

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2016 | New Home for Visual Arts | Branching Out | Sew Forth | Brain Health



Eye-Opener

An enlightening look at the career of alumnus and Akron native Mark Mothersbaugh, as a retrospective of his work, *Myopia*, is on exhibit in Northeast Ohio this summer.

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On the cover: Mark Mothersbaugh developed the foundation for his career in visual and sonic art while attending Kent State University in the early 1970's. Now, a retrospective of his work is on display at museums in Akron and Cleveland.

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Learning with LEGO

A familiar toy comes to life for area elementary students who attend summer technology camps at the Kent Campus.



In the AT&T Classroom of Moulton Hall, the children build LEGO models that feature working motors and sensors, connect them to a computer with a USB plug and use a simple programming tool to control their behavior—making Ferris wheels rotate, carousels revolve and go-karts race.

Hosted each summer by Kent State's Research Center for Educational Technology (which studies the potential of technology to improve teaching and learning), the camps typically last four days and offer multiple levels of difficulty for children from ages 6 to 11.

Left: With the support and training of Thomas McNeal, the technology director for the AT&T Classroom, children at the summer technology camps work on a new project each day, building LEGO models of their choice and making them move.

Using LEGO WeDo Robotics sets, software and curriculum—and a range of media and digital tools—the summer sessions help students develop skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as language and literacy. At the end of camp, each student receives a flash drive filled with photos and videos of their LEGO creations.

"Our goal is to provide opportunities for kids in the community to experiment with a variety of new technologies," says Annette Kratcoski, Ph.D., director of the center. "It's a huge community outreach. And we get kids who say, 'I want to go to college at Kent State.' We are starting them young!" —Lauren Rathmell '17

View a video of last year's camp at bit.ly/legocamp. Learn more at www.kent.edu/rcet/student-technology-camps.

“Because of the internet, because of ecommerce, everybody in the [fashion] industry is challenged by how to deal with this next generation. . . . We need innovation, we need the talent that is coming from this school.”

—JOSIE NATORI, founder and CEO of The Natori Company, inductee into Kent State's Fashion School Hall of Fame, April 29, 2016



Hear Again

More than 100 reel-to-reel audio recordings pertaining to the May 1970 Kent State shootings and their aftermath are now accessible through the Kent State University Special Collections and Archives' digital repository.

Prior to the digitization, which was funded by a \$2,000 Ohio Archives Grant, the original recordings were largely inaccessible due to their age and fragility. They include radio call-in forums, a speech by former Kent State University President Robert I. White the day after the shootings, a press conference with six students who met with President Richard Nixon days after the shootings, the Scranton

Commission hearings and a speech made by Dick Gregory at the Kent State Memorial Service in 1971.

Cara Gilgenbach, head of Special Collections and Archives, notes, "As we head toward the 50th anniversary of this pivotal event in American history, we seek to provide expanded access to unprocessed portions of the collection, especially audio-visual materials, which are highly sought by researchers."

The audio recordings, which are accessible worldwide, are available online at bit.ly/may4digitalupdate.



Ride On

If you're rushing to a class or meeting, the trek across Kent State's 866-acre campus can be daunting. An expansion to the campus bike-share program, Flashfleet, provides a quick alternative.

VENDOR Nextbike, a German company that develops and operates bike-sharing systems, provided 60 new bikes with a technology-based system that Recreational Services supports.

TECHNOLOGY Equipped with GPS computers, the sturdy bikes have an integrated lock system. Registered users can unlock them in a variety of ways without the need for an attendant.

LOCATION Bikes can be rented and returned to any of eight Flashfleet locations across campus and in downtown Kent.

COST Users can choose a pay-as-you-go plan at \$2/hour or opt for an annual membership that costs students \$25, faculty and staff \$35 and non-Kent State community members \$45 for up to three ride hours per day at no additional cost, then \$1/hour over that.

BENEFIT "We want to build a supportive biking culture at Kent State," says Chris John, assistant director with the Department of Recreational Services. "Biking is a great transportation option for a healthy and sustainable campus." —Lauren Rathmell '17

Visit www.kent.edu/recservices/flashfleet for more information.



MELISSA OLSON



“[Experts say] by the year 2050, non-Hispanic white Americans will comprise only 47 percent of this country's population. . . . I think America has no choice but to embrace diversity and inclusion. Because it's not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. It's the American thing to do.”

—JOHN QUIÑONES, news anchor and host of ABC's *What Would You Do?*, keynote speaker at the State of the State Conference hosted by Kent State University, March 17, 2016

Triple Digits

The Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. One of nine accredited podiatry colleges in the United States, the four-year, graduate-level medical college grants the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. More than 6,780 podiatrists have graduated from the college since its founding in 1916.

"It is astounding to view the evolution of the profession, beginning with only 14 students—to having more than 100 graduates each year," says Dean Allan Boike, D.P.M., pictured at left celebrating with students from the college. "From [its beginning] the college has maintained one goal: to produce the finest providers of foot and ankle care in the world."

Learn more at <http://www.kent.edu/cpm>.



JOAN LANNICCH

A Hero’s Legacy

When Jack Rittichier '56 attended Kent State, he was a big man on campus—captain of the football and track teams, chair of the Pork Barrel (a campus entertainment) and an officer in the ROTC. “He was James Dean and Marlon Brando all in one package,” recalls former football teammate Allan Kaupinen '57. “When he walked across campus, you noticed him.”

Kaupinen has spent a good part of the last seven years making sure Kent State remembers Jack Rittichier—and not just for his 90-yard touchdown run against Bowling Green that propelled Kent State into its first bowl game, the 1954 Refrigerator Bowl in Evansville, Indiana.

That run made him a campus hero, but Rittichier became a national war hero, the only U.S. Coast Guard aviator killed in Vietnam when he was shot down during an heroic rescue mission in 1968.

The remains of Rittichier and his crew were recovered in 2002, and he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in 2003.

The former Coast Guard pilot who relieved Rittichier in Vietnam, Jim Loomis, interviewed Kaupinen seven years ago for a book he’s writing. They joined forces

JEFF GLIDDEN '87



Jim Loomis (left), retired Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander, and Allan Kaupinen '57, representing the 1954 football team, traveled to Kent State this spring to present the Rittichier Award to Matt Dellinger '16 at a special ceremony in Dix Stadium. (See bit.ly/Rittichier for more on Rittichier’s Coast Guard career.)

with the Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA) and Kent State University Athletics to honor Rittichier at a reunion of the 1954 Refrigerator Bowl team and to rename the football team’s Most Valuable Player award after him in 2009. The CGAA funded a Rittichier memorial in Dix Stadium and later a bronze Heisman-like trophy (based on a sculpture titled “Jack’s Run”) given to the team’s MVP each year since 2014.

Linebacker Matt Dellinger '16 (Clarkston, Mich.)—Mid-American Conference (MAC) Distinguished Scholar Athlete, three-time Academic All-MAC Team and All-MAC Third Team this past season—received the Lt. Jack Columbus Rittichier Award this spring. “I hope to continue this legacy and make Jack proud,” says Dellinger, who enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June and plans to become a Navy SEAL.

Mound Presence

Kent State left-handed pitching star Eric Lauer '16 is known for being cool, calm and collected on the mound, but even he expressed excitement over learning he was selected by the San Diego Padres in the first round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft in June, going as the 25th overall pick.

“This is a dream come true,” says Lauer. “To be drafted in the first round has always been one of my goals, and it’s a bit surreal to have it actually happen. I’m really excited to be a part of the Padres organization, and I can’t wait to work on my next goal of making it to the major leagues.”

Three years ago, coming out of high school, Lauer passed up a seven-figure signing bonus offer by the Toronto Blue Jays after being drafted in the 17th round—choosing to further his education and raise his draft stock at Kent State.

“He elevated himself quite a bit,” says pitching coach Mike Birkbeck, who in 20 seasons at Kent State has had many pitchers advance to the major leagues. “He’s got great aptitude. You can suggest something, and he has the ability to take those words and put them into action.” That “coachability” will allow him to pitch a long time, Birkbeck predicts.

“These past three years have been a lot of fun, and I truly believe choosing college out of high school was the right choice for me,” says Lauer, who graduated in May with a degree in business management. “I hope to make Kent State proud.”

Eric Lauer: By the Numbers

0.69	ERA, best in the nation and best in Division I since 1979
10-2	Won-Lost record
125	Strikeouts in 104 innings; 2nd most in Kent State history
31	Consecutive scoreless innings to close the season
11th	No-hitter in Kent State history
7th	First-round pick in Kent State history
3.7	GPA in business management; graduated in 3 years
505	When drafted out of high school by the Blue Jays in 2013
25	When drafted out of college by the Padres in 2016

Accolades

- National Player of the Year by *Collegiate Baseball*
- Consensus First Team All-American (second in KSU history)
- Second Team Academic All-American by College Sports Information Directors of America
- 2016 Pitcher of the Year by Mid-American Conference
- 2016 Pitcher of the Year by National College Baseball Hall of Fame
- Finalist for 2016 Dick Howser Trophy by Easton Foundations
- Semifinalist for 2016 Golden Spikes Award by USA Baseball



DAVID DERMER

Global Exposure

Since a majority of Kent State’s College of Public Health courses are online, students can study anywhere in the world and stay on track with their degree—while gaining valuable exposure to other cultures.

During the two-week 2016 summer intercession, public health students studied in Brazil as part of Kent State’s partnership with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, one of the world’s main public health research institutions, located in Rio de Janeiro. They received lectures on diseases endemic to Brazil—including malaria,

leprosy, tuberculosis, zika virus infections, non-communicable diseases and tropical diseases of the Amazon region—and they visited research facilities, communities, labs and clinics in Rio de Janeiro and Manaus (in the Brazilian Amazon).

“The Global Health Brazil Study Abroad course was fantastic,” says Mark James, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences & Epidemiology and director of global programs for the College of Public Health. “It was a big success for the students and for the college’s global image.”

See <http://www.kent.edu/publichealth>.

Left: Kent State public health students in the Global Health Brazil Study Abroad course gather in front of the Neo-Mouresque Palace of Manguinhos in Rio de Janeiro, seat of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.



MARK JAMES



LINDSEY WYERS

From group walks on Fridays to the occasional bocce ball game, the On the Move group at Kent State Ashtabula found fun ways to meet move goals.

Step by Step

Kent State employees have been moving more, sitting less and feeling better! The university competed against 84 employers and 78,075 participants across the country in the Wellness Council of America’s On The Move Challenge, a 12-week (April 4–June 26) national corporate fitness competition promoting more movement throughout the workday.

Each week Kent State’s 1,148 registered participants had the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of physical activity, assess their progress, share successes and goals with others, boost peers for bonus points and, of course, move!

At the end of the challenge, Kent State’s team ranked 29 of 56 companies in its category. Employees on all Kent State campuses worked together to contribute to the team’s national ranking, including the On the Move group at Kent State University at Ashtabula (at left).

Says Teresa Bates, On the Move coordinator for Kent State Ashtabula: “It was great to participate in a corporate challenge that gave us the opportunity to both compete and build comradery.”



Use Your Head

Kent State researchers are studying how you can train and maintain a healthy brain.

By Erin Peterson | Illustrations by Mikey Burton '08

Our brains are curious organs, responsible for our most logical decisions as well as our most irrational behavior. They help us love and loathe, think and feel. They help us remember obscure geography facts so we can ace armchair *Jeopardy!*—and also, unfortunately, remember every last lyric of “Hey Mickey.”

With advances in neuroscience, we’re beginning to learn what makes our brains tick. In the following pages, we talk to six Kent State University researchers who are unlocking some of the brain’s deepest mysteries. They agreed to share some of their current research—as well as their best ideas about how to harness the brain’s power to learn more effectively, become more present in daily life and maintain intellectual sharpness for a lifetime.

Heavy thoughts

Could losing a few pounds actually make you smarter?

Researchers have long known that carrying extra weight can be hard on our bodies: studies show that obesity is linked to higher rates of heart and liver disease, for example.

Those extra pounds may be weighing down our brains, too, says John Gunstad, Ph.D., professor of psychological sciences and director of Kent State’s Applied Psychology Center. “Our research has found that individuals who are overweight—not even obese—have difficulties with memory and problem-solving that their normal-weight peers don’t.”

