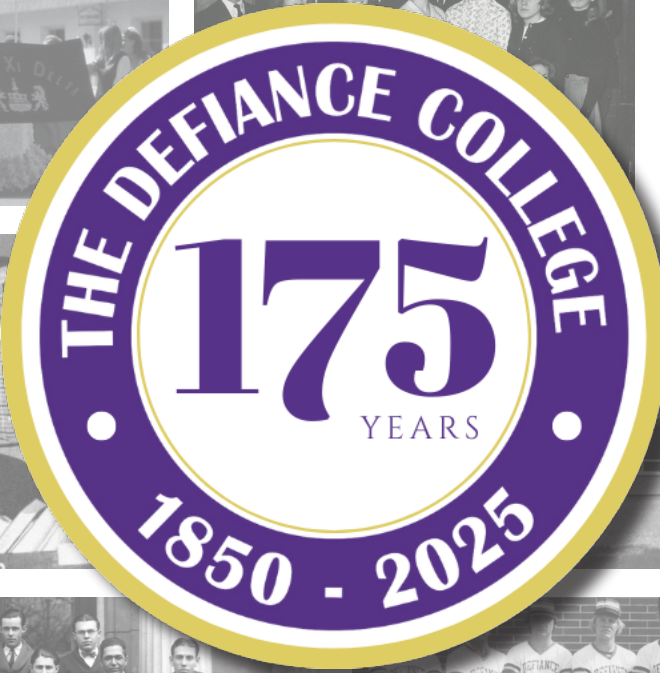
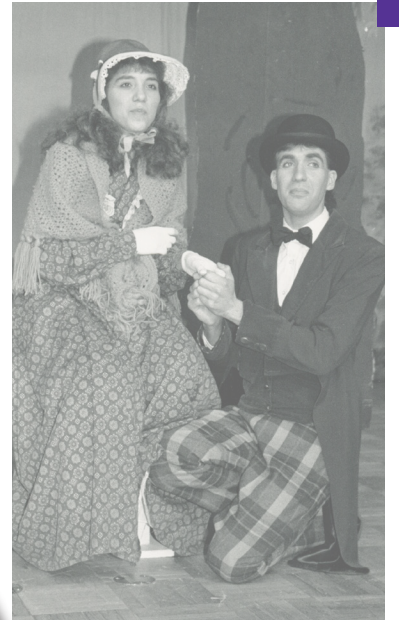


DEFIANCE

COLLEGE



Alumni Executive Board:

Dr. Austin Kleman ('10), President
Mark Getsay ('87), Vice President
Mary Marvel ('77), Past President
Da'Ja'Nay Askew ('19)
Mackenzie Foust ('18)
Will Garlock ('24)
Dr. Katelyn Haydett-Hilton ('16)
Makayla McAvoy ('16)
Chris Moninger ('01)
Bilal Muta ('08)
Dr. Ron Slinger ('91)
Adam Swisher ('18)
Nicole Tank ('16)

Alumni Varsity 'D' Board:

Mark Miller ('81), President
Dave Polzin ('71), Vice President
Penni Bostelman
S.G. Brugler ('68)
Joe Frank ('83)
Alicia Franks ('15)
Jim Gares ('91)
Tom Held ('85)
Anthony Jackson ('09)

Defiance College Board of Trustees:

Officers:

Dr. Robert L. Head III ('76), Chair
Barb Silvis ('72), Vice Chair
Michael Miller ('75), Treasurer
Edward Buhl ('73), Secretary

Trustees:

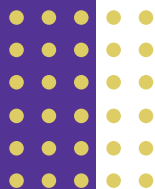
Joyce Anderson ('66)
Jeremy Ball ('04)
Randall Buchman II ('79)
David Fitzsimmons
Deb Hench
Don Hileman
Karl Ideman ('67)
Dr. Antonio Linares ('77)
Michael McCann
Margaret Mills ('67)
Robert Mills
Grant Phillips ('10, '12)
Dr. Holli Seabury ('97, '98)
Sonya Selhorst
James Wieber ('73)
Dr. Richanne C. Mankey, non-voting

Trustee Associate:

Pam Borton ('87)

Honorary Trustee:

John Weaner



President's Message



Defiance College has had a productive and successful year! We have “re-founded” the college by strengthening all aspects of the college including quality and culture. DC will celebrate its 175th anniversary during the 2025-26 academic year. From this point forward, we will continue to fortify the foundation for the next 175 years. *Our planning is important; our continuous, nimble efforts to strategically “re-found” the college are profound.*

I’m so proud of all of the work that has been done at the college this past academic year (2023-24). Here are just a few of the successes that have occurred:

