



Division of Academic Affairs

2022-23 Comprehensive Annual Report

**July 25, 2023**

## Section I. Executive Summary (Top 10 Accomplishments)

(For the accomplishments of individual colleges, please see Points of Pride.)

This has been a year of many accomplishments by incredible faculty, staff, and students in Academic Affairs. We have made great progress on big initiatives (e.g., Academic Affairs strategic plan, Kent Core) while focusing on educating our community about high-impact practices and supporting their implementation in classrooms and service programs across the institution. We have lived into our values of students-first while doubling-down on our commitment to a diverse, distinctive, and global enterprise that connects community to our mission. The leaders, faculty, and staff who make up Academic Affairs have worked hard to ensure that we continue to support students, create cutting-edge academic programs, and advance knowledge and art. I am honored to be a member of this team.

For all of our great work, this has also been a very difficult year, with challenges coming from widespread cultural conflicts and state and national politically based mandates to necessary restructuring of our regional system, addressing ongoing conflicts in academic units, and tragedies (e.g., Paris American Academy) that have affected many. Yet, through it all, our team has pulled together and moved forward with a continuing sense of purpose and pride.

Below I highlight several of our top accomplishments in Academic Affairs.

### Student Success

Student success is the intention behind the actions of academic affairs. During the past year and a half we have engaged over 100 faculty, staff, and students to define our “living” **strategic plan** that has student success at the heart of our vision, goals, and tactics that will guide us forward. As we begin implementation, we have targeted 35 tactics across our 8 priorities to focus on in the upcoming academic year—tactics that include high-impact, evidence-based practices that will lead to higher retention and completion rates across all of our colleges and campuses.

Our dedication to student success is prominently on display in our work updating **university-required curriculum**. For example, we have reimagined the freshmen orientation course (**Flashes 101**) to focus on student behaviors that are connected to retention and graduation, and faculty instruction that involves high-impact practices. Over 300 instructors have participated in the required two-day training for Flashes 101 and are ready to implement the new course Fall 2023.

Moreover, we continue our work to revise the **Kent Core** so that it is distinctive and meaningful for students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During the past academic year, 82 members of the 3 subcommittees have met with faculty, staff, and students from across our Kent State system to hear how they believe our general education core curriculum should look in the future. The feedback focused on how to (a) make our general education program distinctive and consistent with the university's mission, vision, and values, (b) organize and structure the general education program, and (c) create a budgetary model that considers the implications of core courses to the financial health of colleges and programs. This work will guide the subcommittee leaders as we continue our work toward revising the Kent Core this upcoming academic year.

In addition to high-impact practices that can be implemented in the classroom and the development of a distinctive core curriculum, we have approached student success from points of care and service programming. During the academic year over 100 advisors participated in workshops to examine **approaches to advising** that would best meet the needs of today's students. This work will continue as we partner with EAB to develop strategies to provide differentiated care to students through a case-management approach to holistically serve students best.

Our students-first philosophy that guides our approach to student success has also led us to (a) ensure that all colleges adhered to **minimum GA stipend** levels, (b) implement the Purple Umbrella Network to provide resources for Kent State students who have been impacted by **foster care**, (c) increase our **summer bridge programming** for our highest need students, and (d) expand our **advising hours**.

### Academic Highlights

Kent State colleges have many flashes of pride to share this year, and they are listed by college in the body of this report. However, I do want to call special attention to some of the work that has happened in the **College of Aeronautics and Engineering**. This year the college added 4 new bachelor's degrees to its offerings, created the Center for Advanced Air Mobility, joined 3 new pathway programs for flight (United, Southwest, Allegiant), and graduated their first masters and doctoral students in Aerospace Engineering. All of this while overseeing a new expansion of their building.

Our **Office of Global Education (OGE)** has also created new pathways for international students and universities to enroll in and engage with Kent State University. Coming off the back-to-back setbacks of several years of a negative political climate and a global pandemic that resulted in a significant decrease in international applications, OGE has turned the corner and increased the number of international students enrolled at Kent State through a combination of **diversifying the countries** targeted for engagement, the addition of **merit-based scholarships**, new **recruitment approaches** that focus on high school principals and counselors, and establishing **offices** (e.g., Rwanda) **and**

**partnerships** (e.g., Jordan) that require deep, long-term engagement (e.g., American Academy).

As we continue to grow in many of our academic areas, we have also faced the need to restructure our **regional system** to be more efficient and effective moving forward. Throughout the spring semester, our leadership team met biweekly with representative faculty from the regional system to organize a centralized approach to delivering our academic programs across all campuses. I am pleased that we were able to gain consensus on a structure that the faculty group agreed with by the end of the semester.

We also met biweekly with the deans, assistant deans, and budget managers of each campus to create a centralized approach to delivering student services, financial management, and course scheduling. We will continue to work to finalize and then implement systemic changes, but I am very pleased to have accomplished so much toward a complete reorganization of our regional system.

#### Professional Engagement

This year I set a personal goal to become active in **national level leadership** activities. I was elected to APLU's Executive Board of the Council on Academic Affairs and was named as the liaison to the APLU Committee on Faculty Affairs. Both of these positions have given me the opportunity to be engaged with provosts throughout the nation.

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## Section II. Key Achievements

### Students First

- Kent State University was designated a Voter Friendly Campus by NASPA and Campus Vote Project with the help of Community Engaged Learning, USG and other campus partners.
- Established eight new degree programs:
  - Aeronautical Studies - B.S.
  - Air Traffic and Airspace Management - B.S.
  - Aviation Management - B.S.
  - Biochemistry - B.S.
  - Gender and Sexuality Studies - B.A. (pending ODHE approval)
  - Peace and Conflict Studies - M.A.
  - Professional Pilot - B.S.

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Operations - B.S.
- The largest incoming freshmen class in the Honors College arrived in Fall 2022 with 587 first-year students (Class of 2026), with an unweighted average GPA of 3.89. Of these students, 20% were First Generation, hailing from 22 states. 100% of new freshmen received merit scholarships.
- Minimum graduate assistant stipends of \$11,000 (master's) and \$16,000 (doctoral) were established by the Graduate Dean's Advisory Council.

#### A Diverse Kent State

- University Libraries became a full participating member of the HathiTrust Digital Library, providing many benefits to the Kent State University community, including access to high-quality reproductions of more than seven million public domain volumes in the digital library. Student Accessibility Services is taking advantage of the HathiTrust Accessible Text Request Service to assist users with a print disability. Through this helpful service, University Libraries' membership provides them access to high-quality reproductions of more than 17.6 million volumes in the HathiTrust collection – regardless of copyright status.
- The College of Arts and Sciences worked extensively to increase a sense of belonging for all our students. Along with departmental-based programs, we have partnered with multiple university-wide programs. We partnered with Spanish and Latina Student Association (SALSA) and Caribbean Student Organization (CSO) to host a dance lesson night during Hispanic Heritage Month; the Native American Student Association (NASA) to host an "Educational Pow Wow" to honor, recognize, and celebrate Native American/Indigenous people during Native American Heritage Month; the Male Empowerment Network (MEN) and Sister Circle to host a Family Feud night during Black History Month; and we hosted our 4th Annual Red Carpet Celebration to recognize first-generation students during I Am First week.
- Kent State's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative received a \$240,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation to launch a new initiative aimed at increasing diversity and entrepreneurship in architecture and other design professions. Led by Dawn Mayes, the CUDC's new Director of Design Entrepreneurship and Inclusion, the initiative includes training and networking programs and outreach efforts to spur a national conversation about how the design professions can elevate the voices of BIPOC design practitioners.
- Over 100 Advisors participated in a December and February workshop that examined current advising approaches in relation to student survey data. Through

the workshops, advisors identified opportunities to further meet the needs of students. As a follow-up to these workshops an additional interactive workshop is planned for September in partnership with EAB to address these opportunities by developing strategies and guiding principles of differentiated care as it relates to holistic advising, equity, belongingness, and technology optimization.

#### A Nationally Distinctive Kent State

- University Libraries acquired the May 4 archive of the late Alan Canfora. Canfora, one of the nine students wounded during the May 4 and life-long May 4 activist, had compiled the largest independent collection of May 4 primary and secondary resources in the world.
- The Washington Program in National Issues (WPNI), run through the Department of Political Science, had its 50th Anniversary Celebration this year. A special gathering took place in the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on Thursday, April 27. Emilia Strong Sykes, Congresswomen for Ohio's 13th District, and Senator Sherrod Brown attended and gave comments. The WPNI program is a 15-week academic program offered each Spring semester in Washington D.C. Students study national and international political structures, culture and history, science and technology, and public policy and administration in Washington, D.C. Most WPNI students participate in an internship and leave with a future job in hand. Prominent alumni of the program include: Connie Schultz, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and journalist; Betty Sutton, Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals Chief Judge; Cathy Teti, former Executive Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services; David Brandt, Managing Director, Space Experience Center, Loughheed Martin; and Alia Alia Awadallah, an Arab American who has worked in international security, counterterrorism and U.S. policy in the Middle East, and has been appointed by President Biden's administration to work as an advisor to the deputy undersecretary of the US Army.
- The Wick Poetry Center (WPC) had a stellar year and was recognized repeatedly for its impactful work under the leadership of Director David Hassler. The Center worked extensively with the National Academy of Science in Washington D.C. which resulted in three separate events:
  - The WPC produced and debuted "What We Learned While Alone," a play scripted by David Hassler based on the Dear Vaccine project;
  - The Poets for Science exhibit was installed at the National Academy of Science; and
  - David Hassler joined poet and activist Jane Hirshfield at the Nobel Prize Summit: Truth, Trust and Hope to perform a community poem entitled

"Origin Story," created in writing workshops he conducted with the Mirzayan Fellows of the Academy and Nobel Laureate Elizabeth Blackburn.

*Recognitions/Accolades:*

- Dr. Eboni Pringle received national recognition for her advocacy for students and received the 2023 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award presented by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.
- EHHS Diversity Outreach and Development Director Daniel Diaz Nilsson, was selected as one of the 100+ Latinos Cleveland Must Know! The "100+ Latinos Cleveland Must Know" is an initiative created in 2020 to elevate the profile of the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx professional community of Greater Cleveland, by creating a platform for greater visibility, and professional and leadership development opportunities for people who self-identify as Hispanic, Latino or Latinx. This platform shines a positive light on Latino professionals and the surrounding community in Greater Cleveland.
- Marty Jencius, Associate Professor in the School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling. This award goes to a counselor with an extensive history of advocacy and exceptional practice in the field of traumatic stress and resilience. Such advocacy and exceptional practice may be demonstrated by a history of research and publication, mentoring, and involvement in the mental health counseling community.
- The short film "Define," by MDJ alumna filmmaker Ailene Joven (2021) was accepted into the Cleveland International Film Festival (2023). To our knowledge, it's the first time an MDJ student or alumni-produced film has been showcased in an Oscar-qualifying film festival.
- Kent State entrepreneurship graduate Evan Schumann '17 and his wife Marisa Sergi were recognized in the Food & Drink category of Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in 2023. Schumann is co-owner of L'uva Bella Winery with Sergi. The winery's brands can be found across nine states in chains such as Walmart, Kroger and Target. Evan spoke at the college's annual Spring Pitch competition to share his story with current entrepreneurship students.
- Kent State Interior Design Students, Emma Weaver and Katie Gagle, were named to Metropolis Magazine's 2023 Future 100 list. Kent State's interior

design program has now had 7 awardees in the past 3 years since the award's induction – more than any other University.

