

# DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Summer 2015 ♦ Magazine

DEFIANCE in

**ACTION!**

Get to Know Our Rising Alums

ALSO: DEFIANCE COLLEGE BIDS FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT GORDON

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# DEFIANCE COLLEGE

*The Magazine*

Summer 2015

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*Students whitewater rafting during a trip to Costa Rica in 2014.*

# DEFIANCE

in

# ACTION!



The thirteen young alumni featured in this issue are among the nearly 10,000 alumni who have experienced the transforming difference a Defiance College education can make. Through Defiance's academic excellence and real-world engagement, they are taking their knowledge, skills and gifts into the avenues of everyday life. Their contributions are anything but ordinary.

The ultimate test of any college's quality is the blend of accomplishment and character in the students it prepares. At Defiance College, we are proud of our alumni. Every day, they are making contributions that broaden the scope of human knowledge and transform lives.

They are living out the college's motto - To Know, To Lead, To Serve, To Understand.

# Hearing the call of FAITH EDUCATION

BRANDY BRING '05 | FAITH FORMATION | OBERLIN, OH

Brandy thinks she has the best job in the world. "Every day I get to wake up and go to a job that makes a difference in the world. In fact it doesn't feel like work at all," she says.

Brandy is the Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation and Youth at the First Church in Oberlin United Church of Christ in Oberlin, Ohio, a position she has held since graduating from DC.

"I am responsible for all the educational programming that happens within our church from our youngest children through adults. I also oversee and teach all of our youth programming," she explains. She also helps plan and lead wider youth events for the church's association and conference and preaches at her church on occasion, and at other congregations when the opportunity arises.

"Intergenerational worship experience is one of my passions, and I plan and lead these services once every couple months."

Growing up in Amherst, Ohio, Brandy graduated from Marion L. Steele High School in 2001. Her parents, Ken and Cindy Bring, and older sister, Heather Torres, still reside in Amherst, which is just ten minutes from Oberlin, so when she joined the Oberlin UCC, it was a sort of homecoming for Brandy.

"The education in my field was invaluable, but my field work education was by far the most helpful experience."

Family is very important to her, and her niece and nephews consume her non-working life. A big sports fan, Brandy enjoys teaching them how to play softball, baseball and



basketball. Brandy also enjoys attending Cleveland Indians games.

Brandy was familiar with Defiance College because of its affiliation with the United Church of Christ. She knew it was where she wanted to attend, and she knew exactly what she wanted to major in. In addition to Christian education studies, she took many psychology courses.

"The education in my field was invaluable, but my field work education was by far the most helpful experience," she relates. "Being able to learn hands-on skills at St. Paul's United Methodist in Napoleon for two years was very helpful as I prepared to serve my own congregation." Brandy worked with St. Paul's afterschool middle school youth program, and in her senior year, prepared and taught classes for elementary-aged children.

Dr. Marian Plant was the most influential professor Brandy had at Defiance College, and a tough one, too, she remembers. "I learned a great deal about faith formation and ministry from Marian."

Whatever the future holds for Brandy, she knows it will be some sort of ministry with young people because, as she puts it, "Working with children and youth is my life calling."

By Michele Tinker  
Director of Annual Giving

# Setting goals and ACHIEVING THEM

CHAD BIEBER '01 | FINANCIAL SERVICES | DALLAS, TX



As with many if not all students, where Chad is today is not exactly where he envisioned himself when he entered Defiance College.

Chad Bieber '01 is a director in the Dallas office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, financial services tax group. In this capacity he assists with international tax consulting and compliance-related private equity, fund-to-fund, and hedge fund activities. He enjoys being able to help people with complex business and tax issues as their trusted business advisor.

“When I came to DC it was with the intent to go to law school and become a lawyer focused on International Law. Even though I had no idea how to make that happen when I first started, I quickly realized how great of a network existed at the College! Also, I quickly learned that if you want to do something, no one is going to do it for you. You have to set your own goals and make them happen.” He went on to earn his degree in finance and human resources at Defiance, and a master’s in accountancy and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo. He is a certified public accountant.

Chad was part of the DC Presidential Service Leaders, a scholarship group that participates in a variety of service and leadership activities. “This allowed me to hone my leadership skills and realize how easy it was to make a difference in one’s community,” Chad explains.

“Growing up in a small farm community, I never thought I would have the courage to study abroad for a summer at Oxford University, travel for work by myself to China, Australia and New Zealand, or move away from my hometown area for work opportunities. All of my experiences at Defiance made me realize that there are very few limits on my potential, other than those that I allow to exist.”

Chad sees himself continuing his career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, but adds, “Who knows where that could be, though? I have opportunities to work in many cities in the U.S. and potential to go to any city in the world.”

A native of Fayette, Ohio, Chad likes to spend his free time traveling. “Whether it is local or international, I really enjoy seeing and understanding other parts of the world firsthand.”

Chad recently joined the Defiance College Board of Trustees, where he shares his business acumen and his perspective as a young alumnus.

“All of my experiences at Defiance made me realize that there are very few limits on my potential, other than those that I allow to exist.”

*By Michele Tinker  
Director of Annual Giving*

# Finding rewards in CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

BRITNEY HUFFMAN '08 | HUMAN RESOURCES | CLEVELAND, OH

Only seven years ago, she was a newly-minted Defiance College alumna looking to enter the workforce. She joined the field of human resources, first at Federal Reserve Bank, and later at Key Bank, both in Cleveland.



At Federal Reserve Bank, Britney was involved in internship and interview processes. “It wasn’t long before that I had been in their shoes, trying to figure out what to do with my life, transferring skills learned in school to a job.”

Now she works as a human resources recruiter, hiring for sales positions, mortgage loan officers and financial advisers. She has been with Key Bank since July of last year. In the near future, she hopes to move into a senior level recruitment role, and has been working closely with her supervisor toward that goal. Beyond that, she has an interest in working in the area of diversity and inclusion, or possibly in a human resources business partner role, not only in recruitment but training and development. “It’s something new that companies are implementing, replacing the human resources generalist,” she said.

After graduating from Defiance College, Britney earned a master’s degree in international management from Baldwin-Wallace University, a field that caught her interest after her experience as a McMaster Scholar to Cambodia. Her McMaster project focused on educating Cambodian women and children about the dangers of human sex trafficking. “That experience, on how people were living, and the other projects students were working on, inspired me to learn more about business from a global perspective,” she said. “With this degree, I could learn about business relations nationally and internationally, and it was a good fit coming off my McMaster experience at Defiance College.”

With the importance of civic engagement that was instilled in her, Britney is looking to become more engaged in her local community in Cleveland. “I wasn’t involved as much as I would have liked, and I’m trying to be more involved now,” she said. She recently became active with Shoes and Clothes for Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides shoes and clothing

at no cost to thousands of children in need in the greater Cleveland area. She sits on an associate board to coordinate drives to collect and distribute shoes and clothing.

Reflecting back on her Defiance College experience, Britney recalled that her college search wasn’t extensive. “I didn’t search a lot of schools. I landed at DC and got really lucky.”

While it was an adjustment coming to a small community and campus, she met lifelong friends and lived and studied in a close-knit environment. “There was enough to do to stay busy and have fun, but not get distracted,” she said.

Her professors were “business savvy” and shared their own experiences which helped to better understand what was being taught. She landed two internships in the Defiance area with the help of the college’s career development office. “Having those close connections with staff and faculty has made me very successful transitioning from college to the business world. It made Defiance College a great place to go to school. DC can offer much more than large universities.”

She said her most powerful college experience was the Cambodia learning community. “That’s impacted me for a while ... The fact that you have a passion for something, you put this research into action, make some contacts, and Defiance College says ‘here’s the funds for the project to take across the world.’”

By Kathy PUNCHES '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

# Showing children KINDNESS & HONESTY

LIZ DICKMAN '11 | DEPUTY OFFICER, S.V.U. | COLUMBIA, SC



As a student in Professor Frank Sanders' Theories of Personality class, Liz Dickman completed an assignment to do a psychoanalysis of serial killer Ted Bundy. "We had to pick apart his entire life..."

“From childhood through adulthood, evaluating each piece of him [Ted Bundy] and his psyche to figure out what brought him to be the person he became,” she recalls.

For Dickman, that assignment along with many other psychology courses she took from Sanders and Dr. Deb Dalke piqued her interest and set her on a path leading to a career in law enforcement. She now works as a deputy with the Richland County Sheriff's Department in Columbia, S.C., specializing in neglected and abused children. She is part of the Special Victims Unit of the Criminal Investigations Division.

In the Special Victims Unit, Dickman is the emergency protective custody coordinator. When children or vulnerable adults are neglected or abused, it's her job to remove them from the unsafe environment and place them with the Department of Social Services for their protection. She works with all areas of the Sheriff's Department including school resource officers, line/road units, narcotics, and investigations.

Her duties change on a daily basis. She responds to crime scenes, hospitals and schools, taking photos of injuries, conditions in homes, and evidence. Victims have ranged in age from four weeks to 91 years. She is regularly called upon to testify in court.

“I typically work with sad and disturbing cases of child abuse and/or neglect,” she says. “Those tug at my heart strings, but I take comfort in knowing that although I am removing children from their homes and families, I am doing it to protect them from a bad situation. While they are in my care, whether for 10 minutes or four hours, I show them love, kindness and honesty. I tend to say that I don't have any children of my own, but all of the kids in Richland County are mine to watch over.”

A native of Lima, Ohio, Dickman graduated in 2011 from DC where she majored in psychology and minored in business administration. She then enrolled as a graduate student at the University of South Carolina where she earned an MSW in 2013. With an interest in criminal justice and law enforcement, she secured an internship with the sheriff's department to work with incorrigible youths and repeat ninth graders in local high schools. She also assisted the criminal investigations division.

After a year and a half in her fulltime position as EPC coordinator, she was named 2014 Deputy of the Year in Victim Services. And, she recently learned that she has been promoted to Class I Deputy and will soon embark on a new challenge as a first responding road deputy. She is hoping that she will be able to re-enter investigations in the coming years to begin training as the department's first female polygrapher.

“Attending DC for my undergraduate degree prepared me for so much more than I ever thought was possible. I never thought I would be able to pack up and move to a bigger city by myself, let alone complete graduate school and work in law enforcement,” she says.

“The personal attention I received at DC is what empowered me to branch out and take huge steps. DC laid the foundation for me to become something totally unexpected. My family and friends can attest to that, especially now that I wear a badge and gun every day!

“I not only brought a strong education from DC to South Carolina, but I brought maturity, professionalism, and confidence to step outside the box and reach for something higher.”

*By Kathy Punches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*



# Building rapport with STUDENTS & STAFF

TIM MANZ '05 | PRINCIPAL | ANTWERP, OH

Tim is in his second year as elementary principal at Antwerp Local Schools, Antwerp, Ohio, where every day brings something different.

Tim says he does a daily walk through the building, stopping at classrooms and the lunchroom, which helps him understand the pulse of the school and observe the good things that are happening.

"I love to see students in our building engaged in their learning. Whenever I stop into a class, students want to show me what they are learning, or what they created. The students also want to talk with me at lunchtime or in the hallways, and this makes me happy because this shows me the students and I have a positive rapport."

