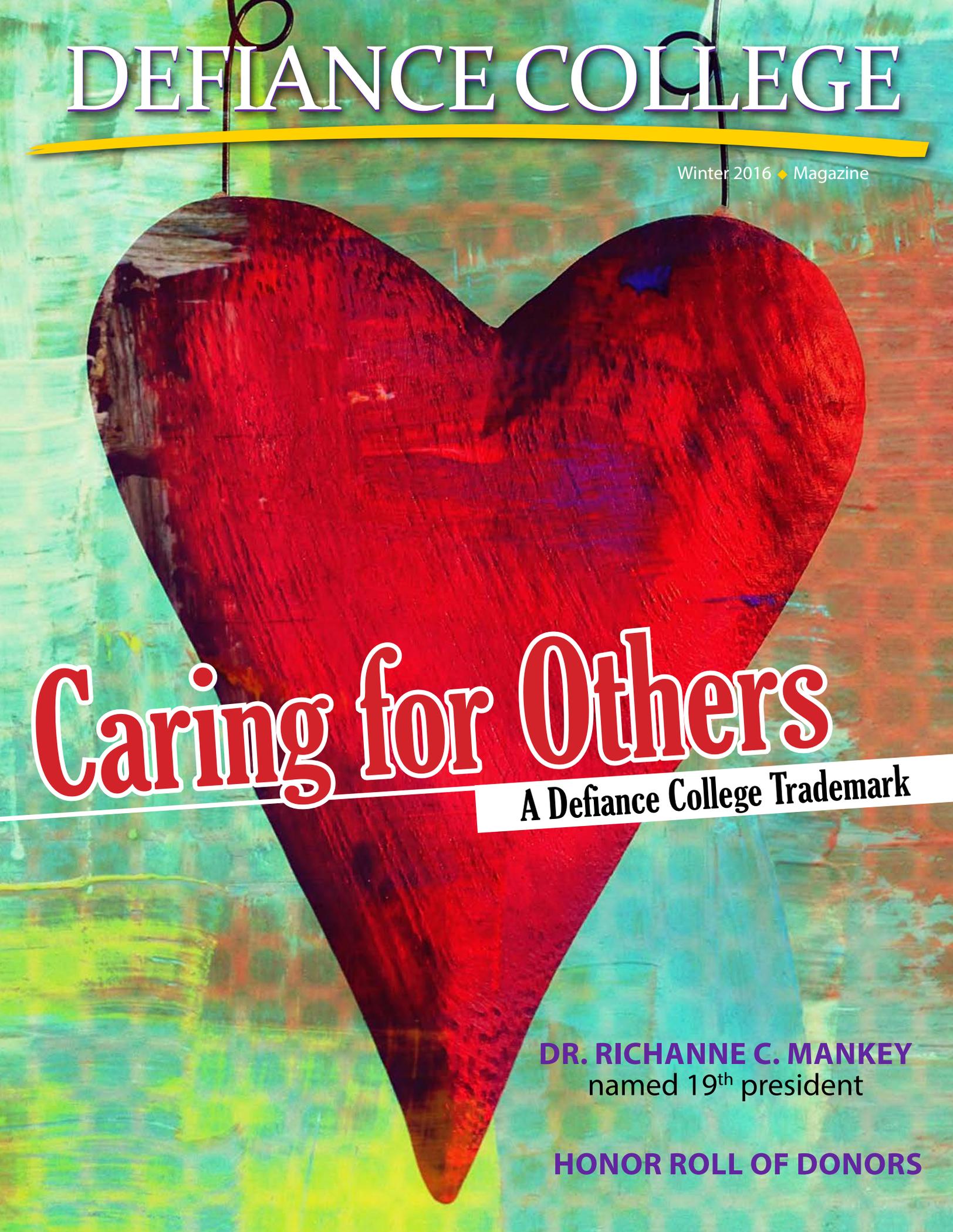


DEFIANCE COLLEGE



Winter 2016 ♦ Magazine

Caring for Others

A Defiance College Trademark

DR. RICHANNE C. MANKEY
named 19th president

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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DEFIANCE COLLEGE

The Magazine

Winter 2016

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Kristi Jo Leaders '09, Assistant Director of Marketing

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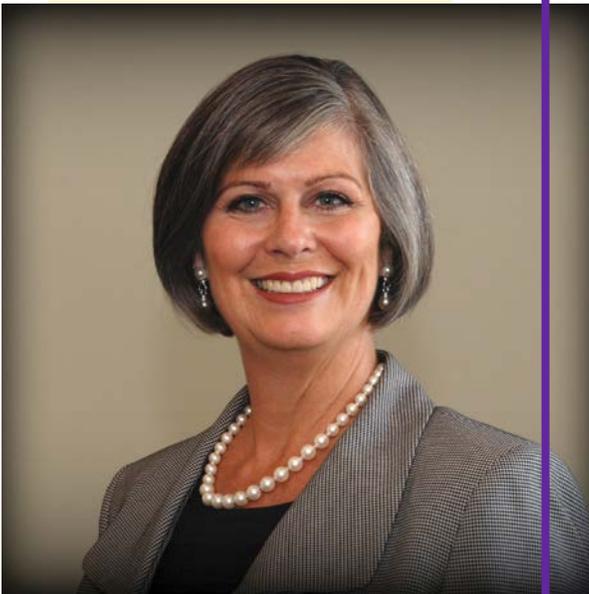


Students playing volleyball between McReynolds and Whitney Halls.

19th president



Dr. Richanne C. Mankey



“This is a remarkable college with a rich history. I look forward to working with the exceptional members of the campus to embrace its mission and values that make a difference every day in the lives of students and enable graduates to achieve their professional dreams.”

Dr. Richanne C. Mankey

The Defiance College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name Dr. Richanne C. Mankey as the College’s 19th president. She is the first woman to be elected president in the 165-year history of the College. Her career as a leader in independent higher education spans nearly three decades.

The Board selected Mankey, former vice president for institutional advancement at Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y., after an extensive national search. She began her presidency Jan. 1.

“I am truly honored to be selected to serve Defiance College as its next president,” said Mankey, a native of Northwest Ohio. “This is a remarkable college with a rich history. I look forward to working with the exceptional members of the campus to embrace its mission and values that make a difference every day in the lives of students and enable graduates to achieve their professional dreams. I am also looking forward to engaging the Defiance community as we work together in creating future success. My husband, Mike, and I are excited to be returning home to Ohio.”

Mankey succeeds Mark Gordon, who stepped down to accept the presidency of William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn. Edward Buhl served as interim president and returned to his position as chair of the Board of Trustees when Mankey assumed the presidency.

“We are fortunate to have found a person with the leadership qualities of Dr. Richanne Mankey,” said George Smart, former chair of Defiance’s Board of Trustees. “Dr. Mankey is uniquely qualified. Her proven ability as an extraordinary campus leader, as someone who has cultivated and grown philanthropic support, and as an advocate for independent, church-related higher education gives us reason to be very excited as she leads Defiance College going forward.”

Smart noted that Mankey is an expert on transformational leadership and has a proven record as a fundraiser. “She is student-centered and understands how to build on Defiance’s many strengths, including its highly-regarded McMaster School for Advancing Humanity and its ground-breaking program in autism studies as well as its many excellent programs to prepare students to be educated and engaged citizens,” Smart said.

Chairman Buhl noted, “We believe we have found an excellent fit in Dr. Mankey as the next president of Defiance College. She understands and believes in the mission of Defiance College as a private, liberal arts-



named president of Defiance College

based college. Her distinguished professional career demonstrates a strong commitment in that area.”

Prior to her position at Daemen, she served as vice president for student affairs and dean of students at the College. She began her career at Ohio Northern University where she held progressively more responsible positions and was the youngest named vice president.

In advancement at Daemen, she increased the donor base, focusing on major gift cultivation and increased visibility, and conceptualized a comprehensive campaign to benefit the future of Daemen College. She has led the College to two of its highest giving years, initiated and implemented a charitable gift annuity program, increased annual fund giving, raised funds to complete campus beautification initiatives, and secured more than \$2.2 million in grant funding since taking office in June 2013.

Campus-wide, she chaired the College’s facilities master plan committee and led the extensive application process for Daemen College to become a full member of NCAA Division II athletics.

Regionally, in 2011 she was a founding member of the Women’s Leadership Institute through the Western New York Consortium for Higher Education and now chairs its steering committee. She was also selected to participate in national and regional discussions about critical issues and/or women in higher education.

As a faculty member, Mankey taught since 2007 in the Executive Leadership and Change master’s program at Daemen. Since 2013, she taught the biennial Leadership Development course in the Doctor of Nurse Practice program.

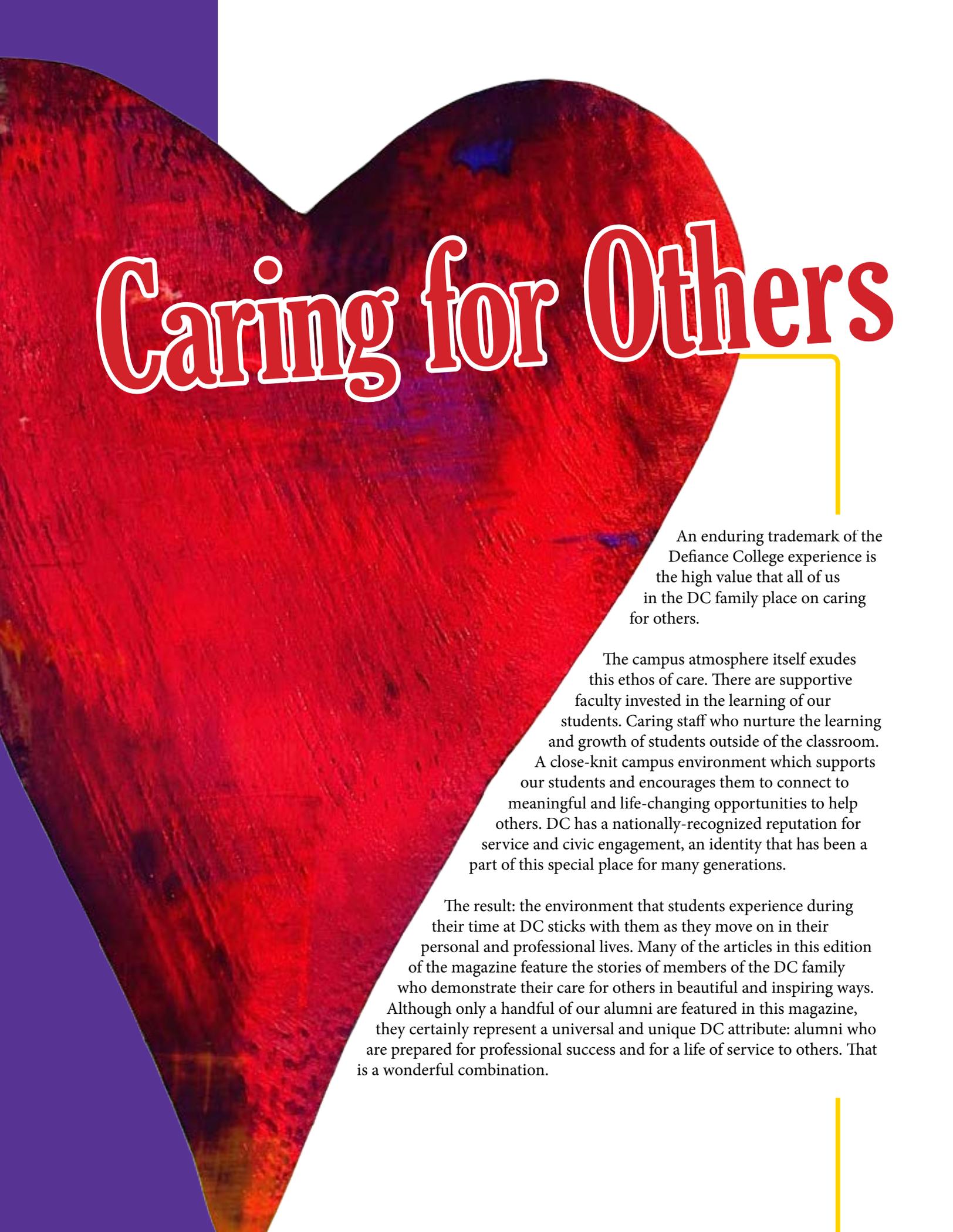
Mankey received the Women of Influence for Nonprofit Leadership award given to women who display high energy and skill in a leadership role; the Bernice Poss award given annually to a woman in higher education who exemplifies leadership, professionalism, concern for others, and steady advocacy of women; and the campus-wide Daemen College National Girls and Women in Sports Day Campus Award as a professional who supports student-athletes and athletics. She was also a finalist in the region’s prestigious Athena Award.

