

encompass

FALL 2013



living well

Wellness comes in all forms. That's why Kent State University at Stark strives to foster holistic wellness in each student — wellness of body, mind and spirit — and to provide students with a high-impact experience that will empower them for success on campus and beyond.



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Excellence in Action



Photo by J. Albert Studios

Message from the Dean

Wellness is an important topic for Kent State University at Stark. For younger students, most who attend Kent State Stark right after high school, learning about physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being can direct their paths and guide their decisions for a healthy future. For older, returning students, wellness issues can come into play as they deal with life challenges and family situations.

Regardless of their age or circumstances, students don't just leave real-life challenges at home when they come to campus. And they don't just forget about them when it's time to do homework. That's why our campus community cares about overall well-being.

In this issue of *Encompass*, you'll read about various campus resources that help students pursue holistic health. Stacie Humm in our Recreation and Wellness Center and Emily Ribnik in Counseling Services offer a variety of programming to strengthen physical and mental wellness. Dr. Michael Gleason and Interfaith Campus Ministry support those seeking spiritual comfort and guidance.

While these leaders focus on wellness as a profession, Theatre Director Brian Newberg shows how all of us can play a role just by being aware when something is affecting those around us and finding appropriate help.

Our 200-acre campus, itself, is a source of wellness. The pond and beautiful green space provide a soothing, natural environment, which some of our psychology students linked to mental health in their service-learning projects with Stark Parks.

Campus alumni Dr. Joe Niamtu III and Ben Schreckengost each contribute to the wellness of others in their own way, whether through facial reconstructive surgery by Dr. Niamtu or the pleasure of hearing music through organ pipes voiced by Ben.

May these and the other articles inspire you to live well, too.

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

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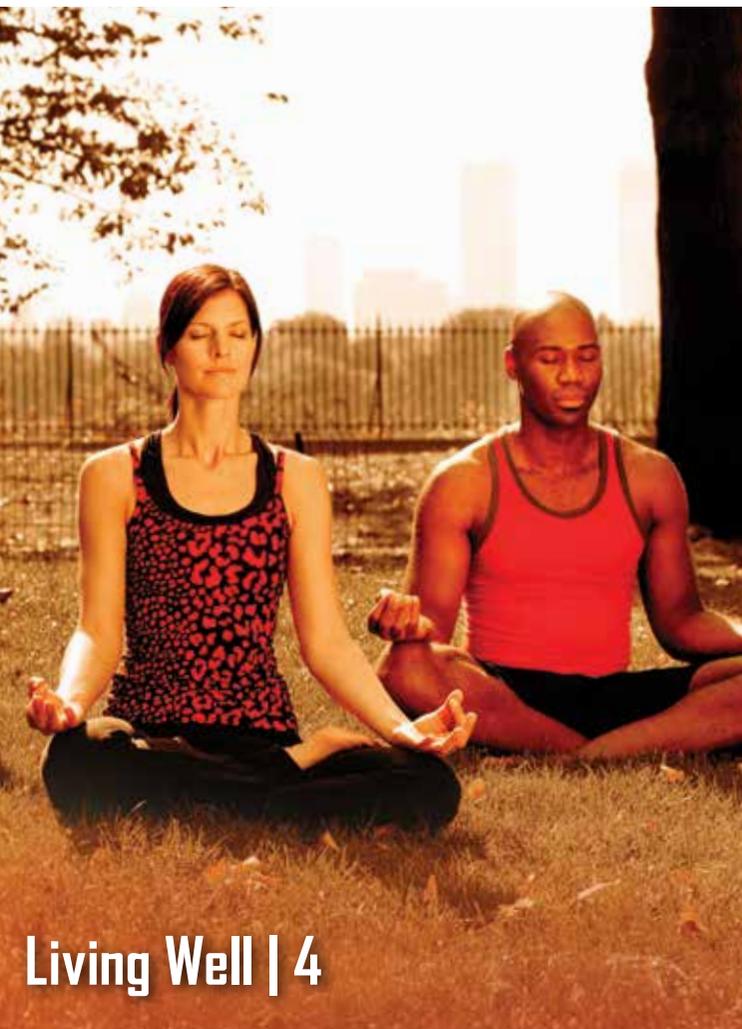
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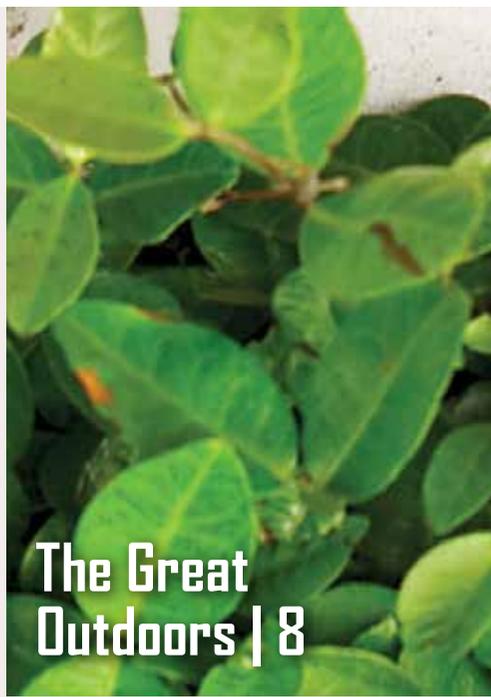
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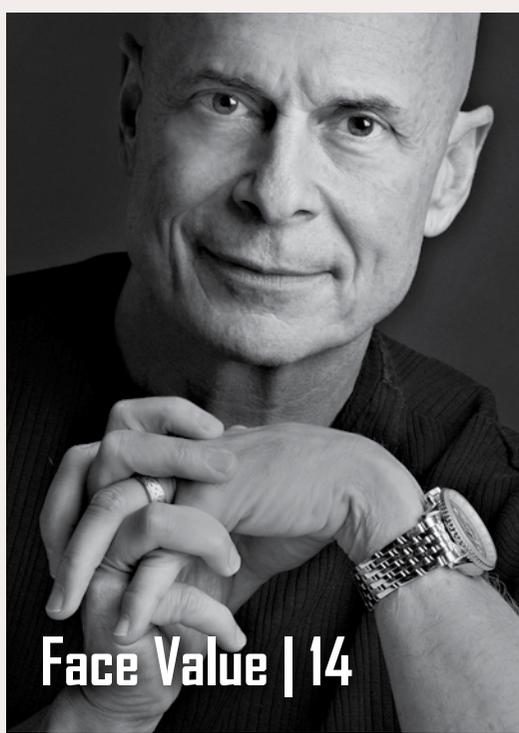
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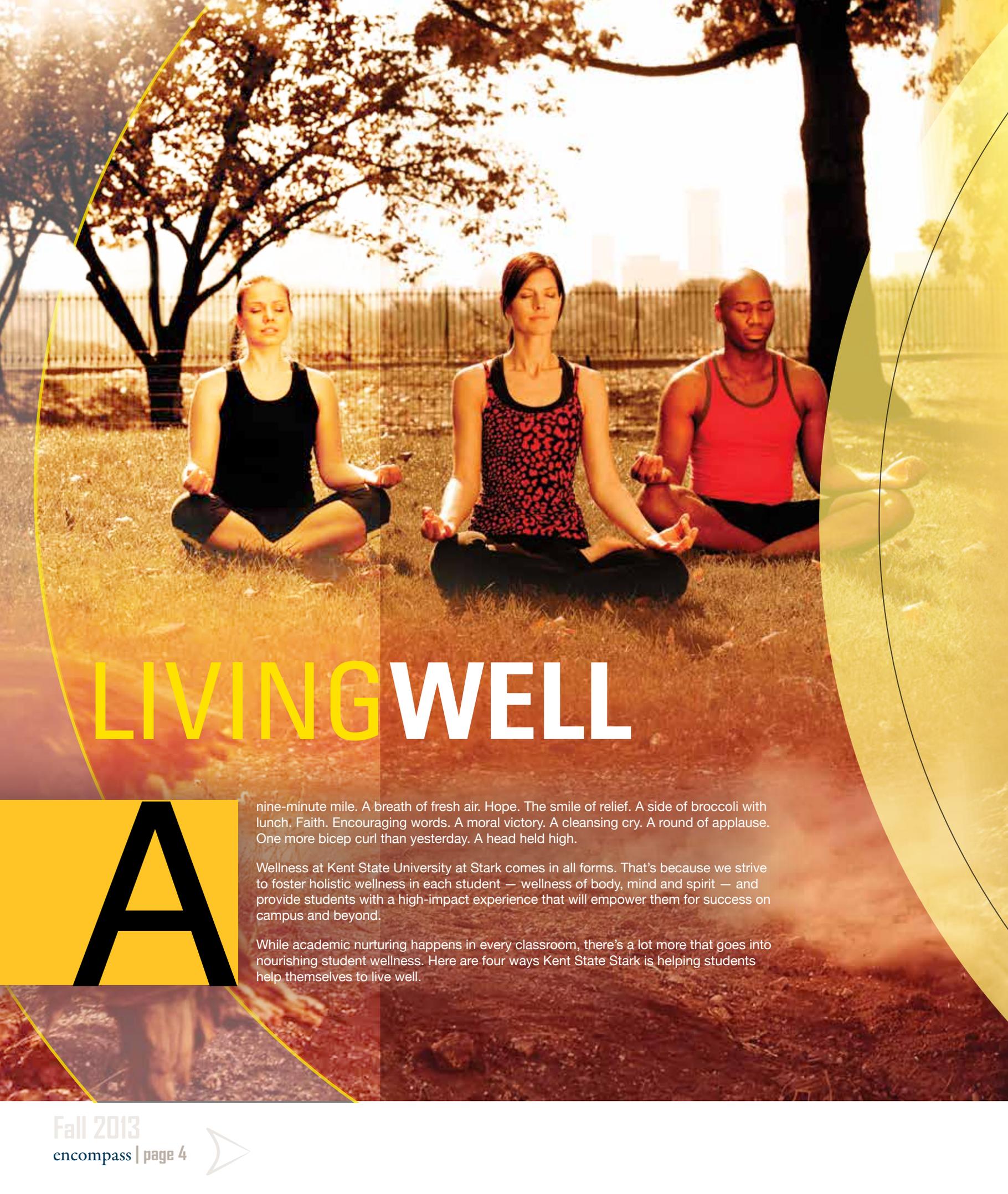


