

A Publication for Our Alumni and Friends

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KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Cycling for a cure

Assisted exercise shows positive results
for Parkinson's patients

Paralegal Studies

Demand for profession
continues to grow

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



At Kent State University, research is not an ivory tower endeavor. Our researchers are committed to finding real solutions to real problems that affect real people. It's part of our excellence agenda, which is built into everything we do, starting with our mission to make a profound and positive difference for the people of Northeast Ohio — as an educational and cultural resource; as a producer of knowledge that addresses real-world problems, from environmental pollution to the pollution of society by violence; and as a major catalyst for economic growth.

The cover story for this issue of *Kent State Magazine* offers a perfect example of how we translate research excellence into action — literally, in this case.

Dr. Angela Ridgel, a new faculty member in our School of Exercise, Leisure and Sport, recently worked with colleagues at the Cleveland Clinic to discover a way to help people with Parkinson's disease experience improved motor function.

Working with Dr. Jay Alberts, a neuroscientist with the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the Center for Neurological Restoration at the Cleveland Clinic, Ridgel found that these patients benefited greatly from a very simple intervention — “forced,” or assisted, exercise, where they received assistance from a trainer on a tandem bike, for example. This activity gave the central nervous system an extra push beyond its normal capacity, which appears to help mitigate the debilitating effects of Parkinson's.

Ridgel's research also serves as just *one* example of Kent State's unique role in addressing public health issues in the region and beyond. Other examples abound, from our nationally and internationally recognized College of Nursing, to our Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence and the Center for Public Health Preparedness, to our numerous clinical, educational and research partnerships and collaborations with such organizations as the Cleveland Clinic, Summa Health System and the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy.

These and other strategic assets give Kent State the capacity to launch one of the nation's top colleges of public health, a plan with which we are moving full speed ahead. As health and health care remain among the most active and promising clusters of development in the region, the need for public health professionals will only continue to grow. And currently there is only one other accredited public health program in the state, at Ohio State, while most states our size have several.

In keeping with the University System of Ohio strategic plan, this opportunity allows us to strengthen the university and the state by leveraging existing areas of excellence. As we meet this urgent need, we will be preparing students for a wide range of careers, including occupational and environmental health specialists, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, health educators, health program administrators and health policy analysts.

Another burgeoning career opportunity, and another in which Kent State can boast success, is in paralegal studies. Under the leadership of Dr. **Hedi Naseri**, Kent State's bachelor's program in paralegal studies has served as a model nationally for other institutions. Our graduates are employed by some of the most prestigious law firms in the country. And with the headquarters of numerous national and international law firms and corporations based in Akron, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Kent State's location helps position the program for strategic access to the industry. That will continue to pay off for our students, as projections for Ohio's fastest growing occupations place paralegals seventh on the list with a projected growth rate of 58 percent over the next seven years.

In more ways than you can count, Kent State is committed to changing lives and making ideas work. That's what our excellence agenda is all about.

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for a Cycling Cure

BY RACHEL WENGER-PELOSI, '00 PHOTOS BY JEFF GLIDDEN, '87

Assisted exercise shows positive results
for Parkinson's patients

What began in 2003 as a weeklong pedaling excursion across the state of Iowa for biking enthusiast Dr. Jay Alberts ended up as more than just a challenge for his athletic abilities.

Alberts, a neuroscientist with the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the Center for Neurological Restoration at the Cleveland Clinic, was intrigued by some of the comments made by his dear friend, Cathy, during the course of the trip.

Cathy, who is living with Parkinson's disease, shared a tandem bike with Alberts on the 480-mile "Pedaling for Parkinson's" awareness ride. About 200 miles into the trip, both Alberts and Cathy noticed her symptoms disappearing. Notably, Cathy signed a birthday card with flair and legibility, without her eight-year-old tremor.

Alberts then wondered, could exercise — specifically "assisted exercise," in which people are pushed to pedal beyond their normal limits — be therapeutic for Parkinson's disease patients?

The possibility that Cathy's positive strides were related to tandem cycling sparked Alberts' interest further, and he decided to repeat the bike ride exercise in 2006.

This time around, Alberts' biking partner was a Parkinson's patient who had been using deep brain stimulation, a surgically implanted, battery-operated medical device called a neurostimulator (similar to a heart pacemaker) to manage his symptoms, including rigidity, stiffness and tremors. For Alberts' study, the patient turned off his stimulator, got on the tandem bike and went off with Alberts on a five-mile journey. Alberts says that when the pair took a break, his partner grabbed a doughnut, held it in his hand and asked, "Where did my tremor go?"

"We got back on the bike and finished the ride for the day. The patient went four hours without having to turn on the stimulator and was fine," Alberts says.





A tandem try

"We started asking ourselves, 'What are the differences between a Parkinson's disease patient riding his or her own bike, and riding a tandem with an able-bodied cyclist?'" says Alberts.

The question spurred his interest in exercise research for Parkinson's disease, with a focus on the paradigm of "forced exercise." The term is used mostly in animal research; it describes the process of requiring the animal to exercise at a rate faster than what it would voluntarily accomplish.

One of the theories behind the tandem intervention is that the patient, with the help of a trainer, is forced to pedal at a rate greater than his or her voluntary rate. Alberts looked further into the idea of driving a patient's central nervous system beyond its normal capacity. The forced exercise might change or lead to other biochemical changes that underlie improvements in motor function.

About 50,000 Americans per year are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, according to the National Institutes of Health. Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder of the central nervous system that often impairs motor skills, speech and other functions. The disease belongs to a group of conditions called movement disorders and is characterized by muscle rigidity, tremor, slowing physical movement and, in extreme cases, a total loss of physical movement.

"Everyone knows that people feel better with exercise," says Dr. **Angela Ridgel**, an assistant professor in exercise science in Kent State University's School of Exercise, Leisure and Sport. "Studies have had Parkinson's patients riding a bike or walking on a treadmill, but the disease causes the joints to get stiff, and once participants stop exercising, the benefits reaped are minimal."

Ridgel, who began teaching at Kent State in fall 2008, previously spent five years working at Case Western Reserve University and two years at the Cleveland Clinic as a post-doctoral fellow in Alberts' laboratory. Her previous areas of study focused around neurosciences, anatomy and motor control. She says she also spent the last eight years as a tri-athlete and has a personal interest in studying the effects of exercise on the central nervous system.

Previously, she used a model she developed from earlier research on the central nervous systems of insects to look at spinal cord injury and how injuries and/or diseases affect the nervous system.



Brad Hoover follows instructions for a test intended to measure hand tremors both before and after forced exercise routines.

“Basically, you can change how the nervous system works in the absence of a normal circuitry,” she says. “Parkinson’s occurs when there is the disruption of normal neurons because some neurons die within the circuit.

“The ability to transmit signals down the neuron road is disrupted or there is some sort of road block, which causes the slowness of movement and tremor in the hands and legs,” she says.

Typically, the brain sends signals to the various muscles in the body, and then there is a feedback loop, which tells the brain what the muscles are doing, Ridgel says. Once lost, the central nervous system neurons — seated deep within the brain structure — do not grow back. Once a person loses those neurons, they are gone.

Ridgel says that what the research has uncovered is how the body might initiate neuron changes — or what is called neuroplasticity — in the absence of those cells. The forced exercise helps the central nervous system neurons modify activity.

In a research study currently in press, Alberts and Ridgel discuss how forced, not voluntary, exercise improves motor function in Parkinson’s disease patients. The study will be published in the 2009 *Journal of Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*.

Ridgel explains that the study was a randomized trial in which there were two groups, a total of 10 people, ages 35

to 75, who are living with different stages of Parkinson’s disease and have varying fitness levels. Participants were invited to join the study through Parkinson’s support groups or by suggestion of their physician.

Patients came to the Cleveland Clinic for eight weeks, three times a week for 40 minutes in 2007. One of the groups received the forced exercise, or assistance from a trainer on the tandem bike; the other group of participants exercised voluntarily (i.e., on their own).

Ridgel explains that while a competitive cyclist like Lance Armstrong might pedal his bike at 90 to 100 revolutions per minute, the average cyclist pedals about 80 revolutions, and a Parkinson’s patient, in contrast, about 60 revolutions per minute.

The slowness of the movement caused by Parkinson’s hinders a patient’s ability to exercise rapidly, Ridgel says.

“One of the problems with the tandem bike is that you need a strong trainer to exercise the patients,” she says. “Some of the study participants were in decent shape, but some needed more assistance. The trainer ended up doing about 75 percent of the work, and the patient completed about 25 percent.”

After completing the forced exercise, the patients were then moved to MRI testing so the researchers could view any changes to the brain. The MRI results revealed an increase in brain function similar to that caused by L-dopa



Dr. Angela Ridgel consults with Parkinson's study participant Brad Hoover during a motorized exercise biking routine in her laboratory in the Gym Annex.

or Levodopa, the most common drug used to alleviate symptoms of Parkinson's disease, particularly tremor, rigidity and slow movements, Alberts says.

Four weeks following the exercise, participants were brought back into the lab for post-testing. The first positive change the researchers found was that aerobic fitness levels in both groups improved. In addition, patients in the forced, or tandem bike, group displayed improved motor function, especially in the hands and the arms, but there was no improvement in the motor function of the voluntary group.

Ridgel adds that the researchers also conducted a short-term study, where participants came into the lab for a single session of tandem biking. The participants underwent an MRI on the day of the biking activity and then returned for study on a day when they didn't participate in exercise.

"Participants in the one-time forced exercise study exhibited a 35 to 40 percent improvement that seemed to last beyond the day of the exercise," she says. "That is why we are continuing with the short-term study."

Ridgel is setting up a lab in Kent State's Gym Annex, home of the School of Exercise, Leisure and Sport, to continue the study. She also has recently purchased a motorized exercise bike from a company in Germany.

"We didn't use a motorized bike before, because none of them went fast enough," she says.

Then Ridgel discussed the need for a faster bike with the company, and they were able to reprogram the machine to go 90 revolutions per minute. She will utilize the bike for her upcoming research, which will extend the short-term study into summer 2009.

"Despite all of the results we have from this study, we don't understand the mechanism that is providing us with this greater motor effect," Ridgel says. She hopes the current study will identify the optimal pedaling rate for Parkinson's patients to achieve the best results.

"Is 85 revolutions per minute optimal? It might not be. Maybe 90 revolutions per minute is the best speed," she says.

