

encompass

FALL 2011

Gifts That Grow

Kent State University at Stark's far-reaching impact can be seen in its contributions to not only education, but also to the economy, the community, the culture and the environment of Stark County.

 **KENT STATE**
UNIVERSITY
STARK
Excellence in Action

Message from the Dean



The gift that keeps on giving. Perhaps that phrase brings a smile to your face or even makes you laugh. Either way, gifts warm our hearts and speak mountains about our relationships. Gift giving and receiving are fundamental parts of our humanity and play an important role in our culture.

As Stark County's only public university, we take our position in the community very seriously and are committed to giving back. While our economic impact can be described in many millions of dollars, our real impact is seen and felt through the lives of individuals. This issue of *Encompass* tells the stories of a few of these people and provides a glimpse into the unique and significant ways our campus, as a whole, impacts the community around us.

Perhaps the most popular way Kent State Stark gives back is through our Featured Speakers Series, now in its 21st year, which brings high-profile, influential leaders to campus, free of charge. Included as an insert to this issue is our *Cultural Flash* publication, detailing this year's speaker lineup, as well as more than 30 music, theatre and art events, many of them also free of charge.

Additionally, this issue explores how scholarships have a lasting impact on the lives of our students. As a friend of Kent State Stark, we invite you to contribute to the Stark Campus Scholarship Fund and, in doing so, give *the gift that keeps on giving*. These gifts make a real difference, touch real students and influence real lives. Think about how your gift will grow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter F. Wagor".

Walter F. Wagor, Ph.D.
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer

stark.kent.edu

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Kent State University is committed to attaining excellence through the recruitment and retention of a diverse student body and workforce.



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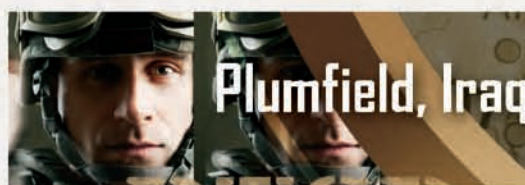
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Gifts That Grow

Kent State University at Stark's far-reaching impact can be seen in its contributions to not only education, but also to the economy, the community, the culture and the environment of Stark County.

Photos by Rachel Figueroa

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK opened its doors in 1946 in the McKinley High School building on Market Street in Canton. Originally Kent State University's first satellite site, Kent State Stark has evolved into the university's largest regional campus—and the second largest regional campus in Ohio—giving its students, faculty, administrators and staff the opportunity to influence Stark County and beyond for the better.

For the past 65 years, Kent State Stark has done that and more, enriching higher education, the local economy, the environment and area communities and their culture in many significant ways.

■ Touching More than 50,000 Lives

Kent State Stark offers 16 bachelor's, two master's and three associate degrees, in addition to many of the university's core courses, which can all be completed on campus. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 18-to-one, Kent State Stark's 107 full-time and 165 part-time faculty members provide 6,300 undergraduates with affordable access to world-class academics and knowledge in a setting that's close to home.

In addition, Kent State Stark annually serves:

- 4,700 clients enrolled in professional development courses through The Corporate University, Small Business Development Center and other departments.
- 200 high school students who are part of the post-secondary enrollment option and other pre-college programs.
- 45,000 employees from as many as 145 companies who use The University Center, one of Northeast Ohio's most technologically advanced meeting and events facilities. For the past three years, the center has been named the "Best Place to Host a Meeting" by the Canton Stark County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

■ Adding Nearly \$130 Million to the Economy

To commemorate Kent State's centennial in 2010, the university commissioned the study, *Prosperity by Degrees: The Economic Impact of Kent State University on Northeast Ohio*. The study found that Kent State and its seven regional campuses generate an average annual contribution of \$1.9 billion through workforce productivity, business and research, as well as attracting students and visitors from outside the region.

Kent State Stark alone creates a total economic impact of \$129.5 million. Of that amount, \$114.6 million stems from the productivity of alumni who live and work in Stark County and \$14.9 million from the operation of the campus itself. In addition, as a result of students' education at Kent State Stark, Ohio benefits from improved health and reduced welfare, unemployment and crime—saving the public an average of \$3.5 million per year.

Although its fiscal involvement in the region is critical, Tina Biasella, director of External Affairs, says Kent State Stark has always recognized that its responsibility to serve the community goes beyond academic and economic roles.

"We purposely want to encourage individual, community and cultural growth outside the classroom as much as inside the classroom," she says. "One way is through sponsored events and activities, many of which are free of charge."

(Continued on page 6)



Featured Speaker Max Weinberg delights the audience as he jams with students from Kent State Stark's music program.



Journalist and author Byron Pitts



Animal expert Jack Hanna

■ Bringing Renowned Speakers to Stark County

One of the most notable among Kent State Stark's list of special events is its Featured Speaker Series, which began in 1991. Since then, the campus has hosted nearly 100 prominent national and international individuals—free of charge—who have received accolades for their work in a variety of areas, including politics, business, journalism, the arts and more.

"This allows people to have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to hear, see and even talk to individuals with whom, in any other circumstance, they would never cross paths," says Biasella. "These speakers are encouraging to the community and to students, drawing them together and urging them to be part of something bigger than themselves."

Many also are attracted to the campus by low- and no-cost fine arts events, such as theatre productions, student vocal and ensemble recitals, concerts by instructors and noteworthy performers and visual art exhibitions in many locations throughout campus. In addition to showcasing creative expression, these events—such as Interfaith Campus Ministries' Festival of the Arts, held last March—often serve as fundraising opportunities for student scholarships and other campus initiatives. Many students and faculty members also share their time and talents with schools, non-profit organizations and arts-focused programs in the area.

Biasella adds, "We believe accessibility to culture in its many forms is essential to building a thriving community and want to open up the world to as many people as possible."

(Continued on page 8)



Journalist and television host Lisa Ling

Kent State Stark Celebrates 20 Years of Featured Speakers

Known for their contributions to civil rights, politics, education, entertainment, environmental activism, literature, arts and other notable areas, Kent State Stark's featured speakers have included civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, national political broadcaster George Stephanopoulos, journalist and National Geographic Explorer host Lisa Ling, rags-to-riches prodigy Christopher Gardner, cinematographer Spike Lee, CNN's broadcast journalist Anderson Cooper and many more.

The following is a comprehensive list of all featured speakers from 1991 through 2011.



Academy Award-winning actor Tim Robbins

2010-2011

Jan Egeland
Liz Pulliam-Weston
Max Weinberg
Jerome Ringo

2009-2010

Byron Pitts
Tom Daschle
Jerry Greenfield

2008-2009

Michele Norris
Rob Corddry
Mike Brown
Jack Hanna

2007-2008

Tim Robbins
John Dau &
Christopher Quinn
Jean-Michel, Céline
& Fabien Cousteau
Dave Barry

2006-2007

F.W. De Klerk
Jeff Corwin
Christopher Gardner
Spencer Wells
Lisa Ling

2005-2006

Ben Stein
Jonathan Kozol
Anderson Cooper
Harry Paul

2004-2005

Carlos Watson, Katty Kay, Hafez
al-Mirazi & Terrance Smith
Neil deGrasse Tyson
Christine Todd Whitman
Forbidden Broadway
Brannon Braga

2003-2004

Robert Novak
Spike Lee
Scott Turow
Sir Martin Gilbert
General Wayne Downing

2002-2003

Jean Sherman Chatzky
Peter Hilary & Jamling
Tenzing Norgay
Benazir Bhutto
Peter Bergen, Robert Baer,
Dr. Bruce Hoffman
& Jack Beatty

2001-2002

George J. Mitchell
The Capitol Steps
Dava Sobel
David McCullough

2000-2001

Jehan Sadat
Ken Burns
Brandi Chastain
David Gergen

1999-2000

Ellis Marsalis
Dr. Robert M. Gates
Rita Dove
Jane Bryant Quinn

1998-1999

George Stephanopoulos
Al Roker
James McPherson
Helen Thomas
John Berendt

1997-1998

William F. Buckley Jr.
Sarah Weddington
Yolanda King
Mary Higgins Clark
Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

1996-1997

David Broder
Barbara Bergman
& Terry Eastland
Greg Gumbel
Alan Cheuse
Olympia Dukakis

1995-1996

Warren Farrell
Julian Bond
Jesse Jackson
Beverly Sills
Tom Wolfe
Naomi Wolf

1994-1995

Benjamin Hooks
Nathan McCall
David Popenoe
John Updike
Frank Sesno

1993-1994


Pierre Salinger
Carol Tavris
Edward Albee
Nikki Giovanni
Harvey Wasserman
& Cathy Roche
Robert Kennedy Jr.
Edward James Olmos

1992-1993

Linda Ellerbee
Dr. Art Ulene
Juan Williams
Irving R. Leine
Joyce Carol Oates
Ralph Nader

1991-1992

Dr. Ernest Boyer
Harvey Cathy
Shirley Chisholm
Leon Lederman
Professor Andrei Anikin
Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
Col. Guion Bluford
Howard Zinn & John Fleming
Kirkpatrick Sale



Christina Fisk, along with other fine arts students, gave their time and talents to beautify the YMCA of Western Stark County with their canvas paintings.

