

Charles Dwyer, Graduate School of Education and Wharton School

JUNE 17, 2025 | VOL 71 ISSUE 37 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-71-NUMBER-37](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-37)) | DEATHS | PRINT



Charles Dwyer

Charles Edward Dwyer, an emeritus associate professor of education in the Graduate School of Education and a faculty member in the Wharton School's executive education programs, died on January 27. He was 87.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Dr. Dwyer graduated from St. Joseph's Preparatory School, then earned his undergraduate degree in economics from St. Joseph's University, where he was an avid jazz trombonist and debater. After graduating, he pursued advanced studies at Cornell University, where he obtained a master's degree in industrial organization in 1962 and a PhD in the philosophy of education in 1966.

Right after graduating from Cornell, Dr. Dwyer joined the faculty of Penn's Graduate School of Education as an assistant professor of education. Five years later, in 1971, he became an associate professor of education. Over a tenure at Penn that spanned more than four decades, Dr. Dwyer integrated his educational background with several executive education initiatives based in the Wharton School. In 1975, he was named the director of Wharton's Management and Behavioral Science Center (a role he held until 1987), and over the next 35 years, he continued to make his mark on Wharton's executive education programs, serving as faculty coordinator for the programs at one point. He also taught in the master of science in organizational dynamics program in Penn's College of General Studies (precursor to today's College of Liberal & Professional Studies) and chaired the board of the Wharton Center for Applied Research. In 2005, he retired from Penn and assumed emeritus status, but continued to lecture in the Graduate School of Education and in Wharton's executive education programs for several more years.

At Penn, Dr. Dwyer was renowned for his dedication to teaching and mentoring graduate students. In 1971, he won the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, and two years later, when Penn faculty recipients of Lindback awards formed a society to foster campus-wide improvement in teaching quality, Dr. Dwyer was elected its inaugural president. Among his many contributions was the immensely popular course *Managing People*, which he taught to thousands of students over three decades. He also taught the popular course *Logic and Educational Inquiry* in the Wharton Executive Education programs. In 1972, Dr. Dwyer was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the United States Army for his persuasive and successful efforts defending the ROTC program at Penn—a testament to his commitment to education and service.

Beyond academia, Dr. Dwyer shared his expertise globally by teaching seminars for business executives from leading companies. He was also a renowned consultant whose client list included IBM, Xerox, AT&T, General Electric, the New York Stock Exchange, Polaroid, Texaco, Nabisco, General Mills, Pepsi Cola, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Federal Reserve system. In 1983, Dr. Dwyer established the Swarthmore Academy in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, a private high school that served a diverse student population and provided generous scholarship support. He chaired the board of the Swarthmore Academy for many years. He wrote two books, *The Shifting Sources of Power and Influence* (1991) and *Managing People* (1993), and widely delivered a popular lecture called "How to Get Anyone to Do Anything You Want." In addition to his duties at Penn, Dr. Dwyer also taught at Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, Temple University, and St. Joseph's University.

Dr. Dwyer is survived by his children, Mark, Michael, Deborah, and Kathryn; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial donations can be made to the Dwyer Memorial Scholarship at Saint Joseph's University at giving.sju.edu/Dwyer (<http://www.giving.sju.edu/Dwyer>) or can be mailed to University Advancement, Saint Joseph's University 5600 City Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131.



(<http://www.upenn.edu>)

Almanac is the official weekly journal of record, opinion and news for the University of Pennsylvania community.

© 1954-2025 The University of Pennsylvania Almanac.

3910 Chestnut St., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3111

E-MAIL: ALMANAC@UPENN.EDU (MAILTO:ALMANAC@UPENN.EDU)