Part of the job of principal involves being the disciplinarian, and even though Tim addresses behavior issues and violations to the student handbook, he works to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. "I feel this is more conducive to getting things accomplished than trying to scare the students," Tim explains.

Tim also spends time staying current with new laws and guidelines from the state, and keeping his staff up to date on these as well. "Another task that I address is trying to find instructional materials and/or programs that will benefit our students and staff and will boost students' achievement," he relates. Tim is also involved with the school PTO and serves as a board member of the Oakwood Library Association.

"The part of DC that best prepared me for my career was my interaction with my fellow Middle Childhood Education classmates.

Looking ahead, Manz sees himself staying in his current role of elementary principal, but adds, "I may try to join more organizations and committees that deal with elementary



photo by Kayla Bagley

education, in order to make our voice heard in rural northwest Ohio."

When he came to DC, Tim knew he wanted to be an educator but was undecided as to what subjects or grade level. "The part of DC that best prepared me for my career was my interaction with my fellow Middle Childhood Education classmates. We spent most of the last two years in many of the same courses and were able to build a bond that helped us all get through these years. We were able to ask each other for advice, help each other with projects, and push each other to set higher aspirations for ourselves."

His most interesting experiences at Defiance were during his seminar class during his student teaching. "There just seemed to be a definite difference in the mentality between the Elementary, Middle Childhood, and High School prospective teachers. There were some interesting conversations in this seminar, some funny and some got a little heated. This was a very interesting time, and looking back on it, a very informative time," he remembers.

Tim grew up on a farm in Paulding, Ohio, and participated in baseball, basketball, 4-H, the envirothon team and the engineering team. After graduating from DC, he taught at Montpelier and Fairview school districts, before coming to Antwerp. An avid reader in his free time, Tim also enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, riding ATVs, and being with his family - wife Joy (Stoller) '05, who earned her degree in Early Childhood Education at DC, and their three children, Makenna, Connor and Kennedy.

By Michele Tinker  
Director of Annual Giving

# The Reward of HELPING ATHLETES

CRAIG BURKE '08 | ATHLETIC TRAINER | LONG ISLAND, NY

Helping student-athletes develop their athletic careers is the fulfillment of the goal Craig Burke, class of 2008, set when he decided to major in athletic training at Defiance College.



Now the assistant athletic trainer for the NCAA Division I football program at Stony Brook University on Long Island, New York, Craig not only likes the daily challenges of the position but the opportunity to be a part of the student-athletes' growth and development in the world outside of sport.

His typical day involves mainly patient care, working with football team members in all parts of their health care including prevention, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. He also acts as liaison, managing student-athlete treatment with orthopedists, chiropractors, sport psychologists, nutritionists, and other specialists. He communicates regularly with the coaching staff, strength and conditioning specialists and those involved with equipment, academic development, and athletic compliance.

Before arriving at Stony Brook, Craig spent three seasons as head athletic trainer for football at Robert Morris University in Chicago, where he developed policies and procedures for student-athlete care and treatment for a new football program.

He also worked with Division I programs at the U.S. Naval Academy where he conducted an internship, and pursued a master's degree at Northern Illinois University where he worked in the football and softball programs.

While the work can be challenging, Craig loves the reward of helping student-athletes develop their athletic careers. "Each day is always different, and a new challenge is always around the corner," he says. He hopes to eventually move into a head athletic trainer position in a Division I football program.

He believes that all of his experiences in and out of the classroom at DC helped prepare him for the life he leads today. From interactions with his professors, students, and soccer teammates, to involvement in the Cambodia learning community as a McMaster Scholar, Craig received guidance and support along the way.

Professors Jeff Weaner and Dr. JoAnn Burkhardt encouraged Craig to get involved in the McMaster School and submit a proposal for the Cambodia learning community. The international experience "taught me how I could give back to the world community using what I learned in the classroom within my major area of study," he says.

Kevin Tong, Kathleen Westfall and Cindy Studrawa played key roles in his athletic training education. "These individuals demanded the most out of me in the classroom and continue to help me today in my career path."

He believes that all of his experiences in and out of the classroom at DC helped prepare him for the life he leads today.

Some of his fondest memories of DC revolve around athletics, particularly as a member of the men's soccer team. "This time was wonderful. As a team, we were able to share in great wins, learn from tough losses, and share a bond as teammates."

By Kathy Panches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

# Finding Fulfillment THROUGH RELIEF

AUDRIC WARREN '07 | ATHLETIC TRAINER | GARY, IN

Audric Warren has a passion for athletic training. He enjoys being able to provide care to his patient-athletes from the moment of their injury, through recovery and rehab, until they are back on the field or court.



“It’s unique in the sense that I have the opportunity to provide care in an all-encompassing way,” he says. “I’m the first person there to evaluate the injury. I’m the person rehabbing them after the injury. And after they have recovered, I’m at their practice or on the sidelines, dugout, or on the bench watching them do what they love. There is nothing else like that in healthcare. ... It is incredibly fulfilling to have the opportunity to help relieve someone’s pain and help them to be successful doing what they love.”

Since graduating from Defiance College in 2007, Audric has worked in athletic training in the Gary/Chicago area. He has worked in higher education for Purdue University Calumet, Robert Morris College, and South Suburban College. He’s also worked with minor league teams including the Windy City Thunderbolts, Gary Southshore Railcats, and Chi-town Shooters.

In 2013, Audric began working with Indiana University Health Systems as head athletic trainer for Indiana University Northwest, where he was also an adjunct professor. He is currently with IUHS as a sports performance athletic trainer, a new position in which he will help to develop and implement a new sports performance program for the hospital’s high school and college contracted services. He hopes to eventually start his own company.

When Audric arrived at Defiance College after being recruited by football coach Greg Pscodna, he didn’t have a career in mind. His professors and mentors – Kevin Tong, Kathleen Westfall and Cindy Studrawa – gave him direction. “I remember various times each one of them sitting me down and basically telling me that I needed to get my crap together because I was a bit of a slacker. ... I don’t even want to know where I would be if they hadn’t taken chances on me or put

their faith in me so that I could believe it was possible to write my own ticket to be a successful person.”

He recalls all of the time spent with his fellow AT majors – Cassy Beardsley, Heather Grine, Aaron Flynn, Diane Bruns, Craig Burke, Kristi Weddelman and Lisa Malone. “They made watching every practice and covering every game go from something potentially tedious to a fun atmosphere.”

He says it’s hard to pick out one event or experience that stands out during his years at DC. “I say that because I met a lot of great people that I shared a lot of great experiences with, and it would honestly be easier to list names than experiences because each person is a series of great experiences.” A few of those people are Matt Fleig, Steve Langley, Kristyn Tooley, Rachel Flad, Kristin Goldstein, Samantha Higdon, Laura Derov, Amanda Tooley, Matt Fosnaugh, Trevor Matuszak, Eric Swartz, Kasey Carlisle, Bilal Muta, Ernest Clover, Kyle Minnis, Aaron Clover and Najla Muta.

These days, his free time is often spent reading books or research articles on athletic training, or coming up with new ideas. “When I’m not doing that, I enjoy spending time with my family or going to the movies,” he says.

It may have been Audric’s own experiences in high school sports that led him to his college major and eventual career. Audric grew up in Gary, Ind., playing football and basketball and running track at Bishop Noll Institute. “I spent a lot of time in the athletic training room due to injuries I sustained in football,” he recalls.

He’s come full circle.

*By Kathy Punches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

# Lifelong goal to SERVE & PROTECT

TOMAR THOMAS '01 | POLICE OFFICER | SOUTH BEND, IN



Tomar serves as a school resource officer with the investigative division, where he investigates crimes in the public schools or involving students.

Tomar Thomas '01 was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, and after getting his degree in criminal justice at Defiance College, he is now a member of the South Bend Police Department. His job rewards him with the two things he enjoys the most: It offers something different every day, and he is constantly interacting with people.

Criminal justice was always the career path Tomar wanted to take, although he wasn't clear as to whether it would be through juvenile probation or law enforcement. He gives a lot of credit to now-retired Dr. Don Knueve and Professor Steve Sondergaard for helping him make his decision. "They really cleared up some grey areas for me and gave me a good foundation for what was to come."

Tomar added, "Dr. Knueve knows everything and Professor Sondergaard is a former police officer – so he put his job experience into the classroom. It was a big-time help for me."

One of his most memorable experiences was a criminal justice trip to Chicago, where the students participated in a ride-along with police and talked to the officers. "That really made me lean towards the law enforcement side of CJ."

Another important part of his time at Defiance College was playing football and interacting with the guys on the team, with whom he still stays in touch. "I am closer to the guys on the team than the guys I grew up with," Tomar explains, and he believes that his team experience has helped make him who he is today. He especially recalls how Coach Rob Taylor and Greg and Susan Pscodna were always there for him and the other members of the football team.

Tomar envisions staying in law enforcement and continuing his career within the South Bend P.D., depending on what opportunities are available. "All options are open," he states. In his off-hours, Tomar coaches varsity football at a local high school. He also does some part-time police work for the University of Notre Dame during special events, which he particularly enjoys because he gets to watch the Fighting Irish in action.

"Dr. Knueve knows everything and Professor Sondergaard is a former police officer – so he put his job experience into the classroom. It was a big-time help for me."

*By Michele Tinker  
Director of Annual Giving*

# Variety is truly THE SPICE OF LIFE

TREVOR AULT '12 | TV REPORTER | TOLEDO, OH

Trevor Ault is fast becoming a familiar face on WTOL-11 News in Toledo, where he is seen on the morning shows as a features and web reporter.



He does live reports showcasing local businesses, detailed in-house reports on what's happening online (tweets, viral stories, etc.) and serves as a sports reporter for a Friday night sports wrap-up. He is also responsible for running WTOL's website, Facebook and Twitter pages and has even filled in as anchor and traffic reporter on several occasions.

It's a job with a lot of variety every day, which suits Trevor perfectly. As he explains, "It is very rare for me to know exactly what I'll be doing any given day when I go to work. I also love getting to meet an incredible number of interesting local people who are willing to share their stories."

Trevor's decision to go into broadcasting came late in his college career. "Defiance College offered me the ability to pursue my interests in every direction I wanted." Because of the small size of the college and encouragement from staff, Trevor felt he was able to try out new ideas. While at DC, he worked as a reporter for sports broadcasts, anchored online highlight videos, and emceed pep rallies and charity events.

"Defiance College offered me the ability to pursue my interests in every direction I wanted."

He feels his ability to hone his craft at DC was because of the support he received here. "Some of my greatest skills I use on a daily basis (comfort on air and an ability to improvise) are ones I cultivated at Defiance College. I sincerely believe I wouldn't have developed these skills at a larger school." He especially appreciates the guidance he received from Ryan Imbrock, associate director of marketing and brand quality, and Jim Funderburg, announcer for DC sportscasts, and

believes that without their help, he wouldn't have pursued broadcasting as a career. "The coaches and staff at DC were also tremendously open and patient with me.

