

alumni LIFE

David J. Bronczek, BBA '76, Johns Creek, Ga., has been appointed to the board of directors of Tyson Foods as of May 2020. Bronczek is the recently retired president and chief operating officer of FedEx Corporation, the global logistics and transportation company. He was part of FedEx for more than 40 years, starting as a courier and progressing into the company's management ranks. His roles included leading FedEx Express in Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and later serving for 17 years as president and CEO of FedEx Express. A native of Ohio, he also has experience as an independent public company director, previously serving on the board of International Paper, and he served as United Way Mid-South Board Chairman.

Edward R. Canda, BA '76, Lawrence, Kan., retired as Professor Emeritus at the end of 2019 after 33 years as a social work professor, the last 30 at the University of Kansas. He also has an MA in religious studies (University of Denver) and MSW and PhD degrees (The Ohio State University). His work focused on two main areas: 1) creative responses to crisis, chronic illness and disability; 2) international perspectives on social welfare, with many collaborations in East Asia and Central Europe.

He established a lifelong special interest in South Korea due to his Fulbright Award and Graduate Fellowship at Sungkyunkwan University, 1976-1977, arranged by his KSU advisor, Dr. Gerard Kennedy (in memoriam) and encouraged by the Honors College. He has more than 200 publications and more than 200 presentations.

In 2003, the KSU Honors College conferred him with the Honors College Alumni Award for Excellence in Scholarship. In 2013, the national Council on Social Work Education conferred him with the Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award.

Paul M. Hedeon, BA '76, Monroe, Mich., wrote, "After taking my BA in English and a short stint in business, I returned to graduate school for an MA and PhD in English from The University of Akron and Northwestern University respectively. I went on to teach at the University of Maine at Fort Kent (1990-1994) and Wartburg College (1994-2012) before finishing my career as an academic dean at Monroe County Community College. I won three teaching awards. I am also an award-winning writer (poetry and fiction) and a Fulbright scholar. My critical and creative writing has appeared in numerous magazines and journals including *The North American Review*, *Confrontation*, *Rosebud*, *Philosophy and Literature*, and many others.

"In addition to my most recent novel, *The Butterfly* (BHC, 2019), which is a 2019 *Foreword INDIES* Book Awards finalist, I have also published the novel *The Knowledge Tree* (Wide Water, 2013). I am the co-editor (with DG Myers) of the essay collection *Unrelenting Readers: The New Poet-critics* (Story Line, 2004), and I authored two poetry collections: *When I Think About Rain* (Final Thursday, 2009) and *Under a Night Sky* (Final Thursday, 2016).

"I began at KSU in fall of 1971. Because the Vietnam War was not yet lost, KSU was a place full of active debate of and resistance to government policies. I worked at the Student Center with Mr. Dean Kahler, and I remember him as an articulate and courageous critic of the war and a defender of freedoms for which he'd already made a profound sacrifice. Like many young people, I was just beginning to understand these freedoms often come at a terrible price. I was lucky to be at KSU, a great school just beginning to shoulder its burden of history."

David Schwartz, BA '76, Cleveland, has spent the last 30 years in LA as a director/artist/writer in television animation. He has worked on numerous animated series, including *Darkwing*

Duck, *Johnny Bravo*, *The Simpsons*, *Rugrats* and *Bugs Bunny*. He has spent most of his career at the Walt Disney Company and Warner Brothers Studios, but he has also worked at Dreamworks, the Cartoon Network, and drawn comics for DC and Marvel, among others. He retired last year and is currently an adjunct professor in the animation department at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Charles Lance Mathess, BS '77, MPA '78, Cody, Wyo., served over 30 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and retired in 2009 after attaining the rank of Staff Lieutenant in the Strategic Services Section at General Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. After retirement, he and his wife, Dianne, moved to Cody, Wyo., where he served over nine years with the Park County Sheriff's Office as their Public Affairs Officer and Search and Rescue Coordinator. He retired for good in February 2020. Says Mathess, "I felt public service was my calling in life, and I am proud to have served over 40 years in law enforcement." He is an avid outdoorsman, hiker and hunter. He and Dianne have two grown children.

David Swartzlander, BA '77, Seward, Neb., was inducted into the John A. Boyd Hall of Fame by College Media Association (CMA) at its National College Media Convention in November, 2019, in Washington, DC. Swartzlander, an associate professor of practice in journalism at Doane University in Crete, Neb., served as vice president and president of CMA from 2009-2013. He also has served on various committees within the organization and presented numerous times at conventions. The award is the most prestigious honor given by CMA, recognizing longtime members whose dedication, commitment and sacrifice have contributed to the betterment and value of student media programs of both the campus and nation.

Swartzlander is one of 40 advisers to be honored in the organization's 66 years. He has taught journalism at Doane University for 22 years. He advised the student newspaper, yearbook and magazine for 21 years. He advised the website since its inception more than 15 years ago. Before Doane, Swartzlander worked as a journalist for daily newspapers in Ohio, Florida, New York and Nebraska. He retired in May 2020 from teaching at Doane University.

Gerald Canton, BA '79, MA '98, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was reelected in November 2019 for a second term of office as a member of South Russell Village Council. He is also a member of the Chagrin Falls Village Schools substitute teaching staff. Canton and his wife, Darleane, who retired from KSU as an administrative assistant, enjoy visiting the Kent Campus and attend sporting events and performing arts throughout the year. They are the parents of seven children and eleven grandchildren.

Ronna S. Kaplan, MA '79, Cleveland, was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Board of Directors. In 1988, she began her clinical career at the renowned Cleveland Music Settlement, where she developed programming and treatment plans for children and families as part of an interdisciplinary team. She also lent her expertise to supervising interns and practicum students while undertaking community and medical setting research.

Never one to shrink away from a challenge, Kaplan assumed expanded responsibilities at the Settlement—as senior staff supervisor, quality assurance coordinator, director of the Music Therapy Department and, ultimately, chair of the Center for Music Therapy, where she remained until her retirement in 2019.

Kaplan's volunteerism for music therapy is as phenomenal as her clinical work. Regional highlights include president of the Association of Ohio Music Therapists and representative to the Great Lakes Region (GLR) board, editor of *Voices of the Lakes*, GLR Assembly delegate and GLR vice president. In addition, she served as scholarship chair for the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs. Nationally, she established and co-chaired the Early Childhood Music Therapy Network in 1994, while continuing to serve on the assembly.

In 2004, she was elected AMTA vice president elect, and went on to become vice president, president elect, president and past president on the Board of Directors. Kaplan has also contributed to AMTA in a wide array of other capacities including the Financial Advisory Board, Wilson Trust Advisory Committee, Diversity Task Force, MLE Subcommittee and the Autism Task Force, in addition to serving on the CBMT Continuing Education Committee. She has gone on to chair the National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies

Associations (NCCATA) and is presently an associate editor of *Music Therapy Perspectives*.

Connie Schultz, BA '79, Cleveland, recently published a *New York Times* bestselling debut novel, *The Daughters of Eriatown*. The novel, which explores the evolution of women's lives during the second half of the 20th century, opens with a prologue set in 1975 as the college-bound protagonist is on a road trip to Kent State, accompanied by her parents and younger brother.

She is the author of two previous nonfiction books: a collection of her columns, *Life Happens: And Other Unavoidable Truths*, and the memoir, *...and His Lovely Wife*, documenting her time campaigning with her husband, US Senator Sherrod Brown.

Schultz won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2005 for her column in the *Plain Dealer*, as well as such prestigious awards as the National Headliner Award for Commentary, the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award for Commentary, the Batten Medal, the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Social Justice Reporting and more.

In 2016, she joined the Kent State College of Communication and Information and teaches as professional-in-residence in the newly named School of Media and Journalism. She is also a nationally syndicated columnist for Creators Syndicate.

On Aug. 18, 2020, Schultz took part in "A Conversation about Writing" on the Zoom platform with fellow professor and author Jacqueline Marino discussing her debut novel, writing careers and advice for students and alumni. (See <http://bit.ly/ConversationOnWritingWithConnieSchultz>.)

Sara Lukose-Silver, MEd '79, PhD '83, White Plains, NY, wrote, "Since 2001, I have been a senior research associate at Measurement Incorporated in White Plains. I manage longitudinal evaluation studies in education (K-16), labor, health and public policy for local, state and federal agencies. Before 2001, I managed school-to-work programs for local educational agencies and also served as assistant professor at several universities. Today, as I approach the tail end of my career, I mentor junior researchers, write grant proposals and provide professional development. I am available to KSU graduates for pro-bono career counseling. Write Saralukose5@yahoo.com."

