

Nora M. MacDonald



Nora M. MacDonald of Morgantown was born in Great Falls, Mont., in 1944. She earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Textiles and Clothing from Iowa State University and began her career as an instructor of Textiles and Clothing in 1969.

In 1971, she was appointed as instructor in Fashion Design and Merchandising at the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. She is currently professor in the School of Design and Community Development.

Among her projects is her work researching and designing attractive and functional apparel for individuals with disabilities, including those with sight, dexterity and mobility restrictions, and those suffering from arm and leg swelling due to cancer. She has published 24 scientific articles on the topic and has presented more than 20 juried design exhibitions related to her work in design. She has given dozens of domestic and international presentations during her career. She is also author of the textbook, "Flat Pattern Design," now in its fourth edition.

From 1995-2002, she served as an adjunct professor and conducted research on clothing for people with special needs at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at WVU. She continues to be regarded as among the leading authorities in the state and nation in apparel design for individuals with special needs.

She has provided tremendous opportunities for WVU students from various majors by developing and managing intensive study courses in both New York City and Italy.

Besides college students, she has worked with Girl Scout and 4-H mem-

bers on clothing and apparel design, mentored high school students, taught middle school students about textile recycling and redesign of clothes and assisted low-income families with effective clothing budgets.

MacDonald has served as coordinator for a national exhibit that traveled to six major museums over a four-year period. She served as coordinator for the 1999 United National International Year of Older Persons, which culminated in a symposium and fashion show in New York City. She has twice served as president of the International Textiles and Apparel Association (ITAA). At the state level, she has served as president of the WV Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, formerly the WV Home Economics Association. She has held all offices at some point in the Gamma Sigma Delta Honorary, and is a member of Main Street Morgantown and Stepping Stones, an organization dedicated to assisting handicapped children and adults.

She was named "Outstanding Teacher" in the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences in 1996, one of numerous awards from WVU. She brought home Best Paper Award from the Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal in 2009. She won the Best Paper Award, Professional / General Track from the ITAA in 2007. She was recognized as a Fellow by the ITAA in 2008. She received the Gamma Sigma Delta Award for Distinguished Service to the West Virginia Chapter in 2006.