Originally from Tiffin, Ohio, she graduated cum laude in psychology from Ohio Northern University; received her master’s degree in social agency counseling from the University of Dayton; and earned her doctorate in adult education from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

Mankey and her husband, Michael, have relocated to Defiance. Their daughter, son-in-law and grandson live in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

President Mankey was welcomed to campus by students, faculty and staff at two receptions in January.

Mankey received the Women of Influence for Nonprofit Leadership award given to women who display high energy and skill in a leadership role.



Caring for Others

An enduring trademark of the Defiance College experience is the high value that all of us in the DC family place on caring for others.

The campus atmosphere itself exudes this ethos of care. There are supportive faculty invested in the learning of our students. Caring staff who nurture the learning and growth of students outside of the classroom. A close-knit campus environment which supports our students and encourages them to connect to meaningful and life-changing opportunities to help others. DC has a nationally-recognized reputation for service and civic engagement, an identity that has been a part of this special place for many generations.

The result: the environment that students experience during their time at DC sticks with them as they move on in their personal and professional lives. Many of the articles in this edition of the magazine feature the stories of members of the DC family who demonstrate their care for others in beautiful and inspiring ways. Although only a handful of our alumni are featured in this magazine, they certainly represent a universal and unique DC attribute: alumni who are prepared for professional success and for a life of service to others. That is a wonderful combination.

A HEART FOR SERVICE

As Ellen Stryffeler '12 puts it, "I have always had a heart for service." This is what has motivated her to join the Peace Corps, a goal of hers since middle school.

The youngest of four children, Ellen grew up on a sheep farm in Ohio with parents who instilled the importance of service through their example of humble service to others.

Defiance College wasn't Ellen's first choice, but that college turned out not to be a good fit. DC's focus on service was an attraction for her transfer. In addition to her studies, cross country and indoor and outdoor track, Ellen was active in the Defiance campus branch of Habitat for Humanity.

It was her junior year when she attended an open house conducted by the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. "I was very shy, and it took a lot of courage to attend," she remembers. What she learned at the open house encouraged her to apply to become a McMaster Scholar. She was accepted into the trip to Ghana, and through this experience, she fell in love with Africa.

Ellen spent her time in Ghana working with the Shepherd's Center for the Aging in a small community. As she explains, Ghana has had a strong tradition of the younger generation caring for their elders. However, the urbanization of the country has resulted in a lot of the youth leaving the community, and a breakdown of this cultural system. Her project was working with the center to improve the standard of living for senior citizens on their own, by increasing their fitness levels, mobility and flexibility.

For her senior capstone project, Ellen served with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), a federal service organization, as a summer associate with Salem Lutheran Church in a small community in Minnesota. Here, Ellen worked with local youth. "This was a very poor area, and we established the Lunch Bunch, providing lunch and activities to local children

"If I can help even one person get a little closer to attaining their dreams or even making one person smile when they're having a horrible day, I could die a very happy person."

two days a week, in an effort to encourage positive behavior and service," Ellen explains. The program promoted positive interactions within the community, with law enforcement, fire department, and community businesses. This interaction was important because, as Ellen relates, "These kids only know police because they're knocking on their parents' door."

After earning a master's degree in teaching with a content area of physical education and health at the University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, she joined AmeriCorps as an Anti-Hunger & Opportunity Corps VISTA in Norway, Maine, for a year. As part of the Healthy Maine Partnership, committed to decreasing food insecurity through outreach and education of the SNAP program, Ellen was involved in organizing a service event and promoting/establishing new Summer Food Service Program (summer meals) sites, along with recruiting and training volunteers.

The Peace Corps will take Ellen back to Africa in June to begin a 27-month stint. "I will actually be doing my training in Swaziland (located in southeast Africa) and after my three months of training, I'll be then sent to my specific site where I'll start work in my community." Ellen expects to be working in youth development and community engagement.

A huge driving force in Ellen's life is her faith. "When I see people in need I don't just see a need unfilled or a person hurting, I see Jesus and my heart breaks. Nothing brings me more joy than serving Him through being a servant to those around me."

Ellen sums it: "If I can help even one person get a little closer to attaining their dreams or even making one person smile when they're having a horrible day, I could die a very happy person. I firmly believe that the Peace Corps is going to give me that opportunity every day and in surplus!"

By Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving



A portrait of Mike Williams, an older man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a plaid shirt. He is standing in front of several flags, including the American flag on the left and a blue flag on the right. The background is a light-colored wall with a framed picture.

MIKE WILLIAMS:

THE HONOR OF

HELPING VETERANS

A series of serendipitous events led Mike Williams '79 to some life-changing decisions over the course of several years. In turn, those decisions allowed him to positively impact the lives of thousands of local military veterans.

The Defiance native retired at the end of October after more than 30 years as Defiance County veterans service officer. He leaves the position considering himself fortunate to have been able to serve so many veterans.

Before Williams became veterans service officer, he spent his first "hitch" in the Marine Corps followed by four years as a college student.

He was 21 and had received his discharge from the Marines only a few days earlier when he ran into fellow Defiance resident Tom Wiseman '76, who was then county veterans service officer. Williams shared with him that he hadn't yet found a job. Wiseman asked if he had thought about college, and Williams replied that he couldn't afford to go to college. "He said 'there's the GI Bill,'" Williams recalled.

Wiseman proceeded to call Defiance College and then wrote the name of Gerald Mallott on a card and told Williams to see the DC administrator the next day.

Williams did just that. Mallott led him through the application and enrollment process and introduced him to registrar Beverly Harrington who helped him schedule his classes. She led him through the bureaucracy of the VA to ensure that he would receive his education benefits.

"I was blessed to have run into Tom," Williams said. "I graduated on May 20, 1979, with no debt." He said he has always been grateful to Wiseman, Mallott and Harrington for their encouragement and support. And, there were many professors who had a lasting impact.

"The beauty when you go to Defiance College is you don't forget the people." He lists some of his professors – Harry Miller, Henry Diehl, Bill Markel, Elizabeth Wurst, Bill Chaney, Jarrell O'Kelley – as instrumental in his college education and helping him hone his skills.

The day after graduation, Williams returned to the Marine Corps. He was commissioned a lieutenant and served at Quantico, Camp Lejeune, Okinawa and Parris Island.

In 1983, his life took another turn. He received a phone call from his father informing him that Tom Wiseman had been elected mayor of Defiance and would be leaving the veterans service officer position. His father asked him if he might be interested in pursuing the position and returning to Defiance.

The rest, as they say ...

"This is a people profession," Williams said about his position. "I'm going to miss the people – the heroes, their families, their survivors. I've been blessed to have a front-row seat to history, getting to know those who served in World War I, World War II, some who were at Omaha Beach and Utah Beach ... It's been an honor to serve them and learn so much from them.

"Sometimes you'll know a veteran for years before they'll open up and tell you what they went through. It's a very emotional experience."

Williams was employed by the Veterans Service Commission of Defiance County whose members are appointed by the court. As veterans service officer, he assisted veterans of the county and their families in securing the benefits they earned from serving in the Armed Forces. He also administered a financial assistance program for veterans with unexpected financial hardships, with expenses such as housing, utilities, food, clothing and transportation. His staff included Tanya Brunner, Erin Clady and Nate Metz.

Recalling his own experience with Wiseman and Defiance College, Williams said he, too, talked with veterans about the college benefits to which they are entitled. "We applaud what Defiance College has done with the Yellow Ribbon Program," he said. The Yellow Ribbon Program provides additional funds to eligible post-9/11 veterans for their education program without an additional charge to their GI Bill entitlement.

While assisting veterans of the county, Williams was also in a Reserve unit for 12 years of his tenure as veterans service officer. His unit was activated during Desert Storm, and he was stationed in Okinawa for more than 10 months.

While he's not yet made any definitive plans for what he'll be doing in retirement, it's probably a safe bet that he will be involved and active. The running that was part of his training as a Marine has carried through the rest of his life, and he is often seen running in Defiance. He expects to explore some volunteer opportunities and will be spending more time with his family.

He and his wife, Jacquelyn, are the parents of Joseph, Benjamin and Elizabeth, and have seven grandchildren.

He expects that his first six months of retirement will be spent reflecting on opportunities that might interest him and figuring out what he wants to do "with the next phase of life."

By Kathy Punches '96, Director of Public Relations and Marketing



INVOLVED INSIDE & OUTSIDE HER COURTROOM



“I try to press upon the parents and students the importance of education.”

Judge Denise Clayton '73

Long before becoming the first black woman to serve on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Judge Denise Clayton '73 was just another student at Defiance College attempting to navigate her education and take advantage of every available opportunity.

Her passion for community involvement was immediately evident. She interned off-campus with the local community center, in the mayor's office to learn how local governments operate, and through independent study of English History. “It was a time of political upheaval,” remembers Judge Clayton, “and this gave an additional edge to the need for people to feel involved and committed.”

She made the decision to go into law when she was studying for a semester in Hong Kong, taking classes through the Yale University program in China. Since then, the importance of education has never been far from Judge Clayton's mind. In addition to serving on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, she currently serves as president of the Board for Summerbridge, a program providing at-risk middle school students with educational opportunities and support to continue their education.

This focus on student outreach and intervention comes naturally to Judge Clayton, whose family always prioritized education. Her mother graduated a year early from college. Through scholarships, Judge Clayton enrolled in college credit classes through the University of Louisville during high school. Rigorous summer school and extra courses led her to follow in her mother's footsteps, graduating from Defiance College a year early with a bachelor's degree. She went on to earn her juris doctor degree from the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law.

While Judge Clayton's career spans a multitude of legal positions, she continually returns to education in some form: student legal services at the University of Louisville, teaching in higher education, and serving over a Truancy Diversion Docket for at-risk students exhibiting attendance issues.

“I try to press upon the parents and students the importance of education,” says Judge Clayton. Her work with the Truancy Diversion Docket attempts to identify the barriers to at-risk student success. The program works closely with school personnel to address the causes of student absence. Like Summerbridge, Judge Clayton attempts to give students the tools they need to take charge of their education.

Her ability to directly impact students stems from her undergraduate experience at Defiance College. She recalls the college showed her how a nurturing and supportive environment could stimulate the desire for education, where professors were always willing to speak individually, and engage in subjects with students.

Judge Clayton continues to exemplify the supportive nature of Defiance College through her focus on education and giving back to her community.





LIFE IS AN

By Kristi Jo Leaders '09, Assistant Director of Marketing

The adventures began early for Ben Maynard '16. "It all started when I was beginning to walk," the DC student pronounced. "My parents always took me camping and hiking so I got into it at a very young age." His family encouraged a lifestyle that included camping and walks in the outdoors all through his younger life. During his teenage years, he was drawn further into the thrill of adventure by several popular survival shows on television, such as *Man vs Wild* with Bear Grylls and *Survivorman* with Les Stroud. "Seeing the unique environments led to me working on my outdoors skills even more because I knew I would want to go out and explore one of those big places someday," he explained.

As he grew up, Ben was able to become more independent and go on adventures on his own instead of following an adult, though he still treasures hiking with family members. He enjoys an annual Fall hike with his younger cousins and hopes that the activity will help teach younger generations about the benefits of getting outside, while also forming a closer relationship with them. It seems to be working, as Ben commented: "Every time we go to my grandparents', my younger cousins ask to go hiking or go outdoors and this is a great feeling knowing they really enjoy being outdoors."

Rather than just go outside and explore, Ben, from rural Defiance, also took it upon himself to learn survival skills and hone his knowledge of the outdoors. By hiking safely, he's able to get the most out of his trips. By a curious twist of fate, it was a media class at DC that kicked off a growing internet presence for Ben that applies to his hobby. The assignment was simple: create a blog and make ten posts throughout the semester on a topic of personal interest. "Naturally, I picked my blog to be about adventure and the outdoors," he said. "I worked on the blog throughout the semester and really enjoyed writing about the outdoors each week, and it slowly began to grow over the semester. After my blog, Twitter, and Instagram really started to grow and get more views, I decided to keep it going after the semester was over because I figured it'd be a great way to journal all of my hikes as well as do gear reviews, etc."