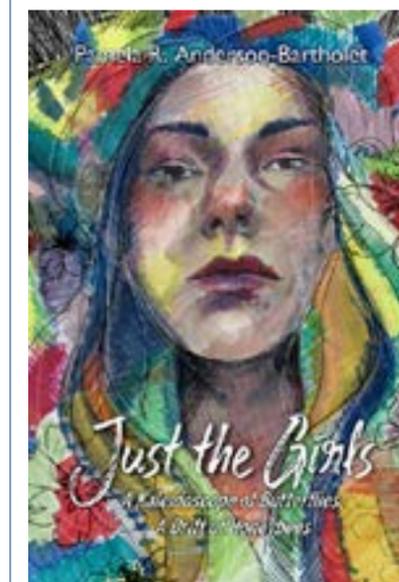
1980s

José González-Taboada, DBA '81, Caguas, Puerto Rico, wrote, "August 13 marked the 50th anniversary of the day in which I entered a classroom for the first time as an instructor. This 50-year academic career includes almost nine years teaching accounting at KSU, as well as brief teaching experiences in Spain and the Dominican Republic. At the

University of Puerto Rico I have served as chair of the Accounting Department for seven years and dean of the College of Business for three years. Having fulfilled my dream of a 50-year career, I look forward, God willing, to continue educating future accountants to serve the profession and society. Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity."

Thomas Knestrict, BS '83, Mason, Ohio, was promoted to full professor and appointed director of the Middle and Early Childhood Education program at Xavier University, where he has taught for the past 17 years. After a 15-year career in public schools, Knestrict earned a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in 2001 and previously taught at Miami University and the College of Mt. St. Joseph. He also published his first book in 2020, *Controlling Our Children: Hegemony and Deconstructing the Positive Behavioral Intervention Support Model*, Peter Lang Publishing. He is married to **Christine (Cigolle) Knestrict, BS '83**, and they have three children, Aaron, Olivia and Ally.

Pamela R. Anderson-Bartholet, AA '89, MA '94, MFA '12, Munroe Falls, Ohio, wrote, "My new poetry chapbook—*Just the Girls: A Kaleidoscope of Butterflies; A Drift of Honeybees*—was published by The Poetry Box Press. These poems celebrate women and what it means to be connected to the female whole. The book cover image was co-created by my niece, **Meredith Balogh, BFA '09**, Evanston, Ill., and daughter, **Rachel (Lysa) Anderson, BA '19**, Kent, Ohio. It took second place out of more than 500 submissions in the international All Author Cover of the Month contest in October!"



Donald Funk, BA '79, Canton, Ohio, wrote, "In October 2019, KSU Architecture Class of 1979 held their 40th Class Reunion in Kent. Events included a campus tour conducted by Marti Ring, a reception and state of the college talk by the dean of the College of Architecture and

Environmental Design and a dinner downtown. It was attended by more than 30 returning classmates. Many of us had spent part of our fourth years in Florence, Italy, and traveling all over Europe. We plan on having our 45th Reunion in fall 2024."



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Beverley Laubert, BA '84, Lewis Center, Ohio, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman wrote, "I was selected from over 800 applicants to serve on the 25-member Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. The independent commission is tasked to identify and recommend best practices in infection control and care delivery and identify opportunities to leverage new sources of data to improve infection control policies and enable coordination across systems."

"My Kent State education in gerontology launched a rewarding career through which I have seen and heard older adults' experiences with long-term services and supports. Participation in this commission will allow me to contribute these experiences to important public policy dialogue and decisions."

Michael E. McFarland, BBA '84, BA '87, Twinsburg, Ohio, received degrees in marketing and graphic design from Kent State and honors veterans with his artwork. He makes print-on-vinyl murals, which he calls "Warrior Walls," for VA Medical Centers and intends to create 50 nationwide. While the Veterans Administration cut procurement of artwork in 2015, they accept donations of murals, so McFarland is trying to acquire donors for the murals. If interested in donating, contact your local VA center or <http://mcfarlandstudio.com>.

Stephen Saracino, MFA '84, Buffalo, NY, professor of design (metalsmithing) at SUNY Buffalo State, gave a virtual artist and scholar lecture at KSU's School of Art on Oct. 2, 2020. Saracino has been an educator and exhibiting artist for three decades. His (often satirical) narrative pieces reflect personal or political concerns and have been featured in more than 50 exhibitions throughout the US and Japan. His work was recently featured in the exhibition *Constructed Answer* at the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery at Kent State, which centered around the 50th commemoration of the May 4 shootings. See <https://stephensaracino.com>.

Stephen L. Hupp, MLS '85, Parkersburg, W. Va., library director at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, has published his fifth novel, *On a Sunday in May*. The three most important events in international motorsports frequently occur on the Sunday of the American Memorial Day holiday: the Grand Prix of Monaco, the Indianapolis Five Hundred and a Six Hundred Mile race at Charlotte, North Carolina. *On a Sunday in May* presents three stories based on these events. Readers will find on-track action and glimpses into the private lives of the competitors. The book is a sequel to the author's first racing novel, *Born to the Breed*. Both books are available as e-books and paperbacks on Amazon. In addition to his two motorsports novels, Hupp has also published the thrillers *Daughter of the Valley* and *Wings in the Night*,



Golden Flash Quilt

From making her mark on campus during Destination Kent State to joining the recreational skate team, Marissa Belock, a junior biology major, has created many memories during her college career so far.

Thanks to her mother, **Lori (Dmitroff) Belock, BSEd '86**, Dublin, Ohio, those memories are now wrapped up in a beautiful quilt of blue and gold T-shirts. "I first saw a post on social media about a T-shirt quilt, and I thought, *I can do that!*" Belock says. "This is my sixth T-shirt quilt, and I get better every time."

Belock included one of her daughter's favorite Kent State T-shirts from freshmen

both set in the Mid-Ohio Valley, and *Of Gods and Spirits*—all available on Amazon. You may contact the author at 304-482-3176 or stephenhupp@gmail.com.

Matt Fantin, BS '86, MA '88, New Philadelphia, Ohio, retired from the JC Penney Company after a 30-year management career. He is now the business manager at Sacred Heart Parish in New Philadelphia.

Joanne J. Kim, BS '86, Peninsula, Ohio, who has been a voice for change at Marcus Thomas LLC, leading the Cleveland-based agency through a seminal period of growth and transition, has announced her retirement effective Oct. 1. A 30-year veteran of the agency, she was one of five partners who joined the agency in the 1990s and grew it from 35 employees, based in Youngstown, Ohio, to over 200, based in Cleveland and Buenos Aires.

As the agency's longest-standing creative head, she not only evolved the agency's creative

orientation because, she says, "It has the most meaning, as it represented an official flying out of the nest."

Not only are her daughter's favorite T-shirts sewn into the quilt, but Belock also added some of the T-shirts she's received at Kent State Alumni events.

"My family and I have volunteered during Alumni Day of Service with the Central Ohio Alumni Chapter for the last three years (Homeless Families Foundations and the Central Ohio Food Bank)," she says. "Even though my husband is a Buckeye, we make it a family affair."

Belock began sewing when she was only 9 years old, as a member of 4-H in Ashtabula, Ohio. "I credit my Ashtabula upbringing and KSU education to my adventures around the country and volunteering. I love Ashtabula and its history as much as I love Kent's history. Quilting is my way of preserving history."

Although she wishes she had kept her T-shirts from her Kent State days, she still remembers experiences she had as a student.

"My favorite memories include the Robin Hood, Ray's, Halloween, Korb Hall and Glen Morris apartments (now Eagle's Landing). Fun times! They were an important part of growing up and being on my own."

She also remembers the beautiful Kent Campus. "I had a favorite walk on campus to White Hall. I had this Zen-like, calming feeling every time I walked along the curvy path lined with flowers and huge trees that must have been there for 100 years—and black squirrels running all over."

Belock proudly wears her Kent State gear—some of which she says is too precious to cut up for a quilt—whenever she visits one of the national parks with her family. "It's fun to reminisce with other Flashes we meet at our national treasures."

—Ashley Whaley, BS '06, MEd '12

culture but also pushed the agency toward early adoption of social media, digital communication and, most recently, diversity and inclusion, as well as multicultural marketing.

Over the course of her career, Kim's leadership has extended to the industry and the local community. From 2016 to 2018, she served as president of the board of directors for the Marketing & Advertising Global Network (MAGNET), a worldwide community of independent agency CEOs and principals. In 2016, she was selected as a juror for the Effie Awards, the preeminent marketing awards program that recognizes effectiveness in marketing. She also has served on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations, including The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, Northeast Ohio public radio station WKSU and Greater Public, an organization dedicated to providing resources to public media.

Barbara F. Schloman, MA '89, PhD '98, Stow, Ohio, and her son, **William Schloman, BS '98**, Mantua, Ohio, co-authored *A Century of Flight at Paton Field: The Story of Kent State University's Airport and Flight Education* (The Kent State University Press) to mark the airport's centennial in 2020. Notable aviators and events marked the airport's early years when it operated as Stow Field. The pre-war and wartime federal programs brought collegiate aviation to Kent State and led to purchase of the airport in 1942. Andrew Paton's vision for a university-run aeronautics program that made educational use of its airport was fully realized in 1966. Today, the airport is the longest surviving, public-use airport in Ohio.



