

FALL/WINTER 2020-21

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE

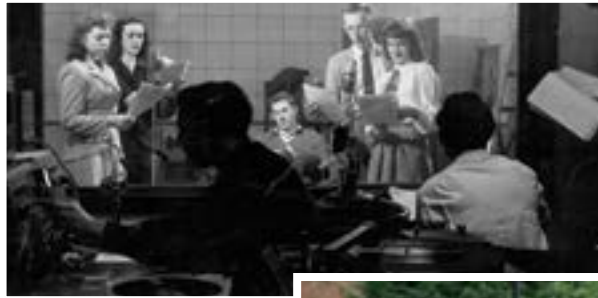


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After racist messages appear repeatedly on the Rock, Kent State redoubles its anti-racism efforts.

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Cover photo: Bob Christy, BS '95

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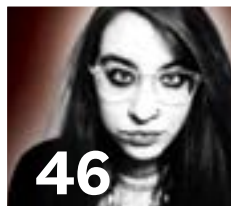
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Squirrel Search

In each issue, we hide an image of a black squirrel on three pages (not counting the Table of Contents). If you find all three, you qualify for a drawing to win a squirrel-themed prize. Each squirrel will appear like this:  (shown actual size) and will not be distorted or rotated.

When you find them, send us an email at magazine@kent.edu, listing the three page numbers and places they appear, plus your name and mailing address. For rules and eligibility requirements see www.kent.edu/magazine/rules.



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readers **RESPOND**

And the Winner Is...

Congratulations to **Claire Pressler, BA '15**, Lakewood, Ohio, who applied to the KSU Fall 2020 ABSN (Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program, so she was back in school fall semester, taking two classes online and two hybrid. (Kent State's accelerated second degree BSN for non-nurses is created for students who already hold a bachelor's degree and leads to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in as few as 15 months.)

She wrote, "The package made my day! I love everything. The card is staying on my desk all semester for good luck." We wish her all the best as she prepares to help meet the huge need for nurses.



The three black squirrels in the spring/summer 2020 issue are found in the top photo on page 9, greeting the Golden Flashes at the Tropical Smoothies Café Frisco Bowl; page 33, hanging out on Tom Batiuk's drawing board; and page 36, attending the Kent State Men's Soccer Alumni Reunion.

Thanks to all who entered!

via **MAIL**

Reflections on May 4, 1970

I was at Kent from the fall of 1962 until the summer of 1970. (Although I was out of town on May 4, 1970.)

As I read John Mensch's letter [spring/summer 2020, "Readers Respond," page 2], I could not help but think that he and I attended very different Kent States. He wrote of "a few sit-ins" and "a few demonstrations." And he alluded to at least some by non-students.

I beg to disagree. The first demonstration against the Vietnam War was in the fall of 1964, and they were held weekly from then on. Maybe he didn't remember that ROTC cadets were no longer required to wear their uniform once a week. They were getting too much criticism and comments from other students. Also, the weekly ROTC cadet assemblies had to be moved to the football stadium to avoid threatened actions by the SDS.

Or maybe he didn't remember Bernardine Dohrn running around the Williams Hall lecture room topless, shouting SDS propaganda. Or Jerry Rubin's speech of "Up Against the Wall ^%#&+."

Mr. Mensch may have been gone when we had the major march in October 1969 with thousands of students and professors. (I was there.)

I remember Kent as a very politically active campus during the years I attended. And do not even get me started about the antagonism between the Kent police force

and the students. It was not pretty.

RICHARD SCHROER, BS '66, PHD '70
Colfax, NC

How can you devote the majority of a magazine on the May 4 Shootings without mentioning the "heroic" actions of Dr. Glenn Frank and the other professor who was with him? They stepped out in front of the Guard and kept them from firing a second volley. Many lives were possibly saved. Their actions should not be forgotten.

NOEL EGENSERGER, BA '65, MA '71
Euclid, Ohio

Your spring/summer 2020 issue on May 4, 1970 was very good. Tragedies like the Kent State Shootings can only be made meaningful if they are remembered and used to further our understanding of ourselves and our world, no matter how difficult or painful that process may be.

After the Kent State Shootings, I knew that if I went to college, I would go to Kent State. I attended Kent State from 1976-79. I attended demonstrations to commemorate May 4 and protest plans to build a gym on Blanket Hill where the National Guard fired from. But I noticed that there were no demonstrations about millions of Indochinese being mass murdered, tortured, imprisoned, driven into desperate flight, denied basic freedoms. In [late December 1978-1979], when the Viet Cong invaded Cambodia,

Chinese communists invaded Vietnam, Soviets mobilized and we stood on the brink of a nuclear war—no demonstrations.

It is important to remember that there are always things that we don't know, that we might not even be able to know. It is important to always ask questions.

One thing I learned from your issue was that protesters didn't fear that the National Guard would shoot or would shoot blanks.

Were the guardsmen more afraid of the protesters than the protesters were of the guardsmen? If the students had been wiser, they would not have been surprised at the shootings or when many people supported the guardsmen and sent hate mail to the wounded.

Their parents were members of "The Greatest Generation." They had not only survived two World Wars and the Great Depression, they had helped spread democracy and prosperity, end colonialism and segregation, built businesses, universities, etc. They were facing nuclear annihilation from two rampaging communist superpowers. They were indulgent and tolerant of their kids' immaturity and misbehavior, but they could be pushed too far, and they would fight to preserve what they had built. The Silent Majority's anger may have helped many kids look at themselves more honestly and think about the consequences of their actions.

The students didn't die in vain. Most Americans have learned to get along better despite our many differences. KSU is now officially a "Military Friendly Campus." There are many veterans in the Class Notes. When I attended Kent 1976-79, even though I was a hawk, veteran and in the ROTC, I made lifelong friends with people who weren't.

In 1976, KSU ROTC felt safe enough to take rock screens off the ROTC bus windows. In 1977-79, controversy about building a gym on Blanket Hill caused tension, disruption and tumult. Some students deliberately trespassed on the gym site so they would get arrested, but the arrests were without incident and the trespassers were released. At a protest I missed, tear gas was used, but this was rare. Christian jocks who wanted the gym and Christians like me who wanted to preserve our history and honor the dead got together to pray for peace. But tensions never escalated to the extent they did in 1970.

I hope that our personal and collective quests to understand will never end. Thanks for a very good issue that helps us understand better. God bless you, me, Kent State, America, Vietnam, Cambodia, Earth.

RAYMOND P. OPEKA, BBA '79
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Many Memories

I just finished the spring/summer 2020 edition, which I thought was amazing. Just for fun, I wanted to share my KSU memories.

At the end of April, my wife and I headed north on Route 43 to Kent. It was a route I've traveled quite often. We knew the campus would be deserted (how rare) and we could take a leisurely tour.

I showed her where I was when John Glenn orbited the Earth and when John Kennedy was killed. We drove by the Hub where we commuters hung out. I showed her where the ROTC building was that got burned; I had an elementary ed class there. We also checked out the hill where the shootings took place. I walked that hill often going to the phys ed building and to music appreciation.

I hadn't planned to go to college. I graduated from Massillon Washington High School, and I got a good-paying job on an assembly line for Ecko products making pots and pans. After a year, I got laid off.

I was standing on the corner in downtown Massillon with three friends. We were discussing what we wanted to do, and someone said, why don't we go to college? Someone else said, we could go to Kent. So we did; we hopped in a car and headed to Kent. When we got [to the university] we went to the Office of the President and asked the secretary if he was busy. He wasn't. [President George A. Bowman] invited us into his office and told us what Kent had to offer.

I began the elementary education program that fall. A college education was very affordable. The cost for a quarter was less than \$100 and commuting made it work. It was a wonderful experience.

I began teaching in December 1963. I was not on campus when the shootings took place. My fellow teachers included two WWII veterans. I kept my feelings to myself.

I'm sending along [a check] for the scholarship fund. I just wanted to share my story. Thanks for listening.

RICH CONVERSE, BS '64
Canton, Ohio

via EMAIL

Memorial Mention

I have not been back to Kent State since 1983 so I have not seen your memorial.

My thought is, if not already done, that the names of all the Americans that died in Vietnam be included. They are the reason our four students lived and died. The names could be like crowns around the memorials of Allison, Jeffrey, Sandra and William. Their heart-wrenching biographies are actually reflections of the biographies of all who died overseas. In fact, this "micro war scene" of young people dying on their homeland reflects the pain of the Vietnamese and their horrific day-to-day life.

Thank you for all who have dedicated so much time in order to not let our country forget. Maybe, maybe we will not make the same mistake again.

ROSEANN STROEBEL, MA '83
Mentor, Ohio

Editor's Note: *The war deaths were memorialized by 58,175 daffodil bulbs planted on the hillside site to symbolize the number of US losses in Vietnam, so they are not forgotten. And their names are listed in the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.*



With the Passage of Time

Fifty years have passed since the 1970 shootings. As an eventual alumni of Kent State University who was 14 years old and living in Akron when the tragedy occurred 20 miles away, what I have seen over the years is the original events with a valuable time factor added that has yielded many developments over the years, some good,

some not so good but all interesting and worth noting.

The shootings started out as polarized and divisive, with barely a place to hold a discussion without a public fight, but fifty years later the Kent State administration has made "May 4" part of their agenda. They are at last on board with an acknowledgement of these significant events.

It took a long time, but the end result is that some justice has been done. The families' decades of pain have been acknowledged. The wounded are listened to, not as much as some parties would like and more than others would like but, unlike the early annual May 4 events, at least this is no longer a matter of convincing the administration of the school or the State of Ohio that what occurred was an unnecessary tragedy. It deserves and finally has received acknowledgement and continued analysis by the university. We have nothing to thank but the passage of time for that. . . . But I don't think it is a reach to state that there are things that we still need to learn from the shootings at Kent State.

MARK BLOCH, BA '78
New York, NY

Unforgettable Campus Tour

I graduated Kent in June 1979 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army shortly upon graduation. My story at Kent State did not begin in the fall of 1975 as an incoming freshman. My 6th grade class at Captain Arthur Roth Elementary School in Cleveland toured Kent on May 3, 1970. I was 12 years old. My mom attended the tour as a chaperone. It was her first time setting foot on a college campus and she, too, enjoyed the experience.

While my classmates and I thought the large gatherings of students were normal and sadly tried to process the shootings the next day, I was inspired to attend college at Kent State and accelerated through high school to get there early.

I am not sure if other Cleveland inner city schools did the same at that time, but I am grateful for the experience to this day. There were quiet demonstrations of the shootings each year I was there. I understood more then, and my experience at Kent State was great.

CARMEN (TURNER) POWELL, BA '79
Reston, Va.



Upon reaching the crest, the guardsmen turned toward the parking lot and fired upon demonstrators. This photo appeared in the May 15, 1970 edition of *Life* magazine. (Howard Ruffner/Getty Images)



JIM JANNING

"This photo was taken during the 2003 reunion of the 1970 graduating class of architectural students," says Jim Janning, BARC '70. "We are gathered at the 'pagoda,' as it was called then. I am in the front, on Carol Olshavsky's [BARC '70] right side. She was the only woman in our class to make it through the five-year program. The class started in 1965 with over 150 architecture students and ended in 1970 with about 30."

It's Not a Pagoda

I enjoyed the article on remembering May 4, 1970 [spring/summer 2020, "Memorials of May 4," pages 14-17]. I did, however, want to bring one small point to your attention. Regarding the concrete structure outside of Taylor Hall on Blanket Hill, the first time it was mentioned in James Michener's book [*Kent State: What Happened and Why*], he referred to the structure as a "pagoda." Then, in the magazine story on page 16 I saw that the structure was again called a pagoda.

I'm not sure where that term came from, but this structure is *not* a pagoda. Based on a definition, "a pagoda is a Hindu or Buddhist temple or sacred building, typically a many-tiered tower, in India and East Asia." I have been to Japan and seen several pagodas, and this structure is not by definition nor by architectural design a pagoda.

For reasons of clarity, I wanted to let you know that the structure is in fact a "thin-shell (2 inches thick) steel-reinforced concrete structure, designed with four inverted hyperbolic paraboloids that form a 10-foot square." The concrete foundation, located 36 inches below grade, is exactly the same structure as above ground.

Not sure this will be of any value, but I just thought after 51 years I could help clarify the matter. I know this information because I designed, engineered and constructed the structure with another architecture student, **Robert F. Gressard, BARC '70** [Streetsboro, Ohio], in the fall quarter of 1969, just months before the shootings took place on May 4, 1970. I was on my way to an architectural class that day, soon after the shots were fired.

JAMES DONALD JANNING, BARC '70
Charlotte, NC

Editor's Note: *The now iconic concrete structure has been referred to as the "pagoda" in multiple places over the years. Excited to learn the names of the structure's designers, I asked Jim Janning for more details. The following is an edited excerpt of our phone conversation:*

"I designed that structure with fellow classmate Bob Gressard as a project for a fifth-year structures course with Professor Robert Shively. He looked at the design and thought it would work with wind loads, snow loads, etc. Another professor, Conrad McWilliams, got a hold of our drawings and calculations, and he said, 'That thing will never last.' So they bet against each other as to whether our design would work or not.

"We were supposed to install our projects around Taylor Hall, so one night Bob and I were up on Blanket Hill, drinking beer and digging a three-foot deep, ten-foot square hole for the foundation.

"The campus police came by, and asked what we were doing, and we told them the truth. But they arrested us and took us to the campus jail. We said we had a right to make a phone call, so we called Shively and told him where we were. He talked to the police and they escorted us back to the project, where we continued to dig.

"The afternoon we were pouring the concrete (Bob knew someone who had a concrete truck), Shively drove up in a station wagon filled with extra rebar he got at the library project that was under construction at the time. So there's extra steel in the structure because Shively didn't want to lose his bet with McWilliams.

"The main structure is only 2 inches thick; the strength comes from it being a paraboloid, because curves are stronger than straight lines. (My mother was a math teacher and would make mathematical models out of string or cardboard, so she was probably my inspiration for the design. I minored in math, physics and art.)

"We finished it up about three months before the shootings. [On May 4, 1970], I had parked across from Taylor Hall and was heading to a 1 p.m. class. I probably arrived about 10 or 15 minutes after the shootings, and I saw broken glass and pools of blood. People were running around screaming, and some girl cried, 'What should I do? What should I do?' I said, 'Get the hell out of here.'

"I drove home, grabbed my wife and left. Within two weeks I had a job in Cleveland and finished up my courses by mail. When I saw that photo of the structure in *Life* magazine (photo top left) that's when it really hit home. The shootings took a lot out of me.

"When I went back to campus for the first time in 2003 for an architecture class reunion (photo top right), it felt strange being there. I thought things would be more familiar, but it felt very different—until we got to Taylor Hall and I saw it still there.

"I don't think we had any idea that structure would last this long, and I don't know what kind of shape it's in now. Anyway, it was built as an inverted hyperbolic paraboloid. Somehow it got the title of 'pagoda.' If you want to call it an 'umbrella structure,' that's fine."

"Leading up to the 50th commemoration, the university hired a structural restoration consultant to make recommendations for some needed repairs and to review the structure as a whole to ensure its physical integrity," notes Jay Graham, interim executive director in the Office of the University Architect. "We will continue to maintain the structure, as it has historical importance for the university."

For Whom the Bell Tolls

My wife and I enjoyed reading the spring/summer 2020 *Kent State Magazine*. We would like to call to your attention that on page 15 there is an incorrect description of the Victory Bell. The last sentence reads: "The bell is now rung during May 4 Memorial remembrances—and also for athletic triumphs."

As stated in the article, the bell was removed after May 4, 1970, but was returned later. However, it was no longer used for "athletic triumphs." My wife and I talked with President Cartwright to see if it could be placed on a trailer and used at individual athletic events. She indicated that it was to remain on the Commons as part of the historic site.

In 2011 we purchased and donated a trailer and another Victory Bell to the university to be used by the athletic department. The bell is stationed at most athletic events and is rung by the Kent State team if they win. It is also available at KSU graduation ceremonies for those graduates who want to ring it.

BUZZ, BS '67, MARILYN, BS '71, STARNER
Jackson Township, Ohio



Editor's Note: As the Starners, who have been supporters of Kent State Athletics since 1969, clarify above, there are now two Victory Bells: the original one that is permanently placed on the Commons and the Starner Victory Bell, which they donated along with a trailer. It was dedicated in 2011 and is taken to most athletic events, as well as Commencement (since 2016). For more information see www.kent.edu/commencement/traditions.

We learned of the passing of Lowell "Buzz" Starner on November 28, 2020. He and his wife recently created an

endowment for the Pep Band and HUGS (Helping Undergraduates Gain Success) for Nurses, a scholarship for senior nursing students.

As it says in his obituary, "Giving back to Kent State was his way to touch the future."

More to the Story

As a Kent State alumna, I remember being indoctrinated with the KSU version of events. But context matters and there is more to the story: The rioting and breaking of store windows that went on beforehand. The burning of the ROTC building. A state of emergency declared. The rioting by students when firemen tried to put out the fire. Events that resulted in the National Guard being called in. These were not peaceful protests. Students were told to disperse. They were throwing rocks and debris at the soldiers.

I am NOT in any way justifying students getting killed. It was a tragedy. What is frustrating is the lack of context. How much of this was exacerbated by drinking? How many residents of Kent were terrorized by students breaking windows and rioting downtown? How many residents of Kent feared for their lives? Didn't they have a right to live in their own city in safety? People should know the whole story.

ANNA (BONACCI) COSTANZO, BM '88
Cleveland

I do not understand why you commemorate a horrible event like the Kent State riots and shootings. You seem to make heroes of the rioters and say nothing of the losses the National Guard sustained. I didn't see where you identified those rioters as not students at KSU. I didn't read about the burning of the ROTC building and the cutting of fire hoses by the rioters. You presented a biased, one-sided article about student riots and violence. I think you will fit right in with the left-wing media and selective reporting. Sorry Kent State produces such a bias.

FRED GEMLICH, BS '68
Portage, Mich.

There is a part of the story that everyone ignores or chooses to forget. May 4 was the conclusion that began with a lawless fire on May 2. I stood with my neighbor and friend, gymnastics coach Rudy Bachna as

the old wooden classroom burned. I often wonder if the outcome of May 4 would have been different if the lawlessness of May 2 had not occurred.

It is quick and easy to blame the National Guard to find a conspiracy, but have you ever stood before an angry protest and wondered what's next? There is a picture I saw after May 4 but cannot find now of a National Guard major banging his troops on their helmets with his weapon trying to get them to cease fire.

THOM LAKSO, BA '71

Knoxville, Tenn.

Editor's Note: There is a lot more to this tragic story than we were able to cover in a couple pages in a magazine. Over many years, the university began the long, slow process of memorializing the event and learning how to deal with diverse opinions without dismissing them.

I would encourage you to explore some of the resources now available through Kent State that provide a more complete picture of what was going on at the time. For example, the Oral History Project invites stories from all perspectives: <https://omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/kent-state-shootings-oral-histories>.

Those diverse perspectives have been used to inform several recent projects, which we tried to highlight in the magazine, including the Mapping May 4 app, <https://mappingmay4.kent.edu/about>, which includes voices from Kent shop owners and residents. And see the Armed With Our Voices Digital Exhibit, <https://armedwithourvoices.org>; May 4th Voices Radio Play, <https://May4voices.org>; and the Augmented Reality Experience, <http://may4thxr.kent.edu>.

Maybe Next Year

I was a freshman at Kent State on May 4, 1970. So glad the issue that had so much about the 50th anniversary was available in print, as it will certainly be valuable to keep. We had our plane tickets, concert tickets, all ready to come back to Kent for the commemoration, when everything was canceled. I was bitterly disappointed. I am hopeful the university will be able to plan something for next year.

MIKE WILT, BS '73

St. Helena Island, SC

Prior Events

I graduated from KSU School of Business in June 1968 and was hired by General Electric Company. I have fond memories of my days at Kent State. Most of my classes were in Franklin Hall. I lived in an apartment on West Main Street and took the Campus Bus Service to and from classes.

The shooting on May 4, 1970 was truly a tragedy! What I don't understand, is why no one talks about the events that led up to the tragedy? The night before the students burnt down the ROTC Building on the campus. I am sure there were outside agitators that stirred up the students to protest the Vietnam War. Then there was the large crowd of students who gathered downtown and started marching toward the campus. This is when the KSU president called the governor and requested the Ohio National Guard to protect the campus.

Then the tragic event happened! The National Guard on top of the hill and the students marching toward them with some throwing stones. No one knows for sure, but I could see a few members of the National Guard get frightened and shoot. It was all over in a few minutes. In hindsight, the National Guard should have used rubber bullets and this tragedy would not have happened.

This is my understanding of what happened. Is this correct? Are these the events that led up to the shooting?

ROGER FREIBOTT, BBA '68
Macedonia, Ohio

Editor's Note: To fact check your understanding, we recommend you read *"The May 4 Shootings at Kent State University: The Search for Historical Accuracy"* by Jerry M. Lewis, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, and Thomas R. Hensley, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, which can be found here: <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-historical-accuracy>.

For another concise account, you could read: *This We Know: A Chronology of the Shootings at Kent State, May 1970* by Carole Barbato, Laura Davis and Mark Seeman. According to that account (and Lewis and Hensley's account), it was the mayor of Kent, Leroy Satrom, who in consultation with Kent's police chief, declared a state of emergency and requested help from the governor. You can obtain a copy through your library or at The Kent State University Press, <http://www.kentstateuniversitypress.com/2012/this-we-know/>.

If you're interested in reading more about the events from various perspectives, there are many books written about May 4, some from firsthand accounts. You can find a recommended reading list here:

<https://www.kent.edu/may4kentstate50/may-4-reading-list>, and an annotated bibliography of all the major publications written on the event here: <https://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/kent-state-shootings-selected-books>.

Cover Kudos

The cover art for your spring/summer 2020 *Kent State Magazine* was exceptional. As a proud graduate of the KSU Graphic Design program (now called VCD), I was awed by the elegant and poignant art.

The tree with deep roots ties all Kent State graduates together. The nine gray leaves in the tree represent the nine wounded. And the four leaves fluttering to the ground pay tribute and remind us of those we lost.

Bravo, **John-Noall Reid, BA '98**. Your cover design resonated deeply.

MONICA SILVER, BFA '80
Cleveland



What an absolutely fitting cover design. I will keep this forever.

JERRY O'RYAN, MPH '17
Centerville, Ohio

Extra Credit

First, thank you and everyone involved in the virtual commemoration for yeoman efforts under such stressful circumstances. I noticed that the writeup about Robert Stamps [spring/summer 2020 "Where

the Nine Wounded Are Now," page 20] is very short and Robbie deserves more, even though the writer couldn't talk to Robbie since he died some years ago. I would ask, however, that someone beef up his writeup with a point I'd like to offer, because he deserves more space and more credit in helping the university.

As Kent State's executive director of communications for the 25th anniversary commemoration of May 4, I was the primary contact working with Robbie, so I can attest to this addition: Robbie, as his friends called him, remained a staunch supporter of the university. During the 25th anniversary of the shootings, he was one of the primary contacts available to reporters, anchoring a media speakers bureau, determined to communicate the truth about May 4.

PAULA SLIMAK, BA '68, MA '71
Cleveland

Editor's Note: We added this additional information about Robert Stamps to the digital edition of the spring/summer 2020 issue and have included it here, as well.

Worth All the Work

Thank you so much for emailing me [the links to] the May 4 commemorative edition of the magazine. Having been there, that day, it means a lot to me that you not only wrote and produced this thoughtful edition, but that you emailed it to me. It arrived in my inbox exactly when I needed it. Thanks especially for letting us know the stories of the nine wounded.

My wife and I (we met at KSU) are now 3,000 miles away, far off-the-grid in Belize, 'stranded' due to the coronavirus. Not such a bad place to be, really. Peaceful. But we had planned on being there today, in Kent, for the 50th anniversary with you and so many of our old friends. I am beyond sad that it will not happen. Life-changing events do continue to happen, don't they?

Perhaps the print edition of the *Kent State Magazine* is waiting for us on our kitchen table in Minnesota. We'll read it when the airports open and we return. But this digital edition is magnificent. Upon receiving my BFA from KSU, the 20th-century half of my career was in book design and the publishing industry. I certainly remember tight publication schedules.

I am quite impressed with the way you have worked the words, the stories, the people and the images into digital media for such beautiful results, in a periodical, and got it

into my email inbox in a Central American jungle, through a tenuous third-world 3G cellular system, during a world-wide pandemic, on May 4. You have gone beyond the physical and design excellence needed in publications—and penetrated the heart and soul of a powerful subject. And you brought a tear to an old man's eye in the jungle.

MARK STRATMAN, BFA '73

Tonka Bay, Minn. and Gales Point, Belize

Not Bound

Roses for Kent State sharing these essential stories [spring/summer 2020, "Where the Nine Wounded are Now," pages 18-20]. Thorns for using the archaic, inaccurate, idiotic "wheelchair-bound" instead of "uses a wheelchair for mobility" in describing the device that liberates (not confines) Dean Kahler.

I expect more out of my alma mater. It would be resignation-worthy to print something saying an African American is "bound to black skin" or a person of the Jewish faith is "Jewishness-bound."

I will wager my life that you have never printed an article identifying a Toyota driver as sedan-bound. Why? Because that person is simply using a device of mobility efficiency. A Toyota gets them from a workshop in Cleveland to a class in Kent more quickly and efficiently than walking.

That's all a wheelchair is—a device of efficient mobility. "Bound" is ableist (look it up, it's like being racist, only toward people with disabilities).

STEVE WRIGHT, BS '87

Miami, Fla.

Editor's Note: We ran the copy by Dean Kahler prior to publication and he did not object to the wording. Nor did the writer intend anything other than to concisely describe his situation; one which was the result of a bullet wound and not something he was born with. The story also notes that Dean Kahler ran races in his wheelchair. However, we acknowledge that the word choice is a cliché and could be offensive to others who use wheelchairs for mobility; we will avoid it in the future.

