

Michael Morris Memorial Expendable Scholarship Fund Description



Honoree

Michael was born September 18, 1961, in Appleton, Wisconsin. Although he was young, he dedicated his life to making a difference. Not only did he spend his time helping and educating others, he spent it making an impact on the lives of his friends, family and colleagues.

Michael received a B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology and French from Rockford College and an M.A. in Spanish and a Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education from the University of Iowa. While at the University of Iowa he was a member of the Acacia Fraternity. He was an Associate Professor at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, where he taught courses in Spanish language, linguistics and language teaching methodologies. His research focused on the analysis of foreign language teachers' beliefs regarding instruction and the relationship of those beliefs to their classroom presentations, as well as foreign language classroom assessment. He gave many in-service presentations to elementary, secondary and university teachers at local, state and national levels as well as abroad. He was a contributing writer for McGraw-Hill on the fifth and sixth editions of *Pasajes*. His work has appeared in foreign language annuals, such as *Hispania*, *The Modern Language Journal*, *Journal of Graduate Assistant Development* and the annual volume of the American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators. He was a co-author for McGraw Hill's soon-to-be published text *Experience Spanish*.

Mike was also the faculty advisor for the Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity at NIU. Mike enjoyed traveling abroad, playing volleyball and tennis and spending time with family and his many friends. Michael passed away Sunday, December 12, 2010, at the home of his sister, Julie, after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

It is the Donor's hope, that by establishing this scholarship, it will enable students to further their passion for education by traveling abroad. By doing so, Michael's zest for life and adventure will live on in those who benefit from this scholarship.

Scholarship Criteria and Selection

- 1) The preferred candidate:
 - a) must be a full time, declared Foreign Language major and seeking a degree or certificate of graduate study in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences;
 - b) must be enrolled in or have passed ILAS 301;
 - c) must be in good academic standing with the university with a minimum GPA of 3.0; and
 - d) must submit a study abroad proposal including objectives, activities, location and estimated travel expenditures.
- 2) Preference will be given to teacher certification students. If no teacher certification students apply, then other qualified students may be considered.
- 3) More than one scholarship may be given in a single year. The scholarships may not be renewed.
- 4) In the event a recipient, prior to receiving the scholarship funds, withdraws from the university or is no longer qualified under the criteria outlined in this Agreement, then the funds allocated for the scholarship may be granted to another qualified student.
- 5) Students must maintain a full workload while abroad. At least 12 hours - fall/spring semesters or 6 hours - summer semesters
- 6) Preference will be given to students who have never studied abroad. Students will be chosen on the basis of their demonstrated motivation for language learning, and according to the selection committee's assessment of their ability to adapt to the overseas learning environment.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be constituted following the procedure for other Ad Hoc committees and will consist of three members, appointed by the Chair with the consultation of the Steering Committee.