

# RECOGNIZING

## Faculty, Staff and Students

**Steve Sondergaard, J.D.**, professor of criminal justice, was recently elected to represent District Three at the Ohio State Bar Association Council of Delegates for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2015. District Three is comprised of Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, Putnam, Hancock, Henry, Wood and Fulton counties.

**Dr. Todd Comer**, professor of English, participated earlier this year in two academic conferences, “The Disabled Hero: The Ethics of the Wound in Peter Jackson’s *The Lord of the Rings*,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, April 16-19, 2014, in Chicago, and “Dilating Fixity: Pacific Rim, and the Erasure of Birth,” the Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies, Feb. 21-23, 2014, in Bowling Green. He also discussed “Peter Weir’s Ecological Politics: Two Feints, One Palpable Hit,” in *Green Narratives and Eco-Practice: Politics, Culture, and Environment*, at the Midwest Popular Culture Association, Oct. 3-5, 2014, in Indianapolis. In addition, Todd is now the book review editor for *Studies in the Humanities*: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=41023>.

St. John United Church of Christ recently honored **Carolyn Small** for her many years of excellent service as church organist. Carolyn, professor emerita of music at Defiance College, continues to serve as the organist at St. John after 56 years.

**Chelsea Ludeman '14**, now a first-year graduate assistant at DC, was named the 2014 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Woman of the Year at the same time that her grandmother, Carol Ludeman, of Napoleon, Ohio, was recognized as the 2014 Henry County Senior of the Year. Chelsea told the *Northwest-Signal* that it was her grandmother who encouraged her to

become a volunteer, and during her time at DC, she has held many volunteer and leadership roles.

It’s been a busy year for **Dr. Doug Kane**, associate professor of biology. He appeared recently on WBGU’s Northwest Ohio Journal as part of a panel discussing “Harmful Algal Blooms and the Toledo Water Crisis.” The program is in Northwest Ohio Journal #903. It also went to Columbus for statewide distribution on The Ohio Channel.

He also presented to the Defiance Rotary Club on “The Toledo Water Crisis and Harmful Algal Blooms” as part of their weekly speaker series. Further, restoration ecology senior **Alison Rifenburg** presented a poster titled “Water Quality Monitoring on the Upper Maumee River.” at both the Lake Erie Binational Public Forum Conference, Oregon, Ohio (<http://lakeerieforum.org/content/lake-erie-binational-public-forum-conference-sept-26-27-2014>) and the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement 2014 Washington Symposium, Washington D.C. (<http://www.sencen.net/Symposia/DCSymposium2014PosterAbstracts.cfm>) with Dr. Kane and Stephanie Singer of the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership as co-authors.

Dr. Kane was featured in a front-page article in *The Crescent-News* regarding the Toledo water crisis and its links to nutrients entering Lake Erie from the Maumee River (<http://www.crescent-news.com/>). Further, he is also featured in a press release about the Toledo water crisis on the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) website (<http://iaglr.org/docs/items/2014ToledoWaterBan.pdf>). Additionally, former Defiance College student (and current University of Toledo graduate student) **Phoenix Golnick** is pictured sampling the algal bloom in this press release. On a lighter note, Doug is also mentioned as “dropping the puck” for the annual Defy Cup

between U.S. and Canadian scientists at the Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research held in Hamilton, Ontario in May ([http://iaglr.org/docs/items/IAGLR\\_Hockey\\_2014.pdf](http://iaglr.org/docs/items/IAGLR_Hockey_2014.pdf)).

Earlier this year, Dr. Kane was named President of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) at the 57th Conference on Great Lakes Research at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He also presented “Microcystis blooms and phosphorus dynamics in two of Lake Erie’s agricultural tributaries (Maumee and Sandusky rivers)” based on research conducted with scientists from The Ohio State University and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. For more information on the conference and IAGLR please visit <http://iaglr.org/iaglr2014/>.

He was also recently elected a Fellow of The Ohio Academy of Science. Kane joins less than 150 current Fellows who have been elected based on having “rendered some special service to the Academy or hav(ing) made extensive, productive scientific, technological or educational contributions to society.” To see a list of the current Fellows, visit <http://ohiosci.org/fellowship/>. He will be recognized for this honor at the Annual Meeting of The Ohio Academy of Science next April.

Further, Dr. Kane has just had two peer-reviewed articles and an introductory piece published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. These articles are a part of a special section of the most recent issue of the journal titled “Lake Erie: From watersheds to open water” for which Doug was a special guest Associate Editor. These three articles are collaborations with researchers from The Ohio State University, University of Toledo, SUNY- Buffalo State, and Heidelberg University. In order to see the articles please visit <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03801330/40>.