

# ENCOMPASS

 Spring 2018

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK MAGAZINE

## *The* **POWER of KENT STATE**

**“KENT STATE IS NOT ABOUT A SPECIFIC LOCATION OR FOUR WALLS.  
IT’S ACCESS TO AN EDUCATION THAT EXTENDS BEYOND PLACE.”**

- Brandon Davis, senior botany student



# MESSAGE from the DEAN

## Dear members and friends of Kent State University at Stark,

People often hear me say there would not be a Kent State University at Stark without Kent State University. Nothing is truer than that statement.

As you delve into this edition of *Encompass* magazine, you'll find the importance of the university system and its impact is undeniably demonstrated.

While celebrating my 30th work anniversary in January, I thought about the legacy of Kent State University, and its propensity to impact lives. Over the past three decades, I've witnessed the university's growth, and I know what the seven Regional Campuses mean to the communities we serve.

I invite you to discover the Kent State that I know, the university that has the power to alter lives, impact communities and change the world.

How do we change the world?

Oftentimes, it is by simply asking the question. For some students at Kent State Stark, it is the first time they have thought about making true meaningful change. When they think about the possibilities, their eyes light up. They sit a little taller.

And, that is our intent. We help students pinpoint their passion.

Define it. Develop it. Hone it. Own it.

We all can make a true impact on the world by moving forward, one day at a time. We have the power to make an impact in our homes and at our workplaces.

Education truly changes the world by building a better society where we all can grow and flourish. Together.

We know where passion and purpose intersects, true happiness is achieved.

I know that I have found mine.

So, I welcome you to read and reflect on the following stories of our students, faculty and staff who, together, exemplify the power that is Kent State.

Turn the page to discover how that same power is alive in Stark County today.

Warm regards,

Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.

### **Encompass**

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## KENT STATE STARK HOLDS LARGEST FALL COMMENCEMENT

Kent State University at Stark's fall commencement was one for the record books, with nearly 200 students earning bachelor's degrees and approximately 30 receiving associate degrees.

Over the past two years, the number of students graduating in the fall ceremony has increased 24 percent, said Mary Southards, Kent State Stark's assistant dean for enrollment management.

Those comprising the class included traditional and non-traditional students alike.

At 22, April Arbogast graduated with a degree in applied communication. During her time at Kent State Stark, she found a way to give back as one of the founders of Flash's Food Pantry.

There's also Carl Linder, who at 47, overcame learning disabilities to complete a psychology degree. Kent State Stark inspired Linder to pursue what matters.

"My teachers, tutors, mentors, the list is endless," Linder said. "They all helped me continue moving forward to this day."

And as degree offerings that can be completed entirely at the Stark Campus continue to increase, a growing number of students – 5,000 new and continuing annually – will find a home here. The university fosters discovering one's own purpose and that's powerful, said Arbogast:

"I wouldn't trade my experiences for the world."







# THIS IS MY KENT STATE

INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRANSCENDS PLACE, MEETS STUDENTS' NEEDS

Come summertime, Brandon Davis could often be found gardening with his grandmother at her Canton Township home. He learned when to harvest vegetables and how to select flowers that bloom best in full sunlight.

After graduating from Canton South High School in 2011, he went away to college but found his best fit less than 20 miles down the road. Davis cultivated his passion for plants when he discovered purpose at Kent State University at Stark.

He's one of the 5,000 students who have found a home at the Stark Campus and one of nearly 1,900 Kent Campus baccalaureate students who took courses at both Stark and Kent campuses in 2017.

"There are so many options and opportunities that fit my personal schedule and timeline," said Davis, who commuted four days a week to the Kent Campus last fall.

Davis credits Matthew Lehnert, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, with fostering his interest in science, developing the 24-year-old's course of study in botany and chemistry.

"I took Brandon on as a research student because he demonstrated the skills I seek in research students: enthusiasm for science, the ability to grasp scientific concepts, and the aptitude to be an independent and reliable researcher," Lehnert said.

On a sunny Tuesday in November, Davis was tucked away in the lab on the first floor of the Science and Nursing building. There, he discussed discoveries made at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago as part of Lehnert and his team's groundbreaking research on the feeding habits of insects. Later that afternoon, Davis would be at the greenhouse behind Kent's Cunningham Hall.

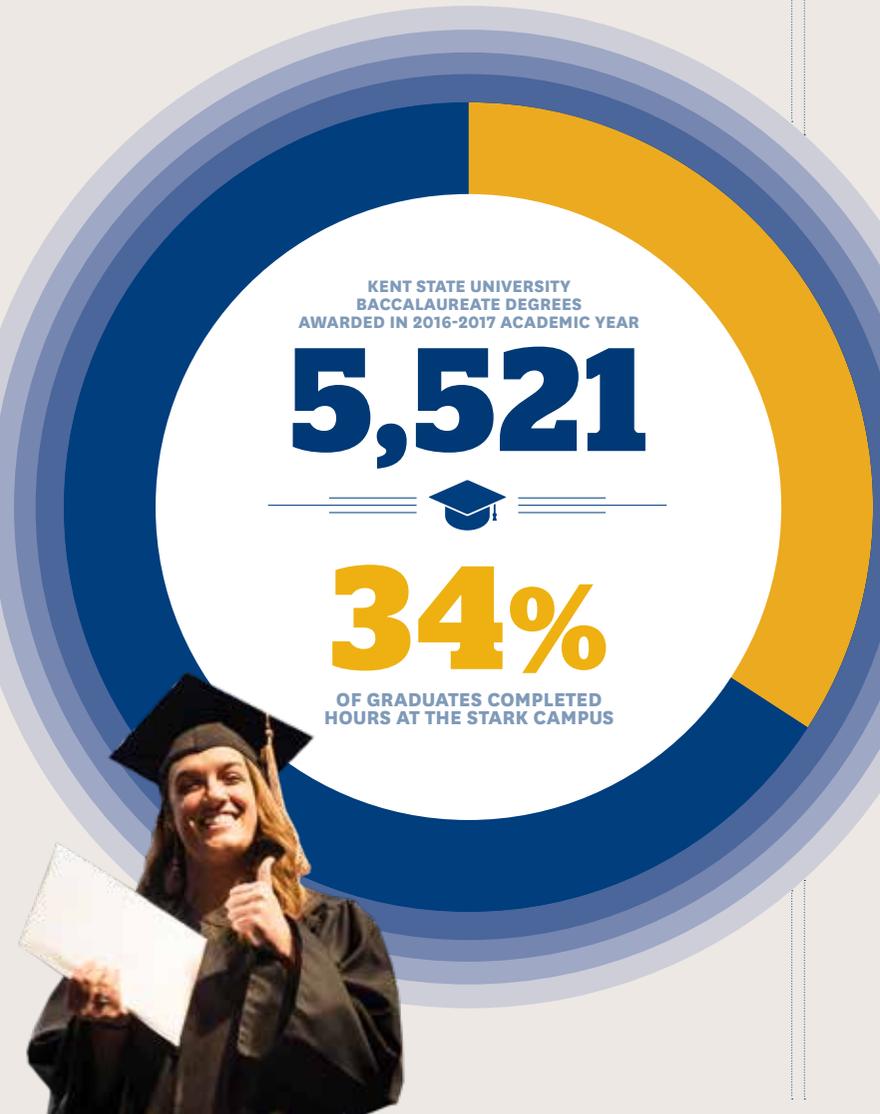
"I'm really happy I didn't limit myself," Davis said. "Kent State is not about a specific location or four walls. It's access to an education that extends beyond place."



# BY THE NUMBERS

Regional Campuses are a mirror, reflecting a cohesive Kent State. Last year, 34 percent of all Kent Campus bachelor's degree graduates took at least one course at Stark.

SOURCE: STUDENT SERVICES



## KENT STATE GRADS WITH 51% + HOURS AT STARK

Twenty bachelor's degrees can be completed entirely at Kent State Stark. In 12 academic programs, 15 percent or more of all Kent State baccalaureate students completed at least half of their coursework at the Stark Campus.



### OPEN DOORS

The footprint of Kent State University's eight-campus system is roughly the size of the state of Connecticut. Nathan Ritchey, Ph.D., vice president of Kent State University System Integration, leads conversations with that fact.

"Kent State is a large research university that impacts communities across Ohio and beyond. I always like to start by noting our scope – from the tip of Ohio in Ashtabula down to the Ohio River," said Ritchey. "And, that's not to mention our growing presence overseas."

As one of the largest regional systems in the nation, a wide array of programs is offered –

ranging from computer technology and nursing to the arts and humanities.

"Think of the magnitude of Kent State in the sense that it has huge capacity to help each and every community we are in," Ritchey said. "We have magnificent, research-capable faculty possessing cutting-edge knowledge throughout the state."

Engaging communities where campuses are located to foster partnerships and economic development is a primary goal of Kent State. Another goal: ensuring curricular integration across all campuses to guarantee a common foundation for all students as they proceed with their academic programs.

Multiple degree tracks are created with the intent that students begin coursework at Regional Campuses, signifying the caliber of faculty and staff at those campuses. "This is the value of the team," Ritchey said. "We offer the foundation for you to move on and be successful."

