

1940s

Bea McPherson, BA ’43, Hartville, OH, was featured in a new temporary traveling exhibit, *Military Mapping Maidens*, on display at the MAPS Air Museum in Green, Ohio, from May 7 through Oct. 5, 2022. The exhibit, created by the Arizona-based firm Museum Pros, tells the story of 224 young college women recruited by the Army Map Service in 1943 to research and draw maps by hand for the Allied effort in World War II.

McPherson, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 14, 2021, was the subject of a profile about her military mapping efforts in the winter 2018 issue of *Kent State Magazine*.

1950s

Maj. Gen. Robert Haas, MEd ’56, Massillon, OH, received a Strasburg Tiger Foundation Distinguished Alumni award during the May 2022 graduation ceremony at Strasburg-Franklin High School. He served as an educator in Massillon City Schools for 28 years, working as a teacher, coach, principal and then assistant superintendent. His 50-year military career spanned World War II, the Korean War (where he earned six medals, including the Bronze Star) and the Persian Gulf War. Haas joined the Army Reserves and the Ohio Military Reserves and was promoted to the rank of major general.

Lois Youngen, BS ’55, Eugene, OR, who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in the early 1950s and taught at the University of Oregon, was honored by Kent State’s Varsity “K” Athletic Hall of Fame as the 2022 Distinguished Athletic Alumna on Sept. 16, 2022. She also was inducted into the Tuscarawas County Sports Hall of Fame on June 18, 2022.

Youngen taught for 36 years in the physical education department at the University of Oregon, where she coached or taught 26 sports and recreational activities. In 1988, Youngen and other women of the league were included in the permanent display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

1960s

Robert Archer, MBA ’61, Ashland, OH, and his wife, Janet, were commencement speakers at Ashland University on May 7, 2022, and university President Carlos Campo presented each with an honorary degree (Doctor of Humane Letters).

Robert Archer also received an Alumnus Achievement Award from the Claymont Foundation (Claymont City School District) on May 14, 2022. He is a 1953 graduate of Uhrichsville High School, which consolidated with other area schools to form the Claymont District in 1965.

Archer and five partners purchased Kent Watersports in 1980 and grew the business,

which sells its products worldwide, via 35 acquisitions. He serves on several boards, including the Business College Advisory Board of Kent State University.

Fred Packard, MA ’61, Lafayette, LA, artist and retired professor of visual arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has a retrospective show of his career as an artist at the university’s Hilliard Art Museum. The exhibit, *Little Things: Drawings and Photographs by Fred Packard*, features artwork created by Packard from each decade since the ’50s. The show runs from July 2022 to April 2023.

Donald Lowe, BS ’64, MA ’69, Eatonton, GA, was inducted into the Mid-Ohio Valley Sports Hall of Fame on June 11, 2022. He was coordinator of sports medicine at Syracuse University, in New York, for 25 years. The athletic training area in the university’s Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center is named the Donald and Mary Lowe Sports Medicine Center.

Donald Stafford, BBA ’65, BS ’84, Minerva, OH, was inducted into Minerva High School’s Alumni Hall of Fame on June 11, 2022. Stafford graduated from the US Army officer training program in 1965, the US Army aviation training program in 1966. As a pilot of a Huey helicopter, he was assigned to Vietnam, where he survived crashes and was shot down by the Viet Cong. After returning to the States, he became a flight instructor at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He retired from the military in 1990. In 2008, he received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the Federal Aviation Administration for 50 years of civilian flying without an accident.

1970s

Timothy App, BFA ’70, Baltimore, MD, professor of art at the Maryland Institute College of Art, has a 2005 painting, “Bacchanal,” on exhibit in the Akron Art Museum’s centennial celebration *Share the Past, Create the Future: Selections from the Akron Art Museum Collection*, on view through April 2023.

Michael Chanak Jr., BS ’71, Cincinnati, OH, wrote, “It’s been 30 years since the change I advocated for [to include sexual orientation] was made to P&G’s non-discrimination policy. P&G is hosting a 30th anniversary celebration on Oct. 13 for the North American GABLE (Gay Ally Bisexual Lesbian & Transgender Employees) affinity group during LGBT History Month. On June 23, I spoke on queer history at the Pride Multifaith service at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. On Dec. 1, I will be speaking at the regional World AIDs remembrance at First Christian Church in Covington, Kentucky.”

John de Lancie, BA ’71, South Pasadena, CA, appeared at Cleveland’s Huntington Convention Center for Fan Expo, a pop culture

convention, on April 30 and May 1, 2022. He has once again appeared as Q, a god-like, malevolent being, in the second season of *Star Trek: Picard*, which streamed on Paramount+ in spring 2022. He has appeared as Q over seven seasons of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, made one appearance on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and several appearances on *Star Trek: Voyager*.

Clare Murray Adams, BS ’72, MEd ’76, BFA ’93, Southington, OH, had a solo exhibition, *A Common Thread*, presented by ART26201 at M.I.B. Gallery in the Colonial Arts Center, Buckhannon, West Virginia, from July 29–Aug. 20, 2022. A professor emeritus of art and former chair of the visual art department at Malone University in Canton, Ohio, she maintains a studio practice in rural Southington.

Raymond Fete, AA ’73, BA ’75, Navarre, OH, has served for five years as executive director of Hammer & Nails Inc., an ecumenical Christian nonprofit outreach organization based in Canton, Ohio, that helps struggling Stark County homeowners with maintenance and repairs. He was director of alumni relations for Kent State University from 1985–1987.

Ruth E. Ludwick, BSN ’73, MSN ’81, PhD ’93, Kent, OH, and **Rebecca M. Patton, BSN ’80**, Lakewood, OH, are two of three co-editors of the textbook *Nurses Making Policy, Third Edition: From Bedside to Boardroom* (Springer Publishing Company, February 2022). The editors are donating all book royalties of this updated edition to help endow the \$2 million Washington Fellows program, administered by the American Nurses Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Nurses Association.

Ludwick is Professor Emerita of Kent State University’s College of Nursing and an adjunct graduate faculty at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Patton is the past two-term president of the association (ANA; 2006–2010) and holds the inaugural Endowed Perioperative Nursing Chair, Lucy Jo Atkinson Professorship in Perioperative Nursing at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University.

Nick Saban, BS ’73, MEd ’75, Tuscaloosa, AL, began his 16th season as head football coach at the University of Alabama in September. Alabama Crimson Tide teams have played in the national title game in six of the last seven seasons. Saban started his coaching career at Kent State in 1973 as a graduate assistant with the Golden Flashes.

Carter Strang, BS ’73, MEd ’79, Shaker Heights, OH, was named president of the Shaker Schools Foundation, Ohio’s first public school foundation, effective July 1, 2022. A recently retired founding partner of the Tucker Ellis law firm, he previously was an award-winning Shaker Heights High School teacher and coach. He is board chair of the Cleveland

Council on World Affairs and a Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Leader in Residence.

Ron Young, BA ’73, Mentor, OH, was selected as 2022 Lake County Fair Parade Grand Marshal. The fair ran July 26–July 31. Young recently retired as a Lake County commissioner, having served since 2019.

Lawrence Terkel, MA ’74, Hudson, OH, a member of the Ohio Masters Swim Club, won two gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the age 75 to 79 category at the 2022 National Senior Games, held May 13–16 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The two gold medals—in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle—both came with record times.