"The student body shaped who I am as a human being. I doubt I will ever laugh as hard or as frequently as I did with my friends at Defiance College," he added. "I really can't overstate just how much fun I had being surrounded by so many close friends at the school. I distinctly remember giving tours to prospective students and being able to sincerely say hello to every person I passed. And it wasn't an act, they were truly all my friends. Something about that struck me as very special.

"My freshman year I was randomly assigned to live with a roommate with whom I objectively had nothing in common. I proceeded to voluntarily live with him every single year at the school. He remains one of my closest friends."

Trevor grew up in Oregon, Ohio, and graduated from Clay High School. He started at Defiance as an accounting major before switching to communications. After DC, he earned a graduate degree at Syracuse University.

Ideally, Trevor would like to stay at WTOL and work his way up the ranks, transitioning to hosting shows about creative media, about which he is particularly passionate. In his free time, when he's not exercising, he is absorbing articles and podcasts on the inner workings of television, film and music, which he's found very helpful in his career.

By Michele Tinker  
Director of Annual Giving

# The busy life of a DREAM COME TRUE

SARAH (KUHN) CARPENTER '04 | ELEPHANT KEEPER | TOLEDO, OH



As a freshman at Defiance College, Sarah knew that she wanted to someday be a zookeeper. She recalls sharing her career goal with then-professor Dave Reed.

“He didn’t judge me or look at me funny like a lot of people, but he told me what to major in. He taught me a lot.” Reed steered her toward the college’s Restoration Ecology major, which she says was the right choice.

Since graduating in 2004, the Defiance native has worked at three different zoos and today is an elephant keeper at the Toledo Zoo. She started working in Toledo’s small mammal department in 2008, and in 2009 switched to large mammals. She’s been with the elephants since June of that year. “Getting to work with these amazing animals makes me happy on a daily basis,” she says. “Whether it is a breakthrough in their training or seeing them play with an enrichment item that I helped create, it’s very fulfilling ... It’s a dream come true to be around them every day.”

The Toledo Zoo has four African elephants: Renee, the 35-year-old matriarch; her three-year-old calf, Lucas; Renee’s firstborn, Louie, who is 11; and Twiggy, an unrelated 29-year-old female. Each has his or her own unique personality, and Sarah finds joy in working with all of the elephants.

She notes that the expectation most people have is that zookeepers spend their days cleaning. “We do clean, but we also do a lot of other things in a typical day at the barn, and no two days are ever the same.” A typical day for Sarah includes cleaning the elephant holdings and exhibits, making sure they are fed proper diets, providing enrichment, examining them from head to toe, and checking to make sure their enclosures are safe at all times. Each elephant also receives daily individual training sessions to teach new behaviors and/or maintain the behaviors they already know. Some of these behaviors include blood draws, x-rays, foot trims, baths, semen collections,

mouth inspections, and having them stand on their hind legs to exhibit natural behaviors.

Sarah says one of the most remarkable things she’s been involved in has been a successful artificial insemination on Renee resulting in the pregnancy and birth of Lucas in 2011. Watching him learn and grow and teaching him new behaviors has been very rewarding.

When she’s not working, Sarah likes to be on the go. A couple of years ago she began riding horses English-style, which she loves. She also does triathlons, 5k races, and various fun color runs or mud runs. During the summer, she and her husband, Jay, play in a co-ed softball league. Chris Moreo Yenser, a friend from DC, plays on their championship team.

Sarah also participates in agility performance with her two-year-old German shepherd, Bea. And, she recently took up backpacking. She and her father, Glenn, are making a tradition of yearly hikes of sections of the Appalachian Trail.

Many of her best Defiance College memories center on the softball team, probably topped by winning the HCAC tournament and playing in the NCAA tournament. Also, being recognized with the Duane C. Hocking Award in her senior year was a great honor. Some of the most valuable lessons learned came from faculty and coaches, including Professor Reed, softball coach Kary Kankey and basketball coach Tom Barnes.

But, like many alumni, some of her fondest memories are those impromptu occasions. “This is going to sound silly,” she says, “and my old softball teammates will remember this, but the ‘pool party’ we had at the fountain is one of the things I will never forget!”

*By Kathy Punches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

# Strengthening her LOVE OF ANIMALS

KAITLIN STUDER '09 | VETERINARY TECHNICIAN | BALTIMORE, MD



Think about your typical work day, and then imagine a day in Kaitlin Studer's professional shoes. On any given day at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, she might be cleaning the teeth of an African leopard, giving an injection to a giraffe, ...

... drawing blood or taking radiographs of patients like chimpanzees, rhinoceroses, river otters, or warthogs.

As a registered veterinary technician, Kaitlin, class of 2009, likes the variety of her daily schedule. Her responsibilities often include prepping for procedures, drawing blood, monitoring anesthetized patients, assisting veterinarians, conducting dental cleanings, or giving injections.

Another critical aspect of her job is lab work, such as conducting complete blood cell counts, fecal exams, cytologies, and microbiology testing. "The ability to conduct manual complete blood cell counts on birds and reptile species is particularly important because of their nucleated red blood cells which cannot be processed in a machine," she explains.

She likes working closely with keepers and their animals. "My colleagues and I work with different species to establish a good relationship with animals to efficiently treat them without stress," she says. "I find fulfillment in animal care, and it is great to be a part of a team with the ultimate goal of making sure our animal collection is healthy."

Kaitlin knew for a long time that she wanted to work with animals, perhaps as a veterinarian. After her freshman year at Defiance College, she interned at the Toledo Zoo where she gained experience in the bird department for her McMaster project in Belize. "After going to Belize, I reconsidered my career options and explored different paths of work involving veterinary medicine and conservation," she says. "I began to learn about the responsibilities of veterinary technicians and

veterinarians, and how I could apply them to conservation."

Her experiences with McMaster School initiatives in Belize were a great influence. "Working in a learning community taught me how synergistic a team can really be while working together to achieve a goal," she says. And, her involvement in the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program provided opportunities to gain confidence in public speaking and preparing presentations.

Professor Dean Flightner was one of her greatest role models at DC, along with Dr. Doug Kane. But, her mother, Mary Ann Studer, dean of the McMaster School, was most instrumental in supporting her in creating her own path. "Having a mother as a professor seems easy, but it is not," she quips. "Indeed, no slack was ever cut in her 8 a.m. physics class! My mom was a great supporter and taught me many skills prior to, during, and after my experiences at Defiance College."

Kaitlin's unique learning experiences in Belize forged some of her most special DC memories. "I not only created friendships with other students which I still maintain today, but I also fostered lasting partnerships with community partners in Belize. I often reminisce about the howler monkey sounds I would hear at night at the research station or the evening vehicle rides trying to spot jaguars."

But, the DC relationship that is her most special is the one she has with Bryant Green, class of 2012, who just graduated from law school at the University of Toledo. The couple met on campus and will be married later this year.

*By Kathy Punches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing*

# Keep on striving FOR SUCCESS

CASEY KAHSEN '10 | THREAT INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST | WASHINGTON D.C.

Within five years of graduating, he has taught at the college level, earned a graduate degree, and is now working in the intelligence community as a malware and threat intelligence specialist.



When Casey transferred to Defiance College, digital forensic studies were not part of his original decision. But, he learned of the program during his first visit to campus, and with his interest in computers, the choice of a major quickly became clear. "I was building computers and working with them on my own time prior to entering my studies at DC," he recalls. "I was also drawing interest in the field of forensics ... It struck a chord with me as something that I knew I would enjoy."

Casey enjoyed the hands-on approach taught by his professor, Dr. Gregg Gunsch. Being able to work with concepts in the forensics lab instead of just reading about them helped ignite his studies and eventual career. Defiance's program has a certification requirement that Casey says is a resume-builder. It also exposes students to industry standard practices and procedures.

Shortly after graduating from DC, Casey was hired as an instructor of digital forensics at the University of Northwestern Ohio. He says this opportunity allowed his skills to flourish. "I was dedicated to providing the best possible education that I could for my students," designing daily lectures, assessments and tests, and even brand new courses.

At the same time, Casey enrolled in graduate school at Champlain College in a program geared toward practitioners in the field. It was during his graduate studies that he learned of job openings with global security company Northrop Grumman Corporation. He was hired by Northrop Grumman on a contract with the Department of Homeland Security for the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) as a malware and threat intelligence specialist. Casey describes the team's task as early detection, malware and threat trending,

and response triaging on a global scale.

The DC alum recently completed his master's degree. His research delved into the impact of web server compromises from an intelligence perspective.

As his career progresses, Casey hopes to move from the research perspective to a malware analyst. Eventually, he would like to become a certified SANS instructor. SANS is a private company specializing in information security

Being able to work with concepts in the forensics lab instead of just reading about them helped ignite his studies and eventual career.

and cybersecurity training. "I feel that it would be both a professional landmark and a way to give back to the field that has been so good to me," he says.

Casey says training in the field of digital forensics can be long and daunting. "But the dividends will pay off if you strive for success. It is exciting and presents so many options."

By Kathy Panches '96  
Director of Public Relations and Marketing



# No fear of THE UNKNOWN

KERSTYN CLOVER '12 | GLOBAL INFORMATION SECURITY | CLEVELAND, OH



A month after my sixteenth birthday, I left everything I'd ever known to move eight hours away and attend a school I had only seen through flyers and webpages. It was every bit as scary as it might sound.

Serendipity was the main reason I decided on Defiance College. I had noticed the school in a pamphlet sent to my home my senior year of high school and again when searching around for something offering digital forensics as a field of study. I thought I liked the program, but I couldn't be entirely sure because I was still weighing the option of baking fancy cakes and had hardly ever used Internet that wasn't dial-up. I think what sold me on the program, and Defiance itself, were the people; they went out of their way to make sure that I made a smooth transition and let me know that they saw promise in me even when my own confidence faltered.

I did my best to take advantage of all that was offered to me. I switched focuses a few times much to the fear of my advisor, the professor in charge of my major, as he was convinced I'd find something else to do. I think I had my hands in everything at some point, and will freely admit that I bit off more than I could chew many times in my drive to sample everything offered up to me.

After graduation, I fell into my current position just as unaware of what I was getting myself into as I was when I showed up at orientation or all of the times I took on new things at Defiance. Once again I moved, alone, to a place I'd never been for a job that I wasn't certain I really knew how to do (but you never say that in the interviews!). Now I get paid to break into buildings, investigate crimes, and whatever else gets thrown at me that's related to information security. Again, I found a place where I can try a little of everything and build a broad range of knowledge and skills so that I feel I can at least give a solid effort on just about anything. Another big upside, of course, is the look on people's faces when I get an opportunity to tell stories about trying to "steal" data, sneak past security and police officers, or phish people – all so that I can teach them how to protect themselves when it's more than just a test.

It's important to find a niche in life, but I also have found it's just as important to be more curious than afraid. The things I learned and (perhaps more importantly) the ways that I learned to think came from classes on figure drawing and Shakespeare as much as they did accounting and data recovery.

