



Dr. Charlotte Meyer is the first in a series of candidates for an open position in next year's English Department. Here shown with English professor Jim Gutsell.

# Exhausting literature not dead

By Gordon Palmer  
Features Editor

Dr. Charlotte Meyer, the first candidate for an open position in next year's English Department to appear at Guilford, spoke to a gathering of students and faculty on Monday, February 18th in the Gallery. The topic was her specialty, post-modern literature.

Like this type of literature, which is often in a light humorous vein, Meyer has a light but

clear manner of speaking. Her trim and slightly tall physique culminates in a bright face under a shade of curls.

After a brief, enthusiastic welcome from Beth Keiser, English Department Chairperson, Meyer begins her speech. She leads off by saying that the subject of her talk is an area which is still rapidly growing, and thus "one which all the evidence is not yet in. What I'd like to do is give you a brief introduction to what is called post-modernism."

She describes some of the principal events which led to this movement, notably an article from a 1967 Atlantic Monthly by John Barth (a novelist, and one of two who were the subjects of the dissertation with which Meyer earned her doctorate this year).

The article is titled, "The Literature of Exhaustion." What this indicates, says Barth, is not a moral or spiritual exhaustion, but one in which the possibilities of a mode of literary expression exhaust themselves. As an example, Barth uses the example of a novel about a French poet who writes Don Quixote for his own time, actually creating certain chapters in a wholly different manner from that of Cervantes. Barth's point is that when one mode exhausts itself, new forms must arise to take its place.

Meyer comments that Barth's term, "the literature of exhaustion" is "just one of a variety of terms that floated around in the late '60s and early '70s trying to capture and pen some aspect of post-modernism." Others include surfiction, metafiction, parafiction, anti-realism, self-reflexive fiction, and disruptive fiction.

As Meyer points out, many of these names carry a negative connotation, and Borges, the man who wrote the book about the French poet, responded to Barth by saying that fiction is a dialogue, a relationship between the writer and the reader.

And this, says Meyer, "defines the new attitude the post-modernist has for his rea-

der. The post-modernist reader has got to work, he has to be involved in the actual composition of the novel; whereas in, say, a realist novel, you are shaped, and guided through the book."

Now that post-modernism has grown, states Meyer, people like Barth see it in a different literature of replenishment."

Also, in the same article, Barth poses a question to which Meyer is moved to respond to in detail: namely, is post-modernism an extension of, or a reaction to, what has gone before it?

It is important to remember, says Meyer, "that the immediate predecessors of the post-modernists, the modernists, were often reacting against their own predecessors, the realists." She proceeds to delineate some of the characteristics of the three periods and how these differ from each other.

Realism: "There is linearity, chronology and sequential time, cause-and-effect as the system of planning. It starts at the beginning and goes to the end. The emphasis is on middle-class moral conventions and how they work. The language is transparent -- you can see the actual events of the story."

Modernism: "In modernism, time is more psychological. What is happening to the character psychologically, rather than events in time, is what structures the novel. There is a celebration of the private revelation, and a moral pluralism; in many ways, public morality is disintegrated in the modernist novel."

"The language of the modernist novel is metaphoric; there are certain recurring images which take on a greater significance as the novel moves along. A novel like Ulysses is less accessible than most realist works for the average reader, who would often say 'What's going on here?' Fifty years later, it's still a difficult novel."

Post-modernism: "First of all, there is a playfulness, to the

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## Guilford College Notebook

**Open Mike Night:** The College Union Coffeehouse Committee is sponsoring an open mike night in the Boren Lounge, on April 8. Sign-ups will be after spring break. Any questions should be left in the Union mailbox at the Information Desk, Founders.

**Colloquium:** On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Dr. Leroy Walker will speak on "The Making of an Olympic Athlete" at 3:30 p.m. in the Gallery of Founders. The public is invited free of charge.

**Film: Theatre of Blood** -- Tuesday, Feb. 26, Sternberger, 25¢ Vincent Price stars as a Shakespearian actor panned by the critics. Incensed, he plots revenge using scenes from Shakespeare's plays to bring about each critic's downfall.

### Save your phone books

The Biophile club would like all of your old phone books. Don't throw them out; we can recycle them. A box will be placed in the lobby of Founders Hall for students to drop the books off during meal hours. Professors can place their books (home and office) beneath the mailbox tables where they will be picked up on a daily basis. Covers do not need to be torn off.

