

# encompass

FALL 2009

## THE ARTS AWAIT

Explore, experience and  
embrace all the arts have to offer  
at Kent State University Stark.

**EXCELLENCE in Action**

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STARK

# Message from the Dean



**Dr. Ruth Capasso**

— *Interim Dean, Kent State University Stark*

*Photo by Joe Smithberger*

Our vibrant arts programs are truly a source of pride for Kent State University Stark. We support and invest in the arts because they not only bring us enjoyment, but also foster critical and creative thinking, communication and personal expression. Further, they harmonize with other areas of study and help students synthesize their knowledge of many disciplines. And, the arts help us engage our community, not only through campus events, but also through the outreach of our faculty and students.

This latest edition of *Encompass* contains a number of highlights from our visual arts, art history, theatre and music departments; yet, it is only a taste of all we have to offer our students and our community. At Kent State Stark, we strive to provide diverse art experiences and environments, from lyric theatre and art galleries to a bachelor's degree in music technology – under review by the Board of Regents to become the 13th complete four-year program offered on our campus. You can learn more about these and other unique arts programs on the following pages. Plus, you'll find several notable examples of community partnerships, including a recent *Kimono as Art* project with a Canton South school and our ongoing Scholastic Art Awards program.

I look forward to an exciting year at Kent State Stark. As our enrollment continues to climb, we're actively searching for a new dean who will build upon and further expand our many outstanding academic offerings. During this time – an economic challenge for so many – we will focus on serving our students, being good stewards of our resources and delivering our programs with the care and excellence for which we are known.

*Ruth C. Capasso*

**stark.kent.edu**

#### **Encompass**

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of J. L. Carroll Business Writing and  
Editing

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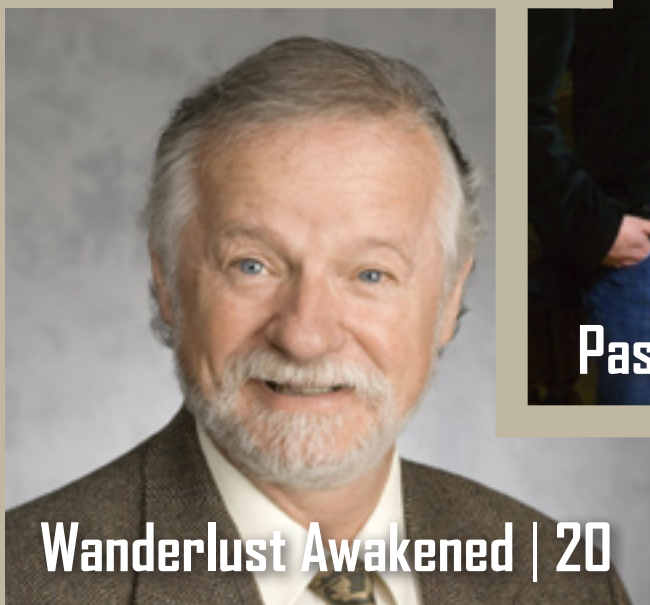
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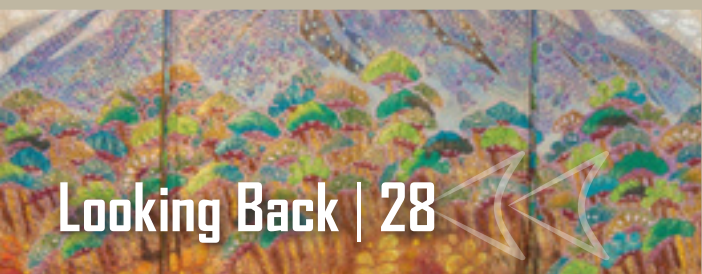
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# THE ARTS

“Art enables us to find  
ourselves and lose ourselves  
at the same time.”

– Thomas Merton



# AWAIT

Explore, experience and embrace all the arts have to offer at Kent State Stark.

**If you want to find a total arts experience and immerse yourself** in its many creative expressions, look no further than Kent State University Stark – a leading destination for the arts in Stark County.

For students, Kent State Stark opens the door to a world of possibilities in visual and performing arts. From painting, drawing, ceramics and sculpture to theatre, music theory and technology, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, students can build the foundation for an arts career – or indulge their artistic passions – in an intimate, nurturing environment.

For the community, the campus is a beckoning cultural center, replete with art galleries, theatre productions and musical performances throughout the year. And, in collaboration with area organizations, Kent State Stark instructors and students regularly support local arts programs and events for youth and adults.

The following section highlights the diversity of imagination and inspiration that awaits at Kent State Stark.

## Expanding Vocal Horizons

Blending light opera and musical theatre into one impressive revue at semester's end has been a Ken Kramer specialty for more than 20 years. From operettas to Broadway's best, his *Workshop in Lyric Theatre* provides a new dimension in vocal performance for musicians at Kent State Stark.

An associate professor of vocal music, Kramer believes the 15-week special topics course – which requires minimal costumes, sets and props – opens students up to new singing styles that range from traditional to modern, rock and country.

He says, "Applied vocal music emphasizes the classical music-oriented recital. You stand there and sing. Lyric theatre adds movement, dialogue and character, which can free the voice to be more engaging and expressive. As long as a vocalist sings in a healthy way, he or she can adapt to many styles."

The workshop's recent spring performance featured Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience*, Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, as well as selections from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Show Boat* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

And, Kramer adds, the workshop is a great lesson in teamwork. Students learn to depend on one another for entrances, scene development and more to deliver a smooth show. They also learn how to teach lyric theatre skills to others.

"Performers may not make a living by performing alone, which is why most of my students major in choral music education. I'm directing future teachers, so I also emphasize the why and the how of each technique," he says.



Photo by Joe Smithberger

Professor Kenneth Kramer's Lyric Theatre class rehearses a piece from *Candide*.





Photos by Bob Christy, Kent State University

## Beyond 'Looney Tunes'

While it may come as a surprise to some, German composer Wilhelm Richard Wagner never wrote music for Warner Bros. Studios. Nor was “Kill da wabbit” a refrain from his epic four-opera cycle, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*.

While Bugs Bunny and his mischievous cronies have popularized several opera melodies, members of the Kent State Stark Opera Club are striving to renew interest in the real thing – an intricate musical genre that dates back to the 16th century.

Club members do more than simply listen to opera; they learn to perform it, as well as share their developing interests and talents with area high school students.

Laurel Seeds, assistant professor of vocal music and opera club advisor, says the group is rapidly becoming an integral part of her recruiting efforts. When music department faculty visit area high schools, they generally take vocal students who are prepared to perform operatic repertoire, as well as pieces that are part of solo and ensemble literature for area music contests.

She says, “One of our goals – in addition to recruiting – is to foster an awareness of classical music and the arts, to encourage them to think beyond YouTube and *American Idol*. College students who are motivated and excited about classical music present a wonderful example. If a high school student later chooses to attend Kent State Stark, that’s wonderful. If not, then we hopefully got that person thinking more positively about classical music.”

Seeds also helps arrange an annual mock high school vocal contest at Kent State Stark. Local students have the opportunity to attend a workshop, sing for professors and, at the end of the event, present a recital.

“It’s a wonderful way to connect young people with our music program,” adds Seeds.



