Gilliland named acting English chair

Dr. Joan F. Gilliland, professor of English at Marshall University, has been named acting chairwoman of the university’s English Department, according to Dr. Alan B. Gould, vice president for academic affairs.

She replaces Dr. Joan Tyler Mead who was named interim dean of Marshall’s College of Liberal Arts.

Gilliland received her bachelor’s degree from Maryville (Tenn.) College, her master’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Prior to joining the Marshall faculty in 1980, she taught at Salem (W.Va.) College, Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, Tenn., the University of Tennessee and the University of Missouri. She also taught part-time at Columbia (S.C.) College and Vanderbilt University.

During her tenure at Marshall, she has served as director of curricula and adviser to graduate students in the English Department, director of the university’s Honors Program, chair of the Yeager Scholars Curriculum Committee, adviser to MUSE (the MU English society) and served as a Yeager professor. She has served on numerous departmental and university committees.

Gilliland has written many articles for professional publications and conferences and with Mead as co-author had a textbook titled “Reasons for Writing” published by Prentice Hall in 1992.

Her research interests include John Milton, Renaissance literature, literature of World War II, Asian women writers and the teaching of writing.

She has received grants for her work from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mellon Foundation, the Benedum Foundation and Marshall University.

Gilliland is a member of several professional organizations including the Modern Language Association, the Milton Society of America, the National Council of Teachers of English, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Southeastern Renaissance

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Baker accepts position

Winston A. Baker, formerly director of residence life at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, Ind., has been named director of residence services at Marshall University, according to Ray Welty, associate vice president for academic affairs.

Baker received his bachelor’s degree in recreation and leisure services from Springfield (Mass.) College and received his master’s degree in counselor education from Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y. He received a graduate certificate in public management from Indiana University.

Prior to being named director of residence life at Indiana University-Purdue University in 1985, Baker served as coordinator of residence life at that institution. He previously served as a counselor at Indiana University East in Richmond, Ind., served as a counselor and foreign student adviser at the State University of New York at Old Westbury and served as an assistant to the facilities manager and a residence hall director at Hofstra.

In his new position, Baker will be responsible for student staff development, administration of residence hall policies and procedures, residence hall physical environment and other associated duties.

"Mr. Baker has several years of experience as a director of residence life and should be able to evaluate and in some cases improve our present programs as well as implement new residence life programs," said Welty. "We also are pleased that he has a background in counseling and student advising. All of these skills will prove beneficial to our students."

President to deliver ‘State of the University’

Marshall University president J. Wade Gilley will deliver his “State of the University” address during the university’s first general faculty meeting of the fall semester on Thursday, Sept. 23, at 4 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Bertram W. Gross, Faculty Senate president, said the meeting agenda will include the introduction of new faculty members by their department chairs, nominations for and election of replacements on the Institutional Hearing Panel and the Advisory Council of Faculty to the Board of Trustees and various announcements.

A reception in honor of new faculty will be held in Marco’s in Memorial Student Center following the meeting.
Singers to perform during conference

The Georgia Sea Island Singers (Frankie and Doug Quimby) will perform at Marshall University on Friday, Sept. 24, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Memorial Student Center, according to Kenneth E. Blue, associate vice president for multicultural affairs at Marshall.

For more than 20 years, the Quimbys have toured the United States, Canada, Mexico and Africa, keeping their African American heritage alive by sharing their stories, songs and the captivating history of the southern coastal islands.

They have recorded several record albums and have been profiled in national magazines such as “People,” “Time” and “Southern Living.” They have performed for Presidents Carter and Reagan, performed during the Olympic Games in Mexico and presented concerts at prestigious venues throughout the country including Carnegie Hall in New York City.

During their performances, the singers recount historical tales and give audiences a glimpse of the struggles their ancestors confronted.

Their shows usually include songs such as “Down by the Riverside” and “Wade in the Water,” spirituals that served a very practical need, according to Frankie. She said these songs were sung in the fields to let people who were escaping know that dogs were in pursuit and they should get in the water to hide their scent.

She said songs and dances often took their impetus from the many things slaves dared not say to their masters or from things they dared not do.

Slaves were not allowed to have musical instruments, so the Quimbys sing a cappella or with only the accompaniment of rhythm instruments such as the tambourine or the rhythmic sounds Doug produces as he slaps his mouth, chest and thighs.

The singers encourage audience participation during their performances and often members of the audience join them on stage to help demonstrate near-forgotten singing games.

