

encompass

SPRING 2012

Uncharted

During this time of transition, Kent State University at Stark students and alumni forge new paths.

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STARK

Excellence in Action



Photo by J. Albert Studios

Message from the Dean

Innovation. Reinvention. Preparation.

These words describe so much of what we are experiencing right now at Kent State University at Stark.

Our students and alumni are the embodiment of innovation and reinvention. As you'll read throughout this issue, they are facing challenges head-on by reinventing themselves and their career paths, by taking risks and walking the "roads less traveled," achieving success every step of the way. Our faculty are bringing subject matter to life by using diverse and innovative approaches to teaching, and more than 100 students each year are preparing for their futures through on-campus student employment opportunities.

Also in this issue, I'm pleased to introduce Linda Fergason, director of advancement. Linda is an alumna of the Stark Campus and we welcome her back in her new role, where she'll lead our major gifts and fundraising efforts. Through the generosity of our friends and alumni, we look forward to a bright and stable future for Kent State Stark.

Walter F. Wagor, Ph.D.
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer

stark.kent.edu

Encompass

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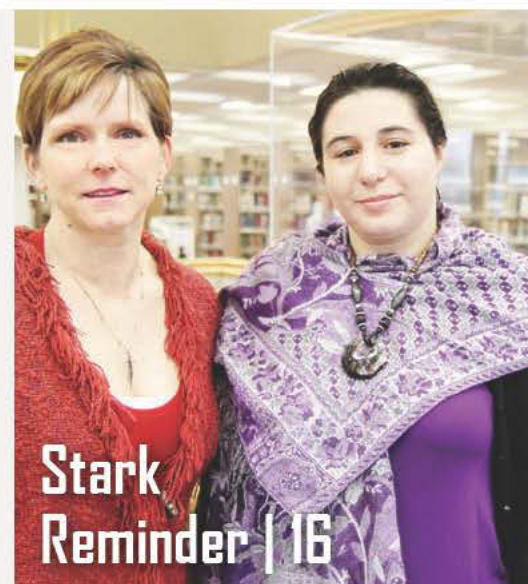




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"ONE DAY I REALIZED God had given me a brain and a heart that loves to work with youth. Since there were no jobs for me, I decided on my second time around I should do something I really want to do, something that will have lasting effect."

— Elaine Kelly Randle
Kent State University at Stark student

Un

Photos by Rachel Figueroa



In a time of socioeconomic change and technological revolution, five students and alumni from Kent State University at Stark discover unconventional ways to achieve meaningful careers and personal success.



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In 2007, when The Hoover Company ceased operations in North Canton – the site of its corporate headquarters for 99 years – all of Stark County felt the blow. The shuttered plant served as yet another reminder of America’s rapidly shifting workforce.

For Elaine Kelly Randle, the closure was personal. The manufacturing job she had held for 30 years was eliminated just six months prior to retirement.

Randle admits to being bitter over the seeming injustice. “For a long while, I could not even drive by the Hoover plant,” she says.

Today, however, there is new life at the Hoover facility as developers slowly transform it into a center for business, education and more. Randle considers herself a work in progress too.

“One day I realized God had given me a brain and a heart that loves to work with youth,” she says. “Since there were no jobs for me, I decided on my second time around I should do something I really want to do, something that will have lasting effect.”

Now a senior at Kent State University at Stark majoring in criminal justice and sociology, that passion has turned into a career path, helping remanded teens and their families find hope and healing through therapeutic theatre and Reentry Bridge Network (RBN), a Canton-based nonprofit with a mission to reduce recidivism.

Uncharted

Photo by Rachel Figueroa



"I believed I had more potential and I wanted to make a difference in the world somehow," says Martin.

No Longer the Exception

Like Randle, many students and alumni of Kent State Stark are embarking on unconventional career and life paths, which – as significant national trends show – are continually becoming more conventional. According to the Center for Education Statistics, more than two-fifths of students in higher education today are nontraditional (over age 24), part-time, adult students.

A mother of two, alumna Wilma Mast was 35 before she earned her GED but had no intention of going to college. However, without Mast's permission, her GED instructor made an appointment for her with a Kent State University at Tuscarawas admissions counselor.

"During the meeting, I asked how long I could attend Kent State without paying a dime, and the counselor told me one week," says Mast. "After one week, I called my husband and said, 'I really want to go to college.'"

Similarly, Tiffany Martin, a divorced mom of four and a current Kent State Stark senior majoring in middle childhood education, never considered college as an option after graduating from Massillon Washington High School in 1998. It wasn't until she saw other single moms successfully attending college on a part-time basis that she realized she could do it, too.

"I believed I had more potential and I wanted to make a difference in the world somehow. I always had that in me," Martin says. "Yes, it was and still is important to be there for my kids, but I also want to show them that life offers so much more."

New Directions in the Workforce

In 2010, the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce published *Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018*. This in-depth study projects the United States economy will create 46.8 million openings by 2018 – 13.8 million brand-new jobs and 33 million replacement jobs (retiree positions). Of those 46.8 million jobs, nearly two-thirds, or 63 percent, will require at least some college education.


Working in the service sector, Randle, Mast and Martin will be part of the five fastest-growing occupational clusters. These clusters, which require more workers with higher education, include:

- Managerial and professional office
- Education
- Healthcare professional and technical
- Scientific, technical, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and social sciences
- Community services and arts

As a resource specialist and newsletter editor for RBN, Randle devotes herself to community initiatives, including education and mentoring for inmates, trauma and grief recovery, pre-release assessments, family reunification and other programs.

As for bringing therapeutic theatre into prisons and schools, she credits Brian Newberg, assistant professor of theatre and theatre director at Kent State Stark, for inspiring her. After completing several case studies as part of her coursework, Randle is convinced theatre





“After one week, I called my husband and said, ‘I really want to go to college,’” says Mast.

Photo by Denny Trimmer



High school sweethearts and May 2009 graduates of Kent State Stark, the Van Peerens are the team behind the popular smartphone app, Alarm Clock Plus.

Photo by Rachel Figueroa



Uncharted

has the potential to open up mental and emotional doors that many young people have locked. As a first step toward her dream, she helped start a puppet theatre for local schools, aimed at helping children express their fears and anger.

“Inmates are coming out into our community every day, whether we’re ready or not, and we need a more holistic approach to helping them and their families. Theatre provides an opportunity for personal reflection that youth – offenders and non-offenders alike – so desperately need,” says Randle.

