Dear members and friends of Kent State University at Stark,

As any educator or student will tell you, real education — self-education — isn’t limited to the classroom. The classroom is just the catalyst, the starting point. The best education offers students opportunities to combine classroom knowledge and academic principles with hands-on practical proficiency.

In this issue of Encompass, you will read informative and engaging stories illustrating Kent State University at Stark’s commitment to multiculturalism and global education.

This past summer, 14 Kent State Stark students spent five weeks taking classes in Florence, Italy. When discussions with Associate Provost for Global Education Marcello Fantoni began, our hope was that five students from the campus would be interested in the program. You can imagine our delight when 14 enrolled!

With help from Dr. James Blank, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, all of the students received some type of financial assistance. Each minimally received a $500 scholarship, and one generous private donor, Mrs. Bonnie Barton, provided additional funds to support Stark Campus students attending the Florence Summer Institute.

Studying abroad is a life-changing and enriching experience. We expect our global programs to continue to grow, and we hope to send many more Kent State Stark students around the world to expand their education.

The cover story of this edition reveals how Kent State Stark became the first of Kent State’s seven regional campuses to reach across the world and partner with an international university. For the fall semester, we were privileged to host 11 students and a faculty member from China’s Shenzhen Polytechnic. Stark Campus and Shenzhen Polytechnic administrators plan to continue this program in the Fall 2016 semester. We also are interested in sending Kent State Stark students to study in China. Keep reading for more global success stories that are positively affecting our students.

In closing, I invite you to visit the campus in person to see the engaged learning and teaching that occurs each and every day. Please join us for the remaining events of our 2015-16 cultural arts season. Help us celebrate the silver anniversary of our Featured Speakers Series with engaging lectures from civic leader Alan Page and famed astronaut Mark Kelly. Attend the theatre production commemorating 200 years of Canton’s history as we partner with The Repository to present an original play by our talented theatre department.

Warm regards,

Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.
The Featured Speakers Series Celebrates 25 Years

For 25 years, Kent State University at Stark’s Featured Speakers Series has been a treasure of unforgettable memories and inspirational encounters. The 2015-16 season marks the silver anniversary of this engaging program.

More than 120 world-renowned personalities have been introduced to local residents as Kent State Stark’s gift to the community. There has never been a cost for admission, which is appreciated by the capacity crowds, often surpassing 600 people.

Fall semester 2015 welcomed two more extraordinary individuals to campus, now listed among former Featured Speakers Billie Jean King, Benazir Bhutto, Anderson Cooper and many more.

Music industry entrepreneur Troy Carter freely shared business tips that brought him from a struggling rap artist in West Philadelphia to the founder of Atom Factory, a pioneering media and music management company. He not only talked about assisting others on their path to success, he offered an internship to a Stark Campus student aspiring to be in the music production industry.

Award-winning journalist Soledad O’Brien told real-life, relatable stories about diversity in America. The producer of moving documentaries such as the Black in America and Latina in America series showed touching video clips of her productions, including Beyond Bravery: The Women of 9/11.

The community is invited to continue celebrating the Featured Speakers Series’ 25th anniversary in the spring semester with former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page and astronaut Mark Kelly.

For more information about the Featured Speaker Series, visit www.kent.edu/stark/featured-speakers-series.
国际奇迹
Chinese Students Study Abroad at Kent State Stark, Bringing Internationalism to Our Doorstep.

Why would Americans want cars without roofs?

You’d never see that in Shenzhen, a city of seven million in southeastern China. And the word for it, “convertible,” immediately sends Chinese students to the translation app on their smartphones.

Canton, Ohio, is an international wonder to students from Shenzhen Polytechnic University. The first group of 11 studied abroad at Kent State University at Stark during Fall semester 2015. A second cohort will arrive in Fall 2016 to participate in the ongoing program.

It’s the first time a Kent State regional campus has partnered with an international university, and it’s creating a model for even more global education opportunities right here in Stark County.

“International exposure is so important for students. It changes their view of the world — and themselves,” says Dr. A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, assistant dean of academic affairs. “While Kent State encourages and facilitates global education through study-abroad opportunities, students who aren’t able to study abroad can benefit from internationalism coming to them.”

Kasturiarachi says Kent State Stark intends to grow its international and multicultural studies programs. Hosting students from Shenzhen is part of a strategic goal to increase the campus’s global presence.

COMING TO AMERICA

The idea for bringing Shenzhen students to Kent State Stark started on social media. Dr. Bei Cai, associate professor of communication studies, noticed a post by a friend from her college days at Xi’an Foreign Languages University in China.

“Lan Wei and I studied English together and now she teaches English at Shenzhen Polytechnic,” says Cai. “She was looking for opportunities for some of her students to study in the U.S. I talked to our two deans at Kent State Stark and they were enthused about the idea. Three months later, the students were on campus.”
Everything happened at top speed, she says. Kent State’s Office of Global Education helped design the program as a study-abroad experience, a less complex format than transferring credits, for example. Living arrangements — a potential problem for a regional campus with no dorms — fell into place. A local hotel agreed to house the students and their professor, plus provide free transportation to and from campus and anywhere within a five-mile radius.

Kasturiarachi and Dr. Robert Sturr, associate professor of English, developed curriculum for 16 credit hours of English as a second language (ESL), including studies on American culture and business. All visiting Shenzhen students are business English majors. Jeffrey Judge, director of the ESL Center within Kent State’s Department of English, was instrumental in approving courses for the program, which was ultimately delivered by Kent State Stark faculty.

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

“It’s best to learn language and culture in a natural setting,” says Cai. “Even if you can speak English, you need to understand why Americans speak the way they do. Studying in the U.S. is invaluable for these students.”

One of the biggest cultural surprises for Shenzhen students (other than lack of clotheslines and common Chinese groceries) has been Americans’ direct style of communication. According to Dr. Stephen Neaderhiser, assistant professor of English, who teaches business ESL, “Americans get right to the point when communicating, but people in Asia typically don’t. They invest more time in conveying politeness and diplomacy.”

That’s the difference between “Please send me the file” and “I find myself in need of information in the file. If it is at your disposal, would you please provide it at your convenience?”

“We discuss cross-cultural communication so they learn what’s appropriate in American style,” says Neaderhiser. “It’s also helpful to share Shenzhen students’ insights with Kent State Stark students, so they can begin to understand the other side.”

In another course on American culture, Shenzhen students explore current topics in U.S. news.

“We’ve talked about immigration and why it has become a controversial subject,” says Sturr. “We compared Americans’ ideas with how the Chinese would think. Food was another hot topic for these students, so we introduced them to First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! campaign and discussed Americans’ varying views on it.”