Dom Capers, MEd ’75, Green Bay, WI, and his wife, Karen, donated \$2 million to the University of Mount Union (his alma mater) in Alliance, Ohio, for a new football facility, which opened in 2020. The university dedicated the Dom and Karen Capers Football Coaching Center on June 11, 2022. The press box at Kehres Stadium is also named in Capers’ honor. Capers, who was a graduate assistant for Kent State football coach Don James, is known for his work as an NFL coach for the Carolina Panthers, Houston Texans and Green Bay Packers. He currently works as a senior defensive assistant for the Denver Broncos.

Matt Likens, BBA ’75, Mesa, AZ, is president and CEO of GT Medical Technologies, which was named Company of the Year for Health Products & Services in the 2022 American Business Awards. This honor acknowledges GT Medical Technologies’ pioneering technology GammaTile® Therapy, FDA-cleared for treating newly diagnosed malignant and recurrent brain tumors. Over 60 US hospitals now offer the therapy as a radiation option for patients with operable brain tumors. Tiles are implanted during the last five minutes of brain tumor resection procedures to eliminate residual tumor cells. This therapy allows patients to resume normal activities rapidly after surgery.

Gary Pinkel, BS ’75, Columbia, MO, will be inducted into the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame in the Class of 2022. Named Jan. 10, 2022, the class will be inducted Dec. 6 during the 64th NFF Annual Awards Dinner in Las Vegas.

Pinkel is the winningest head football coach at the University of Missouri (2001–2015) and at the University of Toledo (1991–2000). He retired from Mizzou following the 2015 season after announcing he has non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Among his previous honors are inductions into several halls of fame, including Kent State Athletics. Active in the community, he created the GP Made Foundation to help youth facing difficult challenges, and he has raised more than \$10 million for charitable causes.

Pinkel played football at Kent State for Don James, who made Pinkel a graduate assistant

and then hired him as position coach when James became head coach at the University of Washington (1975–1992). Pinkel was a coordinator for James’ Huskies before leaving for his own head-coaching roles.

Joseph Valencic, BA ’76, BFA ’76, Cleveland, OH, was inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame on June 7, 2022. He is a founder and past president of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, where he currently is vice president and director of the museum and archives. When Slovenia declared independence in 1991, he led the communications campaigns of United Americans for Slovenia to lobby for US recognition and to have Slovenia accepted into NATO.

Valencic is the longtime president of the Cleveland Federation of Lodges of the Slovene National Benefit Society, America’s largest Slovenian organization. His Saturday radio broadcast (on WINT 1330 AM and 101.5 FM) features music and news from Slovenia. He writes, lectures and produces television documentaries on Slovenian American history and culture in the United States and Europe.

Gary F. Bengier, BBA ’77, San Francisco, CA, received a 2022 Independent Press Award for his book *Unfettered Journey* (Chiliagon Press, Sept. 5, 2020) in the category of Visionary Fiction. The international competition is judged by experts in the book industry, and awards are based on overall excellence. A No. 1 bestseller on Amazon, the book has won seven awards and is available in American English, plus seven other languages. After a career in Silicon Valley, where he worked in a variety of tech companies, Bengier pursued passion projects, studying astrophysics and philosophy. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School and an MA in philosophy from San Francisco State University.

Terry Calaway, BS ’77, Lenexa, KS, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of Park University, a private university in Parkville, Missouri. Calaway, who has had a 36-year career in higher education, was named president emeritus of Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, after serving JCCC as its president from 2007-13. He currently serves as a professor of practice in the Community College Leadership Program within Kansas State University’s College of Education.

Barbara Easlick, BS ’77, Wildwood, FL, was this year’s honoree at the annual Zoar Memorial Amateur Championship, for her contributions to the game of golf. She was a three-sport star at Kent State University. Upon graduation, she began her quest to join the LPGA Tour, coming close several times. A native of Dover, Ohio, she was the golf instructor at Zoar Golf Club for more than 25 years.

She also served as the women’s basketball coach and started the softball program at Malone University in Canton, Ohio, before becoming a professor in the School of Business. Easlick was inducted into the Malone Hall of Fame in 2002 and retired from the university in 2015 after 30 years of service.

Judge Annalisa Stubbs Williams, BA ’77, Akron, OH, a judge at the Akron Municipal Court, received the Ritter Award by the Ohio State Bar Foundation in August 2022. The foundation’s highest honor, the award recognizes the accomplishments of the honoree in attaining and promoting the highest level of professionalism, integrity and ethics in the practice of law.

In 2022, she also received the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Change Maker Award, the Centennial 2022 Akron Law Outstanding Alumni Award and the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio Woman of Distinction Award.

In July 2021, she joined the Kent State Alumni Association National Board of Directors. In 2020, she received the Kent State Distinguished Alumni Award.

Wendy Patton, BA ’78, Columbus, OH, is the new director of the Columbus Program in State Issues. Patton has a 35-year career in state and local government—including 15 years with Policy Matters Ohio—and she has worked in and around the Ohio Statehouse since 1987.

Wayne Dawson, BA ’79, Cleveland, OH, celebrated 40 years with Fox 8 Cleveland on July 15, 2022. Kent State’s 2018 Homecoming parade grand marshal, Dawson also has received the university’s William D. Taylor Journalism Alumnus of the Year Award (2014), the Diversity in Media Distinguished Leadership Award (2006) and the Cultural Diversity Award (1994).

Douglas Hanzel, BS ’79, and **Andrew Hanzel, BS ’10**, Savannah, GA, won their seventh championship on July 24, 2022, in the 53rd edition of the National Father-Son Invitational at the Country Club of North Carolina. The elder Hanzel is the 2013 US Senior Amateur champion and was the low amateur at the 2012 and 2013 US Senior Open. Both Hanzels played college golf at Kent State University, where Doug, a physician, endowed a golf scholarship.

Nan Jenks-Jay, BA ’79, Sudbury, VT, received an honorary degree from Middlebury College at the commencement ceremony on May 29, 2022. She served as dean of environmental affairs and taught in the Environmental Studies program at the college for 23 years before retiring in 2019. Jenks-Jay fostered an integrated institutional vision for sustainability, launching numerous successful initiatives.

She also helped create the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher

Education (AASHE), which presented her with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. She received an MES from the Yale University School of the Environment, which honored her with its Distinguished Alumna Award during Reunion Weekend 2021.

Connie Schultz, BA ’79, Cleveland, OH, delivered the keynote address at Denison University’s 181st commencement ceremony on May 14, 2022. She also was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. She joined Denison in Fall 2023 as Professor of Practice.

Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize–winning columnist for *USA Today* and author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Daughters of Erietown* (2020). She previously was a professional-in-residence at Kent State University’s School of Media and Journalism, where she taught opinion writing, feature writing and ethics.

1980s

Lucinda “Cindy” Einhouse, BA ’80, Lakewood, OH, president and CEO of Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, Ohio, has completed and published *Celebrating Our Past – Creating Our Future: 90 Years of Creating Arts Experiences at Beck Center for the Arts*, the first comprehensive history of the center, covering the organization’s nearly 90 years as a professional theatre and arts education nonprofit. The book is available on Amazon and all proceeds go to Beck Center’s endowment.

Ed Donatell, MA ’81, Minneapolis, MN, joined the Minnesota Vikings as defensive coordinator, effective February 2022. He brings 31 years of NFL coaching experience to Minnesota, where he’s trying to lead a defensive turnaround.

Donatell got his first coaching job as a graduate assistant at Kent State University in 1979 and broke into the NFL as the New York Jets’ defensive backs coach in 1990. Most recently, he has been a defensive backs coach for the Denver Broncos (2019–2021).

