

graduation

ALWAYS A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR

227 graduates were awarded diplomas during commencement on Sunday, May 9



Dr. Vincent Harding, colleague of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., addressed 227 graduates during Defiance College commencement ceremonies on May 9. Dr. Harding, co-founder of the Veterans of Hope Project, urged graduates to take with them the ideals that were instilled in them as students. He had high praise for Defiance’s McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. “I heard that embedded in the midst of your campus is a school that believes that all of us are meant to advance humanity. When I read these things I was very excited and deeply moved,” he said.



The prestigious Pilgrim Medal, the highest recognition given by the College to students and community members, was awarded to graduating senior Austin Kleman. Graduates selected to represent their class as speakers for commencement and baccalaureate ceremonies included Angelina Kirkham, Andrew Kohls, Austin Kleman, Matthew King, and Kristy Davenport.



Registrar Beverly Harrington, who began her tenure at Defiance College in 1970, retired this spring and was recognized as Registrar Emerita during the ceremonies.



President Gordon announced the establishment of an endowed scholarship to honor Dr. Richard W. Stroede, Dean Emeritus. Dr. Stroede, who had been fighting pancreatic cancer for several months, had planned to attend the ceremony, but his illness took a critical turn in the days preceding commencement, and he passed away on May 8. Accepting the recognition on their father’s behalf were Andrew Stroede and Beth Moehle.



Guest speaker during morning baccalaureate services was Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. ♦