Their first performance at 1 p.m., “Hear the Lyrical Language of Gullah,” will be open to the public free of charge. Their second performance, “Keeping Traditions Alive,” will be during the conference banquet at 6 p.m. There will be a $12 charge for the banquet. The performances are being presented in conjunction with the sixth annual West Virginia Black History Conference being held at Marshall Sept. 24-25.

To obtain further details contact Blue at Marshall University, 696-5430.

Award winner to perform

Yu Wang, a Marshall University graduate student, will present the university’s annual Belle and Lynum Jackson honorary recital on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 8 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall, Smith Music Hall Room 150.

The recital, open to the public free of charge, is presented each year by the winner of an annual competition sponsored by the MU Music Department.

Established through an endowment from the Jackson estate, the competition award includes a $500 cash prize and requires that the winner present a public recital. The competition is open to all full-time Marshall University music majors.

Wang, a pianist, is a visiting international student from Shanghai, People’s Republic of China. She received her bachelor’s degree in piano from Nanjing Arts College in 1985. A student of Dr. James Taggart at Marshall, Wang is pursuing a master of arts degree in piano performance.

She will perform works by Bach, Mozart, Debussy and Chopin.
Breast cancer will be workshop topic

"Saving Lives and Dollars: Programs for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer" will be the topic of a videoconference at Marshall University on Thursday, Sept. 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

The program will be divided into two sections, according to Richard Hensley, director of continuing education at Marshall's Community and Technical College.

"Worksite Choices" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. will examine cost-effective options available for bringing breast cancer screening and educational programs to the worksite.

"Power to Choose" from 1:30 to 3 p.m. features an award-winning documentary which explores the progress that has been made in the detection and treatment of breast cancer.

Hensley said this program is very important because one in three of the more than 45,000 American women who will die from breast cancer this year could have been saved by early detection.

He said the first session is ideal for human resources personnel, benefit managers and persons interested in learning about different types of screening programs that can be offered at worksites. The second session has been designed for women of all ages and features information about the latest treatments and early detection practices.

The videoconference will feature Susan Ford Bales, daughter of former President Gerald R. Ford and Betty Ford. Mary Nissenson, former NBC news correspondent, will serve as moderator.

National presenters will include Katie Manroe, vice president for corporate communication for Pier 1 Imports; Vicky Rumpf, promotions coordinator for Magee-Womans Hospital in Pittsburgh; Dr. Thomas R. Witt, associate professor and chief of general surgery service at Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, and Dr. Alvaro Martinez, chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

The program, which is open to the public, is being locally sponsored by the Marshall University offices of Continuing Education, Human Resources and Student Health Education.

There will be a $5 registration fee payable at the site for the general public. Marshall University employees and students will be admitted free.

To obtain further details contact the Continuing Education Office at Marshall University's Community and Technical College, 696-3113.

Surplus sale scheduled

The fall sale of surplus university equipment and supplies will be held the week of Oct. 18, according to William J. Shondel, director of purchasing and materials management.

Departments that have equipment and supplies to sell should contact Carol Skaggs, manager of central receiving, 696-6678, to coordinate tagging and pick up by Plant Operations.

All material will be on display for faculty, staff, students and the general public Oct. 18-19 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Sorrell Maintenance Building at 20th Street and Third Avenue.

All items are "as is-where is" with no guarantee as to condition.

Written bids will be accepted from interested individuals until 8 a.m. on Oct. 20 when the bids will be sorted and tabulated in the Purchasing Office.

Individuals with the highest bids will be contacted by telephone and expected to pay for and pick up their purchases by 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22.

Outstanding teacher nominations sought

Nominations for Marshall University's Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award are due Friday, Sept. 24, according to Dr. Sarah Denman, associate vice president for academic affairs.

Marshall faculty, students and alumni can make nominations for the award. Eligible faculty members must be engaged in teaching and be on a full-time appointment at or above the rank of assistant professor, with at least three years of service at Marshall.

Nominations for the award, which includes a $3,000 cash prize, can be made in a short, dated letter stating the nominee's name and department, along with reasons for making the nomination.

Legible signatures should be included on nomination letters. The selection committee cannot accept anonymous nominations.

Nominations should be sent by the Sept. 24 deadline to: The Reynolds Committee, c/o Sarah Denman, Academic Affairs Office, Old Main Room 110.

Computer Store opened

The Marshall University Bookstore recently moved all computer hardware sales to a new facility in the basement of Memorial Student Center adjacent to the recreation area, according to Mona Arnold, director of auxiliary services.