■ Teaching Students to Serve

That desire to awaken awareness of the wider world and all it holds naturally extends to Kent State Stark's service-learning initiatives.

Service-learning, a teaching strategy that incorporates community service into classroom activities, according to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, is intended to "enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities."

Used experimentally on campus for many years, the university established a formal program in 2004, appointing Dr. Andrea Adolph, associate professor of English, as coordinator. Between spring 2003, when tracking was initiated, and spring 2011, nearly

1,900 students have participated in service-learning projects, with an average of 200 to 300 students and 22 faculty members representing 15 departments involved annually. Adolph says that number does not include the many students who are involved in community service projects that are not affiliated with Kent State Stark's service-learning initiatives.

Many organizations have benefitted from Kent State Stark's ongoing service-learning projects, including the Stark County Hunger Task Force, Friends of Fort Laurens, Wilmot Wilderness Center, Stark County Humane Society, Meals on Wheels, Canton City Schools, Brewster and Navarre Historical Societies and others.

Adolph says the duration of service-learning projects depends on the needs of the organization and how professors can incorporate those needs into curriculum outcomes.

"Sometimes an organization will approach us with an immediate need. In other circumstances, we may work on a deep, multi-faceted project that spans several academic years," she adds.

Recently, Kent State Stark fine arts students, together with ArtsinStark, gave the YMCA of Western Stark County's 85-year-old facility a fresh look through original artwork. Trevor Sprague, the YMCA's coordinator of membership and marketing and a 2011 Kent State University graduate, expressed his appreciation for the students' work.

"We are extremely grateful to Kent State Stark and ArtsinStark for the amazing gift they have



Photo by Rachel Figueroa

given our Y and our community,” he says. “It is our hope that the artwork throughout our building will bring attention to the arts in our community, inspire future artists and instill a sense of philanthropy as those who view the art see the generous gift we have been given.”

Since the 2006 inception of the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that are committed to and achieve high levels of community service, Kent State Stark has received the award four times—more than any other Kent State campus.

Future goals for the campus’s service-learning program include offering more faculty development, building an increased Internet presence, creating a student advocacy group and improving resources for community partners.

(Continued on page 11)



With a grant from ArtsinStark, middle school students who visited Kent State Stark made 3-D sculptures of their carbon footprints, which were displayed at Canton’s First Friday.

Faculty Members Engage Middle School Students

Each academic year, Kent State University at Stark invites more than 600 eighth-grade students to campus for three concurrent, hands-on learning sessions, as well as lunch and a talk from an admissions counselor. The goal of this unique program—the only one in the area targeted specifically to middle school students—is to introduce them to a college setting and all the opportunities that await them there.

Joanne Salay, a retired science teacher from Canton City Schools and Kent State Stark’s outreach coordinator since 2003, calls it “scheduled chaos,” as each child is scheduled for three sessions taught by Kent State Stark professors. Topics include math, chemistry, biology, physics, nursing, computer science, psychology, English, journalism, foreign language, art, history and more.

Salay credits the faculty for being the backbone of this outreach, which started eight years ago. “We’ve had about 30 faculty members spend a Friday instructing and interacting with the middle school students,” she notes. “And the students aren’t just listening to a lecture, they are truly engaged—performing an experiment, sketching an object, creating a website, taking vital signs. This makes such an impression on them.”

Other ways Kent State Stark faculty and students are involved with middle schoolers include:

- Science fair judging
- Coaching Science Olympiad teams at Glenwood Middle School in Plain Township. Olympiad teams have recently taken first and second in Ohio regionals.
- ArtsinStark grants for projects like Math as Collage, an artistic interpretation of mathematics; Recycle T’HAT, in which students made hats out of recycled materials; and Environmental Feet, involving 3-D sculptures of their carbon footprints
- The Wings Project for invertebrate research at Sippo Lake

Kent State Stark Honors Vets, Streamlines Their Admissions Experience

When Stark County's service men and women return home to civilian life, many want to begin college studies right away. Kent State University at Stark attempts to make the admission process as easy as possible for them.

Will Casterlow, enrollment management and student services advisor and a veteran of the United States Army, notes that in recent years, Kent State Stark has recognized the need to reach out to veterans.

"Because of their experience in the military, veterans are often more focused about getting through college, and we want to assist them with that goal in any way possible," he says.

Casterlow serves as veterans' main point of contact at Kent State Stark. Together with Venecia Alexander, academic advisor and U.S. Army veteran, and Annie Fritz, Kent State Stark's veterans affairs certifying official and a student financial aid advisor, he strives to streamline veterans' experiences by eliminating any roadblocks or red tape they may encounter.

Last November, students, faculty, staff and administration held a special flag-raising ceremony and panel discussion. Many also collected toiletries, candy and cards to send to soldiers overseas and signed a large banner dedicated to all who have served in the military, both past and present.

During the event, veterans from Mineral City's American Legion Post #519 spoke about their military experiences. In appreciation for their participation, Kent State Stark provided them with a complimentary lunch and t-shirts. Additionally, all student veterans received gas cards.

Stefanie O'Connor, a junior history major and student government community relations chair at Kent State Stark, was part of the team that organized the event. She did it, in part, to honor her father, who served in Vietnam.

"My father considers himself lucky to be alive, as he was the only one of his platoon to return home. I wanted to be part of helping students understand what he and other soldiers have experienced, not only during combat, but also when they returned home," says O'Connor. "I think this event impacted a lot of people, including the veterans themselves. We'll definitely hold it again."



Photo by Rachel Figueroa

Student Stefanie O'Connor pays respect to her father and other veterans by coordinating campus activities that bring honor to those who have served in the military.

Anyone who would like to learn more about the resources available to veterans at Kent State Stark may visit stark.kent.edu/student/resources/veterans.cfm



■ Protecting Stark County's Environment

With protection of the environment as one of Kent State Stark's core values, the campus's leadership role in sustainability initiatives also is a natural fit. A member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability for Higher Education (AASHE), Kent State Stark is focused on not only protecting its own land and habitats, but also preserving and improving the water and wildlife throughout Stark County.

The campus pond is an EPA-approved wetland research area, and this past spring, upon recommendation by environmental activist and featured speaker Jerome Ringo, was awarded the title of National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. Open to the community for enjoyment and education, the pond serves as an outdoor learning and research classroom for biology and geology students and faculty who study invertebrates, other animals, water quality and sediment.

The pond is central to two of Kent State Stark's annual community events—Boo U and Earth Day Celebration. The fall festival, Boo U, which takes place each October, draws approximately 1,000 costumed elementary school children and their families. Students, faculty and staff pass out candy and oversee kid-friendly activities, including science-related fun. Earth Day, held each April since 2007, is another family-friendly event that includes ecological-related activities, demonstrations and discussions for all ages.

