

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: College of Public Health

# KENT STATE

VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2010 EXCELLENCE in Action

MAGAZINE

# Excellence AGENDA

KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
CONFERENCE CENTER

  
**PLUS**

Remembering May 4  
The Tannery  
Best View on Campus  
and more ...

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for campus  
transformation plan  
special fold-out

# Excellence Agenda



Lester A. Lefton  
President

As Kent State continues to celebrate the milestone of a century of service in the public good, our community has embraced the opportunity to inquire, learn and reflect about our remarkable past — a past brimming with reasons for pride; and a past marked by a pivotal point in American history. Understanding our unique past has allowed us to dream new dreams for our second century that take advantage of the university's unique strengths and the special spirit of our students, alumni, faculty, staff and many other friends and fans. As you will learn in this issue of *Kent State Magazine*, we are moving full-speed ahead in bringing an exciting vision of the future to life.

In the coming months and years, Kent State's eight campuses will undergo a number

of fundamental and far-reaching transformations, including:

- the addition of new and renovated facilities such as the Performing Arts Center at Kent State University at Tuscarawas;
- new links between the flagship Kent Campus and the wonderful city of Kent, including a hotel and conference center, a 21st-century transportation hub and our own version of a "yellow brick road";
- new research initiatives and partnerships in areas such as liquid crystal technology, advanced materials and sensors that will help keep Ohio competitive; and
- new academic programs in high-demand areas from public health to air traffic control.

All of our plans have one, overarching goal: to help ensure a successful future for every Kent State graduate.

I had the opportunity to meet with many graduates who were drawn to the Kent Campus to be part of the 40th commemoration of the events of May 4, 1970. So many of them were gratified to know that, as of this year, the site of the tragedy is now a part of the National Register of Historic Places (a rare occurrence for a site that is less than 50 years old); that an audio-guided walking tour of the site is now available; and that the university is seeking private funds for a May 4 Visitors Center to be located in Taylor Hall. And so many of them shared my enormous pride in being affiliated with a university that respects its past as it focuses squarely on new heights of excellence.

After four years as president, I can say without hesitation that there could not be a more exciting and energizing time to be part of the Kent State community. Working together, our faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, students, alumni, legislators and many other supporters are leveraging Kent State's unprecedented, positive momentum. With gratitude and pride, I can say without a doubt that Kent State's best is yet to come.

**"I can say without a doubt that Kent State's best is yet to come."**

—Lester A. Lefton, President of Kent State University

### DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Athletics**  
New athletic director joins Kent State  
Tribute to Laing Kennedy
- 21 Alumni News**  
21 President of HPM Consultant Inc.  
Hilton Murray, '64, M.A. '67,  
reminisces about Kent State  
22 Class Notes  
23 Flashback — Commencement  
25 Alumni Memories Through  
the Decades  
26 Alumni on the Move
- 33 Centennial Campaign**  
33 Honoring a family's historic baseball  
legacy  
35 Funding minority student scholarships  
36 Enjoying a stary night in NYC

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Back Cover



**PAGE 14**

### PAGE 2

Al Bartholet, executive director of  
WKSU-FM.

### ON THE COVER

- 17 Newfound Power and Pride** Spectacular happenings during Kent State's Centennial year.

### FEATURES

- 2 Smart Stuff** From humble but visionary beginnings, this award-winning station has evolved into a national leader.
- 4 Kent State Remembers May 4** New exhibit dedicated at 40th Commemoration of May 4, 1970.
- 6 Healthy Start** College of Public Health formed to meet the demand for health care professionals.

- 8 Best View on Campus** The new Air Traffic Control Center will help meet the need for more than 14,500 air traffic control specialists between now and 2018.
- 12 Back in Time** Students team with a Centennial Committee member to create a time capsule.
- 14 World of Experiences** Students have abundance of passion, compassion and professionalism.

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# WKSU-FM celebrates

# 60 Years

## of public service

BY BOB BURFORD | PHOTOS BY JEFF GLIDDEN, '87

Garreth Keilor brings his popular public radio show *A Prairie Home Companion* to Blossom Music Center on June 19.

When WKSU-FM signed on the air on Oct. 2, 1950, few of those involved with the effort could have imagined what the future would hold for the then 10-watt public radio station. But station founder *Walton D. Clarke* began a remarkable journey for the Kent State University radio station that day. For the next two decades, Clarke and original station manager *John Weiser* trained Kent State students while broadcasting an eclectic mix of programming.

The modern era of WKSU-FM began in the early '70s when National Public Radio (NPR) was formed. A major power increase and the addition of four repeater towers furthered the station's growth and influence over the next three decades.

New platforms and technology have also dramatically increased the audience. Established in 2003, *Folk Alley*, WKSU-FM's groundbreaking folk music Web service, is now an industry leader. Thanks to a recent upgrade to HD Radio digital

technology, WKSU-FM listeners can access an all-classical channel, an all-folk channel from *Folk Alley*, as well as the main channel. Later this year, a fourth HD channel featuring an all-news lineup will be added.

"The station's news presence in the region has grown in both scope and reputation," says *Al Bartholet*, WKSU-FM executive director and general manager. "With bureaus in Akron, Cleveland and Canton, the WKSU news team has

been named Best News Operation by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists five times since 2001."

**PATHS TO SUCCESS**

Students have always played a significant role in WKSU-FM's success. Today's students hone skills in broadcast production, news, marketing and public relations.

"It wasn't like being in school," says *Dick Russ*, '75, managing editor of Cleveland's WKYC-TV. "It was like working at a real broadcast station, because that's what it is. The experience I had at WKSU was one of the most valuable things that could have ever happened to me."

Student workers at WKSU-FM also prepare for careers in new media. *Mandy Jenkins*, '02, M.A. '04, social media editor and digital content manager at Cincinnati.com, credits her experience at WKSU-FM with kick starting her career.

"My experience at WKSU helped set my path in the world," Jenkins says.

**PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS**

WKSU-FM partners with dozens of arts, cultural, civic and community organizations in its 22-county service area. One of the most innovative partnerships is the WKSU Hunger Challenge, where the station works with regional food banks in a unique effort to raise funds for them and the station. Since the program began, more than \$791,000 has been donated.

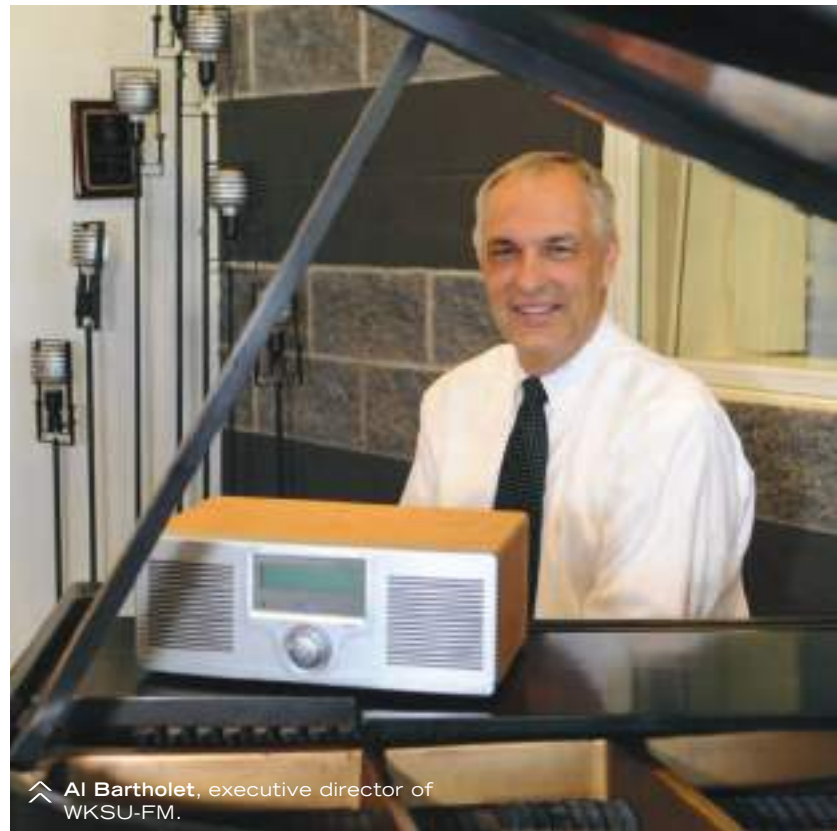
"Everyone at WKSU aligns their hearts and resources to take the challenge to a new level each year," says Dan Flowers, president and CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

The station has a number of special events planned to mark its 60th anniversary, including a visit this fall by Carl Kassell, beloved NPR newscaster and announcer on *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!* But by far the biggest anniversary event is the appearance of Garrison Keillor, of *A Prairie Home Companion*, at Blossom Music Center on June 19.

With the support of Kent State University and the Northeast Ohio community, WKSU-FM has grown into a regional media powerhouse and is a recognized leader in the public radio system.

CLICK HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

>> The Folk Alley mobile studio features state-of-the-art technology, allowing recording and live broadcasting from music festivals all across the country.



^ Al Bartholet, executive director of WKSU-FM.

"The station's news presence in the region has grown in both scope and reputation."

—Al Bartholet, WKSU-FM executive director and general manager.



# Kent State Remembers **MAY 4** 40 Years Later

PHOTOS BY BOB CHRISTY, '95 AND JEFF GLIDDEN, '87

## ROTC Building Site By Any Means Necessary

Following a disturbance in downtown Kent on Friday, May 3, 1970, the rumor spread that the Ohio National Guard would be sent on Monday. On Saturday evening, the Guard announced that they will just stay a few in the ROTC building. Sunday morning, Governor Rhodes and public officials agreed to use any means necessary to maintain order, and 150 Guardsmen occupied the campus.

Sunday afternoon, photographers took thousands of photos of the scene. That evening, troops used tear gas and rainwater to disperse students singing a hymn. The next day, May 4, Guardsmen pressured to disperse a rally on the Commons. They were ordered to load their M1 rifles.

2  
of 7



For more information, visit [www.kent.edu/may4](http://www.kent.edu/may4) or call 330.443.4444.



*"We are going to eradicate the problem. We're not going to treat the symptoms."* — General James Peabody, May 3, 1970

One of seven, this interpretive trail marker is located behind Ritchie Hall. The Victory Bell can be seen in the background.



Second from left, Professor Emeritus of Sociology Jerry M. Lewis leads a walking tour of the May 4 site.

A crowd gathers on the Commons to hear the May 4, 2010, Commemoration speakers.



(left to right) President Lester A. Lefton, Chair of the Kent State Board of Trustees, Patrick B. Mullin and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Franco Ruffini from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office cut the ribbon at the May 4 Walking Tour dedication.



Democracy Speaker, U.S. Rep. John Lewis presented "Coming Full Circle: Democracy, Engagement and Social Change" to a capacity crowd in the Kent Student Center Ballroom.



Invited guests, including family members of the slain students and several of the wounded students, pose for a photograph at the dedication of the May 4 Walking Tour. At left is the plaque acknowledging the May 4, 1970, site listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

# Healthy Start

College of Public Health formed to meet the demand for health care professionals

BY EMILY VINCENT, '97

Kent State University's newest college is off to a healthy start. The College of Public Health has hired faculty, begun offering classes and named its first dean. All of this was accomplished in just a year's time following the Jan. 30, 2009, approval of the university's Board of Trustees to create the new college.

Dr. Mark A. James, professor and vice chair of the Department of Tropical Medicine at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, will become founding dean of Kent State's College of Public Health on July 1, 2010.

"The opportunity at Kent State University is ideal in that it allows one to build the college in the vision of a founding dean, together with a committed administration, faculty, staff and students," James says.

## ONE OF ONLY TWO IN OHIO

Kent State's College of Public Health is Ohio's second college of public health. It was established to help meet the demonstrated state and national need for public health professionals. According to a February 2008 report by the Association of Schools of Public Health, America will need 250,000 more public health workers by 2020.

"Kent State is uniquely positioned to produce knowledgeable, well-trained public health professionals to help meet this growing workforce demand for Ohio and our nation," says Kent State University President Lester A. Lefton. In October 2009, Kent State received approval by the Ohio

“Kent State is uniquely positioned to produce knowledgeable, well-trained public health professionals.”

