

encompass

FALL 2010

CENTERED



STUDENTS

From the Honors Program and Student Leadership Academy to clubs, activities and a wellness team, Kent State University at Stark provides a full range of academic and support services designed to help its students succeed.

Also Inside: New dean, Dr. Walter Wagor, discusses his vision and excitement for the future of the Stark Campus.



**KENT STATE**
UNIVERSITY
STARK

EXCELLENCE *in Action*

Message from the Dean



Photo by J. Albert Studios

Welcome to a new school year for all of us and a new beginning for some. I am truly honored to be joining the Kent State University at Stark community.

As you read through this edition of *Encompass*, I think you will agree that we provide a rich array of opportunities and activities to support and enhance the learning experiences of each of our students. From the Honors Program and Academic Success Center to Student Leadership Academy and Student Government, our initiatives are designed to meet students where they are academically and help them succeed to their full measure. In addition to serving our undergraduate students, we provide education that meets local needs and supports the continued development of our community through select master's degrees and The Corporate University.

Although I am just becoming acquainted with the campus community, my heart swells with pride for the amazing accomplishments of our students and alumni, as highlighted in this issue. Each story is a testament to the individual's hard work and dedication, as well as to the difference Kent State Stark has made in their lives. They remind us of the tremendously important work we do in higher education and why so many of us have dedicated our lives to that cause.

I am particularly thrilled to showcase Kent State University's study away programs. It is sometimes difficult for simple words to capture the dramatic effect these programs have on students. As you read the article, I hope you'll consider carefully how study away programs add value to a student's education.

I know you will enjoy this issue of *Encompass*. I wish everyone a productive year and look forward to seeing you around campus and around town.

stark.kent.edu

Encompass

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Kent State University at Stark Faculty Council Officers 2010-11:

Dr. Clarke Earley, chair
Dr. Kim R. Finer, vice chair
Dr. Claudia Khourey-Bowers, secretary
Dr. Leslie Heaphy, treasurer

Kent State University at Stark Cabinet Members:

Dr. Walter F. Wagor, dean
Dr. Ruth Capasso, associate dean
Mary Southards, assistant dean of enrollment services
Tina L. Biasella, director of external affairs

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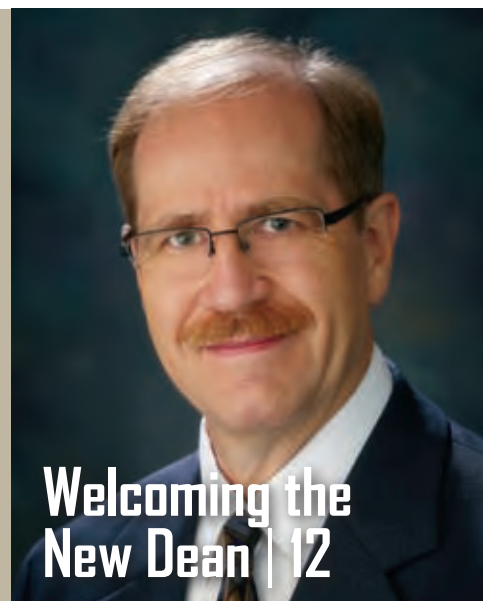


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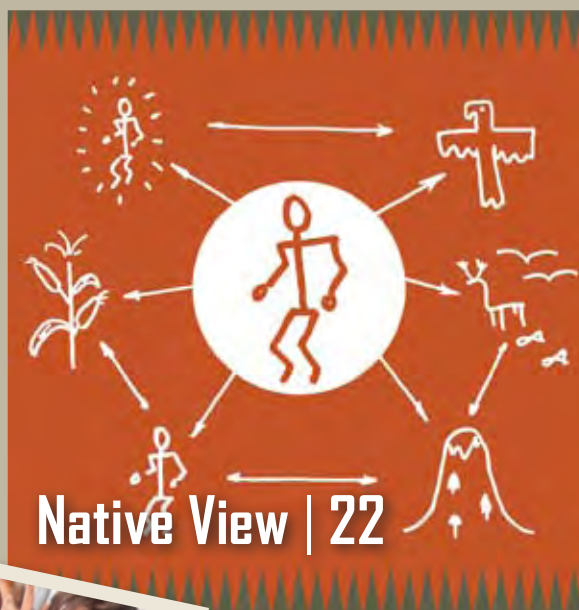
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CENTERED



“We’re committed to helping students finish their education – here, if we can. And, if we’re going to encourage students to stay with academics, we also want them to get the leadership and résumé-building experiences you typically get with a four-year program.”

– Dr. Ruth Capasso, Associate Dean, Kent State University at Stark



NSTUDENTS

From the Honors Program and Student Leadership Academy to clubs, activities and a wellness team, Kent State University at Stark provides a full range of academic and support services designed to help its students succeed.

“We want students to succeed and we want them to complete their degree.” Dr. Ruth Capasso, associate dean, considers that the heart of Kent State University at Stark’s mission. Since 1946, when classes first began near downtown Canton, to its present-day, 200-acre campus in Jackson Township, Kent State Stark has continued to expand its academic offerings, support services and activities – all designed to help its more than 6,000 students thrive.



“We’re committed to helping students finish their education – here, if we can,” Capasso says. “And, if we’re going to encourage students to stay with academics, we also want them to have the leadership and résumé-building experiences you typically get with a four-year program. That’s why we’ve established the Student Government, Student Leadership Academy, service learning, Honors Program and more. When students complete their degree, they also can show all the ways they were involved.”

The following student and alumni profiles spotlight six individuals who have demonstrated the skills and character that exemplify many Kent State Stark students. In addition to sharing their stories, they also offer their insights into academic, professional and personal success.

KEY CAMPUS INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- Financial aid, scholarships, tutoring and study skills programs
- Post-secondary education and ongoing collaboration with nearby school districts
- Opportunities for freshman to connect through First Year Experience, Swift-Kick, Smart Start Saturday and other freshman interest groups
- Increased availability of upper-level courses and class sections
- Activities and organizations based on student interest
- Study away opportunities

Photos by Bob Christy, Kent State University

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES



Adam Knouff
2007 Kent State Stark Graduate
B.A. in Business Management

In 2001 – on his 18th birthday – Adam Knouff started working at Lowe’s Home Centers in Massillon, Ohio, never guessing a part-time job to help cover tuition at Kent State University at Stark would eventually turn into a promising career. Today, as an international merchandising coordinator at the corporate headquarters of Lowe’s Companies Inc. in Mooresville, N.C., Knouff recognizes the importance of making the most out of every opportunity.

