

# active

## ON AND OFF CAMPUS

*Chantille Millender embodies the Defiance College spirit by her numerous activities both on and off campus*

*By Debbie Richard, '02, '04, Assistant Director of Marketing*

It's always interesting to quiz DC students about the activities and organizations they join on campus. In the end, you ask them what activities they are not involved in. The list is shorter.

Chantille Millender is just such an example. A senior from Lorain, Ohio, double majoring in social work and psychology, she's excited to have accomplished so much. "Defiance College was a good fit for me," says Millender. "I liked the small school atmosphere and the ability to be involved in lots of activities, play sports, work with the community and still have time to double major. DC addresses the whole person – spiritual, academics, social, athletics. It's been a great experience."

Millender is a member of the Social Work Organization, which organizes the Empty Bowls event, Night Without a Home, and many other projects that give a focus on local and national issues. She is also a Citizen Leader, McMaster Scholar, member of Campus Crusade for Christ, and a committee member for the Dance Marathon raising money for the Children's Miracle Network. "The Dance Marathon was a rewarding experience," says Millender. "After all the hard work of getting sponsors, planning the event, decorating and dancing for twelve hours, we met the kids. That's when I knew it was worth all the effort." The Dance Marathon raised more than \$4,000 to go to St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital in Toledo.

Millender has also enjoyed the international projects she has participated in including a trip to Jamaica as part of the Citizen Leaders and a McMaster trip to Cambodia. "Not everyone gets to travel. The opportunity to share the experience

with peers makes the trip more satisfying."

Two internships and an AmeriCorps project have been great groundwork for Millender. Her goal is to be a social worker in a children's hospital. One internship was for Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio as a drug and alcohol education counselor where she attended weekend driver intervention meetings and discussed truths and myths of the DUI laws. Millender also worked with Help Me Grow in Toledo, assessing at-risk youth.

The project that makes Millender smile is the work she did with the AmeriCorps program. It was a yearlong project in which she implemented a Youth Volunteer Corps in Defiance. Millender started the program, recruited volunteers, and established the community partners. It's been a big success, and she'll miss the kids as she has transitioned out of her yearlong contract.

While the trips have been great, and the community work rewarding, the chance to just be a fan at a DC athletic event is part of the experience. Millender loves to just be part of the crowd. She likes that the professors and staff make just as much noise as the students, and that DC typically has some of the largest fan crowds in the conference.

Millender will miss it when it's done, which happens soon. She will finish the requirements for her double major at the end of the fall semester and is planning to go on to graduate school. Making the decision



*Chantille was honored to be selected by her peers as the 2009 Defiance College Homecoming Queen.*

isn't easy. She has a lot of great options from which to choose. No matter what the choice, she's already passed some huge milestones while at Defiance.

So for now, it's time to wait and see which school she decides to attend, cheer at a few more sporting events, and enjoy being a DC student. An exciting future is waiting, and Millender is ready to start. ♦