Lester A. Lefton, President Kent State University



Board of Regents to offer a Bachelor of Science in Public Health (B.S.P.H.). Recently, the college received approval for a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) in five specializations (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and health policy and management) starting fall 2010. An 18-credit-hour undergraduate Certificate in Public Health is already available.

This past spring, 146 students took four public health courses through its Experimental Programs Division, and the university is accepting applications for its programs for fall 2010. The college currently has 17 full-time, tenure-track faculty members and hopes to increase the number to 25 by 2012.

[CLICK HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION](#)

Meet some of the faculty members of Kent State's College of Public Health



**Sonia Alemagno** is a professor of health policy and management. Her most recent projects focus on the misuse of prescription medicine among adolescents and

the impact of substance abuse on the community. She also has expertise in HIV/AIDS and STD prevention and incarcerated individuals.



**Dan Flannery** is a professor of social and behavioral science. He also serves as director of Kent State's Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence. Flannery

has extensive experience in evaluating school-based violence prevention programs in Ohio and elsewhere.



**Maggie Stedman-Smith** is an assistant professor of environmental health. She has more than 10 years of clinical experience in perinatal nursing. Her most recent

research has focused on toxic substances and other environmental exposures on mothers and their children.



**Melissa Zullo** is an assistant professor of epidemiology. Her recent research is on rehabilitation models for congestive heart failure. This past October, Zullo received the

Beginning Investigator Award by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

>> President Lester A. Lefton receives a guided tour of the air traffic control simulator in Van Deusen Hall during the ribbon-cutting event Dec. 3, 2009.

# BEST VIEW on Campus

## Kent State celebrates its new Air Traffic Control Center

BY EMILY VINCENT, '97 | PHOTOS BY GARY HARWOOD, '83

Kent State University marked the opening of the university's new Air Traffic Control Center at the end of the fall semester with local community leaders, legislators, university officials and members of the aviation industry, including several representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Air Traffic Control Center, which is a simulation laboratory, is located on the second floor of Van Deusen Hall, home to Kent State's College of Technology.

The air traffic control program and the new air traffic control simulation laboratory allow Kent State and its students to fill a very important demand. The FAA projects a need for more than 14,500 air traffic control specialists between now and 2018.

Kent State is the only school in Ohio that has an air traffic control program. It also is the only school in the state that offers the FAA's Air Traffic Collegiate Training

Initiative program, which air traffic controllers must complete, and therefore makes Kent State a preferred hiring source of the FAA. The air traffic control simulator at Kent State is the only one of its kind in Ohio.

### KENT STATE STUDENTS HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

The Air Traffic Control Center provides hands-on experience and training for students in the aeronautics program in a simulated environment. It has \$2 million worth of equipment in its simulation lab that includes two air traffic control towers with 240-degree views of the airport and 20 computers. Students and instructors can simulate a whole flight, from takeoff to landing.

"When students sit behind the controls with their headphones on, they see planes taking off and coming in for landings, and it's their task to get them safely to



>> Flight Training Academic Program Officer **Dawn Resek** (right) reviews engine operation with a student at the Kent State University Airport.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES SOAR

### WITH PROGRAMS OFFERED BY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

In addition to its air traffic control program, Kent State's College of Technology offers a variety of programs that are aligned with job growth. Aeronautical systems engineering technology and aviation management are two such programs offered at Kent State. Keeping up with the growth and pace of the aviation industry, the university is looking at offering programs in aviation maintenance management and aviation safety and security.

"We've got an established, solid reputation with the programs we have," **Maureen McFarland**, academic program director of aeronautics and assistant professor at Kent State, says. "We want to continue to grow with the demand of the aviation industry and contribute to the overall economy of Ohio. Both aviation maintenance management and aviation safety and security are areas that are in high demand. Few schools offer an aircraft maintenance program, with the closest one in Ohio being at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, so it would be wonderful to offer these programs at Kent State."

their destinations," says **Maureen McFarland**, academic program director of aeronautics and assistant professor at Kent State. "Jobs in air traffic control are in high demand, and because Kent State is among a rare few institutions that train students in both TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control) and en route operations, our air traffic control students will graduate with a mastery of critical skills, giving them a huge competitive edge when they arrive at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma where all prospective air traffic controllers go to train and test for their national certification."

Instructors can create different scenarios for the students, including changing the number of planes landing, runway conditions, weather and visibility. Emergency situations also can be simulated.

"We use the same kind of assessment that the FAA gives," McFarland says. "Students get immediate feedback

from their instructors about what they're doing right and what they're doing wrong. Then, the instructor can tell the student what they need to practice."

### KENT STATE'S PROGRAM GARNERS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Currently, there are 63 students enrolled in the program, which began in fall 2008. It is a unique, nationally recognized program that is bringing in students from out of state, including New Jersey and Connecticut. It is receiving attention throughout the country, and prospective students from as far away as Texas have expressed interest in attending.

The air traffic control program will graduate its first class in 2012.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO  
ON THE  
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER](#)

# Kent State Names JOEL NIELSEN Director of Athletics

## Veteran athletic administrator to assume the reins July 1, 2010

BY ALAN ASHBY

Kent State University President **Lester A. Lefton** introduced **Joel Nielsen** as the university's 10th director of athletics at a morning press conference on Thursday, March 25. Nielsen, who was the athletic director at the University of South Dakota (USD), succeeds **Laing Kennedy**, who is retiring on June 30. Nielsen began at Kent State on May 15.

"Joel was tremendous in my one-on-one interview with him and was a unanimous first choice by the search committee," says Lefton. "For more than 20 years, he has made college athletics his life, including most recently shepherding South Dakota through the difficult transition from Division II to Division I, and I couldn't imagine sitting in front of you today with a better candidate."

"Obviously I'm thrilled to be here today," says Nielsen. "I'd like to thank President Lefton and search committee chairman **Yank Heisler** for including me in the process. This was a very attractive position due to the tremendous leadership of Laing Kennedy. Under Laing's direction, Kent State has gained a national reputation as a truly comprehensive program, both athletically and academically, and I look forward to building on that great tradition."

During his seven-year tenure at South Dakota, Nielsen spearheaded the department's transition to Division I. He secured membership for USD football in the Great West Football Conference in 2007 and has the Coyotes on track for membership in the Summit League for all sports except football starting in 2011. Nielsen also played an active role in

the organization and creation of the Great West Conference for all sports. He worked closely with the USD Foundation in developing strategic fundraising models that will provide the necessary resources for the Division I transition in addition to serving on numerous committees on campus.

Nielsen was responsible for making significant changes and introducing departmental initiatives after his arrival in Vermillion, S.D., in 2003. He worked closely with the Athletic Review Committee in initiating a progressive and comprehensive plan for South Dakota athletics, addressing competitiveness, funding and compliance. Nielsen worked with USD's administration and an external licensing company to develop a new athletics logo and trademark program. He also spearheaded the relationship with Daktronics Sports Marketing to bring a \$2 million scoreboard enhancement to the DakotaDome.

Before taking over at USD, Nielsen served for two-and-a-half years as athletic director at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, overseeing a 20-sport athletic program, which included two sports (men's ice hockey and women's soccer) at the Division I level.

From 1993 to 2001, Nielsen was the associate athletic director at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., where he was in charge of the administration and management of the athletic department's external relations. Prior to Wake Forest, he was an assistant athletic director at Illinois State in Normal, Ill., (1991-92) and served as an athletic development assistant at Northern Illinois in DeKalb, Ill., (1990-91).

A doctoral candidate (leadership and educational policy studies) at Northern Illinois, Nielsen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business finance (1985) and a Master of Arts degree in sports administration (1991), both from Minnesota State University (MSU), Mankato. At MSU, Nielsen played football and baseball before becoming a graduate assistant (1989-90) for head football coach Dan Runkle.

Nielsen and his wife, Sharon, have three daughters: Kasey, Kelly and Kory.

### KENT STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

1923-24 **Dr. Arville D. DeWeese**  
1925-33 **Merle E. Wagoner**  
1935-43 **G. Donald Starn**  
1943-45 **Vacant (World War II)**  
1946-56 **Trevor J. Rees**

1957-70 **Dr. Carl E. Erickson**  
1970-76 **Milo R. (Mike) Lude**  
1976-80 **Donald E. Dufek**  
1980-93 **Paul V. Amodio**  
1994-10 **Laing E. Kennedy**  
2010- **Joel Nielsen**

» Laing Kennedy (left) and Lester A. Leifson (right) address the crowd at the Laing Kennedy Appreciation Night basketball game, Feb. 12, 2010.

PHOTO BY GARY HERRWOOD, '83

## A Tribute to LAING KENNEDY

### Laing Kennedy, Champion of Kent State athletics since 1994, retires

BY ALAN ASHBY

On June 30, **Laing Kennedy** will officially end his successful career when he retires after a memorable 16 years as Kent State's athletic director.

Currently the longest-tenured athletic director in the Mid-American Conference — as well as in the history of the Kent State athletics — Kennedy was formally honored at a retirement celebration Sunday, May 23, in the Kent Student Center Ballroom.

During his stint at Kent State, Kennedy spearheaded the Golden Flashes towards national prominence with a high standard of competitiveness — one in which MAC titles are just as important as success in the classroom and in the community. And the numbers are telling.

In addition to the 88 MAC team titles, five Jacoby Trophies (MAC women's athletic excellence) and four Reese Trophies (men's excellence), Kent State's student-athletes earned a semester GPA of 3.0 or better (fall 2009) for the first time in nearly 30 years of record keeping, while continuing to make a difference in the Kent State community and beyond.

Honored as the Northeast Region Division I-A Athletic Director of the Year in 2002 and 2006 by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), Kennedy worked tirelessly to improve the physical plant of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, while adding two sports and placing a tremendous emphasis on student-athlete welfare.

He and his wife, Sandra, reside in Kent and have two daughters, Karyn and Kelly.

PHOTO BY BOB CHRISTY, '95

» Athletic Director Joel Nielsen poses for media photos in the MAC Center.

## Back in Time

Students participate in time capsule project, preserving Kent State history

BY REBECCA MOHR, PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

As the story goes, somewhere on Kent State University's campus lies a time capsule from 1960. Holding treasured memories of staff, students and alumni of years passed, the time capsule has thus far rebuffed all seekers.

For the 2010 Centennial Celebration, the Centennial Committee decided to continue the time capsule tradition. But this time around, the burial location will be carefully documented and clearly marked.

### STUDENTS LEND THEIR EXPERTISE TO THE EFFORT

Pamela Jones, academic program and student development coordinator and member of Kent State's Centennial Committee, was interested in the 1960 time capsule story and decided to enlist students in Kent State's University Centennial Time Capsule project.

*Kristine Gill*, senior newspaper journalism major; *Evan Verbe*, senior finance major; and *Zachary Mikrut*, senior managerial

marketing and entrepreneurship major, took her up on the offer.

"Kent State has a rich history, and there is a different version of Kent State for each individual person," Verbe says. "The time capsule is a way to preserve some of those stories for people 50 years from now."

The University Centennial Time Capsule will be sealed and buried under Risman Plaza, after construction is complete in late July. It will be opened in 2060.

"Celebrating our history and traditions is the focus of our Centennial year. During the past 100 years Kent State has established itself with rich curriculum, experiential learning, active students, dedicated faculty and staff, and proud alumni. The next 100 years will see Kent State become a first-tier, public research university committed to the success of its students," says Kent State University President **Lester A. Lefton**.

"When the time capsule is opened in 2060, unearthed from its home underneath our newly renovated Risman Plaza, our community will relive our storied past and reflect

# “Celebrating our history and traditions is the focus of our Centennial year.”

—Lester A. Lefton, President of Kent State University

on the history we’re making right now.”

The collection of items began on March 1 and ends on June 30. All items can be dropped off or mailed to the Undergraduate Studies office. Students, faculty, alumni and community members in Kent are encouraged to give items for the 2010 time capsule.

Jones suggests items that will help people in 2060 know how people in 2010 lived. Items such as photographs, essays, drawings, “forever” stamps, games, flags, clothing and old credit cards are recommended.

