



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This has been another great year for the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. We started the year by being recognized by the International Baccalaureate Organization as having the first early childhood program in the world whose graduates will be eligible to teach in IB schools upon graduation. We also welcomed 10 outstanding new faculty members who were all our first choices. We are finishing the year with records in donations generated by our advancement officer, which will bring much needed support to the college and our students.



Now, as the school year comes to an end this spring we are set to welcome a new set of EHHS graduates to the thousands of successful alumni. Their knowledge and experience will be a great benefit to the fields of education, health, and human services.

I encourage new and seasoned alumni to stay connected with the university by becoming a member of the Alumni Association, and visiting us this fall for Homecoming during the weekend of October 5th. I would like to encourage all of you to nominate fellow alumni, or yourself, for the Fourth Annual Education, Health, and Human Services Hall of Fame.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions of how we can be of help, and make sure to visit our [website](#) often.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Mahony, Dean and Professor  
College of Education, Health, and Human Services



**Accepting 2013 Hall of Fame Award Nominations**

Spring 2013



**Alumni Travel Abroad**

**Tahiti March 26  
April 5, 2014**

Join fellow KSU alumni on an Oceania cruise to the Polynesian islands of **Tahiti!**

Experience a cruise with the finest service, accommodations and cuisine at sea, where every port of call is an island paradise. Set adrift, catch the breeze and discover Polynesia's most beautiful gems on this exceptional voyage.

Call 800-842-9023 for additional information.

From \$3,299 per person double occupancy (airfare included)

**Scholarship Recipient  
Ashley Guittar**



**Scholarship:** Emeriti



The College of Education, Health, and Human Services is now accepting applications for the Fourth Annual Hall of Fame. We invite you to nominate yourself, an alumni, or a respected colleague for one of our seven distinguished Hall of Fame Awards. Applicants must be alumni of the College of EHHS who have committed to serving

others in their respective fields. An awards committee, comprised of EHHS faculty, administration, and advisory board members will review the nominations and select the recipients, who will receive their awards at the Hall of Fame Award Ceremony on October 4, 2013.

To review the criteria and submit a nomination by May 17, 2013, visit the [EHHS website](#) If you have questions, please contact Peter Schiraldi at [ehhsalumni@kent.edu](mailto:ehhsalumni@kent.edu) or call 330-672-2202.

An awards committee comprised of faculty, past recipients, administrators, and advisory board members will review the nominations and select the recipients who will receive their recognition at the Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony.

## Great Lakes Science Center Partners with Kent State University to Launch an Interactive Health Exhibit



Kent State University and the University of Florida have partnered with the Great Lakes Science Center to launch an innovative exhibit that teaches adolescents about critical health conditions and emphasizes healthy lifestyle

choices. The exhibit opened on March 21, and is aimed at educating youth about important health issues such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease (DOC). Utilizing cutting-edge, virtual reality technologies, the exhibit allows visitors to interact with a virtual doctor and tutorial. Participants are able diagnose and advise their patients on future actions to take in order to alleviate or prevent such health conditions. The work is funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation

Faculty Scholarship

**Major:** Speech Pathology  
**Year:** Senior  
**Hometown:** Austintown, Ohio

**What she loves about KSU:** It's the perfect place for me because it's close to home, but I'm still independent. I hold two jobs on campus - one as a student manager in Banquet Sales and the other as a research assistant. In my research assistant position I work with Drs. Sloane Burgess and Lisa Audet, and we studying autism and speech in children. I have been helping transcribe files for a qualitative study.  
**Hobbies:** I enjoy playing volleyball, running, reading, scrapbooking and spending time with family and friends.

### Global Spotlight: IB Certificate



Early Childhood Education undergraduates at Kent State, and graduate students can now receive an accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) Certificate at Kent State University.

Kent State is the only university in Ohio to offer an accredited IB Teaching Certificate. Students will be certified to teach in Ohio, as well as 128

to the University of Florida and Kent State University.

## School Psychology Program Highlights

Education and safety have been hot topics in today's media, and a light has been cast on the experts that work to create a safe and effective learning environment. Some of those experts are graduates of Kent State University's School Psychology program. Program Coordinator Dr. Frank J. Sansosti shared his insights on the renowned program, which offers Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. The doctoral training program remains the only state program in School Psychology accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Graduates from the program typically are employed in schools and work with students directly on a daily basis, as well as consult and collaborate with parents, teachers, and administrators to promote healthy learning environments focused on children's needs.



**Dr. Frank Sansosti, Associate Professor & Coordinator of the School Psychology Program**

The School Psychology program not only is progressive, but also provides "hands-on" training. Specifically, students in the program spend one year working in local schools, and all graduates complete a 40-hour per week internship during their final year of training. Such experiential learning provides students with a solid foundation to practice, which is recognized by many hiring agents within the local community. In fact, the employment record after graduating from the School Psychology program within the last five years is a remarkable 100 percent.

## Transition Center Student Takes on Polar Plunge



disabilities, marked her fourth annual Law Enforcement Polar Bear Plunge into Lake Erie this winter.

As a Special Olympics athlete, Chrissy plunged into the freezing Lake Erie

countries that offer IB World Schools. Students accepted into the program can now take courses and graduate with an Ohio license and an IB certificate. This opportunity greatly increases a Kent State student's job prospects.

