

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Over the decades, many women have left their mark on Kent State University. These select few have had Kent Campus buildings dedicated in their honor.

By Jan Senn; Bethany Sava, BS '12; Lindsey Vlasic, BA '22; Greta Bell, BS '22

Women make up approximately 50% of the world's population, yet researchers have estimated that women's stories make up just 0.5% of recorded history. Of our nation's more than 5,000 historic memorials, less than 8% of the subjects are women.

In 2020, we commemorated the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which secured women's right to vote (Aug. 26, 1920). And yet the Equal Rights Amendment, which Congress passed and sent to the states for ratification almost five decades ago (March 22, 1972) is still not ratified.

So although we recently celebrated the inauguration of Kamala Harris as the 49th vice president of the United

States, and she made history as the first woman, first Black and first South Asian vice president (Jan. 20, 2021), the legal equality of the sexes (with the exception of the right to vote) and the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex are still not protected by the US Constitution.

Given that background, it is significant that Kent State University has dedicated 15 buildings (plus a gate) on the Kent Campus to honor women who have influenced and inspired the university.

To celebrate Women's History Month this past March, in the pages that follow we highlight these notable women in Kent State's history—and share their stories of distinction.

*The stories are presented in order by the year the buildings were dedicated.*



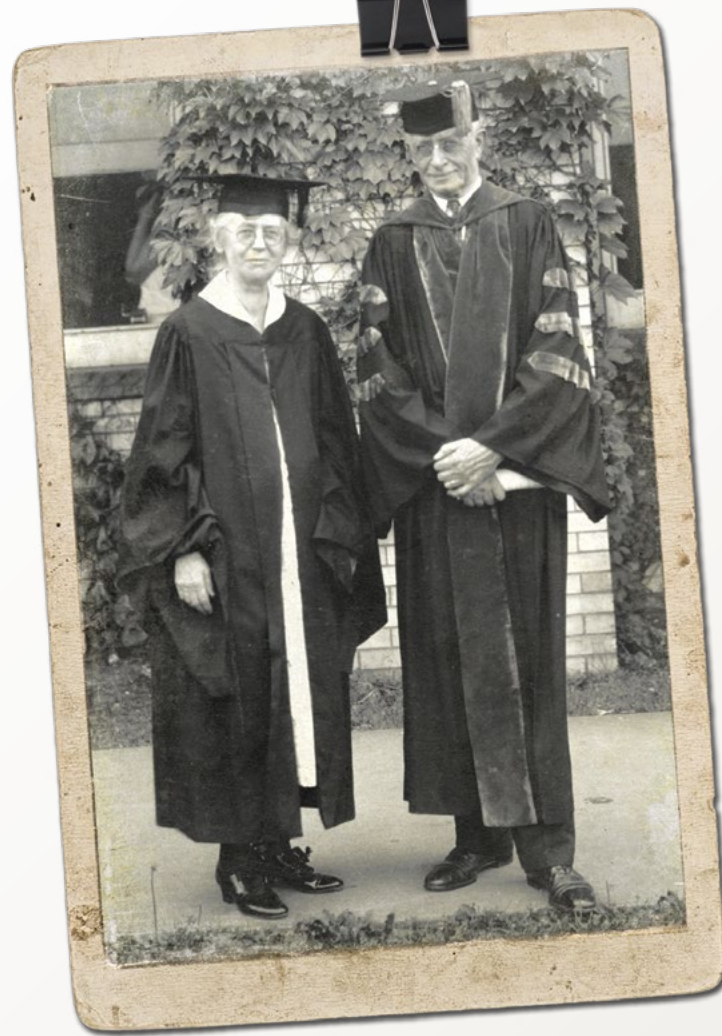
MAY H. PRENTICE

**May H. Prentice** was the first woman faculty member hired by President John McGilvrey for the Kent State Normal School in 1912. (She was hired along with faculty members John T. Johnson and George E. Marker and McGilvrey's assistant, Helen M. Atkinson.)

A teacher since 1873, Prentice began her work at the Kent State Normal School in fall 1912 before the first buildings on the campus (Lowry and Merrill halls) were completed. She taught extension courses in several of the more than 20 centers throughout the region. In May 1913, she became director of elementary training. In 1927, she was made professor of education and taught English, history of education and school management until she retired in 1930.

In describing Prentice, the 1917 *Chestnut Burr* said, "A great teacher, exponent of women's suffrage, and friend to the student teacher, Miss Prentice has assured herself a permanent place in the hall of fame of pedagogy."

On March 29, 1934, *The Kent Stater* announced that the memorial gate built in 1930 was to be named in Prentice's honor and noted: "Many of her policies are in effect today at the training school; her song 'Climbing the Hill at Kent' [aka 'Kent State,' see Flashback, page 56] is sung by undergraduates of the present generation and she is revered by thousands of her former students as 'a woman with an understanding heart.'"



May Prentice, principal of the Normal Training School, stands with Commencement speaker George W. Rightmire, The Ohio State University president, 1933.

**Prentice Hall**, located near Taylor Hall and the MACC Annex, was dedicated to Prentice in 1959. It still serves as a residence hall, with accessible rooms for students with disabilities.

On May 4, 1970, the Prentice Hall parking lot became the site of a tragedy. As a result of a request from the May 4th Task Force student organization, the university installed markers locating the sites where the four students were killed. The markers were dedicated on Sept. 8, 1999, and participants stand vigil near them at each annual commemoration.

Recently, the university has installed bronze markers at each location in the ground and Prentice Hall parking lot where the nine students were wounded, along with their distance from the Ohio National Guard when the shots were fired.



Prentice Hall, 2015

**May Prentice House**, originally located at 128 S. Willow St., was Prentice's home during her time in Kent. After her death in 1935, her sisters, Georgianna and Eugenia, continued to live there, and Georgianna Prentice rented its rooms to students until the early 1950s.

In February 2012, the university hired movers to lift the house, which dates from the early 1900s, and move it several lots south to a temporary location while construction continued on the Lester A. Lefton Esplanade

walkway extension between downtown Kent and the Kent Campus.

In March 2013, the house was moved to its present location on the walkway between Willow and Lincoln streets—opposite the site of what is now the John Elliot Center for Architecture and Environmental Design—to become the new home of the Wick Poetry Center, dedicated Sept. 26, 2014.

The historic home was renovated to provide a larger and more flexible space for Wick programs and

community use. In addition to housing the Wick staff and intern offices, the house offers a digital classroom, the Stan and Tom Wick Library, the Jo Woodward Reading Room and a third-floor Poet's Loft for quiet reflection and student conferences. It is adjacent to the center's Poetry Park.

