

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

Fall 2014 / Volume 13 / Issue 3

High Tech
Meets
Traditional Craft

pg. 2

My Upright
Life

pg. 8

A Game Plan
for Equality

pg. 20



BEVERLY WARREN

*Kent State's 12th president
is "all about people." pg. 4*

pg. 2

High Tech Meets Traditional Craft

Kent State's robotic fabrication lab is making it possible to translate complex computer designs into physical form, using 3-D printers, laser cutters and a six-axis robot arm.

pg. 4

Kent State's New President Comes With a "Warren"-ty

Beverly Warren shares her belief that "institutions — even those as large and complex as ours — are all about people."



pg. 8

My Upright Life

Christina Bucciere recounts how her life was changed forever by bacterial meningitis.

pg. 14

The Renaissance Grows On

The *Foundations of Excellence: Building the Future* initiative includes the construction of new buildings, facility upgrades and the establishment of dynamic new spaces.

pg. 18

Ken Burns Reflects on American History and Identity

America's foremost documentary filmmaker reminds his audience that it is impossible to ignore history and, although some historical moments are forgotten, they shaped today.

pg. 20

A Game Plan for Equality

Judy Devine, '70, matriarch of Kent State athletics, heralded as a diversity trailblazer at the university and recently inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame, has made the quest for equality her life's work.

pg. 22

Alumni Awards Recipients Honored Oct. 18 at Homecoming

Kent State University Alumni Association honored five distinguished graduates and a current student with the association's most prestigious honor accorded to alumni.





NOTEWORTHY

EDMUND J. SIENNICKI (THE COMPOSER OF THE KENT STATE FIGHT SONG) PASSES

Born in 1920 and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Edmund J. Siennicki passed away in Sharon Center, Ohio, in 2013. He graduated from Kent State University in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in music. Siennicki is the composer of the university fight song, "Fight on for KSU." In 1994, he was presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the School of Music. Siennicki earned his M.A. at Teachers College, Columbia University. As a professional musician, he played the bassoon and piano.

Siennicki's compositions won prizes in the National School Orchestra composition contests, and he was composer in residence at the MacDowell Colony on two separate occasions. He had nearly 200 compositions in print and received many special awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). His teaching career was focused in the Cleveland junior high schools, but he was also employed by Michigan State and Kent State University.

You can listen to "Fight on for KSU" at <http://bit.ly/fight-song>.

NEW TRUSTEES NAMED

Gov. John Kasich has appointed two new trustees to the Kent State University Board of Trustees. Kasich named Stephen A. Perry of Canton, Ohio, to a nine-year term as a trustee and Perry "PJ" Kimmel of Canfield, Ohio, to a two-year term as an undergraduate student trustee.

KENT CAMPUS SETS NEW ALL-TIME RECORDS

Retention: This fall, 81.7 percent of last year's freshman class returned to the Kent Campus as sophomores, up from last year's retention rate of 77.6 percent. That represents the highest retention rate for the Kent Campus in the university's 104-year history!

Enrollment: The Kent Campus welcomed a total of 28,457 students, exceeding last year's record of 28,109. This marks the campus's eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth.

Achievement: Included among those students is the highest-achieving freshman class, with an average GPA of 3.34 and an average ACT score of nearly 23; both are records for an incoming class.

On the cover: During President Beverly Warren's Listening Tour visit to Kent State University at Salem, she was presented with her favorite tree, a ginkgo, which was planted in her honor on the campus.

"The ginkgo is one of the oldest trees and is very durable," says President Warren. "I am a fan of the Arts and Crafts style of architecture, and the ginkgo tree is representative of that style. It has a beautiful fan-shaped leaf that turns a spectacular yellow in the fall, making it one of the most beautiful trees in all seasons."

(Photo by Bob Christy, '95)

During her first day in office, President Warren, accompanied by executive officers and board members, walked down the Lefton Esplanade and met with Kent city leaders, including David Ruller, city manager. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)

pg.30 **His Song Lives On**

Family endows scholarship in memory and honor of Aaron White, '94.

pg.32 **Paying It Forward and Inspiring Others**

Charlic Thomas, '74, owner of Ray's Place, helps motivated, hardworking students to succeed.



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HIGH TECH MEETS TRADITIONAL CRAFT IN NEW ARCHITECTURE CLASS

Students translate complex computer designs into physical form, using 3-D printers, laser cutters and a six-axis robot arm in Kent State's Robotic Fabrication Laboratory.

By Bob Burford
Photos by Bob Christy, '95

What happens when high technology meets low-tech clay? Yeah, clay.

In a word? Art.

Brian Peters, assistant professor in Kent State's College of Architecture and Environmental Design, is applying some of the most sophisticated technology in existence to one of the most ancient practices known to man — the making of ceramic tiles. Kent State's Robotic Fabrication Lab (RFAB) is making it possible to translate complex computer designs into physical form, using 3-D printers, laser cutters and a six-axis robot arm.

Peters, who joined Kent State's faculty last summer, worked as an architect and designer in Chicago before studying and teaching in Barcelona and Amsterdam. "When I came here, I knew that I wanted to find some collaborators on campus," Peters says. What better place to start applying the technology than with something as basic and common as formed clay. "In the Netherlands, I worked on a project using ceramics and digital fabrication — 3-D printing specifically," Peters says. "So when I came to Kent State, I reached out to the ceramics department here to explore the possibility of collaboration."

Very quickly, he found a collaborator in **Eva Kwong**, associate professor of art and head of the ceramics unit. "Some of the oldest things we have are made of clay," says Kwong, who has built her career as a ceramics artist with residencies in the United States and China. As a creative artist, Kwong has pushed the medium of ceramics, exploring the juxtaposition of mass/space, land/air, solid/hollow, male/female forms, producing works that are often sensual. But she has always molded clay the old-fashioned way — with her hands. Kwong, however, had been reading about high-tech techniques in the fabrication of clay and was intrigued. "It was on my 'to do' list to check out," she says. So

when Peters reached out, she jumped at the opportunity.

Pushing boundaries

The two met a number of times as Peters planned a new class, Digital Crafting: Robotically Carved Ceramic Panels. In that first-ever class, students used a six-axis robot arm and 3-D printer to carve and mold ceramic panels. “I brought the knowledge of these new technologies, and Eva brought her extensive knowledge of ceramics, so it was a win-win,” Peters says.

Kwong brought decades of experience in stamping designs used to make clay tiles. “The technology of using stamping is ages old,” Kwong explains. “People have been doing it for thousands of years all over the world. That is what really interested me — the connection between something old and something new.”

Typically, stampers are made by hand out of wood or from found objects such as pine cones to create designs. So it was quite a change for Kwong to design stamping rollers in ways more akin to science fiction, using Grasshopper, a sophisticated design software program that’s one of the standard 3-D modeling tools for designers and architects. “Learning that was tough,” Kwong admits. “I wanted to learn not just the technical side, but to understand how projects develop and evolve, so I asked to sit in on the class as a student.”

Working with Grasshopper

The class, held in the newly created Robot Fabrication Laboratory at Kent State’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design, is part of a series of classes that Peters plans to teach revolving around the idea of digital crafting.

To start, the students used 3-D printers to create custom stamping rollers, which were then attached to the robot arm and used to imprint designs on the clay panels. Students use the advanced modeling program Grasshopper to design and simulate the movements of the robot arm.

Not unexpectedly, the students were intrigued by the possibilities. Kent State

“Just seeing what’s available was a *spark* that got a lot of people interested in the *potential* of these new *technologies*.”

—Troy Brummel, graduate student

graduate student *Troy Brummel* described the class as eye-opening. “It’s pretty incredible to see the potential that’s out there,” he says. Ryan Grande, another graduate student who completed the inaugural class, has a special interest in digital fabrication and the use of technology in architecture. “We’ve been able to design on the computer for a long time now, but it’s just in the last few years that we’ve been able to translate those computer designs into physical form,” Grande says. “In the past, you could make hand-cut models, but now you can make something incredibly accurate.”

“Everyone was excited about the collaboration between ceramics and digital fabrication,” Peters says. “Many of my students had never been to the ceramics studio, so it was an interesting experience for them. They also enjoyed the experience of using the new design software.”

Planning more collaborations

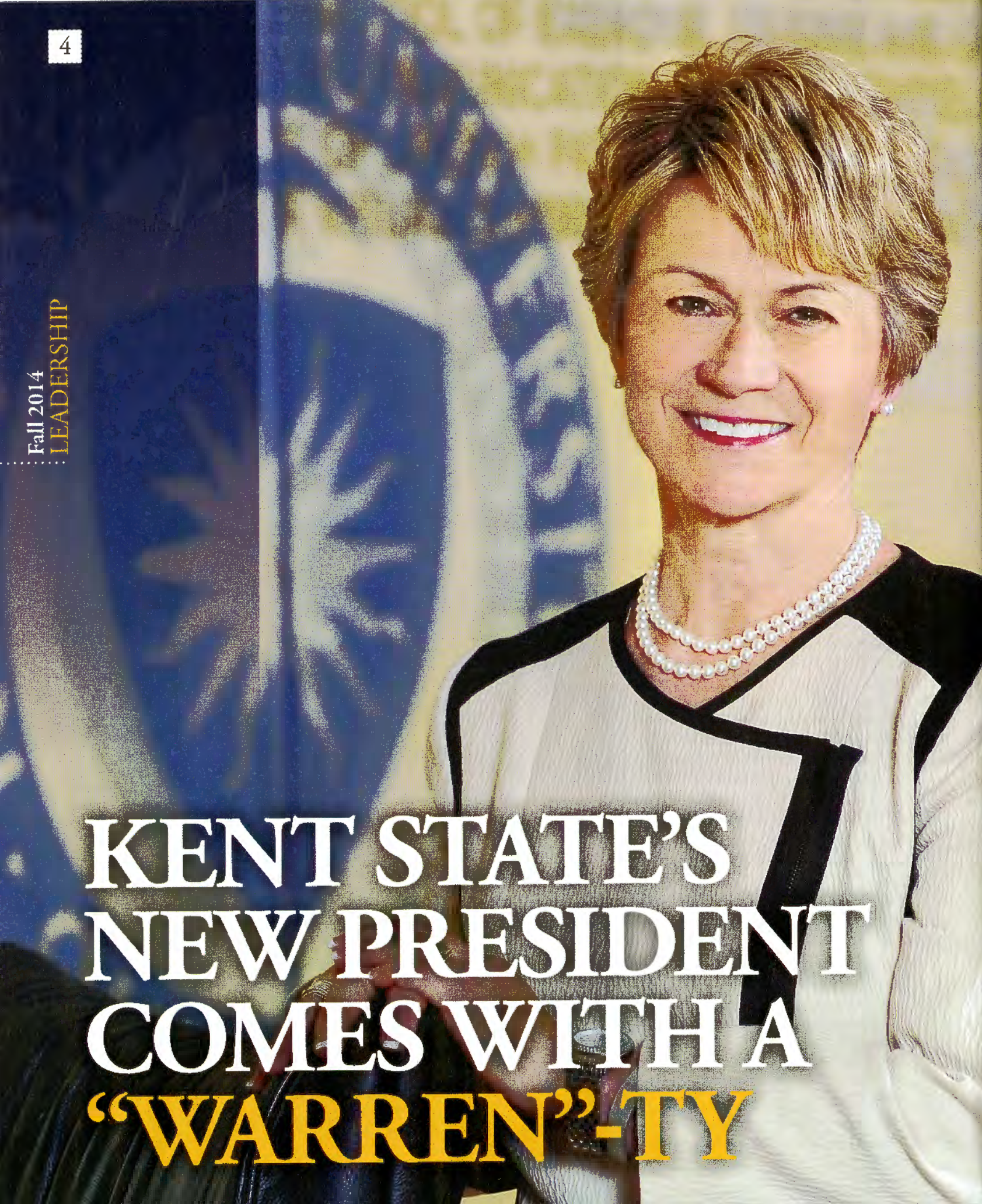
In the fall, Peters will be teaching a seminar focused on laser cutting in which students will fabricate a full-scale project. He also hopes to collaborate with Kwong again. “This class was really great because it exposed students to new technologies such as 3-D printing, laser cutting, the robot arm and the design software, and then linked that to a physical material test — linking it to something real.”

Students in architecture, art and other disciplines will continue to push the boundaries of their imagination using the new technologies. “I’m offering other classes that look at different traditional crafts that can be inspired by modern machines,” Peters says. “The possibilities are endless.”



Learn more about the Robotic Fabrication Lab and watch a video narrated by professors Peters and Kwong at <http://bit.ly/rfab>.



A portrait of a woman with short, styled blonde hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a light-colored, ribbed top with black trim around the neckline and sleeves, and a multi-strand pearl necklace. The background is a blurred image of a large, classical-style portrait of a man in a suit, likely a historical figure associated with Kent State University.

**KENT STATE'S
NEW PRESIDENT
COMES WITH A
“WARREN”-TY**

“This is not about me. It is about Kent State,” says President Beverly Warren of her new role. But it’s only natural that the university community — as well as alumni and leaders in the academic, business and civic sectors across Ohio and the country — are eager to meet the person who has been entrusted with the future of Northeast Ohio’s leading public research university, Ohio’s second-largest university and one of the largest university systems in the nation.

