

Obituary

CHARLES W. LINDSEY III

(1942–1992)

Friends and colleagues mourn the untimely passing of Charles W. Lindsey III, professor of economics at Trinity College, on November 7, 1992, after a valiant struggle with cancer.

Professor Lindsey was best known among his AAS colleagues as a leading authority on the Philippine economy. He had contributed to *Asian Survey*, *Pacific Affairs*, and other journals, and authored chapters in three books. Some of his unpublished works were influential, especially his paper reevaluating the impact on the Philippine economy of the closing of U.S. bases—which events so far have proven correct. At the time of his death, he was working on a book on Philippine economic history to be published by Macmillan. “Chuck,” as his friends called him, was especially well qualified for this project; he was a social scientists’ economist who had both the capacity and the patience to communicate effectively with colleagues outside his own discipline. In any discipline, his cultural sensitivity would have been admirable.

Charles Lindsey was born and bred in Texas, receiving his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Texas. He was first appointed at Trinity College, Connecticut, in 1975. He spent more than five years of his life in Asia, first as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching mathematics in the Philippines, and subsequently as a visiting faculty member in economics at both Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the Philippines. In 1981–82, he was a research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

Perhaps Charles Lindsey’s greatest contribution to the AAS was as one of the guiding lights of the Committee on Philippine Studies. He served for several years as a committee member, and from 1984 to 1987, he put in long hours as the book review editor of *Pilipinas*, the committee’s publication. The executive secretaries of the committee came to count on Chuck because he was so conscientious, always willing to do more than his fair share of the work. Although a vocal critic of the Marcos martial law regime and of U.S. bases in the Philippines, he was always the gentleman with those of different views. In fact, his good humor and warm manner made him a valuable bridge-builder among Filipinists.

What most of his AAS colleagues did not know—Chuck was genuinely modest—was that he was an active community leader in Connecticut. He served in various volunteer capacities at his children’s schools. In 1991, he was elected to the Bloomfield School Board, and displayed the depth of his commitment by attending his last meeting carrying his oxygen tank. On his passing, he was given high tribute by the board chairman, who expressed the town’s loss by saying, “Long after Dr. Lindsey’s position is filled, there will still be an empty seat at the board.”

DAVID WURFEL
University of Windsor