

DC ALUMNI class notes

The 50's

Richard Nykerk '50 and his wife, Barbara, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on September 19, 2010. They reside in Jacksonville, FL.

The 60's

Basil '62 and **Rosemary (Batt) Meyer '62** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2010, and marked the special occasion with a party given by their children. They have nine children and six grandchildren and reside in Bluffton, OH.

Janet (Heisler) Vollmer '62 and her husband, Carl, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12, 2010, with an open house for family and friends. They have three children, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. The Vollmers reside in Edgerton, OH.

Tim Gore '67 of Athens, GA, became a grandfather to Kai Michael Hoffman born to Dominique Gore and Michael Hoffman. Kai's grandmother, Kathleen Gore '68, passed away in 2003.



*Bev Nolt '74 with
Dr. Richard Nchabi Kamwi*

The 70's

Ronald Wolff '70 has been named 2010 Utah Superintendent of the Year. He has also served as the president of the Utah School Superintendents' Association for both the 09-10 and 10-11 school years. Ronald has transferred from the Morgan School District to the Box Elder School District in Utah. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Morgan.

John Decker '70 retired as superintendent of the Miami County Educational Service Center in Troy, OH. He was in education 40 years with 26 of those as superintendent. John has moved to Florida with his wife, Christy.

Ronald Zachrich '74 and his wife, Linda, recently celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on July 6, 2010. At the end of the 2010 school year, Ron retired as the elementary principal at Ayersville Elementary School after 26 years of employment. Ron and Linda have three sons, Nathaniel, Jonathan and Matthew, and reside in Defiance.

Beverly Nolt '74 has accepted a promotion to Deputy Director for the Global AIDS President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program in Gaborone, Botswana. Approximately 30% of the capital city (Gaborone) is HIV-infected. Beverly, her husband, Bob Witzerman '75, and pets relocated to Botswana August 4, 2010 for a period of two to five years. Beverly Nolt is pictured above with the Namibian Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Richard Nchabi Kamwi.

Bill McPhie '75 and his wife, Barb, have retired from teaching in the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake School System in Lorain, OH. Together they taught 71 years in the same district, where Barb taught third grade (36 years) and Bill taught physical education (35 years) in the middle school and coached football, wrestling, track, and baseball throughout his career. They plan on doing some traveling, and will be babysitting for new grandson, Liam, and helping out with five-year-old granddaughter, Violet.

Norma K. Hoffman '76 of Fort Wayne, IN, is still enjoying retirement and is approaching Medicare eligibility. She is getting better at the clarinet but "will never be as good as Benny Goodman!"

David Rowland '77 and **Candy (Farr) Rowland '75** celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on August 23, 2010. They marked the occasion with a trip to the World Equestrian Games, Lexington, KY. The Rowlands reside in Defiance and have three children: Joshua, Ben, and Robyn. They have one grandson.

Sue (Roughton) Dangler '75 and her husband, Kevin, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on June 7, 2010. Sue is currently employed as principal for the Hicksville High School. Sue and Kevin have two children and reside in Paulding, OH.

Walter Iliff '79 and his wife, Rebecca (Bock) celebrated 30 years of marriage on October 11, 2010. They live in Defiance and have two sons, Brian and Walter "Fred" II. They also have three grandsons and a step-granddaughter.

The 80's

Kevin Miller recently accepted the position of superintendent for the Ottawa Hills Local School District. Prior to this, Kevin served as the superintendent for the Hicksville Village Schools. He and his wife, Carla, reside in Toledo, OH.

The oldest son of **Richard L. Winbiger '85**, Richard III, recently graduated with a teaching degree in history and English from Central Michigan University.



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Dr. Martin Miller '86 was one of only 12 professionals from the U.S. invited to travel with Heifer International as part of a ten-day study tour to Tanzania in August 2010. The group visited some of the families and communities with whom Heifer works. The tour concluded with a visit to the game reserve in the Serengeti. Martin is the principal at Ayersville Middle School. He is married to **Nancy (Wiseman) '90** and they reside in Defiance.

Daniel Mix '88 and his wife, Nadège, would like to announce the birth of their first son, Logan Prefontaine, on June 26, 2010. Logan has two older sisters, Amaya, 7, and Audray, 4. The Mixes reside in Hainesville, IL. Daniel is in his 23rd year teaching fifth grade at Ayersville Local School in Defiance.

Scott Anderson '88 earned his designation as a certified treasury professional (CTP) in January 2010. **Jill (Bucher) Anderson '91** is a national board certified teacher, earning her certification as an Early Childhood Generalist in November 2009. Scott and Jill reside in Wauseon, OH.

