

a Teacher of Teachers

*Dr. Marion Van Horne establishes
a legacy at Defiance College.*



(Shortly before Dr. Van Horne's death, she met with Cindy Shaffer, senior director of advancement services and gift planning, in Peabody, Mass., where she shared her life story and hopes for her legacy.)

Author, teacher, world traveler and philanthropist. Dr. Marion Van Horne, Schauffler College alumna of 1944, was a pioneer in her day. As a single career woman in the 1940s and beyond, Marion traveled the world creating workshops and teaching teachers how to do their jobs better. Her focus was Christian education, and empowering local church leaders was her passion.

Born in upstate New York in 1914, Marion graduated from high school during the Great Depression. As a young person, she was very active in the local Dutch Reformed Church. "It was my whole recreational program," she explained.

Marion was introduced to international travel when she was selected as a representative to the World Christian Youth Conference in Oslo, Norway, soon after the end of World War I. She made the trans-Atlantic trip aboard the Queen Elizabeth on the first crossing following the end of the war. While in Oslo, Marion and other youth participants lived with Norwegian families or in student housing for two months. The delegates came from all over the world and shared their experiences of the war.

After high school, her parents could not afford to send her to college so Marion took a job to earn tuition money and advance her education. A mentor and friend from Northfield Missionary Conference suggested that Marion consider continuing her education at the Schauffler College in Cleveland.

Marion worked hard and enrolled in Schauffler College when she was 26 years old, a time in her life that she remembered fondly. She was especially impressed by Dr. George Michaelides, who was the Bible teacher and eventually became president of Schauffler. "Dr. Michaelides was a wonderful teacher, simple in his approach, but very effective," she said.

Schauffler College was well known for providing excellent field work opportunities for its students, and Marion remembers working as a Sunday School teacher. She was paid 50 cents for each Sunday and given another 50 cents to take the streetcar from downtown Cleveland to the church. Those were the days when hats and gloves were required apparel for church. She and her roommate taught a very active group of

children who had already been in Sunday School for an hour. The two women received accolades for their ability to keep the young group from mischief. "During our tenure they only broke three chairs as opposed to the previous six!" she recalled.

Her first job after leaving Schauffler was as Director of Christian Education at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Toledo. It was an enormous first assignment with 80 teachers and 600 children involved in the program. However, she soon returned to New York and spent most of her adult life in the city, living on Fifth Avenue at the north end of Central Park. For 35 years, she worked for the National Council of Churches, focusing on the development of youth programs and training youth leaders. Her work provided the opportunity for world travel several months each year, and she visited Africa, Asia, Latin America and the South Pacific.

It was during a training session in Egypt that she met a young man who said to her, "All my life I have been looking for myself in a book." This comment made Marion realize that for people to want to learn, the books had to be relevant to their lives. As a result, she created and led writing workshops for educators in many third-world countries and throughout the United States. She authored three books, one of which,

Write the Vision, A Manual for Training Writers, is still available through Amazon.

In addition to her degree from Schauffler College, Marion attended the Syracuse University School of Journalism, earned her master's in English and writing at University of Missouri and her doctoral degree in communications from New York University, where she also taught. Marion enjoyed the learning, but reflected, "The degrees were an implement along the way. I needed to get

Through her estate,
Dr. Marion Van Horne made
a gift of \$476,000 to create
a scholarship in her memory
and to assist DC students
in perpetuity.

them to keep doing things."

In retirement, Marion worked with others at Riverside Church in Manhattan to create a one-on-one conversational English program for foreign students attending Columbia University.

In her final years, Marion remained a beacon for others at the Brooksby Village Retirement Center, northwest of Boston, where she made her home. The walls of her room were covered with artwork from the many countries she had visited.

Though she attended five different colleges, Marion indicated that none impacted her life as significantly as the Schauffler College. "The big universities are very impersonal," she related to Cindy Shaffer.

Following the closing of the Schauffler College in the late 1950s, its assets and archives were transferred to Defiance College. Today, the Religion and Christian Education classes at Defiance are taught in Schauffler Hall on campus. Before her death in June 2011, Dr. Van Horne created a scholarship through her trust to benefit several Defiance College students who are studying religion or Christian Education each year.

Marion always remembered the "spirit" among her fellow Schauffler graduates, and she wanted her legacy to encourage the continuation of the Schauffler spirit at Defiance College. ♦

DC ADDS NEW EDUCATION LICENSURE PROGRAM

Defiance College has been approved by the Ohio Board of Regents to offer a new undergraduate program leading to Intervention Specialist licensure. This is a multi-age licensure program (kindergarten through 12th grade) that would permit those individuals approved for licensure by the Ohio Department of Education to work in mild-to-moderate special education environments.

The undergraduate Intervention Specialist major at Defiance College requires 120 credit hours of coursework, 40 hours of early clinical experience during the first two years, 120 practicum hours during the junior and senior years, and culminates with a 15-week, full-time internship experience in a mild-to-moderate special education classroom.

According to Professor Joshua Francis, Director of Education, "The faculty that developed this new undergraduate program ensured it met not only the standards set by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents, but also that the program's coursework is aligned with the Council for Exceptional Children's program standards. We have infused the program with the most current information about this population of students, and we are confident that our graduates will be well prepared as special education teachers."

In recent months, Defiance College has been developing new programs in high demand areas within the state of Ohio, including the addition of Reading Endorsement, Middle Childhood Generalist and Early Childhood generalist programs. Francis added, "As a teacher education program, we believe we have a responsibility to ensure that our programs and our program offerings are designed to meet the needs of not only K-12 students, but also our K-12 partners. This includes offering licensure programs in high-need areas when possible." He added that special education is a high demand field across Ohio, and Defiance College is proud to have the opportunity to provide a high-quality program to meet this need.