

SPRING/SUMMER 2018 | Transformed KSU | Kent Blossom Turns 50 | 100 Years of Homecoming | Age of Anxiety

KENT STATE

M A G A Z I N E

Empowered by Education

The pursuit of education helped Rwandan genocide survivor Pacifique Niyonzima find family and focus in America. Now, this Kent State grad student's purpose is to empower young people through higher education.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2018

On the cover: Kent State graduate student Pacifique Niyonzima is empowering young people. See page 18.

COVER PHOTO: MELISSA OLSON

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Take Note

It seems everywhere we look, Kent State University is marking another milestone.

Fifty years ago, the Kent Campus was reflecting its times. A forward-thinking partnership with The Cleveland Orchestra and their summer home at Blossom Music Center, which began in 1968, echoed a growing emphasis in the culture on the visual and performing arts.

The protracted war in Vietnam and growing civil rights movements in the late 60s prompted students to protest war and racism and promote peace and equality. At Kent State, the activism of Black United Students, founded in 1968, helped bring about new and needed programs.

With all this looking back, the university is also looking forward. It is putting in place plans to transform the Kent Campus and surrounding community and to provide more programs that will help students succeed. For one thing hasn't changed—the power of education to transform lives.

On a lighter note, many of you enjoyed our hidden squirrel contest, so we are holding it again. (See page 2 for the previous winner and squirrel locations.) Just like in the winter issue, we've hidden a small image of a black squirrel in three places on the following pages. Those who find it qualify for a drawing to win a prize. It will appear like this:  (shown actual size and it will not be distorted or rotated).

If you find it, send us an email at magazine@kent.edu, listing the three page numbers and places it appears, plus your name and mailing address. For rules and eligibility requirements see www.kent.edu/magazine/rules. Good luck!



FEEDBACK

And the WINNER is...

We've heard that our hidden squirrel contest was fun for many and frustrating for some! Out of 175 submissions, 159 correct ones were entered in the random drawing (see photo at right). Congratulations to **Linda Janosko, BS '71, MA '81**, Mentor, Ohio—the lucky winner of a gift card for Laurello Vineyards!

For those still wondering, the black squirrel can be found in the winter 2018 issue on pages 13 (lower right photo, sitting on the rail to the left of the wine bottle), 21 (sitting on the railing above the plant with the red leaves) and 34 (upper photo, sitting on the street, below the bicycle at the far right).

Thanks to all who entered!



via MAIL

What a Ride

[Looking at Flashback, "Slide On," winter 2018], brought back memories of the winters of 1957-8 and 1958-9. My partner in mischief—Elaine G. from Akron, Ohio—and I enjoyed sliding down the hill in front of our dorm, Lowry Hall. The hill was steep and full of large trees and many roots! It was a bumpy ride, but fun.

I have been proud of Kent State for the great research they have done in the past, and I look forward to the great new discoveries in the future ["The Next Big Thing," winter 2018].

KAREN ZEIGLER FOX, BS '61
Spring Lake, Mich.



Popular Photo Spot

The photo on page 32 of [Bea McPherson] sitting on the tree in front of Rockwell Hall ["On the Map," winter 2018], is similar to one taken of my wife, Liz, and me at the same tree in 1949 after we were married (a highlight of my 93 years). I was a veteran of WWII, and she was secretary to the head librarian, whose lower windows in Rockwell Hall face the camera. Liz, who passed away in 2012, encouraged giving back to the university—we were members of the Herrick Society and sent two children to Kent State.

JOHN MCGINLEY, BBA '50
Clearwater, Fla.

via EMAIL

Squirrel Spotter

What a great contest. Very tricky hiding those black squirrels. Thanks for the fun! I love reading the magazine from cover to cover every time I receive it, but this one was especially entertaining. It's a classy and informative publication.

JEFFREY WOOD, BBA '77
Warren, Ohio

Financial Concerns

I am an independent financial planner, and I noticed a couple errors in the "Optimal Aging" article [winter 2018]. First, the annual gift limit in 2018 is actually \$15,000, not \$14,000. Second, the Medicaid spend down for a single person does include his/her home. And third, I disagree that long-term care insurance should only be purchased in your 40s or 50s or through an employer-sponsored plan. In my opinion, purchasing long-term care insurance should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

TERRY RIFFLE, BBA '86
Louisville, Ohio

EDITOR'S NOTE: The article was written in late 2017, when the annual gift limit was \$14,000, but we should have added "as of 2017" to clarify. In general, if a home serves as the principal place of residence it is exempt from Medicaid spend down; however, later circumstances could force the sale of the home. And while we agree that insurance decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, economics literature generally shows that private long-term care insurance is unaffordable for the majority of Americans, according to Dr. Nadia Greenhalgh-Stanley, KSU associate professor of economics.

We hope the article, which was meant to be a quick overview, encourages more people to talk with financial planners early on, before they need a nursing home.

Map View

I enjoyed the article on Bea McPherson ["On the Map," winter 2018]. The title caught my attention since I majored in geography and work in the mapping software industry. Bea's story was fantastic and the accolades that she has earned are well deserved.

CHARLIE MAGRUDER, BA '92
Saint Charles, Mo.

Looking Ahead

I just want to tell you how much I enjoyed my latest issue. What is on the horizon for the sciences ["The Next Big Thing," winter 2018] left me speechless. And as I read the financial advice for people my age ["Optimal Aging"], I discovered how much of it applied to me. Now that I am in charge of the finances, I found it very helpful.

BARBARA LEWIS, BA '62
Winchester, Va.

Wine Wishes

I enjoy the diverse articles in your publication and am always impressed and inspired with all that is going on across the Kent State campuses. Being a wine enthusiast, I found, "A Vintage Year" [winter 2018] to be very interesting, and I look forward to someday trying your label.

MISSY IANNELLI
Mason, Ohio

We want to hear from you!

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The Road Ahead

At **Kent State University**, we are committed to transforming lives and communities through the power of discovery, learning and creative expression in an inclusive environment.

Guided by that mission, we have developed a new Kent Campus facilities master plan—approved by the Board of Trustees in March—that looks ahead over the next decade and brings to life our commitment to an engaged and vibrant living-learning community.

Shaped by the many voices that care deeply about the vision and direction of Kent State, this 10-year plan will touch every college on the Kent Campus and strengthen our connection to our home city of Kent.

A tireless planning team worked for 18 months to envision a bold and engaging framework that reflects the priorities and preferences of the community—and provides a roadmap for the dynamic transformation of our Kent Campus.

The new facilities master plan will enhance our sense of place with new interior and exterior spaces, revitalize mature facilities sensitively and sustainably and promote the pursuit of innovation in all our efforts.

Building improvements and purpose-built classrooms, studios and labs will better serve the needs of students, faculty, staff and the community. In addition, we intend to create a more beautiful, walkable environment that will energize our landscape and elevate our Kent Campus on a national level. The plan represents the university's continued commitment to a students-first environment, a top priority that we build upon every day.

For the first phase of the plan's implementation, the proposed College of Business Administration building will serve as an anchor as we extend our iconic Front Campus to include a Main Street gateway to the university, additional green spaces and a new parking deck.

Transformative projects like these will invigorate curiosity and champion collaboration across our community, sparking purposeful learning and creativity that will make a difference in lives and communities.

We have much to celebrate. Together, there is no telling how far we will go.

Beverly J. Warren, President

Email: president@kent.edu, Twitter: @PresBWarren

presidential PERSPECTIVES

We intend to create
a more beautiful,
walkable environment
that will **ENERGIZE** our
landscape and **ELEVATE**
our Kent Campus on a
national level.



Beverly Warren @PresBWarren • April 9
Congratulations @KSUFlashathon for another outstanding year supporting Akron Children's Hospital #KSUForTheKids. We have great partners. Thanks @JeffreyHord and @AkronChildrens

Showers Center for Child Cancer & Blood Disorders @ACHShowersCtr
Some fun with signage from @PresBWarren and @JeffreyHord #Flashathon2018 #KSUForTheKids

Beverly Warren @PresBWarren • Mar 20
Great to see you. Keep your eyes on the road ahead. The best is yet to come.

Aaron Berger @AaronM Berger
It may not seem like a big deal, but I saw @PresBWarren at a stoplight on my way to work, and it completely changed my outlook for today. Here's to a productive day Dr. Warren!

flash **FORWARD**

Economic Engine

Kent State University drives the region’s economy in nearly every sector of industry. From FedEx to Medical Mutual to Sherwin-Williams and the Cleveland Indians, Kent State graduates are making a dynamic impact and shaping lasting contributions across Northeast Ohio. Every day, Kent State and its graduates—including 109,000 alumni living in Ohio—are improving the quality of life for this region and, in the process, churning billions annually into the economy.

Those are the findings of a recently released report by EY (formerly known as Ernst & Young) outlining results of a comprehensive, independent study of Kent State’s economic and fiscal contributions to local communities, the Northeast Ohio region and the state of Ohio.

The study shows that Kent State is a powerful economic engine, directly contributing more than \$1 billion annually to the Northeast Ohio region’s prosperity. When coupled with the earnings of the Kent State alumni living in Northeast Ohio and throughout Ohio, the university’s annual economic impact on the region soars to nearly \$3.4 billion and more than \$3.8 billion statewide.

“Kent State contributes to a thriving Northeast Ohio community and demonstrates the value of higher education to the region and state economies,” says Kent State University President Beverly Warren.

The economic report is good news for businesses in Portage County, says Kent City Manager Dave Ruller. “There are a lot of smiling businesses in this community and all over Northeast Ohio that are pleased with those numbers,” Mr. Ruller says, noting that the award-winning revitalization of downtown Kent would not have been possible if the city and the university did not believe that Kent’s downtown matters to their shared future.

The transformational power of Kent State also has a significant impact on the future earnings of KSU graduates living in the 18-county Northeast Ohio region—in 2017 they earned \$2.4 billion more than they would have without their degrees, and more than \$930 million of that added wealth rests in Portage and Cuyahoga counties.



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS: Kent City Manager Dave Ruller and Kent State President Beverly Warren discuss the university’s new economic impact study during a press conference unveiling the report on February 26, 2018. “Sharing this data is creating a solid foundation for the future transformation of both the university and the city of Kent,” says President Warren.

The fact that so many Kent State alumni remain in the region to pursue their passions only elevates the importance of Kent State as an educational and economic anchor for Northeast Ohio.”

PRESIDENT BEVERLY WARREN

KSU’S **\$3.4 BILLION** IMPACT

241,000
alumni worldwide

92,300
alumni in Northeast Ohio

\$2.4 BILLION
added income that Kent State
alumni earned with their degree

6,500
employees of
Kent State University

5,300
jobs supported by Kent State

\$550 MILLION
of income from those jobs

\$60 MILLION
in state and local taxes paid,
including income and sales taxes

Impact by County
with KSU regional campuses,
including alumni earnings:

\$92 MILLION
Ashtabula

\$185.8 MILLION
Geauga

\$122.7 MILLION
Trumbull

\$381.7 MILLION
Stark

\$106 MILLION
Columbiana

\$61.7 MILLION
Tuscarawas

List Girl

Last year, senior Kelsey Merritt attempted to break a Guinness World Record by assembling a team of volunteers to create the world’s largest mural painted entirely by bare feet—measuring 26,787 square feet—on the Kent State Commons during Homecoming 2017. She’s still waiting to hear back from the organization.

The effort was item number 116, “Be part of a world record,” on her bucket list, which started with 25 items required for a high school project. “I loved the dreaming, planning and doing that went into each goal,” she says, so she kept on adding to her list. It has now grown to over 400 items, with 184 and counting crossed off.

“The list is more than reaching certain goals before ‘kicking the bucket,’ but is a way to live your best life now,” she writes on her blog, It’s List Girl, which she hopes will persuade others to join her in dreaming big.

“Making a bucket list is a way to knock out the typical 9-to-5 lifestyle and find what really lights your heart on fire. Dreaming means connecting with other dreamers and learning from one another. If we all took the time to go after our dreams without any fear, can you imagine how beautiful this place would be?”

A study abroad trip to India last year helped her cross off several more items on her list—including “Ride an elephant,” “Visit the Taj Mahal” and

Each day we can make the decision to be our best selves and, in turn, we make the world around us that much better.”

KELSEY MERRITT, BS '18

“Get a henna tattoo” among the 27 she completed in 2017 (see list below).

However, at the Taj Mahal she noticed the grounds were littered with the paper booties everyone was required to place over their shoes when entering the temple. There were no trash cans for visitors to dispose of the booties after leaving, so many just ripped them off and left them behind.

Kelsey Merritt was stunned to see piles of trash covering a wonder of the world, so she and the group she was with picked it up and disposed of it elsewhere. “I’m certain the piles accumulated once again after we left, but my heart felt lighter,” she says. “And the Taj Mahal isn’t the only place covered in trash—it’s everywhere!”

She travels because it’s her passion, but she feels guilty about her carbon footprint. Now she’s vowed to pick up trash everywhere she goes.

“In one year, we have 365 days to make a difference,” she notes in an end-of-year-review blog post. “Each day we can make the decision to be our best selves and, in turn, we make the world around us that much better.

“I plan to make 2018 my year of intention. As I graduate from college and turn another chapter in my life, I want to take the lessons from 2017



and act on them. I want to wake up each day and ask, ‘How am I going to give my best today?’”

Kelsey Merritt, BS '18, graduated in May with a major in fashion merchandising and a double minor in marketing and sustainability. To learn more, visit www.itslistgirl.com.

Bucket List Items Kelsey Merritt **COMPLETED** in 2017

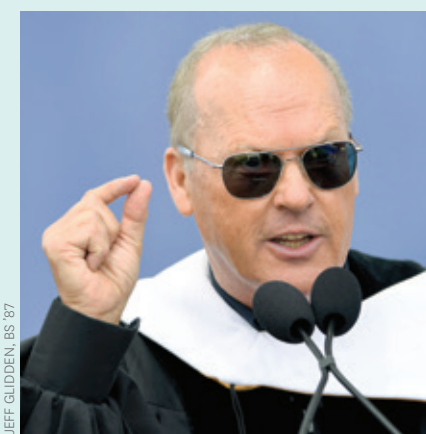
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Tried aerial yoga | 11. Went on a mission trip | 20. Attempted to break a world record |
| 2. Kayaked the Colorado River | 12. Climbed a volcano | 21. Read the entire Bible |
| 3. Flew a trapeze | 13. Gave a perfect speech | 22. Jumped off a pier |
| 4. Soaked in a natural hot spring | 14. Went backpacking | 23. Rode in a rickshaw |
| 5. Learned to surf | 15. Slept in a hammock | 24. Swam in bioluminescent water |
| 6. Drank from a coconut | 16. Rock climbed outside | 25. Got a henna tattoo |
| 7. Rode an elephant | 17. Witnessed a solar eclipse | 26. Attended a Muay Thai fight |
| 8. Went to the Taj Mahal | 18. Had a star named after me | 27. Cooked a traditional dish from another country |
| 9. Went whitewater rafting | 19. Extracted honey from a beehive | |
| 10. Was on a podcast | | |

The country needs you and your active work as a citizen now more than ever. . . . There are so many powerful forces trying to exploit what divides us that we need to remind ourselves of—and then teach—the core values of what unites us as Americans. . . . You cannot, must not, be intimidated or get distracted. For your work as a citizen is essential, noble work.”

DAN RATHER, journalist, former CBS *Evening News* anchor, and multimedia producer, Presidential Speaker Series, “An Evening with Dan Rather,” MAC Center, May 4, 2018



BOB CHRISTY, BS '95



JEFF GLIDDEN, BS '87

[While hitchhiking to Washington, D.C., from Kent State in 1971] I got picked up by a guy roughly my age, and we got to talking. . . . We were headed to the same place. The difference was he was in the National Guard, and I was going to protest the war in Vietnam. . . . He was going down to keep the peace, and I was going down to march for peace. We weren't that different, really.”

MICHAEL KEATON, Oscar-nominated actor, commencement speaker and recipient of an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at Dix Stadium, May 12, 2018

New College and Career Academies

This spring, 300 incoming freshmen at Akron's Firestone Community Learning Center high school visited the Kent Campus to explore firsthand what careers in the areas of design, graphic communication, the performing arts and advanced technology and comprehensive engineering have to offer.

The visit was one of the first events to come from Kent State's partnership with Akron Public Schools to open three new College and Career Academies that will focus on the above areas at Firestone for the 2018-19 school year.

Kent State is part of a growing number of area businesses and organizations that have partnered with Akron Public Schools after the school district was designated a Ford Next Generation Learning Community last May—joining a national network, supported by the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, that is transforming public high schools into career-themed

academies to better prepare students for college and professional success in today's competitive global economy.