Pursuit of Personal Passions

Mast’s career also centers on helping individuals and families overcome difficult circumstances. As a pastor at NewPointe Community Church’s Dover campus, she developed and now leads a wide range of mentoring and counseling programs, including crisis mentoring for marriages, financial and career mentoring, and support groups for grief, divorce, parenting, depression, anxiety, addictions and the search for significance.

After completing her bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2009 after just three-and-a-half years at Kent State Tuscarawas and Kent State Stark, Mast will receive a master’s degree in counseling from Ashland University this March.

She encourages current students to pursue what they love. “I started NewPointe’s mentoring program as a volunteer because I saw a need. I had no idea I’d ever become a pastor,” says Mast. “I learned so much from attending Kent State and would never trade that experience. All of the relationships I made there have brought me to where I am today.”

Martin is certainly taking that advice. However, earning a bachelor’s degree is not only about

her passion to teach, but also a newfound sense of empowerment and independence. Currently a server at Ruby Tuesday’s in Belden Village, she looks forward to the day, hopefully sometime next year, when she can begin the career she’s been striving for.

“To get through this challenging time, I draw strength from two things: my faith as a Christian and achieving each little goal I set for myself. Together, my kids and I are making it one small step at a time,” Martin says.

Technology is the Game Changer

The Georgetown University study says America’s economic transformation stems from rapid advances in technology, specifically information technology that cuts across industries and affects virtually every aspect of society. The livelihood of Kent State Stark grads Chris and Lindsay Van Peeren and the activism of student Lilia Fuquen are both bound tightly to technology and the ways people use it.

High school sweethearts and May 2009 graduates of Kent State Stark, the Van Peerens are the team behind Alarm Clock Plus, the most used alarm clock application for the Android smartphone operating system with nearly two million active users. Chris Van Peeren, employed by the J.M. Smucker Company as a senior software developer and analyst, released the app in 2010, and it’s growing by nearly 100,000 users per month – 40 percent of them outside the United States.

To better serve and communicate with Alarm Clock Plus users, Lindsay Van Peeren left her full-time job in 2011 to focus strictly on the app. She says Kent State Stark provided a great foundation for this growing business venture.



Lilia Fuquen formed TASK, a student organization focused on environmental and social justice issues that is advocating for a national ban on fracking.



Photos by Ashley Meinke

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“We got to know our instructors well and they shared real-world experiences. It always went far beyond the textbooks,” she says. “And we stay in contact with professors like Greg Blundell. We value his wisdom in business.”

Chris Van Peerén echoes his wife’s appreciation for the insight he gained at Kent State Stark. “With software development, your business is focused on maintaining the app, upgrading it, adding additional features and serving your customers well,” he says. “Thanks to our coursework at Kent State Stark, we felt confident about jumping into this. We felt prepared. We may even branch out into other apps in the future.”

Cause for Work

In contrast to the Van Peeréns, Fuquen’s education and career path has taken many turns. Although she started college in 1996 at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she has worked for a human rights organization in Guatemala, the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, the former Ireland Cancer Center at University Hospitals Health System, a landscape development company, Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S) and Planet Green Boutique.

When she transferred to Kent State Stark in 2010 to complete her bachelor’s degree, Fuquen chose to pursue a BAS in general studies with a focus on business management to complement her diverse interests and life experiences, as well as her current management position at Caffé Gelato in North Canton.

She first learned about hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” in the spring of 2011 in Kent State Stark’s new *Environmental Media* course, an interdisciplinary class offered through the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Within four short months, she formed TASK (Take Action, Spread Knowledge), a campus organization formed around environmental and social justice issues that is advocating for a national ban on fracking.

The process of fracking involves drilling down to deposits of hard shale, creating small explosions to crack the rock and release the gas inside, and then injecting water, sand and chemicals into the rock at high pressure to push the gas to the well head. In Ohio, vertical fracking has been practiced since the early 1950s. However, horizontal fracking, a relatively new drilling technology that allows one surface well to tap gas trapped over hundreds of acres, continues to raise concerns about environmental damage, including

water, air and soil pollution and habitat fragmentation. Fuquen says it’s the game changer.

“TASK believes this drilling should be stopped until it can be done safely,” she says. “We would love to have all this fracking money invested in clean energy.”


TASK has helped several area townships pass moratoriums and bans on fracking and is petitioning the state government to follow suit. The group has developed a rotating calendar of local government meetings and shows up to inform and ask questions. Most recently, Massillon City Council voted against allowing three wells to be drilled in the downtown area.

Fuquen says, “I believe they would have agreed to the drilling if we had not shown up and shared our concerns.”

Although Fuquen isn’t sure where her work will take her, she sees herself remaining involved in causes that are meaningful to her and the community in which she lives. “People tend to gravitate to others who think the way they do. I want to reach out and make people aware of important issues, so that the world can be a better place,” says Fuquen.

As for her future, she adds, “I’ll find out what it holds when I get there.” ♦

students @work



Employing nearly 100 students each year, Kent State University at Stark gives student assistants the opportunity to earn money, while gaining valuable skills and experience for their futures.

Anna Jones

Chief Student Ambassador in the Office of Student Services
Majoring in Human Development and Family Studies

"Some of the projects we are given are detail oriented so I have to listen carefully and not be afraid to ask questions when I don't understand something that I am being asked to do. I have developed better communication and listening skills.

Being able to interact with all of the students has been a good experience for dealing with a diverse public population, which is what I will be encountering in my future career."

Ashley Meinke

Student Assistant in the
Office of External Affairs
Majoring in Applied
Communications

"As a student assistant, I design posters, fliers and other promotional materials for the campus. I also help behind the scenes at events. Creativity is a passion of mine and the broad range of work I get to do – from graphic design and photography to proof reading press releases – allows me to explore my creativity and learn important interpersonal communication skills. One of my biggest dreams is to work in the film industry as a director; however, I can also see myself pursuing a communication-related career in marketing or event planning."





Katricia Evans

Computer Lab Assistant
Majoring in Justice Studies

"The thing I enjoy most about my job is helping people. I enjoy when I get a professor's classroom cart working so they can give a presentation or when I am able to help a student with any issue they may have and see the happiness on their face."

Upon graduation, I plan on pursuing a career in the legal field, hopefully in government. My experience as a student employee will help me in my career because it has taught me valuable computer skills and has given me the opportunity to work with a diverse group of individuals."