“Miss Prentice has assured herself a permanent place in the hall of fame of pedagogy.”

**Prentice Memorial Gate**, at the corner of East Main and South Lincoln streets, was dedicated to May Prentice on Jan. 15, 1935, by alumni of the classes of 1928–1934. Unable to attend the dedication, she responded by letter and called the gate “a fitting symbol of the college . . . as an entrance into the larger life.” She also added, “I cannot deny that my pleasure in seeing my name on the bronze tablet is akin to that

of a child who sees his name on the honor role.”

May Prentice died at her home three weeks later on Feb. 6, 1935, of a heart ailment at 79.

According to the president of the Alumni Association at the time, “Among the spontaneous and sincere tributes paid her by her intimate associates is the statement that ‘she was the kind of person to whom no one was afraid to go with his difficulties. She was remarkably intelligent and clever, yet never domineering or intimidating to anyone seeking help or advice.’”

In 2008, the gate was replicated with modern materials and relocated away from the street. It has served as a formal entrance to the Kent Campus.



ABOVE: Prentice Memorial Gate  
RIGHT: Prentice Memorial Gate, 1935



ABOVE: The May Prentice House is lifted from its foundation and about to be moved from its original site.  
ABOVE RIGHT: The May Prentice House at its current location on the Esplanade



BLANCHE A. VERDER



Blanche Verder, 1938

**Blanche A. Verder**, Dean Emerita, was the dean of women at Kent State from 1922 to 1938. She received a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College and a master's degree from Columbia University in 1922, as well as a diploma of dean of women. She also attended both Harvard University and Oxford University in England. Originally from Rutland, Vermont, Verder taught high school courses in her home state and New York before coming to Kent State.

As dean of women, she was responsible for the well-being of women students at Kent State, both on and off campus. The 1923 *Chestnut Burr* describes Verder's responsibilities as including oversight of women students' living conditions, social relations and religious life. During her 16 years as dean, she was an integral part of implementing several organizations aimed at improving the social and scholastic life of women students.

In 1922, she formed the Off Campus Women's Club to better serve the needs of women students living in the neighboring communities surrounding the Kent Campus. The club was a resource for women, helping them locate appropriate

off-campus housing and develop camaraderie with fellow students through social functions.

Verder also was responsible for the introduction of a Pan-Hellenic Council at Kent State in 1925. By 1935 (when Kent State College became Kent State University) nine sororities were active on campus. Verder penned the national installation services used by many Pan-Hellenic groups throughout the country, according to a Feb. 8, 1938, article in *The Kent Stater*.

She introduced a chapter of the National Cardinal Key, a national honor society for women, at Kent State in December 1933. This group, of which Verder was an honorary member, was comprised of women students who had demonstrated accomplishment in the areas of leadership, scholarship and character through their extracurricular activities. The members of Cardinal Key began the tradition of crowning a May Queen in 1934, and they once featured Amelia Earhart as a speaker at one of their events.

In addition, Verder was the former president of the Woman's Faculty

Club, former chairman of Kent State Council and faculty advisor of the YWCA and the Women's League. She was a frequent guest of honor at teas and luncheons hosted on campus and throughout the greater Kent community. She also began a university tradition of caroling during the holidays in 1926.

Verder was strict about behavior for women students—especially during the Roaring '20s. A Jan. 16, 1974, *Kent Stater* article refers to an undated pamphlet that was in circulation during her tenure. It provided guidance for young women on topics such as curfews, room inspections, restrictions on automobile riding and entertaining men, and advised against smoking or drinking "intoxicating beverages." Women could not leave campus after 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and had to be in their rooms by 7:30 p.m.

She met with first-year women students to impart her expectations of their behavior while at Kent State. One of her famous sayings, according to the 1925 *Chestnut Burr*, was "Don't toddle here."



While such reports may give the impression of a rigidly traditional figure, Verder was dedicated to her women students, particularly to improving their minds and expanding their worldview. In 1929 she sponsored a series of five field trips to visit the Cleveland Art Museum, the "slums of Cleveland," Oberlin College, Hiram College and the College of Wooster, according to a *Kent Stater* article dated March 8, 1929.

Verder was granted the title of Dean Emerita for her dedication and service to Kent State. She died in 1953.

**Verder Hall**, located near Nixon Hall off Midway Drive, was dedicated to the former dean of women in 1957. In the late 1950s, the hall served as a women-only dormitory; however, it is now a coed residence hall, serving approximately 245 students. It was also home to the Living in the Arts Community for art majors on the Kent Campus. Verder Hall was temporarily offline for the fall 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MONA FLETCHER

graduating from Kent State in 1921 with a Bachelor of Science in education, she became the first Kent State alumna to attend graduate school. She received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The Ohio State University.

She started teaching at Kent State as a part-time professor and three years later was offered a full-time position. As a student and professor, she saw the university grow from 620 students to more than 18,000 students.

Fletcher is listed in *Who's Who in America* and in the *Directory of American Scholars*. She was co-author of the book *State Legislatures*, published in 1954, and contributed to the *Dictionary of Political Science*, edited by Joseph Dunner. She also published several book reviews in the *American Political Science Review*.

Involved in her field of expertise beyond Kent State, Fletcher was a member of the American Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association. In 1961, she was elected as vice president of the Midwest Conference

of Political Scientists. An article in the *Daily Kent Stater* in May 1961, notes, "Over the years she has taught over 42 different subjects. Among the thousands of students whom she has taught are 33 members of the present faculty and administrative staff."

Fletcher also was the first woman to serve as a member of the national executive council for Pi Sigma Alpha, the only honor society for college and university students of political and social sciences in the United States. She served two terms on the organization's council.

When Kent State marked its 50th anniversary in 1960, Fletcher was named the most distinguished faculty member by her colleagues. While at Kent State, she became the first woman to deliver the invocation and benediction at Commencement.

In 1962, she stepped down as secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists after 22 years of service. In 1963, she received the KSU Alumni

Award and the Shield Award from the Delta Gamma social sorority for "a lifetime devoted to education," with a notation that she had been teaching at Kent State longer than any other professor. Fletcher was also granted emerita status in recognition of her long-standing service to Kent State. The political science department presents an annual Mona Fletcher Award to the graduating senior with the highest overall GPA.

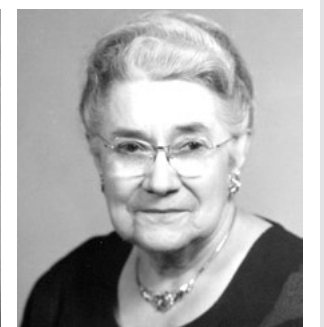
She retired in 1963 for health reasons and died on Feb. 5, 1965, at the age of 72.