Every student, faculty member and alumni is encouraged to put memories into the time capsule.

“We’ve talked about writing letters to future generations and possibly making a video to address them,” Gill says. “We’re going to include photos of the campus, copies of the *Daily Kent Stater*, recent technology and collectible campus items, which might include things like toy black squirrels or Kent State T-shirts.”

Students should be excited because they get to have a say in what will be a fixture on campus for the next 50 years, Gill says.

Mikrut says it is a fun way to celebrate history and the Centennial year of Kent State.

“I believe we should continue traditions at Kent State and make those in the future aware of the excitement and history that we are currently creating here,” Mikrut says.

Gill says she hopes that students in 2060 marvel at the things in the capsule.

“I hope it gives them a sense of what life was like on this campus in 2010,” she says. “I hope they have a renewed interest in their school and in the importance of preserving the past.”

Alumni are encouraged to contribute items for the time capsule. Items may be mailed or dropped off to the Undergraduate Studies office located in Olson Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The collection ends June 30.

For more information on the Centennial Time Capsule, call 330-672-9292.

Jack Nitzsche, a Campus Environment and Operations employee, uses a forklift to deliver the time capsule to various events on Kent State’s eight campuses.

## The 100-Year-Old Rivals

As part of the ongoing Centennial Cup competition with our in-state rivals to the west, the Kent State baseball team hosted Bowling Green for a free throwback game on Saturday, May 15, at Schoonover Stadium. The fun-filled day included a special recognition of alumni and donors in attendance, as well as a hospitality tent for fans, historical trivia and more. Additionally, Kent State’s game-worn uniforms from the contest were auctioned off.

CLICK HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION



# Kent State Students Get a World of Experiences

Kent State University students take the initiative to gain real-world experience and demonstrate passion, compassion and professionalism in a variety of fields and settings far beyond the classroom.



Students at the Tannery relax in the public spaces of their new second floor offices, adjacent to Acorn Alley, in downtown Kent.

Hand-on projects give students professional experience.

BY REBECCA MOHR

PHOTOS BY BOB CHRISTY, '95

This semester, 15 Kent State students have been learning the demanding and fast-paced world of the advertising business at the Tannery, a full-service integrated marketing communications agency. The student-run firm works with clients from all around the region, providing students with valuable real-world experience.

The company opened for business last fall located in Acorn Alley, downtown Kent's new business and retail development, and has already landed some high-profile assignments. The

American Advertising Federation asked Tannery students to design the cover for the January issue of its monthly online publication *Portfolio*.

"Our student associates learn how to do everything from estimating a project to managing a budget; from developing a concept to executing in a variety of media; from building client relationships to leading a team," says Greg Thomas, managing director of the Tannery. "These are the kinds of skills that are very hard to teach in the classroom."

The Tannery partners with clients to build comprehensive integrated marketing communications ranging from



PORTFOLIO COVER COURTESY OF AAF CLEVELAND

## NOT YOUR USUAL SPRING BREAK AT KENT STATE

BY BOB BURFORD

PHOTO BY BOB CHRISTY, '95

The term "spring break" conjures up images of tanned students partying in warm climates, having fun in the sun. While those pursuits have their allure, some Kent State students use the spring recess to pursue different paths.

Kent State's "Alternative Spring Break" program grew out of service trips to the Gulf Coast made by students following the Hurricane Katrina tragedy. The week-long event pairs teams of college students with area nonprofit organizations.

This year, nearly 70 students participated in four different trips. Students visited Spencer, W. Va., to be part of an educational and social analysis program on the Appalachian region; trekked to Washington, D.C., stayed in the nation's largest homeless shelter, and worked on projects involving poverty and environmental issues; and participated in a program aimed at helping the Native American community of Buffalo, N.Y. Closer to home, a group visited Columbiana County, Ohio, to work with community agencies to assist home owners and help with park maintenance and other activities.



Following Hurricane Katrina, Kent State students volunteered over spring break to help Blount, Miss., residents rebuild. Alternative Spring Break has grown to include experiential education and volunteer experiences in numerous venues.



Students vie for positions in the competitive and popular Tannery program.

multimedia brand awareness programs to target-specific new product projects. Its capabilities include strategic marketing planning, market research, concepts and design for ads, brochures, direct mail, logos and identity development.

The Tannery also takes on broadcast projects including radio and television spots; web design/redesign and implementation; media planning and placement; and public relations and media relations.

In addition, the student-run agency has access to university resources including a state-of-the-art focus group suite, usability computer test lab and experienced teleproductions crew and equipment.

Recently students in the Tannery worked with the Partnership for the Minority Business Accelerator (PMBA) to develop logos and taglines for African-American and Hispanic business owners in Medina, Portage and Summit counties. The businesses ranged from security to financial planning firms and from catering to window-washing services.

The Tannery also partners with local advertising agencies and serves as a talent resource for the firms, providing students with more opportunities to get an inside view of the business.



» Kent State University student entrepreneur Austin Briggs and his campaign mascot Gilbert were in Cleveland on Saturday, Feb. 6, to rally fans in support of LeBron James, staying with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

## KENT STATE MAN ON A MISSION

### Entrepreneurship major believes in his cause

BY BOB BURFORD | PHOTO BY BOB CHRISTY, '95

Kent State student *Austin Briggs* found a way to combine two of his passions — basketball and marketing. The 23-year-old junior entrepreneurship major launched a campaign last fall to encourage Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James to stay in Cleveland. Briggs and partner *Brittany Neal*, a Kent State sophomore, founded [Pleasedontleave23.com](http://Pleasedontleave23.com) to rally support for their cause. The campaign got its start

as a project for the Entrepreneurship Experience class last year at Kent State.

"Austin really hit the ground running," says *Craig Zamary*, one of Briggs' instructors. "This campaign is original and extremely creative."

Briggs first garnered local media attention when he unveiled his "Witness Mobile" in a series of YouTube videos last spring. With help from NFL player *Barry Cofield* of the New York Giants,

Briggs has made extensive improvements to the 1987 Cutlass Supreme. The car has been repainted and outfitted with new wheel rims and vertical doors. The hood has been transformed into a petition for fans to sign, while the trunk is reserved for the signatures of local celebrities and politicians.

Briggs plans to keep crusading until James signs a contract. Hopefully, there also will be a celebration.

# Newfound **POWER & PRIDE**

A photograph of the Prentice Gate at Kent State University. The gate is a large, light-colored stone structure with two tall pillars and a decorative archway. In the foreground, a curved stone wall features the Kent State University logo and name. The background shows a paved walkway leading through a green lawn and trees towards a building.

  
**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Spectacular happenings in  
Kent State's Centennial year

BY ALLEN F. RICHARDSON, '73

⌘ A renovated landmark, Prentice Gate signals one of the major entrances to campus.

# K

ent State University marks its 100th year in 2010 and, as it looks toward the next century, the university sees itself as a major player. Kent State is determined to transform the campus and expand academic excellence, continue a dynamic synergy with the city of Kent and maintain its vast economic impact on the region.

At President **Lester A. Lefton's** inauguration in 2007, he set the bar at an almost dizzying height. "I stand here today because I believe so strongly that it's within our grasp to become ... a world-class university. With our resolve to work together — and to put excellence into action every day — I know that we can invent a future that is significant and celebrated."

Lefton doesn't mince words, even when making comparisons between Kent State and more traditionally glamorous schools. "Harvard certainly doesn't have any trouble realizing that it is a quality institution," he says. "Berkeley celebrates its repute. I think Kent State needs to do the same. Part of my job is to help promote this institution and move it to the next level."

Lefton is moving Kent State to the next level while proclaiming that Kent State is already a first-tier school in several respects. "They're already saying that about our architectural program, our journalism school, the nursing college and fashion program," he says. "I want them to say that about our other programs as well. Our organizing theme is what I call the 'excellence agenda.' We have to be excellent in everything we do. Excellence always wins the day. No one will ever say that Harvard or Yale is too good."

### LEGEND

1. Travel Shelter
2. South Lawn
3. 'K' Logo Paving
4. KSU Signwall/  
Water Feature
5. Student Center  
"Porch"
6. North Lawn
7. Sculpture
8. Seatwall



# R I S M A N

## TRANSFORMING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The excellence agenda includes plans for major transformations. The Energized for Change building campaign, approved by the Kent State University Board of Trustees in November 2009, includes floating a \$200 million bond for Kent Campus projects. Combined with other sources of revenue, the money would be used to add one or two new buildings, but mostly to repair, renovate and upgrade existing buildings while reusing others.

Ground breaking is already underway to implement major renovations to the Library and Risman Plaza. Both efforts are designed to make the environments more welcoming. A new canopy and extended vestibule for the Library will provide a more attractive point of entry to an existing camouflaged front door. Risman Plaza is being transformed from a

concrete landscape to an inviting popular meeting place — complete with a grassy knoll where students can relax and study. The plaza will be ringed with evergreen plantings that surround new a conversation seating area, which will be complete with colorful umbrellas and a new Kent State signwall and water feature.

On the academic side, nationally recognized programs need — and deserve — facilities to mirror and accommodate their reputations. Plans are in the works to upgrade Taylor Hall, the Art Building and Van Deusen Hall for the programs in architecture and environmental design; art and visual communication design; and technology respectively. Improving students' access to faculty research and laboratories gives them learning experiences that mimic real-world experiences.



# PLAZA

➤ An architect's rendering of the Risman Plaza renovations that will begin this summer.

## ACHIEVING KENT STATE'S ACADEMIC DESTINY

Lefton's confident that this transformation will take Kent State to another level, positioning Kent State to achieve its academic destiny in its key areas of excellence.

Professor of Music and Chair of the Faculty Senate **Tom Janson** agrees, "The continued investment in the university's infrastructure is critical to academic success."

As Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs **Robert G. Frank** points out, "Buildings are symbols of our aspirations. They say something about who we are. The current state of many of our academic buildings on the Kent Campus does not meet with our academic goals."

➤ Chemistry students Nichele Scott, Pete Bach and Shuo Li at work in one of the remodeled chemistry labs in Williams Hall.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 19A

“**O**ur plan is connected to the concept of centers of excellence, befitting a world-class institution, and we hope it has an impact on academic priorities.”

Gregg S. Floyd, — VP for Finance and Administration

A high-priority area for renovation is the campus's science corridor. Currently, nearly a third of Kent State students graduate with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medical) degrees. Kent State University's Vice President for Finance and Administration **Gregg S. Floyd** says, "Our plan is connected to the concept of centers of excellence, befitting a world-class institution, and we hope it has an impact on academic priorities. We want our students to notice the cutting-edge changes in their classrooms, labs and other learning spaces, both qualitatively and aesthetically. Making the learning environment more attractive makes it more effective as well."

Beyond the issuance of bonds and capital improvements, support for excellence and its transforming effects often come from benefactors such as the Roe Green Foundation and philanthropist *Roe Green*, '80, whose \$6.5 million gift makes the new Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance possible and allows students to collaborate in new and exciting ways in state-of-the-art classrooms, studios and labs.

**K**ent State University at Ashtabula students studying nursing and allied health professions develop their skills in the Robert S. Morrison Health and Science Building, a showcase of technology that

includes a human patient simulator and physical and occupational therapy labs. Kent State University at Tuscarawas will soon welcome community members to the new Performing Arts Center. The 50,000-square-foot facility will enhance the campus' academic and cultural programming and impact economic development in the region.

Such worthwhile efforts, however, require significant funding. "We want to keep pace with the expectations of our students and competition by focusing on excellence. And the great thing about excellence is that it breeds more excellence ... and then you tend to recruit more great faculty and scholars," says Lefton.

Left to right: Wearing 3-D glasses, President **Lester A. Lefton** and Rep. **Tim Ryan** are given a "short course" by Department of Biological Sciences Chair **James L. Blank** about the 3-D Immersive Development Facility and Classroom, which is unique in the state of Ohio and is used by multiple scientific disciplines for education and research about the visualization and understanding of multidimensional structures.





» Artist rendering: The Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance is scheduled to open fall 2010.

« The Robert S. Morrison Health and Science Building, a state-of-the-art learning center at Kent State University at Ashtabula, will help produce graduates to fill the need for health care professionals in Northeast Ohio.