*National Rankings:*

- Intelligent (intelligent.com) ranked Kent State's Master of Science Construction Management Program 2nd in the nation among 39 Construction Management master's degree programs.
- 2022-2023 U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools rankings:
  - No. 133 on the Best Mathematics Programs list (the highest-ranked public institution in northern Ohio)
  - No. 136 on the Best Physics Schools list (the highest-ranked public institution in northern Ohio)
  - No. 140 on the Best Earth Sciences Programs list (the highest-ranked institution in northern Ohio)
  - No. 166 on the Best Public Affairs Programs list
  - No. 171 on the Best Computer Science Schools list
  - No. 192 on the Best Chemistry Programs list
  - No. 129 on the Best Business Schools: Full-Time MBA list, making Kent State the highest-ranked public institution in northern Ohio for the Full-Time MBA category.
  - No. 99 EHHS
  - No. 19 Rehabilitation Counseling ranks #19.
  - No. 66 Nursing Schools-Master's Program
  - No. 20 The School of Information (iSchool)
- Fortune 2022-23 Rankings:
  - No. 14 Fortune ranked online MBA program in the Best Online MBA Programs in the Midwest; No. 15 in the Best Online MBA Programs - Accounting concentration (and #1 in Ohio with this concentration), No. 47 in the Best Online MBA Programs – No GMAT/GRE Required, No. 50 in the Best Executive MBA Programs in 2022-23, and No. 78 in the Best Online MBA Programs 2023 by Fortune in its Top Business Schools rankings.
  - No. 26 Named to the Fortune 2022 Best Online Master's in Nursing (MSN) Programs list! Only two Ohio schools made the list.
  - College of Public Health Online MPH as the 12th best program (ranking only 14 online programs). MPH is ranked as the best value in terms of cost.



- The Kent State Museum was ranked #6 of US Museums for Fashion Lovers by travel.com, and #10 of global Museums of Fashion and Textiles byfashionandtextilemuseums.org.
- The Princeton Review® ranked the Kent State online MBA program No. 43 in 2023. The education services company profiles the college in its Top 50 Online MBA Programs for 2023 ranking. Kent State's Online MBA program is the only one in Ohio in the Top 50 ranking. Kent State was also included in The Princeton Review® Best Business Schools list of on-campus MBA programs and The Princeton Review® Best Business Schools (Midwest) list of on-campus MBA programs in 2023.
- Kent State's Executive MBA (EMBA) program was ranked No. 35 by CEO Magazine in its 2023 Global Executive MBA ranking and No. 40 in its Online MBA ranking.
- The Online M.S. in Business Analytics program earned Quality Matters (QM) Program Design Certification (2023) and the Online MBA program earned Quality Matters (QM) Learner Success Certification (2022).
- For the first time, our Nurse Educator program made the list of top programs. KSU Nurse Educator program is number 2 in Ohio, #11 in the nation.

#### Community Impact

- Town & Gown relationships continue to strengthen through meaningful partnerships that include the Kent Connections event, bringing together over 60 community, business and City partners with our first-year and returning students; the continuation of the Blue, Gold & Grateful Employee Appreciation program, generating nearly \$60,000 for local businesses; and, the growth of Kent Skates to include nearly \$80,000 in local investments and an increase in attendance to nearly 15,000 students, families and community members.
- Through our named partnership with Akron Public Schools Firestone Career & College Academies, Kent State faculty and staff provided 3,086 total hours of time and talent and 15 types of engagements to all four grades of students in every Firestone Academy and Pathway.
- Coordinated K-12 pipeline visits for over 1,000 students and community partners in the NE Ohio region.

- The College of Public Health Center for Public Policy and Health received a \$3.7 million grant to expand substance abuse services in Ohio. Deric Kenne, Ph.D., professor of health policy and management and director of the Center for Public Policy and Health (CPPH) will lead a project to expand substance abuse treatment services in rural Southeastern Ohio.
- Launched the Purple Umbrella Network to provide resources and support for Kent State students impacted by foster care or out-of-home placement.

#### Global Presence

- Twelve American Academy students received their bachelor's degrees from KSU in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Coordinated the American Academy Advanced Program for a group of 15 educators from Brazil to participate in a two-week program designed to help them explore models of education in Northeast Ohio and determine how they might implement them in their schools through Brazil's network of educational institutions.
- KSU has developed agreements with the below new partners:
  - Bennett University, India
  - Chonnam National University, South Korea
  - Institute for Higher Learning in Human Security (l'Institut Supérieur de Sécurité Humaine), Burkina Faso
  - Ministry of Defence, Government of Rwanda, Rwanda
  - Overseas Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, India
  - Rwanda National Police, Rwanda
  - The Hashemite University, Jordan
  - Toyo University, Japan
  - University of Petra, Jordan
  - University of Witwatersrand (Rural Campus), South Africa
  - Yamaguchi University, Japan
- "Dear Vaccine: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic" was published by the University Press in April 2022. The book inspired the Kent State Wick Poetry Center to develop an interactive global vaccine poem which attracted online submissions from all 50 U.S. states and more than 100 countries across the globe. Media coverage of the book led to a stage performance of What We Learned While Alone: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic at the National Academy of Science.
- Our CCI global course, From Ideas to Stories: Storytelling in Tuscany, was co-taught by CCI alumnus and award-winning filmmaker Tom Jennings and Florence Program Coordinator Fabio Corsini this summer (2023) and it included a student field trip to

the Monte Carlo Television Festival. Jennings' professional connections made the trip possible, and he donated the cost of the hotel, so the field trip was at no cost for the students. Jennings was named president of the Monte Carlo Television Festival documentary and news jury. We had a record 29 students enrolled in the storytelling course.

#### Organizational Sustainability

- As of June 2023, more than \$40 million has been raised for the Crawford Hall project, of which \$18 million will create an endowment for the college and the remaining \$22 million is allocated for construction costs. Seven of the philanthropic gifts made to the Crawford Hall project have been at the \$1 million or more level. The most recent such gift, given in fall of 2022, was the \$1 million gift from Donald S. and Johnna F. Grant to name the Donald S. and Johnna F. Grant Atrium in Crawford Hall.
- The following six micro-credentials were approved and will be offered this coming year: 3D Printing; Drafting and Design; Electrical Technician I; Electrical Technician II; Introduction to Semiconductors for STEM Majors; Nursing Administration and Health Systems Leadership
- Created the Office of Strategy Management (OSM) to support the university's strategic priorities in terms of organizational capacity and resource usage, prioritization and alignment of initiatives as well as providing leadership for university strategic planning and project management.
- Successfully renegotiated and extension to the Full-Time Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement until the end of 2025.

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### Section III. Divisional Flashes of Pride

#### College of Aeronautics and Engineering

- Earned ABET accreditation for the Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering and reaffirmation for its Aeronautical Systems Engineering Technology program, making Kent State one of two institutions in the world to have both aerospace engineering and aeronautical systems/aerospace engineering technology bachelor's programs accredited by ABET.

- Welcomed the largest freshmen class in Fall 2022, with 278 students, which is a 31% increase over 2021. Applications saw a 17% increase and a 24% increase in admissions. We are tracking a new incoming class of over 370 freshmen.
- Flew 16,236.3 flight hours
  - (18,096 – 2021; 11,558 – 2020; 14,591 – 2019)
  - 12,307 flight activities
  - 12,115.9 tach hours
- The Maintenance department returned 832 Aircraft from Inspection.
- Recorded 31,592 Fleet Landings.
- Completed 404 flight courses, a 17.4% increase.
- Added 3 Pathway Programs for Flight in last 6 months:
  - United Aviate
  - Southwest Destination 225
  - Allegiant Air Accelerate Pilot Pathway (one of first programs in the country to receive this partnership with Allegiant)
- CAE's Student Precision Flight Team once more was ranked high enough in regionals to be invited to the national competition. This year, the team ranked 9<sup>th</sup> overall at the 2023 National SAFECON Championship, which marks an increase in 3 slots over last years' competition.
  - Placed 9<sup>th</sup> overall out of 28 teams that made it to the national competition, the highest Kent State has placed in a decade.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place CFI Event - Holly Csaszar (this is the second year in a row that one of our female students received 1<sup>st</sup> place in this event)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Short-Field Landings - Sam Legarth
    - Total score of 13 points, which was 2 feet short of placing first. According to our records, this is the lowest point total for a Kent State pilot in the Short-Field Landing event.
- The Air Race Classic is an all-female piloted race that competes on a 4 day and 10 leg race. This year's race covers 2,685 miles, starting in Grand Forks, North Dakota and ending in Homestead, Florida. Including the starting airport, the race will take place in 10 different states. This year there were 42 teams in the race, including 18 collegiate teams representing 14 different universities. This is Kent State University's sixth race appearance since 2016. KSU Flying Flashes, piloted by Alex Johnson and Laura Wilson, won the overall, fastest Cessna, and collegiate championship awards in the 2022 Air Race Classic.

- This year's results:
  - 1st place overall Competition Class
  - 1st place overall Collegiate Challenge Award
  - 1st place overall Fastest Cessna Award
  - 1st place overall Fastest WAI Team (Women in Aviation International organization)
  - Back-to-Back 1st place overall victories for Kent State University in the Air Race Classic (2022 and 2023)
- 2023 NIFA SAFECON Certified Flight Instructor of the Year Award recipient: Holly Csaszar
- 16% of active flight instructors are female (double national average), with more in the pipeline
- Successfully formulated, developed, and advocated for the establishment of a Center for Advanced Air Mobility. The College of Aeronautics and Engineering (CAE) is emerging as the recognized leader in Northeast Ohio for advanced air mobility. The Center will be a multidisciplinary community of researchers and practitioners, addressing one of the most emergent, disruptive technologies in both aeronautics and engineering: the incorporation of small, autonomous, aircraft into the national airspace and the global economy, with a particular emphasis on sustainability and clean energy.
- Received \$1.49 M in external research funds from industry, state and federal sources.
- Research funding included the first NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site within CAE. The college was awarded \$402,740 for the REU Site: Research Experience for Undergraduates in Robotics and Autonomous Systems (AUTOBOT). The experience will draw undergraduate students from around the country to Kent State starting next summer, 2024.
- In Summer 2023, Kent State will confer masters and doctoral degrees in engineering for the first time in the university's history. A Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering will be conferred to Mr. Chao Huang and a M.S. in Aerospace Engineering will be conferred to Mr. Zachery Fitzgerald. Launched M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Aerospace Engineering in 2020.
- Established an MOA with Visionary Training Resources (VTR), a major provider of Virtual Reality pilot training capabilities to the airline industry. VTR has agreed to share their proprietary Boeing 737 and Airbus 320 FlightDeckToGo™ products with CAE, allowing Kent State students to learn advanced airline flight decks anytime, anywhere. Drs. Stephanie Fussell and Benjamin Kwasa will also use the capability to advance their research in virtual and augmented reality training.

- Established an MOU with Blue Abyss, a company that will be building the deepest and largest environmental research facility in North America. This facility and capability will support a multitude of research and demonstration projects, with a particular focus on astronaut training and autonomous vehicle testing. We are one of three primary academic partners, along with The Ohio State University and Case Western University.
- The College of Aeronautics and Engineering and the Smart Manufacturing Cluster of NEO along with Manufacturing Works, and Team NEO hosted the “Reaching New Heights in Advanced Air Mobility: Opportunities in Autonomous Vehicles” Conference on May 2nd. The Conference was well attended with key government officials, industry leaders, suppliers and service providers for AAM. As part of the activities, a Live Drone Demonstration was conducted at the Kent State University Airport and the segment by WKYC covering the event and the future of drones in Northeast Ohio can be found at “Mission Possible: Taking the drone economy to new heights in Northeast Ohio.”
- Dr. Marla Perez-Davis joined the college as Executive-in-Residence, with support of the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. Dr. Marla Perez-Davis was an instant game-changer for the college, leading strategic planning efforts, including the planning for the Center for Advanced Air Mobility. She will be the first Director for the Center for Advanced Air Mobility.
- Dr. Ali Abdul-Aziz was honored by the International Association of Advanced Materials as the recipient of the Advanced Materials Lectures Fellow award for his exceptional contributions to the interdisciplinary fields of science, engineering, and technology in relation to materials interface.
- Dr. Blake Stringer received KSU President’s Faculty Excellence Award.
- Dr. Syed Shihab was recognized as the February Faculty of the Month by the KSU Center of Teaching and Learning. The recognition was for his continuous efforts in being proactively student-centered and his commitment to inclusive teaching.
- Dr. Stephanie Fussell received a US Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH) on her research project: Comparison of Extended Reality Technologies to Support DMO LVC Training and Operations.
- Dr. Blake Stringer received a US Air Force Academy Faculty Fellowship (USAF Colorado Springs, CO) on his research project: *eHETR*: Hybrid Electro-Thermal Rotorcraft Modeling of eVTOL Propulsion Systems).