Karin Boesler, BA '87, Fairview Park, Ohio, was featured in the spring 2020 issue of *The Circle*, a publication of Omicron Delta Kappa Society. She was one of three society members active in the entertainment industry who were profiled in the article "The Actors' Range" by Tara Singer. Boesler shared some highlights from her years at Kent State University and in the broadcast news industry, where she received Emmys for two community service/news reports about victims of violence that she produced and was featured in at WUAB-TV. In the 1990s, she began working in films with such notable actors as John Travolta, Matthew McConaughey and Katie Holmes. Films in which she has appeared include *Criminal Activities* (2015), *The Land* (2016) and *White Boy Rick* (2018).

Jeff Richmond, who attended Kent State from 1980 to 1988, New York, NY, is the executive producer of Netflix's *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. The Reverend*, which was

nominated in the Outstanding Television Movie category of the Television Academy 2020 Primetime Emmy Awards. A producer, director and composer, Richmond also composed the music for the Kimmy Schmidt interactive special. Previously, Richmond served as executive producer and composer for the regular *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* series that ran on Netflix from 2015-2019.

Richmond received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from KSU in 2013. A three-time Emmy Award winner for his work as a producer on NBC's *30 Rock*, Richmond has been nominated for 17 Emmy Awards for work as a composer on *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and *30 Rock*, and as a writer for the *Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary Special*. Richmond is also the composer of *Mean Girls The Musical* and in 2018 he was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Original Score.



by the President, a trip to Washington, DC, to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and they join a cadre of over 300 PAESMEM alumni. They also receive a \$10,000 award from the NSF. Dr. Lemma also has been recognized by Marquis Who's Who Top Educators for dedication, achievements and leadership in the field of mathematics teaching, research and mentoring. For his excellence as a professional educator, he has been recognized with myriad awards and honors, including the 2012 University System of Georgia Board

of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for faculty in regional and state universities. He was additionally named a distinguished professor of Savannah State University in 2010, Georgia Professor of the Year in 2013 and was one of the most awarded professors in the state of Georgia in 2015.

Dr. Lemma began his higher education in Ethiopia, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1977 and a Master of Arts in applied mathematics in 1982. After coming to the United States, he continued his academic pursuits at Kent State University, where he cites Professor John Friday among the numerous professors and individuals who have inspired his research. Since his graduation, Dr. Lemma has held the position of a mathematics professor at Savannah State University and has published more than 100 research papers. In 2011, after three years of investigation and more than 13 theorems, he introduced the Mulatu Numbers (named after him) to the mathematical community and to the world. The Mulatu Numbers are an integral sequence of numbers with distinct mathematical properties and patterns comparable to Fibonacci and Lucas series.

1990s

Wendy (Tronge) Holliday, BBA '90, MEd '93, Wellington, Ohio, was announced as the first-ever CEO of The Women's Network in Electronic Transactions (Wnet). Wnet is the premier professional organization for women in payments and the men who advocate for them, providing personal enrichment for members at any stage in their careers. While at Kent State, Holliday also served as an adjunct faculty member to teach "Introduction to Professional Development" in the College of Business Administration.

Marci (Adams) Craig, BS '91, MPA '99, Salem, Ohio, accepted the role of director of human resources for the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio. Prior to this position, she worked as the director of human resources for almost 14 years at Windsor House Inc., a group of 17 long-term care facilities in the Mahoning

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Valley, Youngstown. She was also previously employed by Little Tikes, Hudson, as manager of human resources.

Tammy Jessen Andreyko, BSE '91, Sewickley, Pa., Quaker Valley School District superintendent, received the 2020 Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology. The award is given to a superintendent who serves as a true empowered leader, leveraging and championing technologies in the classroom and throughout the district to transform their school district.

John Yehl, BBA '93, Louisville, Ky., published his first book, *Can You Sell It?*, available on Amazon. He says his book is relevant to anyone, whether they are just starting out in sales or have been doing it for years. It also applies to any type of relationship, including marriage.

Marla Mondora, BS '94, Raleigh, NC, has been appointed principal of Martin Gifted and Talented Middle School, where she is proud to lead the Mustang school community and to reinvigorate the school's magnet theme. Previously, she served as assistant principal at Moore Square Magnet Middle School.

Richard Sweeney, BA '94, MA '97, MBA '11, Ottawa Hills, Ohio, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Lourdes University, Sylvania, Ohio. Sweeney is the regional president of Toledo Edison, a FirstEnergy electric utility, which provides electricity to more than 300,000 customers in northwest Ohio. Sweeney joined the company's Information Technology Department in 1999 as a programmer analyst. He advanced in IT before being named senior technical analyst in 2004. The same year, Sweeney moved to the Supply Chain Department, Corporate Services, where he was named manager. After serving in various management positions, he moved to Ohio Edison's Operations Support department when he was named director in 2011.

Julie Manteria, BA '95, Rockville Centre, NY, has been promoted to principal at UHY Advisors and UHY LLP, Albany, NY, which provide tax and business consulting services.

Troy Robinson, BA '95, Pittsburgh, Pa., was appointed chief development officer of international hunger relief nonprofit Rise Against Hunger. With over 25 years of senior-level experience in development within the nonprofit sector, he joined Rise Against Hunger to support the organization's mission of ending hunger. He previously served in fundraising roles for Camp Fire, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Holy Family Foundation, Youth Villages Inc. and Playworks Inc.

Kathleen S. Pero, BSE '97, MED '03, Elyria, Ohio, wrote, "I recently became a first-time author of the children's book *Miss Molly Learns Responsibility*, where the main character, Molly, has two moms. This diverse children's book focuses on Molly learning how to take care of her pet kitten."

Zulfiya Tursunova, MED '98, Greensboro, NC, assistant professor for peace and conflict studies at Guilford College, was recently awarded the 2020 Bruce B. Stewart '61 Teaching Award. Her colleagues say, "Since her arrival at Guilford College in fall 2017, she has demonstrated teaching excellence and rendered invaluable service to student learning and the Guilford Community."

Ryan Edwards, BA '99, Lynchburg, Va., was unanimously elected president of the Chesapeake chapter (Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, DC) of the National School Public Relations Association on May 14, 2020. He worked in broadcast journalism while pursuing his major of mass communications at Kent State. Subsequently, he garnered two awards from the Ohio Associated Press: one for Best Reporter (2004) and another for Best Feature Reporting (2004). As a social media manager for a school division in Virginia, he won Best in Social Media for any member division in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, DC, in 2018.

Scott Michael Haws, BBA '99, Canton, Ohio, joined Crum & Forster Pet Insurance Group in the capacity of developing and leading their project management organization in May 2019. Crum & Forster Pet Insurance is a part of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited. In January 2020, he was elected president of the Plain Township Board of Trustees, responsible for overseeing and leading Ohio's 5th largest township.

Robert Schultz, MED '99, PhD '99, Waterville, Ohio, is one of 39 people named a Fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE) for 2019-20. Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing faculty and staff for senior positions in college and university administration through its distinctive and intensive nominator-driven, cohort-based mentorship model.

Schultz has been a faculty member at The University of Toledo since 2001, where he is currently professor of gifted education and curriculum studies and chair of early childhood, higher education and special education at the Judith Herb College of Education. In addition, he serves as director of the Honors Program in the college and is the assessment liaison for the university-wide Visual Literacy Consortium. He is also a member of The University of Toledo Leadership Institute Class of 2018.

2000s

Jamie Holcomb, BM '00, Stafford, Va., has been appointed vice president of instructional design and innovation for Escoffier and Triumph Higher Education Group by Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, a leading accredited provider of online and campus-based culinary training and education. Previously, Holcomb held faculty positions at Southern New Hampshire University, Viterbo University, Ocean County College, Park University and Walsh University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership at Liberty University.

Josh West, BBA '01, Touchet, Wash., has been appointed vice president of trading and chief commercial officer at The Energy Authority (TEA), a public power-owned portfolio management, energy trading and advanced analytics company headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., with an office in Bellevue, Wash. Previously, he served as managing director of trading and commercial strategies at TEA. In his new role, he is responsible for all energy marketing and trading within the organization, across all markets and all commodities, including power, natural gas, environmental attributes, and related products. He leads efforts focused on the identification and execution of commercial strategies to optimize client assets, the development of commodity risk management strategies, and the execution of financial and physical transactions used to hedge client portfolios.

Ryan Dezember, BS '02, Brooklyn, NY, recently published *Underwater: How Our American Dream of Homeownership Became a Nightmare* (Thomas Dunne Books, July 2020), a powerful, personal and incisive story that chronicles the 2008 housing crash and its aftermath from the perspective of a middle-class homeowner. A reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* writing about financial markets and investors, DeZember previously wrote about the oil industry from the *Journal's* Houston bureau. Before that, he worked as a reporter for the *Mobile Register*, reporting on the real estate boom and bust for coastal Alabama's daily newspaper.