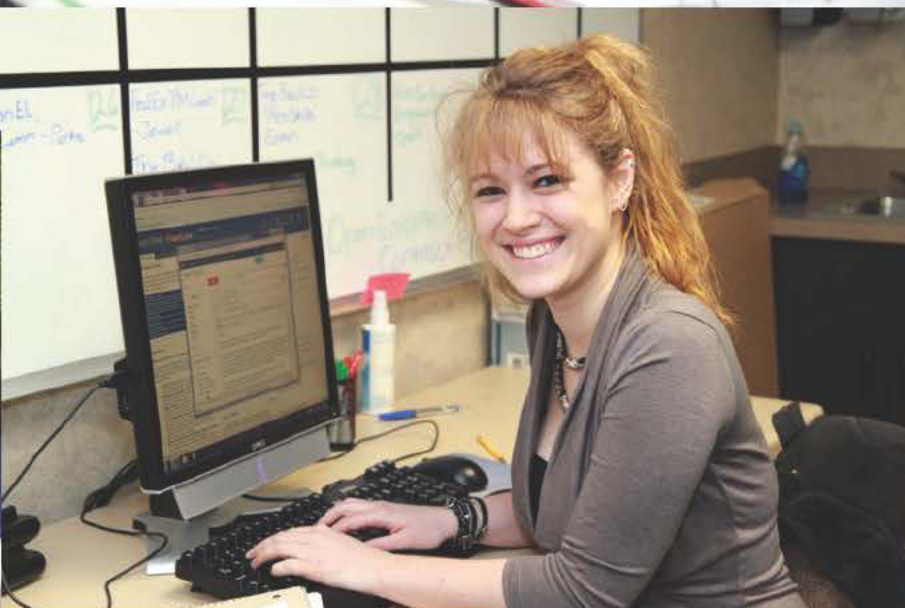


Brandon Vincent

Math Tutor in the Academic Success Center
Majoring in Integrated Mathematics

"My job is to relay information on mathematics to students who come to the Academic Success Center. I need to be able to teach this information in many different ways because a specific style or learning method does not best serve the entire student body. I love helping students understand and enjoy mathematics as much as I do."

I am currently a student teacher at Green High School and I believe my experience as a student tutor at Kent State Stark will help me in my career as a high school math teacher."



Sarah Peters

Student Assistant for The Corporate University
Majoring in Broadcast Journalism

"This position has given me an awesome insight into the corporate world. I now understand how it is to work in an office and have real responsibilities."

I've learned how to do a lot of complex filing, how to manage website content and how to format documents so the data can be merged into another source. If I end up in the radio business, this position will help me be efficient in an office setting."



Kelly Stuhldreher

Bookstore Assistant

Majoring in Psychology and Anthropology

"My duties at the bookstore are plentiful. I help students find the books that they need for classes, I cashier, receive shipments and help stock shelves, I file vendor information and help manage the pre-college and veteran affairs accounts, to name a few.

I believe my experience dealing with clients will help me in my future career as a clinical psychologist for the military."

Dan Garbinsky

Math Tutor in the Academic Success Center
Post-undergraduate Student

"My purpose is to help students who have questions related to their mathematics coursework. I enjoy the interaction and the opportunity to hone my own skills in mathematics.

This position has allowed me to practice patience and extra thoughtfulness in order to find the best way in which to communicate mathematics clearly and logically. I expect that the experience will benefit me in my future. Just being around the professionals in the Academic Success Center has been a blessing."



Catlin Porter

Student Assistant in the Office of Student Services
Majoring in Biology

"As a student employee, I've learned better ways to multitask, work in groups and meet deadlines. I know quite a bit about major requirements and class scheduling, so not only am I able to make sure that I'm on track for graduation, but I'm also able to help others.

I would like to pursue a laboratory research assistant position and eventually earn my master's degree in public health so that I can have a career in epidemiology. My student employee experience has given me the benefit of connections. I am able to work with and talk to faculty. These relationships could definitely help me in my future career."





Philip Powell

Tutor in the Academic Success Center
Majoring in Biology/Pre-Med

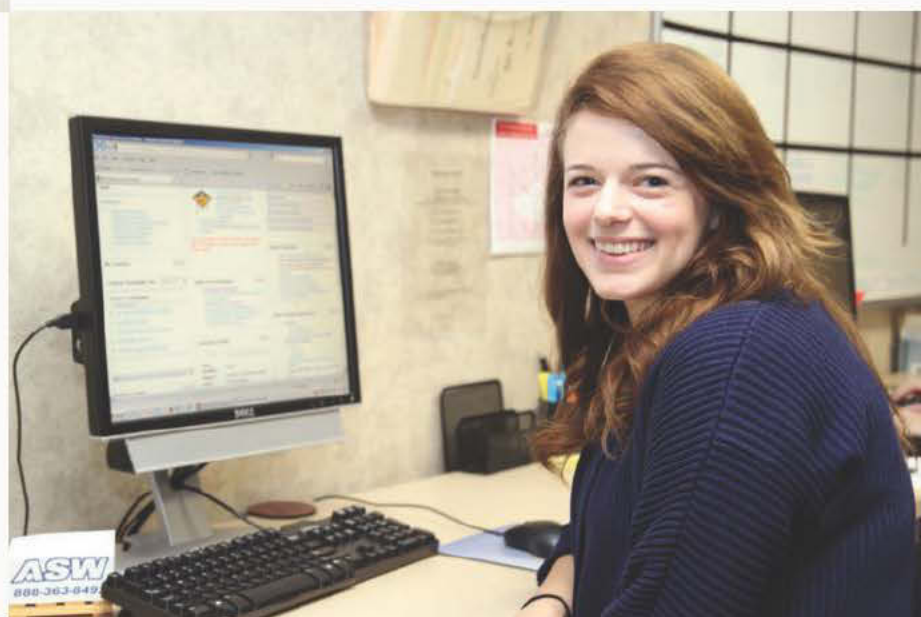
"The thing I enjoy most about tutoring is explaining the material to the students, and if they don't understand it the first time, I enjoy rethinking my approach and explaining it a second time. I really like to see the student progressing. Maybe the first day they couldn't begin a certain problem, then a week later they can not only begin the problem, but they can also finish it. It's this kind of progress that encourages me and makes it fun for me to sit down and work with the students that come in to the Academic Success Center.