On her first day in office, **Beverly Warren** sent a letter to every member of the Kent State University community. Its contents, which articulate the way she sees her presidential role and responsibilities, speak volumes about the lifelong educator, respected researcher and successful academic administrator who became Kent State’s 12th president on July 1, 2014. In effect, Warren’s letter is a presidential warranty — a personal pledge to Kent State’s faculty, staff, students and many other stakeholders that “You can count on me to give my unwavering attention to excellence in every aspect of my job.”

The president’s letter stresses the high personal and professional standards to which she holds herself and to which she believes a university community should hold their chief executive officer. “You can (and should) expect me to always model the genuine respect I have for others; to encourage frank, open and civil exchanges of opinions; and to foster collaborative efforts to the greatest extent possible,” she writes. And as the letter shared her belief that “institutions — even those as large and complex as ours — are all about people,” it included her promise that “I will not forget that.”

Warren herself is all about people, exuding warmth that is unmistakably genuine and leaving no doubt that she does not intend to lead from behind

a desk. She says that among her top priorities is connecting with people who know Kent State and care about its future. Warren is doing just that by opening the doors to her home in Kent, the university’s official presidential residence, and hosting campus events such as a July 4 picnic for students.

Those first weeks on the job also saw the president mingling with thousands of area residents at the annual Kent Heritage Festival; meeting with faculty, staff and students at Kent State University at Ashtabula and Kent State University at East Liverpool; and leading open forums with alumni in Akron and Canton. The Regional Campus visits and alumni events were part of Warren’s Presidential Listening Tour, which is bringing her face-to-face with Kent State constituents across the university, Ohio and the nation. Each tour stop provides an opportunity for in-depth discussions about the university’s unique strengths and opportunities. (See more about the Listening Tour on Page 7.)

On the Kent Campus, Warren can often be spotted walking to and from meetings and events, always stopping to chat with students, faculty and staff members. “It is the people of Kent State and the people we serve who matter most to me,” she writes in her first-day letter. In fact, she says that the enthusiasm, caring and pride she found among the university community were chief among



Students are eager to take selfies with their new president. (Photos by Matt Unger and Bob Christy, '95)



the reasons she made the decision to leave a job she loved: provost of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

Warren spent the last 14 years at VCU. She arrived as a professor and head of the School of Education's Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and went on to serve as associate dean for faculty affairs and dean of the School of Education. Along the way, she earned a reputation as a consensus builder, an inspiring communicator, a champion of diversity and inclusion, and as a leader who was prepared to make tough decisions when the buck stopped at her desk.

Those traits were keys to her success when she was appointed VCU's interim provost in 2010, and provost and senior vice president in 2011. And they explain why she was recommended by the broad-based search committee charged with finding Kent State's next president and was the unanimous choice of the university's Board of Trustees, whose members made the final hiring decision.

"Dr. Warren possesses the knowledge, experience and passion necessary to build on Kent State's strong momentum," says Board of Trustees Chair **Dennis Eckart**. "Her commitment first and foremost to student success is predicated on her abiding respect for the talents and contributions of faculty and staff. Complemented by her incomparable record of scholarship and administrative excellence, Dr. Warren as our 12th president personifies excellence. She and Kent State will be magnets that draw

the best from everyone who is part of the Kent State family."

For Warren, the path from professor to president has been motivated by and filled with the joy of making a difference. "Confucius was right when he said, 'Choose a job you love and you will never work a day in your life,'" she says of her career, which also includes faculty positions at Smith College in Massachusetts; Auburn University in Alabama; Appalachian State University in North Carolina and Lander University in South Carolina.

She has been passionate about the field of education — especially its power to transform the lives of individuals, families and communities — since she was a teenager. After serving as an assistant to a junior-high school physical education teacher whose goal was making students of every ability feel special, Warren was inspired to become a teacher. So the North Carolina native earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a master of science degree from Southern Illinois University. She went on to earn two doctoral degrees: an Ed.D. in administration of higher education from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from Auburn University.

As she shared her love of learning with her students, Warren also fulfilled her desire to make a difference through research. She contributed new knowledge to the fields of exercise physiology and education, becoming a widely published

and respected authority in areas from youth fitness to urban education.

Ultimately, the personal and professional goal of helping others led to a career shift from scholarship to leadership. "I have looked at my leadership roles as ways to open doors of opportunity that others can walk through," Warren says, adding, "The greatest reward of being in a position to effect change is seeing students realize their dreams and choose to pay forward the opportunities they had by making their own, positive contributions. It's a doing-good domino effect that becomes possible through higher education."

Since the top academic leadership role carries 24/7 responsibilities, Kent State's new president is committed to keeping up her stamina by continuing a lifelong habit of enjoying an active lifestyle. Members of the university community can expect to see her exploring the area's scenic hike and bike trails. Warren says that although she will miss a part of the country that has been "home" almost all her life, she is eager to explore the natural beauty of Northeast Ohio.

"I have been duly warned about everything from potholes to the polar vortex, but I am not worried," Warren says with a smile. "Having visited the university in December, January and February, and having spent a year in Massachusetts, I am ready, willing and eager to take on the special challenges — and the special pleasures — of winter in Northeast Ohio."

With fall semester underway, Warren is much too busy to think about winter. With a nod to the achievements of her predecessor, President Emeritus *Lester A. Leffion*, Warren noted in her first-day letter that her goals include “continuing to build a culture of civility and respect; to define what makes Kent State unique and making sure the rest of the world knows about it; and — most important — to enhance the Kent State experience for our students in ways that make them feel connected, help them develop a keen sense of self and keep them focused firmly on the goal of graduation.” She also pledged, “I will do everything in my power to enhance Kent State’s already significant contributions to the vitality of our region and to build on our growing regional role as a go-to destination for education, innovation, culture and wellness.”

Warren hopes that many alumni and other friends of the university will make one of her Listening Tour events a go-to destination. The thoughts and experiences shared at tour events are being collected and analyzed and, ultimately, will help shape the university’s future.

“To be successful in bringing a shared vision of Kent State’s future into sharp focus and then bringing that vision to life, we need to come together as a community,” Warren says. “The diversity of the Kent State community — our wealth of knowledge, talents, creativity and perspectives — is a strength in itself. It will be a particular advantage as we plan for the exciting future that is within our grasp. The more voices we hear, the more responsive we can be to the needs of all those we serve, and the more we can discover, discuss and develop new ideas for maximizing our strengths and addressing our challenges.”

Kent State’s new president also hopes that many alumni will make their alma mater a go-to destination during this year’s Homecoming celebration on Oct. 18. “From riding in the parade to cheering on our Golden Flashes, I am looking forward to experiencing my first Kent State Homecoming,” she says. “Our alumni have proven to be loyal, caring and enthusiastic, and I cannot wait to meet more of them during the festivities.”

PRESIDENTIAL LISTENING TOUR

Kent State’s new president has never been in a band, but she’s a rock star in her field, has a growing fan base and she’s on tour. Launched on her first day in office, the Presidential Listening Tour is intended to help President Beverly Warren — and the entire university community — answer an elusive, but critical, question: “What is the heart of Kent State?”

“I think that doing my job to the highest level requires that I have an in-depth understanding of what makes Kent State unique and what we do best in the minds of those we serve,” Warren says.

Toward that end, the Listening Tour will take Warren across Ohio and the nation, and to several of Kent State’s academic sites abroad, to meet with key university constituencies. The tour, which is scheduled to extend into early 2015, already has included multiple visits to the university’s seven Regional Campuses and the communities they serve, reflecting Warren’s view that every campus is an equally valuable part of the Kent State system. In addition, she has met with alumni from the Akron, Canton, Cleveland and Chicago areas, with many more alumni gatherings to come. The tour also will include meetings with leaders in areas such as business, education, government and healthcare.

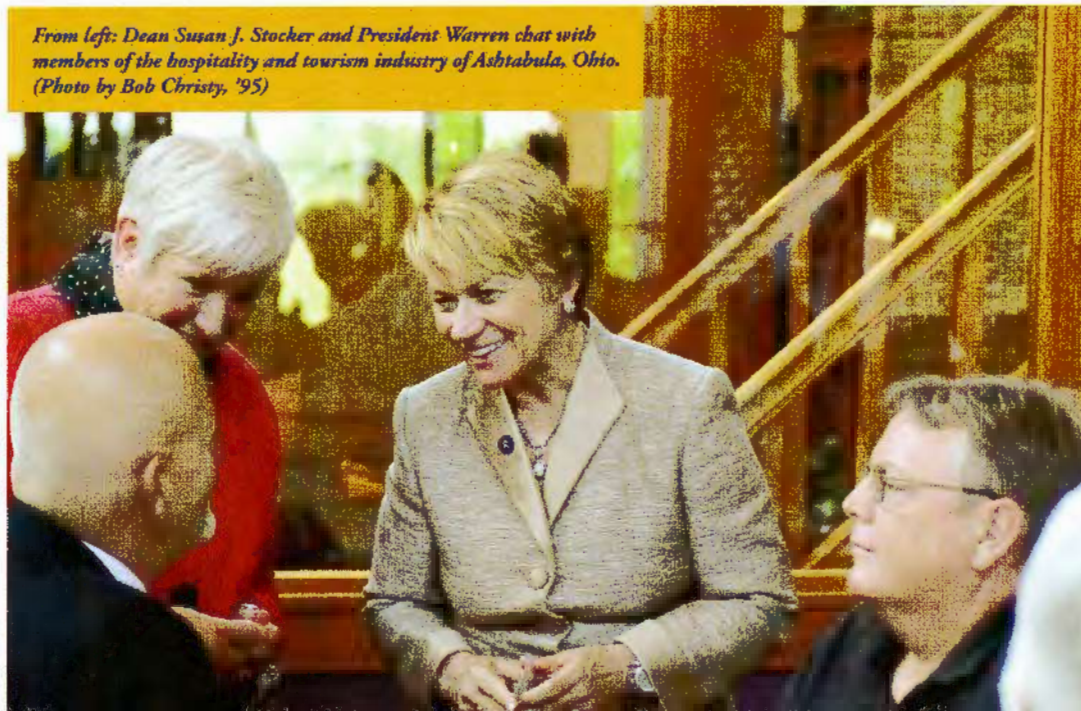
The conversations that take place during the frank, friendly and informal Listening Tour events will do more than give Warren a solid grasp of what makes Kent State special. They will help create the foundation for an inclusive, strategic-planning endeavor that charts Kent State’s course for the coming years. “The best strategic plans I know are informed by multiple perspectives,” Warren says. “The Listening Tour is a great way to include many voices, including voices that might not otherwise be heard.”

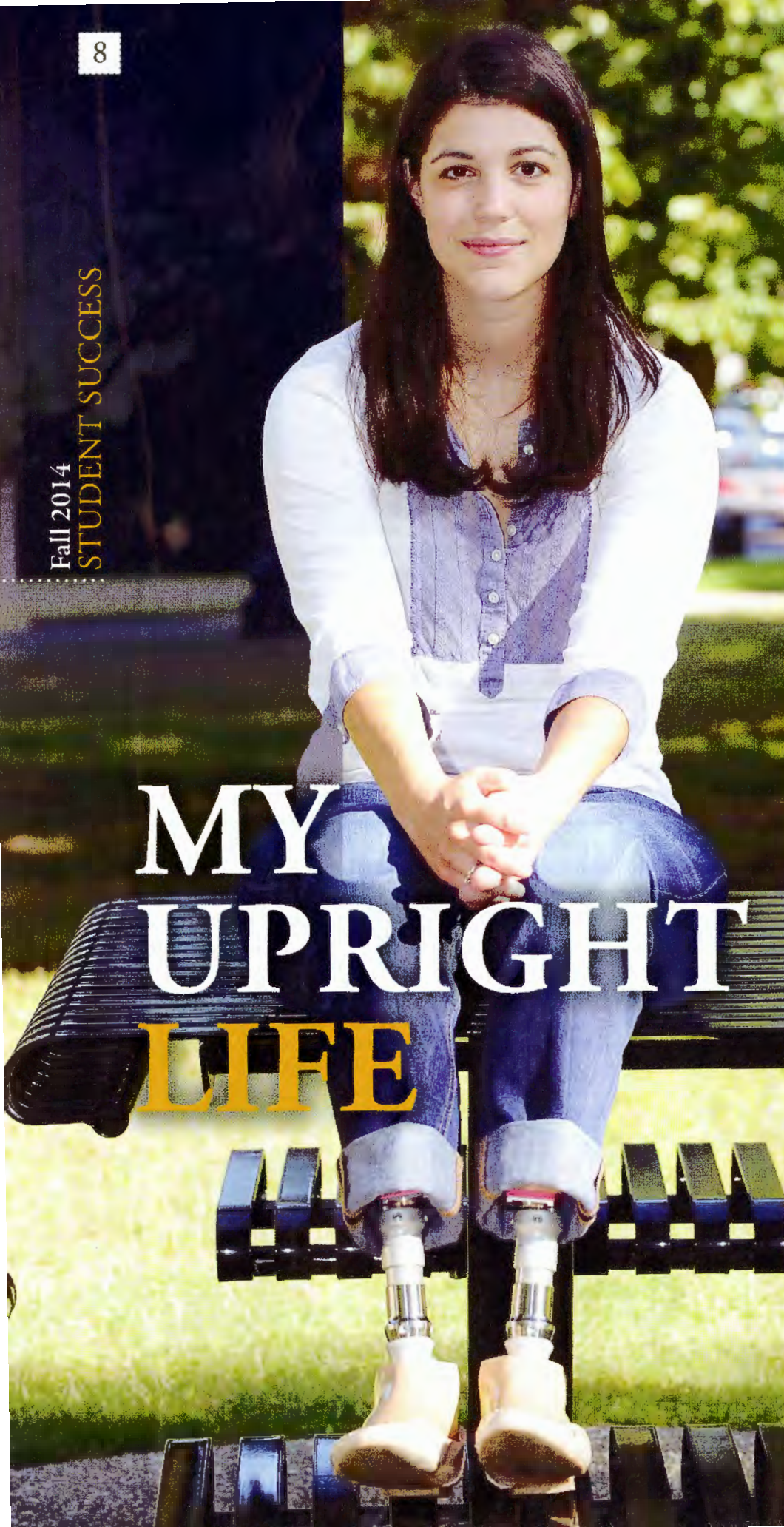
If you can’t make it, the months ahead will hold many other opportunities to get to know Kent State’s dynamic, dedicated and down-to-earth president. She wouldn’t have it any other way.



