



P.O. Box 5190 • Kent, OH 44242-0001
University Communications and Marketing
101188
Electronic Service Requested



SPRING/SUMMER 2023

KENT STATE

M A G A Z I N E

Kent State **WORKS**



TRAINING AND RETAINING OHIO'S
WORKFORCE IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE
STATE OF OHIO AND BEYOND.

See the Kent State Works special section
beginning on page 16



ON THE COVER
Kent State University is an economic anchor for Ohio and the region.
Illustration by Jason Zehner, BS '04, BA '11

CONTENTS | SPRING/SUMMER 2023

Most of the stories in this issue focus on some aspect of Kent State University’s impact on Ohio’s economy and workforce development.

FEATURES

Kent State Works


- 14** Intro
- 16** Kent State Works at Cleveland Clinic
- 19** Kent State Works at Progressive Insurance
- 20** Northeast Ohio Public Universities Collaborate on Research and Innovation
- 22** Boost for Ohio Businesses (LaunchNET Microgrants)
- 23** Upcycled Fashion Comes to Kent
- 24** Partnerships Have Redefined Kent State and the City of Kent
 - 25** Seasonal skating rink draws thousands to downtown Kent
 - 26** Main Street Kent director helps downtown Kent thrive
 - 27** Helping senior citizens connect with their community
 - 28** Working together toward a more sustainable future
- 29** Bright Future for Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology Students

PROFILES

- 30** Women of the House
(Emilia Strong Sykes, BA '07, JD; Gail Pavliga, BA '91, MA '98, PhD)
- 32** Taking Care of Business (John Karakadas, BBA '82)

DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Readers Respond
- 5** President’s Perspective
- 6** Flash Forward
- 34** Alumni | Flashes Give Back Week
- 35** Alumni | Class Notes
- 38** In Memory
- 40** Giving Voice

Squirrel Search: In each issue, we hide an image of a black squirrel on three pages (not including the Contents page). If you find all three, you qualify for a drawing to win a squirrel-themed prize. Each squirrel will appear like this  (shown actual size; it will not be distorted or rotated).

When you find them, send an email to magazine@kent.edu, listing the three page numbers and places they appear, plus your name and mailing address. For rules and eligibility requirements see www.kent.edu/magazine/rules. Good luck!

Aerial view of the Kent Campus. Photo by Bob Christy, BS '95, MA '22

**DIRECTOR,
CONTENT STRATEGY**
Jen Lennon

EDITOR
Jan Senn | jsenn1@kent.edu

DESIGN
UCM Creative Team

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS
Lisa Abraham
Lisa Higgs, BA '80
April McClellan-Copeland
Bethany Sava, BS '12
Melanie Secre
Phil Soencksen, BS '89
Lindsey Vlasic, BA '22

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Greta Bell, BS '22
Bob Christy, BS '95, MA '22
Rami Daud

WEBSITE
www.kent.edu/magazine



CORRESPONDENCE

Kent State Magazine, 160 ASB
P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242
magazine@kent.edu
330-672-2727

Kent State Magazine is published
by Kent State University
Communications and Marketing. It
is available to faculty, staff, alumni,
donors and friends of the university
two times a year (fall/winter,
spring/summer).

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Shawn M. Riley, BA '83

PRESIDENT
Todd A. Diacon, PhD

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
AND PROVOST**
Melody Tankersley, PhD

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**
Mark M. Polatajko, PhD

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING**
Stephen Ward

READERS RESPOND

TRAVEL ENTHUSIAST

Thanks for a fun [squirrel search] contest in a great issue! I had the chance to go to China with a group of CCI students, and it changed my life. I became very excited about traveling internationally.

My daughter [Taylor Kopunovitz, BBA '12, BS '12, MS '14] and I have traveled to London and Portugal so far, and we have a trip planned to Copenhagen this December and Croatia the following September. And there are many other countries on my list!

ALICE KOPUNOVITZ, BM '80
Special assistant, Department of
Biological Sciences
Kent Campus

READING ABOUT RWANDA

Great fall/winter 2022-23 issue of the magazine. I have known Pacifique [Niyonzima] for some time. I very much enjoyed the article about our partnership with the University of Rwanda ["Shared Learning in Rwanda"]. And I love the squirrel search. Thanks for the good read and fun exercise.

CHRIS JENKINS
Assistant chief of Police Services
Assistant director of Public Safety
Kent Campus

SQUIRREL EXPERT



My dog, Oliver Wendell Holmes, is a squirrel sniffer. He even has a special outfit to wear for the occasion.

JERRY O'RYAN, MPH '17
Centerville, OH

HISTORY LESSONS

I really took my time reading this issue. So good to see Kent State has a thriving program internationally. I was an Air Force officer and learned a lot about other countries as I was stationed in Europe.

The pandemic course story ["Perfect Time for A Course on Pandemics," fall/winter 2022-23] brought back memories of military courses on the effects of pandemics in history.

Keep up the good work.

WILLIAM MAKI, BA '67
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

FOREVER FLASH

First off, let me thank you for sending the fall/winter 2022-23 edition. I am also a dinosaur who likes a printed copy. Please keep sending them. Kent State made me the person I am today, and I will be a Flash Forever!

THOMAS HAUNER, BSE '67
Saint Clairsville, OH

WARM WELCOME

I really enjoyed the story about Brigitta and Stephen Hanzély and their immigrant success and love story ["A Walk Down Memory Lane," fall/winter 2022-23]. I didn't know English professor [W. Leslie] Garnett, but my father, A.E. Schroeder, professor of German and chair of the foreign languages department, was equally welcoming and mentoring to foreign students.

Since Brigitta majored in German, she was one of his students. I'm proud that Kent State continues to welcome foreign students and encourage the study of foreign languages.

RICHARD SCHROEDER, BA '64
Washington, DC

PLEASED PARENT

I enjoyed reading this magazine, especially since my daughter is currently in Florence with Kent State University. Thank you for a job well done!

LYNNE BREITENSTEIN-ALIBERTI, BA '92
Shaker Heights, OH

FAMILY VISIT



Pictured (left to right): Bert, Caitlin and Carol Drennen in Bellagio, Lake Como, Italy

We enjoyed your issue on Growing Global [fall/winter 2022-23] and especially the "50 Years of Florence" article. Our daughter, Caitlin Drennen DeSouza, spent a semester abroad in Florence (2009), which gave us an excuse to return to that beautiful city, this time with a personal guide.

Caitlin had already made scheduled class trips to London, Paris and Milan, and weekend trips to Dublin, Munich and Pisa, so she knew enough Italian to make train travel easy and to order from a waiter in remote areas. While we were there, she took us for weekend trips to Lake Como and Venice, and we made day trips to Pisa and Cinque Terre while she was in class. She also took us to her favorite pizza place and cooked dinner for us in her small apartment.

For those two weeks we walked miles and really got to know Florence. We wonder how many other Kent parents visited their students during their semester abroad.

BERT DRENNEN | CAROL DRENNEN
(Carol is a retired director of nursing and allied health at Kent State Ashtabula)
Broadview Heights, OH

FIRST IN FLORENCE

Boy, it's been 50 years already?? I was in that first group to study in Florence back in 1972 ["50 Years of Florence," fall/winter 2022-23]. It was a trip. It changed my life.

I realized how to study, understand and follow architecture with the masters—seeing the works of Le Corbusier, Mies van Der Rohe, Eero Saarinen and Gaudi.

That first group gave us some liberties and boy did we expand them—but we learned a heck of a lot. It changed our consciousness of design.

Form really follows function. Less really is more. I became a better student. I became a better architect.

Since 1972 I have returned to Europe countless times to further expand my horizons. Revisited some, discovered more.

My Florence experience never ends.

GARY GOLOGORSKY, BARC '73
Myrtle Beach, SC

LEARNING AND LEGACY

In reading the article, "50 Years of Florence," I wanted to relate two stories that I think illustrate the value and impact of this program.

I have been an architect for nearly 50 years. When I retired from the private architectural firm where I was a partner and principal, I discovered architects don't retire, they redesign themselves. In building my career path, I came to appreciate that we are the legacy of those who came before us, who provided us an example and shaped our lives.

To that point, here's a conversation I had with my son, who is also an architect [Brandon L. Kline, MARCH '07], when he was a student at Kent State's Florence studio [in 2006].

He had just arrived there with his classmates and, after unpacking their belongings, they took a walk to become familiar with their new home. Finding themselves at an interesting place, he wanted to share a unique

observation with me. As I picked up the phone, he greeted me with, "Hi Dad, guess where I am?" I said, "Of course you're in Florence. And as you just arrived, you are not likely out of money yet?"

He went on, "No, guess where I am standing?" Having been to Florence myself several times, I considered what might be the single most impressive and influential place to an architecture student. I responded, "You are in the Laurentian Library standing on Michelangelo's stairs!"

"Right," he said. "But now guess what I just realized? I am the legacy of this work and need to learn from it and pass it on to future generations." When I heard this, my first thought was, *Who are you and what happened to Brandon?* Then I told him, "That is what I hoped you would learn in Italy, and you got it on day one. Now, go absorb the details."

My wife and I had hoped to visit our son while he was in Italy, but due to an illness in the family, we were unable to go.

However, 10 years ago we decided to take all our kids on a family trip to celebrate my wife's 60th birthday. As both our son and daughter-in-law had attended the Florence program, we made it a point to visit the studio. We enlisted one of the professors, Rocky Ruggiero, PhD, to be our guide while in Florence. He was great.

One of the sites he took us to, the church of Santa Maria Novella, included a fresco painted in 1425 by the Renaissance artist Masaccio. I was so taken with Rocky's illumination of the story behind it, that I incorporated it into my class lecture in the Arch 10001 course, Understanding Architecture, which I have taught for the last 10 years.

JUDSON KLINE, FAIA
Adjunct professor, College of Architecture
and Environmental Design
Orange Village, OH →



Pictured (left): Debbie and Joel Schackne; pictured (right): Giorgio Ridolfi and Joel Schackne

FANS OF FLORENCE

From 1965-1970, I attended Kent State University on a tennis scholarship, recruited by Karl Chesnutt. I was also a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. I was at the May 4, 1970, rally with my girlfriend, Sandy Scheuer, one of the four students killed that day.

Kent State was an important part of my life in developing my values, making academic and social interactions, and leading me into a great teaching career. The illustrious mathematics professor Dr. Kenneth Cummins was a mentor to me. From 1970-2006, I taught high school mathematics in the gifted program, as well as advanced placement statistics at Miami Dade County Public Schools. In 1998-1999, I was MDCPS Senior High School Math Teacher of the Year.

My wife, Debbie, and I recently returned from a 17-day trip to Switzerland and Italy. From a previous issue of *Kent State Magazine*, I'd read of the Kent State Florence campus. As we were walking around Florence, we turned a corner onto Via Cavour and immediately saw the Kent State

Florence Center. It was late Friday afternoon; we rang the doorbell and Giorgio Ridolfi, receptionist and student life coordinator, warmly greeted us. He showed us around the first floor of the building and suggested that we come back the next day.

When we returned Saturday, Giorgio presented Debbie and me with a present—KSU Florence T-shirts [see photo above]. After seeing more of the building, Debbie and I relaxed in the courtyard as we ate our lunch.

Giorgio represents many great values that Kent State traditions have developed, especially respectfulness to other individuals.

Coincidentally, I just received the fall/winter 2022-23 *Kent State Magazine*, which has an article, "50 Years of Florence." We loved Florence.

I am thankful for a great college education and a lifetime of continual connections around the world with Kent State University.

JOEL SCHACKNE, BBA '69, BSE '70
Davie, FL

FEELING PROUD

Thank you for a great magazine. So much in here to feel pride about.

CHRISTINA KUKUK, BA '00
Ashland, OR

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

Congratulations to Dale Walter, BS '73, MA '85, San Diego, CA, the lucky winner of the random-generated drawing from correct submissions to the magazine's Squirrel Search contest. He received a box of black-squirrel-themed swag from Black Squirrel Gifts in downtown Kent.

The black squirrels can be found in the fall/winter 2022-23 print edition on page 15 (on the Piazza del Duomo, listening to Fabrizio Ricciardelli, PhD, director of the Kent State University Florence Center), page 25 (in a tree overlooking sponsored students from Rwanda) and page 42 (hanging out with the Grand Marshals of the 2022 Homecoming Parade).

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @KentState
www.facebook.com/kentstate
Instagram: @KentState
www.instagram.com/kentstate/
LinkedIn: Kent State University
www.linkedin.com/school/kent-state-university/
Snapchat: @KentStateU
www.snapchat.com/add/kentstateu
TikTok: @KentStateU
www.tiktok.com/@kentstateu
Twitter: @KentState
www.twitter.com/KentState
YouTube: @KentStateTV
www.youtube.com/@KentStateTV

We want to hear from you!

Respond to magazine content or comment on topics related to Kent State by writing:
Kent State Magazine
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242-0001
or magazine@kent.edu.
Responses may be edited for style, length, clarity and civility.

Working It

Commencement is my favorite time of the year. I have the best seat in the house to watch our amazing students celebrate their successes with friends and family. After each ceremony, Provost Tankersley and I revel in the opportunity to meet graduates individually and to take impromptu photos with them in and around Risman Plaza.

Each year, Kent State graduates more than 10,000 students with degrees that empower them to become productive members of the workforce or find career enhancement with an advanced degree. More than 63% of our graduates remain in Ohio and throughout their lifetimes will be strong contributors to the state's economy.

Annually, Kent State University operations and alumni in Ohio generate \$4.9 billion in economic impact.

We address areas where jobs are in critical demand, our graduates fill those roles, and collectively our alumni become productive citizens for the state. Along the way, we offer services such as our Rising Scholars Program to help provide a path to a brighter future for some of the most underserved rural Ohioans.

Our College of Nursing produces more Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates than any other university in Ohio, and an impressive 99.6% of those students have nursing jobs upon graduation. Our graduates fill vital jobs in hospital systems throughout Northeast Ohio—in places like Cleveland Clinic, which employs more than 2,300 Kent State graduates, about half of which came from our College of Nursing. Our graduates fill critical roles that help make Northeast Ohio a hub for some of the highest-quality healthcare in the nation.

Most recently, our Board of Trustees approved the creation of five new bachelor's degrees within our College of Aeronautics and Engineering. They address the ongoing pilot shortage and speak to the growing need for well-trained employees within the aerospace industry.

One of our new majors, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Operations, will offer a bachelor's degree for professional drone pilots. It will ensure that Ohio is



not just the birthplace of aviation (home to Wilbur and Orville Wright, who invented and flew the first aircraft), but will remain on the forefront of aviation technology.

