

FALL/WINTER 2018-19 | Listening to the Deaf Community | Beyond Borders | Change Maker | Remembering Robin Hood Inn

# KENT STATE

MAGAZINE



## The Innovators

Kent State students are coming together to find creative solutions to real-world problems. SEE PAGE 12



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FALL/WINTER 2018-19

**On the cover:** Case.MD team Samuel Graska, BS '17, MBA '18; Ariella Yager, BBA '17; and Justin Gleason, BS '16, MArch '18, MBA '18, are creating smartphone cases to dispense various medications. See page 16.

COVER PHOTO: BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

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Kent State's new Design Innovation Initiative is promoting interdisciplinary collaboration to prepare the next generation of problem solvers.

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What deaf and hard-of-hearing students want the hearing world to know about who they are and what they're capable of—and how Kent State is helping them succeed.

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"Change isn't easy, it takes time!" says Michael Chanak Jr., BS '71. It took him five years to get an EEO policy changed to protect the rights of gay people against discrimination at his workplace. Then 25 years later, the company made an award-winning short film that chronicled his persistence.

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## Take Note

At Kent State, diversity and inclusion are not words used to sound politically correct—they are ways of being, fundamental values the university strives to embody in every educational encounter.

It's no wonder that so many Kent State students, faculty, staff and alumni encompass those values in their lives and careers, and are known for standing up for equal rights, being a voice for the voiceless and speaking truth to power.

We highlight several in this issue—including deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, many of whom are part of a growing Deaf community, an LGBTQ+ activist who changed a global company's equal employment policy, an artist who is connecting across cultures and calling attention to the cost of border conflicts, plus innovative entrepreneurs, researchers and educators—all of whom are purpose-driven people making a difference on Kent State campuses and in the world at large.

### Squirrel Search

Those tricky black squirrels are at it again! In each issue, we hide an image of a black squirrel on three pages (not counting the Table of Contents). If you find all three you qualify for a drawing to win a squirrel-themed prize. Each squirrel will appear like this:  (shown actual size and will not be distorted or rotated).

When you find them, send us an email at [magazine@kent.edu](mailto:magazine@kent.edu), listing the three page numbers and places they appear, plus your name and mailing address. For rules and eligibility requirements see [www.kent.edu/magazine/rules](http://www.kent.edu/magazine/rules). Good luck!





FEEDBACK

And the WINNER is...

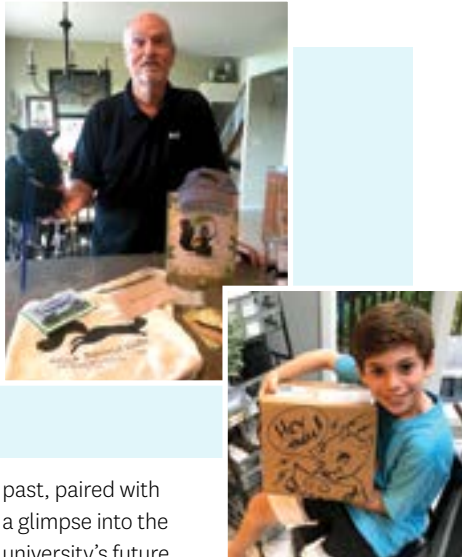
When **Chuck Straub, BS '72**, Columbiana, Ohio, visited his grandkids in Maplewood, New Jersey, he brought the latest *Kent State Magazine* with him to “have some fun” and get some help hunting for hidden squirrels. “Evan (age 9) found the third squirrel very quickly,” he writes. “Apparently my eyes are getting old!”

After we drew Mr. Straub’s name in the random drawing and sent him the prize

package—filled with black squirrel swag from Black Squirrel Gifts in downtown Kent—he packed it up and sent it on to his helper. **So congratulations to contest co-winners Chuck and Evan Straub!**

The black squirrels can be found in the spring/summer 2018 issue on pages 19 (on the picnic blanket), 25 (in the glass doorway—this one required good lighting or young eyes to see!) and 34 (under the egg in photo 11).

**Thanks to all who entered!**



via EMAIL



From Vision to Reality

Loved the piece on the 50th anniversary of Blossom [“Kent Blossom Celebrates 50 Years,” spring/summer 2018]. Back in the ’60s, when I was an undergraduate at Kent State and Blossom was still an empty field and a vision, I had the privilege of being part of the first ad campaign to raise money to make that vision come true. Thought you might like to see the ad, recently sent to me by another alum (see above). It appeared in a number of national publications, including *Time* magazine.

**CATHERINE DOWNES BOWER, BA '69**  
West River, Md.

Memorable Homecoming

I was delighted to read how things have changed with homecoming celebrations over the years—it has really been a reflection of the times [“100 Years of Homecoming,” spring/summer 2018].

However, I was both surprised and disappointed that one of the most significant homecomings—that of 1970—was not mentioned.

That year, just a few months after the infamous shootings on May 4, the halftime show was something I’ll never forget. An enormous flag was rolled out onto the field, practically covering the entire space. There was a moment of silence for the lives that had been lost and for those whose lives were forever changed—ravaged by what we had foolishly thought to be only blanks or rubber bullets—and then the university chorus sang “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

To this day, it remains one of the most moving, meaningful and powerful times of my entire life. I never felt more a part of KSU or more united to my fellow students than I did on that October afternoon.

**NANCY MENALDI-SCANLAN, BFA '72**  
Naples, Fla.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Thank you for sharing that special memory. The halftime show was not included in the 1970 Homecoming coverage in either the *Daily Kent Stater* or the 1971 *Chestnut Burr* (which covers the previous year’s homecoming)—the two main digital sources we used to compile the “100 Years of Homecoming” story. (See the Kent State University Special Collections and Archives Digital Collections at <https://omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections>.)

Motivated to Visit

As a graduate of Kent State’s journalism program, I tend to be a pretty discerning critic of publications. Yet I’m always impressed with the quality of *Kent State Magazine*. In the spring/summer 2018 issue, I especially appreciated the 100-year retrospective on Kent State homecomings—a nod to Kent State’s

past, paired with a glimpse into the university’s future (“Transforming Kent State”). I feel motivated to come back and visit the campus for the first time in many years! Thank you for a high-quality, informative publication with content that resonates with alumni.

**JANICE (HAIDET) HISLE, BA '86**  
Morrow, Ohio

Timeless Tradition

After 65 years, I was surprised to see the photo of an activity that I did while living in Moulton Hall my freshman year and the newly built Terrace Hall my sophomore year. [Flashback, “Slide On,” winter 2018]. We used to sneak out baking trays from the kitchen and slide down the steep hill outside Moulton Hall. So much fun on cold snowy days.

I am thrilled to show my children and granddaughter a picture of that wonderful memory, which I have been describing to them for years. And I am happy that this tradition has continued.

**MARILYN HAMILL, BS '57**  
Clearwater, Fla.

We want to hear from you!

Respond to magazine content or comment on topics related to Kent State by writing:  
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Enduring Community

In my final *State of the University Address*, I talked about how I am filled with great optimism for Kent State’s future, because this community—and its powerful and uplifting sense of heart and home—will endure far beyond any presidency. We see Kent State’s strength in its thriving Deaf community, including recent graduates Elexis Blake, BA ’18, and Nebeyat Mamay, BA ’18, who created the Deaf Power Organization in 2016 to bring together deaf and hard-of-hearing students and friends to engage, advocate and raise awareness. Their passion and commitment, and that of other students, faculty and staff featured in this issue, serve as an inspiring example of how the power for positive change comes from within.

We see Kent State’s inner drive in the projects of the problem solvers leading our design innovation revolution. They bring together diverse talents and perspectives to solve real-world issues, such as the team behind Case.MD, who create smartphone cases that dispense medication. Their efforts show the vast potential waiting to be fulfilled through collaborations within our wide-ranging community of students, faculty, staff and alumni.

**Without these passionate, forward-thinking individuals**, the Design Innovation Hub is just a building. Our creative community provides the internal spark that ignites innovation and learning across our eight-campus system. This deep, personal engagement of our entire university community elevates the trajectory of Kent State ever higher. Programs such as Summer Advantage and the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience motivate students to finish their college degrees and channel their creativity to make a difference in the world.

From our student success initiative to the Gateway Master Plan and planning for the 50th Commemoration of May 4, Kent State demonstrates how our transformational rise is always the result of the grassroots engagement of our people. The strength of this university community transcends any program, initiative or administration and is rooted in the values and ideals that define Kent State.

**I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving this outstanding university as its 12th president.** The experiences we shared, the friendships forged and all the learning that took place along the way have made for five amazing years. I am forever thankful to have called Kent State my home. Though I will be stepping down in July, Kent State always will remain close in my heart. This is a university like no other—a distinctive community fueled by passion and purpose—and I am confident its greatest days are still ahead.

Beverly J. Warren, President  
Email: [president@kent.edu](mailto:president@kent.edu), Twitter: [@PresBWarren](https://twitter.com/PresBWarren)

presidential PERSPECTIVES

The strength of this university **COMMUNITY** transcends any program, initiative or administration and is rooted in the **VALUES AND IDEALS** that define Kent State.



**Beverly Warren** @PresBWarren • 8 Sep 2018  
Reppin’ in the rain. That has a nice ring to it. Go Flashes!!

**Giovanni Lieggi** @lieggiji 8 Sep 2018  
It might be pouring rain, but Bev and I are still out here reppin’ the Flashes. [@PresBWarren](https://twitter.com/PresBWarren) [@KentState](https://twitter.com/KentState)





BRIAN HAYES, THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

“For ourselves and the world, we are called to assume the role of the wounded healer.”

— PRESIDENT BEVERLY J. WARREN, “Kent State Beyond the Shootings: Journey of the Wounded Healer,” Chautauqua Institution in New York, August 15, 2018

Kent State Partners with Chautauqua

Visitors this year to the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York—a historic community that offers nine weeks of programs, classes and community events each summer to advance understanding—were able to experience firsthand the contemplative and creative engagement of Kent State University.

To Remember, Reflect and Renew

On August 15, President Beverly J. Warren was a featured lecturer at the institution’s weeklong investigation on the theme of “The Forgotten: History and Memory in the 21st Century.” In a moving speech about Kent State’s campus shootings on May 4, 1970—to an estimated crowd of 2,000, including KSU alumni, witnesses, and victims of the shootings—President Warren recounted the events and aftermath of that tragic day. She spoke of the university’s desire to serve as the facilitator of national conversations that can broker more civil and productive social discourse. “For ourselves and the world, we are called to assume the role of the wounded healer.” She also discussed the university’s plans for a year-long commemoration for the upcoming 50th anniversary of this watershed moment in American history, which will include teaching materials for middle and high schools, a teaching workshop and forum at the Kent Campus,

and the bestowing of Voices of Change awards to honor some exceptional individuals who affect positive and peaceful change in the world. “Kent State will not merely remember May 4, 1970, in an endless loop that never satisfies, the wound rubbed raw over and over again. We choose to remember, reflect and renew. We will remember vividly, but not live in the past; we will honor the emotions that forever resound around us, but be consumed no more by anger or grief; and we will raise our voices—using the lessons of 50 years to convene people, heal conflict and create a more inclusive, more peaceful future. If we do that, we and Kent State are transformed.” President Warren’s address, “Kent State Beyond the Shootings: Journey of the Wounded Healer,” gained a national audience when *Vital Speeches*, a magazine launched in 1934 to publish the best speeches by top business, political and intellectual leaders in the world, selected it as its Speech of the Week.

To Respond through Poetry

The Traveling Stanzas exhibit from Kent State’s Wick Poetry Center, was featured at the Chautauqua Institution’s new Poetry Makerspace this summer. During the exhibit’s nine-week stay at Chautauqua, visitors were able to create poetry in response to the institution’s weekly themes. Participants used a variety of prompts and strategies in the interactive exhibit to share their poems digitally, through videos and in print, explains David Hassler, director of the Wick Poetry Center. Postcards of the poetry, printed on location, were displayed on the gallery wall. Kent State students, who served as interns and fellows at the exhibit, also led writing groups and participated in creative writing workshops with Chautauqua’s featured authors.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to engage so many people in meaningful conversations through the joy and play of poetry,” says Mr. Hassler. “And we hope to continue this partnership next summer.” See President Warren’s speech at <https://www.kent.edu/president/speeches>. View the Traveling Stanzas exhibit at <https://travelingstanzas.com/engagement/chautauqua-makerspace>.

Rising Together

Together, we made a big difference. Kent State had record-setting fundraising during fiscal year 2018. The university received support from more than 20,000 alumni and friends for scholarships, programs and capital projects that totaled a record of \$44.9 million in philanthropic gifts. Supporters helped us prioritize student success as we offer ways to help students stay on track to graduation, propelling them into their future as engaged world citizens. Life-changing scholarships were funded with \$4.27 million in generous private support last year. And for the second year in a row, philanthropic momentum continues to build in Kent State’s Giving Tuesday campaign. In November, giving again surpassed 2017’s record million-dollar mark and exceeded last year’s grand total—setting an inspiring trend of broad and growing community support. The month-long campaign featured more than 40 giving options across the Kent State system, each with a matching gift in place, in addition to the KSU Foundation’s boosts and matches. Nearly \$300,000 was available in matching funds for gifts made throughout the month of November. Plus students, faculty, staff and supporters created individual peer-to-peer fundraising pages for the cause of their choice.

FISCAL 2018 FUNDRAISING: Kent State Style



How can you make an impact for fellow Golden Flashes? Visit [www.Kent.edu/GiveNow](http://www.Kent.edu/GiveNow) to support a Kent State cause that means the most to you!

Milestones

Three cheers for some of the anniversaries Kent State celebrated in 2018!