## College of Architecture and Environmental Design

- **Kent State Interior Design Students, Emma Weaver and Katie Gagle, were named to Metropolis Magazine's 2023 Future 100 list. Kent State's interior design program has now had 7 awardees in the past 3 years since the award's induction – more than any other University.**
- Architecture Graduate Cooper Moore was elected to and now serves as National American Institute of Architects Student (AIAS) organization President out of Washington DC headquarters.
- Professor David Hughes, FAIA named Honorary Fellow, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and was an invited delegate of the Nigerian Institute of Architects at the Congress of World Architecture.
- Dr. Sara Bayramzadeh received a Presidential Faculty Excellence Award
- Assistant Professor Tina Patel received the 2022 IIDA Educator Diversity Award. With this award the IIDA Foundation, in partnership with Interior Design Educators Council Foundation (IDECF) recognizes and celebrates educators who contribute to the advancement of racial and ethnic diversity in the interior design industry.
- Intelligent (intelligent.com) ranked Kent State's Master of Science Construction Management Program 2nd in the nation among 39 Construction Management master's degree programs.
- **Kent State's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative received a \$240,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation to launch a new initiative aimed at increasing diversity and entrepreneurship in architecture and other design professions. Led by Dawn Mayes, the CUDC's new Director of Design Entrepreneurship and Inclusion, the initiative includes training and networking programs and outreach efforts to spur a national conversation about how the design professions can elevate the voices of BIPOC design practitioners.**

## College of Arts and Sciences

- Yossef Ben-Porath, Department of Psychological Sciences, received the Bruno Klopfer Award from the Society for Personality Assessment, "bestowed annually for outstanding, long-term professional contribution to the field of personality assessment."
- Mary Beth Spitznagel, Department of Psychological Sciences, received the Lifetime of Achievement – Service Award from the International Neuropsychological Society for her

work with the Research and Editing Consulting Program (RECP), a program that facilitates research dissemination by matching scientists from underrepresented countries with volunteer experts to provide English language, research design, or statistical support.

- Angela Neal-Barnett received the 2022 ATHENA Akron Leadership Award granted to “exceptional individuals who have achieved the highest level of professional excellence, contributed time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community, and actively assisted others – particularly women – in realizing their full leadership potential.”
- Dmitry Ryabogin, Department of Mathematical Sciences solved a mathematical problem, Ulam’s Problem 19, within the famous “Scottish Book”. This is reflected in his 2022 sole-authored publication: *Negative answer to Ulam’s Problem 19 from the Scottish Book, Annals of Mathematics, Pages 1111-1150, Volume 195 (2022), Issue 3*. Mathematicians say this is equivalent to receiving a Nobel Prize. Having solved Ulam’s Problem 19, Professor Ryabogin has received a surge of invitations to be a guest speaker around the world.
- David Kaplan, Department of Geography, was selected to be one of 16 members in the American Association of Geographers’ cohort of Fellows for 2023. The honorary title is conferred for life.
- Brian Hayashi, Department of History, won an NEH summer stipend, one of only five awarded in the humanities in the state of Ohio in last year's funding cycle.
- Ann Heiss, Department of History, was elected president of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations, one of the discipline's most influential professional societies.
- **The Washington Program in National Issues (WPNI), run through the Department of Political Science, had its 50th Anniversary Celebration this year. A special gathering took place in the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on Thursday, April 27. Emilia Strong Sykes, Congresswomen for Ohio’s 13th District, and Senator Sherrod Brown attended and gave comments. The WPNI program is a 15-week academic program offered each Spring semester in Washington D.C. Students study national and international political structures, culture and history, science and technology, and public policy and administration in Washington, D.C. Most WPNI students participate in an internship and leave with a future job in hand. Prominent alumni of the program include: Connie Schultz, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and journalist; Betty Sutton, Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals Chief Judge; Cathy Teti, former Executive Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services; David Brandt, Managing Director, Space Experience Center, Loughheed Martin; and Alia Alia Awadallah, an Arab**



American who has worked in international security, counterterrorism and U.S. policy in the Middle East, and has been appointed by President Biden's administration to work as an advisor to the deputy undersecretary of the US Army.

- **The Wick Poetry Center (WPC) had a stellar year and was recognized repeatedly for its impactful work under the leadership of Director David Hassler. The Center worked extensively with the National Academy of Science in Washington D.C. which resulted in three separate events:**
  - **The WPC produced and debuted "What We Learned While Alone," a play scripted by David Hassler based on the Dear Vaccine project;**
  - **The *Poets for Science* exhibit was installed at the National Academy of Science; and**
  - **David Hassler joined poet and activist Jane Hirshfield at the Nobel Prize Summit: Truth, Trust and Hope to perform a community poem entitled "Origin Story," created in writing workshops he conducted with the Mirzayan Fellows of the Academy and Nobel Laureate Elizabeth Blackburn.**
- Providing mentorship is a promise we provide to all incoming freshmen students. We offer a virtual peer-mentoring program to our freshmen who are paired with juniors or seniors as early as May, prior to starting their first semester at Kent State. This past year 43.8% (450) of all incoming freshmen participated in the College Peer Mentoring program. While we don't yet know the impact on retention, the impact on persistence was immense. The persistence rate for those who participated is 2.8% higher than for those who did not. We noted however, that this program had a particularly strong impact on historically under-represented students, where the persistence rate was 7.3% higher than for those who did not participate (83.1% vs. 75.8%).
- Providing access to Study Away/Abroad is a promise we provide to all incoming students to Kent State. We offer generous scholarships to students based on their financial need. This past year we offered faculty-led study abroad/away programs in Columbus, Ohio, Washington D.C., South Dakota, Holland, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, South Africa, the Galapagos, Ghana, and Rwanda. Almost 100 A&S students participated in the Florence Program.
- The College of Arts and Sciences faculty are participating more and more in public communication of their research. Of note, we have several individuals and groups producing podcasts and the Bebbler and Erin research in Anthropology gets significant attention from the media.
  - The Growing Democracy Podcast was launched in 2020 during the Pandemic. It is hosted by Shemariah Arki (Africana Studies), Casey Boyd-Swan (Economics) and Ashley Nickels (Peace and Conflict Studies). There have now been over 200 episodes that focus on political and civic engagement, governance and community power, or local democracy.

- “How Do you Know” is a podcast series created and presented by Christie Bahlai (Biological Sciences), Rebecca Catto (Sociology and Criminology), and Bridget Mulvey (Curriculum and Instruction). The Series explores how data becomes information, information becomes knowledge, and knowledge becomes belief- and how, in turn, belief shapes the way we take and interpret data.
- Seedz of Revolution: Daughters of the Whirlwind is produced and hosted by Asantewa Sunni-Ali (Africana Studies) on Black Power Media (Youtube channel with 25,000 subscribers) and major podcast platforms including Spotify, Apple Podcast and Amazon Music. The podcast is listened to internationally in the United States, Belgium, Malta, France, Gambia, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Belize, and Canada.
- Six programs offered by the College of Arts and Sciences were also recognized in the 2022-2023 Best Graduate Schools rankings. Kent State ranks No. 133 on the Best Mathematics Programs list (the highest-ranked public institution in northern Ohio), No. 136 on the Best Physics Schools list (the highest-ranked public institution in northern Ohio), No. 140 on the Best Earth Sciences Programs list (the highest-ranked institution in northern Ohio), No. 166 on the Best Public Affairs Programs list, No. 171 on the Best Computer Science Schools list and No. 192 on the Best Chemistry Programs list.
- **The College of Arts and Sciences worked extensively to increase a sense of belonging for all our students. Along with departmental-based programs, we have partnered with multiple university-wide programs. We partnered with Spanish and Latina Student Association (SALSA) and Caribbean Student Organization (CSO) to host a dance lesson night during Hispanic Heritage Month; the Native American Student Association (NASA) to host an “Educational Pow Wow” to honor, recognize, and celebrate Native American/Indigenous people during Native American Heritage Month; the Male Empowerment Network (MEN) and Sister Circle to host a Family Feud night during Black History Month; and we hosted our 4th Annual Red Carpet Celebration to recognize first-generation students during I Am First week.**
- In February 2023, the Department of History signed an MOU with the Western Reserve Historical Society to formalize a partnership that provides a direct pathway by which Kent State history students at all levels can acquire essential knowledge and skills for careers in public history. One of the first student projects will be an oral history project focused on African American history in our region. The partnership produces internships and jobs as well as research assistantships for graduate students. It will also result in unique teaching opportunities and collaborative research, including a focus on our industrial past and the history of the Rust Belt.

College of the Arts

*School of Theatre and Dance*

- Jeffrey Rockland, Associate Professor of Dance, is fully engaged in developing and administering two semester-abroad programs that will result in a new MOU with Hebrew University (a world-class institution of higher learning) and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. This program will allow Kent State's Dance Division to be seen as offering an international experience equal to major Dance programs at UC Irvine, Rutgers, and other Dance programs of national significance.
- Grace Cochran Keenan, Assistant Professor of Theatre, presented her research, *Flipped Learning & Its Effect on Student Stress*, at the United States Institute of Technical Theatre (USITT) national conference in March 2023. She also authored a chapter for the upcoming book, *Re-Fashioning Pedagogies*, detailing the process of decolonizing the History of Costume & Textiles course at Kent State. The book is expected to be published in November 2023.
- Paul Hurley, Assistant Professor of Theatre, contributed to a soon to be published book by Routledge titled, "Improvisation the Michael Chekhov Way: Active Exploration of Acting Techniques." He also presented and served as the session coordinator at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference in Detroit for a session titled, "Physicalizing the Text: Word Painting Shakespeare's Funky Folio Words."
- Ambre Emory-Maier, Assistant Professor of Dance, was the co-creator of *Bodies of Water*, an Intergenerational Dance project in collaboration with Global Water Dances Columbus, Global Water Dances International, The Wicke Poetry Center and Indianola Informal K-8 school (Columbus City Schools). She was also the movement director/choreographer for *What We Learned While Alone: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic*. The production premiered at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC on October 24, 2022, and was streamed internationally. Production continues to tour nationally and regionally.
- Yuko Kurahashi, Professor of Theatre, presented at two national conferences: "Searching Histories and Identity through Storytelling: DeLanna Studi's *And So We Walked* and Madeline Sayet's *Where We Belong*" for the Comparative Drama Conference, March-April 2023, and "Celebrating Impossible Pedagogy" and "Confronting Impossible Changes in Theatre History I" for the Mid-America Theatre Conference, March 2023. Additionally, she was the editor for *The Price* by Arthur Miller.

### *Kent State Museum*

- The Kent State Museum was ranked #6 of US Museums for Fashion Lovers by travel.com, and #10 of global Museums of Fashion and Textiles byfashionandtextilemuseums.org.
- Dr. Sara Hume, Museum Curator and NTT Professor, published her first book with Bloomsbury Publication, entitled “Regional Dress: Between Tradition and Modernity.”
- Works in the KSU Museum collection were loaned to The New York Historical Society, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The Kunstmuseum, The Hague; and the Palm Beach Historical Society.

