

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
Winter 2005 Volume 5 — Issue 2

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

We're LISTENING

Kent State supports Ohio's community
and economic development

Finding Lucy Ann

Professor uses oral
traditions to trace
Madagascar ancestors

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Regional Outreach Touches Campuses and Communities

Carol A. Cartwright, President



Photograph by Gary Kirkwood, '85

Kent State President
Carol A. Cartwright

Kent State Magazine continues to explore the variety of ways Kent State changes lives in our region and beyond.

The university's ongoing involvement in improving Ohio's quality of life moved to a new level through the operation of our

Division of Regional Development. You will read of some ways the division — under the leadership of Dr. **Patricia A. Book**, Kent State's first vice president for regional development — applies our strong eight-campus network to the vital task of economic development.

The effort is nothing short of historic. Kent State long has been a major regional source for workforce training and retraining, research, service and partnerships. Our regional development experts, however, are pushing far beyond the old boundaries, seeking out the economic needs of business, industry and other organizations and finding creative ways to meet those needs.

Given Ohio's troubled economy, it is not enough to maintain the status quo. As Book says, Kent State's mission is to "aggressively deliver educational opportunities that are critical to advanced innovation and economic development." In short, we are expanding even further Kent State's historic role as Northeast Ohio's

regional public university.

That regional role also includes bringing leading-edge research to Northeast Ohio. Recently, Kent State researchers learned they had been selected for a rare and generous grant of \$860,000 from the W. M. Keck Foundation, to be directed to the interdisciplinary study of biocompatible liquid crystals.

This is an exciting new frontier in nanotechnology with biomedical and other applications, such as detecting harmful pathogens and controlling drug delivery at the cellular level. The Keck grant gives Kent State yet another chance to show the power of collaboration, this time involving the Department of Biological Sciences and the Liquid Crystal Institute.

Another recent collaboration worth mentioning also involves scientists from the Department of Biological Sciences, as well as the Department of Chemistry and School of Biomedical Sciences. They are leading an interdisciplinary research effort targeted at understanding the causes of multiple sclerosis. This disease is one of the most common neurological disorders affecting adults and has an unusually high incidence among citizens of northeast Ohio. In the newly formed partnership, the Oak Clinic/Kent State University Consortium

for Multiple Sclerosis and Neurodegenerative Disease Research, faculty, students and clinical collaborators are working to uncover the basic mechanisms of multiple sclerosis with the goal of developing new treatments for this devastating disorder.

You can read more about the Keck-funded research and the Oak Clinic partnership on pages 10 and 11, respectively.

Finally, one story in this issue is evidence that our scholars don't neglect the human dimension of research and education. Dr. **Wendy Wilson**, associate professor of Pan-African studies and anthropology, is tracing two migrations of slaves and immigrants from Madagascar, using archives and oral histories.

This is research that becomes personal. Wilson put a face with the history by retracing the journey of "Lisa Ann," a 12-year-old girl who came to America in the 1800s. Of more immediate interest, her research has helped many study participants discover their ancestry and recover their heritage.

Kent State connects to the world through education, research, many facets of outreach and, of course, through our alumni and friends. Thank you for taking time to visit *Kent State Magazine* to see more ways your university changes lives for the better.

On the cover:

Mike Maggiano, project manager for the Warren Redevelopment and Planning Corporation, is part of a team working with Kent State leaders to help revitalize downtown Warren, Ohio.

KENT STATE

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GREAT LAKES PUBLISHING



Photograph by Gary Harwood '83

We're

LISTENING

Kent State supports Ohio's community and economic development

By Melissa Edler, '00

Have you ever had one of those days? You know — it begins with spilling coffee on yourself on the way to work, continues with an important computer file suddenly being infected with a virus the day you're supposed

to give it to your boss, and ends with a scraped knee as you trip in the dark when you get home because someone forgot to leave the light on for you. Yet somehow the next morning, you are hopeful and excited about the

possibility that today will be better than the last.

For Ohioans facing a slow economy and high unemployment rate, it can feel like one of those days far too often. But only if they let it. "Everyone in the area

is talking about economic depression, but we need to get the word out about the successes, too," says Dr. **Patricia A. Book**, Kent State's first vice president for regional development.

Kent State's Division

Steve Walling (right) is president, chair and CEO of Plasticolors, a leading supplier of colorants and chemical dispersions for the thermoset plastics and paint and coatings industry. Plasticolors has benefited from Kent State Ashtabula's Lean/Six Sigma black belt certification program.

of Regional Development was created to leverage the strengths of the university's eight-campus network in response to the vital education and training needs of Northeast Ohio's changing economy. Book and her team focus on economic development and strategic partnerships, corporate training and consulting services, continuing education for practicing professionals and adult learners generally, and distance-learning opportunities.

"It is our mission, our legacy and our future as a public research university to engage with the needs of Northeast Ohio, because our future as a university is inextricably linked to the future of the region," says Book.

Reaching out

The needs of the area are many. According to a 2004 report by the U.S. Census Bureau, 80 million adults in Ohio (60 percent of working-age adults) do not have a college degree. Ohio ranks 36th in the nation in the number of citizens with college degrees, with only 24.6 percent of the population age 25 years and older having a bachelor's degree or higher.

The state's unemployment rate is 6.1 percent, compared to the U.S. national rate of 5.2 percent (Ohio Department of Development, Office of Strategic Research). Ohio's leading industries include manufacturing of iron, steel, motor vehicles, machinery, rubber, plastics and advanced electronics, as well as food processing, informa-

tion technology, insurance and aerospace/defense. Ohio is ranked third in the nation in manufacturing, an industry experiencing decline in some sectors, yet holding tremendous growth potential in others.

"Kent State is reaching out more aggressively to deliver educational opportunities that are critical to advanced innovation and economic development," says Book, who represents all eight campuses in her universitywide leadership role.

Kent State's eight-campus network—including the Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Kent, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas campuses—is an extremely effective tool for outreach. "The primary mission of the seven Regional Campuses," says Dr. Shirley J. Barton, executive dean, Regional Campuses, "is to support area workforce development through applied and technical associate degrees and to provide a liberal arts foundation for all learners." Barton adds that "the Regional Campuses also offer select bachelor's and master's degrees extended from the Kent Campus," whose mission is more comprehensive and includes graduate education.

Kent State's outreach to business and industry is coordinated through Regional Corporate and Community Services, a new unit in Regional Development that represents all of Kent State's workforce development units. It provides employers and employees with customized training, organization

development consulting, professional development and certification programs, research and evaluation services, and small business training and consulting.

"We're listening," says **Amy Lane**, '85, M.Ed. '97, executive director of regional corporate and community services. "We're trying to find out what skills and knowledge employees and employers need so we can be responsive to those needs."

To do so, Book, Lane and professionals on all the campuses have been meeting with employers and asking them directly about their needs. Recently, Lane met with Donna Marquard, communications director; Chuck Sarka, vice president of human resources; and

15,000

Number of annual participants in job training, retraining or certificate programs through Kent State's workforce development and regional outreach.

Germae Fiebelkorn, organization development manager, at ICI Paints in Strongsville.

"Some of the areas we are focusing on include organizational culture change and assessing the capabilities of employees through the performance appraisal process," says Marquard.

Part of the outreach process includes making sure the community is aware of what the university can offer. ITEN Industries, a manufacturer of laminated materials, visits

Dr. Patricia A. Book, Kent State's first vice president for regional development, emphasizes the university's commitment to strong partnerships among higher education, business and industry.



Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83

Connie Poulton (right), director of human resources at Pomerene Hospital in Millersburg, Ohio, relies on Kent State Stark for leadership development for hospital employees. She is working with Kelli Baxter (left), outreach program coordinator at Stark's Professional Education and Conference Center, and Dr. Betsy Boze (center), Stark Campus dean, pictured here in a campus nursing lab.



Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

Kent State Ashtabula often for Microsoft computer classes, financial management classes, supervisory training, customer service seminars and Six Sigma

1,315

Number of businesses partnered with Kent State for employee training, research and organization development consulting services.

training. "At first, we didn't know what was available to us through the university; but since we've learned, we have taken full advantage of the resources," says Diane Miller, administrative assistant to the company owner.

Important for many companies is understanding how higher education can be applied in any workplace. "Kent State provides practical

education — geared toward the career-minded professional — that can be applied in the daily environment," says Mark Kaiser, pultrusion product line manager at ITEN Industries.

Another significant factor for employers is Kent State's ability to match training appropriately to the company's needs. ACRT, an international consulting service and training organization in urban forestry, environmental, natural resource and horticultural sciences, uses the Center for Executive Education and Development (CEED) at the Kent Campus — an outreach partnership between Regional Development and the College of Business Administration and Graduate School of Management — for supervisory training and to complete statistical analyses for its clients.

Besides businesses, Kent State's outreach offices also work with many health care providers in the area. Pomerene Hospital, a not-

for-profit in Millersburg that was honored as a 2005 NorthCoast 99 award-winner, works with the Stark Campus for leadership development. "We're working on emotional intelligence, a 360-degree feedback tool we use with our leaders," says Connie Poulton, SPHR, director of human resources. She adds, "It's a neat process, because it's all done confidentially online, and the feedback we've gotten has been very good."

Responding to needs

At the Kent Campus, the College of Continuing Studies (CCS) builds on the university's strengths in business, health and biosciences, technology, education, communication and information to develop innovative classes and programs that respond to market needs.

"We find niches that fit with our

expertise, so what we offer is an extension of the university," says Marilyn Bokrass, outreach program manager.

Some new noncredit certificate options include programs in geographic information systems through the Department of Geography, hospitality management through the School of Family and Consumer Studies and nursing programs through the College of Nursing.

Schools and students around the state also benefit from continuing studies courses. Dr. Craig Woodson, Kent State adjunct faculty member and owner/president of Ethnomusic, a consultancy and production company that makes ethnic musical instruments, teaches "Roots of Rhythm," a new workshop for music education teachers. Funded by a grant from NAMM, the International Music Products Association, the workshop "provides teachers who have no musical training a way to study music and gives music teachers a new way to approach their subject," says Woodson.

The College of Continuing Studies also is working with Kent State's various colleges and the Regional Campus Academic Affairs Office to develop more accelerated programs and to deliver programs on-site. "We serve people where they are and provide education in convenient formats and locations so we can contribute

100+

Number of patents or copyrights — in areas ranging from advanced materials to biosciences to information technologies — held by Kent State inventors.

to the education of Ohioans, which leads to workforce and economic development," says Dr. **Marlene Dorsey**, associate vice president and dean of the college.

Going the distance

Another way Kent State is reaching out to new students and markets is through distributed or distance learning. Distance learning works well for motivated learners who have a need for flexible scheduling, says **Mel Anthony May**, '90, M.Ed. '91, Ph.D. '02, executive director of educational technology and distributed learning. He says the maturation of the Internet is changing the business of distance learning.

"In the past, distance learning didn't add to anyone's flexibility," says May. "You still had to drive to campus and be at a computer at a certain time. 'The first generation of distance learning was about access,'" he adds. "Now it's about flexibility."

Ohio has a large population of people with some college education but no degree. Flexibility of scheduling may be a key element in helping them complete their degree. "The majority are working adults with a high number of competing priorities," says May. "How do you reach them and make sure they know education can fit into their already busy lives?" May says distance learning could be the solution.

Partnering for success

"At the same time we're educating citizens, we are reaching out to business and industry to develop advantageous collaborations and partnerships, and to pool our resources as a region," says Book.

The Office of Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships heads this group in Regional Development by creating, expanding and strengthening mutually beneficial relationships. These alliances match Kent State's faculty expertise with the needs of the region's businesses, communities, universities and other organizations.