» Construction of the Performing Arts Center at Kent State University at Tuscarawas is progressing on schedule for a fall opening. The \$17.3 million building will include a 1,100-seat theatre.

**A** concerted effort by town leaders and the university to push for the revitalization of downtown Kent ... bore fruit recently with the award of a \$20 million grant from the federal government.

## MERGING TOWN AND GOWN

**A** key element of Lefton's excellence agenda is a strong town-gown relationship and a vibrant downtown Kent where students, faculty and staff can eat, shop, be entertained and conduct business. A concerted effort by town leaders and the university to push for the revitalization of downtown Kent, and to link the university with the city and the wider region, bore fruit recently with the award of a \$20 million grant from the federal government.

In early March, Rep. Tim Ryan, a Democrat from Ohio's 17th District, announced that a \$20 million Department of Transportation TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant was secured. The grant will fund the Kent Central Gateway project, the catalyst for revitalization of downtown Kent that will reconnect the central business district with the Kent Campus.

Acting together, officials from the university, city, regional and state political leaders, as well as PARTA (Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority) lobbied for this new version of the Kent dream — a large terminal that will act as the transfer point for cars, buses, bikes and pedestrians to connect with areas as far away as Akron and Cleveland. The development is both



A bird's-eye view of the shops in Acorn Alley.

a sign of Kent State's growing economic impact on Northeast Ohio — to the tune of \$1.9 billion annually — as well as a continuation of the vision created when the university was launched in 1910.

An important aspect of project is the planned expansion of the Kent State Esplanade that will connect the campus with downtown. "We wanted to create a seamless sensibility," explains City Manager David Ruller, so that the quarter mile between the downtown and the center of the university finally "all feels like one Kent."

**O**nce the project reaches fulfillment, downtown Kent will indeed be transformed "to something you won't even recognize," adds Byran Smith, director of planning for PARTA.

Ruller also sees the project as helping both Kent State and the town. "It gives the university the opportunity to have a 'college town' feel to it, and that will help attract the best and brightest students and faculty." For the city, he sees the project as a "leading economic engine" that will create jobs, commercial activity and serve as a breeding ground for new business opportunity, or what he calls a "habitat for entrepreneurs."





“Our goal is to make Kent ... a place where students and parents will flock to shop and stay.”

Lester A. Lefton,  
— President Kent State University

### CREATING A FORMULA FOR REVITALIZATION

The university joined with Main Street Kent and the Burbick Foundation as part of a driving force for revitalization and retail expansion. Main Street Kent is a nonprofit agency affiliated with Main Street Ohio and the National Historic Trust for Preservation, and has committees for Organization, Promotion, Economic Restructuring and Design, plus 15 board members and an expanded Kent State presence.

Main Street Kent has nurtured several success stories — Acorn Alley being one of the most remarkable. Acorn Alley is the brainchild of local businessman, Ron Burbick of RLB Phoenix Properties. After listening to years of talk about the dreary state of downtown, Burbick decided to do something about it with his own money. Putting \$6.5 million on the table, he oversaw the Phoenix Project — which transformed an alley and two buildings at the top of East Main Street into a complex that houses small retail shops and businesses, several of which are run by Kent State students such as the Tannery, an integrated marketing agency, and the Snack Shoppe, featuring mostly Ohio food products.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



◀ An architect's concept for the Kent Central Gateway Project.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 190



▶ An architect's concept for the proposed renovations to downtown Kent.

◀ An architect's concept for the proposed hotel and conference center.

## PLANNING A HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Another essential community gathering place — a hotel and conference center — is also planned for downtown, and the front door of any lobby would likely open within a few yards of the entrance to the Esplanade, figuratively putting Kent State on the city's doorstep.

Lefton sees that as only helping the university. For instance, the university could attract large academic conferences, global forums and regional summits eventually drawing the best students and faculty to Kent State, he says.

The expanded physical connection will be a plus for the city too. "Our goal is to make Kent the Ann Arbor of Portage County, a place where students and parents will flock to shop and stay, so they can visit this great university and lovely town," Lefton adds.

Both Ametek Lamb Electric Co. and Davey Resource Group, a division of the Davey Tree Expert Co., have plans to move their offices to Kent. Ruller says both firms will be solid economic drivers for downtown businesses and also will benefit from the planned hotel and conference center.

## FUELING ECONOMIC IMPACT

Estimates of the Kent Central Gateway project's economic impact are impressive — a total of \$105 million in public and private development, an immediate boon of 266 construction jobs, the creation of 703 long-term jobs, and \$5.8 million in annual tax revenue. The developers, politicians and university officials also think the project will create a lasting halo effect, which will attract out-of-area and out-of-state students and their families.

"We want to host them and then have the powerful sense of a vibrant Kent community engage them right from the start," says Lefton.

Count Kent State University among the current faces of economic power and influence. "Kent State is an enormous resource for Northeast Ohio," says Lefton, adding that the school's \$500 million annual budget has a vast spin-off effect on the area. "Our ability to cooperate, collaborate and coordinate with local businesses, and to spawn new businesses and entrepreneurship, (plus)

the businesses we set up in our Centennial Research Park, which acts as an accelerator, have a huge economic impact (on the region)."

Economic opportunity supports an enhanced quality of life that, along with jobs, can persuade students to stay and work and make Kent their home following graduation. After all, having found such a welcoming, vibrant community, why would they want to leave?

Whether they stay or travel far and wide as Kent State ambassadors of goodwill, few graduates will be surprised to find their alma mater — with its newfound power and pride — front and center in a future that is both significant and celebrated.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROFILE

# HILTON MURRAY, '64, M.A. '67

PRESIDENT, HPM CONSULTANTS INC.



**HILTON MURRAY, '64, M.A. '67**, is the president of HPM Consultants Inc., his own marketing and advertising firm in Cleveland. His clients have included Miller Brewing Company, Whirlpool Corporation, the Ohio Lottery Commission, Sherwin Williams and the NASA-Glenn Research Center. On the side, he keeps his mind fresh through his artwork. His corrugated cardboard constructions of cityscapes were recently displayed at the Kent State University Downtown Gallery. Murray holds a bachelor's degree in advertising art and a master's degree in graphic design for television.

  
**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT KENT STATE?

I met some fantastic people at Kent State. Many professors and students have become lifelong friends.

### WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE KENT STATE PROFESSOR?

Professor Robert Short, my undergraduate commercial art instructor and graduate advisor.

### WHAT IS THE GREATEST LESSON YOU LEARNED AT KENT STATE?

I learned how to work with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. As an art major, I learned to defend my creative vision to my instructor.

### WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENT?

For over 30 years, I have served the advertising and marketing community. As an advertising consultant, I have successfully helped many local and national corporations. As I have gained experience with my artwork, I take satisfaction in mentoring young African-American artists.

### WHY DID YOU BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE KENT STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

I became a lifetime member of the alumni association to show my appreciation for the depth and breadth of the education I received at Kent State.

### 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.

**JOIN NOW ONLY \$35 A YEAR**  
visit [www.ksualumni.org](http://www.ksualumni.org) or call 1-888-320-KENT

# CLASSNOTES

**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 alumnus 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](mailto:alumni@kent.edu). Make sure to include a caption with the names of alumni in the photo and their graduating years.

**'51 Charles M. Kray**, Carson, Calif., is receiving the Shakespeare Award in recognition of his writing talent. Kray is an outstanding playwright. In his career, Kray has worked for Marlon Brando and managed Blackfriars theatre in New York City. Kray was editor of the *Gardens Valley News* for many years.

**'54 James V. Sanders**, Carmel, Calif., Professor Emeritus of physics at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., has been named recipient of the Acoustical Society of America's (ASA) 2009 Rossing Prize in Acoustics Education.

**'58 Joseph E. Spevak**, San Diego, Calif., has retired after 40 years of teaching journalism at San Diego University.

**'59 Elaine (Wylie) Haught**, Akron, Ohio, retired from the Copley-Fairlawn, Ohio schools as an ESL and reading teacher.

**'60 Red Haught**, Akron, Ohio, retired July 6, 2009, from Edward Jones as a financial advisor after 16 years of service at the Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, office.

**'62 Stephen Hensley**, Youngstown, Ohio, has been named Ohio's Habitat Volunteer of the Year at the Habitat for Humanity of Ohio Statewide Conference. This award was given for significant contributions to advance the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

**'64 John J. Drotos**, Newport, R.I., retired U.S. Air Force officer, has retired from the U.S. Foreign Service having served with the United Nations and as country director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Kazakhstan. Drotos is engaged in volunteer work and divides his time between Newport, R.I. and Oslo, Norway. • **Barbara J. Gregorich**, Chicago, Ill., published her first novel, *She's on First*, in 1987 is now back in print, with a dynamic new cover. It's available on Amazon as a softcover and on Kindle as an e-book. • **Marie A. Rice**, Rootstown, Ohio, former WVB-TV News 4

reporter was inducted into New York State Broadcasters Association's Hall of Fame on Nov. 12, 2009.

**'65 James A. Bertilacci**, Mountain View, Hawaii, is principal at Hilo Intermediate School in Hilo, Hawaii.

**'66 Peter W. Di-Santi**, New York, N.Y., is a senior architect and plan examiner with the New York City Department of Buildings.

**'68 Sharon D. Dennis, M.A.T.**, Fountain Hills, Ariz., was re-appointed to the Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Commission as chair for her second three-year term. Dennis continues to work as a freelance photographer and has documentary work in Asia, Costa Rica, West Africa and Russia. • **Astrid Tollefson, M.Ed.**, West Barnstable, Mass., has authored *Following the Waters: Voices from the Final Norwegian Emigration*, a book on the lives of Norwegian fishermen and their families in New Bedford and Alaska, from Leiturf Publications.

**'69 Lou Dudek**, Ravenna, Ohio, trustee of the Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna, was selected as a recipient of the 2009 Trustee Award of Achievement. • **David T. Feldstein, M.Ed.**, '73, Cincinnati, Ohio, retired in December 2009 from Ameriprise Financial Services in Cincinnati after serving clients as a financial advisor for 27 years. Feldstein earned his Certified Financial Planner professional designation in 1989 and was awarded a Five Star Best in Client Satisfaction Wealth Manager designation in 2009. • **Susan Hanna, M.A.**, Norton, Ohio, is the author of a book of poetry titled, *Reflections on Abraham Lincoln*, now selling on Amazon. A new collection was published in May of 2010. • **Marvin L. Heritage**, Ashburn, Va., retired from Federal Civil Service on Dec. 19, 2009, and received a National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal from the director of national intelligence. At the time of his retirement, Heritage was an assistant deputy director of national intelligence and a member of the Senior National Intelligence Service.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 27)

Alumni Association Annual Member **Life Member**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING With the Kent State University Alumni Association?

Connect with alumni and the alumni association on the following social networking websites:



[www.facebook.com/ksualumni](http://www.facebook.com/ksualumni)



[www.twitter.com/ksualumni](http://www.twitter.com/ksualumni)



[www.flickr.com/groups/ksualumni](http://www.flickr.com/groups/ksualumni)



Log on to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and search for Kent State University Alumni Association



[www.ksualumni.org](http://www.ksualumni.org) (Register for the online community with your constituent ID found on the back of the magazine.)

Take advantage of these sites to stay updated on the latest university news and events, find out about volunteer opportunities, develop career networks, exchange information with fellow alumni and view alumni photos.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Kent State Alumni Association at 1-888-320-KENT (5368) or e-mail [alumni@kent.edu](mailto:alumni@kent.edu).**

# Flashback COMMENCEMENT

Did you decide to “walk” to receive your diploma in front of fellow classmates, professors, family and friends? Where did you have your commencement? The first commencement ceremony on July 14, 1914, was held in the Tabernacle (a large, temporary structure in which classes were taught and assemblies held) with a crowd of 3,000 people. Ohio’s governor, James M. Cox, delivered the Commencement address to 34 members of Kent’s first graduating class.