YEAR	CELEBRANT	EVENTS	THEN/NOW
5	Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center	Happy Hour on the Terrace, with complementary appetizers and drink specials	<b>Then:</b> opened doors June 14, 2013 <b>Now:</b> 100,000+ reservations, nearly 146,000 guests, 2,000+ events, 89 weddings booked
5	Sexual and Relationship Violence Support Services (SRVSS)	Expanded Green Dot movement, continued Kent State Stands Up awareness campaign, started emergency fund for survivors	<b>Now:</b> Became an official center—the Center for Sexual and Relationship Violence Support Services—as of July 1, 2018
50	Student Multicultural Center (SMC)	Cultural Cook-Off, African drumming/dance, history of SMC game night, discussion on SMC’s next 50 years, commemorative quilt, raising money for student emergency fund	Office of Minority Affairs (1968) Office of Cultural Diversity (1991) Student Multicultural Center (1998)
50	Black United Students (BUS)	“BUS at 50 Reloaded” photo exhibit at the Uumbaji Gallery from 10/5/18 to 11/14/18; commemorative display of photos and video in partnership with Student Multicultural Center	<b>Then:</b> Formed in April 1968 to advocate for black students <b>Now:</b> Creating platform for black students to excel and thrive
50	Kent State at Tuscarawas	Alumni reunions, formal dinner, community open house, talk by NPR host Peter Sagal of <i>Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me</i> , campus history presentation, dramatic performance, recognition at Ohio Statehouse	<b>Then:</b> 1 building; 200 students <b>Now:</b> 4 buildings; 2200 students
60	Kent State at Ashtabula	Music, food, games and information booths on first day of fall semester, campus timeline, Deans’ Retrospective	Ashtabula Center of KSU (1958) <b>Then:</b> 3 faculty, 253 students <b>Now:</b> 100 faculty, 2,000+ students



Meet the Class of 2022

The Kent Campus looks a bit more crowded these days. The 4,363 first-year students who arrived on the campus this fall are the largest class in university history, with 100 more students than a year ago and topping the previous record high in 2016.

But that's not the only thing noteworthy about them—the new class also reached record highs in academic quality, with an average GPA of 3.4 and average ACT score of 23.5. Nearly half of the new freshmen came with more than 16 college credits—the equivalent of a full semester—from courses they completed in high school.

In addition to the growing number of first-year students, the

number of out-of-state students rose nearly 10 percent this year. And the number of first-generation students also rose, up nearly 7 percent compared to last year.

The class size for underrepresented freshmen also set records as one of the largest in history, and the success gap between underrepresented and non-underrepresented is closing with the help of improved retention rates, up nearly a percentage point.

This year's freshman class also saw an increase in international students. Students on the Kent Campus come from 28 countries, with the top four foreign countries being China, Brazil, India and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, classes began

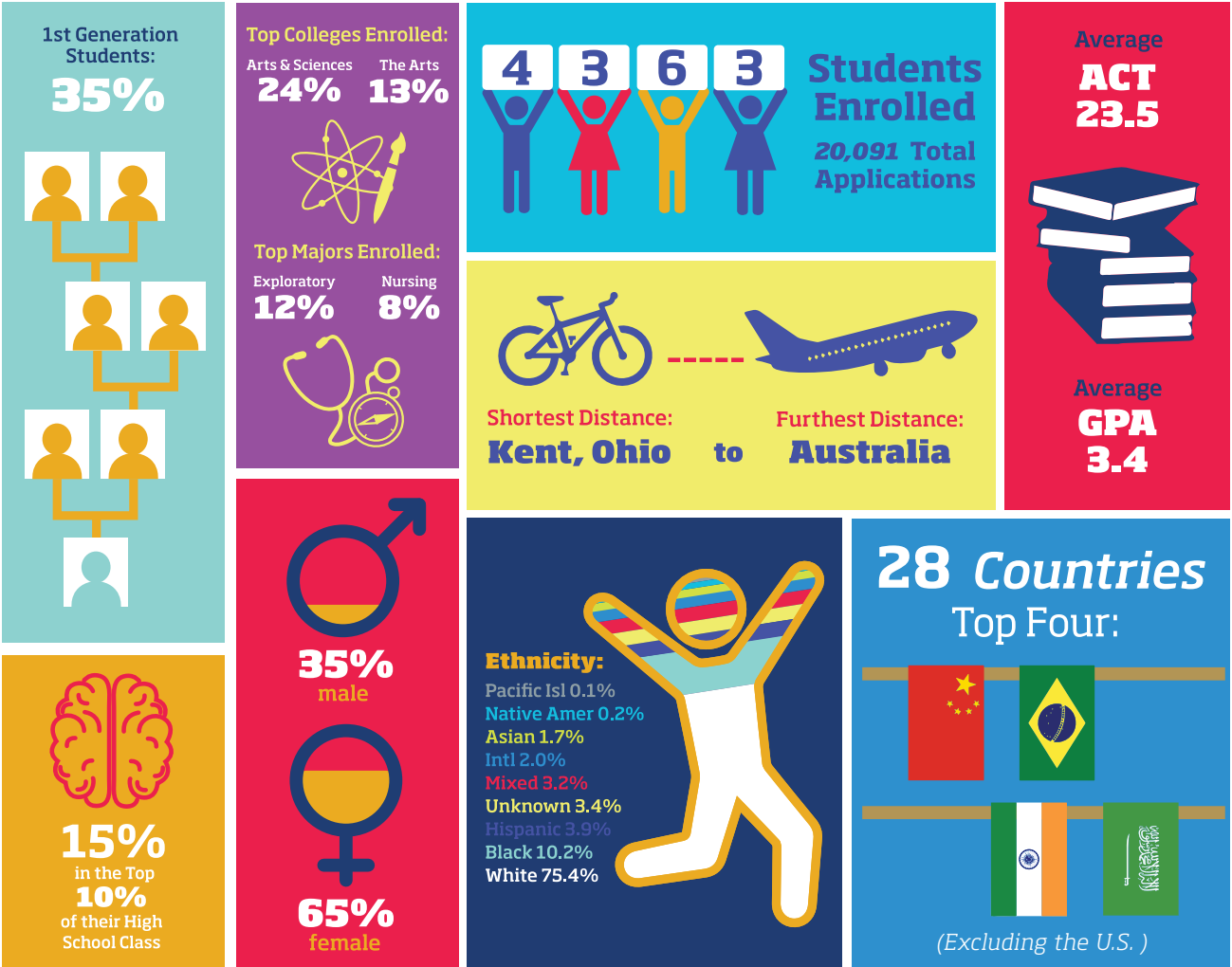
at the American Academy, a new partnership between Kent State and Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, a major university in Brazil, for students who want a global experience while earning their degree.

Areas of enrollment growth also include a spike in undergraduate and graduate students in Kent State's College of Architecture and Environmental Design and the College of Public Health.

Enrollment on the campuses of Kent State University at Ashtabula, Kent State University at Trumbull and Kent State University at Tuscarawas also improved.

—Kristin Anderson

**KENT STATE CLASS OF 2022**



Kent State study-abroad students at the Reichstag, where Germany's parliament meets. They attended a briefing with Nils Schmid, a SPD member of the national Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Cool Course

**Number:** POL 40995/HIST 49295:  
Study Abroad  
**Name:** Modern Germany: Politics, History, Culture  
**Term:** Three-week Intersession, May 21-June 8 (Next year, May 20-June 7, 2019)  
**Instructors:** Mark Cassell, PhD, professor of political science and Anthony Molina, PhD, assistant professor of political science  
**Description:** Is Germany an exemplar of democratic stability or a country on the cusp of another crisis? How are refugees and immigrants affecting German politics and society today? Where is Germany today and where will it be in the future? Students examine these questions

by visiting four locations in Germany: Frankfurt, Erfurt/Weimar, Berlin and Dresden. They have the opportunity to explore immigration and asylum with those who are living it, and to hear the perspectives of lawmakers (including the nationalist right-wing party), public agencies charged with integrating refugees, and nonprofits who work with refugees.  
**Objectives:** Gain an understanding of German society, including a basic knowledge of the political, economic, historical and social issues in Germany; develop an awareness of American cultural values and biases; develop an ability to interact constructively with people of different cultures; demonstrate

an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints; develop a firsthand understanding of several issues, including the refugee crisis, cities and the role of public transportation, and Europe's financial system.  
**Reading:** *A Concise History of Germany*, Mary Fulbrook (Cambridge University Press, 2004)  
**Assignments:** Keep a daily journal throughout the trip, describing daily experiences, impressions and responses to briefings and tours, and an explanation of what was learned that day. Prepare and give an oral presentation on any of the topics covered during the trip, followed with a Q/A session.



## flash **FORWARD** Partners in College Prep

Kent State University continues to advance its partnership with the Akron Public Schools through the following two key programs.



BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

### Firestone Community Learning Center

Three new college and career academies that will bear Kent State's name—the Kent State University Academy of Design, the Kent State University Academy of Performing Arts and the Kent State University Academy of Advanced Technology and Comprehensive Engineering—will open at Firestone Community Learning Center in 2019.

In May, more than 200 Firestone ninth-grade students came to the Kent Campus

for a two-day event, during which they watched brief presentations from colleges and programs, including the College of Aeronautics and Engineering, the College of Communication and Information, the College of the Arts and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, as well as the Design Innovation program.

Approximately 20 students (now sophomores) from the group elected to return to campus in July for a week-long camp—an immersive experience that included staying in residence halls,

having meals in the dining halls, sampling various Kent State colleges and schools and exploring potential careers in the above fields. The program—sponsored by the Akron Community Foundation and the Sisler McFawn Foundation—also provided college readiness and transition information for students and their parents.

“We are excited to provide these students with comprehensive hands-on collegiate experiences focused on design, innovation, technology and the arts,” says Justin Hilton, senior administrator for community outreach for Kent State.

During the week, the Firestone students flew drones, learned to operate a television camera and practiced producing a television broadcast. Among other activities, they also built virtual 3D models, handled priceless art artifacts and sat in on a stage rehearsal of Rogers and Hammerstein's “Oklahoma!”

*View a video of the Firestone students' visit to the Kent Campus at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7cyo-2fy6A>.*

### LeBron James Family Foundation

Kent State also has teamed up with the LeBron James Family Foundation (LJFF) to provide students from the foundation's I PROMISE program with resources to help prepare them for college.

As an integral part of the collaboration, Kent State will provide specialized programming to help I PROMISE students remain on target to graduate from high school so they are eligible for the college scholarships they have been promised by the foundation.

To help with the students' academic needs, Kent State hosted a three-week Flash P'ACT summer program in June, to help students prepare for the ACT college entrance exam.

During the camp, the students lived on the Kent Campus from Monday through Friday, for a true college experience. They received rigorous preparation in math, reading, college readiness and personal development during the day, and afterward took part in university-sanctioned



JEFF GLIDDEN, BS '87

recreation and wellness opportunities, along with on-campus volunteering and hands-on, community-engaged learning.

“By immersing these students in the college experience while simultaneously boosting their academic preparation, they will be set up for success to eventually transition from high school to college,” says Melody Tankersley, Kent State's senior associate provost and dean of graduate studies. “These relationships are key to

ensuring that the high school students not only see themselves on a college campus someday, but that they also see themselves succeeding and earning a degree.”

The university's efforts with LJFF students will continue in spring 2019 as KSU students become I PROMISE mentors and pair with I PROMISE tenth graders for weekly one-on-one mentoring sessions to help the high school students set college and career goals and work toward achieving them.

## Noteworthy

### Rankings

**Women Friendly:** In a survey of 40,000 U.S. employees—including 25,000 women—Kent State was recognized by *Forbes* magazine as one of America's Best Employers for Women in 2018.

**LGBTQ Friendly:** Kent State ranked 4.5 out of 5 on the 2018 Campus Pride Index, the premier national benchmarking tool for creating safer and more LGBTQ-friendly learning environments at colleges and universities.

**LEED Recognition:** Kent State University's Center for Architecture and Environmental Design (designed by Weiss/Manfredi) received LEED Platinum recognition, the highest ranking for

the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system—and the first LEED Platinum ranking for a public university in Ohio. Earlier this year, Kent State's Center for the Visual Arts (designed by Payto Architects) received a LEED Silver rating for its design and construction. Kent State now has 13 LEED-certified buildings throughout the Kent State system.

### Grants

**HHS and NSF Grants:** U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan announced that Kent State University was awarded \$3.7 million in federal research grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Science Foundation.

**NIMH Grant:** A group of researchers at Kent State University, led by Principal Investigator Karin Coifman, PhD, associate professor of psychology, has received a five-year, \$2.7 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct a comprehensive study to better understand the risk for affective diseases (including depression, anxiety and bipolar disorders) and to develop more efficient treatment approaches.

**NIH Grant:** John Johnson, PhD, associate professor of biological sciences, received a three-year \$450,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the neurological roots of chronic stress and fear—and how to stop them.

## Student Scholar

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) has named recent Kent State University graduate Megan Swoger, BA '18, a 2018 Portz Scholar. She is the ninth Kent State student to receive the honor since the inception of the Portz Scholars competition in 1990, and Kent State is a leader in the number of Portz prizes awarded in this national competition.

The NCHC, an educational organization that supports and promotes undergraduate honors education, invites its more than 900 member institutions to nominate one research paper written by an undergraduate honors college student for the annual Portz Scholars competition. The council selects four winners, who each receive a \$350 stipend and the honor of presenting their research at the NCHC annual conference.

Selecting just one undergraduate project to enter in the Portz Scholars competition is challenging, notes Alison Smith, PhD, dean of the Honors College, but she says Ms. Swoger's paper was “a standout.”

Ms. Swoger, a native of Center Township near Pittsburgh, graduated magna cum laude from Kent



COURTESY OF MEGAN SWOGER

State in May, with a dual degree in international relations and French literature, culture and translation, and a minor in women's studies.

Her winning thesis is titled, “Analysis of the Prevailing Practice of FGM in Ghana: Are domestic laws and international treaties effective in the eradication of FGM within the state?” She says the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM), which is widely practiced in the countries of northern Africa, concerned her and was appropriate to both her major in international relations and her minor in women's studies.

Ms. Swoger traveled twice to Ghana to conduct her research, and she credits her paper's success to her thesis advisor, Julie Mazzei, PhD, a professor in the Department of Political Science. “Without the support, time and effort she put into helping me edit and revise the writing in a short time frame, it wouldn't have been possible.”

After spending five months traveling throughout the Middle East, Ms. Swoger plans to begin graduate school in 2019.

—Lisa Abraham





BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

## Fashion Maven

Sarah Rogers, who joined the Kent State University Museum as its new director in July 2018, says the new position appealed to her for its uniqueness.

“Openings for museum directors are rare, especially at an institution with such an outstanding collection, reputation and connection to a university,” says Ms. Rogers, who succeeds Jean Druessedow, the museum’s director for the past 25 years until her retirement. “I have an eclectic background in a variety of museums and nonprofits, and in recent years my interests have focused on fashion, design and contemporary culture.”