Kent State research labs give birth to innovations that fuel future generations of business, industry and technology and will solve problems to make the world a better place. This includes the work being done by Kent State researchers from our College of Architecture and Environmental Design to design safer, more efficient trauma rooms within hospital emergency rooms that facilitate better patient care and save lives.

At Kent State, we leverage every dollar we receive from the state of Ohio into \$10 for the state's economy. That is an impressive return on investment by any calculation.

We deliver a system of higher education that is working.

Kent State graduates are working. To put it simply, Kent State works.

Todd Diacon | President

Email: president@kent.edu
Instagram: @ksupresdiacon

Annually, Kent State University operations and alumni in Ohio generate \$4.9 billion in economic impact.

Kent State’s School of Fashion Turns 40!

AS THE SHANNON RODGERS AND JERRY SILVERMAN SCHOOL OF FASHION DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY, WE LOOK BACK AT SOME OF ITS IMPORTANT MILESTONES.



The atrium of Rockwell Hall

1981 President Brage Golding receives two checks for \$50,000 each as an initial contribution for a fashion design facility (Dec. 31, 1981).

1982 Kent State Board of Trustees passes a resolution to create a school of fashion design and merchandising (June 10, 1982).

Kent State University Dazzle Fashion Show (attended by the Duke and Duchess of Kent, England) is held in Cleveland as a fundraiser for the new school (Oct. 8, 1982).

1983 Fashion designer Shannon Rodgers and apparel manufacturer Jerry Silverman— New York retail fashion partners—donate their extensive fashion collection to Kent State.

Their gift (which includes 4,000 costumes and accessories, nearly 1,000 pieces of decorative art and a 5,000-volume reference library) founds the Kent State University Museum, which is closely linked to the School of Fashion.

Stella Blum is appointed inaugural director of the Kent State University Museum (1983-1985).

Gladys R. Toulis is appointed inaugural director of the School of Fashion (1983-1985).

The School of Fashion officially opens with 350 students and three full-time and three part-time faculty (July 1, 1983).

The Kent State Board of Trustees approves the naming of The Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising (Dec. 9, 1983).

1985 Elizabeth K. Davic serves as interim director of the School of Fashion (1985-1986).

The Kent State University Museum opens to the public (Oct. 1985).

1986 June F. Mohler, PhD, is appointed director of the School of Fashion (1986-1993).

1987 The inaugural student fashion show is held in the Broadbent Gallery at the Kent State University Museum (May 5, 1987).

1989 The School of Fashion establishes its Hall of Fame (April 1989).

1990 A grand opening of the School of Fashion is held in the newly renovated Rockwell Hall (April 20, 1990).

1993 Jean Lawrence Druesedow is appointed director of the Kent State University Museum (1993-2018).

1994 Elizabeth A. Rhodes, PhD, is appointed director of the School of Fashion (1994-2009).

1997 The June F. Mohler Fashion Library opens in Rockwell Hall (Sept. 1997).

1998 The Morgan Foundation technology grants and endowment allow considerable expansion of technology within the school.

2002 The semester program in Florence, Italy, for fashion design and merchandising majors begins (fall).

2003 The School of Fashion celebrates its 20th anniversary with 750 students and 11 full-time and nine part-time faculty.



Study at Global Fashion Capitals

Fashion is a global industry. And Kent State University School of Fashion, consistently rated among the best fashion institutions in the world, continues to draw industry notice. Currently, it is the only fashion program in the United States that makes study away experience a compulsory part of the curriculum.

The School of Fashion’s Study Away program provides immersive opportunities for students to engage with international fashion industry professionals and observe street style and retail venues in some of the top fashion capitals of the world.

For more information visit www.kent.edu/fashion/study-away.

2006 Kent State’s New York City Studio (now known as Kent State University New York City Fashion) opens with Emily Aldredge as inaugural director (2006-2012).

2010 J.R. Campbell, MFA, is appointed director of what is then called The Fashion School (2010-2018).

The TechStyleLAB is initiated.

The Kent State University Museum celebrates its 25th anniversary (1985-2010) with the exhibit, *Katharine Hepburn: Dressed for Stage and Screen*.

2012 The Fashion School Store opens in downtown Kent (April 18).

2015 The KnitLAB is created with donors’ purchase of a state-of-the-art industrial knitting machine.

2018 Sarah J. Rogers is appointed director of the Kent State University Museum (July 2018).

2019 Louise Valentine, PhD, is appointed director of the School of Fashion (2019-2022).

2020 Ann Walters, BA ’96, MEd ’19, PhD ’23, is appointed director of Kent State University New York City Fashion, after serving as interim director since 2018.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, students present the school’s first virtual fashion show. (The 2021 Fashion Show is also presented virtually.)

2021 Kent State’s School of Fashion Design and Merchandising again ranks among the top 10 design and fashion merchandising programs in the United States according to Fashion-Schools.org.

2022 Mourad Krifa, PhD, is named interim director of the School of Fashion (May 22, 2022).

For the first time, Kent State School of Fashion students debut their work at New York Fashion Week (Sept. 9, 2022).

2023 2023 Annual Fashion Show (presented by Dillard’s) takes place in the Kent Student Center Ballroom (April 26-29, 2023).

—Phil Soencksen, BS ’89

2023 Hall of Fame

In 1989, The Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising inducted the first class of honorees into its School of Fashion Hall of Fame. The inaugural class included Rodgers and Silverman.

The Hall of Fame was established to recognize outstanding contributors to the world of fashion and create opportunities for Kent State fashion students to connect with leaders in the industry.

This year, as the School of Fashion celebrates its 40th anniversary, it has named Omar Salam, founder and creative director of the global fashion house Sukeina, as the 2023 inductee of Kent State University’s School of Fashion Hall of Fame.

Salam joins an illustrious group of inductees that includes Kenneth Cole, Estée Lauder, Oscar de la Renta, Dana Buchman, Leonardo Ferragamo and Josie Natori.

He plans to exhibit a selection of his spring/summer 2023 collection, titled “Cardinal,” this spring at the Kent State University Museum. A full exhibition of his work will follow in January 2024.



Omar Salam

Aviation Buffs

A shared passion for aviation has led both a daughter and her dad to enroll at Kent State’s College of Aeronautics and Engineering.

When my daughter, Kent State aeronautics major Camille Copeland, was almost 4 years old, my husband, Air Force veteran Noral Copeland, took her to the 2002 Cleveland National Air Show. They marveled at the vintage airplanes and aerobatics—and, of course, they stayed for the final act, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team.

Little did I know that the outing was the beginning of a Labor Day weekend tradition that this daddy/daughter duo from Oakwood Village, Ohio, would share for almost 20 years. And to my delight, they continue to find a meeting of their minds and hearts when it comes to airplanes, airports and all things aviation.

In recent years, my husband and daughter’s passion for aviation has intersected at Kent State’s College of Aeronautics and Engineering, where they are both aeronautics aviation management majors—she a senior and he a sophomore.

In 2018, Noral enrolled as a part-time student in the aeronautics program. Then last year, he retired from a career in meeting and event planning to devote more time to his studies in aviation management.

And I get to witness how proud he is to share the student experience with his daughter. “I love it,” he says. “It gives us something to discuss. I am very proud of my little girl.”

HOOKED ON AVIATION

Noral was 5 years old when he realized how much he loved aviation. “When I was a little boy my mom, dad and I took an airline flight from Kansas City, Missouri, to Memphis, Tennessee,” he remembers. “I have been hooked ever since.”

After high school, his love of aviation drew him like a magnet to the U.S. Air Force, in 1977 after his first stint in college. He served as an air crew member for six years and in the Air National Guard for more than three years.

When he left the Air Force, he went in a different direction with his career. “But my love of aviation had never gone away,” he says. “When Camille showed an interest, that led me back.”



Pictured (left to right): Camille Copeland, Noral Copeland and April McClellan-Copeland

My husband’s enjoyment of aviation began to rub off on me as soon as I met him in 1987. But I never joined my husband and daughter at the air show because they left the house at 7 a.m. (much too early for me) and I didn’t want to devote an entire day to looking at airplanes and stunts. Plus, I thought it was a great time for daddy and daughter to connect without mommy in the mix.

During the years they attended the annual air show together, Camille would tell her dad she wanted to do stunts like the air show performers.

At home, Noral had a flight simulator connected to our computer in the family room, and in her free time Camille frequently sat down and tried her hand at flying. Her transformation to an aviation buff, just like her dad, was well underway.

It continued into high school when her dad took her for a flying lesson at Burke Lakefront Airport. I was scared and had mixed feelings about her taking flight, but I didn’t interfere.

Camille (age 15) at the 2014 Cleveland National Air Show



Then, during her senior year of high school, Camille did a project on aviation and interned with an aviation company based at Burke. Although she started at Kent State with the intention of being a pilot, she later changed her concentration to aviation management—just like her dad.

Now she is working with him on planning Inspire Aviation’s Props and Pistons Festival at the Akron-Fulton Airport, to be held Aug. 19-20, 2023.

The Future of Aviation

There was a time when small passenger air vehicles, or sky taxis, as depicted in the popular 1962 cartoon show *The Jetsons*, were a concept far in the future. However, in 2023 Kent State is taking a leading role in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), a system of highly automated electric vehicles that transport people or cargo with an emphasis on safety and sustainability.

The College of Aeronautics and Engineering (CAE) is at the forefront of this emerging technology that will integrate autonomous aircraft such as sky taxis and delivery drones into the national airspace and the global economy.

CAE has proposed creating the Center for Advanced Air Mobility, which will foster research, education and collaboration among a multidisciplinary community of faculty, staff and students, as well as partners in government, academia and industry. The proposal, which has gone before the Faculty Senate and the Education Policy Committee, goes before the Board of Trustees on June 28.

“Initially, CAE will be operating the center from the Kent Campus,” says Christina Bloebaum, PhD, dean of the College of Aeronautics and Engineering. “Once we have funding, we will build a dedicated facility at the Kent State University Airport, where companies can test their technology, their designs and capabilities in flight.”

Already, areas at the airport are approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for flying this type of aircraft, she says. The FAA is working with universities and companies to develop policies for the aircraft.

“This is just formalizing what we already have here, which is incredibly extensive,” Bloebaum says. The college can draw on faculty expertise, related curriculum and an entire fleet of drones and aircraft, she says. The funding will initially come from CAE, with money generated from grants, fee for service, possible partnerships, events and other future sources.

Noral is logistics coordinator for the airshow and Camille will work as the airside coordinator, a liaison to exhibitors and emergency crews.

“Working on the air show together feels great because it’s like a full-circle moment,” she says. He agrees. “And I’m looking forward to being a proud dad on my daughter’s graduation.”

You can bet I’ll be joining them for that event.

— April McClellan-Copeland



Electric passenger drone

LEADING THE WAY ON AAM

Bloebaum was on the steering committee that developed the state’s AAM strategy, and she is the regional academic representative on the Jobs Ohio advisory committee, as the state leads the way in AAM development.

On May 2, Kent State hosted a conference, “Reaching New Heights in Advanced Air Mobility,” in partnership with Manufacturing Works, Team NEO, NEOFIX (Northeast Ohio Flight Information Exchange) and the Smart Manufacturing Cluster of Northeast Ohio. The full-day event featured plenary sessions and breakouts with an emphasis on supply chain opportunities. The day before, conference attendees were invited to view live drone demonstrations at Kent State’s airport.

Soon, CAE students will have the tools to meet the new demands that sky taxis and delivery drones will place on the national airspace.

Two of the five new Bachelor of Science degree programs recently approved by Kent State’s Board of Trustees are related to this emerging sector. Air Traffic and Airspace Management (one of the first degree programs of its kind in the country) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Operations will teach students the skills needed to manage an airspace filled with drones, flying taxis, personal aircraft and large commercial aircraft.

“This is being defined as the democratization of aviation because it becomes much more affordable for people to access aviation,” Bloebaum says. “They do not have to buy an airplane. There are now other alternatives.”

—April McClellan-Copeland

The Spring 2023 Bateman class includes members of the Blue (B) and Gold (G) teams. Back row (left to right): Katherine Masko (G), Travis Chambers (G), Alexandria Manthey (G), Alexander Zito (B), Macy Rosen (B) and Grace Kindl (B). Middle row (left to right): Camryn Lanning (G), Sage Mason (G), Professor Stefanie Moore, Laina Rayman (B) and Madison Goerl (B). Front row (left to right): Cassidy Grentz (G) and Mia Elizabeth (B).



Just the Facts

COURSE: MDJ-41192: PR and AD Practicum Bateman Case Study Competition

TERM: January 17 – May 2, 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Stefanie Moore, professor in the School of Media and Journalism

DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on participation in the 2023 Public Relations Student Society of America’s (PRSSA) National Bateman Case Study Competition. Each year the client changes.

OBJECTIVE: This course gives students the opportunity to develop and implement a real public relations campaign while working with a team.

ASSIGNMENT: According to the client brief on the competition’s web page, “The News Literacy Project is a nonpartisan education nonprofit building a national movement to advance the practice of news literacy throughout American society to create better informed, more engaged and more empowered individuals—and ultimately

a stronger democracy.” The client desires a comprehensive campaign that:

- » Builds greater awareness about the News Literacy Project and its mission.
- » Drives people to learn skills that will help them become news literate.
- » Empowers people to help stop the spread of misinformation.

CAMPAIGNS: Two Kent State teams (Blue and Gold) were tasked with creating and implementing a public relations campaign that would achieve the News Literacy Project’s goals.

Both teams used social media platforms such as Instagram to reach their target audiences. They emphasized the importance of news literacy in stopping the spread of misinformation (defined as misleading or false information that is hard to identify).

The **Bateman Gold team** targeted rural Northeast Ohioans, ages 18-34, with “Defeat the Deception.” They wanted to increase awareness and educate the target audience about resources that can help protect them and their communities from the spread of misinformation.

Through research, the Gold team found that many rural Americans feel forgotten or powerless regarding media coverage. The key message “You Have the Power to Defeat the Deception” was born. The team earned an honorable mention in the competition.

The **Bateman Blue team** targeted college students, ages 18-25, and Kent State students who identify as Latine (a gender-neutral form of the word Latino, created by communities in Spanish-speaking countries).