Learn more about the Presidential Listening Tour at www.kent.edu/listeningtour.

From left: Dean Susan J. Stocker and President Warren chat with members of the hospitality and tourism industry of Ashtabula, Ohio. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)





MY UPRIGHT LIFE

*Christina Bucciere
learns the power of
the mind as she faces
the biggest challenge
of her life.*

By Christina Bucciere, journalism major
Photos by Jeff Glidden, '87

The doctor with the sparkling white teeth and brown hair walks into my room. He flashes his Colgate smile, and I answer with the slightest raise of one corner of my mouth, all I can muster. Every part of my body aches. I resent the ease of his smile. I resent the ease with which he walks into my room. I want him out, but I have to sit through yet another even-tempered evaluation of my future.

He unwraps the gauze coddling my blackened feet. His back is turned to me, but still I squeeze my eyes shut. Even if he is a doctor, I am convinced he will lose his lunch at the sight and smell of my decaying appendages.

My mom stands at my bedside. She peppers him with questions. Before he could possibly have processed the question — let alone have developed an answer — the standard reply flies from his mouth, “We’ll know in time.”

My mom rebuts with the most-asked question in any hospital, “How much time?”

Cue the next standard reply. “It’s hard to say.”

But is it? Too often doctors have a solid idea of “how much time,” but they are trained to manage expectations. Hopes should never get too high. This is why I am shocked by what comes next. After performing his routine examination, he asks if I have any questions.

Just one. The one. Always the one. “Will I ever walk again?” I whisper.

Most doctors, up to this point, have evaded this question like it's their life's mission. Instead, with an unwavering voice and his eyes boring into mine, he replies, "Yes."

Tears. Pouring, racing, pooling onto my oversized, mint-green hospital gown.

This I am not expecting.

This is a miracle. I will use my feet again. I will feel earth under my soles. I will feel waves crash against my ankles. I will be OK.

It took me more than a year to realize the doctor meant what he said. I would walk again, but not with those feet.

The nightmare

On May 22, 2011, I woke up feeling like I had the flu. The symptoms were typical, so I brushed them aside and went to work. Within two hours, a pounding headache had set in, and I was chilled to the bone. I went home early and collapsed into bed. Within 30 minutes, I was writhing. A headache like I'd never experienced took control of my entire body. The pain was crushing, as though my skull was splitting from the inside out. By 11 p.m., when I finally knew I had to go to the ER, I could hardly see straight.

The ER doctor diagnosed me with mono and sent me home. All attempts to ease my pain were useless. At some point, I finally dozed off on my couch — in part from exhaustion, but largely because my body was shutting down, giving up. At about 6 a.m., my dad came to check on me and noticed a bruise-like lesion on my ankle. He pushed the blanket covering my legs to one side and discovered that lesions were covering my entire body — a rash called *petechiae*, resulting from toxic levels of bacteria in the bloodstream.

I arrived at the ER once again, this time in a far worse state. My mom helped me walk through the sliding doors. Immediately, I stumbled to the bathroom, fell to my knees against the

*"It took me more than a year to realize the doctor **meant** what he said. I would **walk** again, but not with those **feet**."*

—Christina Bucciere

tile floor and vomited into the toilet, another sign of toxic shock. Soon after, I was laid down on a bed. The fluorescent lights were harsh. And then, everything went black.

The next time I would wake, my life would be changed forever.

Bacterial meningitis. The bacteria infect the meninges, the tissues around the brain, causing them to swell. Soon, the body enters septic shock, causing vital organs to shut down. In order to save me, the doctors used a class of drugs called pressors to pull blood toward my vital organs, leaving little on which my extremities could survive, so they began to die.

Awake

My eyes opened to see the tear-stained face of my dad. The room was blurry, but my other senses made up for my lack of visual clarity. My ears picked up the scurrying of feet, the hushed voices and the incessant, high-pitched beep coming from the machines to which my life was clinging, including a 5-foot-tall dialysis machine that cleaned my broken kidneys 24 hours a day. Pain spread throughout all extremities of my body, surging like stormy ocean waves. I heard a question. It came from my own mouth.

"What happened?"





I don't remember the answer. Exhausted from my brief rise to the surface, I closed my eyes once more.

The next time they opened, panic overtook me when I realized I couldn't speak. Try as I might, no words would make it past my lips. My throat was overtaken by a ventilator that was coaxing my lungs to pump air through my body.

I cannot say how many days passed until the ventilator was removed, but I remember, vividly, when the doctor removed it from my throat. The feeling of words forming in my throat and fighting their way out until, faint and feeble, I heard them singing to me.

I spent two months in the hospital. First the intensive care unit, then the pediatric intensive care unit at Akron General Hospital, then a combination PICU and rehabilitation hospital and, finally, a concentrated rehabilitation hospital.

Once I returned home, I spent the next eight months waiting to see how much of my feet and fingers would heal before determining what would have to go. On Sept. 13, 2011, I underwent surgery at the Cleveland Clinic to remove all 10 fingertips. On Jan. 3, 2012, my right foot was amputated, and on Jan. 20, 2012, my left foot was amputated, too.

About three weeks after the surgery on my hands, I sat in an office while two nurses unwrapped the thick bandages. As they got closer to the last layer, my breathing became shallow. I resolved not to close my eyes. If I couldn't face my own hands, who could?

One by one, they removed the final, yellow patches protecting the wounded tips. A single tear fell from my lower lashes as I saw the swollen, stubby remnants of my fingers.

"Some people are bawling when they only have to have one of their fingertips amputated," one of the nurses said. "You're being very brave."

Brave or stoically seething. She didn't need to know the difference.

My swollen fingers were practically useless to me for the next month, and I was convinced they would be forever.

But after nearly eight months of living with feet that were no longer mine, I begged my doctor for amputation. He and my parents were hesitant to make any quick decisions because of the finality of amputation, but I saw my future for what it was.

With so many months of mental preparation, surgery day was relatively easy. I lay on a transportation bed parked outside the operating room doors. Nurses, aides and surgeons rushed past on their way to the next surgery, the next life-changing moment. I was calm, so calm in fact that I alarmed one of the nurses who stopped to ask me the purpose of my surgery.

"I'm just having my right foot amputated," I said.

He smiled tensely, surprised by my lack of anxiety, and moved on quickly to the next patient. The truth is, I was happy. I couldn't wait to look down at my feet and no longer see two lifeless

*"I wanted to **sulk** in my misery forever, but I knew what my mind was **capable** of."*

—Christina Bucciere

forms. Their absence would mean my new beginning.

The mind's way

Memories of the first three hospital stays are incomplete because I was under the influence of a constant cocktail of painkillers.

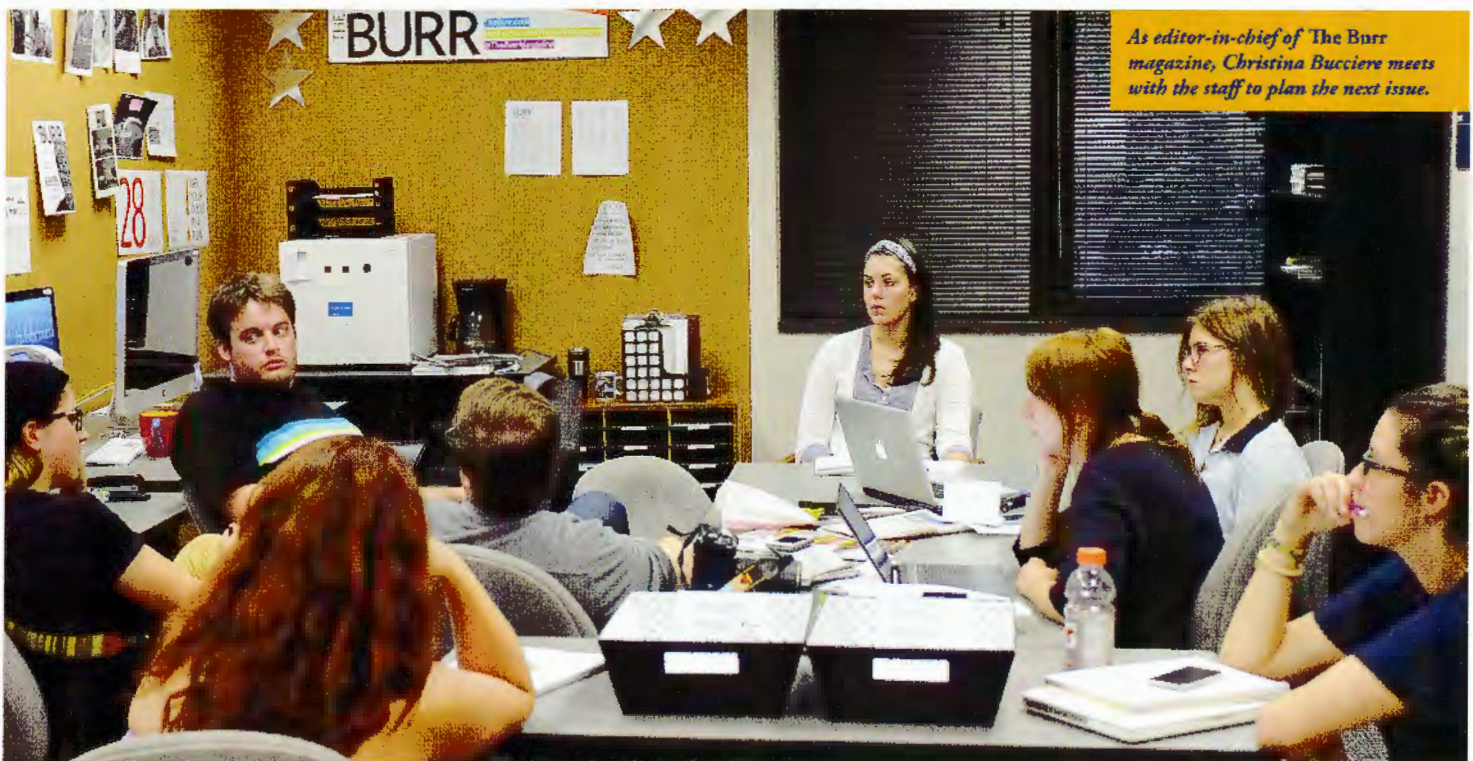
The final hospital stay, however, is all too vivid. By then, the physical pain had reached its peak and was slowly subsiding, allowing for the haze of the drugs to melt away. Without the assurance of a steady high, reality began to take shape around me. Suddenly, I was truly aware. And I sobbed. I sobbed for days at a time it seemed.

But even though those weeks were the most emotionally draining of

my entire journey, my mind was subconsciously protecting me from breaking completely, letting bits and pieces register at a time. I realized this new phase of my life — the rest of my life — would be, more than anything, a lesson in mind control.

Once I made that realization — that my mind was capable of protecting me from my conscious self — I was forced to be better than I wanted to be.

I wanted to sulk in my misery forever, but I knew what my mind was capable of. If it could protect me, I had to protect it. Although there were, and still are, plenty of pity parties and irritating bouts of what-ifs, I hold myself to a higher standard than allowing those thoughts to win. I'm not always



As editor-in-chief of The Burr magazine, Christina Bucciere meets with the staff to plan the next issue.

successful. In fact, I lose more often than not, but I know my endgame.

Every day is a battle, a chance to fight and conquer or be defeated. And I'm slowly learning that as long as I win, at least sometimes, I can have control over my life.

Getting up

It's a Mount Everest-like climb to attaining control of my feelings. And my balance — as I walk on anthropomorphized stilts — isn't all that great.