Since the creation of his blog, aptly titled "Ben on Adventures," in mid-September 2014, Ben has accumulated more than 1,700 followers. This number doesn't include the 1,400+ followers on his social media accounts. When asked what newcomers to his blog could expect to find in the posts, he responded that, even though a multitude of topics are covered, the overall focus would always be adventure. Ben writes tips for handling different types of weather or survival scenarios, shares trip advice and experiences, and, as of summer 2015, has been doing gear reviews for various companies. Currently, Ben is an ambassador for both Minus33 and Rocky S2V. Oftentimes, his blog has posts themed for days of the week, such as Survival Saturday and Review Tuesday.

Ben is an active "tweeter," both with his own Twitter account and with group chats throughout the week. #AdventureChat on Monday, #CampChat on Tuesday, #GearMeOut on Wednesday, and #HikerChat on Friday. "On all of these chats there are several topics being talked about



ADVENTURE



Ben Maynard '16 out on another adventure!

Although the popularity of his blog came as a surprise to Ben, it's easy to see why someone would be interested in following him. Looking at posts he has made, words that come to mind to describe them are resourceful, positive, honest, and caring. He is an inspiration to individuals and families alike who are interested in the outdoors. This year marks Ben as a senior at DC, and he's already making plans to complete one of his dream hikes, either the Appalachian Trail (Georgia to Maine) or the Pacific Crest Trail (California-Mexico border to Washington-Canada border) after graduation in 2016.

There is a yearning for adventure and new sights found in the hearts of many people, a fact that is especially true for Ben. His positive attitude and helpful posts are sure to keep his blog a success for as long as he maintains it, and he has no current plans to stop posting. Among the valuable outdoors information, he shares suggestions and encouraging words for everyday life. His advice to keep in mind is: "Adventure doesn't have to be in a desert or jungle; it can be anywhere as long as you make it an adventure." For Ben, life itself is an adventure, and it's just getting started.

ranging from gear to trips to culture and so much more," he explained. "It's a lot of fun! It's great to get on Twitter to talk with others who have similar interests."

He started a weekly Twitter chat for RockyS2V (#S2VChat) on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. EST. All of the adventure talk doesn't get tedious to Ben. As someone who is passionate about the outdoors and travel, he loves every minute of talking to others who share his hobbies. His passion is certainly visible, and he works to be highly interactive with his followers. A benefit to maintaining a strong social media presence is that it helps him grow his network with other individuals and companies.

SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED

In an effort to become a greener and more energy efficient campus, Defiance College has completed a thermal solar project with installation in August of solar panels on two residence halls. This is in addition to the solar panels installed on the George M. Smart Athletic Center when it was constructed in 2011.

The solar collectors aid in warming the hot water supply in all three buildings as well as radiant floor heat in the Athletic Center. Other energy-saving measures include installation of low-flow shower heads and multiple envelope upgrades in the residence halls. A new boiler system and heat circulation upgrades were made to McReynolds Hall.

All of the measures seek to reduce the College's carbon footprint, while at the same time reducing energy costs. This is a continuation of ongoing efforts to become greener and more efficient. In 2012, the College conducted an energy audit to determine energy conservation opportunities.

Also in 2012, the College completed a two-year project that included window replacement and lighting upgrades on campus. Interior and exterior lighting fixtures were replaced with more energy efficient models. Windows were also replaced in McReynolds and Dana Halls.

Much of the work on the projects has been done by the College's maintenance staff, headed by Jim Coressel, director of the physical plant.



Solar panels on Whitney Hall



GROW WHERE



Rockford University president Dr. Robert Head '76 spent much of the first half of his professional life in the world of banking. During a portion of that time, he was also a member of the Defiance College Board of Trustees. Somewhere along the way, his career goals began to change.

In relating the experience, he references a quote from Helen Hayes: “She said you learn to walk, talk and laugh from your parents, but when books are opened, you learn to fly. Over time, I found my passion was more aligned in helping students learn to fly than in helping my wealthy clients become wealthier. Aligning my passion and vocation was a life-changing decision.”

Head left the banking world in 1992 and became a vice president at Illinois Benedictine College (now Benedictine University). He went on to become president of Urbana University in 2001, and in the summer of 2016 he will retire from the presidency of Rockford University in Illinois, a position he's held since 2008.

“As a college president, there is no greater satisfaction than seeing a student enjoy an enriching collegiate experience, graduate, and then journey on to their professional goal,” says Head.

The positive impact of a small private college was felt by Head decades ago when he enrolled as a student at Defiance College.

Head grew up in Cleveland where his public high school graduating class numbered 900 students. “Upon entering Defiance College, I found myself in classes with small numbers and faculty who quickly knew my name and encouraged my progress throughout my learning journey,” he says. “I also was required to take a liberal arts core that opened my eyes to a world well beyond my previous experiences. Having faculty take an interest in me as an individual was and is fully in the small, private liberal arts institutions and differentiates them from larger public universities.”

He describes his academic experience at Defiance as outstanding and was shaped by faculty like Jim Frey, Robert Pearce, and Doug Wozniak, who “were able to reach me where I was and inspire a love for learning that I've carried throughout my life.” He was a business major, but says he gained inspiration from courses in religion, psychology, political science and music which provided a well-rounded framework for engaging in a multi-faceted world.

“I have often cited our work in higher education as serving as a bridge between dreams imagined by students to dreams accomplished by graduates. My DC education was the bridge for me!” he says.

YOU'VE BEEN PLANTED

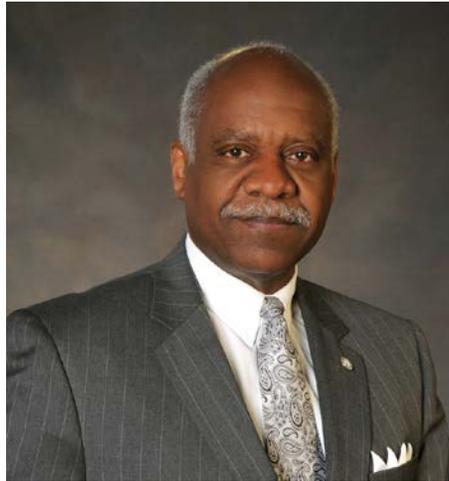
After graduation, Head worked in banking, first in Toledo and later in Chicago. Around that time, he became a member of the DC board of trustees, and that experience began to sway his interest and passion toward higher education. After joining Benedictine as vice president for administration, Head picked up other duties including director of service learning and responsibility for international recruiting. He completed his doctorate and began teaching in the school's MBA program.

Those experiences were good training for his next role as president of Urbana University in west central Ohio. At Urbana, he led initiatives to grow the enrollment and greatly enhance the campus infrastructure.

In 2008, Head accepted the presidency of Rockford University. He will leave Rockford in a few months knowing that he has led the university to a good place. Rockford is enjoying its highest student enrollment in history, its international population has grown from four students to more than 80, and it is a Tier 1 Midwest institution according to U.S. News and World Report. He told a local reporter that the path to a successful college was not "nuclear science," but simply strong financial discipline, growing enrollment, and investing in the institution. He said, "Focus on what you're good at and build on those strengths."

He said he will retire at the conclusion of this academic year "knowing Rockford University is a much stronger institution than it was prior to my tenure as president."

Head's involvement isn't defined by campus boundaries. He has been an active member of the Rockford community, serving on numerous boards including Alignment Rockford, Golden Apple Foundation, Keith Country Day School, Kobe College Corporation, Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Symphony Orchestra, SwedishAmerican



Health System and Transform Rockford. In addition, he has co-chaired two bond referendums in support of the city's public K-12 system, both of which passed by a large margin and enabled construction and renovation of facilities appropriate for teaching and 21st century learning.

"Overall, I share with students that we all have the responsibility to be the architects of change in our communities," he says. "As Shirley Chisholm once said, 'Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.' I find myself reflecting on my participation in this world and note that I am much more motivated to help others than to receive personal rewards or acknowledgements."

One of the community service endeavors that he's most enjoyed is that of Scoutmaster to a Boy Scout troop. Head says that he was inspired by great mentors in his youth. "Some were teachers, others were coaches, and all were caring individuals." The fact that each took significant time out of their busy days to guide and encourage him made a major impact. "My desire to pay that debt of gratitude forward is manifested in my efforts to assist young men to learn leadership skills through scouting," he says. "Each young man in my troop has a number of options available to occupy their time; some positive and some not

"Overall, I share with students that we all have the responsibility to be the architects of change in our communities."

Dr. Robert Head '76

so positive. I am rewarded by their commitment to live by the attributes championed in scouting and to make progress on their trail to become an eagle scout, the pinnacle rank in scouting."

So, what will be next for this soon to be retired university president?

"During my opening convocation speech, I shared several lessons I've learned in life," he says. "One such lesson is to grow where you've been planted. The lesson is to fully engage and develop in your current situation and avoid wasting time and energy longing for the next phase."

Head will continue to steward the growth and development of Rockford University through the rest of the academic year, committing all of his energies to that.

"While I know that I will stay engaged in higher education in the future, as that is my passion, I have plenty of time to complete that plan. The two things that I know are that I will pursue my passion in a much warmer year-round climate and on my own schedule following retirement!"

Head and his wife, Sheryl, are the parents of three children: Robert IV, Jason and Adrienne.



By Kathy Punches '96,
Director of Public Relations and Marketing

PASSION FOR LIFE

For Defiance College senior Dava Donaldson '16, a summer conference at the United Nations in New York City gave her the opportunity to share her passion for social justice and sustainable development with more than 500 like-minded college students.

Donaldson, of Elyria, Ohio, is majoring in global studies and received financial assistance from the Jenzabar Foundation to attend the Millennium Campus Conference. She described the five-day event as a networking conference for college students from around the world. "We looked at the Millennium Development goals within the United Nations and upcoming sustainable development goals, and what our generation is doing and can do to address those goals," she said.

"It was really interesting because I was exposed to so many like-minded students. Our generation was taught that to survive you have to have a job to make a lot of money, so students aren't doing what they are passionate about. It was incredible to be surrounded by individuals who have the same ideas as you ... to learn more about sustainable development and how at Defiance, there are things we are doing to work toward those goals. There are little things that we can do or everyday habits that we can change that can help the world."

As a Defiance College student, Donaldson has traveled to Peru as a Service Leader and has made two trips to Tanzania through the college's McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. As a McMaster Scholar, her project focused on the availability of clean water for rural Tanzanians. At the conference, "I was able to talk with people who have experience in water sanitation – how they do it with minimal resources, training people, and creating businesses out of water and solar resources," she said.

Talking with other college students and representatives from a variety of international organizations, Donaldson said she quickly realized "what an incredible opportunity" is offered to Defiance students through the McMaster School. "I realized how fortunate we are to have these programs on our campus, to get these professional academic experiences that not only put us ahead of the game in terms of graduate school and careers, but in terms of life."

For her senior capstone project, Donaldson is focusing on micro-lending, "The idea is to help people gain not only financial stability but to be part of something bigger than their family unit," she said. She will explore both the positive and negative aspects of social entrepreneurship, and what are the best things to help communities develop. At the Millennium conference, she was able to talk to individuals about her capstone research.

After graduation, Donaldson hopes to work in the nonprofit sector with a concentration in peace and conflict resolution. "Hopefully I can create my own nonprofit based on worry-free water and be able to do foundational research for at-risk communities."

She said Defiance College gave her the freedom to explore many avenues and to find her passion. "That's one of the greatest things I love about my school. I was able to change my career path and still graduate on time. I was able to take those classes and explore those options and still graduate with my class. I came here for the United Church of Christ affiliation because it aligns with what I believe spiritually and what I try to live by. I really found my home here in every aspect of the word."

"There are little things that we can do or everyday habits that we can change that can help the world."

Dava Donaldson '16





MAINTENANCE Wears Many Hats

By Eva English '12, Grants Officer

When Jim Coressel left the manufacturing industry to become director of the physical plant at Defiance College, the welcoming campus environment made his adjustment easier.

“The greatest thing about working for the College is the direct impact we have on students, faculty and staff,” says Jim. “The direct effects of the physical plant crew influence all the other departments on campus.”

It’s this accountability, and feedback accompanying their work, that allows the maintenance staff to positively affect everyone on campus. There are nine staff members at the physical plant: Carson Kosier, Brent Greear, Julie Godfrey, Ron Vorlicky, Steve Elchinger, Ted Czartoski, Tom Stevens, Phil Stelzer and Jim Coressel.