Pandemic Perspective

Thank you to Dr. Tara C. Smith, professor of epidemiology, for sharing her reflections on the initial days of the pandemic lockdown [spring/ summer 2020, "Perspective on a Pandemic," page 4].

Her insights are just as meaningful more than six months into the crisis as they were at six weeks. As the parent of a current KSU student, I am glad the university is home to such a gifted and thoughtful humanist. I also heard her interviewed on the radio and she is a great representative of KSU. To me, Dr. Smith's comments really manifest the spirit of "Flashes take care of Flashes."

TIMOTHY PUIN
Cleveland

Dinks Redux

Just reading my *Kent State Magazine*, looking for the [hidden] squirrels, I ran across the dink debate [spring/summer 2020, page 2]. I still have my dink that I received at freshman orientation. The year was 1962. I likewise remember the possibility of cleaning the shield with a toothbrush for walking on it, as well as being caught without your dink.

Keep up the good work. It is always nice to receive the magazine and relive old memories. (Because four years was just not enough.)

BILL VIANCOURT, BSE '67
North Ridgeville, Ohio

As I entered Kent State Trumbull Campus for the first time during fall 1970, I was given a blue and gold skull cap with the letter "K" on the front. I was told it was a tradition. I never wore it.

GERALD J. CANTON, BA '79, MA '98
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Small World

My wife and I recently attended our third Parent and Family Weekend at Norwich University in Vermont to mark the fifteenth year of our son's graduation and commissioning ceremony. (Nicholas is a Lt. Col., US Army with numerous deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. He is currently stationed with his family in Hawaii.

Because of the light drizzle that morning, we decided to step into one of the campus buildings on the Upper Parade Ground before the cadets came out for review. We were greeted in the lobby by an instructor who informed us that the projects on display were the work of freshman architecture students. I mentioned that I, too, was (briefly) an architecture student at Kent State in the fall of 1964. She replied that her father was an instructor

at KSU at that time. Well, guess what? Cara Armstrong's father, Foster D. Armstrong, was my architecture instructor that semester!

So after driving 700 miles through three states, I discovered a connection between my college experience and Norwich University. We all had a good laugh and shared some warm memories. Go Flashes!

DAVID M. MILKOVICH, BS '68, MED '71
Akron, Ohio

For the Record



It is confirmed that my father, Prof. **Victor Osagie Aimiuwu, PhD '76**, Los Angeles, Calif., Xenia, Ohio, was the first Black / African / African-American to receive a PhD in physics at KSU. He graduated the same year I was born in Allerton Apartments, and he became a full physics professor in Ohio at Central State University and a NASA research consultant before he passed in November 2011. He was also a physics professor from the 1970s-1990s at Ahmadu Bello University and University of Benin, which are both in Nigeria, before returning to the United States. He is pictured above as a Catholic Knight of Columbus in Xenia, Ohio.

EH I. AIMIUWU, MBA '00, PhD
Atlanta, Ga.

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president's **PERSPECTIVE**



The Way I See It

“It’s not light yet, but it’s getting there.”

This phrase, a play on the 1997 Bob Dylan song “Not Dark Yet,” lately keeps popping into my mind. It’s not light yet because we know the very real danger of living with COVID-19 will remain for months. But we also have the very real hope of returning to normal life by fall semester 2021. New vaccines make us confident that we will be able to resume much of our traditional on-campus life with all the activities and events that make our beloved university so special.

Now, as we near the end of 2020, I want to reflect on this unprecedented year both in the history of our university and our world. Never in recent memory have we seen our lives change so dramatically in such a short span of time. Yet, despite the pain born of this pandemic, every day I have seen reasons to be hopeful, thankful and joyful.

I watched our students and faculty rise to the challenges of remote learning and persevere to reach their goals,

pursuing groundbreaking research and dynamic teaching and learning. Kent State awarded more than 9,000 degrees in 2020 to students who overcame the odds created by this pandemic to

“In 2020, I have seen our Kent State community come together in ways big and small to make sure that everyone is taken care of during this pandemic.”

complete their education and achieve success. Several of those recent graduates—and current students—are highlighted throughout this issue of the magazine.

I witnessed how our employees selflessly worked for reduced wages,

even at a time when they were being asked to do more every day to help the university confront the pandemic.

I noted your immense generosity with a record \$2.2 million donated on Giving Tuesday, and in the way so many of you supported the Kent State Emergency Grant Fund to help students facing hardships created by the pandemic.

In a year when our country was torn apart by political and racial strife, I saw the Kent State community respond with town halls and teach-ins to foster dialogue, increase knowledge and further understanding. Our newly created Anti-Racism Task Force will ensure that our university continues to be a diverse, inclusive and supportive community that stays true to our core values of kindness and respect in all that we do.

In 2020, I have seen our Kent State community come together in ways big and small to make sure that everyone is taken care of during this pandemic and to work diligently to develop plans to keep our campuses even safer in 2021.

I am confident that our spring semester strategy of expanded testing for students and wastewater monitoring for early virus detection, coupled with our proven Flashes Safe Seven protocols, will put us at the forefront of national best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and will create the safest possible campus environment. Our people deserve nothing less.

As 2020 has shown us, we can never predict what the year will bring. What I do know, though, is no matter what the circumstances, we can always count on our Kent State family to come together, take care of each other and work to change our world for the better.

I offer you my best wishes for a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season and new year that will bring us all good health and great success.

Todd A. Diacon, President

Email: president@kent.edu

Instagram: [@ksupresdiacon](https://www.instagram.com/ksupresdiacon)



Pulling Together During the Pandemic

For the past five years, Kent State has ushered in the season of giving with a monthlong celebration of philanthropy in November. “Giving back” is a main tenet of the Kent State global community and members demonstrated that belief in an unprecedented swell of support this year.

“Giving back is at the heart of the Kent State community.”

Despite the economic impact of COVID-19, Kent State’s Giving Tuesday campaign shattered previous years’ records as alumni, friends, faculty and staff raised \$2,233,145 to support more than 2,300 students, many of whom are facing financial hardships.

This year featured 35 funds that focus on the university’s goal to prioritize student success through scholarships and programs within the key areas of ensuring access, rewarding achievement, enhancing experiences and fostering completion. Through the support of 2,100 donors, more Kent State students will benefit from a transformative college experience.

Weekly giving incentives were announced each Tuesday from Nov. 10 through the “official” Giving Tuesday (the

international day of philanthropy), which fell on Dec. 1 this year. The Kent State University Foundation’s popular incentives included one-to-one matching on Dec. 1 and participation boosts that provided an extra \$500 for every 20 unique donors who gave \$25 or more to a featured fund.

“The numbers for this year’s Giving Tuesday campaign were larger than ever, but what those figures represent is even more telling,” says Danielle Hupp, senior associate director, Special Giving Initiatives. “They show that the Kent State community comes together, in good times and in bad, to make a lasting impact on our community.”

The Kent State Emergency Grant Fund was the standout fund of Giving Tuesday 2020. With \$100,000 in matching money and another \$40,000 pledged before the campaign launched, it raised \$177,784 to support students in need as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March, nearly 10,000 students have reached out as they attempt to navigate this unprecedented situation. Many have received help through the grant or CARES Act Funding, but more than 2,000 students were still awaiting some form of assistance. The money raised through Giving Tuesday for the Kent State Emergency Grant Fund will help Kent State students succeed in earning a degree.

Golden Flashes around the globe are looking to give back, and the university will continue to offer them meaningful opportunities to do so during Flashes Give Back Week in April.

TOTAL RAISED
\$2,233,145+

STUDENTS IMPACTED
2,300+

TOTAL DONORS
2,100+

“We are moved by the generosity of spirit we continue to see among our university community,” says Valoree Vargo, interim vice president of philanthropy and alumni engagement and the executive director of the Kent State Foundation. “Even in times of uncertainty, the Kent State family remains steadfast in its commitment to others. We know that giving back with time, talent and treasure is at the heart of the Kent State community.”

View a message from President Diacon at www.kent.edu/givingtuesday.

Design Innovation Hub Virtual Grand Opening

After six years of planning, design and construction, the \$44.5 million renovation of the former Art Building (built in 1972) into the new Design Innovation (DI) Hub was completed fall semester 2020. The adaptive reuse of the 68,000-square-foot space included full interior and exterior renovations and was designed by Domokur Architects in partnership with Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (BCJ) and constructed by Gilbane Building Company.

Kent State University students, faculty, staff and community members celebrated the DI Hub's virtual grand opening on Nov. 12, 2020, marking a major milestone in the university's \$1 billion facilities master plan. The building serves as the central point of the Design Innovation Ecosystem, which includes "nodes" (existing makerspaces and resource laboratories) located throughout KSU's eight-campus system.

In a welcome video on the DI website—which includes remarks by President Diacon and other Kent State leaders, students and special guests—J.R. Campbell, executive director of Kent State's DI Initiative, invites visitors to take a 3D virtual tour through the DI Hub, where they can explore the makerspaces, studios, laboratories, classrooms, offices, theatre/auditorium, dining facility and other spaces envisioned to support creativity and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

As of spring 2021, DI Hub Memberships will be open to faculty, students, staff and employees for access to the labs and shops, with a charge for use of equipment. Kent State alumni, community and business memberships will be available in the future.

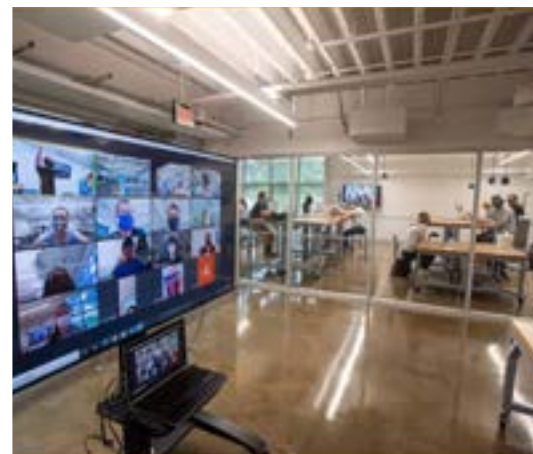
See www.kent.edu/designinnovation/become-member.



DI Fellows Program students Ray Yang and Khalil Thompson manage the 60-inch-wide vinyl cutter available in the PrintLab, one of seven DI Labs inside the DI Hub. The vinyl cutter allows users to create super-wide cut vinyl graphics that can be applied to hard and soft surfaces.



DI Crew student employee Foster Rak at the waterjet cutter in the Waterjet Shop of the DI Reactor on the lower floor of the new DI Hub. A waterjet cutter can cut through any known material—making it one of the most versatile machines available.



A view into the DI Studio Classroom—and the extended space outside it—shows how the DI Hub expanded the concept of "teaching space" to accommodate physical distancing, while also allowing students to connect via Zoom.



BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

Dish Cooking Challenge

As part of the of the DI Hub's grand opening, three student chefs competed to prepare fall-inspired dishes from a basket of secret ingredients at the Innovation Teaching Kitchen on Nov. 17, in the Fall Dish Cooking Challenge.

The 800-square-foot Innovation Teaching Kitchen, in the heart of the DI Hub, adds another new makerspace to the university's DI Ecosystem. "Kitchens are ultimate makerspaces," notes J.R. Campbell, executive director of the DI Initiative. It also will support culinary classes for the Hospitality Management program in the College of Education, Health and Human Services. The new kitchen will enable students to use the latest technology and food

preparation techniques to compete in culinary competitions and collaborate with their peers. (See www.kent.edu/designinnovation/innovation-teaching-kitchen.)

View the DI Hub Virtual Grand Opening at www.kent.edu/designinnovation/virtual-grand-opening.



J.R. Campbell, executive director of the Design Innovation Initiative, stands at the lower-level stairs leading up to the DI Gallery, PrintLab, SparkLab, classrooms and DI Dining facilities. This north-to-south hallway runs the length of the DI Hub and exits onto the Esplanade.



The Innovation Teaching Kitchen, located at the center of the DI Hub on the second floor, provides a top-of-the-line facility for students in the Hospitality Management program and offers another makerspace for cross-disciplinary teams.



Gigi Quaranta, a senior majoring in hospitality management, is the winner of the 2020 Fall Dish Cooking Challenge for her recipe, "Gigi's Chicken & Waffles." Her winning recipe will be offered at the DI Dining facility during the spring 2021 semester.

“We train our bodies all the time, but what are we doing to train our brains?”



RAMI DAUD, BA '20

Women's golf head coach Lisa Strom on resilience—on and off the course.

When Lisa Strom took over as head coach of Kent State women's golf in July 2019, she was brought in to lead a stellar team that seemed on track to compete for a national championship after winning the first three tournaments of their season.

The pandemic brought that promising season to an abrupt end, but Strom's background had prepared her to meet such unusual challenges, even while taking over a new program.

“You bring what you stand for as a coach, and for me that's an ability to adapt and adjust,” says Strom, a former LPGA Tour member who came to Kent State from Texas State University, where she spent three years as head coach of the women's golf team and was named the 2019 LPGA Professionals National Coach of the Year.

Her philosophy focuses on the whole person, not just the player. “When team members do physical training, they overcome barriers they didn't realize they could, which helps them mentally,” Strom says. “We train our bodies all the time, but what are we doing to train our brains?” She teaches players how to do mental training using methods such as meditation, visualization and journaling.

With the cancellation of this year's fall season, instead of playing for spots and traveling for competitions, the team members have remained competitive by playing head-to-head match play within the team and crowning a champion. They also are putting in intense workout hours in the gym. Some of the players have signed up for outside competitions, as have two players who are still at home in Europe.

As part of their mental training, she encourages team members to look beyond the golf course to the community. Last season, Strom introduced them to the Folds of Honor Military Tribute Program, and the players

raised \$1,100 in scholarship money for the spouses and children of US service members killed or disabled while on duty.

We asked her to tell us more about herself and what she's learned so far in the game of life:

On growing up in a golfing family: I was about 10 when I started playing, but I swung a golf club earlier. My parents played; my [paternal] grandparents played. On family vacations we always had our golf clubs with us.

On moving: We moved around quite a bit when I was a kid. It helped me adapt and adjust, be okay with getting to know new people—and accept that things are not always going to be the same.

On life beyond the fairway: I bike the trails around the Cuyahoga National Park, enjoy playing the piano, read a lot, do DIY projects.

On thinking differently: Reading Joshua Medcalf's *Burn Your Goals: The Counter Cultural Approach to Achieving Your Greatest Potential* was transformative—instead of focusing on outcomes, I learned to enjoy the process of getting better. There will always be peaks and valleys and new summits to scale.

On putting first things first: You miss the point if all you focus on is collecting a trophy. The fingerprints on the trophy mean a lot more than the trophy itself. But focusing on soft skills doesn't mean we are less competitive. A national championship is on our radar.

On overcoming setbacks: It's easy to get sucked into the idea of, “Woe is me.” But a better idea is, “How do we use this time to learn and grow and be prepared for what's to come?”

—Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94

School of Fashion director Louise Valentine on designing for change.

It has been a year of change for Louise Valentine, PhD. She moved with her husband from her home in Dundee, Scotland, to become director of Kent State's Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising in August 2019. Previously, she had served as professor and chair of design at the University of Dundee's Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Six months into adjusting to the new job, home, culture and continent, she found herself presiding over the rapid switch to remote working prompted by the pandemic and solving the "wicked" challenges of safely conducting the school's fashion business work.

Meanwhile, Valentine, who holds the Margaret Clark Morgan Endowed Leadership Chair as director, continues to pursue a fresh vision for the School of Fashion's future: a "think bigger" opportunity that brought her to Kent State to support a higher international profile through an ambitious initiative aimed at bringing new voices—from different industries and communities—to the conversation.

"What does it mean to lead with inclusivity within fashion for higher education?" asks Valentine. "KSU Fashion wants to be on the forefront of answering that globally significant question."

She also is focused on continuing the progress of the \$7.3 million renovation planned for the School of Fashion's home in Rockwell Hall, overseeing a brand development for the school and increasing international student enrollment from 5 percent to 13 percent.

Challenging work lies ahead, but Valentine, with expertise in designing for change, is up for the task.

As an applied design researcher, with a doctoral degree in designer's thinking, she studies user needs—emotional as well as

practical—and uses that information to design innovative solutions. Her research has focused on how design for business innovation is perceived and communicated, and the value design adds when used as a tool for leadership and performance management in business.

"[Kent State's] School of Fashion had prepared itself for change," she says. "And it welcomed transformation by inviting me to be the director. I look forward to leading it in its next stage of development."

We asked her to tell us more about herself and what she values.

On the value of diversity: One of the things I have championed my whole career is having people from different backgrounds in the room to help you solve a problem. Through diversity we can begin to glimpse the significance of imagination and a level of innovation that individuals cannot accomplish on their own. Everyone has something of value to give along the way.

On the value of design: Design is a strategy for the highest levels of innovation, but not just in a product or economic sense. It's also about what that looks like culturally and socially. It's as much about how it impacts the individual as it does the organization.

On guiding young fashion thinkers: One of the biggest things is to allow students to find their voice and to understand that *their* voice is what people want to hear. Not them mimicking other people's voices.

On fostering focus: As a creative thinker, my mind dances a lot. I purposely choose to be outside to help me think and be creative. One of my favorite places is the Cairngorm Mountain range in the Scottish Highlands. Being exposed to brutal weather, all you can focus on is getting one foot in front of the other and breathing. To focus so purely and intensely clears my mind.

—Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94

"One of the things I have championed my whole career is having people from different backgrounds in the room to help you solve a problem."



BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

On His Way

It took a 10,000-mile round-trip journey and four years of living in a poor village in Ghana (Africa) for New York native Divine Asante to begin transforming his life. Now a freshman aeronautics major and Oscar Ritchie Scholar, he aspires to be a professional airline pilot.

But when he was 11 years old, his parents sent him to live with his grandparents in Ghana because of his behavioral problems.

"My parents were kind of tired of me," Asante says. "They wanted me to do better, so they decided I should go to Africa because things are stricter there compared to America. It was a good experience overall. I got to learn more about my culture, and I met some great people and made some great memories. I learned more about myself, and I changed and grew as a person. I became a little more humble; I appreciate things a little more."

Life in Ghana was eye-opening, Asante says. Not only was the food and environment quite different (he had encounters with snakes, scorpions and lions), but school was a lot stricter than in America.

"If you don't do your homework and you end up turning it in late or not at all,



RAMI DAUD, BA '20

the teachers will whip you," he says. "They take out their cane and they just beat you. It was scary, especially for someone like me who is not used to that kind of discipline."

Asante says he came to Kent State because it was affordable and the right distance from his parents' current home in Cincinnati—not too near and not too far.

Though he struggles, like most freshmen do, with the adjustments to college life (workload, time management, sleep deprivation), he says his experience has

been pretty good so far. When he's not studying, he enjoys playing basketball, working out at the Tri-Rec Center, participating in Bible studies with NEO Impact and pursuing his passions in art, drawing and painting.

"My favorite class so far is psychology," Asante says, "because of how the human brain works—and human behavior is pretty interesting."

—April McClellan-Copeland

New Zoom Room at Kent State University at Geauga



TOM DIEDERICH

Beginning fall semester 2020, the Kent State at Geauga Campus in Burton has a second Zoom Room to provide remote instruction. Students taking remote courses can be taught via their laptops by an instructor who lectures from one of the Zoom Rooms on

campus. This technology has been invaluable in the transition from face-to-face courses to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zoom Rooms provide cost savings throughout the Kent State system. Students at Kent State Geauga can attend a course offered at another Kent State campus via the Zoom Room, and students at other Kent State campuses can take Kent State Geauga's Zoom courses.

Funding for the new Zoom Room was provided by a \$20,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation's Lake-Geauga Fund, half of which is being used for financial support for students experiencing hardships during the pandemic.

"Without the grant support of such forward-thinking partners, we would be less able to prepare for these anticipated needs," says Angela Spalsbury, PhD, dean and chief administrative officer, who requested funding for Kent State Geauga's additional Zoom Room last spring. "We are deeply grateful for their commitment to local students' success during this difficult time."

Noteworthy

Kent State is the highest-ranking public university in Northern Ohio on the Top Public Schools and Best National Universities lists in the 2021 *US News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings.

The university also placed among the top 100 public universities in the nation on the Best Undergraduate Business Programs list and ranked 101 among public universities in the nation on the Top Performers on Social Mobility list, which measures how well schools graduate students who received federal Pell Grants.

In addition, Kent State was:

- Recognized for the eighth consecutive year with a 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award by *INSIGHT into Diversity* magazine and was featured in their November issue for maintaining a diverse and inclusive campus.
- Named for the first time in school history as one of the best LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges by Campus Pride.
- Selected as a three-time Best in Class award winner for supplier diversity from the Greater Cleveland Partnership, earning KSU a place in the partnership's Equity and Inclusion Hall of Fame.

Wagon Wheel Win



The Golden Flashes kept the Wagon Wheel for the second consecutive year while taking a 25-24-1 all-time lead in Wagon Wheel games.

The Kent State Golden Flashes secured the Wagon Wheel for the second straight season with a 69-35 blowout of the University of Akron. The Nov. 17 win moved Kent State to 3-0 for the first time since 1958 and was the Golden Flashes' seventh consecutive victory going back to last season.

The Flashes tied school records for most points in a single game (69) and most total yards in a single game (750). It is the first time in school history that the Flashes have scored 60+ points in back-to-back games.

Quarterback Dustin Crum led the way, becoming the first player in Kent State history to throw for three touchdowns and rush for two scores in a game. Crum became only the fifth player in school history to account for at least five touchdowns in a game.

Because of the pandemic, Kent State played a modified schedule against opponents from the Mid-American Conference and finished the season with a 4-1 record.



Even without fans in the stands, Kent State's cheerleaders kept up the energy inside a chilly Dix Stadium.



Quarterback Dustin Crum led the way with two rushing touchdowns while passing for three more in Kent State's 69-35 victory over Akron.

KSU 2U

Drive-In

JOIN US!

Kent State uses local drive-in movie theaters and online campus fairs as venues for virtual campus visits.



Finding Future Flashes

Each year, thousands of prospective students visit Kent State's eight campuses to experience what it might be like to be a Flash.

Those typical campus visits came to an abrupt halt in early 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced restrictions on mass gatherings. By fall, as application deadlines for the 2021-22 academic year approached, the admissions teams on all the campuses had to find new ways for visitors to view their offerings.

The teams decided if they couldn't bring prospective students to Kent State campuses, they would bring Kent State to them. Working within the confines of Ohio's public health orders—no close gatherings of more than 10—they pondered how to show a crowd of prospective students everything Kent State has to offer, while keeping them all safely apart.

Drive-In for Scholars

At the Kent Campus, the admissions team found one answer in the state's wealth of drive-in movie theaters. As it turns out, Ohio is tied with New York for the most active drive-in theaters in the nation. These days, the venues that harken back to days gone by are filling a very modern need.

Over the course of two weeks in November, the admissions team traveled to five drive-in theaters throughout Ohio—Holiday Auto Theatre in Hamilton, Sundance Kid Drive-In in Oregon, South Drive-In in Columbus, Auto-O-Rama Twin Drive-In in North Ridgeville and Mayfield Road Drive-In in Chardon—to host KSU2U events for prospective students and their families.

The team presented Admissions 101 information, a video interview with a current student and a video tour of the Kent Campus—all on the massive outdoor movie screens, which attendees viewed from their cars. Participants also were treated to movie-theater snacks and Flash swag, and admissions team staff members monitored the concessions line to ensure safe distances between individuals.

The events also included question-and-answer sessions, during which admissions and financial aid counselors wearing face masks went car-to-car to speak directly with participants. In addition, the team hosted an Instagram live session at the end of each event for prospective students to ask any remaining questions.

"Drive-in theaters proved to be the perfect venue for KSU2U," says Vince Slomsky, director of strategic communications, enrollment management. "We understood that we had to do this in a safe, socially distanced space—and how cool is it that we could showcase Kent State on the big screen?"

Kent State Geauga and Twinsburg Academic Center also participated in the Mayfield Road Drive-In event in Chardon, since it was "practically in our backyard," says Mary Lynn Delfino, admissions counselor at the Twinsburg Academic Center. "We were happy to share information about how the Regional Campuses are an important part of the Kent State system."

Slomsky, who pitched the idea for KSU2U after attending a fundraising event at his local drive-in, says the KSU2U events exceeded expectations, drawing 576 cars with potential students and their families. During the same two-week period last year, 395 potential students visited the Kent Campus.



COREY STAMCO

ERICA COLLINS

ERICA COLLINS

Still, Slomsky says, the successful turnout at the drive-ins did not make up for the loss of the two large on-campus visit days—“Preview KSU!”—that would have taken place earlier in the year.

“We know nothing will ever replace the feeling a prospective student gets when stepping foot on our beautiful campus,” he says. “But we are hoping that KSU2U gave them a taste of how amazing we are and will help confirm that Kent State is where they need to be once they graduate high school.”

Tours Via Technology

In addition to the KSU2U events, the admissions teams at the Kent Campus and Regional Campuses have been relying on technology to provide information to potential applicants. They offer videos, virtual appointments and creative opportunities for on-campus services.

Some of the Regional Campuses have been able to continue offering on-campus tours by limiting participants to one prospective student and their guests, keeping within safety guidelines. Others have been able to provide only virtual visits or self-guided tours.

“Throughout these challenging times, the staff have continued to have a ‘students-first’ attitude by adapting to new technologies and methods of providing services in the format (virtual or in-person when possible) that best meets the desires and needs of each individual we are serving,” says Laurie Donley, director of enrollment management and student services at Kent State Tuscarawas.

All of the Regional Campuses collaborated this fall for a virtual college fair. The Virtual College Exploration, hosted by the Ohio Association for College Admissions Counseling (OACAC) in partnership with StriveScan, was open to all Ohio students. Teams from each of the Regional Campuses—including the Twinsburg Academic Center, a satellite location of the Geauga Campus—shared a Google doc to develop and organize the OACAC college fair presentation. The event, which was presented live Nov. 9, was recorded and is available for viewing at <https://bit.ly/KSUvirtualcollegefair>.

