

DEFIANCE

in

ACTION!



The thirteen young alumni featured in this issue are among the nearly 10,000 alumni who have experienced the transforming difference a Defiance College education can make. Through Defiance's academic excellence and real-world engagement, they are taking their knowledge, skills and gifts into the avenues of everyday life. Their contributions are anything but ordinary.

The ultimate test of any college's quality is the blend of accomplishment and character in the students it prepares. At Defiance College, we are proud of our alumni. Every day, they are making contributions that broaden the scope of human knowledge and transform lives.

They are living out the college's motto - To Know, To Lead, To Serve, To Understand.

Hearing the call of FAITH EDUCATION

BRANDY BRING '05 | FAITH FORMATION | OBERLIN, OH

Brandy thinks she has the best job in the world. "Every day I get to wake up and go to a job that makes a difference in the world. In fact it doesn't feel like work at all," she says.

Brandy is the Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation and Youth at the First Church in Oberlin United Church of Christ in Oberlin, Ohio, a position she has held since graduating from DC.

"I am responsible for all the educational programming that happens within our church from our youngest children through adults. I also oversee and teach all of our youth programming," she explains. She also helps plan and lead wider youth events for the church's association and conference and preaches at her church on occasion, and at other congregations when the opportunity arises.

"Intergenerational worship experience is one of my passions, and I plan and lead these services once every couple months."

Growing up in Amherst, Ohio, Brandy graduated from Marion L. Steele High School in 2001. Her parents, Ken and Cindy Bring, and older sister, Heather Torres, still reside in Amherst, which is just ten minutes from Oberlin, so when she joined the Oberlin UCC, it was a sort of homecoming for Brandy.

"The education in my field was invaluable, but my field work education was by far the most helpful experience."

Family is very important to her, and her niece and nephews consume her non-working life. A big sports fan, Brandy enjoys teaching them how to play softball, baseball and



basketball. Brandy also enjoys attending Cleveland Indians games.

Brandy was familiar with Defiance College because of its affiliation with the United Church of Christ. She knew it was where she wanted to attend, and she knew exactly what she wanted to major in. In addition to Christian education studies, she took many psychology courses.

"The education in my field was invaluable, but my field work education was by far the most helpful experience," she relates. "Being able to learn hands-on skills at St. Paul's United Methodist in Napoleon for two years was very helpful as I prepared to serve my own congregation." Brandy worked with St. Paul's afterschool middle school youth program, and in her senior year, prepared and taught classes for elementary-aged children.

Dr. Marian Plant was the most influential professor Brandy had at Defiance College, and a tough one, too, she remembers. "I learned a great deal about faith formation and ministry from Marian."

Whatever the future holds for Brandy, she knows it will be some sort of ministry with young people because, as she puts it, "Working with children and youth is my life calling."

By Michele Tinker
Director of Annual Giving

Setting goals and ACHIEVING THEM

CHAD BIEBER '01 | FINANCIAL SERVICES | DALLAS, TX



As with many if not all students, where Chad is today is not exactly where he envisioned himself when he entered Defiance College.

Chad Bieber '01 is a director in the Dallas office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, financial services tax group. In this capacity he assists with international tax consulting and compliance-related private equity, fund-to-fund, and hedge fund activities. He enjoys being able to help people with complex business and tax issues as their trusted business advisor.

“When I came to DC it was with the intent to go to law school and become a lawyer focused on International Law. Even though I had no idea how to make that happen when I first started, I quickly realized how great of a network existed at the College! Also, I quickly learned that if you want to do something, no one is going to do it for you. You have to set your own goals and make them happen.” He went on to earn his degree in finance and human resources at Defiance, and a master’s in accountancy and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo. He is a certified public accountant.

Chad was part of the DC Presidential Service Leaders, a scholarship group that participates in a variety of service and leadership activities. “This allowed me to hone my leadership skills and realize how easy it was to make a difference in one’s community,” Chad explains.

“Growing up in a small farm community, I never thought I would have the courage to study abroad for a summer at Oxford University, travel for work by myself to China, Australia and New Zealand, or move away from my hometown area for work opportunities. All of my experiences at Defiance made me realize that there are very few limits on my potential, other than those that I allow to exist.”

