

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Summer 2013 / Volume 12 / Issue 2

*May 4 Visitor's
Center Official
Opening
43rd
Commemoration of
May 4, 1970*

KSU Lab Rats

**From Homeless
to Hopeful**



ARCHITECTURE

Program's Spectacular New Home



On the cover: The College of Architecture and Environmental Design's new home will serve as a new icon as visitors approach the campus.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



LESTER A. LEFTON

When historians of the future write about the changes underway at Kent State University in 2013, I'm certain they will affirm the view I share with so many in our community today: We are realizing our commitment to excellence in ways that make this one of the most positive, productive and pivotal times in university history.

Kent State is changing in ways that reflect our quest to offer the finest possible learning and living experience for 21st-century students. As you'll learn in this issue of *Kent State Magazine*, we're constructing academic buildings that will stand as national models of innovation and sustainability. We're creating spaces where generations past, present and future can understand a critical time in U.S. history. And we've become proactive partners in the exciting transformation of downtown Kent, Ohio.

Although the face of our campus is changing dramatically, the heart of our academic community continues to beat with the strong sense of purpose that has made Kent State a truly special place for more than 100 years. Whether we're

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY *Presidential Speaker Series*



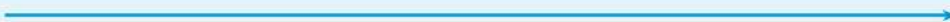
SAVE THE DATES!



Sept. 25, 2013

NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

Tyson is an astrophysicist and the Frederick P. Rose director of the Hayden Planetarium, American Museum of Natural History.




KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
Excellence in Action

Visit us for more information and to register for updates.

By Susan Pappas Menassa

SPECTACULAR NEW HOME

*The strategically sited building will serve
as an icon to the dynamic changes
happening all around it.*

Summer 2013

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN



*Watch a video about the presentations
by the four design competition finalists.*

Architecture is often about building bridges and creating links — literally and metaphorically. And that's exactly the philosophy behind the strategic location of Kent State University's proposed College of Architecture and Environmental Design building.

Slated to open in late 2015, the 125,000-square-foot building will be built at the point that connects the university campus and

Architect's rendering of the interior
"Design Loft" concept.



the city of Kent, making a striking addition to the transformational changes that have been happening around that dynamic hub of activity.

"Given the distinguished reputation of our architecture programs, the college's building deserves a world-class design, says President **Lester A. Lefton**.

Building the Future

The college's new home is part of the university's long-range improvement project known as Foundations of Excellence: Building the Future, which calls for construction of new buildings, facility upgrades and establishment of new spaces. The goal of this initiative

is to improve the academic experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and the greater community.

As of now, the university's signature architecture program is housed in three separate structures. The new building will unite the college under one roof and adapt to Kent State's growing program and evolving modes of learning in architecture and design education.

The winning team is ...

For the first time in its history, the university held a building design competition. More than 35 internationally recognized design firms submitted designs for the architecture building, and the winning design was chosen earlier this year. The teams of WEISS/MANFREDI of New York and Richard L. Bowen & Associates of Cleveland were

selected for their "Design Loft" concept that features a continuous design studio at its heart and floor-to ceiling windows that open to the Kent State University Esplanade, the newly extended pathway that links the campus to downtown Kent.

"This selection provides the College of Architecture and Environmental Design with a striking idea about both the visual and functional aspects of our programs," says **Douglas Steidl**, dean of the college. "We are excited to move on to the next level of design with a concept that will attract the best faculty and outstanding students to all of our programs. This scheme will enhance the learning experience, facilitate collaboration, and inspire those of us who are users as well as those who observe it from the community." 🌟

by Emily Komorowski

Undergraduate students learn about graduate-level research and problem-solving.



Ben Shekhtman, junior biology pre-med major, stains and mounts brain sections.
Photos by Shane Flanigan

KSU LAB RATS

“The mice are worse than the rats. They like to bite,” says *Jessica Mulvany*, freshman psychology major. “Rats are much gentler. You just hold them and pet them. As long as you don’t do anything to provoke them, they’re nice.”