School systems in the network develop robust ties with employers, which in turn, help generate a stronger talent-development pipeline for high-demand jobs and overall community prosperity.

“The earlier we show students all that higher education has to offer, the more we empower them with a desire for a college education and a successful career,” says President Beverly Warren, who adds that the partnership helps the university realize one of its core values of community engagement while serving as an innovation engine to enhance the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

Melody Tankersley, PhD, senior associate provost and dean of graduate studies at Kent State, says the partnership might take many forms, including internships for Akron



students and experiential learning opportunities for both Akron and Kent State students and teachers. “We will assist one another in developing problem-based learning experiences that will transform our respective educational programs,” she says.

The partnership will also transform lives.

“This is an ambitious project that will strengthen our schools, families and the future of our students for generations to come,” says David James, Akron Public Schools superintendent. “We are incredibly grateful to Kent State University for being one of our first partners to come forward and say, ‘We want to help.’”

“Sandy’s Scrapbook”

When Sandy Scheuer was killed on her way to class on May 4, 1970, she was a junior speech therapy major and honors student, a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and active in the local Jewish community. She was also a beloved daughter, sister, friend.

One of the four students killed and nine students wounded during the tragic events of May 4, she had a full life and a promising future—until it was cut short.

Nearly 50 years after Sandy Scheuer's death, her life is the focus of the first of four unique exhibitions to be presented on each of the four students by Kent State University's May 4 Visitors Center prior to the 50th anniversary of their deaths in 2020.

“The images used in the news coverage at the time are generally the way these four individuals are remembered, but there

were so many different sides to them,” says Mindy Farmer, PhD, director of the May 4 Visitors Center, who helped curate the exhibit with Larrie King, MFA '14, a KSU professor and creative director of Glyphix Studios—a student organization that designed the exhibit. “We felt it was our responsibility to tell more of their stories.”

The exhibit features ephemera from scrapbooks and other objects Sandy Scheuer kept over the course of her life that were donated by her family many years ago to the Ohio History Connection.

The assorted mementos—prom photos, notes from friends, family letters, concert programs, keepsakes—are displayed in large groupings: family, friends and time at Kent State. Many of her original labels on her scrapbooks remain, lending a personal feel to the presentation.

“As much as we could, we let Sandy chronicle her own life,” Dr. Farmer says. “Sandy had this guiding humor, she was very personable and that comes across through everything.”

The materials also inspired the exhibit's style and design, with colors and flowers taken from the scrapbook she kept during her time at Kent State. Students at Glyphix met with the Scheuer family while putting the exhibit together, which gave them a unique perspective on the impact of May 4.

“You could argue that these scrapbooks are similar to Instagram and Facebook today,” says Dr. Farmer. “Students who visit the exhibit find her a lot more relatable.”

For more information contact the May 4 Visitors Center at 330-672-4660 or visit www.kent.edu/May4.

updates on **MAY 4**

Worldwide Access to May 4 Archives:

Individuals from around the world have sought more information about the events that surround May 4, 1970.

To digitize some of the most used portions of the extensive May 4 Collection, Kent State University Libraries received a grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC). The two-year project—*Kent State Shootings: Actions and Reactions*—will digitally capture more than 35 cubic feet of materials (approximately 50,000 documents) to allow users from anywhere to explore the contents through free, online access.

“The NHPRC grant made it possible for us to add a significant amount of content to our May 4 digital repository, such as photographs, artwork, correspondence, flyers, posters and more,” says Lae'l Hughes-Watkins, university archivist.

The project team, led by Virginia Dressler, digital projects librarian, and Cara Gilgenbach, head of Special Collections and Archives, has already digitized more than 26 of the 35 collections and is scheduled to complete their task by September.

Access the materials at www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/nhprc.

Dedication of Landmark May 4 Site:

The 17-acre site on the Kent Campus where students clashed with the National Guard in 1970 was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010 and was declared a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in 2016.

Kent State officially recognized the landmark status during a dedication ceremony at the Kiva on May 4, 2018. It featured a keynote address by former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste and the unveiling of a plaque to be placed at the site by President Warren, members of the Kent State Board of Trustees, the May 4 Task Force and the National Park Service.



Transforming Kent State

Conceptual rendering of the proposed Main Street gateway to the Kent Campus

The new facilities master plan for the Kent Campus, to be completed over the next decade, will result in new buildings, improvements to existing buildings and parking, greater pedestrian access—and a signature new gateway to the university.

By Susan Menassa

First impressions carry a lot of weight, especially when prospective students shop for colleges. Some call it a feeling, others say they just knew the minute they arrived on campus. It is hard to pinpoint exactly what influences students' enrollment decisions, but one thing is certain—how a university rolls out its welcome mat can make all the difference.

In an effort to enhance that welcome, Kent State University earlier this year unveiled its Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State, a \$1 billion facilities master plan that will transform the look and feel of the iconic, front-facing entrance to the Kent Campus and elevate its presence both locally and well beyond Northeast Ohio.

The plan, to be implemented in three phases over the next 10 years, includes new building construction and renovations to existing structures that will add classrooms, studios and labs, plus more green space, sidewalks and bike trails. The transformation also will extend Front Campus along Main Street—removing two existing entrances and creating one signature gateway to the university at Midway Drive.

"We have always taken great pride in our Front Campus," says Kent State President Beverly Warren. "But you drive past, and it is over in a blink of an eye. With this plan in place, when you turn the corner onto Main Street and head toward Horning Road, you will see a transformed campus."

The plan, approved by Kent State's Board of Trustees in March, has been in development over the last two years. The university held a series of town hall and community meetings to help inform the process and gathered input from Kent State students, faculty and staff.

"We wanted it to be as inclusive as possible," President Warren says. "We held over 16 meetings and more than 500 community members attended those sessions, and we have taken into consideration all the suggestions offered."

The result is a plan that will forge a stronger bond with the city of Kent as well as prospective students. "President Warren's presentation of the master plan concepts to the Kent City Council is keeping the town/gown spirit energized and our momentum moving forward," says Kent City Manager Dave Ruller. "We are on the edge of the next round of transformative projects that will give the Kent community a chance to show, once again, that we do our best work when we work together, as we partner to keep our hometown vital,

What we are proposing is not just a transformed campus but a transformation of Main Street and the community, as well."

PRESIDENT BEVERLY WARREN

vibrant, and meaningful to residents, students, businesses and visitors for decades to come."

The plan aligns with the university's strategic priorities that President Warren outlined in 2015—putting students first, making a distinctive Kent State, increasing the university's global competitiveness, enhancing its regional impact and ensuring continuous and sustainable improvement of its resources and infrastructure.

"We are moving on an upward trajectory that means great things for Kent State and the surrounding community," President Warren says. "While we are talking about the Kent Campus in this plan, the regional campuses have their own master plans, governed by their unique resource

opportunities, and I congratulate each of them for ongoing projects that will improve their teaching and learning environments and welcome their surrounding communities."

The university is taking a unique approach to funding the first phase of this master plan, using a "P4" initiative—public-private partnerships through philanthropy.

The goal of this model is to keep the university from issuing debt by requiring prospective developers to add financing models to their design proposals, says Mark Polatajko, PhD, Kent State's senior vice president for finance and administration. Developers will be required to emphasize philanthropic donations as the primary revenue source, which helps offset project costs and the ongoing lease payments.

"Over half of the proposed funding for the Kent Gateway facilities master plan is expected to come from philanthropic support, as well as public-private partnerships," Dr. Polatajko says.

"Our board said 'let's be pragmatic, let's be prudent and let's utilize the strength of our financial position.' And that is what we are doing—we are using the unrealized market gains from a strong performance over the last 25 months to fund the university's portion."

Phase one is expected to cost \$240 million and be completed in 2020.

About \$30 million will come from the state capital budget, another \$63.4 million from university investments and the remaining \$127.4 million is to be funded from philanthropy and public-private partnerships.

The cornerstone of the first phase is the construction of a new College of Business Administration building, which will anchor the new gateway at Main Street and Midway Drive. ►

Four developers presented design proposals for the College of Business Administration building to university and community members in April, along with their plans for financing. The winning bidder will own the building, and the university will lease it from them under the P4 model. Construction is slated to begin by late 2018. (See page 22.)

Renovations to **White Hall** are also scheduled in the first phase, as is the creation of an Innovation Hub in the old School of Art Building, which will be renovated to include a lecture hall, studios, classrooms, makerspaces and dining.

The Starbucks/Captain Brady's building, an iconic Tudor structure on university-owned land at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets, will remain standing under the master plan. It will be renovated to facilitate innovation by creating a space where entrepreneurs from the city of Kent can engage with aspiring entrepreneurs at Kent State. Additional retail and meeting spaces, as well as an expansion of the esplanade between Haymaker Parkway and Rockwell Hall, will further connect the city and the university.

In addition to parking garages slated to replace surface lots, which will create more green space, President Warren says plans

call for a trolley system along Main Street to help alleviate traffic congestion and encourage people to walk and ride bikes.

As the first phase of the master plan gets underway later this year, Kent State's new front door will likely have its biggest impact on the those who make up the foundation of the university—its students.

"Students will be drawn to this," President Warren says. "What we are proposing is not just a transformed campus but a transformation of Main Street and the community, as well." ⚡

To learn more about the other phases of the Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State plan, visit www.atransformedksu.org.

GATEWAY TO A DISTINCTIVE KENT STATE

OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, Kent State University will undergo dynamic changes that will transform both the look and the operations of the institution. The conceptual rendering of the new Main Street gateway on pages 8 and 9 and the phase one project map on the right are draft illustrations designed to bring the vision of the Kent State master plan to life.

1 CONSOLIDATED MAIN STREET ENTRANCE

at Midway Drive will create a new signature gateway to the university's iconic front campus

2 NEW COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

(COBA) will anchor the new Main Street gateway; the building will be selected by a design competition and funded by a philanthropy-driven public/private partnership contract

3 MULTIUSE PARKING DECK STRUCTURE

across from the new COBA Building, which will be owned by the developer and leased to the university, will include retail and a welcome center to introduce visitors to the Kent Campus

4 WHITE HALL RENOVATIONS

will enhance the façade and create welcoming new entries that focus on the pedestrian experience

5 ROCKWELL HALL ADDITION/ RENOVATION

will add a 500-seat lecture hall complete with fashion runway, classrooms, sewing studios, collaboration and makerspaces, as well as faculty and staff office areas

6 INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIOS, INNOVATION ZONE AND RETAIL SPACE

will further connect the university to the city of Kent through a public/private partnership on university-owned land at Lincoln and Main streets. It will provide studios and makerspaces that also support the Fashion School and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design

7 KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT CLASSROOM BUILDING

will replace the "temporary" trailers at the airport, located northwest of the Kent Campus

8 INNOVATION HUB AND DINING SPACE

will transform the old School of Art Building into a Design and Innovation Center that includes a lecture hall, classrooms, studios and 24/7 makerspaces and dining

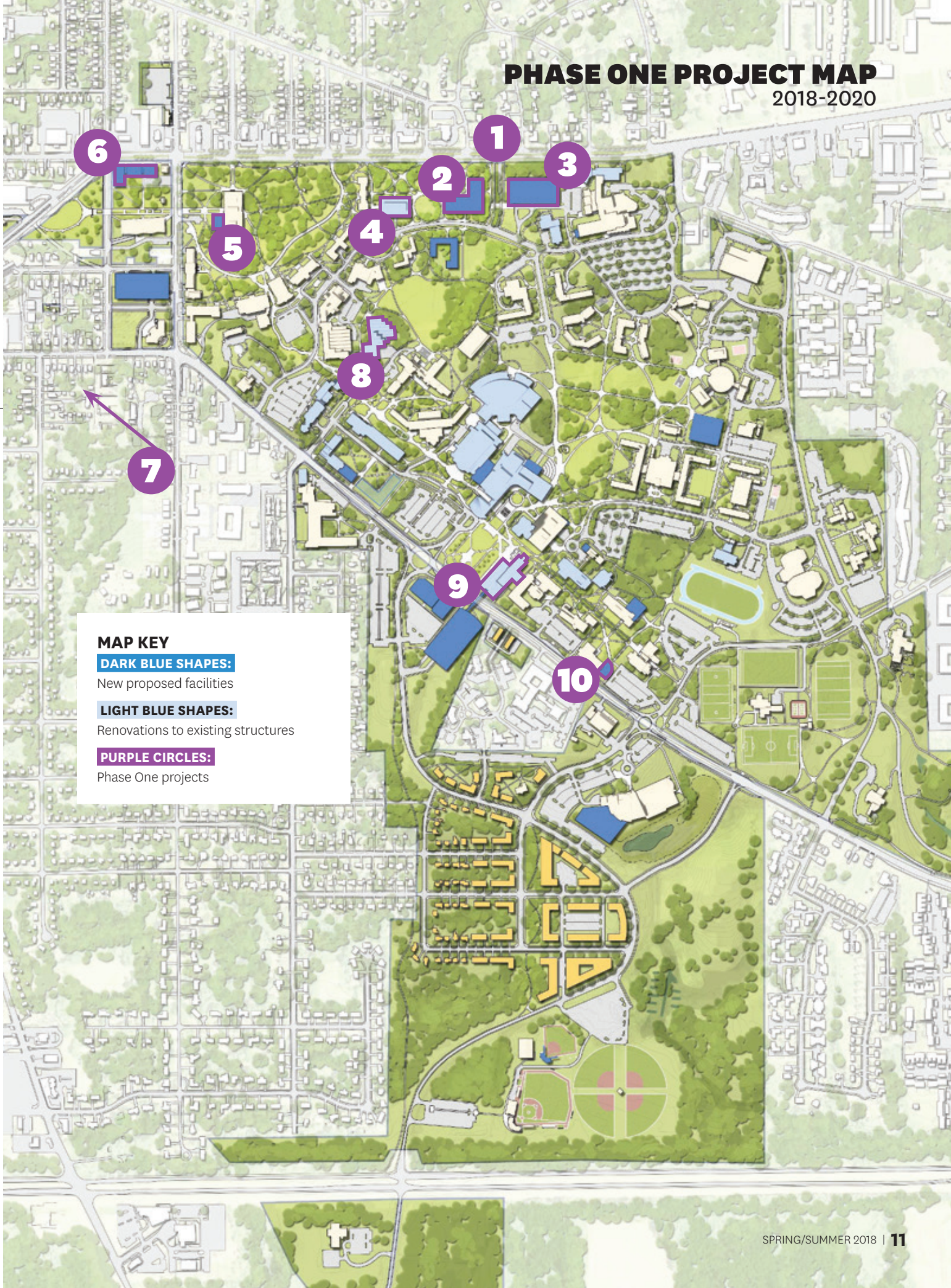
9 INTEGRATED SCIENCES BUILDING LAB

buildout will finish 13,500 square feet of basement space in the new building for additional labs

10 AERONAUTICS AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING ADDITION

will include a 150-seat lecture hall, classrooms, instructional and research labs and faculty offices that will enable Kent State to nearly double student enrollment and research in aerospace engineering and mechatronics

