

M. William (Bill) Fulton

1936-1994

PROFESSOR OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION,  
EMERITUS

A.A., Glendale Junior College; B.A., M.A., California State University, Los Angeles; H.S.D. Health and Safety Education, Indiana University, August 12, 1964

California State University, Fullerton From September 1, 1965 To October 3, 1992

Birth: June 10, 1936; Death: August 12, 1994

In March of 1965, Dr. Martin William Fulton came to the C.S.U.F. campus to be interviewed for the position of Asst. Prof. of HEPER, now the Dept. of Kinesiology. After the interview was concluded, Dr. Fulton was impelled to say, "I hope I will be seriously considered for this position because I feel at home here." How fortunate indeed it was, that the University did provide an academic home for this most, unique, dedicated, and loving individual who, in the fall of 1965, began his tenure at C.S.U.F. as an instructor in Health Education and the University's first official Baseball coach. Accompanying him to Orange County was his ever-loving wife Jeannie, an Elementary school teacher.

Dr. Fulton loved Baseball. He was often referred to as "Baseball Bill" by his friends. From the age of ten, until his passing, Baseball had been his #1 interest. He played for Glendale High School and then Glendale Junior College. While serving in the army in Korea he also played for the Special Services team there. After completing his military duties he then played varsity baseball at Cal State L.A. where he completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees. Even though burdened with the heavy workload that a Doctorate program demands, Bill kept his hand in the game by being the assistant varsity baseball coach at Indiana University. To better prepare himself for his assignment at C.S.U.F. Bill spent the spring of 1965 with the Pittsburgh Pirates as a player/manager because he thought it would help him better prepare college players who had Major League aspirations and talent.

After seven years of teaching and coaching and the reorganization of the Dept. of HEPER, Bill decided to resign as Head Baseball Coach and devote his full attention to teaching classes of First Aid, Drugs and Society, Health Education for Teachers, activity classes, and serving on department committees. He also wrote A CHRONOLOGY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE and was promoted to Professor.

Baseball, however, was still "in his blood," so he found time to coach at Pacific Christian College, Cal Poly Pomona, and to assist C.S.U.F.'s new Head Coach, Augie Garrido. Baseball also took him and Jeannie to Sweden for several summers, where he was eventually named Head Coach of the Swedish National Team that competed in the European Cup. In the summer

of 1978 the entire Swedish Baseball Team were Bill and Jeannie's guests and stayed at their Yorba Linda "Dream Home."

Bill's other interest besides baseball was the study of World War II. He was particularly interested in the aircraft that were used at that time.

The Fultons loved the great out-of-doors, especially the High Sierra. So much so, that they sold their "Dream Home" and turned it into a mountain home in Bishop, California. For almost ten years they spent summers and holidays celebrating "the Good Life" at Fort Swall, as the Bishop house was called. They enjoyed the clean air, beautiful view, and the peace and quiet the area afforded. This also was the location for two home movies Bill starred in, entitled "The Capture of Pine Cone Bill" and "Greasy Rider."

In the classroom Bill was an inspiring and innovative teacher. He brought guest speakers from Alcoholic Anonymous to tell their personal stories of the evils of alcoholism. Along a similar vein he brought in former cigarette smokers who had lost their voices from cancer of the larynx and they would come and "croak" through a session.

One of the many projects he had his Health Education students involved in was the production of a film about venereal diseases entitled "Valerie Did It!"

Bill was also known for his incisive sense of humor and wit. He was always called upon to organize programs for retiring faculty, student recognition dinners, and other departmental functions.

If we had to select one of Bill's many contributions to our University which stands out above the others, it could be summed up by the word--"SCRUBBINI." This was the activity softball class that Bill created and which earned him the title of "COMMISH." This class has developed into probably the most popular activities class in the history of the department. This excerpt from a letter of one of his former students seems to sum it up very nicely. "Commish, Scrubbini was responsible for some of my best college memories; not only just getting out to play, but some of the best friendships I made at Cal State were while I was playing Scrubbini. I think that the spirit that you gave to the league taught a lot of us a lot more than we got in many of our other classrooms--about competing in real life as well as about fair play and sportsmanship. Thank you for everything."

When Bill contracted the virus that eventually was diagnosed as Multiple Sclerosis, a Specialist wanted to know what his occupation was and Bill explained his new love, "The Scrubbini League" to him. The Doctor said he could no longer teach the class because of the sun that "zaps" the life and energy out of people who have M.S. With great difficulty and courage he managed to "hang in there" and teach Health classes for another two years. After he resigned from C.S.U.F. he spent the next year looking for ways to help others--encouraging the sick, providing transportation, and phoning people newly diagnosed with M.S. to give a listening ear and to encourage them and their families.

Eight months before he died, his M.S., also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease changed quickly to Chronic Progressive. He was either in a hospital, a

board and care home, or an assisted living facility until he died. The month before he died he spoke very little except to say he wanted to go home. He went to his Heavenly Home on August 12, 1994--the day the Baseball Strike began.

Submitted by  
Alex Omalev  
Professor of HPER, Emeritus  
(est.) December 15, 1995