

opportunity

THE WORLD AS OUR CLASSROOM

Classroom knowledge gets put to the test very quickly at Defiance College. As early as the first semester of their freshman year, students are engaged in real-world experiences both on campus and off. During the course of their education at DC, students not only develop professional skills, their coursework is road tested through internships, service, and research projects. These experiences are all part of a distinctive Defiance College resumé.

Whether it is a business major working with a local entrepreneur to develop a business plan, a social work student serving a family in crisis through the Family Justice Center, or a biology major assessing the health of an ecosystem through water testing in Central America, Defiance students are regularly called upon to apply their learning outside the classroom, often in locations across the country or internationally.

This edition of the *Defiance College Magazine* showcases just a few of the many extraordinary experiential learning opportunities provided by faculty. An accompanying article features several alumni recalling their most memorable academic experiences.

ATTENDED a meeting of the American Criminal Justice Association in Philadelphia.

TRAVELED to a metropolitan area (Chicago, Pittsburgh, Richmond) to observe the work of urban law enforcement and criminal justice professionals.

INTERNEED with the Columbus Crew professional soccer team.

PARTICIPATED in trips to social service agencies in urban settings such as Detroit and Columbus.

INTERNEED with the Tri-City Dust Devils, a minor league affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, based in Pasco, Wash.

ACCOMPANIED professors to the annual meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association in Chicago.

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE NORTHEAST



Since 2003, students and staff of the athletic training program have volunteered on the medical staff for the Empire State Games, an Olympic-style competition for citizens of the State of New York. For DC staff and students, the trip provides experiences covering a variety of sports such as judo, ice hockey, field hockey and rugby. It exposes students to a wide variety of medical professionals and allows them to gain hands-on experience with these experts while managing acute injuries. Attending in 2010 were, from left: senior Matt Slattman, head trainer Kevin Tong, and juniors Erin O'Connor and Lisa Brophy.

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE MID-ATLANTIC



Students majoring in criminal justice traveled to Richmond, Va., where they visited the Virginia State Crime Lab and the Richmond Police Department Command Center. They also met with a Defiance College alumnus who is enrolled in graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University.

ATTENDED the Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors National Conference (held in recent years in Phoenix and Atlanta).

WORKED as social workers and support personnel at Medworks, a free health, dental and vision clinic in Cleveland.

TRAVELED to Stratford, Ontario, with professors to attend the international Shakespeare Festival, viewing a performance of "The Winter's Tale."

PRESENTED readings at the Society of Midwestern Literature Conference at Michigan State University in Lansing.

TRAVELED to the Art Institute of Chicago as part of "On the Road with Van Gogh."

CREATED a strategic plan for a community federal credit union to increase community loans.

TAUGHT Junior Achievement principles of free enterprise, business and economics to fourth graders.

DEVELOPED a four-year funding plan for solar panels for a school in rural Belize.

PARTICIPATED in mock crime scenes such as arson or a mobile meth lab to learn first-hand the science of criminal investigation.

CONCLUDED the project by taking part in a mock trial led by practicing attorneys and judges.

WROTE a strategic plan for a steel coil-slitting center.

INTERNEED with law enforcement agencies, adult and juvenile probation departments, correctional facilities, and private investigators.

PARTICIPATED in GLISTEN, Great Lakes Innovative Service Through Education Network, monitoring water quality of the Maumee River, integrating water quality units into ecology, biochemistry and field zoology courses.

ASSISTED a correctional center in a tactical response team competition.

COLLABORATED to write a book for struggling and gifted readers. Setting the Stage for Struggling Readers: A Guide for Teachers will address the needs of K-3 students who find reading difficult or are struggling.

The Criminal Justice department prepares a mock crime scene each year for students in Criminal Investigation. Assistance is given by local law enforcement and fire officials. The project ends with a mock trial in the Defiance County Common Pleas Court in which top senior CJ students serve as attorneys. Freshmen students serve as jurors and local judges and attorneys volunteer their assistance. In photo, Professor Steve Sondergaard talks with students at a mock meth lab crime scene.



Gave a presentation on the College's forensic bullet trap and use of ballistic gel.





