

A publication for Alumni and Friends of Kent State University
Winter 2006 Volume 6 — Issue 2

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Meet Lester Lefton

Kent State's 11th president

**Scaling the
Tower of Babel**

Training translators for a changing world

Countdown to Centennial

Dr. Lester A. Lefton, President

Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83



Kent State President
Lester A. Lefton

Welcome to the winter issue of *Kent State Magazine*. Along with stories about the university's research, education and student success, this issue provides an opportunity for you to learn more about me, my family and my goals for this great institution.

As you read this, I have been at Kent State for about four months, and I hope I have met many of you by now. I want to re-state how pleased and excited I am to be here in these historic times. Why historic? Our incoming freshmen, now in the middle of their first semester, represent the Class of 2010, Kent State's centennial year.

There is much to do to build on our first 100 years and to get ready for our second century. Back in May, on my first day as a member of the university community, I told those gathered in Risman Plaza that there is a moment in time when institutions are ready to step into the future — a time to dream new dreams, dreams of an even greater university.

Kent State is at that historic moment. My goal is to work from our strong legacy of public service, research and educational outreach toward the prize of academic excellence in

all disciplines. The priority of academic quality is not for institutional prominence alone, but to create an intellectual engine for students, faculty and the community — to expand our capacity for discovery and public service.

I would be remiss in this message if I did not mention my belief that a crucial component of any university's dreams is alumni engagement. We rely on your financial support, of course, but we also need your time and talents working for Kent State, our students and the very idea of public higher education.

You know the challenges as well as I do: the sea change in state funding that shifted more of the burden of education to students and families; increased competition for the best students

and for research funding; the need to manage organizational change to meet the future; and the ongoing struggle to win public support for higher education investment.

The public, which in the end depends on knowledge to fuel the economy, expects us to figure all this out. We will, and we know that the future will require new models of innovation and entrepreneurship.

We start our new dreams from a position of strength, as a regional public university with a national reputation. Kent State's next 100 years will be an exciting ride. Look to the pages of this magazine for updates on our progress as we position this university for the future. And I want to make sure that all of you are a part of that journey. 🌅

Welcome, Class of 2010: The incoming class of freshmen received free t-shirts heralding them as Kent State's "centennial" class, as the university prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2010.



On the cover:

Dr. Lester A. Lefton delivers his first commencement address as Kent State president.

Photo by Gary Harwood, '83

KENT STATE

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Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83

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KENT STATE

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Fall 2006 • Volume 6 • Issue 2

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www.kent.edu

Published quarterly in conjunction with
Great Lakes Publishing Co., 1422 Euclid Ave.
Suite 730, Cleveland, Ohio 44115
ksomag@glpublishing.com


GREAT LAKES PUBLISHING



Photograph courtesy of Jackie Charbonnet

A giant live oak in Jackie (Richner) Charbonnet's ('42) front yard survived Hurricane Katrina, even though Charbonnet's house did not.

LIFE INTERRUPTED

I graduated from Kent State in 1942, under my maiden name Jacquelyn (Jackie) Richner. I was born and raised in Twinsburg, Ohio.

I have been Mrs. Wilfred Hellmers Charbonnet since June 7, 1943.

We had lived on the waterfront of the Gulf Coast for 35 years [in Ocean Springs, Miss.], when our home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. This was in spite of the fact that our home sat on a "plateau" 18½ feet above

mean sea level, and the fact that our house was built in 1895, and so had survived many previous hurricanes. ...

Another remarkable thing: There is a giant "live oak" tree still sitting in our front yard. It survived the hurricane, even though our house did not. Not only that, but this tree is estimated to be 400 years old, and so must have survived almost countless other hurricanes. ...

*Jackie Charbonnet, '42
Ocean Springs, Miss.*



I graduated from Kent State in '73 and work for NASA at the Stennis Space Center in southern [Mississippi]. Yes, we have been dealing with a lot this last year since "the storm" devastated our communities. Immediately after the storm, I was asked by my center director to head up a volunteer effort to help stabilize the many employees' lives that were most greatly affected by the storm. (Over 1,000 of our 4,500 employees completely lost their homes.) The effort I led included many of the tasks that were included in your article,

"Life Interrupted," just with much more urgency and when progress was measured by blue roofs to keep out the rain, trees lifted off houses and cars, and getting a trailer to live in.

Many people on the coast have made great strides in the last 11 months while others continue to struggle with insurance adjusters, FEMA and endless searching for building materials and workers. I was especially proud to read that Kent State shook off the apathy that infects so much of our society and proactively became part of



Photographs courtesy of Gary Lipely

the solution. Please know that volunteers sometimes represent the only forward progress on the slow road to recovery. Thank you for caring and even more for doing something to help.

*David Carstens, '73
Mandeville, La.*

As a Kent State graduate and a resident of Biloxi, Miss., since 1985, I read your fall issue with much interest. The article about the relief volunteers was very interesting, and I just wish I knew some Ohioans were in the area so I could have welcomed them. After the storm, we relied on the generosity of others to help us recover, and one of my favorite T-shirts is a "softball 1999 MAC Eastern Division champs" shirt that someone in Ohio sent down. It makes me think of happier times and realize how fortunate we are to have so many volunteers help us in our recovery. ...

On this ... anniversary of the storm, there is still much that needs to be done. As your article stated, most people aren't really aware of the devastation, so we like

articles like yours so people can realize that many people are still struggling. Thanks again for all the volunteers!

*Gary Lipely, '75
Biloxi, Miss.*

COUNTDOWN TO CENTENNIAL

The Good Old Days

Nice job — the magazine! It's inspired me (as Kent's first journalism graduate) to write you a piece about the time I was there. It may bring up memories for some of your readers — and inform many others. Keep up the good work.

(As a little old lady, pushing 90, and a Kent alumna, I feel challenged to write a piece for *Kent State Magazine* describing Kent as it was in the good old days — 1935-39.)

We had lived through the Depression, somehow, and a few of us, hoping to further our education and our eventual income, enrolled at Kent. It had been a two-year teacher education school and was now a four-year liberal arts college. I had just enough



The home of Gary Lipely, '75, in Biloxi, after Hurricane Katrina.

money for the tuition, but for room and board, it was a matter of waiting tables in the Lowry Hall dining room, wiping dishes in the kitchen (no machines to do it then) and working at the dormitory front desk. At that time, the New Deal had set up a student work program and the lucky ones were assigned to work in some professor's office. I was assigned to a new young professor who was setting up the first class in journalism. I also enrolled in his class. His name was William Taylor.

All students were required to attend a weekly meeting in the auditorium. Sometimes there was a performance by a student from the music department or the theatre club, but often just the president (James O. Engleman) talking to us. We went from our dorms (there were two and just for women) to the two classroom buildings or down the hill past the Teachers College to the library. There, we might find a newspaper (the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* or the *Akron Beacon Journal*) to catch up on the news. Radios in our rooms were forbidden, although some students did have radios and secretly tuned in to the news and sometimes listened to music.

All the buildings were at the top of the hill. A drive-way circled up to and around

in front of them and down again to the main roadway. At one corner there was Captain Brady's where, if we had a little bit of extra money, we could buy a milkshake or a dish of ice cream. ...

At graduation, we walked up this hill, passing professors in their black gowns, lined up on each side of the walk. Our diplomas were handed over to us in the auditorium. I was in the first four-year liberal arts graduating class in 1939. Not so long after that — Pearl Harbor — and, of course, many of my young men classmates went to war — some never to return. ...

*Frances Waterbury Richardson, '39
Springfield, Va.*

"Dinks"

Check the records. I still had to "dink" in the fall of '69. Also let's not forget the little yellow plastic buckets given to freshmen at Prentice Hall and used to haul toiletries to the restroom/shower.

*Barb Wolfe Kendeigh, '69
Elyria, Ohio* 🌞

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Share your memories — and read others — online at www.kent.edu/centennialmemories.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU ...

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. LESTER A. LEFTON,

KENT STATE'S 11TH PRESIDENT



Dr. Lester A. Lefton presided over his first Kent State commencement ceremony in August 2006.

Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

Most Americans of a certain age know those lyrics and a few bars of the melody that goes with them. Dr. Lester A. Lefton can sing the song in its entirety and cite the show in which it appears, the composer and lyricist, the year of the show's Broadway debut and the actress who first performed it. It is no wonder that this lifelong fan of classic opera and especially American musical theatre describes himself as a "cock-eyed optimist" who values family and "tradition," and who is willing to "dream the impossible dream."

Since his selection as the university's 11th president last May, Lefton has shared his desire to help Kent State pursue bold, new dreams — dreams centered on attaining new levels of academic excellence and public service. Lefton brings ample qualifications for

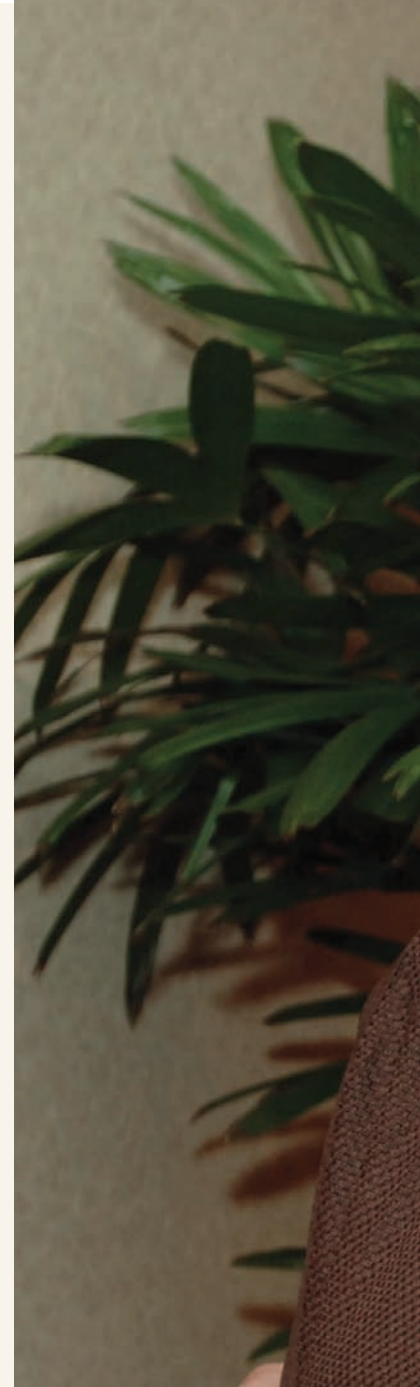
doing so: 34 years of experience as a respected researcher; innovative teacher and effective university administrator. He also brings his real-life co-star of 37 years, Linda J. Lefton, who has suspended her successful career as a lawyer to support her husband in his first leading role on the academic stage.

A springtime inauguration will provide a formal opportunity for saying, "Hello, Lester." In the meantime, as Northeast Ohio becomes accustomed to his face, Kent State Magazine presents this introductory interview.

Kent State Magazine:
WHAT MADE YOU PURSUE
THIS PRESIDENCY?

Lester A. Lefton: Like most people, I knew of the university's place in American history. I also

was familiar with the outstanding work of several Kent State faculty members. When I was contacted by the presidential search firm and learned more about the university, I was intrigued immediately. The more I learned, the more I felt that my particular talents and leadership experience, which includes work at a multicampus public institution, matched university needs, from building an optimum learning environment to capital-





Dr. Lester A. Lefton and his wife, Linda J. Lefton Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

izing on innovative faculty research. I saw enormous, untapped potential in the form of a brilliant faculty, caring staff and talented students and alumni. Most of all, I saw an opportunity to make a positive difference for thousands of people and countless communities served by the university.

KSM: YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES A MAJOR ROLE IN REBUILDING TULANE UNIVERSITY IN THE AFTER-

MATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA. WHAT LESSONS FROM THAT CAN YOU APPLY TO YOUR NEW ROLE?

LL: The experience of helping rebuild Tulane — virtually from “scratch” — left me with great clarity about the core values and processes that make a university, and with a heightened understanding of what higher education is all about. It affirmed how cohesively a faculty and an administration can work together to

serve students. And it left no doubt about the most basic — and most important — building blocks of a university: its people.

KSM: EVERYONE WHO HELPED NEW ORLEANS RECOVER SHOULD BE PROUD. OF WHAT OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE YOU PROUD?