For a few hours a week, Mulvany says she spends time out of class taking care of rats and mice in Assistant Professor **Aaron Jasnow’s** lab in the Department of Psychology as part of her undergraduate research experiment.

Before each research shift, Mulvany puts on a white lab coat before handling rats and mice in the lab. She opens one of the cages among many on the shelves, pulls out a black male rat, holds it for five minutes and puts it back. She takes out another rat, holds it for five minutes and puts it back.

“Research is a great way to apply what you learn in class and decide if the field you’re in is a good fit.”

— *Mary Waddington*

MAY 4 VISITORS CENTER OFFICIAL OPENING

43RD COMMEMORATION OF MAY 4, 1970

Film director and producer Oliver Stone, and PBS news anchor Gwen Ifill joined Kent State University to mark its 43rd annual commemoration of May 4, 1970, with the dedication of the May 4 Visitors Center. The center, which tells the May 4 story, set against the political and cultural changes of the 1960s, was dedicated Saturday, May 4, with other traditional commemorative events held Friday, May 3.

Ifill, moderator and managing editor of PBS'

Washington Week and co-anchor of *PBS NewsHour*, moderated a panel discussion titled "Historical Significance of May 4 and the Visitors Center" in University Auditorium at Cartwright Hall. Ifill has received more than 20 honorary doctorates and is the recipient of several broadcasting excellence awards.

Stone shared his thoughts on "History and Memory in Film," drawing on his films that depict '60s-era events. Stone, an Oscar-winning director, producer and screen writer of numerous movies and documentaries, served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Vietnam from 1967-68, and received a Bronze Star for Valor.

View a video about the events for the May 4, 1970, Commemoration and the dedication of the May 4 Visitors Center, including remarks by Gwen Ifill and Oliver Stone.

Photos by **Jeff Glidden**, '87

PBS news anchor Gwen Ifill was a Keynote speaker at the 43rd Commemoration of May 4, 1970.



By Dave Carducci



THINK BIG

THINK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Top-notch players feel at home in top-of-the-line facility.



Above: The Ferrara and Page Golf Training and Learning Center; right: Coach Herb Page at the NCAA Championships

Director of Golf and Head Coach **Herb Page** has never been ashamed to declare his ultimate goal for Kent State men's golf.

"I want to win a national championship," Page has declared more than once. And he said it again during the final week of May as his Golden Flashes were preparing for another run at the NCAA Championships near Atlanta. "Yes, we are a northern team, and it is inherently more difficult for teams that



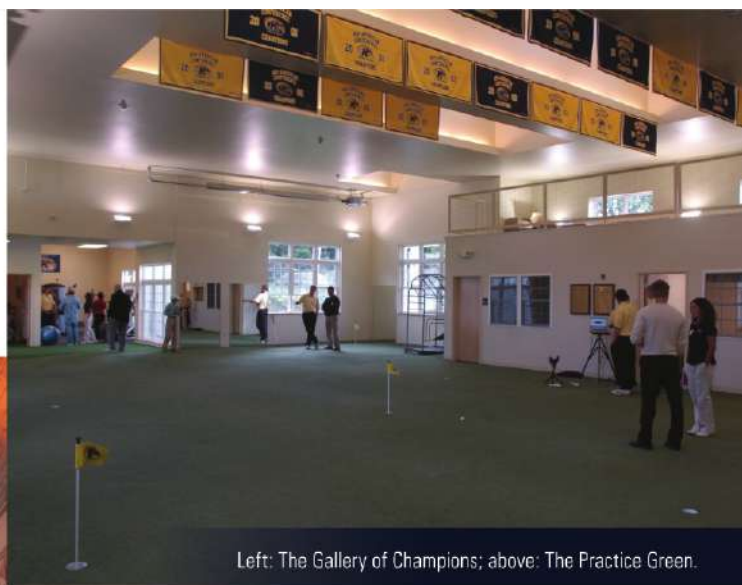
can play outside for only half of the year. But I am convinced we can win a national championship at Kent State.”

Capturing a national title has been a goal of Page’s for the bulk of his 35 years as Kent State’s golf coach. That dream is closer than ever to becoming reality thanks in large part to the impact of the Ferrara and Page Golf Training and Learning Center.