ENGAGING IN ENGLISH

Engagement, including speaking (and thinking in) English and interacting with Americans, is a main goal for the Shenzhen students. Professors encourage them to participate in events on and off campus. For example, the group of students enjoyed First Friday in Canton, went apple picking at Kuner’s Orchard in Green and cheered on the Golden Flashes at a football game in Dix Stadium.

“Each week, I asked students what new things they experienced,” says Neaderhiser. “We talked about the cultural nuances, to help them make sense of it all. They were improving their English, but learning so much more.”
Kent State Stark students, faculty and staff have been generous in hosting the Shenzhen students and making them feel welcome, says Cai. And that’s a two-way benefit.

“There isn’t a lot of diversity in Stark County,” she says. “Bringing an international presence here allows people to talk to and learn from each other. Shenzhen students are helping American students broaden their global awareness.”

The program has been so successful that Stark Campus and Shenzhen Polytechnic administrators are not only planning to continue it in future semesters, Stark students may study abroad in China.

“I’m learning as much from the Shenzhen students as they are from me,” says Sturr. “I feel my worldview is expanding because of them.”

“International exposure is so important for students. It changes their view of the world — and themselves.”

Dr. A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, assistant dean of academic affairs
SENIOR BERT CRAWFORD’S WORLD IS BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THANKS TO THE KENT STATE FLORENCE SUMMER INSTITUTE.
Fifteen years ago, Bert Crawford couldn’t have imagined spending a summer in Florence, Italy. Now a senior biology major at Kent State University at Stark, Crawford spent his early years in and out of Cleveland-area foster homes. With a difficult past and an uncertain future, his view of the world was bleak, at best.

That changed when he became part of a supportive Canton family. Today, his world seems brighter than ever — and bigger, thanks to five weeks at the Kent State Florence Summer Institute.

“I believe everyone has turning points in their life that can help them gain a better perspective,” says Crawford. “Going to Italy was one of mine. It began a new chapter in my life.”

**“THE ENTIRE TRIP WAS AMAZING”**

Crawford was one of 14 Kent State Stark students to attend the Florence Summer Institute in 2015. The summer program, launched in 2014, is an abbreviated version of the full-semester, study-abroad option that Kent State has been offering in Florence for more than 40 years.

Students attend classes in the Palazzo dei Cerchi, a renovated, 13th-century palace, and the Palazzo Bartolini Baldelli, just steps from the historic Basilica of Santa Croce, burial site of Galileo and Michelangelo. Kent State faculty teach in various subject areas and incorporate city walks, museum visits and field trips.

Each summer, students can select two courses and earn up to seven credits. All courses are taught in English and meet Monday through Thursday, leaving long weekends for exploring the region.

“Where do I begin?” says Crawford about his summer experience. “I went to Rome and saw the Colosseum. I went to Cinque Terre, Sienna and Milan. The entire trip was amazing — from the way Italians dressed to their gelato. I met with so many different people from different parts of the world.”

Crawford and other Kent State students lived together in apartments throughout the heart of Florence. It was an invaluable trip, he says, but one he almost didn’t take.

**“I WAS THINKING IT WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE”**

“Like most people, I was thinking it would be too expensive,” Crawford says. “My friend, Ashley, just kept encouraging me to go. At the last minute, I changed my mind and went. Little did I know it would be one of the best decisions of my life.”

While the trip costs $3,500 plus tuition, many students received financial assistance. Crawford received a $500 scholarship from Kent State Stark, as did all Stark Campus students who attended. He also received a $500 scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences, which gave scholarships to every Arts and Sciences major taking one of the college’s courses in Florence. Crawford took a biology course in evolution, as well as *The City of Florence: Achieving Balance between Architecture and Ecology*.

The College of Arts and Sciences offered scholarships to stir up interest in its courses at Kent State Florence, but also to give students incentive to travel.

“Studying abroad opens up new ideas,” says Dr. James Blank, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “Students get to see the world in a way they never would if they stayed home. It is part of the College of Arts and Sciences’ mission to work across our eight-campus system to make this opportunity available for all of our students.”

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**Why study abroad?**

Students who study abroad say the experience provides:

- The adventure of a lifetime
- Personal growth
- Competitive advantage as a job candidate
- Increased global awareness
Kristin Stasiowski, director of the College of Arts and Sciences’ Office of International Programs and Education Abroad, hires student ambassadors on regional campuses, including Kent State Stark, to promote study-abroad opportunities to their peers.

“We want to demonstrate that there are people from their community who have had successful, meaningful experiences abroad in spite of financial difficulties, work and family obligations or other common challenges,” says Stasiowski.

“I’VE BECOME MORE CONFIDENT”

“When you’re away from your home or family, it gives you time to explore more about yourself,” says Crawford. “I’ve become more confident as a person and student. Being there helped broaden my perspective on different cultures. This will be very helpful with my life journey of bringing the best out of people.”

Crawford looks forward to returning to Italy some day — possibly to work and volunteer during medical school. He hopes to become an oncologist. He also looks forward to telling more people about his Florence experience, particularly inner-city kids. He’s currently working to become approved as a mentor for teens in the foster system.

“I am a living example of how you can bounce back from anything,” says Crawford. “I hope my story, including my trip to Florence, can help inspire others to turn away from the streets or anything that is not helping them live to their fullest potential.”

Students get to see the world in a way they never would if they stayed home.

Dr. James Blank, dean of Kent State University’s College of Arts and Sciences

Trip photos provided by Bert Crawford.
Celebrating Scholarships

Student scholarship recipients and their benefactors come together to celebrate education and opportunity.

Jackson Township resident Bonnie Barton enjoys good theater, art and world travel. After moving from the East Coast to Stark County in 2008, she was pleasantly surprised to find all of those interests supported by Kent State University at Stark.

“My first connection with Kent State Stark was to see their dramatic productions, which were quite good,” she says. “Later, the campus’s Gallery 6000 hosted an exhibition of paintings by my late husband, David Grant Roth. That was when I first met the [former] director of advancement [Linda Fergason] and began exploring my desire to support higher education.”

In 2015, Barton generously contributed to Kent State Stark’s Study-Abroad Scholarship Fund, helping subsidize the tuition of two students, seniors Bert Crawford and Candice Oprian, who attended the Kent State Florence Summer Institute.

“Summer Institute abroad is such a special opportunity, one which allows students to magnify their traditional education,” says Barton, who earned degrees from Pomona College and Columbia University. “Travel broadens perspectives and, in this case, could provide even greater relevance and depth to studies — and at such a formative time in students’ lives. Plus, I love Florence! Who wouldn’t?”

