

FALL 2016 | CAED Grand Opening | Alumni Awards | Map Collection | Fantasy Football | Road to Recovery

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE



From Two Places at Once

“Ohio has been good to me,” says Felix Kumah-Abiwu, PhD, assistant professor of Pan-African studies, who grew up in Ghana and found a home at Kent State. “My story has been a roller coaster, but you have opportunity here.” SEE PAGE 12

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On the cover: Pan-African studies professor Felix Kumah-Abiwu, PhD, wears a Ghanaian smock from his native country—its edges swirl in a circle when performing the traditional damba dance. For more on his story and those of other members of our international community, see page 12.

COVER PHOTO: MELISSA OLSON

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We celebrated the grand opening of the Center for Architecture and Environmental Design this fall. See this iconic new addition to the Kent Campus.

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BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

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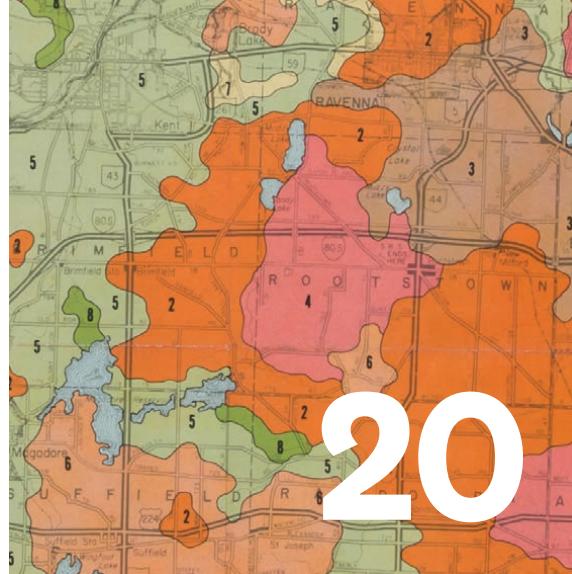
Former addict Anita Bradley '95, founder of the Northern Ohio Recovery Association, helps others navigate the road to recovery.

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Jordan Tozzi '14 gained a national following on LegionReport.com, a fantasy sports website he founded with his brother. Plus tips on how you can win your fantasy football league.

BY ALLEN MOFF



EDITOR

Jan Senn
magazine@kent.edu

DESIGN

Melissa Olson

EDITORIAL INTERN

Lauren Rathmell '17

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bob Christy '95
Jeff Gliden '87
Melissa Olson

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

David Carducci
Emily Morris
Ashley Whaley '06, MED '12
Jason Zehner '10

Read Kent State Magazine online at www.kent.edu/magazine. To comment or change an address, please email magazine@kent.edu or call 330-672-2727.

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Take Note

At her State of the University address in October, President Beverly Warren expressed her vision for a reimaged public research university, where “the priorities for academic excellence, access and affordability not only coexist but merge as critical elements of a high-quality, distinctive learning environment.” She named this vision *The Kent State Promise*.

This redesigned issue of the university magazine demonstrates some of the tangible ways Kent State is delivering on that promise, guided by the university’s six-year plan, *A Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State* (strategicroadmap.kent.edu).

In her new column, President Warren points to Kent State’s legacy of cultivating civil discourse and meaningful voice, more important today than ever.

The feature highlighting educational technology professor Richard Ferdig offers valuable insights into how digital tools can help us understand the world while also advancing the university’s commitment to community-engaged research.

A series of photographic portraits and brief stories introduces us to a dozen individuals who represent Kent State’s increasingly diverse community and its global competitiveness priority.

The profile of Anita Bradley ’95 and her fight to transform lives in the face of addiction illustrates how Kent State alumni are bettering our society.

These stories, among others, exemplify the promise of Kent State University. Thank you for the role you play in ensuring this is a promise kept.

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FEEDBACK



LOVE WINS

One of the most memorable moments of Homecoming 2016 wasn't the heartbreaking last-minute loss to The University of Akron, but the heartwarming lovers who shared a "Kiss on the K." Since the Homecoming tradition began in 2011, Kent State couples from across the country have come together on a painted "K" at Risman Plaza for a smooch when the library bells ring at 12:30 p.m.

Charles and Nora Kegley (Classes of 1956 and 1960) first met at a Florida beach during spring break and discovered they both attended Kent State. The couple, pictured above, recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. They have participated in the "Kiss on the K" since it began; this year as an honorary couple. "It's fun," says Nora Kegley. "We love being a part of it and seeing the other couples."

See more Homecoming highlights at www.ksualumni.org/homecoming.

Visual Appeal

We are a family of KSU attendees and grads, so we always look forward to reading the magazine. The Center for Visual Arts turned out awesome ["Under One Roof," summer]. The blend of old (1916), mid-century (1950) and new is an achievement in repurposing [that] speaks of and for the ages past, present and future.

THE EINHAUSER FAMILY
LUMMI ISLAND, WASH.

Pertinent Poem

I enjoyed reading the poem "Driving While Black" [summer]. Being a black male with two young sons, I most certainly can relate and am, like every black father when it comes to this issue, more than a bit concerned with helping my sons negotiate this gauntlet.

TODD BOROM '83
SEA CLIFF, N.Y.

Gee, Thanks

[Summer 2016] is clearly the best edition I've read in more than 35 years of receiving Kent State Magazine. Balance, current issues focus and editing were excellent. Kudos to the staff for the outstanding effort!

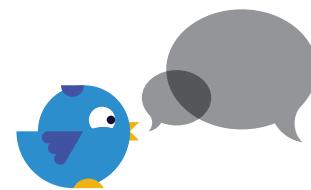
DAN KELLEY '72
WESTLAKE, OHIO

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Respond to magazine content or comment on topics related to Kent State by writing:
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Responses may be edited for style, length, clarity and civility.

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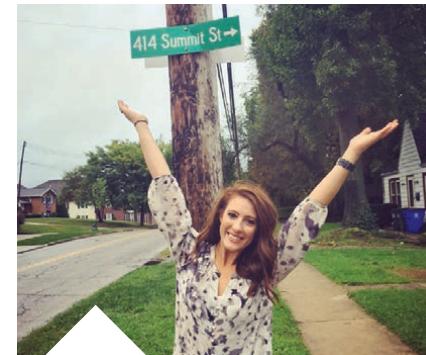


Bow Ties and the hippest university around. What more can you ask for? #flashesforever

Mr. Jordan E. Euell
[@casualformalguy](https://twitter.com/casualformalguy)

No matter how many times I attend Convocation, I always end up tearing up during Prez. Warren's speech.

[@_jackie333](https://twitter.com/_jackie333)



Trip down memory lane 💕💕
[#KentState](#) [#KentHC](#)

Meg Shaw
[@MegDShaw](https://twitter.com/MegDShaw)

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On Meaningful Voice

As I engage with the university community, some of the most hopeful comments have come from undergraduate students—many of whom are not yet 20 years old. Here's what I've learned from them:

Don't let the earbuds fool you. Students are not checking out. They are checking in—selectively—with the influences and content that fuel their imagination. The students who engage freely with me are environmentally and socially conscious and also politically astute. They are quick to lend a hand or to lead an initiative. Today's college students care about the future and know they must be its architects.

They seek meaning. In the past four years, the numbers of our students choosing a minor course of study in addition to the primary academic major has nearly doubled. While some argue that students are doing this to improve their marketability, I think it also reflects their ingenuity and awareness that the problems of the future will require investigation and collaboration across disciplines.

The future is in compassionate hands. Meaningful voice elevates discourse and calls the world to conversations that raise both solutions and hope. I have come across that kind of voice in the words of our students, as I did when then freshman Elizabeth Schmidt closed an award-winning essay with this charge: "If we all live with awareness of our impacts and drive our actions with feeling, maybe we can stop trying to right injustice with justice and start preventing it with compassion."

I believe this generation of college students is turning a mirror on the world and calling it to action. They continue to demonstrate the commitment and capacity to engage with a meaningful voice, to collaborate across traditional boundaries and to bring about transformational, difference-making change.

Beverly J. Warren
President

Email: president@kent.edu, Twitter: [@PresBWarren](https://twitter.com/PresBWarren)
See the full text of these presentations at www.kent.edu/president.

“Critical conversations managed well can build relationships, cultivate creativity and usher breakthroughs.”

SMART BUSINESS, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

“Higher education’s most important outcome is college graduates who have the skills, talent and desire to change the world—who understand that a life of meaning is just as important as a life of financial comfort.”

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 13, 2016



Beverly Warren @PresBWarren · Oct 2

One of my most favorite Homecoming moments. Thanks @KSUAlumni & @ksumgf

Kristen Hardesty @HardestyKristin

During the @KentState HC game @PresBWarren joined a @ksumgf alumnus on the drums to help cheer on the team. I'm proud to be a @KSUAlumni

flash FORWARD



ELLIE STILES

"Traveling reminds us of how lucky we are and how special it is that we can come "home" to Florence feeling positive and motivated for the week ahead," writes Ellie Stiles (Hudson, Ohio). She took this photograph of roommate Summer Szaz (Loveland, Ohio) on a train heading back to Florence after a day trip in Lucca, Italy.

Going Places

The first semester at college is a big adjustment for most students—living independently, balancing studies and social life, missing family and friends.

Fifteen first-year students in Kent State's Honors College are also finding their way around a foreign country, learning a new language and dealing with cultural differences. As the first incoming freshmen group to study in Florence, Italy, the "Florence 15" welcome the challenge.

"I still am figuring out how to balance the many factors of my life," writes Emma Windham (Hartville, Ohio). "But I can't imagine being in a better place as I learn and grow in this new stage."

The students take three required classes in Italian language, art, culture and

identity, as well as two others based on their interests and academic goals. Fridays are free, leaving long weekends to explore the area and other parts of Europe.

Although Kent State has been educating students in Florence for more than 40 years, "few universities send freshmen abroad," says Aaron Hanlin, coordinator of admissions and scholarship for Kent State's Honors College. "This program adds to the distinctiveness of Kent State University and demonstrates the boldness of our students."

Even having travel plans go awry—like missing their connecting train back to Florence after a weekend away—are teachable moments. "It forced our group to figure things out when everything goes wrong," Windham writes. "We had to be independent and go with the flow!"

campus QUOTE



Who you decide to fight for and how you make your degree matter, that's going to be your legacy. . . . The truth is, you will be remembered and defined by how you fought for others."

WES MOORE, youth advocate and author of *The Work: My Search for a Life That Matters*, the Kent State University 2016 common reading book, and keynote speaker, Class of 2020 Convocation, August 26, 2016

Cool Course

Course number: GEOG 41195–001

Title: Horror Films and Environmental Geography

Instructor: Emariana Widner, PhD, associate professor of geography

Description: This three-credit-hour course examines environmental philosophies and social awareness of environmental issues through the sci-fi and horror film genres.

Starting with 1954 cult classic *Them!* and concluding with 2009 sci-fi film *The Road*, we trace how these films reflect the concerns of the society in which they emerged. 1950s–80s environmental horror films centered around a single issue (nuclear radiation, pollution, consumerism), but modern films tend to be more apocalyptic.

In addition to mainstream films and scientific articles, we watch and discuss short, independent films from the futurestates.tv interactive web series.

Films: Some combination of *The Crazies*, *Gojira*, *Them!*, *Wall-E*, *Frogs*, *Prophecy*, *Mimic*, *Children of Men*, *The Road*

Readings: Have included Rachel Carson, William Baxter, Theo Colburn et al. and Jared Diamond

Purpose: Connect pop culture to our understanding of the environment. The films provoke a reaction that facilitates group interaction and seminar-style discussion.

Outcome: Understanding and discussing various points of view allows students to assess their own values and better understand the complexities of environmental issues.



by the **NUMBERS**

Kent Campus record-setting freshman class

"We are delighted that the remarkable Class of 2020 is not only the largest and most academically talented in the history of the university, but is also more diverse," says President Beverly Warren.

4,335

New freshmen

3.39

Average GPA

23.1

Average ACT

737

Underrepresented

96

International

2017 Top-Tier Ranking

Kent State is the only public university in Northeast Ohio ranked in the first tier of the Best National Universities list by *U.S. News & World Report*, who released their 2017 edition of Best Colleges on September 13, 2016.

News Flashes

From research to real world: Kent State experts noted in the media

KICK OFF YOUR HEELS TO AVOID PAIN.

"Telling women to stop wearing heels is akin to telling smokers to quit," says Duane J. Ehredt Jr., DPM, assistant professor at Kent State's College of Podiatric Medicine. Instead, he advises moderation and suggests wearing heels every other day. He also stresses the importance of stretching your calf muscles frequently and avoiding heels over two inches."

— "Killer heels, more pain than they're worth?" WKYC.com, February 4, 2016

LOSE WEIGHT TO GAIN BRAIN FUNCTION.

"Losing weight, even through surgery, might improve your memory and cognitive functioning. Researchers at Kent State University tested the memories of 150 overweight people before they underwent gastric bypass surgery. Twelve weeks after surgery, those who had the operation showed improvements in memory."

— "Weight is bad for the brain," Daily Nation, May 21, 2016

MEDITATE TO LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE.

"Researchers from Kent State found that people who did 2 1/2 hours of mindfulness meditation every week (or about 20 minutes a day) for two months lowered their systolic blood pressure by 4.8 mmHg and their diastolic blood pressure by 1.9 mmHg. You don't have to sit cross-legged on the floor murmuring 'ohm.' Instead, pay attention to your body and immediate surroundings, and your mind will declutter on its own."

— "How too much adrenaline wreaks havoc on your body," MensHealth.com, July 7, 2016

educational, cultural and social aspects of the university.

Michael Daniels, the center's program coordinator, says this experience helps students develop a greater sense of their cultural identity and that of others.

"I felt a sense of belonging once I went through Kupita," says Emanuel Jackson, a junior public relations major who now volunteers as a student mentor. "It was a deciding factor for me to stay at Kent State."

After participating in Kupita (which translates to "passing" in Swahili) Natalia Roman, a senior applied communication major, got involved with diversity initiatives on campus. That led to an internship with the Student Multicultural Center—fulfilling a graduation requirement. "I tell students to stay open, meet a lot of people and get involved as much as possible."

—Lauren Rathmell '17

During Kupita/Transiciones, students can participate in a talent show, attend a cultural festival, discover student organizations, learn about advising appointments and get to know people from other cultures on campus.





Going Gluten-Free

This fall, Kent State became the first university in the country to establish an entirely gluten-free dining hall.

An estimated 3 million Americans suffer from celiac disease, an inherited autoimmune disorder that damages the small intestine when gluten is ingested,

while many others choose to restrict their gluten intake as a personal preference.

For students who need or prefer gluten-free foods, all menu items at Prentice Café on the Kent Campus are gluten free, and many are vegan and vegetarian.

"Students' needs have always been our top priority," says Rich Roldan, director of university dining services at Kent State. "Students shouldn't have to worry about their food being safe to eat."

Prentice Café earned certification from the Gluten-Free Food Services Certification Program, a food safety program offered through the Gluten Intolerance Group—a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the gluten-free community through consumer support, advocacy and education.

Comfort Food

Many college students miss their family's home-cooked meals. So for nearly nine years, through Kent State's innovative "Taste of Home" program, Dining Services has invited students and family members to submit favorite recipes that Kent State's executive chefs may feature in one of the dining halls on campus to make the menus more like home.

This year for Parents and Families Weekend, Dining Services facilitated a Taste of Home contest, and Kent State parent Debbie McKinney won for her turkey chili recipe—a favorite of her daughter Dana, a first-year photo illustration major.

"The crockpot recipe makes a large batch, so we keep it in smaller containers in the freezer, ready to thaw, heat and enjoy anytime," wrote McKinney in her submission. "Since it's not spicy, and because I use black beans instead of red beans, it doesn't create indigestion, as some chili recipes do."

McKinney won two tickets to the Student Affairs logo for the weekend's football game, and her chili was served there and at the Eastway Café.

(Turns out McKinney is no stranger to serving a crowd—she owns Time to Spare, a corporate and nonprofit event planning and gift service in Akron.)