PHASE ONE PROJECT MAP 2018-2020

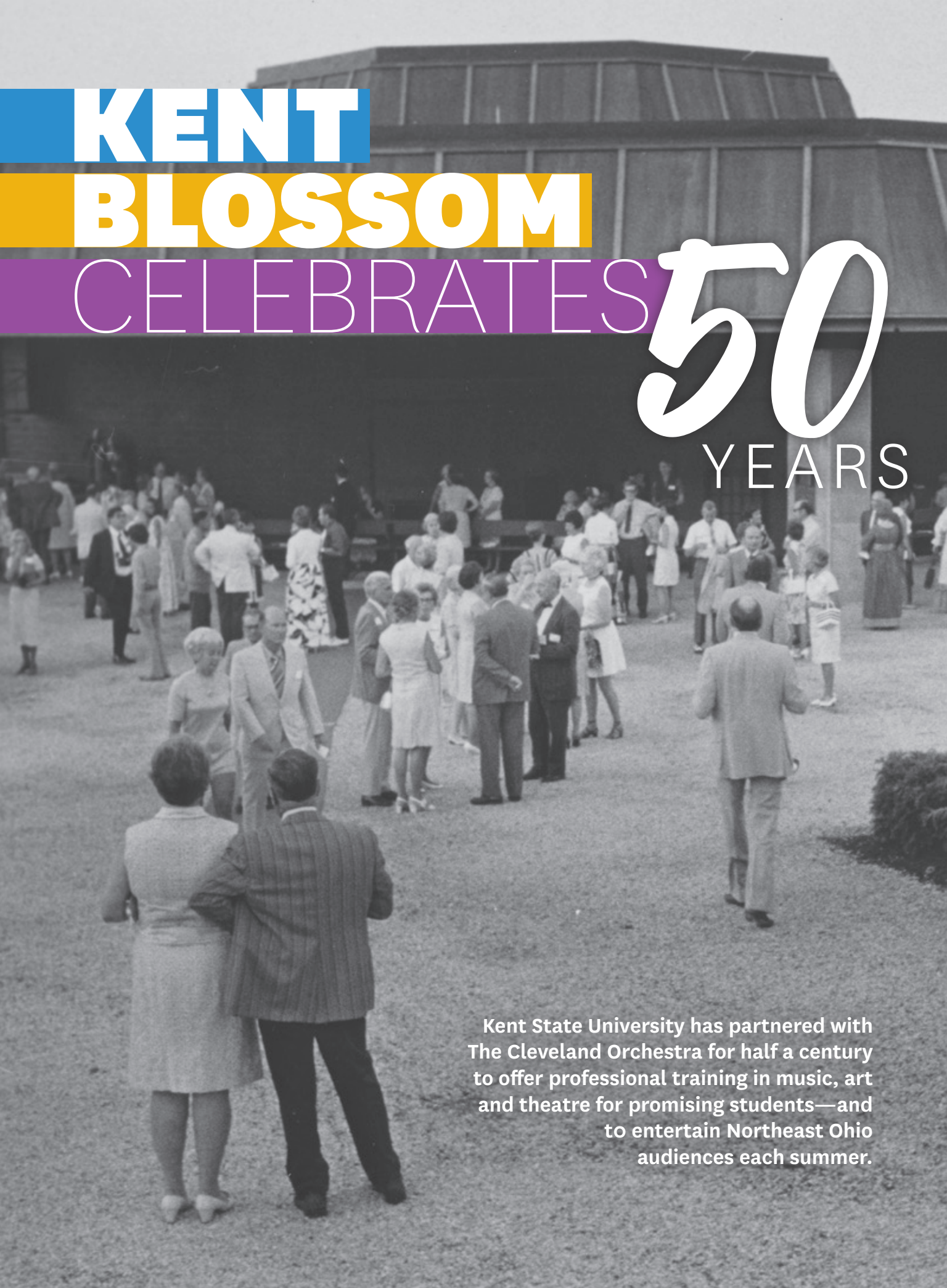


MAP KEY

DARK BLUE SHAPES:
New proposed facilities

LIGHT BLUE SHAPES:
Renovations to existing structures

PURPLE CIRCLES:
Phase One projects



KENT BLOSSOM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Kent State University has partnered with The Cleveland Orchestra for half a century to offer professional training in music, art and theatre for promising students—and to entertain Northeast Ohio audiences each summer.



LEFT: Patrons stand outside the Porthouse Theatre in the early 1970s.

ABOVE: Aerial view of the Porthouse construction site in 1970. Blossom Music Center can be seen in the upper right corner, named to honor the Dudley S. Blossom family, long-time orchestra supporters.

BELOW: Then Kent State University President Robert White walks the future site of Porthouse Theatre in 1969.



Fifty years ago, Kent State University's College of Fine and Professional Arts (now known as the College of the Arts) began a partnership with The Cleveland Orchestra's Musical Arts Association to develop a triad of Kent Blossom programs that serve as professional training workshops in the visual and performing arts.

The Kent Blossom partnership, first known as the Blossom Festival School, was started in 1968 when The Cleveland Orchestra, which also celebrates its centennial this year, moved to a new summer home at Blossom Music Center, designed by Cleveland architect Peter van Dijk.

A wide range of key individuals from the orchestra and from Kent State University came together and conceived of this unique and beneficial partnership.

The Kent Blossom programs—which currently encompass Kent Blossom Music Festival, Kent Blossom Art Intensives and Porthouse Theatre—provide advanced summer study and professional training programs in music, art and theatre held in conjunction with The Cleveland Orchestra's summer season at Blossom. Each program combines performance with education and joins working professionals with talented students to teach, explore and produce great art.

To this day, the Kent Blossom programs emphasize intensive, individualized study with prominent visiting master artists in music, visual arts and theatre. Visiting professionals have included successful artists from a variety of mediums and actors who have performed on impressive stages like Broadway and in major touring shows.

From its inception, the Kent Blossom Music Festival has included principal members of The Cleveland Orchestra, who coach and rehearse students. This important relationship between a public university and a premier performing ensemble has served as an inspiring model for other collaborations.

Kent State faculty from the Schools of Music, Art, and Theatre and Dance add their expertise as teachers and coaches, and each program also features a public exhibition or performance component that community audiences can enjoy.

Students are selected through national and international competitive

auditions, interviews and portfolio reviews. Undergraduate and graduate credit is available in all areas of study and scholarships are provided to many participants. The students stay in dorms on the Kent Campus or in private homes hosted by Kent community members. Student participants may also attend open rehearsals and concerts of The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom Music Center at no cost.

Kent Blossom Music Festival

participants do most of their rehearsing and intensive instruction at the Kent Campus, where they also present faculty concerts and chamber music concerts in Ludwig Recital Hall in the School of Music. Student recitals take place on the Kent Campus, in addition to locations in Hudson and Ravenna, and students also perform at Blossom Music Center.

Kent Blossom Art Intensives

are a series of two-week intensive art workshops for students and individual artists that are conducted each summer on the Kent Campus. Each workshop focuses on a specific medium, and visiting artists complement the instructional insights of resident faculty. Visiting artists also present public talks on their work, giving participants and the public an opportunity to learn more about contemporary issues and ideas in the visual arts.

Porthouse Theatre sets are

designed and built at Kent State, and much rehearsal takes place in the state-of-the-art facilities in the School of Theatre and Dance on the Kent Campus. During the week before the show opens (known as "tech week") the actors, the band and the scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers head out to Porthouse to rehearse on the actual stage where they will perform.

Each summer, through the production of more than 100 concerts, performances, exhibitions and lectures, the students' creative experiences are shared with eager audiences. Many Kent Blossom alumni have become significant contributors in the fields of music, art and theatre across the nation and around the world.

On the following pages, we celebrate Kent Blossom's 50th anniversary as we remember its bold past and look forward to its bright future. And we include a list of events, so you can join in the festivities this summer!

TIMELINE

Selected highlights from the fifty-year span of Kent Blossom

1968

The Blossom Festival School is founded at The Cleveland Orchestra's new summer home, Blossom Music Center

MUSIC

AARON COPLAND conducts a Blossom Festival school class



ART

Richard Anuszkiewicz, BS '56, leader in the op art movement, is the first visiting artist in painting

1969

MUSIC

The documentary *Sounds of Summer: The Blossom Music Center with Pierre Boulez* is released in August

1970

ART

ALEX KATZ, visiting artist in painting, holds a life-drawing class



1971

MUSIC

PIERRE BOULEZ rehearses the Blossom Music Festival School orchestra in Ludwig Recital Hall.



MUSIC

The world-renowned Emerson String Quartet appears on this year's Kulas Visiting Artist concert, July 18, 2018, in KSU's Ludwig Recital Hall. Pictured left to right: Eugene Drucker, Philip Setzer, Larry Dutton, Paul Watkins

ART



Visiting artist Dick Marquis, a pioneer of American contemporary glass art, teaches a Kent Blossom Art summer intensive workshop in 1981. One of the first Americans to work in a Venetian glass factory, he is a master of Venetian cane and murrine techniques.

“The experience I had at Kent Blossom not only prepared me well for college, it also led directly to my forming a string quartet a year later, which eventually became the Emerson String Quartet.”

PHILIP SETZER, KBMF '69, VIOLINIST

Kent Blossom Music Festival (KBMF) is the result of a unique partnership between Kent State University, The Cleveland Orchestra and Blossom Music Center. For 50 years, the festival has worked closely with members from The Cleveland Orchestra, as well as other world-renowned artists, to teach, coach and perform alongside the future generations of classical musicians.

The festival, originally known as the Blossom Festival School, brings together musicians of all ages, ranging from talented high school conservatory students to post-doctoral professionals.

Since its founding in 1968, more than 2,500 young artists and world class professionals have shared the nationally recognized Kent Blossom experience.

Alumni of the program have become prominent contributors in the field of music, holding positions in major orchestras, opera companies and conservatories throughout the United States and the world.

KBMF alumni perform for some of the world's most impressive organizations, including The Cleveland Orchestra, New

York Philharmonic, Atlanta Symphony, Boston Symphony and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, along with the Emerson, Euclid and Telegraph String Quartets, to name a few.

From July 1 to August 5, 2018, the Kent Blossom Music Festival will bring a select group of 43 young artists from around the globe together with principal members of The Cleveland Orchestra, KSU faculty and guest artists for five weeks of intensive chamber music study and performance at the professional level.

Students give free concerts at Kent State University and other community venues. They also perform on their own at Blossom Music Center, followed by a side-by-side concert with The Cleveland Orchestra that same evening.

This year's Kulas Visiting Artist concert will feature the award-winning Emerson String Quartet and Jerry Grossman, principal cellist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. In addition, five faculty concerts will feature alumni of the program for this 50th season. —Ricardo Sepulveda, BM '05, director of the Kent Blossom Music Festival

Visit www.kent.edu/blossom/concerts for concert pricing, dates and locations.

Kent State University's Kent Blossom Art Intensives program has a rich history as a pioneering and immersive visual art experience for students. Founded and directed by Harold Kitner, then professor of art and art history, the program was initially called the Blossom-Kent Art Program and was part of the Blossom Festival School, an intensive arts education initiative that included visual arts, music and theatre.

Since the inception of the program in 1968, resident School of Art faculty and an exciting array of visiting artists have conducted several intensive art workshops and public lectures on campus each summer, alternating between these disciplines: ceramics, drawing/painting, jewelry/metals/enameling, glass, sculpture, printmaking and textiles.

Artists specializing in cinematography, graphic design, illustration, performance, papermaking, computer art and book arts, as well as art historians and critics, also participated in the program during its fifty-year legacy.

Before a permanent space was built, art exhibitions were held in tents and outdoor sculptures were displayed on the

Blossom grounds. A gallery space, Eells Gallery, was built at Blossom Music Center in 1974, designed by architect Peter van Dijk. It was made possible through gifts from William H. Eells, one of the founders of Blossom Music Center and the first chairman of its Board of Governors, and the Ford Motor Co.

Eells Gallery exhibited artwork from the visiting artists who participated in the Kent Blossom Art program, and it also hosted artist talks throughout the summer.

Over the years, the School of Art Galleries and Collection (see page 20) acquired numerous artworks from these visiting artists for the collection.

Although some aspects of the program have changed over the years, many of the core values remain intact. The main objectives being “to provide for the infusion of new ideas and attitudes through the introduction of major visiting artists as teachers and to increase art exposure and motivation of the Kent students” in diverse classes of undergraduate, graduate and a selected group of non-Kent students and artists.

—Roza Maille, BFA '06

Visit www.kent.edu/kentblossomart for more information.

“I attended Blossom twice and taught at Blossom twice. I will never forget a conversation at a party with Alex Katz that inspired me. . . . I often refer to Blossom when I speak publicly as the place where I learned the significance of the social aspect of the arts.”

KEVIN HOGAN, ATTENDED KSU 1977–1979, PRINTMAKER

1971

THEATRE

PORHOUSE THEATRE is dedicated in July and puts on a production of *Idiot's Delight*



1972

ART

Visiting artist Will Hindle hosts a six-day film festival in August at Porthouse Theatre

1974

THEATRE

THE KENT STATE LIGHT OPERA COMPANY produces *The Mikado*, which plays to sold-out audiences



1975

ART

EELLS GALLERY opens; designed by architect Peter van Dijk, construction was completed in 1974



MUSIC

A 300-member Blossom Festival Chorus performs with The Cleveland Orchestra in Mahler's "Symphony No. 3" in July and Mendelssohn's "Witches' Sabbath" in August

1981
ART

DALE CHIHULY visiting artist, glass



1983
THEATRE

RAY WISE, BFA '69, performs at Porthouse in *Man of La Mancha*

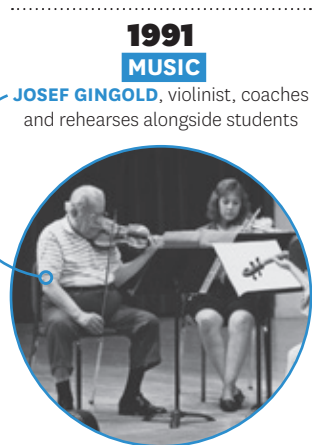


1985
MUSIC

Emerson String Quartet, visiting artists in residence

1986
ART

Ceramic artist Toshiko Takaezu speaks at the visiting artist lecture series



1991
MUSIC

JOSEF GINGOLD, violinist, coaches and rehearses alongside students



THEATRE

Terri Kent, artistic director of Porthouse Theatre since 2001, performs in *Hello, Dolly!* in 2011.

Founded in 1968, Porthouse Theatre is Northeast Ohio's premiere professional summer outdoor theatre.

Through the Kent Blossom Theatre program, Kent State University envisioned an education program, national in scope, that would provide professional-level training for actors, designers, technicians and managers in the context of a professional producing theatre—and high caliber cultural experiences for local audiences.

Within a 12-week period, students create a production season alongside equity actors and professional guest directors, designers and technicians at the Porthouse Theatre Company.

The recipient of many awards for excellence in theatre, Porthouse Theatre receives support through Ohio Arts Council sustainability grants and generous patrons.

Under the direction of founding theatre professors William Zucchero, BA '52, and Louis Erdmann, MA '58, Porthouse Theatre debuted in 1969 as an Elizabethan-style band of players that strolled the grounds of the new Blossom Music Center during intermissions of Cleveland Orchestra concerts.

The theatre company offered its first season of full-length productions in 1970. The performances were held in a tent in the parking lot of the construction site that would become Porthouse Theatre.

Thanks to major challenge gifts from Cyril and Roberta Porthouse and Gerald and Victoria Read, the 500-seat Porthouse Theatre and the adjacent Read Pavilion were dedicated in 1971.

Neighbors James and Betty Hudkins donated their 95-acre adjoining farm to Kent State in 1980, allowing expansion of Porthouse Theatre to its present 127 acres.

The Victoria Anne and Carlton Forrest Thornbury Entertainment Pavilion was added in 2001, thanks to the Read family. The Hackett Family Pavilion was added in 2011, through a generous contribution from the Gregory Hackett Family Foundation. New ceiling fans were installed in the theatre in 2013 to ensure the comfort of the more than 20,000 guests who come every summer.

Currently under the guidance of Terri Kent, producing artistic director, and Eric van Baars, executive producer, this 50th anniversary season also marks the end of a \$1 million capital campaign, initiated by the Gregory Hackett Family Foundation.

Over four years, generous donors have made possible a new box office building, a sign wall, expanded restroom facilities, a new drainage system, better audience seating and expanded and improved parking area. —Joni Koneval

Visit www.kent.edu/porthouse for tickets and performance dates.

“One of my most memorable summers was spent working at Porthouse Theatre. For someone who was not yet a professional, it was really challenging, but a great experience.”

ALICE RIPLEY, BFA '86, 2009 TONY AWARD WINNER, *NEXT TO NORMAL*

KENT BLOSSOM 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2018 Calendar of Events

PORHOUSE THEATRE

Tickets are available through the Porthouse Box Office, 330-672-3884.

Anything Goes

June 14–30

Next to Normal

July 5–21

Oklahoma!

July 26–August 12

KENT BLOSSOM ART INTENSIVES

Workshop dates: **May 27–June 9, 2018**

Kent Blossom Art Intensives are open to students as well as individual artists.

For information on public lectures and applications for 2019, visit www.kent.edu/kentblossomart.

Alternative Photo Processes in Printmaking

Visiting Artists:

Susanna Crum and Amanda Lee

Resident Faculty:

Arron Foster

Sculptural Methods in Ceramics and Mixed Media

Visiting Artists:

Shannon Goff and Bryan Hopkins

Resident Faculty:

Peter Christian Johnson

Hot-Sculpted and Flameworked Glass

Visiting Artists:

Grant Garmezy and Erin Garmezy

Resident Faculty:

Davin Ebanks

KENT BLOSSOM MUSIC FESTIVAL

2018 Concert Series

PERFORMANCES AT BLOSSOM MUSIC CENTER

Tickets are available through The Cleveland Orchestra, 216-231-1111.

Kent Blossom Music Festival Chamber Orchestra

July 21 at 7 p.m.

Kent Blossom Music Festival Side-by-Side with The Cleveland Orchestra

July 21 at 8 p.m.

FACULTY CONCERT SERIES

Tickets for this series are available through the Performing Arts Box Office, 330-672-2787. Faculty concerts take place on the Kent Campus at Ludwig Recital Hall, Center for the Performing Arts.