For example, Gunstad’s research has found that people who carry excess weight have more difficulty acquiring new information and skills and also struggle more to recall recently learned information when

they need it. They also are more likely to struggle with “executive functioning”—a set of skills that includes planning, organizing and problem-solving.

Those additional difficulties can compound the already challenging work of losing weight in a way that almost seems like self-sabotage. “An individual trying to lose weight might have a hard time remembering to pack all their exercise

clothes and equipment for their class at the gym, or fail to bring a healthy snack from home and get stuck at the vending machine later in the afternoon,” Gunstad says.

So what’s going on? Though researchers are still trying to suss out the links, Gunstad suspects it’s a combination of several subtle factors.

Gaining weight seems to make it harder for our bodies to regulate blood sugar, and even modest disruptions in these blood sugar levels can make it harder for our brains to work the way they’re supposed to. Extra weight can also damage blood vessels. Such damage may affect the amount of oxygen getting to the brain, which in turn can “starve” the regions of the brain essential for memory and problem-solving activities.

If you do successfully drop even a few pounds, all these changes are reversible, and the improvements in brain function happen almost from the moment you shed the weight. “Individuals who start losing weight may notice improvements even within the first couple weeks,” Gunstad says.

He has requested funding to develop a smartphone app that could remind people trying to lose weight to make healthy decisions—pack a lunch, take the stairs, grab the gym bag on the way out the door—right when they need them. “We want to find ways to provide support systems in people’s everyday lives,” says Gunstad. ▶



MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT

Following a Mediterranean diet to avoid developing prediabetes or type 2 diabetes may help you lose weight, lower blood sugar levels and keep the brain working as it should.

Is oxytocin the key to a kinder, gentler world?

This hormone found in the brain may help us unlock new solutions for age-old problems.



Oxytocin has long been hailed as a love drug for its influence on human behavior: it's the chemical that floods the brain while a mother breastfeeds her newborn and helps cement the maternal bond with her child. During times of heartbreak, we often have lower levels of the chemical in our system.

But oxytocin's effects on our emotional state and behavior is far more nuanced than these examples suggest, says Heather Caldwell, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, who studies oxytocin and a closely linked hormone called vasopressin. The good news is that these subtleties open up new ways to think about how we can use the chemical to prevent disorders, treat disease and improve our relationships.

We asked Caldwell to draw out some of the potential practical implications of early findings in the research that she and other experts have done.

OXYTOCIN IN: FETAL DEVELOPMENT

What researchers have learned: Caldwell's research has found that if male mice are not exposed to oxytocin in embryonic development, they are more likely to show abnormally high aggression levels when they're adults.

What that might mean for us: If similar behaviors hold true in humans, it may open up opportunities to prevent problems before they start. "Someday, we might be able to do an intervention during fetal development to make sure that the developing brain is getting as much oxytocin as it needs, if we notice that receptor levels are low," Caldwell says.

OXYTOCIN IN: POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

What researchers have learned: Women who experience postpartum depression are more likely to have had lower oxytocin levels during the third semester of their pregnancy.

What that might mean for us: "That correlation might not mean that a lack of oxytocin causes postpartum depression," Caldwell says. "That said, if we know the levels were low during that trimester, we can be more attentive to potential problems after the baby is born."

OXYTOCIN IN: RELATIONSHIPS

What researchers have learned: Oxytocin may not be Love Potion No. 9, but an elevated presence of the chemical may help us see our beloved with slightly more rose-tinted glasses—even if we're not feeling particularly rosy toward our significant other in a given situation.

What that might mean for us: While oxytocin isn't available over the counter, U.S. scientists are beginning to do clinical trials with the hormone. "Some scientists have proposed using oxytocin for people heading to couples therapy—taking a bit right before a session might make both of them a little more open to the therapist's suggestions, for instance," Caldwell says.

Your 100-year plan for mental acuity

Help your brain last as long as you do.

As a result of our rapidly increasing lifespans, more people than ever are facing the specter of Alzheimer's disease, which is strongly linked to aging.

While our genetics play an important role in whether or not we end up with the disease, we also have a hand in our fate, says Gemma Casadesus Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences. "Even if you were born with an imperfect genetic portfolio, lifestyle changes can help you delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease," she says.

Here's how.

GIVE YOUR BRAIN A WORKOUT As a Kent State graduate, you already hold an advantage, says Smith. "The higher level of education a person has, the later they're likely to develop Alzheimer's. We don't know exactly why, but we believe that the more you use your brain, the more connections you make [among neurons], which provides a 'cognitive reserve,'" she says. "These additional connections mean that it takes longer for symptoms of the disease to show up." Strengthen your advantage by continuing to take classes, read challenging books and spend time on engaging problems in your work and personal life.



DON'T ABUSE DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Long-term drug and alcohol use can kill off brain cells. While people may not see an immediate impact, the real consequences will reveal themselves in time. "We might not notice brain impairment in youth—even if there is damage—because we have a lot [of cognitive reserve], but age-related alterations that make our brains more sluggish make the previous losses more evident," Smith says. "Someone who abused drugs and alcohol for a long time is likely to show earlier cognitive impairment."

EAT A DIET RICH IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

"It's exactly what your grandmother told you to do, and it's good advice," Smith says. "The antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties in colorful fruits and vegetables protect your brain." Smith's research has found that blueberries, for example, have high levels of antioxidants, but she adds that a wide variety of nuts, fruits and vegetables are better than a single "superfood."

EXERCISE The brain-body connection is real, Smith says. "Exercise triggers the production of neurotrophic factors in the brain, which help our neurons stay healthy."

Now you hear it, now you don't

A treatment to quiet the ever-present buzz of tinnitus may be within reach.

If you've ever gone to a loud concert and experienced ringing in your ears in the days that followed, you're familiar with **the irritating and distracting experience of tinnitus.** In fact, about 50 million Americans will deal with the condition at some point during their lives.

But for some, tinnitus is more than a simple, temporary annoyance. Soldiers, for example, who are exposed to a bomb blast, can get immediate and irreversible tinnitus. The ringing or buzzing they hear in their ears—the result of brain cells that have become hyper-sensitive—can be debilitating, says Alexander Galazyuk, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical sciences. "They may have difficulty sleeping and talking to others," he says. "They may even contemplate suicide."

Currently, many tinnitus treatments incorporate psychological counseling to teach those suffering from tinnitus how to live with it, since cures have proved elusive and the side effects of current treatments have been severe.

But Galazyuk says there may be hope. Researchers have known for more than a century that if tinnitus sufferers hear a loud noise for a short period of time—perhaps a minute—that matches the frequency of the ringing or buzzing in their head (determined by a "tinnitus matching" procedure completed by patients who listen to tones beforehand), the tinnitus is often suppressed. "It seems like a miracle," Galazyuk says. "But that suppression, known as residual inhibition, lasts just a minute or two."

Galazyuk has closely studied this phenomena, and they have discovered that specific protein molecules found on the membranes of neurons, known as metabotropic



HEAR THE WARNING, LOUD AND CLEAR

Think you couldn't possibly get tinnitus? Think again. Tinnitus can be induced in mice with the equivalent of a single hour of rock-concert-level noise. Whenever possible, avoid extended exposure to loud noises or wear ear plugs.

glutamate receptors, seem to play a critical role in this mechanism. They're currently focusing on drugs that target these receptors and suppress tinnitus for longer periods of time. "When we've tested these treatments on mice, the suppression of tinnitus seems to last about two hours," he says.

Further studies may ultimately bring the treatment to humans. "It's not a cure, but for people who are experiencing severe tinnitus, even suppressing it for 15 minutes would be a big deal," Galazyuk says.



A user's guide to a more mindful life

Starting small with mindfulness can reap big benefits.

David Fresco, Ph.D., professor of psychological sciences, has been studying the impact of meditation in his lab and in his personal life for more than 15 years. His NIH-funded project, the Serenity Study, is designed to help people lower their blood pressure through stress management techniques, including mindfulness. (You can get involved here: <http://www.serenitystudy.org/>.)

He's also studying a Tibetan form of meditation known as analytic meditation and debate, and he has found early indications that under the right circumstances, the brains of Tibetan monastics "sync up" with another.

We asked him to share recommendations for incorporating mindfulness and meditation practices into daily life, and we've organized these ideas in order of commitment level. Start with a single step and ascend to ever higher mastery.



START HERE

Pay attention to the details. Even if you can't carve out time each day to meditate, you can start by simply being present in any given moment, says Fresco. "When you wash the dishes, notice the temperature of the water on your skin and the tickle of the bubbles on your hands. When you eat an orange, savor each bite and notice the juice when you break the skin."

THEN TRY

10 minutes a day. Sit on a cushion or chair in a quiet location and set a timer for 10 minutes. In either case, sit up straight in a dignified posture. Breathe naturally and focus on where your breath is most vivid for you: how it feels and what it sounds like, for example. When your mind wanders, return to this focus on your breath. "We don't know, scientifically, that 10 minutes is enough to measurably relieve anxiety or improve concentration, but some practices designed for consumers start off with a more modest commitment to build a habit," Fresco says. Just getting started with a practice is important in developing a new habit.

DIG DEEPER

Well-known practitioners of the field offer accessible books about meditation. Try Jon Kabat-Zinn's *Mindfulness for Beginners* and *Wherever You Go, There You Are* or Thich Nhat Hanh's *Miracle of Mindfulness* and *Peace Is Every Step*.

NOW YOU'RE READY

If you can commit to 45 minutes of meditation, six days a week, for eight weeks, research has shown that that this level of commitment will create physical changes in your brain. "At least two studies have shown that this level of practice leads to improved cellular density in specific regions of the brain that allows people to confront unpleasant or difficult situations in a more sanguine way," Fresco says.

Learn this way

Finally stop forgetting all the things you want to remember.

Katherine Rawson, Ph.D., professor of psychological sciences, has been fascinated by the ways we learn ever since she worked as a restaurant manager after high school. Part of her job was to teach new employees (who often lasted just 6 months) what they needed to know both quickly and deeply. That work was more challenging than she had imagined.

Today, Rawson studies learning strategies that are both long-lasting and efficient. There are plenty of techniques that work, but they're often valuable in only the narrowest circumstances. We asked Rawson to share the strategy that is most effective in the widest variety of situations—a one-two punch called "successive relearning." In a study Rawson and colleague John Dunlosky, Ph.D., published in 2015, students using this technique scored, on average, a full letter grade higher on an exam compared to control subjects.

Whether you're trying to learn a few helpful phrases for an upcoming trip to a foreign country or helping your kid memorize the quadratic formula, the two steps in successive relearning should help.



1

SELF-TEST Just reading your notes over and over isn't typically an effective learning strategy—especially if you want to make it stick. What does work is a time-tested favorite: flash cards. Foreign language vocabulary, key terms, definitions and formulas are all ideal for flash-card study. And while the technique may seem like nothing more than simple regurgitation, this process is critical in the acquisition of deeper knowledge. "The end goal might not be rote memory, but that doesn't mean that memory isn't important," Rawson says. "Just because you understand something doesn't mean you'll remember it later."

