

# recognition

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

*Awards, presentations, committees, and seminars*



**ALESIA YAKOS-BROWN**, associate professor of practice of social work, was awarded this year's Dr. Richard W. Stroede Distinguished Faculty Citation. Professor Yakos-

Brown arrived at Defiance College in 2002. As a licensed independent social worker, she brings extensive experience in clinical practice to the Social Work Program. As field coordinator, she has ensured that field experiences provide students with opportunities to apply classroom learning in a professional setting, hone and use their skills, and test their commitment to social work and the values of the profession. The recent accreditation site visit report for the Council on Social Work Education commented, "Professor Yakos-Brown is highly regarded by the field instructors who noted her accessibility and knowledge base as critical assets." The site visitor also stated in the exit interview, "The Defiance field program is where other schools should be."

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and Psychology from Defiance College and Master of Social Work degree from The Ohio State University. Her classroom experience extends well beyond the walls of Defiance College through involvement with Empty Bowls, Night Without a Home, Pay it Forward, One Step at a Time, and Sisters to Sisters Mentoring Program.



**DR. DOUG KANE**, associate professor of biology, was an invited participant at the National Estuaries Day Research Forum at Old Woman Creek in Huron, Ohio. Researchers from around Northern and

Central Ohio discussed future collaborations and programming at this National Estuarine Research Reserve. He also contributed posters featuring both his and Defiance College students' research on Lake Erie and its tributaries to a public open house held that day at Old Woman Creek.

Dr. Kane gave an invited, hour-long talk in the technical sessions at the 2013 Keystone Power Conference in Pittsburgh this fall. His talk "Algae Propagation in Lake Erie and its Watershed: Consequences and Control" was attended by power plant professionals from throughout the eastern and midwestern United States.

"Algae: A Potential Threat to Water Resources in Ohio?" was the topic of a talk Dr. Kane gave at the OTCO (Operator Training Committee of Ohio) workshop at Deer Creek State Park in Mt. Sterling, Ohio to water and wastewater treatment professionals.

Dr. Kane also co-chaired a session at the recent 56th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research at Purdue University. This session was titled "The Re-Eutrophication of Lake Erie: Improving Understanding and Developing a Management Framework." Doug also presented in this session on "HABs, Hypoxia, and History: The Re-Eutrophication of Lake Erie" with co-authors from ODNR, OSU, F.T. Stone Laboratory, and Heidelberg University.

Earlier this year, Dr. Kane was elected to the board of directors of the International Association for Great Lakes Research and

then chosen by the Board as its next vice president, with the expectation that he will then serve as president and past president.



**DR. MARIAN PLANT**, professor of religious and ministry studies, was invited to present her workshop "When Religious Identity Formation Calls for Being Good Neighbors to the 'Other': Using Problem-

based Learning to Help Religious Education and Ministry Studies Classes Respond to Local Congregations' Challenges" at the Religious Education Association's Annual Meeting this fall in Boston. All paper and workshop proposals for the conference went through a rigorous review and selection process. The workshop proposal grew out of a problem-based learning project used in the RL 250 Program Development and Resource Theory course taught Spring 2013 by Dr. Plant.

Dr. Plant was invited to participate in a pre-conference session addressing the theme "Coming Out Religiously." The pre-conference session convened with a preview of the film "Gaining Ground" and continued with an on-site visit to The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative - one of the best known, most creative neighborhood revitalization initiatives in the country - that partners with religious institutions, businesses, nonprofits, community development corporations, government agencies, and other entities to implement resident-driven plans in this highly diverse community.



**DR. MARY CATHERINE HARPER** has been awarded the 2013 Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. The winning poem, *Muddy World*, is a

reflection on the vast differences between life in Cambodia and life in the U. S. Midwest. It will be published in the journal *MidAmerica*. Gwendolyn Brooks is notable as the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize. She became a central figure of the Black Arts Movement beginning in 1967 and is known for her poems of south-side Chicago.



**COLLETTE KNIGHT**, circulation coordinator of Pilgrim Library, was awarded the 2013 OPAL Service Award by the OPAL library consortium. The consortium recognized her for her generosity and willingness to help in all areas.



The 2013 Outstanding Service Award for a faculty member was presented to **DR. SANDRA GOLDEN**, associate professor of education/ associate provost of graduate studies and professional development.

The award was presented during Honors Convocation.



The 2013 Outstanding Service Award for a staff member was presented to **ALYCE CAULDER**, assistant registrar. Alyce's recognition was announced during Honors Convocation. She has been with the

College since 2005. ♦

## DEFIANCE COLLEGE NAMED TO 2014 MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS LIST



Defiance College has been selected to the Military Friendly Schools® list for the fifth consecutive year. The 2014 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

“Our veterans committee continues to address the needs of veteran students,” said Mark C. Gordon, president. “DC has long held a tradition of supporting our military, and we are pleased with the developments over the last few years that have made it easier for them to transition back into the classroom to complete a degree.”

“As a veteran, I can attest that other veterans and myself face responsibility and stress that a traditional student may not face. Defiance College helps alleviate a lot of stress and pain of adjusting to a civilian and student life,” said Daniel Lam, San Francisco, senior digital forensic science student. “Not only are they fully supportive of our military and veterans students; a good amount of faculty are veterans also! From tuition to registering for classes and providing veteran resource centers, Defiance College not only accommodates but exceeds in service to us as we have provided service to our country.”

Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list include military support on campus, academic accreditations, academic credit for military service, and veteran graduation rates. The colleges and universities on this year's list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience.

The 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 10,000 schools nationwide approved for VA funding. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board consisting of educators from schools across the country and independently verified by Ernst and Young LLP. The Military Friendly Schools® media and website can be found at [www.militaryfriendlyschools.com](http://www.militaryfriendlyschools.com).