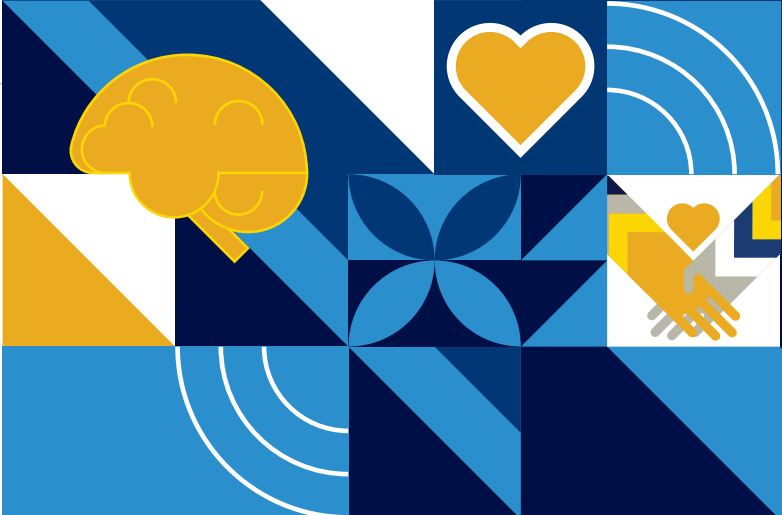
The Blue team’s campaign was “Truth is Trending.” The goal was to inspire its target audiences to stop the spread of misinformation and to empower young people in the Latine community to use their voices against media discrimination.

KEY TAKEAWAY: To stop the spread of misinformation, it is important to evaluate and verify information before sharing or reposting it on social media. Both teams encouraged their audiences to use News Literacy Project resources such as RumorGuard and Checkology to help identify misinformation, including RumorGuard’s five factors to evaluate credibility (see below).

—Cassidy Grentz, junior public relations major from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

FIVE FACTORS TO EVALUATE CREDIBILITY

- 1. Authenticity**
Social media posts, photos, videos and screenshots can easily be manipulated or fabricated. It is important to determine whether what you see online is genuine.
- 2. Source**
News organizations have guidelines to ensure accuracy, fairness, transparency and accountability. If no credible and reliable source of information has posted or confirmed a given claim it’s best to stay skeptical.
- 3. Evidence**
Many false claims are sheer assertions and either lack evidence or present fake and out-of-context elements. Evaluating a claim’s strength of evidence is a key fact-checking skill.
- 4. Context**
A common tactic used to spread misinformation online is to use authentic content (such as quotes, videos, data and even news reports) but change its context. For example, an old parade photo can easily be copied and reposted with a claim that it depicts a current political protest. Easy-to-use tools such as those found on RumorGuard can verify the original context of most digital content.
- 5. Reasoning**
Misinformation relies on flawed reasoning and typically targets our beliefs, attitudes and values to overrule rational thinking. Consider cognitive biases and logical fallacies and question whether claims are based on solid reasoning.



An Open Door to Health and Well-Being

Choosing among the many mental health and well-being services Kent State offers may seem daunting. However, with the recent launch of the Mental Health Resources and Support website, students, faculty and staff now have an online portal to the high-quality, personalized care and consultation available on all Kent State campuses.

Created by a team led by Talea Drummer-Ferrell, PhD ’14, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students, the new website empowers those seeking support for themselves or on behalf of someone else.

Use the portal to learn about the university’s enhanced services and support for:

- » **Mental health**, with expanded resources and more providers in Counseling and Psychological Services, including a flexible care model and after-hours telehealth support.
- » **Assistance with unmet basic needs**, through the Crisis, Advocacy, Resources, Education and Support (CARES) Center.
- » **Overall well-being**, with the recent grand opening of the Well Hub in the Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center.
- » **Advanced training and education**, through the Crisis Intervention Team and on-campus mental healthcare providers.

For mental health and well-being services and support visit www.kent.edu/mentalhealth.

One of the galleries at the May 4 Visitors Center highlights headlines from newspapers and magazines that show the impact of the May 4 shootings locally, nationally and internationally.



The exhibit,
The Vocal Majority:
1969, is on display
from Feb. 22
through
May 31, 2023.

Connecting the Story of May 4 to Today's Headlines

The May 4 Visitors Center (M4VC) is observing its 10th anniversary this spring. Following a “soft” opening in fall 2012, the center was officially dedicated as part of the May 4 Commemoration in 2013.

The center was created through the efforts and passion of Laura Davis, BA '73, MA '76, PhD '87, Professor Emerita of English, and Carole Barbato, BS '71, MA '75, PhD '94, professor of communication studies, who both were Kent State students in spring 1970. Davis was an eyewitness to the May 4 shootings. Barbato, who died in 2014, wrote several books about the events of May 4.

Lori Boes, MLIS '11, who has been affiliated with the center since its beginning, now serves as interim director. She says Davis and Barbato were inspired to create the center after attending a presentation by anti-war activist Tom Hayden. "He said, 'It's now time for you to tell your story.'" Laura and Carole took that as a call to action. They thought, "If we don't tell the story, who will be here to tell the story?"

DEVELOPING THE CENTER AND ITS MISSION

Davis and Barbato taught a course on May 4 at Kent State for nearly 20 years, after inheriting it from Jerry Lewis and Thomas Hensley, professors Emeriti of Sociology and Political Science. Through teaching that class, the way to present the story at the visitors center unfolded. Gallery by gallery it came together, as Davis and Barbato remembered the questions their students had about that day and that time period.

“When we first started building the center, it was really to tell the story of Sandy, Allison, Bill and Jeff,” says Boes, referring to the four students [Sandy Scheuer, Allison Krause, Bill Schroeder and Jeff Miller] who were killed when Ohio National Guard troops fired into a crowd during an anti-war demonstration on the Kent Campus.

However, the center's mission has evolved to providing a central place where people can explore and better understand the events that took place on that day, the context and impact of those events, and their meaning for today.

“We believe that the 26th Amendment passed in 1971 because of the shootings here,” Boes says. “And it’s important for Kent State students to know that voting at 18 happened because of what happened here on May 4. Nixon felt that if they lowered the voting age, the students would stop protesting.”

"I think our job now is to relate what happened more than 50 years ago to current events," Boes says.

For example, in November 2022, the center hosted “Women. Life. Freedom,” a discussion about the protests in Iran, presented by the Kent State Women’s Center in collaboration with the Wick Poetry Center, the School of Peace and Conflict Studies and student-led organizations, including the Society of Global Cultures and the May 4th Task Force.

"Relating to those movements inspires young people," Boes says. "We're saying, 'Look, this happened in the past. We have to be diligent. We have to pay attention to stop these things or at least shed light on what is happening.'"

—Phil Soencksen, BS '89

New Exhibit Offers Fresh Context for May 4, 1970

In 1969, at least 2 million Americans joined in nationwide protests against the Vietnam War, including Moratorium Day (Oct. 15), the March Against Death (Nov. 14) and the March on Washington (Nov. 15).

This spring, a temporary exhibit at the May 4 Visitors Center, *The Vocal Majority: 1969*, depicts the anti-war demonstrations that led to the events of May 4, 1970. It highlights an assortment of anti-war artifacts from that era, including posters, photos, videos and other memorabilia such as buttons and armbands.

“The title contradicts what President Nixon called a ‘vocal minority’ versus a ‘silent majority,’” says Skylar Wrisley, a graduate student in history who curated and wrote the exhibit. “Anti-war protesters believed they represented the majority of Americans, and they took to the streets of D.C., San Francisco, Kent and many other cities to show it.”

Wrisley intends the exhibit to provide additional context around the May 4 shootings and to remind people of their responsibility toward social change and the government's obligation to follow the will of the people. Another goal was to find connections between the struggles of the late 1960s and those of the 21st century.

“These protesters [in 1969] learned that demonstrations are not sufficient on their own,” she says. “It takes mass action based on a commonly shared consciousness to create change.” She hopes the exhibit provides lessons for student activists today to “take from history, but then also implement it for their own cause.”

Wrisley researched the 1969 protests for a writing seminar last spring, and Lori Boes, MLIS '11, interim director of the May 4 Visitors Center, encouraged her to turn it into an exhibit. To help with the design, they brought on Jen Goubeaux and Ariel Bradford, senior visual communication design majors.

After months of working on the exhibit, the students say they have a deeper understanding of what it means to work in a team, which included Liz Campion, May 4 archivist and assistant professor; Cindy Kristof, copyright and scholarly communication librarian; and Boes.

"I had a ton of support throughout the entire project, and I want to continue working in exhibit development and museum education," Wrisley says. "I believe museums should advocate for social justice and promote cultural relevance. And I think the May 4 Visitors Center totally aligns with that."

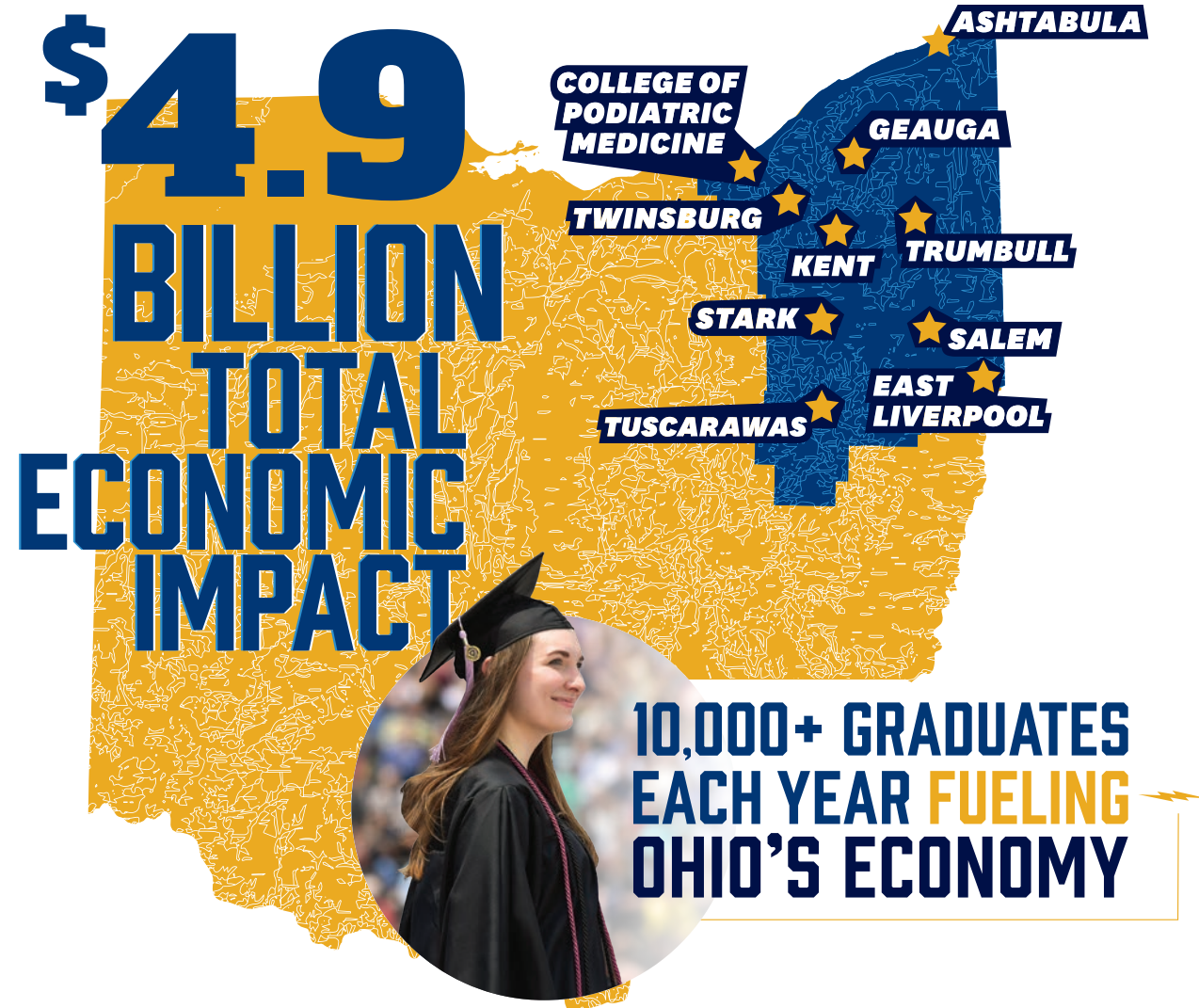
—Mateo Martin, senior public relations major
from Youngstown, Ohio

“Anti-war protesters believed they represented the majority of Americans, and they took to the streets of D.C., San Francisco, Kent and many other cities to show it.”

—Skylar Wrisley,
graduate student in
history



The exhibit includes photos and excerpts from articles that ran in newspapers and magazines in 1969, as well as posters, flags, armbands, buttons and other memorabilia from the anti-war protest movement.



Kent State Works

While Kent State graduates leave the university well-prepared to work in their fields nationally and internationally, their impact across the Northeast Ohio region—and the entire state—cannot be understated.

Kent State provides a steady stream of employees to employers across Ohio, with skilled graduates ready for the workforce. Career fairs, internships and university partnerships with major Ohio institutions offer students many opportunities to work for companies within the state—boosting the region as well as their own career prospects.

Whether it's supplying Ohio employers with intellectual capital, pursuing research partnerships that spur innovation, helping entrepreneurs launch new businesses, or forging connections that benefit

communities surrounding the university's Regional Campuses—Kent State works across the state of Ohio.

In the following pages, we share a sampling of stories that illustrate the economic impact—and personal empowerment—of a Kent State education.

As President Todd Diacon recently told the Board of Trustees, stories like these show “the great return on investment Kent State provides for our students, the region and the nation, as well.”

63% of KSU graduates stay in Ohio!

TRAINING AND RETAINING OHIO'S WORKFORCE IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE STATE OF OHIO



23.5% of Kent State's budget comes from the State Share of Instruction investment, which means that **EVERY DOLLAR** from the state of Ohio leverages an additional **\$9.47** in the state's economy

Rising Scholars

“Everyone involved with Rising Scholars kept me focused on deciding what I want to be and supported me. I know that I want to help others and I want to be able to give back.”

— Erin Taylor, BA '22, majored in psychology at Kent State Salem

Top-Tier Research University in the U.S.

MORE THAN **ONE-THIRD** OF OUR INCOMING STUDENTS ARE **1ST GENERATION**

Largest BSN Program in Ohio





The main entrance at the Miller Pavilion of Cleveland Clinic.

Kent State Works at Cleveland Clinic

“Kent State was our No. 1 school last year in terms of nursing hires.”

—Zack Nichols, university and higher education relationship manager for Cleveland Clinic

More than 2,300 Kent State University graduates call Cleveland Clinic their workplace.

The internationally renowned healthcare system, with sprawling facilities across Northeast Ohio and beyond, employs Kent State alumni from a large array of academic disciplines.

About half of the Kent State alumni who work for the clinic are College of Nursing graduates. They fill a variety of roles, working as registered nurses, nurse managers and nurse practitioners, as well as filling specialized nursing positions. Numerous medical technicians and clinicians also work there.

Cleveland Clinic also employs Kent State alumni in dozens of other fields, including marketing and communications, business administration, architecture, art therapy and laboratory research.

