

encompass



SPRING 2009

CHASING WINDMILLS

Kent State University Stark's quest
for practical sustainability

EXCELLENCE in Action

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UNIVERSITY
STARK



Message *from the* Dean

It seems as though every company and organization is jumping on the “green” bandwagon. It is nearly impossible to watch television without hearing trendy slogans, such as “going green” or “earth friendly.” Trendy as it may seem, environmental responsibility and ecological sustainability are deeply rooted in my values. In high school, I sewed an American Ecology Flag that proudly hung on the flagpole on the first Earth Day in 1970. I also marched in the Millennial Earth Day celebration from Times Square to the United Nations Building in New York City, and recently, I signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment and became a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education on behalf of the campus.

Improving the environment is a team effort, and I am so proud that the students, faculty and staff of Kent State University Stark share these values and are making a difference right now. Our campus is practicing its core value of “environmental responsibility” by reducing waste, conserving energy and recycling. In fact, Kent State Stark is one of the largest recyclers in Stark County! We have many projects underway to continue this effort and to move the campus forward toward making our world a better place to live.

It is important to point out that in today’s tough economy, sustainability relates not only to ecology, but also to financial sustainability. It’s not just about an 80-percent reduction in global greenhouse gases or even putting used paper in the recycling bin. It’s about being responsible stewards of our resources so we can continue to provide a high-quality education to our students.

We pride ourselves in offering reasonable tuition, few fees, free parking, complimentary tutoring, writing assistance and more. As Stark County’s public university, we believe that it is extremely important to continue providing these opportunities for students, and know that our environmental responsibility will positively impact our ability to remain financially viable.

I invite you to read about many of the projects and initiatives we’re involved in, and ask you to join us in our quest for practical sustainability.

Betsy V. Boze

Dr. Betsy V. Boze

— *Dean, Kent State University Stark*

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Encompass

Spring 2009 Vol. I Issue 2
08-2340

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At Kent State University Stark, sustainability is no quixotic concept. To a dean who recently signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, climate neutrality is not an unreachable goal.

But, if you happen to catch Dr. Betsy V. Boze chasing windmills, she'll tell you it's because this clean energy source has come full circle in her life.

Last year, Boze, dean of Kent State University Stark, visited the South Dakota farm where her father grew up. Thanks to a windmill that was erected in 1910 and still stands today, the farm was one of the first in the area to have electricity. A century later, Kent State Stark is planning to install Stark County's first wind turbine next to its new science building, which is designed to be LEED® Gold Certified.

Boze believes the university can play a vital role in fighting modern-day giants, like global warming, rising energy costs, pollution, burgeoning landfills and the destruction of natural habitats. From creating a wetland research area and an environmental media activism center to installing motion-detection lights and helping clean up the Tuscarawas River, the school lives out its core value of respect for and protection of the campus green space and the region's ecological environment.

The following section describes practical ways that Kent State Stark students, faculty and staff members are demonstrating sustainability solutions and leadership.

CHASING WIND

**In the quest for sustainability,
Kent State Stark makes environmental
idealism practical.**

“One man ... still strove with his last ounce
of courage to reach the unreachable stars;
and the world was better for this.”

– Miguel De Cervantes, *Don Quixote*



MILLS

Going Climate Neutral

It's an ambitious goal:
to reduce global greenhouse
gases by 80 percent by 2050.

Yet, more than 600 college and university executives across the nation – including Dr. **Betsy V. Boze**, dean of Kent State University Stark – have pledged to work toward this objective by signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

Boze says Kent State Stark is doing this for the right reasons. “We want to model our values to our students,” she says. “This commitment, which ties in with the Graduation Pledge that most of our students take, will do that. Plus, as a national higher education collaborative, we can reach the next generation of leaders who will go out and make a difference.”

To keep the commitment, Kent State Stark must strive toward climate neutrality by completing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and a detailed plan to reduce them. Of the eight-campus Kent State University system, Kent State Stark is the first to make the commitment.

Senior facilities manager **Brent Wood** will serve as Kent State Stark's sustainability officer, maintaining communications with the ACUPCC and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. He also will oversee the campus sustainability committee, which includes students, staff and faculty from diverse disciplines.

“We have until this September to complete the emissions inventory, which must measure our carbon footprint on everything from commuter automobiles and utilities to air travel and landfill dumping.

From there, we have two years to determine how we can become climate neutral, meaning zero carbon emissions at the end of every year,” says Wood.

As part of the commitment, the school has adopted:

- An energy-efficient appliance purchasing practice that requires procurement of ENERGY STAR-certified products where such ratings exist.
- Three or more waste minimization components of the national RecycleMania competition.

According to Wood, RecycleMania is a natural extension of the campus' existing recycling program and will be a great way to promote student involvement in recycling. To learn more about RecycleMania, visit RecycleManiacs.org. Read more about the Climate Commitment at PresidentsClimateCommitment.org.



“LEED®ing” by Example

Kent State Stark will use green building practices in the construction of a state-of-the-art science building, which is expected to obtain LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification.

The building will allow Kent State Stark to meet the increased demand for graduates with degrees in the sciences, and contribute to the economic development of the region. Moreover, the building will provide the space necessary to accommodate increased enrollment and the expansion of baccalaureate and master’s degrees outlined in the campus’ 10-year plan.



Wind energy systems come in many shapes and sizes. Future plans for the Science Building include a display of this technology through installation of a small wind turbine. These systems typically generate enough power to meet the demands of a home, farm or small business. One example is shown to the left. These systems present an aesthetically attractive alternative to the larger, traditional turbines, and provide a safe and quiet method of generating sustainable energy.



