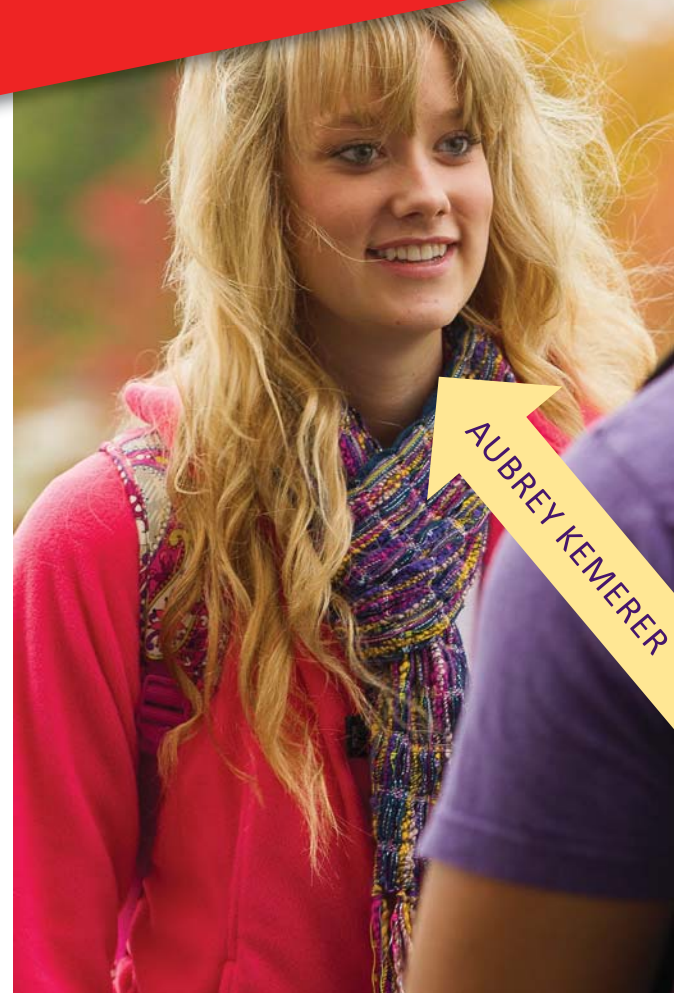


From the STUDENTS



"My professors have supported me in many different ways through my years at Defiance College. There has not been a time I have not been challenged in my studies. Every course I have taken with my psychology professors has been challenging. They push their students to excel, not to be average."

"During my time as a McMaster Scholar, I have conducted one-on-one interviews with village people in Belize. I have been gathering demographics of San Carlos, Belize, to hopefully allow for the village to apply for grants that can be used for future investments. Being a McMaster Scholar has allowed me to work in culturally diverse areas, accomplishing the task at hand. All the work that I have done with the McMaster program has allowed me to grow and mature as a student. It has allowed me to become an expert in the field and to adapt on the spot when challenges arise."



"My professors are incredible. They support you in whatever you do such as helping look for internships. They make you think about your future and teach you not to settle for something small when you have the skills to go bigger. None of them will let you fail and will do everything in their power to help you pass. Over the years the Athletic Training group has become a second family to all of us, and I know they will be there for me in years to come."

"In freshman year when you are told to get hours going to the training room for practices, scrimmages and games, it seems boring at first, but it is an amazing opportunity for you to learn a lot. Being able to work with all the sports is one of the best things you can do, helping you to expand your knowledge on the types of injuries you may see in every sport."

"I'm a social work major and am in my second year working with Project 701's free health clinic. I am the clinic's director of social work. My job is to recruit and assist licensed social workers to be at the clinic. I sometimes also refer patients and their families to other area agencies for needed services.

"I took Professor Yakos-Brown's class Social Problems, and it made me aware of all the problems in our nation as well as in our communities. I had just started volunteering with the free clinic, and the class motivated me to get more involved with it.

"In my work at the clinic, I researched the need for dental services for the uninsured and underinsured, and how the free clinic might be able to provide this. I didn't know how to go about getting this information, but my professors helped me and supported me in my work. One of the big things about the clinic is seeing how it really helps individuals, and how the community supports it. It's fantastic, really. And the research I have done has helped me gain more knowledge about what is available to people in need.

"I haven't decided whether I will go into social work or psychology, but I know I want to work with children with disabilities. Just the idea that our free clinic is making a difference makes me feel like I am going to be able to make a difference with families and children with disabilities in my future career."



