

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

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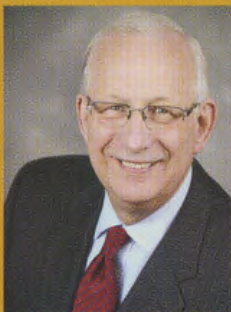
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Former faculty member establishes scholarship fund for a Kent State Tuscarawas psychology student.



Message From the President



Every day for the past eight years, I've bounded out of bed, energized by the opportunity to work with and for the most caring and creative academic community I've ever known. And every night, as I've taken inner inventory of achievements versus aspirations, I've closed my eyes feeling inspired by the steadfast spirit — the genuine heart — with which the Kent State community has rallied to make a good university a great one. I complete my tenure as president knowing that we have met that challenge in countless ways, building a positive momentum that is unprecedented, unparalleled and, I believe, unstoppable.

Our commitment to excellence and our determination to be the architects of our own destiny have allowed us to dream big dreams and bring them to life — for the sake of our students, our region and our state. Transformation is most evident in the physical changes across our campuses — from the construction of world-class academic facilities to the creation of a scenic boulevard linking the campus and the vibrant city where it was born. But our transformation is more than physical. You can feel it in the air: a renewed sense of pride, a spirit of optimism and the excitement of knowing that history is in the making.

Leading Kent State into its second century and being part of so many milestone moments constitute the privilege of a lifetime. Linda and I will stay connected to the university, keeping a special place in our hearts for Northeast Ohio and the wonderful friends and memories we've made here. We begin a new chapter in our lives knowing that the sentiment we've heard countless times over the years is true: There's something special about Kent State — something that makes it impossible to ever really leave it behind.

LESTER A. LEFTON

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Invested in Water

Ohio citizens and Kent State researchers wade into critical water issues.

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The Ultimate 'Flashes Fan' Gives From the Heart

Love for his alma mater prompts alumnus to support student-athlete scholarships.

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Philanthropy in Action

Senior criminal justice major determined to make the world a better place.

On the cover: President Lefton lends a hand at freshman move-in day.

KENT STATE UNI

Excellence in Action: A Leadership Legacy



As **Lester A. Lefton, Ph.D.**, ends his tenure as Kent State's president, it seems fitting to view his legacy through the lens of his personal, professional and presidential mantra: excellence in action. For President Lefton, an intense drive to be excellent — to infuse every day and every action with the best-possible effort — was instilled in him at an early age. As he told the audience at his inauguration in 2007, "Your father was probably just like mine. He regularly said, 'Do it right, or don't do it at all.' My dad has long since passed, but his words stay with me today because I think Kent State has the ability to do it right, and to do it now . . ."

The Excellence Agenda

The wide-ranging achievements under Lefton's eight-year presidency emanated from a universitywide strategic plan that he dubbed the Excellence Agenda. These accomplishments also must be attributed to his belief that excellence is fundamental for success; but it is not enough. For Lefton, achieving excellence required a willingness to dream big dreams and then pursue them with guts and gusto. He did just that with the view that every individual and every job on every campus is important. In a State of the University Address, he stressed to the university community, "Whether you are a vice president or a payroll clerk, a professor or a plumber, if you are striving for excellence, thinking outside the box and keeping your mind open, you are helping Kent State and its students succeed."

Calling himself Kent State's "believer-in-chief," Lefton led Kent State into its second century with a vision of Kent State as a regional, state and national gem. Today, that vision has been realized in countless ways. For example, in the last eight years, Kent State has launched a wide range of programs to foster student success. They include the creation of innovative programs in 21st-century fields such as public health. Lefton's decision to create a College of Public Health was characteristically bold. The college — the only one in Northeast Ohio, the second in Ohio, and one of only 40 nationwide — already is helping to meet the demands of an H1N1 world as it educates students in high-demand areas from epidemiology to environmental health. Kent State

Whether you are a vice president or a payroll clerk, a professor or a plumber, if you are striving for excellence, thinking outside the box and keeping your mind open, you are helping Kent State and its students succeed.

— Lester A. Lefton, Ph.D.

University at Ashtabula established a respiratory therapy major in direct response to a request from the Ashtabula County Medical Center. The campus also became home to unique associate-degree programs that prepare students for jobs in Ohio's multimillion-dollar wine and grape industry. With Lefton's strong support, Kent State responded to government projections that computer-related jobs will continue to mushroom by creating a School of Digital Sciences that is the only one of its kind in the nation. Kent State also created a graduate program combining language translation and business administration — also the first of its kind. And Lefton gave the green light for adding the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine in a friendly acquisition of Ohio's only podiatry school.

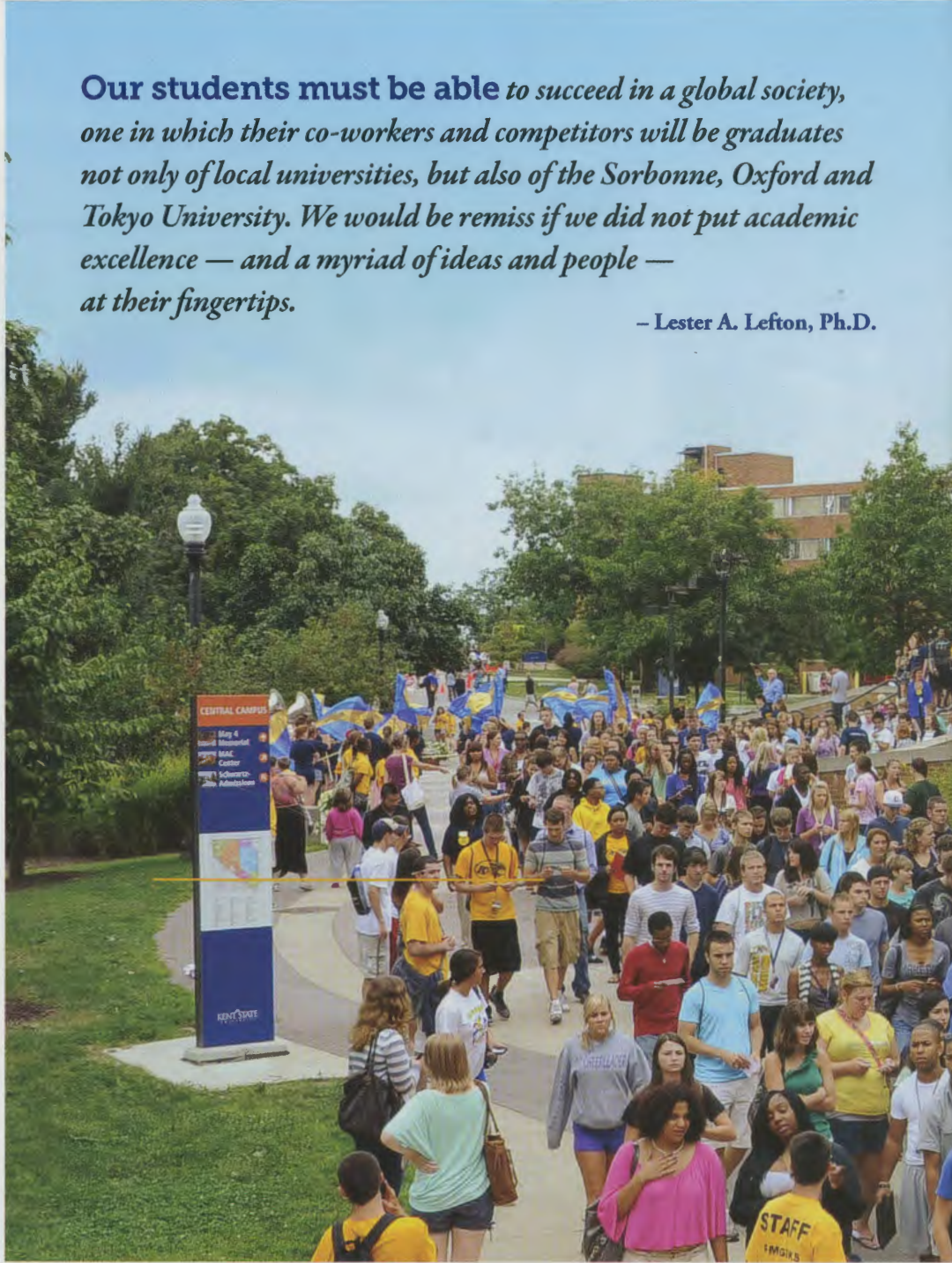
Modernizing both the curriculum and campus facilities — and making great strides in streamlining the path to graduation, strengthening academic advising and offering academic support in facilities such as the state-of-the-art Math Emporium — are among the reasons that records in student enrollment — and in the academic quality of students — have been and continue to be set and shattered.

