

A Publication for Our Alumni and Friends

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KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Get a Second Life

Explore the brave new world of digital
and game-based learning

Into the Heart of a Story

WKSU-FM named Best News Operation
in Ohio

EXCELLENCE in Action

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P R E S I D E N T
L E S T E R A. L E F T O N



Each day, Kent State University engages the world through its cutting-edge research and scholarship that reach far beyond the borders of northern Ohio. Every day, in classrooms and laboratories, our students encounter ideas that will prepare them to transform society.

In this issue of your *Kent State Magazine*, you will read about some innovative classes and faculty members who are extending the university's reach past the physical world and into the virtual world through the widely popular and engaging Second Life environment. Second Life is an online, three-dimensional virtual reality application in which faculty and students create an avatar — an image that represents them in cyberspace — to interact with scholars and artists anywhere in the world. While it has the look of a video game, the robust Second Life world of millions of “digital citizens” worldwide allows users to create content that is shared and experienced.

Dr. Pamela R. Mitchell, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology, is using the technology to expand the education of her students through the virtual world. By capitalizing on the new learning environment, Kent State's speech pathology and audiology students receive greater preparation through the use of virtual field trips, access to conferences and contact with experts in their field. This rich, diverse opportunity was not available just a few years ago.

At the same time, Steve Zapytowski, professor of design and technology, along with Mark Monday, assistant professor of theatre, led students in a groundbreaking project to present live theatrical performances in the virtual world. Undergraduate and graduate students in theatre and computer science worked through the fall semester to prepare for two plays in the Wakefield Mystery Series performed live in front of a Second Life audience across the world.

In a less visual but equally impactful realm, the professional news staff of WKSU-FM has staked their claim in the empire of the air. While radio has been around for numerous decades, the news team led by M.L. Schultze, WKSU-FM news director, is not only providing a booming voice to the university throughout Ohio but is connecting to listeners throughout the world through the station's innovative digital streaming online. Moreover, their peers have noticed. WKSU-FM recently was named the Best News Operation in Ohio by the Society of Professional Journalists for the fourth time in eight years. During the same time, numerous WKSU-FM journalists have been honored as the state's top reporters.

These are just a few examples of experiences and opportunities that enrich our university, our students and our communities. In addition, the work of our dedicated and devoted faculty and staff is ensuring that Kent State remains in the company of great universities forging new ways in the ever-changing and exciting world of the future.



Kent State recently welcomed new talent to the executive cabinet (left to right): Gregg Floyd as vice president for finance and administration; Iris E. Harvey as vice president for university relations; and Willis Walker as vice president for human resources. Read more at www.kent.edu/magazine.

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Image of avatar courtesy of Steve Zapytowski • Photo by Bob Christy, '95 • Photo illustration by Nicholas Moore, '90



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GET A Second Life

Digital and
Gamed-Based Learning
Experiences Enrich Education

Professor Melvie Pawpaw is not unlike many faculty members at Kent State University. She is passionate about inspiring and educating students, enjoys boasting school pride by wearing her Golden Flashes t-shirt and loves a piping hot cup of Starbucks coffee.

What might set Pawpaw apart from the bunch is her ability to soar (literally), or the pet sock monkey named Minky planted on her shoulder, which may or may not throw peanuts, depending on its mood.

No, Pawpaw is not all that eccentric, really.

In fact, in her home of Second Life, an Internet-based virtual reality environment, she



Avatar images courtesy of Steve Zapytowski

is right at home. Second Life users socialize and interact with other people through avatars similar to Melvie Pawpaw.

Professor Melvie Pawpaw is a digitally rendered representation of — and created by — **Dr. Pamela R. Mitchell**, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology in the College of Education, Health and Human Services. She explains fondly that Minky, the monkey on her avatar's shoulder, is a virtual representation of a real-life sock monkey that she cherished as a child.

Mitchell is a self-proclaimed "techie," who says she has always been interested in online learning and its implications for education.

While attending a podcasting seminar many years ago, she was introduced to Second Life by a child sitting on the sidelines of the class.

"Here was this little 12-year-old boy enjoying Second Life, and I asked him to explain to me what he was doing. He showed me some really cool stuff," Mitchell says. "He could have been doing anything at that time, but he was more interested in moving around in this virtual environment, talking to other people," she says.



Dr. Pamela R. Mitchell, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology is using Second Life to educate her students and to collaborate with other professionals in her field.

Embracing the brave new world

It wasn't long before Mitchell delved into the virtual world herself, creating Melvie Pawpaw and pondering what Second Life might mean for educating students and also for her field of speech pathology and audiology.

Today, she holds her Communication Modalities and Assistive Technology and Research Methods classes in Second Life, but, initially, she was faced with the task of finding a place in the virtual world to hold the classes.

Mitchell received grant money with which she rented and then purchased a virtual island, with virtual dollars — also known as "Lindens" "in world," — to use as a classroom building or a gathering place for students.

"There is some discussion about creating buildings or structures 'in world' that help make students feel comfortable. One of the ways in which you can create a student-friendly environment is by modeling it after a

traditional classroom," she explains.

Mitchell's virtual classroom is lined with simple boards or areas where she posts class notes, presentations, YouTube videos and other technology relating to the subject matter. Students, represented by their avatars, can sit in the classroom or, on occasion, even take virtual field trips with their avatars, touring one of the many hospitals in Second Life or attending conferences to learn from experts in the field of speech pathology and audiology.

Online class software like Web CT or Vista can sometimes feel pretty cut and dried, with students not having a lot of interaction with one another, Mitchell says.

"With Second Life the strength is that students can be 'in world' at the same time, freely socializing and asking me questions that I can directly answer," she says.

Second Life also opened research doors for collaboration and has provided joint learning opportunities for Mitchell and students to work with faculty, students and professionals from around the United States, who wouldn't have had the opportunity to interact otherwise, she says. She conducts research with occupational therapy faculty

at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and co-teaches with a faculty member in Cincinnati. She recently met another collaborator for the first time at a "real life" conference.

"And I recognized her because she looked so much like her avatar," Mitchell laughs.

Second Life spurs imagination, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, which can sometimes be difficult to do in a traditional format, she adds.

"It's always a challenge to engage 30 or 40 graduate students in a traditional classroom, but the Second Life set-up allows for all of these things to happen. It opens up potential," she says.

As far as Melvie Pawpaw is concerned, Mitchell says that students are more likely to talk with her avatar in the virtual world because it is a more relaxed interaction, which can help break down some of the teacher/student barriers.



The Second Life Ensemble, students enrolled in this Virtual Live Performance Class, practice their Second Life acting and technical skills.

"I really like that students are able to feel more comfortable with Melvie and me."

The show must go on, in Second Life

Steve Zapytowski, professor of design and technology in the School of Theatre and Dance, says that until people experience Second Life or virtual worlds for themselves, the concept can be one that is complicated to grasp.

"Second Life is like being in a room with a bunch of other people. But you aren't there, and they aren't there either. Everyone is at home, at their own computer, but yet all [are] in the same room talking to each other," he explains.

In the case of the Kent Second Life Ensemble, composed of Zapytowski, **Mark Monday**, assistant professor of theatre, and 12 Kent State students, the group performed a groundbreaking virtual play in Second Life while sitting side-by-side at computers located in the same room.

Currently, there are Second Life theatre companies that conduct productions together with actors performing their lines into microphones from their own personal computers, but Zapytowski says that there is no other group in Second Life that has performed in the virtual world from the same location.

"No other project has the support of a major university, the support of a computer science department, and is producing at the technical or artistic level at which we are working," Zapytowski says.

The Kent Second Life Ensemble is composed of undergraduate and graduate students, from theatre and computer science, who were enrolled in a Virtual Live Performance class during the Fall Semester 2008. The ensemble gathered twice a week to prepare for their finale, which included performing two plays in the Wakefield Mystery Series live for a Second Life audience.

Practices and performances were conducted in the Obrádlan Síorai, or Theatre Eternal, that Zapytowski constructed in Second Life. Thanks to the kindness of

performed community relations, publicizing the event "in world" for the Kent Second Life Ensemble.

The production caught the attention of Second Life members from around the globe, including a costume designer from Germany; a photographer from the United Kingdom, who was the wardrobe designer; a "shape artist" (a term Zapytowski coined himself) from Milwaukee; a prop master from Nevada and a marketing director from the Philippines.

Zapytowski says that the class learned as they were performing.

"When actors rehearse in real life, they discover what they can do that the director may or may not like," he says. "And around mid-semester, I noticed that the students discovered this virtual medium and how to use it in a better way."

For example, Zapytowski says that because the avatars don't exhibit many facial expressions, the actors had to create alternative actions so that they could effectively portray to

the audience that they were speaking.

The learning curve for students understanding the technical dynamics of Second Life was not as steep as Zapytowski and Monday thought prior to the experience, he says.

"We had three undergraduate students who caught on faster than the graduate students," he says. "It's not because they are that much younger, but because they have spent more time playing video games than the graduate students."

Dean Zeller, a graduate student in computer science, wrote scripts so that the productions would have controllable lighting, similar to that of a real-life production, which can be difficult to achieve in a virtual environment. The lighting technology features, too, are a first for productions in Second Life.

Many modifications were made in the construction and set-up of the virtual theatre so that the avatars would become more visible to the audience. A light-colored stage floor was used in the virtual theatre instead of a dark floor. Audio for the production was passed to a mixer and traveled



Steve Zapytowski



Obrádlan Síorai, or Theatre Eternal, created by Zapytowski in Second Life to stage the Second Life Ensemble productions.



Cast members of the Second Life Ensemble practice their acting moves in real life before transitioning to their rolls in Second Life.

through a streaming server, which was then streamed directly into the Second Life environment.

In fall 2008, Eternity Castle, a community in Second Life composed of members from around the world, recognized Zapytowski's work with the Kent Second Life Ensemble and the Wakefield Cycle Production Team.

"I was honored to win a Second Life award. There was a ceremony with speeches, refreshments and dancing ('in world')," he says. "It was nice to be recognized."

Keeping it real

A Kent State learning community was formed two years ago to support faculty like Mitchell and Zapytowski, who are engaging in digital game-based learning through virtual reality in Second Life or other virtual worlds, or for those in the university community involved in the area of game development itself.

The group draws several faculty members and graduate students from a variety of departments and campuses to examine ways of bringing the power of games and virtual worlds to Kent State educational practices.

The Digital Game-Based Learning Community recently received financial support from Dr. **Patricia Book**, co-leader of the group and vice president for regional development, who saw the effort as leading-edge and one that engages faculty in transdisciplinary projects.

"To see the knowledge and experience shared among the faculty in this group is very energizing. We see the breadth of faculty expertise ... relevant to work in this new, exciting area — teaching and learning in virtual space," she says.

"These projects bring together expertise from several

disciplines and are highly innovative," Book says. "The digital-based game industry is a global burgeoning business, yet we are just beginning to see the potential for serious games and simulation as a platform for learning and education. The kind of work in which you see our faculty engaged directly addresses some of the research and development needs that have been identified by the National Science Foundation and others calling for further exploration to ensure America's competitiveness in what is an exciting and emerging field. This is great preparation for our students."

Dr. **Dale Cook**, professor of teaching, leadership and curriculum studies and Summit Professor for Education Technology, co-leads the learning community, which is composed of about 25 faculty and graduate students. He believes that Kent State has the potential to become the regional center for a games and learning institute, which would work in conjunction with other Northeast Ohio higher education institutions.