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Looking Back

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A photograph of three people (two women and one man) sitting in a meditative lotus position on a grassy field. They are outdoors, with trees and a fence in the background. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The image is framed by a large, semi-transparent yellow circle on the right side.

LIVING WELL

A nine-minute mile. A breath of fresh air. Hope. The smile of relief. A side of broccoli with lunch. Faith. Encouraging words. A moral victory. A cleansing cry. A round of applause. One more bicep curl than yesterday. A head held high.

Wellness at Kent State University at Stark comes in all forms. That's because we strive to foster holistic wellness in each student — wellness of body, mind and spirit — and provide students with a high-impact experience that will empower them for success on campus and beyond.

While academic nurturing happens in every classroom, there's a lot more that goes into nourishing student wellness. Here are four ways Kent State Stark is helping students help themselves to live well.



BUILDING UP HEALTH & FITNESS

If you build it, they will come. That's the motto driving Stacie Humm as she builds the fitness programming at Kent State Stark.

In just one year since Humm was hired as academic program coordinator for the Recreation and Wellness Center, the campus has introduced an array of new fitness classes, hosted a series of 5K runs and seen a resurgence in intramural and club sports. In the meantime, the number of people using Kent State Stark's fitness and workout facilities has increased by almost 1,000.

"When I got here, I learned that many students didn't even know the campus had a rec center," says Humm. That's when she knew it was time to get moving — and get more people to start improving their health, fitness and overall well-being.

Humm's first step: Change the name of the physical education building to the Recreation and Wellness Center. And start opening at 6:30 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., so more students, faculty and staff could exercise before class or work.

It's a better fit, she says, since the center, which is free for Kent State Stark students, faculty and staff, is more about promoting lifelong health and wellness, not just phys ed classes.

Her second step: Expand course offerings to entice more participants.

"Not everyone is willing to come in here and walk on a treadmill or play basketball," says Humm. "We need to offer a lot of different opportunities so they can choose what appeals to them."

In addition to credit classes in kickboxing, yoga, Latin dance, hip hop, kung fu and other popular activities, Humm began offering non-credit classes to allow students to try an activity without registering for a full semester. Some of the most popular have been: Hips, Butts and Guts; Bootcamp; Zumba®; and Indoor Cycling.

"These classes are always big draws," says Humm, who previously worked in fitness centers at Boston University and University of Alabama.

But some of her lesser-attended classes may be her most notable. Humm has begun offering classes to the off-campus community, as well — a first for Kent State Stark. Biweekly Breast Cancer STRETCH classes are available for free. American Red Cross certification classes, including CPR and First Aid, are available for a nominal fee.

"We want to actively engage the community, be seen and give back," says Humm, whose dream is for Kent State Stark to become Stark County's top resource for recreation and wellness.

Next on her list: certification courses for those wanting credentials to teach indoor cycling, yoga, Zumba® and more. Certifications can open doors for students and others in the community to become fitness instructors.

"These are formative years, when students are developing individual identities and personal goals," says Humm. "It's the perfect time to instill in them a respect for health and wellness so they can make permanent, positive lifestyle choices."

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- **Stacie Humm**, academic program coordinator,
Recreation and Wellness Center

COUNSELING SERVICES FOR THE “SNAGS OF LIFE”

“Solid mental health and a solid sense of wellness is linked to retention, academic success and rate of graduation,” says Professional Clinical Counselor and Supervisor Emily Ribnik, in Kent State Stark’s Herbert W. Hoover Foundation Counseling Center.

Fostering that stability is especially important at Kent State Stark, where students live off-campus, many trying to balance student life with family and work. The pressure of coursework can be stressful enough, but when “real life” pressures mix in, Counseling Services at Kent State Stark is where students can receive the help they need.

During the 2011–12 school year, Ribnik worked with more than 120 students, providing a range of services, including confidential, one-on-one counseling sessions and phone referrals to social service agencies. Some of the most common issues: stress and burnout, anxiety and depression symptoms, grief and loss, abuse and trauma. Treatment and services are tailored to students’ individual needs.

“Students can plan private counseling sessions around their class schedule, but I also take walk-ins, any day, any time,” says Ribnik, who graduated from Kent State with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in counseling. Unless there is an immediate crisis, students with mental health issues typically see Ribnik for a 50-minute session every other week. All counseling services are free for Kent State Stark students.

“The goal of Counseling Services is to provide quality mental healthcare for students to be successful in and out of the classroom,” says Ribnik.

For many, that doesn’t necessarily mean one-on-one counseling. Ribnik also provides mental health education and training. For students, she leads regular seminars on stress and time management, communication and other wellness topics. For faculty and staff, there are seminars on identifying students in distress, helping potentially suicidal students and managing intense student interactions. For both audiences, there is A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training — how to respond to an active shooter on campus.

Everyone runs into snags in life, notes Ribnik. But with her help, Kent State Stark students are finding emotional well-being, personal growth and new skills that enhance their health, academics and relationships.

NURTURING A HEALTHY SPIRIT

Dr. Michael Gleason didn’t practice any active faith in his younger years — until college, that is, when he sought out what he truly believed. More than 30 years later, the director of Interfaith Campus Ministry is helping other college students do the same.

Interfaith Campus Ministry Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides spiritual guidance and pastoral care on both the Kent State Stark and Stark State College campuses.

“Many students ask questions about faith because it’s part of their developmental journey,” says Gleason. “Interfaith provides an atmosphere where students can explore and grow in their own beliefs and appreciate the faiths of others.”

Gleason, a Protestant clergyman, is always ready to help students with questions about Christianity or the Bible. But he’s also ready to steer students who are exploring other religions.

For Muslim students wanting to connect to a local mosque, Interfaith can help. For Jewish students with questions about the Torah, Interfaith can help. For students curious about the differences between Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism, Interfaith can help.

“This is an eclectic world, and we don’t want to demean anyone’s faith perspective,” says Gleason. “Interfaith Campus Ministry appreciates everyone’s distinctive beliefs. We accept the fact that differing belief systems embrace diverse theologies, but know that we have more things in common — love, acceptance, support, belonging — than things that divide us.”