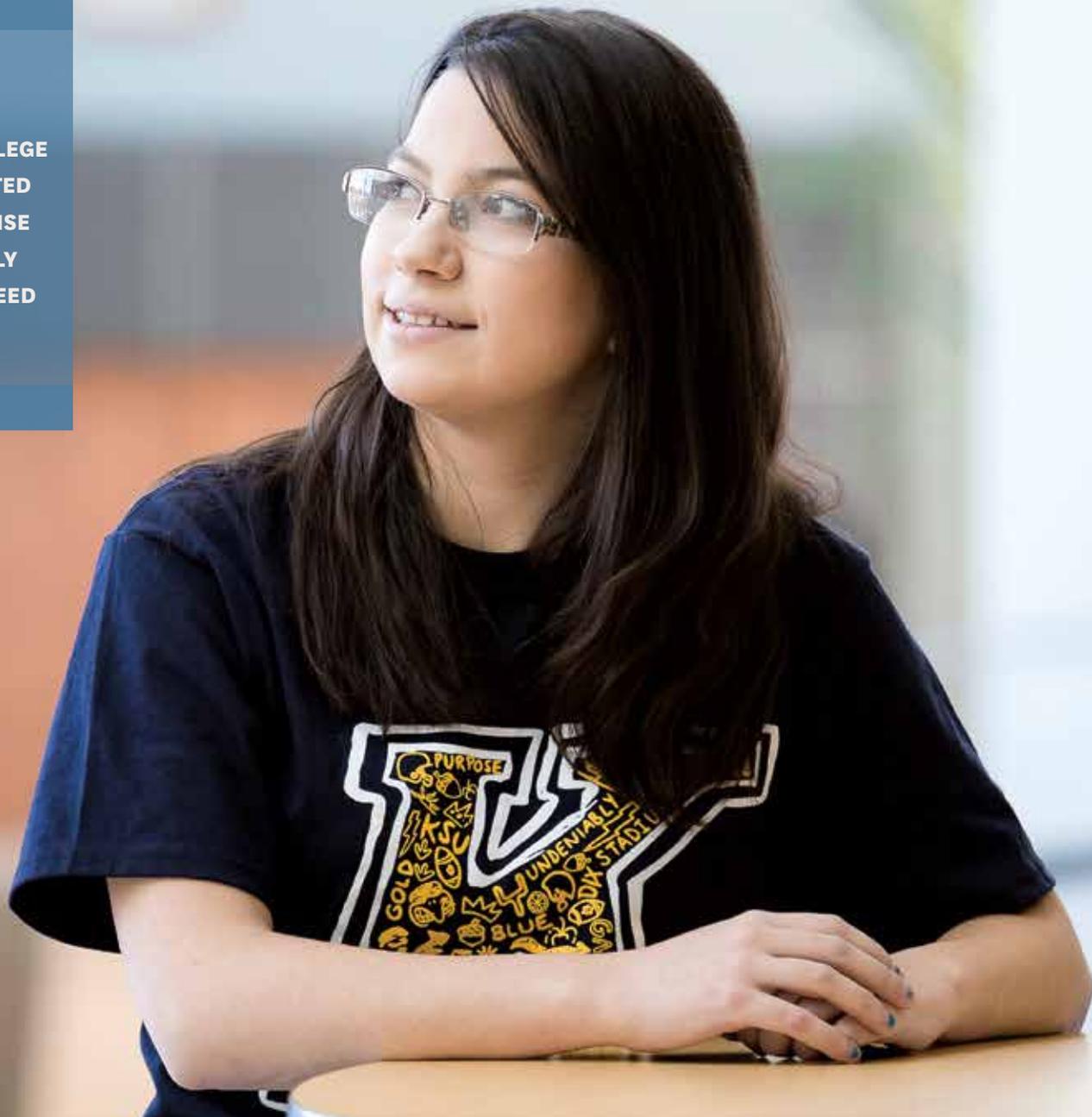
Twenty bachelor's degrees can be completed entirely at Kent State Stark, which leads the way among the Regional Campuses – each filling a niche for specific academic programming in their communities. Students also can choose to begin coursework toward any of Kent State's more than 282 undergraduate degree programs.

Graduate student Natalie Lucas is pursuing her master's degree in accounting at the



**BOTH CAMPUSES HAVE BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY COLLEGE CAREER. I FEEL VERY CONNECTED HERE AND THERE'S A REAL SENSE THE FACULTY AND STAFF REALLY WANT TO SEE STUDENTS SUCCEED AND DO WELL."**

**- NATALIE LUCAS, GRADUATE STUDENT**



Kent Campus, following the successful completion of her bachelor's degree. Lucas, of Jackson Township, began her coursework at the Stark Campus.

"Both campuses have been an integral part of my college career," said Lucas. "I feel very connected here and there's a real sense the faculty and staff really want to see students succeed and do well."

Lucas is a graduate assistant and says she doesn't mind the 45-minute commute. Also a tutor at Kent State Stark, she's happy to pass along knowledge – and advice – to students when they ask for it, including her younger brother, Ryan, who is a Stark Campus student.

Small class sizes, affordable tuition and one-on-

one advising are just a few reasons why Lucas and more than 12,000 students like her attend Kent State's Regional Campuses.

"I'll graduate debt-free as a result of my time at Kent State Stark," she said. "I've always enjoyed math, and now I get to help people in their decision making."

Lucas, 22, already has secured a full-time position at a local accounting firm. She graduates in May.

**'ONE KENT STATE'**

Patrick Dillon, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication studies, teaches courses in the applied communication concentration at both Stark and

Kent campuses.

"One of the misnomers for regional campuses is that students are not as qualified or competent as students at a main campus. But we avoid even calling the Kent Campus the 'main campus' because that fits a model that is not true for our students," said Dillon.

Students – regardless of campus – turned in consistent, high-quality work in Dillon's fall classes. "Both sections did a fantastic job demonstrating the best communication skills that you would hope to see from communication students," he said.

"This brings home the point that we are one Kent State with various locations."



DAVIS WORKS WITH SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE ON THE STARK CAMPUS

**I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE DOING THIS, STUDYING PLANTS, BUT NOW I HAVE DIRECTION. I KNOW THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO BE DOING WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE.”**

**- BRANDON DAVIS, SENIOR BOTANY STUDENT**

In this way, the Regional Campuses are a mirror, reflecting a cohesive Kent State.

Over the last five academic years, between 25 and 34 percent of all Kent Campus bachelor's degree graduates have taken at least one course at Stark and 7 to 8 percent of all graduates take at least half of their coursework at the Stark Campus, according to Mary Southards, assistant dean for enrollment management.

“When we meet with students, our philosophy is to talk to them about what they can accomplish in the Kent State system,” Southards explained. “We talk about all that Kent State University has to offer, and we talk about how you can begin your college career here with an emphasis on the ease of transition from our campus to the

Kent Campus.

“We also discuss how we are an integrated system and it is not unusual to see students at multiple campuses. To me, that says the system is working,” she added. “If I’m juggling school, work and family, I’ll need to take my classes closest to those things, and that’s what a regional system should facilitate. How we work within that system to meet students’ needs clearly demonstrates the power of Kent State.”

#### **COMING HOME**

Denise Seachrist, Ph.D., dean of Kent State Stark, began 2018 celebrating her 30th year working in the Kent State University system. She knows well Regional Campuses are the



conduit, increasing the footprint of Kent State.

“Part of the power is knowing what we are and what our mission is,” Seachrist said. “There’s a way to help people find education where they can be successful. People make their own sense of place; wherever our students are, that’s Kent State to them.”

And for Davis, who is nearing graduation day, he has found a home away from home at Kent State Stark.

Pushing around his backpack on the floor near the lab where Lehnert’s team conducts its research, Davis leans closer to his computer. He traces the outline of a black-and-white image on the screen, encircling the pollen attached to an insect’s mouthpart. It’s the point where biology and botany intersect.

Fluorescent lighting shining above him, he acknowledges he was not always happy before finding his place at Kent State. But, at the university, Davis has developed his interests, propelling him to the next level – where he’s meant to be.

“I never thought I would be doing this, studying plants, but now I have direction,” he said. “I know this is what I want to be doing with the rest of my life.”

Brandon Davis, botanist.

He graduates this spring. Fitting, Davis explains of the timing, when gardeners everywhere prepare the plants they’ve nurtured throughout the winter. Placing each outside in direct sunlight, they’re ready to grow, to bud, to bloom.



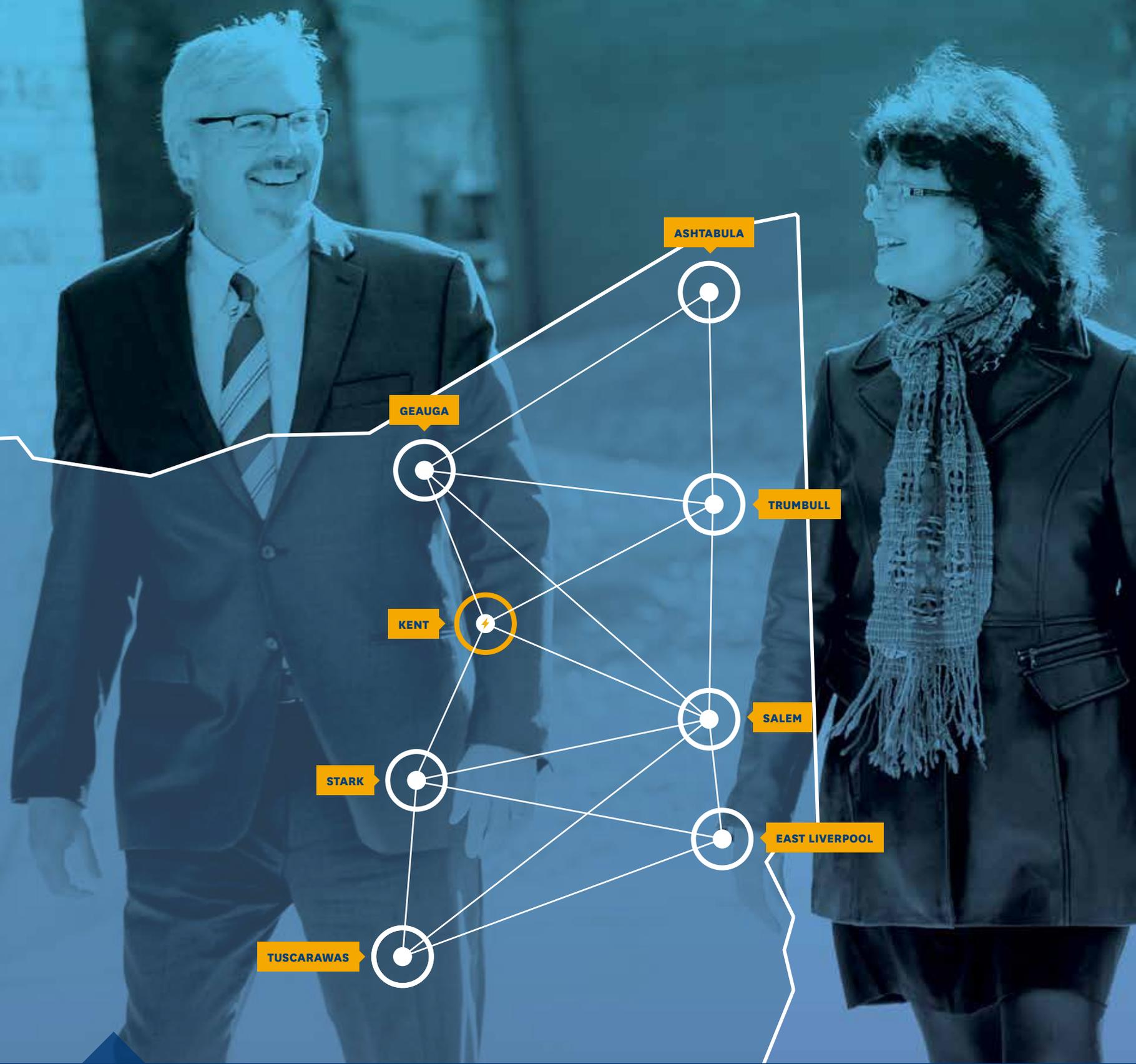
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DENISE SEACHRIST, PH.D.,  
DEAN OF KENT STATE STARK