“People on campus have challenges, not problems,” says crew member Ted Czartoski, “and we’re here to help with those challenges. Maintenance wears many hats.”

The “many hats” of the maintenance crew include participation in various activities off campus and in their own communities. While the maintenance department at Defiance College tends to remain behind the scenes, quietly taking care of residence halls, campus buildings, and other needs that arise on a small campus, their community work is anything but routine.

Jim joins local community leaders on the executive committee of the local Emergency Planning Committee, working in close collaboration with the Emergency Management Association and Black Swamp Safety Council.

Family, faith and friendship serve as the cornerstones for Ted’s life. In addition to farming more than 700 acres in his

spare time, Ted volunteers for his small Catholic credit union. For the past 12 years, he has helped issue numerous loans to members of his community. He also serves as church trustee at St. John Lutheran in Sherwood.

Steve Elchinger participates in the Make-A-Wish Foundation through the Bowling Green Tractor Pull event with his family-oriented sports team, Triple Stacked Motorsports. For five years, Steve and his two sons have made dreams come true for the children able to check out their truck during this event. Like Ted, Steve farms 250 acres in his time outside work and tractor-pulling.

Also, one of the many hats worn by a maintenance crew member happens to be a firefighter’s helmet. Julie Godfrey always looks for ways to challenge herself and offer help to neighbors and her community. Eighteen years ago, she took up firefighting as a way to accomplish both. She finds that both firefighting and working the grounds at the college are ideal positions for her, and she is familiar with being the only female member on a team.

The maintenance crew at DC is quick to stress the positive aspects of working on campus. “Each student, staff, and faculty member bring a new element to campus,” says Steve.

However, like the students and others they serve, the maintenance crew each contribute a unique perspective to the College that reflects the caring nature of the DC campus.

Pictured from left to right: Brent Greear, Phillip Stelzer, Ted Czartoski, Julie Godfrey, Steve Elchinger, Jim Coressel, Ron Vorlicky, Tom Stevens, Carson Kosier, and Dave Ciccotelli.

DEFY (ing)

the
ordinary

For Nick Niehaus '09, the Defiance College tagline “Defy the Ordinary” isn’t just a marketing phrase. It’s more a state of mind.

“Defiance’s mentality of “defy the ordinary” has really stuck with me,” says the 2009 alumnus now living in California. He spent several years in the solar industry and recently transitioned into education.

“Working in the solar industry, we were trying to show that there are other cleaner, more beneficial alternatives than your local utility. Just like in solar, I am trying to help ‘defy the ordinary’ in education to help change a system that hasn’t changed in 100 years.”

Niehaus worked for several years as an accountant for Sunrun, a residential solar company that leases and installs solar panels for homeowners. “Working at Sunrun made me realize the importance of believing in what you are working towards. When I started, I was employee 105, and now the company has more than 2,500 employees nationwide,” he says. Sunrun’s customer base went from 9,500 when Niehaus joined the company to more than 75,000 when he left. In his final months there, he was assisting the company to achieve its goal of going public.

“I wanted a career change to apply the knowledge I received in my years at Sunrun to another start-up company making an impact.”

Niehaus found such a place in AltSchool, PBC. It’s a collaborative community of micro-schools utilizing outstanding teachers, deep research and innovative tools to offer a personalized, whole child learning experience for the next generation. “I wanted to continue working for a company that is truly trying to make a positive impact on the world,” he says. “I have only been at AltSchool for a short period of time, but I have enjoyed every moment so far. It is exciting to be working for a company that is trying to positively rethink our education system. What we are working on now could truly become something great and change the way we envision education in the future.”

The DC grad is reminded every day of the people he is helping. “One of the perks of working at AltSchool is having a classroom near the corporate office. Every day, I can see the students we are trying to help shape,” he says. “This allows me to keep things in perspective and know what I am working towards.”

The success of AltSchool is evidenced by two additional locations opening since he began – another in California and the first school in New York.

A Defiance College education instilled in Niehaus a desire to be of service to others. “I am still active in community engagement by volunteering at local soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Defiance College taught me the value of giving back that I still carry today.”

But living in San Francisco, Niehaus has also found recreation to fill his leisure time. He has taken up hiking and golf, things he can enjoy year-round.

A native of Dayton, Niehaus attended Centerville High School. His parents, Greg and Deb, encouraged him to consider Defiance College, believing that the small campus and classes would be a good fit. He threw the hammer in high school and says that is what ultimately got



“Being a member of the football and track teams really helped teach me discipline, which was not my strong suit coming to DC!”

Nick Niehaus '09



him to visit DC and enroll.

“Being a member of the football and track teams really helped teach me discipline, which was not my strong suit coming to DC!” he recalls. “Football taught me the importance of working on a team and being prepared. All eleven people on the field must do their job for the team to be successful.

“Track showed me that working towards your goals is not easy, and you can’t throw in the towel when things get hard. Also, it taught me how to lead and be accountable.”

He knew that he wanted to study accounting and finance, and DC was able to provide him with excellent real-world experiences. “Without these, I would not be where I am today,” he says. “I remember my junior year going to local businesses and helping them set up their accounting systems. I learned that not everything goes as planned, and you need to be able to roll with the punches. Not all the set-ups went smoothly,

and I had to learn to think on my feet to work through the problems.”

Former faculty member Dr. Mike Gallagher had a positive impact on Niehaus’s college experience. “His teaching style was to engage students and encourage them to get real-life experiences. During tax time, he would allow students to assist local residents in tax preparation. ... He encouraged me to apply for a senior internship at a local CPA firm that ultimately gave me the confidence to enter the ‘real world.’”

But, college was more than accounting classes for Niehaus. He says his most interesting experience was playing offensive line for the Jackets, never having played a down of football in his life. And his fondest college memory is his first day of his freshman year. “It was my first time away from home, and I was unsure about my decision. But within 24 hours I was able to meet friends that, almost 10 years later, I am still close with.”

SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS PAY IT FORWARD

Students from Defiance College’s Social Work Macro Practice with Communities and Organizations class conducted their annual Pay It Forward initiative during the fall semester. The course directly impacts community needs by awarding financial assistance. This year, the class awarded a \$1,000 grant to CPC Women’s Health Resource.

Since 2008, the class has awarded more than \$15,000 to address needs of transportation, hunger, unemployment, youth mentorship and cultural understanding in northwest Ohio. With steps embedded in the curriculum, students conduct a five-county community assessment, prepare a request for grant proposals, send RFPs to approximately 50 non-profit social service agencies, and award grants to applicants that best address the identified community need.

The project began in 2008 with funding through the Pay It Forward student-led philanthropy program led by Ohio and Kentucky Campus Compacts, and later with the support of the Women’s Giving Circle of Defiance. In recent years, the class has raised its own funds through a number of events such as raffles, bake sales, and donation solicitation. This year, a portion of the funds was raised with support from Buffalo Wild Wings and Applebee’s, both of which donated a percentage of one-day dining sales.

This year’s grant recipient, CPC Women’s Health Resource, is a Christian, nonprofit social service agency that assists women and families with pregnancy, prenatal care and parenting skills. CPC has been serving Northwest Ohio for 29 years, now serving six counties. In 2014, the agency served 994 clients, 6,404 office visits and 5,601 screened telephone calls. Last year, 218 babies were born to CPC clients.

The Pay It Forward grant will be used toward the Earn While You Learn Program. EWYL began in 2005 as a way to build mentoring relationships with clients and provide parenting and life skills training. Clients earn material items needed toward raising a healthy family while learning how to be good parents. With the \$1,000 grant, the program will be able to purchase car seats and cribs with mattresses.



Pictured above are: Patty Meriweather, CPC Women’s Health Resource, and DC social work student Breanna Zipfel.

DEFIANCE COLLEGE AGAIN NAMED TO MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS LIST

Defiance College has been designated a 2016 Military Friendly® School. This is the seventh consecutive year that DC has been named to the list. This designation provides service members and their families with transparent, data-driven ratings about post-military education and career opportunities.

The title is awarded to the top colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students and to dedicate resources to ensure their success both in the classroom and after graduation. The methodology used for making the list has changed the student veteran landscape to one much more transparent and has played a significant role in capturing and advancing best practices to support military students across the country.

Criteria for making the Military Friendly® list include military support on campus, graduation and employment outcomes, and military spouse policies.

Defiance College has a long tradition of supporting the military. A veterans committee addresses the needs of students, and all are encouraged to become involved in campus activities to broaden their college education experience. VA school certifying official Carrie Relyea works closely with veteran students, veteran dependent students, and campus offices to ensure a smooth process in utilizing veteran benefits.

“Post-secondary institutions earning the 2016 Military Friendly® School award have exceptionally strong programs for transitioning service members and spouses,” said Daniel Nichols, chief product office of Victory Media and Navy Reserve veteran. “Our Military Friendly® Schools are truly aligning their military programs and services with employers to help students translate military experience, skills and training into successful careers after graduation.”

Defiance College is showcased along with other 2016 Military Friendly® Schools in the annual Guide to Military Friendly® Schools, special edition of G.I. Jobs® and Military Spouse Magazine, and on MilitaryFriendly.com.



DC GRAD RESCUES TODDLER

What could have been a tragedy for a Michigan family turned into a happy ending thanks to the excellent work of a Defiance College alumnus and his K-9 partner (pictured).

Allegan County Sheriff's Deputy Ben Haas '05 and his K-9 partner Medo reported for duty along with dozens of other first responders last May 29 when a two-year-old wandered away from home and was reported missing by his frantic parents.

The search went on through the night and through rain storms, covering open fields and wooded areas around the family's residence.

At about 4 a.m. the next morning, Medo caught Preston's scent and led Deputy Haas to the little boy who was in the woods, playing in the mud, about a quarter-mile from home.

News accounts reported Haas as saying, "He sat right there, smiled and waved. I thought for sure he was going to cry when I picked him up. He was happy and grabbed onto my shoulder. We walked out to the shoulder of the road, and he just started waving at people."

Haas, a nine-year veteran of the sheriff's department, said, "When I saw him sitting up and he was looking at me and smiling, there wasn't a better moment in my career."

The little boy was uninjured despite his seven-hour ordeal. He reportedly asked Haas if he could pet the German shepherd Medo.

Haas is a 2005 graduate of Defiance College with a criminal justice major.

RECOGNIZING

Defiance College Faculty and Staff



DR. MC HARPER, professor of English, has published a new book of poetry entitled *Some Gods Don't Need Saints*. The limited edition book from Finishing Line Press

is a 2015 New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition semifinalist.

Professor Harper organizes and reads poetry at the yearly SwampFire Retreat of artists and writers at 4 Corners Gallery in Angola, Ind., in collaboration with potter Steve Smith. Besides *Some Gods Don't Need Saints*, her poems have appeared in *The Comstock Review*, *Old Northwest Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Pudding Magazine* and *MidAmerica*. Her poem "Muddy World" won the 2013 Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature.



DR. DOUG KANE, associate professor of biology, has just had two studies published in international research journals. "Ten+ years gone: Continued

degradation of offshore planktonic communities in U.S. waters of Lake Erie's western and central basins (2003–2013)" was published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, with co-authors from The Ohio State University and Department of Fisheries and Oceans- Canada. The article can be found at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0380133015001306>. "Feeding ecology of the invasive round goby, *Neogobius melanostomus* (Pallas, 1814), based on laboratory size preference and field diet in different habitats in the western basin of Lake Erie" is in press at *Aquatic Invasions* (<http://www.aquaticinvasions.net/2015/accepted.html>). Doug is a co-author, with other authors from Ohio State's F.T. Stone Laboratory and Indiana University.

Dr. Kane also 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" (<https://storify.com/IAGLR/iaglr-2015-contents>, <http://www.iaglr.org/iaglr2015/>) in May. Further, Doug 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 (<http://landtolake.com/calendar-of-events/>). Dr. Kane was interviewed for a 13 ABC News Toledo segment titled "Mayflies are back: "They're a sign of a healthy Lake Erie" (<http://www.13abc.com/home/headlines/Mayflies-are-back-Theyre-a-sign-of-a-healthy-Lake-Erie-308575401.html>) broadcast on Friday June 19.



BRIDGET OLENIK, director of bands, performed recently with the Toledo Symphony. Bridget played a movement from a marimba concerto, featuring her

rare and beautiful five-octave marimba. Earlier this year, Olenik took part in the two-week Heartland Marimba Festival and Academy in Iowa. The summer festival showcased the many facets of the marimba, an instrument with deep roots in Africa and Central American cultures and performed with visceral displays of virtuosity on the worldwide modern concert stage.



