

# RECOGNIZING

## Defiance College Faculty and Staff

The Dr. Richard W. Stroede Distinguished Faculty Citation was awarded to **DR. FRED COULTER**, associate professor of education. Dr. Coulter arrived at DC in 2002. In 2008, he was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. He has given numerous professional presentations and published professional articles, mentored graduate students, and served on many committees. He has served as a McMaster Fellow or Associate Fellow to Cambodia seven times since his first trip in 2006.

Dr. Coulter graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1976. He earned a master of divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in 1980, and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in 2006.

The Outstanding Service Award for faculty was presented to **RACHEL EICHER**, assistant professor of practice of early childhood education.

**MIA CINELLI**, assistant professor of art and design, gave a TED talk on design during the TEDxUofM event in Ann Arbor. TEDx UofM is an independently organized TED event dedicated to “ideas worth spreading” at the University of Michigan. Speakers are invited to give what is called the ‘talk of their life’ about their area of expertise through an engaging narrative between 5-18 minutes. TEDxUofM is organized every spring: there are typically 12-20 speakers.

**DR. TODD COMER**, professor of English, has published “The Hidden Architecture of Disability: Chris Ware’s *Building Stories*,” in *Disability in Comic Books and Graphic Narratives*, a path-breaking edited collection focused on disability and the graphic novel published by Palgrave. The book can be found at [http://www.amazon.com/Disability-Graphic-Narratives-Literary-Studies/dp/1137501103/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1452165685&sr=8-1&keywords=foss+disability](http://www.amazon.com/Disability-Graphic-Narratives-Literary-Studies/dp/1137501103/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1452165685&sr=8-1&keywords=foss+disability).

Dr. Comer also presented a paper, “Back in Time: Peter Weir’s Mosquito Coast,” as part of the annual Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies (April 2016).

**TIMOTHY WEDGE** is in his fifth year of full-time faculty service and was promoted to associate professor of practice in digital forensic science.

**DR. DOUG KANE** is in his ninth year of full-time faculty service to Defiance College and was promoted to the rank of professor of environmental science. Additionally, Dr. Kane was approved for a sabbatical at the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) during the spring semester of 2017 to complete aquatic environmental studies.

Ohio Sea Grant released the Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative 2015 Report recently. This report details the first year of results from a \$2 million grant given to eight universities in the State of Ohio and other partners by the Ohio Department of Higher Education for Harmful Algal Bloom Research on Lake Erie. Dr. Kane is one of the Co-Principal Investigators on the HAB Detection, Mapping and Warning Network: Sandusky Bay project. A press release on this report can be found at <http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/news/2016/2bzfkhabri-annual-report-2015>

Dr. Kane has recently been successful in obtaining two external grants for 2016. “Nutrient removal by restored wetlands in the Maumee Basin” is a project funded by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (<http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/>) and will be conducted in conjunction with researchers from the Maumee River Basin Center for Ecological Restoration (<http://maumeebasinrestoration.org/>) and the University of Minnesota (<http://bbe.umn.edu/people/faculty/christianlenhart>). “Effectiveness of data buoys as early warning systems for cHABs (cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms)” is a project funded by the Ohio Water Resources Center (<https://wrc.osu.edu/>) and will be conducted with researchers from The Ohio State University’s F.T. Stone Laboratory (<http://stonelab.osu.edu/>).

Dr. Kane co-authored a paper recently published in the Ohio Journal of Science. *Population dynamics of Leptodora kindtii in the island region of western Lake Erie before and after the invasion of the predacious cladoceran Bythotrephes longimanus* was published in Ohio Journal of Science 116: 51-58 (<https://library.osu.edu/ojs/index.php/OJS/article/view/4698/4422>). Kane was also co-author on talks given at the Conference on Great Lakes Research ([http://iaglr.org/conference/downloads/2016\\_abstracts.pdf](http://iaglr.org/conference/downloads/2016_abstracts.pdf)) and American Fisheries Society (<https://afs.confex.com/afs/2016/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/24876>) meetings this summer dealing with *Effects of productivity gradients on fish-community structure in Lake Erie*, with co-authors from the University of Toledo and United States Geological Survey. Finally, Doug was interviewed this summer for an hour-long radio program at WQCT on Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNpJ-8rqw\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNpJ-8rqw_Q)).