Chad sees himself continuing his career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, but adds, “Who knows where that could be, though? I have opportunities to work in many cities in the U.S. and potential to go to any city in the world.”

A native of Fayette, Ohio, Chad likes to spend his free time traveling. “Whether it is local or international, I really enjoy seeing and understanding other parts of the world firsthand.”

Chad recently joined the Defiance College Board of Trustees, where he shares his business acumen and his perspective as a young alumnus.

“All of my experiences at Defiance made me realize that there are very few limits on my potential, other than those that I allow to exist.”

*By Michele Tinker
Director of Annual Giving*

Finding rewards in CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

BRITNEY HUFFMAN '08 | HUMAN RESOURCES | CLEVELAND, OH

Only seven years ago, she was a newly-minted Defiance College alumna looking to enter the workforce. She joined the field of human resources, first at Federal Reserve Bank, and later at Key Bank, both in Cleveland.



At Federal Reserve Bank, Britney was involved in internship and interview processes. “It wasn’t long before that I had been in their shoes, trying to figure out what to do with my life, transferring skills learned in school to a job.”

Now she works as a human resources recruiter, hiring for sales positions, mortgage loan officers and financial advisers. She has been with Key Bank since July of last year. In the near future, she hopes to move into a senior level recruitment role, and has been working closely with her supervisor toward that goal. Beyond that, she has an interest in working in the area of diversity and inclusion, or possibly in a human resources business partner role, not only in recruitment but training and development. “It’s something new that companies are implementing, replacing the human resources generalist,” she said.

After graduating from Defiance College, Britney earned a master’s degree in international management from Baldwin-Wallace University, a field that caught her interest after her experience as a McMaster Scholar to Cambodia. Her McMaster project focused on educating Cambodian women and children about the dangers of human sex trafficking. “That experience, on how people were living, and the other projects students were working on, inspired me to learn more about business from a global perspective,” she said. “With this degree, I could learn about business relations nationally and internationally, and it was a good fit coming off my McMaster experience at Defiance College.”

With the importance of civic engagement that was instilled in her, Britney is looking to become more engaged in her local community in Cleveland. “I wasn’t involved as much as I would have liked, and I’m trying to be more involved now,” she said. She recently became active with Shoes and Clothes for Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides shoes and clothing

at no cost to thousands of children in need in the greater Cleveland area. She sits on an associate board to coordinate drives to collect and distribute shoes and clothing.

Reflecting back on her Defiance College experience, Britney recalled that her college search wasn’t extensive. “I didn’t search a lot of schools. I landed at DC and got really lucky.”

While it was an adjustment coming to a small community and campus, she met lifelong friends and lived and studied in a close-knit environment. “There was enough to do to stay busy and have fun, but not get distracted,” she said.

Her professors were “business savvy” and shared their own experiences which helped to better understand what was being taught. She landed two internships in the Defiance area with the help of the college’s career development office. “Having those close connections with staff and faculty has made me very successful transitioning from college to the business world. It made Defiance College a great place to go to school. DC can offer much more than large universities.”

She said her most powerful college experience was the Cambodia learning community. “That’s impacted me for a while ... The fact that you have a passion for something, you put this research into action, make some contacts, and Defiance College says ‘here’s the funds for the project to take across the world.’”

By Kathy PUNCHES '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

Showing children KINDNESS & HONESTY

LIZ DICKMAN '11 | DEPUTY OFFICER, S.V.U. | COLUMBIA, SC



As a student in Professor Frank Sanders' Theories of Personality class, Liz Dickman completed an assignment to do a psychoanalysis of serial killer Ted Bundy. "We had to pick apart his entire life..."

“From childhood through adulthood, evaluating each piece of him [Ted Bundy] and his psyche to figure out what brought him to be the person he became,” she recalls.

For Dickman, that assignment along with many other psychology courses she took from Sanders and Dr. Deb Dalke piqued her interest and set her on a path leading to a career in law enforcement. She now works as a deputy with the Richland County Sheriff's Department in Columbia, S.C., specializing in neglected and abused children. She is part of the Special Victims Unit of the Criminal Investigations Division.

In the Special Victims Unit, Dickman is the emergency protective custody coordinator. When children or vulnerable adults are neglected or abused, it's her job to remove them from the unsafe environment and place them with the Department of Social Services for their protection. She works with all areas of the Sheriff's Department including school resource officers, line/road units, narcotics, and investigations.