If we're being honest, I have no idea where I see myself in a few years – but I also didn't have any clue what I really wanted to study, where I wanted to attend school, or where I wanted to work and everything has worked out this far so I'm not too concerned with that right now. Wherever it is, I'm sure I'll fall into it almost accidentally and learn something from the experience.

\* We asked alumna Kerstyn Clover '12 to describe her achievements since graduation in her own words.

I think I had my hands in everything at some point, and will freely admit that I bit off more than I could chew many times in my drive to sample everything offered up to me.

By Kerstyn Clover '12



# KNUCKLES MULDOON

Or, One Viewpoint on the Plural Nature of the Liberal Arts

By Todd A. Comer, Ph.D., Professor of English

Meet Knuckles Muldoon. Knuckles has, yes, knuckles, but he is less a fighter than a lover at first glance. He is dressed to the teeth. He sports yellow boots and a yellow vest. His pants and coat are shamrock green and complemented with a green bowler hat (with a stripe of yellow for accent). His cheeks are rosy; his gut protrudes; his knuckles are clenched around the lapel of his jacket; an Abe Lincoln beard trims his chin and jowls. If it were not for his prominent frown, I can imagine many a merry lass's head being turned by his fine figure. However, that frown, that grimace almost looks constipated, as a student once noted, which is ironic to say the least because Knuckles Muldoon, is empty. Knuckles Muldoon is, you understand, a whiskey decanter.

Knuckles, strangely enough, is also a centerpiece to my discussions about the liberal arts here at the college. Stay with me now.

Knuckles is an Irish stereotype—to put it bluntly, he is a leprechaun. The Irish were persecuted for centuries in Ireland (as it was colonized by England), and, later, in the United States as not quite “white.” This is difficult to imagine today, but, as Noel Ignatiev’s well-known book *How the Irish Became White* argues, whiteness is a social construction and for much of recent history the Irish were excluded from the benefits and privileges of whiteness.

Before their assimilation to whiteness, the Irish were, on the one hand, depicted as bestial and savage. On the other hand, they became the stuff of entertainment as English culture would compel the Irish to figuratively or literally dance a jig. You know, do that Irish shtick.

Stereotypes, even the entertaining ones, are not harmless of course. They are, from the disciplinary standpoint of English or cultural studies, products of power. “Bestial” representations of the Irish, as seen in the British magazine *Punch*, among others, helped rationalize British power over the Irish—for if the Irish were in fact animals, they certainly could not rule themselves. For a home-grown example of this same process, watch Marlon Riggs’ fine, if disturbing, documentary *Ethnic Notions*, which depicts black stereotypes before and after the Civil War and explains how stereotypes of African-Americans dynamically changed to justify the work of power.

What is a stereotype? More importantly, how does this relate to the liberal arts? A stereotype is formed when an *immediate* connection is made between a person and an idea. Knuckles Muldoon with his rosy face embodies a certain—British or American—culture’s low expectation of the Irish. Knuckles, again, is a decanter, a container intended to carry a pint of whiskey. However, like the drunken Irish stereotype, Knuckles is hollow at his core.

It works like this in the classroom: I have students sit in a circle and I place Knuckles Muldoon at the center. I ask a student what he or she sees. Tom immediately replies, “a leprechaun.” I ask Dick if he sees something different, and so on. What each student sees is dependent on his or her own position. Tom, face to face with Knuckles, knows with certainty what he sees; Dick, glancing at Knuckles from the side, is less certain; and Harriet, seated behind Knuckles, is quite flummoxed.

(Editor’s note: This is the first in a series of articles written by Defiance College faculty. This article written by Dr. Todd Comer, Professor of English, and the next few written by fellow faculty members, will discuss the liberal arts.)

All that is demonstrated thus far in this small pedagogical experiment is that our knowledge of reality is to a great deal limited by our perspective. A 42-year-old English professor looking at Knuckles will *immediately* think about how to use Knuckles to discuss the constructed nature of reality and stereotypes. A 15-year-old chancing on Knuckles Muldoon at a West Virginia garage sale will be amused by the figure, and, convinced by the token price, take him home for the next three decades of his life. Value and meaning are dependent to a degree on who the viewer is at a particular moment.

The liberal arts should include an awareness of how personal identity influences truth creation; however, the essence of the liberal arts is its *plurality*. When Tom tells Dick what he sees, when Dick tells Harriet what he sees, and so on, something else happens. All of a sudden all truth positions become relativized. There is a gap, a hesitation, in our process of truth creation.

Think of it this way: If you are Tom, and Dick tells you a story about a real event, you believe it. You are *immediately* certain about the truth of the situation as represented by Dick. What then happens if Harriet tells you a slightly *different* story about the same real event? Both stories now are believed and yet not believed. You hold them at arm's length, weighing the truth of each in your mind, and this is the essence of the liberal arts.

Traditionally, when one speaks of the liberal arts, one includes such disciplines as literature, mathematics, the sciences; my view is less concerned with what subjects one studies, though that too is important, and more interested in how multiple viewpoints of the same object lead to this hesitation, not to paralysis, but to a slowing down of the truth process that is intimately bound up with ethics and the creation of a critical citizenry—the larger goal, after all, of the liberal arts.

My emphasis, to say the least, is not representative of most takes on the liberal arts. In a recent panel (February 2015) at Defiance College concerned with the nature of the liberal arts, to a large extent, the presentations by Professors Lisa Crumit-

Hancock, Jeff Lauer, and Mary Catherine Harper, emphasized integration—the integration of mind and body, of the “divided mind”, and so on. In *general* I do not disagree with their viewpoints.

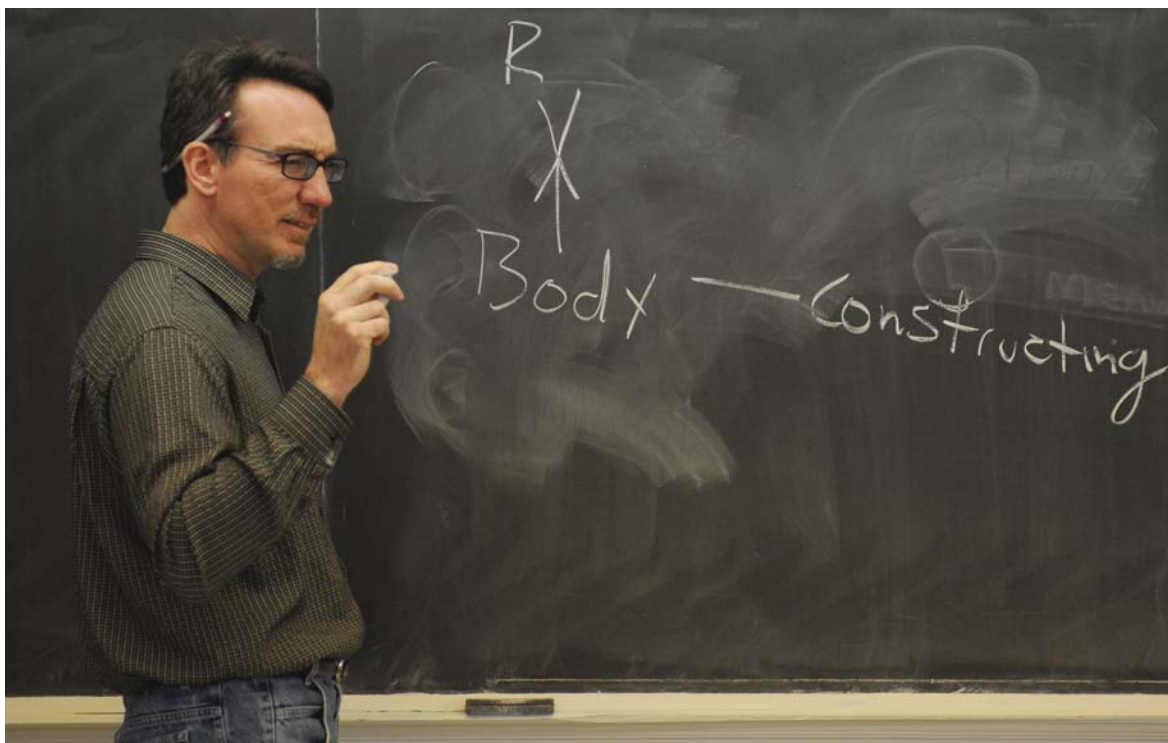
Consider for a moment gender stereotypes. English, as a field, tends to emphasize how narrative (understood broadly) constructs our *meaningful* relationships with reality and people. However, and this pains me deeply to admit, biology—as psychology professor Deb Dalke repeatedly reminds me—certainly has an influence on human behavior. The amount of testosterone racing through me at this very moment influences my gender. An *integrated* understanding of gender then would simultaneously recognize both nature and nurture, both the constructed and the innate nature of gender. The ability to juggle different viewpoints on a subject only to then integrate them is essential to the liberal arts and is surely what separates a liberal arts college from a trade school or a professional program.

Regardless, I insist however on retaining the gap, however small between different viewpoints.

Even while we integrate various positions together, the very process of airing ideas, holding them at arm's length, comparing one to the other, inserts a space or margin of doubt into the integration that follows. This gap guards against fixity, ego, and that too easy closure that would allow an issue to be forgotten, casually set aside, as we move on. If life is a journey, so is the truth process, and it must never stop.

I use Knuckles Muldoon to teach the liberal arts because he embodies a major issue, stereotypes, which is the engine behind much oppression. But Knuckles could embody any issue—world hunger, ebola, Occupy Wall Street—whose truth will be complicated by the perspective(s) of the viewer(s).

In a world of stereotypes, which, despite their emptiness, justify enormous amounts of violence; in a world in which wars are perpetual, and peace is transient, the lesson of Knuckles Muldoon—and the lesson of the liberal arts—becomes the cardinal lesson of our time: Listen to multiple perspectives, slow down, hesitate, and only then take action.



Professor Todd Comer teaching a class at Defiance College.



# ***DC to D.C.*** *Learning to help the Homeless*

Twenty DC students spent part of their winter holiday break learning about hunger and homelessness in the nation's capital. As members of the college's Service Leadership Program, they traveled to Washington, D.C., where they worked in five different locations in partnership with Amizade: Global Service Learning.

Participating were: Seniors Abby Taylor, Carmel, Ind.; Mike Vanderkolk, Bluffton, Ind.; Ian Fasnacht, Strongsville; Aubrey Kemerer, Hicksville; juniors George Roth, Defiance; Susie Stoepfel, McComb; Katie Haydett, Saint Clair Shores, Mich.; Amanda Foose, Bellevue; Jessie Bell, West Salem; Beth Pienoski, Sheffield Lake; Amber Moomey, Graytown; Cormack Lazarus, Jamaica; and freshmen Kande Manson, Paulding; Taylor Gillig, Tiffin; Kassie Memmer, Bowling Green; Mackenzie Combs, Milford Center; Adam Swisher, Lambertville, Mich.; Jared Feffer, Grand Rapids, Ohio; Kristin Aslanian, Trenton, Mich; and Emily Denhard, Troy, Mich.

They were accompanied by Jordan Heiliger, coordinator of the McMaster Service Leadership Program, and DC staff members Matt Gehring and Vickie Rhodes.

