

# Taking a closer look at one writer's special talent

*Marietta native Jessica Phillips takes on ambitious project for her Investigative Studies project this summer.*

By **KELLY McPHERSON**  
MC College Relations

**M**arietta College junior **Jessica Phillips**, of Marietta, is one of four students to be awarded an Investigative Studies Grant to research the evolution of the fairytale into post-modern literature.

Phillips will receive a \$1,500 grant and free on-campus housing for six weeks in May and June to pursue her research under the close mentoring of her Marietta College faculty sponsor.

Phillips, the daughter of **Leonard** and **Judy Phillips**, of Marietta, will be examining some of the novels written by **A.S. Byatt**, with a focus on how she rewrites fairytales into her long fiction. The Marietta High School graduate will also look at how and why fairytales have evolved from their original forms.

Phillips, who is majoring in English, said, "I thought it sounded like fun, and it will be a nice step toward the completion of my senior honors thesis. It should also be useful preparation for graduate school."

Students must apply for the Investigative Studies Grant by February. Faculty on the Honors and Investigative Studies Committee evaluate the applications, and the recipients are notified in March.

Professor **Grace F. Johnson**, Director of the Investigative Studies Program said, "Committee members look for applications that are complete and include the four required elements (rationale and purpose for the project, review of previous work done by the applicant or others on the project — including a list of relevant research literature, methodology that will be



Photo by Becki Palmquist/College Relations

Marietta College junior Jessica Phillips will exam some of the novels written by A.S. Byatt, with a focus on how she rewrites fairytales into her long fiction as Phillips' Investigative Studies program this summer.

used in the project, and expected project outcomes). Projects must demonstrate a high level of academic rigor and be of the type that goes far beyond the size or scope of a project/assignment that would often be done in a course during the academic year."