

# encompass

FALL 2008

## New DIRECTION

Fingerhut's bold 10-year plan for the University System of Ohio identifies Kent State Stark as the public baccalaureate provider in Stark County.

**EXCELLENCE in Action**

KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
STARK



# Message from the Dean

Every university has a unique spirit and culture – an ambience and persona driven by the principles and values of its students, faculty, alumni and staff. When I sought to discover what made us unique among area institutions of higher learning, my search was brief. The passion and culture that has emerged over the past several years is clear: Kent State Stark is passionate about environmental and social responsibility that impacts our students, our community, our nation and our world. This debut edition of *Encompass* – a snapshot of campus initiatives – shows how we live these core values in everything we do.

From Earth Day and the Wings project for eighth-grade girls to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and the creation of a cutting-edge Herbert W. Hoover Initiative for Environmental Media Activism, we encourage people of all ages to join us in bold new ventures of lasting value and impact. And, with wholehearted support for Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut's vision for higher education in Ohio, we're expanding our academic horizons to benefit area students.

It's a challenging and exciting time. As a strong community partner, we are leading educational, environmental and social transformation in Stark County and beyond. We hope you will want to be part of what's going on at Kent State Stark.

**Dr. Betsy V. Boze**

— *Dean, Kent State University Stark*

*Betsy V. Boze*

*Above: Dr. Boze poses on the limb of a 400-year-old tree located on the grounds of the campus. The large tree stands prominently in an open field — a reminder of when the land was farmed by Leo A. Frank and John Wyles.*

[www.stark.kent.edu](http://www.stark.kent.edu)

## **Encompass**

Fall 2008 Vol. I Issue I  
08-1749

( On the cover )  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut

## **Kent State University Stark Faculty Council Officers 2008-09:**

Jack McWhorter, chair  
Dr. Penny Bernstein, vice chair  
Dr. Andrea Adolph, secretary  
Dr. Leslie Heaphy, treasurer

## **Kent State University Stark Cabinet Members:**

Tina L. Biasella, external affairs director  
Dr. Ruth Capasso, associate dean of academic affairs  
John Lehman, internal affairs director  
Mary Southards, assistant dean of enrollment services

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A group of people are seated in a modern lounge area. In the center, a man in a grey suit and tie sits in a green leather armchair, facing a group of people. To his right, another man in a white jacket and blue shirt sits in a brown leather armchair, looking towards the group. Several other people are seated in various armchairs around a low, round, light blue table. The background features a large, colorful abstract painting on a grey wall, a fireplace with a wooden surround, and a large potted plant on the left. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

# New DIREC

Fingerhut's bold 10-year plan for the University System of Ohio identifies Kent State Stark as the public baccalaureate provider in Stark County.

**He's setting a new course** for higher education in Ohio.

Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut recently united the state's 61 public universities and community colleges under

# TION

one collaborative framework – the University System of Ohio (USO).

For Kent State University Stark and others, that means at least 3,650 days of hard work to achieve a world-class university system and to fulfill three of its greatest development needs:

- Graduate more students.
- Keep more graduates in Ohio.
- Attract more talent to the state.

Although the USO will change how the university operates, Dr. Betsy Boze, dean, Kent State Stark, says she and other members of the faculty and administration didn't hesitate to roll up their sleeves for this effort.

"We are overwhelmingly enthusiastic about Chancellor Fingerhut and the University System of Ohio," she said. "He is a visionary and a man of action, and we are pleased with his direction for Kent State Stark."

## **Four-Year Programs to Expand**

A key USO component is lowering the cost of higher education by

offering more options for students, including highest-quality associate and bachelor's degree programs within 30 miles of every Ohioan, dual enrollment between community colleges and universities, and college credit for qualifying high school courses through Seniors to Sophomores and similar programs.

Fingerhut's plan identifies Kent State Stark as the public university in Stark County. The university currently offers 12 complete bachelor's degrees on site, as well as associate and master's degrees.

"For years, we've been poised to expand our four-year programs, and now we are supported by the chancellor to fulfill that role," said Mary Southards, assistant dean for enrollment management. "Although still in the exploratory stages, we're considering 30 additional majors that we hope to offer by 2017."

Kent State Stark will also increase its collaborative efforts with neighboring Stark State College of Technology. According to Dr. Ruth Capasso, associate dean for academic affairs, the USO will further simplify movement between the two schools.

She said, "Our boundaries have always been very fluid. At this time, we're talking with Stark State about how to make those transfers even smoother. Our dialogue involves creating new programs, tweaking current requirements and determining how best to advise students right from the start. We're intent on removing as many obstacles as possible."

## **It's Different in Stark County**

Fingerhut, too, is focused on removing obstacles. As part of his Community Conversation series, Fingerhut visited Stark County twice this past summer, speaking with community members and higher education, business,





**“Chancellor Fingerhut recognizes that Stark County is on the forefront of educational transformation in Ohio, and Kent State Stark is part of making that happen.”**

**– Dr. Betsy Boze, Dean, Kent State Stark**

and student leaders. During the forums at Stark State College and Kent State Stark, Fingerhut stressed the importance of breaking down barriers between K-12 and higher education.

He said that in the past, the Ohio Board of Regents has not been a constructive partner for K-12. Teachers should be able to turn to

higher education for professional preparation and support, and guidance on “college readiness,” he added.

But things are different in Stark County.

Since 1989, Kent State Stark has been reaching out to area schools, first with post-secondary educa-

tion opportunities – a program that enrolls more than 200 high school students annually – and more recently through the Stark County Educational Service Center and the Stark Education Partnership’s P-16 (preschool through bachelor’s degree) Compact. Stark State and Kent State Stark have also been working with the Partnership on a program to eliminate the need for math remediation at the college level.

Southards noted Kent State Stark’s long-standing connections with local schools have continued to evolve. “Previously, we worked mainly with guidance counselors,” Southards said. “More recently, we have created relationships with teachers, principals and superintendents. For several summers, we’ve offered area educators the graduate courses they need to teach high school classes for college credit – the USO’s dual enrollment element.”

Boze meets one-on-one with the Stark County school superintendents and recently offered school board dinner and lunch forums. She said, “I’m always asking, ‘How can Kent State Stark better serve your school system?’”





