

Defiance College Fall 2014 Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame Inductees

Five former Defiance College student-athletes were inducted into the Alumni Varsity D Hall of Fame during 2014 Homecoming festivities.

Terry Morman, Class of 1990

Terry Morman lettered in basketball at Defiance College his entire four years, from 1986 to 1990. He was a member of the 1987-1988 District Championship team, a three-year starter, and was named to the First Team Academic All-American in 1990.

Fourth all-time leading scorer in DC basketball when graduating, Terry is currently eighth in scoring. He was a career leader in three-point field goals and fourth all-time in three-point percentages. He set a single season record for three-point field goals made. While at DC, Terry was also in the Academic Honors Fraternity Tau Pi Phi, treasurer of Marketing Club, and in the Co-Op program.

He majored in finance/management at DC and earned his MBA from the University of Toledo in 1994.

He is vice president with the Hylant Group and serves as a board member of the Wood County American Cancer Society and Bowling Green Pee Wee Baseball. Terry and his wife, Tammie, reside in Bowling Green with their three children.

Morman said, "It is an extreme honor to be nominated for the DC Hall of Fame. I have many great memories of competition and was fortunate to play on very good teams with great players." He called being inducted into the Hall of Fame "the topping to a great time and many memories of playing for DC!"

Kevin Wierman, Class of 1978

Kevin Wierman was nominated to the Hall of Fame because of his football and baseball accomplishments while at Defiance College. He lettered in football all four years, making First Team All-League and receiving All-American Honorable Mention in 1975. In baseball, he lettered four years, serving as captain in 1978, and was All-League First Team in 1978 as well.

Mike Snyder, who coached Wierman through high school football at Bath as well as his entire college career, recalled

him as a quality kid. "Kevin is a very good, hard-working person with high integrity and standards."

Wierman majored in elementary education at DC and received a master's in education administration. He has taught history and English at Bath High School, coached baseball and football at the junior high and the varsity level. As assistant football coach at Bath, he had two state semi-finalists, four league titles and five play-off conferences. As assistant varsity baseball coach, his team earned a league title.

Kevin says that the nomination to the Hall of Fame was an honor and a surprise, since he never considered his endeavors to be outstanding. "They did, however, prepare me for a lifetime in coaching. It gives me great pleasure to know that someone thought highly enough of me to nominate me."

He resides in Lima, Ohio, and is married to his high school sweetheart, Janet. He is an active member of Grace Baptist Church, a member of the Bath Education Association, the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association and the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association. Kevin and Janet have a daughter and a son.

Megan Thigpen Grieser, Class of 2003

Megan Thigpen Grieser carried her love of volleyball into her professional life, and spent time as assistant volleyball coach at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She also served as the graphic designer for the athletics department.

Megan was a four-year letter winner in Yellow Jackets Volleyball. She achieved the recognition of being the greatest setter in school history, with 2,667 career assists ranking her first in school history. A two-time team captain, Megan also set multiple single-season records for passing and serving. Her .990 serve percentage from her freshman season is first all-time, and she established individual bests for total assists, assists per game, assist percentage and total sets in a season throughout her final three years at DC. Her



AVD president Mike Snyder (far left) with Hall of Fame inductees Kevin Wierman, Charles Nofziger, Ernesto Vilar, Terry Morman, Megan Thigpen Grieser and President Gordon.

accomplishments earned her the Duane C. Hocking Female Athlete of the Year Award in 2003, All-Conference Second Team Honors in 2002 and honorable mention in 2001.

Megan majored in graphic design, earned a perfect 4.0 GPA, and graduated as valedictorian for the Class of 2003. She was on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee for three years and helped with Big Brother/Big Sister summer camps along with working at the McMaster Center gym and also off-campus.

She is married to DC alum Eric Grieser '04, and they reside in Charlotte, N.C.

"My time at DC was so meaningful in so many ways that being considered for this award touches deep in my heart," Megan says.