- ◆ Fall 2024: Welcomed one of our largest and most academically prepared freshmen classes in the last several years
- ◆ Fall 2023: Launched our *DEFine Your Future* brand which included:
 - Rejoining the NAIA which was official on July 1, 2024
 - Reducing tuition to \$28,500, or roughly 25% which holds for Fall 2025 class
 - Introduced *DC Advantage* - a loan repayment assistance program
 - Established *The 1850 Promise* program starting in Fall 2024, allowing eligible students from a seven-county area to attend Defiance College debt-free
- ◆ Spring 2024: Established the Defiance College Academy, a unique program designed to prepare students for success in college and/or their career.
- ◆ Fall 2024: Balanced the budget with a small surplus of \$214,000 with plans for future balanced budgets.
- ◆ June 2024: Exceeded the 175th Anniversary Campaign goal of \$2 million by \$24,000
- ◆ 2023-24: Achieved the highest giving since 2006 and second largest giving year in DC history with a total of \$3.9 million raised. Thank you!
- ◆ 2023-24: Secured \$1.6 million in grant funding, allowing DC to exceed \$8 million in grant funds awarded since 2016.
- ◆ Received a \$1 million estate gift from Dr. Jane Sherman and her husband, the late Dr. Richard Sherman, to create two STEM scholarships in honor of Dr. Bernie Mikula and Dr. James Frey.

I look forward to seeing you at these 175th Anniversary Events:

March 22, 2025 Dinner Gala with keynote speaker former DC president Dr. James T. Harris III

March 23, 2025 Founder’s Day and the official celebration of our 175th Anniversary

Thank You for all of your support in making 2023-24 an incredible year and the 175th Anniversary year memorable.

Together!

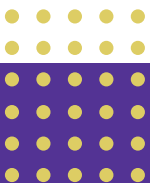
Dr. Richanne C. Mankey
President, Defiance College



Celebrating 175 Years of Defiance College

Defiance College has repeatedly demonstrated great expertise in transforming lives! Students and alums embrace the strong history of the college's past and continue to pave the way for continued excellence in the future.

By Mary Marvel '77



Defiance College began as a dream of community members who saw a need for a college in the growing community. That dream's first step to reality occurred on March 23, 1850 when the General Assembly of the State of Ohio granted a charter for The Defiance Female Seminary. The full realization of that dream took many years as the trustees worked to raise the money to actually start the college. They did so by selling 1,283 acres of canal lands in Paulding and Defiance counties that had been granted to them by the State of Ohio.

Early in 1875, the trustees had secured enough funds to buy nine acres of land north of the Maumee River from William Holgate for \$1,200. Still, it took until 1884 for the trustees to raise enough money to begin construction on the first building, the original Defiance Hall. By 1886, Defiance Hall was completed and opened. The college was sometimes referred to as Defiance Normal College. ("Normal" was the designation given to high schools and colleges that trained teachers in pedagogy and curriculum). Tuition was \$1 per week, and three types of curricula were offered: collegiate, commercial, and normal. The college attained its first group of nine alumni/ae in 1888 when the first class graduated.



First graduating class of Defiance College, 1888

The first ten years of the college saw five different presidents, variable enrollment, and financial struggle. In 1888, a wooden dormitory with two "privies" was built next to Defiance Hall. It was a two-story, twelve-room, co-ed dormitory. Women roomed on the first floor and men on the second. The balance of the student body commuted from the community. The students had study hours, grade records were open to all, and chapel attendance was required. Men had to have permission to call on women, and no intoxicating beverages were allowed. The faculty had grown to 13, and all of the administrators, the business manager, and the President of the college taught classes. However, by 1896, the college had little money and enrollment had declined to less than thirty students. Dr. John R. H. Latchaw was hired that year to be president of the college. His focus was on building a strong liberal arts base on the vocation-oriented curriculum. By 1900,

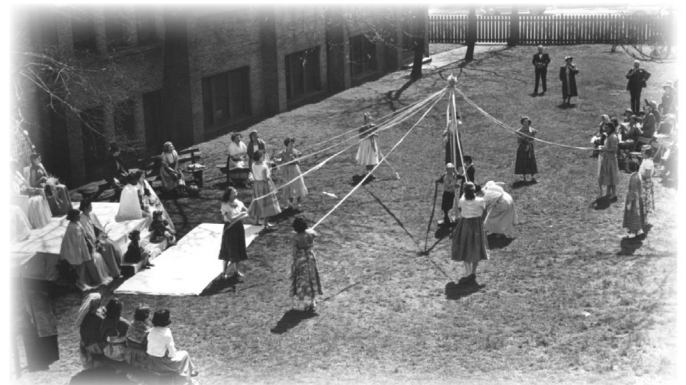
degrees were offered in philosophy, science, literature, the arts, commercial, and pedagogy.

Dr. Latchaw believed that the college needed to affiliate with a church to strengthen its mission and financial situation. As a result of Dr. Latchaw's efforts, the college affiliated with the Christian Church and the resident student body began to increase. By 1903, the Christian Church assumed the leadership of the board of trustees. This church had a large following in Southwestern Ohio which brought students to campus. Student activities increased as well, including the addition of YMCA and YWCA groups. Literary societies became active as the arts and sciences became more prevalent in the curriculum. Other extracurricular activities started at that time were intercollegiate athletics, including football, women's basketball, and men's track and field.