Working in partnership with Research and Graduate Studies at the Kent Campus, "the office facilitates new company spin-offs and start-ups, promotes entrepreneurship and aligns Kent State's research and technology strengths with key industry clusters, such as advanced materials and polymers, biosciences, information technology and advanced manufacturing," says **Gregory Wilson**, associate vice president for economic development and strategic partnerships.

One project Wilson currently is working on is with the dean of Kent State Trumbull, Dr. **Wanda Thomas**; Mike Maggiano, project manager; and Anthony Iannucci Jr., director of Warren Redevelopment and Planning Corporation. They gathered recently to discuss downtown economic restructuring for the city of

Warren. The project has three main focuses: downtown revitalization, economic development and loan programs for Trumbull County. The goal is to reinvigorate downtown Warren using a business incubator for retail stores.

"We want to get Kent State involved and use their expertise for this project," says Maggiano.

The university has much to offer would-be entrepreneurs, says Wilson. For example, in May, Kent State signed a partnership with JumpStart Inc., a nonprofit organization that identifies, advises and funds high-growth businesses and ideas.

Looking ahead

"In partnership with government, business and industry, Kent State — as the regional university in Northeast Ohio — is helping to create an environment that draws new business to the region, supports their education and training needs, and assists those existing enterprises in creating new or improved products through our

research and technology transfer," says Book.

If the efforts of regional development are successful over time, Ohioans could see increases in business, industry and college degree

10

Number of university-related start-up companies formed through the Office of Technology Transfer. The Association of University Technology Managers recently ranked Kent State fourth in the nation — right behind

Cal Tech and two spots ahead of Stanford — for the number of start-up companies formed per \$10 million in research spending.

completion, and employers could have a flexible, innovative workforce prepared to take on the challenges we face as a region.

"I envision companies and people wanting to move to Northeast Ohio because it's recognized as 'the place to be' — a place with renewed economic vitality — capitalizing on the attractiveness of this area as a place to live, work and do business," says Book.

"All of us are stronger than any one of us. And to compete successfully, we have to compete as a region," she adds.

With that positive, forward-looking approach, and by providing cost-effective training and education and partnering with innovative companies throughout the region, Kent State's Division of Regional Development is helping to make tomorrow a better day, one day at a time.

For more information about Kent State's regional development activities, follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine. 🌞

The key to a successful distance-learning program will be its flexibility, allowing students to fit education into their already busy lives.



Photo Illustration by Bob Christy, '95



Finding LUCY ANN

Professor uses oral traditions to trace
Madagascar ancestors

Dr. Wendy Wilson, associate professor, Pan-African studies, is researching the 18th- and 19th-century migration of slaves and immigrants from Madagascar to the United States.

By Melissa Edler, '00

My grandfather is the historian in our family. Many of us are fortunate to have family members who are interested in history and genealogy, and who realize the importance of keeping oral and written traditions alive to be passed on to future generations.

Dr. Wendy Wilson, an associate professor of Pan-African studies and

anthropology at Kent State University, has taken on this effort for her own family and also is helping other families trace their past. In particular, Wilson, with funding from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is tracing two major migrations of slaves and immigrants from Madagascar to the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Many African-Americans don't know where they come from. But if you have a Malagasy ancestor, you know it," says Lisa Fanning, one of the participants in Wilson's research.

Fanning learned about her Malagasy ancestors from the historian in her family, her great uncle John Lewis, who always said Fanning's grandmother was "Madagasky."

"I'm from a small town in Indiana and had never heard of Madagascar, until I went to college and realized what my great uncle was saying," she explains.

Wilson became interested in the Madagascar migrations while she was teaching at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. During a talk she gave at the Washington Historical

retraced Lucy Ann's journey as a 12-year-old girl traveling from Madagascar to America during the 1800s. Lucy Andriana Renibe ("noble grandmother"), as her descendants call her, was born around 1831. According to her great-grandson, Lucy Ann reached Hanover, Va., by 1840. Family tradition states she was adopted by a free African-American couple named Dabney and Nancy Winston.

Lucy Ann married a free man of color, John P. Clarke, whose brother married Mariah, Lucy Ann's sister. Clarke became an ordained Baptist minister and founded eight churches in Hanover and the surrounding area. Descendants of the Winston-Clarke family live in Ohio, Virginia and Maryland.

Ella Bradley Sanders, a fifth-generation descendant from the Winston-Clarke family, learned about her Malagasy heritage through oral traditions. She says Wilson's research is valuable. "We always need as much of our history as we can possibly get," says Sanders. "If we don't know where we've been, we don't know what our possibilities can be."

Oral traditions appear to be common among Malagasy descendants, as in Fanning's and Sanders' cases. Wilson believes there is a reason for this. Malagasy descendants' oral traditions place a great importance on physical appearance and origin from Madagascar as distinct from a "black African" identity from mainland Africa. This emphasis helps preserve a sense of Malagasy ancestry.

"Most Americans think the African-American community has fairly homogeneous beginnings and that African-Americans don't have very long memories of

Lucy Ann Winston came to America from Madagascar when she was about 12.



John P. Clark, a free man of color and ordained Baptist minister from Hanover, Va., married Lucy Ann Winston, the subject of Dr. Wendy Wilson's research.

identity they brought with them into colonial America," says Wilson. "It's necessary to provide concrete examples of particular histories in the African-American context. It is also important for America to show that in many ways those histories are part of the histories of the white Americans with whom these families are associated."

Wilson's research has taken her to some interesting places. In February 2005, the ambassador from Madagascar, Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy, invited Wilson and members of the Dabney-Winston-Clarke family (including Sanders) to the embassy in Washington D.C.

"It was because of my work that he was aware they existed," says Wilson, who had invited the ambassador to a lecture the previous year in Virginia.

"The family was very touched, and the ambassador was amazed, because some of them resembled people from Madagascar," she adds. "The ambassador and his staff could even see traces of the ethnic group characteristics (Betsileo) from which the family claims to descend."

It's clear the strong Malagasy legacy will continue.

"I'm here today because of my great-great-grandmother (Betty Sisco)," says Fanning. "It's my duty to find out who she was even if I don't know her name." (Slaves were given names by their slave owners once they reached America, so Betty's original Malagasy name is unknown.)

Fanning, a sixth-generation descendant from David Sisco, found her ancestor's name listed in the first U.S. census taken in 1870 after slavery ended. Sisco's place of birth was recorded as Africa, which was rare to find during that time period.

Wilson plans to continue helping people discover their Malagasy heritage. "I've had the privilege of traveling back and forth between the United States and Africa, and even visited Madagascar," says Wilson. "This is an opportunity for me to help people share a story that's been lost or ignored for so many years."

For more information on Wilson and on Madagascar, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 🌞

Society, she met nine African-Americans from Virginia who said they had ancestors from Madagascar.

Wilson decided to investigate these claims. She began conducting research on genealogical Web sites and eventually developed her own site, where she received an e-mail from the descendant of a girl named Lucy Ann Winston, who came to America from Madagascar with her sister.

By using archival sources and oral histories, Wilson has

Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

Chilled to the Core

Body fat and other factors
determine response to cold

Photograph courtesy of Dr. Ellen Glickman



Soldiers in cold climates are among those who may benefit from research conducted by Dr. Ellen Glickman at Kent State University.

By Lisa Lambert, M.A. '05

Would you be able to swim in the icy waters of Antarctica? Probably not. In fact, not just anyone could do that, says Dr. **Ellen Glickman**, Kent State University professor of exercise physiology.

Glickman cites the example of ocean swimmer Lynne Cox, who in 2002 swam more than a mile in 32-degree F salt water, from a boat off shore to Antarctica.

Cox's body is particularly well-suited for that type of cold-water jaunt, Glickman says, with 36 percent fat content on her five-foot-six-inch, 190-pound frame. That's what allowed her to accomplish

a record-breaking English Channel swim at age 15 and her Antarctic adventure 30 years later, earning her the International Swimming Hall of Fame Web site's designation as "the best cold water, long distance swimmer the world has ever seen."

"The difference between low- and high-fat individuals is that lean people have to maintain a higher metabolic rate than fat people in order to sustain the same core temperature," Glickman says. "Lean bodies work harder while at rest by increasing their metabolic rate, which causes what we commonly refer to as shivering, or

involuntary repeated rhythmic muscle contractions."

Glickman's research in this area prompted a noted environmental physiologist, Dr. David Bass, to make the claim that "man in the cold is not necessarily a cold man."

Most of us, even world-class swimmers, would likely suffer hypothermia — heart fibrillation, shock and death — within five minutes of entering water below 50 degrees. But Cox's even distribution of body fat, along with her ability to acclimatize (to keep most of her blood at her body's core and away from the skin where it's exposed to the cold), enabled

her to withstand more than 25 minutes in polar waters wearing only a swimming suit, cap and goggles.

"This type of acclimatization — insulative acclimatization — is mediated in the brain," Glickman says. "It occurs in individuals who have the unique ability to conserve body heat, resulting in reduced heat loss from the peripheral shell."

Glickman has published widely on human physiological responses to cold exposure and the factors that influence those responses. A massive cold-water immersion tank is the centerpiece of her lab, where brave souls

subject themselves to dips less extreme than what Cox endured. The data gathered here have contributed significantly to the body of knowledge in this area.

"When the body is exposed to cold, it automatically shifts heat production to the internal organs in order to maintain a 98.6-degree core temperature," Glickman says.

Humans have a very narrow range of temperatures in which they can operate efficiently. When the body's core temperature drops below 95 degrees F, mental and physical skills deteriorate rapidly. A core temperature below 95 degrees is considered hypothermic, says Glickman.

Though the human body is pretty good at throwing off unwanted heat, it's inefficient at retaining it. Only about 30 percent of the energy we convert from food is usable. The rest becomes excess heat, most of which is lost. The body doesn't stay warm merely by throwing its cooling mechanisms into reverse; our heating and cooling systems are quite different.

Glickman explains that when the body is exposed to cold, it will initiate thermogenesis, an internal process resulting in the physical act of shivering, which causes a significant increase in metabolic rate in an effort to maintain core temperature. Unlike humans, animals produce heat in their muscle tissue through

nonshivering thermogenesis, making them better able to adjust to the cold.

"During shivering, many muscle groups are recruited, which causes an increase in demand for energy to support muscle activity," Glickman

says. "Therefore, metabolic rates increase appreciably during cold exposure." This increase accelerates feelings of fatigue and hunger.

According to Glickman's findings, people who perform light exercise in the cold, compared with those who exercise in a comfortable environment, burn a greater number of calories.

However, Glickman cautions that several factors determine the extent to which one's overall metabolic rate increases with cold exposure. With further research funded by a grant from the U.S. Army, Glickman hopes to uncover whether thermosensitivity—an increased responsiveness in metabolic rate brought about by a reduction in core temperature—differs among individuals of varying ages, genders and ethnicities.

She also has partnered with a Cleveland-based company to develop clothing and skin sensors for military and consumer applications. "Applications for skin sensors could range from detecting the onset of hot flashes in

women to the development of hot/cold sensors in clothing," she says.

Most recently, Glickman and her team of graduate students conducted studies for the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. The research yielded a unique micro-cooling device she plans to test in the boots of soldiers dressed from head-to-toe in battle uniforms.

The results of Glickman's research could potentially benefit many—from the soldier high in the mountains of Afghanistan, to the construction worker in New England, to the elderly man with poor blood circulation.

"The more we understand about our physiologic response to cold, the better equipped we'll be to withstand it," she says.

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 

"Man in the cold is not necessarily a cold man."

