

The sun shines over the top of Kent Hall on Kent State's iconic Front Campus.
View Front Campus in 1915 on page 56.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

KENT STATE

MAGAZINE



HerStory

May H. Prentice, hired in 1912, was the first woman faculty member at Kent State Normal School. She is one of 14 women we highlight who have had buildings on the Kent Campus dedicated in their honor. **SEE PAGE 16**

FEATURES



10
First to Go

Helping first-generation students succeed is a campuswide priority at Kent State.

12
Eunice Foote
Finally Gets Some Credit

This early climate science pioneer’s contributions have been overlooked, says geology professor Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD, who has co-authored a paper assessing her experiments.



36
A Force for Good

Sarah Shendy, BA '06, fell in love with law enforcement. Now she's in charge of recruiting others, including women and minorities, to join her in community-oriented policing for the state of Ohio.



16
What's in a Name

We celebrate 14 women who have influenced and inspired Kent State throughout the decades—and have buildings on the Kent Campus dedicated in their honor.



40
Catching Up with Carol Cartwright

President Emerita Carol Cartwright recently retired from more than 20 years of helping lead the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. But that just signals the next phase in a career devoted to higher education.



54
TRIBUTE: Alan Canfora, BA '72, MLS '80

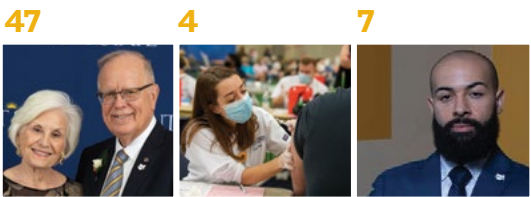
Thomas Grace, BA '72, reflects on the legacy of his friend.

Spring/Summer 2021


On the cover: May H. Prentice was the first of many women who have made their mark on Kent State. See page 16. *Photo courtesy of University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives*

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Readers Respond
- 3 President's Perspective
- 4 Flash Forward
- 42 Alumni Life
- 54 Tribute
- 56 Flashback



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 **Cindy Dalton, MBA '82**, Gaithersburg, MD, the winner of the random-generated drawing from correct submissions to the Squirrel Search contest. She will be receiving a box of squirrel-themed swag from McKay Bricker Framing & Black Squirrel Gifts in downtown Kent.

The black squirrels can be found in the fall/winter 2020-21 PDF on pages 11 (near the fire hydrant in the top right-hand corner of the DI Hub photo), 15 (to the right of quarterback Dustin Crum's foot in the bottom right photo) and 48 (on the desk above the coffee mug in the #2 photo from virtual Homecoming 2020 celebrations). Thanks to all who entered!

via MAIL

Thanks for the Memories

I spent four years as a speech major and student staffer at—and “on”—WKSU during those “wired wireless” days ('51-'55). Before starting the squirrel hunt, I read the nice WKSU article [“WKSU Celebrates 70 Years of Radio Excellence,” page 22] and checked out the historical photos. The 1954 program director (standing, with tie) in front of our wall signage is yours truly. [See photo above right.]

I really enjoyed the WKSU history. Although I spent lots of time with Walt [Clarke], the other instructor overseeing the station was my advisor, John Weiser. The day I left campus to go to my next stop as a graduate assistant in the speech department at OSU, John said, among other things: “Always ask, why?” That advice has always guided me in life.

MEL GROSSMAN, BS '55
Bellbrook, Ohio

Very nice edition. Loved the WKSU story, as I was one of many students who spent all of our spare time working at the campus radio station. Great experience and great friendships to this very day.

PAMELA CARSON, BS '69
Bay Village, Ohio

Missing KSU in Bangkok

I always feel grateful for American tax-payers' support through the USAID scholarship program providing me the opportunity to study in the United States. Two-week orientation at Aloha Hawaii University, two days in LA, two weeks in Washington, DC—destination KSU. As a foreign student at the small-group housing complex Musselman Hall, three meals a day at next door Humphrey Hall, I embraced the friendly-cum-academic atmosphere enthusiastically. Is that exceptional memorial NORMAL? I miss KSU and think of the university and the peaceful city of Kent with love and tenderness.

I personally visited KSU once with excitement and pride in 1990 after a UNDP [United Nations



Mel Grossman, BS '55, former student program director at WKSU, appears in this 1954 WKSU staff photo. Do any other former WKSU student staffers recognize yourselves in this photo?

Development Programme] meeting in New York and USAID short-term training in Washington, DC. Sad passing the area of the burnt ROTC Building. The magazine would heal my KSU homesickness a great deal.

THONGCHAI CHOOCHUANG, MPA '70
Bangkok, Thailand

An Uphill Climb

I'm deeply appreciative for all the support you've shown a small-town kid. [See “Change Maker” fall/winter 2018-19.] I was the first of my Greek-American family to go to college. Kent State Stark had just opened for classes in fall 1967. The campus then was a singular building on a hill. Somehow without knowing why, as I climbed that hill, I had a sense this would be life changing. I was 17 years old as the term began. At 71, I've come to totally appreciate that the climb up the hill at Kent State was a metaphor for the many hills I would climb.

MICHAEL CHANAK JR., BS '71
Cincinnati, Ohio

Editor's Note:

Thank you for sharing your experience at Kent State Stark as a first-generation college student! (And for keeping in touch with us by submitting class notes about your journey—the most recent one being in this issue.)

I think you'll be especially interested in two of the stories in this issue: the one about Kent State being designated a First-gen Forward Institution (page 10) and the Flashback titled “Climbing the Hill at Kent” (page 56).

As you can see from the 1915 photo that we're running as the Flashback, Kent State Normal School also started as a few buildings on a hill. And that climbing metaphor was not lost on its first woman faculty member, May

Prentice (see page 18), who penned a poem with the refrain, “Climbing the hill at Kent,” which appeared in the 1930 Chestnut Burr, was set to music, sung by the Kent State Men's Glee Club and sung for decades by students at Kent State. The last stanza ends: “And glad are the eyes and the heart of you / That you climbed the hill at Kent.”

via INSTAGRAM



President Diacon posted this photo on Instagram on Feb. 9, 2021, with the message, “I caught this group taking a tour of Kent Campus today. #KentState.” He's received 1,134 likes as of April 18, 2021.

We want to hear from you!

Respond to magazine content or comment on topics related to Kent State by writing:
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president's PERSPECTIVE

Hope Springs Eternal

Spring is, perhaps, my favorite season on all the Kent State campuses. Our greens are alive with flowering trees and our gardens are bursting with colorful blooms. Spring is a time when nature renews itself and our world reawakens.

After more than a year of living in the shadows of the pandemic, the impact of nature's beauty this spring seems particularly significant. All these signs of new life offer feelings of hope and optimism, which perfectly reflect my sentiments on the future of Kent State.

The pandemic has shown us just how resilient we are as an institution and a community, and I am confident that like the daffodils that decorate our campus this spring, our 2021 fall semester also will blossom with signs of renewed campus life. Our residence halls will be at capacity, we are anticipating a robust freshman class and we will return to near pre-pandemic levels for our in-person classes and activities.

One of the first signs of this renewal is our Commencement Week in May when the Kent Campus will host a series of outdoor graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021. We are thrilled to once again welcome graduates and their families to campus to celebrate their accomplishments.

Visitors to the Kent Campus will notice that a new set of markers has been installed as part of our May 4, 1970 memorials, to indicate the spots where nine students were wounded during that day's shootings. These markers, which provide important historical detail about where the wounded were standing on that fateful day, exist, in part, due to the efforts of alumnus Alan Canfora, one of the wounded, who championed this project and so many other May 4 efforts. Sadly, he died in December before the markers were unveiled. His zeal for the truth regarding May 4, and his dedication to Kent State are remembered in a tribute by fellow wounded student Tom Grace (page 54), and I know Alan Canfora's spirit will live on forever at Kent State.

The passion and accomplishments of our alumni are always inspiring, as they experience success in their chosen fields of work or service. One such graduate, Sarah Shendy, recently was appointed the first director of the newly created Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment. In this issue, you can read about Shendy (page 36), as well as many other women who have had a significant and lasting impact on our university (page 16).

One of those influential women is Kent State President Emerita Carol Cartwright, who has continued her dedicated service to higher education throughout her career. You also can catch up with President Emerita Cartwright (page 40) and learn about the important work she has done over the years to promote student scholarship and safety in college athletics.

I look forward to welcoming many of you back to the Kent Campus in the fall, when Kent State celebrates Homecoming 2021 on Oct. 2. Get ready to don your blue and gold as we are hoping to make this a Homecoming celebration like none other. The Golden Flashes football team will take on the Bowling Green State University Falcons in our traditional Homecoming game.

We also will be hosting a special commencement for members of the Class of 2020. This will be a chance for recent graduates and their families to take part in the pomp and circumstance they were denied by the pandemic last year. We know this will be a joyful occasion and the perfect complement to our Homecoming weekend.

I hope to see you there.

Todd A. Diacon, President

Email: president@kent.edu
Instagram: @ksupresdiacon



President Diacon and Flash “flash their arms” to show they've been vaccinated.



The Kent State University Field House is a mass vaccination site for residents of Portage County in spring 2021.

More than a Shot in the Arm

This spring, some Kent State nursing students are getting a lot of practice giving shots.

They are assisting at mass vaccination events, led by the Portage County Combined General Health District, that are being held by appointment only at the Kent State University Field House every Tuesday through the spring. Future dates may vary based upon the amount of vaccine received by the county.

At the first event on March 23, approximately 60 nursing students volunteered to give the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to more than 2,000 area residents, including some Kent State University employees.

Kaley Kralovic, a senior who will be graduating with a BSN this spring, was eager to sign up when the College of Nursing offered the volunteer positions. “This is history and I wanted to

be part of it,” she says. “It was really cool to participate in this as one of the first groups of nursing students to go through a pandemic in our lifetime. Everyone was just so excited to be there and get their vaccinations.

“I thought I was just going to be giving shots and moving people along. But we also got to sit down with people and ask questions; for example, to see if they have any allergies. And we’d document which vaccine they got and at what time. So it was a lot more than just putting a needle in an arm. It was making small talk and connecting with people as they came in.” Kralovic also gained experience in handling people who are terrified of needles. “I learned very quickly that you don’t say, ‘All right, I’ll count to three and then I’m going to give the shot,’” she says, laughing. “Instead, I would say, ‘All right, are you ready for this?’ And as they were answering, I was sticking the needle in. You’ve got to hit them at an unexpected time so they’re not nervous. And then they’d say, ‘Oh, that’s not so bad—but you tricked me!’ And I’d say, ‘I know I did, but it didn’t hurt, did it?’”

“The nursing students give more IM [intramuscular] injections in one day than they’re most likely going to give in their entire careers,” says Taryn Burhanna, MSN, APRN community health nursing coordinator for Kent State’s College of Nursing. “And we’re rotating them through all the stations so they don’t just administer shots, but they also get to see what it’s like to run a mass-scale point of distribution center. Even better, students of all levels, sophomores to seniors, are interacting, which brings a new level to experiential learning. It’s wonderful to see that peer-to-peer teaching and comradery in these times.”

For Kralovic, who was selected for an internship at Cleveland Clinic in 2020 and recently finished an ICU intensive care unit rotation, volunteering at the vaccination clinic was one more good opportunity to gain real-world experience before she graduates. She’s already accepted a position with Cleveland Clinic at the main campus in the emergency department. “It will be very fast paced, very exciting,” she says. “I figured I might as well just throw myself completely in as a new nurse. I’m a little nervous, but I think it’s going to be a great experience.”



Taryn Burhanna, community health nursing coordinator for Kent State’s College of Nursing, oversees Kent State senior nursing student Kaley Kralovic administering a vaccine.

Kent State Women’s Center Turns 25

It seems fitting that the Kent State Women’s Center officially kicked off its 25th anniversary during the celebration of Women’s History Month in March.

Talks for an actual Women’s Center on campus first started in March 1995, when then-President Carol Cartwright—the first woman president at a state school in Ohio—appointed a Women’s Center Committee, whose members reflected the diversity of talented people committed to the idea. The committee developed a 21-page recommendations report and presented it to the Kent State University Board of Trustees in November 1995 to explain why such a center would benefit the campus. It was approved.

Soon after, what was once the carriage house of the president’s mansion was being transformed into a fully accessible and functional Women’s Center, with Molly Merryman named its first director. On Nov. 13, 1996, an open house and reception celebrated its opening and announced to the community that the center was ready to assist and advocate for women.

Flash forward 25 years later, and Cassie Pegg-Kirby, who has been at the Women’s Center since 2012 and in her current position as director since 2018, says the collective approach taken 25 years ago has ensured its continued success.

“We have always been about making sure everyone has a seat at the table and intentionally looking around to see who is missing,” she says. “From day one, we provided initiatives and efforts to raise awareness, educate and take action on issues impacting our community.”