Her duties change on a daily basis. She responds to crime scenes, hospitals and schools, taking photos of injuries, conditions in homes, and evidence. Victims have ranged in age from four weeks to 91 years. She is regularly called upon to testify in court.

“I typically work with sad and disturbing cases of child abuse and/or neglect,” she says. “Those tug at my heart strings, but I take comfort in knowing that although I am removing children from their homes and families, I am doing it to protect them from a bad situation. While they are in my care, whether for 10 minutes or four hours, I show them love, kindness and honesty. I tend to say that I don't have any children of my own, but all of the kids in Richland County are mine to watch over.”

A native of Lima, Ohio, Dickman graduated in 2011 from DC where she majored in psychology and minored in business administration. She then enrolled as a graduate student at the University of South Carolina where she earned an MSW in 2013. With an interest in criminal justice and law enforcement, she secured an internship with the sheriff's department to work with incorrigible youths and repeat ninth graders in local high schools. She also assisted the criminal investigations division.

After a year and a half in her fulltime position as EPC coordinator, she was named 2014 Deputy of the Year in Victim Services. And, she recently learned that she has been promoted to Class I Deputy and will soon embark on a new challenge as a first responding road deputy. She is hoping that she will be able to re-enter investigations in the coming years to begin training as the department's first female polygrapher.

“Attending DC for my undergraduate degree prepared me for so much more than I ever thought was possible. I never thought I would be able to pack up and move to a bigger city by myself, let alone complete graduate school and work in law enforcement,” she says.

“The personal attention I received at DC is what empowered me to branch out and take huge steps. DC laid the foundation for me to become something totally unexpected. My family and friends can attest to that, especially now that I wear a badge and gun every day!

“I not only brought a strong education from DC to South Carolina, but I brought maturity, professionalism, and confidence to step outside the box and reach for something higher.”

*By Kathy Punches '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

Building rapport with STUDENTS & STAFF

TIM MANZ '05 | PRINCIPAL | ANTWERP, OH

Tim is in his second year as elementary principal at Antwerp Local Schools, Antwerp, Ohio, where every day brings something different.

Tim says he does a daily walk through the building, stopping at classrooms and the lunchroom, which helps him understand the pulse of the school and observe the good things that are happening.

"I love to see students in our building engaged in their learning. Whenever I stop into a class, students want to show me what they are learning, or what they created. The students also want to talk with me at lunchtime or in the hallways, and this makes me happy because this shows me the students and I have a positive rapport."

Part of the job of principal involves being the disciplinarian, and even though Tim addresses behavior issues and violations to the student handbook, he works to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. "I feel this is more conducive to getting things accomplished than trying to scare the students," Tim explains.

Tim also spends time staying current with new laws and guidelines from the state, and keeping his staff up to date on these as well. "Another task that I address is trying to find instructional materials and/or programs that will benefit our students and staff and will boost students' achievement," he relates. Tim is also involved with the school PTO and serves as a board member of the Oakwood Library Association.

"The part of DC that best prepared me for my career was my interaction with my fellow Middle Childhood Education classmates.

Looking ahead, Manz sees himself staying in his current role of elementary principal, but adds, "I may try to join more organizations and committees that deal with elementary



photo by Kayla Bagley

education, in order to make our voice heard in rural northwest Ohio."

When he came to DC, Tim knew he wanted to be an educator but was undecided as to what subjects or grade level. "The part of DC that best prepared me for my career was my interaction with my fellow Middle Childhood Education classmates. We spent most of the last two years in many of the same courses and were able to build a bond that helped us all get through these years. We were able to ask each other for advice, help each other with projects, and push each other to set higher aspirations for ourselves."

His most interesting experiences at Defiance were during his seminar class during his student teaching. "There just seemed to be a definite difference in the mentality between the Elementary, Middle Childhood, and High School prospective teachers. There were some interesting conversations in this seminar, some funny and some got a little heated. This was a very interesting time, and looking back on it, a very informative time," he remembers.