A 2002 Massillon Washington High School graduate, Knouff began taking classes at Kent State Stark that fall, majoring in business management. He says professors regularly reminded students to network in their social and professional circles. And, while searching for an internship during his junior year, he took that advice to heart and approached several Lowe’s contacts about the company’s highly regarded, eight-week Merchandising Specialists in Training Program.

Out of 117 candidates, Knouff was one of only nine hired in 2007. He notes that a willingness to work on “the front lines” and deal with customers face-to-face helped differentiate him. Now he’s part of a team that works with vendors, display designers and others to introduce new products in Lowe’s stores internationally.

Troy Dally, vice president of merchandising at Lowe’s, believes Knouff possesses many qualities that make him successful – in particular, the ability to persevere when faced with obstacles. “Adam is tenacious and does not allow anything to get in his way, which separates him from everybody else,” Dally says.

While at Kent State Stark, Knouff was a member of BASS (Business Administration Students at Stark) and Student Government, and he stresses the significance of those experiences.

“It’s so important to get involved in college, and Kent State Stark makes it easy,” he says. “In addition to groups and activities, students can develop relationships with knowledgeable professors who are respected and well connected in the local business community. That can open a lot of doors. However, to successfully walk through those doors, they also must be motivated, capable of setting goals and able to apply what they’ve learned.”

Greg Blundell, a lecturer in management and information systems at Kent State Stark, says Knouff epitomizes the endeavor and drive that many Kent State Stark students have.

Blundell adds, “Adam realized how critical it is to craft the makings of a career early in his studies. I cannot count the number of times I have used his ‘story’ in my classes to inspire others to take advantage of the many resources our campus offers.”



FINDING A CAREER TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT

Christina Rodriques
2010 Kent State Stark Graduate
B.A. in Art History and History

When Christina Rodriques came to Kent State University at Stark in the fall of 2005, she wanted a career in graphic design – until two classes among her liberal education requirements made her think twice.

And the rest, quite literally, is history.

Rodriques, a graduate of GlenOak High School and former member of Kent State's Honors College, says she got hooked on history after taking classes with Dr. Molly Lindner, assistant professor of art history, and Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history. Now this art history and history graduate has her sights set on curating a museum. And, with experience garnered through internships at Canton's McKinley Museum, Massillon Museum of Art and the prominent Smithsonian Institution, this new-found passion

is more than an idle pipe dream.

Her interests led her to Kent State Stark's Williamsburg Program, Student Government and, in 2009, Kent State's Washington Program in National Issues (WPNI), where she added a minor in political science. As part of WPNI, Rodriques lived in Washington, D.C., for four months, met with politicians, researched policies and preserved historic national artifacts. At the American History Museum – one of 19 Smithsonian museums – she took pictures, conducted research and watched as museum officials uncovered a previously unknown inscription on the inside of President Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch.

"Working at the Smithsonian gave me a rare glimpse into the history of our nation that not many people get to see," says Rodriques, who

is looking forward to learning more next year when she moves to Washington. She plans to earn her master's in art history at George Washington University, through which she will pursue an online collections management certification this fall.

Kent State Stark and its history was the subject of her senior honors thesis, a museum-quality exhibit and the first collection of its kind about the campus. Rodriques plans to write a book based on the exhibit and her research – another first for Kent State Stark.

"I chose the topic because I have enjoyed my experience at the Stark Campus so much," she says. "Nothing has been written about Kent State Stark, and I feel the school deserves to have its history put out there."

Rodriques encourages fellow students to apply themselves both in and outside the classroom and to take advantage of every opportunity. She adds, "Make as many connections as possible. Try as many classes as you can. Find what you really love to do."



Photo by Bob Christy, Kent State University

Justin Stutz
Middle Childhood Education Major
Expected Graduation: May 2011

ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES

Dalton High School – just a short,
30-minute drive from downtown
Canton – is in many ways,
a typical, rural Ohio school.

There, 2004 graduate Justin Stutz enjoyed playing football, attending classes and hanging out with friends. He says his experience at Dalton seemed normal in just about every way, even though he was one of only a small handful of minority students.

Adopted at just three months of age by white parents, Stutz, who is bi-racial, notes that he grew up in a home filled with diversity. Of the seven Stutz children, two are white, three are bi-racial and two are black. The Dalton community springs from Amish and Mennonite roots, and the majority of residents are white.

Recently, a friend and teacher at Chippewa High School in Doylestown, Ohio, asked Stutz, a middle childhood education major at Kent State University at Stark, to share his high school experience with students studying the classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He told them that although most things were positive, racial issues did surface.

"I had a friend whose parents didn't like me because I was black, so I wasn't allowed to visit their house," recalls Stutz. "And, there seemed to be some race-related friction with a particular coach. Also, kids would sometimes ask me, 'Why don't you look like your parents?'"

But, he adds that growing up in a home where diversity was embraced enables him to see both sides – white and black. "My parents did a good job raising us, and when I'm a teacher and coach, I hope to use my experience to help other kids see past skin color," he says.

Stutz, whose first love is coaching, comes from a family of teachers, including his parents and grandparents, and chose Kent State Stark because of its affordable tuition and recommendations from friends. To date, he has completed field experiences at Alliance and Massillon Middle Schools and Allen Elementary in Canton. He hopes to start out his teaching career at a rural school like Dalton before possibly trying an inner-city assignment.



Photo by Jason Piatt, Kent State University

STAYING COMMITTED TO GOALS

Evelyn Williams
Psychology Major
Expected Graduation: December 2010

In the early 1980s, Evelyn “Evey” Williams started taking college courses. After the birth of her fourth child, however, she made parenthood top priority, setting aside her education goals for a season.

Today, this mother of nine and senior psychology major with minors in sociology and pre-medicine at Kent State University at Stark is determined to finish what she started three decades ago. Her resolve has led her halfway around the world – to the East African nation of Kenya – and to a body of research on disabled women’s access to physical and mental health care in developing nations that many at Kent State and beyond are applauding.