Kent State Stark has also helped several schools pilot Seniors to Sophomores programs, potentially saving Stark County residents more than \$4 million. For the 2008-09 academic year, 11 Stark County districts received more Seniors to Sophomores funding than any other county in Ohio.

“Chancellor Fingerhut recognizes that Stark County is on the forefront of educational transformation in Ohio,” Boze said. “And, Kent State Stark has been part of making that happen. We will continue to support the USO and our community’s integrated P-16 initiatives because we know how important education is to the future of our children and our state.” <





## Spring 2008 Commencement Includes First Graduation Pledge



More than 90 Kent State Stark graduates chose to take the Graduation Pledge at commencement this spring, joining an alliance of students who support social and environmental responsibility at more than 100

colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Students who made the vow recited, "I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work."

Each student and supportive faculty member also wore a green cord as a symbol of the pledge.

## Featured Speakers Encourage Community Dialogue



To foster community conversation, Kent State Stark annually invites distinguished speakers to share their views on timely issues. This past year, Kent State Stark hosted:



- Oscar-winning actor, director and political activist Tim Robbins (*Mystic River*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Bull Durham*), who presented, "Building a More Perfect Union."



- Sudanese refugee John Dau and award-winning director Christopher Quinn. In the Sundance Award-winning film, *God Grew Tired of Us*, Quinn follows Dau and two other Sudanese "lost boys" on their odyssey to America.



- Educator, environmentalist and film producer Jean-Michel Cousteau (son of legendary Jacques-Yves Cousteau), daughter Céline Cousteau and son



Fabien Cousteau spoke about ocean exploration and conservation. This marked the first time all three made a presentation together.

- Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Dave Barry spoke during *An Evening With Dave Barry*. A syndicated humor columnist, Barry's work has appeared in more than 500 newspapers. He has also authored 30 books, including two used as the basis for the CBS sitcom, *Dave's World*.

About 900 attended each event, all of which were free and open to the public. In addition, several speakers offered video conferences with area schools for educational enrichment.

## Earth Day Activities Inspire Environmental Awareness

The Cousteaus' visit in March kicked off a series of environmental programs at Kent State Stark.

More than 600 attended the university's second annual Earth Day Celebration on April 20 at its 200-acre campus. The free, family-friendly event featured guided planetary, geologic time scale and nature walks; old-fashioned games; mock fossil digs; entertainment; faculty presentations; give-aways and more. In addition, a tree planting ceremony was held April 22.

With its strong "green" commitment, Kent State Stark is striving to become the center of Earth Day activities in Stark County. Its wildlife pond currently serves as an outdoor learning classroom and research facility for many area students.



# ◀◀ looking back

This past year, Kent State University Stark offered several notable programs and events to benefit the community and advance its core values of social responsibility and concern for the environment.



## Inconvenient Truth

The university hosted Waterloo High School science teacher and global warming activist Ken Riley, who discussed the conclusions behind *An Inconvenient Truth*, director Davis Guggenheim's look at former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt global warming.

One of 16 in Ohio trained by the Alliance for Climate Protection, Riley provided information about easy, energy-saving and money-saving solutions to the growing problem.

## Chill Out

Kent State Stark offered the National Wildlife Federation's broadcast of *Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming*, which presented positive, practical global warming solutions that are being implemented at campuses around the country.

## Kent State Stark Sponsors Exclusive *One Water* Screening

Kent State Stark recently offered an exclusive showing of *One Water*, a documentary that explores the global fresh water crisis and how this invaluable resource touches every aspect of human life and culture. Held at the Canton Palace Theatre, this screening of *One Water* was the film's first public screening since its world premiere earlier this year at the Miami International Film Festival.

Produced by the University of Miami, the film includes candid interviews with international notables such as His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the XIV Dalai Lama and Robert F. Kennedy Jr.



## Smart Start Saturday Helps New Students Get Acclimated

On Saturday, Aug. 23 – just prior to the beginning of the 2008 fall semester – hundreds of new and returning students and their families participated in Kent State Stark's third annual Smart Start Saturday.

Designed to help students prepare for the upcoming academic year and meet university faculty and staff, Smart Start Saturday included:

- A welcome from Dean Boze.
- An orientation "road trip" and break-out sessions.
- An opportunity to purchase books, locate classrooms and explore student life.
- A free campus picnic.

For the first time, students at Smart Start Saturday received a student planner, complete with a daytimer, the student handbook, important phone numbers and other reference materials.

## Student Government Organizes

With the help of Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history, Don Thacker, professor and lecturer of marketing, and Kristi Yerian, student life coordinator, Kent State Stark students re-established the student government this past year.

In addition to supporting a variety of campus events, the student government helped organize several community service projects with the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Stark County Hunger Task Force, the Salvation Army and St. Luke's Lutheran Community Nursing Home in North Canton.

This year, the group plans to expand on previous events, hold new ones and create a campus coffee house. To learn more about the Kent State Stark student government, visit [www.stark.kent.edu](http://www.stark.kent.edu) and follow the Current Students link to the Student Life page, listed in the left-hand column.

# looking forward >>

**Kent State University Stark fosters student success, learning opportunities and civic responsibility for new and returning students to Senior Guests of the campus.**



## **FlashPoint Helps Boost Student Success**

This year, Kent State Stark offers freshman students FlashPoint, a semester-long

course that helps them develop skills for college and career success, while getting to know others with similar interests.

With FlashPoint, students can choose from a range of special interest topics – such as, photo journalism, American musicals, rock music in America, the art of learning and more – and explore that subject with others who also enjoy it. All students will participate in community service projects and learn about core concepts, such as time management, study skills, careers exploration, résumé building and interviewing techniques.

## **Newly Tenured Professors Share Inspiring Books**

With support from the Kent State University Stark Faculty Council, Dean Betsy Boze, recently implemented a new tradition to recognize professors who attain tenure, a crowning achievement in higher education that normally goes uncelebrated.

Newly tenured faculty members are invited to choose a book that has inspired them professionally and personally and submit an explanatory inscription. Copies of the book and inscription are added to the Kent State Stark Resources Center, as well as to a special library collection. In addition, professors who earn tenure are announced at the school's annual faculty dinner and given the opportunity to discuss their book selection.