Tim grew up on a farm in Paulding, Ohio, and participated in baseball, basketball, 4-H, the envirothon team and the engineering team. After graduating from DC, he taught at Montpelier and Fairview school districts, before coming to Antwerp. An avid reader in his free time, Tim also enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, riding ATVs, and being with his family - wife Joy (Stoller) '05, who earned her degree in Early Childhood Education at DC, and their three children, Makenna, Connor and Kennedy.

By Michele Tinker
Director of Annual Giving

The Reward of HELPING ATHLETES

CRAIG BURKE '08 | ATHLETIC TRAINER | LONG ISLAND, NY

Helping student-athletes develop their athletic careers is the fulfillment of the goal Craig Burke, class of 2008, set when he decided to major in athletic training at Defiance College.



Now the assistant athletic trainer for the NCAA Division I football program at Stony Brook University on Long Island, New York, Craig not only likes the daily challenges of the position but the opportunity to be a part of the student-athletes' growth and development in the world outside of sport.

His typical day involves mainly patient care, working with football team members in all parts of their health care including prevention, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. He also acts as liaison, managing student-athlete treatment with orthopedists, chiropractors, sport psychologists, nutritionists, and other specialists. He communicates regularly with the coaching staff, strength and conditioning specialists and those involved with equipment, academic development, and athletic compliance.

Before arriving at Stony Brook, Craig spent three seasons as head athletic trainer for football at Robert Morris University in Chicago, where he developed policies and procedures for student-athlete care and treatment for a new football program.

He also worked with Division I programs at the U.S. Naval Academy where he conducted an internship, and pursued a master's degree at Northern Illinois University where he worked in the football and softball programs.

While the work can be challenging, Craig loves the reward of helping student-athletes develop their athletic careers. "Each day is always different, and a new challenge is always around the corner," he says. He hopes to eventually move into a head athletic trainer position in a Division I football program.

He believes that all of his experiences in and out of the classroom at DC helped prepare him for the life he leads today. From interactions with his professors, students, and soccer teammates, to involvement in the Cambodia learning community as a McMaster Scholar, Craig received guidance and support along the way.

Professors Jeff Weaner and Dr. JoAnn Burkhardt encouraged Craig to get involved in the McMaster School and submit a proposal for the Cambodia learning community. The international experience "taught me how I could give back to the world community using what I learned in the classroom within my major area of study," he says.

Kevin Tong, Kathleen Westfall and Cindy Studrawa played key roles in his athletic training education. "These individuals demanded the most out of me in the classroom and continue to help me today in my career path."

He believes that all of his experiences in and out of the classroom at DC helped prepare him for the life he leads today.

Some of his fondest memories of DC revolve around athletics, particularly as a member of the men's soccer team. "This time was wonderful. As a team, we were able to share in great wins, learn from tough losses, and share a bond as teammates."

By Kathy Panches '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

Finding Fulfillment THROUGH RELIEF

AUDRIC WARREN '07 | ATHLETIC TRAINER | GARY, IN

Audric Warren has a passion for athletic training. He enjoys being able to provide care to his patient-athletes from the moment of their injury, through recovery and rehab, until they are back on the field or court.



“It’s unique in the sense that I have the opportunity to provide care in an all-encompassing way,” he says. “I’m the first person there to evaluate the injury. I’m the person rehabbing them after the injury. And after they have recovered, I’m at their practice or on the sidelines, dugout, or on the bench watching them do what they love. There is nothing else like that in healthcare. ... It is incredibly fulfilling to have the opportunity to help relieve someone’s pain and help them to be successful doing what they love.”

Since graduating from Defiance College in 2007, Audric has worked in athletic training in the Gary/Chicago area. He has worked in higher education for Purdue University Calumet, Robert Morris College, and South Suburban College. He’s also worked with minor league teams including the Windy City Thunderbolts, Gary Southshore Railcats, and Chi-town Shooters.

In 2013, Audric began working with Indiana University Health Systems as head athletic trainer for Indiana University Northwest, where he was also an adjunct professor. He is currently with IUHS as a sports performance athletic trainer, a new position in which he will help to develop and implement a new sports performance program for the hospital’s high school and college contracted services. He hopes to eventually start his own company.

