

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work that McMaster Fellows and Scholars are able to do in collaboration with local schools, health centers, villages, women's groups, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, etc. is critically dependent on the hard work of our primary liaisons. These individuals work tirelessly to make connections, teach our students, and facilitate our ability to positively impact community partners. We know now, after years of engaging in community-based research, that without such individuals our work would be significantly less effective. It is important that we recognize these individuals for their efforts. Our sincerest thanks to those people on the ground who work with, protect, and inspire the McMaster teams.



### BELIZE

Ivan Gillett, Jr. – Ivan Gillett was formerly the head ranger for Programme for Belize at the Hillbank Research Station. Ivan, originally from the village of St. Paul's Bank, has worked in the rainforest for most of his career. His connection with all living things in the jungle is evident in the knowledge he shares with all of the McMaster teams to Belize. He has been and continues to be instrumental in teaching all of us, advising our work, and helping us to effectively cross cultures. His commitment to small villages on the periphery of the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area inspires and facilitates our collaborations in these locales. He has become our trusted friend and his connection with Defiance College spans more than a decade.



### TANZANIA

Lillian Mkony (left) – Lillian Mkony has worked with the Tanzania team since 2013. She is a native of Arusha, Tanzania and works full time as a consultant. Prior to travel, Lillian provides the Tanzania team with logistical support and helps identify potential community partners. She serves as a guide, interpreter, and friend on the ground. Without Lillian, the Tanzania initiative would not be able to operate.



## CAMBODIA

Sophal Leng Stagg (center) – Sophal (Sophie) can be credited for the initial and continued success of the Cambodia Learning Community (12 years). Without her guidance and wisdom, the McMaster Cambodia project would not exist. She is a survivor of the reign of the Khmer Rouge and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1980. She married and raised a family while working relentlessly for the people of Cambodia and working as our liaison with community partners in Cambodia. She is the executive director of the Southeast Asia Children's Mercy Fund and resides in Tampa, Florida.



Sun Sovichea – Vichea is our trusted liaison in Phnom Penh. He was introduced to the McMaster Cambodia initiative through Sophie. He is the son of one of our community partners in Cambodia. Vichea is a trustworthy advisor and friend. He is with us from our entry into the country through our departing flight and assists us with translation, transportation, housing and safety and security.



## PANAMA

Maria Elena Marquez de Rivera (right) – Maria Elena began working with the McMaster School even prior to the first exploratory trip in May, 2014 via email. Once the exploratory team arrived in Panama it was obvious that she would be instrumental in paving the way for future McMaster initiatives both in Panama City and in the rural village of El Congo. Maria Elena serves, not only as our liaison but interpreter and cultural guide as well and she is critical to ensuring the effectiveness of McMaster teams' work in Panama.



CAMBODIA, MAY 2015



TANZANIA, MAY 2015



PANAMA, MARCH 2016



BELIZE, DECEMBER 2015

# McMaster Scholars

## 2016 - 2017



### **BELIZE**

#### **Fellow**

MARY ANN STUDER

#### **Associate Fellow**

RENA RAGER

#### **Scholars**

ZACHARY BIRES  
SAMANTHA GOMEZ  
MADELINE HOMAN  
CATLYN PAVEL  
ZACKARY REED  
ZACHARY ROUSH  
NICK STAROSTA

### **CAMBODIA**

#### **Fellows**

JO ANN BURKHARDT  
FRED COULTER

#### **Scholars**

DALTON BETTIS  
XAVIER BLYDEN  
JESSICA CRIGGER  
TAYLOR HAYDINGER,  
ELYZABETH KING  
ARLEN STOLLER  
CONNER VARNER  
BROOKE WAIDELICH  
RACHEL WEHRMAN