Dr. **Betsy V. Boze**, Kent State Stark dean, says the plans for the building reflect the university's campus values, as well as common sense. "We want the science building to be about saving energy, promoting conservation and lowering long-term costs and maintenance," she says. "Our goal is to model best practices for environmental stewardship while creating the best possible learning environment for our students."

Plans for the science building include laboratories and multimedia classrooms for geology, biology, chemistry and physics. Tentative designs and plans for the 45,000-square-foot facility, which will look over the campus pond, include:

- Stark County's first wind turbine that – together with photovoltaic (solar) technology – will provide supplemental energy,
- A partial sod roof with low-maintenance plants and water catchments,
- A cyberspace lounge and
- A planetarium.

Generous donations from the Belden Brick Charitable Trust, Colfor Manufacturing, Diebold Foundation, George H. Deuble Foundation and Huntington Bank have been set aside for the project.

The materials planned for use will be sustainable and recycled. Some of these items, such as the lamp of knowledge from the original Archibald McGregor Elementary School in Canton, will hold historic value for the community.

Scheduled groundbreaking dates are currently under review.

Good Clean Fun

A canoe trip down the Tuscarawas River was just what the "doctor" ordered this past August for nearly a dozen student volunteers from Kent State University Stark.

Together with Dr. **Betsy V. Boze**, dean of Kent State Stark, they helped clean a six-mile section of the river between Canal Fulton and Massillon, pulling out three truckloads of trash. On the return trip, the group bicycled the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail, tidying the riverbank and path as they went.

Kristin Shaffer, a Kent State Stark junior, said she participated because she believes in leaving the world a better place than she found it.

"I am conscious about the products I buy. I make sure they are able to be recycled. One of my biggest frustrations, though, is seeing litter. This was a chance for me to meet new people and help out at the same time," says Shaffer.

For Boze, this service project was the best of both worlds because it combined student interaction with helping the environment – a cause she is passionate about.

"The clean-up gave students a better appreciation of civic responsibility, which is one of our campus values," says Boze. "And I got to know the students in a casual setting."





The Light Bulb Goes Off

If you forget to turn the lights off when you leave the room, we've got you covered.

To conserve energy and lower costs, Kent State University Stark recently installed motion-detection lights in most rooms – even custodian closets – to conserve energy when not in use. In less than six months, the sensors paid for themselves in decreased utility bills.

Kent State Stark continues to replace T-12 tubular fluorescent fixtures with T-8s, which operate lamps at a lower cost and provide better illumination. The school has also fitted certain outdoor campus lights with both photoelectric sensors and timers, turning the lights on at dusk and off at midnight in areas where overnight lighting is unnecessary.

Tom Ferguson, building and grounds superintendent, says Kent State Stark is a very energy-conscious organization. He notes the university has completed several energy-saving projects, including:

- Replacing the heating and air conditioning system in Main Hall, reducing energy consumption by 25 percent;
- Upgrading to a single chiller plant with enough capacity to provide chilled water for air conditioning to all campus buildings, including new construction;
- Putting energy-efficient windows in new buildings; and
- Using electric golf carts as opposed to gas-operated carts when traveling on campus.

The university is also investigating other endeavors, such as consolidating all campus gas meters, installing airlock vestibules in certain entranceways to minimize heat and air conditioning loss, and exploring energy-efficient replacement windows for some older buildings.

Tons of Recycling

When students asked for recycling, Kent State University Stark listened. And, just three years after implementing its ongoing initiative, the school has become one of Stark County's largest recyclers.

Students, faculty and staff recovered more than 41 tons of paper and cardboard and nearly 4.5 tons of plastic, aluminum and glass (combined) between 2007 and 2008, as reported by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. The school began recycling in 2005 after student organizations and faculty members took up the cause.

According to Tom Ferguson, building and grounds superintendent, the university started out big. "This was no half-way recycling effort," he says. "We got everything we needed to put recycling containers into each campus office and public area right from the beginning. As the years have progressed, people have progressed. We collect more and more all the time."

For Kent State Stark, recycling is living its core values, as well as helping students build good habits. The practice also decreases landfill waste and has saved the campus money by eliminating one weekly trash collection.



“Media Central” for the Environment

Kent State University Stark has assembled a core group of faculty for its recently created Herbert W. Hoover Initiative for Environmental Media Activism. Multidisciplinary in its scope, the core group includes instructors from biology, geology, fine arts, journalism, mass media, English, political science, sociology and other departments.