Each year, Gleason organizes an Interfaith Fair where students can browse beliefs, pick up literature and sample traditional foods. At tables in the Kent State Stark Campus Center, students, faculty and staff, representing Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Native American and other faiths, sit side by side.

In addition, Interfaith Campus Ministry sponsors interfaith dialogues, as well as seminars, on spiritual topics, such as coping with grief, finding love and making decisions. Gleason also provides private, faith-based counseling sessions, including pre-marriage counseling and grief counseling. (Interfaith is available to help students with spiritual health issues, while Counseling Services offers help with mental health issues.)

According to Gleason, most students have an inherent understanding that there is something greater than themselves. Helping them explore it is all part of nurturing a healthy spiritual life.

THEATRE THERAPY

It all started as a real-life drama. A cast member in one of Theatre Director Brian Newberg’s productions arrived at rehearsal shaken and distraught.

“I told her to take a break and come back to rehearsal when she was ready,” says Newberg. “In the meantime, another cast member mentioned that the student may be dealing with a form of sexual harassment.”

That was Newberg’s cue to get involved. He cancelled rehearsal, called Counseling Services and then learned



something even more disturbing. When talking with the cast, several other students admitted that they too had been involved in abusive relationships, including harassment and bullying.

"I asked if they'd be interested in developing a production that addressed those topics and their eyes lit up," says Newberg. Such was the beginning of *Voices From Hurt Street*, a multi-genre stage production about abuse and social injustice written entirely by Kent State Stark students.

There's a cathartic element to theatre productions, notes Newberg — particularly when they bring light to a dark topic, promoting awareness and healing. Emily Ribnik, Kent State Stark's professional clinical counselor, agrees that theatre has therapeutic value.

"Healing comes from a variety of places," says Ribnik, who was a resource for students working on *Voices From Hurt Street*. "Theatre can be a wonderful complement to treatment and counseling. It can help people take ownership of an issue and do something with it instead of feeling that it is just happening to them."

In fall 2012, a few months after his initial conversation with students, Newberg introduced a Devising Theatre: Bullying and Abuse course. It filled immediately. The 16 students in the class formed a "writing ensemble" that began weaving a script for *Voices From Hurt Street*. The script included dramatic narratives and poetry, some based on personal experience, some based on research and interviews. No topic was off limits: rape, domestic violence, sexual slavery, homophobia and more.

"Every word was written by students," says Newberg. "The content was so raw and challenging. That's what a university should be about. The students were on a journey, not just learning about writing, but about life."

In spring 2013, even more students joined the journey, bringing the script to life on stage with a cast of 12 and a production team of more than 40 stage managers, designers and musicians.

Voices From Hurt Street opened on April 12 and ran for two weeks. Many in the audience stayed for discussion sessions after each performance. Social service agencies dealing with rape crisis, domestic violence and other issues hosted resource tables outside the theatre.

Out of turmoil and tears, *Voices From Hurt Street* set students and others on course for renewed hope and healing.

Says Newberg about the emotional extravaganza, "Part of the role of dramas like this is helping people deal with issues. If done right, those in the production and audience can have a personal, moving experience. That's one component of healing."



Kent State Stark's theatre production *Voices From Hurt Street* addressed social issues based on the personal experiences of the students involved.



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Theatre can be a wonderful complement to treatment and counseling. It can help people take ownership of an issue and do something with it instead of feeling that it is just happening to them.



- Emily Ribnik, professional clinical counselor and supervisor, Kent State Stark's Herbert W. Hoover Foundation Counseling Center



Students and community members participate in Kent State Stark's First Annual Turkey Trot 5K.



THE *Great* OUTDOORS

Chirping birds, sunshine, rustling leaves — they really can make you feel better. Three psychology students research the mental health benefits of the great outdoors.



ook

up the face of a 40-foot rock wall and just try not to be intimidated. Psychology student Corey Connare has done it before — many times. As a youth camp counselor, he's seen the rock wall become a metaphor for life.

“At first, kids think they can't climb it. But they take the first step and suddenly, they're off the ground and their thoughts change from 'I can't' to 'Will I succeed?'" says Connare. “Then it becomes more of a mindfulness exercise. They're aware of their grip and foot position. They hear themselves breathing. One stretch, one reach at a time, and gradually, they're on top of the rock. They've achieved success.”

But more importantly, they've achieved confidence, he says. They'll be ready for life's next “rock wall” and know it's not insurmountable.

For Connare, the connection between the outdoors and psychological wellness is undeniable. And it goes much deeper than wilderness camps for kids. During spring semester 2013, Connare and other students at Kent State University at Stark conducted research that showed just how interrelated nature and psychology are.

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH NATURE

In 2012, the students were part of the Research Methods class with Dr. Brian Betz, associate professor of psychology. That's where they heard about an opportunity to do a service-learning project for the Stark County Park District.

“Stark Parks wanted to raise awareness about enjoying nature and inspiring more people to do so,” says Betz. “They were open to letting students do whatever they wanted to promote the benefits of the outdoors.”

Three students jumped at the opportunity. And this year, as part of an independent study program, each student set out on a different path.

Connare studied the connection between outdoor adventure programs and mindfulness — concentrating on and allowing yourself to fully experience each moment. Rachel Pearson researched the relationship between nature and positive emotion. Troy Williams investigated how sounds of nature can help reduce stress and promote both psychological and physical well-being.

In addition to hosting an end-of-semester presentation, students planned campus and community activities incorporating their independent research.

“We weren't just doing this to turn in a paper and get credit,” says Connare. “We wanted to get our information out to the community to show people ways they can improve their lives through nature.”



HEALTHY HEARING

For example, Connare and Williams hosted a walk at Stark Parks' Sippo Lake Park, where community members experienced the students' work firsthand. The walk incorporated elements of Connare's study of mindfulness, as well as Williams' study of sound therapy.

According to Williams, research shows how people recover from stress faster when exposed to nature sounds (e.g., gentle breeze, trickling creek), rather than environmental sounds (e.g., traffic, machinery). The reason may have something to do with the concept of entrainment: how organisms' biological rhythms synchronize with other nearby rhythms or vibrations. It's evident in flashing fireflies and chirping crickets, says Williams, but also in the heartbeat and breathing of humans.

"When in tune with nature, our bodies align with calmer vibrations, as opposed to the swifter rhythms of traffic or machinery," adds Connare. "That reduces stress."

POSITIVE THINKING

Pearson designed a positive-thinking wall, displayed on campus, where passers-by could complete the statement "Happiness is..." Responses included everything from "family" and "puppies" to "safety" and "a peaceful mind." Pearson encouraged participants to relax and reflect on their responses at various outdoor spots around campus and at Stark Parks.

"Nature has such a healing power," says Pearson. "Research has shown that in troubling times, those who have a positive experience with nature are more likely to find peaceful resolutions."

BREATH OF WELLNESS

In addition, the students hosted a table in the Campus Center where they distributed information about their findings. For example, Connare handed out instructions for breathing exercises that youth use to combat stress and anxiety during wilderness trips.

"Breathing exercises are simple to do," he says. "As you breathe, you do basic counting and focus on your chest as it expands and contracts. It helps you to stay relaxed — and it's something that Kent State Stark students can do even when they're in class or crossing campus."

In addition to promoting the health benefits of nature and attracting more people to Stark Parks, the students hope that their work will raise environmental appreciation and spur conservation efforts.

"Nature provides so much stress relief," says Williams. "It's free. It's enjoyable. If I can show someone something that they can do to make themselves feel better, isn't that what therapy is all about?"



Psychology students Rachel Pearson, Troy Williams and Corey Connare study the mental health benefits of being outdoors.



Nature provides so much stress relief. It's free. It's enjoyable. If I can show someone something that they can do to make themselves feel better, isn't that what therapy is all about?

— **Troy Williams**, psychology student,
Kent State University at Stark





SURVEY SAYS...

THE COMMERCIAL AND SAVINGS BANK FINDS OUT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ITS CUSTOMERS BY TURNING TO THE CORPORATE UNIVERSITY'S SURVEY AND RESEARCH SERVICES.

Deborah Berner has learned a lot during 32 years in the banking industry. Financial products, customer service, management: They're almost second nature to the vice president of marketing, public relations and retail services for The Commercial and Savings Bank (CSB). But early last year, Berner realized there was more she didn't know about CSB — namely, what customers thought of it.