## Picture of History

Like tiles in a grand mosaic, relics of visual art – such as statues, paintings, architecture and earthenware – help historians piece together images of civilizations, both ancient and more contemporary.

Dr. Molly Lindner, assistant professor of art history at Kent State Stark, says art tells a story, one where the appearance and function of each object intertwines with the era that surrounds it. Through analysis of art and its creation, Lindner encourages students to discover these stories for themselves.

In the interdisciplinary course, *Images of Roman Women in Art and Literature*, students examine ancient Roman art about women in light of period texts, which Lindner calls one of the greatest challenges of studying art history.


She says, “I ask students to build a picture of Roman women from art versus one from literature. They soon discover they can’t build a complete picture from either angle, which is an important experience for them. They struggle with unresolved questions and lack of closure. But, when they step back, they find – despite all the holes and gaps – they can draw some conclusions. They’ve come a long way from where they started.”

Lindner often encounters the same progression in her own research. After spending a year in Rome in the early 1990s to study portrait statues honoring the vestal virgins (ancient, wealthy priestesses who guarded the flame of the Roman goddess Vesta), she learned that artistic evidence balances the biased views of Roman authors who undervalued these powerful women.

In her analysis, life-size marble statues reveal a close relationship between vestals and imperial women. “The iconographic exchange, or visual vocabulary, shows that vestals and imperial women ‘quoted’ each other in hair style, costume and more,” says Lindner. “The art allows me to expand discussion about the lofty political position that we know the vestals enjoyed, as recorded by Roman authors.”

She also likes to give her students an opportunity to speculate. Their final assignment is to craft a portrait of an imaginary Roman woman through words and art that represents their newfound understanding.

In the end, they, too, create a story: the image of an ancient woman who lives on through art.



An art history student presents her portrayal of an ancient Roman woman through words and art.

Photo by Bob Christy, Kent State University





The Gallery Dining Room, located in The University Center, is home to Gallery 6000, showcasing work from local artists.

## Engaging the Community

The visual and performing arts at Kent State Stark are about more than just academics. They also are intended to engage and enrich the community. From musical performances that incorporate popular styles to well-known theatre productions and traditional art, the campus offers something for everyone.

In 2007, Kent State Stark collaborated with the Canton Museum of Art and local artists to open Gallery 6000 in The University Center's Dining Room. Gallery 6000, curated by artist Tom Wachunas, a Kent State Stark adjunct instructor, regularly showcases a variety of art media.

Jack McWhorter, associate professor of art, believes the gallery, which takes a different approach than the school's academic program, serves as an important outreach to the community.

"This spring, Gallery 6000 opened *Watermedia Wizards*, even though we don't teach watercolor at this campus. But, the medium appeals to many who may not

ordinarily visit our other galleries," he says. "As a university, Kent State Stark programs are designed to educate students and meet their needs. As a community partner, Kent State Stark often selects events and exhibits that appeal to the broader range of people."

Working together with community members also adds new dimensions to the academic experience. Phil Robb, Kent State Stark's recently retired associate professor of theatre, notes that his "town-and-gown" arrangement (productions that blend student actors with outside actors from the area) provides students with mentors who demonstrate professionalism and decorum, both on and off the stage.

Robb says, "The theatre program has always been focused on students, who get first shot at all the roles. Yet, students quickly learn that acting, along with all the facets of theatre, is challenging. The only way to achieve a quality production is through hard work and discipline. Community actors bring that to the table."

Additionally, Kent State Stark supports and shares resources with organizations like ArtsinStark, the county's arts council. Fine arts students often participate in downtown Canton's First Friday events and have been part of community revitalization projects in Massillon, Hartville and Akron. Earlier this year, arts and music professors collaborated with area middle school students on a project that celebrated the *Kimono as Art* exhibit.





## Galleries Galor-ious

*It's an ambitious program. Every three weeks, the art galleries in Kent State Stark's Main Hall and Fine Arts Building get a facelift.*

Jack McWhorter, associate professor of art, manages their ongoing transformation, as well as satellite areas, walls and display cases throughout campus. The galleries often feature the creative talents of current students and recent graduates. However, McWhorter considers the two larger galleries in particular to be extensions of the classroom.

"When students display their pieces in Fine Arts or Main Hall, it formalizes their work in what is essentially a neutral space, which is an important aspect of the visual arts experience," he says.

Kent State Stark galleries also play host to international artists. This past March, McWhorter mounted a show, entitled *Mental Spaces*, by visiting artists Johan Teirlinck from St. Lukas Institute of Higher Education for the Arts and Architecture in Brussels, Belgium, and Maria Swinnen from Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

The Belgian connection was the result of McWhorter's own exhibitions in Brussels. He says, "During my three shows in Belgium,

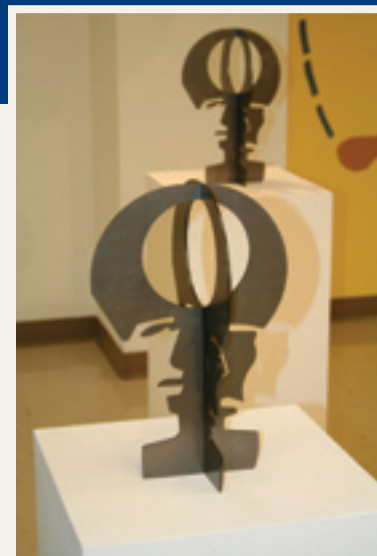
I developed a rapport with Johan, Maria and others. This relationship is gradually emerging as a collaborative effort that I hope will turn into an exchange program for students, as well as art."

From 2004 to 2005, Kent State Stark was home to Elias Jengo, a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Tanzania, who taught studio art and art history courses. One of his pieces hangs above the fireplace in the Campus Center and another is displayed in Main Hall.

McWhorter notes that these kinds of experiences draw students to Kent State Stark.

"It's about choice, not just a convenient location," he says. "When prospective students visit campus, see the studio space and the galleries, and then talk to current students, you can sense the dynamic quality. All that, together with the opportunity to work closely with a faculty of experienced artists – it's like getting the private school environment at a public university value."

Visiting artist Maria Swinnen and Associate Professor of Art Jack McWhorter explain the *Mental Spaces* exhibit at a gallery chat in Main Hall.





**Top:** Students perform in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

**Bottom:** The timeless gem, *Alice in Wonderland* is performed by students and community actors.

## Stage Stretches

"Actors never walk out on stage in a vacuum. Behind the scenes, a technical crew works hard to make every show a success. I believe students must be stretched. Actors must learn to be 'techies,' and 'techies' must learn to be actors."

Phil Robb's cross-training philosophy has been a Kent State Stark theatre program mainstay for more than 30 years. And, even though Robb, associate professor of theatre, retired this past spring, that philosophy is likely to remain.

The campus new theatre director, Ansley Valentine, agrees that a successful actor must be a jack-of-all-trades.

Valentine says, "A good theatre program is one in which students explore all the possibilities and develop a broad skill set. Plus, no matter what a student's major, theatre is the perfect hands-on opportunity to learn collaboration, problem solving and project and personnel management."

From Rogers and Hammerstein classics like *Oklahoma!* and Sondheim's *Into the Woods* to offbeat plays like *Marat/Sade* and *Irma Vep*, the production repertoire at Kent State Stark provides students with divergent theatre experiences that might not be accessible to them on larger campuses.

