



Pictured left to right: President Richanne C. Mankey, Jeremy Ball, Dean Mary Ann Studer

ALUMNUS JEREMY BALL RECOGNIZED WITH McMASTER AWARD

Defiance College alumnus Jeremy Ball, Columbus, was recognized with the Harold A. McMaster Life is Action Award during recent Defiance College homecoming festivities. Ball, a 2004 graduate of DC, is director of corporate philanthropy and events for Fortune 500 retail corporation Big Lots, and he leads the Big Lots Foundation.

He is responsible for the company's national philanthropic initiatives including charitable giving, associate volunteerism, cause marketing, community relations and corporate events. During his tenure, he has established a comprehensive philanthropic and associate engagement program. In partnership with the executive leadership team, Ball launched the Big Lots Foundation in 2014 to address the organization's philanthropic goals for long-term sustainability and greater community impact.

Ball, a native of Ottawa, Ohio, currently serves on the board of directors of the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio and the advisory board for City Year Columbus. He was honored in 2014 by Columbus Business First with a Forty Under 40 Award for up-and-coming professionals and community leaders.

In 2009, he received the Young Alumni Service Award from Defiance College. He has served on the advisory board of Defiance's student-run non-profit Project 701. He currently serves on the college's board of trustees and is a member of the McMaster advisory committee.

While a student at Defiance College, Ball was a member of the Service Leadership Program. He was named a McMaster Scholar to Jamaica in 2002-03, and in that year he conducted surveys with Jamaican high school and college students to assess their needs in the area of career planning.

In 2003-04, he was named a McMaster Scholar to Guatemala, and in that role worked to design a fund-raising package for Colegio Shaddai, a school in Chiquimulilla, Guatemala. It was hoped that this project would allow the school to solicit funds from U.S. organizations that support international Christian education.

In presenting the award to Ball, McMaster School Dean Mary Ann Studer remarked, "Jeremy Ball has grown his commitment to service far beyond that on which he embarked as a McMaster Scholar and Service Leader at Defiance College. His commitment has become the critical force behind his professional pursuits."

The mission of Defiance College's McMaster School for Advancing Humanity is to educate students to become committed global citizens and to prepare them to examine the root causes of human suffering in the world and take measured action to alleviate it.

The McMaster School was founded in 2002 with a generous endowment from Harold and Helen McMaster.