The 90's

Paul Combs '91 is an award-winning illustrator, author and veteran firefighter and has recently published his editorial cartoons in a book, *Drawn by Fire*. Paul resides in Bryan, OH, with his wife, Sheryl.

Chuck Mack '94 and his wife, Liz, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on August 3, 2010. The couple has two children: Ryan and Jordan. They live in Defiance and are planning to celebrate the special occasion with a family vacation to the French Lick Resort in French Lick, IN.

Rachelle Hammersmith '96 announces her wedding to Eric Kistner on May 8, 2010. They now live in Troy, OH. She works for the West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center as a counselor.

Thomas Derricotte '95, graduated from the Kellogg-WHU Executive MBA program on October 30, 2010

in Vallendar, Germany. The Kellogg-WHU program is a joint program between Northwestern's School of Business and the WHU-Otto Beisheim School of Management, a leading business school in Germany. Tom was class president and graduated with honors. He lived in Germany for the last four years while working as the European Regional Manager of Audit for BorgWarner, a tier 1 automotive supplier. Tom and his wife have relocated to the Auburn Hills, MI area.

Lee Anne (Frazier) Sorto '97 and her husband, Francisco O. Sorto, celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary on September 9, 2010. They are the proud parents of four sons: Isaiah Alexander, 9; Joel Elliott, 7; Kevin Charles, 4; and Lathan Michael, 3. The family took a two-week vacation to Disney World to mark the occasion. Lee Anne completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ohio State University in June 2010. She is now attending the University of Cincinnati for her master's in Nurse Practitioning, with a cardiac specialty. Lee Anne resides in Elida, OH.

Eric Gerber '97 and Melanie (Sisco) Gerber '03 announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Suzette (Gracie), on September 26, 2010. The new expanded family lives in Defiance.

Angela Schuller '98 married Luis Sanchez on June 12, 2010. Angela notes that with this marriage, she now has five stepchildren and five grandchildren. Angela and Luis reside in Ottawa, OH.

Gary W. Taylor II '99 married Meagan Ainsworth on September 18, 2010. The ceremony was followed by a reception for 300 guests at the Defiance Eagles. A honeymoon cruise occurred in January. They live in Defiance, and Gary works at Stykemain Buick GMC in Defiance.

The 00's

Timothy Meienburg '00 and his wife, Lori, announce the birth of their son, Lucas Henry, on July 12, 2010. Lucas has an older brother, Brody. The Meienburgs reside in Defiance.



Elijah Everett Warstler

Shannon (Dunson) Warstler '00 and her husband, Ron, welcomed their first child, Elijah Everett on May 23, 2010 at 6:43 pm. He weighed 8 lb. 4 oz. and was 21 inches long. The Warstlers live in Auburn, IN.

David Ike '00 recently returned from his third tour in Iraq. He is currently on special assignment at Ohio State to get his MBA. He will return to a regular assignment around January 2012.

Megan (Stark) Dotson '00 is currently a reading instructor at West Kentucky Community and Technical College in Paducah and resides in Benton, KY. She was incorrectly identified as an elementary teacher in the previous issue.

Erik Hassid '00 and Megan (Connor) Hassid '00 are now residing in West Chester, OH. They have two children, Emma, 4, and Nicholas, 2.

Adam Kinney '01 and his wife, Gretchen, welcomed their first daughter, Gabriella Anne Kinney, on December 18, 2009. Her brother Mason Adam, 4, is a great older brother. Adam was promoted to district sales manager for the state of Ohio with Lawson Producers, Inc.

Andrew Fisher '02 has started a new company, Blue Collar Wear, designing t-shirts. Andrew says part of the proceeds of one shirt designed to bring awareness to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill are being donated to the clean-up effort, "continuing the tradition of service learning." Check it out at www.bluecollarwear.com.



Joseph James Gillespie

Travis '01 and Elizabeth (Barton) '02 Gillespie announce the birth of their son, Joseph James. He was born on May 10, 2010 weighing 9 lbs. 2 oz. and 21 inches long. Travis is employed as the Offensive Coordinator at Allegheny College and Elizabeth works in Property Management. The Gillespies reside in Meadville, PA.

Brittany (Sierer) Daeger '02 and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of their son, Jack Theodore, born May 18, 2010. Jack has a brother, Max, 1½. The Daegers reside in Paulding, OH.

