

# Another success story: research project good fun

*Senior Cassandra Trimner enjoyed the collaboration involved with the Investigative Studies program at MC.*

By DANIELLE McCLELLAND  
MC College Relations

**M**arietta College senior **Cassandra Trimner**, a native of Mount Perry, Ohio, who is majoring in Early Childhood Education, presented “The Effectiveness of Visual, Auditory, and Tactile Strategies in Letter Recognition and Phonemic Awareness Growth of Early Readers” recently as part of the annual Investigative Studies Symposium.

This event provided a showcase for the summer grant recipients to share the results of their projects with the Marietta College community. Trimner’s presentation included the testing of a variety of strategies and activities that dealt with learning the letter of the alphabet and their associated sounds to observe how effective they were.

“During the normal course of the academic year, we don’t have as much time to spend on pursuing in-depth research,” said **Dr. Dorothy Erb**, faculty advisor to the project and associate professor of education. “The summer investigative studies grant allowed Cassie to focus on literary issues with actual children in a clinic setting.”

Launched in 1998, the Investigative Studies Program embraces three goals: to provide students with an opportunity to pursue their research and creative interests in a manner not found in a typical class setting, to promote intellectual curiosity and stimulate creativity in students in an academic discipline or between disciplines, and to foster a sense of learning, sharing and commitment with a community of scholars.

Designed for Marietta College’s most academically gifted and highly motivated students,



Photo by Nathan Reich/College Relations

Marietta College senior Cassandra Trimner presented her Investigative Studies project, “The Effectiveness of Visual, Auditory, and Tactile Strategies in Letter Recognition and Phonemic Awareness Growth of Early Readers,” recently at Marietta College.

the Investigative Studies Program provides summer grants for undergraduates interested in pursuing special research and creative projects, as well as travel grants for presentation of findings at regional and national conferences. The program funds projects across the disciplines and is aimed at the kind of student interested not only in learning knowledge, but also in discovering and creating it.

“The Investigative Studies Program offered me an opportunity to meet new people, work in collaboration with my professor, test certain methods of teaching, and apply the information learned to the classroom,” Trimner said.

Trimner, the daughter of **John** and **Christa Trimner** of Mount Perry, also holds many leadership positions on the Marietta College campus including membership in Kappa Delta Pi, Team C, and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. She is a graduate of Bishop Rosecrans High School in Zanesville.