The university resource center would connect with community agencies, corporations and K-12 schools, he says.

"Faculty members who have an interest in this technological area, from many different disciplines, including art, communications, computer science, education, theatre and technology, would be involved. The center would have connections with corporations and businesses needing games and/or simulations in their organizations," he says.

Depending on a business's level of need, the center would have students work on the development of games. If the business had more resources, the center would be the conduit between the agency and game developers. The center would then conduct its own research on the impact of the tools developed.

While the idea for the resource center is in the planning stages, Cook says that the funding for the infrastructure isn't where it needs to be. The project already received a small grant from the Ohio Learning Network for this purpose, but additional funds would need to be raised to fully launch the initiative.

Kent State's theatre, animation, art, computer science and education programs are also in early discussions about joining together to develop an interdisciplinary curriculum for students interested in this field.

"Right now, we're starting to see our efforts pay off," Cook says. "We are continually moving forward, and this is an exciting time for all involved."

For more information, including online exclusives about other Kent State faculty using Second Life and related technologies, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.

I n t o t h e h e a r t o f a s t o r y

WKSU-FM Named Best News Operation in Ohio



WKSU-FM News Director M.L. Schultze

Photo by Bob Christy, '95

When Kent State University's public radio station, WKSU-FM, was named Best News Operation in Ohio by the state Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) in October, it was the fourth time in eight years that the staff was so honored. In that time, seven WKSU-FM reporters either won or were named runners-up for the Ohio SPJ's Best Reporter award. With these wins, the station is being acknowledged for hard work, diligence, curiosity, professionalism and a host of other traits that distinguish stories produced for WKSU-FM's news programs. The depth and talent of the news staff is further confirmed by hundreds of awards received over the years from local, state and national news

contests. They honored individual reports and group efforts that have resulted in radio that stands out in the crowded airwaves.

While awards are a welcome addition to the WKSU-FM wall of achievement, the veteran journalists in the WKSU-FM newsroom are motivated by their mission to inform and educate the Northeast Ohio community. In contrast to most commercial radio newsrooms, public radio allows — even encourages — its journalists to take the time to dig deep and find new approaches that take the listening audience into the heart of a story.

WKSU-FM General Manager **Al Bartholet** says, "While I'm very proud of the honors members of the WKSU-FM

newsroom have earned from their peers, there are many pieces that don't receive awards that are equally important to the people who listen to the station on a regular basis. I know that our staff works hard to connect stories with the Northeast Ohio audience."

"What I love about being a WKSU-FM reporter is the opportunity to go behind the headlines and take listeners to the physical place where news is happening," says Reporter/Producer **Karen Schaefer**. "You hear not only the sounds of a human voice, but also the tension in that voice, the sound of a siren, a rushing river, a crowd, a squeal of brakes, a spade hitting the earth. It's what makes public radio stories come alive."

WKSU-FM Program Director **Mark Urycki** adds, "Our newscasts can juxtapose stories with differing points of view — putting something that's fun next to something heartbreaking — to represent the broad spectrum of life. Listeners are not going to get a mix like that on commercial radio, where reports are growing shorter and shorter. A lot of people can read news on the radio; a good reporter offers more depth, to find the story behind the story."

Since the station has broadcast towers in Akron, Kent, Thompson, New Philadelphia, Wooster and Norwalk, and translator signals in Boardman and Ashland, WKSU-FM reporters are charged with covering people and events in 22 Ohio counties — a daunting task for a mid-sized organization. Along with WKSU-FM's Broadcast Center on the Kent Campus, the news staff takes advantage of studios in Cleveland (at WKYC Channel 3's headquarters), Stark/Wayne counties (in Canton's Cultural Center for the Arts) and, now, in Akron. The newly dedicated WKSU-FM Akron News Bureau is at the corner of Market and Main in the heart of the city's Historic District in space shared by Western Reserve Public Media (PBS channels 45 and 49) and WKYC.

As its most recent win for Best News Operation recognizes, the WKSU-FM newsroom succeeds through the contributions from all of the station reporters. The award was based on the quality of a collection of broadcast works aired during 2007. Pieces ranged from a 30-minute documentary on Northeast Ohio workers who contributed to the World War II effort, features on Chrissie Hynde's new vegetarian restaurant in Akron and the history of local rock giant WMMS, to a raid on undocumented workers in Painesville. Judges also heard examples of sports coverage (including the Indians' unexpected pennant race), arts reports, regional

business stories and political news. Other notable stories included an obituary for former Browns player Bill Wills, which expanded into desegregation in the NFL. WKSU-FM looked at the war in Iraq with an investigative story on the death of local Blackwater Corporation employee Jerry Zelko. It also produced an obituary for National Public Radio (NPR) on Army Corporal Keith Nepsa of New Philadelphia.

WKSU-FM News Director **M.L. Schultze** says, "I feel that WKSU-FM's great commitment is to help the region understand itself. Our newsroom's goal is to answer the need that our listeners have to know what's happening both in their hometowns and the communities that touch their lives. With the changing media landscape, the WKSU-FM news staff is being pushed to be all things to all people who have fewer and fewer options for accessing news. The Best News Operation award is a credit to our reporters who work long hours and log a lot of miles out of a sense of responsibility to bringing as much information as they can to our community."

Stories from the WKSU-FM newsroom often reach beyond the boundaries of Northeast Ohio. As contributors to Ohio Public Radio (OPR) and NPR networks, WKSU-FM's work is often broadcast on public radio stations throughout the state and across the country, acting as a conduit for information about Northeast Ohio. Urycki says, "Through comments left at WKSU.org on election-related news stories from listeners outside of our broadcast area, we can get a feel for how far WKSU-FM stories have travelled, both through NPR broadcasts and the network-hosted online election section."

"It's not surprising to see reporters huddled over a computer or in the studio working on a story at 11 p.m. or sacrificing weekends to produce a report for the next day's news," continues Urycki. "Our staff's work ethic is truly remarkable, especially this year with the presidential and vice presidential candidates making frequent stops in Northeast Ohio. Now our news team can focus on how Northeast Ohio changes under the new administration and in this new economy."

WKSU-FM airs regional news Mondays through Fridays during local broadcasts of NPR's *Morning Edition*, beginning at 5 a.m., hosted by **Jeff St. Clair** with newscasts from **Tom Parkinson**, and *All Things Considered*, from 4 through 6:30 p.m. with host **Vivian Goodman**. Reports are archived online at WKSU.org. Along with Schaefer, the news team is completed by staff Reporter/Producers **Amanda Rabinowitz** and **Kevin Niedermier**.

The concept of sustainability is not new, but its prevalence in conversations today seems to indicate a heightened sense of urgency regarding the subject over this past year. From individuals to corporations, the world is taking a closer look at how we all can be better stewards of our natural resources, meet present needs without compromising those of the future and leave the world a little better than we found it.

In his annual State of the University Address this past fall, Kent State President Lester A. Lefton announced the formation of a Task Force on Sustainability co-chaired by Dr. Verna Fitzsimmons, interim dean of the College of Technology, and Thomas Euclide, executive director for facilities planning and operations. The task force is designed to build upon current efforts and investigate new initiatives aimed toward environmental responsibility. In the following pages and at www.kent.edu/magazine, you'll read about ways the university is incorporating sustainability goals not only in its operations, but also its curriculum.

SUST

THINKING CRADLE TO CRADLE

By CHRISTA SKILES

Dr. Verna Fitzsimmons knows that the words “eco-friendly” and “technology” have not always been linked in the minds of many consumers. But, according to the interim dean of Kent State’s College of Technology, that disconnection only highlights a general lack of understanding about the role technology will play in addressing growing concerns about sustainability.

“Technology is certainly positioned well to contribute to sustainability and better management of our natural resources by how we use them and how we convert them into products that society wants,” Fitzsimmons says. “That’s who we are. We make things. We build things.”

What products get made and how — these are the issues technologists must consider, and they are questions imbedded into the culture of the College of Technology. From construction to manufacturing, energy conservation to transportation, today’s students are being asked to evaluate not only the technical side of the equation, but also what the long-term consequences of their decisions will be to the world in which they live.

The College of Technology attempts to incorporate sustainability initiatives into all aspects of the curriculum, as well as how the department operates. For the aeronautics program, for example, that means investigating alternatives to using jet fuel to move an airplane when it is on the ground. In metal casting courses, where sand molds can be used only once, sustainability means identifying partnerships that enable a reincarnation for those materials, with university groundskeepers now including the sand as a supplement in campus flowerbeds.

“It’s being good stewards of what we have,” Fitzsimmons says. “I really think it comes down to that.”

Converting energy invention into innovation

Discussions of energy consumption and a vision of a future in which the United States is less dependent on foreign oil were at the heart of the 2008 presidential election. They are also among the key lessons College of Technology students are exploring in the classroom and research lab.

Dr. Donald Coates, assistant professor of technology, has been working for the past year with Kent State’s Department of Chemistry on the commercialization of fuel-cell catalyst development, part of a Third Frontier contract. The project seeks to find methods for making the use of fuel cells in vehicles more cost-effective, efficient and, consequently, commercially viable.

Coates also worked with a group of students last year on the creation of a hydraulic bicycle that earned innovation-novelty and cost awards in the Chainless Challenge Competition, sponsored by Cleveland-based Parker Hannifin, a motion and control technology company. The idea was to provide students with the opportunity to relate what they’re learning to practical applications.

Incorporating sustainability into the classroom experience is part and parcel to technology’s role of fulfilling societal needs, Coates says.

“Certainly one of the big needs of society right now is clean sources of energy and more energy in general,” Coates says. “As our population expands, as our standard of living grows, our needs for energy are going to increase. We’ve got to come up with these alternative sources. Guiding that activity is an interest in sustainability. We want to teach people how to live in harmony with the environment.”

New paradigm is fundamental to the College of Technology

sustain



Photo by Bob Christy, '95

Dr. Verna Fitzsimmons is co-chair of the University Task Force on Sustainability.

Joe Karpinski leads the College of Technology's new construction management program.



Photo by Bob Christy, '95

With its new courses in innovation and invention, expertise in manufacturing and application knowledge, the College of Technology possesses several strengths for leading sustainable projects, as well as the ability to help other departments commercialize their breakthroughs. "Invention alone is not worthwhile to society unless you can actually bring it to the marketplace," Coates says. "And then you have innovation."

Understanding the latest techniques in green-building will give Kent State students a powerful edge upon graduation. "As I talk with contractors, they're all looking at these initiatives because, when they go to bid on projects, most are requiring them to do as much green as they can," Karpinski says. "It's definitely at the forefront of new construction, and actually remodeling construction, as well."

Taking the LEED in sustainable building

Real-world opportunities are the hallmark of one of the College of Technology's newest programs as well. Students majoring in construction management also participate in competitions that challenge them to translate classroom learning into reality, this year working on a proposal for the design of a sustainable 72,000-square-foot hospital in Northern California.

Now in its second year, the construction management program already has grown from approximately 15 majors at its inception to nearly 50 today. Because the program continues to be defined, lessons of sustainability can be incorporated into nearly every course, with a particular emphasis on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings system, known as LEED.

Buildings are LEED-certified based on points earned for the number of environmentally friendly elements utilized in their design. This incorporates everything from the building materials and mechanicals chosen to harvesting rainwater or selecting plants that are native to the local environment and, consequently, require less water to thrive.

Construction management is a growing field, says **Joe Karpinski**, assistant professor and lead faculty member in the program. "Most of the managers out there are 50-plus-year-old people. The anticipated annual growth in jobs is looking good for years to come."