The results speak for themselves. In the six years since the 10,000-square-foot facility opened on Powder Mill Road, with its giant indoor putting green and its indoor-and-outdoor practice tees opening out to a 350-yard driving range, the Golden Flashes have won five of the last six Mid-American Conference tournaments and finished fifth, sixth, 19th, 20th and 27th during appearances in five of the last six NCAA Championships. The fifth-place national finish at famed Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles in 2012 is the program’s finest to date.

From 2001-12, Kent State joined UCLA, USC and Texas A&M as the only four teams to place in the top 20 nationally in three consecutive seasons.

“We had some great finishes in the early 1990s, then had a really nice ninth-place finish in 2000 with players such as *Ben Curtis*, ’03, and *Jon Mills*, ’00,” says Page. “But then we went into a stretch



Left: The Gallery of Champions; above: The Practice Green.

where we went to the nationals just a few times. I don’t think it is any coincidence that this has been the most consistent run we’ve had of playing at a high, high level.

Factoring in the wow factor

The No. 1 benefit of the facility — which was built entirely through private donations — is that it has given Kent State’s golfers a place to practice year-round. “But beyond that, the unwritten question is are we getting better players because of the facility?” Page asks rhetorically. “We think we are. We can now attract a better player or keep that great local player in Ohio. We can even battle the southern teams in recruiting. When we bring in a potential player and they walk into our facility for the first time, there is a wow factor.”

Those top recruits and their results have made believers out of many who follow Kent State golf. Few now scoff at the idea of a national championship team residing in Kent.

"I don't remember exactly when it was that I first heard Coach Page talk about winning a national title," says Director of Athletics **Joel Nielsen**. "It didn't take me long after I saw them play for the first time at the NCAA Championships before I realized we really are very close. "There was a wow factor, too, as we brought coaching candidates to the facility," says Page. "We brought in five candidates for the women's team, and when they walked in, their mouths just dropped. These were candidates from big-time national programs. Every one of them said, 'We didn't know you had anything like this.'"

The vision of Page and architect *Alan Ambuske*, '69, M.A. '76, became manifest when the center first opened its doors in 2007. At that time, only a handful of golf programs around the country enjoyed similar facilities.

"Since then, we've had Tennessee come in, Kentucky came in, Michigan has been in there and Ohio State," says Page. "All of those schools came to Kent, Ohio, to look at our place before they drew up plans of their own."

Golden Flashes alumni benefit too

More than just helping the current generation of Kent State golfers, the facility has become a destination for Golden Flashes alumni who make regular trips to Kent to work on their games.

Some professionals, such as 2003 British Open champion Curtis, have made it their home base for practice before going out to play on the PGA or other tours.

Curtis recently moved back to Kent from Florida, "and when he did, he built a fabulous home on 100-plus acres," says Page. "When they were building it, I heard (a contractor) say, let's put in a room with some high ceilings so you can have a golf simulator and some nets for practice. Ben told the contractor that he didn't need anything like that in his house because he has that at Kent State.

"Ben didn't move back here for the golf center. He moved back because he wants his children to go to school and grow up here. But I know that in the back of his mind he recognizes that he has a facility at Kent State that is fabulous. He uses it as much as anybody, and we are really happy about that."

The golf facility was also the place where 2011 graduate *John Hahn* refined his game in the weeks leading up to his qualifying for this year's U.S. Open at Merion Golf Club near Philadelphia.

"Personally, what the golf center has meant to me is it has offered a great sanctuary to get away and work," says Hahn, who was a freshman when the facility opened. "It is very private and a perfect place to work on every facet of my game. Having Ben, who is a major championship winner, out there all the time is also a great asset. It's almost hard to pull myself away. When I played here, I always believed what Coach Page believes, that you can win a national championship at Kent State. And with a facility like we have here, our players should always believe they can win nationals." 🌟



Director of Golf and Head Coach
Herb Page with Corey Connors

by Bob Burford

*Recent graduate overcomes
adversity, inspires others*



View a video of Monique sharing her story

Monique Menefee and daughter Joy.
Photo by Bob Christy, '95

FROM HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

Kent State University graduate Monique Menefee, '13, is starting another busy day. After getting 13-year-old daughter Joy off to school, the Cleveland native begins tackling a schedule filled with meetings, tutoring, planning for graduate school, and her work as a graduate student trustee on Kent State's Board of Trustees.

