

Memorial Resolution
Presented to the University of Kentucky Senate
April 12, 2021

Michael Goodin, PhD
1967 - 2020

Plant Pathology
UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Dr. Michael Goodin passed away unexpectedly on December 12, 2020. He was a beloved father, husband, friend, scientist, teacher, artist, and professor.

Dr. Goodin was born in Jamaica April 8, 1967 into a loving and diverse family absorbing much of his love of life, family, and experience from the island. In his adolescence, he experienced political turmoil in Jamaica, prompting him to move to Canada where he completed high school in Hamilton, Ontario and dual undergraduate degrees in Biology and Chemistry at Brock University. He then went on to Penn State University where he earned a PhD in Plant Pathology and then to the University of California at Berkeley for postdoctoral studies. It was at UC Berkeley that he met and married his wife, Angelika Fath.

In 2002, Dr. Goodin joined the Plant Pathology department in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment where he launched a successful academic career. He soon established the Plant Imaging Core that supports state-of-the-art equipment and techniques. His research at the interface of plant and animal virology led to his appointment to the NIH VIRA study section, where he served as the sole plant virologist from 2015 until his death. He was a founding editor of the Annual Review of Virology and, in 2018, was awarded the title of American Society for Microbiology Honorary Diversity Lecturer in recognition of his scholarship, research, and creativity.

Dr. Goodin was an engaging and loved professor who led his students in the Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology Program to embrace both academics and life. He infused his courses with his varied life experiences and passions for nature, food, music, photography, and human diversity in all its varied experiences, backgrounds, and hues. His interests were vast. He had special talents in photography and culinary arts for which he was recognized by local media. He would generously entertain students, faculty, and friends by leading, for example, an annual fall hike in the Kentucky Knobs, where he induced both educational enrichment and appetite for his delectable barbeque served right after. UK honored Dr. Goodin with the 2012 Teacher Who Made a Difference Award and the 2014 CAFE Student Council Outstanding Teacher Award.

Dr. Goodin provided outstanding service to his department, college, and university. He was an innovative instructional leader who reworked foundational classes. He most recently spearheaded and taught an interdisciplinary course that used the subject and substance of coffee to integrate plant biology and plant pathology with economics, history and social science. He served most recently as a member of the Undergraduate Council and the University Senate.

Dr. Goodin saw and brought out the best in everyone. He reached them through conversation, coffee, science, food, and the arts. He touched many friends, students, and acquaintances with his passions for life and his exuberant, heartfelt laughter.

Dr. Goodin had an intense love of family. He is survived by his wife, Angelika, and two children Sophia and Joshua, his brother, David Goodin, and his family, and by three aunts, Eileen Goodin, Barbara Clarke, and Mary Hughes.

I move that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the University Senate and that a copy be sent to Dr. Goodin's family.