Dr. Kane presented this summer at the Ohio Academy of Science meeting at Ohio University (<http://www.ohiosci.org/am-2016/>) work done by Defiance College Restoration Ecology graduate Rikki Gurule on “Mammals and birds attracted to pig (*Sus scrofa*) carrion at Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary (Defiance County, OH)” and with co-authors from Ohio State’s Stone Laboratory on “Effectiveness of data buoys for sampling cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.” Kane was also a co-author on two presentations given at the International Association for Great Lakes Research’s Annual Conference (<http://iaglr.org/iaglr2016/>) by researchers from Stone Lab and the University of Toledo and he received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as vice president, president, and past president of the IAGLR Board. Further, Doug presented the above mentioned work on data buoys in Lake Erie as part of the Great Lakes HABs Collaboratory webinar series. Go to <http://glc.org/projects/water-quality/habs/habs-events/> to see a recorded version of this webinar. Finally, Dr. Kane recently gave an invited presentation on “Lake Erie’s re-eutrophication: degradation, adaptation, and restoration” at the Phycological Society of America’s Annual Meeting in Cleveland at John Carroll University. This PSA Presidential Symposium was held July 26.

Court News Ohio, a communication service of the Ohio Supreme Court, visited campus to do a feature video on the Hermann Wiebe collection of Ohio courthouse paintings housed in the Pilgrim Library. The story features interviews with **MICHELLE BLANK**, **BARB SEDLOCK**, Judge Joseph Schmenk and Hermann’s son, Harry Wiebe. The story can be viewed here: [http://www.courtnewsOhio.gov/happening/2016/defiancePaintings\\_012816.asp#.VquJbIrKUK](http://www.courtnewsOhio.gov/happening/2016/defiancePaintings_012816.asp#.VquJbIrKUK)

**DR. FRED COULTER**, associate professor of education, presented at three education technology conferences in Ohio last summer. His presentations were on “Teaching 21st Century Skills using 21st Century Skills.” The primary 21st Century Skills as outlined by P21: Partnership for 21st Century Learning (<http://www.p21.org/>) are: communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity (the 4 C’s). The presentations were made in June at the Technology Summit of Northwest Ohio (two times), then in August at the Bucyrus Tech Day 2016 and the 2016 SPARCC Education Technology Conference.

Dr. Coulter’s unique presentation style is not to talk to the participants while showing electronic slides, but to use the share option on Google Docs to have all the participants introduce themselves on the shared (and saved) document, then with a partner work on their understanding of the 4 C’s and type their responses in the document. This means that participants are encouraged to use their devices (phones, tablets, and computers) during the presentation. There was time for discussion about how the participants were communicating with each other face-to-face, then collaborating on their responses, and sharing it on the Google Doc with the whole group.

**BRAD HARSHA**, dean of admissions, wrote an article on choosing a college that was recently published on the Colleges of Distinction website. Defiance College has been named again this year to Colleges of Distinction. Colleges of Distinction are selected for their demonstrate results across four distinctions—Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. Colleges that have distinguished themselves in each of the Four Distinctions and that have demonstrated dedication to enriching student outcomes through innovative learning opportunities are invited to join Colleges of Distinction.

Brad’s article can be accessed here: <http://collegesofdistinction.com/resource/what-college-is-best-for-you/>

**DR. MATT LUNDIN**, assistant professor of athletic training, was the co-author of *Student Research Establishes Valuable Clinical Reasoning* (with Francisco Garcia-Muro) published in the Spring 2016 issue of *Advance Healing*.

McMaster Dean **MARY ANN STUDER** and **DR. JoANN BURKHARDT** presented at two conferences this summer. In June, they attended the Council on Undergraduate Research biennial conference held at the University of South Florida where they presented the following session: **The Confluence of High Impact Practices: Undergraduate Research and Common Intellectual Experiences, Learning Communities, and Global Learning**

This session focused on the McMaster School’s model of undergraduate research that is intentionally designed to combine several high impact practices under a specific short-term study abroad initiative.