Pegg-Kirby also credits the Women’s Center with cultivating opportunities for women across the campus and beyond. They include Elect Her; Mothers, Mentors, Muses; the (R)Evolution leadership program, and the Sage Project. Regular events such as Feminist Fridays and Women of Color Collective have further impact on students’ lives.

The Women’s Center also helps students financially with scholarships. “We have been able to give out thousands of dollars to help students not only stay in school but thrive and take advantage of additional opportunities that may have seemed out of reach,” says Pegg-Kirby. “I cannot even begin to capture all of the amazing individuals who have been part of our continued success and evolution.”

Throughout the remainder of the year, many celebrations will take place, including an “At the Table” conversation series. “We were inspired by the Shirley Chisholm quote, ‘If you don’t have a seat at the table, bring a folding chair,’” says Pegg-Kirby.



Attendees of the Elect Her event held February 2019 smile for a group photo. Presented by the Kent State University Women’s Center, the event featured keynote speaker State Rep. Stephanie Howse (wearing a yellow jacket).

flash **FORWARD**



Credit: Amanda Lopez

“ We have always been about making sure everyone has a seat at the table.”

—CASSIE PEGG-KIRBY, director of the Kent State Women’s Center

“We plan on making it a monthly conversation series featuring intergenerational conversations across many different identities focusing on topics such as women and leadership, women and athletics, women and STEM, and more.”

Other significant events include a Wick Poetry online collaboration to promote community and conversation and a potential 25th Anniversary cookbook that includes recipes for success, activism and other antidotes. The big celebration is slated for November.

As the Women’s Center looks to the future and another 25 years, Pegg-Kirby sees a lot of room to grow. “As we move forward creating spaces that are inclusive and equitable, where people have the benefit of the most opportunities and experiences, we need to honor the people who came before us who fought the good fight,” she says. “I am excited to see how we can build off the successes of the past 25 years and look forward to co-creating the next 25 with the support of our alumni, our elders and wisdom keepers, as well as the students who are carrying the torches into this new world.”

—Matt Lupica

Learn more about the Women’s Center at <https://www.kent.edu/womenscenter>.

Check on updates to the 25th Anniversary plans and events at <https://www.kent.edu/womenscenter/25th>.

Standing Together Against Hate

Violence against Asian people has increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the United States, there have been 3,795 reported incidents of discrimination, hate and xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) from March 19, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021, according to a report from Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition formed to address anti-Asian discrimination amid the pandemic.

That's a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur, and it represents just the latest chapter in the story of anti-Asian bigotry that spans more than a century in our nation's history. The March 16, 2021, shootings at three Atlanta spas—where eight people, including six Asian women, were killed—only magnified the grief, fear and anger the AAPI community has been experiencing since last year.

To respond to these violent assaults and show solidarity against racism, the newly formed Kent State University AAPI Faculty and Staff Alliance hosted a “Stand Together Against Hate” rally at the Kent Campus on April 7. Organizers invited participants to bring a sign of support and required them to wear a mask and maintain safe distances.

The rally began at the field adjacent to the Kent State Center for the Performing Arts, on the corner of Main Street and Horning Road. Founding members of the alliance, Donna Lee, professor and coordinator of the Piano Division at the School of Music, and Yuko Kurahashi, professor of theatre at the School of Theatre and Dance, welcomed the crowd of faculty, staff, students and city of Kent residents and introduced the speakers for the event. Speakers included, among others, Kent State President Todd Diacon, Student Multicultural Center Director Michael Daniels, Kent Councilwoman Heidi Shaffer Bish and Kathleen Clyde, former Portage County commissioner and Ohio House of Representatives member.

International student Yu Li, who came to Kent State from China five years ago and has been studying for a doctoral degree in cultural foundations at the College of Education, Health and Human Services, spoke with her young daughter at her side. She described a recent incident in which her car was the only one spray painted white in the parking lot of her apartment building.

Terrified, she had called her advisor, who immediately told her to report it to the campus and city police. After she did, she also received many messages of support and offers of help from the dean, professors, fellow students, colleagues and her child's teacher from the Child Development Center at Kent State.

“The love and care I got conquered the fear in my heart and empowered me to step out of my small apartment and then share my story and stand here with everyone,” Li said. “It is the love, it is the care from the Kent State community that reminded me who I am, reminded me of my goal, reminded me of my dream, reminded me why I came to Kent State.”

In his speech, President Diacon said, “When one of us doesn't feel safe, then our campus isn't safe,” and he encouraged participants to discuss “concrete efforts to make our community a better community,” and attend an anti-racism task force town hall the next day.

After the speeches and musical interludes, an estimated 300 participants held signs and marched to the Rock, where they painted phrases like “United We Stand,” “Stop Asian Hate” and “Hate is a Virus” on the Rock, which has borne witness to many anti-racism protests in recent months.



Rally participants hold signs to show solidarity against racism.



Participants in the “Stand Together Against Hate” rally march to the Rock.

Five Questions with Michael Daniels

Michael Daniels, director of the Student Multicultural Center (SMC), is making a difference at Kent State and continuing the legacy of those who came before him. A doctoral candidate in the Educational Administration–Higher Education program, Daniels has worked at Kent State since 2015 and previously served as the program coordinator as well as the assistant director for the SMC.

He recently received the President's Award of Distinction for his success with the programs and initiatives offered by the SMC during the pandemic.

One of those programs is Kupita/Transiciones (K/T), which offers incoming and transfer African American, Latinx, Hispanic, Native American and multiracial students the opportunity to get oriented to college life and be mentored by students with similar backgrounds. Typically, it's a four-day experience that allows students enrolled in the program to move onto campus ahead of their peers and get to know one another and their mentors.

However, in fall 2020, due to the pandemic, the program had to cut in-person participants by more than half to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions on campus. Some students participated virtually. “We had to limit the number of in-person people and change from a four-day program to a one-day program,” Daniels says. “We tried to have them meet each other, meet their mentors and do some fun things within the health and safety restrictions.”

Despite the setbacks that K/T faced last year, Daniels and the students are hopeful that fall 2021 sessions will offer students the invaluable experience the program is known for. “The goal is getting to students early and helping them develop a meaningful connection to the SMC and Kent State,” he says. “To give them people to know and a real community.”

We asked Daniels to tell us more about the SMC community and his experience with it:

1. How would you describe the SMC?

The Student Multicultural Center is a space for students to be their true and authentic selves, especially our students of color. It's a place where they can feel comfortable and connect with people from different cultures, as well as learn more about their own.

Kent State has done a phenomenal job of making sure that some really diverse students come to the university, but we want to make sure that they stay at Kent State and graduate. So we show them all the resources we have to offer.

2. What has been your favorite project/initiative at the SMC?

It's tied between the SMC Leadership Institute and the Male Empowerment Network (MEN). The SMC Leadership Institute is something I helped create. I'm passionate about supporting and developing our young men of color. I want to give them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills—including time management, identity as a leader and that part that makes them feel like, “Wow, I'm really able to make or influence something.”

3. How can students get involved with the SMC?

Students who have gone through Kupita/Transiciones and return next year can sign up to be a K/T leader. We have the Mindful Mentality series for student leaders to focus on their mental health and well-being and to hear from other student leaders who might have similar struggles and challenges right now.



Michael Daniels, director of the Student Multicultural Center

We also have MEN (Male Empowerment Network) and Sister Circle. MEN started a 10-year anniversary documentary series in February that's being shown twice a month with six episodes. We have discussions with the showings that are open to anyone. We had programming throughout Black History Month [February].

And for students of color who are graduating, we plan to have a celebration in May. It's going to be nontraditional in a sense, but we will recognize fall, spring and summer graduates.

4. What has been the most rewarding part of your position so far?

Watching students walk across the stage at Karamu, especially the students who talked about dropping out at one point or got to their wit's end, but persevered. That's super rewarding. Knowing that I contributed in some part to their success makes me happy.

Karamu Ya Wahitimu/Celebración de los Graduados is our pre-commencement ceremony, held every spring and fall semester, for all our graduating students of color. It connects all the different campuses and really is the capstone of a student's experience here.

5. Where do you hope to see Kent State in the next 10 years?

I hope that we continue to work on uprooting systems of oppression and making this space welcoming and inviting for all by really addressing the history of this country in a way that's constructive—so students can feel affirmed when they attend each of our campuses. I also hope we find ways to make college a lot more affordable. I hate hearing that students are struggling financially. We've been finding a lot of ways to change the access points for school when it comes to financial issues.

Learn more about the Student Multicultural Center and how you can help support students at <https://www.kent.edu/smc>.

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M4YTM

MAY 4, 2021

Due to the pandemic, the May 4 Commemoration and Candlelight Vigil will again be virtual this year.

The virtual commemoration will feature a video premiering at noon on Tuesday, May 4, that focuses on the nine wounded students and the nine new markers that have been installed on the May 4 site. The new markers will display the names of the wounded students and their distance from the Ohio National Guard when they were hit by gunfire.

For a schedule of virtual events, please see www.kent.edu/may-4-1970/51st-commemoration.

FIRST TO GO

Tiera Moore is the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree, with help from Kent State resources, programs and services. Recently, Kent State has been recognized for its long-held commitment to supporting first-generation students like her.

By Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94



"My grandmother always told me 'knowledge is power,' and that's something I never really understood until I came to college," Tiera Moore says. "I'm learning things that I'm able to take into society and make a difference."

Students who are the first in their families to get a college education carry more on their shoulders than just backpacks loaded with laptops and binders.

In addition to the typical demands of higher education and preparing for a career, first-generation students bear the weight of knowing they are role models for younger family members and a source of intense pride for parents and grandparents who were unable to attain that goal themselves.

There are other challenges, too, as most first-gen students are not provided the financial resources and other types of support that are key to college success.

But for first-gen students like Tiera Moore, being at Kent State has helped to lighten the load.

"As the oldest in my family, it was a lot of pressure to ask myself, 'Can I do this big thing that my parents didn't do?' But I need to do this so I can show my siblings that they can do it, too," says Moore, who is a senior with a double major in political science and English, as well as a minor in pre-law.

She grew up in Salem, Ohio, and although she originally wanted to attend an out-of-state college, she also applied to Ohio colleges. "Kent State just was the right fit," Moore says of her decision to enroll. "The location was close enough to have support from my family back home, but still be away and have a college experience of living on campus. Also, Kent State offered me a lot of scholarships and had a lot more resources for me as an in-state student."

Even so, she sometimes struggled with finances. "My sophomore year, I had a bill that I had to pay, but I didn't have the funds to do it," Moore says. When someone from Kent State's

Student Support Services noticed the unpaid bill and reached out to ask how they could help her, "I just broke down crying," she says. They connected her to emergency funding that allowed her to stay in school and thrive.

And thrive she has. Her sophomore year, she got involved in Undergraduate Student Government. She was first elected as director of governmental affairs and later as USG president for 2020-21—a year in which, among other challenges, she has taken the lead during a pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is working with the university to turn the situation we had with [racist messages on] the Rock into a learning experience that can better our campus in the future," Moore says. "I wanted to bridge the gap on our campus to have all students realize the importance of diversity and know how to make Kent State a welcoming place."

She's also a manager at the Kent State Writing Commons (the writing center on the Kent Campus) and a member of the English Honors Society.

In addition, Moore has taken advantage of many Kent State programs that have offered her opportunities for growth as a person and as a scholar. When she first came to Kent State, she went through the cultural orientation program Kupita Transiciones, which connected her with other students of color and the staff at the Student Multicultural Center.

"It was the staff in the SMC who encouraged and helped me run for student government, even though it was hard," she says. "I'm only the third Black woman to be student body president at Kent State."

At the end of her freshmen year, Moore went on a study abroad trip to Portugal and Spain led by geography professor David Kaplan, PhD, who is currently Moore's advisor as she writes her honors thesis on Spanish regionalism and its effects on the response to COVID-19.

"I formed a strong relationship with Dr. Kaplan because we have very similar research interests, even though he's in a different field from me," Moore says. "I always tell students not to limit themselves to just their area of study because professors all over campus have similar, overlapping interests with you."

During the summer of 2020, Moore was able to assist Kaplan in a virtual research project for a book he is writing about nationalism. She worked on the project as part of an 8-week summer research internship provided through the McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Summer Research Institute typically includes graduate school preparation workshops, graduate school visits and conference presentations, as well as research opportunities. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 institute was all virtual, even the grad school visits.

The Kent State McNair Scholars Program, which Moore is enrolled in, is a federally funded program with a mission to encourage and prepare first-generation and underrepresented college students for post-graduate studies.



Kent State celebrates first-generation students in 2019 during a week of "I Am First" events and activities meant to increase campus awareness and engagement of first-generation students, staff and faculty. Weeklong events for 2020 were held virtually because of the pandemic.

The effort to elevate first-generation students and help them to succeed is a campuswide priority.

The program is named for Black astronaut and physicist Ronald E. McNair, who died on Jan. 28, 1986, when the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded shortly after launch from the Kennedy Space Center. Congress provided funding for the McNair Scholars Program after his death.