Foundations of Excellence: Building the Future

Believing that world-class academic programs demand world-class academic facilities, Lefton spearheaded Foundations of Excellence: Building the Future, a multiyear initiative that is transforming the Kent Campus with new buildings and major renovations. Foundations of Excellence includes construction of new homes for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design; the College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology; and the School of Art, plus major renovations of classrooms, laboratories and studios. Lefton did not forget students and faculty at the university's seven Regional Campuses, supporting the construction of 21st-century facilities such as the Robert S. Morrison Health and Science Building at Kent State Ashtabula, the Performing Arts Center at Kent State University at Tuscarawas, and the Kent State University Regional Academic Center in Twinsburg. Nor did he neglect the

Our students must be able to succeed in a global society, one in which their co-workers and competitors will be graduates not only of local universities, but also of the Sorbonne, Oxford and Tokyo University. We would be remiss if we did not put academic excellence — and a myriad of ideas and people — at their fingertips.

— Lester A. Lefton, Ph.D.



The Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion celebrates all community members.



Golden Flashes student-athletes enjoy new facilities and benefit from award-winning athletic programs.



needs of Golden Flashes student-athletes, supporting the addition of facilities such as a new training center for baseball and softball players and continuing his commitment to the success of student-athletes in their sports and in the classroom. That commitment is reflected in Kent State's leadership among Mid-American Conference schools in Directors Cup ratings (which honor broad-based athletic programs) for 13 of the last 14 years.

Globalizing the university

From his first day on the job, Lefton advocated a significant expansion of Kent State's global connections. "Our students must be able to succeed in a global society, one in which their co-workers and competitors will be graduates not only of local universities, but also of the Sorbonne, Oxford and Tokyo University. We would be remiss if we did not put academic excellence — and a myriad of ideas and people — at their fingertips," he said. With that in mind, the university established a center in Beijing; opened an office in India; signed academic agreements with Saudi Arabia's largest university and with China's leading universities; and began positive relationships with universities in Turkey, Japan and Russia. These actions led to record enrollments of international students (from 800 in 2006 to more than 2,400 today) from nearly 100 nations.

Attracting resources to support education and research

When President Lefton took office, he also took on the role of friend- and fundraiser-in-chief, traveling across the nation whenever possible to make the case for supporting Kent State to countless individuals and groups. Lefton's years in office have been marked by records for private giving. In conjunction with the university's Centennial, the university launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history. The Centennial Campaign exceeded its \$250 million goal by \$15 million, an achievement that will benefit students and faculty for decades to come.



The state-of-the-art Math Emporium offers academic support.



The new May 4 Visitors Center recognizes the important site, now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Remembering the past

As Kent State marked its Centennial, it commemorated the 40th anniversary of the events of May 4, 1970. With Lefton's support, the university succeeded in having the May 4 site added to the National Register of Historic Places, dedicated a May 4 walking tour and created a nationally acclaimed multimedia May 4 Visitors Center.

Revitalizing downtown

Another lasting benefit to students — and to the entire university community — is the transformation of downtown Kent into a mecca for students, scholars, residents and visitors. Lefton's leadership role in the city's transformation cannot be overstated. As he worked to strengthen the relationship between the university and the city, Lefton gave his full support — in word and deed — to pivotal projects such as construction of a university-affiliated hotel and conference center; extension of the University Esplanade (recently named the Lester A. Lefton Esplanade in his honor) to downtown; new restaurants and stores, including student-run businesses; and a multimodal transportation facility.

During the last eight years, Kent State faculty members in all disciplines have been meeting President Lefton's challenge to increase research activity and intensify their pursuit of federal funding for research, teaching and creativity. The Lefton years have seen records set for federal funding of faculty research. To date, 16 start-up companies are using faculty research, including some housed in the university's Centennial Research Park. The facility was created after Lefton approved a bold idea: transforming a campus bus garage into a place where companies could use university resources to accelerate the development of promising innovations.

Valuing people

The president has always encouraged excellence among university staff members. He has championed efforts from building pride to developing leadership skills to improving wellness among university



At Kent State, we are coming together, working together and putting together an institutional masterpiece: a first-tier, nationally respected, public research university that never forgets its regional roots.

— Lester A. Lefton, Ph.D.



Downtown Kent has seen a rebirth, including the addition of the first-class Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center, under Lefton's leadership.



The groundbreaking for the university-affiliated hotel and conference center, which opened in 2013.



employees — efforts that have earned national recognition of the university's work environment, including Kent State's selection by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of academe's best places to work.

Among the reasons Kent State is considered a great place to live, work and study is a commitment to diversity and inclusion that has always been part of Lefton's Excellence Agenda. The importance of acknowledging, respecting and celebrating the contributions of every community member is a value that led him to create the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and to endorse efforts to support supplier diversity, which have received state and national kudos.

Family man

Those who have come to know Lester Lefton know that his passion for excellence is matched only by his passion for his family— especially his wife, Linda, who he says is the omnipresent, steady, motivating wind beneath his wings. That passion is fueled by his two daughters and sons-in-law and five grandchildren. Lefton is also an aficionado of two very different art forms: photography and Broadway musicals. He often quotes a Stephen Sondheim song that asserts: "Every moment makes a contribution . . . Having just a vision's no solution. Everything depends on execution. Putting it together, that's what counts." In fact, he referred to the song in a State of the University Address, noting, "Sondheim's song was about creating an artistic masterpiece. At Kent State, we are coming together, working together and putting together an institutional masterpiece: a first-tier, nationally respected, public research university that never forgets its regional roots."

As the curtain comes down on Lester A. Lefton's eight-year presidency — a term founded on excellence, innovation and inclusion and dedicated first and foremost to student success — this visionary, action-oriented, always optimistic leader has earned a standing ovation and more than a few curtain calls.

Farewell, President and Mrs. Lester A. Lefton. We wish you a future framed in happiness.



Architect's rendering of the new home of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.



After eight years, President and Mrs. Lester A. Lefton are moving on to the next big adventure.

Miss Ohio Heather Wells visits
the Kent Campus last fall.
(Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87)



BRAINS AND BEAUTY

Kent State alumna Heather Wells' drive for a college education helps her achieve her dream of becoming Miss Ohio.

By **Susan Pappas Menassa**

Heather Wells, '12, settles into her chair in the coffee shop looking every inch the unassuming college student. Seeing her in a simple blue and white dress and wearing minimal makeup, you would never guess that this attractive but down-to-earth woman is any different from those studying on laptops around her in the crowded café.

Absent is any sign of the bejeweled tiara, which she wears on a regular basis. Or the sparkly sash she usually dons with the tiara when greeting the public. Absent, too, are the fawning handlers you might think come with the territory of her particular brand of royalty — that of the reigning Miss Ohio.

Wells, a Kent State University broadcast journalism graduate, was crowned Miss Ohio on June 22, 2013, after her sixth

and final try at the title. Though many women would have given up after just one loss, the tenacious Wells was not about to walk away from the challenge or the bigger reason for her persistence — the Miss Ohio Scholarship Program was how she hoped to pay for her college education.

Scratch the surface of Wells' life, and it's easy to see where she gets her determination and confidence.

Raised for success

Born 23 years ago in Warren, Ohio, Wells was raised by her mother and grandmother after her parents divorced when she was just two. It was that life-changing event — her parents'

break-up — that informed much of what she did during her childhood and in her current life.

She was an only child, and Wells says her mom remedied her daughter's feelings of loneliness like any good parent would — with very little free time. Dance classes, modeling, cheerleading and competing in various beauty pageants were a way of life for Wells from a very early age.

“Being on stage became a good outlet for me,” Wells says. “I was an outgoing little kid and very comfortable in the spotlight. My mom didn't push me but she also told me never to be a quitter.”

As she got closer to graduation from high school, a college education became a top priority. Wells also knew there was no way her single-parent family could afford it unless she paid her own way.

“I knew I really wanted to come to Kent State,” Wells says. “I knew Kent had a strong broadcast journalism program and I knew that if I was going to do that, it was mainly on me,” Wells says.

So rather than flip burgers or work retail like so many of her contemporaries, Wells drew upon past experience and set out to earn money the best way she knew how — by competing in local beauty pageants, many of which give out scholarship money to participants.

A quintessential multitasker

When she turned 17, Wells became eligible to compete in the Miss Ohio program, which allows contestants to compete a maximum of six times between the ages of 17 and 24. And so she embarked on what would become six years of juggling her coursework at Kent State with local competition schedules, because in order to win at the state level, contestants first must win at the county level.

“I would go to classes and study during the week, then be gone all weekend to compete in pageants,” Wells says. “If you do that for a few years, that scholarship money starts to build up.”

In addition to that rigorous pace, Wells also found time for a multiyear stint as



Heather Wells reacts to the news that she's the next Miss Ohio.

(Photo by to Jason J. Molyet, Mansfield News Journal)

a news anchor at Kent State's broadcast journalism proving ground, TV2. She also completed an internship at a Youngstown television station, joined a sorority, was a work-study student for two years and became a member of Kent State's student government, all the while making the Dean's List.