As part of the junior-level *Writing in Psychology* course taught by Dr. Julie Cremeans-Smith, assistant professor of psychology, Williams completed a literature review, and based on that investigation she wrote *Women with Disabilities: Addressing the Barriers to Adequate Sexual Health on a Global Level*.

With encouragement from Cremeans-Smith, Williams performed a secondary analysis of the Afrobarometer (an independent, nonpartisan research project that measures the social, political and economic atmosphere in Africa) using Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs. The study revealed a connection between need fulfillment and physical and mental health and well-being. She then expanded her research by developing a 44-question quantitative survey. In May 2009, she traveled to Kenya to collaborate with an organization that assists disabled women, 61 of whom

completed her survey and a one-on-one interview. Her study concluded that a strong connection also exists between need fulfillment and life satisfaction.

“In Kenya, like other developing nations, disabled people – and disabled women, in particular – have little access to fundamental adaptive equipment, such as wheelchairs and bathroom grab bars,” says Williams. “There are few sidewalks or paved roads, and many must use ‘toilets’ that are no more than a hole in the ground. Their basic needs are not met, which directly affects their sense of well-being.”

On a larger scale, Williams hopes her work will provide broader exposure to the challenges disabled women in developing nations face and to their lack of physical and mental health care. She notes this academic interest stems from personal experience.

“Over the past 20 years, I have participated in numerous community service projects, acted as a pregnancy/childbirth class facilitator and overcome a health condition that once kept me wheelchair bound for nine months,” she adds.

Williams also strives to raise awareness locally about mental illness. This past spring, as president of the Kent State Stark Psychology and Sociology Club, she and other members planned Mental Illness Awareness Week on campus, which included, among other things, a mental-health information fair and an art show that raised more than \$1,000 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



More information about Evelyn’s Kenya trip is available at <http://kenyaproject2009.blogspot.com/>.



NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY

Spencer Martin
Music Technology Major
Expected Graduation: May 2012

Spencer Martin isn't exactly sure where he'll be living five years from now. Whether working for a recording studio in New York City or traveling the world with a digital audio workstation in a suitcase, he is certain of one thing – he'll be doing exactly what he plans to.

He says, "To pursue your dream, you've got to find the opportunities. They aren't going to come to you."

A 2008 North Canton Hoover High School graduate and one of Kent State University at Stark's first music technology majors, Martin is already looking for internships in Ohio and elsewhere that will help him connect with recording experts willing to share their experience. He considers this a practical, but critical step in navigating a career journey that continues to unfold.

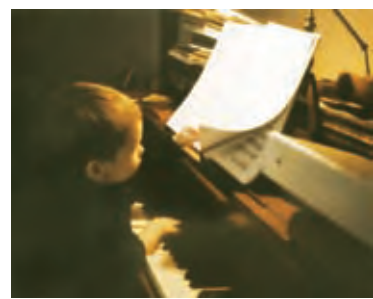
Of course, Martin wasn't always so sure of his direction. At one time, he wanted to be an engineer, admittedly because of a potentially lucrative income. However, when his father, Joe Martin, owner of Martin's Violin Shop in North Canton, bought him a two-channel interface, condenser microphone and basic recording software as a Christmas gift, Spencer Martin was intrigued.

"I considered my childhood violin and piano lessons a chore, but there was a turning point when I chose an instrument I wanted to play – the electric guitar," he says. "The recording equipment was another milestone, along with a summer spent practicing in isolation after I broke my leg. When I learned about Kent State Stark's new bachelor's degree program in music technology, I didn't even have to think twice. I knew everything had come together for a reason."

Martin calls himself an ambassador for Kent State Stark's program and appreciates its well-rounded design. In particular, music theory, classical piano and guitar, and choral music courses have greatly improved his recording endeavors, both inside and outside the classroom. He adds that creativity and musicianship are just as important as technical recording know-how.

And, although he's also learning audio technology skills that could be applied to a variety of careers, such as broadcast radio or television (which he describes as his "safety nets"), Martin is not as concerned as he once was about future earnings.

"I think money – and fear of not having enough – is the main reason people don't pursue what they love. I think it's all in what you want to get out of life. Bottom line, I want to do what I like to do," he says.



DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Award-winning attorney, capable mathematician and accomplished harpist. Some might call Amanda Paar a Renaissance woman. She says she's simply doing what she enjoys.

An associate attorney for Canton-based firm Tzangas, Plakas, Mannos and Raies – perhaps better known as the “Law Lion” – Paar received her bachelor of arts in mathematics from Kent State University at Stark in 2002 and her juris doctor from Cleveland State University Marshall College of Law in 2005. She credits her long-time interest in law to her father, Philip Paar, who was Jackson Township Chief of Police from 1983 to 2001 and has been an adjunct faculty member in Kent State Stark’s Department of Justice Studies for many years.

“When I started at Kent State Stark in 1999, I planned to become a high school math teacher, but later decided my skills were better suited to the practice of law,” she says. “All along the way, my experience at Kent State Stark has been invaluable. I appreciated all the available opportunities and high-quality professors on campus – like Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Dr. Paul Abraham and Dr. Jarrod Tudor – who helped me prepare for entrance into law school.”

Last year, Paar successfully argued a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee) in Cincinnati. Additionally, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, a Thomson Reuters publication, named her to its prestigious, peer-nominated 2010 Rising Star list, which includes attorneys age 40 and younger who have been practicing for 10 years or less. Paar says she's honored to be part of this group and believes she simply does her job, which mainly focuses on employment law, including age and gender discrimination, whistleblowers, contracts, personal injury and wrongful death.

As for her musical side, she's been playing the harp for 16 years and has studied both classical and pop music. During weddings and banquets, she entertains guests with diverse selections from composers like Handel, Beethoven and Bach, as well as popular tunes from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Titanic* and even *Stairway to Heaven*.

In addition to relieving stress, she believes the study of music provides a discipline that can be carried over into many aspects of life. “The thing I enjoy most about being a harpist is playing for other people because many are unfamiliar with harps outside of an orchestra setting,”

Amanda M. Paar
2002 Kent State Stark Graduate
B.A. in Mathematics

she adds. “They are often very interested in admiring the beauty of the instrument up close and listening to the magnificent sounds it can produce.”

Paar believes it's important to develop the whole person and says she was able to do that at Kent State Stark. “The campus draws people to Stark County. It provides a variety of affordable options for diverse students, helping them to be very competitive in their field,” she says.



