

**Elizabeth Sue Willey Cook**  
**Recipient of the MUM Excellence in Teaching Award for Part-Time Faculty**  
**April 2007**

Sue Cook, recipient of the award for part-time faculty, has taught in the English and Teacher Education departments at Miami Middletown for more than ten years. She is known to her colleagues and students for her energy and passion for teaching, and in particular for her ability to work with students whose background or preparation might seem to put them at risk for failure in higher education. Many of Sue's students credit her with convincing them that they could indeed succeed in college. One of them commented: "To look for someone else's well-being instead of their own ... that's what Sue Cook is all about." Sue has taught a variety of reading and writing courses at MUM, mostly at the developmental and introductory level, and according to one of her nominators, "she nurtures her students in a way that perhaps they've never before experienced." This year members the campus multicultural student group FACES organized a ceremony to present Sue with their own teaching award. She has successfully engaged students whether the topic was "baseball literature" or Shakespeare. As she put it herself, "My students get me, the real me, and they have always responded well to that." Her highly empathetic approach to teaching has benefited many students and, as one of her nominators said: "I have been amazed, over and over again, at how she impacts her students' lives."