Boze came up with the idea after hearing a speaker make light of tenure being reduced to a congratulatory form letter. She said, "In the world of academia, it's sometimes easy to overlook the hard work required to earn tenure. This is one way to honor those who reach that goal, acknowledging them with a lasting gesture that can be enjoyed and celebrated by all members of the campus community."

## **Student Leadership Academy Open to All**

Committed to helping students succeed both inside and outside the classroom, Kent State Stark will again offer its Student Leadership Academy. A month-long development program held each fall and spring, the academy is open to any interested student, freshman through senior.

Focusing on personal leadership, professional training and academic success, the Student Leadership Academy meets twice per week and covers topics such as team building, leadership assessment, conflict management, résumé writing and stress management.

Students who participate in seven or more sessions receive a certificate, a \$25 bookstore gift card and a special dinner with the dean. To learn more, contact Kristi Yeran, student life coordinator, at 330-244-5041.

## **Students Encouraged to 'Get Engaged' by Registering to Vote**

Kent State Stark continues to urge students to engage in civic responsibilities by registering to vote. Registration forms are available at many locations on campus. In order to vote in the November 4 General Election in



Ohio, eligible individuals (a U.S. citizen age 18 or older on Election Day and an Ohio resident for at least 30 days) must either:

- Mail a completed registration form to a county board of elections or the Ohio Secretary of State's office by Oct. 6 or
- Deliver a completed form to a board of elections, the Ohio Secretary of State's office, any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office or other designated agency by Oct. 6.

To download a voter registration form, visit the Stark County Government's Web site at [www.co.stark.oh.us](http://www.co.stark.oh.us) and click on the board of elections link.



### Kent State Stark to Hold First December Commencement

In addition to its annual graduation ceremony in May, Kent State Stark will hold its first December Commencement on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at the university's Professional Education and Conference Center.

Because of increased enrollment and new academic programs, Kent State Stark is adding the December Commencement to accommodate the many students (and their families) who wish to walk at the Stark Campus.

## Over 60? Be Our Senior Guest.

For more than 30 years, Kent State University Stark has invited area seniors to take part in classes at no charge. Called Senior Guests, this community program is open to anyone age 60 and older, or at least 50 and receiving a pension.

According to Ryan Bucher, admissions counselor and honors program co-coordinator, 45 individuals took advantage of the opportunity during the spring 2008 semester.

"It's a win-win program," he said. "Our Senior Guests enjoy the intellectual challenge of the courses, and students and professors enjoy hearing their perspectives on various topics."

Senior Guests do not need to apply for admission and receive no credit for classes. And, there's no requirement to complete assignments.

To learn more, contact Ryan at 330-244-3260 or via e-mail at [rbucher@kent.edu](mailto:rbucher@kent.edu).



# The BIGGER Picture

Students discover how

*Above: Volunteers lend their hands to help build a house*



**When the team arrived** at the school, they found it hard to imagine young children at play. Flanked by modular trailers, the building with gray walls and a barbed wire fence seemed more like a detention center.

On the bus ride to New Orleans, 50 Kent State University students from several campuses, including Kent State Stark, bantered about trips to the beach and the famed French Quarter where masters of jazz and zydeco play. After seeing the school, the reality of their alternative spring break – a mission to serve those still struggling after Hurricane Katrina – became clear.

“Our first day, we spent some time talking with students, asking them what fun things they wanted us to create in their school yard,” recalled Eric Smer, trip participant and Ohio Campus Compact Americorps VISTA Service Leader at Kent State and Kent State Stark. “One young girl told us, ‘People come down here all the time, but they never finish what they start.’ Right then and there, we committed ourselves to keeping our promise and doing even more.”

During that week in March, Kent State students painted walls, murals and traditional playground games like hopscotch and four-square. And, they put on puppet shows, spent time in class with

the children, learned about New Orleans’ distinctive culture and shared why they chose to go to college.

At the same time, about 50 others from the university traveled to Biloxi, Miss., to help clean up and rebuild homes.

On the way home, many students wanted to know when they could do a similar service project. Smer told them, “As soon as you get back to Ohio.”

Smer noted that many students are unaware of the needs in their own community. He said, “When I first tell students there are places in Northeast Ohio as poverty stricken as New Orleans, it’s hard for them to get that connection. But, once we help them discover hands-on opportunities close to home, many want to make a difference.”

### **Real-World Learning**

Kent State Stark, recently named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service, has long promoted social responsibility as a core value. The importance of service-learning – a teaching strategy that integrates meaningful community service with classroom instruction – is emphasized on campus.



*Above/Right: Volunteers help paint a house*

In 2008, Dr. Andrea Adolph, associate professor of English and the coordinator of service-learning at Kent State Stark, was recognized for her work with the David Hoch Memorial Award for Excellence in Service from the Ohio Campus Compact, a consortium of 49 Ohio colleges and universities with strong community service, service-learning and civic engagement programs.

# **serving others integrates with learning and life.**

**“When students collaborate with our partners, when they go out there and meet people face to face, hear their stories, create that relationship, it generates an amazing amount of energy among the students and in the community.”**

**– Eric Smer, OCCA VISTA Service Leader at Kent State and Kent State Stark**

Adolph believes service-learning is at the heart of what higher education is all about. She said, “As instructors, we have a passion for education. And, it’s important to remember we’re educating whole people, future leaders and agents of change in our society. Service-learning helps students begin to think about how academics are part of the bigger picture.”

Since 2004, nearly 1,000 students have provided 10,000 hours of community service through service-learning. Valued at more than \$200,000, these projects have assisted 30 community partners, including Canton City Schools, the Stark County Hunger Task Force and the Ft. Laurens Project in Tuscarawas County.

### **Coming Together**

“It’s been a truly combustible time at Kent State Stark in regards to community service,” said Smer. “When students collaborate with our partners, when they go out there and meet people face to face, hear their stories, create that relationship, it generates an amazing amount of energy among the students and in the community.”

This past year, more than 50 Kent State Stark students participated

for the first time in *USA Weekend* magazine’s annual Make a Difference Day in October. They helped Hammer & Nails complete property improvements for disadvantaged Stark County homeowners and helped Habitat for Humanity organize and clean its ReStore. They pitched in to help the Stark County Hunger Task Force fill backpacks with food for area children who may not receive regular meals on weekends.

