

Dr. Mary Ann Raghanti joins the LFHCfS™!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BIG NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Mary Ann Raghanti joins LFHCfS

Drs. Metin Eren, Michelle Bebbler and team bring home the Ig Nobel Prize 2020

Dr. Linda Spurlock is KSU's nominee for MAC Teaching Award

A LESSON FROM OUR FAVORITE STATISTICS PROFESSOR
Dr. Richard Meindl

RETIREMENT
Joy St. James

PhD CANDIDATES IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Danielle Jones
Morgan Chaney

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY
Emily Morrissey, B.S. '19

STONE AGE SCIENCE
Symposium sponsored by JSPS

ANTHROPOLOGY ROCKS
Hate has no home here

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
Exhibit features donations from Dr. Jeanne Marie Stumpf-Carome

HISTORY LESSON
Do you think you know Golden Flash?

MEMORIAL
Robert P. Mensforth

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
Maria Serrat '07



Dr. Mary Ann Raghanti joined the Luxuriant Flowing Hair Club for Scientists™ (LFHCfS) in September, 2020. Dr. Raghanti considers this a crowning achievement. In her acceptance of this honor, she said: The main focus of my research is human brain evolution. I chose this field of study after spending an inordinate amount of time chasing monkeys around forests, hoping against hope that each of them would defecate close to a trail to facilitate fecal sample collection. That was followed by another unusually dedicated time period grinding up said samples for various analyses. Brains, on the whole, smell better. Nevertheless, the beguiling siren call of excreta returns to my lab and research in fascinating

forms. I am driven by a passion to understand what makes us human, and one characteristic of our species is the presence bountiful scalp hair. This is just one reason why I am delighted, honored, and humbled to become a member of the LFHCfS.

For more information on the LFHCfS and its sibling clubs, please visit <https://www.improbable.com/hair/>

Message from the Chair: On a more serious note, the pandemic has made this a very challenging year for all of us. I have never been so grateful or proud to be a part of the Department of Anthropology at Kent State University. We continue to be a strong, innovative, and excellent department for students and faculty to study, grow, and learn together (while maintaining a safe distance, of course). While we now gather in strange places with names like Zoom, Teams, and Collaborate Ultra with a recurring refrain of “You’re on mute”, we have all made these transitions together, and successfully. I hope you enjoy this year’s Newsletter as much as I enjoyed putting it together!



KSU Anthropologists bring home the 2020 Ig Nobel Prize!

The Ig Nobel Prize is awarded for research that first makes you laugh, and then makes you think. The award-winning team included Drs. Eren, Bebber, and Raghanti and graduate students Dusty Norris, Alyssa Perrone, Ashley Rutkoski, and Mike Wilson. Their research tested the account of an Inuit man's ability to fashion a functional knife from frozen feces ("Shadows in the Sun: Travels to Landscapes of Spirit and Desire" by Wade Davis). As Dr Eren noted, this research serves as "a humorous rallying cry for the importance of evidence and fact-checking." This was the 30th annual Ig Nobel Award.

The award ceremony, usually held at Harvard, was entirely remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nobel laureate Marty Chalfie (2008) conferred the Ig Nobel prize (a 6-sided paper cube, assembled by each of the recipients) to the winning team and Ig Nobel founder and host Marc Abrahams handed out the ten trillion (Zimbabwean) dollar bills. Dr. Chalfie had several questions for the team, including whether colleagues felt this was a *waste* of their talents. You can watch the ceremony on Youtube (the team appears at about the 1 hour, 1 minute mark).



Marc Abrahams



Marty Chalfie



The knives did not cut; they only left brown streaks. Note streaks (above).



Metin I. Eren



Michelle R. Bebber



Mary Ann Raghanti



James D. Norris



Alyssa Perrone



Ashley Rutkoski



Michael Wilson



Dr. Linda Spurlock is KSU's nominee for the MAC Outstanding Faculty Award!



The Mid-American Conference has established the new **MAC Outstanding Faculty Award for Student Success**. This first of its kind award will recognize one full-time faculty member nominee who has demonstrated a dedication to student success from each of the twelve MAC institutions. Dr. Spurlock was honored at Friday's basketball game against Buffalo (Feb. 21, 2020) along with Kent State's other two finalists, Dr. Asantewa Sunni-Ali and Dr. Julie Mazzei. Dr. Spurlock will move forward as Kent State's nomination and will be considered along with representatives from the other 11 universities in the MAC.