**KENT STATE IS A LARGE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY THAT IMPACTS COMMUNITIES ACROSS OHIO AND BEYOND... FROM THE TIP OF OHIO IN ASHTABULA, DOWN TO THE OHIO RIVER.”**

NATHAN RITCHEY, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT  
OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM INTEGRATION



Our seven Regional Campuses are quite unique and they are quite independent, in a good way. They fit their communities and that makes them different, but at the same time **we are all Kent State.**”

- Nathan Ritchey, vice president of Kent State University System Integration

# CAMPUS CONNECTOR

## NATHAN RITCHEY, VP OF SYSTEM INTEGRATION, HELPS REGIONALS EXTEND KENT STATE'S REACH

Sometimes purpose comes calling. It begins with a choice. An opportunity. Make the choice. Take the opportunity. Make another choice. Take another opportunity.

Wind up with this: a purpose that's bigger than you'd ever thought possible.

As Nate Ritchey climbed his way up the ladder of academia, step by step, he began to notice the view looked different from the top. Clearer. Working with notable high achievers is fine, but what about being a conduit for effecting truly meaningful change?

"At some point in my life, I realized the Harvards of the world didn't need me," said Ritchey, Ph.D., vice president of Kent State University System Integration. "I did not set out to do this, it chose me. The opportunities that I have had, the opportunities in my life have all centered around regional campuses.

"It's a funny thing with purpose. We think we choose our purpose. But, for me, purpose came calling."

### 'A GOOD CHALLENGE'

In 2016, Ritchey began his work at Kent State University, moving from Edinboro, Pennsylvania, effectively culminating his work with high-achieving students after 25 years – first at Youngstown State University and, then, Edinboro University.

Taking the helm of Kent State's newly created position, Ritchey became the senior officer responsible for the oversight of the university's seven Regional Campuses. He also serves on the President's Cabinet, enhancing the voice of the Regional Campuses and ensuring that the perspectives of the Regional Campuses inform discussions and decisions.



Nathan Ritchey, Ph.D., shakes hands with a new graduate at Kent State Stark's Spring Commencement Ceremony.

"It's a good challenge – our seven Regional Campuses are quite unique and they are quite independent, in a good way," Ritchey said. "They fit their communities and that makes them different, but at the same time we are all Kent State.

"The challenge is to find the balance between system and self."

Ritchey embraces that challenge on a personal level. A mathematician who has worked in higher education for nearly 30 years, he finds himself in a role focused on resource sharing among the Kent State campuses. His goal is to grow enrollment while facilitating program collaboration, cost-saving measures and more effective use of resources.

"I have a Ph.D. in mathematics," said Ritchey, who has authored numerous articles and co-authored several mathematics textbooks. "I love researching. I love teaching. Our kids grew up thinking math was cool.

"This role takes my skills to the next level."

This mathematician would liken it to a phrase usually limited to math textbooks: an expression that represents repeated multiplication of the

same factor. It's called "power."

And that's what the Regional Campuses extend: the power of Kent State to their local communities.

### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

"One of the greatest components of Kent State is that we provide a powerful, first-rate education for students who choose to go to a regional campus," Ritchey said. "They get a Kent State education at a great value, but the quality isn't diminished by cost.

"Staff and faculty at our Regional Campuses have the most noble mission: we take you as you are and we see you through to graduation. That's what we aspire to be great at."

And for some Regional Campuses in economically disadvantaged areas of the state, the hurdles are significant, Ritchey acknowledges. But he knows the purpose is in the offering. It's the big break that overcomes barriers: an education.

"In many cases, we are offering the chance at a better life," Ritchey said. "It's a hard role, a wonderful role, but it's a mission we accept. I accept it, gladly."

# GLOBAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES BRINGS *THE WORLD* TO STARK COUNTY

OUTREACH PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
SARAH SCHMIDT FOCUSES ON  
EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES





**IN KENYA,** Sarah Schmidt discovered her calling.

A long way from rural Mansfield, Ohio, the girl who grew up with cows in her backyard was now half way around the world learning Swahili and teaching children how to speak English. She was 20, and crossed the Atlantic for the first time.

"It truly was life changing," said Schmidt, who spent half a year near Nairobi's Great Rift Valley, part of an intra-continental ridge system that runs through Kenya from north to south.

"After that trip, I knew I wanted my career to be in the international arena."

### PIVOTAL ROLE

Nine years later, Schmidt has landed as the outreach program coordinator for the Office of Global Education Initiatives at Kent State University at Stark. The office is responsible for advising international students and scholars, helping students interested in study abroad, and overseeing all education abroad initiatives and international partnerships at Kent State Stark.

As a liaison of the Office of Global Education at the Kent Campus, the Stark program connects domestic and international students with excellent services and support.

Schmidt began her work in Kent State Stark's position, newly created in 2015, after earning a master's degree in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs from American University in Washington, D.C. While in the nation's capital, Schmidt served as American University's program coordinator of the Mohammed Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace.

Over the past few years, she has played a pivotal role at the Stark Campus, which has experienced tremendous growth in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. The initiative began with 11 Chinese students, increasing to 27 and then to 34 students studying at Kent State Stark last fall.

"It is cool to look back at three years ago when the office was established and think about all that we've done since then," Schmidt said. "It's pretty awesome, actually."

### INTENTIONAL DESIGN

International students comprise one of Kent State University's largest student groups. Ten percent of Kent Campus students – nearly 3,000 – are international.

There's not only power in numbers, but in a collective, reciprocal experience.

"What I love about our program is that it provides students with opportunities to travel, but for students who do not go abroad, we are bringing the world to our campuses through our programs," Schmidt explained.

**“HAVING THAT CULTURAL AND EXCHANGE COMPONENT IS CRUCIAL.** We shouldn't be hearing from one voice in an international program, we should be hearing from each other. Anything we can do to foster understanding and empathy is a good thing. The more we can dispel stereotypes, the better.”

And Schmidt knows a thing or two about overcoming obstacles. Her flight anxiety hasn't stopped her from traveling to 40

different countries. Her limited understanding of Arabic didn't keep her from going to Morocco on a whim. It was one of her most memorable trips yet.

"Since I was a child, there's always just been something inside me that was drawing me away – in a good way," she said. "Not turning my back on my roots, but taking them with me."

"Coming home, I'm changed. We all are when we see the beauty there is in the world."



## STUDY ABROAD: BROADENING HORIZONS

Short-term study abroad trips are the most popular for students at Kent State University at Stark. The Florence Summer Institute in Florence, Italy, tops the list for many students. In 2016, 40 students went to Florence; last summer, 95 students made the trek. Switzerland and Japan are other top destinations.

Faculty-led trips are a growing trend. Leslie Heaphy, Ph.D., associate professor of history, has included a study abroad component in her History and Public Space course this spring. The class will travel to Xi'an, China, during Spring Recess.

"I believe students learn so much more about the world and themselves by visiting other cultures and appreciating how different people see the world and experience all it has to teach us," Heaphy said.

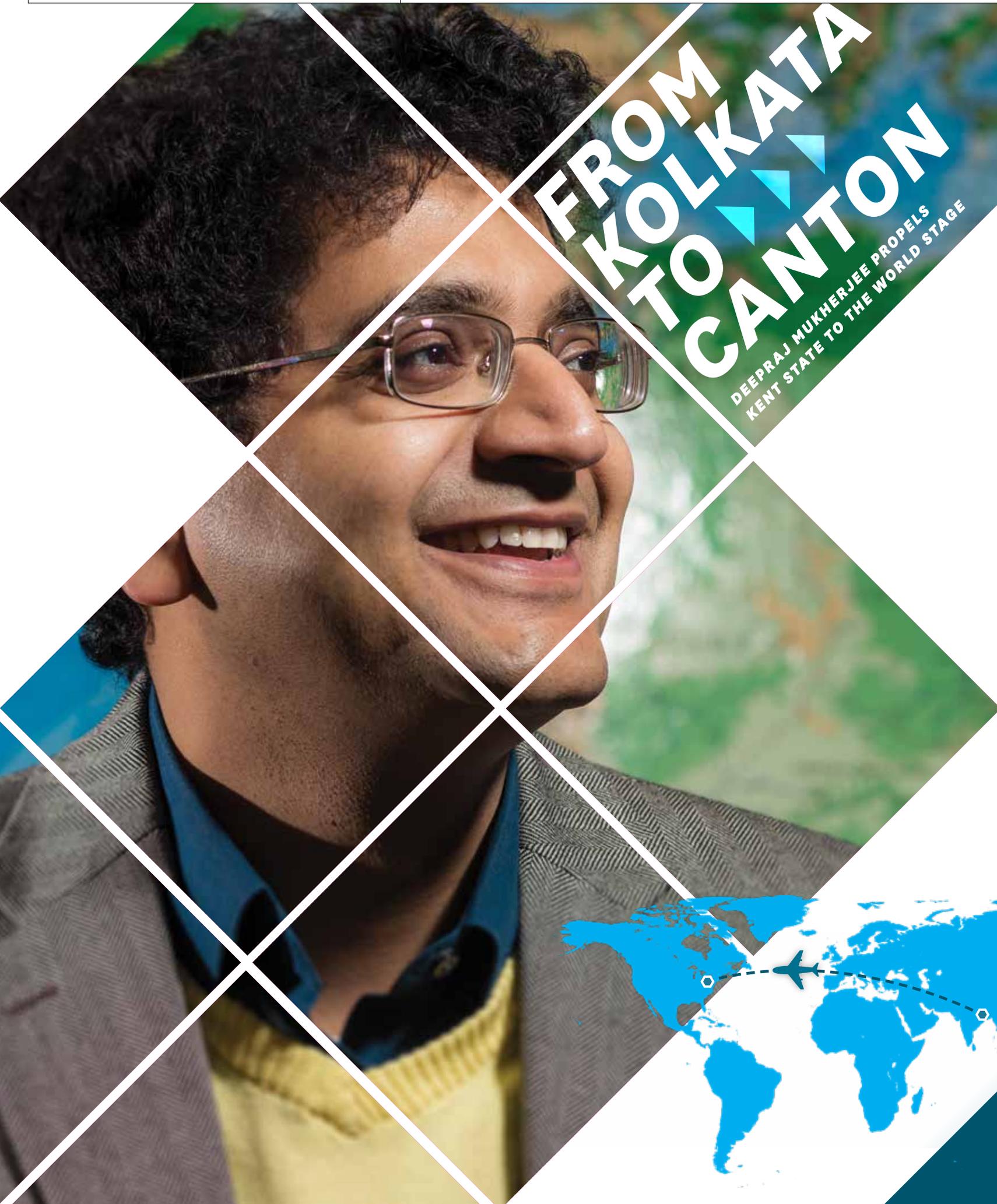
Also during break, Marie Gasper-Hulvat, Ph.D., assistant professor of art, is taking students to Rome to study art created during the Baroque era. Students receive three credit hours for the course, completed during the Spring Recess abroad.

