

DEFIANCE

COLLEGE

DEFINING OUR FUTURE



Spring 2024

Campus Update

Hello DC Alumni/ae and friends! I hope this message finds you well!

This magazine is long overdue and for that we apologize. So many exciting things are happening at DC! In the last year and a half, I have talked to many alumni/ae all sharing stories from their time as a DC student; their favorite faculty, Big Bend trips, McMaster initiatives, living in the Pilgrim Halls, the fires and some stories I have sworn not to repeat. We want to continue hearing these stories, and where your lives have taken you since graduation.

Times have changed, and so has our way of communicating. We encourage you to connect with us so DC can keep you up-to-date through social media, email, texting and mail. Even if you think we have accurate contact information for you, please send it anyway!

Ways to connect:

- Visit our website – www.defiance.edu/alumni
- Scan the QR Code below
- Contact our office at 419-783-2304 or alumni@defiance.edu
- Nominate an alumnus/a for one of our annual awards. <https://www.defiance.edu/alumni/alumni-awards.html>

I am so grateful to be able to represent DC in this position! Thank you for your continued support of our alma mater! Together we can help our students define their futures.

Sally Bissell, '81
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

Scan here to update
your information!



JACKET DAYS 2024





Defiance College continued its strong commitment to workforce development by hosting its fourth annual Jacket Days on January 8-10. This multi-day, conference-style event focused on career readiness for Defiance College students.

This year, Jacket Days provided Defiance College students with an opportunity to participate in career panels, discussion panels, and career development sessions. The career panels offered students a chance to ask questions and network with a variety of leading industry professionals from fields such as criminal justice, education, social work, environmental science, and more.

Another key piece of DC's Jacket Days is the 40+ sessions students can choose to attend. The sessions explored many career-related topics ranging from "Mental Toughness in the Modern Day" to "What is it Like to be a First-Year Teacher?" to "Sleep and Stress Management".

"Jacket Days has continued to grow, with this being the first year for all undergraduate students to attend," says Defiance College president Dr. Richanne C. Mankey. "Meaningful and intentional programming is the cornerstone of this unique conference-style experience for our students. The amount of learning that takes place is truly incredible and a direct reflection of the dedication put into Jacket Days."

Greg Nelsen, Special Agent in Charge of the Cleveland Field Office of the FBI, was this year's keynote speaker. Prior to his current position, Nelsen served as a deputy assistant director of the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division in West Virginia. Nelsen joined the FBI in 2001 as a special agent and has served in various capacities since then. Prior to joining the FBI, Nelsen was a police officer with the Virginia Beach Police Department in Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. SAC Nelsen discussed his career path and challenged students never to count themselves out.

Sessions and panels each day began at 9:00 a.m. and ran through 4:00 p.m. Numerous breaks, contests, and giveaways were built into the event to help keep

students engaged. Evening activities included an etiquette dinner, a mocktail reception, and a tailgate party. Students also had the opportunity to attend a Graduate School Fair that welcomed representatives from 29 graduate schools in Ohio and beyond.

"The goal of Jacket Days is to help students DE-Fine their futures," stated Bridgette Winslow, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. "We want students to discover opportunities that they may not have thought about, explore career paths that lead them to find their passion, formulate a plan that can lead to their career and personal success, and initiate a plan to achieve their goals. We want to help students understand that the path is not always straight and may vary from person to person."



Jacket Days is built into the Jacket Journey program at DC. They are both a part of Defiance College's Institute for Career Readiness and Lifelong Learning – which also houses the career development office. The DC Institute helps students strengthen their resumes, improve their job interview skills, find internships, and more. The College's Jacket Journey program aims to weave soft skill education into all aspects of campus life. Soft skill education includes having the ability to adapt, think creatively, and then clearly communicate ideas. More information about Jacket Journey can be found at www.defiance.edu. ♦

DC Athletics: A Look to Our Past to Guide Our Future

By Garrett Mansfield, Director of Athletic Communications

There are many differing ideas about the qualities that develop leadership, greatness, and success, all of which are qualities that one looks for in a Hall of Fame athlete. But without question, to be a great and successful servant leader requires humility, intentional action, and self-discipline. In other words, the individuals who exemplify the spirit of service are willing to put their egos aside, delay gratification, and put others in a position to succeed. Another critical component of service is discerning the assignment and one's place in fulfilling the mission.

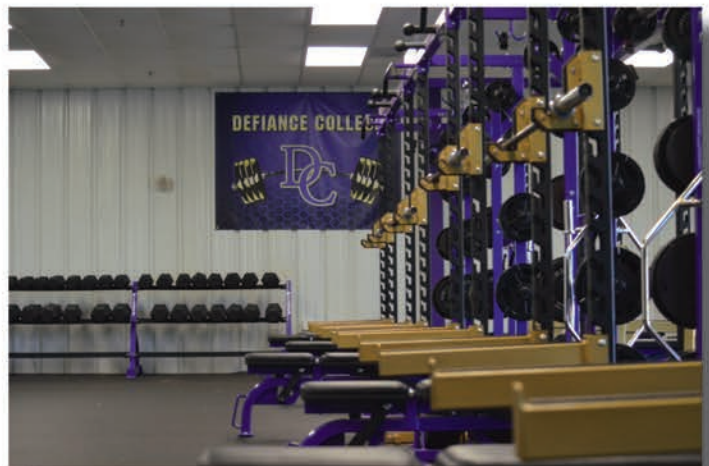
Looking back on the past year and all of the impactful moments of Defiance College athletics, the times that stand out the most are when the spirit of service was in motion.