To date, the best theory she has as to why forced exercise has such a positive impact on patients is that, even though the participants aren't using a lot of their own energy to create muscle activity, the central nervous system neurons are being pushed to become active.

"The beauty of the exercise is that it works on everyone, because everyone has sensory neurons," Ridgel says.

No-frills treatment

Alberts says that one of the reasons he is so intrigued by the forced exercise research is because it is a relatively simple intervention that seems to reap great benefits.

"It doesn't require a lot of fancy equipment or medications. There are side effects to medication, and as patients take medications, their effectiveness tends to decrease over time," he explains.

Deep brain stimulation also presents risks, Alberts says, because of the surgical implantation of the electrodes and potential side effects of the treatment.

"We're not seeing any negative effects with this forced exercise intervention," he says. "We all know that exercise is good for you, and if we can improve brain function too, that's pretty exciting."

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

Paralegal Studies

Prepares Students for the Global Legal Market

Demand for profession continues to grow



Dr. Hedi Nasheri, director of Kent State's paralegal studies program

Until the late 1970s, the practice of law was largely local in nature. But like most professional fields, the practice has expanded to global proportions, with transnational law firms growing in number and importance to the legal community and world economy. This growth, most of which has occurred since the 1980s, has translated into tremendous job opportunities for paralegals.

Small wonder, then, that the paralegal program at Kent State University continues to grow in popularity and prestige. The program has enjoyed steady enrollment growth as the paralegal job market remains very strong nationally and in Northeast Ohio. In addition, the program attracts international students, as well as foreign lawyers who hope to expand their legal training to the U.S. legal system.

Dr. Hedi Nasheri, professor of justice studies and director of the paralegal studies program at Kent State, says the university has served as a model nationally for other institutions with paralegal programs. In 2001, before Kent State began offering a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies, Nasheri was elected director of Baccalaureate Degree Programs on the national Board of Directors for the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE). The AAfPE is the only national organization and policy-making body in the United States that sets policies and standards for paralegal education. In that role, Nasheri advised all member institutions with four-year degree programs in paralegal studies across the nation on a wide range of issues, from creation of programs to curriculum. In 2007 Nasheri became president of AAfPE.

The four-year American Bar Association-approved degree program in paralegal studies began at Kent State in fall 2002. Paralegal studies had been offered here as a minor and a post-



Mark Tepsich, '06, practiced as a paralegal prior to law school. He is now completing his third year at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and is also a law clerk for RMS Management Company in Cleveland.



David Herman, '03, practiced as a paralegal prior to attending law school. He is now a practicing attorney with Nurenberg, Paris, Heller & McCarthy Co., L.P.A., in Cleveland.



Amanda Klonowski, '05, practiced as a paralegal prior to joining Jones Day's real estate practice in Cleveland.

Members of the Northeast Ohio legal community will be invited to attend a special gathering hosted by Kent State's paralegal program in May. Watch your mail or call 330-672-2775 for details.

PHOTOS BY GARY HARWOOD, '83

baccalaureate certificate since 1991, until the idea of a four-year major (in addition to the pre-existing programs) was proposed in 1998 by a team of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Approval of Paralegal Education Programs, following a program review.

Kent State's graduates have been employed by some of the most prestigious national and international law firms in the country.

Nasheri says, "At Kent State, we focus on ways to direct the development of paralegal education so that our graduates are able to perform a significant role in delivering legal services in a global market.

"The legal field is moving toward requiring a four-year degree for paralegals, and there is high demand for skilled paralegals with four-year degrees regardless of economic conditions."

A transnational law firm is one that has offices in multiple countries, specializing in providing counsel on foreign law and cross-border litigation and business. The majority of the practitioners of international and transnational legal services are in large commercial firms, with American and British firms in the forefront of this area. For example, when the Iron Curtain fell in the Soviet bloc in the early 1990s, U.S. and London law firms rushed into the region. First they offered their services to the governments and helped to write foreign investment and commercial laws that were widely perceived as business-friendly. Then they opened offices to advise Western investors about how best to work within the structures they had created. Almost overnight, those firms both created enormous opportunities for themselves and pushed the boundaries of globalization past yet another frontier. Not surprisingly, the

law departments of large multinational companies — such as IBM, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, 3M, Weir Group PLC, Microsoft Corp., General Motors Corp., Lockheed Martin Corp., the Dow Chemical, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and many others — have also been leaders in pushing the globalization of the law business.

Kent State's location helps position its paralegal program for strategic access to the industry. With the headquarters of numerous major national and international law firms and corporations — such as Jones Day; Squire, Sanders & Dempsey; Baker Hostetler; Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs; Brouse McDowell, Thompson Hine; Calfée, Halter & Griswold; General Electric Co.; Eaton and Westinghouse, to name just a few — based in Akron, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Nasheri says proximity alone provides Kent State graduates with excellent internship and job opportunities.

"Labor force projections for Ohio's fastest growing occupations show that paralegals are seventh on the list with a projected growth rate of 58 percent over the next seven years," she says.

The professional relationships between students and the legal community are the most valuable asset, Nasheri adds. Most students develop those relationships through the program's internship requirements, which help them make connections in the real-world setting and later find jobs in prestigious law firms, businesses and government entities.

The goal for Kent State's paralegal program, as for others across the globe, is to prepare paralegals to perform a significant role in the delivery of global legal services, Nasheri says.

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



Jennifer Himmelein, '04, practiced as a paralegal prior to attending law school. She is now a practicing attorney in the civil litigation section of Cavitch, Familo, Durkin & Frutkin, L.P.A., in Cleveland.



Becky Rickelman, '05, is now an Ohio State Bar Association Certified paralegal, practicing in the Public Securities and Public Finance Law Section at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, L.L.C., in Cleveland.



Adam Jutte, '03, practiced as a paralegal prior to law school and is now a prosecuting attorney in the tax foreclosure unit of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office in Cleveland.



Summer Reading Slump

Research shows preventive steps can save children from summer reading loss

After months of enduring the freezing temperatures and piles of snow brought on by Old Man Winter, most of us welcome the sights and smells of summertime — especially children. The top reasons to love the sunshine include, but certainly aren't limited to, lazy days lounging poolside; cherry popsicles and lemonade; bike rides and walks in the park. But the number one reason to adore summer? The three-month school hiatus.

While children and parents alike relish the lackadaisical activities that hazy summer days bring, parents may not be as enthusiastic to learn that the reading skills gained by their child during the previous school year are all too easily lost during the break.

Dr. Timothy Rasinski, professor of literacy education in the College and Graduate School of Education, Health and Human Services, says that the research shows that elementary school-age children can lose an upward of three months' worth of reading progress during summer break, which can mean, for this age group, a loss of one-and-a-half years of reading achievement through the sixth grade.

"But the opposite can also happen," Rasinski notes. "With the correct support, children can reverse this and can increase reading achievement significantly by one-and-a-half years. For a struggling student, helping them during this time can result in remarkably positive changes."

Summer reading loss — which refers to the decline in children's reading development that can occur during summer vacation times when children are not in the classroom and are not participating in formal literacy

programs — affects students' reading achievement, according to "Summer Reading Loss," an article published in the journal *The Reading Teacher*.

"Summer Reading Loss" was co-authored by Rasinski, editor of the "Issues and Trends in Literacy" column in *The Reading Teacher* and Dr. Maryann Mraz, '02, associate professor of reading and elementary education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

When reviewing the reading achievement research, Rasinski says that there are studies that support the connection between students' socioeconomic status and their reading ability.

"Children of families that have a low socioeconomic status appear to be more likely to have difficulty with reading because the kids often don't have as easy access to reading materials or because the parents are holding down two jobs," he says. "Economic factors may or may not make reading a priority, which is a concern."

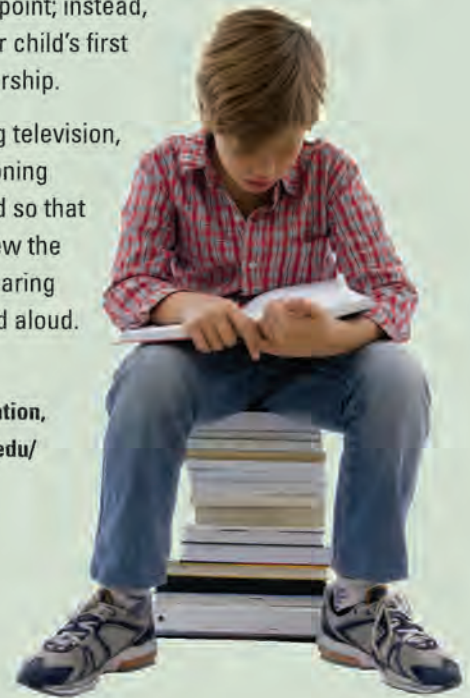
In terms of summer reading loss statistics for high-income versus low-income students, questions still remain about the extent to which summer reading loss contributes to this proficiency gap and what parents and educators can do to lessen its impact.

In "Summer Reading Loss," Rasinski and Mraz call attention to a study — representing approximately 40,000 students — which found, on average, the reading proficiency levels of students from low-income families declined over the summer months while the reading proficiency levels of students from middle-income families improved modestly.

Literacy tips for early readers

- Point out print in the child's environment: on cereal boxes, food labels, toys, restaurants and traffic signs.
- Sing songs, say short poems or nursery rhymes and play rhyming words games with your child.
- Tell stories to your child.
- Read aloud to your child. Point to the words on the page as you read.
- Read a short passage several times to your child until your child can read it with you. Then encourage your child to read the passage to you.
- Encourage older children to read with younger children.
- Encourage your child to read (or pretend to read) to you. Make this reading enjoyable. Don't worry if your child does not read all of the words correctly; instead, applaud your child's efforts to read.
- Go to the library together.
- Have books, magazines and newspapers around the house. Let your child see you reading.
- Encourage your child to write things such as grocery lists, to-do lists, postcards or short messages to family members or friends. Don't worry about conventional spelling at this point; instead, encourage your child's first efforts at authorship.
- When watching television, have the captioning feature enabled so that the children view the words while hearing them performed aloud.

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



The study also discusses the reading achievement gains of Title I reading programs and found that reading gains were significantly higher from fall to spring, when students were enrolled in school reading classes, but that they were lower from spring to fall, when the summer months, in which students were not participating in school reading programs, were considered.

