

*About*  
**MCMASTER SCHOOL  
FOR ADVANCING HUMANITY**

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.

The School serves as a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary, community-based work by creating and supporting opportunities for teams of faculty, students, and staff to use their academic and professional skills to address a community need.

*Goals of the*  
**MCMASTER SCHOOL  
FOR ADVANCING HUMANITY**

To critically examine the root causes of human suffering through academic and applied research of systemic factors (religious, political, social, educational and/or environmental) that impede human progress;

To give students the knowledge and capacities to be active world citizens and to view themselves as members of the world community;

To contribute actively - through sponsored scholarship and service to the improvement of the human condition worldwide;

To exchange, create and disseminate knowledge about successful role models of active citizenship and public service; and

To create at Defiance College one of the nation's premiere undergraduate educational programs with a focus on scholarship and service, with a special emphasis on developing an innovative approach to teaching.

*About*  
**DEFIANCE COLLEGE**

Defiance College, founded in 1850, is a private liberal arts college affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serving approximately 1,000 students. Building on a strong foundation of more than a century of educating citizens for lives of leadership and service, Defiance College provides opportunities for its students to make a meaningful impact on society in the twenty-first century with an educational experience of engagement. Defiance's spirit of service through leadership sets us apart.

The Princeton Review features Defiance College in Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement. Defiance College has been named for four consecutive years to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its commitment to community service. Defiance College is also one of 119 U.S. colleges and universities selected by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive its 2008 Community Engagement Classification. Defiance is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the National Council of Teacher Education, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the Council on Social Work Education, and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

As a national leader in the field of service learning and engagement, DC teaches students to take the knowledge they have gained and use it to change lives for the better – in their communities, in their careers and in the world.

**Special Thanks to the McMaster Symposium Planning Committee:**

*Mercedes Clay, Mary Catherine Harper,  
Ashton Judis, Rena Rager, Tim Rickabaugh,  
Barbara Schirmer, Mary Ann Studer, Andrew Whitis*

**Additional thanks to:**

*Kathy Punches, Deb Richard, Ryan Imbrock – Public Relations  
Steffanie Brumett – Facilities  
Matt Slawinski – Technology Support  
and all at Sodexo Food Service.*



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



**McMaster  
Symposium**

**DEFIANCE COLLEGE  
March 28-29, 2012**

**9:45 - 10:00 Symposium Opening Remarks**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
 Barbara Schirmer - Provost, Defiance College  
 Mary Ann Studer - Dean,  
 McMaster School for Advancing Humanity

**10:00 - 5:00 Carolyn M. Small Poster Presentations**  
*Location: Hubbard Banquet Room*  
 Over 50 posters from DC Students on a variety of topics related to course work they are engaged in this semester.

**10:00 - 10:50 McMaster Cambodia Learning Community**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
**Fellows** - JoAnn Burkhardt, Fred Coulter  
**Associate Fellow** - Don Buerk  
**Scholars** – Craig Bills, Kellie Cooper, Nicole Grim, Kim Grubmiller, Alexis Pierce, Zach Polzin, Kellie Raypole, Emma Starks, Taylor Tuttle

**11:00 - 11:50 McMaster Belize Learning Community**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
**Fellows** – Mary Ann Studer, Ken Adair  
**Scholars** – Dennis Clemens, Brittany Coats, Kirsten Frissora, Bryant Green, Josh Hegemier, Jordan Heiliger, Alec Pribulsky, Catie Savage, Cord Speelman, Thomas Studer

**12:00 - 1:30 All Learning Community Lunch**  
*Location: Buchman Board Room*  
 Open to all learning community members and their guests

**12:00 - 1:30 Honors Program Lunch**  
*Location: Cultural Arts Center*  
 Open to all Honors poster presenters and judges

**2:00 - 2:50 McMaster Ghana Learning Community**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
**Fellow** – Debbie Dalke  
**Associate Fellows** – Sara Beth Brown, Mercedes Clay  
**Scholars** – Kari Baumgartner, Phoenix Golnick, Jerika Hennes, Sammie Stevens, Ellen Stryffeler, Asia Williams

**3:00 - 3:50 Service Leadership Costa Rica Learning Community**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
**Program Directors** – Ashton Judis, Mark Gordon  
**Service Leaders** – Kyle Barnhardt, Kelly Beard, Brittany Coats, Dylan James, Rachael Lange, Brittany Michaels, Katie Patten, Gene Snyder, Emma Starks, Courtney Swabb, Janis Wilkinson, Zach Polzin

**4:00 – 5:30 BaFa’BaFa’ Workshop**  
*Location: Buchman Board Room and Cultural Ars Center*  
**Presenters** – Mercedes Clay, Sara Beth Brown  
 BaFa’BaFa’ is a face-to-face learning simulation. It is intended to improve participants’ cultural competencies by helping them understand the impact of culture on the behavior of people and organizations. Participants experience “culture shock” by traveling to and trying to interact with a culture in which the people have different values, different ways of behaving and different ways of solving problems. BaFa’BaFa’ was invented by Dr. Gary Shirts and is published and marketed by Simulation Training Systems of San Diego, CA.