The biggest shift for the future of the Yellow Jackets is returning to the NAIA. Many people were involved in the decision from administrators, board members, and staff that directed a process over nine months. A mixture of factors were thoroughly reviewed ranging from the ability to offer athletic scholarships, increase competitive success, bolster the student-athlete experience, and better align with institutions that are more like Defiance from an academic and facility perspective. While there was a time and season when NCAA Division III was the best fit for DC, it took people to recognize when the seasons were changing again. Athletics is a valuable tool for enrollment as we aim to regain a population of 1,000 students by 2025. The benefits of NAIA affiliation give DC the ability to distinguish itself among the many choices young people have in pursuing higher education while continuing their athletic careers. There were long nights preparing application materials, research, and presentations, but there remained a great sense of peace through the process knowing this was the right direction to better serve the whole person when they become students of Defiance.

Similarly, several individuals rose to the occasion during facility renovations to the gymnasium floor and the weight room. These critical improvements were made thanks to aid supplied by Alumni Varsity D and the Purple and Gold Club. Many offered valuable financial contributions to ensure Coach Marv Hohenberger was appropriately honored by having the new court design bear his name. There were also a few who got out in the community to

advocate for the project and secure the remaining dollars to make sure the court was completed on time. Those phone calls, miles driven, and productive meetings ensured someone who served Defiance so faithfully for so many years was rightfully appreciated, while also delivering a first-class playing surface to current and future student-athletes.

As for the weight room, this was also a critical project to attract student-athletes. While improving the aesthetics and quality of equipment, this is an area that is just for the athlete. This is where they train and prepare for the battles of competition and beyond. A handful of coaches took it upon themselves to make sure it got done; removing old equipment, cleaning, painting, and much more. Regardless of what help, time, or energy they had available, people stepped up to make sure our athletes could have the place they needed to train with improved amenities.



An additional aspect that developed recently is securing various levels of corporate sponsorships to aid our athletic programs. With the Yellow Jacket Sports Network, live streams, and creative services in our arsenal, DC Athletics has ample opportunities to display the work of our local businesses to help us reach new heights. Parents and family members from near and far are getting a taste of high-quality broadcasts, a refreshed athletics website, and other informational materials to remain updated and informed on their student-athlete's competitions. Our staff, with the help of the Purple and Gold Club, have helped secure more than a dozen new partners during the first half of the academic calendar year. ♦

Coach Marv Hohenberger Court Dedication



Defiance College dedicated the newly completed Coach Marv Hohenberger Court in August, in front of a crowd of more than two hundred supporters. In addition to Coach Hohenberger and his family, the gathering included many of Hohenberger's former players, DC alumni/ae, and donors.



On November 18th, members of the 1972-73 men's basketball team visited and celebrated 50 years since making the College's first-ever NAIA National Tournament!

From Left to Right: President Richanne C. Mankey, John Kornowa '76, Mark Shine '74, Rick Perz '73, Chuck Nafziger '73, Greg Mugg '75, Bill Clark '75, Marv Retcher '72, Bill Kramer '74, Buffie (Tittman) Kramer '74, Bindy Herkins '74



Jan J. Younger Colloquium

AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE
"Knowing Thru Research"

The Jan J. Younger Colloquium is an annual event, endowed by a generous gift from alumnus Gary A. Reed, with contributions from many former students. This year's event occurred on September 21, 2023 and welcomed back 1976 alumna, Dr. Anita Foeman who spoke on "Identity in the Age of Ancestral DNA." Dr. Foeman earned her MA and PhD at Temple University and is Professor Emeritus at Westchester University. Dr. Foeman's work on DNA analysis and racial identity work among college students is based on her research at Westchester University in Pennsylvania. Her most recent publication, Who Am I? Identity in the Age of Consumer DNA Testing co-authored with Bessie Lee Lawton, is the basis of her most recent research. She is well-published in various academic journals such as *Identity*, *Communication Monographs*, the *Journal of Black Studies* and the *Howard Journal of Communications* and her work has also been covered in the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Dr. Foeman spent several days at DC as part of her talk, meeting with fellow alumni/ae and students. A special memorial service for Gary A. Reed, who passed away in September of 2021, was included in the Colloquium this year. The service brought together alumni/ae from all over the country, who frequently and affectionately referred to themselves as a "family of choice," under the tutelage of Dr. Younger, and as members of the speech team and TKEs. Dr. Younger taught at Defiance College from 1967-1988, and coached the nationally recognized speech team. The Jan J. Younger Colloquium supports speakers in the theme of "Knowing Thru Research."



Dr. Jan Younger



Dr. Anita Foeman

“DEFInE Your Future” Program: A Path to Growth and Success

By Dr. Jeremy Taylor, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Exciting changes are underway at our beloved institution, and we're thrilled to share with you the latest developments regarding the “DEFInE Your Future” program. This initiative aims to transform and revitalize the Defiance College experience by enhancing affordability, expanding opportunities, and driving enrollment growth. It's a new chapter in our mission to provide an exceptional education to even more students.

Affordability at the Core

One of the key elements of the “DEFInE Your Future” program is the implementation of a tuition reduction strategy. We understand the financial challenges that many students and families face today, and we are committed to making a quality education at Defiance College more accessible. By reducing tuition costs, we aim to alleviate the “sticker shock” that often deters potential students. This proactive approach will not only benefit current and future students but also strengthen the financial foundation of the college.