I know that, no matter which career I pursue, being a tutor has helped me grow into a more confident person, not just in social matters, but also in my own analytical thinking."

Jessica Taylor

Student Assistant for The Corporate University
Majoring in Business Management

"In my position, I prepare materials for training classes, file, answer phones and do general office work. I really enjoy being in a professional setting. It has taught me skills which I think will be very helpful to me in my future career. It's a great learning experience."

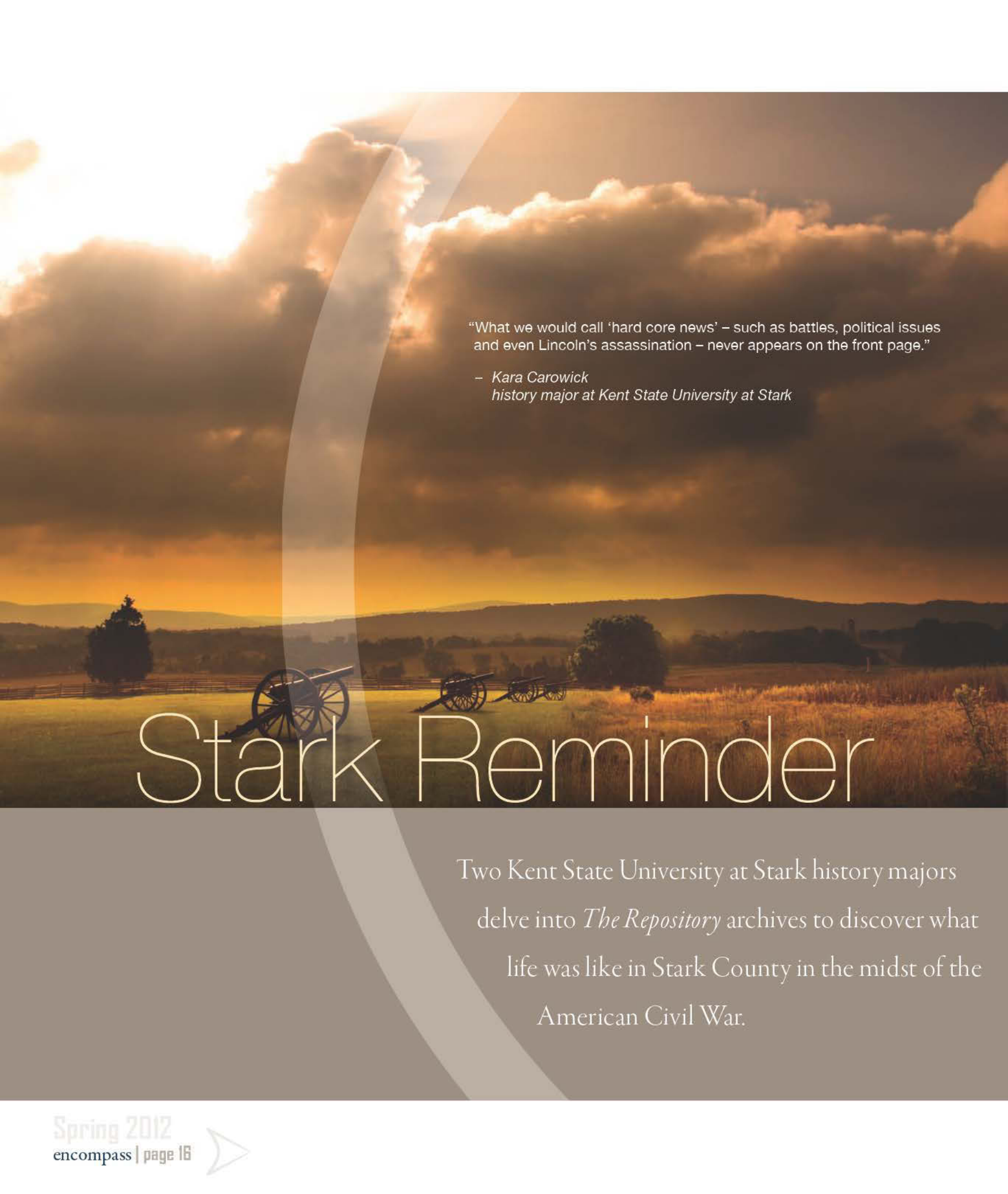


Tim Stuhldreher

Student Assistant in the Office of Student Services
Majoring in Hospitality Management

"In my position, I welcome students into the office and answer their questions or direct them to their desired destination, and I ensure that forms are processed in a timely manner. I also assist students with completing their GPS (Graduation Planning System) forms.

I hope to have a career in event planning or casino management and I am confident that the immense amount of organizational skills which I have acquired will help me articulate even the smallest of details in the events I plan and manage."



"What we would call 'hard core news' – such as battles, political issues and even Lincoln's assassination – never appears on the front page."

– Kara Carowick
history major at Kent State University at Stark

Stark Reminder

Two Kent State University at Stark history majors delve into *The Repository* archives to discover what life was like in Stark County in the midst of the American Civil War.



On Ohio soil during the American Civil War, Ohioans – more than 300,000 of them – fought in every major battle between 1861 and 1865, with nearly 36,000 lives lost to combat, wounds and disease. In addition to raising more than 260 regiments for the Union Army, the state contributed significant amounts of ammunition, supplies, food and some of the North's most prominent generals.

During the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, as the nation remembers the conflict and how it shaped the history of the United States, Kent State University at Stark history majors Dina Musaelyan and Kara Carowick are rediscovering the everyday lives of Stark Countians during that era of turmoil.

Last January, Carowick and Musaelyan volunteered to research the archives of *The Repository*, which, from its founding in 1815 by John Saxton until 1878, was a weekly publication called the *Ohio Repository*. The students reviewed more than 600 articles and selected 25 pieces they considered significant and representative of the time period. These reproductions will be on display at upcoming sesquicentennial exhibits in the area.

Carowick, who says she knew little about the Civil War before starting this project, found the research engrossing from historic, cultural and artistic viewpoints and enjoyed comparing newspapers of today to those of the mid-1800s.

She says, "What we would call 'hard core news' – such as battles, political issues and even Lincoln's assassination – never appears on the front page. Instead, the cover was filled with hymns, Bible verses, baking instructions and local agricultural information. And, of course, there was no other source of news beyond word of mouth."

Both students were also surprised by the focus on morals and family values. "We chuckled a bit at all of the articles about topics such as proper manners, how to talk at the dinner table and admonition about taking mothers for granted," says Musaelyan. "Gender roles were very clearly defined."