From the 12 nominees a single winner will be chosen. The announcement was to be made on March 14th, 2020 during the MAC Basketball Championship. This was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Spurlock's nomination was based on her strong commitment to student success, inclusion, and demonstration of the MAC core values (e.g., academic achievement, commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, integrity).



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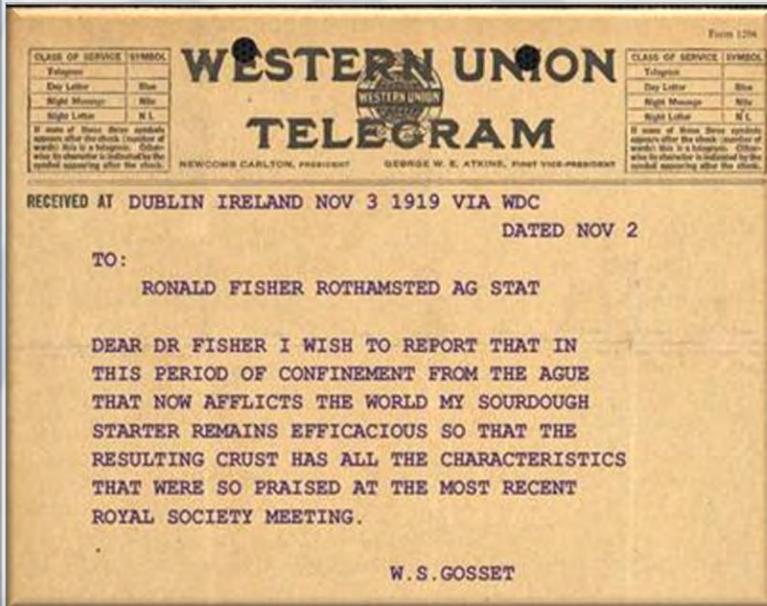
@AnthroKentState

@TheErenLab



From the desk of Dr. Richard Meindl

This photocopy of a Western Union telegram was sent to us by John N. Reeves (MA, '91). Note the date and the reference to "the ague," the author and from where the message was sent, and the recipient and his professional address. William S. Gossett studied mathematics and natural sciences at Winchester College and then Oxford before beginning work in 1899 in quality-control at Dublin's Guinness brewery, which by then was the largest in the world. A major issue that year was the strict maintenance of the ratio of "soft" to "hard" resins in hops. He developed a method and probability model for assessing the likely error in the estimation of means from small samples. Students in our department's statistics classes know that this "new" method was a rudimentary form of hypothesis testing; of course, the statistical model is the Student's



t-distribution. (While Gossett was eager to publish, the managers at Guinness did not permit the appearance of this employee's real name in a journal, since other brewers of dry stout would dearly want this battery of accurate estimation tools. Instead, the pseudonym "Student" was used in the 1908 publication in *Biometrika*. Brewers Dublin XXX or Murphy's would never make the connection!)

Richard Dawkins called Sir Ronald A. Fisher "a genius who almost single-handedly created the foundations for modern statistical science." For instance, Fisher published *Statistical Methods for Research Workers* in 1925, in which he formalized the method Gossett pioneered, presented a dimensional extension of the t-tables which he called \bar{x} (now, "F"), and outlined some basic statistical elements of experimental design for both industry and biometry. Not even 30 years old, Fisher declined a prestigious position at the Galton Laboratory in University College London but instead took a temporary job at Rothamsted Experimental Station to analyze the vast amounts of crop data accumulated since 1842. He remained there for 14 years, developing, *inter alia*, a family of statistical designs under the name "analysis of variance" (ANOVA) as well as the technique of maximum likelihood estimation.

The ague of course is the 1918-1920 influenza pandemic. The morals of these summaries: vintners prize variety; brewers, consistency; forget the prestige and go where the data take you; and novel viral outbreaks will last a lot longer than the coming summer (and for which you may need a good sourdough starter). Sláinte and Kanpai

Richard Meindl
Professor



JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING JOY ST. JAMES (M.A., '06) ON HER RETIREMENT!