Photo by Bob Christy,
Kent State University

AIR OF EXCITEMENT

Dr. Walter Wagor, the new dean of Kent State University at Stark, is hitting the ground running this fall. His top priorities include furthering academic programs and professional development and moving forward with the new science building.



Photo by J. Albert Studios

It's taken a career journey of 25 years to return to Ohio. Since leaving Wright State University – Lake Campus in Celina in 1985, Dr. Walter Wagor, Kent State University at Stark's newly appointed dean, has taught at universities in Indiana and in his home state of New York.

But, now that he's back, he only plans to look forward.

This fall, Wagor takes the reins of Kent State University's largest regional campus with several priorities in mind, including continued expansion of academic programs, evaluation of professional development opportunities and breaking ground on the long-awaited science building.

Wagor is impressed by the air of excitement at Kent State Stark, as well as the dedication of its faculty and staff, who, he says, "clearly love this school and love what they do. They have their students' best interests at heart. It's a good work environment that I'm pleased to join."

He adds, "Kent State Stark seems ready to break out into what they really want to be – an institution that wants to grow and serve its community in new ways. I find that attractive and believe I can help move the excitement and enthusiasm forward."

A fellow of the American Council on Education, Wagor comes to Kent State Stark after holding the position of dean of behavioral and applied science and professor of psychology at New York's SUNY College at Oneonta. Prior to that, he served as acting chair for the division of behavioral and social sciences, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of psychology at Indiana University East.

He considers one of his most notable achievements to be his 1990 nomination and selection to the Indiana University Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET), which annually recognizes about 20 faculty members across Indiana University's eight campuses. Subsequently, he served for several years on FACET selection and steering committees and as the program's Indiana University East campus liaison.



“FACET members were sincerely interested in being the best they could be in the classroom, as well as getting the best out of the students,” says Wagor. “Although I won’t instruct students in the classroom at Kent State Stark, this passion for teaching excellence remains an important part of who I am and what I bring to the campus.”

Photo by Joe Smithberger

Wagor also brings experience in leading a regional campus and working within a regional campus network. “As far as enrollment and student body make-up, I’m very familiar with the type of institution that Kent State Stark is,” he says. “There’s strong support for higher education in Stark County and Northeast Ohio as a whole, and I’m looking forward to working with other area leaders to help move it forward.”

Wagor says he and his wife, Mary – originally from Celina, Ohio – are thrilled to be part of Kent State Stark and the vibrant communities it serves. “A top priority for me personally is to become integrated into the community as quickly as possible and to help raise Kent State Stark’s visibility even more,” he says.

“Kent State Stark seems ready to break out into what they really want to be – an institution that wants to grow and serve its community in new ways. I find that attractive and believe I can help move the excitement and enthusiasm forward.”

*– Dr. Walter Wagor, Ph.D.
Dean of Kent State University at Stark*



Photo courtesy of TechniGraphics, Inc.

GOING LEAN



*Photo courtesy of Alissa Lorentz,
TechniGraphics, Inc.*

Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt student drives process improvement not only for her employer, but also for Kent State University.

Better, faster and smarter. Businesses that want to remain competitive move to the beat of that mantra.

Wooster, Ohio-based TechniGraphics Inc. is no exception. Recently spotlighted by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland for its rapid growth and hi-tech influence, the visual information systems company converts geospatial and engineering images (such as buildings, land masses, cars and airplanes) into 3-D digital data – also known as digital mapping – mainly for aerospace and defense clients.



Precision and excellence are daily requirements. Tina Benson, TechniGraphics' director of quality since 2005, has more than 20 years of experience in quality management. She says ISO certification – a widely recognized mark of quality among manufacturers and other businesses – ensures uniformity, but not necessarily efficiency. To reduce waste and create more effective procedures, many companies have turned to Lean and Six Sigma principles.

Results from the 'get-go'

From the start, Benson made it a priority to bring Lean Six Sigma to TechniGraphics because she believes businesses need all three – ISO, Lean and Six Sigma – to achieve peak performance. Plus, she's a big fan of constructive change.

"It's exciting to see how you can make things better," she says. "At TechniGraphics, we embrace change for improvement, from the CEO and vice president on down. That kind of buy-in across the board is the key to success with this program."

Benson knew she needed Lean Six Sigma training and called Kent State University first because of its strong reputation among area companies. She started the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt program* in 2007 at Kent State University. Requirements included one week of classes per month for four months and the completion of a work-related project. In 2008, she took Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt classes, which were held for one week per month for two months.

She says the experience far exceeded her expectations, even though the course was geared for manufacturers at the time. The project allowed her to apply classroom principles to an actual TechniGraphics process in need of improvement. "My employer was able to see tangible results from the get-go," she notes.

"Kent State University's new Lean Six Sigma training now offers broader applications that will work for virtually any business – and even for a college student seeking an advantage in today's job market." – Tina Benson, director of quality at TechniGraphics Inc. and member of Lean Six Sigma steering and curriculum committees at Kent State University

From student to curriculum committee

That positive experience led Benson to join Kent State University's Lean Six Sigma steering and curriculum committees, where she has played an important role in creating a new program of study intended specifically for service-oriented and transactional businesses.

"Kent State University's new Lean Six Sigma training now offers broader applications that will work for virtually any business – and even for a college student seeking an advantage in today's job market," she says.

She adds that Lean Six Sigma has generated an excitement among employees at TechniGraphics that's fun to watch. More than two dozen at the Wooster facility have placed their names on a project waiting list. In addition, she's introduced the process to four other TechniGraphics facilities – two in the United States and two abroad. Lean Six Sigma is well understood and well received internationally.

"Bottom line, Lean Six Sigma saves time, money, human resources and can potentially increase revenues," she says. "We've seen good results in all of those areas at TechniGraphics."



* The workforce development offices at Kent State University, Kent State University at Stark and Kent State University at Tuscarawas collaboratively offer Lean Six Sigma Green, Black and Master Black Belt programs. Through this collaborative initiative, Lean and Six Sigma methodologies are woven together with team-oriented problem solving to create a seamless certification for manufacturing, health care, service and transactional industries. For more information, visit www.kent.edu/LeanSixSigma.

Photo courtesy of Alissa Lorentz, TechniGraphics, Inc.