"As an education major here at Defiance, I have had the privilege to work with some of the top professionals in my field of study. The requirements to become a teacher consistently increase and become more challenging every year. I am very grateful to have had so many professors who took the extra time not only to explain content but to take that a step further and show me how to be a successful teacher. A teacher is someone who supports you, praises you, and collaborates with you during the good and the bad. Most importantly a teacher is there for you and refuses to let you fail! A great teacher won't coddle you when you are struggling, however they will challenge you to persevere because they believe in you and they believe that with hard work you can accomplish any goal. During my time at Defiance College I have had the opportunity to experience teachers who exemplified these characteristics and have helped shape me into a successful teacher.

"I have never been a great student, and it was not until being conditionally accepted to Defiance College that I even took school seriously. My educational journey has been a very bumpy ride, and over the last five years I have had to learn very quickly how to manage my time, how to study on the road, and how to prioritize assignments. Generating a lesson plan, creating an entire unit plan or an outline of activities for an entire school year in physical education and health classroom settings are projects that have helped in my growth and development as both a successful student and teacher.

"As a McMaster Scholar I have had to learn how to be proficient in collecting research. My academic proposal required 20 different academic sources. The project that I will be presenting/teaching in Cambodia this May will be a comprehensive assessment of each of the physical and cognitive disabilities listed in Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSMV- IV). This presentation will be partnered with raising societal awareness about physical and cognitive disorders, and demonstrating that individuals can be productive and functioning members of society. To have a positive and successful experience as a McMaster Scholar, being organized, methodical, passionate, and aware of both my body and verbal language are essential. These same traits that will assist me in implementing positive change in the Cambodian culture will also allow me to relate better to my students as a teacher and enhance the effectiveness of my own learning as a student. "



From the STUDENTS



BROCK BELL

"In the digital forensics major, professors Gregg Gunsch and Tim Wedge do a great job of providing us with foundational knowledge of a concept, then using exams and labs to push us to expand on that base knowledge. Oftentimes the challenges we receive will start by refreshing on what we should know. They then ask us to use books and resources in order to expand our understanding with a new forensic tool, or situation.

"The projects that we use to expand our practical understanding of the concepts are almost always realistic situations that we could encounter while working in our future career. Sometimes it's all about learning how to apply a tool to a new piece of evidence, such as recovering files from a camera card or hard drive. Other times the situation will be about taking a process we are familiar with, like the analysis of a floppy disk containing evidence, and learning to thoroughly document the steps we take. After all, Digital Forensics is a science and a key skill to possess is the ability to make our results are reproducible and defensible against heavy scrutiny.

"Being a McMaster Scholar has allowed me to truly take control of a project that I can call my own. I have been able to apply a skill set I have developed while at Defiance College, and use it to help address an issue that I identified while talking with other Scholars. My research involving e-readers and distance learning has allowed me to see the connection that my career has in helping to advance the lives of those in a developing part of the world. The ability to research two of my passions, technology and service to others, makes the entire process feel like something greater than just another project. Finding a way to make my research more practical, yet still involve elements I enjoy, makes it much easier to better my understanding of the research process.

"Possibly the most valuable component of becoming a McMaster Scholar is that it has opened my mind to the immense world around me. While it's impossible to grasp world culture as a whole, what I have been able to grasp is the fact that there is far more in this world than I could ever begin to imagine."