Transition to NAIA Athletics

Defiance College is also transitioning from NCAA Division III athletics to NAIA athletics. This transition allows us to offer athletic scholarships, providing talented student-athletes with the opportunity to pursue their passion for sports while receiving a quality education. The move to NAIA not only enhances our athletic programs but also enriches the overall campus experience.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



The Defiance Advantage Plan

A notable highlight of the “DEFInE Your Future” program is the introduction of the Defiance Advantage Plan, a loan repayment assistance program. This innovative initiative ensures that our future graduates have support in managing their student loans. Graduates making less than \$45,000 annually will receive assistance in loan repayment, giving them peace of mind as they embark on their careers. This commitment to our alumni/ae reinforces the lifelong value of a Defiance College education.

Active Admissions Team

Our admissions team has been hard at work, actively recruiting students from various segments of their recruiting territories. In October alone, they traveled more than 12,000 miles, showcasing the dedication they have towards promoting the Defiance College experience. They are recruiting traditional aged freshmen, transfers, and graduate students, but that's not all. We've also relaunched the adult bachelor completion program, DC CAP, to provide educational opportunities to working professionals seeking to advance their careers.

We believe that these changes will propel Defiance College into a bright and promising future. The “DEFInE Your Future” program, with its focus on affordability, athletics, loan assistance, and active recruitment, demonstrates our commitment to growth and excellence. By implementing these strategic measures, we aim to achieve our goal of enrolling 1,000 students while maintaining the high-quality education that has been the hallmark of Defiance College for generations.

As alumni/ae, you have been an essential part of our legacy, and we invite you to get involved in shaping the future of Defiance College. Your support, whether through mentorship, outreach, or contributions, is invaluable in our journey to redefine our future.

Stay connected with us, stay engaged, and stay proud of your alma mater. Together, we can continue to make Defiance College a beacon of knowledge, opportunity, and transformation. ♦

Natural Science Student Research Opportunities

By Dr. Sabrina Brown, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science

Dr. Sabrina Brown, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, began teaching at Defiance College in August 2020. Sabrina earned her Ph.D. in Earth & Atmospheric Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from the Earth & Environmental Sciences department at Indiana State University. Originally from central Indiana, Sabrina is happy to be teaching and researching at Defiance College. Her research interests are rooted in paleolimnology – using lake sediments to reconstruct past climate and ecological disturbances. Dr. Brown, alongside other faculty, staff, and administrators at DC, is working hard to provide hands-on research opportunities for students in the natural sciences.

During one recent opportunity, two senior Environmental Science majors – Hallie Webb and Clover Worrell – assisted Dr. Brown with research in Yellowstone National Park in August 2023. Webb, Worrell, and Dr. Brown joined researchers from Montana State University and University of Pittsburg to collect sediment cores from lakes in western Yellowstone. Scientists can use the lake sediments to understand environmental conditions and climate



through time. The purpose of this research is to understand the links between climate, vegetation, tectonics, and hydrothermal activity on lake ecosystems in Yellowstone National Park. During the trip, Defiance College research members collected sediments from three lakes in Yellowstone's Lower Geyser Basin – north of the famous Old Faithful geyser. Dr. Brown's lab is currently analyzing fossil diatoms, a type of algae, from these sediment samples. Students

will have the opportunity to be involved with laboratory analysis of these samples over the next few years. This research is funded through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant.

Dr. Brown also serves as Project Director of the Defiance Research Alliance, supported by a Congressionally Directed Spending grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The Defiance Research Alliance is a partnership between Defiance College, the City of Defiance, and Defiance County schools to address water quality issues in the Upper Maumee Watershed. This collaboration harnesses student excellence and leverages community research and development assets to conduct applied water quality research. Both Defiance College and Defiance County secondary students have the opportunity to be involved in collaborative education, research, and training through this partnership. Defiance Research Alliance Grant funds supported a laboratory renovation and equipment purchases for Rowe Science Center Room 106. To date, five Defiance College students and two high school students have participated in water quality testing of the Maumee River and its tributaries during curricular and extracurricular research opportunities provided by the Defiance Research Alliance.



Defiance College's Summer Undergraduate Research Program, supported by a Federal Title III grant, provides students with the opportunity to conduct research with faculty mentors. This summer research program aims to engage students in every step of the research process, including project development, data collection and interpretation, and presenting findings. Over the last three years of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program, over twenty students have had the opportunity to participate in research opportunities with natural science faculty including projects focusing on environmental science, ecology, and chemistry. Dr. Mollie Sorrell, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Dr. Brown mentor students in a long-term water quality study of the Maumee, Tiffin, and Auglaize Rivers in Defiance County as a part of this summer research opportunity. Students who've participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program have presented their results at local, regional, and national conferences including the McMaster Symposium & Academic Colloquium, the Ohio Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Miami University's Annual Mathematics Conference, the Lake Erie and Aquatic Research Network Annual Meeting, and the North American Diatom Symposium. A group of students will also present their research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research meeting in Long Beach, California. This is just the beginning of a new era of hands-on research opportunities in natural sciences (and beyond) at Defiance College! ◆