Jeffrey Kurtz, BA ’81, MA ’89, Ravenna, OH, is a lecturer in leadership training programs for the National Interscholastic Association of Athletic Administrators.

President of the board of directors for Summit County Sports Hall of Fame, Kurtz also serves as a member of the national board of directors and instructor in the National Association of Sports Public Address Announcers training/certification program. He has been an announcer for Kent State University football and basketball games.

Rita Perea, BS ’81, MED ’90, Des Moines, IA, president and CEO of Rita Perea Leadership Coaching and Consulting, was named one of the 2022 Women of Influence by the *Business Record* on Aug. 4, 2022. The awards

celebrate the work of Central Iowa women who have made a difference. Previously, Perea had served as superintendent of two Iowa school districts, helping them recover from financial difficulty, and she developed school improvement software while working for Heartland Area Education Agency.

Denise McEnroe-Petitte, AS ’82, BSN ’83, CER8 ’08, New Philadelphia, OH, associate professor of nursing at Kent State University at Tuscarawas, was inducted into the Academy for Associate Degree Nursing by the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing in 2020. She has been teaching undergraduate nursing programs since 1996 at Kent State Tuscarawas, where she was awarded the exceptional Service-Learning Faculty Award in 2013.

Lisa Brindley, MED ’83, New Philadelphia, OH, received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Claymont Foundation (Claymont City School District) on May 14, 2022. She is a 1976 graduate of Claymont High School. She worked at numerous hospitals in Ohio, Arkansas and Tennessee as a cardiac nurse and nursing educator. She also worked in education at Head Start, Early Intervention and as an associate lecturer in early childhood education technology at Kent State University at Tuscarawas, retiring in May 2022.

Gary Harwood, BS ’83, Kent, OH, had photos on display at the *Tiger Legacy: The Story Continues* exhibition in the Paul Brown Museum, within the Massillon Museum, which ran from Feb. 28 through July 10, 2022. It featured 69 photographs of players, traditions and special moments from the Massillon Tigers’ 2021 Washington High School football season. Harwood, a member of the Teach Arts Roster for the Ohio Arts Council, taught visual storytelling at Kent State University.

John Wagner, BS ’84, MA ’87, Forest Lake, MN, was promoted to managing editor of the *County News Review* by Adams Publishing Group. The weekly newspaper is based in Cambridge, Minnesota. Wagner has served as sports editor of the paper since February 2019, and in February 2020 he added the responsibility of sports editor of the *Forest Lake Times*.

Wagner also worked for seven years in the Kent State University athletics department, including as sports information director from 1987–1992.

Thomas Botzman, MA ’85, PhD ’91, Alliance, OH, retired as president of the University of Mount Union, effective June 30, 2022. He was president since July 2020.

Keith B. Wilson, BA ’85, Lexington, KY, received a 2022 ACA Fellows Award by the American Counseling Association in April 2022. The award recognizes ACA members who have advanced the counseling profession throughout their career. Wilson is

a professor of rehabilitation and counselor education in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Counselor Education at the University of Kentucky College of Education.

Matthew Fantin, BBA ’86, MA ’88, New Philadelphia, OH, was elected to the board of the Tuscarawas Clinic for the Working Uninsured. The mission of the nonprofit organization, which celebrated its 13th year in 2022, is to improve access to health care for working, uninsured residents of Tuscarawas County who are 18–64 and at or below 199% of the federal poverty level.

Charles Esque Fleming, BBA ’86, Bedford, OH, was sworn in as a judge in the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio on March 11, 2022. He was nominated to serve a life term on the bench by President Joe Biden. Recently, Fleming was appointed as a judge in the court’s STAR (Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry) Program, which helps citizens returning from incarceration get the tools they need to find and maintain employment, avoid recidivism and live productive lives.

Frank Janik, BA ’87, Amherst, OH, Lorain County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court judge, was elected vice president of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges for 2022 by his peers in January. As vice president, he serves on the executive committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference serving all judges in the state. Janik was elected judge in 2012.

Sara Lee, MA ’87, Granville, OH, was promoted to senior associate director of athletics, deputy Title IX coordinator for athletics and senior woman administrator for the athletics department at Denison University, as of April 2022. Lee stepped down as Denison’s head women’s basketball coach after 33 years leading the program.

Dana Addis, BA ’88, BSE ’92, Seville, OH, was named superintendent of the Hudson City School District in Hudson, Ohio, as of March 2022.

Thomas Chiappini, BS ’88, Canton, OH, was inducted into Stark State College’s 2022 Alumni Hall of Fame. He joined the college in 2004 and serves as vice president of business, finance and information technology. He also served as the college’s interim president in 2011.

Rebecca Corbin, BA ’88, Raleigh, NC, was awarded the *Triangle Business Journal* Women in Business Award in March 2022. She is president and CEO for the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, a leading nonprofit membership organization dedicated to advancing entrepreneurship education in community colleges across the US and abroad.

Vipal Patel, BS ’88, Dayton, OH, joined the global litigation practice at Squire Patton Boggs LLP as a partner. He was named acting US attorney in March 2021. He represented the United States in the investigation of the August 2019 mass shooting in Dayton and in the prosecution of weapons-related charges against a friend of the shooter. He is being recognized for that work with the Attorney General’s Award, the top honor of the Department of Justice.

Philip Wagner, BA ’88, MED ’90, EDS ’92, PhD ’06, Lewis Center, OH, was named the superintendent of Johnstown-Monroe School District, in Johnstown, Ohio, as of May 9, 2022. Wagner was a recipient of Kent State’s Hall of Fame Alumni Leadership Award and the Bowman Fellow Award in Educational Administration.

Deidra Mitchell, BS ’89, Grand Rapids, MI, was named among the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan and the Top 200 Most Powerful Business Leaders in West Michigan in 2022 by the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*. She was also named Investor Dealmaker of the Year by MIBiz. Mitchell is president and CEO of Waséyabek Development Co., LLC, a 100% tribally owned economic development entity of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi. Since joining WDC in April 2016 and opening the Grand Rapids office, she has expanded the federal division to over \$170 million in contracts.

1990s

Daniel Borgia, PhD ’91, Dudley, MA, was named provost at Nichols College in Dudley, effective April 1, 2022.

Timothy Carnahan, BSE ’91, Pawleys Island, SC, was named principal of Midway Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina, in June 2022.

Lynn Shimko, BFA ’91, North Canton, OH, graphic designer at ShimkoDesign, co-founded 720 Market with her husband, David, to showcase artists and local businesses at North Canton city lots that were empty on weekends. (The name came from North Canton’s ZIP code, 44720.) Vendors at the traveling markets include local brewers, food trucks and live music. She and her husband also were recruited by ArtsInStark to plan, organize and rebrand First Fridays in Downtown Canton for 2022.

Craig Heath, BSE ’92, Dublin, OH, was selected as superintendent of Mentor Public Schools, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Laurie McClellan, AS ’92, AS ’93, Minerva, OH, was inducted into the Minerva High School Hall of Fame on June 11, 2022. In 1998, she was appointed chairman of the board of Consumers

National Bank, and under her leadership the bank increased its assets from \$131 million to \$500 million. She is active in community service, supporting many Minerva area charities, as well as Kent State University at Salem.

