

amazing

SUMS UP HER LIFE RIGHT NOW

Stephanie Tarr Augenstein '91 is extremely happy and recalls, fondly, how DC is a part of it all

by Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

"I have an amazing, amazing job, I go home to amazing people, and I get to drive a BMW!" That's the way Stephanie Tarr Augenstein '91 sums up where she is in life right now.

Stephanie lives in Columbus with her husband Jeff and her twin seven year olds, Nicholas and Emily. She is employed as director of human resources at BMW Financial Services, at the national customer service center located in Hilliard, Ohio.

Stephanie thinks of Defiance College as a place where she learned life-long lessons and made life-long friends. Graduating with a class of 77 from Montpelier High School, Stephanie thinks that Defiance College, with its small student body and personal attention in the classroom, was just what she needed. She looks back fondly at what she calls a good balance between academics and campus involvement. She was a student worker with Bev Harrington in the Registrar's Office her four years at DC, and also participated in many activities, including Alpha Xi Delta. She is still in touch with many of her sorority sisters and they try to get together every summer with their children.

It was a DC career fair that connected her with National City Bank's management training program in Columbus that she entered after graduating with a degree in finance and management. From there she went to the call center for CompuServe (now AOL). During this time, she started working on a master's program which required an internship. CompuServe allowed her to complete the internship at their HR department, which in turn allowed Stephanie to realize the passion she had for this area of work.

"I just fell into HR and it's been great for me," Stephanie stated, adding that it's always important to be open to new opportunities. "Sometimes you don't know what your passion is." Stephanie believes that your work shouldn't feel like work, and quoted Thomas Edison: "I never did a day's work. It was all fun."

Ten years ago, Stephanie joined BMW Financial as employment manager. She likes to tell how, three weeks after she announced she was pregnant with twins, she was promoted to her current position of director of human resources, BMW Financial. Since then, BMW has been named a top

training company in the U.S., one of the best medium-sized companies to work for in America and the best company to work for in central Ohio.

BMW Financial Services handles the financing of leases and loans for BMW, Mini Cooper and Rolls Royce. Stephanie oversees recruitment, compensation, benefits, payroll, associate relations, facilities and training. Her primary area of responsibility is the United States, but she also assists with Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. She has traveled all over the world, and visits Germany on a regular basis where, because of her last name, they expect her to be fluent



Stephanie Augenstein leans against a 3 Series BMW convertible in the lobby of the BMW Financial Services center in Hilliard, Ohio.

in German. She actually doesn't speak a word of it. Her favorite locales are Geneva, Switzerland, and London.

Talking about her employer, Stephanie explains, "BMW is extremely person oriented, very socialist due to its European roots." The company is generous with benefits, compensation and bonuses. Plus there is the added attraction that every employee can drive a BMW at what Stephanie calls "ridiculously low prices." The result, not surprisingly, is extremely low employee turnover. Stephanie also proudly announced that BMW is getting ready to celebrate hitting the mark as a \$25 billion company very soon.

The Augensteins are a two-Beemer family: an X5 SUV and a red 3 Series convertible. In addition to a snazzy red sports car, Stephanie also has something else often coveted by working mothers: a spouse who is at home with the kids. Jeff is the full-time care provider for Nicholas and Emily, which works well for the Augensteins, especially with the amount of travel Stephanie does.

"I believe you can be superwoman," Stephanie says, although she admits it takes much hard work and the right amount of family support. But even when she travels, Stephanie has her rules. She's gone only three days at a stretch when traveling in the U.S.,

no more than seven days for international travel, and she's never gone over birthdays, anniversaries or other special days. "I'm lucky I can manage it pretty well."

Their family life revolves around sports: both Emily and Nicholas play soccer and Nicholas is on a travel hockey team. His team has already been to Erie, Penn., and Cleveland, and will play in Philadelphia over Thanksgiving and in Canada at Christmas. Jeff, a recently retired hockey referee, still plays two times a week as well.

They get back to the tri-state corner as often as they can, since Stephanie's parents, grandmother and sister (Stacie Tarr Yagelski '88) are still in Montpelier, and Jeff has family in Fort Wayne, Ind. ♦

A.P.A.R.T. OF DEFIANCE COLLEGE

*Did you know that you can help
Defiance College recruit new students?*

Did you know that some college admissions departments don't ever have to go "on the road" to recruit students? The reason is simple: alumni get involved in all parts of the recruiting process.

To be clear, the Defiance College admissions staff reaches out to prospective students, responding to inquiries, and presenting the Defiance College message at countless college fairs. While the admissions department is involved with every potential student, a new program is being developed at DC that is designed to help reach farther and deeper than ever before into the potential pool of students who are interested in the mission and vision of the college.

The program is headed by admissions counselor Stefan Faerber, with the assistance of the alumni office. It is called A.P.A.R.T. of DC (Alumni and Parent Admissions Recruitment Team). It is designed to help potential students receive the information necessary to make an informed college decision. Alumni can support their alma mater by assisting in any of three basic areas of activity.

First, alumni can visit college fairs, representing Defiance when admissions counselors are not available or scheduling

puts multiple college fairs on the same day. A small group of alumni have already been contributing an evening or two this fall attending a college fair program in their local area, usually at their area high school.

Second, alumni can represent DC by writing letters to potential students that have indicated a serious interest in DC.

Third, alumni who enjoy talking on the telephone can call prospective students to answer questions about Defiance and mentor potential students through the final critical months of their decision making.

Each step along the way, the "alumni recruiters" will be trained in the methods of effective technique and communication related to student admissions. As the program grows, Defiance College will broaden its reach to attract students from across the United States.

If you have an interest in serving Defiance College by joining the A.P.A.R.T. team, you can go online to the alumni website (<http://alumni.defiance.edu/>) to learn more about the program. ♦