"I love her turkey chili, like all my friends and family do," says her daughter, Dana. "She's a really good cook."

To download a copy of McKinney's winning recipe (below), see www.kent.edu/magazine/chili. Students and family members can submit recipes year-round at www.kent.edu/dining/taste-home.

Coffee with a Conscience

Now the Kent State community can enjoy gourmet coffee while helping small-scale farmers in East Africa. As the first university in America to partner with Sweet Unity Farms—a Tanzanian-based sustainable coffee company—Kent State supports supplier diversity and assures consumers that cash spent on this coffee goes to a good cause.

"All the product comes from small, family-owned farms organized as cooperatives," says David Robinson, who moved to Tanzania in 1984, established a coffee farm and cooperative, then founded Up-Country International Products to market the coffee.

His company pays higher than fair trade prices through direct trade agreements and shares profits with cooperative members. It also provides educational programs, health assistance and help with other development projects.

Bags of 100 percent Arabica coffee beans are sold at three locations on the Kent Campus, and the coffee is brewed and sold at Mujo Cafe in Oscar Ritchie Hall. Robinson, son of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, hopes to expand to other colleges: "Students are the consumers who are going to embrace our brand."



TURKEY CHILI

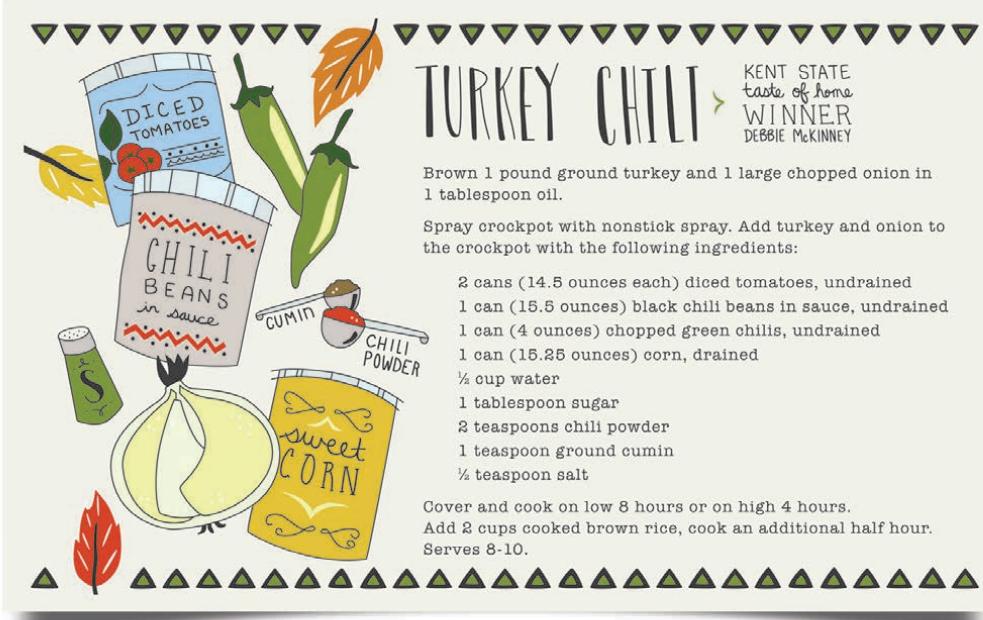
KENT STATE
taste of home
WINNER
DEBBIE MCKINNEY

Brown 1 pound ground turkey and 1 large chopped onion in 1 tablespoon oil.

Spray crockpot with nonstick spray. Add turkey and onion to the crockpot with the following ingredients:

2 cans (14.5 ounces each) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (15.5 ounces) black chili beans in sauce, undrained
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilis, undrained
1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained
½ cup water
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
½ teaspoon salt

Cover and cook on low 8 hours or on high 4 hours.
Add 2 cups cooked brown rice, cook an additional half hour.
Serves 8-10.



High-Flyer

William Auld helps people soar—usually several feet above a stage. When performers are hoisted into the air in front of a live audience, Auld is often working the wire to ensure the production runs safely and smoothly.

An associate professor of theatre at Kent State University at Tuscarawas, where he also helps run the 110-seat Performing Arts Center, Auld is formally trained in “performer

rigging”—how to engineer, rig, and choreograph flying people for live events.

One of only a few dozen people in the world certified in rigging theatres and arenas and in training others, he’s worked all over the world flying performers in Europe, Asia, Central America and the Middle East.

Auld splits his time between teaching and traveling internationally as a flying director for Vertigo Flying Effects, a Chicago-based company that specializes in “wire work” for live entertainment, movies and videos. He’s also on national committees developing safety standards for flying and rigging in North America and Europe.

On local jobs and when touring productions come to the area, he often arranges for Kent State students to assist him or to shadow industry professionals. His hands-on mentoring is helping the next generation of theatre technicians learn the highest safety standards.

We asked this live wire to tell us more about his career behind the scenes.

I was drawn to wire work after I saw a Jackie Chan movie on TV in 1989. I thought, *I want to do that for a living.* Knowing nothing about Hong Kong, speaking Chinese, or wire work, it was a bit of a process to get there, but eventually I secured a job with ABA Productions in Hong Kong and toured Asia for a few years with a production of *Peter Pan*.

Between undergrad and grad school, I jumped out of airplanes. To help pay for my education I joined the military as a paratrooper with Special Operations (Airborne). As an instructor and squad leader, I realized I enjoyed mentoring people.

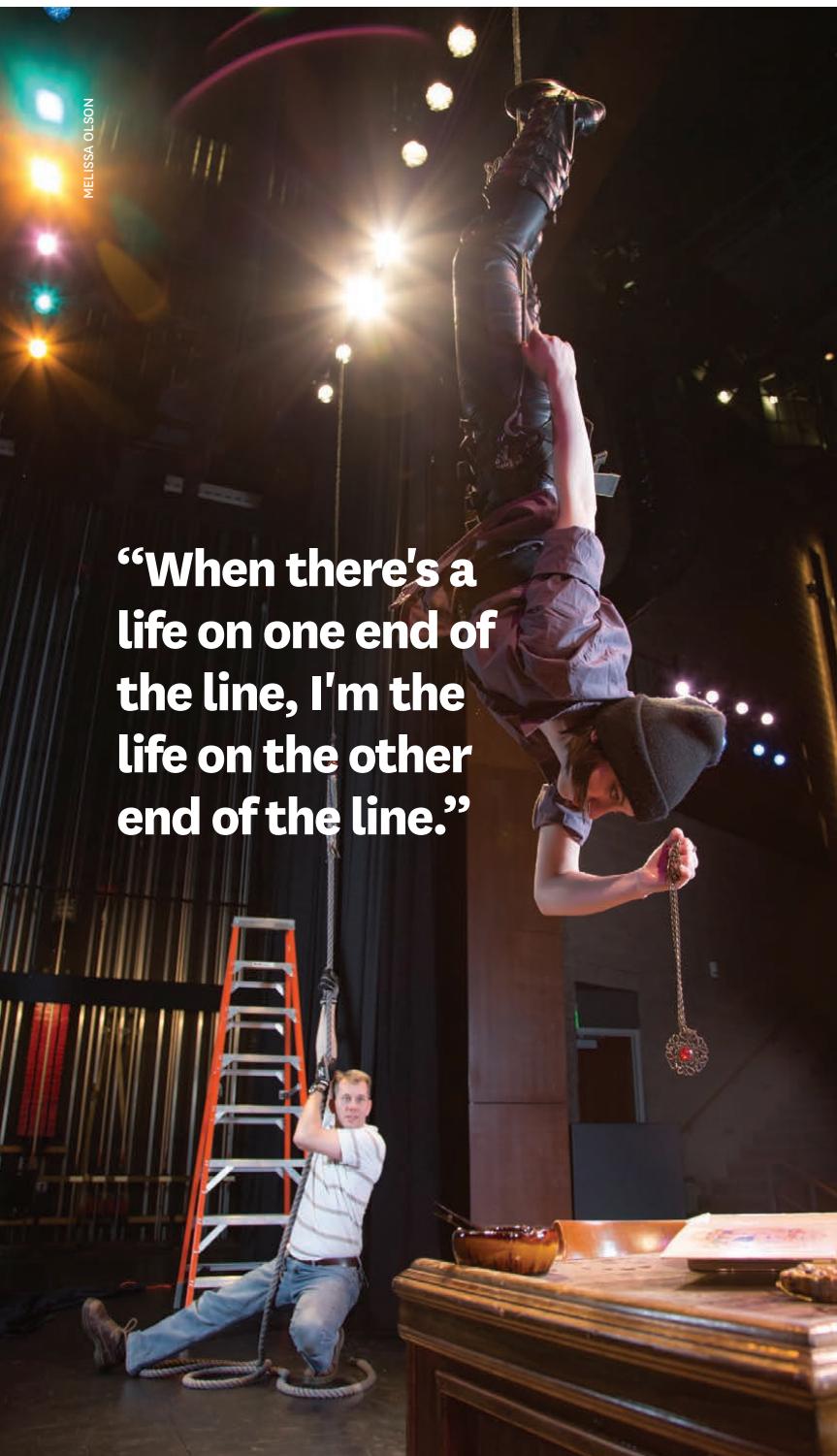
About half the characters I fly are Jesus and angels. They ascend and descend in droves around Christmas and Easter in religious dramas at churches. This year, the bulk of my work was in high schools or community theaters with “stock shows” like *Peter Pan*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

You can make a living in the theatre industry. I’m not just training students for what’s happening now, though. I’m trying to prepare them for five years into the future.

Teaching is the best of both worlds. We can give students real-world experience and at the same time, I can pass on some of what I do to the next generation. It’s a cool way to earn a living.

View a video of Auld at kent.edu/magazine/Auld.

Pictured here at the Performing Arts Center in Tuscarawas, Bill Auld coaches Kent State junior and theatre studies major Alexandria Roberts on how to perform while on the wire—in this instance, in the role of a jewel thief.





DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

The brilliant new Center for Architecture and Environmental Design acts as a beacon, beckoning all as it bridges campus and community

Pass by the Kent Campus, especially at night, and you can't help but be drawn to its newest addition, the Center for Architecture and Environmental Design. Seen as a gateway to campus, its glass walls glow from within, inviting viewers to glimpse the activity going on inside.

The building, part of the Foundations of Excellence initiative, opened this fall with a celebration that culminated years of planning under the leadership of Douglas Steidl, who recently retired as dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

Thirty-seven teams submitted proposals for the building's design and construction in a 2012 international competition, and the university selected New York-based firm Weiss/Manfredi

as design architect, Richard L. Bowen and Associates as architect of record and Gilbane Building Company as construction manager.

The four-story, 110,191 square-foot building brings together programs that were once scattered across campus, including architecture, urban design, architecture and environmental design, interior design, architectural studies, landscape architecture and health care facilities design. An expansive, three-level studio loft encourages collaboration across disciplines.

The \$47.8 million building also includes a multipurpose lecture hall, materials library, café, gallery, studio critique spaces, classrooms, offices, maker spaces and labs for digital fabrication, lighting and specialized research.



A continuous fire stair on the building's south facade connects the three studio levels. Conceived as a vertical campus quad, this cantilevered route is meant to visually link the building's interior with the campus.

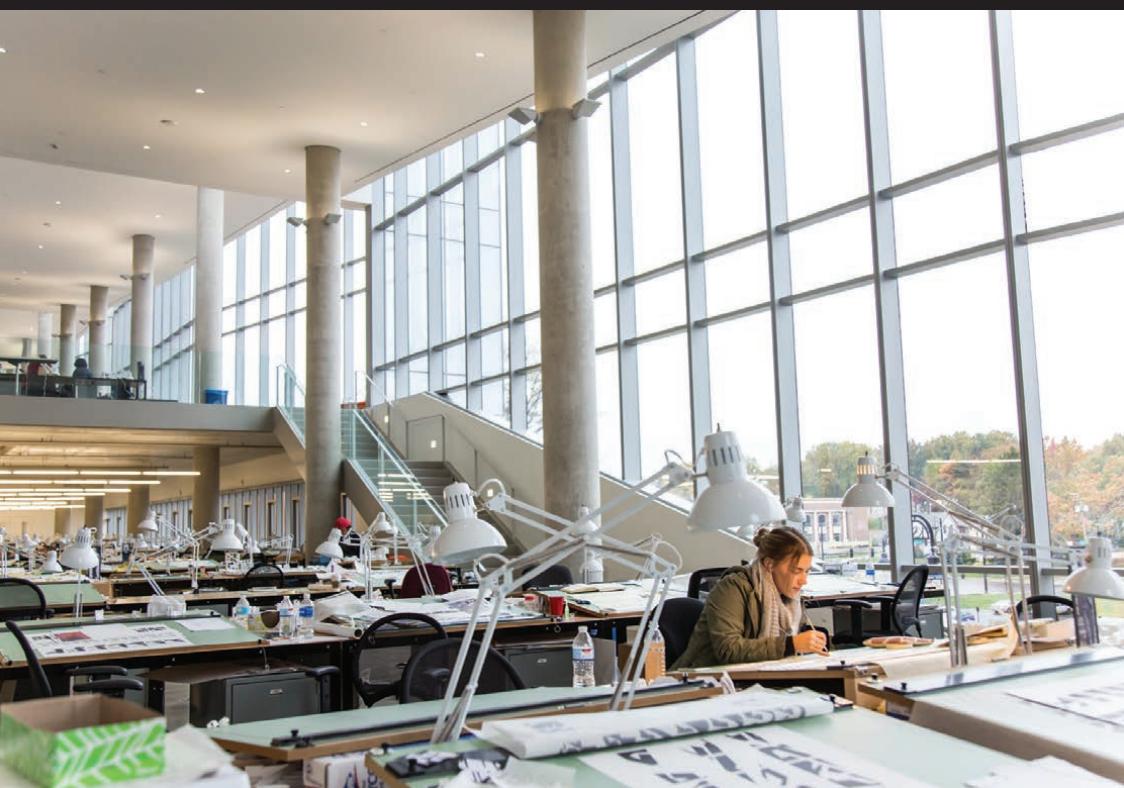


The lower level of the long entrance gallery supports a range of uses, including the reading room and library shown at left. Stairs lead to the second floor faculty suite.

Above: The building's form and materials reflect the context of the campus and the surrounding community.

Right: Anchoring the public level is an ascending sequence of spaces that open to the Lefton Esplanade and pass along a glass-walled lecture hall at right.







Far left: The building's north facade faces the Lefton Esplanade, which links the campus with the city of Kent. For visitors approaching from downtown Kent, the building sits at the entrance to the campus and gives a strong first impression of the university.

Left: Students study in a light-filled space on the first floor. Glass walls optimize daylight and overlook the immediate neighborhood.



Far left: A cascading stair along the north facade connects three levels of studio space, allows a light-filled view of student work and encourages interaction among students from different disciplines.

Left: Glass-enclosed critique spaces give everyone an opportunity to observe student presentations.

"We designed this building to be a place of continuous connection between design, research and invention," says architect Marion Weiss, who attended the opening with Michael Manfredi, cofounder of Weiss/Manfredi. In addition to their practice, both teach architecture. "We have observed that students learn better in collaborative environments," Weiss says.

"Studying in this building for four years will provide students with a slow infusion, a saturation of senses that will become a part of each student's design sensibility and standard of reference," says new dean Mark Mistur, who notes the building is being acknowledged for design excellence internationally.

It recently was featured with other noteworthy arts-related projects in an article in the Art & Design section of *The New York Times* on Sunday, September 18th.