"As an educational institution, we bring in a variety of plays and musicals that enhance academics," says Robb. "Kent State Stark has always been very good about supporting its theatre."

Valentine plans to continue the theatre's teaching role, not only for campus students, but also as an outreach to area communities. He adds, "I'd like to reinforce and expand on what's being taught in local middle and high schools."



*Photos by Joe Smithberger*





## Living Sculptures

Put on makeup continuously for 25 minutes.

Brush your teeth at 7:30 a.m. at Starbucks.

Gaze at each other for 10 minutes straight.

### *Experience the stares.*

Kent State Stark students in Carey McDougall's *Performance Art* class publicly stretch traditional notions of art and social etiquette. Those who participate, as well as those who find themselves watching, discover that everything can potentially be artistic matter – a concept that started in Japan during the 1950s and is growing in popularity in the United States.

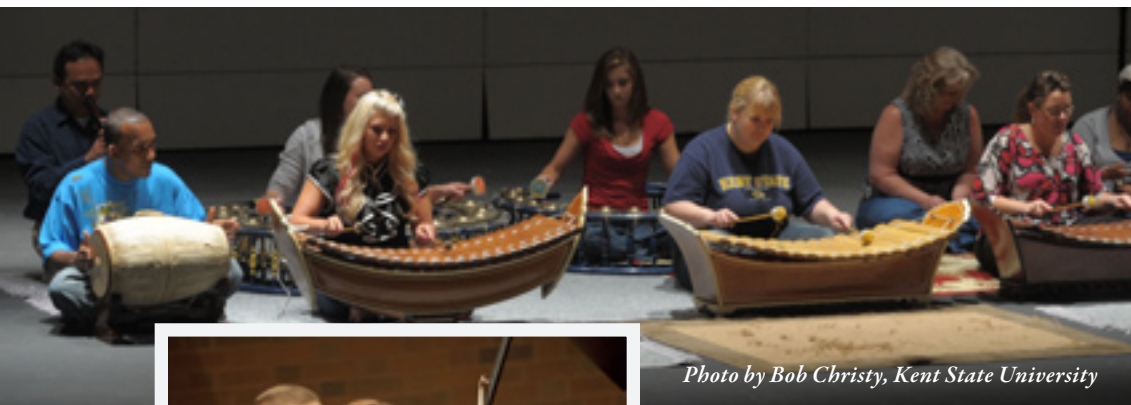
“You are the sculpture and you are alive,” says McDougall, an assistant professor of art who also teaches introductory and intermediate sculpture and drawing classes. She encourages students to become hyperaware of their surroundings, body movements and voices as they act out a variety of behaviors, many of which go against cultural norms.

Class members select each performance, or “happening,” to call attention to certain topics, hoping viewers will be curious not only about the scene, but also what it says about human tendencies.

Taking makeup application to an extreme explores the artificial quality of cosmetics. Placing 100 pairs of tennis shoes on display in the gallery touches on why people collect things. And, two people looking at one another for 10-minute intervals without interruption crosses social boundaries, but also brings individuals together.

“After we completed the ‘looking’ performance, we felt closer to – and more protective of – each other,” she says. “Sometimes we left enough space for people to walk between us, but they wouldn’t do it. They could sense the connection and didn’t want to disrupt it.”

McDougall notes that class members must maintain the scene they’ve created without actor-audience separation. “That’s the hardest part, to stay in a role even as observers walk right up and ask students what they are doing,” she says. “But, their energy and courageous attitude really helps them pull it off.”



*Photo by Bob Christy, Kent State University*



Students are exposed to unique genres and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of groups, including the Thai Ensemble, pictured here.

## Music Blossoms

What do you do with two percussionists and two flutists in a department with no band instruments? If you're Dr. Patricia Grutzmacher, you start a concert band that can play on a collegiate level, of course.

Beginning as an assistant professor in 1983, Dr. Grutzmacher remembers the early challenges of starting an instrumental music program where none existed. Her first move was to enlist members of a community band, which included many local musicians and music teachers.

She says, "I called a friend who was part of that band for help. He guaranteed me at least 65 musicians for the first practice and said it was up to me to convince them to come back. I'm happy to report they've been coming back for more than 20 years, and they have helped mentor our music students in so many positive ways."

While she will continue to conduct the band at Kent State Stark, Grutzmacher begins teaching at the Kent Campus this fall.

Kent State Stark also boasts a number of studio ensembles that explore a variety of forms and styles, including:

- Jazz combo;
- Percussion, guitar and Thai groups;
- Rock music ensemble with fusion, Latin and Afro-Cuban influences; and
- Bassoon, oboe, English horn and brass ensembles.

Grutzmacher credits the supportive environment on campus for the program's growth. She most appreciates the freedom to try new things and the ability to obtain what's needed to gradually build a successful program. The music department (in particular, the music technology curriculum) attracted 41 freshman music majors last year.

"Some who come are unsure, lacking confidence, as well as basic skills," she says. "But, because of what we offer – the equipment, small class sizes and direct connection with faculty who are all accomplished musicians – we see those students blossom, if they have the ability and are willing to work hard."



## Inspiring Next Generation Artists

Each year, hundreds of local young artists aspire to have their best work included in the annual Kent State Stark-sponsored Northeast Scholastic Art Exhibition, one of 90 regional program affiliates across the United States.

More than 3,500 entries from 177 middle schools and high schools in Stark, Summit, Portage, Wayne, Tuscarawas and Medina counties are submitted each January. And while each student is considered a success simply for exploring the visual arts, only 300 gold and silver key winners are selected.

Jack McWhorter, associate professor of art, oversees a committee of approximately 30 jurors, including professional artists, art faculty members from surrounding universities and retired high school art teachers. He believes the local scholastic awards, held each year since 1954, set the standards for students and teachers and strengthen the area's arts focus.

"Our gold key winners – usually about 125 pieces – are sent to New York City for national-level judging, and our northeast region always does very well," he says.

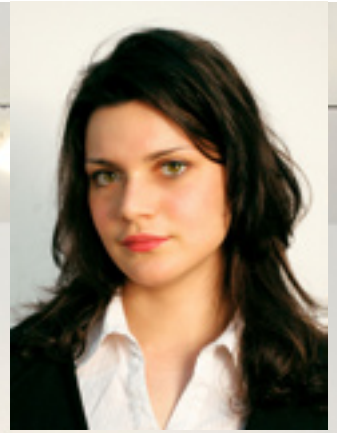
McWhorter credits in part the efforts of area art instructors – in particular, Jeannene Mathis-Bertosa from GlenOak High School, Debora Tisdale from Jackson High School and Janet Baran from North Canton Hoover High School. In 2009, GlenOak had three national winners and Jackson had one.

Following the judging, the campus invites gold and silver key winners to an awards ceremony and reception at The University Center and displays their work for several weeks on campus. For the past three years, Kent State Stark has also presented the *Artists and Teachers exhibition*, showcasing paintings, drawings and ceramics from the educators who inspired the students in the competition.

The scholastic awards, notes McWhorter, are a gift from Kent State Stark to the community. "We absorb the affiliate fee for the schools," he says. "If we didn't do it, the program would most likely be lost."







