



EVERETT FRANK JR.
January 12, 1926 – November 17, 2001

Everett Frank, Jr., well-known in regional nonprofit circles as the founding director of LaSalle University's Nonprofit Center, died of a heart attack while battling cancer on November 17, 2001 at age 75.

It is strange that Everett died of a heart attack. Most people who met Everett walked away realizing what a huge heart he had. And the standing-room-only crowd attending his Service of Remembrance at St. Asaph's Church surely agreed that Everett had a huge heart. As Everett's daughter Margaret noted in her Remembrances, Everett took exceptional pleasure in collecting and keeping friends—a variety of friends from all phases of his life. Everett reveled in the accomplishments of his friends, and he was extremely generous with his time, energy, wisdom, and resources when it came to his friends. An avid mathematician, statistician and historian, Everett delighted in keeping lists and logs: he knew exactly how many weddings (and whose) he had attended throughout his life; as well as funerals, graduations, baptisms, football games, and other signs of life's personal passages.

Everett loved to use Byzantine statistics on the fly to figure out everything he could. I have many fond memories of Everett trying to make a point in a meeting. And when he couldn't do it verbally, and he'd do it mathematically, searching through his pockets for a stubby pencil and finding a yellow paper pad so he could start making tick marks, running numbers, and figuring out weighted averages to help underscore his conceptual point.

Everett Frank was a brilliant, complex man on one hand, yet his desires were fairly simple. He wanted to make a difference and to be loved. Born in Wilkes-Barre, he graduated from the Hotchkiss School in 1944 and went on to serve in the Navy as a radar operator in the Pacific. And as Everett's daughter noted, "anyone who knows Everett's confoundingly poor spatial and directional sense will wonder how we won the Pacific campaign." Everett earned his undergraduate degree from Princeton in 1950 and MBA from Harvard in 1955, going on to become a salesman for Scott Paper Company. By the time Everett "retired" in 1981, he was an enormously successful and beloved staff vice president for corporate planning. I can say that Everett had been a beloved Scott man because whenever I would return to Scott Paper with Everett to make a corporate funding call, there was genuine glee in the way the front desk receptionist personally greeted him for decades after, as well as how the cafeteria workers cajoled him long after he had "retired."

Upon his Scott retirement, Everett undertook his second career exploration. After conducting 75 informational

interviews, Everett chose to make a career transition to the nonprofit world. (His other top choice had been to design greeting cards, as he had quite a way with limericks.) Everett joined LaSalle University in 1981 to serve as LaSalle's first "Executive-In-Residence," a newly created position which served as a liaison between LaSalle's School of Business Administration and the corporate world.

Everett was one of the few corporate people who made an almost seamless transition to the nonprofit world. He had a strong logical mind coupled with that huge heart. He quickly saw nonprofits "could stretch one dollar in ways for-profit corporations could never imagine. Nonprofits are much more efficient than for-profits," he always said.

At LaSalle, Everett began to transition his for-profit strategic planning skills to the nonprofit sector. Everett took all the international strategic planning theory and experience he had gathered over 31 years and distilled it into an abbreviated planning process that would apply in the nonprofit setting. When LaSalle asked him to serve as a group leader for its early Management Training Programs (how many SAMED, COMED, MICO and MTP alumni are reading this article?), Everett took his strategic planning skills a step further, refining planning processes for relatively quick and easy use by small and mid-sized nonprofits. After a few years as an extremely beloved LaSalle MTP group leader, Everett agreed to become the founding director of LaSalle's Nonprofit Management Development Center. At age 60, he found himself starting a new entrepreneurial business—a nonprofit center.

The strategic planning and board development concepts that Everett custom-developed for nonprofits by the mid-1980s remain the cornerstone of LaSalle Nonprofit Center's curriculum and consulting principles to this day. And the nonprofit consulting, training, research, and networking infrastructure he initiated has grown beyond his wildest dreams. The William Penn Foundation made a fine investment when LaSalle University wanted to start a Nonprofit Center with Everett Frank at the helm.

Over the decades, many, many (we can't say 'countless,' as Ev kept a confidential list) nonprofit directors found Everett to be a great source of strength during key transition points of their lives. Everett was a patient guide, helping scores of us to discern the right path our professional and personal lives should take. He led the conversation along, probing gently yet being blunt when needed. After a while, I lost count of all the nonprofit executive directors who found solace near Everett's pool in the summer and his fireplace in the winter, as they worked through their own personalized "What Color Is Your Parachute" career transition counseling sessions with the wise and supportive Everett Frank.

I personally benefited from Everett Frank's career counseling not once, but twice. When I enrolled in LaSalle's MICO program, I was managing director of a dance company

seeking a career transition. Through the follow-up peer group Everett founded, we kept in touch and Everett opened the door for my career transition from arts management to nonprofit capacity building—at LaSalle! After working day in and day out with Everett for five years, I succeeded him as the second director of LaSalle’s Nonprofit Center. Those five years with Everett were the most enriching, joyful years of my career. I was young and eager to learn, and Everett knew how to teach by example with every move that he made; yet he was physically clumsy enough so that he was always tripping (or tipping) over something, to both of our great amusement.

A year ago I returned to Everett’s fireplace, seeking career counseling after 15 years heading the Center he founded. I realized for the first time a year ago that Everett was getting older. His hair was FINALLY starting to get a hint of grey at age 74; he was walking more slowly; and he was having more “senior moments.” Yet he and his wife Joan were traveling the world and actively involved in a number of charities, fully enjoying his real retirement, finally.

I have been privileged to know many kind, helpful, creative, humorous, wise and brilliant people throughout my life. But of all the people I have ever known, Everett Frank had the biggest heart, the quickest mind, and the deepest soul. His love of humankind, and his desire to see justice, honesty, and integrity imbue this society, sets forth a shining example to inspire us all.

Karen Simmons
President/CEO
Chester County Community Foundation
12/5/01

Note: The Everett Frank Legacy Fund was established to commemorate the good works done throughout Everett Frank’s lifetime. The Fund was initiated by Karen Simmons and Laura Otten, the two directors who succeeded Ev Frank as founding director of LaSalle University’s Nonprofit Center.



JOAN CRAIG FRANK

May 28, 1934 - October 26, 2024

Joan Craig Frank of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania and Waterville Valley, New Hampshire.

Devoted mother, friend, sister, faithful Episcopalian, talented educator, lover of people, poetry, and the ocean.

Joan earned her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. There she met her husband, the late Everett Frank Jr. Joan also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master’s degree in Reading and Language Arts.

Joan dedicated her life to understanding and helping all students, especially students who learn differently. She also believed in the importance of excellence in early childhood education. She served as a reading specialist at Bryn Mawr Child Study Institute and at the Shipley School. She also served as the Head of the Lower School at Chestnut Hill Academy. Perhaps her proudest accomplishment was serving as Clerk of the Board at Delaware Valley Friends School.

A life-long learner and doer, Joan also took pride in serving on the Resident Board of White Horse Village in Newtown Square, where she led a successful fund raising capital campaign.

Joan is survived by her three children: Sarah Charlton Frank of Brooklyn, New York; Margaret Van Steenwyk of Exton and Newtown Square; and Everett W. Frank of Philadelphia. She is also survived by her beloved grandson Marco Van Steenwyk.