“Calling all Yellow Jackets, Home to the Hive” Homecoming 2023

Defiance College’s Homecoming on October 6 and 7 was filled with celebration, excitement and reminiscing by well over 350 alumni/ae, family and friends. The weekend also took on a new look, kicking off the festivities with a tailgate party Friday evening. The “big tent on Webster” played an important role as the meeting place for special gatherings of former Sondergaard babysitters reunion, supporters of Kevin Tong (2023 inductee to the Hall of Fame), and the TKE reunion, along with many others, returning to show their Yellow Jacket spirit. That same spirit continued on Saturday morning with the combined Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards Breakfast. New inductees to the Hall of Fame include Peggy (Hoops) Wolf ‘93, Mike Moorman ‘04, Lucas Dillon ‘08, Justine Johnston ‘09 and Kevin Tong, Athletic Trainer. Yellow Jacket pride abounded, as alumni/ae were presented the following awards, James Shisler ‘63, Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence; David Hammersmith ‘08, Schaufler Legacy Award; Sue (Roughton) Dangler ‘75, Alumni Achievement Award; Giles “Jack” Davis ‘94, Alumni Achievement Award. Despite frequent spurts of rain, Webster Street was buzzing with alumni/ae, friends, and current students, who enjoyed tailgating, food trucks, games and catching up with DC classmates. During the football game versus Mt. St. Joseph, swarms of Yellow Jacket alumni/ae from the 1991-1993 and 2001 football teams gathered in the end zone to reconnect and cheer on the Jackets. After the football game, members of the Class of 1973 gathered at the home of President Richanne C. Mankey and Mr. Michael Mankey for their Golden Reunion. Homecoming festivities concluded on Sunday with an Alumni Executive Board brunch and meeting.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2024 on October 4 and 5, and show your DC spirit.

To schedule a special gathering to be included in the official Homecoming lineup, please reach out to the Office of Institutional Advancement by emailing smccoy@defiance.edu or calling 419-783-2304. ♦





HOME COMING

Carrying on a Family Legacy

By Sally Bissell, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

Angela (Klima), '82, and Walt Nickell, '86, met as students at Defiance College nearly 40 years ago. Both students were very active on campus, having served on The Oraculum (yearbook) staff, and as resident assistants. Angela also participated in the theater program and was a member of DC's nationally ranked speech team, while Walt wrote for The Defender (newspaper). Angela and Walt grew closer during their time at DC, and the couple married in 1986. They have three sons, the oldest of which is now Defiance College's Head Football Coach.

Some might say that Bill Nickell was destined for this position, as his parents frequently recounted fond memories of their college experience. As the years went by, Angela and Walt often shared with their sons the value of education, and, more specifically, the love they had for their alma mater. Bill was always surrounded by Defiance College gear, and was well aware that DC was right down the road. When the opportunity to interview for the Head Football Coach role at DC presented itself, he knew it was something he had to do. Being back in Defiance would give him the chance to be back home, closer to his family, which would help him become a better husband and father to his children.



When Bill was offered the position, both Angela and Walt were filled with pride. They remember when he started playing football in his youth. Watching him step onto the field back in September of 1997, they felt confident that football would always be part of his life. As alumni/ae, they have followed DC's Football Program, watching the many peaks and difficulty over the years. They believe that Bill's leadership and drive will have a positive impact on the student athletes, both in the moment and for years to come.

"The wins haven't come as quickly as everyone would like, but every week DC is in the game," shared Walt. "The team has played hard to the very last down and fought until the whistle. It's exciting to see the drive and desire of these young athletes."

Bill takes his position as Head Coach seriously, and is invested in the students' performance on and off the field. Team building, study sessions, and individual meetings are all huge aspects of his coaching strategy. "The product on the field is not the only thing to be proud of," said Bill. "We're helping to build well-rounded individuals. The players and coaches are giving it all they have, and are passionate about what they do. We hope that's evident after graduation, as they enter the real world as DC alumni."

If you attend a home game during the football season, you'll likely see the Nickell family, cheering on the Yellow Jackets from the front row. ♦



Local Alumni Give Back to Their Alma Mater

Defiance College alumni, Grant Phillips and Megan Barber have recently donated \$100,000 to the College in order to create a new patio area behind Hubbard Hall. With increased enrollment in mind, this gift will serve to further the College's efforts to reDEFine the future for its students.

"As graduates of DC, Grant and Megan know how important it is for students to have a comfortable, pleasing space to relax with friends and fellow students. Grant Phillips, now a trustee, and Megan Barber, are making an investment into their alma mater as it moves toward a future that will be highlighted by continued innovation, program additions, and new learning opportunities for traditionally aged students as well as graduate and adult students," said Dr. Richanne C. Mankey, president of Defiance College. "We are grateful for this generous donation from Grant and Megan."



The current space was designed to be a reading court when the building served as the campus library. Hubbard Hall now houses the offices of Student Life and The Hive, a restaurant and coffee shop on campus. The newly designed patio will provide additional recreation space for students and outdoor dining for The Hive.

Construction of the Phillips Patio will involve removal of the brick wall that divides Hubbard Hall and College Place, expanding the patio area out to the sidewalk.

A new handicap-accessible ramp will also be installed, as well as outdoor lighting. Features of the patio will include a natural gas fire pit, outdoor seating, a small performance area, and a hammock forest.

"Megan and I are proud to be alumni of Defiance College, which has provided us with the knowledge and tools that have allowed us to give back through the funding of this incredible new patio," shared Phillips. "There have been many wonderful changes and additions at Defiance College during the past year, and we appreciate the opportunity to assist in maintaining that momentum. We look forward to seeing the patio utilized by DC students as a space to socialize and build relationships with their peers, and we are excited for many more positive developments in DC's future." ♦



Defiance College 175th Anniversary Celebration

By John Trautman, Senior Institutional Advancement Advisor

In a little over a year we will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Defiance College! On March 23, 1850 the DC founders were granted a charter to form the college. Now, nearly 175 years later, we're preparing to immerse and engage the entire campus community, as well as the greater Defiance area in our upcoming celebration.