Mona Fletcher, 1933



Mona Fletcher, undated



Mona Fletcher, 1962



**Fletcher Hall** was dedicated in Mona Fletcher's name in 1963. One of four residence halls that make up the Eastway Center complex, Fletcher houses approximately 245 first-year students. Coed by floor, with four floors comprised mostly of double rooms with loftable furniture, Fletcher Hall is one of the most popular dorms on the Kent Campus. For the 2021-2022 academic year, a limited number of deluxe single rooms (a double room where only one student will be assigned) are available.

MARGARET DUNBAR



Margaret Dunbar, 1916

**Margaret Dunbar** was hired as the first librarian at Kent State in 1913 at the request of then-President John McGilvrey. They had worked together at Western Illinois State Normal School in Macomb, Illinois, before coming to Kent. Margaret's younger sister, Isabelle, was hired as the assistant librarian, in charge of records and student personnel. Both women were on the staff when the university first opened.

Margaret Dunbar grew up in Monmouth, Illinois, and earned a bachelor's degree in library science from Monmouth College. She was a member of the American Library Association and the Ohio Library Association, holding offices for both organizations.

The Dunbar sisters are credited with founding the library; they purchased the library's first book—*Exposition and Illustration in Teaching* by John Adams — in 1914. The library was originally located on the third floor of Merrill Hall, but it was relocated to the atrium of the



LEFT: Margaret Dunbar, 1933  
BELOW: Margaret Dunbar, 1941



Margaret and Isabelle Dunbar, undated

Administration Building (now Cartwright Hall) in 1914.

Margaret Dunbar's personnel file notes that during the first winter in the new space, she and her sister "worked on a dirt floor, in the unfinished room, which was unheated, save for open oil burners." She also oversaw the library move to the David Ladd Rockwell Library (now Rockwell Hall) in 1929.

In addition to her role as head librarian, Margaret Dunbar also taught

classes on library materials and library management. In the short tribute that accompanies her photo in the 1916 *Chestnut Burr*, she is described as providing reliable counsel to all: "It doesn't matter what your problem is—whether it is concerned with a book or not—her judgment is always good, and she is always pleased to help. In a word, she is worth knowing, and she loves the 'Bluebird,' her Buick roadster." Together, the sisters earned

**Dunbar Hall** was dedicated to Margaret Dunbar in 1959. Originally, Dunbar Hall was reserved as a women's residence hall. It is now the living-learning community for business students at Kent State. Since its dedication, Dunbar Hall has been home to more than 12,000 students.



Dunbar Hall, 1971



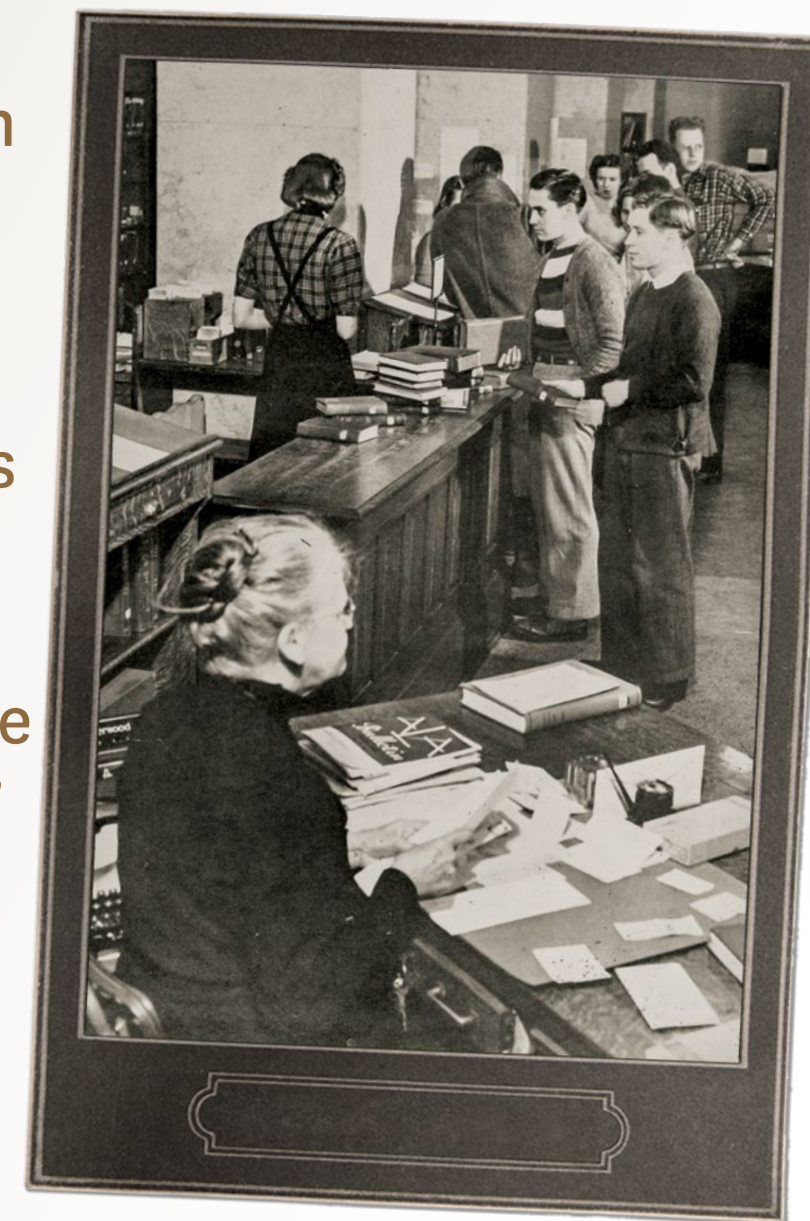
Dunbar Hall, 2009

“It doesn't matter what your problem is—whether it is concerned with a book or not—her judgment is always good, and she is always pleased to help. In a word, she is worth knowing.”

a reputation of being kind-hearted women who put students first.

Margaret Dunbar retired from Kent State in 1943 after 30 years of service. She died on Dec. 24, 1957, at her home at 220 S. Willow St. in Kent, where she lived with her sister.

At the time of Isabelle Dunbar's retirement in 1955, the university gave her a citation for long and faithful service. She died on March 1, 1960.



