

quality:

PROFESSORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Profiles of recent faculty additions

Dr. Kenneth Adair joined the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics as assistant professor of chemistry in fall 2007 having previously served as lecturer at the University of Dayton. At Defiance, he is teaching courses in General Chemistry, Chemistry Around Us, and Quantitative Analysis. While at the University of Dayton, he also taught courses in Physical and Biophysical Chemistry.

Adair received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 2006, where he also received his MS in 2000. He earned his B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1999. His research interests center around understanding the complex dynamics of macromolecular and biological fluids. His recent work has focused on developing methods by which to observe the dynamics of small ensembles of isolated chromophores in complex environments.

Dr. Todd Comer arrived at Defiance College in fall 2005 as assistant professor of English and director of composition. His main areas of interest are 20th Century British

and American literature, postcolonial and postmodern culture, literary theory, film, religion and literature.

Comer completed his doctorate in English at Michigan State University in 2005 where he also earned a master of arts degree in English. His undergraduate degree, a B.A. in English and history, was earned at Taylor University.

At Defiance he teaches Literary and Cultural Theory, Modern and Contemporary British Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Introduction to Language and Literature, Composition, Global Civilization, and special topics in literature.

He has presented literary papers at numerous conferences and symposia.

Dr. Somnath Dutta came to Defiance College as assistant professor in chemistry in 2005. His primary teaching assignments are General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.

Dutta completed a doctorate in organic chemistry from State University of New York at Binghamton in 2005 where he gathered extensive experience in synthetic organic

chemistry. While at SUNY Binghamton, he was recognized for his teaching from both students and peers. His bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry and biochemistry, respectively, were earned at the University of Calcutta.

Since arriving at Defiance, Dutta has been involved in numerous professional and campus endeavors including conducting water quality testing of water from the Maumee and Auglaize rivers. He takes part in professional conferences and workshops including seminars of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Nathan Griggs has quickly taken on a leadership role on campus since arriving at DC in fall 2004. He serves as chair of the Division of Science and Math. He was just promoted to the rank of associate professor of biology.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Purdue University and completed his doctorate in biomedical sciences from Wright State University. He previously taught at Charleston



Dr. Dutta (right) joins students in sharing the Defiance College spirit.

Southern University and Piedmont Virginia Community College. He held post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Virginia, University of Florida, and the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, one of the most prestigious genetics institutes in the world. His work at Jackson Laboratory involved cell biology of the FcRn receptor, responsible for maintaining high levels of serum IgG in mammals and is a target for systemic autoimmune therapy. Dr. Griggs worked with the Cambodia Learning Community of the McMaster School during the 2007-08 academic year. He oversaw a student research project that provided medical information on T cell energy, a genetic mutation that affects almost 40 percent of the Cambodian population and makes the usual PPD test for tuberculosis ineffective.

Griggs often collaborates with Steve Sondergaard, professor of criminal justice, to present forensic science demonstrations.

Dr. Stacey Elsasser brought to Defiance College more than five years of teaching experience at the collegiate level when she joined the faculty in fall 2007. She received her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in Curriculum and Instruction. Her dissertation won the 2003 Dissertation in Curriculum award from the American Association of Teaching and Curriculum. Elsasser taught at institutions in New York and Kentucky before coming to Defiance.

Elsasser's passion for teaching stems from a variety of teaching experiences, ranging from inner-city work in Minneapolis and Houston, to a one-room elementary school in Massachusetts, to two years of English language teaching in the People's Republic of China. Through her holistic

philosophy of education, Elsasser strives to model effective teaching strategies in the college classroom and to develop teachers who think critically about their role in education and society.

Her academic interests lie in the development of pre-service and in-service teachers, study of the physical body at school, and the connection between religion and education. Stacey is a member of the executive council of the American Association of Teaching and Curriculum. She is currently serving as the book fair coordinator and will serve as the program chair of the annual conference, starting in 2008.

Matthew Lydum is in the dissertation phase of the doctoral program in Teaching and Teacher Education at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Oregon State College. Lydum assumed a full-time faculty role at DC in fall 2007, but was a member of the campus community for three years prior. He came to Defiance College in 2004 and taught sport science courses while serving full-time as the head track and field and head cross country coach. He teaches Kinesiology and Biomechanics, Motor Learning, Physical Education and Coaching Methodology, and Philosophy of Education in addition to supervising student teachers in physical education. His research interests include coaching education, access and equity in physical activity and sport delivery systems, service-learning and civic engagement, and social justice in sport.

Lydum is actively involved in the sport of track and field at the national and international levels. He has served on the USA coaching staff for the World

Championships in Youth Athletics and as USOC delegate to the International Olympic Academy where he studied the role of sport in promoting universality, brotherhood, and peace. As a coaching educator, he has certified hundreds of high school coaches in the Great Lakes region and around the country and coordinates the Instructor Training Course for USA Track & Field. He is the project writer for a book titled Coaching Youth Track & Field published by Human Kinetics in 2007.

Dr. Myra Stockdale assumed the responsibilities of Program Director for Athletic Training Education at Defiance College in fall 2007 after serving as the head athletic trainer and assistant professor of health and fitness at Hanover College (Indiana) for 16 years. Prior to that, she served as an assistant athletic trainer and assistant professor of physical education at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Stockdale received her Doctor of Health Science degree in 2004 from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. She received her M.S. in physical education from Indiana State University where she served as a graduate assistant and was actively involved in the athletic training curriculum program. Her B.A. is from Hope College in Michigan.

Stockdale is a certified member of the National Athletic Trainers Association and has served since 1996 as an approved examiner for the NATA. She is licensed as an Athletic Trainer in both Indiana and Ohio and is also an American Red Cross Instructor for Professional Rescuer CPR, Automated External Defibrillation, and Prevention of Disease Transmission. ♦