### *The School of Art*

- The School of Art successfully hosted over 500 attendees for the Mid America Print Council Conference.
- Juliann Dorff, Professor of Art Education, was named the Ohio Art Education Association’s Educator of the Year, Robin Vande Zande, Professor of Art Education, received the 2023 Lowenfeld Award given by the National Art Education Association, and Gianna Commito, Professor of Studio Art, received the Wayne P. Lawson prize for Ohio Artists.
- Eight School of Art faculty and alumni have been awarded the Ohio Arts Council’s Individual Excellence Awards for 2023. Full-time faculty members Davin Ebanks (3D), Peter Christian Johnson (Crafts), Arron Foster (2D), and Shawn Powell (2D) were selected for the award, as well as part-time faculty in Foundations, Sharon Koelblinger. Two School of Art alumni including Mark Keffer, B.F.A. Painting (2D) and Melissa English Campbell, M.F.A. Textiles (2D) were also included on the list along with Professor Emeritus Paul O’Keeffe.

### *School of Music*

- Dr. Mark Nowakowski, Associate Professor of Music at the Kent State University Stark Campus, released a new album entitled "Metanoia," through DUX/Naxos. The album was #1 on Amazon Digital's new classical releases.
- Professor of Music, Dr. Donna Lee, was honored in a ceremony in February 2023 as a recipient of a Steinway & Son’s 2022 Top Piano Teachers award. Among the distinguished group of dedicated pedagogues were also three alumnae, all former students of Dr. Lee, who are also making outstanding contributions to the arts.

*School of Fashion Design and Merchandising*

- Lauren Copeland, Assistant Professor of Fashion, received the *Early Career Researcher, Best Paper Award* for her work “Revolution Retold: Classroom to Real World,” at the International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes Conference in 2023.
- Fashion Professors Linda Ohrn-McDaniel, (PI), Mourad Krifa, and Noel Palomo-Lovinski received a \$236,816 grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Third Frontier Research Grant, for their proposal entitled “Fostering Ohio Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Next Generation Digital Knit Technology.”
- Ann Walter, Assistant Professor and Director of the NY Fashion Studio, received a \$60,300 grant from the NYC Garment District Alliance for her proposal entitled, “NYC Garment District Alliance 2023 Business Development Collaborative Program\*”.  
*\*The NYC Fashion program received a grant from the Garment District Alliance and will be a part of this year's Business Development Collaborative Program. Recipients engage in programming to strengthen the apparel manufacturing industry in the district through building community among District businesses and entrepreneurs to help elevate the district's unique identity. This grant will be used for our NYFW event in September, and a programming concept called "Fridays at the Fashion School" (allowing industry partners to utilize classroom space during down time), both of which support the goals of the Garment District Alliance. This partnership is also a fantastic way to increase our visibility in both New York City and the fashion industry.*
- Olivia Meyer, Fashion Merchandising Junior, was named NRF Foundation Next Generation Top 5 Finalist and received a \$10,000 award.

Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship

- The College was reaffirmed for both business and accounting accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, International ([AACSB](#)) in 2023, which will extend accreditation to 2028. This is the 58<sup>th</sup> year that the College has held AACSB accreditation in business. The College added AACSB accreditation in accounting in 2010. Founded in 1916, AACSB is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools. The College is one of only 965 institutions across 60 countries and territories to earn AACSB accreditation. In addition, 194 institutions hold additional specialized AACSB accreditation for their accounting programs. Fewer than 6% of business schools worldwide hold AACSB business accreditation.

- As of June 2023, more than \$40 million has been raised for the Crawford Hall project, of which \$18 million will create an endowment for the college and the remaining \$22 million is allocated for construction costs. Seven of the philanthropic gifts made to the Crawford Hall project have been at the \$1 million or more level. The most recent such gift, given in fall of 2022, was the \$1 million gift from Donald S. and Johnna F. Grant to name the Donald S. and Johnna F. Grant Atrium in Crawford Hall.
- Construction of Crawford Hall is ongoing and expected to be completed in the spring of 2024. Crawford Hall is part of the university's Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State master plan that will include a new signature entrance to the Kent Campus near the site of the new building. Beam signing ceremonies took place in April through June of 2023, with the signed, last beam placed in Crawford Hall on June 28, 2023.
- The Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship launched *"ASPIRE: The Life of an American Entrepreneur,"* a podcast featuring Ambassador Edward F. Crawford in spring 2023. Throughout the 14-episode podcast series, *ASPIRE* presents a vivid picture of an American entrepreneur, providing insights on business, strategy, success and failure, as well as Crawford's life experiences. Crawford's family's journey from rural Ireland to the United States; dealing with rejection as an entrepreneur; Crawford's journey to becoming a successful entrepreneur; strategies in the boardroom that served Crawford well and Crawford's sports interests. The podcast is hosted by bestselling author and award-winning journalist Thomas Kelly.
- Mario J. Gabelli, Chairman and CEO of GAMCO Investors, Inc. (NYSE: GBL) and LICT Corp., as well as Executive Chairman of Associated Capital Group, Inc., was the featured speaker for the Kent State Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship's 2023 *ASPIRE Entrepreneurial Workshop Series* moderated by radio personality Thomas Kelly with an introduction by Ambassador Edward F. Crawford. The event took place on April 12, 2023. The Gabelli School of Business at Fordham University is named for Mr. Gabelli.
- The full-time (in-person) MBA program was one of 11 Kent State University programs to be ranked among the best in the nation in the 2023-2024 Best Graduate Schools rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*. Kent State ranked No. 129 on the Best Business Schools: Full-Time MBA list, making Kent State the highest-ranked public institution in northern Ohio for the Full-Time MBA category.
- The online MBA program was ranked among the best in the nation in the 2023 Best Online MBA Programs ranking by *U.S. News & World Report*. Kent State ranked No. 102 on the list, making it the highest-ranked institution in northern Ohio for the Online MBA category. Kent State moved up 51 spots in the 2023 Best Online MBA Programs ranking compared to the prior year.



- *The Princeton Review*® ranked the Kent State online MBA program No. 43 in 2023. The education services company profiles the college in its *Top 50 Online MBA Programs for 2023* ranking. Kent State's Online MBA program is the only one in Ohio in the Top 50 ranking. Kent State was also included in *The Princeton Review*® *Best Business Schools* list of on-campus MBA programs and *The Princeton Review*® *Best Business Schools (Midwest)* list of on-campus MBA programs in 2023.
- *Fortune* ranked the Kent State online MBA program No. 14 in the Best Online MBA Programs in the Midwest (2023), No. 15 in the Best Online MBA Programs - Accounting concentration (and #1 in Ohio with this concentration) , No. 47 in the Best Online MBA Programs – No GMAT/GRE Required, No. 50 in the Best Executive MBA Programs in 2022-23, and No. 78 in the Best Online MBA Programs 2023 by *Fortune* in its Top Business Schools *rankings*.
- Kent State's Executive MBA (EMBA) program was ranked No. 35 by *CEO Magazine* in its 2023 Global Executive MBA ranking and No. 40 in its Online MBA ranking.
- The Online M.S. in Business Analytics program earned Quality Matters (QM) Program Design Certification (2023) and the Online MBA program earned Quality Matters (QM) Learner Success Certification (2022).
- Eight student finalists competed in the John S. and Marlene J. Brinzo Center for Entrepreneurship's annual Spring Pitch competition on April 19, 2023, for a share of \$20,000 in cash prizes. Bradley Smith, a junior finance major, took 1<sup>st</sup> place with his company, Finlit, and received \$10,000; Sophia Edmunds, who majored in fashion design, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place with her company, REVEIL, and received \$5,000; and Clifford Fumbui, a senior computer engineering major, took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with his company, Jollof Box, and received \$2,500. The remaining prize money was divided among the other finalists.
- The Kent State Golden Flash Asset Management (GFAM) Team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in both the Global Portfolio category (Graduate) and the Fixed Income Portfolio category (Undergraduate) at the G.A.M.E. Forum held in New York City in March 2023. Student team members who participated in the competition included MBA student Jorge Astorga; senior finance major Minung Chung; MBA student Chase Holland; senior finance major Cameron Brooks and senior finance major Zachary Manzella. With the 2023 awards, the team has now won a total of eight awards at this global event since first entering the competition in 2019. The team has won multiple awards three years in a row, giving Kent State the recognition of being one of the best student-managed investment funds in the nation. The G.A.M.E. Forum is hosted annually by Quinnipiac University.
- **Kent State entrepreneurship graduate Evan Schumann '17 and his wife Marisa Sergi were recognized in the Food & Drink category of Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in 2023.**

**Schumann is co-owner of L’uva Bella Winery with Sergi. The winery’s brands can be found across nine states in chains such as Walmart, Kroger and Target. Evan spoke at the college’s annual Spring Pitch competition to share his story with current entrepreneurship students.**

- Kelly Knapp-Blay, lecturer in the Kent State Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, was selected as the 2023 Kent State University – Mid-American Conference Outstanding Faculty for Student Success Award winner.
- Amy Grincewicz, Ph.D., Director of Instructional Design at the Kent State Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, received the Quality Matters (QM) Directors’ Award for Exceptional Service to Quality Matters, the international leader for quality assurance in online and innovative digital teaching and learning environments.
- The 2022 Bea Sanders/AICPA Teaching Innovation Award in the first accounting sequence (first- and second-year studies) was given to Wendy Tietz of Kent State University, Tracie Miller-Nobles of Franklin University, and Jennifer Cainas of the University of South Florida for “Data Cleaning Projects for Introductory Accounting,” which includes seven “extract, transform and load” (ETL) projects with accompanying interactive dashboards designed for introductory accounting courses.
- The 2022 IMA R. Lee Brummet Exemplary Educator Award was presented to Dr. Wendy Tietz, Professor, Department of Accounting at the Institute for Management Accountants (IMA) Annual Conference. Just two awards are given per year and are based on management accounting education, research, and service.
- Serena Loftus, Ph.D., and R.Z. Zhang, Ph.D., assistant professors of accounting at the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, along with colleague Sarah Shonka McCoy, Ph.D., assistant professor of accounting at the University of New Mexico’s Anderson School of Management, were invited to present their study, “Native American Governments’ Borrowing Costs: Evidence from Municipal Bond Markets,” at the 11th Annual Municipal Finance Conference hosted in July 2022 by the Brookings Institute. Their research offers independent evidence that tribal governments’ access to tax-exempt debt is limited relative to state and local governments and that when tribal governments overcome these additional restrictions to issue debt, they pay higher interest rates than state and local governments. The conference is a joint venture of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at Brookings, the Rosenberg Institute of Global Finance at the Brandeis International Business School, the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis, and the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.
- The Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship hosted the 47th Annual Meonske Professional Development Conference April 27-28, 2023, at the Kent



State Student Center. This conference is named for Kent State University Professor Emeritus Norman Meonske, the conference founder. Speakers at this event include representatives from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the “Big 4” accounting firms and area corporations. Several hundred accounting and finance professionals attended the annual conference.