—Dr. David Bass, noted environmental physiologist

STAYING SAFE IN THE COLD

While human beings are naturally more susceptible to the cold than animals, there are precautions you can take to minimize the effects of cold temperatures on the body. Dr. Ellen Glickman, Kent State professor of exercise physiology, recommends the following to help you stay safe in the cold:

- Dress warmly to begin with, and be especially prepared with proper gloves and socks. Use several layers of clothing you can quickly don or shed. Below 20 degrees you need to add another layer of clothing for every 10-degree drop in temperature.
- The human body loses heat faster through some areas than others. The main heat-loss areas are the head and neck, the armpits and sides, and the groin. Be especially protective of fingers and toes. Most accidents happen outside during cold weather, often because of the natural clumsiness of cold fingers and toes. If you don't wear protective gloves and boots, nature will automatically sacrifice your fingers, toes and ears to save your internal body core temperature.
- Stay in good physical condition. Stop smoking altogether and curtail alcohol use. Healthy, fit people acclimatize to cold weather faster than their unfit counterparts.
- Don't put yourself in the position where you must make complex decisions during cold stress. Judgment skills deteriorate rapidly when you're both distracted and fatigued by cold.



Photograph by Bob Christy '95

Studying the Stuff We're Made Of

Grant Advances Study of Biology-Liquid Crystal Interface

By Lisa Lambert, M.A. '05

Drs. Christopher J. Woolverton and Oleg D. Lavrentovich are co-principal investigators on interdisciplinary project to study biologically relevant liquid crystals.

Liquid crystals are essential to countless technologies; but one little-studied class of liquid crystals plays an important role in the construction of human cells, the building blocks of life. Now, Kent State researchers hope to use these seldom-studied biocompatible materials, known as lyotropic chromonic liquid crystals (LCLCs), to monitor and report biological reactions.

An \$860,000 grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation, a recognized pioneer in supporting leading-edge advancements in medical research, science and engineering, will be directed to the multidisciplinary study of biocompatible liquid crystals.

"While almost everyone is familiar with liquid crystal displays, few know that many biological systems are liquid crystalline," says Dr. **John West**, vice president for research and dean of graduate studies. "This grant will provide the highly spe-

cialized equipment required to conduct research into these materials."

The study, conducted by the Department of Biological Sciences in collaboration with the Glenn H. Brown Liquid Crystal Institute (LCI), focuses on biological applications of LCLCs which, unlike the liquid crystals used in displays, are compatible with living cells. Recent advances in the study of LCLCs could result in further development of new technologies, such as biological sensors and drug delivery systems.

The funded area of study builds upon the works of Dr. **Christopher Woolverton**, associate professor of biological sciences, and Dr. **Oleg Lavrentovich**, LCI director and professor of chemical physics. The grant will make possible the purchase of a suite of equipment that will allow researchers to examine nanometer-scale interac-

tions between LCLCs and living cells — DNA and proteins — to reveal new information about biological systems that have liquid crystalline properties.

"The Keck Foundation grant will facilitate research on the physical and chemical properties of LCLCs, a crucial first step in understanding the liquid crystalline nature of biological systems and designing LCLC materials with predictable and controllable properties," Woolverton says.

Because of their compatibility with living cells, LCLCs can be used to detect harmful pathogens and microbes of the kind used in biological warfare. Woolverton and Lavrentovich already have translated bench research into prototyped devices for real-time microbial detection.

Serious scientific inquiry evaluating the relationship between liquid crystal properties and biological function

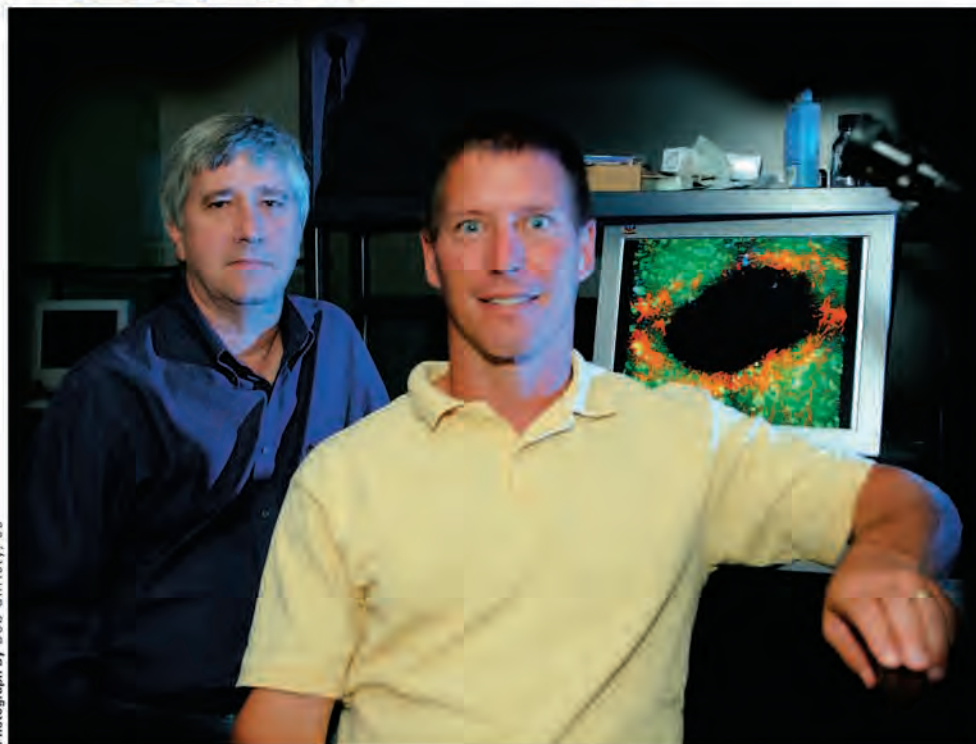
began in the 1970s, but was abandoned in favor of emerging research and economic opportunities presented by liquid crystal displays and their technologies.

"Kent State is poised to become a leader in the study of biological research on many fronts because of its success in developing a multidisciplinary research approach in the hard sciences," Kent State President Dr. Carol A. Cartwright says. "We are delighted to have the backing of the W.M. Keck Foundation, whose reputation for investing in innovative and emerging research makes it an excellent partner at this early and critical juncture in this important, emerging field."

"This grant demonstrates clearly the power of collaborations. When we combine our unique strengths and talents at this university, we create research teams that are unmatched," West says.

Disabling Disease

New partnership targets MS



Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

Dr. James Blank, Kent State chair of biological sciences, and Dr. Ernest Freeman, head of basic research at the Oak Clinic and research assistant professor at Kent State, are co-directors of a new consortium that is looking for new ways to diagnose, treat and eventually cure multiple sclerosis.

If you live in northeast Ohio, your chances of having, or of knowing someone who has, multiple sclerosis (MS) are higher than elsewhere in the United States. One out of every 1,000 Ohioans has been diagnosed with the disease, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Multiple sclerosis is even more prevalent in this region of the state.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, potentially disabling disease that affects the central nervous system and typically strikes individuals during their early adult years. The disease can be especially devastating because of the profound disability associated with its progression and its economic impact, since multiple sclerosis persists through what is

often a normal lifespan.

A new Kent State partnership will help physicians and researchers work toward a better understanding of multiple sclerosis, the development of novel treatments and ultimately the goal of finding a cure. The Oak Clinic/Kent State University Consortium for Multiple Sclerosis and Neurodegenerative Disease Research combines the clinical expertise of physicians dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of multiple sclerosis patients with substantial expertise in basic neuroscience research by Kent State biomedical researchers.

The interdisciplinary research group at Kent State is using advanced molecular techniques and 3-D imaging

to visualize the basic mechanisms of multiple sclerosis, which have yet to be clearly understood.

Kent State's chair of biological sciences, **James Blank**, Ph.D., says the consortium also includes university biologists, chemists and computer scientists.

High-resolution, 3-D magnetic resonance imaging of the central nervous system is one component of the consortium's efforts. That imaging may prove critical in diagnosing and treating multiple sclerosis, since it has the potential to allow much earlier detection of the disease and more precise information regarding the mechanisms underlying the death of nerve cells. The consortium's use of advanced imaging techniques

will provide a great deal more information to clinicians and scientists than is currently available through the use of 2-D imaging. The technology also will be used to better track the effectiveness of current and future therapies.

With advanced imaging technologies, "We are able to see changes in gene and protein expression for the first time," says **Ernest Freeman**, '85, Ph.D., head of basic research at the Oak Clinic and research assistant professor at Kent State.

Consortium scientists also are investigating a new hypothesis endorsed by the National Institutes of Health — the nerve destruction that underlies multiple sclerosis begins with changes to a cell's internal machinery rather than destruction of a cell's covering. The Kent State approach complements standard multiple sclerosis research programs in which the autoimmune process, thought to be responsible for demyelination, or the destruction of the protective sheath surrounding nerve fibers, is the focus of study.

Oak Clinic, located in Summit County, near the Stark County border, is the only multiple sclerosis clinic in the United States with a unique model of holistic and charitable care. Since it opened in 2000, the clinic has treated nearly 2,000 patients. The clinic provides diagnostic, therapeutic and restorative services exclusively to multiple sclerosis clients.

For more information about the clinic or about Kent State's 3-D Immersive Classroom, where researchers view 3-D images of the brain, follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine. 

College Search 101

One-stop shopping lets students take charge of their future

By Lisa Lambert, M.A. '05

Students interested in Kent State can now take their college search into their own hands, from the comfort of their home computers.

With EMT Connect, a new online service offered by the Office of Admissions, potential students can gather information about Kent State without the legwork and occasional confusion previously part of the college-search process.

As of July 2005, students have access to EMT Connect through a link on the admissions home page. The system is straightforward and user-friendly. When students click on the "Create your own

Web page" link, they are directed to choose "new freshman" or "transfer student." From there, future students complete a form

on which they indicate their interests, such as academic major, student activities, tuition and payment options, and more. Then, a customized Web page highlighting their interests is created.

"Research tells us that the Web is the primary source students use when they begin their college search," says Nancy DellaVecchia, M.Ed.

and high school guidance counselors also will be able to create pages through EMT Connect.

Another feature avail-

"Research tells us that the Web is the primary source students use when they begin their college search," says Nancy DellaVecchia, M.Ed. '96, director of admissions.

'96, director of admissions.

"We want to make sure the information they need is accessible and easy for them to find." The personalized Web page becomes a one-stop shop, making it easy for students to research the areas in which they're most interested.

DellaVecchia adds, "Of course, we don't want students just learning about us on the Web; we also want them to visit our campus. The Web is an added service for students, to complement the print materials, letters, e-mails, on- and off-campus programs, and daily tours we already do."

As students move through the application and enrollment process, information on their personalized Web pages is updated, keeping them informed of their standing. Soon, adult students, Regional Campus transitioning students, parents

able on the admissions home page allows students to ask a question about Kent State and receive an instant answer. As DellaVecchia explains, while "Virtual Advisor" cannot take the place of admissions staff, it is a tool that gives students access to the admissions office beyond regular business hours.

"The customization and convenience these two services bring to students not only facilitates their college search, but also helps us ensure that students become informed about Kent State and the numerous opportunities available to them at our university," DellaVecchia says. "Our hope is that their enhanced experiences on the Web will help students build a connection to Kent State and ultimately become Kent State University students." 🌞

Kent State University
Personalized Web Page

Welcome, Mark - [Edit Profile](#) | [Campus Tour](#) | [Log out](#)

Investigate
The ideal way of knowing whether Kent State is the right fit for you is to investigate the campus in person. We invite you to take the next step and visit us. Schedule your campus visit today with our convenient online scheduling system.