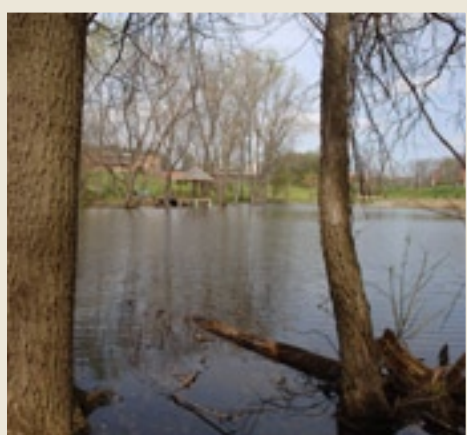
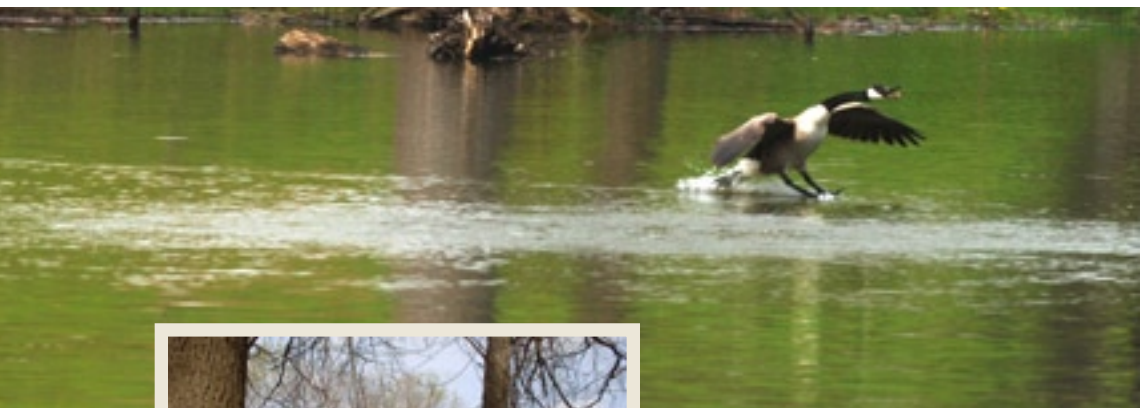
Dr. Kim Finer, professor of biological sciences and director of the Hoover Initiative, is pleased with the faculty representation. She says, “We’re bringing great diversity of thought and expression to this program, which we believe will help us develop compelling films, blogs, reports and other digital media pieces that can bring about real environmental change.”

Get Green News

Stay current on the latest sustainability initiatives at Kent State Stark. Visit the university’s Web site at stark.kent.edu and click on the Green Initiatives icon on the home page.

Funded by a grant from the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation, the initiative will also sponsor awareness campaigns, provide research grants, offer film screenings and festivals, and bring world-class experts to Kent State Stark to mentor students.

Finer noted that projects are already underway, including podcasts for The Wilderness Center in Wilmot and a short student film focusing on poverty and its contributing factors, such as a shortage of clean water. She plans to show the film in conjunction with another movie that examines how water shortages may affect the Great Lakes region. These films – plus a panel of experts who will discuss topics like the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact – are slated to be part of Kent State Stark’s annual Earth Day activities.



Beyond the Pond: a Wetland Research Area

Kent State University Stark wasn't content with just preserving its bog, an original feature of the farmland that the school purchased in 1967. Three decades later, under the direction of former dean Dr. *William G. Bittle*, the university re-established it as an EPA-approved wetland research area, complete with indigenous plants and wildlife, a gazebo and walking path.

Today, the pond serves as an outdoor learning and research classroom for biology and geology students and faculty who study invertebrates, other animals, water quality and sediment. And the pond is central to Kent State Stark's annual Earth Day Celebration, a family-friendly event that includes environmental education activities, demonstrations and discussions for all ages.

The pond also helps the university conserve water. Between 1,400 and 5,000 gallons of pond water, continuously replenished by an underground spring, are used each year to hydrate campus foliage.

According to Greg Walker, senior groundskeeper, student organizations are involved in controlling invasive plant species near the pond, such as garlic mustard and Canada thistle.

He says, "Everything inside the path is supposed to be native. We've introduced fish native to Ohio and even released water fleas. At the north end of pond, native prairie grass and wildflowers are thriving."

Dr. Carrie Schweitzer, associate professor of geology, created geologic time scale displays around the pond, helping students and visitors learn about the timing and relationships between formative events in Earth's history.

Schweitzer also uses the pond as a natural lab for students each semester. "It's surprising, but many students don't even know we have a pond on campus," she says. "I feel it's important for them to recognize this resource and gain experience working outside in the environment."

In the near future, Kent State Stark will include a Stark County Park District hiking and biking trail that will tie into the larger system. Visitors will be able to park their bikes and enjoy all that the pond and surrounding wetland area have to offer.





Protecting the Campus Bionetwork

She considers herself a guardian of treasure. The treasure is not a fortune of gold, but a wealth of wildlife and natural habitats that exist on Kent State University Stark's 200-acre campus.

Leadership Academy Helps Keep Stark County Beautiful

During *USA Weekend* magazine's 18th annual Make a Difference Day this past October, nearly 40 Student Leadership Academy students from Kent State University Stark and Stark State College of Technology participated in a Keep America Beautiful project. The students spent four hours cleaning up Greentown Community Park in Greentown, Mega Road in North Canton, Monument Park in Canton and Wampler Park in Massillon.

The fall 2008 semester marked the first time Stark State students joined Kent State Stark's Student Leadership Academy, a month-long development program held each fall and spring that focuses on personal leadership, professional training and academic success. The free program is open to any interested student. To learn more, contact Kristi Yerian, student life coordinator, at 330-244-5041 or kyerian1@kent.edu.