Other Kent State Stark programs that benefit both the environment and area communities include:

- Herbert W. Hoover Initiative in Environmental Media, a collaboration between Kent State University at Stark and the University of Miami's (Florida) Arnold Center for Confluent Media Studies. Its mission centers on developing scholars who understand science and the production of fair, educational and effective new media aimed at environmental change.
- Studies that measure water quality and wildlife health at Quail Hollow and Sippo Lake. Participants include Kent State Stark students, as well as local middle school and high school students.
- Recycling and waste minimization efforts. Kent State Stark is one of the county's biggest recyclers, annually recycling more than 50 tons of paper and nearly 11 tons of plastic, aluminum and glass (combined). The campus has participated in Recyclemania's annual waste minimization competition since 2009, ending the 10-week program near or at the top of the list for the amount of recyclable materials collected by Stark County educational institutions.
- Energy conservation, as defined by Ohio House Bill 251 goals. HB 251 requires all Ohio state office buildings to achieve a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption by the year 2014, based upon 2004 baseline figures. Kent State Stark's plan will achieve a guaranteed 37 percent reduction when it is fully implemented.

"Kent State University at Stark's outdoor habitat is a clear example of the institution's commitment to the preservation of nature, and its conservation ethics. With the global challenge of ensuring environmental sustainability, the campus has taken steps that connect people with nature, and like the National Wildlife Federation, recognizes that the future is in the balance."

Jerome Ringo
*Former Chairman of
the National Wildlife
Federation and 2010-11
Featured Speaker*



"I believed that if I developed the right connections within a company and within a community—specifically, connections that would promote the greater good in society—I could change whatever company I was working for. Then, in a flash of insight, I realized that was exactly what I could do right here, on behalf of Stark County."

Eric Smer,
2007 Kent State
University at Stark
graduate and program
director for Stark County
Hunger Task Force

Vision Changes

Because of service-learning, Kent State University at Stark graduate Eric Smer—who once wanted to leave Stark County and join corporate America—is instead devoting himself to feeding the hungry in the community he's always called home.

WHEN ERIC SMER WAS A STUDENT at Kent State University at Stark, he envisioned himself in a marketing career that would help bring social justice to corporate America and whisk him away from Stark County and the Jackson Township home where he grew up.

"I wanted to do something big and bold—somewhere else," says Smer, a 2007 Kent State Stark graduate with a dual major in marketing and business management.

His vision, however, started to evolve as a result of service-learning projects assigned by his college instructors, including Dr. Jayne Moneysmith, associate professor of English,

Don Thacker, marketing lecturer, and Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history and the campus Honors Program director. Over the course of several semesters, Smer was exposed to the needs of area non-profits, such as the Stark County Hunger Task Force (SCHTF), an organization that's been fighting hunger locally since 1981.

All this brought Smer to a crossroads. He says, "I believed that if I developed the right connections within a company and within a community—specifically, connections that would promote the greater good in society—I could change whatever company I was working for. Then, in a flash of insight, I realized that was exactly what I could do right here, on behalf of Stark County."

After graduation, Smer became the Ohio Campus Compact Americorps VISTA Service Leader at Kent State University and Kent State Stark until he accepted the position of program director with SCHTF in 2009. As the organization's only full-time, paid employee, Smer oversees food pick-up, storage and delivery to 33 Stark County community pantries, four senior citizen pantries, a diabetic and special dietary needs pantry, the Backpacks for Kids program and a new mobile pantry that SCHTF is currently piloting to increase outreach. Plus, he is responsible for marketing, volunteer coordination, answering the telephone and often strapping on a lifting belt to load and unload food.



"Currently, we have the least presence in Plain, which is one reason we're trying to get the mobile pantry going."

He also leverages his many local connections to get small and large businesses involved in food drives, fundraising and volunteering throughout the year. Premier Bank & Trust in North Canton, for example, chose to forego its annual holiday party in 2010 to purchase food for SCHTF. Bank employees then donated their time to organize the food for the mobile pantry's maiden voyage last December.

Smer's experience at Kent State Stark made such an impact on his life that he hopes to someday return as a marketing lecturer or professor. He believes Kent State University, as a whole, has demonstrated its commitment to giving back in many ways, including establishing seven regional campuses that have become rooted in the communities they serve.

"At Kent State Stark, there are plenty of opportunities for getting involved in service," he says. "Giving is contagious and everybody has something to give, whether it's time, expertise or something else. Beyond money, this is about becoming engaged in something you are passionate about."

In past years, SCHTF distributed between 12,000 and 15,000 packages of food, each containing a three- to five-day supply of "shelf-stable" items and certain perishables, such as dairy products. In the last six months, however, that number has risen to 22,000 packages, an increase of more than 40 percent.

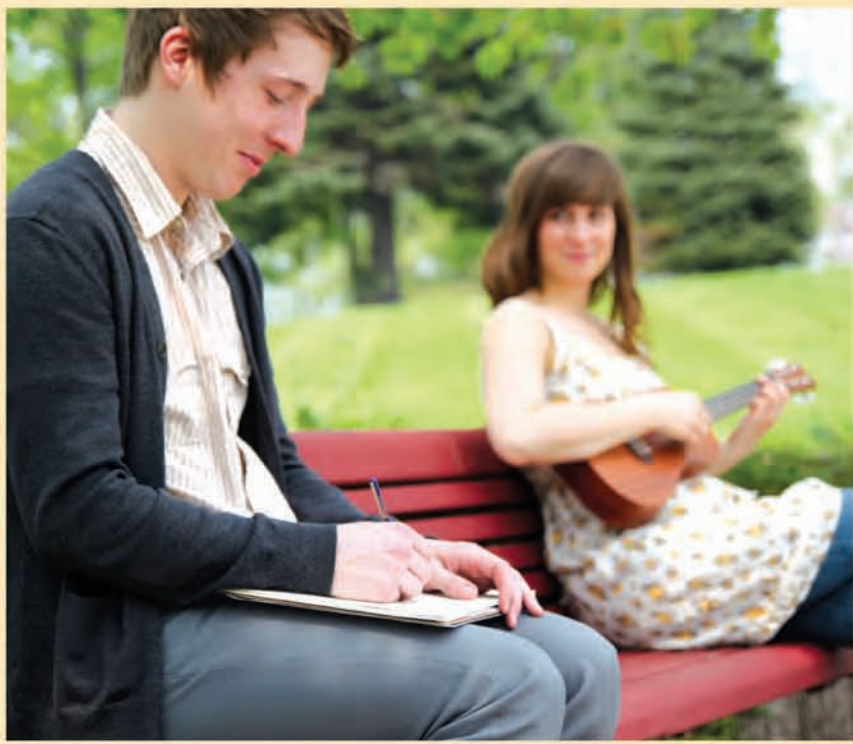
"Although our largest density of need continues to be in Canton, Perry Township and Plain Township, we've seen the largest upsurge in North Canton, Massillon and Jackson Township," Smer says.

Office of Student Life Raises Funds for SCHTF

Kent State University at Stark's Office of Student Life has chosen the Stark County Hunger Task Force (SCHTF) as a key charity it supports through event and student group fundraising efforts, including:

- Business Student Leadership Society
- Club Sunaarashi, for students who share an interest in Japanese animation and games
- Honors Program, a rigorous program for academically talented students wanting to take their education a step further
- Kentiki, the campus's fun, year-end wrap-up event
- Rooted in Faith, a non-denominational, faith-based organization
- SOFA (Student Organization for the Arts)
- Student Leadership Academy, a collaboration between Kent State Stark and Stark State College

Since 2006, students have raised nearly \$5,000 and collected approximately 600 non-perishable items and 11 boxes of food.



Photos by Rachel Figueroa

"At Kent State Stark, I've been able to go farther than I dreamed with guitar," she adds. "Plus, if I weren't surrounded by music tech students, Queen Bee and the Keepers probably wouldn't be recording an album."

Anya Antonavich,
*senior music major at Kent State University
at Stark and singer/songwriter for Queen Bee
and the Keepers*

Music at Heart

Kent State University at Stark students Anya Antonavich and Matt Kurtz explore the joys and sorrows of life through their music, their relationship and their band.

