

Home sweet home

Wymore returns from trip to Africa armed with knowledge to share



While Wymore was in Africa, he went to other places to explore its natural beauty. Photo courtesy of Marshall Wymore

BY SAMI MICHAEL

Social Studies teacher Marshall Wymore returns home after spending six weeks over the summer in South Africa and Lesotho.

The University of Toledo chose Wymore along with fourteen other teachers. The trip was 85 percent paid for by the university. It covered travel, food, and lodging along with a Fulbright-Hays participant award.

“When we got to Lesotho -which is definitely rural, very third world, very poor- I was struck by how friendly everyone was and open to us being Americans,” Wymore said.

While he was there, Wymore got first hand experience on the different lifestyles and cultures of Africans. They have modern day technology like we do, such as cell phones.

“I was actually really impressed, and I knew from reading ahead of time, and talking about it in my classes, that in many parts of Africa they use cell phones because actually rewiring each person’s house was too expensive. So they have cell phones, but I was surprised at the extent of how many people have cell phones,” Wymore said.

Not only did he get to study the culture, he got to visit schools. According to Wymore, so many students there appreciate their education.

“I saw students there who came from the most horrific neighborhoods. The people lived in tin shacks, and those kids appreciated their education so much,” Wymore said. “They see where they are coming from, and don’t want to stay there. They want to get out, and the only way to get out is through

their education.”

Junior Jocelyn Mullins believes that Wymore going to Africa was beneficial to his teaching.

“He got to experience different culture so he learned a lot of different ways people live,” said Mullins.

Michael Berezky, also a junior, in one of Wymore’s government classes agrees that Wymore going to Africa was beneficial.

“It lets him understand more, the nature of Africa rather than reading it from a book,” said Berezky.

While Wymore and the group were there, they also went on two safari rides, one that was part of the trip, and another on their own.

“One of them was through the national park we were at, they took us around,” said Wymore. “It was right before dark so we could maybe see some animals coming out that usually don’t come out in the day.”

The next day he and several people in their group went on another safari. They basically drove around and stopped and took pictures of animals they saw.

“That time was kind of scary, because we looked out and we saw a couple elephants and this car stopped to roll down their window and said wait there are more elephants coming,” Wymore said. “By the time they were done, there were over 40 elephants in this herd.”

The adventures of the second safari did not end there according to Wymore’s story.

“When we were going back the original direction there was one

straggling elephant. Because we wouldn’t get out of her way, she got angry with us and started coming after our van, like running toward the van. So quick the group leader had to throw it in reverse and drive in reverse as the elephant was running toward us for a while,” Wymore said. “It was pretty intense for a little bit, and then it got distracted by some trees and started eating some trees.”

Another thing Wymore did with the group was have lunch with the king of Lesotho. He was amazed at how down-to-earth the king was; he served Wymore and other guests tea.

“I remember thinking this is bizarre. Why is the king of Lesotho serving me my tea or coffee? I thought there’s got to be like a servant or someone to do this for you, but nope... He was not the type that said this is above me. It was really cool.”

After the group left Africa, Wymore stayed a week there by himself and focused on other sites.

