As Stark County’s public university, Kent State University at Stark resolves challenges to provide students with accessible and affordable education.
In my inaugural Dean’s Message for the Fall 2014 Encompass magazine, I wrote that after having completed just two weeks of service on campus, it was a great privilege for me to meet so many individuals who were truly dedicated to the mission of this outstanding educational institution. Now, six months later, I am sincerely humbled by the sense of welcome and generosity of spirit expressed by literally hundreds more supporters of Kent State University at Stark, whom I have come to know and admire.

In my interactions with various political, educational, business and other community leaders, I have heard remarkable stories concerning the positive effect our alumni, students, faculty and staff are making in our region and beyond.

Most of our 5,000 students are residents of Stark County, and many of them choose to stay local after graduation. While there is great benefit in keeping our brightest and best in the community after they have completed their college educations, our students must be able to flourish in this world upon graduation. We are obligated to ensure that our graduates obtain the necessary skills that will enable them to succeed in this ever-changing world.

In this issue, you will read about just a few of the many opportunities that are shaping the lives of our students and their families. Business and economic leaders tell us that the next workforce must be able to function abroad and across cultures. Internships and grants, as well as multicultural and global educational experiences, ensure that our students will succeed in a world marked by interdependence, diversity and rapid transformation.

This is a great time for Kent State University. It’s a time of positive developments and limitless opportunities. Let us continue to work together, accepting the responsibility to discover innovative and effective ways of educating our students and serving residents of our region as the public university in Stark County, while contributing to Kent State Stark’s cooperative and rewarding environment.

Warmest regards,

Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.
THE LONG-AWAITED SCIENCES BUILDING will soon be a reality for Kent State University at Stark’s community. The construction of the 41,140-square-foot building and renovation of 5,250 square feet of Main Hall’s East Wing has progressed smoothly and is on track for opening in fall 2015.

The campus’s seventh major building will support the science programs and house teaching and research laboratories for biology, physics, geology and nursing. The Sciences Building also will include a student cyber lounge, faculty offices and state-of-the-art general and computer classrooms. The Main Hall renovation will convert the existing biology laboratories and prep/storage areas to accommodate the chemistry program.

The exterior of the building has taken shape and is nearly complete. Spring weather will unveil many of the environmentally friendly design elements, such as the green roof, rain gardens and bioswales, which will contribute to the structure’s LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification.

We welcome you to drive through campus to watch the Sciences Building’s progress or visit stark.kent.edu to learn more.
“We want to be part of the solution for them,” says Lisa Hart, director of academic services.

Sometimes, that means offering alternative ways to prepare them academically for college coursework. For others, it means providing information on how to make attending college a reality. In some cases, it means making them more aware of their possibilities.

It’s the responsible thing to do as Stark County’s only public university, says Hart. Making college education and campus resources accessible to all is Kent State Stark’s duty — and passion.

CARL LINDER graduated from high school in 1989. ADHD had made learning difficult, but he persevered, completing vocational school and earning a diploma.

After working various jobs and seeking help from Ohio’s Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, he became certified as a fireman and eventually, an emergency medical technician. Years later, he joined the U.S. Army National Guard and served two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. A platoon sergeant inspired him to pursue a college education and at age 42, Linder enrolled full time at Kent State University at Stark.

Today, the former struggling high school student is on his way to a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in philosophy. His goal is to earn a Ph.D. — within 10 years, he expects — and one day, conduct studies of the congenital factors that affect how people learn and process information.

PART OF THE SOLUTION

While students with learning and other challenges can get left behind on some college campuses, or believe college is improbable, Kent State Stark provides resources to help them succeed.

Stark County’s public university, Kent State University at Stark, makes college education accessible, regardless of students’ challenges.

Fireman, EMT, Veteran, & Student

Linder joined the U.S. Army National Guard and served two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We want to be part of the solution for them,” says Lisa Hart, director of academic services.
Becoming College ABLE

A PARALEGAL FOR 25 YEARS, JUNIOR CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR TAINA STRATTON LOVES STUDYING LAW.

But math? Not so much.

Before coming to Kent State University at Stark, Stratton hadn’t picked up a math book since 1981, when she graduated from Perry High School. “When I found out I had to take algebra to earn my bachelor’s degree, I was very apprehensive,” says Stratton. “I’ve never been a math person.”

A Student Services staff member told her about PLUS Math, a free, not-for-credit developmental math course offered on campus through Canton City Schools’ Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) program. After the seven-week program, Stratton had learned enough basics to pass college-level Algebra I with a B+.

“I would have had to take that class multiple times if I hadn’t had PLUS Math,” says Stratton. “Our PLUS Math instructor taught us tricks to solve algebra problems and showed us how to break them down step by step.”

Her PLUS Math textbook is still at her side today, giving her the support and confidence to pass Algebra II this semester, and then two more math classes to earn her bachelor’s degree. After that, it’s on to law school.

PLUS Math has made all the difference, says Stratton, as it has for dozens of other Kent State Stark students benefiting from ABLE.

FREE CLASSES FOR MATH SUCCESS

Funded by federal and state dollars, Ohio’s ABLE programs offer free services for those who need to improve basic skills to succeed in education or employment. Originally focused on helping people earn GEDs, ABLE now includes college-readiness classes and English classes for adults who speak other languages.

Since 2011, Canton City Schools’ ABLE has been offering the developmental math class, PLUS Math, at Kent State Stark.

“Students who take PLUS Math are typically already enrolled at Kent State Stark, although it’s open to anyone in the community,” says Lisa Hart, director of academic services. “Some students are referred to the program because of their placement test scores. Others elect to take it, maybe because they haven’t been in school for years or feel anxious about college-level math.”

While Kent State Stark also offers developmental classes to prepare students for credit-bearing coursework, tuition-free ABLE classes are typically for students with the lowest placement scores who need the most support.

BUT WAIT, THERE’S MORE!

As of spring 2015, Canton City Schools’ ABLE is offering even more tuition-free classes at Kent State Stark. Under a test program called “CABLE” (combining “college” and “ABLE”), Kent State Stark students with placement scores below certain levels also will be able to enroll in ABLE reading and writing classes.

They can take CABLE courses as many times as needed, even while taking other Kent State Stark for-credit courses. As students progress, they can move on to credit-bearing courses or other Stark Campus developmental classes, if needed.