During the presidency of Dr. Peter McReynolds which began in 1903, enrollment grew, and the campus expanded with the addition of thirteen acres and seven new buildings. In 1907, the Christian Biblical Institute of Stanfordville, New York was brought to campus. This resulted in the expansion of the religion program and the creation of a divinity school. The change also brought many easterners to campus. Officially, the name of the college was changed to The Defiance College.

By the early 1920's four more sororities and fraternities arrived on campus. Clubs highlighting the parts of the country where students were from became popular such as: The New Yorkers, The Hoosier Club, and The Keystone Club. By World War I, The Defiance College was a focal part of the community. The college hosted May Day activities, theater performances, musical performances, and athletic events. The literary societies sponsored recitals, readings of poetry, and drama presentations. The local schools depended on The Defiance College to educate and supply them with teachers. The college was also used as an Army training center during World War I.

In the 1920's, the support of the Christian Church dwindled. The college lost its North Central accreditation in 1927 for not meeting the endowment requirements.



May Day celebration on campus, 1920

The stock market crash of 1929 forced the college to use endowment funds to keep operating. As the Great Depression gripped America, the enrollment vacillated between 90 and 250 students with fewer students living on campus. Faculty and administrators often received less than half of their contractual salary during this time. In 1931, the Christian Church and the Congregational Churches merged, and church leaders pressured the trustees to merge with Oberlin or Marietta Colleges, both of which had strong ties to the Congregational Church. The college leased space to a local dentist for his office, and there was serious consideration to the community's offer to purchase Trowbridge Hall and turn it into a hospital. But the trustees remained determined that the Defiance community needed its own college. During this time, campus activities and courses were cut, and athletes often drove themselves to away contests due to the financial constraints of the college. However, these struggles forged much stronger bonds between the faculty and the student body who were committed to the continuance and thriving of Defiance College.

At the end of the 1930s, there was a short-lived mild resurgence of students, especially from New England and Northeastern Ohio where Congregationalism was strong. The onset of World War II, however, caused a decline in males on campus due to the need for them to serve in the military. More positions were opened for females in secondary education which allowed the college to continue to develop their Department of Education, a hallmark at Defiance for the next forty years. During this time of national crisis in World War II, the college community bonded together to help each other and the community. College life included drives for the war effort and service to the needy. This dedication to the service of others is still a pinnacle of The Defiance College's history and legacy.



Defiance College Homecoming Game Program, November 6, 1937

Hundreds of veterans flocked to campus after the war to take advantage of the G.I. Bill to get their education. The influx allowed many programs that had been curtailed to be invigorated including athletics, fraternities, yearbook, campus dances, homecoming parades, choir, orchestra, and political party clubs. The G.I. Bill was responsible for a college education being available to a predominately white, male population in the U.S. Teacher education remained the dominant academic program but pre-professional programs with a strong arts and science base emerged. Temporary housing had to be obtained quickly which caused the Hickory Hut, Tin Town (barracks from a local prisoner of war camp), and the Sisson Hall Annex (a wooden classroom building) to be set up on campus.

As quickly as the enrollment had soared to 800 students, it began to rapidly decline when returning veterans graduated. Enrollment in 1950 was less than 100 students. The college facilities were in disrepair due to a lack of revenue. The college trustees sought the counsel of Dwight David Eisenhower who was then President of Columbia University. Kevin McCann, who was Eisenhower's administrative aide, asked President Eisenhower to recommend him for the presidency of Defiance College. Thus, Kevin McCann was named the thirteenth President of Defiance College.



Dwight D. Eisenhower and President McCann leaving to go to the Defiance College campus after his speech, October 15, 1953

President McCann was challenged with regaining financial stability for the college, updating and repairing buildings, and regaining North Central accreditation. DC saw increased enrollment from the eastern states and from western and Northwestern Ohio. Teaching was still the predominant major, but students were also seeking careers in social work, religious education, business, and pre-professional careers. Government programs of the 1950s such as the National Defense Education Act, student loans, and low tuition allowed Defiance to secure more first generation and minority students compared to other private church-affiliated colleges in Ohio.

In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Churches and the Congregational Christian Churches merged to form the United Church of Christ, and the college reaffirmed its church ties. The faculty unanimously supported the idea that Defiance's legacy of church affiliation continue. In 1967, the assets of Schauffler College of Cleveland and later, Oberlin, were transferred to Defiance College to help fund the social work and religious education programs. Through a rigorous process led by Dosia Carlson, the leadership of Schauffler chose Defiance because of its long tradition of service-oriented education and its affiliation with the United Church of Christ. The college granted permission for the local United Church of Christ to build a new church on campus. St. John United Church of Christ was completed in 1968 and remains an integral part of campus to this day.



