

honorees

RECOGNIZED AT HOMECOMING

Four alumni are honored at the Celebrate DC dinner;
four are inducted into the AVD Hall of Fame

JEREMY BALL '04
YOUNG ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD



Stepping on stage at the Celebrate DC dinner to accept the Young Alumni Service Award, Jeremy Ball brought down the house by stopping to snap his own photo to document the event for Facebook. Jeremy is just the second recipient of this special award which recognizes a recent graduate who is a leader in their profession and community, and who demonstrates the promise of further distinction.

Jeremy developed a passion for service when he attended Defiance College, a passion that he took with him into his professional career, first working for MAP Furniture Bank which provides free furniture for Columbus residents, and then into his current position at Big Lots Stores, Inc. He believes his two years as a McMaster Scholar, in particular, taught him skills important not only in his career but in life – time management, product management, relationship-building and being flexible.

At Big Lots, he oversees five departments, directs charitable giving for the corporation and assists with corporate communications. He continues to serve at MAP Furniture Bank on the board, and is active with the DC Alumni & Friends Network Central Ohio Leadership Team and in the Columbus Young Professionals Presidents Council.

During his time at DC, Jeremy was mentored by then-president Dr. Jim Harris. “Dr. Harris supported my interest in pursuing leadership opportunities, and he believed in developing well-rounded students who would become productive members of our society.”

“My friends and family know just how important Defiance College is to me,” Jeremy commented on this recognition. “This award sets a new standard of achievement for me personally.”

DEE (MILLER) BALSER '67
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dee has spent her entire teaching career in Northwest Ohio schools beginning in 1967, when she started her first job as a senior at DC. Edgerton High School called the college because they needed a band director right before the start of the school year. Defiance College sent her out to fill in for a while, despite the fact she had yet to do her student teaching, and there she stayed until 1974. Most of her years teaching were spent at the Montpelier

Schools, where her high school show choir, Locomotion, achieved critical acclaim and competed all over the U.S. and Canada.

Dee loved the many opportunities to get involved with music that she found at Defiance College. She speaks fondly of being part of the DC Dance Band, where she was the only woman, and having the chance to premiere some of Dr. Richard Stroede’s original compositions.

She credits her choice of career to Dr. Stroede. Despite her love of music, she had originally majored in education. “At that time, women were not band directors,” Dee explains. Dr. Stroede said to her, “You are over here (in the music department) all the time, why aren’t you a music major?”

While she is pleased with the success of her Montpelier show choir, she cites her ability to connect with students struggling with self-esteem issues as her real gift. “I am proud to have helped kids who might have faded into the wallpaper.”

“A huge surprise for me,” is how Dee described receiving the Alumni Achievement Award. Dee is married to Tom Balsler, also a well-known educator in northwest Ohio. Dee and Tom are the parents of a daughter, Christine Spieth.

CHARLES BEARD '70
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Alumni Achievement Award recipient Charles Beard '70 claims a close personal connection with Defiance College. A lifelong Defiance resident, he grew up across the street from the college, his father was director of Admissions, and his aunt was a member of the faculty. Charles even proposed to his wife at the stone benches on campus.

While majoring in elementary education at DC, Charlie also

participated in wrestling and cross country. After graduating, he went on to earn a master's from the University of Toledo. He then spent the bulk of his career as an administrator in private and public school systems in Defiance. Charlie is currently director of the Middle Childhood Education Program at Lourdes College in Sylvania.

In 1984, he entered local government by being elected to Defiance City Council, where he served as council president from 1990 to 2006. Charlie cited Professor Bob Boehm as a having been a real mentor to him during his time at DC and good role model, since Boehm also served on the city council.

Getting four children through college and staying married for 39 years to wife Sandy are the personal accomplishments Charlie is most proud of. On receiving the Alumni Achievement Award, Charlie said, "This award means the world to me."

Charlie spent 30 years with the 180th Air National Guard, achieving the rank of Captain and receiving two Air Force Commendation Medals and a Meritorious Service Award. Professional achievements include election as president of the Ohio Middle School Association, executive board member and executive director of the OMSA, ADAMhs Friend's Award, and presenter on cooperative learning at the National Middle School Association annual conference.

CINDY (YOUTSEY) CONNOR '92
HALL OF FAME



When Hall of Fame inductee Cindy was asked to identify a mentor during her time at DC, she was stumped to single out one. "Everyone took care of you," she said, describing the small class sizes and the personal relationships faculty and staff developed with students. "Professors knew you and spent extra time if you were struggling, while coaches like Mylo Gerken held you accountable and made sure you were going to classes."

"As a teacher, I reflect back on that." Cindy's second grade class at Galion Primary School does many hands-on learning projects, and she is aware that it takes time to make sure that absent students catch up with the rest of the class.

Cindy excelled in cross country and track and field during her tenure as a student athlete at Defiance College. She lettered four years in cross country, was captain for three years, and was named Most Valuable Player in 1989, 1990, and 1991. As a distance runner in track, Cindy lettered four years, was captain two years, and named Female Athlete of the Year in 1992. She was the top runner in cross country for three years and track distance leader four years.

Being named to the DC Hall of Fame is more than just a personal honor, she believes. "The bigger sports get more attention than cross country and track, and it's an honor to represent those sports."