Students in Kent State University at Stark's bachelor's degree program in middle childhood education are discovering how to teach language arts, mathematics, science and social studies in integrated, innovative ways.

LEARNING CONNECTIONS

**A biographical sketch of Marie Skłodowska Curie.
An overview of 20th century European history.
Introductory lessons on physics and algebra.**

What do these three things have in common? A student majoring in middle childhood education (MCED) at Kent State University at Stark would say, "Everything."



Today's teachers of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies – once viewed as separate "islands" of instruction – work together to help young students recognize and understand the many connections between these subjects. According to Dr. Lori Wilfong, assistant professor of teaching, learning and curriculum studies and coordinator of the undergraduate department of education for middle childhood education (grades four through nine), MCED has developed into a collaborative philosophy of teaching that combines the best of traditional elementary and secondary methods.

She says, "We all learn better when we see how concepts relate to one another. At Kent State Stark, our MCED students are trained in a variety of practical methods that concentrate on child development and individual learning processes – long the focus of elementary education – while delivering integrated, foundational content for children ages eight to 14."

*Photos by Ken Cavanaugh
of Cavanaugh Photography*

Out of the ‘ivory tower’

Students entered upper-level MCED courses in 2000, making it the first education degree program offered in its entirety at Kent State Stark. Currently, each cohort includes approximately 20 undergraduates and, according to Wilfong, the pipeline continues to grow. To meet increasing demand, Kent State Stark has added more introductory education sections, which also helps those majoring in early childhood and secondary education who must complete their degrees at the Kent Campus.

Dr. Claudia Khourey-Bowers, associate professor of education and coordinator of graduate education, notes that the MCED program at Kent State University, as a whole, and Kent State Stark, in particular, possesses a strong reputation for quality teacher preparation that reaches well beyond Northeast Ohio.

“Our faculty members are not locked in the ivory tower,” says Khourey-Bowers. “Rather, they are very active in area schools as consultants. And, we set the bar high for our students, who must complete more than 120 hours of field experience prior to student teaching – which greatly exceeds the state minimum. The more time they spend in the classroom, the better they understand its complexities.”

Most Kent State Stark MCED students complete their field experiences in Canton City Schools, Northwest Local Schools or Plain Local Schools. Through Kent’s reciprocity with districts in Florida, North Carolina and Texas, students may also choose study away experiences.

Workplace connections

Kent State Stark strives to prepare its students for success. All MCED graduates are qualified to teach in at least two of the four areas of concentration, as well as reading for grades four through nine. Many pursue the generalist license (which includes all four concentrations) and/or a K-12 reading endorsement to improve their marketability.

Networking with education professionals and administrators is encouraged through field experience, professional conferences, tutoring and other education-related services. And, those who join Kent State Stark’s Education Association, an affiliate of the Ohio Education Association, gain additional networking opportunities and even participate in mock interviews.

“Most years since the program’s inception, 70 percent obtain a teaching position within two years of graduation,” says Wilfong.

Master’s Program a ‘Community of Colleagues’

In 2006, Kent State Stark added a 32-hour master’s degree program in curriculum and instruction, a logical progression in Ohio where instructors are required to earn a graduate degree within five years of their entrance into the teaching profession.

“One of the best things about our master’s program – which normally has between 40 and 50 students in any given semester – is its flexibility,” says Khourey-Bowers.

Geared for licensed teachers who want to improve their skills and become leaders in curriculum development, 16 course hours are required and the other 16 are elective. With no cohorts, students can take classes when they need to, normally earning their master’s within two and a half years. And, they are able to roll additional teaching endorsements into the degree and personalize projects by areas of specialty or interest.

Khourey-Bowers notes that teachers come to the Stark Campus to get a degree and end up discovering a community of colleagues. “No matter how late classes run, many stay after and talk because they discover real camaraderie. They can share their hopes, dreams and frustrations with others who love teaching,” she says.

Students Share Water Sustainability Curriculum with School Officials in Mali

While on sabbatical in the spring of 2009, Dr. Claudia Khourey-Bowers, associate professor of education and coordinator of graduate education at Kent State University at Stark, completed research with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in Paris, France, for a water sustainability curriculum template.

Last fall, Khourey-Bowers incorporated the template into her course on teaching integrated content and Kent State Stark students experimented with the new template. Later that semester, she accompanied a group of UNESCO-organized consultants to the West African nation of Mali and shared her template and students' experiences with Malian teachers and administrators.

Photos by Randy Fath

"It turned out to be one of the best course designs I've ever had," Khourey-Bowers says. "And, while I was in Mali, I communicated daily with my students. So, in a very real way, their work traveled all the way to Africa."

Dr. Claudia Khourey-Bowers and her teaching science class utilize the campus pond to practice a water-testing experiment, appropriate for an elementary or middle school science class.



Education Department Pairs Students, Grads; Gears up for New Degree Programs

During field experience this fall, Kent State University at Stark's Department of Education will begin pairing middle childhood education (MCED) students with alumni who are currently teaching. According to Dr. Lori Wilfong, Ph.D., assistant professor of teaching, learning and curriculum studies and coordinator of the undergraduate department of education for middle childhood education, this new approach is designed to help students see how alumni have incorporated their coursework into elementary and middle school classrooms.

In addition, the campus will add a full bachelor's degree in integrated secondary (grades seven through 12) mathematics education in 2011 and plans to offer a master's degree in MCED sometime in 2012.

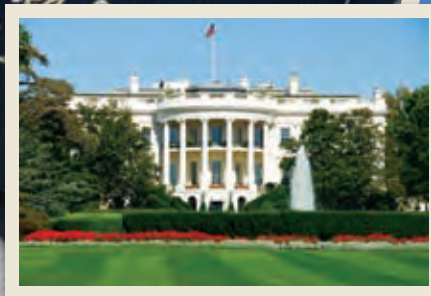


FYE Summer Service Projects Promotes Class Bonding

Kent State University at Stark's First Year Experience coordinator Marisa Naftzger realizes there is no better way to bond a college class than to have them serve together. That's one reason why she organized community service projects this past summer for more than 50 students from the graduating class of 2014.

One group of students partnered with Stark Parks to build stairs linking upper and lower walking paths at the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park. Working to battle hunger in Stark County, a second group volunteered at the Meals on Wheels commissary and made food deliveries, while a third assisted the Stark County Hunger Task Force by preparing food for distribution at more than two dozen of the county's food pantries.