Never before had CSB asked them via a survey. Berner and her colleagues could have come up with some good survey questions about the bank's products, services and people, but CSB needed more than questions. They needed an expert to manage the survey process and help them analyze the results.

That's when Berner reached out to Marshall Hill, research associate at The Corporate University, Kent State University at Stark.

"Marshall had done an employee survey for us a year earlier," says Berner. "We knew The Corporate University could do more for us than we could do on our own. Plus, we wanted a third party to handle our survey. I thought customers would be more honest about their needs and wants if there were no chance of someone they knew from the bank seeing their personal responses."

SURVEY AND RESEARCH SERVICES

Not that there was anything wrong at CSB. The community bank, based in Millersburg, Ohio, had a thriving business online and at its 15 branches in Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties. But even healthy organizations sometimes need a checkup. That's where The Corporate University's Survey and Research Services could help.

"Employee surveys are done free for clients of The Corporate University — to identify the types of training and development programs employees really need," says Hill. "But we also can provide other types of qualitative and quantitative research to help companies make strategic, data-driven decisions."

First, the Survey and Research Services team conducts a needs analysis. Then, based on those findings, they customize surveys, interviews, focus groups or other tools; manage the data collection; analyze the results; and present them to the client.

"We sat down with Marshall and he advised us on how to structure the survey and how to word the questions," says Berner.

CSB's customer survey actually ended up as two surveys, one for online customers and one for in-branch customers, who would have different needs and experiences. Both included questions about overall satisfaction, quality of services and customer engagement. And both surveys were available online, hosted by The Corporate University.

GETTING THE PULSE OF THE CUSTOMER

Out of 3,000 surveys distributed, more than 1,100 were returned (either in hard copy or online) — a better than 30 percent response rate.

"Industry average is a five to 15 percent response rate for surveys, but 30 percent is not uncommon for The Corporate University," says Hill, known for his concise, yet thorough questioning.



WE knew The Corporate University could do more for us than we could do on our own. Plus, we wanted a third party to handle our survey. I thought customers would be more honest about their needs and wants if there were no chance of someone they knew from the bank seeing their personal responses.

— **Deborah Berner**, vice president of marketing, public relations and retail services for The Commercial and Savings Bank, located at 1210 North Main St., North Canton, Ohio



The customers' responses were even more impressive:

- Overall satisfied customers: 99 percent
- Customers that would recommend CSB to a friend: 96 percent
- Customers that are "proud" to bank at CSB: 91 percent

"We also collected valuable feedback from open-ended questions, to really get the pulse of the customer," says Hill.

While CSB was already a picture of health, customers' written comments were a prescription for continued wellness.

In-branch customers indicated they wanted branch staff to remain consistent. They also indicated they wanted long-term relationships with bankers to help them make good financial decisions throughout life, from getting married to buying a house to planning for retirement.

"We were already providing development opportunities for our employees, but customer feedback showed us we needed to work harder at keeping our people in place and finding ways for them to grow within the same banking center," says Berner.

Online customers requested some functional enhancements, such as being able to download statement information into QuickBooks and deposit checks remotely by mobile device. CSB has already started implementing these changes.

TAKING ACTION

Acting on the survey results takes time, notes Berner. But it's all part of the process.

"You can't survey customers and then put the findings in a drawer and forget about them," she says. "You need to be open to making the changes they suggest."

After so many years with CSB, Berner says she still has a deep passion for the bank's mission: providing customers with high-quality financial services through valued employees.

"If we don't provide that, our customers will go elsewhere," says Berner. "Fortunately, now we know what's most important to them, through these surveys."

SBDC and SCORE Help Small Businesses Grow

Small and start-up businesses can get a dose of good advice from two organizations housed at Kent State University at Stark. The Canton chapter of SCORE and the Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provide training programs and consultation sessions to support local business owners.

"SBDC concentrates on small businesses' general health — like a family doctor," says Victor Pavona, director of Ohio SBDC at Kent State Stark. "Our colleagues at SCORE are more like specialists. They help with specific issues, such as writing a business plan or improving sales."

SBDC provides expertise from certified business advisors. SCORE counselors are retired business leaders and current small business owners who volunteer their time.

"We provide topic-specific counselors who have experience in an area of need," says Dick Evans, chairman of Canton's regional SCORE team.

"For example, last year, a client needed help with manufacturing and one of our volunteers who used to be vice president of manufacturing at Hoover helped him out."

Both SBDC and SCORE provide services on Kent State Stark's campus, as well as at clients' offices. SCORE also serves nonprofits.



Kent State Stark Hosts Seventh Annual Blues in Schools Program

The young musicians of the Blues in Schools program got the crowd moving during their performance at the annual Canton Blues Fest, held June 6–9. The downtown festival is a gig that the talented teenagers look forward to playing in each year. It marks the conclusion of their 14-week program, hosted by Kent State University at Stark.

According to Blues Master Bob Bowers, who coordinates the program, this year's ensemble of 26 high school students came from nine Stark County school districts and, for the first time in the program's seven-year history, one student came from a Summit County school.

The group practices on Kent State Stark's campus each Saturday throughout the program, in addition to performing at public venues. Several established musicians and program alumni provide the students with instruction on vocals, instrumentation and stage presence.

Bowers is very proud of the teens' hard work and enjoys the opportunity to nurture their musical abilities through this unique program.



Students from the Blues in Schools program perform at the 2013 Blues Fest in downtown Canton.



PIPEPERFECT

A KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK ALUMNUS BUILDS A FINE ARTS CAREER CRAFTING PIPES FOR SOME OF THE FINEST ORGANS IN THE WORLD.



A little electric piano was all they had at the Salvation Army church that Ben Schreckengost used to attend with his grandma. The last thing he expected was to build a career crafting pipes for some of the largest, finest pipe organs in the world. Especially at a shop only minutes away from his childhood home.

But Schreckengost's life changed in the summer of 2006 when he spotted a small help-wanted ad in the local newspaper.

"They were looking for a musically inclined, artistic individual, so I called," says Schreckengost, who was just beginning his senior year as a fine arts major at Kent State University. "On my first tour of the shop, I saw the organ pipes, and they reminded me of abstract drawings I had done at Kent State Stark — of tone figures and energy coming out of them, like sound coming out of pipes. The job required working with metals and hand tools, including a burnisher, which I had used in a printmaking class."

Schreckengost's experience and pending fine arts degree earned him the job as a reed voicer at A.R. Schopps Sons in Alliance, Ohio. He had never heard of the company before, much less known it was the largest supplier of organ pipes in the United States.

Still a full-time student, he began a seven-year apprenticeship to learn the quality and detail that had made Schopps renowned for more than 100 years.

"Ben was always looking forward to learning about more kinds of art and art making," says Carey McDougall, associate professor of art at Kent State Stark. "He was curious about every kind of art and was motivated to push himself beyond his comfort zone."

Today, Schreckengost is one of three reed voicers at Schopps — and one of only a handful of artisans in the country who can voice pipes at an advanced level.

PAINSTAKING PRECISION

"The repetition of some studio projects I did at Kent State Stark — hand-drawn grids and circular forms — prepared me for the repetitious work of pipe making," says Schreckengost. "Now, instead of working with images, I work with sound."

There can be more than 90 pipes in each set or "stop" of an organ. When air blows through them, they each produce a different note, but they all must have the same tone color and volume or "voice." That's where a master craftsman can make a big difference, especially when it comes to shaping the brass flap or "tongue" that helps form voices in reed pipes.

"If there's a flaw in the tongue, the pipe won't speak right," says Schreckengost. "Curvature is the main thing. If you run your burnisher across the tongue one extra time, slightly changing its curve, it can throw the whole thing off."

So can one speck of dust. To say pipe voicing requires precision is an understatement. It's painstaking, admits Schreckengost, "but the payoff is when you hear the pipes playing together and feel all that energy."

Schreckengost gets a tinge of it in his voicing room, a 20-foot by 20-foot acoustic studio where he attaches pipes to an organ to test them. Some pipes are thousands of pounds and are lifted into place by an electric winch.

"I use a keyboard to listen to each note, the curvature of its sound and the interplay of notes together," says Schreckengost. "I grew

up playing and tuning guitars, so that helps me bring a pipe into pitch and find a specific tone."

"It's an intense job," he says. "Looking up at a 64-foot pipe and feeling its low frequency vibrate the room is a moving experience, literally."