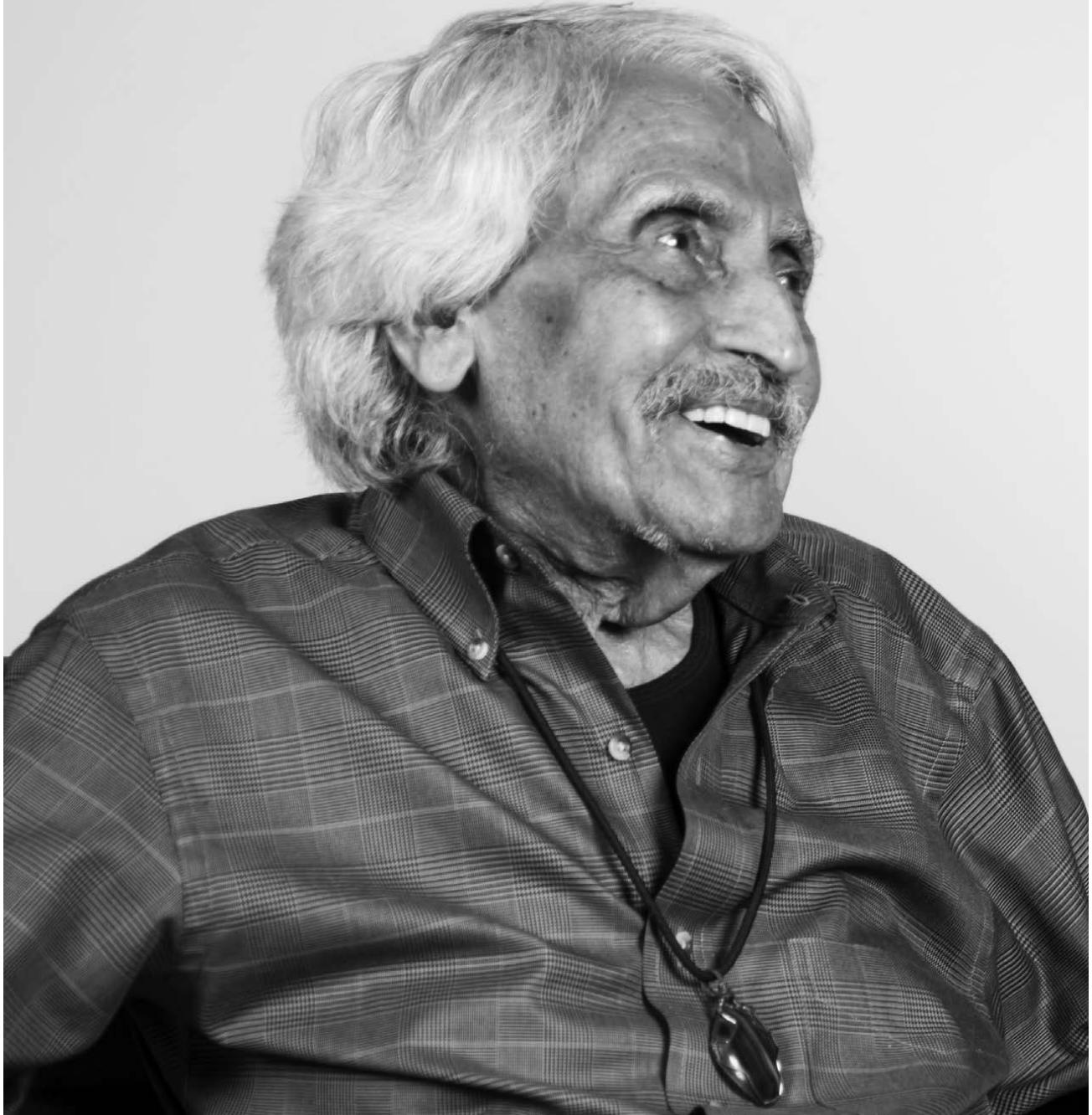
"Our Board of Trustees saw the vision for 21st century learning facilities and the fact that our students deserve to have a learning environment equal to the talent they bring to our campus," says President Beverly Warren. "We have students studying in this building who will be the iconic leaders of tomorrow."

Going Platinum

On track to be a USGBC LEED Platinum Building, the new Center for Architecture and Environmental Design will be one of the largest buildings in the state of Ohio with the highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating.

The facility's energy-saving elements include:

- **Low-E coatings** (three types of glazing) applied to the 26,000 square feet of exterior glass to improve solar and thermal performance
- **Glass curtain walls** to optimize daylight and reduce the need for interior artificial light sources
- **Low-VOC paints and minimal off-gassing** interior materials to keep indoor air clean
- **High energy-efficient LED lighting** with energy saving controls
- **25,000 square feet of radiant flooring**
- **Partial green roof** (18,000 sq. ft. planted with sedum) to capture rainwater
- **15,000-gallon gray tank** that recycles rainwater for irrigation and flushing bathroom fixtures
- **Geothermal heating and cooling** that is 300 percent more efficient than standard systems 



Halim El-Dabh, PhD

University Professor Emeritus, Composer

Born & raised: Cairo, Egypt

Origin story: I was the youngest of nine children, and my father had a lot of farms. I used to get scrap metal from the farm and set it up in the wind so it would make noise to keep beetles from damaging the crops. That's where my interest in sound and noise came from. At age 11, my older brother Bushra took me to King Fouad's National Conference on Arabic Music in 1932, and I was introduced to lead musicians and composers of the world. They inspired me to become a musician.

Transformative experience: I graduated with a degree in agricultural science and traveled across Egypt helping with development. In the villages I was exposed to traditional music and dance. I also joined a conservatory of music. In 1949, I was invited by All Saints Cathedral in Cairo to perform some of my piano compositions, including "It is Dark and Damp on the Front." During the war between Palestine and Israel, I wrote the piece because I felt the real war was inside us. I was shy and didn't want to perform, because they only played European classics in that cathedral. But my friends dragged me there, and I played. The audience gave me an ovation, and I was so shocked and pleased my heart

felt like it was flying above me. Egyptian, French and British newspapers proclaimed me an international composer. I couldn't believe it! Overnight my life changed—and I received invitations to study and perform in the United States and elsewhere.

El-Dabh is a pioneer of electronic music, and he came to Kent State in 1969 to teach ethnomusicology. This October, the Martha Graham Dance Company performed a special revival of Act II of "Clytemnestra" at Kent State to honor El-Dabh and his celebrated 1958 musical collaboration with legendary dancer Martha Graham. See a video on the making of the dance at www.kent.edu/magazine/InternationalVoices.

international voices

as told to Jan Senn

portraits by Melissa Olson, unless otherwise noted

Everyone has an origin story. The place and circumstances of our birth and childhood have shaped us in ways we may not fully realize until we reflect on them from a distance. And most of us can point to at least one transformative moment or experience that challenged us, inspired change, shifted our viewpoint or turned us in a new direction. Sometimes those experiences move us to travel far from where we grew up—often to further an education, find a job or seek refuge.

Increasingly, individuals from other countries are finding their way to Kent State. In fall 2010, 1,378 international students were enrolled in the university; six years later those numbers have grown to 2,913. Current international students come from 109 countries, the top three being India, China and Saudi Arabia. Many Kent State faculty and staff members also were born outside the United States, but the exact number isn't known.

In these pages, we introduce you to several of the many international individuals whose cultural heritage and life experiences enrich our campuses. We invited a dozen students, faculty, staff and alumni from Kent State's international community to sit for a photograph and share their origin story and a transformative experience with us. They are amazing and accomplished people with unique stories to tell.

Some have settled in Ohio. Others are only here for a while. But all have found a home at Kent State University.



Györgyi Mihályi-Jewell, BA '15

*Marketing and Public Relations Communication Specialist,
College of Arts and Sciences; Graduate Student, Higher
Education Administration*

Born & raised: Szeged, Hungary

Origin story: Two years after the Berlin Wall collapsed, I was eleven years old when I started my first job selling newspapers in the train station, the Szeged Vasútállomás, and in local hospitals. I worked to help my mother pay for our food and the electricity bill. I woke up at 4:30 a.m. every morning so that I would be the first to arrive at the printing factory. My fingers smelled like ink all day long. This memory has stayed with me my whole life and, of course, the understanding that hard work and a little gutsy tenacity go a long way.

Transformative experience: I moved to America at the age of 32 and started my life again in a new country and new culture. Two years later, the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, making it finally legal to marry my partner, Jessica. I know there has been a long and hard struggle for equal rights in America, but I am so proud of my adopted home for recognizing my love and my family.

Hear Mihályi-Jewell read a poem about love by Hungarian poet Fodor Ákos at www.kent.edu/magazine/InternationalVoices.



Abdullah Samarin

*Sophomore, College of Architecture and Environmental Design;
Calligraphy Artist*

Born & raised: Medina, Saudi Arabia

Origin story: Growing up in a city where everyone places value on how you treat others and how you can benefit your community taught me to always have a positive outlook on life and look for ways to make it better. Creating buildings that will benefit others is a way I can do this.

Transformative experience: In Medina, there are many magnificent buildings that I experienced in my everyday life, especially the Mosque of the Prophet Muhammad. These structures inspired me to become a designer so I could one day create something that would add to the beauty of my surroundings, as well as be a place for people to inhabit.

In 2012, Samarin won a competition to work with French-Tunisian street artist eL Seed on a large-scale mural in Jeddah. The artist's work blends traditional Arabic calligraphy with graffiti to portray messages of hope and peace. Samarin's Arabic calligraphy and graffiti appeared on Kent State's rock last year. See a slideshow of some of his work at www.kent.edu/magazine/InternationalVoices.

Yu (Leo) Lei, MFA '16

Assistant Technical Director / Design Tech Faculty, Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Born & raised: Born in Hunan Province, China. Raised in Henan Province, China, and Singapore.

Origin Story: Growing up in central China, I learned to speak Mandarin without any accent. I spent almost every summer back in south central China, and that trained my ear to understand and speak another dialect. This prepared me to be an actor and helped me perform well at the audition to get in a performing arts school (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts) in Singapore.

Transformative experience: I love the arts, and I also love science and technology. When I was in college, I explored every aspect of theatre, not just acting, and I worked with many theatre companies in Singapore in different roles: actor, stage manager, technician and designer. After a few years, I fell in love with lighting design—it's the perfect combination of arts and science. I came to Kent State University to pursue my MFA in lighting design, and I enjoyed every moment!

*Lei recently designed the lighting for the fall student musical, Company, at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design.
(Photo by Xu Wei Vision Studio.)*



Ratchneewan Ross, PhD, RN

Associate Professor and Director of International Initiatives, College of Nursing

Born & raised: Udon Thani, Thailand

Origin story: My mother sold fresh fish every day at the market; she would wake each morning around 4 a.m. to prepare for her workday. When I was in high school, I would help her pack the fish until midnight. So I paid close attention in classes and did my homework during school hours, because I did not have time to study once I got home.

Transformative experience: For most of my mother's life, she could not read or write; she taught herself when she was in her late 60s. Yet she could do math at the market as fast and accurately as a calculator! She taught me the value of loving and respecting other people, and she instilled in me the importance of a strong education. At first I wanted to be an engineer, but my parents said, "You really like helping people, you should probably be a nurse." So I said, "Okay!" I'm thankful they knew me well enough to tell me that.

Ross recently was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.



Lolagul Raimbekova, MEd '15

Doctoral Student and Teaching and Research Assistant, School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies

Born & raised: Khorog, Tajikistan

Origin story: Growing up in a traditional society, I had little chance to learn about other cultures, but I was fond of languages. Tajikistan joined the Soviet Union in 1924. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Tajikistan became independent but fell into a brutal civil war. When the war was over in 1997, I studied linguistics at Khorog State University, and after I graduated I was hired as a faculty member there to teach English. During Soviet rule, men and women were equal, but with the collapse things changed rapidly. I married, and my husband's family is very conservative. In their home, I was treated like a slave and had to please everyone.

Transformative experience: A United States Embassy opened in Tajikistan, and I heard from a colleague that they were giving scholarships for students to come to the United States. I thought it was my only chance to change my life. I had never left my small town or even seen a computer. I applied and was selected to attend one semester at Iowa State University. By then, I had a daughter (who is now 12), and I wanted her to have a better life. My family was against me going, but I decided to go even if no one else was happy. That short semester in 2008 changed my life. Living in a modern democratic society, I realized that I have value and a voice. I can shape my life in a way that works best for me.

Raimbekova first came to Kent State in 2011 as an Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellow, a program of the U.S. Department of State that selects emerging leaders from countries in the former Soviet Union to foster mutual understanding and encourage economic and democratic growth in Eurasia.

“Dancing is a big part of Tajik culture,” says Raimbekova. “You learn it from childhood.” At right, she demonstrates the slow, graceful movements of a traditional Pamiri dance. See a video of the dance at www.kent.edu/magazine/InternationalVoices.



Nahuel Alfredo Gorostiza

Sophomore, School of Digital Sciences; Youth Ambassador of Argentina to the United Nations

Born & raised: Born in General Pico, La Pampa, Argentina. Raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Origin story: I grew up in a middle-class family in the outskirts of a huge city. I attended a private school five minutes from my house and played rugby. But I felt it wasn't enough for me, and I wanted to meet new people. When I was 15, I decided to commute 90 minutes to a public technical high school to study computer science. I believe that big changes bring big opportunities.

Transformative experience: In 2012 the government had some issues with public high schools, and 15 students from the student union of my new high school blocked the entrance and stopped classes for 25 days. Every day of class we lost, we would have to make up. So I went with a group of students to the secretary of education for the city and told him we wanted to have classes again. They gave us a lawyer and some resources; classes resumed the next day. I was elected president of the student union and kept in touch with the secretary of education. He donated paint and new computers for the school, and we did the painting and set up the computer labs. The school looks brand new. That experience got me engaged in politics as a means of making positive change.

Gorostiza worked in the presidential campaign of the current president of Argentina, Mauricio Macri. As youth ambassador of Argentina to the United Nations, he is involved in a UN project setting world goals for sustainability to be achieved before 2030.



Kunwar Ujjwal Mehra

Graduate Student, College of Business Administration; Graduate Assistant, Department of Management and Information Systems

Born & raised: Amritsar, India

Origin Story: Since age six, I grew up basically all over India, as I used to travel frequently for roller-skating and chess tournaments. There are a lot of different cultures in India, so I learned to communicate with different types of people. When I came to the United States, it wasn't a huge culture shock; it was just one more culture to learn.

Transformative experience: When I was 15 years old, the world economy melted down in a number of days. The markets plummeted in India, too—not as much as in the United States, but it did affect things. I'm from a business family, and we were talking about it every day. It intrigued me how the failure of one system of one economy could affect the world in such a huge way. So I came to the United States to study finance and economics in the biggest world economy.

Mehra is helping develop a Masters in Business Analytics course for the Department of Management and Information Systems. He keeps on top of his chess game by going to Akron for tournaments; Mehra played a U.S. national champion there and beat him two games out of three.





Dior Delophont, BA '16

Fashion Design Intern at Hyp Intimates, New York City

Born & raised: Born in Nancy, France. Spent preschool years in Japan.

Origin story: Thanks to my parents I got to travel at an early age. Then during my adolescence I traveled to many countries as part of the French national track team. I was confronted with different cultures, which helps me keep an open mind in life as well as in my design work.

Transformative experience: I wanted to study fashion, but in France I was asked to choose between sports and studies. I didn't want to choose, so I looked up the rankings of the best fashion schools in the United States with a D1 track team. At Kent State I could keep doing high level sports and pursue my education to become a designer. Two years ago, I spent a semester in New York City with the KSU NYC Fashion Studio program, and I realized that my background was going to be my strength for the future. Being in this crazy city where everyone is different, I felt like I belonged and finally felt proud of who I was.

Delophont was nominated for the NCAA's 2016 Woman of the Year award, in recognition of her achievements at Kent State in academics, athletics, service and leadership. (Photo by Anthony Migliorino.)



Felix Kumah-Abiwu, PhD

Assistant Professor, Pan-African Studies

Born & raised: Born in a town called Ho in the Volta region of Ghana. Raised in the capital city of Accra.

Origin story: Life was quite okay for me when I was growing up, but all that changed when my dad, who was a diplomat, passed away. His sudden departure greatly affected us on all levels. The education system is different in Ghana, so although I was 21, I was still in boarding school (sixth form) and totally dependent on my parents. My mother, who is a nurse, left for the UK to earn some money and, as the first born, I was left in charge of the family. I had to mature quickly.