Ms. Rogers most recently served as executive deputy director of the Columbus Museum of Art and says her biggest challenge as she takes on her new role is to make the Kent State University Museum appealing and accessible to all age groups.

“Frankly, people have trouble finding our front door,” she jokes. “We need a banner on the building! We also need to make visitors, especially students, feel welcome once they enter.” She recently was invited to a PR class in the School of Journalism, and says she welcomes their ideas to connect students with the museum through peer-to-peer engagement.

“Everyone has limited resources, but we have a great staff and support system, and I see only wonderful opportunities ahead of us.”

We asked her to reveal a few more facts about herself:

### **Last place traveled for pleasure:**

I just returned from NYC for both museum business and then pleasure, since my wonderful daughter lives in Brooklyn. I stayed with her, we ate lots of sushi and hung out in museums.

**Secret talent:** Besides having elbows that are double-jointed, I can parallel park any vehicle. Street parking is my sport!

**Recent read:** [Fashion photographer] Bill Cunningham’s memoir, *Fashion Climbing: A Memoir with Photographs*, which was found after he recently passed away.

### **Least favorite current fashion trend:**

Prairie dresses are back. I’m not a fan, unless you are 10 and adorable. Conceptually, there is an argument that they present a radical view of how to dress today; that I find interesting. But I will not be sporting the look.

### **Most admired celebrity fashion sense:**

Tilda Swinton is amazing and has worked with some of the great contemporary fashion designers and photographers. She is fearless in how she dresses.

**Best part of her job:** I’ve been on campus a few months, and I’m having a blast meeting new people and welcoming them into this great museum.

—Susan Menassa

## Cutting-Edge Engineer

Christina Bloebaum, PhD, joined Kent State University’s College of Aeronautics and Engineering as its new dean in August, 2018. Dr. Bloebaum comes to Kent State from her previous position as interim department chair of aerospace engineering and the Dennis and Rebecca Muilenburg Professor for Aerospace Engineering at Iowa State University.

What drew her to Kent State, she says, was “the tremendous opportunity to continue the growth path of the college across aeronautics, applied engineering and engineering programs—all of which are important areas for present and future work development in the United States and the world.” That includes growing the college’s graduate and research programs.

Dr. Bloebaum is no stranger to creating and growing programs. While a program director with the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 2009–2012, she and two associates proposed a new idea for an NSF program that funds research on the

cutting-edge of science and engineering. Their idea, focused on reducing parts in manufacturing, was to explore the centuries-old tradition of origami—folding two-dimensional paper into three-dimensional shapes—to see if it could be applied to engineering, biology and medicine.

The new program, Origami Design for Integration of Self-assembling Systems for Engineering Innovation, was so successful that in 2012–2013 it awarded nearly \$30 million to 15 projects that explored new paths of technology inspired by origami.

A 2017 NOVA documentary on PBS, *The Origami Revolution*, profiled a number of those research projects, showing how engineers are using origami to design drugs, micro-robots, and future NASA space missions.

We asked Dr. Bloebaum to unfold a few facts about herself and her future vision.

**First job:** I started babysitting when I was 11, but at 14 I became a bagger at the local grocery store.

**Recent read:** I just finished reading the John Grisham novel, *The Rooster Bar*.

**Happy place:** Any relatively empty beach with a pool close by.

**Advice to my younger self:** Never be afraid to fail.

### **On the radar for the field of aerospace engineering:**

Designing a modern complex aerospace system—such as what will be required for Mission to Mars and the NextGen air transportation system—on budget, on time and with minimal unintended consequences.

**Challenges as dean:** Ramping up fast enough to put in place the necessary pieces to grow the college. The College of Aeronautics and Engineering has a wonderful story to tell. A huge challenge is to tell it to prospective students, parents, industry partners, research partners and funding agencies in a way that captures the college’s capabilities and unique potential.

—Susan Menassa



BOB CHRISTY, BS '95



# Design Innovation

FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

**KENT STATE IS BRINGING TOGETHER DIVERSE RESOURCES IN THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND BUSINESS TO SOLVE REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS THROUGH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING AND DISCOVERY.**

By April McClellan-Copeland

## DI Nodes

ANALYTICAL  
INSTRUMENTATION  
FACILITY

ARTECH STUDIO

AQUATIC ECOLOGY  
RESEARCH FACILITY

CAED CMLAB

CAED DIGITAL FABRICATION  
AND PRINT STUDIO

CAED NOVEL ECOLOGY  
DESIGN LAB

CAED ROBOTIC  
FABRICATION LAB

CLEAN ENERGY AND  
SUSTAINABILITY LAB

LAUNCHNET

LIQUID CRYSTAL INSTITUTE  
(LCI) CHARACTERIZATION  
FACILITY

**A**t Kent State University, design innovation is more than an abstract concept or the latest educational buzzword. It is a movement that is sparking cross-disciplinary partnerships to solve complex challenges by using design thinking and innovation.

Kent State's recently announced Design Innovation (DI) Initiative will not only promote interdisciplinary collaboration and elevate design thinking principles, it will strive to create the next generation of innovators for the 21st century.

The initiative will bring ideas and innovations from many disciplines—including aeronautics, engineering, brain health, sustainability, biochemistry, marketing, advanced materials science/liquid crystals, computer science, fashion and entrepreneurship—together in a 68,000 square foot DI Hub at the center of the Kent Campus. Renovations to the former Art building, which will be transformed into the DI Hub, are planned to begin in spring 2019, with an expected opening date of August 2020.

"At Kent State, like most universities, we have more expertise centers than I have time to mention," President Beverly J. Warren recently shared with an audience at Pitch NEON, a pitch contest sponsored by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation. "But developing them is only half the battle. The other half

is sparking cross-disciplinary curiosity and partnerships. Discarding obsolete boundaries. Boring through protective silos to try new things."

The DI Hub "will be shared by all, but owned by none," says J.R. Campbell, inaugural executive director of the Design Innovation Initiative. He envisions the Hub as a 24/7 space to hatch solution-oriented ideas, where "flash challenges" will bring people together to try their hand at solving real-world problems.

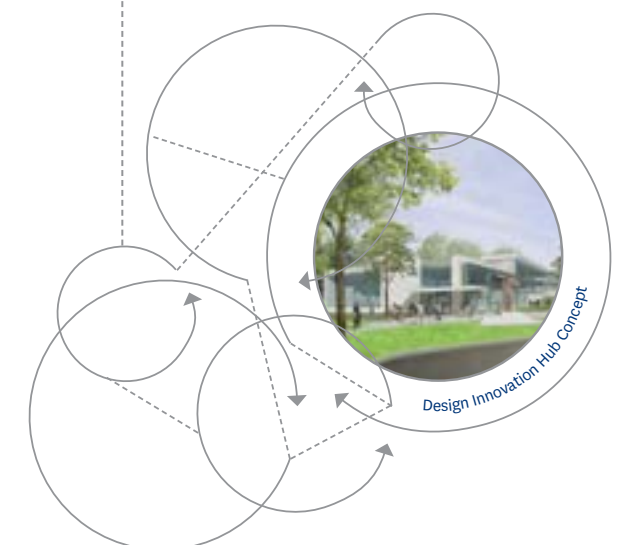
"The goal for the Hub is to connect the makerspaces and design, technology

and resource laboratories across all Kent State locations to make them understood and accessible by the larger community," Mr. Campbell says. (Learn more at [www.kent.edu/designinnovation](http://www.kent.edu/designinnovation).)

Having a dedicated space like the DI Hub will create a home base for the kinds of innovative partnerships that already take place across Kent State's campuses. Design innovation is happening every day as the university's students, faculty, leading experts, alumni and community members from diverse disciplines come together in collaborative

teams to tackle difficult challenges—as seen in the following innovative projects that teams have been working on over the past couple years.

Having a dedicated space like the **DI Hub** will create a home base for the kinds of innovative partnerships that already take place across Kent State's campuses.







Dr. Yanhai Du and Angela Deibel pose with the ZEV on the Kent Campus.

**“The biggest thing is to get students into research. Getting into it early on propelled me.”**

ANGELA DEIBEL, BS '19

## PROJECT: ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE

**A**s Kent State senior Angela Deibel guides the ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) from the Aeronautics and Technology Building to front campus on a recent sunny day, she glances at a row of small lights that flash overhead.

“Those lights let us know that the battery has charged,” she explains to a passenger. “One day of sunlight (24 hours) equals eight miles.”

The ZEV is a repurposed golf cart with an electric engine powered by three sources: a fuel cell, solar panel and batteries. The fuel cell efficiently converts fuel, such as hydrogen or natural gas, into electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions. The solar panel on the roof charges the batteries all the time. When the cart is resting or the batteries are fully charged, the electricity generated by the solar panel can be used to electrolyze water into hydrogen and store the solar energy for later use.

“Renewable energy is the future,” says Ms. Deibel, who recently did an internship

at a solar panel company. “I’m putting all bets on fuel cells.”

In summer 2016, Ms. Deibel interned with Dr. Yanhai Du, PhD—associate professor in the College of Aeronautics and Engineering and team leader and principal investigator of Kent State University’s Fuel Cell Program—in the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE).

At the time, she was a marketing major with a minor in sustainability who knew little about fuel cells or solar panels. She joined a team of students who were majoring in electrical engineering, chemical engineering and digital sciences. They all received hands-on experience with fuel cells to develop the first version of the ZEV.

“I saw that I could count on her,” says Dr. Du, who made Ms. Deibel the team leader. “I knew that if I guided and supported her, she would be successful.”

Ms. Deibel says Dr. Du gave her the opportunity to make mistakes as she explored her deepening dedication to sustainability and engineering, while

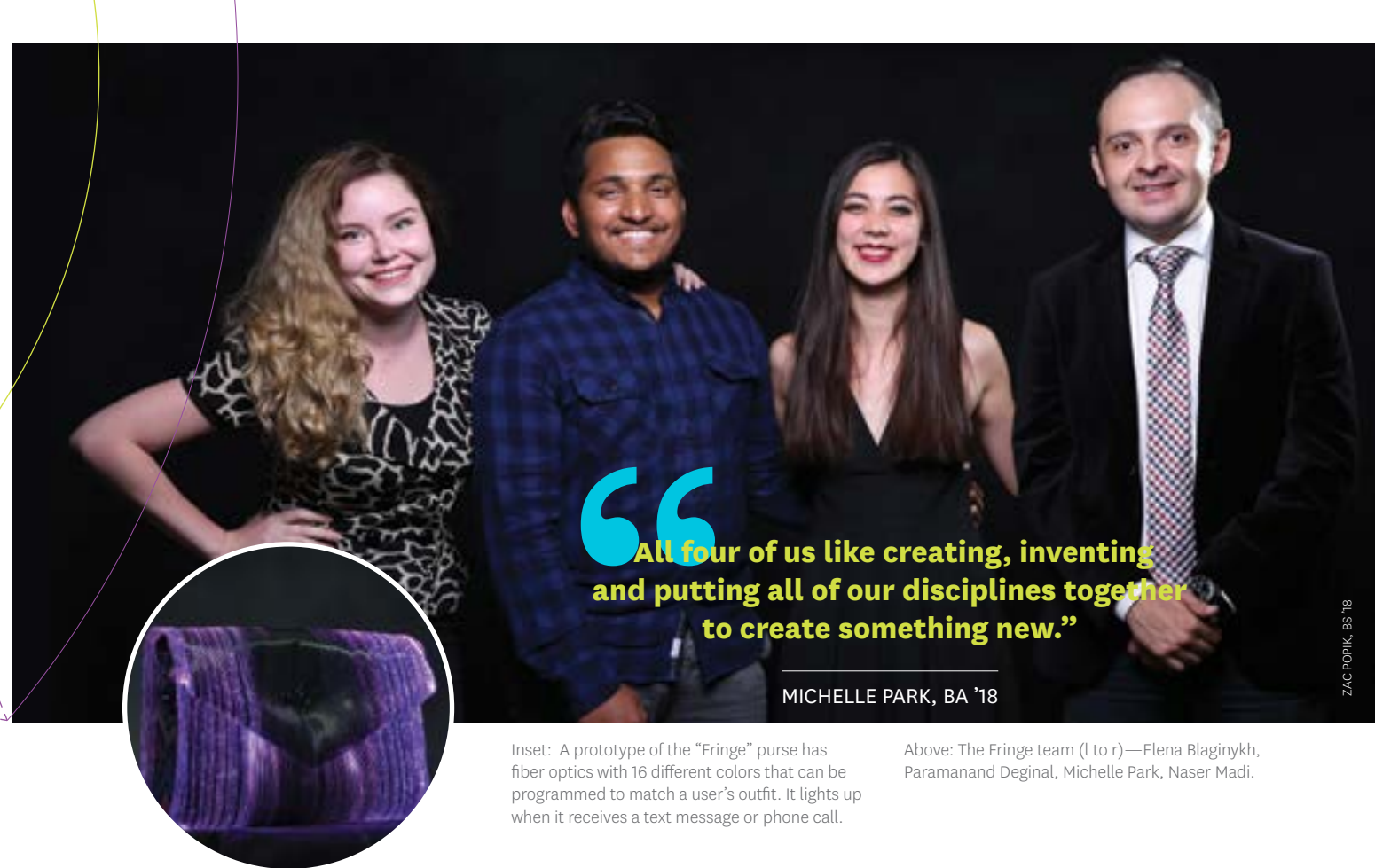
sustaining her passion for marketing—and she is grateful for her mentor’s support. Since immersing herself in renewable energy, she has changed her major to mechanical engineering and made marketing a minor.

“The biggest thing is to get students into research,” she says. “Getting into it early on propelled me.”

The ZEV, with its state-of-the-art sound system that allows music to be streamed around campus, is available for alumni tours and for use by student organizations. And driving the ZEV around campus is a perfect way to educate people about renewable energy.

“I want to be a voice in the renewable energy community,” says Ms. Deibel, reluctant to give up her marketing edge. “I don’t want to just be an engineer—though I love it—but I want to tell [the public] about renewable energy.”

*Learn more at [www.kent.edu/cae/zero-emission-vehicle-zev](http://www.kent.edu/cae/zero-emission-vehicle-zev). To rent the ZEV, contact Dr. Du at [ydu5@kent.edu](mailto:ydu5@kent.edu).*



**“All four of us like creating, inventing and putting all of our disciplines together to create something new.”**

MICHELLE PARK, BA '18

*Inset: A prototype of the “Fringe” purse has fiber optics with 16 different colors that can be programmed to match a user’s outfit. It lights up when it receives a text message or phone call.*

*Above: The Fringe team (l to r)—Elena Blaginykh, Paramanand Deginal, Michelle Park, Naser Madi.*

## PROJECT: FRINGE

**D**on’t be alarmed if you see graduate student Michelle Park, BA '18, strolling across the Kent Campus one evening and her clutch purse flashes from radiant red to pulsing purple to glowing green.