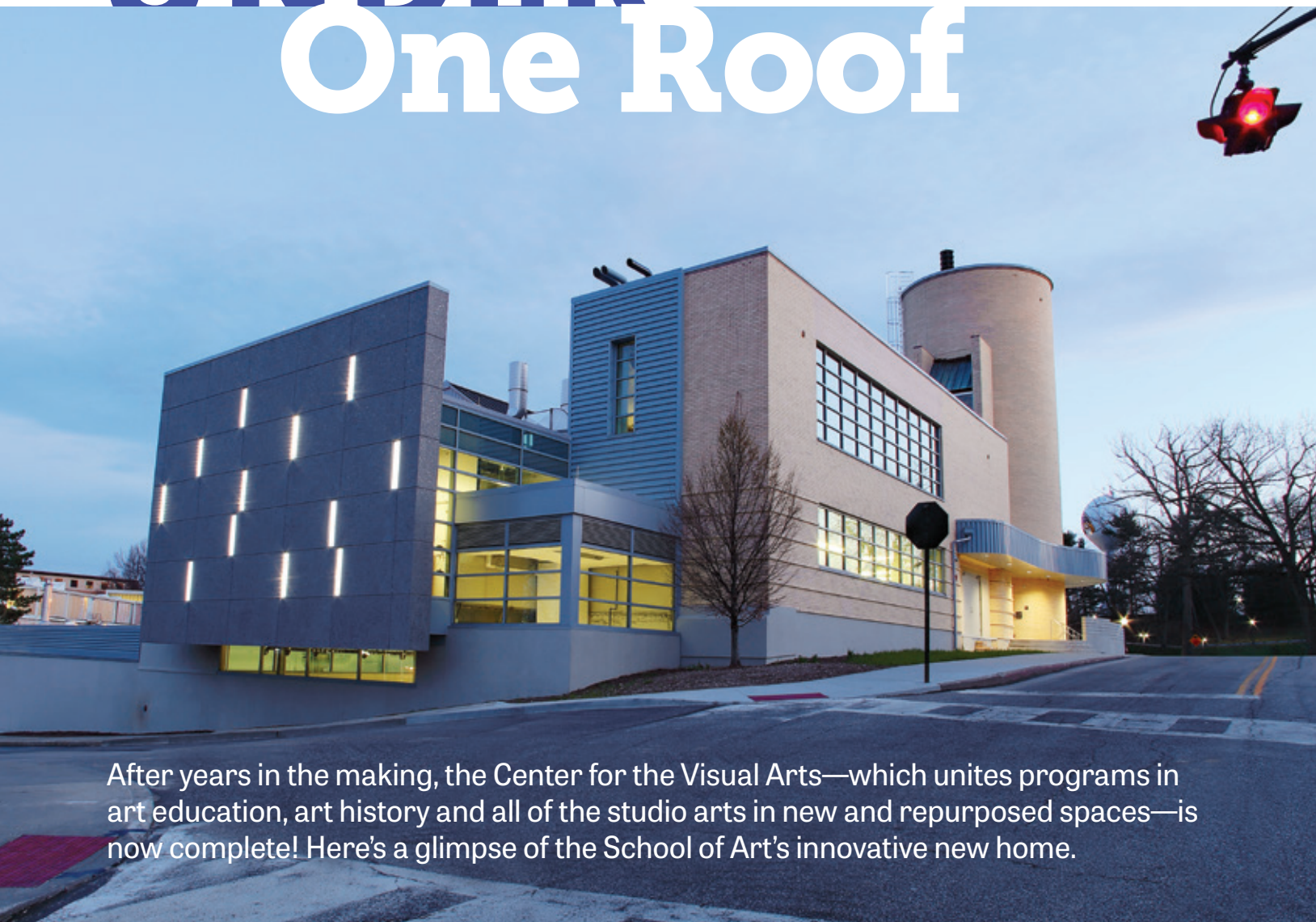
2

SPACE IT OUT A single, hours-long cram session won't do nearly as much good as spreading three or four shorter study sessions out over the course of a week or two. In these refresher sessions, you'll have a chance to see how much you remembered—and the repeated sessions will help you cement knowledge into your long-term memory. Even better? The refresher sessions will get shorter each time as you remember more and recall the information more quickly. "Though we don't know exactly how long you should wait between study sessions, research suggests that waiting at least a few days is better than waiting just a day or two," Rawson says.

The two steps can seem so deceptively simple that people dismiss them, says Rawson. Instead, they should embrace them. "[This technique] is not a fancy phone app or a game. But a technique doesn't need to be fancy to be effective. In fact, it will be easier to use," she says. "And that's a good thing." ⚡

Erin Peterson is a freelance writer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

UNDER One Roof



After years in the making, the Center for the Visual Arts—which unites programs in art education, art history and all of the studio arts in new and repurposed spaces—is now complete! Here's a glimpse of the School of Art's innovative new home.

DAN MORGAN / STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Once dispersed across the Kent Campus, all the programs and disciplines in the School of Art are together for the first time since 1960 in the new Center for the Visual Arts. The Kent State community celebrated the center's opening in May, as they gathered in the new glass-enclosed central lobby that connects two renovated, repurposed buildings—the Art Annex/former Heating Plant and Van Deusen Hall—before heading off to explore the building's expanse.

The 127,900-square-foot facility—twice the length of a football field—houses classrooms, galleries and a lecture hall, plus dedicated studios and spaces for major programs in art education, art history, ceramics, drawing, glass, jewelry/metals/enameling, painting, print media and photography, sculpture and textiles, as well as the cross-disciplinary foundations program. Part of the Foundations of Excellence

initiative, the building itself is a learning resource that will enable Kent State students to easily share ideas and collaborate across disciplines.

A deft blend of old and new construction, the \$33.5 million complex—a LEED registered project that aims to be Silver certified for efficiency and sustainability—was designed by Payto Architects of Cleveland. For principal of the firm Jerry Payto, B. Arch. '68, who majored in architecture with a minor in art, "It brings things full circle for me, personally and professionally. It's probably been the most gratifying project that I'll experience in my lifetime."

In an essay about the project, excerpted on the following pages from a booklet about the center's opening, Christine Havice, Ph.D., former director of the School of Art—who retired in June after seeing her vision come to life—reflects on the past and rejoices in the center's future.



Opposite left: The new Center of the Visual Arts invites the Kent community to explore the arts through a variety of experiences and events. Clockwise from top left: The Heating Plant (shown circa 1980s) was constructed in 1916 (with later additions) and served as the primary heat source for the Kent Campus for nearly 80 years. During construction, contractors found that the two 120-foot brick stacks were structurally unsound, and they had to be demolished. • At work in the James (Mel) Someroski Jewelry/Metals/Enameling Studios, named after the Kent State professor and mentor of Linda Allard Gallen, B.A. '62, Hon. D.H.L. '91, who gave a major gift in his honor. • The existing coal silo now houses a staircase linking four floors of studios and support areas.



The new Center for the Visual Arts is the synergistic product of two older campus buildings: the original Heating Plant of 1916 and the post-war Van Deusen Hall for industrial arts, completed in 1950.

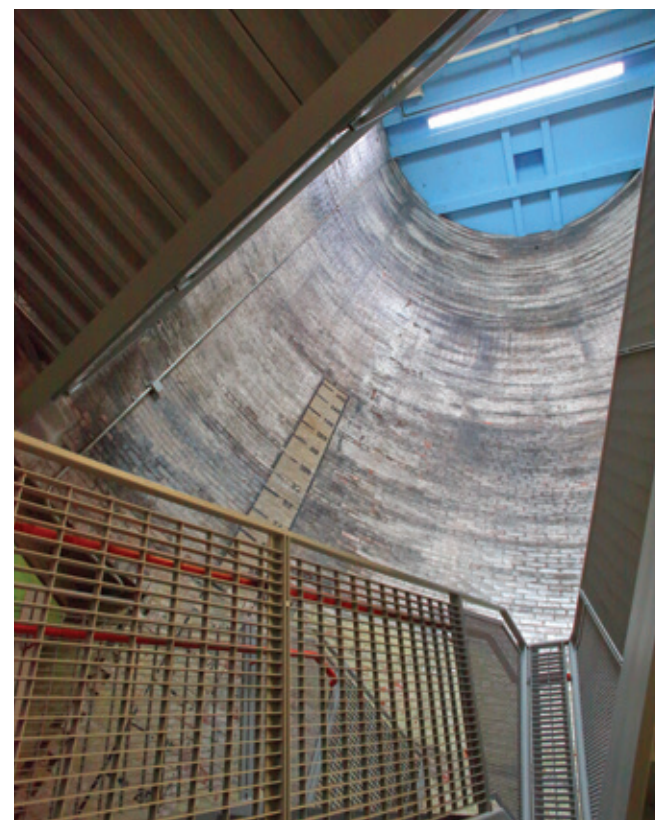
Once on the edge of the Kent Campus, the old Heating Plant, with its graceful façade, is now at its heart. It was always a multipurpose building, generating heat from coal but also furnishing space for manual training instruction.

The front of the building was reoriented between 1938 and 1940, to face Terrace Drive and included additional classroom spaces. A second smokestack was added in the 1960s to meet increased energy demands, while growing programs in architecture and art occupied the classroom spaces.

Professor Clinton Van Deusen was head of the manual training program at the founding of Kent College. When the renamed industrial arts program grew exponentially after World War II—like so many at Kent State and around the United States following the G.I. Bill—it needed more dedicated space. The new building, completed in 1950, was later named to honor Professor Van Deusen. A certain number of art classes were taught there as well, with work exhibited in a gallery on the first floor near the entry lobby.

The School of Art gained its own dedicated space in 1972 with the opening of the present Art Building designed by Australian architect John Andrews, who was creating a similar structure at that exact time at Harvard University.

However, even with the new structure, some School of Art programs still had to be conducted in other campus buildings, as well as off campus. Undergraduate art students got a healthy workout traveling from one studio to another,



DAN MORGAN / STRAIGHT SHOOTER



DAN MORGAN / STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Clockwise from top left: A soaring, glass-enclosed lobby serves as a contemporary connection between two venerable buildings. • Van Deusen Hall (shown circa 1950s) was once the home of the industrial arts program. • Students load the kilns in the new ceramics studio. • An artist at work in the new printmaking studio.



“This is not just a space for individuals who are majoring in the arts; **this is a place where we can share the arts with our entire community.**”

—PRESIDENT BEVERLY WARREN



while graduate students, who tend to specialize in one discipline and so concentrate their time in one studio, often worked in relative isolation from one another.

The end to this dispersion was foreseen when it was decided in 2008 to bring all art programs together. The old Heating Plant—made redundant after the opening of the Kent State University Power Plant on Summit Street—and the soon-to-be-abandoned Van Deusen Hall offered opportunities for serious reorganization. Joined by new construction that echoes the curve of Terrace Drive and fronting on that main artery, the two older, industrial structures have been, in sequence, totally gutted and rebuilt inside their venerable shells.

The result is a palimpsest, overlaid traces of evolving Kent State structures across a full century. Many of the admirable original features of both older buildings have been carefully preserved, such as the round-headed windows of the 1916 core of the Heating Plant, along with the interior relief medallions celebrating great names in the history of industrial design (among them Watt and Edison). The 1940 silo that fed the three huge boilers still bears the calibrations of hours of heat left as the coal was burnt. And in Van Deusen Hall, the characteristic industrial sawtooth roofline with north-facing skylights, as well as the period terrazzo floors of its hallways, mark a mid-century structure where “industrial” and “arts” were conjoined.

At both ends of today’s Center for the Visual Arts, we encounter archaeological moments where sutures, breakthroughs, strata and contrasting materials witness the history of the two original buildings, even as this new one was created.

To the great credit of the designers at Payto Architects, these moments and the first century of Kent State are celebrated visibly and proudly in the Center for the Visual Arts, as we do once again in dedicating our new home under one roof. ⚡

—Christine Havice, Ph.D.,
former director of the School of Art

See a slideshow at www.kent.edu/magazine/CVA for more photos of the new center.



Crystal Connection

As an exercise in presentation and installation, printmaking professor Michael Loderstedt, M.F.A. '85, challenged his students in Screen Printing 1 (Serigraphy)—one of the first classes held in the Center for the Visual Arts—to create multiples of a 3D screen print and incorporate them into the new building for their critique.

“I encourage students to push the boundaries of what is considered fine art printmaking,” says Loderstedt, who is the interim director of the School of Art. “We want our media to capture a viewer’s attention and be as competitive as any other art form that exists in the contemporary world. A ‘printstallation’—combining printmaking and installation—is one way to do that.”

Students scouted the new center to find sources of inspiration and interesting spaces in which to install their projects, then set to work. For her site, senior Shelby Solomon, who has a double major in printmaking and metalsmithing, chose a ragged brick opening—which the architects deliberately left raw to retain the industrial feel of the old buildings.

“I wanted to incorporate these messed-up bricks because they’re right at the place where the old and new sections join,” says Solomon. “I’ve always felt connected to crystal structures because they’re representative of growth, so I thought this would be a good way to utilize the architecture and express a sense of growth from old to new.”

