

# DEFIANCE COLLEGE

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. A thick yellow brushstroke underline is positioned below the college name.

Winter 2014 ♦ Magazine

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# DEFIANCE COLLEGE

## *The Magazine*

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# VETERANS

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## ENRICHING THE CAMPUS

*Military veterans, as students, provide a valuable dimension and depth to a college campus.*

By Kathy Punches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

**M**ilitary veterans have unique perspectives on learning and real-life situations that can enrich the learning environment for all students.

In turn, a successful college experience can give veterans a positive transition from active military service back into the citizen workforce.

Defiance College has a long tradition of welcoming military veterans as students of higher education. It offers a supportive environment for veterans, regardless of their age or how recent their military service. For several years, the College has had the designation of a Military Friendly School, and it participates in the Yellow Ribbon program.

The Yellow Ribbon program is available to veterans of the post-9/11 era through participating colleges. It guarantees free tuition to qualifying veterans, with private institutions and the Yellow Ribbon Program splitting costs that may exceed the established cap.

While most veterans have been able to access benefits through the traditional GI Bill, Yellow Ribbon bridges the difference in pricing and gives veterans the opportunity to choose an institution that best suits their area of interest.

According to registrar Mariah Orzolek, Defiance's enrollment of veterans has increased significantly since the inception of Yellow Ribbon in 2009. Her office has a VA-trained school certifying official, Carrie Relyea, to ensure that veterans receive all benefits to which they are entitled. There are currently nearly 25 veterans enrolled, and an additional 40 students are enrolled as dependents of veterans.

DC provides a veterans resource center in Defiance Hall. Veterans can also utilize services offered to all students, including counseling and academic advising. To recognize them for their service, there is an annual Veterans Day program in November and a Military Appreciation Day held at a home basketball game.

Veterans are recognized during commencement ceremonies with red, white and blue cords.

Veterans' academic interests cross all departments, from business to social work to digital forensics, says Cathy Mikula, coordinator of nontraditional student support. "Faculty love having them in class for the maturity they bring, the example they set for other students, and the experiences and perspective that they can share. The respect that they show to other students, to faculty, and to staff is noticeable."

As an Army infantryman, Tyson Bostelman, Wauseon, completed two tours of duty in Afghanistan. One tour was in the Korengal Valley, also known as the Valley of Death. His second tour was in the Pesh River Valley or Nangalam. He and his fellow soldiers experienced daily firefights. "My first tour, for most of it, we were in two to three firefights a day," he recalls. "We got mortared regularly, and I lost one of my best friends there, SPC Robert Donevski." He also lost another close friend in Afghanistan, SSG Brown. They are not forgotten, he says.

When Bostelman finished his military duty in September 2013, he decided to take advantage of his military education benefits to pursue his ultimate goal of working with the FBI or CIA. He enrolled at Defiance College because of its location and small size and is currently studying toward a degree in criminal justice.

For veteran Dennis English, Defiance, it was the DC staff that helped him make the decision to enroll and pursue a college diploma. "The Center for Adult Programs played a large role in my choosing and registering for Defiance College," he says. "Carrie Relyea was also incredibly helpful throughout

my time at Defiance College. These individuals really made it easy for me to focus on my schoolwork .... They were always on top of whatever needed to be done, and I could not have continued without their help."

English originally served four years in the Army, then re-enlisted in the Marine Corps. His tour of duty included the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

He graduated from DC in May 2014 with a degree

in art. "The professors were experts in their relevant field of study, and - let's be honest - who wouldn't find Doug Fiely to be entertaining in class?" he adds.

"A college degree offered opportunities I otherwise would not have been able to achieve. Education is important to my family, and I wanted to set a good example for my sons, showing them that you have to put in hard work in order to become successful."

Dr. Tim Rickabaugh, professor of exercise science, has experience both as veteran-turned-student and college professor. He served in the Army Reserves while in graduate school and recalls that it was often a challenge to align his summer Reserve training with his graduate coursework.

As a faculty member, he has an even greater appreciation for veterans in the classroom. "They most often are very focused and determined students who serve as great role models for all of our students," he says.

Defiance College works to make sure that veterans receive the support needed to transition to college life. "They are a great bunch of people. It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve them," says Mikula.

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**"A college degree offered opportunities I otherwise would not have been able to achieve. Education is important to my family, and I wanted to set a good example for my sons, showing them that you have to put in hard work in order to become successful."**

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**Dennis English**



*Ericha Griep, center, with her family at a DC cross country event.*

## Calling herself “A PROUD AIR FORCE BRAT,” ERICHA GRIEP owes her college education to the military education benefits earned by her father who has been on active duty for more than 30 years.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill allows veterans to transfer their education benefits to a dependent. “I have been able to attend Defiance College ... and am aiming to graduate this December because of the Post 9/11 GI Bill and our school’s participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program,” says Ericha, who is majoring in multiple areas - athletic training, wellness and corporate fitness, physical education and health.

When Ericha’s parents, Jean and Stephen, graduated from high school, college wasn’t an option for them, so they joined the Air Force. “After meeting in Basic Training and eventually getting married, my mom made my dad promise that no matter what, they would put the education of their children first. They wanted to help the four of us get the traditional college education that neither of them could,” she says.

Now in her final semester as an undergraduate, Ericha says her primary career goal is to find a job. “Ultimately, I want to find a good balance between athletic training and teaching, and I would like to do that in a setting that allows me to give back to my military community.” While growing up, she and her family spent seven years overseas. “My dream job would be to become a Department of Defense Dependents Schools teacher and athletic trainer. In that setting I would be able to relate to my students on a level most teachers cannot. It would be my way of saying thank you to our service members and their families in a very hands-on and rewarding way.”

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**“I was lucky enough to have parents who always put education above almost everything, houses, money, and even my dad's career.”**

**Ericha Griep**

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Ericha reflects on the sacrifices her parents have made for country and family.

“My dad has been active duty for over 30 years now, and even though we have been through a lot, none of us would go back and change it. I am the second of four, my parents are happily married and have all four kids in college. I was lucky enough to have parents who always put education above almost everything, houses, money, and even my dad’s career.”

And, she knows that an important part of her life story occurred in Defiance, Ohio. “Defiance College is the only place that could have made my last four and a half years not only possible but wonderful as well.”

By Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

Dr. Mark Lee '92, a native of Sherwood, Ohio, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps through the Delayed Entry Program in 1984.

"I was only 17 years old and my father, Cork, had to sign my initial contract enlisting me for active duty on June 2, 1985, 14 hours after graduating high school," Lee explains.

As Lee tells his story, "My classmates from high school went to college, and I went off to the Marine Corps to form my leadership skills and my manhood. Also, of note, I was accepted in the Marine Corps Warrant Officer program at the end of my first enlistment, but I wanted to go to Defiance College to earn my bachelor's degree and try out the USMC Reserves. I did, but the military and the 'esprit de corps' never left me - veterans know what I mean. It's an addiction that once it enters your bones, it never truly ever leaves."

"I have been lucky to have served in the active USMC, USMC Reserves, Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves and active duty Army. I have never run into anyone who has done this in my 30 years in the service except me," he says. Lee rose from the enlisted ranks to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army.

"I am what the military calls a 'Mustang,' a prior service enlisted man who rose up through the ranks as an officer. There are very few of us, and only a handful in the military who have as much education as I have earned."

Mark's assignments span 30 years and took him to California, North Carolina, Virginia, Kansas, Washington, among others here in the states, and South Korea, Japan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

He is a qualified Air Defense Officer, Civil Affairs Officer (Special Operations), Special Forces Officer, and a functional area Comptroller. He has been a member in the military of all wars for his generation: Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq/Kuwait), and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan twice).

Lee used his service time to acquire his education, taking his first college class at Central Texas College in the fall of 1985. "My platoon sergeant gave me grief about it until the day I PCS (permanent change of station) out to Okinawa, Japan. Well, Sarge, I have earned a B.S. in mathematics (from Defiance College), an M.Ed. in educational administration/leadership (USC), Ph.D. in higher educational administration/leadership (USC), Juris Doctorate (JD) or law degree, and an MBA with a concentration in public administration - all paid for by the military. I have been truly blessed and lucky," he says.

Looking back, Lee considers his best assignment was when he was an ROTC instructor at UCLA, with his Ft. Jackson and Ft. Bliss tours running a close second. He also has great fondness for the Tampa Bay area around MacDill Air Force Base and the surrounding communities of Tampa, Clearwater, and St. Petersburg.

He shares some of his insights about the Army and life:

"The first thing I learned about the Army is 'hooah.' There are 1,000 or 10,000 or 100,000 different ways to say 'hooah.' But I learned that it is more than just a battle cry - it's a way of life. It says that you will never quit, never surrender, never leave

"My classmates from high school went to college, and I went off to the  
**MARINE CORPS TO FORM  
MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS  
AND MY MANHOOD."**



Dr. Mark Lee '92

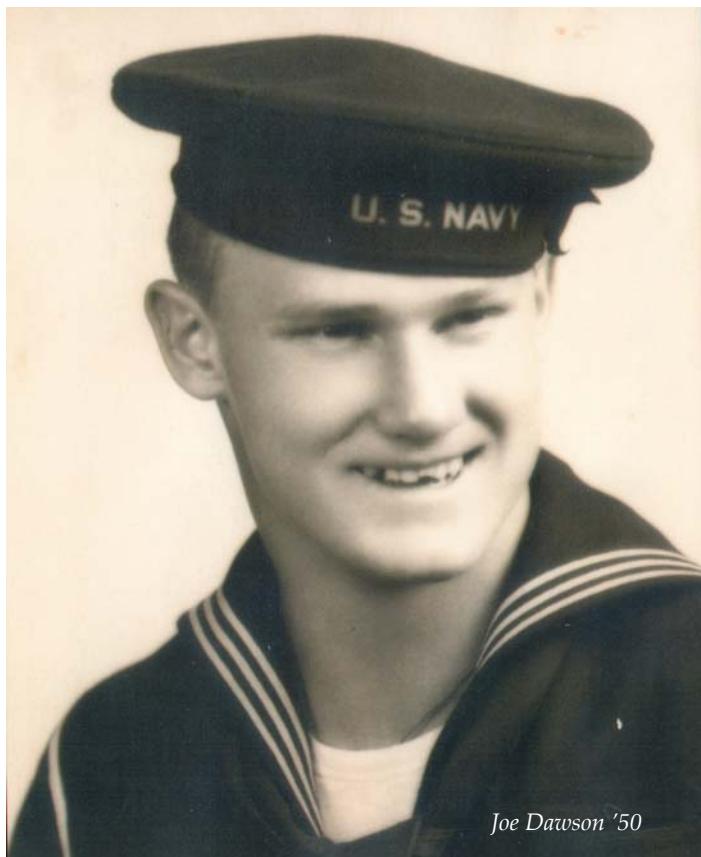
your buddy behind. It says that you are proud of the hardships you have endured because there is deep meaning in every one of them."