**"IF YOU COULD SEE THE LOOK
ON HER FACE,**

**YOU WOULD SEE THAT HER
BREATH IS DISPLACED**

'CAUSE SHE AIN'T BREATHING..."

So intones vocalist, musician and songwriter Anya Antonavich in her haunting song, *The Waiting Room*. When she was 16, her father died of brain cancer. In turning to music for solace, Antonavich began a journey that's leading her in directions that have yet to be fully defined.

She's not, however, traveling the road alone, nor is she hindered by grief. Instead, this Kent State University at Stark senior—majoring in music with an emphasis on guitar—is moving ahead in the company of others who support and share her passion for arts.

One of those is Antonavich's boyfriend of three

years and fellow Lake High School graduate, Matt Kurtz, a Kent State University senior who started his education at Kent State Stark and is majoring in fine arts with a drawing and sculpture focus. Together they form the heart of Queen Bee and the Keepers, a band they say is inspired by, among others, Ella Fitzgerald, renowned "First Lady of Song," and indie folk musician Sufjan Stevens. Kent State Stark music technology major Spencer Martin assists on bass and behind the sound board, while local instrumentalist Phil Fisher plays trumpet.

With a sound that varies from soulful and atmospheric to playful and easy, Queen Bee and the Keepers artfully blend classic jazz and swing and the mellow feel of contemporary folk. Antonavich, who also plays piano and a little clarinet, has written the music and lyrics for all the songs the group has been performing over the past year at Canton and Kent venues.

Antonavich says she doesn't purposefully incorporate her faith into song lyrics, but it's





Scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit queenbeeandthekeepers.bandcamp.com to listen to and download songs, as well as view music videos produced by Kent State Stark students.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit facebook.com/pages/Queen-Bee-and-The-Keepers/178584368830594 to "like" the band and receive updates on Facebook.

To download a QR code scanner, go to your phone's app store and search "QR reader" or "QR code scanner."

a big part of her music. She also points to George Bachmann, assistant professor of music at Kent State Stark, and members of the music technology department as sources of motivation.

"At Kent State Stark, I've been able to go farther than I dreamed with guitar," she adds. "Plus, if I weren't surrounded by music tech students, Queen Bee and the Keepers probably wouldn't be recording an album."

Kurtz, a drummer who also "dabbles" in banjo and mandolin, notes that Queen Bee and the Keepers has just started playing for pay. The band plans to use concert proceeds to fund the recording and mastering of their first album—a project Antonavich and Kurtz are striving to complete by graduation. After that, both say their future is wide open.

"It's been great having a relationship with another artist," says Kurtz. "Our creativity is always linked together. No matter what, art was the only option for us. Nothing else would have worked."



The background is a warm orange-yellow collage of various mathematical elements. It includes faint sketches of a 3D rectangular prism, a hexagonal honeycomb pattern, a 3D pyramid with edges labeled 1, 2, and 3, and a coordinate plane with a line labeled x+y=z. Numerous mathematical formulas are scattered throughout, such as the quadratic formula $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$, the binomial theorem $(x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k}$, the Pythagorean theorem $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, and various calculus expressions involving partial derivatives and integrals like $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(x, \theta) dx = \int \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} T(x) f(x, \theta) dx$.

The Right Formula

From basic algebra to advanced calculus and beyond, the mathematics department faculty at Kent State University at Stark excels at helping students succeed at every level.





NO MATTER WHAT THE MAJOR, mathematics is a core requirement of a liberal arts education. Some excel while others struggle. Yet, no matter where students fall on the continuum of math skills and interest, Kent State University at Stark's math faculty is ready to meet them where they are—and journey alongside them to success.

The department of mathematics at Kent State Stark currently includes 11 full-time and 10 adjunct faculty members. The adjunct instructors include individuals who are employed in area industries, as well as local high school teachers.

Aloysius (Bathi) Kasturiarachi, associate professor of mathematics and department coordinator, calls the mix an advantage. He says, "It's nice to have diverse experience among our faculty because it quickly enables us to identify good students, as well as those who may be falling behind."

Because students can complete all undergraduate degree requirements at Kent State Stark, the math

program continues to grow. This past spring, the program included nearly 35 math majors, a number that does not include "undeclared" students taking upper-level courses or those majoring in integrated math for secondary education.

Tailored Math Instruction

At any given time, members of the math faculty are solving highly theoretical problems, working with students on basic core skills and everything in between. For honors and upper-level math students, many opportunities are available to assist Kasturiarachi and other professors with advanced studies on topics ranging from differential equations and fractional derivatives to the theory of matrices.

"We can tailor a project to suit any student's undergraduate research objectives in math," he says. "Or, sometimes we pick a topic and invite interested students to participate."



Photo by Rachel Figueroa

“We as educators are aware that technology is changing certain aspects of math rapidly. But, sometimes we forget that students are not thinking like we did just a few short years ago. They aren’t learning the way we did. We need to make students comfortable with new things in practical ways.”

Aloysius (Bathi) Kasturiarachi,
*associate professor of mathematics
and department coordinator*

Graduates in this major develop not only an exceptional aptitude for math, but also critical thinking skills, which are in demand in virtually every career path. Some math majors pursue jobs in business and industry, landing positions as statisticians, actuaries or as analysts who work hand-in-hand with engineers. Others choose graduate school and careers in research or higher education.

For many, however, math is a stumbling block. Kasturiarachi attributes this to the challenging transition from high school to college math, especially when high school seniors are not required to take math during that final year. Math, says Kasturiarachi, must be practiced.

To help students succeed at the college level, Kent State Stark currently offers four 7.5-week courses called Basic Algebra I, II, III and IV. According to Kasturiarachi, the average freshman starts at the first level. Normally, there are about 1,600 students taking these basic classes, which incorporate a variety of hands-on teaching techniques.

“We as educators are aware that technology is changing certain aspects of math rapidly,” Kasturiarachi says. “But, sometimes we forget that students are not thinking like we did just a few short years ago. They aren’t learning the way we did. We need to make students comfortable with new things in practical ways. We can’t lecture and then expect all students to somehow grasp these concepts.”

As part of Kent State Stark’s effort to provide more individualized math instruction, the campus offers a math tutoring center, online tutoring and, this fall, will pilot the math emporium model using ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces), a web-based artificial intelligence system that uses adaptive questions to quickly pinpoint gaps in knowledge. A departure from traditional lecture-based teaching, the math emporium approach allows students to master concepts at their own pace with instructors available to help.





Kasturiarachi notes the implementation of ALEKS represents a significant investment on Kent State University's part—one that the university believes will reap benefits in improved math performance.

"ALEKS and the math emporium model have been used in other schools with significant gains in skill and retention," he adds. "With it, teachers are able to give very personalized instruction, keeping the student engaged throughout the learning process."

Outreach to High School Math Students

In addition to his duties as a professor, Kasturiarachi also is Kent State Stark's liaison to the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and advises the campus's math club, which last spring hosted the sixth annual Stark County High School Mathematics Challenge. Students from Akron Early College, Alliance, Canton South, East Canton, Fairless, GlenOak, Hoover and Jackson High Schools participated.

This free competition—open to any high school student, regardless of age—includes a two-part test that covers concepts up to and including pre-calculus. The math club gives an award for the highest score and recognizes the individuals with the second and third best scores. There is also a team award with two runner-ups.

Kasturiarachi and a former student who's now in graduate school started the competition as a recruiting tool for Kent State Stark and its math department.

He adds, "We also want to challenge high school students. These tests are really hard. If you get even five of 10 questions, you can win. We are stretching them, and, if they win, they take the honor and recognition back to their school."

Biology Added as 16th Baccalaureate Degree Program

This fall Kent State University at Stark is introducing a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, the 16th baccalaureate program offered in its entirety on the Stark Campus. The degree is designed for students who desire a career in biological science, but also want the flexibility to study in one or more other fields.