STEVE SONDERGAARD, professor of criminal justice, has been named to the Board of Trustees of Mercy College of Ohio, Toledo. He joined the Defiance College

faculty in 1993 and was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2008. He is an alumnus of the University of Dayton, Pfeiffer College and Terra Technical College.



DR. TODD A. COMER, professor of English, presented two papers in the fall of 2015. Both papers are part of a larger project, a book on the Australian director Peter Weir (Bloomsbury Publishing). The first

presentation on "Peter Weir's *Master and Commander: The Far Side of Ecological Awareness*" was presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Popular Culture Association. The second on "Gender, Ecology, and the Enlightenment Project in Peter Weir's *Mosquito Coast*" was presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association.

In late November JSTOR *Daily* featured Dr. Comer's 2005 essay "Aggression, Ethics, and War in *The Big Lebowski*" and provided a free PDF of the article. The feature and PDF may be accessed online at <http://daily.jstor.org>.



KELLY REPKA, major gifts officer, has been named a certified fund raising executive (CFRE) by CFRE International. To receive the designation, Kelly met a series of standards and passed a

written exam. The certification is granted for a three-year period.

THE WINNING COMBINATION:

Liberal Arts and the D-III Student-Athlete

Back in the fall of 1979 a relatively poor student-athlete from the cornfields of Pickaway County headed off to attend Ohio Wesleyan University along with rich kids from all over creation. That young man was of course me.

I always did my best in classes and I was a curious young man, especially in the area of history. From a young age I knew that I was going to college and that higher education was important. However, above all things, I loved football and was not willing to give it up. Sport taught me how to get clobbered, get up, analyze what had just happened, and do better next time. Undersized (5'9" and 160 pounds) and moderately slow (4.99 seconds for the 40-yard dash with wind assistance), I loved to tackle and could outwork anyone if I put my mind to it. Add to that the many years of tag-team physical and mental torment from my older brothers and I was a tough little dude.

However, toughness doesn't draw great attention (compared to impressive speed or size) thus I recruited the OWU football coach. He wasn't that impressed, but I was accepted into school and received a great financial aid package due to the fact that President Carter was investing in education instead of building up an arsenal of Cold War weapons.

As a first-generation college student from the boonies, I thought being "rich" meant that you owned two nice cars at the same time. I was clueless about the upper crust and thus fully unprepared for the cultural shift I was about to experience. As a high school student I always wanted to earn high grades, but I usually took interesting courses instead of the pre-packaged college preparatory curriculum. My most meaningful classes/activities were woodshop, bachelor living, advanced foods, yearbook, remedial English, geometry, and, of course, sports. Suffice it to say, this laissez-faire approach did not prepare me for the high-caliber, liberal arts challenge ahead.

Having earned notable recognition as a high school student-athlete, I was not without self-confidence, but everyone at OWU was smart and no one really cared that I played football. Our Battling Bishops team took five games to finally score that season and I wasn't even good enough to make the travel team. In fact, I was so undervalued that they gave me faded pink game pants (previously white), a poorly fitting helmet, and the pleasurable opportunity to play scout team tailback. All in all, it was an extremely humbling experience.

In my freshman residence hall many of the rich boys were getting drunk, tearing up the place, and continually blabbering on and on about their impressive families, towns, and accomplishments. They were primarily concerned with self-promotion and social status. As a country kid, I had nothing to tell them, nothing to



*By Tim Rickabaugh, Ph.D., Interim
Vice President of Academic Affairs,
Professor of Exercise Science*

prove, and, frankly, I didn't like them. On the academic side, I was required to take French, art history, music appreciation, philosophy, and more writing classes than you could shake a stick at. If my parents had owned a farm, I'm pretty sure I would have left to live off the land.

Then a couple of *tipping points* occurred that helped me to better appreciate my new situation. The first was during a free writing exercise in my introductory composition class. We were instructed to write for 10 minutes and simply pull the reader into our fictional setting. I wrote about hiding in a tree after running from a tribe of fierce cannibals and reflecting on how I had gotten myself into such a mess. The story was kind of stupid and fun to think about and, frankly, I had nothing more significant to say. The professor was an intimidating man, with a habit of peering critically at us over his spectacles. After collecting the writings, he shocked me by selecting mine to read aloud because it was vivid, interesting, and wasn't meant to impress anyone. He actually stated that my writing was both creative and entertaining and I was left dumbfounded by this unexpected compliment. How could any of the above be true when these rich kids were so obviously superior to me?

Another transformational moment came after I pledged to the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and, as a result, was dragged out of my introverted shell. We were in the depths of initiation week, and the fraternity members were giving us a pretty hard time. Back in high school I was always the player that looked out for the younger guys and thus was not inclined to tolerate such abuse. I called my fellow pledges into the cleaning closet—our only available hideout—and proposed a walk out. I quickly had half of them convinced by my simple yet truthful logic that the upperclassmen needed us more than we needed them. Even though my proposed strike was voted down, the developing leader within me had clearly communicated that we lowly pledges had authentic power and voice despite the fact that we were treated as if we were the scum of the Earth.

So now . . . what does this essay have to do with D-III athletics and the liberal arts?

My answer is that this wonderful, if idiosyncratic, combination of learning experiences often “flies under the radar” but nevertheless has great potential to mold ordinary young people into leaders that are willing to take chances, be judged, and handle both failure and success with dignity and humility.

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines an athlete as “a person who is trained in or good at sports, games, or

exercises that require physical skill and strength.” I believe the two inherent flaws in this definition are the criterion of being “good” and the limitation of athleticism to “physical skill and strength.” I would propose that being an athlete is simply making a commitment to train for any movement-based activity and following through with that dedicated regimen in order to achieve an individual level of excellence. The true essence of D-III athletics is clearly stated by the NCAA in that “Division III affords student-athletes the opportunity to discover valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and leadership, which in turn make student-athletes better students and responsible citizens.”

Regarding the Liberal Arts, Wikipedia—yes, dreaded by professors everywhere—defines such an education as “aiming to impart a broad general knowledge and develop general intellectual capacities, in contrast to a professional, vocational, or technical curriculum.”

The complementary fit between D-III athletics and the liberal arts is likely due to the fact that our American educational system is historically based on dealing with the human dilemma of *Dualism*. Dualism proposes that the separate human components of the “mind” (cognitive) and the “body” (psychomotor) must be connected (balanced) in order to achieve one's human potential.

From Plato to Descartes this theory has been discussed, debated, deconstructed, and reconstructed. Now, with the widespread acceptance of Benjamin Bloom's three

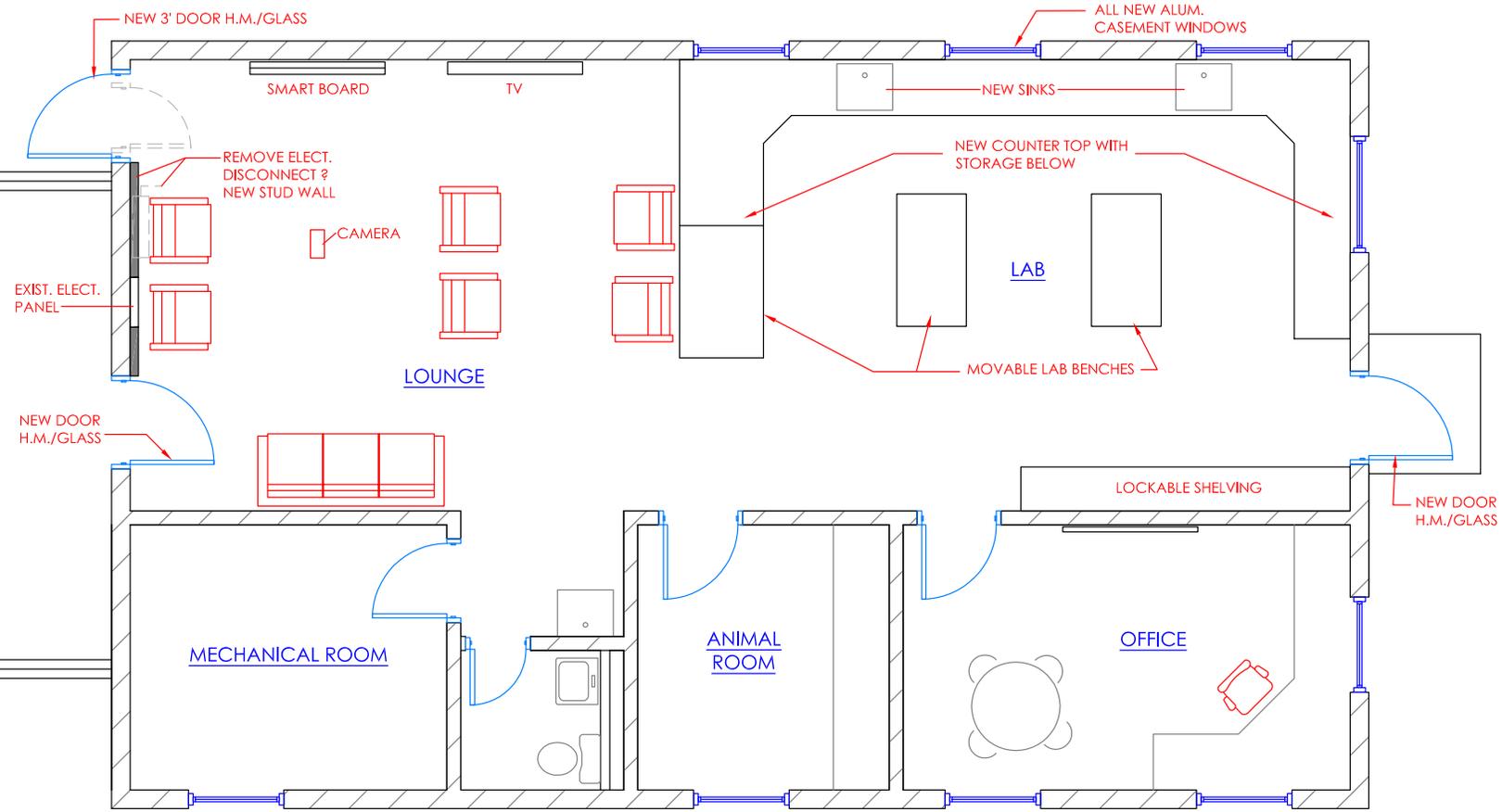
domains of learning (cognitive, affective, and psychomotor) there is little left to debate regarding the great potential benefit of movement-based learning activities. It can therefore be assumed that higher education should strive to develop *balanced* individuals, merging the mind and the body, and that the D-III athletics model combined with a liberal arts curriculum is an optimal learning environment.

Most D-III student-athletes are very much like I was in that they are physically limited but passionate about their sport. Such student-athletes, faced with similar challenges, are then able to experience exceptional character development, allowing ordinary D-III student-athletes to become extraordinary examples of human potential.

I wrote about hiding in a tree after running from a tribe of fierce cannibals and reflecting on how I had gotten myself into such a mess. The story was kind of stupid and fun to think about and, frankly, I had nothing more significant to say.

Tim Rickabaugh, Ph.D.

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles written by Defiance College faculty to explore the liberal arts.)



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.

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.

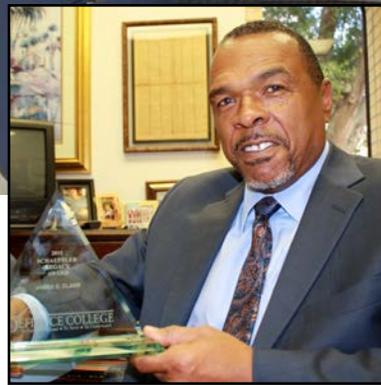
More than \$110,000 in gifts and pledges have already been committed to the Mikula-Frey Initiative, and gifts are still being accepted through the Office of Institutional Advancement. "The science faculty are working closely with the physical plant on the renovation plans; we want to raise every dollar we can to make this a great space for our students," commented Wetstein. The travel endowment will begin funding student travel in the

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."

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.



HOMECOMING 2015

Award Winners

Seven Defiance College alumni and a faculty member were recognized during 2015 homecoming festivities for their accomplishments.

The Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence was presented to Christine (Reeb) Wahl, Defiance, Ohio. Alumni Achievement Award recipients were Jerry Pierman, North Palm Beach, Fla.; Donald Smith, Continental, Ohio; and Thomas Spiess, Fayette, Ohio. Nick Neiderhouse, Maumee, Ohio, received the Young Alumni Service Award. The Schaufler Legacy Award was presented to James D. Clark, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; and Marie (Yoder) Wenner, Columbia, Pa. Dr. JoAnn Burkhardt received the Harold A. McMaster Life is Action Award.