# Making Their Mark

Alumni artists and performers are impacting, challenging and entertaining their world with talents that have been shaped at Kent State University Stark.







## Diana Al-Hadid

*Sculptor*

A recent edition of *ARTnews* named Diana Al-Hadid “an artist to watch.”

As the creator of striking sculptures constructed from wood, fiberglass, bronze and steel, plaster, wax and even cardboard, she says diverse scientific and metaphysical concepts have influenced her work. With exhibitions at Perry Rubenstein Gallery in New York, the Saatchi Gallery in London and, earlier this spring, in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, Al-Hadid’s efforts continue to garner praise on an international stage.

She remembers Kent State Stark as a nurturing environment. “The honors professors were top notch,” she notes. “Many are still very memorable, even years later. The commitment they demonstrated to their disciplines translates to any field.”

Born in Syria and currently residing in New York, Al-Hadid – a GlenOak High School graduate – earned a bachelor of fine arts from Kent State University and a master of fine arts from Virginia Commonwealth University. Find out more about Al-Hadid’s sculptures at [PerryRubenstein.com](http://PerryRubenstein.com).

*Al-Hadid attended Kent State Stark from summer 1998 to summer 1999.*

## Marti Jones Dixon

*Painter, Performer*

She sang and played guitar to make a living. She came to Kent State Stark to study art.

Singer-songwriter Marti Jones, a Uniontown native, began taking classes in 1974 while performing at local venues to make extra money. Signed as an A&M recording artist in 1983 with the band Color Me Gone, her first solo album, *Unsophisticated Time*, was produced by Don Dixon in 1985. Jones and Dixon later married and she moved to RCA Records in 1990.

After the birth of their daughter in 1992, Jones Dixon decided to quit touring and start painting again. Today, she shares Da Studio in downtown Canton’s art district with fellow artists Marcy Axelband and Robert Dubec.

Jones Dixon, who earned a bachelor of arts from Kent State University, says now-retired Kent State Stark art instructors Bob Austin, Emily Bukovec and Joe Wagner were an important influence on her work. She adds, “I loved to hang around the art area and draw. It was a wonderful environment for a young person who wanted to learn technique.”

Visit [MartiJonesDixon.com](http://MartiJonesDixon.com) for highlights of her work.



*Jones-Dixon attended Kent State Stark from fall 1974 to summer 1979.*



## Jason Farnham

*Contemporary Pianist, Composer*

The celebrated kimono landscapes by Itchiku Kubota were about to leave San Diego, Calif., when ArtsinStark President and CEO Robb Hankins contacted Jason Farnham with an idea.

“He asked me to create music to coincide with the opening of *Kimono* in Canton, which was just a few short weeks away,” says Farnham. The Los Angeles resident rushed to see the exhibit before it left California and – in a little over two weeks – wrote and recorded his own *Kimono*, a smooth fusion of modern and traditional Japanese music.

While working as an audio-visual assistant at Kent State Stark during the late 1990s, Farnham honed his skills through classes with Dr. Patricia Grutzmacher, Ken Kramer and others. He credits Grutzmacher with sparking his interest in world music.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a graduate of Perry High School in Canton, Farnham’s music has appeared in film soundtracks, ballets and magic productions. With regular performances throughout California, Ohio and elsewhere, he recently collaborated with well-known pianist Jim Brickman on several projects. His other albums include *Special Times*, *Barriers* and *Serene*. Listen to samples of Farnham’s music at [JasonFarnham.com](http://JasonFarnham.com).

*Farnham attended Kent State Stark from fall 1999 to spring 2001.*

## John Moauro *Vocalist, Actor*

Maybe a cartoonist...or, maybe a public relations professional. Those had been McKinley High School graduate John Moauro’s career aspirations until he started singing for Kent State Stark vocal instructors Laurel Seeds and Ken Kramer.

Today – after graduating from Kent State University in 2007 with a bachelor of fine arts in musical theatre – he lives in New York and is part of the tremendously popular Broadway revival of *Hair*, which recently won a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. The cast (or “Tribe”) performed the *Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In* medley on *The David Letterman Show* this past April.

He credits Kramer and Seeds for recognizing a gift he didn’t know he had. He says, “They got the creative juices flowing. Laurel Seeds told me she could see the passion for vocal music in me and urged me to use it. And, I have!”

Get information about Moauro and *Hair* at [HairBroadway.com](http://HairBroadway.com).



*Moauro attended Kent State Stark from fall 2001 to spring 2004.*



*McCallum attended Kent State Stark from winter 1970 - spring 1971.*



## Mandy Altimus Pond

*Archivist, Videographer, Improv Actor*

Long fascinated by silent movies, Mandy Altimus Pond took on a challenge for her senior history thesis at Kent State Stark. She recreated the lost 1923 silent film, *Prodigal Daughter*, using press kits, old photos, the original book and a troop of volunteer student actors.

The film, which took seven months to shoot, made its red-carpet debut on campus at The University Center in 2005. Pond, who graduated with honors that December, says the project was a highlight of her studies.

She appreciates Dr. Leslie Heaphy's support of her ambitions. "Kent State Stark was a fantastic experience. It was a nurturing environment, and so many professors encouraged me in my career," she says.

Pond – now the archivist (and self-described “technoweenie”) for the Massillon Museum – is currently taping interviews with World

War II veterans and has contracted with Mental Health America to complete audio interviews of children with mental health issues. She also performs regularly at Canton venues with the Scared Scriptless Improv Comedy Troupe. Learn more about Pond's work at [AltimusPond.com](http://AltimusPond.com).

*Altimus Pond attended Kent State Stark from fall 2001 to fall 2005.*



## Steven McCallum

*Painter, Printmaker*

Alliance native Steven McCallum has shared his passion for painting for more than three decades with enthusiasts and students alike. While at times an adjunct art instructor at Kent State University, the University of Akron and Youngstown State University, McCallum says he is, first and foremost, a painter.

With both a bachelor and master of fine arts from Kent State University, McCallum has worked as a studio assistant at the prestigious Allan Stone Gallery in New York and is currently a member of the Canton Museum of Art's board of trustees. He also exhibited his paintings last year at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown.

He says he has never forgotten his instructors at Kent State Stark, including Lyle Linville, Joseph Wagner, John Kitner and Leroy Flint. "Because classes were smaller," he adds, "it felt almost like a family setting. There was a great deal of community spirit."

Explore McCallum's painting and prints at [StevenMcCallum.com](http://StevenMcCallum.com).

**Left:** Movie Director - Mandy (Altimus at the time) Pond gives instructions on the set of her 2005 film, *Prodigal Daughters*, a recreation of a lost silent film from 1923. The film was her senior honors thesis.

# PASSIONS

**After an injury ends his competitive figure skating career, a Kent State Stark student and figure skating coach rediscovers his love for the arts.**

**“There’s an artistic aspect to everything, and I hope to pursue both my passions – the arts and figure skating – for years to come.”**

**– David Whiteman,  
Kent State Stark fine arts major  
and figure skating coach**

*Photo courtesy of The Canton Repository*



# REDEFINED

David Whiteman usually doesn't believe in looking back. But moving forward after a serious ankle injury ended nearly a decade of competitive figure skating meant rediscovering an old flame – his passion for the arts.