Margaret Dunbar at her desk in the library, 1940 *Chestnut Burr*

BERTHA L. NIXSON



Bertha L. Nixon, 1916

**Bertha L. Nixon** was head of the Department of Home Economics from 1915 to 1945. Originally from Elmyra, New York, Nixon earned a bachelor's degree at Lewis Institute of Arts and Sciences, Chicago, in 1913 and a master's degree at Columbia University in 1929. She made a general tour of Europe and attended the University of London in the summer of 1929.

According to a brief tribute in the 1917 *Chestnut Burr*, "It would be difficult

to find a more enthusiastic worker, and one who believes more thoroughly in her work than Miss Nixon. So thoroughly does she portray the ideas of good home making, and so well does she enter into the spirit of the practical, rather than the theoretical, that her enthusiasm can hardly help but reach all her students."

In a *Kent Stater* article dated Aug. 5, 1926, titled "Co-Ed has Friend: Miss Nixon defends cooking of college girl," she is quoted as saying, "Certainly college girls know the difference between a chafing dish and an electric sweeper. Girls that enter Kent State have passed the average mark and are above the ordinary run of girl." The article also says that "Girls taking practical courses from Miss Nixon learn the art of living on a small income, how to serve the family meal without a maid and other necessary things if a college girl should marry a young college graduate."

Nixon was responsible for developing the home economics department in its early period. Its primary purpose was to train future teachers of home economics. While such classes have gone by the wayside in most high schools and colleges, the department was successful during Nixon's tenure.

In a *Kent Stater* article dated Oct. 4, 1927, she announced that all her students in the home economics department the previous year, both degree and diploma, had been placed in teaching positions. The demand for home economics teachers was so great that she even had placed undergraduates in responsible positions.



Bertha Nixon, standing left, at a faculty women's luncheon on the gallery of Kent Hall, circa 1930s.

In 1929, she instituted the home economics practice house. Then, in 1947, the administration sponsored a new home management house named in her honor. It was a three-story building built in 1865 on the corner of Summit Road and Terrace Drive, in which six students could practice the responsibilities related to running a household.

Nixon served as faculty advisor for the Household Arts Club, comprised of students in the Household Arts, later renamed Household Science, and finally, the Home Economics Department. She also was the advisor of the Phi Alpha Alpha sorority, which was founded at Kent State in 1930.

She was involved in many organizations outside of Kent State, including the Ohio Economics Club (once serving as vice president), the National Education Society, the American Association of University Women and the American Association of University Professors. Nixon also was one of the seven founders of the local and state chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary educational society.

Nixon retired in July 1945. She died at her home, at 543 Lake St., Kent, on Dec. 8, 1948, following a prolonged illness. She was buried in Michigan.



**Nixon Hall**, which is located near Verder Hall and the Center for the Performing Arts, was built in 1966. The \$660,000 home economics building now serves as the office of the School of Health Sciences, which supports programs in athletic training, exercise science/physiology, health education and promotion, integrated health studies, nutrition and dietetics, and speech pathology and audiology.

FLORENCE GRAY BEALL



Florence Gray Beall, 1933

**Florence Gray Beall**, PhD, Professor Emerita of English, taught at Kent State from 1933 to 1957. Beall was originally from Newark, Ohio, where her family lived on a 65-acre farm.

She entered The Ohio State University in 1918, graduating in three years with honors and an AB [Applied Baccalaureate] in English and languages. After teaching English, languages and a little physical education and geometry at York High School in York, Ohio, she earned a master's degree in English at Columbia University in 1925.

A year later, she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan, where she made a special study of teaching and teachers' training, especially in the field of English, and earned doctorates in both English and education in 1932. She taught there and at Ashland College until coming to Kent State.

Beall joined the English faculty as an assistant professor at what was then Kent State Normal College in 1933. She was involved with student life and social activities and served on many committees. She was an advisor of Cardinal Key, the national honor society

for women that Blanche Verder, Dean Emerita of Women, introduced in 1934. She was a faculty advisor to first-year liberal arts students, and was also on the publications committee, which provided staffing recommendations for *The Kent Stater* and the *Chestnut Burr* to the president for review.

Several articles in *The Kent Stater* from that period describe Beall as unconventional and popular among the students. One piece, from May 17, 1934, described an upcoming baseball game between faculty members and the "Phys-Ed Lassies." For the faculty team, Beall was labeled as "manager and waterboy who used to play with the East Side Wonders Parcheesi team" and she was given the nickname "Fighting Flossie"—although in the article she claimed she never caught a baseball in her life and made no predictions as to the outcome of the game.

According to her personnel file, her pet dislike was playing bridge, she didn't like to buy new hats and she didn't own an automobile—preferring to give the money she would spend on one to educate her two nieces and two nephews, whom she practically raised herself. She liked a quiet life, enjoyed a good movie once in a while, but on the whole was content with a good book.

In an article in the March 1, 1934, *Kent Stater*, when asked what books she would take to a desert island, Beall, an authority on Shakespeare, said she would occupy her time with *Bosworth-Toller's Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*, the *New English Dictionary*, *Selections from English Literature, 850-1675*, and *Selections from English Literature, 1675-1930*. In explaining her choice, she said, "With these four books I can study that most interesting phenomenon, the development of a language, and its use as the instrument of man's thought; and as I gain a better knowledge of language, I can the more wisely read those works of literature which are true expressions of the genius of the English-speaking people."

Popular with students and her colleagues, especially those in the English department, she was described as "a demanding teacher but popular because she helped her students enjoy their literature courses."



Florence Gray Beall with then-President Robert White, circa 1960s

Colleagues said she could make the works of Shakespeare "come alive," that she as "very fair in the classroom and knowledgeable" and that "there was a fine line of respect that no one dared cross."

Beall left Kent State in 1957 to conclude her teaching career in the extension division of The Ohio State University and retired to the family farm in Newark, Ohio. She was granted emerita status by the Board of Trustees in 1967.

She lived alone, spending most of her time writing letters and reading, until she developed a heart ailment in June 1986. She was treated at Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark and moved to a nursing home a day before her death on Aug. 5, 1986. She was 92 years old.



**Beall Hall**, located on the east side of the Kent Campus, was dedicated to Florence Gray Beall in 1966 and was originally a women-only residence hall. It was part of a dual dedication along with McDowell Hall. A 1966 *Kent Stater* article noted that these two residence halls, known as the Twin Towers, cost \$4.8 million and would expand on-campus housing by an additional 800 students, bringing it to a total of 7,000. Beall Hall now serves as a residence hall for students of all class rankings, with eight coed floors.



The only residence hall on the Kent Campus named for a student is Koonce Hall, dedicated in 1968 in honor of Judith Ellen Koonce, BS '57. Known to her friends as Judy, she was born April 17, 1935, to James and Julia Koonce of Cleveland. After completing studies at George Washington Elementary School and John Marshall High School, she enrolled at Kent State in 1953.