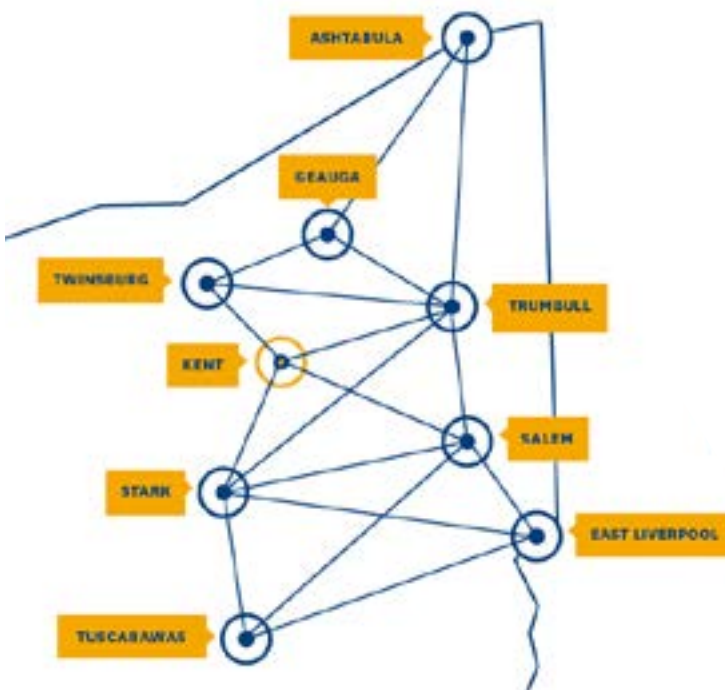
Each campus highlighted its own unique features during the webinar sessions, says Keturah Kneuss, assistant director of enrollment management and student services at Kent State Stark, who coordinated the presentation.

With 28 participants, Kent State’s Regional Campuses session drew the second highest number of registrants of all the sessions held during the second week of the fair. After the event, the admissions counselors followed up via email with the participants.

“The admissions counselors put together a great presentation and did an awesome job of engaging with the prospective students, families and guidance counselors before, during and after the event,” Kneuss says. “It was a fantastic way for the admissions counselors at the various campuses to get to know each other, and it allowed us to lay the foundation for new and exciting ways to collaborate.”

—Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94

KENT STATE'S REGIONAL CAMPUS SYSTEM



Take a virtual tour of all Kent State's campuses at the links below:

Kent Campus

<https://www.kent.edu/admissions/undergraduate/virtual-ksu>

Regional Campuses

Ashtabula

<https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/visit>

East Liverpool and Salem (Columbiana County)

<https://www.kent.edu/columbiana/visit-campus>

Gauga and Twinsburg Academic Center

<https://www.kent.edu/geauga/explore-our-campus>

Stark

<https://www.kent.edu/stark/campus-tours>

Trumbull

<https://www.kent.edu/trumbull/virtual-trumbull>

Tuscarawas

<https://www.kent.edu/tusc/visit-campus>

Forging a Path in Finance

When Anne Ritts, senior finance major, first came to Kent State, she was planning to teach math. But her grandfather's passion for the stock market quickly inspired her own—and she changed her major to finance in the College of Business Administration. There, she immersed herself in academics and joined several finance organizations.

"Being in finance and being the only girl many times, it felt like I was always walking into a room of guys," Ritts says. "Because of these experiences at Kent State, I'm more confident."

One of the organizations she joined was Golden Flash Asset Management Group (GFAM), led by Steven Dennis, PhD, Firestone Chair of Corporate Finance at Kent State. GFAM tasks students with managing real money—currently more than \$1 million in investments. They create portfolios of investments, which they can enter into competition.

Ritts' involvement in GFAM provided unique learning experiences, including the Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) research challenge and a visit to the New York Stock Exchange. In 2019, she and the GFAM team took first place with their Fixed Income portfolio at the nation's largest student finance competition, the Quinnipiac Global Asset Management Education Forum.

"Going to New York City and getting to represent Golden Flash Asset Management was something I'll always remember," Ritts says. Her accomplishments have inspired other women to participate in GFAM, as well.

"Anne was one of the early people in the fund, and she's attracted more women into it," Dennis says. "Most of our senior officers now are women, and a lot of that had to do with Anne's leadership."

She also found time to study abroad—twice. She took a winter break trip with GFAM to the Cayman Islands to study tax

“If you're willing to put in the work and put yourself out there, people want to help you.”

havens and money laundering. And she spent a semester in Switzerland, studying finance and interning with a venture capital firm researching agriculture technology.

Ritts completed an internship in private wealth management with PNC Bank this past summer. PNC offered her a full-time position following graduation, and she accepted. After she leaves Kent State in May 2021, she will head to Charlotte, North Carolina, to begin her career in private wealth management.

—Adapted from an article by Katie Null, BS '21, that first appeared in Kent State Today, Oct. 5, 2020



Anne Ritts poses with her team's first-place trophy at the Quinnipiac G.A.M.E Forum.



Members of GFAM had the opportunity to visit the New York Stock Exchange during their trip to New York City for the Quinnipiac G.A.M.E Forum.



Izzy Stewart tabling in Koonce Hall.

Getting out the College Vote

Since 2019, Kent State sophomore Izzy Stewart has helped more than 480 individuals, mostly fellow students, exercise their right to vote and take steps to create political change.

Her drive to increase voter turnout among students began at Elyria High School when she received her first taste of political advocacy following the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018, where 17 students and teachers were killed.

“People our age did something really incredible in 1970 and stood up for themselves, so why can’t we now?”

“I learned how to organize a walkout,” Stewart says. “And I realized that many high schoolers didn’t know they were eligible to vote and didn’t know how to vote.”

Originally drawn to Kent State’s fashion merchandising program, Stewart’s passion to help others and make a difference pushed her to change her major to public relations in the School of Media and Journalism and minor in media advocacy and global communication.

“When I learned how the events of May 4 [encouraged Congress] to lower the voting age to 18, that fueled my fire,” says Stewart, who continues to draw inspiration from the students who took a stand on May 4, 1970, and often speaks to fellow students about how they can make their voices heard, too.

“People our age did something really incredible in 1970 and stood up for themselves, so why can’t we now?” she says. “We’re at the same campus and some of the same things are happening around us. It’s inspiring to see that we can make a difference.”

Stewart’s experience in Kent State’s public relations program has influenced her approach for encouraging people to vote. “I’ve learned that I can talk to anybody and have an effective conversation with a real outcome,” she says. “I’ve learned tactics that will result in something positive.”

Prior to the pandemic, she helped people register to vote in person, and she walked many through the process via text or FaceTime for the 2020 election. Stewart also volunteers as a poll worker, helping people to vote once they’ve registered.

She encourages everyone to educate themselves down the entire ballot, exploring each candidate’s social media pages and websites to understand their stance on issues—and then vote according to their own views. “No matter what party you’re for, no matter what beliefs you have,” she says, “everyone deserves to have a voice.”

Stewart hopes people her age can look back years from now and see that they were part of making a positive difference in the world.

—Adapted from an article by Katie Null, BS ’21, that first appeared in Kent State Today, Nov. 9, 2020



Traveling through an unfamiliar airport?

SAROJ DAHAL HOPES HIS APP WILL ACT AS YOUR AIRPORT TRAVEL COMPANION.

Kent State University is a world away from the small town in Nepal where international student Saroj Dahal was born and raised. It takes Dahal and his family nearly 15 hours to travel the more than 7,000 miles between Nepal and the United States.

So when his grandparents, who do not speak English, were planning to fly from Nepal to Boston in June 2019 to visit his uncle, Dahal flew to Nepal to accompany them on their journey. Without his assistance, they may have had difficulty ordering food or finding restrooms.

His family's situation inspired Dahal, a Kent State mechanical engineering technology major, and his teammates when they competed in Kent State's SkyHack 2019 last fall semester. SkyHack is a weekendlong design challenge for students from any US university to provide solutions to issues related to the aviation industry—presented by the College of Aeronautics and Engineering (CAE) and LaunchNET, with major sponsorship by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

Dahal's team entered the "Improving the Air Traveler Experience" challenge, sponsored by Kent State's Design Innovation initiative. In response to the challenge, the team created Copilot, a digital application designed to help international travelers navigate

through unfamiliar airports—and their "airport travel companion" won the competition's \$10,000 grand prize. "I generated the concept, but each member of the team made contributions," says Dahal, who is a senior this year.

The Copilot team took their innovation to LaunchNET, where they received suggestions on how to move forward to bring the app to market. Although the teammates have been separated by the pandemic and two of them have graduated, they remain in contact and plan to resume work on the Copilot app.

After participating in SkyHack, Dahal did summer research and began a mechanical engineering internship at Olsträd Engineering Corp., in Kent, Ohio. His responsibilities include working on CAD (Computer Aided Design) and HMI (Human Machine Interface)—a user interface, such as a touch-screen or keyboard, that connects a person to a machine, system or device.

Dahal hopes to get a full-time job at Olsträd or a similar company after he graduates in spring 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering technology and a minor in sustainability.

"He is not only a brilliant student, but he has taken advantage of the many opportunities available to him at Kent State," says Jackie Ruller, assistant

dean in the College of Aeronautics and Engineering, who has known Dahal since his freshman year.

The excellent reputation of CAE is one of the reasons he chose to attend Kent State, Dahal says. He also learned through a college counseling program in Nepal that the university had an impressive number of international students, and he received several scholarships, which made it affordable.

"The Office of Global Education does a great job," says Dahal, who participates in the office's Global Ambassador Program, helping Kent State international students from his native Nepal find housing and other resources prior to and during their first semester. "I work to pay forward the help and experiences I have received at Kent State."

—April McClellan-Copeland

See video at:

www.kent.edu/magazine/saroj

For more information visit

www.kent.edu/SkyHack,
www.kent.edu/cae, and
www.kent.edu/launchnet





WKSU Celebrates 70 Years of Radio Excellence

By Anna Garvin, BBA '22 and
Lindsay Kuntzman Hilewick, BA '06, MA '09

*It started with one antenna
—its signal barely reached
the edge of the Kent Campus.
Seventy years later, it is an
award-winning, NPR affiliated
radio station, with the largest
public radio service in Ohio.
WKSU has continued growing
in support, radio innovation,
technology and staff since
officially taking to the
airwaves on Oct. 2, 1950.*



In 1947, **Walton D. Clarke** came to Kent from Springfield, Missouri, where he had worked for three years at KWTO. He was hired to teach “new era” radio courses at Kent State and direct the Radio Workshop, a voluntary organization of students interested in radio broadcasting. The Radio Workshop served as the precursor to the university’s own station.

WKSU-AM went on the air with its student staff in 1949. The station applied to become an FM station to increase its broadcast range. And, after the Federal Communications Commission approved the permit, WKSU-FM 88.1 was created as a non-commercial educational station. After months of test pattern trials, WKSU officially took to the airwaves with a student staff and an eclectic mix of programming on Oct. 2, 1950.

In September 1962, WKSU’s frequency changed to 89.7 FM to increase its broadcast range once again. That position on the dial still remains as the frequency for listeners throughout Northeast Ohio.

As the on-air staff consisted solely of university students, the station only aired limited hours of radio plays, music, news, and student and faculty interviews.

That’s a sharp contrast to today, when WKSU operates 24/7 with a full-time, professional on-air staff.

The transition to a professional public radio news station was gradual. For most of the station’s history, even with its student-produced lineup, the station featured classical music. The switch slowly came to life starting in 1974, when WKSU became an NPR affiliate. This change resulted in the addition of many NPR news programs throughout the years, such as *Morning Edition*, *Fresh Air* and *All Things Considered*.

WKSU officially changed its format to news and information in August 2013 to better serve the region and provide quality journalism.

“As a public radio station, WKSU is not driven solely by the quest for high ratings,” says Andrew Meyer, WKSU news director. Instead, the news team looks to create and share valuable content with the community. “Our goal is to make sure we’re pursuing the stories that are important to our audience, and we want to be engaged and connected with the communities we serve to make sure we are aware of what they need.”

Programs like *OH Really?* help connect the WKSU news team to the community. Through *OH Really?*, the community becomes part of the journalistic process, submitting and voting on questions online for the reporters to investigate.



In 1980, after 30 years on the air, it was big news when WKSU increased its power to 50,000 watts. This ad promoting WKSU ran in *The Repository*, the local newspaper of Canton, Ohio.



Gene Meckler at the mic during his disc-jockey show in 1950, from the 1951 *Chestnut Burr*. Courtesy Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.



The view into a studio production room at the Radio Workshop, from the 1952 *Chestnut Burr*. Courtesy Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.

The technology that today's staff uses is a far cry from that available to the first student staff. The station began its digital chapter in 1994 when WKSU.org was brought to life. Chuck Poulton, the current senior network administrator at WKSU, built the website 26 years ago.

"At that time, we were one of the first dozen or so NPR stations to have a website," Poulton says. "In early 1995, we were the first non-commercial station to use RealAudio technology to stream audio on a website, and we were the second radio station in the world to do so."

WKSU showed its innovative capabilities when it started its first online radio stations in 2005, allowing listeners to tune in on the web and access HD channels. Today, most listeners use their mobile devices with the WKSU app or website to hear their favorite on-air hosts, rather than moving the dial on their car radios.

Poulton says, "Now we have so many ways to stay in touch: in multiple streams and formats, on a variety of platforms and devices, on demand and in real time, with sound, images and video, and with direct input and interaction from the audience."

Tech advances constantly contribute to innovations that better fit the audience's wants and needs. In March 2018, WKSU released its "Pledge-Free Stream." When WKSU hosts on-air fundraising, a separate audio stream is available without fundraising messages, which is a huge benefit for its sustaining members—donors who contribute monthly to WKSU.

The staff of WKSU used their tech savvy to safely celebrate the station's 70th anniversary. With coronavirus safety protocols still in place, WKSU hosted a live virtual presentation from NPR's *Morning Edition* host, Steve Inskeep, broadcasting it to an audience watching from home.

The celebration looked far different from the events held in 2000 to commemorate the station's 50th anniversary. Those events included guests such as Terry Gross from *Fresh Air* and Robert Siegel from *All Things Considered*, and a live presentation of *A Prairie Home Companion* at Blossom Music Center.

However, this year's celebration wasn't any less meaningful. "Although we wanted to have a number of events throughout 2020 to celebrate our 70th year, we've obviously had to adjust our plans," says Lindsay Kuntzman Hilewick, BA '06, MA '09, fundraising and communications director. "We have a history of persevering and being innovative here at WKSU and the virtual 70th anniversary event embodied those characteristics perfectly."

The virtual event was sponsored by the Friends of WKSU, a nonprofit organization that raises funds to further the impact of the work produced by the news team.

Such innovation and expertise have not gone unrecognized. In 2020, WKSU received a Best in Ohio award for the category of Best Radio Newscast (they've received this award six times in the last seven years) and firsts in Radio News Website and Use of Social Media from

the Ohio Excellence in Journalism Awards—a statewide competition for the best in print, broadcast and digital journalism. WKSU also placed first in the Best News Operation category from the Society of Professional Journalists Ohio Chapter, whose awards celebrate Ohio's best journalism.

"Expanding public service is our vision," says Wendy Turner, WKSU's general manager and executive director. "WKSU aspires to grow the reporting staff, deepen strategic journalism partnerships and widen our use and expertise with emerging digital tools and platforms."

As WKSU strives to better serve its listening audience and strengthen its relationships with other organizations, it has one partnership it especially seeks to reinforce.

The students at Walt Clarke's Radio Workshop helped shape and mold the station 70 years ago. Their success created a ripple effect that has expanded across time and continues to inspire Kent State students today.

Fueling journalistic passion in students and graduates will remain a priority in the future, Turner says. "We look to strengthen our partnership with Kent State's College of Communication and Information to identify, support and train the next generation of public service journalists."

In that case, the future looks bright for another 70 years of loyal listeners, outstanding reporting, superior technological advances and a passionate staff to continue the WKSU legacy. ⚡



ANDREA HALLGREEN



BOB CHRISTY, BS '95

Above: Pictured here in 2020, WKSU's main broadcasting facility was built on the Kent Campus in 1992.

Right: During the 1980s, WKSU's administrative staff was housed in a former restaurant on East Main Street.



From a single antenna to the largest FM station in Ohio

Starting with a single antenna tacked to a 50-foot pole supported by a chimney atop Kent Hall in 1950, WKSU has added multiple towers and transmitters to further its broadcast range. Today, WKSU is heard in more than 20 Ohio counties and parts of Western Pennsylvania.

From years apart to all under one roof

Prior to moving to WKSU's main broadcast facility at the corner of Summit Street and Loop Drive, the station's offices and studios were located in various locations in and around the Kent Campus for 42 years.

The broadcast staff spent time in the Music and Speech building (now the Kent Center for the Performing Arts). Poor acoustics were a problem for the broadcast studios on the third floor, and a lack of space resulted in makeshift offices in hallways and equipment stored in stairwells.

The administrative staff worked in Wright Hall on the Kent Campus, until the space was needed to house an overflow of students; the administrative staff then moved to the former El Charro restaurant building on East Main Street.

WKSU began raising money to renovate the El Charro building in 1987. While the original plan was to bring the station's staff together at the former restaurant, an assessment determined that constructing a new building would better accommodate the station's immediate needs and long-term goals. The private funds collected for the renovation were used to build the \$2.1 million facility on the Kent Campus.

Construction started in fall 1991, and proceeded in phases, with the administrative staff moving to the facility in July 1992. Broadcast personnel moved to the building later that year, and WKSU officially started broadcasting from the building in early December 1992.

Today, the station houses approximately 25 full-time staff members along with part-time staff and Kent State student interns.

See a timeline of WKSU's history at www.wksu.org/wksu-history.

See videos of WKSU's history by Kabir Bhatia, BA '01, MA '15, at www.kent.edu/magazine/WKSU-celebrates-70-years-radio-excellence.

Anna Garvin, BBA '22, is a marketing student and WKSU intern. Lauren Green, BA '21, is a VCD student and WKSU intern.



HAYLEY SHASTEEN KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE WITH BRAIN FOG

Now she hopes her research will help bring clarity to others suffering from this cognitive impairment—including COVID long haulers.

By Lyndsey Brennan, MA '21

Long before brain fog was identified as a symptom of “long COVID,” Kent State senior psychology major Hayley Shasteen was conducting award-winning research on it. For her, brain fog—a cognitive impairment that can cause difficulty concentrating, dizziness, confusion, inability to recall everyday words and even memory loss—is more than a research topic, it’s a daily reality.

Since being diagnosed with lupus as a freshman in high school, Shasteen has lived with joint and muscle pain, headaches and low-grade fevers, in addition to brain fog that fluctuates in severity from day to day. She says, “It is a question of, ‘Okay, is my brain going to work today? Will I be able to find my words today?’”

While Shasteen has figured out methods of coping that work for her (such as building breaks into her workflow, taking a walk, or watching a show), she says brain fog is still not fully understood by the medical community. Brain fog can occur as a result of a number of lifestyle factors and more than a dozen chronic conditions (see sidebar). Because of an incomplete understanding and the many possible causes to consider, healthcare providers are often unable to support patients who experience it.

Now that many coronavirus long haulers are also living with brain fog, there is even more urgency to understand it, something Shasteen feels both thankful for and frustrated by.

“If it’s related to a worldwide pandemic, we’re going to have funding to study it and people are going to care about it,” she says. “But this was a real problem for millions of people before the pandemic happened. I wish we could have cared about it sooner.”

Shasteen first became interested in researching brain fog as a freshman at Kent State University at Salem. She had started out as a pre-nursing major, but taking a biopsychology class taught by Rachael Blasiman, PhD, set her on a different path. “It was such a cool class,” Shasteen recalls. “It was essentially about how the brain helps you perceive the world.”

It left her with this realization: “Your cognition is everything. So what are you supposed to do when there’s something [like brain fog] blocking that?”

Since then, Shasteen has worked on a number of research projects about brain fog with Blasiman as an adviser. In summer 2018, Shasteen conducted a research project she designed in Blasiman’s class as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), an eight-week research internship program at Kent State that funds promising undergraduate researchers to engage in faculty-supervised research.

Unlike many studies about lupus that focus on one point in time (which Shasteen says is “unhelpful because lupus changes every day”), her project examined how subjects’ cognition and physical symptoms changed over time. She won first place in the SURE Research Competition in 2018 and presented her findings at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2019.

While Shasteen tends to shy away from the spotlight, she says the most rewarding part of the research is when it helps people better understand themselves. “Someone I talked to at the conference had lupus and was super interested in what I found. To me, that was more important than winning first place. Just having one person say, ‘This is my life. These are things that impact me.’”

**“THIS WAS A REAL PROBLEM
FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE BEFORE
THE PANDEMIC HAPPENED. I WISH
WE COULD HAVE CARED
ABOUT IT SOONER.”**

This past summer, as a Brain Health Research Institute Fellow, Shasteen designed and conducted interviews for a study aimed to develop a working definition of brain fog across conditions. After the Lupus Foundation of America sent Shasteen’s call for participants to those subscribed to its mailing list, her inbox flooded with messages from people eager to share their experiences.

While the majority of the study’s participants have lupus, 20 other conditions are represented, with several participants reporting multiple conditions. Shasteen notes that “quite a few” participants had never heard the term brain fog before, which suggests to her it’s likely many more people are living with brain fog but don’t have the vocabulary to describe it.

So far, she’s conducted 83 interviews for the study, which she’s capped at 90 participants, and received a grant to cover the transcription cost. Her three-minute thesis presentation of the study’s preliminary data won second place in Kent State’s 2020 Undergraduate Symposium.

“She’s taken to research like a duck to water,” Blasiman, her adviser, says. “Many of my students enjoy undergraduate research because it’s fun, but Hayley not only enjoys it, she sees it as her future.”

In addition to Shasteen’s knack for research, Blasiman praised her inquisitiveness. “She wonders about things. She wants to discover things. These are the marks of a good scientist.”

Last year, the scientific community recognized Shasteen's research by awarding her a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, an honor given to the leading student researchers in the United States. Shasteen says winning \$15,000 in scholarship money has been a game-changer; she's able to devote more time and focus to her schoolwork.

When Shasteen, a first-generation college student, applied for the Goldwater scholarship, she was putting herself through school by working three jobs: as a barista in a coffee shop, a student assistant in an organic chemistry lab and a mentor in Kent State's Rural Scholars program at Kent State Salem.

During her two years with the program, Shasteen mentored three eighth graders and two tenth graders who had the potential to become first-generation college students but lacked access to resources and guidance. One of the students she mentored is now in college but stays in touch, asking for help with the FAFSA and class scheduling. She once told Shasteen, "You're one of the biggest reasons why I graduated high school."

Working with teens was great practice for conducting research interviews, Shasteen says. "Talking with teenagers helped me talk to anyone. They're tough nuts to crack."

Shasteen, who is taking online-only courses her senior year due to the pandemic, is set to graduate in the spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. She plans to look for work in a healthcare setting or research lab while applying to clinical neuropsychology graduate programs. Although she had been pursuing molecular and cellular biology as a second major, she stopped after deciding to study psychology rather than biology in graduate school.

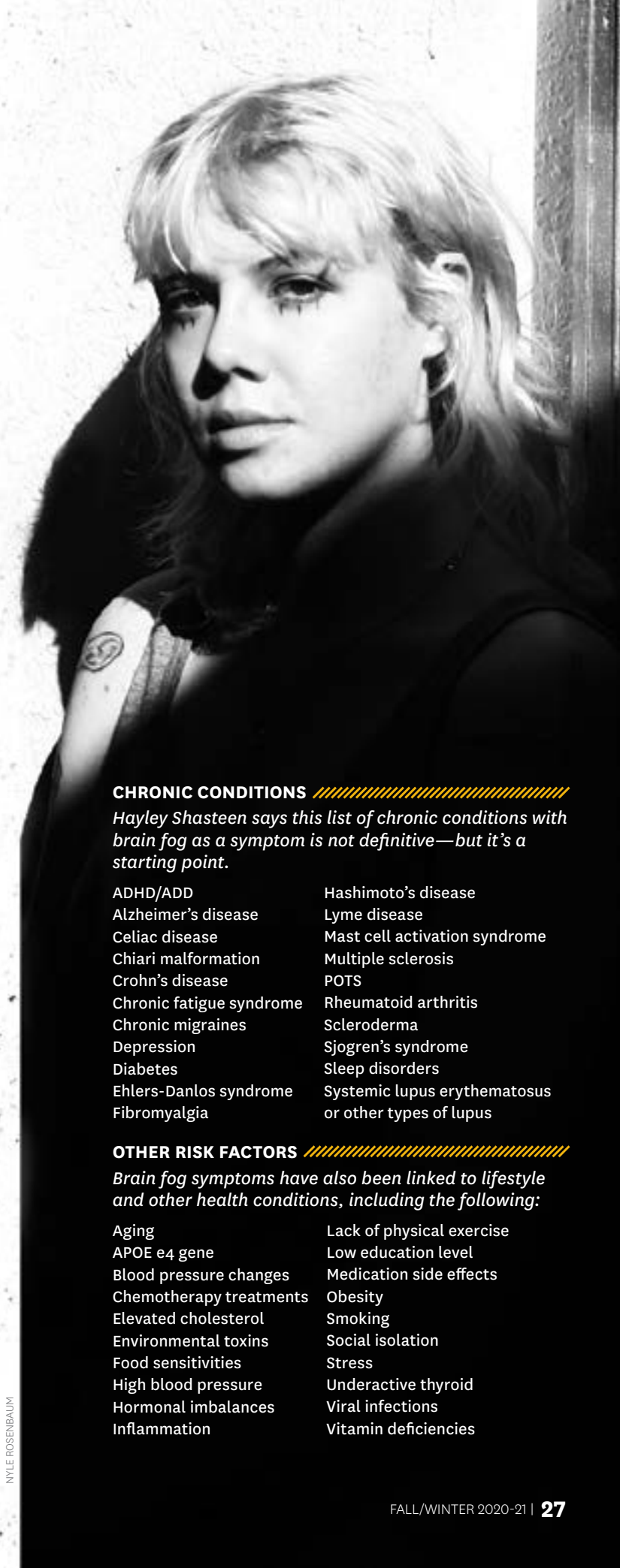
After graduating in 2016 from Western Reserve High School in Berlin Center, Ohio, Shasteen originally planned to study photography at The University of Akron. But she couldn't afford it—something that, years later, she is grateful for.