Concert No. 1

July 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Mark Kosower, cello
with Jee-Won Oh, piano

Concert No. 2

July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Miami String Quartet
with Spencer Myer, piano

Concert No. 3

July 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Kulas Visiting Artist:
Emerson String Quartet
with Jerry Grossman, cello

Concert No. 4

July 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra members:

Jeffrey Rathbun,
assistant principal oboe
Daniel McKelway,
assistant principal clarinet
Barrick Stees,
assistant principal bassoon

Kent State University faculty:

Jerry Wong, Steinway Artist, piano

Concert No. 5

August 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra members:

Marisela Sager, assistant principal flute
Jeffrey Rathbun, assistant principal oboe
Alan DeMattia, horn section
Richard Weiss, assistant principal cello
Joela Jones, principal keyboard

Kent State University faculty:

Danna Sundet, oboe
Cleveland Institute of Music:
Elizabeth DeMio, collaborative piano

STUDENT CONCERT SERIES

Concerts in this series are free and take place on the Kent Campus at Ludwig Recital Hall, Center for the Performing Arts, unless otherwise noted.

July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

July 14 at 2 p.m.

July 14 at 7:30 p.m.

July 15 at 2 p.m.

Hudson Library & Historical Society

July 17 at 7 p.m.

Reed Memorial Library, Ravenna, Ohio

August 2 at 7:30 p.m.

August 3 at 2 p.m.

Laurel Lake Retirement Community

August 3 at 7:30 p.m.

August 4 at 2 p.m.

Hudson Library & Historical Society

August 4 at 7:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

BLOSSOMING GALA

September 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Kent Student Center Ballroom
www.kent.edu/artscollege



1993
THEATRE

TERRI KENT and ERIC VAN BAARS, MFA '02, meet on a production of *Dames at Sea*



2004
MUSIC

The Blossom Festival Band records its first album, under the direction of Loras John Schissel

2013
MUSIC

David Shiffrin, clarinet, inaugurates the Kulas Visiting Artist series

2014
ART

HILARY HARNISCHFEGGER, visiting artist in sculpture



2016
THEATRE

COLLEEN LONGSHAW, BFA '01, MFA '15, in *Sister Act*



PATHWAY TO PEACE

Pacifique Niyonzima lost most of his family during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Now he is earning a graduate degree in higher education administration at Kent State so he can give back to his native country.

By Pacifique Niyonzima
as told to Jan Senn

MELISSA OLSON

April 2018 marked the 24th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide—the mass slaughter of the Tutsi tribe by members of the Hutu majority government, who recruited and pressured Hutu civilians to kill their Tutsi neighbors and destroy or steal their property.

An estimated 800,000 to 1 million Rwandans were killed during 100 days between April and July 1994, which left the country reeling.

Pacifique Niyonzima was the youngest member of his Tutsi family to survive. We asked him to tell us about his life in the aftermath of the tragedy—and the hope he has for his country's future.

My name is Pacifique Niyonzima. Pacifique is a French name meaning “peacemaker,” and Niyonzima means “God is almighty” in Kinyarwanda, my native language.

I was born and grew up in Rwanda, a small country located in Central Africa. You could fit Rwanda four times into Ohio. It's tiny, but beautiful. The countryside is dotted with a mixture of mountains, volcanoes, and hillocks.

During the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, I was two or three years old, born into the Tutsi tribe. Not every Hutu got involved in the killing. A Hutu family who were friends of my parents hid me.

When I was about six, I went to the orphanage started by Fr. Jean Bosco Gakiraga for orphans of the genocide. He raised us as his kids. I went away to boarding school during high school, and during the holidays I came back to the orphanage.

After the genocide, the new government of Rwanda tried to bring people together. In school, they taught us the history of what happened in our country and educated us about peace.

I was able to interact with another young man from the Hutu tribe that murdered my family. They taught me that we are all together; I cannot blame somebody because his family murdered my family. I cannot put the blame on this young man.

During a history class, we learned that the first person who walked on the moon was from America. I wondered, Where is America? How can you send someone to the moon?

After I was done in high school, I got a government scholarship to go to college in Rwanda. Fr. Jean was in America visiting a church, and one family there told him, “We can help you to raise one kid.”

He came back to Rwanda and told me, “There is a family in America who can help you as their kid. You can stay with them and go to school there. You've got to make a choice. Stay and go to college in Rwanda or go to the United States, start again in high school to learn English, and go to college there.” I said, “Well, I'm going to the United States.”

My new family, Jill and Mike Burke, and I met for the first time at the Cleveland Airport in 2011. I didn't know much English, so sometimes we communicated by drawing images. My mom would write “closet” on a sticky note and put it on a closet. She put sticky notes everywhere in the house. They had friends come over to teach me English and help me with math.

I came here on a F1 visa; my parents didn't officially adopt me, but I'm like their child. They support me and care for me. Without my family, I would not be the person I am today. It's such a wonderful privilege, and I'm so thankful.

After three years, they told me, “You brought joy to our family, so we are going to adopt a kid from Africa.” Now I have a brother, Fandira Murinzi, so my family is growing.

I went to Walsh Jesuit High School for one year and a half. The kids and everyone there made me feel welcome. The hardest part was learning the language.

One of the girls asked me to go to Homecoming. I didn't know what that was, so I went home and asked my dad, “What is coming home?” He was confused, and we kept talking. I said, “Somebody asked me to coming home with her, what is that?” He said, “Oh, you mean Homecoming!”

After high school, I went to Walsh University for college. With all I've

been given, I want to do something to give back and help people. I studied nursing, but every time I went to the simulation room, dealing with the fake bodies, I started shaking. So I changed to environmental science, thinking maybe I could help people get clean water. But when we would go to the forest, I thought, this is not for me. I talked to my adviser and my family, and I chose to study professional education and international relations for my major.

Using education as a tool to bring peace, Rwanda is teaching young people the truth about its history.

I was part of a global scholar program offered at Walsh University. We traveled to Africa, Geneva and Italy in the summer of 2015, learning about global issues and how we could be part of the solution. It was a wonderful experience.

Reflecting on opportunities I was given and people who had an impact on my life, I started thinking about a path that would open doors and give me an opportunity to follow my passion. Choosing to study higher education administration at Kent State University was the best decision I made.

I enjoy the environment at KSU that welcomes everybody. Working as an assistant hall director in the Honors College provides me an opportunity to grow in my field. My favorite thing is interacting with students. I share my Rwandan culture with them, and they help me learn about American culture. I am beyond fortunate to be exposed to both cultures!

My first visit to Rwanda after five years, I was invited to speak at a university about the differences between American and Rwandan education systems.

Pacifique Niyonzima relaxes with his American parents, Jill and Mike Burke from Hudson, Ohio, and his brother, Fandira Murinzi.

During my visit, I could not imagine how my home country was transformed into the wonderful and peaceful place it is now, after going through such a tragic period. Rwandans are incredibly friendly and hospitable. They have come together to reconcile and rebuild their nation.

Using education as a tool to bring peace, Rwanda is teaching young people the truth about its history to make sure that what happened will never happen again. Most of the people who take part in the annual Walk to Remember to commemorate the Rwandan genocide are young, so there is hope for my country.

Rwanda is one of the fastest growing countries in Africa. After the genocide, the government promoted educating young girls. Now Rwanda has the highest percentage of women in government in the world. If you educate women, you educate the community.

This summer, I will be interning with the vice chancellor at the University of Rwanda. I want to see how higher education works there compared with America. I am so thankful to Kent State for helping me, especially Dr. Stephen Thomas, Dr. Martha Merrill and Dr. Beth Thomas in the College of Education, Health and Human Services.

I feel like I have two homes, Rwanda and the United States. I hope to one day take American students to Rwanda so they can learn about the culture and bring Rwandan students to America for an exchange. That way I can do something to benefit both my homes. ⚡

View a video of Pacifique Niyonzima at www.kent.edu/magazine/Pacifique.



ksu **COLLECTIONS**

School of Art Collection
Room 144, Center for the Visual Arts

The Kent State School of Art Collection started when author James A. Michener donated the proceeds from his book about the May 4, 1970 shootings—*Kent State: What Happened and Why*—to the Kent State University School of Art in 1971.

He had spent several months in Kent researching material for the book, and his donation was intended to help the school acquire works for its permanent collection to be housed in the new School of Art Building, which was completed in 1972.

“In the years since, we have continued to collect work from all over the world,” says Anderson Turner, MFA ’02, director of the School of Art Collection and Galleries at Kent State University since 2005. “The School of Art Collection’s curatorial mission is to collect work of historical significance to the school, as well as work by artists of color and women.”

Comprised of more than 4,500 historical and contemporary art objects, the collection is contained in an open storage space located along a hallway at the Center for the Visual Arts, the new home for the School of Art. The space is accessible to classes, so students can get up close to the artwork. “I call it a ‘quasi museum,’ says Mr. Turner, “because I let students touch things.”

A sampling of the art objects in the collection, pictured at right, include a large oil painting of a head by Harold Kitner (9), who taught art and art history at Kent State from 1947 to 1990 and served as KSU’s first faculty ombudsman from 1967 to 1974. A piece by ceramic artist Toshiko Takaezu (11), who taught at the Cleveland Institute of Art for nearly a decade, was likely fired in a kiln on the Kent Campus by her friend Kirk Mangus, who was head of ceramics at Kent State from 1985 to 2013.

Two of the galleries Mr. Turner programs display items from the School of Art Collection—the Michener Gallery on the second floor of the University Library and the Hotel and Conference Center Gallery at the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center.

The other galleries—including the CVA Gallery, Payto Gallery, Crawford Gallery and Downtown Gallery—exhibit art from local, regional, national and international artists. Students also have opportunities to exhibit their work in many of these spaces.

In addition, the KSU School of Art Galleries Rental Program offers Kent Campus organizations and offices the opportunity to rent artwork (\$50 per piece, up to 5 pieces) from the School of Art Collection during the Annual Rental Program Show, held this year on June 7 & 8 at the CVA Gallery.

For more information, call 330-672-1379. To study a piece from the collection, contact Anderson Turner, haturner@kent.edu.



1. Mug and Saucer
Rimas VisGirda
Ceramic, 12" x 12" x 6"
1992



2. Conferring Blue
Julian Stanczak
Serigraph, 25" x 25"
1981



3. Yoruba Figure
Lamidi Olonade Fakeye
Wood, 18 1/2" tall



4. La Mere Poule
Pablo Picasso
Aquatint and drypoint 14" x 11"
1942



5. Bi-Shell with Feather
Heikki Seppa
Sterling Silver
1978



7. Fantasy of Night
Edris Eckhardt
Ceramic
1945



8. Chapter 1
Claire Zeisler
Leather
1976



9. Head
Harold Kitner
Oil on panel
1967



10. Jack of Spades
Salvador Dalí
Lithograph on paper
1970



11. #11
Toshiko Takaezu
Ceramic, 7.5" x 7.5"
1980s



11. #11
Toshiko Takaezu
Ceramic, 7.5" x 7.5"
1980s



7. Fantasy of Night
Edris Eckhardt
Ceramic
1945



8. Chapter 1
Claire Zeisler
Leather
1976



10. Jack of Spades
Salvador Dalí
Lithograph on paper
1970

6. Boy with Branch II
Alex Katz
Aquatint on paper, 24" x 40.25"
1976

7. Fantasy of Night
Edris Eckhardt
Ceramic
1945

8. Chapter 1
Claire Zeisler
Leather
1976

9. Head
Harold Kitner
Oil on panel
1967

10. Jack of Spades
Salvador Dalí
Lithograph on paper
1970

11. #11
Toshiko Takaezu
Ceramic, 7.5" x 7.5"
1980s

BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL

Plans are proceeding for a dynamic new home of the College of Business Administration that will help promote its innovative programs and provide more space to teach students, house faculty and host visiting professionals.

By April McClellan-Copeland

Kent State University's College of Business Administration—one of Ohio's largest and fastest-growing business schools—offers unique, innovative programs that have heightened its national and international reputation.

U.S. News and World Report ranks it among the top 100 public business schools in the nation for its undergraduate business programs, and *The Princeton Review* rates it as one of the nation's best business schools.

In addition, it is among the less than 1 percent of business schools worldwide to obtain dual accreditation in both business and accounting from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International).

Soon, the College of Business Administration (COBA) will have a modern facility on the Kent Campus that is as distinguished as its reputation.

Plans are in the works to erect a new College of Business Administration building that will accommodate the contemporary, collaborative team-based approach to problem solving practiced

in the world's foremost businesses. The building will cost an estimated \$72 million and will replace the college's existing building on Terrace Drive, which is more than 40 years old.

According to a recent needs assessment, the current building has a shortage of at least 37,000 square feet. It lacks space for students to collaborate on team projects, for faculty to have needed laboratory spaces and for prospective employers to interview candidates. Classrooms are overcrowded and out-of-date—and there aren't enough of them. One-third of the classes are taught in eight other buildings.

The proposed 147,000-square-foot College of Business Administration building will be located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Midway Drive. It will anchor the extension of Front Campus along Main Street as part of the first phase of the university's \$1 billion facilities master plan that will transform the Kent Campus and improve its facilities over the next 10 years. (See page 8.)

Five years ago, a new building for COBA was only a dream. But today, thanks to continued support by the university and generous donors, the dream is close to becoming a reality, says Deborah Spake, PhD, dean of the College of Business Administration.

"A new building will provide an appropriate 'home' that reflects the success and pride of the college and its alumni," she says. "It will showcase modern technology and collaborative spaces to help students prepare for the business world. It will be a sought-after venue for hosting speaker services, pitch competitions and special events that bring business executives and students together."

Four teams of developers and architects with national and international expertise are finalists in a building design competition for this transformational project.

In April, students, faculty, business leaders and community members gathered at the Kent State Student Center Ballroom for the first public presentation of the proposed designs.

“Making financial investment decisions, preserving the wealth that the university has provided and growing the fund has been educational and exciting.”

—JOSÉ CALDERON, BBA '18, vice president of Kent State's Student Managed Investment Fund

"Each development team brings an innovative approach and unique vision to what they see as the new home for one of the university's cornerstone programs," Dr. Spake says. "The entire Kent State community has been part of the master plan process from the beginning, so it makes sense that we would offer everyone a chance to see the ideas being considered."

Architectural design is not the only consideration that will go into selecting the winning team. Details for financing the project, including innovative ways to provide the lowest overall project cost through philanthropy, will carry significant weight.

"We want philanthropy to bring down the cost so it's manageable and affordable over time," says Mark Polatajko, PhD, Kent State's senior vice president of finance and administration. The funding model, called a P4 arrangement, would be a philanthropy-driven, public/private partnership. This innovative approach to financing an academic building would speed construction and lower the cost.

The new College of Business Administration building will include design features conducive to collaborative, team-based learning. A glass atrium will serve as the heart of the building, providing open, light-filled space for students to congregate, converse and exchange ideas—and for the college to hold receptions and special events.



Members of the Student Managed investment Fund document the fund's performance with vice president José Calderon, BBA '18, at a meeting.

Modern laboratory spaces will equip students for real-world challenges. Video labs will allow sales students to hone their skills, video-conferencing studios will allow entrepreneurship students to pitch to venture capitalists, analytics labs will allow students to visualize data and behavioral labs will help doctoral students and faculty study the neuroscience of consumer behavior.

Professional conference rooms will accommodate visiting speakers, employers and corporate executives. Offices and research spaces will accommodate adjunct and visiting faculty, and meeting rooms will support student organizations.

A high-tech trading floor will train finance students about investing and be a showcase for the profession.

The college's numerous innovative programs will benefit from these new features, including those highlighted in the following profiles.

Student Managed Investment Fund

The high-tech trading floor in the proposed COBA building will be the perfect training ground for members of Student Managed Investment Fund—and help them prepare for regional and national competitions.

As a member of the Student Managed Investment Fund, José Calderon, a senior finance major, had the opportunity to manage \$1 million in investments for Kent State University and the Kent State Foundation—a valuable, practical learning experience for him and the whole team. ▶

Natalie [at the Career Services Office] helped me figure out what I wanted to do. She helped me explore options and find the best fit for me.”

—MEGAN WANDEL, BBA '18, heading for a career in human resources

“Making financial investment decisions, preserving the wealth that the university has provided and growing the fund has been educational and exciting,” says Mr. Calderon, who was the fund’s vice president this year.

The purpose of the Student Managed Investment Fund, the first of its kind at Kent State, is to give students real-world experience and advance their career opportunities. The team of students manage four separate \$250,000 accounts.