Brent Hicks, MA '19, who earned a master's degree from Kent State's School of Information, has worked for the clinic since 2009 in roles of increasing responsibility within information technology. Currently, Hicks is an enterprise application architect responsible for leading healthcare IT teams focused on developing innovative technologies.

In 2020, the School of Information named Hicks its Alumnus of the Year, noting his work on the digital front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. That work included helping engineer the massive shift to telehealth and virtual visits for Cleveland Clinic patients and their healthcare providers.

KENT STATE IS A TOP SCHOOL FOR CLEVELAND CLINIC NURSING HIRES

Zack Nichols, university and higher education relationship manager for Cleveland Clinic, says he plans nurse recruiting events at Kent State at least once a semester, sometimes more.

“Kent State was our No. 1 school last year in terms of nursing hires,” he says. “The Kent State graduates are great. They come in, they are well prepared, they do clinical rounds with us, so they already are familiar with the clinic. Kent State is one of our top schools.”

Nichols says the ongoing national nursing shortage means that recruiting is very important for Cleveland Clinic, which has job openings for nurses in nearly every department. Currently, there is a particular need to hire nurses interested in working on medical-surgical floors to care for patients preparing for and recovering from surgery. (Elective surgeries and procedures postponed during the height of the pandemic have caused a backlog of deferred treatment—putting a strain on healthcare providers also dealing with labor shortages.)

In addition to making regular visits to the Kent Campus, Nichols says he typically sets up recruiting events at all of Kent State's Regional Campuses that offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

KENT STATE GRADUATES HELP CLEVELAND CLINIC PROVIDE WORLD-CLASS CARE

It was at one such recruiting event that Shannon Pengel, BSN '97, got her start at Cleveland Clinic, beginning her career working on a cardiothoracic surgery floor. Employed by the clinic for 26 years, Pengel is now chief nursing officer for the clinic's main campus.

“The Kent State program prepared me very well for clinical roles and leadership roles,” she says. She chose Kent State because it was close to her hometown of Burton, Ohio, but also because of the reputation of its nursing program.



“The Kent State program prepared me very well for clinical roles and leadership roles.”

—Shannon Pengel, BSN '97, chief nursing officer for Cleveland Clinic's main campus

In her current role, Pengel says she can see how the Kent State/Cleveland Clinic partnership benefits both the university and the hospital system.

The clinic's nursing assistant program, she says, employs nursing students in their junior and senior years, allowing them to work alongside a registered nurse and get one-on-one, firsthand experience beyond their required clinical rotations.

“Cleveland Clinic is a great place to learn,” she says, adding that Kent State is known for the quality of its nursing students.

Nursing is a wide and varied field, and Pengel says the clinic has provided her with many opportunities she could not have imagined as a student. Her advice for Kent State nursing students: “Take every opportunity you have. You never know where it's going to lead.”

—By Lisa Abraham



Nursing students attend a recruiting event in February 2023 hosted by Cleveland Clinic in Room 208 of Henderson Hall, a skills lab for the College of Nursing on the Kent Campus.

KENT STATE/CLEVELAND CLINIC CONNECTIONS

- Cleveland Clinic is a partner in Kent State University's Brain Health Research Institute; 14 Cleveland Clinic Foundation researchers are individual members of the institute.
- Kent State University and Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute maintain a cooperative graduate training program leading to the doctoral degree in biomedical sciences.
- Cleveland Clinic's Head & Neck Institute, Section of Audiology at Cleveland Clinic, the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at The University of Akron, and the School of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Kent State have combined resources to form the Northeast Ohio AuD Consortium. The program's emphasis is on the principles and practices underlying diagnosis, treatment and provision of hearing healthcare services.
- In addition to providing clinical rotations for Kent State College of Nursing students, Cleveland Clinic works with the university as a program affiliate in these areas where students receive clinical training:
 - Athletic Training
 - Audiology
 - General Counseling
 - CT Scan Technology
 - Diagnostic Medical Sonography
 - Dietetic Technology
 - Exercise Physiology
 - Mammography Technology
 - Nuclear Medical Technology
 - Occupational Therapy Assistant
 - Patient Education/Center for Consumer Health Information
 - Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Institute
 - Physical Therapist Assistant
 - Podiatry
 - Radiation Therapy
 - Radiology Technology
 - Respiratory Therapy
 - Social Work
 - Speech-Language Pathology
- Several Kent State professors have grant-funded ongoing research projects conducted in conjunction with Cleveland Clinic.
- Kent State recently entered into an agreement with Cleveland Clinic to be a founding academic research partner for the clinic's new Discovery Accelerator (a joint center established by IBM and Cleveland Clinic to advance healthcare and life sciences research). IBM installed the first private sector, on-site quantum computer at the clinic's main campus, with an aim to help Cleveland Clinic accelerate biomedical discoveries. The agreement gives Kent State researchers access to the state-of-the-art quantum system. ➤

“The pandemic emphasized the already existing need for more respiratory therapists”

—Yvonne George, RRT, MED, director for respiratory therapy at Kent State Ashtabula

KENT STATE ASHTABULA’S CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH CLEVELAND CLINIC

Kent State University at Ashtabula offers degree programs in nursing, respiratory therapy and a variety of other medical fields that provide a constant supply of well-trained employees for one of its closest neighbors: Cleveland Clinic’s Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC), which is two miles from campus.

“That close proximity is a significant benefit to us,” says Leonard Stepp Jr., ACMC Healthcare System president and CEO. “The students who complete their clinical rotations here are well-educated and well-trained. Many of them join our team of caregivers after graduation. The nurses, occupational/physical therapy assistants, radiology technologists, respiratory therapists and medical assistants who graduate from Kent State Ashtabula and choose to work at ACMC are integral to our ability to provide high-quality care to our patients and our community.”

MEETING THE DEMAND FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

The two institutions are always looking for ways to collaborate. A collaboration announced in 2022 allows Kent State Ashtabula to offer an associate degree program in respiratory therapy at the clinic’s main campus in Cleveland.

Participants train for the in-demand profession of respiratory care. The program also supports career growth for graduates and practicing respiratory therapists by providing a path to admission for the online Bachelor of Science degree in respiratory care Kent State Ashtabula offers.

“We are excited for this opportunity to partner with Cleveland Clinic to offer our program on

its main campus,” says Yvonne George, RRT, MED, academic program director for respiratory therapy at Kent State Ashtabula. “The pandemic emphasized the already existing need for more respiratory therapists—the ‘ventilator experts.’ We hope this partnership will provide easier access to education for individuals looking to start their professional life or who have decided to make a career change.”

Courses in the respiratory therapy program are delivered live and remotely through online instruction by Kent State Ashtabula faculty. Laboratory instruction and clinical rotations are completed at Cleveland Clinic, where students learn alongside experienced respiratory therapists. Prerequisite coursework can be completed through a combination of online and in-person classes through the Kent State system or credits can be transferred from another institution.

“We are pleased to collaborate with Kent State University at Ashtabula to offer a respiratory therapy training program at our Cleveland Clinic main campus location,” says Umur Hatipoğlu, MD, MBA, enterprise director of Respiratory Therapy at Cleveland Clinic. “This program will contribute to our mission of educating those who serve by providing our local community with an opportunity to enter a high-demand licensed healthcare profession after completing two years of training.” ⚡

—Lisa Abraham and Jason Tirotta

Learn more about the respiratory therapy program at www.kent.edu/ashtabula/rt.



The first cohort of students enrolled in the Ashtabula Respiratory Therapy Associate Degree Program at Cleveland Clinic, which was first offered in spring 2023. Pictured (left to right): Victoria Smith (adjunct faculty), Jeanine Ng, Jaclyn Burdette, Cassidy Pescatrice, Angela Mathews, Diane Rozier, Umur Hatipoglu, MD (program medical director and Enterprise Medical Director of Respiratory Therapy at Cleveland Clinic), Tasoni Burgess, Crystal Lavelle, Akira Caldwell and Karla Balasko (senior director for Enterprise Respiratory Therapy at Cleveland Clinic)



Progressive Insurance headquarters in Mayfield, Ohio

Kent State Works at Progressive Insurance

After several years at a large design firm in Cleveland, Shawn Beatty, BS ’05, MA ’05, from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, had the opportunity to work with the firm’s biggest client: Progressive Insurance® based in Mayfield, Ohio.

For 10 years Beatty, whose degrees are in visual communication design, helped design a digital version of Progressive’s annual report, featuring The Progressive Art Collection as part of the story.

Each year the company acquires approximately 200 artworks from diverse artists that provoke dialogue and debate. Over the decades, the world-class art collection has grown to encompass more than 10,000 contemporary artworks—including sculptures, paintings, photography and new media—that are installed in Progressive’s offices throughout the country.

Designing the company’s annual report was his favorite project, Beatty says. “I fell in love with Progressive as a company back then.” So a few years later, after working for another firm, when a position became available at Progressive, he jumped at the chance to join the company.

“And it is just as great from the inside as it is from the outside,” says Beatty, who is happy in his current role as associate manager, digital front-end development.

FLASHES TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

Beatty’s tenure at Progressive Insurance makes him one of more than 700 Kent State graduates who now work at the company. Their roles include computer systems engineers, accountants, media buyers, senior recruiters and user research analysts. Progressive, No. 99 on the Fortune 500, employs nearly 42,000 people worldwide.

Gabe De León, recruiting manager at Progressive, says the company values its Kent State hires. “With help from the university’s career services, faculty and staff, we’ve had tremendous success bringing in students within our IT (Information Technology), analyst and accounting groups for both internships and entry-level roles,” De León says. “Kent State

alumni are typically well-prepared and can come in and immediately contribute to Progressive’s goals.”

PROGRESSIVE RECRUITS AT KENT STATE

Progressive Insurance has consistently recruited at Kent State, visiting the Kent Campus for several career fair events each year since 2018, according to Kristin Williams, director of Career Services at the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship. The events have included campus-wide career fairs as well as industry-specific events such as the IS/IT Career Expo, the Management and Tech Fair, and Meet the Accountants Night.

“They have diverse hiring needs, and we have students with a broad range of skills and backgrounds for which there is a strong match,” Williams says. “Further, many of our students know Progressive, as they are a familiar ‘brand’ in Northeast Ohio and beyond. And with so many alumni working there, this creates an affinity for hiring more Flashes.”

IT’S THE CULTURE AND THE PEOPLE

Sarah MacPherson, BA ’19, MS ’21, from Newbury, Ohio, did an internship at Progressive before beginning a full-time job there in 2022 as a usability analyst associate. She earned a bachelor’s degree in digital sciences in 2019 and a master’s degree in user experience design in 2021. Her job duties include a variety of research activities to gauge user experience and to improve Progressive’s user platform.

MacPherson applied for an internship at Progressive during the peak of the pandemic in summer 2020. Progressive was hiring when many other companies either weren’t hiring or were laying off employees.

“This showed me the security of the company and how much they care for their employees,” MacPherson says. “There is room to make mistakes and grow from them. Not every company can say the same. I’ve really enjoyed my time here.” ⚡

—April McClellan-Copeland

“I fell in love with Progressive as a company back then. And it is just as great from the inside as it is from the outside.”

—Shawn Beatty, BS ’05, MA ’05, associate manager, digital front-end development at Progressive

Northeast Ohio Public Universities Collaborate on Research and Innovation

Frank discussions about how to equip students for the jobs of today and tomorrow, technology commercialization efforts and some of the “big questions” that face the region’s innovation outlook were the hot topics as Kent State hosted Innovation Day 2023 on Friday, March 24.

The inaugural Innovation Day was a collaborative effort of the Northeast Ohio Public University Research Alliance, comprised of Kent State University, Cleveland State University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University.

A key goal of the alliance is to grow research in the region, bringing faculty from different disciplines and institutions together, says Doug Delahanty, vice president for Research and Sponsored Programs at Kent State.

The event served as a venue for innovators, faculty members and students to discuss and showcase the region’s key innovations, technology transfer strategies and thought leadership.

In a welcome video that kicked off the day, Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development, notes that “Investments in new and emerging technologies are positioning Ohio at the forefront of innovation, and that is driving real change all over the world.”

Under Mihalik’s leadership, the state agency is forging partnerships between public and private sectors to help build a thriving economy, invest in small businesses, prepare communities for the future, construct robust broadband infrastructure and expand workforce skills.

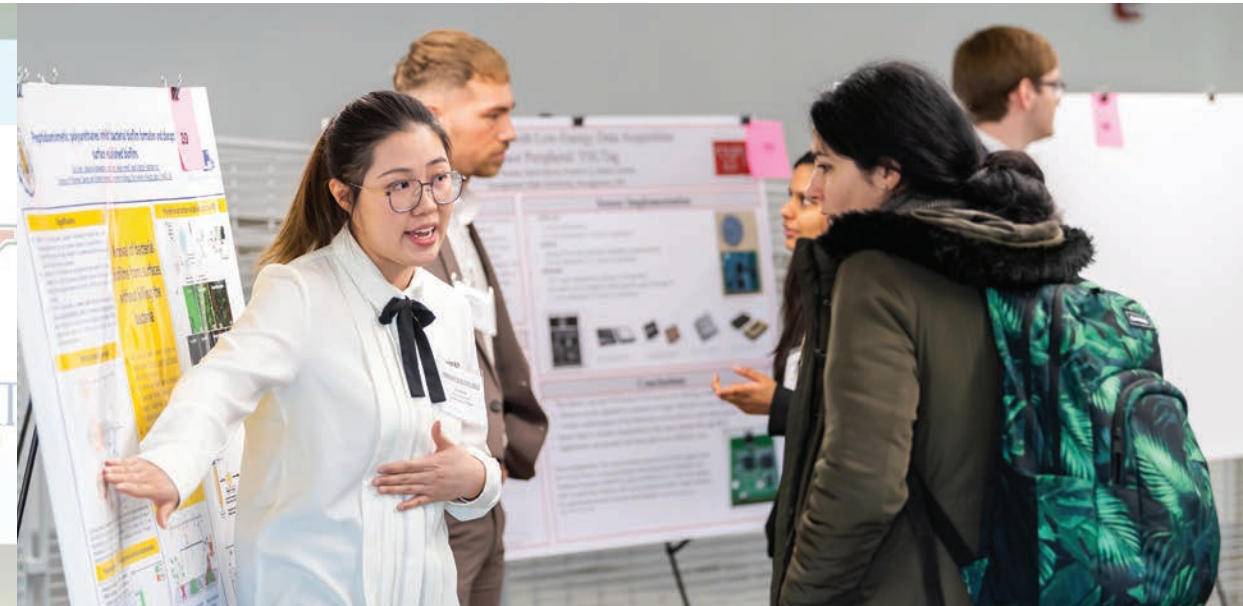
A workforce development panel was moderated by William (Bill) Koehler, chief executive officer of Team NEO, an organization that promotes job creation and business growth and development in 18 counties throughout Northeast Ohio.