Koonce was popular among her fellow Kent State students. She was elected sophomore treasurer, according to a *Kent Stater* article dated Nov. 1, 1954. She was selected as one of three finalists (from a field of 25) for Snowball Queen of a semi-formal dance and fundraising event hosted by Phi Sigma Kappa, according to a *Kent Stater* article dated Feb. 4, 1955. Koonce was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

She majored in biology and earned a Bachelor of Science in education in 1957. After graduating, she taught art and science at Eastmoor Junior High School in Columbus, Ohio, during the 1957-58 school year. She was an active member of the



Judith E. Koonce, 1957 Chestnut Burr

faculty and sponsored the Outdoor Club. She planned to enter graduate school at Kent State in September to work on a master's degree.

In the summer of 1958, Koonce was serving as a conservation instructor at Camp Clifton, operated by the 4-H organization, as she had for the past four summers. On the morning of July 17, 1958, according to an article from the *Xenia Daily Gazette* dated June 19, 1968, she was leading 40 campers on a hike at what is now the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, when an 11-year-old girl, Kyrleen Ruhl, lost her footing and fell into the Little Miami River—a 35-foot drop into 75 or 80 feet of rushing water.

Koonce told the other children to go to a nearby road and summon help.

Then she climbed part way down the cliff wall and leaped into the river in a rescue attempt. By the time sheriff deputies, firemen and police arrived, she and Kyrleen had drowned in the swift current. The event triggered a search for both victims, and the child's body was recovered that evening about 1,000 feet west of where she had fallen into the water. Koonce's body was recovered the following Sunday, July 20, 150 feet downstream.

After her tragic death, Koonce was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, an honor awarded to individuals who risk their lives attempting to save the lives of others. At the 4-H camp, a cabin bears her name. At Eastmoor, the school planted a redbud, her favorite tree, as a symbol of her love for the outdoors. Students contributed to the purchase of a bronze plaque, inscribed with her name and heroic attempt, that was placed at the base of the tree.

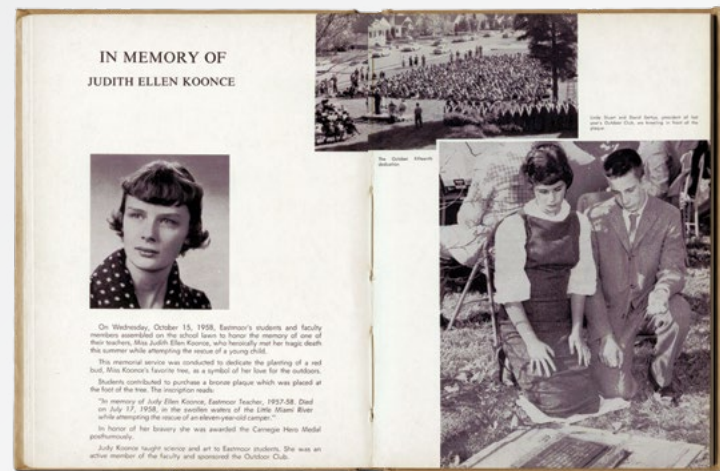
At Kent State, the Judith Koonce Memorial Award in biology was established in 1960 and still is awarded to "the outstanding graduating biological sciences major based on enthusiasm for biology as demonstrated by activities beyond formal coursework, leadership ability and academic record." Her legacy also lives on as the namesake of a residence hall in the Tri-Towers complex at Kent State.

**Judith E. Koonce Hall**, commonly known as Koonce Hall, was dedicated in 1968 and received a full renovation in 2014. The 10-story building has the distinction of being the largest individual residence hall on the Kent Campus, housing approximately 510 students. Judith Koonce's name and mention of her Carnegie Medal for Heroism are mounted on a bronze plaque in the main Koonce Hall lobby. Her portrait, donated by her Gamma Phi Beta sorority sisters, graces the staff office in the residence hall.

“After her tragic death, Koonce was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, an honor awarded to individuals who risk their lives attempting to save the lives of others.”



ABOVE: James and Julia Koonce, parents of Judith Koonce, at the dedication of Koonce Hall in 1968  
RIGHT: Judith Koonce, 1957



ABOVE: Judith Koonce, Eastmoor Junior High School tribute  
LEFT: Judith Koonce portrait, Koonce Hall



Bronze plaque mounted in the interior of Koonce Hall

MARIE HYDE APPLE



Marie E. Hyde, 1919

**Marie Hyde Apple, BSE '31**, Professor Emerita of Health and Physical Education, was the first chair of the Department of Women's Physical Education. She was born in Fairmont, Minnesota, but when she was quite young her family moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she grew up. She attended La Crosse State College and the University of Wisconsin before beginning a teaching career at Oshkosh State Normal School in 1916.

She came to Kent State Normal School in 1918 as the physical director of women, and she also became an associate professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education. Apple earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1931 while teaching at Kent State. She earned a master's degree at Columbia University in 1932 and then rejoined the Kent State faculty.

The 1926 *Chestnut Burr* notes that a lack of facilities and equipment made her work challenging for the first eight years she was at Kent State. However, in 1926, the completion of the Wills Gymnasium offered her the space and resources needed to excel in her role,

which was to oversee "training-school classes in physical training, practice teachers in physical education, and the college physical training classes for girls."

Apple was the first chair of the Department of Women's Physical Education. She was a member of the Women's Athletic Association, which was founded in 1928 to sponsor competitive individual and team sports for women. An athlete herself, Apple enjoyed bowling, tennis and badminton. She was an advisor of the Physical Education Club, which was comprised of male and female students studying physical education, and she was a faculty member on the athletic board.

Her teaching career in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Kent State University spanned 35 years, and she retired in 1953. Her papers, along with the Apple family papers (she married James G. Apple on Sept. 13, 1924), are housed at Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.

Apple was granted emerita status in 1969 for her pioneering work in the development of physical education at Kent State. University records show her death date as Sept. 10, 2003, but no supporting paperwork exists. If that date is correct, she would have been around 107 years old (estimating that she was 20 years old when she began teaching in 1916).



**Apple Hall** was dedicated to Marie Hyde Apple on Nov. 22, 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Heer, Harbourt, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen. These dorms were designed specifically to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life. However, due to other campus renovations and expansions, several were deemed obsolete in 2008 and demolished, Apple Hall among them.

According to a 2008 *Kentwired.com* article, for many alumni who once called these small-group dorms "home," the demolition was truly a loss. As a result of requests from alumni, souvenir bricks from the buildings to be torn down were made available.