CHRISTINE WAHL '72 holds an exemplary teaching record in service to her community. She graduated with a degree in elementary education (K-8). She obtained a Master of Education from Bowling Green State University, then joined the Defiance City Schools staff as a first grade teacher. She was one of 40 teachers selected from the State of Ohio

and Department of Education to author a \$2.5 million grant that established Professional Development Training Centers throughout the state.

In addition to education, Wahl also helped students interested in music. She served as the musical director for the Young People's Theater Guild for 19 years and has provided private music lessons since 1973. Wahl and her husband, Elliot, live in Defiance, Ohio. They have one son, Patrick. After 39 years of service, she retired in 2011 and continues to contribute to the Defiance community as a substitute teacher.

JERRY PIERMAN '63 started in the golf course construction business in 1972. During his early years, he participated in the construction of multiple golf courses. He eventually formed his own business, Pierman Golf Company. While Jerry closed his company in the mid-90s, he continues to consult on golf course construction all over the world. In 2005, he joined professional golfer Lenny Wadkins to form the Lenny Wadkins Design Company. They are currently working on a project in Ecuador.

Pictured are from left to right: Christine Wahl, Jerry Pierman, Marie Wenner, Nick Neiderhouse, JoAnn Burkhardt, Tom Spiess, and Don Smith. Inset: Jim Clark.

Pierman has served on numerous committees throughout the years, including the Executive Committee for the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio, the Golf Course Builders Association of America, and North Palm Beach Country Club golf course advisory board. He has also been a guest speaker on several occasions. He graduated from DC with a bachelor's degree in business. Jerry and his wife, Judy, live in North Palm Beach, Fla. They have three children (Jana, Joseph, and Jason) and five grandchildren.

DON SMITH '71 has had a longstanding career in social work and served on DC's social work advisory council for 35 years. His real joy in life, though, has been raising money for Diabetes Youth Services in Toledo. He learned that DYS conducts summer camps for children with diabetes that combines diabetes education with normal camping activities. "I swim a mile every day (for pledged donations), so I found an activity I love that benefits kids," Smith said.

Since he started 12 years ago, Smith has helped raise \$159,607 for the camp. He graduated with a degree in social work and believes it was DC that first instilled in him the desire make the world a better place through service projects. Smith plans to continue his efforts for Youth Diabetes Services in his new home, Sun City Center, Fla., where he and his wife, Connie, moved in August.

TOM SPIESS '70 graduated from DC with a bachelor's degree in comprehensive art. Originally intending a career of a few years at Fayette Schools, he became deeply involved in education and retired after 30 years. He has served on the Ohio Arts Council; as founder and director of the Fayette Community Arts Council; as a Jennings Scholar; chairman of the Fulton County United Way; president of the Gorham Fayette Teachers' Association; and president of the Fulton County Community Improvement Corporation.

His lasting legacy at Defiance College began as a tribute to his oldest son, Jon. Two years after Jon's unfortunate death, Spiess established the Jon Spiess Memorial Golf Tournament. In two decades, the tournament has hosted thousands of college golfers and grown into a two-day, two-course event featuring collegiate players from NCAA Division I, II, and III schools; NAIA Teams, and junior college teams. Proceeds from the tourney benefit scholarships for DC students. Spiess lives in Fayette with his wife, Cherlyn. In addition to Jon, they have three children: Matthew, Mark, and Elizabeth.

At Defiance College, **NICK NEIDERHOUSE '05** found the opportunity to work with local school systems in the area incredibly beneficial. He graduated from DC with a middle childhood education degree. Starting as a sixth grade teacher at Fallen Timbers, he is now principal of Wayne Trail Elementary. Neiderhouse organizes volunteer efforts for students, including spending weekends assisting individuals with developmental disabilities, fundraising, and serving the community.

Neiderhouse is a member of the Ohio Association of Secondary Administrators, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators, and the Educational Leadership Association. In addition, he has served on numerous educational committees and as a volunteer leader. Currently, he lives in Maumee with his wife, Raquel, and their son, Neiko.

JIM CLARK '75 received his bachelor's degree in social work and psychology at DC. While at DC, he was recognized as a valuable football player. He was inducted into the Ohio State Social Work Hall of Fame in 2011 and holds advanced certification as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (L.C.S.W.) and Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), among others. Currently, Clark is president and CEO of Daniel Memorial, and founder of the Jacksonville Kids Coalition.

He has spoken nationally and runs a weekly television segment in Jacksonville, Fla. on positive ways to raise children. Clark also designed and piloted the Statewide In-patient Psychiatric Program (SIPP), which is now used as a model throughout the state of Florida. His community work includes serving on the 7th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission and the State Advisor Group for Juvenile Justice. Clark and his wife, **AMY '75**, met on campus and have been married 38 years. They reside in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and have two children: Amanda and Christopher.

MARIE WENNER '54 graduated with degrees in social work and Christian education, has devoted a lifetime to service and Christian education, volunteering with the UCC Synod and conferences, developing curriculum, providing workshops, and training others to serve their church. After marrying Nelson, a 1954 graduate from Lancaster Seminary, Wenner helped with Nelson's church ministry and taught weekday nursery school. They started a church in rural Pennsylvania and had built a membership of almost 100 congregants within six years. The original barn on the property has since been renovated to open the first YMCA in the area.

When Marie's husband Nelson passed away in 2010, they had been married for almost 60 years. They have three children, Mark, Karen, and James, and five grandchildren, Kevin, Greg, Eric, Christine, and Olivia. Wenner resides in Columbia, Pa.

DR. JOANN BURKHARDT, professor of education, was recognized with the first-ever Harold A. McMaster Life is Action Award for her involvement with the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity since 2003.

Burkhardt was named a faculty McMaster Fellow to Guatemala in 2003-04, leading a team of student McMaster Scholars in working with teachers and administrators. In 2004, she began a partnership in Cambodia which included a focus on teacher training in Phnom Penh. She has been named a McMaster Fellow each successive year to Cambodia.

Over the past 13 years, Burkhardt has led nearly 120 McMaster Scholars, students of all academic disciplines, as they work in partnership with various communities to improve the human condition. In addition she has served as both mentor and colleague for 10 faculty and staff on these experiences.



*Pictured at left, l-r, Michael Bixel, Larry Flynn, Stephanie Fetter, and Marv Rotondo.
Below, l-r, Tom Held, Kenny Krouse, Tim Held, Bob Martin, Frank Kill, Jim Linder, and Tim Shock.*



HOMECOMING 2015

Hall of Fame & Coach of the Year

Four Defiance College alumni were inducted in the Alumni Varsity 'D' Hall of Fame during this year's homecoming festivities. They included: Stephanie Nafziger Fetter, Adrian, Mich.; Paul (Larry) Flynn, Avon, Ohio; Maurice (Marv) Rotondo, Sylvania, Ohio; and Michael Bixel, Willoughby, Ohio. An induction ceremony was held at halftime during the DC versus Earlham College football game in Justin F. Coressel Stadium. The Alumni Varsity 'D' recognized Hall of Fame inductees at a 9 a.m. breakfast in the Serrick Campus Center. Also recognized were seven DC alumni selected as 2015 Coach of the Year recipients. They included: Tom Held, Bob Martin, Frank Kill, Tim Held, Jim Linder, Tim Shock and Kenny Krouse.

STEPHANIE FETTER '98 lettered in basketball all four years at Defiance College. She served as captain of the team her junior and senior years, and was chosen All-American for the 1997-1998 season. Fetter and her teammates made three NCAA Tournament appearances during her playing career, and she was chosen as the Purple & Gold Female Athlete of the Year her senior year. She was also active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Fetter graduated with a degree in finance and worked at Tiffin University for three years as the Bursar. She and her husband **JAMIE '96** have three children: Tyson, Brook, and Trenton. She currently works part-time at Adrian College and does volunteer work for her children's schools.

LARRY FLYNN '80 lettered in basketball all four years at DC. He played in 110 varsity games with a combined record of 73-37. He had 1,258 career points, which ranked him ninth all-time when he graduated. He shot 45 percent from the floor, which was fifth all-time when he graduated. Defiance College was the HBCC Conference champion his sophomore year and won the NAIA District 22 championship his senior year.

Earlier this year, Flynn was inducted into the Lorain, Ohio, Sports Hall of Fame. His high school team Lorain Catholic went 25-1 his senior year, losing only in the state championship. Flynn played on an All-Star team the following summer in Costa Rica, representing Ohio and the United States. He graduated from DC with a degree in accounting and management. Currently, he is a regional audit specialist with AIG. He and his wife, Judy, live in Avon, Ohio, with their two children, Andrew and Elizabeth.

At DC, **MAURICE "MARV" ROTONDO '70** lettered all four years of his athletic career, was All-Conference and All-District (NAIA District 22) Offensive Guard in 1969. In addition to football, he was a four year player for the Defiance club lacrosse team and was captain in 1970. Off the field, he was chosen as Tau Kappa Epsilon Man of the Year, House Master and Pledge Master 1968-70.



Rotondo retired from teaching in 2010 after four decades of service. His time as an educator was marked by recognition as Ottawa Hills Teacher of the Year in 1983, three Lucas County Teacher of the Year awards, two national recognitions for "Who's Who" teacher by former students, and Teacher of the Month in 2008. He served for 20 years as president of the Ottawa Hills Education Association. He is also a Vietnam War veteran. Rotondo and his wife, Cynthia, live in Sylvania, Ohio.

MICHAEL BIXEL '83 was recognized for his prowess on the football field. He came to Defiance College as a transfer student his junior and senior years, moving over from Bowling Green State University. Bixel lettered in football those two years at DC and was chosen All-District, All-League, All-American, MVP, and as captain of the team.

After graduation, he played on several nationally-ranked flag football teams. He graduated with a degree in history and is currently vice president (projects) at PNC Bank. His wife, Elizabeth, is also a 1983 graduate of Defiance College. They live in Willoughby, Ohio, and have three children: Ashley, Chelsea and Michael II.

TIM HELD '96 was recognized for the fifth consecutive year as a Coach of the Year for his latest outstanding season with the Cincinnati Moeller High School baseball team. Moeller has now won three of the past four Division I state baseball titles, defeating Westerville Central 16-0 for the 2015 championship. The game was called after five innings due to the 10-run rule, giving Moeller the largest margin of victory of the 88-year history of the tournament in any division in a championship game. Held also earned Coach of the Year honors from the Greater Catholic League-South, the Cincinnati Enquirer, and local coaches' associations. He was invited to coach the Perfect Game All-American East team in August. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Leslie, and their two sons.

TOM HELD '85 was recognized as Coach of the Year for once again leading the Defiance High School baseball team to the Division II state championship. The Bulldogs finished the 2015 season with a 28-5 record, bringing Tom's lifetime record at Defiance 437-70. Tom and his wife, Deanne, have three children and live in Defiance.

JIM LINDER '89 was recognized as Coach of the Year for leading the Wayne Trace High School boys basketball team to the state semifinals for the first time in seven years. Wayne Trace entered the semifinals ranked second in the state, and although a loss to Canal Winchester ended their season, they did so with a 25-2 overall record. Linder's sons, Ethan and Corbin, helped lead the Raiders' phenomenal season. Linder is in his eighth year as head coach of the boys basketball team. He was honored as an Alumni Coach of the Year two years ago, the Crescent-News Co-Coach of the Year and Northwest District Coach of the Year last year. Linder holds the single-season record for wins at Wayne Trace with 25 victories during the 2014-15 season. He and his wife, Jane, live in Paulding and have six children: Riley, Abbey, Haley, Corbin, Ethan and Josiah.

FRANK KILL '02 was awarded Coach of the Year for leading the Lima Central Catholic High School boys basketball team to the state tournament. The team advanced to the state final before losing in the title game to Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph. This was Kill's second state championship game as head coach at LCC, and his second year to receive Coach of the Year recognition. His Thunderbirds won the state championship in 2014. Kill and his wife, Kris, live in Lima and have two children.

TIM SHOCK '08 received Coach of the Year honors for leading Hicksville High School's baseball team to the state semi-finals. The team secured the Division IV Regional Championship with a record of 19-10. Although Hicksville was the fifth seed in the Bryan District Tournament, the Aces ran off six straight playoff wins to make it to the state tournament for the first time since 1982. Shock lives in Hicksville with his wife, Chris. They have two children, Abbey and Gunner.