Workforce development panelists were (left to right): Maria Spangler, director of community engagement at Sherwin-Williams Co.; Nikki Russell, director of talent acquisition at The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.; and Debbie Connelly, senior vice president and chief people officer of Hyland Software

The panel discussed the importance of students taking advantage of internships, engaging in conversations with employees while on those internships and learning proper business etiquette in the workplace. Panelists noted that it is important for companies to offer entry-level positions for students.

Debbie Connelly, senior vice president and chief people officer of Hyland Software, urged universities to help students hone their problem-solving skills. She says students need to learn to be flexible and consider a variety of solutions for problems, not just one.



At the event, several students from the universities present their research during a poster session.



A Kent State student tries virtual reality glasses at Innovation Day 2023.

“Investments in new and emerging technologies are positioning Ohio at the forefront of innovation.” — Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development

Maria Spangler, director of community engagement at Sherwin-Williams, says some universities only ask for money to fund labs or buildings when spending time with students has a better return on investment. “I would rather send over a team of master chemists or robotics engineers,” she says. “We are a talent consumer. A million dollars for a building doesn’t get us students.”

J.R. Campbell, executive director of Kent State’s Design Innovation Initiative, moderated a panel discussion on global technology trends and the big questions around Northeast Ohio’s innovation outlook.

Panel members represented key strengths of the region and the universities, including healthcare, engineering innovation, advanced materials, and immersive reality tools and technologies.

Michal Soclof, principal and director of tech ventures for Matrix Equities, LLC, which invests in startup ventures, says angel investor groups all over Ohio are looking for innovators and great ideas to develop. The problem is connecting innovators at universities with funding. “Please come find us,” he says. “We are searching for projects to invest in.” ⚡

—April McClellan-Copeland



Boost for Ohio Businesses

LaunchNET Kent State, an entrepreneurship resource for Kent State University students, faculty, staff and alumni, received a \$40,000 grant from the Burton D. Morgan Foundation to create a 2023 microgrants program for student- and alumni-owned businesses.

In 2022, LaunchNET distributed over 40 microgrants (\$99-\$500) to Kent State student-run businesses, but this is the first time the program will be extended to alumni.

“We are excited to expand our microgrants programming to our alumni entrepreneurs and are looking forward to seeing what projects and dynamic uses they will have for these new funds,” says Zach Mikrut, BBA ’10, MEd ’19, LaunchNET director. “LaunchNET advising has always had an eye towards economic development, and microgrants are a tool for helping entrepreneurs to move on their goals quickly.”

The LaunchNET alumni microgrants program will help alumni entrepreneurs move their businesses forward with inventory, capital, product or other related purchases. Details include:

- Grants range from \$500-\$3,000.
- Applicant must be a Kent State University alumnus.
- Businesses must be based in Ohio.
- Grants are open to businesses with \$200K or less in gross revenue.

The program will launch in summer 2023.

Learn more about the student and alumni microgrants program at www.kent.edu/launchnet.



Upcycled Fashion Comes to Kent

Justine Gallo, BA ’22, has combined her personal philosophy and fashion design degree to launch a new business in downtown Kent.

Sun in Leo is a boutique located in Acorn Alley that reuses—and responsibly sources—clothing, accessories, jewelry and trinkets.

Gallo says the concept of circularity drives the store’s business model, which focuses on resource cycles such as reusing, repairing, refurbishing and upcycling to extend the life of products and waste as little as possible.

Sustainable fashion is a fundamental part of Kent State’s fashion program, Gallo says, and it inspired her to open her own store. “The more I learned about it, the more I realized that there’s so much more that we all could be doing,” she says. “But I wanted to be that person to do it.”

Everything in the store is responsibly sourced or upcycled by Gallo. She uses seed tags to label all items sold at the shop and attaches the tags with safety pins instead of plastic. Buyers can plant or compost the tags and reuse the safety pins.

Customers also get points at the store by bringing reusable bags when shopping. In addition, they can receive coupons for donating jewelry, apparel and other items they no longer want. Gallo can also repair all Sun in Leo accessories and make any requested alterations.

The name Sun in Leo has a personal connection for Gallo, whose zodiac sign is Leo, also known as the sun sign. She says the store takes a lot of inspiration from astrology in terms of aesthetic and products sold.

“I feel so grateful that LaunchNET liked and supported my idea for Sun in Leo because it showed me that I could accomplish it.” —Justine Gallo, BA ’22

MADE POSSIBLE BY A MICROGRANT

Sun in Leo has been a yearlong journey for Gallo, who applied for and received a LaunchNET microgrant in 2022, during the last semester of her senior year. With the funds she was able to create a LLC (limited liability company), obtain business licenses and permits, and cover other expenses, such as participating in craft fairs.

Gallo is thankful for Tabitha Messmore, assistant director at LaunchNET, who has been her advisor and mentor in the program.

“I feel so grateful that LaunchNET liked and supported my idea for Sun in Leo because it showed me that I could accomplish it,” Gallo says. “Tabitha really helped me on the business side of things, which I needed.”

Her relationship with LaunchNET continues to provide support for her business, as well as opportunities to help others. “Justine touches base to give us updates or ask questions we can help with,” Messmore says. “She is also becoming a great mentor to other students who can use her expertise. I’m extremely proud of all the work she’s done to get this far and excited that she’s got a great space downtown!”

Sun in Leo, 154 E. Main St. Suite C, celebrated its grand opening on Feb. 4, 2023, with special deals. Gallo wants to plan events and collaborate with other stores in Acorn Alley to create a fun and exciting culture during the spring and summer. 🚀

—Taylor Haydu, senior public relations major from Uniontown, Ohio

Learn more about Kent State’s School of Fashion at www.kent.edu/fashion.

Learn more about Sun in Leo at www.instagram.com/shopsuninleo.





Pictured (left to right): Kent State President Todd Diacon and Kent City Manager Dave Ruller

Partnerships Have Redefined Kent State and the City of Kent

Kent City Manager Dave Ruller remembers the day he met Kent State University's then-President Lester A. Lefton nearly two decades ago at the Franklin Square Deli to talk about Kent.

Lefton didn't mince words. He wanted to make Kent State great, he told Ruller, but he couldn't do it with a deteriorating downtown, parts of which he pronounced "a piece of crap," Ruller recalls. "I was like, 'OK, put your money where your mouth is.'"

During their discussion, the seeds of Kent's downtown revitalization were planted and a new era of cooperation between the city and the university was born. The results were substantial.

The city tore down entire blocks of old buildings to make way for Acorn Alley and its shops and restaurants. The university built the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center. The PARTA bus garage and parking deck were erected. And the Lefton Esplanade walkway was formed to create a gateway that connects the campus and downtown.

Though Lefton retired in 2014, Kent State President Todd Diacon and Ruller continue to maintain the fruitful relationship, which has created a rising tide that lifts both the city and the university.

Today, when Kent State surveys first-year students about why they chose the university, they name the look and feel of its Kent Campus, as well as the city of Kent, among their top reasons for attending, Diacon says. Even so, he acknowledges that there's more work to be done.

Recently, Diacon and Ruller partnered to redevelop East Main Street, or state Route 59, a busy four-lane thoroughfare that borders the front of the Kent Campus and threads through downtown.

The city has committed to improvements that include making the road a boulevard with a landscaped median, linking Horning Road to Overlook Drive and improving pedestrian safety.

The university is building Crawford Hall, currently taking shape as the new home of the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship. It faces the roadway, an imposing new presence on the campus.

Diacon says he has a long list of future collaborations—for example, a new, state-of-the-art ice facility and a joint Juneteenth celebration.

However, the following stories highlight some current partnerships the city and the university celebrate today.



Partners from Kent State and the Kent community have helped bring the free ice rink to the heart of downtown Kent.

Seasonal skating rink draws thousands to downtown Kent

Nearly 13,000 people hit the ice last winter for the second year of Kent Skates, presented by AMETEK from November through February.

The free outdoor ice rink—located on a section of East Erie Street between the PARTA parking deck and the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center—is a key initiative between Kent State and Kent partners to create a more vibrant place to live, work and play.

The rink was created through a partnership among the city of Kent, Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center, Kent Area Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Kent and Kent State University. Local businesses and the Destination Kent Convention and Visitors Bureau are also sponsors, and University Facilities Management staff keep the rink open and operating during the season.

"This is a true example of what is possible when so many people come together focused on a community asset," says Dana Lawless-Andric, PhD, Kent State University's associate vice president of University Outreach and Engagement.

After a slide around the rink, visitors can warm up in Kent's shops, restaurants, entertainment venues, galleries and many local events.

"A vibrant and healthy downtown benefits everyone, and Kent Skates has played an important—and fun—role in strengthening our local economy and sense of community," says Michelle M. Hartman, interim executive director for the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce.

One of the rink's enthusiastic sponsors—and users—was Amy Mucha, MEd '16, owner and chief artist of Daisy Pops, a cake pop bakery that opened a shop in downtown Kent this April. "I cannot tell you how much our family loved it this winter," she says. "And I saw so many of my non-Kent friends coming into town to try it out as well."

—Phil Soencksen, BS '89



Amy Mucha, MEd '16, owner of Daisy Pops, says her family enjoys the ice rink her business helps sponsor.



Heather Malarcik, BA '96, stands in front of one of Main Street Kent's recent projects, the "Kent" sign. It was installed in 2021 at the intersection of North Water Street and Fairchild Avenue to emphasize one of the entries to downtown.

Main Street Kent director helps downtown Kent thrive

Three decades ago, as an undergraduate from Hudson, Ohio, Heather Rohwedder Malarcik, BA '96, could never have imagined that she would one day find her dream job in downtown Kent.

After graduation, she worked various jobs in marketing and moved to California. However, once she started a family, she decided to return to Ohio.

In 2011, she was hired as marketing assistant for Main Street Kent, an advocacy nonprofit striving to promote Kent as an ideal place to live, work and visit. Within a year, she was promoted to the nonprofit's top spot. She's held that role for 12 years.

As director, Malarcik creates year-round marketing efforts for local businesses, champions historical preservation and plans regular events—including the Chocolate Walk in February, the Art and Wine Festival in June and the Oktoberfest in September—that drive traffic to downtown and help the business community succeed.

She loves the work but doesn't do it alone. With one other employee at Main Street Kent, Malarcik works in conjunction with a volunteer board and oversees teams of supporting volunteers, including folks from Kent State.

Joshua Rider, BA '99, MEd '05, executive director of Kent State's Center for Adult and Veteran Services, serves as vice president of Main Street Kent's executive board and has worked closely with Malarcik for several years. He praises her hard work and leadership skills.

"She is always asking, 'What will the impact of this be on Kent?'" he says. "Her leadership with Main Street Kent also has helped build connections to Kent State University."

Malarcik says folks from Kent State are always willing to help make downtown events successful by volunteering. And she understands that having a thriving downtown benefits the university, too.

"I went to Kent State when downtown wasn't what it is today. There was not much to do other than get a pizza and a beer," she says. "Now there's public art, live music, events and activities."

"There's nowhere else I would want to live and work."

—Lisa Abraham



Faculty and students in the Interprofessional Education course offered by the College of Public Health in fall 2022

Helping senior citizens connect with their community

Almost everyone felt lonely and isolated during the coronavirus pandemic—but perhaps no group was more affected than the elderly, who also faced greater health risks. Recognizing that, the College of Public Health partnered with the Kent City Health Department on a project to help local senior citizens stay engaged with their community.

Nine undergraduate and graduate students from five of Kent State's colleges—Public Health; Nursing; Communication and Information; Education, Health and Human Services; and Arts and Sciences—worked in interdisciplinary teams during an Interprofessional Education course offered by the College of Public Health in fall 2022.

The course was co-taught by Sonia Alemagno, PhD, dean of the College of Public Health; Rick Ferdig, PhD, Summit Professor of Learning Technologies; and Enrico Gandolfi, PhD, assistant professor of educational technology. The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation, a charitable trust dedicated to the support and advancement of healthcare, provided funding.

The teams began to develop a pilot program for a "virtual senior center," a website where local senior citizens can connect with their community. While the virtual center is still in the works, it could one day offer resources and information about a variety of topics, including fall-prevention exercises, technology tutorials, online games, volunteering opportunities, medical services, and in-person activities and events.

"The virtual senior center pilot project is a real testimony of what can happen when professionals from across campus work together to build a new approach," Alemagno says.

The health department benefited from the varied knowledge of a diverse group of students and faculty who came together to create the website, says Joan Seidel, BSN '86, Kent City Health Commissioner.

"They reached out and asked, 'What would you envision? How would you see this working? How do you think it would best fit in the community?'" she says. "They had the insight to say, 'Let's get everybody at the table.'"

Seidel says that many local elders still feel alone, even as pandemic restrictions have lifted. And the creation of a dedicated online community could significantly improve their quality of life.

"The expertise at Kent State provides a reality-based means to bring this to fruition," she says. "It is an example of the power of relationships, the benefits of the city and the university working together to make the place where we live, learn, work and play a more fulfilling environment."

—Giulia Cerasi, graduate assistant in the College of Public Health

Partners in health education

Kent State University partners with the Kent City Health Department in other mutually beneficial ways. Each semester, the health department welcomes interns; it also has hired Kent State graduates for full-time positions.

"It is a big benefit for us because we receive students with keen minds, lots of energy and eagerness to apply what they are learning," says Joan Seidel, Kent City Health Commissioner. "And the students gain practical, hands-on experience. They get to see how the classroom learning can be applied in real-life situations."



The Kent City Health Department benefits from hiring Kent State interns and graduates, and they benefit from gaining real-world experience. Pictured (left to right): Giulia Cerasi, MPH '23, communications specialist (internship), Kent City Health Department; Joan Seidel, BSN '86, Kent City Health Commissioner; Jalessa Caples, BS '17, MPA '19, accreditation coordinator, Kent City Health Department

The city of Kent and Kent State University now share a sustainability coordinator to help them implement their sustainability plans. Pictured (center): Julie Morris, sustainability coordinator, stands between her two supervisors. At left, Bridget Susel, community development director for the city of Kent; at right, Melanie Knowles, sustainability manager for Kent State University.



Working together toward a more sustainable future

This year, the city of Kent announced a climate action plan to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions and address other environmental concerns.

After the detailed plan was crafted, city officials realized something was missing. The plan includes transitioning municipal lighting to energy-efficient LEDs and laying the groundwork for an electric vehicle infrastructure. But someone needs to shepherd the initiative from idea to application. Kent could not afford to hire someone full time, says Bridget Susel, the city's community development director, so it turned to Kent State University for help.