"I have learned that the Army, above all, is a learning organization. From rapid development and adaptation of doctrine, to command organization, to movement of brigade combat teams and modular headquarters, to the way people are promoted, the Army is constantly changing and adapting to meet the challenges of the day. As General George Marshall once punned, 'Soldiers are intelligent. Give them a bare tree; let them supply the leaves.'

"We often forget the impact of war on those who were alongside our fallen. That loss impacts them for the rest of their lives, including me. I have lost 52 men that served under or beside me in OIF and OEF."

Mark and his wife, Cynthia, who is also an LTC/05 in the Army with almost 24 years of service, will be retiring soon and plan to make their home in the St. Petersburg area.

# SALUTING DEFIANCE COLLEGE VETERANS ★ THROUGH THE DECADES ★



*Joe Dawson '50*

World War II was a grim time and college enrollment hit an all-time low, but the end of the war saw a revitalization here at DC as well as throughout the country. Hundreds of veterans arrived on campus using the GI Bill to achieve their educations.

The college quickly expanded to meet their needs – in housing, classrooms and classes. The Hickory Hut, Tin Town and the Sessions Hall Annex were quickly constructed. Athletics, fraternities and other activities were revived. Since then, veterans have been a proud part of the history of Defiance College, and we take this time to honor their service to our country, as represented in these vignettes of DC alumni veterans through the decades.

**JOE DAWSON '50** served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, stationed in the Southwest Pacific as a radio man, taking code and messages. He especially remembers being on board when the ship was in a tornado in the Philippines in 1945.

“The Government treated me fine,” Joe says, and he attended Defiance College on his GI benefits after he was discharged. Joe and wife Cathy reside in Pinckneyville, Ill.

**JIM MOATS '59** served in the U.S. Air Force 1951-1955 during the Korean War. Jim trained in bases in Texas, Wyoming and Illinois and attended Cryptology School. He was shipped to the UK/European Theaters in December 1951 and was stationed at SAC (Strategic Air Command) bases in England and French Morocco, North Africa. He also spent two months at the Tule Air Force Base in northern Greenland. He achieved the rank of Sergeant 1st Class.

Jim remembers spending Christmas Day 1951 doing KP and serving “giblet gravy” to seasick GIs in the midst of a big North Atlantic storm. Other memories of his time in service include being in England for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and encountering his Defiance recruiting sergeant while at Nouasseur Air Force Base in French Morocco. Jim and his wife Barbara reside in Chesterfield, Mo.

After graduating from Defiance College, **FRAN CARLEY '61** joined the U. S. Marine Corps, and attended Officers Candidate School in Quantico, Va. He served as an infantry officer, a platoon commander as 2nd Lieutenant, and company commander in Vietnam for a company called Suicide Charley (Charlie Company 1st Battalion 7th Marine). Fran states that his biggest challenge was “fighting the politics while trying to fight the war.”

Fran’s duty tours also included serving in the second division on a Mediterranean cruise with the Sixth Fleet during the Cuban missile crisis, being stationed at Guantanamo Bay, and on Okinawa before going to Vietnam in 1966. He was discharged in 1967. Fran and his wife, Susan, reside in Fort Myers, Fla.



*Fran Carley '61*





**SUSAN D. BARNES '78** enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and served for 25 years, achieving the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. She served at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, Maxwell Gunter AFB in Alabama, and spent two years at Sembach Air Base in Germany. She identified her biggest accomplishments as managing the flight/inspection scheduling and performance analysis of C-17 aircraft at Charleston, one of the busiest Air Force bases during the aftermath of 9/11, and achieving the top enlisted rank (only one percent of the enlisted force may serve in the CMSgt rank). Her biggest challenge: combating sexist attitudes in the service. Now retired, Susan resides in Navarre, Fla.

**MAJOR DAVID IKE '00** is currently serving on active duty with the U.S. Army. He joined the Army as an enlisted soldier in January 2000, right after he finished at Defiance College in December. He completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an officer in October 2002. David has served in eight locations stateside and completed three tours in Iraq and one in Egypt. He is currently in the School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

"I believe my biggest challenge is yet to come," writes Ike. "I will spend 2015 as an operational planner for the Joint Command in Afghanistan. I have never worked at that level and it has a myriad of dynamics. But the Army wouldn't assign me there if I couldn't handle it."

Major Ike went on to say he finds service as rewarding as it is demanding, and has learned more than he ever could have imagined. "I credit my experience at DC with setting the foundation for it all," he concludes.



## DC Needs YOU!

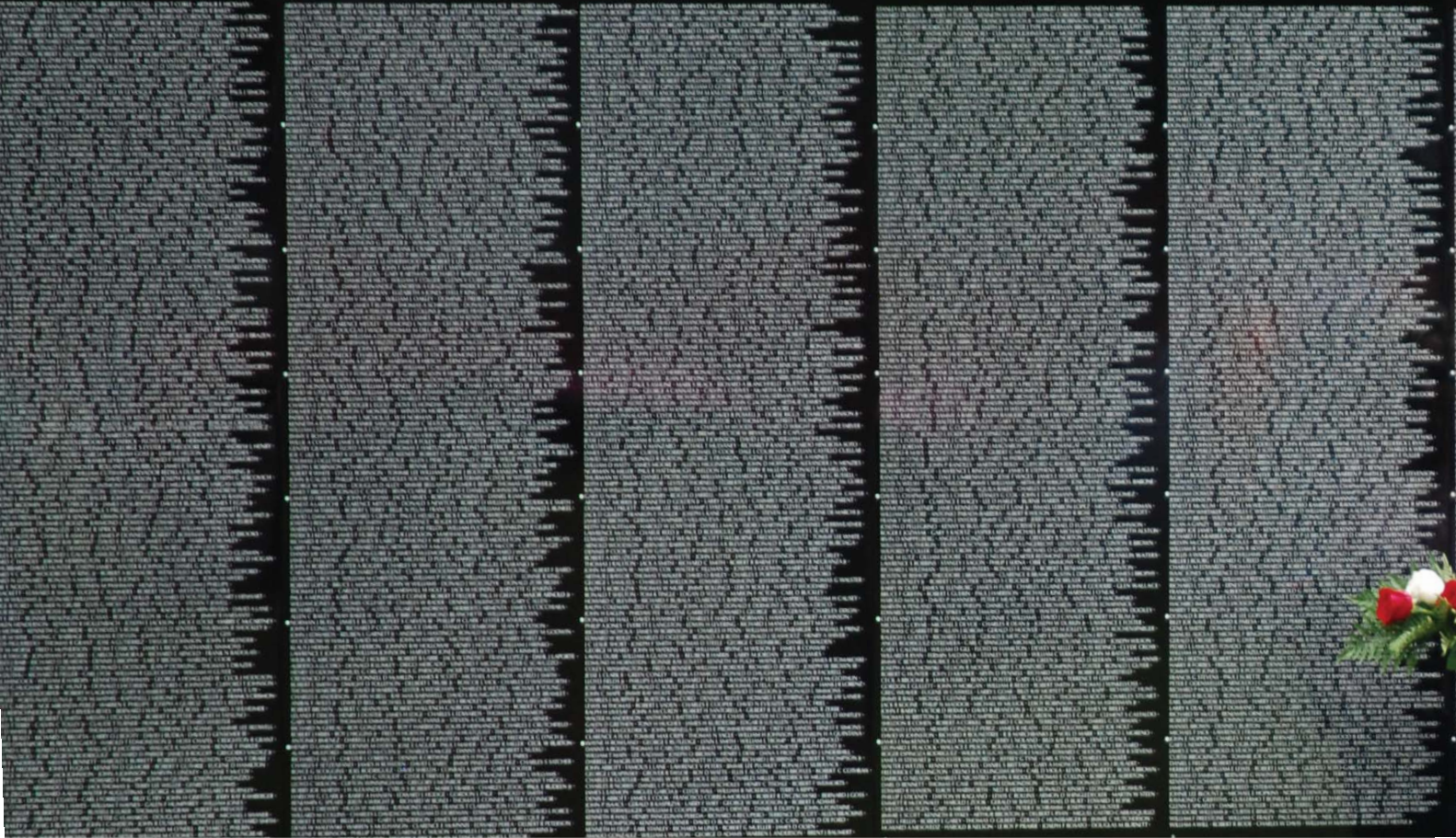
The Alumni Office is seeking to update their records on **DC alumni who have served, or who are currently serving**, our great country in the armed forces. Please send us a quick note via e-mail or traditional mail identifying your name, year of graduation from DC, and the branch(es) of the armed forces in which you served.

You can contact Sue Dumire (sdumire@defiance.edu) 419-783-2371 in Advancement Services to share your specific information with us.

**Thank you for your service to our country!**



# THE MOVING WALL



For four days in June, Defiance College had the honor of hosting the Moving Wall – Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Hundreds of visitors traveled to campus to view the wall and to pay their respects to the men and women whose names are etched on the memorial wall.

The event, several years in the making, was spearheaded by the Defiance County Veterans Office with support from the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 954, Defiance VFW Post 3360 and Ladies Auxiliary, Defiance DAV Chapter 36, Jewell American Legion Post 635, Defiance AMVETS Post 1991, Master Gardeners of Defiance County, and Defiance College.