The new Defiance Hall in 1968. It replaced the original Defiance Hall which had been destroyed by fire.

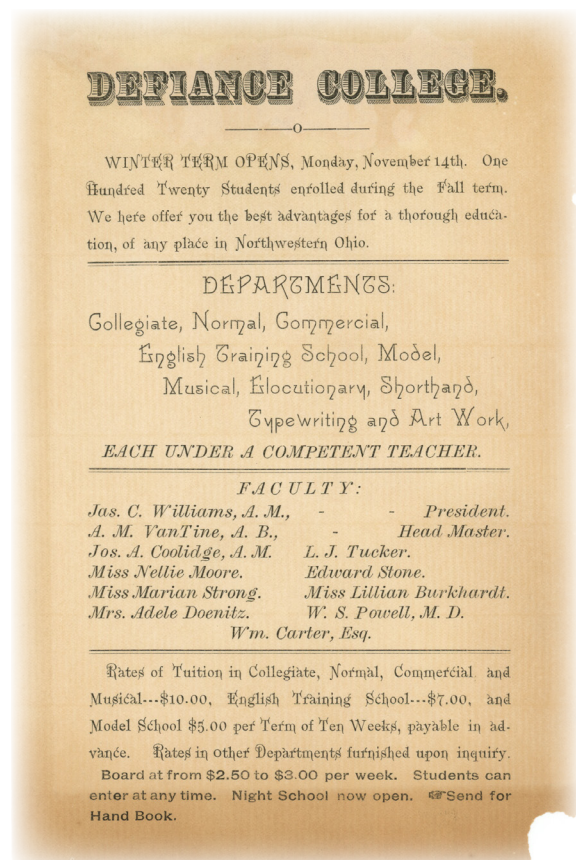
The financial stability and academic reputation of the college grew under McCann's leadership. Enrollment of the college in the early 1960s approached 1,000, and the college regained its North Central accreditation in 1961. Eight new buildings were added to the campus in the late 50s and early 60s including the new Defiance Hall and the Enders Student Union. Athletic facilities were relocated with the purchase of an additional 40 acres of land. The academic reputation of the college increased due to its nationally recognized forensic program, the innovative Winter Term, the Natural Systems program, and the Social Work and Religious Education program.

The Vietnam War drove enrollment to an all-time high at Defiance: 1,100 students in 1971. This was accompanied by student unrest over the war and civil rights. Students became campus leaders in response to these world and national concerns. Peace groups, the Black Action Student Association (BASA), and environmental groups were active on campus. Athletics, Greek life, and musical and dramatic performances were also prevalent on campus.

In the mid-70s, the academic programs of the college responded to community needs, under the leadership of

President Marvin Ludwig. The college explored the possibility of merging with a newly created community college in Northwest Ohio. Once again, it was felt that the Defiance community needed its own independent, church-related, liberal arts college and that DC would work cooperatively with the new community college. Co-op programs were created in business and social work. Programs in criminal justice, computer science, sports medicine, and sport management were added. Evening classes were offered and continued to expand.

By the early 1980s, the enrollment of the college had leveled out to between 700 and 800 students. Two major capital campaigns were undertaken to upgrade all aspects of the campus. Schauffler Hall was built to perpetuate the name of Schauffler College and to accommodate classes in social work, social sciences, and religious education. Tenzer Science Hall gained the Carma J. Rowe Annex, and a second gymnasium named the McMaster Center was built to accommodate the rising needs of students participating in sport medicine and sport management. The student body became less traditional with the increase in evening, part-time, and commuter students. Rising technology costs caused the college to focus efforts on programs in which it had excelled, cost-effective, and career-oriented programs. Student interest in theater and athletics remained, but music activities and Greek life declined. Computers and video games became a vital part of student life.



Defiance College winter term opens, 1887

The one month “Winter Term” in January which had been so popular with students in the 60s and 70s was eliminated due to declining interest, and the college’s calendar returned to the two-semester model in 1991. A Master’s program in Business Administration was also added as well as a Master’s in Education. In the early to mid-1990s, the new Pilgrim Library was built, Alumni Field stands were remodeled into the Justin F. Coressel Stadium, and a very successful Weekend College program also began. Under the leadership of President James Harris, the college continued its emphasis on service learning through the establishment of a Service Learning program. In addition, the college was named to the Templeton Foundation Honor Roll of Character-Building Colleges. The cornerstone for the beautiful new Serrick Campus Center was laid in 1999 after the Enders Student Union was severely damaged by fire. The two cornerstones say “Serve to Learn” and “Learn to Serve.”

The college celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2000. The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity was started in 2002 due to the generosity of Drs. Harold and Helen McMaster. Tenzer Hall and Schomburg Auditorium were renovated, and the George M. Smart Athletic Center was built and dedicated in 2011.



McMaster student Eric Dix and Professor Mary Ann Studer working on water sampling and quality in Belize in 2005/2006 school year.