LL: I am most proud of my family. My wife is a talented, smart, sensitive person who is my best friend.

My two daughters have been a source of constant pride and delight. And not much can top the pride and joy I felt 16 weeks ago, when I held my new grandson.

Professionally, I am proud of my introductory psychology textbook, which has helped educate thousands of students nationwide. It also is gratifying to have initiated and facilitated a number of leading-edge programs and curricular revisions at the University

Photograph by Bob Christy, '95



Lefton tours the Oak Clinic for Multiple Sclerosis with founder James Oelschlager. Kent State has a research partnership with the clinic.

of South Carolina, George Washington University and Tulane University.

Looking ahead, I would be proud to say that I encouraged Kent State's faculty, staff and students to dream of a greater university and worked with them step by step to realize many of those dreams. Through a transparent and collaborative approach to education and outreach, I believe we can improve the experience of every Kent State student and employee, and that we can be a leader in revitalizing Northeast Ohio's economy.

In loftier terms, I would like to help take this gem of an institution and make its multiple campuses the brightest jewel in the crown of Ohio higher education.

KSM: WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR KENT STATE TO BECOME THAT CROWN JEWEL?

LL: To meet the growing needs of our campuses and our state, we must increase the size and quality of the faculty. That includes add-

ing endowed chairs and professorships that attract world-class scholars. We also need to complete technological enhancements such as bringing wireless capability to every classroom and residence hall. And we must ensure that students and faculty on every campus have access to first-tier laboratories and teaching spaces.

KSM: WHAT OTHER CHALLENGES ARE CRITICAL TO KENT STATE'S FUTURE?

LL: As the number of high school graduates going on to college decreases, Kent State will be challenged to keep enrollment robust. We must rethink and intensify our efforts to inform prospective students about the quality experience offered on our campuses. And we should enroll more out-of-state students, which will help the bottom line and create a more diverse learning environment.

It is imperative that we improve our track record in recruiting and retaining students and faculty of color. We must retain our current students and help ensure that they graduate and succeed. This will enhance our reputation and expand our ability to meet the needs of Ohio employers.

KSM: TACKLING SUCH CHALLENGES UNDOUBTEDLY WILL REQUIRE PRIVATE SUPPORT. YOU HAVE STRESSED THE NEED TO DEVELOP A "CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY." WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

KENT STATE'S NEW PRESIDENT AT-A-GLANCE

Name:

Lester A. Lefton

Age:

60

Hometown:

Boston

Education:

B.A., psychology, Northeastern University, 1969
Ph.D., experimental psychology, University of Rochester, 1974

Career Capsule:

Senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, Tulane University, 2001-06
Dean, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, George Washington University, 1997-2001
Professor, psychology department chair and dean, College of Liberal Arts, University of South Carolina, 1972-1997

Family:

Wife, Linda J. Lefton
Two daughters, Sarah and Jesse; son-in-law, Amit; new grandson, Zeve

Hobbies:

Exercising
Creating stained-glass windows
All things related to theatre
Special love of Australian Aboriginal art

Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83



Lefton talks with students at the Black United Students (BUS) picnic prior to the start of fall semester.

LL: I refer to a culture in which alumni recognize and embrace their unique opportunity to provide critical resources for their alma mater — support for top faculty and staff, scholarships, facilities from biology labs to baseball diamonds,

and most important, for an endowment that provides a perpetual financial safety net.

There is no question that we have loyal alumni, including thousands of graduates who remember their college days fondly, follow Golden Flash teams

and whose Kent State education was a springboard to success. A number of them — remarkable individuals like *Cil Draime* ('58) and the late *Max Draime* ('59), *Roe Green* (M.A., '80) and Olga Mural — have made multi-million dollar gifts that will touch lives for generations to come. And every year thousands of other caring alumni make gifts of all sizes that have a huge collective impact. Although it will not happen overnight, the process of endowment growth is well underway with the strong support of our [Board of] Trustees and the [Kent State University] Foundation Board. They understand that a healthy endowment is the key to fulfilling Kent State's potential. President Emeritus **Carol A. Cartwright** understood this and deserves high praise for laying the groundwork for a fully realized culture of philanthropy.

KSM: "FUNDRAISER" IS ONE OF MANY HATS WORN BY MODERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS. HOW DO YOU JUGGLE YOUR MULTIPLE ROLES AND STAY FOCUSED ON THE CHALLENGES YOU HAVE OUTLINED?

LL: I cannot overestimate the importance of being surrounded by smart and supportive colleagues, including my executive team and professional staff, university trustees and academic leaders. And I am lucky to have an extended

family that stands behind me and works alongside me 100 percent.

The complexities of being a senior university administrator, especially a president, require more than strong leadership skills; they demand stamina. On days when issues ranging from building repairs to information security to budget decisions cross your desk — all before you have finished your first cup of coffee — it can mask the big picture. But I work hard to stay focused on ensuring that academic excellence for our students and faculty is "job one," and that we create an environment that fosters student success.

KSM: YOU NOTED THE VALUE OF SUPPORTIVE COLLEAGUES. HOW WOULD THEY DESCRIBE YOU?

LL: I think they would characterize me as a reflective, "scholarly type" who enjoys reading and research, and who is committed to exercise and a healthy lifestyle. I believe

they would point out that I enjoy nothing more than talking about Kent State, something I will do a lot in appearances on and off campus.

KSM: WHAT IS BEHIND YOUR PASSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?

LL: I fell in love with learning as a sophomore psychology major. As a result, I excelled academically and successfully competed for a U.S. Public Health Service Predoctoral Fellowship. This meant that as a graduate student, I had my own psychology lab and my own funding. It was, as they say, very "cool!" I relished every minute of graduate school and knew I wanted to pursue an academic career — a career that led me to this very exciting point. In short, higher education opened the door to a life that I would not trade with anyone. I want to do everything in my power to ensure that Kent State students experience the joy of learning I knew and have

multiple opportunities for personal growth and professional success.

KSM: THIS LAST QUESTION MAY BE THE TOUGHEST: CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF ROOTING FOR THE INDIANS, CAVALIERS AND BROWNS?

LL: Research has shown that allegiance to the Red Sox, Celtics and Patriots is part of the DNA of native Bostonians. Despite this "biological" urge, as a Northeast Ohioan I am enjoying a growing affection for local teams.

Of course, there is no conflict in cheering for Golden Flash teams. I look forward to adding the Kent State Fight Song to my repertoire. 🌞

Interview by Susan Rogers, '78. For more information about Lefton, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.



Lefton joins the Golden Flashes in celebrating victory over the University of Akron Zips in the 49th Battle for the Wagon Wheel on Sept. 30 at Dix Stadium.

Scaling the Tower of Babel

KENT STATE LEADS IN UNIVERSITY-BASED TRANSLATOR TRAINING

Long ago, men and women across the world spoke only one language. They built a city made of bricks, with a tower that reached the heavens. The Lord saw this and realized nothing would be impossible for mankind if they continued to speak the same language, so he scattered them over the earth and jumbled their language so they could not understand each other. According to the biblical tale, the unfinished tower became known as the Tower of Babel.

Every second, the world's people and their languages come into closer contact with each other, thanks to modern technology. By year end, although one billion people will have access to the Web, more than 70 percent of them will speak a language other than English.

"There's an enormous need for people who can translate written materials into other languages and cultures, whether it's a printed piece or Web content," says Dr. **Françoise Massardier-Kenney**, professor of modern and classical language studies and director of Kent State's Institute for Applied Linguistics.

Affiliated with the modern and classical language studies department, the institute is one of America's leading university-based translator training programs, offering bachelor's

and master's degrees in translation in French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. Next fall, the institute will offer a doctorate in translation, becoming the only university in the United States to offer all three degree levels in translation.

Students in Kent State's translation program learn scientific and technical translation, legal and commercial translation, computer-assisted terminology and translation, translation research skills and software localization, the preparation of software to be sold in markets where multiple languages exist. The doctoral program will center on translation studies for those who have a background in translation but need teaching and research skills. Institute scholars also

concentrate on translation informatics, which blends computer information science and translation studies, finding ways to use computer technology to solve practical language problems.

Translation — the act of transferring a written document from one language into another — became a hot topic with the U.S. government after 9/11, when it was discovered the FBI had a six-month backlog of materials needing translation.

In addition to political and security applications, translation plays an increasing role in global commerce, a multibillion-dollar indus-

try that's one of the fastest growth sectors in the world, says Dr. **Gregory Shreve**, chair and professor of modern and classical language studies. Buying power of non-English speakers drives nearly 70 percent of the world's economy.

The rising need for translation worldwide could pose problems for the United States, which faces a huge shortfall of translators and an insufficient number of trainers to teach translation. "As a country, we have been traditionally monolingual; therefore, we lack the university programs to teach translators, though our doctoral program is an important step in the right direction," says Shreve.

Language training in the United States begins very





Dr. Gregory Shreve, chair, Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies, and Dr. Françoise Massardier-Kenney, director, Institute for Applied Linguistics.

late by other countries' standards. Despite the fact that it has been shown to be more effective to teach language at an earlier age, the majority of U.S. schools continue to start teaching foreign language when students begin high school, while their European counterparts begin by the age of 8.

"Translation never developed as an academic discipline in the United States, partially because foreign language scholarship took a high-culture approach to foreign language by studying literature and poetry and not the practical applications of language use, such as in business, law, science, medicine and other fields," says Shreve.

Americans visiting foreign countries learn quickly how much we lack knowledge and training in foreign languages and cultures. This writer experienced it personally when my husband and I traveled to

South Africa a few years ago.

At one point, South Africa was colonized by the British. As a result, the country's national languages today are English and Afrikaans. However, the continent of Africa is made up of hundreds of tribes with their own unique dialects, and South Africa is no exception.

For most of our trip, we had no trouble communicating with South Africans, as everyone we met spoke perfect English, though with a British accent. During our last week there, however, our rental car got a flat tire 20 miles from the nearest town. We were fortunate enough to find an auto garage in the next town. But when the tow truck arrived, we didn't

understand a word spoken by either of the two men from the garage. So they stopped trying to say anything to us. We watched dumbfounded as the men jacked up our car, took the tire off the rim, threw it in the back of their truck and drove away without a word. "Well, that jack is worth a lot of money, so I'm sure they'll be back," said my husband. He was right.

Why does the United States, which is so far behind most of the world in language training, seem uninterested in catching up? As a country, we've had a cultural block against multilingualism, says Shreve. When immigrants came to the United States, a "melting pot" nation, they were expected to acclimate in order to find and keep jobs. In doing so, many lost their cultural practices and language. For those who wanted to keep their language alive, there were no resources available to do so, adds Massardier-Kenney.


In Europe, countries are smaller and closer together, giving Europeans a greater need to speak more than one language. Their governments are required to conduct politics and business in several

different languages.

But the world is a different place today in terms of immigration patterns and international trade, and Americans need to communicate in everyone's language, says Massardier-Kenney. More people speak Chinese than any other language in the world, and linguists estimate more than 6,800 distinct languages exist.

"We must realize there are other languages in the world, and they're economically relevant to us as well," says Shreve.

Imagine if Americans viewed language from an allocentric standpoint and joined the rest of the world, what we as the human race might be able to accomplish. Maybe we could even finish what we started long ago, the Tower of Babel.

For more information on the translation program, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 

MOST WIDELY SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD

Language	# of people who speak the language
Chinese (Mandarin)	1,075,000,000
English	514,000,000
Hindustani	496,000,000
Spanish	425,000,000
Russian	275,000,000
Arabic	256,000,000
Bengali	215,000,000
Portuguese	194,000,000
Malay-Indonesian	176,000,000
French	129,000,000

Sources: *Ethnologue*, 13th edition, and *Information Please Database*

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Who Says Language Doesn't Pay?

