

# future

## IS AN EXCITING TIME AT DC

*The largest capital campaign in DC history is underway and generating excitement for the future*



*by Debbie Richard '02, '04, Assistant Director of Marketing*

Defiance College launched its public phase of a \$26 million comprehensive capital campaign during homecoming festivities September 29 – October 5. *The Transforming Difference: A Campaign to Defy the Ordinary* is the largest campaign in the college's history.

College officials announced during the Friday Octoberfest dinner that a total of \$13.5 million, more than fifty percent, has been received or pledged after an intensive advanced gifts phase. "Continued and increased support is essential for the college," said George Smart, chairman of the board of

FirstEnergy and Defiance College trustee and campaign chairman. "We want every student who enters college to have an opportunity for a life-changing experience of academic and personal growth. Defiance College is uniquely positioned to realize this goal, and we believe the success of the capital campaign will be a milestone in our vision."

Focusing on capital projects, endowment, and the Annual Fund, the largest projects of the campaign are a \$10.9 million Wellness and Fitness Center/Field House and \$5 million in endowed student scholarships.

The 75,000 square foot Wellness and Fitness Center/Field House will be the largest facility of its kind in Northwest Ohio and the most ambitious project in Defiance

College history. Designed to be a focal point that brings the DC community together, the facility will also play a significant regional role as the setting for major non-DC events. It will include a six-lane, 200 meter indoor track, indoor tennis facilities, batting cages, expanded fitness center and golf driving/putting practice green. This project will be an addition to the Weaner Center/McMaster gymnasium, which will also receive a major facelift including new floors, scoreboards, bleachers and restrooms.

"The Wellness and Fitness Center/Field House will be a spectacular tool for recruiting student-athletes and offering numerous resources for all students interested in fitness and intramural opportunities," said



Architectural drawings (left and above) of the new 75,000 square foot Wellness and Fitness Center/Field House

Rich Pejeau, vice president of institutional advancement. “The building will be a hub of student recreation and also offer an ideal venue for high school and NCAA track meets.”

Also included in capital projects is a \$1.5 million renovation of the current McReynolds and Whitney residence halls. Both facilities will receive new furniture, computer labs, common study lounges, upgraded laundry facilities and new paint, flooring, fixtures and windows.

Schomburg Auditorium, the primary facility for speakers and public events, will receive a facelift, which includes new seats. The success of the advanced gifts phase has enabled renovations for Weaner Center/McMaster gymnasium and Schomburg Auditorium to begin and Whitney Hall and Tenzer Hall, including a new addition, to be completed.

Endowment priorities focus on faculty and students with \$1.8 million for faculty research, professional education and development of academic programs. Fostering professional growth and research will enhance the scholarly profile of faculty members, enrich their teaching, and further enhance Defiance’s reputation for academic excellence. An addition \$5 million will go

directly to student support and scholarships enabling Defiance to offer more aid to financially deserving students, compete for talented students and reduce demand on the College’s operating budget.

Annual Fund priorities will focus \$5.9 million on strategic academic program development and creating a 21st century environment that makes Defiance College a first-choice decision for students.

“This is an exciting time for Defiance College,” said Dr. Charles Warren, interim president. “The Defy the Ordinary campaign will transform the college in so many ways, from building projects, to greater endowments and scholarships, and continuing enrichment of the college experience that our annual gifts provide. Defiance College students will make a difference in the future of this country, and we are working hard to give them the tools they will need.”

For more information about making tax-deductible donations to the Defiance College Capital Campaign, contact the office of institutional advancement at 419-783-2572 or visit the DC website at [www.defiance.edu](http://www.defiance.edu). Naming opportunities are still available. ◆

## A Message from the Campaign Chairman



**George M. Smart '67**  
DC Trustee and  
Campaign Chairman  
Chairman of the  
Board, FirstEnergy  
Corporation

The opportunity exists for Defiance College to undergo a transformation. To transform not the purpose or culture of the institution, which remains constant, but the scope of what this College can and should achieve. In order for the College to realize its vision, Defiance must increase significantly its level of private support. By doing so, Defiance will have the resources necessary to implement the master plan for facilities, meet the demands of its academic programs both existing and future, respond quickly to new opportunities, and support qualified and motivated students in need of scholarship assistance.

Defiance College has played a major role in my life since I was a student athlete here in the mid-1960s. The College helped me prepare for a rewarding career and a fulfilling life, and I remain grateful for that education. That is why I am proud to chair *The Transforming Difference: A Campaign to Defy the Ordinary*.

Please take your seat...  
and name it, too!

New Schomburg Auditorium seats  
are available to be named by you.  
Details on the inside back cover!



## The Transforming Difference Campaign and You!

In the quiet phase of 'The Transforming Difference: A Campaign to Defy the Ordinary,' we raised over half of the \$26 million needed to fund a number of important initiatives. It is with optimism and the trust that philanthropic giving will continue to be a priority in the lives of our alumni, that Defiance College enters the public phase of this important campaign.

Now we ask for everyone's help. Your participation in this campaign will allow us to make significant capital improvements to our residence halls, Tenzer Hall, Schomburg Auditorium and Dana Hall, build an impressive fitness/wellness field house with a 200-meter indoor track and practice facilities for golf, tennis, and baseball and grow the endowment for student scholarships, and faculty and program enrichment.

Over the last two years, much work has been done to connect with our alumni across the country and we now have established regional organizations which will reach far into the future to sustain the college's connections with our alumni, and alumni connections with one another. These groups will represent DC in their geographic regions, aiding in the recruitment of students and providing many kinds of resources to enrich the education of DC students. They will live out the tradition of making a difference in people's lives.

Regional representatives will also help bring "Celebrate DC" kick-off events for 'The Transforming Difference: A Campaign to Defy the Ordinary' to every corner of the United States over the next 18 months.

Our first 'Celebrate DC' campaign kickoff will occur in Florida in February, followed by Columbus, Ohio in April. Starting in June, we will hold monthly events across the country. 2009 "Celebrate DC" events are planned for Colorado, Massachusetts and Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware, the Boston/East Massachusetts area and New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas, Indianapolis, Chicago, and throughout Ohio: Cleveland, Akron, Sandusky, Cincinnati, Dayton and Williams, Henry, Defiance Fulton, Wood, Putnam, and Lucas counties.

And that's not all! More events are planned at more locations in 2010. As events are scheduled, details will be posted on the alumni website and printed in upcoming magazines. Don't forget, there will be other regional activities throughout the year beyond the "Celebrate DC" events. We look forward to seeing you often in 2009 and 2010!

*David Plant*  
David Plant, Director of Alumni  
and Parent Relations

## A Message from the BOT Chairman



**Phil Mallott '78**  
DC Board  
of Trustees  
Chairman  
Director, Big Lots  
Inc.

Strengthening  
the Defiance

College endowment will make a difference in our ability to provide an outstanding educational experience, but so will our attention to facilities.

Prospective students and others visiting campus who do not yet know the value of the Defiance experience will judge the College in large part by the quality of its facilities. We must present an appealing campus environment if we want to attract students who will take advantage of all the ways Defiance can help them find their direction. With the support of alumni and friends of Defiance, we can continue to offer students opportunities, like the ones I had, to make their own success in life.

