

About  
McMASTER SCHOOL  
FOR ADVANCING HUMANITY

The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity was founded to serve as a focal point for teaching, service, scholarship, and action to improve the human condition worldwide. The mission of the McMaster School is:

- ◆ To educate students for responsible citizenship;
- ◆ To produce committed global citizens and leaders who understand the importance of individual liberties in improving the human condition worldwide; and
- ◆ To encourage graduates to take an active role in addressing these issues in whatever professions they may choose.

The School serves as a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary, community-based work by creating and supporting opportunities for teams of faculty, students, and staff to use their academic and professional skills to address a community need.

Goals of the  
McMASTER SCHOOL  
FOR ADVANCING HUMANITY

To critically examine the root causes of human suffering through academic and applied research of systemic factors (religious, political, social, educational and/or environmental) that impede human progress;

To give students the knowledge and capacities to be active world citizens and to view themselves as members of the world community;

To contribute actively - through sponsored scholarship and service to the improvement of the human condition worldwide;

To exchange, create and disseminate knowledge about successful role models of active citizenship and public service; and

To create at Defiance College one of the nation's premiere undergraduate educational programs with a focus on scholarship and service, with a special emphasis on developing an innovative approach to teaching.

About  
DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Defiance College, founded in 1850, is a private liberal arts college affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Building on a strong foundation of more than a century of educating citizens for lives of leadership and service, Defiance College provides opportunities for its students to make a meaningful impact on society in the twenty-first century with an educational experience of engagement. Defiance's spirit of service through leadership sets us apart.

Defiance College's role as a national and innovative leader in service learning and engagement was recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service which named Defiance among the top 20 schools in the nation for community service and engagement. This designation was made by naming Defiance College as a Presidential Award Finalist for the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The Princeton Review features Defiance College in *Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement*. Defiance is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the National Council of Teacher Education, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the Council on Social Work Education, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, and the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education.

As a national leader in the field of service learning and engagement, DC teaches students to take the knowledge they have gained and use it to change lives for the better – in their communities, in their careers, and in the world.

