

Sounds Like Family History

Gregorsky turns love of audio into a business that captures memories

By *Kylene Cepeda*

Frank Gregorsky always knew that he wanted to work with sound, but he had no idea that he was going to turn his love for editing and recording audio into a business that changed many families' lives.

Gregorsky currently runs a business called Interview Your Parents, in which he captures audio of individuals as they describe memories and family stories. These recordings are edited and burned onto a CD, so that his clients — usually the children of elderly parents — can hear family members recount stories in their own words.

Gregorsky, who attended West Georgia in the 1970s, said he got the idea to start the business after reading a Wall Street Journal article in 1998, describing writers that would be hired by individuals to write private biographies and histories.

"This intrigued me," said Gregorsky. "But I thought, why can't I

do this in sound as opposed to print? I wanted to create the equivalent of an audio documentary."

As a drummer in high school, he had always been fascinated by sound and in the inner workings of the human ear. He began Interview Your Parents in 2002, after mastering digital audio, CD burning and becoming an effective interviewer for what could potentially be sensitive topics.

"My interviews usually last about three to four days," said Gregorsky. "Once, I was in Milwaukee for seven days, and I met with a gentleman who was 90 years old. He could only work for three to four hours a day, so I stayed for a week so that I had plenty of time to work with him."

Gregorsky, however, had pursued a separate career path at West Georgia. As a political science major, he worked closely with Newt Gingrich, a professor at the time. Gingrich enlisted his help in his political campaign, and Gregorsky soon found himself in Washington, as Gingrich's chief of staff.



Frank Gregorsky uses his fascination with sound to help people preserve their family history.

"But in the back of my mind, I thought I would like to have a sound business," Gregorsky said. "I didn't know what it would be, and I can honestly say that if I had never seen that Wall Street Journal article, that this wouldn't have happened."

Gregorsky said that one of the most interesting aspects of his business is that it is based on the idea that it is easier for the elderly to be interviewed by a stranger than it is by their own children.

His business soon grew by word of mouth, and he was able to meet out-of-state clients for interviews, creating important audio recordings for families.

Gregorsky said he loves capturing audio because people are overrun with massive amounts of data that they absorb daily.

"We are desensitized with information," he said. "What's lost is the richness and the depth and really listening to people. I encourage the kids — my clients — I say, you're going to be overwhelmed by this. You might not listen to it all at the same time. But when you do listen to it, talk to your parents. And you should probably listen to it again, a second and third time."