Four months into using my prosthetics without any assistive walking devices, I was leaving a newspaper staff meeting at Franklin Hall and heading down the steps to my car, while a group of my peers was gathered nearby. Already self-conscious of people watching me walk and completely overthinking each step, I fell — and one of my prosthetic legs came off. Down I went yelping, my phone exploding as it hit the concrete, and a fake leg sliding down the steps.

Of course, several of the students rushed to my aid, kindly ignoring the fact that

*“Every day is a **battle**, a chance to **fight and conquer** or be defeated. And I'm slowly learning that as long as I **win**, at least sometimes, I can have **control** over my life.”*

—Christina Bucciere

my leg was detached from the rest of my body like a poor attempt at a Halloween prank. I retrieved my leg and shoved it on as quickly as possible, all the while apologizing like a maniac for making them bear witness to my unfortunate mishap. As soon as my leg was on well enough for me to make it to my car, I was off, avoiding eye contact with any witnesses.

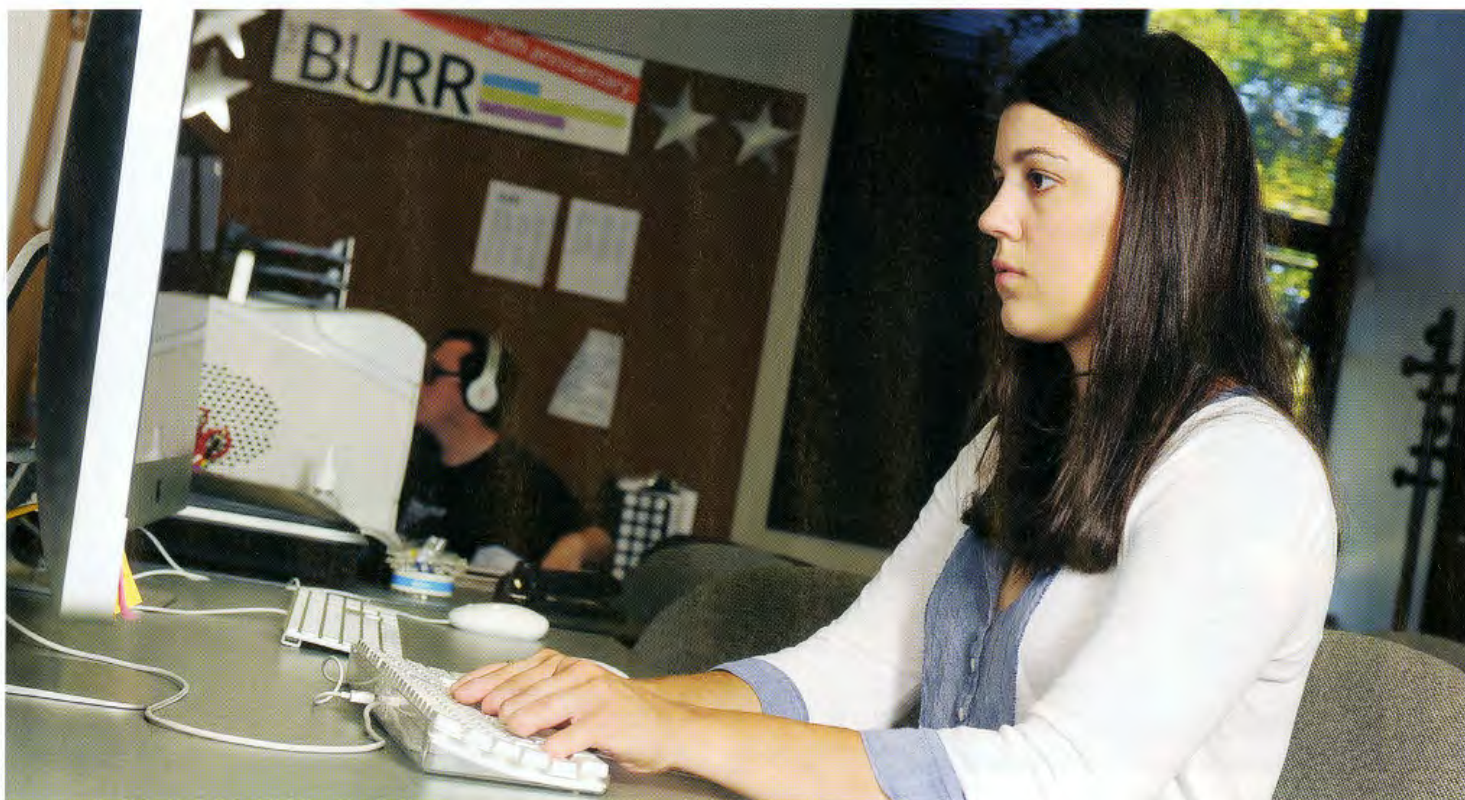
I cried all the way home, cursing the gods and goddesses, God, Allah, Buddha, and any and all other spiritual beings I could think of for giving me this life. I spent the rest of the night replaying the scene frame by frame. But I knew if there was any hope of finding happiness again, I had to win the mental game.

Baby steps

I often think back to the first time I saw my hands post-surgery. The tips looked like hard, black caps I could pull off one by one to reveal my real fingers underneath. The fingers on my left hand fared worse. My index finger contracted forming a hook I couldn't unfurl.

“I look like a monster,” I cried to my mom.

That's a moment with which I'll never lose touch — to see myself as nonhuman. I felt the same emotion the day I looked at myself in the full-length mirror and saw metal where flesh used to be. All I felt was heat. An anger so palpable my cheeks flushed. I was looking into the face of a broken person.



When I was first learning to use my prosthetics, I stood at the end of the parallel bars. The eight-foot walk seemed like miles. I slowly eased my weight off my hands and sunk into the sockets of my prosthetic legs. The pressure mounted in the ends of my stumps, a pressure I was sure the bones at the base of my legs couldn't withstand. I lifted my right foot, inched it forward and set it down on the linoleum.

"Remember to bend your knees, Christina," my prosthetist said. *Oh, that's right, I still have knees,* I thought to myself.

Suddenly, I was a toddler again, learning the basics for the first time. The movement was unnatural. There was no give in my feet, like walking in wooden shoes. No ankle movement either. How was I supposed to make this work? My internal dialogue was chaotic, but I forced a smile to spare my family any further grief at such a pivotal moment.

I walked up and down the parallel bars a few times, and then my prosthetist placed a walker in front of me. Lift, move forward, drop, step, step, repeat. After one lap, the atrophied muscles in my legs began to quiver, and I'd had enough.

On the ride home, my dad and sister were all smiles. Inside, I honestly believed I would never walk on my own again.

Lost in self-doubt for the next few days, I muddled through the pain that came with getting used to the legs. But with each new day, I could walk farther, balance better and wear my legs for longer periods of time. I began going to physical therapy three times a week. Each day brought a unique set of challenges, but the physical challenges paled in comparison to the degree of mental strength it took to pick myself up and push past each new wall.

I used to admire those who say they do not allow one trait to define them. I don't either. But in many ways, my story absolutely defines me, and I won't pretend it doesn't just to prove I'm not inhibited by my

*"But in many ways, my story absolutely **defines** me, and I won't **pretend** it doesn't just to prove I'm not inhibited by my **imperfections**. Ironically, the missing parts make me **whole**."*

—Christina Bucciere

imperfections. Ironically, the missing parts make me whole.

Soon, I was starting classes at the Kent Campus, ready to begin another terrifying new experience. I arrived at Franklin Hall, two weeks before classes began, for newspaper training week. I had contacted an editor earlier in the summer to inquire about how to work for student media. I wanted to dive in — no more baby steps.

I walked slowly down the long hallway leading to the newsroom. The sound of my new peers catching up on each other's summer vacations and discussing

the school year ahead escaped through the double doors. I paused. I took a deep breath to calm my racing heart. I looked down at my metal legs, exposed by my khaki shorts. As scared as I was to face the inevitable stares, hiding was not an option.

I lifted my chin, glued a smile to my face and sat down in the center of the room. I turned to the person sitting next to me.

"Hi, I'm Christina."

Adapted from a story that first appeared in the December 2013 issue of The Burr magazine. To learn more about the award-winning The Burr, visit <http://www.theburr.com>.

8 Things You Should Know About Bacterial Meningitis

1. Each year, meningococcal disease (sometimes called bacterial meningitis) strikes nearly 800 to 1,200 Americans, and up to 15 percent of those infected will die.
2. Adolescents and young adults are at greater risk for meningococcal disease than most, accounting for 15 percent of all cases.
3. Among those who survive, approximately 20 percent live with permanent disabilities, such as brain damage, hearing loss, loss of kidney function or limb amputations.
4. Meningococcal disease is often misdiagnosed because its early symptoms are much like those of the flu.
5. Early symptoms might include sudden fever, headache, nausea and stiff neck.
6. Meningococcal meningitis is contagious. The bacteria are transmitted through air and direct contact with infected persons.
7. Health officials recommend routine vaccination at 11-12 years old with a booster dose at age 16 to protect preteens and teens.
8. Though the vaccine is recommended, there are three strains of bacteria the vaccine does not protect against.

Sources: National Meningitis Association and Kent State University Health Services

THE RENAISSANCE GROWS ON

Many Foundations of Excellence projects are currently underway on Kent State campuses.

By Deb McGuinness, '78

One of the most all-encompassing transformations in university history is taking place right now at Kent State University. The *Foundations of Excellence: Building the Future* initiative includes the construction of new buildings, facility upgrades and establishment of dynamic new spaces. These projects support academic success, while demonstrating Kent State's leadership in campus safety, accessibility and sustainability and serving as a powerful magnet for top students, employees and partners.

Newly completed projects include the Wick Poetry Center and Poetry Park, the Lester A. Lefton Esplanade, the Tri-Towers Sky-Lounge at Wright Hall and a 12,000-square foot addition to the Field House. Projects underway are the Center for Undergraduate Excellence at Olson Hall and the Sciences Building at Kent State University at Stark.

These exciting developments on our campuses mirror the exciting projects underway in the city of Kent and in many communities served by Kent State Regional Campuses. When the initiative is realized, Kent State will be able to say that it was part of an investment in the future totaling nearly \$700 million; helped create nearly 1,700 jobs and improved the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

You Can Help Shape the Future

Alumni, friends, faculty, staff, foundations and corporations are

donating vital funding for Kent State University programs through the *Foundations of Excellence* (FoE) campaign. Learn more about these exciting opportunities on the new campaign website! View the webcams and watch the future being built in real time by visiting foe.kent.edu.

The website showcases the latest efforts of the *Foundations of Excellence* initiative at the College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology, the Center for the Visual Arts and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. It features renderings of what the new buildings will look like, live webcams at each construction site, animated flyovers of all the changes on campus, interactive floor plans with gift and naming opportunities, college videos and much more.

Projects highlighted on the website include:

Aeronautics and Technology

Building: Construction is well underway at the new facility for the College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology. The proposed building is approximately 55,200 square feet and will include air traffic control training rooms in a lower level, classrooms and shop areas on the first floor and faculty offices and classrooms on the second floor.

The Center for the Visual Arts:

Construction has also begun on this project, which combines two existing buildings: Van Deusen Hall and the

Art Annex/Power House. Through repurposed and new construction, the College of the Arts revitalized studios, classrooms and gallery spaces will include approximately 127,000 square feet of space that will provide access to a range of media, resources and expertise.

The Center for Architecture and Environmental Design: This new structure will present Kent State as an economic and design force in Northeast Ohio, and will consolidate students, including those in the construction management program, in one location, enhancing peer-to-peer learning that is vital in the design fields. It will also maximize the interaction of faculty, students and administration and aid in ongoing efforts to integrate the campus and community, all while demonstrating the university's commitment to sustainable design and operations.

The *Foundations of Excellence* projects will advance student success and allow the university to keep pace with growing enrollment and anticipated future growth. Visit foe.kent.edu today to see for yourself the continued transformation of Kent State.

Shown in this rendering, the Aeronautics and Technology Building is slated to open spring 2015.



The Center for the Visual Arts will bring together all School of Art programs and students.



A rendering of the new Center for Architecture and Environmental Design.





A student walks through the Judith A. Beyer Murin Memorial Gardens near University Library on the Kent Campus. The gardens, which were designed by university horticulturist Mike Norman in the early '80s, showcase several unique varieties of deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)





KEN BURNS REFLECTS ON AMERICAN HISTORY AND IDENTITY

For legendary filmmaker Ken Burns, each film offers the opportunity to answer the question, "Who are we?"

By Morgan Jupina, public relations major

Photos by Bob Christy, '95

Following a reflective tour of the May 4 Visitors Center and a visit to Ray's Place for the obligatory burger, master filmmaker Ken Burns treated Kent State students, faculty and staff to a personal learning experience in the Erdmann-Zucchero Black Box Theatre last spring, as part of the university's annual Symposium on Democracy. Burns hosted a Q&A

session, giving the audience access to his encyclopedic knowledge of American history and documentary filmmaking. The ever-cordial and informative Burns motivated and impressed students, staff and faculty alike.

Brianna Neal, senior visual journalism major, whose career goal is to create a social documentary, says, "When I started

in the visual journalism program, it didn't take me long to realize it takes some serious passion to do the work this major throws your way. Ken Burns taught me that if I love what I do, I can go far in my career." Neal was blown away when she learned that Burns worked on six films at one time. She says she admires him for his passion and dedication to his work.