- **Michael D. Solomon, technology executive, investor, and former Kent State Trustee was the featured speaker for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Michael D. Solomon Entrepreneurship Speaker Series on April 18, 2023. He spoke about “50 Years of Technology History and Why I am Still Having so Much Fun Being an Entrepreneur.” Michael endowed the Michael D. Solomon Entrepreneurship Speaker Series in 2002, the Jerry M. Lewis Speaker Series in 2022 and the Alan Canfora Scholarship Program in Activism in 2021.**

#### College of Communication and Information

- The School of Information (iSchool) is ranked #20 in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2024 Best Graduate Programs in the U.S. The discipline-specific rankings are updated every 3-5 years (most recently in 2022). We have three specialty areas also ranked – School Library Media is ranked #5 nationally; Services for Children and Youth is ranked #9 nationally; Archives and Preservation is ranked #12 nationally.
- Student media and our programs in the School of Media and Journalism (MDJ) continue to receive national and regional awards and recognition for student work. In the annual Hearst competition (considered the Pulitzer Prize of collegiate journalism), Isabella Schreck placed 12<sup>th</sup> in Sports Writing; Maddy Haberberger placed 15<sup>th</sup> in Multimedia II; Alexandria Manthey placed 18<sup>th</sup> in News Feature; and Gabby Jonas placed 20<sup>th</sup> in Hard News for her story on the train derailment in East Palestine.
- **Our CCI global course, From Ideas to Stories: Storytelling in Tuscany, was co-taught by CCI alumnus and award-winning filmmaker Tom Jennings and Florence Program Coordinator Fabio Corsini this summer (2023) and it included a student field trip to the Monte Carlo Television Festival. Jennings’ professional connections made the trip possible, and he donated the cost of the hotel, so the field trip was at no cost for the students. Jennings was named president of the Monte Carlo Television Festival documentary and news jury. We had a record 29 students enrolled in the storytelling course.**
- The School of Media and Journalism recruited Peter Bobkowski from the University of Kansas as our new Knight Chair in Scholastic Journalism. Bobkowski is a well-known leader in the scholastic journalism area. Our Knight Chair is one of only 26 at 23

universities, designating our School of Media and Journalism among the best in the nation. Bobkowski starts as chair in Fall 2023.

- Research in virtual reality in the School of Communication Studies incorporates both the study of new media technologies and diversity initiatives by assessing how VR can be used to bridge intergroup differences between international students and domestic students. Research involves researchers from different universities (Mei-Chen Lin, Kent State; Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida; and Mina Choi, Sejong University, Korea). One goal of the project, which is funded in part by a National Communication Association Cultivation Grant, is to see if contact through VR can improve intergroup relationships and contribute to our goal of creating a diverse and inclusive KSU for staff, students, and faculty members.
- The School of Emerging Media and Technology launched its summer Creative Coding workshop for high school students and entering first-year students, led by Assistant Professor David Silva.
- In the School of Visual Communication Design, the Glyphix Research Lab is the leading initiative to connect faculty and students with our neighboring communities. Visual Communication Design Professor Jessica Barness collaborated with Department of Sociology Professor Manci (Manacy) Pai and instructed students through a Glyphix course titled "Stories Connecting Generations." This design research project was offered during the Spring 2023 semester and resulted from collaborating with Northeast Ohio senior centers. Students engaged in conversations with older adults and created works that communicated visually the stories emerging from these interactions. The Design Innovation Hub supported the project by offering its space and expertise throughout the semester. The final projects were exhibited in the DI Hub Gallery in May 2023.
- Launched an employer visit program where representatives from area companies gave class presentations, held one-on-one student meetings, and offered critiques of student work. The program is related to CCI's updated and enhanced alumni engagement program, which aims to connect alumni with opportunities to give back to support professional and career development for current CCI students.
- **The short film "Define," by MDJ alumna filmmaker Ailene Joven (2021) was accepted into the Cleveland International Film Festival (2023). To our knowledge, it's the first time an MDJ student or alumni-produced film has been showcased in an Oscar-qualifying film festival.**
- In alignment with state job needs, student demand and curricular priorities, CCI established five interdisciplinary, undergraduate minors between 2017-2023. The most recent is the Broadcast Engineering minor, which launches in Fall 2023. Students learn technical applications and skills in networking, multimedia engineering, coding and

problem solving. Students will have the opportunity to use technology to facilitate media distribution, streaming and interaction. They will gain experience working on project-oriented teams and achieving technical goals. Enrollment in the User Experience Design minor (established Fall 2017) increased by more than 100% each year 2018-2020, peaked at 53 in Spring 2022, and currently is 48 (Spring 2023). The Media Advocacy minor (established Fall 2020) is an interdisciplinary, flexible program enabling students to explore advocacy as both a professional discipline and an act of engaged citizenship by equipping them with theoretical and applied approaches for achieving meaningful social, political, and cultural change through the use of media tools and concepts. The Web Design and Development minor (established Fall 2020) fills a curricular gap for students who want an interdisciplinary, flexible program to develop the fundamental skills needed to pursue jobs in web development, web programming, web design and related fields. The Applied Data and Information minor (established 2022) gives students from any KSU major access to a practical program in data management through an information lens.

#### College of Education, Health and Human Services

- 2023-2024 U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools Rankings for Education. EHHS ranks in the top 100 (#99).
- 2023-2024 U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools Rankings. EHHS Rehabilitation Counseling ranks #19.
- **Mike Daniels, Ph.D., Higher Education, and director of Kent State's E. Timothy Moore Student Multicultural Center, received a national dissertation of the year award from the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Foundation. Dr. Daniels' dissertation is a constructivist grounded theory study on undergraduate black men and how they develop their leader identity. The result of this study was a substantive theory and model on the leader identity development process of black men.**
- Davison Mupinga, Ph.D., professor in the School of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Studies was awarded a fellowship by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program to travel to Uganda in March 2023, to work with Bro Denis Katusiime, Ph.D., at the University of Kisubi (UniK) on the development of a graduate degree in Workforce Development Education and Training. Mupinga, who specializes in the preparation of career and technical teachers/instructors and trainers, conducted a needs assessment of Ugandan employers and the professional development needs of UniK faculty. He also mentored graduate students and hosted workshops on project-based learning.
- School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences, Associate Professor and Counselor Education and Supervision Doctoral Program Coordinator Cassie Storlie, Ph.D.

was elected to serve as the 78th president of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). Storlie will assume her role as ACES President-Elect on July 1, 2023.

- Marty Jencius, Associate Professor in the School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling. This award goes to a counselor with an extensive history of advocacy and exceptional practice in the field of traumatic stress and resilience. Such advocacy and exceptional practice may be demonstrated by a history of research and publication, mentoring, and involvement in the mental health counseling community.**
- Joanna Dickert, doctoral student, Research, Measurement & Statistics, was named the 2022 recipient of the American Educational Research Association's Advanced Studies of National Databases Special Interest Group Dissertation award. Joanna's work is titled, "An Examination of the Effects of Participation in High-Impact Practices Using Propensity Score Analysis with Structural Equation Modeling.
- The National Strength and Conditioning Association Foundation Grant Committee awarded Exercise Physiology doctoral student, Jennifer Rivera the NSCA's 2022 Graduate Research Grant. Rivera will study the effects of specific and common recovery modalities following resistance exercise, examining short-term recovery and the long-term implications of repeated use of these recovery modalities. Rivera was also selected for a scholarship by the NSCA Foundation Scholarship Committee. This scholarship is designed to encourage minorities, ages 17 and older, to enter the field of strength and conditioning.
- Amanda Johnson, Director of the Gerald H. Read Center, was awarded a grant of \$230,000 to host a 4-week Fulbright Pre-Academic Program at Kent State. Johnson and her co-principal investigator, Debbie Rozner, director of the English Language Institute; and Abdoulaye Fall, graduate assistant in the Read Center and doctoral candidate in the Higher Education Administration Program, will lead the cohort of 40 Fulbright graduate students as they transition to pursue graduate degrees in the U.S.
- EHHS Graduates First Doctoral Students in Interprofessional Leadership - In May 2023, Kent State graduated its first-ever group of nine doctoral students studying Interprofessional Leadership, a fully online Educational Doctorate offered through the College of Education, Health and Human Services.
- Anthony Pinzone was named a recipient of the National Strength and Conditioning Association Foundation (NSCA's) Challenge Scholarship for 2022. This program awards \$2,000 to NSCA members seeking either an undergraduate or graduate degree in a strength and conditioning-related field. Anthony Pinzone is a second-year doctoral

student holding a graduate assistantship at Kent State University's School of Health Sciences. His primary research interests include cardiovascular responses to resistance exercise and stress, supplements for enhancing exercise performance, and velocity-based training.

- Györgyi Mihályi, Higher Education doctoral student, received the Distinguished Service Award by the Journal of International Students. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exemplary achievements and contributions to research on international students through excellent leadership and dedicated service. It is presented in recognition of exceptional commitment to the journal and a significant contribution to the field of international education. A doctoral student in the Higher Education Administration program, Györgyi also serves as the assistant director of marketing at the Wick Poetry Center and International Programs and Education Abroad in the College of Arts and Sciences. Györgyi hails from Szeged, Hungary.
- Kayon Hall, assistant professor of Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs in the School of Foundations, Leadership and Administration, was awarded a grant from the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Foundation in support of her study, "Black but Also Undocumented/DACAmented: Examining Anti-blackness in Higher Education."
- Olivia Krise, M.Ed., NIC-A, lecturer, and Jamie L. McCartney, Ph.D., CI & CT, NIC-M, associate professor, were awarded a grant from the Ohio Deans Compact. The program, entitled *DEAFinitely Mentoring!* includes Ohio deaf students, their families, and the students' educational interpreters. Competitive submissions were evaluated based on impact to postsecondary outcomes.
- Professors Karl Kosko, Joanne Caniglia, Rick Ferdig were awarded a grant by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation (MHJF) for their project, Visualizing Math via Manipulatives, which will assist local teachers with math instruction. From March 2023 through February 2024, this grant will fund professional development for elementary school teachers in three different public-school districts in Portage County.
- Joanne Caniglia, Ph.D., and Rhonda Hylton, Ph.D., in The School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies were awarded a Statewide Mathematics and Literacy Tutoring Grant from the Ohio Department of Education. Because of the significant gap in learning generated by COVID, KSU will partner with Ravenna and Barberton Middle Schools, where approximately 30 - 40 tutors from four teacher education programs (Secondary, Middle Childhood, Early Childhood, and Special Education) will meet three times a week throughout the academic year with students most in need of additional academic support.

- James Hannon, Dean of EHHS, was named President-Elect of the National Association of Kinesiology in Higher Education (NAKHE). NAKHE strives to be an inclusive community of kinesiology professionals who nurture, mentor, and lead one another to greatness. NAKHE's mission fosters leadership in kinesiology administration and policy related to teaching, scholarship and service in higher education. The organization is devoted to promoting leadership through mentoring and networking among administrators, faculty, and students inclusive of disciplinary and institutional affiliation.
- Kimberly Peer, Ph.D., Professor and Sports Medicine Program Coordinator in the School of Health Sciences, was elected to the Class of 2023 Distinguished Fellows of the National Academies of Practice in Athletic Training. The Class of 2023 Fellows were recognized during an induction ceremony at NAP's Annual Meeting and Forum, in Washington, DC.
- Natalie Caine-Bish, Ph.D., RD, LD, Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences, was selected by a committee of her peers for the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) North Central Region Outstanding Dietetic Educator Award in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Program category for 2023.
- **EHHS Diversity Outreach and Development Director Daniel Diaz Nilsson, was selected as one of the 100+ Latinos Cleveland Must Know! The "100+ Latinos Cleveland Must Know" is an initiative created in 2020 to elevate the profile of the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx professional community of Greater Cleveland, by creating a platform for greater visibility, and professional and leadership development opportunities for people who self-identify as Hispanic, Latino or Latinx. This platform shines a positive light on Latino professionals and the surrounding community in Greater Cleveland.**
- Anthony Hamilton and Andrew Eith were named as 2022 Outstanding Industry Educators for demonstrating exceptional dedication to the advancement of Ohio's restaurant, foodservice and hospitality industry. The 2022 Industry Awards Celebration presented by Gordon Food Service is an opportunity for the Ohio Restaurant Association to focus on the hard work, commitment, and outstanding professional and community services of its members throughout the year.