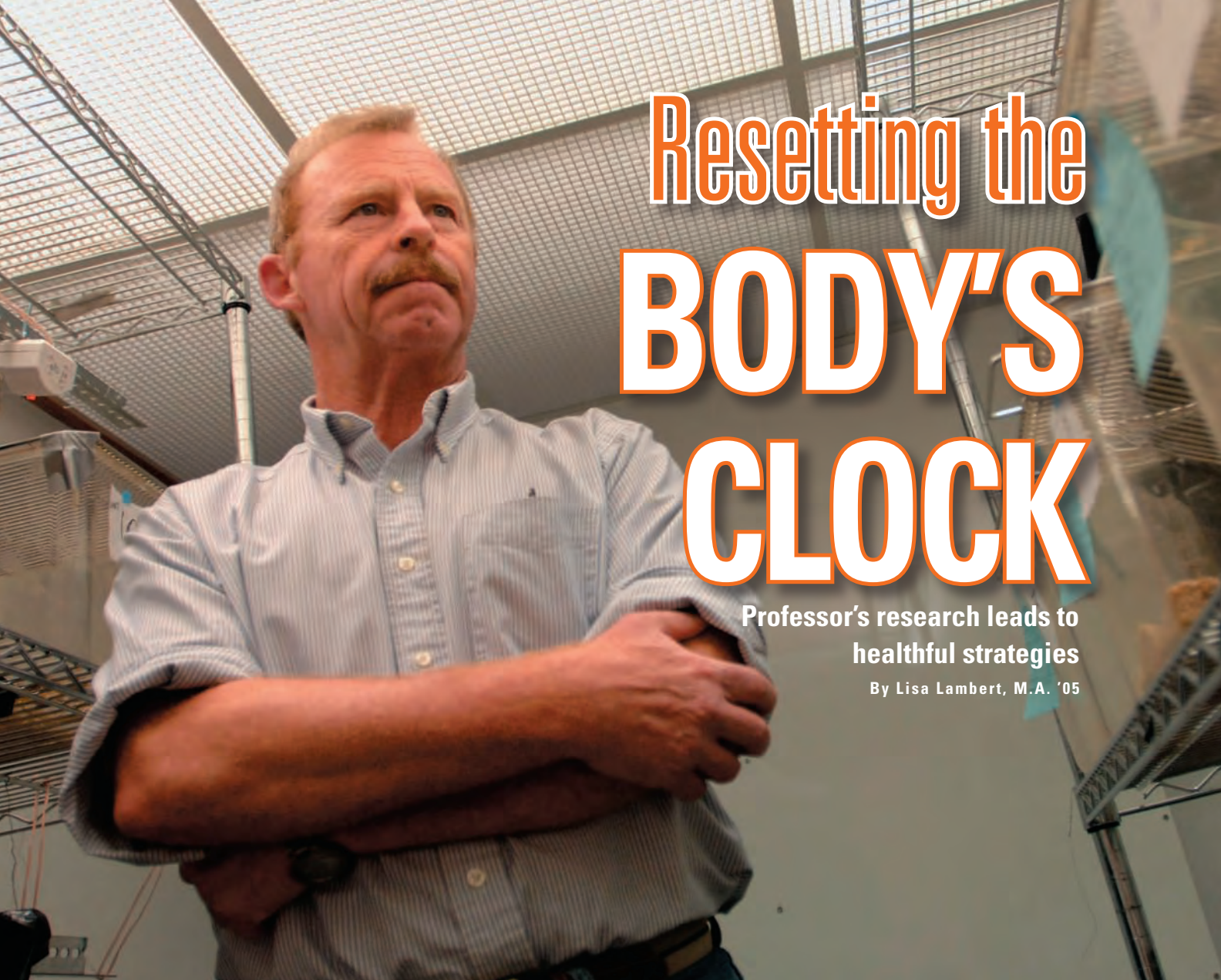


Being multilingual in the workplace may have an effect on your salary, says Dr. Don Williams, associate dean, College of Business Administration.

Kent State Interpreters on a Life-Saving Mission

Peg Haas, instructor, Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies, alumna Maribel Sanchez, '03, and graduate student Liz Schreiner traveled as interpreters to Bluefields, Nicaragua, with a team from Radiology Mammography International.

Read these stories at www.kent.edu/magazine.



Resetting the BODY'S CLOCK

Professor's research leads to
healthful strategies

By Lisa Lambert, M.A. '05

Dr. David Glass conducts pioneering research on the body's biological clock.

Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

Everyone is equipped with a biological clock, a region in the brain the size of a corn kernel, which dictates our sleep-wake cycles. Those cycles, known as circadian rhythms, play a major role in our physical and mental health.

Pioneering research conducted by Dr. David Glass, Kent State professor of biological sciences, has shown the body's clock can be reset — and that's good news for people who work swing shifts, experience jet lag or take antidepressants.

Glass, who is known internationally as the first researcher to measure serotonin release from the brain's biological clock region, has traded in his former territory for a new frontier in circadian rhythm research.

"We've come to the point where we've answered the questions about the role of serotonin in the body's clock," Glass says. "Now we're looking at a particular neuropeptide that plays a major role in synchronizing the body's clock and mediating behavior."

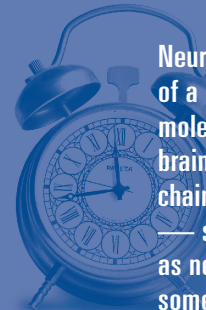
Glass has become the first to extract, identify and measure the neuropeptide, known as NPY; in fact, he is the first to study the release of any neuropeptide important to the control center of the body's clock in freely acting animals.

Disruptions to the body's clock are more than minor inconveniences; they can pose serious health risks. For instance, Glass says studies have shown people working swing shifts have shortened life spans, with higher rates of alcoholism, heart disease and psychiatric problems than the general populace.

"Our overall focus is to develop ways to use NPY to manipulate the body's clock and help alleviate problems that arise from our lifestyles," Glass says.

Learn more about Glass's research and adjusting to time changes at www.kent.edu/magazine. 🌞

WHAT'S A NEUROPEPTIDE?



Neuropeptides, a member of a class of protein-like molecules made in the brain, consist of short chains of amino acids — some that function as neurotransmitters and some as hormones.



Dr. Spiros Margetis

Historians understand that knowing where we are and where we are going requires a thorough examination of where we have been. But in the case of Kent State University physicists, looking at past centuries — or even millennia — wouldn't suffice. To achieve their aims, they needed to peer back at the origin of the universe, nearly 14 billion years ago.

The work of an international collaboration involving Kent State physics professors and graduate students — though it doesn't involve time travel — may seem to some the stuff of science fiction. The researchers have successfully recreated the material essence of the universe as it would have been mere microseconds after the Big Bang, discovering evidence for the existence of a new phase of matter in the process.

"This project gives us information about how the universe looked a millionth of a second after its beginning," says Dr. **Spiros Margetis**, Kent State associate professor of physics.

The new form of matter is a dense, fluid-like state consisting of quarks (the ultimate building blocks of every atomic nucleus) and gluons (the particles responsible for holding the quarks together). One spoonful weighs about as much as all the water in Lake Erie, Margetis says.

This insight, which allows scientists to study matter in its earliest form, comes from an experiment carried out at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), a giant atom smasher with a circumference of 2.4 miles, located at Brookhaven National Lab in New York. More than

In the Beginning

A matter of universal proportion
By Lisa Lambert, M.A. '05


15 years ago, Kent State was one of six original groups that founded the experiment, which has since grown to include 500-plus individuals from 52 institutions, representing 12 countries.

Since 2000, the collaboration has produced more than 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and many more are in the pipeline. Kent State has played a prominent part in approximately 10 of these, meaning 10 papers were based in whole or in part on work taken from the doctoral dissertations of Kent State students working on the project.

At the fundamental level, the research helps us understand what the universe is made of and how the early universe evolved into the universe as we now know it. In addition, the development of the equipment and techniques necessary to conduct the research at RHIC pushes forward the boundaries of technology and provides advanced training for young researchers.

Presently, nuclear techniques are used extensively in medical imaging, cancer radiotherapy and nondestructive analysis of steel, oil samples, ceramics and many other materials. As our understanding, equipment and techniques advance, we are able to improve noninvasive screening for many diseases, better treat cancerous tumors and do material analyses, for example.

"We live in a very high-tech world, and it's important we continue to train people to contribute to the development of state-of-the-art technology," says Dr. **Bryon Anderson**, Kent State professor of physics. "The students working at RHIC obtain this kind of training." The American Institute of Physics ranked the discovery as the top physics story for 2005.

For more information about the collaboration, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 



BENDING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS

Researchers receive \$5.5 million to study new optical material

By Melissa Edler, '00

The idea that the focusing power of optical elements comes from their shape and how light bends at the surface has been around since the first century. It wasn't fully explained, however, until the 17th century, when physicists developed a theory behind the phenomenon and predicted that when electromagnetic radiation, such as light, passes between two media — like from air to water — it bends or refracts at a positive angle or to the right side.

Today, this rule, named Snell's law, applies to every optical object, including traffic lights, headline ticker boards, microscopes, telescopes, camcorders and cameras.

Recently, though, scientists have discovered a new type of material called negative index materials (NIMs), which defy Snell's law by bending light in the opposite direction. "These metamaterials are rewriting the laws of optics, because they bend light in a left-handed direction

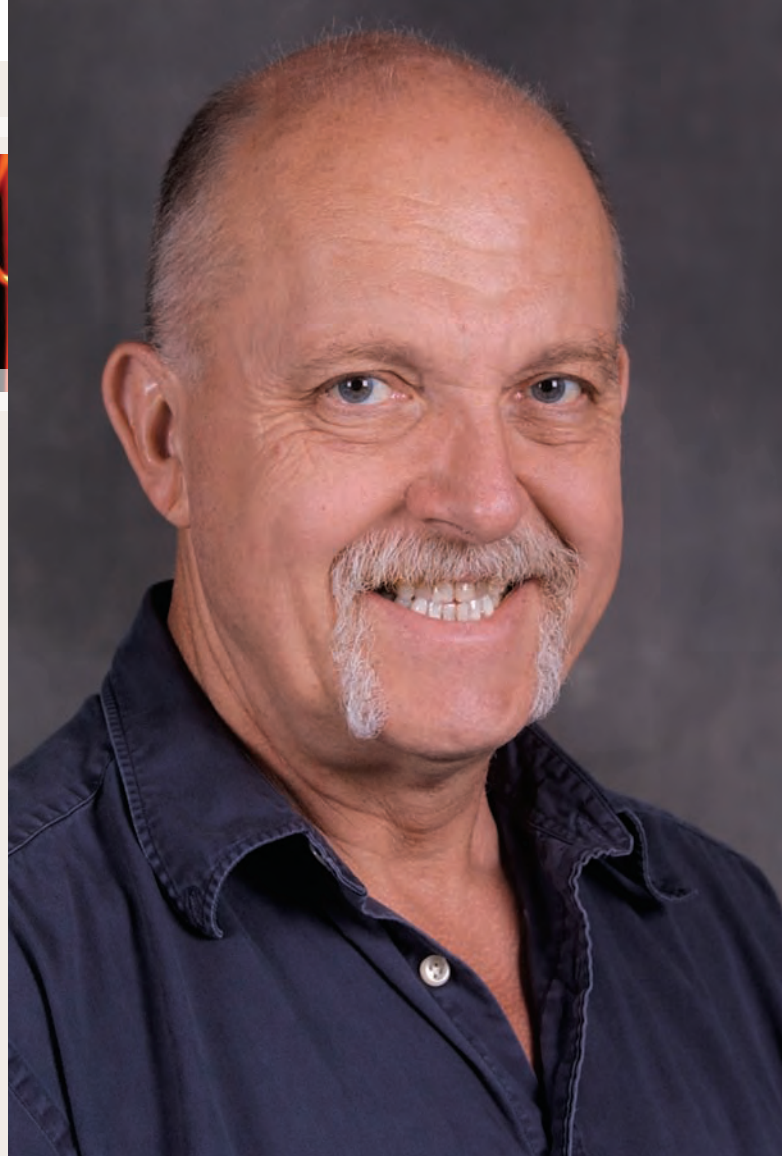
compared to their positive, right-handed counterparts," says Dr. **Oleg Lavrentovich**, director of Kent State University's Liquid Crystal Institute®.

Kent State researchers, along with a team of scientists from several other institutions, received a \$5.5 million Multi-disciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) last April from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study these unique metamaterials.

The notion of negative index materials was considered wildly speculative and unrealizable when it was proposed more than 30 years ago. Recently, however, scientists have learned how to create NIMs in spectra invisible to the human eye.

As part of a five-year MURI project, Kent State researchers and their colleagues plan to break new ground by creating a negative index material for the visible and near-infrared spectrum of light.