GOING PLACES

Together with careful planning, scholarships can help students gain access to Kent State University's wide range of study away programs – each a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity.

When students choose a study away program through Kent State University, it becomes their ticket – not only to exceptional destinations, like Columbus, New York City, Washington, D.C., London, Beijing and more – but also to extraordinary learning experiences that transcend the traditional classroom.

Unfortunately, many believe they simply cannot afford to study away. Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history and co-coordinator of the Honors Program at Kent State University at Stark, says students shouldn't allow finances alone to limit them.

"All study away students I've spoken to are changed individuals who know more about themselves and how to adapt in the world, making them more marketable job candidates," she says. "I hope more students recognize the advantages study away programs offer and that more in our community recognize the value in supporting them."

Closer-to-home opportunities, such as the Columbus Program for Intergovernmental Issues, the Washington Program in National Issues and the National Student Exchange Program, may be more reasonable than students realize. Kent State Stark students who want to study away (even if cost is a concern) can learn more by taking the following steps:

- Start immediately. Contact Dr. Heaphy, an academic advisor or the Kent State University Office of International Affairs to begin exploration. To earn academic credit for studying away, students must follow an official process.
- Consider eligibility. To be eligible for study away programs, students must have at least a 2.0 grade-point average and cannot have any outstanding debts to Kent State University. Most study away programs are open to juniors and seniors only. A handful of programs are open to sophomores, according to Dr. Heaphy.
- Do scholarship homework. A variety of scholarships from Kent State and other academic and community organizations are available. It takes time to investigate options, develop contacts and apply for scholarships.

Kent State Stark welcomes support from the community for study away programs and the students pursuing them. To learn more about giving, contact the Dean's Office at 330-244-3211.



Kent State University at Stark graduate, Julie Honabarger, works with children as part of a study away program in China.

"All study away students I've spoken to are changed individuals who know more about themselves and how to adapt in the world, making them more marketable job candidates. I hope more students recognize the advantages study away programs offer and that more in our community recognize the value in supporting them."

– Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Associate Professor of History and Co-Coordinator of the Honors Program at Kent State University at Stark

NATIVE VIEW

By guest writer, Matt Lewis,
sophomore journalism major



Dr. Thomas Norton-Smith – philosopher, math geek and Shawnee Indian – teaches an American- Indian philosophy course this fall using his new book, *The Dance of Person and Place*, as a classroom text.

For Dr. Thomas Norton-Smith, philosophy is more than a 50-minute class. Whether he's pulling out crayons and paper, "blooping" out of existence or asking a student "How do you know that for sure?," Norton-Smith is on a mission to share his passion for philosophy.

As a former student of Norton-Smith, associate professor of philosophy at Kent State University at Stark, I've experienced his great charisma in the classroom. He challenges his students to think critically about the world around them, and the same holds true for his new book, *The Dance of Person and Place: One Interpretation of American-Indian Philosophy*, which offers a fresh perspective on American-Indian thought.

Norton-Smith, a mixed-blood Shawnee Indian, is the only American-Indian professor on campus. Therefore, it's no secret his passion lies in American Indian philosophy. When asked what his book brings to the table, he says, "It's a genuine attempt to try and get a handle on a Native world view."

Think about this: If there are no leaves on the trees and you can see someone's breath leaving their mouth, then you know it's cold outside, right? We all use these kinds of outside influences to shape what we know is true about the world around us. *The Dance of Person and Place* looks at these kinds of "everyday" phenomena through the eyes of an American Indian and the striking differences this world view has from our Western tradition. Norton-Smith's version of a Native world view is unique because it is grounded in a culturally sophisticated interpretation of Nelson Goodman's constructivism. If you're a "culture buff," you'll definitely want to add this book to your collection.

Assuming a philosophy student will have to read his book in future studies, Norton-Smith advises, “he or she should come to this book with a generous spirit. Let’s face it, this book has something for everyone to hate. Western philosophers will be mad because I argue that Goodman’s view is culturally biased and American Indians will be upset because I assume that the Western tradition is as legitimate as the Native tradition.”

Without intending to give political critique, he hopes the book will be an eye-opener for both worlds.

Philosophy isn’t the only thing Norton-Smith has under his belt – he’s also sort of a math geek. While he received a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Illinois, he also received his dissertation in the philosophy of mathematics and a master’s in mathematics. He relates much of his philosophy teaching to mathematics, and while math is definitely not my strong suit, he explains it in a way that makes complete sense – which is really all I need.

When asked what made him choose philosophy over math, he explained, “One day I was sitting in

my topology class and the professor began talking about mathematical existence. I asked, ‘What kind of existence is that?’ And the professor replied, ‘Well, you need to go talk to the philosophers across campus.’ I guess you could say I over-stayed my visit.”

Norton-Smith has been teaching with Kent State University since 1985 and began his stay at the Stark Campus in 1988. He has contributed to the Kent State University Faculty Senate for 13 years and the Kent State Stark

Faculty Council for eight years, chairing each for two years. He’s also been the chairperson of the American Philosophical Association Committee on the Status of Indigenous Philosophers. When asked what he’s up to now, he said it’s time to relax and do what he loves most – teaching.

This fall, he’s instructing an American-Indian Philosophy course and will be offering the same in an honors course in the spring.

The Dance of Person and Place was published in June of this year. Congratulations are due to Norton-Smith.

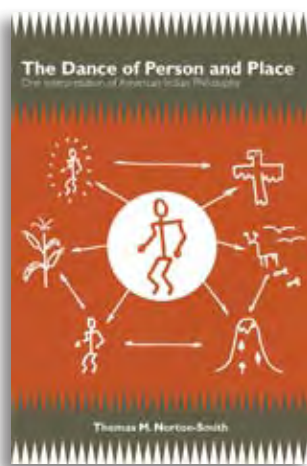


Photo by Bob Christy, Kent State University

“It’s a genuine attempt to try and get a handle on a Native world view... [Readers] should come to this book with a generous spirit. Let’s face it, this book has something for everyone to hate.”

– Dr. Thomas Norton-Smith, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Kent State University at Stark

Welcoming New Faculty

To accommodate increasing enrollment, Kent State University at Stark is welcoming six new full-time faculty members to campus this fall.