Other notable Commencement speakers over the decades include *Lou Holtz*, '59, former Notre Dame football coach, who spoke to the class of 1994; *Ted Henry*, '68, WEWS news anchor, who spoke to the class of 1992; and *Carol Costello*, '04, CNN contributor, who spoke to the class of 2004. Do you remember who spoke at your commencement? Share the names of these speakers and other memories from your graduation day by visiting [www.ksualumni.org](http://www.ksualumni.org) and clicking on the Hub to post to the discussion.



*First Graduating Class*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

# Alice Ripley, '86, WINS TONY

Although she never “dreamed too big,” this Kent State alumna made it all the way to Broadway

BY ASHLEY KATONA, '06



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE RIPLEY, '86

At the 2009 Tony Awards, Alice Ripley said in her acceptance speech for Best Leading Actress in a Musical that musical theatre “needs constant adjusting and tuning” to become a fine art. Ripley, who earned a B.F.A., can relate to this statement from the personal adjustments she made in college. She says Kent State University helped her discover herself and become an actress on Broadway.

“I think Kent State is part of who I am now and how I express my talent,” Ripley says. “I have some great college memories of becoming an actor and I learned a lot about how to be a grown-up at Kent State.”

In addition to winning the Tony Award for best actress for her performance in *Next to Normal*, Ripley was nominated for her 1997 role in *Silo Show*, and has been part of the original Broadway casts of such shows as *The Who’s Tommy*, *Sunset Boulevard* and the 2000 revival of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Ripley transferred to Kent State from DePauw University after Dave Heckert, '84, her close friend, recommended the theatre program. Within the first year, Ripley accepted the lead role in the musical, *Legend*, which made it to the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF). In addition, Ripley was nominated for an individual award, the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship.

“We were all really excited that we made it to the ACTF because I am not really sure that the idea of doing new theatre at the college level was really the norm then,” Ripley says.

Ripley says in college she never had big dreams and like many college students was unsure about the future of her career.

“I always had blinders on [in college],” Ripley says. “At the beginning as an artist you don’t really know what you are doing, and it is intimidating. You have people teaching you and giving you advice. In the end you take what works for you and leave the rest.”

Despite not knowing what was in store for her future, Ripley continued to do what she loved and spent a majority of her time at the Wright-Curtis Theatre. If she was not at class, Ripley was usually singing in a practice room.

One of her most memorable summers was spent working at Porthouse Theatre. Ripley says for someone who was not a professional, it was really challenging but a great experience at the same time.

Ripley credits her professors, especially Dr. Louis Erdmann, '58, and Dr. Bill Zucchero, '52, as well as her family (Ripley is one out of 11 children), for serving as a strong support system.

“Lou Erdmann and his wife, Gene, were very inspiring and supportive of me to go out in the acting world,” Ripley says. “They were the super-team of knowledge, passion, guts, wit and soul. By their example of love and laughter in and around the theatre, my soul was fueled for flight.”

To show her appreciation to Kent State and the School of Theatre and Dance, Ripley and Jeff Richmond, who also performed with Ripley at Kent State and composed the music for NBC’s hit comedy *30 Rock*, are serving as honorary chairs of an effort to name the school’s new black box theatre.

Ripley and Richmond co-hosted a fundraiser in New York City in April to help support the Black Box Theatre Campaign.

After the construction of the new state-of-the-art performing space in the Roe Green Center, the black box theatre will be named after Erdmann and Zucchero whose service to the school, particularly during the 1970s and '80s, helped the program grow more than eight fold.

“It makes me really happy that Lou Erdmann and Bill Zucchero are going to be associated with a permanent part of the theatre because I knew both of them, and they were very interesting teachers and talented directors,” Ripley says. “They were a personal inspiration to me and felt like family in college.”

Ripley also stays connected to Kent State by singing at events and speaking to classes. Students have the opportunity to communicate with Ripley through her websites, including Ripley’s Facebook page.

“I get so much out of talking to students and seeing their enthusiasm, Ripley says. “The energy is really great, and the students are just hungry. They really want to look up to someone who will have a good influence on them.”

# ALUMNI MEMORIES

## Through the Decades: 1970-1990

BY KATIE YOUNG, KENT STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

1970 through 1990 was a time of great change for Kent State University. Following the controversy surrounding the events of May 4, 1970, and financial struggles, Kent State faced many challenges. However, the university came through strong — reaching record enrollment in the 1980s and creating new buildings, including the Library and Gym Annex.

This time period saw the formation of the Student Ambassador group, the dedication of Ritchie Hall, the addition of Liberal Arts Requirements (LER, now the Kent Core) to the curriculum and a phone registration system for classes.

To celebrate Kent State University's Centennial celebration, alumni share their Golden Flash memories.

### HE WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

As a Kent State architecture graduate, *Terrence O'Neal, '81*, says the long hours in and outside the classroom prepared him well for a career in the field.

"Kent State gave me an excellent architecture education, advanced for its time and adaptable for the future," O'Neal says.

O'Neal describes the program as "rigorous, but always inspiring" and says he liked nearly everything about the architecture major. His favorite parts of the program include the professors and theoretical, yet practical, curriculum.

One major change O'Neal noted from his Kent State days is the use of technology in architecture.

"It's a different world now with the Internet, hand-held devices and laptop computers," O'Neal says. "When I was at Kent State, we used calculators and always had to make sure they were fully charged prior to class or an exam."

Outside of the architecture program, O'Neal remembers the beauty of Kent State's campus. O'Neal describes the campus as "idyllic" and recalls sitting outside next to Taylor Hall sketching and doing homework.

"I appreciated the beauty of the campus and remember it vividly today," O'Neal says.

### SHE SAW KENT STATE AS A PLACE FOR ACADEMICS AND FUN

History major *Wanda Jordan Clark, '87*, was not far from her family in Cleveland when she started college. For her, the distance was just enough. "It was close to home but a world apart," Clark says.

Some of her favorite memories include living in Tri-Towers, comedy nights in the Kiva and working in the now-defunct Loose Caboose Bar in Eastway. The Eastway deli, snack bar and the Loose Caboose were managed by hospitality management graduates and staffed by students. Clark says she and her fellow employees worked hard but still had a great time.

"It was the coolest place to hang out on campus with friends without having to hike all the way to downtown," Clark says. "I can't believe they paid us to work there!"

Other highlights of Clark's Kent State experience include the academics. One aspect of the history program she enjoyed was the professors.

"Their passion made history relevant to the present day," Clark says.

When Clark was not concentrating on her studies, she loved attending sporting events like football and basketball games and hanging out at Ray's Place downtown. Also, Clark will never forget the Clash concert in 1982.

"The Clash and the music of the 80s was a large part of my life at Kent and continues to be an influence today," Clark says.

**"It was close to home but a world apart."**

*—Jordan Clark, '87*



Clark (left) and Nancy Schiappa, '85, in Leebrick Hall where Clark lived for one semester

# ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

## A look at our Alumni Chapters

BY MARISSA MENDEL, KENT STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

Upon graduating from Kent State, some students leave the area while others stay. Keeping a connection to one's alma mater may seem difficult, but Kent State's 12 active alumni chapters make staying connected easier.



### CENTRAL OHIO ALUMNI CHAPTER

#### NUMBER OF CENTRAL OHIO ALUMNI:

More than 6,700

#### OFFICIALLY BECAME A CHAPTER: 2000

PRESIDENT: *Scott Walker, '91*

WEB: [www.ksualumni.org/centralohio](http://www.ksualumni.org/centralohio)

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING CHAPTER EVENTS?

"Our annual marquee event is the new student send-off picnic, which is held the last Sunday in July at Highbanks Metro Park. Each year, we invite all of the Central Ohio incoming freshmen and their parents. We raffle some great prizes, enjoy a great lunch and hold a panel Q & A session for the students and parents. We also support our local professional sports franchises, so we have held group events at games such as the Blue Jackets, Clippers and Crew."  
— Walker

#### WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY?

"I am extremely proud of the university and grateful for the high-quality education I received at Kent State. My father taught criminal justice at Kent State for more than 20 years. We are truly a Kent State family, and staying connected after graduating was simply a no-brainer for me. I support the university in any way I can and visit as often as possible."  
— Walker

#### WHY SHOULD OTHERS JOIN/PARTICIPATE?

"This is a tremendous opportunity for networking. Those who have participated in events with us know that we're a tight-knit group of alumni who help and support each other and have a lot of fun when we're together."  
— Walker



### MARCHING BAND ALUMNI CHAPTER

#### NUMBER OF ALUMNI IN MARCHING BAND:

More than 1,000

#### OFFICIALLY BECAME A CHAPTER: 2004

PRESIDENT: *Mallory Martin, '06, M.A. '09*

WEB: [www.ksualumni.org/band](http://www.ksualumni.org/band)

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING CHAPTER EVENTS?

"We get together at Homecoming and perform with the band in the parade, at pre-game and at halftime. Another fun event is our Flasher Brass Reunion during basketball season. A summer camping trip was started last year to keep alumni in contact who can't always come to our other events."  
— Lisa Dael, '90

#### FAVORITE KENT STATE MEMORY?

"I have great memories of hanging out at the Rat with my friends or going to Mario's (a fine dining establishment in Tri-Towers). Getting a burger and fries at Ray's, walking down Lilac Lane near Engleman Hall or walking around campus in the fall. Attending football, basketball and hockey games, going on band trips, going bowling at Eastway. I could go on and on ..."  
— Dael

#### WHY SHOULD OTHERS JOIN/PARTICIPATE?

"It is fun to come back to campus and meet current college students, reminisce about your time in school with old friends and see how some things change and some stay the same."  
— Dael



### TAMPA BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER

#### NUMBER OF ALUMNI IN TAMPA BAY:

More than 1,100

#### OFFICIALLY BECAME A CHAPTER: 2000

PRESIDENT: *Kelly Spivey, '85*

WEB: [www.ksualumni.org/tampabay](http://www.ksualumni.org/tampabay)

#### WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY?

"To network and socialize with fellow alumni. The stories are interesting, and it's fun to hear how different generations' experiences were. It has been fun to meet alumni from other MAC and Ohio schools. We recently had an all-Ohio networking night. We had a great turnout."  
— Margie Kralovich, '88

#### WHY SHOULD OTHERS JOIN/PARTICIPATE?

"It's a good way to meet new people, especially if you are new to the area. You have a common experience."  
— Kralovich

#### FAVORITE KENT STATE MEMORY?

"Going to basketball games and football games and sitting behind the band. Laying in the sun instead of studying for finals, waving at the high school seniors taking the campus tour — I lived in Johnson hall at the time — and enjoying time with friends."  
— Kralovich

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

**'70** **Trina (Pflenniger) Gardner**, Wilmington, Del., painted a 28-foot MASH mural for the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center in West Chester, Pa. for their new Korean exhibit. • **Dolores J. Pinchot**, M.S. '74, Euclid, Ohio, had a poem accepted with first place honors in the Euclid Poetry Lines, an anthology of local poets.

**'71** **Thomas N. Huber**, New York, N.Y., is the new director of outreach for The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. Huber will work with the 14 MWBB Representatives stationed around the country to extend investment, retirement, life insurance, disability and health insurance benefits to all eligible church workers.

**'72** **Roy Blye**, M.A. '72, Ph.D. '74, Tallahassee, Fla., has been named recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award by Rhodes College. • **Bob Harrison**, M.Ed., Charleston, W.Va., was the recipient of the Mudge McDaniel Leadership in Reading Award at the West Virginia Reading Association's Annual Conference held in Charleston, West Virginia on Nov. 12 and 13, 2009. Harrison is currently the dean of the College of Professional Studies at West Virginia State University where he is also an associate professor of education. He was a former English teacher at Bluefield High School and Central Junior High School. • **Paula Maggie**, L.S.M. '06, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is the author of *Reading the Skies in Virginia Woolf: Woolf on Weather in Her Essays, Her Diaries and Three of Her Novels*; a new monograph in the Bloomsbury Heritage Series published

by Cecil Woolf Publishers of London. Maggio signed copies of her monograph at the 19th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf in New York City in June, where she presented a paper, "Virginia Woolf in the Cyber City: Connecting in the Virtual Public Square." Cecil Woolf Publishers has also commissioned Maggio to write a monograph on pacifists from the Bloomsbury Group. • **Kathleen Schmitt**, Washington, D.C., is the president of the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association and was just named 2009 Top Woman Association Executive.