Not that long ago, Menefee was homeless and living in her car. She was working part-time at Family Dollar, grabbing food from wherever she could – friends, family and occasionally even relying on the kindness of strangers.

"I went from sleeping in my car to being an honors student on my way to getting my doctorate degree.

Anything is possible. I believe it."

— Monique Menefee

Turns her life around

But Menefee refused to believe her situation was hopeless. She decided it was time for a change, and set out on a course for turning her life around.

"I kind of got fed up with my life and the direction we were

By Susan Pappas Menassa

FRANKLIN HOTEL TRANSFORMS TO

ACORN CORNER

With a facelift and a few nips and tucks, the Grand Old Lady of Main Street is ready for a new life under a new identity.

There probably aren't many Kent State University alumni who haven't passed through the Franklin Hotel doors during its many reincarnations since first opening in 1920. Many today can probably recall nights out at The Deck in the basement, the Townhouse or more recently, Screwy Louie's and Y2K.

Now after more than 10 years of standing empty and gutted with its future uncertain, the Franklin Hotel's recent renovation and rebirth has reaffirmed its place in Kent history as "the Grand Old Lady of Main Street."

By the late 1980s, the once-lively venue fell into disrepair brought on by financial troubles of the building's owners. The city of Kent

Join fellow alumni to share
your memories of the Franklin Hotel.

flashback

Summer 2013
TOWN AND GOWN

TIMELINE

1920

The Franklin Hotel is built and named for Franklin Mills, which was Kent's name from 1805 to 1867. The hotel, built on the former site of the George Barnett homestead, costs \$250,000, and the construction money is raised by residents of the city.

(Kent, Ohio: The Dynamic Decades)

1922

Howard M. Bissell buys the hotel from auction for \$70,000. Later that year, Martin L. Davey and members of the Kent Board of Trade form the Franklin Kent Company and purchase the hotel from Bissell.

(The Chestnut Burr, April 2013)

The Hotel was renamed Hotel Kent in the 1930s.

condemned the building by 2000, and it would sit empty for more than a decade.

When developer Ron Burbick embarked on downtown Kent's transformation in the mid 2000s, part of his renovation plans included the Franklin Hotel, which he purchased in 2012, to the delight of the city officials, historians and locals alike.

"Among all the good things going on downtown, it was extremely important that this building be saved," says architect Doug Fuller, '73, whose Kent-based Fuller Design Group Architects firm redesigned not only the Franklin Hotel, but also Kent's Acorn Alley I and II redevelopment. "To lose it was to lose a piece of Kent State history. The only reason that building was built there was because of the growth of the university. It's part of Kent history and part of students' history — it's very important."

Indeed, the five-story Franklin Hotel was the hub of downtown activity when it was first built, with 50 guest rooms, a formal lobby, a ballroom and cafeteria, as well as a billiard parlor and barbershop. Many conventions were held there, as were civic association