**5:30 – 7:00 Dinner with Lee Strang**  
*Location: President’s House*  
 Hosted by McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. BY INVITATION ONLY

**7:00 - 7:15 Introduction of Keynote Speaker**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
 Dr. Ronald McMaster

**7:15 - 8:30 Keynote Address – Lee J. Strang, Professor of Law, University of Toledo**

### Protecting Individual Liberty through Constitutional Interpretation: Originalism, Natural Rights, and Human Flourishing



This presentation will define the dominant theories of constitutional interpretation today. The presenter will make an argument that originalism protects individual liberty – natural rights – as a means of facilitating individual American’s pursuit of their own human flourishing.

Professor Strang joined the UT faculty in 2008 and was granted tenure in 2010. Before that, he was a visiting Professor at Michigan State University College of Law and an Associate Professor at Ave Maria School of Law. A graduate of the University of Iowa, where he was Articles Editor of the Iowa Law Review and Order of the Coif, Strang also holds an LL.M. Degree from Harvard Law School. Prior to teaching, he served as a judicial clerk for Judge Alice M. Batchelder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Strang was also an associate for Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago, where he practiced in general and appellate litigation.

**8:30 - 9:00 Reception for Professor Strang**  
*Location: Women’s Commission Gallery*  
 Open to all

**8:00 - 9:30 CALL FOR SCHOLARS Breakfast**  
*Location: Hubbard Banquet Room*  
 Come and share your experiences with other scholars and encourage those who are thinking about becoming a scholar to write a proposal. Open to all Defiance College students interested in the McMaster Scholar Program as well as all current and former Scholars.

### 9:30 - 10:45 SESSION I – Concurrent Sessions

**International Perspective of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*  
**Faculty/Staff** – Mercedes Clay, Angie Fahy, Sandra Golden  
**Students** – Toni Ann Boyd, Cheryl Ann Francis, Victor Nhliziyo, Ye Wen Shao, Billy Blair, James Hodgkinson, Melissa Russell, Rebecca Miles, Jonathon Collins, Clay Finch, LaDonna Williamson, Joshua Bowie-Williams, Denzel Moore

American and international students who participated in the 2012 Alternative Spring Break Civil Rights Tour will compare and contrast the U.S. Civil Rights Movement to significant issues of civil rights such as apartheid in South Africa and Tiananmen Square protest of 1989 in China.

**Benjamin Franklin and Individual Thought**  
*Location: Buchman Board Room*

**Faculty** – Mary Catherine Harper  
 Benjamin Franklin created characters to represent ideas, for example Polly Baker, representing a critique of 18th-century gender relations. The presenter will draw on the writings of Franklin to shape a character we call Individual Thought. In this theater-like presentation, Franklin’s critique of conformist thinking that supports political, religious, gender, and technological prejudices and his championing of individual free thought will be examined...but not without some critique back at Franklin himself.

**11:00 - 12:30 Idea Tables Lunch**  
**Individual Liberties Across Disciplines**  
*Location: Hubbard Banquet Room*

Each Idea Table will focus on a topic that matters for individual rights and a strong community. The hosts at each table have expertise (academic and/or profession-based) on their particular topic. Their role is to facilitate discussion about how the topic relates to individual rights. The questions that will be explored at each table are listed below.

**Liberty and the Problem of Free Will - Lisa Crumit-Hancock**  
 How might conflicts over group interests and individual liberties be explained as a problem of free will? To what extent is the idea of “individual liberties” actually a very deterministic idea?

**Genocide in a Democratic Republic – Dorothy Singer**  
 In terms of concept of individual liberties, where do detainees at Guantanamo, racial profiling, legislation against undocumented

immigrants and terms, like “illegal aliens” fit into a democratic republic? How might the idea of individual liberties be used by powerful special interest groups to support scapegoating, even to the point of oppression or genocide of a less powerful group? Or is there such a potential for near-genocidal behavior in a democratic republic?

**Cultural Elements of Corporate Colonialism – Lizabeth Mason**

What are the civil liberties that are (or should be) guaranteed in a democratic republic? In what ways might corporate culture contribute to the limiting of individual liberties?

**Economics of Corporate Colonialism – Isaac Vayo**

To what extent has the demand for unfettered individual liberties led to global monetary powers taking the place of earlier national colonial powers? Can a nation state truly protect individual rights as it promotes a healthy economy?

**Reality TV and Values in America – Christine Blain**

To what extent does Reality TV, which exposes a “slice of reality” to the masses, disturb the value of privacy? How do the rules of Reality TV producers trump those of the individuals who participate in the shows, and to what extent do we, as the viewers, allow the exploitation of the liberties of those individuals?

**Journalism and the Question of Security – Stefan Hall**

What is the relationship of journalism to the balancing of individual liberties and security? Should journalism favor one or the other and, if so, which one and why?