The fiber optic purse that she and a team of students invented earlier this year at Kent State’s Fifth Annual Fashion/Tech Hackathon may be alerting her that she has just received a text message or phone call. The team won the “Best Use of Technology in Creating New Fashion Project” award for the purse, which at the time they named “Firefly.”

Ms. Park and her teammates come from a cross-section of disciplines and backgrounds. She recently began a two-year graduate program in fashion industry studies and is from Seattle; Naser Madi is a PhD candidate in computer science from Jordan; Elena Blaginykh, MPH '18, is a medical doctor and PhD candidate in social and behavioral science from Russia; and Paramanand Deginal, is a junior aeronautical engineering major from India.

“We met at the Hackathon and became best friends,” she says. “All four of us like creating, inventing and putting all of our disciplines together to create something new.”

Currently the project team has two rough prototypes of the purse, which now goes by the name “Fringe.” The team changed the name because the word has definitions from science, fashion and culture that are relevant to the brand.

They also have created a branded website, where they sell earrings made from laser-cut seashells to help raise seed money for putting the purse prototype into production.

An app controls the fiber optics of the purse and includes 16 different colors that can be programmed to match a user’s outfit. The purse also has a GPS system so that it can be located if stolen.

“It’s interactive,” Ms. Park says. “You connect the phone to the purse and it lights up when it receives notification from text messages or phone calls.”

In addition to being fashionable, the inventors hope the purse’s visual notification features will be useful for people who have hearing impairments. Ms. Blaginykh says that market niche is appealing to the team because they believe that “differently-abled people want to be trendy, too.”

Accessibility is at the core of the team’s values and making the product available to all is one of their main goals, according to Mr. Madi, who says the Fringe team benefits from the diverse fields of study each of them brings to the project.

“Elena, with her medical background, advocates for health-promoting ideas, while Param, as an engineer, constantly tries to find the most efficient way for doing things,” he says. “At the same time, Michelle pushes for sustainability and environmentally friendly solutions from fabrics to boxing and shipping. I am fortunate to work with such a talented group of accomplished individuals.”

*Learn more at [www.Fringe.fashion.com](http://www.Fringe.fashion.com).*



“We each have our own expertise that makes our business work.”

ARIELLA YAGER, BBA '17

## PROJECT: ALULA

**M**ore than two years ago, Ariella Yager, BBA '17, an entrepreneurship major, and Samuel Graska, BS '17, MBA '18, a cellular/molecular biology major, got together to work on a project for an entrepreneurship class they were taking.

Their project was to develop an auto injector smartphone case, EpiCase, similar to the EpiPen. But before they began the day's tasks, Ms. Yager realized she had forgotten to take her birth control pill for the third day in a row.

That is when another innovative idea was born.

“I said, ‘We should make a [phone] case for it,’” Mr. Graska recalls. “And Ariella said, ‘Let’s do it! Let’s get on top of this.’”

The classmates, along with architectural designer Justin Gleason, BS '16, MArch '18, MBA '18, created “alula” (all lowercase)—a product they have dubbed the “first phone case to hold, protect and dispense your birth control.”

Users load their birth control pills for the month in the phone case and rotate a round cutout on the back of the case. When they hear the click, a pill pops

out from a slot on the side of the case. Consumers are encouraged to download the alula app to remind them to take their pill every day, Ms. Yager says.

Although the Case.MD team first came together to develop the EpiCase auto injector, that product—a more expensive and complex

proposition than alula—is now going through the patent process.

Meanwhile, turning their focus to alula, the team has conducted surveys and focus groups with health and women’s organizations and pharmacies, and they’ve refined the design as they prepare to launch the product by January 2019.

Mr. Graska says they would not be where they are today without the staff at LaunchNET Kent State, who taught the team how to start a business. “We have videos, prototypes and we’re building up media,” he says. “We are using crowd funding to raise funds. Now we are trying to find manufacturing. This has been an awesome experience.”

To come up with the name, the team actually locked themselves in a room; during hours of brainstorming, they kept coming back to the word *alula*. Pronounced the same backward and forward, the word is a palindrome. Alula also has five letters, the same number of petals as a forget-me-not flower, and “Forget Me Not” is the company’s tagline. And an alula is an important part of a bird’s wing, which supports it in flight.

The team believes the collaboration among their disciplines has been the secret to the creative culture of Case.MD. “We each have our own expertise that makes our business work,” Ms. Yager says. “I bring the business and operations, Sam brings the medical and FDA leadership, and Justin brings the design. So far it has been incredible working together.”

Learn more about alula, sign up for the launch and get up-to-date information at [www.indiegogo.com/projects/alula-birth-control-phone-case/coming\\_soon](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/alula-birth-control-phone-case/coming_soon).

Inset: A prototype of the alula smartphone case, which dispenses birth control pills and connects to an app that reminds users to take a pill every day.

“We must think systematically—a ‘combine and succeed’ mentality, rather than ‘divide and conquer.’”

IRVIN STEVE CARDENAS, SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST

## PROJECT: IMMERSIFLY

**K**ent State team members Brian Selle (a computer science and political science major), Irvin Steve Cardenas (a senior research scientist) and Chaisay Letdara, BS '18 (a computer science major), had a mission in mind when they entered the university’s first collegiate aviation hackathon in October 2017, sponsored by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

For the “SkyHack” competition, students were to provide solutions to challenges or “pain points” related to the aviation industry. The team wanted to offer pilot trainees a more immersive and effective flight training experience. Despite hours of simulation-based training, student pilots often feel tense during their first flight, due to the lack of realism in virtual simulators.

At the weekend-long event, the trio invented “ImmersiFLY: Next Generation of Immersive Pilot Training,” which won third place in the 2017 SkyHack competition, under the challenge of how to solve the pilot shortage.

According to the brief they submitted with their project, “the system is in essence

an affordable flight simulator that allows completion of training hours toward license certification by allowing the pilot to fly a small-scale airplane under real conditions. The pilot is not only able to control the aircraft, but is also able to feel as if they themselves are inside the cockpit of the aircraft. This is accomplished by 1) providing a live stream of the environment within the cockpit into a virtual reality headset, 2) allowing the pilot to rotate their head freely and also 3) receive feedback from the aircraft (such as roll, pitch, yaw) which is relayed by the ‘motion’ chair.”

After the competition, the team wrote a paper about the project under the direction of Jong-Hoon Kim, PhD, assistant professor of computer science and director of Kent State’s Advanced Telerobotics Research (ATR) Laboratory at the Department of Computer Science. They submitted the paper to the American Council on Science and Education for its 2017 International Conference on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence, and they were selected to present the project at the conference in Las Vegas late last year.

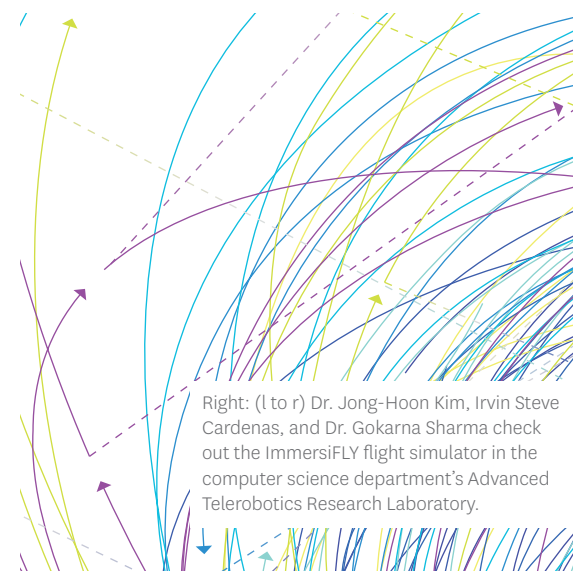
The entire experience was invaluable, says Mr. Selle, because it allowed him to conduct research with other Kent State students, write an abstract about the research, then present it before an audience at a conference.

Before joining Kent State in 2016 as a lecturer and senior research scientist, Mr. Cardenas was a robotics researcher at Florida International University, where he worked with Dr. Kim on virtual reality, autonomous systems and immersive technologies—areas they continue to explore at Kent State’s ATR Lab.

“The future is decentralized,” says Mr. Cardenas. “To develop such a future, we must think systematically—a ‘combine and succeed’ mentality, rather than ‘divide and conquer.’”

He says ImmersiFLY could be an answer to high-cost commercial flight simulators, as well as an alternative for consumers who are virtual reality drone racers looking for a more immersive experience. ⚡

Learn more at [www.atr.cs.kent.edu/research/publication/c-23](http://www.atr.cs.kent.edu/research/publication/c-23) and [devpost.com/software/immersify](http://devpost.com/software/immersify).



Right: (l to r) Dr. Jong-Hoon Kim, Irvin Steve Cardenas, and Dr. Gokarna Sharma check out the ImmersiFLY flight simulator in the computer science department’s Advanced Telerobotics Research Laboratory.



Above: The alula team (l to r), Samuel Graska, Ariella Yager, Justin Gleason





Left: Mahwish Chishty ponders her abstract portraits of schoolchildren living near tense border crossings in the United States and Pakistan.

# Beyond Borders

**Guggenheim Fellow Mahwish Chishty's latest project calls attention to the plight of people who live near contentious border crossings.**

*By Jan Senn*

**M**ahwish Chishty stands in the center of a small exhibit space she has mocked up in her studio at Kent State's Center for the Visual Arts. Its four walls, covered in shiny mylar emergency blankets—the kind given to refugees and survivors of disaster—reflect back her image, multiplying it.

Mounted on the walls are 3 ft. x 3 ft. square stainless-steel panels, their mirror finish painted with black dots that appear as random patterns when seen up close, then resolve into children's faces when viewed from a distance.

The Pakistani-born artist and assistant professor in the School of Art is pondering how she's going to exhibit her latest project—the culmination of the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship she was awarded for exceptional creative ability in the arts in 2017. (Ms. Chishty, who received a President's Faculty Excellence Award from Kent State in 2018, has had more than 50 national and international exhibitions in the past 10 years, including a solo exhibition at the Imperial War Museum of London, and a group exhibit featuring top artists' responses to war and conflict since 9/11.)

The abstract images on the stainless-steel panels portray some of the children she has been working with during her fellowship, as part of a project she calls “Basant: Let's Go Fly a Kite.”

“Basant is an annual kite festival that takes place to mark the start of spring and is celebrated by people of all faiths

in Pakistan,” says Ms. Chishty, who was born in Lahore, Pakistan, and grew up in Saudi Arabia before becoming a U.S. citizen (she has dual citizenship). “Children fly kites to mark the auspicious occasion by holding competitions. In Pakistan, the sky is filled with colorful kites of various shapes and sizes in the month of February.”

Using the funds she received from the Guggenheim fellowship, which she chose to receive over two years because of her project's timing, Ms. Chishty is facilitating a kite exchange between schoolchildren who live close to contentious border crossings—at the U.S./Mexico border between San Diego and Tijuana, and at the Pakistan/Afghanistan borders.

“Pakistani areas that border Afghanistan remain risky for children to enjoy any sort of outdoor activity,” says Ms. Chishty, noting that because of drone strikes conducted by the CIA since 2004 to target terrorists along the Afghanistan border, unofficial reports suggest that hundreds of Pakistani civilians have been killed in northwest Pakistan—and up to 200 of them were children. Amnesty International, in 2013, invited drone strike victims and their family members from Pakistan to come to Washington, D.C., and tell members of Congress what it is like to live under the constant fear of drone attacks.

One 13-year-old boy told how he had been helping his grandmother harvest crops in a field when a drone appeared in the bright blue sky and suddenly fired—wounding him in the leg with shrapnel and killing his grandmother. “Now I prefer cloudy days when the drones don't fly,” he said. “When the sky brightens and becomes blue, the drones return and so does the fear.”

**M**s. Chishty says his testimony inspired her most recent project. Besides calling attention to the plight of Pakistani civilians, she wants Pakistani children to be able to play outside and fly kites on cloudy days when drones don't typically operate (because their cameras can't visually identify the targets). To allow for variable climate conditions, she's had to replace the local Pakistani kites—made of thin paper and wooden sticks that could tear or become weak in misty weather—with sturdier, more weather-resistant materials.



In March 2018, she conducted a kite-making workshop with children from the Roosevelt International Middle School (a school near the U.S./Mexico border), hosted by the Spanish Village Arts Center in San Diego. The children, many of whom are from other countries, designed and painted plastic kites to be given as gifts to children in Pakistan.

Then in April, she visited the border areas of Pakistan and gave children there the durable kites made by the children in San Diego. She hopes this will allow the Pakistani children to fly kites on cloudy days and “reclaim their space.” At Sonia Shah Memorial School in Kangra, a small Pakistani town near the border of Afghanistan, she worked with a group of mostly girls, who designed and decorated kites for the children in San Diego to fly.

Ms. Chishty plans to bring those kites with her to California in February 2019 to exchange with the children in San Diego. And she hopes to hold a Basant kite-flying event in the two countries at the same time that will be shared live at both borders simultaneously via Skype.

“My hope is to shorten the distance between these border conflict areas,” she says, “and allow for a more personal connection.”

**M**aking a personal connection is a driving force behind many of the projects seen at Ms. Chishty’s studio. Trained at the National College of Art in Lahore, Pakistan, as a miniature painter in the style of the Mughal empire of the 16th and 17th centuries, she has adapted that traditional technique to contemporary themes—at first exploring her own identity as both Pakistani and American, and then expanding her perspective to take in a broader view.

On one wall of her studio she’s tacked up small detailed paintings on individual sheets of paper, each depicting a moment from the elaborate flag-lowering and border-closing ceremony that security forces on either side of the Wagah/Attari (Pakistan/India) border have followed since 1959—after the British withdrew from the area in 1947 and it was partitioned into two independent countries: India (mostly Hindu) and Pakistan (mostly Muslim).