Moore, who once worried that she might not be up to the challenge of being the first in her family to earn a college degree, now plans to attend law school after graduation in spring 2021.

"Kent State provided so much help for me as a student, especially as a first-generation student and as a student of color," she says. "I felt that really showed the university's dedication to diversity and their awareness that certain students do need help to go to school."

Kent State recognized as a First-gen Forward Institution

Recently, the Center for First-generation Student Success recognized Kent State's commitment to improving the experiences and advancing outcomes for first-generation students by designating the university as a 2021-22 First-gen Forward Institution.

"Through the application process, it was evident that Kent State is not only taking steps to serve first-generation students, but also is prepared to make a long-term commitment and employ strategies that foster an environment of success for this important population," says Sarah E. Whitley, PhD, vice president of the Center for First-generation Student Success. The center is an initiative of NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and The Suder Foundation.

In making its decision, the center considered Kent State's I Am First campaign, an initiative launched two years ago to celebrate

first-generation students during a week of events and activities meant to increase campus awareness and engagement of first-generation students, staff and faculty. The university's application also demonstrated that senior leadership is committed to the success of first-generation students. In fact, President Todd Diacon highlighted first-gen students in his 2019 inaugural address.

"It is an honor to be named a leading First-gen Forward university," President Diacon says. "This award demonstrates our deep commitment to helping all first-generation students successfully navigate the college experience and earn their degree."

The effort to elevate first-generation students and help them to succeed is a campuswide priority. For example, University College has worked with the Center for Teaching and Learning to provide faculty with a workshop on how to support first-generation students in the classroom.

Kent State partners with the LeBron James Family and the District of Columbia College Access Program, organizations that are dedicated to helping students who might otherwise not have the opportunity to attend and graduate from college. Students from both programs will be on the Kent Campus in the fall as freshmen.

Kent State's designation as a First-gen Forward Institution means the university will have access to professional development and community-building opportunities and have priority use of the center's research and resources.

The honor also allows Kent State to participate in workshops, provide a feature blog post and give a presentation on first-generation students on campus. If the university continues to engage in the process, it can apply for First-gen Forward Advisory status to coach other institutions.

Kent State's application to the Center for First-Generation Student Success was a team effort involving Liz Piatt, PhD, assistant dean of Academic Diversity Success in University College; Yvonna Washington-Greer, assistant vice president for Equity, Identity and Success in the Division of Student Affairs; Melanie Jones, director of Academic Diversity Outreach in University College; and Adam Cinderich, director of Student Support Services. Jones and Cinderich are co-chairs of Kent State's First-Generation Committee.

"The First-gen Forward designation allows us to signal in a prominent way that we really care about students who are first in their families to go to college," says Piatt, a first-generation student herself. "For our colleagues in other departments and at other institutions, it allows us to highlight the work we are doing at Kent State to support those students." ⚡



Illustration by Mark Balma

Eunice Foote

finally gets some credit

You may not have heard about early climate science pioneer Eunice Foote, but her scientific discoveries—long overlooked—are now being recognized.

By Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94, and Jim Maxwell, BS '00, MS '11

By now, it is well understood that the role of women in science has gone largely uncredited throughout history.

In recent years, a movement has grown to correct the record and bring attention to the overlooked contributions of women scientists. One of those women is Eunice Newton Foote, whose discovery 165 years ago paved the way for our modern understanding of Earth's natural greenhouse effect, which is fundamental to the study of climate change.

Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD, professor and assistant chair in the Department of Geology at Kent State, first learned about Eunice Foote a few years ago from Elizabeth Griffith, PhD, a colleague who is now a faculty member at The Ohio State University. When Ortiz found and read a paper Foote had written in 1856, "I was floored by the elegance of her experiments," he says. "She took what was known from geology, infused it with physical experimentation and helped to create the modern field of climate science—but without receiving credit."

In the 1850s, Eunice Foote—an American amateur scientist, inventor and early activist for women's rights—studied the effect of the sun's rays on different atmospheric gases.

Through a series of experiments using an air pump, thermometers and two glass cylinders, Foote discovered that carbon dioxide (which she called carbonic acid vapor) and water vapor could warm air in an experimental vessel. She found that a closed cylinder filled with carbon dioxide and exposed to sunlight trapped more heat and stayed hot longer than one left in the shade.

From that observation, she hypothesized that carbon dioxide and water could warm the atmosphere and influence climate on Earth during modern and ancient geologic times.

Geologists at the time were discovering that the world's climate and vegetation had once been dramatically different. By studying coal deposits that had formed in swampy seas, they concluded that the atmosphere had once held much higher levels of carbon dioxide.

But the geologists of the day felt that carbon dioxide only served as "food for plants," Ortiz says. No one had yet considered that it may have an influence on climate.

Although Foote's hypothesis that carbon dioxide in the ancient atmosphere would have made Earth much warmer was correct, notes Ortiz, her experimental design wasn't sophisticated enough

to reveal how carbon dioxide or water vapor led to warming. "Even so," he says, "her work was a tremendous leap in thinking that some view as the birth of climate science."

Foote collaborated with her husband, Elisha Foote, a judge and inventor, but they published separately. He studied how the sun's rays could be amplified, perhaps to build a hot water heater or oven, and presented his paper at the 10th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Aug. 23, 1856, in Albany, New York.

Eunice Foote also submitted her paper on the CO₂ discovery to the association, but hers was presented on her behalf by physicist Joseph Henry, director of the Smithsonian Institution, at the same meeting. It

was published as "Circumstances affecting the heat of the Sun's rays" in the *American Journal of Science and Arts* in November 1856 immediately following Elisha Foote's paper, "On the heat in the Sun's rays."

Despite this, while her husband's paper was republished in a prominent European journal, her paper was overlooked, Ortiz says. A summary of her work was published in the 1857 volume of *The Annual of Scientific Discovery* by David A. Wells. Five years later, Wells mentioned it without attribution in a geology textbook he authored.

In 1859, however, John Tyndall, a prominent 19th-century Irish physicist,

published the first paper to directly measure the Earth's natural greenhouse effect. He concluded it was due to absorption of longwave radiation by carbon dioxide in the upper atmosphere. Ultimately, full credit for the discovery of carbon dioxide's role—which is central to the understanding of climate change, weather and meteorology—was given to Tyndall, while Eunice Foote's contribution to climate science remained unknown.

That is changing now, in part thanks to Ortiz and a meeting of minds via social media.

Remembering Eunice Foote's once-forgotten role

Ortiz met Sir Roland Jackson, PhD, a visiting fellow at the Royal Institution and research associate in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London, on Twitter in 2020. He was responding to a tweet about Foote from a mutual colleague and prominent climate scientist, Sarah Myhre, PhD. Myhre is founder and executive director of the Rowan Institute,



Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD, co-authored a paper assessing the experiments described in Eunice Foote's 1856 paper.

which prepares leaders grounded in human rights, integrity and planetary stewardship to address climate change. Katharine Hayhoe, PhD, another leading climate scientist, political science professor at Texas Tech University and chief scientist for The Nature Conservancy, also has spread the word about Foote’s once-forgotten role in climate science.

A biographer of Tyndall, Jackson wrote a paper in 2019 comparing Foote and Tyndall’s work from a qualitative perspective. Although Tyndall was on the editorial board of a European journal that published Elisha Foote’s 1856 paper and a second paper by Eunice Foote in 1857, he never made mention of Eunice Foote’s publications in his writing. Based on his research, Jackson concludes that it is unlikely that Tyndall was either aware of, or had read, Eunice Foote’s paper.

Jackson writes, “This episode raises particular questions about, and throws light on, simultaneous discovery, the nature of networks between American and European physicists in the 1850s, the significance of gender and amateur status, and the reputation of American physics and physicists in Europe.”

Ortiz and Jackson co-authored a paper assessing the experiments described in Foote’s papers. They looked at her work from a detailed quantitative perspective in order to place it in historical context. They point out the differences between her hypothesis and that of the modern greenhouse effect in their article, “Understanding Eunice Foote’s 1856 experiments: heat absorption by atmospheric gases,” which was published on Aug. 26, 2020, in the Royal Society Journal of the History of Science’s *Notes and Records*, an international journal that publishes original research in the history of science, technology and medicine.

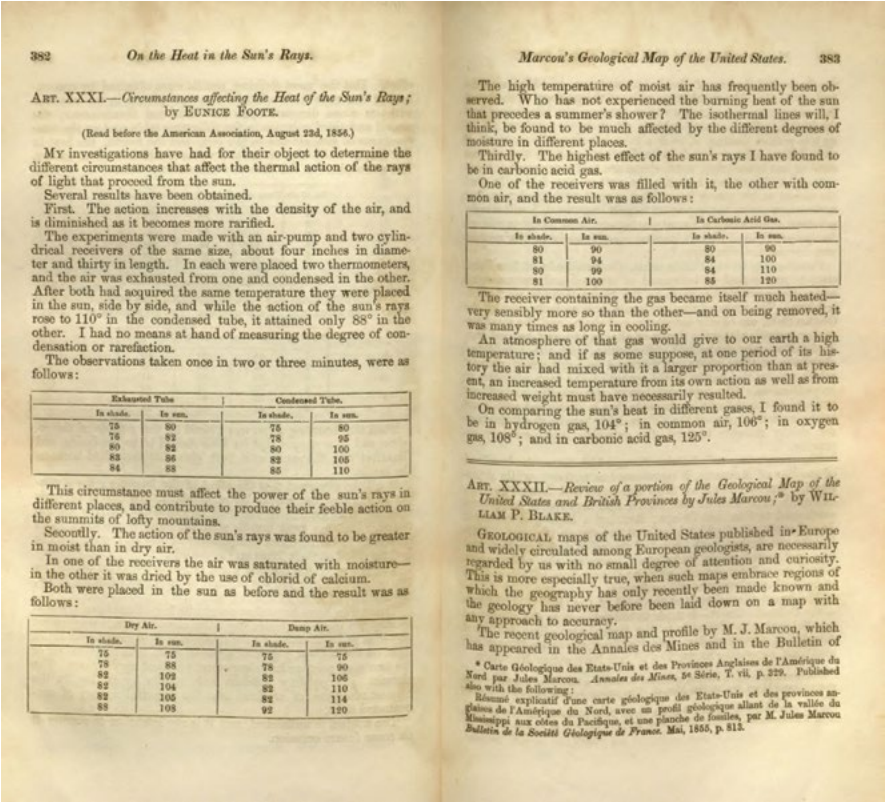
The article also explores her work in the context of what geologists in the 1850s thought caused climate change, based on contemporary writing. Until Eunice Foote, no one thought to link carbon dioxide and warming, let alone set out to test that link experimentally.

“This was her original contribution to climate science and the first known published study to document not only the warming effect of carbon dioxide, but its potential impact on climate,” Ortiz says. “Despite the challenges, her work was remarkable for its time. I have no doubt she would have been an influential scientist, had she the resources and interest that were afforded to male European scientists of her day.

“How I would have loved to read more papers by her and see where she could have gone if she had remained in science. She lived an influential life despite that, taking an active role in the fight for women’s rights and having success as an inventor. I’m interested to dig into this early literature to try to learn more about the contributions of other women scientists whose work has been forgotten.”

Ortiz says women in science still face many of the same barriers today. Their contributions are often overlooked. They are paid less, often have more administrative and teaching responsibilities than men and are passed over for positions of leadership.

“We need to provide equal access, pay and funding for women doing the same work as men in science,” he says. “We need to value cooperation, rather than competition, and build systems of advancement and policies that don’t disadvantage women. Science advances best when explored from diverse perspectives.”



“Circumstances affecting the heat of the Sun’s rays,” by Eunice Foote, was published in the *American Journal of Science and Arts* in November 1856.

“Despite the challenges, her work was remarkable for its time. I have no doubt she would have been an influential scientist, had she the resources and interest that were afforded to male European scientists of her day.”

—Joseph D. Ortiz, PhD

Learn more about women in science history:

Association for Women in Science <https://www.awis.org/>

United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Women in Science Project <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/women-science>

Science Focus Magazine: 22 Pioneering Women in Science History You Really Should Know About www.sciencefocus.com/science/10-amazing-women-in-science-history-you-really-should-know-about

Who Was Eunice Foote?

Eunice Newton Foote (1819-1888) was an amateur scientist or “natural philosopher” (the term “scientist” wasn’t common in the 1850s).

In a Newton genealogy published in 1915, Eunice Newton Foote was described as “a fine portrait and landscape painter, an inventive genius, and a person of unusual beauty,” but no known photograph of her has been confirmed.

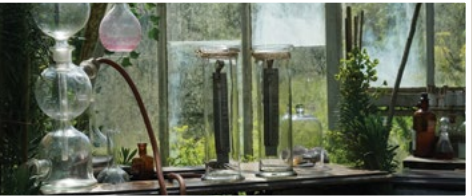
Foote was born in Goshen, Connecticut, and grew up in Bloomfield, New York. She was educated at the Troy Female Seminary (renamed the Emma Willard School), in Troy, New York, where she studied scientific theory, foundational chemistry and biology under Amos Eaton, an American botanist and champion of higher education for women. She later became a successful inventor and women’s rights activist.