The pageants proved to be valuable for Wells on several levels — they not only benefited her education (she raised a total of \$30,000 in scholarships over the years) — but also enabled her to hone her childhood passion of dance in the talent portion of the competitions. And when it came time for her to choose a cause to align herself with as required for the Miss Ohio pageant, again she drew on her past and chose something very close to home — helping children recover from divorce.

“I was only two when my parents divorced and I blamed myself, growing up,” Wells says candidly. “I want to help kids realize that it's not their fault — it's an adult problem. And they don't just have to go through a divorce, but they can grow through a divorce.”

During the remaining months of her yearlong tenure, Wells plans to travel to schools and YMCAs around the state and speak to students about how to cope with divorce when it touches their own families or the families of someone close to them.

Reaching new goals

“Becoming Miss Ohio has given me an opportunity,” Wells says of her mission. “It opens a lot of doors and has enabled me to get out there and connect with kids. I want to inspire them and make them realize that divorce didn't define me and it doesn't have to define them. I didn't realize the impact that I could have — I can reach a lot of people now.”


Reaching large audiences is also part of Wells' long-range career goal. Once her tenure as Miss Ohio is complete this summer, she plans on going back to Kent State to pursue a master's degree in nutrition with the ultimate goal of becoming a health correspondent for a major television network.

“It's been a great experience for me at Kent State,” Wells says. “The classes were great, and what I learned during my time at TV2 made me very prepared for my internship at a real TV station. Now, when I meet people and I tell them what I want to do for my career, they really like to hear that I am from Kent State. They know our broadcast program is very strong.”

Wells also says that having Miss Ohio on her résumé likely will open doors for her, as well. “Miss Ohio is a great way to go from being a college student to a professional career,” Wells says. “It's a great bridge. It's also helped me become more comfortable and confident with myself.”



Watch an interview with Heather Wells by TV2 at <http://bit.ly/missohio>.



KENT STATE'S 12TH PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

When University Trustees embarked on the search for Kent State's 12th president, they — and the broad-based search committee they appointed — knew they were seeking more than a proven academic leader. Much more. Given Kent State's remarkable progress of recent years, they needed to find someone to whom they could entrust an institution that had become a regional, state and national jewel. On Jan. 8, 2014, the Board of Trustees announced that **Beverly J. Warren**, Ed.D., Ph.D., provost and senior vice president of Virginia

Commonwealth University (VCU), was their unanimous choice to inherit the privilege, responsibilities and joys of leading Kent State. She will take office on July 1, when **Lester A. Lefton**, Ph.D., retires after eight years as president.

As demonstrated by her accomplished CV, the president-elect is eminently qualified to lead a major university. She's a respected scholar, a savvy strategic planner and an experienced, public university administrator. Even more so,

it's in person that Warren radiates the reasons that made her the stand-out choice of both the presidential search committee led by trustee and alumnus Richard Marsh and the Board of Trustees: a passion for helping students succeed, a deep commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion, the ability to engage and inspire others, and genuine enthusiasm for building on Kent State's positive momentum in areas from enrollment to research and from campus modernization to internationalization.

President-elect Beverly J. Warren addresses the crowd at the media event.

(Photo by Bob Christy, '95)



Student leaders meet with president-elect Beverly J. Warren in the Kent Student Center Nest.

(Photo by Matt Unger)



President-elect Beverly J. Warren talks with graduate students in University Library. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)

“Kent State is an institution on the rise,” Warren says. “It is my goal to be a collaborative leader who is instrumental and inspirational in clearly defining a shared vision and a sense of community that brings new meaning to our own lives while we strive to improve the lives of those we serve.”

The path that led Warren to Kent State includes graduate study at the University of Alabama, where she earned an Ed.D. in administration of higher education, and at Auburn University, where she

earned a Ph.D. in exercise physiology. She was ahead of the curve in her research on the treatment of childhood obesity, youth fitness and the impact of physical activity on metabolic health. Warren also has conducted important research on issues related to urban education, including access and success for urban youth and the preparation of teachers for urban environments. Her path to the presidency also includes significant time as a college professor and college administrator. Warren came to VCU as a professor

and head of the School of Education’s Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Prior to becoming provost, she was dean of VCU’s School of Education and associate dean for faculty affairs. You’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the president-elect in an upcoming issue of *Kent State Magazine*.



For additional details about her distinguished career, please visit <http://bit.ly/pres-warren>.

INVESTED IN WATER

Water is a sound investment for a region's economy — in agriculture, manufacturing, and recreation. Unlike most other investments, water is vital to life. Mindful of this, Ohio State researchers are fully invested in water through avocation, research and education.

By **Bob Burford**

It's Saturday, 5:58 a.m. in early June. The sun is poised to rise on the shores of Lake Erie as Captain Dave Spangler prepares his charter boat *Dr. Bug's*, a 30-foot Grady White, for another day of fishing. Spangler, an Ohio native, will depart from his base of operations at Wild Wings Marina eight miles west of Port Clinton, with a family of four intent upon a day of fishing for walleye and perch.

Spangler has been fishing Lake Erie since the late 1970s and has been operating his charter boat company for nearly 20 years. He started fishing the lake as it was going through its first recovery from a disaster, and he's fished it ever since.

"Lake Erie is one of the best fishing holes in the world," Spangler says. "I enjoy taking people out fishing, teaching them different ways of catching fish, and just being on the lake."

But Spangler is worried about the future of the amazing resource he knows so well. His biggest concern? The large algal blooms that have been occurring with greater frequency and severity over the last few years.

"We've had a drop in business, across the board really," Spangler says, referring to the troubling developments. "It started in 2011 when we had that massive algal bloom. People just didn't want to come back to that." Spangler monitors water quality using the Modis Satellite imagery.

"This year we had quite a bit of coverage on the western basin; and in some cases, you could run from the southern shore clear up to the Canadian border and not get into clean water," he says.



Captain Dave Spangler aboard his charter boat Dr. Bug's. (Photo courtesy Dave Spangler)

ER

*ring, tourism, recreation or power
reality, concerned Ohioans and Kent
community activism.*

The lifelong water enthusiast realizes that research is the key to addressing and solving water quality problems such as phosphorus reduction, nutrient pollution and habitat restoration locally



Bob Heath, Ph.D., emeritus professor of biological sciences at Kent State. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)

and worldwide. Last fall, Spangler presented at the Central Lake Erie Waterkeeper Conference, which brought together government officials, fishermen, boaters, business people, teachers, environmentalists and the general public to examine the changing Lake Erie.

Also at the conference were Kent State researchers who are likewise concerned about and actively researching algal blooms and invasive species in the Great Lakes, and in other aquatic habitats such as wetlands and ponds, as well as the bacterial ecology of streams in our nation's woodlands, metroparks and urban areas. "I'm really glad there are a lot of people working on this, like those at Kent State," he says hopefully.

Northeast Ohio, future growth spot of the world

Few people know more about the algal bloom problem than *Bob Heath*, Ph.D. An emeritus professor of biological sciences at Kent State, Heath is a recognized authority on phosphorus and nitrogen dynamics in the Great Lakes and has been awarded more than \$2 million in research funding. Heath retired in 2008 following 38 years with Kent State, but he is now busier than ever with research and awareness efforts regarding water quality issues. He serves on the Coastal Resources Advisory Council, the Great Lakes Compact advisory panel and the board of the Burning River Foundation.

“Water is the ultimate limiting resource,” Heath says. “Humans are able to live without food for five or six weeks without any permanent damage, but we’re unable to live more than five days without water. Populations have always grown up around water, for that reason.”

Heath also serves on the board of directors of Cleveland Water Alliance, a new freshwater institute that brings together academic, governmental, nongovernmental and commercial-industrial interests to work on problems of water — quality, quantity and availability.

“I believe the entire Great Lakes region in general and Northeast Ohio in particular will be the growth spot of the world, because of its water availability,” Heath says. “The global climate change models show that within 50 years arid regions will become more arid. So the regions that will experience stable growth will be areas that have abundant water readily available. That means high-quality water that doesn’t need to be polished at great expense.”

Kent State research holds worldwide potential

Kent State’s Vice President for Research **Grant McGimpsey**, Ph.D., thinks it makes perfect sense that Kent State is the home to many facets of water research. “This type of research belongs here at Kent State,” McGimpsey says. “Northeast Ohio is the birthplace of the Clean Water Act. We had a serious catastrophic event [the Cuyahoga River burning] that made people in this region start talking about changing things.”

Kent State has considerable strength in a broad range of the aquatic sciences and related disciplines, including ecology, hydrology and urban studies. Nearly 30 faculty members are currently engaged in research involving water. “We’ve gone about creating a tremendous set of human assets around water research,” McGimpsey says.

