



CRAWFORD, David Lancaster, 71, an accomplished labor economist, Founder and President of Econsult Corporation, and acclaimed teacher of economics and statistics at the University of Pennsylvania, died on May 27, 2022.

From 1976 to 2014, Dr. Crawford taught economics, human resource management, and statistics at the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers University-New Brunswick. In addition to teaching undergraduates at both institutions, he taught in several UPenn graduate programs over many years. A gifted and much-loved professor, he received numerous teaching awards, including six from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. His academic and policy writings reflected his broad interests in economics and public policy, encompassing labor unions and collective bargaining, schooling and labor market outcomes, urban growth policies and affordable housing, and statistical methods for applied microeconomic analysis.

In 1979, Dr. Crawford founded Econsult Corporation, which was a leading economic consulting firm in the Philadelphia region for many years. For over forty years, he served as president, as well as a consultant and expert witness on economic and statistical issues for private firms and government agencies. He testified in over seventy-five cases in Federal District Courts and the state courts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, and he taught classes on economic damages and employment discrimination for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

In addition to his litigation practice, Dr. Crawford consulted extensively on human resource management issues. In 2002, he directed a major study for the Pennsylvania Convention Center that became the template for a new collective bargaining agreement covering six labor unions. From 1998 to 2010, Dr. Crawford advised the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts and three Chief Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on human resource management issues.

From 2008 through 2015, he was the Senior Advisor to the Philadelphia Mayor's Advisory Commission on Construction Industry Diversity. He served as policy advisor to the 2009 (NJ) Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, Michael Nutter's 2007 Philadelphia Mayoral Campaign, Mayor John Street's Gaming Advisory Task Force, Philadelphia City Council, and the Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission. He was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin Korooglos as Executive Director of the Secretary's Commission on Workforce Quality and Labor Market Efficiency, 1988-1989. Dr. Crawford was also appointed to Mayor John Street's Philadelphia 21st Century Review Forum, the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Labor and Retraining Committee, the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission, and the New Jersey State Council on Vocational Education, which he chaired for four years.

Dr. Crawford had been an elected Burlington County (NJ) Democratic Committeeman in Medford, NJ since 2012. He was passionate about his community and worked diligently to make his red town purple since 2005. Dr. Crawford was a Co-Manager of the 2013 Democratic campaign for Township Council seats in Medford, NJ, and policy advisor in 2012.

David was outspoken about social issues and often expressed himself by wearing t-shirts in support of those issues from an extensive collection. He was also a collector of wine and was generous with it. He and his wife Kathleen Duffy enjoyed entertaining. Their Halloween parties were legendary. They celebrated their wedding in 1989 with an elaborate costume party. Those parties gave way to annual holiday parties co-hosted by their son Charles Montgomery (born in 1995). David employed his natural Santa-like appearance to encourage holiday guests to donate to the Food Bank of South Jersey.

David was born to Norman Montgomery Crawford and Dorothy Anne (née Dundon) on March 13, 1951 in Boyle County, Danville, Kentucky. In high school, he played football and was first chair trombone and drum major in the school band. Before graduating, he formed a folk group called the Wayward Winds in which he sang baritone and played the washtub bass at a local bar. David graduated with a BA with Honors in Economics in 1971 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the University of North Carolina (a proud Tar Heel basketball fan - a great source of conversations with family and friends). He received his MS in Economics in 1974 and PhD in 1979 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

David's paternal and maternal parents and grandparents hailed from the Southern states. His maternal grandfather was Judge Denis Dundon of Paris, Kentucky. He often spoke of the genteel nature of his Southern upbringing. He liked to say that he was probably ten years old before he knew "Damn Yankee" was two separate words. Research revealed that David was the great-great-grandson of Stephen Rowan Crawford, a merchant of Calcutta, India, born in Port Glasgow, Scotland, who came to Philadelphia in 1842. Stephen Rowan, his spouse Jane, several children and grandchildren are buried in Trinity Church Oxford Cemetery on Longshore Avenue in Philadelphia. YEP - David was a YANKEE. While not a direct descendant, but through marriage, David's second cousin once removed is a direct descendant of John Alden who arrived on the Mayflower.

He recently discovered several family members have deep connections to the University of Pennsylvania, extending back to 1858. David's grandfather, Charles Montgomery Crawford, for whom his son is named, was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alpha chapter, at the University of Pennsylvania in 1905. Also in the fraternity were one great- and three great-great-uncles, going back to 1858. His great-great-aunt Harriet Jean Crawford was appointed the first Directress of Women at Penn in 1925 when UPenn opened its first dormitory for women.

Dr. Crawford is survived by his wife and business partner of 41 years, Kathleen Duffy, and by his devoted son who brought him great joy, Charles Montgomery Crawford, now of Dallas, TX. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Norma Anne.

We are grateful to Humanity Gifts Registry of Pennsylvania for the ease of the process in donating Dr. Crawford's body to science, Samaritan Hospice Voorhees and Virtua Hospital, Voorhees, for their kindness to David during his last days, and to Bayada Hospice Burlington County for their attentive care for many weeks.

A memorial service for Mr. Crawford will be held at a later time when his cremains are returned to the family. He always wanted a Viking funeral on the lake. When the time comes, his family and friends will monitor the fire danger in the woods, or take him out on the high seas. Because of his family's strong connections to UPenn and Philadelphia, his remains will be placed with the other Crawfords at Trinity Church Oxford in Philadelphia. To honor his memory, consider a donation to Food Bank of South Jersey (FoodBankSJ.org) or American Humanist Association (AmericanHumanist.org).