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Barton was one of 31 benefactors who celebrated with student scholarship recipients at Kent State Stark’s annual Scholarship Dinner in October. Crawford and Oprian were speakers during the program.

The event celebrated more than 100 privately funded and institutional scholarships distributed in 2015-16. More than $120,000 was distributed to nearly 70 students. Included this year were three new scholarships.

- The James and Patricia Ripple Scholarship, for students working their way through college, was awarded to Megan Parfel, Raeann Risden and Jordan Venables.
- The Betty J. Clementz Music Scholarship, for freshman music majors planning to attend the Stark Campus full time, was awarded to Lauren Horner.

“Today, more than ever, private support is critical to helping students achieve their goals.”

Karen Fettig, director of advancement

To contribute to the Kent State University at Stark General Scholarship Fund or the Study Abroad Fund, visit www.kent.edu/stark/giving-opportunities and click on the ribbon. For more information, contact Karen Fettig at 330-244-3225 or kfettig@kent.edu.
Where in the World?

Many are traveling the globe to conduct research or present findings at international conferences. Here’s a global view of some faculty members’ recent projects.

Where in the World are Kent State University at Stark’s faculty members?

Great Britain and Germany

**Dr. Ralph Menning, Assistant Professor of History**

**Collaborating with St. Luca School of Arts on biennial exhibitions**

Every two years, McWhorter and Kent State Stark students travel to Brussels to work with students and faculty at St. Luca School of Arts. Students exchange ideas on contemporary art and work together on art projects. Faculty members deliver lectures and critique the students’ collaborative work.

“Research methodology includes the creation of a number of works on paper and canvas, international exhibitions, lectures and workshops,” says McWhorter. “I have mounted three exhibitions in Brussels so far, and two Belgian artists have exhibited their work and participated in student art critiques and workshops at Kent State Stark.”

**Belgium**

**Jack McWhorter, Associate Professor of Art**

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**Argentina**

**Dr. Carrie Schweitzer, Professor of Geology**

**Studying the effects of volcanic eruptions on marine animals in the fossil record**

“In Argentina, there are well-recorded events in which fossil crabs show evidence of being smothered by volcanic ash,” says Schweitzer. “Working internationally yields the opportunity to collaborate with experts in a particular area and learn from them about local geology and animals.”

**Great Britain and Germany**

**Dr. Ralph Menning, Assistant Professor of History**

**Studying the modern history of international relations – specifically, the origins and politics of World War I**

“Research on this subject depends on access to official and private papers in a variety of archives in a variety of countries,” says Menning. “For instance, in a recent article on the Bosnian Crisis of 1908-09, I managed to correlate findings from the archive of Baring’s Bank in London with material from the German foreign ministry archive in Berlin to yield a completely new perspective.”

Menning was elected a visiting fellow at Churchill College at the University of Cambridge. The archive there houses the papers of Winston Churchill and many of his political contemporaries. “It is a gold mine for anyone doing research on 20th-century British politics,” says Menning, who stays at the college during his archival tours in Great Britain.
China

DR. CARRIE SCHWEITZER, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY

Investigating Triassic (235-million-year-old) shrimps, lobsters and other crustaceans with colleagues at the Chengdu Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources

“These are some of the earliest occurrences of these animals,” says Schweitzer. “We are working in the field to collect and map fossils in their original position. Collecting fossils has enabled us to name new species and resolve ecological relationships between and among marine species.”

China

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Germany

DR. RELJA VULANOVIC, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

Studying quantitative linguistics

Quantitative linguistics uses mathematical tools to better understand language.

“I create mathematical models to analyze linguistic phenomena, such as syntax — how words and phrases are arranged,” says Vulanovic.

In 2009, Vulanovic spent his sabbatical at the Department of Computational Linguistics at the University of Trier in Germany. He will attend a conference there in August 2016. He also has recently participated in quantitative linguistics conferences in Serbia and Czech Republic.

“The number of researchers in this field is relatively small, and most of them are in Germany, Eastern Europe, China and Japan,” says Vulanovic. “To maintain direct contact and share research results and ideas with my international colleagues, I often travel to overseas conferences.”

Kenya

LILLIAN PRINCE, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS

Inspiring minority students to pursue medical careers

In August 2015, Prince and five students from Akron’s Buchtel Community Learning Center visited Innovation Eye Centre in Kisii, Kenya, to shadow clinicians and volunteer in a vision screening camp. It was part of the Biostatistics and Research Awareness Initiatives Network Inc. (BRAIN), a nonprofit that Prince launched to raise minority students’ interest in medical and biostatistics careers.

African Americans receive only about five to six percent of degrees in statistics, according to the American Statistical Association. “Our males are especially under-represented in STEM,” says Prince.

Before the trip, students spent the summer analyzing data, networking with minority professionals, creating eye posters and shadowing ophthalmology technicians at Akron Children’s Hospital.

“Traveling abroad gave students an opportunity to compare and contrast vision services in the U.S. with those in a developing country,” says Prince. “The trip awakened their curiosity about the broader world and encouraged them to give back to their communities.”

China

JACK MCWHORTER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART

Leading the biennial “Travel Study in Fine Arts: Painting in China” course

This course will be offered for the third time in March 2016 and will take McWhorter and several students to Beijing, Chengdu and Xi’an. In Chengdu, they will spend a day at Sichuan University, working on collaborative projects with faculty and students.

“Travel study expands students’ international exposure and enriches their global experience,” says McWhorter. “One of our program’s course assignments, the I See You project, uses interactive technology and social media to explore collaborative art-making across national borders. Documented as a photo collage, the project showcases students’ artwork and engagement with their Chinese counterparts.”

Results of past I See You projects have been published in the Visual Arts Research journal.
Attended a meeting about the program at the Kent Campus.

Dr. Angela Guercio became Glass’ faculty sponsor. Guercio will help Glass carry out projects.

Sent a proposal to the Stark Campus deans. They agreed to sponsor the cost.

Glass became a fellow after completing six weeks of training in fall 2015.

Professor Angela Guercio and Samantha Glass
Sophomore Samantha Glass becomes Kent State Stark’s first University Innovation Fellow. Her efforts will spark new opportunities for student innovation, entrepreneurship, design and creativity on campus.

Sophomore computer science major Samantha Glass had forgotten how much she loved coding. She’d gotten lost in larger classes on a larger campus, wasn’t doing well academically and was just about ready to give up when she transferred to Kent State University at Stark.

“I retook a computer science course here, with Professor [Angela] Guercio and remembered why I had chosen my major,” says Glass, crediting the smaller class size and personal attention from faculty. “I rediscovered my passion for technology and innovation, and now I’m also passionate about Kent State Stark.”