At DC Central Kitchen, the students worked alongside chefs to learn cooking skills and helped to make meals in bulk. DC Central Kitchen's primary purpose is to prepare food for shelters and other organizations. DCCK prepares more than 5,000 meals daily. It has a culinary arts program for homeless individuals to learn the art of cooking in preparation for employment in restaurants.

During one day at DCCK, the Defiance College group prepared 800 pounds of turkey meatloaf and 300 pounds of coleslaw.

Students assisted at Thrive DC, a traditional soup kitchen served by DCCK. Thrive DC also provides showers and personal hygiene items for homeless individuals.

At Central Union Mission, students made beds, sorted and folded bedding, and checked in homeless men for the all-men's shelter that also acts as an education center.

Students sorted donations at SOME (So Others Might Eat), a soup kitchen that conducts food drives and fundraising. The DC students sorted more than 200 boxes of donations received from a "shoe box drive" in which people packed shoe boxes with necessities such as underwear, socks, hats and gloves.

The group also worked at A Wider Circle, an organization designed to help people who are transitioning out of homelessness. The center provides professional development as well as furniture, clothing, food, beds and other items to those just coming out of homelessness. It also offers assistance with interview skills and job skills and professional clothing for job interviews.

In addition to their service projects, the DC students heard from two individuals from the National Coalition of the Homeless who shared their personal stories of how they came to be homeless and what they are doing now.

During their visit to the capital, they also took time to visit some of the city's historic sites including the Holocaust Museum, World War II Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and the Smithsonian.

The Service Leadership Program at Defiance College is a scholarship program designed for students who were involved in service and volunteerism in high school and who hope to continue in college. Service Leaders gain experience in planning, organizing and implementing in-depth service learning projects and have opportunities to complete personal development, professional development, and leadership workshops. As a result, they gain a better understanding of the world around them and their place in it as active global citizens.



*Kande Manson and Emily Denhard prepare meals at Central Kitchen.*



DC social work students have numerous opportunities during their college education to be involved in real-world experiences through local social service agencies. But, there is one activity that is probably the most rewarding in terms of lessons learned.

## Pay it FORWARD

**D**efiance's Social Work Macro Practice with Communities and Organizations course taught by Prof. Alesia Yakos-Brown, MSW/LISW, is a semester-long course that directly impacts community needs by awarding financial assistance.

Since 2008, the class has awarded more than \$14,500 to address needs of transportation, hunger, unemployment, youth mentorship and cultural understanding in northwest Ohio. With steps embedded in the curriculum, students conduct a five-county community assessment, prepare a request for grant proposals, send RFPs to approximately 50 non-profit social service agencies, and award grants to applicants that best address the identified community need.

In December, the class awarded two \$1,000 grants to area organizations to support their efforts to address hunger in northwest Ohio. The Temple of Praise Assembly of God in Defiance operates a multi-county food pantry. It served approximately 3,000 persons in 2013. The Open Hands Caring Hearts food pantry is part of the New Life Worship Center in Bryan. In 2013, it served 6,897 families.

"Being a part of this project allowed us to gain a deeper respect and understanding for what social service agencies experience on a regular basis," said social work senior Lindsay

Kasmer, Medina, Ohio. "Raising money on our own and then assessing the local communities forced us to choose which pressing need we thought we could impact the most. By raising the money, choosing a need, and then picking agencies to receive the funds, this experience was both educational and empowering, showing us that even our small class of college students could genuinely impact our community."

The project began in 2008 with funding through the Pay It Forward student-led philanthropy program led by Ohio and Kentucky Campus Compacts. Eventually, outside funding sources were depleted, but the DC professor and students believed so much in the project that it now raises its own funds through a number of events such as raffles, bake sales, and donation solicitation.

In December, the class met with representatives of the two winning proposals and presented their grants. According to Yakos-Brown, since 2008 a total of 69 social work students and eight social service agencies have benefited from the student-led philanthropy project.

The project provides opportunity for seniors in the program to demonstrate core competency skills toward the program's accreditation with the Council of Social Work Education.

# FINDING FAMILY

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## AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE

*Melina Alexander, Clio, Mich., graduated this spring with a degree in molecular biology. She wrote this column about her Defiance College experience as a guest columnist for The Crescent-News.*

**H**ow has Defiance College helped shape me into the person I am today? Before coming to DC I had a general view of a future that I hoped for myself. Now that I will be graduating from DC in just a couple short weeks, I have an achievable goal for my life. Defiance has been my home for the past few years, and in it I have found a DC family. While here I found passion in many activities - the Women's Soccer Team, the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity, the Carolyn M. Small Honors Program, Alpha Phi Omega, Student Athlete Advisory Council, and Orientation Leaders, to list a few.

I initially chose Defiance College because I had family close, and I wanted to continue my athletic career. I just couldn't stand the thought of giving up playing the sport I love. I was able to come on an overnight stay with the team, and I just felt that I belonged. I loved the small school atmosphere and felt I was a part of the DC community before I had even made my decision. In that night, coincidentally, I met my teammate and roommate of four years, Lindsay Bubnick, and we decided together that we would take on the next four years of our life together at DC.

The beauty of Division III athletics is being not only a student-athlete but more; schooling being our first priority and being able to be involved in many other activities beyond our sport. I was introduced to the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) my freshman year by a senior on our soccer team. SAAC enables students to strive to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity for all student-

athletes and fostering a positive student-athlete image. Through SAAC, we provided many experiences for athletes from Champs Night, where all of our athletic teams compete against each other in small-scale obstacle courses and fun events, to putting on the first-ever Unified Bowling Championship event in HCAC history in collaboration with Special Olympics Indiana.

I was drawn to the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity by a close friend my freshman year, and in the next three years I became a part of it, and it became a part of me. I love the research I did, the people I met, and the amazing opportunities I was provided through such a beautiful program. Not to mention, I figured if I could survive research and living in the jungle for two weeks, I could accomplish anything, right?

As I mentioned before, DC has a family atmosphere to it, bringing people together and keeping them close. It isn't just my roommates, my friends and my teammates that I have grown to cherish, but the faculty and staff, the coaches, and classmates. We have all grown together in the past four years, and I wouldn't have wanted to have these experiences with any other group of people. I will cherish all of my memories of DC from community-based research in the country of Belize, to spending weekend afternoons and evenings at sporting events with my friends and peers, to sitting in the Tenzer computer lab complaining about tests with my fellow Molecular Biology majors.

When thinking about all the experiences I have had it is hard to chalk it up to saying "I will miss it here at DC." To say that I will miss Defiance College is an understatement. I am beyond thankful for all of the experiences I have had in these four years and for the person I have grown to become by being allowed to be a part of the DC community and family.



*DC has a family atmosphere to it, bringing people together and keeping them close. It isn't just my roommates, my friends and my teammates that I have grown to cherish, but the faculty and staff, the coaches, and classmates.*

President Mark C. Gordon recently stepped down as Defiance College's 18<sup>th</sup> president to accept a position as President and Dean at William Mitchell College of Law in Minnesota.

“I have absolutely adored my time as president at Defiance College,” said President Gordon, “and it was a very difficult decision for me to even contemplate taking another position. However, the two jobs I have loved most in my career have been president and dean. This enables me to be both at the same time, and there are fewer than two dozen such positions in the country, so you can imagine how intrigued I was when I was recruited for this opportunity. In addition, the proposed merger of Mitchell with Hamline University School of Law gives me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with faculty, staff, and students to create a new law school: Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

“I could not be prouder of all that we have accomplished working together at Defiance College since I started as president in 2009. I want to publicly thank the trustees, faculty, coaches, staff, students, and alumni all of whom are so committed to this wonderful college and who played such an important role in the progress of these past six years. I will also always appreciate the warm welcome that the entire Defiance community has given me and my family.”

Edd Buhl, Chairman of the college's Board of Trustees, said, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire Defiance College community, I want to thank Mark Gordon for his dedication, commitment, and hard work on behalf of DC. Mark's many accomplishments are a testament to the tremendous service he has provided to Defiance. Thanks to his creative and visionary leadership, we are now a stronger and better college with an even brighter future.”

President Gordon stated that he has led the College during a period of significant change and progress, including achievements such as the construction of the George M. Smart Athletic Center; the reintroduction and growth

of the Music program; the creation of Project 701 (a separately legally-incorporated student-run non-profit); successful completion of the \$26 million capital campaign for the College; the introduction of the Imagine Initiatives to give students international and domestic travel opportunities; starting the DC lacrosse, swimming, wrestling, and marching band programs; the development and introduction of a new Core Curriculum; the creation of the Defiance College Partnership for Jobs; numerous infrastructure improvements (including installation of Smart Boards and new technology in the classrooms, renovations to McReynolds Hall, turf, new bleachers in the Weaner Center, redone Dix tennis courts, energy efficiency investments, etc.); increased diversity on campus; creation of numerous hands-on experiences to link the classroom and the real world (such as the Cold Case Initiative, the Business Advantage program, enhanced collaboration with Defiance City Schools, etc.); significant expansion in support services for students (including tutoring, counseling, bridge program, peer mentoring, etc.); creation of the new ASD Affinity Program for college students with autism, and much more.

During President Gordon's tenure, the College has also improved its financial position, decreasing its long-term outstanding debt by more than 30 percent while significantly increasing the number of students attracted to DC from all around the country. President Gordon has also been known for his close mentoring relationships with students and for welcoming students to the President's House for study tables, movie nights, dinners, ice cream, and ping-pong games.

Wayne Kelly, a junior from Fort Wayne, Ind., said President Gordon treated him like family since the first time they met. “We probably talk one or more times a week. I usually go over to his house every week just to talk with him and his family,” said the business administration major. “He is one of the most engaged people I've ever been around. He truly cares. If I bring up something at his house, he will remember and ask me about it the next time I see him.”

“I could not be prouder of all that we have accomplished working together at Defiance College since I started as president in 2009.”





Junior Mariah Brown from Paxton, Ill., said President Gordon helped her through some difficult times in college and gave her a home away from home. “Every time I went over to his house, he helped me move one step closer to graduating, whether it was through study tables he invited me to, or providing someone I was able to go to whenever I needed anything.”

Students relate that President Gordon often played a role in easing parents’ concerns about college and made their transition to campus life much easier. Two students from Jamaica, Toni-Ann Boyd and Melissa Russell, recalled that he made an impact on their parents. “My mom loved that he seemed so normal, and she could be secure in letting me go to another country to study. He reassured her,” said Toni-Ann.

Melissa recalled meeting President Gordon as he was on a service trip to her country. “I met him wearing tennis shoes and a t-shirt; he had been working at a local school. We sat there and talked and asked questions, and I felt comfortable. He said, ‘We need you at Defiance.’ ... He’s been one of those people who made me feel that he wanted me here at Defiance. He told my mom, ‘I’m going to take good care of your daughter.’ She’s always appreciated that.”

Alexis Walker, a sophomore from Fort Myers, Fla., said her parents shared a similar sentiment, feeling their daughter would be in good hands. “I’ll never forget, the day after Christmas break last year we were snowed in.



