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, BA ‘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 more other countries on my list!

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

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 ’72
Saint Clairsville, OH

WARM WELCOME

I really enjoyed the story about Brigitta and Stephen Haszély 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.

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-ALBITI, BA ’92
Shaker Heights, OH

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 ’77
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

READING ABOUT RWANDA

Great fall/winter 2022-23 issue of the magazine. I have known Pacifique [Nyonsima] 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

Picture (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 students have visited their students during their semester abroad.

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

FAMILY VISIT

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, I had 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, Ph.D., 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
FEELING PROUD

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

CHRISTINA KUKUK, BA ’00
Ashland, OH

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).

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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 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