“Not many places in the state have an ABLE/campus partnership like this,” says Jane Meyer, coordinator of ABLE for Stark County. “ABLE and Kent State Stark are thinking outside the box and testing a new way for students to become successful in college.”

Why now? Meyer cites years of watching students register at open-enrollment colleges and spending too much time and money — including financial aid, which has lifetime limits — on developmental classes.

“ABLE and Kent State Stark are thinking outside the box and testing a new way for students to become successful in college.”

Jane Meyer, coordinator of ABLE for Stark County

CABLE
“C” (college) + “ABLE”

ABLE
“Adult Basic and Literary Education Program”

PLUS Math
“Preparing to Learn and Use Skills in Math”

stark.kent.edu

stark.kent.edu
Taina Stratton
Junior criminology and justice studies major, Taina Stratton, has received help from Kent State Stark’s tuition-free PLUS Math classes.

“Some of them would become so frustrated at not achieving that they’d drop out of college entirely,” says Meyer. “Some would run out of financial aid before earning a degree. CABLE will help students reserve their financial aid and put them in classrooms where they can establish confidence, instead of discouragement.”

EASING INTO COLLEGE COURSEWORK
CABLE instructors are hired through Canton City Schools’ ABLE, but include Kent State Stark faculty who have taught similar developmental classes. According to Hart, Kent State Stark faculty have been instrumental in writing CABLE curriculum, which aligns with Kent State Stark curriculum, so students are prepared for upcoming courses.

“CABLE placement and assessment are time- and labor-intensive for students, staff and faculty, but everyone on campus has been so willing to make it work,” says Hart. “We anticipate about 20 students will be in CABLE classes each semester and we want to do the best we can for them.”

Taking CABLE classes at Kent State Stark also helps students get used to the college environment, adds Meyer. While on campus, students become familiar with how to register for courses, where to park and where to find Student Services, for example.

“They see other students like them and realize, Hey, I can do this!” says Meyer.

According to Hart, 66 percent of former PLUS Math students are currently in good academic standing at Kent State Stark.

“Kent State Stark is dedicated to helping people have successful lives. CABLE illustrates that,” says Hart. “We are being creative and developing alternative ways to prepare students for college coursework. I think CABLE will be a win for students, a win for our campus and a win for our community.”

STUDENTS with learning, physical or psychosocial disabilities often have special education plans to help them succeed in high school. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan can outline how to adjust academic goals and tailor accommodations for each student.

But what happens to students with IEPs or 504 plans after high school?

Unfortunately, many don’t realize that going to college is a real possibility.

“I’m constantly on a mission to help students understand that their disability is a small part of them. It may affect how they meet their goals, but it doesn’t have to limit their goals,” says Amanda Weyant, student accessibility services coordinator at Kent State University at Stark.
Weyant presents regularly to groups of high school students with IEPs or 504 plans who are curious about attending college — Kent State Stark or not.

Last October, she helped organize a full-day event on campus for nearly 250 ninth and 10th graders from Holmes, Stark and Wayne counties. The Passport to Possibilities program was co-sponsored by State Support Team, Region 9; Employment First; Malone University; GentleBrook; Walsh University; University of Mount Union; and Stark State College.

EXPLORING WHAT THEY WANT AND HOW TO GET IT

Students attended sessions on career options, as well as available degrees and training programs. Kent State Stark student ambassadors escorted them around campus. Faculty stopped by to chat with them during lunch in the Campus Center.

One highlight of the program was an inspiring message from keynote speaker LeDerick Horne, an advocate for people with disabilities. Horne was labeled as learning disabled when he was in third grade. Today, he is a nationally renowned motivational speaker, spoken word poet, playwright and entrepreneur. He encouraged students to boost their confidence and academic performance by challenging conventional teaching styles and looking beyond negative labels.

“Passport to Possibilities helps students explore who they are, what they want out of life and how to get it,” says Weyant.

For some, that may mean earning a bachelor’s or advanced degree. For others, it may mean earning an associate degree, completing a certificate program or getting on-the-job coaching.

“We don’t try to steer every student toward attending a four-year college,” says Weyant. “That’s not realistic or desirable for everyone. We just make sure they know there is support available to help them, no matter what their life goals are.”

Can college students have IEPs or 504 plans?

No, college students with disabilities do not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan like they may have had in high school. Instead, they may be eligible for a Letter of Accommodation.

The big difference is that while IEPs and 504 plans sometimes modify curriculum (adjusting what a student needs to learn to pass a class), Letters of Accommodation do not.

However, Letters of Accommodation can modify other aspects, including providing:

- Extra time for test taking
- Different testing environments
- Priority classroom seating
- Audio books and other assistive technology
- Note-taking services

“In kindergarten through 12th grade, schools are responsible for identifying students who need an IEP or 504 plan and completing the documentation,” says Amanda Weyant, student accessibility services coordinator for Kent State University at Stark. “In college, it’s up to the student to provide documentation of their disability and request a Letter of Accommodation. If they have a recent IEP, 504 plan or other evaluation from a school psychologist, we may be able to use that. If a student has been out of school for years, they may need to get updated documentation. We can show them how.”

If you had an IEP or 504 Plan in high school

You could be eligible for a Letter of Accommodation
Finding Funding

COLLEGE IS AFFORDABLE.

That’s what Amber Wallace, assistant director of financial aid at Kent State University at Stark, wants all high school students and parents to know.

She and her team spread the message to nearly 20 Stark County high schools each winter, in addition to a no-cost, half-day financial aid workshop at Kent State Stark each February. The workshop is open to the public and welcomes anyone already enrolled or considering enrolling in any college or university.

Nearly 1,000 local students and parents attended the 2014 events to learn about financial aid options and the application process. At the workshop, attendees also completed and filed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as required by the U.S. Department of Education.

“It’s our service to the community,” says Wallace. “No matter where these students attend college, Kent State Stark hopes to impact their success and help them become responsible borrowers.”

FOUR TIPS ON PAYING FOR COLLEGE

1. You can afford it. For example, tuition for a full-time student at Kent State Stark is $5,664. Students with financial need (based on their FAFSA and a formula set by the U.S. Department of Education) can receive a Pell Grant of up to $5,730. In addition, every college freshman and sophomore qualifies for $5,500 in federal loans, regardless of financial need. “Many families believe they’re not eligible for financial aid,” says Amber Wallace, assistant director of financial aid. “They’re surprised to learn that everyone is eligible for at least some.” Know how much you can afford. And know how much it will cost to attend the school you choose. Make sure you factor in all costs, including tuition, room and board, books and out-of-state surcharges, if applicable.