Access to reading materials has been consistently identified as a vital element in enhancing the reading development of children, the study explains. And it goes on to explain that of all the extracurricular activities in which children engage, time spent reading is the best predictor of reading achievement — the more students read, the better readers they become.

Summer Reading Solutions

Rasinski says that one of the solutions to summer reading loss is to get reading materials into kids' hands and to have schools motivate students to read during the summer, whether it's through an incentive program or by keeping school library doors open.

"And in lower socioeconomic areas, schools should conduct greater outreach to families less likely to come to the library so that they feel more welcome," he says.

The support of additional community agencies, including utilizing churches or city recreation departments to bring reading materials to children, can also increase literacy efforts, Rasinski says.

At Kent State, Rasinski leads a group of graduate students annually in conducting a six-week literacy program, which allows his students to work with area elementary school-aged children six hours per week for six weeks, with the goal of improving reading skills and advancing their reading level.

Local elementary teachers recommend students for the program and it becomes a win-win situation, Rasinski says, with the school receiving additional help for students in need, and teachers receiving extra training in the areas of reading and literacy.

The program also includes a home component, with parents encouraged to work with their children on reading skills, even if it's only to follow up for 15 minutes a day, he says.

"Too many students have neither of these during the summer months," he adds.

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

Reconstructing history



Khmer Rouge textbooks laden with genocide propaganda



(Left):
*Mug shots of prisoners tortured
and executed at Tuol Sleng,
formerly a Cambodian high school.*

(Below):
*Workers constructing a dam in
Democratic Kampuchea, Cambodia.*

BY ANNA RIGGENBACH, '08

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE
DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CAMBODIA

Imagine 100 of your family and friends. Now imagine 25 of them dying within a four-year period due to starvation, disease or execution.

Such heartbreak and injustice are what many Cambodians experienced during the genocide in their country from 1975 to 1979, when two million people — 25 to 30 percent of the population — died under the Khmer Rouge regime.

The Khmer Rouge sought to construct a new order in Cambodia. Part of that effort involved manipulating the educational system to present the nation's "history" in terms favorable to its cause. Dr. **James Tyner**, a professor in Kent State's Department of Geography, is aware of three extant textbooks written by the Khmer Rouge for use in its new school system. One is a math textbook, and the other two are geography texts — one about physical geography and one on political geography. His work in acquiring the texts and having them translated is part of his research with the Cambodian Justice Project.

Dr. **John West**, Kent State vice president for research, provided funding for the Cambodian Justice Project. The translations will be a follow-up to Tyner's book *The Killing of Cambodia: Geography, Genocide and the Unmaking of Space*, which was published in 2008. Gaining the textbooks and translations is just the beginning of the project for Tyner. He says he would also like to interview survivors from the genocide to get a better sense of how they might have used the texts.

"These textbooks are one more piece of evidence to bring those responsible to justice," Tyner says.



Tools used for torture and murder at Tuol Sleng.



"The textbooks were used to justify ongoing atrocities and killings."

Tyrner originally learned about the Cambodian textbooks through the Documentation Center of Cambodia, the primary archive for documents related to genocide in Cambodia. The site includes transcripts, interviews and photos. The center granted Tyner access to the books, and he found a genocide survivor in Boston to translate them.

the development on the surface was outstanding. The country seemed to be moving forward, but he wondered about the people.

"What is being remembered and learned from the genocide?" he asks. The younger generation doesn't fully understand what happened, and some citizens are even denying that it took place. Tyner also wonders how the genocide is being taught in the schools there today.

One of the classes Tyner has taught at Kent State looks at control and regulation of space to discipline people — a tactic often seen in genocide and war. Looking at the space manipulation and Cambodia together was a convergence of interests for Tyner.

"It is remarkable to see how the society has responded in the aftermath of decades of genocide," he says.

Through work on the Cambodian Justice Project, Tyner would like to link Kent State scholars with Cambodian individuals and serve as a liaison to open doors to facilitate research in Cambodia.

Tyner also hopes that translating the Khmer Rouge textbooks will help him and other researchers better understand what the group was trying to accomplish.

"It is important to see the practices that led to the genocide and better understand their motivations to see similar processes around the world," he says. "No one has been brought to justice yet in this genocide."

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



Skulls with blindfolds in a mass grave at Choeung Ek, Cambodia.

Tyner says having a genocide survivor translate the textbooks is important because the Khmer Rouge used language permeated with propaganda, slogans and jargon, which may not make sense to someone who had not experienced the events firsthand. Tyner needed someone familiar with and able to read past the propaganda.

"It is remarkable that millions of people were suffering and dying, and the Khmer Rouge was producing these textbooks," Tyner says.

Tyner was captivated by Cambodia after his first trip in 2001 and has returned five times. During his initial visit, it was common to see demolished buildings and streets in disrepair, he says. In 2005, when he revisited Cambodia,

BY RUTH A. McCULLAGH, '02, '06

Success of Radiologic Technology Program

Jan Gibson brings student success into focus

Jan Gibson, senior program director of the Kent State University Salem Campus' radiologic technology program, was named Technologist of the Year by the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists last April. The award is presented to those who have served on numerous committees and who have held many board positions. Gibson also gave the keynote speech for the honors banquet.

Gibson works in Salem and surrounding areas in many capacities for the Tri-County Society of Radiologic Technologists. She currently coordinates annual continuing education seminars for area technologists at Kent State University and is a speaker on many topics both locally and at the state level.

Gibson, whose involvement in radiologic technology spans three decades, says the award means a great deal to her because of her years of experience and because she was nominated by fellow technologists.

"This award is so prestigious because you are nominated and chosen by your peers," Gibson says. "This is why it's such an honor. Being chosen by the society means a great deal to me."

Gibson began her career at Trumbull Memorial Hospital in Warren, where she graduated from the school of radiologic technology in 1974. She worked as a staff technologist at Trumbull Memorial Hospital from 1974 to 1977. She was promoted to program director of the Trumbull Memorial Program in 1977 and continued in that capacity until 1995.

She then accepted the position of program director at Kent State Salem's radiologic technology program. Gibson currently serves as senior program director of the associate degree of radiologic technology and the Bachelor of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Technology.

"Because of Jan's efforts, the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Technology Program has grown over the years," says Dr. Jeffrey Nolte, Salem Campus dean. "Through the associate degree program and the bachelor's degree program, we give our students not only more education, but also more degree choices."

Gibson was instrumental in expanding Kent State's radiologic technology program at the Salem Campus. Kent State Salem is the only campus in the Kent State University system where students can earn a bachelor's degree in radiologic and imaging sciences. Students can earn an



Photo by Bob Christy, '95

Senior Program Director Jan Gibson oversees the Kent State University Salem Campus' radiologic technology program. Last April, Gibson earned the Technologist of the Year Award from the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists at the group's Educational Seminar.

associate degree in radiologic technology and follow it with a bachelor's degree in one of five concentrations: computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, diagnostic medical sonography, nuclear medicine or radiation therapy.

In addition to her commitment to the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technology, Gibson is a member of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and served as an Ohio affiliate delegate from 2003 to 2005. She is also a member of the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences and has served on various committees.

She received an associate degree in general studies from Kent State University in 1978 and a Bachelor of Science in technical education from the University of Akron in 1981. She completed a Master of Education in health education and promotion in 2001 at Kent State University.

Gibson gives willingly and tirelessly to her program, students and professional organizations. She has been a model to professional commitment. When asked, Gibson says her greatest reward is the success of her students.

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



By MATTHEW LOFTON, KENT STATE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOS BY ANDY EICHER

A Class for the Ages

Senior grapplers boast record-setting careers



Jermail Porter

Numbers do not lie: 454-259, a .637 winning percentage, six national tournament berths and two 100-match winners. Not bad for Wrestling Head Coach **Jim Andrassy**'s first recruiting class. And not bad for 2008 MAC Coach of the Year Andrassy either.

"It was an unranked class, and they were all Ohio kids who didn't sign national letters of intent early because I wasn't hired as a coach during the early signing period," Andrassy remembers.

"They all bought into the program, and, five years later, this is why the program is having the success we are having," he says.

This year, Kent State will have the unique opportunity of bidding farewell to a six-member senior class that has led the program from obscurity to national prominence.

Anchoring this year's class (literally and figuratively) was 285-pound heavyweight *Jermail Porter* (Akron, Ohio/Hoban). Although he never wrestled until high school, Porter placed second at the Ohio High School State Championships as a senior heavyweight, but was not highly recruited.

Porter wanted to be part of the resurgence of a program, so he chose Kent State. "I liked how the program was up and coming under Jimmy. It was his second year here, and I was a part of his first recruiting class. I wanted to try something new and help a program build from the ground up," he says.

Porter became only the seventh Kent State wrestler to achieve the century mark in wins for their career and ended the season as MAC Wrestler of the Year with a spot in the NCAA Wrestling Championships.

Note: Kent State Magazine went to press just before the NCAA Wrestling Championships. Visit www.kentstatesports.com for the final season stats and more stories about this program.

Drew Lashaway (Bowling Green, Ohio) at 141 pounds and Eric Chine (Austintown, Ohio/Austintown Fitch) at 197 pounds also helped bring acclaim to the team and the university.

Lashaway was not highly recruited out of high school, but interest quickly picked up when he claimed Eastwood's first state championship in school history. There from the start, before the state championship, was Andrassy and Kent State.

The big wins for Lashaway do not stop there. Currently ranked 11th in the country, Lashaway joined his teammates in the NCAA wrestling championships.

Eric Chine not only got his first appearance at the NCAA wrestling tournaments this year, but also etched his name in Kent State wrestling history by becoming the eighth grappler to reach 100 wins in his career.

This might never have happened if Chine had pursued his plans to play football after high school. Enter Andrassy and his vision for a winning program.

"Honestly, I didn't know much about the program. I came out here for a visit, and the campus was awesome. I liked the campus and I liked Coach Andrassy, so I gave it a shot," Chine says.

Senior Clint Sponseller (Glenmont, Ohio/Millersburg West Holmes) at 149 pounds came to the Flashes via the Air Force, but Sponseller always had Kent State on his radar. Battling injuries this season, Sponseller wrestled to a 9-13 record to improve to 73-52 in his career.

