

About  
McMASTER SCHOOL  
FOR ADVANCING HUMANITY

The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity was founded to serve as a focal point for teaching, service, scholarship, and action to improve the human condition worldwide. The mission of the McMaster School is:

- ◆ To educate students for responsible citizenship;
- ◆ To produce committed global citizens and leaders who understand the importance of individual liberties in improving the human condition worldwide; and
- ◆ To encourage graduates to take an active role in addressing these issues in whatever professions they may choose.

The School serves as a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary, community-based work by creating and supporting opportunities for teams of faculty, students, and staff to use their academic and professional skills to address a community need.

Goals of the  
McMASTER SCHOOL  
FOR ADVANCING HUMANITY

To critically examine the root causes of human suffering through academic and applied research of systemic factors (religious, political, social, educational and/or environmental) that impede human progress;

To give students the knowledge and capacities to be active world citizens and to view themselves as members of the world community;

To contribute actively - through sponsored scholarship and service to the improvement of the human condition worldwide;

To exchange, create and disseminate knowledge about successful role models of active citizenship and public service; and

To create at Defiance College one of the nation's premiere undergraduate educational programs with a focus on scholarship and service, with a special emphasis on developing an innovative approach to teaching.



About  
DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Defiance College, founded in 1850, is a private liberal arts college affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serving approximately 1,000 students. Building on a strong foundation of more than a century of educating citizens for lives of leadership and service, Defiance College provides opportunities for its students to make a meaningful impact on society in the twenty-first century with an educational experience of engagement. Defiance's spirit of service through leadership sets us apart.

Defiance College's role as a national and innovative leader in service learning and engagement was recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service which named Defiance among the top 20 schools in the nation for community service and engagement. This designation was made by naming Defiance College as a Presidential Award Finalist for the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The Princeton Review features Defiance College in *Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement*. Defiance is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the National Council of Teacher Education, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the Council on Social Work Education, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, and the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education.

As a national leader in the field of service learning and engagement, DC teaches students to take the knowledge they have gained and use it to change lives for the better – in their communities, in their careers, and in the world.

**Special thanks to the Planning Committee:**  
*Nicole Buccalo, Mercedes Clay, Jordan Heiliger, Chris Medjesky, Barbara Schirmer, Kristen Stelzer, Mary Ann Studer, and Rena Rager*

**Additional thanks to:**  
*Kathy Punches, Ryan Imbrock – Public Relations  
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THE QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AS CRITICAL TO  
IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION



McMaster  
Symposium

DEFIANCE COLLEGE  
April 8-10, 2015

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

### 8:50AM - 9:00AM

**OPENING REMARKS** Schomburg Auditorium  
Mary Ann Studer, Dean  
McMaster School for Advancing Humanity

### 9:00AM - 9:50AM

**McMASTER TANZANIA** Schomburg Auditorium  
Jeremy Taylor, Fellow  
Alyson Laframboise, Associate Fellow  
McMaster Scholars: Jessica Bell, Genelle Castro, Emily Denhard, Dava Donaldson, Ryan Edelbrock, Katelyn Haydett, Alicia Kalik, Michael Vanderkolk

### 10:00AM - 10:50AM

**McMASTER BELIZE** Schomburg Auditorium  
Mary Ann Studer, Fellow  
Rena Rager, Associate Fellow  
McMaster Scholars: Melina Alexander, Amanda Fooce, Caroline Hesterman, Braden Perry, Megan Davis, Zachary Roush, Tory Savage

### 11:00AM - 11:50AM

**McMASTER CAMBODIA** Schomburg Auditorium  
JoAnn Burkhardt, Fellow  
Fred Coulter, Fellow  
Kenneth Wetstein, Associate Fellow  
McMaster Scholars: Philip Balla, Ian Fasnacht, Cheryl-Ann Francis, Nathan Height, Damian Koester, Cormack Lazarus, Ceresa Page, Elizabeth Pienoski

### 12:00PM - 12:50PM

**LUNCH FOR MCMMASTER**  
**LEARNING COMMUNITIES** Buchman Board Room

Hosted by McMaster School for Advancing Humanity

Open to all McMaster learning community members and their guests

### 1:00PM - 1:50PM

**SERVICE LEADERS**  
**IN WASHINGTON D.C.** Schomburg Auditorium  
Jordan Heiliger, Service Leadership Program Coordinator  
Service Leaders: Cormack Lazarus, Kandee Manson, Amber Moomey, Susie Stoeffel

Over the course of a week, 20 Service Leaders were given the opportunity to explore the issues and stereotypes surrounding hunger and homelessness in the nation's capital. We were given several opportunities to serve the homeless including working at DC Central Kitchen and A Wider Circle. This interactive presentation will discuss the work that was completed, how our perspective on homelessness has changed, and what YOU can do to make an impact on the homeless community in Defiance County.

