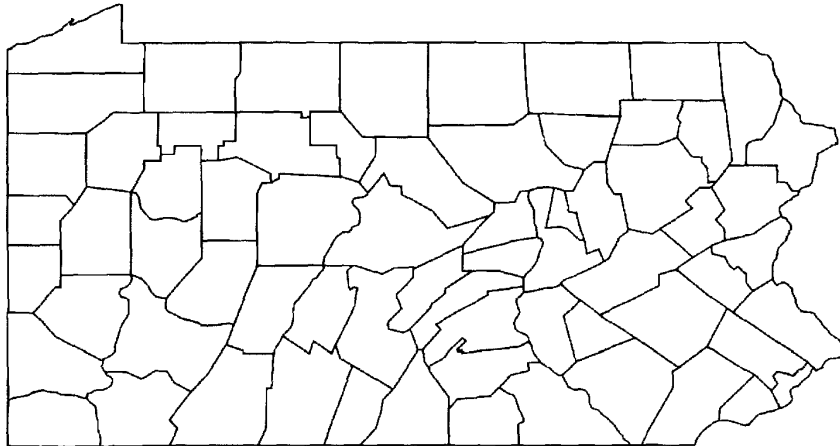


# COMMONWEALTH

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## **COMMONWEALTH: A Journal of Political Science**

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## *In Memoriam*

COMMONWEALTH regrets to note the untimely death on April 27, 2002 of one of our associate editors, Professor Martin J. "Marty" Collo of Widener University. Marty's colleague, Prof. Gordon Henderson, graciously provided the following reflections.

Marty joined the Widener faculty in 1986 after completing his Ph.D. in International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1978 he graduated Summa Cum Laude in Political Science with a Certificate in Education from Widener University. He had served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Third World Studies* and as Associate Editor of *Commonwealth* since 1989. He was fluent in Spanish and characterized himself as "proficient" in French, German, and Italian. During his brief career, he received a number of awards for his teaching and scholarship. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1997, his first year of eligibility.

Marty was widely published in the area of Latin American politics and the political economy of the Third World. He took his scholarship very seriously, often traveling throughout Latin America during the summer. He was often consulted for his knowledge of Puerto Rico's history, politics and quest for statehood.

Marty taught the introductory course on foreign governments as well as area courses such as Europe, Latin America, and the Third World. He also developed and taught courses on political economy and single-handedly created a Political Economy major. As a teacher, Marty was known for his demanding approach to education. He expected students to take responsibility for learning and never hesitated to give them the grades he thought their efforts deserved. This was especially evident in his supervision of our Senior Research course. To successfully complete senior research with "Dr. Collo" was regarded as no mere achievement.

Marty's colleagues throughout the University knew him to be a demanding participant in faculty governance as well. He served in capacities at all levels of the University and had a reputation for asking tough, articulate questions and for being eminently well prepared. Marty's leadership skills and thoroughness made lasting contributions to the quality of education and faculty governance at Widener.

While those of us in the Widener community knew this demanding side of Marty's faculty persona, we also knew his biting sense of

humor, his accessibility, and his willingness to offer friendly counsel when asked. During one particularly bad stretch of my service as Associate Dean, Marty listened patiently as I tried to arrive at solutions to several sticky disputes. And it was not unusual on sunny days to see the otherwise no-nonsense Dr. Collo conducting class outdoors.

I think there is no better testament to the success Marty had in making his alma mater a better place than the parade of students who voluntarily spoke at the service held in his memory at the University. So many of them spoke, often tearfully, of how important it had been to them to know that Dr. Collo held them to the highest of standards. "When he told me I had not done my best," one of them recalled, "I knew not only that he cared enough about my education to say so but that I would do my best in the future."