During the spring semester, about 50 students made a long-term commitment to Hammer & Nails, volunteering on six Saturdays for seven hours each time. Others held collection drives, helped out at area soup kitchens and raised awareness about AIDS by bringing the AIDS Memorial Quilt to campus.



Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history and the campus honors program director, coordinates Kent State Stark’s American Cancer Society Relay for Life efforts and other projects. Natasha Brobst, senior marketing major, has participated in the relay since 2006, co-captained



*Dr. Andrea Adolph*

the Kentastics team for the past two years and helped raise more than \$3,000 in 2008.

When her grandmother was diagnosed with brain cancer two years ago, Brobst said it made the volunteering personal. She added, “Service, like with the relay, is about people, their relationships and how much everyone can benefit by coming together for a good cause.” <





*Above: Volunteers help paint a house*



*Below: Graduates listen to the address during the nursing convocation.*



# Total Treatment

## **Kent State Stark's inaugural pinning ceremony celebrates the school's first baccalaureate nursing graduates and its growing nursing program.**

For nearly 130 years, the pinning ceremony has served as a rite of passage for nursing graduates, signifying the transition from student to professional.

During an inaugural pinning ceremony this past May, the first 23 graduates of Kent State University Stark's baccalaureate nursing program received pins displaying the Kent State emblem. The event - a milestone for both graduates and the university - celebrated the achievements of students and the school's growing program.

### **From Vision to Reality**

In 1991, Kent State Stark began offering sophomore nursing courses. The following year, Kathryn A. Cartechine, R.N., M.S.N., C.N.S., program coordinator and assistant professor of nursing, joined the faculty with a vision to establish a four-year nursing degree on the campus.

Since then, health care has become one of Ohio's leading industries. In 2007, Cartechine's vision materialized into a reality. The program currently accepts 40 sophomores each fall.

"Selective enrollment allows us to offer a quality, individualized nursing education at a cost-efficient price," she said. "The program's 10 full-time faculty members – each an expert in a different nursing specialty – give undergraduates a lot of one-on-one attention, making the transition from the classroom to the patient-care setting much easier."

The program also provides diverse clinical experiences in Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties. From smaller health care agencies and hospitals to larger medical centers, students learn how to "care for many different types of patients without leaving our community, where many will later work," Cartechine said.

She added that students are encouraged to become life long advocates for patients, their families and high-quality health care in the community.



“Our instructors were amazing resources. They currently work in the same fields they teach about, so they were able to train us on the latest treatments and methods. And, we felt like they had a vested interest in us.”

– Shellee Wandel, B.S.N., one of Kent State Stark’s first nursing baccalaureate program graduates

### Strong Network of Support

Several recent graduates credit the quality of instruction at Kent State Stark for their solid career foundation. Shellee Wandel said she was fully prepared for nursing.

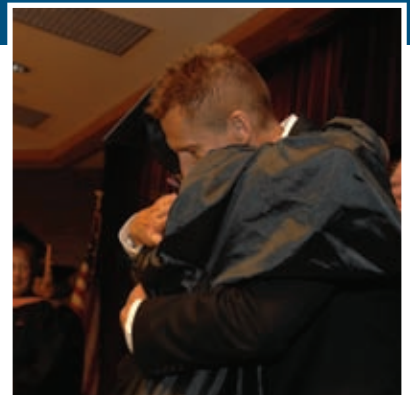
“Our instructors were amazing resources,” said Wandel. “They currently work in the same fields they teach about, so they were able to train us on the latest treatments and methods. And, we felt like they had a vested interest in us.”

Graduate Susan Tortora also appreciated the emphasis on student-teacher interaction. She said, “The faculty is a strong network of support. They go the extra mile by getting to know the students, becoming familiar with our work, even giving us their cell phone numbers. They’re that accessible.”

Cartechine said the nursing graduates are evidence of Kent State Stark’s commitment

to nursing. She believes the baccalaureate program, which attracts strong, qualified students, wouldn’t have happened without the support of Dr. Betsy Boze, dean; Dr. Ruth Capasso, associate dean for academic affairs; Mary Southards, assistant dean for enrollment management; and past administrators.

“With new facilities on the horizon in 2010, I feel this program is poised for further expansion,” she said. <



*Top:* Caption: Kathryn Cartechine, assistant professor of nursing, explains the symbolism of the traditional nursing cap to the graduates.

*Middle:* A graduate chooses her mother to pin her during the ceremony.

*Bottom:* A nursing graduate receives a congratulatory hug.



# Science Takes Wing

## **Kent State Stark professor helps lead ecology projects that touch Stark County students and communities.**

For Robert Hamilton IV, it's always been about frogs and snails and creatures with (and without) tails. Every summer, this Eagle Scout spent his youth exploring the woods and streams of Stark County. Sometimes he'd even keep his shoes on.

Now a wetland researcher for more than a decade and an assistant professor of biological sciences at Kent State University Stark since 2005, Dr. Hamilton added "sugar and spice and everything nice" to his work this past July, helping area girls discover science and nature at Canton's Sippo Lake.

### **Engaging Girls in Science**

Together with Claudia Khourey-Bowers, associate professor of middle-childhood education, curriculum and development; Joanne Salay, math and science outreach coordinator; Carey McDougall, professor of art; and Nick Morris, education outreach coordinator for the Stark County Park District, Hamilton created the Wings Project, a field-based experience for eighth-grade girls from urban areas. The grant-funded program exposed the middle-schoolers to the natural environment and encouraged them to express their findings through art and journaling.

Wings was designed specifically to engage girls in science, a subject they sometimes shy away from. "Middle-school boys tend to be louder and more boisterous than girls," said Hamilton. "We've found it's easier to interest girls in science by letting them have fun together while doing hands-on activities and experiments."

The girls tested water samples and collected and studied aquatic invertebrates, such as insects, worms, snails and crabs. And, Stark County benefited from their investigation.

"This is the most comprehensive survey that has ever been completed at Sippo Lake," he added.

Hamilton hopes that Wings – a part Kent State Stark's ongoing collaboration with local K-12 science and math programs – will become self-sustaining. He and others helped train an



“It’s very important to me to share what I’ve learned with Stark County students and teachers. I want to give back to my community. And, I want to encourage future generations to consider important questions, such as: What should our environment be like? How is it changing? And, who decides what it should be like?”

– Dr. Robert Hamilton,  
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

area high school teacher to continue Wings next summer.