*A not-uncommon sight at the President’s home – students’ shoes in the entry hall when visiting for study tables, dinners, movie nights or playing ping pong.*



I heard a knock at my door, and President Gordon was standing there with a plate of cookies. He stopped by students' doors with cookies. That was pretty awesome."

Alexis, like many other students, became better acquainted with the President while on College-sponsored trips. Sophomore Kenny Miller had the opportunity to go on a recent McMaster School exploratory trip to Panama and Nicaragua. "While on this trip, I had the chance to really get to know President Gordon. We both learned about each other's backgrounds, and we learned quite a bit about each other's morals and ethics.

"I found out that Defiance was lucky enough to have a president who really cared about the students, their families, and he genuinely cared about each student's success as if they were his own children."

Freshman Sonya Slone took part in a New York City trip led by President Gordon. She recalled that she didn't have enough money to eat lunch, so he took her to Subway where they ate and talked. "When my aunt was sick, I was pretty down, and I went to him, and he gave me words of encouragement," she said. "I'll always appreciate his guidance. He's had a big impact on me. It makes a better college environment when the president is more involved with students."

The Gordons have always had an open door for students to the President's home during their six years in Defiance. "We have always met at least once a week since my freshman year," said sophomore John Seeley. "We just kicked back and talked about what's going on in life and how to handle certain situations."

"With all my visits there, he has offered me some great advice about things that have occurred in my life," said sophomore Zach Kasper. "All in all, he is just a very caring person who wants not only me, but all DC students, to perform at the best of their ability."

"As cliché as it may sound, for the last four years of my life President Gordon has been there for me in the worst of times and in the best of times. I can remember struggling with the death of a friend in my freshman year, and in that dark moment President Gordon was there with two bowls of high quality ice cream. On the other hand, just earlier this week when I found out that I'd been accepted to Harvard Divinity School, it was President Gordon who took me to Cold Stone and also bought me congratulatory ice cream cake that we shared as we discussed the incredible blessing that I had received. Over the years President Gordon has been an adviser, a mentor, a teacher, and eventually it has become clear that he has also been a friend. Nothing testifies to this truth better than the fact that as we both move away from Defiance College, we will remain in touch and continue the hundreds of conversations we've had on an incredibly wide array of topics from God to preference of music. President Gordon has helped to challenge me and provoke me to grow and has been an integral part of my college experience at Defiance."

PHILIP BALLA '15

# DEFIANCE COMMUNITY

President Gordon's reach extended beyond the campus in his interactions with DC alumni and friends of the College and with members of the community.

Defiance Mayor Robert Armstrong described "a great working relationship" with the College, having partnered with President Gordon on several projects – from providing an outdoor ice skating rink for DC students and the community to facilitating the transfer of the former Defiance County Senior Center from the city to DC.

"President Gordon will be missed," Armstrong said. "His interest in promoting the City of Defiance was evident during his tenure at Defiance College, and for this, we are very grateful."

The College shares an affiliation with the United Church of Christ, and St. John's congregation serves as the local church for the campus. Its pastor Rev. Bob Jencks became well-acquainted with President Gordon since arriving two-and-a-half years ago. They met periodically, often for lunch. In addition, Pastor Jencks invited President Gordon to join a group of Christian clergy for a theological discussion group, which President Gordon did on a regular basis.

Said Pastor Jencks, "One of the things that became clear to me in the midst of our luncheon conversations is his commitment to the students of the College. He enjoys spending time with them. That impresses me."

When President Gordon arrived in Defiance, the College had already instituted a plan to reintroduce the arts. One of the initiatives under way was the Defiance College Community Band directed by Dr. Vincent Polce. Dr. Polce passed away in 2011, but the DCCB continues and its concerts remain popular and well-attended.

Dr. Polce's wife, Donna, has become involved with the College and has appreciated the leadership President Gordon provided. "The excellent work and tireless efforts of Mark Gordon during his tenure as President of Defiance College warrant mention. ... As director of the DCCB, Vince loved working under the presidency of Mark Gordon. President Gordon always attended his concerts, showing support and appreciation to him personally. They had a lot of respect for each other's efforts. Both had a vision of making the world a better place by inspiring students to do their best."

The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity, created by Helen and the late Harold McMaster, celebrated its tenth anniversary in the midst of President Gordon's tenure. He demonstrated his commitment to the School first-hand by

participating for a year in the Belize learning community and taking part in two exploratory trips, first to Tanzania and most recently to Panama and Nicaragua.

Helen McMaster lauded President Gordon, saying "I think he did a wonderful job. He's really helped the College and certainly helped the McMaster projects too. I think he understands it. He's a very efficient man."

Former Board of Trustees chairman Zac Isaac noted that the McMaster program provides a unique experience for Defiance College students that is not available at most peer colleges. "Mark has done an outstanding job developing the McMaster School into a world-class experience for Defiance College students and faculty," he said.

President Gordon left his mark with Defiance alumni, from those who walked across the stage to receive their diploma from him, to those who met him during an alumni reunion or reception.

Matt Coons graduated in 2014, and he recalled that he frequently met President Gordon on campus. "He would stop and ask how my classes were coming along, and if I was still enjoying my major. He took a genuine interest in each and every student."

Other 2014 graduates, Jordan Heiliger and Adam Grillot, shared similar remembrances.

"It is obvious that President Gordon loves traveling with students, and seeing how they grow through the experience," said Jordan. "I had the opportunity to travel with him to





*Dignitaries including George Smart '67 and President Gordon cut the ribbon on the new George M. Smart Athletic Center in 2011.*

Tanzania, and it was fun to watch him attempt Swahili in order to break the ice in each village. He once told me that you have to be willing to make mistakes in order to help break down those cultural barriers, and that advice has stuck with me throughout my career.”

Adam recalled how President Gordon reached out and helped him following the death of his father. “He has assisted in my individual development, professional career outlook and networking, and provided inspiring perspectives that I hope I can pass on to others.

“It may be public knowledge of President Gordon’s traditions to play ping-pong, eat ice cream, and pass out his cell phone number to all students, but what everybody doesn’t know is the true passion that PG has for Defiance and the value of the relationships he has developed over the past few years.”

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Bryant Green, class of 2012, was a sophomore when President Gordon came to Defiance. “From the moment he arrived on campus, it was obvious that his objective was to provide the most practical, well-rounded, diverse and unique academic experience for every student,” Bryant said. “President Gordon had the foresight to understand that with the nationwide phenomenon that is the commodification of education, Defiance must evolve so that its students may be competitive in a dynamic and ever-changing job market.”

Tracy Smith, class of 1994, said of President Gordon: “The campus has been physically improved, and the quality of people working at DC is great. As a former student-athlete at DC, I saw many students come and go, but I didn’t see the quality of those people that I see now when I return to campus.”

Alumna Jan Craig, class of 1969, said she first encountered President Gordon’s “irrepressible enthusiasm for Defiance College” at an alumni board meeting. Echoing previous sentiments, she said, “It was clear to me from the outset that he had bold plans to stimulate growth and introduce new programs as well as supporting and furthering ones in planning or in place, to help build on the timely educational opportunities for DC students and develop their integration skills with the rest of the world.”

She said, “I’ve never been prouder to be a DC alum than in these past few years. Many outstanding individuals have kept DC alive and made her what she is today. In my opinion, Mark Gordon takes his place among them.”

Alumnus and TKE Terry Haydinger returns to campus frequently for homecoming and reunions, and has taken note of not only the physical campus but how President Gordon managed his presidency, calling him “always visible, always enthusiastic, always helpful.” He said the College is better today than when President Gordon first arrived. As a TKE, Haydinger



said he will miss the President's "pep talk" at their reunion dinners.

Bill and Linda Bonham, class of 1969, consider Defiance College fortunate to have President Gordon's leadership. They recalled the influence of individuals like Gerry Mallott and Dr. Dosa Carlson, and said that President Gordon "reignited the passion and commitment of the alumni," as well as influencing the student body, parents and community at-large. Describing his accomplishments as planted seeds that will bring forth fruit years from now, "those of us who are still around will say Mark Gordon and his family are responsible for they first challenged us to a higher level of education, commitment and dedication," they wrote.

Professor Emeritus Randy Buchman touched decades of students-turned-alumni through his years as a faculty member, coach and development professional. "As one who has served under six of our 18 presidents, I feel Mark Gordon has left his mark on DC," he said. "His inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm in his tasks will long be remembered. His deep compassion for the students of DC has enhanced the variety of extracurricular activities to supplement the DC experience, i.e., lacrosse, swimming, marching band, and most of all, the expansion of domestic and international travel.

"The completion of DC's largest capital campaign was achieved under his leadership. His six years with DC have made an impact, and I wish him well as he starts his new endeavors."

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*Students visiting the President's house always received a warm welcome from President Gordon, his wife, Anne, and Foxy the poodle. Below, President Gordon with the men's basketball team on a service trip to Jamaica in 2011.*



# RECOGNIZING

## Faculty, Staff and Students

**AMY DREES**, assistant professor of arts and humanities, was awarded this year's Dr. Richard W. Stroede Distinguished Faculty Citation. Professor Drees has been with Defiance College since August 2000, during which time she has served the college in a myriad of ways. Examples include behind-the-scenes work on Defiance College's Progeny publication, collaboration with colleagues in the development of the Design major, serving on the Faculty Handbook Reconceptualization Task Force, and participating on various committees.

Additionally, her inclination to serve has extended to the larger community where she has participated in several projects, including an initiative she created in Project 701 for students to provide valuable graphic design services to local and regional businesses and an undertaking to digitize death records for the City of Defiance.

Professor Drees has served as area chair for Death Studies for the Midwestern Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. She is an active member, performing panel presentations at their annual conference, as well as at the Town and Gown lecture series of Defiance.

Colleagues recognize the positive dedication that causes Professor Drees' work to shine, commenting that she "leads by example," willingly working with students on projects into evening and weekend hours. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree in English language and literature from Case Western Reserve University, and will receive her Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University in December 2015.

**DR. DOUG KANE**, associate professor of biology, represented Defiance College as researcher for a project convened by

the Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor to offer recommendations on how to invest and utilize funds in addressing water quality and algal bloom toxicity in the state of Ohio. The OBR dedicated \$2 million in research funds and assembled more than 60 university researchers to work on the project. Also engaged were the directors of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Department of Health.

In a January issue of the Sandusky Register, Dr. Kane was featured in an article about algal blooms in Sandusky Bay in which he is described as one of a team of "top algal bloom experts." He was also mentioned in a February article of the (Bowling Green) Sentinel-Tribune on the OBR-funded \$250,000 project, "Harmful Algal Bloom Detection, Mapping and Warning Network: Sandusky Bay." The project goal is to protect the Sandusky city water supply, beginning with the goal of providing early warning of toxic outbreaks to area water plant managers to allow for a quick response to the situation. The long term goals of the project include gaining an understanding of algal blooms and why near-shore environments foster the toxins that cause water to be unsafe to drink.