"There's a whole litany of things students gain from study abroad," Gasper-Hulvat said. "It changes your perspective on life and the world. They are coming for the art, but the travel-related experiences they have in addition will have an equally profound impact."

THE P⚡WER OF VISIBILITY

# FROM TO KOLKATA CANTON

DEEPAJ MUKHERJEE PROPELS  
KENT STATE TO THE WORLD STAGE





## ECONOMICS PROFESSOR RECENTLY NAMED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**DEEPAJ MUKHERJEE GREW UP** in a middle-income family in Kolkata, India, but when he walked the city's streets poverty was unavoidable. Hunger knew no divide, afflicting families and neighborhoods in this capital of West Bengal where more than 15 million hail from every income level.

Why not me?

A young Mukherjee asked that question more than once. He wrestled with it. "Even from childhood, I always had the question in my mind: why poverty? What can we do to eradicate poverty?"

As a teenager, Mukherjee studied works by the Indian expert on welfare, Dr. Amartya Sen, who was awarded the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

"I read it somehow and thought about how economic contributions can help eradicate poverty," said Mukherjee, Ph.D., associate professor of economics at Kent State University at Stark. "I read it and thought, how can I do this? How can I help?"

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

In Mukherjee's office on the third floor of Main Hall, he points to a photo capturing the moment he received his doctorate from the University of Memphis in 2010. It was the moment his dream became reality.

"I came to the U.S. to study economics. This country has the best universities, the best research facilities in the world," he said.

Today, Mukherjee challenges his students to find the answer that will better their homes, neighborhoods and communities. He encourages them to think about how economics influences everyday life.

Since Mukherjee joined the faculty at Kent State Stark in 2012, he has been impressed with the educational quality and research opportunities available to students.

"The fact that undergraduate students can be exposed to high-quality research gives them the perfect way to obtain the highest quality education," he said, "because, at the end of the day, it really is that experience you are getting in the field."

Mukherjee takes that personally. In fact, it's his No. 1 goal: to make an impact on his students. That's why he treasures a note he received from graduating senior, Patrick Martell, last year.

"The many opportunities and projects completed with your guidance truly made my college experience the best it could have been," Martell wrote. "It was a lot of fun learning about economics and its relationship to everyday occurrences in both business and daily life."

### WORLD STAGE

Mukherjee is happy to be a part of the Kent State University system and help propel the Stark Campus to the world stage.

"Our regional campus can only grow if we are giving back to the community – that's the economic impact," he said.

By having a global brand image, it allows Kent State Stark to serve much better locally as well, said Mukherjee, who was recently elected editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Business & Economic Development*. Published in London, the scholarly and refereed journal's membership is global – from Italy to Russia, Indonesia to Australia, and numerous countries in between.

"When we receive international exposure, that visibility also belongs to the campus, to the university," he added, "because this is Kent State University and that gets promulgated all around."

And, it's full circle. Mukherjee never forgets his childhood in Kolkata, prodding him to give back, to make a difference.

"Deepraj is innovative and a good campus citizen. He meets the needs of his students and always seeks solutions fueled by the power of Kent State," said Denise Seachrist, Ph.D., dean of Kent State Stark. "He wants to go out and change the world, and isn't that what it's all about?"



**W**HEN WE RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE, THAT VISIBILITY ALSO BELONGS TO THE CAMPUS, TO THE UNIVERSITY, BECAUSE THIS IS KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AND THAT GETS PROMULGATED ALL AROUND.

▀ DEEPAJ MUKHERJEE,  
associate professor of economics

# STUDENT TUTORS

HELP OTHERS EXCEL IN ACADEMIC PURSUITS ►

For Lisa Hart, director of academic services, providing exceptional tutoring is not only a responsibility – it is Kent State Stark’s duty. Making college education and campus resources accessible to all is the campus’ purpose. Said Hart, “Our tutors enjoy being part of students’ academic success, which students often attribute at least in part to tutoring. The value of the tutoring program to our campus is immeasurable.”



## ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER TUTORING SERVICES PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS:

- 3** levels of certification can be earned by tutors from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA)
- 551** students utilized tutoring services last year
- 15%** increase in students using tutoring services in Fall 2017 compared to Fall 2016
- 2,000** hours of tutoring provided in Fall 2017
- 55** students employed as peer tutors in Fall 2017

CLASS OF 2017

**MICHAEL SPIRNAK**

**MATH** major

From **PERRY TOWNSHIP**

**1,220** tutoring hours completed mid-fall semester

**PRO TUTOR** in math through Calculus 3

**WHY I TUTOR...**  
 "The whole reason is I want to be a professor. I like to help students go from struggling and unsure to confident, to help them reach higher and achieve more."

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

- "Very receptive to the issues I was having and found me positive when I struggled to understand."
- "Praised me for my knowledge and willingness to help. I was struggling with."
- "Wonderful on little tips for..."



CLASS OF 2019



# THOMAS COOK

**PHYSICS** major

From  
**EAST CANTON**

**698** tutoring hours  
completed mid-fall semester

**PRO TUTOR** in math, physics  
and chemistry

### WHY I TUTOR...

"When people understand math,  
not just regurgitate it, when they  
understand the theory behind it  
and why, that's a great thing to be  
a part of."

CLASS OF 2018



# DANIEL PHILLIPI

**GEOLOGY** major

From  
**ALLIANCE**

**107** tutoring hours  
completed mid-fall semester

**PRO TUTOR** in math  
and physics

### WHY I TUTOR...

"You get to see people grow in an  
area that wasn't their strength.  
Tutoring is a chance to give back,  
to share your knowledge."

CLASS OF 2018



# BECCA LIZ PAXTON

**MIDDLE CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION** major

From  
**PERRY TOWNSHIP**

**520** tutoring hours  
completed mid-fall semester

**PRO TUTOR** in math  
and history

### WHY I TUTOR...

"I love the chance to be able to  
help people understand material  
that may be complicated for them.  
Tutoring also gives me the chance  
to understand different learning  
styles, and that helps me to learn  
something new every day, too."

**SAYING:** (Voluntary feedback provided to Academic Success Center)

a way to explain the subject without being pushy or overwhelming."

"Very patient, calm and

ed the things I was already doing correctly and found an encouraging way to help with the things

r remembering. Would come see (tutor) again for help."

"Awesome job!"

"Great tutors!"

# STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

## PREPARES STUDENTS ENTERING THE WORKPLACE

**JOHN DOWNEY TOOK A DAY OFF WORK** so he could guarantee attendance at the second annual Student Professional Development Conference.

Holding down a part-time job while attending classes full-time at Kent State University at Stark, Downey, of North Canton, was intrigued by the conference's theme, "Are you ready to take on the 'real' world?"

"It's all about branding yourself," said Downey, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in business management in May. "In today's working world, you have to think about your image and how you influence the takeaways."

Many students agreed transitioning from student status to full-time employment can be a major adjustment. Learning to navigate through changing routines, developing new habits and simply "adult" consistently can be a struggle.

That's why nearly 60 students and recent graduates attended the event held at the Kent State Stark Conference Center.

Aimed at providing attendees an edge in the workplace, the Student Professional Development Conference is unique to Kent State Stark. The event is designed to give students the tools they need to thrive in their budding careers, aside from the technical skills they learn in college.

The conference was organized by Kent State Stark's Corporate University, which specializes in understanding what employers value in employees: initiative, critical thinking, communication skills and the ability to get along with co-workers. The innovative, daylong program mirrored the Corporate University's professional development conferences, but this event – geared toward students and recent graduates – was held in collaboration with the offices of Internship and Career Services, Student Involvement, as well as External Affairs.

"This conference builds skills for the workplace. It takes student development a step further – from finding a job to I have a job. Now, how do I make certain I keep the job I have?," explained Faith Sheaffer-Polen, director of the Corporate University. "This information is not just for work success but life success."

### 'EXCELLING EVERY DAY'

At the event, students and recent graduates garnered tools to enhance their professional image, including getting a professional LinkedIn photo taken. They also learned how to improve their communication skills, stay financially sound, network and connect with other area young professionals.

Kent State Stark's goal is to ensure young adults have the soft

skills they need for successful entry into the workforce.

Conference presenters included:

- Stephanie Werren, director of Leadership Stark County (LSC), and Jenifer Hill, LSC program manager, who helped students identify their personality strengths.
- Phil Kim, D.Sc., associate professor at Walsh University, shared his personal story – from high school dropout to Ph.D.
- Bob Pacanovsky, owner of the Vátion Group, shared insights on professional behaviors and creating a stellar first impression.
- Amber Wallace, assistant director for financial aid at Kent State Stark, walked students through their own bank statements identifying "needs vs. wants."
- Mike Wheeler, chief legal officer and board of directors' president of Patriot Software LLC, spoke about the power of networking.