"JUST ME AND METAL"

"I work solo most of the time — just me and metal, me and my pipes," says Schreckengost. "I feel good working with my hands 40-plus hours a week. I wouldn't want to be in front of a computer all day and don't know what I'd be doing if I didn't work here."

Kent State Stark Associate Professor of Art Jack McWhorter isn't surprised that Schreckengost became a professional artisan.

"I always felt that Ben had that indescribable quality, be it talent or internal compulsion, that assured me art would be an important component of his future," says McWhorter.

Schreckengost's career goals? Becoming the best reed voicer in the world. And eventually making a name for himself by designing his own voicings.

"I want customers to hear my work and know that I did it," he says.

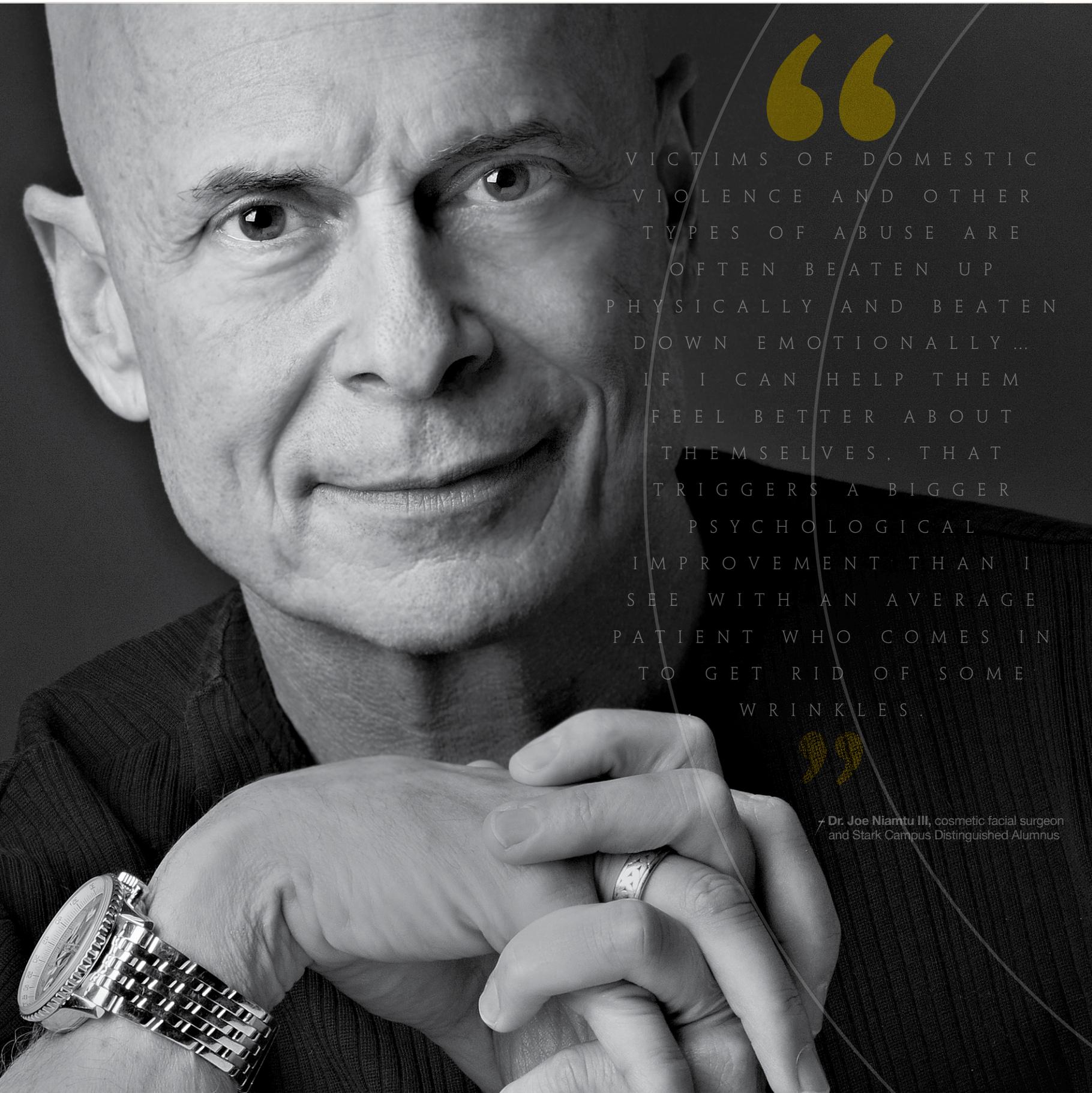
For now, he's content knowing his work is represented in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., St. James' Church in New York City, the Juilliard School in New York City and other magnificent pipe organs from England to Japan to Australia.

"It's cool knowing that my energy has gone into a piece of metal that's going around the world," he says.

THE REPETITION OF SOME STUDIO PROJECTS I DID AT KENT STATE STARK — HAND-DRAWN GRIDS AND CIRCULAR FORMS — PREPARED ME FOR THE REPETITIOUS WORK OF PIPE MAKING. NOW, INSTEAD OF WORKING WITH IMAGES, I WORK WITH SOUND.

— Ben Schreckengost, reed voicer at A.R. Schopps Sons

Schreckengost's coursework at Kent State Stark, like this one from a painting class with Art Professor Jack McWhorter, prepared him to become an artisan at world-renowned A.R. Schopps Sons.



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VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC
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TO GET RID OF SOME
WRINKLES.

”

— Dr. Joe Niamtu III, cosmetic facial surgeon
and Stark Campus Distinguished Alumnus



F A C E V A L U E

THE GENEROSITY OF STARK CAMPUS
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS DR. JOE NIAMTU HELPS
PEOPLE IN NEED OVERCOME FACIAL DEFORMITIES.

Joe Niamtu III, D.M.D., always loved science. In high school, he read medical books for fun. As a teen, with help from his father, Niamtu befriended some Canton-area surgeons, who invited him to observe them at work. He still remembers watching his first surgery.

“There was a little girl who had been riding in a wagon,” says Niamtu. “She had gone down a hill into a car, fracturing her face and suffering lacerations. I was mesmerized by her surgery — the anesthesia and how the surgeons basically took her face apart and put it back together.”

Niamtu was hooked and began volunteering as a surgical assistant on weekends. After graduating from high school in 1969, there was no question about what he wanted to do with his life.

His first step was attending Kent State University at Stark.

“My father had done the same, beginning college at Kent State Stark when classes were taught at McKinley High School and graduating from the Kent Campus,” says Niamtu, a Stark Campus Distinguished Alumnus. “I wanted to save money for my future education and Kent State Stark was a brand new facility just down the street. It was a matter of economics and convenience.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree at Kent State and a dental degree from Case Western Reserve University, Niamtu completed a general practice residency at Carolinas Medical Center. He then finished his medical and surgical training in a four-year hospital residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Medical College of Virginia. Today, he is an internationally recognized cosmetic facial surgeon in Richmond, Va., and one of the most featured authors in cosmetic surgery publications. He lectures all over the world and appears regularly in newspaper articles, television broadcasts and popular magazines. He has served on the board of directors of the Cosmetic Surgery Foundation and chaired numerous committees of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

About 98 percent of Niamtu’s practice involves facelifts, brow lifts, cheek implants, lip fillers and other elective procedures to help patients look younger and boost their self-esteem. But more eye-opening are the patients who make up the remaining two percent — the people not there by choice.

HELPING PATIENTS FOR FREE

“Victims of domestic violence and other types of abuse are often beaten up physically and beaten down emotionally,” says Niamtu. “Their self-esteem is destroyed. If I can help them feel better about themselves, that triggers a bigger psychological improvement than I see with an average patient who comes in to get rid of some wrinkles.”

Just ask the young mother who was shot in the head by her abusive husband. Or the girl whose face was burned when a mentally ill neighbor threw sulfuric acid on her. Or the high school student who was struck in the face with an ax during an altercation at a tractor supply store.

For these and dozens of other patients in serious need, Niamtu reconstructs facial deformities and reduces scarring, free of charge.

At first, Niamtu connected with these patients through newspaper reporters who had written about them and their traumatic events. Then, charities started calling. Soon, children from developing countries were being flown to Virginia for Niamtu’s care.

