

Schedule of KSURA Programs for Spring 2024

All of the spring semester presentation sessions will be conducted once a month in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Kent Free Library at 312 West Main Street in Kent on a Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. (check below for specific Wednesdays). All events are free and open to not only KSU retirees, but to the university community at large and the public as well. Please invite anyone you think will be interested.

Wednesday, January 10 from 3-5 p.m. Liquid Crystal Display Technology at KSU

The first presentation in our upcoming series will be made by Physics Professor Dr. Oleg Lavrentovich, former director of Kent State's Liquid Crystal Institute. He will discuss the history of the university's significant role in the development of LCD technology, and describe both current projects and future possibilities. Since Dr. Lavrentovich is from Ukraine and he has recently traveled there, he will also provide his perspectives on the current situation with respect to the war with Russia and what the future might hold for his country.

Wednesday, February 14 from 3-5 p.m. Ohio's Redistricting Ballot Initiative

Representatives from the League of Women Voters and Common Cause will describe their plan to place a constitutional amendment on next November's ballot to redesign the flawed redistricting system that currently distorts party representation in Ohio's Senate and House of Representatives. Petitions in favor of placing this issue on the ballot will be available to sign.

Wednesday, March 13 from 3-5 p.m.: Artificial Intelligence and Chat GPT

Kent State Computer Science Department Chair Dr. Javed Khan will describe the increasingly important role played by artificial Intelligence in our society, with a focus upon how the recent application called Chat GPT, with its dynamic information processing and interactive capabilities, has affected teaching, learning, and evaluation at universities across the country.

Wednesday, April 10 from 3-5 p.m.: Globalizing Education at Kent State

Kent State University has significantly enhanced its global footprint in the past few decades, which has also made the city of Kent a more multicultural community. The person who is probably most responsible for this transformation is Vice President Marcello Fantoni of the Office of Global Education. Dr. Fantoni will describe the various opportunities that his office provides globally for KSU students to live and learn overseas, as well as those offered international students and scholars to come here to study at Kent State.

Wednesday, May 15 from 3-5 p.m.: Cryptocurrency's Current and Future Status

Cryptocurrency company BIT Mining is headquartered in Akron, and Ohio recently passed legislation legally supporting blockchain transactions. KSU Finance professor Dr. David Pelleg, an authority on cryptocurrency, will inform us about its history, its recent challenges, and its potential as an alternative to the traditional financial establishment.

Wednesday, June 5 from 4-7 p.m.: Kent State Retirees' Picnic

Come join us at the Roy Smith Shelter in Kent's Fred Fuller Park for our annual picnic. There will be a \$5 per person charge to cover expenses, and attendees are asked to bring a salad or dessert to the event. The main course and drinks will be provided.