Several years before writing her 1856 paper, she attended the first Woman’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19-20, 1848, and helped prepare the proceedings for publication. Her name was fifth on the list of signatures on the convention’s Declaration of Sentiments, written by her neighbor and friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a suffragist leader. The declaration demanded equality with men in social status and legal rights, including the right to vote. (Her husband, Elisha Foote, whom she had married in 1841, also signed.)

During the 19th century, American women published just 16 papers in the field of physics. Only two of those were published before 1889, both written by Foote.

Her contribution might still be lost if not for Raymond Sorenson, a retired petroleum geologist and amateur historian, who stumbled upon the 1857 report of her work while flipping through *The Annual of Scientific Discovery*. Realizing that Foote was the first to make the connection between carbon dioxide and climate change, he noted that her work had gone mostly unrecognized by the prominent scientists of the 1850s, especially in European scientific institutions, such as the Royal Institution in London, where John Tyndall had worked. Sorenson posted his findings on the American Association of Petroleum Geologists’ online journal *Search and Discovery* in 2011, with an update in 2018.

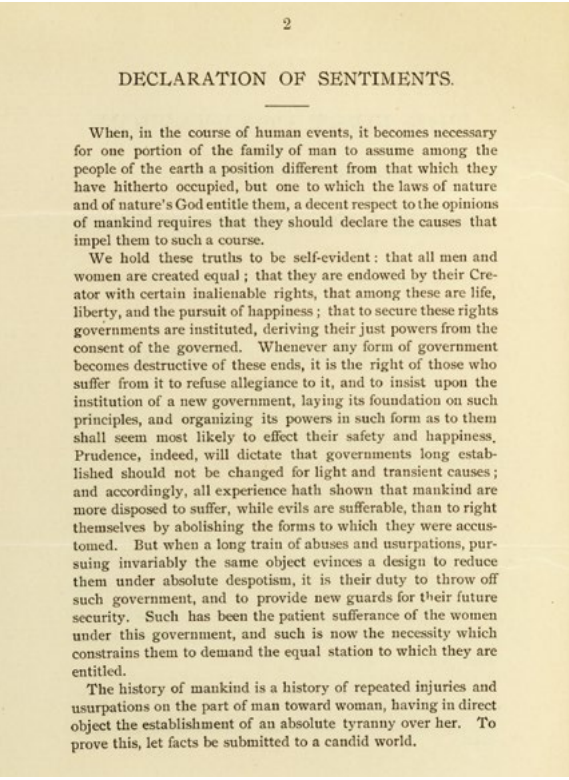
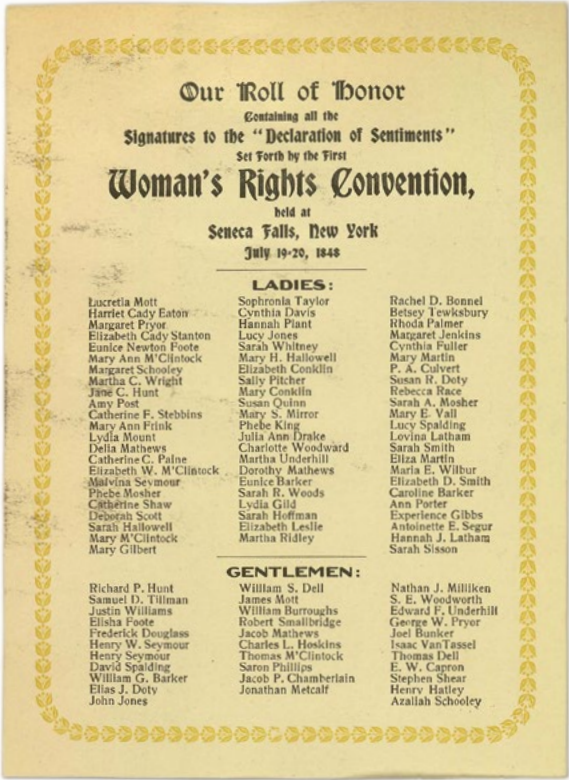
A short film about Foote, called *Eunice*, was made in 2018 and is available on YouTube. ⚡



Eunice Foote’s experiment for her studies on greenhouse gases, as recreated in the 2018 short film *Eunice*. Credit: Paul Bancilhon and Matteo Marcolini

LEFT: Eunice Foote’s name was fifth on the list of signatures to the Declaration of Sentiments from the 1848 Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Elisha Foote, her husband, also signed.

RIGHT: In the wording of the Declaration of Sentiments, Elizabeth Cady Stanton adopted Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence as her template.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Over the decades, many women have left their mark on Kent State University. These select few have had Kent Campus buildings dedicated in their honor.

By Jan Senn; Bethany Sava, BS '12; Lindsey Vlasic, BA '22; Greta Bell, BS '22

Women make up approximately 50% of the world's population, yet researchers have estimated that women's stories make up just 0.5% of recorded history. Of our nation's more than 5,000 historic memorials, less than 8% of the subjects are women.

In 2020, we commemorated the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which secured women's right to vote (Aug. 26, 1920). And yet the Equal Rights Amendment, which Congress passed and sent to the states for ratification almost five decades ago (March 22, 1972) is still not ratified.

So although we recently celebrated the inauguration of Kamala Harris as the 49th vice president of the United

States, and she made history as the first woman, first Black and first South Asian vice president (Jan. 20, 2021), the legal equality of the sexes (with the exception of the right to vote) and the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex are still not protected by the US Constitution.

Given that background, it is significant that Kent State University has dedicated 15 buildings (plus a gate) on the Kent Campus to honor women who have influenced and inspired the university.

To celebrate Women's History Month this past March, in the pages that follow we highlight these notable women in Kent State's history—and share their stories of distinction.

The stories are presented in order by the year the buildings were dedicated.



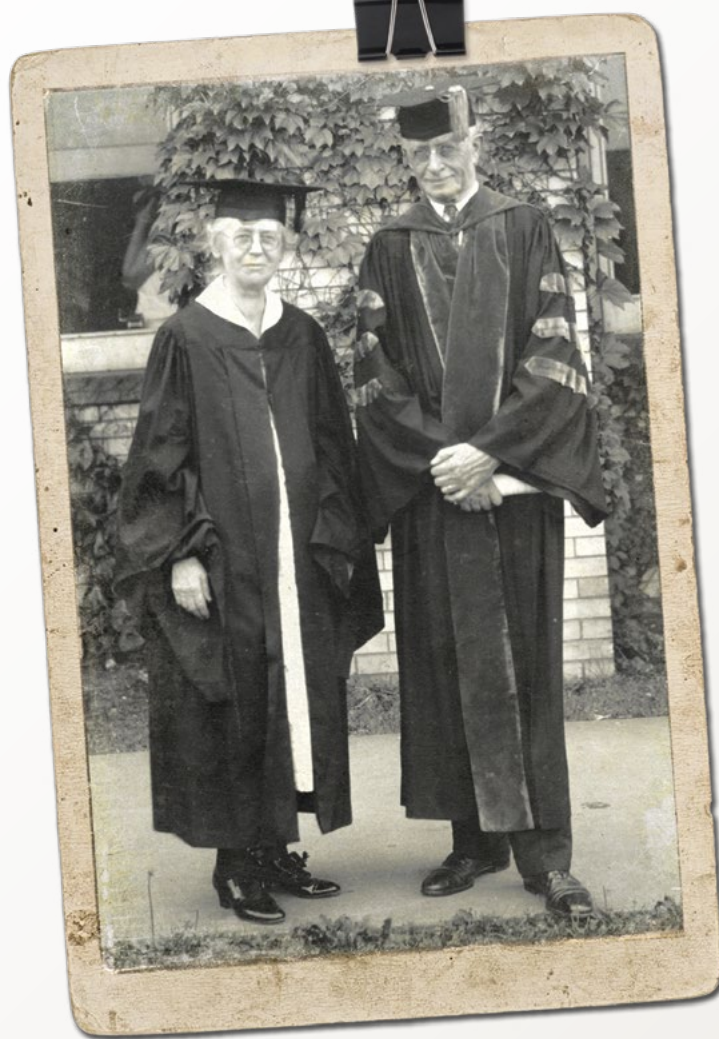


May H. Prentice was the first woman faculty member hired by President John McGilvrey for the Kent State Normal School in 1912. (She was hired along with faculty members John T. Johnson and George E. Marker and McGilvrey's assistant, Helen M. Atkinson.)

A teacher since 1873, Prentice began her work at the Kent State Normal School in fall 1912 before the first buildings on the campus (Lowry and Merrill halls) were completed. She taught extension courses in several of the more than 20 centers throughout the region. In May 1913, she became director of elementary training. In 1927, she was made professor of education and taught English, history of education and school management until she retired in 1930.

In describing Prentice, the 1917 *Chestnut Burr* said, "A great teacher, exponent of women's suffrage, and friend to the student teacher, Miss Prentice has assured herself a permanent place in the hall of fame of pedagogy."

On March 29, 1934, *The Kent Stater* announced that the memorial gate built in 1930 was to be named in Prentice's honor and noted: "Many of her policies are in effect today at the training school; her song 'Climbing the Hill at Kent' [aka 'Kent State,' see Flashback, page 56] is sung by undergraduates of the present generation and she is revered by thousands of her former students as 'a woman with an understanding heart.'"



May Prentice, principal of the Normal Training School, stands with Commencement speaker George W. Rightmire, The Ohio State University president, 1933.

Prentice Memorial Gate, at the corner of East Main and South Lincoln streets, was dedicated to May Prentice on Jan. 15, 1935, by alumni of the classes of 1928-1934. Unable to attend the dedication, she responded by letter and called the gate "a fitting symbol of

the college . . . as an entrance into the larger life." She also added, "I cannot deny that my pleasure in seeing my name on the bronze tablet is akin to that

of a child who sees his name on the honor role."

May Prentice died at her home three weeks later on Feb. 6, 1935, of a heart ailment at 79.

According to the president of the Alumni Association at the time, "Among the spontaneous and sincere tributes paid her by her intimate associates is the statement that 'she was the kind of person to whom no one was afraid to go with his difficulties. She was remarkably intelligent and clever, yet never domineering or intimidating to anyone seeking help or advice.'"

In 2008, the gate was replicated with modern materials and relocated away from the street. It has served as a formal entrance to the Kent Campus.



ABOVE: Prentice Memorial Gate
RIGHT: Prentice Memorial Gate, 1935



Prentice Hall, located near Taylor Hall and the MACC Annex, was dedicated to Prentice in 1959. It still serves as a residence hall, with accessible rooms for students with disabilities.

On May 4, 1970, the Prentice Hall parking lot became the site of a tragedy. As a result of a request from the May 4th Task Force student organization, the university installed markers locating the sites where the four students were killed. The markers were dedicated on Sept. 8, 1999, and participants stand vigil near them at each annual commemoration.

Recently, the university has installed bronze markers at each location in the ground and Prentice Hall parking lot where the nine students were wounded, along with their distance from the Ohio National Guard when the shots were fired.



Prentice Hall, 2015

May Prentice House, originally located at 128 S. Willow St., was Prentice's home during her time in Kent. After her death in 1935, her sisters, Georgianna and Eugenia, continued to live there, and Georgianna Prentice rented its rooms to students until the early 1950s.

In February 2012, the university hired movers to lift the house, which dates from the early 1900s, and move it several lots south to a temporary location while construction continued on the Lester A. Lefton Esplanade

walkway extension between downtown Kent and the Kent Campus.

In March 2013, the house was moved to its present location on the walkway between Willow and Lincoln streets—opposite the site of what is now the John Elliot Center for Architecture and Environmental Design—to become the new home of the Wick Poetry Center, dedicated Sept. 26, 2014.

The historic home was renovated to provide a larger and more flexible space for Wick programs and

community use. In addition to housing the Wick staff and intern offices, the house offers a digital classroom, the Stan and Tom Wick Library, the Jo Woodward Reading Room and a third-floor Poet's Loft for quiet reflection and student conferences. It is adjacent to the center's Poetry Park.

"Miss Prentice has assured herself a permanent place in the hall of fame of pedagogy."



ABOVE: The May Prentice House is lifted from its foundation and about to be moved from its original site.
ABOVE RIGHT: The May Prentice House at its current location on the Esplanade



• BLANCHE A. VERDER •



Blanche Verder, 1938

Blanche A. Verder, Dean Emerita, was the dean of women at Kent State from 1922 to 1938. She received a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College and a master's degree from Columbia University in 1922, as well as a diploma of dean of women. She also attended both Harvard University and Oxford University in England. Originally from Rutland, Vermont, Verder taught high school courses in her home state and New York before coming to Kent State.

