

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLES W. ANDERSON

Charles W. Anderson, scholar of many parts, teacher of exceptional distinction, architect and builder of multiple academic programs, passed away in Pensacola, Florida, on April 10, 2013. His numerous publications made original contributions to a wide variety of fields, from Latin American politics to policy analysis and normative political theory. Anderson spent his entire 36-year academic career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, retiring in 1996. He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Jean.

Anderson, better known to his friends and colleagues as Charlie, is a son of the upper Midwest, born in Manitowoc, raised in a Chicago suburb, and educated as an undergraduate at Grinnell College in Iowa. He earned his BA in 1955 and an MA at Johns Hopkins University in 1957, by this time committed to a specialization in Latin American politics. He entered the Wisconsin political science doctoral program in 1957, expecting to study under Latin Americanist Donald Stokes, but the latter left for Claremont the following year, leaving Anderson to work primarily with comparativists of other regional specializations, and Latin Americanists from other departments. He did dissertation field research in Central America in 1958-59, and completed his PhD the following year.

At the time, the department applied an informal rule against hiring its own doctorates directly out of graduate study. Anderson, however, proved by all odds the strongest candidate for the Latin American vacancy opened by the Stokes departure. The rule was set aside to offer him an assistant professor post in 1960, the last time such an exception was made, and only the second time since 1945. The exceptional promise shown by Anderson as a graduate student was confirmed by his rapid progression in rank, to associate professor in 1963, and full professor in 1967.

The dissertation field research was conducted in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador, resulting in several articles and book chapters on the themes of development policy, the role of the military, and political parties. He did additional field research in Mexico in 1961, and then Colombia and Ecuador in 1962-63. The Mexico research gave rise to a 1963 book, *The Political Economy of Mexico*, co-authored with William Glade, a Latin Americanist with the UW School of Business. Anderson's research then turned in a more broadly comparative direction, concerned with Latin American political development overall. A 1964 occasional paper, "Towards a Theory of Latin American Politics," originally published by the Vanderbilt University Latin American Studies Program, was reprinted in no less than three major edited volumes in the years following. His major comparative volume, *Politics and Economic Change in Latin America*, appeared in 1967, with translations into Spanish and Portuguese following. That same year, in collaboration with colleagues Fred von der Mehden and Crawford Young, he published what became a widely used text in third world politics, *Issues of Political Development*.

Anderson had a restless intellect which could never be tethered too long to a single topic. Following field work in Spain in 1967, he explored *The Political Economy of Modern Spain* in 1970, at a moment when the country was seeking an exit from the authoritarian corporatism of the Franco era. He left behind his Latin American specialization to direct his attention towards issues of policy analysis, building on the political economy component of his scholarship and beginning to incorporate more normative elements of political choice. This new direction bore fruit in an influential 1977 work, *Statecraft: An Introduction to Political Choice and Judgment*, then in 1981 a co-edited volume with Robert Solo, *Value Judgment and Income Distribution*. Increasingly, his closest intellectual companions in the department were Leon Lindberg in comparative political economy, and Booth Fowler and James Farr in modern political theory. The book that best captures the culmination of his intellectual journey from Latin American politics to normative

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political theory, *Pragmatic Liberalism*, appeared in 1990, winner of a 1993 prize from the Conference on Political Theory. His capstone 1993 work, *Prescribing the Life of the Mind*, reflects on the culture and normative frame of the university. His final book, composed in his emeritus years, was published in 2002 (*Deeper Freedom: Liberal Democracy as an Everyday Morality*).

Throughout this long intellectual pilgrimage, Anderson drew constantly renewed energy from his teaching. His inspirational performance won early recognition when he earned a campus distinguished teaching award as a teaching assistant in 1960, an honor repeated in 1963 as a faculty member. He mentored an unusually large number of graduate students. Even in his Pensacola retirement, volunteering at the University of West Florida, he taught many courses for a Leisure Learning Society which he helped found. A characteristic tribute from one of these students was published in his obituary appearing on April 20, 2013, in the *Pensacola News Journal*: “He was so good at communicating his vast knowledge in such an understandable way. More than that, he was so humble and kind. He made it seem that it was his privilege to teach us and also to learn from us.”

In his first years, Anderson was a key figure in the building of the Ibero-American Studies Program, which he chaired from 1968-71. He also was a significant participant in the early years of the Land Tenure Center, initially a major player in Latin American land reform. From the 1980s, he redirected his institution-building energies to the Integrated Liberal Studies Program, which he chaired from 1984-87. An ILS colleague wrote that Anderson “was a tireless advocate for the ILS idea that a wide vision that reached out to many ideas and approaches and tried to bring them together for active learning and humane personal growth . . . was a valuable and even a noble project.”

He and Jean met as undergraduates at Grinnell. They long resided on the shore of Lake Monona; on retirement, they began wintering in Florida, then moved entirely to Pensacola in 2002 to their dream home with large views of the water. He and Jean filled their leisure time with canoeing, biking, reading and tending their cherished cats.

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