“It’s just an hour outside of where I was born,” says Ms. Chishty, who is collaborating on the project with an Indian artist in Chicago whose great-grandparents were from Lahore and migrated to Amritsar (a city in northwestern India) in 1947, while Ms. Chishty’s great-grandparents were from Amritsar and migrated to Lahore that same year.

Performed daily before sunset and witnessed by hundreds of visitors and international tourists from both

sides of the Wagah/Attari border, the well-rehearsed soldiers of both Pakistan and India attempt to outdo each other with high kicks and intimidating glares in a military drill that symbolizes both the rivalry and cooperation between the two nations. In recent years, border skirmishes have escalated tensions between Pakistan and India and added an edge to the display of force.

Hanging from the ceiling in another area of the studio are brightly painted drone models Ms. Chishty bought to photograph from different angles. She captured their silhouettes for a series of drone paintings that she created after finishing graduate school at the University of Maryland, College Park, and visiting family in Lahore in



Photos above, from top to bottom: Schoolchildren from the Sonia Shah Memorial School in Kangra, Pakistan, and the Roosevelt International Middle School in San Diego, California, make kites for Mahwish Chishty’s kite exchange project. Photo at right: Mahwish Chishty admires a kite made by one of the children at the San Diego workshop.

Photo credits: Ikramullah, Sonia Shah Memorial School, Kangra, Pakistan; Val Dostalek, Roosevelt International Middle School, San Diego, California



Photos at near left from top to bottom: For the abstract portraits of children from Pakistan and California that Mahwish Chishty will include in the exhibit, she painted black dots on mirrored stainless-steel panels to obscure the images so viewers have to step back in order to see them clearly.



Left: “The Wagah border-closing ceremony is intense,” says Mahwish Chishty. “In this series of paintings, I removed the background and the physical presence of the border to highlight the tension and play of power.” The soldier in the black uniform is from Pakistan and the soldier in the khaki uniform is from India.

**“My hope is to shorten the distance between these border conflict areas and allow for a more personal connection.”**



2011. Her family and friends there were all talking about the drone war raging along the border with Afghanistan, so she decided to reimagine the drones using Pakistan’s colorful truck art tradition—drivers there decorate their trucks with brightly painted images of spiritual gurus, political figures and popular culture.

“I wanted to find a way to make this topic [of drone warfare] visible, to attract attention with the colors and shapes,” says Ms. Chishty, who painted images of drones decorated with her own version of indigenous truck art. “I wasn’t trying to say drones are good or bad; I just wanted to highlight what they are and get people outside of Pakistan to talk about them.”

**E**lsewhere in the studio are full dome mirrors—the kind typically mounted on the ceiling and used for security in stores and warehouses. But these domes are wired with speakers and suspended upside down from the ceiling at various heights, meant to represent the height of Pakistani men, women and children killed in drone strikes. They are part of a sound installation Ms. Chishty calls “Naming the Dead,” which was recently exhibited at SPACES gallery in Cleveland, Ohio, and at Art Prize in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She borrowed the project’s name from the title on a list of Pakistani civilian casualties compiled by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, a nonprofit research organization based in London, England, who worked directly with local news media in Pakistan to make sure the information was accurate.

Ms. Chishty approached Americans of the same age and gender as the Pakistanis named on the list and asked them to read aloud those names for her to record—and to hopefully start a dialogue. Even when some of the people refused, she says, “I thought, well, at least I have told somebody that this is what’s been happening in that part of the world.” Visitors to the exhibit can step under the domes and listen to audio of American citizens reading the names of Pakistani casualties.

Sound installations and kite-flying events may seem a long way from miniature paintings, but all are ways to connect people and ideas. “I’m not limiting myself to material anymore,” Ms. Chishty says. “I start with an idea and then explore the best method to convey that message. Right now, I’m exploring these borders in my own way.”

And that includes putting visitors inside a reflective room and having them step back to get a good look at the faces of children, from both Pakistan and the United States, who peer out from mirrored panels.

Says Ms. Chishty: “I am confronting the viewer in the present environment to reflect upon the future.” ⚡

See [www.mahachishty.com](http://www.mahachishty.com) for more of her work.





# LISTENING TO THE DEAF COMMUNITY

CHRIS HICKS, BA '14, MA '16

As deaf and hard-of-hearing students build community and find their voice, increasingly robust programs and organizations at Kent State are opening opportunities for success in their careers—and for hearing students to work with deaf populations.

By Kim Catley

**W**hen Richard Costes, BA '06, talks about his first day at a school for deaf children, he describes a room filled with young children crying, trying desperately to be understood, while he sat in a corner playing alone. On his second day, he walked up to his teacher and asked, “Will you play with me?”

The teacher scooped him up, marched down the hall and into the administrator’s office and called his parents. When they arrived, the teacher said, “This child can speak. He is too smart to be here with all of these other deaf kids.”

That one sentence, suggesting that deaf people weren’t smart, stuck with him.

Mr. Costes was born deaf, but grew up in a hearing environment. He told himself he wasn’t deaf. He refused to learn sign language—an attitude that was supported by his school, which prioritized speech. He also declined any assistance in the classroom and his grades often suffered as a result.

“That’s a lot of self-loathing for a big part of your identity,” he says. “It wasn’t until college, when I took an ASL (American Sign Language) class—because I thought it would be easy—that I realized how wrong I was.”

**M**r. Costes’ shift in perspective mirrors a larger evolution in deaf education. As Pamela Luft, PhD, associate professor of special education at Kent State’s School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences, explains, early American deaf education was sign language-based. That changed in 1880 when, at the Milan Conference of Deaf Educators, delegates banned the use of sign language in schools worldwide and voted that oralism, or lip reading, would be the sole method of instruction at deaf institutions.

This continued until the mid-20th century when penicillin was introduced. Now, there was a treatment for the childhood diseases that had previously led to deafness. Instead of going deaf as older children with language skills, much of the deaf population was born deaf, or lost their hearing as pre-verbal infants.

Oralism was no longer as successful and sign language was reintroduced, although the debate between the two methodologies remained.

**B**y the late 1980s and early 1990s, the culture was shifting. In 1990, Ohio passed a law recognizing ASL as a full visual-spatial language—one that is linguistically complete and shares no grammatical similarities to English—and the state began offering grants to increase the skills of school interpreters working with deaf children. When Dr. Luft arrived at Kent State in 1995, the field of deaf education was recognizing, and increasingly valuing, ASL as a true language that would support bilingual/bicultural approaches to deaf education. She saw enough interest to expand the ASL curriculum and offer a minor. “You can’t become fluent in two two-hour courses,” she says.

Dr. Luft also had several Deaf adults (using the capitalized word preferred by individuals who identify as part of the Deaf community), approach her about wanting to teach ASL. She quickly saw a need and worked with the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies faculty to establish the first four-year program in ASL—now one of the largest ASL programs in the nation.

“I tried to make sure that most of the ASL faculty we hired were Deaf,” she says. “I never wanted an ASL, deaf education, or interpreting student to graduate feeling uncomfortable

## Is it deaf or Deaf?

*Identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting. Some individuals and organizations use the term deaf (lowercase ‘d’) in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as Deaf, deaf, deafblind, deaf with disabilities, hard of hearing, late-deafened and hearing impaired. Others make the following distinction:*

**Lowercase ‘d’ deaf** refers to the physical aspect of deafness—anyone with physical hearing loss.

**Uppercase ‘D’ Deaf** refers to the cultural aspect, the Deaf community and individuals who identify as part of the Deaf community.

**Note:** Uppercase Deaf individuals usually are physically deaf, but not always. CODAs (Children Of Deaf Adults) tend to be culturally Deaf, but have full hearing.

In general, to identify as Deaf you have at least some knowledge of ASL and are involved in the Deaf community itself, such as going to Deaf events, seeing other Deaf individuals and /or participating in Deaf politics.



communicating with a deaf person because they hadn't ever interacted with one."

**T**oday, Kent State's programs reflect the variety of communication styles and needs present in the modern Deaf community. This may mean students who use hearing aids and cochlear implants sitting next to students who communicate exclusively in ASL. Teachers may work with deaf students in self-contained classes, while others work in an inclusion setting.

Kent State students who are interested in working with the Deaf

community can choose from three distinct majors on campus. Students can major in ASL in the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies—just as they might major in Spanish, Arabic, or any other foreign language—to work and communicate with deaf populations in a professional setting, or combine the major with an education minor to teach ASL to deaf and hearing populations.

The ASL/English Interpreting program in the School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences trains students to work as community interpreters (in a range

of environments, such as medical, legal, religious, performing arts, social services and education) or as educational interpreters (Pre-K–12).

And students who specifically want to teach deaf children can enroll in the Deaf Education program in the School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences, which provides the coursework and field experience necessary to be licensed in the field of special education in the area of deaf education.

"Our Deaf Education program is unique in placing students in deaf education classrooms for their last two semesters of coursework, with

**"There is a big difference between 'accessibility' and 'inclusivity.'"**



TYLER DREW CLAYTON

**C. Richard Costes, BA '06**  
Theatre studies major

**My story:** Born deaf, but raised in a hearing environment; he didn't learn sign language until college. He is now an actor performing throughout Chicago and a consultant for theatres looking to make their shows more accessible to deaf patrons.

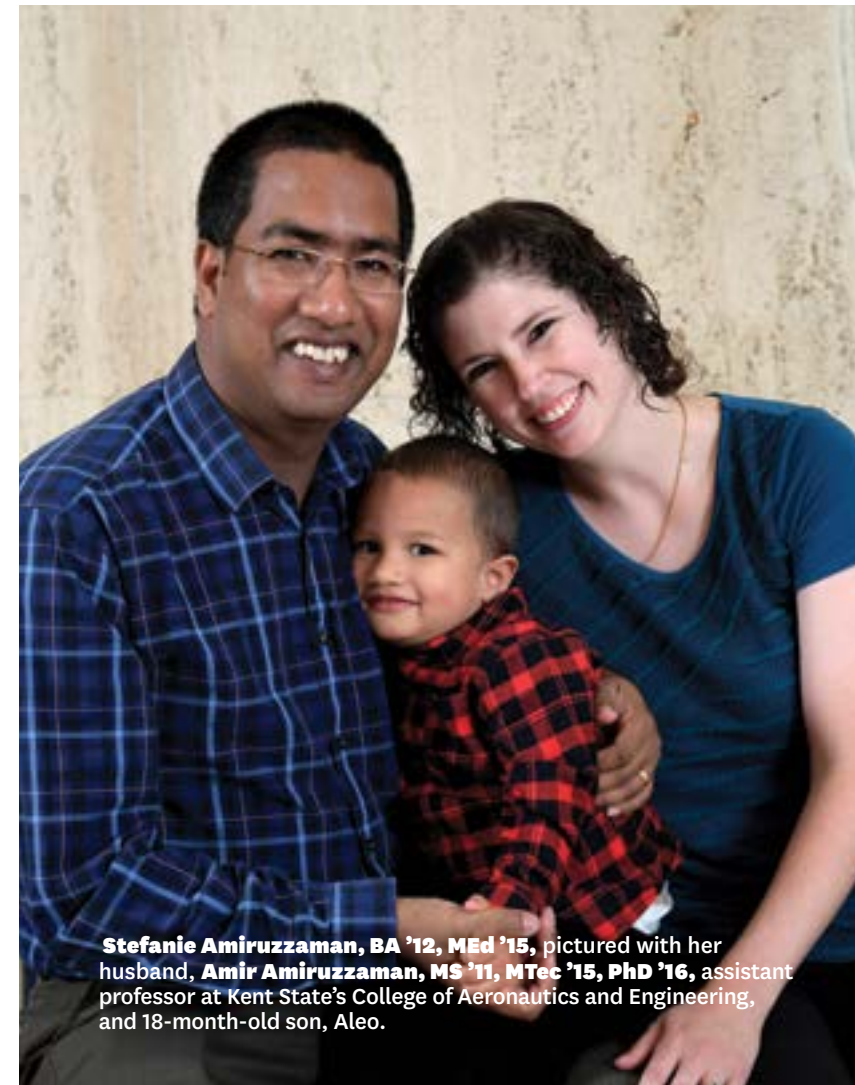
**Getting access:** "When I started at Kent State, I only used note takers, because I didn't want to admit I needed more help. It was only towards the end of my college career that I realized there was nothing wrong with getting more assistance. That's when I requested note takers, FM [frequency-modulated] devices and captioning. The captioning improved my learning a thousandfold."

**All the difference:** Professors at Kent State helped him embrace his identity. "College is a place for you to find out who you are; it's where you become the person you'll be for the rest of your life."

**I'd like the hearing world**

**to know:** "There is a big difference between 'accessibility' and 'inclusivity.' Accessibility means everyone has a point of entry; for the Deaf community, this means captioning or interpreters. Inclusivity means all those [deaf and hard-of-hearing] people are not just watching or listening from a distance; we are part of the conversations and we are part of the work being done."

JEFF GLIDDEN, BS '87



**Stefanie Amiruzzaman, BA '12, MEd '15**, pictured with her husband, **Amir Amiruzzaman, MS '11, MTec '15, PhD '16**, assistant professor at Kent State's College of Aeronautics and Engineering, and 18-month-old son, Aleo.

**Stefanie Amiruzzaman, BA '12, MEd '15**

ASL major, with a minor in fine arts; MEd in special education with a concentration in deaf education

**My story:** Born hearing, she became deaf at 9 months old from bacterial meningitis. "My parents wanted me to learn both sign language and English. My mom attended a sign language class to learn, and she purchased a Signed English book to teach me." She is a current doctoral student in the Evaluation and Measurement program at the School of Foundations, Leadership and Administration.

**Getting access:** Note takers, captioning services for videos, and interpreters. "I love the access that interpreters provide for my education. I would be lost or struggle if it was not for them."

**Tri-lingual:** "I want my son to grow up having respect and involvement in the Deaf community. On the other hand, my husband, who is hearing, is originally from Bangladesh, and his family still lives there. So, I am teaching my son, Aleo, both ASL and English, while my husband is teaching him both Bangali and English. Aleo's first sign in ASL was 'milk,' his first Bangali word was 'ma' (mother), and his first English word was 'mama.'"

**I'd like the hearing world**

**to know:** "Being Deaf is not a disability; it is a point of pride, along with its own official language, and a close-knit community."