When Audric arrived at Defiance College after being recruited by football coach Greg Pscodna, he didn’t have a career in mind. His professors and mentors – Kevin Tong, Kathleen Westfall and Cindy Studrawa – gave him direction. “I remember various times each one of them sitting me down and basically telling me that I needed to get my crap together because I was a bit of a slacker. ... I don’t even want to know where I would be if they hadn’t taken chances on me or put

their faith in me so that I could believe it was possible to write my own ticket to be a successful person.”

He recalls all of the time spent with his fellow AT majors – Cassy Beardsley, Heather Grine, Aaron Flynn, Diane Bruns, Craig Burke, Kristi Weddelman and Lisa Malone. “They made watching every practice and covering every game go from something potentially tedious to a fun atmosphere.”

He says it’s hard to pick out one event or experience that stands out during his years at DC. “I say that because I met a lot of great people that I shared a lot of great experiences with, and it would honestly be easier to list names than experiences because each person is a series of great experiences.” A few of those people are Matt Fleig, Steve Langley, Kristyn Tooley, Rachel Flad, Kristin Goldstein, Samantha Higdon, Laura Derov, Amanda Tooley, Matt Fosnaugh, Trevor Matuszak, Eric Swartz, Kasey Carlisle, Bilal Muta, Ernest Clover, Kyle Minnis, Aaron Clover and Najla Muta.

These days, his free time is often spent reading books or research articles on athletic training, or coming up with new ideas. “When I’m not doing that, I enjoy spending time with my family or going to the movies,” he says.

It may have been Audric’s own experiences in high school sports that led him to his college major and eventual career. Audric grew up in Gary, Ind., playing football and basketball and running track at Bishop Noll Institute. “I spent a lot of time in the athletic training room due to injuries I sustained in football,” he recalls.

He’s come full circle.

*By Kathy Punches '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

Lifelong goal to SERVE & PROTECT

TOMAR THOMAS '01 | POLICE OFFICER | SOUTH BEND, IN



Tomar serves as a school resource officer with the investigative division, where he investigates crimes in the public schools or involving students.

Tomar Thomas '01 was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, and after getting his degree in criminal justice at Defiance College, he is now a member of the South Bend Police Department. His job rewards him with the two things he enjoys the most: It offers something different every day, and he is constantly interacting with people.

Criminal justice was always the career path Tomar wanted to take, although he wasn't clear as to whether it would be through juvenile probation or law enforcement. He gives a lot of credit to now-retired Dr. Don Knueve and Professor Steve Sondergaard for helping him make his decision. "They really cleared up some grey areas for me and gave me a good foundation for what was to come."

Tomar added, "Dr. Knueve knows everything and Professor Sondergaard is a former police officer – so he put his job experience into the classroom. It was a big-time help for me."

One of his most memorable experiences was a criminal justice trip to Chicago, where the students participated in a ride-along with police and talked to the officers. "That really made me lean towards the law enforcement side of CJ."

Another important part of his time at Defiance College was playing football and interacting with the guys on the team, with whom he still stays in touch. "I am closer to the guys on the team than the guys I grew up with," Tomar explains, and he believes that his team experience has helped make him who he is today. He especially recalls how Coach Rob Taylor and Greg and Susan Pscodna were always there for him and the other members of the football team.

Tomar envisions staying in law enforcement and continuing his career within the South Bend P.D., depending on what opportunities are available. "All options are open," he states. In his off-hours, Tomar coaches varsity football at a local high school. He also does some part-time police work for the University of Notre Dame during special events, which he particularly enjoys because he gets to watch the Fighting Irish in action.

"Dr. Knueve knows everything and Professor Sondergaard is a former police officer – so he put his job experience into the classroom. It was a big-time help for me."

*By Michele Tinker
Director of Annual Giving*

Variety is truly THE SPICE OF LIFE

TREVOR AULT '12 | TV REPORTER | TOLEDO, OH

Trevor Ault is fast becoming a familiar face on WTOL-11 News in Toledo, where he is seen on the morning shows as a features and web reporter.



He does live reports showcasing local businesses, detailed in-house reports on what's happening online (tweets, viral stories, etc.) and serves as a sports reporter for a Friday night sports wrap-up. He is also responsible for running WTOL's website, Facebook and Twitter pages and has even filled in as anchor and traffic reporter on several occasions.

It's a job with a lot of variety every day, which suits Trevor perfectly. As he explains, "It is very rare for me to know exactly what I'll be doing any given day when I go to work. I also love getting to meet an incredible number of interesting local people who are willing to share their stories."