From studying the bacterial transformation of dissolved organic nitrogen in marine and freshwater environments, to analyzing the effects of pollution on bacterial biodiversity, or



Erin Huber and orphans from the school in Uganda show off their muscles by the bore hole drill truck. (Photo by Tom Kondilas)

developing mosquito control measures that do not adversely affect aquatic ecosystems, Kent State research holds potential at home, across the nation and worldwide. For instance, Associate Professor of Geography **Andrew Curtis**, Ph.D., helps to map safe water access in challenging environments such as Haiti and Bangladesh; while **Joseph Ortiz**, Ph.D., professor of geology, works to improve water quality using electromagnetic sensing techniques. Access to water in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is one of the research areas of **Sarah Smiley**, Ph.D., assistant professor of geography, and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences **Ferenc de Szalay**, Ph.D., studies ecological processes in freshwater marshes and swamps and Lake Erie coastal wetlands.

Water symposium spotlights challenges and solutions

McGimpsey points with pride to the university’s inaugural Water Research Symposium, held last November. *Human Impacts on Water: Ohio’s Most Important Natural Resource*, featured internationally

renowned scientists presenting leading-edge research on aquatic-terrestrial linkages and water in the city.

The symposium’s keynote speaker was Peter Gleick, Ph.D., co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute, a leading nonprofit research organization working to advance environmental protection, economic development and social equity. Gleick received the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship and was named “a visionary on the environment” by the BBC, among dozens of other honors.

In his address “Rights, Wrongs and the Future of Water,” Gleick addressed the state of the world’s water problems, the implications of global climate change for water and the need to grow food for a growing population. He also did not shy away from controversy, discussing conflicts over water at the international level and the notion of water as a human right.

“It’s easy to get discouraged about any of these massive environmental challenges we face, but I don’t think people should be paralyzed or throw up their hands and give up,” Gleick says. “The good news is that there are smart, effective and innovative answers out there. People are moving



forward to explore new ways of dealing with these problems and to implement broadly the things that work.”

From grassroots origins to global outreach

Ohio native and Lakewood resident Erin Huber is also the type of person who likes to focus on solutions and implement ideas that work. Huber is the executive director and founder of Drink Local. Drink Tap.™ — a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization that encourages people to think about their individual water use and understand how they can use water in more sustainable ways.



Peter Gleich, Ph.D., co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)

“We quickly realized that if people weren’t thinking about the water they were putting in their own body every day, it was going to be very hard for them to connect to the bigger problems, such as combined sewer overflows, algal blooms and invasive species,” Huber says.

Kent State Interior Design Instructor *Mike Thomas*, '97, who has been involved with sustainability issues since the '90s, met Huber at a local environmental meeting about four years ago and was so impressed with her passion and commitment, he began volunteering with Drink Local. Drink Tap. Thomas has assisted the organization with everything from graphic design to securing office furniture. “The mission of Drink Local. Drink Tap. really connected with me,” Thomas says. “Erin is doing everything she can to share knowledge about water issues not just locally but globally, and I really admire that.”

Staffers and volunteers with Drink Local. Drink Tap. start at the level of the individual and work their way up to the global conversation about water challenges. “We want to help people understand that they can make an impact in the big problems in the world if they just do something,” Huber says passionately.

One way Huber has taken her work to a global level and connected it back to her Northeast Ohio roots grew out of Drink Local. Drink Tap’s Wavemaker Program in area schools, where Huber met Teddy Mwonyonyi, a native Ugandan teaching in Cleveland. Mwonyonyi told Huber about some Ugandan children who had no parents, no books, no shoes and no water. Huber admits she “got mad” at the problem and set about addressing it.

Huber flew to Uganda because she wanted to start telling the story of those children. “These kids are walking miles and miles to get water from bore holes, and they

These kids are walking miles and miles to get water from bore holes, and they don’t even know if it’s safe to drink

– Erin Huber, Executive Director Drink Local. Drink Tap.

don’t even know if it’s safe to drink,” Huber explains. “They live 40 miles from Lake Victoria, which has huge pollution and parasite problems, and there’s no infrastructure to pipe the water to villages. It’s incredibly frustrating.”

The Drink Local. Drink Tap. team traveled to Uganda in 2011 and 2012 to design and complete a bore hole project that brought water access to a school for orphans. While there, Huber and her colleagues began work on *Making Waves From Cleveland to Uganda*, a documentary film that Huber hopes will help bring about a broader awareness of global water issues.

“We are not living in a bubble,” Huber says. “We are sharing our water with everybody, and it’s very important to wake up to what’s going on. We’re not exempt from our lake drying up or from our water getting polluted. We have to take responsibility to make sure that doesn’t happen.”

Kent State is taking on that responsibility by addressing the global challenge that water represents, according to McGimpsey. “We’re making an impact not just regionally, but nationally and internationally,” he says.

That’s a sentiment that would make Captain Dave Spangler very happy indeed.



For more information about water research at Kent State, visit www.kent.edu/research.

To learn more about the Cleveland Water Alliance, see <http://clevelandwateralliance.org>.



Watch a video about *Making Waves From Cleveland to Uganda* at <http://bit.ly/waves-doc>.



MAN OF SCIENCE MAN OF WORDS

Kent State Magazine sat in with Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist and the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, as he spoke about politics, society and popular culture at the third Kent State University Presidential Speaker Series.

In all likelihood, the loving couple who has just exited the Hub — with arms intertwined as they share a chocolate ice cream cone — are not thinking about cosmological events. Yet instinctively, the sweethearts, as well as the students studying or socializing on Risman Plaza, are intent upon soaking up the last warm rays of the day's sunset. They seem oblivious to the “stargazing” crowd that is slowly increasing in mass on the second floor of the Kent Student Center outside the Ballroom doors.

Some members of that quietly anxious crowd arrived up to an hour early for the 7 p.m. talk by Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist and director of Boston's

Hayden Planetarium, who has variously been described as a “rock-star scientist,” for his ability to mix science and pop culture, and facetiously as an “agent of Satan,” for his work on downgrading Pluto to a “dwarf planet.” Within the generation-spanning, ever-growing assemblage of teenagers, college students, professors and university staff and community members, stand a few 8- or 9-year-old wannabe scientists, clutching one of Tyson's books with one hand and their parent's hand with the other. When the doors finally open, the sellout crowd — like the universe itself — quickly expands to fill the

Ballroom and even the far reaches of Kiva Auditorium, where procrastinators, isolated from fellow earthlings, watch a simulcast on the big screen.

An astrophysicist reads the newspaper

In his evening's lecture, titled “An Astrophysicist Reads the Newspaper,” Tyson provides a send up of the ill-informed, unthinking and often inane manner in which science news is conveyed by the media. Tyson, a self-appointed “vessel for the universe to express itself” sets about correcting popular misconceptions

Neil deGrasse Tyson speaks to the overflow crowd at the Presidential Speaker Series lecture.

(Photos by Bob Christy, '95)

CE. RDS.

concerning science but not before first removing his shoes, all the better to be comfortable and — as the audience will later learn — nimble.

Poking fun of recent media accounts about the Harvest Moon, including the headline “How to See the Full Moon on Sept. 18,” he asks sarcastically, “Do you really need help to find the full moon?”

He mocks stories about pending catastrophes, asteroid strikes and “close encounters” that miss Earth by 600,000 miles. “There are always asteroids coming near us,” he says. The danger of these reports he explains is that they will run out of adjectives “for the one that’s really going to hit Earth” — the Apophis asteroid that could give our planet a “buzz cut” in 2029 and could hit near Santa Monica, Calif., in 2036. “We have plans to deflect it,” Tyson says. He adds,



A young fan asks a question.

“This all works on paper — no one has funded it yet.” Even so, Tyson says the tsunamis and damage that would result are predictable by scientists. “You can calculate this. No one has to die,” he says.

From there he segues to a plea for the United States to give greater attention toward finding engineering solutions to pending problems and focusing the national attention on science. Too often, our “national hubris” or scientific illiteracy prevents us from seeing that science and technology can provide solutions, he says. Showing a map of the world where the size of countries is based on the number of peer-reviewed scientific articles they publish, Tyson points to a bloated Japan, United States and Western Europe. But the trend line, from 10 years ago to today, shows a shrunken United States and a burgeoning Brazil, China, Japan and Western Europe. “The writing is on the wall,” he warns.

Close encounters with the third grade

A prolific writer, Tyson strives for precision while engaging his readers. He often mentions his love of words and his search for finding the exact words to express his ideas. Tyson’s love of words is evident as the lecture nears three hours in length. Some members of the audience shift restlessly in their chairs. Parents lead sleepy-eyed youngsters home. For the umpteenth time, the moderator calls for the last question. The audience rises

and applauds what they think was the last question and answer of the night. When suddenly, Tyson — in his stocking feet, displaying footwork reminiscent of that which won him a national gold medal with the University of Texas dance team in International Latin Ballroom — sidesteps the moderator, glides across the stage, down the steps and plucks from a few rows back a young boy, possibly age 8 or 9, who is frantically waving his hand to ask a question.


“Just one last question,” Tyson purrs into the microphone. “Do you have a question?” Whereupon the boy blurts out, “Do you like bacon as much as I do?” And without missing a beat, Tyson replies that indeed he does and then tells everyone that they can see on the Internet a recreation of van Gogh’s *Starry Night* made entirely of bacon.

