



Frank Joseph Ferrara

December 19, 1955 - June 29, 2021

Frank Joseph Ferrara, 65, of Manassas, Virginia passed away on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at Prince William Hospital with his family by his side.

He is survived by his wife Miljana of 7 years; his former wife Patricia of 30 years and their two daughters Alyssa and Victoria (Jason), and Alyssa's son Marsden and daughter Aria; his nieces Andrea and Shannon; and his two brothers Michael (Cheryl) and Joseph. Frank is predeceased by his parents Joseph and Vita Marie, his brother Richard, and his sister Gloria.

After a long career as a dedicated leader in the business world, Frank began teaching, which was a life-long dream of his. He inspired and touched the lives of his students and derived great pleasure and satisfaction in helping others achieve their dreams. His strength and determination were unyielding, from his battle with cancer to his pursuit of excellence in the everyday. His passion, intensity, and zest for life were abundantly evident in all that he did. He loved flying jets in the Air Force, being a die-hard Yankees fan, taking exotic vacations, and teaching, but most of all he loved his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Frank Joseph Ferrara*



Pierce Funeral Home - July 12, 2021 at 01:10 PM

TW

“ *I had the pleasure taking one of Professor Frank Ferrara’s business communication classes which left a lasting impression on me. As I was telling one of my colleagues they should look him up and take his class, we came across his obituary which broke my heart. And to see he passed on a week after my mother. Peace be upon him and his loved ones.*

T. Williams - October 01, 2023 at 09:15 PM

MC

“ *Professor Frank Ferrara was my colleague at NOVA. He was a master teacher and an even better fellow. He included me at times in his visits to various embassies and I was always grateful. He was always kind, always respectful, and I know he loved his profession. I will miss him terribly---he taught me many things.*

Miguel Corrigan - August 16, 2021 at 03:51 PM

“ Excellence Passes

“Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.” (Booker T. Washington).

Frank Ferrara was a husband, father, uncle, colleague and friend who bravely fought cancer for seven years joining experimental trials that extended his life. For his want to advance science, he met sons-in-law and grandchildren. He watched as his wife became a City of Manassas Police Officer after becoming a US citizen. As Professor Emeritus of Business at the Manassas Campus, he approached every task, event or situation with dedication and grace.

Frank started at NVCC as a career professional teaching Marketing classes at the Annandale Campus in Fall 2008. For three years he taught each semester, including summers. And in Fall 2011, joined the ranks of full-time teaching faculty as Assistant Professor of Business Management on the Woodbridge Campus. He taught over 16 semesters (including summers always) and then transitioned to the Manassas Campus to help meet a growing demand for business coursework.

His academic career encompassed teaching Business Management and Administration courses in the classroom as well as online. In fact, he was one of the original online course designers for some of the Business discipline’s earliest offerings. His students raved about his challenging assignments as “real world,” “important,” and “engaging.” His industry experience informed his teaching and he even brought the world to the classroom with invitations to Ambassadors from The Philippines, Serbia, and The Republics of Georgia and Hungary.

Not just an industry professional and faculty, but also an active colleague, Frank served on Campus Forum and College Senate and will be missed by students, faculty and staff. In fact, Prof.

Maryellen Ryan, Assistant Professor of Economics said, "One of the hallmarks of Frank's success in the classroom was the positive impression left with students that propelled them to continue to connect long after his class was over."

His colleagues spoke of his unwavering dedication to learning and how his own real-world business experiences helped students understand. His own struggles with cancer did not dampen his spirit for teaching.

Frank constantly sought ways to bring his industry successes into the classroom and onto the Manassas campus. As an academic, he understood the importance of challenging our students to see beyond the boundaries of their personal experiences and into a vast world of opportunities that extend beyond our borders. As an industry professional, he brought numerous speakers to campus including several sitting Ambassadors. Frank leveraged his professional experience to remain connected to various Washington think tanks and research institutes that he used to connect students with internship opportunities and campus visits. "Without Frank's inspiration, NOVA students would not have enjoyed access to a truly world class, educational experience," Prof. Aldous McCrory, Professor of Business, added.

Our colleague is survived by his wife Miljana Mitrovic of 7 years, his former wife, and his two daughters, two brothers, sons-in-law, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial donations to the American Cancer Society.