2. Don’t take more aid than you need. It’s easier to repay loans after college if you accept only as much aid as you really need. Don’t accept the maximum amount and save the surplus for later. Review your budget each year before accepting more loans. You may not need as much money as you needed the previous year.

3. Know the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans. Subsidized loans are only for students with financial need. The federal government pays the interest while you’re in school, but it becomes your responsibility upon graduation or leaving school. Unsubsidized loans are for any student, regardless of financial need. You pay interest while in school and can repay the loan any time without penalty.

4. Don’t forget about scholarships. “There are so many scholarship resources,” says Wallace. Students can search for scholarships at fastweb.com and at stark.kent.edu/admissions/cost/scholarships. Scholarships also may be available through their high school website or their parent’s employer. Students should work hard to maintain their highest grade point average (GPA), especially during their junior year in high school. Junior year GPA is often the one listed on scholarship applications.

“Ours is the only financial aid instruction many Stark County high school students and parents receive,” says Wallace.
**Outreach Magic**

**A GREAT MAGICIAN NEVER REVEALS HIS SECRETS. EXCEPT FOR CURT TINLIN, OUTREACH COORDINATOR AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK.**

A retired Canton City Schools teacher, Tinlin discovered years ago that performing magic was the trick to keeping his students alert in math and science class.

“When students are enthralled by a card trick or illusion and then learn how it works — which often involves mathematic and scientific principles — they go from focus to wonderment to confusion to comprehension. The learning process becomes exciting,” he says.

Today, Tinlin takes his math and science magic to schools around Stark County, serving as a Kent State Stark ambassador to the educational community.

“My role is to connect with the community and position Kent State Stark as a valuable educational resource beyond our own student body,” says Tinlin, who has been outreach coordinator since early 2014.

**ACCESSING KENT STATE STARK RESOURCES**

Using magic to teach is a small part of Tinlin’s work. More often, he’s meeting with administrators and faculty at public, private and parochial schools, learning about their educational needs and identifying ways Kent State Stark can support them.

That’s how and why Tinlin facilitates outreach efforts like these:

- Associate Professor of History Leslie Heaphy joined a class of language arts students for a lunch discussion about the Roaring Twenties. Her visit was a kickoff to the class’s study of *The Great Gatsby*.

- Associate Professor of Chemistry Andrew Burns participated in Tuslaw High School’s College Reality Seminar. He led a discussion on the expectations of university studies and how they differ from high school.

- A group of home-schooled juniors and seniors from Stark County came to campus for one-on-one meetings with professors in fields they hope to study. “They had already visited two other campuses and felt that their tours had been one-size-fits-all,” says Tinlin. “At Kent State Stark, their visit was customized just for them.”

- Kent State Stark students, members of a student outreach team Tinlin formed, visited middle school and high school classrooms to share personal stories about social interaction, taking responsibility, the importance of studying and other topics. “One student did a fascinating presentation, making balloon animals while talking about the twists and turns in her path to a college degree,” says Tinlin. Depending on the audience, Tinlin has supplied speakers who are international students, nontraditional students, athletes or others with inspirational stories.

“We are a valuable partner in educating students in kindergarten through 12th grade,” says Tinlin. “This work is building bridges between Stark County’s educational community and Kent State Stark, making our resources more accessible to more people.”
"I LEARNED FRENCH because it was a beautiful-sounding language, because learning it was exciting and challenging, and because the French friends I met along the way made it extremely rewarding," says Dr. Paula Sato, assistant professor of French. "They and their language opened up a world of new experiences and perspectives for me. Exploring that world — be it the delightful crunch of the perfectly baked baguette; the reverential pause accompanying the degustation of a particularly nice wine; the scintillating laughter of a lively, witty, hours-long repast chez friends; the list goes on and on — has been a great adventure."

If that doesn’t entice you to learn French …

POURQUOI APPRENDRE UNE AUTRE LANGUE?
Why learn another language?

Because it’s a gateway to experiencing another culture. Because processing thoughts in a different language develops analytical skills. Because it helps you better interpret your own language and culture. Because being bilingual makes you more valuable to employers. Because it sounds beautiful.

Hello, World!

Students who learn another language at Kent State University at Stark experience different cultures and embark on new adventures.

"I learned French because it was a beautiful-sounding language, because learning it was exciting and challenging, and because the French friends I met along the way made it extremely rewarding."

Dr. Paula Sato
Assistant professor of French

Dr. Daniel Castañeda
Associate professor of Spanish and coordinator of foreign languages

"Our department serves mostly students who can complete their degree here at Kent State Stark. Some require two, some require four classes in a language."
The reasons are as varied as world languages, themselves. That’s why nearly all students currently earning a bachelor’s degree in the College of Arts and Sciences (and selected programs in other colleges) are required to have proficiency in a second language.

Languages taught at Kent State Stark include Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Spanish and American Sign Language. Why those? Global demand, student interest and staffing ability are the determining factors, says Dr. Daniel Castañeda, associate professor of Spanish and coordinator of foreign languages at Kent State Stark.

“Our department serves mostly students who can complete their degree here at Kent State Stark. Some require two, some require four classes in a language,” says Castañeda. “A small number of Kent State Stark students major or minor in a language. Students can take elementary- and intermediate-level classes here (as well as some upper-level Spanish courses), and then go to Kent Campus to finish their degree.”

SO WAR ES AUCH MIT JOEL BENTE

That’s what happened with Joel Bente, a Kent State Stark student who graduated from the university in 1998. Bente was a history major and German minor.

“I was interested primarily in German history, so learning German played a lovely supporting role,” says Bente, who moved to Berlin, Germany, shortly after graduation.

Bente worked as a freelance translator while studying history and law in Berlin. His translation work for German real estate companies led to his becoming a real estate agent and an appearance on an episode of HGTV’s House Hunters International in 2012.

He credits German courses at Kent State Stark and lecturer Cynthia Trocchio with preparing him for these achievements.

“Frau Trocchio’s ability and dedication enabled me to attain a native level of fluency, which has been instrumental in all of my work and studies here in Berlin,” says Bente. “I fondly remember the joviality that pervaded all my German courses at Kent State Stark. My experiences there were so positive that I was able to convince my mother to take a few German courses with Frau Trocchio.”

