

KENT STATE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION NEWS

SPRING 2021

As in past years, the spring *Newsletter* will be brief. However, I'd like to bring you all up to speed on a couple of programming and scholarship-related matters.

It's mid-February, and KSURA already has held the first two meetings of the semester. In January, we heard from David Hassler, director of the Wick Poetry Center, on his efforts, via "Traveling Stanzas," to bring poetry to folks outside of academia. This month, Eric van Baars, director of the School of Theater and Dance, spoke about COVID and its effects on the performing arts. Surprisingly, there have been positive as well as negative repercussions, and he explored both. Each presentation attracted close to twenty participants, and both led to animated conversation.

On March 10th, Ben Wolford, editor and publisher of a local online newspaper, will speak to us about the state of journalism, challenges presented in today's political climate, and what the future holds. The April presentation will be by Gary Harwood, a member of the Teach Arts Faculty at the Ohio Arts Council. He will talk about what he terms photographic storytelling and his experience imparting the skill to others. That will be followed in May by primatologist Marilyn Norconk, who retired a few years ago from KSU's Anthropology Department. She will focus on her experience in Suriname and how a small country with high levels of biodiversity fits into global conservation initiatives. Finally, in June, KSU President Todd Diacon will speak to us about the state of the university, plans for coming years, and how we—either as individual retirees or KSURA as an organization—might help to move Kent State in a positive direction.

Traditionally, KSURA holds its annual picnic in June. This year, because of the pandemic, we don't know whether it will be safe to hold such in-person events. The executive committee will monitor that situation and will keep you posted as information becomes available. Until further notice, however, we will continue to meet online, thanks to the good work of our tech guru VP Drew Tiene and Communication Coordinator Jerry Feezel.

On a different matter, you may be aware that KSURA holds three scholarship funds, all administered by the KSU Foundation. They include: (1) the Student Emergency Fund, initiated last fall by Rod Feldmann and to which many of you have contributed; (2) our spendable scholarship fund; and (3) an endowed fund. We have granted scholarships via the first two funds and received a gratifying note of thanks from one of the recipients, which we recently shared with you all via the listserv. The endowed fund cannot be used until it reaches a threshold of \$25,000 and is currently a little over \$20,000. We are looking for more details from the Foundation and will share them with you as they become available. In the meantime, should you be interested in donating to one of our funds, please contact Nancy C. Wagner at the Foundation (nwagner9@kent.edu).

All the best,

Rick

Rick Feinberg, President
KSURA

Programs for Spring 2021

(Until further notice: all programs will be via Google Meet and are scheduled to go from 3 to 5:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month.)

January 20: David Hassler (Director, Wick Poetry Center) “Traveling Stanzas”

February 10: Eric van Baars (Director, School of Theater and Dance) “Changes in the Performing Arts due to the Pandemic”

March 10: Ben Wolford (Editor and Publisher, *The Portager*) “Journalism and its Challenges in the 2020s”

April 14: Gary Harwood (Teach Arts faculty at the Ohio Arts Council) “Photographic Story Telling”

May 12: Marilyn Norconk (Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology) “Suriname: A Small South American Country and Global Conservation Initiatives”

June 9: Todd Diacon (President, Kent State University) “The Future of KSU”

KSURA Officers and Contact Information

Elected Officers:

- President: Rick Feinberg (katoakitematangi@gmail.com)
- Vice President: Drew Tiene (dtiene@kent.edu)
- Secretary: Christine Bhargava (chrisbhar@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Jenelle Feezel (jenfee123@gmail.com)
- Past President: Wilma Crawford (wcrawford5@neo.rr.com)

Appointed Officers:

- Emeritus Faculty Senate Observer: Tom Janson (tjanson@kent.edu)
- Social Chair: Saroj Sutaria (Sutaria.saroj@ymail.com)
- Communication Coordinator: Jerry Feezel (jfeeze@kent.edu, or 330-221-5717)