A Task Force for the event was formed with members of the college and the Defiance community a couple of years ago by President Mankey and is co-chaired by Mary Marvel '77 and John Trautman '72. The Task Force has been working hard on the yearlong celebration for 2025-26. Part of the celebration includes special exhibits at the DC Women's Commission Art Gallery and the Tuttle Museum in downtown Defiance. A first draft of a 175th Anniversary Celebration book has been penned by Mary Marvel and will be available for purchase during the celebration.

Additionally, there will be a celebratory gala on Saturday, March 22, 2025 and Founders Day activities on Sunday, March 23, 2025. Former Defiance College President Jim Harris will be participating in activities over the course of the weekend. Special events will then continue throughout the 2025-26 academic school year.

Please join us in celebrating the long and rich history of Defiance College as well as it's bright future during 2025-26. ♦

CLASS NOTES

Mike Steirer '62: The recent passing of Robert Ryan, a teacher of English when I was a student at Defiance, reminded me of an amusing incident. Mr. Ryan drove a tiny foreign car which ended up in the student union one day. How it got in and out was a mystery but everyone got a good laugh over it. Alive and well at 85. Still live in Medina and still meet with classmates from my grammar and high school days in the Cleveland area. Retired from college teaching in 2016. My wife and I are enjoying a happy retirement.

Scott Warren '65: Still enjoying retirement. Living in New Hampshire and skiing in the winter. Come spring we head back to our long-time Connecticut home on Beebe Cove and the Mystic River for kayaking and old friends. Still an editor for the journal *Estuaries and Coasts* and keep a small research program going on salt marshes and sea-level rise and still publish an occasional scientific paper. Thanks to DC and Bernie Mikula for starting me on the road to academic research and teaching!

Maynard "Whitey" Huston '66: Retired on Jan. 1, 2008, after 25 years of service with the company in various management positions. Traveled extensively between the MS River and East Coast. Here is a "Hi" to some of my old buddies and roommates: Dave Shook, Doug Laird, Donn Myers, Nemo, John Cauley, Howie Jenkins, Chic Newhouse, Mike Weiner, Gerry Prokupek, Bob Dills, Ramblin Willie Rose.

Hyman Goldberg '69: Recently retired as President of the Philadelphia jeweler's pow association. Semi-retired as CEO of Safian & Rudolph Jewelers. I enjoy a good life with family (7 grandchildren) and friends.

Beverly Parker-Lewis '70: Licensed Clinical Psychologist in her own company. Also has two kids Alexis Lewis born in 1992, Michael Lewis born in 1987, and a grandchild Zachariah Lewis born in 2018.

Elaine (McMaster) Fedderke '72: Widowed in 2020, and a retired teacher from Ayersville schools.

Jim Jackson '72: Cindy and I met on a blind date the summer after my junior year in college in 1971. We have been blessed with three sons, two grandsons, and one great-grandson. We are retired and live in Oregon, OH.

Thomas M.L. Ritter '72: Currently volunteering as a master gardener with the Penn State Extension, working in the horticultural office in Allentown, PA. Ran the virtual Boston Marathon (26.2 miles) at Trexler Park in Allentown in October 2021.

Ronald Burdick Sr. '73: Is retired and married Maryellen Wright in November of 2021.

Mike and Jane Burke '74: Jane was honored with the adjunct of the year award for 2021-2022 at The College of Central Florida.

Leilani Holmes '74: Now retired as a professor at Grossmont College, El Cajon, California. While enjoying retirement, her first book was published, "Ancestry of Experience" by the University of Hawaii Press in 2012. Under the name "Leilani Holmes", a manuscript for a second book, "Experience of Ancestry", is in progress. Still grateful to Defiance College and professor Dante Germanotta for a great start to life.

Carolyn Mann '74: Has been in a relationship for over 30 years and in 2015 was legally married to Carolyn Hays. Carolyn is retired but continues to do pulpit fill for churches and designs and makes church parameters.

Gary Shy '75: Is retired. First grandchild, Vivian Riley Shy, was born in Jan. 2022.

Gary Richard Williams '76: Received the 2022 People's Choice Sales Professional Award by MR Magazine.

Sprite (Grim) Johnson '76: Retired, as of May 2022, from pastoral ministry, an interim ministry for the last eight years. After serving as an un-ordained Christian educator and ordained minister.

Mary Marvel '77: Keeping busy in retirement! She serves on the board of Directors for the Ohio Prevention Professionals Association. She volunteers weekly in an after-school STEM program for middle school students, many of whom are "at promise" She is serving as President of the DC Alumni Board for the next two years and co-chairing the task force for DC's 175th-anniversary celebration. Mary is also very active with the alumnae sisters of Beta Sigma sorority!

Sidney (Paul) Richardson '79: Retired from cow-calf farming. Was an OHSAA wrestling official for 37 years, and is blessed with 3 grandchildren from their son and daughter.

Laura Angell '83: Is working as a clinical care manager at Elevance Health-Beacon Health Options.

Darcy Robinson '83: Inducted into the Preble County Athletic Hall of Fame. The first woman in school history at Defiance College to score 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds, and was female athlete of the year in '83

Michael Seiler '83: Relocated from Ohio to our paradise in Key West in 2014. Now living the dream. Celebrated their 30th Wedding anniversary in 2022.

Linda Sprick-Kruse '84: New owner of Deer Ridge Bed and Breakfast. An ordained deacon ELCA Lutheran, chaplain to the Bed and Breakfast.

Todd Hall '85: Is now a vintage toy collector and dealer.

