

Charles S. Green, III

Our beloved friend and colleague Charles “Tuck” Green, born in Manhattan, New York in 1937, passed away on April 19, 2016, after struggling courageously with cancer for nearly 1 ½ years. During this period, he remained involved in professional activities, including his work as a docent at the University of North Carolina Acklud Museum of Art, along with his wife Jean Green, with whom he was married for 50 years. In retirement, both Tuck and Jean devoted much energy and time to the arts through their work presenting the collections, as only former teachers could, to thousands of high school, middle school, and elementary students—developing materials and presentations for almost 15 years. In addition, they both devoted extensive time to the local United Nations association in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area.

Tuck earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at Cornell University under the direction of William C. Whyte. He was an assistant/associate professor at the University of Virginia for 7 years, where he taught, conducted research, presented papers, and published articles in the areas of organization and social stratification. In 1976 he came to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he spent the next 26 years.

When Tuck and Jean moved to Wisconsin in 1976, he engaged in a long-term commitment to work in a collaborative fashion with other scholars to assist undergraduate students to simultaneously engage in sociological research and prepare themselves for pursuing careers with a Bachelor’s degree. This endeavor also led to close involvement with the undergraduate teaching programs developed by Carla Howery of the American Sociological Association; Tuck was a major figure in this national movement.

In the 1970s and 1980s, sociology programs around the country were challenged with serious enrollment problems and associated reductions in teaching staff. Tuck, along with several committed faculty—Lanny Neider, Hadley Klug, Richard Salem, and Ron Berger—worked to develop a program that incorporated student research and internships. They also developed a student handbook and tracking system that encouraged undergraduate students to take career-related courses more specifically designed to prepare them for job opportunities upon graduation—primarily in the areas of social services, criminal justice, and business management. During Tuck’s time at UW-Whitewater, faculty evaluated these efforts in a variety of ways and found them to markedly increase job opportunities, student satisfaction, and department enrollment of majors and minors. Spurred by Tuck’s Herculean efforts, the ensuing decades were a time of great growth and program development.

One incredibly time-consuming component of this career-related teaching project was a course Tuck developed that was required prior to internship placement: Sociology in Practice. In this course Tuck worked with students to complete a literature review that provided the basis for research questions to be answered during the student’s internship. This required each student to not only gain career-related experience, but conduct an analysis of the social context and activities expected of key employees in their placement setting. Final papers were often of very high quality and competitive entries to the university’s outstanding research paper award competition. During the time of these and other innovations, Tuck and his colleagues also prepared more than two dozen conference presentations, journal articles, and books on topics

that ranged from the application of sociology to the effectiveness of the department's program for student job placement. Especially noteworthy were the book *Liberal Education and Careers* and articles in *Teaching Sociology* and *The American Sociologist*.

Throughout all this, Tuck remained the go-to person for students seeking scholarly feedback and career advice. For many years long-time department chair Lanny Neider relied on Tuck for the preparation of reports and assistance in the conduct of administrative duties. He was also a mentor to new faculty and helped them successfully navigate the university system of tenure and promotion.

It's hard to capture the essence of Tuck by simply describing some of his professional accomplishments. He was hard working but always ready to socialize and joke with. He was a very accomplished teacher and scholar but always unassuming. Colleagues remember him as one of the nicest men they ever met. He was a dear friend to many, especially to me.

When Lanny Neider and I went to the airport for his job interview at UW-Whitewater in the Spring of 1976, we sat waiting for his plane to greet him and take him to the hotel. But we had no idea what he would look like. We planned to go up to the first person who looked like a sociologist and were surprised that he did not fit our expectations of an early 1970's "hippie" sociologist. Rather, he had short white hair, was clean shaven, and dressed like an Ivy-leaguer. Whatever our first impression, Tuck was the epitome of everything we expected of a sociologist, and we will remain forever grateful for having known him and having the privilege to spend the bulk of our professional lives in his company.

Memorial contributions may be sent in Tuck's name to the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, 101 Manning Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Richard Salem
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