Transformative experience: After I got my bachelor's degree from the University of Ghana, I was posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the required one year of national service. When the year was almost up, I told my supervisor that I just wanted to find a job and support my mom. She said the best option to advance in a career was to get a master's degree first. It took me awhile to be convinced of her advice, but just before the deadline, I applied to the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy in Ghana and was accepted. I never imagined I'd go on to earn a doctorate degree, but people came along the way who made it possible for me. Without that supervisor's advice, though, my life trajectory would have been quite different.

Kumah-Abiwu is wearing a hand-woven Ghanaian smock or fugu, a traditional dress for men in Ghana. When Ghanaian men do the damba dance, the edge of the smock swirls in a circle. See a video of the dance at www.kent.edu/magazine/InternationalVoices.

Eron Memaj

Director of International Student Affairs

Born & raised: Tirana, Albania

Origin story: Albania was going through major political changes in the early 1990s, moving from a one-party system to pluralism. Resources were limited, and when I was nine I had to stand in line for hours just to buy a loaf of bread. Though I was young, I knew I had an important role to help support my family.

Transformative experience: During the 1999 war in Kosovo, many refugees fled to Albania. As a high school student, I volunteered as a translator at a refugee camp. Although eager to test my foreign language skills, I was disturbed by what I had to translate. Women spoke of sons and husbands who had been shot and killed in front of them—or their male relatives had been taken away, and they asked us to find them. The reality of the war finally hit me. I realized that this job was more than just translating, it was providing support for those who were in need.

In addition to developing programs for international students (www.kent.edu/studentaffairs/international), Memaj serves as president of the International Faculty and Staff Network at Kent State (www.ifacultystaff.org). He also volunteers as managing editor of International Student Voice Magazine, a Cleveland-based publication for international students (www.isvmag.com).



Qiaoni Liu, MM '16

Part-time Piano Teaching Faculty at Kent State's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music

Born & raised: Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China

Origin story: I love my hometown. Chengdu is a beautiful city in the southwest of China. Famous as the city of giant pandas, it also attracts tourists who are interested in spicy food. When I was age four, my parents decided I should learn piano. I was shy, so they thought playing music might help me become more outgoing and express my feelings. Academics in China are really competitive, especially in high school. I'm not a competitive person, so I entered a professional music school and started my professional piano study when I was 12 years old.

Transformative experience: In 2007, I was invited by the Canada National Arts Center to participate in the "Young Artists Program" in Ottawa. I joined other young artists from around the world and rehearsed with them every day. It was my first time participating in chamber music, and I enjoyed it. In chamber music, you need to communicate and cooperate with each other. I was able to share my thoughts and musical ideas, and it helped me feel more confident and able to express myself.

Hear Liu play "Scherzo in E Major, Opus 54, No. 4" by Frederic Chopin at www.kent.edu/magazine/InternationalVoices.



ksu COLLECTIONS

Map Library McGilvrey Hall

If you want to find out where to land a lunar module, which households in southwestern Finland were dependent on fishing in 1945, or what types of soil are in Portage County, you could search the internet—but it might be easier (and more fun) to explore Kent State's Map Library.

It's the center for cartographic and geospatial resources that students, faculty and community members use for research, education and recreation. Housing more than 270,000 maps, 2,000 atlases, 350 gazetteers, 500 reference books, and various CD-ROMs, the Map Library has international reference materials in paper and electronic formats. (See a sampling of its resources at right.)

Located on the fourth floor of McGilvrey Hall, the collection is close to the geology and geography departments that often use it—and is so heavy the floor had to be reinforced to hold its weight. The library includes GIS (geographic information system) data and a workstation with ArcGIS software, plus scanning and printing services.

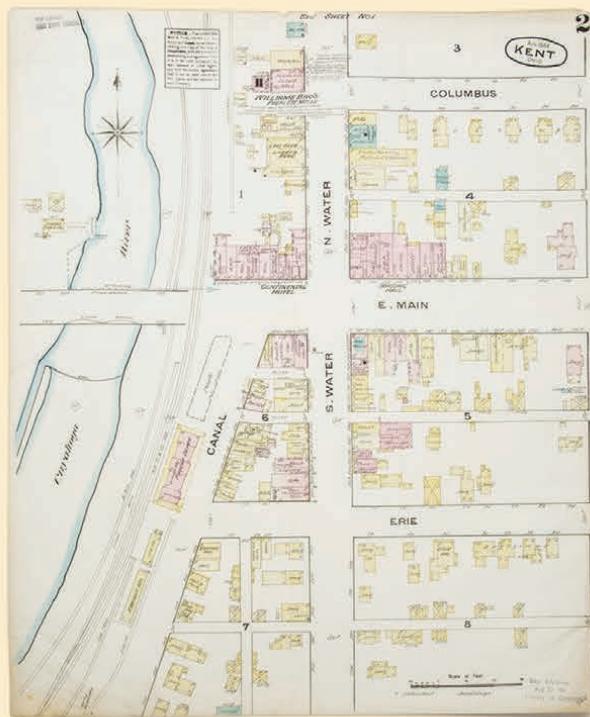
Part of the Federal Depository Library program, it receives recently published maps of the United States Geological Survey and other United States government agencies.

The library traces its official beginning to 1945, when it was approved as a depository for more than 25,000 publications, maps, pamphlets and other property of the Army Map Service.

To expand the collection, Ed Hall (who came to Kent State in 1973 and retired as map librarian in 1995) traded duplicate maps with other cities and libraries. When the Library of Congress needed to find space, Hall obtained their original duplicates of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Ohio, 1884 to 1954.

The historic maps give a unique glimpse into how cities develop and are used by architects, planners and historians, among others, says current map librarian, Michael Hawkins. "We have the largest and most complete set of Ohio maps outside the Library of Congress." 

Learn more at www.library.kent.edu/map-library. To ask questions or make an appointment, call 330-672-2017 or email map librarian Michael Hawkins at mhawki11@kent.edu.



SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP, 1884

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1884

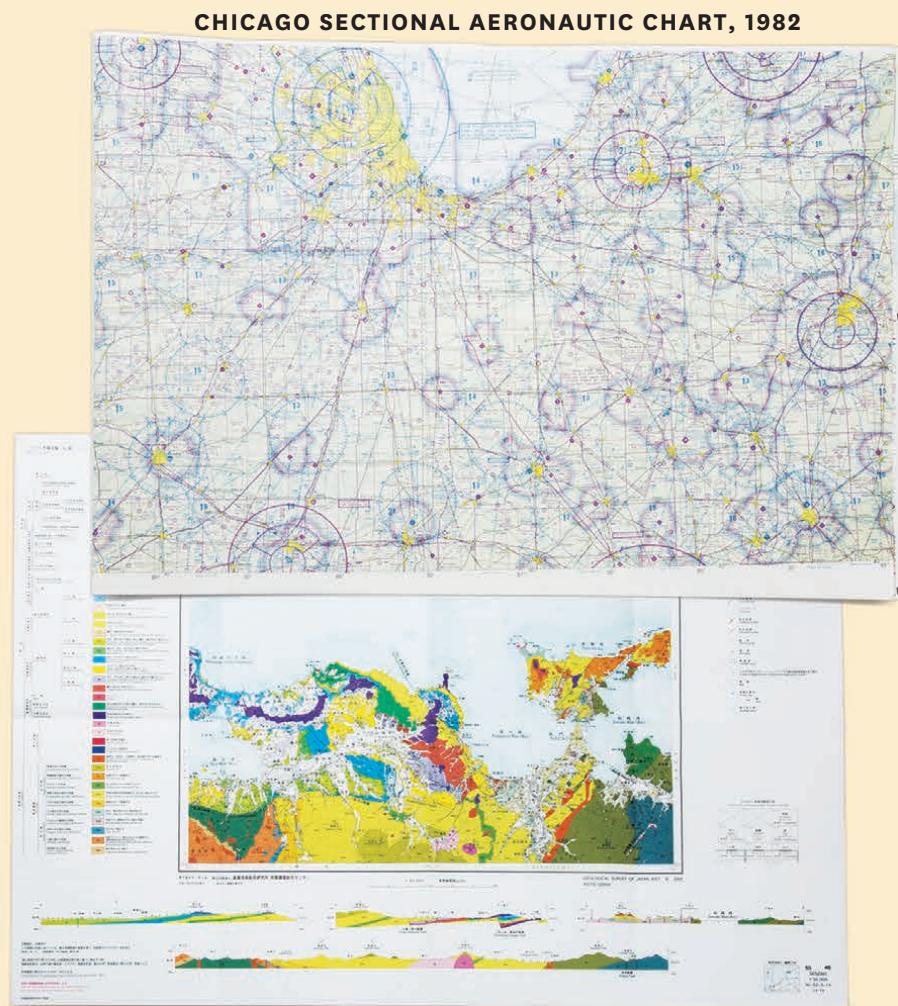
Street plan and buildings in the vicinity of Water and Main streets, Kent, Ohio

Chicago Sectional Aeronautic Chart, 1982

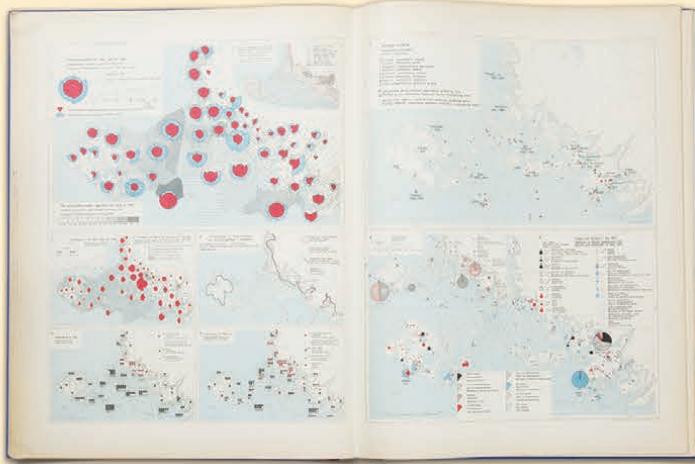
Urban areas, radio towers and classifications of air space for pilot navigation

Senzaki Geological Survey of Japan, 2005

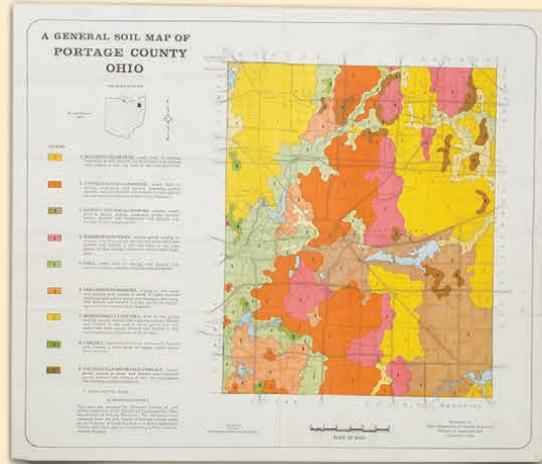
Data compiled in geological surveys from 1988-1992, 2001-2002



SENZAKI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF JAPAN, 2005



ATLAS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO OF SOUTHWESTERN FINLAND, 1960



GENERAL SOIL MAP OF PORTAGE COUNTY OHIO, 1972



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS TOURIST MAP, 1966

Atlas of the Archipelago of Southwestern Finland, 1960
Information on the area's fishing, mineral resources, industry and handicraft

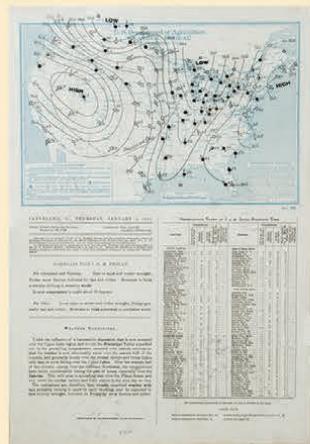
Ohio Department of Highways Map, 1966
Tourist spots, historical sites, wildlife and recreation areas accessible by car

County Map of Ohio, 1838
Counties in Ohio during the early 1800s

COUNTY MAP OF OHIO, 1838



LUNAR PLASTIC RELIEF MAP, 1961



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEATHER BUREAU MAP, 1913

General Soil Map of Portage County Ohio, 1972
Different kinds of soil in Portage County

Lunar Plastic Relief Map, 1961
Topography of the lunar surface of Mare Nectaris and vicinity

U.S. Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau Map, 1913
National wind and barometer indications for Thursday, January 2, 1913; forecast for Cleveland



Plugged IN

Kent State educational technologist Richard Ferdig studies the potential—and the possible limits—of emerging digital tools.

By Laura Billings Coleman

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of America's National Parks—and to start imagining their future—professor Richard Ferdig helped provide digital, personalized tours of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the 33,000-acre wonderland in Kent State's backyard.

Every year, park rangers there field more than 110,000 visitor questions and requests, but this summer Ferdig found a way to connect with an even larger audience (more than 2.5 million yearly park visitors) through the piece of outdoor gear on nearly every biker, hiker and backpacker's packing list—a smartphone.

"There is a conversation going on about whether being out in nature and in the National Parks is the right place to be interacting with technology, but the reality is that most visitors are already doing it," says Ferdig, PhD, Kent State University's Summit Professor of Learning Technologies.

So with the help of a \$952,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Advancing Informal STEM Learning initiative, Ferdig and his team at the Research Center for Educational Technology in the School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences collaborated with the park and Cleveland MetroParks to create *ParkApps*.

Introduced in June, the free iPhone app allows visitors to choose their own adventure in Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Cleveland MetroParks with trail maps and conservation content designed to call attention to the parks' natural assets. Using the phone's GPS settings, the app buzzes to life as visitors move through the parks, pointing out historic sites, geologic formations and even explaining the eerie drone of the cicadas that emerged in northeast Ohio this summer after a 17-year slumber.

"At a zoo, you can use placards to point out what visitors should notice, but when you're out in creation, that's not practical," Ferdig says. "This is a way to engage people with their surroundings, without putting a sign on every shrub or animal."

With an Android version on the way, upcoming iterations of *ParkApps* can be used as a tool for citizen science, allowing nature lovers to take part in data collection—for instance, to help keep tabs on the coyote population in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Part of a three-year research project that will explore whether mobile devices make a promising platform for informal science learning, *ParkApps* earned Ferdig faculty recognition as one of the winners of Kent State University's 2016 Outstanding Research and Scholarship Award.

But it's just one of the many innovations that keep him fired up about what new technology can teach us about the world, from the iPads that are now standard issue in many public schools, to the Pokémon GO craze that inspired millions of users to swarm public spaces on the hunt for Pikachu this past summer.

"Coverage of educational technology often falls into opposing camps," says Ferdig, the founding editor of the *International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations*. "On one side, proponents say 'video gaming is amazing and it helps you learn and understand other cultures' and on the other side detractors say 'video games are terrible and they teach violence against women.' It can become an argument for or against, but the question we should be asking is what are we trying to do with this technology?" ▶



"The goal of our work is about trying to understand technology and cognition, so that we can come up with best-practice strategies that allow us to use technology appropriately—and also to understand its limits."

Ferdig first became interested in this question as an undergraduate psychology major at Calvin College in Michigan, going on to earn a PhD in educational psychology at Michigan State University. Following research and teaching positions there and at the University of Florida, Ferdig says he "fell in love" with Kent State's AT&T Classroom.

"I've taught and researched around the world, and I have yet to find a facility like Kent State's Research Center for Educational Technology," he says. The center's laboratory allows researchers to work with and watch students and teachers from pre-kindergarten through college as they interact with the latest innovations in real-time classroom settings.

One consistent research finding is that technology "can be especially effective at providing both advanced learning and remediation," says Ferdig, who also serves as the lead investigator on *SpedApps*, a project aimed at cataloguing and evaluating the effectiveness of mobile apps for special education curriculum.

Learners who need help with math, for instance, can use an app to get the practice, repetition and personalized pace of tutoring they need, in a way they might not in a traditional class. As for advanced learning, technology opens up new possibilities for content, collaboration, crowdsourcing and the like (see sidebar on page 25).