A skater since age 12, the GlenOak High School graduate and current Kent State University Stark fine arts major once spent at least 16 hours a week practicing on the ice, leaving little time for other pursuits. All that changed during a competition in Michigan in 2006.

"I was skating in the division just below senior level and starting to nail the triples," he remembers. "Then, in the middle of my



performance in Ann Arbor, I fell on a landing and really hurt my ankle. I couldn't even get up. They had to call an ambulance and carry me off the ice on a stretcher."

Following intense therapy, Whiteman realized his skating career was over, but finding new direction was not difficult. Art had always been his first love. When combined with tenacity and determination, that love inspired a masterpiece: an exquisite evening gown and stole decorated exclusively with thousands of aluminum can tabs and nearly 20,000 buttons.

With no sewing or fashion industry experience, he notes that making the garment – which weighs between 60 to 70 pounds – was more of an undertaking than he ever imagined. It took more than a year just to save enough tabs and buttons. And, he invested 200 hours of painstaking effort in selecting the material and pattern, making the dress itself and sewing each tab and button on completely by hand.

Whiteman competes in a figure skating tournament before his career was ended by an injury.

He says, "I worked on the dress without stopping for 27 hours, just before I had to turn it in as a class final for Carey McDougall's *Sculpture I* class. Near the end, I was ready to just glue everything on, as the repetition made my fingers raw and numb. But, it was all worth it."

His "button dress" helped earn him Kent State Stark's Artist of the Year award, and it has been featured in *The Repository*, on local television, at several First Friday events in downtown Canton and at an area fundraiser.

Whiteman wants to continue combining fine arts and fashion with his own line of tab-decorated dresses. And, he also plans to remain part of the figure skating world. As a team coach for several young skaters at Center Ice Sports Complex in North Canton, Whiteman focuses on freestyle, choreography and off-ice training.

"There's an artistic aspect to everything, and I hope to pursue both my passions – the arts and figure skating – for years to come," he says.



*Photo by Joe Smithberger*

# Wanderlust Awakened

A former Kent State Stark student recounts how Distinguished Teaching Award winner Dr. Thomas Sosnowski inspired him to travel the globe.

European history normally does not make a student's list of top 10 favorite subjects. Yet, Jack Hammel describes it as the most memorable class of his first semester at Kent State University Stark.

What a difference an instructor like Dr. Thomas Sosnowski can make.

Hammel, a 1979 Kent State University graduate and general counsel for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, remembers that Sosnowski brought history to life, taking concepts out of the book and turning them into something students could visualize.

"I was immediately struck by Sosnowski's animated, humorous and enthusiastic approach to European history, and I looked forward to his class the most," he says. "He would present slide shows of his own travels, which might sound corny now. But, he made me want to go and experience these places for myself."

In 1978, Hammel traveled outside Ohio for the first time to Geneva, Switzerland, as part of a semester-long program through Kent State University. He calls it a highlight of his life. Since then, he has studied abroad in Oxford and London, England, and traveled extensively throughout the United States and to more than 25 countries. If it weren't for Sosnowski's inspiration, he says, none of it would have happened.

**Left:** Jack Hammel, pictured second from right, poses for a picture with friends while on one of his many trips to Europe.





**“I was immediately struck by Dr. Sosnowski’s animated, humorous and enthusiastic approach to European history... He made me want to go and experience these places for myself.”**

**– Jack Hammel,  
1979 Kent State University graduate**

Last fall, Sosnowski was named as recipient of the 2008 Kent State University Distinguished Teaching Award from the Kent State Alumni Department. An associate professor of history, he has been a very active member of the Kent State Stark History Department since August 1976, coordinating it for more than 15 years. He is an expert on French history – specifically, the French Revolution – and has been a participating faculty member of the campus’ Williamsburg course and trip for more than 30 years.

Hammel believes teachers often don’t realize how much they impact students. He says, “Several years ago, I had the chance to tell another professor how much I appreciated his classes. He said it was gratifying to hear because he often wonders if his work makes a difference. That’s why I felt it was important to put in a good word for Dr. Sosnowski.”

**Kent State Stark faculty**

**members** were recognized

at the Spring Commencement ceremony for superior classroom instruction. Pictured from left to right are Lisa Hart, adjunct professor of general studies and Award of Distinction recipient; Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history and Distinguished Teaching Award recipient; Dr. Andy Burns, associate professor of chemistry and Distinguished Teaching Award finalist; and Dr. Ruth Capasso, interim dean. Not pictured is Tim Montgomery, instructor of physics and Distinguished Teaching Award finalist.



“We developed the series with students in mind, to expand their understanding of important world and cultural issues. Also, as a gift to the community, it’s been a positive way to demonstrate the value of Kent State Stark.”

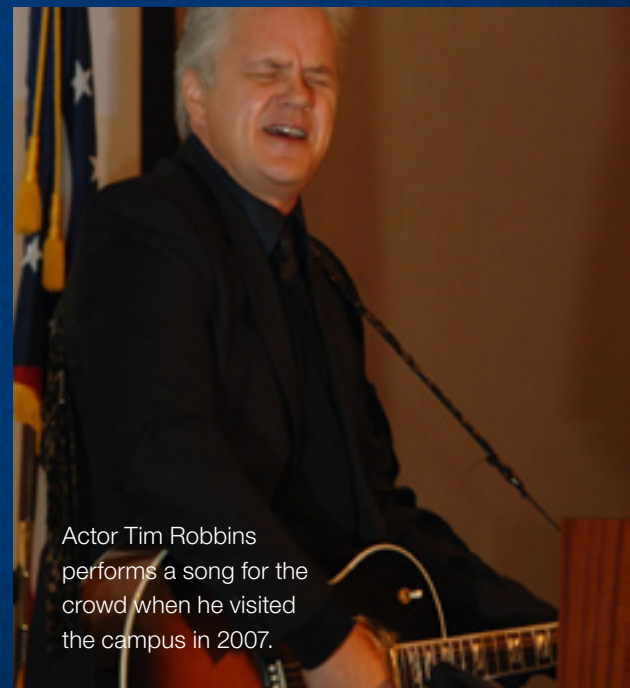
– Dr. William G. Bittle, dean of Kent State University Stark from 1981 to 2004

# REMARKABLE

**Kent State Stark has hosted nearly 100 celebrated lecturers since its Featured Speakers Series began in 1991.**

*Photos by Bob Christy, Kent State University*

Animal Adventurer Jack Hanna is joined by a furry friend at a recent Featured Speakers press conference.



Actor Tim Robbins performs a song for the crowd when he visited the campus in 2007.



When Dr. William G. Bittle became dean of Kent State University Stark in 1981, he quickly noticed something was missing; virtually no academic activities existed outside the classroom. He believed if the campus was going to flourish as a learning institution, that needed to change.

A decade later – amid a blossoming program of poetry readings, literary publications, theatre productions, art exhibits and concerts – the Kent State Stark Featured Speakers Series was born. Since then, nearly 100 prominent lecturers have presented a broad range of ideas and experiences in politics, education, media, environmental activism, literature, the arts and more.

Bittle, who retired in 2004, credits former director of continuing studies, Dr. Gregg Andrews – now dean of Kent State University Tuscarawas Campus – with helping him spearhead the project. Andrews also has inspired a similar series at the Tuscarawas Campus.