Immerse
Explore Kent State's 272 undergraduate academic programs and find the interest that will motivate you to keep on learning. Click on "Edit Profile" to select different majors to explore. Of course, our online 2005-2006 Undergraduate Catalog contains a wealth of academic information as well.

Invite
We invite you to become a part of the Kent State community. Apply for admission online during the fall of your senior year. If you prefer to use a paper application, you can download the application packet from our Web site or call our office and request a paper application.

Inhabit
Psychology - The Department of Psychology offers the Bachelor of Arts degree. Psychology is a science devoted to the study of how people and animals think, feel and behave. Psychologists consider how both biological processes and environmental influences can account for behavior. The field of psychology integrates research and practice. That is, in addition to trying to explain behavior, psychologists are interested in applying the results of research to solve real-world problems. The undergraduate program is designed to prepare students for either employment in various behavioral professions or admission to graduate study.

Future Kent State students can now create personalized Web pages with a new online service offered by the Office of Admissions.



Making a Difference...

One Garden at a Time

Student earns global recognition for humanitarian service

Inspired by the work of renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, Kent State student Amelia Rinas created a Gorilla Garden at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to make sure the gorillas always have fresh vegetables.

By Anya R. Cottage, '05

"Only if we understand can we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall they be saved."

—Dr. Jane Goodall

For many years, Amelia Rinas has strived passionately to live by these motivational words.

The Kent State sophomore has chosen to care for the Earth and its inhabitants by providing fresh produce to the great apes of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. In fact, her Gorilla Garden project has earned her respect and recognition throughout the world.

Most recently, Rinas and her project were highlighted on the MTV Web site, where she appeared as a featured activist for the television show *Trippin'*. Rinas also has been featured in *National Geographic Kids Magazine*.

Rinas' desire to make a difference began after a

weekend trip to the zoo when she was in the sixth grade. "I noticed the gorillas and immediately fell in love," says Rinas. After that, she began visiting the gorillas every weekend.

One weekend, Rinas noticed a garden in the back of the primate building with a small sign that read "Gorilla Garden." "The vegetables in the garden were very pathetic looking. I was dissatisfied with the plants, so I asked my parents if we could plant our own garden," says Rinas.

That day, her Gorilla Garden project was born. Rinas began growing vegetables and donating the bounty to the primates of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. As neighbors, friends and family began donating food, Rinas was able to expand the donations to local food shelters.

"The garden is planted every year and has doubled in size," says Rinas. "I would

have to say the gorillas are very spoiled now."

Rinas has since become involved with Roots & Shoots®, a program that encourages young people to plan and implement service-learning projects, emphasizing care and concern for animals, the environment and the human community. Roots & Shoots was founded by renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall.

In 2004, Rinas represented Roots & Shoots and the United States in a 32-country peace conference in St. Petersburg, Russia. "At the summit, I witnessed firsthand the complications of communication barriers due to differences in language," says Rinas. "Upon returning home, I decided to help bridge the language barrier by learning American Sign Language."

Rinas' interest in

American Sign Language led her to Kent State University in the fall of 2004. Since then, she has found a place to belong both academically and socially. "My attendance at Kent State has given me the opportunity to significantly grow as a person," she says. "By meeting and interacting with a variety of people, I have learned to accept and value individuals who do not share my personal views and beliefs.

"Although I have only put a small dent in making a difference in the world, together with the efforts of other worldwide activists, a great difference is being made," she adds.

"As Dr. Goodall has reminded me numerous times, one person *can* make a difference."

For more information about Kent State's program in American Sign Language, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 

Families Across Time

Stimulating “food for thought” offered to residents at retirement community

By Stefanie Wessell,
Kent State English Student

Faculty and staff from Kent State University Salem and East Liverpool campuses have partnered with Copeland Oaks Retirement Community to present a seminar series titled Families Across Time.

“The lecture series is part of a university-agency partnership devoted to promoting the health and well-being of residents of Copeland Oaks and the community,” says **Ruth Montz**, director of human

services and family studies programs at Salem Campus.

“Many times, people consider health and aging factors to be beyond their control and focus only on the physical dimensions of health,” explains Montz. “This partnership promotes a holistic approach to human development, which is inclusive of social, emotional, spiritual and physical dimensions of health, wellness and well-being across the lifespan.”

Past seminars presented by the Salem Campus faculty and staff this year included “Reducing Pesticide Use in Gardening,” by **Maurice Peoples**, horticulture facilities coordinator; “Traditional Methods of Maintaining, Protecting and Restoring Health,” by **Dr. Egerton Clark**, associate professor of sociology; “History in Our Lives, Our Lives as History,” by **Lilith Kunkel**, library director; and a discussion of Amy Tan’s *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*, with Kunkel facilitating.

Kunkel says she chose *The Bonesetter’s Daughter* because it relates to the Families Across Time series theme. “It is set in contemporary San Francisco and prewar China and tells the story of an American-born woman and her immigrant mother,” says Kunkel. “It also portrays issues relating to aging and the conflicts between traditional Chinese medicine and modern American medicine.”

Marge Hope, a resident and volunteer librarian at Copeland Oaks, attended several of the lectures, including the book discussion. Hope says the lectures brought residents together in a way they hadn’t been able to before.

“I enjoyed the opportuni-

ty to share ideas with people who have similar interests, like books,” says Hope. “Hearing other people’s opinions on the book helped me think more deeply on it. It allowed me to hear ideas that I hadn’t thought of before.”

Montz says the lecture series offers Kent State campuses a unique foundation for supporting the university’s mission and strategic plan.

“The project allows Kent State East Liverpool and Salem campuses to develop and deliver creative programming that encourages innovation in learning, focuses on those we serve, engages the world beyond our campuses, and builds and sustains relationships that foster success,” says Montz.

The series has also been valuable to Copeland Oaks and its residents.

“Our residents enjoy the stimulation and staying up-to-date on current events,” says Phillip Braisted, executive director of Copeland Oaks.

Montz says future activities within the partnership will include internships and service-learning activities, such as an oral history project, adult wellness and well-being workshops, and a balance and fall-prevention program. 🌞



Ruth Montz, director, Human Services and Family Studies at Kent State Salem, leads a discussion at Copeland Oaks Retirement Community as part of a seminar series called “Families Across Time.” The program is designed to promote a holistic approach to health and wellness for the residents.



A resident at Copeland Oaks Retirement Community participates in a book discussion with fellow residents, as well as faculty and staff from Kent State’s Salem and East Liverpool campuses.

ANSWERING the CALL

Hospitality becomes an Ashtabula enterprise



Photographs by Frank Vaccariello, '98, Kent State Ashtabula

Maggie Raffel, senior hospitality management major and president of the ice-carving club, carves a column that eventually held a bottle of wine and several cheese wedges during the 2005 Kent State Ashtabula Ohio Wine & Food Celebration.

By Lisa
Lambert,
M.A. '05

When community leaders and entrepreneurs from Ashtabula County tapped Kent State Ashtabula to help support the county's growing tourism and hospitality industry, Dean **Susan Stocker** was happy to oblige with the creation of a new specialization within an existing associate degree program and with workforce development initiatives.

"We started the hospitality management program because of the increased



Gerald Bodnar (left), an adjunct faculty member in the Ashtabula Campus hospitality management program, stirs the mushroom sauce while Mike Meilander, a chef from the Kent Campus, prepares the shrimp during the opening buffet at the Overlook Restaurant in the Harbor Golf Club.

focus on tourism in our county — our manufacturing base is eroding, but with Lake Erie, the wineries and covered bridges, this program will help fill the need for qualified people to work in the tourism industry," Stocker says.

The fledgling program, which utilizes resources from the Kent Campus hospitality management

program, has met with success, doubling its enrollment as it enters its second year.

Ashtabula students have the option of completing a certificate, associate degree or bachelor's degree in hospitality management. The program not only offers convenient evening classes for nontraditional students, but also gives students the hands-on training that is valuable in the constantly evolving hospitality industry.

With a grant from the Ohio Board of Regents, Kent State Ashtabula built a workforce development center for noncredit training in conjunction with The Lodge and Conference Center at Geneva State Park. While the center's purpose is to educate the local workforce, classes for hospitality management students are offered at the state-of-the-art facility.

Conneaut, Ohio, restaurateur **Lori McLaughlin** is enrolled in the associate degree program. "I wanted to be able to enhance my career as a restaurant owner, as well as expand my knowledge in

the hospitality field," she explains. "This is a constantly changing business, based on customers' needs and wants, and the service industry must be able to adapt to succeed."

Jeanette Petrolia, general manager of the lodge and conference center in Geneva, understands the growing need for qualified hospitality management professionals. "The lodge benefits from the program by being able to expand its pool of trained applicants," she says, "and Ashtabula County benefits by having its residents learn skills that will keep them in the county."

For graduates of the Kent State hospitality management program, the job market is promising. Many will become event planners, restaurant managers, or resort or country club managers.

"The service industry is always going to grow," says **Gerald Bodnar**, a hospitality industry veteran, Kent Campus instructor, and the only full-time instructor in the Ashtabula program. "Retirement villas and resorts will be a growth area, where people want fine dining over institutional dining."

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine. 

GAME DAY vs. GPA

Kent State boasts top teams in the MAC

By Jim Szatkowski,
'80, M.A. '94

Eat, sleep, study, *thump*. Eat, sleep, study, *whump*. Eat, sleep, study, *whack*. That's the rhythm of life for most Kent State University student-athletes, who excel not only on the fields and courts, but also in the classrooms and labs. Their success reflects disciplined lives that favor routine, and offers evidence that the university values both test-day and game-day success.

Success in the MAC

Kent State was recognized as being the top school in women's athletics in the Mid-American Conference (MAC) by winning the Jacoby Cup in 2004-05, the university's second consecutive win. The men's program posted a third-place finish in the Reese Trophy, a parallel award. Both awards recognize overall excellence of athletic programs based on the final standings of teams in the conference.

Kent State has six Jacoby Cup trophies on its mantelpiece, more than any other MAC school since the award was estab-

lished in 1983. Since 1996, the men's and women's teams have combined for seven trophies and seven runner-up titles, an unparalleled feat in recent MAC history. When point totals from the Jacoby and Reese trophies are combined, the Golden Flashes are the top athletic program in the conference, says **Jeff Schaefer**, the university's sports information director.

Success in the classroom

Kent State athletes soar to success in the classroom, too. Last year, 47 student-athletes had a 4.0 grade point average (GPA); nine teams had an average GPA of 3.0 or better and three students were academic All Americans. In addition, the graduation rate for student-athletes is 18 percent higher than for the student body in general, says **Jennifer Kulics**, '98, assistant athletic director for academic services.

Academically, the best team was the volleyball squad, with a combined 3.5 GPA. *Sarah Wilber*, a 20-year-old junior from Huron, Ohio, is one of the most academically gifted players on that team.

Sarah Wilber and Annie Zakelj, both members of the Kent State volleyball team, pose in the Academic Athletic Resource Center in the MACC. The volleyball team has the highest GPA of all Kent State sports teams.

Photograph by Bob Christy, '95

"My GPA is 3.9-something," she says, nonchalantly referring to the almost-straight-A average. A middle blocker on the volleyball team, she is majoring in human development and family studies, and would like a career working with children in hospitals. She says the athletes' rigid schedules are a definite plus.

"During the season, we have study table, and we spend a lot of time on bus trips and in the hotels studying. We see other (team members) studying and we work together," she says.

Annie Zakelj, 19, a sophomore from Willoughby Hills, Ohio, said the culture of being a student first and athlete second is instilled in the team members.