“Professional money management is an experience game—the more you are acquainted with the markets, the better you will perform,” says Steven Dennis, PhD, Firestone Chair of Corporate Finance and chair of Kent State’s Department of Finance.

Finance majors spent the fall semester learning about investing and putting structure in place around the Student Managed Investment Fund, says Dr. Dennis. The students opened accounts and transferred funds into those accounts. In addition, expert money managers met with the students to provide counsel on processes and procedures.

The team documented the fund performance during weekly meetings

and provided quarterly reports to the university and the foundation.

During spring semester, the students presented an oral annual performance report and attended the Global Asset Management Education Conference in New York City.

“I like what I see in these finance students,” Dr. Dennis says. “They are eager to learn.”

Career Services Office

The atrium and meeting spaces in the new building will allow Career Services to engage more effectively with students and employers and make its services and events more visible.

Junior year was a stressful time for KSU student Megan Wandel, BBA '18. After changing her major twice, she still could not decide on a career—until she met with Natalie Harrington in the Career Services Office at the College of Business Administration.

“Natalie helped me figure out what I wanted to do,” Ms. Wandel says. “She helped me explore options and find the best fit for me.” That led her to consider the field of human resources. With help from Mrs. Harrington, last May she found an internship at Fastenal’s distribution center in Akron. There she had the opportunity to look at several aspects of human resources: recruiting, onboarding, training and employee management.

The company asked her to stay on in a part-time capacity after the internship, while continuing to take her classes at Kent State, according to Molly Phelps, a Fastenal recruiter.

Kent State senior Megan Wandel, BBA '18, (right), who interned with Fastenal in Akron, works with recruiter Molly Phelps at the company’s information table during a Kent State Career Fair.



“Megan was able to bring what she was learning in the classroom to Fastenal,” Ms. Phelps says. “She was able to jump right in as a part of the team bringing new creative ideas to make positive changes.”

Like Megan Wandel, students in the College of Business Administration can explore careers and find internships and jobs through the college’s Career Services Office, with staff dedicated solely to serving business majors, minors and alumni.

The office provides career advising and preparation through one-on-one appointments, drop-ins, workshops and class/student organization presentations. It also works with employers seeking business majors and hosts multiple recruiting and networking events each semester to connect employers to students.

By mid-April, more than 1,600 students had checked in for individualized coaching with career advisors. Career Services also holds multiple events each semester that attract anywhere from 50 to 225 students per event.

“This new space will allow Career Services to host more employers on campus and provide additional services and opportunities for our students,” says Erin Nunn, director of the Career Services Office.

“We can also utilize more space to bring employers and alumni volunteers to campus for programs and one-on-one coaching,” she says. “Programs like our donor-funded Career Closet Scholarship, which provides a free, tailored business suit to students who demonstrate academic success and financial need, will benefit as they continue to receive more recognition and awareness.”

Having the opportunity to share my greatest passion as I wrap up my four years at Kent State was the most wonderful thing.”

—ANNE SKOCH, BS '18, first-place winner of the annual CEBI pitch contest

Center for Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation

Video conferencing studios will enable entrepreneurship students to make pitches to venture capitalists.

On an evening in April, six finalists from Kent State’s Center for Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation (CEBI) made the live pitch of a lifetime before a panel of seven judges that included founders, presidents and CEOs of corporations.

CEBI hosts the annual live pitch competition, CEBIpitch, to help nurture startup companies within the College of Business Administration’s entrepreneurship program. It is an opportunity for students to sharpen their game and vie for a total of \$30,000 in cash prizes.

The student entrepreneurs competed after participating in a three-month mentorship program to prepare for the live pitch event.

“The annual pitch contest provides finalists and student attendees with a great experience of being in front of renowned business leaders who judge and provide feedback on their business ideas,” says Shawn Rohlin, PhD, director of CEBI and associate professor of economics.

First place winner Anne Skoch is a senior fashion merchandising major and Cleveland native whose online accessories business, Anne Cate (her full name is Anne Catherine), got its start when she was thirteen and sold handmade items on Etsy. She took it to the next level in 2016 after she made Cleveland skyline pillows for her dorm room, and friends asked her

Anne Skoch, BS '18, won first place at this year’s CEBI pitch competition, earning a prize of \$15,000 to invest in her online accessories business.

for ones with different city skylines. Her current product line—skyline silhouette pillows, zippered purses and other accessories—showcases her hand-drawn designs of more than 60 skylines, many developed from customer requests.

After she reached out to LaunchNET Kent State, they helped her receive national media attention that led to increased sales and her first wholesale client, American Greetings.

Her goal this business year is to sell over 5,000 units wholesale into 10 states and to solidify a made-to-order manufacturer to lower expenses and account for the growing demand.

“Having the opportunity to share my greatest passion as I wrap up my four years at Kent State was the most wonderful thing,” Ms. Skoch says.

With her prize money, she plans to acquire a fabric printer that will help her scale her made-to-order, made-in-America business model.

Etiquette Dinners

Additional event spaces in the new building will enable business students to network and practice etiquette.

Tyler Wise, MBA '18, wasn’t expecting a job offer when he attended an etiquette dinner at the College of Business Administration this spring—he just wanted to network and practice dining with business professionals.

A recruiter from Diebold Nixdorf, one of the corporate sponsors of the event, wasn’t expecting to pitch a position—she was there representing the company. Over a relaxed conversation at the dinner table, however, she realized that Mr. Wise



would be a good fit for a new opening at the company based in North Canton.

“Because of that meeting, I received a job interview and was offered the new position of project analyst,” says Mr. Wise. “This is a rare opportunity to take a high responsibility role right away and be an integral part of the Global Business Services Department—and it all stemmed from the etiquette dinner.”

About 70 students participated in each of the two etiquette dinners offered this academic year, according to Amy Thomason, career advisor in the Career Services Office, who says the dinners have two main goals.

“The first is to help our students get comfortable with dining etiquette, since many business meetings take place during a formal meal,” she says. “We want students to feel confident and able to focus on the discussion itself, while not being distracted or overwhelmed by the dinner setting.

“The second goal is to give students and our employer partners who sponsor the event the opportunity to network in a learning environment.”



AGE OF ANXIETY

As increasing numbers of college students seek treatment for mental health issues, higher education administrators at Kent State and across the country are searching for ways to offer effective help and trying to determine the reasons behind the escalation. By Lisa Abraham | Illustrations by Mikey Burton, BS & MA '08

At the height of his battle with anxiety, Andrew Atkins would feel as if he were watching his life from the back seat of a car and all he could do was sit there.

"It is kind of like a 24/7 tension under the surface," he says, recalling the sensation. "I am aware of my heart, like there is a fist in the center of it. It's tight. I feel really disconnected."

Mr. Atkins, 21, from Orwell, Ohio, thinks he suffered from low-grade anxiety for years, although he never identified his condition until he became a student at Kent State University.

The Honors College journalism major, who recently was a columnist for the *Kent Stater* and an intern at WKSU, believes his disorder has its roots in his parents' divorce when he was in first grade—although it was never severe when he was younger, and he was always able to manage his feelings.

"In college, it came out in full force," he says. Studies, work, financial concerns, maintaining a social life and building a résumé, along with family issues, combined to form a perfect storm of stress.

"I thought, 'I don't want to be like this forever; I don't want to feel like this forever,' and so I sought help." He reached out to Kent State's Counseling Center and later University Health Services.

Mr. Atkins is one of an increasing number of college students across the country seeking treatment for anxiety and depression.

According to the 2016-2017 Healthy Minds Study, 31 percent of college students reported some form of depression, while 26 percent reported

experiencing anxiety. The study is an annual web-based survey examining mental health and related issues among undergraduate and graduate students conducted by the Healthy Minds Network for Research on Adolescent and Young Adult Mental Health based at the University of Michigan.

Since 2007, Healthy Minds has surveyed more than 200,000 students at more than 180 colleges and universities across the country, including Kent State. A review of the past three Healthy Minds studies shows a steady increase in the number of students who are reporting depression and anxiety.

The depression statistic of 31 percent for 2016-2017 increased from 25 percent in 2015-2016 and 20 percent in 2014-2015. Figures for anxiety show a similar climb, from 20 percent in 2014-2015, to 21 percent in 2015-2016, to the current 26 percent.

"There is definitely an upward trend and not just at our university but across the country," says Melissa Celko, director of Kent State of Wellness in the Division of Student Affairs since 2017. "It's an escalating issue."

The trend has university administrators across the country scrambling to keep up with the growing number of students seeking treatment, searching for ways to offer effective help and trying to determine the reasons behind the escalation.

Kent State of Wellness, a university-wide initiative, focuses on the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff and covers eight priorities: alcohol and other drugs, exercise, nutrition, safety, preventative care, sexual health, tobacco and mental health.

The university hired eight new mental health counselors across Kent State's eight-campus system in 2017. The additional staff helped, Ms. Celko says, but was not a cure. "We can't hire our way out of this trend, we must find ways to help our students cope and build resilience. We also need to share stories of our own struggles so students know that it may be tough now, but it will get better."

Ms. Celko wonders if the increased statistics for anxiety and depression are, in part, because it has become more socially acceptable to admit mental illness and talk about it. And she notes that more students seem to be coming to campus already suffering from anxiety and depression.

The 2016-2017 Healthy Minds Study indicates that 41 percent of students reported undergoing some type of mental health counseling or therapy in their lifetime. Thirty-six percent of all students taking the survey had a formal diagnosis of a mental disorder, including depression, anxiety, eating disorder or substance abuse.

Jason Miller, PhD, director of the Counseling Center at the Kent Campus, says 32 percent of the students treated there have a prior diagnosis. Located in White Hall, the Counseling Center provides free mental health counseling, provided by masters and doctoral students as part of their training in the counselor education and supervision program.

The Counseling Center is one of three locations on the Kent Campus where students may obtain mental health counseling, along with the Psychological Clinic (which is staffed by graduate students majoring in psychology and housed in the Kent Annex) and Psychological Services (which is a department at University Health Services in the DeWeese Health Center).

The 2017-2018 academic year was the busiest ever recorded at the Counseling

Center with 4,202 hours of service provided, Dr. Miller says. “By February we were at capacity.”

The center also referred about 100 students off campus for counseling. If that group had stayed and received the average 7.2 hours of counseling that most students do, the numbers for the year easily could have reached 5,000 hours, says Dr. Miller.

By comparison, during the 2006-2007 school year, the center offered 1,984 hours of counseling. “It has more than doubled in 10 years,” he says, adding that Psychological Services and the Psychological Clinic also experience a very high demand for services and often operate at capacity.

More than 80 percent of the students seeking treatment during 2017-2018 sought help for anxiety, while 61 percent named depression; the conditions often are overlapping, Dr. Miller says. “This isn’t stress over mid-terms. These are substantial mental health issues.”

Antonina “Nina” Schubert, 19, from Mentor, Ohio, has been in treatment for various mental health disorders since she was in junior high. She has battled depression, anxiety and severe anorexia, which progressed to the point where she was suicidal in high school. After years of therapy and treatment, she is recovering and healthy.



A rising sophomore studying early childhood education at the Kent Campus, she has become an advocate for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. In the fall 2017 semester, Ms. Schubert founded the Nightingale Project, a student organization working to end the stigma of mental illness and to help her fellow students cope with mental struggles.

She received a “Courage Award” for her work in mental-health support from Ohio Governor John Kasich, who singled out her activism during his final State of the State address in March 2018.

Ms. Schubert traces her disorders to her father’s death from cancer when she was just nine years old. Bullying that she experienced in high school only deepened her ailments. While therapy was able to draw her out of the shadows that once consumed her life, she says she works every day to maintain her balance.

The struggles facing young people are real, she says, and include the desire to be perfect to please parents and the competition to measure up to get into college. “A lot of times we over-push ourselves,” says Ms. Schubert, noting that many students often do not realize how far they are taxing themselves until the stress builds up and they are overwhelmed. They forget to take care of their mental health and fail to give themselves needed breaks or “mental health days.”

“I also think social media definitely plays a big role,” she says. The false persona created on social media only contributes to others’ feelings of inadequacy, and the competition over who has more followers or more “likes” also can lead to feelings of low self-esteem. “Everyone posts what is going to make them look good,” she says. “My life is not like that.”

Not only social media, but the constant use of devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops has increased anxiety and stress for everyone, according to Melissa Celko, Kent State of Wellness director.

The 24-hour contact culture breeds feelings of inadequacy, she says: “I must be missing out. I’m not doing enough. Someone else’s life is more perfect.” Plenty of young people even sleep with their phones, which can cause poor sleep quality or disrupted sleep—and also lead to feelings of anxiety and stress.



Ms. Celko, however, says an overarching problem is that many students come to college lacking basic coping skills. And parenting styles have shifted, she says. “Parents are concerned that if their kids don’t have every advantage, they’re not preparing them adequately for a very competitive marketplace in a global society.”

For some students, this added pressure can be catastrophic. It often translates into a fear of making mistakes and not knowing how to overcome failure when it happens, she says. Teaching students the skills to deal with life’s failures goes a long way in the battle against anxiety.

Jennifer Kulics, MA ’98, PhD ’06, associate vice president of student affairs at Kent State—who oversees the Kent State of Wellness initiative and serves as chair of the committee focusing on the mental health priority—says many students need additional resources and support to improve their ability to cope with failure and grief. “Some students don’t require clinical support, but they need tools, resources, community and campus support and programs to build that toolbox of resilience.”



College poses many new issues, which pile on top of the multi-layered challenges students already face, ranging from home-life struggles to financial concerns, she says. “They start this [college] journey with a lot of pressure before it’s even begun.”

Andrew Atkins, for example, graduated from Grand Valley High School in 2015 with college credits already earned and expects to graduate from Kent State in August 2018—nearly a year early.

His struggles in college began when he was a freshman. “I was shy and introverted coming into college. I forced myself to be more open and outgoing or I knew I was never going to make it,” he says. “You are not going to get a job without a résumé that is super full.”

As his workload increased, so did his anxiety; he believes it is the same for many students. “It’s institutionalized,” he says, noting the over-achieving lifestyle that most students are juggling.

Mental health has risen to the top of the priorities for Kent State of Wellness, Dr. Kulics says. As a result, Kent State has taken a variety of paths to lead students toward positive mental health.

Now that the university has mental health practitioners serving students within its eight campus system, the clinicians meet regularly to talk about the issues students are facing and, most important, to discuss the trends

that emerge. “We aren’t just deciding what our students need,” Dr. Kulics says. “We are hearing from students what their needs are.”

A key goal of the university’s mental health mission is to prevent suicides, she says. Kent State is in the middle of a multi-year partnership with the JED Foundation, a nonprofit that specializes in emotional health and suicide prevention among teens making the transition to adulthood.

The foundation has taken an active role in assessing the mental health services offered by Kent State, looking for gaps and making recommendations about how to improve services, including policy, programs and staffing changes.

Ms. Celko says the Kent Campus also is trying to re-establish its chapter of Active Minds, a national nonprofit organization that operates on college campuses to support mental health awareness and education for students.

The organization honored Kent State in May with its Active Minds Healthy Campus Award, which recognizes schools that are taking a campus-wide, public health approach to promoting the physical and mental well-being of students.

Ms. Celko also was the driving force behind the Brain Health Summit held on the Kent Campus in February, which discussed improving brain health through movement, exercise and stress reduction. A Mental Health Summit is scheduled for Sept. 25, 2018, on the Kent Campus.

In addition, the university administration recently instituted a brief fall break for the 2018-2019 school year, with the goal of providing a mid-semester respite for students, particularly freshmen who may be away from home for the first time.

For Andrew Atkins, seeking counseling on campus worked. First he took advantage of the free services offered at the Counseling Center, then eventually he met with a psychologist at Psychological Services in the DeWeese Health Center.

RESOURCES

If you or someone you know needs help, take one of the following actions:

- Call **9-1-1** for any emergency
- Call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK** (8255)
- Call one of the 24-hour nurse hotline numbers found at www.kent.edu/stepupspeakout/24-hour-hotlines
- Use the Crisis Textline by texting **4HOPE** to **741741**
- Call University Health Services at **330-672-2487** to schedule an appointment for mental health counseling.

He took medication for a time and although it worked for a while, he recently has weaned off the drugs and prefers counseling to medication.

In his experience, medication was like training wheels, something that kept him steady while he was working through counseling to develop coping skills. However, he notes that the need for medication may be ongoing for those with more severe mental health issues. And he encourages anyone who thinks they might need help or counseling to seek it out soon.

As he embarks on back-to-back internships at newspapers, with graduation in between, Mr. Atkins’ outlook is positive and he is excited about a future where he can pursue his passion to work as a journalist. “I’m finally happy again.” ⚡



SIX WAYS TO DE-STRESS AND ALLEVIATE ANXIETY

1 Unplug: Step away from social media, put the smartphone away and close the laptop. Consider spending time with others in ways that do not require technology—go bowling or enjoy karaoke.

