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Transitions for the Michigan Reading Journal

When Dr. Helen V. Gill died suddenly from a blood clot that moved to her lungs on February 4th in Plano, Texas, we lost an advocate for literacy and an outstanding reading educator. As she stated in her vita, Dr. Gill was always planning for student success, believed in a workshop approach which placed students in a role of being responsible for their learning, and believed in challenging the students as well as herself. Helen worked very hard at being an outstanding teacher by using current research and practice and by modeling how she would like to see her students teach.

Michigan Reading Association also lost the driving force for revamping the Michigan Reading Journal. When Helen became the editor of the journal in 1998, she made several changes. She increased the size of the journal to an 8 1/2 by 11 letter format. Her covers traced the history of reading education. In her editorials she explained the significance of the cover for that issue as well as a preview of the content of the journal. One of her regular features was to include book reviews of children's literature. She was especially interested in presenting a balance of research and teaching practice.

Helen encouraged classroom teachers as well as university professors to submit their action research and teaching strategies that assist students with all areas of literacy. Michigan Reading Association has been searching for new editors to continue as a voice for literacy in Michigan.

Now the void has been filled. Michigan Reading Association is pleased to welcome **Dr. Lorraine Berak** and **Dr. Karen Edwards** as the new co-editors for the Michigan Reading Journal. Their first issue will appear in Fall 2000. Lorraine and Karen intend to follow Dr. Gill's previous commitment of "making the Michigan Reading Journal a reflection of the state of reading and literacy education in the new century." They plan to continue the Book Reviews, and the State Department of Education connection along with regular articles, pertinent position papers, and feature articles. One of their goals is to include an

elementary, middle, and secondary article in each issue. They encourage the literacy providers of this state and the nation to submit their writing for publication.

Dr. Lorraine Berak brings over thirty years of educational experience to the MRA Journal. She has been a classroom teacher working with students from grades three to eight. She has served as an elementary principal, K-12 Curriculum Director, and a K-12 Staff Development Director. In addition to her public school experience, she has been a private consultant conducting numerous training sessions on effective teaching strategies, curriculum alignment, strategic planning, team teaching, integrative unit writing, and team building. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at Central Michigan University in the Teacher Education and Professional Development Department. She directs the Northwest Student Teaching Center and also serves as the Academic Advisor and Director for the Elementary Education Program at the University Center in Traverse City. Lorraine feels honored to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Helen Gill, the previous editor of the MRA Journal.

Dr. Karen Edwards has been teaching off-campus reading and teacher education courses for Central Michigan University in the College of Extended Learning since 1987. She earned her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1991 with her dissertation in the area of whole language. She has been a self-contained and team-teaching teacher in most grade levels 1-6, a K-6 reading consultant, K-6 mathematics consultant, Title I Director, and K-12 Curriculum Director in addition to working for a publishing company. Currently she works for Central Michigan University as a researcher, teacher, and advocate for the off-campus teacher education program offered in Traverse City, Michigan and is a curriculum consultant for school districts. She is a member of the Michigan Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Content Literacy Committee. Karen enjoys traveling and outdoor activities.