As dean of women, she was responsible for the well-being of women students at Kent State, both on and off campus. The 1923 *Chestnut Burr* describes Verder's responsibilities as including oversight of women students' living conditions, social relations and religious life. During her 16 years as dean, she was an integral part of implementing several organizations aimed at improving the social and scholastic life of women students.

In 1922, she formed the Off Campus Women's Club to better serve the needs of women students living in the neighboring communities surrounding the Kent Campus. The club was a resource for women, helping them locate appropriate

off-campus housing and develop camaraderie with fellow students through social functions.

Verder also was responsible for the introduction of a Pan-Hellenic Council at Kent State in 1925. By 1935 (when Kent State College became Kent State University) nine sororities were active on campus. Verder penned the national installation services used by many Pan-Hellenic groups throughout the country, according to a Feb. 8, 1938, article in *The Kent Stater*.

She introduced a chapter of the National Cardinal Key, a national honor society for women, at Kent State in December 1933. This group, of which Verder was an honorary member, was comprised of women students who had demonstrated accomplishment in the areas of leadership, scholarship and character through their extracurricular activities. The members of Cardinal Key began the tradition of crowning a May Queen in 1934, and they once featured Amelia Earhart as a speaker at one of their events.

In addition, Verder was the former president of the Woman's Faculty

Club, former chairman of Kent State Council and faculty advisor of the YWCA and the Women's League. She was a frequent guest of honor at teas and luncheons hosted on campus and throughout the greater Kent community. She also began a university tradition of caroling during the holidays in 1926.

Verder was strict about behavior for women students—especially during the Roaring '20s. A Jan. 16, 1974, *Kent Stater* article refers to an undated pamphlet that was in circulation during her tenure. It provided guidance for young women on topics such as curfews, room inspections, restrictions on automobile riding and entertaining men, and advised against smoking or drinking "intoxicating beverages." Women could not leave campus after 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and had to be in their rooms by 7:30 p.m.

She met with first-year women students to impart her expectations of their behavior while at Kent State. One of her famous sayings, according to the 1925 *Chestnut Burr*, was "Don't toddle here."



While such reports may give the impression of a rigidly traditional figure, Verder was dedicated to her women students, particularly to improving their minds and expanding their worldview. In 1929 she sponsored a series of five field trips to visit the Cleveland Art Museum, the "slums of Cleveland," Oberlin College, Hiram College and the College of Wooster, according to a *Kent Stater* article dated March 8, 1929.

Verder was granted the title of Dean Emerita for her dedication and service to Kent State. She died in 1953.

Verder Hall, located near Nixon Hall off Midway Drive, was dedicated to the former dean of women in 1957. In the late 1950s, the hall served as a women-only dormitory; however, it is now a coed residence hall, serving approximately 245 students. It was also home to the Living in the Arts Community for art majors on the Kent Campus. Verder Hall was temporarily offline for the fall 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MONA FLETCHER

graduating from Kent State in 1921 with a Bachelor of Science in education, she became the first Kent State alumna to attend graduate school. She received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The Ohio State University.

She started teaching at Kent State as a part-time professor and three years later was offered a full-time position. As a student and professor, she saw the university grow from 620 students to more than 18,000 students.

Fletcher is listed in *Who's Who in America* and in the *Directory of American Scholars*. She was co-author of the book *State Legislatures*, published in 1954, and contributed to the *Dictionary of Political Science*, edited by Joseph Dunner. She also published several book reviews in the *American Political Science Review*.

Involved in her field of expertise beyond Kent State, Fletcher was a member of the American Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association. In 1961, she was elected as vice president of the Midwest Conference

of Political Scientists. An article in the *Daily Kent Stater* in May 1961, notes, "Over the years she has taught over 42 different subjects. Among the thousands of students whom she has taught are 33 members of the present faculty and administrative staff."

Fletcher also was the first woman to serve as a member of the national executive council for Pi Sigma Alpha, the only honor society for college and university students of political and social sciences in the United States. She served two terms on the organization's council.

When Kent State marked its 50th anniversary in 1960, Fletcher was named the most distinguished faculty member by her colleagues. While at Kent State, she became the first woman to deliver the invocation and benediction at Commencement.

In 1962, she stepped down as secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists after 22 years of service. In 1963, she received the KSU Alumni

Award and the Shield Award from the Delta Gamma social sorority for "a lifetime devoted to education," with a notation that she had been teaching at Kent State longer than any other professor. Fletcher was also granted emerita status in recognition of her long-standing service to Kent State. The political science department presents an annual Mona Fletcher Award to the graduating senior with the highest overall GPA.

She retired in 1963 for health reasons and died on Feb. 5, 1965, at the age of 72.



Mona Fletcher, 1933



Mona Fletcher, undated



Mona Fletcher, 1962



Fletcher Hall was dedicated in Mona Fletcher's name in 1963. One of four residence halls that make up the Eastway Center complex, Fletcher houses approximately 245 first-year students. Coed by floor, with four floors comprised mostly of double rooms with loftable furniture, Fletcher Hall is one of the most popular dorms on the Kent Campus. For the 2021–2022 academic year, a limited number of deluxe single rooms (a double room where only one student will be assigned) are available.

Mona Fletcher, BSE '21, PhD, Professor Emerita of Political Science, taught at Kent State from 1924 to 1963. After

MARGARET DUNBAR



Margaret Dunbar, 1916

Margaret Dunbar was hired as the first librarian at Kent State in 1913 at the request of then-President John McGilvrey. They had worked together at Western Illinois State Normal School in Macomb, Illinois, before coming to Kent. Margaret's younger sister, Isabelle, was hired as the assistant librarian, in charge of records and student personnel. Both women were on the staff when the university first opened.

Margaret Dunbar grew up in Monmouth, Illinois, and earned a bachelor's degree in library science from Monmouth College. She was a member of the American Library Association and the Ohio Library Association, holding offices for both organizations.

The Dunbar sisters are credited with founding the library; they purchased the library's first book—*Exposition and Illustration in Teaching* by John Adams—in 1914. The library was originally located on the third floor of Merrill Hall, but it was relocated to the atrium of the



LEFT: Margaret Dunbar, 1933
BELOW: Margaret Dunbar, 1941



Margaret and Isabelle Dunbar, undated

Administration Building (now Cartwright Hall) in 1914.

Margaret Dunbar's personnel file notes that during the first winter in the new space, she and her sister "worked on a dirt floor, in the unfinished room, which was unheated, save for open oil burners." She also oversaw the library move to the David Ladd Rockwell Library (now Rockwell Hall) in 1929.

In addition to her role as head librarian, Margaret Dunbar also taught

classes on library materials and library management. In the short tribute that accompanies her photo in the 1916 *Chestnut Burr*, she is described as providing reliable counsel to all: "It doesn't matter what your problem is—whether it is concerned with a book or not—her judgment is always good, and she is always pleased to help. In a word, she is worth knowing, and she loves the 'Bluebird,' her Buick roadster." Together, the sisters earned

Dunbar Hall was dedicated to Margaret Dunbar in 1959. Originally, Dunbar Hall was reserved as a women's residence hall. It is now the living-learning community for business students at Kent State. Since its dedication, Dunbar Hall has been home to more than 12,000 students.



Dunbar Hall, 1971



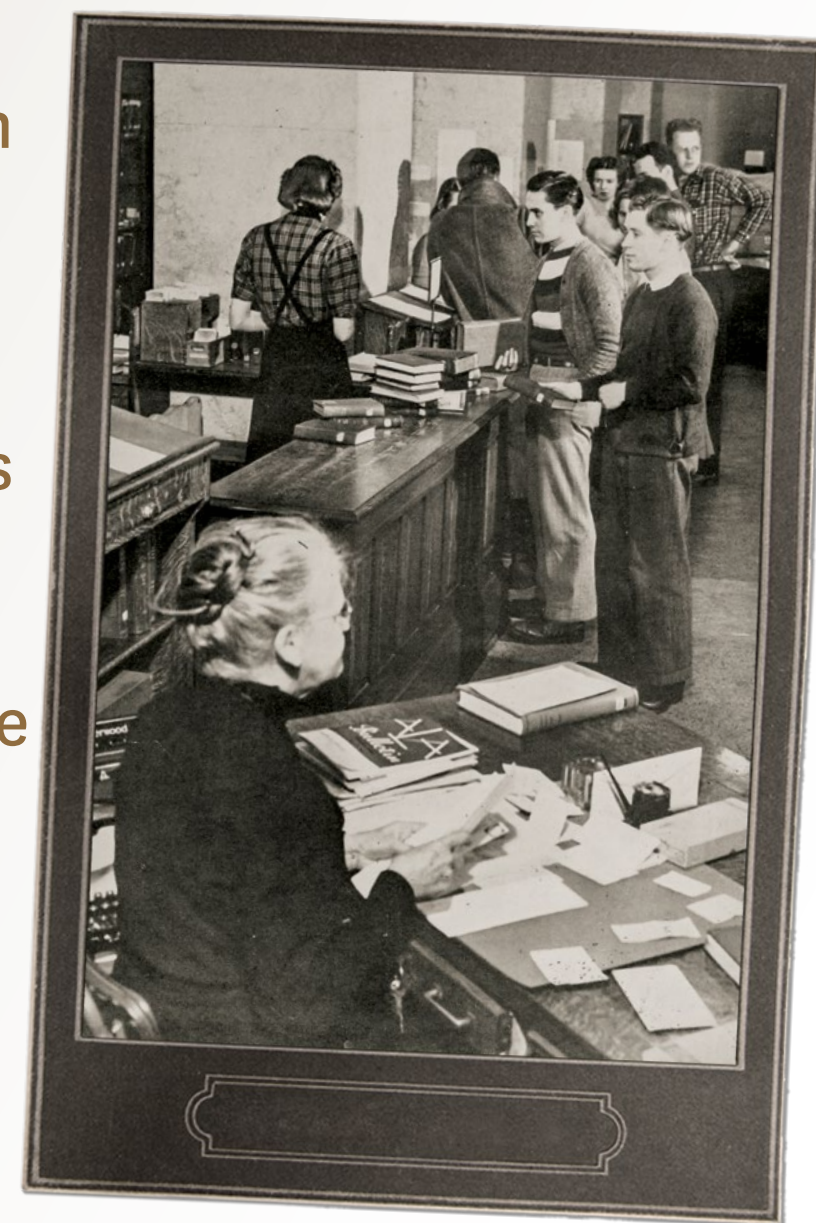
Dunbar Hall, 2009

“It doesn't matter what your problem is—whether it is concerned with a book or not—her judgment is always good, and she is always pleased to help. In a word, she is worth knowing.”

a reputation of being kind-hearted women who put students first.

Margaret Dunbar retired from Kent State in 1943 after 30 years of service. She died on Dec. 24, 1957, at her home at 220 S. Willow St. in Kent, where she lived with her sister.

At the time of Isabelle Dunbar's retirement in 1955, the university gave her a citation for long and faithful service. She died on March 1, 1960.



Margaret Dunbar at her desk in the library, 1940 *Chestnut Burr*

BERTHA L. NIXSON

to find a more enthusiastic worker, and one who believes more thoroughly in her work than Miss Nixon. So thoroughly does she portray the ideas of good home making, and so well does she enter into the spirit of the practical, rather than the theoretical, that her enthusiasm can hardly help but reach all her students.”

In a *Kent Stater* article dated Aug. 5, 1926, titled “Co-Ed has Friend: Miss Nixon defends cooking of college girl,” she is quoted as saying, “Certainly college girls know the difference between a chafing dish and an electric sweeper. Girls that enter Kent State have passed the average mark and are above the ordinary run of girl.” The article also says that “Girls taking practical courses from Miss Nixon learn the art of living on a small income, how to serve the family meal without a maid and other necessary things if a college girl should marry a young college graduate.”

Nixson was responsible for developing the home economics department in its early period. Its primary purpose was to train future teachers of home economics. While such classes have gone by the wayside in most high schools and colleges, the department was successful during Nixson’s tenure.

In a *Kent Stater* article dated Oct. 4, 1927, she announced that all her students in the home economics department the previous year, both degree and diploma, had been placed in teaching positions. The demand for home economics teachers was so great that she even had placed undergraduates in responsible positions.

In 1929, she instituted the home economics practice house. Then, in 1947, the administration sponsored a new home management house named in her honor. It was a three-story building built in 1865 on the corner of Summit Road and Terrace Drive, in which six students could practice the responsibilities related to running a household.

Nixson served as faculty advisor for the Household Arts Club, comprised of students in the Household Arts, later renamed Household Science, and finally, the Home Economics Department. She also was the advisor of the Phi Alpha Alpha sorority, which was founded at Kent State in 1930.

She was involved in many organizations outside of Kent State, including the Ohio Economics Club (once serving as vice president), the National Education Society, the American Association of University Women and the American Association of University Professors. Nixson also was one of the seven founders of the local and state chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary educational society.

Nixson retired in July 1945. She died at her home, at 543 Lake St., Kent, on Dec. 8, 1948, following a prolonged illness. She was buried in Michigan.