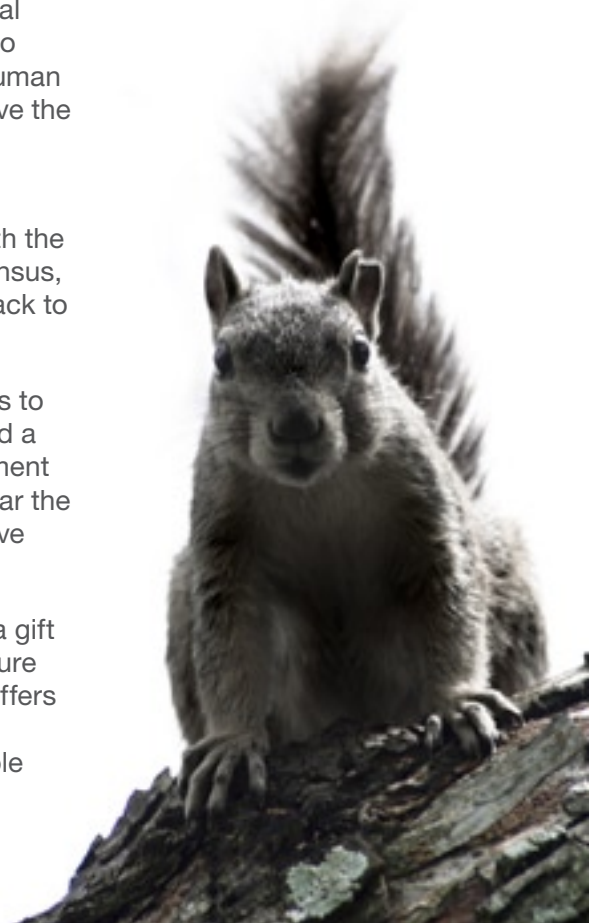
Dr. Penny Bernstein, associate professor of biological sciences and board member of the Canton Audubon Society, strives to increase awareness of – and appreciation for – what she calls a gem in the midst of a modern shopping mecca. Together with Dr. Robert Hamilton, assistant professor of biological sciences, biology students, groundskeepers and others, Bernstein helps keep the campus bionetwork as "Ohio-like" as possible.

She says, "We study how birds and other animals behave on our campus. How have they adapted? Do they act more natural or less natural? That always leads us to environmental issues, the impact of human behavior and how we can best preserve the natural habitat."

To support ecology observation and research, she hopes to collaborate with the Canton Audubon Society on a bird census, and help bring the Eastern Bluebird back to Ohio through nest boxes on campus.

And Bernstein is working with students to safely deter Canada geese (considered a nuisance species by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) from nesting near the pond by reclaiming its banks with native plant species.

"Having wildlife – even the geese – is a gift and we need to protect this little treasure of land," she says. "Kent State Stark offers a tremendous outdoor classroom for students. We want to encourage people to be gentle with it when they visit."

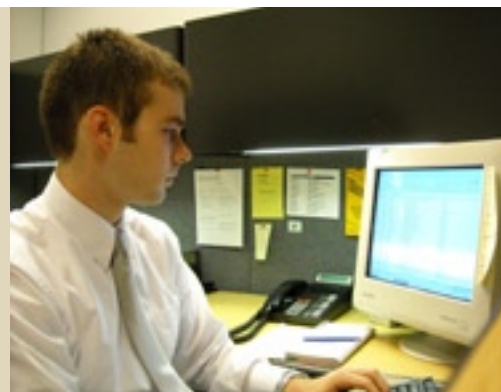


**"If you want a leg up in politics,
get your foot in the door early."**

**– Michael Norton-Smith,
Kent State Stark Student**

A Leg Up

**A Kent State Stark student begins
the quest for his dream job as an
intern in Governor Ted Strickland's
Office of Public Liaison.**



Ask Michael Norton-Smith about the best career advice he's received and he'll tell you, "If you want a leg up in politics, get your foot in the door early."

While most Kent State University Stark students were hiking across campus last fall, Norton-Smith was walking the halls of Ohio's state government as part of Kent State University's Columbus Program for Intergovernmental Issues (CPII). With a double major in political science and history, the 2004 Hoover High School graduate and current Kent State Stark student took an important step toward his dream job in government administration.

Fielding Constituent Calls

Modeled after Kent State University's highly successful Washington Program in National Issues, CPII was established in 2002 as a collaborative effort between the university's Department of Political Science and the Kent State Alumni Association. Worth 15 credit hours, the semester-long program allows students to experience public policy-making firsthand through an unpaid internship, a state government course and a variety of briefings, all while living in Columbus, Ohio.

CPII attempts to match internships and career aspirations. Students can choose from a variety of positions within state departments, think tanks, political parties and other similar organizations.



Kent State Stark Students Take Top Poetry Honors

As an assistant to Wade Rakes, director of the Office of Public Liaison, Norton-Smith worked in the administrative trenches, fielding hundreds of constituent calls on topics ranging from natural disasters to voter fraud.

Following the Hurricane Ike windstorm that swept through Ohio last September, the office received a barrage of requests. "Although counties were responsible for handling the damage, many people called the office of the governor first because he's the most powerful elected official in the state," says Norton-Smith. "Our office worked hard to be responsive to constituent concerns, making sure they got connected with regional emergency services."

He said the CPII internship was "a perfect fit for what I want to do."

As with the other 17 program participants, Norton-Smith was graded for his coursework by his internship supervisor, Rakes. For his final project, he completed a comprehensive study of the payday lending issue.

Planning to Stay

When asked about his future plans, Norton-Smith said he likes Ohio and loves Columbus.

Expecting to graduate from Kent State Stark in May of 2009, he is currently looking at graduate schools – including The Ohio State University – for a master's degree in political science with a concentration in public policy. He eventually wants to obtain a doctorate, which can open the door to an administrative directorship.

He says, "I was born, raised and educated in Ohio, and I'm planning to stay. Columbus is a growing city. All I really need or want is here."

Right: Wick Poetry Center winners (left to right) Josh Diamond, Andrew Rihn and Yvonne Williamson pose with Kent State Stark professor Robert Miltner after accepting their awards.

Three Kent State University Stark students took top prizes in the Wick Poetry Center's 2008 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Scholarship for undergraduates in Kent State University's eight-campus system, marking the first time that all winners were from a Regional Campus.