Her husband, Alan, teases her about being a two-time Hall of Famer, since she achieved a 4.0 grade point at Ashland University when she earned her master's degree, and was inducted into their academic Hall of Fame. That and "being a working mom, keeping everything together" are the accomplishments Cindy is most proud of. Cindy and Alan live in Galion, Ohio, with their three children.

FLOYD KNOOP '66
ALUMNI CITATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence is one more for the long and distinguished list of honors and achievements of Dr. Floyd Knoop '66. Dr. Knoop's career in teaching and research in medical microbiology and immunology has spanned more than 30 years. As a Defiance College biology major, Floyd remembers Dr James Frey as being a mentor, teacher and friend. He also credits Defiance College with instilling the inspiration of high standards and the concept of life-long learning in him by providing him with a strong liberal arts foundation.

After receiving a Master of Science degree in microbiology from the University of Dayton and a Ph.D. in medical microbiology from the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Dr. Knoop joined the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha in 1975. He was named full professor in 1992 and became Component 1 director in 1996 in the Office of Medical Education at Creighton University Medical Center. Dr. Knoop's professional associations include American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Microbiology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York

Academy of Sciences, Central Group on Educational Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the International Association of Medical Science Educators. He has extensively published and presented in the areas of infectious diseases, microbiology and immunology.

Add to this list Dr. Knoop's proudest accomplishment, his marriage of over 40 years to his wife, Pamela, whom he attributes as being his pillar of strength. Floyd and Pamela reside in Bellevue, Nebraska, and have one daughter.

DAVID SCOTT '73 HALL OF FAME



“Defiance College was a great experience,” stated Hall of Fame inductee David Scott '73. “I came to play athletics, but I found out what opportunities there were for me.” He cites Garnett Smith, his advisor and business education teacher, as being a godsend to him. “I needed patience and firmness,” David related. Patience was provided by Professor Smith, while Professor Randy Buchman provided the firmness, David remembers.

David joined the Yellow Jackets as a member of the undefeated 1969 football team, and he was especially excited to see the team members back on campus for their 40th reunion. He lettered three years in football and served as a three year starter at the linebacker position. His list of achievements includes being named all Mid-Ohio Conference linebacker in 1970, All Hoosier-Buckeye Conference linebacker in 1971 and 1972, NAIA All-District linebacker in 1971 and 1972, team captain and team MVP in 1972. David also excelled in baseball, lettering for three years and starting at the catcher's position for three years.

After graduating from Defiance in 1973, he was assistant coach in football and baseball at Columbus Whetstone High School and was head football coach at Riverdale High School. In 1981, he joined the Scott Card Company in Defiance, where today he serves as president. He and his wife, Judy, reside in Defiance. They have four children.

MARK SHINE '74 HALL OF FAME



“When I came to DC, I knew I wanted to be a basketball coach,” stated Hall of Famer Mark R. Shine '74. Getting involved with Coach Hohenberger was a true blessing Mark played Yellow Jacket basketball from 1970 to 1974, earning four varsity letters on championship teams. “I played with good players and great coaching staff, but I never anticipated this,” he said commenting on receiving this award.

After graduating, Mark became a teacher and coach, first at Bellevue Schools in Ohio where he was a junior high teacher, junior varsity and varsity basketball coach. As an educator, Mark cites Professor Randy Buchman as his model, and has tried throughout his career to use Buchman's methods in teaching.

His accomplishments as a coach at Bellevue included two league championships, four sectional championships and one district championship. He was named Northwest Ohio Coach of the Year in 1985. Since 1987, he has been at Bath High School where he coaches basketball. With these many achievements to his credit, what Mark says he is most grateful for is his faith and accepting Jesus Christ as his savior 20 years ago.

Because of a family wedding on Saturday of Homecoming weekend, Mark wasn't available to receive his award at the Alumni Varsity D breakfast, and he received another surprise when alumni director Dave Plant and AVD board president Mike Snyder presented him with his award while he was doing a live sports program on Lima's TV 44.

MICHAEL L. WRIGHT '72 HALL OF FAME



According to Hall of Fame inductee Michael L. Wright '72, Defiance College taught him lessons of character and of life. “The experiences I acquired while at DC definitely prepared me to deal with challenging life issues and to enjoy and be appreciative of the better moments of everyday life.”

While studying business administration and economics, Mike played quarterback position on the football team for four years, lettering two of those years, and earning all-NAIA district honors. He was also a three-year member of the track team, lettering all three years and receiving all-league recognition. He held the school record in the 220-yard dash in 1970 and 1972, and currently holds the school record in the 440-relay, running as anchor.

During the awards breakfast, Mike saluted the impact Coach Dick Small had on him as a student, adding, “The only problem I had with Coach Small was that I wish I had listened to him a lot more.” Mike went on to say that receiving the award was great but just being able to reunite with former teammates and students that he had not seen in almost 40 years was an unbelievable and unforgettable experience.

He and his wife, Dollis, live in Thornton, Colorado, where he is manager of federal and international tax compliance for the Ball Corporation. Mike and Dollis have one daughter. When asked to identify his proudest life accomplishment, Mike responded, “To have found Christ and an understanding as to what He wants to accomplish in my life.”