The Upper Maumee Watershed (UMW) Partnership invited Dr. Kane to give a presentation for its management plan implementation conference held at Indiana Tech Law School in Fort Wayne on Jan. 24. His talk was titled "Fort to Port (and Beyond): Water Quality and What We Can Do to Improve It." The mission of the UMW Partnership is to protect and restore the Upper Maumee River Watershed via planning and implementation of best management practices with the goal of improving local and regional water quality, increasing habitat quality, promoting sustainable land use practices and providing recreational opportunities

that improve the ecological health of the region.

Summer has also been busy for Dr. Kane. He recently finished his year as President of the International Association for Great Lakes Research at the *58th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research* in Burlington, Vermont and presented a talk titled "Ten Years Gone: Continued Degradation of Plankton Communities in Lakes Erie and Ontario in May. Further, he presented "All In: Nutrients Exported from the Maumee River Watershed Drive Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie" at the 2015 *Land to Lake* meeting held at Defiance College on June 11. Finally, Dr. Kane was interviewed for a 13 ABC News Toledo segment titled "Mayflies are back: 'They're a sign of a healthy Lake Erie" broadcast on June 19.

**DR. SOMNATH DUTTA**, associate professor of chemistry, serves as the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) Coordinator for the Toledo Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). ACS is the largest scientific organization in the world and organizes the USNCO program as an annual event. The identification of the four-member U.S. national team begins at the local school system level. It is the responsibility of the ACS Toledo section coordinator (Dr. Dutta) to nominate students from this area to take the national examination. This year, 39 high school students (five from Anthony Wayne and 32 from Tiffin Columbian) participated at the local exam level. Two students were selected from each school to participate at the second phase, the national exam, which was held at Defiance College on April 19.

The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the U.S. and to provide recognition for outstanding young

## BUHL NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT



The Defiance College Board of Trustees has appointed Edward R. Buhl as interim president effective July 1, 2015.

Buhl's appointment follows the resignation of DC's 18th president, Mark C. Gordon, who accepted a position as president and dean at William Mitchell College of Law in Minnesota. Buhl has served as chairman of the Defiance

College Board of Trustees since July 2014. He will return to that position once a permanent president is hired.

On his new role, Buhl stated, "I have long admired the values found on campus and achievements made by students, faculty, and staff. A lot of heart is noticeable in the people here and in their actions. We are a college of small size with many big accomplishments, and I am honored to have been given this opportunity to serve Defiance College as interim president."

Buhl is a 1973 DC graduate and has been a member of its Board of Trustees for approximately 20 years, having served on numerous committees before becoming chairman. Following graduation from DC, he began a 41-and-a-half year career at Central Mutual Insurance Company, Van Wert. When he retired in 2014, he was senior vice president and secretary.

"I know that the day-to-day operations of Defiance College will be in excellent hands under Edd's leadership," said George M. Smart, interim chairman of the Board of Trustees. "As an alumnus and a long-time trustee, he not only has a great love for Defiance College but a considerable understanding of its past and present with an eye on the future. Everyone on campus will be well-served by his professional leadership skills through this transitional period while we look to hire a new president."

Buhl remains a member of the Board of Directors for Central Mutual, All America Insurance Companies, and the Van Wert Federal Savings and Loan. He is also a member of the Society of CPCU, past president of the United Way of Van Wert County, and a past president of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce.

He resides in Van Wert with his wife, Tavie. They are the parents of two sons, Brett and Blake. Brett and wife, Ashley, have a daughter, Kennedy.

chemistry students, teachers, and schools. Students meeting the standards of the national exam are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO). For the past 20 years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. Last year members of the U.S. team earned one gold and three silver medals. The 2015 IChO will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, July 20-29. For more information visit [acs.org/olympiad](http://acs.org/olympiad).

**ALEX HAUSER**, instruction librarian at the Pilgrim Library, was recognized as an Emerging Leader in the library field and featured in the March-April edition of *American Libraries*. Only 50 librarians from across the United States were selected to participate in the program by the American Library Association. Alex will be presenting at the ALA's annual conference in San Francisco this June.

**MIA CINELLI** was featured in several national media outlets and design blogs for her creation of a weighted blanket with arms and hands that can provide comfort for those dealing with grief after losing a loved one. The innovative design received positive reader feedback in places such as *People* magazine. She is assistant professor of art and design and director of the Women's Commission Art Gallery.

**DR. TIM RICKABAUGH** had a manuscript accepted for publication in *The Journal of Sport*. The article is titled, "Culturally Insensitive Athletic Mascots: Do Undergraduate Exercise Science Students Care? Co-author is Eric Rickabaugh, owner of Rickabaugh Graphics, Inc. Tim is currently interim provost, and he is also a professor of exercise science.

**DR. TODD COMER**, professor of English, published the book "What Comes After Occupy? The Regional Politics of Resistance" (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015). Comer's edited volume addresses the Occupy groups that were created beyond Occupy Wall Street, with 13 essays critically addressing the politics of occupation in places such as Indiana, Oregon, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Montana, and California.

Dr. Comer also presented two papers in the last year, one on "Peter Weir's Ecological Politics: Two Feints, One Palpable Hit" (at the Midwest Popular Culture Association's annual conference) and one on "The Disabled Hero: The Ethics of the Wound in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings*" (at the Popular Culture Association's annual conference).

# graduation

## IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR

*219 graduates were awarded diplomas during commencement on Sunday, May 3*



Later this summer, 2015 DC graduate **Philip Balla** will begin his graduate studies at Harvard Divinity School. Balla, a ministry studies major, received a full tuition scholarship with \$10,000 stipend, renewable annually.

The HDS Ministry Fellowship is the highest distinction offered to any incoming freshman divinity student.

Balla was thrilled earlier this spring when he received word of the Harvard fellowship. "I always had an inclination to go someplace special for seminary," he said. "The best place I could. This is where the cutting edge is, so I want to be part of that."

He visited the campus after receiving word of his acceptance. "The place is beautiful. Not to mention, the libraries are fantastic. ... a golden ticket for theology."

He plans to explore many of the opportunities offered at Harvard and envisions a future that involves multiple fields, from academics to theology to the nonprofit sector.

Balla credits his Defiance College experience with acceptance into HDS. "In four years here, I've matured in so many ways. I'm a whole different person. I've seen the world. I did real research on the ground in Cambodia. Frankly, I don't think I would have gotten into Harvard without the impressive experience I've had at Defiance. Plus, my degree in ministry studies is a huge advantage. I've already been in churches doing academic work through internships."

He will head to Cambridge in late August for orientation, with classes starting Sept. 2.

Balla is the son of Bill and Karen Balla from Rossford, Ohio.







# YELLOW JACKETS

## ATHLETICS UPDATE

**THE 2014-15 WINTER SEASON** was a huge success for the Defiance College men's basketball team. The Yellow Jackets finished with a 19-6 overall record and captured both the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships. It marked the second-straight regular season title for DC and the program's third tournament championship since joining the HCAC. The Jackets advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament, knocking out returning national champion Wisconsin/Whitewater.

Four members of the team were selected to the All-HCAC teams and highlighting the list of postseason accolades was senior Bernard Edwards. Edwards ended his career as a National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-American and All-District player. He was also tabbed D3hoops.com All-Region, first-team All-HCAC, was the HCAC Most Valuable Player and the HCAC Tournament MVP. Edwards became the 47th player in program history to score 1,000 career points and had 1,224 total points placing him 25th on the all-time scoring list.

Edwards was not the only player to reach the 1,000-point plateau this season. Senior guard Mason Roth also accomplished the feat by scoring 25 points in a 97-58 win against Transylvania (Ky.) University on Valentine's Day to become the 48th player to join the elite list. Roth helped make up the Yellow Jacket "Big Three" scoring in double figures in 18 games, including five games of 20 or more points. Roth capped his season garnering second-team All-HCAC accolades.

Rounding out DC's "Big Three" was senior Travis Schomaeker. Schomaeker's success not only came on the basketball court this season, but also in the classroom as he was named a Capital One Academic All-American and first-team Academic All-District. On the court, he was a D3hoops.com All-Region player in addition to being a first-team All-HCAC selection. All of these accomplishments on and off the court translated to him becoming a finalist for the prestigious Josten's Trophy which is a national award created by the Rotary Club of Salem, Va., to honor the most outstanding men's and women's NCAA Division III basketball players of the year. The award takes into account three vital parts: basketball ability, academic prowess and community service.

On the women's side, sophomore forward Kelsey Tietje (Deshler/Patrick Henry) continued her standout play earning first-team All-HCAC honors for the second-straight season. She was first in rebounds per game (12.8), total rebounds (320), defensive rebounds (240), and free-throws made (176), second in points per game (19.4), blocks (54), and offensive rebounds (80), third in field goals made (155), fifth in field goal percentage (49.1%), and ninth in free-throw percentage (79.3%). Tietje secured a double-double in 20 games this season and scored in double figures in all but one game on the year.

The winter sport success by Defiance also spilled over on to the track as Yellow Jacket freshman Darius Spinks showcased his talent during the indoor season. Spinks set several school records during the season and went on to win the HCAC title in the 60-meter dash. He was named All-HCAC and the Most Outstanding Freshman Athlete. Spinks qualified for the NCAA Division III National Meet in two events, the 60-meter dash and the long jump. He finished fourth in the long jump to earn USTFCCCA All-American honors becoming the first Defiance athlete to earn the honor as a freshman during the indoor season.



SPINKS



TIETJE



EDWARDS

**THE 2015 SPRING ATHLETIC SEASON** saw its share of HCAC Champions and all-conference performers. Highlighting the season was the individual efforts of freshman Hannah Williams (Swanton), junior Eme Miler (Portland, Ind./Jay County) and freshman Darius Spinks. Williams capped off her first season by winning the women's discus at the HCAC Outdoor Championships. She posted a distance of 125' 6.00" on her final attempt to take home the title. Miller captured the conference title in the 3,000-meter steeple chase for the second consecutive year after recording a time of 11:44.86. Spinks took top honors in the 200-meter dash at the conference outdoor championships with a time of 21.92 seconds and finished as runner-up in the 100-meter dash with a mark of 10.96 seconds. He continued his impressive performance with a third-place showing in the long jump with a leap of 21' 10.75".