With that, the crowd rises and gives him the second standing ovation of the endorphin-rich event. As autograph seekers head for the book signing and the crowd disperses, a middle-aged woman remarks to her companion, “Neil deGrasse Tyson just channeled the universe.” And so he did.



To view video highlights from Neil deGrasse Tyson’s visit to Kent State, see <http://youtu.be/PUFkTAb1Vw>.

To learn more about the Presidential Speaker Series, visit <http://bit.ly/kent-speakers>



BATTER UP!

*Groundbreaking at Schoonover
Stadium prepares for new baseball
and softball practice facility.*



A member of the softball team works on her swing.

(Photo by Bob Christy, '95)

By **Mollie Radzinski**, '09

Softball Head Coach **Karen Linder** can't help but be excited about the new hitting facility at Schoonover Stadium, "It gives us a place we can call our home. It really is going to have a huge impact on the success of our program." Coach Linder stresses that the facility will allow her players a place to practice and improve around the clock.

The groundbreaking for the state-of-the-art indoor practice facility, which will include batting cages, dirt pitching mounds, weight training equipment and offices, took place Homecoming weekend, and Kent State University President **Lester A. Lefton**, Director of Athletics **Joel Nielsen** and lead donor *Dave Edmonds*, '80, all spoke to a crowd of supporters, donors, coaches, staff and student-athletes who gathered for the event.

Relationships build success

The project is made possible by a lead gift of \$500,000 by Edmonds and a generous donation of \$100,000 by *Tom Cole*, '72, both of whom are Kent State baseball alumni. Additionally, other gifts of between \$5,000 and \$25,000 were contributed in support of the project.

The hitting facility is part of the continuing upgrades to the Kent State baseball facilities at Schoonover Stadium. In 2005, a field turf surface was installed, along with an underground drainage system, new dugouts, bullpens, backstop and outfield fencing. For the 2007 season, a home locker room, players' lounge, restrooms and concession stand were added. The updated scoreboard in right field was installed in 2008. Last season, Kent State baseball played night games after the addition of lights at Schoonover Stadium. The hitting facility and a new parking area for the 2014 season are made possible by both public and private funding.

"To see all the development and to see all the activity around the program today with this facility that's coming for both the men and women, is really exciting to watch," Edmonds says. "I really believe it's going to make a difference

in student-athletes' lives today and in future generations."

Baseball Head Coach **Jeff Duncan** believes that strong Kent State relationships make projects like the hitting facility possible. "When you have a program that has so much tradition — like our Kent State baseball program — our alumni are so proud, and they always want to give back," he says. "The support here between the administration, our alumni and the community is unbelievable."

"Both Dave and Tom understand the resources needed to ensure that Kent State baseball remains the preeminent baseball program in the MAC and a constant presence in NCAA postseason play," says Senior Associate Athletic Director and Executive Director of Advancement **Matthew Geis**. "The construction of this hitting facility is one more piece to transforming an already impressive Schoonover Complex."

Building Champions initiative

The facility upgrade is part of the Building Champions initiative, the biggest fundraising initiative in the history of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics that was announced in 2013. The initiative will generate money from private donors to fund a \$25-million investment in athletic scholarships and a \$35-million investment in various enhancement projects.

On a larger scale, the project is also part of the university's Foundations of Excellence: Building the Future initiative. Foundations of Excellence is the planned construction of new buildings, facility upgrades and the establishment of dynamic, new learning spaces. The university has embarked on a major, multifaceted initiative to make each of Kent State's eight campuses everything a world-class, 21st-century university system should be, for the sake of the students, faculty, staff, alumni and the greater community enriched by the institution.

Changes to the Kent Campus are mirrored in the incredible renaissance of downtown Kent, strengthening the town-gown relationship and creating the enriching experience of a rising college town.

20 THINGS ALUMNI LOVE ABOUT KENT STATE

Alumni share their favorite Kent State memories.

By Adam Zaleski, English major

We caught up with some of our alumni at our events last year and asked them to share their Kent State memories. Here is a list of 20 things graduates love about Kent State.

20. Front Campus

Historic buildings and towering trees grace the most beautiful part of campus.

19. Round Town Music Festival (formerly Folk Fest)

A weekend full of live folk music and workshops for the music lover in you.

18. Ray's Place

A wide selection of beer and burgers makes this Kent landmark an absolute must.

17. Painting the Rock

Since the 1930s, students, staff and faculty have used The Rock on front campus as a canvas for celebration and heartfelt tributes.

16. Flash, the Golden Eagle

This cuddly dancing bird was adopted as Kent State's official mascot in 1994. Before Flash, a silver fox, a golden retriever and Freddie Flash all acted as the university's most visible character.

15. Pizza at The Loft

One alumna made some of the first pizzas at The Loft. With \$2 pizza nights, this was one of the best pizza joints in town.

14. Rosie's Diner

This on-campus, 24-hour eatery is the perfect place to fulfill your late-night cravings.

13. The Rathskeller

Whether enjoying live entertainment, playing a game of pool or just hanging out with friends, the Rathskeller was the place to be.

12. Seasons on Campus

With its rolling hills and mature trees, there really is no bad time to visit campus.

11. Tray Sledding

Plastic lunch tray + snow covered hill = everlasting memories



A LOOK INSIDE YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

By *Adam Zaleski*, English major; **Lindsay Kuntzman**, '06, M.A. '09; and **Ashley Katona**, '06, M.Ed. '12

Whether it was five, 10 or more than 15 years ago since you walked at Commencement to receive your Kent State diploma, you'll always remember that special day. The anticipation leading up to graduation was intense, and when the moment finally arrived, it was bittersweet.

While your college years may be over, you are still a part of the Golden Flash family. And the Kent State University Alumni Association makes it easy for you to feel and show your Golden Flash pride.

With nearly 300 events last year, the alumni association is constantly looking for new ways to connect with you. Here is a sneak peek at some of the alumni association's new events and programs.

Your source for lifelong learning

Your days of learning from Kent State professors are far from over. Now you have the opportunity to hear from Kent State faculty through several new alumni association events.

This is the fourth year the alumni association is hosting Alumni College, which is part of the first Alumni Weekend. On June 7, 2014, alumni are invited back to campus for a day of learning about health and wellness from Kent State University's top-notch faculty.

Another great opportunity to hear from Kent State faculty members is the Faculty Lecture Series. This series, developed as an abridged version of Alumni College, is designed to be an entertaining and educational evening.

"The first Faculty Lecture Series last October invited faculty from different departments to discuss their areas of expertise," says **Kellie Mayle**, assistant director of alumni education and regional programming. Faculty spoke on a variety of topics such as May 4, 1970, social media and vampires in film and television. This spring, the Faculty Lecture series will focus on health and wellness topics.

Golden Flash pride is everywhere

Whether you've settled in Northeast Ohio or relocated afar, you can keep your Golden Flash pride strong. With nearly 20 area representatives and seven alumni chapters ready to help, you can enjoy social and networking events across the country with fellow Flashes who live near you or share similar interests.

Additionally, a new initiative called Kent on Location brings the university to areas that have a large population of Kent State graduates. This new program gathers alumni for activities such as

winery visits, soccer games and lectures by both faculty and alumni.

Opportunities in the comfort of your own home

Considering all the events the alumni association offers in a typical year, scheduling conflicts are sure to occur. Luckily, some alumni association-sponsored events are now streamed live online.

“We want alumni to be able to see what we’re doing,” says **Vince Slomsky**, assistant director of new media communications. “It’s a new way of reaching out to our alumni while including the ones who can’t physically be here. For us, connecting with our graduates is everything.”

Even with the availability of streaming events, keeping up with more than 200,000 Kent State alumni worldwide can be a daunting task. That’s why the alumni association has greatly expanded its digital presence to better serve you. With more than 30,000 connections on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, the alumni association is using social media to connect with alumni across the globe.

Improving your Web experience

While you can enjoy news, photos and giveaways on social media outlets, www.ksualumni.org is still a critical source for information. And, the alumni association is making sure you can access it anywhere, anytime.

“With more than 30 percent of alumni viewing our website from their cell phones or tablets, making our website mobile/tablet friendly was something we knew we had to do,” **Ashley Katona**, assistant director of alumni relations, says.

Depending on what type of device alumni use, the website will now automatically switch for better resolution and image size. The responsive design will make it easier for alumni to navigate our website and complete forms such as event registrations.

This seven-month project, which began in September 2013, involved research, with the help of University Communications and Marketing, including focus groups with alumni and usability testing. The alumni association recently launched the new website in April.

Providing programs for all ages

While providing events to current alumni, the alumni association also supports activities that nurture current students and recent graduates.

New this year, the alumni association is offering career webinars on the first Wednesday of each month. The webinars feature experts who discuss topics ranging from résumé writing to networking.