DIEZ POR CIENTO DE LOS ESTUDIANTES

Each semester, approximately 10 percent of students at Kent State Stark enroll in a language course.
Three hours of walking, eating and drinking through Scottsdale, Arizona, was all it took to get Barbara Abbott hooked on becoming an entrepreneur.

“We were on a family trip in 2010,” says Abbott, a resident of Canton Township. “Someone scheduled us for a food tour — something I had never heard of before. But by the time it was over, I thought it was a great way to experience a town and thought the concept would be a good fit for Canton.”

While Scottsdale inspired Abbott and shared its recipe for a culinary tour company, it was the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Kent State University at Stark that gave Abbott some important ingredients.

INGREDIENTS OF BUSINESS
Abbott already had plenty of tour-giving, visitor-engaging experience, thanks to her career as a naturalist with Ohio State Parks. For 13 years, she led public programs, including ushering groups through historic buildings and guiding them on nature hikes.

What she needed was business acumen, knowing how to start a company and keep it running. That’s why she called SBDC and signed up for a small business orientation class.

SBDC provides confidential, individualized counseling sessions without charge and low- or no-cost business education to help people start, sustain and grow businesses.

“I learned about the basic structure of a business, the importance of writing a business plan, employment guidelines … all things that lay the foundation for a small business, and all things I hadn’t considered earlier,” says Abbott.

Following the two-hour orientation, Abbott left Kent State Stark with two valuable takeaways: a copy of SBDC’s business owner’s guidebook and an introduction to SBDC certified business advisor Holly Bolinger.

“The book helped me craft a business plan and determine whether I should create a sole proprietorship, limited liability

“Many people dream of owning a business, but SBDC can make the dream real.”

Barbara Abbott, president and founder of Canton Food Tours
Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history at Kent State University at Stark, has received the highest distinction from the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Heaphy was honored with the Bob Davids Award during the society’s annual convention in Houston, Texas, last August.

The award is given each year to a SABR member “whose contributions to SABR and baseball reflect the ingenuity, integrity and self-sacrifice” of SABR’s founder and past president, Bob Davids.

Heaphy is a recognized expert on baseball history. In addition to publishing dozens of books, articles and encyclopedia entries on the Negro Leagues and women in baseball, she is founding editor of the journal Black Ball. She has chaired SABR’s Women in Baseball Research Committee since 1995, helped organize SABR’s Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference since 1998, and served on SABR’s board of directors since 2010. In 2006, Heaphy served on the selection committee for the National Baseball Hall of Fame, as one of 10 experts who appointed worthy inductees.

“It is incredibly humbling to be recognized in such a way and to be placed in such accomplished company,” says Heaphy about the Bob Davids Award. “I feel a sense of responsibility to live up to the award and the man for whom it was named.”

SABR has more than 6,000 members worldwide, including baseball historians, major and minor league officials, broadcasters, writers, former players and “just plain fans.”

Heaphy Wins Highest Honor in Baseball Research

company or something else,” says Abbott. “I also had several follow-up meetings with Holly, who would give me homework and tell me if I was on the right path.”

With guidance from Bolinger and the SBDC, Abbott launched Canton Food Tours in 2012.

TASTE OF THE TOWN

Canton Food Tours is for local residents as much as out-of-town visitors. Groups take walking tours, highlighting Canton sites, history, artists and eateries. At each stop, participants enjoy “chef’s choice” small plates — enough food to constitute a full meal by the end of the tour. Stops vary by tour, which include the Corks and Forks: Progressive Wine Tour, Just Desserts Tour and Hall of Fame City Food Tour. Customers also can create their own tours.

“You get a great sampling of the town while sampling food and drinks of the region,” says Abbott.

Currently, there are about 200 food tour operations in 38 states, says Abbott. But the culinary tourism trend is growing quickly. Even Abbott has expanded operations, adding Wooster Food Tours in 2013.

“I didn’t know if I should make Wooster an extension of Canton Food Tours or a separate company, so I went back to Holly for advice,” says Abbott. “Holly recommended, and my lawyer affirmed, that a separate LLC would be best, so that’s what I did.”

MAKING THE DREAM REAL

The success of Canton Food Tours has exceeded Abbott’s expectations, growing 73 percent its second year. Continued growth seems certain with the expansion to Wooster and other “pockets of the region,” says Abbott.

In addition, Abbott and Canton Food Tours have received high acclaim from Canton’s business community, most notably being named 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

For other wishful entrepreneurs or those with fledgling businesses, Abbott strongly recommends small business counseling.

“It’s important and available,” says Abbott. “Many people dream of owning a business, but SBDC can make the dream real.”

For more about Canton Food Tours, visit www.cantonfoodtours.com.

> For more about Canton Food Tours, visit www.cantonfoodtours.com.
Kent State Stark was the **best choice for her daughters** because of the close-to-home location, academic reputation and lower tuition cost.

**From Frank Farm to Frank Avenue,**
**Debbie (Frank) Rehfus’ family ties to Kent State Stark are stronger than ever.**

Debbie (Frank) Rehfus’ grandfather grew up on Frank Farm. You know the one. Kent State University purchased the picturesque Jackson Township property in 1967 and transformed it into the campus of Kent State University at Stark.

Debbie still has family members who live off Frank Avenue, near the former homestead.

But the Franks aren’t her only family ties to Kent State Stark. Debbie’s oldest daughter, Jennifer, attended the Stark Campus from 2006 to 2008, on her way to earning a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Kent State in 2010. Her middle daughter, Katie, graduated from Kent State Stark in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. And her youngest, Kristen, is currently a Stark Campus freshman.

“I can’t speak highly enough about Kent State Stark,” says Debbie. “I would have gone to the campus, as well, had it offered a full nursing degree when I went to college.”

Instead, Debbie went straight to Kent Campus to pursue a BSN. She had always wanted to be a nurse and Kent State had one of the best regarded nursing programs, she says.

Due to her ill father and her boyfriend, Mike, who was attending The University of Akron, Debbie preferred not to leave her Massillon home. Still, she made the 45-minute move to Kent Campus and lived there all four years.

She was the first in her immediate family to attend Kent State.
“Kent State Stark is a good choice for a lot of people who don’t want to be strapped with high student loan debt after they graduate.”