Today, Glass spends weekends at hackathons (computer programming competitions) around Ohio and surrounding states. A Computer Club member, she helped plan and judge Kent Hack Enough, Ohio’s largest collegiate hackathon, at the Kent Campus in October. She designs Android apps for fun. And she’s working to spread her enthusiasm for all things creative and entrepreneurial as Kent State Stark’s first-ever member of University Innovation Fellowship.

STUDENTS INSPIRING STUDENTS

This national fellowship program trains student leaders to create new opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking and creativity at their schools. Operated by the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation (Epicenter), which is funded by the National Science Foundation, the program inspires fellows to design innovation spaces, start entrepreneurship organizations, host experiential learning events and work with faculty to develop new courses.

University Innovation Fellowship has trained nearly 500 fellows at more than 130 schools. Fellows range from undergraduates to Ph.D. students and major in a variety of fields, from engineering to architecture.

“One of the fellows at the Kent Campus invited me to come to a meeting about the program,” says Glass. “She wanted me to apply and offered to help me find funding. Weeks later, I sent a proposal to the Stark Campus deans, telling them who I was and what I wanted to do for Stark. We talked more about it and they agreed to sponsor the cost of my fellowship.”

Glass became a fellow after completing six weeks of training in fall 2015. She joins seven other Kent State student fellows from Kent and Tuscarawas campuses.

NEW IDEAS FOR KENT STATE STARK

As part of her training, Glass analyzed Kent State Stark’s innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities — everything from labs and competitions to business development resources, such as the Small Business Development Center and SCORE. Now she will begin planning ways to leverage or supplement them.

Kent State’s fellows meet every two weeks and attend occasional regional meetings to learn from other schools and discuss best practices. Each spring, they attend a national meeting at Stanford University in California, where University Innovation Fellowship began.

“I’d like to get more Stark Campus students into the program so we can build a team and tackle things together,” says Glass. “I have a lot of ideas — maybe creating a new lab or innovation space. I’m just getting started.”

Dr. Angela Guercio, associate professor of computer science, is Glass’ faculty sponsor. She helps Glass carry out projects.

“Sami is an exceptional student,” says Guercio. “She’s full of ideas, committed and passionate about what she does. When she came to me about the fellowship, I immediately agreed to help. She’s perfect for this opportunity.”

GRASS-ROOTS CHANGE FOR UNIVERSITIES

The University Innovation Fellowship empowers students and prepares them with creative, problem-solving skills they will need for next-generation careers, adds Guercio.

“Students make a university, so getting their input and allowing them to participate in changing and growing the university only makes sense,” she says.

That’s especially true for students who love their campus as much as Glass loves Kent State Stark.

“It’s important to take classes, but education also happens outside the classroom,” says Glass. “That’s where my fellowship will have the biggest impact — finding ways to provide more learning opportunities and resources for Stark Campus students.”
Christopher Bell receives the 2015 Outstanding Tutor Award from the College Reading & Learning Association

Christopher Bell began tutoring fellow students his freshman year at Kent State University at Stark. “I thought it would be a good way to get more involved on campus, earn a little extra money and help others,” he says.

He never expected it to earn him national acclaim.

Bell is the 2015 recipient of the College Reading & Learning Association’s (CRLA) Outstanding Tutor Award — the first-ever recipient from an Ohio college or university. The award has been given annually since 1995. Nominees must have completed the CRLA’s International Tutor Training Program Certification and earned at least a 3.0 GPA, among other criteria.

“Chris stood out as an exceptional peer tutor who demonstrated respect to everyone, always had students’ best interests in mind and exhibited a high level of commitment and responsibility,” says Lisa Hart, director of academic services at Kent State Stark, who nominated Bell.

Before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in nursing in August 2015, Bell tutored nearly 40 students in pre-nursing science and nursing coursework.

“His calm approach and quiet confidence made him a great help and a favorite with frustrated students,” says Hart.

Those skills will serve him well in his new position as a registered nurse in Cleveland Clinic’s Medical Intensive Care Unit.

“I have to not only understand complex disease processes and medication reactions, but be able to teach patients about what’s going on and how to maintain their health,” says Bell. “Tutoring helped me learn even more about these foundational nursing skills, as well as become an effective teacher.”

Bell was honored with a $250 cash prize at the CRLA annual conference in Portland, Oregon, in November.

Dorvan Byler named a 2015 National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Scholar

Dorvan Byler’s honors thesis did more than help him graduate with honors from Kent State Stark in May 2015. It also earned him a trip to Chicago in November to present at the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) annual conference.

Byler is one of four 2015 Portz Scholars selected by the NCHC for excellence in honors theses. He is the eighth student from Kent State University to earn the title and the first from a regional campus. His selection makes Kent State the institution with the most Portz Scholars since the competition began in 1990. Other 2015 Portz Scholars hail from the University of Denver, University of Houston and University of Mississippi.

A history major with a focus on premed studies, Byler was commended for his thesis, Flee from the Worship of Idols: Becoming Christian in Roman Corinth.

“I was interested in trying to understand what it meant for people in the first century, especially those who worshiped Roman and Greek gods, to convert to Christianity,” says Byler. “As a preacher’s kid, I’ve attended church my whole life and often heard of how wonderful and holy the early Christian church was. Through my research, I realized that it was not a clean transition to Jesus worship.

The formation of the first Christian community in Corinth required converts with all kinds of religious and moral backgrounds to change their worldview, worship routines and much of their daily lives.”

According to Dr. Lindsay Starkey, assistant professor of history and Byler’s honors thesis advisor, his work is a “remarkable achievement in historical scholarship. Dorvan’s interaction with the previous scholarship on this particular topic, his careful reading and analysis of his chosen primary sources and the complexity of his writing make this thesis exceptional.”

Byler received free admission to the 2015 NCHC conference in Chicago, as well as $350 for presenting his paper there. He is currently in his first year of medical school, attending Ohio University’s Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Kent State Stark Theatre showcases 200 years of Stark County history.

THE CANTON REPOSITORY HAS REPORTED ON HISTORIC HAPPENINGS AROUND CANTON AND THE WORLD FOR 200 YEARS. AND THAT, ITSELF, IS BIG NEWS.

Subscribers of The Repository have enjoyed stepping back in time through the historical front-page reprints, featured in conjunction with the newspaper’s bicentennial. When Jim Porter, the publisher of GateHouse Ohio Media, considered adding a cultural performance to commemorate the milestone, Kent State University at Stark was tapped to develop a theatrical production that would be a dramatic reflection of Stark County’s last 200 years.