Teresa Simons, BBA ’92, Willoughby, OH, was named executive director of the Alliance for Working Together Foundation, as of January 2022. The foundation, based in Mentor, promotes the development of rewarding careers in manufacturing to support the long-term success and growth of the manufacturing community in Northeast Ohio.

Paul Haynes, BA ’93, St. Paul, MN, was promoted to co-defensive coordinator in the football program at the University of Minnesota. He helped Minnesota’s defense finish third nationally in total defense in 2021. Haynes was Kent State’s head football coach from 2013–17.

Gregory Beals, BS ’95, MA ’99, Columbus, OH, was recently chosen as head baseball coach at The University of Akron. Most recently he was head coach at The Ohio State University from 2011–2022.

Beals was a star catcher for the Golden Flashes from 1989–91 and had a three-year run in the New York Mets’ minor league system. He then started his coaching career at Kent State, working as an assistant coach from 1994–2002.

LaDonna Dulemba, MSN ’95, New Paris, OH, received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of nursing in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Indiana University East in Richmond, Indiana, effective July 1, 2022. She was selected to the Class of 2020 by the Faculty Academy on Excellence in Teaching.

Vicki (Bonner) Williams, BA ’95, MED ’98, Chesapeake, VA, was appointed dean of students and associate vice president of engagement at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, effective July 2022.

Shayne (Blum) Borenstein, BA ’96, Tucker, GA, earned two industry awards for editing and producing original content for HBO Max while working for WarnerMedia. Both awards were connected to her work on the series *Raised by Wolves* from executive producer Ridley Scott.

Shane Mizicko, BM ’96, Cape Girardeau, MO, spoke at Southeast Missouri State University’s commencement ceremony on May 14, 2022. Mizicko is professor, director of percussion and equipment manager for the university’s music department.

Michelle L. Patrick, PhD ’96, Sewickley, PA, has been named the first woman president of Robert Morris University, effective July 2022.

John Patterson Jr., PhD ’96, Jefferson, OH, was appointed as USDA state executive director, Farm Service Agency, Ohio, by President Joe Biden on April 14, 2022.

Kevin L. Smith, MLIS ’96, Waterville, ME, an authority on intellectual property, was appointed director of the Colby College Libraries, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Anjuman Ali-Bogaert, PhD ’97, Washington, DC, was promoted to deputy wellness editor with *The Washington Post*, effective July 11, 2022. She supervises a staff of writers and freelancers who create science-based service journalism focused on personal health topics. Prior to joining *The Post* in 2010, she worked as an editor at the *Wall Street Journal Europe* and as an interactive editor, foreign editor and editorial writer for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, where she was part of an editorial writing team named a finalist for the 2008 Pulitzer Prize.

Christine Bowman, AA ’97, BA ’99, MA ’04, Canton, OH, local history and genealogy specialist at Massillon Public Library, presented “Why Ohio? The Move West Following the Revolutionary War” at Massillon Museum’s Brown Bag Lunch in Gessner Hall on July 25, 2022. She teaches history and humanities at Kent State Stark and maintains the Massillon Heritage Foundation archives.

Timothy B. Clepper, BBA ’97, Hudson, OH, president and CEO of Kaulig Companies, and Matt Kaulig, executive chairman, announced that Kaulig Companies will replace Bridgestone as the title sponsor of the PGA Tour Champions’ Senior Players Championship at Firestone Country Club, with a four-year agreement starting in 2023. Clepper also accepted a position on the Foundation Board of Akron Children’s Hospital, as of April 29, 2022. The founder of Santa PICsU (an organization dedicated to helping children and families in traumatic situations), Clepper was one of three recipients of the 2020 Champion for Children award from the hospital.

Bryan Farson, BSE ’97, Wadsworth, OH, was selected as superintendent of Norton City Schools, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Todd Herman, BS ’97, Dover, OH, was named the 13th superintendent of the Noble Local School District in Noble County, Ohio, on April 19, 2022.

Justin Hilton, BArc ’97, BS ’97, MArc ’97, Ravenna, OH, was named president of Leadership Akron, which was founded in 1984 to help develop and connect community leaders. Hilton, a former Kent State University administrator, has been on the Leadership Akron board of directors since 2020 and is a graduate of the organization’s Signature Program.

Lorenzo Jones, BGS ’97, Bedford, OH, was named principal of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Leslie Vano, MLS ’97, Kewanee, IL, was hired as director of the Kewanee Public Library in Kewanee, effective July 5, 2022.

John Baker, BSN ’98, MN ’07, MBA ’11, Ravenna, OH, was named chief nursing officer at Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital in Dover, Ohio, effective June 1, 2022.

Kelly Manthey, BBA ’98, Mokena, IL, was appointed CEO of Kin + Carta, effective Aug. 1, 2022. She is based in the digital transformation consultancy’s US headquarters in Chicago.

Kenneth Speegle, BA ’98, Lake Worth, FL, was named chief operating officer for Storage Rentals of America by SROA Capital LLC, as of June 2022.

Shampa Banerjee, PhD ’99, San Carlos, CA, was named chief product and technology officer at Hispanic-focused Canela Media, which operates a portfolio of websites as well as free, ad-supported streaming services Canela TV and Canela Music.

Tameka Ellington, BA ’99, PhD ’11, Akron, OH, spoke on the art and history of Black hair at the Massillon Museum Brown Bag Lunch program on Feb. 22, 2022. Her largest project to date, *TEXTURES: The History and Art of Black Hair*, was exhibited at the Kent State University Museum from Sept. 10, 2021, to Aug. 14, 2022. She recently started the Ellington Foundation with the mission of supporting first-generation students studying the arts.

Joseph A. Salem Jr., MLS ’99, MA ’05, PhD ’14, Apex, NC, was named the Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and vice provost for library affairs for Duke University Libraries in Durham, North Carolina, effective Aug. 15, 2022.

In 2017, he was recognized as the Kent State School of Library and Information Science Alumnus of the Year.

2000s

Mike Beder, BGS ’00, Kent, OH, and **Evan Bailey BS ’03, MA ’09**, Shaker Heights, OH, are part owners of the Cleveland Bagel Café, now housed in the historic building on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and East Main Street in Kent. The café opened for business in its new location on Sept. 6, 2022.

The Tudor-style building (designed by Kent architect Charles G. Kistler) has long been a hangout for Kent State students and faculty, as well as Kent residents. It once housed the Robin Hood Tea Room (1920s–30s), the Capt. Brady Restaurant (1940s–90s), Brady’s Café (1990s–2003) and most recently Starbucks (which closed in 2020).

Beder operates several other businesses in the city, including Water Street Tavern, Venice Café and Kent Sportswear. Bailey is a professor at Kent State’s School of Media and Journalism.

Kenneth Cooper, DPM ’00, Woodsfield, OH, owner of the Swiss Valley Foot and Ankle Center, celebrated 20 years in practice in July 2022 at the Barnesville and Woodsfield locations. A third location in St. Clairsville opened in 2015.

Brian Meng, BS ’00, BArc ’01, Lakewood, OH, has been appointed as a board member for Lakewood Alive, a community-centered nonprofit that aims to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood, Ohio. As a licensed architect and associate principal at Bialosky Cleveland, Meng has managed nationally acclaimed mixed-use developments, including Crocker Park in Westlake and the Van Aken District in Shaker Heights. He is working on Belle Oaks in Richmond Heights and the \$300 million development of Circle Square in the University Circle neighborhood of Cleveland.