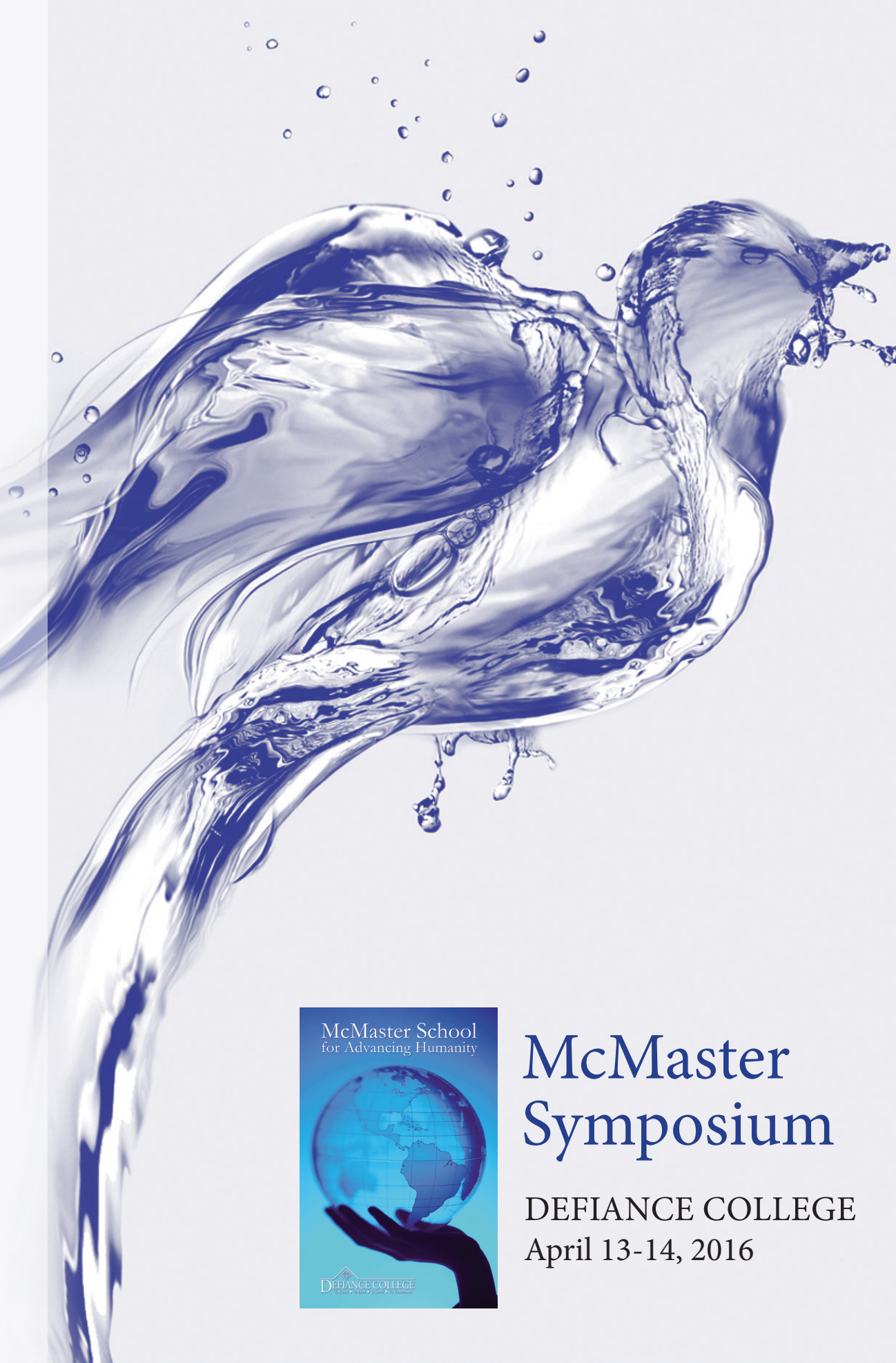
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*Jake Arnold, Don Buerk, Jo Ann Burkhardt, Mercedes Clay, Jordan Heiliger, Chris Medjesky, Rena Rager, Tim Rickabaugh, Kristen Stelzer, Mary Ann Studer*

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McMaster Symposium 2017  
April 5-6

THE QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AS CRITICAL TO  
IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION



McMaster  
Symposium

DEFIANCE COLLEGE  
April 13-14, 2016



5:00PM - 6:30PM

**DINNER WITH DR. GAI FERDON, SPEAKER**

Hubbard Banquet Room

7:00PM - 7:15PM

**OPENING REMARKS**

Schomburg Auditorium

Dr. Richanne C. Mankey, Defiance College President

Mary Ann Studer, Dean of the McMaster School

**INTRODUCTION** - Dr. Ron McMaster

7:15PM - 8:30PM **PRESENTATION**

**DR. GAI FERDON**

**SERVICE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP:  
INTEGRATING FAITH, LEARNING AND  
ERUDITION WITH SOCIETAL CHANGE**



Dr. Ferdon will be discussing the critical role of Christian scholars and leaders who seek to integrate into their academic specialties and vocations the authority of Biblical truths, who stand firm with ethical integrity, who endorse excellence in erudition, and who advance a world-changing attitude and reformist vision within the context of a Biblical Christian Worldview. Her presentation will emphasize

the necessity of anchoring a philosophy and methodology of education within Biblical Christian propositions and principles, which apply across the academic spectrum, and incorporate all relational and institutional constructs, including civil government, and the nature of property, with a specific focus upon life-giving solutions to social and economic problems. Dr. Ferdon will draw upon her own life-experiences as a missionary and teacher in various parts of the communist world, including Zimbabwe, and former Czechoslovakia, and language student in the former Soviet Union.