The concept of a material




Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83

Dr. Peter Palffy-Muhoray is principal investigator on the project to study negative index materials.

with sub-wavelength resolution is revolutionary in the fields of science and technology. "The optical behavior of negative index materials is astonishing, and it opens the door to a wide variety of new and exciting applications," says Dr. **Peter Palffy-Muhoray**, a Kent State professor of chemical-physics at the Liquid Crystal Institute and principal investigator of the project.

Lenses made from NIMs, which are not found anywhere in nature, have unique physical properties. A lens made from negative index materials could have resolution that is unlimited by wavelength. In addition, these metamaterials could reverse the Doppler effect, potentially creating zero reflectance from objects.

These negative index materials have the potential to improve devices in communications, electronics, optics and medicine. Specific applications include creating flat, apertureless imaging elements; "perfect" lenses with super resolution; nondestructive optical tweezers to manipulate biological cells; novel antennas; new beam steering devices; sensors; novel band gap materials; high-density optical storage; vast improvements to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanning; and the ability to store more information on products such as DVDs.

For more information about this research, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 



Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

(Left) Jessica Toocheck throws out a runner during game action at Kent State.

(Below) The defending MAC champion men's basketball team qualified for the NCAA Tournament last season and will participate in the fifth annual ESPN BracketBusters event the weekend of Feb. 16-17, 2007. Visit www.kentstatesports.com for details on the upcoming season.

WINNING SEASON

KENT STATE ATHLETES WIN THIRD REESE TROPHY, FINISH SECOND IN JACOBY TROPHY

The Kent State University Intercollegiate Athletics Department claimed top honors for excellence in men's athletics in the Mid-American Conference (MAC) for the 2005-06 academic year by winning the Reese Trophy (men's sports) for the third time and posting a second-place finish in the Jacoby Trophy (women's sports). The awards were presented at the league meetings in Chicago in June.

Kent State won the Reese Trophy for the third time, and for the first time in four years. (The teams also won the Reese in 2000 and 2002.) The Golden Flashes totaled 66.5 points in the standings, finishing with an average of 9.5 points in seven sports, narrowly edging Miami University, which finished with 9.25 points, breaking the RedHawks' three-year run of Reese awards. Central Michigan University was third with 8.75 points.

"This achievement is a tribute to the student-athletes who make up our teams, the coaches and the university," says Kent State Athletic Director Laing Kennedy. "It has been an

exceptional year for Kent State intercollegiate athletics."


The Golden Flashes' point total came from first- or second-place finishes in five of seven sports. Kent State garnered first-place finishes in baseball, basketball and golf, while finishing second in wrestling and indoor track and field. Points are awarded based on each school's finish, with the overall point total divided by the number of sports sponsored by each school. An institution may count either indoor track and field or outdoor track and field, but not both.

The Kent State women's program finished second behind Western Michigan University in the Jacoby Trophy, and now has finished either first or second in the Jacoby standings every year since 1996. The Flashes received 9.17 points toward the Jacoby Trophy by placing first in field hockey and golf, second in softball and third in basketball.

Since 1996, Kent State has held a high standard in the MAC as the men's and women's teams have combined for eight trophies and nine runner-up

titles, an unparalleled feat in recent league history.

"Kent State has a measure of athletic excellence without peer in the MAC," Kennedy says. "Our student-athletes and coaches have continued to perform at the highest level and have done so for a long period of time."

The trophies are named in honor of former MAC Commissioners David E. Reese and Fred Jacoby. Reese was the first MAC commissioner and served the league from its inception in 1946 until 1964. Jacoby led the league from 1971 to 1982 and is credited with incorporating women's athletics into the league's structure. Jacoby currently serves as commissioner of the Lone Star Conference in Texas. 



Photograph by Jeff Glidden, '87

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Kennedy Named General Sports TURF Athletic Director of the Year



Kent State University Director of Athletics Laing Kennedy was named the 2005-06 GeneralSports TURF Systems Division I-A Northeast Region Athletics Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) in June. Read all about it at www.kent.edu/magazine.

**Student David Jurca
gathers data about
Youngstown's Oak Hill
neighborhood.**

By Rachel Wenger, '00
Photos by Gary Harwood, '83



New hope for cities in decline

STUDENTS, RESIDENTS SHARE VISION TO TRANSFORM URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS

Lush outdoor landscapes brimming with foliage and green grass are not usually the images that come to mind when describing the neighborhoods surrounding Youngstown, Ohio. The city, once characterized by busy steel mills and billowing smokestacks, is now faced with the challenges of a decreased resident population, dilapidated homes and parcels of unused land.

Youngstown's decline didn't occur overnight. Decades of factory downsizing and business relocation altered its landscape and the quality of life of its residents, much like what happened in numerous other U.S. cities suffering severe urban shrinkage since the 1950s. Unlike many cities with declin-

ing populations, however, Youngstown is unique in how its leaders have decided to address the problems. Their community-based planning initiative, Youngstown 2010, acknowledges that the area is unlikely to return to its peak population — down from 166,000 residents in 1960 to 82,000 today — and offers the opportunity to develop a new identity as a sustainable mid-sized city.

That type of challenge fell right in line with the aims of the Shrinking Cities Institute launched in fall 2005 by the Urban Design Center (UDC) of Northeast Ohio, a program of Kent State's College of Architecture and Environmental Design. The center was invited to propose a fresh outlook for a typi-

cal urban neighborhood, the Oak Hill area adjacent to downtown Youngstown. Oak Hill was chosen because 60 percent of the parcels of land in the area are vacant, a common problem for cities facing urban decline.

Part of a consortium supported by the Ohio Board of Regents' Urban University Program, the Urban Design Center offers architectural and urban design expertise in the service of urban communities, design professionals and the planning and public policy work of state universities in Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown. With support from the Cleveland Foundation and the George Gund Foundation, the Urban Design Center works to encourage ecological integri-

ty, protect cultural resources and promote sustainable economic prosperity and well-designed, livable communities.

In October 2005, students from the Urban Design Center visited the Oak Hill area to conduct a "charrette," a three-day intense design exercise that engages neighborhood residents in discussions to generate ideas and develop consensus around a vision for the area.

"I read about the Urban Design Center's Shrinking Cities Institute in a planning publication, and we were at the ending point of our 2010 planning," says Anthony Kobak, chief planner for Youngstown. "I thought a charrette would be a great opportunity to continue with



it (the planning) in a more concentrated area. We could then merge the UDC's Oak Hill vision with our own 2010 plan."

Oak Hill's problems quickly became apparent to the Kent State students: Dispersed, open-land vacancies between homes that had no likely demand for development, with residents moving into homes only briefly and then leaving. The region also suffers from tax foreclosures and property abatements. In fact, some students found it difficult to comprehend why anyone would want to stay in the area, says *Todd Hutchinson*, '83, B.S. in architecture '05, M.arch. '06, who was a graduate student in the urban design program at that time.

"But the residents were definitely committed not only to staying, but also to working to solve the problems. They really felt that with a little help from the government, city and county, they could make it better," Hutchinson says. "They were not looking for a handout, only to be realistic in terms of how much they wanted for the vacant land."

"Oak Hill was an ideal location for the shrinking cities charrette," says **Terry Schwarz**, senior planner at the Urban Design Center. "We knew that we had to create new nodes of activity in the neighborhood."

With guidance from Urban Design Center faculty and staff, as well as College of Architecture faculty, the 16 graduate students divided into four teams to meet with Oak Hill residents and develop designs that would make the most of the area's existing conditions — from drainage and road conditions, to proximity to Mill Creek Park, natural topography and the stunning architecture of the older homes that offered wonderful views of downtown Youngstown — and, at the same time, convert it into region of greater sustainability.

"The conversations ranged from innovative and ambitious ideas to very practical suggestions," Schwarz says. "The residents presented a wealth of ideas, and their presence really helped. Having the community working directly with us made the process more fun; the experience was liberating for the students."

The community's par-



Lana Mitchell-Wells participates in a group discussion at the Urban Design Center charrette held in her Youngstown neighborhood.

ticipation in the charettes gave the students valuable information about the history of the neighborhood, as well as a sense of its present problems and needs, says *Marjiana Saljanoska*, a second-year graduate student at the center.

"Some of their suggestions for improving the quality of life in their community were really thoughtful and realistic, and many of them were taken into consideration during the design process," she says.

Community interaction helps the students gain "real-world grounding," Schwarz explains. "In a classroom setting this would seem artificial, but in this case, students have to respond to issues that were out of their control, which helps them to create well-designed plans that also function well."

Hutchinson agrees that the experience allows students to understand better the actual communities in which they will be working at some point.

"It's one thing to design in the vacuum of an academic studio, but something far different in the real world," he says. "This was an excellent way to compress an incredible

amount of design and collaboration into an extremely short period of time."

After hours of lengthy discussions and planning, the students unveiled possible solutions and visions for the area. Ideas included demolishing deteriorated buildings and excess vegetation to make way for a community center, creating small parks for residents to enjoy the outdoors and installing wind turbines on select pieces of vacant property to help generate electricity and reduce energy costs for the residents.

"The drawings the students presented were good looking and well thought-out. The ideas were realistic, yet innovative," Kobak says. "The visions excited the community and restored hope in the future. It helped them to understand that things can be better than they are now."

A new, lush landscape in a thriving urban neighborhood may not be so hard to imagine in Youngstown after all.

For more information about the Urban Design Center and the charrette, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 🌞

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Lake County charrette reveals growth potential



Following the successful Youngstown-area charrette, Urban Design Center students and faculty conducted a similar program in Lake County, Ohio. Read about it at www.kent.edu/magazine.

'Geek' is Chic

Honors students find a home in the heart of campus

By Megan Harding, '83



Honors College Dean Larry Andrews speaks to a group of freshmen during an orientation session in the new Honors College building.

Photo by Bob Christy, '95

On any college campus in America, students who qualify for and enroll in an honors program run the risk of being considered geeks and nerds by their nonhonors classmates. In reality, however, honors students more often pursue a wide range of interests, participate in international travel and form close social ties with peers. Plus, in this era of Web surfing and instant messaging, geek has become chic.

The Honors College at Kent State University recently boosted its already presti-

gious image with a move from the outskirts of campus to a new residence hall complex in the heart of campus. The new Honors Center is located at the juncture of Stopher and Johnson Halls, which have been rebuilt from the ground up, following the footprint of the original buildings in order to preserve the historic May 4 site. The Honors Center was dedicated on Oct. 14 in conjunction with the Homecoming Extravaganza.

A major advantage of the new, central location is the revitalization of the Honors

Living Learning Community. Kent State now has 13 learning communities devoted to student interests ranging from science to entrepreneurship, but the honors community is the first and oldest, dating back to the late 1960s. Honors began as a program in 1933 and became a full-fledged college in 1965.

"People have put up with the distance for three decades," says Honors College Dean **Larry Andrews**, of the now infamous treks back and forth from the former honors

residence halls known as Small Group. Last academic year, honors students occupied less than 32 percent of the beds available for the Honors Living Learning Community. This fall, the new Johnson Hall is filled to capacity with more than 200 honors students. Research shows that college freshmen are more likely to excel academically when they can live in residence halls among peers with similar interests and aptitudes.

"All of the friends I made while living in the honors plaza are still my closest friends now," says *Dennis Boyd*, a senior from Cincinnati, Ohio, who received The Allison Beth Krause May 4th Memorial Honors Scholarship. To make his honors experience more like home, he and another honors student began a free "movie night" tradition in the Honors College, focusing on offbeat and international films that students would not ordinarily see.

"The new honors center will help us build a stronger community," says *Danielle Sherritt*, an education major who is president of the Honors Community Council, which plans social activities for students in the college. "With this new facility, honors students are being rewarded for working hard in our classes."

"Students are going to want to hang out



A lounge in the new Honors Center fills with freshmen during orientation.

Photo by Bob Christy, '95

here," says Andrews. The 10,500-square-foot Honors Center occupies a prime piece of campus real estate, along the new pedestrian esplanade and close to the Kent Student Center and University Library. The new building doubles the amount of space devoted to honors, adding four classrooms that enable the

college to offer most of its Freshman Honors Colloquia on site. The center also features a spacious lobby, administrative offices, art gallery, student lounges and a new library — all with wireless Internet access.