In July they were presenters at the Centre for Research on International Education international conference hosted by Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia.

They led the following session:  
**Undergraduate Community-Based Research without Borders: Opportunities to Apply Academic Expertise in a Global Context**

The focus of this session was to develop a better understanding of international opportunities that are most effective for undergraduate students. Burkhardt and Studer described Defiance College McMaster School for Advancing Humanity’s unique program that supports interdisciplinary teams of students as they utilize their disciplinary expertise to find solutions to complex world problems through community-based research initiatives.

**DR. NAMPORN THANETSUNTHORN**, assistant professor of business, recently received recognition from the Midwest Academy of Management. Her scholarly paper, entitled Corporate Social Responsibility, Organizational Development, and the Role of National Culture, was recognized with the Best Behavioral Management Paper Award for the upcoming conference in Fargo, N.D. Her work was selected from among

over 150 submitted for the conference. Dr. Thanetsunthorn has served as a full-time Defiance College faculty member since January, 2016.

Defiance College welcomed four new full-time faculty to campus this fall. Assistant professor of communication is **CHRISTOPHER Cwynar**. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in media and cultural studies from the University of Wisconsin and also served the Madison campus as a lecturer in the communication arts department. **BEVERLY FANNING-SIMMONS** has taken the role of assistant professor of design. She earned her MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design and most recently served as a lecturer at Lindsey Wilson College. **DR. JAMES SLIWINSKI** is an assistant professor of psychology. He earned his Ph.D. in psychology from Baylor University and most recently served as an assistant professor of psychology at Finlandia University. Taking the role of assistant professor of business is **DR. NAMPORN THANETSUNTHORN**. She recently earned her Ph.D. in organizational development from Benedictine University and most recently served as a lecturer at Suan Suandah Rajabhat University in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, starting in January **PAUL CHRISTIANSON** will take over as the sport management program director. He is pursuing his doctorate at North Dakota State University where he recently led the effort to get COSMA accreditation for that school's sport management program.

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## BECHTEL NAMED CHAPLAIN EMERITA

Rev. Janice Bechtel was awarded the title of Chaplain Emerita during fall convocation ceremonies. She served as campus chaplain and director of the office of spiritual life since 1986. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Earlham School of Religion. She was ordained by the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Bechtel's emerita citation noted that she founded the Defiance College Habitat for Humanity chapter and led the group on more than 20 work trips to sites throughout the U.S. At the initiative of two social work students, she and an art professor started the popular Empty Bowls dinner in 2000. She was a leader on the initial Service Leader trips to Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Kenya, Africa. The annual Thanksgiving Dinner, a beloved tradition at DC, continued every year during her years at the college. She was a member of the Diversity Council and promoted interfaith understanding through a lunch series.

For her efforts in serving the community as a board member for the United Way, a founding board member of Defiance County Habitat for Humanity, and coordinator of the Defiance area CROP Walk among others, Rev. Bechtel was twice given DC's Outstanding Staff Service Award and named one of the Volunteer Connection Lights of Defiance in 2003.

## DC RETIREMENTS

**MICHAEL SUZO**, vice president for enrollment management, retired April 2016 after a 30-year career in higher education and student enrollment.

Prior to arriving at Defiance College in 2006, he served Ohio Northern University as director of enrollment planning. He also served as director of admissions for Transylvania University and director of admissions for Ashland University.

He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Kent State University and a master of divinity degree from Bethel Theological University. He was a member of the Ohio and National Associations for College Admission Counseling and the American Association of CoOlllegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. He also served on the research committee for ACT. Mike and his wife, Kathy, have two sons and two granddaughters.

**CAROLYN GILGENBACH**, administrative assistant for arts and humanities, retired earlier this year after more than 20 years of service. She began employment as a part-time secretary for Weekend College in 1995. The following year, she took the full-time position of secretary to the academic dean and director of human resources. In 2000, she transitioned into an administrative support role for academic affairs providing support to the faculty and for the DC Players and Schomburg Series performances. Carolyn fondly remembers working for and alongside Dr. Richard Stroede, but says she has been blessed to work with and for many wonderful people over the years.