***Bonnie Stiriz '85:** Retired from 20 years of teaching. Served 12 years of active duty in the United States army. Owner and operator of Bonnie's Hitch A Ride L.L.C. This provides transportation for those living in the Cascades of Groveland, an over-55 community/resort.

Karl Schroeder '86: Is the General Merchandise Manager and Vice President of Qurate Retail Group in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Sue Bowles '86: Master Certified Life Coach leading My Step Ahead, an organization committed to breaking the stigma around mental health struggles. Her award-winning first book, "This Much I Know... The Space Between" was published in 2019 and available on Amazon and Kindle. She was also featured on a local news segment "Tell Me More". Sue continues to present at state and national level conferences and has appeared on over 100 podcasts.

Lita (Risser) Siefker '86: Has retired from teaching. She has five grandchildren; Adam Beall is a senior at Pandora-Gilboa HS, and Landon Siefker and Matthew Beall are Freshmen. Everly Halsey is four years old, Lincoln Siefker is two years old. She and Ken are enjoying being grandparents.

Colleen (Rosener) Hall '87: Retired from Shambaugh & Son, Fort Wayne, IN in 2019. Colleen worked in sales of IT Technology and services for over 30 years and also held certifications from IBM, HP VM-Ware, Cisco, and others.

Mark "Duke" Lee '92: Was promoted to U.S. Army Brigadier General.

Kelly Sprow '92: Recently became a licensed insurance agent.

Giles "Jack" Davis III '94: Was hired on as the new Deputy Chief of Police for the Tipp City Police Department.

Heather Huffman '94: MPH, PEM. Hospital emergency manager, working for the University of Michigan Health in emergency management operations since 2017.

Karol (Dahms) Grisard '96: Is currently a tax manager at New Wave Payroll Solutions.

Mike Soto '96 and Crystal Brooks '96: Got engaged in May of 2022 and married June 11, 2022. Crystal is a second grade teacher for Antwerp Local Schools and a team member for Grant's Catering and Smokin' Wheels BBQ. Mike is a technical recruiter.

Kathy (Dunn) Weck '96: Currently the Registrar at Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

Scott Truelove '96: In his 27th year of teaching, and 2nd year for East Allen County Schools as a Business & Economics teacher at Heritage Jr/Sr High School in Monroeville. He is also in the 2nd year of his 4-year term serving on the School Board of Education for East Noble School Corporation in Kendallville, IN.

Holli Seabury '97 & '98: Was nominated for the Crain's Detroit Business Health Care Hero award. Holli was nominated for her extensive work in challenging the oral health disparities faced by people with disability.

Jean-Patrick Ceant '01: Is now the HR manager for Marathon Oil in Houston, Texas.

Cam Coutcher '01: Was inducted into the Defiance College Hall of fame in 2017 and recently took the position of athletic director at Maumee.

Kristi Keefer '02: Married Tim Keefer in May of 2002. They were blessed with a daughter Emily in Apr. 2006, now an ECommerce Analyst for Sauder Woodworking Co.

Krista Oberlander '03: Is the Director of Merchandise for the Columbus Clippers baseball team.

Cory Sipe '03: Married his wife Amber in 2012 and has two sons Cain and Gavin.

Chad (Schindler) Cox '03: Is working for Antwerp Local schools as a Preschool Intervention Specialist, and was married in 2016 to Shawn Cox.

Ryan Slone '03: Currently working for Ingram Micro as a Vendor Business Manager. Married his wife Sarita in 2012. Son Jaxon born in 2013, daughter Lyla Jo in 2017.

Allison (Stehlik) Bowersock '04: Is working in Lima, Ohio as a social worker.

Dana (Marie) Tietje '04: Is working at HealthDirect Pharmacy Services as an account executive.

Camryn (Lehrman) Klocinski '05: Is currently the Jr/Sr High School principal at Summerfield Schools. Married Jeremy Klocinski in 2016.

Shay Pursel '05: Defended her doctoral dissertation successfully. Her degree is a Doctorate of Business Administration focused on female entrepreneurship and success.

Deborah (Miller) Anderson '07 & '10: Is the owner of Anderson Tax and Accounting in Delta Ohio.

Jaaci (Bergman) Carr '09: Is an English teacher and married to Matt Carr with three kids.

Renee (Tipton) Hopper '07: Married her husband, Josh, in 2012 and is working at the Defiance Library as an Adult and Technical Services manager.

Ashley (Showalter) Shepherd '07: is working at Western Buckeye Educational Service Center as a Director of Gifted Services.

Stephanie (Rupp) Swenson '07: First-grade teacher at Family Christian Center Schools. Two daughters Arianna and Emily.

Chase Szente '07: Is a USAFE A6 Coalition Networks Program manager for the Air force. Second daughter, Luca was born on 8/25/22.

Pamela (Gibson) Farley '08: Married in 2018 to Jeremy Farley and had a son, Parker Farley in 2020. Pursuing continued education on Quality Systems through BGSU's online eCampus.

Bilal Muta '08: Excited to announce the birth of Lily Halimah-Ann Muta on February 1, 2022. She is their fourth child joining Khalil, Leila and Noah.

Desiree (Mendziabal) Ricica '10: Promoted to Program Manager after several years of casework and supervising.

Brian Downs '11: Married Courtney Swabb (class of 2012) in 2015, and adopted Emerson Downs in 2021.

Amanda (Johnson) Fava '12: Is working as a Pediatric social worker at Central Ohio Primary care, and was married in 2014. Also had a son in 2020 and is currently serving on the Delaware County Housing authority board.

Cindy Obermyer '12: Willow Messmer was born on 6/9/2020.