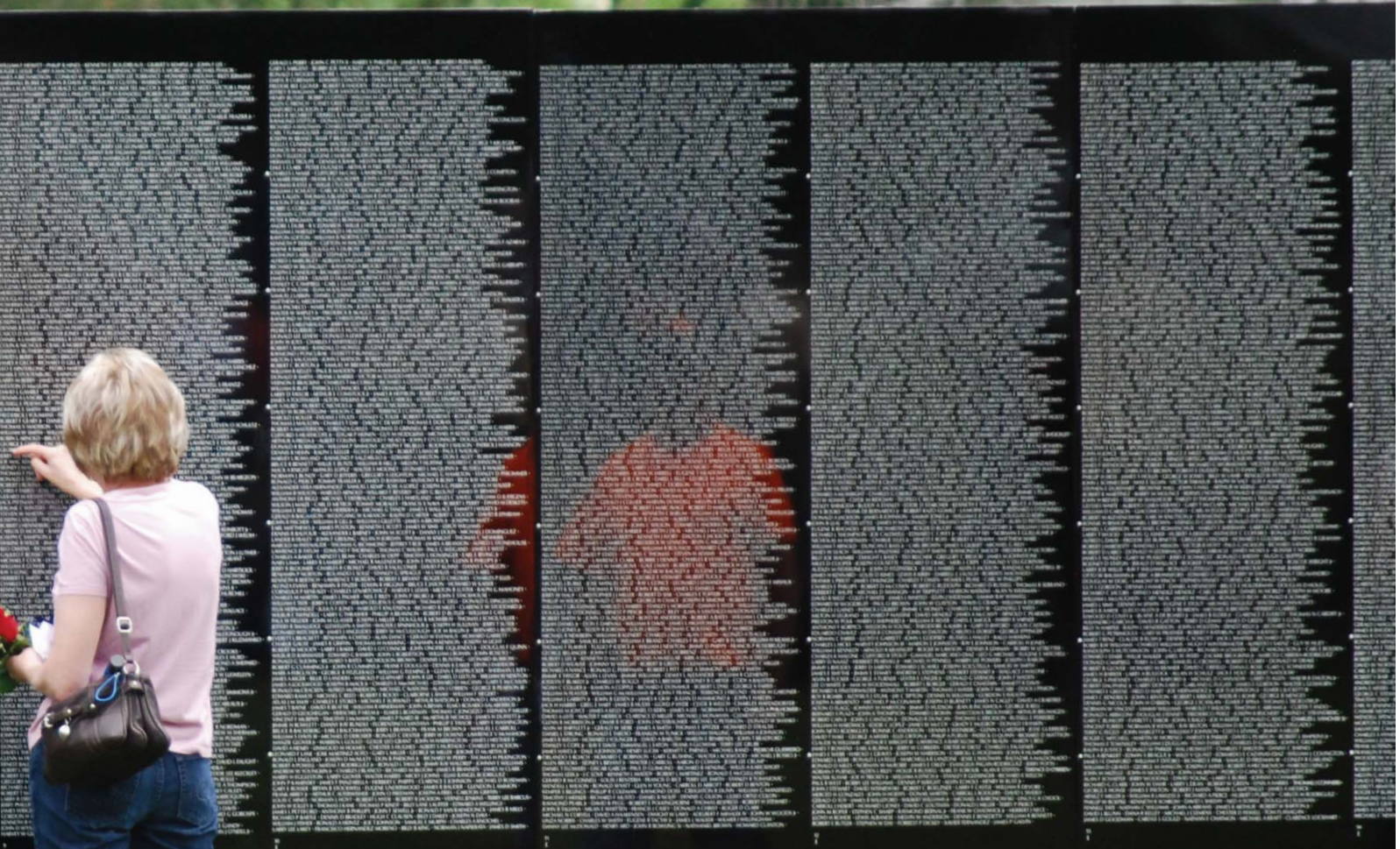
The Veterans Office is staffed by veterans officer and DC alumnus Mike Williams '79, benefits counselor Tanya Brunner, and administrative assistant Erin Clady. Brunner led a committee of more than 20 individuals including Vietnam veterans to plan the event to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

The Wall was open to the public June 12-15 on the lawn between McReynolds and Whitney halls on Webster Street. The schedule also included the Quilts of Tears display in the Serrick Campus Center, quilts made of fabric sections provided by persons honoring or remembering those affected by Agent Orange. Each square is personalized with the story of a veteran or group, and the squares are sewn into quilts.

A display of military equipment used by the legendary Red Horse Squadron was on display in the parking lot behind Whitney and McReynolds halls.

Retired Army Col. Ward Nickisch conducted a seminar about the search and recovery operations for POWs and MIAs.

The event concluded with a public ceremony at the Wall to commemorate the anniversary of the war. Participating in the program were Mike Williams, Col. Nickisch, and DC alumnus Rev. John Stites '70.



# I ♥ DC

HOMECOMING 2014





**Homecoming 2014 brought many familiar faces back to campus. Alumni joined current students for a week of celebration.** Joining in the festivities were this year's King Josh Slayton and Queen Alicia Kalik and their court (lower left), 2013-14 Athletes of the Year Kim Bingley and Joe Davis (immediate left), and Coaches of the Year Doug Wilkinson, Tobias Tuomi, Brent Renollet, Tim Held, Tom Held and Frank Kill (below).



## Defiance College Fall 2014 Hall of Fame

# Hall of Fame Inductees

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

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### 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.”

“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.”

-Ernesto Vilar

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## 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.



## Defiance College Fall 2014 Award Recipients

# Alumni Awards

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*Six Defiance College alumni were recognized during this year's Homecoming for their outstanding professional achievements.*

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*By Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving  
layout by Kevin Arriola, 2014*

### Dr. Harry Miller '59

This year's recipient of the Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence is Dr. Harry Miller, Class of 1959. Dr. Miller has had a long and distinguished history with Defiance College, as student and professor.

Miller's college experience coincided with the development and launch of the Russian satellite, Sputnik, and science was very much in the national forefront. He graduated from Defiance College in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science in education, comprehensive science, and went on to receive the prestigious National Science Foundation Fellowship to complete research. His specialization was nuclear physics, and he earned his Ph.D. in 1963 from Ohio State University. The following fall, he returned to his alma mater to begin his 34-year career as a college professor.

It was while he was a student at Defiance College that he married his high school sweetheart. Gloria attended Defiance College as well, earning a teaching certification for elementary education.

Harry's dedication to his profession was quite evident over the years and extended well past campus. During the summers of 1967 and 1968, he worked as physicist with the U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. On sabbatical in 1969 and 1970, he was a resident associate in the physics division at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.

In 1987, Dr. Miller took a leave and traveled to Malaysia where he participated in the Malaysian Cooperative Education Program of State University of New York, and Gloria accompanied him. It was the trip of a lifetime, he remembers, and provided them with the opportunity to visit 13 different countries – including Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia and even Russia.

At Defiance College, Dr. Miller served on numerous

college committees, including teacher education, economic welfare, service learning and learning resources. He was a diligent teacher, always willing to give his time to students. Outside the classroom, he also gave assistance to students as a mentor the last two years of his career. Upon his retirement in 1997, he was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus. Since then, Harry has funded an endowed scholarship at the College to honor the memory of Eddie Pullen, a former student who died of cystic fibrosis.

Harry and Gloria have made their home in Port Orange, Fla. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Even now, Harry is always the professor, as a photo shows him working through the physics of a zip line with the grandkids. In 2013, the Millers traveled via motorhome from Florida to Banff and Jasper National Parks in Canada and back, picking up family members in South Carolina and Idaho who joined them on the journey.

In addition to this Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence, Dr. Miller was recognized at the Presidential Brunch for remembering Defiance College in his estate plans.

### Beverly Nolt '74

Beverly Nolt's career experience ranges from the oil rigs in Texas to medical facilities in Uganda and Botswana, and she is one of this year's Alumni Achievement Award recipients.

By the start of her senior year at Orrville (Ohio) High School, Bev had narrowed her college choices until an admissions counselor from Defiance College visited her school, altering her selection process. Bev was intrigued by Defiance's "four-one-four" program – offering a January winter term sandwiched between fall and spring semesters. A subsequent visit to the DC campus proved a positive experience and sealed



*President Gordon (far left) with honored alumni (left to right) Elaine Gard, Lesa Swisher Shouse, Ray Santiago, Beverly Nolt, Dr. Harry Miller, and David Gynn.*

her decision. “Everyone was so friendly,” Bev recalls.

Her original intent was a major in elementary education, but classes with Professor Jim Birk and Dr. Bernie Mikula coupled with her initial winter term to Big Bend, Texas, prompted a switch to Natural Systems Studies. This led to a job in the east Texas oil patch as a drilling fluids technologist/ mud engineer. While working on the rigs, a job listing for a venereal disease investigator grabbed her attention though she initially thought it a hoax. She applied, landed the local position, and is now beginning her 36th year in public health – spanning local, state, national, and international arenas.

Twenty years after graduation, at a reunion of Southwest and Alaska Field Studies participants in Cincinnati, she and another DC alumnus who had taken the 1973 Big Bend Winter Term reconnected and in 1996, Bev and Bob Witzerman '75 were married.

After 22 years with local and state health departments in Texas, Bev joined the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention in Atlanta in 2000. She has held a number of positions within the organization, beginning in the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Branch, training STD supervisors and managers throughout the country. Other jobs included multi-year stints in international operations – Office of the

Director, Adolescent School Health, and Women’s Reproductive Health prior to joining the HIV/AIDS Global Health Program (GAP).

In 2009, without any prior visits to Africa, she accepted a three-month assignment in Namibia, working with HIV/STD programs and construction projects for HIV testing and treatment. Three months became seven, after which she was offered a permanent

post as Global AIDS Program Deputy Director for Botswana. Bev and Bob discussed the opportunity, packed up their dog and cat, and spent two years in what she describes as “an unforgettable experience and a wonderful country.”

Bev is very satisfied with the work, much of it funded within the President’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief started by President George W. Bush. This initiative was created to connect and coordinate agencies which had not previously worked together, including CDC, USAID, Peace

*“I am proud to be an alumna of The Defiance College. My DC experience and its positive effects cannot be overly exaggerated or emphasized. The field opportunities, particularly winter term(s) and off-campus semesters, provided benchmarks for challenges, teamwork, and real-time direction for future endeavors.” - Beverly Nolt*

Corps, and Department of Defense, to cooperate in the prevention, testing, and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Bev's job focuses on management and operations to ensure U.S. funds are spent responsibly. It can be challenging and trying but she also finds it very rewarding particularly when agencies come together to reduce and prevent "mother to child" transmission of HIV.

