Samantha Armacost, the daughter of Phyllis and Frank Armacost, of Manchester, Md., is the 2003 recipient of the prestigious McCoy Scholarship at Marietta College.

The John G. and Jeanne B. McCoy Scholarship Program at MC was endowed in 1998 by John G., ’35 and Jeanne B. McCoy to promote and recognize outstanding academic ability and achievement in an incoming freshman student. The award includes tuition, fees, room, board, and a computer. The scholarship is renewable for four years.

The new McCoy Scholar is a graduate of Hereford High School in Packton, Md. She plans to major in graphic design at Marietta College and go on to a career in advertising after graduating.

Armacost first learned about MC through Internet searches. “Every time I would put in new data to search, Marietta College would always appear,” she said. “I chose Marietta because of the graphic design, my major, and theatre programs, both of which were among the strongest I had seen. I also was attracted to the size of the school. Too many of the universities I saw seemed not to care about the students.”

Marke Vickers, Director of Admission, said that Armacost had expressed enthusiasm for many things beyond her chosen area of study. “Samantha possesses qualities that all great colleges love to see; intellectual ability, well-rounded extracurricular interests, and a mature outlook on life,” Vickers said. “Her exceptionally high test scores will ensure her academic success and we are confident that she will be a great student-leader here at Marietta College over the next four years.”

Armacost is a member of the largest incoming class at Marietta College in more than two decades. Joining more than 400 classmates, Armacost was formally enrolled as a Marietta College student at the College’s traditional Matriculation Ceremony held Aug. 21 in Ban Johnson Arena. Freshmen also moved into the residence halls on Aug. 21.

Armacost and her classmates were kept moving during orientation week as they had a full schedule of activities. “The school theatre trip returned at 2 a.m., and I had to be up before 9 a.m. to participate in the next day’s required activities,” Armacost said. “Orientation included academic advising and registration, a raft trip or a carousel dinner theatre, and a number of seminars to help prepare the new students for college life.”

Armacost says she has had a lot of work since classes began Aug. 26. She carries a class load of 17 credit hours this semester, including the required Freshman Orientation courses, choir, and drawing. But class work and studying haven’t kept Armacost from getting acquainted with the campus and the local community. “The Marietta campus is nice and easy to navigate, but I must say I really like the town itself. My roommate and I have been on many walks exploring around the town, including a trip across the river,” she said.

Adjusting to college life has brought Armacost another new experience. “The best thing so far has been talking to my parents online,” she revealed. “This has been a new experience for them, too.”