“I will always treat any child or disabled person for free,” says Niamtu. “There is no greater feeling in the world than to help someone who has become disenfranchised by life — someone who has nowhere to go and no one to help them.”

Patients with facial deformities and those who have suffered trauma or abuse are usually withdrawn, he says. Typically, they don’t like to make eye contact. But as treatment progresses, Niamtu sees them blossom and begin living happier.

GIVING IS GRATIFYING

Giving — especially to children and young adults in need — has become standard practice for Niamtu over his 30-plus-year career. He also enjoys giving to his alma maters, including Kent State Stark.

“Kent State is entwined in my life,” says Niamtu. “My father graduated from there. My sister, Lisa Waite, is an associate lecturer of communication studies at Kent State Stark. Both of her sons, my nephews, as well as a litany of cousins and friends, attended or graduated from Kent State.”

And Kent State Stark was just what Niamtu needed to spring into advanced education and a successful career.

“Success is when you go to bed on Sunday night and are really excited to go to work on Monday,” he says. “I love what I do. It’s gratifying to help people look and feel better.”



Just how much does death, dying and suffering have to do with the “good life?” A lot, according to ethicist Dr. Kim Garchar, assistant professor of philosophy.

“Ethics is the study and pursuit of the ‘good life,’” she explains. “Yet human suffering is inevitable. So how does that affect our concept of the good life — specifically, the good life in healthcare, knowing we’re all going to be patients someday and we’re all going to die?”

That’s what Garchar is exploring in her research of healthcare ethics.

Garchar serves on the ethics committee of Summa Akron City Hospital, where she and a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, clergy and others help families and healthcare providers tackle real-life conflicts about the best way to treat a patient. Most of the time, clashes occur with end-of-life issues: When should a patient be removed from life support? When should treatment be discontinued if it isn’t effectively treating a disease? What if a patient refuses medical treatment — or wants treatment the healthcare team doesn’t think is beneficial?

“Usually, the conflict is between what a healthcare provider thinks is good for a patient and what the family thinks is good,” says Garchar. “We try to analyze the conflict and help each side see the other’s point of view, the other’s values. We never dictate a resolution, however. We may suggest options for families and medical professionals to consider, but the resolution ultimately is based on the patients’ views of wellness and goodness and the healthcare team’s medical expertise.”

““

When studying healthcare ethics or ethics in general, you need to get comfortable with a certain level of ambiguity and uncertainty. That doesn’t mean anything goes.

It’s not about opinion. It’s about argument and trying our best to find the right path.

– Kim Garchar, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy

””



PURSUE GOOD

How “good” can the good life be? Philosophy professor Kim Garchar explores the pursuit of good in healthcare and healthier living.

Bringing Good Out of Suffering

Garchar’s interest in healthcare ethics is related to a larger project, her study of how humans respond to suffering.

“My dissertation in grad school was about how communities respond to death and dying and how we could do it better,” says Garchar. “In writing that, I became interested in other ways that humans experience suffering.”



Humans are communal creatures, she explains. Suffering happens when our community is disrupted — such as by a death, which leaves a hole where a person used to be. That disruption makes the community operate differently.

“When there’s a death, we need to rebuild bonds that were broken in order to strengthen our community and make our lives better,” says Garchar.

One good example, she notes, is how an Amish community handled the shooting of several schoolchildren several years ago. Instead of responding with anger and sadness, the Amish claimed the circumstance as “an opportunity to show the world what love looks like.” They came together to build a new school in remembrance of the children, effectively rebuilding their community and strengthening their bonds at the same time.

“Good” Is Sometimes Gray

Not that building a school is always the solution.

“Ways of rebuilding will be creative and cannot be planned in advance,” says Garchar. “We can’t prescribe a community’s appropriate response to suffering.”

That’s the tricky thing about ethics — the gray areas.

“When studying healthcare ethics or ethics in general, you need to get comfortable with a certain level of ambiguity and uncertainty,” says Garchar. “That doesn’t mean anything goes. It’s not about opinion. It’s about argument and trying our best to find the right path.”

ING THE DD LIFE

Life be if it includes death and dying?
Garchar explores the ethics of health
ways to respond to suffering.

Now more than a decade since she began studying human suffering in graduate school, Garchar’s plans include writing a book on the topic, possibly including healthcare ethics examples. Through it, she hopes to guide others in their pursuit of the good life.

“As an ethicist, I want the world to be a better place than when I came into it,” she says.

Faculty Scholar Promotes Religious Diversity

Dr. Jill Carroll, a recognized expert on religious diversity and tolerance, was a guest speaker during Kent State University at Stark’s Faculty Scholarship Week in April. Carroll presented a keynote address, open to students, faculty and the community, and spoke to psychology, philosophy and history classes.

“Huge numbers of people make meaning of their world through religion,” says Dr. Kim Garchar, assistant professor of philosophy, who organized Carroll’s visit to Kent State Stark. “But understanding religious diversity is equally important because we live in a world of people who are different than us. To find the ‘good life,’ we must find a way to get along with and love others.”

Carroll’s keynote presentation, “The Challenges of Religious Diversity in the United States,” included a discussion on how the United States continues to become so religiously diverse and what that means for citizens’ tolerance and acceptance.

Before becoming an independent speaker and scholar, Carroll directed the Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance at Rice University, where she also was an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies.

Scholarships Make Tuition Even More Affordable for Kent State Stark Students

Even though Kent State University at Stark is already Stark County’s most affordable option for a bachelor’s degree, numerous current students and incoming freshmen will ease their tuition payments even more this year through scholarships.

For 2013-14, the campus distributed nearly \$130,000 in tuition assistance from generous donors, community foundations and Kent State Stark alumni, employees and departments. Students are encouraged to take advantage of available funding because new scholarships, such as The University Center’s Work Ethics Matter Scholarship, which awards \$80,000 to 40 Kent State Stark student employees, are being added regularly.

BY

Design

Theatre student Kerry McCarthy turns her passion for Hollywood classics into a budding career in costume design.

Since second grade, theatre student Kerry McCarthy has been hooked on classic films. *The Sound of Music*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and anything with Shirley Temple. "It's always been pretty important to me," she says.

But McCarthy never participated in drama productions while growing up. The closest she got was playing trombone in the orchestra for a high school musical. That and sketching portraits of classic Hollywood actors and actresses when she was a young teen.

After graduation, she attended community college for a year, then beauty college, then worked for several years at a home improvement store until deciding it was time to find a job she truly loved. It was time to begin turning her passion for dramatic art into a career.

That's when she enrolled in the theatre program at Kent State University at Stark and got her first look at the workings of a dramatic production.

Behind the Scenes

As a student, McCarthy explored numerous behind-the-scenes roles, including stage managing, costume design, sound design, scenic design and multimedia design. The design opportunities were a perfect fit for McCarthy, a talented visual artist who had taken Advanced Placement Art at North Canton's Hoover High School and rounded out her schedule at Kent State Stark with drawing and sculpture courses.

"My only on-stage experience has been in acting class," says McCarthy. "I don't prefer to be in the spotlight. I consider myself a designer. That's where I belong."

But that doesn't mean McCarthy hasn't earned her share of applause — particularly from her theatre professors.

"Kerry is extremely mature and poised," says Theatre Director Brian Newberg. "I forget if I'm working with a 20-something or a seasoned professional. Everything she does turns to gold."

One of McCarthy's favorite projects at Kent State Stark was the production of *Plumfield, Iraq*. As a sound design assistant, she helped plan and manage the performance of sound effects, such as driving guitar riffs and explosions that boomed out of subwoofers in the theatre. Other favorites included doing sound design for *Evil Dead: The Musical* and multimedia design for *Voices From Hurt Street*.

Dress for Success

Yet, McCarthy's true niche may be in costume design, which she's done for productions on and off campus, including summer youth productions of *Aladdin* and *Puss in Boots* at the Medina Performing Arts Center.

She refined that skill at Kent State University, where she was exposed to a larger theatre environment.

"On the Kent Campus, there are three large theatres and so many people in the department," says McCarthy, who received her B.A. in theatre studies this spring. "But I was definitely prepared. Being part of so many design elements in so many productions at Kent State Stark, I got a wide variety of experience. And the Stark Campus faculty is pretty amazing."