The late 2000s and early 2010s were a difficult time for the college due in part to the national economic downturn that occurred in 2008. Dr. Richanne C. Mankey was selected by the board of trustees to be the 19th President of the college starting January 2016. Under her leadership, the college has improved significantly in financial strength, academic excellence, and enrollment despite the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

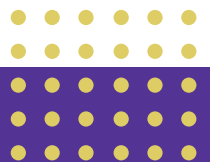


Students on campus, 2024

What is apparent throughout the history of the college is the tremendous effort and persistence of people who had the vision of Defiance College as a liberal arts-based institution with high academic standards, commitment to preparing students for success in their careers, a strong belief in embracing and celebrating each student’s uniqueness, and the goal of instilling in students the desire to serve others and to make a difference. A preponderance of students and staff who have passed through the halls of the college have experienced the special atmosphere and community of the college. Many will also say that their time at Defiance not only prepared them well for their careers but also changed them as people for the better. Defiance College has repeatedly demonstrated great expertise in transforming lives. Students and alumni/ae embrace the strong history of the college’s past and continue to pave the way for continued excellence in the future. ◆



Students working on a community project



Defiance College Academy

The Defiance College Academy (DCA) is a newly established program formed through a strategic partnership with OhioMeansJobs. The initiative aims to address the talent drain exacerbated by COVID-19 and broader disruptions in the educational pipeline. A recent Ohio-based study revealed that one in six adults aged 18 to 22 is neither enrolled in college nor engaged in the workforce. Compounding this challenge, 40 prospective students applied to Defiance College for the fall 2023 term but were denied admission due to inadequate high school academic performance. Additionally, post-pandemic data from ACT and other academic benchmarks indicate significant declines in high school academic achievement across Ohio. These factors collectively pose substantial challenges for Ohio's workforce and broader economic future. The unrealized potential of these students underscores the importance of this pilot program, which seeks to unlock their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the economy while also benefiting from the personal and professional growth associated with post-secondary education.

High school graduates who are not admitted into traditional college programs due to low high school GPAs, uncertainty about higher education, or financial constraints are actively recruited to participate in a 16-week, non-degree-seeking program at Defiance College.

Program goals include: 1. Cultivate academic skills essential for success in college or career pathways. 2. Foster academic confidence to facilitate educational success. 3. Develop clarity regarding future plans, whether college- or career-oriented. 4. Provide students with an authentic residential college experience.

By the program's conclusion, participants will: 1. Establish foundational skills in quantitative reasoning, writing, and research to support academic and career aspirations. Success is defined as achieving a grade of "C" or higher in graded coursework. 2. Transition to higher education, initiate a professional career, or enlist in the military. 3. Clearly articulate future plans focused on career or college aspirations. 4. Conduct a self-assessment of their sense of belonging, efficacy, and likelihood of success within a traditional college or vocational setting.

The program's first year results show 66% of the students who completed Fall 2024 in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.6 or a B-. These results underscore the significant potential of the Defiance College Academy in transforming the educational and career trajectories of underprepared students, thereby contributing to the broader workforce and economic development in Ohio and beyond. ♦



2024 Defiance College Homecoming

All Roads Lead Back to Yellow Jacket Country

By John Trautman '72 Senior Advisor to the President for Institutional Advancement

Defiance College's 2024 Homecoming, held on October 3–5, brought together nearly 400 alumni/ae, family, and friends for a weekend filled with celebration, nostalgia, and connection. The event introduced new traditions while honoring long-standing ones, creating a vibrant and memorable experience.

The festivities began on Thursday with the Jan J. Younger Colloquium, featuring Joe Mathews, a member of the Defiance College Class of 1974. His thought-provoking presentation, titled "*Student Athletes: Are they an endangered species or essential for the future of small colleges in America?*" set the tone for an engaging weekend.

Friday evening's tailgate party, hosted for the second consecutive year under "The Big Tent on Webster," proved to be a resounding success. This cherished gathering spot will continue as a Homecoming staple in 2025. The event facilitated reunions and celebrations, including the 2013-14 Volleyball HCAC Conference Championship Team, the 2004 Softball HCAC Conference Championship Team, the Class of 1974 Reunion, Craig Rutter & friends, Ben Davis & friends, TKE Reunion, Residence Life Alumni/ae, and Speech & Debate Alumni/ae.

Saturday's activities began with the combined Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards Breakfast, highlighted by the historic retirement of Ben Davis's football jersey (#48). Davis, a 1967 graduate, led the Yellow Jackets to an undefeated season (9–0) during his senior year and earned the title of Little All-American. His impressive post-collegiate career included ten seasons with the Cleveland Browns and three with the Detroit Lions, cementing his legacy as one of DC's all-time greats.