Solomon screen-printed four different shades of pink onto glossy photo paper, plus a halftone of the city of Pittsburgh (“because that’s where I’m from”) to give the crystals more dimension, then scored and folded the paper structures and attached them to the rough wall—connecting her artwork to the new center in more ways than one.

See a slideshow at www.kent.edu/magazine/screenprint for more 3D “printstallations” from the class.

*It is not what you call me,
it is what I answer to...*
—African Proverb

driving while black

driving in my car
black wisdom from the ages is turned on its head:

in my car
what i think of my Self is of no significance
(save in my own mind...)
because i am always black while driving
and i know *they* are there waiting lurking
looking
out for some one black
like me.

i am a black man driving.
i have my own and countless other *blackmenintheircars*
stories to tell—
it is the same story; just new chapters from works in
progress
out of America's deep black story well.

i am blessed.
i have driven through my youth
and into my elder years—
i am still driving. *they* are
still there watching.
sadly,
their *fears* are always near...

—mwatabu s. okantah

From Muntu Kuntu Energy: New and Selected Poetry,
Chatter House Press, 2013

TRAVEL
ING /
STAN
ZAS

POET: Mwatabu Okantah

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Akron, Ohio

As Mwatabu Okantah, B.A. '76, was heading home from Kent one evening several years ago, he saw a police car parked near a high school. When he drove past, the officer turned on the car's headlights and followed him all the way to the highway.

"It's not the first time that's happened, and probably won't be the last," says Okantah, associate professor and poet-in-residence for Pan-African studies and director of the Center of Pan-African Culture, who has taught at the Kent Campus for 25 years. "I wrote a poem about it, because it's a story many black people share.

"I've had police stop my car, and when they talk to me, their hand is on their gun. I can see they're afraid, and it's on me to diffuse the situation." His teenage sons have had similar experiences. "I've taught them to keep calm, say 'yes sir, no sir,' do what they ask and don't move without permission," he says. "It's irritating, but you learn to live with it because that's the way it is."

In his "Black Experience" class, Okantah teaches the history of black people in this country. "Students see that what they are experiencing now isn't new. Young blacks are just the latest generation to have to learn how to navigate these things."

In passing along this history, Okantah has become an African-American griot—following in the tradition of West African griots, a class of traveling poets, musicians and storytellers who perform tribal histories and genealogies. He redefines that tradition through his research, writing and performances. "My approach to poetry is telling stories about experiences, connecting history from one generation to the next."

It seems an unlikely path for someone who once received an "F" for refusing to write a poem in the 10th grade. "The poetry I was exposed to was alien to me," says Okantah, who grew up in New Jersey. But his father made it clear he could not bring home another failing grade. So the next time he had to write a poem—as a high school junior who played football and ran track—he did, writing about the racial tension in his school after the Newark riots that summer. "I had to read my poem to the class, and there was silence. It was like being naked."

He didn't write again until he came to Kent State on an athletic scholarship, and his writing instructor required students to keep a journal. "When I wrote in my journal, I would lose all sense of time," Okantah says. He was surprised to receive an "A" in the class. "I even asked the instructor if he was sure."

That spring he hurt his knee. While he was in the hospital, a teaching assistant visited and gave him a copy of Richard Wright's *Native Son*. "It was the first time I'd read a book by a black author, and it opened a whole new world to me," Okantah says. He left school for a year and a half, then returned and declared English as his major. "I'd learned the power of words."

MELISSA OLSON

Traveling Stanzas—an award-winning collaboration between the Wick Poetry Center and the School of Visual Communication Design—aims to facilitate a global conversation through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry. Featured poems are curated from global submissions and illustrated by Kent State students and alumni.

Share Your Voice!

In partnership with Traveling Stanzas, *Kent State Magazine* will feature a poem by one of our readers in future issues. If your poem is selected by the Wick Poetry Center, it will be illustrated and appear in print and online versions of the magazine, as well as on the Traveling Stanzas homepage.

To submit your poem, visit travelingstanzas.com, click "Submit," and label it "Magazine Entry." For more information, call Wick Poetry Center at 330-672-2067. ⚡

View a video of Mwatabu Okantah reading his poem at travelingstanzas.com. Illustration by Zuzanna Kubisova '17

Branching Out

Kent State graduates have created tree houses—on exhibit this summer at the Cleveland Botanical Garden—that encourage us to turn off our electronic devices and embrace the outdoors.

Photographs by Melissa Olson

The tree house is an iconic image of childhood—if you didn’t have one as a child, you probably wish you had. Even as adults, a tree house reminds us of a simpler time, when the long days of summer stretched before us, when we played outdoors for hours, free from glowing screens and structured activities.

Over the past three decades, changes in agriculture, society and technology have moved us more and more indoors, and many people, especially children, are seldom exposed to natural settings. The *Branch Out* exhibit at the Cleveland Botanical Garden is out to change that—and inspire us all to go outside and play!

The botanical garden sent out requests for proposals for a tree house competition last year. Judges—led by Pete

Nelson, star of television show *Treehouse Masters*—reviewed the submissions and selected five designs, four of which are by graduates of Kent State’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Each tree house explores a theme related to learning and fun.

“We set records for our summer attendance last year with this exhibit,” says Jen Anderson, director of guest services and special exhibits. “Because the tree houses were exciting to people, we wanted to keep the exhibit for another year and encourage outdoor play.”

Three new tree houses have been added to the display this summer, and the exhibit is available through August 28.

View a video of the exhibit at bit.ly/cbgtreehouses.

Learn more at www.cbgbgarden.org/branchout.

Kent State’s winning designs from last year:

1 Acoustic Canopy

Designer: Alan Hipps, B.S. '08, M. Arch. '09,
Sap + Iron | Design Build

Builder: Sap + Iron | Design Build*

Theme: Music

What’s Up: Inspired by the ‘golden section spiral’—a familiar ratio found in nature—the layout resembles a treble clef. Everything in the structure is based off the number eight (the number of notes in an octave). Rhythm instruments allow visitors to make their own music. The tree house is suspended from branches by cables and anchored to a dawn redwood tree with bolts designed so the tree can envelop them as its trunk expands.

2 Twisted Tree

Project Architect: Mike Christ, B.Arch. '95, Vocon

Builder: Donley’s

Theme: Play

What’s Up: This multi-level wooden structure promotes play within its winding frame. Visitors can ride on a swing at the ground level and play wind chimes made of electrical conduit while climbing towards the tree canopy.

3 Giant Jack in the Pulpit

Designer: Steve Bell, B.S. '07, M. Arch. '08,
ThenDesign Architecture (TDA)

Builder: Today’s Lifestyle Construction, Inc.

Theme: Art

What’s Up: Inspired by the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, this tree house enables visitors to climb inside a giant woodland flower and experience nature in a whole new way. Note: Only on exhibit last year.

4 Seasons

Designer: Mykie Hrusovski, B.S. '08,
Sap + Iron | Design Build

Builder: Sap + Iron | Design Build*

Theme: Reading

What’s Up: Built around the trunk of a tulip poplar, this ‘tree inside a house’ acts as a reading room, with slanted slots in one wall for books and a place to write poetry. Reminiscent of a one-room schoolhouse, the structure is wrapped in western red cedar and hand charred with a torch, which protects it from weathering, bugs and rot. ⚡

**Members of Sap + Iron | Design Build include Charles Frederick, B. Arch. '96, interim director of Kent State’s graduate landscape architecture program, Alan Hipps, B.S. '08, M.Arch. '09 and Mykie Hrusovski, B.S. '08.*





Evolution of an Artist

A retrospective exhibit of Mark Mothersbaugh's four-decade body of work comes home to Northeast Ohio, the place that shaped the subject matter and tone of his visual arts and music. From hand-drawn postcards and mutated portraits to mechanical music makers—it all began against the backdrop of the post-industrial rust belt.

By Melissa Olson

There's a palpable energy in the auditorium of the downtown branch of the Akron Public Library as Dan Horrigan presents his first key to the city of Akron in his role as mayor. "There are no-brainers in life, and this was a no-brainer—an immediate yes," he says, turning to address the man wearing distinctive glasses standing just off stage. "Your creative energy and output has been a gift to many and has shone a spotlight on the creative and innovative spirit in our city."

After receiving the key to Akron, artist and composer Mark Mothersbaugh takes a moment to collect his thoughts before addressing the crowd that has gathered to welcome him back to his hometown. "Whether I'm in London working on a film or in South America playing with a band, people think of us as Akronites. . . . I hope you guys don't mind me representing you."

The presentation is just one of a series of events surrounding a retrospective exhibit of Mothersbaugh's body of work that made its way to Northeast Ohio in May, after being shown at museums in Denver, Minneapolis, Cincinnati and Austin over the past two years.

Mark Mothersbaugh: Myopia, conceived of and curated by Adam Lerner, the director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, is the first retrospective of the celebrated visual artist, musician, score composer and tinkerer, who became known in the 1970s as cofounder and keyboardist of the New Wave band Devo.

A joint presentation of Mothersbaugh's work appears simultaneously at the Akron Art Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Cleveland this summer. Each venue features distinct collections from more than 40 years of drawings, films, paintings, sculpture and music. *Myopia* at the Akron Art Museum (partially sponsored by Kent State University) focuses

on Mothersbaugh's visual art practice, while *Myopia* at MOCA Cleveland focuses on his sound, performance and experimentation. Visiting both venues will give audiences a broad perspective of Mothersbaugh's prolific output.

"The impact of Mothersbaugh's work is only now emerging in full view," says Jill Snyder, executive director of MOCA Cleveland. "[It] allows for discovery of an inviting alternative universe; it is a missing chapter of contemporary culture."

Coming into Focus

Mark Mothersbaugh grew up in a working class suburb of Akron, Ohio. Born in 1950, he lived for seven years with undiagnosed severe myopia (nearsightedness) before someone thought to have his eyes tested—and found that he couldn't see more than a few inches in front of his face.

Leaving the optometrist's office with his first pair of glasses, Mothersbaugh was fascinated by the detail he suddenly could see in his surroundings. Becoming obsessed with trees, he began drawing them repetitively, and when his teacher told him he drew trees better than she did, he dreamed of becoming an artist.

Mothersbaugh also took organ lessons as a child and hated them. Then he saw The Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1964 and decided that music was something he wanted to do.

During high school, his art teacher became his mentor. No one in his family had gone to college, but she submitted some of his artwork, and Kent State awarded him a partial scholarship.

Mothersbaugh enrolled at Kent State University in the fall of 1968 to study art, at a time when the university's enrollment had grown rapidly, and new faculty members were fostering cutting-edge ideas. Arriving on campus, which he calls "an oasis" for students



These limited-edition screen prints of Mark Mothersbaugh's *School Days* were pulled by Kent State senior printmaking majors Casey Engelhart and Katie Metcalf under the direction of printmaking professor Michael Loderstedt.

Mirror imagery and repetition have been important to Mothersbaugh over the course of his career, making innumerable appearances in his sketchbooks, postcards and photographic work.



Curator Adam Lerner refers to the more than 30,000 postcard-size drawings, prints and collages that Mothersbaugh has made for the past 40 years—all on view at the Akron Art Museum—as “the archive of Mark’s brain.” *Photo: Joe Levak, courtesy the Akron Art Museum*

Dozens of Booji Boys marched and danced from the Akron Public Library across the street to the Akron Art Museum lobby, where they posed for photos and played in the interactive aspects of the exhibit. *Photo: Shane Wynn, courtesy the Akron Art Museum*

Works on view at MOCA Cleveland include sculptures, early mail art, twenty-seven rugs with video animations, a video performance on Mothersbaugh’s recently constructed six-sided keyboard, and excerpts for well-known films and TV shows like *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*. *Photo: Frank Lanza, courtesy MOCA Cleveland*

Myopia at MOCA Cleveland focuses on sound, sound-making objects and artworks about correspondence, communication and technology. The exhibit includes Mothersbaugh’s *Orchestrions*. *Photo: Trevor Brown Jr., courtesy the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver*

like him, he recognized an energy among his peers and the faculty: “Everyone knew they were somewhere amazing.”

During his first semester, he took an introductory course in printmaking and fell in love with it, encouraged by his professor, Ian Short, who let him use the studio at night. Prompted by posters put up to advertise events, Mothersbaugh spent late nights printing decals and posters featuring ambiguous images that he plastered all over the campus.