# WORDS

“We developed the series with students in mind, to expand their understanding of important world and cultural issues,” says Bittle. “Also, as our gift to the community, it’s been a tangible way to demonstrate the value of Kent State Stark.”

Prior to the event, speakers participate in a press conference and meet with a small group of community leaders and Kent State Stark faculty and students for dinner. Many also hold an hour-long Q&A session via video conference with area middle schools and high schools – a unique educational outreach that gives youth a rare opportunity to speak with internationally known experts and personalities.

Amy Lane, currently executive director of Kent State University Regional Corporate and Community Services, coordinated the series from 1994 to 2005. She believes the increasingly global nature of business and politics made bringing international speakers to campus all the more important.

She says, “From Benazir Bhutto and Jehan Sadat to a journalist from Al Jazeera, we were striving to provide new exposure and new understanding. That’s what a university should do – create learning opportunities.”

Lane notes she loved her role with the Featured Speakers Series, despite stressful moments, such as Jesse Jackson’s arrest the night before his scheduled engagement at Kent State Stark. (He was later released and spoke to more than 2,000 in the campus’ former fieldhouse.)

“I learned so much. It was a highlight of my career,” she says.

*Photo by Bob Christy, Kent State University*



Jean-Michel, Fabien and Céline Cousteau speak of their ocean adventures to a packed house at The University Center.



# Best of Both

Music technology students at Kent State Stark learn to be not only good producers, but also good musicians.

*Photo by Lee Kopp*

Spencer Martin wanted to be an engineer until his father gave him a simple music recording system as a Christmas gift. A two-channel interface, condenser microphone and basic recording software – that’s all it took to get him hooked.

Soon afterward, the Hoover High School graduate learned Kent State University Stark had added a program in music technology. He says, “I didn’t even have to think twice. It seemed precisely how destiny had meant it to be.”

## Technology Combined with Musicianship

In addition to an on-site, state-of-the-art music computer lab, Kent State Stark provides access to the most advanced digital production equipment through collaborative partner Kopperhead Compositions Inc. in North Canton, one of the Midwest region’s premier audio recording and production companies.

Lee Kopp, Kopperhead president and principal audio engineer, also instructs several music technology courses.

Musicians from all over the world use Kopperhead. Dr. Sebastian Birch, associate professor of music, explains, “People don’t come here just because Lee’s studio offers six levels of audio recording. They come here because of the way he records their music. Lee is a good producer and a good musician.”

Kent State Stark’s music technology program strives to create that same balance with courses that focus not only on music recording and production, but also on total musicianship.

Birch says, “Music recording technology – like all technology – is changing rapidly, and the tools we use today may not be here a few years from now. But, if we teach students the craft of music, they can successfully evolve with technology.”



“Music recording technology – like all technology – is changing rapidly, and the tools we use today may not be here a few years from now. But, if we teach students the craft of music, they can successfully evolve with technology.”

– Dr. Sebastian Birch, associate professor of music

## Finding a Balance

Associate Professor Sebastian Birch composed music for the College of Wooster Dance Company that performed at Kent State Stark last spring.

*Photo by Joe Smithberger*



Birch and Laurel Seeds, assistant professor of vocal music, teach music theory to many beginning music students. Because skill levels vary, both individualize instruction as much as possible. Seeds finds it exciting to watch students transition from simply listening to participating actively.

“It’s a pinnacle moment for students,” she says. They can say, ‘I don’t just watch others make music. I can do it, too.’ It’s no longer just their major. They become a certain type of person. They become a musician.”

Martin, now a full-time music technology student, notes that his 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 *Studio Ensemble*, a contemporary band course for four to seven students, has been a highlight.

“Once a week, you get together with other ensemble members and practice anything from Jimi Hendrix to Radiohead. For the course ‘final,’ the band plays a show at the end of the semester. How cool is that?” Martin says.

Student Tyrel Basiewicz, who wrote, recorded and performed a composition for the campus’ Earth Day celebration this spring, is discovering his balance as a composer and producer through the program.

“The power that music theory gives a composer – knowing exactly what it is you’re doing musically – is so beneficial,” says Basiewicz. “However, you can be the most creative musician on the face of the earth, but, if you don’t control the technology properly, the computer ends up controlling you and your music. Thanks to the expertise of Dr. Birch and Lee Kopp, sequencing a 10- to 20-part composition is now a breeze for me.”

Martin adds, “So far, the courses offered here at Kent State Stark have definitely met and exceeded my expectations for what a music technology program can and should be.”

*Photos by Lee Kopp*

Spencer Martin (left) and Tyrel Basiewicz (right) utilize state-of-the-art technology to record and produce their music.





# Elementary Insights

*Photo by Joe Smithberger*

**Consultants for The Corporate University apply “schoolroom arts” in fresh ways to train – and inspire – business leaders.**

Consultant Dr. Holly Bognar uses art to stimulate open-thinking at an on-site professional development class.

Costumes and crayons. Stories and songs. Many in today’s business world relegate these items to kindergarten classrooms and childhood fancy.

Yet, in the hands of consultants with The Corporate University at Kent State University Stark, these elementary school tools have “grown up” to challenge some of the area’s brightest business leaders on topics like strategic planning, change management, high-performance teams and communication.

## Drawing Out Creativity

Dr. Holly Bognar, a consultant with The Corporate University since 2002, believes left-brain logic must be balanced with right-brain imagination in order to synthesize the breakthrough ideas most businesses are looking for. To foster creativity and risk taking, she incorporates art and story writing into her programs.

She says, “Constantly critiquing from your left brain stifles creativity, so I try to help people move beyond that constraint through art and writing. When there is no fear – no voice in the head that says, ‘I’d better not say that’ – then creativity and learning increase.”

Bognar notes that adults are, in many ways, extra-large kids who are creators by nature, and she strives to draw that out. “We want to learn. We want to feel valued. We want to contribute. It’s the same way we felt as children,” she says.



## Art as a Truth Serum

Drawing pictures, according to consultant Ned Parks, can help build high-performing teams. He often asks group members to communicate with one another using only crayon and marker sketches. The activity, he says, takes people back to what their minds were designed to do – think in pictures. Plus, it forces them to move from conversation to the heart of the problem.

“Art is like truth serum,” he says. “I remember when someone drew a stick figure with an arrow in its back. I ended up taking a very different approach to training that day. But, I never would have gotten that information without the picture.”

Parks also integrates music, song lyrics and even ancient mythological stories into his seminars because he believes they have the power to transcend cultural boundaries. “I’ve used rap lyrics without music as poetry. People may not listen to rap, but they’ll read the words. And, it usually leads to a discussion about real-life workplace issues,” he says.

## Hands-on Learning

Business professionals who attend programs offered by The Corporate University also will find that some consultants display a flair for the dramatic. Deborah Easton, a consultant with the office for 13 years, uses theater to teach strategies for dealing with different – and often difficult – people.

She says it’s hard to use communication skills that have never been practiced. “We talk so much about hands-on learning,” notes Easton. “What’s more hands-on than having someone play the part of a difficult co-worker? It gets people emotionally involved in the exercise, and they learn very quickly.”