2 Rest: Make sure to get enough sleep every night; do not sleep with a smartphone, which can cause sleep disruptions from ringing or text message alerts. Take naps.

3 Exercise: Hit the gym, do some yoga or just take a walk across campus, enjoying the scenery and practicing deep breathing.

4 Nourish yourself: Eat a balanced, healthy diet, filled with plenty of fruits and vegetables. Keep hydrated. A healthy body translates to a healthy mind.

5 Pet an animal: Take part in university-sanctioned activities such as the Dogs on Campus Pet Therapy Program hosted by the University Library Stress-Free Zone.

6 Talk to someone: Talk to a friend, parent, resident assistant, advisor or seek professional counseling at Psychological Services, the Counseling Center, or the Psychological Clinic.



Rock Stars

Nathan and Liz Yokum, cofounders of Rock Mill Climbing and Rock Candy Holds, are entrepreneurs who are making it to the top of the indoor climbing industry.

By Chris Horne | Photos by Ilenia Pezzaniti BA '14

What led an art education major and a graphic designer to start an indoor rock climbing gym/yoga/fitness studio just outside of downtown Akron? The short answer: To serve a community of local climbers they'd joined and fostered as they grew a company that has become one of the nation's highest ranked for climbing holds (those colorful bumps that allow you to scale a climbing wall).

Rock Candy Holds, based in Akron, is known worldwide for their high-quality, colorful, finger-friendly holds, with more than 1,000 shapes in their product line.

Cofounder Nathan Yokum, BA '06, still sculpts and forms the shapes in his workshop inside the Rock Mill, a 12,000 square foot indoor climbing, yoga and fitness facility (which also functions as a showroom for Rock Candy products) that he opened with his wife, Liz Yokum, BGS '11, in 2016.

The couple met at the indoor climbing wall in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on the Kent Campus in 2005. He had been climbing for four or five years by then, and she was just starting.

While indoor climbing walls are still a great introduction for beginners, back then serious sport climbers used them as practice for the real rock formations they encounter in the wilds of Northeast Ohio. Now, indoor

climbing (or bouldering) is its own sport, even though there's plenty of crossover, and the people who do it are passionate.

That's in part because of the community that has formed around climbing. The competition is internal—you're not trying to beat anyone but your own best effort—and support comes freely from the friends (and strangers) who climb with you. So in 2006, when the couple built a climbing wall in the garage of a house they were renting in Kent, they opened it up to friends.

They quickly realized that climbing holds can be expensive. An art education student, Nathan Yokum figured he could make his own. But to keep his costs down,

A climber scales the indoor bouldering wall at the Rock Mill in Akron.

he had to order enough materials to create more holds than he needed. So, to pay for this new hobby, the Yokums started selling the holds to area gyms and friends who had climbing walls of their own.

"It's sort of a hobby that got out of control," he says. The hobby expanded into a fulltime business in 2008, after he was downsized from the position he held at First Glance youth center in Akron, a casualty of the recession, and his wife, who was working as a lead web presence analyst at Kent State, got pregnant. They looked at their situation, sized up their future and went all-in on Rock Candy.

For a while, the Yokums operated a climbing wall co-op in Kenmore, where their climbing community could test the holds on one side of the space while Nathan Yokum made more holds on the other side. When the business grew too big, they had to choose between keeping the climbing wall or using the space to accommodate their growing enterprise.

Climbing teaches you that your best effort is the competition you're trying to topple.

They went with the extra space, but knew that one day they would open another gym.

In the meantime, Liz Yokum says they learned to think differently about how they ran the business. For most of Rock Candy's early years, their decisions were reactive or made spontaneously. It had worked out for them, in general, but she knew they could do more if they planned better, directed their growth more intelligently and improved their cash flow. So they tinkered with the business the way Nathan Yokum does with each hold, crafting and sculpting it into a better form.

Rock Candy continued to grow, even as their family grew with the addition of another baby boy, but their itch to open another climbing facility—to work among their community again—kept nagging at them. Over four years' time, they won a business plan writing competition, sought out partners and had a few false starts.

Having learned from other indoor climbing gyms that plans can evaporate in a flash, they were careful about when and how they announced their opening. That



"It's been a challenge trying to balance work, balance family, balance life," Nathan Yokum says. "But it's also been fun because there hasn't been a day where I say, 'Oh, man, I wish I were someplace else.'"

proved wise because, even after they found the right building and lined up the right partner, there were road-bumps, including budget overruns on construction.

Such challenges gave them another opportunity to put the mindset they had developed as climbers to work as entrepreneurs. When you've practiced

For the Yokums, always trying to improve means being responsive to the growing community of climbers, both new and experienced, that come to Rock Mill. That's why their bouldering gym also offers a weight room and yoga classes on site.

Climbers at Rock Mill can get a well-rounded workout, and it's the kind of place where friends can set aside a couple hours to take a yoga class and then get in a climbing session, socializing the whole time. The company also sponsors local competitions, clean-up projects and benefits in the Akron area.

And that's where Rock Mill's strength lies: Its attention to community. ⚡

Adapted from an article that first appeared in The Devil Strip, April 4, 2017.

Visit rockmillclimbing.com, view www.bit.ly/AK_Rock and watch how the holds are made at <https://vimeo.com/34875116>.



"There were times we wanted to give up along the path of opening Rock Mill," Liz Yokum says, "so maybe the climbing metaphor applies—you've got to change the angle a bit, try breathing a bit more, try pushing a bit harder—"try harder," as Nathan likes to say when he's climbing. We did that with Rock Mill."

alumni LIFE

100 YEARS OF HOMECOMING

Join us **OCTOBER 6, 2018** to celebrate this milestone!

The **Fight Song** blares down Main Street, the city of Kent is flooded with blue and gold, alumni and friends gather and reminisce about their Kent State days, fans pack the stadium to cheer on their beloved Flashes and the entire campus booms with Golden Flash pride.

While Homecoming is one of Kent State's longest-standing traditions, few of us know how it evolved at the Kent Campus. Actually, the event that came to be known as Homecoming began on May 16, 1914, when President John McGilvrey invited all extension students (many of whom had never been on the campus) to come to Kent State Normal School for "Extension Day."

A crowd of nearly 3,000 gathered on the campus in front of "Walden Hall" (later renamed Lowry Hall) to hear songs by the Normal Glee Club, an address by Dr. Charles H. Judd of the University of Chicago and view a Maypole dance featuring 84 Normal School young women in flowing white gowns. The event was later renamed "Homecoming Day," with alumni, former students and friends of the school invited to return to the campus for its celebration. (*The Years of Youth*, pgs. 50-51)

To celebrate 100 years of the event—once it was officially known as "Homecoming"—here's a look back through the decades at some highlights.

1910s

FEBRUARY 15-16, 1918: Kent State's first "Home Coming" (spelled as two words then) takes place with only 72 alumni in attendance **(1)**. The program includes the senior class play, Shakespeare's "As You Like It," indoor baseball games between faculty and students, a luncheon and a dance in Moulton Hall. (*The Kentonian*, Jan. 29, 1918)



1920s

FEBRUARY 24-25, 1922: During "Home-Coming" (with a hyphen) the Executive Board of the Women's League (organized in 1915) sells college colors to wear as a token of loyalty to Kent State Normal College. The two-day event includes a performance by the school orchestra, a play, luncheon, basketball games and a party in Moulton Hall on Saturday evening. (*The Chestnut Burr*, 1922, pgs. 31, 61, 69, 73, 84, 90, 96, 117)

MAY 16, 1925: At the first of two Homecomings held in 1925, the new Wills Gymnasium is dedicated with speeches and

the singing of college songs. Afterward, the 8th annual Homecoming dance, with more than 1,000 in attendance, is held in the newly dedicated gymnasium **(2)**. Everyone joins in a grand march and then dances to music by the Red Apple Club Orchestra of Detroit until 1:30 a.m. (*The Kentonian*, 1926; *The Years of Youth*, pg. 81)

NOVEMBER 14, 1925: In keeping with the custom on other campuses, many of the students and alumni decide to hold a second Homecoming in conjunction with a football game in the fall. After a string of 39 winless football games, the Kent State team makes history by winning over West Liberty

of West Virginia, 7-6, before 2,000 frenzied "Homecoming" fans at Rockwell Field. (*The Years of Youth*, pgs. 73, 81)

NOVEMBER 16, 1929: An official "Fall Home-Coming" was given a test in the hastily arranged program built around the Baldwin-Wallace football game," notes *The Kent Stater*, observing that the crowd "was not as large as might have been desired." Kent State loses 18-0 to the undefeated Baldwin-Wallace team, although "on two occasions Old Kent seriously threatened to score," according to the yearbook. (*The Kent Stater*, Nov. 22, 1929; *The Chestnut Burr*, 1930, pgs. 148, 178; *The Years of Youth*, pg. 81)



1930s

NOVEMBER 15, 1930: *The Kent Stater* sponsors the election of Kent State's first Homecoming queen, and students vote for junior Mary Donze, a member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and the *Kent Stater* staff. She is paraded around Bowers field at halftime in an Oldsmobile cabriolet driven by escort James Noble Holm, the business manager of *The Chestnut Burr* **(3)**. Festivities include a Golden Flashes win over Defiance, 13-6, and the Homecoming dance in Wills Gymnasium. After 1930, the spring festival, featuring the Maypole dance and group singing on the front campus, becomes known as "Campus Day." (*The Kent Stater*, Nov. 12 & 19, 1930; *A Book of Memories*, pg. 48)

NOVEMBER 3-4, 1934: Homecoming queen Elizabeth "Billie" Streine and her escort, Jay Miller, **(4)** sit in the bleachers at the Hiram-Kent State football game (Kent State wins, 26-6), which is punctuated at halftime by the finish of the annual cross-country run. They also welcome alumni to the College Theatre production of *Death Takes a Holiday* and the Homecoming dance. Fraternities and sororities compete for prizes by decorating their chapter houses to greet Greek alumni. (*The Kent Stater*, Nov. 1, 1934)



1940s

"DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1943-45, KSU didn't field a football team because of World War II [and no Homecoming queens were elected]. Nevertheless, there still were two fall Homecomings, although the records have been lost as to which years they were held." (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 9, 1981)

OCTOBER 29, 1949: At one of the most successful Homecomings in years, more than 8,000 people return to campus and the Golden Flashes win against the University of Connecticut, 27-0. Phi Beta Phi wins the best decorated Greek house, featuring a KSU dogcatcher chasing a UConn Huskie, in the fraternity Homecoming competition **(5)**. (*The Kent Stater*, Nov. 1, 1949)



1950s

NOVEMBER 4, 1950: Nearly 7,000 fans cheer Kent State on to a 19-6 victory over the Bowling Green Falcons at the Homecoming game. Beating the Falcons for the first time in four years entitles the Golden Flashes to keep the "painted pig"—the ball used at the rivals' first football game—until the Falcons win it back. A record crowd dances to the music of Louis Prima and his orchestra **(6)** in the new physical education building. (*The Chestnut Burr*, 1951, pgs. 120, 121)

NOVEMBER 3, 1956: Pat Moran, a member of Delta Gamma, is crowned Homecoming queen **(7)** before 12,000 fans at the half of the KSU-Toledo game, which the Flashes win 52-6. Ralph Marterie and his orchestra—the first big band to cover a rock & roll song, "Crazy, Man, Crazy," in 1953—play for a crowd of more than 4,500 at the Homecoming dance. At intermission, Queen Pat presents trophies to the house decoration winners. (*The Kent Stater*, Nov. 6, 1956; *The Chestnut Burr*, 1957, pgs. 50-51) ►



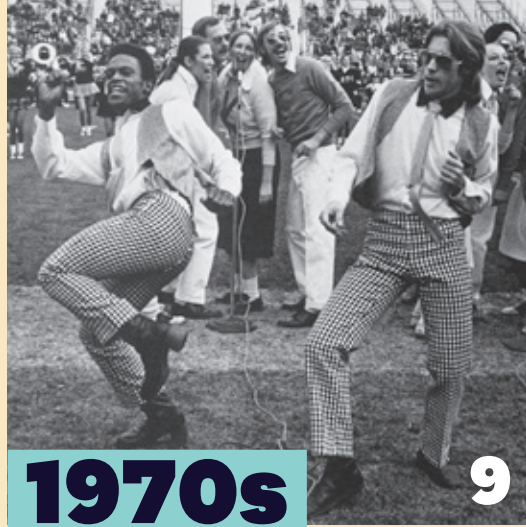
alumni LIFE



1960s

OCTOBER 26-27, 1962: Fans brave 40-degree weather to watch the Golden Flashes nudge the Toledo Rockets, 20-18, and gain their second MAC victory. When President George Bowman walks onto the football field to make his traditional Homecoming remarks, a student guard from the Army ROTC, apparently not recognizing the president, halts him and asks to see his field pass. The president disregards the order, but during his remarks he notes that it is the first time in 18 ½ years that he is appearing on the field illegally. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 30, 1962)

OCTOBER 20-21, 1967: Ray Charles and Mitch Ryder play concerts and Louis Armstrong performs at the Homecoming dance (8). Tickets cost \$2-2.50 for the Ray Charles concert, where the capacity crowd at Memorial Gymnasium realizes that “Kent State University’s Homecoming ’67 was indeed a Happening.” (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Sept. 29 & Oct. 24, 1967)



1970s

OCTOBER 20, 1973: Homecoming 1973 harkens back to the 50s with sock hops and goldfish-swallowing. The New Kent Singers perform a 50s-style half-time show (9) at the football game against Eastern Michigan (Flashes win 34-20). Paul Simon headlines the Homecoming concert in Memorial Gym. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 24 & 31, 1973)

OCTOBER 19, 1974: Kathy Hill, sponsored by Omega Psi Phi, is crowned KSU’s first African-American Homecoming queen (10)—actually, the first Homecoming “person.” The title changes because prior to the selection



1980s

of finalists, members of the Kent Women’s Action Collective and the Kent Gay Liberation Front protest the competition as sexist and not representative of KSU. For the first time, the Homecoming court includes a male, Lee Paull. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 17, 1974)

OCTOBER 7, 1978: After a hiatus of several years, the alumni association revives the election of a Homecoming queen—with the new addition of a king for “equality.” Brenda Paramore, sponsored by Koonce Hall, and William Stone, sponsored by Tau Kappa Epsilon, are crowned at halftime. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 6, 1978; *The Chestnut Burr*, 1979, pg. 12)

1980s

OCTOBER 10, 1981: The first Homecoming parade is started by Anita Herington, BS ’71, MA ’88, PhD ’94, former director of alumni relations. The parade includes more than 40 units and 19 floats—a 30-foot KSU kazoo made by Dunbar Hall residents wins best float. The Golden Flashes beat the Huskies from Northern Illinois University, 31-10, and the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders make their first Ohio appearance during halftime. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 13, 1981)

OCTOBER 12, 1985: For Kent State’s sesquicentennial, the athletics department unveils Kent State’s new mascot, Flash (the Golden Eagle), during the Homecoming game against the University of Texas-El Paso (Flashes win 51-24). Flash “hatches” from a giant egg that is displayed during the Homecoming Parade (11) and is brought out to the field at halftime. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 15, 1985)

OCTOBER 4, 1986: Guitarist Joe Walsh (who attended KSU) serves as Parade Grand Marshal. He rocks the National Anthem on his guitar at halftime and later plays to a packed house in the Memorial Gym (12). (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 2, 1986; *A Book of Memories*, pg. 285)



1990s

OCTOBER 6, 1990: KSU celebrates its 80th anniversary with the Homecoming parade theme “Around the World in 80 Years” to celebrate diversity. The Student Alumni Action Board brings back an old tradition—the 2.1-mile Bowman Cup Race is held for the first time in 12 years. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 5 & 9, 1990)

OCTOBER 2, 1993: For the first time, Kent State students choose a Homecoming queen and king who are both African-American. Nikki Marchmon, sponsored by Black United Students, and Anthony Keys, sponsored by Harambee, are crowned during halftime (13) at the football game (Western Michigan wins 27-21). (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 1 & 6, 1993)

OCTOBER 8, 1994: All eyes are on President Carol Cartwright (14) as she rides a Harley-Davidson, her chariot of choice for Homecoming parades. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 11, 1994)



2000s

OCTOBER 20, 2001: After 9/11, KSU celebrates hometown heroes during the parade, which includes local firefighters and many floats with a patriotic theme. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 22, 2001)

OCTOBER 11, 2008: A favorite tradition, the Homecoming parade, returns after an absence of five years. The theme is “Salute to Service” to honor veterans. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 10, 2008)



OCTOBER 10, 2009: President Lester Lefton and Linda Lefton kick off Kent State’s year-long 100th anniversary at the parade (15). “Centennial Celebration” events include a spirit walk and pep rally on Risman Plaza, the 9th annual Bowman Cup 5K Race (16), parade floats, decorating contests for offices and black squirrel statues and the rededication of the Prentice Gate and Oscar Ritchie Hall. (*The Daily Kent Stater*, Oct. 9, 2009)



2010s

OCTOBER 15, 2011: The Kent State alumni association starts a new Homecoming tradition, “Kiss on the K,” for couples who met at Kent State to smooch on the K at Risman Plaza when the library bells ring at 12:30 p.m. Named the wildest Homecoming tradition by college web publication *The Lala* in 2015, it continues to the present (17).