Musaelyan also considered the antiquated typesetting – with letters arranged backwards and then inked in order to make an impression – a work of art.

"Everything was set in four columns of the same size with repeated patterns and very few images," Musaelyan notes. "It's amazing to think of how much work went into each printing."

In addition to researching newspapers, Carowick, with assistance from Musaelyan, put together a Civil War exhibit on the second floor of the Kent State Stark library. The display cases include a variety of memorabilia, such as bullets from the Battle of Gettysburg, a reenactment costume authentic to the period, toothbrushes, "tooth powder," a wooden canteen and more. Over the next three years, Carowick will be assisting Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history, on additional exhibits and events in commemoration of the Civil War. The students also hope to offer presentations for local school-age children similar to one they did last fall for Lehman Middle School eighth graders.

Both students say they could not have done the work without the help of Heaphy, as well as Maureen Kilcullen, University Libraries and reference librarian, Barbara Potts, senior library assistant, and other library staff members.

Looking toward the future, Musaelyan plans to earn a master's degree in history and become a researcher for the FBI or CIA. Carowick wants her master's in library science and to someday write historical fiction.

"I'm really sad this project has come to an end," Carowick says. "It was such a learning experience and contributed to my senior honors thesis about the razing of Chambersburg, Penn., the only town in the North that was burned during the war. Researching *The Repository* articles got me started down that road."



Photo by Rachel Figueroa

To learn more about Ohio's involvement in the Civil War, visit the Ohio Historical Society Collections Blog at ohiohistory.wordpress.com. More information about upcoming commemorative events in Stark County and throughout Ohio can be found at OhioCivilWar150.org.

Musaelyan (left) and Carowick (right) in the Library where they set up displays of Civil War memorabilia.



World Perspectives

History majors at Kent State University at Stark garner not only knowledge of the past, but also an understanding of how to apply critical thinking in a world that holds many opportunities for them.



"History is as much about opening doors to tomorrow as it is a study of things past. We want students to learn that there is a world they should savor and enjoy and be aware of."

— Dr. Tom Sosnowski
associate professor of history
Kent State University at Stark

World Perspectives

STUDENTS OF HISTORY at Kent State University at Stark don't live in the past. Rather, they are preparing to inhabit the future as citizens and professionals who think critically, considering the wider world and its ever-changing landscapes.

Since 1976, Dr. Tom Sosnowski, associate professor of history at Kent State Stark, has been "transporting" students out of Stark County to discover the significant people, events and cultures that have shaped every aspect of life.

"Students must develop a world perspective," he says. "History is as much about opening doors to tomorrow as it is a study of things past. We want students to learn that there is a world they should savor and enjoy and be aware of."

As Kent State Stark's first full-time history instructor, Sosnowski originally taught entry-level survey classes in United States history and world civilizations. Today, however, the department consists of four full-time and five adjunct faculty members, offering history majors – which currently number more than 60 – the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree on the Stark Campus.

In addition to world perspective, history courses at Kent State Stark emphasize critical thinking, thorough research and good writing. Those who choose this major

Photos by Rachel Figueroa



Dr. Tom Sosnowski leads a discussion in a *History of Civilization I* Honors class.



“Part of finding a career is learning how to sell yourself and play up the skills you have,” says Heaphy.

are required to take upper-division courses in U.S. and European history and non-Western history about regions such as Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Sosnowski says these requirements add needed breadth to the history program and spur thoughtful commentary and decisions.

“There’s so much talk about how we need to develop good citizens. One of the best ways to do that is to develop critical thinking, which becomes more important as technology advances. Students must be able to sort out what’s true from what is false or biased,” he adds.

Diverse and Hands-on Opportunities

History majors at Kent State Stark can explore many areas of special interest. In addition to courses on the Holocaust, American Indians, Negro League baseball and, new for this fall, French Indochina, students can now take an online course in public history. Recently introduced by Dr. Leslie Heaphy, associate professor of history at Kent State Stark, the class focuses on history for public audiences and communities.

According to Heaphy, public history is the more hands-on, practical side of history and widens career choices for students even further. To deepen their experience, many complete internships with organizations, such as the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Zoar Historical Society, Cleveland Film Festival, McKinley Museum and Presidential Library, Massillon Museum and even the Smithsonian.

Students of any major may also be eligible to participate in the campus’ Williamsburg Program, now in its 35th year.



With curriculum organized around a five-day trip to Virginia, the program includes visits to Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello, Mount Vernon, Jamestown, College of William and Mary and Berkeley Plantation. More than one thousand students have participated.

Heaphy notes that, although a majority of history majors go on to traditional careers in education, law and government, others are getting jobs in business, the U.S. National Park Service, museums, archives, libraries and more.

“Part of finding a career is learning how to sell yourself and play up the skills you have,” says Heaphy. “Our history majors excel at research, writing and critical thinking. There are lots of options out there for people with those skills. When they present themselves in that light, they can find many paths that work for them.”

Benefits of Active Mentoring

Because Kent State Stark offers world-class education in a setting akin to a private college, history majors often get to know their professors well. Upper-level applied courses, such as the *Historian's Craft* and the Kent State Stark Honors Program, overseen by Heaphy, promote interaction between students and professors. Sosnowski notes that this is where mentoring often occurs.

“We often have students in several classes over a period of years,” he says. “We watch and help them mature, which is wonderful. We become active mentors, a relationship that sometimes continues for years after students graduate.”

He adds that the desire among students to be mentored also reflects on the high caliber of instructors in Kent State Stark's history program. Full-time faculty members actively participate in professional organizations related to their areas of specialty. Heaphy was part of the Baseball Hall of Fame selection committee in 2006, and Sosnowski is currently president of the Ohio Academy of History. “The real-world experience of our faculty gives added credence and credibility to a program I am very proud of,” he says. ♦

This past fall, students and donors again had the chance to connect during the third annual Scholarship Reception, a luncheon held at The University Center. Jim Starr, a senior business management major, and Jenna Baker, a first-year middle childhood education major, spoke on behalf of all scholarship recipients, expressing gratitude for donor generosity and the opportunities they provide for students who may otherwise not be able to pursue a university education.

Starr and Baker Speak at Annual Scholarship Reception

Photo by Rachel Figueroa

In pursuing his passion for business, former Kent State University nursing student Nick Frangias discovers The Corporate University at Kent State Stark gives him an edge in today's competitive job market.