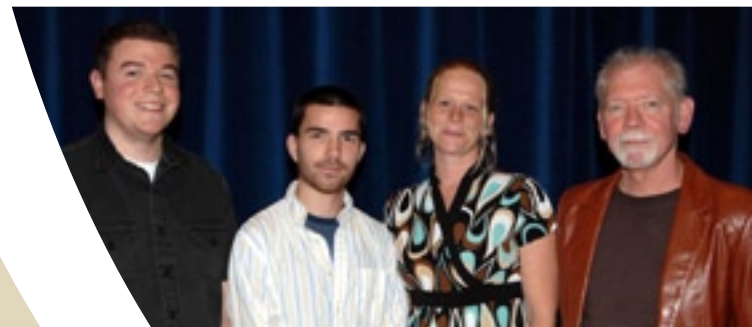
Senior English majors *Andrew Rihn*, *Yvonne Williamson* and *Josh Diamond* placed first, second and third, respectively. Finals judge Anna Leahy, author of *Constituents of Matter* and winner of the 2006 Wick First Book Award, selected the winning entries.


Rihn and Williamson edit Kent State Stark's *Writing Center Review*, and Diamond and Williamson edit *Canto*, Kent State Stark's literary and visual arts magazine. The three joined other current and past scholarship winners in the annual "Celebrating Our Own" poetry reading at the Kent Student Center Kiva in Kent, Ohio.

Dr. **Robert Miltner**, associate professor of English at Kent State Stark, believes this achievement demonstrates the quality of students who attend the Stark Campus, as well as the vibrancy of the school's creative writing program.

He says, "It's particularly exciting that these three talented student writers were chosen during the Wick Poetry Center's 25th anniversary year. They are now part of a national network of poets recognized for excellence."

The Wick Poetry Center promotes opportunities for emerging and established poets and poetry audiences locally, regionally and nationally. To learn more, visit www.kent.edu, keyword Wick.





“Kent State Stark gave me the opportunity to go to college while I continued to work and commute from home, and it still does that for thousands of area students.”

– William J. Healy II, Mayor, City of Canton

A World of Possibilities

2008 Distinguished Alumni thank Kent State Stark for opening the door of opportunity.

Mayor *William J. Healy II* and *Lesla LaForce* were recognized last fall as distinguished alumni during the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony. Eighty-five attended the annual event, held at The University Center at Kent State University Stark. Emceed by event co-chairs Gary Fogel and John Leonard, the ceremony included Alumni Board Scholarship awards and a slide-show presentation for Healy and LaForce prior to their acceptance speeches.

Mayor William J. Healy II

The son of the late William J. Healy, a former democratic city councilman, a long-time state lawmaker and a 1997 Kent State Stark Distinguished Alumnus, William J. Healy II is following in his father's footsteps. He earned an associate degree from Kent State Stark, a bachelor's degree from Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J., and a master's degree in business administration from New York University. Elected mayor of the City of Canton in 2007, Healy previously represented the 52nd District of the Ohio House of Representatives, which includes all of Canton and parts of Stark County.

He credits his solid start in business and public service to Kent State Stark's local, flexible, affordable program and, as mayor, considers the school a tremendous Stark County asset.

"Kent State Stark gave me the opportunity to go to college while I continued to work and commute from home, and it still does that for thousands of area students," says Healy. "Not only does the school help educate our local workforce, it also supports business development and the arts, working hard to meet the changing needs of our community."

"This recognition means a great deal to me," he says. "I am honored to receive the same award as my father. It's a special tie between us."

He and his wife, Dee, have one son, Austin, who is 10 years old. The family resides in Canton.

Lesa (Rummell) LaForce

LaForce attended Kent State Stark in the mid-70s before studying physical education at the Kent Campus. Named Miss Ohio USA® in 1977, she represented the state in the Miss USA® pageant, placing in the top 15.

The second of six siblings, Lesa grew up on a 550-acre farm near Alliance. "I would always say I'd been to Paris, Washington and UCLA, which sounded adventurous for a farm girl. Until, of course, I explained that I meant Paris, Ohio; Washington Township; and 'Upper Canton Lower Akron,'" says LaForce, who was the first in her family to attend college.

She says, "As a freshman at Marlinton High School, my parents and I had to petition the school board to allow me to be the first female in Future Farmers of America. At that point, I knew there was something different in me. I loved our farm, but I started thinking bigger. I started thinking about college."



LaForce chose Kent State Stark because it was close to home. A university cheerleader and tennis player, she was planning on a career in physical education until Bob Kistler, Kent State Stark's former athletic director and a health education professor, handed her a Miss Ohio application.

"Attending Kent State Stark did amazing things for me. I am deeply grateful that it opened up the door to a world of opportunities I never dreamed of," she added.

Now the CEO of About Faces Models and Talent in Atlanta, Ga., LaForce's agency has supplied talent for the movies *We Are Marshall*, *Remember the Titans*, *Fried Green Tomatoes* and *Sweet Home Alabama*. She and her husband, Wade, reside in Vermilion, Ohio, and have three children, Allie, Jack and AuBree. Allie, a journalism major at Ohio University, became the youngest Miss Teen USA® in 2005. Jack is a freshman and member of the football team at Mount Union College in Alliance and AuBree is a student at Sailorway Middle School in Vermilion.



Mind Work

The Kent State Stark Department of Psychology helps prepare students for many professional, corporate and administrative careers.

Psychology is a branch of learning replete with renaissance qualities. The ability to understand behavior and mental processes – as well as apply research and analysis methods – is valued in many arenas, from criminal justice and social services to business marketing and employee relations.

According to Dr. **Brian Betz**, associate professor of psychology and department coordinator at Kent State University Stark, a degree in psychology can open doors.

“For students who want a job following undergraduate studies, psychology is a good degree to have, particularly when it’s combined with courses in business, computer technology or communications,” he says. “It adds to their job marketability.”

In addition, Kent State Stark’s comprehensive approach to psychology helps ensure that graduate school candidates are well prepared. The department’s five full-time faculty members continue to engage themselves and their students in many intriguing research projects.