Joy St. James completed her M.A. here at Kent State University in 2006. Her thesis, "**History of slavery, future of hope : Somali Bantu refugees in Cleveland, Ohio**" was directed by Dr. Richard Feinberg. After graduating, Joy joined the department as a part-time instructor and taught the introductory cultural anthropology class, Politics of Culture, and popular special topics courses including "Immigration and Refugees" and "Culture and Communication".

During her 14 years of teaching at KSU, Joy inspired so many of our students and sparked their interest and curiosity about the world and people around them. Joy assures us that she will be busy, telling us that, "...believe me when I tell you that I will not be knitting and crocheting my way into oblivion just yet. I have a lot of things I want to accomplish yet, and I plan to stay busy, with family, projects, reading, and fun things that I have not had the time to do."

Congratulations, Joy! We will miss having you in Lowry Hall!!

TRIVIA QUESTION

Which Kent campus building is the oldest?

- a. Lowry Hall
- b. Moulton Hall
- c. Kent Hall
- d. Merrill Hall

See answer on last page...



Above: Joy St. James (center) as a graduate student, working in Cleveland with Somali Bantu refugee women and children.



Graduate students in the spotlight!

PhD candidate **Morgan Chaney** was awarded the David B. Scholarship. From the KSU website: "This scholarship is presented annually in honor of David B. Smith, a magna cum laude graduate of KSU, to recognize exceptional scholarship and teaching. David tragically passed away in a fire in his apartment.; he was pursuing his MBA at the time. Normally, one award is made each year." Recipients receive a \$500 monetary award.



Pictured: PhD candidate Morgan Chaney sporting his pandemic facial hair.

PhD candidate **Danielle Jones** was awarded a Fellowship with the [Stem Advocacy Institute \(SAi\)](#)! The SAi program provides mentorship and support to graduate student Fellows to increase public understanding and engagement with science. This is a 10-week program aimed at guiding Fellows as they develop their ideas. Danielle developed a project aimed at improving mental health and resiliency for high school students. Dani also received an award for her virtual presentation at The Allied Genetics Conference 2020.



PhD candidate Danielle Jones working in the lab.

Congratulations to recent MA and PhD graduates!

Emily L. Munger, PhD (2020) Alteration to astrocyte density and morphology across Mammalia with specific attention to primate brain evolution and aging (Raghanti)

Melia Romine, MA (2020) Chitinase expression levels in the stomach of the aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) (Tosi)

Emma Janosik, MA (2020) Does early manipulation of oxytocin influence serotonin innervation within the hippocampus? (Raghanti)

Heather Smith, MA (2020) Rock music: The sounds of flintknapping (Eren)

James (Dusty) Norris, MA (2020) Did stone raw material differences influence prehistoric tool-making? (Eren)

Alyssa Perrone, MA (2020) An artifact of human behavior? Paleoindian endscraper breakage in Midwestern and Great Lakes North America (Eren)

Kristen Hirter, MA (2019) Neurochemical insights of human origins: A comparative analysis of dopaminergic axon innervation of the ventral striatum among primates (Raghanti)

Ashley Rutkoski, MA(2019) An experimental approach to ceramic sherd variation (Eren)

Crystal Reedy, MA(2019) Kids! On race; How teaching the evolutionary story of human skin color can challenge children to question arbitrary categories of "race" and the myth of white supremacy in grade school (Spurlock)

Stone Age Science: Insights into the Deep Human Past

Archaeology lecture series hosted by the Department of Anthropology, funded by JSPS Seminar Award
2-14-2020



Above: JSPS officers Mr. Yamaguchi (JSPS Tokyo, left) and Ms. Abe (JSPS Washington, right) with Dr. Anthony Tosi (middle).

In the Spring, the Department was fortunate to receive an award from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) to host a seminar titled, “Stone Age Science: Insights into the Deep Human Past.” Recent research was presented from five leading Paleolithic archaeologists: Drs. Metin Eren, Michelle Bebber, and Linda Spurlock from Kent State University; Dr. Seiji Kadowaki from Nagoya University (Japan); and Dr. David Meltzer, member of the National Academy of Sciences, from Southern Methodist University.