Debbie Rehfus, mother of the Rehfus family

BEST CHOICE, CLOSE TO HOME

After earning her BSN in 1986, Debbie returned to the Canton area and began a 25-year career as a registered nurse at Aultman Hospital. She and Mike married and built a family, three girls and two boys.

“When it came time for the kids to choose a college, Mike and I steered them,” says Debbie. “We thought highly of the schools we had attended, so we told each of our kids that if they chose The University of Akron or Kent State [Stark] and lived at home, we’d pay their tuition and they could graduate debt-free. If they wanted to live on campus somewhere, they’d have to cover the extra expenses.”

Jennifer, Katie and Kristen took the deal. So did their son, Michael, who graduated from The University of Akron in 2014. Another son, Matthew, will graduate from The Ohio State University in 2015 — although he earned 18 credit hours at Kent State Stark while in the post-secondary program at Jackson High School.

“My mom definitely influenced me, but I ultimately chose to attend Kent State Stark because there were so many things that I loved about the campus,” says Jennifer (Rehfus) Brown. “The small class sizes, the opportunities to be actively involved on campus and being close to home all made the transition to college a lot easier for me.”

From a parent’s perspective, Debbie says Kent State Stark was the best choice for her daughters because of the close-to-home location, academic reputation and lower tuition cost.

“The professors at Kent State Stark were extremely caring and gave my kids all kinds of empathy during Mike’s illness and after he passed,” says Debbie. “They may not have gotten that on a larger campus.”

Debbie is grateful to Mike’s colleagues and friends who generously contributed to the Rehfus children’s college tuition through the Michael J. Rehfus Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Mike had been the Stark County Engineer for six years before he died in 2009.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Today, the Rehfus family is still rooted in Jackson Township, where Debbie works as a school nurse. Jennifer teaches second grade in the Jackson Local School District and plans to graduate from Kent State Stark with her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction in May. Katie is a nurse at Akron Children’s Hospital.

“Kent State Stark does a lot for our community,” says Debbie. “It’s an excellent university and produces quality graduates who contribute to our local economy. Our daughters have not had difficulty finding jobs close to home.”

Keeping her family close is even more special to Debbie now that grandchildren are on the way. Both Jennifer and Katie are expecting their first babies in early 2015.

“I would definitely encourage my future children to go to Kent State or Kent State Stark,” says Jennifer.

And the Frank family legacy continues.
MILK FROM REITER DAIRY has nourished families in Akron, Canton and throughout Ohio for generations. Founded in 1933, Reiter Dairy was one of the first to homogenize milk, making raw milk more stable and preventing cream from rising to the top.

Rollin Reiter ran the family company following the death of his father and company co-founder, Harold Reiter, in 1967. He retired in 1993, after selling the company to Dean Foods.

However, Reiter and his wife, Dori, continue to nourish the Akron-Canton community with financial gifts to their valued hometown organizations, including Kent State University at Stark.

“We live in this community, so it’s nice to be able to alleviate needs right here in our own backyard,” says Reiter. Both Reiters were born and raised in Akron. Rollin graduated from Copley High School; Dori graduated from Akron’s Buchtel High School.

IMPRESSED BY KENT STATE STARK NURSING

The Reiters’ first gift to Kent State Stark, in 2007, established the Rollin and Dori Reiter Endowed Scholarship for nursing students. While neither of them had attended Kent State, they were impressed by the university’s impact on the area and on them, personally.

“Rollin had been in rehabilitation at Aultman Woodlawn after having knee replacement,” says Dori. “The nurses there were so skillful and most of them seemed to have graduated from Kent State!”

In 2014, the Reiters funded a $50,000 charitable gift annuity with appreciated stock. At maturity, the annuity will be directed to their scholarship, greatly increasing its endowment level.

WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?

The Reiters’ charitable gift annuity is a contract between them and the Kent State University Foundation. In exchange for transferring cash or other assets (such as stock) to the foundation, Kent State promises to pay the Reiters a guaranteed amount each year over their lifetimes.

A portion of the Reiters’ payments is tax free, and the Reiters receive a charitable deduction for the remainder of the gift.

“Charitable gift annuities are our favorite method of contributing,” says Rollin. “The university gets to keep the money when we pass on, but in the meantime, we get some of the income we need to live. In addition, we get the advantage of not paying capital gains taxes on the stock that was appreciated.”

The Reiters have given charitable gift annuities to several other organizations, including Boy Scouts of America, Norwich University (Rollin’s alma mater) and Northwestern University (Dori’s alma mater).

THE REITERS’ FIRST GIFT TO KENT STATE STARK, IN 2007, ESTABLISHED THE ROLLIN AND DORI REITER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSING STUDENTS.
Students in Assistant Professor Jen Cunningham’s Writing in the Public Sphere course learned a lot about syntax, tone, diction ... and the process of dying. Each was assigned to write a life journal honoring a terminally ill patient at Crossroads Hospice in Green, Ohio.

Throughout fall semester 2014, students met multiple times with their partner patients and families, encouraging them to reminisce. They recorded stories about the patient’s childhood, career, first car, beloved pet, favorite song and other memories. They collected family photos and compiled everything into a hardbound memento, which they presented to the family at the end of the semester.

Crossroads Hospice has been publishing patients’ life journals for three years. The memoirs are authored by volunteers, usually college students taking courses in ethics or death and dying. This was the first time Crossroads had partnered with Kent State University at Stark and the first time with writing students.

“My hope was that students would learn the importance and challenge of written communication. They were writing to honor a person’s life,” says Cunningham of the service learning project. “But I also wanted them to learn an appreciation of humanity at all stages of living. Even while preparing to die, people want to be heard and respected.”

When senior English major Vanavia Weatherly started the project, she anticipated lots of tears and tissues. She was surprised to learn that terminally ill people can still exude joy and humor.

“The lady I interviewed smiled the entire time we were together,” says Weatherly. “She and her daughter told me about how she moved to the U.S. from London in her 20s, how her husband had been in the military, how much she had loved to cook and take cooking classes. She was excited to share her stories. We laughed a lot.”

The hands-on experience was life changing and fulfilling, according to Weatherly.

“When the life journal is for the patient’s daughter and her children — something memorable to pass down from generation to generation,” says Weatherly. “I’m speechless that I’m part of something like that.”
With a passion for American Sign Language, junior Maya Waller joins up with the deaf community to improve her fluency.
Maya Waller always got in trouble for playing with her family’s TTY (text telephone) machine. As a child, she was fascinated by the buttons that helped her hard-of-hearing aunt communicate. Now, a junior at Kent State University at Stark, she’s even more fascinated by communication in the deaf community.