"Another great advantage is that technology allows us to experience things we couldn't access otherwise," Ferdig says—whether it's viewing a virtual reality film on Google Cardboard, seeing news events play out in real time on platforms like Periscope or Facebook Live or playing electronic games or simulations.

For instance, in his course Society, Culture and the Digital Sciences, Ferdig requires his students to create an avatar that looks like them in Second Life, a virtual 3D space. Next he has them shift their avatar's gender and then race—and reflect on what it's like to interact in this virtual world after assuming a new and unfamiliar identity.

"In real life I can't ask a white male student to be an African-American female tomorrow, but I can online," Ferdig says. "I can't put a student on the moon, but I can virtually. I can't expect a student to perform surgery, but I can digitally. Technology can provide not just content, but also valuable empathic and emotional experiences."

With the country's public schools spending \$3 billion a year on digital content, and test-taking technology overtaking traditional pen and paper, Ferdig says educational technology is light years ahead of where it was a decade ago.

"At that time, people just wanted a computer in every classroom, and no one was asking how students were expected to use it. Now we've got something like 1.7 million apps in the Android store and another 1.6 million in iTunes, but that doesn't mean they all are useful for education," he says. That's why he's encouraged by the next generation of Kent State students looking at the best ways to leverage new tools for learning.

"The students I see coming here don't fear technology, and they don't worship it either,"

“Technology can provide not just content, but also valuable empathic and emotional experiences.”

Ferdig says. "Technology is so embedded in their lives that it's less about 'wow, isn't this cool?' and more about 'what can we do with this tool that we're not doing currently?'

"For instance, students might first look at a massive, multiplayer video game as entertainment, only to look again and realize it's a great space for learning a language.

"Amazing things are happening, but in the end, technology is still just a tool for understanding our world." 

Laura Billings Coleman is a writer and editor based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Learn more at parkapps.kent.edu and spedapps.kent.edu.

Tech Tips for Lifelong Learners

With the proliferation of mobile devices, many of us have a great platform for lifelong learning right at our fingertips. We asked Richard Ferdig for advice on making the most of what's possible, from curating your Twitter feed to taking classes online.

iPhone or Android? iPad or Surface Pro?

"I think it's a mistake to buy into specific technology or have an emotional loyalty to a particular brand," says Ferdig. Instead, consider what you need your devices and software to do well, and reverse engineer your buying decision from there.

For instance, the haptic, touch-screen technology behind the iPad is engaging for younger learners, but the keyboard in a more budget-friendly Chromebook may be a better fit for a high school writer.

Revisit the library

Being able to download reading material right to your device is only the start—many local libraries now have 3D printers, cloud-based classes, and other cutting-edge resources for keeping your job skills up to date.

"Libraries have fundamentally changed," Ferdig says. "Internet access and a library card are all you need to get started."

Feed your interests

If you're only using social media to see what your friends are cooking or to follow celebrities in 140 characters, you're missing out on its best potential—creating a simple pipeline between your personal interests and experts in the field.

"There are a lot of crazy things happening on social media, but it's also an incredible source of content," says Ferdig, who recommends curating your Twitter feed to follow experts who can teach you more about your profession or help you explore lifelong passions.

Overwhelmed by the flood of information? Sign up for an aggregated email from a few favorite websites and news sources that will deliver the week's best content to your inbox.

MOOCs may be for you

When first introduced in 2008, Massive Open Online Classes were hailed as the next big thing in higher education, but a few years later they fell out of favor with some institutions due to low rates of engagement.

However, Ferdig's research suggests that MOOCs can still be a great model for adult learners, "especially for Baby Boomers who are interested in acquiring new job skills or a foreign language," he says. "They're a phenomenal way to learn new things and connect with people."

His research also found that in spite of their online format, MOOCs may lower some of the traditional barriers between professors and students and classmates. With MOOCs' collaborative format and ongoing discussion threads, Ferdig says faculty are often more engaged and knowledgeable about the students in their class online than they are face to face.

Beware the Baby Einstein effect

"There's this whole myth of 'the digital native,' but it's important to remember that just because kids today are using 'Pokémon GO,' it doesn't mean they already know how to use technology to learn," says Ferdig. "Research about the Baby Einstein videos are a good reminder."

When they were first introduced in 1996, kids who watched Baby Einstein videos had bigger vocabularies than kids who didn't—a finding that reversed years later as the interactive videos for babies and toddlers became bestsellers.

"The first cohort of parents used these videos to enrich their kids' experience," he says, but studies showed that latecomers used them "as a substitute for engagement." In other words, technology can't take the place of traditional teaching methods, "but they can often work together effectively."—LBC





OVERCOMING Addiction

Nearly three decades into her own recovery, Anita Bradley '95, founder of the Northern Ohio Recovery Association, is helping others get past their pain.

By Justin Glanville

Photography by Billy Delfs

It's the night the Cleveland Indians clinch their first entry into the World Series in 20 years, and an auditorium on the city's East Side is packed. People high-five each other. There's swaggering banter all around.

"We've got this," one man says to another, a grin across his face. "We're going all the way."

But the victory officially being celebrated tonight isn't the Indians'. It's that of the latest graduating class of the Greater Cleveland Drug Court—a program that allows people convicted of a drug charge to complete a rehabilitation program in exchange for having the charge removed from their criminal record.

It's difficult not to feel the parallels between the two triumphs: Successes no one anticipated, long shots overcoming troubled pasts to gain a shot at reinvention.

Here to address the 20 graduates—and the crowd of family members and friends gathered to support them—is Anita Bradley '95, the keynote speaker, who strides to the podium carrying a white canvas bag.

Bradley begins her speech not with platitudes but her own story of addiction and recovery—a story that starts more than 30 years before, when she was a student at Kent State, and continues through her founding and leadership of the Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA). The nonprofit program operates residential recovery houses for women and provides outpatient support and treatment programs for people in recovery.

Today, as the organization's executive director, she oversees a staff of 60 serving an estimated 5,000 people in recovery across northern Ohio, either through direct services or online support programs. A growing number—including some of tonight's graduates—are struggling with addiction to opioids, including prescription painkillers, heroin and fentanyl.

In April, Bradley traveled to the White House to be honored as one of 10 national "Champions of Change" for her work in drug and alcohol abuse treatment and recovery, chosen from more than 900 nominees.

"I went from being an addict to a secretary to an executive director," she continues. "If you have

a foundation of support, like you all do, you'll get through it. You can overcome anything."

She reaches into her canvas bag. The crowd hoots with appreciation as she reveals the contents—an official Cleveland Cavaliers basketball and a jersey emblazoned with her name. They're souvenirs of the time last spring when the team recognized her work by inviting her to their second playoff game.

"I love the White House," she says, to laughter and applause, "but I'm telling you, there's nothing like being honored by your hometown."

For Bradley, the jersey also has a deeper significance. Back in the 1980s, in the depths of her addiction, she shoplifted expensive sports jerseys from malls so she could resell them for money to buy cocaine.

To be given a personalized one, in the year her hometown team won a championship, symbolizes the sea change she's made in her life since that dark period.

"I was so messed up," she recalls, sitting in her office at NORA's headquarters in downtown Cleveland and dressed in a neatly tailored suit. "I mean, I was stealing and getting caught on a regular basis. But I didn't care. I needed my drugs."

She'd gotten hooked as a way of coping with the sudden death of her father in a boating accident in 1986. It was her junior year at Kent State, and Bradley, a self-described "daddy's girl," was devastated. A friend introduced her to cocaine, which offered a quick and easy escape from her grief, one that Bradley says fit her go-go personality.

"When I dive into something, I dive in 110 percent," she says, shaking her head. "I got started and didn't look back."

She went from snorting cocaine to smoking it—which makes the drug even more potent and addictive. By the end of that year, she was far enough gone that she dropped out of college and moved back in with her mother in Cleveland Heights. For five years, mostly jobless, she drifted between there and seedy apartments shared with friends who were also addicted. Her days were a haze of drugs and alcohol. ▶



“

Becoming confident in yourself is what you need to deal with the stuff that happens every day. It's what helps you absorb the challenges, helps you cope when you've got big things to deal with, instead of going back to drugs.”

taking care of her appearance. At first, she attacked her recovery with the same intensity, trying to win others' approval. But as the clouds of addiction continued to clear, she realized that even the earlier, achievement-oriented version of herself had been a way of trying to cover over deep pain.

Her first real wakeup call came about four years into her addiction, when—still using—she suffered the miscarriage of an unplanned pregnancy. Around the same time, she was arrested during a shoplifting expedition and spent a few days in jail.

“I was never sentenced to an actual jail term, but those few days made me see how close I was to it,” she says.

“That, combined with the miscarriage, was like the lightbulb went off. I was responsible for my own life. I couldn’t blame anyone else.”

She asked a friend to take her to a rehabilitation clinic, then followed that up with a stay at a sober house. She used drugs for the last time on May 7, 1989.

For Bradley, recovery began with remembering the person she'd been before drugs took over: a star student who applied her fiery temperament to running track, getting good grades,

“Most addicts have a hole they’re trying to fill, and mine was low self-esteem,” she says. “I’d been trying to mask it through being excellent in other areas. It was my way of overcompensating.”

She wouldn’t only have to give up drugs, she realized. She’d have to discover a new, more compassionate way of treating herself. The process took years—of counseling and therapy, of living with and learning from other women in recovery who’d turned their lives around.

“Becoming confident in yourself is what you need to deal with the stuff that happens every day,” she says. “It’s what helps you absorb the challenges, helps you cope when you’ve got big things to deal with, instead of going back to drugs.”

When Bradley returned to Kent State in 1991, her studies gave her a newfound sense of purpose. She graduated in 1995 with a degree in criminal justice and corrections, a field that had fascinated her since childhood. Law school seemed the logical next step, but a friend talked her out of it.

By then, the recovery center where she'd lived had hired her as a secretary, and she spent a lot of time interacting with and supporting the residents.

“My friend had seen me at work, and she pointed out what a natural fit it was for me,” Bradley remembers. “She saw I thrived more on the therapeutic than the corrective side.”

She worked in several program planning positions in Cleveland before being hired as the executive

director of Compass House Inc., a residential treatment center in Lorain County. Along the way, she also earned a master's degree in social work at Cleveland State University.

She founded NORA in 2004, wanting to build an organization that reached beyond the typical treatment and residential programs to serve people once they'd returned to the real world.

"People are in these programs and then you send them home and say, 'Don't drink, go to meetings and pray,'" she says. "My big idea was, why don't we let people who are in recovery help each other more? For me, that was what made all the difference—having people who helped me get more than just treatment but got me back into church, back into school, back into a job."

Today, NORA manages a network of 200 active volunteers who visit NORA's treatment centers and residential houses to talk to women about their own recovery experiences, just as Bradley herself did for the Drug Court.

"To come back from addiction and get your degrees and start an organization—that is rare," says Daryl Jackson, program coordinator and director of the Greater Cleveland Drug Court, who invited Bradley to give the keynote speech. "I wanted her to speak to the graduates to say, 'If I can do it, you can do it.' They needed to see that to believe it can happen."

The keys to her success, he says, are her dedication and warmth.

"She has a love for this field," Jackson says. "She genuinely wants to help people, and you need that, because otherwise she wouldn't be in it. Everyone knows it's not a way to get rich."

For Bradley, recovery from addiction included years of therapy to deal with the low self-esteem she had tried to mask with drugs. Now she's developed a program that supports other recovering addicts, even after they leave treatment.

Today, Bradley's biggest battles are more external than internal. Much of NORA's funding comes from federal grants whose regulations were written years ago. Some don't allow funds to be spent on food or minor construction costs, which are often among the greatest needs in residential recovery houses.

Even more critically, many programs don't reflect the troubling and well-documented shift toward opioids as the substance of choice for many users. An estimated 2 million people nationwide now abuse opioids. Many start with legal painkillers, prescriptions for which are written at a rate of about 250 million a year.

The epidemic has hit Ohio particularly hard. The state was second in the nation for drug overdose deaths in 2014, with opioids the main killer. (KSU recently organized a forum on opioids' impact; see sidebar, p. 31.)

"I've never seen anything like it," Bradley says. "Heroin gets you so quick. You wouldn't believe how many stories I hear about young kids going in their parents' medicine cabinets, people who get prescribed pills to help them sleep or to relieve back pain, and then they're out on the streets." (Street heroin is cheaper and more potent than prescription painkillers.)

Back when Bradley was using and cocaine was the drug of choice, accidental deaths were rare. Today, on average, one Ohioan dies of an opioid overdose every two-and-a-half hours. Part of the reason is that heroin is many times more addictive than cocaine, and street varieties are often strengthened with substances such as fentanyl, which can be lethal even in tiny doses.

During her White House visit last spring, Bradley called for new initiatives to educate children in



“

In the end, addiction is addiction. What people use is different, and it changes, but it's all deadly.”



elementary schools about the dangers of the drugs—as well to train teachers and coaches to look out for the warning signs of addiction. She'd also like to see greater funding for replacement drugs such as Vivitrol.

Still, she cautions against letting the opioid epidemic overshadow the continued dangers of abusing other substances. NORA now works with the Drug Court to provide counseling for what Daryl Jackson calls a “lost population” of participants addicted to cocaine and other drugs.

“In the end, addiction is addiction,” Bradley says. “What people use is different, and it changes, but it's all deadly.”

It's a sunny afternoon in October as several dozen women gather in the living room of a NORA residential treatment center in Cleveland Heights. They've just finished lunch, and arrange themselves in a circle of chairs to start their daily sharing session. They'll talk about their battles with cravings, encourage each other to tell their drug-dependent brains to back off.

Bradley is here, too. She doesn't visit often—she's too busy at the office managing staff, attending meetings with partner organizations and seeking and managing grant funding. NORA has an annual budget of about \$3 million, approximately 40 percent of which comes from federal programs. Still, she occasionally checks in on the women and staff to help keep in touch with their needs.

One resident, who identifies herself as Gloria B., has struggled for years with addictions to crack cocaine

and alcohol. She's three weeks into a 90-day stay in the house, undergoing a program of meetings, shared meals and therapy that Bradley developed herself. She's predicting this recovery experience will be more successful than any she's had before.

“It feels more spiritual,” Gloria B. says. “We talk about things, our childhoods, our relationships. We call it our ‘lost history.’ Just looking at that...”

She trails off, beginning to cry. There are murmurs of support from the other women. “I know this is my last treatment,” she says, more firmly.

Bradley speaks up, assuring her that she will be assigned a recovery specialist when she goes home. The specialist—trained by NORA, funded by the state—serves as a kind of mentor or sponsor to those who have completed their initial treatment, accompanying them to recovery meetings, church, the store—whenever and wherever they want company.

Gloria B. looks up, surprised. “Thank you,” she says. “You get back out there, and you're around your old friends,” Bradley says. “You've got to have support.”

“Thank you,” Gloria B. says again, clear-eyed now. “I'm glad I know that.”

It's a striking moment, one that makes clear that in a year of keynote speeches and White House dinners and hob-knobbing with the Cavs, this intimate setting is where Bradley feels most in her element.

“The program piece comes from my heart, because I've been there,” she says. “Everybody has their own issues, but what's the same is we all need to go back and understand ourselves. And we all need support.” 

Justin Glanville is a writer based in Cleveland.

A Kent State forum on heroin addiction raises alarm—and offers hope

In recent years, the area around Kent State has become a hotbed for opioid addiction. The number of heroin deaths in Portage County increased in each of the last three years, and it now ranks 15th in heroin deaths out of 88 counties in Ohio.

In a real-time poll at a public forum on the effects of heroin addiction organized by Kent State's School of Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC) in October, about one in five attendees reported having a family member or close friend who abused opioids.

The forum was moderated by JMC assistant professor Stephanie Smith and designed to highlight the opioid crisis nationally and on campus.

Here are some of the panelists' key points for responding to this crisis:

BE AWARE

Anyone can get addicted: "This is an equal opportunity destroyer, it cuts across all demographics," says panel moderator and assistant professor Stephanie Smith.

Young adults are at increased risk:

People between 18 and 25 are at particular risk of becoming hooked on opioids, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—in part because of stresses in making the transition to college. Pills such as Vicodin, Percocet and Codeine are often their introduction.