Mark Dawidziak, journalism and mass communication instructor, says he also admires Burns' capacity for work. "It takes sheer energy to produce six films at once," says Dawidziak. "He is someone who can juggle many balls at once, and I think that's a message to students." Dawidziak, who teaches film courses at Kent State, has known Burns for 25 years. He says the event is all about teaching the students. "The fact that he got down to ground level to answer questions was crucial in making the day successful," says Dawidziak. "He can immediately respond with an answer that is profound and thought out."

Later the same day, when Burns presented the year's final Presidential Speaker Series lecture before a near-capacity crowd in the Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center, Burns posed a question to the audience:

"Who are we?"

For more than three decades, the American film director and producer has devoted his life and art to answering that question through numerous award-winning documentary films.

Burns, known for his works *The Civil War*, *Baseball* and *Jazz*, centered his speech, titled "Sharing the American Experience," on those three American themes to highlight the importance of the American story. He told the audience he essentially makes the same film over and over. His goal is to shine light on the American experience and tell the stories of history that people have struggled to bring to the fore. "Who are we?" asked Burns again. "Each film offers the opportunity to answer this question."

Students, faculty and community members were captivated as Burns passionately spoke of some of the United States' most historic moments. Burns tackles huge historical moments that many other film directors shy away from. He is adamant about teaching his fans about the importance of storytelling because he feels society lets "historical words evaporate."

"In an age where the present moment consumes and overshadows all else, few things survive to remind us of



During his visit to campus, Ken Burns, who is working on a documentary film about Vietnam, asked to visit the May 4, 1970, site and memorial and the May 4 Visitors Center.

the union from which our collective lessons flow," says Burns, who hopes people pass down stories through future generations. "Nothing in our daily life offers more of the comfort of continuity, the generational connection belonging to a vast and very complicated American family and the great gift of accumulated memory that is an active, heartfelt engagement of our shared past."

He reminded the audience that it is impossible to ignore history. Although some historical moments are forgotten, they shaped today. Burns reflected upon a quote from Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address in 1861:

The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the

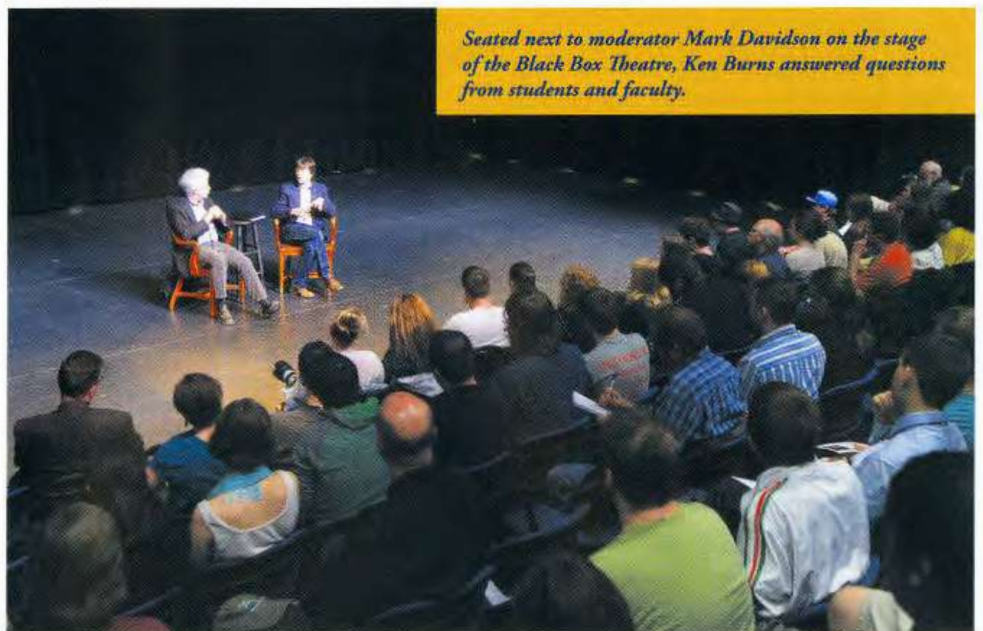
chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be by the better angels of our nature.

"And those chords," Burns concluded, "were not c-o-r-d-s, cords of some rope that would bind us by force together, but c-h-o-r-d-s, signifying some celestial harmony that would unite us through all time in common purpose — in a common anthem, if you will. Let us sing this anthem together."



Learn more about the Presidential Speaker Series at <http://bit.ly/presidential-speakers>.

Discover the Symposium on Democracy at <http://bit.ly/symposium.on-democracy>.



Seated next to moderator Mark Davidson on the stage of the Black Box Theatre, Ken Burns answered questions from students and faculty.

Judy Devine giving her acceptance speech for the Diversity Trailblazer award at the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. (Photo by Bob Christy, '95)



A GAME PLAN FOR EQUALITY

From her early days, Judy Devine bristled at inequality. But fortunately for women athletes, she found her voice and became a highly respected advocate for equality in women's sports. By Susan Pappas Menassa

Kent State Senior Associate Athletics Director Emerita *Judy Devine*, '70, remembers well her mother's empowering counsel to her when she was young.

"Never let anybody tell you that you can't have what you want because you're a girl."

Looking back on that advice some 50 years later, it's safe to say Devine — affectionately known as the matriarch of Kent State athletics, heralded as a diversity trailblazer at the university and recently inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame — turned those words into the game plan for her life.

By the time she set foot on the Kent Campus in 1969 as a graduate student, Devine had already experienced the imparity of being a female athlete in 1960s America and realized just how hard following her mother's advice was going to be.

Growing up in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Devine had a passion for exercise and sports at an early age. Both her parents were athletic, and Devine took part in whatever sports activities were available to teen girls in the 1960s. The fact that there were no athletic competitions between high schools for girls' teams

was frustrating but, as Devine says, "we didn't know any better."

Once she got to college, though, the disparity became more obvious, and it ranked. "We couldn't get the gym for practices until 10 at night, after the men's teams were done," says Devine, who played five sports and earned 18 letters at Colorado State University before graduating *summa cum laude* in 1969.

"The women didn't have coaches like the men, we didn't have medical care and we had to drive ourselves to competitions. I was jealous — I didn't like being treated like a second-class citizen."

That inequality dogged her in her college coursework in physical education, as well, and it was there that Devine first found her voice and realized what it meant to fight for her rights. “At that time, there were different curricula for men and women,” Devine says. “There was an athletic training class I wanted to take, and it was only open to men. I also wanted to take a class in coaching football, and I couldn’t because I was a woman. Finally, I said ‘What will it take for me to get into these classes — do I have to go to court?’ ”

That threat changed everything. She got into the courses, but she was not popular with her fellow students, all of whom were men and annoyed with the fact that the entire locker room had to be cleared so Devine could walk through to get to the classroom on the other side.

But the experience taught her that speaking up could make a difference, something that served her well as she embarked on the next phase of her life — which lead her to Kent State University.

Devine enrolled at Kent State as a graduate student in educational administration and spoke up again, asking if she could design her own program with a curriculum tailored to athletics administration, something that did not exist at the time for men or women. The answer was yes.

True to her passion for athletics, Devine coached women’s basketball, women’s field hockey and women’s softball while in graduate school, finished her degree in a year’s time and promptly was hired by the university as a full-time faculty member in 1970. For the next five years, Devine carried a full teaching load and served as head coach of the women’s basketball team and the field hockey team, and served as the first athletic trainer for all the women’s teams.

Though almost a decade had passed since Devine herself was in college, time had almost stood still when it came to how female athletes were treated, she says. “Kent State had two gyms at that time — the old and inferior Wills Gym, and Memorial Gym — and women weren’t allowed in Memorial Gym,” says Devine.

.....
“If you find inequity, you have to be intolerant of intolerance”

—Judy Devine

.....
 “Since Wills Gym did not have a training room, every day before practice I would clear off the desk in my office, and the girls would come in if they needed to be taped for injuries and I would tape them up. I bought all the supplies myself because we had no budget. The university didn’t realize that women needed medical attention just like the men did.”

Progress, seemingly a long way off at Kent State, was happening at the national level with the groundbreaking 1972 passage of Title IX, a law that requires gender equity for males and females in every federally funded educational program. Although it was seen as a watershed moment for women’s athletics, schools were slow to adopt the law, and politicians and university administrators alike challenged Title IX, fearing its adverse impact on money-making men’s athletic programs. Kent State was no different, says Devine, who once again used her voice to call for women’s athletics to fall under the same governing association — the NCAA — as the men.

Eventually both the men’s and women’s programs came under one umbrella. Devine’s career took off at the same time, with a promotion to the position of assistant athletics director and then another move up to associate athletics director. But all of those victories were not without some grumbling from a male-dominated department, she says. “Oh, they did not want me there,”

Devine recalls. “They would say, ‘Oh, there goes Judy again.’ ”

In fact, in her acceptance speech earlier this year for the Diversity Trailblazer Award, Devine acknowledged the conflict she often felt during her career at Kent State. “Little did the university know that the sweet, kind, young girl they hired to be their token female women’s athletics director would be the singular and often very unpopular voice for equity for females, and little did they know about my sense of commitment, persistence and competitiveness” she says. “The irony is not lost on me that the organization that once tried to silence my rebel voice and encourage me to leave, now is recognizing and applauding the fact that I spoke out and stayed!”

And stayed she did. By the time she retired in 2000, Devine spent 31 years at Kent State in a variety of roles within the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. But looking back on all she has accomplished, Devine still feels there is more to be done. In 2009, she made a \$1.2 million bequest to the university designed to ensure that all future generations of Kent State female student-athletes receive equity in access, provision and opportunity in their intercollegiate athletic experience.

“My message to the next generation of female student-athletes is to never back off from competition,” she says. “If you find inequity, you have to be intolerant of intolerance — you have to keep beating the drum and not accept the second-class distinction. I think young women today are still a little too accepting of inequity. My hope is that they will speak up and make sure they have their rightful and equitable place at the table.”

Devine’s mother would approve.



Learn more about the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at <http://www.kentstatesports.com>.

Read about the Diversity Trailblazer Award and the remarkable past recipients at www.kent.edu/diversity/trailblazer.



Watch Judy Devine’s acceptance speech at her induction into the MAC Hall of Fame at <http://bit.ly/judy-devine>.

The 2014 Alumni Awards

The Kent State University Alumni Association honored five distinguished graduates and a current Kent State student at an Alumni Awards reception on Oct. 17 during Homecoming weekend. The recipients were recognized for their leadership, character, hard work and exceptional contributions to their chosen field. The Alumni Awards are the university's most prestigious honors given to alumni.

Congratulations to our 2014 Alumni Award recipients!

Distinguished Alumni Award

Carter Strang, '73, M.Ed. '79
Partner, Tucker Ellis LP

What inspired you to choose your career path?

After graduation, I was a high school teacher. I taught social studies at Shaker Heights High School ('74-'83), and one of the courses I taught was Criminology. I had many attorneys and judges as guest speakers and hearing them discuss their careers made me interested in a career in law, particularly since I was looking for a new professional challenge.

Interestingly, one of the speakers was U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes, who argued two cases before the U.S.

Supreme Court. Later when I served as Cleveland Metropolitan Bar president, I created what has become an award-winning pipeline diversity program that I named after Congressman Stokes, who regularly participates in the program. He remembers visiting my classroom and talking to my students, some of whom are now local attorneys. What a small world, indeed.

What has been your biggest professional accomplishment?

Serving as president of two bar associations (the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter).

What are your most memorable moments at Kent State?

Wearing my KSU football uniform for the first time. After growing up watching my father's KSU teams and players as a kid, I never dreamed I would also be a Golden Flash. I was an unrecruited, walk-on who became a starting defensive back on the freshman team (freshmen could not play varsity then).

Being admitted to Phi Alpha Theta (History Honorary) at a banquet in the Kent Student Center, with both of my parents beaming with pride.

Experiencing — as both a townie and student — the May 4, 1970, events and aftermath.



Making the KSU JV hockey team. I had never played hockey growing up. I dedicated myself to learning to skate well enough to play when the Ice Arena opened in '70.



Professional Achievement Award

Patricia Shehan Campbell, '81, Ph.D.
Chair, Ethnomusicology, Donald E. Petersen Professor of Music, University of Washington

What has been your biggest professional accomplishment?

Teaching music majors and music teachers to teach children and youth the rich diversity of music of the world's cultures — and doing so through engaged listening and participatory "musicing" experiences. I've been doing this here and there

in the world for several decades and in three university programs at the University of Washington, Butler University and Washington University in St. Louis.

How has your Kent State experience impacted your life or career?

My work over the past 30 years can be traced to my studies at Kent State University. I knew little of the world's musical cultures when I arrived on campus, where it was possible to study the music of Thai and Lao cultures and of South Indian Carnatic traditions with culture-bearers.

My professors at Kent State University's School of Music gave unending time and energy to help students like me carve a pathway in our graduate work that could sustain us in our professional work.

What is your most memorable moment at Kent State?