After three semesters of American Sign Language (ASL), Waller, a psychology major, is considering adding ASL as a minor.

“My goal is to become a community or clinical counselor. Becoming fluent in ASL would allow me to provide counseling services to the deaf community, as well,” she says. “It’s such an amazing, beautiful culture and a cool language that just gets me excited.”

Hidden Gem

Waller was introduced to ASL by her sister who had studied it at Kent State Stark. She warned Waller that the class was challenging, but compelling.

“I had always known how to sign the alphabet, ‘please’ and ‘thank you,’ but my first ASL class blew my mind,” says Waller. “I discovered this hidden gem in American culture. You don’t know it’s there unless you’re looking for it.”

ASL is a visual language using hand and body movements, as well as facial expressions and eye contact. It’s considered the mainstream language for deaf people in the United States. Other countries have different sign languages. And some individuals or families invent “home” sign languages.

Knowing the signs isn’t enough. ASL also has its own sentence structure and grammatical rules, which can seem foreign to English speakers. For example, “The boy threw the ball,” is signed “boy throw ball.” To ask “What is your name?” an ASL user would sign “name you.”

No Talking, Please

Instructor Linda Gray, who is deaf, has been teaching ASL at Kent State Stark since 2010. Her classroom is an “immersion” environment, where no other language is used and vocalization of any kind is not permitted.

“In ASL I, we had a lot of overheads, so we could read the information Professor Gray wanted us to know. If we didn’t understand something she was signing, she’d write it out for us,” says Waller.

Now in ASL III, Waller has a larger vocabulary and has started to hone her receptive skills.

“It feels like my entire brain lights up when Professor Gray signs to us. It takes my full cognition to interpret what she’s saying,” says Waller. “ASL is brilliant when you think about it. You can get just as much across with a few signs and expressions as you can with a bunch of descriptive words.”

Out and About

Waller’s passion for ASL is contagious. She regularly attends events in the deaf community and recruits other Kent State Stark ASL students to join her. The classmates have attended Canton Silent Club socials, Deaf Night Out events in Kent and Cleveland, and bowling nights with the Deaf League in Akron.

Waller is quick to admit she’s a novice at ASL, even “bumbling” among the deaf community, but she’s fearless.

“Being in a social setting really makes you work,” says Waller. “The people there aren’t trying to teach you. They’re just chatting and you need to keep up.”

Seeing the deaf culture in action and learning different signs from ASL users with different “accents” is helping Waller become more fluent more quickly.

“I’m not super-fast or excellent at signing,” says Waller. “I have to ask people to sign slower or repeat things, but the deaf people at these events are so tolerant and so kind. They are there to hang out with each other, yet they are willing to interact with us and help foster our signing abilities.”

“A Heart for Signing

Gray applauds Waller’s enthusiasm.

“Her heart is in the program,” says Gray. “The more Maya signs, the more she improves. She uses lots of facial expressions — an important part of ASL — which seems to come naturally to her. I’m impressed by how much she really wants to know about the language, culture and deaf community.”

Waller will take one more ASL class at Kent State Stark before continuing classes at Kent Campus. She encourages other students to consider ASL, even if just to fulfill a language requirement. Yet, she stresses that learning ASL is not easy. It requires spending time in the deaf community, not just repeating phrases in class.

“ASL is worth more than a casual glance,” says Waller. “For me, it illuminates how incredible human ingenuity is. Humans speak different languages, with different vernacular and accents. Humans who can’t hear do the same thing by signing — and they communicate just as clearly.”

“It’s such an amazing, beautiful culture and a cool language that just gets me excited.”

— Maya Waller, junior psychology major
Grants are important to the mission of Kent State University at Stark.
The more funding we receive, the more we can:

- Provide students with diverse learning experiences
- Develop innovative teaching methods
- Pursue fascinating research, often involving our students
- Offer quality student services
- Strengthen ties with the community
- Enhance our picturesque campus

Read on to learn how some recently received grants are positively affecting our campus.

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**Grant Spotlight**

A wind turbine, a super-power microscope and more: Exciting things are happening at Kent State Stark, thanks to recent grants.

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**WIND TURBINE FOR THE SCIENCES BUILDING**

$28,000

Through a grant facilitated by Dr. Christopher Post, associate professor of geography, the Dominion Foundation awarded Kent State Stark $28,000 for a vertical wind turbine. Wind Turbines of Ohio, located in Alliance, will install the turbine just south of the campus’s new Sciences Building.

While the turbine will partially power the building, its primary purpose is education and research.

“Having a wind turbine as part of our campus landscape will make the study of wind power more real to students,” says Post. “It will help us recognize more clearly what wind power can do in our suburban environment and be a focal point for professor/student collaboration.”

Post plans to use the turbine in many of his courses, including Introduction to Geography and Physical Geography. Other faculty members will integrate the wind turbine and the data it produces with their biology, education, geography, geology, mathematics, physics and psychology courses.

“Providing students in various disciplines the opportunity to study energy theory and production, as well as related issues in policy, affordability and reliability; impact on wildlife; visual impact on landscapes; land and resources; and health and safety will help develop a skilled workforce and informed population regarding energy issues,” says Post.

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**PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIPS**

$150,000

Thanks to a Career Ready Internship Grant from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corp., Kent State Stark is funding paid student internships at local organizations that otherwise couldn’t pay interns or wouldn’t offer internships. Student salaries are fully funded, at $10 an hour, up to $10,000 per organization. Qualified interns are juniors or seniors with proven financial need.

“Some employers won’t even look at a new graduate’s résumé unless it shows an internship,” says Faith Sheaffer-Polen, director of The Corporate University at Kent State Stark. “We’re working to get that message to our students and provide them with more internship opportunities.”

From fall 2014 through summer 2015, the Career Ready Internship Grant will fund 64 internships for Kent State Stark students.

Senior business management major Brandy Burgess has one of them. Burgess is an intern at Voices of Canton Inc., where she is implementing a new database of member contact information and helping with fundraising.

“If this internship were unpaid, I wouldn’t be able to do it,” says Burgess, who has worked part-time since starting college. This year, her internship is her part-time job.