BOB MARTIN '76 was honored as Coach of the Year for his work with the Doncaster Danum Eagles basketball team in Doncaster, England. He has been with the Danum Eagles high school program since 2001 and led the team to eight conference championships, seven final four appearances, and six English Schools high school national championships. Martin was named 2014-15 Coach of the Year and Team of the Year in the region, and currently has more than 300 "mini-Eagles" involved in a weekly youth program.

KENNY KROUSE '87 received Coach of the Year honors for his outstanding 2014 season with the Tinora High School football program. Tinora won the 2014 regional title with a 13-1 record before ending the season with a loss in the state semi-finals. Tinora was ranked fourth in the final AP State Football Poll. Krouse and the Rams hold a 61-4 record in the conference over the past 10 years and have had three undefeated regular seasons (2002, 2010 and 2014). He has a career record at Tinora of 132-60. During that time they have won eight Green Meadows Conference titles and have made nine playoff appearances. Krouse lives in Bryan with his wife, Lori, daughter, Madysen, and stepsons, Brandon and Jared.



Update from the **FIELDHOUSE**

2015 Fall Sports Review

The Defiance football team posted a 2-8 overall record and placed in a tie for sixth in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference with a 2-6 mark. The Yellow Jackets recorded wins against Hanover (Ind.) College and Earlham (Ind.) College. In the matchup against Earlham, DC rushed for 334 yards which marked the third time in the past five seasons that the Yellow Jackets rushed for 300 yards or more against the Quakers. Also this season, the DC defense accounted for a league-leading five touchdowns. The Jackets had three interception returns for touchdowns and a pair of fumble recoveries that were also returned for scores. DC tied for third nationally amongst all NCAA Division III schools in defensive touchdowns.

Following the season, a total of 10 players were named to the All-HCAC Teams. Seniors Joe Niehaus (Grass Lake, Mich./Grass Lake), Andrew Feldhaus (Lutz, Fla./Steinbrenner), juniors Matt DeVore (Van Buren), Keandre Gilmer (Toledo/Rogers) and Kenny Jones (Toledo/Bowsher) and freshmen Tyler L'Heureux (Apopka, Fla./Apopka) and Nate Roberts (St. Petersburg, Fla./Boca Ciega) were all selected second-team. Junior Cody Wilson (McComb) and freshman Jalin Nealy (Pontiac, Mich./Jefferson) were tabbed honorable mention. In addition, senior Cody Lee (Tampa, Fla./Jefferson) was named to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



Kenny Jones (6) and Markell Moncrief (31)

The Jackets' individual success on the field carried over into the classroom as well as six players were named Academic All-HCAC. It marked the second straight year that DC had six players named Academic All-HCAC. The six players selected included: seniors Cody Lee, Tom Woehner (Kendallville, Ind./East Noble), juniors Andy Foore (Swanton), Cody Wiggins (Howell, Mich./Howell), Cody Wilson and sophomore Anthony Righi (Liberty Center).

The Defiance men's soccer team finished the 2015 season with a

6-11-1 overall record and 2-6-1 in the HCAC finishing eighth.

Sophomore Nick Kleptz (Troy) led the team in five statistical categories, including goals (eight), points (17), game-winning goals (four), shot percentage (.381) and penalty kick goals (three). His eight goals this season, put him in a tie for third in the HCAC. Following the season, Kleptz was named honorable mention All-HCAC for the second consecutive season. Joining Kleptz on the All-Conference Teams was senior Blayne Robbins (Galva, Ill./Miamisburg) who also earned honorable mention accolades. In addition, junior Brian Kurtz (Sandusky/Perkins) was named to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

The women's soccer team finished with a 3-15 overall record and 2-7 in the HCAC. Sophomore Kassie Memmer (Bowling Green) led all players in scoring for the second straight season with a team-high five goals for 10 points. Her five goals put her in the top-20 in the HCAC in that category. She also led the team in both shots (37) and



Nick Kleptz

19

ALL-HCAC SELECTIONS

shots on goal (23). After the season, Memmer was one of three players to be honored by the HCAC as a honorable mention selection for the second consecutive season. Freshman Claire Stockwell (Union, Ky./Larry A. Ryle) was also named honorable mention. Joining Memmer and Stockwell was senior Erica Islas (Lockhart, Texas/Lockhart) who was named to the All-Sportsmanship Team.

The Yellow Jacket volleyball team finished the season with an 11-19 overall record and qualified for the HCAC Tournament for the fourth straight season. Senior Rebecca Kain (Orland, Ind./Prairie Heights) ended a standout four-year career as the program's all-time leader in career digs with 1,927. She owns a combined eight school records (single season and career) in both the all-time and 25-point scoring eras, including career marks in digs and digs per set (4.45). She owns single-season records for digs (648), digs per set (5.68), and serve percentage (.949). In addition to Kain, sophomore Meredith Shank (Maumee/Springfield) and freshman Marissa Windau (Castalia Margaretta) both had solid seasons in 2015. Shank led the team in kills with 296 and ranked ninth overall in the HCAC. She had 15 matches with 10 or more kills, including a career-high 20 kills against Otterbein University. Defensively, she was one of seven players to record 100 or more digs (107) and was fourth in blocks with 25 (eight solo and 17 assists). Windau had a strong "rookie" season for the Purple & Gold after finishing second on the team in kills with 274. She had 14 matches with 10 or more kills, including a season-high 15 kills against PSU-Behrend. In addition, she was fourth in aces (24), second in blocks (31) and also had 100 digs.

At the conclusion of the season, Shank was named to the All-HCAC Team, while Kain was selected honorable mention. Windau capped her impressive first season by being named to the



Rebecca Kain



Eme Miller

All-Freshman Team, becoming the fifth DC player to garner the award.

The Defiance women's cross country team finished 10th in the conference and were led all season by junior standout Eme Miller (Portland, Ind./Jay County). She broke her own school record in the 5k by nearly 30 seconds at the Wilmington College JennaStrong Fall Classic on Oct. 18. Miller went on to finish as runner-up individually at the

HCAC meet and 13th at the NCAA Division III Regional Meet earning All-Conference and All-Region accolades.

On the men's side, junior Clayton Bruggeman (St. Henry) paced the Yellow Jackets as the top finisher all season. Bruggeman posted a season-best time of 27:11.0 at the HCAC Championships and placed 17th overall. He went on to post a time of 28:24.4 at the NCAA Division III Regional Meet and placed 169th overall.

Following the season, the cross country teams each had a representative selected to the Academic All-HCAC Team in Aaron Textor (Swanton) for the women and junior Zach Roush (Nashville, Ind./Brown County) for the men.

The women's tennis team improved upon last season's outcome with a 5-12 overall record. Freshman Hannah Hesterman (Archbold) led the team in individual victories with eight and finished with an overall mark of 8-9 primarily as the number two singles player. Senior Haley Kuhlman (Oregon/Clay) was second in wins with seven and went 7-10 overall at the number three singles spot. Kuhlman and freshman Danielle Vance (Defiance) were the top doubles duo with six victories and went 6-11 overall.

Following the season, senior Savannah Marquez (Porterville, Calif./Porterville) was selected honorable mention All-HCAC and fellow senior Nicole Tank (Lincoln Park, Mich./Roosevelt) was selected to the All-Sportsmanship Team.

The women's golf team placed sixth at the HCAC Championships this fall. DC was led all season by the duo of sophomore Kristin Aslanian (Trenton, Mich./Trenton) and freshman Allison Barron (Ypsilanti, Mich./Heritage). Barron placed ninth at the HCAC Championships and finished just outside of All-HCAC honors. Aslanian placed 17th at the conference championships and led the team in stroke average at 92.7 in six tournaments and nine rounds of 18 holes. Barron finished just behind Aslanian with a 94.8 stroke average.

DEFIANCE COLLEGE BASEBALL



AT BAT	BALL		STRIKE		OUT		H/E						
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DAKTRONICS													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	RUNS	HITS	ERR
GUEST	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	1
YELLOW JACKETS	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	6	12	0
Sponsor				Sponsor				Sponsor					

BASEBALL TEAM EXCITED FOR NEW SCOREBOARD

Thanks to a number of generous gifts and pledges from baseball alumni, and with a big boost from the Alumni Varsity 'D', the Yellow Jacket baseball team will play their 2016 season with a new Daktronics multi-inning scoreboard perched just over the right field fence. The maintenance staff contributed heroic work over the years to keep the prior scoreboard system working, but it was time for a replacement and an upgrade.

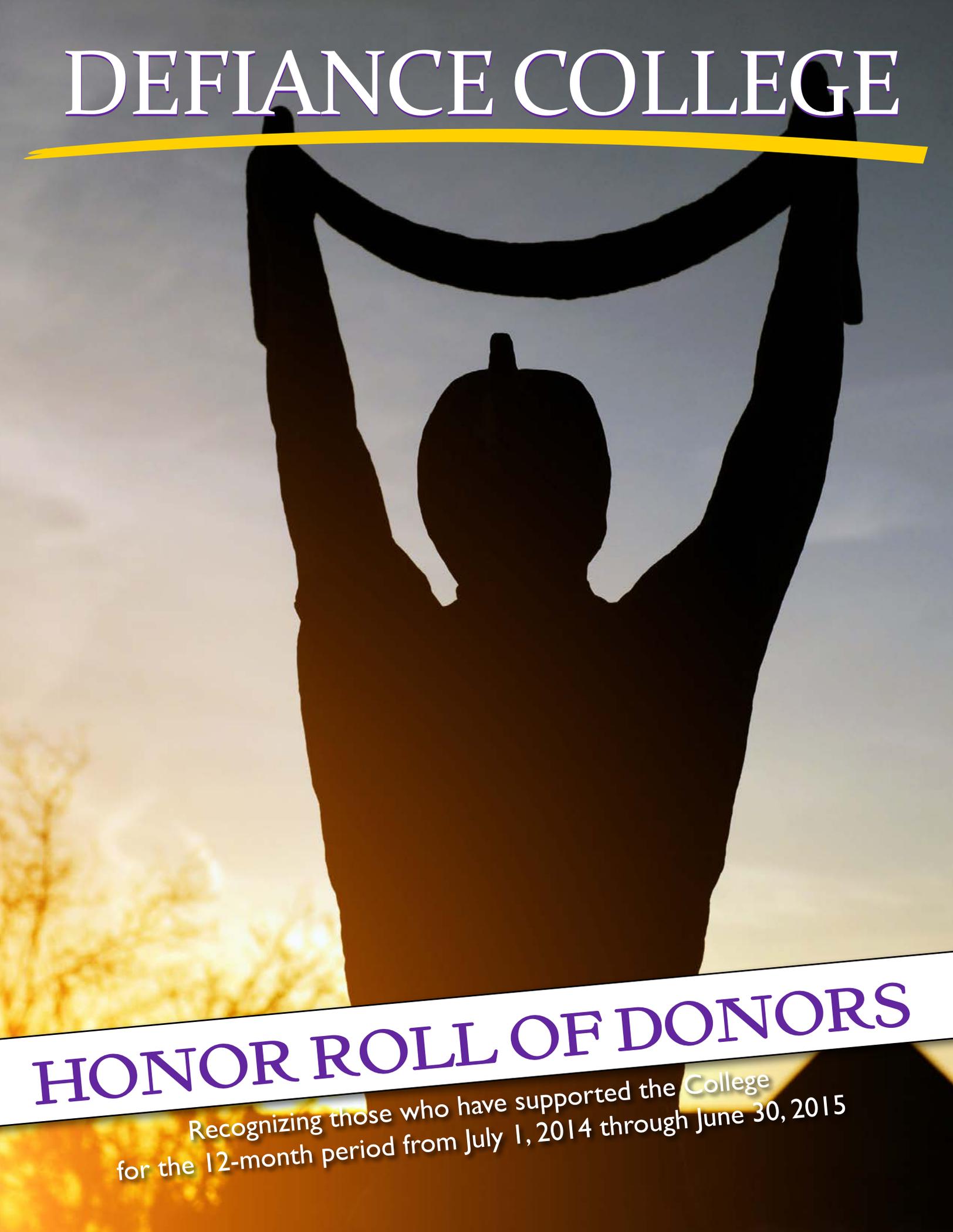
"We are extremely thankful to Alumni Varsity 'D', the baseball alumni and friends of the program who helped fund this project," said baseball coach Derek Woodley. "A new scoreboard will enhance the overall experience of our current and future players and will be a definite improvement to Rutter Field."