"One of the things I am proud of was being part of a small team who investigated and broke up a Botswana cartel which had been stealing U.S. funds for several years," she relates. After returning from Botswana, Bev became CDC's Deputy Director at Large for the world's newest country, Republic of South Sudan, and has made numerous trips there until last December's unrest forced operations to be moved to Entebbe, Uganda, for the short term. As result, she spent much of the past summer in Port au Prince, Haiti, supplying operational support.

On Sept. 4, Bev accepted a new position as CDC's East Africa Team Lead in the Country Strategy and Management Branch. She will manage a team providing support to Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and South Sudan.

## David Gynn '65

Defiance College is pleased to recognize David Gynn '65 with the 2014 Alumni Achievement Award.

When David entered Defiance College, he planned to major in business, and hadn't considered teaching. However, he was encouraged to go into business education to double his chance of getting a job after graduation. He remembers thinking, "I'll teach for a couple years and then go into business." The "couple years" turned into a couple decades and resulted in Dave receiving many recognitions for his outstanding work, including being the first Ohioan named National Business Teacher of the Year.

David attributes much of his success to the solid foundation he received at Defiance under the direction of Garnett Smith '51, who was then associate professor of business education.

Smith encouraged her students to attend Ohio Business Teachers Association meetings, and twice David went to the state conventions. "I am thankful to her for getting me started in OBTA," he said. "She made me realize the need to be a professional, as well as an educator."

*"Being the first in my family to earn a college education has changed my life. The small personal approach at Defiance could not be duplicated elsewhere. My DC education was my ticket to unlimited opportunities."*

*- David Gynn*

David went on to serve as president and secretary of the OBTA throughout his years of association with the organization.

He earned a Master of Education from Kent State University and has done additional post-graduate work at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Akron. The majority of David's teaching career was spent as cooperative education coordinator in Ashtabula and Kent, where he taught and assisted and supported his students at their co-op jobs.

In addition to being named National Business Teacher of the Year in 1987, Gynn was also recognized as 1985 Ohio Business Teacher of the Year and 1990 Vocational Educator of the Year in Ohio.

David retired from teaching in 1990, and entered his business career, first as a vice president of the Telecommunity Credit Union and then as the business manager of his United Methodist Church. He also served for several years as volunteer coordinator at Coleman Professional Services before going into retirement full time.

David was very active in Kiwanis for many years, serving in local and state leadership positions and is now a volunteer advocate for Ohio AARP. He is also currently a member of the Board of Education for the Biomed Science Academy, a STEM school that is the fifth highest rated school in Ohio.

"Being the first in my family to earn a college education has changed my life. The small personal approach at Defiance could not be duplicated elsewhere. My DC education was my ticket to unlimited opportunities," David says.

David and his wife, Patricia, reside in Kent, and have two grown sons, and grandchildren. The Gynns have just returned from the "trip of a lifetime," three weeks touring the United Kingdom, with David's sister and brother-in-law who are also DC alums, Barbara and Bruce Fisher, classes of 1966 and 1965 respectively.

## Lesia Swisher Shouse '04

Lesia Swisher Shouse '04 is the 2014 Young Alumni Service Award recipient.

As a student at Defiance College, Lesia was a service leader and president and trip coordinator for the college's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She earned her bachelor of arts in communications and public relations and continued her education at Bowling Green State University, working with the Office of Service Learning as a graduate assistant. Lesia achieved her Master of Arts in College Student Personnel and worked at Owens Community College and then at the BGSU Career Center, first as advisor and then as assistant director/career center liaison to the college of business.

Lesia is currently the director of the Career Center at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Throughout her college days and her professional life, Lesia has been involved in community service through a wide range of agencies, and has acquired a long list of recognitions to her name, including the National City Bank Champion Peer to Peer award in 2006, Leader of Promise: 100 Women of Influence in Girl Scouts of Western Ohio in 2012, and BGSU Outstanding Community Service Award 2009, to name just a few.

Lesia and her husband, Reggie '04, have also been two of

*“After moving to St. Petersburg, I didn’t know anyone and I felt I was missing service in my life, so I joined the Junior League. It’s a great way to get to know people in the area, the history and the needs of the community.”*

**- Lesa Swisher Shouse**

the founding members of the Young Alumni Giving Circle, a group whose members each pledge to give \$1,000 in their first ten years after graduation in support of a DC scholarship.

Now residing and working in Florida, Lesa continues to be involved in service. “After moving to St. Petersburg, I didn’t know anyone and I felt I was missing service in my life, so I joined the Junior League. It’s a great way to get to know people in the area, the history and the needs of the community.” Lesa especially appreciates the JL’s focus on school readiness for children.

At the Career Center, Lesa promotes service in the career development of students by helping them choose volunteer opportunities that will help build their resumes to attain their career goals.

Lesla said she is honored to receive this recognition from a place that means so much to her. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without DC. It showed me a career that I did not even know existed and helped me see all the opportunities that were available to help other students.”

Lesla and Reggie live in St. Petersburg, Fla.

## Ray Santiago '71

Ray Santiago '71 is being recognized with the 2014 Schaffler Legacy Award for his dedicated work and advocacy for human rights and social justice causes.

Ray’s parents emigrated from Puerto Rico to Spanish Harlem in New York City. His father worked as a laborer; his mother worked in a sweatshop until she was disabled by an injury. He and his siblings were educated through the NYC public school system. As the first of his family to attend college, Ray participated in a college-readiness program, which is where he learned about Defiance College.

Professor Jeffrey Weaner announced that Ray was selected for this year’s Schaffler Legacy Award because from the start, Ray got involved in social activism. “He took the purpose of Schaffler and really has worked to advance humanity and achieve social justice,” Weaner said.

In addition to his studies and being a resident hall assistant, Ray found time to work as a volunteer juvenile probation officer, participate in Leadership Training and Community Organization for Spanish Speaking of Northwest Ohio, and be involved with the Center for the Study and Advancement of Non-white Cultures, the Atlantic-Pacific Streets Neighborhood Council and Phi Alpha Theta. Ray was also a Schaffler Scholar in Social Work and was awarded the

Pilgrim Medal.

In the early 70’s, Ray joined the Toledo-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee and Farm Labor Research Project. FLOC helped migrant workers organize and negotiate contracts with farmers and food processors.

Being an advocate has been Ray’s lifelong work. The list of the many labor and community advocacy organizations Ray has been involved with is long, and includes serving as:

- ◆ Founder and resource developer/advocate for the Teh-Luh-Lah Center for Education and Healing in Chimayo, New Mexico, an inter-generational, multicultural summer camp
- ◆ Founding member of the Southern Partners Fund, supporting progressive social change and community organizing in nine southeastern states
- ◆ Advisor to Fundamentals of Sports, a bridge program for inner-city youth
- ◆ Past board member of the La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, Calif.
- ◆ Staff member at the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization

Currently, Ray is the development officer for the Amherst, Mass.-based Peace Development Fund, a public foundation providing grants, training and resources in partnership with communities, trainers and donors who share PDF’s vision for social change.

He is married to Dr. Margaret Reeves, senior staff scientist with the Pesticide Action Network of Northwest America. Ray and Margaret have a 13-year-old daughter, Tatiana, and the family lives in Oakland, Calif.

## Elaine Kopke Gard '72

Elaine Kopke Gard '72 is this year’s recipient of the Schaffler Award in Christian Education. The award is given in recognition of her lifelong service to local churches in Christian education and faith formation. The Rev. Dr. Marian Plant '73, professor of religious and ministry studies, clearly remembers Elaine from their college days. “She was a role model for me,” Dr. Plant recalls.

Originally from the Cleveland area, Elaine majored in religion and Christian education, and she received the Schaffler Scholar in Christian Education Award at Defiance College.

Throughout her career, Elaine has been active in Christian education on the local church level. She served as a consultant to the Cooperative Christian Education Project with four UCC churches in the Greater Dayton area and as director of Christian Education and Youth at Trinity UCC in Miamisburg and Fairborn. She has directed children’s choirs and chaired mission and outreach committees within those churches.

Elaine has served in leadership capacities at the Association and the Ohio Conference level of the United Church of Christ as well. She became a Commissioned Worker in 1978 and a Commissioned Minister of Education in 1986. She has served six years as a member of the Laity Leadership Department with the Southwest Ohio Association, including two years as the department chair. She has served on the

Southwest Ohio Association Council, along with participating in or chairing various other Association committees on Christian Education. After moving to Newark, Ohio, she was a member of the Central Southeast Ohio Association Council from 2002-2005, and the 2004 moderator of the association. Since 2008, Elaine has been active with St. John's UCC in Newark, helping with Christian Education, special events, children's programming and women's programming. As chair of mission and outreach, she was able to dramatically increase mission giving and involvement.

She has been co-chair of St. John's Bethlehem marketplace, a biennial walk-through of Bethlehem involving up to three hundred cast members and volunteers. This project has raised several thousand dollars for the local food pantry.

"It has been my pleasure, my honor to try to do my best in what God has asked of me," Elaine said.

She is married to John, attorney and trust officer at Park National Bank, and they reside in Newark. They have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

## Marsalek named Dean of Students

Lisa Marsalek, previously the assistant dean of students and director of career development, has been named dean of students, succeeding Dr. Ken Wetstein who was named vice president for institutional advancement.

"I am very pleased that we have someone of the high caliber of Lisa Marsalek ready to step in as our new dean of students," said President Mark C. Gordon. "She has already proven herself to be an innovative and creative administrator, and I am very pleased that she has agreed to take on added responsibilities."

Marsalek has 20 years of experience in student affairs. Before coming to Defiance, she worked at The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Toledo.

She earned a master of arts in higher education and student affairs, a master of labor and human resources and a bachelor of science in psychology, all from OSU. A northwest Ohio native, she graduated from Holgate High School.

Marsalek is a member of Zonta Club of Defiance and serves on the boards of Autism Model School, Toledo, and Harbor, Inc. She and her husband, Dan, are the parents of two sons, Nick and T.J.