Pain is the ultimate cause: Underlying any addiction is deep pain—physical, emotional or both, says panelist Maureen Keating, a chemical dependency counselor for University Health Services. "Sometimes the pain hides in the smiling face, the student who appears to be doing so well."

Area Resources

Flashes for Recovery

Ongoing support group for KSU students, www.kent.edu/csi/student-organizations/flashes-recovery

University Psychological Services

Licensed psychologists provide personalized care to KSU students, www.kent.edu/psych, 330.672.2487

Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County

Counseling, support and education for those struggling with mental health and addiction, www.mental-health-recovery.org, 330.673.1756

Prescription pain relievers are a common gateway to opioid abuse:

Many addictions can be prevented by first trying alternative treatments such as low-impact aerobic exercise and non-opioid medications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes a full guide at www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Appearance: Physical signs of a person on opioids include tiny pupils, sleepy eyes, flushed skin, dry mouth, runny nose, sudden nodding off and slowed breathing (which is how an overdose kills).

Actions: Behavioral signs of opioid use include loss of memory, rapid mood swings, poor decision-making and irrational anger.

"As soon as I picked up the drug, I became a jerk," says panelist Jarrod Pyle, a heroin addict in recovery who is now a counselor for a treatment house in Akron.

Other signs of heroin use are itching, nausea and vomiting. Opioid abusers often suffer from constipation and may look for laxatives. They may not eat properly, be careless about personal grooming and try to cover needle marks by wearing long-sleeved clothing.

Paraphernalia: Heroin is usually smoked, snorted or injected, so depending on the method of administration, you could find remnants of the drug or drug paraphernalia left behind such as syringes, small glass or metal pipes, dirty spoons and lighters, belts or rubber tubing.

REACH OUT

Start a conversation: "When someone's using . . . they're doing things they wouldn't otherwise do to support their habit, and they're ashamed," says panelist Greg McNeil, whose son died of an overdose in 2015. "So even if they don't want to talk about it, talk to them. They need support."

Respond quickly to calls for help:

Friends and family should respond right away when users ask for help—by taking them to a rehab center or clinic, for example, before they change their minds. "Time is of the essence," says McNeil, who founded Cover2 Resources, a foundation that provides support to parents of addicts (www.cover2.org/).

Notify experts: For those who are truly unapproachable, Kent State students should notify Student Affairs or Health Services so trained university staff can reach out and try to help, says panelist Jennifer Kulics, dean of student affairs.

SUPPORT RECOVERY

Understand what they're up against:

Recovery from opioid abuse is particularly difficult, because opioids change the chemistry and structure of users' brains. "Once you're addicted, your brain's been hijacked," says Keating. It may take several attempts at recovery before users can finally kick the habit.

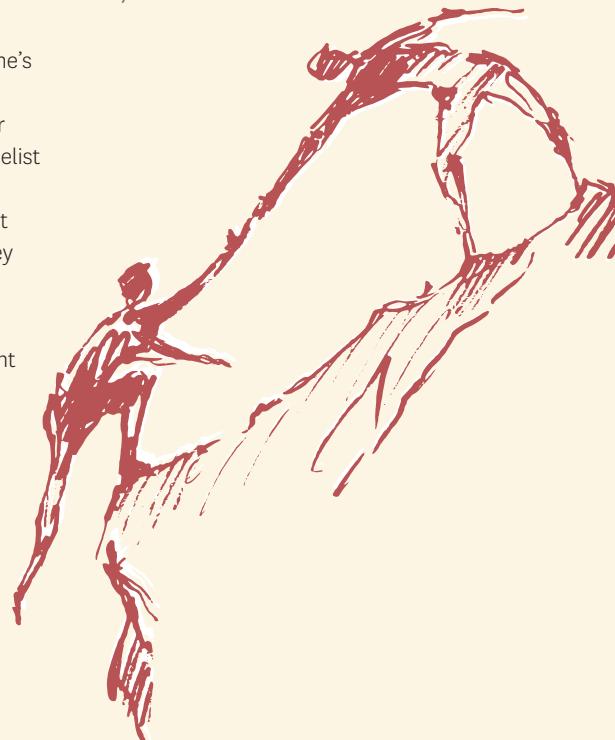
Be an advocate, not an enabler:

When you want to help, "it's easy to try to make sure they are not suffering the consequences of their actions," McNeil says. "But [enabling] isn't the way to support them."

Explore options: Pyle points to the many options to recovery that now exist for addicts, including rehabilitation programs, therapy, anonymous groups and replacement drugs such as Vivitrol.

Don't judge: Friends and family should avoid any hint of disapproval when talking to a user about their addiction. Opioid users "want to be connected to something or someone, so they're going to pick up on judgment quickly," says Keating. "We have to approach people with compassion." —JG

Watch the entire forum at www.kent.edu/JMC/heroin.



IN A LEAGUE of Their Own

Jordan Tozzi '14 and his brother are experts in fantasy football leagues—and they're happy to help you win yours.

By Allen Moff

For Jordan Tozzi, fall Sundays are all about food and fantasy football.

At his childhood home, parents Mike and Chris Tozzi (third-generation owners of Tozzi's on 12th, a popular Italian restaurant in Canton) spend the morning preparing the family's Sunday feast.

Downstairs, huddled away from the kitchen hustle and bustle, Tozzi and his older brother, Michael, systematically search the internet for information as another frantic NFL football Sunday approaches. The brothers, major players in the fantasy football craze, must assemble their lineups and player rankings for loyal followers who depend on advice from the Tozzis' fantasy sports website, LegionReport.com, to position themselves for success each week.

"Michael and I get to my parents' house early every Sunday so we can sit beside each other and go through the player rankings," says Tozzi, who graduated in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in organizational communication and a minor in flight technology. He is a pilot for Castle Aviation.

"Once the games start, we eat dinner in the kitchen and there are computers out everywhere. Then we

go back downstairs, and we'll have three games on at once. We've got a big screen TV, and my brother and I both have iPads. It's almost like a big surround system."

"During games we're constantly answering lineup questions from fans and followers on Twitter for the evening NFL games. We're both in multiple fantasy football leagues, so we keep refreshing the live scoring to check our matchups. I wouldn't say we're in there going crazy, but we're not super quiet either."

Fantasy football competitors from all over the globe, however, have staged raucous touchdown celebrations thanks to advice provided by the Tozzis, whose expertise in the burgeoning fantasy field is widely respected.

With NFL football, the most popular element of the fantasy sports scene, contestants create their own 'team' by drafting players from a league and earn points based on the performance of their picks. In conventional fantasy football leagues—typically played for fun or for low dollar amounts just to make things interesting—contestants play different

opponents each week. The top entries at the end of the regular season qualify for the playoffs, and a champion is eventually crowned, usually during the final weeks of the actual NFL regular season.

According to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, 57.4 million people will play fantasy sports in 2016, creating a \$3 to \$4 billion annual economic impact across the sports industry. Wagering on fantasy sports is legal, since it's considered a game of skill and not gambling.

Fantasy football started to gain popularity in the 1990s, continued to grow through the next couple decades, then exploded in recent years when companies began to offer daily fantasy sports opportunities. Instead of drafting a team once before each season, contestants on the FanDuel and DraftKings websites can draft a different team each week. For as little as \$20, competitors get a shot at monetary prizes that reach as high as \$1 million.

Before they were teenagers, fantasy sports had already piqued the interest of the Tozzis. "My brother got me into it pretty early," says Jordan Tozzi. (His brother, Michael, graduated from Malone University and works in pharmaceutical sales for Eli Lilly and Company. Both reside in Magnolia, Ohio.) "We have a bunch of older cousins, and we would always play them in fantasy football leagues. We loved it—and by fifth or sixth grade, I was beating all of them."

Right about the time the daily fantasy contests began to take off, the Tozzi brothers officially entered the fantasy sports profession. "During my freshman and sophomore years in college we were doing all this research for our fantasy football leagues, and we thought, why not publish it online and try to make some money off of it? So we did that," says Tozzi. "Friends were always asking us for advice, and we would tell them to just check out our website."

"The first year we had the website, in 2013, we entered an NFL fantasy football contest where they grade all your rankings, and we were ranked the most accurate fantasy experts in the world. We beat guys from ESPN, CBS Sports, Yahoo. It kind of blew up from there."

Just like that, LegionReport.com became a destination site for fantasy football enthusiasts all over the world. "Since then we've built a large following online and on Twitter," says Tozzi. "People view our website from Europe and all over the United States. You initially do something to help your friends, and it explodes. That's the awesome part about it."

The first year we had the website, in 2013, we were ranked the most accurate fantasy experts in the world. It kind of blew up from there."



Fantasy football experts Jordan Tozzi '14 (left) and his brother, Michael, assemble lineups and player rankings for followers of their fantasy sports website, LegionReport.com. During NFL games, they answer questions from followers on Twitter (@LegionReport) and check their matchups for the multiple fantasy football leagues they also compete in.

While the Tozzis concentrate their energies on NFL football, friend and fellow Kent State graduate Danny Stokes '13 contributes to LegionReport as an NBA basketball writer. They may eventually expand the website into other sports, but at this time its focus is pro football and basketball.

Guidance from LegionReport.com is not only beneficial, but free as well. "People don't have to pay us for a service," Tozzi says. "The only way we make money is from Google, the ads on our page and link advertisements within the articles. We just want to help people win their fantasy leagues."

The Tozzis' main goal in the future is simply to continue adding followers. They provide advice each week on who to play and which free agents to pick up, and they suggest a lineup to enter in the daily NFL fantasy contests. "We communicate with our followers via Twitter (@LegionReport), if they have specific questions," says Tozzi. "We also draft fantasy football teams for owners."

Delving through mounds of constantly changing information each week to give the best fantasy football advice possible has become a labor of love for the Tozzis.

"It takes a lot of hard work to produce consistent results, which is the key to long-term success in fantasy sports," says Tozzi. "Michael is up early in the morning,

and I'm up late at night, so we're always up to date on the news. Throughout the week we text each other and communicate during the Thursday and Monday night games. The system seems to be working."

As children, the brothers learned that hard work and preparation are keys to success, no matter the occupation. "Our family restaurant is in its 102nd year and has always been a huge part of our lives," says Tozzi. "When I was young, my parents had me do little jobs, like putting dishes away. As I grew older, my responsibilities increased. My brother and I have worked every position at one time or another—doing dishes, prepping, cooking, serving, bartending, cleaning. I learned the value of hard work, determination and dedication from my parents."

The Tozzi brothers apply those family lessons to winning at fantasy sports—and the results speak for themselves.

"I never imagined we'd take it this far," says Tozzi. "It just keeps growing."

Allen Moff is the Kent State athletics beat writer for the Record-Courier newspaper.

Tozzis' Tips to Win Your Fantasy Football League Championship

Keep searching.

Championships aren't just made at the draft. It's important to keep an eye out for players that go undrafted who can help your team as the season progresses.

Go deep. Injuries can hobble even the best teams, so having several good players at each position on your roster is crucial to success.

Start your studs!

Sometimes after reading an article about the next hot player, you can get a little too excited and bench a proven performer. This move will come back to haunt you more times than not.

alumni LIFE

CLASS NOTES

The little sunburst denotes an alumni association member. For a list of life members, visit www.ksualumni.org/lifemembers.

1961

Janet Snyder Matthews, BS, Sarasota, Fla., received the Senator Bob Williams Award from Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner in May. The award recognizes one public employee each year who has provided exceptional service in historic preservation in the state. Matthews served as the National Park Service's associate director for cultural resources in Washington, D.C. from 2004-2009. She currently teaches at the University of Florida as the associate scholar in the university's historic preservation program.

1962

Stephen Hanzely, BS, Youngstown, Ohio, received Youngstown State University's Heritage Award, which recognizes former faculty and professional/administrative staff who have made major contributions to the university during their years of service.

1966

Thomas Lower, BS, Mentor, Ohio, was the first recipient of Kent State's G. Harry Wright Scholarship Award for excellence in theatre in 1966. He went on to earn a master's degree in speech/theatre from DePauw University, and he was the chair of the Speech and Theatre Department at Lakeland Community College from 1968 to 1995. He continues to teach at Lakeland Community College, Lake Erie College, Palm Beach State and Broward College.

1967

Peter Foley, BS, Framingham, Mass., recently was selected to serve a third term on the National Federation of State High School Associations' Swimming and Diving Rules Committee. Foley retired from Weston High School (Mass.) in 2007, where he served as athletic director for 26 years and swimming coach for 35 years.

1972

Thomas Grace, BA, Buffalo, NY, is the author of *Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties*, published by the University of Massachusetts Press. The book chronicles the history of the campus antiwar movement, including a chapter on the shootings that claimed four lives in May 1970. Nine students were wounded, including the author. Now an adjunct professor of history in western New York, Grace appeared at recent May 4th commemoration events.

1973

Mark Graeser, BA, Travelers Rest, SC, retired after a career in architecture, sales and

marketing. He recently was inducted into the Archbishop Alter High School (Dayton, Ohio) Athletic Hall of Fame.

Estella Hyde, AA, Linesville, Pa., received a national humanitarian award from the National Association of Black Veterans in February. She was honored for multiple endeavors that enabled AARP to enhance inclusion to veterans, especially those from Vietnam and the more recent wars against terrorism. Hyde—a retired professor emeritus from the department of nursing at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a retired major in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps—recently served as AARP's Regional Volunteer Director and was previously the AARP State President in Pennsylvania.

Roberta Newcomer, MA, PhD '76, Copley, Ohio, was the 2016 recipient of the Ohio Music Education Association's Distinguished Service Award, given in January at the Annual OMEA Conference in Cincinnati. This award is the highest honor given by OMEA. Newcomer's work over the past 25 years with the Ohio Department of Education and OMEA has impacted the lives of countless students and music education professionals.

Carter Strang, BS, MEd '79, Cleveland, Ohio, received the 2016 Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award. He is a partner with Tucker Ellis LLP in Cleveland, Ohio. At KSU, Strang was a member of the football and ice hockey teams as well as the Honors College. In 2014 he received the KSU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award and is a member of the KSU Honors College Advisory Board.

1977

Richard Breedon, BS, Davis, Calif., wrote: "After working 24 years on the CMS [Compact Muon Solenoid] Experiment at CERN, [the European Organization for Nuclear Research], in Geneva, Switzerland, which announced the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012, I am retiring from



James Wallace, MA '73, PhD '74, Canton, N.Y., associate professor of psychology at St. Lawrence University, will retire in 2017, after 40-plus years of teaching developmental psychology. To honor him, one of his former students contributed \$2.5 million to establish a professorship in his name.

UC Davis at the end of June. Next, I will teach physics at Yale-NUS College in Singapore."

1979

John Martin, BA, London, Ohio, retired from the Ohio Attorney General's Office in 2010 with 30 years' service. He returned to active duty for five years, then retired from the U.S. Navy in February 2015 after 24 years as an intelligence officer (two jobs overlapped for several years). Martin started a new position with the Village of Mount Sterling [Ohio] as village manager on March 1, 2016.

Sylvia Moore-Davis, BS, Cleveland, Ohio, received a Master of Science in Health Communications from Boston University.

Bryce Wilson, BS, Naples, Fla., was promoted to director of operations for the North Carolina News Network, a division of Curtis Media Group (CMG) based in Raleigh, NC. The network serves 80 radio stations across the Tar Heel State. Wilson has been with CMG since 1984. He was news director for WKSU and WKSR at Kent State from 1975-76.

1980

Elizabeth Bartz-Chames, BA, MA '82, Akron, Ohio, President and CEO of State and Federal Communications, endowed a scholarship for graduating seniors from Howland High School who will attend Kent State University at Trumbull in Warren, Ohio. She also received the 2016 PLEN (Public Leadership Education Network) Mentor Award in honor of her commitment to train the next generation of women leaders in public policy careers.

G. Patrick Kelley, BS, Canton, Ohio, was named the 2015 Stark County Hunger Task Force Volunteer of the Year. Kelley oversees the Backpack for Kids program, which provides weekend breakfasts, lunches and snacks for about 600 children who receive free or reduced lunches at school.