Mothersbaugh met Devo cofounder Gerald (Jerry) Casale at Kent State in 1970, and they became classmates when Casale encouraged him to enroll in an experimental art class taught by associate art professor Robert Culley. “There were a lot of incredible minds that came together in that time period,” Mothersbaugh says. “We didn’t think of what we were doing as music or visual art, we thought we were doing something new.”

He was on campus when members of the National Guard arrived on May 4, 1970, in response to a several-day student protest of the invasion of Cambodia that resulted in the death of four students. The traumatic event was pivotal in focusing his attention on de-evolution—the idea that humans are evolving in reverse. Casale and others had been discussing the concept prior to the events of May 4, but that day was a defining moment.

“[It] was key to all of us connected to Devo,” says Mothersbaugh. “How do you change things in the world? If you rebel, they can just shoot you. . . . So Devo was looking around wondering who *does* change things in the world?”

Many themes in Mothersbaugh’s early work (even prior to 1970) suggest answers to this question—and criticize contemporary culture. He’d noticed advertising jingles being used to persuade consumers to buy certain products, and it appeared to him that those were the things that change the world: persuasion through repetition and manufactured emotional response.

He also became interested in masks, and one became the face of his lifelong alter-ego Booji (pronounced *Boogie*) Boy, a masked man-child that Mothersbaugh, who says he didn’t want to grow up, used in his visual work and later as a central character in Devo.

As curator Adam Lerner observes in his introduction to Mothersbaugh’s artist’s talk at the Akron Library, “On the one hand, there’s this repetitive uniformity that is a mirror of our society’s mass production—on the other hand, this man-child (Booji Boy) . . . was able to find freedom from that mass society.”

De-Evolution’s Influence

At Kent State in the 70s, the De-Evolutionist art collective was working out ways to share their ideas with a broader audience, and an opportunity presented itself. Two English professors were organizing the Creative Arts Festival, and the De-Evolutionists asked if they could play music for the event.

When their request was accepted, Casale asked Mothersbaugh to take part. After only three days of rehearsal, his first performance with the group occurred on April 18, 1973, in the Kent State University Recital Hall. He played keyboard wearing a doctor’s coat, a pair of Converse sneakers and an ape mask.

The band—known as Sextet Devo during that first musical performance—was formed merely as a soundtrack to amplify the idea of de-evolution, Mothersbaugh says. “We thought of Devo as Art Devo. We wanted to be a clearing house for artistic ideas.”

After settling into their line-up of five members, Devo set off for L.A. and secured a record contract with Warner Bros. in 1978, releasing their first album, *Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!*. Devo also appeared on *Saturday Night Live* in 1978.

Tracks from the debut album—“(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction,” “Mongoloid” and “Uncontrollable Urge”—were hits in several European countries. The single “Whip It” from their third studio album hit the top 20 U.S. *Billboard* charts in 1980.

The band still maintains a cult following. Devo released *Something for Everybody*—their first album in 20 years—in 2010, and they released a collection of demos from the 2010 album sessions, *Something Else For Everybody*, in 2014.

Mothersbaugh’s participation in the band encouraged and inspired his visual art, giving him a vocabulary and an audience for the concepts he had been working on in his decals, journals, postcards and found-image collages.

Go Forward, Move Ahead

Mothersbaugh, who was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Kent State University in 2008, has made a career of composing scores for television, film and video games—beginning with *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse* in 1986—and he established Mutato Muzika, a commercial music production studio in Los Angeles. He has built instruments to create unique sounds for various scores, and he continues to create visual art that includes an eclectic array of screen prints, mutated photographs, sculptures, postcard diaries and rugs.

With two daughters, ages 11 and 14, Mothersbaugh believes young people today have a sense of optimism, amplified by the technology now available. “It took [Devo] a year to make a seven-minute film,” he says. “I watch my daughters playing with an iPad, and they’re making movies with their friends. . . . It’s amazing the tools the internet has given young people. Now a kid has more power with their phone than the Beatles had when they made their first record.”

Museum retrospectives for active artists aren’t common events in the contemporary art world. For years Mothersbaugh avoided museum shows in favor of pop-up and alternative galleries,

assuming he had to work with younger artists to find people who matched his level of enthusiasm about working as an artist. But in his time working with Adam Lerner to prepare the *Myopia* exhibit, he’s realized the importance of museums for a community: “[They] inspire the youth to keep their minds open and active in a creative way.”

Lerner says, “In Mark’s art, you see that if we could find our child self, then we could find our artistic self—and that’s what you see in so many of his works.”

In closing his artist’s talk at the Akron Public Library, it’s clear that Mothersbaugh is grateful for a supportive and responsive audience. “I feel so fortunate that I even get this part of my life,” he says. “It’s like a surprise bonus.” ⚡

Mark Mothersbaugh: *Myopia is on exhibit at the Akron Art Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland through August 28. Visit akronartmuseum.org and mocacleveland.org for more information.*

Resources for this article include the books We Are DEVO! by Jade Dellinger and David Giffels (SAF Publishing Ltd., 2003) and the exhibit catalog Mark Mothersbaugh: Myopia edited by Adam Lerner (Princeton Architectural Press, 2014).

Visitors can listen to samples of Mothersbaugh’s scores for film and television at the Akron Art Museum. *Photo: Shane Wynn, courtesy the Akron Art Museum.*

Ceramic Roli-Poli sculptures greet visitors in the lobby of the Akron Art Museum. *Photo: Joe Levak, courtesy the Akron Art Museum*



Lessons Learned

Renowned software business expert and angel investor M.R. Rangaswami on what he's learned about getting an education, building wealth and giving back. *Edited by Jan Senn*

When M.R. Rangaswami, M.B.A. '78—the youngest in a family of seven children who grew up in Madras (now known as Chennai), India—first came to Kent State in 1976, he had \$8 in his pocket, all the Indian government allowed for those leaving the country, plus a \$100 bill his brother had slipped him.

His sister-in-law had given him pots, pans and spices he needed for cooking vegetarian meals, but the Greyhound bus he took from New York to Kent lost them. When he met his host family and told them what happened, they went to Kmart and bought him more pots, pans and any spices they could find. “The warmth of Kent State stood out from day one,” Rangaswami recalls.

Forty years later, after making a fortune investing in tech start-ups, he returned to Kent State from his home in San

Francisco to be this year's speaker at the Michael D. Solomon Entrepreneurship Speaker Series in March, hosted by the College of Business Administration.

Cofounder and CEO of Sand Hill Group, a software consulting and investment firm, Rangaswami recently was named one of 100 leading influential business leaders by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, an international accrediting agency. He also has been profiled on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* and has twice earned a spot on the *Forbes* Midas List of the world's smartest tech investors.

We adapted his speech, “The Nexus of Entrepreneurship, Mentorship & Philanthropy,” to highlight some of his most memorable lessons from different phases of life.

Getting an Education

Explore opportunities. In India I did my undergrad in accounting; then I went to law school. I was disillusioned and trying to find my way through life. My brother offered me the opportunity to come to the United States, and I took him up on it.

Talk with your counselors. I had great professors and took a lot of classes in marketing and operations management. But I wish I had talked to my counselors more about what I could be doing. When I graduated, I had to face reality: I didn't have a job.

Participate in extracurricular activities and clubs. Build your résumé so that when you receive your degree, you can actually get employed.

Do at least two or three internships. I learned this lesson the hard way. My campus jobs were in janitorial services and as a part-time research assistant; neither helped me get a position after I graduated. I was told there were a lot of jobs in Texas, so I went there, and I had a manufacturing job within two weeks.

Building Wealth

Be willing to take risks. After I worked my way to management in the manufacturing company, I met a consultant who told me I should go to this place called Silicon Valley. That was **my life-changing moment** — it was 1982 and there was no internet to find out what to do or where to go. So I took a step and applied to every company I could find in the phone book in Silicon Valley. I was fortunate to get a job testing business software with a start-up there.

Don't expect to know when you're going to be successful. Three years later, the company went out of business. My old boss went to Oracle and told them about me, and I got hired there. Within four years, I was the vice president. It became a billion-dollar company, and we were getting double the budget and double the staff. It was great, except I wanted to be an entrepreneur again.

Find a mentor. You can talk with them about what you want to do, and they can give you good advice. Having someone who looks out for you and likes you really makes a difference.

Fail fast, so you can learn from it and move on. I quit Oracle and took a 40 percent pay cut to work at another start-up. I wanted to be the founder of a company. While I was there, that company also doubled every year. Three years later, the company went into Chapter 11. When you're younger, you can risk not having money in your pocket. But be prudent. When you're married and have kids, you're at a different phase in life.

Build your network. A company I had kept in touch with called me and said they were thinking of going public in six months. So I had **my Super Bowl moment** —I ended up doing the road show, presenting to investors; we traveled to 30 cities in 25 days. The first day it went public, the stock market cap was 1 billion dollars. About 18 months later, my stock, which I'd gotten at 25 cents a share, was

at 50 dollars a share. When I left that job (after traveling 300,000 miles in a year) to do something different and take time to have a family, I had 4,000 contacts.

Giving Back

Invest in other people. When I retired in 1996 at age 41, my wife and I took a holiday and talked about what we should do next. I found out that some small start-ups in Silicon Valley were looking for money. I started talking to them and became what is now called an angel investor—someone who invests their own money in a start-up and helps it become more successful. *The Wall Street Journal* sent a reporter to live with me for a few days. That's when I got **my 15 minutes of fame** — the story was on the front page [in 1997], and I received over 1,000 phone calls in one week.

Form a board of advisors. When you're starting something, always form a board of advisors so they can help you and give you credibility.

Be prepared to make mistakes. I'd be a billionaire if I'd invested in some companies I passed up. But you can't let that hold you down. The key thing is to learn from your mistakes.

Give back more than your fair share. It's not just about giving money, it's about giving time and services. I meet with at least one entrepreneur a week, to hear their business plan and give them feedback. And I've been doing that for the last 20 years. At first I thought maybe I should make money off this because people would pay for it, but I decided to give back my time.

Just do it. There will be many times when you debate, “Should I do this?” Just go do it. It's a leap of faith but you have to take that leap. Otherwise you could miss an opportunity. My accountant calls my work legalized gambling. I've done 40 start-ups; 20 of them have gone belly up, but 5 have gone public and 5 have been acquired. The other 10 are still around and hopefully some of them will do well.

Think long-term. People these days expect instant gratification. To make a real impact takes a long period of time. Don't take on something if you're not willing to commit 5 or 10 years of your life to it. It's not worth your time. If you take it on, give it your all.

Have your own metrics for success. Don't compare yourself with other people and how well they are doing. What are your goals in life? Measure yourself against your metrics, what you want to do with your life.

Forgo 'quid pro quo.' One thing I've learned throughout my life—and something I have made my mantra—is that when someone comes to you for help, don't have an agenda and don't ask for anything in return.

Start when you're young. Volunteer early on. Don't wait until you retire. My biggest regret is that I didn't give back during the other phases of my life. I could have started earlier. ⚡

View the video of Rangaswami's talk at <http://business.kent.edu/centers/cebi/speaker>.

BOB CHRISTY '95

Good Neighbor

By Lauren Rathmell '17
Photographs by Melissa Olson

Kent State alumna Tessa Reeves doesn't have to travel across the world to help refugee families who have fled cultural persecution. She's created meaningful work for some of them right in their Akron resettlement area—and she plans to expand the business.

“I’ve missed them so much,” says Tessa Reeves, B.S. ’13, heading to the door to greet three employees of her small clothing company, Neighbors Apparel, with hugs. With a full-time job as a corporate merchandiser, Reeves hasn’t seen the women—Karen [pronounced *Ka-rin*] refugees from Burma and Bhutanese refugees from Nepal—in about a week, which is too long for her.

“I’m not comfortable just telling them what to do when I’m not here,” Reeves says. “I want to be more like their friend than their boss.”

In a small, light-filled room at Urban Vision—a Christian ministry housed in a repurposed church in Akron’s North Hill neighborhood, a refugee resettlement area—the women spend their mornings sewing apparel and accessories for the 2-year-old business, often after working the night shift until 2 a.m. at their factory jobs.