Anyone interested in joining Beta Beta Beta should get in touch with Dr. Frank Keegan as soon as possible. BBB is the national honor society for undergraduate Biology majors. Re-

### Want a Summer Camp Job?

Positions available (male-female) -- Specialists in all athletic areas; Assistants to Tennis; Pro; Golf; Gymnastics; Swimming (WSI); Smallcraft (sailing-canoeing); Riflery; Archery; Arts and Crafts (general shop, woodworking); Ceramics; Sewing; Photography; Science (general-electronics); Music; Dramatics; Pioneering; Tripping; General Counselors, 20+. Camp located in Northeastern Pennsylvania (Poconos). For further information write to: Trail's End Camp, c/o Beach Lake, Inc., (AA1) 215 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

quirements for membership are three (3) Biology courses with a 3.3 grade point average in them and a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. The club sponsors speakers and projects designed to promote the biological sciences.

**Help Wanted.** Part-time -- must be able to work full days beginning in March through summer. No experience necessary -- will train. Call Toga Bike Shop for appointment 272-0664, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Tickets are on sale** in the SGA/VA office in the Center for Continuing Education for the Barn Dinner Theatre's adult comedy, "Move Over, Mrs. Markham." Tickets are \$5.00 per person for the performance on Sunday, March 16. Unsold tickets will be available for purchase main-campus students the week of March 10.

**The Yale Slavic Chorus** -- Wednesday, March 12, a chorus of 15 women in a lively celebration of authentic eastern European folk music. They will appear in Sternberger Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for non-Guilford students. (Guilford students will be admitted free with I.D. card)

**Sunday Afternoon Musicales** -- Sunday, March 16, featuring Teresa Radomski from the voice faculty of Wake Forest University with a chamber ensemble at 4:00 p.m. in the Boren Lounge, Founders Hall.

**The UNC Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by David Serins, will present its annual

concerto concert Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall auditorium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Concertos by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Donizetti, Samuel Barber and Ralph Vaughn Williams will be performed, as will Schubert's Unfinished Symphony.

**The time for the annual International Dinner** is fast approaching. It will be held on Sunday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. You are invited to come and share exotic dishes from many lands. This event is sponsored by the International Relations Club. Tickets will go on sale soon!

**Stained Glass Class:** Beginning March 19 - 7:00 p.m. at Folk Recreation Center. Class is designed for the beginner and intermediate student. Call 292-7851. \$12.00 6 weeks, does not include materials.

**The next meeting of the T. Gilbert Pearson Chapter of National Audubon** will be on Tuesday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor of the Centenary United Methodist Church. The program will feature "A Peek at the Okefenokee" presented by Dr. Hollis Rogers. Dr. Rogers, Professor Emeritus of Biology at UNC-G, is an eminent naturalist and photographer and an expert on North Carolina's natural areas.

**At the Green Hill Art Gallery:** "Triad Collectors of North Carolina Artists" March 6-30 with the opening reception on Thursday, March 6, 8-10 p.m. Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri., 10-5 p.m. and Sat.-Sun., 2-5 p.m.

## Earl captures election

By Paul Holcomb  
News Editor

The ticket consisting of Jan Earl, Martin Jones, and Stan Givens was elected to the Executive Council of the Student Community Senate for the upcoming 1980-81 school year.

Elections were held this past Thursday and Friday in Founders Lobby. Earl's ticket captured 63% of the 429 votes cast. Last year, over 600 voters turned out.

Jan Earl, a junior Administration of Justice major from Fort Wayne, Ind., and the President-elect, is currently the Vice-President/Treasurer of the Senate.

Jones, the Vice-President-elect, is a junior Philosophy major from High Point, N.C. Stan Givens, Secretary-elect, is a sophomore biology major from Richmond, In.

The new Executive Council hopes to promote a close relationship between Dr. William Rogers, the new College President, and the student body. They are also calling for modifications in the Senate budgeting system, the academic advising system, and cafeteria service.

All three of the Executive Council members for 1980-81 are Dana Scholars.

## Pros, cons debate registration

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has found that the U.S.S.R. does not stick to its end of the deal. They have already broken the SALT II agreement, he said.

In reply to a question, Shea said that registration was necessary to protect freedom and the American way of life. He was challenged on whether the American way of life "was worth protecting," with York adding that freedom "is a state of mind and not a state of wallet."

Burrows was asked whether it was better to actively resist the draft or become a conscientious objector. He replied that the choice has to be made by the individual. York added that the army wants to register 18-20 year olds because they are easy

to get. "If they wanted qualified men, they would come get me, but they know better than to try to get me again," he said.

### Students against registration, unite

Are you against reinstatement of the registration for the draft? A group of concerned students will be meeting Wednesday, February 27 at 8:30 P.M. in the Passion Pit to share ideas and get things going before it's too late. For further info, contact Amy Rosenstein (855-1852) or Brian Carey (299-0786).