Nixson Hall, which is located near Verder Hall and the Center for the Performing Arts, was built in 1966. The \$660,000 home economics building now serves as the office of the School of Health Sciences, which supports programs in athletic training, exercise science/physiology, health education and promotion, integrated health studies, nutrition and dietetics, and speech pathology and audiology.

FLORENCE GRAY BEALL



Florence Gray Beall, 1933

Florence Gray Beall, PhD, Professor Emerita of English, taught at Kent State from 1933 to 1957. Beall was originally from Newark, Ohio, where her family lived on a 65-acre farm.

She entered The Ohio State University in 1918, graduating in three years with honors and an AB [Applied Baccalaureate] in English and languages. After teaching English, languages and a little physical education and geometry at York High School in York, Ohio, she earned a master’s degree in English at Columbia University in 1925.

A year later, she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan, where she made a special study of teaching and teachers’ training, especially in the field of English, and earned doctorates in both English and education in 1932. She taught there and at Ashland College until coming to Kent State.

Beall joined the English faculty as an assistant professor at what was then Kent State Normal College in 1933. She was involved with student life and social activities and served on many committees. She was an advisor of Cardinal Key, the national honor society

for women that Blanche Verder, Dean Emerita of Women, introduced in 1934. She was a faculty advisor to first-year liberal arts students, and was also on the publications committee, which provided staffing recommendations for *The Kent Stater* and the *Chestnut Burr* to the president for review.

Several articles in *The Kent Stater* from that period describe Beall as unconventional and popular among the students. One piece, from May 17, 1934, described an upcoming baseball game between faculty members and the “Phys-Ed Lassies.” For the faculty team, Beall was labeled as “manager and waterboy who used to play with the East Side Wonders Parcheesi team” and she was given the nickname “Fighting Flossie”—although in the article she claimed she never caught a baseball in her life and made no predictions as to the outcome of the game.

According to her personnel file, her pet dislike was playing bridge, she didn’t like to buy new hats and she didn’t own an automobile—preferring to give the money she would spend on one to educate her two nieces and two nephews, whom she practically raised herself. She liked a quiet life, enjoyed a good movie once in a while, but on the whole was content with a good book.

In an article in the March 1, 1934, *Kent Stater*, when asked what books she would take to a desert island, Beall, an authority on Shakespeare, said she would occupy her time with *Bosworth-Toller’s Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*, the *New English Dictionary*, *Selections from English Literature, 850-1675*, and *Selections from English Literature, 1675-1930*. In explaining her choice, she said, “With these four books I can study that most interesting phenomenon, the development of a language, and its use as the instrument of man’s thought; and as I gain a better knowledge of language, I can the more wisely read those works of literature which are true expressions of the genius of the English-speaking people.”

Popular with students and her colleagues, especially those in the English department, she was described as “a demanding teacher but popular because she helped her students enjoy their literature courses.”



Florence Gray Beall with then-President Robert White, circa 1960s

Colleagues said she could make the works of Shakespeare “come alive,” that she as “very fair in the classroom and knowledgeable” and that “there was a fine line of respect that no one dared cross.”

Beall left Kent State in 1957 to conclude her teaching career in the extension division of The Ohio State University and retired to the family farm in Newark, Ohio. She was granted emerita status by the Board of Trustees in 1967.

She lived alone, spending most of her time writing letters and reading, until she developed a heart ailment in June 1986. She was treated at Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark and moved to a nursing home a day before her death on Aug. 5, 1986. She was 92 years old.



Beall Hall, located on the east side of the Kent Campus, was dedicated to Florence Gray Beall in 1966 and was originally a women-only residence hall. It was part of a dual dedication along with McDowell Hall. A 1966 *Kent Stater* article noted that these two residence halls, known as the Twin Towers, cost \$4.8 million and would expand on-campus housing by an additional 800 students, bringing it to a total of 7,000. Beall Hall now serves as a residence hall for students of all class rankings, with eight coed floors.



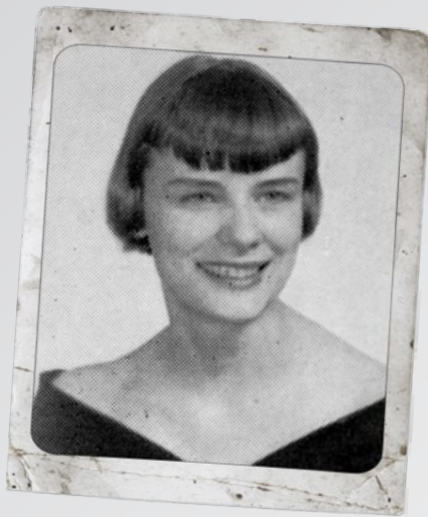
Bertha Nixon, standing left, at a faculty women's luncheon on the gallery of Kent Hall, circa 1930s.



The only residence hall on the Kent Campus named for a student is Koonce Hall, dedicated in 1968 in honor of Judith Ellen Koonce, BS '57. Known to her friends as Judy, she was born April 17, 1935, to James and Julia Koonce of Cleveland. After completing studies at George Washington Elementary School and John Marshall High School, she enrolled at Kent State in 1953.

Koonce was popular among her fellow Kent State students. She was elected sophomore treasurer, according to a *Kent Stater* article dated Nov. 1, 1954. She was selected as one of three finalists (from a field of 25) for Snowball Queen of a semi-formal dance and fundraising event hosted by Phi Sigma Kappa, according to a *Kent Stater* article dated Feb. 4, 1955. Koonce was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

She majored in biology and earned a Bachelor of Science in education in 1957. After graduating, she taught art and science at Eastmoor Junior High School in Columbus, Ohio, during the 1957–58 school year. She was an active member of the



Judith E. Koonce, 1957 Chestnut Burr

faculty and sponsored the Outdoor Club. She planned to enter graduate school at Kent State in September to work on a master's degree.

In the summer of 1958, Koonce was serving as a conservation instructor at Camp Clifton, operated by the 4-H organization, as she had for the past four summers. On the morning of July 17, 1958, according to an article from the *Xenia Daily Gazette* dated June 19, 1968, she was leading 40 campers on a hike at what is now the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, when an 11-year-old girl, Kyrleen Ruhl, lost her footing and fell into the Little Miami River—a 35-foot drop into 75 or 80 feet of rushing water.

Koonce told the other children to go to a nearby road and summon help.

Then she climbed part way down the cliff wall and leaped into the river in a rescue attempt. By the time sheriff deputies, firemen and police arrived, she and Kyrleen had drowned in the swift current. The event triggered a search for both victims, and the child's body was recovered that evening about 1,000 feet west of where she had fallen into the water. Koonce's body was recovered the following Sunday, July 20, 150 feet downstream.

After her tragic death, Koonce was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, an honor awarded to individuals who risk their lives attempting to save the lives of others. At the 4-H camp, a cabin bears her name. At Eastmoor, the school planted a redbud, her favorite tree, as a symbol of her love for the outdoors. Students contributed to the purchase of a bronze plaque, inscribed with her name and heroic attempt, that was placed at the base of the tree.

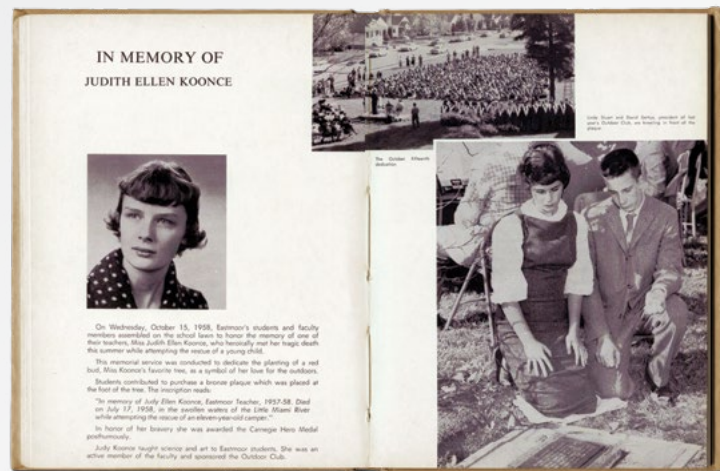
At Kent State, the Judith Koonce Memorial Award in biology was established in 1960 and still is awarded to "the outstanding graduating biological sciences major based on enthusiasm for biology as demonstrated by activities beyond formal coursework, leadership ability and academic record." Her legacy also lives on as the namesake of a residence hall in the Tri-Towers complex at Kent State.

Judith E. Koonce Hall, commonly known as Koonce Hall, was dedicated in 1968 and received a full renovation in 2014. The 10-story building has the distinction of being the largest individual residence hall on the Kent Campus, housing approximately 510 students. Judith Koonce's name and mention of her Carnegie Medal for Heroism are mounted on a bronze plaque in the main Koonce Hall lobby. Her portrait, donated by her Gamma Phi Beta sorority sisters, graces the staff office in the residence hall.

“After her tragic death, Koonce was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, an honor awarded to individuals who risk their lives attempting to save the lives of others.”



ABOVE: James and Julia Koonce, parents of Judith Koonce, at the dedication of Koonce Hall in 1968
RIGHT: Judith Koonce, 1957



ABOVE: Judith Koonce, Eastmoor Junior High School tribute
LEFT: Judith Koonce portrait, Koonce Hall



Bronze plaque mounted in the interior of Koonce Hall



MARIE HYDE APPLE



Marie E. Hyde, 1919

Marie Hyde Apple, BSE '31, Professor Emerita of Health and Physical Education, was the first chair of the Department of Women's Physical Education. She was born in Fairmont, Minnesota, but when she was quite young her family moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she grew up. She attended La Crosse State College and the University of Wisconsin before beginning a teaching career at Oshkosh State Normal School in 1916.

She came to Kent State Normal School in 1918 as the physical director of women, and she also became an associate professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education. Apple earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1931 while teaching at Kent State. She earned a master's degree at Columbia University in 1932 and then rejoined the Kent State faculty.

The 1926 *Chestnut Burr* notes that a lack of facilities and equipment made her work challenging for the first eight years she was at Kent State. However, in 1926, the completion of the Wills Gymnasium offered her the space and resources needed to excel in her role,

which was to oversee "training-school classes in physical training, practice teachers in physical education, and the college physical training classes for girls."

Apple was the first chair of the Department of Women's Physical Education. She was a member of the Women's Athletic Association, which was founded in 1928 to sponsor competitive individual and team sports for women. An athlete herself, Apple enjoyed bowling, tennis and badminton. She was an advisor of the Physical Education Club, which was comprised of male and female students studying physical education, and she was a faculty member on the athletic board.

Her teaching career in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Kent State University spanned 35 years, and she retired in 1953. Her papers, along with the Apple family papers (she married James G. Apple on Sept. 13, 1924), are housed at Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives.

Apple was granted emerita status in 1969 for her pioneering work in the development of physical education at Kent State. University records show her death date as Sept. 10, 2003, but no supporting paperwork exists. If that date is correct, she would have been around 107 years old (estimating that she was 20 years old when she began teaching in 1916).



Apple Hall was dedicated to Marie Hyde Apple on Nov. 22, 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Heer, Harbourt, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen. These dorms were designed specifically to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life. However, due to other campus renovations and expansions, several were deemed obsolete in 2008 and demolished, Apple Hall among them.

According to a 2008 *Kentwired.com* article, for many alumni who once called these small-group dorms "home," the demolition was truly a loss. As a result of requests from alumni, souvenir bricks from the buildings to be torn down were made available.

"I have so many wonderful memories of KSU, most especially [of] my freshman year at Apple Hall," said Katie McArthur, '99. "Apple Hall was a special place where being new to college and away from home didn't seem so intimidating. Apple Hall will be missed!"



Marie Hyde Apple, undated

MARION VAN CAMPEN



Marion Van Campen, undated

Marion K. Van Campen, EdD, Professor Emerita of elementary education, taught at Kent State from 1938 to 1961. Known nationally for her work, she was the first chair of the Department of Elementary Education.

Van Campen was born in Laramie, Wyoming. She attended elementary and secondary schools in Alabama, Canada and North Carolina. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tennessee in 1911, a Bachelor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1935 and a Doctor of Education (EdD) from Columbia University in 1938.

At Chicago, she studied under the father of progressive education, John Dewey. Although she acknowledged that some progressives went too far in applying his ideas, she thought they were sound: "We determine the child's needs and society's needs and try to combine the two, accelerating studies for the bright and trimming the curricula for the middle and slower learners."

Apparently, Dewey's approach worked for her, and she said she never had to discipline a child. "I found that

children became restless if they worked too long at one task or the task was too hard. The teacher must be alert to capture their interest. I do not say that physical discipline should not be used. I just never had to."

She taught at a Settlement House in Knoxville, Tennessee; the University of Pittsburgh's Demonstration School; and at private schools in Boston and Philadelphia. Her experience included public-school supervision in Pennsylvania, statewide supervision and extension work, and teaching at both the University of Tennessee and the University of Pennsylvania. She came to Kent State as an assistant professor in 1938, having previously taught there during summer sessions.