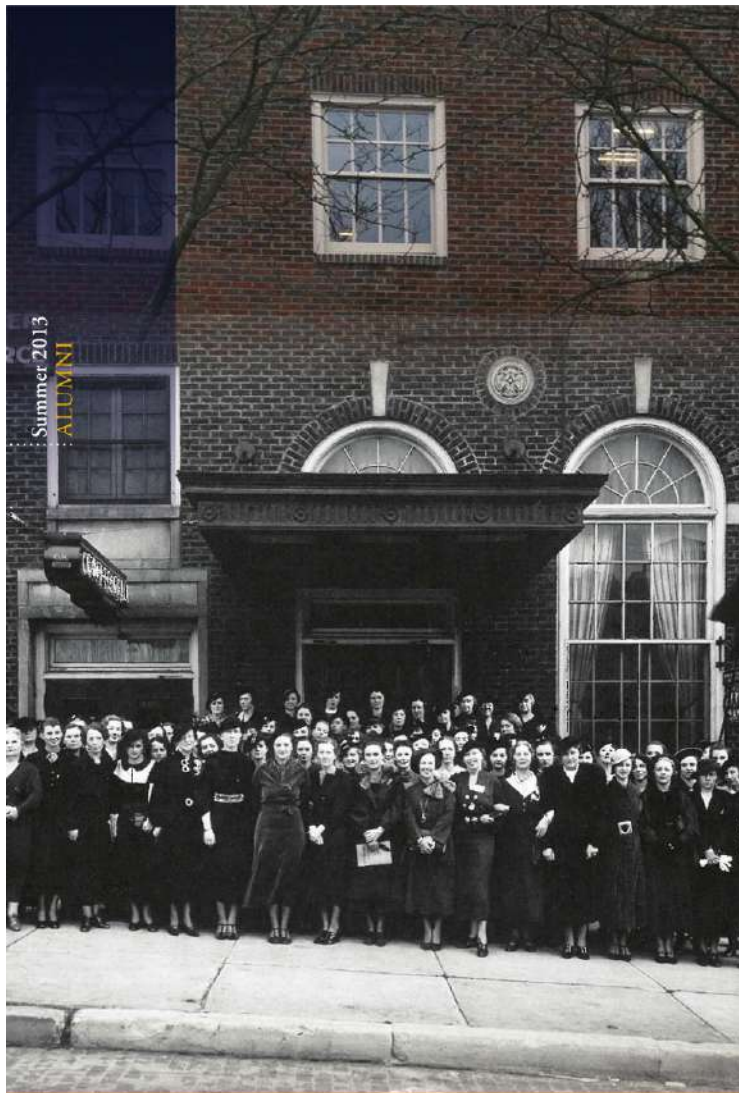
gatherings, university happenings and elite social events.

Nicknamed "The Grand Old Lady of Main Street," the hotel was the tallest building in the city and a preferred place to stay due to its location away from the boarding houses, smoke and noise of the Water Street rail station.

According to Kent lore, celebrities who stayed at the hotel over the years included federal agent Eliott Ness and bandleaders Guy Lombardo and Harry James. Amelia Earhart was rumored to have stayed there, as well, but local historians say they can't verify that.

Flash forward to April 2013, when a grand opening was held to herald the renovation and the building's new tenants — Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant, the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce, a financial services firm and apartments on the top two floors. A jazz and wine bar is planned for the basement level later in 2013.

Not bad for a building that many feared would be felled by a wrecking ball. And so it seems the "Grand Old Lady" has found the secret to a long life. She stared down the odds, she refused to crumble during tough times and found a way to stay vibrant and alive as the years roll on. Long may she live! 🌟



flashback

A Glimmer of the Past

We found this picture of alumni gathered outside the old Kent Hotel and Kent Chamber of Commerce in the 1930s. Now known as Acorn Corner, the building houses the new Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant, the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce, a financial services firm and apartments on the top two floors.

▶ *What are your memories of this venerable building? Share them! Select this link to the Alumni Association site and please click on KSU Memories under the alumni tab.*

▶ *Back to ACORN CORNER Story*

At Kent State ...

We Kiss and Tell!

So many couples have found true love at Kent State. We asked to hear how you met, and many of you responded. Read about these courtships and then tell us the story of yours.

Share your story ▶



Doug, '79, and
Nancy Heffernan Hanzel, '78 ▶



Jerry Reece, '66, and
Marilynn Lewis Fryer, '68 ▶



Mindy, '88, and
Jim Barnard, '86 ▶



Dave, '01, and Courtney
Scott Herpy, '03, '10 ▶



Julia Meek, '13,
and Tyler Grant, '13 ▶



Chad, '93, and
Connie Smith, '94 ▶

KENT STATE CLASS OF 2013

FLASHES *Forever*

Seniors Honored at Graduation Celebration, Flashes Forever

On May 10, the Kent State University Alumni Association welcomed the 2013 graduating class as the newest members of the Golden Flash family. More than 500 graduates, along with family and friends, filled the Field House at Dix Stadium to enjoy music, food, raffles and many other fun activities.