Behavioral Psychology

Dr. **Deborah Jones**, assistant professor of psychology, specializes in learning processes. Known for bringing her dogs – Copper, Smudge and Zen – into class to demonstrate behavioral concepts, Jones loves to spend time with and train animals.

She tells students that they should be able to apply her classroom principles in real life. “Behavioral principles have direct and immediate applications, not only with animals, but also with children, family members, friends and co-workers,” said Jones.

A long-time advocate of clicker training, or operant conditioning, she has written books and articles, developed a DVD series and offers seminars on this gentle method of animal training. During the summer, she hopes to spend a month observing wolf behavior at Wolf Park in Indiana for a comparison study with domesticated dogs.

Biopsychology

Fascinated by how biological processes affect the brain and overall well-being, Dr. **Julie Cremeans-Smith**, assistant professor of psychology, explores the mind-body connection as it relates to disease, recovery and adherence to healthy behaviors.



“For students who want to get a job after graduation, psychology is a good degree to have, particularly when it’s combined with courses in business, computer technology or communications. It adds to their job marketability.”

– Dr. Brian Betz, Associate Professor of Psychology

She says, “For many years, the concept of psychological well-being and the practice of medicine remained separate. Today, it’s widely acknowledged that what goes on in the brain affects the body.”

Cremeans-Smith is studying psychological and physiological factors that may predict better recovery among surgical patients. She is also researching the connection between inflammatory proteins and post-operative depression.

In addition, she enjoys getting students involved in research. Her students have worked on a variety of research topics, such as predicting regular participation in exercise, the health priorities of women in Kenya and the relationship between academic achievement and coping behaviors.

Clinical Psychology

Kent State Stark’s only clinical expert, Dr. **Brad Shepherd**, assistant professor of psychology, teaches intervention and assessment courses, as well as classes on abnormal behavior and disorders.

With extensive juvenile justice experience, Shepherd’s research focuses on assessment and program evaluation for adolescents in detention centers. His students gain clinical experience by assisting with data collection and making conference presentations.

He also advises Kent State Stark’s revitalized Psychology and Sociology Club, which includes a five-member student executive committee. He says, “It’s great to see the club emerging again. The students have stepped up and scheduled a number of speakers, both internal and external to the school. The group, which meets twice a month, is a great way for students to explore career and grad school options.”

Experimental Psychology

Betz, who specializes in experimental psychology, has collaborated with Bowling Green State University’s digital art department in researching artistic virtual environments for the past five years. His work focuses on measuring participants’ aesthetic experience, as well as their psychological presence (the extent to which people feel like they are actually in the environment).

Combining virtual reality and art is a relatively new concept with the potential to, among other things, enhance art education.

“As we test different environments, this endeavor continues to offer Kent State Stark students research opportunities,” he says. “They get to apply what they’re learning in the classroom by collecting, analyzing and interpreting data. Plus, it’s a really fun project.”

Social Psychology

As the instructor of courses such as social psychology, personality, aging and business and industry, Dr. **Lee Fox**, associate professor of psychology, enjoys researching “hot-button” issues.

Recently working on a model of social activism, Fox examined decision-making processes that surround the abortion issue. She has also collaborated with Dr. **Mary Hogue** in Kent State’s College of Business to investigate why many females are comfortable with getting paid less than their male counterparts.

She noted that women seem to have somewhat different ideas about what should go into compensation than men. She says, “Women put more emphasis on characteristics, such as the complexity and responsibilities of the job and its educational requirements than do men. However, as women continue to take the kinds of jobs that involve increased responsibility and require a higher level of education, we would not be surprised to find the pay expectations of women changing.”

“I’ve talked to so many people who have ‘stumbled’ onto
Algren. His work just speaks to them.”

– Dr. Brooke Horvath, Professor of English

UNDERSTANDING NELSON



**Kent State Stark professor brings grassroots
author to life for a new generation of readers.**

Dr. **Brooke Horvath** has traveled to China and Russia and shared his poetry with eager listeners in the United States and Finland. However, he considers his trip to Chicago this April more significant. There he’ll join actor John Malkovich and author Don DeLillo in paying tribute to a man who was once blacklisted by the FBI.

***If Nelson Algren were alive,
he would probably be surprised by the attention.***



Praise and Suspicion

A journalist and proletarian author, Algren published his first novel at age 26 during the height of the Great Depression. He lived most of his life in working-class Chicago neighborhoods.

Horvath, professor of English at Kent State University Stark, spent a semester sabbatical studying this writer, who has been called the voice of America's dispossessed. The result of his rigorous research was *Understanding Nelson Algren*, published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2005.

Horvath found Algren's relative obscurity intriguing. "Like Jack Kerouac, Algren was not a favorite of the literary establishment, even during the heyday of his career in the 1940s and early 50s," he says. "That's one reason I chose to write about him. I've talked to so many people who have 'stumbled' onto Algren. His work just speaks to them."

Best known for *The Man With the Golden Arm* and *A Walk on the Wild Side*, Algren focused chiefly on the exploitation of the working class, earning him praise, as well as suspicion.

ALGREN

According to Horvath, Algren's FBI file was thicker than any other American writer's. He says, "Algren's career was stifled. He could not get a passport, which is why his romance with Simone de Beauvoir, a French author and philosopher, faltered. His publisher was pressured to suppress his work, and *Life* magazine was told to drop a feature story about him."