Michael Blackwell (Beachwood, Ohio/Beachwood) also did not have the final season he was hoping for, battling eligibility issues and wrestling to an 11-4 record in open tournaments and improving his overall record of 46-34. Blackwell nearly made the NCAA tournament his junior season, wrestling to a 25-12 record as a starter at 197 pounds.

"I was proud to come here from the start. Personally, being here five years was great, and I am proud to be a part of this program. The guys who have been here five years are like brothers to me," Blackwell says.

During his Kent State career, Clayton Stark (Westlake, Ohio/Lakewood St. Edward) competed in three different weight classes. His impact will be felt for years to come as he was the first member of the 2004-05 freshman class.

"Coming out of high school, I wasn't sure where I wanted to go. Jimmy really came after me and gave me everything I really wanted here," Stark says. "Ever since I got here, we have always been getting better. When I got here, we were never ranked."

Despite an injury his senior year, Stark wrestled to a 4-3 record this season and a critical fourth place finish at 149



*Eric Chine (top, left)
Drew Lashaway (bottom, right)*

pounds at the Body Bar Tournament, helping the Golden Flashes finish second as a team.

With all of the team's success, Andrassy hopes that years from now, people will view this class as the one that changed Kent State wrestling.

"When we look back, we'll remember these guys as the ones who came in and changed Kent State wrestling as far as how we do things, how we train and the mentality here. You need self-control and discipline, and I think all six of these guys have that," he says.

"It also shows that it doesn't matter where you come from," Andrassy says. "What matters is how hard you work when you're here."

A History of Kent State

In fins, feathers and fur

Kent State's Centennial Celebration kicks off this fall at Homecoming on Oct. 10. While many people know the particulars of how Kent State was founded as a normal school and one of the "four corner" institutions in the state, not everyone knows the story of how a school of fish came to play a big role in the founding of what is now the third largest university in Ohio.

Equally intriguing are the stories about how Kent State's mascot evolved from a silver fox to a Golden Flash (what *is* a "golden flash," anyhow?) and why the Kent Campus is overrun with those lovely but occasionally annoying black squirrels.

Let's all thank the bluegill

By Katelyn Luysterborg,
 Kent State public relations student



Students, faculty and staff have fish to thank for making Kent State University a reality.

On Sept. 27, 1910, five state commissioners came to evaluate the 53-acre farm of William S. Kent, son of the town's namesake Marvin Kent, as the location for a northeastern Ohio normal college.

Everything that could go wrong did. The wires of communication got crossed, and the reception committee of the Kent Board of Trade was waiting at the wrong place to meet the state commissioners. When everyone finally reconnected, the committee members boasted about the magnificent view from the summit. Unfortunately, there was a dense fog, and the commissioners couldn't see anything.

The commissioners were supposed to be on their way to inspect another site in Ravenna, but the committee promised them a hot meal at the Merrill home in Twin Lakes, which was on the way to Ravenna. The commissioners enjoyed a leisurely lunch of fried chicken and bluegill, freshly plucked from the lake. After lunch, the hosts invited the commissioners onto the porch for cigars and cider and charmed them with all the reasons Kent should be the site of the new school.

What is now known as the Bluegill Dinner allowed the new Normal School to be founded in Kent in 1910 and named after William S. Kent, who donated his farm to the school. In 1915, Kent State Normal School

became Kent State College after it was authorized to issue Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees along with its Bachelor of Science in education degrees. It was granted university status in 1935 by Ohio Governor Martin L. Davey, a Kent native, and officially became known as Kent State University.

For more information on Kent State's history, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.

"Flash" helps celebrate 100 years of school spirit

By Erin Rinearson,
 Kent State public relations student

Dressed in blue and gold and showing school spirit with a smile, Kent State's mascot "Flash" has been a crowd pleaser since 1994. With his ongoing ability to excite crowds and promote athletic awareness, Flash has become part of the Kent State family. This good-humored golden eagle earned his place in our hearts after surpassing a series of Kent State mascots beginning in 1920.

When Kent State Normal School was named Kent State College in 1915, school colors and a mascot were suddenly in high demand. Originally, the athletic teams were dressed in orange and purple. After a laundry mishap with the men's basketball team uniforms, the colors faded and were changed to blue and gold.

John McGilvrey, first president of the university, established the first school mascot. McGilvrey raised silver foxes on his farm, so the athletic teams were called the silver foxes with what else — a silver fox as the mascot in 1920. The silver fox reigned proudly for six years.

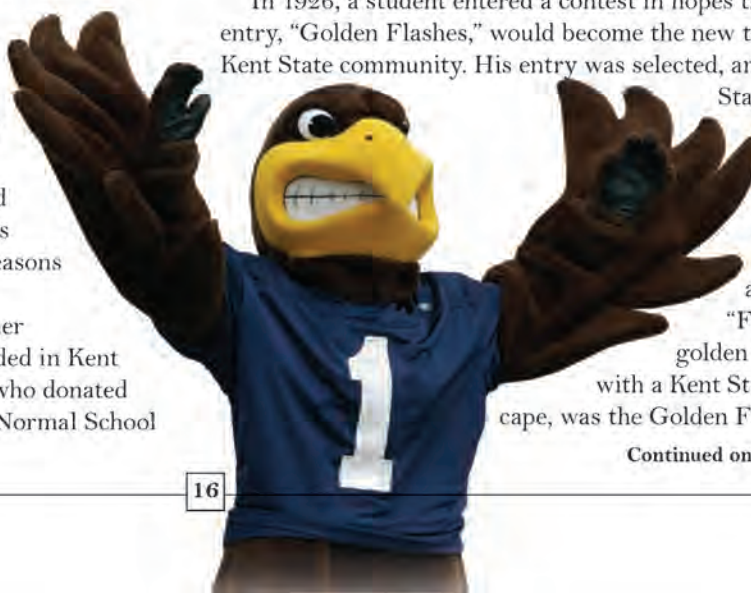
In 1926, a student entered a contest in hopes that his entry, "Golden Flashes," would become the new title for the Kent State community. His entry was selected, and all Kent

State students thereafter became "Golden Flashes."

For a time, "Flasher," a

golden retriever

with a Kent State branded cape, was the Golden Flashes'



Continued on page 25

Alumni Association Member Profile



*Carl Walz, '77
Director for Advanced Capabilities, NASA*

Carl Walz is the director of advanced capabilities at NASA Headquarters' Exploration Systems Mission Directorate in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for a broad range of research and technology activities. He also served as an astronaut and is a veteran of four space flights, logging a total of 231 days in space. Prior to NASA, Carl was a flight test engineer and manager at the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from Kent State University and a master's degree in physics from John Carroll University.

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Why Kent State

It is a large university with a small university feel. It has a great reputation and offered a range of excellent programs from the arts and sciences to technology. I also was interested in the Air Force ROTC program.

Kent State person who influenced you

Dr. Gelerinter, one of my physics professors. I worked in his laboratory for a semester, preparing and measuring liquid crystal samples. This experience gave me the necessary research skills and set me apart from others in graduate school and during my first job with the Air Force working as a research scientist.

Something most people don't know about me

I sang and played keyboard in a band called the Fabulous Blue Moons in high school and college. I continued my musical career in Houston playing with the astronaut band Max Q.

Most significant life accomplishment

My training for and flight on the International Space Station. It was an investment of five years of my life to prepare for and conduct the mission. It was a grand adventure to live off planet Earth for six-and-a-half months. Also, I was there from the beginning, helping in ground testing of the initial modules, to building and maintaining it in orbit, to conducting early scientific research.

Why I joined the Alumni Association

To remain part of the university and its future growth. To assist in positioning Kent State as a great university for the state of Ohio, and the nation as a whole.

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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CLASS NOTES

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 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.

56 Leland Knauf, M.Ed. '57, was awarded the Christofferson-Fawcett award for lifetime contribution to mathematics education at the annual meeting of the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

57 Billy H. Dreyer, M.B.A. '65, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, became a 28-gallon donor at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium blood drive.

58 Jack Burke, B.S. '58, Avon Lake, Ohio, was recently appointed chair of St. John West Shore Hospital. Burke was formerly senior vice president of Ferris Baker Watts, LLC, a division of the Royal Bank of Canada. He also serves as the trustee/chair of the board for the Kidney Foundation of Ohio and is trustee and investment committee member of the West Shore Osteopathic Foundation. **William B. Nemoyten**, M.Ed. '58, Hayward, Calif., retired in the early 1990s after a long career of teaching music, running community arts organizations and serving six years as a synagogue administrator in San Mateo. Nemoyten now collects horns and teaches people about them and how to play them.

59 'Nobby' Lewandowski, Medina, Ohio, was chosen by the Ohio Society of CPAs as one of "Ohio's Most Influential CPAs" and will be profiled in *Catalyst Magazine*.



Tom, '48, and Doris, M.A. '70, Kot celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 15, 2008. They celebrated with family members who also attended Kent State.

Back row – left to right: Laura (Kot) Mangum, M.A. '08; Valerie Bauer, '05; Tom Kot, '48; Flash; Doris Kot, M.A. '70; Julia Bauer, '01; Chris Bauer, '04; and Melissa Meggitt M.A. '05.

Front row – left to right: Jennifer (Heupel) Swartz, M.A. '05; Nancy (Cordier) Bauer, M.A. '95; Luella (Heupel) Cordier, '45; and Barbara (Kot) Bauer, '75.

61 William F. Miller, Mentor, Ohio, was inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame. Miller spent more than four decades as a reporter, columnist and associate editor at the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*. He also received the German Service Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Medal of Honor Cross from the government of Poland for fostering friendly relations between Poland and Germany.

62 Ruth R. Aster, Chesterland, Ohio, owns Ferdl Aster Ski Shop.

63 Ellen M. Kuster, M.A., Barrington, R.I., was a writer for newspapers and magazines and recently completed her first novel.

66 Carol S. (Sumilas) Boshears, Rochester, N.Y., owns an antiques/collectibles shop and also had the lead article in the *Antique Trader* newspaper. **Larry O. Rosche**, Kent, Ohio, was honored with the Cardinal Award for Conservation by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for making outstanding contributions to the protection and enjoyment of the state's natural resources. Rosche, a retired math teacher, is an active member of the American Butterfly Association, Ohio Odonata Society and the American Field Ornithologists. He also received the Ohio Biological Survey's Naturalist Award.