“IT'S LIKELY MANY MORE PEOPLE ARE LIVING WITH BRAIN FOG BUT DON'T HAVE THE VOCABULARY TO DESCRIBE IT.”

"Being introduced to different ways of scientific thinking helped me rethink what I could do with my potential," she says. The opportunity to explore her science-minded side has positioned her to potentially solve problems for those living with chronic illnesses.

"I'm lucky enough that, for now, my lupus and my brain fog aren't so severe that I'm bedridden every day. There are so many people whose lives are completely destroyed by this one thing," she says.

"I just want to do something about it because I can." ⚡



CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Hayley Shasteen says this list of chronic conditions with brain fog as a symptom is not definitive—but it's a starting point.

ADHD/ADD	Hashimoto's disease
Alzheimer's disease	Lyme disease
Celiac disease	Mast cell activation syndrome
Chiari malformation	Multiple sclerosis
Crohn's disease	POTS
Chronic fatigue syndrome	Rheumatoid arthritis
Chronic migraines	Scleroderma
Depression	Sjogren's syndrome
Diabetes	Sleep disorders
Ehlers-Danlos syndrome	Systemic lupus erythematosus or other types of lupus
Fibromyalgia	

OTHER RISK FACTORS

Brain fog symptoms have also been linked to lifestyle and other health conditions, including the following:

Aging	Lack of physical exercise
APOE e4 gene	Low education level
Blood pressure changes	Medication side effects
Chemotherapy treatments	Obesity
Elevated cholesterol	Smoking
Environmental toxins	Social isolation
Food sensitivities	Stress
High blood pressure	Underactive thyroid
Hormonal imbalances	Viral infections
Inflammation	Vitamin deficiencies



APR 01 2020



JUN 06 2020



JUN 24 2020



JUN 24 2020



JUN 26 2020



JUL 15 2020



AUG 04 2020



AUG 18 2020



AUG 18 2020



AUG 26 2020



AUG 26 2020



SEP 02 2020



SEP 07 2020



OCT 30 2020



NOV 13 2020

THE ROCK RACISM RECONCILIATION

RACIST MESSAGES ON THE ROCK HAVE SPARKED A SERIES OF DIALOGUES AMONG MEMBERS OF THE KENT STATE COMMUNITY—PROMPTING ACTION STEPS THAT PROMISE REAL CHANGE

By April McClellan-Copeland, photos by Bob Christy, BS '95

The “Rock” has resided on the Kent Campus since the 1920s, offering a public canvas for students, organizations and community members who have painted messages on it to promote events, welcome visitors and highlight social issues. It was originally located on a grassy strip between the sidewalk and East Main Street, but when the street was widened in 1976 it was moved to its current location at the bottom of Hilltop Drive on Front Campus.

While standing as a symbol of the Kent State community’s long legacy of free speech, the Rock has also borne the weight of offensive messages that have been painted on it periodically over the years.

During the summer and early fall of 2020, the Rock became a medium for those intent on spreading racist messages aimed at the Black community. The messages, though hateful, sparked peaceful protests, anti-racism discussions and more robust safety and diversity policies at Kent State.

The racist writings on the Rock followed the death of George Floyd, a Black man who, during an arrest for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill, was killed by a white Minneapolis police officer kneeling on his neck. The tragedy, on May 25, 2020, not only ignited passionate protests nationwide but propelled a diverse group of Kent State students to march multiple times in protest of systemic racism and police brutality.

Throughout the summer, Kent State community members met in virtual town halls to address systemic racism by learning, listening and taking action as a collective. At a town hall discussion geared to faculty and staff in June, President Todd Diacon announced plans for a task force to address issues of racism.

Kent State students also painted slogans, such as “Black Lives Matter” (BLM) and “Say Their Names” on the Rock. On Aug. 28, 2020, someone painted over the BLM message on the Rock with “White Lives Matter,”

“**Kent State has a long and storied history of supporting free speech, including the Rock.**”

—President Todd Diacon

were repainting the Rock that evening—with a rainbow background and fist, symbolic of the BLM movement—when a passenger in a car driving by repeatedly shouted the “n-word” at them.

CALLS FOR CHANGE

Tayjua Hines, president of Black United Students (BUS), says the recent racist incidents involving the Rock magnified existing racism that Black students and faculty have experienced for decades.

“BUS has been calling out racism since our foundation, and we will continue to demand change for Black people on this campus,” Hines notes in a recent email interview. According to its mission statement, BUS was founded in 1968 “to unify and serve all Black students at Kent State, identify relevant issues and initiate appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate any impediments adverse to students and their continued well-being and matriculation.”

Lamar Hylton, PhD, vice president for student affairs, says the racist messages on the Rock were a catalyst for substantive dialogue about race equity at Kent State. “The Rock became the starting point for transparent, vulnerable conversations about race equity—which, I believe, are a microcosm of what we’re experiencing in the broader societal context.”

Alarmed by the repeated racist messages, the BUS executive board



Hundreds of masked participants in the Black Lives Matter Peaceful Protest on Sept. 10 march through the Kent Campus to the Rock, to protest recent racist messages painted on it. Clockwise from top: Gabrielle Blake, director of political affairs and grievances for Black United Students (BUS), leads a rally call; an estimated 600 protestors fill the lawn of Front Campus; Tayjua Hines, president of BUS, speaks to the crowd; protestors hold hand-written signs and cut flowers to demonstrate the beauty of diversity.

a white supremacist message, which brought the outrage about Floyd to a head. At the time, Kent State student Marteashia Thompson, president of Voices of Color, told KentWired that the message was “a direct threat to the Black students here on this campus.”

The racist message was painted over but was soon replaced with other “White Lives Matter” messages. Students, faculty and community members reacted by engaging in

peaceful protests and continuing to repaint the Rock.

Then on Labor Day, Sept. 7, the Rock was found with its most recent message, “Hate has no home here,” crossed out and replaced with “Blacks have no home here.”

A photo of the Rock with its latest racist message was tweeted out and the response on Twitter was immediate and intense. According to a report on KentWired, students



President Todd Diacon and members of the campus and city police forces join others from the Kent State community on Sept. 14 for the March for Unity, sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Black United Students. Hundreds of masked demonstrators met at Risman Plaza, marched to Kent State Police Services at the Stockdale Safety Building, and gathered at the Rock, where President Diacon and others addressed the crowd.

drew up a list of seven demands that were created with input from Kent State students. Among the demands were: adding an anti-hate clause in the university's Student Code of Conduct with a reprimand or expulsion for students who violate it; immediate announcements to alert students about racist incidents (in the same manner as sexual assaults) while implementing Flash ALERTS following the announcement; an increase in the number of security escorts on standby; appointment of a faculty member to supervise campus

of Pan-African studies, to discuss the demands.

From that discussion, the university created a list of Action Steps that incorporated issues from the BUS demands. (See sidebar on page 33.) Progress has been made on many of the action steps and includes: increased lighting on campus and around the Rock, security cameras at the Rock, hiring more security aides with increased hours, and anti-bias training—which approximately 1,000 students and staff have undergone so far.

ANTI-RACISM RESPONSES

"The real issue wasn't the Rock, but the Rock was an example of how racism and racial aggression operates, not just at Kent State University, but also in the nation," says Amoaba Gooden. "The students were looking for ways that they could feel supported. And they also wanted the university to acknowledge the impact that racist actions, like those related to the Rock, have on students, faculty and staff on the Kent Campus."

"The real issue wasn't the Rock, but the Rock was an example of how racism and racial aggression operates, not just at Kent State University, but also in the nation."

—Amoaba Gooden, PhD, interim vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion

escorts; and mandatory bias training and LGBTQ+ education.

President Diacon, Lamar Hylton, and Amoaba Gooden, PhD, interim vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion, met with BUS members and advisor Charmaine Crawford, PhD, associate professor

BUS also requested that the university recognize the organization, work with its members and alumni, speak about them in public spaces, and create a website that promotes BUS and its history and legacy at Kent State.

Gooden says she is proud of the collaborative way that the university and students worked to address the concerns of Black students. "Students recognized what the issue was," she says. "They named it, they labeled it and they asked the



NEW POLICY ON PAINTING THE ROCK

Kent State University is implementing a new administrative policy for painting the Rock. The policy, which goes into effect Jan. 11, is one of the university's responses to the racially offensive language that was painted on the Rock in early fall semester and aimed at Black students.

"Kent State's policy does not seek to restrict free speech in any way, shape or form," says Lamar Hylton, PhD, vice president for student affairs. "There are no 'hate speech' policies as pertains to the Rock. We took an approach of looking at the Rock from a broad logistical, health and safety perspective, making sure that we knew, for instance, how much time a painting can remain on the Rock before it's allowed to be painted over by someone else. These safety, health and logistical matters will make sure that the Rock remains as close as possible to its original intent."

Kent State's new policy coincides with Senate Bill 40 recently enacted by the Ohio General Assembly, which includes the "Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act" regarding free speech on college campuses. The law states: "No state institution of higher education, or any of its administrators acting in their official capacity, shall prohibit any individual from engaging in noncommercial expressive activity on campus, so long as the individual's conduct is lawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution." Senate Bill 40 also bans "free speech zones and security fees for speakers."

See the policy at www.kent.edu/policyreg/administrative-policy-regarding-painting-rock-located-hilltop-drive.

institution to respond—and the institution has done so. I'm proud to be a part of an institution that recognizes students are aware and knowledgeable about their own experiences and know what's best for them. The university worked with them to find solutions.

"I welcome the close relationship that Kent State University and its staff has with students in terms of trying to find solutions. I'm extremely proud of our students and the way that they've intentionally responded, not only for their individual safety but for their collective safety."

Beginning in August, the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion announced a new virtual series, "Shaping a Better Future: Dialogues and Strategizing for Change," part of a yearlong series focusing on social justice topics.

Lamar Hylton says the response to the Rock opened the door for broader, philosophical conversations around Kent State's culture in a meaningful, coordinated and transparent way. While challenging, these conversations are very exciting, he adds. "The university is now at a place where we are beginning to have these discussions openly and honestly—and we are beginning to understand how we should, as an institution, move forward."

In a message to the Kent State community on Sept. 2, President Diacon introduced the new Anti-Racism Task Force—led by Amoaba Gooden, Lamar Hylton, and Melody Tankersley, PhD, senior vice president and provost—which will explore all facets of racism at Kent State. It will begin its work with a focus on anti-Black racism and later expand to examine all areas of racism on Kent State's campuses.

"Kent State has a long and storied history of supporting free speech, including the Rock," notes President Diacon. "This task force's work will further our commitment to free speech by providing a platform for open dialogue, without allowing free speech to be used as a blanket to cover the faithless shadows of racism and hate."

Students organized another peaceful protest—Black Lives Matter at Kent State—on the afternoon of Sept. 10, and hundreds of protesters marched from Risman Plaza to Oscar Ritchie Hall and then gathered at the Rock. They were invited to bring cut flowers to share with the students to show the beauty of diversity.

Later that day, in another move towards unity and understanding, Black United Students (BUS), the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted a virtual town hall called "Strategizing for Change: Revising the Rock." Participants discussed how to support community members who have been hurt by these racist actions and how everyone can contribute to a better future.

On Monday, Sept. 14, President Diacon and members of the campus and city police forces participated in the March for Unity—sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and BUS—which included hundreds of students, staff, faculty and community members. The march started on the "K" in Risman Plaza, where President Diacon thanked the members of BUS for providing guidance and positive solutions to what has been a painful situation.

"I began to wonder about how to square our core values with this painful reality, and I sort of got lost," Diacon told demonstrators, according to KentWired. "But then Tayjua Hines and the leadership of Black United Students and the membership of Black United Students provided us with the light."

Demonstrators proceeded to Kent State Police Services at the Stockdale Safety Building, where Dean Tondiglia, Kent State chief of police, and Nicholas Shearer, city of Kent police chief, spoke to the crowd.



Members of the Black community at Kent State hold signs and share their concerns about safety on campus during the Sept. 10 Black Lives Matter protest.

Then the group reassembled at the Rock, where President Diacon and others again addressed the crowd and answered questions.

After the March for Unity, President Diacon released an email to students, staff and faculty: “Today I had the meaningful opportunity to take part in the March for Unity sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and supported by the Black United Students (BUS) on our Kent Campus. Today’s march and the two other marches last week in support

During a town hall meeting of the Anti-Racism Task Force on Dec. 10, 2020, 14 subcommittees reported the progress of work on various issues, including: campus safety, recruitment and retention of Black faculty and staff, and examining academic curriculum. President Diacon began the town hall meeting by thanking the 170 faculty, staff and students who are members of the task force for engaging in the important work of ensuring that Kent State University provides equity for all.

“**Learning, examining and understanding in and of themselves will not get us to where we want to be. We will not have lasting change unless we act.**”

—President Todd Diacon

of the value of Black lives, represent the very essence of the Kent State spirit and the values this university holds dear: exercising our right to free speech and claiming loudly and clearly that hate has no home here.”

Diacon made a commitment to the Kent State community: “You have my pledge that we will continue to act until all people experience our university as a place that fosters diversity, equity and inclusion for all.”

Kent State’s Anti-Racism efforts:
www.kent.edu/antiracism/efforts

Kent State University Libraries’ anti-racism resources:
<https://libguides.library.kent.edu/antiracism>

He added that the university must examine, learn and understand why racism persists at Kent State University, but there must be action to address anti-racism as well.

“Learning, examining and understanding in and of themselves will not get us to where we want to be. We will not have lasting change unless we act.” ⚡

TAKING ACTION AGAINST RACISM

Soon after Black United Students (BUS) submitted its list of seven demands in response to the racist comments that appeared on the Rock on the Kent Campus, university administrators began to work on the following action steps that incorporated many of the BUS recommendations.

ACTION STEPS (FALL 2020)

- Install security cameras.
- Increase lighting around the Rock.
- Hire more security aides and expand hours for student escort services, including providing these services during the day.
- Promote and enlist the support of Black United Students to enhance the recruitment and retention of students.
- Provide anti-bias training for faculty, staff and students.
 - Create incentives for faculty through Center for Teaching and Learning focused cohorts (diversity focus).
 - Require anti-bias workshops for all new Kent State employees.
- Conduct a formal review of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Implement policies and procedures for painting the Rock.
- Explore the creation of a platform for notifying students, faculty and staff about hate speech/acts.
- Create a platform/website for anti-racism statements, announcements and actions of the university.
- Explore off-campus and on-campus police relationship.

Progress has been made on all the action steps, including added security measures and an increase in campus lighting, a website for anti-racism statements and actions of the university, and anti-bias training for about 1,000 students and staff.

Kent State’s Anti-Racism Action Steps:
www.kent.edu/antiracism/efforts/action-steps.



FLASHES GUIDE

QUICK TIPS FOR LIVING SMARTER FROM
TRUSTED KENT STATE SOURCES

You may recall those days when you were getting ready to head to work or run errands and you thought to yourself, *I wish I could just stay home today*. How times have changed. Thanks to COVID-19 restrictions, most of us are spending a lot more time at home and keeping our social circles small in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus and not overwhelm the healthcare system.

Back in March, when many of us were suddenly thrust into new ways of living and working, little did we realize that staying at home, working remotely and limiting our social interactions would present so many new challenges.

Beginning with those first few weeks—and continuing over these many months—Kent State experts have created resource guides for the university’s website, written insightful articles, shared research findings, and given advice on webinars, video conferences, podcasts and more.

We’ve compiled and condensed some of their wise words to help us cope with challenges we face today. The following topics contain tools and strategies to put into practice.



RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF STRESS IN CHILDREN

Children feel the same stresses as adults; however, when they are anxious and stressed it often is displayed differently. Here are some signs to be aware of:

- **BEHAVIOR REGRESSION:** Children may display behaviors you thought they had outgrown. Look for unusual behaviors, such as needing a special toy for comfort, bed-wetting or baby talk.
- **CHANGES IN EATING AND SLEEPING:** Children will show either a sharp increase or decrease in appetite. Your child may experience difficulties falling asleep, sleeping longer than usual or nightmares.
- **ACTING OUT:** Your child may start pushing boundaries, displaying aggression, not following directions or arguing with family members.

Consult your child’s healthcare provider to determine the best steps for addressing these behaviors.

—School of Psychology program, College of Education, Health and Human Services



KEEPING YOUR CHILD’S BRAIN ACTIVE

Boost your child’s literacy and cognitive development with these easy, fun tips. Children and adults can enjoy these activities together while sharing experiences and making memories.

- **READ:** Read anything from cereal boxes, candy wrappers, comic strips, maps and, of course, books! Play word games like Boggle or Scrabble.
- **TALK:** Ask questions, ask for more information, ask for an opinion, discuss ideas, put on puppet shows, tell stories, sing or tell jokes.
- **WRITE:** Write stories, poems, lists and letters. Draw, paint and chalk with at-home art supplies. Observe and record the world around you.

—School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies; College of Education, Health and Human Services



DEVELOPING EMPATHY

If there ever was a time to start practicing empathy, now is the time. Tension from an arduous election and an ongoing global pandemic has certainly not cultivated empathy in our communities. While we know what empathy means, understanding it and practicing it are not one and the same.

Clare Stacey, PhD, associate professor of sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, has explored why empathy is easy to understand, yet difficult to practice. The reality is, empathy does not always lead to connection with others—empathy can reinforce solidarity with those who are most like us, often at the expense of those who are outside of our social milieu. Studies have shown that the more empathic a person is, the more politically partisan they are.

Despite known drawbacks, empathy is an emotion state that has the potential to benefit the giver as much as the recipient. Here are some tools to help us learn to imagine what it is like to be someone different from ourselves.

TREAT EMPATHY AS A LEARNED SKILL.

The good news is, empathy is not an innate trait or a moral disposition, but a skill that can be cultivated. Simply believing empathy is a skill rather than a fixed trait increases the likelihood that people will work harder to empathize. We can seek out tools to engage in perspective taking, arguably the core component of empathic engagement.

An 'empathy wall' is when we've reached a point where we simply cannot understand another's perspective. When this happens, people tend to distance themselves from their adversaries, thus deepening the divide. We can break through this wall by observing our own behavior, abandoning assumptions, practicing deep listening and asking questions to understand the other person's actions and beliefs.

APPLY SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION.

At its core, the concept of the sociological imagination asks us to imagine the circumstances of an individual's behavior in the context of societal structures and realities. This means to not only consider someone's background and how that could affect their opinions, but also what's going on in their community, the country or the world.

As a tool, the sociological imagination allows us to more readily appreciate the reality of another person, a key step in the cultivation of empathy. It manifests as a willingness to ask questions about why someone acts or believes as they do and to then seek out reliable information to answer those questions—information that can be gleaned from educators, journalists or even from those in question.

It takes work and commitment and a willingness to hold judgment in abeyance as we seek greater understanding of the context that informs a person's life. Knowing their story will help us learn where they're coming from, even if we don't agree with them.

If we really want to practice empathy, not merely tout its virtues, we must embrace tools like those above. Only then can we transcend the insidious empathy walls that separate our communities.

—Clare L. Stacey, PhD, associate professor of sociology and co-director of the Healthy Communities Research Initiative. Adapted from a guest post, "Empathy is hard. What we need is (sociological) imagination," on *Contexts: Sociology for the Public* blog by the American Sociological Association, Oct. 20, 2020. See article at <https://contexts.org/blog/empathy-is-hard-sociological-imagination/>.



MANAGING UNCERTAINTY AND DISAPPOINTMENT

In the wake of COVID-19, many of us are facing uncertainty and disappointment. The good news is that there are research-supported best practices for managing uncertainty (expectations in general) and disappointment (when expectations are not met). To tackle both issues, here's a simple, four-point checklist.

1. REVISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS. The first thing to ask yourself when facing uncertainty or disappointment is: What am I expecting/what did I expect?

The fact is, you need to be ready for a variety of potential outcomes. To revise your expectations:

- **Think back on history.** What are some examples that apply to the current situation? What led to one situation going differently from another?

- **Set up reasonable expectations.** When facing a new situation, be prepared for the good, the bad and the neutral. When imagining a “bad” outcome, focus on realistic consequences—not some end-of-the-world scenario—and how you could move forward in that situation.



2. INCREASE YOUR TOLERANCE. In the context of COVID-19-induced isolation, a lot of people feel like their “energy to deal with stuff” cup is running on empty. We need to learn how to refill that cup and how to make it bigger—so it takes longer to drain.

To increase your tolerance:

- **Practice mindfulness meditation.** Try the Koru Meditation classes offered by KSU or any meditation app.

- **Sleep regularly** and long enough.

- **Drink enough water** and eat regular, healthy meals.

- **Don't immediately distract yourself** when you experience a negative emotion. Take at least 5 minutes to process what happened and how you're feeling before running away from it.

3. REEVALUATE PERCEPTIONS

AND BEHAVIOR. Don't miss the learning opportunities that negative situations offer. You can still be upset—but after you've felt those feelings, come back to the situation. Reframe and reevaluate what to do now. You'll feel better with a reasonable, specific plan of action.

Don't set nebulous goals like “get better at drawing”—instead, plan to practice sketching for 10 minutes a day after you eat dinner. To practice reevaluating perceptions and behavior:

- **Think back on disappointments** you've experienced that panned out okay. Practice reframing your perceptions and make a retroactive (or current) plan of action for how you could improve.

- **Talk through these experiences** with your friends, following the above steps.

- **Come back** to disappointing/uncertain situations after taking a break (see below).

4. TAKE A BREAK. Sometimes you just need to step away from a situation to clear your head. Make sure you come back to the situation—leaving it unattended to will only make it worse in the end—but it's okay to refill your cup and try again later. While you probably know your favorite way to take a break, here are a few recommendations:

- Take a hot shower.
- Chat with a friend/loved one.
- Go for a walk (outside if you can).
- Try some simple stretches.
- Drink some water and take a nap.

Try enacting just one of these strategies today—your future self will thank you for it!

—Kent State of Wellness Ambassadors: Samantha Nousak, MA '20, doctoral candidate in sociology, and Muhammad Hassan Bin Afzal, doctoral candidate in political science.



COPING WITH STRESS, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

Mental health can be directly impacted in times of uncertainty and social isolation. These tips may help ease these feelings:

- **EXERCISE:** Finding time to work in 30 minutes of exercise three-to-five times a week can improve mood, confidence and keep your mind occupied.

- **SOOTHING BEHAVIORS:** Rubbing the palms of your hands is a low intensity stimulation that activates the sensory neurons in the hands and releases oxytocin (a “feel-good” hormone).

- **MINDFULNESS:** Taking a moment to recognize your breath and body during meditation can improve how you are feeling. Numerous smartphone apps help facilitate this exercise.

— Counselor Education and Supervision program, College of Education, Health and Human Services





EATING HEALTHY ON A TIGHT BUDGET

Even though home-cooked meals are the best option to stay on budget, the amount of money you spend in grocery stores can add up. Here are some tips to eat healthy on a tight budget:

- **SHOP SMART:** Create meal plans and grocery lists ahead of time and be sure to eat before you head to the grocery store, as shopping when hungry can increase unnecessary food purchases. Be sure to watch for coupons and discounts to reduce your grocery bills.

- **PICK LESS EXPENSIVE PROTEINS:** Try less expensive cuts of meats such as chicken thighs. Cut up, portion into several

containers and freeze. Thawing and refreezing reduces meat quality. Keep shelf-stable proteins on hand like canned beans, tuna and nuts.

- **STOCK UP ON CANNED AND FROZEN FOODS:** Frozen fruits and vegetables can last for months or years. Canned goods can be stored without being refrigerated. Be sure to drain excess water and wash off produce to reduce sugar and salt content.

—Nutrition and Dietetics program, College of Education, Health and Human Services



COOKING WITH KIDS

Getting kids to eat something other than their preferred foods (like chicken tenders and mac and cheese) may be difficult, but getting them involved in the planning and cooking process helps open their minds to try something new.

Here are some ideas to implement at home:

- **GET THEM INTERESTED:** Have children read recipes with you and help create shopping lists. Explore new cultures by selecting recipes from around the globe.
- **KEEP THEM SAFE:** Teach them the importance of hand washing and cleaning as you go, so foods are not cross-contaminated. Clarify the dangers of raw ingredients and explain how to safely use a knife (start with plastic). Be sure to talk about the dangers of hot surfaces and how to properly use appliances.
- **GET THEM INVOLVED:** Children can help with mixing, kneading and other hands-on tasks. They can also help add ingredients as you are cooking. Use the time to talk about what is happening to the ingredients when you apply heat.

— Chef Anthony Hamilton and Chef Andrew Eith, Hospitality Management program, College of Education, Health and Human Services



PRACTICING GRATITUDE

It is that time of year when many of us begin to focus on what we are thankful for. This year, things might look different, but it is important to find even small things to be extra grateful for. According to *Psychology Today*, being grateful can improve one's physical and mental health, increase empathy, reduce aggression, improve sleep and bolster self-esteem.

Here are some ideas to consider:

- **KEEP TRACK OF WHAT YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR.** Write what you are grateful for on a slip of paper and place it in a gratitude jar to take out and reflect on later. Or start a gratitude journal where you write what you are thankful for in a notebook.
- **KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Sometimes the small things in our lives are the best things. So when practicing gratitude, it is okay to remember and reflect on the little things.
- **BE KIND TO YOURSELF.** In the beginning, you may struggle to come up with things you appreciate in your life. You may also have a bad day where it seems impossible to express gratitude. In these moments, remember to be kind to yourself.