Tiffany Capeles, AS ’02, BS ’04, Salt Lake City, UT, graduate of Kent State University at Stark, was named first chief equity officer at Intermountain Healthcare, a Utah-based, not-for-profit system of 33 hospitals and the largest health care provider in the Intermountain West of the United States.

Julianna Medina-Politsky, BA ’02, BBA ’02, Los Angeles, CA, was a guest speaker at a “Women in Film” evening hosted by Kent State’s Female Filmmakers’ Initiative on May 2, 2022.

She spent nearly 10 years with Legendary Entertainment and now is a co-owner of Redbird Entertainment. The film and television production company’s first film, *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain* (2019), won a Gotham Award, an NAACP Image Award and Independent Spirit Award nominations.

Jon Mills, BS ’02, Kent, OH, Kent State’s head golf coach, was inducted into the Ontario Golf Hall of Fame on July 24, 2022. A native of Belleville, Ontario, Mills was honored for his outstanding amateur and professional career, including winning the 2001 Ontario Men’s Amateur Championships as the No. 1 ranked amateur golfer.

Mills was appointed head coach of the men’s golf program at Kent State in July 2019, after serving as assistant coach since 2016. He helped lead the team to five collegiate championships and the Mid-American Conference title in 2016–2017. In 2019, the team advanced to the NCAA Championship.

As a student at Kent State, Mills earned many honors, and he was inducted into the Kent State Varsity “K” Hall of Fame in 2007, the same year he was named Score’s Canadian Male Golfer of the Year.

Kacie V. Armstrong, MLIS ’03, North Olmsted, OH, director of the Euclid Public Library, has been named the 2022 Librarian of the Year by the Ohio Library Council. She was recognized for her efforts to identify and address socioeconomic disparities, bridge the digital divide and increase access to social services in her community.

Dante Capers, BSE ’03, MED ’06, Warren, OH, delivered the commencement speech during Kent State University at Trumbull’s ceremony on May 13, 2022. Capers, in his 15th year as an administrator in the Warren City School District, last year was named associate superintendent of student service, student wellness and success.

Damon Hays, DPM ’03, formerly of Gresham, OR, was named assistant vice president of the Iredell Physician Network in Statesville, North Carolina, in June 2022.

Merrill Rainey, BA ’03, Whitehouse, OH, is the author and illustrator for a new interactive board book series with HarperCollins. The first book, *Roar! I’m a Dinosaur* (HarperFestival, July 2022), uses simple rhymes and unique eyeholes that invite young dinosaur fans (baby to 4 years) to stomp, chomp and soar like dinosaurs. The second book, *Oink! I’m a Pig*, launched in September and invites readers to transform into friendly farm animals. Visit littlerainey.com or follow him on Instagram @littlerainey.

Jill Christoff, BA ’04, Shaker Heights, OH, has been promoted to senior designer at Bialosky Cleveland. Trained in architecture and interior design, she joined Bialosky in 2011. Her experience in complex renovations led her to notable projects, including the historic Shaker Heights Public Library renovation, the relocation of Kent State University’s School of Visual Communication Design and the award-winning Lorain County Community College project. Christoff earned a Master of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame in 2009. She is certified through the National Council for Interior Design Qualification and is a member of the International Interior Design Association and an associate of the American Institute of Architects.

Sabah Drabu, MTEC ’04, Hudson, OH, is co-founder of CookinGenie, a Hudson-based company with a web platform that connects diners and personal chefs. CookinGenie gives clients the option to hire a personal chef (or “Genie”) for a special occasion at their homes—such as a two-person date night dinner, family gathering, brunch or elaborate dinner party. In June 2022, the company received a \$2 million investment from Houston-based Allison Wood Ventures that will enable it to expand to new markets nationwide.

Brad Gable, BS ’04, MS ’05, Dublin, OH, was selected by Columbus Business First for its 2022 40 under 40 award as one of Central Ohio’s most talented young professionals. He was also recognized by the Emergency Medicine Residents’ Association in 2021 as one of the 25 most influential emergency physicians under the age of 45. He is an attending physician with Mid-Ohio Emergency Services and medical director of simulation for the OhioHealth System.

Kimberly Rohr, BS ’04, MBA ’07, and **Christopher Rohr, AAS ’17**, Canton, OH, held a grand opening for Lost Trail Winery and Vineyard in May 2022. The winery is on 13 acres in Marlboro Township, on the outskirts of Canton. For information on private tastings or events, visit <https://losttrailwinery.com>.

Garrison Wollam, BSE ’04, MED ’10, Kent, OH, a third grade teacher at Holden Elementary School in Kent, has created an anti-cancer brand called Cancer is Dumb to provide humorous merchandise options for supporting loved ones who have cancer. The trademarked slogan and others appear on a line of apparel and other items Wollam designed after he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (the No. 1 form of cancer in children) in October 2019. He sells the products on a website he created while undergoing treatment and donates 20% of all proceeds to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

Ryan Burley, MLIS ’05, Columbus, OH, was promoted to manager of the New Albany branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library as of February 2022.

Grace Dobush, BS ’05, Berlin, Germany, was awarded the 2022 Ohio Writer’s Scholarship, sponsored by the Sandra Carpenter Memorial Fund (SCMF)/Stockholm Writers Festival. The award supports an Ohio woman writer (defined as anyone who is native, a long-time resident and/or Ohio educated) who is pursuing the publication of a book. The SCMF selected Dobush on the merits of her comic novel, *Dayton Beach*, which she describes as a “love letter to the Midwest and to queer friendship.” She was awarded a \$1,500 prize and entry and travel allowance to the Stockholm Writers Festival, which took place August 12–14, 2022. The award included a meeting with a literary agent.

Ben Johnson, BFA ’05, Chesterland, OH, received the Labino Award for Excellence in Glass for his artwork titled *Wheat Field*, in the Best of 2022 Exhibition at the Ohio Craft Museum, May 8–June 26, 2022. His work has received numerous best-in-show awards, and he has been recognized as a Rising Star in contemporary glass at the Museum of American Glass in Millville, NJ. He is currently chair of Craft + Design

and academic coordinator of glass at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Jarrod Mulheman, BSE ’05, Chagrin Falls, OH, was hired as Chagrin Falls Schools director of student advancement, a newly created position. He received a two-year contract, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

John Paul, BS ’05, South Bend, IN, an Emmy-nominated journalist, joined WSBT-TV 22 (covering the South Bend area) as evening co-anchor, as of July 25, 2022.

Maria Sheakley, PhD ’05, Richland, MI, was named associate dean for student affairs for the Homer Stryker School of Medicine at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, as of April 2022.

Stephanie Sweany, BS ’05, Canton, OH, was appointed executive director of the Stark County Hunger Task Force in March 2022. She has been with the organization since 2017, most recently as assistant director. Sweaney was the 2020 recipient of the Kent State Alumni Association’s Advocacy Award.

Toby Keeton, BS ’06, BArc ’07, Wilmington, NC, has been elevated to partner-principal at Kersting Architecture in Wilmington. He joined the firm in 2008 and has been involved in the design and construction of several award-winning projects. He has won several competitions, including Architecture for Humanity’s 2008 international design competition and *Dwell* magazine’s 2009 Innovate It! industrial design challenge.

Chad Lensman, BBA ’06, St. Paris, OH, has been named superintendent of Graham Local Schools in Champaign County, Ohio, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Sarah Shendy, BA ’06, Cuyahoga Falls, OH, was selected as one of the International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 Under 40 award winners for 2022. The annual awards program honors 40 law enforcement leaders under the age of 40 from around the world who demonstrate leadership and exemplify a deep commitment to the profession. The winners will be recognized on the IACP’s website and featured in the November 2022 issue of *Police Chief* magazine.