Dr. Ferdon was born in Portage, Wisconsin. Her educational background has been interspersed with life-changing missionary experiences and teaching positions in many interesting and intriguing parts of the world, such as Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, the former Soviet Union, former Czechoslovakia, Romania, and various parts of Western Europe. Dr. Ferdon received her Bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University, a Master's degree from Regent University and her Ph.D. in British Political Thought from the University of Leicester, UK. She joined the faculty at Liberty University in Virginia in 2007 and is currently an Associate Professor of Government. Her publications include: *Constitutional Government and Free Enterprise: A Biblical Christian Worldview Emphasis and Interactive Notes*, *The Political Use of the Bible in Early Modern Britain: Royalists, Republicans, Fifth Monarchists and Levellers*, and *A Republic If You Can Keep It: America's Authentic Liberty Confronts Contemporary Counterfeits*.

9:15AM - 9:30AM

**OPENING REMARKS**

Schomburg Auditorium

Dr. Richanne C. Mankey, Defiance College President

9:30AM - 10:45AM

**McMASTER CAMBODIA LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Schomburg Auditorium

JoAnn Burkhardt, Fellow; Fred Coulter, Fellow

Alex Bonilla, Associate Fellow

Scholars - Jordan Blank, Nathan Height, Elizabeth Pienoski,

George Roth, Arlen Stoller

**DIALOG WITH DR. GAI FERDON**

**Towards a Hermeneutic of Liberty**

**in Contrast to Totalitarianism**

Buchman Board Room

Don Buerk, Jeremy Taylor, Tom Woehner,

Kristian Woolace, Remick Pearson

Panel moderated by Michelle Blank

*Dr. Ferdon and the panelists will broach issues of liberty and jurisdiction in contrast to civil tyranny and totalitarianism, leading to a discussion on principles of civil liberty and religious liberty, and liberty of conscience stemming from the Protestant Reformation and its impact upon the British Isles and American colonization. Highlights would include liberty principles for societal structuring, especially that of transcendent truths, constitution crafting, and limited civil-government, which include an emphasis upon the broad nature of property. Inalienable rights will also be emphasized, bearing in mind that these principles are universal in nature and focus.*

**WATER QUALITY ISSUES: LOCAL TO GLOBAL**

Cultural Arts Center

Douglas D. Kane, Katelyn Haydett,

Madeline Homan, Cormack Lazarus, Samantha McMonigal,

Alek Menyhart, Ceresa Page, William Ploughe,

Susanna Stoepfel

*Poor water quality is a complex issue that negatively impacts humanity globally in the 21st century. Although recent water crises in Toledo, Flint and Sebring are well-known to those in the Midwest, water quality issues are diverse and widespread around the globe. Dr. Kane, McMaster Scholars, and Restoration Ecology majors will serve as an expert panel on water quality and discuss water quality issues in Northwest Ohio, Panama, Belize, Tanzania and Cambodia and beyond.*

10:45AM - 11:00PM

**MORNING BREAK**

**Sponsored by The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity**

11:00AM - 12:15PM

**McMASTER PANAMA LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Schomburg Auditorium

Alesia Yakos-Brown, Fellow

Kathleen Westfall, Associate Fellow

Scholars - Taylor Gillig, Kenneth Miller, Catlyn Pavel,

Susanna Stoepfel, Alexis Walker

**THE IMPACT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
ON INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES IN CAMBODIA**

Buchman Board Room

Jordan Blank, Nathan Height, Elizabeth Pienoski,

George Roth, Arlen Stoller



*During this interactive session, we will view segments of the film, "The Storm Makers," and discuss the issues of human trafficking in Cambodia. This film is an exposé of Cambodia's human trafficking underworld and a look at the complex cycle of poverty, despair and greed that fuels this brutal modern slave trade. More than half a million Cambodians work abroad and a staggering third of them have been sold as slaves.*

