



March 14, 2013

Dear Alumni:

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that Professor Jerry A. Kalback will be retiring in May of this year. Since 1983, Professor Kalback has served as a valued faculty member of the Kent State University Schools of Art and Visual Communication Design and he has done so with distinction. His roles have included Assistant to the Director, Academic Advisor, Undergraduate Coordinator, and Associate Director. Since 1989 he has been an active member of the graduate faculty, serving as MFA Thesis Advisor to numerous students during his career.

For this Director, Professor Kalback has been an invaluable resource of institutional knowledge, faculty perspective, and has been a trusted sounding board and dear friend. He has been a mentor to junior and senior faculty members alike and has generously shared his expertise with his School, College, and campus. In 2001, Jerry Kalback was honored with Kent State University's Distinguished Teaching Award. For those of you fortunate to have been taught by him, you certainly know the many reasons for this accolade and will recognize the enormity of his positive influence on our students and its curricula. Over the years he has taught more than a dozen unique courses in illustration ranging from sophomore through graduate levels. As a long time faculty advisor, he has given countless hours of service, providing academic counsel and career advice to several generations of Kent State University students.

As a celebrated illustrator, Professor Kalback's work has been included in noteworthy national and international exhibitions including: the American Watercolor Society, the Audubon Artists Annual Exhibition, the Midwest Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, and the Society of Illustrators International Exhibition. He is a longtime member of the prestigious Society of Illustrators whose selective membership is bestowed on the most prominent of illustration professionals. Jerry Kalback's list of clients is long and impressive. In addition to the many private collections that include his work, he has provided designs and illustrations for: American Greetings Corporation, Becketts Publications, *Bird Watchers Digest*, Cleveland Indians Baseball, Eddie Bauer, DownEast Concepts, Oberlin College, and Reba McEntire Incorporated, to name a select few. In 2006, he was selected as 1 of 12 well-known American Illustrators to create an original work for the National Public Radio annual calendar.

When you Google "Jerry Kalback, Illustrator", you will not only find an extensive and impressive professional record, you will also see many Kent State alumni, practicing illustrators, and university professors who credit their success to the instruction and guidance they have received from him. You will also note that there are many who have posted on their personal web pages and blogs that they hold Professor Kalback as a mentor and hero. I join them in those sentiments.

I hope you will join me in wishing Professor Jerry Kalback well in what will certainly be many adventures and creative endeavors in his retirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AnnMarie LeBlanc".

AnnMarie LeBlanc, Director
School of Visual Communication Design