#### College of Nursing

- Hired an employee to specifically focus on at-risk, UR, and first-generation students who monitors course progress and works closely with academic advisors and the assistant dean of students.
- Created a Kaplan and NCLEX champion who meets individually with students scoring at or near the benchmark numbers.

- Successfully initiated inaugural holistic admission and direct admission Fall 2023, which incorporates noncognitive student factors such as experiences and attributes, in addition to academic metrics, when assessing students for admission.
- Continue to graduate the highest numbers of BSN nursing students compared to any Ohio University.
- NCLEX pass rate continues to be above the national average and OBN minimal requirements, at 83%
  - KSU BSN tested ~400 students. That is more than double what any other school tested. Given this National score, we need to be at least:
    - 63.9% for CCNE our accreditation body for nursing
    - 80% National average
    - 75.91 for the Ohio Board of Nursing
- Advance Practice national certification pass-rate averages 93% for our seven Master's of Nursing, Advance Practice programs. We are also working to move all these tracks to online as a goal of increasing enrollment.
- Refresh of Henderson Hall is ongoing. Pre-phase is self-funded at \$100,000 by the college to create student space that reflects up to date furniture, equipment, and signage. We continue to work to renovate Henderson Hall through gifts from philanthropic individuals, targeted at about a cost of \$50 million. Phases 1 and 2 are a scalable approach to phasing to allow for renovations that are fiscally responsible and can be completed within Henderson Hall's (HDN) existing footprint as funding allows.
- Held 5 inaugural BSN White Coat Ceremonies at Geauga, Kent, Salem, Stark and Trumbull Campuses.
- Marcia Cornell and Dianna Copley, two nursing alumnae, won national awards from the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS). Cornell won NACNS's Preceptor of the Year Award and Copley won the Susan B. Davison Service Award.
- Developed a leadership micro-credentialing with Akron Children's Hospital, beginning Fall 2023.
- Held the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Barbara Donaho Distinguished Leadership in Learning Awards. Her vision, leadership and support has made it possible for the College to recognize more than 340 outstanding preceptors, who have made a significant impact on our students and future nurse leaders.



- Successful implementation of the Peg's Foundation Grant funding graduate education of 10 full-time and 15 part-time students focusing on advance practice mental health education track.
- Generous support from Peg's Foundation, a \$225,000 grant, has allowed Kent State's graduate program in Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) nursing to improve recruitment and increase the number of PMH advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) working in Northeast Ohio for decades to come. The Peg's Foundation traineeship program is for graduate students pursuing a master's degree in nursing as a PMH APRN. Traineeship incentives boost the number of PMH APRNs to meet complex psychiatric mental health needs in Northeast Ohio. The grant is payable over three years, to support three Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) scholars. Graduates from our DNP program assume senior-level leadership roles in healthcare, translate evidence into practice, and influence healthcare policy.
- Strategically and intentionally implementing \$1.1 million HRSA grant specific focus on mental health advance practice nurses.
- National Rankings
  - 66 of 189 by U.S. News & World Report, 2023- 2024 Best Graduate Schools Rankings- Nursing Schools-Master's Program
  - For the first time, our Nurse Educator program made the list of top programs. KSU Nurse Educator program is number 2 in Ohio, #11 in the nation.
  - Named to the Fortune 2022 Best Online Master's in Nursing (MSN) Programs list! Only two Ohio schools made the list. We ranked #26.
- Two-time alumna and current DNP student, Nicole K. Lewis, was selected by Jonas Philanthropies, a leading national philanthropic funder of graduate nursing education, as a 2020 – 2022 Jonas Scholar Award Recipient. Lewis is the second Kent State University College of Nursing graduate student to receive this honor. A \$15,000 grant from Jonas Philanthropies, along with \$15,000 matched by the college has funded Lewis' two-year scholarship.
- Kimberly Cleveland, PhD, JD, MSN, RN, C-MBC, C-MPC, was reappointed to serve as a member of the Public Policy Committee for the National League of Nursing for two years, concluding Dec. 2024.
- Dana Hansen, PhD, APRN, ACHPN, was designated as a 2023 Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing by the Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA).
- Marilyn Nibling, DNP, APRN, PPCNP-BC, NNP-BC, received the Award of Excellence in Scholarly Education from the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN).



- Gina Severino, DNP, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, received the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) District Three Leadership award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to ONA programs and goals.

#### College of Public Health

- Public Health is part of a collaborative to train 270 community health worker (CHW) trainees over the next three years. Cleveland-based MetroHealth is serving as the lead organization, bringing together a Community Health Worker Capacity Building Collaborative (CHWCBC) that includes Better Health Partnership, CHW training programs at Kent State University, Cuyahoga Community College, and Cleveland State University, and other county and community partners and health systems throughout Northeast Ohio. CHWCBC is a three-year federal grant of nearly \$3 million from HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) to increase the number of front-line public health professionals who serve as a key link between health and social services.
- Received a \$300,000 grant from HealthPath Foundation to train 30 community health workers in the Mahoning Valley.
- Currently, 20 of the CPH online courses have met the Quality Matters criteria (including all required core courses) and 75% of the BSPH and MPH core courses are Quality Matter certified, but numbers are destined to grow, as more courses are under review. In order for online courses to achieve Quality Matters certification, 43 specific indicators must be met. Courses are also reviewed by a team for subject matter and to ensure all essential benchmarks for Quality Matters are in place.
- Fortune ranks College of Public Health Online MPH as the 12th best program (ranking only 14 online programs). MPH is ranked as the best value in terms of cost.
- **The College of Public Health Center for Public Policy and Health received a \$3.7 million grant to expand substance abuse services in Ohio. Deric Kenne, Ph.D., professor of health policy and management and director of the Center for Public Policy and Health (CPPH) will lead a project to expand substance abuse treatment services in rural Southeastern Ohio.**
- Created new graduate certificates in LGBTQ+ Public Health and Clinical Research, both of which will be available this fall.
- Andrew M. Snyder, MPH, BSN, Ph.D. candidate, CPH outreach program director, was awarded the Ohio Public Health Association's Distinguished Achievement in Health Equity Service at an awards ceremony on April 25, 2023, in Columbus.

- Increased the % of degrees awarded to underrepresented students from 48 (17%) in AY20 to 70 (25%) in AY 22. The College continues to implement new programs and resources to URS students to assist them in completing public health degrees. During this year, we have moved to share the Academic Diversity position with the College of Nursing, to increase the retention of CON students at Kent State University.

#### College of Podiatric Medicine

- CPM fourth-year student Jonathan Westerveld (class of 2023) won the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) Student Quiz Bowl at the APMA National meeting in July 2022. Every year at the conference, a fourth-year student representative from each of the colleges of podiatric medicine competes for this prestigious trophy.
- CPM is the only college of podiatric medicine to have a full virtual reality lab currently being used for instruction in anatomy (Holoanatomy)
- Associate professor Duane Ehredt Jr., DPM, FACFAS recently became certified by the American College of Surgeons in Advanced Trauma Life Support. This was completed at US Naval Hospital Pensacola and was the first podiatrist to do so.
- Professor Larry Osher, DPM was reappointed to Governor DeWine's Radiation Advisory Council serving the Ohio Department of Health.
- Dean Allan Boike has been elected Vice Chairman of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine after serving a two-year term as the organization's Treasurer.

#### Graduate College

- In the Graduate College's inaugural year staffing was reorganized to include an Associate Dean, Professional Development Specialist, and Coordinator, Operations and Special Projects (modeling historically minoritized identities across race, gender, ability, and sexuality). This new staffing model aligns with recommendations from the strategic plan to further enhance support for current and future graduate students, graduate assistants, and faculty.
- Increased and Expanded Programming: Two to three programs were offered weekly during the academic year including topics such as Smart Salary Negotiations, Navigating the Academic Job Search, and the Write Place serving more than 150 students across in-person, remote, and hybrid modalities. For the first time, specific heritage programming, Teaching Assistant programming, and faculty programming were offered.

- Teaching Tuesdays targeted Teaching Assistants and provided programming that included topics like Inclusive Teaching, Effective Lecturing, and Engaging Students Online. This programming was led by the Professional Development Specialist who holds a joint appointment with the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Graduate College.
- A Faculty Development series was led by the Associate Dean to provide a space for faculty to discuss the barriers their graduate students face and enhance how they mentor graduate students.
- Heritage programming included To Be Young, Gifted and Black in Higher Education: Navigating Graduate School and Beyond in collaboration with the Student Multicultural Center and Who Runs the World: Experiences of Gender, Race, and Power in Graduate School. These events were interactive workshops with panelists that included graduate students in various programs and administrators and faculty members with graduate degrees.
- Dissertation Bootcamp was rebranded to the Research Writing Retreat. This rebranding was necessary to provide an inclusive opportunity for all graduate students. Two sessions were offered in-person and one session was offered virtually with about 60 attendees in total representing seven colleges.
  - In addition, the Graduate College offered The Write Place every Wednesday where a graduate writing consultant was available. As a result, for the first time, the Writing commons now has a graduate writing consultant who caters specifically to graduate students.
- Over \$180,000.00 in scholarships were awarded to 64 graduate students across seven colleges.
- The Graduate Student Advancing Equity award was developed. This award is presented to a graduate student who has displayed a commitment to equity through leadership both on and off campus and is recognized at the Annual Student Leadership Award Ceremony each spring.
- **Minimum graduate assistant stipends of \$11,000 (master's) and \$16,000 (doctoral) were established by the Graduate Dean's Advisory Council.**
- The Graduate College Academic Advisory Council was elected and is the first faculty advisory council for the unit in 30 years. This council will convene for the first time this Fall 2024 semester to make recommendations on academic matters.

## Honors College

- **The largest incoming freshmen class in the Honors College arrived in Fall 2022 with 587 first-year students (Class of 2026), with an unweighted average GPA of 3.89. Of these students, 20% were First Generation, hailing from 22 states. 100% of new freshmen received merit scholarships.**
- Gary Bengier, Honors College alumnus Class of 1977, American entrepreneur, business executive, technologist and science-fiction writer, was the recipient of the 2023 Honors College Distinguished Alumni Award.
- Professor Denise Harrison, Africana Studies and English, was the recipient this year of the 2023 Honors College Distinguished Faculty Award.
- The first cohort of 10 Honors Digital Leadership Academy students joined IT as interns for a year-long paid experience, gaining soft skills and problem-solving skills while helping the university.
- In its fourth year, Honors Leadership Academy students chose community service work in Washington, D.C. as an alternative spring break, working in neighborhood kitchens such as Food for the City and Martha's Table.
- Fifty-three students were inducted into the national Phi Beta Kappa Society this spring.
- The KSU chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta (national first year honors society) won Chapter of the year, received \$6,000 in scholarships, and inducted 458 students this spring in the largest cohort of ALD students in the history of the university.
- Honors students represent 34% of the SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience) students engaged in research this year.
- Honors students Autumn Ohl, aerospace engineering major and Savannah Vinkler, cybersecurity engineering major, were members of the High-Powered Rocket Team which won First Place in the 2022 Spaceport America Cup Awards.
- Our second annual Honors Research Symposium, which doubled in size, was held this spring, with four of the 20 participants receiving book scholarships for their outstanding presentations.