OCTOBER 18, 2014: President Beverly Warren celebrates her first Kent State Homecoming and poses with Grand Marshal Tracy McCool, BS ’94 (18). The Golden Flashes win over West Point’s Army Black Nights 39-17 at Dix Stadium. Events include the Bowman Cup 5K Race, a parade viewing party and a Kent State Spirit Party. (*The Kent Stater*, Oct. 15, 2014; *KSU Buzz*, Oct. 15 & 21, 2014)



OCTOBER 1, 2016: The Kent State alumni association hosts a new alumni parade watch location at the Rock and a first Welcome Home Party inviting alumni to their new home at the Center for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement.

Create more memories and celebrate 100 years with Kent State at this year’s Homecoming, OCTOBER 6, 2018! Visit www.ksualumni.org/homecoming for more information.

—With research by Jon Jivan, BS ’08; Melissa Olson; Jan Senn; Ashley Whaley, BS ’06, MED ’12

alumni LIFE

Going the Distance

Running long distances is nothing new for **Dorn Wenninger, BA '91**. His parents worked on the Kent Campus and would bring him to the track, where he developed a love of running that has taken him all over the world.

After finishing first place in the 14th Annual North Pole Marathon in 2016, he recently completed the 2018 World Marathon Challenge, running seven marathons in seven days on seven continents.

From January 30 to February 5, he spent 52.25 hours flying by charter plane and 31 hours running full marathons for a total of 183.4 miles in Novo (Antarctica), Cape Town (Africa), Perth (Australia), Dubai (Asia), Lisbon (Europe), Cartagena (South America) and Miami (North America). He finished ninth among the 35 men competing in the challenge (12 women also competed).

Currently the vice president of perishables for Walmart Mexico, he says he was inspired to run



Dorn Wenninger, BA '91, began the 2018 World Challenge Marathon in Novo, Antarctica, on Jan. 30, 2018.

the marathons by his desire to explore the world and to raise money and awareness for Amigos de las Américas (AMIGOS), an international nonprofit that develops young leaders through volunteer abroad programs in Latin America.

Mr. Wenninger—who majored in Spanish and international relations, and also served as president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the Interfraternity Council—credits Kent State for influencing his life and helping his career. “I speak Spanish all day at work and couldn’t do my job without it.”

During his junior year, he received the *Time* and Volkswagen College Achievement award and

a \$3,000 scholarship as one of 20 outstanding collegians nationwide, recognized for community work, university service and academic record. In high school and college, he volunteered as a staff member of AMIGOS (which has an Ohio chapter in Kent), helping direct programs in Mexico, Ecuador and Costa Rica. He attended graduate school in Mexico and has lived, worked and traveled in 99 countries.

“My two daughters are being raised in a global environment,” he says. “I like that they see the world as a place to be explored.” —*Adapted from a story by Hannah Coleman, BS '18*

class NOTES

1950s

Donovan Kline, BBA '57, East Flat Rock, N.C., wrote: “As a diplomatic courier for the Department of State, I took 326 trips, traveled 1,817,357 official miles (over 2 million with personal travel) between 1957-1977 and was in 140 countries, including 32 trips to Moscow during the Cold War years of the 50s and 60s. My final job there was as a traffic manager, retiring in 1986.”

1960s

Glenn Novotny, BS '66, MA '69, BSE '74, Hudson, Ohio, wrote: “I retired after teaching both high school and college for 36 years. I’m currently involved in the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program, and I am researching soil microbial ecology and bird studies at Holden Arboretum.”

William Maple, MA '68, PhD '74, Red Hook, N.Y., retired after 42 years as Professor of Biology and Director of the Field Station at Bard College. In addition to teaching and research in the Hudson River Valley, he spent summers as Director of the Natural History Museum for the Maria Mitchell Association on Nantucket Island, Mass., retiring in 2008. He spends his time studying wildlife, reading history and traveling with his wife, Barbara.

Leann Fields, BA '69, Ann Arbor, Mich., senior executive editor at the University of Michigan Press, received a career achievement award for Excellence in Editing from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education at the organization’s annual meeting in August 2017.

David Nichols, BArc '69, Rochester, N.Y., wrote: “The College of Architecture Class of '69 is planning its 50-year reunion to be held at KSU May 1, 2019. Get your current email addresses to Marti Ring, mkring1@kent.org, so you can join the party. **Jim Carlson, BArc '69; Tom Gall, BArc '69** and I are looking forward to seeing everyone.”

1970s

Gregory Smith, BBA '70, Basking Ridge, N.J., wrote: “I retired on September 30, 2017, from Federal Service, leaving my position as regional director, Eastern region, at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, New York City regional office.”

Larry Raines, BA '73, Buffalo, N.Y., has been named co-chair of the membership committee for Network in Aging of WNY, Inc.,



Nelson Bobb, BS '70, MEd '71, Greensboro, N.C., was named interim director of athletics at Guilford College and will guide the school’s 20-team NCAA Division III athletics program through a year-long leadership transition. He was formerly athletics director at University of North Carolina Greensboro from 1983 to 2009.

a nonprofit that brings together individuals and organizations involved in aging and long-term care. He is the co-owner of Caring Transitions of Buffalo, which provides transition services for senior citizens.

Carter Strang, BS '73, MEd '79, Cleveland, founding partner of the national law firm of Tucker Ellis LLP, is the recipient of the 2017 Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Green Sustainability Award. He originated the CMBA Green Initiative and its green certification of law offices and firms for adopting sustainable practices, such as reductions in energy and paper use and establishing recycling programs. As CMBA president (2012-13), he promoted sustainability by holding the first CMBA Great Lakes Summit at the Great Lakes Science Center. In July 2017 he completed the 2017 Pan Ohio Hope Ride, cycling from Cincinnati to Cleveland to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

David Brennan, PhD '75, Andover, Minn., retired from the University of St. Thomas-Minnesota and is now professor emeritus. He taught marketing and retailing at UST for the past 30 years. He previously worked 12 years in marketing at Target, General Tire and Travelers Insurance.

Ruth Lyons, BFA '78, Charlotte, N.C., installed artwork for the Charlotte Area Transit Lynx light rail station with partner **Paul Sires, BFA '79**. The commission included windscreens, wall mosaic, hand-carved granite seating and other station design finishes. Another mosaic seating project commissioned by Summit Construction was installed in the NoDa art district in Charlotte, N.C. Her work will be reproduced on traffic structures in Pompano Beach, Florida. She was awarded an artist residency at Casa Na Ilha in Brazil for February 2018, and she was commissioned to design a large-scale mural for the Charlotte Douglas International Airport in 2018.

James Jones, BGS '79, Damascus, Ohio, retired in 2014 from the University of Northwestern Ohio after 30 years as an admissions representative. Jones Hall was named for him in 2013. He also was a scholarship volunteer at the Summit Racing Program High School National Drags for 20 years and a member of the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling for 25 years.

1980s

Claudia Bolden, BS '80, MEd '00, EdS '02, Kent, Ohio, wrote: “After 30 years of service, I retired as principal of Shaw High School, East Cleveland, Ohio. My son and I penned the book *Chained 2 Change*, which was published in 2015. The word of God is not chained. I now reside in Kent and graduated from the Kent Citizen’s Police Academy in spring 2017. I serve on the KCPA board, and I organized a prayer vigil for the Kent and the KSU police departments. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at noon at the downtown gazebo.”

Ray Novotny, BS '80, Youngstown, Ohio, wrote: “In 2017 I received a Naturalist Award from the Ohio Biological Survey, which reads: ‘In recognition of exemplary service and dedication as a naturalist whose contributions significantly advanced our understanding and appreciation of Ohio’s natural history.’ I am humbled to join this esteemed fraternity of OBS honorees.”

Monica Sioux Silver, BFA '80, Cleveland, has retired from GE Lighting after a 36-year career as art director.

Brenda Oros Smith, BFA '84, is one of six judges for the International Pearl Design Competition in 2018. Her earring entry won an award in the organization’s first competition, and after winning all subsequent years, she was employed as one of their judges.

Diane (Severson) Mangan, BBA '85, Annandale, N.J., wrote: “Having been involved

in bookselling for 30 years and specializing in children’s books for most of that time, I am now the vice president of trade book merchandising for Baker & Taylor. B&T is a worldwide distributor/wholesaler to public libraries and retailers. Prior to B&T, I was with Borders Books for many years in Ann Arbor, Michigan.”

Michele Curtin, BA '86, Tampa, Fla., wrote: “I am now working as a professional realtor in the state of Florida, specializing in the Tampa market. See www.ShellSellsFloridaHomes.com.”

Aaron Mandel, BA '86, BBA '86, Saint Louis, Mo., obtained a diploma from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust in 2015, and is currently in year two of the Master of Wine program.

Scott Torok, BS '86, MA '88, Geneva, Ohio, has coached for 20 years and collected his 300th victory as coach of the Geneva High School Girls’ tennis team in Geneva, Ohio.

Laurette Payette, MA '87, Macedonia, Ohio, was inducted into both the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame and the Ohio Athletic Association Hall of Fame, in recognition of the years she has spent as a coach, athletic director and official, and in honor of her dedication to advancing opportunities for women in sports. In addition, the Laurette Payette Distinguished National Service Award was established by the U.S. Lacrosse Association in 2015, due to her tireless efforts to the game of lacrosse.

Robert Miller, BA '88, Beltsville, Md., an associate professor at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., has been promoted to associate dean for graduate studies of the School of Theology & Religious Studies.

Sandra Glover-Strothers, BBA '89, MEd '91, Haddonfield, N.J., was inducted into the Toledo City Athletic League Hall of Fame on November 6, 2017. A 1984 graduate of Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio, Dr. Strothers was recognized for basketball, track and volleyball.



Lisa (Schifano) Dunick, BA '00, Fairfax, Va., wrote: “Writing under the pen name Lisa Maxwell, my fourth novel, *The Last Magician* (Simon & Schuster) spent six weeks on The New York Times Best-Sellers list in July/August. My third novel, *Unhooked*, won the 2017 YAVA [Young Adult Virginia Authors] Award.” The annual YAVA Awards, hosted by the Richmond Public Library, recognize outstanding works of young adult literature written by authors living in Virginia.

1990s

Alissa Campbell Shaw, BBA '92, Memphis, Tenn., earned an EdD in higher and adult education from the University of Memphis in 2017. Formerly the university’s director of annual giving, she now leads International Paper’s global corporate and foundation philanthropic and community engagement efforts as executive director of International Paper Foundation and senior manager, community engagement, global citizenship.

Alexandra Silver, BS '96, Las Vegas, Nev., has been named executive director of the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS). She has a more than 20-year career in operations, program management and event planning in the non-profit and private sector and years of nonprofit leadership experience. Her previous position was director of development for Planned Parenthood. She is the recipient of the Young Leadership Award by Jewish Nevada, a member of the Temple Sinai congregation and an alumna of Alpha Phi.

Sarah West, MA '96, Cleveland, earned a PhD in urban education from Cleveland State University in May 2017. She was joined at her commencement by her husband, **Tom West, MFA '16**. She works at CSU in undergraduate studies and her husband is director of technical theater at Western Reserve Academy.

Paul Richardson, MEd '99, San Francisco, was recently appointed president for the Sequoia Hospital Foundation in Redwood City, Calif. With 18 years of philanthropic management experience, Richardson will take over the fundraising responsibilities for one of the top ranked cardiovascular boutique hospitals in the nation.



Christopher Vogliano, BS '10, MS '12, Seattle, Wash., wrote: “I am going back to school to pursue a PhD in public health and sustainable food systems after being in the workforce for nearly five years. This time however, I’m attending school far away from Kent, Ohio, in Wellington, New Zealand. I will be focusing on creating more sustainable and resilient food systems for Pacific Island populations. I truly feel my graduate work at Kent State University has prepared me for what’s to come, and I could not be more grateful!”



Central Ohio Alumni Chapter members enjoy a tailgate before a Kent State vs Ohio State baseball game in Columbus.

5 Things to Know About Alumni Chapters

Thousands of students leave Kent State with a high-quality education and the tools to build a successful future. Some graduates stay in Northeast Ohio, while others pursue their careers worldwide. As alumni move all over, you can easily lose contact with your classmates and the university. But thanks to 11 alumni chapters—both regional and interest-based—you can keep connected to each other and Kent State.

Interested? Here’s more information:

1 You don’t have to live near Kent to be a part of an alumni chapter.

Chapters exist all over Ohio and out of state, too. One of our newest alumni chapters is in Cleveland, and there are also chapters in Arizona, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Southern California.

2 You can participate in a variety of fun chapter events.

From watch parties to behind-the-scenes tours, alumni chapters host some of the best events. For example, the Central Ohio Alumni Chapter hosts alumni and friends at a KSU vs OSU baseball game every spring. The group tailgates before heading into the stadium for the ball game. Such events are a great way to meet and reminisce with fellow graduates.

3 You can help provide scholarships for students.

Many chapters have created their own scholarships. Last year, alumni chapters gave out a total of \$16,250 in scholarships to help students earn their degrees and achieve their dreams.

4 You will have great volunteer opportunities.

Alumni volunteers are proud graduates! Volunteering is a chance to give back to your alma mater and show your Kent State pride. Chapters offer alumni volunteers—local and worldwide—opportunities to connect with KSU current students and fellow alumni who are committed to supporting the university.

5 You can connect online.

Social media is a great way to connect with chapters. Most chapters have Facebook pages so you can stay current on chapter news and events.

—Ashley Whaley, BS ’06, MEd ’12

To learn more about alumni chapters, visit www.ksualumni.org/alumnigroups or call the Kent State University Alumni Association at 888-320-KENT (5368).



Black Alumni Chapter members pose for a group photo at their meet & greet.

class NOTES

2000s

Shanon Larimer, BS ’00, Orlando, Fla., arts leader, advocate and CEO of Larimer & Co. Branding Studios, was recently honored by Orange County Mayor, Teresa Jacobs, with a proclamation recognizing his 10 years of dedicated service to Central Florida’s arts

community, the promotion of its world-class visual and performing arts venues and the development of robust and strategic corporate, public/private partnerships that have significantly impacted the region.

Jessica Brandt, BS ’01, Macedonia, Ohio, was elected to the city council of Macedonia, Ohio, on November 7, 2017.

Paul Marnecheck, BA ’03, MA ’10, North Royalton, Ohio, wrote: “I was elected to my fifth term on the North Royalton City Council.”

Daniel Alcorn, AA ’08, BGS ’09, Rutland, Vt., started a new position as academic program manager of the BS in Management Studies degree completion program at Norwich University in September 2017. He has taught business and management courses at Norwich for several years and previously was assistant director of enrollment advising.

2010s

Andy Claytor, MBA ’11, Uniontown, Ohio, has been promoted to Vice President of Business Development, East Region, for HEXPOL Compounding, a leading developer and manufacturer of high-quality rubber compounds. He has been in the rubber industry for 29 years with multiple companies.

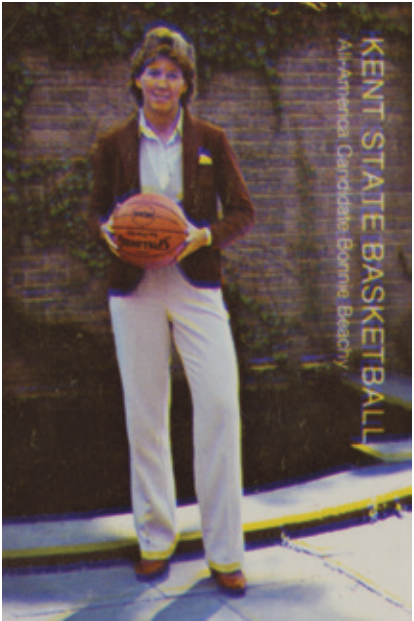
Kati Corbitt, MLIS ’16, Cleveland, Ohio, wrote: “I joined the Hathaway Brown School community as the middle school librarian and I blog for American Independent School Librarians.”