Evolving a systemic approach

Fitzsimmons is quick to stress that there is no one magic answer to the question of sustainability. Rather, the solution will require a combination of approaches, including simple tactics that, overall, have a big impact.

From a technology standpoint, that means a shift in thinking. "Twenty years ago, we used to think about what we called cradle-to-grave design. You go from the conception of the product or service to when you're no longer going to need it," Fitzsimmons says. "Today, we talk about cradle to cradle. Not only do we think about how the product will be used and how we are going to decommission it, but we're also thinking about how we are going to be able to reuse it and turn it in to something else."

Graduating students who understand this evolution is central to the mission of the college. "We are trying to create the employee of the future who's going to have that knowledge, understanding, philosophy and thoughtfulness already built in," Fitzsimmons says. "Sustainability is going to be systemic to what we're doing. It's not an add-in or an add-on. It will be built in, right along with safety and quality and reliability. It's the evolution of a sophisticated society."

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



the
WORD

BY KIMBERLEY SISK

Dr. **Adil Sharag-Eldin** quizzes his visitor on a definition of sustainability before he describes his own vision.

The “s” word, we call it, he says, leaning into the conversation. “It’s not a process,” Sharag-Eldin says. “It’s not a way of doing things. It’s an outcome, a result.”

In physics, Sharag-Eldin explains, the second law of thermodynamics states that everything in the universe is in decline. If nothing is done to stop that march toward depletion of resources on this planet, the end of those resources is inevitable. That’s where sustainability comes in, and why it is such an important concept in a more global sense.

According to Sharag-Eldin, a model created at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to evaluate large-scale systems was used in the early 1960s to evaluate when the Earth’s resources would be outstripped by the needs of an increasing number of demands on those resources.

The results astounded those researchers, for it was learned that the burdens of increasing population, along with the resulting pollution and demands for energy, would put the Earth at its breaking point far sooner than expected.

“That time is upon us,” says Sharag-Eldin.

He also makes reference to another treatise on the sustainability of global systems, authored in 1972 by a group of concerned scientists known as the Club of Rome. In that evaluation, the authors assert that, according to scientific and economic models, there is an outside limit to growth that the planet could bear. All the elements of growth, too, tended to press on each other. Those predictions, Sharag-Eldin says, have likewise come true.

About that time, popular culture was waking up to what were then termed “environmental issues.” In 1970, for example, Earth Day, the annual event held every April to celebrate the planet, was launched.

But, back to Sharag-Eldin’s argument: People get caught up in semantics and not results.

“Going green?” he questions. “What does that mean?”

Walking the walk

At his post as an environmental technology expert and associate professor in Kent State University’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Sharag-Eldin is able to challenge students to think toward the health of the planet and its people and economies as they design necessary buildings.

Sharag-Eldin is also a LEED-accredited professional. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing the building’s performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Sharag-Eldin stresses that the state of the world has reached the predicted breaking point simply because of a lack of alternatives, and their adoption on a global scale. Although the current popular culture vilifies those who don’t recycle and extols the virtues of fuel economy, individual choices only get at part of the problem.

“Buildings are the largest consumers of energy,” he explains, “both in their production and their maintenance over their decades-long lives.”

Buildings do have both an ecological and an economic impact, he says, adding that the profession of architecture is at a place where humans are able to manipulate numerous elements that impact sustainability issues on a broader scale simultaneously.

Sustainability undergirds learning in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design

Is the future of the world system bound to be growth and then collapse into a dismal, depleted existence? Only if we make the initial assumption that our present way of doing things will not change. We have ample evidence of mankind's ingenuity and social flexibility. There are, of course, many likely changes in the system, some of which are already taking place. The Green Revolution is raising agricultural yields in nonindustrialized countries. Knowledge about modern methods of birth control is spreading rapidly.

Building design needs address both buildings' huge energy needs and their unique opportunities to demonstrate sustainability. If buildings are made more efficient by their heating and cooling functions being made more efficient, then the amount of space needed for heating and cooling units is reduced. This can free up more of a building's square footage for income in the form of rent for the owner.

This, he says, is what presents the real opportunity for the architecture profession.

"We cannot look at the bits and pieces. A small effort might not impact the big picture," he says. And, while efforts at recycling and conservation do help Mother Earth, it's the big picture things that will reverse the decline of our planet.

Bigger than just one building

The three big issues architecture can impact on a global scale, according to Sharag-Eldin, involve finite resources, long-term vision and equity and distribution of those resources.

He says the gap between equity and distribution is most apparent in developing economies such as those in India and China, where a new breed of consumers has evolved quickly.

"What we need to do as humans, is to look at alternative models of production and competition with each other for what the Earth has to give," Sharag-Eldin concludes. "We all need to learn how to live in a way that is less impactful to the environment."

This involves, as Sharag-Eldin has researched, homes that require zero energy because they produce their own.

"We also need to fundamentally revisit what a city is," he says.

Overall, Sharag-Eldin says, architecture has taken up the challenge of a more sustainable future, adopting guidelines at the professional level that seek to, among other things, reduce humanity's carbon footprint by 2030.

"Academia needs to respond by finding out how," he says. "We've answered the question, 'Why should we care?' It's now about how to do it."

Principles in practice

At the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, that "how" question is answered by a full-court press throughout the five-year program in teaching students to incorporate overall standards into their designs that consider sustainability first.

Jonathan Fleming, '96, is an assistant professor of architecture and environmental design, as well as the coordinator of the fourth-year studio project. Fleming says that sustainability principles are woven into the curriculum of the college, building to studio work that challenges students to put into practice many of the concepts that Sharag-Eldin suggests.

Fleming says that LEED provides a guiding framework from which students learn to think about modeling and someday overseeing the construction of buildings that tie together all five LEED principles in harmony.

"We teach computer modeling to help students learn to calculate all the variables that go into buildings — the site issues, water run-off issues and the like," Fleming explains.



Photo by Bob Christy, '95

Assistant Professor of Architecture and Environmental Design Jason Turnidge (left) discusses a project with fifth-year architecture student David Stenroos in the college's new digital computer lab in Taylor Hall. The \$250,000 lab allows students to build and generate computer models of proposed buildings, layering in data that may allow the buildings to take advantage of environmental elements to improve their efficiency after construction. The traditional method of designing different elements of buildings on individual sheets of paper does not allow some efficiencies to be recognized by architects in their drawing process. By maximizing exposure to wind, sun and water runoff patterns, architects of the future can make the design and build process more sustainable and better for the planet.

The two missing ingredients are a realistic, long-term goal that can guide mankind to the equilibrium society and the human will to achieve that goal. Without such a goal and a commitment to it, short-term concerns will generate the exponential growth that drives the world system toward the limits of the earth and ultimate collapse. With that goal and that commitment, mankind would be ready now to begin a controlled, orderly transition from growth to global equilibrium.

"The Club of Rome" Report, 1972



Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87

Jonathan Fleming demonstrates the traditional method used by architects to design buildings.

"For example, can we model a building with a green, live roof that can minimize the impact of water run-off? That run-off impacts the public sewer systems, with each building adding a little bit of strain to that system during a good rain."

Last academic year, Fleming's studio class studied a new city currently under construction in China. As part of the exercise, the class chose several buildings proposed for the brand-new city and evaluated them using sustainability concepts.

Students employed a new, high-tech digital computer lab housed in Taylor Hall to simulate environmental conditions, such as wind, which the proposed buildings would need to withstand in the real world.

Fleming says that the students end the fourth-year studio modeling experience learning a credit system where tweaking small elements of building design — energy use, square footage, carbon emissions and others — can dramatically impact a proposed building's theoretical "green building" score.

"We introduce these design concepts in the fourth year, and really push them forward. Students are amazed to see these results in their modeling, that small changes can result in changes to the whole dynamic of the building," he says.

The academic community has taken notice of the attention the College of Architecture and Environmental Design devotes to developing talented professionals with an eye toward the future of the planet.

"The accreditation board was surprised by the things we are doing," says Sharag-Eldin of the board's most recent visit to the college. "They were impressed by our commitment to the issues."

"We need to find ways to live that are not as impactful on the environment," says Sharag-Eldin. "Perhaps we need to relearn from nature." 

For more information on the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and its sustainability efforts, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.



Jonathan Fleming (at right)



Dr. Adil Sharag-Eldin

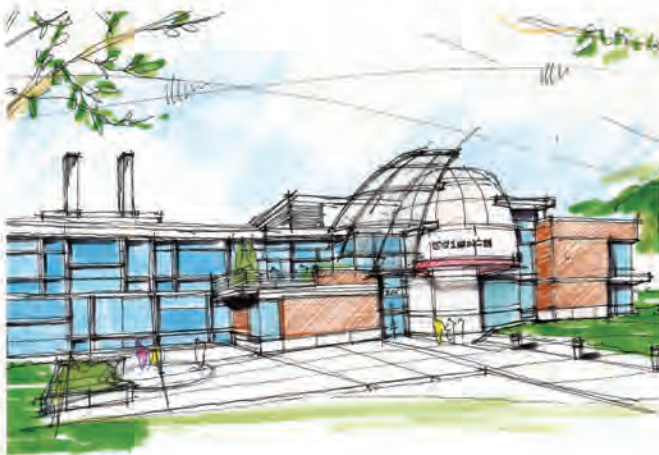
Photos by Jeff Glidden, '87



aim

Clean Sweep

By KIMBERLEY SIRK



Students at the Kent State University Stark Campus who are interested in environmental issues will now be able to take advantage of a new partnership designed to blend science with new media to trigger change on individual and societal levels.

A generous gift from the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation will launch the Herbert W. Hoover Initiative for Environmental Media Activism at the Stark Campus. The initiative, a collaboration between Kent State Stark and the University of Miami (Florida), seeks to develop scholars who both understand science and are able to produce new media that is fair, educational and highly effective in educating the public about environmental challenges. Emerging digital media activism, including Web-based reports, blogs and video allow the two institutions to spread their messages.

Any Kent State Stark student, regardless of major, can participate in the initiative.

Topics under consideration include climate change and its impact on aquatic diversity and bird migration, the impact of local pollution on diversity and the plight of wetlands such as the protected pond area on the Stark Campus.

The \$600,000 gift will allow the campus to support faculty research and courses designed to incorporate environmental themes. The funds also will support an annual project to develop and implement an educational campaign for an environmental issue related to Ohio or Stark County. In addition, an environmental short film/new media festival

Hoover Foundation helps Kent State Stark spread message about environmental stewardship

is under discussion, as well as screenings of well-known environmental films for the campus and larger community.

As part of the project, plans are underway to bring noted environmental experts to the campus to mentor students.

The Hoover Initiative for Environmental Media Activism will be housed in Kent State Stark's new Science Building, scheduled to open in 2010. It is expected that the 35,000-square-foot building will be LEED Gold certified, the highest level of efficiency recognized by government standards.

"We are truly grateful to the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation for this gift," says Stark Campus Dean Dr. **Betsy Bose**. "Protecting the environment is one of our campus's core values. This gift enables us to expand educational opportunities to the citizens of Stark County and supports our existing and proposed majors and degrees."

Herbert W. Hoover was a former chairman of the Hoover Company, which produced vacuum cleaners in North Canton. His daughter, Lacey Hoover, who chairs the foundation named for her father, called him an "industrialist environmentalist," and says that she is gratified that the foundation can provide the funds to further educational goals she knows her father would share. 

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

Online exclusives

Visit www.kent.edu/magazine for related stories.