When asked what inspired him to write this book, he said, "I had always thought there was a fun book to be written on the colorful characters and real estate frenzy along Alabama's beaches, which I covered for the *Mobile Register* after graduating. I got my chance after *The Wall Street Journal* published a lengthy first-person story ("My 10-Year Odyssey Through America's Housing Crisis," Jan. 26, 2018) about my getting caught up in the ensuing housing bust with a comically ill-timed home purchase.

"A literary agent read the story and suggested I turn it into a book, combining my personal story with my years of real estate reporting. ▶

Making Art in a Material World



LISA DELONG

Diana Al-Hadid, BA '03, BFA '03, Brooklyn, NY, internationally known multimedia artist, was on the cover of *Vogue Italia*, as one of the "100 covers, 100 people, 100 stories" highlighted in the September 2020 issue (image 1). The issue featured 100 models, actresses and artists, showing a diverse range of people with unique stories to tell.

In early March 2020, she and her husband, Jon Lott, architect and assistant professor of architecture and director of the Master in Architecture I Program at Harvard University, won The Trailblazer Award at The Bronx Museum of the Arts Visionary Duos Gala. (See video at <http://bit.ly/Al-HadidTrailblazer> to learn more about their art and architecture.)



4. Diana Al-Hadid, "Phantom Limb", 2014, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, polystyrene, steel, wood, plaster, metal mesh, aluminum foil, pigment, 104 1/2 X 165 X 140 inches, Credit: Markus Woergoetter

A native of Aleppo, Syria, who grew up in Canton, Ohio, Al-Hadid typically uses a mix of materials—both traditional (bronze, steel, wood, plaster, charcoal) and non-traditional (wax, resin, polymer, fiberglass)—to produce large-scale sculptures, panels and works on paper. She welds power tools and uses techniques such as welding, drilling, pouring and controlled dripping to bring into physical form concepts of the past, present and imagined future—often inspired by her study of art history.

As of 2019, her piece "A Way with Words," measuring close to three stories, is featured in the atrium of the new patient tower on Summa Health's Akron City Hospital campus (image 2). The large, mixed-media 3D panel—made of steel, fiberglass, polymer gypsum and paints using a technique she describes as "a mix between fresco and tapestry"—is based on a photo she took in Lock 3, a section of the Ohio and Erie Canalway located in the heart of Akron's downtown.

Al-Hadid's works of art have been featured in both group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally for more than a decade. In 2016, her major solo exhibition at the NYUAD ART Gallery (at New York University Abu Dhabi) was titled *Phantom Limb*, which is also the name of the exhibit's central work, a towering sculpture of a female bust atop a cascade of stacked dripping pedestals evoking a mountainscape—and referencing a 15th-century painting, "Allegory of Chastity," by Hans Memling (images 3 and 4).

Kent State awarded her the Outstanding Young Professional Alumni Award in 2019 and the Distinguished Honors Alumni Award in 2014.

<http://www.dianaalhadid.com>



1. Vogue Italia cover featuring Diana Al-Hadid, September 2020, Credit: Courtesy Vogue Italia



2. Diana Al-Hadid, "A Way with Words," 2019, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, steel, plaster, gold leaf, aluminum leaf, copper leaf, pigment, 160.5 X 96 X 5.5 inches, Credit: Courtesy Summa Health



3. Hans Memling, "Allegory of Chastity," c. 1475, oil on oak panel, 38.3 X 31.9 cm, Credit: Courtesy www.hansmemling.org

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Writing a book was a way to wrap together a lot of my best reporting over the years to tell the story of an entire market cycle as I had experienced it in a way that would be impossible at a newspaper. Plus, writing it was an entry into the book business, which is an excellent side hustle for people like me who want to be reporters for as long as possible.”

Kristine Haag, BFA '03, North Hollywood, Calif., was nominated for a Television Academy 2020 Primetime Emmy Award in the Outstanding Contemporary Costumes category for her work as assistant costume designer on Netflix's hit series *Grace and Frankie*, starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin. Haag was nominated for her work on the season 6 episode “The Tank.” She was previously nominated in 2019, also for her work on *Grace and Frankie*.

After graduating from Kent State, Haag earned an MFA in costume design from the University of California, Irvine. Her credits include costume design work on National Geographic/Disney+'s upcoming *The Right Stuff*, ABC's *The Fix*, TVLand's *Nobodies*, NBC's *Good Girls*, Netflix's *Girlboss*, *The Legacy* and *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

Edmund A. Rossman, III, MLIS '03, Cleveland, has retired from Shaker Heights Public Library. A cancer survivor, he recently released *A Guy's Guide to Throat Cancer: Do's and Don'ts for Recovery* (Christian Faith Publishing), an inspirational book for patients and their caregivers battling any illness.

Samuel “Blitz” Bazawule, BBA '04, Brooklyn, NY, Ghanaian-born filmmaker and musician, recently co-directed Beyoncé's Disney+ visual album feature *Black is King* with the pop star and Emmanuel Adjei. He helmed the South African shoot of the project, which debuted on July 31. He is set to direct Warner Bros. musical film *The Color Purple*, based on the Tony-winning Broadway musical of the same name. Producers of the musical feature—Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg, Scott Sanders and Quincy Jones—selected him after watching his award-winning 2019 feature directorial debut, *The Burial of Koko*, on Netflix, acquired through Ava DuVernay's Array Films.

Bazawule is a 2020 Fellow (in film-video) of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, a 2016 Senior TED Fellow and recipient of the Vilcek Prize. As a composer and musician, ‘Blitz the Ambassador’ has released four studio Afrobeat albums: *Stereotype* (2009), *Native Sun* (2011), *Afropolitan Dreams* (2014) and *Diasporadical* (2016). He is on the faculty, MFA in Film, of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. See <http://blitzbazawule.com/>.

Kathleen Hale, PhD '05, Auburn, Ala., professor and the director of the Graduate Program in Election Administration at Auburn

University, and co-author Mitchell Brown, wrote *How We Vote: Innovation in American Elections* (Georgetown University Press, 2020). Using original data gathered from state and local election officials and policymakers across the United States, they analyzed innovation in voter registration, voting options, voter convenience, support for voting in languages other than English, the integrity of the voting process and voting system technology. The result is a fascinating picture of how we vote now and will vote in the future.

Janet Lynn Gbur, BS '06, Canfield, Ohio, research associate at Case Western Reserve University and investigator, Advanced Platform Technology Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, was elected treasurer of the Leadership Council of the Microscopy Society of America (MSA), in January 2020. The MSA champions all forms of microscopy and the development of new imaging technologies through its annual meeting, publication and educational outreach.

Francisca B. Ugalde Z., BFA '06, Hudson, Ohio, is a curator at the Institute for Human Science and Culture at The University of Akron, which is devoted to hands-on education and research in the history, preservation, documentation and interpretation of the human experience through cultural materials and from multiple perspectives—psychological, anthropological, artistic and historical.

Ugalde Z., who earned a master's degree in arts administration in 2012 at The University of Akron, manages The Jim and Vanita Oelschlagler Native American Ethnographic Collection, a large collection of Native American artifacts and art. She oversaw the design and implementation of the collection's new gallery spaces at the National Museum of Psychology at the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, which opened in September 2019.

Jennifer Hallos, BBA '07, Wadsworth, Ohio, has joined McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., LPA, as a principal in the practice areas of trusts & estates, taxation, and business & corporate. Hallos, who earned a JD and MA at The University of Akron and is also a certified public accountant, has 10 years of experience formulating, reviewing and updating estate plans; drafting wills and trusts; estate and trust administration; tax research and consulting; and managing tax controversy at federal, state and local levels. She is involved in a number of activities, including co-founder and director of Women in Finance and director of Piece by Peace, a nonprofit organization in the Youngstown area dedicated to connecting families affected by autism with available local resources. She also teaches tax and accounting classes as an adjunct professor at Hiram College.



Andrew R. Laurence, BS '08, Aurora, Ill., was named a top-five finalist for the 2020 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, People's Choice Winner, by the Partnership for Public Service. Also known as the “Oscars” of government service, the “Sammies” recognize the unsung heroes in our federal government who have made phenomenal contributions to the health, safety and prosperity of our country.

Laurence, who earned a PhD in anthropology from Texas A&M University in 2013, is a pollen analysis expert (palynologist) at the US Customs and Border Protection's Chicago office and a 2020 Emerging Leaders Medal finalist, a category that recognizes the significant contributions of federal professionals under the age of 35. He and fellow coworker and Sammies finalist, Shannon Ferguson, PhD, provided critical information to help law enforcement solve hundreds of drug smuggling cases and other crimes by analyzing microscopic pollen grains to determine where drugs were produced, and the routes taken, as well as the travel histories of crime victims.

Lavette (Shirley) Elee, BS '09, Charlotte, NC, wrote, “After graduating with a bachelor's degree in biology, I continued on to PA [physician's assistant] school and am currently working toward my doctorate in PA studies. I am an urgent care PA and recently wrote a children's book, *I Saw My PA Today*, available on Amazon, to quell a child's fears of going to a medical facility. Children are our future, and during these uncertain times, they have fears like we all do. Helping to ease those fears through writing brings me joy.”

