Dr. Marian Schultz to Retire

The "Double Dean," as Dr. Schultz is affectionately called, is planning to retire at the end of this academic year. Dean Schultz has spent the last six years of her 32 year long career at Ship as the Dean of two different campus units – Library and Multimedia Services and the School of Academic Programs and Services. Despite her dual responsibilities, Marian has managed both areas with panache.

Marian began her career at Ship in 1980 working with the Central Pennsylvania Regional Migrant Child Development Program, a grant-funded program administered by the University. In 1988 she left that program to become Assistant to the Dean of Special Academic Programs. Marian earned her doctorate in 1997, and in 2000 she was appointed Dean of Special Academic Programs, overseeing the Office of Undeclared Students, the Learning Center, and various academic support services in what was eventually designated the School of Academic Programs and Services. In 2006, after several failed searches for a Dean of Library and Multimedia Services, Dr. Schultz was asked by the administration if she would temporarily add a second Dean feather to her hat. By the end of her first year, it was clear that Marian was a natural fit for the Library—so much so that she was presented with an honorary Master of Library Science degree by then Chair of the Library Faculty Department, Berkley Laite. Dr. Schultz was appointed as permanent Dean of Library and Multimedia Services in 2007.

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Marian’s dedication to student services heightened that of the library faculty and staff. Stressing that our students are the reason for our existence, she brought the needs of students to the fore in all decision making. This mindset has served us well and has led to our continued success. One of the major needs that Dr. Schultz immediately began to address was the sad state of the Lehman Library building, which houses the Library, the Learning Center, Instructional Design and Development Services, the University Archives, and the Center for Faculty Excellence in Scholarship and Teaching (CFEST). Built in the 1960s, the building retained much of its original carpeting, dark paneling, and inadequate study areas. Working with the University administration and the Shippensburg University Foundation, Marian planted the seed which eventually flowered into a completely remodeled main level and refurbished lower level.
Dr. Marian Schultz to Retire (continued)

The grand opening for the newly remodeled main level took place on December 3, 2009. To the delight of students, faculty, and staff, there was expanded space for individual and group study, modern meeting rooms, and an upgraded computer lab. The Learning Center moved to the main level, providing improved facilities and access. Adjacent to the main lobby, a Starbucks and the Compass Room offered coffee, light fare, and a comfortable setting for casual interaction. The remodeling of the main level was such an acclaimed success that Dr. Schultz made plans to refurbish the lower level. Opened in the fall of 2011, the northeast side of the lower level featured comfortable seating, single and group study tables, and eighteen student computer work stations.

Dr. Schultz was also concerned that the Lehman Library should have a unique symbol, which would represent the Library across the campus and could be featured by the Shippensburg University Foundation in its efforts to share the accomplishments and needs of the Lehman Library with potential benefactors. Engaging a local artist, Marian created a banner bearing a sailing ship and compass which is now displayed in the main lobby reminding all who visit that the Library and the Learning Center provide guidance to students as they plot their course at Shippensburg University. The popularity of the banner led to it being replicated and displayed in the refurbished lower level. The design also graces the bookplates which donors may purchase as part of the Memorial/Honorary Library Bookplate Program. Thanks to Dr. Schultz’s promotion of the Bookplate Program, over $10,000 has been raised in support of Library collections and initiatives.

It is also Dr. Schultz’s vision to serve the entire Ship community. One strategy fostered by Dr. Schultz was the establishment of the Library as a central meeting place on campus. In planning the renovation of the main level, she incorporated numerous attractive meeting spaces. These areas are now used regularly by administrators, faculty, staff, and students, bringing members of the campus community into the building who likely would not previously have had the chance to visit. Dean Schultz also understood the value of having a Gallery and exhibit spaces in the remodeled main level. Exhibits in these areas have featured the work of international and local artists and photographers—as well as that of our own students and faculty—and have provided wonderful cultural experiences for the entire community.

As a final gift to the Lehman Library and the Shippensburg University community, Dr. Schultz and her husband, Mr. G. Radcliffe Schultz, have sponsored the professional conservation of the weathervane that sat atop Old Main from the early 1890s until 1984. Once the work on the weathervane is complete, it will be permanently displayed in the main lobby of the Lehman Library. Along with our new banner, the weathervane will serve as an ongoing reminder of the mission of the Library and the University, as well as the dedication and accomplishments of Dr. Marian Schultz. Dr. Schultz’s vision, leadership, direction, energy, encouragement, and ready smile will be missed by all of us who have worked with her. Dr. Schultz, we wish you well.