The new degree will give students a strong foundation in biology as they develop complementary skill sets that will open career opportunities in a variety of areas, including business, journalism, law, political science, government service and more. It also prepares graduates to expand their education toward traditional biological vocations in medicine or post-secondary teaching and research.

For more information:
stark.kent.edu/academics/depts/bsci

Trusted Partners

The Corporate University, Kent State University at Stark unveils its new Knowledge Network, a flexible, customized approach to organizational and workforce development that places relationships with area businesses first.

KNOWLEDGE EMPOWERS PEOPLE and networking connects them. In business, both are vital to success.

For The Corporate University, Kent State University at Stark, helping companies thrive in organizational and workforce development is at the heart of its mission. It's also the reason behind the recent unveiling of The Corporate University's Knowledge Network, a new approach to the design and delivery of its public and open enrollment programs.

According to Kelli Baxter, director of The Corporate University, the idea for the Knowledge Network took shape this past spring during focus groups with The Corporate University's current and prospective business clients.

"Recognizing that our relationship with clients is our top priority, we decided to ask them what we're doing well, where we can improve, what their current and future needs are, how they want education and training delivered and what new programs they'd like to see," Baxter says. "Our key findings revealed that clients want a partner who can offer flexible programs that are designed to address the individual, department and organization development needs that are unique to their businesses. Through the Knowledge Network, we can be that partner."

The Knowledge Network:

- Offers a long-term partnership to organizations - providing guidance as they navigate today's fast-paced, knowledge-based and generationally diverse workplace
- Ignites new solutions by encouraging critical thinking and open dialogue
- Emphasizes practical application and the transfer of knowledge and skills to the workplace

Membership in the network is available on three levels. Depending on the level chosen, organizations are entitled to a variety of learning experiences; access to an advisor for developing and tracking lifelong learning plans, as well as ongoing consultation and support; and use of established certificate programs, which will include new modules. Companies also have the option to custom build their own certification programs.

Targeted Tools and Strategies for Workforce Changes

During their focus group research, issues surfaced that Baxter and her team did not expect. With the aging of America's Baby Boomers, the workforce is changing rapidly and many companies are looking for ways to adapt and grow amidst these changes.



She says, "There is a concern about the transfer of knowledge, particularly tribal knowledge, from the current maturing workforce to new workers. In addition, new generations entering the workplace have a non-traditional view of work, family and society, as well as exceptional skills with technology. Currently, we're developing programs, tools and resources designed to help our clients not just survive, but really flourish during these transitions."

The Knowledge Network also will provide tools that human resources and organizational development professionals need to aid colleagues in transferring classroom skills into the workplace. This will be combined with opportunities for those who have attended programs together to continue networking after the learning experience is completed.

The Corporate University will continue to offer business consulting, research and other customized services that fall outside the scope of the Knowledge Network. However, Baxter says everything The Corporate University offers is based on building a trusted partnership with clients.

"We want to dig down deep and find the source of an organization's challenges," she adds. "We can help companies diagnose their pain and then write a prescription for moving forward in the right direction."

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

"Recognizing that our relationship with clients is our top priority, we decided to ask them what we're doing well and where we can improve... Our key findings revealed that clients want a partner who can offer flexible programs that are designed to address the individual, department and organization development needs that are unique to their businesses. Through the Knowledge Network, we can be that partner."

Kelli Baxter,
director of The Corporate University

"I take simple sentences from a language and represent them mathematically. Then I analyze these structures and determine their efficiency during different time periods—often connecting my research to statistics."

Dr. Relja Vulcanovic,
*professor of mathematics at Kent State
University at Stark*

Photos by Rachel Figueroa



Verbal Calculations

Dr. Relja Vulcanovic, a professor of mathematics at Kent State University at Stark who is widely recognized for his work in the field of mathematical linguistics, integrates his passions for words and numbers in studying the efficiency of the world's languages and how it has changed over the centuries.

LANGUAGE IS AN INTRINSIC part of being human. Because it helps us communicate, articulate ideas and share feelings with one another, a natural language—as opposed to an artificial language, like those used in computer programming—may seem difficult to pin down precisely.

Yet, Dr. Relja Vulcanovic sees that each language has a structure that can be represented and analyzed formally. For more than 20 years, he's carefully researched natural languages, transforming simple syntactic constructions into measurable mathematical expressions. He calculates the efficiency of languages, their similarities to one another and how they change over the centuries. His substantial body of work in mathematical linguistics, part of the larger field of quantitative linguistics, has established him as a well-known authority on the subject.

"I take simple sentences from a language and represent them mathematically," says Vulcanovic, a professor of mathematics at Kent State University at Stark. "Some languages have cases and grammatical markers, others a fixed word order and they use various parts-of-speech systems. Then I analyze these structures and determine their efficiency during different time periods—often connecting my research to statistics."

Vulanovic has discovered that certain universals of syntactic change exist, although many factors influence that change—such as the gradual development, transformation or extinction of peoples and cultures throughout history. Words can become bleached, indicating they lose their power, meaning and usage.

"For example, Icelanders can still read their Medieval literature without any significant problems because of their relative isolation," he says. "It may surprise some to learn that English, in its structure, has not changed that much, although grammatical rules have been simplified."

Vulanovic earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia (formerly Yugoslavia). While there, he taught mathematics and eventually attained an associate professor position. He also began his studies in mathematical linguistics, publishing his first paper in 1989. So far, he's written a total of 19.

In 1991, Vulcanovic came to the United States on a research visit. However, because of escalating unrest in southeastern Europe at the time, he chose to stay and officially joined the Kent State Stark faculty in 1993, bringing his family here to live.

His love of languages extends beyond the theoretical, as he is fully fluent in Serbian and Croatian, English and Russian; possesses very good fluency in Polish and other Slavic languages, as well as French and Spanish; and has a reading knowledge of Italian, German and Scandinavian languages.

In addition to mathematical linguistics, his research interests also include numerical analysis. At Kent State Stark, he currently teaches Calculus I-II, Discrete Mathematics, as well as Modeling Algebra and other freshman-level courses.



The Difference Between

"An amount as small as \$50, when combined with other funds, has impact. I encourage potential donors to contact us to discuss how we can use their gift, how we can help meet their personal desires for that gift."

Heather (Klein) Guarnieri,
*academic advisor
and current chair
of Kent State University
at Stark Scholarship
Selection Committee*

Kent State University at Stark scholarship donors have lasting impact on the lives of current and incoming students, making dreams of higher education more attainable—and more affordable.

APRIL IS A VERY HECTIC TIME for Heather (Klein) Guarnieri, academic advisor and current chair of Kent State University at Stark Scholarship Selection Committee. This past spring, her committee—comprised of 10 faculty and staff members—reviewed 115 applications for 25 current student scholarships.

For many, these scholarships mean the difference between financial breathing room and the burden of taking on additional student loans.

"Our affordable tuition rates are one reason students turn to us," says Guarnieri. "However, for many, it's still a big stretch. Scholarships really do make a difference."

Available scholarships are as diverse as Kent State Stark's student body. Eligibility criteria—which vary from scholarship to scholarship—are established by the donor and may include:

- Specific areas of study, such as communications, education, health care, music and more
- Demonstrated financial need
- Number of credit hours completed
- Minimum grade point average (GPA)
- Minority status
- High school or location of residence

To simplify the process of applying for a Kent State Stark scholarship, all current students use the same application form, except freshmen, who have a separate form. In addition, candidates must submit a scholarship-specific essay, as well as supporting documentation and letters of recommendation.

Kent State Stark's website is a repository for all scholarship details and forms, together with information about Kent State University scholarships and other opportunities apart from those offered by the university. The available Kent State Stark scholarships are posted each spring once sufficient funds are confirmed. Guarnieri notes that fund availability is based on the performance of fund investments, which have been down the past two years. On a positive note, the recent economic upswing is gradually helping scholarships return to pre-recession amounts.

