

networking

ALUMNI MEET WITH STUDENTS

ASK (Alumni Student Konnections) offers alumni an informal opportunity to have lunch with students

by Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

Defiance College is bringing students and alumni together for face-to-face conversations and networking opportunities with the ASK lunch program. ASK (Alumni Student Konnections) lunches are a joint project of the Alumni Office and the Career Development Office and offer opportunities for alumni to meet with and talk to small groups of students. In this informal setting, the conversations range from career paths to life philosophies.

Paul Mallett '05 was one of the first alumni participants in the ASK program. Paul has been with Sauder Woodworking, Inc. for 19 years, starting in engineering and now as Director of Global Sourcing. He and his wife, Ann, who also works at Sauder, were both non-traditional students at DC, enrolled through the Center for Adult and Graduate Programs.

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-- Paul Mallett, '05, ASK participant

“I was greatly impressed by the young people. They asked good questions, they were engaged, and they seemed excited to be there. You can tell they all had dreams, they all had something they were going after, and that’s the part I liked the most,” Mallett offered. He told the students about his travels to China, Indonesia, and other countries on behalf of Sauder, and shared some thoughts on being part of the global community. His advice to the students: “Enjoy the journey. Life is a process, not a

destination, and don’t worry if you don’t know exactly what you want to do when you graduate. Also, be willing to do what no one else wants to do. It will open doors for you.”

Mallett’s take on the ASK program is that it allows students to look ahead to the future. “I hope they

understand that I and the other participants have been in their shoes, and they can see this is what we’ve been able to accomplish.” Plus, he added, it gives the students the opportunity to network. Would he recommend it to other alumni? Absolutely - it’s refreshing to see that dream in the students’ eyes, Mallett says.

DC student Joe DePasquale participated in two ASK lunches with alumni Dave Polzin '71, a financial associate at Thrivent, and Matt Gilroy '02, director of the Defiance Regional Medical Center Foundation. DePasquale said that he was particularly interested in talking with Gilroy because he is graduating with the same degree - business administration with a concentration in marketing.

DePasquale said that talking with both alumni made him realize that after you graduate, you might find yourself in a field that has little to do with your actual degree, and then realize that’s what you want to do. DePasquale definitely recommends ASK to



Allan Peugeot '72 took part in a recent ASK lunch, meeting DC students and offering career advice. Peugeot is a retired educator and coach living in Sandusky. He is pictured at left with DC students (left to right) Terrence Plummer, Hannah Davis and Shannon Yelder.

other students, and he hopes to attend future ASK lunches. “Bringing alumni back – that’s good stuff,” he concluded.

Another business administration major, Brooke Gordon agreed, adding that talking with an alumnus gives you a feel for the job he or she has. She enjoyed hearing Paul Mallett talk about his travels and working with people from other cultures, and could see how that would be an exciting job. She also met Deb DeTray ’76 of DeTray Investment Group at an ASK lunch, which she feels was a great networking opportunity for her. In fact, DeTray gave Gordon a chance to participate in a finance course DeTray was presenting in the community. “Even though it’s just a lunch, it gives you a glimpse of a career,” Gordon explained.

Charlotte (Booher) Johannigman ’94 related that she enjoyed sharing some of her life lessons with students getting ready to embark on the next phase of their lives. Johannigman is the executive director of the Arts Partnership in Findlay. She was pleased that the students asked a variety of questions ranging from graduate school to landing an entry level job. And, as a member of the Alumni Executive Board, Johannigman was proud to see the quality of the students that participated in the lunch.

“They were truly interested in learning ways to advance their educations and careers. I think this program is a fantastic opportunity for alumni to reconnect with DC and offer guidance to a new generation of students,” she commented.

Johannigman said it was also fun having lunch in the new cafeteria and seeing how much things have changed since her time on campus. Both Johannigman and Mallett encourage other alumni to participate in the program, but added a warning: the students asked so many questions, they really didn’t get a lot of time to eat.

Dave Plant ’73, director of Alumni and Parent Relations, is eager to recruit a good mix of professions for the ASK lunches, and extends an invitation to all alumni to come back to campus and share your story with the students. If you would like to participate in an ASK lunch, contact Plant at dplant@defiance.edu or 419-783-2572. ♦

DC ALUM IN THE NFL

Don Martindale '84 was recently named the defensive coordinator of the Denver Broncos

Former Defiance College football player and student coach Don Martindale was recently named as the defensive coordinator of the National Football League’s Denver Broncos.

Martindale came to DC as an All-Ohio prep linebacker out of Trotwood-Madison High School and eventually saw time at the defensive end, linebacker and strong safety positions with the Yellow Jackets on the gridiron from 1981-1984. Martindale had 28 tackles and three sacks during his junior season in 1983 and was honored as DC’s Defensive Lineman of the Week for his play in a Nov. 5 game against Earlham.

When his playing days came to an end, Martindale began his coaching career as a student assistant for the Purple and Gold, while completing his degree from Defiance College in business education.

Upon leaving the Yellow Jackets, Martindale spent the next six years as a high school football coach in Ohio, before returning to the collegiate ranks to join the staff at the University of Notre Dame and then the University of Cincinnati.

Martindale then served as a defensive coordinator at Western Illinois and Western Kentucky, before making the jump to the NFL sidelines as the linebackers coach for the Oakland Raiders in 2004.

After five seasons with Oakland, Martindale accepted the same position with Denver in 2009 and helped lead the Broncos to an 8-8 record with the seventh-best defense in the league. Martindale will now lead that strong defensive unit heading into the 2010 season in his first professional stint as a coordinator.



DC alum and former football player, Don Martindale, has been named defensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos.