May H. Prentice, hired in 1912, was the first woman faculty member at Kent State Normal School. She is one of 14 women we highlight who have had buildings on the Kent Campus dedicated in their honor. SEE PAGE 16
Catching Up with Carol Cartwright

President Emerita Carol Cartwright recently retired from more than 20 years of helping lead the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. But that just signals the next phase in a career devoted to higher education.

Tribute: Alan Canfora, BA '72, MLS '80
Thomas Grace, BA '72, reflects on the legacy of his friend.

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Kent State Magazine is published by Kent State University Communications and Marketing. It is available to faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends of the university two times a year (fall/winter, spring/summer).

A Force for Good
Sarah Shundry, BA '06, fell in love with law enforcement. Now she's in charge of recruiting others, including women and minorities, to join her in community-oriented policing for the state of Ohio.

What's in a Name
We celebrate 14 women who have influenced and inspired Kent State throughout the decades—and have buildings on the Kent Campus dedicated in their honor.

Eunice Foote Finally Gets Some Credit
This early climate science pioneer's contributions have been overlooked, says geology professor Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD, who has co-authored a paper assessing her experiments.

First to Go
Helping first-generation students succeed is a campuswide priority at Kent State.

Spring/Summer 2021
On the cover: May H. Prentice was the first of many women who have made their mark on Kent State. See page 16. Photo courtesy of University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.

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Squirrel Search
In each issue, we hide an image of a black squirrel on three pages (not counting the Table of Contents). If you find all three, you qualify for a drawing to win a squirrel-themed prize. Each squirrel will appear like this—it shown actual size and will not be distorted or rotated.

When you find them, send us an email at magazine@kent.edu, listing the three page numbers and places they appear, plus your name and mailing address. For rules and eligibility requirements see www.kent.edu/magazine/rules.
And the Winner Is…

Congratulations to Cindy Dalton, MBA ’82, Gaithersburg, MD, the winner of the random-generated drawing from correct submissions to the Squirtle Search contest. She will be receiving a box of squirrel-themed swag from McKay Bricker Framing & Black squirrel Gifts in downtown Kent.

The black squirrels can be found in the fall/winter 2020-21 PDF on pages 11 (near the fire hydrant in the top-right corner of the Di Rudi photo), 15 (to the right of quarterback Dustin Crum’s foot in the bottom-right photo) and 48 (on the desk above the coffee mug in the #2 photo from virtual Homecoming 2020 celebration). Thanks to all who entered!

Thanks for the Memories

I spent four years as a speech major and student staffer at— and “toy”— WKSU during those “wired weeks” days (‘3-’5). Before starting the squirrel hunt, I read the nice WKSU article [“WKSU Celebrates 70 Years of Radio Excellence,” page 2] and checked out the historical photos. The 1954 program director (standing, with tie) in front of our wall signage is yours truly. [See photo above right.] I really enjoyed the WKSU history. Although I spent lots of time with Walt [Clarke], the other instructor overseeing the days was my advisor, John Weiser. The day I left campus to go to my next stop as a graduate assistant in the speech department at Ohio U., John said, among other things: “Always ask, why?” That advice has guided me in life.

MEL GROSSMAN, ’85 ’55
Bellbrook, Ohio

Very nice edition. Loved the WKSU story, as I was one of many students who spent all of our spare time working at the campus radio station. Great experience and great friendships to this very day.

PAMELA CARSON, ’85 ’69
Bay Village, Ohio

Missing KSU in Bangkok

I always feel grateful for American tax-payers’ support through the USAID scholarship program providing me the opportunity to study in the United States. Two-week orientation at Aloha Hawaii University, two days in LA, two weeks in Washington, DC—destination KSU. As a foreign student at the small group housing complex Musshallam Hall, three meals a day at next door Humphrey Hall. I always reacquainted to my co-ethnic academic atmosphere enthusiastically. Is that exceptional memorial NORMAL? I miss KSU and think of the university and the peaceful city of Kent with love and tenderness.

I personally visited KSU once with excitement and pride in 1990 after a UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] meeting in New York and USAID short-term training in Washington, DC. Said passing the area of the burned ROTC Building. The magazine would nail my KSU homophobia a great deal.

THONGCHAI CHOCHOUANG, MPA ’70
Bangkok, Thailand

An Uphill Climb

I’m deeply appreciative for all the support you’ve shown a small town kid. (See “Change Maker” Fall/winter 2018-19.) I was the first of my Greek-American family to go to college. Kent State Stark had just opened for classes in fall 1967. The campus then was a singular building on a hill. Somehow without knowing why, as I climbed that hill, I had a sense this would be life changing. I was 17 years old as the term began At 71, I’ve come to truly appreciate that the climb up the hill at Kent State is a metaphor for the many hills I would climb.

MICHAEL CHANAK JR., ’78 ’71
Cincinnati, Ohio

Editor’s Note:

Thank you for sharing your experience at Kent State Stark as a first-generation college student! (And for keeping in touch with us by submitting class notes about your journey—the most recent one being in this issue.) I think you’ll be especially interested in two of the stories in this issue: the one about Kent State being designated a First-gen Forward Institution (page 10) and the Flashback titled “Climbing the hill at Kent” (page 56).

As you can see from the 1915 photo that we’re running as our Flashback, the Flashback is a series of outdoor graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021. We are thrilled to once again welcome graduates and their families to campus to celebrate their accomplishments.

Visitors to the Kent Campus will notice that a new set of markers has been installed as part of our May 4, 1970, commemorations, to indicate the spots where nine students were wounded during that day’s shootings. These markers, which provide important historical detail about where the wounded were standing on that fateful day, exist, in part, due to the efforts of alumnus Alan Canfora, one of the wounded, who championed this project and so many other May 4 efforts.

Sadly, he died in December before the markers were unveiled. His zeal for the truth regarding May 4, and his dedication to Kent State are remembered in a tribute by fellow wounded student Tom Grace (page 54), and I know Alan Canfora’s spirit will live on forever at Kent State.

President Dustin Crum’s foot in the bottom right photo (see page 18), who penned a poem with the refrain, “Climbing the hill at Kent,” which appeared in the 1915 Chestnut Burr, was set to music, sung by the Kent State Men’s Glee Club and sung for decades by students at Kent State. The last stanza ends: “And glad are the eyes and the heart of you / That you climbed the hill at Kent.”

We hope you find the following stories and features interesting and entertaining. If you have feedback for our editorial staff, or comments on topics related to Kent State by writing: Kent State Magazine, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001 or magazine@kent.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you! Do you have a story you would like to share? Do you have feedback for the magazine? Are you looking to connect with other Kent State alumni? We want to hear from you!

Check out our social media pages for more news, photos, videos and updates.

President Dustin Crum and Flash “Flash their arms” to show they’ve been vaccinated.

President Todd A. Diacon

Email: president@kent.edu
Instagram: @kspresident
More than a Shot in the Arm

This spring, some Kent State nursing students are getting a lot of practice giving shots.

They are assisting at mass vaccination events, led by the Portage County Combined General Health District, that are being held by appointment only at the Kent State University Field House every Tuesday through the spring. Future dates may vary based upon the amount of vaccine received by the county.

At the first event on March 23, approximately 60 nursing students volunteered to give the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to more than 2,000 area residents, including some Kent State University employees.

Kaley Kralovic, a senior who will be graduating with a BSN from Kent State University, administered a vaccine.

“I thought I was just going to be giving shots and moving people along. But we also got to sit down with people and ask questions, for example, to see if they have any allergies. And we’d document which vaccine they got and at what time. So it was a lot more than just putting a needle in an arm. It was making small talk and connecting with people as they came in.”

Kralovic also gained experience in handling people who are terrified of needles. “I learned very quickly that you don’t say, ‘All right, I’ll count to three and then I’m going to give the shot,’” she says, laughing. “Instead, I would say, ‘All right, are you ready for this?’ And as they were answering, I was sticking the needle in. You’ve got to hit them at an unexpected time so they’re not nervous. And then they’d say, ‘Oh, that’s not so bad—you tricked me!’ And I’d say, ‘I know I did, but it didn’t hurt, did it?’”

“The nursing students give more IM [intramuscular] injections in one day than they’re most likely going to give in their entire careers,” says Taryn Burbahna, MSN, APRN, community health nursing coordinator for Kent State’s College of Nursing. “And we’re rotating them through all the stations so they don’t just administer shots, but they also get to see what it’s like to run a mass-scale point of distribution center. Even better, students of all levels, sophomores to seniors, are interacting, which brings a new level to experiential learning. It’s wonderful to see that peer-to-peer teaching and camaraderie in these times.”

For Kralovic, who was selected for an internship at Cleveland Clinic in 2020 and recently finished an ICU intensive care unit rotation, volunteering at the vaccination clinic was one more good opportunity to gain real-world experience before she graduates. She’s already accepted a position with Cleveland Clinic at the main campus in the emergency department. “It will be very fast paced, very exciting,” she says. “I figured I might as well just throw myself completely in as a new nurse. I’m a little nervous, but I think it’s going to be a great experience.”

Kent State Women’s Center Turns 25

It seems fitting that the Kent State Women’s Center officially kicked off its 25th anniversary during the celebration of Women’s History Month in March.

Talks for an actual Women’s Center on campus first started in March 1995, when then-President Carol Cartwright—the first woman president at a state school in Ohio—appointed a Women’s Center Committee, whose members reflected the diversity of talented people committed to the idea. The committee developed a 21-page recommendations report and presented it to the Kent State University Board of Trustees in November 1995 to explain why such a center would benefit the campus. It was approved.

Soon after, what was once the carriage house of the president’s mansion was being transformed into a fully accessible and functional Women’s Center, with Molly Memyman named its first director. On Nov. 13, 1996, an open house and reception celebrated its opening and announced to the community that the center was ready to assist and advocate for women.

Flash forward 25 years later, and Cassie Pegg-Kirby, who has been at the Women’s Center since 2012 and in her current position as director since 2018, says the collective approach taken 25 years ago has ensured its continued success.

“We have always been about making sure everyone has a seat at the table and intentionally looking around to see who is missing,” she says. “From day one, we provided initiatives and efforts to raise awareness, educate and take action on issues impacting our community.”

Pegg-Kirby also credits the Women’s Center with cultivating opportunities for women across the campus and beyond. They include Elect Her; Mothers, Mentors, Muses; the (R)Evolution leadership program, and the Sage Project. Regular events such as Feminist Fridays and Women of Color Collective have further impact on students’ lives.

The Women’s Center also helps students financially with scholarships. “We have been able to give out thousands of dollars to help students not only stay in school but thrive and take advantage of additional opportunities that may have seemed out of reach,” says Pegg-Kirby. “I cannot even begin to capture all of the amazing individuals who have been part of our continued success and evolution.”

Throughout the remainder of the year, many celebrations will take place, including an “At the Table” conversation series. “We were inspired by the Shirley Chisholm quote, ‘If you don’t have a seat at the table, bring a folding chair,’” says Pegg-Kirby.

As the Women’s Center looks to the future and another 25 years, Pegg-Kirby sees a lot of room to grow. “As we move forward creating spaces that are inclusive and equitable, where people have the benefit of the most opportunities and experiences, we need to honor the people who came before us who fought the good fight,” she says. “I am excited to see how we can build off the successes of the past 25 years and look forward to co-creating the next 25 with the support of our alumni, our elders and wisdom keepers, as well as the students who are carrying the torches into this new world.”

—Matt Lupica, director of the Kent State Women’s Center

“We plan on making it a monthly conversation series featuring intergenerational conversations across many different identities focusing on topics such as women and leadership, women and athletics, women and STEM, and more.

Other significant events include a Wick Poetry online collaboration to promote community and conversation and a potential 25th Anniversary cookbook that includes recipes for success, activism and other antidotes. The big celebration is slated for November.

As the Women’s Center looks to the future and another 25 years, Pegg-Kirby sees a lot of room to grow. “As we move forward creating spaces that are inclusive and equitable, where people have the benefit of the most opportunities and experiences, we need to honor the people who came before us who fought the good fight,” she says. “I am excited to see how we can build off the successes of the past 25 years and look forward to co-creating the next 25 with the support of our alumni, our elders and wisdom keepers, as well as the students who are carrying the torches into this new world.”

—Cassie Pegg-Kirby, director of the Kent State Women’s Center

“We have always been making sure everyone has a seat at the table.”

Learn more about the Women’s Center at https://www.kent.edu/womenscenter.

Check on updates to the 25th Anniversary plans and events at https://www.kent.edu/womenscenter/25th.

Amanda Lopez, director of the Kent State Women’s Center.
Standing Together Against Hate

Violence against Asian people has increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the United States, there have been 3,795 reported incidents of discrimination, hate and xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) from March 19, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021, according to a report from Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition formed to address anti-Asian discrimination amid the pandemic.

That’s a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur, and it represents just the latest chapter in the story of anti-Asian bigotry that spans more than a century in our nation’s history. The March 16, 2021, shootings at three Atlanta spas—where eight people, including six Asian women, were killed—only magnified the grief, fear and anger the AAPI community has been experiencing since last year.

To respond to these violent assaults and show solidarity against racism, the newly formed Kent State University AAPI Faculty and Staff Alliance hosted a “Stand Together Against Hate” rally at the Kent Campus on April 7. Organizers invited participants to bring a sign of support and required them to wear a mask and maintain safe distances.

The rally began at the field adjacent to the Kent State Center for the Performing Arts, on the corner of Main Street and Hering Road. Founding members of the alliance, Donna Lee, professor and coordinator of the Piano Division at the School of Music, and Yuko Kurahashi, professor of theatre at the School of Theatre and Dance, welcomed the crowd of faculty, staff, students and city of Kent residents and introduced the speakers for the event. Speakers included, among others, Kent State President Todd Diacon, Student Multicultural Center Director Michael Daniels, former Portage County commissioner and Ohio House of Representatives member Donna Lee, professor and coordinator of the Piano Division at the School of Music, and Yuko Kurahashi, professor of theatre at the School of Theatre and Dance.

International student Yu Li, who came to Kent State from China five years ago and has been studying for a doctoral degree in cultural foundations at the College of Education, Health and Human Services, spoke with her young daughter at her side. She described a recent incident in which her car was the only one spray painted white in the parking lot of her apartment building.

Terified, she had called her advisor, who immediately told her to report it to the campus and city police. After she did, she also received many messages of support and offers of help from the dean, professors, fellow students, colleagues and her child’s teacher from the Child Development Center at Kent State.

“The love and care I got conquered the fear in my heart and empowered me to step out of my small apartment and then share my story and stand here with everyone,” Li said. “It is the love, it is the care from the Kent State community that reminded me who I am, reminded me of my goal, reminded me of my dream, reminded me why I came to Kent State.”

In his speech, President Diacon said, “When one of us doesn’t feel safe, then our campus isn’t safe,” and he encouraged participants to discuss “concrete efforts to make our community a better community,” and attend an anti-racism task force town hall the next day.

After the speeches and musical interludes, an estimated 300 participants held signs and marched to the Rock, where they painted phrases like “United We Stand,” “Stop Asian Hate” and “Hate is a Virus” on the Rock, which has borne witness to many anti-racism protests in recent months.

Five Questions with Michael Daniels

Michael Daniels, director of the Student Multicultural Center (SMC), is making a difference at Kent State and continuing the legacy of those who came before him. A doctoral candidate in the Educational Administration-Higher Education program, Daniels has worked at Kent State since 2010 and previously served as the program coordinator as well as the assistant director for the SMC.

He recently received the President’s Award of Distinction for his success with the programs and initiatives offered by the SMC during the pandemic.

One of those programs is Kupita/Transiciones (K/T), which offers incoming and transfer African American, Latinx, Hispanic, Native American and multicultural students the opportunity to get oriented to college life and be mentored by students with similar backgrounds. Typically, it’s a four-day experience that allows students enrolled in the program to move onto campus ahead of their peers and get to know one another and their mentors.

However, in fall 2020, due to the pandemic, the program had to cut in-person participants by more than half to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions on campus. Some students participated virtually. “We had to limit the number of in-person people and change from a four-day program to a one-day program,” Daniels says. “We tried to have them meet each other, meet their mentors and do some fun things within the health and safety restrictions.”

Despite the setbacks that K/T faced last year, Daniels and the students are hopeful that fall 2021 sessions will offer students the invaluable experience the program is known for. “The goal is getting to students early and helping them develop a meaningful connection to the SMC and Kent State,” he says. “To give them people to know and a real community.”

We asked Daniels to tell us more about the SMC community and his experience with it:

1. How would you describe the SMC?

The Student Multicultural Center is a space for students to be their true and authentic selves, especially our students of color. It’s a place where they can feel comfortable and connect with people from different cultures, as well as learn more about their own.

Kent State has done a phenomenal job of making sure that some students come to the university, but we want to make sure that they stay at Kent State and graduate. So we show them all the resources we have to offer.

2. What has been your favorite project/initiative at the SMC?

It’s tied between the SMC Leadership Institute and the Male Empowerment Network (MEN). The SMC Leadership Institute is something I helped create. I’m passionate about supporting and developing our young men of color. I want to give them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills—including time management, resilience as a leader and that part that makes them feel like, “Wow, I’m really able to make or influence something.”

3. How can students get involved with the SMC?

Students who have gone through Kupita/Transiciones and return next year can sign up to be a K/T leader. We have the Mindful Mentality series for student leaders to focus on their mental health and well-being and to hear from other student leaders who might have similar struggles and challenges right now.

We also have MEN (Male Empowerment Network) and Sister Circle. MEN started a 10-year anniversary documentary series in February that’s being shown twice a month with six episodes. We have discussions with the showings that are open to anyone. We had programming throughout Black History Month [February].

And for students of color who are graduating, we plan to have a celebration in May. It’s going to be nontraditional in a sense, but we will recognize fall, spring and summer graduates.

4. What has been the most rewarding part of your position so far?

Watching students walk across the stage at Karamu, especially the students who talk about dropping out at one point or got to their wit’s end, but persevered. That’s super rewarding. Knowing that I contributed in some part to their success makes me happy.

Karamu Ya Wahiimu/Celebración de los Graduados is our pre-commencement ceremony, held every spring and fall semester, for all our graduating students of color. It connects all the different campuses and really is the capstone of a student’s experience here.

5. Where do you hope to see Kent State in the next 10 years?

I hope that we will continue to work on upgrading systems of oppression and making this space welcoming and inviting for all by really addressing the history of this country in a way that’s constructive—so students can feel affirmed when they attend each of our campuses. I also hope we find ways to make college a lot more affordable. I hate hearing that students are struggling financially. We’ve been finding a lot of ways to change the access points for school when it comes to financial issues.

Learn more about the Student Multicultural Center and how you can help support students at https://www.kent.edu/smc.
Due to the pandemic, the May 4 Commemoration and Candlelight Vigil will again be virtual this year.

The virtual commemoration will feature a video premiering at noon on Tuesday, May 4, that focuses on the nine wounded students and the nine new markers that have been installed on the May 4 site. The new markers will display the names of the wounded students and their distance from the Ohio National Guard when they were hit by gunfire.

For a schedule of virtual events, please see www.kent.edu/may-4-1970/51st-commemoration.
Tiera Moore is the first in her family to earn a bachelor’s degree, with help from Kent State resources, programs and services. Recently, Kent State has been recognized for its long-held commitment to supporting first-generation students like her.

The effort to elevate first-generation students and help them to succeed is a campuswide priority.

The program is named for Black astronaut and physicist Ronald E. McNair, who died on Jan. 28, 1986, when the space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after launch from the Kennedy Space Center. Congress provided funding for the McNair Scholars Program after his death.

Moore, who once worried that she might not be up to the challenge of being the first in her family to earn a college degree, now plans to attend graduate school after graduation in 2021.

"Kent State provided so much help for me as a student, especially as a first-generation student and as a student of color," she says. "I felt that really showed the university’s dedication to diversity and their awareness that certain students do need help to go to school."

Kent State recognized as a First-gen Forward Institution

Recently, the Center for First-generation Student Success was honored as a First-gen Forward Institution, a national recognition given to institutions of higher education. These institutions are recognized for their commitment to supporting first-generation students at community colleges and four-year institutions.

"It is an honor to be named a leading First-gen Forward university," President Todd Diacon says. "This award demonstrates our deep commitment to helping all first-generation students successfully navigate the college experience and earn their degree."

The effort to elevate first-generation students and help them to succeed is a campuswide priority. For example, University College has worked with the Center for Teaching and Learning to provide faculty with a workshop on how to support first-generation students in the classroom.

Kent State partners with the LeBron James Family and the District of Columbia College Access Program, organizations that are dedicated to helping students who might otherwise not have the opportunity to attend and graduate from college. Students from both programs will be on the Kent Campus in the fall as freshmen.

Kent State’s designation as a First-gen Forward Institution means the university will have access to professional development and community-building opportunities and have priority use of the center’s research and resources.

The honor also allows the Center for First-generation Student Success to participate in workshops, provide a feature blog post and give a presentation on first-generation students on campus. If the university continues to engage in the process, it can apply for First-gen Forward Advisory status to test and share the model with other institutions.

Kent State’s application to the Center for First-Generation Student Success was a team effort involving Liz Pratt, PhD, assistant dean of Academic Diversity Outreach in University College; Yovanna Washington-Greer, assistant vice president for Equity, Identity and Success in the Division of Student Affairs; Melanie Idowu, director of Academic Diversity Outreach in University College; and Adam Cinderich, director of Student Support Services. Jones and Cinderich are co-chairs of Kent State’s First-Generation Committee.

The honor also allows us to signal in a prominent way that we really care about students who are first in their families to go to college," says Pratt, a first-generation student herself. "As our colleagues in other departments and at other institutions, it allows us to highlight the work we are doing at Kent State to support those students."
By Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94, and Jim Maxwell, BS '00, MS '11

Eunice Foote finally gets some credit

You may not have heard about early climate science pioneer Eunice Foote, but her scientific discoveries—long overlooked—are now being recognized.

By Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD, professor and assistant chair in the Department of Geology at Kent State, first learned about Eunice Foote a few years ago from Elizabeth Griffith, PhD, a colleague who is now a faculty member at The Ohio State University. Ortiz found and read a paper Foote had written in 1856, “I was floored by the elegance of her experiments,” he says. “She took what was known from geology, infused it with physical experimentation and helped to create the modern field of climate science—but without receiving credit.”

In the 1850s, Eunice Foote—an American amateur scientist, inventor and early activist for women’s rights—studied the effect of the sun’s rays on different atmospheric gases. Through a series of experiments using an air pump, thermometers and two glass cylinders, Foote discovered that carbon dioxide (which she called carbonic acid vapor) and water vapor could warm air in an experimental vessel. She found that a closed cylinder filled with carbon dioxide and exposed to sunlight trapped more heat and stayed hot longer than one left in the shade.

From that observation, she hypothesized that carbon dioxide and water could warm the atmosphere and influence climate on Earth during modern and ancient geologic times.

Geologists at the time were discovering that the world’s climate and vegetation had once been dramatically different. By studying coal deposits that had formed in swampy seas, they concluded that the atmosphere had once held much higher levels of carbon dioxide.

But then one day, Eunice Newton Foote, whose discovery 163 years ago paved the way for our modern understanding of Earth’s natural greenhouse effect, which is fundamental to the study of climate change.

Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD, professor and assistant chair in the Department of Geology at Kent State, first learned about Eunice Foote a few years ago from Elizabeth Griffith, PhD, a colleague who is now a faculty member at The Ohio State University. When Ortiz read and analyzed Eunice Foote’s 1856 paper, “On the heat in the Sun’s rays,” he says, “It was floored by the elegance of her experiments,” he says. “She took what was known from geology, infused it with physical experimentation and helped to create the modern field of climate science—but without receiving credit.”

In the 1850s, Eunice Foote—an American amateur scientist, inventor and early activist for women’s rights—studied the effect of the sun’s rays on different atmospheric gases. Through a series of experiments using an air pump, thermometers and two glass cylinders, Foote discovered that carbon dioxide (which she called carbonic acid vapor) and water vapor could warm air in an experimental vessel. She found that a closed cylinder filled with carbon dioxide and exposed to sunlight trapped more heat and stayed hot longer than one left in the shade.

From that observation, she hypothesized that carbon dioxide and water could warm the atmosphere and influence climate on Earth during modern and ancient geologic times.

Geologists at the time were discovering that the world’s climate and vegetation had once been dramatically different. By studying coal deposits that had formed in swampy seas, they concluded that the atmosphere had once held much higher levels of carbon dioxide.

But the geologists of the day felt that carbon dioxide only served as “food for plants,” Ortiz says. No one had yet considered that it may have an influence on climate.

Although Foote’s hypothesis that carbon dioxide in the ancient atmosphere would have made Earth much warmer was correct, notes Ortiz, her experimental design wasn’t sophisticated enough to reveal how carbon dioxide or water vapor led to warming. “Even so,” he says, “her work was a tremendous leap in thinking that some view as the birth of climate science.”

Foote collaborated with her husband, Elisha Foote, a judge and inventor, but they published separately. He studied how the sun’s rays could be amplified, perhaps to build a hot water heater or oven, and presented his paper at the 10th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Aug. 23, 1856, in Albany, New York.

Eunice Foote also submitted her paper on the CO2 discovery to the association, but hers was presented on her behalf by physicist Joseph Henry, director of the Smithsonian Institution, at the same meeting. It was published as “Circumstances affecting the heat of the Sun’s rays” in the American Journal of Science and Arts in November 1856 immediately following Elisha Foote’s paper, “On the heat in the Sun’s rays.”

Despite this, while her husband’s paper was republished in a prominent European journal, her paper was overlooked. Ortiz says. A summary of her work was published in the 1857 volume of The Annual of Scientific Discovery by David A. Wells. Five years later, Wells mentioned it without attribution in a geology textbook he authored. In 1859, however, John Tyndall, a prominent 19th-century Irish physicist, published the first paper to directly measure the Earth’s natural greenhouse effect. He concluded it was due to absorption of longwave radiation by carbon dioxide in the upper atmosphere.

Ultimately, full credit for the discovery of carbon dioxide’s role—which is central to the understanding of climate change, weather and meteorology—was given to Tyndall, while Eunice Foote’s contribution to climate science remained unknown.

That is changing now, in part thanks to Ortiz and a meeting of minds via social media.

Remembering Eunice Foote’s once-forgotten role

Ortiz met Sir Roland Jackson, PhD, a visiting fellow at the Royal Institution and research associate in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London, on Twitter in 2020. He was responding to a tweet about Foote from a mutual colleague and prominent climate scientist, Sarah Myhre, PhD. Myhre is founder and executive director of the Rowan Institute,
The article also explores her work in the context of what geologists in the 1850s thought caused climate change, based on contemporary writing. Until Eunice Footh, no one thought to link carbon dioxide and warming, and, alone set out to test that link experimentally.

“Their contribution is often overlooked. They are paid less, often have more administrative and teaching responsibilities than men and are passed over for positions of leadership.

“We need to provide equal access, pay and funding for women doing the same work as men in science,” he says. “We need to value cooperation, rather than competition, and build systems of advancement and policies that don’t disadvantage women. Science advances best when explored from diverse perspectives.”

“Despite the challenges, her work was remarkable for its time. I have no doubt she would have been an influential scientist, had she the resources and interest that were afforded to make European scientists of her day.” –Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD

Learn more about women in science history:

Who Was Eunice Foote?

• Eunice Newton Foote (1819–1883) was an amateur scientist or “natural philosopher” (the term “scientist” wasn’t common in the 1850s).

• In a Newton genealogy published in 1815, Eunice Foote was described as “a fine portrait and landscape painter, an inventive genius, and a person of unusual beauty,” but no known photograph of her has been confirmed.

• Foote was born in Goshen, Connecticut, and grew up in Bloomfield, New York. She was educated at the Troy Female Seminary (renamed the Emma Willard School), in Troy, New York, where she studied scientific theory, foundational chemistry and biology under Amos Eaton, an American botanist and champion of higher education for women. She later became a successful inventor and women’s rights activist.

• Several years before writing her 1856 paper, she attended the first Woman’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848, and helped prepare the proceedings for publication. Her name was fifth on the list of signatures on the convention’s Declaration of Sentiments, written by her neighbor and friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a suffragist leader. The declaration demanded equality with men in social status and legal rights, including the right to vote. (Her husband, Elisha Foote, whom she had married in 1841, also signed.)

• During the 19th century, American women published just 16 papers in the field of physics. Only two of those were published before 1889, both written by Foote.

• Her contribution might still be lost if not for Raymond Sorenson, a retired petroleum geologist and amateur historian, who stumbled upon the 1857 report of her work while flipping through The Annual of Scientific Discovery. Realizing that Foote was the first to make the connection between carbon dioxide and climate change, he noted that her work had gone mostly unrecognized by the prominent scientists of the 1850s, especially in European scientific institutions, such as the Royal Institution in London, where John Tyndall had worked. Sorenson posted his findings on the American Association of Petroleum Geologists’ online journal Search and Discovery in 2015, with an update in 2018.

• A short film about Foote, called Eunice, was made in 2018 and is available on Youtube. /
Women make up approximately 50% of the world’s population, yet researchers have estimated that women’s stories make up just 0.5% of recorded history. Of our nation’s more than 5,000 historic memorials, less than 8% of the subjects are women.

In 2020, we commemorated the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which secured women’s right to vote (Aug. 26, 1920). And yet the Equal Rights Amendment, which Congress passed and sent to the states for ratification almost five decades ago (March 22, 1972) is still not ratified.

So although we recently celebrated the inauguration of Kamala Harris as the 49th vice president of the United States, and she made history as the first woman, first Black and first South Asian vice president (Jan. 20, 2021), the legal equality of the sexes (with the exception of the right to vote) and the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex are still not protected by the US Constitution.

Given that background, it is significant that Kent State University has dedicated 15 buildings (plus a gate) on the Kent Campus to honor women who have influenced and inspired the university.

To celebrate Women’s History Month this past March, in the pages that follow we highlight these notable women in Kent State’s history—and share their stories of distinction.

The stories are presented in order by the year the buildings were dedicated.
May H. Prentice was the first woman faculty member hired by President John McGilvrey for the Kent State Normal School in 1912. (She was hired along with faculty members John T. Johnson and George E. Marker and McGilvrey’s assistant, Helen M. Atkinson.)

A teacher since 1873, Prentice began her work at the Kent State Normal School in fall 1912 before the first buildings on the campus (Lowry and Merrill halls) were completed. She taught extension courses in several of the more than 20 centers throughout the region. In May 1913, she became director of elementary training. In 1927, she was made professor of education and taught English, history of education and school management until she retired in 1930.

In describing Prentice, the 1917 Chestnut Burr said, “A great teacher, exponent of women’s suffrage, and friend to the student teacher, Miss Prentice has assured herself a permanent place in the hall of fame of pedagogy.”

On March 29, 1934, The Kent Stater announced that the memorial gate built in 1930 was to be named in Prentice’s honor and noted: “Many of her policies are in effect today at the training school; her song “Climbing the Hill at Kent” [aka “Kent State,” see Flashback, page 56] is sung by undergraduates of the present generation and she is revered by thousands of her former students as ‘a woman with an understanding heart.’”

Prentice Memorial Gate, at the corner of East Main and South Lincoln streets, was dedicated to May Prentice on Jan. 15, 1935, by alumni of the classes of 1928–1934. Unable to attend the dedication, she responded by letter and called the gate “a fitting symbol of the college . . . as an entrance into the larger life.” She also added, “I cannot deny that my pleasure in seeing my name on the bronze tablet is akin to that of a child who sees his name on the honor roll.”

May Prentice died at her home three weeks later on Feb. 6, 1935, of a heart ailment at 79. According to the president of the Alumni Association at the time, “Among the spontaneous and sincere tributes paid her by her intimate associates is the statement that ‘she was the kind of person to whom no one was afraid to go with his difficulties. She was remarkably intelligent and clever, yet never domineering or intimidating to anyone seeking help or advice.’”

In 2008, the gate was replicated with modern materials and relocated or advice. “Miss Prentice has assured herself a permanent place in the hall of fame of pedagogy.”

May Prentice House, originally located at 128 S. Willow St., was Prentice’s home during her time in Kent. After her death in 1935, her sisters, Georgianna and Eugenia, continued to live there, and Georgianna Prentice rented its rooms to students until the early 1950s. In February 2012, the university hired movers to lift the house, which dates from the early 1900s, and move it several lots south to a temporary location while construction continued on the Lester A. Lefton Esplanade walkway extension between downtown Kent and the Kent Campus.

In March 2013, the house was moved to its present location on the walkway between Willow and Lincoln streets—opposite the site of what is now the John Elliot Center for Architecture and Environmental Design—to become the new home of the Wick Poetry Center, dedicated Sept. 26, 2014. The historic home was renovated to provide a larger and more flexible space for Wick programs and community use. In addition to housing the Wick staff and intern offices, the house offers a digital classroom, the Stan and Tom Wick Library, the Jo Woodward Reading Room and a third-floor Poet’s Loft for quiet reflection and student conferences. It is adjacent to the center’s Poetry Park.

Prentice Hall, 2015

Prentice Hall, located near Taylor Hall and the MACC Annex, was dedicated to Prentice in 1959. It still serves as a residence hall, with accessible rooms for students with disabilities.

On May 4, 1970, the Prentice Hall parking lot became the site of a tragedy. As a result of a request from the May 4th Task Force student organization, the university installed markers locating the sites where the four students were killed. The markers were dedicated on Sept. 8, 1999, and participants stand vigil near them at each annual commemoration.

Recently, the university has installed bronze markers at each location in the ground and Prentice Hall parking lot where the nine students were wounded, along with their distance from the Ohio National Guard when the shots were fired.

ABOVE: The May Prentice House is lifted from its foundation and about to be moved from its original site.
ABOVE RIGHT: The May Prentice House at its current location on the Esplanade.
Blanche A. Verder, Dean Emerita, was the dean of women at Kent State from 1924 to 1938. She received a bachelor’s degree from Middlebury College and a master’s degree from Columbia University in 1922, as well as a diploma of dean of women. She also attended both Harvard University and Oxford University in England. Originally from Rutland, Vermont, Verder taught high school courses in her home state and New York before coming to Kent State.

As dean of women, she was responsible for the well-being of women students at Kent State, both on and off campus. The 1923 Chestnut Burr describes Verder’s responsibilities, which included oversight of women students’ living conditions, social relations and religious life. During her 16 years as dean, she was an integral part of implementing several organizations aimed at improving the social and scholastic life of women students.

In 1922, she formed the Off Camp Women’s Club to better serve the needs of women students living in the neighboring communities surrounding the Kent Campus. The club was a resource for women, helping them locate appropriate

graduating from Kent State in 1921 with a Bachelor of Science in education, she became the first Kent State alumna to attend graduate school. She received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The Ohio State University.

She started teaching at Kent State as a part-time professor and three years later was offered a full-time position. As a student and professor, she saw the university grow from 620 students to thousands of students whom she has taught over 42 different subjects. Among the thousands of students whom she has taught are 33 members of the present faculty and administrative staff.

When Kent State marked its 50th anniversary in 1960, Fletcher was named the most distinguished faculty member by her colleagues. While at Kent State, she became the first woman to deliver the invocation and benediction at Commencement.

While such reports may give the impression of a rigidly traditional figure, Verder was dedicated to her women students, particularly to improving their minds and expanding their worldview. In 1929 she sponsored a series of five field trips to visit the Cleveland Art Museum, the “slums of Cleveland,” Oberlin College, Hiram College and the College of Wooster, according to a Kent Stater article dated March 8, 1929.

Verder was granted the title of Dean Emerita for her dedication and service to Kent State. She died in 1953.

Mona Fletcher, undated

Mona Fletcher, Ph.D. ’21, PhD, Professor Emerita of Political Science, taught at Kent State from 1924 to 1963. After

off-campus housing and develop camaraderie with fellow students through social functions.

Verder was the first woman to deliver the invocation and benediction at Commencement. She became the first Kent State alumna to attend graduate school. She received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The Ohio State University.

She started teaching at Kent State as a part-time professor and three years later was offered a full-time position. As a student and professor, she saw the university grow from 620 students to thousands of students whom she has taught over 42 different subjects. Among the thousands of students whom she has taught are 33 members of the present faculty and administrative staff.

She received the KSU Alumni Award and the Shield Award from the Delta Gamma social sorority for “a lifetime devoted to education,” with a notation that she had been teaching at Kent State longer than any other professor. Fletcher was also granted emerita status in recognition of her long-standing service to the university.

The political science department presents an annual Mona Fletcher Award to the graduating senior with the highest overall GPA. She retired in 1963 for health reasons and died on Feb. 5, 1965, at the age of 72.

Fletcher Hall was dedicated in Mona Fletcher’s name in 1963. One of four residence halls that make up the Eastway Center complex, Fletcher houses approximately 945 first-year students. Coed by floor, with four floors comprised mostly of double rooms with loftable furniture, Fletcher Hall is one of the most popular dorms on the Kent Campus. For the 2021-2022 academic year, a limited number of deluxe single rooms (a double room where only one student will be assigned) are available.
Margaret Dunbar was hired as the first librarian at Kent State in 1913 at the request of then-President John McGilvrey. They had worked together at Western Illinois State Normal School in Macomb, Illinois, before coming to Kent. Margaret’s younger sister, Isabelle, was hired as the assistant librarian, in charge of records and student personnel. Both women were on the staff when the university first opened.

Margaret Dunbar grew up in Monmouth, Illinois, and earned a bachelor’s degree in library science from Monmouth College. She was a member of the American Library Association and the Ohio Library Association, holding offices for both organizations.

The Dunbar sisters are credited with founding the library; they purchased the library’s first book—Exposition and Illustration in Teaching by John Adams—in 1914. The library was originally located on the third floor of Merrill Hall, but it was relocated to the atrium of the Administration Building (now Cartwright Hall) in 1944.

Margaret Dunbar’s personnel file notes that during the first winter in the new space, she and her sister “worked on a dirt floor, in the unfinished room, which was unheated, save for open oil burners.” She also oversaw the library move to the David Ladd Rockwell Library (now Rockwell Hall) in 1929.

In addition to her role as head librarian, Margaret Dunbar also taught classes on library materials and library management. In the short tribute that accompanies her photo in the 1916 Chestnut Burr, she is described as providing reliable counsel to all: “It doesn’t matter what your problem is—whether it is concerned with a book or not—her judgment is always good, and she is always pleased to help. In a word, she is worth knowing.”

Dunbar Hall was dedicated to Margaret Dunbar in 1959. Originally, Dunbar Hall was reserved as a women’s residence hall. It is now the living-learning community for business students at Kent State. Since its dedication, Dunbar Hall has been home to more than 12,000 students.

“...being kind-hearted women who put students first...”

Margaret Dunbar retired from Kent State in 1943 after 30 years of service. She died on Dec. 24, 1957, at her home at 220 S. Willow St. in Kent, where she lived with her sister.

At the time of Isabelle Dunbar’s retirement in 1955, the university gave her a citation for long and faithful service. She died on March 1, 1960.
In 1928, she instituted the home economics practice house. Then, in 1947, the administration sponsored a new home management house named in her honor. It was a three-story building built in 1965 on the corner of Summit Road and Terrace Drive, in which six students could practice the responsibilities related to running a household.

Nixson served as faculty advisor for the Household Arts Club, comprised of students in the Household Arts, later renamed Household Science, and finally, the Home Economics Department. She also was the advisor of the Phi Alpha Alpha sorority, which was founded at Kent State in 1930. She was involved in many organizations outside of Kent State, including the Ohio Economics Club (once serving as vice president), the National Education Society, the American Association of University Women and the American Association of University Professors. Nixon was also one of the seven founders of the local and state chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary educational society.

Nixson retired in July 1945. She died at her home, at 543 Lake St., Kent, on Dec. 8, 1948, following a prolonged illness. She was buried in Michigan.

In 1929, she served as a faculty advisor for the Household Arts Club, comprised of students in the Household Arts, later renamed Household Science, and finally, the Home Economics Department. She also was the advisor of the Phi Alpha Alpha sorority, which was founded at Kent State in 1930. She was involved in many organizations outside of Kent State, including the Ohio Economics Club (once serving as vice president), the National Education Society, the American Association of University Women and the American Association of University Professors. Nixon was also one of the seven founders of the local and state chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary educational society.

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Florence Gray Beall, PhD, Professor Emerita of English, taught at Kent State from 1933 to 1957. Beall was originally from Newark, Ohio, where her family lived on a 65-acre farm.

She entered The Ohio State University in 1918, graduating in three years with honors and an AB [Applied Baccalaureate] in English and languages. After teaching English, languages and a little physical education and geometry at York High School in York, Ohio, she earned a master’s degree in English at Columbia University in 1925.

A year later, she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan, where she made a special study of teaching and teachers’ training, especially in the field of English, and earned doctorates in both English and education in 1932. She taught there and at Ashland College until coming to Kent State.

Beall joined the English faculty as an assistant professor at what was then Kent State Normal College in 1933. She was involved with student life and social activities and served on many committees. She was an advisor of Cardinal Key, the national honor society for women that Blanche Verder, Dean Emerita of Women, introduced in 1934. She was a faculty advisor to first-year liberal arts students, and was also on the publications committee, which provided staffing recommendations for The Kent Stater and the Chestnut Burr to the president for review.

Several articles in The Kent Stater from that period describe Beall as unconventional and popular among the students. One piece, from May 17, 1934, described an upcoming baseball game between faculty members and the “Phys-Ed Lassies.” For the faculty team, Beall was labeled as “manager and waterboy who used to play with the East Side Wonders Parcheesi team” and she was given the nickname “Fighting Flossie”—albeit in the article she claimed she never caught a baseball in her life and made no predictions as to the outcome of the game.

According to her personnel file, her pet dislike was playing bridge, she didn’t like to buy new hats and she didn’t own an automobile—preferring to give the money she would spend on one to educate her two nieces and two nephews, whom she practically raised herself. She liked a quiet life, enjoyed a good movie once in a while, but on the whole was content with a good book. In an article in the March 1, 1934, Kent Stater, when asked what books she would take to a desert island, Beall, an authority on Shakespeare, said she would occupy her time with Ben Jonson, Webster, Trollope’s Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon, the New English Dictionary, Selections from English Literature, 1850-1875, and Selections from English Literature, 1675-1930. In explaining her choice, she said, “With these four books I can study that most interesting phenomenon, the development of a language, and its use as the instrument of man’s thought; and as I gain a better knowledge of language, I can more readily discern those works of literature which are true expressions of the genius of the English-speaking people.”

Popular with students and her colleagues, especially those in the English department, she was described as “a demanding teacher but popular because she helped her students enjoy their literature courses.”

Florence Gray Beall with then-President Robert White, circa 1960

Colleagues said she could make the works of Shakespeare “come alive,” that she as “very fair in the classroom and knowledgeable” and that “there was a fine line of respect that no one dared cross.”

Beall left Kent State in 1957 to conclude her teaching career in the extension division of The Ohio State University and retired to the family farm in Newark, Ohio. She was granted emerita status by the Board of Trustees in 1967.

She lived alone, spending most of her time writing letters and reading, until she developed a heart ailment in June 1986. She was treated at Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark and moved to a nursing home a day before her death on Aug. 5, 1986. She was 92 years old.

Beall Hall, located on the east side of the Kent Campus, was dedicated to Florence Gray Beall in 1966 and was originally a women-only residence hall. It was part of a dual dedication along with McDowell Hall. A 1966 Kent Stater article noted that these two residence halls, known as the Twin Towers, cost $4.8 million and would expand on-campus housing by an additional 800 students. In 1987, according to the Kent Stater, when the life science tower was added, the new residence hall would house 900 students.
The only residence hall on the Kent Campus named for a student is Koonce Hall, dedicated in 1968 in honor of Judith Ellen Koonce, BS '57. Known to her friends as Judy, she was born April 17, 1935, to James and Julia Koonce of Cleveland. After completing studies at George Washington Elementary School and John Marshall High School, she enrolled at Kent State in 1953.

Koonce was popular among her fellow Kent State students. She was elected sophomore treasurer, according to a Kent Stater article dated Nov. 1, 1954. She was selected as one of three finalists (from a field of 25) for Snowball Queen of a semi-formal dance and fundraising event hosted by Phi Sigma Kappa, according to a Kent Stater article dated Feb. 4, 1955. Koonce was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. She majored in biology and earned a Bachelor of Science in education in 1957. After graduating, she taught art and science at Eastmoor Junior High School in Columbus, Ohio, during the 1957–58 school year. She was an active member of the faculty and sponsored the Outdoor Club. She planned to enter graduate school at Kent State in September to work on a master’s degree.

In the summer of 1958, Koonce was serving as a conservation instructor at Camp Clifton, operated by the 4-H organization, as she had for the past four summers. On the morning of July 17, 1958, according to an article from the Xenia Daily Gazette dated June 19, 1968, she was leading 40 campers on a hike at what is now the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, when an 11-year-old girl, Kyrleen Ruhl, lost her footing and fell into the Little Miami River—a 35-foot drop into 75 or 80 feet of rushing water.

Koonce told the other children to go to a nearby road and summon help. Then she climbed part way down the cliff wall and leaped into the river in a rescue attempt. By the time sheriff deputies, firemen and police arrived, she and Kyrleen had drowned in the swift current. The event triggered a search for both victims, and the child’s body was recovered that evening about 1,000 feet west of where she had fallen into the water. Koonce’s body was recovered the following Sunday, July 20, 150 feet downstream.

After her tragic death, Koonce was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, an honor awarded to individuals who risk their lives attempting to save the lives of others. At the 4-H camp, a cabin bears her name. At Eastmoor, the school planted a redbud, her favorite tree, as a symbol of her love for the outdoors. Students contributed to the purchase of a bronze plaque, inscribed with her name and heroic attempt, that was placed at the base of the tree.

At Kent State, the Judith Koonce Memorial Award in biology was established in 1960 and still is awarded to “the outstanding graduating biological sciences major based on enthusiasm for biology as demonstrated by activities beyond formal coursework, leadership ability and academic record.” Her legacy also lives on as the namesake of a residence hall in the Tri-Towers complex at Kent State.

Judith E. Koonce Hall, commonly known as Koonce Hall, was dedicated in 1968 and received a full renovation in 2014. The 10-story building has the distinction of being the largest individual residence hall on the Kent Campus, housing approximately 510 students. Judith Koonce’s name and mention of her Carnegie Medal for Heroism are mounted on a bronze plaque in the main Koonce Hall lobby. Her portrait, donated by her Gamma Phi Beta sorority sisters, graces the staff office in the residence hall.

"After her tragic death, Koonce was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, an honor awarded to individuals who risk their lives attempting to save the lives of others."

Judith E. Koonce, 1957 Chestnut Burr

In Memory of Judith Ellen Koonce

Bronze plaque mounted in the interior of Koonce Hall

Judith E. Koonce, Eastmoor Junior High School tribute

LEFT: Judith Koonce portrait, Koonce Hall

ABOVE: Judith Koonce, Eastmoor Junior High School tribute

ABOVE: James and Julia Koonce, parents of Judith Koonce, at the dedication of Koonce Hall in 1968

RIGHT: Judith Koonce, 1957
Apple was the first chair of the Department of Women’s Physical Education. She was a member of the Women’s Athletic Association, which was founded in 1928 to sponsor competitive individual and team sports for women. An athlete herself, Apple enjoyed bowling, tennis and badminton. She was an advisor of the Physical Education Club, which was comprised of male and female students studying physical education, and she was a faculty member on the athletic board. Her teaching career in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Kent State University spanned 35 years, and she retired in 1953. Her papers, along with the Apple family papers (she married James G. Apple on Sept. 13, 1914), are housed at Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.

Apple was granted emerita status in 1969 for her pioneering work in the development of physical education at Kent State. University records show her death date as Sept. 10, 2003, but apparently her papers are just not available. apple was 20 years old when she began teaching in 1916.

Apple Hall was dedicated to Marie Hyde Apple on Nov. 22, 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Heer, Harbort, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen. These dorms were designed specifically to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life. However, due to other campus renovations and expansions, several were deemed obsolete in 2008 and demolished, Apple Hall among them.

According to a 2008 Kentwired.com article, for many alumni who once called these small-group dorms “home,” the demolition was truly a loss. As a result of requests from alumni, souvenir bricks from the buildings to be torn down were made available.

“I have so many wonderful memories of KSU, most especially [of] my freshman year at Apple Hall,” said Katie McArthur, ’99. “Apple Hall was a special place where being new to college and away from home didn’t seem so intimidating. Apple Hall will be missed!”

Apple Hall among them.

Van Campen was born in Laramie, Wyoming. She attended elementary and secondary schools in Alabama, Canada and North Carolina. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tennessee in 1911, a Bachelor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1933 and a Doctor of Education (EdD) from Columbia University in 1938.

At Chicago, she studied under the father of progressive education, John Dewey. Although she acknowledged that some progressives went too far in applying his ideas, she thought they were sound. “We determine the child’s needs and society’s needs and try to combine the two, accelerating studies for the bright and trimming the curricula for the middle and slower learners.”

Apparent Dewey’s approach worked for her, and she said she never had to discipline a child. “I found that which was to oversee “training-school classes in physical training, practice teachers in physical education, and the college physical training classes for girls.”

Marion Van Campen was dedicated to Marion Van Campen in 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Apple, Heer, Harbort, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen.

Van Campen Hall was dedicated to Marion Van Campen in 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Apple, Heer, Harbort, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, and Stewart. These dorms were designed to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life.

At various times, the 60-bed dorm building was home to the International Village Experience Living-Learning Community and the Phi Mu sorority. In recent years, Van Campen has housed the Office of Global Education. It currently is being used as on-campus quarantine housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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when one is in trouble, she will lend a willing hand of help.” Needless to say, students enjoyed her classes.

While at Kent State, Humphrey was a faculty advisor to The Woman’s League, a group for all women students, and Phi Theta Upsilon, one of the first sororities established at the university. She was an honorary member of Lambda Chi, which was organized in 1926 for students of the arts. Humphrey is also listed as the advisor of the Art Club in the 1945 Chestnut Burr.

During World War II, Humphrey developed courses for an occupational therapy program to be offered in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts. In addition to courses in arts and crafts, the program included physiology, anatomy, psychology and sociology courses, as well as practice work in hospitals. “There will be an urgent need for such service in the rehabilitation centers as part of our defense program,” Humphrey says in a Kent Stater article dated Feb. 11, 1942.

Humphrey expanded the curriculum in the art department to introduce concentrations in jewelry design, weaving, lithography, wood cutting, and marionette and puppet design.

In a Kent Stater article dated May 19, 1948, on the occasion of Humphrey’s 35th year of teaching at Kent State, she is described as “a quick and energetic woman, with a ready smile and a capacity for hard work.” Humphrey recalled planning and organizing the art department in 1913, when classroom work at the Kent Campus began. Offices were above the Kent National Bank, and classes were held in schools and churches in nearby cities until campus buildings were completed. There were 22 faculty members, 291 students and a few well-organized departments.

Besides her regular teaching activities, she was faced with administrative problems, the organization of curricula and the problem of supplies. “The days were always too short. . . . I have had a busy and exciting career here at Kent,” she said. “If I could begin all over again, there isn’t much I would change.”

In the summer of 1949, she taught 13 students the art of hand weaving, an old craft that had been experiencing a revival “probably to get away briefly from this age of mass production in which we live,” Humphrey says in a Kent Stater article dated July 22, 1949. “Weaving is satisfying as well as stimulating because it is creative.” Weaving would become a passion for Humphrey, who founded the Kent Weaver’s Guild and designed many of her own patterns. She went on to win prizes for her work and continued to teach weaving on seven custom-made looms of different sizes in her Cuyahoga Falls home after retiring from Kent State. She also lectured, designed and supervised the construction of fine hand looms.

An enthusiastic hobbyist, she collected pitchers and glassware, and at one time had 230 pieces. She became interested in colonial art during a trip through the Appalachian Mountains and collected samples from Sweden and other countries.

In 1951, Humphrey was granted emerita status only a few months after her retirement. She made her last public appearance at Kent State in 1963 at the 50th anniversary of the school’s founding.

The last of the original Kent State faculty, Humphrey died on June 22, 1968, in a Peninsula nursing home after a year’s illness. She was 88 years old.

“The days were always too short. . . . I have had a busy and exciting career here at Kent. If I could begin all over again, there isn’t much I would change.”

Humphrey Hall was dedicated to Nina S. Humphrey in 1969. It was part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Apple, Altmann, Heer, Harbort, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen. These dorms were designed to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life. However, due to other campus renovations and expansions, several were deemed obsolete in 2008 and demolished, Humphrey Hall among them.
Henderson began her career at the Grace Hospital School of Nursing in Detroit, where she was a faculty member. In 1955, she joined the faculty at the North Carolina School of Nursing and began an illustrious career in higher education.

Henderson became an associate professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati and then assistant dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Western Reserve (now Case Western Reserve University). She came to Kent State in 1967 as the first director of the nursing program, which had been approved for development. Three years later, when the School of Nursing was established in 1970, Henderson was named dean.

During her tenure, she expanded the program significantly, increasing faculty from four to 60 and graduating more than 1,700 students with bachelor’s degrees. Henderson also introduced a master’s program in 1977; it was the fourth of its kind in Ohio and only the second in Northeast Ohio.

The Ohio Senate recognized Henderson in a 1984 resolution stating, “As a result of her strong belief in baccalaureate nursing education and her unwavering commitment to excellence, the school and its graduates have become recognized and accepted throughout the nation.”

As the program grew, so did the needs of its faculty and students. From 1967 to 1976, they shuffled from Lowry Hall to the old Health Center to Franklin Hall. Finally, in 1976, they moved into a newly constructed facility built specifically for the needs of the School of Nursing.

Henderson played a large role in designing the $3 million building to ensure that it would accommodate the current and future needs of the program. She was instrumental in establishing an honor society for nursing students and began an annual lecture series that attracted national nursing leaders to the campus.

A week before her death, President Michael Schwartz presented her with the medal in the hospital.

Henderson died on April 25, 1984, at Suburban Community Hospital in Warrensville Heights, where she had been hospitalized for several weeks. She was 66. “She devoted almost all of her time to the university,” said Irene Bosco, assistant dean at the School of Nursing at the time. “She didn’t even like to take her vacations.” Henderson was buried at Standing Rock Cemetery.

The series was later renamed the Linnea Henderson Lecture Series. Henderson’s visionary leadership was recognized during her time as dean because of her local, state and national work in nursing education.

She was planning to retire in the summer of 1984 and was to receive the President’s Medal, for contributions to the advancement of Kent State through extraordinary service, at a reception in March. However, she was unable to attend because of an acute illness.

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Roe Green, MA ‘80, is well known for her philanthropy and advocacy on behalf of the arts and theatre. Born in Beachwood, Ohio, she was the only child of Ben C. and Sylvia Chappy Green, who were instrumental in her arts education.

Her first experience with theater was narrating “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” to a group of adults when she was a competitive ballroom dancer. She later found she preferred being behind the scenes directing or stage managing—although she enjoyed the limelight, she later found it was well worth the effort and “led by example.”

Roe Green, who recalls many caring people in her life, says Green, who recalls many caring people in her life, says

“The Roe Green Foundation established an annual visiting director’s series for the Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance in 2003. Through the program, the school each year invites a guest professional director to work in residence with students and direct one of the school’s Main Stage productions.

In 2006, the foundation pledged what at the time was the largest capital gift in Kent State history, $6.5 million. This paid half the cost of an addition to the Music and Speech Building, which was named the Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance in 2010. For the first time in university history, theatre and dance—which had been divided between the Music and Speech Building and the Gym Annex—were united under one roof. The project brought the footprint of the School of Theatre and Dance to more than 70,000 square feet, creating a central location for music, dance and music, and includes four space houses programs in theatre, dance and music, and includes four dance studios, a black box theatre (a versatile space for experimental productions), a new entrance and lobby, a box office and a cafe.

The Roe Green Center for Theatre and Dance was dedicated to Roe Groves in 2010. The center was a $13 million addition to the Music and Speech Building (now the Center for the Performing Arts). The renovated and newly constructed space houses programs in theatre, dance and music, and includes four dance studios, a black box theatre (a versatile space for experimental productions), a new entrance and lobby, a box office and a cafe.

Through her personal philanthropy, Roe Green established two funds to support students in their pursuit of arts education and other initiatives in Kent State and beyond. The Roe Green Foundation and stepped up her philanthropy for her service and patronage. She travels extensively (she’s visited more than 160 countries) and has a second home in Jupiter, Florida—a community that is also the fortunate recipient of her philanthropy.

Roe Green is the recipient of the 2009 Ohio Arts Council’s Governor’s Arts Patron award and the President’s Medallion from Kent State. In 2015, she received the Kent State University College of the Arts’ inaugural Centennial Award for her service and patronage.

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Sarah Shendy, BA ’06, has always been interested in why people do what they do. Born into a Muslim household, she lived in Egypt and Saudi Arabia before coming to the United States with her family in 1990, at age 6. Growing up in America, she noticed the difference between her structured, disciplined home life and the less restricted home life of most of her friends.

“Many Arab American families, especially those with young kids or teenagers, struggle because inside the home, it’s one world, and outside the home, it’s a whole different world,” says Shendy, who has dual US and Egyptian citizenship. “My siblings and I never attended a school dance or football game. When I was younger, my parents would say, ‘Don’t do this,’ and I wanted to know why. I wasn’t being defiant, I just wanted to know why we weren’t able to do certain things. And they never told us.

“Now, as a mature adult, I understand that my parents were trying to protect us, as most parents do. They were terrified of what would happen if we were out with people who had different values, ethics and morals. In many ways, I am grateful for being spared a lot of the unnecessary trouble and drama that some of my friends experienced because they just did whatever they wanted. However, in the Middle Eastern culture, we need to do better in terms of understanding others and communicating the reasons for living as we do.”

Shendy also thinks that parents need to realize that they can’t control their kids’ environment and they can’t really control their kids. “All you can do is keep communication open with them, let them know you love them, you support them and that whatever they’re not allowed to do is for a reason—because you want them to be safe and successful.”

When it comes to success, education is valued in the Shendy family. Her father earned a PhD in polymer chemistry at The University of Akron in 1992 and works as a chemical scientist at BASF Inc. in Beachwood, Ohio. Her mother teaches Arabic studies at Faith Islamic Academy housed within the Islamic Society of Akron and Kent Mosque.

Enrolled at Kent State, Shendy wasn’t sure what she wanted to study—even though going into pre-med was strongly encouraged by her father. For her first two years, she majored in biology, but struggled with the electives. “I have to be a hundred percent engaged with and passionate about what I’m doing or it just doesn’t work,” she says.

Unhappy with her classes, it dawned on her that she had always been drawn to juvenile delinquents. “I felt that the majority of kids who were making bad decisions were doing so because they lacked structure, discipline and standards,” Shendy says. “Had they had love, support and proper leadership from someone who believed in them, they wouldn’t be like that. I wanted to help these kids become better, stronger human beings who can learn from adversity and do something great with their lives.” So she decided to study criminal justice.

However, Shendy never considered going into law enforcement until after she graduated from Kent State with a bachelor’s degree in justice studies. At the time, one of her criminal justice professors, James Owens (who also ran the newly resurrected Kent State Police Academy in 2007) told her that she’d make a great officer. He had noted her communication skills, compassionate character and love of working with people.

“I made the decision to join the academy and fell in love with law enforcement,” Shendy says. “Since then, my life has never been the same.”

At first, she says, her parents did not support her decision (“Who wants their daughter to go into police work?”) but they eventually accepted it when they saw how passionate she was about her chosen career and how good she was at the job.

“I wouldn’t be as happy or fulfilled if it wasn’t for how amazing and supportive my family has been,” Shendy says. “I celebrate all my work anniversaries every year because I love my job so much and all that it has allowed me to do and accomplish. And, of course, because of the wonderful people I meet on their darkest days. They are the reason I get up every day and do what I do.”

After graduating from the police academy (the first class to graduate since

“A FORCE FOR GOOD

Sarah Shendy, BA ’06, loves her job in law enforcement and recruitment—and is determined to develop a more diverse police force to benefit communities.

By Stephanie Langguth, BS ’03, MPA ’19, and Jan Senn

“I wanted to help these kids become better, stronger human beings who can learn from adversity and do something great with their lives.”
She has given talks at mosques about law enforcement. “Many Muslims don’t understand what US police officers do and why,” she says. “They compare law enforcement in this country to law enforcement in Middle Eastern countries. And that’s not the same. For example, in Middle Eastern countries, community-oriented policing does not exist. The police are not there to be your friend or protect you; they are there to protect the government and country.

That’s different than in the United States, where citizens have so many rights and freedoms, despite the fact that tragedies can still happen. I talk about basic things, like what to do if you’re stopped by the police. In Middle Eastern countries, if the police stop you, you get out of the car. Here, of course, you don’t want to do that.”

Shendy was chosen to chair the community policing subcommittee of the Ohio Attorney General’s Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training in 2014. The 16-member panel was appointed by then-Attorney General Mike DeWine to make recommendations on how police officers are trained in Ohio, in an effort to address distrust and unrest sparked by police use of force in the Black community. The committee completed its objective in April 2015.

While still working for the Copley Police Department, she was recruited as a Law Enforcement Training Officer for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, where she taught from 2016 to 2020. She also was a terrorism liaison officer in the Northeast Ohio region, trained to support public safety and handle the threat of terrorism.

In June 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine appointed Shendy to become the first director of the newly created Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment—following clashes between police and protestors in Columbus and Cleveland after the death of George Floyd.

Shendy was an independent training program to instruct police officers on diversity and how to interact with Middle Eastern and Muslim communities. “I felt a personal and professional obligation to educate my law enforcement family about my Middle Eastern and Muslim family and vice versa,” Shendy says. “I wanted to make sure there was understanding and a good line of communication between the Muslim community and law enforcement.”

“I wanted to make sure there was good communication between the Muslim community and law enforcement.”

Shendy’s career has allowed her to work in many communities throughout Ohio, she stays connected to Kent State in both her personal and professional life. “There are five kids in my family and four of us graduated from Kent State,” Shendy says. While a student on the Kent Campus, she joined campus organizations that not only helped her feel connected to the university community, but also helped expand her understanding of the world. One of those organizations was the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

“My sisters [Shimaa Shendy, BS 07, Ayat Shendy, BS 08, and Fatima Shendy, BS ’16, MS ’18] and I were all members of the MSA,” she says. “It definitely helped me meet diverse groups of students on campus; I met students from Sudan, India, Pakistan and Algeria. I still keep in touch with some of them today. We also had dinners and activities with other religious groups on campus, and it helped increase our awareness and knowledge about other religions and cultures.”

Shendy says her time at Kent State also prepared her for where she is today. “I had the best professors and advisors. They believed in me and pushed me to reach my full potential. When I speak to young men and women who are attending college or the police academy, I always recommend Kent State.”

In her current role, Shendy’s evident passion for law enforcement and improving potential recruits. “If you want to become a change agent in your community, if you want to advocate for vulnerable populations and speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves, if you feel your calling is to help others rise, heal and move past trauma—then your calling is law enforcement,” she says. “We’re also developing a mentorship program because having support while you’re going through the academy is extremely important, especially when it comes to women and minorities.”

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Being a national thought leader in higher education doesn’t leave much time for hobbies and artistic expression. But retirement—and a pandemic lockdown—has given Kent State President Emerita Carol Cartwright, PhD, exactly that. “I’ve taught myself to do needlepoint, and I’m growing lemons on my back deck,” says Cartwright, who moved in 2019 to Napa, California, with her husband, Phil, to be closer to two of their three children.

“I love to cook. For years, when I was a senior administrator, there wasn’t a lot of time to be home during the dinner hour. So it’s been fun to explore cooking.”

Earlier this year, Cartwright retired from the prestigious Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, an independent group that provides authoritative leadership prioritizing college athletes’ well-being and educational experience. However, that retirement only signals the next phase of a career devoted to higher education.

In 1991, when Cartwright was named president of Kent State University, she became the first woman to hold that position at any public college or university in Ohio. Prior to her time at Kent State, she served as dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost of Penn State and then vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, Davis. After a 15-year tenure at Kent State, she retired in 2006. She became interim president of Kent State, she served as dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost of Penn State and then vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, Davis. After a 15-year tenure at Kent State, she retired in 2006. She became interim president of Kent State, she served as dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost of Penn State and then vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, Davis. After a 15-year tenure at Kent State, she retired in 2006. 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**FOR TRADITIONAL-AGED STUDENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS ATHLETICS HELP STUDENTS LEARN, GROW AND FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY FIT IN LIFE.**

The Knight Commission recommended that this path forward include the creation of a new governing entity—the proposed National College Football Association—that would be funded by College Football Playoff revenues and would manage all issues related to the FBS.

In addition to the Knight Commission, Cartwright has held leadership positions in higher education’s most renowned organizations, chairing the board of directors of the American Association for Higher Education and serving on the boards of the American Council on Education, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities. She also has been a leading member of numerous regional and statewide cultural, civic and economic development organizations, including the boards of NFR, KeyCorp, PolyOne Corp. and FirstEnergy Corp.

Highly regarded throughout the world of higher education, Cartwright holds a special place of honor at Kent State. When she left in 2006, the university renamed its auditorium building Carol A. Cartwright Hall.

For Cartwright, the appreciation is mutual. In 2017, she and her family made a $1 million estate gift to establish the Cartwright Family Fund for Opportunities in the Arts at Kent State University. “I have been looking in the local Napa area for somewhere to volunteer. Before the pandemic hit, I was exploring something in literacy,” she says. “As you can guess, I’m just not well wired for retirement.”

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Learn more about estate and planned gifts at www.kent.edu/legacy.

Learn more about the Cartwright Family Fund for Opportunities in the Arts at https://www.kent.edu/philanthropy/news/former-kent-state-university-president-gives-1-million-scholarship.

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Alita (Boecker) Neff-Dupuis, BA ’43, Beverly Hills, FL, turned 100 years young on Feb. 17, 2021. Since her children wouldn’t be able to celebrate with her because of the pandemic, one of her daughters, Susan Grace, reached out to see if Kent State could give her a surprise Happy Birthday greeting.

She sent along a current photo and a clipping from a newspaper dated Jan. 25, 1941, which announced that Alita Boecker, a Kent State sophomore from Melrose, Massachusetts, had been named the first Chestnut Burr Queen.

After digging into Kent State’s digital collections (https://omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/), it was discovered that, in addition to being selected queen by more than 800 student votes, she also had been quite involved in extracurricular activities—as manager of the women’s modern dance club, treasurer of Moulton Hall dormitory, secretary of the art club, chairman of the decorations committee for the Sophomore Sweater Swagger dance and more.

She majored in history and government and became a librarian after graduation. She also met her first husband, William G. Neff, at Kent State in 1940. He enlisted in the US Army shortly after Pearl Harbor and later transferred to the US Air Force. They married in 1944 and had five children. The family moved to Miami, Florida, after he left the service in 1957. Although they divorced in 1969 and later both remarried, they remained lifelong friends. (William Neff died in May 2014 at age 95.)

According to her daughter, “She still stays connected with her social club friends and remains engaged with her reading, gardening, fabric arts, computer activities, etc. Mom is thriving, living independently and enjoying life to the fullest. Staying physically and mentally active has kept her young at heart and of spirit.”

On her birthday, Kent State posted birthday greetings on Facebook and Instagram.

His medical career, he diagnosed patients with mysterious gastrointestinal symptoms and provided follow physicians with guidance to diagnoses and cures via educational materials, lectures and exhibits. He authored many scientific publications—which focus on clinical solutions—and has received awards for his medical films and other efforts.

His new e-book, Plants R Cures: An Almanac of Plants and Medicine (LRich Publishing, 2019), explores the intersection of plants and medicine, now and in the past, while also offering a practical guide to use of herbs to treat a large variety of ailments. The book also features anecdotal patient cases from his storied practice and world travels.

Dr. Gordon continues as a senior attending physician at the Free Clinic in University City, Missouri, teaching medical, nursing and pharmacy students, while treating (with translators) many international immigrants.

Save the Date for Homecoming 2021!

Kent State will celebrate Homecoming 2021 on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021. Plans are underway for events activities, both virtual and in-person, that can occur safely, including such classic traditions as Homecoming Court, Kiss on the K and the Bowman Cup 5K. More details are still being determined and will be shared as they develop at www.kent.edu/homecoming.

In addition to Homecoming festivities, the university will celebrate the Class of 2020 with an in-person commencement ceremony during Homecoming Weekend. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual commencement ceremonies were held for the Class of 2020; with a promise to graduating students that they would be invited back to campus for commencement when it is deemed safe to do so.

“The commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on the Kent Campus,” wrote Kent State President Todd Diacon in a letter to 2020 graduating students that they would be invited back to campus for commencement when it is deemed safe to do so.

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“We are looking forward to seeing alumni join us back on campus after having nearly a year and a half of virtual interactions,” Diacon added. “There is a lot to celebrate, and honoring our new Class of 2020 graduates alongside their fellow Golden Flashes alumni here on campus is going to be very exciting.”
Lou Holtz, BS ’59, Honorary Doctor of Law ’94, Orlando, FL, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Nov. 23, 2020. This prestigious award is the nation’s highest civilian honor. Holtz is recognized as one of the greatest coaches of all time for his accomplishments on the gridiron. He is also a philanthropist and author.

After growing up in a small town in West Virginia, Holtz attended Kent State and was the first member of his family to enroll in college. He played football, studied history and joined the Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. For the next seven years, he served as an officer in the United States Army Reserve.

Upon graduating from Kent State, Holtz began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at the University of Iowa. He landed his first head coaching job at the College of William & Mary, leading the team to the Southern Conference title and an appearance in the Tangier Bowl.

Over the next 35 years, Holtz has led successful football teams, including North Carolina State, the University of Minnesota and the University of South Carolina. He also coached the New York Jets during a 13-game stint in professional football. He compiled an impressive overall record of 249-132-7. Most notably, Holtz earned an outstanding 100-30-2 record as head coach at the University of Florida in 1981. His 1984 team earned a perfect 19-0 record and was crowned national champion. Most importantly, he inspired generations of young athletes along the way.

Since his retirement from coaching, Holtz has authored several books and contributed to ESPN and CBS as a sport analysis commentator. He continues to give back to his community through two charities, the Holtz Charitable Foundation and the Holtz Heroes Foundation.

Holtz has received honorary doctorates from the University of Notre Dame, the University of South Carolina, Trine University in Indiana and the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame and the upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame, among many other accolades.

Michael Chanak Jr., BS ’71, Cincinnati, wrote, “The last film I was in for P&G, They'll See You, 1670- Visibility in Advertising, by Brent Miller, Otto Bell and Jordan Shavarebi (Great Big Story), has been nominated by GLAAD [an American nongovernmental media monitoring organization] for the 32nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards in the category of Outstanding Online Journalism—Video or Multimedia.” See http://bit.ly/TheWillSeeYou.

Barbara Brothers, PhD ’73, Youngstown, OH, who has a distinguished 42-year career as a faculty member and administrator at Youngstown State University, has endowed a scholarship for Black graduates of Youngstown City School District. The Dr. Barbara Brothers Scholarship in Education will assist Black students majoring in education at YSU. Brothers expects that these students will return to the school district one day to inspire the next generation of educators.

Brothers began her career at Youngstown State as an adjunct instructor in 1960. She held various roles and spearheaded initiatives across campuses, state and federal grants for working with public schools. After serving as the acting dean of dean’s in 1993, she became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (now the Broy Brough College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education). In 2001, Brothers retired from Youngstown State. In 2010, she received the university’s Heritage Award for professional accomplishments and community service.

She remains active in civic causes and serves on the boards of YWCA Mahoning Valley, Youngstown Rotary, League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown, WYuseppe Youngstown Garden Club, Lieutenant Youngstown and the American Association of University Women.

Mike Wite, BS ’73, 71, Helena Island, SC, wrote, “From January to June 1973, I participated in the 1973 Spring semester in the United Nations System program, sponsored by the Center for International and Comparative Programs. It included trips and studies in Washington, DC, New York, NY, Geneva, Switzerland, and United Nations offices and sites throughout Europe. It was truly a great experience in my life. Before long it will be the 50th anniversary of this trip, and would love to locate the participants to reconnect and see what has transpired in all those years since then. I have everyone’s name but I have lost track of their whereabouts. If you are one of the 18 participants from Kent State and/or know of the location of the other participant from Huntington University in Indiana, please contact me at mwitel@gmail.com.”

Freddy Jenner, BS ’74, San Diego, wrote, “On Aug. 14, 2016, Brian Grubich [former athletics leadership annual giving officer and former assistant director of The Golden Flashes Club] announced via email the Kent State Men’s Soccer AD-12 Decade Teams for the 1960s and 1970s. These two teams are the first selections by the school for any of their sports over the year.

“Voting was conducted by the men’s soccer alumni last spring, as there are no personnel currently at the university who had knowledge of the performances of participants in the program, which concluded at the end of the fall 1980 season. The individuals selected had received the most votes as tabulated by the school. No one could cast a vote for themselves, there was only one ballot that could be submitted by each voter, and there was no outside influence for weighing votes.

“The goal of the university for recognizing all decade teams is a tremendous honor for the Kent State Men’s Soccer program and its participants. For a list of the best players and coaches this decade, please visit each decade see http://kst.osu.edu/site/ Message/report_t.php?id=963.20clcsu;id=1983.”

David C. Lange, BA ’73, Malvern, OH, was inducted into the Ohio Vets Hall of Fame in October 2020, in recognition for outstanding service to the community, state and nation after military service. A Navy veteran (an active duty from 1968 to 1971) and accomplished journalist, Lange has written extensively on topics such as Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress in military veterans and is the author of a coming-of-age memoir, Virginity Lost in Vietnam (Act 3 Publishing, 2016).” During his journalism career, he worked at four newspapers in Northeast Ohio and served as editor of the Goodyoga Times, a newspaper he helped found a Western Reserve Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America in 1968, which is no longer active, and is now a member of the Philadelphia chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America Outstanding Service Award, or the Jefferson County Alumni H & E Award and other scholarship funds.

For eight years, she was also one of Ohio’s three delegates to the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities’ Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching. She also served as the CARET (Council of Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching) Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, the governing committee for the national Cooperative Extension System.

She was the first person from Columbus County accepted into the statewide two-year agricultural Leadership Education and Development program (better known as LEAD), which culminated in a two-week international agricultural leadership experience in South Africa. She has also participated in agricultural study missions to the former Soviet Union, Israel, and Cuba.

Crewell lives in eastern Ohio with her husband, Keith. They have two adult children, Annika and Jordan. She is a member and elder of the New Lebanon Presbyterian Church and a member of the Columbiana County Farm Bureau.

Leonard W. Farris, MA ’70, Cookies, OH, was honored by the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District, which declared Jan. 25, 2021, Leona W. Farris Day in honor of the matriarch of one of the first Black families to live in Stow, Ohio. A plaque displaying the proclamation was hung at the entrance of Stow-Munroe Falls High School, and a duplicate plaque was presented to Laura Farris-Daugherty, who accepted it for her mother Jan. 10, 1973, whom she calls “The Potters Wonder.”

Leonard Farris and her husband, physician Melvin Farris, moved to Stow in 1954, and their children were the first Black children to attend the Stow schools. Farris was involved with her husband’s work in the Summit County Medical Association, volunteered with the FHA, and in the 1960s, helped stop the local Civil rights group’s use of rented shows for fundraising activities.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics from the Ohio State University, where she joined a successful effort to integrate the dormitories. After earning a master’s degree from Kent State, in 1969 she became the first Black woman to teach as an assistant professor at The University of Akron. The University established a Leona W. Farris Scholarship in 1987, and she retired from there in 1998.

Farris was also involved with the NAACP. United Way, the Western Reserve Girl Scout Council, American Field Service and she has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority for 62 years. (Vice President Kamala Harris is a sorority Times Leader.

Launched through the National Association of Home Builders, the CEU was established in 1980 as a continuing education division in the company. It has grown to become a significant provider of educational programming and has helped to establish a strong foundation for the company.

He has served on the editorial board of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, and has been a guest editor for several special issues on topics such as smoking, obesity, and diabetes. He has also been an active member of the American Public Health Association (APHA), and has served on various committees and task forces within the organization.

In addition to his work in public health, he has also been involved in research and advocacy efforts related to tobacco control. He has been a member of the American Lung Association’s Consumer Information Council, and has served on the advisory board of the Tobacco Control Leadership Program. He has also been involved in the development of numerous public health campaigns and programs aimed at reducing the prevalence of tobacco use.

Tom R. Halfhill, BS ’77, of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and in 1977 and began covering technology. He launched five computer magazines and a technology newsletter, and was a senior editor at Byte Magazine. He was a co-author, editor or editor of more than 80 books on computers, the Civil War and crime. He also worked for Britain company ALE-Corp. In retirement, he has joined the Microprocessor Report Editorial Board.

1980s

Lawrence R. Armstrong, BS ’80, BÂc ’80, Sol Clemente, CA, was appointed to join the NAOP Research Foundation’s Governor program. Individuals who demonstrate their commitment to the foundation’s mission are selected through a competitive selection process. The program is intended to help individuals gain experience in the field of real estate development.

Stevens, is a native of Bridgeport, CT, and is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport. He has been involved in the real estate industry for over 30 years, and has worked for several prominent companies in the field.

Steven M. Altman, BGS ’85, Solon, OH, president and CEO of All-Pro Cleaning Services, Inc., is celebrating 35 years of service. When he graduated from Kent State, he turned down a job offer in sales to pursue entrepreneurship. The door-to-door window and gutter cleaning business he started out of his apartment now focuses on commercial buildings averaging 75,000 square feet and boasts more than 150 employees. In response to COVID-19, he launched a disinfecting division in the company.

In 2020, Armstrong transitioned to the role of chairman of Ware Malcomb, a full-service design and architecture firm that allows commercial real estate owners and developers to capitalize on new trends and provide practical research and education to the industry. "It allows furniture designers to work with clients on a daily basis, which makes it easier to understand their needs," Armstrong said. "We are able to provide research and education to the industry, and it helps us stay ahead of the curve in terms of technology and design trends." Armstrong has been a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for over 20 years, and has served on various committees within the organization.

He is also a member of the Kent State University Foundation, and has served on the Foundation’s executive committee.

He has been involved in numerous charitable organizations, including the Animal Welfare League of Greater Columbus, the Columbus Humane Society, and the Columbus Area Planning Commission.

In his free time, Armstrong enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and volunteering for local organizations. He resides in Dublin, Ohio, with his wife, Lisa, and their three children.
of Business. I have been serving as an associate editor of Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education. Briefly, I have co-authored seven book chapters in Management Information Systems, published by McGraw-Hill, with over 55 peer-reviewed publications.

Jan F. Jumet, BBA ’91, Darlington, PA, founder and CEO of Jumet Financial, recently obtained a CPA certification. Jumet Financial, with offices in Darlington and Charlotte, NC in South Carolina, has provided accounting services to clients in 30 different states. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.

John Paxton, MBA ’91, Charlotte, NC, was appointed chief executive officer of MHI, an international trade association that has served more than 450 clients in 30 different states. Jumet and his team of six have represented MHI clients in over 750 meetings in Washington, DC. Paxton is also president of the Manufacturers Association, president of the Histot Manufacturers Institute and chairman of the board of MHI.

Dorn Wenninger, BA ’91, Bentinelle, All, has been named senior vice president of production at United Natural Foods Inc., North America’s premier food wholesaler. He will oversee growth at United Natural Foods Inc., North America’s premier food wholesaler. He will oversee growth at United Natural Foods Inc., North America’s premier food wholesaler.

Robert Hunt, BSE ’96, PhD ’00, Chagrin Falls, OH, superintendent at Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools, has accepted a position as the next superintendent of the Warren-Trumbull County Unit School District in Chagrin Falls, OH. Hunt, who has one year left on his contract with Chagrin Falls Schools, will remain with the district through the end of this school year and support the transition to the new superintendent. Hunt received the 2001 Ohio Superintendent of the Year award from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators at the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools. worchr.com.

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Ben Curtis, BS ’03, Hudson, OH, has launched a new golf instruction podcast for the participating in the Professional Golfers’ Association of America biennially. Curt is also studies the effects of herbivory by large grazers in the field, and it treats the conservation of plants-of-ohio/.kentstateuniversitypress.com/2020/problem-plants-of-ohio/

According to Demery, the book details how he was able to persevere through a challenging 14-repetree years on the range. Though the book experience he gained a greater appreciation for the life and meaning of love—and his relationship with God was strengthened. The book is available on Amazon and everywhere online.

The Columbus Dispatch, starting Nov. 2, 2020. Previously, he was the dean and chief administrative officer of The College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State University and got his start in the college ranks at Marshall University as a graduate assistant. He held an assistant professorship at Kent State in the Department of Biological Sciences, HVAC director, also included the advisory committee and collections manager of The Ohio State’s Bank of 3,000 and Mikaela K. Coopertool Barham.

Curtis Golf Academy in Hudson, Ohio. He and his wife, Candace, established the Ben Curtis Golf Foundation to help underprivileged kids in the Greater Akron area.

The weekly podcast includes humor, stories, commentary, travel tips, course reviews, giveaways and insider tips to improve one’s golf game—and features interviews with well-regarded golf professionals and industry leaders from the golf and wine world.

The podcast appears on Buzzsprout, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Overcast. The Patreon membership platform (www.patron.com/ clubdujardin) gives listeners access to bonus content, golf instruction, reviews and more.

Curtis, a former Kent State University All-American golfer, competed on the PGA Tour for over 15 years with wins at the British Open, Valero Texas Open, the PGA Tour’s Waste Management Phoenix Open, the Masters Tournament and the US Open, among others. He also holds a degree in education administration from the University of Akron and a degree in education from Chagrin Falls High School.

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Making Magic

While magicians use sleight of hand, illusions and props to perform their magic tricks, mentalists understand an aspect of how people think and behave to create magical effects. One couple from Tallmadge, Ohio, combines both approaches to astound audiences—and their act recently earned them a spot as contestants on a popular television show.

Stacy (Paquin) Greenamyer, BA ‘06, a mentalist, and her husband, Jason, a magician, appear on the “Jedi Mind Tricks” episode of Penn & Teller: Fool Us. Fool Us on Jan. 20, 2021. In the show, which airs on The CW network, magicians compete by performing their best tricks in front of Penn & Teller. Penn & Teller are America’s top magicians and have been performing their unique brand of magic for nearly 20 years. Their performances combine both approaches to astound audiences—and their act recently earned them a spot as contestants on a popular television show.

During the TV episode, The Alans share the “magical” story of how they met 10 years ago. He tells how he remembers it and she jumps in to remind him of how it actually happened. Their playful banter, while performing various different magic tricks, highlights their chemistry both as performers and as a couple.

“Our business is different than a lot of the TV shows, where the magicians are the only two people in the room,” Stacy Greenamyer says. “JASON and I have never had an agent, and we do everything in our business ourselves.”

At the beginning, performing was new to her, and she started out as her husband’s assistant on stage. “I quickly realized that assisting did not fit my personality, and Jason introduced me to a few mentalists and gave me a few books to read,” she says. “He knew my background in psychology would match well with mentalism. I was hooked. Using my psychological background on stage made me more confident and comfortable, too. From then on, we began changing our act to be a duo instead of magician and assistant.”

Greenamyer discovered her love of psychology after taking one psychology course two years into her bio-engineering studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. “It was the first time I found myself reading a textbook for pleasure,” she says. “That’s how I knew I wanted to change majors. I had always had a passion for working with people, as well.”

As a junior, she moved back to Ohio to live with her family and saw money by commuting to Kent State to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“Kent State is where my love for psychology grew,” she says. “She worked in a research lab for two years with psychology professor Carla Zavgorodni, PhD. “The work was fascinating, and she was an amazing professor and mentor. I still talk about my experiences in that lab.”

—Lindsey Vlasic, BS ’22, is a public relations major and intern at the Center for Philanthropy and Engagement.

For more information and to view The Alans’ performance on Penn & Teller: Fool Us, visit www.thearlans.com.

George Barlow, BBA ’06, MSA ’07, Canton, OH, was elevated to partner at the Dover, OH, office of Novogradac, a national accounting and consulting enterprise that specializes in affordable housing, community development, historic preservation and renewable energy, with 67 partners in more than 25 cities nationwide.

Barlow specializes in new markets tax credits, historic tax credits, renewable energy tax credits, the opportunity zone incentive, and other state tax credits and incentives. He has consulted on more than 400 tax-credit transactions with cumulative development, financing exceeding $5 billion. He works with real estate developers, public agencies, government entities, syndicators, lenders and investors on the complex structuring, financing and syndication of low-income housing and opportunity zone transactions. He also advises on tax and regulatory matters in addition to providing traditional audit, cost certification and tax services.

Barlow is licensed as a certified public accountant in Ohio.

Lindsay McCoy, BS ’06, Hudson, OH, is a Summit County native and an anchor and reporter for WEWS-TV, the NBC affiliate in Youngstown. She started her news career in radio news at 1500 WAKR in Akron. She also worked for WEWS and WYTV in Youngstown.

When she’s not running around with a camera and a tripod, she’s playing with her 1-year-old daughter, Allison.

Penn & Teller, MSA ’06, Short Hills, NJ, joined Matulic as executive vice president and chief information officer, effective Nov. 9, 2020. Previously, he was the chief information and chief experience officer at AT&T.

Vermas was recently recognized by Forbes with the CEO Innovation Award for his digital and data work that yielded revenue augmenting innovation.

Prior to Foxtrot, he served as vice president of digital marketing of Target, where he managed mobile and digital development, data, cloud engineering and architecture. He also has prior e-commerce and mobile experience from roles with Converges Corp. and Verizon Wireless.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Dr. Hari Sreenivasan University and a master’s degree in computer application and software engineering from Dr. Babasahab Ambedkar Marathwada University in India.

Seth Runser, BBA ’07, North Lawrence, OH, has been promoted to the new role of chief operating officer for ABF Freight, effective Feb. 1, 2021, and will become ABF president on July 1, 2021.

Runser joined the company in 2000 as a controller, and moved around the country serving in various roles before relocating to the corporate headquarters in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Most recently, he was vice president of finance and capital expenditures at the First United Methodist Church in Ravena, Ohio. He also serves as a past president of OMEA.

He graduated with a degree in accounting from Ashland University in 2008 and received his CPA license in Ohio in 2011.

Karrie McMillen, BBA ’10, Dover, OH, was elevated to executive vice president at the Dover, OH, office of Novogradac, a national accounting and consulting enterprise that specializes in affordable housing, community development, historic preservation and renewable energy, with 67 partners in more than 25 cities nationwide.

McMillen has several years of experience in providing tax and various audit and attestation services to real estate partnerships, including those that work in middle-income housing tax credit, tax-exempt bond financings, nonprofits and those subjects to the auditing requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also works with upper-tier tax credit equity funds and tax credit syndicators. In addition, McMillen specializes in LIHTC consulting and financial modeling. She also has significant experience in conducting HUD Multifamily Accelerated Processing and Healthcare Quality Control and Construction Loan Administration reviews.

McMillen holds a master’s degree from Salem International University. She also holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Akron and has completed coursework as a certified public accountant in Ohio.

Joe Manoffsky, BSE ’71, Newbury Heights, OH, is the co-founder of One Step Ahead, a Northeast Ohio nonprofit foundation. The mission of OSA is to ensure that local citizens as well as donors know exactly what their tax-deductible donations are funding. They currently facilitate three outreach programs: Heroes of Hardships, Trade School Scholarship Fund and Brown Bag Breakfast. For information on how to help the local community grow, visit www.1stepahead.org or email direct request to info@1stepahead.org.

Jeffery L. Pellegrino, MPH ’13, Hudson, OH, is assistant professor in emergency management and homeland security in the Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Management and Homeland Security at the University of Akron.

Pellegrino, editor-in-chief of the International Journal of First Aid Education, is also the lead author of an important paper that appeared in Emergency, the official publication of the American Heart Association, in October. The paper, “2000 American Heart Association and American Red Cross Focused Update for First Aid,” provides updates to several first aid procedures, including the immediate treatment of life-threatening bleeding, the use of aspirin for chest pain, the recognition of stroke, and cooling techniques for hyperthermia and heatstroke.

The updated procedures and guidelines are being adopted by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross and the National organizations and those subjects to the auditing requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also works with upper-tier tax credit equity funds and tax credit syndicators. In addition, McMillen specializes in LIHTC consulting and financial modeling. She also has significant experience in conducting HUD Multifamily Accelerated Processing and Healthcare Quality Control and Construction Loan Administration reviews.

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McMillen holds a master’s degree from Salem International University. She also holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Akron and has completed coursework as a certified public accountant in Ohio.
Tyler Hostetler, BSN '15, MSN '20, Charmond, OH, worked for two years in a Level 1 Trauma ICU after receiving a degree from the State Geauga Campus in 2015. He returned as a part-time student in graduate studies at the Kent Campus in 2017, while working full-time in University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center’s Emergency Department. He completed the adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner program and graduated in 2020. He plans to return to the ICU as an acute-care nurse practitioner.

Curtis Cafijohn, BA '17, Hants, OH, is founder and managing partner of AllCollegeRentals.com, a site that serves the needs of both students and landlords for off-campus housing. The site gives students a chance to walk through properties virtually via 3D tours, compare properties side by side and apply for housing. In addition, students can download a lease, sign it and save it in their device rather than having a paper issue. Cafijohn started the business with his parents in Kent, but now the company has been active for over a year, has extended beyond Ohio to New Jersey, Michigan, Texas and California.

He is also co-founder and partner of Buy360Tour LLC, which facilitates creative content creation through 3D virtual reality technology and video along with standard professional photography and drives photography for all industries.

Marissa “Blaze” Durbin, AA '17, Twinsburg, OH, self-published Awokening Shadows (Lac Daggers Press LLC), the first in a series of fantasy novels under the pen name Sydney Hawthorne, in September 2020. She imagined the book’s fantasy world when she was 10 years old, as an escape from being constantly bullied, and at age 12, wrote the book’s first draft, which she revisited years later.

Awokening Shadows is about a princess saving her kingdom from darkness, but it’s also “about finding yourself and realizing, whether you believe it or not, you are strong enough and always will be,” says Durbin. The second book in the series, Whispershadow, is due to be released in summer 2021. The books can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and several other retailers, such as The Israelis-owned in Hudson, Ohio. Mosechidis and signed copies of her book are available on her websites: www.worldbysydnewhawk.com and www.awokeningshadows.com.

Morgan Mervenne, BS '17, Grand Rapids, MI, recently joined Bzoo as sales and marketing coordinator of the Michigan-based automotive mirrors and windshield-raking systems manufacturer. She previously held positions as a corporate merchant and e-commerce specialist at Forever 21 and Avon Wares LLC.

Jack Murphy, BS '17, Kent, OH, was appointed global account manager at Akron Dispersions. Murphy had served in research and development as a chemist at Akron Adhesive Products Co. (Oiba Kapco), with product development and account responsibilities, for the past six years. Akron Dispersions, founded in 1958, manufactures water-based dispersions and emulsions of chemical ingredients for the polymer industry and employs various processing systems for dry chemical processing. He is on the executive board of the Kent Jaycees and was Jaycee of the Year in 2019.

N.J. Akbar, PhD '19, Akron, OH, was elected president of the Akron Public Schools Board of Education for 2021. He had served as vice president in his first year on the board. Akbar, an assistant professor of diversity, equity and inclusion at Kent State, is heading the board’s initiative to develop a racial equity policy for the Akron school district.

Hallei Larissa Smith, BBA '18, Sandusky, OH, a marketing major with a graphic design minor, has amassed 1 million followers on the social media app TikTok since last December, after her app TikTok since last December, after her

February 2020: “We Performed Our Own Proof” Composition in Middle School Band through Integration of Off Schulwerk and Chile Music Lab Song Maker.” Leonzo is an assistant professor of music education at Ohio Northern University.

Kristie Graybill, BS ’15, Kent, OH, has been named a full-time contributor to “The Feed Show,” which airs from 5 a.m. to noon weekdays on the insurTechMedia Top 100 U.S. InsurTech companies. KnowledgeStream CEO Dr. David Mandelkorn said KnowledgeStream is the largest 3D FM company in Ohio. The company has operated in Cleveland since 2011. Mandelkorn said KnowledgeStream has served Ohio’s health care industry with telemedicine and telehealth services for COVID-19.

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A half century is a long time—whether recalling a life span of 50 years, or denoting the same course of decades, say from 1970 to 2020. Since the shootings at Kent State, eight presidents have shaped the 110-year-old university. For one person to influence nearly half of those years would be unusual, if not altogether unique.

For one person to influence nearly half of the university presidents. Since the shootings at Kent State, eight presidents have accepted that teaching about the fatal confrontation should be part of Kent State’s educational mission. Locations near the Prentice Hall parking lot where the four students had died were closed to traffic, while an interpretive marker offered context. Still later came the May 4 Visitors Center, outdoor historical signage and, most recently, the placement of markers where the nine students were wounded. All of these projects benefited from Alan’s vast knowledge of the felonious events.

Laura Davis, BA ’76, the co-founder of the May 4 Visitors Center, wrote of Alan: “In agonizing courtroom sessions, he witnessed every word spoken, every rock, map point or argument. In the years that followed, he continued to study testimony transcripts, every one of the thousands of photos that emerged. . . . He held all of this information, of five decades, in his being and could bring it forth at any moment.”

Utilizing his graduate school training in library science, Alan established the Kent May 4 Center, the nation’s largest private collection of materials related to the fatal shootings. Being much in demand, he spoke about the killings throughout the country. At the Kent Campus, he gave tours of the site, which became a National Historic Landmark in 2016, to high school student groups, history clubs, educators and incoming university presidents.

A Summit County Elections commissioner for several decades, Alan became director of the Akron Law Library in 2011. Pugnacious and partisan throughout his life, he resisted the indictments and anger, refusing to bend, a model of courage who helped so many see what they initially refused to apprehend: that America had perpetrated an injustice on four students one May afternoon and had to come to terms with it.”

In one pivotal election year, I spent weeks working under his direction and saw how nothing escaped his attention. The arrangement suited our different personality types and further cemented a lifelong friendship. Alan the voluble leader, confident in the public glare, me his ceaseless assistant, happier working in his giant shadow.

Professor Richard Perloff, one of many who benefited from his expertise and generosity, summed up Alan’s legacy well: “He found his life mission during the afternoon of May 4, 1970, and lived it for five more decades, in the face of skepticism and anger, refusing to bend, a model of courage who helped so many see what they initially refused to apprehend: that America had perpetrated an injustice on four students one May afternoon and had to come to terms with it.”

Alan’s friend Michael D. Solomon, BBA ’74, established the Alan Canfora Activism Scholarship to honor Alan’s legacy through the support of purposeful and impactful student activism. To donate, see https://flashes.givetokent.org/Canfora.
A wooded ridge was the central topographic feature of the 53-acre farm William S. Kent gifted to the state when the Normal School Commission selected Kent as the site of the new northeastern normal school in 1910. When the newly appointed Board of Trustees met on July 17, 1911, the trustees named it Kent State Normal School in appreciation for the gift, making it the first state-assisted campus in Ohio to bear the name of an individual.

At that memorable meeting, the trustees also named John Edward McGilvrey as the school’s first president and chose Cleveland architect George Francis Hammond to draft a campus master plan and design its original buildings. With Hammond, McGilvrey envisioned a semicircle of classical revival buildings at the top of the hill, originally known as “Normal Hill.” However, as construction was underway in 1911 on the first two buildings, Lowry and Merrill halls, McGilvrey grew impatient. He began extension classes in 25 northeastern Ohio communities and marked the start of Kent State’s regional campus system.

As McGilvrey hired the first faculty members in 1912, Merrill Hall was still under construction. It opened for the first summer term held on campus on May 19, 1913, with 47 students and 20 faculty members. On June 16, a second term began with 290 students registered. Lowry Hall, originally built as a women’s dormitory, didn’t have enough rooms, so McGilvrey appealed to local homeowners to absorb the overflow.

In those first years, students and faculty members made their way up steep, often muddy paths and navigated around construction sites to reach the buildings on the hill. In 1914, the summer sessions met on Front Campus in tent classrooms and a large temporary pavilion (with a wood roof, canvas walls and a dirt floor) while Kent Hall was being built.

The Tabernacle, as it was called, could hold 1,000 people, serving as an assembly hall, auditorium, theater and classroom. On July 29, 1914, a crowd of 3,000 jammed the pavilion and Front Campus to see the school’s first 34 graduates receive a two-year diploma.

Perhaps to commemorate this achievement, and all it took to get there, May Prentice, one of the first four hires in 1912, wrote the lyrics to “Kent State”—with the apt refrain, “Climbing the hill at Kent”—which appeared in the 1930 Chestnut Burr. It was set to music and included in the first edition of Official Songs of Kent State College, published in 1931 (see the sheet music at right), appearing again in a second edition published in 1951. For decades, these official songs were taught to incoming freshmen.

If you would like to hear “Kent State” sung (probably for the first time in decades), Bryon Black II, adjunct professor in the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music and director of Coro Cantare and Gospel Choir, had Coro Cantare students record it in March. Visit the magazine’s digital edition to hear the song and see more photos.