1982

Jill Byers, BS, MED '88, Wooster, Ohio, wrote: "In April I completed my year as president of the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling. My admissions career traces back to my Kent State Honors College years. During dinners at Dean Ottavio Casale's house, his wife, Linda, inspired me by telling about her admissions career. Years later I earned an admissions position at Kent State while completing my master's degree, and I've been teaching students across Ohio about college options and opportunities ever since."

Rebecca (Wolking) Sims, MLS, Papillion, Neb., has accepted the position of library director at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion Nebraska, after 16 years as the director of the Thomas S. Power Library at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Since 2005, Papillion has been listed five times in *Money Magazine's Top 10 Best Places to Live*.

1984

Karen (Jones) Bankston, BSN, MSN '90, Cincinnati, Ohio, has been recognized by



Josh Cribbs, BS '10

North Royalton, Ohio
Former Cleveland Browns receiver and returner

Josh Cribbs, BS '10, wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become a Marine or a police officer when he grew up. Instead, he became what many consider one of the greatest return specialists in NFL history.

A four-year starter as quarterback for the Kent State University Golden Flashes, he was signed as an undrafted

free agent by the Cleveland Browns in 2005 and earned the team's MVP title in 2009. He went on to play for the Oakland Raiders, New York Jets and Indianapolis Colts, and he is a 3x NFL Pro Bowler. Inducted into the Kent State Varsity "K" Athletics Hall of Fame in 2011, he returned to Kent State this October as the 2016 Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal.

"I became who I am as an adult through Kent State," Cribbs says. "I was honored to be the Grand Marshal and represent the university in this fashion."

Cribbs met his wife, Maria, at Kent State's annual Renaissance Ball and married her eight months later, in 2002. They have two children and go back to Kent as much as possible for Homecoming, basketball games and other events. He claims his family as his greatest life accomplishment.

Cribbs started a flag football league in spring 2016, to give kids another outlet besides playing contact football and risking concussions at a young age. "I'm trying to teach them to be student athletes and have motivation," he says. "That is rewarding for me."

the American Nurses Association as a recipient of one of its 2016 National Awards. Bankston, associate dean for clinical practice, partnership and community engagement for the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, received the Mary Mahoney Award, which recognizes significant contributions to integration within the nursing profession. Bankston also received the 2016 KSU Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award (see page 38).

Bruce Sekanick, BS, Youngstown, Ohio, was elected to serve as the 2017-2018 secretary of the American Institute of Architects at the 2016 AIA National Convention in Philadelphia in May. He also is the president of the 2016 AIA Ohio Foundation Board of Directors and architect and corporate secretary-treasurer at Phillips/Sekanick Architects Inc. in Warren, Ohio.

1987

Gregory Crawford, BS, MA '88, PhD '91, Oxford, Ohio, was named the 22nd president of Miami University, effective July 1, 2016. Formerly he was vice president and associate provost (2015-2016) and dean of the College of Science (2008-2015) at the University of Notre Dame. Prior to Notre Dame, he was dean of engineering (2006-2008) and professor of engineering and physics (1996-2008) at Brown University.

Beth Graham, PhD, Cleveland, Ohio, became the new director of Kent State University's School of Communication Studies, effective July 1, 2016. Graham recently served as a professor for The University of Akron's School of Communication; she was the school's director from 2010-2014.

1991

 **Michael Lanstrum, BS, AS '88**, Cleveland, Ohio, published "Revisiting Equal Sums" in the *Ohio Journal of School Mathematics* (Spring 2016).

1994

Lynn (Wideman) Eastep, BA, Olmsted Twp., Ohio, was named president of consumer brands for Fathom, a digital marketing agency.

Richard Fabritius, BBA, Smyrna, Ga., was inducted into the 2016 Phi Delta Theta Georgia Alumni Hall of Fame. Fabritius is managing director of Brunner Inc. and serves as Phi Delta Theta General Council President.

1995

Karen Adinolfi, MA, Akron, Ohio, partner at Roetzel & Andress LPA, was elected chair of the Board of Trustees of the Akron Blind Center, a nonprofit organization committed to serving the visually impaired of Summit County and the greater Akron area. Adinolfi also was nominated to the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

We asked him to share some lessons he learned while at Kent State.

To make the most of life:

Be diligent. Don't take life for granted. My coach at Kent State, Mike Drake, passed away in 2005. He had a passion for the game of football, and his coaching inspired me to do better and want to do better.

Take advantage of opportunities. [Civil rights activist] Whitney M. Young said, "It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one, than to have an opportunity and not be prepared." I trained all the time like I was getting drafted—I wasn't drafted, but I was able to be selected as a free agent in the Browns minicamp, and I took full advantage of that opportunity."

Finish what you start. I went back to Kent, took the three classes I had left and graduated. Now I talk to kids in the community about being a student athlete and finishing what they start.

Anita Bradley, BA, Strongsville, Ohio, founder and executive director of the Cleveland-based Northern Ohio Recovery Association, was honored in April by the Obama administration as a "Champion of Change" for her community- and peer-based work in drug and alcohol prevention, treatment and recovery. She also was named a winner of the 2015 Women Who Excel Entrepreneur Award from *Smart Business* magazine (see page 26).

Todd Brown, BBA, Kent, Ohio, was promoted to vice president of finance by Wayne Homes, an Ohio-based custom home builder that specializes in affordable on-your-lot homes.

Catherine Cardwell, MLS, Youngstown, Ohio, was appointed dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at University of South Florida St. Petersburg. She previously served as director of libraries at Ohio Wesleyan University, and before that was a librarian and administrator at Bowling Green State University.

Ted Traut, BS, Copley, Ohio, was elected a shareholder of Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA, a full-service creditors' rights law firm. He focuses his practice on general consumer collection matters, with an emphasis on insurance subrogation services, for which he has been recognized in the 2010-11 editions of *Ohio Rising Stars*.



Jennifer Coken, BA '85, MA '87

Rockville, Md.
Author, life coach, speaker, voice-over talent,
CEO of Embrace the Ridiculousness of Life!

Jen Coken spent six years on the stand-up comedy circuit in Denver, but even her sense of humor was challenged when her mother, Jan Storti, PhD '99, was dying from ovarian cancer in 2011. That same year Coken's marriage ended, and she lost 11 other people in her life. Death forced her to face a harsh reality: So often you want to control life, and the truth is you can't.

"To find true peace, you must come to terms with people and situations as they are, not as you wish them to be," says Coken. "I learned how to laugh and love myself no matter how dark things seem."

She writes about coping with her mother's diagnosis and death in her first book, *When I Die, Take My Panties: Turning Your Darkest Moments Into Your Greatest Gifts* (2016), fulfilling a promise she'd made to her mom that her death would make as big a difference as her life. Besides educating women about the early signs of ovarian cancer, Coken hopes her message helps people keep their sense of humor and sense of self, no matter what.

For the past 20 years—while she also worked as a political activist—her coaching seminars have helped thousands of people break through their self-made limitations. With the launch of her book and her new company, Embrace the Ridiculousness of Life!, Coken continues to help others navigate challenging times through workshops, coaching and other events.

We asked her how to keep moving forward despite life's roadblocks.

To transform tragedy:

Face the hard stuff. Experience your emotions instead of numbing yourself with shopping, drinking, drugs, isolating, burying yourself in work, etc. If you don't deal with what is happening now, you will have to deal with it at some point.

Create community. We usually don't want to burden anyone, but it's okay to ask a friend to tell you a silly joke or remind you of how much you are loved and appreciated.

Take back your power. Don't be a victim. Blaming yourself, someone else or your circumstances will leave you powerless. Instead, ask yourself: "What am I holding on to that I am willing to let go of?"

Move past "why me?" Have it over for a drink or dinner, but don't let "why me?" spend the night or you will regret it in the morning. A better question is: "What can I learn from what is happening around me?"

CLASS NOTES

1996

Kevin Smith, MLS, Lawrence, Kan., was appointed dean for KU Libraries at the University of Kansas, effective May 1, 2016.

1997

Tracy van der Kuil, BA, Ravenna, Ohio, has joined Cleveland-based design firm Richardson Design as a senior designer.

1998

Paul Taylor, BS, BArch, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, has been promoted to principal at Bialosky Cleveland and continues to be one of the architectural firm's key design leads. His workplace design for Marshberry Corporation was honored with an IIDA Award for Best Small Corporate Office at the 2015 AIA/IIDA Cleveland Design Awards.

1999

Joseph Salem Jr., MLS, MA '05, PhD '14, Akron, Ohio, associate dean for Learning, Undergraduate Services and Commonwealth Campus Libraries, Pennsylvania State University, was one of 28 people selected to participate in the 2016–2017 Leadership Fellows program by the Association of Research Libraries. The program facilitates the development of senior-level leaders in large research libraries and archives.

2000

Marcia Ballinger, MBA, North Ridgeville, Ohio, provost and vice president for learner services at Lorain County Community College, has been named president of the two-year school.

David Dees, PhD, Youngstown, Ohio, has been appointed interim dean and chief administrative officer of the Kent State University Columbiana County campuses, effective July 1. Dees joined Kent State in 1991 and has served as director of Kent State's Center for Teaching and Learning since 2013.

Brian Meng, BS, BArch '01, Lakewood, Ohio, has been promoted to senior associate at Bialosky & Partners Architects, where he has been a leading project manager for mixed-use projects such as the award-winning Crocker Park and newly-completed Portage Crossing.

2001

Justin Weese, BS, Landisville, Pa., has joined Godfrey, a nationally ranked business-to-business marketing communications agency, as associate creative director.

2003

Liz Opsitnik, BS, Arlington, Va., is now managing editor, advice products, at *U.S. News & World Report*. Previously she was deputy managing editor, autos, *U.S. News & World Report*, and has been with the company since 2011.

2004

Jill Christoff, BA, Lakewood, Ohio, has been promoted to associate at Bialosky Cleveland. She received AIA Cleveland's Emerging Professional Award in 2013.

Crystal Davis, BA, Twinsburg, Ohio, was hired as the new Cleveland-based policy director for the nonprofit Alliance for the Great Lakes, based in Chicago. She will lead the alliance's policy and advocacy efforts related to Lake Erie and will manage the Ohio office. Davis spent eight years in government relations with Kent State University, recently serving as the federal relations director for the university's Office of Government and Community Relations.

Kelly (Sweeney) Stephens, BBA, AA '01, North Olmsted, Ohio, has been named to the new position of business development director by Sweeney, a leading full-service agency.

2005

Kira Kittoe-Krivoshe, BA, Bay Village, Ohio, an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Cuyahoga County Office of the Prosecutor, received the 2016 Northeast Ohio Top 25 Under 35 Movers & Shakers Award from the Cleveland Professional 20/30 Club, the longest-running young professional group in Northeast Ohio.

Steven Oluic, PhD, Chardon, Ohio, retired dean of arts and sciences at Lakeland

Community College, received a Fulbright Community College Administrators Seminar Award in Russia, as announced by the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

2006

 **Janet Gbur, BS**, Canfield, Ohio, doctoral candidate in materials science and engineering at Case Western Reserve University, co-authored a paper, "Fatigue and Fracture of Wires and Cables for Biomedical Applications," in *International Materials Reviews*.

2007

David Berlekamp, BS, MUD and MArch '09, Cleveland, Ohio, has been promoted to associate at Bialosky Cleveland.

Philip Erb, BS, MUD and MArch '11, Cleveland, Ohio, has been promoted to associate at Bialosky Cleveland.

Christina (Mastrangelo) Haas, MEd, and **John Haas, BA '05, MEd '10**, Newport, R.I., announce the birth of their son, James Thomas Haas, on March 21, 2016.

2008

Ashley Altiero, BA, Columbus, Ohio, graduated with a master's degree in counseling from Youngstown State University in 2011. She is employed by Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, where she works as the director of student success and as an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. She is pursuing her Juris Doctor at Capital University Law School and will be getting married in December.

Alan Hipps, BS, MArch '09, Northfield, Ohio, has been promoted to associate at Bialosky Cleveland. Hipps was named to the 2016 Top 25 Under 35 by the Cleveland Professional 20/30 Club.

Elena Long, MA, PhD '12, Dover, N.H., is one of the executive committee members on the American Physical Society's ad hoc committee on LGBT issues. They assembled a new report, "LGBT Climate in Physics," the first rigorous study of its kind to look at LGBT issues and demographics in the field.

2009

Daniel Alcorn, BGS, AA '08, Rutland, Vt., wrote: "I was recently promoted to assistant director of enrollment advising for Norwich University's College of Graduate and Continuing Studies (CGCS). I was also promoted to senior instructor at CGCS, and I have been teaching at Norwich since 2012."

Tyler Sullivan, BBA, Pewaukee, Wisc., founded Badger CrossFit in 2011, which has become one of the most successful CrossFit gyms in Wisconsin, with over 10,000 square feet, 300-plus members and 10 coaches. The gym earned recognition from Reebok International in 2012 and sent a team to the CrossFit Regionals in 2015.

2010

Anthony Lange, BS, Cleveland, Ohio, sports editor for the *Chagrin Valley Times*, won first place for sports coverage in the 2016 Hooper Awards contest announced during the annual Ohio Newspaper Association convention in Columbus. He previously took first place for both sports coverage and feature writing in 2014. His father, **David Lange, BA '75**, Malvern, Ohio, editor emeritus for the *Chagrin Valley Times*, won first place for editorial writing in the 2016 Hooper contest—the 16th time that his editorials were judged best among Ohio's weekly newspapers.

Keirston Swope, BGS, MLIS '15, Louisville, Ohio, accepted a position in the adult and teen services department at the Louisville Public Library in October 2015.

2011

Amy Alexy, MBA, Akron, Ohio, was promoted to vice president of global talent at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., where she has worked since 2011. She also serves on the board of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and is the 2016 Goodyear United Way chairperson.

Simonne Ronk, MLIS, Dorchester Center, Mass., wrote: "I am employed as an archivist and professor of African American genealogy at the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute at Northeastern University and as generalist librarian at the Boston Public Library."

2012

Megan Gaffney, MEd, Hudson, Ohio, is the new assistant principal at Saint Joseph Academy, Cleveland, effective July 1, 2016.

Brittany Kinney, BBA, MSA '13, Kent, Ohio, was promoted to supervisor by Walhall CPAs, a leading regional certified public accounting and business advisory firm.

2014

 **Timothy Novotny, MA**, Coos Bay, Ore., spent 25 years on the journalism side, in broadcast and print, but began putting his new public relations master's degree to work

Send Us Your Class Note

We'd love to hear from you!

To share your news, complete the form at www.ksualumni.org/classnotes (you may include an image in JPEG, GIF or PNG format) or write Kent State University Alumni Association, Center for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242.

Limit your notes to 100 words or less and include your class year, city, state and degree(s). Notes may be edited for length or clarity and published as space allows.

Issue: **Deadline for submissions:**

Fall May 30

Spring September 30

Summer January 31

as communications coordinator at Bay Area Hospital (Coos Bay, Ore.) in September 2015.

2015

Carissa Klein, BBA, Canton, Ohio, is the new recruiting coordinator for Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

Stephanie Rex, MA, Pittsburgh, Pa., was hired as vice president of marketing, public relations and social media for Z Brand Group, an award-winning advertising and marketing agency located in downtown Pittsburgh.

Clayton Ruminski, MLIS, Hubbard, Ohio, wrote: "I will be releasing my first book, *Iron Valley: The Transformation of the Iron Industry in Ohio's Mahoning Valley, 1802-1913*, with The Ohio State University Press in spring 2017. Also, I accepted an archives specialist position at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware, starting in April 2016."

Kaila Unger, BBA, Lakewood, Ohio, joined as an associate at the Cleveland office of Walhall CPAs, a leading regional certified public accounting and business advisory firm.