This past spring, the committee distributed \$49,168 in scholarships to Kent State Stark students for the 2011-2012 academic year. The money is divided equally between the fall and spring semesters. Student Services Advisor Ryan Bucher oversees scholarships earmarked specifically for incoming freshmen who are encouraged to apply for these opportunities during the admission process. For freshman, 41 scholarships were awarded, totaling \$119,380.

To learn more about scholarships at Kent State Stark, visit:

stark.kent.edu/admissions/cost/scholarships

Donor Contact Information:

Mary Southards, *assistant dean of enrollment management*

330-244-3240

Tina Biasella, *director of external affairs and business and community relations*

330-244-3292



Unfortunately, Guarnieri says scholarships have, in the past, not been awarded, simply because no one applied.

“My message to students is just apply,” she says. “Too often, students are worried about their GPA or the number of competing applicants. They believe they have no chance of getting the scholarship, so they decide not to waste their time. But I encourage them not to assume anything. You never know how a little bit of effort may pay off.”

Guarnieri also recognizes the special connection between Kent State Stark and its donors. She says, “The scholarships we offer come from faculty and community sponsors who value education and care about students on our campus. They are all very generous people and we appreciate them.”

She adds that Kent State Stark is happy to work with any amount a donor may wish to give, and even one-time gifts are welcomed.

“An amount as small as \$50, when combined with other funds, has impact,” she says. “I encourage potential donors to contact us to discuss how we can use their gift, how we can help meet their personal desires for that gift.”

To give online visit:

<https://www.kent.edu/advancement/givetokent/index.cfm>

Please designate your gift to “Stark Campus Scholarship fund - 14060.”

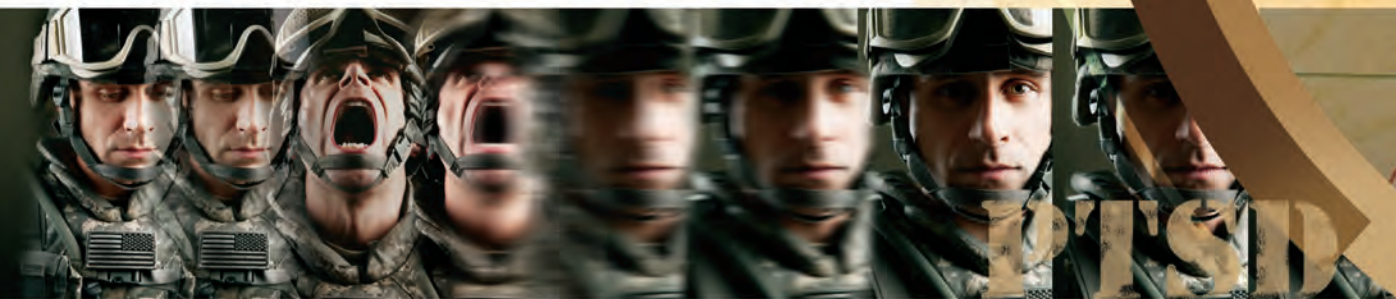
Campus Ambassadors Gain Skills by Serving

Campus Ambassadors play an important role at Kent State University at Stark, serving as the “face” of the campus at:

- Campus tours for prospective students and their families
- Community events, such as Boo U, Earth Day and Featured Speakers lectures
- Recruitment and orientation events for incoming students

Through this experience, the Ambassadors gain leadership and communication skills through service, giving them an edge on their résumés, at job interviews and in their careers. More importantly, their knowledge and enthusiasm as current students provide outsiders with a unique perspective of what it’s like to be a part of the Kent State Stark campus community.

Ambassadors from the past semester include (pictured left to right) Erin Telle, Alexa Hansal, Amber Grimes, Keiva Gray, Joel Howe, Sarah Finley and Lea Trusty.



IRAQ

An Nukhayb

THEATRE SEASON TO OPEN WITH *PLUMFIELD, IRAQ*

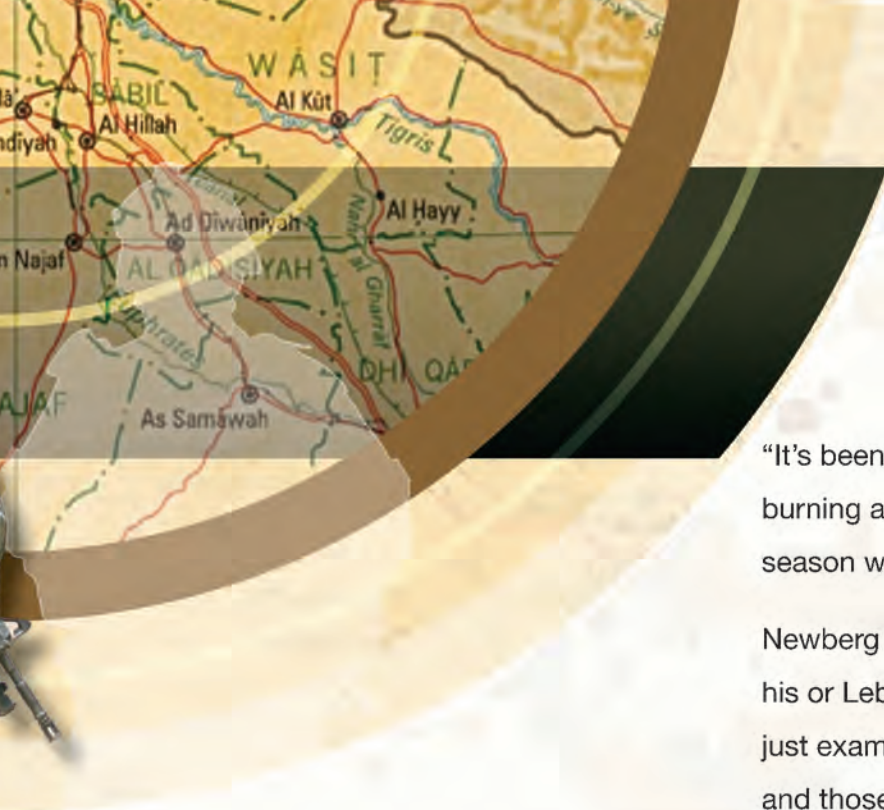
Powerful Drama Examines How War Touches Young Soldiers

by Rachel Figueroa

Brian Newberg, Kent State University at Stark's theatre director, has always been curious about the effects of war on soldiers. His interest was piqued while teaching theatre at a community college in Oregon, where he witnessed waves of young students coming back from deployment – all, from his perspective, damaged in some way.

"Many of my 20-something students were the ones fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," says Newberg. "I wanted to explore material that would examine this topic and dramatize it in a thoughtful way."

Newberg called several organizations, including Veterans for Peace, who put out word that he was looking for material. Soon after, the calls began coming in from around the nation, one intriguing him in particular – a play titled *Plumfield, Iraq*, first performed at the University of California Santa Barbara. The piece is playwright Barbara Lebow's latest work, dealing with young soldiers and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Newberg kept in touch with Lebow's agent and held onto the script, waiting for the "right" time.



"It's been a project I've wanted to do for two to three years now. It's been burning a hole in my pocket. I'm excited to open the 2011-12 theatre season with a show that needs to be done," he says.

Newberg stresses that the piece is not driven by a political agenda of his or Lebow's. He says, "It's not about one side being right or wrong. It just examines the issues of young people who go to war and come back, and those who go and don't come back. The audience will take from it whatever they are open to."

"It's not about one side being right or wrong. It just examines the issues of young people who go to war and come back, and those who go and don't come back. The audience will take from it whatever they are open to."