Performances in the Thai Ensemble, courses in Music Education with *William M. Anderson* and *Terry Lee Kuhn* and courses in Ethnomusicology with *Terry M. Miller* and *Halim el-Dabh*.



Distinguished Citizen Award
Andy Baskin, '90
Sport Director, NewsChannel5

What have been your biggest professional accomplishments?

I was named sports director at WEWS-TV. Others are winning two Emmy Awards, hosting my own daily radio show in Cleveland, being named to the Broadcasters Hall of Fame, winning the Lifebanc Gift of Life award and interviewing President Obama.

What inspired you to give back to the community?

I lost my brother, Bruce, nine years ago to complications due

to cystic fibrosis (CF). My brother wanted nothing more than to see CF cured so kids would not have to suffer for each breath like he did. He lost his battle when he was 45 years old. I want to carry out his dream. Prior to his passing, he had a lung transplant. I also am very active with Lifebanc. I was blessed to have four months to say goodbye to my brother because of a lung transplant. I can't ever repay the man who was selfless enough to be an organ donor. But, I can honor him every

day by trying to duplicate his good deed and asking others to be a donor.

What is your most rewarding service experience?

Knowing that we have raised millions of dollars towards finding a cure for cystic fibrosis.

What is your most memorable moment at Kent State?

Making TV2 as a sophomore on my first try.



Kent State Advocacy Award
John Garofalo, '89, M.Ed. '93
Vice President, Community Investment, Akron Community Foundation

What are your most memorable moments at Kent State?

The connections and relationships that were developed with friends and now colleagues have been the most memorable. These people are some of the most influential people in my life.

What does Kent State mean to you?

Kent State University has and always will hold a special place in my heart because of the knowledge I took away from Kent State and the friendships that were formed. The experiences I had during my time as an undergraduate and graduate student were truly the building blocks that made me what I am today.

What has been your biggest professional accomplishment?

The most humbling experience for me was the chance to

represent all alumni around the world as president of the Kent State University National Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Being able to represent the over 215,000 alumni from all over the world has been an inspiring yet humbling experience.

I learned what it means to give back to something you feel passionate about. I learned that no matter how busy we all are, we always have time to help a young person make an important decision. I learned that I do have the ability to make things happen and to have a voice and to have that voice heard. And I learned that we are all equals when it comes to supporting something we believe in.



Golden Flash Award
Bitrus Audu

Senior, Business Administration and Human Resource Management Major

What is your most memorable moment at Kent?

The 24-hour walk with my student ambassador team at the 2014 Relay for Life.

What did you enjoy most about Kent State?

Kent State's Blastoff. It symbolizes the start of a whole new year in a unique way and includes music, friends and fireworks.

Why did you choose Kent State?

I chose Kent State because of the diverse environment, great academic programs and location of the campus.

What are your career goals?

I want to enter into the military upon graduation. I am looking to serve on a five-year contract in the armed forces and eventually find something to do along the lines of human resources in the civilian world.



Outstanding New Professional Award
Lauren Kotmel, '11
Development and Community Relations Specialist, Downtown Cleveland Alliance

What is your most memorable moment at Kent State?

Raising \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish with the Kent State Chi Omegas. In one

semester, we raised funds to grant the wish of a deserving child faced with a life-threatening illness. I still volunteer with Chi Omega and Make-A-Wish. I credit Kent State's stellar Greek life and Chi Omega for instilling within me a lifelong philanthropic spirit.

Why is it important to stay connected to Kent State?

Graduates of Kent State are some of the most passionate leaders, philanthropists and accomplished professionals that I know. Kent State University provides a lifetime of support and inspiration regardless of where you are in life.

Staying connected to Kent State is important, because it is our civic duty to help carry the torch of KSU's established community of graduates. Even though we may only

be on campus for four years, Kent State grants more than simply a degree. The university grants us the capacity to change the world.

What inspired you to choose your career path?

While at Kent State, I participated in the Washington Program in National Issues (WPNI) and interned at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. If I never had experienced WPNI, I never would have discovered my love for helping connect people to arts, culture and other unheard voices.

In my work, I assist in cultivating and expanding philanthropic support to help ensure the future of Downtown Cleveland. It fills me with pride to help make Downtown Cleveland a compelling place for future generations.

ENGLEMAN HALL

flashback

What were some of your best memories of living in the residence halls?

We asked our alumni on Facebook to tell us which residence halls they lived in and to share their memories of life in the halls. Here are some of their responses:

Tri-Towers, 1968



LARISSA GORALSKI BAILEY, '91

"I lived for a year in Beall, 1989-90, and then a year and a half in Engleman, 1990-91. I loved Engleman so much. The lilac bushes all around the building made spring wonderful."

JAMES HICKMAN, '74

"Resident director: Munzenmayer Hall, 1972-73; Manchester Hall, 1973-74. Pretty much right at the beginning of the great 'streaker' epidemic that struck Kent State in 1974."

GINA SIMONE O'BOYLE, '99

"Humphrey Hall, Room 123. Met my husband and some of my best friends in Humphrey 1995-96. Sad it's gone!"

LINDA GLADD BUCKEY, '73

"Beall Hall 1969-71; Eleven of us who lived on the eighth floor have remained best friends for 44 years. We call our group The Kent State Hairy Buffaloes. (You might be able to figure that one out.) We meet every summer, and about every five years return to Kent for a weekend. There is always rolling laughter over those old dorm days. Beall Hall made us Best Friends Forever."

SUSAN TANNER MCLAUGHLIN, '73

"1969 in Fletcher Hall. Still in touch with my roomies, and we're planning our 45-year reunion! May 4, 1970, was a traumatic end to our freshman year."

LAURA BEALS BARBETTA, '96

"1991 ... Manchester Hall ... LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT ... like a girls' night out every night!"

JACK HERMAN, '81

"1976-77, Manchester Hall. Great friends and one particular night of streaking."

Dunbar Hall, 1959



GARRETT MATTES, '02

"Dunbar Hall, Room 219. Some of the best times of my life. Met a bunch of lifelong friends there."

BOB CICH, '68

"That would be Clark Hall from 1964-67. It was at the end of the campus back in 1964."

COLLEEN OWEN SHANK, '93

"1989-91 Prentice Hall. My future husband, whom I hadn't even met yet, lived in Korb. My (freshman) son is waiting to see which dorm he will be in. He's hoping for Eastway. Fingers crossed!"

Korb Hall Lounge, 1970





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Alert!

Text **ALUMNI** to 33733

Receive event updates, news, trivia facts and contest notifications from the *Kent State University Alumni Association* by signing up for Kent State Alumni Alerts.

Kent State Alumni Alerts: 8 messages/month. Standard message and data rates may apply. To stop, text **STOP** to 33733. For help, text **HELP**. Terms and conditions at www.ksualumni.org/tandc. For additional help, call 888-320-5368.

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Class Notes

1943

Bea S. (Shaheen) McPherson, Hartville, Ohio, was made an Honorary Member of NGAA-East (National Geospatial Intelligent Alumni Association) at a ceremony on Jan. 7, 2014. The certificate recognized McPherson's work in WWII as a cartographer for the Army Map Service in the Ruth Building and for her pioneer work as one of the Military Mapping Maidens.

1978

Celia A. (Kyger) Huffman, M.L.S. '78, Ph.D. '12, Strongsville, Ohio, was recognized as a Hall of Fame Librarian by the Ohio Library Council (OLC) for her work as the Children's Services Manager at Cuyahoga County Public Library for most of her 30-year career. According to the OLC press release, "Hall of Fame Librarians have demonstrated sustained leadership, active participation in library organizations, a commitment to the library profession and contributions to their communities. ... Huffman's contributions to youth services in Ohio public libraries are immeasurable. She developed and implemented many top-notch programs, such as summer programming designed to stem the 'summer slide,' Homework Centers, winner of the 2004 OLC Library Innovation Award, and Touch Labs, which help develop kindergarten

readiness. Huffman also shared her knowledge and experiences by presenting at regional, state and national library conferences."

1979

Jerry Canton, M.Ed. '98, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, has retired in 2014 as a classroom teacher from Berkshire Local Schools in Burton, Ohio.

1983

Jeffrey A. Oster, Granville, Ohio, recently launched a more robust version of his website, Myfootshop.com. It allows customers to view a library of videos that explain foot ailments and products, read articles that go deeper into the pathological causes for ailments and then find products that in many cases solve the ailment. Oster serves on the Credentialing and Privileging Task Force for the American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons and is an ethics review consultant for the Ohio State Medical Board. His professional articles have appeared in the *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery*, *Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery* and *The British Chiropraxy Review*.

1984

Glenn L. Peterson, Vermilion, Ohio, retired in May 2013 from the Ohio State Highway Patrol after 30 years, five posts and two promotions. He's been the president of the Vermilion High School Athletic Boosters for five years and referees high school football and umpires high school baseball.

1985

Shelley L. (Landis) Rogers, M.Ed. '93, Carrollton, Georgia, has been granted tenure at the University of West Georgia. Rogers is the senior cataloging librarian and an associate professor.

1991

Bruce A. Edwards, Cleveland, Ohio, exhibited art in *Convergence/Divergence: Laila Voss + Bruce Edwards* at the Maria Neil Art Project at 15813 Waterloo Road in the Waterloo Arts District in Cleveland, Ohio.

1992

Laila Voss, M.F.A. '92, Cleveland, Ohio, exhibited art in *Convergence/Divergence: Laila Voss + Bruce Edwards* at the Maria Neil Art Project at 15813 Waterloo Road in the Waterloo Arts District in Cleveland, Ohio.

2000

Shanon M. Larimer, '00, Orlando, Florida, was promoted to principal of brand strategy and communications at Baker Barrios, a commercial architectural and interior design firm, where he is the vice president of marketing. In his new role, Larimer leads the brand strategy, identity and creative marketing initiatives for the firm and its portfolio of global brands. He continues to oversee the company's public affairs, media relations and corporate communications initiatives and serves as a member of, and strategic partner to, the firm's principal leadership team.

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Featured, Kristin Bowling, '11, alumni association annual member

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Class Notes

2002

Jayne E. Juvan, Twinsburg, Ohio, is now a contributing writer at Law.com, where she will regularly post articles on developments in mergers and acquisitions, securities law and corporate governance. She is a partner at Roetzel & Andress LPA. Her practice focuses on advising public and high-growth private companies, private equity funds and venture capital funds on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances. Her experience also includes counseling clients on corporate governance and regulatory compliance. She covers trends in global mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and economic growth and development at www.twitter.com/jaynejuvan.

2003

Chris J. Korenowsky, M.L.I.S. '03, Worcester, Massachusetts, has been named director of the Worcester, Massachusetts, Public Library. His previous experience includes serving as executive director of the New Haven Free Public Library, director of professional development for the Ohio Library Council and service manager of the Columbus, Ohio, Metropolitan Library.

2006

Theodore B. Ferringer, M.Arch. '08, Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed as business development director for Bialosky + Partners and continues to be a designer within the firm. Ferringer currently serves as a member of the American Institute of Architects National Associates Committee. He is a recipient of the Bike Cleveland's 2013 Guardian of Transportation Award and the Cleveland 20/30 Club's 2014 Movers & Shakers Award for acting on his passion for the community and the design profession. He continues to work on the adaptive reuse restoration of the Schofield Building at East 9th Street and Euclid Avenue in downtown Cleveland.

Shelley Blundell, M.L.I.S. '09, Durban, South Africa, is now pursuing a Ph.D. in communication and information with an LIS-focused area of study and has been chosen as a 2014-2015 recipient of a University Fellowship award. Fifteen University Fellowships are awarded each year to graduate and Ph.D. students. The fellowship covers all tuition, grants an annual stipend and provides Fellows with dedicated time for dissertation research and writing. Blundell's dissertation, "A Phenomenological Investigation of the Information Search Process of Undergraduate Students Enrolled in a Remedial English Course: Implications for Targeted Information Literacy Instruction," focuses on the lived experience of undergraduate students enrolled in a remedial English course as they engage in academic information-seeking for a class research assignment.

2007

Cory D. Hess, North Olmsted, Ohio, was recently featured in *Scene* magazine for the opening of his new restaurant, the Arcadian, where he is also the chef. It is located in Gordon Square on the Detroit freeway in Cleveland.

2008

Hallie A. DeVillan, M.Arch. '08, Ravenna, Ohio, has been appointed marketing director, as she has elevated the firm to win several new awards in her tenure. Her experience with managing brands and graphics allows her to successfully manage the Bialosky + Partners brand. DeVillan has managed over a dozen design projects implementing national brand strategies in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania for a national client. She continues to be an active member of the Cleveland Restoration Society.

2009

Rebecca C. Inwood, Solon, Ohio, recently married alumnus Michael A. Gruse Jr, '10. They met and graduated from Kent State and both went on to the former Ohio School of Podiatric Medicine, which is now the College of Podiatric Medicine at Kent State. Following their wedding in May 2014, their reception was held at the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center, and photos were taken at various locations around the Kent Campus.

LOSSES

1941

George S. Condos

1946

Edmund J. Siennicki

To all graduates of Kent State University, Edmund J. Siennicki's name might not be known, but his music is. Siennicki composed the Kent State fight song in the mid-40s. It is still played at football games today. You can hear a clip of the Fight Song at <http://bit.ly/fight-song>.