He said, “It’s very important to me to share what I’ve learned with Stark County students and teachers. I want to give back to my community. And, I want to encourage future generations to consider important questions, such as: What should our environment be like? How is it changing? And, who decides what it should be like?”

### Testing Water Quality

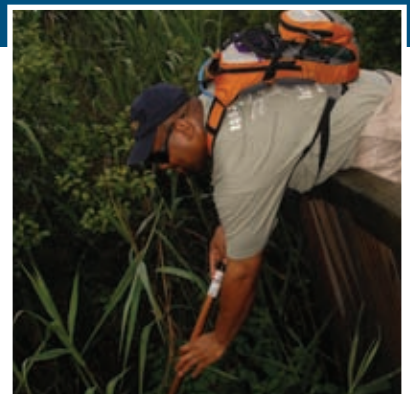
Hamilton also recently started monitoring the Nimishillen Watershed, Stark County’s main drainage basin. All three branches of the Nimishillen Creek meet south of Canton and flow into the Tuscarawas River.

The watershed had been checked for chemicals and invertebrates from the mid-1990s until 2004. Through his independent, presently unfunded study, Hamilton and Kent State Stark students

will seasonally monitor the watershed’s health, generate reports for the city of Canton and raise awareness about the project’s importance.

Hamilton also recently assisted a student in surveying aquatic system quality at Quail Hollow State Park in Hartville. And, through a summer regional faculty development grant, he collaborated with Central Michigan University on a study of carnivorous pitcher plants on Lake Michigan’s remote Beaver Island.

In discussing his passion for water conservation, he said, “People are the main source of pollution. And, as Ohio’s population shrinks, will that eventually lead to improved water quality? No one knows, but we need to find out. If the answer isn’t as simple as removing people from the equation, then that means nature is struggling to fix itself. We would need to step up our green initiatives.” <



**Top:** A seventh-grade girl collects a sample from Sippo Lake.

**Middle:** The girls sift through the sorting pan in search of invertebrates.

**Bottom:** Robert Hamilton dips his net into Sippo Lake to pull out invertebrate samples for research.

*Below: Thomas Koontz reflects on his days as a student at Kent State University Stark.*



# Remembrance

## **Distinguished alumnus Tom Koontz, '78, finds Kent State Stark again at Virginia Tech.**

It was mourning at Virginia Tech. As the university grieved the tragic loss of 32 students and faculty during a shooting on April 16, 2007, thousands of individuals and schools from around the world sent commemorative expressions of sympathy and support.

The Squires Student Center, a three-story atrium illuminated by skylights, was filled with these items – banners, books, cards, pictures, art work – when Tom Koontz and his wife, Becky, walked through. A gold-trimmed blue album on a table in the middle of the main lobby caught her eye.

“My wife told me, ‘You’ve got to see this,’” remembered Koontz. “I had a feeling the book was from Kent State University. But, when I opened it, I was surprised to see it was from Kent State University Stark, where I first attended college. I was so touched, I began to cry.”

The book brought back many memories for Koontz, including when he’d commuted to the university’s Kent, Ohio, campus in the months following the 1970 shooting deaths of four Kent State students.

He said, “Once something like that happens to a school, you can’t get away from it. The event becomes part of the institution.”

## **Road to Blacksburg**

Koontz and his wife both grew up in Stark County. A 1968 graduate of then Lehman High School in Canton, Koontz began attending Kent State Stark that same year on an architecture career path.

Because of the mathematics, Koontz had been challenged by nearly every high school teacher to consider some other career. He said, “Since age eight, I had been passionate about architecture, and I needed to see for myself if I could make it in college. I chose Kent State Stark for practical reasons: it was affordable, close to home and my job, and provided an entry into the university’s architecture program.”

While at Kent State Stark, he met math professor Dan Auvil, who, according to Koontz, was patient, easy to understand and the best math professor he’s ever had. Koontz was later accepted into the Kent State College of Architecture and, excelling in his applied courses, received a bachelor’s of architecture degree in 1978.

The road that began at Kent State Stark led Koontz to Blacksburg, Virg., and Virginia Tech, where he earned a master’s in architecture. Afterwards, he worked in the university architect’s office and later taught architecture courses for seven years. In 1990, he established his own architectural and interior design firm – Thomas Koontz •



“Excellence in action is more than a motto: it is a way of life. It describes who we are by what we do. And, what we do describes what we love, what we are passionate about.”

– Tom Koontz, ‘78

Architect, PC – that promotes green building and handles a broad range of projects throughout central and southwestern Virginia.

### Passionate Pursuit of Excellence

In pondering experiences at Kent State and Virginia Tech, Koontz – named a distinguished alumnus in 2007 – spoke during Kent State Stark’s recent spring commencement about keeping passions alive in the pursuit of excellence.

During his address, he said, “Excellence in action is more than a motto: it is a way of life. It describes who we are by what we do. And, what we do describes what we love, what we are passionate about.”

And, he continues to encourage current and future Kent State Stark students to give themselves over to things that will last. He said, “Henry Scougal, an author and professor of divinity at King’s College in Aberdeen, Scotland, once wrote, ‘The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love.’ I believe Scougal meant that when we focus on what is eternal, then the quality of our lives will be measured that same way, never to be forgotten.” ◀

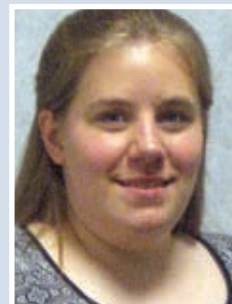
## Three Students Receive Alumni Scholarships

The Kent State University Stark Alumni Chapter recently awarded three \$750 Alumni Scholarships for the 2008-09 collegiate year. The organization’s endowment fund provides “legacy” scholarships to current full-time students whose parent or grandparent attended Kent State Stark.

Recipients included Bethany Calloway, a 2002 Massillon Christian School graduate, Hannah Harris, a 2008 Hoover High School graduate, and Whitney Stevenson, a 2007 Hoover High School graduate.

### Bethany Calloway

Calloway, a senior majoring in nursing, plans to work in critical care and obtain her certification as a registered nurse anesthetist in the future. Calloway’s father, Albert Calloway, majored in general studies and is currently the pastor of Freedom Baptist Fellowship in Canton and principal of Faith Christian Academy in Wilmot.



