



## Forrest J. Frank

September 2, 1937 - February 9, 2012

Forrest J. Frank, 74, of Bloomington passed away at 9:00 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at Martin Health Center in Bloomington.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Normal. The Rev. Dr. Randall Perry will officiate.

Visitation will be held from 5:00-8:00 pm on Friday, February 17, 2012 and one hour prior to the service on Saturday, all at Calvary United Methodist Church. According to the family's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded. Kibler-Brady-Ruestman Memorial Home in Bloomington is handling arrangements for the family.

Memorial contributions in Forrest's name may be made to the Calvary United Methodist Church Building Fund or Illinois Wesleyan University.

He was born on September 2, 1937, in Chicago, IL, a son of Dr. Melvin and Linnea Peterson Frank. He married Dorothy "Dottie" Swenson on August 29, 1959 in Chicago, IL. She survives.

Also surviving are one daughter, Sharon (Robert) Frank Wichman of St. Cloud, MN; one sister, Karen Goldman of Gresham, OR; and three grandsons, Nathaniel Forrest, Brenden Merrick, and Lionel Thorsten Wichman, all of St. Cloud, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Forrest attended high school in Kokomo, Indiana, graduated from Grinnell College with a B.A. in Chemistry, and received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Purdue in 1964.

After a short stint doing research in the paper industry in New Jersey, Forrest accepted a job teaching chemistry at Illinois Wesleyan University, a post he held for 34 years. His students included many future doctors, nurses, and other professionals who survived his dreaded Organic Chemistry course, and he greatly enjoyed meeting them about town.

Two of his four sabbatical semesters were spent in England. His six months doing research at Scotland Yard provided new insights for the Forensic Science course he had developed at IWU. He enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and abroad with Dottie, and spent many summers at the family cabin near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota.

He was an active member of Calvary United Methodist Church, serving in many positions over the years, among them Chair of Administrative Board, Chair of the Nursery School Board, and Stephen Ministry Leader. He taught Rules of the Road for the State of Illinois and Defensive Driving for AARP for many years.

He relished his role as a father and eventually grandfather. His cheerful spirit and boundless enthusiasm will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [kiblerbradyruestman.com](http://kiblerbradyruestman.com)

# Comments

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“ Mrs. Frank, I just read in the IWU magazine about the passing of Dr. Frank. I am truly saddened to hear this and so sorry for your loss. Dr. Frank was one of my favorite professors 1990-1994. I still remember his encouragement and love for his job. He was an inspiration and a great help to me.  
Sending you my prayers and best wishes,  
Cheryl Barkley

**Cheryl (Achteemeier) Barkley** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dear Dottie and family:  
We are so sorry to learn of Forrest's death. We recall so many wonderful times during those years we were together at Calvary. May you be upheld with many warm memories, strong support from a multitude of good friends, and the faith and hope in God that we know so richly through Christ. We'd be at the service, except Miley is confined to home recuperating after surgery. But our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Grace and peace,  
Miley and Janet

**Miley and Janet Palmer** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dear Sharon, I just talked to my Mom, and heard the sad news.... I'm so sorry. Your Dad is a beautiful part of my memories from Church! He always had a smile for us kids, even when we didn't deserve one, HA! HA! He will be missed by all.  
Hugs and Kisses for you and Dottie,  
Sincerely Pamela

**Pamela Lockwood** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dottie, we were saddened to learn of Forrest's passing. IWU had sent out an e-mail notice yesterday. We're so glad that we were able to visit briefly during the homecoming activities last fall. We will miss seeing Forrest when we visit campus. While we neither one were fortunate enough to be in one of Forrest's classes, we were fortunate to know both of you through our association with Calvary UMC during our college years. Please know that we are keeping you and your family in our prayers.

**Barry and Carol Beaman** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dear Frank Family -

My first chemistry class at IWU was with Dr. Frank in General Chemistry. I went on to graduate in 1981 with a degree in chemistry and spent many hours in the chemistry department in labs and as a lab assistant for many chemistry classes. I remember Dr. Frank fondly as also with words of encouragement as my advisor when classes and my work schedule seemed to be overwhelming. I will also remember his sense of humor in chemistry and in general positive attitude.

I have the whole Frank family in my prayers during this difficult time.

Sincerely, Dave Cornille

David Cornille - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Frank. He was an inspiration to me as a student and continues to be a role model for me as an educator. He was one of a kind, and will be missed greatly.

Gerry Buldak - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dear Dottie and Sharon,  
I received the sad news of Forrest's passing today. I will always remember him as one of the more positive people I have ever known, who always showed such genuine friendliness to others. May the wonderful memories of your lives together support you as you go on in his absence.

Karen Gervais - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Forrest will be so missed as one of the truly great faculty at IWU. When you talked with him, he was genuinely interested in what you had to say. I was the Director of Administrative Systems at IWU retiring in 2008. While I didn't spend a lot of time with him, I had 41 years at IWU and the time I did spend with him was always quality time. I will miss you Forrest. Rest in Peace. ~~ Jeanne

Jeanne Johnson - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ It was with great sadness that I learned of Dr. Frank's passing. He was one of my favorite professors at IWU. I could never understand Organic Chemistry, made numerous errors in lab, and eventually decided to change majors, however Dr. Frank was always encouraging, supportive, and would bring a smile to my face. May the memories of such a wonderful man bring you peace during this difficult time.

Heidi Nelson - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ I was fortunate to serve on the Senior Advisory Board with Frank. What a insightful and fun person. A gem to the RSVP community. We'll all miss him.

Pat Pulokas - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ I was saddened and shocked to read of Dr. Frank's passing in the online Pantagraph. I have many memories of his organic chemistry class which was the most difficult class of my IWU career. He was so kind and helpful. We talked and laughed about that class several times in recent years at the Benefactor's Dinner at IWU and the Christmas open house at the Wilson's. I did not realize he had been ill. He had a positive impact on many lives and will be missed.