1947

Marie L. Barzan, Pawleys Island, S.C., June 2014

1950

Leroy W. Owen, M.Ed.'56, Brunswick, Ohio, February 2011

1952

Elizabeth N. (Brainard) Marks, M.L.S.'76, Edmonds, Wash., May 2014

1956

Geo R. Taips, Chesterland, Ohio, May 2013

1957

Marjorie A. Bender, Wellington, Ohio, July 2011

1963

Kenneth E. Kepler, Plano, Texas, December 2011

Nancy L. (Perrine) Krause, Lapeer, Mich., January 2014

1965

James A. Bertilacci, Mountain View, Hawaii, December 2013

1967

Cleora J. Peebles, M.A.T., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, March 2013

1968

Mary L. Wedekind, M.Ed., Canfield, Ohio, May 2013

1969

David F. Castrovinci, M.A., North Canton, Ohio, September 2013

1970

Leonard C. Welch, M.Ed., East Rochester, Ohio, December 2010

1978

Caroline Shelley, M.Ed., Chagrin Falls, Ohio, November 2011

1980

Cynthia A. Galletti, McKinney, Texas, April 2014

1984

Lori A. Fox, Bedford, Ohio, December 2013

1985

Mary P. (Phillips) Stephens, B.S.N.'86, Canton, Ohio, June 2013

1993

Lisa A. McBride, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, January 2010

2013

Jesse D. Davis, Rome, Ohio, June 2014

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

2010

Michael A. Gruse, Parma, Ohio, recently married KSU alumna Rebecca C. Inwood, '09. They met and graduated from Kent State and both went on to the former Ohio School of Podiatric Medicine, which is now the College of Podiatric Medicine at Kent State. Following their wedding in May 2014, their reception was held at the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center and photos were taken at various locations around the Kent Campus.

2011

Corey S. Chadman, Windham, Ohio, was recently named a 2014 Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellow at the Ohio Statehouse by the Ohio Board of Regents, the Ohio Department of Education and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellowship recruits top-quality teacher candidates to teach math and science in high-need Ohio schools. The Fellows include both accomplished career changers and outstanding recent college graduates, all with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (the STEM fields). Each Fellow receives a \$30,000 stipend while completing a rigorous master's program at one of seven participating Ohio universities — John Carroll University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, The University of Akron, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Dayton and the University of Toledo — that includes a full year of practical

experience in local classrooms, then commit to teach for three years in Ohio's high-need schools with ongoing mentoring and support.

2012

Kristen M. Hallows, M.L.I.S. '12, Hilliard, Ohio, is the author of "It's All Enumerative: Reconsidering Library of Congress Classification in U.S. Law Libraries," published in the winter 2014 *Law Library Journal*, and lead author of "Dialectic of Transformation: The Shaping of a Name," published in the April 2014 issue of *AALL Spectrum*. Hallows is a research librarian for Bricker & Eckler LLP, Columbus, Ohio.

Gregory Stall, M.L.I.S. '12, Chardon, Ohio, has received recognition for Bringing the Story of War to our Doorsteps: Rediscovering Alexander Gardner's Antietam Photographs (<http://waronourdoorsteps.net/>), a touring exhibit organized by the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable, the Center for Civil War Photography, Hood College and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. The exhibit won the 2014 Maryland Preservation Award for Excellence in Community Engagement. Stall pursued the museum studies specialization while in the School of Library and Information Science.

2013

Stephanie R. Hickman, '13, Windham, Ohio, was recently featured as the Catering and Restaurant Sales Manager for the Urban Farmer in the Westin Hotel, downtown Cleveland.

Sabrina M. Tucker, Bedford Heights, Ohio, was recently named a 2014 Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellow at the Ohio Statehouse by the Ohio Board of Regents, the Ohio Department of Education and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellowship recruits top-quality teacher candidates to teach math and science in high-need Ohio schools. The Fellows include both accomplished career changers and outstanding recent college graduates, all with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (the STEM fields). Each Fellow receives a \$30,000 stipend while completing a rigorous master's program at one of seven participating Ohio universities — John Carroll University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, The University of Akron, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Dayton and the University of Toledo — that includes a full year of practical experience in local classrooms, then commit to teach for three years in Ohio's high-need schools with ongoing mentoring and support.

Carol A. Tuttle, M.L.I.S. '13, Chardon, Ohio, has been promoted to head of Adult Services and assistant manager at the Chardon branch of the Geauga County Public Library System in Chardon, Ohio.

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.

Diego Airaldi, Rocky River, Ohio
Carol Alex, Warren, Ohio
Gwynda Allen, Cleveland, Ohio
Catherine Anderson, Warren, Ohio
Jeffrey Anglemyer A.I.A., South Bend, Indiana
Caralynn Arena, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania
Leroy Arrington III, Davenport, Florida
Charles Aukerman, Wadsworth, Ohio
Kevin Aurand, Norton, Ohio
Andrea Babjack, Copley, Ohio
John Babjack, Copley, Ohio
Kavitha Bagavandoss, Canton, Ohio
Mary Ann Bamberger,
North Fort Myers, Florida
Rebecca Barbarino, Cleveland, Ohio
Ronald Barbarino, Cleveland, Ohio
Andrew Bazar, Amherst, Ohio
Patricia Bazar, Amherst, Ohio
Anna Beagle, Warren, Ohio
Lauren Bechtol, Bryan, Ohio
Richard Benz, Painesville, Ohio
Stacey Bierfeldt, Westlake, Ohio
Steven Bierfeldt, Westlake, Ohio
Melanie Blumberg, Canfield, Ohio
James Boex, Hudson, Ohio
Helen Boswell, Lawrenceville, Georgia
Bruce Boyle, Columbia, South Carolina
Christopher Bray, JD, CPA, Naples, Florida
Karl Bright, Powell, Ohio
Kristina Bright, Powell, Ohio
George Brundage, Canfield, Ohio
Barbara Brunt, Akron, Ohio
Linda Bryan, Middleburg Heights, Ohio
Gene Budd, Hudson, Ohio
Darrin Caldwell, Kent, Ohio
Jennifer Caldwell, Kent, Ohio
Laraine Canzonetta, Novelty, Ohio
D Carmichael, Las Cruces, New Mexico
Judith Cervený Young, Poland, Ohio
Trudy Christ, New York, New York
Jennifer Cickelli, Warren, Ohio
Thomas Clapper, Kent, Ohio
Thomas Cole, Jupiter, Florida
Melissa Cooney, Woodstock, Illinois
Debra Costa, Stow, Ohio
Mark Cunningham, Harrisburg,
North Carolina
Martelia Cunningham, Harrisburg, North Carolina
Diana Dalrymple, Massillon, Ohio
Debie Davidson, Canton, Ohio
Laura Davis, Kent, Ohio
Roslyn De Gregorio, North Canton, Ohio
Wanda Dean, Mansfield, Ohio
Michelle Dejoy, Painesville, Ohio
Rose DeNunzio, Richardson, Texas
Matthew DeWees, Hudson, Ohio
Teresa Dickson, Marion, Ohio
Ronald Dille, Kent, Ohio
Patricia Dipiero, North Fort Myers, Florida.
Patricia Divoky, Cleveland, Ohio
Margaret Doheny, Strongsville, Ohio
Patrick Doheny, Strongsville, Ohio
Michael Dolezal, Cleveland, Ohio
Sarah Dolezal, Cleveland, Ohio
Christianna Elridge, Mason, Ohio
Alexander Evans, Hubbard, Ohio
Debra Evans, Hubbard, Ohio
Suzanne Falk, Las Vegas, Nevada

Suzanne Fleming, Youngstown, Ohio
Porsha Frazier, West Chester, Ohio
D. Freeman-Khairallah RN, Scottsdale, Arizona
Jonathan Fry, Westerville, Ohio
Robert Gage Jr., Chevy Chase, Maryland
Gerald Gates, Yorba Linda, California
Evan Gildenblatt, Washington, D.C.
Thomas Giovagnoli, Ravenna, Ohio
Victoria Giovagnoli, Ravenna, Ohio
Robert Glenn, Worthington, Ohio
Linda Gogan, Aurora, Ohio
Eleanor Golden, Indianapolis, Indiana
James Golden, Indianapolis, Indiana
Terry Goldstein, Hollidaysburg,
Pennsylvania
Angelite Gould, Columbus, Ohio
Janice Granieri, Cleveland, Ohio
Douglas Greene, Richmond, Virginia
Michael Griffith, North Port, Florida
Kimberly Gross, Lake Milton, Ohio
Joanne Guerra, Cleveland, Ohio
Michael Guerra, Cleveland, Ohio
Makita Gulley, Akron, Ohio
Kenneth Haber, Lakewood, Ohio
Kevin Hackett, Naperville, Illinois
Stephanie Hackett, Naperville, Illinois
Brian Haggerty, Buffalo, New York
Janice Hamilton, Canton, Ohio
Patricia Handlovitch, Coraopolis,
Pennsylvania
William Hanna, Athens, Alabama
Albert Hanson, Tucson, Arizona
Paul Haynes III, Kent, Ohio
Elizabeth Heibertshausen, Attica, Ohio
James Hickman, University Place,
Washington
Dennis Higgins, Poulosbo, Washington
Patricia Himmelreich, Copley, Ohio
Sanford Hinkes, Homestead, Florida
Thomas Hodanovac, Wheaton, Illinois
Thomas Hohenshil Ph.D., Clayton, North Carolina
Peter Holway, Greensburg, Pennsylvania
Nancy Horak, Stevenson Ranch, California
Harvey Hunt, Mableton, Georgia
Thelma Hunt, Mableton, Georgia
Eileen Iacano, Solon, Ohio
Christine Ischy, Pataskala, Ohio
Kenneth Jamison, Los Angeles, California
Margaret Jerich, Urbana, Illinois
Bruce Johnson, Saint Cloud, Florida
Renee Johnson-Chappell, Canton, Ohio
Jordan Jones, Ravenna, Ohio
Dana Joyce, Steubenville, Ohio
Sandra Kays, Seminole, Florida
Barbara Keener, Kent, Ohio
Catherine Keener, Loveland, Ohio
Randall Keller, Akron, Ohio
Kathleen Kilduff, Hopkinton,
Massachusetts
Timothy Kilduff, Hopkinton,
Massachusetts
Donna King, Phoenix, Arizona
Guy King III, Phoenix, Arizona
Chelsea Knowles, Kent, Ohio
Kevin Kopan, Canton, Ohio
Jody Kovolyan, Kent, Ohio
Leslie Kraus, Punta Gorda, Florida
Robert Kreiner, Pittsboro, North Carolina
Terry Kuehne, Bryan, Ohio

Lauren Kuntzman, Paris, Ohio
Cynthia Landis, Woodstock, Georgia.
Micki Lavis, Canal Fulton, Ohio
William Lee, Monona, Wisconsin
Susan Lowther, Kent, Ohio
Jonathan Lyons, Maumee, Ohio
James Mack, Erie, Pennsylvania
Mark Majer, Bay Village, Ohio
Lucille Marino, Canfield, Ohio
Lisa Mascellino M.Ed, Akron, Ohio
Janet Matthews, Sarasota, Florida
Kellie Mayle, Rocky River, Ohio
Janice McCabe, Lowell, Massachusetts
Sandra McGee R.N., B.S.N.,
Las Vegas, Nevada
Shirley McNair-Robinson, Cleveland, Ohio
Pat McParland, Newbury, Ohio
Cynthia Medina, Macedonia, Ohio
Kimberly Medley, Oxford, Ohio
John Mercer, East Liverpool, Ohio
Gary Merryman, Bloomingdale, Ohio
Karen Metcalf, Fairview Park, Ohio
Joseph Milczewski, Stow, Ohio
Sandra Milczewski, Stow, Ohio
Sandra Miller RN, Murfreesboro,
Tennessee
Edwin Mills Jr., Willoughby, Ohio
Robert Minno, Akron, Ohio
Joseph Moravec, Cincinnati, Ohio
Linda Moravec, Cincinnati, Ohio
Eva Morrow, Warren, Ohio
Michael Mullett, Canton, Ohio
Amalia Munteanu, New York, New York
Charlotte Murphy, Warren, Ohio
Peter Murphy, Westlake, Ohio
Jeri Natter, Lancaster, Wisconsin
Miriam Neal, Mentor, Ohio
Theresa Nixon, Pickerington, Ohio
Robin Norton, Ravenna, Ohio
Reginald Novak, Macedonia, Ohio
George Olsen, New York, New York
Elizabeth Owens, Olmsted Township, Ohio
Jacqueline Owens, Olmsted Falls, Ohio
Lynda Ozan, Edmond, Oklahoma
Dianne Palmer, Derwood, Maryland
David Parravani, Kokomo, Indiana
Amanda Patton, Akron, Ohio
Jeremy Patton, Akron, Ohio
Valerie Patton, Santa Monica, California
Bradley Pees, Boynton Beach, Florida
Arnold Peet, Geneva, Ohio
Kip Petroff, Dallas, Texas
Martin Phillips III, Wickliffe, Ohio
Gary Placek, Twinsburg, Ohio
Jean Polack, Kent, Ohio
Joseph Polack, Kent, Ohio
Gregory Pozzi, Locust Grove, Virginia
Dixie Quinn, Ellicott City, Maryland
Joseph Raia, Pompano Beach, Florida
Beverly Reed, Stow, Ohio
Susan Reid, Newark, Ohio
Ryan Richards, Ashtabula, Ohio
Sharon Richardson, Warren, Ohio
Linda Rogers, Fredericksburg, Virginia
John Rome, Willoughby, Ohio
Lois Rose, Akron, Ohio
Stanley Rose, Akron, Ohio
Jennifer Ross, Stow, Ohio
Olivia Ryan, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
Nancy Ryland, Akron, Ohio

