## alumni LIFE

Beverley Laubert, BA '84, Lewis Center, Ohio, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman wrote, "I was selected from over 800 applicants to serve on the 25-member Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. The independent commission is tasked to identify and recommend best practices in infection control and care delivery and identify opportunities to leverage new sources of data to improve infection control policies and enable coordination across systems.

"My Kent State education in gerontology launched a rewarding career through which I have seen and heard older adults' experiences with long-term services and supports. Participation in this commission will allow me to contribute these experiences to important public policy dialogue and decisions."

## Michael E. McFarland, BBA '84, BA '87,

Twinsburg, Ohio, received degrees in marketing and graphic design from Kent State and honors veterans with his artwork. He makes print-onvinyl murals, which he calls 'Warrior Walls," for VA Medical Centers and intends to create 50 nationwide. While the Veterans Administration cut procurement of artwork in 2015, they accept donations of murals, so McFarland is trying to acquire donors for the murals. If interested in donating, contact your local VA center or http://mcfarlandstudio.com.

Stephen Saracino, MFA '84, Buffalo, NY, professor of design (metalsmithing) at SUNY Buffalo State, gave a virtual artist and scholar lecture at KSU's School of Art on Oct. 2, 2020. Saracino has been an educator and exhibiting artist for three decades. His (often satirical) narrative pieces reflect personal or political concerns and have been featured in more than 50 exhibitions throughout the US and Japan. His work was recently featured in the exhibition *Constructed Answer* at the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery at Kent State, which centered around the 50th commemoration of the May 4 shootings. See https://stephensaracinocom.

Stephen L. Hupp, MLS '85, Parkersburg, W. Va., library director at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, has published his fifth novel, On a Sunday in May. The three most important events in international motorsports frequently occur on the Sunday of the American Memorial Day holiday: the Grand Prix of Monaco, the Indianapolis Five Hundred and a Six Hundred Mile race at Charlotte, North Carolina. On a Sunday in May presents three stories based on these events. Readers will find on-track action and glimpses into the private lives of the competitors. The book is a sequel to the author's first racing novel, Born to the Breed. Both books are available as e-books and paperbacks on Amazon. In addition to his two motorsports novels, Hupp has also published the thrillers Daughter of the Valley and Wings in the Night,



## **Golden Flash Quilt**

From making her mark on campus during Destination Kent State to joining the recreational skate team, Marissa Belock, a junior biology major, has created many memories during her college career so far.

Thanks to her mother, **Lori (Dmitroff) Belock, BSEd '86,** Dublin, Ohio, those memories are now wrapped up in a beautiful quilt of blue and gold T-shirts.

"I first saw a post on social media about a T-shirt quilt, and I thought, *I can do that!*" Belock says. "This is my sixth T-shirt quilt, and I get better every time."

Belock included one of her daughter's favorite Kent State T-shirts from freshmen

both set in the Mid-Ohio Valley, and *Of Gods and Spirits*—all available on Amazon. You may contact the author at 304-482-3176 or stephenlhupp@gmail.com.

Matt Fantin, BS '86, MA '88, New Philadelphia, Ohio, retired from the JC Penney Company after a 30-year management career. He is now the business manager at Sacred Heart Parish in New Philadelphia.

Joanne J. Kim, BS '86, Peninsula, Ohio, who has been a voice for change at Marcus Thomas LLC, leading the Cleveland-based agency through a seminal period of growth and transition, has announced her retirement effective Oct. 1. A 30-year veteran of the agency, she was one of five partners who joined the agency in the 1990s and grew it from 35 employees, based in Youngstown, Ohio, to over 200, based in Cleveland and Buenos Aires.

As the agency's longest-standing creative head, she not only evolved the agency's creative

orientation because, she says, "It has the most meaning, as it represented an official flying out of the nest."

Not only are her daughter's favorite T-shirts sewn into the quilt, but Belock also added some of the T-shirts she's received at Kent State Alumni events.

"My family and I have volunteered during Alumni Day of Service with the Central Ohio Alumni Chapter for the last three years (Homeless Families Foundations and the Central Ohio Food Bank)," she says. "Even though my husband is a Buckeye, we make it a family affair."

Belock began sewing when she was only 9 years old, as a member of 4-H in Ashtabula, Ohio. "I credit my Ashtabula upbringing and KSU education to my adventures around the country and volunteering. I love Ashtabula and its history as much as I love Kent's history. Quilting is my way of preserving history."

Although she wishes she had kept her T-shirts from her Kent State days, she still remembers experiences she had as a student.

"My favorite memories include the Robin Hood, Ray's, Halloween, Korb Hall and Glen Morris apartments (now Eagle's Landing). Fun times! They were an important part of growing up and being on my own."

She also remembers the beautiful Kent Campus. "I had a favorite walk on campus to White Hall. I had this Zen-like, calming feeling every time I walked along the curvy path lined with flowers and huge trees that must have been there for 100 years—and black squirrels running all over."

Belock proudly wears her Kent State gear some of which she says is too precious to cut up for a quilt—whenever she visits one of the national parks with her family. "It's fun to reminisce with other Flashes we meet at our national treasures."

—Ashley Whaley, BS '06, MEd '12

culture but also pushed the agency toward early adoption of social media, digital communication and, most recently, diversity and inclusion, as well as multicultural marketing.

Over the course of her career, Kim's leadership has extended to the industry and the local community. From 2016 to 2018, she served as president of the board of directors for the Marketing & Advertising Global Network (MAGNET), a worldwide community of independent agency CEOs and principals. In 2016, she was selected as a juror for the Effie Awards, the preeminent marketing awards program that recognizes effectiveness in marketing. She also has served on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations, including The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, Northeast Ohio public radio station WKSU and Greater Public, an organization dedicated to providing resources to public media.