In 1946, when Van Campen was promoted to a full professorship and named head of the Department of Elementary Education (a position that had been vacant for a number of years) there was only one faculty member and fewer than 100 students. By the time she retired in 1961, the department had 15 faculty members and 1,500 students.

Working with individual international students and with US Department of Health, Education and Welfare-sponsored groups, Van Campen extended the influence of the elementary education faculty beyond Ohio into the international field.

She was also active in community recreation work and youth organizations. During World War II, she averaged at least one talk a week to local groups on recreation and elementary education. She is listed in *Who's Who in American Women* in 1959.

At her retirement in 1961, she was granted emerita status. Van Campen, who lived at 545 Rellim Drive in Kent, continued to teach at Kent State as a visiting professor until 1967. But she



Marion Van Campen with then-President Robert White and other small-group housing honorees, Lester Munzenmayer, George Altmann, and John McSweeney, 1969.

also devoted more time to her hobby of pen and ink drawings, an avocation she previously had practiced only at Christmastime.

She died on April 28, 1980, and her memorial service was held on May 13 in the chapel at the United Methodist Church in Kent.

Van Campen Hall was dedicated to Marion Van Campen in 1969. It was a part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Altmann, Apple, Heer, Harbourt, Humphrey, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, and Stewart. These dorms were designed to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life.

At various times, the 60-bed dorm building was home to the International Village Experience Living-Learning Community and the Phi Mu sorority. In recent years, Van Campen has housed the Office of Global Education. It currently is being used as on-campus quarantine housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.



NINA S. HUMPHREY



Nina S. Humphrey, 1916

Nina S. Humphrey, Professor Emerita of Art, was one of the original faculty members of Kent State Normal School when she arrived in 1913. Born in Richfield, Ohio, Humphrey was the great-granddaughter of Jonathan Hale, who settled in Bath Township in 1810. The Western Reserve Historical Society now operates the Hale homestead as a living history museum.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the Cleveland School of Art and a master's degree from Western Reserve University. She had been a supervisor of drawing at schools in Oak Hills, Illinois, prior to joining the faculty at Kent State.

Humphrey, who was an art professor as well as the founding head of the Department of Art, served on the faculty for 38 years. *Chestnut Burr* yearbooks from 1915 and 1916 note that "her cheery smile and motherly way have routed many cases of homesickness and blues," "her patience is everlasting" and "she has a cheerful word and smile for each and all, and

when one is in trouble, she will lend a willing hand of help." Needless to say, students enjoyed her classes.

While at Kent State, Humphrey was a faculty advisor to The Woman's League, a group for all women students, and Phi Theta Upsilon, one of the first sororities established at the university. She was an honorary member of Lambda Chi, which was organized in 1926 for students of the arts. Humphrey is also listed as the advisor of the Art Club in the 1945 *Chestnut Burr*.

During World War II, Humphrey developed courses for an occupational therapy program to be offered in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts. In addition to courses in arts and crafts, the program included physiology, anatomy, psychology and sociology courses, as well as practice work in hospitals. "There will be an urgent need for such service in the rehabilitation centers as part of our defense program," Humphrey says in a *Kent Stater* article dated Feb. 11, 1942.

Humphrey expanded the curriculum in the art department to introduce concentrations in jewelry design, weaving, lithography, wood cutting, and marionette and puppet design.

In a *Kent Stater* article dated May 19, 1948, on the occasion of Humphrey's 35th year of teaching at Kent State, she is described as "a quick and energetic woman, with a ready smile and a capacity for hard work." Humphrey recalled planning and organizing the art

department in 1913, when classroom work at the Kent Campus began. Offices were above the Kent National Bank, and classes were held in schools and churches in nearby cities until campus buildings were completed. There were 22 faculty members, 291 students and a few well-organized departments.

Besides her regular teaching activities, she was faced with administrative problems, the organization of curricula and the problem of supplies. "The days were always too short. . . . I have had a busy and exciting career here at Kent," she said. "If I could begin all over again, there isn't much I would change."

In the summer of 1949, she taught 13 students the art of hand weaving, an old craft that had been experiencing a revival "probably to get away briefly from this age of mass production in which we live," Humphrey says in a *Kent Stater* article dated July 22, 1949. "Weaving is satisfying as well as stimulating because it is creative."

Weaving would become a passion for Humphrey, who founded the Kent Weaver's Guild and designed many of her own patterns. She went on to win prizes for her work and continued to teach weaving on seven custom-made looms of different sizes in her Cuyahoga Falls home after retiring from Kent State. She also lectured, designed and supervised the construction of fine hand looms.



Nina S. Humphrey, 1938

An enthusiastic hobbyist, she collected pitchers and glassware, and at one time had 230 pieces. She became interested in colonial art during a trip through the Appalachian Mountains and collected samples from Sweden and other countries.

In 1951, Humphrey was granted emerita status only a few months after her retirement. She made her last public appearance at Kent State in 1963 at the 50th anniversary of the school's founding.

The last of the original Kent State faculty, Humphrey died on June 22, 1968, in a Peninsula nursing home after a year's illness. She was 88 years old.

“The days were always too short. . . . I have had a busy and exciting career here at Kent. If I could begin all over again, there isn't much I would change.”

Humphrey Hall was dedicated to Nina S. Humphrey in 1969. It was part of 11 two-story residence halls comprising the small-group housing complexes, which also included Apple, Altmann, Heer, Harbourt, Metcalf, McSweeney, Munzenmayer, Musselman, Stewart and Van Campen. These dorms were designed to assist first-year students with their transition to campus life. However, due to other campus renovations and expansions, several were deemed obsolete in 2008 and demolished, Humphrey Hall among them.



Nina S. Humphrey, 1933

Nina S. Humphrey, 1939

Nina S. Humphrey, 1941



Nina S. Humphrey, 1940



Humphrey Hall, 1971 *Chestnut Burr*



Linnea Henderson, undated

Linnea E. Henderson, EdD, is recognized as the founding dean of Kent State's School of Nursing, which was renamed the College of Nursing in 1999. She served at Kent State from 1967 to 1984.

Henderson received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the Idaho-based Northwest Nazarene College (now Northwest Nazarene University) in 1941. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts from Olivet College, a Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Education from Columbia University.

As most nurses were taught in a hospital setting at that time, Henderson began her career at the Grace Hospital School of Nursing in Detroit, where she was a faculty member. In 1955, she joined the faculty at the North Carolina School of Nursing and began an illustrious career in higher education.

Henderson became an associate professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati and then assistant dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Western Reserve (now Case Western Reserve University). She came to Kent State in 1967 as the first director

of the nursing program, which had been approved for development. Three years later, when the School of Nursing was established in 1970, Henderson was named dean.

During her tenure, she expanded the program significantly, increasing faculty from four to 60 and graduating more than 1,700 students with bachelor's degrees. Henderson also introduced a master's program in 1977; it was the fourth of its kind in Ohio and only the second in Northeast Ohio.

The Ohio Senate recognized Henderson in a 1984 resolution stating, "As a result of her strong belief in baccalaureate nursing education and her unwavering commitment to excellence, the school and its graduates have become recognized and accepted throughout the nation."

As the program grew, so did the needs of its faculty and students. From 1967 to 1978, they shuffled from Lowry Hall to the old Health Center to Franklin Hall. Finally, in 1978, they moved into a newly constructed facility built specifically for the needs of the School of Nursing.

Henderson played a large role in the design of the \$3 million building to ensure that it would accommodate the current and future needs of the program.

She was instrumental in establishing an honor society for nursing students and began an annual lecture series that attracted national nursing leaders to the campus.



Henderson Hall, built to Henderson's design specifications, was renamed and dedicated to Linnea E. Henderson in 1985. The three-story building, which still houses the College of Nursing, is located on the southeastern side of campus. It is situated across from the

The series was later renamed the Linnea Henderson Lecture Series.

Henderson's visionary leadership was recognized during her time as dean because of her local, state and national work in nursing education.

She was planning to retire in the summer of 1984 and was to receive the President's Medal, for contributions to the advancement of Kent State through extraordinary service, at a reception in March. However, she was unable to attend because of an acute illness.



Linnea Henderson in her office, undated

A week before her death, President Michael Schwartz presented her with the medal in the hospital.

Henderson died on April 25, 1984, at Suburban Community Hospital in Warrensville Heights, where she had been hospitalized for several weeks. She was 65. "She devoted almost all of her time to the university," said Irene Bosco, assistant dean at the School of Nursing at the time. "She didn't even like to take her vacations." Henderson was buried at Standing Rock Cemetery.

Mathematics and Computer Science Building and near the Liquid Crystals Materials Science Building. The 37,000-square-foot structure has a central atrium with a skylight at the top. Offices and other facilities are built around the atrium.



President Carol Cartwright, 2006

Carol A. Cartwright, PhD, President Emerita, became the 10th president and the first woman president of Kent State University in 1991, at the same time earning the distinction of first woman president of a state college or university in Ohio.

Cartwright earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1962, as well as a master's degree in special education and a doctoral degree in special education, educational research from the University of Pittsburgh in 1968.

Before coming to Kent State, she was vice chancellor for academic affairs and

professor of human development at the University of California at Davis and dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost at Penn State. She served as a member of the Penn State faculty in the College of Education from 1967 to 1988.

As an advocate of professional development and personal growth initiatives for women, Cartwright called for the development of a women's center on the Kent Campus; it was established in 1996. She also fought to eliminate gender inequities among Kent State sports teams.

Because of her contributions to higher education, Cartwright was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1996, her first year of eligibility. The induction highlighted the themes of her presidency: "redefining scholarships to embrace the entire spectrum of activities involved in teaching and research and dedicating the university to cultural diversity."

During her time at Kent State from 1991 to 2006, she was well known for her innovative teaching and leadership skills, as well as her commitment to supporting diversity and strengthening the relationship between the university and the city of Kent.

She was instrumental in building one of the finest programs in the nation to help GED candidates advance to pursue college degrees. Under her leadership, access and scholarship support for students became Kent State's top priority, the status of teaching and public service was elevated, and academic programs were implemented in a wide range of high-demand and emerging fields, including those in liquid crystal technology.



Cartwright dealt with declining state funding during her presidency, and under her leadership Kent State raised \$122 million in its first major fundraising campaign (1997 to 2003)—The Campaign for Kent State University.

After leading Kent State for 15 years, she retired in 2006. She became interim president of Bowling Green State University in 2008 and was named BGSU's 11th president and the first woman to lead the university in 2009. She retired in 2011.

Cartwright has held prominent roles in numerous educational and community organizations. In 2010, she was elected vice-chair to the National Public Radio board of directors, and she was a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics from 2000 to 2020.

She continues to support Kent State University through philanthropic efforts. In 2017, Cartwright and her family made a \$1 million estate gift to create scholarships at Kent State for underrepresented students who wish to engage in the arts. They pledged an additional \$10,000 per year to help students immediately through scholarships in the College of the Arts. Her family also gave several philanthropic gifts to the university for Founders Scholars, Porthouse Theatre, the School of Fashion and WKSU.

Carol A. Cartwright Hall, formerly known as the University Auditorium, was renamed in Cartwright's honor in 2006 after a unanimous vote from the Board of Trustees. Originally built in 1914, the Administration Building (with the front façade added in 1931) also housed the library, an auditorium and a makeshift gymnasium in the early years. The building and its auditorium received a major renovation in 2002.

It currently houses several Kent State offices, including Graduate Studies and the College of the Arts. It is also the home of the 800-seat University Auditorium, which hosts large music performances and events.



Roe Green, 2016

Roe Green, MA '80, is well known for her philanthropy and advocacy on behalf of the arts and theatre. Born in Beachwood, Ohio, she is the only child of Ben C. and Sylvia Chappy Green, who were instrumental in her arts education.

Her first experience with theater was narrating “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” to a group of adults when she was in kindergarten. While she enjoyed the limelight, she later found she preferred being behind the scenes directing or stage managing—although she was a competitive ballroom dancer for 12 years.

She graduated from Beachwood High School and received a bachelor’s degree in theatre and communications from the University of Colorado in 1970 before coming to Kent State to earn a master’s degree in theatre. She has extensive stage and business management experience, including at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights, with The Cleveland Opera and at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Green founded the Roe Green Foundation and stepped up her philanthropic efforts in 2003, shortly after her mother’s death. Much of the money she inherited came from her father, who died in 1983. He was a federal district court judge who had

invested well and “led by example,” says Green, who recalls many caring things he did for others, which inspired her own giving.

“I have a philosophy of life,” she says. “If I have five oranges, I eat one, I save one, and I give the other three away. And everything I give away comes back tenfold.”

Her foundation doesn’t accept applications or donate to individuals. Green supports institutions in line with her interests, many of which focus on arts education and other initiatives in Ohio, Florida and across the country.