No Doubt

THE ROAD NICK FRANGIAS HAS TRAVELED en route to an undergraduate degree has not exactly been smooth. Since graduating with honors in 2006 from Valley Forge High School in Parma Heights, Ohio, he has swapped a nursing major for business, moved with his family to Stark County, taken time off from college, joined Walsh University's School for Professional Studies (SPS) and been laid off from a job.

Those closest to Frangias, however, would say his riskiest move was taking classes at The Corporate University at Kent State University at Stark. He disagrees.

"Even though I paid for the certification courses in management, supervision and executive assistance out-of-pocket and did not earn any college credit, that real-world education and experience made an impression during every job interview," says Frangias. "How do I know? Because hiring managers have told me so."

Tangible, Practical Skills

Growing up, business – specifically, restaurants and catering – were a big part of Frangias' life. His parents own and manage N&G Food Service, which includes Gus's Kitchen in Parma Heights, Gus's

Family Restaurant on Cleveland's West Side and Canton's Sunrise Café, located on the corner of Atlantic Boulevard NE (U.S. Route 62) and Harrisburg Road.

Following high school, Frangias was accepted to Kent State University as a nursing major, but, after two years, realized business was his true passion. Shortly after moving to Stark County with his parents in 2008, Frangias' father became ill, and he took time off school to help manage the restaurants. In 2009, while working for a local financial services company that offered tuition reimbursement for employees, Frangias entered Walsh's accelerated business degree program. Unfortunately, the fast track turned into an exit ramp when, after just three semesters, he lost his job.

Frangias says he again started looking at his options. "I was intrigued by what The Corporate University offered – tangible, practical skills for the business world," he says. "The course schedule worked well with my new part-time job, so I decided to try it, even though my parents were not supportive. After just a couple classes, there was no doubt I'd made the right decision."





Beyond the Traditional Classroom

Despite the age difference between Frangias and his classmates, it didn't take long for him to get comfortable in the workshop-like atmosphere of The Corporate University, where discussion-based learning is the norm.

"The instructors and many of the students are experienced professionals," notes Frangias. "I learned so many concepts and real-world examples that added value to what I previously learned. Plus, I got some great networking opportunities. I didn't expect this, but it was exactly what I needed."

During his job search last fall, Frangias was a final candidate for several openings and received two job offers, including one at the Apple Store, Legacy Village in Lyndhurst, where he currently works as a specialist. Even with the full-time job, he plans to return to Walsh later this year to complete his bachelor's degree and to The Corporate University for Lean Six Sigma training and certification this spring.

Although he'll be busy, Frangias believes he's equal to the task. He says, "Everyone doubted me when I chose The Corporate University, but the timing was perfect. The coursework is relevant in any industry. It has truly helped me stand out from my peers."

"I learned so many concepts and real-world examples that added value to what I previously learned. Plus, I got some great networking opportunities. I didn't expect this, but it was exactly what I needed."

– Nick Frangias
client of The Corporate University
Kent State University at Stark

“As a society, we need to see that prevention is always more cost-efficient than rehabilitation following complications. An optimal recovery benefits the patient personally and is less of a burden on our health care system.”

– Dr. Julie Cremeans-Smith
assistant professor of psychology
Kent State University at Stark

A psychology professor at Kent State University at Stark searches for answers about why people develop depression and post-traumatic stress disorder following orthopaedic surgery and who is most at risk.



Optimal Recovery

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS, approximately 581,000 total knee replacements and 193,000 hip replacements are performed in the United States each year. While the majority of the surgeries are successful, there remains a significant difference in the rate of recovery among patients.

In recent years, clinicians have been studying physical and psychological predictors of surgical outcomes among orthopaedic* patients. Those who develop depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following surgery – on average, 18 to 20 percent of patients with some studies suggesting up to 51 percent – may experience a longer, more difficult recovery. Although PTSD is most often associated with military combat, there are many situations in civilian life that can lead to symptoms of PTSD, including surgery.

These findings naturally lead to a bigger, more difficult question: who is at risk? Over the past 10 years, Dr. Julie Cremeans-Smith, assistant professor of psychology at Kent State University at Stark, has spent significant periods of time researching the answer.

A specialist in experimental biopsychology and health psychology, Cremeans-Smith says, “If you knew right after surgery, or even before surgery, who was most likely to become depressed or suffer from PTSD, you could target them for intervention. And that intervention would likely be more successful than a generic one given to all patients. Knowing in advance which patients require the greatest time and effort can lead to improved recovery, as well as a substantial cost savings.”



*Dr. Julie Cremeans-Smith
assistant professor of psychology
Kent State University at Stark*

Pain Becomes Focal Point for Research

In the summer of 2011, with pilot funding from Kent State University and Summa Health System, Cremeans-Smith began examining charts from 135 hip fracture surgeries performed by orthopaedic surgeons from the Crystal Clinic at Summa St. Thomas Hospital in Akron. Studying acute measures, she compiled and analyzed pilot data that is predictive of recovery.

*The word orthopaedic - the correct medical spelling of the term - is derived from the Greek words "orthos," meaning to straighten, and "paidion," meaning children. This spelling distinguishes orthopaedics from other specialties like pediatrics and podiatry, which have their roots in Latin.

The hip fracture study was built on research Cremeans-Smith started a decade ago. Between 2002 and 2003, she followed 110 knee replacement patients from St. Thomas Hospital, looking for variables known to predict PTSD, such as pain and heart rate of a certain value, female gender and history of depression. As part of the effort, she collected biological samples, conducted surveys and completed personal interviews before and after surgery.

Pain and how people interpret and cope with it has become a focal point of her studies. She says, "Pain is a psychological process and each person deals with it differently. People who cope with pain through fear and avoidance are at risk for a downward spiral. Those who see pain as part of the larger process of healing can often push through it."

The patterns she has found so far can be used to explain the variability of short-term outcomes and will hopefully be explored with a larger, more intense study in the future. Her application for a grant is in process.

Sharing the Knowledge

Cremeans-Smith has published several papers on predicting surgical outcomes and PTSD in the health care setting, some of which appear in top health psychology journals. She also shared preliminary data from the hip fracture study at the Annual Akron Combined Orthopaedic Surgery Research Day in 2011 and has been accepted as a presenter for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society (APS), which will take place in Athens, Greece. She is working on additional papers that, among other things, compare similarities between hip and knee surgery populations.