68 William P. Buchanan, M.P.A., Wichita, Kan., is currently the Sedgwick County, Kansas, manager.

69 Marion L. Mazzeella, M.Ed., Canton, Ohio, is a retired teacher from Canton City Schools and is serving her second two-year term as president of the Beta Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma sorority for women educators. **Brian M. Toll**, Solon, Ohio, celebrated his 30th anniversary with Merrill Lynch.

70 Donald Shiesl, Wasilla, Ala., was appointed to the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors by Governor Sarah Palin. Shiesl was previously the public works director for Matanuska-Susitna Borough, as well as for the city of Wasilla. He was the public works superintendent for the municipality of Anchorage. Shiesl also serves on the board of directors for several companies.

71 Sandra W. (Werth) Harbrecht, Columbus, Ohio, was appointed to the board of directors of the Davey Tree Expert Company. Harbrecht is the president of Paul Werth Associates, a Columbus-based public relations/marketing firm. She is also the immediate past chair of the Kent State University Board of Trustees and serves on the Dean's Advisory Council for the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University. She is a trustee of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation of the Columbus Foundation and a former board member of the Columbus Museum of Art, Easter Seals, the Columbus Chamber and Columbus' Center of Science and Industry. **Dave Herbert**, J.D., Canton, Ohio, recently had an article in *Fitness Management*. Herbert was also recently appointed to the NSF International Joint Committee for Health/Fitness Facilities, served as legal counsel to the American College of Sports Medicine and has authored several books. **Wayne G. Rogers**, M.S., '73, Westlake, Ohio, published his first book *Confused About All Those Studies? Then Study This*, which is a comparative research work. **Heather Stark**, Woodinville, Wash., is a radio broadcaster and news bureau reporter for Westwood One. Stark published a book, *Why Doesn't She Just Leave? Real Women, Real Stories*.



BY KIMBERLEY SISK
PHOTOS BY BOB CHRISTY, '95

Cultivating Relationships

Alumni team up to support local agriculture

Chef *Michael Fiala* counts himself among the fortunate. He blends his passion with his vocation. Fiala, a 1996 Kent State graduate with a degree in biology, left the area after graduation to attend one of the most prestigious culinary programs in the country, the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

He says that because he was slightly older than most of the future chefs in his classes, he was able to focus more clearly on his singular goal of becoming an executive chef at a well-regarded restaurant.

After stints in Miami and in the Finger Lakes region of New York, Fiala began to blaze a trail through the culinary scene on Cleveland's East Side. He created meals at Moxie in Beachwood and Fire on Shaker Square before becoming executive chef at the Inn at Turner's Mill in Hudson.

While at Fire, Fiala noticed that an urban agriculture and farmer's market program, known as the North Union Farmer's Market, set up shop on Shaker Square each summer weekend across from the restaurant. At the farmers' stands, Fiala discovered a treasure trove of fresh local products and noticed how the local food tasted so much better than most grocery store produce. The farmers shared similar passions: Not only did they strive to make their goods delicious and available to those who might not frequent countryside farm stands, but they also wanted to make their practice of agriculture sustainable.

On the strength of that experience, Fiala became convinced of the wisdom of sustainable local agriculture.

Fiala was able to maintain and continue relationships with some of those farmers during his days at the Inn at Turner's Mill.

Just three years after Fiala began leading the Inn's kitchen, the owners decided to close the destination dining spot with only a few weeks' notice.

The closing and sudden unemployment gave Fiala time to reconsider his options and consider the path his life would take. Once again, his Kent State experience served as a centering point.



Michael Fiala plates an appetizer course at a recent event.

National parks and local farms

"I had this biology degree, and I was interested in the work of the National Park," says the longtime Kent resident. "I figured that I could become a naturalist or botanist because of my science background, and I loved working with kids," he recalls.

And again, happenstance — and good connections — intervened.

"Two people within a day of each other e-mailed me the job announcement for executive chef here at the National Park Association," Fiala recalls.

In March of 2008, Fiala became the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association's first executive chef.

Founded as the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in 1974, it gained National Park status in 2000. The Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy is a nonprofit organization

that strives to promote sustainable farming within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) through its Countryside Initiative.

The CVNP, through a federal bidding process, assigns interested farmers to existing farmsteads in the park. In 2008, seven families farmed in the park. Their products ran the gamut, from berries and vegetables to flowers and goats. Ideally, 20 working farms will one day operate within the park's boundaries.



Daniel Greenfield and Fiala inspect the harvest at the Greenfield Berry Farm.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs help make the bounty of the national park land available to local families. A CSA offers “shares” for sale in their farm’s output. A share provides a family of four with a basket of fresh produce each week during the growing season.

The Countryside Conservancy also holds two farmers’ market programs during the summer months. Both markets feature produce and other locally produced food, including products provided by farmers within the national park.

The nonprofit arm of the CVNP is the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association. Its goal is to bring the public into the parks for recreation and educational opportunities. This is accomplished, in part, through the programming of the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC), which houses, among other things, Fiala’s kitchen.

It is through the auspices of the CVEEC that Fiala both educates and feeds park visitors with the wisdom of supporting local agriculture.

Where in the world did your dinner come from?

It is clear from a first meeting with Fiala that he is in his element in a kitchen within a park. Although he has worked at more elaborate facilities, Fiala feels called to bring sustainable agriculture and conservation programs to visitors and his staff of six.

“When I started, we had what could be considered about half a compost pile. Now, we have four,” Fiala says.

Through part staff education and part environmental education, Fiala teaches employees and diners that green wastes, such as fruit and vegetable peels, go into a heap that will not only save landfill space, but also provide rich organic matter to condition soil.

His goal is to reduce his kitchen’s waste to nothing.

According to the Countryside Conservancy, where and how America’s food is produced has seen a radical shift over the past 50 years. Currently, huge farms produce about 98 percent of the nation’s food. The benefits of that method are a food supply that is predictable, abundant, convenient and inexpensive. The costs of that type of agriculture are largely distasteful: think of hard, waxy tomatoes; loss of farmland; potentially harmful chemicals in our air, water and land; and poor labor conditions for farm workers.

The conservancy seeks to change the equation of food being produced, distributed and consumed globally, then handed down nationally and locally, to the exact opposite: local farms producing goods for local needs first.

That’s why, says Fiala, people need to foster relationships with the people who produce local food whenever possible.

Fiala’s first foray into local produce came in June, when he worked with *Daniel Greenfield*, ’05, of Greenfield’s Berry Farm, to provide strawberries straight from the field.

Greenfield, who holds a doctorate in cultural foundations in education from Kent State, was enthusiastic about the prospect of working with a chef who espouses the same principles he supports.



Fiala's seal of approval.

"I believe in the idea that we as humans should have a relationship with a piece of land," Greenfield says. "We need to have relationships with each other — farmer and consumer. The practice of farming is all about cultivating relationships."

Greenfield's Berry Farm produces various berries, fingerling potatoes and other produce in its own Community Supported Agriculture program. Fiala purchased a share in Greenfield's CSA last growing season, and used that produce in the CVEEC kitchen. While his share is not enough to feed an entire group of diners, Fiala was able to use the output of the CSA to experiment with recipes and to educate his staff on the preparation of local food so fresh, it sometimes still had dew on the leaves.

The berry farm also hosts what has become a popular summertime ritual, even before local farming awareness was raised — families coming together for berry-picking.

On one sultry early June afternoon, as Fiala walked the fields with an eye toward an upcoming event, groups of children — some led by teachers, others by their parents — roamed the rows of ready-to-pick strawberries.



Young consumers learning about local food production.

As the groups completed their survey of the berry patch and filed toward their cars, they handed cash directly to Greenfield.

No middle-men involved.

Progress, one row at a time

Fiala believes that, while his overall aspiration to use only local foods in his kitchen may take some time to realize, a more short-term series of reachable goals is possible.



Local produce — and art.

Lisa Battista, '84, is Fiala's supervisor at the CVEEC. Her charge is to operate the park's Extraordinary Spaces program, which, as she says, "provides top-quality and memorable life experiences in a gorgeous National Park setting." Because of Fiala's dedication to local food and the park's pristine beauty, hiring him has been integral to creating that experience for park visitors.

"In keeping with other education centers nationwide, our organization is committed to promoting sustainability in food service and production, defined by fresh, local ingredients," Battista says.



Greenfield Berry Farm.

"Chef Fiala was hired largely due to his reputation as a top local chef with the interest and ability to produce wonderful meals using seasonal and, when possible, local ingredients."

Fiala believes that relationships with farmers like Greenfield allow him to learn more about how the food was produced.

Today, Fiala says, so many people have been swayed to the value of local farming that some farmers attend four farmers' markets on Saturdays. Many more markets could spring up if only there were enough farmers to populate them.

"Relationships become very important," Fiala says. Trendiness may fade, but local agriculture is taking root, he adds.

Looking back, Fiala says the kitchen has come a long way toward the goal of using locally sourced food and asking the right questions about how that food was raised and prepared.

"When I started here, we had a standard institutional freezer which contained standard institutional food," Fiala says. "Now, we might still serve breaded chicken,

but we locally source whatever we can and bread the cutlets by hand.

"We might not necessarily get all we need from within the National Park's boundaries, but we do get the vast majority from within the Cuyahoga Valley watershed," Fiala says.

In all, the CVEEC feeds hundreds of participants a year, from school groups and camps to business meetings and small conferences.

Fiala tells the story of one gathering, a group of park superintendents from around the country, including a special guest from Italy.

"During the morning, they had toured Goatfeathers, another farm within the park. They saw the goats peacefully grazing," Fiala shares. "When my turn to present to the group came, I told them about the menu I had planned for the evening, which included roasted goat!"

The level of connection to the dinner, Fiala says, surprised some of the guests.

"There was a groan from the group. I told them the roasts were not the same goats they saw that morning," he says with a wide grin.

In 2009, he hopes to add other local suppliers for items such as pastas.

He adds that once people taste the difference, they can appreciate the effort. A trip to a local farm, such as to sample Greenfield's berries, or fresh greens from the Basket of Life Farm, underscores the lessons.

"I want to be able to ask a farmer who produces chickens, 'How were those chickens raised? How were they treated and what were they fed?'" Fiala says. "That's the connection I as a chef want to have with the farmers who supply my kitchen."

For more information, including an exclusive photo essay featuring local farms and the Environmental Education Center, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.



