

Judith Ann Golec (1941 – 2013)

Sociology department members, both present and past, were saddened by the death of Dr. Judith Golec on October 16, 2013. Dr. Golec was an active and cherished member of the department for thirty years, retiring in 2010. She taught in the areas of sociology of health and qualitative research methods. Her contributions both inside and outside of the classroom were many and significant. Over the years, she taught, encouraged, and took a personal interest in scores of graduate students in her graduate level methods course; they will remember these experiences fondly. She served a term as an Associate Dean of Arts in the mid-1980s, and several terms as Associate Chair of Sociology, in both the Undergraduate and Graduate portfolios, in the 1990s and the 2000s. The undergraduate students she was always concerned about, the contract instructors she carefully mentored, and the fellow administrators she worked with so effectively will not forget her.

Judith Golec was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She worked as a registered nurse until she returned to university in 1968. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts (1972) and a Master of Arts (1974) in Sociology from the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario. In 1980, she received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Ohio State University. Her dissertation, employing qualitative research methods, of course, focused on the effects on individuals, families, and the local community of the Teton Dam disaster in Idaho in 1976. Dr. Golec was hired by the University of Alberta as an Assistant Professor in 1980, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1984, and received tenure in 1985. In 1999, she co-authored a book focusing on "family violence and spirituality in a community and cultural context" (**Lifelines: Culture, Spirituality, and Family Violence**, University of Alberta Press). During a sabbatical leave in 2003-4, Dr. Golec lived for an extended time in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut where she was adopted by an Inuit medicine woman in whose household she was living. Several years ago, Dr. Golec began supporting a secondary school in Njombe, Tanzania; she is remembered fondly by school administrators for her generosity. Family members and friends in Sault Ste. Marie met on November 2, 2013 to remember Judith's life and her many contributions to others. She was buried in Port Findlay Cemetery.

D. Golec's Obituary appeared in the Edmonton Journal on October 22, 2013:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/edmontonjournal/obituary.aspx?n=judith-golec&pid=167655496&fhid=12039>