- **CONSIDER A GRATITUDE BUDDY.** Engage in a gratitude activity, such as the jar or journal, with someone you are close with—maybe a close friend, significant other, or roommates.
- **GIVE BACK.** This may not be as possible as it once was, but if the opportunity arises and you are able, consider giving back to others or volunteering as a way to express your gratitude.

—Bethanie Mauerman, BA '15 (psychology and sociology), MEd '18 (clinical mental health counseling), licensed professional counselor and doctoral candidate in health education and promotion

MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

While many people struggled to maintain an active lifestyle prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, now even more factors contribute to a sedentary lifestyle: work and school have transitioned online causing increased screen time, fitness facilities and parks have closed or reduced their operating hours, and social interaction is limited due to physical distancing guidelines.

A group of Kent State University professors, Jacob Barkley, PhD, Andrew Lepp, PhD, and Ellen Glickman, PhD, from the College of Education, Health and Human Services, joined with current and former Kent State doctoral students (now at other universities) to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on physical activity and sedentary behavior. They published their findings in the *International Journal of Exercise Science*.

In a before-and-after pandemic comparison of more than 400 university students and employees, they found that those who were most active prior to the onset of COVID-19 were the most negatively affected. Those who were not highly active before the pandemic were able to increase their physical activity, perhaps because of time saved by eliminating the daily commute. But all participants in the study reported a significant increase in daily sitting, which is associated with a variety of negative health outcomes—and even a greater risk of dying earlier.

With coronavirus cases on the rise, we can expect current social distancing measures and limited access to recreational facilities to continue. Here are three ways to maintain positive health behaviors and stay active through the winter months and beyond:



1. MINIMIZE SITTING FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD

OF TIME. Many people are still working from home and spending an inordinate number of hours sitting in front of their computer each day. Minimize the amount of time spent sitting by investing in a standing desk or taking breaks to stand, stretch and move around throughout the day.

2. EXERCISE OUTSIDE OR AT HOME. If you can't make it to the gym, or don't want to, there are other ways to exercise at home. Outdoor activities like biking and hiking or an online workout class are great ways to get moving. Even light activity, like a walk, can help reduce stress and get your blood flowing.

3. INCORPORATE ACTIVITY INTO YOUR ROUTINE.

Scheduling Zoom meetings has become part of our daily lives, so why don't we schedule time for activity, too? Before, during or after work, set aside some time for physical activity. It will not only be better for your physical health—it can improve your cognition and productivity, too.

—Jacob Barkley, PhD, professor of health sciences; Andrew Lepp, PhD, professor of recreation, park, and tourism management, School of Foundations, Leadership and Administration; and Ellen Glickman, PhD, director and professor of health sciences, College of Education, Health and Human Services. See published study at <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ijes/vol13/ISS5/8/>.





SECURING YOUR DEVICES AT HOME AND WORK

2020 has shifted most of our home, school and business lives online. The devices you use that connect to the internet collect tons of personal data and could threaten your online security if not secured. Information including your home address, email address, phone number, personal ID numbers and date of birth is like gold to a cybercriminal.

Internet of Things (IoT) devices may include your home thermostat, smart refrigerator, smart watch, baby monitor or a smart TV. These devices may be connected to the internet constantly. Protect IoT devices by connecting to a secured network—and be careful not to place them in areas where you have private work or family discussions.

Most home wireless networks (Wi-Fi) are controlled by your internet router or a separate dedicated wireless access

point that broadcasts wireless signals. Those signals can extend way beyond the walls of your house or apartment. If you share your Wi-Fi password with friends or guests, they can connect anytime they pass by—and gain access to your home network.

Here's how to protect your technology and secure your personal/work data:

- **CONFIGURE YOUR PRIVACY AND SECURITY SETTINGS.** Every time you sign up for a new account, download a new app, or get a new “smart” device, immediately configure the privacy and security settings to your comfort level for information sharing and disable features you don't need. Regularly check these settings at least once per year to ensure they are still configured properly.

- **KEEP SOFTWARE UP TO DATE.** Updates include important changes that improve the performance and security of your devices.

- **USE EFFECTIVE PASSWORDS.** In addition to a strong Wi-Fi password, use strong passwords on all your devices and apps. Make them at least 12 characters long, using numbers, symbols and capital and lowercase letters. Make the passwords unique to only that network, device or app. Never share your passwords or store them physically (such as on a sticky-note or in a notebook).

- **SECURE YOUR ACCOUNTS.** Set up multi-factor authentication on any account that allows it and never disable it.

- **SECURE YOUR HOME WIRELESS NETWORK.** Change your router login's default username and password, as they are easily found online. Always keep WPA2 enabled to ensure the best security for the devices on your network. Use a strong Wi-Fi sign-in password. Update your router's firmware regularly to ensure you have the latest security updates.

- **SECURE OLD DEVICES.** If you lend, give, sell or throw out an old device, return it to factory settings to prevent your data from being accessed after you no longer have control. Remember to back up or transfer any important information on the device.

- **AVOID OVERSHARING ON SOCIAL MEDIA.** If you share things like pet names, schools you attended, links to family members and your birthday, you give a scammer all the information they need to guess your password or answer your security questions.

- **DON'T FALL FOR CLICKBAIT SCAMS.** Don't click on links, attachments or anything else in an unsolicited email or text message asking you to update or verify account information. Look up the company's phone number or customer service email address on your own and call or email the company directly to ask if the request is legitimate. ⚡

—Kent State University Division of Information Technology

SO HELP ME POD

Three Kent State alumni find personal revival and community in the power of podcasting.

By Michael Blanding



Podcasts are everywhere these days.

According to recent data, more than a million active podcasts are streaming over the internet. Half of all Americans, ages 12 and older, have tuned in to these free audio shows, and a quarter of them listen weekly. Celebrities from Gwyneth Paltrow to Snoop Dogg have their own shows. Among other topics, podcasts dispense political commentary, true-crime narratives, and recipe advice.

When three Kent State graduates each decided to create their own podcast, however, they turned to the same source for content: their own experience.

Whether it's surviving a traumatic childhood, overcoming obstacles to start a business, or just trying to become a better person, these alumni have found a way to make their past difficulties engaging for audiences.

The podcast format is unique among platforms—simple to make with a microphone and a computer, intimate as a conversation in person—yet potentially limitless in its ability to reach listeners.

Each of the three podcasters we highlight used that format to create the podcast they might have wanted to listen to, using it to connect with people tackling similar circumstances. But they haven't done it alone. They've brought in guests and experts who add their life experiences to the conversation, expanding the podcasts' scope and creating a community of support online and off.



BECOMING BETTER

TREY KAUFFMAN, BA '09, COLUMBUS, OHIO, *THE MOSAIC LIFE*

Following graduation from Kent State, Trey Kauffman spent six years bouncing around a succession of sales and marketing jobs, feeling uninspired.

"I would always get bored at a job," he says. He spent evenings drinking too much and putting off any meaningful change, such as starting his own company or writing a book. "I always made excuses—that was one of the most toxic aspects of my life."

The best moments of his day were those spent commuting in his car, listening to podcasters such as Tim Ferriss and Kevin Rose interview inspirational entrepreneurs. "I realized things weren't going to magically change for me overnight," Kauffman says. "I had to put in the work."

In 2016, he started doing just that, quitting his job to start a web design company, 2237 Designs, meditating, reading up on the ancient philosophy of stoicism and launching a humor podcast of his own.

In fall 2019, he and a friend, Ernie Welsh—whom he'd met at a leadership event—launched a new podcast called *The Mosaic Life*, asking a question that has become an important one for Kauffman: What does it mean to be happy?

"We see people who struggle with being overwhelmed and anxious, especially when it comes to the workplace," Kauffman says. "They need resources to find happiness and contentment, to know they have the capacity [to find that] within themselves."

His friend left after a year, and Kauffman has continued the podcast, bringing on guests from the realms of business, philosophy and psychology to glean insights into how we can all get closer to the lives we wish we had.

In one recent episode, he interviewed Nir Eyal, bestselling author of *Indistractable*, about how to stay focused in the hyper-media landscape. In another, he spoke with Ashley Mead, a former marketing exec with Amazon who now consults on creating "psychologically safe" workspaces. In still another, he spoke with Lauren Laudani, a yoga instructor who started her life over personally and professionally at age 36.

"I'M CONTINUING TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH THESE PEOPLE TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE GROWING—AND I'M GROWING AS WELL."

For his part, Kauffman has developed a personal mantra—"Do better"—and asks himself each day what he can do to improve his own life. A year ago, he quit drinking and challenged himself to read a book a week for a year. "We all have the capacity to do better in our lives so we can help others—and help ourselves," he says.

Kauffman traces his creativity to the influence of his mother, who worked for a local newspaper while he was growing up in Green, Ohio, a small town between

Akron and Canton. Extremely shy while young, he came out of his shell at Kent State as a deejay for the internet-based Black Squirrel Radio, where he started a humor show with some friends; soon he was webmaster and marketing director for the station.

While there, he learned to have naturally flowing conversations with guests, following a practice he continues to this day. "I don't want to over prepare for interviews, because I don't want to be rigid, but I want to be informed enough that I can talk intelligently about whatever subject the guest is bringing."

His relationship with guests doesn't end with the podcast, however. To keep the conversations going, he created the Mosaic Life Co-op, a private Facebook group for his guests to connect with and learn from each other. "It's never a one-off," he says. "I'm continuing to stay in contact with these people to make sure they're growing—and I'm growing as well."

Eventually, he hopes to write a book distilling the wisdom he's collected, reaching others who might also be yearning to make changes in their lives, but not quite knowing how.

"If I can inspire one person to make a change in their life—to scale back on their ego or spend a couple hours a week working on their book or startup, that makes it all worthwhile."

Listen to *The Mosaic Life* at <https://www.onemosaic.life/>



FINDING FAMILY

KERI RICHMOND, BS '17, WASHINGTON, DC, *FOSTERSTRONG*

You don't have to search too hard to find negative images of foster care, says Keri Richmond. "You look at *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, and the kid who was in foster care is always the one who goes on to become a serial killer running around the city wreaking havoc," says Richmond, who was raised in foster care and an adoptive family herself. She was pleasantly surprised, then, when she saw the 2018 film *Instant Family*, a heartwarming comedy about a foster family starring Mark Wahlberg and Octavia Spencer, loosely based on the life of screenwriter Sean Anders and his wife.

When Richmond met Anders at a screening in Washington, DC, he told her he was starting an organization to change the perception of foster care through the voices of former foster children. Richmond jumped at the chance, joining nine other foster alumni to found FosterStrong in 2019. "Our mission is to tell our raw and authentic stories," says Richmond, now the organization's executive director, "not tokenizing the trauma, but showing the resilience and strength embodied by somebody who goes through the system."

At the heart of the effort is a podcast, showcasing the stories of foster care alumni through group conversations with the core members.

"Our primary audience is to reach former foster children to share experiences," Richmond says. In addition, they hope to impact social workers and other advocates to help them better understand foster

children, as well as potential foster parents to counteract negative perceptions of fostering. "We are elevating how much love you can bring into your home and how your family can grow and learn."

“OUR MISSION IS TO TELL OUR RAW AND AUTHENTIC STORIES, NOT TOKENIZING THE TRAUMA, BUT SHOWING THE RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH EMBODIED BY SOMEBODY WHO GOES THROUGH THE SYSTEM.”

Born into an abusive family outside Columbus, Ohio, Richmond entered foster care as a newborn and again at 4 years old. At 5, she was adopted into another chaotic home where she was once again abused. "I feel like the state of Ohio failed me," she says. "They washed their hands of me and went on to the next child." She gritted her teeth, living with her adopted mom until high school, when she moved in with her best friend, Alexis Donati, BS '17, whose family helped her attend Kent State.

Richmond thrived on the Kent Campus, joining student government and a sorority, and working with the nonprofit Together We Rise to hold a fundraiser where she told her story publicly for the first time. "I saw the power of storytelling and how my story that felt so broken could also be

used for good and for change to help other children going through the system."

After taking courses on public relations advocacy with communications professor Stephanie Smith, Richmond decided to dedicate her career to advocating for child welfare. She currently works full time in Washington, DC, as a lobbyist for the American Academy of Pediatrics, at the same time managing FosterStrong's daily operations and hosting its podcast along with the other members of the group.

The stories in the podcast upend stereotypes in a wide variety of foster care experiences. Recent episodes, for example, center on the story of Carlo, who forged a deep bond with his grandmother, who took him into her home in a form of foster care called kinship care; and Ria, who at age 11 was forced to advocate for herself and her sister in court so they could be adopted at a young age.

If there is a common theme that unites their stories, it is the presence of at least one person who showed them unconditional love when their birth families could not.

"What stands out is that one individual or a couple of individuals who were consistently showing us love and encouragement. That, at the end of the day, is what fostering is about," Richmond says. "We champion the belief that every child deserves to be loved by somebody, and anyone is capable of being that somebody."

Listen to FosterStrong at <https://urfosterstrong.org/>



CREATING SPACE

OLEG LOUGHEED BA '16, AUSTIN, TEXAS, *OVERCOMING ODDS*

There were many moments while growing up that Oleg Lougheed looked around at his life and asked, “Why me?” Born in Russia, Lougheed’s mother was an alcoholic and his father was in prison. By age 9, he was in an orphanage, and at 12, he was adopted by a family on the other side of the world in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was unable to speak the language.

“I would immediately go to the place of, ‘I can’t believe this happened to me,’” Lougheed says. No matter how much he felt sorry for himself, however, it didn’t change his situation. “I realized it wasn’t a productive mindset because it didn’t give me any additional insight to move forward.”

Eventually, he started subtly changing his viewpoint to ask, “Why not me?”—wondering what his experiences had to teach him. “It changed my relationship with adversity completely and made me realize I could be of service to others to help them see their own adversities through a different lens.”

Last year, he founded the organization Overcoming Odds, creating a venue for himself and others to share their experiences dealing with difficult situations. At its core is a weekly podcast in which Lougheed interviews ordinary people who have struggled to overcome situations including racism, cancer, sexual assault and COVID-19.

“This felt like something people were desperately needing,” he says, “a place to

be heard, to be appreciated and to be understood.”

Lougheed was studying to become a Russian translator at Kent State when, on the advice of a friend, he walked into the Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (CEBI), in the College of Business Administration. There he found mentors in business professors Mary Heidler and Craig Zamarly.

“They would stay late with me to help me practice and polish my pitch decks and give me feedback,” he says. “I began to experience a feeling of being at home.”

“THIS FELT LIKE SOMETHING PEOPLE WERE DESPERATELY NEEDING—A PLACE TO BE HEARD, TO BE APPRECIATED AND TO BE UNDERSTOOD.”

After graduation, he attended an entrepreneurship program in Delaware to develop a meal-sharing app for travelers, but after only a few weeks, he realized that he wanted to create something deeper.

He reached back out to Heidler and Zamarly, who helped him come up with a business plan to fund his organization through donations and speaking fees, along with the podcast concept to connect people from all walks of life who were struggling.

“Far too often in life, we are told to only listen to experts,” he says. “But these ‘ordinary’ people are also experts in their own lives.”

Instead of coming with a list of questions, he goes into each interview with an intention to listen and “share the space,” allowing people to tell their stories in their own way. Often, in fact, he starts by asking subjects what question they are seeking an answer to in life.

“The first thing I often hear is, ‘I’ve never been asked such a question before,’” he says. “It also gets people curious about their own lives and routines—after a moment of silence, they begin to realize how rich their life has truly been.”

Beyond the podcast, Overcoming Odds also hosts paid events such as “Survive to Thrive: A Parent’s Journey,” which brings together parents to share their stories along with national experts in the parenting field.

In addition, every Saturday morning, Lougheed’s organization hosts a free weekly conversation over Zoom called “Courageous Conversations,” in which anyone can show up to discuss topics including the value of suffering and the meaning of life.

“The beauty of it is that every single person gets the opportunity to share their own perspective,” Lougheed says. “That is the heart and soul of the work.” ⚡

Listen to Overcoming Odds at www.overcomingodds.today

“I want to have fun with it.”

Best-selling YA author Emily Duncan isn't getting bogged down by the business side of book publishing.

By Lyndsey Brennan, MA '21



PHOTO BY EMILY DUNCAN, MLIS '16

Before the pandemic closed the Hudson Library & Historical Society this March, the teen room was popular with the junior high crowd. After school and on weekends, students flocked to the space to browse the stacks, take part in Dungeons and Dragons campaigns and play computer games with friends.

If any of them realized the youth services librarian at the desk 10 feet away—wearing exaggerated black glasses, dark lipstick and a nose ring—was the author of a best-selling young adult novel, they seldom let on.

In April 2019, librarian Emily A. Duncan, MLIS '16, released *Wicked Saints*, her first young adult fantasy novel, to favorable buzz from reviewers and young readers eager for a story about dark magic, wartime, monsters and a girl (not unlike Joan of Arc) who talks directly to the gods.

The book, the first in a proposed three-book series, was a success by all standard metrics—Duncan sold the

trilogy to her publisher for six figures, *Wicked Saints* debuted at #4 on the *New York Times* Best Seller list and a devoted community of fans sprang up on social media. But it takes more to impress some teens at her library.

“Some of them do not care at all. ‘You have a book? Cool. I don’t know how to read,’” Duncan says, laughing. “But then I had a teen come up to me and say, ‘I read your book. It’s very good. You should write another one.’ And I was like, ‘Oh, did you think I ended there? Don’t worry!’”

The second book in Duncan’s Something Dark and Holy trilogy, *Ruthless Gods*, released in April 2020. Although it didn’t hit the *NYT* Best Seller list—Young Adult (YA) publishers promote debut novels more heavily than other books in a series—it topped the children’s series list of the Great Lakes Independent Booksellers Association the week it came out.

Many of the initial responses to *Ruthless Gods* were positive, unlike the polarized reactions she received to the first book. Because *Wicked Saints* had been marketed as a dark fantasy, readers weren’t expecting its horror elements, she says. “But if you made it through *Wicked Saints*, you know it’s only going to get more horrific.”

The idea for the first book came in 2013, when Duncan was a junior English major at Malone University. She had been playing the video game *Skyrim* and was struck by the game’s sprawling forests, ramshackle villages and menacing, walled cities. *I could set a book in a place like this*, she thought.

She attempted to write the book twice during her undergraduate studies, but after getting stuck in the same spot both times, she put the manuscript away.

Then, in 2015, Duncan enrolled in Kent State’s Master of Library and Information Science program and began working in the Kent Campus library at the reference desk. Between serving students and professors, she perused the OhioLINK and SearchOhio catalogs, ordering obscure books about Slavic folklore she thought might inspire her to solve the problem she was having with her book.

The research did the trick, helping her transform a setting that had been “amorphous and fluid” in her mind into a concrete place. Once the setting clicked,



CREDIT: NICOLE DEAL

Nicole Deal, an artist from Georgia, says the evocative imagery in Duncan's books energizes and inspires her to make art. "Emily walks that line between giving a little [description] to visually entice, while also leaving room for artists to play." See <https://www.nicoledeal.com>.

the characters followed. She wrote the book in 2015, graduated in 2016 and secured her agent and book deal in 2017.

No one could have predicted *Wicked Saints* would become a best seller, Duncan says. She attributes the book's success to her publisher, Wednesday Books, an imprint of Macmillan that focuses on YA and adult coming-of-age titles. The staff championed the book, designing and distributing bound manuscripts a year in advance in order to build natural buzz.

For Duncan—who minored in illustration and mixed media art as an undergrad—one of the most exciting parts of being an author is seeing the hundreds of pieces

"I love art that builds off of other art. I love the collaborative aspect of it."

of fan art created in homage to her characters, which she features on her website. "I love art that builds off of other art. I love the collaborative aspect of it."

The library reopened its doors in late June, but Duncan has seen few teens since then, which she says is an "extremely weird" departure from what her job looked like at the beginning of the year.

She's currently doing one last read-through of the final book in the trilogy, *Blessed Monsters*, which is scheduled for release April 6, 2021.

Duncan, who has begun work on a new project, says she hopes she was able to end the trilogy in a way that satisfies each of the characters' arcs but leaves them open enough that if she has the opportunity to write another book in the series, she can.

She won't know for sure if she's succeeded until she hears from readers next April. ⚡

Advice for new writers

Remember that publishing is about money:

"There's a danger of romanticizing writing. I tell young writers, 'You have to be pragmatic. Don't get too emotionally invested in the business side of things or it's going to chew you up. If publishers pay attention to another author instead of you, it's because they think they can make more money with that book. That's just how it is.'"

Remember why you write: "Try to write for reasons outside of having your book in a bookstore. Keep the spirit of why you're writing, without getting bogged down in the 'being published' aspect of it, because otherwise it's easy to get demoralized and give up. Before *Wicked Saints*, I'd worked on a book for 11 years, and when I queried it, I only received form rejections."

Remember to have fun: "When I started writing *Wicked Saints*, I didn't think I was ever going to get it published. I just wanted to write something fun, play with a lot of the tropes that were happening in YA books and do them differently. I think that's part of why it worked so well—because I wasn't worrying, 'Is this going to be something that a gatekeeper will like?' I thought, *I don't care. I want to have fun with it.* At the end of the day, you have to have fun."



CREDIT: @WARICKAART

An artist from Denmark who uses the Instagram handle @warickaart says she naturally gravitates toward Duncan's characters because they fit the aesthetic of what she enjoys drawing. "There's something about the delightful mix of dark fantasy elements and religious imagery in these books that I very much enjoy." See <https://www.instagram.com/warickaart>.

Celebrating Homecoming— From Here, There, Anywhere!

Golden Flashes worldwide shared their blue and gold pride for Kent State's first-ever virtual Homecoming, Oct. 5-10. Although we missed seeing everyone in person, 1,770 alumni and friends—over half were first-time attendees of an alumni event—took part in more than 15 virtual Homecoming events and activities.

Participants represented class years 1949 to 2020, and celebrated from 43 states, as well as the Armed Forces, Puerto Rico, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates. **John Grimaldi, BBA '49**, Newark, Del., was the oldest graduate, at age 96, to celebrate KSU's Homecoming this year!

The weeklong celebration offered daily opportunities for the Kent State community to connect on social media by tagging #KentHC—on Memories Monday, Gold Out Tuesday, Work from Home Wednesday, "Kiss on the K" at Home Thursday, Flashes Take Care of Flashes Friday and Tailgate at Home Saturday.

Golden Flashes dug out old photos, dressed in gold, decorated with KSU gear, downloaded KSU-themed backgrounds, delighted in love stories, donated to the Kent State Emergency Grant Fund and dined out during backyard tailgates to show support for KSU student athletes.

Kent State community members also enjoyed virtual versions of classic traditions, such as the Bowman Cup 5K Walk/Run (participating at home or in person) and Homecoming Court (via a video conference with student representatives from the Kent Campus and Regional Campuses).

Thanks to all who celebrated Kent State's Homecoming 2020!

1. Jhariah Wadkins, a senior majoring in communication studies, and **Annemarie Guta**, a senior majoring in early childhood education, are named Homecoming Royalty during a live stream of the Homecoming Court "reveal" on Friday, Oct. 9.

2. Jennifer Finnerty, BA '96, MEd '00, Ravenna, Ohio, shows off her decked-out office space on Twitter during Work from Home Wednesday.

3. Paul Richardson, MEd '99, San Francisco, sports his KSU swag from the recent bowl game in his Twitter post on Memories Monday.

4. Taléa R. Drummer-Ferrell, PhD '14, Kent State dean of students, shares a photo on Instagram of the Kent State student affair's team dressed for Gold Out Tuesday.

5. Morgan Manuel, BA '18, Seattle, shares an Instagram story of how she and fiancé **Nick Schank, BA '18**, fell in love at KSU and continue to pursue their dreams together in her post for "Kiss on the K" at Home Thursday.



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1960s

Sheldon “Shelly” Brodsky, BBA ’64, MBA ’70, Beachwood, Ohio, is recently retired and has filled in the gap between 1964 and 2020 with the following careers: US Navy Supply Officer, President and COO Cleveland Cliffs Steamship Company, CEO of The Leader Mortgage Company and part-time adjunct faculty at Case Western Reserve University, Ursuline College, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College. He has been married to Beverly for 54 years, and they have two adult children.

Walter Yingling, BS ’65, MEd ’67, PhD ’71, Columbus, Ohio, wrote, “My memories of May 4, 1970, appeared in our weekly *Friendship Village Update*. After Kent State, I went on for a career as an elementary principal in Ashtabula, Ohio, Washington, DC, and Boardman, Ohio. I was also one of the five founders of the Ohio Elementary School Administrators Lobbying arm and was VP until I retired. We lobbied for the students. (‘If they don’t get a good start, the rest may be difficult,’ I told my PhD committee.) I could not have asked for a better experience than my years at KSU, especially for my PhD that I was so blessed to have.”

Phil Hathaway, BA ’67, Owosso, Mich., wrote, “My book, *A History of the Shiawassee River*, was published in May 2020. It covers the geologic and geographic influences that fostered Native American life and early Euro-American enterprise based on water power. The history proceeds to the use of river water for industry, the degradation of the resource, and its recovery from the early 1970s’ environmental legislation. Quality of life and navigation enter into the final chapter with observations about our connection to history. After a career in urban planning, the Shiawassee River has consumed my retirement, with volunteerism for improved water quality and recreational access.”

David Duda, BS ’68, Cooper City, Fla., was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Swimming Hall of Fame in May 2019.

Terrence O’Donnell, BA ’68, Rocky River, Ohio, has joined Brouse McDowell, a business law firm based in northern Ohio, in an Of Counsel capacity focusing on alternative dispute resolution and appellate matters. Justice O’Donnell served on the Supreme Court of Ohio from 2003-2018 and is one of Ohio’s longest-serving justices. During his time on the Court, he led statewide efforts to promote integrity and professionalism in law, leading to the creation of a nationally recognized Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program. Justice O’Donnell also served on the Cuyahoga County

Common Pleas Court for 14 years and the Eighth District Court of Appeals for eight years.