Going for the Green

Kent State's dining and residence services seek sustainable options.

Digging for Green

Waste audit to aid university's green efforts.



By KIMBERLEY SIRR

Next Generation

Kent State, Battelle Snare Six-Figure Air Force Contract to Develop Next Generation of Fuel Cells

Kent State University will help international science and technology enterprise Battelle commercialize a new generation of advanced fuel cells.

The College of Technology at Kent State will subcontract for Battelle on an 18-month, \$200,000 contract to conduct the development and commercialization phase of the fuel cell project. The overall grant to Battelle for the fuel cell commercialization project totaled \$2 million.

The contract could have numerous applications in the military and commerce. Battelle is the world's largest independent nonprofit research and development organization.

The subcontract calls for Kent State technology experts to work on efforts to commercialize and bring to use a new generation of more efficient sources of power for use in military vehicles, such as troop transporters and tanks. The new fuel cells will allow military equipment to operate more cleanly and quietly in battlefield conditions. In addition, fuel cells make the vehicles lighter and faster.

Fuel cells are smaller, lighter and produce fewer emissions than conventional engines. Unlike batteries, fuel cells can operate continuously as long as a fuel supply is available.

"This group of seven Kent State scientists represents years of expertise in research and development that is optimized by the combination of that talent," says project lead Dr. **Donald Coates**, assistant professor in the College of Technology. "It is gratifying to know that Kent State is 'on the map' when national organizations such as Battelle look to the scientific community to carry out their important work."

Partnering with Coates are Dr. **Yuriy Tolmachev**, assistant professor of chemistry, and, from the College of Technology: Dr. **Darwin Boyd**, '91, assistant

professor; Dr. **Verna Fitzsimmons**, interim dean; Dr. **Michael Czayka**, '02, associate professor, Kent State Ashtabula; and Dr. **Michael Fisch**, director, NEObeam; Outreach Program Manager **William Southards**, graduate student **Mark Prochko** and undergraduate student **Vince Rienze**.



Dr. Donald Coates

Battelle provides innovative solutions to the world's most pressing needs through its four global businesses: Laboratory Management, National Security, Energy Technology and Health and Life Sciences. It advances scientific discovery and application by conducting \$4 billion in global research and development annually through contract research, laboratory management and technology commercialization. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle oversees 20,400 employees in more than 120 locations worldwide, including seven national laboratories which Battelle manages or co-manages for the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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





BY KATELYN LUYSERBORG, KENT STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

Rhyme For All Seasons

Wick Poetry Center Observes 25th Anniversary

Kent State's Wick Poetry Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary with several keystone events this spring. The center will highlight the chapbook competition in February, honor its interns and fellows in March and officially celebrate its anniversary in April. Authors, interns, scholarship winners and assistants will return to Kent State to help instruct and share stories of their lives in literature.

The center will recognize its past and current chapbook winners on **Feb. 26 and 27** with "Honoring Chapbook Authors."

"Chapbook as a Beginning," a panel discussion featuring past winners, will be on Feb. 26 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in Room 306 of the Kent Student Center. The center will honor its most recent winners, Kevin Oberlin and Ted Lardner, with a poetry reading at 3:30 p.m. in the Kiva, and then will recognize its past winners with a poetry reading at 8 p.m. in the Kiva.

"Chapbook as a Beginning" is a panel for past winners to discuss how the chapbook competition is a good way to first publish their work and how it has jump-started their literary careers," says **David Hassler**, program and outreach director for the center. "For many, the chapbook competition really is the beginning."

The chapbook competition is exclusively for Ohio authors and is open to undergraduates, graduate students and any Ohio resident. The competition is broken into two sections, one for students and an open competition. The applicant may

enter a manuscript between 15 and 25 pages of poetry, and one manuscript will be chosen for publication by the Kent State University Press.

"Winning the Wick poetry chapbook contest began for me a process of retrieval of my own voice and experience," says **Katherine Blackbird**, '90, former chapbook winner and creative writing instructor at Kent State. "It was a beginning for me, a permission, an invitation to speak, a way to contain, even embrace the complexity of experience."

On Feb. 27, Mary Weems, a past chapbook winner, will lead a discussion titled "Racism Matters" at 10 a.m. in the Multicultural Center in the Kent Student Center. It will be followed by an open reading at 11:15 a.m., also in the Multicultural Center.

"The chapbook competition is just one aspect of the Wick Poetry Center," says **Maggie Anderson**, director of the center. "We are trying to highlight every aspect of Wick each month for the 25th anniversary."



Photo by Gary Harwood, '83

Maggie Anderson

Throughout the year, the center will host special readings, panel discussions, workshops and community outreach programs to celebrate its anniversary, as well as its regular reading series.

"I'm extremely excited and thankful to come back to Kent and participate in the anniversary activities," says Dan Rzicznek, former chapbook winner. "I feel it's a one-of-a-kind program that brings students, faculty and community together in the spirit of poetry."

The anniversary programs will also reflect founders Robert and Walter Wick's role in laying the groundwork for aspiring writers to pursue their careers. The yearlong anniversary celebration also promotes Kent State's ongoing commitment to engaging scholarship, broadening intellectual and artistic

**Mary Weems**



Members of the Wick family, including Bob Wick, right, show their approval during a reading at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Wick Poetry Program.

perspectives and maintaining a supportive and inclusive learning community.

"Being able to come to Kent State and read the work also helped build my confidence," Rzicznek says. "As I continue down the unpredictable path of poetry, my experiences as a Wick chapbook author serve as invaluable lessons that I still apply on a daily basis."

As a special anniversary treat, the center, along with the Kent State University Press, will publish an anthology of First Book and Chapbook winners since 1992. *The Next Of Us Is About To Be Born: The Wick Poetry Series Anthology / Celebrating 25 Years of the Wick Poetry Center* will be available in March 2009 and features 55 Wick authors.

For more information, follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine.

The Writing Lives Story Project

In conjunction with its 25th anniversary celebration, the Wick Poetry Center announces a new addition to the Web site, The Writing Lives Story Project. This interactive space will provide an opportunity for authors and readers to share their stories of the center. It will detail the lives of different authors and their dedication to creative research, teaching and promoting literary arts in their own communities across the nation and around the globe.

"The project is a way for those to tell their stories about how Wick has helped their careers and education," Hassler says. "It is also a great way for past Wick authors to reconnect with other authors."

For more information about The Writing Lives Story Project and other anniversary events, follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine.

Response on a Cloud Tablet

By F. Daniel Rzicznek

*Dear beauty-faced, waiting listener:
it pleases me to inform you that
I am no longer burning.
Not in the swarming wilderness and not in
the furnaces of the sea.
I have multiplied my leaves, my scales, my hair,
creeping out between every atom like a faint wind,
which is
how I came to witness you pacing alone through the museum, eyes
lowered, whispering to the bluer places of your breath.
I was preparing to shout
when you looked up to the grave eyes of kings,
bowls of fruit like fallen planets,
silent women on sunlit beds.
You must understand I was at that point only a patch of
afternoon shade crouching near the courtyard.
I have left this up to you.
I have now become a pattern
that will play in the back of your eye.
In case you are wondering,
the campaign for reconstruction is humming along like a buzz
saw, starting with the space above mountaintops, improving
things from there all the way down.
If you want to find me,
walk out of your door and down the street.
You will see a child pretending
to cradle a baby against her chest.
I will be the air in her arms
and you will breathe part of me in without trying.*

From Cloud Tablets (2006)



BY KATELYN LUUSTERBORG, KENT STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

Learning at the Speed of Life

Kent State launches new efforts to reach and teach online

Kent State University has been paving the way for nontraditional higher education for quite some time through its distance learning opportunities. It was one of the first Ohio schools to initiate distance learning into its curriculum.

Kent State continues using the newest technologies to teach students and help them learn in new ways. It is using these technologies to distribute enhanced education through the eight-campus system, offering many for-credit and noncredit courses.

"Online higher education is a strategic institutional asset allowing us to reach and teach students locally and globally," says **Deborah Huntsman**, executive director, Office of Continuing and Distance Education.

Undergraduate and graduate opportunities

The College of Nursing on the Kent Campus is diving into distance learning through Kent State's Vista site, a course management tool. It offers courses for undergraduates and graduates.

"My students are, for the most part, practicing professionals, and completing graduate education on their own time is important," says **Dr. Beatrice Turkoski**, assistant professor of nursing. "Many students also feel that not having to drive to campus is a definite benefit, and students from any geographic location are able to take these online courses."

The College of Education, Health and Human Services on the Kent Campus offers many online workshops for education professionals, graduate students and undergraduate students who have a special need for an online class.

"There are many advantages to online learning: convenience, optimum learning opportunities, thoughtful responses, ability to track, interactivity," says **Kathlyn Brown**, director, Professional Development and Outreach. "I have received the most rave reviews about online workshops.

Many students state that they have received the very best professional development that they have ever experienced."

According to Brown, the most popular online classes are Classroom Management; Differentiated Instruction; Students With Learning Disabilities: Who Are They and How Do We Teach Them; Web Animation With Flash; The Culture of Poverty; Managing and Negotiating Conflict; and Grant Writing.

Professional and personal development

The Kent State Tuscarawas Campus also offers a

multitude of noncredit online courses to meet the demands of the workforce through the Office of Continuing Studies and Community Development.

"In past years, the main area of focus has been personal development," says **JoEllen Sanders**, '03, outreach program director, Office of Continuing Studies and Community Development. "However, we have seen the focus grow to encompass business and industry topics. Employers want their staff to take on additional responsibilities and skills, or they are hiring people who need brief refreshers."

Each course runs for six weeks and begins on the third Thursday of each month. Students are given Continuing Education Units, as well as a certificate of completion at the end of each course.

"There are several benefits to taking an online, noncredit course," Sanders says. "First, you have the convenience of taking it wherever and whenever you want."

"It is a way for companies to offer training to their employees without making them leave their offices. It is also great for any person who cannot get away from whatever they are doing to take a course in person at the local campus."

Some of the featured online programs are in the areas of accounting, languages, computer applications, health care, nutrition and fitness, grant writing and nonprofit management, as well as many more.



Deborah Huntsman

Distance learning by the numbers

3.5 million

Approximate number of students taking at least one online course during fall 2006, a nearly 10 percent increase over the number reported the previous year.

9.7

Percent of growth in online enrollments, far exceeding the 1.5 percent growth rate of the overall higher education student population.

20

Percent of all U.S. higher education students taking at least one online course in fall 2006.

83

Percent of institutions with online offerings that expect their online enrollments to increase over the coming year.

96

Percent of the very largest institutions (more than 15,000 total enrollments) with some online offerings, which is more than double the rate observed for the smallest institutions.

According to Sanders, some of the most popular courses are Accounting Fundamentals, Understanding the Human Resource Function, Writing Effective Grant Proposals and Purchasing Fundamentals. The campus also offers online training in Microsoft Office products.

"Continuing education is very important in lifelong learning," Sanders says. "It is important that people stay up on their skills and knowledge either for their current position or for future endeavors."

The Tuscarawas Campus uses Ed2Go, a software tool that allows for class customization. Through this collaboration there are more than 250 course offerings. Kent State's Geauga Campus also offers noncredit, continuing studies online courses through Ed2Go and Gatlin Education Services. Follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine for more information about these programs.

Competitive strategy

Kent State is looking to expand its distance learning programs in order to keep up with the competition. Dr. **Patricia Book**, vice president for regional development, says Kent State continues to enhance its distance learning model and reach out to new audiences.