### 2:00PM - 2:50PM

**CAROLYN M. SMALL HONORS PROGRAM EXPLORATORY**  
**NICARAGUA/PANAMA** Schomburg Auditorium  
Mary Ann Studer, Alesia Yakos-Brown  
Lindsay Kasmer, Kenneth Miller, Catlyn Pavel,  
Zachary Roush, Susie Stoeffel, Alexis Walker

*The Honors International trip to Panama and Nicaragua served as an exploratory initiative for the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. Trip participants played a vital role in assessing the potential for partnerships to develop in both countries.*

### 7:00PM - 7:15PM

**KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION** Schomburg Auditorium  
Dr. Ron McMaster

### 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

## EARL TAYLOR, JR.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVERSATION AMERICA'S FIVE THOUSAND YEAR LEAP

In this presentation Earl Taylor will describe the discovery of the Principles of Liberty during a "trial and error" period between 1607 and 1787 and the institutionalization of these principles into America's founding documents. It was this process that propelled our nation's progress further in 200 years than mankind has gone in more than 5000 years before. The acceleration of progress even came as a surprise to America's founders! Can it happen again? Earl Taylor will address this question.

Earl Taylor, Jr. has taught The Making of America Constitutional Study course to thousands of people over the past thirty years throughout the nation. He has developed other study courses for a wide range of participants, from high school students to state legislators. Mr. Taylor graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in corporate finance. He built a real estate and development business over a period of eighteen years. In 1995, Mr. Taylor was asked to serve as President of the National Center for Constitutional Studies.

Along with writing a special study guide for the Boy Scouts to help them earn their Citizenship merit badges and helping structure courses on the U.S. Constitution for college re-certification of public school teachers, Mr. Taylor established one of the first charter high schools in Arizona - Heritage Academy, where he has developed a special curriculum for the teaching of hundreds of students about the Founding Fathers.



### 9:30AM - 10:45AM

**BREAKOUT SESSION A** Buchman Board Room

America's Five Thousand Year Leap - Earl Taylor, Jr

*Earl Taylor will continue to explore America's founding and review the Principles of Liberty which, if restored, would provide the path to solving nearly every problem that exists in America today! A big statement! Come and see how this can happen in a session well suited to interactive dialog.*

### 11:00AM - 12:30PM

**HUMANITY IN THE HEADLINES** Hubbard Banquet Room

Each table will focus on a topic that will explore current events from the perspective of the Symposium theme, "The Question of Individual Liberties as Critical to Improving the Human Condition." The hosts at each table will facilitate discussion.

Controversy in Sports -- Tim Rickabaugh  
ISIS -- Jeremy Taylor  
Police Conflicts -- Sheldon Goodrum  
Ebola -- Collette Knight  
Boko Haram: Kidnapped Nigerian Girls -- Tim Wedge  
Charlie Hebdo (Paris) -- Chris Medjesky  
Lake Erie Algae Bloom -- Doug Kane and Deb Dalke  
Affordable Care Act -- Judy Thrasher

### 12:45PM - 2:00PM

**BREAKOUT SESSION B** Buchman Board Room

The Myth of American Individualism - Jeff St. Onge

*The session will examine the role of individualism in American political culture. It argues that there is too much emphasis on individualism, and not enough on community, which is positioned as a threat to individualism. Using historical and contemporary examples, it argues for a balance between the two, premised on the idea that strong community produces strong individuals.*

### 2:15PM - 3:30PM

**BREAKOUT SESSION C** Buchman Board Room

Navigating the Tensions: Intentional Community for Social Change - Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss

*Gandhi's "Be the change you want to see in the world" and Ubuntu, "I am because you are" both express authentic living. Individual liberties competing with one another create inequity and disempowerment. Interdependent community, however, in which individual liberties are defined and practiced as complementary and mutually enhancing, creates systems for the well-being of all. The UCC's Young Adult Service Communities provide a case study to explore this tension at both micro-and globally macro-levels.*

## THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 9-10, 2015

### 3:45PM - 5:00PM

**BREAKOUT SESSION D** Buchman Board Room

Talking with Chinese and American Students: What Ferguson Teaches Us about Individualism and Collectivism - Elçin Haskollar

Based on responses collected from Chinese students at Wenzhou-Kean University in Wenzhou, China, and American students at Defiance College, discussion will include a comparative study on how the college students view what happened at Ferguson, Missouri. They also provide insights into American education, with its emphasis on individualism and the liberation of the individual.

### THURSDAY & FRIDAY 4:00PM - 10:00PM

**TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION** Weaner Center, McMaster Gym

The Tunnel of Oppression is a grassroots campus diversity initiative originally developed at Western Illinois University. The initiative stemmed from a homogeneous campus environment searching for a way to bring the realities of oppression into a full sensory experiential manner. The creators of the Tunnel of Oppression wanted to give participants the opportunity to see, touch, hear and feel the realities of oppression as a stepping stone towards creating diversity awareness. The tunnel is loosely based off of the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Calif.

Since its original development in the 1990s, the Tunnel of Oppression has become a nationally recognized program that has been recreated at a number of college campuses such as The Ohio State University, UNLV, the University of Wisconsin, Bradley University and the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Tunnel of Oppression has been both criticized and praised by Student Affairs administrators nationwide. It's often shocking and disturbing to those who have never experienced blatant forms of discrimination and oppression. Strong feelings can be evoked as a result of the full-sensory experience and may also be upsetting to those who have witnessed the realities of the images presented. Strong critics argue that a negative, shock-provoking portrayal of oppression is an inappropriate path to take in diversity programming. However, people must realize that the scenes depicted in the Tunnel represent reality for those living it as a daily experience. Maintaining an open mind is a must.

## CAROLYN M. SMALL HONORS SYMPOSIUM

### FRIDAY 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Buchman Board Room, Cultural Arts Center, and Hubbard Banquet Room

Through poster and oral presentations, DC students will present research and scholarly works related to course work.