Barry Lubetkin, PhD ’69, New York City, is the director and founder of The Institute for Behavior Therapy in Manhattan in 1971. Board-certified in both clinical psychology and behavioral psychology, he is the author of numerous academic and popular articles, as well as two popular self-help books: *Bailing Out and Why Do I Need You to Love Me in Order to Like Myself?*. He also has recorded the popular insomnia treatment CD set “Dr. Barry’s Sound Asleep.” His article, “COVID-19: Will You Feel Guilty That You Did Nothing?” was posted on PsychologyToday.com in May. (See <http://bit.ly/LubetkinCOVID-19article>.)

1970s

Michael Chanak Jr., BS ’71, Cincinnati, LGBTQ+ activist and former Procter & Gamble (P&G) employee, appears in the short film *They Will See You: LGBTQ+ Visibility in Advertising*, created by P&G in partnership with Great Big Story. The film explores the history of LGBTQ+ advertising and highlights the inspirational people whose lives have been impacted by seeing their stories represented on screen. (See <http://bit.ly/TheyWillSeeYoufilm>.)

In May 2020, Chanak was part of a P&G/CNN virtual press conference with Kate Bolduan, CNN moderator; Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD; Brent Miller, P&G LGBTQ Global Equality Leader; and Marc Pritchard, P&G Chief of Brands, where the film was introduced.

He was one of the people profiled in the June 2020 issue of *Entertainment Weekly* magazine in a P&G spread for Pride month. P&G also asked him to contribute his perspective on their website in response to the June 15, 2020 ruling by the US Supreme Court, which states that an employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. (See <http://bit.ly/Chanakcomment>.) And he was listed in “The Moments that Shaped Cincinnati’s LGBTQ History” in the June 2020 issue of *Cincinnati Magazine*. (See <http://bit.ly/MomentsThatShapedCincy>.)

Thomas J. Friel, BBA ’71, Augusta, Ga., wrote, “I volunteer at Golden Master’s Table every week to help the needy. We feed 250 to 300 people each day.”

Marjory M. Pizzuti, BA ’72, Columbus, Ohio, who has served as president and CEO of Goodwill Columbus since 2005, announced her plans to retire in August. Pizzuti’s executive leadership experience in the community spans 40 years. Prior to joining Goodwill, she served for a decade as senior vice president of strategic marketing and community development at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and held key

leadership positions for more than 20 years in economic development and tourism marketing, communications and public affairs for the State of Ohio and City of Columbus.

During her tenure at Goodwill, Pizzuti has guided the agency through the most significant growth in its 80-year history. She will continue serving in her current role through the completion of the search for her successor, which is anticipated to happen in the first quarter of 2021.

Carter Strang, BS ’73, MEd ’79, Shaker Heights, Ohio, is a partner in the law firm Tucker Ellis, and was elected chair of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs (CCWA) Board of Directors effective July 1, 2020. He is a member of CCWA’s education committee and a long-standing participant in CCWA’s programs. CCWA’s mission is to inspire engagement in international affairs and world cultures through education, citizen diplomacy and civic dialogue.

Gary Fincke, PhD ’74, Selisgrove, Pa., wrote the essay, “After the Three-Moon Era,” which originally appeared in the *Kenyon Review* (see <http://bit.ly/FinckeEssay>) and has been selected to appear in *Best American Essays 2020*. A story, “The Corridors of Longing,” has been chosen to appear in *Best Small Fictions 2020*. His ninth collection of stories, *The Sorrows*, was published early this year, and his fourteenth collection of poems, *The Mussolini Diaries*, will be published in late 2020.

Daniel Gallik, MEd ’74, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, recently had his second novel, *Love on Blue Waves*, published by Halo Press. The book, which explores what love is really about, takes place in the Buckeye section of Cleveland in the sixties. His first novel, *A Story of Dumb Fate*, is about a child with disabilities who lived in the same neighborhood. Both novels are for sale on Amazon. Gallik once attended seminars and poetry readings at the Kiva.

Michael N. Oser, BA ’75, Columbus, Ohio, is proud to announce that, after 30 years as a divorce attorney, he is also known as Marriage Mike, the publisher of Marriage Mike e-books 2021, with the intent of helping people avoid marital disharmony and follow a positive path toward happiness. Although his career as an attorney practicing criminal defense, juvenile and family law includes terminating marriages, he is now reflecting on what he has learned about keeping harmony in marital relationships from sociology professors at Kent State, professional experiences, his first marriage and divorce, and his current marriage of 35 years. He is working on an e-book, *A Guide to an Irish Wedding*. If you have pictures, articles or stories of an Irish wedding—yours or someone else’s—please email him at marriagemikebooks2021@yahoo.com.

David J. Bronczek, BBA '76, Johns Creek, Ga., has been appointed to the board of directors of Tyson Foods as of May 2020. Bronczek is the recently retired president and chief operating officer of FedEx Corporation, the global logistics and transportation company. He was part of FedEx for more than 40 years, starting as a courier and progressing into the company's management ranks. His roles included leading FedEx Express in Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and later serving for 17 years as president and CEO of FedEx Express. A native of Ohio, he also has experience as an independent public company director, previously serving on the board of International Paper, and he served as United Way Mid-South Board Chairman.

Edward R. Canda, BA '76, Lawrence, Kan., retired as Professor Emeritus at the end of 2019 after 33 years as a social work professor, the last 30 at the University of Kansas. He also has an MA in religious studies (University of Denver) and MSW and PhD degrees (The Ohio State University). His work focused on two main areas: 1) creative responses to crisis, chronic illness and disability; 2) international perspectives on social welfare, with many collaborations in East Asia and Central Europe.

He established a lifelong special interest in South Korea due to his Fulbright Award and Graduate Fellowship at Sungkyunkwan University, 1976-1977, arranged by his KSU advisor, Dr. Gerard Kennedy (in memoriam) and encouraged by the Honors College. He has more than 200 publications and more than 200 presentations.

In 2003, the KSU Honors College conferred him with the Honors College Alumni Award for Excellence in Scholarship. In 2013, the national Council on Social Work Education conferred him with the Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award.

Paul M. Hedeon, BA '76, Monroe, Mich., wrote, "After taking my BA in English and a short stint in business, I returned to graduate school for an MA and PhD in English from The University of Akron and Northwestern University respectively. I went on to teach at the University of Maine at Fort Kent (1990-1994) and Wartburg College (1994-2012) before finishing my career as an academic dean at Monroe County Community College. I won three teaching awards. I am also an award-winning writer (poetry and fiction) and a Fulbright scholar. My critical and creative writing has appeared in numerous magazines and journals including *The North American Review*, *Confrontation*, *Rosebud*, *Philosophy and Literature*, and many others.

"In addition to my most recent novel, *The Butterfly* (BHC, 2019), which is a 2019 Foreword INDIES Book Awards finalist, I have also published the novel *The Knowledge Tree* (Wide Water, 2013). I am the co-editor (with DG Myers) of the essay collection *Unrelenting Readers: The New Poet-critics* (Story Line, 2004), and I authored two poetry collections: *When I Think About Rain* (Final Thursday, 2009) and *Under a Night Sky* (Final Thursday, 2016).

"I began at KSU in fall of 1971. Because the Vietnam War was not yet lost, KSU was a place full of active debate of and resistance to government policies. I worked at the Student Center with Mr. Dean Kahler, and I remember him as an articulate and courageous critic of the war and a defender of freedoms for which he'd already made a profound sacrifice. Like many young people, I was just beginning to understand these freedoms often come at a terrible price. I was lucky to be at KSU, a great school just beginning to shoulder its burden of history."

David Schwartz, BA '76, Cleveland, has spent the last 30 years in LA as a director/artist/writer in television animation. He has worked on numerous animated series, including *Darkwing*

Duck, *Johnny Bravo*, *The Simpsons*, *Rugrats* and *Bugs Bunny*. He has spent most of his career at the Walt Disney Company and Warner Brothers Studios, but he has also worked at Dreamworks, the Cartoon Network, and drawn comics for DC and Marvel, among others. He retired last year and is currently an adjunct professor in the animation department at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Charles Lance Mathess, BS '77, MPA '78, Cody, Wyo., served over 30 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and retired in 2009 after attaining the rank of Staff Lieutenant in the Strategic Services Section at General Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. After retirement, he and his wife, Dianne, moved to Cody, Wyo., where he served over nine years with the Park County Sheriff's Office as their Public Affairs Officer and Search and Rescue Coordinator. He retired for good in February 2020. Says Mathess, "I felt public service was my calling in life, and I am proud to have served over 40 years in law enforcement." He is an avid outdoorsman, hiker and hunter. He and Dianne have two grown children.

David Swartzlander, BA '77, Seward, Neb., was inducted into the John A. Boyd Hall of Fame by College Media Association (CMA) at its National College Media Convention in November, 2019, in Washington, DC. Swartzlander, an associate professor of practice in journalism at Doane University in Crete, Neb., served as vice president and president of CMA from 2009-2013. He also has served on various committees within the organization and presented numerous times at conventions. The award is the most prestigious honor given by CMA, recognizing longtime members whose dedication, commitment and sacrifice have contributed to the betterment and value of student media programs of both the campus and nation.

Donald Funk, BA '79, Canton, Ohio, wrote, "In October 2019, KSU Architecture Class of 1979 held their 40th Class Reunion in Kent. Events included a campus tour conducted by Marti Ring, a reception and state of the college talk by the dean of the College of Architecture and

Environmental Design and a dinner downtown. It was attended by more than 30 returning classmates. Many of us had spent part of our fourth years in Florence, Italy, and traveling all over Europe. We plan on having our 45th Reunion in fall 2024."



Swartzlander is one of 40 advisers to be honored in the organization's 66 years. He has taught journalism at Doane University for 22 years. He advised the student newspaper, yearbook and magazine for 21 years. He advised the website since its inception more than 15 years ago. Before Doane, Swartzlander worked as a journalist for daily newspapers in Ohio, Florida, New York and Nebraska. He retired in May 2020 from teaching at Doane University.

Gerald Canton, BA '79, MA '98, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was reelected in November 2019 for a second term of office as a member of South Russell Village Council. He is also a member of the Chagrin Falls Village Schools substitute teaching staff. Canton and his wife, Darleane, who retired from KSU as an administrative assistant, enjoy visiting the Kent Campus and attend sporting events and performing arts throughout the year. They are the parents of seven children and eleven grandchildren.

Ronna S. Kaplan, MA '79, Cleveland, was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Board of Directors. In 1988, she began her clinical career at the renowned Cleveland Music Settlement, where she developed programming and treatment plans for children and families as part of an interdisciplinary team. She also lent her expertise to supervising interns and practicum students while undertaking community and medical setting research.

Never one to shrink away from a challenge, Kaplan assumed expanded responsibilities at the Settlement—as senior staff supervisor, quality assurance coordinator, director of the Music Therapy Department and, ultimately, chair of the Center for Music Therapy, where she remained until her retirement in 2019.

Kaplan's volunteerism for music therapy is as phenomenal as her clinical work. Regional highlights include president of the Association of Ohio Music Therapists and representative to the Great Lakes Region (GLR) board, editor of *Voices of the Lakes*, GLR Assembly delegate and GLR vice president. In addition, she served as scholarship chair for the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs. Nationally, she established and co-chaired the Early Childhood Music Therapy Network in 1994, while continuing to serve on the assembly.

In 2004, she was elected AMTA vice president elect, and went on to become vice president, president elect, president and past president on the Board of Directors. Kaplan has also contributed to AMTA in a wide array of other capacities including the Financial Advisory Board, Wilson Trust Advisory Committee, Diversity Task Force, MLE Subcommittee and the Autism Task Force, in addition to serving on the CBMT Continuing Education Committee. She has gone on to chair the National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies

Associations (NCCATA) and is presently an associate editor of *Music Therapy Perspectives*.

Connie Schultz, BA '79, Cleveland, recently published a *New York Times*'s bestselling debut novel, *The Daughters of Erietown*. The novel, which explores the evolution of women's lives during the second half of the 20th century, opens with a prologue set in 1975 as the college-bound protagonist is on a road trip to Kent State, accompanied by her parents and younger brother.

She is the author of two previous nonfiction books: a collection of her columns, *Life Happens: And Other Unavoidable Truths*, and the memoir, *...and His Lovely Wife*, documenting her time campaigning with her husband, US Senator Sherrod Brown.

Schultz won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2005 for her column in the *Plain Dealer*, as well as such prestigious awards as the National Headliner Award for Commentary, the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award for Commentary, the Batten Medal, the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Social Justice Reporting and more.

In 2016, she joined the Kent State College of Communication and Information and teaches as professional-in-residence in the newly named School of Media and Journalism. She is also a nationally syndicated columnist for Creators Syndicate.

On Aug. 18, 2020, Schultz took part in "A Conversation about Writing" on the Zoom platform with fellow professor and author Jacqueline Marino discussing her debut novel, writing careers and advice for students and alumni. (See <http://bit.ly/ConversationOnWritingWithConnieSchultz>.)

Sara Lukose-Silver, MEd '79, PhD '83, White Plains, NY, wrote, "Since 2001, I have been a senior research associate at Measurement Incorporated in White Plains. I manage longitudinal evaluation studies in education (K-16), labor, health and public policy for local, state and federal agencies. Before 2001, I managed school-to-work programs for local educational agencies and also served as assistant professor at several universities. Today, as I approach the tail end of my career, I mentor junior researchers, write grant proposals and provide professional development. I am available to KSU graduates for pro-bono career counseling. Write Saralukose5@yahoo.com."

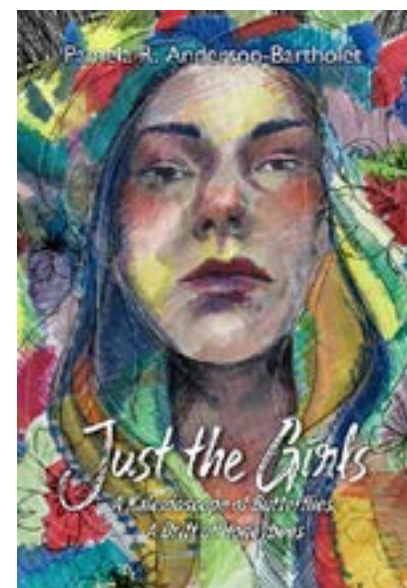
1980s

José González-Taboada, DBA '81, Caguas, Puerto Rico, wrote, "August 13 marked the 50th anniversary of the day in which I entered a classroom for the first time as an instructor. This 50-year academic career includes almost nine years teaching accounting at KSU, as well as brief teaching experiences in Spain and the Dominican Republic. At the

University of Puerto Rico I have served as chair of the Accounting Department for seven years and dean of the College of Business for three years. Having fulfilled my dream of a 50-year career, I look forward, God willing, to continue educating future accountants to serve the profession and society. Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity."

Thomas Knestrict, BS '83, Mason, Ohio, was promoted to full professor and appointed director of the Middle and Early Childhood Education program at Xavier University, where he has taught for the past 17 years. After a 15-year career in public schools, Knestrict earned a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in 2001 and previously taught at Miami University and the College of Mt. St. Joseph. He also published his first book in 2020, *Controlling Our Children: Hegemony and Deconstructing the Positive Behavioral Intervention Support Model*, Peter Lang Publishing. He is married to **Christine (Cigolle) Knestrict, BS '83**, and they have three children, Aaron, Olivia and Ally.

Pamela R. Anderson-Bartholet, AA '89, MA '94, MFA '12, Munroe Falls, Ohio, wrote, "My new poetry chapbook—*Just the Girls: A Kaleidoscope of Butterflies; A Drift of Honeybees*—was published by The Poetry Box Press. These poems celebrate women and what it means to be connected to the female whole. The book cover image was co-created by my niece, **Meredith Balogh, BFA '09**, Evanston, Ill., and daughter, **Rachel (Lysa) Anderson, BA '19**, Kent, Ohio. It took second place out of more than 500 submissions in the international All Author Cover of the Month contest in October!"



alumni **LIFE**

Beverly Laubert, BA '84, Lewis Center, Ohio, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman wrote, "I was selected from over 800 applicants to serve on the 25-member Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. The independent commission is tasked to identify and recommend best practices in infection control and care delivery and identify opportunities to leverage new sources of data to improve infection control policies and enable coordination across systems.

"My Kent State education in gerontology launched a rewarding career through which I have seen and heard older adults' experiences with long-term services and supports. Participation in this commission will allow me to contribute these experiences to important public policy dialogue and decisions."

Michael E. McFarland, BBA '84, BA '87, Twinsburg, Ohio, received degrees in marketing and graphic design from Kent State and honors veterans with his artwork. He makes print-on-vinyl murals, which he calls "Warrior Walls," for VA Medical Centers and intends to create 50 nationwide. While the Veterans Administration cut procurement of artwork in 2015, they accept donations of murals, so McFarland is trying to acquire donors for the murals. If interested in donating, contact your local VA center or <http://mcfarlandstudio.com>.

Stephen Saracino, MFA '84, Buffalo, NY, professor of design (metalsmithing) at SUNY Buffalo State, gave a virtual artist and scholar lecture at KSU's School of Art on Oct. 2, 2020. Saracino has been an educator and exhibiting artist for three decades. His (often satirical) narrative pieces reflect personal or political concerns and have been featured in more than 50 exhibitions throughout the US and Japan. His work was recently featured in the exhibition *Constructed Answer* at the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery at Kent State, which centered around the 50th commemoration of the May 4 shootings. See <https://stephensaracinocom>.

Stephen L. Hupp, MLS '85, Parkersburg, W. Va., library director at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, has published his fifth novel, *On a Sunday in May*. The three most important events in international motorsports frequently occur on the Sunday of the American Memorial Day holiday: the Grand Prix of Monaco, the Indianapolis Five Hundred and a Six Hundred Mile race at Charlotte, North Carolina. *On a Sunday in May* presents three stories based on these events. Readers will find on-track action and glimpses into the private lives of the competitors. The book is a sequel to the author's first racing novel, *Born to the Breed*. Both books are available as e-books and paperbacks on Amazon. In addition to his two motorsports novels, Hupp has also published the thrillers *Daughter of the Valley* and *Wings in the Night*.



Golden Flash Quilt

From making her mark on campus during Destination Kent State to joining the recreational skate team, Marissa Belock, a junior biology major, has created many memories during her college career so far.

Thanks to her mother, **Lori (Dmitroff) Belock, BSEd '86**, Dublin, Ohio, those memories are now wrapped up in a beautiful quilt of blue and gold T-shirts.

"I first saw a post on social media about a T-shirt quilt, and I thought, *I can do that!*" Belock says. "This is my sixth T-shirt quilt, and I get better every time."

Belock included one of her daughter's favorite Kent State T-shirts from freshmen

both set in the Mid-Ohio Valley, and *Of Gods and Spirits*—all available on Amazon. You may contact the author at 304-482-3176 or stephenlhupp@gmail.com.

Matt Fantin, BS '86, MA '88, New Philadelphia, Ohio, retired from the JC Penney Company after a 30-year management career. He is now the business manager at Sacred Heart Parish in New Philadelphia.

Joanne J. Kim, BS '86, Peninsula, Ohio, who has been a voice for change at Marcus Thomas LLC, leading the Cleveland-based agency through a seminal period of growth and transition, has announced her retirement effective Oct. 1. A 30-year veteran of the agency, she was one of five partners who joined the agency in the 1990s and grew it from 35 employees, based in Youngstown, Ohio, to over 200, based in Cleveland and Buenos Aires.

As the agency's longest-standing creative head, she not only evolved the agency's creative

orientation because, she says, "It has the most meaning, as it represented an official flying out of the nest."

Not only are her daughter's favorite T-shirts sewn into the quilt, but Belock also added some of the T-shirts she's received at Kent State Alumni events.

"My family and I have volunteered during Alumni Day of Service with the Central Ohio Alumni Chapter for the last three years (Homeless Families Foundations and the Central Ohio Food Bank)," she says. "Even though my husband is a Buckeye, we make it a family affair."

Belock began sewing when she was only 9 years old, as a member of 4-H in Ashtabula, Ohio. "I credit my Ashtabula upbringing and KSU education to my adventures around the country and volunteering. I love Ashtabula and its history as much as I love Kent's history. Quilting is my way of preserving history."

Although she wishes she had kept her T-shirts from her Kent State days, she still remembers experiences she had as a student.

"My favorite memories include the Robin Hood, Ray's, Halloween, Korb Hall and Glen Morris apartments (now Eagle's Landing). Fun times! They were an important part of growing up and being on my own."

She also remembers the beautiful Kent Campus. “I had a favorite walk on campus to White Hall. I had this Zen-like, calming feeling every time I walked along the curvy path lined with flowers and huge trees that must have been there for 100 years—and black squirrels running all over.”

Belock proudly wears her Kent State gear—some of which she says is too precious to cut up for a quilt—whenever she visits one of the national parks with her family. “It’s fun to reminisce with other Flashes we meet at our national treasures.”

—Ashley Whaley, BS '06, MEd '12

culture but also pushed the agency toward early adoption of social media, digital communication and, most recently, diversity and inclusion, as well as multicultural marketing.

Over the course of her career, Kim's leadership has extended to the industry and the local community. From 2016 to 2018, she served as president of the board of directors for the Marketing & Advertising Global Network (MAGNET), a worldwide community of independent agency CEOs and principals. In 2016, she was selected as a juror for the Effie Awards, the preeminent marketing awards program that recognizes effectiveness in marketing. She also has served on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations, including The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, Northeast Ohio public radio station WKSU and Greater Public, an organization dedicated to providing resources to public media.

Barbara F. Schloman, MA '89, PhD '98, Stow, Ohio, and her son, **William Schloman, BS '98**, Mantua, Ohio, co-authored *A Century of Flight at Paton Field: The Story of Kent State University's Airport and Flight Education* (The Kent State University Press) to mark the airport's centennial in 2020. Notable aviators and events marked the airport's early years when it operated as Stow Field. The pre-war and wartime federal programs brought collegiate aviation to Kent State and led to purchase of the airport in 1942. Andrew Paton's vision for a university-run aeronautics program that made educational use of its airport was fully realized in 1966. Today, the airport is the longest surviving, public-use airport in Ohio.



Karin Boesler, BA '87, Fairview Park, Ohio, was featured in the spring 2020 issue of *The Circle*, a publication of Omicron Delta Kappa Society. She was one of three society members active in the entertainment industry who were profiled in the article "The Actors' Range" by Tara Singer. Boesler shared some highlights from her years at Kent State University and in the broadcast news industry, where she received Emmys for two community service/news reports about victims of violence that she produced and was featured in at WUAB-TV. In the 1990s, she began working in films with such notable actors as John Travolta, Matthew McConaughey and Katie Holmes. Films in which she has appeared include *Criminal Activities* (2015), *The Land* (2016) and *White Boy Rick* (2018).

Jeff Richmond, who attended Kent State from 1980 to 1988, New York, NY, is the executive producer of Netflix's *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. The Reverend*, which was

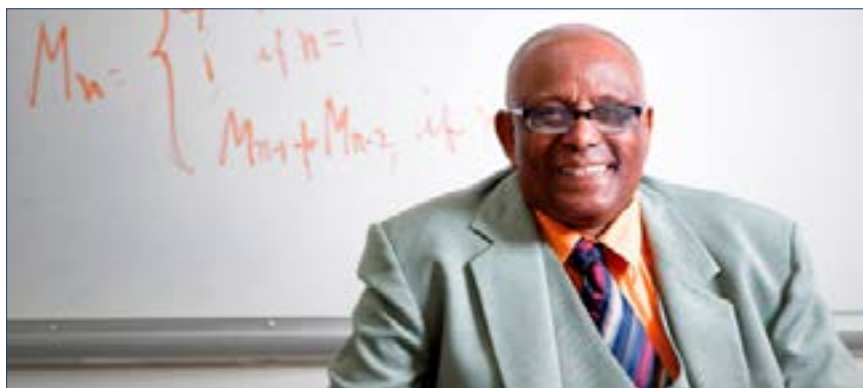
nominated in the Outstanding Television Movie category of the Television Academy 2020 Primetime Emmy Awards. A producer, director and composer, Richmond also composed the music for the Kimmy Schmidt interactive special. Previously, Richmond served as executive producer and composer for the regular *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* series that ran on Netflix from 2015-2019.

Richmond received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from KSU in 2013. A three-time Emmy Award winner for his work as a producer on NBC's *30 Rock*, Richmond has been nominated for 17 Emmy Awards for work as a composer on *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and *30 Rock*, and as a writer for the *Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary Special*. Richmond is also the composer of *Mean Girls The Musical* and in 2018 he was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Original Score.

1990s

Wendy (Tronge) Holliday, BBA '90, MED '93, Wellington, Ohio, was announced as the first-ever CEO of The Women's Network in Electronic Transactions (Wnet). Wnet is the premier professional organization for women in payments and the men who advocate for them, providing personal enrichment for members at any stage in their careers. While at Kent State, Holliday also served as an adjunct faculty member to teach "Introduction to Professional Development" in the College of Business Administration.

Marci (Adams) Craig, BS '91, MPA '99, Salem, Ohio, accepted the role of director of human resources for the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio. Prior to this position, she worked as the director of human resources for almost 14 years at Windsor House Inc., a group of 17 long-term care facilities in the Mahoning



Mulatu Lemma, MA '93, PhD '94, Savannah, Ga., professor of mathematics at Savannah State University, is one of 12 individuals nationwide to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, with the National Science Foundation (NSF). This award recognizes outstanding efforts of mentors in encouraging the next generation of innovators and developing a science and engineering workforce that reflects the diverse talent of America. Awardees receive a certificate signed

by the President, a trip to Washington, DC, to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and they join a cadre of over 300 PAESMEM alumni. They also receive a \$10,000 award from the NSF.