Product lines for the new Computer Store include Apple, IBM, Leading Edge and Zenith computers and Apple, IBM (Lexmark), Hewlett Packard, Panasonic and Epson America printers. The store also carries peripheral hardware and a large selection of software. Installation and service can be provided on most hardware products.

Arnold said the store has four work stations displaying hardware and software. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To obtain further details call 696-6342.
Marshall faculty and staff achievements

Dr. ROBERT L. DINGMAN of the Department of Counseling and Rehabilitation spent eight weeks providing disaster mental health services to the people of Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota during the recent floods in that section of the country. He was in charge of the mental health services for the American Red Cross. Nearly 100 people from throughout the nation provided approximately 8,000 mental health contacts in the area from July 3 to Aug. 28. This was the 13th disaster in which DINGMAN has served as a volunteer. He has been active with the Disaster Committee of the Western Virginia chapter of the Red Cross since 1981.

Dr. CHRISTOPHER L. DOLMETSCH, professor of modern languages, has contributed a review of Brent O. Peterson’s “Popular Narrative and Ethnic Identity: Literature and Community in ‘Die Abendschule’” (Cornell University Press, 1991) to the summer 1993 issue of International Migration Review (Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 436-437).


STANLEY SPORNY, associate professor of visual art at Marshall University, has loaned a series of landscape paintings to “Sunrise Downtown,” a gallery space in the Charleston National Bank on Virginia Street. The paintings will be on exhibit through mid-October. “Sunrise Downtown” is sponsored in conjunction with Sunrise Museums in Charleston. SPORNY, who recently announced his affiliation with two area galleries, Callen McJunkin in Charleston and Beal Gallery in Huntington, said he has been very busy with the beginning of the Art in Architecture project for the new annex at the VA Medical Center. He said the 12 paintings should be completed within a year.

ELMA CHAPMAN, who recently retired as acting associate dean of Marshall’s Community and Technical College, was recognized at the annual Vocational and Adult Education Conference held Aug. 4 in Charleston. She was recognized as the West Virginia vocational educator who retired with the greatest number of years of service. She retired after 41 years of service in the field.

Dr. JAMES TAGGART, professor of music, has had an article titled “Playing Scales Fluently” published in the September 1993 issue of Clavier Magazine, a national periodical for piano performers and teachers. TAGGART’s 1991 WBPY-TV productions of two one-hour programs on the slow movements in Mozart’s piano sonatas will be rebroadcast by the station (channel 33) at 10 p.m. on two consecutive Sundays, Oct. 10 and 17. The programs, “Mozart in Slow Motion,” deal with the stylistic and pianistic elements of the slow movements.

Former professor dies

Dr. Dorothy A. Fisher, 82, former professor of biology at Marshall University, died Friday, Aug. 27, at her residence in Huntington.

She grew up in Hartford, Conn., and Geneva, N.Y. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1942.

Fisher was professor of biology at Marshall from 1946 to 1975. During those years she was involved in nursing education, introducing anatomy and physiology to hundreds of area nurses.

She was a member of several scientific societies and was a Fulbright Fellow to Iran in 1961 and 1962. She was docent at the Huntington Museum of Art and made several contributions of antiques and Iranian art to the museum. For her contributions and service, she was named the museum’s first docent emeritus.

Fisher was a member of the First Methodist Church in Huntington and active in the church choir for many years.

Birke programs planned

Marshall University’s Birke Art Gallery will present a series of films, videos, animation and presentations which will examine the elements of art and aesthetics as they have been used in film media, according to Dr. Marilyn Laufer, co-director of the gallery.

Laufer said the gallery has adopted a new direction this fall since the space is closed due to its move to the rear of the lower level of Smith Hall. The fall schedule of activities will emphasize the visual arts without the traditional gallery setting.

“Zentropa,” a surrealistic film thriller from director Lars Von Trier and the Danish Film Institute, will be the first presentation of the “Cinema as Art” series on Friday, Sept. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 154.

The film, open to the public free of charge, is about an American who visits devastated postwar Germany and gets caught in a web of mystery and intrigue.

Internships available

Marshall University has been asked to nominate graduate students for legislative internships under the Walter Rollins Scholars Program, according to Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, dean of the Graduate School.

Applicants may come from any major. Recipients will serve on a daily basis during the West Virginia Legislature’s 1994 session in Charleston.

Students selected for the award receive academic credit, a stipend and a tuition waiver.

All applications will be coordinated through the Graduate School. Application packets are available in the Graduate School Office, Old Main Room 113.

The deadline for application submission will be Oct. 13.