## University College

- **Dr. Eboni Pringle received national recognition for her advocacy for students and received the 2023 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award presented by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.**
- Nathan Ritchey, CEL's Flashing Fighting Hunger student manager, received the Charles J. Ping Student Service Award from Ohio Campus Compact.
- Community Engaged Learning received the Community Impact Award by United Way of Portage County.
- Julie Paskiet, Associate Director, Career Exploration and Development received the Marshall Award by the American Association for Employment in Education (AAEE).
- Invited to join the First Scholars Network sponsored by NASPA.
- Received \$90K in external funding to support student success.
- Dr. Nicole Kotlan, Director of Student Progression and College Operations
  - appointed as Community Awards Coordinator for the NASPA Orientation, Transition, and Retention Knowledge;
  - appointed as a reviewer for a national publication, The Journal of Campus Activities Practice and Scholarship. The Journal consists of Empirical Research Papers of original quantitative or qualitative research;
  - selected as a Team Lead for the review of Academic Advising Approaches: Strategies That Teach Students to Make the Most of College (2013) by NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising;
  - invited to be a reviewer for the NASPA Excellence Awards.
- **Kent State University was designated a Voter Friendly Campus by NASPA and Campus Vote Project with the help of Community Engaged Learning, USG and other campus partners.**
- Academic Success Center and Technology, Media and Design published The Academic Success Plan: Personalized Web Application in the NCLCA Newsletter in the Fall of 2022.
- Drs. Eboni Pringle and Liz Piatt, published a book chapter titled, "The first COVID generation: The great equalizing myth in the Class, Status, and Party: How COVID-19 is impacting political dynamics, social inequality, and the well-being of Americans."
- Peter Beyan-Wu Jeffy, selected to participate in the Education Opportunity Association's Emerging Leaders Institute.

- Melanie Jones, Director of Student Success Programs, completed NASPA's Ujima Institute.
- **Over 100 Advisors participated in a December and February workshop that examined current advising approaches in relation to student survey data. Through the workshops, advisors identified opportunities to further meet the needs of students. As a follow-up to these workshops an additional interactive workshop is planned for September in partnership with EAB to address these opportunities by developing strategies and guiding principles of differentiated care as it relates to holistic advising, equity, belongingness, and technology optimization.**

#### University Libraries

- In 2022, the May 4 Visitors Center updated the mission, vision and values, as well as mapped its future strategic direction, through a visioning report. Nearly 100 KSU May 4 Visitors Center stakeholders participated, submitting input on strengths, barriers, opportunities, mission, vision, values and aspirations through interviews, surveys and an online workshop.
- On September 16, 2022, University Libraries and the Honors College commemorated Constitution Day by co-hosting the address "Equal Justice – Under Law – For All" by Lloyd De Vos, founder and senior partner of the law firm De Vos & Co. PLLC, located in New York City, specializing in providing legal advice on international tax and business matters. De Vos' presentation was followed by a panel of KSU student leaders who joined him in discussing the Constitution and the First Amendment and responding to questions from the audience.
- University Libraries awarded eight \$1,000 scholarships to undergraduate students for the academic year 2021-22. The successful Giving Tuesday campaign, which raised nearly \$11,000 of donations, contributed to the scholarship fund to provide deserving students with financial assistance to help them achieve their academic goals.
- As chair of OhioLINK's Library Advisory Council, Dean Burhanna led planning and implementation teams of deans, directors and senior librarians from OhioLINK's public, private and two-year institutions through the process of choosing software to replace the shared Integrated Library System (ILS) for the Ohio Department of Higher Education's 117 members. An ILS is the backbone of library operations and used to manage circulation, acquisitions, and cataloging, as well as to generate the underlying data that drives library business decisions and reporting.
- In October 2022, LaunchNET Kent State hosted an anniversary celebration to commemorate 10 years of assisting entrepreneurs launch successful ventures. At the

event, they unveiled the Burton D. Morgan Foundation Entrepreneurship Suite and showcased several student entrepreneurs.

- University Libraries became a full participating member of the HathiTrust Digital Library, providing many benefits to the Kent State University community, including access to high-quality reproductions of more than seven million public domain volumes in the digital library. Student Accessibility Services is taking advantage of the HathiTrust Accessible Text Request Service to assist users with a print disability. Through this helpful service, University Libraries' membership provides them access to high-quality reproductions of more than 17.6 million volumes in the HathiTrust collection – regardless of copyright status.**
- University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives completed the full digitization of the Lafayette Tolliver Photographs Collection in Fall 2022. The collection and Tolliver, who took the photographs as a Kent State student photojournalist in the early 70s, were featured as part of University Libraries' Black History Month celebration. The event attracted numerous Kent State alumni of color who were captured in Tolliver's photos of black campus life in the early 70s. The event was complemented by the exhibit *Lafayette Tolliver: Visual Footprints in Time*, which was displayed in the Marovitz Special Collections and Archives Gallery on the first floor of University Library.
- In collaboration with the Provost's Office and the Center for Teaching and Learning, University Libraries' Associate Professor and Head of Scholarly Communications Cynthia Kristof led an initiative that awarded nine incentive grants for the use and creation of Open Educational Resources (OER). Three grants were for adoption or adaptation of existing OER, and six grants were for authorship of new OER. Faculty awardees hailed from a variety of disciplines, including nursing, communication studies and the arts, and from several Kent campuses. Once the grants are implemented, they will have the potential to save more than 1,600 Kent State students up to \$1.3 million dollars in textbook costs per semester.
- "Dear Vaccine: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic" was published by the University Press in April 2022. The book inspired the Kent State Wick Poetry Center to develop an interactive global vaccine poem which attracted online submissions from all 50 U.S. states and more than 100 countries across the globe. Media coverage of the book led to a stage performance of *What We Learned While Alone: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic* at the National Academy of Science.**
- The University Library was voted #1 Best Place to Study, according to KentWired.com readers.
- University Libraries acquired the May 4 archive of the late Alan Canfora. Canfora, one of the nine students wounded during the May 4 and life-long May 4 activist, had**



**compiled the largest independent collection of May 4 primary and secondary resources in the world.**

- University Libraries increases support for open access publishing for KSU authors through participation in open access agreements via OhioLINK with Wiley, Cambridge University Press, and the Institute of Physics. These agreements which allow KSU authors to publish open access articles at no additional cost have covered 52 articles to date. Additionally, the partnership between UL, the University Research Council, and Division of Research & Economic Development, has been redeveloped to provide financial assistance to KSU authors toward the cost of open access publishing. This program has provided financial assistance toward the publication of 32 open access research articles for KSU authors.
- LaunchNET Kent State received a \$40,000 grant from the Burton D. Morgan Foundation to expand microgrant programming to their alumni entrepreneurs.
- University Libraries' Dean Ken Burhanna led a group of faculty and administrators in coordinating the second year of the Jerry M. Lewis May 4 Lecture. The selection committee chose Professor Erica Eckert who delivered the address "Where Were the Administrators? A Student Affairs Perspective on May 4, 1970." The lecture series was made possible by a generous endowment from Kent State alumnus and former Kent State Board of Trustees member Michael Solomon.
- In November 2022, the Kent State University Press released "In the Heart of It All: An Unvarnished Account of My Life in Public Service" by former Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste and hosted a well-attended book launch at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. The memoir recounts Governor Celeste's remarkable journey from humble beginnings in Northeast Ohio to his education at Yale and Oxford and beyond.
- Accepted a donation of a portrait of Hart Crane, the only painting believed to exist of the 20th century American poet. The portrait by an unknown artist is expected to have been painted in 1900 or 1901, when Crane was age 1 or 2. The painting was donated by Vivian H. Pemberton, 92, a retired English professor, who taught at Kent State Trumbull and is one of the leading experts on Crane and his life in Ohio. In addition to the painting, Pemberton donated other memorabilia, including personal letters by Crane, his christening gown and the only known movie ever made of Crane, a reel made at a family gathering, not long before the poet's death by suicide at age 32.
- The Center displayed the exhibit *Everlasting Ephemera: Printed Response to the May 4th Shootings* from October 13 - November 11, 2022. Curated by graduate student Skyler Wrisley, the exhibit included print media from Kent State University's Special Collections and Archives, such as posters and pamphlets, in addition to t-shirt and button designs, that were used in response to the May 4th Shootings in 1970, and related events,



including the National Student Strike of 1970, Tent City/Gym Annex Protest of 1977 and Memorial Protest of 1986.

Provost's Office Units

### *Institutional Effectiveness*

- **Completed a multi-location visit by our institutional accreditor (HLC) to the Twinsburg Academic Center and Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, achieving the highest designation awarded to institutions (adequate!)**
- Directed the administration of the 2023 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and shared historical NSSE data to inform the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan and the Kent Core Re-Envisioning steering committees.
- Led the COACHE Advisory group through a review of both quantitative and qualitative data from the faculty job satisfaction survey to develop recommendations.
- Developed the first comprehensive handbook of Academic Program Review to provide guidance for all involved in this process for the next ten-year cycle.
- Hosted virtual panel of other Ohio Accreditation Liaison Officers (ALOs) to discuss their experiences with HLC reaffirmation site visits with the University Accreditation and Accountability Committee (UAAC) and invited guests from the provost and president's offices.
- Increased visibility of Kent State in national organizations in the areas of:
  - Assessment - S. Helfinstine panel at the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) – *Demystifying general education assessment: Narratives from multiple institutions.*
  - Institutional research - L. Stafford presentation at the Association for Institutional Research – *Enneagram personality types: A tool to enhance IR communication*)
  - Accreditation - S. Perry on Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Conference Advisory Committee
- Increased visibility at the state level - L. Stafford serves at the Vice President of the Ohio Association for Institutional Research and Planning (OAIRP).

- Collaboration of Institutional Research with Pre-College and Controller's Offices to support Provost and Controller changing an MOU that led to \$1,054,469 in increased revenue for the CCP program over the last fiscal year.

#### *Kent State Online*

- Data Snapshot:
  - 84 fully online programs: 30 Graduate, 21 Undergraduate, 33 Certificate
  - 257,609 credit hours taken online last year.
  - 33.49% of total credit hours were taken online for AY 2022-2023 (online: 122,449; university total: 365,614)
  - Online students from 51 states and territories totaling 29,083, and students reporting their location from 87 countries totaling 645 (Spring 2023 count from student location pop-up).
- Course/Program Development and Support:
  - Addition of one fully online bachelor's degree programs
    - Integrative Studies (AS)
  - Addition of one fully online undergraduate certificate:
    - Public Health (COPH)
  - Addition of one fully online graduate certificate:
    - Accounting Analytics (ACCBE)
    - Advanced Accounting (ACCBE)
    - International Business (ACCBE)
    - Quantitative Business Management (ACCBE)
    - Healthcare Compliance (COPH)
    - LGBTQ+ Public Health (COPH)
    - Clinical Research (COPH)
    - Journalism Education (CCI)
  - Support for existing online degree programs across 10 colleges
    - 27 fully online degree programs receive managed program support.
    - 59 course development projects
    - 100% of survey respondents reported satisfaction with completed course.
  - 2,144 DL course and program support tickets
    - 96% of survey respondents reported satisfaction with the support received.
  - \$37,438 compensation provided for online course development.
  - Developed course assessment rubric.
  - Over \$6.9M in tuition revenue generated from EVS supported programs.
- Faculty Development, Training and Outreach
  - 20 Different Training Topics & Sessions
  - 650+ Total Attendees

- In Collaboration with CTL, Equal Access, Regional Mentoring Program, IT, SAS, and Graduate College

### *Strategy Management*

- Created the Office of Strategy Management (OSM) to support the university's strategic priorities in terms of organizational capacity and resource usage, prioritization and alignment of initiatives as well as providing leadership for university strategic planning and project management.
- Created a centralized strategic planning framework (GOST) & training program to support strategy development and implementation.
- Created the Strategic Coordinating Committee (SCC): first committee of its kind to work on alignment of initiatives across the university.
- Created an implementation plan and process for the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan to support the sustainability of the plan and to show progress on plan initiatives.
- Provided strategic plan trainings to various divisions and units to support strategy development, implementation and assessment (Divisions of Finance & Administration, CARES Center, Lifelong Learning-completed; Division of Human Resources and the Student Multicultural Center-trainings scheduled July & August 2023).
- Provided project management expertise to help manage the work of several key university initiatives including Curriculum Recoding, Curricular Analytics, APLU Grant, Project Advise (EAB Navigate), and Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, to name a few.
- Michealle Gabrovsek and Jennifer McDonough earned their Strategic Management Performance System Certifications through The George Washington University, Center for Excellence in Public Leadership.
- Anthony Peake and Shelly Casto earned their Certified Associate Project Management (CAPM) certifications in project management.

