

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

PHILIP RAY HEADINGS

October 15, 1922 - February 6, 1982
Associate Professor of English

When Philip Ray Headings died in Fort Wayne on February 6, 1982, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne lost a career faculty member of substantial reputation and considerable influence. His twenty years of service to the university formed an admirable record of worthy achievements.

Professor Headings' association with Indiana University began in 1946, when he enrolled as an undergraduate student. Following receipt of the B.S.Ed. degree in 1950, he was employed as training supervisor at the U. S. Naval Ordnance Plant in Indianapolis. His graduate-level study of comparative literature was to lead to receipt of the Ph.D. degree from Indiana University in 1958.

Professor Headings came to the Fort Wayne campus as a full-time teaching associate in 1954. Two years later, he accepted a position at Chico (California) State College, and then taught at the University of Illinois--Urbana. He returned to Fort Wayne in 1964; and except for visiting appointments at Indiana University--Bloomington and the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, and sabbatical leaves in 1971 and 1981, he remained on the IPFW teaching staff for an additional eighteen years.

Throughout his career, many of the hundreds of students who studied with him commented on the breadth of coverage in his courses and on his concern for individual students. His colleagues in the department of English and linguistics were impressed by the intensity of his efforts, and especially by the extraordinary attention he accorded to assisting physically handicapped students and to supervising the independent work of advanced undergraduates and graduates.

His students at all levels benefited from Professor Headings' talents as a scholar. Among his publications were articles which reflect his interest in the Greek dramatists, Dante, and twentieth-century British writers. In his 1964 volume, T. S. Eliot, Professor Headings combined these interests to produce a highly acclaimed critical study; a second and expanded edition of this book, completed shortly before his death, is scheduled for publication in 1982.

Within the university community, Professor Headings was a focus for positive thinking. Always soft-spoken and always active, he earned a reputation for accepting and accomplishing many tasks. As director of composition, as a member of the group which helped to select IPFW's first chancellor, as organizer of commencement ceremonies and honors convocations, as chair of a divisional promotion and tenure review board, as a faculty senator and leader in the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors, and as a member of numerous committees, Professor Headings could be relied upon to be sensitive to his colleagues and to the needs of the institution. Further recognition took the form of his being named a consultant to the Division of Research of the National Endowment for the Humanities and his being asked to contribute to nineteen annual issues of the Modern Language Association's international bibliography. He was a member of several professional organizations. At the First Presbyterian Church, he chaired the drama and adult education committees; at the church theater, he was co-director of plays, seminar leader, and consultant.

Professor Headings is survived by his wife, Frances (Derr) Headings; a son, Brian Keith Headings; two stepdaughters, Marilyn and Barbara Derr; two sisters, Kathryn Hornback and Betty Jane Miller; and one grandchild.