More recently, Easton has facilitated a program on generations interacting in the workplace. She portrays each age group in costume, acting out their history and mindset with appropriate slang. These humorous caricatures help her connect with the class and spur dialogue about myths, values and stereotypes.

She says, “The subject matter – even in the business world – must touch people emotionally, intellectually and spiritually in order for them to remember it. I like to go beyond the video clip and interact with people through theater.”

Ned Parks and Deborah Easton use unconventional methods like stories and theatre to enhance learning in their professional development programs.



**“We want to learn. We want to feel valued. We want to contribute. It’s the same way we felt as children.”**

**– Dr. Holly Bognar, consultant with  
The Corporate University**





## Robb Makes Final Curtain Call

Assistant Professor of Theatre Phillip Robb directed his final stage production, *Alice in Wonderland*, this spring. After 138 shows and a career that has spanned nearly 40 years, Robb retired this past May. From popular favorites like *Oklahoma!* and *The Little Shop of*

*Horrors* to little known works such as *The Mad Woman of Chaillot* and *Art*, he has provided a thorough, well-rounded approach to theatre for aspiring actors, enthusiasts and the community.

## University Chorus Sings *Requiem* in Memory of Student

This past May, the Kent State Stark University Chorus performed Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* in memory of Teresa Keller, a 47-year-old music education major from Louisville who died earlier this year.

According to Associate Professor of Vocal Music Ken Kramer, Keller had proven to be a capable musician and a competent leader during the two years she was part of the chorus.

"Music had always been her hobby, and she performed at church and in local theater," he says. "A good pianist and singer, she came to Kent to turn her pastime into a vocation. We dubbed her 'Chorus Mom' because I often put her in charge of making sure students were where they needed to be. We miss her greatly."

## Art, Music Help Middle School Students Experience *Kimono*

Through an ArtsinStark grant, Kent State Stark professors collaborated earlier this year with students from Faircrest Memorial Middle School on a project that highlighted the *Kimono* exhibit.

Jack McWhorter, associate professor of art, together with Canton South art teacher Amy Szwast, helped more than 100 students write haikus and create, animate and scan about 3,000 drawings based on the poems. Szwast also recorded classroom art noises and students reading haikus aloud. Dr. Sebastian Birch, associate professor of music, then worked with students to make a soundtrack from the recordings.

The show, together with the soundtrack, was presented this past March during the IlluminArts Celebration at Timken High School in Canton. The artwork, titled *Kimono: Shapes of Time*, was also displayed at Kent State Stark.

## Kent State Stark Celebrates *Kimono as Art*

This past February, Kent State Stark presented cultural arts events in conjunction with the *Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota* exhibition at the Canton Museum of Art.

The campus displayed *Inspired by Japan: Resist Dye Techniques Traditional and Modern*, which featured work by artist Rebecca Cross and students from the Kent State University School of Art, including some kimono and other Japanese artifacts from the Kent State University Museum. Several student pieces from the spring 2008 Surface Design class were included in the exhibit.



◀◀ looking back



## The Excellent First Year

Ensuring that Kent State Stark freshman have a positive first year is of utmost importance. The first year of college is formative, often impacting whether a student goes on to graduate or drops out indefinitely.

To address this, the campus launched First-Year Experience in 2008 and is expanding the program in 2009 to include:

- **Three service projects in late summer** that help students to get to know one another and get connected to the campus before classes begin.
- **Freshman Interest Groups**, where students co-enroll in two first-year courses that encourage them to form study groups, connect with faculty and meet other students who share a common interest or career path.
- **Flashtopics** (specialized enrollment sections of Destination Kent State First Year Experience) that focus on a subject of personal interest.
- **Smart Start Saturday**, which has grown exponentially over the last few years and now serves as New Student Orientation for first-year and transfer students. It includes informational sessions, campus tours, live music and a family picnic.

- **Competitions** that provide students with an opportunity to win pizza and gift certificates for the campus' food Emporium, based on grades and involvement in campus activities.

For more information on first-year outreach and student success programs, visit [Swift-kick.org](http://Swift-kick.org).

## New Director of Theatre Joins Campus Faculty

Kent State Stark welcomes Ansley Valentine as its new director of theatre. Valentine replaces Assistant Professor of Theater Phillip Robb, who retired this past May.

Valentine comes to campus from the College of Wooster, where he was an associate professor of theatre and dance. A seasoned director and choreographer with stage management, puppetry, mask, costume character and wardrobe supervision experience, his most recent productions include *Hello Dolly*; *Annie Get Your Gun*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *The King and I*; *Crazy for You*; and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.



Nominated for best director of *Six Degrees of Separation* in Buffalo, N.Y., Valentine was an assistant choreographer with *Play On!* at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago and assistant director for the world premiere of *Forest City* at the Cleveland Play House.

## Upcoming Featured Speakers will Stimulate Minds and Taste Buds

The 2009-10 Featured Speakers Series includes CBS correspondent Byron Pitts, who will deliver an inspiring message about overcoming powerful odds to become one of the most esteemed broadcast journalists. Senator Tom Daschle will address the important topic of healthcare reform, as discussed in his 2008 book, *Critical: What We Can Do about the Healthcare Crisis*. Jerry Greenfield will intrigue the audience with his rags to riches story of building his \$300 million empire, Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., and will delight taste buds with ice cream samples! Learn more about the 2009-10 Featured Speakers Series at [stark.kent.edu/CampusInfo/FeaturedSpeakerSeries.cfm](http://stark.kent.edu/CampusInfo/FeaturedSpeakerSeries.cfm).

# looking forward >>

# STARK CAMPUS FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Andrea Adolph**, associate professor of English, presented "Building Sustainable Partnerships for Literacy with Public School Systems" at the Gulf South Summit on Service Learning Conference in Baton Rouge, La., March 25-28, 2009.

**Paul Bagavandoss**, associate professor of biology, presented "Cannabinoids Inhibit Growth, Migration and Matrix Metalloproteinase 2 in Endothelial Cells" at the American Society for Cell Biology in San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 14-17, 2008.

**Daniel Castaneda**, assistant professor of Spanish, presented "The Use of Blogs and Wikis in Learning the Preterite and Imperfect Aspects in Spanish" at the CALICO conference in Tempe, Ariz., March 10-14, 2009.

**Brian Chopko**, assistant professor of justice studies, presented "The Relationship Between Mindfulness and Post-traumatic Growth" at the American Counseling Association Annual Conference in Charlotte, N.C., March 19-22, 2009.

**Erin Hollenbaugh**, assistant professor of communications

- Published "May I Interest You in Today's Special?," a pilot study of restaurant servers' compliance-gaining strategies. *Rock Mountain Communication Review*, 2008, vol. 5, pp. 32-42.
- Co-published "Social Support Strategies Among Women of Faith," *Journal of Communication & Religion*.
- Co-published "I Love You, Man: Drunk Dialing Motives and their Impact on Social Cohesion," *Mobile Communication Research Series Vol. II: Mobile Communication: Bringing us Together or Tearing us Apart?*

- Co-presented a paper and a poster, both entitled "An Unconventional Use of the Mobile Phone: Motivations for College Students' Drunk Dialing Behavior" at the National Communication Association in San Diego, Calif., November 2008.