“It’s great for students and recent graduates who are searching for jobs,” says **Carrie Circosta**, assistant director of student and recent graduate programs. “It’s the perfect opportunity to build a professional relationship while developing networking skills and references.”

If you’re a recent graduate looking for additional ways to stay connected to the university, the Black Squirrel Advisory Board is an opportunity to maintain an active relationship with the university

through philanthropy and volunteering. The program, offered to alumni who have graduated within the past five years, allows graduates to engage with the university while giving back.

Thank You, Alumni!

Whether it be Homecoming or the Faculty Lecture Series, all programs the alumni association offers are made possible by its members.

“Our members are the reason we exist,” says **Lindsay Kuntzman**, assistant director of marketing. “We’re thankful and grateful for them. Without our members, we wouldn’t be able to accomplish half of the initiatives we’re working on currently.”

Significant increases in membership over the past few years means Kent State graduates are realizing the value of reconnecting with their alma mater. Becoming a member shows your support for the university and the alumni association while aiding future Golden Flashes.



For more information about membership and the alumni association, please visit www.ksualumni.org or call 888-320-KENT.



*Recent graduates enjoying the photo booth at **Flashes Forever**, a graduation celebration sponsored by the alumni association.*

Join us for the Alumni Faculty Lecture Series
AT THE WILLIAMSON ALUMNI CENTER

KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CLASSES WITHOUT QUIZZES! SPRING 2014 EDITION

April 24

**Taking Smarter Pictures
with Your Smart Phone
is all about TLC**



David LaBelle

Lecturer, School of Journalism
and Mass Communication

May 8

Sandwiched Between Generations:

*Strategies for Middle-Aged People Who Are
Raising Their Children While Providing Eldercare
to Their Parents and Grandparents*



Phillip Rumrill, Ph.D.

Professor, School of Lifespan Development
& Educational Sciences

Co-Presenters, Danielle Schultz Dresden, M.Ed. '98
& Kimberly McCrone Wickert '90, MRC, CRC

May 15

**How to Get Fit
Across the Ages**



Ellen Glickman, Ph.D.

Professor, Exercise Physiology

If you are unable to attend, we will offer a live video stream of the events online for free.

Please visit www.ksualumni.org and view our event listing
for more information about these events and the live video streams.

Class Notes

'33

Katherine E. Strohl, Mansfield, Ohio, retired from Mansfield General Hospital in 1977; began a long career as a volunteer; and is now in retirement at Primrose Retirement Center in Mansfield.

'38

Bessie (goes by Betty) E. (Adlard) Eyster, Palm Harbor, Fla., turned 100 on Aug. 7, 2013! A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she utilized her degree by accepting a variety of educational positions, from teaching kindergarten to business-related classes at the high school level. She later left retirement to work at the World Bank. Eyster was married to Rev. Dr. Walter Eyster for 52 years and has three children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

'71

Dave Herbert, J.D., Canton, Ohio, recently published a new legal thriller titled *The Personal Trainer, A Tale of Pain, Gain, Greed & Lust*. The novel deals with a personal fitness trainer interacting with the legal system when the personal trainer provides services to a client that result in harm to her.

'73

Willard V. Jenkins, Kent, Ohio, Tri-C JazzFest artistic director, was awarded the 2013 JJA Lifetime Achievement Award in

Jazz Journalism by the Jazz Journalists Association. Jenkins is also an independent arts consultant/producer, writer and broadcaster under his Open Sky banner. His current activity includes concert, festival and concert series planning/development, artistic direction, consulting, music journalism, teaching and broadcast work.

'76

Mark W. Glickman, M.Ed., Boca Raton, Fla., a 35-year fundraising veteran with extensive Jewish nonprofit and private sector experience, has been named the new Southeast Regional Director of American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA). AFMDA supports Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's national emergency response, ambulance and blood services agency.

'79

Camille A. (Rupert) Remus, Franklin, Mass., has been promoted to senior vice president, compliance and security at Belmont Savings Bank.

'81

Jennifer W. (Wilder) Morgan, Spring, Texas, authored *Come to the Garden*, a novel inspired by true events, which take place in her garden at home where she meets her guardian angel.

'84

Ingeborg Hrabowy, Ph.D., Cleveland, Ohio, published *29 Things That Will Tank Your Life and What to do to Avoid Them*.

'86

Steven L. Case, Oviedo, Fla., recently published his first novel, *Father Dark*. Case has been writing for 25 years. Case has written 22 books of curriculum, countless magazine articles, re-imagined the writings of a 17th-century monk and published a Dr. Who short story with Big Finish productions in the UK. He is also a youth pastor with the United Church of Christ.

Donald F. Sobnosky, Wadsworth, Ohio, was awarded an EMMY from the Ohio Valley Regional Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in the category of "Video Essay." He works as a photojournalist at WSYX Channel 6 in Columbus.

'91

Brian A. Williams, M.D., Oakmont, Pa., received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Northeast Ohio Medical University. Williams currently serves as director, acute pain medicine/regional anesthesia, ambulatory anesthesia and preoperative evaluation at the VA Pittsburgh HealthCare System. He is credited as a thought leader and one of several co-founders of the subspecialty of anesthesiology called ambulatory regional.

'99

Adam B. Brooks, M.L.S. '01, Brooksville, Fla., is director of libraries and community services at the Hernando County Public Library, which was selected as the Florida Library Association's 2013 Library of the Year.

LIFE MEMBERS

Here is the list of the many dedicated individuals who recently became Kent State University Alumni Association life members. A complete list of life members can be found at www.ksualumni.org/member.

Gail Allison, Reminderville, Ohio
 Thomas Allison, Aurora, Ohio
 Rebecca Berkowitz, Westerville, Ohio
 Richard Berry, Pickerington, Ohio
 James Besselman, Marietta, Ga.
 Susan Besselman, Marietta, Ga.
 Dianne Bullach, Arlington, Va.
 John Bullach Jr., Arlington, Va.
 Darryl Carter Sr., Phenix City, Ala.
 Mary Clancy, Brookfield, Ohio
 James Cody, Aurora, Ohio
 Kenneth Demarchi, Mentor, Ohio
 Lauren Desanzo, Naples, Fla.
 Lisa Dunick, Fairfax, Va.
 Martin Dusel, Indianapolis, Ind.
 David Engelhart, New Philadelphia, Ohio
 David Evans, Columbus, Ohio
 Nancy Ellen Evans, Columbus, Ohio
 Carol Flowers, Miamisburg, Ohio
 Erin Frank, Boardman, Ohio
 Phyllis Franks, Denver, Colo.
 Joseph Gadd, Aurora, Ohio
 Geoffrey Groff, Lancaster, Pa.
 Kathleen Groff, Lancaster, Pa.
 Sonja Holloway, North Las Vegas, Nev.

Ingeborg Hrabowy, Ph. D., Cleveland, Ohio
 Candice Hughes, Winnetka, Ill.
 Bruce Jackim, Cleveland, Ohio
 Nina Jackim, Cleveland, Ohio
 J. Bradford James, Chicago, Ill.
 Linda Janosko, Terre Haute, Ind.
 Bradley Kaufman, Burke, Va.
 James Keryan, Astoria, Ore.
 Allen Kitzel, Westlake, Ohio
 William Kolar III, Saint Petersburg, Fla.
 Robert Maffitt Jr., Wilmington, N.C.
 Ronald Marcin, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Jean McKeon, Berea, Ohio
 Donald Michalak, Hartsville, Ohio
 Charlotte Mikolich, Tempe, Ariz.
 James Nelson, Orrville, Ohio
 Nicholas Nemeth, Phoenix, Ariz.
 James Novak, Rootstown, Ohio
 Mary Novak, Rootstown, Ohio
 Jason Palo, Warren, Ohio
 Luella Palo, Warren, Ohio
 Jessamine Proctor-Marcin, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Marie Rengstorff, Ph.D.
 Lawrence Robinson, Cleveland, Ohio
 Shirley Robinson, Cleveland, Ohio

John Saunders, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
 Max Savickas, Chesterland, Ohio
 Michael Saxton, Sunset, S.C.
 Jeri Scheel, Mableton, Ga.
 Lynn Schenkelberg, Rocky River, Ohio
 John Schwartzhoff, Stow, Ohio
 Susan Schwartzhoff, Stow, Ohio
 Mary Beth Seiler, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Albert Snyder, Painesville, Ohio
 Kenneth Stahl, Ravenna, Ohio
 Melinda Stahl, Ravenna, Ohio
 Patricia Stanfel, Urbana, Ohio
 Stephen Stewart, Canal Fulton, Ohio
 Vernon Sykes, Columbus, Ohio
 Kristofor Traenkner, Fairfield, Ohio
 Janeth Vicars, Munroe Falls, Ohio
 Tim Vicars, Munroe Falls, Ohio
 Bin Wang, Kingsport, Tenn.
 John Whalen, Alliance, Ohio
 James Whitaker, Charlotte, N.C.
 Dorothy Wicker, Rockville, Md.