"We don't have any problem with having to tell people (on the team) to study. Everyone just knows what we have to do," says the middle blocker, who is majoring in visual communication design and wants to work in corporate communications. She carries a 3.8 GPA.

That idea is reinforced from the top down, where Athletic Director **Laing Kennedy** says that everything the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics does "reinforces the educational mission of the university." Coaches respect the academic priorities "because we make sure we hire coaches who are teachers," Kennedy says.

Alumni and community members find the classroom accomplishments of Kent State's athletes as a source of pride, he adds.

Wilber says her non-athlete friends have tight time commitments, too,



Usama Young, Jake Parsons and Justin Aderhold, members of the Kent State football team, acknowledge that they are students first, and athletes second.

balancing jobs, school and other responsibilities, and they respect what she does to maintain her GPA.

But that's not always the case, says **Justin Aderhold**, an offensive lineman on the football team. The 20-year-old junior from Hillcrest Hts., Md., is a premed and biology major.

Really.

"When I tell them premed and biology, people say, 'No, what's your real major?' So I just say *ice cream*. I'm

premed counterparts, but, he adds, football physically wears him down sometimes, making it harder to study.

"I had a chance to go to other schools — such as William & Mary or Georgetown — but I wanted to play big-time football and get into a good academic program."

"People think we're spoon-fed," says **Usama Young**, 20, a cornerback with a 3.1 GPA. He is majoring in health and physical education with an eye to becoming a teacher and coach. "I tell them to put themselves in my shoes."

"You have to set priorities and goals," he says, adding that players often take the same classes and wind up studying together. But everyone has his own way of doing things. "I'd happen to wake up at 5 in the morning and (Aderhold) would be up studying," says Young, referring to his former roommate.

The portrayal of sports figures on television and in the movies has created a false image in the minds of many people, says **Jake Parsons**, 20, a junior tight end from Gulph Mills, Pa. Many think football players get everything handed to them, and don't realize how much work the players do, he says.

The discipline from football carries over to the classroom. Most players work out, study, sleep, practice — even manage to play a few video games — but the hours are long. The reward comes on game day, Parsons says, and on graduation day.

Along with the rigor, there are some perks. Athletes get priority class scheduling, which allows them to work around practice, game and travel times. They also have access to academic advisors and facilities like the Academic Athletic Resource Center, where they can study in small groups with tutors or other athletes.

"The coaches are constantly reminding us to study, and they provide personal recognition for good grades," says Parsons, a health and physical education major with a 3.5 GPA, who wants to coach college football.

Even with all the study and practice commitments, the players still have time for fun. "We experience college, just on a smaller scale than some people," Parsons says.

One day, Aderhold may be able to unlock the reason why some athletes do well in the classroom and others don't. His preferred specialty in medicine?

Psychiatry.

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.

Online Exclusive

Visit www.kent.edu/magazine to find out more about Kent State's standings in competition for the coveted Jacoby Cup and Reese Trophy.

majoring in *ice cream*. Then they say, "That's more like it."

With a GPA just under a B average (2.97), Aderhold's grades may not be as strong as some of his

Fitzpatrick wins McGruder Award

Albert E. Fitzpatrick, '56, retired Knight Ridder news executive and journalist, received the 2005 Robert G. McGruder Award. Kent State's School of Journalism and Mass Communication gives the annual award, which is named for an alumnus, to recognize the accomplishments of media professionals who encourage diversity in the field of journalism.

Fitzpatrick is dean of the Albert E. Fitzpatrick Leadership Development Institute sponsored by the National Association of Minority Executives; president and CEO of Fitzpatrick Consultants, a diversity entity; and an adjunct professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The Elyria native is a former executive editor of the *Akron Beacon Journal*, where he worked for 29 years. He was the first black managing editor and executive editor of a major metropolitan newspaper in the United States.

For more information on the McGruder Award, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.

New deans, directors named

Two new Regional Campus deans and the charter dean of the only architectural program in northeast Ohio are among the recent key appointments at Kent State. (Additional information on these and other recent appointments is available at www.kent.edu/magazine.)

Kent State Stark — Dr. **Betsy Boze**, former dean of the School of Business at the University of Texas Brownsville and Texas



Dr. Betsy Boze, Dean, Kent State Stark

Southmost College in Brownsville, is the new dean of the Stark Campus. Boze received her doctoral degree in marketing from the University of Arkansas and her MBA and B.S. in psychology from Southern Methodist University.

Kent State Trumbull — Kent State alumna Dr. **Wanda Thomas** is now dean of the Trumbull Campus. Thomas' distinguished career includes, most recently, tenure as the vice president for community and resource development at Broward Community College, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and vice president for technical education and provost for the Center for Health Science Education. As a student at Kent State, Thomas earned a master's degree in equivalent comparative physiology and a bachelor's degree in biology. She received her doctoral



Dr. Wanda Thomas, '68, Dean, Kent State Trumbull

degree of education in higher education administration from the University of Arkansas.

College of Architecture and Environmental Design — **Steven Fong** takes the helm as the college's charter dean on Dec. 1. (The School of Architecture and Environmental Design became a college in 2004.) Fong, a former chair of the Programme in Architecture at the University of Toronto, has taught in the graduate-level urban design program and served as coordinator for the integrated building technology studio. He is a graduate of the School of Architecture at Cornell University.



Steven Fong, Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design

Hugh A. Glauser School of Music — Dr. **Josef Knott**, a respected conductor and academic administrator, has been named director of the school. Previously, Knott served as assistant director of the University of Arizona School of Music and Dance and associate professor of choral music. Knott, who was born in Jamaica and raised in Liberia, holds a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry from Cutting College, Liberia, and a Bachelor of Music from St. Olaf College. He earned both Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Indiana University.



Dr. Josef Knott, Director, Hugh A. Glauser School of Music

Other recent appointments include Dr. **Timothy J. Chandler** as dean, College of Fine and Professional Arts, and Dr. **Stanley T. Wearden** as director, School of Communication Studies.

WKSU-FM adds online news and classical streams

Listeners throughout Northeast Ohio and around the world can access WKSU's on-air signal as it is broadcast. Now they also can enjoy two new online programs that focus on a single format.

"WKSU-2: The News Channel" airs reports from the award-winning WKSU-FM newsroom during NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, along with public radio news and information programs not currently available in Northeast Ohio, such as *On Point*, *Day to Day* and news from the BBC. "WKSU-3: The Classical Channel" streams the best in classical music 24 hours a day. WKSU-2 and WKSU-3 join WKSU's FolkAlley.com in giving the public radio audience an online listening experience more targeted to specific preferences.

89.7
WKSU FM

WKSU is the first public radio station in Ohio to stream program schedules online that are independent of the station's traditional on-air broadcasts. The channels are available in the "Now Playing" area of the station's home page at wksu.org. In 1994, WKSU became the second radio station nationwide to stream live audio over the Internet.

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.

'Survey says ...'

The results are in, and the winner is ... *you*, the readers of *Kent State Magazine*.

The good news is, nearly 90 percent of you who responded to the online survey say you read the magazine "always"

or "often," and 92 percent think the magazine "keeps you well-informed about what is happening at Kent State."

We appreciate that so many of you took the time to offer your opinions and advice about what you like, what you don't like and what we can do to improve

the magazine. We think you'll notice some positive changes over the next several issues, as we implement many of the excellent suggestions you offered, publish stories about the

subjects that interest you most, and modify the design to make the magazine more appealing and more interesting to read.

We also encourage you to visit the *Kent State Magazine* Web site at www.kent.edu/magazine more often.

(Only about a third of you had seen it before taking the survey.)

We've recently

redesigned the site and plan to update it regularly with features and stories that don't make it into the printed version of the magazine. The complete results of this survey and names of prize winners are posted there — check it out! 🌞



Photograph by Gary Harwood, '83

Renovations to Kent Hall were completed last summer. One of four original buildings on the Kent Campus, Kent Hall was first used for classes in the fall of 1915. It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, along with neighboring structures on the north campus. Read more at www.kent.edu/magazine.



From the President of the Kent State University Alumni Association

Gary Brahler, '89



When the Alumni Association's 2005 annual report crossed my desk, I paused to reflect on a year of many accomplishments. I came away feeling confident that the Alumni Association is poised to continue its positive momentum.

The members of the National Alumni Board of Directors recently approved a strategic plan designed to lead us through the university's centennial in 2010. The plan outlines a mission and vision

to guide the association in serving its many audiences and articulates our core values, which can be boiled down to five words: people, service, partnership, traditions and learning.

Many of those core values have been put into practice with the association's fall activities. The Lake County Alumni Chapter's 40th anniversary program was a celebration of people — the many people who volunteered throughout the years to serve students and our alma mater. Parents of incoming students were welcomed into the Kent State learning community with a special reception, and September's spirited Homecoming celebration was a continuation of tradition that brought alumni, faculty and students together.

Partnership is embodied in the relationship between the Alumni Association and its members. Through their support, members make it possible for the association to fulfill its mission and stand by its values. I encourage all alumni to join the association in its mission by becoming a member. I invite you to visit our Web site at www.ksualumni.org to learn more about the association's strategic plan and view a copy of the 2005 Annual Report.

CLASS NOTES

'44

Martin E. Gordon, North Branford, Conn., has been awarded the Peter Parker Medal for his outstanding contributions to medicine and the well-being of the Yale School of Medicine. Gordon, a semiretired gastroenterologist who has chaired the board of trustees of the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale, is believed to be the first graduate from Kent State to be admitted to the Yale University School of Medicine.*

'52

Harold P. Edelstein, Haverhill, Mass., is practicing in partnership with his son, Dr. Andrew Edelstein, at Edelstein Sports & Family Chiro in Plaistow, N.H.*

'55

Richard (Dick) Johnson, Mt. Airy, N.C., has retired from the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant colonel.*

'60

Richard (Dick) Sullivan, Chattanooga, Tenn., is retired from Tenn-American Water Co.*

'61

James Allred, Reston, Va., has been inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees during the 230th anniversary celebration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

'63

William C. Green, M.A. '67, Lexington, Ky., received the Distinguished Teacher Award in March at Morehead State University's annual Academic Awards Convocation. Green is a professor of government.