Wheeler also told the largely millennial crowd to dispel stereotypes about the generation's disdain for hard work.

"Work is called work because it's not fun," Wheeler said during one of four breakout sessions. "Know it is about excelling every day. What can I do with what I've been given?"

"Work hard and parlay that into success."

### GETTING REAL

Rita Liu Tongtong, one of Kent State Stark's 34 international students, said she learned the importance of making lasting connections.

"No matter who you are, or where you are, you can always share your story," she said.

And technology makes that easier than ever. Still, today's fast-paced, internet-connected world comes with pitfalls. "Research shows that more choices actually lead to paralysis and inaction," said Dr. Kim, during his keynote speech. He addressed a powerful rule of three:

- Harness the power of focus and accountability.
- Utilize the 15-minute rule to increase personal productivity.
- Implement a simple and effective "One Word" goal-setting strategy.

For Megan McKita, a Kent State Stark alumna from Uniontown, harnessing the power of focus is optimal.

She's job hunting, and McKita said she's more prepared than ever to take on the real world.



*"This conference builds skills for the workplace. It takes student development a step further - from finding a job to I have a job. Now, how do I make certain I keep the job I have? This information is not just for work success but life success."*

▼ FAITH SHEAFFER-POLEN  
director of the Corporate University

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION



**REG<sup>⚡</sup>IONAL  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



## **ENGINE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH: REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES TOOLS TO FUEL OPPORTUNITIES, EXPANSION**

When the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce called Faith Sheaffer-Polen about training opportunities last year, she didn't hesitate to take the Corporate University on the road.

Collaborating with Salem Campus administration, Sheaffer-Polen, director of Kent State University at Stark's Corporate University, coordinated training sessions from nearly an hour away.

Nathan Ritchey, Ph.D., vice president of Kent State University System Integration, saw promise in the opportunity and purpose in its pursuit. He knew establishing workforce development regionally would fulfill a primary focus of the Regional Campuses: providing an educated workforce.

"This extends to helping businesses and other organizations to maintain an employee base that is up to date and well trained in topics that can increase success," Ritchey said. "We value the partnerships we have with our communities and aspire to continue to meet the workforce needs of Northeast Ohio."

With the heft of a Kent State University commitment, the newly expanded Regional Workforce Development initiative is in a unique position to help communities grow, fueling economic development throughout the multi-county region.

### **TAPPING LEADERSHIP**

Appointing Stark-Tuscarawas leadership to the initiative was a clear choice. Ritchey tapped current leaders, Sheaffer-Polen and William Beisel, Ed.D., director of Kent State Tuscarawas' Business and Community Services. The two serve as co-directors of the effort aimed at developing collaborative relationships, both internally at Regional Campuses and externally with businesses and organizations, such as area chambers of commerce and the Geauga Growth Partnership, Inc.

"Kent State's Stark and Tuscarawas campuses are proven leaders in workforce development," Ritchey explained. "We want to provide this type of excellence and consistency throughout the entire footprint of Kent State University's Regional Campuses."

"We are confident that the strong leadership that exists in this collaboration will increase and enhance our ability to meet the workforce needs in all the communities we serve."

Here's how the expanded Regional Workforce Development (RWD) works: workforce training requests flow through the Stark and Tuscarawas offices, which provide the same types of services offered locally to a much wider region.

"We're extending the power of Kent State," said Sheaffer-Polen. "The university believes in this initiative, that it can benefit the entire region with a more coordinated, cohesive effort. We have seen a big uptick in our public programming and we anticipate a similar result when we visit organizations in the expanded territory."

"It's about the direct value of the training that we bring. We are literally helping our clients become more competitive."

### **CUSTOMIZED TRAINING**

RWD offers survey and research services, which help businesses gauge customer and employee satisfaction, product development, community outreach and training needs.

As an organizational and professional development training partner, RWD offers a wide array of soft-skill training services. These offerings include workshops, certification programs, communications and conflict resolution, project management and strategic planning, among others.

"The simplest way to describe it is we talk to several hundred employers every year regarding how they can stay competitive, retain talent and improve productivity. Then, we match their needs with the customized programs and services we uniquely provide," Sheaffer-Polen said.

RWD also offers extensive technical training solutions, ranging from computer skills to Internal Organization for Standardization (ISO) training to production and inventory control management and more.

"We bring global competitiveness through education," Sheaffer-Polen said. "We can help you still be in business five years from now through our customized training options. Frankly, the way you did business and managed team members yesterday is not going to work today."

### **FUELING DEVELOPMENT**

Beisel said the team is looking forward to expanding on its current success.

"We are maximizing our existing resources, and building on what we already do well," he said. "We represent the resources and expertise of Kent State in the Regional Campus' service area, which seeks our expertise in regard to efficiency in resources, growing a business and fostering partnerships that benefit the economic development of the region."

And David Dees, Ph.D., dean of the Salem Campus, says his community continues to experience the power of being involved with a significant university system.

"Because we are part of Kent State University, we have access to a wide range of resources from a major university," said Dees. "With this new model, we are now able to take those resources to our local partners because, together, we are one Kent State."

# WINNING COMBINATION





# Healthy meeting initiative to be launched at Conference Center

**Stephanie Monastra wants guests to leave the Kent State University at Stark Conference Center differently than the way they walked in.**

“At the end of the day, we want people to be armed with information. We want them to leave with not only a great strategic plan for their business, but also with the knowledge Kent State cares about health and wellness,” said Monastra, director of the Conference Center.

Enter the healthy meeting initiative. The innovative new program will provide more options for businesses and organizations planning their next session.

“From strategic planning to team building, it’s about giving our guests what they need to be more productive and have an engaged meeting,” said Monastra. “We see it as our responsibility, as part of an institution of higher learning, to be a conduit of information and share it with the community.”

And thanks to the center’s International Association of Conference Centers (IACC) designation, planners from across the country seek out the facility for its expert team, meaning the message of Kent State goes farther.

## ‘FRESH APPROACH’

Regionally, healthy meeting strategies are on the peripheral, making the concept, spurred by Monastra and her staff, a trend-setting one.

While more people understand the importance of taking time to move, stretch and walk during the workday, others struggle to grasp the concept that food provides the body with energy.

A healthy meeting package at the Conference Center would include informational and activity components. At break stations, guests will be provided with information about what a healthy plate should look like, and how eating for fuel positively impacts attention and focus. Yoga, walks around campus and stretching could be incorporated into breaks throughout the day.

That’s key, according to Melissa Celko, Kent State of Wellness director.

Celko loathes the hours between 2 and 4 p.m. And with good reason.

“We’ve all been there,” she said. “Sitting in a daylong conference, dozing off either because you’ve been sitting for hours or you’ve just finished a high fat, high carb lunch. The likelihood is both are impacting productivity.”



The purpose of the business gathering is ultimately defeated. That’s why Celko says it is a privilege to work with Monastra’s team on the new healthy meeting initiative.

The program fits the Kent State of Wellness endeavor, part of President Beverly J. Warren’s Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State. The goal: create a healthy environment and prioritize health and wellness for students and the community.

“What I love so much about this fresh approach is just the understanding that when we sit for long periods of time we become disengaged with what is going on around us,” Celko said. “A lot of people kind of check out when the information is most vital. Being intentional about the structure of a meeting, including breaks and meal planning, makes for a much better outcome.”

## POWERFUL TOOL

Chad Christine, manager of culinary operations at the Conference Center, understands food powers the effectiveness of a meeting.

That is why he and Executive Chef Joe Belinsky hold the philosophy that food preparation and the cooking process must be done in the healthiest way possible with accommodations for every dietary restriction – and palate.

“We want our guests to have an experience,” he said. “At our salad bar, for example, we give everyone the ability to be creative. There are base options that will always be available, but it is what you can do with them, that’s where it’s fun.”

And being the healthiest, most productive place to hold meetings is not only what Janet Capocci sells, it is what she believes in.

“A good coach always asks, ‘What else?’ We need to do something differently, and that’s where the healthy meeting initiative comes in,” said Capocci, Conference Center sales manager. “If we can continue to coach guests along to meet their needs, then we’ve arrived at the winning combination.”

And, for Monastra, if visitors depart knowing healthy choices are possible, then “we’ve done our job.”

“We want people to leave here with a great business plan, but also knowing Kent State cares about helping people be – and achieve – their personal best.”



**“From strategic planning sessions to team building, it’s about giving our guests what they need to be more productive and have an engaged meeting.”**

**Stephanie Monastra,**  
Conference Center director



**“We want our guests to have an experience. We give everyone the ability to be creative. There are base options that will always be available, but it is what you can do with them, that’s where it’s fun.”**

**Chad Christine,**  
Conference Center manager  
of culinary operations



**“When we sit for long periods of time we become disengaged with what is going on around us... Being intentional about the structure of a meeting, including breaks and meal planning, makes for a much better outcome.”**

**Melissa Celko,**  
Kent State of Wellness director



**“We need to do something different, and that’s where the healthy meeting initiative comes in. If we can continue to coach guests along to meet their needs, then we’ve arrived at the winning combination.”**

**Janet Capocci,**  
Conference Center  
sales manager

# PAYING IT ► FORWARD WITH A PLANNED GIFT

**MARY S. AND WILLIAM T. SOUTHARDS SCHOLARSHIP  
TO BENEFIT FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS**



**MARY AND TOM SOUTHARDS** grew up in different states, but shared similar goals. Both dreamed big in their small towns.

Accomplishing those dreams meant they'd be among the first in their families to go to college. For Mary, earning a college degree in the 1970s led to a career outside of the home; for Tom, it entailed a different kind of opportunity. While most people in his hometown went to work at the local textile mill, Tom's plans exceeded those four walls.

"Even though our parents didn't go to college, they valued education and saw education as a way to move up and enhance your quality of life," said Mary Southards, assistant dean for enrollment management at Kent State University at Stark. "Having had the benefit of that, it seemed right."

The Southards worked their way through college, completing both bachelor's and master's degrees.

During her more than 35-year tenure at Kent State Stark, Mary has watched students work hard to pay tuition semester by semester as they study their way to graduation day.