James Sampson, North Bloomfield, Ohio
Paul Santell, Astoria, New York
Greta Sarna, Youngstown, Ohio
Rita Schneider, Canton, Ohio
Taylor Schnur, Butler, Pennsylvania
Jeremy Schwartz, Warren, Ohio
Michele Schwartz, Warren, Ohio
Kathleen Seich, Edgerton, Wis.
R. Drew Sellers, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Subashchandra Shah, Winston Salem,
North Carolina
Laurel Shamakian, Streetsboro, Ohio
Robert Shamakian, Streetsboro, Ohio
Blanche Sheinkopf, Naperville, Illinois
Charles Shepherd, Utica, Ohio
Linda Shepherd, Utica, Ohio
Duane Shie, Sterling, Virginia
Sandra Simmons, Columbus, Ohio
Elizabeth Sinclair, Silver Lake, Ohio
Charles Smith, Celina, Ohio
Linda Smith, Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio
Thomas Smith, Dallas, Texas
Nicholas Solar Jr., Atlanta, Georgia
Joseph Sonderman II, Columbus, Ohio
Timothy Spaeth, Springboro, Ohio
Thomas Speck, Glen Burnie, Maryland
Virgene Steffen, Dalton, Ohio
Daniel Szuhay, Maineville, Ohio
Janice Szuhay, Maineville, Ohio
Edward Tang, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Jennifer Thames, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Patricia Thomas, Conneaut, Ohio
Todd Thomford, Englewood, Colorado
Charles Ulrich, Boulder City, Nevada
Wendy Umberger,
Broadview Heights, Ohio
Merry Vargo, Woodsfield, Ohio
Dmitry Voloschenko, Seattle, Washington
Peggy Wall, Nevada City, California
Terry Walton, Uniontown, Ohio
Jani Wanner McWilliams,
Cleveland, Ohio
Ann Waters, Kent, Ohio
Ralph Wearsch, Huntersville, North Carolina
Jacquelyn Weber, Nehalem, Oregon
Laurel Webster, Madison, Ohio
Stephen Weigand, Saint Louis, Missouri
Carol Weintraub, Akron, Ohio
David Weldy MD, PhD, Mondova, Ohio
Joy Wesoloski, Broadview Heights, Ohio
Matthew Wesoloski,
Broadview Heights, Ohio
Diane West, Tallmadge, Ohio
Nicolas Wheeler, Westerville, Ohio
Bernett Williams, Fairlawn, Ohio
Philmore Williams, Mystic, Conn.
Sonya Williams, Akron, Ohio
Maryann Willoughby, Kent, Ohio
William Willoughby, Kent, Ohio
David Wilson, Chicago, Illinois
David Winner, Wooster, Ohio
Deborah Witte, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Glenn Wittman, Chicago, Illinois
Lisa Wolfe, Youngstown, Ohio
Scott Woodard, Chardon, Ohio
Tarnie Woods, Markham, Illinois
Ruth Zagar, Louisville, Kentucky
Michele Zeldner-Wachstein,
Collingswood, New Jersey
Eric Zupsansky, Brook Park, Ohio

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROFILE



Tracy McCool's internship at Fox 8 lead to her first job out of college and later became her career as an evening anchor. Before starting her role as an anchor for Fox 8, McCool, '94, received her first on-air job in Erie, Pennsylvania, at WICU-TV. She then worked in Columbus as a reporter and fill-in anchor for WSYX-TV and WTTE-TV. While she was a Kent State student, McCool majored in broadcast news and worked for TV2, Kent State's nationally award-winning TV station. McCool is a proud member of the Kent State University Alumni Association and was selected as the 2014 Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal.

TRACY McCOOL, '94

EVENING ANCHOR, FOX 8 NEWS

What is your favorite Kent State memory? Walking into TV2 for the very first time, I knew right away that broadcast news was for me.

What did you like most about Kent State? I have so many wonderful memories and made lasting friendships. I still keep in touch with many of my classmates and roommates. Another thing I liked about Kent State is that it is kind of close to home. Well ... not too close, but just far enough away to feel like I "went away" to school.

Who are your favorite Kent State professors? *Gene Stebbins* was a great motivator. *Evonne Whitmore* was tough, but she pushed you because she saw potential.

What is most rewarding about your career? Doing something I love with an incredible crew. I have also met some extraordinary people while sharing their stories. But the most rewarding part of my career is meeting our viewers in person. They invite us into their homes every day. I'm tickled and absolutely

thrilled whenever someone stops me just to say, "Hello."

Why did you become a member of the alumni association? To stay connected with a family that helped build the foundation of a successful career. When I walked into Kent State I had no clue what I wanted to be when I grew up. It's as if someone grabbed me by the hand and led the way. No doubt about it, I worked hard, but I also had many good people around me to guide the way.

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HIS SONG *LIVES ON*

Family endows scholarship in memory and honor of Aaron White, '94

By Stephanie Langguth, '03 • Photos courtesy of the White family

Aaron White joined the Saint Augustine Children's Choir in the fourth grade and never stopped singing.

Born July 27, 1971, to Jim and Mary White in Barberton, Ohio, White was never the strongest in academics or athletics, but he found his place in the arts. "When it came to music," says Mary White, "he was 120 percent there."

White sang with the Saint Augustine's Children's Choir from fourth grade through eighth grade, but he did not stop there.

While attending Barberton High School, he took voice lessons from a Kent State University alumnus and also performed in the show choir and all the high school musicals.

"The director chose the *Music Man* play because she wanted Aaron to play the lead," says Christine Olle, his sister. "She chose that play because she wanted to hear him sing the songs."

White's high school vocal teacher encouraged him to pursue a music career. When he applied to Kent State,

he received a vocal scholarship and was extremely proud.

"In the hallway at Barberton [High School], they have 8 inch by 10 inch pictures and information about the kids who received scholarships," Mary White says. "And there was his picture. I remember looking at it and thinking 'Who would have ever thought?' He struggled in school, so receiving a scholarship was pretty cool for him."

One of the family's favorite stories about the impact of his music happened on a

Christmas morning while he was a Kent State student.

"Every year, we went to the 6 a.m. Christmas Mass," says Mary White. "That time, everyone in the church stopped singing, one by one, until the only one singing was Aaron. The others wanted to hear him. When Mass was over, a woman turned around and said 'Thank you. You gave me my Christmas present.'"

White graduated from Kent State in 1994 with a degree in vocal performance. Soon after graduation, he vacationed in Chicago with friends. During that trip he fell in love with the city and — although nervous about leaving home — he soon moved to Chicago.

"He lived in Chicago and rented an apartment from a guy who owned a brownstone," his father says. "The guy had a piano, and Aaron would sing and play it all the time. One day he told Aaron to take the piano upstairs so he could play it any time he wanted. He and a bunch of his friends managed to carry that piano up a winding staircase to get it to his room."

After that, White could be found sitting at the piano, playing and singing with the windows open, while neighbors enjoyed the beauty of his songs.

Expressive, spontaneous and joyful Aaron White lost his life as the result of an auto accident in Chicago on Jan. 24, 2003.

The devastated family began making arrangements, and one of their first calls was to Kent State.

"When we were planning Aaron's funeral," his mother says, "we called the Kent State School of Music to request a student to sing during the services and spoke to one of the vocal professors; she remembered Aaron right away."

The family was hoping a student would be available, but they got much more.

"When she called me back, she told me all five of the vocal professors wanted to sing. That really made a big impression on us. They didn't have to do that, but they did it for Aaron."

"We received a lot of donations at his funeral, and it felt right to send them to Kent State," Jim White says. "After that first donation, someone would call us once or twice a year and ask if we wanted to make another donation, and we always did because we thought it would be good to give to the School of Music."

The Whites feel their son took matters into his own hands when Kent State College of the Arts Advancement Officer Shawn Gordon noticed the Whites had made several donations for many years.

Gordon called to thank the family, and they soon met for lunch. During that meeting, White's father announced they wanted to create an endowed scholarship in their son's name.

Planning the scholarship has truly been a family affair, and they have felt his presence with them from the very beginning.

The Aaron M. White Endowed Scholarship for Vocal Performance

will award \$1,500 to one recipient per year. Applicants merely need to meet the university's minimum GPA requirements, but preference will be given to a vocal performance student who is passionate about opera, as White was.

Family and friends are overjoyed about the scholarship and know he would love it. But his niece, Olle's young daughter Kayla, needed a little help understanding.

"She asked what the scholarship meant," Christine Olle says. "And I told her it means Aaron won't be forgotten."



To find out how you can contribute to or establish a scholarship that will have a lasting impact on a student's life, contact Institutional Advancement at 330-672-2222, or email advancement@kent.edu.

The White family draws satisfaction and comfort in knowing that the Aaron M. White Endowed Scholarship for Vocal Performance makes it easier for other talented Kent State students to pursue their dreams of a career in music.





PAYING IT FORWARD AND INSPIRING OTHERS

Charlie Thomas, '74, owner of Ray's Place, helps motivated, hardworking students to succeed.

By Stephanie Langguth, '03 • Photo by Jeff Glidden, '87

Charlie Thomas' mother graduated from high school, and his dad finished eighth grade. So when Thomas, '74, was the second in his family to graduate from college (his older brother was the first), it was a personal accomplishment for him.

"When I received my degree from Kent State University, I was so proud of myself," says Thomas, owner of Kent's iconic Ray's Place. "In our family, you were not encouraged or expected to continue your education past

high school, and I had accomplished my goal through hard work, drive and determination."

Thomas paid for his time at Kent State with the help of the GI bill and two part-time jobs while in school, as well as full-time summer employment. But, he did have some help along the way. "My sophomore year I was awarded a \$300 scholarship from an organization in my hometown," he says. "I still remember how excited I was to receive that money to further my education."

In part because of receiving that scholarship and the feeling it gave him, Thomas established the *Ray's Place Entrepreneurship Scholarship*.

"I wanted to establish a scholarship fund to help students in need, for those who have worked hard in school, as well as on the job, to put themselves through school," Thomas says. "When I learned of the Kent State University Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, I thought, 'This is what it's all about – here is where I can help.'"

Recently, Kent State entrepreneurship major and *Ray's Place Entrepreneurship Scholarship* recipient, Nick Biro had the opportunity to meet with Thomas.

"I could tell Mr. Thomas wants to help as many students as he can," Biro says. "I could also tell he wanted not only to help me financially, but also to see me achieve my future aspirations and succeed in life."

Biro was a great choice for receiving this scholarship; he will be the first in his family to graduate from college, and he is also paying his own way. He plans to follow in Thomas' footsteps in another way as well.

"Receiving this scholarship makes me feel accountable," Biro says. "I'm really grateful and someday I want to establish my own scholarship."



To make a gift to the Ray's Place Entrepreneurship Scholarship Fund or other funds, visit www.GiveToKent.org, contact Institutional Advancement at 330-672-2222 or email advancement@kent.edu.

Flash Forward



Brian Crescenzo, '06

Assistant Director

Admissions Alumni Recruitment

330-672-8893

bcrescen@kent.edu

www.kent.edu/admissions/alumni

Join the Alumni Volunteer Program and Help the Admissions Office Discover and Recruit the Next Generation of Golden Flashes.

Kent State recognizes that our alumni are essential in helping identify and recruit talented high school students for possible admission. The Admissions Office is looking for alumni who live outside of Ohio to join the Alumni Volunteer Program. Being part of the Alumni Volunteer Program is a great way for you to be involved in the admissions and recruitment process and to help build relationships between alumni and prospective students from across the country. As an Alumni Volunteer Program member, you would assist the Admissions Office in the following ways:

- Represent Kent State at college fairs and other recruitment events in your area;
- Attend Kent State receptions and information nights near you; and
- Speak or write to admitted students from your region about the outstanding educational and extracurricular opportunities at Kent State.

If you live outside of Ohio and would like to join the Alumni Volunteer Program, complete the interest form at www.kent.edu/admissions/alumni or contact Brian Crescenzo at 330-672-8893 or bcrescen@kent.edu.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



FALL 2014 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Nov. 5, 2014

Bowling and
Business Cards
in Cleveland



Nov. 6, 2014

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

Nov. 29, 2014

Kent State Night at
Hilarities with John Caparulo, '98

To learn more about these and other events, go to www.ksualumni.org.


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Questions? Contact us at 888-320-KENT (5368) or alumni@kent.edu
www.ksualumni.org

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