**'73** **Carter E. Strong**, B.S. '73, J.D., Cleveland, Ohio, was named president of the Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

Alumni Association Annual Member **Life Member**

## Steve Flaughers, '04

### Former Kent State mascot finds success as a country singer and businessman

BY ANNA RIGGENBACH, '08

Steve Flaughers, '04, may have started out as the anonymous person behind Flash the mascot at Kent State University, but today, many on campus recognize him in his own right.

After starting college elsewhere, Flaughers transferred to Kent State to pursue a degree in technology, following the advice of a friend. While at his previous school, Flaughers always thought that being the mascot looked like fun.

"I came to Kent State and was looking for ways to get involved," Flaughers says. "I saw being the mascot as another great opportunity to get involved with the university."

Flaughers knew Kent State cheerleading coach *Lenae Buchman*, M.Ed. '06, and she helped him become the man behind Flash.

"It was very rewarding being the mascot," he says. "I love kids and I love entertaining them."

During the games, Flaughers tried to focus his attention on children who were disabled or sick.

"If for only one minute while I was Flash I could take their worries away, that made my entire day," he says.

In addition to his role as Flash, Flaughers hoped to kick off his country music career in college, so he auditioned for the country singing competition, *Nashville Star*. He made it to the regional round on the show, which was enough to get his name out.

From there, Flaughers entered an original music contest in Cleveland. Even though he did not win, he placed in the top five. This gave him the opportunity to open shows for country singer Kerry Chesney.

His music career did not end there. While traveling in Alabama for his job, Flaughers saw a commercial that Country Music Television was looking for people with original music and a video.



Since he had been writing songs for some time, Flaughers already had music.

He made his video and entered it into the contest. Flaughers placed in the top 16 out of more than 600 entries. From there, he says it was a whirlwind of publicity. Flaughers did radio interviews, was asked to open for national acts and had his music video shown at the Cleveland International Film Festival, a first for the festival.

"It was really neat walking in there and seeing my video on a massive movie screen," he says.

While a career in music may have been his dream, Flaughers took a different path after college. He now owns his own brand promotion company, Proforma. He said he owes this opportunity to the networking he did while a

member of the Sigma Nu fraternity at Kent State.

Flaughers now does a lot of business with Kent State, and a lot of his customers are people he met through his fraternity.

"When I first started in college, I was a social butterfly," he says. "I found that Greek life was a great way to network, and it was directly through networking that I came in contact with a guy and worked my way up. I learned a lot of things that I couldn't learn in the classroom."

As for the future, Flaughers says he does not know what it holds, but he keeps trying to think bigger and better. He follows the advice of a friend, fellow Kent State alumnus and Varsity "K" member: "Never let anyone define what your own success is and means."



Kent State University

# homecoming

October 9, 2010

Main Street will come alive to celebrate

## Kent State's 2010 Homecoming Parade

followed by a variety of fun-filled  
activities for alumni, friends and family.

### Homecoming Parade

10–11:30 a.m. down Main Street

### Alumni Continental Breakfast and Parade Viewing

9–11:30 a.m.

Hosted by the Kent State Alumni Association  
Williamson Alumni Center at 1200 Main Street

### Football

University of Akron Zips vs. Kent State  
Golden Flashes

### Other Activities

- College of Education, Health and Human Services 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner
- Class of 1960 Reunion luncheon
- Celebrating a Century of Kent State Women's Athletics weekend
- Bowman Cup 5K race
- Open Houses at Ice Arena, Student Recreation and Wellness Center and Fashion Museum
- Much more



Connect with former classmates. Relive treasured memories.  
See how campus has changed and grown. Join us on Oct. 9!

**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
[www.ksualumni.org](http://www.ksualumni.org)

Updated information regarding the parade,  
schedule of events and more is available at:

[www.ksualumni.org/homecoming](http://www.ksualumni.org/homecoming)

**1.888.320.KENT**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

Chapter. Strang also received the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys Distinguished Contributions to the community Award in Columbus, Ohio on Nov. 11, 2009. Strang is a partner with Tucker Ellis & West LLP in Cleveland, Ohio and serves as its pipeline initiative coordinator. He serves as chair of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Green Committee and is a member of its Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Kent State Honors College Advisory Board. While at Kent State, Strang was a member of the football and hockey teams and member of the Honors College. He is the son of former Kent State head football coach Leo Strang.

**'74 Elizabeth Skokovic,** Washington, D.C., has been chosen as Washington, D.C., Association of Realtors' Realtor of the Year for 2009.

**'75 Carol J. (Jacobs) Adams,** M.F.A., Peninsula, Ohio, dedicated her latest sculpture titled "Lightscape XXIII: Community" on Nov. 22, 2009. Designed specifically for the city of Solon, Ohio, and located in front of Solon City Hall, Community features historical images of the city moving upward to the present. The sculpture embodies themes of community, service, diversity and education. • **Brian W. Crede,** New York, N.Y., will be exhibiting new artwork at Casa Frela Gallery, NYC. These new works straddle a line between illustration and sculpture. The exhibition opened on Saturday, June 13, 2009, and ran through July 13, 2009.

**'76 Rick Niece,** M.Ed. '76, Ph.D. '88, Clarksville, Ark., has published his first book, *Side-Yard Superhero*. • **Patricia A. (Cipriano) Prelock,** B.S. '76, Ph.D., Colchester, Vt., has been appointed dean

of the University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

**'77 Kevin E. Pyle,** Loveland, Ohio, left for a one-year mission in Mwarza, Tanzania, on March 15 with his wife, Celesta. They will assist the East of Lake Victoria Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to set up its financial reporting, internal controls and internal auditing. • **Kenneth E. Shipley,** Ph.D., New York, N.Y., is the managing consultant at the Philadelphia office of Lee Hecht Harrison, conducting career counseling. • **David Swartzlander,** Seward, Neb., has been elected as vice president of College Media Advisers, a professional association of more than 750 colleges and universities nationwide.

**'78 Brian A. Blawie,** Naperville, Ill., is president and CEO for ENRAM, Energy Resource Americas, a private firm providing Decision Support Services to organizations and institutions, primarily in energy-related matters, as well as investment and trading activities.

**'80 Charles L. Schreckenger,** B.S. '80, Uniontown, Ohio, was elected to the American Institute of Architects Ohio Valley Regional Director position. Schreckenger also serves as the president of the Board of Trustees of Weatherlane Community Playhouse. • **Angelique K. Walker-Smith,** Indianapolis, Ind., received national distinction as USA senior Fulbright scholar and specialist to represent and serve our country and rural Africa. • **John F. Wasviko,** Brunswick, Ohio, and the Brunswick School's Video

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

Alumni Association Annual Member Life Member



Kent State University Alumni Association

## The Centennial Challenge Is On

Join Kent State University Alumni Association chapters across the country in a friendly competition to reach 100 new members per chapter within 100 days.

Help out your favorite chapter. It's a great way to show your pride, share the excitement and support Kent State. Don't be left out!

cash prizes - bragging rights- T-shirts - much more

Join Now at [www.ksualumni.org/100ways](http://www.ksualumni.org/100ways).

**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
EXCELLENCE in Action  
[www.ksualumni.org](http://www.ksualumni.org)

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The Kent State University  
Alumni Association's

## Distinguished Teaching Award

**PICK ONE!** at [www.ksualumni.org/dta](http://www.ksualumni.org/dta)

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

 **Deadline: June 30**



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

Program, of which Wasyfko is the advisor, were selected to participate with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on a live TV broadcast on Dec. 15, 2009. Brunswick was only one of two schools nationally selected to participate. The video program was also selected as the 2009 documentary team for the Ohio School Boards Association.

**'81** **Janice J. (Dawgater) Nussbaum**, Akron, Ohio, has been selected as the BPACT 2009 Black Professional of the Year. • **Alan S. Lurty**, Plymouth Meeting, Pa., was named to the board of directors at Big Brothers and Sisters Southeastern Pa.

**'82** **Mark Dent**, Ed.S., Kent, Ohio, retired after 31 years in education. He served 16 years as a principal and 15 years as a mathematics teacher. His specialty was providing an appropriate environment for the development of the middle school child. He was a member of the Ohio Education Association, Ohio Middle School Association, the Ohio Association of Secondary Administrators and Phi Delta Kappa.

**'83** **Cheryl J. Laubacher**, Brecksville, Ohio, has accepted the coordinator of pre-professional programs position at Cleveland State University.

**'84** **Richard A. Van**, Lewis Center, Ohio, is to be inducted into the Ohio Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame.

**'85** **Lisa H. (Hatchler) Byles**, M.A.E. '88, Richmond, Va., has been awarded the Certified Divorce Financial Analyst designation from the Institute for Divorce Financial Analysts. Byles, owner and principal of Byles Financial Planning LLC, is also a Certified Financial Planner and a member of the Financial Planning Association and the Garrett Planning Network. • **Lisa M. Becker**, B.A. '85, Ph.D., Scarsdale, N.Y., has joined LIM College as the associate dean of continuing education. In her new role, Becker will oversee LIM College's adult, professional and alternative education programs with a focus on developing new offerings, including degree, noncredit and certificate programs, as well as corporate training initiatives. Becker will also be responsible for leading the Distance Learning Task Force at LIM College. • **Jody L. (Brown) Kovalyan**, Kent, Ohio, has been promoted to project coordinator for University Communications and Marketing at Kent State University. • **Suzanne G. (Griffith) Prestien**, New Wilmington, Pa., was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor of English and public relations at Westminster College.

**'87** **Thomas S. Alexander**, Ph.D., Akron, Ohio, has been selected to serve as the chair of the American Board of Medical Laboratory

**Lauren Burant Yard**, '03, and **Jason Yard**, '03, were married April 4, 2009. The wedding party included all Kent State graduates and all of the groomsmen were members of Delta Upsilon Fraternity. The back row from left to right: Ryan Martin, '07, Eric Lipps, '09, Bryan Mazanec, '05, Christian Marianek, '03, Victor Ragon, '03, Ron Charlton, '02. The front row left to right: Breanne Rumbaugh Milligan, '02, Susan Slam Prewitt, '01, Lauren Burant Yard, '03 (Bride), Jason Yard, '03 (Groom), Marcia Wylie Roach, '02, Kara Gates Kirkpatrick, '01.



Immunology. • **Jeanette I. Winkler**, Annapolis, Md., is running to be an alderman (city council member) in Annapolis. She made it through the primary and will face the local general election later this year.

**'88** **Brian D. Kelley**, M.P.A. '90, Hartsville, Ohio, received the 2009 CIO of the Year Award for Government by NEOSA at their CIO Symposium on Nov. 10, 2009 in Independence, Ohio. With this award, his staff at Portage County received the NEOSA IT Team of the Year award. • **Christy J. Talbott**, East Liverpool, Ohio, is an assistant professor of music at Oklahoma Baptist University.

**'89** **Phyllis M. Casey**, Frisco, Texas, is assuming program management for one of the largest new hospital projects in the United States. • **Mark B. Olson**, Bay Village, Ohio, is principal for Bialosky + Partners Architects where the American Institute of Architects Ohio has awarded its prestigious Gold Medal Firm Award.

**'90** **Charles Case**, Canfield, Ohio, serves on the Ohio Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians — elected Missions and Charities (2007-2009), Irish Historian (2009-2011). • **Gregory R. Frost**, Canton, Ohio, was one of 20 selected by the Canton Chamber of Commerce this year for significant contributions to the Stark County community. • **Jeanette M. Schiappa-Henderson**, San Antonio, Texas, was selected for the San Antonio Credit Union and KENS TV teacher EsCel Award. • **Deb Taylor**, M.P.A. '92, Columbus, Ohio, is chairman of the board for the Upper Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce, Upper Arlington, Ohio.

**'91** **Jessie L. Grant**, Juneau, Alaska, is the director of student services at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau overseeing multiple departments such as Housing and Residence Life, Health Services, Food Services, Recreation, Student Activities and most of the events that are a part of student life. Grant also manages budgetary matters for programs that run on student fees such as student government, as well as judiciary matters involving the student code of conduct.