'68

Michael Bolchalk, Tucson, Ariz., has been inducted into the Tucson Advertising Federation's Advertising Hall of Fame. Bolchalk is president of Michael Bolchalk Advertising,

Marketing and Public Relations. ♦ **David Milkovich**, M.Ed. '71, Akron, Ohio, teaches at the Wayne College Campus of the University of Akron and serves as director of student teaching and field experiences for Coventry Local Schools in Summit County, Ohio.* ♦ **Jack Woodrow Smith Jr.**, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., is executive vice president at Superior Automotive Group, LLC, in Newport Beach, Calif.*

'69

Jack M. Grove, Westerville, Ohio, is a territory manager for Marathon Ashland Petroleum.* ♦ **James R. Luft**, Anaheim, Calif., has retired after 35 years of service in the California public school system.* ♦ **Mary M. Vinings**, Franklin, Ind., is serving as a team member at Jo-Ann Fabric Etc. in Greenwood, Ind. The store is a prototype for large superstores being built by the company throughout the United States.*

'70

John T. Gardner, Cincinnati, Ohio, is associate vice chancellor for high school programs at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. ♦ **Bruce Schorsten**, Canton, Ohio, is the 2005 president of the Stark County (Ohio) Association of Realtors. He has been an active realtor in the Stark County area for more than 34 years.*

'71

Joel Paul Arredondo, Lorain, Ohio, is employed as a salesman at Sunnyside Toyota in North Olmsted.* ♦ **Rich Chakan**, Elkhart, Ind., works in national sales with Elixir Industries in Elkhart.* ♦ **Judith (Toetz) Dewitz and Harry A. Dewitz**, Maumee, Ohio. Judith is a nurse in maternal fetal medicine at Toledo Hospital, where she has been employed since 1975. Harry is

* Annual Member ♦ Life Member



employed by Mitacor Diagnostics and manages two MRI centers in the Toledo area. * ➔ **John P. Hayes**, M.A. '73, Frisco, Texas, has accepted the position of president and chief operating officer of HomeVestors of America Inc. in Dallas. In addition to his work with HomeVestors, Hayes is an author, public speaker, seminar leader and consultant to businesses. *

'72 **Don Abbott**, West Carrollton, Ohio, is an instructor at Southwestern College in Dayton. * ➔ **Colleen Ronan Asaro**, Canyon Lake, Texas, is a retired English and history teacher. * ➔ **Paul R. John**, Rootstown, Ohio, is a professor in the Engineering and Science Technology Department at the University of Akron. He is the recipient of the 2005 Phi Eta Sigma Student's Choice Award. * ➔ **Rita (Jagucki) Pinti**, Beavercreek, Ohio, is employed as a financial specialist with the Montgomery County ADAMHS Board in Dayton. * ➔ **Kathleen Schmatz**, Washington, D.C., is president and CEO of AAIA in Bethesda, Md. *

'73 **James Ellor**, Waco, Texas, is director of the Institute for Gerontological Studies at Baylor University. * ➔ **Charles J. Tokarz**, Williamsville, N.Y., is retired. * ➔ **Robin Wise**, Sebastopol, Calif., is a self-employed audio engineer. *

'74 **Marsha Frazier-Lord**, Mesa, Ariz., has been promoted to administration of Sequoia Schools, a charter school company that services 12 schools in Arizona. She is the physical education coordinator with responsibilities for developing programs and monitoring the distance-learning component of the schools.

'76 **Peter Demyan**, Ph.D., San Jacinto, Calif., is self-employed. * ➔ **Susan (Fraitag)**

Steiner, Dunedin, Fla., is employed by Fedex Express. * ➔ **Li-An Yeh**, M.S., Cary, N.C., is the director of the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise at N.C. Central University.

'79 **John R. Martin**, London, Ohio, works for the Ohio Attorney General's Office and is an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has published several political and military analytical articles for the Department of Defense. * ➔ **Lisa Rohrbaugh**, M.L.S., East Palestine, Ohio, is director of the East Palestine Memorial Public Library. In March she was one of 40 people from countries around the world selected to participate in a weeklong series of debates and discussions concerning the topic of freedom at the Oxford Round Table at the University of Oxford in England.

'80 **Elizabeth Z. (Chames) Bartz**, M.A. '82, Akron, Ohio, has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the State Government Affairs Council. * ➔ **Michele (Tavener) Skinn**, Norwalk, Ohio, is the director of the Fisher-Titus Foundation and Systems Grants Writer for Fisher-Titus Medical Center in Norwalk. She is on the board of the Huron County Humane Society and the planning committees for the American Lung Association of the North Coast's Asthma Walk and also the American Cancer Society's Norwalk Relay for Life. *

'81 **Steve Eroskey**, Liberty Township, Ohio, is employed as a program manager with Hewlett-Packard in Cincinnati. * ➔ **Melody (McNeely) Jurado**, Temple Terrace, Fla., has been appointed by Florida governor Jeb Bush to serve as chair of the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County. She is president of The Profitable Group. *

'82 **James V. Fabian**, M.P.A. '85, Trabuco Canyon, Calif., is a principal with Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates in Irvine, Calif. * ➔ **Anthony (Tony) Notaro**, Sagamore Hills, Ohio, has been appointed assistant vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. A registered architect, Notaro is responsible for the bank's facilities functions and also oversees construction projects at the bank's main office in Cleveland and its branch offices in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

'83 **Scott Lautanen**, Los Angeles, Calif., is a producer/director on the CBS television program *CSI: Miami*. *

'84 **Greg Perkinson**, Langley, Va., is a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

'86 **Mark Oleksiak**, Ft. Monmouth, N.J., is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. * ➔ **Steve Shannon**, Randolph, N.J., is senior vice president at BurelleLuce, where he is responsible for Web-based delivery of the firm's services. * ➔ **David W. Wallace**, Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been promoted to vice president at CDM, a consulting, engineering, construction and operations firm serving public and private clients worldwide.

'87 **Tim Carson**, Medina, Ohio, is a private banking relationship manager with Fifth Third Bank in Cleveland. * ➔ **John Pokorny**, M.B.A., Highland Village, Texas, received the National Pinnacle of Achievement Award at the 2004 Association of School Business Officials annual convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also was named "Rotarian of the Year" by the Lewisville (Texas) Noon Rotary. * ➔ **Lisa (Horvath) Vidacs**, North Royalton, Ohio, has been appointed vice president

at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, responsible for the bank's cash operations. Vidacs serves as the bank's representative of the Federal Reserve System's Cash Advisory Group. In addition, she serves as vice chair of the Bank Management Committee and as co-leader of the Bank's Operational Excellence program.

'89 **Edward Leigh**, Novelty, Ohio, was selected by Pfizer Oncology in March 2005 to light up the Empire State Building as part of Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Leigh was invited to pull the switch to light the building blue, the official color of the campaign. A colon cancer survivor, Leigh travels throughout the United States to raise awareness of the disease.

'90 **Eric Binz**, Boothwyn, Pa., is employed as an ATM product manager with First Data Corp. in Wilmington, Del. * ➔ **Julie (DiMenno) Stahl**, Pittsburgh, Pa., is employed by the U.S. Postal Service in Pittsburgh as a transportation contract specialist.

'91 **David F. Lopez**, M.A., Ph.D. '94, Falls Church, Va., is a research analyst with The CAN Corp. in Alexandria, Va. * ➔ **C. Allen Nichols**, Fairlawn, Ohio, has been named the 2005 Alumnus of the Year by the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. Nichols has been director of the public library in Wadsworth, Ohio, since 1997. He also is an adjunct faculty member at Kent State. *

'92 **Corinne (Gruber) Grimes**, Plattsburgh, N.Y., is a regional resource coordinator at Northeastern Family Institute in South Burlington, Vt.

'93 **John Carney**, M.S. '97, Canton, Mass., is employed as an envi-



ronmental scientist with Sage Environmental in Pawtucket, R.I.*

➔ **Tony Gucciardo**, Maumee, Ohio, is employed as a senior executive oncology account manager with GlaxoSmithKline.*

➔ **Cindy Pinter**, Painesville, Ohio, is an eighth grade English teacher with Perry Public Schools in Perry, Ohio. ➔ **Denise Seachrist**, Ph.D., Warren, Ohio, an associate professor of music at the Kent State Trumbull Campus, has been appointed dean for Academic and Student Services, Regional Campuses. Seachrist's outstanding work as a faculty member and administrator has been recognized by many awards from the university and external organizations. She is also known for her recent book, *The Musical World of Halim El-Dabh*, for which she received an invitation to the dedication of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Library in Alexandria, Egypt, in 2003.*

➔ **Dennis Schweers**, Youngstown, Ohio, has been promoted to sergeant for the Poland Township Police Department, Poland, Ohio. ➔ **Michelle (Mott) West**, Germantown, Md., is employed as a systems engineer with NCI Information Systems in Washington, D.C.

'94

Alicia (Durham) Forte, Wesley Chapel, Fla., is employed as a field examiner with the National Labor Relations Board. ➔ **Anna (Snyder) Kriebel**, Clarion, Pa., is employed as an annual funds officer with Clarion University Foundation Inc.

'95

Holly Bunt, M.L.S., Brunswick, Ohio, has been promoted to library director at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio.

'97

Carrie (Gibson) Bailey, Puyallup, Wash., is employed as a project manager at Price-waterhouseCoopers.* ➔ **Ken Bar Hoover**, Broadview Heights, Ohio, has been promoted to

director of brand analytics at Liggett-Stashower Inc., one of Ohio's largest marketing communications firms, located in Cleveland.* ➔ **Charleen Curry**, Akron, Ohio, is employed as an editor with October Research Corp. in Brecksville.

➔ **Susan (Vranic) Fleischer** is a financial planning analyst with Cornerstone Capital Advisors in Uniontown, Ohio.*

➔ **Vic Fleischer**, M.L.S.

'00, is the head of Archives and Special Collections at Youngstown State University. The Fleischers live in Brimfield, Ohio.* ➔ **Jeffery Frankford**, Danville, Ohio, is a health and physical education teacher with Loudonville-Perrysville schools in Perrysville, Ohio.

➔ **Alisa M. Notte**, M.Ed. '01, Charlotte, N.C., is a career counselor at Central Piedmont Community College.* ➔ **Shane Wolfe**, Washington, D.C., is deputy press secretary for the Secretary of the Interior at the U.S. Department of Interior in Washington.* ➔ **Sean Wood**, Washington, D.C., is director of research and administration at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

'99

Brian L. Huff, Garrettsville, Ohio, is a senior government accountant at Rea & Associates in Medina, Ohio. He previously worked for six years as a staff auditor for the state auditor's office. ➔ **Danielle Maack**, Laramie, Wyo., is employed by the University of Wyoming. ➔ **Dan Soulsby**, Burbank, Calif., is a casting supervisor at Walt Disney Studios in Burbank.

'00

Danielle Bufalini, New York City, is employed as a production manager at the DailyCandy. ➔ **Darryl Johnson**, M.Ed., Smyrna, Ga., is president of Johnson Process Inc. ➔ **Kevin E. Pyle**, M.B.A., Loveland, Ohio, is director of assessments for

the Hamilton County Auditor's Office in Cincinnati. He also has been elected president of the Ohio Weights and Measures Association.*

'01

Kevin Patrick Aurand, Arlington, Va., is a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service in Washington, D.C.*

➔ **Bill Bridenthal**, B.S.E. '03, Canton, Ohio, teaches high school social studies at Eastern High School in Pike County, Ohio.* ➔ **Darrin R. Dreyer**, Lowgap, N.C., is employed as a program director with Eckerd Youth Alternatives. ➔ **Gene A. Johnson**, Cleveland, Ohio, received the Harry Resnick Memorial Fund Award at the May 2005 diploma ceremony of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, at which he also received a medical degree. The award is given to students who are deserving by virtue of unusual accomplishments.

➔ **Megan Leasher**, Fairborn, Ohio, has been selected the national winner for 2005 of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Foundation Graduate Student Leadership Scholarship, while a doctoral student at Wright State University. The society is an international human resources organization that honors one graduate student a year with

this competitive scholarship. ➔ **Yohonna (Doak) Smith**, M.Ed. '03, Shaker Heights, Ohio, is employed as a graduation coordinator at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. ➔ **Shawn Turner**, Cleveland, Ohio, is the finance reporter at *Crain's Cleveland Business*.*

'02

Camie O'Brian, King of Prussia, Pa., is employed as a tour and travel sales manager with Radisson Valley Forge. ➔ **Sharin (Souders) Schrock**, B.S.E. '04, Dover, Ohio, is a special education teacher with Perry Local Schools in Massillon. ➔ **Nicole Varuolo**, Cumming, Ga., is employed as an assistant product manager with VF Intimates in Alpharetta, Ga.