For now, the women of Neighbors Apparel only work as needed, from 9 a.m. until noon most days. But the long-term goal is to build a profitable business and employ the women 40 hours a week doing something they love.

Using fair-trade fabrics sourced from Thailand, the women create contemporary fashions with a cultural flair that are sold in about 20 local Ohio shops, as well as on the website, www.neighborsapparel.com. The biggest sellers are infinity scarves and T-shirts with fabric patches in the shape of Ohio.

Head seamstress Ka Naw’s sewing skill allowed her to make an income while living in refugee camps in Thailand before she resettled in Akron, and she has trained several women who work at Neighbors Apparel.

“I don’t really sew,” Reeves says. “The women make this beautiful product. I just get to sell it, market it and run the website—but they are the true talent.”

Managing a start-up clothing business wasn’t what Reeves had in mind when she was studying fashion merchandising at Kent State.

“My junior year I interned at *Elle* magazine, working in their fashion closet, and it was great,” she says. “Once I was done with my internship, I couldn’t justify leaving New York City, because I felt I was on the cusp of my career.” So she stayed and landed a coveted internship at *Vogue* magazine, a fashion student’s dream.

But three weeks into working there, Reeves had a life-changing moment. “An intern lost an \$11,000 dress in Manhattan, and people were running around like chickens with their heads cut off,” she says. “This missing dress was getting much more attention than the serious social problems happening right outside our doors. And I thought, *I can’t give my life to this.*”

She finished out the week, then sat in a coffee shop for three hours that Sunday, praying and re-reading the email she’d written that would sever all ties with *Vogue* and Condé Nast before she hit send.

Back home in Ohio, Reeves completed her senior year at Kent State while volunteering at Urban Vision, drawn to their community development mission. It was her first introduction to Akron’s refugee community, and she quickly

“Our goal is to create employment opportunities for refugee women.”

grew to love the neighborhood outreach. “I basically begged them to give me a position, I didn’t care what it was. I just knew I needed to be here,” Reeves says.

The leaders at Urban Vision knew of refugee women in the community who had a knack for sewing, and they wanted to incorporate those skills and help out the neighborhood families. “They offered me seed money and a space to start a business,” says Reeves, who was just about to graduate. “That’s when it all started coming together for me.”

With the help of Rodney Matthews, executive director of Urban Vision, and some online resources, Reeves came up with a business plan. She waitressed for 18 months while getting the business going, then took a full-time job to help pay back her school loans.

Although her 9-to-5 job keeps her occupied most days, Reeves hopes to be able to dedicate more of her time to Neighbors Apparel in the near future. “The women value relationships,” she says. “They don’t just want to show up, work and leave. They want to have a relationship with me. I would go back to waitressing if need be to make this work.”

It doesn’t look like she’ll have to do that. Reeves went through a 9-month program with SEACHange, a Cleveland-based social enterprise accelerator, and she was awarded \$30,000 at a pitch contest they sponsored in May. She says it’s a “game changer” for Neighbors Apparel.

“It’s great validation for us,” Reeves says. “As a 25-year-old, it’s awesome to know that people think you can turn \$30,000 into something bigger. I know how vast the fashion industry is. So why not build our brand as a for-profit business to support even more women?”

Along with expanding the business, Reeves hopes to educate Americans about refugees by connecting the products with real stories about the hard-working women who make them and want to contribute to their communities.

And besides hiring an official designer, she plans to go part-time at her current job so she can spend more time at Neighbors Apparel. “The women were happy about the grant,” Reeves says. “But I think they were mostly excited that I would be coming back to work with them.” ⚡



Head seamstress Ka Naw has been sewing ever since she was a young girl in Burma. She was the first employee at Neighbors Apparel, bringing her sewing machine with her. “At first we stuck with simple designs, but Ka Naw would suggest something I hadn’t even thought of,” says Tessa Reeves, founder of Neighbors Apparel. “It truly was a collaboration. Eventually we were able to purchase more sewing machines, but she still prefers her old one!”

Class Notes

☀️ *The little sunburst denotes an Alumni Association member. For a list of life members, visit www.ksualumni.org/lifemembers.*

55 Donald Barry, BS, Grand Blanc, Mich., wrote: “My wife, Patricia Ulmer Barry (who attended Kent State in 1952-53), and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on February 25, 2016. We both attended Kent State University in the 1950s and enjoyed and benefited from it. We have four children and eight grandchildren.” See a Kentwired.com story about the couple at <http://bit.ly/Barry2>.

59 ☀️ Nobby Lewandowski, BBA, Medina, Ohio, was the keynote speaker at the Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition (OSSPEAC) conference in Columbus. He also received the coalition’s Annie Glenn National Leadership Award, which was created to recognize individuals who are committed to innovative change through sustained clinical and research excellence in communication, language and literacy.

50TH REUNION: September 17, 2016

66 Margaret Hott Kreiner, BS, North Canton, Ohio, has semiretired from the practice of elder law (32 years) after a 30-year career in the rubber industry as an engineer and tech/rep marketer, using her chemistry degree from Kent State and her MBA and JD from the University of Akron. Recently widowed, she is now a Key Largo snowbird who loves boating and fishing.

We hope to see you at the 50th Reunion in the fall! Please see www.ksualumni.org/GoldenOrder1966 for details.

69 Judith (Chisman) Zimmerman, BS, Elmore, Ohio, is associate professor emeritus of leadership studies at Bowling Green State University. In her 42-year career, she published book chapters and articles about leadership, leading change and professional learning, and she also worked in a variety of teaching, counseling and administrative roles. Zimmerman and her husband have four daughters, eight grandchildren and love to travel.

71 Harry Dempsey, MM ’77, Stanwood, Mich., wrote: “After 39 years of teaching music at Ferris State University, I retired at the conclusion of this academic year. I also served as band director at Chanel High School in Bedford, Ohio, and held a graduate teaching assistantship at Kent State (1973-75) working with the Marching Band, Basketball Show Band and Tuesday Jazz Band. Although I have retired from teaching, I will continue to perform with various bands.”

72 James Thompson, BS, Oldsmar, Fla., has retired. After earning a master’s degree from the American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona, his career spanned more than 30 years with AT&T, American Express TRS, Thomas Cook Travel USA, and Travelocity. He was credited with innovation and automation of the travel industry and played a major role in the development and implementation of call center technology. He and his wife of 39 years, Barbara, have two sons and two grandchildren.

73 ☀️ Dixie Benshoff Ludick, MEd, PhD ’77, Aurora, Ohio, was inducted into her high school Hall of Fame on October 24, 2015. She received the Academic/Career Accomplishment Award due to her contributions to the field of education and psychology. Formerly a department director at Akron General Medical Center and the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Benshoff Ludick has provided psychological and educational services to Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. She is married to Tim Ludick, a magistrate, and their son, David, is a student at Kent State.

74 Vincent Mintus, BS ’74, Lake Worth, Fla., wrote: “I served for 22 years as a Delray Beach police detective in organized crime and the major crimes divisions. After I retired, I worked for the Palm Beach County School District as a detective specializing in sexual crimes against children. I retired from there in 2013. I now do background investigations for the Delray Beach Police Department—fortunately working from home.”

76 Roger Stevenson, BA, BS ’77, Fairlawn, Ohio, a partner in Roetzel’s Akron, Ohio, office has been named a 2016 Ohio Super Lawyer in the field of Creditor Debtor Rights by *Ohio Super Lawyers* magazine.

79 Sally Burnell, BA, Kent, Ohio, wrote: “I am the discoverer and co-owner, along with three other individuals, of the historic 1858 Kent Wells Sherman House, relocated to North Water Street in downtown Kent in 2013 and restored in 2014. I retired from my career in library work in 2013, after 30 years, to devote my time to historic preservation advocacy.”

☀️ **Gerald Canton, BS, MEd ’98**, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was elected to the South Russell, Ohio Village Council on November 3, 2015. After a 30-year career as a classroom teacher, he joined the Chagrin Falls Local Schools staff as a substitute teacher.



☀️ **Don Burrier, BA ’68, MLS ’75**, North Canton, Ohio, retired director of the Elyria Public Library, recently cycled Mt. Ventoux, France.



Vincent Mintus, BS ’74, Lake Worth, Fla., used his skills as a detective to reconnect with his college roommates. “For the past 8 years, we have returned to Kent State to attend May 4 commemorations and occasional football games. Kent is a great city, and Kent State is the best of universities. We love coming home!” Pictured from left: **Loren Harris, BBA ’72**, Johnstown, Pa., Vincent Mintus, **Richard Loibl, BA ’72**, Atlanta, Ga.

☀️ **Susan Dlouhy, BS**, Columbus, Ohio, has coauthored a book, *Upcycling Sheltered Workshops: A Revolutionary Approach for Transforming Workshops Into Creative Spaces* (Ohio University Press, 2014). Her work is also featured in a WOUB-TV (Athens, Ohio PBS affiliate) program, “Creative Abundance.”

84 ☀️ Tracy (Smith) Hart, BS, Gaithersburg, Md., is the 2016 chairperson of the National Health Council’s Board of Directors. Hart is the Chief Executive Officer of the Gaithersburg-based Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation (OI Foundation), whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people with OI through research to find treatments and a cure, education, awareness and mutual support.

85 Carol Markino, BA, BSE ’88, Rome, Italy, has been elected to a one-year term as President of the American International Club of Rome, after serving a number of years on its board of directors. For the Club, she also has created and led a community service program and served as treasurer.

87 ☀️ Thomas Clareson, MLS, Westerville, Ohio, is senior consultant for digital and preservation services at LYRASIS, the largest United States library and cultural heritage network. An international leader in the field of preservation, Clareson was selected as the 2014 recipient of the George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Award from the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association. The award recognizes career work in cooperative/collaborative preservation initiatives.

89 Timothy Kalil, MA, PhD ’93, Ashtabula, Ohio, was honored for 25 years of volunteer service to the arts in Ashtabula County by an Official Proclamation from Ashtabula City Council on December 21, 2015. The pianist, ethnomusicologist, music author and presenter of concerts was recognized for “enhancing the quality of life for those who live and visit Ashtabula.” For the past 10 years, Kalil has coordinated the City of Ashtabula’s “Big Bands on the Beach” Summer Concert Series.

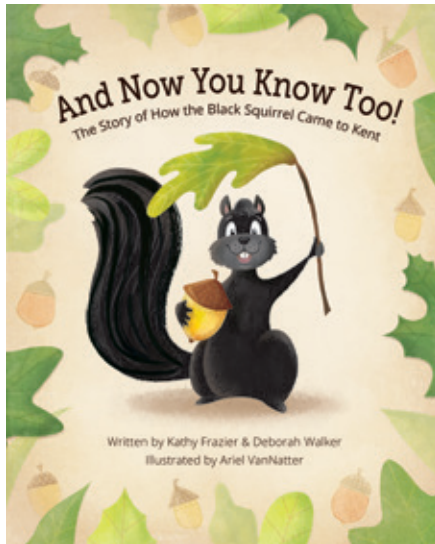
☀️ **Susan Peters, MBA**, Florence, S.C., wrote: “I am an American Council of Education Emerging Leader Fellow, serving my one-year fellowship at Armstrong State in Savannah, Georgia. My home institution is Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina.”

90 Kathryn Stiwald, BBA, Amherst, Ohio, was promoted to supervisor at Walthall CPAs, a leading regional certified public accounting and business advisory firm.

91 Nancy Albert, MSN ’91, PhD ’05, Chesterland, Ohio, an associate chief nursing officer for Cleveland Clinic’s Office of Nursing Research and Innovation, was one of 163 nurse leaders recently inducted as Academy Fellows by the American Academy of Nursing at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. This is the highest honor a nurse can receive—only .08 percent of U.S. registered nurses are inducted.

92 Katherine Slaughter, MSN, Richmond Heights, Ohio, has been promoted to director of patient safety, risk management and patient advocacy at University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

93 ☀️ Jennifer (Matlak) Cirincione, BBA, Westlake, Ohio, is owner of Baskets by Jen LLC, a theme basket gift company that makes custom-made gift baskets for silent auctions, raffles, fundraisers and gifts.



