

## **JEFFREY HAHN, PH.D.**

Professor Emeritus Jeffrey Hahn, Ph.D. passed away on February 15, 2021 in Washington, D.C. He is deeply mourned by his many colleagues, former students, and friends who remain ever indebted to him for his inspiration, mentorship, and convivial deep friendship.

An expert on Soviet politics and foreign policy, Dr. Hahn held Political Science degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (B.A.) and Duke University (M.A. and Ph.D.). He joined the Villanova faculty in 1977. His five highly acclaimed books treated Russian affairs on local, regional and national levels within the extraordinary period framed by the final years of the Soviet Union through first decade of the new millennium. His publication record and prolific professional accomplishments, combined, include forty scholarly articles in top tier journals, twenty-two Research awards and scholarships, plus more than 75 conference presentations. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Moscow University in 1987 and Visiting Professor at the University of California-Berkeley in 1990-91. In 1998 Villanova recognized his contributions to his field by awarding him the Outstanding Faculty Research Award.

Dr. Hahn's extensive university service included chairing both the Faculty Affairs Committee and Faculty Assembly, plus active memberships in the University Senate and Liberal Arts Task Force. He served as the director of the popular "Washington Minimester" program for thirty years. He was a great storyteller inside and outside the classroom. Students loved his anecdotes about the more nefarious aspects of Russian politics that did not make into the regular textbooks. Recently hired faculty got a walk down the departmental memory lane that gave them a sense from where the department was coming from and where it might go. And whenever possible, Dr. Hahn made sure that food and wine would accompany his stories. He diplomatically exerted his culinary veto over Christmas party caterers and restaurant selections for guest speakers and job candidates. His big heart and sociability made the department a more welcoming place and will be missed.

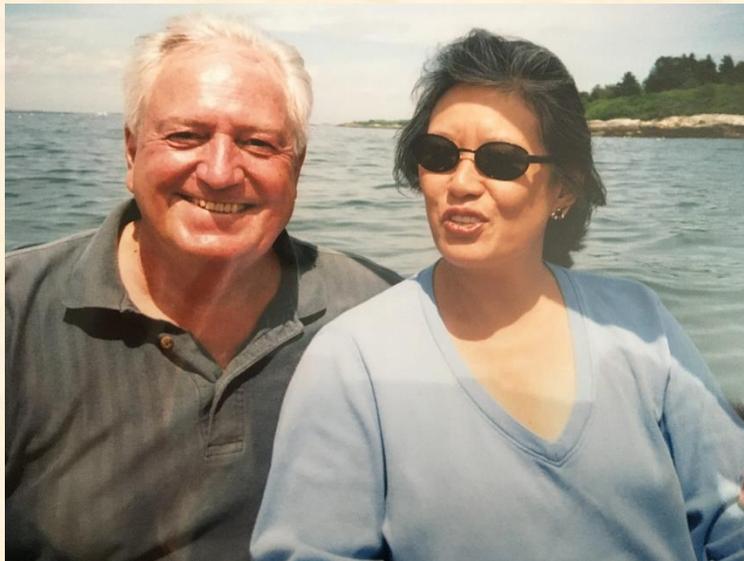
Motivated by his desire to "enhance the quality of international studies at Villanova," Dr. Hahn founded the Russian Area Studies Concentration Program (RASCON) in 1997 and served as its enthusiastic and enterprising director until his retirement in 2008. Thanks to his connections and the respect he enjoyed, Villanova students and faculty had the privilege of meeting eminent scholars and public figures whom he brought to the university.

Beyond the campus community, Dr. Hahn was elected to two four-year terms of service on the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners (1976-1984). His civic engagement was deepened in devising, supervising and analyzing an opinion poll for a 7<sup>th</sup> District state congressional election. In 1978, he developed and taught a course on Suburban Politics. ("An applied Political Scientist if there ever was one," his son, Peter, appreciatively observes.)

Dr. Hahn was much in demand as a guest lecturer, mass media interviewee, peer reviewer and critical attestor in briefings conducted by national authoritative bodies such as the U.S. House of Representatives, the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. National Security Agency.

It is said that, in community, common sorrow knits hearts at least as closely as the bonding of common joy; Jeff will be at once missed with heartfelt sorrow, and celebrated in memory for the joy with which he lived and warmed so many.

Information regarding memorial service(s) will be forthcoming.



Jeff, with beloved wife Maricel, who passed in  
September of 2020.