"I have so many wonderful memories of KSU, most especially [of] my freshman year at Apple Hall," said Katie McArthur, '99. "Apple Hall was a special place where being new to college and away from home didn't seem so intimidating. Apple Hall will be missed!"



Marie Hyde Apple, undated

MARION VAN CAMPEN



Marion Van Campen, undated

**Marion K. Van Campen**, EdD, Professor Emerita of elementary education, taught at Kent State from 1938 to 1961. Known nationally for her work, she was the first chair of the Department of Elementary Education.

Van Campen was born in Laramie, Wyoming. She attended elementary and secondary schools in Alabama, Canada and North Carolina. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tennessee in 1911, a Bachelor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1935 and a Doctor of Education (EdD) from Columbia University in 1938.

At Chicago, she studied under the father of progressive education, John Dewey. Although she acknowledged that some progressives went too far in applying his ideas, she thought they were sound: "We determine the child's needs and society's needs and try to combine the two, accelerating studies for the bright and trimming the curricula for the middle and slower learners."

Apparently, Dewey's approach worked for her, and she said she never had to discipline a child. "I found that

children became restless if they worked too long at one task or the task was too hard. The teacher must be alert to capture their interest. I do not say that physical discipline should not be used. I just never had to."

She taught at a Settlement House in Knoxville, Tennessee; the University of Pittsburgh's Demonstration School; and at private schools in Boston and Philadelphia. Her experience included public-school supervision in Pennsylvania, statewide supervision and extension work, and teaching at both the University of Tennessee and the University of Pennsylvania. She came to Kent State as an assistant professor in 1938, having previously taught there during summer sessions.

In 1946, when Van Campen was promoted to a full professorship and named head of the Department of Elementary Education (a position that had been vacant for a number of years) there was only one faculty member and fewer than 100 students. By the time she retired in 1961, the department had 15 faculty members and 1,500 students.

Working with individual international students and with US Department of Health, Education and Welfare-sponsored groups, Van Campen extended the influence of the elementary education faculty beyond Ohio into the international field.

She was also active in community recreation work and youth organizations. During World War II, she averaged at least one talk a week to local groups on recreation and elementary education. She is listed in *Who's Who in American Women* in 1959.

At her retirement in 1961, she was granted emerita status. Van Campen, who lived at 545 Rellim Drive in Kent, continued to teach at Kent State as a visiting professor until 1967. But she



Marion Van Campen with then-President Robert White and other small-group housing honorees, Lester Munzenmayer, George Altmann, and John McSweeney, 1969.

also devoted more time to her hobby of pen and ink drawings, an avocation she previously had practiced only at Christmastime.

She died on April 28, 1980, and her memorial service was held on May 13 in the chapel at the United Methodist Church in Kent.

**Van Campen Hall** was dedicated to Marion Van Campen in 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Apple, Heer, Harbourt, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, and Stewart. These dorms were designed to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life.

At various times, the 60-bed dorm building was home to the International Village Experience Living-Learning Community and the Phi Mu sorority. In recent years, Van Campen has housed the Office of Global Education. It currently is being used as on-campus quarantine housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.



NINA S. HUMPHREY



Nina S. Humphrey, 1916

**Nina S. Humphrey**, Professor Emerita of Art, was one of the original faculty members of Kent State Normal School when she arrived in 1913. Born in Richfield, Ohio, Humphrey was the great-granddaughter of Jonathan Hale, who settled in Bath Township in 1810. The Western Reserve Historical Society now operates the Hale homestead as a living history museum.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the Cleveland School of Art and a master's degree from Western Reserve University. She had been a supervisor of drawing at schools in Oak Hills, Illinois, prior to joining the faculty at Kent State.

Humphrey, who was an art professor as well as the founding head of the Department of Art, served on the faculty for 38 years. *Chestnut Burr* yearbooks from 1915 and 1916 note that "her cheery smile and motherly way have routed many cases of homesickness and blues," "her patience is everlasting" and "she has a cheerful word and smile for each and all, and

when one is in trouble, she will lend a willing hand of help." Needless to say, students enjoyed her classes.

While at Kent State, Humphrey was a faculty advisor to The Woman's League, a group for all women students, and Phi Theta Upsilon, one of the first sororities established at the university. She was an honorary member of Lambda Chi, which was organized in 1926 for students of the arts. Humphrey is also listed as the advisor of the Art Club in the 1945 *Chestnut Burr*.

During World War II, Humphrey developed courses for an occupational therapy program to be offered in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts. In addition to courses in arts and crafts, the program included physiology, anatomy, psychology and sociology courses, as well as practice work in hospitals. "There will be an urgent need for such service in the rehabilitation centers as part of our defense program," Humphrey says in a *Kent Stater* article dated Feb. 11, 1942.

Humphrey expanded the curriculum in the art department to introduce concentrations in jewelry design, weaving, lithography, wood cutting, and marionette and puppet design.

In a *Kent Stater* article dated May 19, 1948, on the occasion of Humphrey's 35th year of teaching at Kent State, she is described as "a quick and energetic woman, with a ready smile and a capacity for hard work." Humphrey recalled planning and organizing the art

department in 1913, when classroom work at the Kent Campus began. Offices were above the Kent National Bank, and classes were held in schools and churches in nearby cities until campus buildings were completed. There were 22 faculty members, 291 students and a few well-organized departments.

Besides her regular teaching activities, she was faced with administrative problems, the organization of curricula and the problem of supplies. "The days were always too short. . . . I have had a busy and exciting career here at Kent," she said. "If I could begin all over again, there isn't much I would change."

In the summer of 1949, she taught 13 students the art of hand weaving, an old craft that had been experiencing a revival "probably to get away briefly from this age of mass production in which we live," Humphrey says in a *Kent Stater* article dated July 22, 1949. "Weaving is satisfying as well as stimulating because it is creative."

Weaving would become a passion for Humphrey, who founded the Kent Weaver's Guild and designed many of her own patterns. She went on to win prizes for her work and continued to teach weaving on seven custom-made looms of different sizes in her Cuyahoga Falls home after retiring from Kent State. She also lectured, designed and supervised the construction of fine hand looms.



Nina S. Humphrey, 1938

An enthusiastic hobbyist, she collected pitchers and glassware, and at one time had 230 pieces. She became interested in colonial art during a trip through the Appalachian Mountains and collected samples from Sweden and other countries.

In 1951, Humphrey was granted emerita status only a few months after her retirement. She made her last public appearance at Kent State in 1963 at the 50th anniversary of the school's founding.

The last of the original Kent State faculty, Humphrey died on June 22, 1968, in a Peninsula nursing home after a year's illness. She was 88 years old.