Kent City Manager Dave Ruller, who has worked with three Kent State University presidents to invest in Kent's renaissance, asked if Kent State would share a sustainability coordinator. And the university agreed. (The position is equally funded via city ordinance and the university's facilities planning and operations budget. The university supplies employee benefits.)

"The city and the university have engaged with each other around sustainability issues for years," says Melanie Knowles, Kent State's sustainability manager. It's an important partnership, she says, because they share a target audience: students, faculty and staff who also reside in Kent. Plus, the university is working on its own sustainability plan.

So, Julie Morris became the city and university's sustainability coordinator as of March 1, 2023.

Morris says she became impassioned about environmental issues at Sonoma State University.

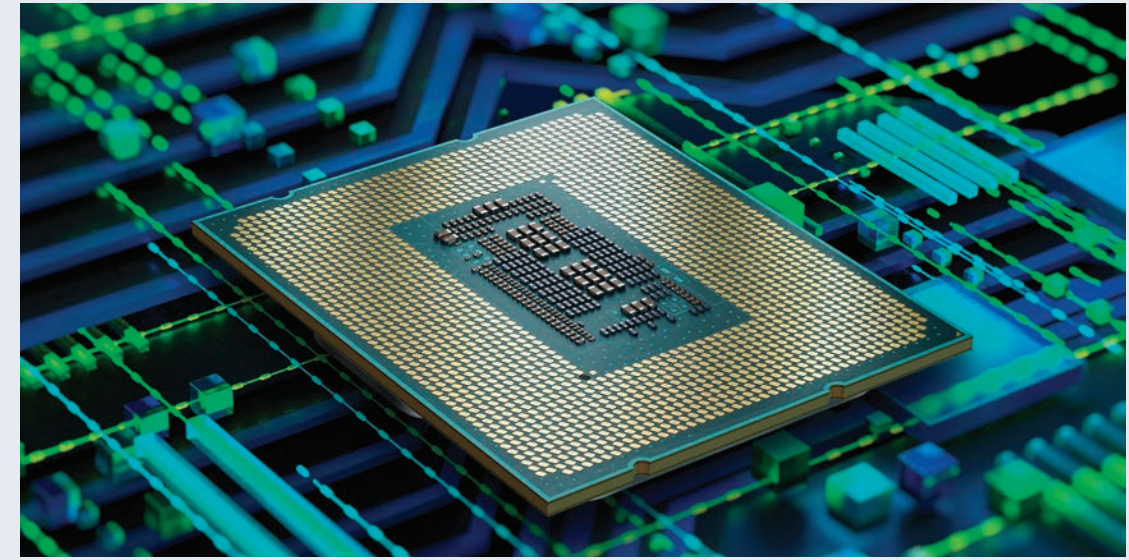
There she was introduced to "the long and storied histories of the environmental movement, and also to the pressing issues that a warming planet would have across environmental, economic and social sectors if left unchecked," she says. "I knew then that I wanted to be a part of helping create solutions and resilience in the face of these wicked problems."

In 2016, she graduated with a master's degree in sustainability from the Falk School of Sustainability and Environment at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. That year she was appointed to a three-year term on the city of Kent's Sustainability Commission, where she served as a volunteer until 2019. During her tenure, she helped strengthen community relationships and guide policies for the development of a city-wide climate action plan. When it came time to fill the sustainability coordinator role this year, Morris was an obvious choice, Susel says.

The city of Kent still must formally adopt the climate action plan and the university still must approve its sustainability plan. However, Morris has already been hard at work, splitting her time evenly between the city and the university. She looks forward to executing the plans soon.

"I am excited to help bring the initiatives outlined in the city of Kent's climate action plan and Kent State's sustainability plan to life," Morris says. "I love collaborative work, and it will be wonderful to get to connect with all the folks who are already doing great work in our communities around the areas of action the plans call for. I look forward to working together to implement the suggested initiatives." ⚡

—Jillian Kramer, BA '06



Intel launched 12th Gen Intel Core processors at CES 2022. (Credit: Intel Corporation)

Bright Future for Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology Students

In response to a request from Intel®, Kent State University is leading a network that includes 13 partner higher education institutions throughout Northeast Ohio. They are poised to prepare the workforce to make components for the small electronic devices that play a large role in our everyday lives. The plan is part of the multinational technology company's Ohio Semiconductor Education and Research Program.

According to Intel's website, the company will invest \$50 million directly in Ohio higher education institutions to address immediate semiconductor manufacturing challenges and workforce shortages. The US National Science Foundation will match an additional \$50 million from Intel in national funding opportunities. Intel's education financing is part of the company's recent announcement that it would invest more than \$20 billion to construct two leading-edge semiconductor chip factories in Ohio.

The College of Applied and Technical Studies is home to Kent State University's associate degrees. As the university further develops its partnership with Intel, readying the workforce with a world-class education is key. In fact, 2,100 of the 3,000 jobs Intel brings to Ohio require the

associate of applied science degree in electrical/electronic engineering technology currently offered at Kent State's Trumbull and Tuscarawas campuses.

Graduates of this two-year program are in high demand and prepared for careers as engineering technicians in state-of-the-art technology, including alternative energy, drone technology, electric vehicle industry, engineering design, manufacturing and robotics.

Academic program leaders throughout Kent State and its partner institutions are united in meeting the educational needs of a diverse 21st-century workforce that is prepared for good-paying jobs that propel the future.

"We plan to scale existing educational opportunities, develop new experiential curricula and establish or refine pathways for learners seeking to enter, reskill or upskill in areas relevant to semiconductor fabrication," says Peggy Shadduck, PhD, Kent State's vice president for Regional Campuses and dean of the College of Applied and Technical Studies. She served as Kent State's lead principal investigator on the grant titled Pathways to Semiconductor Careers.

"These strengths can be amplified through collaboration with our 13 partners to address the immediate and future workforce needs of Intel and its suppliers." ⚡

—Deb Ellwood

Learn more at www.kent.edu/cats/intel.

Learn more about the two-year EEET degree at <https://catalog.kent.edu/colleges/ap/electrical-electronic-engineering-technology-aas/>.

Women of the House

Two Kent State alumnae are giving back to their Ohio communities as government representatives at the federal and state level.

Emilia Strong Sykes, BA '07, JD

In 2022, US Rep. Emilia Strong Sykes (D) became the first Black person elected to represent Ohio's 13th Congressional District, which encompasses all of Summit County and parts of Stark and Portage counties. For eight years, Sykes served in the Ohio General Assembly, representing House District 34. For three of those years she led the Ohio House Democratic Caucus.

Sykes says she is committed to fighting for economic opportunity, safer communities and affordable healthcare for Northeast Ohioans with the spirit of bipartisan cooperation to get things done for those she serves.

Below, we highlight Sykes' responses when asked about her political career.

MOTIVATION FOR ENTERING POLITICS

Both my parents were public servants [Barbara Sykes, former state representative, and Vernon Sykes, serving a second term as state senator for Ohio Senate District 28], so I learned from a young age the importance of service. I never intended to run for office. But when an opportunity to serve my neighbors in the state Legislature arose, I took it. I knew I could make a difference and give back to the people and community that raised me.

As a state representative, I learned the intricate connections between state and federal politics, and how both were important in the lives of everyday Ohioans. The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, moved me to run for Congress. I'm thankful that the people of Ohio's 13th District elected me to serve them, and I will fight every day in Congress to protect, preserve and strengthen our democracy.

POINTS OF PRIDE

I'm most proud of my work to pass Ohio House Bill 1 [in 2018], bipartisan, priority legislation to protect the safety and security of people in violent relationships. It was the first time that a member of the minority party carried the priority piece of legislation, to the best of our research.

I'm also proud of the success I've had working across the aisle to deliver meaningful results that improve the lives of Ohioans. During my first year as Ohio House minority leader, our caucus was able to successfully work with the majority to



pass nearly double the percentage of bipartisan bills compared to the previous two legislative sessions.

NEW ROLE AS US CONGRESSWOMAN

I'm excited to work for my constituents, learn more about the needs of our communities and, ultimately, deliver meaningful, bipartisan results.

As the first Black person to represent this district, I recognize the importance of having a congresswoman the constituents can identify with, one who understands the issues they face every day. And I hope my position indicates that we belong here, in the halls of Congress and beyond.

VALUE OF A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Our government only functions if we have a diversity of thoughts and ideas and backgrounds. Public institutions support education and learning for a much broader variety of people than private institutions. That is why it's important to support these public institutions and make sure they still thrive so people can get more opportunities and participate in our government.

In Congress, there are a lot of folks from Ivy League schools; there are very few state school/public school members. Still, a public, state education is valuable and produces top-notch scholars and even folks who can find themselves in the halls of Congress one day.

Gail Pavliga, BA '91, MA '98, PhD

In 2020, Gail Pavliga, a private counselor and former professor of educational psychology at The University of Akron and Malone University, ran for state government and won. As state representative (R) for Ohio House District 72, which encompasses nearly all of Portage County, Pavliga has embraced the challenges of representing a bipartisan district with many competing views and opinions.

She chairs the House Behavioral Health and Addiction Recovery Supports Committee and is a member of the Finance and Higher Education committees and the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources.

Below, we highlight Pavliga's responses when asked about her political career.

MOTIVATION FOR ENTERING POLITICS

You have to have a plan for where you want to make a difference. With NEOMED, Hiram [College] and Kent State all in this area, I thought we needed someone in the community who was an advocate for and understood higher education.

I also started to look at how, as a mental health professional, I could be a bigger voice for mental health. It's such a big issue because everybody knows somebody who's either suffering from mental illness or struggling with addiction. We didn't have a strong voice for that in the statehouse, and I decided that it was my time to be heard. It's become a passion of mine.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Everybody's got a different idea of where they would like to have policy or where they need help. It is a delicate balancing act. Not everyone is going to agree out here in the extremes of politics, but there are areas where we can all agree. Don't we all want our children safe and well educated? Don't we all want access to mental health services? Don't we all want lower taxes, better lifestyle and access to parks and recreation?

POINTS OF PRIDE

Right now, I am sponsoring House Bill 3. We are trying to find an answer to providing affordable housing, so people will stay here after they graduate, maybe work in the greater Northeast



Ohio area. Developers would get tax credits in exchange for capping rents because many people in Portage County and in Kent, especially, are paying up to 50% of their income for housing.

I have worked tirelessly with the Ohio Mental Health Association and many other partners to get the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which is a national hotline, set up in Ohio. We now have 19 call centers across the state. Each one of those receives 8,000–10,000 calls a month, and 80% of those calls are able to be resolved with that phone call or directed to local agencies that can help the callers.

All calls are answered by the third ring, and only 10% of the calls are answered out of state, most of which are from veterans who are transferred to a call center that deals specifically with their mental health needs. Some centers can receive text and chats, which opens them up to teenagers. So, this is serving all constituents across the state.

PROMOTING POSITIVITY AND POSSIBILITY

I want people early on to have a vision for their life and an idea of where they belong. Being a graduate student, being an entrepreneur, running for politics, as I have done—these are high-level risks, and sometimes you're not going to win the first time around. Too many of us are held back by fear of failure. ⚡

Taking Care of Business



From foreign exchange student to international business success, John Karakadas, BBA '82, has tried to be fearless when attacking problems and finding solutions. Now he's helping Kent State prepare business students with the skills to succeed in an ever-changing world.

BY LISA ABRAHAM

With a storied career in international business, John Karakadas, BBA '82, has returned to Kent State University to serve on the National Advisory Board to the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Karakadas is founder and managing partner of Aesion LLC, a Greenwich, Connecticut-based advisory and principal investment firm. He has excelled in developing corporate growth and turnaround strategies for a host of international companies in a wide range of industries, including aviation, information technology, consumer goods and services, retail and shipping.

Deborah F. Spake, PhD, dean of the Ambassador Crawford College, says she was pleased to welcome

Karakadas to the college's advisory board. "His vast global experience and leadership in numerous industries provide a valuable perspective."

In fall 1978 Karakadas came to Strongsville, Ohio, as a foreign exchange student from his home in Thessaloniki, Greece. After graduating from Strongsville High School in 1979, he looked for colleges near his Ohio host family and discovered Kent State.

As a young international student—Karakadas started college at 16—he appreciated Kent State's thriving international community and international student support. Plus, its business college fostered a strong global business perspective.

"Kent State seemed to have a lot of great things going for it," he says. "The university was open to the world, forward-thinking and unexpectedly international for that part of the country at that time."

Karakadas had expected to return to Greece to work in his family's shoe manufacturing business, so the industrial management major offered by Kent State was appealing.

At Kent State, Karakadas found dedicated support at the Office of International Students, then located in Wright Hall, and a good mentor in Garcha Singh, coordinator of International Student Affairs. While at the international student office, Karakadas saw a magazine advertisement

John Karakadas, BBA '82, newest member of the Ambassador Crawford College's national advisory board, stands outside Bowman Hall on a spring day in April.

from Procter & Gamble that ended up setting the course for his future in business. P&G was looking for college graduates to help support their ongoing growth in international markets, so he mailed back a business reply postcard expressing interest.

After graduating in 1982 and returning to Greece to serve his military duty, he was considering work on a master's degree when Procter & Gamble contacted him for a job.

"This was not a targeted approach," he says, "but it became unexpectedly important to the way things turned out in my life."

After Procter & Gamble, Karakadas moved to PepsiCo in London, where he served as European marketing director. He also served as European CEO of the Italian food company Barilla, in Parma, Italy; president, Asia Pacific, of the international Burger King chain based in Sydney, Australia; and CEO of Tchibo, a German coffee retailer.

had studied, they had all learned the same thing: "A way of thinking to attack challenges, solve problems, identify solutions and provide something better in whatever field you are engaged in."

Karakadas says he has always tried to be fearless when attacking problems and finding solutions—and he believes that even without experience in any specific business sector, those skills always will generate a successful outcome.

He advises current business students to prepare for a journey of continuous learning improvement. "Keep your skills up to date in the ever-evolving environment," he says. "The most notable change that has taken place in business over the past 30 years is the speed of change. Preparing oneself and arming oneself with an attitude of continuous learning and continuous self-improvement is the only way to keep up with the ever-increasing rate of change."

"An attitude of continuous learning and continuous self-improvement is the only way to keep up with the ever-increasing rate of change."

—John Karakadas

From 2005 to 2011, he led the restructuring of SingularLogic, the leading software vendor and information technology services company in southeastern Europe, as its chair and CEO. In 2011, as executive chair of the board of directors of Olympic Air, he led the successful turnaround of Greece's flagship carrier.