"The Honors Center is a highly visible symbol of the value we place on academic excellence at Kent State," says University President Dr. **Lester A. Lefton**. "A high priority now is to increase the number of scholarships for high-achieving students. Currently, only six of the 1,100 students in the Honors College receive full-ride scholarships for their four years at Kent State."

The Honors College holds to a time-tested philosophy: recruit high-ability students, challenge them with a rigorous curriculum and support them with close advising and co-curricular programs. Honors classes are small and encourage students to become active learners, who often debunk the popular stereotype of honors scholars.

For information on donating to the endowed fund set up to provide May 4, 1970, Memorial Honors Scholarships and on other opportunities to give, visit www.kent.edu/magazine or call **Diane Ruppelt** at 330-672-0456. 🌟

STUDY ABROAD BROADENS HORIZONS

Dennis Boyd recently traveled to Romania and Moldova to research his honors thesis, which he is writing in German.

Boyd was one of 15 honors students to receive a Bengier Study Abroad Honors Scholarship last year. "Travel gives you a chance to observe your own culture," he says. "No matter what country you visit, you are going to come back and see your own culture and society from the perspective of another."

"International travel fills in your mental map of the world, with real people and different ways of living. It is a true education on so many levels. This education is critical in the increasingly global world in which we live," says Gary Bengier, a 1977 graduate of the honors program who, along with his wife, Cynthia, also a former honors student, provided a generous endowment to assist students who wish to study abroad. 🌟



Honors student Dennis Boyd

Photo by Gary Harwood, '83



SETTING THE STAGE

KENT STATE TUSCARAWAS PREPARES FOR THE NEXT MAJOR CAMPUS EXPANSION

By Pam Patacca, '76

Kent State Tuscarawas Public Relations Coordinator

Kent State University Tuscarawas is setting the stage for the next major campus expansion. As the result of more than a year of strategic planning and an independently conducted feasibility study, the campus has identified the need for expanded programming in music, theatre, art and dance. In May, the campus launched a \$6 million capital campaign to construct a \$13.5 million Fine and Performing Arts Center that will enrich its academic

and cultural programs, community cultural organizations and economic development of the Tuscarawas Valley. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in 2007.

The two-story, 55,000-square-foot facility, designed with an elegant glass and brick exterior, will feature a 1,000-seat theatre complete with balcony, orchestra pit and an 85-foot fly space for scenery changes. The center will be equipped with state-of-the-industry

lighting, sound system and acoustics; box office and coat check; a green room, wardrobe and cast rooms. A versatile 2,500-square-foot lobby will serve as an art gallery, conference space and reception area. The second floor will feature an art studio with terrace, music practice rooms and classrooms. There will also be additional conference space, serving areas and offices.

As part of the academic program expansion, the campus is currently



exploring a new degree in entertainment design technology. "A versatile degree in this emerging field can qualify students for career paths in theatre production, advertising, television, film, film sets, animation and theme parks," says Dr. **Gregg L. Andrews**, dean of Kent State Tuscarawas. "Our well-respected Department of Engineering Technology offers majors in computer-aided design, electronics and computer design and animation that are valuable components of this new degree and are highly relevant to the entertainment industry."

In addition to expanded academic programming, the Fine and Performing Arts Center will enable Kent State Tuscarawas to enhance the existing Artist/Lecture and Voices of Distinction Feature Speaker events. Upon completion in 2009, the center will be available for use by community cultural organizations and business and professional organizations.


According to Andrews, "Local K-12 school districts that do not have rehearsal or performance space for their arts programming will also be able to utilize the dedicated campus facility to meet existing needs and broaden their production and fiscal opportunities." Community organizations and social-service agencies could also benefit from a larger venue for meeting and conference space.

The Fine and Performing Arts Center, which is expected to attract patrons from a seven-county area, will stimulate economic development of the Tuscarawas Valley. Research indicates that arts organizations contribute directly to economic growth through job creation, development of new businesses, increased tourism and patronage of local restaurants and hotels. Regional arts and tourism groups that utilize the proposed Fine and Performing Arts Center will have opportunities to increase the size and quantity of their audiences, thereby expanding revenues. This would create a ripple effect throughout the community.

"Whenever we add services and programs, our first priority is to meet the needs of the community, including our students," says Andrews. "Enhanced programs in music, theater, art and dance have been identified through the campus master planning process and an independent feasibility study. It also ties into the Tuscarawas 2020 Visioning Statement, which identifies a performing arts center as being able to meet many of the cultural needs in our community. Ultimately, it also relates to economic development. As we move forward with creation of the Tuscarawas Regional Technology Park, we anticipate a highly skilled, highly educated work force and the need to attract new companies to our area. Clearly, quality of life issues are important components of satisfaction for this population and for new business recruitment."

Financing for the project is occurring through partnerships with the state of Ohio, the Ohio Board of Regents, Kent State University and benefactors in the private sector. To date, more than \$3 million has been raised. Fundraising efforts have resulted in initial gifts of \$1 million from the Tuscarawas County University District Board of Trustees, \$500,000 from the Reeves Foundation and \$250,000 from the Tuscarawas County University Foundation. In addition, one individual anonymously pledged \$1 million in support. "I thoroughly enjoy the theatre and look forward to major shows and performances the center will be able to attract to the area," said the benefactor.

Major gifts of \$50,000 each have come from Lauren International and the Timken Foundation of Canton. Other community partners include First Federal Community Bank, Dover-Phila Federal Credit Union, the Dominion Foundation, the Jeanne Souers Garcia Foundation and numerous individuals.

For more information about Kent State Tuscarawas, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 



Dean Gregg Andrews is leading the effort to raise funds for the new arts center at Kent State's Tuscarawas Campus.

Photograph by Bob Christy, '95



Migrant workers harvest radishes during a light rain on the K.W. Zellers and Son family farm in Hartville, Ohio. This photo is among those published in *Growing Season: The Life of a Migrant Community*.

'Growing Season' Cultivates Community

Every year, hundreds of migrant farm workers labor in the fields of Hartville, Ohio, harvesting crops that feed Americans all over the country. Worlds away from their Mexican heritage, they form a tightly knit, self-reliant community, bonded by shared

experience and tradition. Kent State is intimately connected to this community. Dozens of students and faculty from Kent State's adult nurse-practitioner and language translation programs spend their summers as volunteers at the Hartville Migrant Health Clinic, ensuring migrant farmers receive the

quality health care they deserve.

While on assignment for *Kent State Magazine*, university photographer **Gary Harwood, '83**, was first introduced to this community in 2001. With text by **David Hassler**, director of outreach for the Kent State Wick Poetry Center, Harwood has since illuminated the migrant

way of life — a way of life rarely glimpsed by outsiders — in *Growing Season: The Life of a Migrant Community*, published by Kent State University Press. Through its rich imagery and first-person narratives told in the voices of migrants and community members, the book portrays the daily joys and struggles of a community less foreign than familiar, and celebrates the efforts of dedicated volunteers who work to improve conditions for the migrants.

Stark County residents recently had the opportunity to engage in dialogue and activities centered on *Growing Season* through the nationwide library initiative known as "One Book, One Community." *Growing Season* was selected by the Mayor's Literacy Commission for the county's 2006 One Book, One Community program. The mission of this initiative is to foster a sense of community through reading and stimulating discussion of a common book. More information about One Book, One Community is available at www.kent.edu/magazine. 🌞

Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83



A fashion student works on a project at Kent State's New York City Studio, located in the heart of the garment district in midtown Manhattan. The School of Fashion Design and Merchandising is part of the university's newly organized College of the Arts.

Newly formed College of the Arts helps students imagine, create, transform

Kent State's College of the Arts, newly organized and named July 1, 2006, will unite the arts and help provide an identity for these programs at the university, says Dr. **Timothy Chandler**, dean of the new college. The College of the Arts, composed of the School of Art, the School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, the School of Music and the School of Theatre and Dance, combines programs that have similar outlooks and goals, he adds.

"The schools within the college will work together to be mutually sustaining and mutually beneficial," he says. "Students will have the opportunity to broaden their understanding because of the interdisciplinary nature of the programs."

Visit www.kent.edu/magazine for more information. 🌞

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Visit www.kent.edu/magazine for these stories:

- War and Peace: Research gives voice to children
- Summa Health System, Kent State, University of Haifa receive \$2.25 million grant to study impact of terrorism on mental health
- Hobfoll earns international achievement award for traumatic stress and trauma research
- Kent State, Dell take English classes beyond reading and writing
- Knight Foundation endows chair in scholastic journalism
- Federal funds earmarked for multiple sclerosis research consortium
- NorTech announces fellows program; Kent State's West named first NorTech Fellow
- Kent State to strengthen Liquid Crystal and bioscience/biotech programs
- American College of Sports Medicine endorses Kent State education program
- Research Center for Educational Technology shares latest research on technology in the K-12 classroom

Countdown to Centennial

Celebration Spotlights Kent State 'Firsts'

By Rob Jewell, '70, M.A. '79

This article continues the series about Kent State history as the university approaches its 100th anniversary in 2010. Follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine for updates on centennial-related events, historical information on the Web and more.

Remember your first visit to Kent State, most likely with your parents in tow? Remember your first class, first roommate, first romance (and heartbreak?), first all-nighter, first drink at one of the favorite downtown watering holes, first sporting event, first Homecoming after graduation? For many students, these firsts — and a host of others — help to shape their Kent State experience.

Likewise, a number of firsts over the years have helped to shape the university, beginning with its founding in 1910 as a teaching training school, the Kent Normal School. Below are a few of the many Kent State firsts. If you would like to add additional ones to the list, visit www.kent.edu/magazine, or send them to Kent State Magazine, University Communications and Marketing, Kent State University, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001.

In the very early years ...

- ♦ First president: John Edward McGilvrey (1911–26)
- ♦ Until classes could be held on the Kent Campus, McGilvrey in 1912 organized Ohio's first extension courses, hiring four instructors to teach 29 classes for 849 students enrolled at 20 Kent Normal School Extension Centers throughout Northeast Ohio. These centers were the forerunners to Kent State's network of Regional Campuses.
- ♦ First classes held on the Kent Campus: May 1913, with 47 students and 20 teachers.
- ♦ First classroom building: Merrill Hall; first residence hall: Lowry Hall.
- ♦ First courses offered: agriculture, psychology, principles of teaching, school administration and history of education.
- ♦ First class graduated: July 1914. Ohio Gov. James M. Cox delivered the commencement address to 34 graduates.

With graduates come ...

- ♦ The Alumni Association: first established in 1911; held its first activity, Alumni Day, in 1915, with about 200 alumni and friends in attendance.
- ♦ First Homecoming: first held in 1918; it featured the senior class play, *As You Like It*, and indoor baseball games between faculty and students.
- ♦ The alma mater: "Hail to Thee, O Alma Mater"; first published in the Kent songbook in 1931. E. Turner Stump wrote the lyrics; music by Dwight Steere.

Student activities and organizations ...

- ♦ First student society: The Walden Dramatic Club (1913); published the university's first yearbook, *The Chestnut Burr* (1914).
- ♦ First student newspapers: the *Normal High School News* (1914) and *The Kentonian* (1915).



Kent State's first president, John E. McGilvrey, and faculty members pose with the first graduating class in front of Merrill Hall (1914).

- ♦ First honorary fraternity: Chi Pi, the honorary journalism fraternity (1927).
- ♦ First national social sorority on campus: Chi Omega, formerly Kappa Lambda (1947).
- ♦ The first local fraternity: Kappa Mu Kappa (1923); became the first national fraternity on campus, Delta Upsilon (1948).

And sports ...

- ♦ Kent State's first intercollegiate athletic team: baseball, the Normal Nine (1914).
- ♦ First basketball team: 1914-15 season.
- ♦ First intercollegiate football game: Oct. 30, 1920, against Ashland. Kent State lost, 6-0.
- ♦ First postseason football game: the Refrigerator Bowl in Evansville, Ind. (1954).
- ♦ And the university's first mascot: the Silver Fox (1920), named because President McGilvrey raised them.

Other notable firsts include ...

- ♦ President Emeritus Carol A. Cartwright: first woman to serve as president of a state university in Ohio.
- ♦ Dr. Oscar Ritchie, professor of sociology from 1947 to 1967: first African-American to be appointed to a faculty position at any state university in Ohio.
- ♦ First honorary degree awarded at Kent State: to John A. McDowell in June 1924.

And you didn't think we would forget ...