Danielle Renee Smeach, BA ’06, Cleveland, OH, graduated in April 2022 from Ohio University with a master’s degree in business administration.

Mark Treen, BSE ’06, Akron, OH, was selected as principal of Tallmadge High School, effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Kristin Walls, BA ’06, Crestwood, KY, is an American Meteorological Society Certified Broadcast Meteorologist and the morning meteorologist for Spectrum News 1 in Kentucky. Most recently, she and the Spectrum News 1 team had continuous live coverage of the December 2021 Mayfield tornado outbreak in Kentucky.

Arianna (Neading) DeGeorge, BSE ’07, Cleveland, OH, has been named principal at Bryden Elementary School in Beachwood, Ohio, as of June 2022.

Harley King, BS ’07, Memphis, TN, was hired as associate athletic director for compliance at the University of Memphis.

Wendy Tietz, PhD ’07, Kent, OH, professor of accounting in Kent State’s Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, received a 2022 Bea Sanders/AICPA Teaching Innovation Award from the American Institute of CPAs in July. She was a previous winner in 2017 and 2014. She also received the prestigious 2020 American Accounting Association’s J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook/Deloitte Foundation Prize for superior undergraduate teaching in accounting.

Derek Varansky, AS ’07, BSE ’09, Bolivar, OH, was approved as superintendent of Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools, as of July 1, 2022.

Hallie Crouch, BS ’08, MArc ’09, Akron, OH, has been chosen for the Cleveland Bridge Builders Class of 2023, a selective leadership program hosted by the Cleveland Leadership Center. She is an associate principal at Bialosky Cleveland, the first nontraditional practitioner to hold the title. She contributes and advises on many dimensions of the practice, including business development, marketing and strategic planning. She has presented on the topics of equity and alternative careers at design schools and architecture conferences, including the 2019 National Women’s Leadership Summit. She is a frequent juror of student work at Kent State University.

Meagan Shaheen, BS ’08, Canton, OH, was named the new chief executive officer of the Tuscarawas YMCA, effective Oct. 31. Previously, she was the district executive director of the YMCA of Central Stark County’s Meyers Lake and Eric Snow Family branches. In that role, she was named a “Twenty under 40!” honoree for 2022 by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and *The Repository*. The award recognizes Stark County leaders under age 40 who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.

Cathryn Siegal-Berman, MA ’08, Cleveland, OH, is founder of Clevo Books, which opened a brick-and-mortar bookstore in downtown Cleveland’s 5th Street Arcades on March 31, 2022. The shop focuses on texts from around the world translated into English, along with a small selection of local literature, puzzles and accessories. The brand’s publishing arm, which she began in 2015, is set to release several new translated titles, including cookbooks about Jewish and Korean cuisine.

Sara J. Wilson, BA ’08, Canal Fulton, OH, was sworn in as chief of the Canal Fulton Police Department in July 2022. She is the city’s first woman police chief. She worked as a police officer for the Canal Fulton Police for nine years before her promotion.

Ashley Johnson, BA ’09, Cleveland, OH, was named a “Twenty under 40!” honoree for 2022 by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and *The Repository*. Johnson is senior project manager at Innis Maggiore, an ad agency in Canton, and has been a board member with the Domestic Violence Project since 2019. The award recognizes Stark County leaders under age 40 who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.

Anna Kowalksa, BA ’09, MA ’14, Smyrna, GA, was announced as the 13th head women’s basketball coach for Wheeling University in West Virginia on May 23, 2022.

Jason Mogus, BA ’09, Waynesburg, OH, was named a “Twenty under 40!” honoree for 2022 by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and *The Repository* in Canton. Mogus is owner and clinical director of the Center for Renewed Minds LLC. The award recognizes Stark County leaders under age 40 who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.

Christian Palich, BA ’09, Plain City, OH, was appointed by Gov. Mike DeWine to the Kent State University Board of Trustees in June 2022. He will serve through May 16, 2031. Palich is vice president of public affairs for Taft, Stettinus & Hollister, where he advocates on behalf of clients in multiple sectors in Washington, DC; Columbus, Ohio; and states across the nation.

Ikeshia Smith, BS ’09, Canton, OH, a clinical psychologist, hosted the first Stark County Minority Mental Health Gala: Bridging the Gap Between Mental Health Agencies and Minority Churches, at First Christian Church’s Heritage Hall on July 8, 2022. Smith is chief strategist for Mind Your Business, a religious nonprofit organization dedicated to the psychological well-being of communities and churches.

2010s

Kent Hamilton, BS ’10, Canton, OH, was named a “Twenty under 40!” honoree for 2022 by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and *The Repository*. Hamilton is a physical education teacher for Plain Local Schools. The award recognizes Stark County leaders under age 40 who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.

Stephanie Hand-Cannane, BA ’10, Massillon, OH, has been selected to participate in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity’s Pathfinder Program, which offers resources to early-career attorneys for developing foundational leadership skills. She is an associate in the Cleveland office of McGlinchey Stafford. She was named to *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* list in 2021 and recognized as a Rising Star by *Ohio Super Lawyers* in 2021–2022. She is active with the Ohio State Bar Association and the Ohio Women’s Bar Association.

Nitie Sroa, DPM ’10, Bryan, Ohio, a board-certified surgical podiatrist, is seeing patients at the Midwest Foot and Ankle Clinic at Paulding County Hospital in Paulding, as of May 2022. Sroa is a Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

Travis Clarke, BS ’11, Marc ’12, Cleveland, OH, has been promoted to associate at Bialosky Cleveland after five years with the firm. He has served as an architectural designer for high-profile projects, including the NASA Glenn Research Center Research Support Building in Cleveland and the US Ashley Courthouse modernization and annex in Toledo.

Chris Mobley, BSE ’11, Dayton, OH, was named head football coach at West Carrollton High School near Dayton, effective Feb. 28, 2022.

Sandy (Weigel) Tilberg, BA ’11, Lakewood, OH, has been promoted to senior interior designer at Bialosky Cleveland. Over her 10 years at the firm, she’s brought a sophisticated and detailed design approach to projects ranging from interior renovations to new construction. Notable works include John Carroll University’s Student Success Center in University Heights and the 375-unit mixed-use development, Belle Oaks, in Richmond Heights.

Brittany House Conrad, MEd ’12, CER6 ’12, Marengo, OH, was named the COMPASS team’s executive director of career engagement and professional development at Wittenberg University on March 20, 2022.

Jessica Leveto, PhD ’12, CER6 ’21, Conneaut, OH, associate professor of sociology at Kent State University at Ashtabula, is examining the impact of COVID-19 on mothers in academia and policies that will make higher education more accessible for caregiving faculty and

students. A mother of three, she is the founder and administrator of PhD Mamas, an online support community of more than 14,000 mothers in academia worldwide.

Coty Giannelli, BS ’13, and **Hayley Bennett, BFA ’08, MA ’14**, Kent, OH, are renovating the unique brick building at the corner of Depeyster and Summit streets to house their new business, Board and Bevy, to open in October or November 2022. Its family-friendly focus is on playing board games geared toward all ages and skill levels, in addition to food and unique local beverages.

Erik Mathis, MA ’13, Strongsville, OH, joined Cleveland State University as senior associate athletics director for compliance in June 2022.