Corey Fowler, BM '09, MM '16, Kent, Ohio, was named assistant conductor of the Cleveland Chamber Choir, Cleveland's premiere vocal ensemble, by the organization's board of directors in May. He has been a singing member of the choir since its inception in 2015. Working alongside Scott MacPherson, artistic director, (who is a professor of music and director of Choral Studies at Kent State's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music), Fowler will help choose repertoire, manage rehearsals and conduct select pieces during concerts.

He is also the choir director at Roosevelt High School in Kent and the music director and organist at Kent United Church of Christ, where the Cleveland Chamber Choir presented a social justice concert as part of the university's official May 4 50th commemoration events.



COURTESY LOUIS MYERS

In the Custody of the Law

An Interview with Louis Myers, Librarian-in-Residence at the Law Library of Congress

Louis Myers, BA '10, MLIS '20, Akron, Ohio, was selected for one of nine short-term positions offered in 2020 by the Library of Congress through its Librarians-in-Residence Program, which aims to develop the next generation of librarians and information professionals. He was interviewed for the Law Librarians of Congress blog, *In Custodia Legis*.

Mark Greer, MM '09, Akron, Ohio, was recently announced as a new board member for Tuesday Musical of Akron. Currently, he coordinates the City of Akron's Great Streets initiative, managing 12 neighborhood business districts to promote increased business development and retention, safer neighborhoods, enhanced aesthetics, urban design and public space, improved transportation conditions and greater community engagement.

He also serves on the Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance Planning Committee and is a member of Torchbearers Class of 2020, serving on both the Leadership and Development Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. He previously served as program coordinator at Leadership Akron, where he led the Diversity on Board program, aimed at increasing minority representation on public and nonprofit boards. A past winner of Tuesday Musical's Annual Scholarship Competition, Greer is an accomplished pianist and composer, making his Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall in 2006.

Trey Kauffman, BA '09, Columbus, Ohio, wrote, “I host The Mosaic Life Podcast, which breaks down the fundamental question, ‘How can we be better?’. As of August 2020, The Mosaic Life Podcast has released more than 50 episodes, and with its growing success has

Describe your background. I am originally from Akron, Ohio. My interest in becoming a librarian started at a young age, but it took some time to make it a profession. In my free time I am an avid skier in the winter, and I try to ride my bike any day it's not raining during the warmer months.

What is your academic/professional history? I attended Kent State University, receiving a BA in history in 2010. I also attended the University of Idaho College of Law, earning a JD in 2017. While in law school, I worked for two years as a circulation assistant, which reignited my interest in becoming a librarian with a focus on law. After graduation, I moved to Alaska and worked for the judiciary in Kodiak as a law clerk. Then I transitioned to a staff attorney position for a nonprofit organization in Anchorage. I moved back to Ohio to be closer to family and took a position through AmeriCorps at our local food bank while earning my MLIS at Kent State in 2020. I was then given the amazing opportunity to join the Law Library of Congress as its Librarian-in-Residence.

How would you describe your job to other people? I work on a wide variety of projects within the Public Services Division. I try to pick up an Ask-a-Librarian question each day and work on other specific projects as needed. I have taught an orientation webinar, co-authored a legal report, written a *Global Legal Monitor* article and have been involved with several LibGuide projects. I hope to continue to grow my skills while providing top-notch legal reference to all the researchers who use our services.

Why did you want to work at the Law Library of Congress? To me, the Library of Congress is the most well-respected library in the world. I think the opportunity to work with the largest legal collection on the planet and to learn from the expert law librarians here will be a defining moment in my career. It will create a framework I will carry with me no matter where law librarianship takes me.

What is the most interesting fact you've learned about the Law Library of Congress?

Our foreign law collection is so large and comprehensive that foreign governments sometimes ask us to share our copies of their laws when they need to do primary source research. That is pretty cool!

What is something your co-workers don't know about you? During undergrad I played bass and keyboards in several acid-rock and reggae-style bands. I still play the piano occasionally, but I am way out of practice.

Excerpted from a post by Anna Price that first appeared Oct. 14, 2020 on the blog In Custodia Legis. Used with permission.

pivoted to focus on happiness. The Mosaic Life Podcast releases episodes every Sunday, and you can subscribe wherever you get your podcasts. Be sure to find us on Instagram, Facebook and at <https://OneMosaic.life>.

“I'm also an entrepreneur running my web design firm full-time, <https://2237Design.com>. I help coordinate Red, White & BOOM! each year, in which we put on the biggest fireworks event in the Midwest, and I volunteer with Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) to help plan their annual fundraising 5K, which happened virtually this September. CRIS helps refugees resettle into the Central Ohio community by providing resources not given by the government.

“Recently, I was selected to take part in the fall Columbus Impact Academy, which is a four-month program designed to provide a comprehensive experience for emerging leaders, facilitated by the Columbus Young Professionals (CYP) Club twice per year.

“My warm regards to anyone who was around Black Squirrel Radio or the *Kent Stater* 10 years ago.”

2010s

Elizabeth “Liz” Champion, BA '12, MLIS '15, Cleveland, recently received the “25 under 35” award from her high school, Saint Joseph

Academy in Cleveland. She works at Kent State's Special Collections and Archives as the May 4 Archivist and assistant professor with a focus on the 1970 Kent State shootings and their aftermath. Champion says she is honored to be entrusted with the stewardship of this historic period, knowing it can result in a better understanding of the turmoil, grief and healing the nation went through. She also demonstrates compassionate leadership in her volunteer efforts with the Alzheimer's Association. As a team leader for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, she has raised tens of thousands of dollars in honor of her grandmother.

JoAnna Schofield, MLIS '12, Stow, Ohio, is branch manager at the DeHoff Memorial Branch of Stark County District Library, and has been selected to serve on the American Library Association's 2021 John Newbery Book Award Committee. This committee selects the most distinguished written contribution to literature for children in 2020.

Mitch Dandurand, BS '13, MPH '15, Tiffin, Ohio, was featured on Ohio Governor DeWine's press conference on Sept. 22, 2020—and he gave a shoutout to Kent State on the air. Dandurand, an epidemiologist who works at Lorain County Public Health, is part of an interview team who is contacting people with ▶

alumni LIFE

COVID-19 in Lorain County as part of the contact-tracing process. His co-worker, **Amanda Accordino, BSPH '16**, Olmsted Twp, Ohio, is a health education specialist at Lorain County Public Health—so that makes at least two Golden Flashes working to stem COVID-19 cases in the county.

Kristen M. Boyle, BS '16, Encinitas, Calif., will deploy on the *USS Sterett* (DDG 104), an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer of the US Navy, as a part of the Strike Group. Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Boyle studied aeronautics at Kent State and graduated from Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, in November 2016. She continued her training in Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) at NAS Pensacola, Fla. Upon completion of API, she attended primary flight school at Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., and flew the T6-B for VT-2 (Doerbirds).

She was selected for the advanced rotary pipeline after completing the primary syllabus and was transferred to HT-28 (Hellions) where she flew the TH-57 B and TH-57 C. Although there was a 60 percent attrition rate, LTJG Boyle earned her wings in October 2018 and was selected to fly the MH-60R (Seahawk).

She was transferred to HSM-40 (Airwolves) at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Fla., where she continued her training at the Fleet Replacement Squadron as a fleet replacement pilot for the MH-60R. She completed the FRS syllabus, became qualified in model and received orders to fly the MH-60R for HSM-35 (Magicians) in San Diego, Calif. LTJG Boyle is instrument and commercial rated in both fixed wing and rotary wing. She is qualified to fly search and rescue, night vision goggles, formation, as well as operate Hellfire missiles, rockets and torpedoes.



Andrea M. Gump, BS '18, Steubenville, Ohio, wrote, "I immediately deployed overseas to Iraq and Kuwait after graduating. Although I was nervous about what the future held for me post-deployment, my former professors provided me with guidance along the way, which I feel led me to my dream job. I accepted a reporting position at WTOV9 in Steubenville, Ohio, that began in April. I'd say hard work, determination and passion for this field provided me with this opportunity. However, I may have never worked hard, remained determined and grown a passion for this without Kent State. Flashes forever!"

Veronica Ceci, MFA '14, Austin, Texas, an intermedia artist who has been working as a master printer since 2004, has had her response to the pandemic, "Too Soon?," accepted into the permanent collection of the Library of Congress. She has recently had pieces included in exhibitions at The Contemporary Art Center New Orleans, The Shaker Museum, The Tyler Museum of Art and The Yellowstone Museum of Art.

