U.S. News Ranks MC 13th

The U.S. News and World Report annual study once again ranks Marietta College as one of the best regional colleges in the United States. Placements released Friday, Sept. 13, listed Marietta College tied for 13th in the Comprehensive College-Bachelor’s Midwest region category.

Dr. Jean Scott was pleased with the study results. "Marietta's ranking confirms to the marketplace that this is a very good college, a place where a student can receive an excellent education. The rankings place value on academic reputation, and they confirm that Marietta's reputation is strong within the higher education community," Scott said.

Gary Craig, Dean of Enrollment Management, agreed that the ranking confirms that Marietta is consistent in quality. "Since the annual rankings began more than ten years ago MC has been at or near the top. It is very satisfying to have an outside agency tell you year after year that you are one of the best colleges in the country," he said.

Although she appreciates the College’s consistent top-tier ranking, Provost Sue DeWine said, "I am more concerned with what actually goes on in the classroom. Unfortunately, there is no easy way for a national survey such as this one to evaluate the quality of instruction, which is really what education is all about. Fortunately, for Marietta College, peer and administrative observation of classroom teaching, and our review of student evaluations, indicate that the instruction at Marietta College easily deserves the overall high ranking we receive."

Since the rankings just released are based on data from 2001, Craig expects next year's study to be even more favorable to MC. "Our retention average will be better in next year's calculations. The same should be true for the several measurements of our faculty, and our freshman academic profile improved," Craig said. "I wish they would take into account the tremendous improvements in our facilities, but they don’t. But students will!"

For the purposes of the U.S. News study, Marietta is categorized as a Comprehensive College-Bachelor's, defined as an institution which focuses on undergraduate education and offers a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, which accounts for fewer than half its bachelor's degrees, and in professional fields such as business, engineering, and education. The category includes 324 colleges from four regions of the U.S. Institutions are ranked on a variety of qualitative and quantitative data including academic reputation, retention of students, graduation rate and performance, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial services, and alumni giving. Institutions are also evaluated on the U.S. News' nonpartisan view of academic excellence.

The rankings was published in the Sept. 23 issue of U.S. News & World Report, and in the newsstand book, America's Best Colleges, which went on sale September 16.

Perspective Series Presents Judy Collins

Friday, Sept. 27, the Marietta College Perspective Series presents singer, songwriter, actor, human rights activist and novelist, Judy Collins.

The performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Don Drumm Stadium.

Collins has been performing musically for 40 years. She has performed songs by such musical greats as the Beatles, Paul Simon, John Denver, Pete Seeger, and Bob Dylan. She admired Dylan and performs a similar, political brand of music, writing songs like "Walls (We Are Not Forgotten)" for the opening of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"People have told me that my music has helped heal. And I'm glad about that, because music heals me as well," said Collins in a statement issued to the College. "I just want to do as much as I can for the good of the world."

The concert is free and open to the public and will take place rain or shine. People planning on attending are encouraged to bring their umbrellas.

MC Announces Messiah Rehearsal Schedule

Dr. Daniel G. Monek, chair of the music department, announced the rehearsal schedule for the annual presentation of Handel's Messiah by Oratorio Chorus. Rehearsals are in Room 217 of the Hermann Fine Arts Center from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. every Monday until Dec. 2.

This 76th annual performance is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., in the beautiful sanctuary of St. Mary's Catholic Church," said Monek.

Participants are encouraged to bring their friends; no auditions are required. Scores will be provided, though singers may wish to bring their own (Watkins-Shaw edition). For further information, call the music department at (740) 376-4696.

Come join the excitement that comes with working on one of the most significant works of our musical heritage, and the cornerstone of a great Mid-Ohio Valley tradition," invited Monek.
Dr. Stanley F. Radford, chair of the physics department, announced the schedule for the Physics Colloquium Series for the 2002-2003 school year.

“The Colloquium Series benefits us, and our colleagues in the other sciences, by helping bridge the ‘information gap’ that has arisen due to the specialization of knowledge in our fields,” said Radford.

The first speech took place Friday, Sept. 13, with Dr. Dennis Kuhl, the newest member of the MC physics department, addressing the notion of “electron dynamics at surfaces.”

“A scientific theory, supported and tested by evidence from the physical world and expressed mathematically, is a beautiful, creative, and elegant construct,” Kuhl stated.