- ♦ First black squirrels: came to Kent State in 1961. Then-grounds superintendent Larry Woodell brought 10 squirrels to campus from London, Ontario, Canada.



FLASHBACK





CLASS NOTES

'50

John M. McGinley, Belle Vernon, Pa., has retired after more than 30 years as chair of the Board of Directors of First Federal Savings Bank. *

'51

Elsie J. (Jakubjansky) Mueller, Landsdowne, Pa., has been included in the 2006 edition of *Who's Who Among American Women*. Mueller has worked at several publications as a writer and editor and in advertising sales. Later, Mueller became activities director at a retirement/nursing center until her retirement. She is now active in the County Services for the Aging.

'55

Bob Schultz, Wadsworth, Ohio, is a self-employed CPA.

'58

John R. Holl, Silver Spring, Md., retired from 45 years in U.S. Customs Service and international consulting. *

'62

Marilyn Y. Bartholomew, M.Ed. '70, Ph.D. '72, Tampa, Fla., is an usher and head ambassador for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. *

'64

Barbara J. Gregorich, Chicago, Ill., has published an early reader called *Walter Buys a Pig in a Poke and Other Stories*. * ⇨ **Peter H. Karis**, Hilton Head Island, S.C., has been nominated to participate in the Annual International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Florence, Italy. Karis has won numerous awards for his work as a painter. His paintings have been exhibited in galleries throughout the United States and Switzerland. ⇨ **Arlene H. (Hladik) Kramer**, Portage, Ind., is retired. *

'66

Gary D. Delforge, Mesa, Ariz., was awarded the 2006 Crystal Award for his commitment and dedication to improving Arizona health care. ⇨ **Gerald B. Graham**, Mantua, Ohio, a Ravenna, Ohio, attorney and his wife, **Barbara R. Graham** ('66), have established a graduate assistantship at Kent State University's School of Art in honor of **Craig Lucas** ('67), emeritus faculty member and internationally known contemporary abstract painter. The assistantship will provide a tuition waiver and \$7,500 stipend to outstanding graduate students in studio art. *

'67

David M. Jarzen, Gainesville, Fla., is a research scientist at the Florida Museum of Natural History. *

'68

Doug Cassens, North Canton, Ohio, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Award by the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, recognizing his 11 years of service as a director and officer of the DU-KSU Alumni Chapter Inc. *

'69

Randall W. Hines, B.A. '69, Ph.D., Selinsgrove, Pa., was named Professor of the Year by Susquehanna University's Student Government Association. Hines, a tenured professor, is advisor of Susquehanna University's PRSSA chapter as well as Kappa Delta Sorority and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Hines has also co-authored several books. ⇨ **Diane M. Punka-Radanof**, Barberton, Ohio, retired after 37 years of teaching from Barberton City Schools and is currently employed by Macy's in Akron, Ohio. * ⇨ **Lawrence A. Warder**, M.B.A., Spicewood, Texas, was nominated by President Bush to be chief financial officer of the Department of Education. Warder most recently served as global director of operations for Deloitte Consulting, for whom he has worked since 1969.

'70

Kristin P. (Friedman) Dubyak, Orange Village, Ohio, is an assistant to the mayor. ⇨ **Linda L. (Gibson) Klein**, Matthews, N.C., is an elementary school teacher for Union County Public Schools in Waxhaw, N.C. *

'71

Linda L. (Lavenia) Chopra, M.S. '71, Cleveland, Ohio, recently accepted the position of central neighborhood team manager at Cleveland Public Library, where she oversees nine branches.

'72

Michael M. Gunter, Ph.D., Cookeville, Tenn., was recently named one of the 32 top university-based specialists on the Middle East by Campus Watch in the Tennessee Tech University publication, *Visions*. ⇨ **Don Abbott**, West Carrollton, Ohio, is an instructor and LRC person at Southwestern College in Dayton, Ohio.

'73

Marty Goetz, Jacksonville, Fla., is chief executive officer for River Garden Holding Company. * ⇨ **Allen F. Richardson**, Old Greenwich, Conn., co-wrote *Great Golf: 150 Years of Essential Instruction from the Greatest Players, Teachers and Writers of All Time*. *

'74

Thaddeus L. Cohen, Tallahassee, Fla., was recently named secretary of the Department of Community Affairs by Governor Jeb Bush. * ⇨ **Joanne J. Dumound**, North Ridgeville, Ohio, is a reporter for The Sun News in Berea, Ohio. ⇨ **Sherrie L. Graham**, Mobile, Ala., is the new chief executive officer of Bay Coast Consulting Partners. Graham has also opened OneStop Institute.

'75

Beth A. Ely, Fountain Hills, Ariz., has been promoted to senior vice president/director of new channel development at Avnet Electronics Marketing (EM). ⇨ **Bruce M. Sliney**, Mansfield, Ohio, is dean of the community outreach division of North Central State College.

'76

Robert M. Green, Elyria, Ohio, is the director of business development for Diamond Storage Alliance LLC in Cleveland, Ohio. * ⇨ **Dan Slanco**, Arlington, Texas, is a financial analyst at General Motors. *

'77

Richard J. Makrickas, M.B.A., Uniontown, Ohio, is the director of NAT manufacturing strategy at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Akron, Ohio.

'80

John M. Blair, M.S. '83, Manhattan, Kan., is a newly named University Distinguished Professor at Kansas State University for his career excellence in biology. ⇨ **Becky Patton**, Elyria, Ohio, has been named president of the American Nurses Association. * ⇨ **Glenn W. Perusek**, Ph.D., Washington, D.C., recently published *Depth of Field: Stanley Kubrick, Film, and the Uses of History* with the University of Wisconsin Press.

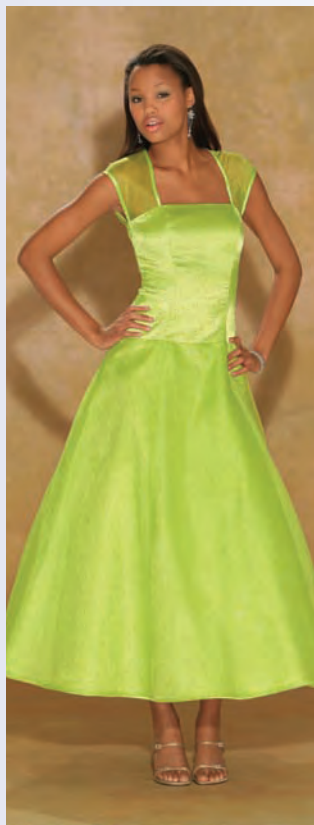
'81

Carol A. (Adrian) Younkin, B.S.N. '84, M.Ed. '93, Durham, N.C., is a medical liaison for diabetes for Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, Ind. *



Kent State Alumna Laura Smith Finds Success in the Fashion Industry

By Erin Sekerak,
Kent State graduate student



Laura Lynn Smith (Opfer), a Kent State University School of Fashion Design and Merchandising graduate, is making her mark in the fashion industry.

Smith, '02, from North Ridgeville, Ohio, got her first big break when she won the Kent State Fashion Design contest with *Simplicity* patterns in 2001. The design of her own wedding dress won her \$1,000 and a trip to New York City. Her pattern sold so well with *Simplicity* that the company re-photographed the dress and published it in its spring 2006 catalog.

"I won the competition, and my design has been one of the top-selling patterns ever since," Smith says. "I submitted a portfolio and résumé last year to *Simplicity* just on a whim. Luckily they liked it and decided to carry my line of gowns."

Her collection of wedding dresses with *Simplicity* is called the *Laura Lynn Collection*.

She says the structure and discipline she received at Kent State has supplemented her success and has given her strength to strive to be the best.

"Each day I'm committed to satisfying my bride's expectations by creating and unveiling the gown of her dreams made especially for her, fitted perfectly and emphasizing her essence and beauty," she says.

Smith credits Sharon "Suzy" Campbell of the costume department as contributing to her achievements.

"She came to my rescue when I couldn't get into junior classes because I hadn't completed a math prerequisite," Smith says. "She allowed me to take some of her graduate courses or I probably would have given up and quit."

Although Smith says she was on the verge of quitting, her best advice to students is, "Don't give up." She also said it would be best for



Laura Smith

students "to establish a broad base of work experiences in a design area that fits their abilities and potential."

She hopes to continue designing for *Simplicity* and to expand the *Laura Lynn Collection*. She is currently designing bridal gown embellishments and trim and marketing them to Jo-Ann Fabrics.

Smith also has worked as a freelance designer with Bonne Bell, Jo-Ann Fabrics and the Feldman Group before she signed a two-year contract with *Simplicity* as a special occasion designer for the rights to produce designs from the *Laura Lynn Collection*. In 2003 she went into partnership and opened her own bridal shop called A Bride's Design in Westlake, Ohio.

She currently resides in North Ridgeville with her husband, Brian, and infant daughter. 🌞

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMBER PROFILE

Demetric Shaw, '02

Point Guard, Sundsvall Dragons

Since graduating from Kent State, Shaw has been touring the international basketball circuit as a professional athlete. Currently, he is point guard for the Sundsvall Dragons, one of Sweden's top professional basketball teams. A former member of Kent State's 2002 Elite Eight basketball team, Shaw was instrumental in leading the Golden Flashes to the NCAA Tournament. Shaw, who holds a B.A. from Kent State University in biology, calls Fort Worth, Texas, and Santiago, Chile, home.



Ed Barrera Photography

Most significant life accomplishment

Being named an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar. I struggled with grades my first year of college, disappointing my parents and myself. I made the Dean's List the next three years in a row. It was great to be recognized not only for my athletic ability but my academic accomplishments as well.

Kent State person who influenced me most

There were many. Growing up, I didn't have many black, male role models. Tim Moore is still someone I greatly admire today.

Most memorable student experience

The excitement on campus during the 2002 basketball season was at an all-time high. After winning the game that earned our team the Elite Eight status, my anatomy class gave me a standing ovation. It is an honor to be a part of Kent State history.

Favorite campus memory

I loved tailgating at football games and having the chance to be a fan.

Something most people don't know about me

I'm a mad scientist. In middle school, I accidentally set fire to my parents' backyard with my first science kit. I used water to extinguish a chemical fire — bad idea!

Why I joined the Alumni Association

I bleed blue and gold. My membership keeps me close to my Kent State family.

Members support programs that:

- Build and sustain lifelong relationships;
- Encourage learning and professional growth;
- Celebrate the successes of alumni, faculty and students;
- Share the excitement of university accomplishments.


KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.ksualumni.org



Alumni Association appoints four to National Board of Directors

Valerie DiTommaso, '99, is an account supervisor with Cramer-Krasselt in Chicago.

Matthew Fantin, '86, M.A. '88, is a senior department manager with J.C. Penney Company in Charlottesville, Va.

Robert Maschke, '88, B.A.R.C. '89, is a principal at Robert Maschke Architects Inc. and resides in Lakewood.

Kenneth Senvisky, '90, is a vice president and portfolio manager at Fifth Third Bank and resides in Twinsburg.



Robert Maschke



Kenneth Senvisky

'82

Jill M. Byers, M.Ed. '88, Wooster, Ohio, recently joined the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine as director of admissions. Byers previously served as director of admissions at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, and as assistant director of admissions at Kent State University. She will oversee admissions for the NEOUCOM's combined Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine program, as well as the Doctor of Medicine and new Doctor of Pharmacy programs. ✦ **Brenda L. (Stefanik) Bartock**, Spencerport, N.Y., recently received Program Manager of the Year, a national honor, from the Visiting Nurse Association of America.

'84

Thomas M. Baronzzi, Lisbon, Ohio, is a judge for the state of Ohio. ✦ **Gary W. Lilly**, Lorain, Ohio, is an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration in Cleveland, Ohio. ✦ **Geoffrey Stephenson**, Bowling Green, Ohio, is an instructor of vocal performance at Bowling Green State University. ✦ **Sandra A. Talley**, Bellevue, Wash., is a senior marketing manager at Microsoft.

'85

Sandra A. (Halman) Ranck, Ashtabula, Ohio, currently works as an assistant professor of nursing at Kent State Ashtabula. ✦

'86

Richard D. Miller, Bonney Lake, Wash., is a pilot for Vulcan Flight Management. ✦

'87

Wenda L. Girt-Bodley, Sarasota, Fla., is an assistant manager at Bombay Company. ✦ **Maria Heropoulos**, Newport Coast, Calif., is a self-employed physician.