Linda K. Cortesi, North Canton, Ohio, is Wal-Mart's teacher of the year for the Akron, Ohio, area. Cortesi has been teaching for 28 years. **David J. Higgins**, Ph.D., Springfield, Ohio, is a licensed psychologist in Springfield, Ohio and is the executive director of the Mental Health, Drug, and Alcohol Services Board of Logan and Champaign counties. **Morm Weisthal**, Beachwood, Ohio, has been a flight attendant for 23 years and, prior to that, he was in broadcast news. Weisthal has also been a substitute teacher for 18 years for Cleveland Municipal Schools.

Larry Fischer, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is principal and co-founder of the Cleveland-based Perspectus Architecture, which was recently named to *Inside Business* magazine's Weatherhead 100, recognizing the top 100 fastest growing companies in Northeast Ohio. Fischer has focused mainly on health care design and has received board certification from the American College of Healthcare Architects. **Carter E. Strang**, J.D., Cleveland, Ohio, is a partner with Tucker Ellis and West LLP and has been named president-elect of the Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter. Strang is serving his second year as chair of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's 3R's Committee and is chair of the CMBA's newly created Green Initiative Committee.

Joseph M. Kullman, M.A. '76, Phoenix, Ariz., is the senior media relations officer for the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering at Arizona State University.

Charles A. Gougler, Marina, Calif., has been named marketing manager for Staco Energy Products Company where he has been employed for five years. **Barbara E. Hines**, Jersey City, N.J., is employed at the Employee Assistance Program Office at Hoboken University Medical Center.

William C. Ayars, Bay Village, Ohio, is principal and co-founder of the Cleveland-based Perspectus Architecture which was recently named to *Inside Business* magazine's Weatherhead 100, recognizing the top 100 fastest growing companies in Northeast Ohio. Ayars has focused mainly on health care design and has received board certification from the American College of Healthcare Architects. **Michael J. Celebrezze**, Milford, Ohio, is the interim chief financial officer for LCA-Vision Inc. where he was formerly the senior vice president of finance and treasurer. Celebrezze formerly served as CFO for Cincinnati-based First Transit Inc. **Kurt R. Oehlberg**, Basking Ridge, N.J., has been named managing director in FBR Capital Market's Energy and Natural Resource group. Prior employment was with Rothschild Inc. and Chase Securities, focusing on mining and natural resource sectors. **Camille A. (Rupert) Remus**, Franklin, Mass., has been appointed vice president and business line assurance compliance manager in Citizens Bank's Regulatory Risk and Compliance Management department. **Cheryl L. Thompson-Stacy**, M.B.A. '93, M.Ed. '82, Melfa, Va., has been appointed the new president of Lord Fairfax Community College, a multicampus institution.

Steven H. Begleiter, Missoula, Mont., is the author of several photography books, the latest being *50 Lighting Setups for Portrait Photographers*.

Allen Buckley, J.D., Mableton, Ga., is running for Senate. Buckley is a licensed attorney, certified public accountant and has authored more than 20 employee benefits and tax professional articles.

Lorraine A. (Sims) Overstreet, Elkridge, Md., joins Ameritox as senior vice president of marketing and new product development. Overstreet's past employers include Bausch



Faith (Finnicum) Barbato, '93, East Canton, Ohio, was recently promoted to regional vice president of the Great Lakes Market.

Barbato with members of her graduating class and sorority, Alpha Phi. From left to right: Susan (Hopkins) Hutton, Kerri (Goodhart) Rodich, Faith, Shannon (Zorn) Hyde and Pam Vincek.

and Lomb, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Warner Lambert, Schering Plough and most recently PinnacleCare. **Elisa R. (Kimball) Schleigh**, Port Richey, Fla., accepted the position of Early Reading First Mentor for the Committee of Academic Excellence in Tampa, Fla. **Kevin E. Yarasheski**, Ph.D., '86, Saint Louis, Mo., has worked in the area of mass spectrometry, stable isotopes and imaging techniques to better understand what goes wrong with the biochemical processes that regulate metabolism, body composition and cardiovascular function in people with HIV. This led him to research at Washington University in St. Louis in understanding the molecular reasons why HIV causes muscle wasting.

Thom Boughton, Kernersville, N.C., retired from his position of air traffic controller with the Federal Aviation Administration. Boughton has been involved in the aviation industry for 34 years and has received 14 commendations. **Deborah S. Delisle**, M.Ed., Dublin, Ohio, is superintendent of public instruction for the Ohio State Board of Education. Delisle was previously the superintendent for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. **Lucia S. Janoch**, Broadview Heights, Ohio, was promoted to vice president at Key Bank. **Mark Oleksiak**, San Diego, Calif., received the Army Meritorious Service Medal upon completion of his tour as product manager, Network Systems for the Army Future Combat Systems program, and will retire from active duty. Oleksiak has accepted the position of director of Navy Terrestrial Satellite Systems with LinQuest Corporation.

Desire M. Dell, B.S.N. '06, Ashtabula, Ohio, is an assistant head nurse for the clinical decision unit and pediatrics at Ashtabula County Medical Center, and has been chosen as a 2008 recipient of the Cleveland Clinic Nursing Hall of Fame Award.

Anne B. (Barnhardt) Hendershott, Ph.D., Milford, Conn., is professor of urban affairs at the King's College in New York City and is the author of several books, her latest being *Status Envy*. **Maureen B. (Caldwell) Pearce**, Eureka, Mo., is a retail buyer for Dillard Department Stores.

Kent State University homecoming

Oct. 10, 2009



Mark your calendars!

Homecoming 2009 is Saturday, Oct. 10.

Join us for this special Homecoming as Kent State kicks off its year of Centennial Celebration! Special events and activities are planned for our 100th anniversary. It's the perfect time for alumni, family and friends to revisit your favorite campus destinations, gather with friends and enjoy many different activities on campus.

Visit www.ksualumni.org/homecoming for more information as the date draws closer.

KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.ksualumni.org

Continued from page 16

mascot. He was followed in 1966 by a friendly cartoon character, "Grog." With hopes of getting back to school roots, the "Golden Flasher," a golden palomino horse with a rider attired in blue and gold, took over in 1972. The following year the name and figure changed to the "Golden Flash." This character was a masked figure holding fierce lighting bolts in each hand.

After the long series of changes, the golden eagle soared in to represent Kent State in 1985. A live eagle made appearances at many Kent State athletic events and came to symbolize school spirit and pride. Then in 1994, joining the live eagle was "Flash," the current mascot.

Flash can be seen at all major athletic events, supporting 100 years of school spirit.

To learn more, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.



Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87

Kent State University's official mascot may be the Golden Flash, but an unofficial bushy-tailed mascot scurries up trees and scuttles across the Kent Campus on a daily basis. Squirrels may be small, but their presence on campus is large. Reminders of their prominence in the community are everywhere: the stuffed animals in the University Bookstore, the annual Black Squirrel Festival, the award-winning student-run Black Squirrel Radio, a Black Squirrel Gallery downtown and the Black Squirrel Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, to name just a few. Where did they come from? "Ten rare black squirrels were imported from Canada in February 1961 by Larry Woodell, superintendent of grounds, and M. W. Staples, a retired executive of the Davey Tree Expert Company. When first released, the large, black-spiked squirrels were frequently mistaken for skunks." (*A Book of Memories: Kent State University 1910-1992*, Kent State University Press, page 258)

Buy a commemorative Centennial Black Squirrel at www.kent.edu/centennial.

BY PAMELA R. ANDERSON, A.A. '89, M.A. '94

Exploring "The Land"

Stephen R. Donaldson, M.A. '71, finds success as a fantasy writer

For a time that he could only measure in heartbeats, *Covenant* hung in the darkness. The red, impaling light was the only fixed point in a universe that seemed to seethe around him. He felt that he might behold a massive moving of heaven and earth, if only he knew where to look; but the blackness and the hot red beam on his forehead prevented him from turning away, and he had to let the currents that swirled around him pass unseen.

So begins Thomas Covenant's fateful awakening in *Lord Foul's Bane*, the first book in Stephen R. Donaldson's acclaimed epic fantasy series *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever*.

When the first two trilogies in *The Chronicles* were published between 1977 and 1983, Donaldson, M.A. '71, did not know that more than two decades would pass before he would write and publish books seven and eight. With a ninth volume scheduled for publication late in 2010, Donaldson has spent much of his adult life stepping into (and out of) a place known simply as "The Land."

The Land has special healing powers; however, it and its people are perilously close to being destroyed by Lord Foul, the Despiser. Transported inexplicably into this tumultuous place and time is anti-hero Thomas Covenant: leper, pariah, unbeliever. Covenant's white-gold wedding band is the source for wild magic in The Land, and it earns him undeserved awe and respect. But it also places him in the position of unwilling savior for this magical place, a position he rejects and fears. His constant grappling between hope and despair is a backdrop to the series.

Donaldson created *Covenant* from memories of his own childhood in India, where his father, a medical missionary, worked extensively with lepers in the hospital where he practiced orthopedics. The lepers often were shunned by other people in their communities, and Donaldson remembers feeling similarly isolated when he returned to the United States at age 16. It was the 1960s, and U.S. citizens were struggling with issues that included the Vietnam War, exploding drug culture, changing musical influences, problems with segregation and integration, and much more. Making *Covenant* a leper was one way that

Donaldson could express his own culture shock and feelings of alienation from that time in his life.

Although those feelings powerfully shaped his writing, Donaldson notes that Kent State University was equally (albeit more positively) transformative when it came to achieving his goal of becoming a writer. He studied some of the great writers — Joseph Conrad, Henry James, George Meredith, Sir Walter Scott, Shakespeare, and others — while honing his craft at Kent State. He recalls that the University's English department faculty members — particularly professors *David Ewbank*, *Bobby Smith* and *William Hildebrand*, along with *Howard Vincent*, who was a Melville scholar and Kent State's first university professor — supported and encouraged him. Fellow students were equally accepting, and he says today that there were virtually no barriers to exploring intellectual ideas. The open-minded attitudes on the Kent Campus allowed him to find himself. Former Kent State English professor and longtime friend, Dr. David Ewbank, remembers Donaldson as "a conspicuously bright and creative student. I did not realize, when he was a student of mine, that he would become a famous author, read and



Stephen R. Donaldson

Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87

loved by people around the world — but I am not surprised. Even as a young man, Steve displayed remarkable talent and exceptional promise," he says.