“We have been blessed to celebrate The Repository’s bicentennial year with the community and several key partners, like Kent State Stark,” says Porter. “The idea of a bicentennial play could have only come to fruition because of the vision, creativity and resources of the university.”

Described as a “tapestry,” the play is a weave of occurrences, people, places, sounds and images. “I want to tell history the way it should be told,” says Brian Newberg, theatre director and assistant professor of theatre at Kent State Stark, “not with abrupt scene changes, but with fluid, active experiences — even swirling around off-stage, in the house.”

Condensing two centuries into a two-hour stage production isn’t easy. To develop the play, Kent State Stark’s team collaborated with representatives from The Repository, including Editor-at-Large Gary Brown, who wrote a series of historical articles for the newspaper. Newberg contracted Arwen Mitchell, a Cleveland-based playwright, to write the script with historical input from Brown and others.

This year marks the Stark Campus’ 70th anniversary of offering quality education to the residents of Stark County. For both The Repository and Kent State Stark, this play serves as a poignant reminder of the significant role that history plays in our past, present and future.

“This work is an intersection of voices — some well-known, some not — that all contribute to the fabric of Stark County,” says Newberg.

The play will be an entertaining and educational learning experience for theatre attendees, as well as the students and community members who are performing in the production.

“It will be the perfect way to round out a full year of celebrating the 200-year legacy of The Repository,” says Porter.
Meet Kent State Stark’s High-Tech Education Expert
FORTY YEARS AGO “educational technology” meant filmstrips, cassette tapes and reel-to-reel projectors. Today, entire courses are conducted via the Internet. Students collaborate on class projects online. And in classrooms, faculty and students use interactive whiteboards (SMART Boards) where chalkboards used to be.

To help Kent State University at Stark employ these and other modern-day marvels, there’s Katie Baer, educational technology designer.

“I try to take some of the burden of technology off faculty members so they can focus on teaching,” says Baer. “I consult with instructors to develop technology solutions to support learning outcomes in classroom, online or hybrid courses. I teach them how to use and become comfortable with the technology. And I provide support when technology doesn’t work the way it should.”

Faculty turn to Baer for consultation when designing, building, delivering and revising online or hybrid courses. She and Dr. Jayne Moneysmith, Kent State Stark’s faculty professional development coordinator and associate professor of English, developed a series of training workshops for instructors wanting to offer courses online. The duo also co-facilitates an online community where distance learning instructors share resources and best practices.

In addition, Baer helps faculty and students use various technologies, including Blackboard Learn, the system Kent State Stark uses to make course materials, tests and activities available online. She also provides one-on-one training for faculty who want to create their own websites and audio or video content.

“I love that there is something new every day,” says Baer. “I’m constantly challenged to come up with the technology best suited to each faculty member’s needs. And with the ever-evolving nature of technology, I’m constantly learning new, more efficient ways to integrate it.”
The world is just a click away. And you have computer professionals to thank for it. Hardware, software, systems, applications and networks have become our international jargon of interconnectedness.

Computers are integrated in virtually every industry and every facet of life. They run Wall Street, power companies, telecommunications, hospitals, your grocery store, your car, gas pumps and stoplights. They’re as close as your pocket. They’re the last thing many people see at night and the first thing they check in the morning.

Is it any surprise that the demand for computer aficionados is so strong?

FASTEST-GROWING FIELDS

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in computer occupations is expected to grow 22 percent by 2020. That’s faster than most other occupations. Software developers, computer programmers, web developers, database administrators and network system administrators will all be in high demand — earning generous wages.

Perhaps that’s why computer science is the fastest-growing major at Kent State University. But don’t confuse it with computer technology, another booming program at Kent State University at Stark.

What’s the difference? Kent State Stark faculty and students explain.
**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Type of degree**  
Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science

In addition to the general program, students can choose concentrations in:
- Game Programming
- Information Security

**Why choose it?**

This degree attracts students who enjoy theory, mathematics and logic.

“Computer science students tend to be problem solvers,” says Dr. Angela Guercio, associate professor of computer science. “They are computational thinkers. They must be not only computer savvy, but have creativity to design complex software systems that solve problems in innovative and extraordinary ways.”

Students study computer algorithms and programming languages, as well as operating systems, networking, information retrieval and software engineering. As they learn these fundamentals, they become equipped to devise new and better ways of using computers to address challenges in robotics, digital forensics, computer graphics and animation, information management, bioinformatics and other areas.

“Computer science graduates become the ‘engineers’ or ‘architects’ of IT solutions,” says Guercio. “They develop strategies and blueprints that programmers can use to build the software.”

**Where courses are offered**

Students can complete up to three years of courses at Kent State Stark before transitioning to the Kent Campus to complete their degree.

**ONE STUDENT’S TAKE**

“I wanted to have a more in-depth knowledge of how computers work,” says junior Kurtis Reid about choosing to major in computer science rather than computer technology. Reid serves as a computer science tutor at Kent State Stark and is president of the campus’s Computer Club. His career goal is to become an information security analyst.

“Taking computer science classes at a campus close to my home has helped me save a lot of money,” he says. “I’ve been able to use that money for more extracurriculars, like traveling to hackathons [innovation competitions for computer enthusiasts].”

Reid and members of Kent State Stark’s Computer Club have participated in numerous hackathons, including KSU’s Kent Hack Enough and competitions at the University of Illinois, University of Michigan and University of Pennsylvania.

**SKILLS IN COMMON**

While computer science and computer technology programs aren’t the same, they do have much in common. They teach many of the same skills, but with different emphases.

“Computer science and computer technology programs aren’t the same, they do have much in common. They teach many of the same skills, but with different emphases.”

Most importantly, however, both programs provide a foundation that helps graduates adapt to new technologies and new ideas over their lifetime. Whether working in medicine, engineering, business, entertainment or education, all graduates are positioned to make a positive difference in their world.

**COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**

**Type of degree**  
Bachelor of Technical & Applied Studies (B.T.A.S.)

Students choose concentrations in:
- Application Development
- Computer Security & Forensics Technology
- Computer Technology General
- Internet/Multimedia Technology
- Networking

**Why choose it?**

This degree attracts students who prefer hands-on work. They tend to become tacticians rather than strategists.

Students combine their technical studies with business courses and disciplines, such as programming, database development, network security and graphic design/web development.

“The B.T.A.S. degree is designed for students with diverse academic backgrounds,” says Adeel Bhutta, lecturer and coordinator of the computer technology program. “Some may already have college credit in a concentrated area. Students develop broader, cross-disciplinary skills — which is quite different from the traditional degree that provides depth within a single discipline.”