McCarthy flourished at Kent State, particularly in costume design class. Faculty there took notice — and honored her with an invitation into Kent State's renowned master of fine arts program in costume design.

"I wasn't planning on grad school, but the position fell in my lap," says McCarthy, who was recommended for one of two assistantship positions opening in the fall. "My costume design professor encouraged me to apply because she felt my artistic talent would be well-served there."

The three-year program will prepare McCarthy to be a practicing professional in the entertainment industry. Graduates of the program work successfully in regional, commercial and university theatres nationwide, as well as in commercial venues, such as film and television.

"My dream is to design for a large film or on Broadway," says McCarthy, "but I would be happy doing anything with my major. Clearly, I love every aspect of theatre and film."

Newberg believes that McCarthy's success is inevitable. "She's going places," he says.

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extremely mature
sed. I forget if
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something or a seasoned
fessional. Everything she
oes turns to gold."

- Brian Newberg, assistant professor
of theatre and theatre director



Looking Back



Photo by Bob Rossiter of *The Repository*. Reprinted with permission.

Students Perform on Freedom Sings® Concert Tour

Three senior music majors from Kent State University at Stark joined the Freedom Sings® concert tour at its April 18 performance at Canton Palace Theatre. Vocalists Mandy Dennis and Brian McCoy, along with guitarist Tyler Freday, were selected to perform *Puff, the Magic Dragon*, *This Land Is Your Land* and *Blowin' in the Wind* as a featured trio.

Freedom Sings, a program of the First Amendment Center, is a multimedia performance, featuring music that was once banned or censored or inspired social change. With an all-star cast of musicians, the show has played around the nation and was brought to Canton by *The Repository*.

"This was the first time college students were included in the concert," says Associate Professor of Music Laurel Seeds, who helped select the students with Adjunct Professor Erin Vaughn. "They were such a success that Freedom Sings plans to include college students in future shows."

The show included songs by Neil Young, the Beatles, Elvis, Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie and others. In addition to the Kent State Stark trio, performing artists included guitarist Dez Dickerson, who performed with Prince and The Revolution, and keyboardist Joseph Wooten, who plays with the Steve Miller Band.



Photo: Smithberger Photography

Dr. Merle Griff addresses the graduates at the Spring 2013 Commencement Ceremony.

SarahCare Executive Motivated Spring Grads

More than 145 graduates received their Kent State University bachelor's, associate and master's degrees during the 40th Annual Spring Commencement Ceremony, held on May 10, 2013 at the Umstatt Performing Arts Hall in Canton.

Dr. Merle Griff, founder and CEO of SarahCare Senior Solutions and author of *LinkAges*, a book on intergenerational programs, delivered the convocation speech with wit and wisdom. She shared the valuable insight that she had developed through her years of working

with the elderly and told the graduates how they could apply the knowledge toward success in their careers and lives.

Earlier that day, 27 nursing candidates received pins during a special ceremony to commemorate their official entrance into the field of nursing. The group was addressed by two of their fellow graduates, Erin Bradley and Arielle Adkins, who gave inspiring speeches to their peers.



Dean Walter Wagoner congratulates Staff Excellence Award winners Gail Pukys and Jeff Leadbetter.

2013 Staff Excellence Awards

Each year, Kent State University at Stark staff members nominate two of their own who have demonstrated excellence in their daily responsibilities. The 2013 Staff Excellence Awards were given to Gail Pukys, assistant director for Financial Aid, and Jeff Leadbetter, studio technician for the Art Department.



Dean Walter Wagor congratulates Dr. Paula Sato, this year's Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, at Kent State University at Stark's 2013 Spring Commencement Ceremony.

Photo: Smithberger Photography



Teaching Excellence Recognized

Dr. Paula Sato, assistant professor of modern and classical language studies, was awarded the 2012-13 Kent State University at Stark Distinguished Teaching Award. Each year, this accolade is given to a full-time faculty member who demonstrates excellence in classroom teaching.

Sato resides in North Canton and has been teaching at Kent State Stark for four years. She currently instructs courses in elementary and intermediate French. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in French from Washington State University and received her doctorate in French from the University of Virginia.

Finalists for the Distinguished Teaching Award were Christine Kauth, assistant professor of nursing, and Dr. Carrie Schweitzer, professor of geology.

The recipient of the Award of Distinction, an honor presented to a part-time faculty member, is Dan Ross, adjunct professor of geography.



Architectural rendering of the Sciences Building.

Sciences Building Groundbreaking Ceremony

Community leaders joined Kent State University administration and employees to celebrate Kent State University at Stark's addition of a new academic building. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Kent State Stark Sciences Building was held on May 15 at the site where construction will begin in the fall.

Designed to be the campus's anchor for the sciences and health sciences disciplines, the 41,140-square-foot building and 5,250 square feet of remodeled lab space in Main Hall – a \$17 million project – will serve the chemistry, biology, geology, physics and nursing departments.

As the first initiative of Kent State Stark's Conceptual Master Plan, the Sciences Building will accommodate the campus's growing enrollment, which is expected to nearly double over the next 10 years.

The new building will be connected to the existing Main Hall through a bridge/lounge that will extend from the second floor's East Wing. This will also serve as a cover over a portion of the open-air patio on the ground level.

Highlighting "science-on-display," the building will include viewing windows from the corridors, as well as many exhibit opportunities that will be incorporated into each laboratory's design. The Sciences Building will feature a 125-seat lecture hall, 40-station computer classroom, student lounge spaces and state-of-the-art classroom technology.

Keeping with Kent State Stark's commitment to protect and preserve the environment, the Sciences Building will be constructed to achieve LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification with features such as:

- Solar-generated hot water
- Light-harvesting techniques
- On-site storm-water management with rain gardens and bioswales
- Green roof
- Heat recovery chillers for energy optimization



Photo: Jeff Glidden, Kent State University

Kent State University at Stark officially broke ground for the campus's seventh major building. Pictured left to right: Kent State University President Lester A. Leifon, Flash, Kent State University at Stark Dean Walter Wagor, Kent State University Provost Todd Diacon, Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula, Canton Mayor William J. Healy, Kent State Stark 2012-13 Faculty Council Chair Carey McDougall, Larry Hoover of the Hoover Foundation and Jackson Township Trustee Todd Hawke.

Stark Campus Faculty Achievements

Sebastian Birch, associate professor of music, and **Alissa Shuster Roosa**, adjunct professor of music, co-presented "Methods for Engaging Today's Beginning Students with Music Fundamentals" at the College Music Society's 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference at Longwood University, Longwood, Va., March 14-17, 2013.

Joel Carbonell, assistant professor of political science:

Presented "Democracy and International Environmental Protection" at the Western Political Science Association in Hollywood, Calif., March 27-30, 2013.

Published *International Human Education Rights Commitments in U.S. Courts* in the *International Journal of Human Rights*, 17, No. 3, March 2013.

Published *Democracy and State Environmental Commitment to International Environmental Treaties in International Environmental Agreements*, March 2013.

Daniel Castañeda, associate professor of Spanish, presented "Using Smartphone Applications to Improve Students' Verb Conjugations in Spanish: An Exploratory Study" at the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 21-26, 2013.

Brian Chopko, associate professor of criminology and justice studies:

Presented "A Study of the Relationship Between Mindfulness and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Among First Responders" and, along with **Emily Ribnik**, professional clinical counselor and supervisor, co-presented "First Responder Wellness: Creative Interventions to Enhance Spiritual Connections and the Compassionate Warrior Mindset" at the American Counseling Association Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 20-24, 2013.

Published *Associations Between Police Stress and Alcohol Use: Implications for Practice in the Journal of Loss and Trauma*, 18, pgs. 482-497, March 2013.

Published *The Relation Between Mindfulness and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Among Police Officers* in the *Journal of Loss and Trauma*, 18, pgs. 1-9, March 2013.

Julie Cremeans-Smith, associate professor of psychology:

Presented "Using Established Predictors of Post-Traumatic Stress to Explain Variations in Recovery Outcomes Among Orthopaedic Patients" and "Post-Operative Pain: Does Trauma History Exacerbate or Mollify the Experience?" at the American Psychosomatic Society in Miami, Fla., March 12-17, 2013.

Co-authored the article *Predicting Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress among Patients Undergoing Orthopedic Surgery on the Basis of Routinely Collected Cardiovascular Data* that was published in the *Journal of Health Psychology*, 18, pgs. 55-64.