### Scholarship Recipient

#### Brittney O'Donnell



**Scholarship:** Elizabeth Mancuso Middle Childhood Education Scholarship

**Major:** Middle Childhood Education

**Year:** Senior

**Hometown:** Ravenna, Ohio

#### What she loves about

**KSU:** I am a commuter student, and I love that I can be active on campus by partaking in a variety of clubs, such as Kent Student Education Association (KSEA) and Kappa Delta Pi (KDP).

**Hobbies:** I enjoy playing tennis and scrapbooking.

**Favorite class:** Block 2 with Dr. Danielle Gruher

**Future plans:** I am studying abroad this summer in Florence, Italy and taking a Relational Learning class with Dr. Anne Morrison.

once an hour for eight hours to raise money for local athletes in the Ohio Special Olympics. This year Chrissy surpassed her fundraising goal to raise over \$3,000. Money that is raised beyond her goal gets donated to local Special Olympians from Portage County. Chrissy plans on taking part in the 2014 Polar Plunge. To view past Polar Plunges you can visit her [website](#), and donations can be made directly to the Portage County Special Olympics.

## Institutional Advancement within EHHS

The state of Ohio supports less than 20 percent of Kent State University's budget, making private philanthropy the key to ongoing growth among the university. The purpose of the Advancement Office is to promote awareness among alumni and friends of the impact their contributions make to the development and future success of the university.

Lauren Jaeger, a new addition to the EHHS Advancement Office, is the Associate Director working alongside our current Director Steve Hawthorne, to promote a wealth of opportunities to give back to KSU. Steve and Lauren are available to assist those interested in the process of gift giving. Whether you would like to make a gift directly to the College of EHHS or to a specific program, endow a student scholarship, fund a graduate assistantship, or enable students to study abroad, they are here to assist in the process.

Gifts to EHHS help support research, and shape students lives. To learn more about the benefits of past gifts, you can visit our [Why I Give webpage](#) and view a list of [scholarship recipients](#) that have benefited from the thoughtfulness of previous donors.

## Donor Spotlight: Nikki & Les Barta



Left to right: Nikki Barta, Les Barta, and Dr. Angela Ridgel

Science assistant professor Angela Ridgel's groundbreaking research with Parkinson's disease, and see her work as a step in the right direction.

Ridgel's research has proven that symptoms are reduced in Parkinson's

## Student Awards



**Maiko Xiong**  
Ph.D. candidate

Maiko was selected as one of the prestigious 2012-13 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Presidential Fellows. ACES focuses on counselor training and supervision. Presidential Fellows is an initiative developed to support the emergent leaders and educators in the counseling profession.

**Deborah Duenyas**  
Ph.D. candidate



Deborah was selected as an American College Counseling Association (ACCA) 2013 Emerging Leader.

**Scholarship  
Recipient**

**Jesse Tillinghast**

Les and his wife Nikki Barta, of Aurora, agree that giving to Kent State University makes a difference. Les and Nikki, who both have neurological difficulties, have financially supported Exercise

disease patients by forced exercise on motorized bicycles. Typically, the brain sends signals to the various muscles in the body, and then there is a feedback loop, which tells the brain what the muscles are doing. Once lost, the central nervous system neurons do not grow back. And once a person loses those neurons, they are gone. Ridgel's research has suggested that the body might initiate neuron changes in the absence of those cells. The forced exercise helps the central nervous system neurons modify activity.

## Donor Spotlight: Drs. Richard & JoAnn Vacca

Former Kent State University literacy education faculty members, Drs. Richard and JoAnne Vacca, give to the College of EHHS because it's a personal connection to teachers. "We taught teachers for many years at



Kent State and we know it can be hard for many students to pay tuition, so we decided to setup a scholarship to support teachers," said JoAnne.

The Richard and JoAnne Vacca Scholarship for Teachers of Literacy is available yearly to 1-3, full-time teachers in Northeast Ohio who are admitted to the Reading Specialization Master's program. In addition to teaching literacy education classes, Rich was the director of the Reading and Writing Center and was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame in 2010. JoAnne was the Chair of the Department of Teaching Leadership & Curriculum Studies. "Rich and I both taught for 20 plus years at Kent State and retired in 2003 and 2002, respectively." In addition to the scholarship, they also donated money in 2007 to renovate the College's undergraduate advising office, which is currently named the Vacca Office of Student Services in their honor.

## EHHS Alumni and Friends

Visit the EHHS Alumni website at [www.kent.edu/ehhs/alumni](http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/alumni)

Send us your news...

Awards, recognitions, retirements, new jobs, births, marriages, etc. We would love to hear it all.

[SUBMIT YOUR NEWS ONLINE](#)



[Forward email](#)



### Scholarship:

Dave Toothaker Alumni Scholarship in Physical Education

**Major:** Physical Education

**Year:** Senior

**Hometown:** Eastport, NY

**Favorite class:** Adapted Physical Education with Dr. Takahiro Sato

**Hobbies:** I enjoy a variety of sports, including wakeboarding, running and working out.

### Biggest

**Accomplishment:** I have made the Dean's List or President's List every semester.