President **Lester A. Lefton**

made a special appearance to congratulate seniors and wish them well.

Commencement ceremonies for the 2013 class were held on May 10 and May 11 at the Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center (MAC Center).

Across the university's eight-campus system, more than 4,450 students graduated from Kent State this spring. 🌟

 [Learn more about the Alumni Association](#)



*Why did they choose that word?
Watch the video as they
share their memories.*



Alumni Awards

Now Accepting Nominations

Help the Kent State University Alumni Association recognize alumni who demonstrate remarkable success in their profession or exceptional service to Kent State and the alumni association. **Nominate an alumnus, alumna or alumni association chapter/area representative deserving of this honor.**



Individual Alumni Awards

- Distinguished Alumni
- Distinguished Citizen
- Kent State Advocacy
- Professional Achievement
- Outstanding New Professional
- Golden Flash Student Award

Chapter/Area Representative Alumni Awards

- Chapter of the Year
- Area Representative of the Year
- Alumni Event of the Year

Please keep checking the Alumni Association Website for updated information.

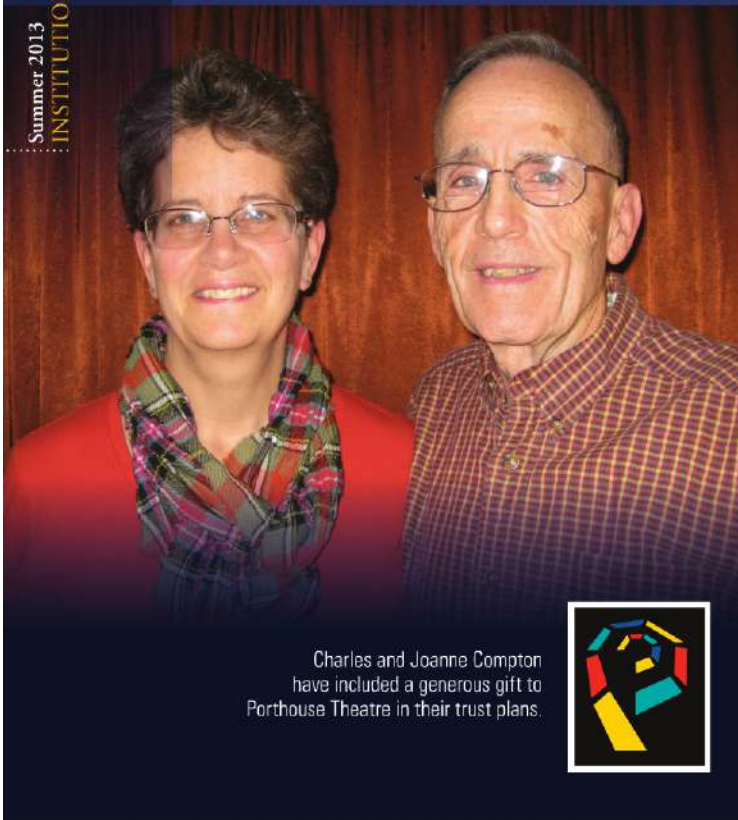
KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Excellence in Action

Nomination Deadline: Dec. 31, 2013.

By Deb McGuinness, '78

The footlights at Porthouse Theatre will continue to shine brightly thanks to a bequest from Charles and Joanne Compton.

PLANNED GIFT TAKES CENTER STAGE



Charles and Joanne Compton have included a generous gift to Porthouse Theatre in their trust plans.



In these days of video-on-demand and other forms of instant, portable entertainment, finding live theatre performances is like finding rare jewels in the sand. Porthouse Theatre is one of those jewels in Northeast Ohio's own backyard.

Charles and Joanne Compton discovered Porthouse in the '90s after one of Joanne's co-workers encouraged the couple to attend a performance. "Since we both loved and enjoyed the theatre, we gave it a try," says Joanne, "It just became a part of our lives."

