



NEWS RELEASE

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Genetics and bioethics to be USI lecture topics

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The Biology-at-the-Interface series at the University of Southern Indiana will present two nationally-known scholars in early April lectures on genetics and bioethics. The event will honor the 75th birthday of Dr. Margery Shaw, former director of the Medical Genetics Center at the University of Texas, Houston, who has retired and returned to her native Evansville to live.

The lectures at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in Mitchell Auditorium at USI will feature Philip Reilly, J.D., M.D., president and CEO of Shriver Center for Mental Retardation in Waltham, Massachusetts, and Mary Faith Marshall, Ph.D., director of the Program in Bioethics at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston.

Dr. Reilly will discuss "The Genetics Revolution: What Does It Mean For You?" focusing on the impact of gene discoveries on the patient-doctor level of medical practice and on a person's opportunities for insurance and employment. Dr. Marshall's topic will be "Situation Ethics Revisited: A Perspective on Current Bioethical Dilemmas," focusing on substance abuse by the pregnant woman and on end-of-life decisions.

Both will examine points where basic science, law, and medicine converge. The public is invited to the free lectures; tickets or reservations are not needed. The series is sponsored by the USI Biology Department and School of Science and Engineering Technology, and is coordinated by Dr. Marlene V. Shaw, professor of biology (no relation to Dr. Margery Shaw).

After graduation from Columbia Law School in 1973, Dr. Reilly spent two years as a research associate in the UT laboratory of his mentor, Dr. Margery Shaw, then went on to medical school at Yale University. He visited USI in March 1986 as the first Biology-at-the-Interface lecturer. Dr. Marshall wrote her doctoral dissertation in religious studies (applied ethics) at the University of Virginia on the evolution of Joseph Fletcher's ethical thought. Dr. Fletcher was a mentor and dear friend of Dr. Margery Shaw.

"Biology-at-the-Interface is pleased to celebrate the intellectual lineage of these accomplished professionals," Dr. Marlene Shaw noted.

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Dr. Reilly also was a part-time private-practice attorney for a decade, focusing on health law issues. He is board certified in internal medicine and in clinical genetics and is a founding fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics. His most recent professional affiliations have included consultant with Genzyme Genetics, Inc., and Bioethics, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; a member of SmithKline Beecham Genomics Advisory Board; chair of SmithKline Beecham Clinical Genetics, Ethics, and Public Policy Advisory Board; various positions with the American Society of Human Genetics since 1988; former chair of the National Center for Genome Resources Advisory Board; and 1997 editorial board member of *Genetic Testing* and *BioLaw*. He also has been affiliated with several DNA testing organizations, including being a former member of the FBI's DNA Advisory Committee.

Dr. Marshall teaches graduate course work and conducts research in perinatal substance abuse, women's health, and reproductive issues. Her recent interests include perinatal substance abuse (cocaine), cord blood banking, and end-of-life decision making (do not resuscitate orders, physician-assisted suicide). She is the author of a book, articles, and chapters on clinical and research ethics. She is chair or a member of various MUSC ethics, scientific integrity, institutional review, transplant selection, and confidentiality organizations; an elected fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine; and president-elect of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. She has held review/advisory positions with the National Institutes of Health and is a consultant to the South Carolina Medical Association Ethics Committee and the Governor's Coalition on Advance Directives.