Ceci's solo show, *Keeping House*, was displayed at Neon Raspberry Gallery in Occidental, Calif. in July 2020. The ever-changing collection of art has been traveling the US since 2017 and is scheduled for several future venues. She would be pleased to exhibit the work with any fellow alumni who have gallery spaces and encourages you to get in touch: info@veronicaceci.com. Ceci is also the founder of the nonprofit organization, Flash Collective, www.flashcollective.com, which involves artists in community art making events and pop-up exhibitions.

Scott Goss, MFA '14, Cleveland, began his residency at the Akron Soul Train (AST) Gallery in March, intending to expand on his engineered, interactive installation pieces with surreal video-based environments. His pieces encouraged viewers to climb, lay or crawl inside his installations to view video projections. Soon after his residency began, the pandemic required us all to "shut-down," and everyone experienced a restructuring of reality. Goss's work addresses our new, altered social landscape where we no longer are able to sit close to a friend, share a meal with them or see each other's full face. His new work explores this new social interaction based on social distancing and mask wearing.

The exhibition, *The Surreal Real*, combining Goss's work with fellow AST summer resident artist Timothy Gaewsky, opened Sept. 2 and ran until Oct. 3. At the reopening of AST's Burton D. Morgan Foundation Exhibition Space in Akron, everyone was required to wear a mask and only six people were allowed into the gallery at one time. Goss was the recipient of the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award (2015) and is represented by galleries in Cleveland, Columbus and Pittsburgh.

Sony Ton-Aime, BA '14, MFA '19, Jamestown, NY, was named director of literary arts at the Chautauqua Institution, effective Jan. 13, 2020. A poet, teaching artist and arts administrator, he was previously program operation coordinator for Lake Erie Ink, a Cleveland-based literary arts organization.

Ton-Aime is the author of the chapbook *LaWomann* and a Haitian Creole translation of the book *Olympic Hero: The Story of Lennox Kilgour*. He is the co-founding editor of *ID13*, an online publication that published creative works by inmates he led in poetry workshops at the Lake Erie Correctional Institute.

A native of Haiti who first came to the United States in 2010, Ton-Aime joined the Wick Poetry Center as a student intern in 2014 and, as a fellow at the center, he led a group of interns and coordinated poetry outreach in the Kent community. That outreach brought him to Chautauqua in 2018, where for two summers he managed Wick's Traveling Stanzas exhibit, now in the Hultquist Center's Poetry Makerspace. At Chautauqua, he also served as liaison for writers in residence at the Chautauqua Writers' Center and mentored undergraduate literary arts interns. He recently worked with Wick Poetry Center to transition the popular makerspace tool, *Emerge*, into an application for smart devices so users at home can read curated texts and create and share poems.

In his new role, Ton-Aime will serve as a senior member of the Department of Education and as an entrepreneurial and collaborative partner in strengthening and deepening the value of the literary arts program and experience for Chautauqua Institution stakeholders.

David Distelhorst, MLIS '15, Columbus, Ohio, wrote, "I am the local history librarian at Bexley Public Library, Bexley, Ohio, having previously been the local history and genealogy librarian at Massillon Public Library, Massillon, Ohio."

Taylor (Ridenour) Sminchak, BA '15, Tallmadge, Ohio, coordinator of outreach for ZipAssist, a central information hub at The University of Akron, was selected from over 200 nominees as one of Delta Zeta's 35 under 35 honorees for 2020. This national recognition highlights outstanding young women who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to their careers, are motivated



How Jenna Palek Got Her Dream Job

When searching for a job in her final semester this past spring, **Jenna Palek, BA '20**, realized that few companies would be hiring during a global pandemic. Undaunted, she kept applying, reminding herself that "I was capable of finding not only a job, but a great one."

Looking on LinkedIn, she found a listing for a position with TikTok that seemed ideal for her qualifications. Figuring there were thousands of applicants, she stayed up until 5 a.m. designing a custom TikTok-themed résumé. But by the time she went to submit it online, the posting had been taken down.

She was upset at first, but then had an epiphany. "TikTok is all about highlighting your creativity, and I needed to do something else to be noticed," Palek says. "What better way to show my commitment than to create a video that explained who I am, my job experience and why I'm perfect for the position?"

A day and a half after she posted her video on TikTok, it had received more than 220,000 views, with many viewers liking it and tagging TikTok. The next day she received a call from TikTok's lead talent acquisition manager. TikTok's employees had forwarded Palek's video to the human resources department. They reviewed her application and were impressed with her credibility, experience and creativity. A week of interviews followed, and she was offered a job—six days after the first phone call. "They loved that I was able to utilize the platform in such a unique way, and innovation is what TikTok is all about," Palek says. So far, her application video post on TikTok has been viewed more than 1.6 million times.

In July, Palek moved from Cleveland to TikTok's new office in Austin, Texas, and started her first full-time job as a brand development manager (BDM), representing the US growth market. "Simply put, that means I sell advertisements," Palek says.

To see how she's doing on her new job we watched a TikTok video where Palek shares her typical workday, highlighting the following seven steps:

A Day in the Life of Jenna Palek

STEP 1: COFFEE. "Every productive day starts with caffeine. Then I put my thinking cap on and get to work."

STEP 2: FIND A PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT WITH GOOD INTERNET CONNECTION AND LIGHTING. "Since we've been working from home, I think it's important to get out of my apartment—and I like to work on my building's rooftop patio."

STEP 3: CHECK IN WITH TEAM. "Every morning starts with a daily standup with our team, so we can talk about objectives and trouble shoot problems. It's also a great time to bond with teammates we can't see in person."

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES. "I check my calendar for the day and reply to all my emails."

STEP 5: FIND NEW ADVERTISERS! "I research companies and then I send out prospecting emails and connections on LinkedIn."

STEP 6: CONNECT WITH PROSPECTS. "I present a sales pitch about why TikTok is amazing! Then I conduct sales calls with different clients."

STEP 7: HELP MANAGE ACCOUNTS AND OPTIMIZE CAMPAIGNS. "Once onboarded, I help advertisers run their campaigns."

Adds Palek, who currently has more than 90K followers, "I'm also creator of @lifeattiktok, so be sure to follow me!"

by challenges, serve as volunteers in their communities and are role models for their peers.

Sminchak was also selected as the 2019 CashCourse Financial Educator of the Year. The award honors an educator going above and beyond to promote financial literacy on their campus, as well as demonstrating creativity and passion in the field of collegiate financial education. She developed and implemented the "Balancing on a Budget" program at The University of Akron, which has seen great success helping college students with their finances. Sminchak has been recognized for her efforts by The University of Akron and external partners, including an invitation to a private White House briefing during fall 2019.

She and her husband, Patrick, welcomed Karsyn Kate Sminchak, (9 lbs., 8 oz., 20 in. long) on Jan. 20, 2020.

Chris Baum, AA '99, BA '16, Atwater, Ohio, published his third and fourth books in May. *Magnificent* (Book 1 of a series) and *Out of Darkness: Twists & Turns* (also Book 1 of a series) are available exclusively through Amazon. *Magnificent* received Amazon Best Seller in three categories upon its release. If you like engaging fiction with page-turning action, you can find out more at www.chrisbaum.net, where you may also subscribe to his newsletter and receive one of his books for free. He wishes you good health and prosperity.

Greg Donnellan, MM '16, Bay Village, Ohio, director of the Middle School (grades 7-8) at Lawrence School in Sagamore Hills, Ohio, is one of five teachers from across the country named as winners of the 2020 Leavey Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education. Lawrence School is one of only

three schools in Ohio that exclusively serve K-12 students with learning differences. In addition to his administrative duties, Donnellan is the founding program director of the Young Entrepreneurship Experience, an annual hands-on and experiential program for all middle school students, and also serves as advisor to the Entrepreneurship Club (grades 7-12). With his background in music education and the performing arts, he appreciates the opportunity to create a platform to facilitate students' creativity, divergent thinking and tenacity.

Scott Little, BM '19, McDonald, Ohio, accepted a full-time position with Brunswick City Schools teaching band and orchestra. He'll teach sixth through twelfth graders, as well as act as assistant director of the marching band. ▶

alumni LIFE

Patrick W. Ulrich, MFA '19, Arcata, Calif., is featured in the current issue of *American Theatre* magazine as one of "6 Theatre Workers You Should Know." In addition to designing for productions at Humboldt State University in Arcata, where he serves as assistant professor of scenography, Ulrich served as the scenic designer for *As You Like It* at Ozark Actors Theatre in Rolla, Mo.; *I and You* at Wharton Center for the Performing Arts in East Lansing, Mich.; and multiple productions at Porthouse Theatre in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Ulrich loves to work with theatres for young audiences as well as university students.

After graduating from Kent State University's MFA scenic design program last spring, Ulrich sees his job now as training "the next generation of theatre artists to respect their chosen craft." In his own creative efforts, he's especially attracted to work that tells a story of redemption. "Experiencing a redemptive story live onstage," he says, "can be healing and liberating, and is always inspiring."

2020s

Montana Hollis, BM '20, Atwater, Ohio, has accepted a position with Massillon City Schools as a middle school band director. She was officially approved by the board in July and began leading rehearsals.



