

16th Annual Society of Yeager Scholars Symposium
“The Enduring Human Spirit”
October 8-12, 2002

Welcome to the 16th Annual Yeager Symposium an event where the Society of Yeager Scholars has the opportunity to welcome a new class of Yeagers, The Maier class of 2006, and to give back to the community, faculty, alumni, and fellow students through the presentations of guest speakers.

This year’s theme, “The Enduring Human Spirit,” reflects the current concern for living history. It is a celebration of those among us who are parts of that history in their own unique ways: through their heroic efforts, their poetic expressions, and their giving natures. We hope you will leave these presentations feeling not only informed, but also uplifted.

Thank you to the many individuals who donated their time and effort to this year’s symposium: Verizon, for sponsoring this week’s events; Martha Woodward and Sharlee Henry for their countless hours of support and help with organization; Joanna Coleman for Friday’s upcoming dinner; Taine M. Duncan for her help in publicity and public relations; Mary and Tom Smirl for their help with reaching the greater community; this week’s speakers in advance for enriching our minds and our hearts.

Sydnee A. Smirl, Class of 2005
Chairperson

**Tuesday, October 8th
7:00 P.M.**

Joan C. Edwards Playhouse

“The Spirit of America: Americans Respond to the World Trade Center Collapse on 9/11”

**Douglas Lotten
New York Firefighter**

Douglas Lotten was born and raised on Long Island, NY. After graduating from high school in 1990, he went on to Southern Connecticut State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in criminal justice. Doug was also a valuable member of the SCSU wrestling team. In 1998, Lotten became a police officer with the New York City Police Department. Assigned to Harlem, he served 2 years as a police officer before being hired as a firefighter with New York City. Following his completion of the fire academy, Lotten was assigned to Engine 71 in the South Bronx. A fire department procedure that transfers firefighters with less than 3 years throughout the city for a period of one year landed Lotten at Ladder 6 in Chinatown in January of 2001. Following the tragic events of 9/11, Lotten wound up returning to Engine 71 in December of 2001. He currently is assigned to Squad 61, a special operations company. Lotten has been married to his wife Tracy for 3 years and resides in White Plains, NY.

**Wednesday, October 9th
7:00 P.M.**

Joan C. Edwards Playhouse

“Spiritual Resistance during the Holocaust”

Ruth Minsky Sender

Author and Holocaust Survivor

Book Signing to Follow

Ruth Minsky Sender, Yiddish name Riva, was born in 1926 in Lodz, Poland. She married Morris Sender, also a Holocaust survivor, and came to the USA in 1950. Ms. Sender has four children and eight grandchildren and is a retired principal of a Jewish Sunday school, a Holocaust survivor, an author, and a lecturer. As an author, she has published *THE CAGE*, *TO LIFE*, and *THE HOLOCAUST LADY*. Her awards and honors include the Notable Children's trade books in the Field of Social Study and The Children's Book Council, Notable Trade books for Language Arts, and the Merit of Distinction from the International Center for Holocaust Studies of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Her works have also been selected by the New York Public Libraries books for the Teen Age, and she received the Major Joseph H. Lief J.W.V. Brotherhood Award for her efforts to further understanding between people through her teaching and her books. Not yet published are her works: *REMEMBER YOUR NAME* and *MY FRIEND*, poetry written in the concentration camps on scraps of paper and translated from Yiddish as a free person in the USA.

**Thursday, October 10th
7:00 P.M.**

Joan C. Edwards Playhouse

“Transforming Adversity with Opportunity”

Sylvia Mathews

Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director

**(Libraries, Pacific Northwest and Special Projects) Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation**

Sylvia Mathews oversees finance, administration, legal issues, government relations, public affairs, and three of the foundation’s areas of giving: Pacific Northwest, Special Projects, and Libraries. In addition, Mathews serves on the executive team, helping to shape overall foundation strategy and evaluate the effectiveness of current programs. Mathews coordinates the foundation’s strategy of building partnerships with governments, industry, United Nations agencies, foundations and non-governmental organizations.

Mathews served in the Clinton administration as deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, where she was responsible for coordinating administration efforts on budget and appropriations matters, as well as other legislative and management issues. Mathews has also served as assistant to the president, deputy chief of staff to the president, and as chief of staff to Secretary of the Treasury, Robert E. Rubin. Before joining the federal government, Mathews worked in the private sector for McKinsey & Company management consulting firm. Mathews is a graduate of Harvard University and is a Rhodes Scholar. She hails from Hinton, West Virginia.

The 16th Annual Symposium Dinner 2002 To Introduce the Maier Class of 2006
Friday, October 11, 2002
Grand Ballroom, Huntington Civic Arena

Yeager Scholars – Maier Class of 2006

Ryan Stockton Adkins
Jeremy Donald Ashe
Jessica Ashley Cox
Srijita Das Gupta
Mary Catherine Haupt
Katie Elaine Hempill
Nicholas Rice Phillips
Matthew Keane Prochnow
Gabriel Kurosh Riazzi
Steven Allen Taylor
Matthew John Vincent
Ashley Elizabeth White
Michael Dean Wooten

Dinner Program

Welcome:	Syndee Smirl, Class of 2005 Chair, Yeager Symposium
Invocation:	Brianne Erwin, Class of 2003
Dinner	
Greetings from MU:	Dan Angel President, Marshall University
Greetings from Verizon:	John Ruddick, Executive Director Government and External Relations
Introduction of Guests:	Will Alexander, Class of 2005 Erica Wiley, Class of 2005
Honored Guest:	General Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager
Introduction of Classes:	Shawn Green, Class of 2004 Heather Hammond, Class of 2004
Remarks:	John Fiedler, President, Society of Yeager Scholars Board of Directors
Introduction of the Class of 2006:	Michael Beck, Class of 2003

Special Thanks to:

“The Enduring Human Spirit” Yeager Symposium Committee

Sydnee Smirl, Class of 2005, Chair

Joanna Coleman, Class of 2005, Banquet Chair

Yeager Advisory Committee (YAC)

Michael Beck, Class of 2003, Co-Chair

Brianne Erwin, Class of 2003, Co-Chair

Ryan Adkins, Maier Class of 2006, Secretary

William Alexander, Class of 2005

Srijita Das Gupta, Maier Class of 2006

Shawn Greene, Class of 2004

Heather Hammond, Class of 2004

Erica Wiley, Class of 2005

Sponsors:

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