"Improving student access is a key objective for online courses and degree programs," Book says. "Also, increasing the rate of degree completion is a very important objective."

This new initiative involves a two-pronged strategy focusing on responding to the known market demand segments and providing existing students with flexibility and access to high-demand courses.

Online learning also offers new ways to reach out to nontraditional students.

"The power of online learning is particularly important to adult students who want to access Kent State's quality programs and outstanding faculty but are challenged to find a way to learn at the speed of life in the 21st century," Huntsman says.

Book adds, "Online instruction for nontraditional students is where we see growth in continuing professional education needs, which is also an important objective for our initiative."

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



BY RACHEL WENGER-PELOSI, '00

'New Careers in Nursing'

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation assists nontraditional nursing students

When *Victoria Dorsey* gave birth to her baby in September 2007, she spent quite a bit of time in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Her daughter, who was born prematurely, received loving care from many neonatal nurse practitioners during her stay in the hospital, and Dorsey says that she was impressed.

"As I watched the nurses care for my child, I could visualize myself doing the same kind of work," she says.

Dorsey, 38, who received her bachelor's degree in English and taught English as a Second Language in Germany for a time, soon found herself dreaming about pursuing a career in medicine.

She applied to and was accepted into Kent State's Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Program, a 15-month program for second-degree students who previously earned baccalaureate or advanced degrees in other disciplines and have a desire to enter the nursing profession.

"But, I was still concerned about how I would afford tuition, a computer and books," she says.

When Dorsey checked her e-mail prior to the start of Fall Semester 2008, she was overjoyed to learn that she was the recipient of a \$10,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation scholarship, granted by the foundation through its New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program.

She received the funding thanks to Kent State's College of Nursing being named one of the first institutions in the United States to receive a \$100,000 grant from the foundation. The grant will assist with increasing the number of students enrolling in the university's accelerated nursing program.

New Careers in Nursing is a groundbreaking initiative, launched by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, to alleviate the nation's nursing shortage by expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated programs.

Through the program, scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each will be distributed to 10 entry-level nursing students in Kent State's Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Program during the 2008-09 academic year. Award preference

is given to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The fall 2008 scholarship recipients, *Victoria Dorsey* and *Martin Duru*, students beginning their first semester in the program, are the first to receive the award. An additional eight scholarships will be awarded in January and May 2009.

Kent State's accelerated program is intense, making it difficult for students to work full time outside of their studies, says **Tracey Carlson**, director of the program. "Many of these students need to work to support themselves or their families.

This funding alleviates some of the financial worries to allow students to focus on becoming competent nurses."

Funding is awarded to students based on grant criteria, including that the individual is from a disadvantaged or underrepresented racial or ethnic minority; is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; is admitted to the program; and is committed to pursuing professional licensure through the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The grant also will be used by the college to leverage

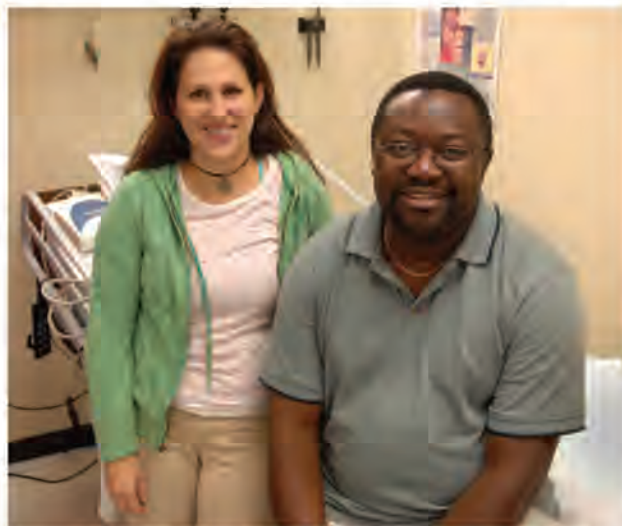
new faculty resources and provide mentoring and leadership development tools ensuring successful program completion by scholarship recipients.

New Careers in Nursing supports accelerated programs, which offer the most efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse for adults who have already completed a baccalaureate or graduate degree in a discipline other than nursing. Although enrollment in these programs has increased over the past few years, many potential students are unable to enroll since already having a college degree disqualifies them for receiving most federal financial aid for entry-level students.

The scholarships address this problem and the overall nursing shortage by enabling hundreds of students to launch their nursing careers through accelerated education.

"Today, as a nurse, the world truly is your oyster. You can specialize in any area that you find interesting, which is very appealing to me," Dorsey says.

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



Victoria Dorsey and Martin Duru

Photo by Bob Christy, '95



Flying High

Kent State Aeronautics Students Earn First Prize at Regional Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference



Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87

Aeronautics students participate in the regional flight competition.

Students in Kent State's Aeronautics Program recently earned first place in the annual Region III Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON), sponsored by the National Intercollegiate Flying Association. The students will go on to represent the region at the national competition at St. Louis University in Illinois in May 2009.

"Kent State has been participating in the competition for more than 20 years. This is the first time the university's students have taken home the top award," says **Timothy Palcho**, professor in the College of Technology and one of the team's coaches. "We're obviously very proud of our students and looking forward to the opportunity to represent Kent State Aeronautics at the national competition."

Kent State's pilots competed against others from Ohio University, The Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati and Western Michigan University.

Students participate in a total of 12 events that are designed to test their skills at maneuvering, navigating and flight planning. Ground events evaluate computer accuracy, cockpit teamwork, preflight aircraft inspection and knowledge of basic aircraft types. The intent is to foster excellence through valuable experience in flight, precision sports and in-depth knowledge in the pursuit of the safest, most competent pilots.

With a combination of flight training, aeronautics courses, use of the university's airport and the largest fleet of university aircraft in Ohio, Kent State's Aeronautics Program is recognized as one of the top flight schools and best university aviation programs in the country by major airlines and the military.

A Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautics is available in five areas of concentration: aeronautical studies, aeronautical systems engineering technology, air traffic control, aviation management and flight technology. Kent State's Aeronautics Program remains the first and only accredited university aviation program in Ohio, the birthplace of aviation.

More information about Kent State's aeronautics program is available at www.kent.edu/magazine.

Cities Growing Smaller

Cities Growing Smaller is the title of a new monograph the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative published last summer. It contains seven articles about the challenges and opportunities facing cities that experience population decline and vacancy. The articles are divided into two groups, with the first three examining the issue from a big picture or strategic perspective, and the last four providing a more local and tactical perspective on the shape of things to come for "shrinking cities."

Published with support from the George Gund Foundation, *Cities Growing Smaller* is the first in a series titled *Urban Infill*. The second volume, *Pop Up City*, is due out in February 2009 and is being produced with further support from the Gund Foundation as well as an additional grant from the Graham Foundation.

Cities Growing Smaller can be accessed at www.kent.edu/magazine.

Online exclusives

Kent State has long been noted as a leader in matters of diversity and inclusion. In 1947, the university hired the state's first African American faculty member at a predominantly white institution. The building named in honor of Dr. Oscar Ritchie, '46, received a major facelift in the last year. Visit www.kent.edu/magazine to find out more about the new home of the Department of Pan-African Studies.



Dr. Oscar Ritchie



BY MIKE ASHCRAFT, KENT STATE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT ASSISTANT

From Trailblazers to Champions

Kent State gymnastics reflects on 50 years

The keys to any relationship reaching its golden anniversary are stability and a fair amount of success. For Kent State University and its gymnastics program, there has been a tremendous amount of both, as the team prepares to celebrate 50 years of competition in January.

Since becoming the first competitive collegiate women's program in the United States in 1959, Kent State's gymnastics team has produced two Olympians, four All-Americans and 10 Mid-American Conference championships.

"Women's gymnastics is not a 'major' sport," says 18-year head coach **Brice Biggin**. "But I think we've had two things that have really helped in our success. Number one is we've had so much success in the past. People want to come to a place where they know that you win. *Rudy [Bachna]*, M.Ed. '63, started that out and gave the team a great reputation. And second, we've had a good administration that has really allowed us to bring in the people that we feel we need to be successful."

Biggin, who was a student-athlete as a men's gymnast at Kent State from 1980 to 1983, has guided the Golden Flashes to the top of the MAC mountain six times, including a title last season. Biggin took over the reins of the Flashes from the pioneers of the program, Rudy and the late *Janet Bachna*, in 1992.

"I've been with Rudy so long," says Biggin. "He's almost been like a second father to me. He gave me a lot of guidance and gave me a lot of freedom to do what I wanted to at times, which really helped me develop some of the way I coach now. I was able to take what he gave me and mold it with what I learned on my own. It's really been an experience being able

to work under him."

The Bachnas came to Kent State in 1959 and established a tradition that is unmatched in Kent State athletics history, compiling a record of 262-103-1 over 28 years.

"There were a lot of good memories," says Bachna, who still serves as an administrative assistant with the program. "We held the first MAC championship for women in Kent, and every time we won a MAC championship was special."

Bachna and his current wife, Lynn, host the gymnastics team at their home about three times a year and have created a family atmosphere that has been key in the program's success.

While anniversaries are a time to reflect, they are also a time to look ahead, and both Biggin and Bachna are hopeful that the program's next 50 years will be as successful and memorable as the first 50.

"It has just continued to grow to new heights," says Biggin. "I'm hoping in 50 years it's going to be right where it has been, only at the level where it's going to continue to get better and better."

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



Rudy and Janet Bachna

Photo by Gary Harwood, '83



Rudy Bachna

BY ANNA RIGGENBACH, '08

Rules To Learn By

Student handbooks provide glimpse into changing social mores

Many things have changed at Kent State over the years. Degree programs have been added, recognitions and honors have been given and buildings have gone up and come down. But some of the less noticeable changes include the rules and social standards that guide student behavior and interactions.

The student handbook given out or purchased every year gives the basic information about Kent State: rules, regulations, tips for freshmen and standards of behavior. A look at past handbooks, called K-books, reveals that many rules and standards have changed with the times, but some are still relevant today. For example, some Tips to Freshmen in the 1933 K-book include: Don't form the "away over the week-end habit" or you'll miss the fun every time; don't be late for classes; get into social life; and read the *Kent Stater*.

Ten years later, in the 1943 K-book, the Tips to Freshmen seem to be focused more on appropriate behavior. Some of these tips include: Holding hands (someone else's) and the like on campus are not considered good taste; and if the professor has not arrived at his class by 10 minutes after the last bell, the students "walk" — (leave the classroom to return at the next meeting). The rules for the same year include: Never step on the seal in front of Prentice Gate; all freshmen must entertain an upperclassman at any time or place within the realm of reason when asked to do so; and all freshmen are required to give their seats to an upperclassman whenever asked.

Hazing of freshmen, which is against the rules today, had its very own set of rules in 1950. Some of those were: Any student of Kent State University other than freshmen may haze the freshman if it is kept mannerly; disobedient freshmen will be punished; freshmen are to give up the right of way to upperclassmen upon entering and leaving buildings; and wearing high school sweaters and letters is not allowed.

Jackie (Battung) Bolander, '58, remembers some of the rules

from when she was a student at Kent State in the 1950s. In those days, students had to dress up for a Sunday dinner in the cafeteria, women were not allowed to wear slacks or pants and were not allowed to have boys past the lobby of the residence hall. They also needed permission from their parents if they were to leave the university for the weekend. The dress code and dorm rules may seem too strict for students to follow now, but Bolander thought the rules then were just strict enough and didn't hinder social activity.

