



*Shy as a DC disc jockey*

and has had up to 60 employees. (Not bad for a few years' experience and one business course.)

Mark's affinity for Defiance College has kept him engaged. His work with former President Dr. Jim Harris to upgrade campus facilities earned him a seat on the Board of Trustees. When Schomburg Auditorium underwent its long overdue renovation last year, Renovators, Inc. provided gift-in-kind services to help with the project.

Speaking to his career success, Mark says nothing is more rewarding than being an entrepreneur, and he is quick to offer that his successes are rooted in his DC experience. He is humbled by the support of great mentors.

"Dr. (Jan) Younger really encouraged me when I was just an average guy. He saw potential," Shy said of the man who chaired the

Communications Department and who he considers a friend to this day.

Dr. Younger speaks highly of Mark but admits he was a work in progress.

"Mark didn't come to me as a polished student," said Younger, "But he had the vision and passion to make the station better, he stayed with it." Dr. Younger joked that the radio staff was so determined that they strung together wire with chewing gum. "They had a strong desire to excel."

That same desire has Mark engaged in various commitments in the Columbus region. Mark has served on the Board of Directors of MAP Furniture Bank, is an active leader in his church's men's ministries, and he is a life-long member and volunteer for Boy Scouts of America. Mark is especially fond of attending DC with his twin brothers, Larry and Garry. Mark resides in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Becky, and their two teenage sons, Jeff and Zach. ♦

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## COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

*Alumni Varsity 'D' presents the annual honors to Rich Thiel '00 and Vernon Kiehl '80*

Defiance College Alumni Varsity D presented its annual Coach of the Year awards recently to Rich Thiel '00, Tinora High School girls basketball coach, and Vernon Kiehl '80, Perrysburg High School cross country and track and field coach.

Thiel's team at Tinora set a school record for most wins in a season with a 22-3 record during 2007-08. The team advanced to the regional semi-finals. Thiel was recognized as *Crescent-News* Coach of the Year, District VII Coach of the Year, and AP Northwest District Coach of the Year. In 2006-07, the team earned a 16-6 overall record and won its sectional championship.

Thiel graduated from DC in 2000 where he was a standout on the football team, earning individual honors in multiple seasons. He was a member of the baseball team his junior and senior years. Thiel and his wife, Andrea, reside in Archbold with their two daughters.



*Vernon Kiehl*

Kiehl, a 1980 graduate of DC, has coached track and field and cross country at Perrysburg High School where his teams and athletes have received numerous honors. During his tenure, his track and field teams have earned a dual meet record of 283-81-2 in 23 years as well as an overall meet record of 2103-1470-2. He has coached eight Northern Lakes League team champions and has been named NLL Coach of the Year eight times. During eight years as head cross country coach, his dual meet record has been 67-51, and overall record is 940-739.

At DC, Kiehl lettered four years in track and three years in football. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Perrysburg.



*Rich Thiel*