Trevor's decision to go into broadcasting came late in his college career. "Defiance College offered me the ability to pursue my interests in every direction I wanted." Because of the small size of the college and encouragement from staff, Trevor felt he was able to try out new ideas. While at DC, he worked as a reporter for sports broadcasts, anchored online highlight videos, and emceed pep rallies and charity events.

"Defiance College offered me the ability to pursue my interests in every direction I wanted."

He feels his ability to hone his craft at DC was because of the support he received here. "Some of my greatest skills I use on a daily basis (comfort on air and an ability to improvise) are ones I cultivated at Defiance College. I sincerely believe I wouldn't have developed these skills at a larger school." He especially appreciates the guidance he received from Ryan Imbrock, associate director of marketing and brand quality, and Jim Funderburg, announcer for DC sportscasts, and

believes that without their help, he wouldn't have pursued broadcasting as a career. "The coaches and staff at DC were also tremendously open and patient with me.

"The student body shaped who I am as a human being. I doubt I will ever laugh as hard or as frequently as I did with my friends at Defiance College," he added. "I really can't overstate just how much fun I had being surrounded by so many close friends at the school. I distinctly remember giving tours to prospective students and being able to sincerely say hello to every person I passed. And it wasn't an act, they were truly all my friends. Something about that struck me as very special.

"My freshman year I was randomly assigned to live with a roommate with whom I objectively had nothing in common. I proceeded to voluntarily live with him every single year at the school. He remains one of my closest friends."

Trevor grew up in Oregon, Ohio, and graduated from Clay High School. He started at Defiance as an accounting major before switching to communications. After DC, he earned a graduate degree at Syracuse University.

Ideally, Trevor would like to stay at WTOL and work his way up the ranks, transitioning to hosting shows about creative media, about which he is particularly passionate. In his free time, when he's not exercising, he is absorbing articles and podcasts on the inner workings of television, film and music, which he's found very helpful in his career.

By Michele Tinker
Director of Annual Giving

The busy life of a DREAM COME TRUE

SARAH (KUHN) CARPENTER '04 | ELEPHANT KEEPER | TOLEDO, OH



As a freshman at Defiance College, Sarah knew that she wanted to someday be a zookeeper. She recalls sharing her career goal with then-professor Dave Reed.

“He didn’t judge me or look at me funny like a lot of people, but he told me what to major in. He taught me a lot.” Reed steered her toward the college’s Restoration Ecology major, which she says was the right choice.

Since graduating in 2004, the Defiance native has worked at three different zoos and today is an elephant keeper at the Toledo Zoo. She started working in Toledo’s small mammal department in 2008, and in 2009 switched to large mammals. She’s been with the elephants since June of that year. “Getting to work with these amazing animals makes me happy on a daily basis,” she says. “Whether it is a breakthrough in their training or seeing them play with an enrichment item that I helped create, it’s very fulfilling ... It’s a dream come true to be around them every day.”

The Toledo Zoo has four African elephants: Renee, the 35-year-old matriarch; her three-year-old calf, Lucas; Renee’s firstborn, Louie, who is 11; and Twiggy, an unrelated 29-year-old female. Each has his or her own unique personality, and Sarah finds joy in working with all of the elephants.

She notes that the expectation most people have is that zookeepers spend their days cleaning. “We do clean, but we also do a lot of other things in a typical day at the barn, and no two days are ever the same.” A typical day for Sarah includes cleaning the elephant holdings and exhibits, making sure they are fed proper diets, providing enrichment, examining them from head to toe, and checking to make sure their enclosures are safe at all times. Each elephant also receives daily individual training sessions to teach new behaviors and/or maintain the behaviors they already know. Some of these behaviors include blood draws, x-rays, foot trims, baths, semen collections,

mouth inspections, and having them stand on their hind legs to exhibit natural behaviors.

Sarah says one of the most remarkable things she’s been involved in has been a successful artificial insemination on Renee resulting in the pregnancy and birth of Lucas in 2011. Watching him learn and grow and teaching him new behaviors has been very rewarding.