As the Southards look forward to retirement, they've planned to give back to Kent State University through an estate gift.

  
**HOW TO MAKE  
A PLANNED GIFT**

Wish you could help Kent State University students achieve their dreams of a college education, but can't give now? You can make a difference with a provision in your estate plan.

**CONTACT KAREN ROMAS**  
at 330-244-3225 or [kromas@kent.edu](mailto:kromas@kent.edu)  
to learn how your deferred gift  
can help future students.

The Mary S. and William T. Southards Scholarship will benefit first-generation college students and is made possible by the Southards naming the university as beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.

"This is something we felt we could, and should, do," explained Mary.

**“ It just seemed appropriate**

**to set aside some funds to support students who are the first in their families to go to college. It's a life-changing step.”**

▾ **MARY S. SOUTHARDS**  
assistant dean for enrollment management

Karen Romas, Kent State Stark's director of advancement, said gifting an existing life insurance policy is just one option available when planning an estate.

"Besides life insurance policies, donors can name Kent State as a beneficiary of their individual sheltered retirement accounts, bank accounts or brokerage accounts," explained Romas. "These are some of the easiest and cost-free ways to help students if a gift at this time isn't possible."

Added Southards, "A college education truly changed my life, and my husband's."

Her husband continues his work in the College of Aeronautics & Engineering at Kent State University. Tom sees the same work ethic in his students at the Kent Campus as Mary has witnessed at the Stark Campus.

"More than anything else, I think about how the campus changes people's lives and their families," Mary said. "And, quite often, the culture of the community."

"I can't imagine spending my career anywhere else. When you believe in what you do, you have such an opportunity to make a positive, everlasting impact."



# GRANT SPOTLIGHT



**\$25,000**

**WIRED WETLANDS GRANT BOOSTS RESURGENCE OF POND & WETLANDS RESEARCH AREA**

GREG SMITH



Nestled along a 17-acre stretch of woods and wetlands, the pond at Kent State University at Stark is more than a body of water. It's a research hub. And thanks to a \$25,000 Dominion Foundation Higher Educational Partnership Grant, the Pond and Wetlands Research Area will become a vital research tool making a major impact.

"Our goal is to reinvigorate the pond and wetland area as the go-to site on campus for all of our courses that are looking at environmental issues," said Gregory Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences.

The grant, made possible by the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, will allow the campus to establish Wired Wetlands using a real-time sensor network connected to a buoy. The buoy will be located in the pond just behind the Gold LEED certified Science and Nursing building.

Here's how it works: Sensors below the buoy collect data, including water pH, oxygen content and temperature – all indicative of water quality.

Solar panels on top of the buoy provide power and send radio signals back to a computer for processing real-time data. Coupled with a new nearby weather station, land variables also will be collected in real time. Data is uploaded to a website, accessible for student research at the college level and also to K-12 students.

"Data from the network will be available to anyone with internet access," Smith said. "We'll reach out to local schools to make them aware of the data and show them how to access it, allowing them to use real data for curricular exercises in environmental science, biology, math or other related fields."

The ability to access data in the field and laboratory will enable direct and dynamic learning in any setting.

"Sustainability hub" is the term Smith uses to describe the area encompassing the Wired Wetlands project, the recently installed wind turbine, community gardens and a planned Teaching and Research Greenhouse.

"With the new Science and Nursing building and the resources that came with it, including lots of new technology for cell-molecular sciences, we were looking to expand our work in the environmental sciences and conservation," Smith explained. "With the new environmental studies degree, we explored opportunities to expand our resources and teach about the environment, right here on our campus. This means our students are well-prepared for further education or careers in the environmental sector and other science fields."



## **COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESSING**

Robert Hamilton, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, is coordinating development of a comprehensive management plan for the Pond and Wetlands Research Area and surrounding woods. The plan will outline revitalization, sustainability and management efforts for the 17-acre area. The plan calls for improvements to the area's drainage system, signage and redeveloping the trail around the pond.



# \$6,828

## GUITAR WEEKEND RECOGNIZED BY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS



Ohio Arts COUNCIL



**Arts in Stark**  
Kids. Jobs. Communities.

Blending Canton's vibrant arts scene with education, Kent State University at Stark presented the second annual Guitar Weekend, a three-day festival for guitar enthusiasts in November.

The event, free and open to the public, featured some of the most respected guitarists nationwide. Made possible with the help of grants – including a special projects grant from Arts in Stark (\$3,500) and an ArtSTART grant from the Ohio Arts Council (\$3,328) – masterclasses and concerts took place at Kent State Stark's Main Hall Auditorium, with one performance at the Canton Museum of Art.

"Guitar Weekend provides an opportunity for students and interested community members to experience a wide range of guitar genres they wouldn't have access to otherwise," said Adam Larison, adjunct music professor, who spearheaded the project in conjunction with Kent State Stark's Music Department. "Our ultimate goal is to introduce people to new musical styles."

More than 1,500 local students and community members attended festival events.

"Our numbers were up," Larison said. "That was especially cool because we did offer classical concerts. Several people have mentioned to me that they attended every single concert."

Larison also coordinated outreach with Canton City Schools as part of Guitar Weekend. Fifty McKinley High School students were provided the opportunity to learn from renowned guitarist and instructor, Mickey Jones.



AMBER WALLACE

# \$30,000

## NEW NURSING LOANS TO HELP JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Nursing students get an extra boost, thanks to subsidized loans specifically for BSN students.

"These loans allow students to complete their degree. It's an incentive for our juniors and seniors," said Amber Wallace, assistant director for financial aid at Kent State University at Stark.

"Our team aims to provide a holistic financial education for Kent State Stark students where they borrow as little as possible. We'd like to see everyone graduate debt free, but we also realize sometimes that is not realistic."

Wallace, who has a background in banking, obtained approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to triple the loan amount Kent State Stark has available to nursing students – from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

"Amber is a good manager of funding," said Theresa Ford, Kent State Stark's senior grant administrator. "Her skills benefit our growing nursing program and its students."

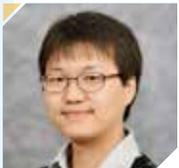
## NEW FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS

**ALEXIS BAKER**, *Assistant Professor of English*

New Assistant Professor of English Alexis Baker teaches composition courses on campus and at local high schools through the College Credit Plus program. Alexis earned her doctorate in English from Kent State University in 2016 and holds a B.A. from The Ohio State University and an M.A. from Miami University of Ohio. An Ohio native, she has 18 years of experience teaching high school and college English, theater, and Women's Studies courses. Her research focuses on rhetoric, gender and identity.

**LYNDY BECKLEY**, *Lecturer of Nursing*

Lyndy is a lecturer in the nursing department, focusing primarily on critical care nursing. She earned her MSN in nursing education from Kent State University. After completion of her degree, she served the Stark Campus as an adjunct faculty member. A resident of Dover, in neighboring Tuscarawas County, she also continues her work as a critical care nurse. Lyndy recently published an article about influenza vaccines in *American Nurse Today*.

**YOUNGHUN CHAE**, *Assistant Professor of Computer Science*

Younghun Chae, assistant professor of computer science, received both his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island. A native of Korea who has lived in Ohio for two years, Younghun's research interests include trust management, data analysis and cyber security. He has worked with the Digital Forensics and Cyber Security Center at the University of Rhode Island since 2010, and now he works with the Advanced Information Security and Privacy Lab at Kent State University.

**BRIELLE BLACK**, *Marketing Assistant*

Brielle serves as a marketing assistant in the Office of External Affairs, functioning as a creative designer who helps produce promotional pieces for Kent State Stark, both internally and externally. She is co-designer of the campus' award-winning *Encompass* magazine. Brielle, of Uniontown, was a student worker for External Affairs from September 2015 until her graduation in December 2016, prior to being hired full-time in January 2017. She holds a B.A. in applied communication studies from Kent State Stark.

**KRISTIN CARVAJAL**, *Academic Advisor*

Kristin is a new academic advisor in Student Services. Kristin joined the Stark Campus after working at the Kent Campus since 2013. Originally from New York, Kristin received her B.A. in English literature and B.S. in communication and media from the State University of New York at New Paltz. She earned a MED in higher education administration at Kent State University, and is currently pursuing a second master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

**ALEKSANDAR GRAHOVAC**, *Event Planning Coordinator*

Aleksandar "Aleks" is the event planning coordinator at Kent State University at Stark's Conference Center. Working directly with clients, he helps plan events from inception to implementation. Prior to joining the team in April 2017, he worked at The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland for 12 years. Aleks, originally from Sarajevo, holds a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from the University of Akron. His favorite cuisine is Mediterranean.

**MELISSA GRIFFY SEETON**, *Public Relations and Media Communications Coordinator*

Melissa is responsible for working within Kent State Stark's creative team to support the campus through both promotional writing and media relations. She also serves as editor of the campus' magazine, *Encompass*. With more than 16 years of experience in the newspaper industry, Melissa served as an award-winning editor and reporter at GateHouse Ohio Media publications. She earned a master's degree in media management from Kent State University in 2009 and a B.S. in journalism from Ohio University.

# PACKED HOUSE

Planning the Featured Speakers Series is never easy. But, kicking off the 27<sup>th</sup> year, was, as the Fonz would say, "Perfectamundo."

Tickets for this pop culture icon were gone within an hour. Some community members even arrived on campus at 6:45 a.m. to get their tickets. Kent State University at Stark's switchboard operator, Joyce Hicks, came in on her vacation day to make sure things ran smoothly.



Henry Winkler certainly set the stage for the high caliber of speakers who comprise the 2017-18 Featured Speakers Series, Kent State Stark's gift to the community.