MATT COONS



CHERYL-A

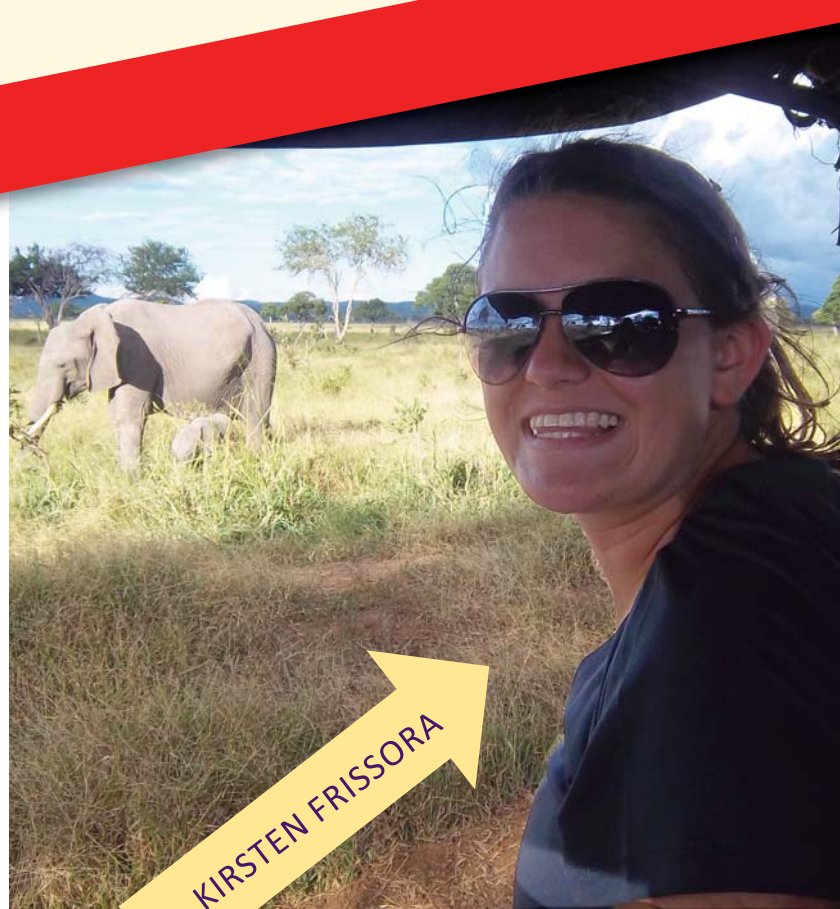
"My experience at Defiance College has been a great one. My achievements, projects, and research while at Defiance are in no small part thanks to the faculty who have mentored and guided me. I have found the professors to be extremely helpful, insightful, and willing to go the extra mile to assist any student. I view the faculty in the Digital Forensic Science program as so much more than mentors; they provide valuable real-world experience and are aptly suited to teach my program of study.

"I have been involved in various projects and research. I assisted Professor Wedge in creating a human trafficking scenario for use in a training setting. The scenario was presented and taught by Professor Wedge in the State of Qatar. I am also currently involved in the Cold Case Initiative. This is a chance for digital forensic science, criminal justice, and forensic science students to work on a cold case assigned by the Wayne County, Detroit, prosecutor. Last year I had the opportunity to travel to the High Technology Crime Investigation Society international conference held in Hershey, Pennsylvania. While there, I was able to make valuable professional networking contacts as well as present a poster with fellow students on human trafficking.

"Defiance College has not only provided me with an exemplary education, it has begun to pave the path to my professional career."

"Attending a liberal arts college is one of the best decisions that I have made. As a molecular biology major, I am afforded the opportunity to grow and develop holistically by receiving firsthand experience with state of the art equipment in our laboratories. The vast opportunities for research, internships and field experiences are helping me to develop skills personally and professionally. I continue to increase my knowledge from our learned professors who care about each student. I could not ask for more individualized attention from my professors who know me by name, not a number, and always encourage and guide me on the path to success. This journey has been nothing short of amazing. It's a roller coaster ride that inflicts fear at first, but at the end of each semester I can proudly and honestly say I would definitely go back for another ride. With all the preparation that I have garnered at DC, I can guarantee my spot in a medical school of my choice."

ANN FRANCIS



KIRSTEN FRISSORA

"As a wellness and corporate fitness major you may not think that I was challenged much in my classes, that they all dealt with personal training and fitness. This could not be further from the truth. One of my favorite classes was Health Care Issues. This course dealt with everything from causes in health disparities to where our country's health care system was headed. My professor pushed us to learn as much as we could, to question what was being implemented by our government and to find the pros and cons of the rapidly changing health care system, because we could vote on the Affordable Care Act. She supported us when we completed our own research and formed our own opinions about how health care and the problems associated with it today influence us, and not to just take what others said at face value.

"But classes are not alone in challenging me as a student. As a returning McMaster Scholar to Belize I have been able to create, develop and implement health projects in a community. True, many colleges or universities offer their students traveling opportunities, but is being an 'expert' on your project and the topics it covers a requirement to travel at these other institutions? Through McMaster, I have been challenged to learn as much as I can about nutrition, hygiene, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, natural remedies, first aid, CPR, snakebite management, and more. When I interacted with our community partners I was able to not only cover the information I planned on sharing but was also able to answer any of their questions, all because I was pushed to research and learn.

"At Defiance College, I have been encouraged to think critically and to challenge myself in all aspects of my experience here, whether it is in classes, research, Belize or extracurricular activities, Defiance has provided a challenging atmosphere that has helped me thrive as a student and will prepare me for a career in public health in the future."