Nancy Brown Bicket '67

Nancy Bicket - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dear Dottie and Sharon,  
I am so sad to learn of your loss. Dr. Frank was my favorite teacher at IWU. He was so encouraging and inspiring. One of my favorite memories is when you (Dottie) came to Miami U. so Dr. Frank could give a lecture on his work at Scotland Yard. Do you remember we went out to dinner that evening? As always, Dr. Frank wanted to know how I was doing and if I had a boyfriend! I was hesitant to admit it because my new boyfriend was an undergrad and I was a T.A. You both laughed, looked at each other, and said "But that's how we met!". Six years later, you were at our wedding. I always looked forward to seeing you both.  
Sharon, I remember you from band and from church youth programs. You were so lucky to have such wonderful, loving parents. I think the world of them.  
Pam (Martoglio) Smith, IWU chemistry major, class of 1987

Pam (Martoglio) Smith - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ I am so sorry to here of Forrest's passing. I was a chemistry student in the late 60's. He was a great teacher and it was fun to take his classes. Although I never pursued a career in chemistry, I instead became a minister. I appreciated Forrest's faith as a United Methodist and being a role model to his students.

Mark Schleeter - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM



“ I wouldn't be a chemist and teacher if Forrest hadn't been SO sure that I could do it. We cherish our infrequent but nourishing visits. We hold you in our hearts.

**Jane and Larry Copes** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ My sympathy to Dottie and Forrest's entire family. Forrest was one of OSF St. Joseph Medical Center's finest volunteers for several years and everyone enjoyed meeting him! Once you met Forrest, you never forgot him. One of the kindest and most interesting men I have known, he will be missed.

**Karen Patton** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dottie and Family--I was deeply sorry to learn of Forrest's passing. He was one of the kindest, gentlest, and dearest colleagues I had the good fortune to know at IWU. He was unfailingly friendly and cordial whenever I encountered him on and off campus. Students truly loved his courses and his concern for them. I learned the art of faculty marshaling "at his knee" and was honored to carry on his traditions as head marshal after he retired. I recall, in fact, that I called him out of retirement and pressed him into service one last time at commencement when we needed someone quickly who could do the job of marshal as only Forrest could do it. Because I live in Florida now, I will be unable to attend his memorial service in person, but I will be there in spirit. And I will cherish his memory forever. My thoughts are with you at this very difficult time. Mona Gardner

**Mona Gardner** - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Let me send condolences from members of the IWU Class of 1970. We have always felt that Forrest was "one of our own," and were always so pleased to have him attend our class reunion events, and to see him when we were visiting campus.

I was NOT a science major (preferring the gentler clime of humanities) but had Forrest for a required science class, and found him to be a delightful teacher and a great person. My friends who were smart and brave enough to major in science or nursing truly loved Forrest, and he helped so many of them in so many ways.

All I can think of is all those doctors and nurses and dentists and scientists who are all over the world right now, helping find cures, helping save lives, helping preserve health . . . . they are his legacy and the world is a far, far better place because of him, and we are all far better individuals for having known him.



“ Dottie,

I am so grateful to have known Forrest - he certainly practiced the shepherding of people - from Chemistry students to members of Calvary's congregation and beyond. We're sad he's no longer here with us but I'm sure his impact, lessons and love will continue to be felt by countless. And, if we respect Forrest's mentoring, we, too, will pass on lessons he taught, both in life as well as those he taught to so many in the classroom. As you navigate these next few weeks and months, please know our thoughts and prayers will be holding you close to our hearts. Lisa & Jeff Caughron

Lisa Caughron - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dottie and family,

We were sorry to learn of Forrest's passing and regret that we will not be able to attend his memorial service. Please know that we enjoyed our contacts with him over the past 40 years and have great respect for his contributions to IWU and the BN community.

Tom & Kathy Eimermann

Tom Eimermann - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Dr. Frank at this time. I was one of those fortunate chemistry majors to be taught by him in several courses. He was a wonderful teacher and always managed to bring humor to a tough course! His presence will be greatly missed.

Salina Hazelwood, RN IWU Class of 2001

Salina Hazelwood - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ My deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Frank. I was fortunate enough to attend Dr. Frank's "Chemistry & Crime" class my senior year at Illinois Wesleyan. Despite this being my only class with Dr. Frank during my four years at IWU, he always recognized me as a former student whenever our paths happened to cross. He was a wonderful teacher and even managed to help this English major learn a little about chemistry! Dr. Frank will be deeply missed by the Wesleyan community. He will be in my thoughts.

Jack Baker '98

Jack Baker - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dottie, Sharon and Family,  
We are sorry to hear about Forrest's passing. He will be missed by many. We will be in Florida at the time of service, but you and your family will be in our prayers. God be with you, John and Jeanette Tornquist

John Tornquist - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ We send our condolences and prayers to you, Dottie, and Sharon and family. Forrest was a dear friend, colleague, always upbeat and enthusiastic and such a joy to be with. Unfortunately, we are out of town and won't be able to attend the service on Saturday, but certainly will be thinking of him and his loved ones.

Blessings,  
Sally and Todd

Todd Tucker - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dear Dottie,

We were so very sorry to hear about Forrest's passing. From the moment I arrived at IWU in 1992 and joined the history department, Forrest was one of the bright spots of any day when I happened to run in to him. He also asked how I was doing and had something cheerful to say. This continued after he retired and I would run into him about town. We also enjoy summers up in Northern Minnesota and, I think, Forrest must have been a kindred spirit. He will be missed. April and Bob Schultz

April Schultz - October 28, 2014 at 11:29 AM