“Getting experience with project management, interacting with customers and fundraising will help me pursue future career opportunities,” says Burgess.
The National Science Foundation awarded Assistant Professor of Biology Matthew Lehnert funds toward the purchase of a scanning electron microscope (SEM). The microscope will be the first of its kind at a Kent State regional campus.

"With magnification abilities up to 300,000 times, we’ll be able to magnify very small things, such as viruses," says Lehnert. “Other microscopes at Kent State Stark can only magnify up to 1,000 times.”

SEMs help researchers study organisms and other objects at nano- and micro-scales (very small scales). Lehnert will use the SEM to further his study of insect mouthparts, for example, to determine how structures, such as microbumps on butterfly mouthparts, channel liquids for efficient fluid uptake abilities. Other researchers will use the SEM for close-up studies of fossils, minerals, bacteria, viruses and more.

The SEM also will provide:

- **3D imaging**, so investigators can do topographical mapping of a structure.
- **Elemental analysis** to identify chemicals making up a structure.
- **Remote access**, so professors can display what is showing on the SEM and even control the SEM from their classroom or lecture hall and other campuses.

“Older SEM models are large machines that are sometimes difficult to use,” says Lehnert. “Ours will be relatively easy to learn. After being trained, undergrads will feel comfortable using it for their own research projects.”

From another National Science Foundation grant, Lehnert received funding to study fluid-feeding mechanisms in insects. The project is a collaboration between Lehnert and investigators at Clemson University.

Two Kent State Stark students per year (for three years) will spend one summer month working with biologists and engineers at Clemson. The grant will fund students’ travel, as well as room and board, in Clemson, South Carolina.

Lehnert has been involved in this research since doing post-doctoral research at Clemson. Students at Kent State Stark are currently studying insect mouthpart functionality with Lehnert.

“We’re looking for common themes in fluid-uptake mechanisms among butterflies, moths and other fluid-feeding organisms, such as flies,” says Lehnert. “By better understanding their uptake mechanisms, engineers can design more efficient microfluidic devices, which are applicable to the medical industry and genomics.”
Meet Our NEW FACULTY

Dr. Amy Damrow
Dr. Chih-Ling Liou

Dr. Martha Daniels  Natalie Mallis
Dr. Ann Martinez

Dr. Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic  Dr. Gwendolyn Purifoye

Misty Jones  Dr. Gregory Smith
Dr. Amy Damrow
Dr. Amy Damrow is an assistant professor in the Education Department. She earned her doctorate degree in curriculum, teaching and educational policy from Michigan State University, where she previously taught. She specializes in gender, justice and environmental change related to education.

Dr. Chih-Ling Liou
Dr. Chih-Ling Liou is an assistant professor in Kent State Stark’s Human Development and Family Studies Department. Her doctorate degree from Virginia Tech is in human development with a concentration in adult development and aging. She earned her master’s degree in gerontology from University of North Carolina-Charlotte and was a visiting assistant professor at Miami University of Ohio. Her research focuses on social support of China’s older population.

Dr. Martha (Marty) Daniels
Kent State Stark welcomes Dr. Marty Daniels, a lecturer in the Undergraduate Studies Department with research that specializes on younger readers and foundational reading skills. She began her career teaching in Plain Local Schools and later, held an adjunct position at Kent State Stark. She holds a doctorate degree in teaching leadership from Walden University and a master’s degree in reading from The University of Akron.

Dr. Gwendolyn Purifoye
The newest assistant professor in the Sociology Department is Dr. Gwendolyn Purifoye. Her doctorate in sociology is from Loyola University, where she was the recipient of the President’s Medallion and Arthur Schmitt Fellowship. Her research is focused on inequality, urban and community sociology, deviance and criminology. Prior to joining Kent State Stark, Purifoye taught at Loyola University and Governors State University.

Linda Gray
Linda Gray, a lecturer in American Sign Language (ASL), joined Stark Campus’ Modern and Classical Language Studies Department after many years of teaching within the Kent State University system. She is secretary of the Canton Silent Club, in addition to being involved with other local public organizations. Gray earned her master’s degree in social work from The University of Akron.

Natalie Mallis
The Music Department added Natalie Mallis, an assistant professor that brings superior skills in choral conducting and an engaging personality to the classroom. Her master’s in choral conducting is from Kent State University and she is completing her doctorate degree in music from University of North Texas. She previously taught at Millikin University in Illinois and Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic
Dr. Tatjana (Tanya) Hrubik-Vulanovic joined Kent State Stark as an assistant professor of mathematics. She earned her doctorate degree in educational psychology with a specialization in instructional technology at Kent State University. Previously, she taught at Stark Campus as an adjunct professor and was an employee at Diebold Corporation.

Dr. Ann Martinez
Dr. Ann Martinez, an assistant professor, brings many years of teaching experience to the English Department. Her doctorate degree in medieval and early modern English is from University of Kansas, where she was the program assistant for the Center of Teaching Excellence. Her master’s in medieval literature is from San Diego State University. Martinez’s research in middle English language and literature focuses on Chaucer and Arthurian literature.

Misty Jones
The new assistant professor in Stark Campus’ music technology program is Misty Jones. Her master’s in music technology innovation is from Berklee College of Music, where she served as director of music technology innovation. She is skilled in music technology, production analysis and songwriting. In addition, she is an experienced leader with proficient communication skills.

Dr. Gwendolyn Purifoye
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Dr. Gregory Smith
Kent State Stark welcomes Dr. Gregory Smith, an assistant professor of biology. His doctorate degree in zoology is from University of Oklahoma and his master’s degree in biology is from Mississippi State University. Smith, who previously taught at The University of Akron, focuses his research on conservation biology, biogeography and macroecology. He currently serves as the executive director of Ohio Biological Survey.
Stark Campus faculty receive university teaching honors

In October 2014, Assistant Professor of Economics Deepraj Mukherjee was recognized as Kent State University’s Scholar of the Month by the College of Business Administration’s dean and faculty. Each month, one faculty researcher from Kent State’s eight campuses is honored for recent work that has had a vital impact on their field.

Mukherjee’s research focuses on international trade, development, macroeconometrics and cross-cultural issues. His work on institutional financial economics and the use of virtual and collaborative teams to improve institutional efficiency has been frequently cited by researchers. He has published peer-reviewed articles in numerous journals, including International Review of Applied Economics, Global Economy Journal and Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy. Mukherjee is a reviewer for International Review of Applied Economics and International Journal of Emerging Markets and serves on the editorial board of International Journal of Business and Economic Development.