## Rudy Yovich named Athletic Director; Jodie Holava Assistant Director

The Defiance College athletic program has new leadership. Rudy Yovich was recently named to the position of athletic director, succeeding Jenni Morrison who left for a position at California University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Jodie Holava, head softball coach, has been named

DC's assistant athletic director.

Yovich was the director of athletics at Owens Community College in Toledo since 2011 and was assistant director of athletics at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne from 2003 to 2011.

"We are very pleased to be able to have someone with Rudy's experience, knowledge, and energy join our DC family as athletic director," said President Gordon. "Jenni Morrison did a great job in this position over the past four years, and I am confident Rudy will be able to build on that foundation and lead DC athletics to even greater success."

While at Owens, Yovich led an athletic department in which student-athletes improved both academically and athletically. During the 2012-13 season, student-athletes qualified for a record

four national championships with every program qualifying for a regional tournament. The school had five All-Americans, nine Academic All-Americans, and two All-American Academic Teams, first-ever in school history. The school finished that academic year ranked 23rd nationally out of 401 schools in the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Learfield Director's Cup standings, the school's highest finish ever.

Yovich earned his bachelor's degree at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and an MBA in sports management from Columbia Southern University.

Holava is the all-time wins leader in the history of Defiance's softball program. She arrived at DC in 2006. Under her mentorship, the softball program has won three conference championships and finished among the top three in final standings in NCAA regionals during four of her years as head coach. The program has also excelled academically, earning numerous scholastic honors.

Holava earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Union College and master's degree from Cleveland State University.

"I am extremely pleased that Jodie has agreed to take on these additional responsibilities," said President Gordon. "She has proven herself as a coach, a colleague, a mentor for our student-athletes, and as a leader on campus."

# Like a Golden Ticket

## Zexing (Raymond) Luo '11 describes his journey from China to Defiance College to Yahoo!

By Kathy Punches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

From high school in China to college in Ohio and Indiana to a highly-sought position with Yahoo in Silicon Valley, Zexing Luo's personal odyssey has been filled with hard work and perseverance. And his chosen career path of digital forensic science introduced him to, in his own words, "the coolest major I had ever heard of."

Zexing Luo – known on the DC campus as Raymond – first learned of Defiance College through a family friend, Daniel Chao, a DC alumnus who worked for many years for the United Nations.

Chao traveled to China with former president Gerald Wood when Raymond was in his sophomore year in high school in the city of Qingdao (probably best known in the U.S. for its Tsingtao beer).

Chao introduced Raymond to President Wood during a visit to Qingdao, and the two talked about the young man's college plans and how much he knew about America. Raymond recalls, "After the meeting, Mr. Chao told me that President Wood was surprised that during the conversation I kept speaking English and did not ask Mr. Chao for translation, even though my English was very broken back then, but I wasn't afraid to try."

At the end of the meeting, President Wood invited Raymond to come to DC after high school. "His invitation was like a golden ticket," says Raymond, "because high school students in China have very little control of what academic field they can pursue and what school they can attend. Going to a school in America and studying whatever I liked sounded like an awesome idea."

Raymond's meeting with the president convinced him that Defiance College was the right place for him, so he did not apply to other schools.

One of the first things Raymond needed to do after arriving at Defiance College was to select a major. "I picked digital forensic science as my major, mostly because I thought it was the coolest major I had ever heard of, and I was very interested in computers during high school. So, I didn't hesitate picking DFS as my major."

His studies in digital forensic science introduced him to many real-world experiences. "I still tell people stories about me and the DFS major at DC," he says. As a DFS student, Raymond took part in a cold case investigation with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit. He interned with the Defiance County Sheriff's Office and earned certification by the SANS Institute as a digital forensics analyst. "Thanks to the unique major and academics DC offers, I was able to enjoy a very unique college experience in a foreign country," he adds.

In addition to his academic training, Raymond appreciated the environment of "very pure American culture" in which he was immersed at Defiance College. "I was highly motivated by such an environment to absorb large amounts of American culture and language," he says.

"DC gave me a lot of memories, and I'd say the most

memorable moment was when I accepted my diploma from President Gordon. My family, professors, and the entire class of 2011 enjoyed that moment with me. It was the greatest achievement for me in my life at that moment."

Raymond credits his ability to hone his English language skills and adjust to and absorb American culture to his experiences at Defiance. "Thanks to DC, by the time I was enrolled at Purdue University for graduate school, I had little trouble making friends with everyone in the new environment."

I picked Digital Forensic Science as my major after I arrived at DC. Mostly because I thought it was the coolest major I had ever heard of, and I was very interested in computers during high school.

With a recommendation from DC faculty member Dr. Gregg Gunsch, Raymond applied to and was accepted in the Master in



*Zexing Luo with Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer.*

Information Security program at Purdue. “Some of my teachers at Purdue know Professor Gunsch personally,” says Raymond. Dr. Marcus Rogers leads the Cyber Forensics and Security Program at Purdue, while Dr. Melissa Dark is a well-known researcher in technology and information security policy. He also studied under Dr. Eugene Spafford, well-known in the security community and someone who travels to Capitol Hill and lectures politicians about information security.

After earning his master’s degree, Raymond was quickly hired for a position in New Jersey. Soon after, he decided he should keep looking for alternative opportunities, and that is when he found his current job with Yahoo in California.

His title is platform production engineer, and he’s responsible for keeping Yahoo’s service working as designed “so our 800 million users around the world can enjoy Yahoo’s service 24/7,” he says. “You can see we have a lot of weight on our shoulders, but I definitely enjoy what I do, and I’m proud of what I do.”

With the constantly growing world of technology, Raymond envisions in the next few years things like cloud and wearable technology continuing to integrate with people’s lives and bring benefits all can appreciate. “I would like to contribute to such a process as a part of Yahoo,” he adds.



*Luo with his parents at Defiance College commencement.*

Realizing the impact Defiance College and the digital forensic science program have had on his life, Raymond hopes more students will consider DC as their college destination. “Over the time I have spent in the United States, DC has played a major role in shaping the person I am today, and there is no doubt I could not have reached the position I am in today without my four years at Defiance College.

“There is much to look forward to, and I cannot wait to see more DC students reach their dream.”

# COMMITMENT TO THE *Greater Cause*

DC alumnus Obie Mouser's ability to transform lives in and out of athletics has spanned 45 years



By Bruce Hefflinger  
Sports Editor, *The Crescent-News*

*(This article is reprinted with permission. In October, DC alum Obie Mouser was honored by the Alumni Varsity D as a Coach of the Year.)*

**I**t was nearly a year ago that Obie Mouser hit the pinnacle in coaching when the longtime mentor led Defiance High School to the Division II state cross country championship.

While it may be the highlight of a coaching career at Defiance High School that spans nearly half a century, it is far from being the most important thing Mouser is about.

Now 68 years of age, Mouser has had an influence on the lives of so many student-athletes that have gone through the halls of Defiance High School while not only teaching, but coaching four different sports during his tenure.

Mouser first came to DHS in 1969 after graduating from Lima Senior in 1964 and Defiance College four years later.

Mouser, who went on to earn a master's degree from Bowling Green State University, taught ninth and 10th grade social studies in his early years at Defiance.

It was at that time coaching entered the picture.

"They were looking for junior high coaches and I said 'I'll do it,'" Mouser reflected. "They had a lot of good kids back then."

Mouser quickly moved up the ladder in basketball, working under Roger Renz in his final two seasons as DHS head coach in 1976-77 and 1977-78.

Renz then took the basketball job at Findlay High School and the Defiance head coach position opened up. Mouser lasted for just three years as the head coach despite a winning record in league play at 15-12.

"In those days there was not much patience. If you lost a couple years they went after you pretty solid.

"I knew the game, but I was not ready for the administration level at that time with all the expectations after Renz."

Meanwhile, he became involved in another sport.

"It boiled down to they needed somebody to coach cross country and I took the job," Mouser said. "I had run and been around it and knew I could help them learn quite a bit."

The first team under the direction of Mouser went 20-0 and just missed going to state. Mark Koenig, a 2014 DHS Athletic Hall of Fame



inductee, was the leader of that 1973 squad.

“Coach always had a driver personality and infected the team with his competitive nature,” Koenig reflected. “In those early years coach still had a strong Lima connection and I think he felt the need to show the big Lima schools that we were just as good or better. The summer before his first season as cross country coach in 1973, he drove us down to Lima to run hills in Faurot Park several times and then to the Lima Distance Carnival at the beginning of the season. He and the team made a statement when we won the team championship, and you could tell he was extremely proud to make the statement in Lima.”

## PRIDE

Nothing describes Mouser better than the word pride. It’s a term he has used and continues to use as a coach.

“He had a lot of pride for his school Lima Senior and he brought that over to Defiance,” noted Kirk Lehman, who played basketball for Mouser in the late 1970s and is now head basketball coach at DHS. “He always talked about how athletes playing for Defiance should approach it.

“He taught you to take pride in what you’re doing. The one quote I’ll always attribute to him was ‘Talk is cheap. Show me on the floor.’”

Greg Kampe, a 1974 DHS graduate who has been head basketball coach at Oakland University the past 30 years, also points to pride when talking about Mouser.

“In this day and age the one characteristic a lot of kids don’t have is pride,” Kampe related. “That guy (Mouser) loved being so proud of his school and wanted to teach us to be that way.

“He coached all three sports I was in and he was all about having pride in Defiance and what you do. That’s the guy in my life that taught me those lessons.”

Those are lessons Lehman remembers well. “Like anybody into coaching, as you age and mature you deal with things a little different than in your younger years,” Lehman said. “But the one thing he has always brought is an intensity level and pride about being from Defiance. And he gets across it’s not okay to be second.”

## FIERY COACH

While pride became a theme with Mouser, his temperament was also well known - especially in his early days in Defiance.

“After 58 years of life I don’t remember a lot, but the day I met him had an impact on my life,” Kampe said of his first memory of Mouser. “There aren’t many people that 45 years later I can remember the day I met them ... but I do with him.”

Mouser admits to being a bit too fiery in his early years of coaching.

“I got a number of technicals back then,” Mouser said. “One day I got four technicals, two in eighth grade and two in the ninth-grade game and I wasn’t even coaching them.

“That was not one of my better moments.