Karakadas considers the SingularLogic turnaround his greatest success: Even though he had no experience in tech, his leadership skills enabled him to unite his employees and get the company back on track.

At Kent State, Karakadas says he was profoundly inspired by the words of then-President Brage Golding, who spoke at his 1982 commencement. Golding told the graduates that no matter what they

Karakadas resides in Miami, Florida, with his wife; they have three children. Since graduation, he had returned to the Kent Campus only once before his recent April visit to attend an advisory board meeting and take part in the beam signing for the Ambassador Crawford College's new building.

The board is comprised of prominent alumni and corporate partners who provide advice, expertise and financial support for the college. Karakadas says he is looking forward to his service on the advisory board.

"The greatest investment one can make is ensuring that the next generations are better than the ones before them," he says. "Anything people can do—and universities are the premiere training ground—to contribute to their community at large is very much worthwhile." ⚡



During a beam signing ceremony for Crawford Hall, the new home for the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, John Karakadas adds his signature to the side of the last steel beam to be put in place.



Kindness Radiates at Kent State University

For nearly 15 years, alumni and friends have come together to uplift their local communities and those in our Golden Flash family during a day of service. Kent State has since transformed that one-day tradition into a weeklong initiative called Flashes Give Back Week.

From April 17-22, 2023, Golden Flashes volunteered where it mattered most—in their communities around the globe and at home with Kent State University. Through partnerships with campus organizations and local nonprofits, the university offered 36 in-person volunteer opportunities and 12 virtual options throughout the week. Also, volunteers could create their own service project or show how they are already volunteering in their communities through Share Your Project.

More than 800 Golden Flashes in 37 states across the nation volunteered for 3,000+ hours. They helped combat food insecurity, improve literacy among K-12 students, craft materials benefitting community organizations, clean up outdoor spaces and support Kent State students.

1. Akron Zoo

Kent State University alumni and friends helped the Akron Zoo horticulture team with plant bed maintenance to prep and beautify the zoo for spring.

2. Backpacks for Kids

Volunteers packed bags full of accessible and nutritious meals for children across Stark County. The Stark County Hunger Task Force’s Backpack for Kids program is the largest backpack program in Stark County, serving more than 1,400 children each week.

3. Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank

The Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank fosters literacy and a love of reading by distributing free books to children in need through collaboration with community partners. Kent State volunteers helped sort and prepare used books for distribution.

4. International Students Care Packages

With the help of Kent State alumni and friends, the Office of Global Education collected notes of encouragement and donations of healthy snacks to create care packages for international students preparing for finals.

5. Mat Making

Volunteers created mats out of plastic grocery bags that will be donated by Streetsboro United Methodist Church to the homeless in Cleveland, providing them a dry and more comfortable surface to sleep on.

6. Read With a Student-Athlete

From April 17-21, Kent State alumni and current student-athletes took turns reading to a classroom of second grade students at Davey Elementary School in Kent.

7. LGBTQ+ Encouragement Notes

Together, the Kent State LGBTQ+ Center and LGBTQ+ Alumni Chapter collected notes of encouragement to help LGBTQ+ students feel appreciated and supported.

Check out all the images from Flashes Give Back Week to see more of the many ways our university community made an impact at www.kent.edu/FlashesGiveBackWeek.

—Melanie Secre

1960s

Anthony J. Marsella, MA ’64, Alpharetta, GA, earned a PhD at Penn State in 1968 and is currently Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Hawaii, where he served as vice president for academic affairs from 1985-1989 and retired in 2003. He is also the past director of the World Health Organization Psychiatric Research Center in Honolulu and past president of Psychologists for Social Responsibility, among other roles.

Marsella is known nationally and internationally as a pioneer figure in the study of culture, psychology and psychopathology; he challenged ethnocentric and racial biases in the assumptions, theories, methods and practices in psychology and psychiatry. Among many honors and awards, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Copenhagen in 1999 at a ceremony presided over by Denmark’s Queen Margrethe II.

He has served as consultant to numerous national and international agencies and organizations, and he has published 21 books and more than 350 book chapters, reports, reviews and articles.

Much of his present writing is on peace, social justice and nonviolence. He currently serves on journal editorial boards and scientific and professional advisory committees. He is also senior editor for the *International and Cultural Psychology* book series for Springer-Nature Publications (New York), a 47-volume series.

1970s



Thomas J. Jordan, BA ’72, Sturgeon Bay, WI, wrote: “After retiring from advertising, I continued my love for photography that began at Kent State. Since then, I have created nearly

a dozen coffee-table books. Last year, I won silver and bronze for Amateur, Fine Art/Photography, at the 2022 International Photography Awards. There were over 40,000 entries from 120 countries.”



Mark Levine, Med ’73, Alpharetta, GA, wrote: “I proudly cheered for Kent State from the Georgia Bulldogs game to honor Kent State Homecoming 2022 in Atlanta. My son-in-law (a

Bulldog fan; his family has had 50-yard-line seats for the past 30 years) kindly took me to tailgate and cheer on my Kent State Flashes this month. I met some great Kent State fans but sat with my son-in-law. The Bulldogs fan next to me jokingly asked how I (a Kent State fan) got a valuable Bulldog seat on the 50, then laughed. Although the Bulldogs were expected to win, many Bulldog fans, as well as the Atlanta TV sports show said, ‘The Flashers played a very respectable game.’”

Mark Levine earned a PhD in leadership and education with a specialty in human resource development from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, in 2006. He was inducted into the EHHS Hall of Fame in 2019. He received the Centennial Alumni Award, which recognizes an alumnus who has made significant contributions to society, whose accomplishments and careers have brought honor and distinction to Kent State University, and who has advanced the field of education, health and human services.

Linda Fifer, BS ’74, MA ’75, Hamilton, MT, wrote: “I have published my debut novel, *The Road Between Two Skies* (Atmosphere Press, November 2022). Brennis Tripham is at the apex of her career when a bizarre kidnapping results in her loss of memory. She accepts who she is, now as Maggie, but as her memory recovers, she realizes who she was. Saying goodbye is the only way for her to reconcile her two lives until she knows where she belongs.”

Fred Jermyn, BS ’74, San Diego, CA, wrote: “The Kent State Men’s Soccer Alumni Reunion on Saturday, October 1, 2022, was the first time that the five Kent State men’s soccer goalkeepers who are now listed in the NCAA Men’s Soccer Division 1 Record Book for their feats were able to gather for a group photo (see above right). The achievements of these five men to now be recognized by the NCAA as Kent State student-athletes is a phenomenal boost to the already prominent athletics programs of Kent State.”



Pictured (left to right): **Zoltan Balogh, BArc ’69**, Richfield, OH (1963-67); **Mike Fernella**, attended between 1960-1970, Amelia, OH (1967-70); **Nick DiGrino, BS ’71**, Macomb, IL (1967-70); **Bob Clouse, BS ’76**, Columbus, OH (1971-75); and **Jeff Johnson, BS ’77**, Katy, TX (1972, 1974-75).

Wendy (Borom) Eugene, BS ’77, Savannah, GA, published *Who’s Having More Fun Than Me?* (Grace 4 Purpose Publishing Co. LLC, August 2022). Her memoir tells a story of faith and hope as she navigates the symptoms of multiple sclerosis in a way that has enabled her to continue living, dreaming and achieving. She currently is employed as a peer mentor with Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network. See www.authorwendyeugene.com.

1980s

Hans Kwee, BBA ’80, Wooster, OH, retired as staff radiologic technologist from Wooster Community Hospital in September 2022 after nearly 21 years of service. He spent 12 years in manufacturing before making a career change to radiologic technology. He graduated from Timken Mercy Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology in 1995. He worked in healthcare for 27 years.

SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTE!

Fill out the form at www.kent.edu/classnotes or write: Kent State University Alumni, Center for Philanthropy & Engagement, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242

- Try to limit your notes to 150 words or less, and include your degree(s), class year(s), and city/state of residence.
- High resolution photos may be included.
- Notes may be edited for length or clarity and published as space allows.

Deadline for submissions:
Spring –January 31 | Fall –June 30



Ray Novotny, BS '80, Youngstown, OH, devoted 30+ years of service to Mill Creek MetroParks, Ohio's first park district. Upon his retirement in 2016, the Board of Park Commissioners honored him with the title Naturalist Emeritus.

Short-headed gartersnakes (*Thamnophis brachystoma*) were known only from northwest Pennsylvania and southwest New York state until Novotny discovered the species as new to the Buckeye State in 1989-1990. A decade after finding them in Mahoning County, he found more in Trumbull County. He authored a chapter on them in the 1,100-page book *Reptiles of Ohio*, recently published by Ohio Biological Survey.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History celebrated its centennial in 2021 and chose Novotny as its Conservation Educator of the Year.

The National Association for Interpretation held its conference in Cleveland in 2022 and honored Novotny as both regional and national Outstanding Senior/Retired Interpreter. NAI is dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation. Its membership includes staff at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and historical sites (more than 6,000 members in more than 30 countries).



Angelique Walker-Smith, BA '80, Washington, DC, was elected World Council of Churches President from North America at the World Council of Churches 11th

Assembly, held in Karlsruhe, Germany, in September 2022. She was one of eight presidents elected at the assembly. WCC presidents promote ecumenism and interpret the work of the WCC (national member churches and partners), especially in their respective regions.

Walker-Smith is the national senior associate/strategist for Pan African and Orthodox Faith Engagement at Bread for the World, based in Washington, DC. She has been ecumenical representative for National Baptist Convention USA Inc., is a

member of the WCC central committee and works for the National Council of Churches in the US. She is also president of the Historic Black Church Family of Christian Churches Together, made up of many US national churches, and served as initiator of the Pan African Women of Faith Networks. She earned a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1995.

Kathy Schulz, MLS '83, Santa Fe, NM, wrote: "My book, *the Underground Railroad in Ohio*, was released January 9, 2023, by History Press. The cover blurb reads: During a dark time in our history, thousands of freedom seekers traveled the Underground Railroad through Ohio. The Buckeye State hosted about half of all fugitive slave traffic of the antebellum era. A mix of Northern and Southern settlers in the state added drama to a struggle that led to major benefits for the state and the country. Unfortunately, this epic past was obscured by silence and secrecy and then distorted with misinformation and folklore—until now. Author and native Ohioan Kathy Schulz accurately details the development and workings of Ohio's Underground Railroad with true stories of Addison White, John Parker and others. The author drew upon her library degree and background to research and write this book."

Beverley Laubert, BA '84, Lewis Center, OH, retired after 33 years advocating for older adults and people with disabilities in Ohio, including 26 years as Ohio's state long-term care ombudsman.

She is serving as national ombudsman program coordinator at the Administration on Aging/Administration for Community Living in the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC.

With gratitude for her excellent education at Kent State, she and her husband, Mike, initiated an endowed fund, the Grosse-Laubert Family Fund for Aging Study in the College of Education, Health and Human Services.

Steve Case, BA '86, Morrisville, NC, has launched a new book, *Through a Psalm Briefly* (Apocryphile Press, February, 2023). A humorist and youth pastor, Case has re-imagined all 150 psalms with pictures and messages that will take the psalms off the pulpit and put them back in the hands of those who need to hear these words for the first time. The book is available wherever books are sold. He is available for workshops/seminars/podcasts and other interviews through email to Steve.Case.speaks@gmail.com.

1990s



Amy Doyle, BS '90, Madison, WI, has been promoted to business operations manager and has become a shareholder at Aro Eberle Architects in Madison,

Wisconsin. Through her decade of working at Aro Eberle, she has taken on increasingly demanding tasks while stewarding the operations of the company financials, human resources and regulatory compliance. Company president and founder, Matt Aro, says, "We are pleased that Amy has joined the ownership team. She is an important part of the structure that supports our company, a recognized leader among staff and peers, and is an essential interface for our clients, vendors and consultants."

Marie F. Jones, MLS '90, Brevard, NC, has published *To Be the Best by Any Measure: Creating and Sustaining a High Performance Organization* (Torchflame Books, March 2023). Written with co-author Pat Magee, the book provides a model for high performance organizations based on the interconnected triad of leadership, organizational culture and strategic planning dubbed the "Magee Stool." Drawn from Magee's decades of experience revitalizing struggling companies, the book is written for aspiring leaders in business and nonprofit sectors.

Jones is currently the library director at Brevard College and teaches courses in leadership and management. She has a doctorate in educational leadership from East Tennessee State University. The book is available from all major online booksellers in both paperback and e-book formats. Learn more at www.messydeskconsulting.com/writing.

Heather (Riley) Rice, BA '97, Dresden, OH, is celebrating 25 years in the field of early childhood development this year. She is the contract manager and supervisor of two programs at the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department. Help Me Grow is a home-based parenting support program for new parents. Early Intervention is a service coordination program for families of children under age 3 with developmental delays. She supervises four home visitors and three service coordinators.



George Ebey, BA '98, Barberton, OH, wrote: "My book *DEBBI & Other Stories in the Helen of Mars Universe* (Glass House Nocturnal, December 2020), is now available in paperback. This

collection of stories and novellas is set in the world of a future Mars where rovers are controlled by Earthbound operators in a high-stakes game for ultimate power.

Previously available as an e-book, I'm super excited that it has made its way into paperback for the first time. If you're new to the series, this is a great place to start. Work on the second book in the Helen of Mars series, along with a new tie-in novella, is well underway and will follow in 2023. See www.ebeybooks.com."

2000s



Jill Christoff, BA '04, Shaker Heights, OH, has been promoted to associate principal at Bialosky Cleveland. Trained in architecture and interior design, she joined Bialosky Cleveland in 2011

with the unique ability to approach projects from a fully integrated design perspective. Her experience in complex renovations led her to be an asset on notable projects, including the renovation of Shaker Heights Public Library, Kent State University's School of Visual Communication Design and the \$86 million expansion of the Ashley United States Courthouse in Toledo, Ohio.

She 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.

Jessica Hudson, BA '04, MLIS '07, MBA '11, Canton, OH, was named president and chief development officer of the Summa Foundation in August 2022.

The foundation supports patient care, medical education and research at Summa Health through philanthropy.



Janet Gbur, BS '06, Canfield, OH, a research biomedical engineer and investigator in the Advanced Platform Technology Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical

Center, will serve a three-year term on the ASTM International board of directors. ASTM is an organization that offers global access to technical standards development.

Gbur also serves as senior research associate in the department of materials science and engineering and is a member of the Advanced Manufacturing and Reliability Center at Case Western Reserve University. She is an adjunct faculty member in mechanical engineering at Youngstown State University. Her work focuses on fatigue and fracture behavior of materials used in biomedical applications and the development of emerging technologies to improve devices used in neural-interfacing systems.

