.

Bernard F. Sliger tells us that when he was chairman of the search committees for three eminent scholar chairs, Gapinski was his assistant and did most of the work. He contacted applicants, writing to them and keeping the rest of the committee informed, doing it all very quietly without fanfare.

The high esteem in which Gapinski was held is indicated by the fact that one of our colleagues has designated his Named Professorship after Gapinski. It is to be called “The James H. Gapinski Professor of Economics” held presently by Professor David Rasmussen.

Carol Bullock, in the Department’s academic advising center, tells us that in the scores of phone calls, notes and emails arriving in the Department after Gapinski’s death, all contained essentially the same elements: a mixture of grief and stunned disbelief and a very personal memory of the man. Around the Department, he is still very much missed; yet still very much alive.

*Carol Bullock, James Cobbe, William Laird, George Macesich, Bernard Sliger, Tom Zuehlke, colleagues and staff of the Department of Economics, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.*