### *Center for Teaching and Learning*

- Given four workshops that have reached 276 educators at Kent State in response to the emergence of the new ChatGPT technology.

- Helped to prepare more than 200 instructors to teach the revised curriculum that focuses on student belonging for Flashes 101.

### *Curriculum Services*

- Search Majors and Degrees website was visited by nearly 585,000 users from across the globe, with more than one million sessions; the highest number of users (outside U.S.) came from India, Nigeria, Ghana, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, U.K., Iran and Pakistan.
- Expanded the office to include academic partnerships with other colleges and universities.
- Implemented new catalog features (including application deadlines) and a reformat in collaboration the Division of University Communication and Marketing based on a usability study with new students and their parents.
- Completed more than 185 transfer pathways with area community colleges, a 61% increase from last year.
- Received ODHE approval for nearly 85 Kent State courses for state-wide transfer initiatives (OT36, TAG, CTAG, ITAG).
- Reviewed approximately 340 program and policy proposals and nearly 1,400 course proposals for Fall 2023 implementation.
- **Established eight new degree programs:**
  - **Aeronautical Studies - B.S.**
  - **Air Traffic and Airspace Management - B.S.**
  - **Aviation Management - B.S.**
  - **Biochemistry - B.S.**
  - **Gender and Sexuality Studies - B.A. (pending ODHE approval)**
  - **Peace and Conflict Studies - M.A.**
  - **Professional Pilot - B.S.**
  - **Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Operations - B.S.**
- Completed 19 labor market and competitive program reports to guide academic program planning in the colleges.
- Collaborated with the divisions of Information Technology and University Communications and Marketing to roll out an initiative to embed catalog information on department websites to ensure accuracy and consistency.

- Implemented a new archive mechanism for the Curriculum Bulletin, with links to course and program proposals.

### *Design Innovation*

- Launched the first cohort of the Design Innovation Faculty Fellows for the 2022/23 Academic year. This group of faculty members have each proposed collaborative innovation projects to tackle during their fellowship. In addition, they meet regularly as a cohort group to share and discuss their progress on their ideas. This allows each person to gain feedback and insight from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, but also creates more opportunities for them to collaborate to meet their shared/individual goals.
  - Margarita Benitez- School of Fashion
  - Sheryl Chatfield- College of Public Health
  - Karen Mascolo- College of Nursing
  - Molly Merryman- School of Peace and Conflict Studies
  - Gerrey Noh- School of Music
  - Bill Willoughby- College of Architecture and Environmental Design
- Hosted a group of educators from Brazil for a two-week program designed to help them explore models of education in Northeast Ohio and determine how they might implement them in their schools and throughout Brazil's network of educational institutions.
- Received award for the DI Hub from the American Institute of Architect's Pittsburgh chapter.
- Hosted 11 exhibits in the DI Gallery and/or MuseLab
  - KnitLAB Process Exhibition
  - CCI Showcase Exhibits
  - LaunchNET 10th Year Anniversary Exhibition
  - The Serlio Code
  - HoLoMasonry
  - Studies of Study
  - Exploring 3D Print Waste Through Co-Creation
  - Party of One: Future Fungal Furniture
  - Draining the Swamp: An Environmental History of Wetlands on the Kent Campus
  - Virginia Hamilton Conference Exhibition
  - Stories Connecting Generations
- Collaborated with local start-up, Immobileyes, Inc. and Kent State University Police on the Immobileyes Design Challenge and awarded \$2,000+ to student teams.

- Coordinated and executed several challenge-based hackathons
  - All Taste, No Waste- a student-led cooking competition with an innovative twist: zero food waste.
  - Fashion Tech Hackathon- a collaborative and interdisciplinary event allowing teams of university students to learn new skills and create innovative technology that will help define the future of fashion.

### *Global Education*

- Established the Rwanda office/KSU Study Abroad Africa CBC.
- Kent State is home to international students from 99 countries.
- International enrollment increased by 22.24% for Spring 23 compared with Spring 22.
- Hosted 13 inbound degree-seeking graduate students on the prestigious Fulbright scholarship representing over 10 countries.
- Hosted 7 global Ugrad students through a collaboration with the US Department of State representing Pakistan, Malaysia, Russia, Guatemala, South Korea, Zimbabwe.
- Received 12 degree-seeking undergraduate students sponsored by the Rwanda Ministry of Defense.
- Organized and hosted an international high school counselor fly in which included 15 high school counselors representing 11 countries.
- Introduced new scholarship tiers/model for the global scholarship to increase international undergraduate enrollment and net tuition revenue.
- Sarah Malcolm chaired the Cultivating Diversity Committee of the Ohio International Consortium and launched the first of its kind “Introduction to International Education Workshop Series” designed to expose underrepresented and diverse students from all IUC member schools to careers in International Education. Students attended four workshops, four mentoring sessions with IE professionals, and one OIC meeting. Students who successfully completed the program were eligible for reimbursement of their first passport. Thirteen students from eight OIC schools completed the program, including two from Kent State.

- Gizem Gunhan and Maria Kuhn presented “Creating the Home Away From Home: How Advisors Can Best Support International Students” at the Northeast Ohio Academic Advising Conference.
- Jameela Abdullah presented at the NAFSA annual conference on “Using cross-departmental collaboration to revamp international marketing and recruitment.”
- **KSU has developed agreements with the below new partners:**
  - **Bennett University, India**
  - **Chonnam National University, South Korea**
  - **Institute for Higher Learning in Human Security (l’Institut Supérieur de Sécurité Humaine), Burkina Faso**
  - **Ministry of Defence, Government of Rwanda, Rwanda**
  - **Overseas Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, India**
  - **Rwanda National Police, Rwanda**
  - **The Hashemite University, Jordan**
  - **Toyo University, Japan**
  - **University of Petra, Jordan**
  - **University of Witwatersrand (Rural Campus), South Africa**
  - **Yamaguchi University, Japan**
- Through a partnership Chonnam University in South Korea and led by KSU alum, Yeonmin Kim, Ph.D., the English department established a Memory Studies program. During the past year, Kim was able to work with the English department and OGE to establish an English student exchange program with Chonnam, in which three of his graduate students were able to come to Kent State for about four months during the spring semester to conduct research.
- **Coordinated the American Academy Advanced Program for a group of 15 educators from Brazil to participate in a two-week program designed to help them explore models of education in Northeast Ohio and determine how they might implement them in their schools through Brazil’s network of educational institutions.**
- **Twelve American Academy students received their bachelor’s degrees from KSU in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.**
- American Academy student Rafael Guedes Bonacin was selected as one of just 50 students nationwide as a Most Promising Multicultural Student by the American Advertising Federation, which provided recipients with a one-week trip to New York City for workshops related to the advertising field.



- Hosted 11 American Academy students for a ten-day non-credit visit to the Kent campus in July 2022, and will host 15 more students in July 2023. This trip includes educational workshops, tours of campus and the city of Kent, and excursions to attractions in Northeast Ohio.
- Welcomed 27 American Academy students on the Kent Campus in Spring 2023 after they completed their two-year program in Brazil. As of Spring 2023, 71 American Academy students were in Kent completing their bachelor's degrees.
- Co-hosted the second annual international night at the Men's Basketball game. 33 countries represented vs. 21 the previous year.
- Several Kent State students were recipients of prestigious external education abroad scholarships: CeeJay Scott (Fund for Education Abroad, \$5,000), Destiny Ellis (Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, \$3,500), Christian Raymond Heller (Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, \$3000).
- The Education Abroad team hosted a new large-scale event during the Kent State Welcome week. The event, named "Tye Dye with Education Abroad" welcomed over 100 new students to Van Campen Hall to learn more about study abroad and socialize with the education abroad advisors.
- Faculty led programs continue to rebuild after COVID with 19 short term programs offered this year including new programs in the Galapagos Islands, Netherlands, England and South Africa.
- Amber Cruyton was invited to present at the annual NASFA 2023 National Conference (Financial Aid) on "Education Abroad & Financial Aid: Increasing Affordability and Access Through Interoffice Relationships."
- Education Abroad has implemented its new social media strategy and increased its followers/outreach by 45% on Instagram and 7% on Facebook. Strategies included more current student participation and educational postings.
- The Kent State Florence Summer Institute continues to host new lecture series and courses during our June session including participation from two well-known film industry stars, Don Reo and Tom Jennings.
- Planning for the opening of the Kent State Paris program continues with new academic developments in Fashion, Business, Interior Design, and Education.

- The Florence Higher Education Alliance is growing in popularity with new partnerships in Saudi Arabia (Effat University) and Cairo, Egypt (American University in Cairo).
- Developed a new mentorship program in Florence for students at the Florence Summer Institute and the American Academy in Florence students named “Flashes Abroad Mentors” which connected over 23 students from the AA and Kent State.

#### *University Outreach and Engagement*

- **Coordinated K-12 pipeline visits for over 1,000 students and community partners in the NE Ohio region.**
- Since 2021, UOE has secured over 8 million dollars from local, state, federal and foundation entities. This includes several successful projects from this past year that include receiving a federal AmeriCorps grant providing 3 fulltime VISTA members to support UOE Programming; obtaining a third state funded Choose Ohio First award; a Teagle Knowledge for Freedom Planning grant that will lead to a much larger award; the Akron VIP award; and a grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation.
- Served over 1,100 first-generation and/or limited income students through our formal programs, ages 13 – adult (including veterans) in 8 different counties, ten different school districts, each regional campus and various community-based agencies and partnerships (such as Access Shelter, GED agencies, Aspire, Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank).
- Over the past year, TRIO Upward Bound Programs served nearly 250 first-generation and/or limited income students. Further, the six-year post-secondary average completion rate was 37%, which is 12% higher than the established performance measure (25%) based on the communities served and significantly higher than the national average for this population, 19% (pewresearch.org).
- **Through our named partnership with Akron Public Schools Firestone Career & College Academies, Kent State faculty and staff provided 3,086 total hours of time and talent and 15 types of engagements to all four grades of students in every Firestone Academy and Pathway.**
- Successfully designed, planned and implemented the new Flashes Strong Summer Bridge Program serving over 50 first-generation, limited income students from NE Ohio in Summer 2022 and Summer 2023.

- **Launched the Purple Umbrella Network to provide resources and support for Kent State students impacted by foster care or out-of-home placement.**
  - **Town & Gown relationships continue to strengthen through meaningful partnerships that include the Kent Connections event, bringing together over 60 community, business and City partners with our first-year and returning students; the continuation of the Blue, Gold & Grateful Employee Appreciation program, generating nearly \$60,000 for local businesses; and, the growth of Kent Skates to include nearly \$80,000 in local investments and an increase in attendance to nearly 15,000 students, families and community members.**
  - UOE became the coordinating home for the Rising Scholars program, leading to important infrastructure and support to each regional campus effort. This led to creating a regional impact footprint that served 400 students across the regional campus system (25 different school districts) through the work of 30 mentors and campus leaders this past year.
  - UOE is proud of our numerous academic partnerships to support pipeline initiatives that include the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, College of Aeronautics and Engineering, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, College of Communication and Information, College of Nursing, Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, and nearly 20 work study sites on campus.
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