PROVIDED credit counseling to freshmen and senior college students.

PRESENTED research at the Ohio Psychology Undergraduate Conference.

PERFORMED service projects at community agencies.

COMPLETED an action plan for a board of developmental disabilities.

WORKED with psychologists, psychiatrists, or social workers at a mental health agency.

CREATED “survival kits” for freshmen experiencing their first college finals week.

WORKED side-by-side with registered nurse preceptors to observe leadership roles and community nursing.

INTERNEED with Defiance Rehab Services.

WROTE a strategic plan for an internet service provider.

PARTICIPATED in the Pay It Forward Student Philanthropy Project to determine a social need (hunger/food pantry needs), put out a request for proposals, and award grants based on proposals.

PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED the annual Empty Bowls event to draw attention to hunger in Northwest Ohio.

ATTENDED the Ohio Academy of Science annual meeting to present research findings on topics such as forensic toxicology and environmental chemistry.

EXPLORED practices of faith and submitted ideas to writers of the United Church of Christ Faith Practices web-based congregational resource.

IDENTIFIED a policy issue to analyze and make recommendations for how to advocate for policy changes and gave formal advocacy presentations to local governing boards.

CONDUCTED a vegetation survey and restoration plan for Riverview Memory Gardens.

To understand Piaget’s theory of cognitive development, **ASSIGNED** tasks to limited number of children and adolescents, drew conclusions on results of the tasks, and developed appropriate instruction.

CONDUCTED a fish survey of Gordon Creek.

RESEARCHED the use of companion plants to deter insect pests.



RETRIEVED lost data from personal computers and digital cameras of area residents.

REPAIRED computers for local residents.

CONDUCTED a research project on Maumee River stream quality monitoring of invertebrates.

CREATED a marketing plan for a restaurant.

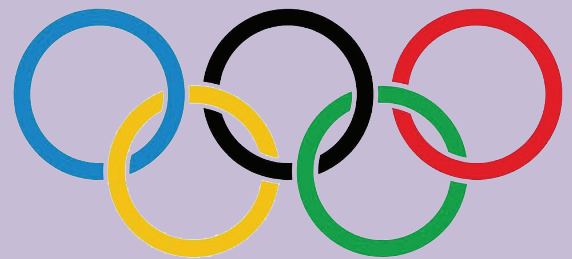
WORKED on active criminal cases ranging from drug dealing to child pornography.

DESIGNED AND CONDUCTED a project to explore impact that race and gender of a political candidate has on a voter.

DESIGNED AND CONDUCTED a research project on impact of DNA versus eyewitness testimony on the perception of guilt.

CREATED a marketing plan for a credit union to increase its customer base of college-aged individuals.

DESIGNED AND CONDUCTED original research on topics such as the relation between handedness and depression, factors related to attitudes toward the death penalty, and the relation between body dissatisfaction and risky behaviors.



A student majoring in sport management conducted a semester-long internship at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. She spent much of her time with the U.S. Paralympics for persons with physical disabilities, taking part in the Paralympic Military Summit. She also spent several days working at the Paralympic Cycling Team Camp in Chula Vista, Calif.

Spent a day in a wheelchair to increase awareness of structural, institutional and societal barriers.



In relating biology to the real world, learned to extract DNA from materials at home.



Students take part in the many activities of the College's annual Constitution Day event. Congressman Robert Latta joined this year's festivities on the campus colonnade. Dr. Michelle Tabit's Integrated Social Studies methods class sponsored a Constitutional Conversation as part of Constitution Day activities. Here, McMaster School Dean Mary Ann Studer and President Gordon escort Congressman Latta to the various stations.

CONDUCTED a study of the control of teasel at Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary.

ATTENDED Toledo Symphony concerts at the Peristyle in the Toledo Museum of Art.

ATTENDED the spring Animarathon Conference at Bowling Green State University to view anime film, novels, and other visual and media formats incorporating literary themes.



ATTENDED a campus performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" presented by the National Players.

SPONSORED a Constitutional Conversation on campus as part of Constitution Day activities.

