



## Dr. John H. Vanderzell

August 9, 2016

Franklin & Marshall Professor Emeritus Dr. John H. Vanderzell, PhD., passed away on Tuesday evening, August 9, 2016 at Homestead Village, where he had lived since 2008. John was born in Rochester, NY, the son of the late Cornelius and Dina Bliet Vanderzell. He was married to Beryl Jane Schelter Vanderzell who passed away on June 28, 2016. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on June 9th.

After military service in Europe during WWII, he earned his bachelor's degree from Miami University of Ohio and his doctorate from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He came to Lancaster in the summer of 1952 and began teaching Political Science at F&M. Through 37 years as teacher, counselor, mentor and pre-law advisor, he encouraged thousands of students. He retired in 1989 but continued to be fondly regarded as an outstanding faculty member, esteemed colleague, valuable resource and College leader. In addition to his classroom endeavors, he chaired the Government Department three times and twice served as Dean of the College helping to steer the institution through the very difficult late-60's and early-70's. While employed at F&M, John also headed the PA Bureau of Municipal Affairs and consulted for the PA Department of Education and the PA Department of Community Affairs. In Lancaster, he chaired the City Planning Commission and served as a member and president of the Board of the former Community Hospital of Lancaster.

In retirement, John enjoyed travelling with his beloved "BJ" to visit family and

friends across the country. He also received great enjoyment from spending time with those who shared his enthusiastic pursuit of par at Media Heights Country Club and the 7-10 split at Leisure Lanes.

John was extremely proud of his family and will be lovingly remembered by his children; Suzan (Lynn M.) Pearlstein of Scotsdale, AZ, John B (Jody) Vanderzell of Leola, PA, and David J Vanderzell of Riverside, CA; his five grandchildren; Eden (Chani) and Jordan Pearlstein, Jared, John and Delaina Vanderzell; his recently-born, first great-grandson "Mango" Pearlstein; his sister Dr. Elizabeth Jane Anderson, PhD, of Johnstown, PA; and a host of nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends who were fortunate enough to know him.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to celebrate both John and Beryl's lives in a memorial service to be held Tuesday, August 23, at 3:30 PM in Nevin Chapel located in Old Main on the Franklin and Marshall campus. Reception immediately following in Kreisel Lobby of Roschel Performing Arts Center.

If desired, memorials may be sent in John's name to Franklin & Marshall College Fund, Attn: Office of College Advancement, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003 or in Beryl's name to YWCA , 110 N. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 or to Homestead Village Residents' Association Employee Appreciation Fund, P.O. Box 3227, Lancaster, PA 17604.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. John H. Vanderzell*

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October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

A1

“ Dr. Vanderzell was the last living of the three big Government Dept. rock stars of Sid Wise, Dick Schier and John Vanderzell. They were all 40ish give or take a few when I arrived in the fall of 1960. I can still see and hear them all in my mid's eye and ear. Dr. John was a chain smoker and continually smoked each cig down as far as his nicotine stained fingers were able to hold them without being scorched. He also continually jingled change in his pocket, which for me was a distraction, but guaranteed that no one fell asleep in his class.,

*I still remember an encounter with him vividly in the quad out in front of Old Main. This took place when I came back from the Army for a visit to campus the summer of 1966 just prior to returning to classes. He graciously took time to verbally welcome me back with a war story about Dick Schier. One of Schier's most memorable that Dr. Vanderzell brought up that day was Dick's assertion that you could take the New York City telephone directory, hold it in the air and drop it spine side down so that the directory would open. Then you place your left hand over your eyes and point with your right index finger to just any name and that unknown person would make a better President than the ones then currently in the run for the fall election.*

*He was right. I'll let you guess who they were.*

*Those three were tight with the John Kennedy crowd of appointees and were responsible for an exciting line-up of New Frontier guest speakers visiting F&M, most all of which were house-hold names. It hit them extremely hard when President Kennedy was assassinated. They produced a line-up of highly successful graduates who went on to become Washington luminaries themselves. Ken Duberstein, former Chief of Staff for Ronald Reagan is one of the most notable, but just one of many. The late Herbert "Bill" Gray, House Majority Whip for the Democrats during Ronald Reagan's Presidency was another.*

*Several years ago I called Dr. Vanderzell to tell him how just one of the descriptor terms mentioned in class the fall of 1960 stuck in and popped back in my mind that had direct application to the contemporary American political scene. I thanked him for being representative of that Triumvirate who all had so much influence on our becoming critical thinkers.*

*That phrase? Didactic Realism, uttered by Dick Schier.*

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**Alan MacNutt, F&M 1964** - August 30, 2016 at 12:47 PM

JB

“ *In Loving Memory of John Vanderzell. My visit to John and Beryl Jane in 1982 left me with wonderful memories, a pleasing, charming, dependable, and sportsmanlike cousin. I remember so well him sitting on his little tractor in cut off jeans cutting the grass in his beautiful garden. Cut-Offs were in style at the time and it was fun to see him wearing them and I gather that they are still the trend. He shared with me the Country Club where he played golf and the Lancaster community, the market place, the famous Chocolate Factory and the Amish farms. John, the son of my Aunt Dina and Uncle Neil was a young man fighting in Holland during WWII for the liberty of the Netherlands. I was always very proud to share that story with family and friends here in Holland. We kept in contact through emails. He was always attempting to master the Dutch language and would write to me in Dutch. He would ask me to correct his Dutch. He read Dutch newspapers and would ask me questions about Holland and his mother's birthplace, Biervliet in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen. I was happy to have spent time with him and Beryl-Jane those many years ago. He will always be in my heart and mind. I wish him all the best behind the clouds. My best wishes to his children, extended family and to his sister Betty-Jane Vanderzell Anderson. Your cousin, Dina, Maria van Attekum (c.vana ttekum@knplanet.nl)*

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**James Bliet** - August 19, 2016 at 07:47 AM

CA

*Corry's email address is c.van.attekum@kpnplanet.nl*

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**Corry Van Attekum** - August 25, 2016 at 04:01 PM

MM

“ *Please accept our heartfelt condolences at John's passing. His passion for the game of bowling will be remembered well here at Leisure Lanes.*

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**Mark Myers** - August 19, 2016 at 07:21 AM

RV

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Vanderzell family. As an F&M alum, Class of 1962, I have fond memories of him teaching the government class that I took as an elective, not as a government major. I appreciated his brilliant style and presentation so much that looking back now, he was one of my two favorite professors there. I was happy to have seen him at our class' 50th Reunion dinner in 2012 and confess to regretting I did not follow up with a visit to him since moving to the area myself in 2014.*

*Rest in Peace, Dr. Vanderzell. Perhaps some day we will again meet - in a classroom somewhere - where I can again absorb the wonderful lectures and discussions over which he presided from the front edge of the classroom desk. I always thought of you as a great professor and a true gentleman.*

*Russ Vollmer  
F&M '62*

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**Russ Vollmer** - August 18, 2016 at 07:00 PM

SV

“ Dear Vanderzell Family,

*Please accept my heartfelt condolences at John's passing.*

*Early in my nineteen year tenure in F&M's Development Office, it became apparent that John was a revered, iconic, and beloved professor and friend to generations of his former students. I developed a deep respect and warm affection for him over the years and will miss him greatly.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Stefanie Valar  
Lancaster, PA*

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**Stefanie Valar** - August 17, 2016 at 04:47 PM