* Please note that due to space and timing of this publication, your name may not appear until a future issue.

Joseph C. Difalco, Chesterfield, N.J., has been elected trustee of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) for a three-year term, which began June 1, 2013.

Julie A. Lindsey, Canton, Ohio, authored *Deceived*, a young adult suspense novel. Lindsey, a mother of three, is a full-time writer with an established track record in lighthearted romance novels. *Deceived* is her first adventure into young adult suspense.

'01

David W. Craun, M.Arch. '03, Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed associate principal and continues to be one of the firm's key design leads at Bialosky + Partners Architects.

Ellen E. Ernst, Chicago, Ill., has joined the Chicago office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. Ernst concentrates her practice in the area of corporate taxation, providing businesses with tools and planning strategies around tax minimization.

Andrew C. Mitchell, Detroit, Mich., author and entrepreneur, leaned on several people in order to obtain his success in life. Now, Mitchell taps into his past to share with the world some of the things he has learned and observed throughout his lifetime in order to help him grow and achieve success. He has properly formatted what he has both learned and observed into a set of laws that he hopes can serve as a foundation for others who search for a more rewarding life. The book is titled, *Knowing Your Place*.

'04

Debra A. Orr, M.L.I.S., Athens, Ohio, received the Outstanding Employee of the Year from the Department of Academic Affairs, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Orr is a health sciences/LRC librarian at Ohio University.

'05

Shannon D. Bohle, M.L.I.S., Lima, Ohio, recently received the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) credential awarded by the Medical Library Association at the senior level of achievement.

'07

Jordan O. Petersen-Fitts, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is the new Kent State University dance team coach. Petersen-Fitts not only went to Kent State, but also was a member of the Kent State Dance Team during her time as a student. Petersen-Fitts is founder of the dance outreach program Art Sparks, founded in 2012 and is co-owner of the Cuyahoga Falls Dance Center.

'09

Jennifer L. Johnson, M.L.I.S., Dublin, Ohio, has joined the State Library of Ohio as a librarian in the Research and Catalog Services Department. Johnson will provide reference and research services to state employees and other patrons of the State Library. She will also work as part of the State Library team that ensures access to useful electronic resources and an effective and excellent library catalog.

'10

Rebecca M. Baldwin, M.L.I.S., Akron, Ohio, accepted a position as the branch manager at the East Canton Branch of the Stark County District Libraries. Baldwin graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology before receiving her M.L.I.S. from Kent State. She worked previously at Plain Community Library, where she was the teen librarian for two years.

'11

Alexander T. Cox, M.F.A., Kent, Ohio, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright grant to Bulgaria for the 2013-14 year. Cox will be completing research for his creative writing manuscript while abroad. Stephen H. Cox, M.L.I.S., Cincinnati, Ohio, represented Kent State at SLA 2013 in San Diego as a part of the Cross-Border Bookworms and won the annual Trivia Night held there. Cox also won the SLA-PHT's annual travel award for his essay on future forecasting. Publication of the essay in a future edition of *CapLits* is forthcoming.

'12

Marlene E. Edge, M.L.I.S., Troy, Mich., recently accepted the course reserves manager position at the Oakland University Kresge Library in Rochester, Mich.

'13

Don P. Jason, M.L.I.S. '13, M.S. '13, Cincinnati, Ohio, has been selected as one of five National Library of Medicine 2013-2014 Associate Fellows.

flashback

RELIVE YOUR MEMORIES WITH THE CHESTNUT BURR

Whether you were rooting for Kent State at the Homecoming game, meticulously painting the Rock on front campus or savoring tunes at Folk Fest, memories from your time at Kent State are held closely to your heart. Luckily, many of those events were highlighted in the *Chestnut Burr*.

The *Chestnut Burr*, Kent State's student-produced yearbook documenting various aspects of campus life including Homecoming, student organizations and athletics, was first published in 1914. A campus staple for more than 70 years, the yearbook's last edition was published in 1985.

The Kent State Alumni Association is selling a limited number of select editions of the *Chestnut Burr* yearbook. Take this opportunity to preserve your memories from your time at Kent State by purchasing a hard copy for your collection.



For more information and a complete list of available editions, please visit www.ksualumni.org/burrmemories.

Photos taken from various issues of the Chestnut Burr.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROFILE



Photo courtesy of WWE

Nic Nemeth — or as he's known in WWE, Dolph Ziggler — is an American Professional Wrestler. Nemeth joined WWE in 2004 and since then has won the WWE Intercontinental Championship, WWE United States Championship and World Heavyweight Championship. Prior to his WWE career, Nemeth wrestled in the 165-pound weight class at Kent State and became a three-time Mid-American Conference champion. As of 2003, he held the record for the most wins in Kent State's wrestling history with 121 wins. Nemeth holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Kent State University.

NIC NEMETH, '03 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER

What did you like most about Kent State? The friendships for sure. I would not have the friends I have now, if I had not attended Kent State. I still stay in touch with a lot of friends from Kent State.

Favorite place to hang out at, on or around campus: I really enjoyed going to the Robin Hood on Thursdays and hanging out at our house on Erie Street.

Kent State person who influenced you the most: Gertrude Steuernagel. She was the political science chair and my favorite professor by far.

Favorite Kent State memory: We had a dual meet against Ohio University for

the MAC Championship in 2003. We packed the bleachers and had t-shirts made. We beat Ohio University by one match and became the MAC champions that year.

Greatest lesson you learned from Kent State: I passed this one along to my brothers. No matter what you are doing if you work harder than everyone else, you have a chance. I walked on to Kent State, and my freshman year I was beating a senior out for the spot.

Biggest life accomplishment: Winning the World Heavyweight Championship in WWE last year was a special moment for me. When I won, the place erupted. It was great having so many people

behind me and supporting me because I had worked so hard to get where I was. WWE put it on their list of all-time greatest moments.

Why I became a lifetime member of the Alumni Association: I still have a lot of contacts from Kent State, and it is really cool to give back to the school that helped me out so much and shaped the man I am today. I travel a lot but still follow Kent State on Twitter and Facebook to stay up to date on what's going on at Kent State. I also try to make it back for Homecomings and wrestling meets every year. I like to wear my Kent State shorts to let everyone know the pride I have for Kent State.

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LOSSES

Joseph L. Baird
Bedford H. Biles
Joseph B. O'Sickey
Evan S. Tarsky
Josette M. Wallace

'34
Ruby M. (Harris) Hegele

'43
Wayne Bartel
Frances A. (Allen) Scott

'45
Henry W. Ray, Ph.D.
Alois L. Zaremba, Ph.D.

'46
Arthur L. Wilson

'48
Susanne W. (Worden) Frank
Nancy H. Tuck

'50
H. L. (Daugherty) Dyrdek
Edward A. Trautz
Edmund A. Wigley

'52
William A. Smith

'55
Frances A. (Gordon) Schneider

'56
Joseph Kotys
Jerry Lange
Edward J. Person

'57
Barbara A. Lange
Gilbert R. Martin

'58
Ronald C. Crowl

'59
Elsie D. Zamecnik

'60
Margaret H. (Wells) Justice

'62
Mildred D. Simpson, M.Ed. '79

'63
Nila D. (Daughenbaugh) Geiger

'65
Setty R. Adishes, Ph.D.
Jeanne D. Glenn

'66
Judith A. (Riegler) Dettling
Priscilla K. (Lane) Madonna, M.Ed. '68
Naomi K. (Wilhelm) Zimmerman

'67
Craig A. Mason, M.S. '72

'68
Prema K. (Kumari) Adishes
Michael H. Chernak

'69
Mary E. Heines

'70
I. W. Lancaster, Ph.D.
Richard J. Shuntich, Ph.D. '72

'71
George J. Maxin

'72
Bruce A. Ingraham
Ellen P. (Demian) Kofron
Marcia L. (Kaminski) Lawson
Katherine A. Mott, M.Ed.
Marilyn C. Szalay, M.F.A. '75

'75
Ronald E. Hanna, M.S. '82
Patricia M. Parker

'76
Deb (Sell) Craig, M.Ed. '76, M.A. '80,
Ph.D. '87
Joanna K. (Wheeler) Pusti
Don Terry, M.Ed.

'77
Joyce K. (Kopperman) Steinhoff, M.Ed.

'78
Thomas Desantis

'79
Diane L. McCloskey

'84
Patricia Sly

'85
Joseph D. Carr, M.A. '88

'94
Jack Armul, M.P.A.
Duraid B. Chalabi, M.Arch.
Peter J. DeBaal, M.Arch. '94,
M.Arch. '02

'00
Larry G. Santangelo, B.B.A. '04

'07
Michael J. Mannino

Alumni Association Annual Members are listed in blue; Life Members are listed in gold.



Kent State University Alumni Association Hosts

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Save the Date! June 6-7, 2014

Return to your alma mater for a weekend of fun and learning while rediscovering your love for Kent State.