"Looking back today at the coed 'rules,' I don't remember being very unhappy with them," she says. "However, I came from a very loving and supportive but disciplined family. I do know that some coeds felt the rules were too restrictive. As a result there were always students who tried to get around the rules."

Brianna Olesh, a junior advertising major, says some of the rules from the 1940s and '50s are very similar to those found today in high schools. The rules from that era seem more social compared to the rules today, which seem more moral, she says.

"I don't think a lot of the '40s and '50s rules are that horrible," Olesh says. "But the rules today are not as weird or restrictive as some of those rules."

Some specific rules Olesh found unusual were the policy allowing women to smoke only in the dormitory smoking rooms and students not being allowed to have radios in their rooms.

When Bolander's daughters looked at her K-books, they thought the

books were a joke.

"Today people think (the book) is really way out," she says. "But I truly felt it was in our best interest. I still feel it was."

Through the decades, rules and tips for students have evolved and changed with the generations, but students always seem to want more freedom. Trying to get around the rules is something every generation will have in common, with K-books and other handbooks to document exactly what they are trying to avoid.

For more information about Kent State's upcoming Centennial Celebration, follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine.



BY ERIN RINEARSON, KENT STATE ENGLISH MAJOR

Rings of Unity

John Van Alstine, '74, sculpts his way to the Beijing Olympics



Van Alstine with "Rings of Unity — Circles of Inclusion" sculptural proposal.

John Van Alstine, '74, was one of only 50 people chosen worldwide to display his artwork at last year's 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. Van Alstine's "Rings of Unity — Circles of Inclusion," constructed from bronze and stone, stands at 15 feet 6 inches as a symbol of the Olympic athlete's determination.

It seems ironic to Van Alstine that his success in the Olympics came in the form of sculpture.

"I was a championship winter skier and I went to college on a partial skiing scholarship on my way to the Olympics, and here I am, in middle age and I got to the Olympics as a sculptor," he says.

Van Alstine created "Rings of Unity — Circles of Inclusion" as an extension of his previous sculptural series, "Sisyphean Circles," which is based on the journey of the Greek mythological character Sisyphus who is forced to push a large stone up a hill only to be defeated by the rolling of the stone back down the hill.

The single ring formation of the sculpture was created to represent the five Olympic rings of different color that signify the uniting of the five participating countries. The sculpture serves as a self-portrait for Van Alstine signifying his pushing to a creative peak, "finishing a sculpture or project and starting all over again." The three-year project only took one month to assemble once construction began in Beijing.

Van Alstine attributes his success as an artist to his time at Kent State pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture,

ceramics and glass. Graduating cum laude, he took with him a new sense of independence.

"They had just finished the new art building which was pretty special," Van Alstine says. "The sculpture and ceramics were separate from the campus. It was very independent. We had our own little community with sculpture and ceramics so we learned to improvise and that's the kind of thing that pays off."

When recalling memories from Kent State, he remembers *Henry Halem*, Kent State professor emeritus of art.

"Halem was in charge of glass blowing. He was a dynamic and charismatic person, artist and professor, and it was him being in the studio working with the students and his enthusiasm and optimism that got us thinking we could go out and be artists," says Van Alstine.

After attending Kent, Van Alstine moved on to attend Cornell University to complete his master's degree in fine arts in 1976. Van Alstine became a faculty member at the University of Wyoming, and he then taught drawing and sculpture at the University of Maryland. In 1986, he left teaching to move back to his hometown in the Adirondack Mountains of New York to pursue his passion for studio work.

Van Alstine, both an accomplished artist and father of two, is excited about the future.

"I want to be able to continue like I have been for the last 20 years. When I look around to some of my colleagues at Kent State, it's a pretty select few that actually get to live the life I've been living — being an independent artist and calling my own shots," Van Alstine says. "My goal is to keep doing that. I don't see things changing. New projects come my way all the time, and I'm delighted to be able to do them."



Construction of "Rings of Unity — Circles of Inclusion" at the Beijing site.

Photos courtesy of John Van Alstine



Ashley Katona, '06, is the assistant director of communications for Kent State Alumni Relations. She serves as the content administrator for the alumni Web site, online community and alumni section of the *Kent State Magazine*. Katona is also responsible for writing and producing electronic communications, invitations and newsletters. She is very excited to be back at Kent State and is looking forward to working with alumni, students and other members of the Kent State community. **Please send story ideas for alumni communications to Katona at alumni@kent.edu.**

Stanley R. Rozycki, M.A., Jacksonville, Fla., is a World War II POW who moved to America in 1948. Rozycki, a history major, opted for a career in business and spent many years with Federated Department Stores in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Daniel J. Tutolo, B.B.A., Ph.D., Bowling Green, Ohio, is retiring from his work in continuing and extended education at Bowling Green State University.

Dale W. Craig, M.L.S., Willoughby, Ohio, is the library resource manager of the P.K. Smith Research Library of the Lake County Historical Society.

Jim Fiedler, Austin, Texas, is the chair, president and CEO of CeCors. Formerly, Fiedler was president and CEO of Summa Four.

Carole L. (Hurst) Cryslar, West Palm Beach, Fla., is a runway and print model in Palm Beach, Fla.

Raymond H. Wise, Glendale, Calif., is an actor on the television show *Reaper*.

Greg A. Goodyear, San Bernardino, Calif., is the girls' volleyball, basketball and softball coach at Shandin Hill Middle School and has been an eighth grade American history teacher since 1984. **Cynthia A. Kurtzhals**, Fitchburg, Mass., works for Atlantic Union College in public relations and publications.

Robert Gowens, Marietta, Ga., was recently named chief executive officer of Mooney Airplane Company. Gowens has more than 36 years in the recreational marine industry. **Jeffrey Hammond**, Takoma Park, Md., is the author of the book *Small Comforts*, which humorously reviews middle age. **Vic Petrovic**, M.B.A. '74, Ph.D. '06, Canton, Ohio, is the president/owner of Petrovic Enterprises and an industry expert and consultant on the subject of arc-blast protection in the utility field. Petrovic has also developed specialty items for high-temperature asbestos removal. **Kathleen Trafford**, M.A., New Albany,

Alumni Association Annual Member **Life Member**

Ohio, is an attorney for Porter Wright Morris and Arthur's, and is among Ohio's leading General Commercial Litigation attorneys according to Chambers and Partners.

Robert A. Fialat, Sagamore Hills, Ohio, has been appointed to the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. Fialat is superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. He previously served as a supervisor to the Cleveland field office of the Federal Air Marshall Service and the Akron resident agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Carmen J. Leone, Ph.D., Youngstown, Ohio, was honored as the Greater Youngstown Italian Festival's Man of the Year. **Cheryl M. (Cascioli) Petrovic**, Canton, Ohio, is president/owner of Therm-Equip Inc., which is a manufacturer of high-temperature asbestos removal pipe cases and BlastMat arc-flash protection blankets.

Daniel D. Brown, New Waterford, Ohio, recently authored a book titled *A Last Measure of Innocence*.

Beth M. (Vinick) Fitzgibbons, Bay Village, Ohio, has combined her business, Fitzgibbons Interior Design, with Bialosky and Partners Architects.

Susan J. (Kautzman) McCutcheon, M.S.N., Hudson, Ohio, is the

director of family services, women's mental health and military sexual trauma for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. **Michael A. Sicuro**, Los Altos, Calif., is the executive vice president and CFO of US Oncology. Sicuro was previously the senior vice president and CFO at Asyst Technologies.

Terry A. Headlee, Martinsburg, W.Va., a 26-year veteran of the news industry, recently became managing editor at *The Frederick News-Post*.

Anthony Gene Carey, M.A., Boone, N.C., is the vice provost for faculty affairs at Appalachian State University. Carey was formerly a faculty member at Auburn University. **Debra J. (Colaner) Kennedy**, M.Ed. '89, Uniontown, Ohio, is the assistant superintendent for New Philadelphia City Schools. **Patrick R. Liverpool**, DBA, Richmond, Va., has been selected as the interim provost for Fisk University. Liverpool has served on numerous academic and nonacademic boards, as well as academic leadership roles at several universities. Additionally, Liverpool served on the governor of Delaware's Strategic Economic Council. **Philip Robbie**, Jupiter, Fla., previously the architectural group manager in the West Palm Beach office, is now the director of design for all of BRPS's offices.

Rosemary A. Crane, M.B.A., Langhorne, Pa., was recently appointed to the board of directors for Targanta Therapeutics Corporation, bringing with her more than 25 years of therapeutic and consumer drug launch expertise. Crane spent more than two decades at Bristol-Myers Squibb in positions ranging from sales to president U.S. primary care. **Cynthia**



Ronald J. Kovach, M.A., Schererville, Ind., is assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs at Purdue University Calumet and has been elected to the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) Board of Directors.

'80



BY BRITTANY THOMA,
KENT STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

Distinguished — Noted, Eminent, Renowned

The Distinguished Teaching Awards — An intimate look at the recipients

After months of review and careful consideration, the 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award recipients were named. **Irene Gianakos, Kimberly Schimmel** and **Thomas Sosnowski** were bombarded in their classrooms during October with balloons, food for the students and a team of administrators congratulating them.

Beyond the award and the balloons, the three recipients conquered the classroom. Students and faculty alike realized their gift to teach. This is a more intimate look into who the recipients are and why they truly are deserving of the Distinguished Teaching title.

Irene Gianakos **Psychology, Trumbull Campus**

How did you feel when you were selected for the DTA?

IG: I still find it hard to believe that I'm a DTA recipient. Initially, I was baffled. When they told me I'd won, I was quite overwhelmed and speechless. However, my students handled the interruption with much aplomb — they smiled, applauded and immediately turned their attention back to the exam.



Irene Gianakos

What's your motivation to teach?

IG: It's a sincere privilege to hold a position that incorporates the two enthusiasms in my professional life — a love of teaching and a passionate interest in my discipline. But these enthusiasms would quickly diminish if it weren't for the wonderfully diverse and highly motivated students with whom I work. To learn that my former students completed nomination forms on my behalf is among the most meaningful and rewarding events in my teaching career.

What former students are saying about their distinguished teacher:

"She challenged us enough to encourage intellectual growth while keeping a safety net beneath us to catch us should we stumble," says *Barbara Ozimek*, '00, in her nomination letter. "Every student she touches is transformed in the same fashion, and the results must be exponential. What an incredible gift to bestow upon the campus and the local population."

Kimberly Schimmel **Exercise, Leisure and Sport, Kent Campus**

How did you feel when you were selected for the DTA?

KS: When the DTA representatives told my class that I won, the entire class broke out in applause, and I nearly hyperventilated. This is such a meaningful and humbling award. And oh, what it says about Kent State University students — that they appreciate so many of their professors and make the effort to nominate them for the DTA. I applaud the students back.



Kimberly Schimmel

What's your motivation to teach?

KS: My biography connects well with Kent State students. I am a first-generation college student from Appalachia. Rather than ignoring my biography in my role as an instructor, I draw on my own experiences in helping students create different visions for their futures than they might otherwise hold. My intellectual curiosity is entwined with my personal history and identity. And I try to help students develop the same connections between self and learning.

What former students are saying about their distinguished teacher:

"There is no educator more deserving of this award. I have never met a person who was more intelligent and accomplished than she is on their given field of study," says *Jessica Cahoon*, '08. "Yet, having a conversation with her, she never makes you feel any less than her equal. I can best sum it up by saying my life is better for knowing her and having her as a professor."