Stark Campus’ Beth Campbell received a prestigious Outstanding Teaching Award in fall 2014. The associate lecturer of criminology and justice studies teaches a variety of courses, including criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence, court functions, justice administration, women in crime and justice, police role and forensics, among others.

Kent State University presents the annual Outstanding Teaching Award to three faculty members from the eight-campus system who consistently demonstrate extraordinary skill in the classroom. The award is sponsored by the University Teaching Council.

Campbell received several glowing nominations. According to one of her students, “She is not only an outstanding professor, but also a mentor, collaborator and consultant to other faculty and teaching assistants. She helps enrich the scholarship of teaching and learning throughout the campus.”

“It’s hard to put into words how touched and honored I am to receive this award,” says Campbell. “I devote myself to my craft and my students and it means so much to me to be acknowledged for my efforts. I am blessed to have such a wonderful department, amazing fellow professors and incredible students to work with. I feel there is no better place to work!”

Fall graduates motivated by age-old words of wisdom

During Kent State University at Stark’s Seventh Annual Fall Commencement ceremony, 100 new Kent State alumni proudly walked across the stage. The event was held at the Umstattd Performing Arts Hall in Canton on December 12, 2014.

The insightful speaker was Dr. Claudia Khoury-Bowers, professor of education and department coordinator for graduate education at Kent State Stark. She humorously recalled the wise advice of her grandfather, as well as invaluable lessons she has learned, to encourage the graduates to strive for success.
Scholarships help Stark students study in Italy

Kent State University’s Florence Summer Institute was launched in June 2014 to provide a four-week snapshot of Kent State Florence, a one-semester, study-abroad program that the university has offered for more than 40 years. The condensed summer version encourages a more diverse student population to increase their global competitiveness through education that includes a unique opportunity to experience Italian culture.

The inaugural program was so successful, Kent State’s Office of Global Education extended a generous offer to regional campus students for summer 2015. The first five Kent State Stark students whose applications were accepted into the program received $500 scholarships for their trip expenses.

During the program, students study at Palazzo dei Cerchi, exposing them to modern and 13th-century Florence. The prestigious and ancient palace, acquired by Kent State in 2003, is located in the center of Florence.

This summer, students will have the option to take an additional business course and extend the program to five weeks.

“Studying abroad and learning about different cultures doesn’t only prepare students for future jobs, it also broadens their minds,” says Dr. Marcello Fantoni, associate provost of the Office of Global Education. “It is a good investment for success and a unique experience in their lives.”

For more information on Kent State’s Florence Summer Institute, visit www.kent.edu/globaleducation/kent-state-florence-summer-institute.

Featured Speakers teach lessons for success

The first events of Kent State Stark’s Featured Speakers Series’ 24th season generously provided relevant tools for success that were gleaned from baseball and comic books.

Paul DePodesta and Oakland Athletics GM Billy Beane led one of the worst teams in Major League Baseball to its first winning season in seven years with his unique skill of evaluating and measuring talent. In the movie Moneyball, DePodesta was portrayed by actor Jonah Hill. His entertaining anecdotes about baseball were mixed with advice on how to translate his strategies into success in business and in life.

A creative mind behind Marvel Comics also visited Kent State Stark and revealed that everyone can be a hero. Bill Rosemann told Stark Campus students he earned his current position by getting to work on time with a good attitude and a willingness to accept low-level responsibilities to gain experience. He encouraged the audience to be heroes of their own stories, like comic book characters. We can help change the world. We must figure out what talents we have. We must choose to use those talents for good.
Stark Campus Faculty Achievements

**Cynthia Barb**, associate professor of mathematics, presented “Extending the Area Model” at the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics 64th Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 6-7, 2014.


**Joel Carbonell**, assistant professor of political science, co-authored An Empirical Analysis of U.S. State Court Citation Practices to International Human Social Rights Treaties in the International Journal of Human Rights.


Co-authored the essay, Living Wage (A.M. Drinkard & L.N. Drinkard), which was published in The Social History of the American Family: An Encyclopedia (SAGE Publications Inc.).


Co-submitted a U.S. provisional patent application for a new agrobacterium strain for plant transformation.


Co-authored Proceedings of the 20th International Conference on Distributed Multimedia Systems 2014 Workshop on Distance Education Technology, pages 375-382.


**Gro Hovhannisyan**, associate professor of mathematics, presented “Integration of Nonlinear Equations on a Time-space Scale by Inverse Scattering Method” at the American Math Society Meeting #1105 at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, North Carolina, Nov. 7-9, 2014.

Authoried Ablowitz-Ladik Hierarchy of Integrable Equations on a Time-space Scale in the Journal of Mathematical Physics, 11 pages.


**Michele Heron**, assistant professor of education, presented “I Learn More When I Teach, convince Yourself and the Class” at the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 5-7, 2014.

**Staff Achievements**


**Chris Post**, associate professor of geography, presented “Memorization and Obscuration: Commemorating May 4 at Kent State” at the International Society of Landscape, Place and Material Culture in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Oct. 8-12, 2014.

**Carrie Schweitzer**, professor of geology, gave the following presentations at the International Paleontological Congress in Mendoza, Argentina, Sept. 26 – Oct. 5, 2014:

- “Paleobiogeographic Patterns in Gondwanan Decapod Crustaceans”
- “Volcanic Ash as a Potential Cause of Mass Kill of Cenozoic Decapod Crustaceans in Argentina”
- “Decapoda Crustacean Diversity and Environments through Geologic Time”

**Denise Seachrist**, interim dean and chief administrative officer, was inducted to serve a two-year term as president of the Communal Studies Association, which encourages and facilitates the preservation, restoration and public interpretation of America’s historic communal sites, Nov. 2014.


**Faith Sheaffer-Polens**, director of The Corporate University, presented “Reducing Customer Service Stress” at the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services in Canton, Ohio, Oct. 21, 2014.

**Amanda L. F. Weyant**, student accessibility services coordinator, co-presented “One University, Many Campuses” at the Ohio Association for Higher Education and Disability Conference in Clermont, Ohio, Oct. 10, 2014.
Stark County’s Conference Center

Hold your next meeting, trade show or business event at Kent State University at Stark’s Conference Center. Take advantage of a distraction-free environment, state-of-the-art technology and our expert support and service to make your event a success.