Donaldson came to Kent State after earning his bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster; however, midway through his master's program, he was drafted as a conscientious objector and had to take night classes while working at Akron City Hospital during the days. He was in Akron on May 4, 1970, the seminal moment in Kent State's — and, indeed, the country's history — when students were shot by National Guardsmen during a protest against the Vietnam War. It was an unforgettable day for Donaldson, who remembers the aftermath of the shootings as an "intense time" at Kent State, even as it contributed to our national story.

Stephen R. Donaldson returned to Kent State University in October 2008. While visiting, he was interviewed by WKSU-FM Producer *Christopher Boros*, '98. Follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine to listen to excerpts of the Donaldson interview and read the complete transcript.

This idea of stories and storytelling has profound meaning to Donaldson, who believes that "storytelling is our number one survival skill (and is) how we face life and the future." According to Donaldson, "We cannot be who we are without stories."

This is not to say that he easily or quickly found his own way to tell stories. He wrote for many years before he discovered the kind of story that he was uniquely gifted to tell. "I filled an entire file cabinet with journeyman work — mostly mainstream pieces," he says. But when he read *The Lord of the Rings*, he realized that fantasy was a worthwhile writing direction to take. "When I read *Lord of the Rings*, I was the only person I knew who took it seriously as literature. Everyone else said it was 'pop' work," he says.

At that point, all the things he had been trying to achieve came into focus, and he began to write fantasy in the long, narrative canvas that he eventually realized was his strength. At last, Stephen Donaldson had found his place in the writing world.

Over the years, he also delved into the realms of mystery and science fiction writing, with his science fiction *Gap* series his personal favorite. As with fantasy, he found those genres to be worthy of serious consideration, and he notes that there are times when reality is so jangling that fantasy and science fiction are our only literatures of hope and optimism. "Even if everything in a book is dark, science fiction presupposes that there will be a future," he says.

As it turned out, the Thomas Covenant series also had a future that stretched beyond the original dreams of the youthful, idealistic Donaldson. Although somewhat driven by readers who yearned for yet another book in a fantasy series that Donaldson had shelved more than two decades earlier, the first six books paved the way for his release of *The Runes of the Earth* in 2004 and *New York Times* bestseller *Fatal Revenant* in 2007. Yet to be published are *Against All Things Ending*, due late in 2010, and the final book of the series, *The Last Dark*, which (if the stars align) will appear in 2013.

In the first two of the final tetralogy, there has been a pivotal shift in characters, and the tone is less bitter and sharp-edged. These are books that benefit from the warmth and maturity of an author who is not afraid to bring all of his life experiences into his writing. They come from a man who has learned to trust that the stories he writes are worth telling.

"Writing is my heart's blood," he says. "I learned years ago that I don't choose my ideas. I perceive myself as being the servant to the ideas that come to me."

For his fans — some of whom participate with Donaldson in an ongoing dialogue on his Web site, his journey is one that welcomes many travelers and that delights in the discoveries made along the way.



For the past 30 years, Stephen R. Donaldson has sent his original manuscripts and other materials to Kent State University's Department of Special Collections and Archives. More than 26 boxes of his papers, along with editions of all of his published works, are archived and available for scholarly research. According to the department's head, **Cara Gilgenbach**, M.L.S. '95, "The Donaldson papers are accessed by researchers, both serious and those with a more casual interest, who want to gain deeper insight into Donaldson's works. When one views a manuscript collection, one can see the evolution of a book through various drafts and subsequent edits. Donaldson's papers also include articles about him, including interviews, that allow scholars and readers of his works to learn more about his writing process and his journey as a writer." To learn more about the Donaldson collection, as well as other holdings in Special Collections and Archives, follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine.



BY ASHLEY KATONA, '06

Making **Scholarship** Happen

Students exemplify the true meaning of philanthropy



Photo by Bob Christy, '95

Students supporting the Campaign for Change during the fall 2008 freshman orientation week, the Week of Welcome (WOW).

Eight Kent State students started their spring semester with some good news. These proud students received \$500 scholarships towards their tuition. However, there is more to this story. Those scholarships were made possible by their fellow classmates through a new fundraising program called the *Campaign for Change*.

The Campaign for Change (C4C) encourages students to make financial contributions that will create scholarships for their classmates and possibly themselves.

In just two years, the campaign has raised nearly \$30,000 to support the Campaign for Change scholarship fund. Student gifts, combined with those received from parents, alumni, faculty and friends, are sending a strong message to the university community that there is power in numbers.

Kelly Brant, '04, assistant director of annual giving, says that the campaign focuses on changing the way Kent State undergraduate students think about philanthropy and the impact it has on their education, Kent State University and the community.

"We educate students that regardless of the size of their gift — whether it's one dollar or \$100 — it makes a difference in someone's life," says Brant. "The campaign creates

opportunities for students to experience what it feels like to make a voluntary choice to do good, and to see how it directly impacts the lives of other real people, like themselves."

All students who make a gift to the campaign, regardless of the amount, are eligible to receive one of the eight awards.

Sophomore pre-nursing major *Liz Laurel*, '11 was one of the first scholarship recipients. Her contribution, along with nearly 300 other student gifts, shows that students really do care about philanthropy.

"I saw this as a great opportunity to help my fellow students in the easiest and smallest way," says Laurel. "I was shocked to learn the little donation that I made was turning out to help me with my books and tuition."

Students looking to devote more of their time to philanthropy can join the C4C squad. "As volunteers for the campaign, students gain valuable leadership experience, while at the same time personally taking part in philanthropy," says Brant.

The C4C squad is composed of student volunteers who promote the Campaign for Change by attending events, e-mailing classmates and personally asking fellow students to make gifts to the campaign.

Laurel took advantage of the opportunity to volunteer and had a great experience. Hoping to reach more students by talking to them about the importance of philanthropy, Laurel still remains involved in the program today.

"It is a lot of fun, and I enjoy talking to fellow students," says Laurel. "It's an excellent program that gives students a chance to influence their peers by taking some of their financial burdens away."

Scholarships are awarded every December and are applied towards recipients' tuition for the following spring semester. Last year's scholarship recipients include *Whitney Aquino*, '11; *Casey Beswick*, '09; *Katelyn Kinkopf*, '12; *Noel Polivka*, '09; *Erika Thomas*, '10; *Anthony Vitale*, '11; *Anne Wiater*, '09 and *Kelli Wilkinson*, '12.

"The Campaign for Change positively impacts the lives of current and future Kent State students," says Brant. "Through participation, students gain a better understanding of the importance of private support to their alma mater and how their philanthropic acts will impact future generations of Kent State students."

For more information about the Campaign for Change and other Kent State scholarships, or to make a gift, please visit www.kent.edu/advancement/annualfund.

Small Change, Big Changes

In 2007-2008, more than 23,500 gifts smaller than \$1,000 added up to \$2.7 million in aid to the university.

If every student on the Kent Campus gave just \$20, they would generate more than \$340,000 in additional scholarship revenue.

Each year, roughly 27,000 individuals financially support Kent State University.

Scholarship programs like the Campaign for Change help students in need. Nearly 63 percent of Kent State students rely on loans to cover the cost of education.

State funding accounts for less than 25 percent of the total cost of a Kent State education.



Left to right: Betty Shive, '56; Erin Shive, '08; and Susan Shive, '75.

When Erin C. Shive graduated in December 2008 with a B.S. in education, she became the fourth generation of her family to graduate from Kent State University with a degree in education.

LIFE MEMBERS 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 Alumni Association life members. A complete list of life members can be found at www.ksualumni.org/member.

Dennis Butler, Laguna Hills, Calif.
Sui Chen, Delaware, Ohio
Virginia Clark, Southport, N.C.
Lori Costabile, Columbus, Ohio
Matthew Fantin, Charlottesville, Va.
Bruce Fay, North Canton, Ohio
Robert Harvey, Palm Beach, Fla.
Earl L. Jones Jr.,
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Martha Lambert, Kent, Ohio
Scott Lindsey, Oley, Pa.
Michael Lisman, Cleveland, Ohio
Yu Liu, Reston, Va.
Tiffany Nickol, Barberton, Ohio
Patricia Petronie, Euclid, Ohio
Barbara Potter, East Lansing, Mich.
Robert Potter, East Lansing, Mich.
Lula Regas Koscheka, Massapequa
Park, N.Y.
James Robenstine, Saint Marys, Ohio
Gina Scherer, Springfield, Mo.
Dean Seavers, Miami, Fla.
Patrick Simmons, Rogers, Ariz.
Robert Stevenson, Kent, Ohio
William Thompson, Miami, Okla.
Paul Warmuth, Bartlett, Tenn.



Continued from page 24

90 **Greg K. Belliveau**, M.A. '95, Cedarville, Ohio, was awarded the 2008 Christopher Isherwood Foundation Grant for his novel-in-progress, *Collision*. **Robin D. Suttell**, Lakewood, Ohio, is a senior writer at Falls Communications in Cleveland.

91 **Raymond E. Veon**, Decatur, Ga., is the only recipient nationwide to receive two McCarthy Dressman education foundation grants for teacher development and academic enrichment.

92 **Stephanie M. Wilson**, New Philadelphia, Ohio, was promoted to vice president of human resources and marketing officer for First Federal Community Bank at Dover. Wilson is also involved in the Buckeye Career Center Business Advisory Council, Leadership Tuscarawas Alumni and the Society for Human Resource Managers.

93 **Kristina E. Curry**, J.D., Canal Fulton, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath.

95 **Alisa M. (Coccari) Bowen**, Andover, Mass., has been appointed as the freelance contracts director for the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

96 **David R. Roberts**, Puyallup, Wash., summited Washington's high peak Mt. Rainier.

97 **Russ Iddings**, B.B.A. '99, Independence, Ky., is the corporate director of human resources for First Transit in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Gregory F. Lockhart**, San Antonio, Texas, was promoted to assistant director of consumer services at the San Antonio State Hospital. **Angela M. Pry**, Geneva, Ohio, is an assistant head nurse for the ED at Ashtabula County Medical Center and has been chosen as a 2008 recipient of

the Cleveland Clinic Nursing Hall of Fame Award. **Thrity N. Umrigar**, Ph.D., Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is a professor of English at Case Western Reserve University, the author of four books and the recipient of the Nieman Fellowship to Harvard University.