### Hannah Harris

Harris, who began her coursework this fall, plans to major in psychology to become an elementary school guidance counselor. Her mother, Tamara Harris, majored in accounting and – with job search assistance from career services at Kent State Stark – currently works as an auditor for the federal government.



### Whitney Stevenson

Stevenson is a sophomore at Kent State Stark studying occupational therapy; she hopes to improve the lives of developmentally handicapped children. Her mother, Beth Stevenson, studied nursing and currently works as a nurse at Aultman Hospital in Canton.



*Below: Participants in a Six Sigma course illustrate their training information.*



# Workforce Empowerment

## **With the help of Kent State Stark, Ohio Packaging gives its employees a greater voice in day-to-day operations.**

When Dale Kiaski started working for Ohio Packaging five years ago, he was charged with helping the profitable, 40-year-old Massillon business perform even better.

The first manager hired from outside the company, Kiaski made employee training a top priority. "When I came to Ohio Packaging, what I found was an organization of very tenured, dedicated employees who needed more of a voice in their work," said Kiaski, general manager. "To make the plant even more successful, we had to embrace and involve our employees in daily decision making. And, I realized that would require training."

### **The Right Fit**

CorrChoice Inc. is a subsidiary of Greif Inc., based in Delaware, Ohio. Greif Inc. is a world leader in industrial packaging products and services, and operates six corrugated sheet feeder plants, including Ohio Packaging. CorrChoice provided several general training courses, but Kiaski was looking for something more.

He decided to explore what the Kent State University Stark Office of Corporate and Community Services had to offer.

He said, "Kent State representatives never came in and said, 'Here's our product.' Rather, they created training products that fit our business objectives. They wanted to know our needs and our vision for Ohio Packaging. That was the basis for their plan."

### **Training Evolution**

A Corporate and Community Services facilitator introduced operational excellence teams and a cross-functional steering committee, encouraging employees to tackle major issues like waste reduction, quality improvement, shipping, equipment up-time and business continuity. With the help of The Office of Corporate and Community Services, Ohio Packaging also conducted a detailed customer survey and implemented customer service training.

In addition, more than 10 Ohio Packaging managers have taken advantage of the Kent State Stark's Certificates of Supervision and Management, and the entire plant completed



**“Kent State Stark’s Office of**

**Corporate and Community Services**

**has contributed to our ability to**

**sustain and grow our market share**

**by showing us how to empower our**

**workforce, improve internal efficiency**

**and reduce waste. That translates into**

**more dollars on the bottom line.”**

**– Dale Kiaski,**

**General Manager, Ohio Packaging**

the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® personality inventory.

Kiaski said the training process has evolved just as he envisioned it. “As our teams have matured, the Kent State facilitator has gone from being a team leader to a team partner. He doesn’t need to run meetings anymore because our employees are now capable of doing it themselves. His biggest role is giving the team a push if they get stuck in the mud.”

More importantly, noted Kiaski, The Office of Corporate and Community Services has helped Ohio Packaging continue to be a major player in its market. “Kent State Stark has contributed to our ability to sustain and grow our market share by showing us how to empower our workforce, improve internal efficiency and reduce waste. That translates into more dollars on the bottom line.” <

*Right: Kent State Stark  
donors Chuck and Judy Scheurer*

## Scheurers Give Back

When asked how Kent State University Stark impacted his life, Chuck Scheurer responded, “Profoundly.”

A retired vice president of human resources at Diebold Inc., Scheurer remembers the challenges of working and going to school.

“In the early 1960s, I started college at Kent State University in Kent, but after my first year, I couldn’t afford to continue,” he said. “I opted to take classes in the evening at Kent State Stark so I could work. I wouldn’t have been able to finish school if I hadn’t. Today, Kent State Stark offers the same quality, affordability and convenience that it did back then.”

As chair of the school’s fundraising campaign, he wants the community to know the school is still helping young people achieve their dreams. He said, “Kent State Stark is a wonderful institution that works hard to provide opportunities for those who might not have other options.”

He added that since only a fifth of the school’s operating funds currently come from the state, contributions – no matter the size – are greatly needed.

For years, Scheurer and his wife, Judy, have been strong Kent State Stark supporters. Their oldest daughter earned her bachelor of science in nursing from Kent State University and has received numerous professional honors, including being recognized as one of the top 100 nurses in South Carolina.

“We’ve been very fortunate, so we want to give back to help others fulfill their dreams,” Judy Scheurer said. “No matter how long it takes to achieve your goal, set it and meet it.”







# Environmental Activism

## **The Herbert W. Hoover Foundation Initiative for Environmental Media Activism is established at Kent State Stark.**

Its purpose will be to develop a media center focused on one issue – the environment.

Its purpose will be to develop generations of scholars who can produce fair, highly educational media that will trigger environmental change on individual and social levels.

Kent State University Stark recently received a gift from the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation to establish the Herbert W. Hoover Initiative for Environmental Media Activism. A collaboration between Kent State Stark and the University of Miami (Florida), the initiative is based on the concept that digital media activism – including Web reports, blogs and films – are emerging educational and political tools that can help protect the environment.

Dr. Betsy Boze, dean of Kent State Stark, believes the initiative will expand student learning opportunities about the environment on a campus where ecological concern is already a core value.

She said, “Environment and media experts will be able to teach our students and faculty about issues that affect where we live, work and learn. Given the increased interest in protecting our environment, Kent State Stark will be on the cutting edge of environmental activism.”

Additionally, the initiative will:

- Sponsor an annual environmental awareness campaign that is pertinent to Ohio and, whenever possible, Stark County.



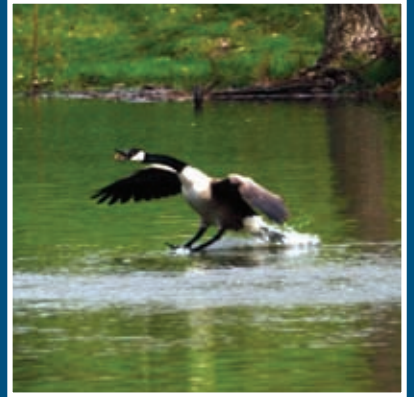
“Environment and media experts will be able to teach our students and faculty about issues that affect where we live, work and learn. Given the increased interest in protecting our environment, Kent State Stark will be on the cutting edge of environmental activism.”