'88

Thomas M. Saxer, J.D., Hudson, Ohio, has been selected as Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star by Law & Politics magazine. Saxer currently works at Amer Cunningham Co. L.P.A. as partner in the firm and practices in the areas of civil litigation and appellate practice, commercial law and personal injury law. Only 2.5 percent of the attorneys in Ohio are selected as Rising Stars. ✦ **Lorraine C. (Rech) Walter**, Milford, Ohio, is an accountant for Mercy Health Partners in Blue Ash, Ohio. ✦ **Stewart S. Willits**, FPO, AE, is a Lt. Col./Navigator for the United States Air Force. ✦

✦ Annual Member ✦ Life Member

Lori Randorf Named Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Lori Randorf enjoys being involved with alumni, students and other members of the Kent State University community. Now, in her new position as executive director of Alumni Relations, Randorf has an expanded opportunity to help others maintain their association with the university in ways that enhance the Kent State experience.

"I really do enjoy the university environment, particularly watching our students succeed," Randorf, M.B.A. '99, says. "It's also very satisfying to meet and work with our alumni who contribute in so many important ways to the success of the university."



Lori Randorf


Randorf joined Kent State in 1993 as associate director of Alumni Relations. She has served as interim director since February, following the departure of *Lindsey Loftus*, '86, who accepted a position as vice president of advancement with Northern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM). Following a national search, Randorf was appointed executive director in August.

"Lori brings excellent credentials to this position and will represent a seamless transition in leadership," says Dr. **Kathy L. Stafford**, '70, vice president for University Relations and Development. "Alumni support is crucial to the life of our university. We plan to make every effort to engage alumni, students and friends of Kent State."

Randorf says she is excited by the opportunity and, along with other members of the Alumni Relations staff, plans to build on the many accomplishments in recent years, including the steady growth in Alumni Association membership and alumni participation in mentoring, scholarship and other activities.

"We want to continue to provide alumni with opportunities for them to remain involved with the university," she says. "We also want to help President Lefton further his vision for Kent State, which focuses very specifically on academic quality and excellence."

Randorf holds a bachelor's degree in communications from John Carroll University and a Master of Business Administration from Kent State. Prior to joining the university, she was the communication manager for the National Association of College Stores in Oberlin, Ohio.

And, away from the job and her close association with many in the extended Kent State family, she is very much involved with her own family: husband, William; son, Bradley, 7; and daughter, Kathryn, 2. 



'89

Rich Foor, M.B.A. '93, Mentor, Ohio, is the accounting manager of maintenance for Flight Options LLC in Richmond Heights, Ohio. * ♦ **Richard K. Hilles**, Ph.D. '93, North Canton, Ohio, published a book of poems titled *Brother Salvage*. His book won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize. ♦ **John T. Mercer**, East Liverpool, Ohio, recently received the Spirit Award from Teen Outreach of The Washington Hospital. Mercer is the development manager of The Washington Hospital Foundation. * ♦ **Blaine M. Wyckoff**, Stow, Ohio, was recently named the director of campus operation at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. *

'90

Steven A. Kramer, Westminster, Colo., is a dairy manager for Safeway in Broomfield, Colo. ♦ **Renee (Ferguson) Romine**, Akron, Ohio, is a training and development associate for Kent State University. * ♦ **Mary Ann M. Strenk**, M.Ed. '06, Ravenna, Ohio, teaches seventh-grade math and language at Crestwood Schools in Mantua, Ohio. * ♦ **Cynthia R. Troyer**, Los Angeles, Calif., was a semi-finalist for Best Emerging Narrative at the IFP Market 2005 and a finalist for the Gordon Parks Award at IFP Market 2005 for her screenplay *The Fence*.

'91

James P. Mitnik Sr., Sandusky, Ohio, is an architect at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. * ♦ **Vince Pietropaolo**, Huntersville, N.C., is the Lowe's account manager at PPG Industries Inc. ♦ **Dawn B. Richardson**, M.Ed. '96, Cleveland, Ohio, is a territory business manager for Octapharma USA. ♦ **Buzz Schafer**, Painesville, Ohio, is vice president and senior manager for KeyBank in Cleveland, Ohio. ♦ **Kimberly Towns**, Columbus, Ohio, is a technology project manager and assistant vice president at JP Morgan Chase & Co. in Columbus, Ohio. ♦ **Kristina S. (Aiken) Vincent**, Bedford, Ohio, is a design manager at Sterling Jewelers in Akron, Ohio. ♦ **Andrea Wright**, Pontiac, Mich., is a budget cost administrator for the City of Pontiac. *

'92

Missy (Frase) Carris, Whitewater, Colo., is a psychologist at Psychological Associates in Grand Junction, Colo. ♦ **Thomas W. Holbrook**, Reseda, Calif., is the supervisor of On Air Graphics at E! Entertainment Television.

Kent State Alumnus Erin Elizabeth Coors plays the role of Barbie in *Barbie Live in Fairytopia*.
Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus

Kent State Alumna Erin Elizabeth Coors Stars in *Barbie Live in Fairytopia*



Erin Elizabeth Coors, '05, made Barbie come to life last summer in the national touring production of *Barbie Live in Fairytopia*. At the same time, Coors continues to add to her already impressive career and onstage accomplishments, and she credits her experiences at Kent State with giving her the skills needed to succeed in the entertainment business.

Coors, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, who received a bachelor's of fine arts in musical theatre, had the lead role in *Barbie Live in Fairytopia* (www.barbielive.com), which completed a tour of about 80 cities in North America in September.

"Erin is a truly gifted actress — she has a beautiful voice, is a very experienced dancer and she has a magnetic stage persona that perfectly brings Barbie to life," says director Eric Schaeffer.

Coors' career success reflects her Kent State education and training.

"My experiences at Kent State have given me the skills needed, both onstage and off, to succeed in the entertainment business," she

says. "What I love so much about the curriculum at Kent State is that the faculty not only focuses on teaching students how to be a good performer but also on how to be someone whom others would want to work with."

"My teachers refused to accept mediocrity and were always honest with me in order to help me grow as a performer and as a person," she says.

Following graduation from Kent State, she worked at The Barn Theatre in Augusta, Mich., and then moved to New York City and began auditioning.

"When I auditioned for Barbie, I was very excited about the project, and I feel so honored to be a part of something so special," she says.

With the national tour of *Barbie Live in Fairytopia* a success, Coors plans to continue working in the entertainment industry.

"Of course, every actor dreams of Broadway, but I just want to continue being a part of quality theatre that makes a difference in people's lives," she says. 🌟



Richard Buday Targets Health Issues in an Entertaining Way

By Jahel J. Guerra R., '06

Some may wonder what an architect has to do with video gaming and health issues. Others may argue that you become what you play. Others, like **Richard Buday**, FAIA, have been able to relate those issues in a logical and effective manner.

Buday is a Kent State University '77 alumnus who earned his degree in architecture. Currently, he is the president of Archimage, a Houston-based architecture design studio that, together with experts at the Children Nutrition Research Center of Houston's Baylor College of Medicine, is attempting to change the behavior of children who may be prone to suffer from obesity or type II diabetes.

Buday and his associates hope that through interactive videogames, "Nanoswarm: Invasion from Inner Space" and "Escape from Diab," children will feel more motivated to choose a healthier lifestyle — which they will need to do to succeed in the game.

"We are trying to use proven evidence based in behavioral change techniques, so children would learn by experience that exercising and eating healthy is key to success," Buday says about the games.

Buday hopes to have the games on the market by the beginning of 2008. It takes an average of two to four years to create the games. And Archimage already has a track record of success, creating for a host of clients computer graphics that have won more than 30 international awards for computer imagery projects.

Buday credits the educational background that he acquired at Kent State for providing him with many lessons and opportunities. The architecture program first introduced Buday to computers, and it gave him the opportunity to study a semester in Florence, Italy. Those opportunities, he says, enhanced his understanding of architecture as the "mother art" and the larger role that architects can play in different areas; not just about building and design.

For Buday, being an architect also means being a painter, a sculptor, a writer, a musician, an illustrator. And being an architect

with today's computer technology has an even greater advantage because it gives architects the opportunity to become the renaissance men of the era of technology.

"I suggest to students that computers are the first new idea to affect our professions since the imperial Roman empire. Embrace it [technology] and figure out what you can do with it that no one else can," Buday says.

Buday advises students to also keep their eyes open for opportunities, and future architects to not be afraid to think outside the box, and have enough confidence to present their ideas and convince others that they have the right approach.

"Be prepared to take risks, have fun and look for what is on the other side of the road because you never know what you can find," Buday says. 🌟



Richard Buday

'93

Mark T. Carris, Whitewater, Colo., is a teacher for Grand Junction High School in Grand Junction, Colo. ✦ **Maryanne Cole**, M.A., Reno, Nev., assistant professor, was a keynote speaker at the Alfred State College 22nd Annual Honors Convocation. ✦ **Scott E. Hamilton**, M.B.A., Canton, Ohio, has been promoted to vice president of operations for Excel Mining Systems Inc. and is responsible for facilities in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Illinois and Utah. ✦ **Timothy A. Rak**, M.D., Pensacola Beach, Fla., is an emergency physician at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Fla. ✦ **Alisa V. (Bailey) Stevens**, Anitoch, Ill., is in sales for Genentech Inc. ✦ ✦ **J. Scott Westergren**, Louisville, Ky., is the director of media services at Paul Schultz Advertising. ✦

'94

Sihon H. Crutcher, Ph.D., Huntsville, Ala., is a computer engineer at U.S. Army/Redstone Arsenal in Redstone Arsenal, Ala. ✦ **Jenny Lebrun**, Cleveland, Ohio, is the district director for Boy Scouts of America. ✦ **Ross A. Williams**, M.A., Akron, Ohio, is an application development architect for Goodyear. ✦

'95

Sheryle R. (Keenan) Bailey, M.Ed., Randolph, Ohio, is a faculty member in the advanced clinical nurse department at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. ✦ ✦ **Susan K. Hanna**, Dennison, Ohio, is an intervention specialist at Dover City Schools. ✦ **Lisa M. Lockhart**, M.A., Ph.D. '98, San Antonio, Texas, has been promoted to associate professor of psychology at the University of the Incarnate Word. ✦ **Valerie A. (Long) Thwing**, Arlington, Va., a featured interior designer on Kidspac, owns her own residential interiors firm and is president of Rooms with a Hue in Ashburn, Va. ✦

'97

Danita M. Brown, Athens, Ohio, is an associate director of campus life at Ohio University. ✦ ✦ **Jennifer I. Garrison**, Sacramento, Calif., is the senior associate/resource specialist for Environmental Science Associates. ✦ **Rebecca D. (Luka) Hohenberger**, Kent, Ohio, is an analyst II in global logistics for Jo-Ann Stores Inc. in Hudson, Ohio. ✦ ✦ **Michele L. Juszczec**, M.A., Munroe Falls, Ohio, is the head of collection development and acquisitions for Kent State University.

'99

Marti Bledsoe, Columbus, Ohio, is a strategist for Resource Interactive. ✦ **Katie D. Incorvia**, Orlando, Fla., is a publishing representative for W.W. Norton in New York City, N.Y. ✦ **Deborah M. Landon**, M.L.S., Clearwater, Fla., is a support team specialist for Bank Atlanta. ✦

'00

Beverly A. Elder, M.Ed., Macedonia, Ohio, is a special education teacher at Maple Heights City Schools. ✦ **Jessica C. Kichler**, M.A., Ph.D. '03, Milwaukee, Wis., works in pediatric psychology at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

'01

Jaime M. Davis, B.B.A. '03, North Royalton, Ohio, is a claims adjuster for AIG. ✦ ✦ **Casey E. Kline**, B.S.E. '03, Trevose, Pa., is a product representative at BSH Home Appliances. ✦ ✦ **Carrie L. Klusty**, Orlando, Fla., is a registered nurse at Celebration Health and Florida Hospital in Celebration, Fla. ✦ ✦ **James R. Kopniske**, Cleveland, Ohio, is a marketing and events coordinator for Providence House Inc. ✦ ✦ **Kristie A. Morrison**, M.L.I.S., Ashland, Ohio, is a refer-



Alumni Admissions Volunteers Give Back to the University

By Ashley Katona, '06



Kent State alumni Justin Hilton, '97 (back row, first person from the left), and Richard Rex Ray, '67 (back row, second from the right), give back to the university as student recruitment and recognition volunteers. Hilton and Ray are shown with the Alumni Association's 2006 student scholarship recipients.