Thomas Sosnowski **History, Stark Campus**

How did you feel when you were selected for the DTA?

I was, of course, surprised and astonished. I was honored — and even more so that the announcement took place in one of my classes. Students have been the professional focus of my life, and I became speechless (not a familiar trait with me). The students enjoyed the festivities (and especially the

continued on page 31



M. (Mark) Egnotovitch, Charlotte, N.C., has recently been appointed to Manitowoc Company Inc. board of directors. Egnotovitch currently serves as segment president of Nacelles and Interior Systems for Goodrich Corporation. **Lori R. Roberts-Cobbledick**, Marblehead, Ohio, is a writer and illustrator of children's books that include *A Cat Named Kazoo* and *Hairy Scary*.

87 Douglas C. Hart, M.A. '90, M.L.I.S. '06, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is a reference librarian at the main branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

88 Marnie S. (Goldman) Deguire, Concord, Ohio, has worked in health care for 20 years and has co-created a cutting-edge caregiver/parents medical records tracking program. **Bob Miller**, Ph.D., Emmitsburg, Md., has joined the faculty of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., as an associate professor of Old Testament.

89 Gary L. Braehler, Cleveland, Ohio, has joined Wachovia Securities' Cleveland office as vice president-investments. Braehler has 12 years' experience in the financial services industry. He is also active in the community as chairman of the Golden Age Centers Board of Directors, member of the Board of Directors of the Kent State University Foundation and immediate past chair of the Kent State University National Board of Directors. **Shelly L. Pfeffer**, Negley, Ohio, is an assistant professor in the department of public administration at Long Island University in Brooklyn, N.Y.

90 Darlene E. (Schwartz) Finzer, B.B.A. '96, Stone Creek, Ohio, is manager of benefit plan services with Rea and Associates and has passed the final test in a series sponsored by the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries to be certified as a Qualified 401(k) Plan Administrator. **Jeff D. Kaminsky**, M.A., Valley City, N.D., is the head men's basketball coach for Valley City State University.

91 Edna J. (Henderson) Bryner, B.A. '96, Newton Falls, Ohio, is a registered nurse, writer and creative writing instructor. Her work was recently published in *Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Experience of Disability Through Literature and the Fine Arts*.

93 Rich Nero, Hudson, Ohio, is a health care consultant appointed to legislature in Ohio House District 42. **Jennifer J. Porachan**, Cleveland, Ohio, is the director of special events for Executive Arrangements Inc. Porachan brings 14 years of experience in hospitality and special events. She also serves on the board of the International Special Events Society, Cleveland Chapter. **J. Scott Westergren**, Louisville, Ky., is an advertising software product manager for Mediaplex Systems.

94 Richard E. Fabritius, Smyrna, Ga., was elected for a second term to the General Council/Board of Directors of Phi Delta Theta.

95 William C. Billington, M.A.T., Westerville, Ohio, has been named principal of Wallace H. Braden Junior High School. **Megan C. Bright**, South Bend, Ind., is a wraparound facilitator for the CA-PRTF Grant (Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities).

96 Heather L. Freemont, Aurora, Ohio, has a vast background in administration, sales and marketing and has co-created a cutting-edge caregiver/parents medical records tracking program. **Janene M. Zakrajsek**, Los Angeles, Calif., just opened a specialty pet boutique in Los Angeles, Calif.

Come Cheer Your Golden Flashes on to a **MAC Victory**

The Mid-American Conference (MAC) tournament is just around the corner. It's time to sport your favorite Kent State gear and support the Golden Flashes men's and women's basketball teams.

The Kent State Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics will host pre-game celebrations for all tournament games after 5 p.m. at Flannery's in Cleveland; all pre-game activities start at 5 p.m.

If you are planning to attend any of the games at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, please order your tickets from the Kent State athletic ticket office at 330-672-2244. If you can't make it to the men's games, be sure to listen to live Black Squirrel Radio broadcasts online at www.BlackSquirrelRadio.com. Game times will be available when tournament seeding is determined in late February.

For more information, please go to the Kent State Alumni Association Web site at www.ksualumni.org or call 1-888-320-KENT.

Women's Schedule:

Wednesday, March 11, First Round
Friday, March 13, Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 14, Semifinals
Sunday, March 15, Championship

Men's Schedule:

Tuesday, March 10, First Round
Thursday, March 12, Quarterfinals
Friday, March 13, Semifinals
Saturday, March 14, Championship

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97 Brian A. Maciak, J.D., Irving, Texas, was appointed vice president and general counsel for Pinnacle, an international real estate firm, where he will lead the legal, human resources and risk management departments. Maciak was previously vice president-assistant general counsel for Michaels Stores Inc. **Victoria V. Swartz**, Akron, Ohio, was named the assistant principal at Louisville High School. Swartz was previously middle school assistant principal for Barberton City School District.

98 Laura L. Leedy, Astoria, N.Y., is the marketing manager of the East Region for Microsoft Corporation in New York, N.Y.

99 January J. Keaton, Cleveland, Ohio, is an actor in *Girls Night: The Musical*, but started her television career writing news for *CBS19 Action News in Cleveland*. Keaton also co-produced *Good Morning Cleveland*, which won an Emmy award in 2006. **Kristine D. Slam**, Hilliard, Ohio, is the attending surgeon for Mount Carmel Metropolitan Surgery in Columbus, Ohio.

01 Brenda M. Culler, Huron, Ohio, works for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management and aided in the production of the second edition *Ohio Coastal Atlas*, which won the 2008 National Association of Environmental Professionals Education



Excellence Award. **Danielle N. (Russetti) Dachtler**, Brecksville, Ohio, teaches first grade at University School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Dachtler is also a docent at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, where she teaches teachers how to use rock and roll in their classrooms. **James P. Karasek**, M.B.A., Maumee, Ohio, was promoted to chief executive officer of Rescue Mental Health Service in Toledo, Ohio. **Abigail O. Stallkamp**, M.Arch. '02, Pittsburgh, Pa., is part of the professional staff at WTW Architects of Pittsburgh. She is also a member of the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



Shanon M. Larimer, Orlando, Fla., is executive director for the Florida Film Festival and was selected by the *Orlando Business Journal* as one of Central Florida's most successful and influential people under the age of 40.

'00

Robert C. Bacon, Baltimore, Md., is legislative counsel in the U.S. Congress office of Representative Tim Ryan. **Brian D. George**, M.A. '03, Avon Lake, Ohio, works for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal

Management, where he created the maps and graphics in the *Second Edition Ohio Coastal Atlas*, which won the 2008 National Association of Environmental Professionals Education Excellence Award. **Jennifer R. Howard**, Medina, Ohio, is an early intervention specialist for the Medina County MRDD.

'02

Jeffrey A. Beer, M.A., Fort Wayne, Ind., is the head athletic trainer/assistant professor at Manchester College.

'03

Sean F. Gaffney, M.L.I.S., Zephyrhills, Fla., currently works as a senior research analyst for Pricewaterhouse Coopers in the Research and Analytics Group. Gaffney previously held several positions in librarianship and information science at the Archer Daniels Midland Company. **Sana Hasan**, Kent, Ohio, received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and began her internal medicine internship/residency at Akron City Hospital in Akron, Ohio.

'04

Jamie R. Kunkle, M.A., Arlington, Va., is the editorial coordinator for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Washington, D.C. **Tom M. Marini**, M.L.I.S., Brunswick, Ohio, has worked in the libraries at Cleveland Public Schools and Kansas State University. Marini is currently working at the University of Michigan, Ross School of Business library working with faculty and research services. **Shaun E. Roe**, Saint Clairsville, Ohio, received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree and began his family practice internship/residency at Wheeling Hospital in Wheeling, W.V.

Show Your Golden Flash Spirit by Volunteering in Your Community

Kent State Alumni Volunteer Day • Saturday, April 18, 2009

The Kent State Alumni Association is beginning an annual tradition of gathering alumni nationwide to come together and make a difference in their local community. Volunteer projects are planned for Kent, Cleveland, Akron and Canton.

Kent: Habitat for Humanity
Cleveland: City Mission
Akron: Haven of Rest
Canton: Hammer and Nails

If you don't live in one of these areas you can still volunteer in your community by finding a local project and heading out on April 18 to make a difference. Take pictures and send them to the Alumni Association so we can post them on our Web site! Pictures can be e-mailed to alumni@kent.edu.

For complete details on the Kent State Alumni Association's first Volunteer Day effort, as well as how you can get involved, please visit www.ksualumni.org or call 1-888-320-KENT

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The registration deadline is April 1, 2009.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMBER PROFILE

Stephen R. Donaldson, M.A. '71

Stephen R. Donaldson is an American fantasy, science fiction and mystery novelist whose most celebrated series is *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever*. The *Chronicles*, originally published as two trilogies between 1977 and 1983, sold more than 10 million copies. A third series, *The Last Chronicles of Thomas Covenant*, began publication in 2004 with the novel *The Runes of the Earth*. With the second book of that series, *Fatal Revenant*, Donaldson again attained bestseller status when the book reached number 12 on the *New York Times* Bestseller List in October 2007.



Why I attended Kent State University

After my undergraduate degree, Kent State offered me a graduate assistantship. Unfortunately I was drafted as a conscientious objector early in the program, so I took night classes at Kent State while working at Akron City Hospital during the day.

What goals did you have when you attended Kent State ?

I wanted to be a writer and was learning the craft by studying writers like Joseph Conrad, Henry James, George Meredith and Sir Walter Scott, as well as certain poets like Hopkins, Yeats and Shakespeare.

What I liked most about Kent State

I met terrific fellow students who were exciting people to be with. Faculty members were challenging and very well trained. And there was no rigid intellectual culture. At Kent State, you could find people who would back you up on any approach, even if it was not "done" or there was prejudice against it, as long as you used it intelligently.

What Kent State means to me

Professors Bill Hildebrand, Bobby Smith and David Ewbank contributed an enormous amount to my writing, and they were supportive of what I was trying to do. It was okay to be me at Kent State University.

Why I became a lifetime member of Kent's Alumni Association

Kent State played an extremely formative role in my development. I am grateful for the graduate school's open-mindedness, which I do not think I would have found elsewhere. I learned things at Kent State that enabled me to discover myself.

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.


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www.ksualumni.org

EXCELLENCE in Action



BY OLIVIA MIHALIC, '08, AND ELIZABETH SLANINA, M.L.I.S. '07

Gary Trinetti, '76, and Patrick (Rick) Mahoney, '76

Alumni are partners in success — for business, and for the environment

Four and a half years after graduating from Kent State and working at a forest products company, Gary Trinetti, '76, was ready to own his own business. After unsuccessfully negotiating ownership of the company he worked for, he decided to join forces with another '76 Kent State graduate, Patrick (Rick) Mahoney. At the time, Mahoney was working as an independent sales representative, and had offered to assist Trinetti on the sales end.

In 1980, the Garick Corporation (named after both Gary and Rick) was founded.

According to its Web site, Garick is a "leading distributor of natural resource products in the United States and Canada, servicing the landscape, recreation, lawn, garden and construction industries." It takes waste products from the forest product, agricultural and mining industries and puts them back into use.

"There are so many great alternative uses for waste products, such as food waste and cow manure, rather than putting them into landfills or waste streams," Trinetti says. "Our business works to preserve the environment and do great things for the earth."

Today, Garick has more than 30 terminals and ports in the United States and moves more than 400 barges and 600,000 tons of its products per year via water transportation. The Garick Corporation last year joined with the Hendricks Holding Company Inc., utilizing each other's resources to push the companies into the global market. They employ approximately 150 employees year round and more than 200 for seasonal work through the spring and summer.