– Dr. Betsy Boze, Dean of Kent State Stark

- Provide Kent State Stark faculty members with grants for research and to design collaborative courses that incorporate environmental issues.
- Offer frequent environmental film screenings from celebrated filmmakers.
- Host an annual environmental film and new media festival.
- Bring world-class environmental experts to Kent State Stark to mentor students.
- Collaborate with the University of Miami’s Arnold Center for Confluent Media Students to create media about relevant environmental themes.

“It will enable us to expand environmental education opportunities in Stark County and promote care for the environment in Ohio and elsewhere.” <

“We are truly grateful to the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation for their gift,” said Boze.



**Top:** A Canadian goose lands in the campus pond.

**Middle:** A student releases a fish into the Kent State Stark pond during the dedication of the wetland area at the First Annual Earth Day.

**Bottom:** An aerial view of Kent State Stark’s 200-acre grounds.



# Changing Course

## **Kent State Stark helps former Hoover employee Alan Ralston dust off his decades-old dream of becoming an engineer.**

In 1971, Americans were grooving to Three Dog Night's *Joy to the World*. Admission to Disney World's grand opening in Orlando, Fla., was just \$3.50, and tens of thousands militantly protested The United States involvement in the Vietnam War.

That year, Canton native Alan Ralston was dreaming of a career in nuclear engineering and, to help pay for classes, took a job with one of Stark County's largest employers, the Hoover Company in North Canton. When his father became ill a short time later, Ralston put his dreams on hold to help his family.

He left Hoover in 2007 when the plant, which once employed 5,000, closed its doors for good.

## **A New Job**

Ralston quickly began looking for training options. When The Office of Corporate and Community Services at Kent State University Stark offered to cover tuition and books for displaced Hoover employees during the 2008 spring semester, he decided to dust off old aspirations.

Now, with spring and summer semesters behind him, Ralston – a husband and father of three children – is looking forward to a full fall schedule that will move him closer to his new dream: a green career. But, he warns, it hasn't been easy. "You have to want to do this," he said. "It can't just be an alternative to unemployment because being a student is like getting a new job. If you





“When I lost my job, I kept thinking about how close I’d been to retirement. But then I realized that’s what life is like. Sometimes you have to change your course. You have to meet and overcome obstacles. And I decided I wasn’t just going to quit. I have things I want to do with the skills I’ve been given.”

– Alan Ralston

are willing to do the work, manage your time well and stay on task, you can be successful at it.”

### **‘Can-Do’ Attitude**

Ralston, whose immediate goal is to update his math skills, said the most rewarding aspect of attending Kent State Stark has been interacting with other undergraduates and with professors who are experienced in working with older students. Plus, his return to school has made his son more determined to finish college.

Aside from math, Ralston’s biggest challenge has been bridging the technology gap. “You have to handle the speed of today’s technology and the expectations that come with it,” he said.

“I quickly learned how to do twice the research I used to do in half the time.”

That kind of adaptability and can-do attitude, notes Ralston, are key factors for anyone who is considering college. He said, “When I lost my job, I kept thinking about how close I had been to retirement. But then I realized that’s what life is like. Sometimes you have to change your course. You have to meet and overcome obstacles. And I decided I wasn’t just going to quit. I have things I want to do with the skills I’ve been given.” <

*Below: Distinguished Teaching Award recipient Robert King (left) and Award of Distinction recipient John Frank (right) join Dean Betsy Boze at Kent State Stark's spring Commencement Ceremony.*

## Professors King, Frank Receive Teaching Awards

Kent State University Stark recently presented two faculty members with teaching awards for superior classroom instruction.

Robert King, M.F.A., an assistant professor of English and a full-time Kent State Stark instructor for six years, received the Kent State Stark 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition to teaching courses in English literature, modern writers, creative poetry, fiction and college writing, King frequently assists students one-on-one with individual investigations, writing portfolios and honors theses.

The 2008 Award of Distinction recipient for part-time Kent State Stark faculty was John Frank, adjunct professor of finance and justice studies. A faculty member since 2000, Frank teaches finance, justice studies and criminal justice. In addition to teaching, he is a full-time lawyer in the Canton area.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Ruth Capasso noted that King and Frank are consistently praised by students for their knowledge, commitment to student learning and passion for teaching. King and Frank were given medallions as tokens of appreciation.



"At Kent State Stark, we take great pride in our outstanding faculty, particularly exemplified by this year's group of teaching award nominees," she said.

The Distinguished Teaching Award finalists included Dr. Cynthia Barb, associate professor of mathematics, and Dr. Sebastian Birch, assistant professor of music.

## Kent State Stark Offered Vibrant Athletic Programs



*Above: Bob Kistler gives tennis instruction to a Kent State Stark student during his early days as the campus health education professor.*

Bob Kistler remembers Kent State University Stark's state-championship golf team, the national qualifying women's track meet for the 1976 Montreal Olympics and competitive varsity basketball teams.

More than a spectator, Kistler – who once coached at McKinley, Hoover and Perry High Schools – served as Kent State Stark's athletic director and a health education professor from 1963 until his retirement in 1985. During much of that time, the school was home to many vibrant athletic programs and intramural teams for men and women, including basketball, baseball, softball, swimming, track, tennis and golf.

"We had tremendous community support for our athletics," Kistler said. "And, many of Stark County's top athletes came to Kent State Stark because it was close to home and affordable."

Before the field house was built in 1968, students played at Timken High School, the Canton Jewish Community Center, Jackson High School and then Lehman High School. Later, Kent State Stark renovated the field house, opening the school's distinguished Professional Education and Conference Center in 2000.



“We enjoyed great food, prompt and courteous service and a beautiful atmosphere. The staff was professional and personable, and made us feel as though our wedding was the most important event on their calendar. It was the wedding of our dreams!”

— Michael & Ashley Shaheen

# World-Class Venue

The University Center offers a sophisticated setting for any corporate or gala event.



The University Center is Northeast Ohio's most advanced conference and special event facility, combining the latest computing and communications technology with sophisticated venues and cuisine.

Recently voted the best place to host a meeting or corporate function by the Canton Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, the University Center features an open atrium, vaulted ceilings and stunning skylights, a flowing mahogany staircase and gourmet menus prepared by culinary professionals.