Amanda Dragon, BS ’15, and **Nick Dragon, BBA ’15**, Youngstown, Ohio, met in Fletcher Hall during their first year at Kent State. They were married six years later on June 3, 2017 in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

A Golden Legacy

In the Memorial Athletic Conference Center (MAC Center) on February 24, 1982, **Bonnie Beachy, BS ’82** became the first basketball player at Kent State University to have a jersey retired. The ceremony took place following the last game of her senior year among a crowd of more than 4,000 attendees. It was an appropriate homage for the Golden Flash legend, whose coach, Laurel Wartluft, described her as “the finest woman basketball player in Kent State history.” She still holds the Kent State basketball all-time leading scorer record (2,071 points)—among both men and women—more than 35 years after she set it.



Bonnie Beachy is pictured on the front of the 1981-82 schedule card, indicating her candidacy for All-America status.

Being the first basketball player to have her number retired was just one of many firsts Ms. Beachy brought to Kent State. She led the Lady Flashes to a MAC Championship title in 1981 and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament in basketball in 1982—both new accomplishments for the university.

Her jersey number was the foreboding 13, but her athletic career was anything but unlucky. During her time at Kent State University, the star forward held or shared an astounding 23 school records.

Although well known for her basketball talent, her athletic prowess was not limited to one sport. The Golden Flash was a rare two-sport Division I athlete, and she earned seven varsity letters, including four for basketball and three for tennis. She was also inducted into the Kent State Varsity “K” Hall of Fame in 1988.

After graduating from Kent State in 1982 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education, Ms. Beachy went on to become a teacher and coach in Texas. She was devoted to her students and players, and she was an advocate for rescue animals.

In 2013, she returned to Kent State University as a speaker for the 12th annual Starner Distinguished Speaker Series and shared a message with current student-athletes on lessons learned through her life and athletic career. In her keynote address—“The Fight”—she explained that moments we view as a win or a loss in our early lives are preparing us to overcome challenges we may face later. It was a powerful lesson, one she put into practice as she battled ovarian cancer for more than 12 years.

Ms. Beachy passed away on October 13, 2017, but her legacy lives on at Kent State University. Her retired jersey remains in the rafters of the MAC Center, a symbol of



Bonnie Beachy takes a shot in 1979.

the pioneering female student-athlete who championed a golden age of basketball for the Golden Flashes.
—Bethany Sava, BS ’12

in MEMORY

1940s

Hazel Whitacre ’44, September 17, 2016
Mary Lee ’47, July 16, 2016

1950s

Jean (Miller) Bailis ’50, October 10, 2017
Steve Flasco ’51, December 30, 2017
William Browne ’52, August 31, 2017
Robert Amstadt ’53, February 28, 2017
Jesse Hardy ’53, March 5, 2017
Thomas Meinhardt ’54, February 17, 2017
Frank Pichel ’54, September 6, 2017
George Kodak ’55, April 3, 2017
John Keen ’55, September 13, 2017
Robert Lee ’56, February 23, 2016
Helen Medley ’57, November 18, 2017
Diane (Schneider) Roberts ’57, November 26, 2017
Beverly Jean Beichler Deaton ’58, July 19, 2017
Jack Stonestreet ’58, June 29, 2017

1960s

Roger Landon ’61, October 19, 2017
Marguerite Jane Charvat ’62, February 2, 2018

James Dickson ’62, March 9, 2017
R. Huber ’62, October 4, 2017
Robert Billingslea ’64, September 1, 2017
Lois Fretter, MEd ’64, February 16, 2017
Barbara Sutton ’64, MEd ’72, August 29, 2017
Elizabeth Gorman ’65, September 30, 2017
Jean Moeller ’65, February 3, 2017
Robert Kaylor ’66, September 14, 2017
G. Acrey ’68, October 8, 2016
Arthur Deibel ’68, February 12, 2016
Sandra (Kirtland) Robinson ’68, February 12, 2018
Susan Young ’68, October 15, 2017
Ben Ehmcke ’69, September 24, 2017
Marilyn Praznik ’69, October 20, 2017
Gerald Rabell, BS ’69, MEd ’77, February 2, 2016

1970s

H. Graham ’70, October 1, 2017
Peggy Good ’71, September 17, 2017
Claire Nalepka ’71, September 11, 2017
Cathrine Miller ’72, August 22, 2017
David Ross ’72, October 2, 2016
Lonzo Hardman ’73, April 29, 2016
Mark Maedeker ’73, August 17, 2017
Terry Gross ’74, July 19, 2017

Gary Hay ’75, December 10, 2015
Karen Marco ’75, September 6, 2017
Marc Haiflich ’76, September 24, 2017
Richard Makruski ’76, MEd ’95, September 5, 2017
Donna Gardner ’77, November 5, 2017
Philip Rosenberger ’77, August 17, 2017

1980s

Patrice Moore ’81, March 2, 2017
Bonnie Beachy ’82, October 13, 2017
Kenneth Wimmer ’82, April 17, 2013
Robert Manak ’83, March 22, 2017
Richard Redmond ’83, April 15, 2016
Randolph Nemecek ’84, March 14, 2016
James Wible ’86, August 23, 2017
Linda (Sowers) Smearsoll ’87, May 17, 2017

1990s

Patricia Travis ’95, April 28, 2017
Lesley Hathorn ’99, PhD ’07, August 7, 2016

FACULTY/STAFF

Carl Leach, former director of Business Services (1977–1989), March 8, 2018

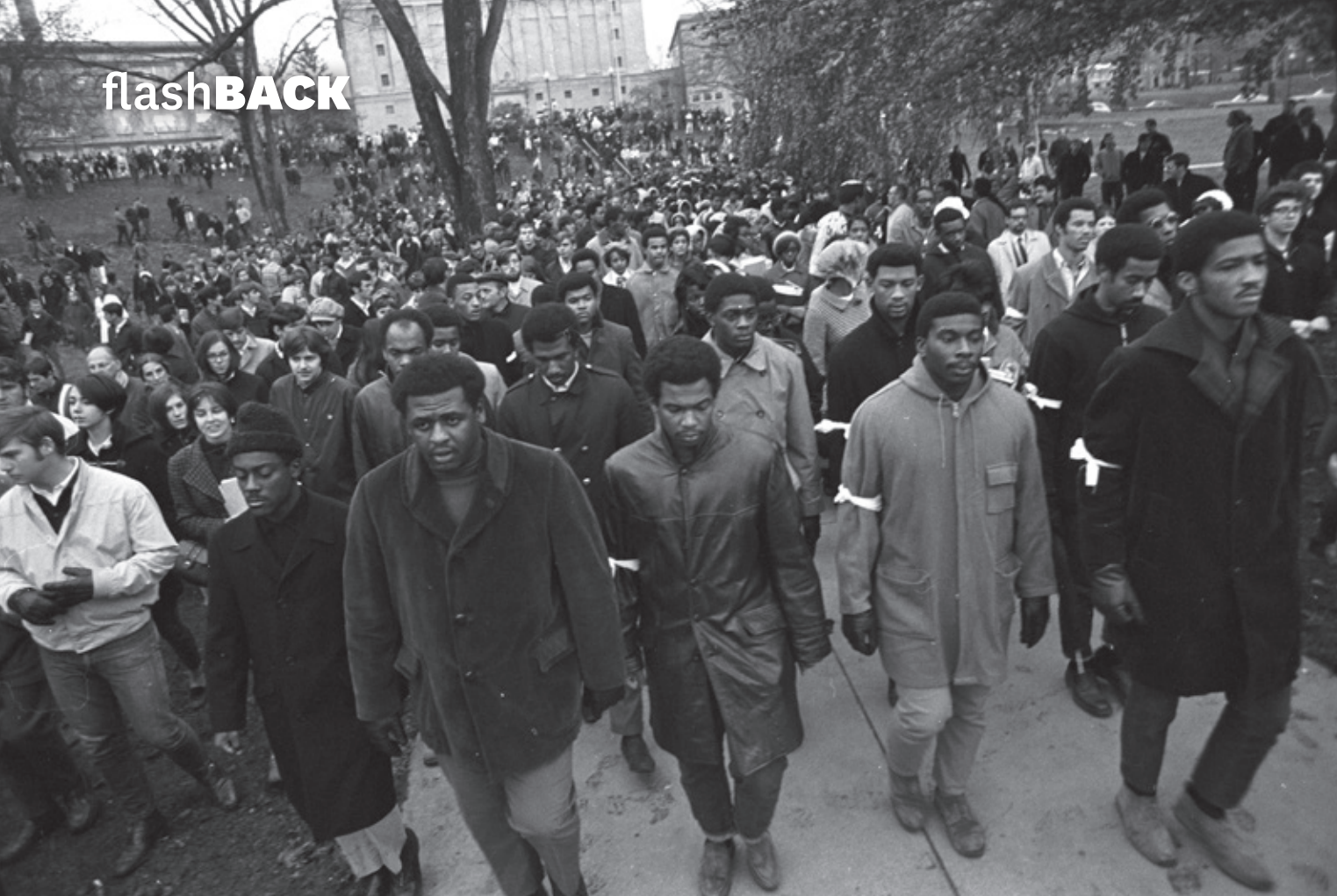
Send Us Your Class Note

We’d love to hear from you!

To share your news, complete the form at www.ksualumni.org/classnotes (you may include a high-resolution 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	March 31
Winter	July 31
Spring	November 30



BUS Turns 50

As antiwar and black power movements swept the nation in the late 1960s, black students on college campuses were inspired to take more direct action to quell racism and promote equality. The students at Kent State University were no exception.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Black United Students (BUS)—one of the oldest student organizations at Kent State University. A recent photo exhibit at the Uumbaji Gallery in Oscar Ritchie Hall chronicled their diverse activities, including protests, cultural activities, social events and national speakers that BUS has helped bring to Kent State.

BUS became a registered student organization at Kent State in April 1968. Racial tensions were climbing after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4 and a violent confrontation on April 6 between police in Oakland, California, and Oakland's Black Panther Party, which challenged police brutality against the African American community. Bobby Hutton, a 17-year-old Black Panther member, was shot and killed after surrendering to police officers.

On November 18, 1968, black students leave campus in a mass exodus in response to the collapse of negotiations over their demand for amnesty from the Oakland Police Department sit-in days earlier. The walkout succeeded and led to KSU's Black Studies program and other reforms. *Courtesy Special Collections and Archives, Kent State University Libraries*

Seven months later, the above photo was taken. About 250 students—including many BUS members—silently marched off campus on November 18, 1968, protesting the university's refusal to grant them amnesty from being charged with disorderly conduct after a sit-in by BUS and Students for a Democratic Society, held days earlier, hindered the Oakland Police Department's on-campus efforts to recruit new officers from KSU's law enforcement program.

The walkout shook the university and prompted some professors to cancel classes until the students returned. Three days later the students came back to campus and no charges were made, according to a paper by Lae'l Hughes-Watkins, KSU assistant professor and university archivist.

This activism resulted in the creation of the Institute for African American Affairs in 1969, the Center of Pan-African Culture (CPAC) in 1970 and the Department of Pan-African Studies in 1976. CPAC's home base, formerly the Old Student Union, was

renamed in 1977—dedicated to the late Dr. Oscar Ritchie, KSU's first African American faculty member—and is known as “the house that BUS built.”

BUS also proposed that Kent State extend Negro History Week into Black History Month in February 1969, becoming one of the first college campuses to do so; the event received official nationwide designation in 1976 by President Gerald Ford.

Since these historic and somewhat tumultuous beginnings, BUS has evolved with the times and continues to promote the welfare of black students on campus—providing educational, cultural and social activities and taking a stand on issues of importance to blacks across America and around the world. ⚡

—Bethany Sava, BS '12

Send us YOUR Flashback:

Share your memories from Kent State and they may appear in a future issue of *Kent State Magazine*. Email your stories and photos to magazine@kent.edu.

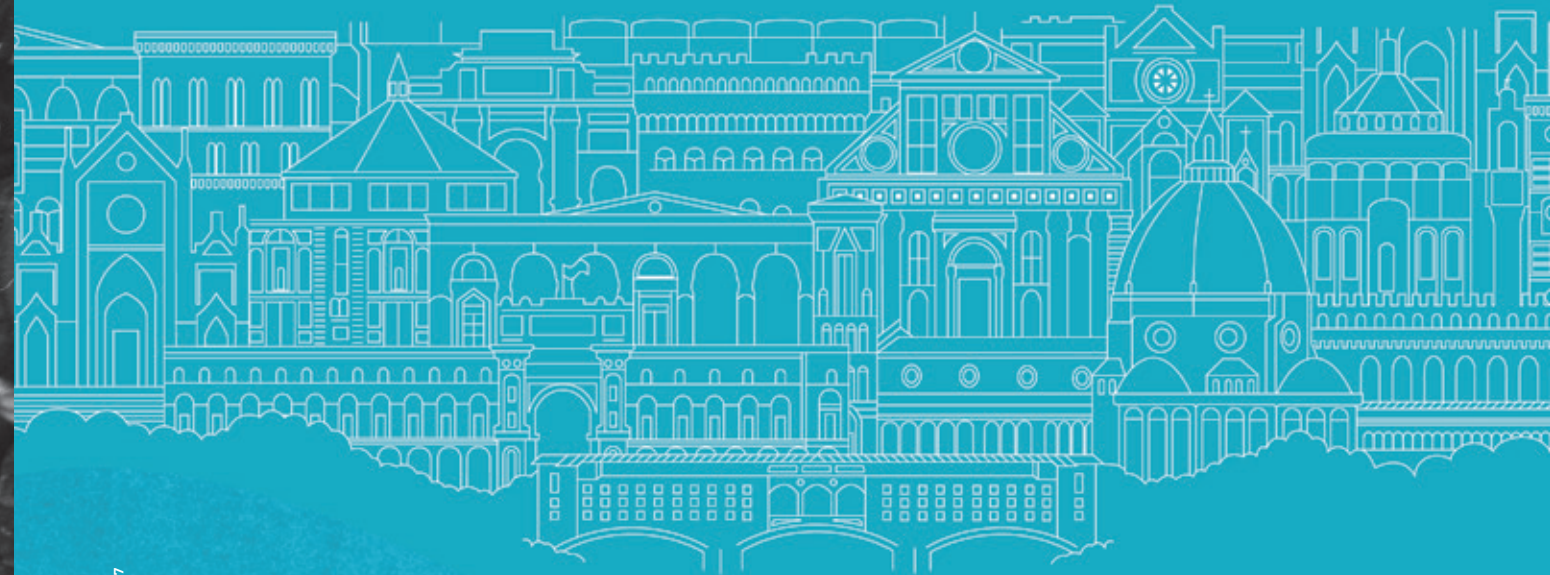


ILLUSTRATION BY ZUZANA KUBIŠOVÁ '17

FIRENZE FLORENCE

L'anziana città
tra luci e ombre
si specchia nello scorrere lento
del fiume.

Fiume amato e odiato,
che un giorno l'ha presa e
trasportata nel vortice.
L'acqua girava,
girava,
girava
sui dipinti antichi,
sulle croci ora risorte dal fango,
sulle righe dei libri,
con la forza che voleva strappare
parole al passato.
Esci dalla melma, Firenze!
E vivi con il passato ora lindo
nel tuo futuro luminoso.

The ancient city
between lights and shadows
reflected in the slow flow
of the river.

River loved and hated,
that one day picked up and
carried the city into the whirlpool.
The water spun,
spun,
spun
over ancient paintings,
over crosses now risen from the mud,
over the lines of books,
with a force that wanted to rip the
words away from the past.
Get out of the mire, Florence!
And live with the past, now cleansed,
in your bright future.

Poem by Lapo Cecionil (11 anni, age 11)
Classe 1D, Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado “Italo Calvino”
Translation by Edward Yannayon

This poem—one result of a Wick Poetry Center project with teachers in Florence, Italy—was written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous flood of the Arno River in 1966.

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In partnership with the Wick Poetry Center, *Kent State Magazine* features a poem in each issue. To submit your poem, visit travelingstanzas.com, click “Submit,” and label it “Magazine Entry.”

Together Again!

“Standing room only, baby, that’s the way we like it.”

That’s how Golden Flash and Academy Award–nominated actor Michael Keaton opened his commencement remarks before the crowd of more than 21,000 attending the One University Commencement at Dix Stadium on May 12, 2018.

Prior to giving the commencement address, Mr. Keaton joined more than 3,000 graduates in wearing their caps and gowns as Kent State awarded him an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters for his contributions to film performance.

Kent State conferred 5,345 degrees this spring—the second year that all Kent State graduates from the eight-campus system were convened and honored in one ceremony.

BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