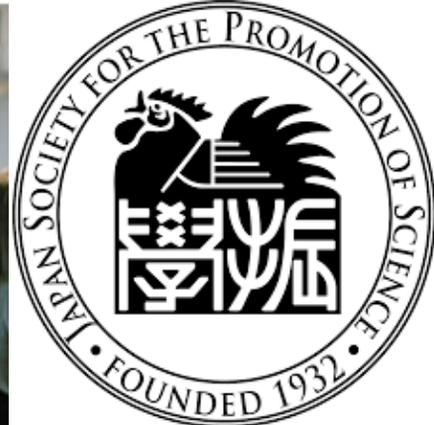
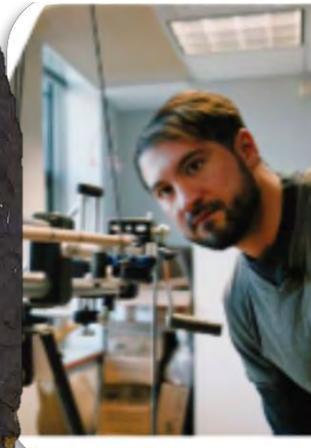


Above: Dr. Tony Tosi provided opening remarks.

The seminar took place on Friday, February 14th, and opened with an informational lecture from JSPS officer Mr. Takefumi Yamaguchi on JSPS international programs, followed by a brief presentation by Dr. Anthony Tosi on the Department’s JSPS- and NSF-supported research connections with Kyoto University (Japan). The research talks began with **Dr. Eren**, who discussed the role of experimental archaeology in modern science, and how flintknapping and other artifact re-creation processes can reveal information about Paleoindians, Old World Paleolithic peoples, and ethnographic foragers. **Dr. Spurlock** followed with a presentation on her field work at Manot Cave, Israel, a site that has abundant evidence of human occupation during the Early Upper Paleolithic period and has yielded skeletal remains exhibiting a mixture of modern *Homo sapiens* and Neanderthal traits. **Dr. Bebber** discussed evidence for the earliest artistic expression in the archaeological record and provided a case study illustrating how the “Principles of Design”—used in the analysis of fine art, architecture, and product design—can also be used to understand the aesthetic appeal of North America’s late Pleistocene Clovis culture. (Continued on next page)

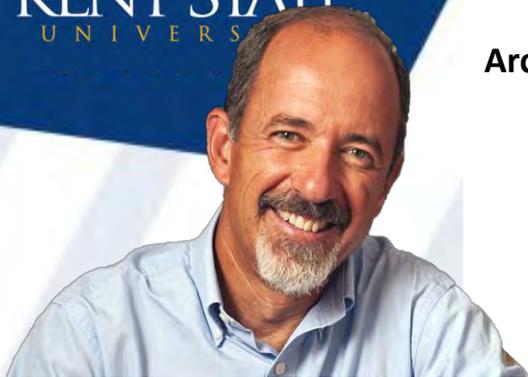


Above: Dr. Metin Eren gives a flintknapping presentation



Stone Age Science: Insights into the Deep Human Past

Archaeology lecture series hosted by the Department of
Anthropology, funded by JSPS Seminar Award



Above: Dr. David Meltzer



Above: Dr. Seiji Kadowaki

Dr. Kadowaki discussed his spectacular excavations in the Middle East, particularly in Jordan, and how these shed light on the transition from Neanderthals to modern *Homo sapiens*. Finally, **Dr. Meltzer** concluded the seminar with a master class on the Stone Age Peopling of North America, and his work integrating archaeology, geology, paleontology, climate science, modern genetics, and ancient DNA.

Over 200 people attended, including faculty and graduate students from nearby universities, groups from various archaeological societies, and interested members of the public. A number of attendees came long distances from Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Refreshments were provided throughout the seminar, and light dinner sandwiches were served during the evening intermission. During the break, Dr. Eren also presented a flintknapping demonstration, which attracted a large and excited crowd.

Though the seminar was only one day, Drs. Kadowaki and Meltzer stayed in Kent for the following weekend. They discussed potential research collaborations with Drs. Eren, Bebber, and Spurlock. JSPS officers Mr. Yamaguchi (JSPS Tokyo) and Ms. Abe (JSPS Washington) also kindly extended their visit in Kent. We were very happy to give them a tour of the Anthropology laboratories and the KSU campus grounds, and we enjoyed talking with them over lunches and dinners. We exchanged ideas with all of our guests for areas of future research collaboration and Japan-U.S. network building.