Nina S. Humphrey, 1933

Nina S. Humphrey, 1939

Nina S. Humphrey, 1941

"The days were always too short. . . . I have had a busy and exciting career here at Kent. If I could begin all over again, there isn't much I would change."



Nina S. Humphrey, 1940

**Humphrey Hall** was dedicated to Nina S. Humphrey in 1969. It was part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Apple, Altmann, Heer, Harbourt, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen. These dorms were designed to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life. However, due to other campus renovations and expansions, several were deemed obsolete in 2008 and demolished, Humphrey Hall among them.



Humphrey Hall, 1971 *Chestnut Burr*



LINNEA E. HENDERSON



Linnea Henderson, undated

**Linnea E. Henderson**, EdD, is recognized as the founding dean of Kent State's School of Nursing, which was renamed the College of Nursing in 1999. She served at Kent State from 1967 to 1984.

Henderson received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the Idaho-based Northwest Nazarene College (now Northwest Nazarene University) in 1941. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts from Olivet College, a Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Education from Columbia University.

As most nurses were taught in a hospital setting at that time, Henderson began her career at the Grace Hospital School of Nursing in Detroit, where she was a faculty member. In 1955, she joined the faculty at the North Carolina School of Nursing and began an illustrious career in higher education.

Henderson became an associate professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati and then assistant dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Western Reserve (now Case Western Reserve University). She came to Kent State in 1967 as the first director

of the nursing program, which had been approved for development. Three years later, when the School of Nursing was established in 1970, Henderson was named dean.

During her tenure, she expanded the program significantly, increasing faculty from four to 60 and graduating more than 1,700 students with bachelor's degrees. Henderson also introduced a master's program in 1977; it was the fourth of its kind in Ohio and only the second in Northeast Ohio.

The Ohio Senate recognized Henderson in a 1984 resolution stating, "As a result of her strong belief in baccalaureate nursing education and her unwavering commitment to excellence, the school and its graduates have become recognized and accepted throughout the nation."

As the program grew, so did the needs of its faculty and students. From 1967 to 1978, they shuffled from Lowry Hall to the old Health Center to Franklin Hall. Finally, in 1978, they moved into a newly constructed facility built specifically for the needs of the School of Nursing.

Henderson played a large role in the design of the \$3 million building to ensure that it would accommodate the current and future needs of the program.

She was instrumental in establishing an honor society for nursing students and began an annual lecture series that attracted national nursing leaders to the campus.



**Henderson Hall**, built to Henderson's design specifications, was renamed and dedicated to Linnea E. Henderson in 1985. The three-story building, which still houses the College of Nursing, is located on the southeastern side of campus. It is situated across from the

The series was later renamed the Linnea Henderson Lecture Series.

Henderson's visionary leadership was recognized during her time as dean because of her local, state and national work in nursing education.

She was planning to retire in the summer of 1984 and was to receive the President's Medal, for contributions to the advancement of Kent State through extraordinary service, at a reception in March. However, she was unable to attend because of an acute illness.



Linnea Henderson in her office, undated

A week before her death, President Michael Schwartz presented her with the medal in the hospital.

Henderson died on April 25, 1984, at Suburban Community Hospital in Warrensville Heights, where she had been hospitalized for several weeks. She was 65. "She devoted almost all of her time to the university," said Irene Bosco, assistant dean at the School of Nursing at the time. "She didn't even like to take her vacations." Henderson was buried at Standing Rock Cemetery.

Mathematics and Computer Science Building and near the Liquid Crystals Materials Science Building. The 37,000-square-foot structure has a central atrium with a skylight at the top. Offices and other facilities are built around the atrium.

CAROL A. CARTWRIGHT



President Carol Cartwright, 2006

**Carol A. Cartwright**, PhD, President Emerita, became the 10th president and the first woman president of Kent State University in 1991, at the same time earning the distinction of first woman president of a state college or university in Ohio.

Cartwright earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1962, as well as a master's degree in special education and a doctoral degree in special education, educational research from the University of Pittsburgh in 1968.

Before coming to Kent State, she was vice chancellor for academic affairs and

professor of human development at the University of California at Davis and dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost at Penn State. She served as a member of the Penn State faculty in the College of Education from 1967 to 1988.

As an advocate of professional development and personal growth initiatives for women, Cartwright called for the development of a women's center on the Kent Campus; it was established in 1996. She also fought to eliminate gender inequities among Kent State sports teams.

Because of her contributions to higher education, Cartwright was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1996, her first year of eligibility. The induction highlighted the themes of her presidency: "redefining scholarships to embrace the entire spectrum of activities involved in teaching and research and dedicating the university to cultural diversity."

During her time at Kent State from 1991 to 2006, she was well known for her innovative teaching and leadership skills, as well as her commitment to supporting diversity and strengthening the relationship between the university and the city of Kent.

She was instrumental in building one of the finest programs in the nation to help GED candidates advance to pursue college degrees. Under her leadership, access and scholarship support for students became Kent State's top priority, the status of teaching and public service was elevated, and academic programs were implemented in a wide range of high-demand and emerging fields, including those in liquid crystal technology.



Cartwright dealt with declining state funding during her presidency, and under her leadership Kent State raised \$122 million in its first major fundraising campaign (1997 to 2003)—The Campaign for Kent State University.

After leading Kent State for 15 years, she retired in 2006. She became interim president of Bowling Green State University in 2008 and was named BGSU's 11th president and the first woman to lead the university in 2009. She retired in 2011.

Cartwright has held prominent roles in numerous educational and community organizations. In 2010, she was elected vice-chair to the National Public Radio board of directors, and she was a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics from 2000 to 2020.

She continues to support Kent State University through philanthropic efforts. In 2017, Cartwright and her family made a \$1 million estate gift to create scholarships at Kent State for underrepresented students who wish to engage in the arts. They pledged an additional \$10,000 per year to help students immediately through scholarships in the College of the Arts. Her family also gave several philanthropic gifts to the university for Founders Scholars, Porthouse Theatre, the School of Fashion and WKSU.

**Carol A. Cartwright Hall**, formerly known as the University Auditorium, was renamed in Cartwright's honor in 2006 after a unanimous vote from the Board of Trustees. Originally built in 1914, the Administration Building (with the front façade added in 1931) also housed the library, an auditorium and a makeshift gymnasium in the early years. The building and its auditorium received a major renovation in 2002.

It currently houses several Kent State offices, including Graduate Studies and the College of the Arts. It is also the home of the 800-seat University Auditorium, which hosts large music performances and events.



