

# Lecturer Charles Merrill to visit Guilford this month

*Philanthropist to relate many of his experiences after returning from Eastern Europe*

Jennifer Watts  
News Editor

One of Guilford College's key supporters, widely traveled lecturer Charles E. Merrill, will be conducting a series of presentations on subjects ranging from the arts to contemporary politics during a three day visit to the campus this month.

He recently returned from his 12th visit to Poland and Czechoslovakia, and several of the discussions he will lead concern that area of the world. In addition, he will bring his experiences as a writer and educator into Guilford's classrooms.

"He's kind of a Renaissance man," said Art Gallery Curator Terry Hammond. "He knows about a lot of different subjects."

Merrill will first lead a discussion Monday, Feb. 17 (noon-1 p.m.) about a new exhibit on the second floor of Hege Library. The exhibit, entitled "An Enduring Spirit: The Art of Three Polish Printmakers," consists of 15 etchings donated to the Art Gallery by Merrill himself.

"[During his recent trip] he was able to

meet with each of the artists represented in the exhibition. He will share his insights about the artists, their images and the situation in Poland today," said Hammond.

That evening Merrill will address Professor Ann Deagon's Fiction Workshop class in the Founders Hall Gallery.

He will discuss the craft of writing and read from his novel *Emily's Year*, the story of a young Polish girl living in Massachusetts who is transformed after she rescues a two-year-old that has fallen down a well. Merrill will also take time to answer questions during the event, which is open to the public.

Merrill will next address Professor William Schmickle's Politics of International Economic Relations class on Tuesday, discussing the recent changes in the Eastern Block.

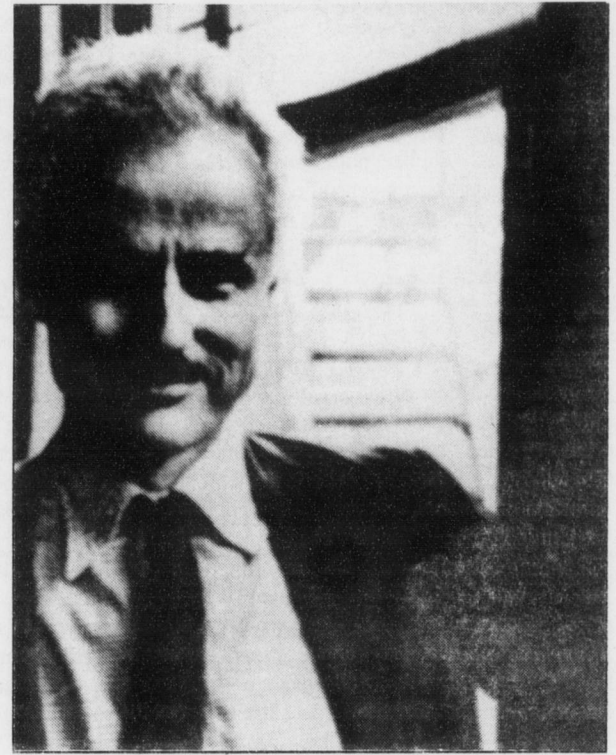
The third class that Merrill will attend is a session of Professor Lou Spaventa's Contemporary and Historical Issues in Education.

Merrill is the founder and former headmaster of the Commonwealth School in

Boston. His book, *The Walled Garden: The Story of a School*, speaks on his philosophy of education and his mission to provide an open learning environment for everyone, regardless of financial status.

His final scheduled appearance is Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Gallery of the Hege Library. Merrill will deliver a public lecture, "The End of Communism and the Search for Alternatives." A reception will follow in the second floor alcove galleries where the exhibition of Polish etchings is displayed.

"I hope people will come to several of the events," said Hammond. "They should be very interesting."



## Mary Hobbs

> continued from page 1

nifer Reid.

Ford understood how the selection could have been misconstrued. "There is a lot of anxiety about all of the changes going on," said Ford.

"It could have crossed their minds that the College was turning its back on Hobbs and its traditions. They saw bringing in someone from outside to be hall director as symbolic."