Lucas Engelhardt, assistant professor of economics, presented "Time Preference and Liquidity Preference Theories of Interest: An Attempt at Reconciliation" at the Austrian Economics Research Conference in Auburn, Ala., March 21-24, 2013.

Lee Fox, associate professor of psychology, presented "Combining History and Psychology: The Challenges and Rewards of an Interdisciplinary Course" at the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology in St. Pete Beach, Fla., Jan. 3-7, 2013.

Kim Garchar, assistant professor of philosophy, presented "Pragmatizing the Founding Fathers of Bioethics: Pragmatism in the Principism of Beauchamp and Childress" at the Ideals and Reality in Social Ethics Conference in Newport, Wales, United Kingdom, March 17-24, 2013.

Angela Guercio, assistant professor of computer science, presented "Teaching and Learning Innovation Activities: A Raspberry Pi Demonstration" at the Ohio Celebration of Women in Computing 2013 Conference in Perrysville, Ohio, Feb. 22-23, 2013.

Robert Hamilton IV, assistant professor of biology, presented "Dissolved Solids and their Relationship to Benthic Macroinvertebrate Presence in the Nimishillen Creek Watershed (Stark County, Ohio)" at the Academy of Science Conference in Findlay, Ohio, April 4-6, 2013.

Michele Heron, assistant professor of education, presented "Classroom Norms to Support Student Reasoning and Proof" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Denver, Colo., April 17-20, 2013.

Erin Hollenbaugh, associate professor of communication studies:

Presented "Can Bloggers Accurately Report Their Self-disclosure Behaviors? Comparing Self-report and Content Analysis Data of Blogger Self-disclosure" at the Eastern Communication Association in Pittsburgh, Pa., April 24-27, 2013.

Published *The Effects of Anonymity on Self-disclosure in Blogs: An Application of the Online Disinhibition Effect* in the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 18, pgs. 283-302, Feb. 2013.

Aloysius (Bathi) Kasturiarachi, associate professor of mathematics, delivered the presentations: "The Theory of Fractional Derivatives" and "Creating a Blended Linear Algebra Course" at the 2013 Joint Mathematics Meeting (AMS & MAA) in San Diego, Calif., Jan. 9-12, 2013.

Claudia Khourey-Bowers, professor of education, presented the following:

"Conceptual Chemistry" at the Science Education Council of Ohio in Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 7-8, 2013.

"Flowers, Fruit and Poetry: Using Multiple Representations to Develop Concepts in Chemistry" at the International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education in Granada, Nicaragua, March 12-15, 2013.

"Then and Now: Documenting Student Understanding" and "Unique Features of Programs that Meet 'More Emphasis' Features in the NSES" at the National Science Teachers Association in San Antonio, Texas, April 11-14, 2013.

Carey McDougall, associate professor of art, presented "Performing Planned Parenthood: How to Create Sensitive Performances with a Politically Loaded Partner" at the IMPACT National Conference: Community Service/Service Learning/ Civic Engagement in Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 21-24, 2013.

Robert Miltner, associate professor of English, accomplished the following:

Published *Hotel Utopia* (New Rivers Press, 2011), which was selected as a finalist for the Ohioana Book Award for Poetry for 2012.

Published the poem *Eurydice Rising*, which was selected as a finalist for the 2012 Carson Prize in poetry.

Gave a juried poetry reading from his book of prose, *Hotel Utopia*, at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 in Louisville, Ky., Feb. 21-24, 2013.

Participated in an off-site reading for *Mixed Fruit* magazine at the Associated Writing Programs Conference in Boston, Mass., March 7, 2013.

Priwan Nanongkham, adjunct professor of music, presented "Thet Phawet: Aesthetic and Legitimacy in Lao Buddhist Vocal Music" at the Fourth International Conference on Lao Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, Wis., April 18-21, 2013.

Chris Post, assistant professor of geography:

Presented "Work, Pride and Parties: Student Interpretation of North American Regional Music" at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, Calif., April 9-13, 2013.

Guest edited a special issue of *Southeastern Geographer* (the United States' largest-circulated regional geography journal), titled *Teaching the Geographies of Memory and Heritage*, Vol. 52, Winter 2012. The issue included his articles, "Introduction: Placing Memory and Heritage in the Geography Classroom" and "Objectives and Prospects for Bringing Service-Learning in the Memory and Heritage Classroom."



Mary Rooks, assistant professor of English:

Presented "The Best of Women, The Worst of Women: Sarah Fielding's Dual(ing) Gender Ideologies" at the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Austin, Texas, Feb. 20-24, 2013.

Presented "The Feminine Mystake?: Sarah Fielding and the Allure of Cleopatra" at the British Women Writers Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., April 4-7, 2013.

Paula Sato, assistant professor of modern and classical languages:

Presented "Trauma, Memory, History in Cesaire's *Cahier d'un Retour au Pays Natal*" at the 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium in Atlanta, Ga., March 27-31, 2013.

Received the 2012-13 Kent State University at Stark Distinguished Teaching Award.

Carrie Schweitzer, professor of geology:

Received Kent State University's Outstanding Research and Scholar Award for the quality of her research and scholarship and its impact on society. She and the two other recipients were honored at a ceremony in April 2013.

Published articles in *The Canadian Journal of Earth Science*, *Journal of Paleontology*, *Palaios* and the *Bulletin of the Mizunami Fossil Museum*.

James Seelye, assistant professor of history, presented the following:

"Bishop Frederic Baraga's Evolving Views of American Indians" at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters 2013 Conference in Holland, Mich., March 21-22, 2013.

"Reconsidering the War of 1812" at the Ohio Academy of History 2013 Spring Meeting in Bowling Green, Ohio, April 4-6, 2013.

"I Never Realized There Was that Much in a Painting' — Using the Image Critique in the History Classroom" at the Association for University Regional Campuses of Ohio 2013 Conference in Lancaster, Ohio, April 12-13, 2013.

Deb Shelestak, assistant professor of nursing, presented "Methods to Examine Reliability and Validity of Human Patient Simulation Scenarios" at the 12th Annual International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource Centers in Las Vegas, Nev., June 12-16, 2013.

Jay Sloan, assistant professor of English, co-presented the following:

"Visible Sexuality: Negotiating the Contours of Sexual Identity in the Writing Center" at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association Conference in California, Pa., April 6, 2013 and at the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference in Clarion, Pa., April 12-13, 2013.

"A Visible Bibliography of LGBTQIA/Writing Center Scholarship" at the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference in Clarion, Pa., April 12-13, 2013.

Co-wrote the article, *Rainbows in the Past Were Gay: LGBTQIA in the WC* that appeared in *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*, Vol. 10.2, May 2013.

Thomas Sosnowski, professor of history, was selected for membership in the Massena Society, an honor which acknowledges historians who have made substantial contributions to the scholarship on the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era.

Brandon Vaccaro, assistant professor of music, presented "Shifting Approaches in Music Technology Lab Design" at the Eighth Art of Record Production Conference in Universite Laval, Quebec, July 11-15, 2013.

Relja Vulcanovic, professor of mathematics, presented "Some New Results for Quasilinear Singular Perturbation Problems" at the 10th Annual Workshop on Numerical Methods for Problems with Layer Phenomena in Larnaca, Cyprus, May 23-24, 2013.

Elizabeth Williamsen, assistant professor of English, presented "William Rubruck's Contact with Christians in the Mongol Empire" at the 34th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum in Plymouth, N.H., April 18-21, 2013.

Staff Achievements

Emily L. Ribnik, clinical counselor and supervisor in the Herbert W. Hoover Counseling Center:

Delivered several presentations, including "Identifying Individuals in Distress," "De-Escalating Intense Interactions" and training on A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) procedures at the Canal Fulton Public Library in Canal Fulton, Ohio, Feb. 18, 2013.

Co-presented "First Responder Wellness: Creative Interventions to Enhance Spiritual Connections and the Compassionate Warrior Mindset" with **Brian Chopko**, associate professor of criminology and justice studies, at the American Counseling Association Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 20-24, 2013.

Received the 2013 Twenty under 40 Award from yStark! and *The Repository*. The recognition honors Stark County's young professionals who have demonstrated dynamic leadership and social responsibility.



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