When she’s not working, Sarah likes to be on the go. A couple of years ago she began riding horses English-style, which she loves. She also does triathlons, 5k races, and various fun color runs or mud runs. During the summer, she and her husband, Jay, play in a co-ed softball league. Chris Moreo Yenser, a friend from DC, plays on their championship team.

Sarah also participates in agility performance with her two-year-old German shepherd, Bea. And, she recently took up backpacking. She and her father, Glenn, are making a tradition of yearly hikes of sections of the Appalachian Trail.

Many of her best Defiance College memories center on the softball team, probably topped by winning the HCAC tournament and playing in the NCAA tournament. Also, being recognized with the Duane C. Hocking Award in her senior year was a great honor. Some of the most valuable lessons learned came from faculty and coaches, including Professor Reed, softball coach Kary Kankey and basketball coach Tom Barnes.

But, like many alumni, some of her fondest memories are those impromptu occasions. “This is going to sound silly,” she says, “and my old softball teammates will remember this, but the ‘pool party’ we had at the fountain is one of the things I will never forget!”

*By Kathy Punches '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

Strengthening her LOVE OF ANIMALS

KAITLIN STUDER '09 | VETERINARY TECHNICIAN | BALTIMORE, MD



Think about your typical work day, and then imagine a day in Kaitlin Studer's professional shoes. On any given day at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, she might be cleaning the teeth of an African leopard, giving an injection to a giraffe, ...

... drawing blood or taking radiographs of patients like chimpanzees, rhinoceroses, river otters, or warthogs.

As a registered veterinary technician, Kaitlin, class of 2009, likes the variety of her daily schedule. Her responsibilities often include prepping for procedures, drawing blood, monitoring anesthetized patients, assisting veterinarians, conducting dental cleanings, or giving injections.

Another critical aspect of her job is lab work, such as conducting complete blood cell counts, fecal exams, cytologies, and microbiology testing. "The ability to conduct manual complete blood cell counts on birds and reptile species is particularly important because of their nucleated red blood cells which cannot be processed in a machine," she explains.

She likes working closely with keepers and their animals. "My colleagues and I work with different species to establish a good relationship with animals to efficiently treat them without stress," she says. "I find fulfillment in animal care, and it is great to be a part of a team with the ultimate goal of making sure our animal collection is healthy."

Kaitlin knew for a long time that she wanted to work with animals, perhaps as a veterinarian. After her freshman year at Defiance College, she interned at the Toledo Zoo where she gained experience in the bird department for her McMaster project in Belize. "After going to Belize, I reconsidered my career options and explored different paths of work involving veterinary medicine and conservation," she says. "I began to learn about the responsibilities of veterinary technicians and

veterinarians, and how I could apply them to conservation."

Her experiences with McMaster School initiatives in Belize were a great influence. "Working in a learning community taught me how synergistic a team can really be while working together to achieve a goal," she says. And, her involvement in the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program provided opportunities to gain confidence in public speaking and preparing presentations.

Professor Dean Flightner was one of her greatest role models at DC, along with Dr. Doug Kane. But, her mother, Mary Ann Studer, dean of the McMaster School, was most instrumental in supporting her in creating her own path. "Having a mother as a professor seems easy, but it is not," she quips. "Indeed, no slack was ever cut in her 8 a.m. physics class! My mom was a great supporter and taught me many skills prior to, during, and after my experiences at Defiance College."

Kaitlin's unique learning experiences in Belize forged some of her most special DC memories. "I not only created friendships with other students which I still maintain today, but I also fostered lasting partnerships with community partners in Belize. I often reminisce about the howler monkey sounds I would hear at night at the research station or the evening vehicle rides trying to spot jaguars."

But, the DC relationship that is her most special is the one she has with Bryant Green, class of 2012, who just graduated from law school at the University of Toledo. The couple met on campus and will be married later this year.

*By Kathy Punches '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

Keep on striving FOR SUCCESS

CASEY KAHSEN '10 | THREAT INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST | WASHINGTON D.C.

Within five years of graduating, he has taught at the college level, earned a graduate degree, and is now working in the intelligence community as a malware and threat intelligence specialist.



When Casey transferred to Defiance College, digital forensic studies were not part of his original decision. But, he learned of the program during his first visit to campus, and with his interest in computers, the choice of a major quickly became clear. "I was building computers and working with them on my own time prior to entering my studies at DC," he recalls. "I was also drawing interest in the field of forensics ... It struck a chord with me as something that I knew I would enjoy."

