



Charles True Goodsell

July 23, 1932 - November 24, 2024

Charles True Goodsell, age 92, of Blacksburg, VA, died Sunday, November 24, 2024. He was born in Kalamazoo, MI on July 23, 1932 to the late Charles True Goodsell Sr. and Frances Comee Goodsell. His dear wife, Mary Elizabeth Goodsell, died in 2019. He is survived by his two daughters Holly Fechtmeyer and Amanda Lloyd, son-in-law Rupert Lloyd, grandchildren Christian, Max and Serena Fechtmeyer, and Dylan and Brody Lloyd.

A resident of Blacksburg since 1978, Charles was a Professor at Virginia Tech for the Center of Public Administration and Policy for 24 years, and served as Director from 1986 to 1991. He retired from teaching in 2002, becoming Professor Emeritus. As a young man, after graduating from Kalamazoo College, Charles served in the US Army Counter Intelligence Corps in Berlin, after which he became an Intern at the Bureau of the Budget in Washington, D.C., now the Executive Office Building. Newly married, he went on to receive a Ph.D in Political Science from Harvard University in 1961, beginning his long and distinguished academic career. His lifelong love of learning, teaching, writing and inspiring others led him to publish twelve books, 90 scholarly articles, two dozen book chapters, and speak at over fifty public engagements.

Memorial Services will be conducted at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church on January 7, 2025 at 10am, with the Rev. Dr. Sarah Wiles officiating. In lieu of

flowers, please consider honoring Charles' memory with a donation to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St SE, Blacksburg VA 24060 or Sojourn Center for Hospice Care (a future inpatient hospice house for the New River Valley), PO Box 295, Blacksburg, VA 24063 or online SojournCenter.org.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
701 Church Street SE
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall



“ Sorry we will miss the service on 1/7. Charles was a special person we always enjoyed seeing. -Jim and Kathy.

James Klagge - January 06, 2025 at 08:46 AM

DB

“ Dr. Tom Barth purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles True Goodsell.



Dr. Tom Barth - January 05, 2025 at 07:13 PM

HF

“ I share in the loss of our colleague, Charles Goodsell, an exemplary scholar and an extraordinary human being. As a new faculty member at Southern Illinois University, Charles welcomed me with open arms and encouraged me in my academic endeavors. He became my role model throughout my career, both in government and at the university. I shall always remember his warm and wise counsel. Most sincerely, H. Edward Flentje, professor emeritus, Wichita State University.

H Edward Flentje - December 11, 2024 at 05:51 PM

PR

“ Charles Goodsell was an exemplary colleague and mentor. His impact on scholarship and government practice is well known. Beyond that, he was always quick with an encouraging word, or a question to draw out one's ideas. He was one of those teachers who gives a true performance in the classroom and, in doing so, truly inspires. When I think about how a Zoom talk isn't the same as being in person, I think of a Goodsell seminar!

He conveyed the same enthusiasm and insight he brought to the classroom when providing counsel one-on-one. He was a model scholar, teacher, and mentor. --Patrick Roberts

Patrick Roberts - December 08, 2024 at 05:47 PM

DK

“ Dong Won Kim lit a candle in memory of Charles True Goodsell



Dong Won Kim - December 06, 2024 at 08:10 AM

DK

My name is Dong-won Kim, and I was the first Korean student at CPAP who received dissertation guidance from Dr. Goodsell. Thanks to your kind guidance, I have become who I am today. Your utmost sincerity in carefully commenting on my manuscript and sending it to my mailbox at CPAP still remains a warmth in my heart. Thank you for always smiling and giving me courage and hope when I was having a hard time. That was exactly the way you wanted to give courage and hope to public officials. I returned to Korea and became a professor, and translated your masterpiece [The Case for Bureaucracy] into Korean and taught it to many students. Bureaucrat Bashing> is now something that no public administration student in Korea knows about. You are truly an internationally renowned scholar who has made great achievements not only in the United States but also in Korea. When I went to the United States on sabbatical 10 years ago, you were in good health and we promised to meet again, but I am deeply sorry for breaking my promise. I am eagerly spreading your spirit of bureaucracy to Korea and will continue to do so in the future. I hope you watch over me peacefully from heaven.

*Prof. Dong-won Kim
Depth. of Public Administration.
Incheon National University.
S. Korea*

Dong-won Kim - December 06, 2024 at 08:17 AM

SP

“ *In memory of Dr. Goodsell,*

Today, I remember a remarkable man who dedicated his life to the pursuit of knowledge, public service, and the betterment of society. Professor Goodsell's contributions to the field of public administration and his unwavering commitment to education leave behind a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

His kindness and encouragement touched the lives of everyone he met. As one of his last students, I am deeply grateful for his wisdom and guidance. His belief in the power of public service inspires me and many others. Especially as one of the Korean students at CPAP, he has always encouraged me who had difficulty in English and American culture not to be disappointed and to focus on facts and contents.

Let us carry forward his commitment to service and his belief in the transformative power of education. His legacy lives on in the hearts of his students, colleagues, and the countless individuals he inspired. You will be remembered forever.

Rest in peace, Dr. Goodsell.

*With deepest respect and gratitude,
Soo-Young Park
Member of the Korean National Assembly
Republic of Korea*

Soo-Young Park - December 03, 2024 at 01:52 AM

GM

“ Charles was one of the greatest persons I have met in my life. He was not only a great intellect and scholar but also a man of integrity, passion, and compassion. He is my role model in life. He has left a legacy that will be remembered by his students and numerous others in the public administration community. His numerous books and papers will continue to impact generations of scholars and students. Rest in peace, Charles.

Goktug Morcol - November 29, 2024 at 03:26 PM

TB

I was one of the federal government employees who enrolled in the Center for Public Administration and Policy in the 1980s, and had the good fortune of taking classes from Charles both at the Northern Virginia campus and Blacksburg. Charles' passion for teaching, research and his students has been a lifelong inspiration. To this day I use his timeless classic book, *Mission Mystique*, in my classes. I am so glad I was able to spend a day with him in recent years and write an article on his career based on our day-long conversation. Charles, you will be sorely missed but never forgotten!

Dr. Tom Barth

Thomas J Barth - December 02, 2024 at 08:29 PM

GM

“ 4 files added to the album Charles Goodsell, Penn State Harrisburg 2014



Goktug Morcol - November 29, 2024 at 03:18 PM

GM

I wish I could attend Charles Goodsell's memorial service tomorrow. If I could, I would pay my respects and share my thoughts at the service.

I wrote this about him after his passing on LinkedIn: "Professor Charles True Goodsell passed away on November 24. Those who know him will remember him not only as a great intellect and scholar but also a man of integrity, passion, and compassion. He has left a legacy that will be remembered by his students and numerous others in the public administration community. His numerous books and papers will continue to impact generations of scholars and students. Rest in peace, Charles."

I would like to share my thoughts at the memorial about his integrity and honesty, his high intellect and endless curiosity, his belief in public service, his passion for the betterment of society, and his contributions to public administration scholarship with his many books and articles. I would like to mention his expressions of love for his wife Liz and daughters Holly and Amanda. I also would like to express my gratitude for his many contributions to my intellectual and personal growth.

I will remember this great man as long as I live.

Goktug Morcol

January 6, 2025

Goktug Morcol - January 06, 2025 at 11:02 AM

TH

Charles was kind and caring to many CPAP students over the years. He will be missed.

*Regards,
Travis Hundley*

Travis Hundley - January 15, 2025 at 10:33 AM