

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.

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).