Located just three miles from the Akron-Canton Airport and one hour from the Cleveland Airport, the center is as accessible as it is beautiful. Your event, whether large or intimate, will glow with pure elegance.

One of an elite few to receive accreditation from the International Association of Conference Centers, the center's complete day meeting packages offer all-inclusive, per-person, per-day rates, making the booking process simple for clients.

To reserve the center for your next event, contact Joe Folk, general manager, at 330-244-3300 or [jfolkgm@kent.edu](mailto:jfolkgm@kent.edu). Or, visit [YourUniversityCenter.com](http://YourUniversityCenter.com).

#### The University Center is ideal for:

- Weddings, receptions and other parties.
- Fundraisers and galas.
- Corporate meetings, events and trade shows.
- Computer training, videoconferencing and employee education.

*10% off weddings for Kent State Alumni!*

September 2008 – January 2009

# Cultural Flash

*Sept. 1 - 26*

**Kaleidoscope 2008**

Main Hall Gallery  
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Sat., 10 a.m. to noon, Free

*Oct. 3 - 31*

**Directions To My House**

By Patricia Zinsmeister  
Parker  
Main Hall Gallery  
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Sat., 10 a.m. to noon, Free

*Oct. 12*

**Music From Persia**

Main Hall Auditorium  
3 p.m., Free

*Nov. 7 – Dec. 5*

**The 2008 Faculty Exhibit**

Main Hall Gallery  
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Sat., 10 a.m. to noon, Free

*Nov. 14*

**Nathan Carterette  
Piano Recital**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m., Free

*Nov. 16*

**George Bachmann  
Guitar Recital**

Main Hall Auditorium  
3 p.m., Free

*Nov. 21*

**Kent State Stark  
Student Recital**

Fine Arts Theatre  
1:30 p.m., Free

*Nov. 21*

**Kent State Stark  
Studio Ensemble**

Main Hall Auditorium  
8 p.m., Free

*Nov. 21*

**Canton Symphony  
Orchestra**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m.  
Ticket prices: \$20 adults, \$14  
Senior Citizens and students

*Nov. 23*

**Kent State Stark  
University Chorus**

Main Hall Auditorium  
3 p.m., Free

*Dec. 2*

**Kent State Stark  
Concert Band**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m. Free, but ticket is  
required.

*Dec. 3*

**Kent State Stark  
Student Voice Recital**

Main Hall Auditorium  
noon, Free

*Dec. 5*

**Workshop In  
Lyric Theatre**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m., Free

*Dec. 12*

**A Dickensian Christmas**

Featuring Lyric Theatre  
Ensemble  
Main Hall Auditorium,  
7:30 p.m. Free, but ticket is  
required.

*Jan. 9*

**Canton Symphony  
Orchestra**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m.  
Ticket prices: \$20 adults, \$14  
Senior Citizens and students

*Jan. 12 - 29*

**Artist & Teacher Exhibit**

By high school and middle  
school art teachers  
Main Hall Gallery  
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Sat., 10 a.m. to noon, Free

*Jan. 14 - Feb. 9*

**55th Annual  
Scholastic Art Show**

Campus Center and Fine  
Arts Building  
Mon. – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fri., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Free

*Jan. 17*

**Kent Faculty  
Brass Quintet**

Main Hall Auditorium  
3 p.m., Free



Unless otherwise noted, no tickets are required and programs are free and open to the public. Where “ticket required” is noted for music and theatre productions, tickets are available in the Theatre Box Office. Reservations may be made two weeks prior to the event by calling 330-244-3348. For Featured Speakers Series events, tickets will be available at the Main Hall information desk three weeks prior to each event. For all events, seating and tickets are limited. For more information about Kent State University Stark’s cultural arts events, visit our online calendar at [www.stark.kent.edu/CampusInfo/Calendar.cfm](http://www.stark.kent.edu/CampusInfo/Calendar.cfm).



**Sept. 29**  
**Michele Norris**

*An Evening With Michele Norris*  
Timken Great Hall  
Professional Education  
and Conference Center,  
7:30 p.m.; free (ticket required)

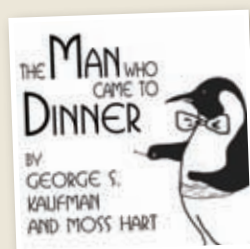
Michele Norris, an award-winning journalist with more than two decades of experience, hosts NPR’s news magazine *All Things Considered*, public radio’s longest-running national program. A former ABC news correspondent and a reporter for the *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*, Norris has reported extensively on education, inner city issues, the nation’s drug problem and poverty.



**Oct. 27**  
**Rob Corddry**

*According To Corddry: An Evening With America’s New Best Friend*  
Timken Great Hall Professional Education and Conference Center,  
7:30 p.m.; free (ticket required)

A former correspondent for Comedy Central’s *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, Rob Corddry’s résumé includes several commercials, NBC’s *Late Night with Conan O’Brien*, and lead roles in *Blackballed: The Bobby Dukes Story* and the Fox sitcom *The Winner*.



**Oct. 31**  
**Nov. 1, 2\*, 7, 8, 9\***  
**The Man Who Came To Dinner**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m. and \*2:30 p.m.  
Ticket Prices: \$10 adults;  
\$5 non-KSU students, children  
(under 17) and Senior Citizens; KSU students, free with current ID

This holiday chaos, created by the legendary team of Kaufman and Hart, finds entertainment critic Sheridan Whiteside “wounded” and trapped in the Stanley family home. No one in the house or town will ever be the same.



**Feb. 13, 14, 15\*, 20, 21, 22\***  
**The Mikado**

Fine Arts Theatre  
8 p.m. and \*2:30 p.m.  
Ticket Prices: \$12 Adults;  
\$5 non-KSU students, children  
(under 17) and Senior Citizens;  
KSU students, free with current ID

In this humorous opera, Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado of Japan, flees the imperial court to escape marriage to the elderly Katisha. He meets and falls in love with Yum-Yum. However, she is already betrothed. As only Gilbert and Sullivan could, some of life’s deepest emotions are portrayed with swift, razor-sharp comedic and satirical wit.

*The opening night of every Kent State Stark theatrical event is Scholarship Night. All proceeds benefit theatre and music scholarships.*





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