“We were at Lima South and we were beating them and they hadn’t been beaten. There were students throwing popcorn on the floor. It was a fiasco.”

The sport Mouser was coaching didn’t matter, either.

“He might be the only cross country coach in the history of Ohio to break a clipboard after a cross country meet,” said Jim Windnagle, who went to state in the 1970s under Mouser.



## COACHING INFLUENCE

Lehman’s love for Mouser brought his former mentor back to the sport of basketball. When Lehman took over as head varsity coach at DHS in 2003, Mouser came aboard as an assistant.

“He’s a stickler for fundamentals and adamant about doing things right,” Lehman said.

Mouser eventually called it quits on the hardwood two years ago.

But while Mouser retired from coaching basketball after the 2011-12 season, he remains a big part of two other programs at DHS - track and cross country - running the cross country show for all but one year since 1998.

In his career in the sport, Mouser has led the Bulldogs to 15 WBL titles and has had 13 teams advance to state, including 10 in Division I. But no team was able to get to the top until 2013, a big reason being many of his best squads were in D-I.

While time-wise not Mouser’s best, the 2013 squad finally reached the top in winning the Division II state crown last November.

While Mouser is down to coaching just track and cross country now, it doesn’t mean it is time to retire, despite winning that coveted state title in cross country last year.

As he has for nearly half a century, Mouser looks forward to the challenge while making memories for another group of teenagers.

“I’d like to think as a teacher and as a coach I’ve had a positive influence on the lives of a lot of kids,” said Mouser, who lists former Lima Senior baseball coach Joe Bowers along with John Hurley and Roger Renz as huge influences in his life. “As a coach I’ve tried to get across the idea to work hard. When you face adversity you have to deal with it. You win and you lose in life, it’s about making a commitment to the greater cause. That’s important for kids to understand.”

His former student-athletes can attest to that.

“He’s had such an effect on so many guys’ lives,” Kampe said. “He’s coached so many sports and he’s lasted at the same place for so long, that’s very unique. Not many people have done that.”

# RECOGNIZING

## Faculty, Staff and Students

**Steve Sondergaard, J.D.**, professor of criminal justice, was recently elected to represent District Three at the Ohio State Bar Association Council of Delegates for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2015. District Three is comprised of Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, Putnam, Hancock, Henry, Wood and Fulton counties.

**Dr. Todd Comer**, professor of English, participated earlier this year in two academic conferences, “The Disabled Hero: The Ethics of the Wound in Peter Jackson’s *The Lord of the Rings*,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, April 16-19, 2014, in Chicago, and “Dilating Fixity: Pacific Rim, and the Erasure of Birth,” the Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies, Feb. 21-23, 2014, in Bowling Green. He also discussed “Peter Weir’s Ecological Politics: Two Feints, One Palpable Hit,” in *Green Narratives and Eco-Practice: Politics, Culture, and Environment*, at the Midwest Popular Culture Association, Oct. 3-5, 2014, in Indianapolis. In addition, Todd is now the book review editor for *Studies in the Humanities*: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=41023>.

St. John United Church of Christ recently honored **Carolyn Small** for her many years of excellent service as church organist. Carolyn, professor emerita of music at Defiance College, continues to serve as the organist at St. John after 56 years.

**Chelsea Ludeman '14**, now a first-year graduate assistant at DC, was named the 2014 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Woman of the Year at the same time that her grandmother, Carol Ludeman, of Napoleon, Ohio, was recognized as the 2014 Henry County Senior of the Year. Chelsea told the *Northwest-Signal* that it was her grandmother who encouraged her to

become a volunteer, and during her time at DC, she has held many volunteer and leadership roles.

It’s been a busy year for **Dr. Doug Kane**, associate professor of biology. He appeared recently on WBGU’s Northwest Ohio Journal as part of a panel discussing “Harmful Algal Blooms and the Toledo Water Crisis.” The program is in Northwest Ohio Journal #903. It also went to Columbus for statewide distribution on The Ohio Channel.

He also presented to the Defiance Rotary Club on “The Toledo Water Crisis and Harmful Algal Blooms” as part of their weekly speaker series. Further, restoration ecology senior **Alison Rifenburg** presented a poster titled “Water Quality Monitoring on the Upper Maumee River.” at both the Lake Erie Binational Public Forum Conference, Oregon, Ohio (<http://lakeerieforum.org/content/lake-erie-binational-public-forum-conference-sept-26-27-2014>) and the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement 2014 Washington Symposium, Washington D.C. (<http://www.sencen.net/Symposia/DCSymposium2014PosterAbstracts.cfm>) with Dr. Kane and Stephanie Singer of the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership as co-authors.

Dr. Kane was featured in a front-page article in *The Crescent-News* regarding the Toledo water crisis and its links to nutrients entering Lake Erie from the Maumee River (<http://www.crescent-news.com/>). Further, he is also featured in a press release about the Toledo water crisis on the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) website (<http://iaglr.org/docs/items/2014ToledoWaterBan.pdf>). Additionally, former Defiance College student (and current University of Toledo graduate student) **Phoenix Golnick** is pictured sampling the algal bloom in this press release. On a lighter note, Doug is also mentioned as “dropping the puck” for the annual Defy Cup

between U.S. and Canadian scientists at the Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research held in Hamilton, Ontario in May ([http://iaglr.org/docs/items/IAGLR\\_Hockey\\_2014.pdf](http://iaglr.org/docs/items/IAGLR_Hockey_2014.pdf)).

Earlier this year, Dr. Kane was named President of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) at the 57th Conference on Great Lakes Research at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He also presented “Microcystis blooms and phosphorus dynamics in two of Lake Erie’s agricultural tributaries (Maumee and Sandusky rivers)” based on research conducted with scientists from The Ohio State University and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. For more information on the conference and IAGLR please visit <http://iaglr.org/iaglr2014/>.

He was also recently elected a Fellow of The Ohio Academy of Science. Kane joins less than 150 current Fellows who have been elected based on having “rendered some special service to the Academy or hav(ing) made extensive, productive scientific, technological or educational contributions to society.” To see a list of the current Fellows, visit <http://ohiosci.org/fellowship/>. He will be recognized for this honor at the Annual Meeting of The Ohio Academy of Science next April.

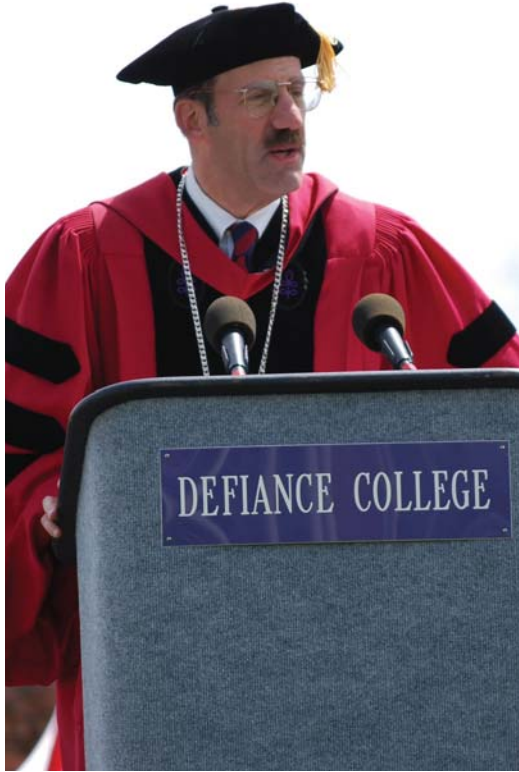
Further, Dr. Kane has just had two peer-reviewed articles and an introductory piece published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. These articles are a part of a special section of the most recent issue of the journal titled “Lake Erie: From watersheds to open water” for which Doug was a special guest Associate Editor. These three articles are collaborations with researchers from The Ohio State University, University of Toledo, SUNY- Buffalo State, and Heidelberg University. In order to see the articles please visit <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03801330/40>.

# DEFIANCE COLLEGE

An aerial photograph of the Defiance College campus. The central focus is a large, modern brick building with a prominent central tower featuring a green, conical roof. The building has several windows and a sign that reads "THE FILORIO LIBRARY". In front of the building is a large, checkered plaza with a central sculpture. The campus is surrounded by green lawns and trees, with a water tower visible in the distance under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

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Recognizing those who have supported the College  
for the 12-month period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014



Once again, it is my great privilege to acknowledge and thank the vast number of alumni, friends of the College, parents, faculty, and staff who have contributed financial support to Defiance College in the past year.

Day in and day out, the faculty, staff, and administrators at Defiance College are focused on helping our students to learn, to serve, and to grow. And we are all proud of the many ways our students benefit from rigorous academics, meaningful undergraduate research, mentoring from caring and knowledgeable faculty, hands-on experiences that link the classroom and the real world, leadership opportunities through Project 701 (our innovative student-run non-profit) and so many other service and other opportunities, athletic and extracurricular activities, domestic and international travel, exposure to the arts, and much more.

But I never forget that without the support of the people named on the following pages, we would not be able to do any of this.

I also recognize that it is not just your financial support that keeps Defiance College vital. You help us in other ways as well, including providing internships and job experience to our students, mentoring and advising our students, applauding DC students' performances on the concert stage and cheering for them on athletic fields, and also providing a stellar example to today's students of how to use your DC education to live a life full of meaning and joy.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for lifting us up and cheering us on, for helping at Freshman Orientation, for giving guidance to the DC students who work for you, for coming back for Homecoming, and for wearing your Purple and Gold proudly. And, thank you for the generous gifts that allow us to do the important work of helping these wonderful young men and women craft their own roadmaps to success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Gordon".