- Received a 2009 Service Scholar Award, funded by a grant from the Bringing Theory to Practice Project of the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Office of the Provost at Kent State University (\$1000).
- Earned an advising grant through participation in KASADA's 2008-2009 Undergraduate Academic Advising Workshop series for Faculty Advisors (\$300).

**Michele Heron**, an instructor of mathematics, presented "Using Multimedia for Elaboration and Evaluation of Student's Thinking about STEM" at the National Science Teachers Association in New Orleans, La., March 18-21, 2009.

**Gro Hovhannisyan**, assistant professor of mathematics, contributed to the following publications:

- Co-contributor **Relja Vulanovic**, professor of mathematics: "Stability Inequalities for One-Dimensional Singular Perturbation Problems," *Nonlinear Stud.* 2008, 15, pp. 297-322.
- "WKB Estimates for 2x2 Linear Dynamic Systems on Time Scales," *Advances in Difference Equations*, 2008, Article ID 712913, 12 pages.

**Bathi Kasturiarachi**, associate professor of mathematics, presented "Exp-function Method for Solving Non-Linear Dispersive Equations" at the 2009 Spring Eastern Meeting of American Mathematical Society in Worcester, Mass., April 24-26, 2009.

**Claudia Khourey-Bowers**, associate professor of middle childhood education, presented:

- "Statewide Partnerships in School Change and Research: How You Can Get Involved" and "From YouTube to YouThink: Using Popular Media to Uncover Students' Thinking about Science" at the National Science Teachers Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 3-4, 2008.
- "Using Multimedia for Elaboration and Evaluation of Students' Thinking about STEM" at the National Science Teachers Association in New Orleans, La., March 18-21, 2009.
- "Water and Education: Toward Strategies with Impact" at the United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organization - Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) Expert Meeting for North America and Europe, in Delft, The Netherlands on Feb. 26-27, 2009.

**Peter Kratcoski**, professor of justice studies, presented "Youth Violence in the Schools and Community" at the Academy Criminal Justice Sciences in Boston, Mass., March 10-13, 2009.

**Molly Linder**, assistant professor of art presented:

- "Visualizing Virtue: Portraits of the Vestal Virgins" at the College Art Association Conference in Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 26-28, 2009.
- "Visualizing Virtue and the Sacred in the Portraits of the Vestal Virgin in the Atrium Vestae" at the Construction of Religious Space in Columbus, Ohio, April 10-11, 2009.

**Ralph Menning**, assistant professor of history

- Was elected to a By-Fellowship at Churchill College in the University of Cambridge for fall 2008 to research the British angle of his manuscript *The First Cold War: Britain, Germany, and the Politics of Global Confrontation, 1905-1910*.
- Presented "Beyond Waldo and Carmen San Diego: Locating Your Place in the Real World" at the 2009 AURCO Conference at Miami University, Middletown, Ohio, April 3-4, 2009.

**Robert Miltner**, associate professor of English presented:

- "Stanzagaphers and Blockheads: Formal Considerations of the Prose Poem" at the Winter Wheat Literary Festival Role in Bowling Green, Ohio, Nov. 13-14, 2008.
- "Raymond's Carver's Late Poetry and Tess Gallagher's Poetic Theory" at the American Literature Symposium on American Poetry Role in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Dec. 14-18, 2008.

**Carey McDougall**, assistant professor of art

- Presented "Solo Exhibition" at the Exhibition at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art in New Harmony, Ind., Jan. 9-15, 2009.
- Co-exhibited her sculpture series "Nobody's Wife, Nobody's Mother" for the group exhibition "Tech-no-Tech" at Martin-Mullen Art Gallery, State University of New York College at Oneonta, N.Y. from Jan. 26 through March 19, 2009.
- Exhibited recent sculptures and drawings for the solo exhibition "Re-routing" at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art of University Southern Indiana, New Harmony, Ind. from Jan. 17 through March 7, 2009.

**Jack McWhorter**, associate professor of art, presented "Symmetry Breaking" at the CC de Bosuil, Exhibition of Paintings in Brussels, Belgium, Oct. 24-31, 2008.

**Thomas Norton-Smith**, associate professor of philosophy, presented "The Dance of Person and Place: One Interpretation of American Indian Philosophy" at the American Philosophical Association Central Division in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 20-22, 2009.

**Chris Post**, assistant professor of geography, presented "Landscape, Memory and the Reputational Politics of John Brown in Kansas" at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., March 23-26, 2009.

**Parthasarathy Rajagopal**, assistant professor of mathematics, presented "Use of Official Statistics in Teaching Introductory Level Statistics in Ohio" at the International Symposium on Optimization and Statistics in India, Dec. 15, 2008 to Jan. 13, 2009.

**Deeanna Rohr**, adjunct professor of English, presented "Ann Lee: Her Illiteracy and Inactivity as Ann the Word" at New York University Colloquium in American Literature and Culture in New York City, April 29, 2009 to May 3, 2009.

**Shawn Selby**, adjunct professor of history, presented "Chilly Cinema: Critical Response to Four Cold War Films" at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in New Orleans, La., April 8-12, 2009.



**Debra Shelestak**, assistant professor of nursing, presented "Solidity of Basic Research Designs" and also served as a panel member on "Issues and Nursing Strategies to Improve Self-management in Adults with Psoriasis" at the Dermatology Nurses Association Annual Convention in San Francisco, Calif., March 3-8, 2009.

**Jay Sloan**, assistant professor of English

- Was elected to a three-year term on the Executive Board of the East Central Writing Center's Association at this year's conference, held at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Ind., April 3-4, 2009.

He was subsequently elected to a one-year term as vice president of the association and also appointed as the organization's Web master.

- Presented "Location, Location: All Writing Centers are Local" at the East Central Writing Centers Association at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Ind., April 2-4, 2009.

**Thomas Sosnowski**, associate professor of history, presented "Les Miserables of the Fronde: Testimony from the Mazarinades" at the Western Society for French History Conference in Quebec, Canada, Nov. 5-9, 2008.

**Qing Su**, assistant professor of economics, presented "The Effect of Population Density, Road Network Density and Congestion on Gasoline Consumption in U.S. Urban Areas" at the Southern Regional Science Annual Meetings in San Antonio, Texas, April 1-5, 2009.

**Lisa Waite**, lecturer of communication studies

- Published "Rock and Roll! Using Classic Rock as a Guide to Fantasy Theme Analysis" in *Communication Teacher*, 2008.
- Was named a 2008 Cambridge Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women.

- Was chosen as a finalist in The White House Project – Women's Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., May 2008. The project was sponsored by Oprah Winfrey, Harpo Productions and American Express.
- Published "Sticks and Stones: Exploring Media and Rhetorical Criticism through Celebrity Bleeps and Blunders" in *Feedback Journal*, 2009.
- Conducted a course study for spring 2009, entitled "Rhetoric of Revolution: Rhetorical Influences of Kent State University, May 4, 1970."

**Lori Wilfong**, assistant professor of education presented:

- "From YouTube to YouThink: Using Multimedia for Elaboration and Evaluation of Students' Thinking about STEM Line Break" at the National Conference on Science Education in New Orleans, La., March 19-21, 2009.
- "Teaching as a Researching Profession: The Transformative Power of Teacher Research" at the International Reading Association Annual Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., May 5-6, 2009.



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