**Where courses are offered**

Students can earn the entire degree online through Kent State Stark or attend face-to-face or hybrid classes at any regional campus. Students who have earned an applied associate degree from Stark State College can transition seamlessly into their junior year at Kent State Stark.

**ONE STUDENT’S TAKE**

“I’ve always had an interest in both technology and law enforcement. Majoring in computer tech seemed to be a great fusion of the two,” says senior Cort Sutherland, who is specializing in computer security and forensics. Sutherland also works full time as the computer lab coordinator for Kent State Stark’s Network Services. While he may one day work with law enforcement, his foremost goal is to continue working for Kent State Stark, using his computer technology skills to help keep the campus safe from cyber criminals.

“The realm of IT is ever-changing, so it’s important to stay up-to-date,” says Sutherland. “Majoring in computer technology allows me to complete my entire degree online, whereas going to Kent Campus is necessary to finish a computer science degree.”

“We’re all IT people,” says Guercio. “We all use the same technologies. We just look at them from different angles.”
Here’s nothing new happening at MAC Trailer Manufacturing Inc. of Alliance, Ohio — just a whole lot of change, as usual. The maker of specialty trailers (including dump, flatbed, transfer and dry and liquid bulk trailers) is opening a second plant in Alliance. An entire product line will move there, as well as a crew of employees. New product, still under development, may be added, as well. Capacity will increase at the current Alliance plant. Then there’s the new software program that will overhaul all business operations.

“Those of us who have been with the company a while have been through lots of change and have gotten used to it,” says Dennis Postiy, corporate vice president. “But it’s not as comfortable for all 1,000-plus employees.”

That’s why Gary Conny, vice president of human resources, contacted The Corporate University at Kent State University at Stark. For years, MAC Trailer had relied on Corporate University facilitator Ned Parks for supervisor training, team building and other professional development. Parks agreed to revisit the company with a half-day change management workshop for the leadership team.

But one week before the workshop, change happened again.

**CHANGE STRIKES AGAIN**

Parks was in Sweden, attending a meeting at Celemi, a developer of business training programs. That’s where he first heard about their new “Exploring Change” simulation.

“It is not a game, although it is entertaining and competitive,” Parks explains. “As you work your way through the dialogue, you and your team explore lifelike situations in a fictional company and discuss how to handle them. It allows you to test new skills and knowledge — and learn from mistakes — in a fun, safe way.”

Exploring Change had been tested in Sweden and Poland, but wasn’t available in the U.S., until Parks decided to run it at MAC Trailer instead of the workshop he had planned.
“I asked Gary and Dennis if they would mind being the first company in North America to experience this program,” says Parks. “In true MAC innovation style, they jumped at the chance.”

LEARNING THE BIG FOUR

The program was easy to learn, he says. MAC Trailer’s participants broke into small teams, each assigned to follow four fictional characters through various situations. They discussed each in light of these four indicators of successful change:

1. **Build a broad and strong sense of ownership.** Identify who is already on board and whom you still need to win over.

2. **Address the human side of change.** Tailor communication to where people are emotionally.

3. **Communicate the bigger picture.** Help people understand the vision in greater context.

4. **Provide the right internal conditions.** Highlight and reward day-to-day management of the change process.

“Talking about what was happening in the simulation made us think about similar situations at MAC Trailer,” says Postiy. “It opened our eyes to what we needed to be doing differently.”

ACTION PLANS TO GO

The activity wasn’t all talk, however. Participants took what they learned from the simulation and developed action plans before the program ended.

“I’ve been in the training business a long time and this is the first change management program I’ve seen where people walk out with concrete action plans,” says Parks. “It’s not some theoretical training that you may or may not apply next week.”

For MAC Trailer, one plan involved communicating better with employees.

“We realized how communication can help ease the fear of change,” says Postiy. “We immediately went back to the office and talked about how we should be communicating better. Then we met with impacted employees to get them up to speed on not only what changes were happening, but why.”

MAC TRAILER’S BIGGEST CHANGE

Parks was thrilled with Exploring Change’s U.S. debut, especially watching MAC Trailer apply the learnings immediately.

“We allocated a half day for this event,” says Conny. “It was clear at the end of the training that we wanted to go a whole day.”

Change continues to be a constant at MAC Trailer. But the biggest change this year may be in how they manage it.

For more information on The Corporate University’s professional development programs, visit www.kent.edu/stark/cucc.
Get a quick look at some exciting ways Kent State University at Stark faculty have used recent grants.

Micro-lecture videos about Russian art — $4,500

Instead of lecturing on the basics, Dr. Marie Gasper-Hulvat, assistant professor of art history, often invites students to watch videos outside of class to prepare for in-depth discussions in class. Unfortunately, there were few videos to support the material in her upperdivision Russian art course — until she produced them herself.

A teaching development grant from the University Teaching Council of Kent State University allowed Gasper-Hulvat to create a series of three- to 10-minute videos. She incorporated audio dialogues recorded with another art expert during her 2010 tour of Russian museums. (Watch the videos on the Discovering Russian Art channel on YouTube.)

“I modeled my videos after Khan Academy’s Smarthistory videos,” says Gasper-Hulvat, referencing the popular online art history resource. “I’m currently using the videos as material for a course on Russian art, and they’re adding significantly to my students’ learning experience. Faculty at other universities have asked to use them, as well.”
Advanced technology for studying rocks, minerals and fossils — $34,000

Geology and environmental studies students are getting an enhanced view of minerals and internal structures of rocks and fossils. It’s all thanks to two new petrographic microscopes, funded by a Dominion Foundation Higher Education Partnership Grant.

Microscopes include cameras that project images onto 12 new Microsoft Surface tablets (also purchased through the grant).

“Students are able to save and manipulate images for closer study,” says Dr. Carrie Schweitzer, professor of geology. “We’ll use tablets in the field to teach students new techniques for recording field and location data.”

The grant also will fund four summer internships in which students will use the new equipment to document environmental factors on campus and in neighboring parks.

Research on adult daycare in Taiwan — $6,500

As life expectancy rises, the global population of older people is increasing. The number of elders who will require long-term care will increase as much as 400 percent in the next 20 years. How will families around the world care for them?

Dr. Chih-ling Liou, assistant professor of human development and family studies, is researching the impact of adult day services (ADS) in Taiwan. ADS programs, which are growing rapidly in the United States, provide supervised, outside-the-home care for elders during the day. They also provide a break for family members who care for these loved ones at home.