Mark C. Gordon, President



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Don Novak  
Madge Hardesty Oberlin  
Robert & Celesta Oberlin  
Dawn Ocke  
Mary Barnes Oyer  
Christine Palmer  
Richard & Emily Palmer  
Joanne Parker  
William Parker  
Kris Patt  
Aaron Patterson  
Michael & Beth Patterson  
Hartwell Pelton  
Patricia Kohart Pendleton  
John Perry  
John & Kristin Piper  
Priscilla Pixler  
Loren & Jean Plassman  
Robert & Nancy Plassman  
Mary Pohlmann  
E. Colleen Posey  
David Prager  
Ronald Pye  
Samuel Radel  
Lawrence Reamer  
Dennis & Irene Recker  
Ted\* & Rosemary Redlich  
Thomas Reed  
Terry & Becky Reichard  
Brent & Tamara Renollet

Nancy Rensi  
Bob & Betty Rettig  
Robert Rhoades  
Vickie Rhodes  
Randall & Deborah Richard  
Gene Richer  
Darcy Robinson  
Ed Roeth  
Gary Roeth  
Ron & Kay Rollins  
Elizabeth Root  
Robin & Linda Rosswurm  
Susan Royer  
Ralph Ruffer  
Doug Rychener  
Gary Sams  
James John Samsel  
Karen Sanders  
Robert & Beverly Sanderson  
Terri Sansilo  
Joan LeFeber Sauer  
David Savage  
Allan & Colleen Saylor  
Winona Schafer  
Barbara Schirmer  
Karen Schlatter  
Robert Schlembach  
Michael Schmidt  
Alex Schomaeker  
Gregory Schott  
Alfred Schroeder  
Jane Schroeder  
Timothy & Karen Schroeder  
Anne Partchey Schroer-Lamont  
Sandra Hardin Schuller  
Elizabeth Schulte  
Jan Schultz  
Roberta Schutte  
Terry & Peggy Scope  
Barton & Jane Scott  
Barbara Sedlock  
Charles & Betty Seibel  
Jeffrey Sever  
John Shafer  
Crystal Shanley  
Robert & Bonnie Shaw  
Alice Shepherd  
Mary Sherman  
Mark Shine  
Robert Shipman  
Ruth Shock  
Cynthia Shong  
Byrl Short  
Reggie & Lesa Shouse  
Garry Shy  
Shirley Sigg  
Charlotte Simons  
Ralph Singleton  
Stephanie Skylar

Mary F. Slattery  
Lori Slocum  
Joyce Kiehl Smelser  
Rick Smith  
Vea J. Smith  
Vicki Ramus Smith  
Richard & Jacqueline Smith Weeks  
Judith Snook  
Kelly Snyder  
Loree Soggs  
Jan Sonnenberg  
Michael Soto  
Rita Sowers  
Rex Spencer  
Carolyn Spicer  
Eric & Jeanette Spiller  
Linda Sprick Kruse  
Barbara Sprow-Kieffer  
Floyd Stafford  
Renee Steffen  
Kenneth & Rene Steingraber  
Judy Steining  
Michael Steirer  
Jean Stell  
Joseph Steyer  
Sally Stites  
Eric Stolly  
George & Karen Stoops  
Paul & Rosemary Stork  
Marie Wise Strayer  
Meghan Sumney  
Eric Swartz  
Roger & Lucille Sweet  
Alec Switz Jr.  
Sam & Chris Switzer  
Chase Szente  
John Szychowski  
Norma Tanber  
Robert & Judith Taphorn  
Jacob Taylor  
John & Frances Taylor  
Elnor Telljohann  
Sally Telljohann  
Chris Terhune  
Linda Thiel  
Dee Thorp  
Judy Thrasher  
Kyle Tietje  
Kathleen Tisdale  
Alan & Kristin Tonetti  
Kevin Tong  
Margaret Topping  
Charles & Charlcie Towne  
Linda Trausch  
John Trautman  
Macon Dale Traxler  
William E. Truesdell  
Steven & Sheila Turbiner  
Walter Turner

Jeffrey Urick  
Joseph Vacara  
Evelyn Valin  
Dominick Varano  
Plinio Velandia  
Jay Victor  
Diane M. Viers  
Alberta Vogel  
Barry & Jeannie Von Deylen  
Ron Von Deylen  
Pierre Vuilleumier  
Michael Waite  
Mary Walter  
Thomas Walz  
William Warren  
Dennis H. Watson  
Harold Watson  
Jeffrey & Sreyroth Weaner  
Eleanor Webb  
Richard & Jacqueline Weeks  
Linda Westrick  
Mary Alice White  
Jeff & Lisa Whitman  
Robert L. Whitman  
Nancy Zimmerman Wick  
Kevin Wierman  
Richard & Linda Wierwille  
Mary Williams  
Richard Winbigler Jr.  
Amy Winner  
Nancy Wittler  
Jeremy Wolf  
Michael Wolfe  
Logan Wolfrum  
Cynthia Woodfield  
Richard Wright  
Jim Wurst  
David Yarnell  
John & Patricia Yeoman  
Paul Yoder  
Randy & Chris Yoder  
Stanley Yoder  
Paul Yon  
Alyce Yoshino\*  
Linda Young  
Pamela Young  
William Young  
Matthew Zahel  
Richard Zath  
Jean Ziegler  
Walter Zverina

### CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND ORGANIZATION GIVING

*\$1-\$999*

Aetna Foundation, Inc.  
Alpha Delta Kappa  
APS Foundation, Inc.  
Arps Dairy Inc.  
Bald Apache Properties  
DC Women's Club  
Defiance Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.  
Defiance Dental Group  
Delta Air Lines Inc.  
Estle Chevrolet  
Farmers & Merchants State Bank  
First Federal Bank  
General Electric Fund  
IBM Corporation  
The Irving & Ethel  
Palman Foundation  
JP Morgan Chase  
KeyBank Foundation  
Kissner's Restaurant  
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.  
McDonald's Restaurant  
Mellon Bank Corp.  
Mercy Defiance Clinic  
Norfolk Southern  
North Western Electric Co-Op  
Ohio Gas Company  
Paulding-Putnam Electric Co-Op  
Plaza Motel  
Plymouth Tube Company  
PNC Foundation  
Procter & Gamble  
Rettig Music, Inc.  
Richer Productions  
Rockwell International  
Shell Oil Co. Foundation  
Sherwin Williams Co.  
Stambaugh Jewelers, Inc.  
Steyer & Company  
Tyco  
United Way of Defiance  
Weaner, Yoder, Hill & Weber, Ltd.

*\$1,000 - \$9,999*

Alex Foldvary Trust  
Antwerp Exchange Bank  
Ball Corporation  
Bottling Group, LLC  
DC Women's Commission  
Defiance Area Chamber  
of Commerce Foundation  
Defiance Clinic Charitable  
& Educational Foundation  
Defiance Community  
Cultural Council  
Defiance Rotary Club  
The Dix Foundation  
Eli Lilly and Co.  
Fayette Foundation  
Gabelli Funds  
Mark Moats Ford, Inc.  
Northwestern Mutual  
Philips Electronics  
North America Co.  
ProMedica Physicians  
& Continuum Services  
Rath Builders Supply, Inc.  
RE/MAX Realty  
Sam Hornish Jr. Foundation  
State Farm Companies  
State Street Foundation  
Thrivent Financial  
Toledo Community Foundation  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Women's Giving  
Circle of Defiance County

*\$10,000 and above*

Big Lots  
DC Alumni Varsity D  
DC Purple & Gold  
Diehl Family Foundation  
FirstEnergy Foundation  
FM Global Foundation  
Herbst Family Foundation  
J. Earl Belch Charitable Trust  
McMaster Foundation  
Mel Lanzer Company  
MLM Charitable Foundation  
Ohio Foundation  
of Independent Colleges  
Sodexo Campus Services  
State Bank and Trust Company

### CHURCHES

David's UCC, Dayton  
Eastern Ohio Association UCC  
Grace UCC, Uniontown  
Local Church Ministries, Cleveland  
Maine Conference UCC  
Ohio Conference UCC  
Pilgrim UCC, Cincinnati  
St. John UCC, Cincinnati  
St. John's UCC, Bluffton  
St. Paul's UCC, Saint Marys  
Trinity UCC, New Lebanon  
Westerville Community Church

# CLASS NOTES



**Anita (Dunbar) Rethmel '65** was included in the Ohio State Extension's "100 Women in Ohio Agriculture" at the annual Farm Science Review display in September. Anita and her husband, Donald, reside in Defiance.

**Douglas Short '66** and his wife, Linda, celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 14, 2014. They marked the occasion with a trip to Florida. Doug was in radio broadcasting for 20 years, and was a teacher for 22 years before retiring. Doug and Linda live in Sidney, Ohio.

**Don Smith '71** was honored earlier this year with the Gold Award in the 2014 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards ceremony sponsored by Medical Mutual and held at The Pinnacle in Toledo. The award recognizes senior citizens who volunteer their time to help others and salutes those volunteers who act in a selfless, caring manner and are committed to enhancing the quality of the lives of those around them. Don was recognized for his volunteerism with Diabetes Youth Services, raising funds and awareness of the services provided to children living with Type 1 diabetes and their families. This is the 11th year that Don raised funds by swimming laps and raising pledges for DYS. He has raised nearly \$100,000, and his goal this year is to raise \$25,000. Don and his wife, Connie, live in Continental, Ohio.

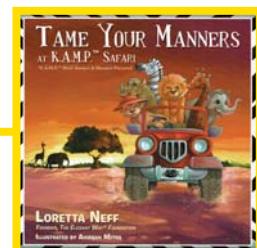
**Lynn DeSherbinin '74** has recently retired from her position as Vice President of Human Resources USA, Bayer CropScience LLC. Lynn is now residing in Pittsboro, N.C. and is a member of the Defiance College Board of Trustees.

**Dave Yarnell '74** recently retired from his position as reporter and photographer with the *Manistee News Advocate*, and has moved to Kalamazoo, Mich. Dave's career included 27 years in college public relations at Mount Union College, Defiance College, and West Shore Community College in Michigan. Dave also served as the executive director of the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce for five years.

**Deb DeTray '76**, was recently recognized by the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce for 20 years in business with her company, DeTray Investment Group. In 2004, Deb's son, Steve, joined the business and is now a full partner. Deb and her husband, Rusty, reside in Defiance.

**Cindy McCann Bentancur '79** of Defiance announces the birth of her granddaughter, Adelyn Rose Scott in March. Adelyn has a brother, Emerson.

**Loretta Neff Bjorklund '89** of West Palm Beach, Fla., through the Elegant Way Foundation, launched a children's book this spring, *Tame Your Manners at K.A.M.P. Safari* as a fun, meaningful and memorable way for a child to learn manners. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to charity and can be purchased online at [ewbooks.org](http://ewbooks.org).