Below: Mary Ann Raghanti, Owen Lovejoy, Michelle Bebber, Seiji Kadowaki, Linda Spurlock, Metin Eren, Mr. Yamaguchi, Ms. Abe, Anthony Tosi, and Rafaela Takeshita



Anthropology ROCKS

Anthropology faculty and students respond to racist messages on KSU's rock

The rock on front campus has been painted by students since the 1930s. It was originally on a grassy strip between the road and sidewalk and was moved to its current location in 1972 at the bottom of Hilltop Drive.

Earlier this fall, as the semester got underway, the rock was painted repeatedly with racist messages. Anthropology faculty and students responded by painting rocks of their own.



Dr. Jeanne Marie Stumpf-Carome contributes to Cleveland Museum of Art Exhibit

Excerpts taken from story written by Estelle R. Brown and published at

<https://www.kent.edu/geauga/news/professors-souvenirs-1980s-era-cruise-become-part-cma-exhibit>

Jeanne Marie Stumpf-Carome, MA, MS, Ph.D., is a world traveler, an anthropologist, and Kent State University Geauga Associate Professor with a high CQ. This CQ — Curiosity Quotient — drives Dr. Stumpf-Carome's thirst for knowledge and understanding about cultures, customs, and crafts outside her everyday experience. It has also led to some of her souvenirs from a Panama Canal cruise to appear in an exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA).

Back in the mid-1980s, Dr. Stumpf-Carome took her first cruise, one along the Panama Canal, that made a stop in Panama's San Blas Islands. The professor recalls, "Although the islanders were already used to tourism, it was not well-developed with a lot of shops. Walking through a village, I bought molas directly from the women along the way. Women were eager to sell them, fetching them from corrugated metal rooftops where they were drying and even selling me ones that they were wearing."

Dr. Stumpf-Carome explains that molas are decorative panels that tell a story and are sewn onto the front and back of women's blouses. "They are imaginative, creative, brightly colored 'signs' of current events and interests, e. g., political events, animals, human activities, and even boxing kangaroos," she says.

Fashioning Identity: Mola Textiles of Panamá is the title of the exhibit that will be on display for a full year at the Cleveland Museum of Art, beginning November 22, 2020, in the Arlene M. and Arthur S. Holden Textile Gallery (Gallery 234).

According to the CMA's web page on the upcoming exhibit, "The mola is a key component of traditional dress among the indigenous Guna (formerly Kuna) women of Panamá. Guna women have been sewing mola blouses since the turn of the 20th century, and they have become powerful symbols of their culture and identity. During the Guna Revolution of 1925, Guna people rallied around their right to make and wear molas as a statement of their independence. They ultimately gained sovereignty over their territory, an archipelago of hundreds of small islands along Panamá's Atlantic coast, known collectively as Guna Yala."



This free exhibition will display both individual mola panels and complete mola blouses from CMA collections of the Cleveland Museum of Art (including four molas donated by Dr. Stumpf-Carome) and Denison University in Granville, Ohio. The molas on display will span Guna history from the era of the 1925 revolution to the 1980s.



Matilda Mola after 1978. Republic of Panamá, Gunayala Comarca, Guna people. Cotton, synthetic fiber; reverse appliqué, appliqué, embroidery; 62.2 x 89.5 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of Jeanne Marie Stumpf, 2010.799

Wherefore Golden Flash?

This story was inspired by a walk through the KSU bookstore in the student center this summer. They had a large display that chronicled the strange and bizarre history of KSU's mascot. It's difficult to choose a favorite. Enjoy!

1923

THE
SILVER
FOXES



Named because of the university's first president's silver fox ranch near campus.

*I understand that the horse version of the Golden Flasher was a golden palomino...
(Yes, it was FLASHER, not a typo)*

1928



The name "Golden Flashes" was chosen through a student vote. A lightning bolt was the original logo.

1955



Golden
Flasher I

A four-month old golden retriever was gifted to the university and attended all home games.

1969

GROG



Because no one knew what a Flash was, for a time students wore a costume based on a comic strip caveman.

1971



A horse and rider would center up and down the sidelines at football games.

Captain Flash's first name was Freddie..

1977

MAC the
Flash



The golden retriever was brought back and named through a contest.