Rich Pierce, BS ’13, Aliquippa, PA, joined WPXI-TV (Pittsburgh, PA) as a general assignment reporter, effective June 27, 2022.

Codi Pilkington, BA ’13, BA ’13, MLIS ’22, Geneva OH, was promoted to public services manager at Geneva Public Library in July 2022.

Jeffrey Rothweiler, MLIS ’13, Newark, OH, is the director and fiscal officer for the Pataskala Public Library as well as president of the Pataskala Area Chamber of Commerce and the fiscal officer for Alexandria Public Library.

Corey Conners, BS ’14, Jupiter, FL, PGA Tour golfer, joined DemandScience as brand ambassador for the global B2B data company in June 2022. The company now partners with 15 elite professional golfers from North America and Europe who use its branded yardage books during play as they determine their best competitive moves.

Conners, who majored in actuarial mathematics at Kent State and turned pro in 2015, says, “Using data and analysis as part of my decision-making on the golf course has been a key to success.” As of Sept. 1, Connors ranks 26th in the FedExCup standings.

Chelsea (McIntire) Gayre, AAS ’14, BSN ’19, Juliette, GA, a graduate student in the College of Nursing at Auburn University, was named to the 2022-23 class of Albert Schweitzer Fellows, the largest cohort to date for the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama. The class of 20 students will spend 13 months immersed in community public health projects. Gayre’s fellowship project involves implementing telehealth services within primary care offices.

Laura Catherine McIntosh, BA ’14, Astoria, NY, was hired as impact marketing manager of Harvard Medical School in June 2022. Most recently, she was global strategic marketing manager, medical device and pathology, at Charles River Laboratories since January 2021. She earned a master’s degree in global marketing management from Boston University in 2022.

Louis Myers, BA ’14, MLIS ’20, Washington, DC, legal reference librarian at the Law Library of Congress, presented a webinar, “An Overview of Treaty Research,” in August 2022. The webinar introduced resources and strategies to effectively research three areas of treaty practice: US bilateral treaties, foreign bilateral treaties and multilateral treaties.

Taylor Pendrith, BS ’14, Richmond Hill, ON, made a successful return to the PGA Tour in July 2022, after recovering from a rib injury he suffered while golfing in March. He tied for 2nd at the Rocket Mortgage Classic held July 28–31 at the Detroit Golf Club in Michigan and tied for 8th at the BMW Championship held Aug. 16–21 at the Wilmington Country Club in Delaware. As of Sept. 1, Pendrith ranks 47th in the FedExCup standings.

Dylan Ratell, BFA ’14, MFA ’22, Bay City, MI, was director and choreographer for a hit production of *Godspell* at Porthouse Theatre in July 2022. The rendition was the Broadway revival version, which ran in 2011-2012. (The original Stephen Schwartz musical premiered on Broadway in 1976.) Most of the cast were current Kent State students or graduates.

Krandall Brantley, BS ’15, Zanesville, OH, is diversity outreach coordinator at Zane State College in Zanesville. His role is to recruit and retain students of color and to work with Zanesville community leaders.

Alyssa Haberman, BS ’15, San Diego, CA, returned to Audacy Alternative radio “Alt 94.9” KBZT San Diego, as the station’s midday host, effective March 14, 2022.

Patricia Hartley, MA ’15, Florence, AL, is now content director for Ad4! Group. She has been part of the full-service agency for the last five years as their blogger.

Trevor Householder, XAS ’15, BSE ’15, Canton, OH, is education programmer for Stark Parks. He develops, coordinates and presents interpretive and educational programming and events in the areas of nature, history and recreation.

Kayla Ivey, BS ’15, Akron, OH, is a product development chemist at Gojo Industries in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where she is lead formulator for the Purell brand of hand sanitizer. In response to COVID-19, Ivey launched multiple hand sanitizer products, including a moisturizing two-in-one product. In August 2021, she introduced herself on Twitter using #BlackInChemRollCall—a hashtag for Black scientists to talk about their expertise and their journey in chemistry—and shared photos of two products she had developed. The tweet generated thousands of likes and invitations to speak at high school and college chemistry classes.

Marc Majers, MS ’15, Broadview Heights, OH, Kent State iSchool UXD adjunct professor, released his second book, *Make Your Customers Dance: The Key to User Experience is Knowing Your Audience* (independently published, December 2020). The book outlines a step-by-step process to design persuasive and effective user interfaces.

Ashley Moore, BBA ’15, XXA ’15, Mount Vernon, OH, was named a “Twenty under 40!” honoree for 2022 by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and *The Repository*. Moore is the Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital coordinator of community outreach. The award recognizes Stark County leaders under age 40 who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.

Zach Nowak, BSE ’15, MA ’17, Concord, OH, joined USA Hockey as coordinator of coaching education and player development assistant, effective April 11, 2022. Most recently, he served as head coach of the Kent State University D1 club ice hockey team in 2021–22 and previously was head coach of the inaugural D3 club team for Kent State.

Christopher Persons, BS ’15, Marc ’16, Cleveland, OH, has become a licensed architect in Ohio. He is an associate at Bialosky Cleveland, where he has designed and managed projects since 2015. His graduate project, Drydock No. 2, earned a Merit Award from AIA Cleveland in 2016. His current projects include Library Lofts in the University Circle neighborhood of Cleveland and MAGNET, an innovation hub for manufacturing and workforce development in Cleveland’s Midtown neighborhood.

Ethan Rothermel, BS ’15, Marc ’16, Cleveland, OH, has become a licensed architect in Ohio. He joined Bialosky Cleveland last year with a design portfolio that spanned architecture and furniture design. Rothermel earned a master’s degree in architecture from Kent State, which included a semester abroad in Florence, Italy. He is currently a project architect on two significant projects—Library Lofts in Cleveland’s University Circle neighborhood and the Walz Library Branch/Karam Senior Housing development in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood in Cleveland.

Alexander Wigoda, BS ’15, Sedro-Woolley, WA, is the principal of schedule optimization for Alaska Airlines. The airline launched its first nonstop flight from Cleveland to Seattle on June 16, 2022. Wigoda was on the inaugural eastbound flight from Seattle, which was greeted with a water-cannon salute upon landing. The Pittsburgh native chose the numbers for the new Cleveland flights, playing off the region’s area codes: The eastbound flight is AS 216, westbound is AS 330.

Greta (Cukrov) Babakhanova, MS ’16, PhD ’19, North Potomac, MD, is a physicist in the Biomaterials Group of the Biosystems and Biomaterials Division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

In her article “How Henrietta Lacks Changed My View of Human Cells as a Physicist” (YubaNet.com, June 2022), Babakhanova wrote about how reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot gave her a new appreciation for the donors of the human biological cells she studies in the lab.

Brandon Lazenko, BS ’16, Kent, OH, is co-producing and directing an adaptation of Stephen King’s short story “Nona,” published in King’s 1978 *Shadows* anthology. In the story, a young professor is hitchhiking back to his hometown after being fired and gets involved with a woman who is seeking vengeance.

The project is part of King’s Dollar Baby program, which allows students and independent filmmakers to apply for the rights to adapt a lesser-known King story for \$1. Lazenko and others involved in the project—including co-writer and producer **Shelby Wyant, BSE ’18**, Bexley, OH, and executive producers Robert Kurtzman and his wife, Marcy King, (who have worked on other King adaptations)—secured funding for the film and began production mid-August. Most of the crew met in college at Kent State. So far, Lazenko has made two miniseries and four short films, including 2021’s award-winning *A Serpent by the Nest*.