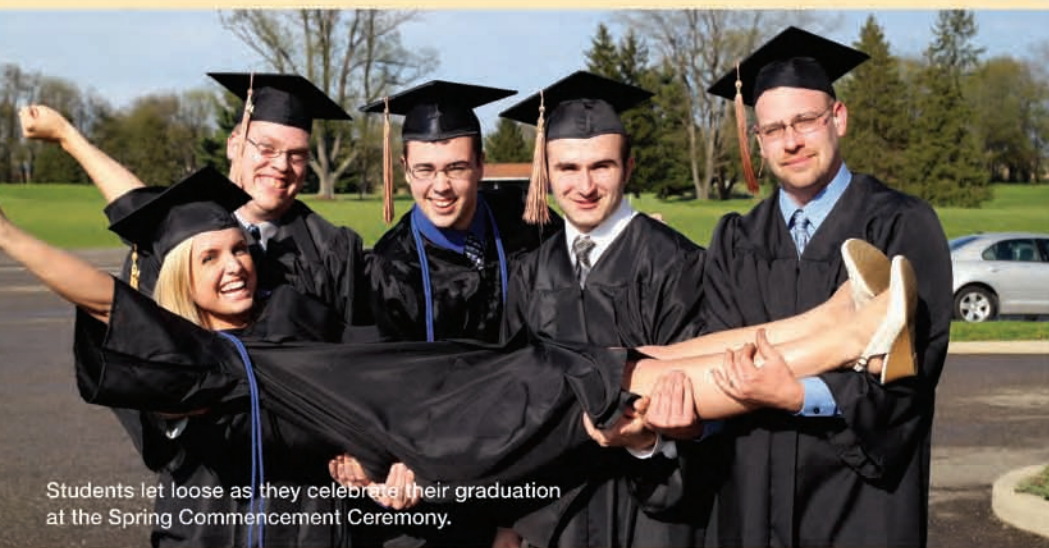
The serious themes of the play are personal to Newberg, as his son is currently stationed at Fort Benning for basic training, and will be assigned or deployed later this fall.

Lebow is best known for her play, *A Shayna Maidel*, which observes the holocaust through the experiences of a family. *Plumfield, Iraq* is currently unpublished and has been performed at only three colleges. Lebow will visit Kent State Stark this fall, where she will interact with students from a variety of disciplines and do a post-show talkback after the Nov. 10 performance.

Plumfield, Iraq will run at Kent State Stark's Fine Arts Theatre Nov. 4, 5, 10 and 12 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 6 and 13 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit stark.kent.edu/theatre.

For information on Kent State Stark's other cultural events, see the Cultural Flash insert, included in this issue of *Encompass*.





Students let loose as they celebrate their graduation at the Spring Commencement Ceremony.

Photos by Rachel Figueroa

Nearly 1,400 Guests Celebrate with Graduates at Spring Commencement Ceremony

In early May, 175 graduates and nearly 1,400 of their family and friends gathered to celebrate Kent State University at Stark's 38th Annual Spring Commencement Ceremony.

Jacqueline DeGarmo, president and founder of Hilliard Jeane LLC and chair of Kent State Stark's Advisory Board, delivered the convocation address, urging graduates to make the most of every opportunity and to "approach your one shot at this wild life from a place of giving."

Dr. Walter Wagor, dean and chief administrative officer, announced Dr. Robert Hamilton IV, assistant professor of biology, as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Teaching Award, with Dr. Kim Finer and Greg Blundell as finalists. Ashley M. Meinke was presented with the Award of Distinction, given to outstanding adjunct faculty members.

Prior to commencement, a special ceremony was held for 45 nursing candidates who received pins signifying their entrance into the field of nursing. Angeline Barbato, 2011 nursing graduate, gave the convocation address and assistant professor Jean Zaluski led the graduates in the nursing pledge, committing them to the high standards of their helping profession.



Dr. Walter Wagor, dean and chief administrative officer, accepts the Tree Campus USA plaque from the Arbor Day Foundation representative.

Growing Green

Last April, Kent State University at Stark invited the community to again celebrate the environment at the 2011 Earth Day Celebration. Nearly 20 outside organizations provided demonstrations, information and activities that reinforced the importance of sustainability. Seven area organizations—including *The Repository*, *Enviroscapes*, *Cain Toyota*, *The Print Shop of Canton*, *Diebold Incorporated*, *AEP Ohio* and *Brewer-Garrett*—showed their support through media, in-kind and financial sponsorships.

Children participated in mock-fossil digs, face-painting, old-fashioned games, environmentally themed entertainment and faculty-led demonstrations and nature walks. And, for the second time, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized Kent State Stark as a Tree Campus USA for excellence in campus tree management and student and community involvement.

Festival of the Arts Showcases Talents of Fine Arts Students; Raises Funds for Student Scholarship

This past spring, Interfaith Campus Ministry, in collaboration with the Fine Arts Departments, presented Festival of the Arts, showcasing the collective talents of Kent State Stark's fine arts

Looking Back



(Left) A Campus Ambassador helps children explore clay art, one of the many activities available at Festival of the Arts.

(Above) Student Ivan Toe edits film prior to the public screenings.

students. The event featured a vignette from the Theatre Department's *Songs for a New World*, vocal and instrumental performances by music students and the campus's studio ensemble, as well as poetry readings and spoken word. Children learned the basics of clay art and attendees experimented with mixing equipment in the music technology labs. The event attracted more than 100 community members, with proceeds benefiting scholarships for fine arts students.

Small Business Development Center Spearheads Entrepreneurism in Stark County

The Small Business Development Center at Kent State University at Stark presented its second annual Entrepreneur Experience, drawing more than 475 entrepreneurs and business and community leaders. Over a month-long course of events, attendees gained valuable advice from speakers, including Andre Thornton, CEO of ASW Global; Ross Sanders of Bizdom U; John Deerborn, president of JumpStart; a panel of local entrepreneurs; and featured speaker Jerome Ringo. A student entrepreneur competition challenged students from four local colleges to develop business plans for the creation of jobs in Stark County.

Presented by The Small Business Development Center and the Small Business Administration, the event was made possible through support

from 10 sponsors and resulted in more than \$25,000 in scholarship dollars being raised for Stark County college students pursuing degrees in entrepreneurial studies.

Students Bring Environmental Issues to Life through Media

As part of the Herbert W. Hoover Initiative, Kent State University at Stark launched an Environmental Media class this past spring, teaching students how to use video to raise awareness of environmental issues. The class focused on the Nimishillen Creek Watershed and the unique challenges that face it. Twelve students—from all different majors and with varying interests—created videos showing how septic system failures, hydraulic fracturing and neglect of the environment are affecting the watershed, and in turn, local water quality.

After a preliminary showing at Kent State Stark, the final films were screened at Joseph Saxton Gallery in downtown Canton, where more than 80 community leaders viewed the videos and were asked to join in the proactive efforts to address the issues facing the watershed. As a result of the course, students have formed TASK (Take Action, Spread Knowledge), a group that's highly active in matters concerning the environment, and in particular, the Nimishillen Creek Watershed.

Scan this QR code
with your smartphone
or visit [vimeo.com/
user7050645](https://vimeo.com/user7050645) to view
the Environmental
Media videos.



To download a QR code
scanner, go to your phone's
app store and search "QR
reader" or "QR code scanner."

Stark Campus Faculty Achievements

ANDREA ADOLPH, associate professor of English, presented "Making Do: Female Desire and the Cookery Books of World War II Era Britain" for the Modern Language Association Conference in Los Angeles, Calif., Jan. 6-9, 2011.

P. BAGAVANDOSS, associate professor of biological sciences, presented "Effects of abnormal cannabidiol (abn-cbd) and O-1602 on endothelial cell growth, pH, matrix metalloproteinase 2 (MMP-2), and intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) expression" for the American Society for Cell Biology Conference in Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 10-15, 2010.

GREG BLUNDELL, lecturer of management and information systems, presented "A Cross-Curricular Approach to Using Course Projects for Developing Process Improvement Abilities in Students (submission #1014)" at the Decision Sciences Institute 2010 41st Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif., Nov. 19-22, 2010.

MOON-HEUM CHO, assistant professor of education foundations and special services, presented "Twitter as a Tool to Support Students' Metacognitive Regulation Skills" at the American Educational Research Association Conference in New Orleans, La., April 9-10, 2011.

JULIE CREMEANS-SMITH, assistant professor of psychology, presented "Cardiovascular Functioning Prior to and Shortly Following Surgery Can Predict Subsequent Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress" for the American Psychosomatic Society in San Antonio, Texas, March 8-13, 2011.