Alicia (Kalik) Franks '15: Married in 2022 to her husband Callahan John Franks, and is an intervention specialist at Ayersville Local Schools.

Brian Jones '12: Is currently working for the United States Navy as a Forensic Chemist. Got married to his wife Breanna in 2020.

Miranda (Steffes) Sumpter '15: Is working at Archbold Middle School as a 6th grade ELA teacher, and welcomed baby boy #3 in November 2022.

Courtney (Alexander) Alexander-Smith '17: Is working at Notre Dame College as the Assistant Registrar.

Keira (Grandey) Christman '17 & '21: Got married to Ryan Christman on May 21, 2022.

Daniel Fabelo '17: Is working as a probation officer.

Machetta (Louise) Porter '20: Employed at Northwest Ohio Community Action Center and works for the headstart program as a classroom coach and mentor to the teachers and assistants.

Brooke Gostomsky '20: Finished her Doctorate in Physical Therapy at the University of Findlay in 2023, and is working as a physical therapist at Premier Health Occs.

Marcelino Gonzalez '21: Is working at United States Steel Corp. as a Shift Manager.

Hayden Clingaman '21: Took a position as a commercial credit analyst, and married Emile Aselage on Sept. 30, 2023.



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your information!

In Memoriam

* by name denotes Military

Joanne E. (Hutchins) Acker '76
October 30, 2020 – Hicksville, OH

Philip M. Ackerman '63
May 29, 2021 - Mansfield, OH

***Timothy K. Allison '68**
July 20, 2023 – Magnolia, OH

Tracy Lynn Vorhees Anderson '99
October 6, 2023 – Wapakoneta, OH

Douglas J. Armbruster '87
Feb. 10, 2023 – Napoleon, OH

Jamie Beth Arps '04
June 18, 2022 - Dublin, OH

Charles "Charlie" Aschemeier '69
Jan. 4, 2023 – Onsted, MI

Jessica Aybar '09
Jan. 18, 2023 – Spencerville, OH

Deborah (Couch) Baumhower '76
June 16, 2019 - Hamilton, OH

Joan Marie Bauer '70
Apr. 25, 2022 - Findlay, OH

Lawrence D. Blush '58
Apr. 17, 2023 – Archbold, OH

Ruth Ann Blush '65
October 30, 2022 - Archbold, OH

Roger Bolenbaugh '62
October 3, 2020 – Fort Wayne, IN

Janet E. (Deitrick) Bottomley '61
May 22, 2022 - Kendallville, IN

Lillian (Dangler) Bratton '53
May 20, 2022 - Danville, OH

Fred Brink '69
Sept. 17, 2021 – Toledo, OH

Donald E. L. Brown '84
May 12, 2022 – Washington, MO

Lois Mae Bruce '55
October 20, 2018 - Wheeling, WV

***Michael E. Brumbaugh '67**
March 9, 2023 – Bryan, OH

***Lawrence Dayne Bush '58**
Apr. 17, 2023– Archbold, OH

Terry Lee Caris '70
May 3, 2022 - Fort Wayne, IN

Daniel Pao-Hsi Chao '59
Apr. 21, 2022 - Bronxville, NY

Julia K. Chitwood '92
July 1, 2022 - Englewood, OH

Clair E. Crawford '60
Dec. 31, 2021 - Frederick, MD

Lewis Edward "Lew" Cloud '57
Sept. 27, 2022 - Hendersonville, NC

Beverly (Ham) Cole '65
Jan. 22, 2022 - Kent, OH

Myrtle M. (Knecht) Cook '69
March 20, 2022 - Montpelier, OH

***Robert Delbecq '91**
Sept. 30, 2022 - Bowling Green, OH

Shayna J. Delong '73
May 25, 2022 - Columbus, OH

Doyle Howard Delph '78
May 24, 2021 - Millersville, MD

Jim Diehl '73
November 1, 2022 – Jacksonville, FL

Robert "Bob" Dills '66
Aug. 7, 2022 - Venice, FL

Carol Mae Eschhofen '96
October 14, 2023 – Wauseon, OH

James "Jim" R. Etchic '63
Sept. 24, 2021 - Wauseon, OH

John Fetter '60
July 14, 2023 – Defiance, OH

Jean Gaskill '67
July 28, 2023 – Defiance, OH

***Joseph Gillard '63**
Dec. 20, 2022 – Los Angeles, CA

Patsy A. Gilligan '81
Feb. 24, 2023 – Defiance, OH

Lou Ann (Smith) Gioffre '62
Feb. 16, 2023 – Berlin Heights, OH

Amy Jo Glysz '10
Aug. 29, 2022 - Defiance, OH

David D. Graber '66
Sept. 18, 2023 – Stryker, OH

***Robert W. Green '71**
June 21, 2022 - Rocky River, OH

***Ron Hard '65**
Apr. 2, 2023 – Hicksville, OH

Ruth E. (Knoop) Heins '50
March 24, 2019 - Sidney, OH

***Harold C. Henderson '54**
June 1, 2022 - Garden City, ID

Frank A. Herby '79
Dec. 24, 2021 – Springboro, OH

Clyde M. Hershberger '69
March 12, 2023 – Lima, OH

Craig F. "Digger" Hoffman '72
March 11, 2022 - Defiance, OH