The Yellow Jacket outdoor track and field teams had a total of six athletes named All-HCAC, including Williams, Miller and Spinks. Spinks was also named the HCAC Freshman of the Year for the outdoor season adding to his "Freshman of the Year" honor during the indoor season. Sophomore Jacob Rindler (St. Henry), freshman Aaron Schwarzbek (Sherwood/Fairview) and senior Jacob Rodriguez (Ligonier, Ind./West Noble) were tabbed second-team All-HCAC. In addition, junior Jessie Bell (West Salem/Northwestern) and freshman Diego Sanchez (Kissimmee, Fla./Celebration) were selected to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

The men's tennis team reached the HCAC Tournament for the third straight season after posting a 10-8 overall record and 5-3 against conference opponents, including a 5-4 win against Transylvania (Ky.) University which was the team's first victory against the Pioneers since joining the HCAC. The Yellow Jackets had four players end the season with 10 or more victories in seniors Ryan Nelson (Oregon/Clay), Justin Walker (Wilson, N.C./Hunt), sophomore James Demeo (Oregon/Clay) and freshman Adam Swisher (Bedford, Mich./Bedford). Also playing a big role in the team's success was senior Mike Ross (Bryan) and sophomore Tory Savage (Bryan). Five players went on to be recognized by the HCAC as all-conference award winners. Ross and Demeo were named All-HCAC, while Nelson and Walker were selected honorable mention. In addition, Swisher was named to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Taking a step forward this spring was the Yellow Jacket baseball team who finished the season with a 15 victories, compared to nine victories in 2014, and had seven players named All-HCAC. Sophomore pitcher Dave Blanch (Alliston, Ont./Banting Memorial) and junior outfielder Ben Weber (Troy/Lehman Catholic) led the team as second-team All-HCAC selections. Blanch ranked second amongst HCAC pitchers in earned run average (2.50) and Weber was one of the top offensive players for the team with a .310 batting average. Joining Blanch and Weber on the All-HCAC squad were seniors Chris Donese (Kettering/Fairmont), Joel Musser (Center Line, Mich./Center Line) and juniors Garys Levengood (Beverly Hills, Fla./Lecanto) and Ryan Kohlhofer (Walbridge/Lake) as honorable mention picks. Junior Chris Douglas (Wixom, Mich./Walled Lake Western) was acknowledged as a selection to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Also making strides this season were the men's and women's lacrosse teams as well as the softball and men's golf teams. The Yellow Jacket men's and women's lacrosse teams completed their first seasons in the newly formed Ohio River Lacrosse Conference. The women had one player named to the All-ORLC Team in Jackie Burns (Rossford/Notre Dame Academy) as a second-team selection and the men also had a lone representative on the All-ORLC team as freshman Baily Weatherwax (Chelsea, Mich./Chelsea) garnered honorable mention accolades. Two members of the DC softball team capped their seasons with All-HCAC honors in sophomore Megan Warren (Mason) and freshman Sarah Kaya (Lorain/Clearview). Warren earned second-team accolades, while Kaya was a honorable mention pick.



# CLASS NOTES



**Delores Sloan Howell Lambert '60** celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in October riding the zip-line at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park with her son, two daughters and grandson. She says it was her idea, and it was great fun. Delores resides in Peoria, Ariz.



**Rev. Dr. John Terry '65** was recently recognized by the Hyannis, Mass., Red Cross at their 2015 Heroes Breakfast. John was presented with the Mrs. Grace Snow Community Service Hero Award because of his boundless energy, compassion and commitment to helping the homeless in the area. John is the senior minister

of the Federated Church in Hyannis. He regularly holds drives to help the homeless including an annual telethon and a monthly “give-away” of clothing and other supplies and toiletries. In December he holds a memorial service for all the homeless who have passed away that year, ensuring a proper send-off for the most vulnerable in the community. His passion for helping the at-risk is also on display with his church holding five Alcoholics Anonymous meetings a week. He also works with churches across the Cape to build programs and find solutions for the most vulnerable populations. John and his wife, Elise, reside in Centerville, Mass.

**John Ellis '67 and Karen (McComas) Ellis '67** visited with former DC professor Dr. M. Dosia Carlson this spring in Phoenix, Ariz., where Dr. Carlson makes her home at the UCC Beatitudes. Dosia placed John and Karen together in a field work assignment during their student years at DC, and the Ellises recently celebrated their 49th anniversary, thanks to that assignment.



They were pleased to learn that a community center at the Beatitudes bears Dosia's name, in honor of her years of good works. John and Karen are both retired and live in South Paris, Maine.

**Edd Buhl '73** was the 2015 recipient of the Ray Miller Award at the annual dinner and awards ceremony of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce. Buhl received the award in recognition of his strong commitment to the Van Wert community through volunteer work, participation through community organizations, and outstanding service to the community. In December, Edd retired from his position as senior vice president/secretary with Central Mutual Insurance, after 41 years with the company. He has served on the Defiance College Board of Trustees for many years and on July 1 became the College's interim president. He and his wife, Tavie, reside in Van Wert, Ohio.

**Daniel Baer '77** recently retired from his position as a school counselor at Napoleon High School. His retirement comes after 35 years of service to youth in Van Wert, Fostoria and Napoleon. Dan and his wife, Terri, reside in Napoleon, Ohio.

**Kevin Hardy '81** has had his second book, “Weaving the Light,” published. It is a collection of 36 new and previously published short stories, including “The Snake's Defense” which was his first story published in the Progeny. It is available through [albanlake.com](http://albanlake.com). Kevin resides in Bowling Green, Ohio.

**Sue (Francis) Barnes '82** is now entering her seventh year as training program coordinator for the Healthplus Brookside Way Half Marathon, 10K and 5K. Sue resides in Rochester Hills, Mich.



**Dr. Martin "Marty" Miller '86 and '93** has been named superintendent of the Antwerp (Ohio) Local School District. Miller comes to Antwerp from Ayersville where he was elementary principal and interim superintendent. He received his doctoral degree from Bowling Green State University in 2008. Marty and his wife, **Nancy (Wiseman) '90**, have four

children and reside in Defiance. Nancy is a seventh grade math and science teacher at Ayersville.



Second generation DC! May 3 was a proud day for **Rev. Brian Knoderer '87** and Ann Knoderer as they watched their daughter **Katherine (Katie) Knoderer '15** receive her Defiance College diploma. Katie earned her degree in social work. The Knoderers reside in Delphos, Ohio.

**Lt. Dave Mack '95** was recently named the 2015 Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year, an award presented by Ohio Attorney General Michael DeWine at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio's annual conference. Crisis Intervention Team is a special training program in which law enforcement officers are educated about mental illness and substance abuse, and learn skills to de-escalate crisis situations. Dave is a Napoleon, Ohio, police officer.



**David Ike '00** recently finished the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and received a Master of Military Art and Science degree. David was married to Deborah Wipf on Dec. 13, 2014, in Broken Arrow, Okla. Deborah is from Tulsa, and the two met through a mutual friend. David is currently serving a tour of duty as an operational planner for Resolute Support Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

**Jason Zumbaugh '00 and '09**, and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their son, Seth Jeffrey Zumbaugh, on Nov. 11, 2014. The Zumbaughs reside in Edgerton, Ohio, where Jason teaches fourth grade and coaches the Edgerton Bulldogs cross country and track teams.

**Meghan (Davis) Scheirer '01** has been chosen as Dispatcher of the Year for 2014 by the Van Wert Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She was honored in recognition of her outstanding service, including technical job knowledge and ability, enthusiastic work attitude, teamwork, and prompt and courteous response to the public's request for information and assistance. She joined the State Patrol in 2013 and is assigned to the Van Wert dispatch center. Meghan and her family reside in Defiance.



**Melissa (Dick) Cook '05** and her husband Adam welcomed a baby boy, Keaton, to their family on July 19, 2014. The Cooks reside in Clyde, Ohio. Melissa is the senior assistant director of admissions at Heidelberg University.

**Stacy (Sattler) Schimmoeller '05** and Matt Schimmoeller announce the birth of their daughter, Jocelyn Nidah, on June 2, 2014. The Schimmoellers reside in Findlay, Ohio. Stacy is the Ohio Department of Transportation District 2 Environmental Coordinator in Bowling Green, and Matt does content acquisition for Hoopla Digital in Holland, Ohio.



**Eric Tipton '06** and **Alicia (Allen) Tipton '07** announce the addition of a daughter named Brynnlee to their family. She was welcomed home by big brother, 2½ year old Landon. The Tiptons currently live in Defiance. Eric is a fourth grade teacher at Tinora Elementary School, and Alicia is an intervention specialist at Holgate Elementary School.

**Steve Brancheau '07** and **Katy (Tinker) Brancheau '09** announce the birth of their daughter, Nora Jane, on March 27, 2015. Nora was welcomed home by big brother Jaxton, age 2½. The Brancheaus reside in Montpelier, Ohio, where Katy and Steve are both employed at Montpelier High School.



**Dr. Austin Kleman '10** has been selected as an "emerging leader" to be Ohio's representative to the American Veterinary Medical Association's 2015 leadership conference in Chicago. Austin and his wife, Beth, reside in Bryan, Ohio, and he is employed at Fountain City Veterinary Hospital.



**Eric Stolly '10** and **Katie Feher '10** were married on June 21, 2014, in Oregon, Ohio. Many Defiance alumni and best friends were a huge part of their special day! Eric and Katie reside in New Albany, Ohio.



**Ricky Sherrer '11** and **Heather (Bradshaw) Sherrer '11** announce the birth of their son, Hayden, on Jan. 27, 2015. They currently live in Howell, Mich.

**Kate Busto '14** was married to Clint Jackson on March 5, 2015. Kate graduated Marine Corps Boot Camp on Feb. 27, and went on to training at Camp Geiger in North Carolina.

## DEATHS

**Mary (Peterson) Meyers '46**  
Nov. 14, 2014 -- Defiance, Ohio

**Norbert Weber '47**  
Nov. 19, 2014— Chicago, Ill.

**Lorraine Andrews '56**  
Feb. 24, 2015 – Defiance

**Barbara (Dickman) Hoffman '56**  
Jan. 17, 2015 -- Holgate, Ohio

**Jack R. Yarian '56**  
November 18, 2014 – Palm Harbor, Fla.

**Larry L. Rice '60**  
March 5, 2015 – Dayton, Ohio

**Bruce Moser '65**  
Oct. 24, 2014 – Palatine, Ill.

**Donald Ketner '65**  
Sept. 17, 2014 – Palmetto, Fla.

**David Gore '66**  
April 15, 2015 – King, North Carolina

**Eduardo Arellano '67**  
Nov. 18, 2014 -- Key Biscayne, Fla.

**Susan Novak Krueckeberg '67**  
May 11, 2015 – Centerville, Ohio

**Michael Tsourounis '69**  
July 10, 2015 -- New Market, Maryland

**Michael Lanker '71**  
Buffalo, Wyoming

**Rachel Ann (Donley) McCurdy '73**  
May 15, 2015 -- Sherwood, Ohio

**Charles Renn '77**  
Jan. 15, 2015 – Defiance, Ohio

**Howard Popowski '78**  
May 20, 2015 -- Columbus, Ohio

**Brian D. Evans '90**  
May 26, 2015 -- Hagerstown, Md.

**David Whetstone '92**  
March 9, 2015 – Napoleon, Ohio

## LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE FUTURE

A simple bequest written into your will can help ensure that a Defiance College education is accessible to future generations of young people. By working together, we can see that the opportunity to learn and grow, both in and out of the classroom, continues well beyond our lives.

You may leave a gift to the Defiance Fund, which is for immediate general support or create an endowment with a specific purpose, such as scholarship, faculty development or to sustain a favorite educational or co-curricular program. Some gifts can even return an income stream to you.

For more information, please visit our webpage: [dlegacy.org](http://dlegacy.org).

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

News: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail this form to:**  
Alumni Office,  
Defiance College,  
701 N. Clinton St.,  
Defiance, OH 43512,  
or email your news to:  
[alumni@defiance.edu](mailto:alumni@defiance.edu).

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# CHAMPIONS



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OCTOBER 23–24, 2015