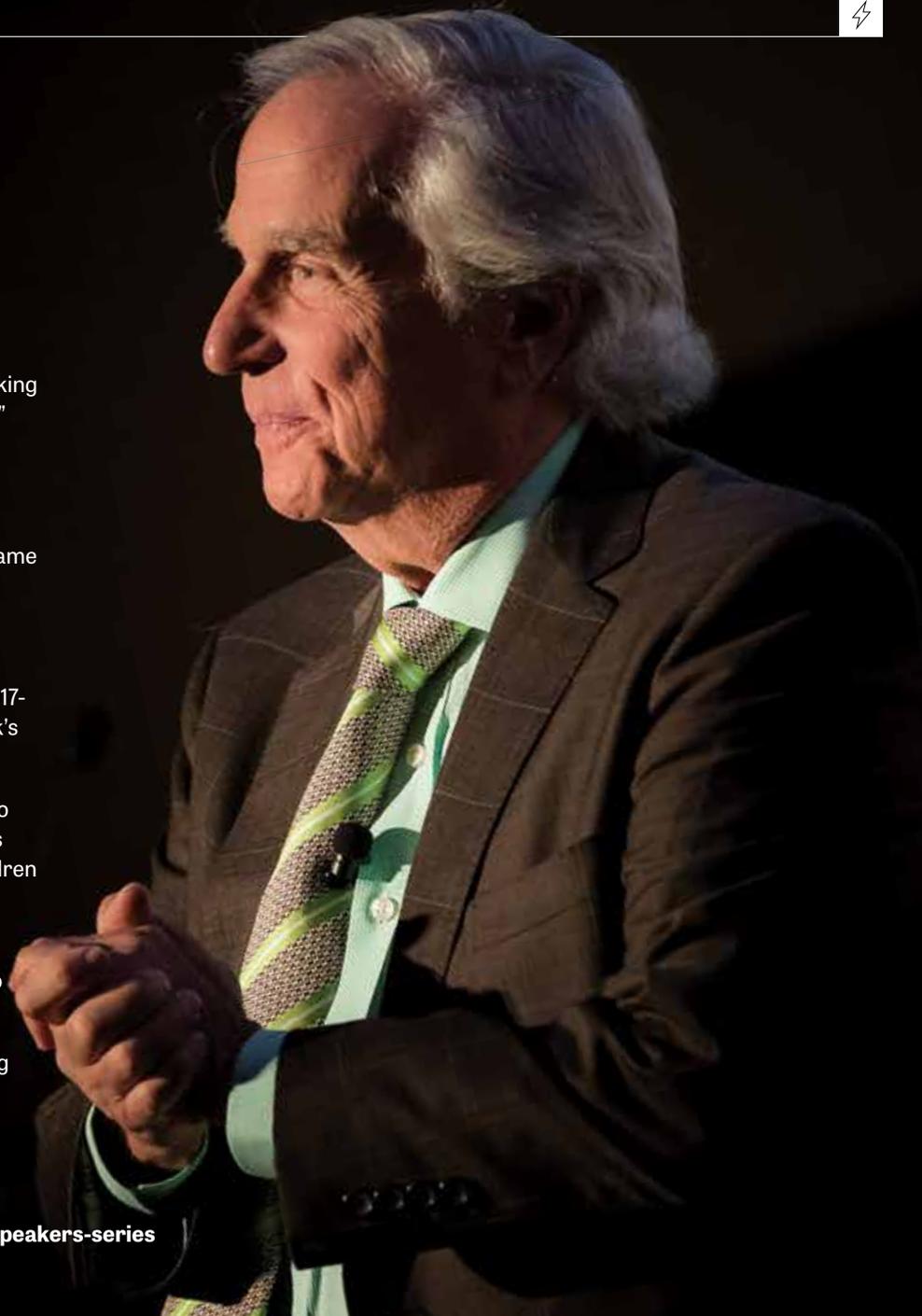
"The distance between you and where you want to go is you," Winkler told the crowd Oct. 10 as he focused on his experiences as an actor turned author and advocate for children with learning challenges.

Winkler's shining example of perseverance was encored Nov. 15 by Shannon Huffman Polson, a U.S. Army veteran who was one of the first women to fly Apache combat helicopters.

A trailblazer, Huffman Polson emphasized grit, demonstrating how to tap into passion and develop one's own purpose.

**UP NEXT:** Anthony Ervin, Olympic swimming medalist, Feb. 27; Cal Thomas and Juan Williams, news icons, April 12.

For more info, please visit [www.kent.edu/stark/featured-speakers-series](http://www.kent.edu/stark/featured-speakers-series)



## International students celebrate first Halloween

Bringing the world to Stark County, Ruyi Jiao was one of 34 international students participating in Kent State Stark's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. They celebrated Halloween for the first time, participating in the campus' ninth annual Boo U event.

"Some people are very curious about China," said Jiao, "and we want them to learn about China just as we learn about America."

Designed as an educational fall celebration for elementary school-aged children, Boo U invites community members to explore Kent State Stark's beautiful, 200-acre campus.

"It's one of many programs that expose international students to U.S. customs and traditions," said Sarah Schmidt, outreach coordinator for Global Education Initiatives. "As our international students engage with the campus community, a reciprocal, beneficial exchange occurs."

**Donna Alexander**, lecturer of human development and family studies, presented “Committee commitments: Continuing Education and Education Committees” at the 2017 NAB Mid-Year Meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

**Alexis Baker**, assistant professor of English, published “Feeding the Self: Representations of Nourishment and Female Bodies in Holocaust Art.” In Goldthwaite, Melissa, ed. *Food, Feminisms, Rhetorics*. Southern Illinois University Press, 2017.

**Lyndy Beckley**, nursing lecturer, published “Influenza vaccines and nurses: Find out how to improve influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers.” *American Nurse Today*, 12(9), 46-50.

**Victor Berardi**, associate professor of management and information systems, co-presented “Integrating Data Visualization and Process Automation Tools into Business Courses” at the EDSIG Conference in Austin, Texas, Nov. 4-8, 2017.

**Sebastian Birch**, associate professor of music, composed “14 Juillet 2016” for violin solo, which was performed in front of the 2017 ATM/CMS Conference in San Antonio, Oct. 25-29, 2017.

**Greg Blundell**, associate professor of management and information systems, presented “A Narrative Approach for Teaching Computer Skills and Decision-Making Practices” and co-presented “Integrating Data Visualization and Process Automation Tools into Business Courses” at the EDSIG Conference in Austin, Texas, Nov. 4-9, 2017.

**Brian Chopko**, associate professor of justice studies,  
 » Presented “Trauma-Related Sleep Problems and Associated Health Outcomes in Police Officers: A Path Analysis” and “Relationships Regarding Different Types of Traumatic Experiences, PTSD Symptoms, and Post-traumatic Growth for Police Officers: A Path Analysis” at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies in Chicago, Nov. 8-12, 2017.

» Published “The Role of Moral Suffering (Moral Distress and Moral Injury) in Police Compassion Fatigue and PTSD: An Unexplored Topic”; *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8, 1-5.

» Published “Walk in balance: The compassionate warrior”; *Black & Gold*, Volume III, Issue 10.

» Published “Practicing A mindfulness to reduce stress”; *Black & Gold*, Volume III, Issue 11.

**Jennifer Cunningham**, associate professor of English,  
 » Presented “The Ecologically Interdependent Nature of Digital African-American Language” at the Conference on Community Writing in Boulder, Colorado, Oct. 19-22, 2017.

» Published “African American language is not good English.” In Loewe, D. M. & Ball, C. E. (Eds.), *Bad ideas about writing* (pp. 88-92). Morgantown, West Virginia: West Virginia University Libraries, 2017.

**Amy Damrow**, assistant professor of education,

» Presented “Learning to Engage Real People in All Their Diversity: Dialogue among Preservice Teachers” at The Learner Conference at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, July 17-22, 2017.

» Presented “Employing Distance Media Tools to Facilitate Diversity Dialogue” at The Learner Conference at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, July 17-22, 2017.

» Published “Maybe you have to be friends to be nakama: School friends and cultural logics in the United States and Japan”; *Journal of Family Diversity in Education*, 2(4), 42-62.

**Patrick Dillon**, assistant professor of communication studies,

» Presented “African Americans and End-of-Life Care: Integrating Hospice Experiences into Family Caregiving Narratives” at the American Public Health Associate Annual Meeting and Expo in Atlanta, Nov. 6-7, 2017.

» Presented “African American Women Living with HIV/AIDS: A Culture-Centered Exploration of Motherhood and Self-Care” at the National Communication Association in Dallas, Nov. 17-18, 2017.

**Kim Finer**, professor of biological sciences, presented “Giving an ASM Branch Update – as Regional Branch Coordinator” at the Ill. Soc. of MBI Fall Meeting in Oak Brook, Illinois; E Penn MBI Symposium in Philadelphia; Ky-Tenn MBI meeting at Tenn Tech University, in Cookeville, Tennessee, Nov. 6-12, 2017.

**Kim Garchar**, associate professor of philosophy, presented “On Teaching Josiah Royce” at the Summer Institute in American Philosophy in Eugene, Oregon, June 9-16, 2017.

**Mary Gallagher**, assistant professor of sociology,

» Published “Obligatory and Voluntary Identity Discrepancies, Self-Evaluation, and Psychological Distress.” *Society and Mental Health* 7(2): 51-68.

» Published “The Role of Aspirations and Obligations in Explaining the Relationship between Identity Discrepancies and Psychological Distress.” *Sociological Perspectives* 60(6): 1019-1038.

**Marie Gasper-Hulvat**, assistant professor of art,

» Presented “Remote Service Learning: Bringing the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art to Ohio” at SECAC in Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 26-28, 2017.

» Presented “Pavel Kuznetsov and the Representation of Peasant Women in the 1920s and 1930s,” at the ASEES Conference in Chicago, Nov. 8-13, 2017.

» Published “Active Learning in Art History: A Review of Formal Literature,” *Art History Pedagogy and Practice* 2:1, (1).

» Published, along with Salem Campus Dean David Dees and Kent Campus Academic Program Coordinator Anthony Shreffler, “Reacting to the Past: Eliciting Meaningful Engagement in Art History Survey Courses,” *Playing to Learn with Reacting to the Past: Research on High Impact, Active Learning Practices*, ed. C. Edward Watson and Thomas Chase Hagood (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2017) 113-125.

» Presented “Examining Recent Research on High Impact, Active Learning Practices like Reacting to the Past” at American Association of Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C., Jan. 25-26, 2018.

**Claudia Gomez**, assistant professor of management and information systems, presented “The Role of Human Capital on Female Immigrant Entrepreneurship in the U.S.” at the annual Midwest Academy of Management Conference in Chicago, Oct. 19-21, 2017.

**Leslie Heaphy**, associate professor of history,

» Presented “Larry Doby: Reluctant Hero” at the Midwest Popular Culture Association in St. Louis, Oct. 18-22, 2017.