Edward "Ed" Lee Hook '56
Apr. 17, 2021 - Fort Wayne, IN

Martin Hopkins '81
June 19, 2023 – Lima, OH

***G. Douglas Husdon '47**
Dec. 10, 2022 - N Canton, OH

Darrell Jones '51
March 15, 2023 -- Defiance, OH

David R. Jones '68
March 28, 2022 - Defiance, OH

Richard Walter Johnson '66
November 1, 2022 - Stryker, OH

Jack Dennis Kaminski '68
July 25, 2021 - Middlefield, OH

Robert D. Kipp 88
Jan. 24, 2023 - Mansfield, OH

Martin D. Krick
Jan. 2, 2023 - St. Marys, OH

***Ronald L. Krueger '61**
June 1, 2023 - Liberty Center, OH

John H. Ladd '65
Sept. 28, 2023 -- Grover Hill, OH

***Lynn Herbert Lamming '52**
July 23, 2023 - Defiance, OH

Richard F. Lehner '63
June 5, 2022 - Toledo, OH

Suzanne Lenhart '82
May 26, 2023 -- Angola, IN

*** Rose E. Lewis '88**
June 23, 2023 - Bryan, OH

Peter Mason Lundberg '76
July 30, 2023 - Defiance, OH

Ruth Ann (Ireton) Lusk '64
May 18, 2023 - Hood River, OR

Carol J. Mace '74
Dec. 5, 2022 - Van Wert, OH

Lee G. Mack '70
November 6, 2023 - Defiance, OH

Joseph W. Majors Sr. '89
November 20, 2020 - Wauseon, OH

Marilyn R. (Loar) Mallott '51
Dec. 16, 2022 - Defiance, OH

Susan A. McMaster '70
May 24, 2020 - Carmel, IN

Donelda (Hickock) McWilliams '46
Feb. 21, 2023 - Clarkston, MI

Rev. Richard W. Mellerup '52
March 4, 2022 - Bangor, ME

Michael L. Meyer '78
Sept. 16, 2023 - Findlay, OH

Brent D. Morgan '72
Dec. 2, 2022 - Cleveland, OH

Dorothy L. Myers '83
Aug. 23, 2022 - Defiance, OH

Brent Ommert '78
Feb. 13, 2022 - Saint Cloud, FL

Kenneth Onstott '65
November 1, 2023 - Venice, FL

Bradley Paff '79
July 5, 2023 - Wichita, KS

William K. Place Jr. '78
October 14, 2023 - Lima, OH

James H. Porter '70
Jan. 13, 2023 --Terrace Park, OH

William L. Rinehart '68
March 7, 2023 - Columbus, OH

David Keith Reinke '63
Aug. 18, 2022 - Cleveland, OH

Carol A. (Gloyd) Reitz '90
Feb. 9, 2023 - Canton, OH

Robert W. Rhoades '75
Feb. 19, 2023 -- Middle Point, OH

Kim Diane Rhodes '76
March 12, 2022 - New York City, NY

Jeanne Rosendahl '71
June 17, 2023 - Holly Springs, NC

Marilyn E. (Taylor) Ruffer '59
Dec. 24, 2022- Zionsville, IN

Herbert H. Salisbury '56
Jan. 4, 2021 - Tampa, FL

Monte Joe Sanders '56
Aug. 22, 2022 - Richmond, IN

Paul Santfant '69
June 9, 2020 - Mount Sterling, KY

John W. Schatz '65
Feb. 16, 2023 - Defiance, OH

Jon D. Schepman '62
Nov. 29, 2020 - North Port, FL

William "Bud" Schlueter '66
Nov. 6, 2023 - Indianapolis, IN

Keith Scranton '66
Apr. 24, 2022 - Auburn, IN

Dane H. Sergent '95
Apr. 14, 2023 - Perrysburg, OH

Jean (Cobleigh) Sessions '48
May 10, 2023 - Agawam, MA

Bonnie J. Shaw '82
Jan. 10, 2023 - Ottawa, OH

Douglas A. Short '69
Feb. 20, 2023 - Wauseon, OH

Rodolfo "Rudy" Sierra '75
October 30, 2023 - Toledo, OH

Christine C. Slates '73
March 3, 2023 - Palmyra, PA

Harris Jay Smith '90
January 23, 2023 - Whiteland, IN

Pamela (Peabody) Smith '69
Apr. 30, 2023 - Defiance, OH

Lowell L. Snider '59
November 16, 2023 - Grafton, OH

David Lloyd Speakman '63
October 2, 2022 - Charlottesville, VA

Vida Lee Stollings '92
Feb. 9, 2023 - Franklin, TN

***Peter Couvelle TerKuile '74**
Dec. 20, 2019 - Durham, NC

Yenenesh Mulgeta Tilahoun '98
Sept. 6, 2022 - Dallas, TX

Macon Dale (West) Traxler '49
June 28, 2022 - Kokomo, IN

James Allen Turnbull '92
Sept. 7, 2022 - Hicksville, OH

Mary (Richards) Van Atta '76
July 21, 2023 - Antwerp, OH

Martha C. (Maddock) Vaughn '58
February 15, 2023 - Defiance, OH

Jack R. Wiswell '76
March 12, 2023 - Paulding, OH

Delores "Dee" Zachrich '64
May 28, 2022 - Napoleon, OH

Faculty and Staff



James A. Bray
January 26, 1939 -
May 28, 2022



Randall L. Buchman
May 12, 1929 -
July 28, 2022



Raymond T. Derricotte
February 14, 1925 -
August 25, 2022
Class of 1950



Richard George Weeks Jr.
October 29, 1944 -
August 30, 2023

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **McMaster Symposium**
April 24, 2024
- ◆ **Commencement**
May 11, 2024
- ◆ **Yellow Jacket Classic**
June 15, 2024
- ◆ **Homecoming**
October 4-5, 2024