Roe Green, 2016

**Roe Green, MA '80**, is well known for her philanthropy and advocacy on behalf of the arts and theatre. Born in Beachwood, Ohio, she is the only child of Ben C. and Sylvia Chappy Green, who were instrumental in her arts education.

Her first experience with theater was narrating “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” to a group of adults when she was in kindergarten. While she enjoyed the limelight, she later found she preferred being behind the scenes directing or stage managing—although she was a competitive ballroom dancer for 12 years.

She graduated from Beachwood High School and received a bachelor’s degree in theatre and communications from the University of Colorado in 1970 before coming to Kent State to earn a master’s degree in theatre. She has extensive stage and business management experience, including at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights, with The Cleveland Opera and at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Green founded the Roe Green Foundation and stepped up her philanthropic efforts in 2003, shortly after her mother’s death. Much of the money she inherited came from her father, who died in 1983. He was a federal district court judge who had

invested well and “led by example,” says Green, who recalls many caring things he did for others, which inspired her own giving.

“I have a philosophy of life,” she says. “If I have five oranges, I eat one, I save one, and I give the other three away. And everything I give away comes back tenfold.”

Her foundation doesn’t accept applications or donate to individuals. Green supports institutions in line with her interests, many of which focus on arts education and other initiatives in Ohio, Florida and across the country.

The Roe Green Foundation established an annual visiting director’s series for the Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance in 2003. Through the program, the school each year invites a guest professional director to work in residence with students and direct one of the school’s Main Stage productions.

In 2006, the foundation pledged what at the time was the largest capital gift in Kent State history, \$6.5 million. This paid half the cost of an addition to the Music and Speech Building, which was named the Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance in 2010. For the first time in university history, theatre and dance—which had been divided between the Music and Speech Building and the Gym Annex—were united under one roof. The project brought the footprint of the School of Theatre and Dance to more than 70,000 square feet, creating a central location on campus for the performing arts.

In 2018, the foundation endowed the Roe Green Visiting Director Series with a gift of \$2.2 million, enabling the series to continue for decades to come.

An emerita member of the Kent State University Foundation board, Green also sits on the board of the School

of Theatre and Dance, and Porthouse Theatre. She participates in the “adopt an artist” program at Porthouse.

To show their gratitude, Kent State/Porthouse folks invited Green to make a cameo appearance each night at Porthouse in 2007 as the fairy godmother who appears at the end of the musical “Sweet Charity.” Afterward, they gave her the fairy-godmother gown she wore, which she displays at her Aurora home, according to a Nov. 7, 2010, cleveland.com profile. “It was a no-brainer,” says John Crawford-Spinelli, dean of the College of the Arts. “Roe was the perfect person to play the part. She has been a fairy godmother to all of us.”

Green is the recipient of the 2009 Ohio Arts Council’s Governor’s Arts Patron award and the President’s Medallion from Kent State. In 2015, she received the Kent State University College of the Arts’ inaugural Centennial Award for her service and patronage.

She travels extensively (she’s visited more than 160 countries) and has a second home in Jupiter, Florida—a community that is also the fortunate recipient of her philanthropy.

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**The Roe Green Center for Theatre and Dance** was dedicated to Roe Green in 2010. The center was a \$13 million addition to the Music and Speech Building (now the Center for the Performing Arts). The renovated and newly constructed space houses programs in theatre, dance and music, and includes four dance studios, a black box theatre (a versatile space for experimental productions), a new entrance and lobby, a box office and a cafe.



President Beverly J. Warren, 2014

**Beverly J. Warren**, EdD, PhD, President Emerita, served as the 12th president of Kent State University from 2014 to 2019. She was known for her “Students First” focus, as well as her dedication to the well-being of all members of the university community.

Born in North Carolina, Warren was a first-generation student when she earned a Bachelor of Science in health and physical education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She went on to earn three advanced degrees: a Master of Science in health and physical education from Southern Illinois University, an EdD in higher education administration from the University of Alabama and a PhD in exercise physiology from Auburn University.

She taught and held administrative positions at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, and Lander University in South Carolina. She was provost and senior vice president for academic affairs of Virginia Commonwealth University before coming to Kent State.

Warren’s work in the areas of childhood obesity and the impact of physical activity on metabolic health



earned her the title of Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine. She is also a fellow of the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Under Warren’s leadership, Kent State produced an ambitious five-year strategic plan. It focused on putting students first and raising the profile of Kent State as one of the top public research universities in the nation, through a distinctive blend of teaching, research and creative excellence.

Through her personal philanthropy, Warren established two funds to support students in their pursuit of research participation: the Beverly J. Warren Summer Undergraduate Research Experience fund and the Beverly J. Warren Graduate Scholarship fund.

She also led development of a 10-year facilities master plan, a \$1 billion transformative journey to better serve the needs of students and the blended communities of the Kent Campus and the city of Kent. The plan highlighted the welcoming feel of the university’s iconic Front Campus and genuine sense of place, elevated inclusive healthy living-learning environments, linked a campuswide series of spaces focused on innovation and expanded the dynamic synergy with the city of Kent.

Warren continued to expand the process of honoring and commemorating May 4, 1970, as one community, preparing the way for the 50th commemoration in 2020. On Aug. 15, 2018, she addressed a large audience at the Chautauqua Institution—including KSU alumni, witnesses and victims of the shootings—to reflect on the pain and promise of remembering May 4, 1970. Her speech, “Kent State Beyond the Shootings: Journey of the Wounded Healer,” gained a national audience

when *Vital Speeches* magazine selected it as its Speech of the Week.

She embraced the Regional Campuses, visiting all of them on a presidential listening tour during her first year at Kent State. She also established a One University Commencement Ceremony in 2017—the first time all graduates from the eight-campus system were convened and honored in one ceremony.

Warren was often seen around the campuses, talking with students and cheering on Golden Flashes at sports events. With the ubiquitous presence of cellphones during her tenure—and her popularity with students—catching a selfie with President Warren became something of a bucket list item for many Kent State students.

Upon her departure, Warren received 600 farewell letters from students. At her last Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees surprised her with a large selfie, created as a mosaic of hundreds of smaller selfies sent in by the Kent State community. They also announced the renaming of the recreation and wellness center.

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**Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center** was named in her honor in 2019 following a vote by the trustees, who, among other accolades, recognized her for “her superb academic record as a professor in exercise science and her advocacy for healthy lifestyles.”

The 153,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art fitness amenities and serves as a fitting tribute to Warren, who was committed to the health and wellness of the entire Kent State community. After being closed for the first months of the pandemic, the center reopened on Aug. 17, 2020. ⚡