Although they lived in the Northeast Ohio area for several decades, the Comptons now reside in Rhode Island, but that hasn't stopped them from giving back to the theatre that gave them so much pleasure over the years.

"When we moved to Rhode Island, we decided it would be a good time to create our trust planning to have it established in the state," says Charles. "We wanted to include Porthouse in our long-term plans to ensure that it continues to bring others the enjoyment it gave us for so long."

The Comptons began their support of Porthouse when they had trouble hearing a few of the performances, and discovered it was due to an aging sound system. "We realized they were struggling,"

says Joanne, “So we started donating. We loved being at Porthouse because it was outside and the performances were so good, but we knew that they needed things.”

Terri Kent is the director of the musical theatre program at Kent State, and also serves as the artistic director of Porthouse. She is grateful for the Compton’s gift, and for their friendship. Says Terri, “When I first met Charles, and later Joanne, I knew that they planned to make a gift to Porthouse Theatre, but I had no idea of the size or scope. We became friends, and now they are not only part of the Porthouse family, but feel like part of my family, too. I have been able to share with the Comptons all the good that has and will come from their generosity, and to continue a beautiful friendship.”

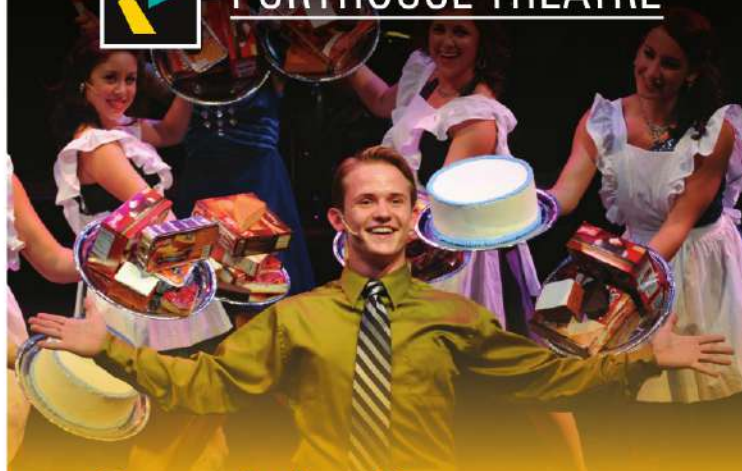
Charles Compton is a firm believer in paying it forward. “We give to Porthouse because we really enjoyed the live theatre experience, and we want more people to be able to see those things in the future,” he says. “That’s what made us happy, and if we can share those performances with other people, and make them happy, too, that’s a good thing.” ☀



Learn more about a bequest to benefit the Theatre.