Charles Nafziger, Class of 1973

Charles Nafziger made his mark playing guard on the Yellow Jacket basketball court, in what one sports writer summarized as a brilliant career. He lettered four years and served as captain one season. In 1973, he was named Male Athlete of the Year, All-Conference First Team, Most Valuable Player in the Wooster Classic, NAIA National Tournament, Kansas City, and in the Ohio-Indiana All-Star Game. His 1,472 career points were the second highest at that time, and his four-year record finished at 85-23.

Calling this a humbling experience, Charles says, "Much

of my success at DC and since can be attributed to being surrounded by quality people with a common goal. When I think of the group of people who have been inducted in the past, I am not sure I deserve to be honored in this way. To be associated with DC has brought great pleasure throughout the years."

Nafziger graduated with a degree in math and has spent his career as a high school math teacher at Pettisville High School, where he coached basketball from 1980 to 2000. He has also served on the Alumni Varsity D board. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Archbold and have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Ernesto Vilar, Class of 1979

Ernesto Vilar, class of 1979, was inducted into the DC Hall of Fame because of his outstanding prowess on the gridiron. His honors include lettering in football three years, being named All-League three years, All-District three years and All-American Honorable Mention.

Ernie came to DC from Miami and remembers the Midwestern hospitality he was shown by so many: Coach Mike Snyder, Randy Buchman, Dr. Luchies, Gerry Mallott, Bev Harrington and then-President Marvin Ludwig. As Ernie put it, "I became part of many extended families."

The football program at DC was exciting and fun for

Vilar. “When we won the conference during my sophomore year, I thought it was the Super Bowl! Repeating the feat the following year and being an important part of a winning program for four years was even better,” he related.

Ernie majored in accounting, finance and marketing, and was on the academic honors list four times.

He is senior vice president of the Trucane Sugar Corporation and resides in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., with his wife Julie. They have three children.

Thinking back to his time at DC, Ernie remembered, “Back then, while in a classroom, during a lecture or on the football field we often heard the phrase ‘lessons for life’ and thought it was a cliché. How wrong. I am really honored to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame of an institution that was instrumental in my professional life.”

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-Ernesto Vilar

Dr. Ken Wetstein Appointed to Vice President of Institutional Advancement



A change in senior leadership at Defiance College took place this summer when Dr. Ken Wetstein accepted the title of vice president of Institutional Advancement. Dr. Wetstein is a well-known presence on campus, having served most recently as vice president for student engagement and dean of students. In his new position, Dr. Wetstein oversees the College’s advancement programs,

including fundraising, alumni relations, planned giving, and corporate and foundation relations.

“I am delighted that Ken has agreed to serve as our new vice president for Institutional Advancement,” said President Mark C. Gordon when he made the announcement. “He has many talents as well as very close ties with the Defiance area community. I am confident that he will do a superb job in leading our fundraising efforts.”

Responding to the president’s comments, Dr. Wetstein replied, “I am honored that President Gordon has asked me to lead the College’s development office. I look forward to working with the president and a talented staff in the department in advancing the mission of the College. I have come to love DC during my eight years in student life and athletics, and I am eager to engage with our alumni and supporters who share my affection and admiration for the college.”

Dr. Wetstein earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University (1991) and a Master of Science in Education (1993).

He has worked in Resident Life at Eastern Illinois and Southwest Missouri State Universities as well as serving as

the Director of Student and Professional Affairs at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. While at St. Louis College of Pharmacy Ken was honored to be named the inaugural recipient of the College Enhancement Award in recognition of his exceptional work improving the student life environment at the college.

In December of 2005 he was awarded a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, just before coming to DC in January 2006.

Dr. Wetstein is a native of the St. Louis metropolitan area, growing up in East St. Louis as the youngest of nine children. He is very active in the Defiance Community. He often performs on the stage with the Fort Defiance Community Theater group and is the treasurer for the Young People’s Theatre Guild.

He is board chair of the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the Defiance City Schools Foundation and the ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital Foundation. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Defiance Area YMCA and an active volunteer with United Way of Defiance County. Ken and his wife, Carrie, have two daughters, Caitlyn and Chloe.