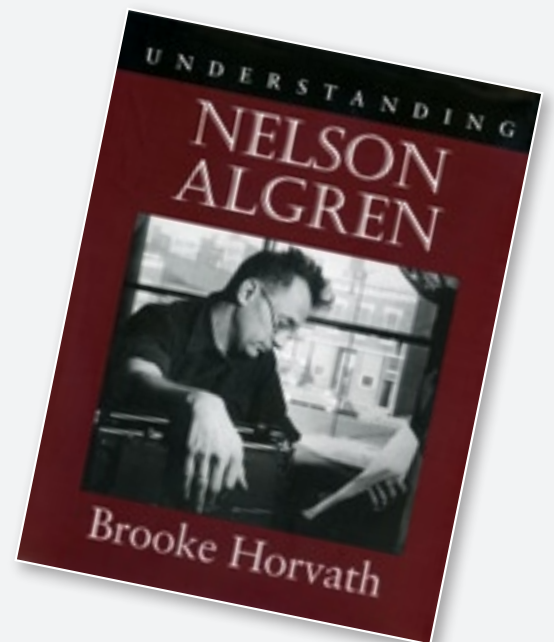
The beleaguered Algren eventually gave up on fiction and turned to writing for magazines. He died in his Long Island home of a heart attack in 1981 at the age of 72.

Chaotic to Coherent

Horvath's book has led to numerous requests for his expertise, including encyclopedia entries and, most recently, the opportunity to prepare Algren's unfinished, autobiographical novel, *Entrapment*, for publication.

Horvath calls the editing project a challenge because the manuscript is chaotic. "My job is to find 65 coherent pages and create a piece that Algren wouldn't be too terribly disappointed with if he were here," he says.

In addition, Horvath has gathered many other unpublished materials authored by Algren, including fiction, reviews and essays. New York City-based Seven Stories Press will publish the new collection.



“We wanted this leadership program to be our own, to make it fit the needs of our organization. Knowing our culture and our expectations, The Office of Corporate and Community Services continues to be creative, responsive and willing to make changes.”

– Erin Murphy, Employee Communication and Program Specialist,
Hyland Software



A SOFTER SIDE

Hyland Software collaborates with Kent State Stark on a program that builds critical leadership skills.

Hyland Software likes the view from the cutting edge.

Developer of the award-winning OnBase® enterprise content management software, Hyland has been helping businesses all over the world electronically streamline document, business-process and records management since 1991. Considered a “green” product, OnBase also significantly reduces paper usage.

With an annual growth rate of 25 percent, this Westlake, Ohio-based company is fueled by technical know-how. But, Erin Murphy cautions: don’t miss our softer side.

An employee communication and program specialist, Murphy says Hyland is focused on building a pipeline of quality candidates for a management team that is expected to double in size by 2012. To meet its goal, Hyland is relying on an innovative Emerging Leaders program and its long-term relationship with The Office of Corporate and Community Services - *Your Corporate University* - at Kent State University Stark.



Program Sets Hyland Apart

Created six years ago, Emerging Leaders is a nine-month leadership development program for current managers and those identified for future leadership positions. It's also attractive to recent college graduates who, noted Murphy, often want something more within three to five years.

She says, "Many of our employees with exceptional technical capabilities have never had the chance to improve their soft skills or to reflect on what leadership is all about. This program gives them the chance to do both. And, it also sets Hyland apart. In an industry where 20 percent employee turnover is common, Hyland's average is less than 10 percent."

Murphy says Hyland chose Kent State Stark because of its expertise and flexibility.

"We wanted this leadership program to be our own, to make it fit the needs of our organization," she says. "Knowing our culture and our expectations, The Office of Corporate and Community Services continues to be creative, responsive and willing to make changes."

Getting Positive Feedback

Each interdepartmental group consists of 14 employees or fewer that meet for a full day once or twice a month. The Office of Corporate and Community Services consultants facilitate 11 sessions on a variety of topics, such as emotional intelligence, effective decision-making, human resource fundamentals, embracing change, visioning leadership and more.

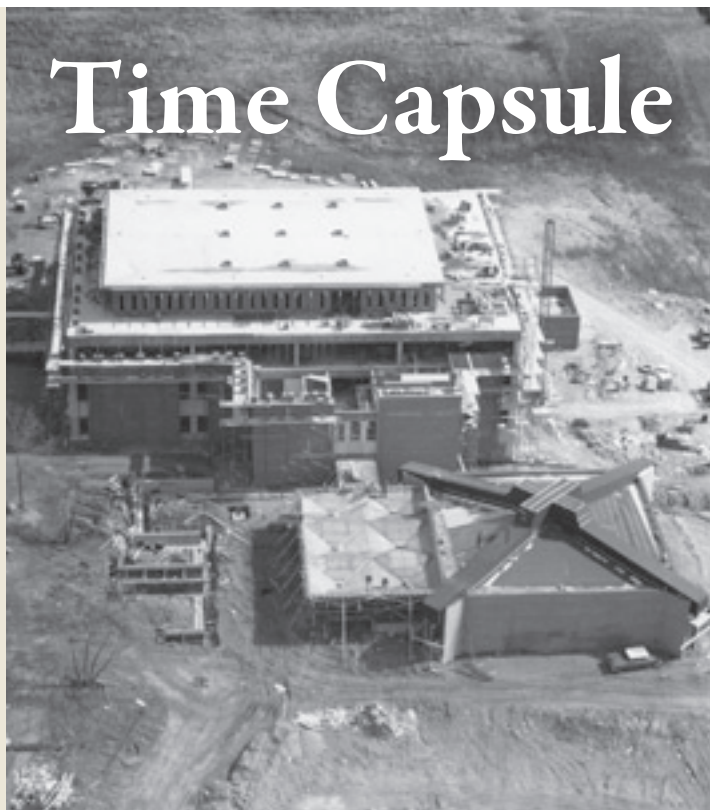
Emerging Leaders also includes discussion groups, management role plays and four books on leadership.