1981

Captain
Flash



For several years, a superhero in a lightning bolt costume served as the mascot at sporting events.

1985



Flash the Golden Eagle was revealed as the official mascot at homecoming and has been with us ever since.

In Memory: Robert Mensforth, Ph.D. '86

We are saddened to share the news that “Dr. Bob” passed away 7-8-2020.



Dr. Bob Mensforth

Dr. Bob was a superb educator and researcher, made possible by his extensive knowledge of biological anthropology and physiology. More than just knowing anatomy, he understood how the human body functioned, all the way from the molecular level to bones, muscles and organs. His style of teaching was to get students as amazed as he was by these relationships. He also frequently used the ‘abnormal’ to teach the normal, and kept students interested with humor, fascinating stories, and by explaining new research findings.

He often referred students to Kent State University for graduate work, knowing that they would receive a fine education there and have access to good research collections. He was generous with ideas for research projects and encouraged undergraduates to collect and analyze their own data.

Bob was co-author on the 1985 AJPA article, “Chronological metamorphosis of the auricular surface of the ilium: A new method for the determination of adult skeletal age at death” with Drs. Lovejoy and Meindl and Thomas Pryzbeck. This paper is the #1 most cited article for the AJPA! This method for determining age-at-death is very important for the forensic sciences; it is accurate and works on individuals ranging from young adult to 60+ years.

Dr. Bob loved field archaeology and up until the end of his life volunteered at digs throughout northern Ohio. He loved good conversation, jokes, blues music and cats.

Contributed by Dr. Linda Spurlock

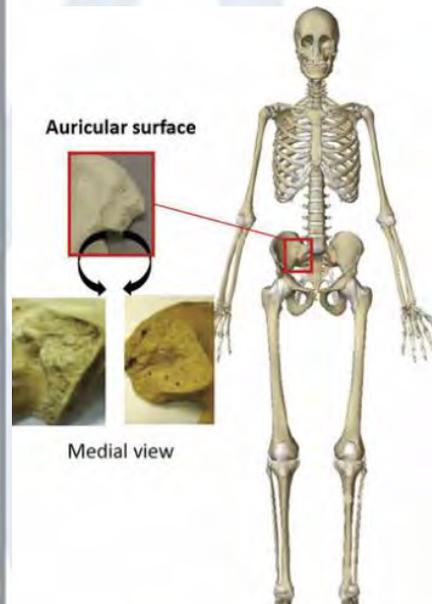


Image taken from Cambridge.org



Alumni Spotlight: Maria Serrat, Ph.D. '07

Among the most motivating forces in any student's graduate career is the knowledge of how recent graduates from our School of Biomedical Science and Dept of Anthropology have fared. In this case look no further (though there are many) than Dr. Maria Serrat, now Associate Professor of Anatomy at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University in Hunting WV. Maria graduated from our program in 2007 and went on to study multiphoton microscopy at Cornell 's College of Veterinary Medicine with Dr. Cornelia Farnum in a two year postdoc position there. In the time

Dr. Maria Serrat



since she has established herself as a major force in understanding bone growth, an area of investigation that she began here at KSU where she experimentally investigated the effects of cold on cartilage growth. Her work has now been expanded to include major clinical issues in bone development and growth, especially the role of variations in its blood supply. She has been awarded several major grants for her work from NASA, NSF, and NIH, and she even played a central role at Marshall for their reception of a 1M award for acquiring Confocal/Multiphoton Microscope. She directs the gross anatomy course at Marshall and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Anatomists. Marshall has given her a number of awards for her teaching skills and especially for establishing innovate approaches to medical anatomy, almost on a yearly basis! Hers is clearly a career path that we can all follow with pride and for students, almost a perfect model to follow.



Dr. Owen Lovejoy tells then-graduate student Maria, "This is a pelvis. *deep, meaningful pause* Mice also have these".

TRIVIA ANSWER

Which Kent campus building is the oldest?
Merrill Hall, built in 1912.

Lowry Hall was built shortly after as the first dormitory.



If you would like to make a donation to the **Endowed Fund for Graduate Student Research** or the **Robert J. and Lauren E. Patten Endowment**, or the **Mark F. Seeman Fund for Archaeological Research**, visit our website to follow the link to make a donation or contact David Grober at dgrober@kent.edu or 330-672-5297