PRESENTED workshops to incoming freshmen and graduating seniors on spending habits.

PROVIDED tax counseling and tax preparation services to elderly local residents.

INTERNEED with Leaps and Bounds Physical Therapy Services in Whitmore Lake, Mich.

COMPLETED history internships with Sauder Village in Archbold, Historic Homes of Defiance, and Hale Farm and Village in Akron.

EXPLORED 20th century American culture through the folk music of Pete Seeger by writing a song.

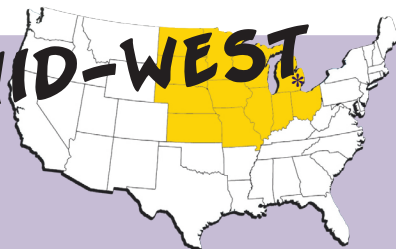
ATTENDED SwampFire Retreat in Larwill, Ind., to work on language arts, photography, and visual arts with faculty members.

PREPARED and led a workshop for local church educators.

CREATED a business plan for a daycare center.

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE MID-WEST



Led by Defiance College faculty, a group of students majoring in forensic science, digital forensic science, or criminal justice collaborate with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit to work on a cold case investigation. The project provides a distinctive hands-on opportunity for students to utilize their education and training while investigating a real cold case.

The Crescent-News

DCDETECTIVES

PRESIDENT GORDON'S CONNECTION LEADS TO COLD CASE STUDY ON CAMPUS

By JENNY DERRINGER
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Due to the popularity of television shows, like "CSI" and "Cold Case," the general population has become intrigued with the study of crime scene investigation over the years.

One of the fastest growing majors on the campus of Defiance College in 1999. Students in that field of study and two others are now getting real life experience with actual cold cases. Six students in the



SPOTLIGHT ON

INTERNATIONAL



Numerous students and faculty members from every academic division have participated in Learning Communities for Belize and Cambodia through the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. The learning communities work with partners or community representatives in those countries on applied learning and research and service opportunities. In photo, Ashton Judis teaches CPR to a young girl in Belize.

CONDUCTED service projects for adult and juvenile probation departments, juvenile detention centers, correctional facilities, and alternative schools.

ATTENDED national and regional church educator events such as the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators.

PARTICIPATED in Youth Athletic Outreach, staging play days and mini-Olympics at local elementary schools.

PARTICIPATED in leadership roles at the annual UCC Ohio Conference Fall Youth Event at Pilgrim Hills Camp.

PARTICIPATED in leadership roles at the UCC Great Lakes Regional Youth Event.

CONDUCTED internships in local church congregations.

COMPLETED classroom observations in local schools and preschools and participated in field trips to preschools in Toledo, Fort Wayne, and Defiance.

PARTICIPATED in a Project Wild program through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

CREATED children's games and lessons in support of projects for McMaster Scholars and Fellows to Belize.

TRAINED as peer mentors for the Hench Autism Studies Program, working directly with students with autism.



In Forensic Science, student research in capstone projects enhances understanding of authentic experimental research and student-led inquiry experiences. Ohio Academy of Science's annual meeting is attended by science undergraduates and senior high school students who present their research findings, working under the guidance of their advisors. These meetings provide opportunities for DC students to display their senior capstone experience and become more proficient in presentation skills through these opportunities. Dr. Somnath Dutta has attended these meetings for the past two years with DC students, providing an opportunity them to showcase their capstone experiences. Projects focusing on forensic toxicology and environmental chemistry have been quite rewarding for his students. Recently, a DC graduate who was hired as a forensic analyst at Great Lakes Crime Lab said that her employer was impressed with her knowledge about Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS). GC-MS is one of the instruments DC purchased through a 2006 federal grant with assistance from the late Congressman Paul Gillmor. Pictured with Dr. Dutta is forensic science student Brittany Heaton.

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE SOUTH



Led by faculty McMaster Fellows, several students selected as McMaster Scholars to the New Orleans Learning Community have conducted projects dealing with water quality, wetland restoration, delivery of services provided by Family Justice Centers, and local archival history. Pictured are former McMaster Scholars Amanda Zimmerman Hartman and Kasey Carlisle.