Her goal is to eventually see some type of assessment tool for depression and PTSD risk included with pre-admission and post-surgery evaluations, ideally giving every patient the chance to experience an optimal recovery.

"With our aging population, physicians are predicting an astounding number of hip and knee replacements in the coming years," she adds. "As a society, we need to see that prevention is always more cost-efficient than rehabilitation following complications. An optimal recovery benefits the patient personally and is less of a burden on our health care system." ♦



Last spring, drinking fountains with special water bottle-filling stations were installed in buildings throughout Kent State University at Stark. Between April and mid-December 2011, more than 20,000 bottles were filled at the stations, saving them from the landfills.

Additionally, students, faculty and staff can now “save green” when they “go green” with a new reusable cup program, offered collaboratively through the Campus Bookstore and the Emporium. Individuals who purchase the reusable BPA-free cups at the bookstore are eligible for discounts on Emporium soft drink and coffee refills. The Emporium has also switched to Enviroware® paper products, which contain an average of 21.8 percent pre-consumer recycled materials and 100 percent recycled carbon dioxide (CO2), making them green at the beginning and end of their lifecycle.

These programs help eliminate waste from plastic bottles, disposable cups and paper products and contribute to the campus’ overall goals toward improving sustainability through practical campus enhancements.





Natural Fit

Linda Fergason, a Kent State University at Stark alumna and former executive at the United Way of Greater Stark County, returns to campus as the new director of advancement.



ADOPTED AT A YOUNG AGE BY A LOCAL FAMILY, Linda Fergason says she was planted in Stark County. She started college at Kent State University at Stark and, together with her husband, raised four children here. It is also where her career as a non-profit executive has taken wing, spanning nearly three decades.

Her new role as Kent State Stark's director of advancement is a natural fit.

Fergason, who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Kent State, came to the Stark Campus last July after leaving her position as an executive with the United Way of Greater Stark County (UWGSC), a 2004 merger of the Alliance, Canton and Massillon United Way agencies. Her experience with strengthening and shaping organizations like UWGSC through leadership and vision, as well as her ability to communicate that vision with exceptional success, will be an asset for Kent State Stark.

"I've learned a great deal about the depth of generosity that exists in this community. Some send their financial support, others volunteer and many do both in a big way," says Fergason. "What we have to do is capture those generous donors and enlist them for the benefit of all at Kent State Stark. It's not difficult. It just takes time, the ability to carry an important message and the development of strong, vibrant relationships that already exist and will be forged in the future."

Encouraging Wise Investments

Charged with identifying, cultivating and securing major gifts of \$25,000 and above, Fergason is developing a comprehensive plan for giving. She says people often aren't aware of the many options that exist for creating a major gift, including endowed scholarships, planned gifts, stock transfers and giving over time.

She believes it's essential to steward donors and find engagement opportunities for them, thereby helping them make wise investments as they support Kent State Stark. "We help our major gift prospects and donors discover the right match – something that maximizes tax benefits and honors philanthropic wishes," she says. "It's about linking donors to a Stark Campus cause and linking the campus to the resources it needs, all the while telling the Kent State Stark story."

And, it's a story she loves to tell – in the grocery store, after dinner, in the church parking lot and more. She says everyone's asking. And, in the process, she is learning about how much Kent State Stark means to people in the community.

"I've heard so many spur-of-the-moment, heartfelt stories from graduates who tell me how Kent State Stark has changed their lives and shaped their careers and dreams," she adds. "Those stories can have a tremendous impact on campus advancement and sharing them is a privilege."

When asked what she enjoys most about her leadership role, she says it's the ability to be a catalyst and to motivate and mobilize people and the community around issues, all in support of campus advancement. To accomplish this aspiration, she notes, a purposeful, intentional effort is required on the part of many.

"During my career, I've learned a lot about myself each step of the way. Every bit of the trek has been enjoyable and this new position at Kent State Stark has energized me further. I want to accomplish as much and even more on Kent's behalf," she says.

Photo by Rachel Figueroa



"I've learned a great deal about the depth of generosity that exists in this community... What we have to do is capture those generous donors and enlist them for the benefit of all at Kent State Stark. It's not difficult. It just takes time, the ability to carry an important message and the development of strong, vibrant relationships that already exist and will be forged in the future."

– Linda Fergason
director of advancement
Kent State University at Stark

Stark Campus Faculty Achievements

TEACHING AWARD NOMINEES:

CYNTHIA BARB

Associate professor of mathematics, was nominated as one of the 10 finalists for the Kent State University Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award, recognizing her extraordinary teaching in the classroom and her impact on students' lives.

GREG BLUNDELL

Lecturer of management and information systems, and CHRISTINE KAUTH, assistant professor of nursing, were nominated for the Outstanding Teaching Award.

Presented "Considerations for Integrating and Sustaining Experiential Learning and a Capstone Experience" at the 2011 Information Systems Educators Conference in Wilmington, N.C., Nov. 3-6, 2011.

VICTOR BERARDI

Associate professor of management and information systems, presented "Ideas Tried, Lessons Learned and Improvements to Make: A Journey in Moving a Spreadsheet-Intensive Course Online" at the 2011 Information Systems Educators Conference in Wilmington, N.C., Nov. 3-6, 2011.

PENNY BERNSTEIN

Associate professor of biology, co-presented: "Human-Animal Interactions: Challenges and Rewards" at the International Society for Anthrozoology conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 4-6, 2011.

Presented "Vision, Change and the Case Study Approach" at the Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting in Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., July 25, 2011.

ANDREW BURNS

Associate professor of chemistry, presented "Raman Spectroscopy of Grape Anthocyanins as a Function of pH" at the International Workshop on Anthocyanins in Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 11-14, 2011.

BEI CAI

Associate professor of communication studies, presented "Voices About Eastern and Western Parenting Styles: The Latest Controversy" at the National Communication Convention in New Orleans, La., Nov. 17-20, 2011.

MOON-HEUM CHO

Assistant professor of education, presented "What Makes Students Self-regulate in Online Learning Environments?" at the International Conference on Online Learning in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 8-12, 2011.

BRIAN CHOPKO

Assistant professor of justice studies, presented "First Responder Mental Health: Mindfulness and Post-Traumatic Growth" at the All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 2-4, 2011.