PORTHOUSE THEATRE



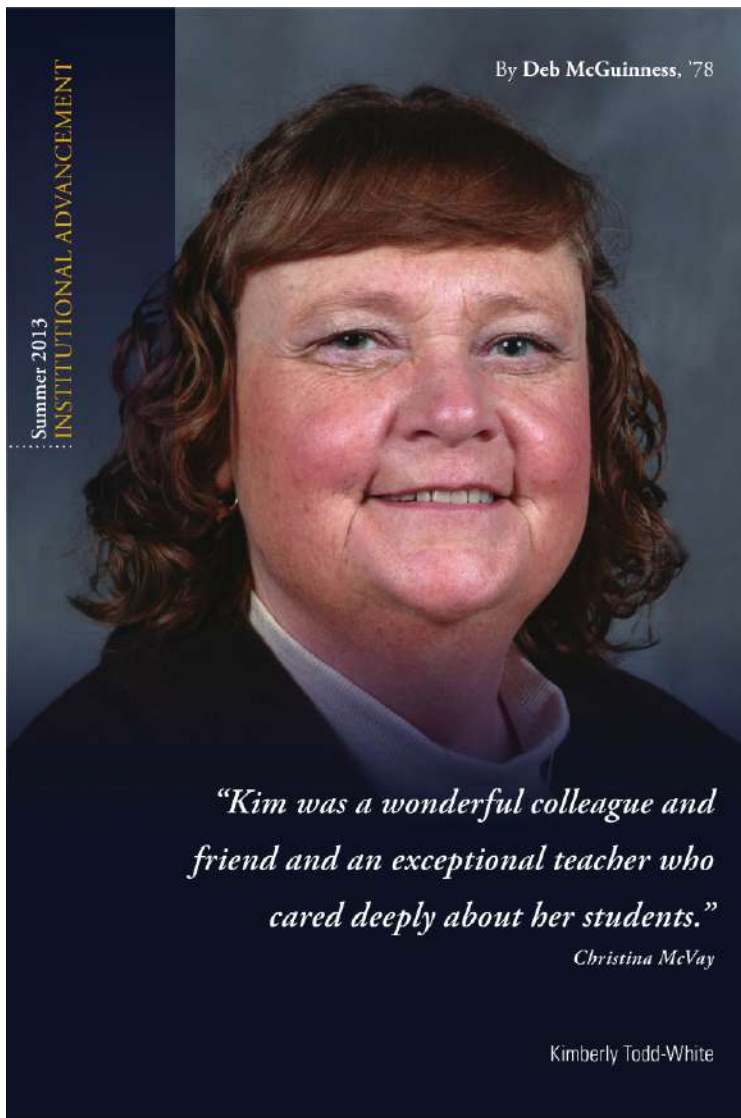
Spend the Summer at Porthouse

Porthouse offers audiences the finest professional productions set in a comfortable 500-seat, outdoor, covered pavilion located at Blossom Music Center, next to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

For more information, visit [Porthouse Theatre](http://PorthouseTheatre.org).

To create a bequest to benefit the theatre, contact the Center for Gift and Estate Planning at 330-672-0421, [email](#) or [visit](#).

By Deb McGuinness, '78



"Kim was a wonderful colleague and friend and an exceptional teacher who cared deeply about her students."

Christina McVay

Kimberly Todd-White

HER DREAM LIVES ON

According to her husband, Scott, *Kimberly Todd-White*, '89, was a classic over-achiever — president of the National Honor Society in high school and an alumna of Kent State, where she received bachelor's and master's degrees in English. She stayed at Kent and followed her passion for teaching for 20 years, guiding students through honors English and Pan-African studies, making herself available to them day and night. When she tragically lost her life in an automobile accident in July 2010, her family, friends and fellow faculty members agreed that the best way to honor her memory would be through a named scholarship.

The Kimberly Todd-White endowed scholarship will be available this fall to any student with a major or minor in Pan-African studies who maintains a 2.8 GPA and can show financial need. Why Pan-African Studies? Scott White says it's because Kimberly really cared about the subject. "She saw some inequality in the neighborhood she grew up in and it bothered her from a young age. It was a subject that she felt needed to be approached and talked about in an educated way. She was a very strong believer that education was the key to solving a lot of problems."

Kimberly was awarded Favorite Teacher recognition several times

By Deb McGuinness, '78

EASING THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON STUDENTS



"My father had to work his way through school and felt that he had missed a lot of things, so he made sure that I didn't have to."

David Riccio

[Learn more](#) about how you can help lighten a student's financial burden.

Professor **David Riccio**, Ph.D., has been a part of the fabric of Kent State University for 47 years, so he knows better than most how drastically the financial landscape has changed for students who are trying to obtain a degree.

Riccio, a professor in the Department of Psychology, has been publishing papers, writing books and conducting research longer than most of his students (and their parents) have been alive. He has been honored with both the Kent State University Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award and the university's Distinguished Scholar Award. He was on campus during the events that took place on May 4, 1970. And he has seen state aid to the university dwindle to a trickle.

"State support has decreased atrociously," says Riccio, "Students desperately need help. Anything that eases that burden is important." He continues, "I see too many of them who are struggling to get to class because maybe they're a single parent, they're working — I don't know how they do it. It's hard as a faculty member to know each student's situation. When I ask if they're OK, they say their child was up at 2 a.m. So I can understand why they fell asleep in class."

KENT STATE

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Kent State University is committed to attaining excellence through the recruitment and retention of a diverse student body and workforce 13-1114