'03

Julie Andrzejewski, Cincinnati, Ohio, works in purchasing with Hanser Holdings Inc. ➔ **Kristian Barr**, M.S.A. '04, Streetsboro, Ohio, has joined Plante & Moran, PLLC, in Cleveland as a staff accountant in the Audit Department.* ➔ **Paul H. Creed III**, A.A.B. '03, B.S., '04, Cortland, Ohio, is completing his master's degree in technology at Kent State and then plans to pursue a doctorate in either education or business.* ➔ **Melissa Paschuck**, M.Ed., Brevard, N.C., is assistant dean of campus life

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

Nora Jacobs, '73, received the Honors College Distinguished Alumni Award last spring. To read more about this and all the other alumni-related award winners from spring 2005, follow the link at www.kent.edu/magazine.



Photograph by Gary Harwood '83



at Brevard College. ✦ **Jaime Shine**, Akron, Ohio, is a promotional products specialist with Proforma in Independence, Ohio. ✦ **Maren Uziel**, North Royalton, Ohio, is an audiologist aide with Audiotronic Inc., Parma, Ohio. ✦

'04

Pamela Chikombero, Ph.D., Athens, Ohio, received the Harwood Dissertation Award from the Broadcast Education Association for her dissertation, *An Analysis and Interpretation of Televised Anti-HIV/AIDS Public Service Announcements in Zimbabwe*. ✦ **Jennifer Dey**, Las Vegas, Nev., is employed as a visual merchandising manager with Guess? Inc. in Las Vegas. ✦ **Shawn McDermott**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is a security representative with UPS in Middleburg Hts., Ohio. ✦ **Michael McKeon**, Akron, Ohio, has joined The Culbertson Group in Cleveland as a project manager. The Culbertson Group is a full-service advertising and public relations firm. ✦ **Brandi Mitchell**, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, is employed as a solid waste specialist with Lorain County in Elyria, Ohio. ✦ **Jamie Reynolds**, Stow, Ohio, is an academic advisor at Kent State. ✦ **Cassandra (Rodriguez) Torch**, Akron, Ohio, is a staff accountant with Cohen & Company. ✦ **Elisabeth Christine Waybright**, M.A.T., Wake Forest, N.C., is a mathematics teacher at Millbrook High School in Raleigh.

'05

Doug Holbert, Brunswick, Ohio, is employed as a network and systems administrator at Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron. ✦ **Renee Freismuth**, Dover, Ohio, is a marketing coordinator with Rea & Associates in New Philadelphia, Ohio. 🌟

LOSSES

IN THE KSU FAMILY

'41

Kenneth Chiavetta passed away in August 2004 in Silver Spring, Md. He had been the editor of *Wildlife Review*, an abstract journal for the U.S. government in Maryland and Ft. Collins, Colo. His wife, Helen (Harris), a Kent State alumna, passed away in 1978. She had been a teacher and a social worker in Maryland before moving to Colorado.

'42

Joseph S. Blair Jr., Columbus, Ohio, passed away in March 2005. As part of a distinguished career, he taught speech and history courses at Franklin University until his retirement in 1983 as a professor emeritus. His nephew, **Richard Blair '72**, is a life member of the Kent State Alumni Association. ✦ **Mary Ellen (Hays) Darling**, Berea, Ohio, passed away in March 2005.

'47

Nanette Farley, Cary, N.C., passed away in January 2005.

'49

Clement G. Scerback, Columbia, Md., passed away earlier this year. He received his degree from Kent State in journalism.

'51

Richard Edward Hoover, Stow, Ohio, passed away in May 2005.

'53

Eldred D. Johnson, Casper, Wyo., passed away in June 2005. A self-employed consulting geologist, he retired in 1998.

'62

Gail Vivian Myers, Barberton, Ohio, passed away in May 2005.

'64

Tom Holden, Youngstown, Ohio, passed away in June 2005. He was a longtime newscaster and evening news anchorman on WKBN-TV 27 in Youngstown.

'66

Richard R. Sweet, Kent, Ohio, passed away in May 2005. For nearly 40 years, he was a photographer for the *Record-Courier*, until retiring in September 2004.

'76

Kathleen A. Martin, Timberlake, Ohio, passed away in April 2005. Following graduation from Kent State, she taught mentally challenged children in Cleveland. Subsequently, she received a law degree from Case Western Reserve University and served as a longtime public attorney. ✦ **Susan Schott**, Sarasota, Fla., has passed away. She served in the Army Nurse Corp for four years in Colorado and also was a nurse in Cleveland, Salt Lake City and Sarasota.

'78

Mike Fleming, M.A. '89, Monroe Falls, Ohio, passed away in July 2005. He had worked as an urban planner. He is survived by his wife, **Lorna (McBride) Fleming**, '79, M.A. '82.

'04

Thomas O. Keeling, Strongsville, Ohio, was killed in Iraq in June 2005, while serving with the U.S. Marine Forces Reserve 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Akron.

FRIENDS

Margaret Baxtresser, Akron, Ohio, passed away in June 2005. She taught piano at Kent State from 1966 until her retirement in 1991. ✦

James K. Olsen, Scottsdale, Ariz., passed away in March 2005. He was a faculty member at Kent State in the College of Arts and Science and dean of the Honors College. ✦ **Bob Shively**, Aurora, Ohio, passed away in June 2005. He was a professor in the School of Architecture and Environment Design who was remembered by friends and associates as a great professor and well-liked by all the students. 🌟

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMBER PROFILE

Gary Brahler, '89

A Northeast Ohio native and current resident, Gary is a financial advisor and vice president for UBS Financial. Gary serves his community as a volunteer for organizations such as the Golden Age Center of Cleveland. His service to Kent State began in 1987 as a Student Ambassador and continues today as president of the National Alumni Board of Directors. Gary holds a degree in marketing.



Why Kent State

Cultural diversity, liberal arts education and the beautiful campus.

Favorite Kent State memory

When I commenced, President Michael Schwartz rose from his seat to shake my hand. Even at a school with so many students, I never felt like a number.

Greatest accomplishment

My family. My wife Katy Dix, '89 (whom I met at "The Deck"), and my daughters, Olivia and Amy – both future Golden Flashes!

Something most people don't know about me

I'm a history buff and music enthusiast. As a residence hall student, my love of Led Zeppelin and loud music resulted in a one-way ticket to conduct court.

Why I joined the Alumni Association

Kent State is an important part of who I am today. Membership allows me to give back, show my support and stay connected to the university.

Members support programs that

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


ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.ksualumni.org



Legacy & Medallion SCHOLARSHIPS

Legacy Scholarship Winners

Six incoming freshmen have been awarded the Kent State University Alumni Association Legacy Scholarships for the 2005-06 school year.

The scholarships, made possible through the support of Alumni Association members, are given annually to a relative of a Kent State graduate who has chosen to attend the university. This year the Alumni Association received more than 500 applications for its Legacy Scholarships.

Timothy Adkins Jr., *Ryan Montgomery*, *Benjamin Myers*, *Brett Rosso*, *Eric Shelestak* and *Michael Subichin* have been selected to receive Legacy Scholarships, each a \$1,000 one-time award.



Timothy Adkins Jr.

Timothy Adkins Jr., of Kent, Ohio, is a graduate of Archbishop Hoban High School. His mother is *Anne (Ruggiero) Adkins*, '86.

Ryan Montgomery, of Monroe Falls, Ohio, is a graduate of Stow-Monroe Falls

High School. His mother is *Laurel (Shaw) Montgomery*, '71.



Benjamin Myers

Benjamin Myers, of Alliance, Ohio, is a graduate of Marlington High School. His parents are *Kathy (Abmyer) Myers*, '75, and *Dennis Myers*, '73.



Brett Rosso

Brett Rosso, of Amherst, Ohio, is a graduate of Amherst Steele High School. His uncle is *Paul Boroski*, '90.

Eric Shelestak, of Canal Fulton, Ohio, is a graduate of Canton Central Catholic High School. His mother is *Debra Shelestak*, M.S.N. '86.

Michael Subichin, of Greendale, Wis., is a gradu-

ate of Greendale Senior High School. His mother is *Joan Hyden-Subichin*, '80.

Medallion Scholarship Winner

The Kent State Alumni Association's Medallion Scholarship is part of the university's premiere scholarship initiative, the Founders Scholars program, and is also awarded to relatives of Kent State University alumni. The Medallion Scholarship is the highest recognition given to freshmen. Created with an endowment of \$100,000, these scholarships provide for tuition and are renewable for eight semesters. Recipients are selected based on their academic achievement and community service while in high school.

The Alumni Association awarded Medallion Scholarships to two students in 2000 and has previously awarded them to three students. This year, the Alumni Association is pleased to once again be able to recognize a deserving student with this prestigious award.

Tim Muir, of Copley, Ohio, has been selected to receive the Alumni Association Medallion Scholarship. He is a graduate of Copley High School and is the son of *Mary "Gigi" (Naples) Muir*, '74.

If you have a family member interested in applying for a legacy or medallion scholarship, contact Kent State's Student Financial Aid Office at 330-672-2972 or visit www.sfa.kent.edu. Please contact the Alumni Association at 330-672-KENT (5368), 1-888-320-KENT or by e-mail at alumni@kent.edu if you have an interest in contributing to the scholarship fund.



Ryan Montgomery



Michael Subichin



Tim Muir



Members of the Lake County Alumni Chapter celebrated the chapter's 40th anniversary at a Cleveland Indians Game in July. Photograph by Bob Christy, '95



Chapter Celebrates Anniversary

Lake County Alumni Chapter turns 40

The Lake County Alumni Chapter, the oldest chartered organization in Kent State University's Alumni Association, celebrated its 40th anniversary in September. The milestone spotlighted both the proud history of this chapter and its continuing commitment to benefiting fellow alumni, Kent State students and the university.

In fact, through the years, this chapter has been a model for promoting student recruitment and retention — and for sponsoring social gatherings that help keep Kent State alumni con-

nected to one another and to the university.

The success of the Lake County Alumni Chapter reflects the interest, commitment and continuing involvement of many alumni through the years. And it all began as the result of what turned out to be a good idea coupled with a lot of enthusiasm by a few founding members.

In March 1964, a committee of Kent State alumni, Mrs. Jack (Bea) Britt, '44, Mrs. Clancy (Isla) Strader, '48, and Mrs. D. C. (Katherine) Brainard, A.S. '36, B.S. '40, met to make plans to form the Lake

County chapter. The result has been an organization that is now woven into the history of Kent State and that has contributed substantially to fellow alumni, students and the university as a whole.

The chapter and its 69 chartering members were officially recognized by the Kent State Alumni Association's Board of Directors in 1965. With members representing nearly every city, township and village in Lake County (near Cleveland, Ohio), the chapter began planning activities that typically included at least one business and social

meeting each year. That tradition continues today.

Kent State leaders, including each university president since the chapter was founded, frequent Lake County Chapter meetings, providing chapter members with information about the state of university affairs.

The chapter has continued to host a variety of events throughout the decades, designed to offer Kent State graduates residing in Lake County an opportunity to socialize and network with each other. Socials held in conjunction with Cleveland Indians or Lake County Captains base-



ball games, theatre events, wine tastings at local wineries and annual spring dinners are just a few examples of the many chapter-sponsored activities.

"The chapter sees its role as serving as a conduit between Kent State and its graduates," says chapter president *Don Humphrey*, '68. "If we can engage alumni and connect them to one another as well as keeping them involved with Kent State, then we have done our job as alumni leaders."

In addition, the Lake County chapter very early in its history set the standards for chapter involvement in student recruitment activities. That tradition continues today as well.

For example, a simple luncheon program for Lake County high school students has evolved into a very successful campus tour program. Since 1975, the chapter has worked in conjunction with the university's Admissions Office to transport high school juniors and seniors to the Kent Campus, allowing them personally to experience the university environment and learn about its many academic offerings.

"Our chapter is proud to have helped introduce more than 1,500 students to Kent State University. Many of today's Lake County alumni were high school students who participated in our campus tour program," says chapter volunteer and recruitment program coordinator *Mel Fundermark*, '57.

