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Prof. William Monson

Professor Emeritus William Monson, Ph.D., spent 32 years at California State University, Fresno as a professor of radio, television, journalism and film before retiring in 2000.

Monson was born in 1935 in Galesburg, Ill. He attended Knox College, working as a radio disc-jockey to pay for school. He graduated in 1957 with a double major in speech drama and creative writing. After graduation, Monson enrolled in the University of Iowa's graduate program and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate Program.

He spent five years working in Hollywood as a writer-producer-director for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. It was there that he began teaching in the Los Angeles public schools. He earned a master's degree in speech-theatre at California State University, Northridge and a doctorate in speech (theatre) from the University of Oregon.

In 1968, he accepted a teaching position at California State University, Fresno. Although he worked as a full time instructor, Monson was also a writer, director and performer. He published a novel and wrote several award-winning plays. He also wrote pieces for Fresno's public radio and television stations, a weekly newspaper column and hosted a weekly telephone talk show for 14 years.

After his retirement in 1997, Monson moved with his wife to Pismo Beach where he spent the remainder of his days writing, performing and volunteering in the community.