In summer 2015, Liou received a Kent State University Summer Research Activity Appointment to study for 12 weeks at three ADS centers in northern Taiwan. She investigated elders’ experiences and worked to identify best practices in ADS centers.

“The results of this study will have utility for both the U.S. and Taiwan governments as they explore cost-effective, high-quality means to support the dignity and well-being of elders who wish to remain in the community with their families,” writes Liou.
**IAN ANDERSON**
An assistant professor in music technology with a specialization in audio recording, Anderson holds a master’s degree in recording arts and technology from Middle Tennessee State University. Prior to joining Kent State Stark’s faculty, he taught at Butler University and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

**DR. JING GAO**
Gao is a visiting assistant professor in marketing at the Stark Campus. She holds a doctorate in marketing from the University of Maryland, College Park, and has extensive experience in teaching marketing courses at China’s Southwestern University of Finance and Economics’ Research Institute of Economics and Management School.

**DR. AMY DAMROW**
Specializing in gender, justice and environmental change related to education, Damrow, an assistant professor in education, earned her doctorate in curriculum, teaching and educational policy from Michigan State University, where she also held a teaching position prior to joining Kent State Stark.

**THEODORE (TED) GUEDEL**
After earning his master’s degree in library information studies from Kent State University, Guedel worked at the Akron Institute of Herzing University before joining the Stark Campus as an assistant professor in University Libraries. He has a solid professional record in library work relating to teaching and reference.

**JENNIFER HALL**
A lecturer in American Sign Language, Hall holds a master’s degree from The University of Akron. She has taught American Sign Language at various campuses of Kent State University, as well as The University of Akron.

**DR. MATTHEW HOLLSTEIN**
His versatile ability to work across disciplines makes this assistant professor in education a great asset to the campus. Hollstein has teaching experience at Ohio University, where he earned his doctorate in social studies education. He also taught at Columbus Alternative High School before becoming a Stark Campus faculty member.

**CHERIE MOUNTAIN**
An alumnus of Kent State Stark’s nursing program, Mountain is now a lecturer in the Nursing Department. She earned a master’s degree in nursing education at Walden University and previously worked as a unit director in Akron’s Summa Health System.

**ANDREA MYERS**
Having taught at the Columbus College of Art and Design and Central Michigan University, Myers can instruct courses from foundations to graduate level. The assistant professor of art holds a master’s degree in fiber and material studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2014, she received the Greater Columbus Arts Council’s Midwestern Sculpture Award.
DEREK SAYLOR
Previously, Saylor taught at Kent State Stark, his alma mater, as an adjunct faculty member. He is now a lecturer of English, teaching both on campus and through College Credit Plus. He earned his master’s degree in English, with a concentration in composition and rhetoric, from The University of Akron.

JAMES ANDERSON
Charged with managing the campus’s security and safety programs, Anderson will draw experience from nearly two decades as a Canton police officer. The new security and safety manager also served as a sergeant in the Army Reserve’s criminal investigation division. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Malone University and a master’s degree from the University of Cincinnati.

BRITTANY ACUFF
As the new guest services manager, Acuff is responsible for ensuring Conference Center clients receive the best hospitality, including facility specifications and décor. She was previously employed at the University of Arkansas. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Mount Union and a master’s from Kent State University.

KATHY KINZER-DOWNS
Kent State Stark’s new outreach coordinator for multicultural initiatives was previously employed as the director of multicultural studies at Geneva College in Pennsylvania. She is experienced in student-centered multicultural programming and excels in coordinating collaboration in a college environment. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communications from Edinboro University and Regent University.

SARAH SCHMIDT
Schmidt’s new position as the outreach coordinator for global initiatives will utilize her knowledge of global and study abroad programs earned while working as American University’s program coordinator, assisting the Mohammed Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace. While employed at American University, she earned her master’s degree in ethics, peace and global affairs.

STEPHANIE MONASTRA
Utilizing skills in contract negotiation, global relations and executive event planning honed in previous positions, including Diebold Inc., the new Conference Center director manages departmental employees, maintains the facility’s budget and supervises operations in the campus dining area. Monastra, a cum laude graduate of Bowling Green State University, holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

DR. RACHEL WADDELL
Our new assistant professor of music also serves as the assistant conductor of the Canton Symphony Orchestra. Waddell earned her bachelor’s degree in music composition and vocal performance from Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. She also holds a master’s degree in conducting from Northern Arizona University and a doctorate degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Nevada.

CHAD CHRISTINE
Previously a nutrition services director for a healthcare organization spanning three states, Christine is the new culinary operations manager at the Conference Center. The U.S. Army veteran earned his bachelor’s degree in dietetics after attending James Madison University and Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. He holds certifications as a chef and a strength trainer.

DR. PAUL SOMMER
Joining our Communication Studies Department as an assistant professor, Sommer previously worked at Texas A&M, where he received the Tiffany Hunnicutt Outstanding Teaching Award. He earned his master’s degree from Ball State University and doctorate from Texas A&M. Both degrees were in organizational communication.

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MORE THAN 1,000 ENJOY TRICKS AND TREATS AT BOO U

The community once again showed that Kent State University at Stark’s annual fall festival, Boo U, is a fan favorite. More than 1,000 children and adults attended the evening event, designed as a fun and educational celebration for kids, elementary school-age and younger.

Costumed children stormed the 200-acre campus, winding through a trail of trick-or-treat stations crewed by festive Stark Campus students. Attendees enjoyed spooky science experiments, a coloring contest, a swamp walk and other activities, as well as informative encounters with various creatures, including snakes and owls.

STARK CAMPUS CELEBRATES FALL GRADS

More than 100 graduates became new Kent State University alumni during Stark Campus’ eighth annual Fall Commencement ceremony. Held at the Umstattd Performing Arts Hall in Canton on December 18, the event featured an inspiring convocation speech by Dr. Clarke Earley, current chair of the Kent State Stark’s Faculty Council and associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry.
FASHION SHOW RAISES AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The concept of a fashion show’s glamour, beauty and elegance was redefined for Kent State University at Stark students, faculty, staff and Canton community members in September.

The UNCHAINED Fashion Team held an on-campus casting call for female models and attracted 21 Kent State Stark student volunteers. Before the ladies were fitted with exotic dresses designed by Korto Momolu, a Project Runway season five competitor, UNCHAINED’s founders talked to the group about the show’s significance.

The Columbus, Ohio-based company brings awareness to human trafficking, one of the world’s fastest-growing illegal enterprises. Annually, an estimated 1,100 Ohio children become victims and 3,000 more are at risk. This tragic reality prompted Kent State Stark to partner with UNCHAINED to present a fashion show that told the story through the eyes and stages of a victim: from innocence to violation to restoration.