Kathy Frazier BA ’70, MA ’75, EDS ’81, Kent, Ohio, and **Deborah Walker, MA ’78**, Kent, Ohio, are educators who established a consulting company, Touching the Future Today, which provides professional development in the area of creative thinking, problem solving and integration of the arts into the curriculum. They cowrote a children’s book, *And Now You Know Too!: The Story of How the Black Squirrel Came to Kent*, illustrated by **Ariel VanNatter, BFA ’15**, Lakewood, Ohio, so all ages can learn the true story. You may purchase the book at Off the Wagon in Acorn Alley in Kent or through touchingthefuturetoday.com.

View other alumni authors at ksualumni.org/alumniauthors.

94 Benjamin Danals, BA, Columbus, Ohio, wrote: “I’m a special education coordinator for Total Education Solutions. I facilitate the delivery of special education services in Central Ohio, Cincinnati and Toledo, and I also supervise TES educators and specialists placed in those regions.”

95 Rachel Downey, BFA, Cleveland, Ohio, is president and founder of Studio Graphique, a lead branding and wayfinding consultancy with expertise in shaping how people interact with public entities and environments. She plans to continue leading the agency while building a new consultancy, PlaceHolder, focused on strategic planning for destinations.

John Penhollow, BBA, Minneapolis, Minn., was recently promoted to vice president of corporate and technology partnerships for the Minnesota Vikings, as they continue to transition to U.S. Bank Stadium, set to open in 2016.

96 John Dabrowski, PhD, Navarre, Fla., retired in June 2015 from federal civil service after 33 years, most of it as a government historian. His last assignment was chief historian for the Missile Defense Agency, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. Dabrowski is now an adjunct instructor of history at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, Florida.

99 Robert Slaby, BBA, Mobile, Ala., a manager with Wilkins Miller, LLC, was selected as one of *CPA Practice Advisor’s* 40 Under 40.

02 Teresa Cianchetti, MEd, Munroe Falls, Ohio, a first-grade teacher at Suffield Elementary School in Portage County, received the 2016 Ohio Teacher of the Year award during a surprise assembly at the school in October 2015. She focuses on literacy skills and is described by the school principal as an “amazing teacher” who consistently excels at engaging and empowering students.

Jayne Juvan, BA, Twinsburg, Ohio, a partner in Roetzel’s Cleveland, Ohio, office has been named a 2016 Ohio Super Lawyer—Rising Star in the field of Mergers & Acquisitions by *Ohio Super Lawyers* magazine.

03 Donald Crews, MLIS, Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote: “My first book, *Cincinnati’s Freemasons* was published by Arcadia Publishing late last year. Told with a combination of text and historic images, it reveals the story of the fraternity’s activities, personalities and buildings in the Queen City.”

☀️ **Vincent Defebo, BS**, North Hollywood, Calif., was promoted to production supervisor at Stereo D, the industry leader in theatrical 3D conversion. They recently completed work on *Star Wars Episode 7* and this summer’s *The BFG*, directed by Stephen Spielberg.

☀️ **Paul Marnecheck, BA, MA ’10**, North Royalton, Ohio, wrote: “I was reelected to my fourth term on North Royalton City Council.”

04 ☀️ Jennifer Carle, BBA, Canal Winchester, Ohio, has been named staff accountant for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF). Carle will work on financial activities for OFBF, Ohio Farm Bureau Development Corporation, Our Ohio, county Farm Bureaus and contractual companies.



Taylor (Moss) Brodersen, BBA ’08, and **Sean Brodersen, BBA ’10**, were married on September 12, 2015 at the Barn at Fallingwater. They first met in 2005 at Kent State. Several Kent State alumni attended the wedding. The couple now reside in Raleigh, N.C.

Haraz Ghanbari, BS, Perrysburg, Ohio, director of military and veteran affairs at the University of Toledo and a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, received a 2015 20 Under 40 Leadership Recognition Award presented in September at the 20th Anniversary of the annual 20 Under 40 awards ceremony. He was selected from a field of 148 candidates.

06 Marling Engle, BS, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, founder and CEO of Metisentry, announced that the company was selected as one of the 2015 Top 25 Coolest Tech Companies in Northeast Ohio by *Inside Business* magazine.

☀️ **Janet Gbur, BS**, doctoral candidate in materials science and engineering at Case Western Reserve University, was awarded a \$10,000 American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International Graduate Scholarship. In addition, she recently was awarded the Ruby Leigh Orgain Founders Grant for \$9,000 from the Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation.

Kelly Hirsch, BS, Columbia Station, Ohio, and her sister **Katie (Cvijovic) Kekelik, BS ’11**, are celebrating the third anniversary of their business, Wicked Sugar Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Boutique, located in Strongsville, Ohio. They recently launched an eCommerce website.

Send Us Your Class Note

We’d love to hear from you!

To share your news, complete the form at www.ksualumni.org/classnotes (you may include an image in JPEG, GIF or PNG format) or write Kent State University Alumni Association, Center for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242.

Limit your notes to 100 words or less and include your class year, city, state and degree(s). Notes may be edited for length or clarity and published as space allows.

Issue:	Deadline for submissions:
Fall	May 30
Spring	September 30
Summer	January 31

Survey Says!

Alumni of all ages and majors from around the globe are proud to be affiliated with Kent State, eager to tell the world about their alma mater, and hungry for information about today's people, programs and progress, according to a recent, independent study of Kent State graduates.

To ensure that alumni perspectives and experiences guide the development of the Kent State Alumni Association's strategic plan and future actions, the association commissioned Performance Enhancement Group to conduct a comprehensive

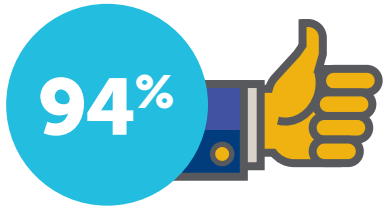
Results from the Alumni Attitude Study

survey, which was sent to alumni with valid email addresses last October. More than 250 universities and associations have used this Alumni Attitude Study to understand alumni attitudes, opinions, motivations and concerns.

"We want to provide the strongest-possible support to alumni at all points in their lives after graduation," says Lori Randorf, alumni association assistant vice president. "The survey results will help us improve the ways we connect and communicate with alumni and affirm the growing value of their degrees."

Key Findings

Your student experience:



FEEL GOOD about your experience as a Kent State student

Your opinions about the university are most influenced by:

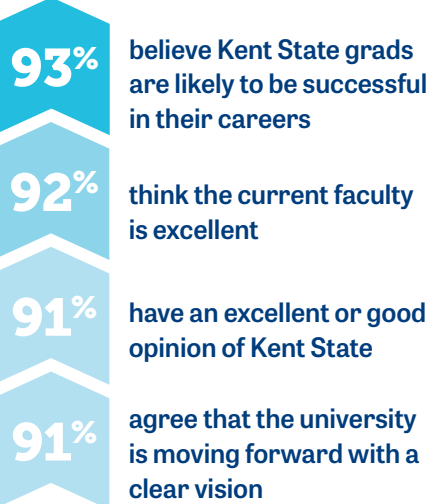


respect for a Kent State degree

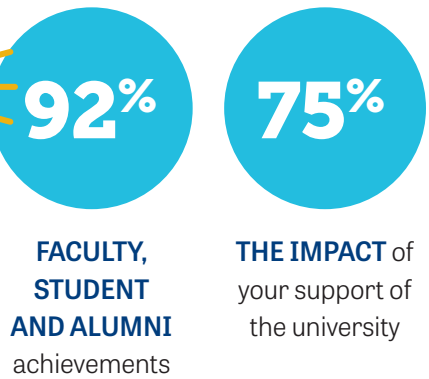
student and faculty accomplishments

provision of scholarships

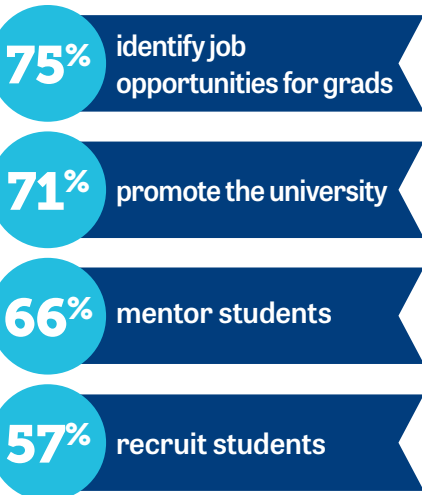
Your opinions of Kent State:



You want to see an even greater spotlight on:



Your most important role as a graduate:



THANK YOU to all alumni who participated in the survey for providing valuable feedback to the alumni association. We will be incorporating findings from the study into our alumni outreach as we work together to create a successful and vibrant future for Kent State. For more information about the benefits and services offered by the alumni association, please visit www.ksualumni.org.

You would like more communications via:

SOCIAL MEDIA

INVITATIONS

PRINTED MATERIALS

PROGRAM & BENEFITS INFO

Class Notes



When **Ali Fuhrman BS '14**, Erie, Pa., died in a hit-and-run car accident on December 27, 2015, her Delta Gamma sister **Allison Rapp, BA '13**, Lakewood, Ohio, set up a GoFundMe page to help cover the cost of her funeral and ongoing medical bills for her father, who was injured in the crash. "The campaign raised \$10,000 in the first 10 hours," wrote Rapp. "Overall, the campaign raised \$25,000 in under two weeks."

In addition, the sisters of Delta Gamma and the brothers of Phi Delta Theta held an Anchors Aweigh 5K at Kent State in May, with proceeds going to an Ali Fuhrman Memorial Scholarship for students involved in fraternities and sororities. To donate to the scholarship, contact senior Keri Richmond: krichmo4@kent.edu.

06 Luigi Russo, MLS, Mantua, Ohio, wrote: "I self-published a poetry book, *Zombie Land Poetics*, available on Amazon, and I will be donating a copy to KSU's library."

07 Jennifer Bandura, BS, Cleveland, Ohio, married Jerry Bandura on June 28, 2014. They welcomed their first child, Kaitlyn Marie, on their one-year anniversary. Kaitlyn also shares her birthday with her great-grandfather.

Tammi Mackey-Shrum, BA, Canton, Ohio, has joined Historic Zoar Village and Fort Laurens as historic site director. She is a board member for the Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

09 Daniel Alcorn, BGS, Rutland, Vt., is the assistant varsity football coach for Rutland High School. His team won the Vermont Division 1 State Championship on November 7, 2015. RHS has won 18 state D1 Football Championships.

Brandi Neloms, BS, Charlotte, N.C., announced the launch of Spring Blossoms Agency, a boutique communications firm based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Focusing on strategy, dynamic tactics and real-time analysis, Spring Blossoms Agency uses exceptional communication to elevate brands of all sizes.

13 Ryan Collins, BS, Lakewood, Ohio, has accepted a position as an admission counselor at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio.

14 Veronica Ceci, MFA, Austin, Texas, wrote: "I've recently accepted a position as gallery director for the Bone Black Gallery in Austin, Texas. My first season of programming is focused on self-identified female artists who work on paper or in variations of the printmaking medium."



Joseph Profera, BS '13, and **Tiffany Korzan, BSE '13**, were married July 4, 2015 in Medina, Ohio, and reside in Defiance, Ohio. Joe is a supervisor at General Motors in Defiance, Ohio, and Tiffany is a high school English teacher in Stryker, Ohio. They met eating breakfast together in Eastway their sophomore year.



Save the Date!

Homecoming 2016
October 1, 2016

In Memory

The little sunburst denotes an Alumni Association member. For a list of life members, visit www.ksualumni.org/lifemembers.