**Sports and Ableism in the World – Todd Comer**

To what extent is competitiveness an “enemy” of rather than the companion to fair play...and individualism? And how might the idea of an able mind and body interfere with individual liberties?

**Art That Pushes Culture to the Edge – Mary Catherine Harper**

To what extent does highly individualistic and radical art promote individualism and individual liberties? Or is there something about art that produces fear of individualism?

### 12:45 - 2:00 SESSION II – Concurrent Sessions

**Embracing Diversity: Best Practices for Both the Individual and the Institution**

*Location: Buchman Board Room*  
**Presenters** – Members of the Defiance College Diversity Council

The Defiance College Diversity Council is studying institutional best practices for embracing and managing diversity. Such practices build trust and insure that the individual’s right to feel valued and respected is openly supported across a campus in all situations involving both culturally obvious differences and subtle differences, resulting in improved campus conditions. In roundtable format, symposium participants will discuss practices they have found to deal with diversity matters in positive ways.

**Project 701 - Staff**

*Location: Cultural Arts Center*

**Presenters** – Rachel Lange, Brock Bell, Lynn Haller, Steve Switz

This presentation will describe the operation of Defiance College’s student-run non-profit, Project 701. The student management team of Project 701 will provide details about how the organization can benefit you and share success stories of those already involved.

### 2:15 - 3:30 SESSION III – Concurrent Sessions

**Exploring Separation and Connectivity**

*Location: Buchman Board Room*

**Presenters** – Kristin Sorensen, Matthew Lydum

This interactive workshop exposes white privilege and the seeming separation that it causes, and then explores a truer reality of our connectivity. This exercise could be perceived as controversial. Please bring an open mind and a willingness to voluntarily participate. While talking about privilege can be disturbing, this experience culminates in an optimistic viewpoint of our trajectory toward community.

**Project 701 - Projects**

*Location: Cultural Arts Center*

**Presenters** – Brittany Coats, Mollee Galloway, Kirsten Frissora

This presentation will include overviews by current project managers of the projects in various stages of progress. Project managers will share their project’s goals and impact. You will learn how you too might make a difference.

### 3:30 – 5:00 SESSION IV – Concurrent Sessions

**Express Yourself: Female Emcees in the Male Dominated Hip Hop Culture**

*Location: Cultural Arts Center*

**Presenter** – Mercedes Clay

The hip hop culture has often received a bad reputation due to its objectification of women. However, there have been a group of women who have blazed a trail to dispel the stereotypes and fight against the over-sexualized image of the female emcee. This presentation will look at the female emcees who have played an integral part in the development of the hip hop culture and have refused to conform to the expectations of record label executives and their male peers.

**Culturally Insensitive University Athletic Mascots: Why Do They Matter?**

*Location: Buchman Board Room*

**Presenters** – Tim Rickabaugh, Eric Rickabaugh  
 Since the 1930s, popular mascots such as Colonel Reb and Chief Osceola have roamed the sidelines, adding to the spectacle of major college football contests in the United States (King & Springwood, 2000). Many Americans claim that these mascots are as much a part of our culture as Uncle Sam or Lady Liberty and that these mascots educate young people about US national

traditions and history. Quite simply, are the majority of white Americans so enthralled by the spectacle of sport that they are unable to fully appreciate the inherently offensive nature of culturally insensitive athletic mascots?

**5:00 - 7:00 Dinner with Alice Brinkman**  
*Location: Hubbard Banquet Room*  
 Open to all with reservations

**7:00 – 8:30 Keynote address – Alice J. Brinkman, Executive Director, REACH Studio Art Center**  
*Location: Schomburg Auditorium*

### Making ART within REACH



Life is not fair. Some of us grow up with privileges that enable access to many learning opportunities. Some of us do not. REACH Studio Art Center in Lansing, Michigan was opened in 2003 to provide greater access to learning through the arts in the Lansing area. REACH Studio provides programs and space for youth to make art and exercise their imaginations–

key ingredients in learning to learn. Art programs at REACH help at-risk youth increase their protective factors and give them access to many opportunities they would not normally encounter. Besides, making art a lot of fun. Youth who learn through the arts experience both intrinsic and instrumental benefits, including the freedom to engage in learning beyond art, greater community engagement, and a safe bridge to distant “places.”

Brinkman’s educational background is in Textiles and Clothing. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Illinois. This training, along with several years operating her own dressmaking business, gave her the skills to use the special characteristics of cloth to create images. She chooses to be involved with many other facets of life, including the 2003 opening of the REACH Studio Art Center, teaching art to children, family, church, etc. Brinkman designs and constructs one-of-a-kind large and small textile hangings on commission and for exhibition/sale.

**8:30 - 10:00 Reception for Alice Brinkman including displays of artwork from the REACH Studio Art Center**

*Location: Women’s Art Gallery*

During the week of the McMaster Symposium, the Women’s Art Gallery exhibit will include pieces of work from our keynote speaker and artist, Alice Brinkman, and from students of REACH Studio Art Center, Lansing, MI.