» Published “New York Mets Team Ownership History”; Society for American Baseball Research; November 2017.

» Published “Joan Whitney Payson: A Pioneer for the New York Mets”; *The National Pastime*, Summer 2017.

» Published *Black Ball 9: New Research in African American Baseball History*; NC: McFarland Publishing Co., Inc.; September 2017.

» Published “Ethel Posey” in *Bittersweet Goodbye: The Black Barons, the Grays, and the 1948 Negro League World Series*; Frederick Bush and Bill Nowlin, eds.; Society for American Baseball Research, July 2017.

**Erin Hollenbaugh**,

associate professor of communication studies,

» Presented “Building Community on the Commuter Campus: Discussing Strategies for Faculty and Students” at the Ohio Communication Association in Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 5-7, 2017.

» Presented “Applying the uses and gratifications model to 2DG social media use: Exploring the Impact of Contextual Age and Motives on Social Media Dependency and Addiction” at the National Communication Association in Dallas, Nov. 16-19, 2017.

» Published “Surveys” (Ch. 11) and “Regression” (Ch. 12). In R. M. L. Curnalia (Ed.). *Research methods for communication professionals*. Toronto: TopHat, 2017.

**Matthew Hollstein**, assistant professor of education,

» Made several presentations, including: “Marginalized Voices: Giving Voice to the Voiceless”; “Rick Steves’ Iran: Pathways to Global Understanding”; “Equal Protection, Immigration, and Education during a Trump Presidency: Plyler v. Doe”; and “U.S. and South Korean Exchange: Improving Global Understanding in Education” at the National Council for the Social Studies in San Francisco, Nov. 15-18, 2017.

» Presented “Eaarth is Misspelled: Teaching about Controversial Environmental Issues in Social Studies” at the annual conference of the Ohio Council for the Social Studies at the University of Cincinnati, in Cincinnati, Sept. 25, 2017.

**A. Bathi Kasturiarachi**, associate professor of mathematics, presented “Mathematical modeling of constant-yield harvesting of whales,” at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, Nov. 22, 2017.

**Matt Lehnert**, associate professor of biological sciences,

» Published along with \*K.E. Reiter, \*A. Bennett, P.D. Gerard, Q.-H. Wei, \*M. Byler, H. Yan, W.-K. Lee. "The ingestion of fluorescent, magnetic nanoparticles for determining fluid-uptake abilities in insects." *Journal of Visualized Experiments*, 2017.

» Published along with \*V.R. Kramer, J.E. Rawlins, V. Verdecia, and J.C. Daniels. "Jamaica's critically endangered butterfly: A review of the biology and conservation status of the Homerus swallowtail (*Papilio (Pterourus) homerus Fabricius*)." *Insects*, 2017.

(\*indicates undergraduate students)

**Chih-Ling Liou**, assistant professor of human development and family studies, presented "Exploring Staff Perceptions of People with Dementia at Adult Day Services (ADS) in Taiwan" at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics in San Francisco, July 22-26, 2017.

**Keith Lloyd**, associate professor of English,

» Published "Early Nyāya Logic: Rhetorical Aspects"; Handbook of Logical Thought in India. Edited by Sundar Sarokai. (Jonardon Ganeri, section editor); Springer Publications, 2017.

**Ann Martinez**, assistant professor of English, presented "The Once and Future Hero: King Arthur's New Role as Street Thug" at the Mid-America Medieval Association in Kansas City, Missouri, Sept. 15-17, 2017.

**Jack McWhorter**, associate professor of art,

» Invited Group Painting Exhibition "Life on Earth" curated by Cornelia Jensen, WAH Center, Brooklyn, New York, May 20 - June 11, 2017.

» Solo Painting Exhibition "Slow Formations" curated by Shazzi Thomas, The Painting Center, New York, May 23 - June 17, 2017.

» Interview for curated painting exhibition. Carter-Burden Gallery, New York, Nov. 2-3, 2017.

» Solo Painting Exhibition "Delen van een Geheel / Parts of a Whole" curated by Francis Smets, New Gallery of the Cultural and Community Center, Leuvan, Belgium, Nov. 18-30, 2017.

» Solo Painting Exhibition "Engraved Fields," curated by Thomas Wachunas, Canton Museum of Art" in Canton, Dec. 7 - March 4, 2018.

**Robert Miltner**, professor of English,

» Presented readings from his new work written during a creative activity grant at the Oceanfront Writers Festival in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Oct. 27-30, 2017.

» Presented "Put a Little Sugar in My Bowl: Songs and Poems Not Just About Eating" at the Other Words Florida Literary Arts Coalition Conference in Tampa, Florida, Oct. 12-15, 2017.

» Presented "When they are French": Dérangement in Carole Maso's Aureole" at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers conference at the University Bordeaux Montaigne, in Bordeaux, France, June 20- July 11, 2017.

**Deepraj Mukherjee**, associate professor of economics, presented "Capturing the markets of the emerging countries: The case analysis with Amazon India" at the seventh International Conference on Restructuring of the Global Economy (ROGE), University of Oxford, Oxford, England, July 1-6, 2017.

**Mark Nowakowski**, assistant professor of music

» Presented the "Blood, Forgotten" project, composed by Mark Nowakowski at the University of Memphis, Open Recording Session & Research, in Memphis, Tennessee, Nov. 9-10, 2017. Also, recorded the trio "Reaching" with UM faculty at the University of Memphis.

» Released CD of original string works, "Blood, Forgotten"; Naxos label, 2017.

» Composed original music soundtrack, "Discovering Tolkien", a documentary; aired nationally, November 2017.

**Christopher Post**, associate professor of geography, published "Making Place through the Memorial Landscape"; Chapter 5 in Explorations in Place Attachment, ed. Jeffrey S. Smith. Routledge, 2017.

**Janet Reed**, College of Nursing lecturer, presented "Whistleblowing: An Ethical Dilemma" at the Walsh University Nursing Research Day in North Canton, Oct. 20, 2017.

**Oliver Ruff**, assistant professor of mathematics, presented "Higher-dimensional Darboux Transformations and Solitons" at the American Mathematical Society Fall Eastern Sectional Meeting in Buffalo, New York, Sept. 15-17, 2017.

**Paula Sato**, assistant professor of French, presented "Aimé Césaire on the History of Colonization" at the American Association of Teachers of French in St. Louis, July 15-19, 2017.

**Carrie Schweitzer**, professor of geology, presented "Volcanic Ash and Exceptional Fossil Preservation: Insights into Taphonomy and Early Diagenesis" and "Utility of Nodexl in Investigating Paleocology and Paleobiogeography of Fossil Decapod Crustaceans" at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in Seattle, Oct. 20-28, 2017.

**James Seelye**, associate professor of history, presented "Forced Intentional Communities: Great Lakes Indian Gatherings in the 19th Century" at the Communal Studies Association in Zoar, Ohio, Oct. 7, 2017.

**Greg Smith**, assistant professor of biological sciences, presented "Nesting Success of Hooded Warblers in Exotic Shrubs: Multi-Trophic Interactions in the Forest Understory" at the American Ornithology 2017: American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists in East Lansing, Michigan, Aug. 2-4, 2017.

**Jay Sloan**, associate professor of English, presented "Delay Tactics": Tutoring in the Age of Alternative Facts and Emotional Truths and LGBTQ SIG" at the International Writing Centers Association Conference in Chicago, Nov. 10-13, 2017.

**Paul Sommer**, assistant professor of communication studies,

» Presented "The Communicative Accomplishment of Knowledge Work in the Construction Industry" at the National Communication Association in Dallas, Nov. 15-19, 2017.

**Lindsay Starkey**, assistant professor of history, presented "Water and the Relationship between God and People in 16th-Century Christian Exegeses of the Book of Genesis" at the 16th Century Society and Conference in Milwaukee, Oct. 25-29, 2017.

**Don Thacker**, associate lecturer of marketing,

» Served as a coach and judge at the International Collegiate Selling Competition in Orlando, Florida, Nov. 1-5, 2017.

» Served as an advisor and judge at the Pi Sigma Epsilon Regional Conference in Southfield, Michigan, Oct. 13-15, 2017.

» Presented "Preparing your classroom for Generation Z" at the 2017 Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) conference in Tiffin, Ohio, May 15-16, 2017.

**Scott Tobias**, associate professor of human development and family studies, presented "Professionalization of the CFLE Credential: Academic and Practitioner Task Data" at the National Council on Family Relations in Orlando, Florida, Nov. 14-18, 2017.

**Relja Vulcanovic**, professor of mathematics, presented "Efficiency of Grammars for Natural Languages" at the Efficiency in Complex Systems in Cancun, Mexico (virtual participation), Sept. 21, 2017.

**Lisa Waite**, senior lecturer of communication studies

» Participated on a panel presenting "Advancing Workplace Engagement" at the National Communication Association in Dallas, Oct. 14-18, 2017. The panel won Best Panel in the Organizational Training and Development Division. Waite also presented "Leadership Legacy" at the conference.

» Published "You Had Me at 'You're Fired.'" Learning and Managing the Struggles Associated with Termination. In S. Dayan and H. Waldorf (Eds.); *Modern Aesthetics*; Wayne, Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr Publishers, June 2017.

» Published Handbook of Communication Training Demonstrating Communication Proficiency. In D. Becker and J.D. Wallace (Eds.); Training and Development Best Practices; New York: Taylor & Francis, November 2017.

» Published "A Communication Internship: Don't Leave School Without It!"; Chapter in Foundations course textbook; Kent State University Press, August 2017.

**Lori Wilfong**, associate professor of education, presented "Content Area Writing that Works: Do this, Not that!" at the Ohio Middle Level Association in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 2-3, 2017, and at the Association for Middle Level Education in Philadelphia, Nov. 6-7, 2017.

**Haithem Zourrig**, assistant professor of marketing,

» Published "Consumers' motivations and roles in rooting for or against underdog consumer." *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 42(1), 164-172.

» Published "Image transfer from malls to stores and its influence on shopping values and mall patronage: The role of self-congruity." *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*, 39, 208-218.

» Published "How Twitter challenged McDonald's Japan's 40-year honeymoon with its customers." *Research Journal of the Institute for Public Relations*, 3(2), 1-17.

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