Thomas Ort '02 and his wife, Jamie, announce the birth of their son, Zayden Ryan, born June 15, 2010. Zayden has an older brother, Brennan, 5. The Ort family resides in Defiance.

Amanda (Rosebrock) Westrick '02 and her husband, Kenny, announce the birth of their son, Grady Kenneth, born June 3, 2010. Grady has a sister, Haley, 22 months. The Westricks reside in Columbus, OH.

Jennifer (McCoy) Ziegler '02 and her husband, Donovan, announce the birth of their daughter, Kadence Jean, on May 12, 2010. The Zieglers reside in Archbold, OH, and Jennifer is employed by the Defiance Public Library.

Matthew Joost '02 has achieved the RE/MAX Hall of Fame for his outstanding salesmanship in real estate. He is part owner of RE/MAX Realty of Defiance, Inc. with his father **Brent '74**. Matt resides in Defiance with his wife, Kierstin, and two children, Rylee, 5, and Kasen, 3.

Elliot Geno '03 was the recipient of the Site of the Day Award for his recent website design (<http://www.thefwa.com/site/mark-bradford/p=resource-interactive>), chosen by Favourite Website Awards. FWA recognizes the very best in cutting edge websites. Elliott resides in Columbus, OH, with his wife, Amanda.

Nicole (Erford) Bockrath '04 and her husband, Nicholas, announce the birth of their daughter, McKenzie, on November 13, 2010. Nicole is employed at Fifth Third Bank and resides in Ottawa, OH, with her family.

Nicholas Schappert '04 and **Cristin Flower '04** were married on May 15, 2010 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Defiance. Nick is employed at GM Powertrain while Cristin is employed as a program administrator for CRSI and is a realtor with Butler Mohr GMAC. The couple resides in Defiance.

Kara (Jones) Miller '04 and her husband, Ryan, announce the birth of their daughter, Kendall Ann, born June 11, 2010. Kendall has an older sister, Hannah, 2. The Millers reside in Napoleon, OH.

After two years of practice in Lima, **Kristen (Gerity) Piper '04** has opened her own dental office in downtown Columbus, OH. In addition to practicing dentistry and sedation, she has received her Botox and Dermafiller license. Kristen and **John Piper '04** reside in Dublin, and John is an athletic trainer in the Northwest Columbus area.

Joshua '05 and **Allison (Stehlik) '04 Bowersock** announce the birth of their first child, Scarlett Marie, on October 5, 2010. Josh is employed as a teacher at New Bremen Local Schools, and Allison as a social worker for Adriel. The Bowersocks reside in Wapakoneta, OH.

Aubrey (Wonsetler) Merkle '05 of Dayton is now employed as an academic advisor at Wright State University. Aubrey will graduate with a master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education Administration from Wright State in June, is president of the Student Affairs Graduate Association and is being inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society. She plans to present her thesis research findings on helping former foster youth have success in college at the March national conference for the American College Personnel Association in Baltimore.

Aaron Peter Schmidt '05 with his wife, Marissa, announce the birth of their son, Kellen Wallace, on September 1, 2010. Aaron has taught health and physical education at Hilltop High School in West Unity, OH for the past five years. He is also going into his second year as the head varsity girls basketball coach as

well as his fifth year coaching the JV football team. The Schmidts reside in Wauseon, OH.

Steven Szente '06 announces his marriage to Ruthann (Cherry) Szente on June 20, 2009. Steven and Ruthann reside in Springboro, OH.

Elizabeth Schoonover '06 and **Justin Weddington '07** were married on May 8, 2010, in Grand Rapids, OH. Elizabeth is currently employed as an advertising designer at *The Crescent-News*. Justin works at First Federal Bank in Information and Technology. They live in Defiance.

Richard '07 and **Emily (Anderson) Palmer '07** announce the birth of their first child, Dean Michael, on July 25, 2010. The Palmers reside in Yolee, FL.

Nathan Fitton '08 is now attending the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Nathan and his wife, Andrea, reside in Grand Ledge, MI.

Matt Carr '08 and **Jaaci Bergman '09** were married in Defiance on July 10, 2010. After a large reception, they honeymooned in Jamaica and now reside in Defiance. Matt teaches fifth grade math and history in Paulding. Jaaci is employed at Continental Local Schools as a middle school reading and English teacher.

Elaine Gerken '09 was recently hired as the ninth and tenth grade English teacher at Hicksville High School for the 2010-2011 school year. Elaine resides in Fort Wayne, IN.

Keep in Touch

We'd like to know about your new job, recent marriage, new member of the family, new address, or other happenings in your life. For photos, please send those of Defiance College people only, identify everyone, and label the back with your name and address. If you are moving, please send this form in with your new address.

