

# RECOGNIZING

## Defiance College Faculty and Staff

**TIM WEDGE**, Associate Professor of Practice of Digital Forensics, and **BRENDA AVERESCH '09 & '12**, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, were recipients of 2017 Faculty and Staff Service Awards during honors convocation ceremonies.

**JODIE HOLAVA** was named Interim Athletic Director. Since 2014, Jodie has had leadership responsibilities within the Athletic Department as an Assistant and Associate Athletic Director and has served as Head Softball Coach since 2005. She will continue as the head coach of the Yellow Jackets softball program while serving in this interim role. During her coaching tenure at Defiance, she has compiled more wins than any other softball coach in DC history while maintaining a strong academic focus within the program. Jodie earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Mount Union in athletic training, with a minor in health and secondary education.

**KATHLEEN WESTFALL** has been an athletic trainer with DC since August 2002 and has served as the Senior Women's Administrator for several years. In April 2017, Kathleen was recognized for her leadership within the Athletic Staff by being named Associate Athletic Trainer and Assistant Athletic Director. She also serves as the Senior Woman Administrator for the College.

Education faculty members **DR. RACHEL EICHER '91** and **DR. CARLA HIGGINS** received word that the College has been awarded a grant for work and outreach through the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Deans Compact Incentive Grant, totaling more than \$200,000. Over the course of two years, these funds will be used to improve programming to better prepare future educators to meet the needs of all learners. With the Ohio Deans Compact Incentive Grant, Defiance College plans to develop a dual license option for middle childhood educators and intervention specialists with input from strategic stakeholders and partnership schools. This process will ensure the greatest impact on program improvement and, ultimately, greater outcomes for P-12 learners. Dr. Higgins and Dr. Eicher will manage the grant.

**DR. TODD COMER**, Professor of English, gave the keynote address at the SAGES Fifth Annual Interdisciplinary Student Conference in Akron. His talk was entitled "Birth and the Mourning After: Post-humanism." In late 2016, Todd published "The Disabled Hero: Being and

Ethics in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings*" (*Mythlore*), and most recently, he published "The Politics of Disability in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*" (*Journal of Narrative Theory*).

**DR. DOUG KANE**, Professor of Biology, was awarded the 2017 Dr. Richard W. Stroede Distinguished Faculty Citation. Kane arrived at Defiance College in 2007. The health of the Lake Erie Watershed has been his area of research and teaching on ecological restoration. He has been one of the most prolific scholars in the College's history, serving as author of more than 15 publications in peer-reviewed journals while at DC. He is a member of numerous ecology and science professional organizations and has received research funding for many projects. Dr. Kane graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the Ohio State University in 1999, a master of science in 2002, and a Ph.D. in 2004.

Dr. Kane presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of Water Management Association of Ohio a talk titled "OH BUOY! (Fluoro) probing cHABS in Western Lake Erie and the Maumee River Using in-situ and In-vivo Technology." Co-authors on this talk were from the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, and The Ohio State University's F.T. Stone Lab. Further, Dr. Kane was elected President of the Ohio Lake Management Society (OLMS) (<http://olms.org/>) at this meeting and will serve as Program Chair of the 38th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (<https://www.nalms.org/>) meeting in Cincinnati during the fall of 2018.

Dr. Kane also presented at the 60th Conference on Great Lakes Research held in Detroit. This talk was co-authored by a Stone Lab researcher and featured in an article in the *Toledo Blade* (<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2017/05/19/Lake-Erie-algae-issues-may-strike-Cleveland.html>). The *Toledo Blade* article also covered a talk on which Dr. Kane was a co-author, along with researchers from The Ohio State University's Stone Lab and Kent State University titled "Cyanobacterial Blooms in Lake Erie's Central Basin." Both of these talks were part of a session that Kane co-chaired with researchers from OSU and Ohio Sea Grant titled "Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiatives: Field to Faucet and Beyond."

In addition, Dr. Kane was a co-author on a talk given by Defiance College graduate and Restoration Ecology major **ALISON RIFENBURGH '15** titled "Water Quality of the Upper Maumee River: A Two Year Assessment," along with

a co-author from Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District. Alison is currently a Ph.D. student at Wayne State University in Detroit. Finally, former Defiance College graduate and Biology major and current Ph.D. student at Bowling Green State University **TAYLOR TUTTLE '13** gave a talk titled “Understanding Drivers of Bloom Toxicity by Quantifying Toxic Strains of *Planktothrix* in Sandusky Bay” with co-authors from BGSU and NOAA-GLERL. For more information on the conference, including abstracts for each of the above talks, please visit <http://iaglr.org/iaglr2017/>.

After first serving as an adjunct, Professor **HEIDI DESOTA '12** has joined the full-time faculty as Assistant Professor of Practice of Nursing. A licensed registered nurse with a master’s of nursing from the University of Toledo, she was one of the first graduates from the Defiance College nursing program.

Professor DeSota practices obstetric nursing and has been an adjunct and nursing clinical instructor at Northwest State since 2013.

Professor **CAROLINE LEADER** has taken the role of Assistant Professor of Communication Studies. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Whitman College and a master’s in media studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Leader is pursuing her doctorate in media and cultural studies from the University of Wisconsin. As a researcher of media industry practice and audience reception, she analyzes cultural norms, especially in terms of gender and age. Her areas of specialization include media branding, media industries, and children and feminist media studies. ♦



## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

This photo appeared on the Index page of the January 2017 Defiance College Magazine, and drew reader interest. A little background . . . it is a photo of the faceted glass window in David K. Ford Chapel of Schauffler Hall. Schauffler Hall was named for Dr. Henry Albert Schauffler, founder of Schauffler College of Religious and Social Work. In 1954, Schauffler College moved to Oberlin College, and then found its home at Defiance College in 1967. Dedicated in 1981, Schauffler Hall contains the beautiful Ford Chapel. The design for the window was created by then-President Marvin Ludwig. It depicts Jesus and the New Testament phrase, “The Light of the World.” The chapel was named after David K. Ford, former chair of the Schauffler College Board of Trustees.