KIM FINER, professor of biological sciences, presented "Career Preparation in Microbiology: from Research to Teaching" at the 2011 General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, La., May 20-25, 2011.

KIM GARCHAR, assistant professor of philosophy, presented "On Emotion in Public Discourse: A Loving Reflection on Royce and West" at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophies Association in Minneapolis, Minn., April 1-3, 2011.

ANGELA GUERCIO, assistant professor of computer science, presented "Being Agile in Computer Science Classrooms" at the 2011 Association of University Regional Campuses of Ohio Conference in Celina, Ohio, April 8-9, 2011.

ROBERT HAMILTON, assistant professor of biological sciences, presented the following:

- "Carnivorous Plants: Vegetarianism Could Be Cannibalism" at the Canton Audubon Society Carnivorous Plant Lecture in Canton, Ohio, May 15, 2011.

- "Macroinvertebrates of Tree Hole Waters on the Kent State University at Stark campus" at the Ohio Academy of Science 2011 Annual Conference in Westerville, Ohio, April 16-21, 2011.

MICHELE HERON AND LORI WILFONG, both assistant professors of teaching leadership and curriculum studies, co-presented "Textmasters: Shaking up textbook reading through integration across the curriculum" at the National Science Teachers Association Conference in San Francisco, Calif., March 10-13, 2011.

ALOYSIUS KASTURIARACHI, associate professor of mathematical science, presented "Creating Blended Mathematical Courses" at the 23rd International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in Denver, Colo., March 18-20, 2011.

CLAUDIA KHOUREY-BOWERS, associate professor of teaching leadership and curriculum studies, presented:

- "Teaching for Freshwater Sustainability: A Curriculum Framework" for the Association for Science Teacher Education Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 20-22, 2011.
- "Teaching for Freshwater Sustainability: Textmasters: Shaking up Textbook Reading through Integration across the Curriculum" at the National Science Teachers Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, Calif., March 10-13, 2011.

RAN LI, assistant professor of physics, presented "Robust high-fidelity universal quantum gates" at the American Physical Society March Meeting in Dallas, Texas, March 22-24, 2011.

KEITH LLOYD, assistant professor of English, presented "Fate: Natural? Divine? Karmic?: Deepa Metha's Triumphant Responses to the Forces of Fate in her film Trilogy" at the 2011 College English Association Annual Convention in St. Petersburg, Fla., March 30-April 3, 2011.

JACK MCWHORTER, associate professor of art, presented "Exhibition of Paintings: Time in Motion" in Brussels, Belgium, May 24-June 1, 2011.

RALPH MENNING, assistant professor of history, presented "The Finns are an Obstinate People: Attitudes Towards Nationalities and Nationhood in the British Foreign Office Before World War I" for the Association for the Study of Nationalities in Manhattan, N.Y., April 14-17, 2011.

ROBERT MILTNER, associate professor of English, presented the following at the Midwest Modern Language Association Conference in Chicago, Ill., Nov. 4-7, 2010:

- "International Raymond Carver Society: Terror in the Works of Raymond Carver"
- "Creative Writing Poetry: Toward a Traumadramatic Poetic"

VERENA MURPHY, assistant professor of management and information systems, achieved the following:

- Presented "Building Consensus from Polar Opposites: Applying a Structure that Produces Integration" at the Institute of Behavioral and Applied Management Conference in San Diego, Calif., Oct. 6-9, 2010.
- Presented "The Latest on Systems-Centered Training Research" at the 2011 Systems-Centered Training Conference in Atlanta, Ga., March 3-April 1, 2011.
- Conducted "The Emotional Impact of Shifting Lenses" workshop at the 2011 Systems-Centered Training Conference in Atlanta, Ga., March 3-April 1, 2011.

STEPHEN NEADERHISER, assistant professor of English, presented "Is There TXTING in this Class? The Place and Role of Technoliteracies in the Classroom" at the Thomas R. Watson Conference in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 13-17, 2010.

THOMAS NORTON-SMITH, associate professor of philosophy, presented "Deloria, Sacred Places and Circularity" at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meetings in Minneapolis, Minn., April 1-3, 2011.

CHRIS POST, assistant professor of geography, presented "Preserving Heritage in the Exurbanizing American West" at the National Meeting of the Association of American Geographies in Seattle, Wash., April 12-16, 2011.

MARY ROOKS, assistant professor of English, presented the following:

- "Secular Matters and Godly Matters: Religion in the Works of Sarah Fielding" for the South-Central Society at the 18th Century Studies Conference in Brunswick, Ga., Feb. 17-20, 2011.
- "How Can these Be Great Books?" at the American Society for 18th Century Studies Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, March 17-20, 2011.

OLIVER RUFF, assistant professor of mathematical science, presented the following:

- "Centers of Various Cyclotomic Algebras" at the American Mathematical Society Fall 2010 Central Sectional Meeting in South Bend (Notre Dame), Ind., Nov. 5-7, 2010.
- "Centers of Cyclotomic Hecke Algebras" at the American Mathematical Society Spring 2011 Eastern Sectional Meeting in Worcester, Mass., April 8-10, 2011.

PAULA SATO, assistant professor of modern and classical languages, presented "When the Monster Writes Back" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Ky., April 13-17, 2011.

CARRIE SCHWEITZER, professor of geology, presented "Reevaluation of the brachyuran (Crustacea, Decapoda) Bauplan; The challenge of the integrating morphological

data at the infraordinal level in assembling the decapods tree of life; Amorphous calcium carbonate and its role in the preservation of decapods cuticle" at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Denver, Colo., Oct. 28 through Nov. 4, 2010.

JAMES SEELYE, assistant professor of history, presented "Missionary Wars in the Upper Great Lakes" at the Ohio Academy of History 2011 Spring Meeting in Granville, Ohio, April 8-9, 2011.

JAY SLOAN, assistant professor of English, presented the following at the International Writing Centers Association Conference in Baltimore, Md., Nov. 3-6, 2010:

- "Mapping Privilege and the Politics of Oppression through/in Writing Centers: Toward Empirical Agenda to Guide Activism and Research"
- "Hearing and Listening: Tutor Voices in Building, Developing and Sustaining of the NEOWCA"

THOMAS SOSNOWSKI, associate professor of history, presented "La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, Émigré in the U.S.: A Precursor to de Tocqueville" at the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era in Tallahassee, Fla., March 3-6, 2011.

SCOTT TOBIAS, assistant professor of family and consumer studies, presented "Challenges in Establishing a Service-Learning Course" at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 2-6, 2010.

BRANDON VACCARO, assistant professor of music, presented "Decoding Faith No More's *Just a Man*" at the Sixth Annual Art of Record Production Conference in Leeds, United Kingdom, Dec. 1-6, 2010.

LISA WAITE, lecturer in communication studies, published the article "What is it they say about the best intentions? Life lessons in empathy and sympathy" in the *Health Communication Journal's* January 2011 issue.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMSEN, assistant professor of English, presented "Foreign Territory: Teaching the Middle Ages through Narratives" at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Mich., May 11-15, 2011.

Stark Campus Staff Achievements

TAMIE EYNON, assistant director of academic advising, and Marisa Naftzger, FYE coordinator, presented "Giving Students the 'Swift-Kick' They Need: A Comprehensive Student Success Program" at the Kent Academic Support and Advising Association (KASADA) Conference, in partnership with The University of Akron, in North Canton, Ohio, May 16, 2011.

LISA GIVAN, admissions counselor, presented "Access Granted: Retaining SOC (Students of Color) at PWI (Predominately White Institutions)" at the ACT Regional Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25, 2011.



Photo by Joe Smithberger

Give to the Kent State University at Stark Scholarship Fund and make a difference in the lives of students!

Your generosity helps relieve the financial burden of college for individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to obtain a university education.

Thank you for your support.

**Now you can
give online!**

<https://www.kent.edu/advancement/givetokent/index.cfm>

When giving online, please designate your gift to "Stark Campus Scholarship fund - 14060."