The 2024 Hall of Fame inductees included Anthony Pettaway ('09), Fran Wahrman ('90), Kirk Seemann ('90), Terence Seikel ('79), Emili McCluer ('97), and Craig Rutter. The event also recognized recipients of the Coach of the Year Award: Adam Hall ('14), Tim Held ('96), Joe Frank ('83), Jerry Keifer ('88), Matt King ('98), Eric Sprague ('05), and Mike Weaver ('98). Honored alumni/ae were Harvey Hyman ('16), Emerging Alumni Award; Amanda

Misencik ('07), Alumni Achievement Award; Kim Shepherd Ford ('89), Alumni Achievement Award; Rebecca Sanford ('04), Schaufler Legacy Award; and Rev. Jan Bechtel, Schaufler Legacy Award for Religion. Special recognition was given to Duane "Scout" Hocking, whose contributions to Defiance College spanned from 1969 to 2002. Hocking, who passed away in June 2024, was instrumental in implementing Title IX and establishing women's athletic programs.

Webster Street came alive Saturday morning with a vibrant mix of alumni/ae, friends, and current students enjoying tailgating, food trucks, games, and camaraderie. A new addition, the Yellow Jacket Kidstravaganza, offered family-friendly activities such as cornhole, bracelet-making, face painting, stickers, and photo opportunities with "Buzz." The Yellow Jackets capped off the day with a decisive 35–3 victory over Manchester. Post-game celebrations included the Class of 1975 Golden Reunion at the home of President Richanne C. Mankey and Mr. Michael Mankey, and the 2004 Women's Softball HCAC Championship reunion at the Dark Horse Restaurant, owned by a DC graduate.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2025, scheduled for October 2–4, as Defiance College celebrates its 175th Anniversary with the All-Alumni, Friends, and Community Homecoming. ♦





CLASS NOTES

Stephen '61 & Barbara (Womack) Sprague '62 reside in Tucson AZ in the winter and Narragansett RI in the summer. They keep busy with their seven grandchildren and three great grandsons.

Jack Donley '62 and his wife, Barb, are grateful for their good health. They are proud parents to three daughters, grandparents to five grandchildren, and great-grandparents to three great-grandchildren.

Jim Kleck '66 Has been the captain of the storyteller's program at TPC Sawgrass for six years.

Richard and Mary Jane (Kinney) Bender '67 have been married for 55 years, have 4 Children and 13 grandchildren. Richard served for 33 years in the U.S.A.F.R. They reside in Howell, MI.

Anne (Partchey) Schroer-Lamont '67 retired as Associate Dean of Students at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. She made history as the first female dean hired to lead the university through its transition to co-education after more than 150 years as an all-male institution. Now Anne plays clarinet in the W&L Ensemble and the Rockbridge Symphony, sings in the Grace Episcopal Church Choir, and cherishes time spent with her sons and their families.

Jayne Beilke '69, a Virginia Bell Fellow, guided her students in producing a film about the Union Literary Institute, an interracial school established in 1845 in Randolph County, Indiana. Titled "A High and Noble Purpose: The Union Literary Institute Remembered," the film is available on YouTube.

Stuart Douglas '69, at age 81, is doing well despite a few health setbacks. He has fond memories of playing on the tennis team at Defiance College in the late 60s. He still plays tennis and golf (with a 15 handicap) and would love to hear from classmates from 1968 and TKE members who might travel to the Southern Oregon area. His email address is: peaceman888@gmail.com.

John Scheu '72 is completing his 50th year in education, with the past 23 years as a school superintendent. He is currently in his fifth year at Benjamin Logan Schools, Bellefontaine.

Tim Smith '72 and his wife just moved to a new home in Wellington Ohio. They also have a winter home in Brooksville, Florida.

Jeff Welbaum '74 will retire from his position as an appellate judge in February 2025. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served in various roles, including in private practice law, as an assistant public defender, elected county prosecuting attorney, special assistant U.S. attorney, common pleas trial judge, Chief of the Criminal Justice Section under Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, appellate judge, and visiting Ohio Supreme Court judge.

James Dinkel '75 retired in 2021 as the pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, concluding a career as a full-time pastor in the LCA/ELCA that began in 1979. He also retired as chair of Tri-State COAD, where he played a vital role in helping communities recover from natural disasters from 1997 to 2022.

Rev. Earl Menchhofer '75 is the recent author of *Stay in the Game – Seven Steps to Serenity*. As a specialized clergy, he serves as an author, speaker, and coach, helping people overcome life's storms, anchor in their faith, and move forward to thrive rather than merely survive.

Bryce Wilson '76 retired in 2023 after nearly 50 years in broadcasting, with 35 of those years spent with Curtis Media Group in Raleigh, NC. During his career, he served as the Operations Director for WPTF Radio and the North Carolina News Network, ultimately becoming the Station Manager for a group of six stations.

Susan Barnes '78 retired for the second time in December 2023 from her role as an adjunct associate professor of social work at Western New Mexico University, where she developed and taught military social work courses. In March 2023, she published her second book, *Military Social Work Practice: Starting the Conversation*. Susan now dedicates her time to performing on stage and creating theatrical costumes, as well as crafting historical garments for the Pensacola Historic Trust Living History Program.