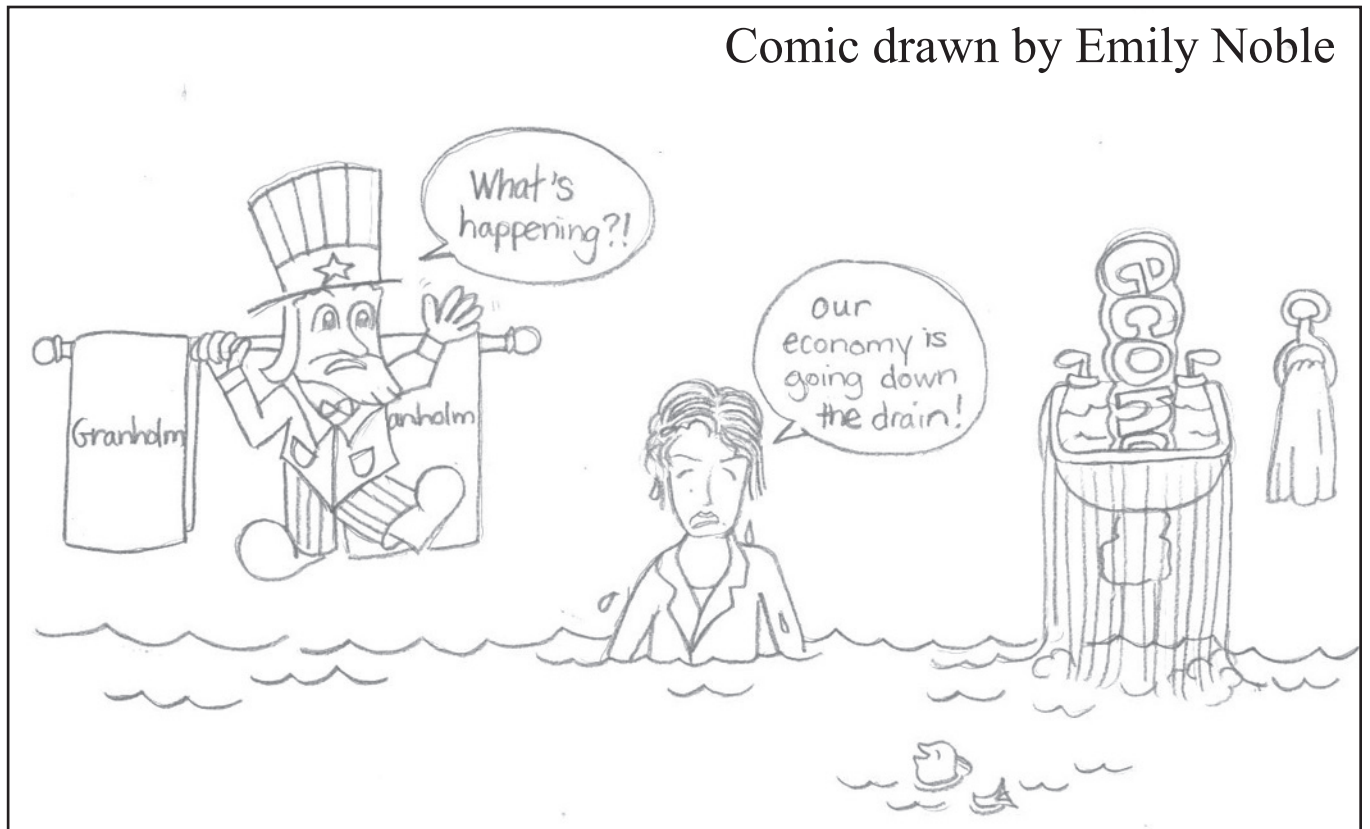
“When I was there on my own I spent a lot of time on the coast,” said Wymore. “Because I had spent so much time in the city, I wanted to spend more time looking at the natural beauty of Africa.”

Wymore considers this an experience of a lifetime, and if he had the chance, he would go back.

“[I would go back] in a heartbeat. I told people now that I’ve traveled there I want to travel to other places of the world,” Wymore said. “But I would cross one of those things off my list if somebody wanted to go back to Africa and invite me along with them to show them around. I loved it.”



The map displays all the places in South Africa that Wymore visited. Picture by: Molly Guckian



Paluszewski wins national awards

BY DELANEY CADE

Main office administration assistant Alana Paluszewski received two national book awards last spring.

These awards were given to Paluszewski for her biography on Ann Marston called *Shooting Star: The Amazing Life of Ann Marston*.

Shooting Star won the ForeWord Magazine’s top ten biographies of the year; also the biography won a bronze medal for best regional non-fiction by Independent Publishers of America.

“It was very exciting to win two national events,” said Paluszewski. “I did not expect that.”

Both awards were announced at the International Book Expo in Los Angeles last May.

The biography that got Paluszewski the awards was on a local celebrity Ann Marston.

“I looked into her story and learned more about her and felt her story needed to be told,” said Paluszewski.

Marston attended Roosevelt High School from 1952 to 1956.

She was famous for being an archer, being on television shows and being Miss Michigan.

Paluszewski used historical artifacts among other things to create this biography. One of the main artifacts was Marston’s own diaries. These diaries gave Paluszewski a inside look at Marston’s life growing up famous, traveling to competitions and even when she appeared on television.

“I got her perspective from the diaries, so that was fun,” Paluszewski said.

At one point in Marston’s life she managed rock and roll groups from Detroit. This was Paluszewski’s favorite part of the biography.

“I learned how involved she was with managing bands,” said Paluszewski. “She described a lot of the bookings that she was making for bands and I went to a lot of the same places when I was a kid.”

DR. DAN STEIN

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