**'93** **Eric L. Rosen**, M.Ed., Cleveland, Ohio, was promoted to executive director of university programs and events at Case Western Reserve University. • **Shelly Lingenseltner**, M.Ed. '01, Wellsville, Ohio, was named director, Enrollment Management and Student Services for Kent State Columbiana County campuses, which includes Kent State University at East Liverpool and Kent State University at Salem. • **Ruby Ann Little**, Clark, Pa., provides two-and-a-half-day retreats with 22 CEUs instructing in holistic approach to professional and personal lives, including reiki.

**'94** **Brian M. Dodez**, B.S. '99, M.A. '03, North Canton, Ohio, has joined Sutter, O'Connell & Fachione as an associate. Dodez focuses on the defense of medical malpractice, products liability and transportation industry cases. • **D. Catherine Jordan**, Cleveland, Ohio, is an intervention specialist K-3 at South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools. Jordan recently received a National Board Certification for K-12 Exceptional Needs Specialist Teacher. • **Bill M. Laditka**, B.S. '94, M.Arch. '97, Chesterland, Ohio, is principal at Bialosky + Partners Architects where the American Institute of Architects Ohio has awarded its prestigious Gold Medal Firm Award.

**'95** **Gregory M. Ina**, M.A. '05, Kent, Ohio, was promoted to the position of vice president and general manager of the Davey Institute. Ina's areas of responsibility are all activities of the institute, including research and development, technical support services, environmental compliance, technical innovation, and education and training. • **Sean M. Stadler**, Washington, D.C., has been named as one of the 40 most accomplished individuals under 40 years of age in the architecture, engineering and construction industry by *Building Design + Construction Magazine*. Stadler was selected for his long record of service to the architectural profession and for being a key voice at YWG Architecture, one of Mid-Atlantic's most prolific and respected design firms.

**'97** **Bob Kellemen**, Ph.D., Crown Point, Ind., has co-authored his fourth book *Sacred Friendships: Celebrating the Legacy of Women Heroes of the Faith*.

Alumni Association Annual Member | Life Member



Kent State alumni and their sons visited Kent State's geology department in March. This was part of an educational experience for a group of fourth grade Cub Scouts from Aurora City Schools.

From left to right: June Lucal, '95, Daryl Hannes, M.Ed., '09, Christine Hannes, '83, two students from Cub Scout Den B of Pack 3265, Dave Behringer, '92, and James Lynch, '91.

**'99** Elizabeth A. Juhasz, M.L.S., Massillon, Ohio, head of Outreach Services for Massillon Public Library, was selected as the recipient of the 2009 John Philip Outreach Award. • **Michael J. Lebowitz**, Herndon, Va., was selected for a position as prosecutor with the Office of Military Commissions. Lebowitz's current duties are to directly prosecute high-value terror suspects that are currently slated to remain in the Military Commissions system.

**'00** Christopher J. Kostko, Boston, Mass., was recently named Region Business Manager, Northeast for Gorton's. Kostko joins Gorton's after 10 years in sales and category management with Kraft Foods. • **Justine Siegal**, M.A., Cleveland, Ohio, is professional baseball's first female coach, for the Brockton Rox. • **Ryan K. Ware**, Powell, Ohio, received state of Ohio Architectural Licenses in February. In April, Ware received NCARB certification, and in July he was named head of the Higher Education Marketing Sector for M+A Architects.

**'01** Jason L. Craig, Strw, Ohio, is interactive project manager with Hitchcock Fleming & Associates Inc. Craig works on accounts such as Glidden, Louisiana Pacific, LIQUID NAILS Adhesive and KraftMaid. • **Jason M. Green**, Leetonia, Ohio, has been the profiled author for the month of November by the online literary magazine *Writing Raw* ([www.writingraw.com](http://www.writingraw.com)). He has also published his fourth novel, a supernatural western called *Singers*. • **Negan K. Leashen**, Ph.D., Bellevue, Ky., is the manager of talent assessments with Macy's Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**'02** David A. Herman, Cleveland, Ohio, is an associate attorney in the litigation group at Nusenberg, Paris, Heller and McCarthy Co., LPA in Cleveland and a professor of paralegal studies at Kent State University.

**'03** Larry M. Fontenarosa, Ph.D., North Jackson, Ohio, was one of the 264 science and math teachers from 16 countries and 47 U.S. states selected to participate in the Honeywell Educators at Space Academy at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., June 13-19, 2009. • **Richard T. Greig**, Ph.D., Mercer, Pa., has been with Westminster College since 1995 was promoted to associate professor of music. Greig is chair of the Department of Music and director of bands. • **Matthew S. Grycan**, Twinsburg, Ohio, has been promoted to account manager with Hitchcock Fleming & Associates, Inc. Grycan will be focusing on the Goodyear National Retail Account. • **Jennifer Lapsa**, B.S. '03, Chicago, Ill., is account supervisor for Ogilvy Action.

**'04** Terry P. Armstrong, Warren, Ohio, has accepted a teaching position with the Trumbull County Career and Technical Center. Armstrong has spent the past three years teaching social studies courses at Lordstown High School. He was also awarded a 2008 Time Warner Cable National Teaching Award for a project that included his students traveling to Iowa and working for candidates during the Iowa Caucus. • **Carney M. Chickilo**, Arlington, Va., is director of business development for Brock & Company Inc. • **Christina M. Montesinos**, Madrid, Spain, is the creator of [sideRACK.net](http://sideRACK.net), a new designer clothing site allowing customers to purchase, rent

and custom order designer products. • **Dawn Segari**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is director of food and beverage for SMG/The Wolstein Center.

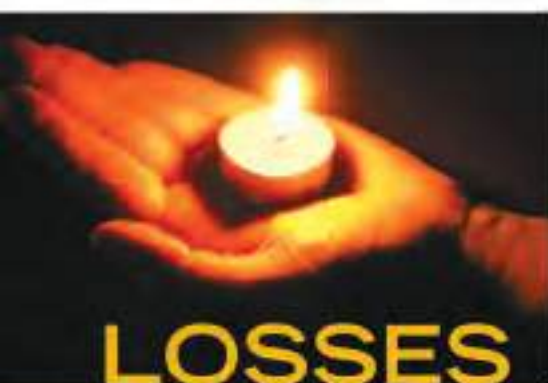
**'05** William C. Briddick, Ph.D., Brookings, S.D., was selected as one of six Theodore Schultz Scholars at South Dakota State University for 2009-2010 in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Nobel Prize Awarded to SDSU graduate Theodore Schultz. • **Damien E. Earl**, Toledo, Ohio, is an M.D./Ph.D. student in the College of Medicine, University of Toledo, fourth year in the program and received a four-year award MDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

**'06** Lenee M. Buchman, M.Ed., Dublin, Ohio, has a new position at Ohio State University as the cheerleading coach. • **Brian C. Schreffler**, Clinton, Ohio, has been promoted to senior associate for BCG & Company, an Akron area accounting firm.

**'07** Elizabeth A. Reidy, Munroe Falls, Ohio, was promoted to senior associate at BCG & Co., an accounting firm in Akron, OH.

**'08** Tanja Petrovic, Leposavic, Serbia, is a graduate student at Oxford in Cambridge.

Alumni Association Annual Member **Life Member**



## LOSSES in the Kent State Family

- \*32 Teresa Silva, Wickliffe, Ohio, September 2007.
- \*37 Jane M. (McSerley) Briola, Troy, Ohio, March 2010.
- \*42 Olympia B. Butler, New York, N.Y., January 2010.
- \*47 Roger H. Watkins, Amboy, Ill., March, 2010.
- \*51 Robert F. Case, Columbus, Ohio, March 2009.  
Alfred P. Gardiner, Gadsden, Ala., January 2010.
- \*52 Melvin Shapiro, Rochester, N.Y., August 2009.
- \*53 Rita F. (English) Bachman, Angelus Oaks, Calif., June 2009.  
James P. Cuppy, Lafayette, Ind., October 2008.  
Wayne R. McAfee, M.B.A. '57, Richmond, Va., December, 2009.
- \*56 Margaret Eisenhut-Cathan, M.A. '71, Sarasota, Fla., January 2001.
- \*57 Ronald J. Mangon, Willoughby, Ohio, September 2009.
- \*58 Jay M. Moody, Phoenix, Ariz., April 2009.
- \*59 Lois Malmberg, Bay Village, Ohio, January 2010.
- \*60 William F. Miller, Mentor, Ohio, August 2009.
- \*61 Elsie L. Reinhard, M.Ed. '61, Hinckley, Ohio, December, 2009.
- \*63 H. Patrick Eisenhut, La Habra, Calif., February 2010.
- \*64 James L. Atwood, May, 2009.  
Judy L. (Stender) Epstein, Orlando, Fla., August 2008.
- \*67 Al Martin, Wooster, Ohio, February 2010.
- \*70 Terry L. Wells, M.S., Columbus, Ohio, October 2006.
- \*71 Edgar M. Horner, Tipp City, Ohio, October 2009.
- \*72 David L. Ramp, Minneapolis, Minn., May 2009.
- \*79 Olive B. Cochran, M.L.S., Columbus, Ohio, December 2007.  
Michael W. Schlorholtz, M.S., Houston, Texas, February 2010.
- \*84 Joseph J. Packales, Ph.D., Pittsden, Maine, September 2008.
- \*89 Paul B. Hickson, Youngstown, Ohio, November 2009.
- \*93 Fran McNees, Canton, Ohio, February 2010.
- \*97 Thomas M. Rubick, M.A., Eugene, Ore., July 2009.
- \*98 Jennifer L. Baker, M.Ed. '06, Salem, Ohio, January 2010.
- \*06 Paul M. Yankovich, Kent, Ohio, September 2009.

## LIFE Members

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! 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](http://www.ksualumni.org/member).

Richard Aber, Kent, Ohio  
Sandra Adams, North Canton, Ohio  
William Adams, North Canton, Ohio  
Stanley Ballou, Cleveland, Ohio  
Christine Barkhurst, Ravenna, Ohio  
Loren Barkhurst, Ravenna, Ohio  
Carolyn Battles, Hilliard, Ohio  
Linda Bayda, Canton, Ohio  
Monique Burkett, Jersey City, N.J.  
Pamela Carson, Bay Village, Ohio  
Dianne Centa, Kent, Ohio  
Sunil Chand, Lisle, Ill.  
Carley Chicko, Arlington, Va.  
Thomas Corrigan, Westlake, Ohio  
Diane Courtney, Denver, N.C.  
Rudolph DiDonato, Akron, Ohio  
Dennis DiMatteo, Cleveland, Ohio  
Patricio DiMatteo, Lyndhurst, Ohio  
Nancy Drugan, Ravenna, Ohio  
William Drugan, Ravenna, Ohio  
John Elkin, Cortland, Ohio  
Judith Epstein, Akron, Ohio  
Janice Evonovich, Ravenna, Ohio  
John Evonovich, Ravenna, Ohio  
Catharine Ferguson, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
Brian Foutty, North Lima, Ohio  
Julie Foutty, North Lima, Ohio  
Abigail Fox, Alliance, Ohio  
Joseph Frattaroli, Lemont, Ill.  
Sylvia Frattaroli, Lemont, Ill.  
Frank Gibbs, Canyon Country, Calif.  
Shari Gibbs, Canyon Country, Calif.  
Jean Gonzalez, Huntington Beach, Calif.  
Michael Gustafson, Delaware, Ohio  
Myma Hugh, Sherodsville, Ohio  
Richard Hugh, Sherodsville, Ohio  
Michael Huntley, Streetsboro, Ohio  
Rachel Huntley, Streetsboro, Ohio  
Douglas Isaacs, Milwaukie, Ore.  
Kristin Isaacs, Milwaukie, Ore.  
Leela Jishi, Kent, Ohio

Laing Kennedy, Kent, Ohio  
Kurt Krakovich, Farmington Hills, Mich.  
Michael Kubiak, Peninsula, Ohio  
Wu-Shyong Li, Woodbury, Minn.  
Riley Marrell, North Canton, Ohio  
Sally Marrell, North Canton, Ohio  
Mary Ann McCollough, Jefferson Hills, Pa.  
Robert McMahon, Jupiter, Fla.  
Frank Mitri, Dorado, P.R.  
Barbara Moran, Clinton Township, Mich.  
Gilda Norin, Pompton Plains, N.J.  
Linda Northcott, Avon Lake, Ohio  
William Northcott, Avon Lake, Ohio  
Mary Ellen Numi, State College, Pa.  
Denise Osborne, Mesa, Ariz.  
Edward Palidas, Lakewood, Ohio  
Robert Parilla, Gaithersburg, Md.  
Camille Park, Kent, Ohio  
Linda Patrilla, Warren, Ohio  
Thomas Petrilla, Warren, Ohio  
Sara Sampson, Alexandria, Va.  
John Sanderson, Ballston Lake, N.Y.  
Maria Schneider, Copley, Ohio  
Richard Sheffler, Livonia, Mich.  
Jean Shoup, North Canton, Ohio  
Thomas Shoup, North Canton, Ohio  
Robert Sidwell, Malta, Ohio  
Jeanne Sperry, Woodstock, Ga.  
Robert Sperry, Woodstock, Ga.  
Phillip Steinberg, Stow, Ohio  
Virginia Steinberg, Stow, Ohio  
Debra Stiffer, Franklin, Mass.  
Gary Stiffer, Franklin, Mass.  
Eric Strickland, Canton, Ohio  
Kathryn Tashima, Sylvania, Ohio  
Martin Tkac Jr., Cleveland, Ohio  
Debra Wallace, Dripping Springs, Texas  
Cheryl Wardaga, Willowick, Ohio  
Larry Wilson, Gainesville, Texas  
Robert Wilson Jr., Kent, Ohio  
Paul Wise, Ocala, Fla.