"The new Daktronics scoreboard will truly upgrade the facility and the game-day experience of our fans," said Rudy Yovich, director of athletics. "We are thankful for the generosity of our Alumni Varsity 'D' booster group and the work of Coach Woodley and the Institutional Advancement staff to make this project happen." Current coach Woodley and former coach Craig Rutter assisted the College's fundraising staff in reaching out to potential donors for this project.

Interested alumni and friends can still add their names to the list of donors for the scoreboard – there are always incidental costs that can arise during installation. To make a gift or pledge and add your name to the roster of donors, contact the Institutional Advancement office at (419) 783-2463 or via email kwetstein@defiance.edu.

By Ken Wetstein, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

DEFIANCE COLLEGE

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised, holding a pumpkin. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise over a field of trees. A yellow brushstroke underline is positioned below the college name.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Recognizing those who have supported the College
for the 12-month period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Honor Roll of Donors



Greetings to the many friends and alumni of Defiance College who are receiving this winter edition of our bi-annual magazine. I write this note in the midst of a holiday season full of blessings and thanksgiving, and I am indeed brimming with gratitude. In my first year in this new role with the College, having been in Student Life for many years up to now, I was truly amazed and humbled by the generosity of the College's alumni and friends displayed during our most recent fiscal year.

I am constantly impressed by the dedication of my colleagues in the faculty and staff. They strive to provide the best possible educational experience for each and every student here at the College. And the students respond to that experience, rising up and accomplishing amazing things. We are so proud of the students and the way they grow as a result of their DC experience. This edition of the magazine certainly highlights a fantastic group of alumni who are showing a lot of "heart" in their professional and civic lives.

None of this would be possible, however, without the generous and committed support of the individuals and organizations identified on the following pages. Words cannot express the debt of gratitude the College owes to the great number of alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends of the College who have made financial contributions to the College.

On behalf of all of the Defiance College family, please accept my sincerest thanks for your support of the College during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. We are humbled by your investment in the important work of helping our students to Know, Understand, Lead and Serve.

Ken Wetstein, Ph.D., CFRM
Vice-President for Institutional Advancement



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Recognizing those who support Defiance College with gifts of \$1,000 or more

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THE KEVIN McCANN CIRCLE

Kevin McCann was one of Defiance College's most committed, memorable and beloved presidents, having served as president from 1951 to 1964. In retirement, President McCann remained a loyal friend of the College until his death in 1981. In his honor the Defiance College Board of Trustees initiated the Kevin McCann Circle to recognize those alumni and friends who have chosen to complement their lifetime giving to the College by providing for DC in their estate or by some other deferred gift method. The following list includes current documented members of the Kevin McCann Circle.

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If you have included Defiance College in your estate plans but are not identified on this list, please contact us so we can include you in the recognition of this special group of alumni and friends. We would be delighted to learn more about your philanthropic intentions.

Deferred gifts can include provisions in a will or living trust, a charitable remainder trust, a charitable gift annuity, or through life insurance. To be added to the McCann Circle, or to learn more about these and other planned giving options, contact Ken Wetstein via e-mail at kwetstein@defiance.edu, or by phone at (419) 783-2463.

CLASS NOTES



Mike Steirer '62 and his wife, Jan, just completed a trip to Provence in Southern France. Mike continues to teach English composition at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio, and resides in Medina.

Jerry L. Pierman '63 has joined Las Olas Ecuador Real Estate as a member of the architectural design and construction team for the Ceibo Valley Golf Club, a premier par 72 championship golf course currently under construction on the coast of Ecuador. Jerry has more than 35 years of experience in the golf business, including working for Jack Nicklaus for more than ten years as vice president responsible for construction.

Judy (J.J.) Prokupek '67, Jerry Prokupek '67, and David Pierce '68 were on a transatlantic cruise from Venice, Italy, to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The three are pictured here outside a restaurant in Barcelona, Spain.



Joyce (Shepherd) Blankenship '69 retired in May 2014 after working 33 years as an adoption specialist at Children's Home Society of North Carolina. Joyce and her husband reside in Greenville, North Carolina. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Jean Churchill '70 won first and second prizes for her entries in the hand-quilted wall-hanging category at the Lucas County Fair in Maumee, Ohio, in the summer of 2015. Jean resides in Toledo.

Ron Sislowksi '70 announces his recent marriage to Paulette Williams. The Sislowskis reside in Lorain, Ohio.



Lynn Hickman '72 is now living in Martonvásár, Hungary, where he is married to Zoltán Migléc. They have two children, Zoltán Erik and Izabella Melinda. Lynn is studying the Hungarian language in Budapest.

After 35 years of service, **Donald Riker '72** retired in July from his position as a United Methodist pastor in the West Ohio Conference. Donald resides in South Vienna, Ohio.

In June 2013, **Susan (Nye) Peoples '73** retired from the Santa Ana Unified School District after 21 years of elementary school teaching. Susan resides in Lake Forest, California.

Quincy Ford '74 has retired from teaching after a career with the Michigan City, Ind. area schools that spanned 41 years. Ford headed the music department at Michigan City High School, and directed the marching, concert and jazz bands. In addition to his music work, he also taught driver's education since 2000. Quincy resides in Michigan City with his wife, Diana.

Yolanda Alvarado '83 has accepted a position as an account executive with Aetna Health Plans and has relocated to the Cincinnati area.

Amy Stoodt '89, owner/principal of Lean-To Consulting, LLC, has been recognized as a Distinguished Professional in her field through Women of Distinction magazine in the November 2015 edition. She spent more than 25 years working for major owners and operators, including Marathon Pipeline

Company as well as engineering firms, before making the decision to start her own consulting business in 2014. Amy's expertise is in executing management consultant activities and focusing on project management. She resides in Bush, Louisiana.

As of August 2015, **Carol (Keesbury) Whetstone '90** is trust officer/vice president at First Federal Bank. Carol and her husband, Tim, reside in Defiance.

Ron Slinger '91 was recently promoted to associate vice president of institutional advancement at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado. This is in addition to his current role as executive director of the Red Rocks Community College Foundation. His new scope of responsibilities will include government relations, community relations, alumni relations, grants, foundation, marketing and communications for the College. Ron lives in Arvada, Colorado, with his wife, Karen. They have two children: Nicholas - 20 and Katelyn - 15.

Dr. (Lieutenant Colonel) Mark Lee '92 recently retired from the military after more than 30 years of distinguished service. Mark's wife, Cynthia, recently retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 24 years of service in the Army. The Lees are retiring on the island of Tierra Verde, Florida, and Mark's future plans include becoming an associate professor of management and leadership.

Chris Hoeffel '96 is now the executive director for the United Way of Paulding County. Chris and his wife, **Annette (Rue) '99 & '10**, reside in Continental with their two children.

John Kryzanowski '00 was the new football coach this past season for the Kearny (New Jersey) High School Cardinals varsity football team. John is married to **Jenifer (Schaadt) '01**, and they reside in Kearny.

Joshua Francis, '02 & '06, interim dean of Indiana Tech's College of General Studies and director of teacher preparation, has been chosen to serve on a state blue ribbon commission on recruitment and retention of teachers in Indiana. Josh resides in Ney, Ohio.



Melissa (Dick) Cook '05 and her husband, Adam, welcomed a baby boy, Keaton, to their family on July 19, 2014. The Cooks reside in Clyde, Ohio. Melissa is the senior assistant director of admissions at Heidelberg University.

Christopher Newcomb '05 and his wife, Katie, announce the arrival of their daughter, Julia Christine, on June 10, 2015. Julia was welcomed home by her sister, Amelia, born March 23, 2012. The Newcombs live in Conneaut, Ohio.



Daniel Detmer '07 and **Katie (Pile) Detmer '08** announce the birth of their son, Cameron James, on Sept 19, 2015. The Detmers currently reside in Manassas, Virginia.

John Lancaster '07 and **Kathryn (Fedele) Lancaster '08** reside in Kalamazoo, Mich. with their three-year-old daughter, Juliana. Kathryn recently accepted a job with Access Medical, and John works for State Farm Insurance.



Richard Palmer '07 and **Emily (Anderson) Palmer '07** announce the birth of a baby boy, Grant Palmer, on September 14, 2015. Grant was welcomed home by his big brother, Dean. The Palmers live in Yulee, Florida, where Emily works as a national park ranger.

Jake Mulinix '10 & '12 and **Brittany Heaton '12** were married in Louisville, Ohio, on October 12, 2014. It was a true DC event, with Caci Hyman '11 as photographer, DC Professor Steve Sondergaard as officiant, and Dr. Don Knueve among the guests. Jake and Brittany are both working for the Ohio Attorney General's office, Jake as a special agent in the Health Care Fraud Section, and Brittany as a forensic scientist in the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. They reside in London, Ohio.

Nathan Schmidt '11 was wed to Allison Streicher on July 11, 2015 at St. John's Catholic Church in Continental. Nathan is an intervention specialist at Continental High School and Allison is a graduate student at Defiance College. The couple resides in Continental.

Treg Lymanstall '14 and **Janelle Doenges '13** were married on July 25, 2015 at North Mount Zion Church in Continental, Ohio. Janelle is employed at Ayersville Schools where she is a kindergarten teacher and Treg is employed at Tinora as assistant athletic director and basketball coach. They reside in Defiance.



Professor Steve Sondergaard had dinner earlier this fall with three DC alumni. Gathering at Henry's restaurant in Ottawa were Josh '05 and Allison (Stehlik) '04 Bowersock and Chris George '03 and their children.

DEATHS

Florence (Stauffer) Foley '41
August 31, 2015 – Mission, Texas

Roger Sweet '44
August 22, 2015 – Springfield, Ohio

Geraldine (Orthwein) Openlander '51
September 5, 2015 – Malinta, Ohio

Thomas Biggs '57
November 20, 2015 – Maumee, Ohio

Betty Lou (Karch) Stuber '58
September 30, 2013 – Fremont, Ohio

Minnie (Cunningham) Burt '61
October 29, 2015 – Clearwater, Florida

Nancy (Hurley) Smith '62
August 21, 2015 – Hicksville, Ohio

Dorotha "Dotty" (Zimmerman) Aldrich '65
September 7, 2015 – Defiance, Ohio

Dwight Moorhead '65
October 16, 2015 – Bryan, Ohio

David Gore '66
April 15, 2015 – King, North Carolina

Michael Pletcher '67
October 28, 2015 – Coolville, Ohio

Rev. Bennett McNeal '68
September 29, 2015 – Sandwich, Illinois

Larry Clites '70
September 5, 2015 – Peyson, Arizona

Michael Lanker '71
July 1, 2015 – Buffalo, Wyoming

Marilynn Kay Hoeffel '76
October 31, 2015 – Rossford, Ohio

J. Timothy Price '84
August 10, 2015 – Bryan, Ohio

Brian Evans '90
May 26, 2015 – Hagerstown, Maryland

Raffaella Peck '93
September 2, 2015 – New Bavaria, Ohio

Faculty:

Robert Ryan, former English professor, Cambridge Mass., April 15, 2015. A Melville scholar, Dr. Ryan taught for several years at DC before going on to teach at Boston University for 30 years.



Rudolph "Rudy" Oswald '69 of Naperville, Ill. died Nov. 20, 2014. A friend of many, Rudy was a loyal member of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity. He was particularly active in keeping his TKE brothers in contact with each other and organizing their annual return to Defiance College for Homecoming. In honor of his great love for his alma mater and his DC fraternity chapter, Rudy's family, friends and fellow TKEs chose to remember him by establishing the Rudy Oswald Scholarship at DC. It was announced at Homecoming this year that this memorial scholarship is now fully endowed and will provide student financial assistance each year to a deserving student for generations to come.

Keep in Touch

We'd like to know about your new job, recent marriage, new member of the family, new address, or other happenings in your life. For photos, please send those of Defiance College people only, identify everyone, and label the back with your name and address. If you are moving, please send this form in with your new address.

Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

News: _____

Mail this form to:
Alumni Office, Defiance
College, 701 N. Clinton
St., Defiance, OH 43512

**or email
news and photos to:**
alumni@defiance.edu

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For more information on this Alumni Referral Program, or to provide the name and contact information for a prospective student, please contact Lorie Rath, Director of Alumni Affairs, at lrath@defiance.edu; phone: 419-783-2307.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendars!

June 11, 2016 - Auglaize Golf Club