**"Being Deaf is not a disability; it is a point of pride."**

linked assignments they must complete in these placements," Dr. Luft says. "And the ASL/English Interpreting program is unique for requiring a one-semester final practicum that is supervised. Many other state programs have students find their own practicum activities and sites without supervision, which can significantly reduce quality control of students' skills to address the unique needs of deaf learners. Our programs are highly regarded, and our graduates are sought after. Many are able to choose the jobs they want and often have offers before they graduate."

**A**t the same time that Kent State has expanded the pathways for students hoping to work with the Deaf community, the university also has seen a surge in the number of deaf and hard-of-hearing undergraduate students over the years, although the numbers fluctuate. A robust Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office ensures that deaf students have access to the university's full scope of academic programs.

Kate Croteau, BIS '17, graduated from Kent State last December and enrolled in the university's Cultural

Foundations of Education graduate program the following spring. She's also studying political science, and hopes to eventually work in a community center focused on LGBTQ+ and Deaf youth.

Ms. Croteau works with SAS to access transcriptions, closed captioning and priority seating, as well as Power Points and lecture notes before class, peer note taking, speech reading, and extended-time testing.

"Before getting accommodations, I assumed that the way I learned—and struggled—was normal, and that's how everyone else did it, too," she says.



“Realizing that I could embrace my accommodations, use them to the best of my ability, and could advocate for them any time they weren’t being appropriately offered really reshaped the way I was able to focus on and enjoy my education.”

Leah Subak, PhD ’14, an ASL/English interpreter and coordinator with SAS, says the office works to keep classroom accommodations—which include transcriptionists, interpreters, note taking and closed captioning—in line with national best practices. They also bring in speakers to connect the campus and Deaf communities. SAS

even crosses over with the academic programs on occasion when students observe the professional interpreters or build their skills in a practicum placement with the office.

**W**hile accommodation services are critical for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to access their academics—and the ASL, ASL/English Interpreting, and Deaf Education programs ensure a strong field of professionals—there are also opportunities at Kent State to build and strengthen the Deaf community.

For example, Elexis Blake, BA ’18, teamed up with Nebeyat Mamay, BA ’18, to found the Deaf Power Organization at Kent State in 2016. Its goal is to create a community for all deaf and hard-of-hearing students. “We even welcome CODAs (Children Of Deaf Adults) and hearing ASL signers into our organization,” she says, “to create a stronger community that will help us advocate for Deaf awareness at KSU.”

These kinds of connections are what elevate a campus or community from accessible to inclusive.

“Even something as simple as repeating yourself makes a world of difference, as we are used to hearing, ‘never mind.’”



### Austin Hale, BA ’21

Communication studies major, with an applied communications concentration

**My story:** Severe hearing loss since birth; he began using hearing aids at age 2.

**Why Kent State:** Signed up for Kent State’s College Credit Plus program to take college courses as a high school student. “I received accommodations that far outclassed the ones my high school offered. The positive experience, more inclusive environment and close proximity of Kent convinced me to join.”

**Getting access:** Priority seating, closed captioning and real-time transcription. “Being able to lip read the professor, read captions in the videos and have a transcription of what was said make it difficult to miss things.”

**Changing communications:** “I am working toward an applied communications degree with the hope that my perspective and experience dealing with the frustrations of hearing loss would allow me to contribute to the profession in a useful way.”

**I’d like the hearing world to know:** “Any gesture of understanding or patience is greatly appreciated. Even something as simple as repeating yourself makes a world of difference, as we are used to hearing, ‘never mind.’”

ZAC POPIK, BS ’18



### Elexis Blake, BA ’18

Psychology and ASL major

**My story:** Born deaf, she uses a cochlear implant to hear. She is now a case coordinator for Easterseals–Community Center for the Deaf, and an ASL teacher. She helps the Deaf community gain independence through case management, advocacy, vocational support and community outreach.

**Course change:** She started at Kent State as an accounting major, but switched to psychology and ASL her junior year. “I suffered from clinical depression, and the experiences I went through were even more challenging because I was Deaf. I want to create an opportunity for the Deaf community to have equal access to mental health counseling.”

**Getting access:** ASL interpreters and note-taking services. “Having an interpreter provides me an opportunity to be challenged and thrive educationally and linguistically.”

**I’d like the hearing world to know:** “Deafness is not a disability in the eyes of the Deaf community. We are fully capable of doing anything! The only thing we cannot do is hear. We are just like you, and we are proud to be who we are!”

“We are fully capable of doing anything! The only thing we cannot do is hear.”

Richard Costes experienced this distinction in the classroom of Carol Robinson, PhD, an associate professor of English at Kent State University at Trumbull. While he was beginning to use sign language, it was Dr. Robinson’s use of texts by Deaf authors that made him realize he belonged to a community. He started to see his deafness as part of his identity.

After attending Kent State at Trumbull for two years, he transferred to the Kent Campus to finish his degree in theatre. Now, Mr. Costes is an actor and director. He also consults with theatres looking to make their shows more accessible for deaf patrons.

This past spring, he performed the role of Snout in Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” When a group from the Illinois School for the Deaf attended a show, the students were thrilled to see a deaf actor in the production. Afterward, they bombarded Mr. Costes with questions about his career. He was happy to share, in hopes of inspiring the next generation of deaf actors.

“I’ve spent the last 10 years trying to integrate myself into the Deaf community and culture,” he says. “I’m trying to embrace the part of me that for nearly two decades I kept buried.” ⚡

### Resources

Download “A Nuts and Bolts Guide to college success for students who are deaf or hard of hearing” from the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes at <http://bit.ly/nutsandboltsguide>.

See tips for communicating with deaf individuals from the National Deaf Center at: <http://bit.ly/communicatewiththedeaf>.

Visit the National Association of the Deaf website: <https://www.nad.org/resources/>.



# CHANGE Maker

*KSU alumnus and gay rights activist Michael Chanak Jr. was determined to make a difference at his workplace—and his dedication to change prompted a global company to redefine diversity.*

By Susan Menassa

Most Kent State students on campus during the late 1960s and early 70s felt the influence of the student protest era. Michael Chanak Jr., BS '71, was no exception; in fact, he credits that time at Kent State with giving him the fighting spirit he needed some 15 years later—when he became the unlikely lone gay voice to take on a corporate titan and call for gay rights in the 1980s.

He was the first in his family to attend college and graduate. His Greek grandmother, who had immigrated to the United States because of religious persecution and never learned to write English, always told him, "Michael, be educated." So when he enrolled at what was then KSU's academic center at Stark in 1967, it was a big deal for his blue-collar family.

"If that academic branch hadn't existed, I probably wouldn't have gone to college," the Massillon native says. During his college years he was surrounded by people who were speaking up about the issues of the day. He spent his first two years at Stark, where he was involved in a discussion society that talked about "everything and anything."

For his junior year, he transferred to the Kent Campus, as students were protesting the war in Vietnam and activism was a normal part of campus life. "There was a sense of being in the struggle," he says. "But after May 4, 1970, the campus went from being an open environment to having everything locked down."

Through that intense experience he says he realized how quickly things can change and how tenuous is the notion of individual freedom—including his.

"Over time, I became aware of my own otherness and of the ways that who I inherently was disqualified me from the same rights and privileges as my peers," Mr. Chanak writes of growing up gay in a 2017 Huffington Post essay about his workplace activism. "I began to understand why it was important to speak up against discrimination and to refuse to be silenced."

When he moved to Cincinnati in 1978 and began working for Procter & Gamble in 1985, being gay was not openly discussed, especially in the workplace. Still, he got involved in the burgeoning gay pride movement of the time and took part in various community events like pride parades, in spite of the risks involved.

Then weekend TV coverage of a pride parade in 1986 showed him in attendance. "By that Monday, I was out to my coworkers," he recalls. "Some people quietly expressed support but also caution in the same breath. Others were less supportive and for many years, people posted cartoons deriding gays and boldly sent me hateful screeds. It

made me even more painfully aware that I wasn't seen as an equal."

In 1987, he told the manager of worldwide diversity that P&G needed to make sure gay employees were afforded the same equal protections already in place for people of a different race, color, religion, sex or national origin in their equal employment opportunity (EEO) policy. With the manager's support, it took some time to develop and submit a proposal, which was rejected without comment. Still he persisted, joined by straight peers at the company who had heard about his efforts.

**"I began to understand why it was important to speak up against discrimination and to refuse to be silenced."**

His fight for inclusion coincided with the AIDS epidemic of the late 1980s, a market niche that Procter and Gamble profited from with a prescription mouthwash called Peridex, which was used to treat thrush—a known side effect of AIDS.

The connection between Procter and Gamble's product and those benefitting from it was not lost on P&G's corporate executives and heralded a gradual shift in attitude that paved the way for the eventual adoption of the Chanak-inspired policy language.

"Peridex . . . allowed us to build a business case," says Anne Harbison, former Peridex brand assistant at P&G, who appears in a video the company released earlier this year, "The Words Matter: One Voice Can Make a Difference," which documents Mr. Chanak's influence on the policy change. "This is what we need to do as a brand, as a business and absolutely for our own employees."

Even so, because sexual orientation was not yet part of the federal EEO mandate, the company was reluctant to go further. Year after year, in every attempt

to change the policy, Mr. Chanak and his associates had to make more of a case.

"You have to work up that command chain and you have to have people who believe it's the right thing to do, and there have to be reasons it's the right thing to do," he recounts in the video.

Various versions of the proposal were sent through different channels, but it wasn't until a gay man in the legal division made the case from a legal standpoint that a revised EEO policy statement finally was approved on September 15, 1992.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the policy's adoption, P&G commissioned the 19-minute video, something Mr. Chanak admits he never would have predicted.

"Imagine my surprise when I got that call 25 years later," he says. "When I left in 2003, I took an early retirement package and never set foot back at P&G until they invited me in to talk about the effort and make the video."

The short film, produced in partnership with Great Big Story production company, won a prestigious Silver Lion award for corporate and social responsibility earlier this year at France's Cannes Lion Festival and boasts more than 10 million views. Although several P&G executives appear in the video, the focus is on Mr. Chanak's workplace struggle for inclusion, as well as that of the Cincinnati gay and lesbian community in the 1980s and 90s.

Now, looking back on those turbulent times, Mr. Chanak is proud to have not only survived but also to have made a difference—though he concedes the work is far from over.

"If there is a legacy to be taken from that video, my private hope is for young people to see that change is possible," he says. "Who would have thought all those years ago that [this video] would have been viewed by more than 10 million people? Nowadays, all people do is post on Facebook.

"Keyboard activism is not going to change the world. Push your chair away from the computer and go join a group. Make the world better. Cause change. Make it about other people." ⚡

See "The Words Matter" at [www.greatbigstory.com/stories/words-matter](http://www.greatbigstory.com/stories/words-matter); read "Pride and Prejudice: How I Helped P&G Come Out," at the [Huffington Post](http://Huffington Post).

The city of Cincinnati passed a resolution in June 2018 that recognizes and honors Michael Chanak Jr. for his work on behalf of the LGBT community.

In October 2018, P&G's worldwide LGBT employee network created the Michael Chanak Award for Courageous Leadership to recognize any LGBT employee who leads the charge for making P&G a better place to work.

BOB CHRISTY, BS '95





**Carole (Painter) Kane, BS '62**, Hudson, Ohio, wrote: "Sixty years after meeting as KSU freshmen in 1958 and being roommates in Terrace Hall and Prentice Hall until our 1962 graduation, we remain close friends. All three of us were teachers and married teachers." Pictured (l to r): **Nancy (Myers) McFarland, BS '62**, Commerce, Texas; **Barbara (Ujcic) O'Donnell, BS '62**, Rocky River, Ohio; Carole (Painter) Kane.

Class NOTES

1950s

**James Sell, BS '59**, Clive, Iowa, wrote: "Hurricane Harvey destroyed our home in Orange, Texas. We escaped with a few personal belongings and now live in Iowa."

1960s

**Stephen Hanzely, BS '62**, Youngstown, Ohio, wrote: "As a retired Youngstown State University professor of physics and astronomy and former Fulbright Scholar, I was honored to receive the YSU Heritage Award, the highest honor Youngstown State can bestow on its former faculty and staff. I also received a 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from the New Mexico State University Alumni Association."

**William Green, BA '63, MA '67**, Lexington, Ky., received the Kentucky Political Science Association's 2018 Distinguished Political Scientist Award at the annual meeting. A Morehead State University faculty member for 34 years, he received MSU's Distinguished Research Award in 1991, Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005, and the Faculty Internship Award in 2013.

**Barbara Gregorich, BA '64**, Chicago, has published *Charlie Chan's Poppa: Earl Derr Biggers*, a biography of the golden-age-of-mystery author from Warren, Ohio, who was known around the world for creating the Chinese-Hawaiian police detective, Charlie Chan.

1970s

**David Strahle, BS '72**, Fenton, Mich., is a physician and founder of Regional Medical Imaging (RMI), one of the leading breast MRI centers in the nation, recognized by the American College of Radiology. Dr. Strahle has developed an alternate breast-screening method for women with dense breast tissue. After seven years of research, his Rapid Breast MRI screening study was published in the journal *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* in 2017.

Findings show that his screening method has the ability to detect breast cancer up to six years sooner than other current technology. Since his study was published, several institutions have installed the Rapid Breast MRI protocol.

**Robert Taylor, BS '72**, Painesville, Ohio, wrote: "After a 30-year career in the classrooms of Painesville City Local Schools and retiring with no further plans than to enjoy life, I'm now serving as a Trustee/Board of Director for the International Women's Air & Space Museum at Burke Airport in Cleveland, Ohio. At last, a blending of my love of history and aviation history."



**Robert Margolis, BS '68, MA '69**, Arden Hills, Minn., wrote: "After completing a PhD in audiology at the University of Iowa in 1974 and a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Wisconsin in 1975, I held faculty appointments at UCLA, Syracuse University and the University of Minnesota, retiring from Minnesota in 2016. I started Audiology Incorporated in 2000 to develop improved hearing tests which are licensed to hearing equipment manufacturers. Funded by grants from The Rotary Foundation, I participated in service projects in Chile, India, and currently in Mexico, where I'm pictured (above) at the San Felipe, Mexico Hearing Clinic, created through a grant from The Rotary Foundation."

**Fred Jermyn, BS '74**, San Diego, wrote: "I wrote the *Kent State University Men's Club & Varsity Soccer Media Guide & Record Book of 1949-1980* to preserve the historical data of the program. More than 3,040 articles from digital copies of *The Daily Kent Stater* newspaper were referenced in rebuilding the results from each year. Details were also secured from numerous other sources to include post-season honors, team and player records, plus photos. The 530-page book is available for free download via request by email to fred.jermyn@hotmail.com."