An ASTM International member since 2012, Gbur serves as second vice chair of the metallography committee (E04) and chair of its long-range planning subcommittee. She is also a member of the committees on fatigue and fracture (E08), mechanical testing (E28), and medical and surgical materials and devices (F04). Gbur has been honored by E04 with the Award of Appreciation in 2018 and by E08 with the M.R. "Mitch" Mitchell Best Student Presentation Award in 2014. She has also received the ASTM Graduate Scholarship (2015).

Gbur holds a BE and MSE in materials and mechanical engineering from Youngstown State and a PhD in materials science and engineering from Case.

2010s

Stephanie Hand-Cannane, BA '10, Massillon, OH, an associate in the Cleveland office of McGlinchey Stafford, has been included in the 2023 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, in the practice area of commercial litigation. This honor recognizes lawyers who have been practicing for 10 or fewer years.

Eric Mansfield, MA '12, Akron, OH, was awarded second place in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival's Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award for his play *Baron of Brown Street*. The full-length drama, which premieres in

September with Rubber City Theatre in Akron, Ohio, was inspired by the true story of a homeless man who became an overnight celebrity following media reports that he had forgiven the punks who intentionally set him on fire. The national award is offered for an outstanding student-written script that explores the human experience of living with a disability. (Mansfield is pursuing a NEOMFA in Creative Writing-Playwriting at Kent State.)

Mansfield was honored with the Emerging Artist Award by Summit Artspace in June 2022, and he recently signed with Next Stage Press, a national play publisher. See www.ericmansfieldwrites.com.



Ronda McCaskey, BSN '12, Chardon, OH, was named 2022 NICU Nurse of the Year, a national award co-sponsored by NICU nonprofits 4moms Cares and Project Sweet Peas. She rose to the top from among more than 600 NICU nurses nominated from across the United States. She was endorsed by many of her patients, co-workers and family members for the exceptional care she provides to babies and families at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. She has worked in the neonatal intensive care unit since September 2012, one month after she graduated from Kent State Geauga. In addition to caring for her patients and families, she manages the unit's schedule of about 150 nurses.

Corey Moore, BS '16, Columbus, OH, earned certification as a web accessibility specialist from the International Association of Accessibility Professionals in July 2022. Only about 1,000 people hold this certification worldwide.



1930s

Florence Quinette, BA ’38, MA ’41, July 5, 2022

1940s

Robert Henderson, BS ’48, Jan. 3, 2023

1950s

Betty Graber, BS ’50, June 14, 2021
Florence Louise Woodward, BS ’50, Jan. 18, 2023
June Brown, BS ’51, June 19, 2022
John Kapioltas, BBA ’51, March 6, 2022
Gordon Seaholts, BA ’51, Oct. 4, 2022
Winifred Smith Steele, MEd ’51, Oct. 27, 2022
William Weaver, BS ’51, July 8, 2022
Paul Zalog, BS ’51, Dec. 1, 2022
Ronald Bacon, BA ’52, Dec. 21, 2021
Lucille Blakey, BS ’52, Dec. 22, 2022
Koon Ching, BBA ’52, Sept.. 14, 2022
*Frederick Marquis Worrell, BA ’52, July 10, 2022
Thomas Nero, BA ’53, July 12, 2022
Harris Brown, BBA ’55, MBA ’65, Dec. 28, 2021
T. G. Harisis, BBA ’57, Nov. 21, 2022
John Caddey, BBA ’58, Feb. 2, 2023

1960s

Adolphus “Al” Messenger, BBA ’60, Aug. 29, 2022
Richard Smith, BBA ’60, April 1, 2021
William Sterbik, BA ’60, Feb. 8, 2022
William Gray, BS ’61, PhD ’84, Feb. 9, 2021
Robert Miller, MEd ’61, Oct. 28, 2022
Clarence Mixon, BS ’61, Nov. 26, 2021
Richard Korecko, BA ’63, March 5, 2023
Wilson Graham, BFA ’66, MEd ’68, April 22, 2021
Michael Berlin, DPM ’67, Nov. 25, 2021
Susan Hart, BA ’67, Sept. 3, 2021
Nancy Herr, BS ’67, MA ’69, Sept. 26, 2022
Reloy Garcia, MA ’68, PhD ’68, March 14, 2023
Peggy (Unroe) Jirousek, BBA ’68, Jan. 25, 2022
Jerome T. Mitchell, BBA ’68, Oct. 12, 2021
Sandra Busler, MEd ’69, Nov. 18, 2021
Nancy Rue, MLS ’69, Feb. 4, 2023

1970s

Joyce Cooper, BS ’70, May 19, 2022
William Hahl, BBA ’70, June 3, 2022
Richard Brietstein, DPM ’71, March 29, 2022
Clarence Tussel, BBA ’71, Dec. 10, 2022
*Bruce Barrett, BS ’72, MEd ’78, PhD ’90, July 10, 2022
Richard A. Blair, BBA ’72, Jan. 4, 2023
Joseph E. Gains, BS ’72, May 17, 2022
Ronald “Mosch” Moschella, BS ’72, Jan. 4, 2023
John Robert “Rob” Andrews, BA ’73, Oct. 9, 2022
Dyan Carlson, BS ’73, Oct. 9, 2022
Albert Pomplas, MA ’73, Feb. 17, 2022
Keith Allen Raymond, BS ’74, Oct. 19, 2022

Allen Tolchinsky, BS ’74, Dec. 12, 2022
Janice M. Bensley, BS ’75, Sept. 1, 2022
Ronald Dubinsky, BS ’75, June 23, 2022
Chibuzor Nnate Nwoke, BBA ’75, April 11, 2022
Donald Zinz, BS ’75, MA ’75, Nov. 15, 2022
Irene Carlson, AA ’77, Aug. 10, 2022
Louis Cassimatis, PhD ’78, June 5, 2022
Michael Heaton, BA ’78, Sept. 18, 2022
David Rausch, PhD ’78, Jan. 4, 2023
N. Scott Ballard, BA ’79, Sept. 13, 2022
Mark Collier, PhD ’79, Feb. 8, 2022

1980s

*Joseph Cowperthwaite, BBA ’80, MA ’85, July 22, 2022
Paul Harding Taylor, BA ’80, Jan. 8, 2023
Vicki Delaquila, BBA ’81, Nov. 14, 2022
Catherine E. “Kate” Carter, BA ’84, Dec. 3, 2020
Donarita (Priddle) Vocca, MLS ’84, July 1, 2022
Richard Brenneman, MBA ’87, April 28, 2022
Michael Lee, BBA ’87, Feb. 7, 2022
Molly Callahan, BS ’88, Sept. 29, 2022
Elaine Lumley, BS ’89, Feb. 13, 2023

1990s

Kimberly Bayless, MEd ’90, Jan. 14, 2022
Michael Greenly, BSN ’92, March 27, 2021
Jeffrey Infante, BS ’92, Dec. 4, 2022
Betty Hurst, MLS ’93, Jan. 2, 2023
Brian Dusho, BBA ’94, Dec. 15, 2022
Susan Bacon, BA ’96, Sept. 14, 2022
Carolyn Dean, AAS ’98, July 10, 2021
Evelyn Lichtenburg, MLIS ’98, Nov. 26, 2021

2000s

Denise Zito-Harper, BSE ’01, Aug. 18, 2022
Brian DeLuca, MA ’02, MLIS ’04, Feb. 22, 2023
Mandy Jenkins, BS ’02, MA ’04, Feb. 26, 2023
*Amanda Burke, BS ’04, MA ’07, MA ’13, PhD ’15, Dec. 13, 2022

2010s

Timothy Mikes, XAA ’15, BSPH ’17, Jan. 28, 2023

2020s

Megan Richards, XAA ’20, Sept. 4, 2022
Joseph “Joe” Chirozzi, BIS ’21, Dec. 6, 2022
Cory Moore, XAA ’21, Oct. 31, 2022

Note: An * before a name means the alumnus was a faculty or staff member, too. So they are also listed under Faculty/Staff.

FACULTY/STAFF

William “Bill” Howland Kenney III, PhD | Professor Emeritus of History (1966–1995), July 26, 2020

He taught American studies and history. An avid jazz clarinetist and pioneering researcher in jazz studies, he wrote several books on the cultural history of jazz.

“I remember Dr. Kenney as an authority on American colonial history. An excellent and thought-provoking lecturer, he exposed students to some of the latest knowledge in the field and we were expected to do work as demanding as more selective academic institutions.” —Thomas M. Grace, BA ’72

*Frederick Marquis Worrell, BA ’52, PhD | Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Kent State University at Stark (1966–1994; 1995–2009; 2012–2013), July 10, 2022

He held a variety of administrative and teaching positions after serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He received a Fulbright Award to teach sociology and social work at Trent Polytechnic in Nottingham, England, for the 1982-83 academic year in its division of social sciences. He resumed teaching mainly at Kent State Stark between 1966 and 2012. In 2019, he wrote a memoir, *A Religious Journey: The Sun of God*.

Robert “Pete” William Flexer, PhD | Professor Emeritus of Special Education (1979–2010), October 18, 2022

As a scholar and researcher in the 1970s, he championed the cause of supported employment and was among the leading voices for people with severe disabilities.

After coming to Kent State University in 1979, he began obtaining federal funding for personnel development that focused on transition coordinator competencies and was instrumental in launching Ohio’s statewide Transition-to-Work (TTW) endorsement for secondary special education.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Drs. Pete and Carol Flexer Endowed Scholarship at Kent State University at www.flashes.info/Flexer.

Ronald P. Brown, PhD | assistant dean of Pan-African studies at Kent State Ashtabula (1984–1998), March 26, 2022

He served as assistant dean of Academic Affairs, director of Multicultural Affairs and assistant professor of Pan-African studies at Kent State University at Ashtabula for 14 years.

*Bruce Robert Barrett, BS ’72, MEd ’78, PhD ’90 | senior research officer, (1986–2007), July 10, 2022

*Joseph “Joe” Cowperthwaite, BBA ’80, MA ’85 | inaugural managing director at Porthouse Theatre and Kent State University Theatre (1990–1991), July 22, 2022

Robert D. Hisrich, PhD | Bridgestone Chair of International Marketing and director of the Global Management Center (2015–2023), February 1, 2023
He was a world-renowned expert and author on entrepreneurship. In December 2021, Hisrich was named one of the top 2% of researchers worldwide in a study published by Stanford University scholars.

In honor of his gift to Crawford Hall, the Robert D. Hisrich Faculty and Staff Lounge will be named for him in the new building.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Dr. Robert D. Hisrich Memorial Scholarship online at www.flashes.info/Hisrich or by mail to KSU Foundation, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH, 44242. Please indicate Foundation Fund #10062F on a check when making a gift.

*Amanda Burke, BS ’04, MA ’07, MA ’13, PhD ’15 | associate professor in the School of Health Sciences (2021–2022), December 13, 2022
Prior to being promoted to associate professor in 2021, she was an assistant professor (2015–2021) and an adjunct faculty member (2010–2015). In addition to touching the lives of students in her classrooms, she published academic research on intimate partner violence and substance abuse. She also was president of the board of directors for United MSD Foundation, a charity dedicated to finding a cure for Multiple Sulfatase Deficiency, as her son, Jett, has this terminal illness.



James W. Heddens, PhD (1925-2022)

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Jim Heddens, beloved former Kent State professor and icon in the field of mathematics education, passed away on June 3, 2022. Dr. Heddens joined the College of Education faculty in 1961 as the first faculty member at Kent State focused on the teaching and research of mathematics education. In his 25 years at Kent State, he amassed an impressive list of accomplishments.

He pioneered a mathematics teaching laboratory in the University School (1962-1982), created the first elementary mathematics teaching specialist graduate program in the United States, developed Kent State’s master’s and doctoral programs in mathematics education, served as the major advisor on 16 doctoral dissertations and trained thousands of future elementary teachers.

Dr. Heddens also was the lead author of *Today’s Mathematics*, the longest-running methods textbook for elementary mathematics teachers (1964–2014). In 1974, he founded an organization that became the Research Council on Mathematics Learning, which will celebrate its 50th meeting in 2023. He also helped develop mathematics education programs internationally with his work at the University of Malawi.

Beyond the list of accomplishments was a teacher who cared for his students and created community. His focus on seeing how students think and building on their strengths was embedded in everything he did. Currently, his work has directly affected thousands of bachelor’s degrees, hundreds of master’s degrees and about 70 doctoral degrees in mathematics education from Kent State. He has left an astounding legacy for Kent State faculty and students and is a worthy model of an educator and peer.

To honor Dr. Heddens’ commitment to mathematics education, we have established a scholarship fund in his name, now in its third year. As we approach the 62nd anniversary of the mathematics program he established at Kent State, we are honored to celebrate the past, present and ongoing commitment to his everlasting vision.

— Karl W. Kosko, PhD
| Associate Professor, School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies; College of Education, Health and Human Services

— William R. Speer, PhD ’76
| Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Former Director of the UNLV Mathematics Learning Center

To support the future of mathematics education at Kent State in James Heddens’ name, you may make a gift online at www.flashes.info/Heddens or by contacting Stephanie Mowls at 330-672-0018 or smowls2@kent.edu.

S O

GIVING VOICE

In Celebration of the
College of Nursing
50th Anniversary

SOME DAYS you'll wake up
and know
your life has a purpose
This is who you are
who you want to be
a nurse

Your arms will open like doors
welcoming those in need
You do not know all the stories
but you will learn to become them

D Some days you'll feel a fire in your chest
as if the whole world is burning
You'll feel your tongue fold inward
the weight of unspoken words
flutters in your stomach
and clogs in your throat

Some days your heart will crumble like crust
and when the beeping stops
you will feel in your nostrils
a burning void

Some days all the lines and scribbles
of your life
will make a picture
You'll feel like being a daisy
though everyone around you
wants you to be a rose

M

Never forget nature's healing touch
or the comfort
of a wrinkled hand
reaching out to you

Some days your heart will feel
heavy with hope
You'll wipe away the worries
and the why me's
and realize hurt
and healing
are not so different

A

Some days you'll reach for the stars
wishing you had longer arms
you'll break into a million pieces
and call yourself confetti
or look at another and feel
for just that moment
everything is right with the world

Y

Your mouth can speak
a powerful magic
Your heart is
a lighthouse in your body
Remember your patients can teach you lessons
greater than any you will hear
in a lecture hall.

Some days with grace and grit,
you'll know the work of a nurse
is the work of the heart
sacred and profane

Find your passion
let it write your story
This is who you are
who you want to be
a nurse

S

*This collaborative poem was created
by Kent State University's College
of Nursing faculty, students, and
alumnae during Healing Stanzas
writing workshops, conducted in
2017 by the Wick Poetry Center.
Edited by David Hassler
Illustration by Each+Every*