Defiance College’s director of music programs Andrew Schultz has not only led the expansion of DC’s music programs but has also created and grown the Black Swamp Honors Choir into a very special experience for Northwest Ohio high school choir students. Schultz started the event as part of the growth of the College’s music programs while expanding musical horizons of high school students in Northwest Ohio.

The Black Swamp Honors Choir began in 2010 with participants from four local high schools. The 2014 auditions included 11 area schools with more than 160 students auditioning for approximately 90 spots in the choir. Selected students spend Thursday evening and Saturday rehearsing with Defiance College’s Chamber Singers and Choral Union as well as a guest choir. This year, the Pride of Toledo Sweet Adeline Chorus participated. In addition to working with Schultz, choir members are also able to work with well known choral conductor Richard Mathey.

The culminating event is the W. Oscar Jones Choral Festival, which was held this year on Sunday, Nov. 2, in St. John United Church of Christ. The concert has grown in popularity and participation, necessitating two performances to accommodate the large audiences.

The event was named in honor of the late W. Oscar Jones, known for his many contributions to the Defiance community and the choral art in the 1930s and 40s.
For the second straight year, Defiance College has won the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Regular Season Volleyball Championship. For more information go to www.DefianceAthletics.com.