Danniel Thomas-Dodd, BS ’16, MA ’17, Kent, OH, former Kent State national shot put champion, placed 10th in the World Athletics Championships at the University of Oregon’s Hayward Field. She recorded a top throw of 18.29 meters (just over 60 feet). Thomas-Dodd placed sixth at the World Athletics Indoor Championships held in March 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Katelyn Walker, BA ’16, Cleveland, OH, an interior designer with Bialosky Cleveland, was named to the “20 in Their Twenties” list by *Crain’s Cleveland Business* in June 2022. She joined Bialosky Cleveland in 2016 and has established her reputation as an accomplished interior designer, a selfless volunteer and an advocate for wellness in the built environment.

Alexis Walters, BA ’16, BS ’16, Cleveland, OH, joined Fox 8 News as a meteorologist on March 30, 2022.

Nicholas Holley, BBA ’17, Ottawa Lake, MI, was signed to the Calgary Stampeders as a receiver in February 2022. At Kent State, Holley was a member of the Football Academic All-MAC (Mid-American Conference) Team in 2014 and 2016.

Sarah Matthews, BS '17, Washington, DC, who served as deputy press secretary for President Donald Trump, appeared on July 21, 2022, before the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack. She had resigned from her position shortly after a mob stormed and vandalized the Capitol. She now works as the communications director for Republicans on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, a position she has held since February 2021.

Devvon Dettra, CER8 '18, Pleasant City, OH, was named superintendent of Rolling Hills School District in Cambridge, Ohio, as of July 31, 2022.

Von E. Jones Jr., BS '18, Stow, OH, was inducted into Marquis Who's Who in March 2022. He has worked as a building mechanic contractor for FirstEnergy since 2018. In addition, he has owned and operated Mobile Foamzone & Detailing since 2019. His successful Black-owned business has been featured in the *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Cleveland Magazine* and *The Stow Sentry*.

Talia Hodge, BS '18, Coventry Township, OH, was awarded a fellowship grant for a project sponsored by the Akron Black Artist Guild, with funding from the Ohio Arts Council. The Reimagine Fellowship pairs three artists with community organizations in three neighborhoods. Hodge, a photographer, plans to create a portrait series of people who are symbolic of the Kenmore community's character.

Paige Bennett, XAS '19, BS '20, Olmsted Township, OH, began working for *The Repository* in Canton in November 2020 as a reporter who covers Alliance and western Mahoning County. She previously worked as an intern for the Collaborative NewsLab at Kent State.

Loubens Delice, BSN '19, Falling Waters, WV, is the administrator for The Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute-East and Orthopaedic Service Line at West Virginia University Medicine Berkeley Medical Center and Jefferson Medical Center.

Lacy Talley, BA '19, Cleveland, OH, and **Jason Garrett, BA '12**, Cleveland Heights, OH, were two of three Clevelanders who helped design the NBA's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Trophy, which was unveiled on April 3, 2022. The trophy, which depicts the NBA legend holding a basketball, will be awarded each year to the league's Social Justice Champion.

Lily Grace Schaffer, AS '19, BS '20, Mount Vernon, OH, joined *The Business Journal* reporting team in Youngstown, Ohio, to cover technology-related business news, as of June 2022.

Kyle Stotzer, AAS '19, BSE '21, Mineral City, OH, was named head varsity baseball coach at Malvern High School in Malvern, Ohio.

Stotzer earned five varsity letters as a player at Kent State University at Tuscarawas, where he played middle infield, earned 2020 USCAA All-American honors and was named team captain for three seasons.

2020s

Nick Anello, BS '20, North Olmsted, OH, joined Bialosky Cleveland as an architectural designer in 2022, after earning a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan. As a student he was a CNC coordinator and brings that interest in fabrication and making to his work. [CNC, or computer numerical control, is the automated control of machining tools by means of a computer.] Before joining Bialosky, he worked on the Spatial Laminated Timber (SPLAM) Pavilion for the Chicago Biennial, which received a national award from the American Institute of Architects. He is currently working on Belle Oaks, a 375-unit mixed-use development in Richmond Heights, Ohio.

Jamal Parker Jr., BS '20, Pennsauken, NJ, former Kent State football defensive back, signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in May 2022. During his junior season as a Golden Flash, Parker was named a team captain and started each game. Athlon Sports named him to the All-MAC First Team Defense and All-MAC Third Team Specialists in 2019.

Keshunn Abram, BBA '21, Southaven, MS, wide receiver, signed a free agent contract with the New York Jets following the 2022 NFL Draft on April 30, 2022. Abram finished last season with 47 catches for 699 yards and three touchdowns, and he caught at least one pass in all 14 games.

Dustin Crum, BS '21, Kent, OH, quarterback, signed a free agent contract with the Kansas City Chiefs following the 2022 NFL Draft on April 30, 2022. Crum was the 2021 Mid-American Conference Player of the Year. He became the first KSU quarterback to throw for over 3,000 yards in a season in 2021, while leading his team to the MAC East Division Championship. He joined Joshua Cribbs as the only Golden Flashes to top 9,000 career total yards (7,420 passing, 2,071 rushing), and finished his collegiate career with 55 touchdown passes.

Azure Fernsler, BA '21, Reading, PA, former Kent State field hockey standout goalkeeper, was nominated for the 2022 NCAA Woman of the Year award. She was named MAC Defensive Player of the Year after leading the Golden Flashes to a share of the 2021 regular season conference championship and a top-25 spot in the National Coaches Poll for eight consecutive weeks.

Michael Turner, BS '21, Warren, OH, was drafted by the Chicago White Sox with the 281st overall pick in the ninth round of the 2022 MLB Draft on July 18, 2022.

Antonio Williams, BIS '21, Chicago, IL, signed a contract extension with the Plymouth City Patriots (Plymouth, England) for the 2022-23 season of the British Basketball League.

Kalp Champaneri, BA '22, BS '22, Cleveland, OH, joined Bialosky Cleveland as a construction administrator after graduating from Kent State in 2022 with bachelor's degrees in construction management and architectural studies. Originally from Mumbai, India, Champaneri served as a Global Ambassador at Kent State to be a cultural liaison for international students. He currently supports construction management on Laurel School projects in Northeast Ohio.

Zaria Johnson, BS '22, Richmond Heights, OH, landed a job as a metro desk intern with *The Columbus Dispatch* in summer 2022. At Kent State, Johnson worked as writer and editor-in-chief for *UHURU Magazine*, the magazine for Kent State's communities of color, and worked with *The Kent Stater* and *KentWired* as a reporter, editor and editor-in-chief.

Jenna Mar, BA '22, Dublin, OH, was named head coach of girls tennis for the St. Francis DeSales Stallions on June 8, 2022. She had been teaching at Wickertree Tennis Club since age 15 and played for Kent State's club team.

Jyae McWilson, BS '22, Cleveland, OH, joined Bialosky Cleveland in 2022 as an architectural designer after graduating with a bachelor's degree in architecture from Kent State. She contributes to the firm's projects, including Hawthorne School in Lorain, The Lincoln Tremont in Cleveland and the restoration and adaptive re-use of Park Synagogue in Cleveland Heights. She plans to pursue a master's degree in architecture.

Micah Young, BS '22, Chardon, OH, was named the varsity boys basketball coach for the West Geauga Wolverines (his high school alma mater), on May 30, 2022.

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