**SUE DUMIRE** retired in May from her position as advancement services administrative assistant. Sue began her service with Defiance College in January 2002 as a temporary employee in the mail room. A month later, she began working with the institutional advancement office providing administrative services. As she retires, Sue is looking forward to more travel with her family.

**CINDY KNIGHT**, administrative assistant for business, education and social work, retired from DC recently. She began her service in 1997 as secretary to the vice president for enrollment management and the director of continuing education. In 1999, she accepted a nine-month full-time appointment as faculty secretary, with responsibilities for supporting the behavioral and applied social sciences and the math and science division. She had recently assumed administrative duties for the nursing program.

**JOYCE NELSON** retired last summer after nearly 16 years in the admissions office, most recently as admissions office coordinator. It was noted at her retirement party that Joyce handled more than 40,000 student applications during her time in the admissions office! Her admissions co-workers noted that they will miss the annual Christmas party that Joyce and her husband, George, hosted at their rural Defiance home.

# PROFESSOR JEFFREY WEANER RETIRES AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS AT DEFIANCE



Jeffrey Weaner, professor of social work, retired in May after nearly 40 years as a faculty member at Defiance College. Upon his retirement, he was recognized with the title Professor Emeritus.

Weaner received a Bachelor of Science degree from Defiance College in 1972 and earned a Master of Social Work degree from West Virginia University in 1976. He joined the faculty at Defiance College in 1977 and received appointment

to full professor in 1992. Weaner was recognized in 1994 with the Distinguished Faculty Award.

During 39 years with the College, Weaner served as Program Director to the Social Work Program on two occasions. Most recently serving in that capacity, he led a successful Self Study, continuing the program as one of the longest CSWE accredited programs in Ohio. He led Winter Term trips to Mississippi and Arizona; urban trips to Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit and Washington, D.C.; and McMaster School projects to Cambodia.

Weaner was Division Chair on several occasions, recently chairing the Business, Education and Social Work Division. In addition to serving as Faculty Chair, he served on and chaired numerous committees including the North Central Self-Study, Strategic Planning, and the National Survey of Student Engagement.

He was a consultant with the Women's Crisis Center in Cambodia, the Correctional Center of Northwest Ohio, Maumee Valley Guidance Center, Ohio State University NIMH Rural Homelessness Project, the Defiance DWI Program, and Henry County United Way. He also served boards and committees in the community.

Beyond his academic pursuits, a love for the theater led to membership with the Fort Defiance Players Board of Directors and directorship of 11 major productions from 1984 to 2000.

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## DC STUDENT PROFILE OF EMMA BEDAN

For Emma Bedan, Defiance College has been the perfect fit. Midway through her sophomore year, the Cincinnati native is happily immersed in her studies and campus life.

Emma happened upon a Defiance College table at a college fair as a high school student, and when she visited, she liked the size of the campus and the welcoming atmosphere. And, since beginning her college career more than a year ago, the college hasn't disappointed. "Everyone is so nice, it feels like a family," she says. "I have great relationships with my teachers. I don't feel like a number. I feel like a student."

When she arrived, Emma was undecided about her major, but in her second semester she took a Foundations of Education class taught by Dr. JoAnn Burkhardt and decided that education would be her career path. Her decision was made easier by a placement experience she had at Defiance Elementary School during her Foundations class.

Emma is a Service Leader, and her primary service project

is Dance Marathon. She is involved in planning fundraisers for the project and finds it rewarding to be able to make a difference in the lives of families of children with terminal

illnesses who are part of the Children's Miracle Network and St. Vincent Medical Center.

She joined the college's cheerleading squad during last year's basketball season and is cheering again for football. She mentions open mic night as one of her favorite leisure activities.

While she is only in her second year of college, Emma has already taken advantage of many things DC has to offer and has made many friendships. Earlier this fall, she was voted by her classmates as sophomore homecoming attendant along with Stephan Beasley. She says the selection to the homecoming court left her feeling happy and proud, knowing that fellow students chose her

as someone who represents all that Defiance College stands for.