**William Speer, PhD '76**, Henderson, Nev., was selected for the 2018 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mathematics Education Trust. He is currently in a 22-year career at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as director of their Mathematics Learning Center, following a 20-year career at Bowling Green State University. Speer is a former recipient of the KSU EHHS Distinguished Alumni Award and Hall of Fame member.

**Susan Kay, BS '77**, Mentor, Ohio, has joined the local office of Home Instead Senior Care of Lake and Geauga counties as community relations manager. She will be instrumental in maintaining and expanding the scope of personalized home care available from this franchisee of the company's multinational network.

**James Russell, BA '77**, Bloomington, Ill., associate executive director for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), retired from the nonprofit association on January 1, 2018. Russell ends a 43-year career in communications and publications, including 17 years at IASB and 26 years as a newspaper editor in Illinois and Ohio. He also taught



**Richard Margolis, BS '69**, Rochester, NY, wrote: "I'm currently exhibiting 'About Books'—my homage to André Kertész—gelatin silver prints (from film) that are available in my studio/gallery and on the website [www.RichardMargolis.com](http://www.RichardMargolis.com) (see picture above). My studio is open on the first Friday of each month from October through May. I'd enjoy meeting friends who are visiting Rochester."

journalism at Eastern Illinois University, judged college newspaper contests and served on the Illinois Press Association foundation board of directors.

**Tim Tracey, BFA '77**, Warren, Ohio, played an integral role in introducing a bill to the United States Congress, H.R. 1553—American Patriots of WWII through Service with the Canadian and British Armed Forces Gold Medal Act of 2017. He was inspired to act when researching his father's military history for a book he is creating. The bill calls for the recognition of thousands of Americans (including Tracey's father, Edward) who volunteered to serve with the Canadian and British Armed Forces prior to the United States' entry into WWII.

**Ruth Ava Lyons, BFA '78**, Charlotte, N.C., received a 2018 Creative Renewal Fellowship from the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte. With the fellowship, she will attend an underwater photography workshop on a liveaboard in Raja Ampat, in the Indonesia archipelago, which she hopes will advance her ongoing *Oceanic Alchemistries* series.

**Douglas Smorag, BBA '79, MBA '88**, Cleveland, has been promoted to chief operating officer and executive vice president at CM Wealth Advisors in Pepper Pike, Ohio, where he has been employed since 1998. He serves on a number of charitable foundations and associations, and he was recognized with the University Hospitals Distinguished Advisor Award in 2016.

**Jeffrey Yaw, BS '79**, West Chester, Ohio, retired in May 2017 after a 20-year career as a special education teacher at Lakota Local Schools, New York City Public Schools and Hamilton City Schools. He received an MBA from Xavier University (Cincinnati) in 1986 and worked in the IT industry from 1985-2002. He and Nita, his wife of 35 years, reside in West Chester, Ohio.

1980s

**Margaret "Peggy" Blood, AAS '81**, Vestavia Hills, Ala., a registered nurse, received the 2018 VAD Coordinator Leadership Award from the ASAIO (American Society for Artificial Internal Organs) for her efforts in the improvement of VAD (Ventricular Assist Device) care.



**Carter Strang, BS '73, MED '79**, Shaker Heights, Ohio, wrote: "I am a partner at Tucker Ellis LLP and recipient of the 2014 KSU Distinguished Alumni Award. I currently serve on the KSU Honors College Advisory Committee. I recently was named to the Cleveland Council of World Affairs Board of Directors, was elected vice president of special events of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation and was elected to the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Central Committee."



JAMES COLLVER, MED '80

**James Collver, MED '80**, Akron, Ohio, wrote: "I started the Celtic Club of Ohio in 2002. We recently celebrated the 14th Annual Celtic Club St. Pet's Day, which was held this year at the Richardson Elementary School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, on March 9, 2018. The event is intended to help increase awareness and appreciation for rescued pets.

In the weeks prior, we held a pet food donation drive at both Richardson and Cuyahoga Falls High School, with all pet food going to the Humane Society of Summit County. The Celtic Club handed out Irish items (green derbies, shamrock head boppers, green beads, etc.) and an Irish band, Celtic Rush, played for the students, teachers and parents.

Eleven of the teachers at Richardson Elementary are Kent State graduates from

the College of Education, Health and Human Services, and I arranged for a photo of them in Kent State shirts to run in the *Record Courier* and the *Cuyahoga Falls News Press*."

Pictured front row (l to r): Lisa Stacks (member of Celtic Rush), **Venus Rehs, BS '98, MED '12**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; **Linds (Ollinger) Sorgi, BS '11, MA '14**, Hudson, Ohio; **Stephanie Petit, BS '94**, Norton, Ohio; **Maria Kirkpatrick, BS '06, MED '11**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; **Barbara "Bobbi" Huston, BS '86**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Back row: **Nancy Barber, BS '87**, Silver Lake, Ohio; **Tara Bultrowicz, MED '98, EDs '00**, Aurora, Ohio; **Cheryl Bruce, BS '87, MED '13**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; **Jessica Oberhauser, BS '03, MED '10**, Canton, Ohio; **Katherine "Katie" (Huston) Fetterman, BSE '10**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; **Jessica Moore, BS '00, MED '07**, Stow, Ohio

also helps others map their paths through the obstacles that block success for poets.

**Karen (Hawkins) Bankston, BSN '84**, Cincinnati, wrote: "I was appointed executive director of The Child Poverty Collaborative Hamilton County, while retaining a part-time faculty role at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing."

**James Michael Kaler, MA '84**, New Orleans, La., graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in May 2018. Prior to becoming a physician, he earned an MBA from National University (1987) and a JD from the University of San Diego School of Law (1992) and practiced litigation and patent law for 18 years. He says his career change is the result of a decades-long dream to practice primary care medicine in a rural and medically underserved community, much like the West Kentucky community in which he grew up.

**Beverley Laubert, BA '84**, Lewis Center, Ohio, was appointed by Governor Kasich as interim director of the Ohio Department of Aging.



alumni LIFE



**Peter McCabe, BS '83**, Redington Beach, Fla., wrote: "Class of 1983 Air Force ROTC grads break bread in Cocoa Beach, Florida." Pictured from left to right, front row: **Renee (Licavoli) Elton, BS '83**, Cocoa Beach, Fla.; **Denise (Randell) McCabe, BSN '83**, Redington Beach, Fla.; **Katie (Yunker) Brewer, BSN '83**, Charleston, W.V.; back row: **Neil Elton, BS '83**, Cocoa Beach, Fla.; Peter McCabe.

**Shelley (Landis) Rogers, BA '85, MED '93**, Carrollton, Ga., wrote: "I have been promoted from associate professor to professor at the University of West Georgia, where I am the senior cataloger."

**Joe Wendel, PhD '85**, Euclid, Ohio, is the author of *Justice Denied: An Historical Sojourn* (Archway Publishing, 2017), a history of Germany and German Americans, with a focus on the two 20th century world wars from the viewpoint of a German American who lived in Austria during World War II. It offers information unfamiliar to most Americans, including the personal stories of German Americans sent to American internment camps in World War II.

1990s

**Michael Lanstrum, BS '91**, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, wrote: "I presented 'Historical Women in Mathematics' at the Dwyer Memorial Senior Center in Bay Village, Ohio, in March 2018."

**Seth Thomas, MBA '91**, Ijamsville, Md., wrote: "My wife **Jennifer Himes Thomas, MBA '91**, and I met at Kent State in 1989 while pursuing MBAs. We married in 1992 and recently celebrated our 25th anniversary. We have two children—a son (Penn State junior) and a daughter (Ohio University freshman). Jen earned her bachelor's degree at Penn State, and I earned mine at OU."

**Jodi (Benedictis) Groh, BS '92**, North Royalton, Ohio, wrote: "I am currently a channel marketing manager at Kichler Lighting, and was previously marketing director at Nanofilm. I was honored in February with an Achievements in Excellence award by the National Sales and Marketing Executives (NSME) Akron/Canton for my professional experience and achievements as well as community involvement."

**Neil Colby, MS '94**, Macedonia, Ohio, has been promoted to senior vice president and chief financial officer at CM Wealth Advisors

in Pepper Pike, Ohio. He started with the firm in 2014 as director of operations and led the sourcing and implementation of a new comprehensive reporting system, among other achievements. He retains his role leading the operations team and other responsibilities on behalf of the firm and its clients.

**Francisco Owens, MArc '94**, Los Angeles, has been promoted to principal at the Los Angeles office of SmithGroupJJR, one of the world's preeminent integrated design firms. A member of the American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles chapter, he is currently serving as lead designer on the new \$20 million, 150,000-square-foot Caltech Chen Neuroscience Research Building and a senior designer on the new \$150 million, 179,000-square-foot Multidisciplinary Research Building at the University of California, Riverside, slated to open fall 2018.

**T. Douglas Clifford, BA '95**, Norwalk, Ohio, an attorney, received the American Chemical Society Forensic Lawyer-Scientist Designation as recognized by the Chemistry and the Law Division of the ACS. This designation is to recognize proficiency in forensic toxicology in criminal and DUI defense.

**Kevin Louise (Hoop) Schaner, MLS '95**, Cleveland, wrote: "Last year I published *Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent* with Xulon Press. Perfect for personal reflection or small group study, the essays invite conversation towards a positive approach to the Advent season. How we celebrate Christmas may have changed—with loss of parents and relationships or absent adult children—but we can continue to treasure our traditions while considering new ways to celebrate Christ's birth. Available from Amazon."

**John Caparulo, BA '98**, Calabasas, Calif., stand-up comedian, has a residency at Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino, which began May 10. **Jamie (Kelly) Caparulo, BA '08**, is producing the show.

2000s

**Amber Jimenez Fonseca, BA '01**, Fort Smith, Ark., wrote: "I became a new financial advisor with Edward Jones of Fort Smith, Arkansas, in May 2018."

**Shawn Hoke, MED '01**, Shipperville, Pa., wrote: "I was recently promoted to assistant vice president for student affairs at Clarion University and received a PhD in administration and leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May."

**Jason Zygodlo, BBA '02**, Brunswick, Ohio, wrote: "I took a new position with Biotronik as a sales rep selling cardiac rhythm management and vascular interventional devices."

**Brad Gable, BS '04, MS '05**, Columbus, Ohio, a physician who specializes in critical



**Talea Drummer, PhD '14**, and **Colin Ferrell, BA '07, MA '15**, married at the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center on February 10, 2018. They met while working together with the Kent State Football team in 2013.



**Kristina Deckert, BS '10**, Brooklyn, NY, has been promoted to art director of the National Audubon Society. Previously she worked for three years as a designer of the nonprofit environmental and bird conservation organization's *Audubon* magazine and affiliated print products. Pictured left at her office at the National Audubon Society in Manhattan.

care medicine, has been elected as chair of the Graduate Medical Education Committee at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

**Bryan Flachbart, BS '06**, Danville, Ky., was selected as the principal of Cedar Grove Elementary in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

**Timothy Jarome, BA '06**, Niles, Ohio, has been named assistant professor of animal and poultry sciences in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. His research examines the neurobiology of learning and memory, focusing on how memories for aversive experiences are stored in the brain and shape future behavior.

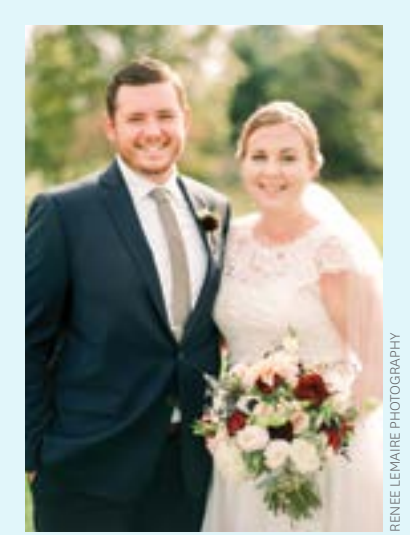


**Hillary (Smith) Nauer, BS '12, MEd '15**, and **Christopher Nauer, BA '08, MED '16**, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, met at Kent State during graduate school for School Counseling in 2013. Christopher proposed to Hillary at White Hall on June 3, 2017. The couple celebrated their marriage on June 23, 2018 at the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center.

**Marianne Riegenbach-Senvisky, BA '08**, Kent, Ohio, was hired as business development manager for Hope Homes Foundation in Stow, Ohio. The Foundation's mission is to provide safe, affordable and accessible housing to individuals with special needs.

**Nicholas DiSabatino, BA '09**, Sommerville, Mass., wrote: "I recently started working as a publicist at the MIT Press in Cambridge, Mass. I spent five years at Beacon Press working my way up from assistant to associate to publicist. I think back to my time at KSU fondly and know I couldn't have done it without the support of my professors and faculty advisers, especially Kim Winebrenner."

**Laura Kordalski, BS '09**, Evanston, Ill., was recently recognized as a '2018 Top 200 Retail Housewares Executive' in *Housewares Executive Publication*. She is

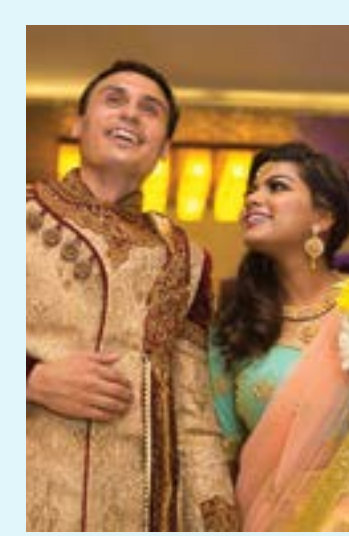


**Sarah Lack, BS '12**, and **Steve Habbyslaw, BSE '14**, Athens, Ohio, got married on October 21, 2017, at Brookside Farm in Louisville, Ohio.

currently the buyer for cookware, cutlery, ovenware and food for Crate and Barrel.

**Andrea Piasecki Legg, MLIS '09**, Dover, Ohio, has written her first children's book, *Flap Your Wings, Little Robin*, which was released to major retailers from Mascot Books in February 2018. It's "an encouraging animal tale with an important message for children with disabilities," according to *Kirkus Book Reviews*. Visit [www.andrealegg.com](http://www.andrealegg.com) to purchase signed copies, obtain ASL resources and learn about upcoming promotional events.