- James Seelye, Ph.D., History
- Elizabeth Williamsen, Ph.D., English
- Lucas Engelhardt, Ph.D., Economics
- Loretta Aller, RN, MSN, CNS, Nursing
- Michele Heron, Ph.D., Teaching, Learning and Curriculum
- Brandon Vaccaro, Ph.D., Music

Stark Campus Honored with Tree Campus USA Award

For its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship, the Arbor Day Foundation honored Kent State University at Stark in April as one of only four Ohio colleges to meet core standards and achieve Tree Campus USA status for 2009. An Ohio Department of Natural Resources representative presented Kent State Stark with a recognition plaque during its annual Earth Day celebration.

"The Tree Campus USA program will have a long-lasting impact at Kent State University at Stark as it engages college students and local citizens to plant trees and create healthier communities for people to enjoy for decades to come," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Supported by a grant from Toyota, Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors colleges and universities and their leaders and communities for promoting healthy urban forest management and environmental stewardship. Visit www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA to learn more.



From left to right: Lola Lewis, regional urban forester with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Dr. Ruth Capasso, Brent Wood.

Entrepreneur Week has Successful First Run

In conjunction with Stark County's Chambers of Commerce and the Stark Development Board, the Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – hosted by Kent State University at Stark – sponsored the first Stark County Entrepreneur Week this past February. Designed to promote entrepreneurship in Stark County, Entrepreneur Week events included:

- Keynote addresses by Dan Gilbert, chairman and founder of Quicken Loans Inc., majority owner of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, the American Hockey League's Lake Erie Monsters and operator of Quicken Loans Arena, and Ray Leach, CEO and creator of JumpStart Inc., one of the most active and innovative venture development organizations in the United States.
- A panel of six successful professionals who founded and operate Stark County businesses.
- A competition among Stark County college students with first prize of \$1500 going to Kent State Stark and second prize of \$1000 to Stark State College of Technology.
- The seventh annual Business Expo, showcasing more than 100 businesses.

As he plans for next year's event, Victor Pavona, director of the SBDC, is looking forward to seeing how this supportive effort will positively affect Stark County businesses by providing entrepreneurs with education, information and the professional guidance they need to bolster our local economy.



*Kent State University at Stark students gather for a photo after winning the Stark County Entrepreneur Week student competition, where they presented a proposed plan entitled *The Business of Arts in Stark County*.*

Kent State Stark Recognizes Staff Excellence

This past April, Kent State University at Stark recognized Terri Blasiman, clerical specialist for testing and tutoring, and Julie Spotts, web, e-communications and recruitment specialist, as its 2010 Staff and Administrator Excellence Award recipients. Nominations and written recommendations were submitted by faculty, administration and other members of the campus community.

The recipients were awarded with a commemorative clock and a cash prize in recognition of the excellence they display in their jobs on a daily basis.



From left to right: Terri Blasiman, Dr. Ruth Capasso, Julie Spotts.

◀◀ looking back

Scholarships Awarded to First-Time College Students

For the 2010-11 academic year, 29 first-year students received scholarships from the Stark Campus, totaling more than \$87,000, including six full-tuition scholarships.

Students had the option of applying for the Honors Program Scholarship, which requires an Honors Program application, written essay and a letter of recommendation. The reviewing committee considered students' GPA and ACT/SAT scores for the Academic Accomplishment Award, Post Secondary Enrollment Students and minority scholarships. Scholarships help make higher education more affordable for students who show promise for success in college and beyond.

Kent State Stark Expands Services for Adult Students, Veterans

The Office of Student Services is expanding its support of adult students who are returning to college or who are new to college altogether. Adults can schedule one-on-one, pre-admission appointments with a counselor who will acquaint them with the campus and explain their options for degree programs, scholarships and financial aid. Students also can receive assistance with advising, registration, testing and tutoring and sign up for Smart Start Saturday, Kent State Stark's new student orientation program.

In addition, Kent State Stark offers special services to veterans, including:

- Priority registration
- Academic, personal support, accessibility/disability and career services
- Scheduling, financial aid, FAFSA and GI educational benefits assistance
- Tutoring and Writing Center services

For more information on adult services, visit:
www.stark.kent.edu/student/resources/adults.cfm

For more information on veteran's services, visit:
www.stark.kent.edu/student/resources/veterans.cfm

First Master's Degree Candidates Walk at Stark Campus Commencement Ceremony

Susan L. Joy and Ann M. Vesely, both master's of education degree candidates, were the first postgraduate students to walk at a Stark Campus commencement ceremony. In addition, more than 100 students received baccalaureate degrees and approximately 40 received associate degrees. Kevin M. Kampman, publisher of *The Repository*, gave an inspiring convocation address about the importance of being a lifelong learner.

During the ceremonies, Interim Dean Ruth Capasso presented the Distinguished Teaching Award to Dr. Daniel A. Castaneda, assistant professor of Spanish, and the Award of Distinction to Dr. Shawn M. Selby, adjunct professor of history. Finalists for the Distinguished Teaching Award were Laurel Seeds, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Erin Hollenbaugh, assistant professor of communication studies.

A committee chose the award recipients based on nominations from students, faculty and staff who considered the faculty members based on:

- Comprehensive knowledge of his or her field;
- Effectiveness in organizing and presenting material;
- Ability to stimulate thinking and develop understanding in students;
- Ability to arouse student interest;
- Demonstrated resourcefulness; and
- Concern for students.



From left to right: Dr. Erin Hollenbaugh, Dr. Daniel Castaneda, Dr. Ruth Capasso, Dr. Shawn Selby, Laurel Seeds.

STARK CAMPUS FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Sebastian Birch, associate professor of music, performed Phantom Carriage for Concert Band at the CMS Southern Chapter Conference in New Orleans, La., Feb. 5, 2010.

Andrew Burns, associate professor of chemistry, presented Fun Examples of Family Life and Human Nature in Chemistry at the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco, Calif., March 20-25, 2010.

Brian Chopko, assistant professor of justice studies, presented An Event-Based Paradigm: Working through Impasses in Supervision at the American Counseling Association Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., March 20-23, 2010.

Amber Ferris, lecturer of communication studies, presented Research in Progress: Effects of Drunk Dialing on Social Networks at the National Communication Association Conference in Chicago, Ill., Nov. 11-15, 2009.