Jane Russo '36, April 3, 2014

Mary Ann Frazier '38, April 1, 2014

Russell Doan '39, December 10, 2015

Eleanor Marvin '43, December 5, 2015

Calvin Anweiler '48, September 25, 2015

Theodore Burke '49, August 26, 2015

Robert Evans '49, January 27, 2016

James Georgiadis '51, January 14, 2016

Thomas Lindsey '51, September 6, 2015

Hurd Robenstine '51, November 15, 2015

W. Workman '51, September 29, 2015

Michael Furillo '52, November 5, 2014

Robert Gaither '52, September 30, 2015

Donald Beck '53, December 16, 2015

Sheldon Factor '53, September 1, 2015

Daniel Whitacre '53, March 25, 2014

Reita Crawford '54, February 1, 2015

William Lineberry '56, February 6, 2015

Harriet Rymer '56, October 27, 2015

Richard Velzy '56, December 21, 2015

Robert Runkle '58, December 11, 2015

Walter Weston '58, June 13, 2014

Rosemary Woodworth '58, June 6, 2015

Ramon (Ray) A. Green '59, April 30, 2015

Donald Clark '60, July 2, 2015

Donald Hawker '60, October 27, 2015

John West '60, September 24, 2015

L. Ludwig '62, August 1, 2015

Robert Morgan '62, September 27, 2015

William Sell '62, November 9, 2015

William von Stein '62, February 1, 2015

Frank Boffa '63, April 25, 2015

Roger Bollen '63, October 3, 2015

Robert Householder '63, November 30, 2014

Jeffrey Kreutzer '63, June 30, 2014

Thomas Suchan '63, October 2, 2015

James Shelly '64, February 22, 2015

William Havens '65, October 12, 2014

Earl Stutzman '65, August 22, 2014

Ellen Kidder '66, January 28, 2016

Linda Rea '66, October 11, 2015

Jon Ruding '66, August 17, 2015

Donald Saye '67, September 19, 2015

Bruce Chamlis '68, October 12, 2014

Richard Burton '69, October 8, 2015

Kathy Chappellear '69, October 2, 2015

Joyce Hammer '69, July 17, 2014

Daniel Kaminsky '69, June 5, 2015

Larry Lisowski '69, September 21, 2014

Joan Woolf '69, September 23, 2015

Thelma Shapiro '70, March 4, 2015

Bert Smith '70, September 27, 2014

James Hummel '71, December 29, 2015

James Bodnar '72, July 8, 2015

Bruce Hudec '72, December 5, 2014

David Archer '73, December 29, 2015

Theodore Brandle '73, December 5, 2015

Thomas Disantis '73, November 19, 2014

Maurine Hahn '73, April 21, 2015

Meredith Hales '73, August 10, 2014

Anne Kocur '74, April 13, 2015

Clarice Merrin '74, January 3, 2016

Fay Mynchenberg '74, May 12, 2015

Terence Orin '74, October 17, 2015

Geraldine Rothrock '74, January 10, 2016

Jorma Sjoblom '74, August 26, 2015

Gary Fatica '75, May 13, 2015

Constance Kowatch '75, September 15, 2014

Darrell Thomas '75, June 13, 2015

Antoinette Oliverio '76, December 9, 2014

Leta Cardwell '77, November 10, 2014

Ronald Pokorny '77, January 9, 2015

Bradley Tucker '77, April 15, 2015

Paul M. Weber '77, November 30, 2015

Terry Klem '78, August 30, 2014

Clyde Root '79, November 1, 2015

Nancy Craine '80, August 24, 2015

David Soltesz '80, June 7, 2015

Walter Terhune '82, October 1, 2015

Denise Chisner '83, November 13, 2015

William Schaefer '84, June 1, 2015

Goffredo Ianiro '85, May 23, 2015

Claudia Metzger '85, March 1, 2014

Julia Myers '85, April 4, 2015

Christina Pastor '88, January 13, 2016

Nick Shemensky '92, February 8, 2015

Michele Holler '94, October 29, 2015

H. Mohan '94, November 22, 2015

Melissa Wardell '94, September 30, 2015

Merrit Brinkman '97, June 5, 2015

Andrea Rakocy Burton '98, October 27, 2015

Gene Crutsinger '00, September 27, 2015

Amy Simpson '00, October 31, 2014

Sharon Strawn '01, July 14, 2014

Sandra Shorter '03, November 26, 2015

Katherine Hooper '05, October 20, 2015

Jason Kunkle '05, May 9, 2014

Jaclyn Winterborne '05, December 28, 2015

Timothy Groff '06, October 1, 2013

David McGlynn '11, December 1, 2014

Ali Fuhrman '14, December 27, 2015

Timothy Ries '15, October 23, 2015

Constance M. Mellot, Faculty Emeritus, September 20, 2015

Wheel of Fortune

The Battle for the Wagon Wheel—the rivalry between Kent State University and The University of Akron—first became a contest in 1946 when Raymond Manchester, Kent State’s dean of men, offered an old wagon wheel as a trophy in that year’s football game between the Golden Flashes and the Zips.

The dean claimed the wheel had come from the buggy of John Buchtel, an Akron industrialist who was the main benefactor and original namesake of what is now the University of Akron. According to the legend that Manchester promulgated (as reported in *The Kent Stater*, November 15, 1946), Buchtel lost the wheel in the spring of 1870, while in search of a site for his proposed college. His buggy became bogged down near a spring along the Western Reserve trail, which ran through what is now the Kent Campus. As the horses broke free from the buggy, a wheel remained mired in the swamp—and Buchtel dropped Kent from consideration.

The wheel was said to have been unearthed in 1902 by workers piping water from the spring to the northern outskirts of Kent, but its origin remained unknown until the town’s patriarchs recalled the “incident of 1870.” Somehow the dean acquired the wheel, which he viewed as a symbol of good fortune: “Had it not been for the loss of

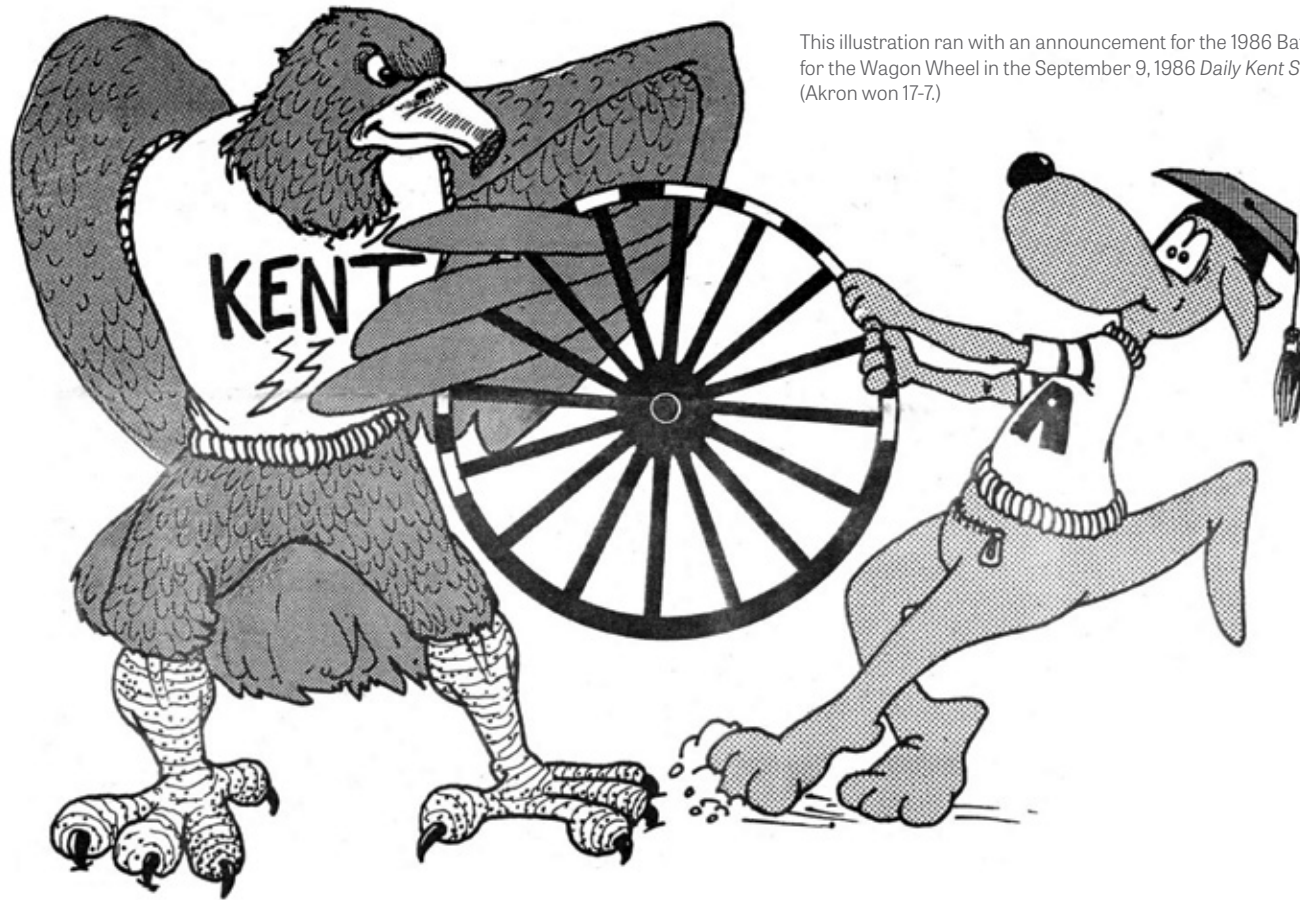
this wheel, Kent might never have received the fine state university now located here.”

When University of Akron officials got wind of the wheel, they challenged Kent State to regain what they felt was rightfully theirs. Manchester accepted the challenge: “That buggy wheel is a relic that belongs to KSU, but I’m willing to put it up as a trophy—there’s no danger of losing it.” Kent State won the first Wagon Wheel, which had been painted blue and gold (both schools’ colors), beating Akron 13-6. The Flashes won the wheel for the next eight years, and after Kent State’s 58-18 win in 1954, the series was discontinued.

The rivalry was revived in 1972 (13-13 tie), but because of different conferences and NCAA levels, the two teams played each other only occasionally for years. They both were members of the Mid-American Conference in 1992, and they’ve played each other ever since. The two schools began a Wagon Wheel Challenge in 2011, which counts all athletic contests in the sports at which they compete head-to-head.

The Wagon Wheel is currently in Akron’s possession, but it is time to bring it home. **The two rivals will match up again this year at the Homecoming game on October 1, 2016.** Go Flashes! ⚡

Visit www.ksualumni.org/homecoming for more information.



This illustration ran with an announcement for the 1986 Battle for the Wagon Wheel in the September 9, 1986 *Daily Kent Stater*. (Akron won 17-7.)



BOB CHRISTY '95

Rock Stars: (from left) Joey Parton, Julie Parton, D.J. Parton

The (Paint) Bucket List

Every April, Julie (Naughton) Parton, B.B.A. '94, Stow, Ohio, and her family write a list of things they want to do when school is out. “Painting the rock was one of my additions to the summer of 2014’s bucket list,” says Parton, who had painted the rock with her Chi Omega pledge class back in 1989.

In August 2014, she and her two younger sons, Joey (then 9) and D.J. (then 7), bought returned paint at the local Sherwin Williams store for a dollar a can. They painted colorful stripes on the Main Street side of the rock and their names on a white background on the campus side. “After that, I just let the kids splatter paint all over it,” Parton says. “We were a mess!” (Staff photographer Bob Christy '95 was walking by as they finished and snapped the shot above.)

When Parton and the kids met her husband and oldest son Jeremy (then 16) for dinner at Bar 145 in downtown Kent, they

were covered in paint—but the patrons didn’t bat an eye. “My husband, who is not a KSU grad, couldn’t get over how many people walked up to us and said, ‘You guys must have been painting the rock!’ ” says Parton.

“My kids loved their painting and wanted it to be there forever, but I warned them it might not even make it through the night. Each morning, while in our pajamas, we’d take a ride to see if our masterpiece was still around—and each day it was there, we’d hoot, holler and beep our horn as we drove by. For four whole days, we were part of campus history!” ⚡

If you’ve taken part in a Kent State tradition, send in a photo, along with the story behind it, to magazine@kent.edu or the address in the box on page 29. And if you have a photo of the 1989 Chi Omega pledge class painting the rock, please share!



DAN MORGAN / STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Arts Contact

The Center for the Visual Arts is located at the intersection of Terrace Drive and the Lefton Esplanade, but it also stands at the intersection of creativity and community. The School of Art's new home encourages collaboration across disciplines and invites local residents to experience the arts. See page 12.