"We are looking at doing the right thing for the environment and the community, finding appropriate end uses for products," Mahoney says.

Trinetti says the foundation for his and Mahoney's successful business began with a solid education at Kent State from the College of Business Administration.

"Getting a marketing degree from Kent State was a springboard into the industry for me. It taught me the things I needed as I entered the business world, he says.

"The accounting, marketing, managing and economics skills I learned while in school are knowledge I still use in my daily life."

Mahoney says he chose to attend Kent State because of its proximity to Cleveland and major metropolitan markets. He said he knew that he wanted to own his own business when he enrolled in the College of Business Administration and appreciates the preparation he received from the program.

"One of the business classes that you take senior year — I think it was called Business Policies — was a fantastic class. It pulled together all the aspects of business: accounting, logistics, sales, marketing and was a great basis for what you need to know," Mahoney says.

Trinetti and Mahoney met during the summer before their first year at Kent State, when Mahoney worked at the Trinetti family's construction business for the summer.

"We've had a great partnership for 28 years. I think that's what brought us to where we are today," Mahoney says.

Now president and CEO and executive vice president and COO of Garick, respectively, Trinetti and Mahoney have forged their relationship, and their Kent State experiences, into a company that continues to grow in success.

"To this day I look back and think about all those professors who engaged me in the classroom, inspiring and mentoring me," Trinetti says. "The work ethic at Kent State drove us to make Garick what it is today."



Gary Trinetti, '76, and Patrick Mahoney, '76, founders of Garick Corporation, in front of their business in Cleveland, Ohio. Garick is a leading distributor of natural resource products.

Photo by Bob Christy, '95



05

Jennifer A. (Terwilliger) Kessen, North Ridgeville, Ohio, is the art director at *Cleveland Magazine* and was recently named Best Graphic Designer in Ohio by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists.

Jesse C. Lanz, M.L.I.S., Glendale, Calif., is an adult services librarian with Los Angeles County Library at West Covina, Calif.

06

Erin Kinter, M.A., Chardon, Ohio, has begun an internship at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., as the athletic academic advisor and counselor. Previously, Kinter worked as the assistant coach and manager for the Lakeland Community College women's basketball team and assistant coach for the Trinity High School girl's track and field team.

Marie V. Wehenkel, Port Clinton, Ohio, was awarded the graduate school academic year fellowship for the 2009 term from



Carli M. Cichocki, Independence, Ohio, was promoted to account executive for the public relations firm of Edward Howard.

'06

the Graduate School of the University of Kentucky.

07

Richard W. Cline, Tiffin, Ohio, is a councilman in Tiffin.

Britni M. Marinelli, Stow, Ohio, is an administrator for C&J's Tot Spot LLC, and has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who*.

Melody A. Williams, M.L.I.S., Portsmouth, Ohio, is the district librarian for Wheelersburg Local Schools.



Allison M. White, East Liverpool, Ohio, was promoted to account executive for the public relations firm of Edward Howard.

'06

08

Stephanie N. Blackstone, Everett, Pa., captured a national title at the 2008 USBA Summer Biathlon National Championships and World Championship Trials at Whitetail Preserve.

Jamie N. Donne, Imperial, Pa., has joined the Coalition for Christian Outreach.

Ryan D. Patterson, Kent, Ohio, is the K-6 music teacher at Buckeye Local Schools in Medina County, Ohio. Patterson is also the director of music at the Church in Silver Lake, Ohio.

Share your photos with us! The Alumni Association wants to publish photographs of you and other Kent State alumni. If you recently attended a wedding or another event with other alumni, then send us your photos. We welcome all photos but will not be able to publish pictures with just one alum due to the high number of pictures we will receive. Please do not send photos that you wish to have returned. You may e-mail photographs, preferably high-resolution digital images, to alumni@kent.edu. Make sure to include a caption with the names of alumni in the photo and their graduating year.

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donuts and cider) almost as much as I did. I am thankful to the Alumni Association for this honor.

What's your motivation to teach?

TS: From my youth I've been fascinated with historical studies. History, to me, provides an avenue to overcome prejudice and embrace the diversity that is a part of our American and international culture. History makes us understand, and I hope with that understanding we can solve some of the problems the world faces.

What former students are saying about their distinguished teacher:

"My favorite class that first semester was Dr. Sosnowski's Honors History of Civilization I," says *Ryan Bucher*, '03, in his nomination letter. "I never realized how interesting history was. His use of storytelling and his focus on the historical significance revealed how compelling and useful the study of history could be. After my second class I took with Dr. Sosnowski, I decided to declare history as my major."

If you would like to nominate a professor for the Distinguished Teaching Award, please visit the Kent State Alumni Association's Web site at www.ksualumni.org.



Thomas Sosnowski

L I F E M E M B E R S of the Kent State University Alumni Association

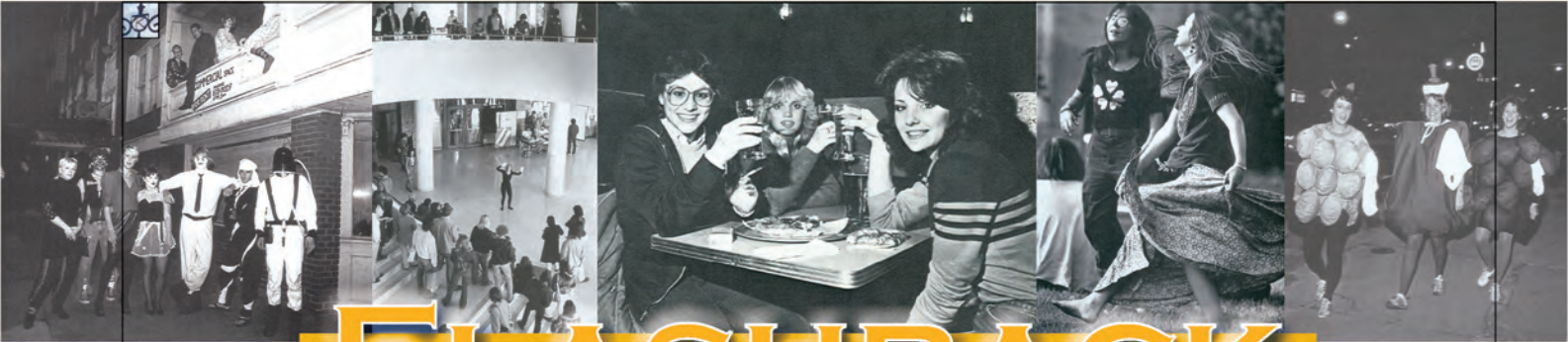
Our life members are the backbone of the Kent State University Alumni Association. Their dedicated support makes it possible to provide important programming and services for a stronger alumni association and university.

If you are a life member, thank you! If you're not, please consider getting involved today and show your support through life membership. For more information on becoming a life member of the alumni association, call 330-672-KENT or toll free at 1-888-320-KENT.

Below is a list of the many dedicated individuals who recently became life members in the Alumni Association. A complete list of life members can be found at www.ksualumni.org/member.

Brian Bagley-Bonner, Burton, Ohio
Judith Bagley-Bonner, Burton, Ohio
Richard Bobcheck, Solon, Ohio
David Coia, Arlington, Va.
Carla Crumley, Solon, Ohio
Joseph Crumley, Solon, Ohio
Cornelius Drugan, Ravenna, Ohio
Kathleen Drugan, Ravenna, Ohio
Chinyere Ekechi, Atlanta, Ga.
F. Fansler, Morgantown, W.Va.
Dale Hartshorn, Akron, Ohio
Gregory Henderson, Livonia, Mich.
Luwanda Higgins, Mogadore, Ohio
Todd Higgins, Mogadore, Ohio
Bonnie Hite, Mayfield Heights, Ohio
William Hite III, Mayfield Heights, Ohio
Jeffrey Ledgerwood, Tampa, Fla.
Lauren Mareno, Castle Rock, Colo.
Jacquelyn Masters, Odenton, Md.
James Mitnik Sr., Colorado Springs, Colo.
Patricia Nordberg, Saint Joseph, Mich.
Shannon Pfahler, APO, AE
Gene Preisse Sr., Bonita Springs, Fla.

Tiffany Ralls, Gahanna, Ohio
Emily Reeves, Westerville, Ohio
Matthew Reeves, Westerville, Ohio
Barbara Reider, Missoula, Mont.
Jennifer Reiserer, North Canton, Ohio
Allen Richardson, Old Greenwich, Conn.
Wayne Rogers, Westlake, Ohio
Jan Rybarczyk, Lorain, Ohio
Larry Schwartz, Rock Hall, Md.
Brian Shore, Locust Valley, N.Y.
Sally Shore, Locust Valley, N.Y.
Sharon Smalling, Lady Lake, Fla.
Gina Stikes-Shoehalter, Stamford, Conn.
Judith Stump, Uniontown, Ohio
Barbara Susi, Mogadore, Ohio
Sandra Tate, Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Michael Toth, Akron, Ohio
Jeffrey Trimble, Hermitage, Pa.
Esther Underwood, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Marion Wesner, Avon Lake, Ohio
Kevin West, J.D., Toledo, Ohio
Robert Wright Jr., Lakeland, Fla.



FLASHBACK

Favorite Kent State Hangouts

When studying didn't consume all hours of your day, where was your favorite place to go with friends and relax? Whether it was the entertainment at the Hub or Kent Student Center, or kicking back with a beer



downtown, there were always fun places on or around campus. Many alumni can agree that some of the best college memories were created hanging out with friends at Kent State University. Share your favorite Kent State hangout by visiting www.ksualumni.org. Then click on "The Hub" and post to the discussion.



ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

EXCELLENCE in Action

Meet Robin Katz.

She discovered a passion for special-collections libraries and archiving while seeking her undergraduate degree in English literature and European cultural studies. Through a highly competitive process, she earned a spot as one of two inaugural Read graduate assistants in the University Library's Special Collections.

Because of Victoria and Gerald Read's visionary gift, Robin is learning valuable skills each day through her hands-on assistantship duties, which she says aren't extracurricular — they're intricately part of her education. She'll be far better prepared, because of this opportunity, to pursue her goal of becoming a leader in the field of rare books and archives.

And she won't have to worry about restricting her future choices by racking up student-loan debt, like many of her peers.

A college degree offers the surest path to success, but it remains out of reach for too many students who seek one. Kent State is working to make an education possible for more students — and scholarships are the key.

Learn how your support can open a door to help tomorrow's students walk through to their future by contacting the Kent State University Foundation today.

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Purchase a black squirrel statue and decorate it for the Kent State Centennial Squirrel contest! Visit www.kent.edu/centennial/squirrel for ordering information and contest details.

Spring 2009 College and Alumni Awards Events

For a complete listing of concerts, lectures, performances, exhibits and other events at Kent State's eight campuses, visit www.kent.edu/ecalendar.

Feb. 13
Varsity K Hall of Fame
330-672-5974

March 7
Greek Alumni Chapter
330-672-8048

April 4
Honors College
330-672-2312

April (tbd)
School of Library and
Information Science
rsmith9@kent.edu

April 18
College of Business Administration and
Graduate School of Management
330-672-1284

Celebration of Diversity and
Awards Dinner
330-672-2442

April 23
College of Arts and Sciences
330-672-2650

May 2
Kent Student Ambassadors
330-672-5368

College of Technology
330-672-2892