

In Memoriam
Gerard Gregory Steven Voland
September 4, 1949 – February 2, 2016

Gerard Voland, former dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science (ETCS) passed away on February 2nd, 2016, at Grand Blanc, Michigan. Gerard received his B.S. and M.S. in Physics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1971 and 1973 respectively. He received his Ph.D. in Engineering Design from Tufts University in 1989.

Prior to coming to IPFW he held several faculty and administrative positions at Northeastern University, Boston, from 1977 to 1999. He was Dean of the Undergraduate College at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago from 1999 to 2003. He became dean of the College of ETCS in July 2003 and remained in that position until 2010 when he was hired as Provost of the University of Michigan, Flint. He was provost until 2015 when he stepped down due to illness. He served as Professor of Engineering during the last months of his life.

During his tenure as dean of ETCS he demonstrated a lot of patience and humor when dealing with the everyday trappings and demands of being a dean. A good listener, he was quick to defuse conflicts and always tried to arrive to a fair solution. Students, staff, and faculty remember him as a low-key administrator who was always open to constructive criticisms.

Gerard was passionate about teaching. His book on engineering design was used for many years in the freshman engineering curriculum at IPFW. He found time to teach a freshman course almost every semester. In addition to his academic and administrative duties he wrote a column on various engineering and technology topics for the *Journal-Gazette* editorial page.

Students, from the time he was dean of the college, remember him fondly for his strong support of their societies and to events such as the annual Opportunity Banquet organized by the student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. Gerard also established the office of Student Success Center as a resource for the students in programs housed in the ETCS Building.

He was always very supportive of faculty and in many occasions went beyond the call of duty like the time when, on a short notice, he rented a van and drove a group of faculty from the Computer Science department so they could present a white paper to the US Coast Guard at Washington D.C. On another occasion, when a faculty was late returning from his sabbatical, he taught his classes for a month.

He is also remembered for his dedication to transitioning his adopted sons from Russia to their new life in the US. It was a very challenging task that took a lot of his time and energy. He was always cheerful and could often be heard singing and whistling through the hallways of the ET building.

Gerard is survived by his wife Margaret, his mother Eleanor Voland, his sister Norma Bell-Voland, and his sons Nicholas, Alex, and Paul.