According to Murphy, positive feedback about the program is the norm. She says, "I recently spoke with one of our new managers after a difficult situation with an employee. She told me she would have been completely lost if she hadn't been part of Emerging Leaders. That was pretty cool."

For more information on programs offered by The Office of Corporate and Community Services, visit YourCorporateU.com.



Time Capsule



Harsh Watches School "Grow Up" On The Farm

Linda Harsh and her colleagues used to bring knee socks to work so they could walk through the empty fields that once surrounded Kent State University Stark's Main Hall. After running into a snake, they decided to stick to the gardens instead.

Harsh – who has collected more than 40 years of memories at Kent State Stark – earned \$240 per month as a new hire in 1966. The following year, the school relocated from the American Legion on Cleveland Ave. N.W. (now part of Kempthorn Motors) to a 200-acre farm once cultivated by Leo A. Frank and John Wyles. The fundraising efforts of a citizens committee made the move possible.

Now a clerical specialist in the admissions department, Harsh has witnessed many changes at the school, including the construction of six additional buildings. She even remembers the purchase of Kent State Stark's first copy machine.

She says, "Back then, we were amazed by its capabilities. Today, I'm used to all the modern office technology, but I still keep a stash of carbon paper in my desk drawer, just in case."



Boo U Fall Fest a Treat for Area Kids

This past October, more than 1,500 area children and their families turned out for Kent State University Stark's Boo U, a fall festival for children elementary school-aged and younger. Students, faculty and staff donned costumes and volunteered during the fun event, which included trick-or-treating, a costume contest, enchanted stories, games and a haunted pond walk.



Norris, Corddry Enlighten and Amuse

Award-winning journalist Michele Norris and actor-comedian Rob Corddry – both highlighted in the Kent State University Stark Featured Speaker Series – shared insights and humor with hundreds who came to hear them speak this past fall.



In September, host of National Public Radio's (NPR) news magazine *All Things Considered*, Norris discussed how technology is changing the world and the media, which bombards people with information, but provides little depth. Norris noted NPR, which is steadily growing, continues to hold fast to thoughtful news commentary.

Corddry, formerly a regular on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*, kept audience members in a constant state of laughter with his quick wit and satirical standup comedy last October while – among other things – urging them to vote in the recent general election.

"His humor is magnificent," says *Gloria O'Shea*, a sophomore applied arts major at Kent State Stark. "I like his shock value most of all. You never know what's going to come out of his mouth."

Kent State Stark Holds First Fall Commencement

It was standing room only at Kent State Stark's First Annual Fall Commencement Ceremony, held this past December at The University Center. While their families looked on, nearly 100 students walked during the ceremony, which was added to accommodate increased enrollment.

Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut delivered the convocation speech, stressing the integral role Kent State Stark plays in the newly formed University System of Ohio by providing a convenient, affordable option for students looking to obtain their bachelor's or master's degrees.

<< looking back



"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 (Professional Education and Conference 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.

10% off weddings for Kent State Alumni!



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

To reserve the center for your next event, contact Joe Folk, general manager, at 330-244-3300 or jfolkgm@kent.edu. Or visit YourUniversityCenter.com.

Your  [University Center.com](http://UniversityCenter.com)

330-244-3300
Contact us at jfolkgm@kent.edu

6000 Frank Avenue NW
North Canton, OH 44720



February – May 2009

Cultural Flash Highlights

February

Feb. 10 – March 1

Inspired by Japan: Resist Dye Techniques Traditional and Modern

Featuring work by artist Rebecca Cross and students from the Kent State University School of Art, including some kimono and other Japanese artifacts from the Kent State University Museum.
Main Hall Gallery, Free
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m. to noon

*Feb. 13, 14,
15*, 20, 21, 22**

The Mikado

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

For complete event listings and more information, including tickets, reservations and program descriptions, visit our online calendar at www.stark.kent.edu/CampusInfo/Calendar.cfm or call us at: 330-499-9600 (Canton) or 330-535-3377 (Akron).

March

March 3

Featured Speaker: Mike Brown “How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming”

Timken Great Hall
The University Center
(Professional Education and Conference Center)
7:30 p.m.
Free, but ticket is required.



Above
Dr. Mike Brown, professor of planetary astronomy, California Institute of Technology, is best known for discovering the object in our solar system that led to Pluto's eventual demotion to a dwarf planet. Named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2006, his writing has appeared in publications such as *The New York Times* and *Physics Today*.

March 8

Kent State Stark Music Department Pops Concert

Fine Arts Theatre, 3 p.m., \$10
All proceeds benefit music and theatre scholarship funds.

April

*April 10, 11,
16, 17, 18, 19**

Alice In Wonderland

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

April 19
**3rd Annual Earth Day
Celebration**

Campus Center Parking Lot
1-4 p.m.
Free.

April 22

Featured Speaker: Jack Hanna “Going Wild For Wildlife”

Timken Great Hall
The University Center
(Professional Education and Conference Center)
7:30 p.m.; Free, but ticket is required.



May

May 3

Kent State Stark University Chorus

Main Hall Auditorium, 3 p.m., Free

May 5

Kent State Stark Concert Band

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

May 9

A Broadway Sampler

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

Left

Jack Hanna, naturalist and host of television series *Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures*, became director in 1978 of Ohio's then-neglected Columbus Zoo, transforming it into a model facility. A regular guest on *Good Morning America*, *Larry King Live* and *The Late Show With David Letterman*, Hanna will bring a few of his animal friends to Kent State Stark.



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