Kim Garchar, assistant professor of philosophy, presented:

- Feminism and Idealism at the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association meeting in San Francisco, Calif., April 1-4, 2010.
- 100 Ethics Consults: Trends in Reasons for Consult Requests, Recommendations and Outcomes at the Sixth Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation in Portland, Ore., May 12-16, 2010.

Anne Haas, assistant professor of sociology, presented The Impact of Collective Identity on the Body Image of Midlife Women at the 2009 meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 8-12, 2009.

Robert Hamilton IV, assistant professor of biological sciences, presented Microinvertebrates of Intermittent Surficial Waters of Quail Hollow State Park (Stark County, Ohio) at the Ohio Academy of Science Conference in Ada, Ohio, April 9-10, 2010.

Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history,

- Helped coordinate World AIDS Day 2009 activities to raise funds for local charities involved with AIDS support and education. The event featured national speaker, Rebekah Armstrong, and free HIV testing.
- Sponsored the Undergraduate Student Conference with more than 20 students presenting, April 23, 2010.
- Assisted Christina Rodriques in the completion of an exhibit on the history of Kent State University at Stark for her senior Honors Program thesis, May 2010.

Gro Hovhannisyan, associate professor of mathematics, published:

- On Nonautonomous Dirac Equation, J. Math. Phys. (2009) 50, 123507 with recent Kent State Stark graduate, Wen Liu.
- Stability Inequalities for One-dimensional Singular Perturbation Problems, Nonlinear Studies, 2008, 15, 297-322, with Relja Vulanovic, professor of mathematics.

Bathi Kasturiarachi, associate professor of mathematics, presented Learning Labs for Linear Algebra at the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in Chicago, Ill., March 12-13, 2010.

Claudia Khourey-Bowers, associate professor of teaching leadership and curriculum studies, presented Development of a Freshwater Education for Sustainability at the International Consultation on Research in Science and Mathematics Conference in Manzanillo, Mexico, March 3-11, 2010.

Peter Kratoski, emeritus adjunct professor of justice studies, co-presented Providing National and Human Security at Home and Abroad; served as a panelist at a roundtable session, titled The Future of Policing in an Increasingly Globalized World; served as the official recorder for the conference; and made a summary presentation of the proceedings at the 17th Annual International Police Executive Symposium in Valleta, Malta, March 14-19, 2010.

Ran Li, assistant professor of physics, presented High-fidelity Universal Quantum Gates through Quantum Interference at the SPIE Defense, Security and Sensing 2010 Quantum Information and Computation VIII in Orlando, Fla., April 4-9, 2010.

Mitch McKenney, assistant professor of journalism, presented Hungry for News and Everyone's a Critic at the Journalism Educators Midwinter Conference at the University of Oklahoma, March 5-7, 2010.

Ralph Menning, assistant professor of history,

- Presented Measure of Despair: The Syndicate for Commerce and Industry, the London Tribune and German Foreign Policy, 1906-1908 for the German Studies Association in Washington, D.C., Oct. 9, 2009.
- Presented Teaching History: The Case for a 'Theory of Importance' for the Association of University Regional Campuses of Ohio (AURCO) at Kent State University at Stark, Jackson Township, Ohio, April 10, 2010.

Verena Murphy, assistant professor for management and information systems, presented 1. The Emotional Impact of Shifting Lenses 2. Research Updates at the Systems-Centered Training Conference in Philadelphia, Pa., from April 4 to May 1, 2010.

Stephen Neaderhiser, assistant professor of English, presented Where Are They Now? Integrating Online Writing Labs (OWLS) at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Louisville, Ky., March 17-21, 2010.

Alicia Pieper, assistant professor in the department of family and consumer studies, attended the Ohio Nutrition 30th Biennial Conference in Columbus, Ohio, March 24, 2010.

Chris Post, assistant professor of geography, presented Public Art, Landscape and the Memory of Repression at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C., April 14-18, 2010.

Mary Rooks, assistant professor of English, presented:

- Spectacular Virtue, Yawning Vice: Sarah Fielding's Lives of Cleopatra and Octavia at the Southampton Centre for 18th Century Studies Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 24-28, 2010.
- The Language of Abduction in Sarah Fielding's Story of Ophelia at the 18th and 19th Century Women Writers Conference at A&M University in College Station, Texas, April 8-9, 2010.

Debra Shelestak, assistant professor of nursing, presented Computer Adaptive Testing Using Item Response Theory at the National League for Nursing Education Summit in Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 23-29, 2009.

Lisa Waite, lecturer in communication studies,

- Published Sticks and Stones: Exploring Media and Rhetorical Criticism through Celebrity Bleeps and Blunders in Feedback Journal 2009.
- Presented Avoiding Business Bleeps and Blunders to HP Products' Institute of Supply Management in Canton, Ohio, April 21, 2010.
- Received the Service Scholar Award for Initiative in Service-Learning, 2010.
- Was elected chair of Kent State University's Non-tenure Track Provost Advisory Committee, 2010.

STARK CAMPUS STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Willetta Shoemaker, public program coordinator for The Corporate University, presented *Generations in the 21st Century Workplace* at the NorthPointe Meeting Planners Summit in Columbus, Ohio, March 4, 2010.

Joanne Salay, math/science outreach program coordinator, exhibited the *Environmental Footprint* project, featuring the work of Lehman Middle School seventh and eighth grade art students' sculptures that visually represent the human impact on the earth's sustainability. The exhibit, which was made possible through a grant from ArtsInStark, was displayed at the First Friday arts exposition in Canton, Ohio, on May 7, 2010.

Lisa Givan, pre-college programs coordinator for Admissions, presented:

- *Managing Conflict – Don't Let It Manage You!* at Kent State Stark's Student Officer Training in Canton, Ohio, Jan. 14, 2010.
- *More Than Just One of the Bunch – How to Recruit, Engage and Retain Students of Color on Your Campus* at the ACT State of Ohio Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 26-27, 2010.
- *Recognizing Diversity as a Professional Asset* at Kent State University at Geauga in Twinsburg, Ohio, Feb. 17, 2010.
- *Because the Road to Success is Always Under Construction: Effective Early Intervention Programs for SOC's (students of color)* at the Ohio Consortium of Multicultural Centers in Higher Education Spring Conference in Kent, Ohio, April 30, 2010.

The University Center

Kent State University at Stark



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