

Michael J. Holland

1933-1992

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, EMERITUS

B.A., M.A., California State University, Los Angeles; Ph. D., English,

University of Denver, June 6, 1970

California State University, Fullerton From September 1, 1969 To August 20,

1988

Birth: July 7, 1933; Death: February 14, 1992

Michael Holland was a well-liked and respected professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature from the time of his first appointment at California State University, Fullerton in 1969. Ill health forced him to retire in 1988. His death on February 14, 1992, brought to a close a career devoted to the study of literature and language.

Michael Holland earned his B.A. and M.A. in English at what was then called Los Angeles State College. He went on to the University of Denver to earn a Ph. D. in English. Earlier, he had spent some time living in Europe, pursuing his interest in other cultures. Along the way, Mike studied several languages, including French, Spanish, German, and Norwegian.

Mike taught a number of courses in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, but his favorites were Novels of France and Germany and Seminars in the Novel. He also served several terms as the Graduate Advisor in Comparative Literature. He was considered in the department to be one of the comparative literature specialists.

Mike had a following of students who admired him and were anxious to sign up for any course he offered. Many said that they had been forced to think more deeply, to analyze with more complexity, and to write their essays with more care since taking classes from Dr. Holland.

One of the hallmarks of a class taught by Mike Holland was that every student had to get involved. He taught by the Socratic method: he questioned, he posed alternatives, and he brought all of his students into the process of literary analysis. He especially enjoyed classic but difficult works such as *Pale Fire* by Nabokov, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Marquez, *Don Quixote* by Cervantes, and *The Voyeur* by Robbe-Grillet. He loved to share the challenge of explication and analysis with his students.

Mike's colleagues found him to be a sincere and dedicated teacher and an engaging friend. He served on many departmental committees and was one of a small number of faculty maintaining comparative literature offerings.

Mike Holland's death came too soon; he was only fifty-eight years old. He will be missed by his friends, but he will not be forgotten. He made a genuine contribution to the university, to the faculty, and to the students he cared for so much.

submitted by  
John O. White  
Professor of English  
MAR, 30, 1992

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