Casey enjoyed the hands-on approach taught by his professor, Dr. Gregg Gunsch. Being able to work with concepts in the forensics lab instead of just reading about them helped ignite his studies and eventual career. Defiance's program has a certification requirement that Casey says is a resume-builder. It also exposes students to industry standard practices and procedures.

Shortly after graduating from DC, Casey was hired as an instructor of digital forensics at the University of Northwestern Ohio. He says this opportunity allowed his skills to flourish. "I was dedicated to providing the best possible education that I could for my students," designing daily lectures, assessments and tests, and even brand new courses.

At the same time, Casey enrolled in graduate school at Champlain College in a program geared toward practitioners in the field. It was during his graduate studies that he learned of job openings with global security company Northrop Grumman Corporation. He was hired by Northrop Grumman on a contract with the Department of Homeland Security for the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) as a malware and threat intelligence specialist. Casey describes the team's task as early detection, malware and threat trending,

and response triaging on a global scale.

The DC alum recently completed his master's degree. His research delved into the impact of web server compromises from an intelligence perspective.

As his career progresses, Casey hopes to move from the research perspective to a malware analyst. Eventually, he would like to become a certified SANS instructor. SANS is a private company specializing in information security

Being able to work with concepts in the forensics lab instead of just reading about them helped ignite his studies and eventual career.

and cybersecurity training. "I feel that it would be both a professional landmark and a way to give back to the field that has been so good to me," he says.

Casey says training in the field of digital forensics can be long and daunting. "But the dividends will pay off if you strive for success. It is exciting and presents so many options."

By Kathy Panches '96
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

No fear of THE UNKNOWN

KERSTYN CLOVER '12 | GLOBAL INFORMATION SECURITY | CLEVELAND, OH



A month after my sixteenth birthday, I left everything I'd ever known to move eight hours away and attend a school I had only seen through flyers and webpages. It was every bit as scary as it might sound.

Serendipity was the main reason I decided on Defiance College. I had noticed the school in a pamphlet sent to my home my senior year of high school and again when searching around for something offering digital forensics as a field of study. I thought I liked the program, but I couldn't be entirely sure because I was still weighing the option of baking fancy cakes and had hardly ever used Internet that wasn't dial-up. I think what sold me on the program, and Defiance itself, were the people; they went out of their way to make sure that I made a smooth transition and let me know that they saw promise in me even when my own confidence faltered.

I did my best to take advantage of all that was offered to me. I switched focuses a few times much to the fear of my advisor, the professor in charge of my major, as he was convinced I'd find something else to do. I think I had my hands in everything at some point, and will freely admit that I bit off more than I could chew many times in my drive to sample everything offered up to me.

After graduation, I fell into my current position just as unaware of what I was getting myself into as I was when I showed up at orientation or all of the times I took on new things at Defiance. Once again I moved, alone, to a place I'd never been for a job that I wasn't certain I really knew how to do (but you never say that in the interviews!). Now I get paid to break into buildings, investigate crimes, and whatever else gets thrown at me that's related to information security. Again, I found a place where I can try a little of everything and build a broad range of knowledge and skills so that I feel I can at least give a solid effort on just about anything. Another big upside, of course, is the look on people's faces when I get an opportunity to tell stories about trying to "steal" data, sneak past security and police officers, or phish people – all so that I can teach them how to protect themselves when it's more than just a test.

It's important to find a niche in life, but I also have found it's just as important to be more curious than afraid. The things I learned and (perhaps more importantly) the ways that I learned to think came from classes on figure drawing and Shakespeare as much as they did accounting and data recovery.

If we're being honest, I have no idea where I see myself in a few years – but I also didn't have any clue what I really wanted to study, where I wanted to attend school, or where I wanted to work and everything has worked out this far so I'm not too concerned with that right now. Wherever it is, I'm sure I'll fall into it almost accidentally and learn something from the experience.

* We asked alumna Kerstyn Clover '12 to describe her achievements since graduation in her own words.

I think I had my hands in everything at some point, and will freely admit that I bit off more than I could chew many times in my drive to sample everything offered up to me.

By Kerstyn Clover '12