Send Us Your Class Note

We'd love to hear from you!

To share your news: Fill out the form at www.kent.edu/classnotes (You may include a high-resolution image in JPEG, GIF or PNG format) or write:

Kent State University Alumni
Center for Philanthropy & Engagement
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, OH 44242

Limit your notes to 150 words or less, and include your degree(s), class year(s), and city/state of residence. Notes may be edited for length or clarity and published as space allows.

Deadline for submissions:

Spring/Summer January 31
Fall/Winter June 30



TONY WALSH, COURTESY GEORGIA ATHLETICS

Kent State Softball Player Has Short, but Distinguished, Senior Season

Before her graduation in May, **Maria Cegledy, BS '20**, Pataskala, Ohio, looked forward to participating in senior day and enjoying her final softball season with her teammates.

"We had plans to win the MAC regular season, win the MAC tournament and go on to the NCAA tournament like we did my freshman year in 2017," she says. "COVID-19 altered those plans, and we did not play any conference games or have either tournament."

During her abbreviated senior season, Cegledy started all 19 games for the Golden Flashes in center field. She was second on the team in doubles (5) and third in runs scored (9) and RBIs (7). A student-athlete with a 4.00 grade point average, she received numerous academic and sports accolades, including the MAC's Medal of Excellence Award and being named an Academic All American in 2019 and 2020.

In addition, she was named one of two recipients of the 2020 Bob James Memorial Scholarship Award by the Mid-American Conference Faculty Athletics Representatives. The \$5,000 post-graduate scholarship recognizes students with a 3.50 GPA or over who have displayed good character, leadership and citizenship.

Cegledy, whose undergrad degree is in exercise science, is now a student at Ohio University in the physical therapy program and looks forward to becoming a physical therapist.

While at Kent State, she found time to volunteer at the King Kennedy Center preparing peace baskets during the holidays and serving as an advocate for the softball team's annual "She Will" game, dedicated to promoting girls and women in sports.

During her final semester, she had to adapt to the new normal of online classes and keeping a safe distance from her teammates. She kept her classes at their normal times to maintain some kind of schedule, and she looked forward to doing something different each day—"whether it was working out, running, reading, cleaning or starting a new show on Netflix."

Cegledy has words of wisdom for athletes in the class of 2021: Appreciate and take advantage of each day as it comes, despite the challenges you may encounter. "Things might not always go as planned, but it really is about the journey and the people standing next to you through it all," she says. "Enjoy your time at such an incredible place filled with the most amazing people. Flashes Forever!"

—April McClellan-Copeland

WEDDINGS

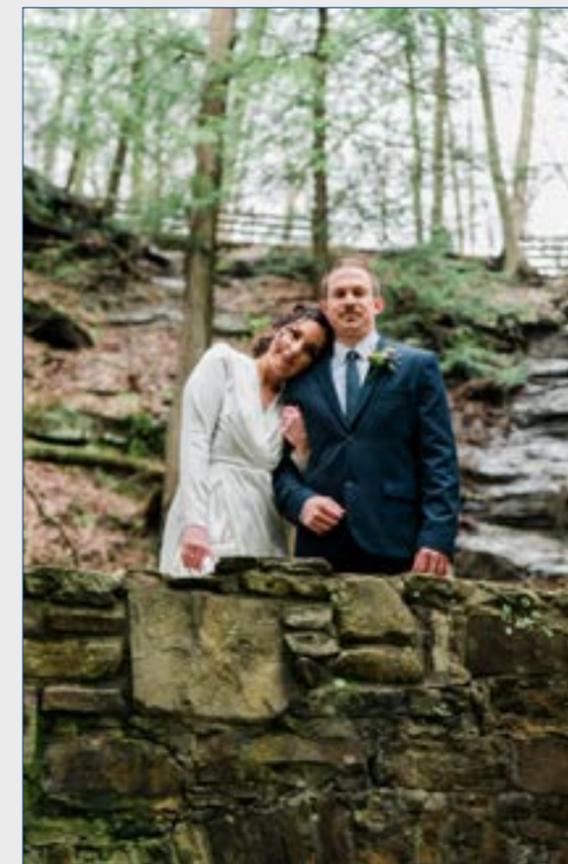


Scott Weaver, BS '12, MA '13, and **Holly Henderson, BA '12**, Berea, Ohio, were married on Oct. 12, 2019 and took the opportunity to pose for photos at some of their favorite spots on Front Campus. They were both members of the Greek community on the Kent Campus, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and Delta Gamma Fraternity respectively. These commonalities brought their worlds together and created many mutual friendships and connections. Today, he is a director of digital production for CBLH Design, a Cleveland-based architecture, planning and interior design firm. She is a marketing manager for CBIZ, Inc., a publicly traded professional services firm headquartered in Cleveland. The two enjoy exploring new breweries, traveling and cheering on Ohio sports teams! (Wedding photos were taken by **Murphy Redmond, BA '13**, Red Photographic.)



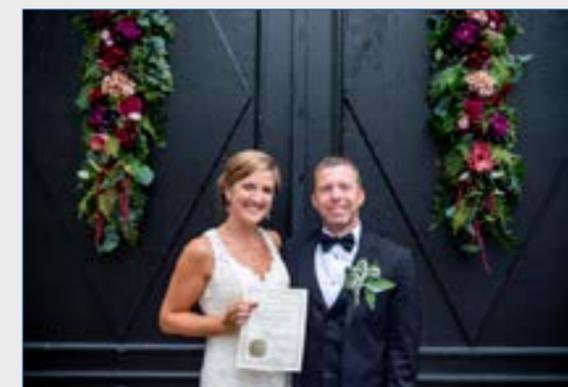
SHANNON AHELSTRAND PHOTOGRAPHY

David Hrvatin, BS '14, married **Natalie Rosmarin, BA '15**, Highland Heights, Ohio, on June 27, 2020 in Westlake, Ohio. He works for Cleveland's WKYC-TV as senior producer, brand & marketing, and received the Sharon Marquis Friend of JMC Award from the School of Media and Journalism, in September 2019, for his dedication to the school and its students. She is an English teacher at Lake Ridge Academy's Upper School in North Ridgeville, Ohio. Their wedding plans needed to be revised several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but postponing the wedding was never once considered. Instead of visiting Italy, the couple honeymooned in Ohio, staying at several resorts. However, these proud Golden Flashes spent the first night of their honeymoon in Kent. Though they did not meet until after graduating, the couple love KSU and the community and visit often. Go Flashes!



ANITA LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY

Natalie M. Amato, MLIS '15, and **Alex Czayka, BS '09**, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, were married in a private ceremony on May 1, 2020, despite COVID-19 postponing their wedding plans.



Robin (Pertz) Unger, MLIS '13, and **Nathan Unger, BBA '04, AA '04**, Washingtonville, Ohio, were married on Sept. 1, 2019 at the Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield, Ohio. She is the library, history and records supervisor at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, and he is a regional sales rep for Jeld-Wen. (Wedding photographs were taken by **Rami Daud, BA '20**, new media specialist at Kent State.)

JOIN THE Resolution

As we look forward to a new year, you can create a brighter 2021 by helping Kent State give every aspiring student the chance to shine as a Golden Flash.

Visit the [Join the Resolution giving page](http://www.kent.edu/Resolution2021) to provide direct, immediate support that will change students' lives. Thank you! See www.kent.edu/Resolution2021.

2020 Alumni Awards

Sponsored by Kent State Alumni Association, the Alumni Awards are the university's most prestigious honors given to alumni. The association is proud to recognize this year's esteemed recipients.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Judge Annalisa Stubbs Williams, BA '77, Akron, Ohio
Akron Municipal Court Judge



In her role as the administrative judge of the Akron Municipal Mental Health Court, Judge Williams shows compassion and provides encouragement for people with mental health issues. In 2015, she created the Peace of Mind program, which helps female defendants dealing with trauma.

"If you want to live a positive life, you can't have a negative mindset. I have learned that you can always achieve more than you believe is possible."

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Nicholas E. Phillips, BA '70, North Royalton, Ohio
Attorney and Colonel USAF/JAG (Ret.)



Following active service with the Air Force, Phillips opened a private law practice in North Royalton. He has held presidential positions with his local Bar Association and Chamber of Commerce, and

has served his local school board for 12 years. One of his greatest accomplishments was founding the North Royalton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a group of volunteers trained and equipped to assist local police and fire departments in case of a large-scale emergency.

"With the leadership skills that I learned at Kent State, I was able to make myself useful to our community throughout my career."

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Timothy F. Feltes, MD, BS '77, Asheville, NC
Former Pediatric Professor and Senior Vice Chair, The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital



Dr. Feltes has been a pioneer in advances in pediatric cardiology, a visiting professor and lecturer in more than 30 countries, and he has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and chapters. For nearly 20 years, he was a pediatric professor and senior vice chair at The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital, prior to his retirement in July.

"I was able to pursue my passion at Kent State, and my educators supported me at a time when I questioned my own abilities."