JULIE CREMEANS-SMITH

Assistant professor of psychology, co-published *Symptoms of Postsurgical Distress Following Total Knee Replacement and Their Relationship to Recovery Outcomes Study* in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* (2011;71(1):55-57).

AMBER FERRIS

Lecturer of communications studies, presented "Examining the CSI Effect: The Impact of Television Viewing on Perceptions of Forensic Evidence" at the National Communication Convention in New Orleans, La., Nov. 17-20, 2011.

LESLIE HEAPHY

Associate professor of history, presented "Cuban Women in Baseball" for the Symposium on Cuban Baseball in Fordham University in New York, N.Y., Aug. 20, 2011.

MICHELE HERON

Assistant professor of education, presented "Making Fractions Tow the Line" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Atlantic City, N.J., Oct. 19-21, 2011.

ERIN HOLLENBAUGH

Assistant professor of communication studies, co-wrote with AMBER FERRIS, adjunct instructor of communications studies, *'I love you, man': Drunk Dialing Motives and Their Impact on Social Cohesion in Mobile Communication: Bringing us Together or Tearing Us Apart?* (Transaction Publishers; 2011: 293-321).

Presented "The Effects of Anonymity on Self-disclosure in Blogs: Application of the Online Disinhibition Effect and Exploring our Online Voices through Self-analysis: Examination of Online Self-presentation" at the National Communication Convention in New Orleans, La., Nov. 17-20, 2011.

GRO HOVHANNISYAN

Associate professor of mathematics, presented "Poisson's Inequality for a Dirichlet Problem" at the Central Section AMS Meeting in Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 14-16, 2011.

MITCH MCKENNEY

Assistant professor of journalism and mass communication, presented "Are Print Narratives Over?" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference in St. Louis, Mo., August 10, 2011.

ROBERT MILTNER

Associate professor of English, published *Hotel Utopia* with New Rivers Press. The book of prose poetry won the New Rivers Press Many Voices Project book competition.

Recorded the CD *Two Trains (Too Busy)* for Blue Caboose Records with ERIN VAUGHN, adjunct instructor of music. The CD, which sets Miltner's poetry to original compositions for guitar, was produced by LEE KOPP, adjunct instructor of music, using student interns from Kent State Stark's music technology program for the recordings.

CHRIS POST

Assistant professor of geology, presented "'Oh, What a Rotten Name:' Toponymic Change in Northeast Ohio" at the Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes Annual Conference in Stuart, Fla., Oct. 12-17, 2011.

CARRIE SCHWEITZER

Professor of geology, accomplished the following at the Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 7-13, 2011:

Presented "Species of Decapoda in the Fossil Record; Middle Triassic Lobsters from the Luoping Biota in China."

Co-wrote the presentations, "Morphological Innovations Provide New Perspectives on Phylogeny" and "Evolution and Oldest Known Members of Munididae (decapoda, anomura, galatheoidea) Discover."

JAY SLOAN

Assistant professor of English, presented "Homophobia, Sexism and Racism: Empowering Tutors to Confront Cultural Oppression in the Tutorial" at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing in Miami, Fla., Nov. 3-6, 2011.

THOMAS SOSNOWSKI

Associate professor of history, presented "Forgotten Commentaries on North America in the 1790s: The Writings of Émigré La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt" at the Western Society for French History in Portland, Ore., Nov. 10-14, 2011.

SCOTT TOBIAS

Assistant professor of human development and family studies, accomplished the following:

Presented "Student Reflections and Theory in Service-Learning" at the National Council on Family Relations Conference in Orlando, Fla., November 15-19, 2011.

Co-wrote *Relations Between Videogame Play and 8th Graders' Mathematics Achievement in the International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations* (2011: 33-53).

Stark Campus Staff Achievements

BRANDON VACCARO

Assistant professor of music, presented "Toward a Recording Production Repertoire" at the Seventh Art of Record Production Conference in San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 1-5, 2011.

DEIRDRE WARREN

Assistant professor of justice studies, presented "Framing Gay Marriage: Examining Media Coverage of California's Proposition 8" at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., Nov. 17-20, 2011.

LISA GIVAN

Admissions counselor in the Office of Student Services:

Presented "More Than Just One of the Bunch; How to Recruit, Engage and Retain Students of Color on Your Campus" at the 2011 ACT Enrollment Planners Conference in Chicago, Ill., July 20-22, 2011.

Co-paneled the Diversity Day 2011 webinar on CollegeWeekLive.com, entitled "Why Diversity Matters to Your College Experience" on Sept. 14, 2011.

Presented the keynote address at Kent State University's AALANA (African American, Latin American and Native American) Graduation Celebration, entitled "No Plan B" in Kent, Ohio, Dec. 8, 2011.

EMILY L. RIBNIK

Professional clinical counselor in the Herbert W. Hoover Counseling Center, presented "Crisis Response on a College Campus: Putting Collaborations and Emergency Response Plans to the Test" at the Crisis Intervention Team International Conference in Virginia Beach, Va., Sept. 12-14, 2011.

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HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL

ANTON IN SHOW BUSINESS
by Jane Martin

April 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m.
April 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Theatre
Ticket Prices: \$10 adults; \$7 students under 17 and senior citizens; KSU students free with current ID.
Tickets available March 26.

FLUORESCENCE
Works on Paper by Sarah Fairchild

April 9 - May 4
Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m. - noon

Main Hall Art Gallery
Free, no tickets necessary.

CARNATICA BROTHERS
Music from India
April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Main Hall Auditorium
Free, no tickets necessary.

APRIL

KENT STATE STARK UNIVERSITY CHORUS AND MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT
April 15 at 6 p.m.

Main Hall Auditorium
Free, no tickets necessary.

FEATURED SPEAKER: JOSHUA FOER
April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything

Timken Great Hall, The University Center
Free, but tickets are required.
Tickets available March 26.

FACULTY RECITAL
Laurel Seeds, soprano; Melissa Davis, soprano; Brian Bennett, percussion; Daniel Nauss, bass; Sandra Wallace, piano; Jerry Wong, piano

April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Main Hall Auditorium
Free, no tickets necessary.

KENT STATE STARK CONCERT BAND
April 24 at 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Theatre
Free, but tickets are required.

For ticketed music and theatre events, call the Fine Arts Box Office at 330-244-3348. Purchase theatre tickets online at stark.kent.edu/theatre. Featured speakers tickets are available at the Main Hall Information Desk beginning on the date listed with each speaker. Call 330-499-9600 for more information.