

awards

DEFIANCE COLLEGE HONORS EIGHT

Five Alumni Award winners are honored and four alumni are inducted into the Hall of Fame during Homecoming

by Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

At the Friday Symposium luncheon during Homecoming, **Rebecca L. Sanford '04**, the first recipient of the Young Alumni Service Award, told how she had tagged along with a friend making a college visit to Defiance and found the place she called home for four years. Rebecca quoted Helen Keller: "The worst thing is to be born sighted, but not to have vision." Defiance College gave her vision, Rebecca said.

During her time at DC, Rebecca was a McMaster Scholar, traveling to Jamaica to research the current status of social work. She received the Outstanding Senior in Psychology Award and the Social Work Schaufler Award in 2004.

Now a community health partner for Families and Schools Together program in Parma, Ohio, Rebecca volunteers with many organizations in the Cleveland area and is leading efforts to initiate a grassroots community program which will offer support and services to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

Rebecca called being recognized for this new alumni award, "an honor beyond words."

Well-known to many in the Defiance area, **Dr. Gary Dowler '65** was recognized with the Alumni Achievement Award for his distinguished 30-year career as a teacher and administrator.

In commenting on his career in education, Dowler related the influence

teachers have on individuals and their success, and he attributed his success to a family member who saw something in him and helped him get his education.

Dowler also served eight years in finance before retiring a second time. He has been active on the DC Board of Trustees and in the community. Gary and his wife, Josie, reside in Defiance and Vero Beach, Fla.

When **Dr. Mary Theresa (Hallock) Morris '91** accepted her Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence, she confessed that she had changed her major five times while she was at Defiance College. "I probably wasn't the best student my freshman year," she admitted. In spite of that, MT earned her bachelor of science in communication arts in just three years, and she pointed to the personal attention she received from faculty as the greatest help in that accomplishment.

MT received her Ph.D. at Indiana University and is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Southern Indiana, where she is also editor of the *Indiana Journal of Political Science*. She and her husband, Gerald Morris '90, reside in Evansville, Ind.

"How did I have time to go to class or study?" Alumni Achievement Award winner **Marilyn (Loar) Mallott '51** asked as she recounted totally immersing herself in extracurricular activities when she attended Defiance College. Her undergraduate studies were just the beginning of what she called her "life-long love affair" with the college. It was here she met her husband, Gerald Mallott '51, who spent 39 years as an administrator at Defiance College and where she made many lifelong friends during those years.

Total immersion seems to be a theme in Marilyn's life, demonstrated by her career in education, the several books she's written and co-authored, her years as a caterer and



Alumni Award winners, from left: Gary Dowler '65, Mary Marvel '77, Rebecca Sanford '04, Mary Theresa (Hallock) Morris '91, Marilyn (Loar) Mallott '51.

her on-going involvement in a wide range of local organizations.

“If you have leadership qualities, you will have a lot of opportunities to get involved,” Marilyn contends. Plus, she admits, she never learned to say no. Marilyn and Gerry reside in Defiance.

Alumni Achievement Award recipient **Mary Marvel '77** told students at her Homecoming symposium presentation, “I would change seats with you in a heartbeat – I loved my time at Defiance College.”

A life-long educator, Mary said she entered the field of substance abuse prevention quite by accident, and found she had a passion for helping teens make sound choices in every area of their lives. She has extensive training in this field and is currently guidance counselor for Olentangy Liberty High School and substance abuse prevention coordinator for the district. Her numerous volunteer activities include the Ohio Teen Institute and Youth to Youth International.

Mary feels she was given unique educational and life opportunities at Defiance which would never have come her way at a large university, and she thanks the many faculty members who guided her and served as mentors to her. She resides in Delaware, Ohio.

It was his first time on campus in 24 years when **Doug Murray '83** returned to be inducted into the Varsity 'D' Hall of Fame during Homecoming. “I’m really impressed,” he announced at the AVD Breakfast on Saturday. “I can clearly see that our college is in fine hands.”

Doug was recognized for his distinction as an outstanding track and field athlete whose javelin and decathlon records still stand at DC. “Seeing all who have received this Hall of Fame award tells you the kind of exceptional people who come from Defiance College,” Doug said as he accepted his award.

Commenting on his weekend at DC, he concluded, “What I’ve discovered inside myself is a homecoming, and I’m personally inspired.”

Murray currently lives in Santa Cruz, Calif., where he is regional sales manager for Smurfit-Stone.

“This is a great honor. When I reflect on all the great people who preceded us, I’m so grateful,” **Marv Retcher '72** said when he was inducted into the Varsity 'D' Hall of Fame at Homecoming '08.

A three-year basketball letter winner at Defiance College, Marv went on to have a



Hall of Fame inductees with their respective bricks on the Hall of Fame walkway, from left: George Stockman '57, Marv Retcher '72, Doug Murray '83, and Patricia Schwiebert '84.

successful high school coaching career, and also served as assistant men’s basketball coach at DC for ten years. Most recently, Marv led the Ayersville Pilots to a conference championship and regional semi-final appearance in 2008.

During his comments, Retcher reflected on the many friends he’d made during his time at Defiance College, and thanked his family, particularly his parents, “who had to make so many sacrifices for me to come to college.” He and his wife Lois reside in Defiance.

During her time at Defiance, **Patricia Schwiebert '84**, Varsity 'D' Hall of Fame inductee, set school track records with her performance in the 1500 meter and the 5000 meter runs, and was awarded honors on the cross country team.

“The athletic experience here adds so much to the opportunity of being at a small college,” Schwiebert told the audience as she accepted her award.

In her symposium presentation during Homecoming, she explained how Defiance College prepared her for a career in an area she’d never even heard of before, exercise physiology. According to Schwiebert, the best of both worlds in education is getting your undergraduate degree in a small liberal arts college and attending a large university for grad work. “Academically, this college prepared me so well for graduate school at Ohio State. I felt so much further ahead than other students.”

“The Defiance College experience is one that you can’t get anywhere else,” Pat confirmed. She is currently an exercise physiologist in Columbus.

Hall of Fame inductee **George Stockman '57** gave a touching personal account of coming from a Northwest Ohio farm family to play college football in the mid-1950s. There were four buildings when he came to Defiance College, he related at the AVD Breakfast, and just 300 students on campus.

George played on DC’s 1953 undefeated football team, a team so small, the members learned to play all line positions. “Nineteen players dressed when we went to Centre College,” he remembered. He told how Dr. (Robert) Boehm would hold the dummies during practice, and the coach would remind the athletes, “Hit the dummies, not Dr. Boehm.”

Stockman also reminisced about the close relationships that were forged among the players on the team, particularly the impact that was made on the young men as they traveled with their African American teammates to games in parts of the country where many public places were still racially segregated.

“Life’s been good to me, and Defiance College has been good to me,” he concluded. George and his wife live in Bryan, Ohio. ◆