High school students making their college selection are often faced with hundreds of mailings, e-mails, personal calls and Web sites to explore. The task of making that all-important decision can be overwhelming. Because they have so much to consider when choosing a college or university, prospective students and parents want to know everything about a university, from living in residence halls to safety and costs.

Thanks to alumni, many prospective students are hearing firsthand about what Kent State University offers. Alumni volunteers attend college fairs and other admission receptions, which are held throughout the year. Alumni also phone and send letters to potential students. Through their personal

involvement and enthusiasm, alumni are attracting many students to the university.

"The alumni are the real deal. They are wonderful ambassadors to send out to these main events," says **Elizabeth Slanina**, assistant director of alumni relations. "Alumni participation in those events connects them back to the university — why they chose Kent State and fond memories."

The receptions take place all over the country, from as far away as Maryland and Florida to as near as Pittsburgh. **Kristen Vazzano**, assistant director of admissions, says particularly in out-of-state markets, the admissions office can rely on Kent State alumni to represent the university at college fairs.

"Alumni make a significant difference in

the reach we have in recruiting students," says Vazzano. "They support our student recruitment efforts tremendously, and they make it possible for Kent State to have a presence at recruitment events across the country."

Brandon Tidd, '05, has been involved with an academic discovery day at Kent State Stark. He enjoys meeting families and learning what prospective students are planning on studying. "Kent State gave me a wonderful educational experience, and I want to be able to share and extend that opportunity to as many prospective students as possible."

Tidd says he talks to students about all aspects of campus life, such as bringing a car to campus. Furthermore, he reassures students that they do not have to plot their entire four years when they first arrive at Kent State.

Margaret VanFossen, '01, has participated in three admission receptions. "I like seeing the excitement on the faces of the students," VanFossen says. "I also like to share my enthusiasm about Kent State."

Alumni like Tidd and VanFossen enhance the positive messages that admissions delivers. "It is a personal experience that alumni can pass along to students," Vazzano says. "We rely on their success stories so students can see what they can accomplish when they attend Kent State."

For more information about how to become involved in admission receptions, please contact **Elizabeth Slanina** at 330-672-5368. 🌟

ence librarian for Ashland Public Library. *
✦ **Laura M. Powers**, Greenville, Pa., is an administrative assistant for Werner Co. * ✦
Jessica M. Ring, M.F.A., New Market, Md., is a visiting assistant professor at Towson University. ✦ **Jamie L. (Wallace) Sredinski**, Kent, Ohio, is an assistant merchandise manager at Jo-Ann Stores Inc. in Hudson, Ohio.

'02

Matthew J. Busser, Washington, D.C., is an officer for the government of the District of Columbia and was awarded a certificate of commendation as officer of the month in March 2006 for outstanding police service. * ✦ **Michael A. Coleman**, Raleigh, N.C., is a merchandise coordinator for Nautica

International in New York, N.Y. * ✦ **Pamela C. Gelenius**, Elyria, Ohio, is an art teacher for Lorain City Schools in Lorain, Ohio.

✦ **Dustin A. Heslep**, Cleveland, Ohio, is a senior associate for Ernst & Young. * ✦ **Melissa L. Marvin**, Painesville, Ohio, was recently promoted to senior accountant in the tax department of Ciuni & Panichi Inc., a regional accounting and consulting firm.

* ✦ **Brian C. Reitz**, Kent, Ohio, has recently been appointed as acting site manager for Hale Farm and Village. ✦ **Craig D. Rhodes**, Owasso, Okla., is a DMS software developer for Baker Oil Tools in Broken Arrow, Okla. *

✦ **F. Daniel Rzicznek**, Burton, Ohio, is an English teacher at Bowling Green State University and recently published a collection

of his poems, *Cloud Tablets*. ✦ **Jennifer E. Troyan**, Solon, Ohio, is a marketing coordinator for Turner Construction Company in Cleveland, Ohio. ✦ **Mary B. Verderber**, Euclid, Ohio, is a registered nurse at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. ✦ **Christopher M. Yanni**, Nashua, N.H., is a captain/pilot for Hyannis Air Service Inc. in Hyannis, Mass.

'03

Christy N. Montini, Kennesaw, Ga., is an event manager at Milestone. ✦ **Amber L. Prekler**, M.Ed., Stow, Ohio, is an assistant director of admissions at Kent State University. * ✦ **Matthew J. Sullivan**, Bristol, Conn., is a studio tech 1 at ESPN.



'04

Marcy J. Albright, St. Petersburg, Fla., is a teacher at Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf. ✦ **Elizabeth J. Butler**, M.L.I.S., Oxford, Ohio, is a special collections librarian at Walter Havighurst Special Collections Library, Miami University. ✦ **James W. Carracher**, Hudson, Ohio, joined Liggett Stashower's Public Relations Group as an account coordinator. ✦ **Robert W. Dower**, M.Arch. '06, Bellevue, Ohio, has been hired as a full-time intern architect at Strada. ✦ **Ryan W. Henton**, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, is a fulfillment analyst II for American Greetings in Cleveland, Ohio. ✦ ✦ **Billie J. Hickerson**, Big Pine Key, Fla., is a teacher at Monroe County Schools in Summerland Key, Fla. ✦ **Stephanie R. Siner**, Parma Heights, Ohio, is a litigation paralegal at Squire Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland, Ohio. ✦ ✦ **Sean R. Szczepinski**, Hinckley, Ohio, recently joined Liggett Stashower as a traffic coordinator in production services. ✦ **Tiff Woolfolk**, Cleveland, Ohio, is a revenue service specialist at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

'05

Rebecca J. Bowman, Ph.D., McPherson, Kan., is an assistant professor of communication at McPherson College. ✦ **William C. Briddick**, Ph.D., Brookings, S.D., was selected as graduate teacher of the year by the Students Association at South Dakota State University. ✦ **Morgan L. Cooper**, M.A., Winterville, N.C., is an assistant athletic trainer at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. ✦ **Matthew A. Harvey**, Anna, Ohio, is a process engineer at Honda of America. ✦ ✦ **Gregory J. Jurica**, Kent, Ohio, is an assistant residence hall director at Kent State University. ✦ **Bryan D. Lacy**, M.B.A., Phoenix, Ariz., is a regional sales manager for Mayfran International. ✦ **Jennifer Melnyk**, Delta, B.C., Canada, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Cleveland Chapter of Construction Specifications Institute (CSI). Melnyk has completed her Master's in Architecture. ✦ **Kathleen A. Roach**, Euclid, Ohio, of University Hospitals, was recently honored by the Cleveland Professional 20/30 Club with a Top 25 Under 35 Movers and Shakers Award. ✦ **Carrie L. Wissinger**, M.Ed., Brunswick, Ohio, is a financial aid counselor at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

'06

Stephanie M. Hurt, N. Royalton, Ohio, joined Liggett Stashower's Account Services as an account coordinator.



LOSSES

IN THE KSU FAMILY

'41

Bernice S. Carter, Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio, March 2006.

'42

Starling E. Taylor, North Canton, Ohio, July 2006. ✦

'43

Nellie M. Mengel, M.Ed., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, June 2006.

'47

Hugh D. Cairns, Tipp City, Ohio, June 2006.

'49

Woody Woodson, Lakewood, Colo., April 2006.

'50

George F. Ertler, Breiningsville, Pa., April 2006. ✦

'51

James W. Butler, M.A., Holliston, Mass., July 2006.

'57

Gerald F. Overholt, Akron, Ohio, April 2006.

'59



David Max Draime, Warren, Ohio, July 2006. ✦

'62

Robert J. Pickelsimer, Cary, Ill., April 2006.

'65

Albert J. Casanova, M.Ed., Norton, Ohio, May 2006.

'66

Genevieve E. Kingdom, Tallmadge, Ohio, June 2006.

'68

Barry A. Brosch, Gulf Breeze, Fla., February 2006. ✦ **Tom Purvis**, Simpsonville, S.C., December 2005. ✦ **Kandace Swain**, Sterling, Ohio, May 2006.

'69

Richard L. Wright, M.Ed. '74, Newcomerstown, Ohio, December 2003.

'70

Michael J. Lynch, Tallmadge, Ohio, May 2006. ✦ **Constance L. Poole**, Jackson, Mich., February 2006. ✦ **William P. Scheuerman**, B.B.A. '82, Brecksville, Ohio, March, 2005.

'71

Ann C. Murray, M.A., Saline, Mich., April 2006.

'72

Barbara M. (Greenisen) Schuch, M.A., La Mesa, Calif., June 2006. ✦

'73

John Lange, Akron, Ohio, April 2006. ✦

'74

William J. Lyons, M.Ed., Perrysburg, Ohio, June 2006.

'77

Nancy A. Fritch, Cleveland, Ohio, November 2005.

'83

Ronald W. Hopkins, Martinez, Calif., May 2006.

'86

Patricia R. (Burns) Dunsmoor, Brunswick, Ohio, October 2005. ✦



Life Members

of the Kent State University Alumni Association

The Kent State University Alumni Association strives to support the mission of Kent State University and provide its members with benefits and services. As space permits, *Kent State Magazine* will acknowledge new and current life members of the association. A partial list has appeared in each issue since spring 2004; additional names will appear in future issues. A complete list of life members can be found at www.ksualumni.org. For information on becoming a life member of the alumni association, call 330-672-KENT or toll free at 1-888-320-KENT.

- | | | | |
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- Network with KSU's extensive alumni population
- Create a personal profile
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KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Winter 2006

Visit www.kent.edu/ecalendar for a complete listing of programs, performances, special lectures and events at Kent State's eight campuses.

Native American Artifacts exhibit

Kent State Stark
Nov. 3-30
330-244-3356

Wick Poetry Series

Eintou Pearl Springer
Nov. 7, Kent Student Center
Nov. 9, Oscar Ritchie Hall
330-672-2067

Kent Classic Arts

Chiu Fang Hung, Piano
Ludwig Recital Hall
Nov. 12
330-672-5436

Artist Lecture Series

Lyric Theatre: Romances and
Comedies in Song
Kent State Tuscarawas
Nov. 14
330-339-3391

Yuletide Feaste

Kent Student Center Ballroom
Nov. 29 - Dec. 2
330-672-2909

Dance 2006

E. Turner Stump Theatre
Dec. 1 and 3
330-672-2497

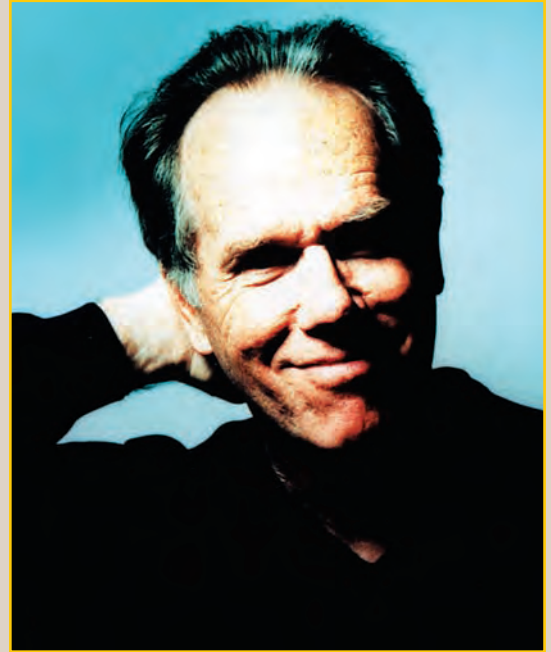
Kent State Gospel Choir

University Auditorium
Dec. 8
330-672-3609

Oscar de la Renta:

American Elegance

Kent State University Museum
Through May 27, 2007
330-672-3450



Kent State Folk Festival: Loudon Wainwright III will perform with folk legends Odetta and Tom Paxton at the Kent Student Center Ballroom on **Nov. 18** during the final Mainstage concert of the 40th Kent State Folk Festival. The two-week event presents folk music entertainment throughout Kent from **Nov. 8 through 18**. Listen to WKSU for details, or visit www.KentStateFolkFestival.org for the complete festival line-up.

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