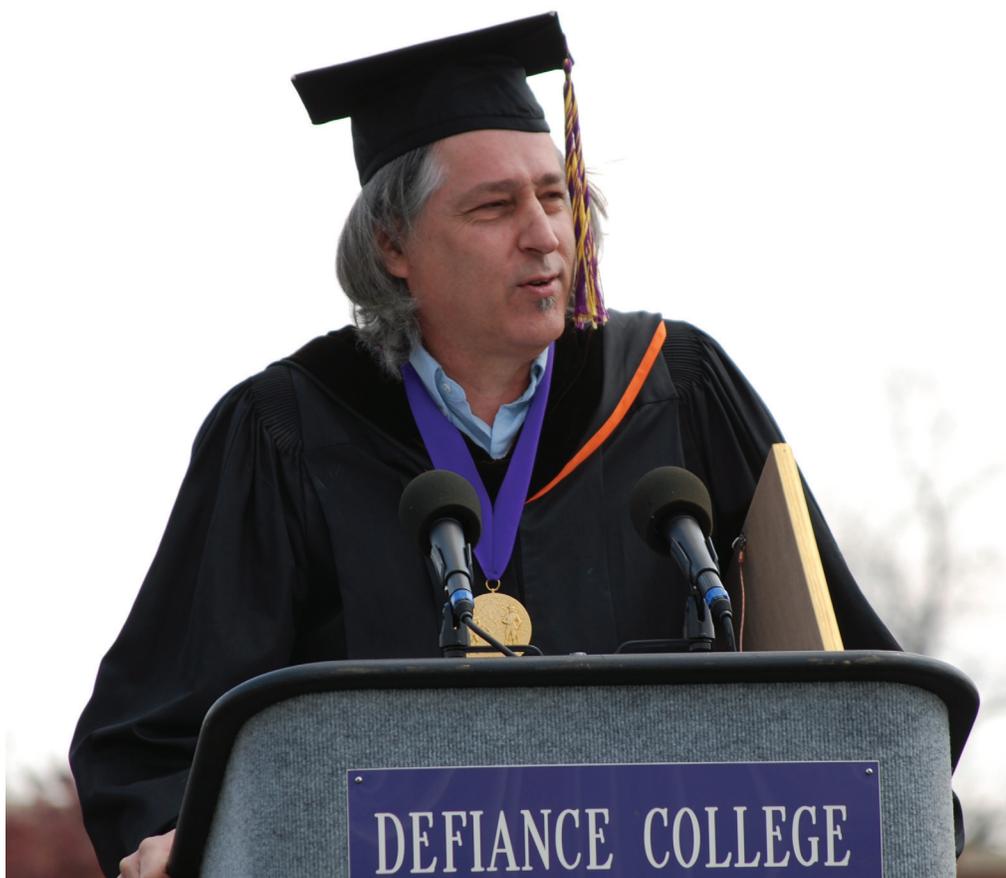


passion

FOR ART AND EDUCATION

Professor Steve Smith retires in May after serving as a faculty member for 30 years



Steve Smith receives Professor Emeritus status at commencement in May.

Steve Smith, a member of the Defiance College faculty for 30 years, retired in May and received the rank of Professor Emeritus. While his roots remained in Northwest Ohio, his passion for art and education took him around the globe.

Smith arrived on the DC campus in 1981 as an instructor of art and rose to the rank of full professor. In 2005, he was chosen by his peers as that year's Distinguished Faculty recipient.

In addition to his achievements in the classroom, Smith has also been recognized

as an outstanding artist and craftsman at the local, regional and national levels. He is best known as a sculptor of clay, steel and stone. It was always important to Smith that he carry on the lessons taught to him by his high school art instructor who introduced him not only to the visual world of art but to the human side. In the classroom and the studio, Smith has had the ability to motivate students to think beyond the superficial, to reach for a higher level of mastery in a skill or concept, and to develop a necessary work ethic.

As a child, Smith wanted to be an

archeologist. As an adolescent, his interest was in mechanical things, and as a young adult he became interested in politics and religion and their impact on culture. "My work is a balance of these – a love of the past, finding a material or technique to tell the story of a culture, real or make-believe," he said. He sees art as an avenue to change the world, to be of service to others.

Thus, he took his skills and passion to far places, to Europe, Israel and Belize – always teaching and always learning. He also traveled to Chile where he gave technical training to the staff of a cultural arts center to teach indigenous potters to produce pottery for sale.

Smith worked for more than 20 years with Ohio Designer Craftsmen and the Ohio Craft Museum, pushing his mission to a state and regional level. He often took high school and college students to the Functional Ceramics workshop in Wooster, Ohio, not only bringing students in contact with some of the international pottery community's best artists, but allowing them to start building friendships and networks from which they would benefit their whole lives. On campus, Smith threw hundreds of bowls for Empty Bowls, an annual popular event sponsored by the college's Social Work Organization to raise funds for the PATH Center, a local homeless shelter.

The citation presented to Smith at this year's commencement ceremony read in part: "You are both a leader in your field and a humble servant. You do not place yourself above others but allow yourself to gain insight from them, thereby creating a network of partners. Most importantly, you build partnerships that last. You have filled many 'empty bowls' that have remained full." ♦