**ACTIVISM THROUGH CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS**

Cultural Arts Center

Mercedes Clay, Denique Dennis, Tawana Foster,

Wayne Kelly, Jennifer Walton

*This panel discussion will focus on student activism on college campuses in regards to social justice issues. The panelists will discuss the relevance and importance of campus activism to effect institutional and systemic changes and answer key questions about the responsibility and accountability of the campus community. More importantly, with the use of social media, students have the ability to have their platforms broadcasted throughout the world without having to court the traditional news media.*

12:30PM - 2:00PM

**HUMANITY in the HEADLINES**

Serrick Center Cafeteria

Engaging students, faculty and staff - Each table will focus on a topic that will explore current events from the perspective of the Symposium theme, "The Questions of Individual Liberties as Critical to Improving the Human Condition." The hosts at each table will facilitate discussion.

**TABLE TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- ◆ 2016 Election Rhetoric
- ◆ Supreme Court Vacancy
- ◆ Human Trafficking
- ◆ Cyber Crime
- ◆ ZIKA Virus
- ◆ Law Enforcement
- ◆ Unconstitutional Issues: Apple
- ◆ America's Response to ISIL
- ◆ World Health Issues
- ◆ Russia: Greatest Threat or Not

2:15PM - 3:30PM

**McMASTER BELIZE LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Schomburg Auditorium

Mary Ann Studer, Fellow

Rena Rager, Associate Fellow

Scholars - Ashlyn Deming, Maddi Homan, Brittany Pease,

Braden Perry, Zach Roush

**IF McDONALD'S, STARBUCKS, SNAPCHAT, AND IPAD  
ARE THE SAME IN THE WORLD,  
WHY AREN'T POLITICAL SYSTEMS?**

Buchman Board Room

Elcin Haskollar, Dava Donaldson, David Besaw

*Since ancient times, political scientists have been concerned about the pathologies of democracy. Today, democracy has spread through every major region of the world, conquering 62 percent of all countries. For the vast majority of the globe, democracy is the sole survivor of the international system. Why are some countries democratizing while others are miserably failing it? This is the question that this panel seeks to address.*

**DESIGN AT DEFIANCE:**

**ADDRESSING SOCIETY'S NEEDS THROUGH DESIGN**

Women's Commission Art Gallery

Mia Cinelli, Ricardo Girona, Britny Krill, Israel Martinez,

Isaiah Ross, Zoe Smith

*Defiance College students of Design present their designed solutions to a variety of challenges, including those of sustainability, in the Defiance College Student Show. In individual short presentations presented in-gallery, students will describe how their creative process and designed solution addresses the needs of an individual user or society.*

**DEFIANCE COLLEGE FAGIN PROJECT**

Cultural Arts Center

Martin Bush, Ashley Wilson, Jennifer Wedge

*The Defiance College student project, FAGIN (Facial Analysis to Gain Information Now), was developed in 2015 and successfully demonstrated that facial recognition software can be used to identify and locate children being sold for sex online. This panel discussion will explore the potential use and possible misuse of the technology. What is the next step for FAGIN? What precautions should be taken to prevent its misuse?*

3:30PM - 3:45PM

**AFTERNOON BREAK**

**Sponsored by the DC Diversity Council**

3:45PM - 5:00PM

**McMASTER TANZANIA LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Schomburg Auditorium

Jeremy Taylor, Fellow

Katie Griffes, Associate Fellow

Scholars - MacKenzie Combs, Emily Denhard,

Dava Donaldson, Katelyn Haydett, Kaitlyn Kuhn

**PROJECT 701/DEFIANCE 2100:**

**WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE COMPLEX PROBLEMS**

Buchman Board Room

Tawana Foster, Katie Groff, Jordan Heiliger,

Rita Kissner, Cormack Lazarus, Cindy Mack,

Adam McGinnis, Carissa Schreiber, Rich Seward,

Susanna Stoepfel, Carrie Wetstein

*Despite the miraculous advancements made amongst humankind, there is still a variety of complex issues that have yet to be solved, including literacy and access to healthcare. This presentation will cover the four "big rocks" in Defiance County, as noted by community leaders who form Defiance 2100 and how members of DC can begin to address these issues through Project 701.*