Said Radford, “Everything from automobile performance to computer science is directly effected by electron dynamics. The absorption of exhaust gases by metallic surfaces is the basic process employed in the catalytic converters in automobiles. And as computer components, particularly memory and processor chips become thinner and thinner, they are, obviously, more and more ‘surface’ dominated.”

On Friday, Sept. 27, Dr. Steve Bever will be giving a description and demonstration of the scattering of laser light from micro-lenses.

“Laser light and micro-lenses are key components of fiber optical communication links. Typically lenses are used to direct light into fibers, scattering is a cause of power and information loss. Thus, understanding how lens design and fabrication effect scattering versus transmission is important in this case,” Radford explained.

The Physics Colloquium was created in the fall semester of 2001, with the goal of presenting physics-related topics on a general interest level.

The Physics Colloquium will continue through the semester, with speeches scheduled for Oct. 11, Oct 25, Nov. 8, and Nov. 22. All speeches start at 11:50am. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Please inform Mrs. Jacquelyn Lane of your attendance by calling 376-4820 or e-mailing lanej@marietta.edu.

College Hosts Second Undergraduate Asian Studies Symposium

Marietta College hosted the second annual undergraduate Asian Studies Symposium Friday and Saturday, Sept. 20-21, in the campus’ McDonough Center. The symposium for undergraduates hosted in 2001 was the first of its kind in the United States.

The Asian Studies Symposium was coordinated by Dr. Luding Tong, assistant professor of Chinese language and literature, and Dr. Matthew S. Young, coordinator of Asian studies at the College.

“This symposium was part of overall efforts to encourage growth in the Asian Studies program at Marietta College,” Tong said. “It was a great opportunity for MC students to share their research and study experiences in the field of Asian Studies with their peers at institutions across the country, and to obtain invaluable experience with scholarly/professional activities.”

A total of 18 papers from nine different schools were accepted for presentation, with 12 of those coming from Marietta College. The University of Texas at Austin, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, West Virginia University, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Muskingum College, Eckerd College, and Belmont University were among the other schools with students that presented. The presentations, which focused on China, Japan, India, and Taiwan, crossed the disciplines of literature, language, culture, film, politics, and business.

Along with the twelve MC students that presented, many of the College’s professors also participated in the symposium. Dr. Janie Rees-Miller, director of the English as a Second Language program, chaired the opening session with a forum entitled “Teaching English in China.” Others that chaired sessions included Dr. Ena Vulor, McCoy professor of French Language and Literature; Dr. Mark Bagshaw; McCoy Professor of Management and Accounting; Dr. Mabry O’Donnell, McCoy Professor of Communication; Dr. Richard Dunford; Dr. Matthew Young; and Professor Ed Osborne, McCoy Professor of Accounting for Asia.

“I believe I was chosen to participate because of my interest and participation in Marietta College’s faculty exchange agreement with the Southwest University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE),” said Osborne. “I have visited and taught courses at SWUFE and assisted the MC recruiting office in Beijing with their efforts to help Chinese students get U.S. visas so they can enroll at MC.”

Announcements

O’Donnell named to Ohio Humanities Council

Dr. Jim O’Donnell, professor of history, was recently elected to the board of the Ohio Humanities Council (OHC), a statewide organization which promotes the humanities in communities across Ohio. The OHC participates in activities such as the Ohio Forum, an annual lecture presented by a nationally known Ohio expert or public figure, and the Ohio Chautauqua, a program which brings famous Ohio personalities to life in different communities statewide by someone who has studied him/her extensively.

“I am honored and excited about being elected to the board of the Ohio Humanities Council,” O’Donnell said. "I think the work of the OHC is fundamental to the future of humanities programming in Ohio.” O’Donnell will serve on the OHC board until November of 2005. His primary responsibilities will be to participate in the decisions regarding the awarding of grants to humanities projects around the state.

Dr. O’Donnell’s past involvement with the Council varies to include co-organizing the 2001 Ohio Forum that brought Arthur H. Schlesinger, Jr., to Marietta, as well as receiving grants to support speakers on the college campus through his position as the William R. and Marie Adamson Flesher Chair in Humanities and co-director of the Esbenshade Series (1992-1997). He also was a consultant to the regional "Always A River" emphasis, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the councils of eight states touched by the Ohio River.

Dr. O’Donnell is currently on sabbatical to finish his book on Ohio Indians for the Ohio University Press and to complete research on Israel Ward Andrews, president of MC from 1855 to 1885.