“By using fashion, UNCHAINED tells the untold story of a survivor’s journey that changes the lives of those in attendance, helps prevent future trafficking and ignites abolitionists to stand up against modern-day slavery,” says Administrative Director Felicia Kalan.

The narrated show, combined with the dramatic transformation of the models — through hair, make-up and clothing — impacted the attentive audience members. Using the beauty of fashion to uncover an ugly truth taking place in so many communities has been very effective for UNCHAINED’s mission.

“Fashion is the bridge that helps us engage in such a heavy topic as human trafficking,” says Stephanie Catani, UNCHAINED’s creative director and co-producer. “As a nation, we are still thinking this happens across the world, but not here in our own neighborhoods. The purpose is to bring beauty from ashes and empower audiences to do all they are able to end the crime in our lifetime.”

To learn more about the UNCHAINED Fashion Team, visit unchainedfashionshow.com.
Greg Blundell and Victor Berardi, associate professors of management and information systems, co-presented “Developing Capable Undergraduate Students: A Focus on Problem-based Learning and Assessment” at the 2015 AITP/EDSIG Conference in Wilmington, North Carolina, Nov. 1-4, 2015. Berardi also presented “Developing Capable Undergraduate Students: A Focus on Problem-based Learning and Assessment” at the 2015 Association of Information Technology Professionals’ EDSIG Conference.

Bei Cai, associate professor of communication studies, presented “Embracing Opportunities of Cultural Diversity and Overcoming Barriers in Intercultural Communication; Chinese President Xi Jinping’s ‘Chinese Dream’: A Preliminary Exploration” at the National Communication Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, Nov. 18-22, 2015.

Brian Chopko, associate professor of criminology and justice studies, presented “The Replication of the Critical Incident History Questionnaire: Assessing Frequency and Severity of Traumatic Events among Officers from Small- and Mid-size Agencies” at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies in New Orleans, Louisiana, Nov. 4-8, 2015.


Marie Gasper-Hulvat, assistant professor of art, presented “Nostalgia and Soviet Rural Landscapes: Malevich’s Peasant Paintings during Stalin’s First Five-Year Plan,” at the International Society for Landscape, Place and Material Culture, in North Canton, Ohio, Sept. 24-26, 2015.
  • Presented “Smarthistory-style Videos for a Special Topics Course in Russian Art” at the Southeast College Art Conference (SECAC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Oct. 24, 2015.


Angela Guercio, associate professor of computer science, presented “Teaching Computer Programming in a Platform as a Service Environment” at the 21st International Conference on Distributed Multimedia Systems 2015 – Workshop on Distance Education Technology in Vancouver, Canada, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2015.

Erin Hollenbaugh, associate professor of communication studies, presented “A Uses and Gratifications Approach to Exploring Dependency on Facebook to Achieve Goals” at the National Communication Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Nov. 19-20, 2015.


Peter Kratcoski, emeritus adjunct professor of criminology and justice studies, presented “Trends in the Criminality and Victimization of the Elderly” at the European Society of Criminology in Porto, Portugal, Aug. 29-Sept. 9, 2015.
  • Co-authored the following chapters:
    o Interview with Magistrate Friedrich Forsthuber, President of the Vienna Criminal Court, pp. 35-52. The United States Legal System, pp. 197-200; and Interview of Sharon L. Kennedy, Ohio Supreme Court, pp. 201-217; in Trends in the Judiciary, Vol. 2 (CRC Press, 2015).

Matthew S. Lehner, assistant professor of biological sciences, co-authored Allometry among Structures of Probosces of Vanessa Cardui L. (Nymphalidae) and its Relationship to Fluid Uptake in the Journal of the Lepidopterists’ Society, Sept. 2015.

Chih-ling Liu, assistant professor of human development and family studies, presented “Exploring the Organizational Culture in Dementia Care Settings in Taiwan” at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in Orlando, Florida, Nov. 19-22, 2015.


Mitch McKenney, associate professor of journalism and mass communication, presented “Beyond Storytelling: How to Turn Oral History into Scholarship and Public Knowledge” at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference in San Francisco, California, Aug. 3-9, 2015.

Jack McWhorter, associate professor of art, exhibited the following works:
  • Color Matters at the Painting Center in New York, New York, Sept. 8-9, 2015.
  • Exchange Exhibition of Faculty Work: Hebei Normal University, Kent State University, Sichuan University” in the Kent State University Museum and Hebei Normal University, Shijiazhuang, China, from Oct. 1, 2015-Jan. 10, 2016.

  • Published the following creative works: Summer’s Ending in Bluestem Literary Journal (September, 2015); Avon Lake, Ohio: A Boy Among Books in Great Lakes Review (October, 2015); The Valdemar Car in Diagram 15.5 (Fall 2015); and The Ferry Crossing in The Los Angeles Review 18 (Fall 2015).
Amanda Weyant, coordinator of academic services, presented “Developing and Implementing Attendance Modifications” at the Ohio Association for Higher Education and Disability in Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 23, 2015.

Faith Sheaffer-Polen, director of Corporate University, presented “Job Search Strategies” at a North Canton Library Community Session in North Canton, Ohio, Oct. 21, 2015.

Andrea Myers, assistant professor of art, presented her work, Beneath the Surface, and participated in an artist residency as part of the Fortress Man International Textile Symposium in Daugavpils, Latvia, Nov. 4-19, 2015.


• Presented “Oh What a Rotten Name: Toponymic Change in Northeastern Ohio” at the North Canton Heritage Society’s What’s in a Name?: New Berlin Becomes North Canton event in North Canton, Ohio, Nov. 12, 2015.


Janet Reed, lecturer of nursing, presented “Sterile Versus Tap Water for Enteral Feedings” at Walsh University’s STTI Nursing Research Day in North Canton, Ohio, Oct. 16, 2015.

Carrie Schweitzer, professor of geology, delivered the following presentations at the Geological Society of America 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C., Oct. 31–Nov. 7, 2015:

• “Diversity and Niche Partitioning in Primitive Crabs (Decapoda: Brachyura)”;
• “Remarkable Spatial Distribution of Organisms in the Luoping Biota (Middle Triassic), Yunnan Province, China”;
• “Phylogenetic Analysis of the Fossil Shrimp-like Decapods (Dendrobranchiata, Stenopodidea and Caridea) from the Solnhofen Lagerstätte”;
• “Effect of Andean Volcanism on Neogene Marine Invertebrates on Peninsula Valdés, Argentina”;
• “The First Post-Cambrian marrellomorph Arthropod from North America.”


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, ample free parking and our expert support and service to make your event a success.