**Jennifer Omaitz, MFA '09**, Cleveland, a painter and installation artist, participated in a recent exhibition, "Illustrious Decay," at



**Sneha Jose, BS '11**, from Varanasi, India, and **Daniel Cogan, BA '11**, from Canton, Ohio, met at Kent State in December 2011, a week before graduating and Sneha's move to Texas. They got married in Varanasi, India, on June 17, 2017, in the presence of their families and close friends from KSU. (See class note at right.)



alumni LIFE

Celebration Time!

Kent State’s Department of Psychological Sciences celebrated the 50th anniversary of its PhD program with a PhD alumni reunion held June 1-3, 2018. Approximately 200 alumni, faculty, grad students, staff and family members took part in weekend events that included a campus 5K Walk/Run Race and Kids’ Fun Run, a banquet with a special appearance by Diminished Faculties (the department’s all-faculty band), presentations, lectures, a tour of facilities, bowling and group photos. (See [www.kent.edu/magazine/PhDReunion](http://www.kent.edu/magazine/PhDReunion) for lists of reunion attendees.)

Since the PhD program was established, more than 725 PhD degrees in clinical

psychology or psychological science have been awarded to date. Most graduates of the program are employed in colleges and universities, where they are engaged in teaching and research in psychology. Speakers at the reunion included a presentation by the first PhD graduate, **Don DeRosa, PhD ’67**, President Emeritus, University of the Pacific, and keynote speakers **Brian Hall, PhD ’11**, University of Macau (“Global Mental Health: Scalable innovations to bridge the treatment gap in China”), **Tricia Leahey, PhD ’08**, University of Connecticut (“Next Frontiers in Obesity Treatment Research: Dissemination and weight loss

maintenance”) and **Lynn Martire, PhD ’97**, Penn State University (“Close Relationships and Chronic Illness Research: 3 highlights from the past 20 years”). Professor Dave Riccio, PhD, who came to Kent State in 1969 and will be retiring in 2019, gave a “Last Lecture” recalling the early days of the program, remembering past faculty and grad students and reviewing some of the research he’s done over the years. “It was a great event!” wrote attendee **Robert Klepac, PhD ’69**, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, on the department’s Facebook page. “Thanks to the dept. for staging such a wonderful time for us.”



JOHN AKAMATSU

the Cleveland West Art League Gallery, from September 21, 2018 through October 19, 2018.

2010s

**Arthur Shulsky, BBA ’10, MBA ’11**, Lakewood, Ohio, a CFO, financial literacy specialist and author, published *The Powerful Entrepreneur: 21st century entrepreneurial lessons told through the greatest stories from world history* in November 2017. Available through Amazon.com.

**Daniel Cogan, BA ’11**, Bedford, Texas, ran and won for City Council Place 2 in Bedford, Texas, a suburb in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He says his time at Kent State has inspired him to be the change he wants to see, starting right in his adopted hometown. He lives in Bedford with his wife and fellow KSU alumnus, **Sneha Jose, BS ’11**. (See photo on previous page, bottom right.)

**Noah Plymale, BS ’11**, Washington, DC, joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as a research staff member in IDA’s System Evaluation Division. IDA is a nonprofit corporation that provides objective analyses of national security issues and related national challenges. He received a doctoral degree in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and is a member of the American Chemical Society.

**Ryan Collins BS ’13**, Lakewood, Ohio, has been promoted to the role of assistant director of admission at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio.

**Quancey Floyd, MM ’14**, Washington, DC, recently received the 2018 American Express Emerging Arts Leader Award from Americans for the Arts at their convention in Denver on June 16, 2018. Currently a doctoral student at Drexel University, she is a public-school music educator and the founder and director of the Arts Administrators of Color Network, an organization committed to empowering artists and arts administrators in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas.

**David Distelhorst, MLIS ’15**, Massillon, Ohio, is now the genealogy specialist at Massillon Public Library. He previously worked in the circulation division at the main library of Columbus Metropolitan Library.

**Angelina Bair, MLIS ’17**, University Heights, Ohio wrote: “I was a semifinalist in the Cleveland Leadership Center Accelerate competition. I won \$2,000 to start a special needs toy-lending library with my employer, the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library.”

**Ellen Sears, BA ’17**, Dayton, Ohio, was accepted into the Peace Corps to serve as an English and gender education volunteer in Togo, West Africa. She departed in May 2018.



**Jameel Davis, BA ’13**, Cleveland, wrote: “Upon leaving KSU, I have written and published several books, and currently speak at elementary, middle and high schools, colleges, universities, and organizations, lifting others up and shining rays of hope. I have my own publishing company and am inspiring children, adolescents and adults with my latest book, *Cultivating Minds to Own Thyself*.”

Alumni Honors

The Kent State University Alumni Association hosted the annual Alumni Awards ceremony at the Kent State Hotel and Conference Center on October 5, 2018.

The university’s most prestigious honors given to alumni, the awards recognize the exceptional contributions of alumni (and students) in their chosen profession, in their communities and at the university.

“Each of our alumni have left a distinctive footprint at Kent State and have helped to shape who we are today,” says **James Bailey, BA ’03, MS ’04**, President, Kent State University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Congratulations to the following 2018 Alumni Award recipients:

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**—**John R. Elliot, BArc ’70**, Owner, American Medical Facilities Management LLC (AMFM)

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**—**Ramesh Rajasingham, BA ’85, MA ’86**, United Nations Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Syria Crisis

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**—**Michael E. Rogers, PhD ’96**, Professor of Exercise Science at Wichita State University

**KENT STATE ADVOCACY AWARD**—**Sandra C. Armstrong**, Philanthropist, and **Lawrence R. Armstrong, BS ’79, BArc ’80**, CEO, Ware Malcomb

**DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD**—**Carol A. Mancino, BA ’72**, Human Resources Professional, Civic Leader, Philanthropist, and **Douglas M. Mancino, BA ’71**, JD, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Civic Leader

**OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD**—**Nick Belluardo, BS ’15**, CM, Cleveland Hopkins Airport Planning Manager, Business Owner

**GOLDEN FLASH AWARD**—**Chantrell M. Lewis, BFA ’19**, Theatre Studies, Concentration in Musical Theatre



BOB CHRISTY, BS ’95

Pictured (l to r): Front row: President Beverly J. Warren; Chantrell M. Lewis, BFA ’19; Nick Belluardo, BS ’15; James Bailey, BA ’03, MS ’04. Back row: Douglas M. Mancino, BA ’71; Carol A. Mancino, BA ’72; Ramesh Rajasingham, BA ’85, MA ’86; Sandra C. Armstrong; Lawrence R. Armstrong, BS ’79, BArc ’80. Not pictured: John R. Elliot, BArc ’70 and Michael E. Rogers, PhD ’96, who were unable to attend the ceremony.

Read recipient bios at [www.ksualumni.org/alumniawardrecipients](http://www.ksualumni.org/alumniawardrecipients). Submit a nomination for the 2019 Alumni Awards at [www.ksualumni.org/alumniawards](http://www.ksualumni.org/alumniawards).

in MEMORY

1940s

**Annamary (Strand) Acerra, BS ’48**, August 29, 2017

1950s

**Monte Mack, BBA ’50**, November 23, 2016  
**Merle Risher, BArc ’51**, December 19, 2015  
**James Collins Jr., BA ’51**, April 28, 2018  
**Thomas Pexton, BA ’53, MA ’60**, March 28, 2018  
**Norman Smyke, BA ’55**, July 11, 2018  
**Nancy Ann Miller, BS ’58**, November 9, 2017  
**Andrew Holko, BS ’59**, November 25, 2017

1960s

**Myrna Lee (Pat Prewett) Quatraro, BS ’60**, February 13, 2018  
**A. Charles Dolce, BS ’61, MED ’64**, March 30, 2018  
**Ruth Ann (Zurn) Briggs, BS ’63**, December 13, 2017  
**Susan Young, BA ’68**, October 15, 2017  
**Daniel DuChes, MED ’69**, March 1, 2018

1970s

**Dale Ralph Payton, BBA ’73**, March 3, 2016  
**Phillip Locker, BFA ’73**, April 26, 2018  
**Patricia Callahan, MA ’74**, January 18, 2018  
**Mary Schultz, MA ’74**, October 11, 2016  
**Lydia Cooper, BS ’76**, February 2, 2018  
**David Aaron Bradshaw, ’78**, January 19, 2018

1980s

**Karen Koch, BBA ’80**, October 26, 2016  
**Mark Eagle, BBA ’81**, July 19, 2018  
**Jacqueline (Tabet) Coury, BS ’85**, November 1, 2017  
**Karen (Manzo) Reynolds, BSN ’87**, July 18, 2018

1990s

**Lavina Johnson, PhD ’91**, March 6, 2018  
**Carol (Baron) Burch, BA ’92**, April 26, 2018  
**Rita Brzezowski, MED ’94**, February 8, 2017  
**Joseph Greco, PhD ’99**, January 4, 2018

2000s

**Malcom Mathis II, MA ’11**, February 15, 2018

FACULTY/STAFF

**Maj Ragain, PhD ’90**, part-time lecturer (1981-1992), part-time instructor, Department of English (1993, 1997-2008), April 19, 2018  
**Ron Ganim, BS ’68**, gymnastics coach at Kent Campus (1966-1972), December 10, 2017  
**Frank Lukas**, photography instructor at Kent Campus (early 1940s), April 13, 2017  
**E. Thomas Dowd**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology (1995-2009), January 6, 2018  
**Christopher Darling**, assistant professor of illustration and digital design, School of Visual Communication Design (2014-2018), June 17, 2018





## Thanks for the Memories

A brief paragraph in the May 5, 1927 *Kent Stater* announced the opening of a new business in the town of Kent: “The Robin Hood Tea Room, at the corner of Lincoln Ave. and East Main St., under the management of D. G. Miller, former Kent boy, opened Wednesday with throngs of college students visiting. It is expected that the new tea room will become a rendezvous of college faculty and students.”

Initially housed with the first campus supply store and first contract post office in the building that later became Capt’n Brady’s (and now houses Starbucks), the Robin Hood Inn was relocated across Main Street in the 1930s.

It evolved from tea room to restaurant to music venue to bar and grill under several owners (and a number of names) before it closed its doors for good in the summer of 2010. Demolished upon request from the property owner on May 12, 2011, all that remains now is an empty lot.

Above: The Robin Hood Tea Room circa 1927. Right: The Robin Hood Inn circa 1950s. Postcard images courtesy of Kent Historical Society, as seen in *Greetings from Kent, Ohio: A Postcard Portrait of the Tree City* by Roger J. DiPaolo.

Throughout its existence, however, the Robin Hood Inn was a beloved gathering spot for generations of Kent State students and locals whose memories are as varied as the Robin Hood’s history.

Kent State alumni from the ’40s and ’50s recall the Robin Hood Inn as a fine dining establishment—the place to go for family visits or special dates. For Karen Silz, it was where her parents, Frank and Helen (Scott) Lukas, BA ’44, met in the 1940s. “He spotted my mother, a Kent State co-ed seven years his junior, as she waitressed in the Robin Hood and decided she was the one for him,” she says. “They were married 63 years.”

Over the decades, the Robin Hood served as a meeting spot for fraternity and sorority councils, as well as for local groups such as the Kiwanis Club, who met there regularly in the ’60s. Later, it was a music



venue for local bands, some of which became known nationally in the ’70s and ’80s. It became a go-to hub for comedy in the late ’90s. And many groups of friends remember sharing the infamous Robin Hood buckets of beer.

This Kent landmark was demolished in an afternoon. But for the Kent State community, the memories made at the Robin Hood will last a lifetime. ⚡  
—Stephanie Langguth, BS ’03

### Send us YOUR Memories:

Share your story of the Robin Hood! Post your comments below the story at [www.kent.edu/magazine](http://www.kent.edu/magazine) or email [magazine@kent.edu](mailto:magazine@kent.edu) and put Robin Hood in the subject line.

## Find the Poem in the World

At the corner where North Lincoln Street dead ends at Crain Avenue in Kent, in a bare tree over the roadway, hangs a hornet’s nest, a globe of paper thin patchwork, a sky dome constructed with chewed wood fiber mixed with saliva, an abandoned piñata. ...

When we make the poem, wood pulp paper, black spittle ink, we build a refuge for ourselves and others, a shelter house. Poetry is the house that poems built, line by line, spit, tears and word. It will not save us. Time and cold claim all, even the queen, that sorrowful mother. It is respite, a temporary shelter where we may learn and listen to one another’s hearts.

Go there. Look up. Know this:

We live inside more worlds than we can count.

What we call sky is our own making.

To love is to serve.

To work is to love.

Some leave. Others remain.

The frost is the cold breath  
of a god who forgives us everything.

There is a single door: egress, enter.

Beyond that is a nameless silence.

We will not be together here again.  
The hornet’s nest is finished,  
as best we could.  
It is time to leave before the deep cold.

Let us raise high what we have done here,  
hoist it into the open arms of the World.

*Excerpt from “Find the Poem in the World,” Clouds Pile Up in the North: New and Selected Poems, by Maj Ragain, Press 53, LLC (November, 2017)*



ILLUSTRATION BY ZUZANA KUBISOVÁ

### Maj Ragain Poetry Scholarship

Maj Ragain (1940-2018) was a beloved creative writing professor and mentor at Kent State University. In memory of his many years serving the Kent community, his family and friends have established the Maj Ragain Poetry Scholarship that will award a Kent State undergraduate or graduate student annually. The Wick Poetry Center and the Ragain family are also asking for the community’s support to help fund the scholarship for years to come.

Individual and corporate donations can be made to the Wick Poetry Center at 126 S. Lincoln St., Kent, OH 44240. One hundred percent of each tax-deductible donation will go toward the scholarship fund.

For full scholarship application guidelines and online donation information, please visit <https://www.kent.edu/wick/maj-ragain-poetry-scholarship>.





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## Golden Wave

The Kent State community clamors to catch some free T-shirts that were tossed to the crowd during the 2018 Homecoming game between the Golden Flashes and the Ohio University Bobcats. Other events during the 100 Years of Homecoming celebration included the Bowman Cup 5K Race, parade, Welcome Home Party, Kiss on the K, Flash Nation Tailgate and so much more. The sunny 80-degree day could not have been more perfect as Kent State alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends brought their blue and gold pride home to participate in the fun activities.