Name: _____

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Deaths

Lucile Plassman

July 16, 2010 – Defiance, OH
Secretary to Dean of Students
1978 – 1984

Carolyn (Behne) Dunham '37

August 5, 2010 – Defiance, OH

Evelyn (Rundquist) (Seward)

Bedell '42

July 7, 2010 – Everett, WA

Clyde Snodgrass '46

May 5, 2010 – Toledo, OH

Charles Newton '48

July 18, 2010 – Frederick County,
VA

Alice Elizabeth Ewing '50

August 25, 2010 – West Hartford,
CT

W. Douglas Snyder '50

May 22, 2010 – Hinsdale, IL

Roger Smurr '52

August 20, 2010 – Wesley Chapel,
FL

Ronald Ekberg '53

October 1, 2010 – Englewood, OH

Doris Johansen '53

October 31, 2010 – Defiance

Florice A. Penner '55

June 10, 2010 – Defiance

William H. Grant '59

September 18, 2010 – Dayton, OH

Don Allen Hornish '56

September 15, 2010 – Kalida, OH

Mildred (Peoples) Ringer '61

July 15, 2010 – Hicksville, OH

Lloyd Miller '62

May 18, 2010 – Valparaso, IN

Judith (Horvath) Lewis '63

May 14, 2010 – Orange, CT

Michael L Thomas '67

August 7, 2010 – Clinton, OH

Francis Szczebak '68

September 18, 2010 – Winchester,
VA

Moses L. Moody III '74

June 15, 2010 – Defiance, OH

William "Jeff" Hawley '74

May 6, 2010 – Greenville, OH

Bradley Beilharz '81

December 2, 2010 – Bluffton, OH

Robert Marc Brindle '86

June 1, 2010 – Toledo, OH

Christa (Temple) Ernst '98

August 4, 2010 – Minster, OH

Juan Morales '08

October 31, 2010 – Stryker, OH



Receiving AVD honors recently were, from left: Daniel Salinas, Dennis Scott, Tim Held and Brad Myers.

AVD presents annual awards

Defiance College Alumni Varsity D presented its annual Coach of the Year and Honorary Letterman awards recently.

Receiving Coach of the Year honors were Timothy Held '96, Cincinnati Moeller High School varsity baseball coach; Bradley Myers '86, Wauseon High School women's basketball coach; and Daniel Salinas '97, Pickerington High School North varsity wrestling assistant coach. Dennis "Scotty" Scott was recognized as Honorary Letterman for 2011.

Held's team at Cincinnati Moeller High School was 29-2 for the season, finishing first in the Greater Catholic League Championship and competing in the Division I State tournament.

Myers' Wauseon High School Lady Indians went 21-4 overall and 8-0 in the Northwest Ohio Athletic League, earning both the NWOAL and district championships.

Salinas helped the Pickerington North Panthers earn the OCC Team Championship and sectional championship during the 2009-10 season. The team placed third in the district and 11th in the state. Six wrestlers qualified to compete individually in state competition, with three placers.

The Honorary Letterman Award recognizes individuals for their continued commitment and unselfish service to Defiance College athletics. Scotty is the owner and operator of a favorite local restaurant, Scotty's 111. He is a current member and past president of the Purple and Gold Club.

Faculty Award is Renamed for Stroede

In honor of the late Dr. Richard Stroede, the Defiance College faculty has unanimously approved renaming the college's Distinguished Faculty Citation. The annual award will now be known as the Dr. Richard W. Stroede Distinguished Faculty Citation. Dr. Stroede died in May 2010.

Defiance College has recognized a faculty member with the award each year since 1985. This serves as the highest faculty honor and recognizes ongoing dedication to Defiance students as well as the academic mission of the institution.

Dr. Stroede retired as academic dean and vice president for academic affairs in 2004. At that time, he was recognized with the title Dean Emeritus and was also awarded the college's Pilgrim Medal. Dr. Stroede began his tenure at Defiance College in 1964. He was a faculty member for many years and later was named associate academic dean before his promotion to academic dean and VP for academic affairs. He also served as acting president during the summer of 2002.

"It is hard to imagine a Defiance College faculty member or administrator that has had such a longstanding and significant influence on maintaining the quality of our academic mission," said Dr. Tim Rickabaugh, interim academic dean.

The next presentation of the award will be made during the College's annual Honors Convocation to be held in April. Recipients of the award are nominated by their peers. Dr. Stroede was a recipient of the award in 1991.