## FRIENDS of Kent State

**Dorothy Betz**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, September 2009.  
**Victoria G. Guenther**, Aurora, Ohio, December 2008.  
Mrs. Guenther was on the nursing faculty at Kent State University from September 1970 until she retired as Professor Emerita in May 1982.

**Lawrence Litwack**, Kent, Ohio, April, 2010.  
**Rudy Malandro**, Scottsdale, Ariz., October 2009.  
**Dorothy K. Potts**, Spokane Valley, Wash., September 2009.  
**Alaina Reed-Hall**, Northridge, Calif., December 2009.  
**Mark R. Rubin**, Ph.D., Stow, Ohio, January 2010.  
**Ray Waugaman**, Stow, Ohio, March 2009.

# ACADEMIC Home Run

Scholarship honors family's historic baseball legacy

BY BRIAN THORNTON, M.A. '07 | PHOTOS BY JEFF GLIDDEN, '87



Lois Youngen throws a pitch at Schoonover Stadium last May.

It's been more than 50 years since Kent State alumna *Lois Youngen* was an outfielder and catcher in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League — but it's clear she still has a passion for the sport. On a sunny May afternoon last year — a day when she's being honored for endowing a scholarship in her father's name for a Golden Flash baseball player — she's cheering on her alma mater's team. And from her vantage point in the Schoonover Stadium stands, it's obvious Youngen disagrees with the third-base coach's decision to hold a runner as the batted ball soars.

"It's going to drop in. Go for two!" she calls out, then pauses to evaluate the opposing pitcher's performance. "Better pull that left-hander."

Thankfully for the ardent sports fan and Kent State booster, the hold has no impact — the Flashes easily pull off a decisive 6-1 victory over Miami.

Lois Youngen was a second-generation Kent Stater; both parents attended, and her father, *Elden "Ty" Youngen*, was captain of the baseball team in 1926. But when she arrived in 1951, there were no women's varsity sports. So for four summers, Youngen played on the league made famous in the 1992 comedy *A League of Their Own*, on such teams as the Fort Wayne Daisies and the South Bend Blue Sox.

Started as a way of filling ballparks during World War II, the league continued into the mid-'50s. And throughout four summers, Youngen and her teammates traveled the



Lois Youngen is honored for endowing a scholarship in memory of her father during a baseball game at Schoonover Stadium last May.

Midwest to play every night, with doubleheaders on Sundays.

"By August, we prayed for rain," she says.

This was baseball, not softball, and the women took all of the knocks and tumbles their male counterparts did — except they did it in a dress.

Youngen still recalls her reaction the first time she saw the uniforms, which were designed by the wife of league owner Philip K. Wrigley: "We're going to have to play ball in that? They showed a lot of leg, which I guess was the goal."

For Youngen, it was more than just a pastime; it paid her Kent State tuition. But her participation rankled some faculty members.

"I had difficulty with my women professors because I didn't stop playing," she says. "They didn't know what to do with me, and I felt I could never please them. This was before Title IX (the federal law that brought gender equity to collegiate sports)."

But other professors were supportive. After she received her first A in a zoology course, legendary professor *J. Arthur Herrick* asked her to be his assistant. Her academic success continued when she earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1955, followed by a master's degree from Michigan State and a doctorate from Ohio State.

Education played a major role in the Youngen family; her mother, *Helen*, was an elementary school teacher, and her father, *Elden*, was a principal and superintendent. And despite being told by college professors that physical education "wasn't ladylike," for more than four decades Youngen made a successful career out of that field — most notably at the University of Oregon, where she taught a variety of activity and theory courses, and led the Department of Physical Activity and Recreation Services until 1996.

It was a long way from her early days at Kent State, when her love of sports was considered so improper.

Back in the stands, Youngen is regaling a fan with stories from her baseball days — even as she stops mid-sentence to call out, "Fair ball!" when a hit soars into the outfield. But it is her lifetime in academia that led her to respond to the university's call to fund its top priority, scholarships, by endowing one for a Kent State baseball player as part of the Centennial Campaign.

"There are lots of students who can't afford to go to college," she says. "I thought it was appropriate because my father was an educator, my mother was an educator, I was an educator."

But perhaps more important is her understanding of the challenges college student-athletes face.

"These players might not go on to the next level," she says, "so I think it's important that they graduate so they can go on to their next level."

## Start your campaign conversation today.

When you're ready to join the Centennial Campaign, the professional staff at the Office of Institutional Advancement can help you decide what and how to give. A variety of giving possibilities allows you to ensure your legacy at Kent State at whatever level with which you're comfortable.

Call 330-672-2222 or e-mail [advancement@kent.edu](mailto:advancement@kent.edu) to begin your conversation.

# Giving Back to the Beacon of Opportunity

## Alumna's Gift Acknowledges Impact of Education Through Minority Student Scholarship Funding

BY BRIAN THORNTON, M.A. '07



Like so many young people, *Catherine Ross'* university experience shaped her future life and career in unexpected ways. But for the 1971 College of Arts

and Sciences graduate, events outside the classroom during the late '60s were as transformative as those inside.

It was a time of protests about the Vietnam War and about the treatment of women and minority students — and Ross was in the middle of a diverse group of activists.

"There was a coalition and cohesiveness around issues that transcended community," she says. "It didn't matter — we were all tied together. What were civil rights for all of us?"

Ross' university experience might not have been possible for many young people from her working-class background. Neither of her parents had the opportunity to attend college,

"which made it paramount in their minds, and paramount in my life, to get an education," she says.

A partial scholarship from the university — and its commitment to affordability — started Ross on a path to career success.

"Kent State made the difference in terms of my having an education," she says. "And for a lot of children, particularly minority children who don't have the means to go to college, it really has been a beacon."

It was also, she says, "the linkage to the enlightenment to really contribute more to society."

Ross continued her education at Cornell University, followed by post-doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley — places that expanded her passion for social justice, as well as furthered her studies in city and regional planning.

The two are not disconnected. Through her work as the first endowed chair at Georgia Tech's College of Architecture and her private consulting business, Ross' research examines planning issues

as they impact sustainability, clean energy and health. It's also a career that includes public service — as the executive director for Georgia's first statewide transportation authority and, more recently, on two initiatives with the Obama administration.

The married mother of two credits her success to her parents — and her Kent State experience nearly four decades ago. "I was very fortunate," Ross says.

She's paying back through a Centennial Campaign gift of scholarship funding for minority students, helping meet one of President Lester A. Lefton's top priorities around diversity.

"I like to think I am continuing the tradition that I benefited from when Kent State gave me the award many years ago," she says. "That I will empower and help someone take advantage of a Kent State education, and they will go on to do all of the things I have been able to do, and more, because of that education. That gives me good thoughts and warm feelings."

### TAKING ACTION: CAPITAL

## New Location for Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative



The Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Kent State's community service organization that provides design services, research and advocacy for Northeast Ohio's cities, has a new location to call home.

A previously vacant building at 1309 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland's PlayhouseSquare has been renovated to house the program, which also gives real-world learning opportunities to graduate students in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. The prominent downtown area is located along the new Euclid Corridor and is envisioned as part of a "District of Design," with architecture, engineering, design and planning firms located within its boundaries.

Major Centennial Campaign support for the relocation has been provided by the Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation, Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust, and Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation.

# New York City Hosts Starry Centennial Campaign Night

Broadway and Hollywood glamour provided the luster for an April 14 benefit in New York City to raise funds for the new Louis Erdmann and William Zucchero Theatre. The black-box space, part of the Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance, is currently under construction with an opening set for this fall.

Emmy-winner *Jeff Richmond* and Tony-winner *Alice Ripley*, '86, both alumni of the program and honorary co-chairs for the E-Z Theatre campaign, hosted and

performed a lively show that entertained a crowd of Kent State supporters. Alumni *Karl Erdmann*, '84, and *Wendy Zucchero Overly*, '82, also spoke about the legacy of their fathers, for whom the theatre is named.

Among the guests were Richmond's wife, actress and writer *Tina Fey*; *30 Rock* executive producers *Lorne Michaels* and *Marci Klein*; Kent State President **Lester A. Lefton** and his wife, *Linda*; philanthropist *Roe Green*, '80, whose \$6.5 million gift makes the new center possible; Centennial Campaign Chair

*Ron Pizzuti*, '62; and *Cil Draime*, '58, who is the largest contributor to the campaign to date.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS](#)



# ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

"Giving back is a family priority. Whether you're a coach, faculty or staff member, we're all in a position that affects students' lives. Our support is a continued investment in their futures."

*Geno Ford, men's basketball head coach  
Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year*



## Meet Geno Ford.

Faculty and staff support is an important component of the Centennial Campaign — so far, more than 2,000 university employees have made commitments to critical initiatives from scholarships to student research funding to facilities.

Coach Geno Ford understands the importance of private support to public education. His Centennial Campaign contribution includes ongoing support of the Athletics Academic Resource Center, where student-athletes access resources to keep them moving toward graduation. It's his way of ensuring the Golden Flashes are defined by excellence both in competition and in their studies.

Your support can make a difference in students' lives and open the door to their future. For more information or to make a Centennial Campaign contribution, please contact the Kent State University Foundation today.

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[www.kent.edu/advancement](http://www.kent.edu/advancement)

TAKE ACTION  
ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

  
The Centennial Campaign

## SUMMER 2010 EVENTS

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

### Centennial Blue & Gold/Varsity "K" Golf Outing

July 28  
8 a.m.–7 p.m.

#### Kent Campus, Kent State Golf Course

The annual Blue & Gold/Varsity "K" Golf Outing is one of Kent State's biggest and finest events of the year. Your participation in the event aids in providing scholarship support for more than 400 student-athletes.

The event is a four-person scramble. While out on the course, you will have the opportunity to meet many of Kent State's coaches, student-athletes and administrators who will be at select holes throughout the day. We encourage you to come out and enjoy a great day of golf, compete for prizes and, most importantly, support Kent State Intercollegiate Athletics.

For more information, contact Amy Morris at 330-672-8417 or [amorris2@kent.edu](mailto:amorris2@kent.edu).



⌞ Theater-goers enjoy a picnic on the grounds of Blossom Music Center before the evening's performance.

### Kent/Blossom

#### PORTHOUSE THEATRE

June 10–26

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

July 1–17

*The Foreigner*

July 22–Aug. 7

*Bye Bye Birdie*

#### BLOSSOM MUSIC CENTER

June 19

Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*

### Kent Campus

#### SCHOOL OF MUSIC

July 15

7 p.m.

"Communiversy" Band  
Risman Plaza, Kent  
Student Center

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