To ease tensions within the hall, Residential Life distributed a memo to residents Tuesday to assure them they are not "planning basic changes in the operation of the hall" and held a forum Wednesday evening to discuss the situation with Hobbs residents.

One of the main concerns expressed during the forum was how to avoid having someone who had not lived in the hall from becoming hall director in the future.

Being aware of the significance RA experience played in Res. Life's decision, a Hobbs resident asked if it would be necessary for a women wishing to seek the position to leave Hobbs for a year to gain RA experience. (There is not a position for an RA in Mary Hobbs due to its size.)

Assistant Director Helen Mulhern, in response to the question, said she would recommend that anyone wishing to be a hall director gain that experience.

Ford agreed that it is important for a hall director to have experienced the variety of communities on campus, especially when it comes to hall director duty.

During this time the HD must make rounds

## Hodge remains optimistic despite tensions

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News Editor

Inevitably caught in the crossfire between Mary Hobbs and Residential Life has been Toiya Hodge, Res. Life's choice for next year's position as hall director of Mary Hobbs.

"It's nothing against Toiya personally," said Jodie Hargus, a Hobbs resident. "Our problem is with Res. Life being authoritarian."

Nevertheless, it was difficult for Hodge not to take personally. She even hesitated to take the position—knowing the opposition she would receive from many Hobbs residents—when becoming a hall director was a goal very important to her.

She had her own doubts about her suitability to Hobbs at first, but realized she would never know unless she gave it a chance.

"I feel really bad for Toiya because it has gotten to a personal level, even though

they didn't mean for it to," said Anne Marie Altmeyer, Hodge's roommate. "They're trying to hold her back from doing the job she can do, and the job Res. Life knows she can do."

Despite all that has happened, Hodge is excited about being in Hobbs. Now she asks that, "They give me a chance, too. A person is only an outsider until you let them in. I can't do it by myself."

"You have to give people a chance to come in. Part of the community is opening it up to more people and to diversity."

Hodge is moving into Mary Hobbs and becoming active in its hall council for the remainder of the semester so that she can acquaint herself with the Hobbs community before assuming a leadership position there.

"Moving away from a roommate I really like was difficult," said Hodge, but she felt it was a sacrifice necessary to show Hobbs residents her commitment to their hall.

Hobbs residents were uneasy that Hodge would not be dedicated to the hall since it

was not her first choice as a place to serve as hall director, but she reassured, "I am excited and very much looking forward to being in Hobbs."

She is hopeful now that tensions will ease with time. "I realize that this is a big change for Mary Hobbs. I'm prepared that things won't happen instantly. Relationships and friendships need time to grow. I think it will be easier as time goes on."

She went on to add, "I wouldn't go into something if I didn't think I could put my all into it and do a good job. . . if I didn't think the situation would be okay."

Hargus agreed, "I think next year we'll be fine."

Assistant Director of Residential Life Helen Mulhern commented at Wednesday's forum, "I don't think one person, unless you let them, can dismantle the sense of community."

And, if anything, this debate has served only to strengthen Hobbs' sense of community.

on campus and deal with situations in halls other than his/her own.

"I think it's difficult for someone who has lived in one building for four years to have the same kind of sensitivity," said Ford.

Nevertheless, residents of Hobbs felt that it was unfair to expect a student to leave her "home" for a year.

They suggested, rather, that in their selection process Residential Life establish criteria individual to the various communities

represented in each hall.

While Residential Life officials agreed to discuss the possibilities of such a proposal with residents, they expressed skepticism over the idea's feasibility. At the meeting Ford said, "When chosen, hall directors are selected for work with Res. Life, not the building."

This prompted many residents to feel that Residential Life held its interests over those of the hall, but Ford said, "We believe what

is in the best interests of Residential Life is in the best interests of all the halls."

He went on to add that even though Hobbs is undoubtedly a unique community that should be commended for its closeness, Hobbs is still part of the larger Guilford community.

Ford said that he would sincerely weigh the ideas presented at the forum, but he refused to limit consideration of candidates to inside the hall.