

# anniversary

## A DECADE OF CHANGING LIVES

*The ground-breaking McMaster School for Advancing Humanity celebrates 10 years of achievements*

In 2002, Harold and Helen McMaster and their family embarked on an innovative project to pioneer a new approach to undergraduate education in the 21st century. The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity at Defiance College is the result of this path-breaking effort, and its impact has been extraordinary.

In October, a tenth anniversary celebration recognized the McMaster family, noted countless achievements of the past 10 years, and looked forward to a bright future.

More than 200 student scholars led by faculty fellows and associate fellows have

undertaken more than 280 projects in diverse locations: Belize, Cambodia, Guatemala, Ireland, Jamaica, New Orleans, and Thailand.

Projects have ranged far and wide:

- ◆ doing chemical analysis of drinking water in small towns and villages;
- ◆ and protecting endangered species.
- ◆ training rural health care providers in Cambodia to use microscopes to diagnose malaria and tuberculosis;
- ◆ assisting a group of women in a small village in Belize to start a restaurant;
- ◆ assisting victims of domestic violence;
- ◆ training educators and students;

But the numbers and raw data do not come close to telling the full story of the impact of the McMaster School.

“What we often forget as well is the impact that these experiences have on the Defiance College students participating in them,” said DC president Mark Gordon. “It is fair to say that on a certain level our Defiance College McMaster Scholars benefit



*President Gordon and 2012 graduate Bryant Green with Helen McMaster.*



*Clockwise from left: Student Lornette Lynch with Jeanine Sandwisch Dunn, Cormack Lazarus with Ronald McMaster, Oshin Walker with Nancy Cobie, and Tawana Foster with Alan McMaster.*



even more from their scholarship and service activities than do the intended ‘recipients’ in developing countries. Participation in McMaster School programs has truly been a life-changing experience for many, many students.”

President Gordon noted that it is rare that a single family can make such a significant impact on a broad scale in such a short period of time. “But that is what the McMaster family has achieved,” he said. “Thank you for enabling us to help so many in so many different ways; thank you for challenging us; and thank you for inspiring us.”

McMaster School Dean Mary Ann Studer explained that students and faculty from a variety of disciplines are working to

further important issues such as sustainable development, increasing entrepreneurship, empowering education, and reducing poverty.

“This scholarship is critical to improving the human condition and often works to empower the collective voice of marginalized populations, many of which exist in less than free societies,” she said.

Students in the McMaster programs prepare themselves to consider problems as committed world citizens often under the constraints imposed by a lack of individual liberties.

Dean Studer noted that the McMaster family saw the potential impact that faculty and students could have implementing their disciplinary expertise in the field, working through partnerships rather than charity, problem-solving instead of imposing



*Dean Studer with Lynn and John Witte, recipients of the McMaster Humanitarian Award.*

knowledge, and developing a sense of collective value through transcending collaborations.

“The McMaster family knew ten years ago what we all now clearly understand,” she said. “That when scholarship is driven by a desire to positively impact humanity, what results is an experience that embodies interdependence, critical thinking, passion, and a global conscience.”

The McMaster School also provides leadership for new programs such as Project 701, the Partnership for Jobs and Work Experience Program, and development of Imagine Initiatives, providing domestic and international cultural and travel opportunities for all students.

The first-ever McMaster Humanitarian Award was presented to John and Lynn Witte of Advanced Distributed Generation, a solar design firm in Toledo. The Wittes have given generously of their resources and time to install a solar power system on the San Carlos, Belize, Government School as well as a teachers’ house.

In addition, four Defiance College students from Jamaica – Cormack Lazarus, Lorraine Lynch, Oshin Walker, and Tawana Foster – were recognized as recipients of an International Student Engagement Scholarship named in honor of each of the four children of Harold and Helen McMaster – Ronald McMaster, Alan McMaster, Jeanine Sandwisch Dunn, and Nancy Cobie.

Helen McMaster was honored with a replica of a plaque that will be installed in the new San Carlos restaurant started by a local women’s group, recognizing the inspiration of Helen McMaster, her late husband Harold, and their children. ◆

## PARTNERSHIP WILL PROVIDE ENHANCED TRAINING & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Defiance College and the Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy at Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) announced today that they are partnering to provide enhanced training in global issues for Defiance College students. The partnership will also provide interested DC students with additional potential internship and networking opportunities.

As a first step, CSIS’s Leadership Academy has agreed to make a wide range of CSIS-developed training materials available for use in Defiance College’s International and Global Studies classes. These materials will enable DC students to access the latest ideas crafted by national experts on a wide range of international and global issues. DC students will also be able to participate remotely in a series of CSIS-sponsored lectures, and CSIS has agreed to use its network of experts on international issues to provide eminent speakers and experts to be piped in to DC classrooms.

Through this partnership, DC students in its International and Global Studies (IGS) program will also visit CSIS in Washington, D.C. and meet with various experts and other national and international leaders. Defiance College has also agreed to serve as a testing place for educational materials developed by CSIS. In addition, CSIS has agreed to work with Defiance’s IGS program in developing educational international travel opportunities for IGS students. (All eligible DC students receive an international travel opportunity in either their junior or senior year.)

“I am truly delighted that the prestigious and renowned Center for Strategic and International Studies has agreed to enter into this partnership with Defiance College,” said DC President Mark C. Gordon. “This will enable DC to offer world class training and opportunities for our IGS students. It is also the first step in what we hope will be a broader partnership to enhance opportunities for all DC students to expand their familiarity with international issues. On a personal level, I want to thank CSIS President John Hamre for his impressive leadership and willingness to ‘think outside the box’ with us in making this partnership happen.”

“I am very impressed with the commitment of Defiance College to bring international training and knowledge to its students both through international travel and in the classroom,” said CSIS President John Hamre. “Both President Gordon and I see this as an initial step toward what we hope will become a pioneering national program to enhance the global literacy of a wide range of Defiance College students, giving them a significant advantage as they compete in today’s globalized world.”

### **About CSIS**

CSIS is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Center’s 220 full-time staff and large network of affiliated scholars conduct research and analysis and develop policy initiatives that look to the future and anticipate change. Since 1962, CSIS has been dedicated to finding ways to sustain American prominence and prosperity as a force for good in the world. The Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy, inaugurated in 2002, seeks to empower an emerging generation of globally competent leaders by promoting creativity and character as fundamental aspects of leadership and service. ◆