**Robin Sowers Groves '89** participated in the Patriots Day Marathon in Boston on April 21, 2014. Robin and husband, **Michael Groves '90**, reside in Dayton, Ohio.

**Shirley Hohenbrink '92** received 2014 Teacher of the Year recognition from the Defiance VFW Post 3360. Shirley is a third grade teacher at Defiance

Elementary School and has taught for 20 years. She resides in Defiance with her husband, Edward '67.

**Annette (Rue) Hoeffel '99 & '10** was one of the recipients of the Four Under 40 designation, presented by the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce at their Annual Dinner, in recognition of outstanding leadership. Annette is director of marketing for Chief Supermarkets and is past president of DC's Alumni Varsity D, a Relay for Life team captain, and been involved in Continental and Putnam County youth soccer and basketball. She and husband, **Chris '96**, live in Continental, Ohio, with their two children.

**Darline Clemens '00** opened Close to Home Childcare Center and Preschool on September 1, 2004 and has operated with the philosophy that "happy children make happy families." Clemens was recognized in September by the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce for 10 years of service to the community.

Adam and **Jackie (Broering) Homan '02** announce the birth of their daughter, Megan Jane, on March 8, 2014. Megan is welcomed into the family by brothers Evan, Isaac and Dylan. The Homans reside in Findlay, Ohio.



**Chad Schindler '03** has been hired by the Antwerp Local Schools as a pre-school teacher. Chad resides in Ottawa.

**Dr. Amanda Huber '04** was recently selected to receive the Sidney & Joan Pestka Post Graduate Award for Excellence in Interferon Research by the International Cytokine & Interferon Society (ICIS). Huber is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Dept. of Neurology at the University of Michigan. Following her graduation from Defiance College, Amanda attended the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, graduating in 2011. She resides in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Jeremy Ball '04** was one of the selected "Forty Under 40" award recipients by Columbus Business First last spring. The award recognizes outstanding career achievements and community service impact. Jeremy is the Director of Corporate Philanthropy & Events for Big Lots and serves on the board of the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio.

**Dr. Nick Neiderhouse '05** earned his educational doctorate from Bowling Green State University, with his dissertation focusing on the impact service-learning has on at-risk students. Nick is now principal in the Maumee City Schools. In June 2014, Nick was wed, and he and Raquel reside in Maumee.



**Kylee VonDeylen '05** was wed to Kurtis Staup on Dec. 31, 2013 at St. Michael's on the Ridge in Defiance. The two reside in Findlay, Ohio, and Kylee is the Marketing Manager at OptiVue Vision in Toledo, Ohio.



**Joe DiSalvio Jr. '06 and Tiffany Howard DeSalvio '06** announce the birth of their second child, Vincent Robert Joseph, on Feb. 13, 2014. Vincent has a sister, Gianna, age 3. The DeSalvios reside in Delaware, Ohio.

**Steve Brancheau '07** is now assistant principal at Montpelier High School, where he is also varsity football coach. Steve and **Katy (Tinker) '09** live in Montpelier, Ohio, with their son, Jaxton.

**Jennelle Hammer '07** married Michael Calvin on Dec. 31, 2012, and they announce the birth of a son, Duncan Scott Calvin on Feb. 12, 2014. Duncan was welcomed home by his big brother, Brent. Jennelle is a substitute teacher for the Hancock County Educational Service Center, and the Calvins reside in Rawson, Ohio.

**Brandon McCann '07** was one of the recipients of the 2014 Four Under 40 recognition, presented by the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce at their Annual Dinner, in recognition of outstanding leadership. Brandon is the third generation of his family with ServiceMaster by McCann, where he manages approximately 70 employees. Brandon has also been a Chamber board member, past president of DC's Purple & Gold Club and on the Defiance Regional Hospital Foundation Board. He and his wife, Lindsey, reside in Defiance.

**Dr. Nathan Fitton '08 and Andrea (Slattery) Fitton '09** announce the birth of their son, Brecken James, born on March 14, 2014. Nate, Andrea and Brecken reside in Grand Ledge, Mich.



**Brenda Delarber '09 & '12** wed Eric Aversch on June 28, 2014 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Kalida, Ohio. Brenda is an admissions counselor at Defiance College, and the couple resides in Kalida.



**Stacy Nicely '09** married Larry Freshour on June 14, 2014. She is employed as a hygiene coordinator/team leader at Dental Excellence in Napoleon, and the couple resides in Stryker, Ohio.

**Austin Kleman '10** and Beth Roediger were married on Aug. 9, 2014 at Sidney First United Methodist Church in Sidney, Ohio. One of Austin's groomsmen in the wedding party was **Nate Cline '10**. Austin graduated from the Ohio State University in 2014 with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Austin and Beth live in Bryan, Ohio, where he is a veterinarian at Fountain City Veterinary Hospital and Beth is a pharmacist at Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers.



**Jerika Hennes Ortlieb '12** is attending the Wright State University School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio.

**Matthew Coons '14** is now employed with HCR ManorCare in Toledo, Ohio, as a security analyst in the IT Department.

**Megan (Nicholson) Coons '12** is employed at the Toledo School for the Arts as a School Counselor. Megan received her Master of Arts in school counseling from University of Toledo after graduating from DC. Megan and Matt were married Dec. 15, 2012, and reside in Toledo.

**Jordan Taylor '14** is now a health education/physical education teacher with the Euclid City Schools. He resides in Trenton, Ohio.

## DEATHS

Edwin 'Ted' Redlich '50  
March 4, 2014 -- Hawley, Pa.

George Hornish '55  
June 13, 2012 – Goshen, Ind.

Kathryn Walters Lynde '57  
April 7, 2014 – Hicksville, Ohio

Rev. Larry Hopkins '61  
June 17, 2014 – Lima, Ohio

Margaret 'Maggie' Hopkins Buhner '64  
April 17, 2014 – Defiance, Ohio

Eleanor Weddelman Meyer '65  
May 12, 2014 – Napoleon, Ohio

Bruce Moser '65  
Oct. 24, 2014 – Palatine, Ill.

Beverly Rettig '71  
Feb. 4, 2014 – Lafayette, Col.

John Overberg '81  
Aug. 3, 2014 – Bryan, Ohio

Mary Elchinger '90  
April 8, 2014 – Columbus, Ohio

Eugene 'Gene' Richmond '94  
June 3, 2014 – Montpelier, Ohio

**Former faculty:**  
Helen Archibald  
March 10, 2014 – Laguna Niguel, Calif.

## DR. JIMMIE LEMASTER

Former Defiance College faculty member Dr. Jimmie LeMaster, 80, died June 29 at his residence in Waco, Texas.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1951 and served four years. Upon being discharged from the Navy, LeMaster moved to Defiance where he worked at the General Motors foundry and attended classes at Defiance College. Upon graduation, he taught in local high schools before returning to his alma mater to teach in 1962, having completed a master of arts degree at Bowling Green State University. While working at Defiance College, he received his Ph.D. in English from BGSU in 1970. He taught at Defiance College for 15 years before moving his family to Waco to teach at Baylor University in 1977. When he retired from Baylor in 2006, he had taught for 47 years, including two years in Beijing, People's Republic of China. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Defiance College in 1988. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda, and son, Lon; brother, Dennis; and half brother, Tom McDowell. He is survived by two daughters, Lisa and DeNae; brother, Marvin, and half brother, Richard McDowell. Memorial gifts may be made to The Wanda May LeMaster Service Award, c/o Michele Tinker, Defiance College, 701 N. Clinton St., Defiance, OH 43512.

## WILLIAM CHANEY

Professor Emeritus William Chaney, 93, passed away Sept. 7, at the Laurels of Defiance. Bill and Eileen were married for 69 years and resided in the Tiffin, Ohio, area until moving to the Defiance area in 1963. He was an associate professor of English and business writing at Defiance College until retirement in 1983. He was a member of St. John United Church of Christ and an emeritus member of the Modern Language Association. He served as a technical sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Their children are Gary Chaney of Sherwood, Ohio; Coleen (Jim) Vincent of Omaha, Neb.; Deanna (Tim) Smith of Osseo, Mich.; and Carol (Bill) Halstead of Manotick, Ontario, Canada. There are six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is survived by brothers, Van, of Anchorage, Alaska, and Ralph of Bedford, Texas, and a sister, Jean Ann Kelbley of Bloomville, Ohio. He was preceded in death by brothers, Dean and Jack.

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## Keep in Touch

We'd like to know about your new job, recent marriage, new member of the family, new address, or other happenings in your life. For photos, please send those of Defiance College people only, identify everyone, and label the back with your name and address. If you are moving, please send this form in with your new address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

News: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail this form to:**  
Alumni Office,  
Defiance College,  
701 N. Clinton St.,  
Defiance, OH 43512,  
or email your news to:  
[alumni@defiance.edu](mailto:alumni@defiance.edu).



# A SINGING SUCCESS!



Defiance College's director of music programs Andrew Schultz has not only led the expansion of DC's music programs but has also created and grown the Black Swamp Honors Choir into a very special experience for Northwest Ohio high school choir students. Schultz started the event as part of the growth of the College's music programs while expanding musical horizons of high school students in Northwest Ohio.

The Black Swamp Honors Choir began in 2010 with participants from four local high schools. The 2014 auditions included 11 area schools with more than 160 students auditioning for approximately 90 spots in the choir. Selected students spend Thursday evening and Saturday rehearsing with Defiance College's Chamber Singers and Choral Union as well as a guest choir. This year, the Pride of Toledo Sweet Adeline Chorus participated. In addition to working with Schultz, choir members are also able to work with well known choral conductor Richard Mathey.

The culminating event is the W. Oscar Jones Choral Festival, which was held this year on Sunday, Nov. 2, in St. John United Church of Christ. The concert has grown in popularity and participation, necessitating two performances to accommodate the large audiences.

The event was named in honor of the late W. Oscar Jones, known for his many contributions to the Defiance community and the choral art in the 1930s and 40s.

# BACK 2 BACK CHAMPS!



*For the second straight year, Defiance College has won the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Regular Season Volleyball Championship. For more information go to [www.DefianceAthletics.com](http://www.DefianceAthletics.com).*

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



*Mark your calendars!  
June 13, 2015*