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Terese Volk Tuohy, PhD '93, White Lake, Mich.
Associate Professor Emerita, Music Education, Wayne State University



Dr. Tuohy taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in instrumental music teacher education at Wayne State; prior to that she taught instrumental music education at public schools and other colleges. Her Kent State dissertation, *A History of Multicultural Music Education in the United States, 1900-1990*, is still a benchmark for educators studying multiculturalism, world music and diversity in the music classroom. She has written several books and published papers on historical research and ethnomusicology, which she has presented at state, national and international conferences.

"[Having a PhD] gave me a lot of credence. It helped a lot at the many conferences I attended."

KENT STATE ADVOCACY AWARD

Stephanie Sweany, BS '05, Canton, Ohio
Assistant Director, Stark County Hunger Task Force



In addition to her full-time job fighting hunger, Sweany also volunteers with many organizations. She is the vice president of Kent State's Stark County Alumni Chapter and one of her favorite chapter events is the Stark County Clothing Drive, which collects professional clothing for students to wear for interviews and internships. She started the Canton Kindness Coalition in November 2018 and plans to start other chapters across the state to "make the world a kinder place, one community at a time."

"There is no limit to how much you can give back to your community. Lifting up the folks in your community who need it the most makes your community stronger."

OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Justin Rudy Gleason, BS '16, MBA '18, MArc '18, Lakewood, Ohio
Director of Operations, DS Architecture



In his full-time role at DS Architecture, Gleason oversees five studio directors and six production staff and facilitates continued growth of the firm. In addition, he serves as the Chief Design Officer for a medical

device startup, Case.MD, and volunteers with the Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce.

"The business strategy class I took with Dr. Ilgaz Arikian changed my life and the way I think about things. His class is probably why I'm in the business position I am today."

GOLDEN FLASH AWARD

Kayla Marker, BA '21, MPH '22, Palmyra, NY
Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Justice Studies and Psychology, minor in Forensic Anthropology; Master of Public Health in health policy and management



After her graduation, she hopes to work for Child Protective Services and start a nonprofit in mental health or go into mental health legislation. She is also a Kent State of Wellness Student Ambassador, leader of the

Student Mental Health Coalition and undergraduate research assistant in the Center for Public Policy and Health. At Kent State she started a chapter of Active Minds, a nonprofit national organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness among college students.

"It's important to understand your opinions, stick to your morals and stay true to yourself. Find something you truly believe in and advocate for that."

1930s

Atlee L. Stroup, AA '38, December 22, 2019

1940s

Ruth E. (Wilms) Dlwgosh, BS '45, June 10, 2020

Mary Dorothy (Watson) Rinier, BS '47, December 22, 2019

1950s

Emanuel Karbeling, BA '50, November 23, 2019

Victor McIntire, BS '50, March 9, 2020

John R. "Jack" Adams, BA '51, April 22, 2020

Virginia Kazimer, BS '51, November 13, 2019

Janet N. North, BA '51, January 14, 2017

Charles B. Taylor, BS '51, October 13, 2019

John Charles Wieck, MED '51, April 16, 2020

Frank R. Ballo, BBA '52, September 3, 2020

Nathan Gould, BS '52, March 26, 2012

Kenneth Wertz, BBA '52, June 21, 2020

John Crumely, BS '53, April 6, 2018

Richard Galante, BBA '53, June 15, 2018

Kenneth Whipkey, BA '53, January 18, 2020

Richard T. Raidel, BS '54, MED '59, February 12, 2020

Richard Anuszkiewicz, BS '56, May 19, 2020

Major Harris, BS '56, April 28, 2019

Noah "Jack" Boyett, BA '57, MA '64, February 29, 2020

Janice Kaplan, MA '57, January 30, 2020

Wendell Carpenter McElwee, BS '57, November 23, 2019

Robert Sovey, BS '59, March 31, 2020

1960s

Dick Goddard, BFA '60, August 4, 2020

William J. Lahl, BS '60, July 20, 2020

Ronald Vargo, MED '60, April 29, 2020

Thomas A. Stibbe, BBA '61, January 5, 2020

Paul Banks, BBA '62, August 10, 2019

Joseph Deagan, MED '62, May 11, 2020

Peter Lee Schofield, BBA '62, September 7, 2020

David Everson, BArc '63, May 21, 2018

Theodore Suman, MA '63, January 23, 2020

Pamela T. Bevan, BS '65, January 31, 2020

Hazel Kurtz, BS '65, April 3, 2019

Ellen (Wheeler) Miesse, BS '65, March 29, 2020

Sandra Christman, MED '66, October 11, 2019

Carolyn Fleig, BS '66, January 12, 2020

William C. Bartel, Jr., BBA '67, February 24, 2020

Carol Kimble, BS '67, May 24, 2019

Robert Butler, BBA '68, December 11, 2019

Stephen F. Diser, BS '68, October 8, 2018

Patricia Fada, BS '68, December 29, 2019

Elizabeth Smith, BS '68, March 17, 2019

Robert Hill, BA '69, February 23, 2020

James Hudnell, BBA '69, January 22, 2020

Douglass E. Kondra, BBA '69, January 24, 2020

Josephine Nagle, BS '69, December 20, 2018

Lillian "Ruth" (Mugridge) Snodgrass, MED '69, July 30, 2020

1970s

Martin "Marty" Atkins, BA '70, October 21, 2018

Bonnie Berry, BFA '70, February 4, 2019

Leone Carameli, BBA '70, April 21, 2019

Domenic "Frank" Frisina, BA '70, October 8, 2015

Charles Gibeaut, MED '70, January 25, 2019

James Gray, BA '70, January 14, 2019

Howard Leidy, BBA '70, May 11, 2019

Nora Mastrine, BS '70, May 27, 2018

Margaret Morton, BFA '70, June 27, 2020

Barbara Naukam, BA '70, December 14, 2019

Fern Storer, BA '70, May 10, 2020

Larry Eaton, MED '71, January 2, 2020

Michael Scheeser, MED '71, March 24, 2018

Glenda Thurston, MED '71, October 7, 2019

Ulysses Jenkins, Jr., BBA '72, March 25, 2020

Shirley Roysse, BS '72, December 28, 2018

Cecil Chamberlain, BS '74, August 19, 2019

Virginia Grunley, BS '74, February 2, 2020

Christopher Porter, BA '74, January 7, 2020

Richard McGriff, BGS '75, September 22, 2018

Carrie Bell (Lee) Tarver, BS '75, MED '10, May 30, 2020

Victor Osagie Aimuwu, PhD '76, November 21, 2011

Gary Mordhorst, BBA '76, January 19, 2019

Diana Ukleja, MLS '76, March 31, 2020

George A. Gatta, Jr., BArc '77, July 12, 2020

Gene Harbrecht, attended Kent State from '72 to '77, July 30, 2020

Patricia Uhl, BS '77, November 22, 2018

Michael Erbschloe, MA '78, September 23, 2019

Karen (Lehto) Boyce, AA '79, August 10, 2020

1980s

Neil Sol, PhD '80, July 29, 2020

James "Jim" Errett Davis, BS '82, March 7, 2020

Jeremy "Jerry" Scheer, attended in 1982, September 18, 2019

Eugene Vasconi, MA '82, July 20, 2018

Margaret "Peggy" Cleta Horn, BS '85, August 10, 2020

Michael Satak, BS '84, October 29, 2019

Dennis Dolny, PhD '85, January 9, 2018

Denise Miller, BSN '85, January 14, 2020

Betty L. Shaffer, BSN '86, March 10, 2019

Todd Humphrey, BS '89, September 12, 2018

1990s

Annamarie Slaby, BA '95, January 12, 2020

Martha Lambert, BS '99, June 11, 2020

2000s

Chad Kazol, BA '00, May 17, 2020

Keith Edward McGuire, BA '00, April 7, 2020

Ema Temu, BA '01, April 21, 2020

Brett Thomas, BA '01, January 29, 2020

Roberta Wildman, AAB '01, April 7, 2019

Joan Barkdull, MLIS '02, November 28, 2018

Andrew Burke, BS '02, May 15, 2018

Aaron Stephanic, BS '02, November 21, 2019

Shawn Peterson, BS '03, November 20, 2018

Claire Hostetler, BA '05, January 25, 2020

Adam Tully, BSE '07, March 1, 2020

2010s

Lisa Starr, AAS '13, April 16, 2019

Jonathan F. Morrish, BBA '18, September 13, 2020

faculty/staff

John "Jack" P. Rowe, Emeritus Assistant Dean for College of Technology at the Kent State Stark Campus from 2006 to 2012; April 1, 2020

Philip Safford, MA '62, Emeritus Professor of Special Education at the School of Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences in the College of Education, Health and Human Services, from 1974 to 1997, recipient of President's Medal; March 29, 2020

See full bios and videos of the 2020 Alumni Award recipients at <https://www.kent.edu/alumni/alumni-awards>.