The First Year Seminar Class taught by Brad Harsha ’99 & ’02 and Jennifer Stark ’03 planned and hosted a Christmas Party for foster children in the Defiance County area. The planning took place throughout the semester and involved making arrangements for food, entertainment, decorations, buying and wrapping gifts, and hosting the party. The class worked in conjunction with Amy Linebrink ’99 from Job and Family Services. In all, more than 85 people attended the event, and Santa delivered gifts to more than 35 children.

DR. ELIZABETH COLLARDEY and 13 service leaders and social work students from Defiance College recently traveled to Cleveland to work with Medworks, a free medical and dental clinic. Medworks and its community partners provide more than 2,300 appointments and services to uninsured and underinsured patients. The students worked with staff
and patients to provide assistance in many different forms, including learning the medical procedures and providing a substantial portion of the discharge planning during their time at the clinic.

The event teamed the group with 2004 alumni Rebecca Sanford and Jessica (Potter) Demaline who also assisted at the clinic. Sanford currently serves as the president of the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and Demaline is the Region I director for the Ohio Chapter. Working with Sanford and Demaline gave students a chance to talk to the alums about their experiences as well as debrief and process the students’ work at the clinic.

Retired Col. Julius Jackson, a pilot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, stopped by the Defiance College campus recently and met with members of the Life in Society class taught by DR. ELIZABETH COLLARDEY. Col. Jackson, now 90, gave some memories of his days with the Tuskegee Airmen who were the first African American military aviators in the United States armed forces. He answered questions from the class, asked many of the students about their career plans, and shared some life lessons. He said that he considered his greatest accomplishment to have been a pilot serving his country.

Defiance College’s first pinning ceremony for nursing students in the RN to BSN program was held recently. According to Kathy Holloway, MSN, RN, director of the DC nursing program, pinning is a tradition in nursing which honors graduates entering the profession. Recognized in the ceremony were: Gloria Arps, Defiance; Judy Thrasher, Defiance (DC’s director of the health center); Danielle Spring, Napoleon; Megan Fillman, Defiance; Christy Weiker, Weston; and Linda Burkholder, Wauseon.

Military veteran students on the DC campus now have a place to call their own, where they can relax or study between classes. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the campus observed the official opening of the Veterans Resource Center located in the lower level of Defiance Hall, rooms 11 A and B. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by refreshments and an open house. After introductory remarks by Cathy Mikula ’80 and Dean Tim Rickabaugh, veterans in attendance introduced themselves and offered comments about their own military service. Here, student and veteran Nathan Slough, Bryan, prepares to cut the ribbon for the center.