Jerry Isaac '79 retired in 2021 after working 41 years in the Florida phosphate industry as a Metallurgical Lab Technician for the IMC/Mosaic Company.

Steve Hasseman '80 A few months after graduating, Steve embarked on a 43-year law enforcement career, which included a wide range of assignments across two states, demonstrating his dedication as a sworn peace officer. He retired on October 2, 2023. Beyond his career, Steve has been deeply involved in baseball for over 50 years as a player, umpire, and coach—and he continues to coach. In retirement, he looks forward to spending more time with family, playing guitar, hunting, and fishing.

Kevin Miller '83 is in his second year serving as Superintendent of Licking Heights Schools.

Caren (Grinnell) Bauer '90 has served as the Director of New Home Development since 1991. In her role, she has developed numerous housing units, manages 100 units, and collaborates with nonprofits to create affordable housing. Caren has secured millions of dollars in grants and works extensively with programs supporting mental health and disabilities.

Nicole (Balams) Ramsey '94 Accepted a position as Assistant Director of Career Development and Professional Transitions with Roanoke College in October 2023.

Bill Brubaker '99 retired from Campbell Soup Supply Company in December 2013. Following his retirement, he began bookkeeping and now serves as the Finance Officer for the American Legion in Hamler, OH.

Jason Zumbaugh '00 recently completed his 24th year of teaching and has coached cross country and track at Edgerton High School for the same length of time. He also founded a group called Bulldogs with TIES, aimed at helping 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys work on proper behavior. Jason is married to his wife, Laura, and they have two children, Felicity and Seth. Seth will be performing in his first musical this spring as Kurt in *The Sound of Music*.

Matt Joost '02, broker and owner of Remax Realty of Defiance Inc., achieved notable success in 2023, earning multiple accolades. He was recognized as a Platinum Club Award Member and named one of the "10 Best Real Estate Agents in Ohio" by the American Institute of Real Estate Agents. Additionally, he was featured on the cover of Top Agent Magazine. Matt has received the prestigious Award of Distinction from the Ohio Association of Realtors. In addition, the Northwest Ohio Realtors have once again welcomed him into their President's Club. Matt resides in Defiance with his wife, Kierstin, daughter Rylee and son Kasen.

Renee (Chaffee) Leber '07 was selected as the 2023 NASW Ohio Region 2 Social Worker of The Year Award.

Samantha (Stegman) Withered '09 was recently promoted to Manager of Toxicology and Pharmacogenomics at Alverno Laboratories in Hammond, IN. She married Phillip in 2015 and together they have two sons, Adam and Eli.

Lauren Ranalli '10 married wife Jenna in 2019 and they welcomed their first child Lincoln in January, 2024. They reside in Dublin; Ohio, where Lauren works as a VP and Lead Product Owner for Huntington National Bank.

Katelyn (Samples) Dumire '12 was named Head Softball coach for Central Local Schools in November 2023.

Kevin Becker '16 has been named Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Premier Bank. Kevin began his career at F&M in 2015, building a strong foundation in the banking industry.

Daniel A. Fabelo '17 is a Probation/Pretrial Officer, and Assistant Volleyball Coach at Division 1 Lebanon High School.

Corinna (Gebers) Hancock '17 married her husband, Jacob, in December 2017. Jacob proposed to her on senior night during a football game, as seniors were being called onto the field. Corinna has worked for the Auditor of State's Office for eight years.

Ashley Lee '19 is the head coach of Alloy Personal Training Franchise.

Beau Massingill '19 and his wife Seaira were married May 27, 2023 in Monroe, MI



Carolyn Small celebrated her 100th birthday.

IN MEMORIAM

Ayelework Awoke '89

March 24, 2024 – Washington, DC

Carolyn (Biederstedt) Barger '57

August 10, 2024 – Mansfield, OH

Dr. Robert Bashore '62

April 8, 2024 - Forest, VA

Martin Baumhower '63

February 25, 2024 – Hamilton, OH

Walter “Walt” Behrman '68

March 24, 2024 – Napoleon, OH

Edward Berthold '61

December 3, 2023 – Mt. Pleasant, MI

Elizabeth (Bilderback) Behringer '54

September 15, 2024 – Defiance, OH

Rita (Lenhart) Brown '44

July 11, 2024 – Defiance, OH

Roy Bunce '62

February 11, 2018 – Longmeadow, MA

Gary Burnside '66

December 15, 2023 – Galion, OH

Jeffrey Crandell '72

December 8, 2023 – Sylvania, OH

David Dale Jr '92

December 24, 2023 – Irmo, SC

David Dibling '66

November 25, 2023 – Maumee, OH

Genois “Butch” Easter '81

January 18, 2024 – Dayton, OH

John Ellis '67

August 26, 2024 – Portland, ME

Darold Figgins '63

May 18, 2024 – Powell, OH

Bruce Fisher '65

March 15, 2024 – West Chester, OH

Richard “Dick” Gordon '67

June 24, 2024 – Hicksville, OH

Theresa Hahn '85

March 11, 2024 – Brook Park, OH

Lawrence “Larry” Harness Jr '70

January 1, 2025 – Jefferson, MO

Barry Hart '68

October 23, 2023 N Ft Myers, FL

Janet (Schlatter) Hartzler '72

April 9, 2024 – Rittman, Ohio

Winona (Evans) Hays '71

February 21, 2024 – Oakwood, OH

Harold Henderson'54

May 23, 2022 – Garden City, ID

Terry Hoops '96

December 27, 2023 – Deshler, OH

William “Bill” Hultz '69

September 9, 2024 – Defiance, OH

Melinda “Mindy” (Myers) Kitzler '74

February 22, 2024 – Carey, OH

Lindy Jackson '62

July 15, 2024 – Midland, MI

Berrill Theodore Jacobs

May 31, 2024 – West Hartford, CT

James Janetakos '66

July 24, 2024 – Barrington, RI

Kay (Gisler) Jennings '61

October 21, 2023 – Huntington, WV

Rev. Joanna (Doty) Lance '94

January 17, 2024 – Glenmont, OH

Sharon (Mack) Lane '66

April 10, 2024 – Midland, MI

Jeffrey Lasanen '12

February 27, 2024 – Defiance, OH

Phyllis (Mahan) Leininger '65

February 19, 2024 – Goshen, IN

Dennis “Denny” Leslie ‘75
March 4, 2023 – Sedalia, CO

Marilyn (Kunesh) Limbaugh ‘56
March 29, 2024 – Defiance, OH

Richard Mather ‘49
May 20, 2023 – Millsburgh, NY

Gregory “Steve” Meador ‘76
January 3, 2024 – Wesley Chapel, FL

Jenny Moden ‘76
November 26, 2023 – Tedrow, OH

Kenneth Morris ‘60
December 23, 2023 – Temperance, MI

Dr. Sally (Tustison) Myers ‘63
January 17, 2024 – Defiance, OH

Rev. Neeta Nichols ‘70
March 2, 2024 – Berkley, MI

Christopher Niekamp ‘80
April 10, 2024 – Wapakoneta, OH

Timothy Oechsle ‘78
May 17, 2024 – St. Mary’s, OH

Rose (West) Phillips ‘57
January 7, 2024 – St. Petersburg, FL

Walter Poetsch ‘69
December 13, 2024 – Greenville, OH

Rudolph “Rudy” Prijatel ‘74
July 30, 2024 – Shreveport, LA

Priscilla (Snyder) Rowe ‘81
December 14, 2023 Mansfield. OH

Mary (Rieckhoff) Ruhlin ‘49
January 23, 2024 – Alpharetta, GA

Doris (Kretzer) Shoup ‘65
January 24, 2024 – Archbold, OH

Sue Ann (Sproul) Sohn ‘65
November 28, 2024 – Fort Wayne, IN

Edward W. Stephens ‘73
December 6, 2023 Defiance, OH

Theresa “Terri” Stykemain ‘90
December 30, 2023 – Defiance, OH

Maryann (Beatty) Thatcher ‘53
January 9, 2024 – Archbold, OH

Janet (Hettesheimer) VonDeylen ‘69
December 20, Sherwood, OH

William “Wally” Wagner ‘76
August 6, 2023 – Gahanna, OH

Dennis Watson ‘51
October 17, 2023 – Westlake, OH

Peggy (Thompson) Wendt ‘66
January 12, 2024 – Napoleon, OH

Duncan Wilkie ‘71
June 28, 2024 – Montpelier, OH

Timothy Wilde ‘72
May 3, 2024 – Toledo, OH

Linda Young ‘93
December 4, 2023 – Holgate, OH

Francis Zogaib ‘48
February 29, 2024 – Lorton, VA

FACULTY/STAFF



Douglas R. Fiely
September 11, 2024 – Huber Heights, OH



Duane C. “Scout” Hocking
June 15, 2024 – Edgerton, OH



Edward F. Hyland
November 5, 2024 – Findlay, OH



175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

*We invite you to join us in commemorating this significant milestone
in the history of Defiance College*

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

Scholarship Fundraising Gala

Keynote speaker: Dr. James T. Harris III

Defiance College

George M. Smart Athletic Center

Social Hour 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Program to follow

RSVP by March 1, 2025



Three ways to RSVP: Scan the QR code,
visit www.defiance.edu/175-anniversary-events,
or call 419-783-2304

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

Founder's Day

Church Service 10:30 am

St. John United Church of Christ

Art Gallery Reception 12:30 pm

Women's Commission Art Gallery

Founders Day Program 1:30 pm

Schomburg Auditorium

RSVP not required