



MIKULA-FREY

Science Initiative

The Renovation of the Greenhouse and Genetics Center

Defiance College has embarked on an exciting initiative in the science department that will not only support research opportunities for DC undergraduate students but will also recognize the significant contributions of two beloved faculty members.

The Mikula-Frey Science Initiative will upgrade the Kettering Genetics Center and Greenhouse as well as create an endowed fund to provide resources for students to travel and present their research at professional conferences. The updated facility will offer upper-level science students a dedicated lab space and lounge in support of their senior projects and other independent research.

The project is named in honor of Dr. Bernie Mikula, professor emeritus, and the late Dr. Jim Frey. Both had significant impact on their students and their profession.

The renovation of the greenhouse and genetics center, along with funding of the student travel endowment, has become possible due to the generous support of alumni and friends of the College. A celebration of the project was held during homecoming festivities in October. John Trautman '72 shared a campaign update with guests, and alumna/faculty member Dr. Carolyn Walters '69 introduced Dr. Mikula and Helen Frey. Guests were able to view an architect's concept drawing for the proposed facility.

Dr. Ken Wetstein, vice president for institutional advancement, announced that the genetics center and greenhouse will be renamed the Mikula-Frey Science Center. He noted



that work has already been completed in restoring and replacing glass in the greenhouse.

2016-2017 academic year. The Mikula-Frey Science Center is scheduled to be completed in time for the start of classes in August 2016.

Dr. Mikula joined the faculty in 1960 and remains close to the college today. He was responsible for obtaining funds to build the original Kettering Genetics Center and Greenhouse in 1962. He has spent more than 50 years conducting research and guiding his many students.

Dr. Frey was a biology professor at the College from 1961 until his death in 1996 and will always be remembered for his sense of humor and dedication to the welfare and training of his students. Together, they were an amazing combination. They made it possible for Defiance College students to “learn science by doing science.”

More than 70 donors, many of them former students of Drs. Mikula and Frey, made gifts to the project. Many of those donors turned out for the celebration.

More than \$110,000 in gifts and pledges have already been committed to the Mikula-Frey Initiative, and gifts are still being accepted through the Office of Institutional Advancement.

“The science faculty are working closely with the physical plant on the renovation plans; we want to raise every dollar we can to make this a great space for our students,” commented Wetstein. The travel endowment will begin funding student travel in the

Top: A crowd gathers during the celebration at Homecoming 2015. Bottom: from l to r; Dr. Carolyn Walters '69, Dr. Bernie Mikula, Helen Frey, and John Trautman '72.