**GENDER AND SEXUALITY:**

**UNDERSTANDING THE VOCABULARY**

Cultural Arts Center

Jo Ann Burkhardt, Fred Coulter, Lynn Braun, Mercedes Clay,

Taylor Haydinger, Samantha Burdine, Travis Manuel

*This session will focus on transmission of knowledge and developing an understanding of terms associated with issues of gender and sexuality. As preparing to become a professional in the world, and as a student, faculty or staff member on the Defiance College campus, we can honor and respect individual liberties by developing an understanding of terms such as gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and others. This session has been created to expand knowledge and provide an opportunity for an open discussion. This session is being sponsored by the Education Department.*

5:15PM - 7:00PM

**DINNER & CELEBRATION**

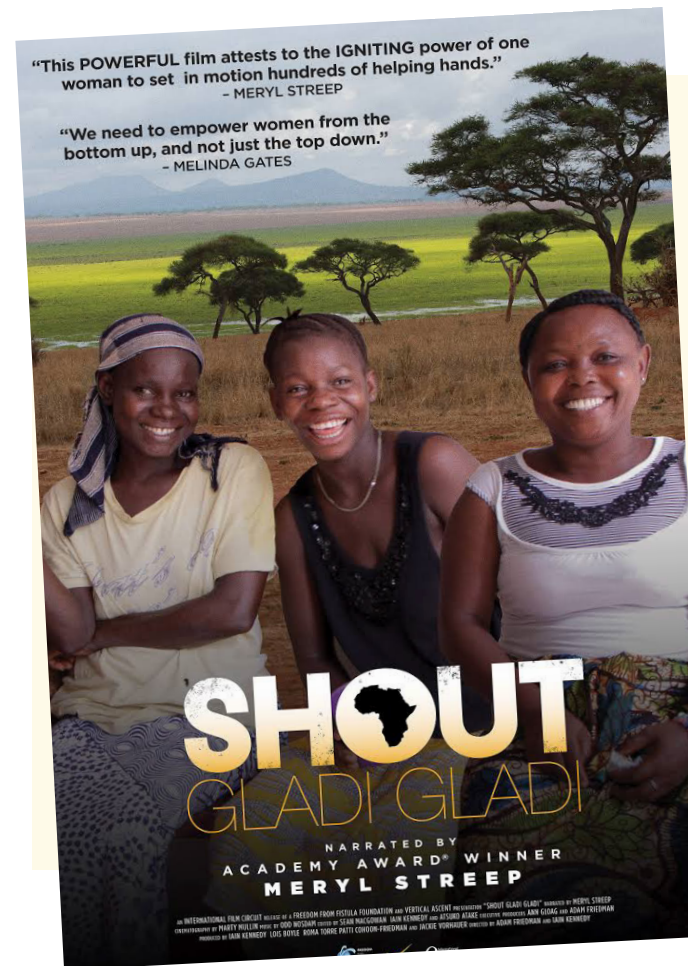
**ALL PARTICIPANTS**

Hubbard Banquet Room

7:00PM - 9:00PM

**FILM SCREENING - SHOUT GLADI GLADI**

Schomburg Auditorium



*Narrated by Academy Award® winning actress Meryl Streep, SHOUT GLADI GLADI celebrates the extraordinary people who rescue African women and girls from obstetric fistula, a medical condition that can turn them into reviled outcasts. Directed by Adam Friedman and Iain Kennedy, and filmed in Malawi and Sierra Leone, the film spotlights the quest of Ann Gloag, the indefatigable philanthropist and former nurse, who drives the movement to save these vulnerable women, and presents the patients as they tell stirring tales of their struggles and triumphs. Everything culminates with the exuberant Gladi Gladi ceremony, a singing and dancing blowout that marks the day the women and girls return home cured.*