

# Remembering Anne Graham

Friends and  
staffers say  
goodbye to  
a well-loved  
colleague.

If there's an association magazine in the afterlife, Anne Graham will surely be on the editorial board. Anne, former executive vice president and chief operating officer of AACSB International, passed away January 20 after a long fight with cancer. She was 69.

Magazine publishing was her greatest professional passion. Anne was the driving force behind the founding of AACSB's *BizEd*, which had its debut in 2001. Her vision defined the magazine's mission, to be "the world's leading source for authoritative information, ideas, and insights related to international management education."

Before joining AACSB in 2000, Anne spent 12 years at the Institute of Internal Auditors, first as director and editor-in-chief of *Internal Auditor* magazine and then as periodicals consultant. During the 1990s, she also served as president of the Florida Magazine Association and as a columnist for *Folio* magazine. She was a presenter on management topics for organizations such as the American Advertising Association, the American Marketing Association, the Society of National Association Publications, the American Society of Association Executives, and the American Accounting Association. During this time, she won several state and national awards for editorial writing.

But magazine publishing was only one part of her life. She was a fierce chess player; when she died, she was writing a novel about that game. A Ph.D. in art attested to her love of painting, and a Ph.D. in education showed her ongoing capacity to learn. She also was a concert pianist, a theatergoer, a world traveler, a mother, a sister, and a friend.

## Fond Remembrances

Paul Danos, dean of the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire, first met Anne when he joined AACSB's Board of Directors. "I can't imagine having a better business colleague to help forge strategy, give advice, and get the message out," he says. "Hers was the best kind of feedback—to the point, sympathetic, with a clear guide for improvement, and from a person of impeccable judgment."

David K. Long, retired dean of the College of Business at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, also met Anne when he was a member of the board. He says, "I always sought Anne out to find out what new creative challenge she was undertaking or to discover what book she could recommend. I was always the better for my time with her."

The decision to launch *BizEd*, one of Anne's biggest projects, was questioned by more than one board member. Carolyn Woo, dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, remembers being skeptical about the need for the magazine. "Anne made her points without rancor but with confidence and passion. By the end, I knew I was listening to a pro," she says. "The quality and energy of *BizEd* were birthed from the eye, mind, and heart of a gifted and gracious editor."



Woo adds, “On my desk is a little 2" by 2" hand-crank music box mechanism from Anne. It plays ‘happy birthday.’ Every time I call friends to play this greeting on their birthdays, I will celebrate Anne’s spirit of grace and generosity.”

Says Judy Olian, dean of UCLA Anderson School of Management and chair of AACSB’s board of directors, “Anne was the heart and soul of the AACSB team, the glue that brought everyone together. She set the tone for excellence and inspired her colleagues to take risks, stretch further, and achieve what might seem unattainable.”

In her personal life, Olian says, “Anne had style, always a special piece of jewelry or unique piece of clothing. Her true passion was to be an artist full of creative flair.” Olian adds, “Anne was a beautiful, gentle person, remarkably talented in

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## Farewell to a Colleague

by John Fernandes

I met Anne Graham in 1993 when I moved to Florida to take a position with the Institute of Internal Auditors. I was impressed by the way she had transformed *Internal Auditor* magazine from an incidental publication to one that could stand with any professional magazine in the world.

She brought those same transformational skills to AACSB, when she joined me here after I became CEO. We worked together through this association’s revitalization. A consummate and talented editor, Anne was the one who oversaw some of the association’s most important new initiatives. She envisioned *BizEd* magazine and brought it to fruition. She was instrumental in writing the reports for several major association initiatives—the Ethics Education Task Force, the Value of Management Education, and Peace Through Commerce. Most recently, when we worked with the United Nations on guidelines for the Principles for Responsible Management Education, Anne rewrote those guidelines into a document we could support.

Anne was also a tremendous mentor to the staff, helping them increase their abilities and confidence. At the same time, she had a fierce sense of accountability. She would not tolerate a failed ability, a failed sense of vision. She was soft-spoken, but she could be tough as nails.

Her professional abilities, however, were only one part of Anne’s rich life. An avid chess player, Anne often told the story of her match with a brilliant but fidgety eight-year-old Chinese prodigy. She had once beat a chess grand master, but this boy played her to a draw. She was never able to get over that.

Anne played the piano well enough to honor any orchestra; her walls were covered with her own artwork, much of it filled with yellow, her favorite color. She was a very good tennis player, and she had an excellent free-throw shot in basketball.

What bothers me most is that she didn’t have time to do everything she still planned to do. She was going to continue to paint, she was going to finish a novel, she was going to travel the world.

Anne didn’t want a memorial service. She chose to be cremated and have her ashes scattered on the Atlantic Ocean. Still, her love of life remains with us. When her daughter, Holly, asked her how she would like her friends to mark her passing, Anne said, “Gather everybody together for drinks. The first drink is on me.”

so many ways, generous without bounds. I'll always remember her broad smile and her big heart."

### Co-Workers Remember

Those who worked closely with Anne at IIA and AACSB also were touched deeply by Anne's presence. Gretchen Gorfine, IIA's production manager and circulation coordinator, remembers Anne's writing skill. "Every time I would read her 'Editor's Note,' I would learn something new, something that made me think," says Gorfine. "Anne was a true mentor."


Jerry Trapnell, AACSB's executive vice president and Chief Accreditation Officer, first met Anne when he was a dean and a board member. "She quickly grasped the issues of AACSB and helped push the board beyond its comfort zone to begin to take AACSB into the global arena," he says. "She leaves a lasting impression on the organization."

Trapnell continues, "Anne truly cared for her colleagues and was a source of advice and counsel, no matter how com-

plex the issue. AACSB and I have been blessed to have Anne as a friend and colleague."

Dan LeClair, AACSB's vice president and Chief Knowledge Officer, remembers how Anne always wanted to be "delighted and surprised" by her life and work. "She was a wonderfully quirky aficionado of art and ideas," he says. "She was a lover of life who savored every experience and saw beauty in everything from basketball to chess."

He adds, "The most important gifts we leave behind are intangible, embedded in our relationships and reflected in the changes we have brought about in our colleagues, friends, and family. Anne touched many people in meaningful ways. My time with Anne was too short, but it was profound and unforgettable. Dearest Anne, you have done more than surprise and delight. Your gifts to us will last forever."

Friends can make donations in Anne's memory to "Chess in the Schools," an organization dedicated to teaching chess to New York City's inner-city public school children. For information, visit [www.chessintheschools.org](http://www.chessintheschools.org). 



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