98 **Melissa Winter Means**, M.Ed., Manhattan, Kan., is the coordinator for Leadership Development at Kansas State University.

99 **Amanda I. Foust**, B.S. '99, Stow, Ohio, has recently been promoted to director, Venture Lighting Institute and sales training coordinator. **Sean P. Murphy**, M.A., Chicago, Ill., recently published the book *Academic Cultures: Professional Preparation and the Teaching Life*. **Cara J. Wolfgram-Evans**, Columbus, Ohio, opened an online store selling handcrafted items for babies and toddlers called Melvin's Room. Wolfgram-Evans is the head coach for Olentangy Orange High School field hockey.

00 **Sarah A. Burns**, M.A. '01, Jersey City, N.J., has been named features editor at *Good Housekeeping* in New York City. Burns previously worked at Hearst's weekly magazine *Quick and Simple* as senior editor. **Sean F. Burns**, Jersey City, N.J., has been named project manager for FXFowle Architects located in New York City. Burns previously worked for Rafael Vinoly Architects Inc. **Emily M. Demiray**, J.D., Fairlawn, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Jennifer L. Kramer**, Akron, Ohio, is the manager of public relations and marketing for the College of Communication and Information at Kent State University. Kramer was named as the alumni liaison for the group that supports all Journalism and Mass Communication alumni, supporters and friends by the Friends of JMC.

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Melissa Krueger Ramsey, '00, M.Ed. '04, and Todd Ramsey, '00, were married Sept. 6, 2008.

The wedding party included *Jessica Sanchez, '02; Nicole Ray Coy, '03, M.Ed. '05; Brandi Neirling, '01; Brittney Black, '02, M.Ed. '06; Leann Starlin, M.Ed. '06; Julia Bauer, '01; the bride and groom; Gabe Toles (non – alum); Sean McMillion, '96; Steve Mount, '97; Greg Novonty, '01; Brian Self, '98; and Jason Dorfman, '02.*

EXCELLENCE in Action

The Kent State University
Alumni Association's

Distinguished Teaching Awards

Sponsored by the Kent State Alumni Association, the Distinguished Teaching Award is the university's most prestigious honor in teaching for full-time, tenured faculty. The award is presented annually to three full-time faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary teaching in the classroom and a devotion to touching the lives of students.

PICK ONE! at www.ksualumni.org/dta

You can pick a Kent State teacher to honor by submitting your nomination. Nomination forms for the Distinguished Teaching Awards are available online at www.ksualumni.org/dta or at the Williamson Alumni Center on the Kent Campus.



Deadline: June 30

Sponsored by

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www.ksualumni.org



Eric S. Knappenberger, Canton, Ohio, was appointed to the position of director of public relations at Smiley Hanchulak Marketing Communications.

Michael E. Bloom, J.D., Warren, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Bridget A. DeChagas**, Bay Village, Ohio, works for 90.3 WCPN FM Ideastream as a producer for *The Sound of Ideas*, a daily public affairs program. **Richard B. Fry**, J.D., Stow, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Kani L. Hightower**, J.D., Copley, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Rebecca L. Smith**, Butler, Pa., is the main street manager for the Butler Downtown Revitalization Committee. **Kevin M. Stephen**, J.D., North Canton, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Kelly M. Wise**, Queen Creek, Ariz., has been named vice president of sales for Nelnet Inc., which is a student loan company.

Carley M. Chicklo, Arlington, Va., is a senior conference planner at Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Hotel. **Susan M. Fridy**, Washington, D.C., is a public affairs officer at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Washington, D.C.. **Albert J. Macso**, Portland, Ore., is a senior associate in assurance services for Brockman, Coats, Gedelian and Co. **Jacquelyn N. McCloud**, Kent, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Alexander J. Oris**, Newton Falls, Ohio, is a sixth grade math teacher and received the Ashtabula County Teacher of the Year 2008 award for his work with middle-school-age students at Grand Valley Middle School. **Rebeca Ramirez**, M.Ed. '06, Hoboken, N.J., is employed at the Employee Assistance Program Office at Hoboken University Medical Center.

Traci M. Barnett, J.D., Twinsburg, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Shannon D. Bohle**, M.L.I.S., Lima, Ohio, has been selected to be included in the 2008-09 edition of *Who's Who of American Women* and 2007-08 *Who's Who in American Education*. Bohle is the president/owner of Archivopedia LLC. **Phil G. Eckenrode**, Columbus, Ohio, has joined Hahn Loeser as an associate. His practice will focus in the litigation area. **Roger H. May**, M.Ed. '07, Philadelphia, Pa., is a vocational rehabilitation counselor with the Veterans Administration. **Timothy J. Moore**, J.D., Canton, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Mallory R. Sander**, J.D., Columbus, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath. **Daniel E. Teti**, J.D., Warsaw, Ohio, passed the Supreme Court of Ohio July 2008 bar examination and was administered the oath.

Katie L. (Dunfee) Greenwald, Akron, Ohio, was promoted to assistant account manager in the public relations department at Hitchcock Fleming and Associates, which is a marketing communications firm. **Craig J. Paulitz**, M.S., Hubbard, Ohio, is currently employed at Delray Medical Center in Delray Beach as a clinical dietitian. Paulitz is also a licensed nutritionist and is an exercise physiologist. Paulitz is in private practice for nutrition and exercise counseling. **Matt C. Scheip**, Copley, Ohio, was promoted to assistant account manager in the account service department of Hitchcock Fleming and Associates Inc., a full service marketing communications firm. Scheip also assists with the planning and execution of regional and national Goodyear advertising.

Megan D. Mast, M.S.A. '07, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, works for a regional CPA firm Cohen and Company. **John P. Rach**, Kent, Ohio, joined CBLH Design as a project designer. Rach was a graduate assistant at Kent State University and has interned at CBLH Design and Geauga Lake and Wildwater Kingdom. **Michael J. Serdinak**, M.Arch. '07, Grafton, Ohio, joined CBLH Design as a project planner. Serdinak has experience in quality management, quality engineering and residential design and renovation.

Heidi M. Bauer, Medina, Ohio, works part-time at Kent State's GED Scholars Initiative, a division of the Ohio Literacy Resource Center and is a new board member for the Portage County First Book, an organization that helps underprivileged children obtain books. **Miranda J. Hall-Carrier**, M.F.A., Falls Church, Va., has joined Cannon Design as a graphic designer. Hall-Carrier is also a member of the Society of Environmental Graphic Design and the American Institute of Graphic Arts. **Elisa M. Vega**, Westlake, Ohio, was recently hired as a project coordinator at Liggett Stashower, an advertising and public relations agency.

LOSSES in the Kent State Family

- '32
Kathryn Giltz, Winter Springs, Fla., February 2008.
- '37
Paul Boyle, Palm Desert, Calif., June 2008.
- '41
Laura E. (Heiks) Boyle, New Philadelphia, Ohio, December 2007.
- '47
Charles L. Smith, West New York, N.J., September 2007.
- '50
Donald J. Erb, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, August 2008.
Emma Jean Halfhill, Outer Banks, N.C., February 2009
Gale C. Livengood, Clyde, N. C., January 2008.
- '52
Frank G. Hill, Phoenix, Ariz., December 2008.
- '59
David W. Straight, M.Ed., Parma, Ohio, July 2008.
- '62
Nancy L. Byrd, Hendersonville, N.C., June 2008.
- '63
James W. Miller, Burke, Va., August 2008.
- '64
Joseph C. Schidlowski, Kent, Ohio, October 2008.
- '67
Dianne W. (Woloski) McLaughlin, Newton Falls, Ohio, October 2008.
- '75
Thomas J. Carrothers, Lubbock, Texas, September 2008.
Helene L. Yurth, Chautauqua, N.Y., September 2008.
- '98
David E. Lytle, Litchfield, Ohio, June 2007.
Tricia M. Sorg, University Heights, Ohio, May 2006.
- '03
April Cornelius, M.B.A. '05, Masury, Ohio, October 2008.

Friends of Kent State

- Lawrence W. Hugenberg**, Kent, Ohio, August 2008.
Bill McPherson, Hartsville, Ohio, October 2008.
Olaf H. Prufer, Kent, Ohio, July 2008.
Alfred O. Saupe, Evanston, Ill., August 2008.
Gertrude "Trudy" Steuernagel, Kent, Ohio, February 2009.

ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

EXCELLENCE in Action

Meet Martin Duru.

He wanted to pursue a career in health care since he was a child, but spent years in the manufacturing, distribution and finance fields. Through the College of Nursing, he discovered he could make a career change in just 15 months through its accelerated degree program.

But the intensive, full-time program makes it difficult for students to work in addition to their classroom and clinical activities. So the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has provided a grant to support 10 students pursuing a new degree, with preference given to those from groups underrepresented in the nursing profession.

Now Martin can have fewer worries about finances and supporting his family — all while pursuing his lifelong dream of entering the health care field.

Changing careers in today's economy often requires a new college degree, but that 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.



Kent State University Foundation
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242-0001
330-672-2222
advancement@kent.edu
www.kent.edu/advancement


KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

Summer 2009 Events

Visit www.kent.edu/ecalendar to find up-to-date listings of concerts, lectures, performances, exhibits and other events at Kent State's eight campuses.



Lou Holtz, '59,

Save the Date

Sept. 9

Lou Holtz, '59,
ESPN Studio Analyst
Centennial Starner
Distinguished Speaker Series
Kent Student Center Ballroom
7 p.m.
Cost: \$10.
Tickets available June 1.
330-672-8399

Kent/Blossom Music www.dept.kent.edu/blossom 330-672-2613

Centennial Celebration Series

July 1

Miami String Quartet
Spencer Myer, piano
Ludwig Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

July 8

Miami String Quartet
Ludwig Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

July 13

Emerson String Quartet
Thomas Schroth Visiting Artist Series
Ludwig Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

Aug. 2

Kent/Blossom Chamber Orchestra
With The Cleveland Orchestra
Blossom Music Center
7 p.m.

Aug. 5

Kent/Blossom Music Faculty
Mixed Chamber Music
Ludwig Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

Porthouse Theatre At Blossom Music Center www.porthousetheatre.com

June 11 – 27

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

July 2 – 18

The Odd Couple

July 22 – Aug. 9

Annie Get Your Gun

Art Exhibits

Through June 6
9th Annual Cup Show
Downtown Gallery
141 E. Main St., Kent
330-676-1549