The decades-long efforts by the Lake County chapter and its members on behalf of students, fellow alumni and the university have not gone unnoticed — or appreciated. In recognition of its outstanding efforts, the chapter was honored with the Alumni Association's "Outstanding Chapter

Award" during the 1994 Homecoming celebration. The association also honored chapter volunteer *Charles Chiappone*, '69, M.Ed. '72, Ed.S. '74, with the "Student Recruitment" award for his outstanding efforts in that area.

Through the years, the chapter has cultivated many outstanding volunteer leaders, including several who have served on the Alumni Association's National Board of Directors. *Jack Britt*, '47, M.A. '50, was elected to serve on the alumni board in 1970, and served as its vice president in 1972 and president from 1974 to 1976. In 1995, *Larry Disbro*, '71, '73, M.Ed. '78, was appointed to the board and acted as secretary during his last year of service. Current national alumni board member *Tim Eippert*, '92, serves as president-elect and is a member of the chapter.

"I have had the opportunity to see the chapter grow from an idea to an organization that connects alumni and helps them realize that Kent State can still be a part of their lives. I find it rewarding that the chapter still attracts committed volunteers 40 years later. This is proof of the dedication of Kent State alumni," says *Bea Britt*, chapter historian and founding member.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the chapter planned several events. Following its extremely successful and well-attended anniversary dinner in September, the chapter hosted current Kent State students from Lake County for an on-campus reception and also participated in Homecoming activities. The chapter will be concluding its year of celebration by attending the university's traditional Yuletide Feaste on Dec. 1. Alumni interested in participating

in this holiday celebration should contact chapter president *Don Humphrey* at dhumphrey@ameritech.net for additional event information.

"For many alumni and members of the Lake County chapter, Kent State remains a relevant and important part of their professional and personal life post-graduation. The longevity of the Lake County chapter speaks volumes about the importance of a lifelong relationship with one's alma mater," says *Lindsey Loftus*, '86, executive director of the Kent State Alumni Association.

Forty does not symbolize the end of the Lake County Chapter alumni story. Rather, it marks the beginning of a more vital organization still dedicated to fostering a spirit of fellowship and loyalty among Kent State graduates and to enhancing the success of current students and the university.

Show spirit with personal address labels

Share your spirit with others by creating and ordering your own personalized, self-adhesive Kent State University return address labels on the Web.

Return address labels simplify your life and liven up letters, greeting cards and packages. You can choose from three different Kent State designs when you personalize and order on the Web.

Show your Kent State pride by personalizing your mail pieces today!

For more information or to order your own Kent State University return address labels on the Web, please visit the Kent State University Alumni Association's Web site at <http://www.kent.edu/alumni/ShowYourSpirit.cfm>.



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123 Alumni Drive
Kent, OH 44242

(Actual label size is 1/2" x 2-1/8")



Leap of Faith

Kujat embarks on mission to roof one house in every state

By Anya R. Cottage, '05

As an undergraduate at Kent State University, Seth Kujat, '04, held leadership positions, participated in numerous organizations, became an aspiring entrepreneur and firmly established his personal beliefs.

However, despite a stellar résumé and a college degree, Kujat says that, at the time of his college graduation, his desire to serve others had not yet been completely fulfilled. So, one Sunday afternoon, while driving home from church, Kujat decided to take what he calls a leap of faith.

"Life really started to slow down after college," Kujat says. "I decided that I really needed to set a goal that was no longer just about me."

"Leap of Faith" became a nationwide service project initiated by Kujat. The goal of the outreach mission is to serve families in need throughout the United States by roofing at least one Habitat for

Humanity house in each state in just one year — a total of 50 houses in 52 weeks.

A native of Litchfield, Ohio, Kujat firmly believes in his mission. His reason for undertaking such an ambitious project is simple: "This is an opportunity for me to test my belief system and serve others," he says.

While attending college, Kujat became a successful entrepreneur by starting his own roofing business. As a result, he graduated from college debt-free, giving him the freedom to pursue his desire to serve others.

With a major in interpersonal communications and a minor in applied conflict management, Kujat strove to serve his fellow Kent State students. He was the Undergraduate Student Senator for business and finance, president of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, co-chair for the May 4 Task Force and a representative of Kent State on the MTV special *Chat the Planet*.

"Working with fellow senators and adults at the university gave me the confidence and passion to pursue my beliefs," Kujat says. "These experiences made me realize I wanted to serve others."

Kujat credits the Center for Student Involvement (formerly called the Office of Campus Life) as being a "guiding influence and a great resource" during his time at Kent State. "They were my surrogate family while I was at school," Kujat says.

"Seth always looked out for others and took every opportunity to help those around him," says Donna Carlton, '82, assistant director for the Center for Student Involvement. "He started and completed a number of projects on campus and really came full-circle as an individual and as a leader."

Kujat's Leap of Faith began in May in Ohio, where he roofed his first Habitat for Humanity house.

Since then, he has roofed houses throughout the Northeast and Northwest regions of the United States. He plans to spend the winter months roofing houses in the South and will finish his trip in April 2006.

Thus far, Kujat believes that Leap of Faith has been very worthwhile. "Every day of this trip is a success," Kujat says. "The greatest success in life is helping others be successful."

Kujat travels in a donated vehicle that serves as an office, a storage facility and sleeping quarters when necessary. He is keeping a journal of his experiences and hopes to write a book after his project is complete.

"This journey is a great way for me to see the country and to experience its many differences and similarities," Kujat says. "I just hope the people I've served realize they have helped me as much as I've helped them." 🌞



Entrepreneurial alumnus Seth Kujat, '04, is on a mission to roof one house in every state in 52 weeks, in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity.



Impressions that Matter

Talbott now leads Ohio's largest home health care system

By Stefanie Wessell, Kent State English Student

While a student at Kent State University, *Karen Talbott*, '69, M.A. '70, never saw herself running an organization like Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates. With its headquarters in Akron, Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates is the largest comprehensive home health care system in Ohio and is an affiliate of the Akron General Health System.

Talbott, a native of Cadiz, Ohio, who chose to attend Kent State because she was impressed with the campus, graduated with a bachelor's degree in business education and a master's degree in accounting.

"I passed the CPA exam on my first attempt. That accomplishment spoke to the fine education that Kent State

provided," says Talbott.

After graduation, Talbott was hired by what is now Ernst & Young, a large public accounting firm. During her nine years there, Talbott says she specialized in providing services to the health care industry, which is how she came into contact with the visiting nurse service.

"It (Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates) was a client when I was in public accounting. I was always impressed by the organization — it was well run, financially sound and provided an excellent service," says Talbott.

Talbott says she chose to switch careers because she wanted to concentrate on health care administration and operations, which were interesting and different

aspects of the industry from what public accounting provided on an ongoing basis.

Besides being impressed with Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates, Talbott says she also "knew that because home is where most people want to be and with an increasingly aging population on the horizon, home care would be a vital and continuing service to have available in communities."

Talbott served as vice president of Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates until 1988, when she became president.

"I thought my future would be in some form of finance, but Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates has been an excellent match for me. I get to use my financial back-

ground while integrating that with strategic planning and operations. And we have a wonderful leadership team, as well as clinicians who provide excellent care to patients at home," says Talbott.

As a student, Talbott was active in Phi Gamma Nu and Beta Alpha Psi. She says her membership in these organizations was important to achieving a well-rounded educational experience.

Talbott continues to be active in the community and at Kent State. Some of her community involvements include being vice chair and a member of the executive committee and board of the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce.

She is a past president of the Kent State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, was a commencement speaker in 2000 and received the Carl I. Brahm Gerontology Service Award from Kent State in 1999. A life member of the Alumni Association, she recently was honored by the Alumni Association board as its first emerita member.

"Kent State stays relevant and changes in positive, exciting directions. Dr. [Carol A.] Cartwright's leadership, as well as the contributions of many others, has made Kent State a truly outstanding, first-class university!

"It is a jewel, and I'm very proud to be an alumna," says Talbott. 🌟

Karen Talbott, '69, M.A. '70, poses beside a stream on the grounds of the Hospice of Visiting Nurse Service facility in Akron, Ohio, where she is president.





Tami, '96, Adam, '96, and "Kent" Parton

Both Adam Parton, '96, and Tami (Baker) Parton, '96, knew that coming to Kent State would give them the education needed to pursue their dream jobs. What they didn't know was that Kent State would give them much more than an education.

In addition to making lifelong friends and meeting each other, Kent State gave Adam and Tami the name for their firstborn son, Kent Andrew Parton.

"There were so many names I thought of at first," Adam says, but the couple chose to bestow their alma mater's name in the end. "It's a cool name, with so much meaning behind it."

While at the wedding of

a college friend, Adam and Tami realized how significant a role Kent State has played in their lives. Because of this, they chose the name Kent for their son.

"Without Kent State, we wouldn't have half of the things we have today," Adam says. "Without Kent State University, we would not be financially successful, we would not have the relationships ... and we would not have a name for our son."

The professional connections the Partons made at Kent State helped them pursue their careers. Kent State connections gave Tami, a fashion design major, an internship. Now, as head designer for Quizz Sportswear

All in the Family

Partons name baby 'Kent' in gratitude to their alma mater

**By Beth Baldwin,
Kent State Public Relations Student**

in New York City, Tami returns the favor for current Kent State fashion students. Adam, a gerontology major and nursing home administrator, often speaks with nursing students about the differences between a nursing home job in New Jersey and the same position in Ohio.

The friends Adam and Tami met at Kent State became a family away from home, says Tami. The connections remained strong even after Adam and Tami graduated.

"We became like the glue," says Adam. The couple brought several groups of friends together, and many of these friends still keep in touch today. When Adam and Tami moved to New Jersey, those connections became more important than ever.

A large number of alumni live in the New Jersey and New York areas, Adam says. These former Golden Flashes make an effort to get together to have fun and

support each other.

"We started a euchre club to make us get together," Adam says. "It forced us to become a family in this area."

"When you meet another alum, it's as though there's an instant bond, just because you attended the same school," he says.

"A deep, personal part of people is to have connections," Tami says. "It's nice to have a family away from home."

Since graduating and moving to New Jersey, the Partons have made an even greater effort to remain connected to the university. They are lifetime Alumni Association members and are actively involved with alumni spirit events. They also make an effort to return to Kent State every year for various activities, such as Homecoming and fashion shows.

"I'm more proud of Kent State now than when I was a student," says Adam. "After you graduate, it becomes a part of you." 🌟



Life Members

of the Kent State University Alumni Association

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

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KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Winter 2005

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"Honk!"

Wright-Curtis Theatre
Nov. 4-13
330-672-2497

The Seneca Trio

Kent State Tuscarawas
Nov. 7
330-339-3391

Exhibit: Chado Ralph Rucci

Kent State University Museum
Nov. 17, 2005-April 23, 2006

Wick Poetry Series

Maxine Scates
Kent Student Center
Nov. 17
330-672-2067

Men's and Women's Chorus

Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall
Nov. 18
330-672-4802

Yuletide Feaste

Kent Student Center Ballroom
Nov. 30-Dec. 3
330-672-2909

Dance 2005

E. Turner Stump Theatre
Dec. 2-4
330-672-2497

Featured Speaker Series

Jonathan Kozol
Kent State Stark
Dec. 7
330-244-3262

Kent State Gospel Choir

Carl F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall
Dec. 9
330-672-2431

Legendary performer Donovan is the headliner for the 39th annual Kent State Folk Festival, scheduled for Nov. 11-19. Follow the link at www.kent.edu/magazine for the complete lineup.



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