Cassandra (Beck) Holloway, BS '12, Willoughby, Ohio, married **Adrian ("AJ") Holloway, BA '13**, on August 29, 2015. Several Kent State grads were in the bridal party. Pictured (front row): **Melissa Ludwig, BSN '13**, Emily Horwatt, Katie Taylor, **Cassandra (Beck) Holloway**, Gia Mauer, **Rachael Lyons, BS '12**, Nicole Slat; (back row): **Michael Richardson, BBA '11**, John Wheeler, Bob Peter nel, **AJ Holloway**, Vince Hug, Zach Schleyer, **Brian Zoekller, BS '12**.

Sharing the Love

Innovative, generous, tenacious, committed—those are just a few words that describe the **2016 Kent State Alumni Award** recipients, who were commended for their dedication to their professions, communities and Kent State at a special ceremony on September 30.

Sponsored by the Kent State Alumni Association, the alumni awards are the university's most prestigious honor. The following seven recipients epitomize the characteristics of Kent State graduates—and all share a love for Kent State.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

George Newkome, BS '61, PhD '66

Medina, Ohio; Professor, Departments of Polymer Science and Chemistry, the James and Vanita Oelschlager Professor of Science and Technology, and Vice President for Research Emeritus at The University of Akron

Educational experience: My training as an organic chemist taught me to see the tree in the forest and to have an entrepreneurial can-do spirit, a hallmark of Northeast Ohio.

Staying connected: Serving on the Kent State University College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board has allowed me to be a part of a dynamic and growing college. I'm especially proud of forming the Northeast Ohio Student Venture Fund to help Kent State students participate in new start-up companies.

Why I love Kent State: It laid the foundation for my academic career and my ability to do creative chemistry research.

I'm still an active researcher with over 500 publications and over 60 patents.



Now accepting nominations for the 2017 Alumni Awards. Submit your nomination at www.ksualumni.org/alumniawards.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

H. John Visser, DPM '78

St. Louis, Mo.; Reconstructive foot and ankle surgeon

Memorable moment at KSU: Attaining #1 status in calculus and inorganic chemistry

Point of pride: Being inducted into the Kent State School of Podiatric Medicine Hall of Fame

Why I love Kent State: The warm, supportive atmosphere at the regional campuses. Coming out of high school, I lacked confidence in my academic abilities. Kent State University at Geauga allowed me to take core courses for pre-med. With the smaller class sizes and encouraging teachers, my confidence level increased astronomically. After two years at Kent State, I transferred to Hiram and graduated magna cum laude.



DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

Brooks Sumberg, BA '72

Westport, Conn.; Peace Corps veteran; founder of Harvest Now

Point of pride: My charity, Harvest Now, feeds 35,000 people, including prisoners who grow the food and patrons at food banks.

Inspiration for giving back to community: The satisfaction I get from helping prisoners by giving them a project to work on that provides food for poor people.

Why I love Kent State: I transferred from Northern Michigan University because I wanted to be at a more cosmopolitan place. Kent State was accepting, and they welcomed me.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Karen Jones Bankston, BSN '84, MSN '90

Cincinnati, Ohio; PhD, University of Cincinnati; Associate Dean, Clinical Practice, Partnership and Community Engagement, University of Cincinnati

Memorable moments at KSU: Spending time with my classmates in the School of Nursing lounge; going to Ray's Place on the last day of clinicals

Points of pride: Being assigned CEO of the Drake Center for Post-Acute Care, a beloved hospital in Cincinnati. And all the individuals I've mentored, watch grow and now see in leadership roles—knowing I was a part of their success is my success.

Why I love Kent State: I was a nontraditional student, and Constance Stopper was very supportive. She and the other faculty made sure that we all understood the importance of being a professional nurse. I am proud to be a Kent State nurse.



KENT STATE ADVOCACY

Gary Brahler, BS '89

Bay Village, Ohio; First Vice President-Investments at Polcar, Brahler, Heil, Belden Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; chair of the investment committee for Kent State University Foundation and chair of the Kent State University Foundation Board

Memorable moment at KSU: As a student ambassador, I had the opportunity to greet Elie Wiesel [Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor], walk him around campus, take him to the president's office and walk him to his speech. It was a thrilling event.

Reason for supporting Kent State: Because of what is happening here and the outstanding programs we have. Kent State gives students the opportunity to transform their lives.

Why I love Kent State: I met my wife here, I had a great time, I had fabulous professors, and I spent a lot of time (believe it or not) at the library.

Learn more about this year's winners at tiny.cc/2016KSUALumniAwards



OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL

Damian Beauchamp, BS '12

Durham, N.C.; Chief of Staff and Principal Chemist, 8 Rivers Capital, LLC

Kent State strengths: It provides exceptional classroom education while allowing one-on-one, hands-on research experiences with faculty who care deeply for their students. Today's world demands multifaceted skill sets for success; Kent State allows students to become diverse and effective problem solvers.

Career inspiration: When I was 18 years old, I lost a dear friend in a tragic accident; from then on I wanted to make a positive impact on the world. In an organic chemistry course, Professor Alex Seed encouraged me to consider pursuing chemistry. Chemistry touches almost every aspect of life, so it seemed a good field of study.

Why I love Kent State: The campus, the atmosphere downtown and especially the recent renovations that have transformed the entire feel of the city and the campus.



GOLDEN FLASH

Jordan Provost, BME '17

Navarre, Ohio; Student assistant in the Kent State University Bands Office and apprentice conductor for the Canton Youth Symphony

Career aspiration: To pursue a master's degree in music education and become a teacher.

Biggest accomplishment: So far, it's been conducting the award-winning Canton Youth Symphony Advanced Orchestra at the final concert of the season in May.

Why I love Kent State: The sense of community is ever-present. When I was in 8th grade, I attended my piano teacher's recital at Kent State and was enthralled with the cool things happening here. I came in 2012 for the summer institute, and I fell in love with the piano faculty. And the campus is just beautiful—it's a great combination of a suburban community and a college town.

IN MEMORY

The little sunburst denotes an alumni association member. For a list of life members, visit www.ksualumni.org/lifemembers.

- Marjorie Corell '38, October 25, 2015
- Helen Greene '42, July 25, 2015
- James Carson '43, March 29, 2016
- Lorin Correll '45, July 1, 2015
- S. Lee Hope '47, January 31, 2016
- Robert Bader '48, January 30, 2016
- William Cady '48, January 4, 2015
- Audrie La Towsky '48, December 30, 2015
- George Davis '49, March 29, 2016
- Robert Evans '49, January 27, 2016
- Paul Watson '49, August 11, 2014
- Irene Cross '50, August 25, 2015
- George Hettinger '50, November 9, 2014
- William Shie '50, August 16, 2014
- Theodore Sudia '50, April 15, 2015
- Rose Beck '52, March 31, 2014
- Edward Bednarz '52, July 11, 2015
- J. Quentin Jones '52, March 9, 2016
- Mae (Scheuffler) Otting '52, March 15, 2016
- George Weiss '52, February 11, 2016
- Leslie Zorge '52, April 17, 2016
- Edwin Bonebrake '53, October 25, 2014
- Albert Hales '53, July 14, 2014
- John Shaheen '53, January 7, 2016
- Clyde Slyman '54, June 26, 2014
- Irwin Solomon '54, June 1, 2014
- Yvonne Thomas Ezzie '54, MED '72, December 19, 2014
- Steve Turchik '54, December 30, 2015
- Patricia Belaney '55, April 26, 2016
- Roger Vinck '55, November 19, 2014
- Robert Knapp '56, November 9, 2015
- Richard Velzy '56, December 21, 2015
- Lee Aldrich '57, April 26, 2015
- John Jackson '57, April 5, 2014
- Michael McDonnell '57, March 5, 2016
- Patricia Stimac '57, March 30, 2016
- Edward Galloway '59, February 27, 2016
- Blanford Fuller '58, MA '68, October 30, 2012
- Joyce Flowers '60, September 6, 2015
- Linda Klein '61, September 13, 2015
- David Meeker '61, May 23, 2016
- Fred Di Lullo '62, November 16, 2015
- Edward Zawada '62, December 17, 2015
- John Bianchi '63, August 1, 2015
- Jean Herritt '63, February 15, 2016
- Robert Householder '63, November 30, 2014
- Gerald Nowak '63, April 26, 2016
- Sigrid Wagner '63, February 26, 2016
- John Batchelor '64, January 10, 2016
- Margaret Comrie '64, January 20, 2016
- Ruth Paton '64, April 20, 2016
- David Scullin '64, December 25, 2015
- Alba Urban '64, February 1, 2015
- Franklin De Marco '65, March 13, 2016
- Ava La Rocca '65, April 1, 2014
- Dorothy Mansfield '65, September 27, 2014
- James Price '65, January 15, 2015
- Ronald Deibel '66, January 8, 2016
- Veronica Turner '66, December 26, 2014
- Ralph Gordon '66, August 31, 2015
- Anton Habenschuss '66, October 26, 2015
- Ellen Kidder '66, January 28, 2016
- Eugene Landis '66, March 17, 2016
- Byron Worster '66, February 12, 2016
- Frederick Albrecht '67, February 5, 2016
- Dorothy Cliffel '67, May 23, 2015
- Jacalyn Dann '68, March 14, 2016
- Robert Kimmell '68, October 23, 2015
- Carol Kuhaneck '68, March 30, 2016
- Harry Ferares '70, February 12, 2015
- Donald Kaminski '70, July 12, 2015
- Marilyn Rosenstein '70, February 2, 2015
- Joyce Whalen '70, May 17, 2015

William Wright '70, June 8, 2015

Gerald Hannum '71, January 9, 2016

Charles Berty '72, June 21, 2015

Ernestine Lee '72, February 8, 2016

Warren Mason '72, November 24, 2014

Richard Marsh '73, March 24, 2016

Patrick Mastrangelo '73, August 9, 2014

Gary Raber '73, December 26, 2015

William Spaninger '73, April 13, 2015

Kathryn (Lewis) Walker, MED '73, December 16, 2015

Sharon Farley '74, September 26, 2015

John Payak '74, October 2, 2015

Everett Dennison '75, January 22, 2016

Teddy Eagon '75, March 29, 2014

James Lieteau '75, November 7, 2015

Sharan Mansfield '75, September 25, 2015

Frederick Rubin '76, October 6, 2015

Thomas Berg '77, June 10, 2014

Barbara Hawkins '77, March 8, 2016

James Hildebrand '77, July 4, 2015

Raymond Kujala '77, June 8, 2015

Charles Lewis '77, March 11, 2014

Maxine Seibel '77, February 29, 2016

Denise Roggenbuck '78, January 19, 2016

Russell Pry '80, July 31, 2016

Krissann Torok '80, January 29, 2016

Carol Cornell '81, January 7, 2016

Martha Meekins '81, January 28, 2016

Mary Ann Hays '82, March 4, 2016

Nancy Tasseeff '82, August 29, 2015

Betty Kisel '83, June 1, 2014

Bradley Eppinger '84, January 17, 2014

Todd Aughinbaugh '85, October 1, 2014

Ronald Brown '86, January 5, 2015

Tammi Siss '86, November 26, 2015

John Kraig '87, August 10, 2015

Paul Zoller '87, February 13, 2016

N. Russel Blosser '88, February 20, 2016

Debbie Gass '88, September 21, 2015

Pamela Slater '88, January 21, 2015

Charlotte Douglas '89, February 29, 2016

Kathleen Hogan '89, June 3, 2015

Jerry Snyder '89, December 17, 2014

Mary Sealy '92, March 2, 2016

Kelly Thomas '92, April 4, 2015

Diane Nims '93, December 12, 2014

David Gonzalez '94, July 7, 2014

Randall Chapman '95, January 5, 2015

Keven Hutner '96, November 27, 2014

Teresa Davies Johns '96, March 12, 2015

Renee Richards '96, August 1, 2015

Andrea Rakoczy Burton '98, October 27, 2015

Debra McFadden '98, December 30, 2015

Kenneth Howard '99, March 23, 2016

Brad Forster '00, March 24, 2016

Tiffany Gerber '00, April 2, 2016

Martha Morgan '00, December 3, 2015

Linda Robertson '05, April 8, 2016

Christine Campbell '07, December 2, 2015

Kelli Cwiklinski '11, November 25, 2015

Nicholas Limpose '11, December 14, 2014

Benjamin Rizzo '14, March 11, 2016

Brian Petras '15, January 23, 2016

James Smith '15, February 18, 2016

Andreas Diamantopoulos '17, February 28, 2016

Dylan Stone '19, March 11, 2016

FACULTY

H. David Mohan, MA '94, former dean of the Geauga Campus and Twinsburg Regional Academic Center, November 22, 2015

Rozell Duncan, PhD '96, assistant professor at KSU's School of Communication Studies, August 15, 2016

Ted Rounds, associate professor at KSU's School of Music, August 24, 2016

flashBACK



Bryan Bedford (34), Antonio Gates (44), Demetric Shaw (10), Trevor Huffman (24), Nate Gerwig (2) and John Edwards (54) celebrate a win at the M.A.C. Center during the 2001-02 season.

Cinderella Season

Memories of glory have been rekindled for Golden Flashes basketball fans. Two halls of fame are honoring the 2001-02 Kent State men's basketball team and their historic run to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament.

As part of the 15th anniversary of the Elite Eight run, Kent State's Varsity "K" Hall of Fame recognized them as a team of distinction during the September 17 induction ceremony.

The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Missouri, is inducting the team on November 18 and including the Flashes' 2002 postseason in an exhibit of the top ten most memorable runs in NCAA tournament history. (The exhibit opens in November and will be on display one year.)

The Varsity "K" Hall of Fame celebration was the largest reunion of the 2001-02 team since it clinched a spot in the Elite Eight with a 78-73 overtime win against Pittsburgh in Lexington, Kentucky. All but four people connected to the team made it

back to the Kent Campus, including a group of 17 players, coaches and support staff.

"It means a great deal to us for that season to still stick out in people's memories," says Golden Flashes assistant men's basketball coach Eric Haut, who played on the 2001-02 team. "I'll be in airports and people will see the Kent State logo on my chest and say 'hey, I remember that year when you made the run.'

"Now to hear that we will be included in an exhibit at the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame is kind of shocking. A lot of schools have made Cinderella runs in the last 15 years, but when we did it, it was pretty rare."

Though the team didn't make it to the Final Four, Haut is convinced "if we would have beaten Indiana in the Elite Eight, we would have won our next game and played for the national championship."

—David Carducci

Learn more about the Hall of Fame exhibit at www.collegebasketballexperience.com.



The Golden Flashes huddle prior to their March 23, 2002 Elite Eight game against Indiana at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky. Photos courtesy Kent State Athletics.



SUNSET

by Jaclyn Y. Garver

Clouds low on the horizon
float just above the land,
sink down from the dark and shadowed heavens,
the tropospheric Rockies, Alps, and Mount Olympus
for Zeus and his children.

A sliver of a fingernail reminds us
He watches.

From deep lavender steel
south
to muddy golden mustard,
the canvas glows with thick acrylic.

The old man stretches his arm
out the car window, unfolds a finger,
swirls the pad of his pointer atop
the wet paint. His final mark on the day is
important and indelible
for the next sixteen minutes,
when his sun god sets
and his proof of “I exist”
shimmers and fades
into a twilit night.

The babies sleep deep, breathe
in that old magic,
and we live on.

POET: Jaclyn Y. Garver, BS '05
Fort Wayne, Indiana

“I wrote ‘Sunset’ on the drive home from a wake. My husband’s grandfather, who died on July 4, was buried on what would have been his 75th wedding anniversary. The evening before his burial was a beautiful one, and the layered clouds struck me as a particularly poignant send-off.”

SHARE YOUR VOICE: In partnership with Traveling Stanzas, *Kent State Magazine* features a poem by one of our readers in each issue. To submit your poem, visit travelingstanzas.com, click “Submit,” and label it “Magazine Entry.” For more information, call Wick Poetry Center at 330-672-2067.

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A New Gateway

Located along the Esplanade between South Lincoln and Willow streets, the Center for Architecture and Environmental Design opened in early October and already is an area landmark. Its large glass windows reflect the sky and overlook both the Kent Campus and Kent's revitalized downtown. **SEE PAGE 8**