Here is a sneak peak at some of the activities planned for the weekend.

Friday, June 6

A Day at the Links (recreational golf)
Campus and Downtown Tour
Concert on the Student Green

Saturday, June 7

Alumni College

For more information or to reserve your spot, please visit
www.ksualumni.org/alumniweekend2014.



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TURNING FOND MEMORIES INTO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

By **Deb McGuinness**, '78

Joan Miller, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist practicing in Marietta, Ga. Miller is also a Kent State alumna and a former faculty member at Kent State University at Tuscarawas, where she taught psychology for seven years. "Even after moving away, I kept a warm place in my heart for my faculty friends, as well as for the good memories of teaching there," she says. "I received my Ph.D. on a tuition waver while I was teaching, and I was always grateful for that. It made sense to me to repay that generosity by helping future psychology majors."

Miller created the *Joan I. Miller Endowed Psychology Scholarship* with a bequest from her estate. Funds from this trust will be used to provide a scholarship to a Kent State Tuscarawas psychology student who maintains a 3.0 or higher GPA.

According to **Mindy Aleman**, executive director of the Center for Gift and Estate Planning, "Joan epitomizes the Kent State donor who remembers her alma mater in a personal and special way. We're very grateful for her commitment to our future students."

Miller has dedicated her life to helping her clients learn coping strategies to create a more satisfying life. Learning

to give back is an important part of her message. "From a young age, my mother taught me about the joy of helping others," she says. "Not only is that good for the recipient of my kindness, but I gain meaning and feel satisfied that I've contributed to others. It allows me to be more grateful to those who have helped me. This philosophy also provided the foundation for my becoming a teacher, as well as a clinical psychologist."

In addition to her scholarship for Kent State Tuscarawas, Miller also supports Mission Aviation Fellowship, the Red Cross, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Planned Parenthood, the Alzheimer's Association and Visions Anew (which helps divorcing women).



To find out how you can leave a lasting legacy for future students, visit www.kent.edu/advancement.



Bob Milliken wants other students to have the opportunities he had to become all that they can be.

(Photo courtesy of the Dept. of Intercollegiate Athletics)

THE ULTIMATE 'FLASHES FAN' GIVES FROM THE HEART

By Deb McGuinness, '78

To call *Bob Milliken*, '83, a renaissance man would be like calling Antarctica a little chilly. The Kent State grad is a former state trooper turned entrepreneur, turned businessman, who also happens to be one of the university's biggest sports fans and supporters.

Milliken is a season ticket holder for men's and women's basketball and football, as well as a lifetime member of the alumni association. He's one of the original founders of a group of super fans called "Ruff on Refs," whose only requirement for membership is that you cheer the loudest at Golden Flashes sporting events, where you're given a cap and made a member on the spot. "RR Club members take their KSU athletics pretty seriously," jokes Milliken. "We've been known to give the officials some appropriate 'critiques' during the game, but we have a lot of good-natured fun." The four founding members of the group were honored as *Varsity "K" Persons of the Year* in 2009.

He not only supports Kent State athletics with his presence, but Milliken also has established provisions in his will to continue his legacy in the future with a very generous contribution to student athletic scholarships.

Milliken explains his reasons for giving. "I love Kent State — love my alma mater — it's like a second family to me, honestly. I spend a lot of time at Kent State and get so much enjoyment out of being a part of the university community." He adds, "My education at Kent State is a big part of why I am what I am today. I give back because

My education at Kent State is a big part of why I am what I am today. I give back because of the opportunities my education provided me. I feel a real responsibility to give back.

— *Bob Milliken, '83*

of the opportunities my education provided me. I feel a real responsibility to give back. Scholarships are about giving others an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have. I was fortunate in that I graduated without any debt, in part thanks to my parents, but not everyone has the same opportunity. So if I can give another student an opportunity to become all that they

can be, that's the point. Without it, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Milliken had a four-year plan to make a permanent move to Hawaii, but then got involved with some oil and gas interests in Ohio. There are so many business opportunities spinning off that he needs to remain in Ohio, at least for the time being. So he vacations in Hawaii as often as possible. "I'm torn because I'll miss part of basketball season while I'm on the island," he laughs, "But I'll be back for the MAC tournament. I've traveled a lot with both the men's and women's basketball teams. I went to Omaha for the World Series games, and I have a lifetime of memories from those trips."

"Bob is passionate about the need for athletic scholarships, and his legacy with the university is important to him," says **Matt Geis**, who is the senior associate athletic director/executive director, athletic advancement. "By making provisions in his estate plans, Bob is able to have an impact on Kent State athletics in perpetuity."

The Building Champions Initiative

At the heart of Kent State intercollegiate athletics are the more than 400 student-athletes who, along with their amazing achievements competitively, are equally dedicated to excelling in the classroom. With that in mind, *Building Champions* includes a commitment of raising \$25 million to support their efforts in the classroom and beyond. Each dollar raised in that area will go toward scholarships and endowments.

For more information on how you can contribute to the *Building Champions Initiative* by designating an athletic scholarship through your estate plans, contact Senior Associate Athletic Director and Executive Director of Athletic Advancement Matt Geis at mgeis@kent.edu or call 330-672-2093.

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

By **Deb McGuinness**, '78

It would be easy to call *Korina Jensen* an advocate. A tireless activist. A passionate humanitarian. She is, in fact, all those things. The criminal justice major refuses to sit by while there is so much to "fix" in the world. People to help along to a better life. Animals to protect and defend. Korina wants to make the world better and is determined to make it happen.

Jensen was brought up in a culture of giving from a very young age. "I gained most of my experience in volunteer work during my teenage years," she says. "I was a buddy to Special Olympians and worked with Alzheimer's patients. Later on, I also worked with homeless youths, drug addicted individuals and at-risk kids at a drop-in center."

Korina went back to college at age 25 and will complete her degree in criminology in May. She wants to work for the FBI on their child abduction resource team and in their antipornography and human trafficking areas.

Jensen was a recipient of the FLASHanthropy *Pay It Flash Forward Scholarship* funded by (formerly the Campaign for Change Scholarship), a student philanthropic fund at Kent State that rewards deserving students.

Giving back is very important to Korina. "I see all these things that I want to change, that I want to be better for my kids and grandkids. And that can't be done unless we get involved," she says. "Philanthropy teaches respect and preservation. It lets you change people's lives."

Adds Jensen, "Nothing is more fulfilling to me than getting an education to pay forward my blessed fortune. As an

aspiring criminologist, I feel my duty is to never turn a blind eye or silent ear to victims of abuse, neglect or repression, whether they have hands or paws. Philanthropy is about education and thoughtful action. It's the refusal to give in to apathy, and never forgetting the worth of a single life. To change the world, one person at a time, is an honor and responsibility I pursue every day — because philanthropy is a way of life."



To find out how you can help lighten a student's financial burden, visit www.kent.edu/advancement.

FLASHanthropy (formerly Campaign for Change) is a Kent State student organization founded by motivated and dedicated students who are committed to raising student awareness of philanthropy at Kent State University. The FLASHanthropists inform their fellow Golden Flashes about the importance of philanthropy, encourage them to support the "Pay It Flash Forward" Scholarship, as well as other philanthropic causes on campus. Ultimately, FLASHanthropy seeks to inspire their peers to help move their alma mater into the future.

For more information, visit FLASHanthropy's Facebook page at FLASHanthropy and their Twitter handle @FLASHanthropy.



Korina Jensen pursues philanthropy as a way of life.
(Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87)

Kent State University

presents:

May 7

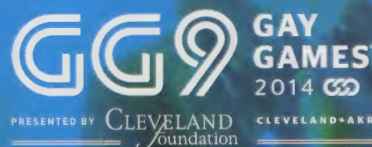
6:30 p.m.

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THE GARMENT GAMES

Inclusion By Design

You're invited to an evening of fashion, music, diversity and inclusion as senior design students compete to successfully design sportswear creations to be featured in the 2014 Gay Games, coming to Cleveland and Akron in early August.



Positive messages of inclusion will be an integral part of the evening's schedule.



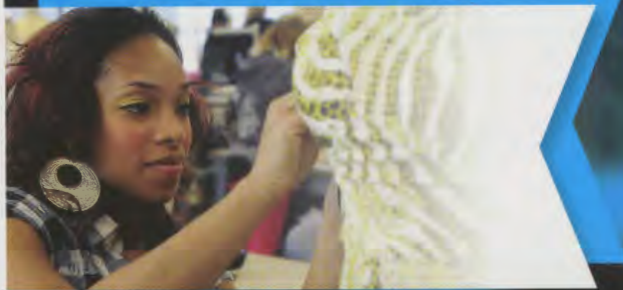
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Tickets and more info: kent.edu/garmentgames

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**Plans are under way for the
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It's the perfect time for you to revisit your favorite campus destinations and gather with friends. Updated information regarding the parade, schedule of events and more is available at www.ksualumni.org/homecoming.




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