### **PANAMA**

#### **Fellow**

ALESIA YAKOS-BROWN

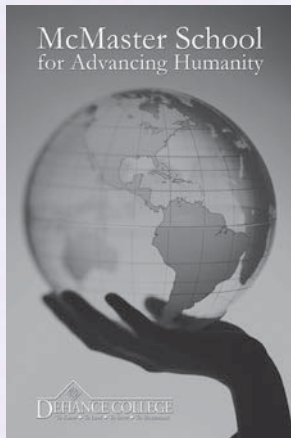
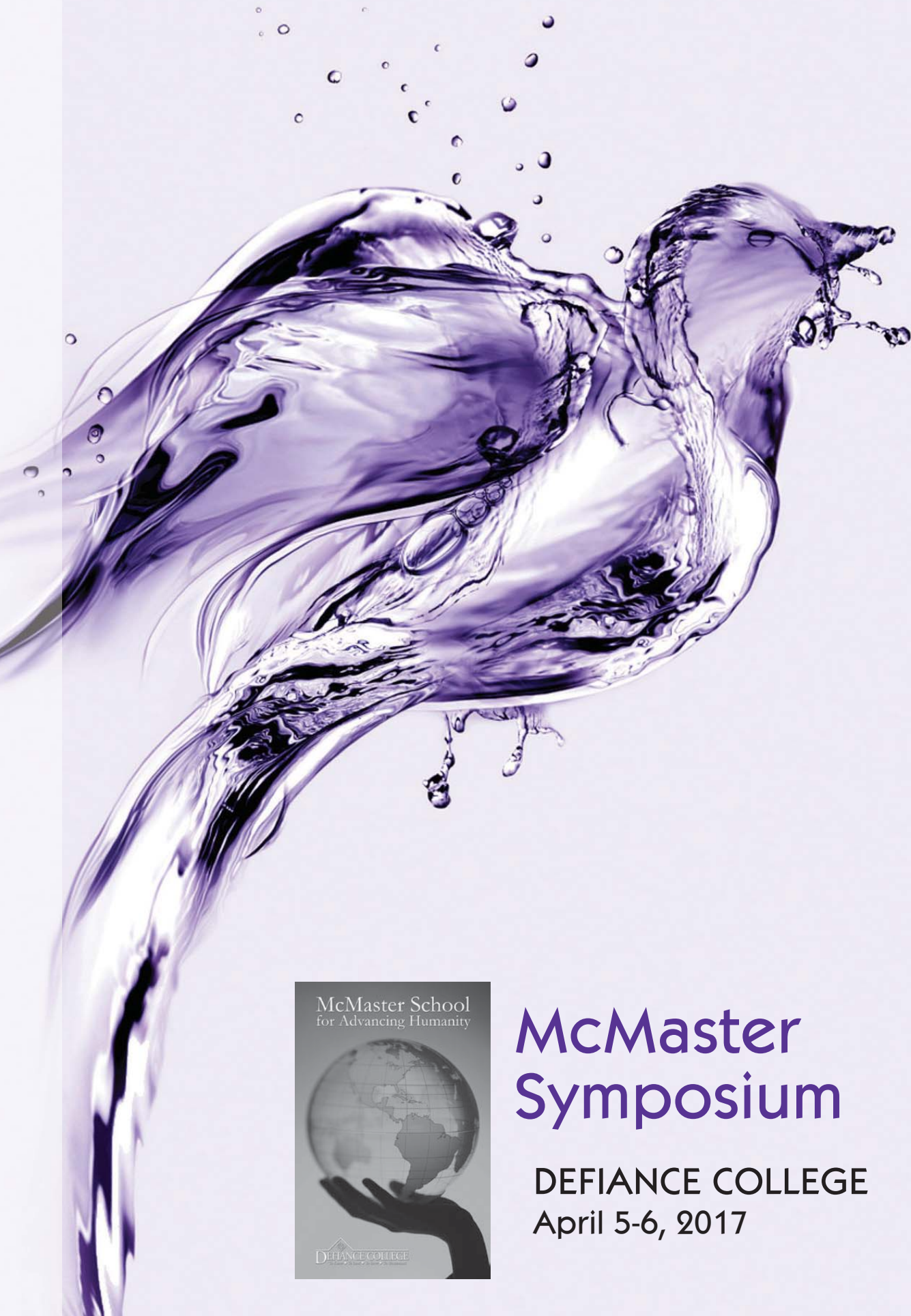
#### **Associate Fellow**

KATHLEEN WESTFALL

#### **Scholars**

DA'JA'NAY ASKEW  
DENIQUE DENNIS  
TAYLOR GILLIG  
TONI ANN LEDGISTER  
ADAM MCGINNIS  
ALEXIS WALKER  
KATLYN WILLIAMSON

THE QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AS CRITICAL TO  
IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION



## McMaster Symposium

DEFIANCE COLLEGE  
April 5-6, 2017



## McMaster School Mission Statement

The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity was founded to serve as a focal point for teaching, service, scholarship, and action to improve the human condition worldwide. The mission of the McMaster School is:

- ◆ To educate students for responsible citizenship;
- ◆ To produce committed global citizens and leaders who understand the importance of individual liberties in improving the human condition worldwide; and
- ◆ To encourage graduates to take an active role in addressing these issues in whatever professions they may choose.