Dr. Lemma also has been recognized by Marquis Who's Who Top Educators for dedication, achievements and leadership in the field of mathematics teaching, research and mentoring. For his excellence as a professional educator, he has been recognized with myriad awards and honors, including the 2012 University System of Georgia Board

of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for faculty in regional and state universities. He was additionally named a distinguished professor of Savannah State University in 2010, Georgia Professor of the Year in 2013 and was one of the most awarded professors in the state of Georgia in 2015.

Dr. Lemma began his higher education in Ethiopia, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1977 and a Master of Arts in applied mathematics in 1982. After coming to the United States, he continued his academic pursuits at Kent State University, where he cites Professor John Friday among the numerous professors and individuals who have inspired his research. Since his graduation, Dr. Lemma has held the position of a mathematics professor at Savannah State University and has published more than 100 research papers. In 2011, after three years of investigation and more than 13 theorems, he introduced the Mulatu Numbers (named after him) to the mathematical community and to the world. The Mulatu Numbers are an integral sequence of numbers with distinct mathematical properties and patterns comparable to Fibonacci and Lucas series.

Valley, Youngstown. She was also previously employed by Little Tikes, Hudson, as manager of human resources.

Tammy Jessen Andreyko, BSE '91, Sewickley, Pa., Quaker Valley School District superintendent, received the 2020 Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology. The award is given to a superintendent who serves as a true empowered leader, leveraging and championing technologies in the classroom and throughout the district to transform their school district.

John Yehl, BBA '93, Louisville, Ky., published his first book, *Can You Sell It?*, available on Amazon. He says his book is relevant to anyone, whether they are just starting out in sales or have been doing it for years. It also applies to any type of relationship, including marriage.

Marla Mondora, BS '94, Raleigh, NC, has been appointed principal of Martin Gifted and Talented Middle School, where she is proud to lead the Mustang school community and to reinvigorate the school's magnet theme. Previously, she served as assistant principal at Moore Square Magnet Middle School.

Richard Sweeney, BA '94, MA '97, MBA '11, Ottawa Hills, Ohio, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Lourdes University, Sylvania, Ohio. Sweeney is the regional president of Toledo Edison, a FirstEnergy electric utility, which provides electricity to more than 300,000 customers in northwest Ohio. Sweeney joined the company's Information Technology Department in 1999 as a programmer analyst. He advanced in IT before being named senior technical analyst in 2004. The same year, Sweeney moved to the Supply Chain Department, Corporate Services, where he was named manager. After serving in various management positions, he moved to Ohio Edison's Operations Support department when he was named director in 2011.

Julie Manteria, BA '95, Rockville Centre, NY, has been promoted to principal at UHY Advisors and UHY LLP, Albany, NY, which provide tax and business consulting services.

Troy Robinson, BA '95, Pittsburgh, Pa., was appointed chief development officer of international hunger relief nonprofit Rise Against Hunger. With over 25 years of senior-level experience in development within the nonprofit sector, he joined Rise Against Hunger to support the organization's mission of ending hunger. He previously served in fundraising roles for Camp Fire, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Holy Family Foundation, Youth Villages Inc. and Playworks Inc.

Kathleen S. Pero, BSE '97, MED '03, Elyria, Ohio, wrote, "I recently became a first-time author of the children's book *Miss Molly Learns Responsibility*, where the main character, Molly, has two moms. This diverse children's book focuses on Molly learning how to take care of her pet kitten."

Zulfiya Tursunova, MED '98, Greensboro, NC, assistant professor for peace and conflict studies at Guilford College, was recently awarded the 2020 Bruce B. Stewart '61 Teaching Award. Her colleagues say, "Since her arrival at Guilford College in fall 2017, she has demonstrated teaching excellence and rendered invaluable service to student learning and the Guilford Community."

Ryan Edwards, BA '99, Lynchburg, Va., was unanimously elected president of the Chesapeake chapter (Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, DC) of the National School Public Relations Association on May 14, 2020. He worked in broadcast journalism while pursuing his major of mass communications at Kent State. Subsequently, he garnered two awards from the Ohio Associated Press: one for Best Reporter (2004) and another for Best Feature Reporting (2004). As a social media manager for a school division in Virginia, he won Best in Social Media for any member division in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, DC, in 2018.

Scott Michael Haws, BBA '99, Canton, Ohio, joined Crum & Forster Pet Insurance Group in the capacity of developing and leading their project management organization in May 2019. Crum & Forster Pet Insurance is a part of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited. In January 2020, he was elected president of the Plain Township Board of Trustees, responsible for overseeing and leading Ohio's 5th largest township.

Robert Schultz, MED '99, PhD '99, Waterville, Ohio, is one of 39 people named a Fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE) for 2019-20. Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing faculty and staff for senior positions in college and university administration through its distinctive and intensive nominator-driven, cohort-based mentorship model.

Schultz has been a faculty member at The University of Toledo since 2001, where he is currently professor of gifted education and curriculum studies and chair of early childhood, higher education and special education at the Judith Herb College of Education. In addition, he serves as director of the Honors Program in the college and is the assessment liaison for the university-wide Visual Literacy Consortium. He is also a member of The University of Toledo Leadership Institute Class of 2018.

2000s

Jamie Holcomb, BM '00, Stafford, Va., has been appointed vice president of instructional design and innovation for Escoffier and Triumph Higher Education Group by Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, a leading accredited provider of online and campus-based culinary training and education. Previously, Holcomb held faculty positions at Southern New Hampshire University, Viterbo University, Ocean County College, Park University and Walsh University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership at Liberty University.

Josh West, BBA '01, Touchet, Wash., has been appointed vice president of trading and chief commercial officer at The Energy Authority (TEA), a public power-owned portfolio management, energy trading and advanced analytics company headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., with an office in Bellevue, Wash. Previously, he served as managing director of trading and commercial strategies at TEA. In his new role, he is responsible for all energy marketing and trading within the organization, across all markets and all commodities, including power, natural gas, environmental attributes, and related products. He leads efforts focused on the identification and execution of commercial strategies to optimize client assets, the development of commodity risk management strategies, and the execution of financial and physical transactions used to hedge client portfolios.

Ryan Dezemmer, BS '02, Brooklyn, NY, recently published *Underwater: How Our American Dream of Homeownership Became a Nightmare* (Thomas Dunne Books, July 2020), a powerful, personal and incisive story that chronicles the 2008 housing crash and its aftermath from the perspective of a middle-class homeowner. A reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* writing about financial markets and investors, Dezemmer previously wrote about the oil industry from the *Journal's* Houston bureau. Before that, he worked as a reporter for the *Mobile Register*, reporting on the real estate boom and bust for coastal Alabama's daily newspaper.

When asked what inspired him to write this book, he said, "I had always thought there was a fun book to be written on the colorful characters and real estate frenzy along Alabama's beaches, which I covered for the *Mobile Register* after graduating. I got my chance after *The Wall Street Journal* published a lengthy first-person story ("My 10-Year Odyssey Through America's Housing Crisis," Jan. 26, 2018) about my getting caught up in the ensuing housing bust with a comically ill-timed home purchase.

"A literary agent read the story and suggested I turn it into a book, combining my personal story with my years of real estate reporting. ▶

Making Art in a Material World



LISA DELONG

Diana Al-Hadid, BA '03, BFA '03, Brooklyn, NY, internationally known multimedia artist, was on the cover of *Vogue Italia*, as one of the "100 covers, 100 people, 100 stories" highlighted in the September 2020 issue (image 1). The issue featured 100 models, actresses and artists, showing a diverse range of people with unique stories to tell.

In early March 2020, she and her husband, Jon Lott, architect and assistant professor of architecture and director of the Master in Architecture I Program at Harvard University, won The Trailblazer Award at The Bronx Museum of the Arts Visionary Duos Gala. (See video at <http://bit.ly/Al-HadidTrailblazer> to learn more about their art and architecture.)

A native of Aleppo, Syria, who grew up in Canton, Ohio, Al-Hadid typically uses a mix of materials—both traditional (bronze, steel, wood, plaster, charcoal) and non-traditional (wax, resin, polymer, fiberglass)—to produce large-scale sculptures, panels and works on paper. She wields power tools and uses techniques such as welding, drilling, pouring and controlled dripping to bring into physical form concepts of the past, present and imagined future—often inspired by her study of art history.

As of 2019, her piece "A Way with Words," measuring close to three stories, is featured in the atrium of the new patient tower on Summa Health's Akron City Hospital campus (image 2). The large, mixed-media 3D panel—made of steel, fiberglass, polymer gypsum and paints using a technique she describes as "a mix between fresco and tapestry"—is based on a photo she took in Lock 3, a section of the Ohio and Erie Canalway located in the heart of Akron's downtown.

Al-Hadid's works of art have been featured in both group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally for more than a decade. In 2016, her major solo exhibition at the NYUAD Art Gallery (at New York University Abu Dhabi) was titled *Phantom Limb*, which is also the name of the exhibit's central work, a towering sculpture of a female bust atop a cascade of stacked dripping pedestals evoking a mountainscape—and referencing a 15th-century painting, "Allegory of Chastity," by Hans Memling (images 3 and 4).

Kent State awarded her the Outstanding Young Professional Alumni Award in 2019 and the Distinguished Honors Alumni Award in 2014.

<http://www.dianaalhadid.com>



1. *Vogue Italia* cover featuring Diana Al-Hadid, September 2020. Credit: Courtesy Vogue Italia



2. Diana Al-Hadid, "A Way with Words," 2019, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, steel, plaster, gold leaf, aluminum leaf, copper leaf, pigment, 160.5 X 96 X 5.5 inches, Credit: Courtesy Summa Health



4. Diana Al-Hadid, "Phantom Limb", 2014, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, polystyrene, steel, wood, plaster, metal mesh, aluminum foil, pigment, 104 1/2 X 165 X 140 inches, Credit: Markus Woergoetter



3. Hans Memling, "Allegory of Chastity," c. 1475, oil on oak panel, 38.3 X 31.9 cm, Credit: Courtesy www.hansmemling.org

alumni LIFE

Writing a book was a way to wrap together a lot of my best reporting over the years to tell the story of an entire market cycle as I had experienced it in a way that would be impossible at a newspaper. Plus, writing it was an entry into the book business, which is an excellent side hustle for people like me who want to be reporters for as long as possible.”

Kristine Haag, BFA '03, North Hollywood, Calif., was nominated for a Television Academy 2020 Primetime Emmy Award in the Outstanding Contemporary Costumes category for her work as assistant costume designer on Netflix's hit series *Grace and Frankie*, starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin. Haag was nominated for her work on the season 6 episode “The Tank.” She was previously nominated in 2019, also for her work on *Grace and Frankie*.

After graduating from Kent State, Haag earned an MFA in costume design from the University of California, Irvine. Her credits include costume design work on National Geographic/Disney+'s upcoming *The Right Stuff*, ABC's *The Fix*, TVLand's *Nobodies*, NBC's *Good Girls*, Netflix's *Girlboss*, *The Legacy* and *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

Edmund A. Rossman, III, MLIS '03, Cleveland, has retired from Shaker Heights Public Library. A cancer survivor, he recently released *A Guy's Guide to Throat Cancer: Do's and Don'ts for Recovery* (Christian Faith Publishing), an inspirational book for patients and their caregivers battling any illness.

Samuel “Blitz” Bazawule, BBA '04, Brooklyn, NY, Ghanaian-born filmmaker and musician, recently co-directed Beyoncé's Disney+ visual album feature *Black is King* with the pop star and Emmanuel Adjei. He helmed the South African shoot of the project, which debuted on July 31. He is set to direct Warner Bros. musical film *The Color Purple*, based on the Tony-winning Broadway musical of the same name. Producers of the musical feature—Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg, Scott Sanders and Quincy Jones—selected him after watching his award-winning 2019 feature directorial debut, *The Burial of Koko*, on Netflix, acquired through Ava DuVernay's Array Films.

Bazawule is a 2020 Fellow (in film-video) of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, a 2016 Senior TED Fellow and recipient of the Vilcek Prize. As a composer and musician, “Blitz the Ambassador” has released four studio Afrobeat albums: *Stereotype* (2009), *Native Sun* (2011), *Afropolitan Dreams* (2014) and *Diasporadical* (2016). He is on the faculty, MFA in Film, of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. See <http://blitzbazawule.com/>.

Kathleen Hale, PhD '05, Auburn, Ala., professor and the director of the Graduate Program in Election Administration at Auburn

University, and co-author Mitchell Brown, wrote *How We Vote: Innovation in American Elections* (Georgetown University Press, 2020). Using original data gathered from state and local election officials and policymakers across the United States, they analyzed innovation in voter registration, voting options, voter convenience, support for voting in languages other than English, the integrity of the voting process and voting system technology. The result is a fascinating picture of how we vote now and will vote in the future.

Janet Lynn Gbur, BS '06, Canfield, Ohio, research associate at Case Western Reserve University and investigator, Advanced Platform Technology Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, was elected treasurer of the Leadership Council of the Microscopy Society of America (MSA), in January 2020. The MSA champions all forms of microscopy and the development of new imaging technologies through its annual meeting, publication and educational outreach.

Francisca B. Ugalde Z., BFA '06, Hudson, Ohio, is a curator at the Institute for Human Science and Culture at The University of Akron, which is devoted to hands-on education and research in the history, preservation, documentation and interpretation of the human experience through cultural materials and from multiple perspectives—psychological, anthropological, artistic and historical.

Ugalde Z., who earned a master's degree in arts administration in 2012 at The University of Akron, manages The Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Native American Ethnographic Collection, a large collection of Native American artifacts and art. She oversaw the design and implementation of the collection's new gallery spaces at the National Museum of Psychology at the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, which opened in September 2019.

Jennifer Hallos, BBA '07, Wadsworth, Ohio, has joined McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., LPA, as a principal in the practice areas of trusts & estates, taxation, and business & corporate. Hallos, who earned a JD and MA at The University of Akron and is also a certified public accountant, has 10 years of experience formulating, reviewing and updating estate plans; drafting wills and trusts; estate and trust administration; tax research and consulting; and managing tax controversy at federal, state and local levels. She is involved in a number of activities, including co-founder and director of Women in Finance and director of Piece by Peace, a nonprofit organization in the Youngstown area dedicated to connecting families affected by autism with available local resources. She also teaches tax and accounting classes as an adjunct professor at Hiram College.



Andrew R. Laurence, BS '08, Aurora, Ill., was named a top-five finalist for the 2020 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, People's Choice Winner, by the Partnership for Public Service. Also known as the “Oscars” of government service, the “Sammies” recognize the unsung heroes in our federal government who have made phenomenal contributions to the health, safety and prosperity of our country.

Laurence, who earned a PhD in anthropology from Texas A&M University in 2013, is a pollen analysis expert (palynologist) at the US Customs and Border Protection's Chicago office and a 2020 Emerging Leaders Medal finalist, a category that recognizes the significant contributions of federal professionals under the age of 35. He and fellow coworker and Sammies finalist, Shannon Ferguson, PhD, provided critical information to help law enforcement solve hundreds of drug smuggling cases and other crimes by analyzing microscopic pollen grains to determine where drugs were produced, and the routes taken, as well as the travel histories of crime victims.

Lavette (Shirley) Elee, BS '09, Charlotte, NC, wrote, “After graduating with a bachelor's degree in biology, I continued on to PA [physician's assistant] school and am currently working toward my doctorate in PA studies. I am an urgent care PA and recently wrote a children's book, *I Saw My PA Today*, available on Amazon, to quell a child's fears of going to a medical facility. Children are our future, and during these uncertain times, they have fears like we all do. Helping to ease those fears through writing brings me joy.”

Corey Fowler, BM '09, MM '16, Kent, Ohio, was named assistant conductor of the Cleveland Chamber Choir, Cleveland's premiere vocal ensemble, by the organization's board of directors in May. He has been a singing member of the choir since its inception in 2015. Working alongside Scott MacPherson, artistic director, (who is a professor of music and director of Choral Studies at Kent State's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music), Fowler will help choose repertoire, manage rehearsals and conduct select pieces during concerts.

He is also the choir director at Roosevelt High School in Kent and the music director and organist at Kent United Church of Christ, where the Cleveland Chamber Choir presented a social justice concert as part of the university's official May 4 50th commemoration events.



In the Custody of the Law

An Interview with Louis Myers, Librarian-in-Residence at the Law Library of Congress

Louis Myers, BA '10, MLIS '20, Akron, Ohio, was selected for one of nine short-term positions offered in 2020 by the Library of Congress through its Librarians-in-Residence Program, which aims to develop the next generation of librarians and information professionals. He was interviewed for the Law Librarians of Congress blog, *In Custodia Legis*.

Describe your background. I am originally from Akron, Ohio. My interest in becoming a librarian started at a young age, but it took some time to make it a profession. In my free time I am an avid skier in the winter, and I try to ride my bike any day it's not raining during the warmer months.

What is your academic/professional history? I attended Kent State University, receiving a BA in history in 2010. I also attended the University of Idaho College of Law, earning a JD in 2017. While in law school, I worked for two years as a circulation assistant, which reignited my interest in becoming a librarian with a focus on law. After graduation, I moved to Alaska and worked for the judiciary in Kodiak as a law clerk. Then I transitioned to a staff attorney position for a nonprofit organization in Anchorage. I moved back to Ohio to be closer to family and took a position through AmeriCorps at our local food bank while earning my MLIS at Kent State in 2020. I was then given the amazing opportunity to join the Law Library of Congress as its Librarian-in-Residence.

How would you describe your job to other people? I work on a wide variety of projects within the Public Services Division. I try to pick up an Ask-a-Librarian question each day and work on other specific projects as needed. I have taught an orientation webinar, co-authored a legal report, written a *Global Legal Monitor* article and have been involved with several LibGuide projects. I hope to continue to grow my skills while providing top-notch legal reference to all the researchers who use our services.

Why did you want to work at the Law Library of Congress? To me, the Library of Congress is the most well-respected library in the world. I think the opportunity to work with the largest legal collection on the planet and to learn from the expert law librarians here will be a defining moment in my career. It will create a framework I will carry with me no matter where law librarianship takes me.

What is the most interesting fact you've learned about the Law Library of Congress?

Our foreign law collection is so large and comprehensive that foreign governments sometimes ask us to share our copies of their laws when they need to do primary source research. That is pretty cool!

What is something your co-workers don't know about you? During undergrad I played bass and keyboards in several acid-rock and reggae-style bands. I still play the piano occasionally, but I am way out of practice.

Excerpted from a post by Anna Price that first appeared Oct. 14, 2020 on the blog In Custodia Legis. Used with permission.

Mark Greer, MM '09, Akron, Ohio, was recently announced as a new board member for Tuesday Musical of Akron. Currently, he coordinates the City of Akron's Great Streets initiative, managing 12 neighborhood business districts to promote increased business development and retention, safer neighborhoods, enhanced aesthetics, urban design and public space, improved transportation conditions and greater community engagement.

He also serves on the Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance Planning Committee and is a member of Torchbearers Class of 2020, serving on both the Leadership and Development Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. He previously served as program coordinator at Leadership Akron, where he led the Diversity on Board program, aimed at increasing minority representation on public and nonprofit boards. A past winner of Tuesday Musical's Annual Scholarship Competition, Greer is an accomplished pianist and composer, making his Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall in 2006.

Trey Kauffman, BA '09, Columbus, Ohio, wrote, "I host The Mosaic Life Podcast, which breaks down the fundamental question, 'How can we be better?'. As of August 2020, The Mosaic Life Podcast has released more than 50 episodes, and with its growing success has

pivoted to focus on happiness. The Mosaic Life Podcast releases episodes every Sunday, and you can subscribe wherever you get your podcasts. Be sure to find us on Instagram, Facebook and at <https://OneMosaic.life>.

"I'm also an entrepreneur running my web design firm full-time, <https://2237Design.com>. I help coordinate Red, White & BOOM! each year, in which we put on the biggest fireworks event in the Midwest, and I volunteer with Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) to help plan their annual fundraising 5K, which happened virtually this September. CRIS helps refugees resettle into the Central Ohio community by providing resources not given by the government.

"Recently, I was selected to take part in the fall Columbus Impact Academy, which is a four-month program designed to provide a comprehensive experience for emerging leaders, facilitated by the Columbus Young Professionals (CYP) Club twice per year.

"My warm regards to anyone who was around Black Squirrel Radio or the *Kent Stater* 10 years ago."

2010s

Elizabeth "Liz" Campion, BA '12, MLIS '15, Cleveland, recently received the "25 under 35" award from her high school, Saint Joseph

Academy in Cleveland. She works at Kent State's Special Collections and Archives as the May 4 Archivist and assistant professor with a focus on the 1970 Kent State shootings and their aftermath. Campion says she is honored to be entrusted with the stewardship of this historic period, knowing it can result in a better understanding of the turmoil, grief and healing the nation went through. She also demonstrates compassionate leadership in her volunteer efforts with the Alzheimer's Association. As a team leader for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, she has raised tens of thousands of dollars in honor of her grandmother.

JoAnna Schofield, MLIS '12, Stow, Ohio, is branch manager at the DeHoff Memorial Branch of Stark County District Library, and has been selected to serve on the American Library Association's 2021 John Newbery Book Award Committee. This committee selects the most distinguished written contribution to literature for children in 2020.

Mitch Dandurand, BS '13, MPH '15, Tiffin, Ohio, was featured on Ohio Governor DeWine's press conference on Sept. 22, 2020—and he gave a shoutout to Kent State on the air. Dandurand, an epidemiologist who works at Lorain County Public Health, is part of an interview team who is contacting people with ▶

alumni LIFE

COVID-19 in Lorain County as part of the contact-tracing process. His co-worker, **Amanda Accordino, BSPH '16**, Olmsted Twp, Ohio, is a health education specialist at Lorain County Public Health—so that makes at least two Golden Flashes working to stem COVID-19 cases in the county.

Kristen M. Boyle, BS '16, Encinitas, Calif., will deploy on the *USS Sterett* (DDG 104), an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer of the US Navy, as a part of the Strike Group. Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Boyle studied aeronautics at Kent State and graduated from Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, in November 2016. She continued her training in Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) at NAS Pensacola, Fla. Upon completion of API, she attended primary flight school at Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., and flew the T6-B and TH-57 C (Doerbirds).

She was selected for the advanced rotary pipeline after completing the primary syllabus and was transferred to HT-28 (Hellions) where she flew the TH-57 B and TH-57 C. Although there was a 60 percent attrition rate, LTJG Boyle earned her wings in October 2018 and was selected to fly the MH-60R (Seahawk).

She was transferred to HSM-40 (Airwolves) at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Fla., where she continued her training at the Fleet Replacement Squadron as a fleet replacement pilot for the MH-60R. She completed the FRS syllabus, became qualified in model and received orders to fly the MH-60R for HSM-35 (Magicians) in San Diego, Calif. LTJG Boyle is instrument and commercial rated in both fixed wing and rotary wing. She is qualified to fly search and rescue, night vision goggles, formation, as well as operate Hellfire missiles, rockets and torpedoes.



Andrea M. Gump, BS '18, Steubenville, Ohio, wrote, "I immediately deployed overseas to Iraq and Kuwait after graduating. Although I was nervous about what the future held for me post-deployment, my former professors provided me with guidance along the way, which I feel led me to my dream job. I accepted a reporting position at WTOV9 in Steubenville, Ohio, that began in April. I'd say hard work, determination and passion for this field provided me with this opportunity. However, I may have never worked hard, remained determined and grown a passion for this without Kent State. Flashes forever!"

Veronica Ceci, MFA '14, Austin, Texas, an intermedia artist who has been working as a master printer since 2004, has had her response to the pandemic, "Too Soon?," accepted into the permanent collection of the Library of Congress. She has recently had pieces included in exhibitions at The Contemporary Art Center New Orleans, The Shaker Museum, The Tyler Museum of Art and The Yellowstone Museum of Art.

Ceci's solo show, *Keeping House*, was displayed at Neon Raspberry Gallery in Occidental, Calif. in July 2020. The ever-changing collection of art has been traveling the US since 2017 and is scheduled for several future venues. She would be pleased to exhibit the work with any fellow alumni who have gallery spaces and encourages you to get in touch: info@veronicaceci.com. Ceci is also the founder of the nonprofit organization, Flash Collective, www.flashcollective.com, which involves artists in community art making events and pop-up exhibitions.

Scott Goss, MFA '14, Cleveland, began his residency at the Akron Soul Train (AST) Gallery in March, intending to expand on his engineered, interactive installation pieces with surreal video-based environments. His pieces encouraged viewers to climb, lay or crawl inside his installations to view video projections. Soon after his residency began, the pandemic required us all to "shut-down," and everyone experienced a restructuring of reality. Goss's work addresses our new, altered social landscape where we no longer are able to sit close to a friend, share a meal with them or see each other's full face. His new work explores this new social interaction based on social distancing and mask wearing.

The exhibition, *The Surreal Real*, combining Goss's work with fellow AST summer resident artist Timothy Gaewsky, opened Sept. 2 and ran until Oct. 3. At the reopening of AST's Burton D. Morgan Foundation Exhibition Space in Akron, everyone was required to wear a mask and only six people were allowed into the gallery at one time. Goss was the recipient of the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award (2015) and is represented by galleries in Cleveland, Columbus and Pittsburgh.

Sony Ton-Aime, BA '14, MFA '19, Jamestown, NY, was named director of literary arts at the Chautauqua Institution, effective Jan. 13, 2020. A poet, teaching artist and arts administrator, he was previously program operation coordinator for Lake Erie Ink, a Cleveland-based literary arts organization.

Ton-Aime is the author of the chapbook *LaWomann* and a Haitian Creole translation of the book *Olympic Hero: The Story of Lennox Kilgour*. He is the co-founding editor of *ID13*, an online publication that published creative works by inmates he led in poetry workshops at the Lake Erie Correctional Institute.

A native of Haiti who first came to the United States in 2010, Ton-Aime joined the Wick Poetry Center as a student intern in 2014 and, as a fellow at the center, he led a group of interns and coordinated poetry outreach in the Kent community. That outreach brought him to Chautauqua in 2018, where for two summers he managed Wick's Traveling Stanzas exhibit, now in the Hultquist Center's Poetry Makerspace. At Chautauqua, he also served as liaison for writers in residence at the Chautauqua Writers' Center and mentored undergraduate literary arts interns. He recently worked with Wick Poetry Center to transition the popular makerspace tool, *Emerge*, into an application for smart devices so users at home can read curated texts and create and share poems.

