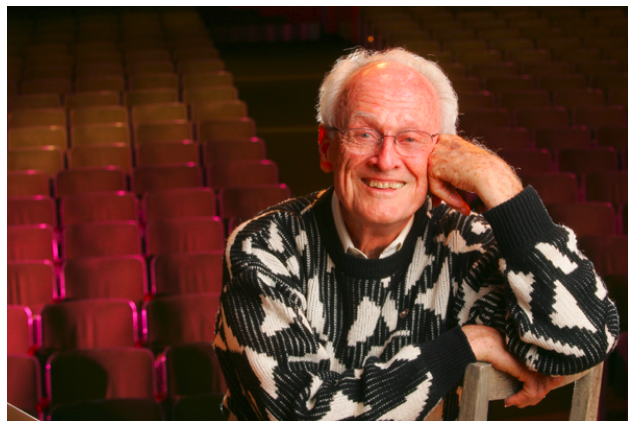


CSUF NEWS SERVICE

In Memoriam - James D. Young

Cal State Fullerton's Master of the Theatre

Sept. 2, 2014



James D. Young, professor emeritus of theatre and the founding chair of Cal State Fullerton's Theatre Department, gave more than 40 years of service to the campus community as an educator, administrator and donor. He died Aug. 29 at the age of 93. Photo by Philip Channing

[Download Photo](#)
(/2014su/_images/young_james_hr.jpg)

James D. Young, professor emeritus of theatre and founding chair of Cal State Fullerton's Theatre Department, died Aug. 29. He was 93.

A graduate of Pepperdine University, where he earned his bachelor's degree, and USC, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees, Young began his career as head of the Department of Speech and Drama at Pepperdine from 1947 to 1955. Prior to joining Cal State Fullerton, he was a professor of language arts at Cal State Los Angeles.

[Young](http://calstate.fullerton.edu/news/Inside/2008/jim-young-titan-mag-article.html) joined the campus in 1960. He was originally appointed to teach speech and drama and to organize what became the nationally acclaimed Department of Theatre and Dance. He served as the department's first chair from 1964-69 and was a member of the original faculty council, now known as the Academic Senate. He was named associate dean for the School of Letters, Arts and Sciences in 1970, then associate vice president for academic programs from 1973-79.

He continued teaching part time after being granted emeritus status in 1986, and in a further commitment to Cal State Fullerton, co-founded and co-chaired the campuswide "It's Our University" faculty/staff/emeriti campaign, created to raise much-needed funds for University programs, scholarships and departments.

Young was a key fundraiser and donor for the [Clayes Performing Arts Center](#) (<https://calstate.fullerton.edu/news/2008/039-clayes-estate-5M-gift.html>), and the 250-seat James D. Young Theatre is named in honor of his contributions and commitment to the College of the Arts. He performed in the theater in the spring 2008 Theatre and Dance Department [production](http://calstate.fullerton.edu/news/inside/2008/coming_full_circle.html) (http://calstate.fullerton.edu/news/inside/2008/coming_full_circle.html)

RELATED

[Heart and Soul](http://calstate.fullerton.edu/young-titan-mag-article.html)
(<http://calstate.fullerton.edu/young-titan-mag-article.html>)

[Titan Communications Video - James Young](http://titancom.fullerton.edu)
(<http://titancom.fullerton.edu>)

NEWS CATEGORIES

[Campus Updates](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=5)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=5>)

[Academics & Research](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=6)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=6>)

[Events](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=7)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=7>)

[Arts & Culture](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=8)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=8>)

[In the Community](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=9)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=9>)

[Titan Pride](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=10)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=10>)

[Athletics](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=11)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=11>)

[Media](http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=42)
(<http://news.fullerton.edu/cids=42>)

NEWS BY COLLEGES

Arts

SEARCH BY COLLEGE

of the Tennessee Williams play "The Night of the Iguana."

"The College of the Arts is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Young," said James Taulli, interim dean. "The lifelong legacy he left behind will keep him in the memories of all those who were touched by his advocacy, generosity, patronage and spirit. The College of the Arts will be forever grateful to Dr. James D. Young. Accordingly, to memorialize this great man of the theater, the Department of Theatre and Dance will dedicate the entire 2014-15 season of plays and musicals in his name."

Noted Joe Arnold, dean emeritus of the College of the Arts: "Jim was a friend, a role model and an inspiration to us all. The impact that he and Dottie had on our community will be enduring. Like so many others, I am still wrapping my head around the idea of Jim not being here. In the deepest sense, of course, he will always be with us because he has left a lasting legacy of caring, philanthropy and service to others that we all shall do our best to follow."

Young's service went beyond the campus. He consulted with multiple businesses and organizations, and assisted several public and private colleges in the development of their theater programs. He was active with the local Boys and Girls Club and the Muckenthaler Center.

He was also a proud Rotarian, serving as a district governor, as well as president of the Rotary Club of Fullerton in 1981 and 1982. He developed and performed a special membership monologue on founding Rotary President Paul Harris that he presented around the world before a number of Rotary Clubs and district conferences.

He co-authored the book "A Teacher Is Many Things" (1968, Indiana University Press) and directed the film "Search and Research" for the Institute of Therapeutic Psychology. He also was active in various national professional organizations, including the Speech Association of America, American National Theatre Association and American Educational Theatre Association.

A World War II veteran, he served for 2 1/2 years as the skipper of an ocean-going landing craft tank navigating enemy territory and was injured, almost losing a leg, in one of the many battles in the South Pacific.

Young's many contributions were recognized often and widely, from the U.S. Congress, California State Governors, Orange County Board of Supervisors and Fullerton City Council, as well as the MAMM Alliance for the Support of the Performing Arts at CSUF and Cal State Fullerton, which awarded him with an honorary alumni award in 2003.

Interviewed for this summer's issue of *Titan Magazine* about emeriti, "[Guardians of the Mission \(http://news.fullerton.edu/2014su/Guardians-of-the-Mission.asp\)](http://news.fullerton.edu/2014su/Guardians-of-the-Mission.asp)," Young was quoted as saying: "We have tremendous pride in the University. It's one of the most wonderful institutions in the country, and that's what we always want it to be."

His wife of 70 years, [Dorothy Rea Young \(http://news.fullerton.edu/2014sp/Dorothy-Young.asp\)](http://news.fullerton.edu/2014sp/Dorothy-Young.asp), preceded him in death. He is survived by his son, Doug, of Oakland; his daughter, Vicki, of Denver; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Gifts in his memory can be made to the Dr. James D. and Dorothy R. Young Founder's Scholarship Endowment at

Cal State University, Fullerton, c/o the CSUF Philanthropic Foundation, 2600 Nutwood Ave.,
Ste. 850, Fullerton, CA, 92831.

TAGS: [Campus Updates \(/category.aspx?ids=5\)](/category.aspx?ids=5) , [Titan Pride \(/category.aspx?ids=10\)](/category.aspx?ids=10)