In his new role, Ton-Aime will serve as a senior member of the Department of Education and as an entrepreneurial and collaborative partner in strengthening and deepening the value of the literary arts program and experience for Chautauqua Institution stakeholders.

David Distelhorst, MLIS '15, Columbus, Ohio, wrote, "I am the local history librarian at Bexley Public Library, Bexley, Ohio, having previously been the local history and genealogy librarian at Massillon Public Library, Massillon, Ohio."

Taylor (Ridenour) Sminchak, BA '15, Tallmadge, Ohio, coordinator of outreach for ZipAssist, a central information hub at The University of Akron, was selected from over 200 nominees as one of Delta Zeta's 35 under 35 honorees for 2020. This national recognition highlights outstanding young women who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to their careers, are motivated



How Jenna Palek Got Her Dream Job

When searching for a job in her final semester this past spring, **Jenna Palek, BA '20**, realized that few companies would be hiring during a global pandemic. Undaunted, she kept applying, reminding herself that "I was capable of finding not only a job, but a great one."

Looking on LinkedIn, she found a listing for a position with TikTok that seemed ideal for her qualifications. Figuring there were thousands of applicants, she stayed up until 5 a.m. designing a custom TikTok-themed résumé. But by the time she went to submit it online, the posting had been taken down.

She was upset at first, but then had an epiphany. "TikTok is all about highlighting your creativity, and I needed to do something else to be noticed," Palek says. "What better way to show my commitment than to create a video that explained who I am, my job experience and why I'm perfect for the position?"

A day and a half after she posted her video on TikTok, it had received more than 220,000 views, with many viewers liking it and tagging TikTok. The next day she received a call from TikTok's lead talent acquisition manager. TikTok's employees had forwarded Palek's video to the human resources department. They reviewed her application and were impressed with her credibility, experience and creativity. A week of interviews followed, and she was offered a job—six days after the first phone call.

"They loved that I was able to utilize the platform in such a unique way, and innovation is what TikTok is all about," Palek says. So far, her application video post on TikTok has been viewed more than 1.6 million times.

In July, Palek moved from Cleveland to TikTok's new office in Austin, Texas, and started her first full-time job as a brand development manager (BDM), representing the US growth market. "Simply put, that means I sell advertisements," Palek says.

To see how she's doing on her new job we watched a TikTok video where Palek shares her typical workday, highlighting the following seven steps:

A Day in the Life of Jenna Palek

STEP 1: COFFEE. "Every productive day starts with caffeine. Then I put my thinking cap on and get to work."

STEP 2: FIND A PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT WITH GOOD INTERNET CONNECTION AND LIGHTING. "Since we've been working from home, I think it's important to get out of my apartment—and I like to work on my building's rooftop patio."

STEP 3: CHECK IN WITH TEAM. "Every morning starts with a daily standup with our team, so we can talk about objectives and trouble shoot problems. It's also a great time to bond with teammates we can't see in person."

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES. "I check my calendar for the day and reply to all my emails."

STEP 5: FIND NEW ADVERTISERS! "I research companies and then I send out prospecting emails and connections on LinkedIn."

STEP 6: CONNECT WITH PROSPECTS. "I present a sales pitch about why TikTok is amazing! Then I conduct sales calls with different clients."

STEP 7: HELP MANAGE ACCOUNTS AND OPTIMIZE CAMPAIGNS. "Once onboarded, I help advertisers run their campaigns."

Adds Palek, who currently has more than 90K followers, "I'm also creator of @lifeattiktok, so be sure to follow me!"

by challenges, serve as volunteers in their communities and are role models for their peers.

Sminchak was also selected as the 2019 CashCourse Financial Educator of the Year. The award honors an educator going above and beyond to promote financial literacy on their campus, as well as demonstrating creativity and passion in the field of collegiate financial education. She developed and implemented the "Balancing on a Budget" program at The University of Akron, which has seen great success helping college students with their finances. Sminchak has been recognized for her efforts by The University of Akron and external partners, including an invitation to a private White House briefing during fall 2019.

She and her husband, Patrick, welcomed Karsyn Kate Sminchak, (9 lbs., 8 oz., 20 in. long) on Jan. 20, 2020.

Chris Baum, AA '99, BA '16, Atwater, Ohio, published his third and fourth books in May. *Magnificent* (Book 1 of a series) and *Out of Darkness: Twists & Turns* (also Book 1 of a series) are available exclusively through Amazon. *Magnificent* received Amazon Best Seller in three categories upon its release. If you like engaging fiction with page-turning action, you can find out more at www.chrisbaum.net, where you may also subscribe to his newsletter and receive one of his books for free. He wishes you good health and prosperity.

Greg Donnellan, MM '16, Bay Village, Ohio, director of the Middle School (grades 7-8) at Lawrence School in Sagamore Hills, Ohio, is one of five teachers from across the country named as winners of the 2020 Leavey Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education. Lawrence School is one of only

three schools in Ohio that exclusively serve K-12 students with learning differences. In addition to his administrative duties, Donnellan is the founding program director of the Young Entrepreneurship Experience, an annual hands-on and experiential program for all middle school students, and also serves as advisor to the Entrepreneurship Club (grades 7-12). With his background in music education and the performing arts, he appreciates the opportunity to create a platform to facilitate students' creativity, divergent thinking and tenacity.

Scott Little, BM '19, McDonald, Ohio, accepted a full-time position with Brunswick City Schools teaching band and orchestra. He'll teach sixth through twelfth graders, as well as act as assistant director of the marching band. ▶

alumni LIFE

Patrick W. Ulrich, MFA '19, Arcata, Calif., is featured in the current issue of *American Theatre* magazine as one of "6 Theatre Workers You Should Know." In addition to designing for productions at Humboldt State University in Arcata, where he serves as assistant professor of scenography, Ulrich served as the scenic designer for *As You Like It* at Ozark Actors Theatre in Rolla, Mo.; *I and You* at Wharton Center for the Performing Arts in East Lansing, Mich.; and multiple productions at Porthouse Theatre in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Ulrich loves to work with theatres for young audiences as well as university students.

After graduating from Kent State University's MFA scenic design program last spring, Ulrich sees his job now as training "the next generation of theatre artists to respect their chosen craft." In his own creative efforts, he's especially attracted to work that tells a story of redemption. "Experiencing a redemptive story live onstage," he says, "can be healing and liberating, and is always inspiring."

2020s

Montana Hollis, BM '20, Atwater, Ohio, has accepted a position with Massillon City Schools as a middle school band director. She was officially approved by the board in July and began leading rehearsals.



Send Us Your Class Note

We'd love to hear from you!

To share your news: Fill out the form at www.kent.edu/classnotes (You may include a high-resolution image in JPEG, GIF or PNG format) or write:

Kent State University Alumni
Center for Philanthropy & Engagement
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, OH 44242

Limit your notes to 150 words or less, and include your degree(s), class year(s), and city/state of residence. Notes may be edited for length or clarity and published as space allows.

Deadline for submissions:

Spring/Summer	January 31
Fall/Winter	June 30



TONY WALSH, COURTESY GEORGIA ATHLETICS

Kent State Softball Player Has Short, but Distinguished, Senior Season

Before her graduation in May, **Maria Cegledy, BS '20**, Pataskala, Ohio, looked forward to participating in senior day and enjoying her final softball season with her teammates.

"We had plans to win the MAC regular season, win the MAC tournament and go on to the NCAA tournament like we did my freshman year in 2017," she says. "COVID-19 altered those plans, and we did not play any conference games or have either tournament."

During her abbreviated senior season, Cegledy started all 19 games for the Golden Flashes in center field. She was second on the team in doubles (5) and third in runs scored (9) and RBIs (7). A student-athlete with a 4.00 grade point average, she received numerous academic and sports accolades, including the MAC's Medal of Excellence Award and being named an Academic All American in 2019 and 2020.

In addition, she was named one of two recipients of the 2020 Bob James Memorial Scholarship Award by the Mid-American Conference Faculty Athletics Representatives. The \$5,000 post-graduate scholarship recognizes students with a 3.50 GPA or over who have displayed good character, leadership and citizenship.

Cegledy, whose undergrad degree is in exercise science, is now a student at Ohio University in the physical therapy program and looks forward to becoming a physical therapist.

While at Kent State, she found time to volunteer at the King Kennedy Center preparing peace baskets during the holidays and serving as an advocate for the softball team's annual "She Will" game, dedicated to promoting girls and women in sports.

During her final semester, she had to adapt to the new normal of online classes and keeping a safe distance from her teammates. She kept her classes at their normal times to maintain some kind of schedule, and she looked forward to doing something different each day—"whether it was working out, running, reading, cleaning or starting a new show on Netflix."

Cegledy has words of wisdom for athletes in the class of 2021: Appreciate and take advantage of each day as it comes, despite the challenges you may encounter. "Things might not always go as planned, but it really is about the journey and the people standing next to you through it all," she says. "Enjoy your time at such an incredible place filled with the most amazing people. Flashes Forever!"

—April McClellan-Copeland

As we look forward to a new year, you can create a brighter 2021 by helping Kent State give every aspiring student the chance to shine as a Golden Flash.

Visit the **Join the Resolution** giving page to provide direct, immediate support that will change students' lives. Thank you! See www.kent.edu/Resolution2021.



Scott Weaver, BS '12, MA '13, and **Holly Henderson, BA '12**, Berea, Ohio, were married on Oct. 12, 2019 and took the opportunity to pose for photos at some of their favorite spots on Front Campus. They were both members of the Greek community on the Kent Campus, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and Delta Gamma Fraternity respectively. These commonalities brought their worlds together and created many mutual friendships and connections. Today, he is a director of digital production for CBLH Design, a Cleveland-based architecture, planning and interior design firm. She is a marketing manager for CBIZ, Inc., a publicly traded professional services firm headquartered in Cleveland. The two enjoy exploring new breweries, traveling and cheering on Ohio sports teams! (Wedding photos were taken by **Murphy Redmond, BA '13**, Red Photographic.)



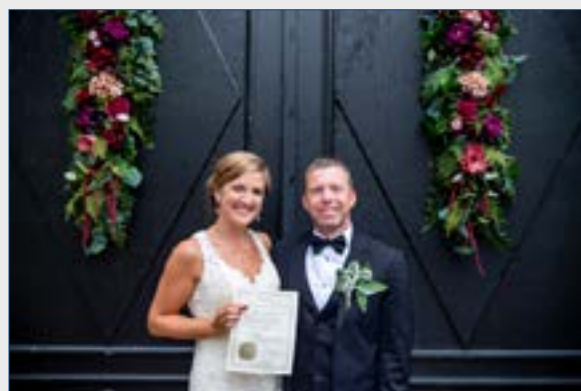
ANITA LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY

Natalie M. Amato, MLIS '15, and **Alex Czayka, BS '09**, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, were married in a private ceremony on May 1, 2020, despite COVID-19 postponing their wedding plans.



SHANON AHLSTRAND PHOTOGRAPHY

David Hrvatin, BS '14, married **Natalie Rosmarin, BA '15**, Highland Heights, Ohio, on June 27, 2020 in Westlake, Ohio. He works for Cleveland's WKYC-TV as senior producer, brand & marketing, and received the Sharon Marquis Friend of JMC Award from the School of Media and Journalism, in September 2019, for his dedication to the school and its students. She is an English teacher at Lake Ridge Academy's Upper School in North Ridgeville, Ohio. Their wedding plans needed to be revised several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but postponing the wedding was never once considered. Instead of visiting Italy, the couple honeymooned in Ohio, staying at several resorts. However, these proud Golden Flashes spent the first night of their honeymoon in Kent. Though they did not meet until after graduating, the couple love KSU and the community and visit often. Go Flashes!



Robin (Pertz) Unger, MLIS '13, and **Nathan Unger, BBA '04, AA '04**, Washingtonville, Ohio, were married on Sept. 1, 2019 at the Kingwood Center Gardens in Mansfield, Ohio. She is the library, history and records supervisor at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, and he is a regional sales rep for Jeld-Wen. (Wedding photographs were taken by **Rami Daud, BA '20**, new media specialist at Kent State.)

2020 Alumni Awards

Sponsored by Kent State Alumni Association, the Alumni Awards are the university's most prestigious honors given to alumni. The association is proud to recognize this year's esteemed recipients.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Judge Annalisa Stubbs Williams, BA '77, Akron, Ohio
Akron Municipal Court Judge



In her role as the administrative judge of the Akron Municipal Mental Health Court, Judge Williams shows compassion and provides encouragement for people with mental health issues. In 2015, she created the

Peace of Mind program, which helps female defendants dealing with trauma.

"If you want to live a positive life, you can't have a negative mindset. I have learned that you can always achieve more than you believe is possible."

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Nicholas E. Phillips, BA '70, North Royalton, Ohio
Attorney and Colonel USAF/JAG (Ret.)



Following active service with the Air Force, Phillips opened a private law practice in North Royalton. He has held presidential positions with his local Bar Association and

Chamber of Commerce, and has served his local school board for 12 years. One of his greatest accomplishments was founding the North Royalton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a group of volunteers trained and equipped to assist local police and fire departments in case of a large-scale emergency.

"With the leadership skills that I learned at Kent State, I was able to make myself useful to our community throughout my career."

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Timothy F. Feltes, MD, BS '77, Asheville, NC
Former Pediatric Professor and Senior Vice Chair, The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital



Dr. Feltes has been a pioneer in advances in pediatric cardiology, a visiting professor and lecturer in more than 30 countries, and he has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and chapters. For

nearly 20 years, he was a pediatric professor and senior vice chair at The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital, prior to his retirement in July.

"I was able to pursue my passion at Kent State, and my educators supported me at a time when I questioned my own abilities."

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Terese Volk Tuohey, PhD '93, White Lake, Mich.
Associate Professor Emerita, Music Education, Wayne State University



Dr. Tuohey taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in instrumental music teacher education at Wayne State; prior to that she taught instrumental music education at public schools and other

colleges. Her Kent State dissertation, *A History of Multicultural Music Education in the United States, 1900-1990*, is still a benchmark for educators studying multiculturalism, world music and diversity in the music classroom. She has written several books and published papers on historical research and ethnomusicology, which she has presented at state, national and international conferences.

"[Having a PhD] gave me a lot of credence. It helped a lot at the many conferences I attended."

KENT STATE ADVOCACY AWARD

Stephanie Sweany, BS '05, Canton, Ohio
Assistant Director, Stark County Hunger Task Force



In addition to her full-time job fighting hunger, Sweany also volunteers with many organizations. She is the vice president of Kent State's Stark County Alumni Chapter and one of her favorite chapter

events is the Stark County Clothing Drive, which collects professional clothing for students to wear for interviews and internships. She started the Canton Kindness Coalition in November 2018 and plans to start other chapters across the state to "make the world a kinder place, one community at a time."

"There is no limit to how much you can give back to your community. Lifting up the folks in your community who need it the most makes your community stronger."

OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Justin Rudy Gleason, BS '16, MBA '18, MArc '18, Lakewood, Ohio
Director of Operations, DS Architecture



In his full-time role at DS Architecture, Gleason oversees five studio directors and six production staff and facilitates continued growth of the firm. In addition, he serves as the Chief Design Officer for a medical

device startup, Case.MD, and volunteers with the Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce.

"The business strategy class I took with Dr. Ilgaz Arkan changed my life and the way I think about things. His class is probably why I'm in the business position I am today."

GOLDEN FLASH AWARD

Kayla Marker, BA '21, MPH '22, Palmyra, NY
Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Justice Studies and Psychology, minor in Forensic Anthropology; Master of Public Health in health policy and management



After her graduation, she hopes to work for Child Protective Services and start a nonprofit in mental health or go into mental health legislation. She is also a Kent State of Wellness Student Ambassador, leader of the

Student Mental Health Coalition and undergraduate research assistant in the Center for Public Policy and Health. At Kent State she started a chapter of Active Minds, a nonprofit national organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness among college students.

"It's important to understand your opinions, stick to your morals and stay true to yourself. Find something you truly believe in and advocate for that."

See full bios and videos of the 2020 Alumni Award recipients at <https://www.kent.edu/alumni/alumni-awards>.

1930s

Atlee L. Stroup, AA '38, December 22, 2019

1940s

Ruth E. (Wilms) Dlwgosh, BS '45, June 10, 2020

Mary Dorothy (Watson) Rinier, BS '47, December 22, 2019

1950s

Emanuel Karbeling, BA '50, November 23, 2019

Victor McIntire, BS '50, March 9, 2020

John R. "Jack" Adams, BA '51, April 22, 2020

Virginia Kazimer, BS '51, November 13, 2019

Janet N. North, BA '51, January 14, 2017

Charles B. Taylor, BS '51, October 13, 2019

John Charles Wieck, MED '51, April 16, 2020

Frank R. Ballo, BBA '52, September 3, 2020

Nathan Gould, BS '52, March 26, 2012

Kenneth Wertz, BBA '52, June 21, 2020

John Crumely, BS '53, April 6, 2018

Richard Galante, BBA '53, June 15, 2018

Kenneth Whipkey, BA '53, January 18, 2020

Richard T. Raidel, BS '54, MED '59, February 12, 2020

Richard Anuszkiewicz, BS '56, May 19, 2020

Major Harris, BS '56, April 28, 2019

Noah "Jack" Boyett, BA '57, MA '64, February 29, 2020

Janice Kaplan, MA '57, January 30, 2020

Wendell Carpenter McElwee, BS '57, November 23, 2019

Robert Sovey, BS '59, March 31, 2020

1960s

Dick Goddard, BFA '60, August 4, 2020

William J. Lahl, BS '60, July 20, 2020

Ronald Vargo, MED '60, April 29, 2020

Thomas A. Stibbe, BBA '61, January 5, 2020

Paul Banks, BBA '62, August 10, 2019

Joseph Deagan, MED '62, May 11, 2020

Peter Lee Schofield, BBA '62, September 7, 2020

David Everson, BArc '63, May 21, 2018

Theodore Suman, MA '63, January 23, 2020

Pamela T. Bevan, BS '65, January 31, 2020

Hazel Kurtz, BS '65, April 3, 2019

Ellen (Wheeler) Miesse, BS '65, March 29, 2020

Sandra Christman, MED '66, October 11, 2019

Carolyn Fleig, BS '66, January 12, 2020

William C. Bartel, Jr., BBA '67, February 24, 2020

Carol Kimble, BS '67, May 24, 2019

Robert Butler, BBA '68, December 11, 2019

Stephen F. Diser, BS '68, October 8, 2018

Patricia Fada, BS '68, December 29, 2019

Elizabeth Smith, BS '68, March 17, 2019

Robert Hill, BA '69, February 23, 2020

James Hudnell, BBA '69, January 22, 2020

Douglass E. Kondra, BBA '69, January 24, 2020

Josephine Nagle, BS '69, December 20, 2018

Lillian "Ruth" (Mugridge) Snodgrass, MED '69, July 30, 2020

1970s

Martin "Marty" Atkins, BA '70, October 21, 2018

Bonnie Berry, BFA '70, February 4, 2019

Leone Carameli, BBA '70, April 21, 2019

Domenic "Frank" Frisina, BA '70, October 8, 2015

Charles Gibeaut, MED '70, January 25, 2019

James Gray, BA '70, January 14, 2019

Howard Leidy, BBA '70, May 11, 2019

Nora Mastrine, BS '70, May 27, 2018

Margaret Morton, BFA '70, June 27, 2020

Barbara Naukam, BA '70, December 14, 2019

Fern Storer, BA '70, May 10, 2020

Larry Eaton, MED '71, January 2, 2020

Michael Scheeser, MED '71, March 24, 2018

Glenda Thurston, MED '71, October 7, 2019

Ulysses Jenkins, Jr., BBA '72, March 25, 2020

Shirley Royse, BS '72, December 28, 2018

Cecil Chamberlain, BS '74, August 19, 2019

Virginia Grunley, BS '74, February 2, 2020

Christopher Porter, BA '74, January 7, 2020

Richard McGriff, BGS '75, September 22, 2018

Carrie Bell (Lee) Tarver, BS '75, MED '10, May 30, 2020

Victor Osagie Aimuwu, PhD '76, November 21, 2011

Gary Mordhorst, BBA '76, January 19, 2019

Diana Ukleja, MLS '76, March 31, 2020

George A. Gatta, Jr., BArc '77, July 12, 2020

Gene Harbrecht, attended Kent State from '72 to '77, July 30, 2020

Patricia Uhl, BS '77, November 22, 2018

Michael Erbschloe, MA '78, September 23, 2019

Karen (Lehto) Boyce, AA '79, August 10, 2020

1980s

Neil Sol, PhD '80, July 29, 2020

James "Jim" Errett Davis, BS '82, March 7, 2020

Jeremy "Jerry" Scheer, attended in 1982, September 18, 2019

Eugene Vasconi, MA '82, July 20, 2018

Margaret "Peggy" Cleta Horn, BS '85, August 10, 2020

Michael Sutak, BS '84, October 29, 2019

Dennis Dolny, PhD '85, January 9, 2018

Denise Miller, BSN '85, January 14, 2020

Betty L. Shaffer, BSN '86, March 10, 2019

Todd Humphrey, BS '89, September 12, 2018

1990s

Annmari Slaby, BA '95, January 12, 2020

Martha Lambert, BS '99, June 11, 2020

2000s

Chad Kazol, BA '00, May 17, 2020

Keith Edward McGuire, BA '00, April 7, 2020

Ema Temu, BA '01, April 21, 2020

Brett Thomas, BA '01, January 29, 2020

Roberta Wildman, AAB '01, April 7, 2019

Joan Barkdull, MLIS '02, November 28, 2018

Andrew Burke, BS '02, May 15, 2018

Aaron Stephanic, BS '02, November 21, 2019

Shawn Peterson, BS '03, November 20, 2018

Claire Hostetler, BA '05, January 25, 2020

Adam Tully, BSE '07, March 1, 2020

2010s

Lisa Starr, AAS '13, April 16, 2019

Jonathan F. Morrish, BBA '18, September 13, 2020

faculty/staff

John "Jack" P. Rowe, Emeritus Assistant Dean for College of Technology at the Kent State Stark Campus from 2006 to 2012; April 1, 2020

Philip Safford, MA '62, Emeritus Professor of Special Education at the School of Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences in the College of Education, Health and Human Services, from 1974 to 1997, recipient of President's Medal; March 29, 2020



Kent 36, a Piper PA-44 Seminole, flying over the newly reskinned and painted hangar in 1984. *Courtesy Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.*

A Century of Flight

"Kent State University ownership of the airport has had its ups and downs," state the co-authors in the preface of *A Century of Flight at Paton Field: The Story of Kent State University's Airport and Flight Education* (The Kent State University Press, 2019). "Fortunately, there were individuals who provided vision and leadership to set an early course."

Aviation enthusiasts William D. "Bill" Schloman, BS '98 (graduate of the Kent State flight program, former airline captain and current flight simulator instructor at Kent State) and his mother, Barbara F. Schloman, MA '89, PhD '98 (professor emeritus and former associate dean of University Libraries at Kent State) highlight many of those visionary leaders in their extensive history, which was researched and written over five years and published in time to celebrate the airport's centennial in 2020.

"As we uncovered stories of a rich and varied past, we also determined that the airport's longevity establishes it as the longest-surviving public-use airport in Ohio," note the co-authors. "What also became clear is that, for the first decades, this is a regional story that mirrors the development of aviation at that time."

The book, which the Schlomans researched by interviewing more than 70 people and tracking down a vast number of online resources, recounts the tragedies, trials and triumphs that advocates of the airport and KSU flight program experienced over the years.

It also details three key decisions, made after Kent State entered this story, which contributed to the airport's existence today:

In 1939, KSU President Karl Leebrick applied for Kent State to participate in the government-sponsored Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP), which led to state funding for the university's purchase of Stow Field in 1942 and prepared the way for collegiate aviation in Ohio. This brought in Andrew W. Paton [pronounced "Payton"], who created Kent State's first flight-training curriculum in 1946 and established a vision for the role the airport could play in a university-run program.

In 1963, KSU President Robert I. White, influenced by Paton, created an airport study committee that recommended the university take over flight training and use the airport as an educational facility—bringing it under total university control and eliminating the problems caused by using a contracted operator. The recommendation came to fruition in 1966 with the establishment of Kent State's flight program and a new role for its airport. Andrew Paton's vision became a reality and the hangar and airfield bear his name.

In 1973, KSU President Glenn A. Olds, lacking funds to address acute maintenance and capital improvement needs, sought FAA funding after exhausting all other possibilities. Accepting federal funding obligated the university to honor assurances agreed to with

the FAA, saving Paton Field later from threats by two different university administrations. Implementation of the long-overdue improvements recommended in this first FAA master plan began in the early 1980s. These were the last significant changes until another FAA master plan was approved in 2016.

As the co-authors also observe in the epilogue, "It is worth reflecting, too, on the thousands who experienced aviation on the airport's property over its hundred-year history. Some were in the crowds at the aerial exhibitions. Many others had their first airplane ride. For flight students, the memories of learning to fly at this field are indelible. This story underscores Andrew W. Paton Field's rich legacy." ⚡

A Century of Flight at Paton Field: The Story of Kent State University's Airport and Flight Education is available at The Kent State University Press, kentstateuniversitypress.com and on Amazon.

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.



giving**VOICE**

**100% in love with her Gospel music
in the AM & the PM.**

100% present from the soul.

**When I am stressed and depressed
I just put on some type of gospel song
that I really like and my spirit is back
I'm in that happy mood again
and peace is back.**

—**Betty Jackson,**
Edgewood Village, Akron, Ohio

Design by Mia Owen ©2020



Participants at the Black Lives Matter protest placed colorful pebbles with painted messages at the base of the Rock. See page 28.