The Roe Green Foundation established an annual visiting director’s series for the Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance in 2003. Through the program, the school each year invites a guest professional director to work in residence with students and direct one of the school’s Main Stage productions.

In 2006, the foundation pledged what at the time was the largest capital gift in Kent State history, \$6.5 million. This paid half the cost of an addition to the Music and Speech Building, which was named the Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance in 2010. For the first time in university history, theatre and dance—which had been divided between the Music and Speech Building and the Gym Annex—were united under one roof. The project brought the footprint of the School of Theatre and Dance to more than 70,000 square feet, creating a central location on campus for the performing arts.

In 2018, the foundation endowed the Roe Green Visiting Director Series with a gift of \$2.2 million, enabling the series to continue for decades to come.

An emerita member of the Kent State University Foundation board, Green also sits on the board of the School

of Theatre and Dance, and Porthouse Theatre. She participates in the “adopt an artist” program at Porthouse.

To show their gratitude, Kent State/Porthouse folks invited Green to make a cameo appearance each night at Porthouse in 2007 as the fairy godmother who appears at the end of the musical “Sweet Charity.” Afterward, they gave her the fairy-godmother gown she wore, which she displays at her Aurora home, according to a Nov. 7, 2010, cleveland.com profile. “It was a no-brainer,” says John Crawford-Spinelli, dean of the College of the Arts. “Roe was the perfect person to play the part. She has been a fairy godmother to all of us.”

Green is the recipient of the 2009 Ohio Arts Council’s Governor’s Arts Patron award and the President’s Medallion from Kent State. In 2015, she received the Kent State University College of the Arts’ inaugural Centennial Award for her service and patronage.

She travels extensively (she’s visited more than 160 countries) and has a second home in Jupiter, Florida—a community that is also the fortunate recipient of her philanthropy.

The Roe Green Center for Theatre and Dance was dedicated to Roe Green in 2010. The center was a \$13 million addition to the Music and Speech Building (now the Center for the Performing Arts). The renovated and newly constructed space houses programs in theatre, dance and music, and includes four dance studios, a black box theatre (a versatile space for experimental productions), a new entrance and lobby, a box office and a cafe.



President Beverly J. Warren, 2014

Beverly J. Warren, EdD, PhD, President Emerita, served as the 12th president of Kent State University from 2014 to 2019. She was known for her “Students First” focus, as well as her dedication to the well-being of all members of the university community.

Born in North Carolina, Warren was a first-generation student when she earned a Bachelor of Science in health and physical education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She went on to earn three advanced degrees: a Master of Science in health and physical education from Southern Illinois University, an EdD in higher education administration from the University of Alabama and a PhD in exercise physiology from Auburn University.

She taught and held administrative positions at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, and Lander University in South Carolina. She was provost and senior vice president for academic affairs of Virginia Commonwealth University before coming to Kent State.

Warren’s work in the areas of childhood obesity and the impact of physical activity on metabolic health



earned her the title of Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine. She is also a fellow of the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Under Warren’s leadership, Kent State produced an ambitious five-year strategic plan. It focused on putting students first and raising the profile of Kent State as one of the top public research universities in the nation, through a distinctive blend of teaching, research and creative excellence.

Through her personal philanthropy, Warren established two funds to support students in their pursuit of research participation: the Beverly J. Warren Summer Undergraduate Research Experience fund and the Beverly J. Warren Graduate Scholarship fund.

She also led development of a 10-year facilities master plan, a \$1 billion transformative journey to better serve the needs of students and the blended communities of the Kent Campus and the city of Kent. The plan highlighted the welcoming feel of the university’s iconic Front Campus and genuine sense of place, elevated inclusive healthy living-learning environments, linked a campuswide series of spaces focused on innovation and expanded the dynamic synergy with the city of Kent.

Warren continued to expand the process of honoring and commemorating May 4, 1970, as one community, preparing the way for the 50th commemoration in 2020. On Aug. 15, 2018, she addressed a large audience at the Chautauqua Institution—including KSU alumni, witnesses and victims of the shootings—to reflect on the pain and promise of remembering May 4, 1970. Her speech, “Kent State Beyond the Shootings: Journey of the Wounded Healer,” gained a national audience

when *Vital Speeches* magazine selected it as its Speech of the Week.

She embraced the Regional Campuses, visiting all of them on a presidential listening tour during her first year at Kent State. She also established a One University Commencement Ceremony in 2017—the first time all graduates from the eight-campus system were convened and honored in one ceremony.

Warren was often seen around the campuses, talking with students and cheering on Golden Flashes at sports events. With the ubiquitous presence of cellphones during her tenure—and her popularity with students—catching a selfie with President Warren became something of a bucket list item for many Kent State students.

Upon her departure, Warren received 600 farewell letters from students. At her last Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees surprised her with a large selfie, created as a mosaic of hundreds of smaller selfies sent in by the Kent State community. They also announced the renaming of the recreation and wellness center.

Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center was named in her honor in 2019 following a vote by the trustees, who, among other accolades, recognized her for “her superb academic record as a professor in exercise science and her advocacy for healthy lifestyles.”

The 153,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art fitness amenities and serves as a fitting tribute to Warren, who was committed to the health and wellness of the entire Kent State community. After being closed for the first months of the pandemic, the center reopened on Aug. 17, 2020. ⚡



A FORCE FOR GOOD

Sarah Shendy, BA '06, loves her job in law enforcement and recruitment—and is determined to develop a more diverse police force to benefit communities.

By Stephanie Langguth, BS '03, MPA '19, and Jan Senn

Sarah Shendy, BA '06, has always been interested in why people do what they do. Born into a Muslim household, she lived in Egypt and Saudi Arabia before coming to the United States with her family in 1990, at age 6. Growing up in America, she noticed the difference between her structured, disciplined home life and the less restricted home life of most of her friends.

“Many Arab American families, especially those with young kids or teenagers, struggle because inside the home, it’s one world, and outside the home, it’s a whole different world,” says Shendy, who has dual US and Egyptian citizenship. “My siblings and I never attended a school dance or football game. When I was younger, my parents would say, ‘Don’t do this,’ and I wanted to know *why*. I wasn’t being defiant, I just wanted to know why we weren’t able to do certain things. And they never told us.

“Now, as a mature adult, I understand that my parents were trying to protect us, as most parents do. They were terrified of what would happen if we were out with people who had different values, ethics and morals. In many ways, I am grateful for being spared a lot of the unnecessary trouble and drama that some of my friends experienced because they just did whatever they wanted. However, in the Middle Eastern culture, we need to do better in terms of understanding others and communicating the reasons for living as we do.”

Shendy also thinks that parents need to realize that they can’t control their kids’ environment and they can’t really control their kids. “All you can do is keep communication open with them, let them

know you love them, you support them and that whatever they’re not allowed to do is for a reason—because you want them to be safe and successful.”

When it comes to success, education is valued in the Shendy family.

Her father earned a PhD in polymer chemistry at The University of Akron in 1992 and works as a chemical scientist at BASF Inc. in Beachwood, Ohio. Her mother teaches Arabic studies at Faith Islamic Academy housed within the Islamic Society of Akron and Kent Mosque.

Enrolled at Kent State, Shendy wasn’t sure what she wanted to study—even though going into pre-med was strongly encouraged by her father. For her first two years, she majored in biology, but struggled with the electives. “I have to be a hundred percent engaged with and passionate about what I’m doing or it just doesn’t work,” she says.

Unhappy with her classes, it dawned on her that she had always been drawn to juvenile delinquents. “I felt that the majority of kids who were making bad decisions were doing so because they lacked structure, discipline and standards,” Shendy says. “Had they had love, support and proper leadership from someone who believed in them, they wouldn’t be like that. I wanted to help these kids become better, stronger human beings who can learn from adversity and do something great with their lives.” So she decided to study criminal justice.

However, Shendy never considered going into law enforcement until after she graduated from Kent State with a bachelor’s degree in justice studies. At the time, one of her criminal justice professors, James Owens (who also ran the newly resurrected Kent State Police Academy in 2007) told her that she’d make a great officer. He had noted her communication skills, compassionate character and love of working with people.

“I made the decision to join the academy and fell in love with law enforcement,” Shendy says. “Since then, my life has never been the same.”

At first, she says, her parents did not support her decision (“Who wants their daughter to go into police work?”) but they eventually accepted it when they saw how passionate she was about her chosen career and how good she was at the job.

“I wouldn’t be as happy or fulfilled if it wasn’t for how amazing and supportive my family has been,” Shendy says. “I celebrate all my work anniversaries every year because I love my job so much and all that it has allowed me to do and accomplish. And, of course, because of the wonderful people I meet on their darkest days. They are the reason I get up every day and do what I do.”

After graduating from the police academy (the first class to graduate since

“I wanted to help these kids become better, stronger human beings who can learn from adversity and do something great with their lives.”



From left to right: Sarah Shendy, BA '06; Ayat Shendy, BS '08; Fatima Shendy, BS '16, MS '18; Faten Abdeldaim (their mother); Shimaa Shendy, BS '07. Front row: Shimaa Shendy's children, Yazzie (age 5) and Kenzie (age 4). "They're my everything," says Sarah Shendy of her family. In the Islamic culture and tradition, a woman keeps her father's surname and does not change it upon marriage. *Courtesy of Sarah Shendy*

1986), she worked as a corrections officer for a juvenile detention center in Cuyahoga County and as a police officer for the Creston Police Department. She joined the Copley Police Department in 2008 and earned a master's degree in criminal justice with a minor in global issues from Kaplan University in 2012.

In 2012, as the only Muslim woman police officer she knew of at the time (she knows others now), she also developed an independent training program to instruct police officers on diversity and how to interact with Middle Eastern and Muslim communities. "I felt a personal and professional obligation to

educate my law enforcement family about my Middle Eastern and Muslim family and vice versa," Shendy says. "I wanted to make sure there was understanding and a good line of communication between the Muslim community and law enforcement."

She has given talks at mosques about law enforcement. "Many Muslims don't understand what US police officers do and why," she says. "They compare law enforcement in this country to law

"I wanted to make sure there was good communication between the Muslim community and law enforcement."

enforcement in Middle Eastern countries. And I tell them it's not the same. For example, in Middle Eastern countries, community-oriented policing does not exist. The police are not there to be your friend or protect you; they are there to protect the government and country.

That's different than in the United States, where citizens have so many rights and freedoms, despite the fact that tragedies can still happen. I talk about basic things, like what to do if you're stopped by the police. In Middle Eastern countries, if the police stop you, you get out of the car. Here, of course, you don't want to do that."

Shendy was chosen to chair the community policing subcommittee of the Ohio Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training in 2014. The 16-member panel was appointed by then-Attorney General Mike DeWine to make recommendations on how police officers are trained in Ohio, in an effort to address distrust and unrest sparked by police use of force in the Black community. The committee completed its objective in April 2015.

While still working for the Copley Police Department, she was recruited as a Law Enforcement Training Officer for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, where she taught from 2016 to 2020. She also was a terrorism liaison officer in the Northeast Ohio region, trained to support public safety and handle the threat of terrorism.

In June 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine appointed Shendy to become the first director of the newly created Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment—following clashes between police and protesters in Columbus and Cleveland after the death of George Floyd.

She welcomed the challenge. "I take my role to heart," Shendy says, "because I love and care about our profession and the men and women in uniform across the state and country."

Shendy, who lives in Summit County, commutes to her full-time job as a police officer and works from home for her state job as a recruiter. "I take advantage of every good opportunity that comes my way, and I do my best to make it work," she says. "I feel blessed to work with communities across the state and tell them how amazing law enforcement is and why they should join our family."

The Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment has two major goals: to educate the public on the policing profession and to assist law enforcement agencies in recruiting, hiring and retaining qualified candidates.

Shendy has a clear goal for herself, as well: "As director, I want to do all I can to ensure that Ohio leads the nation in

She also encourages women and minorities to consider the profession. "A lot of us may shy away from doing things that make us stand out or feel different. However, in law enforcement our differences are what make us an asset to our departments and our communities. With a diverse group of officers, we will have so much talent and cultural knowledge in our police departments; it would be a huge benefit to our communities."

Shendy is working on getting Ohio to accommodate women officers who wear a religious head scarf, known in the Muslim religion as a hijab. "That accommodation exists in a lot of other states, but not in Ohio," she says. "Changing that would open the door for

women and minorities from all backgrounds."

A number of the nearly 900 law enforcement agencies in Ohio have started contacting Shendy about the job openings they have available, which she plans to list on the Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment website as soon as the technology is in place.

"It will make the hiring and application process a lot easier for potential recruits," she says. "We're also developing a mentorship program because having support while you're going through the academy is extremely important, especially when it comes to women and minorities."

While Shendy's career has allowed her to work in many communities throughout Ohio, she stays connected to Kent State in both her personal and professional life.

"There are five kids in my family and four of us graduated from Kent State," Shendy says. While a student on the Kent

Campus, she joined campus organizations that not only helped her feel connected to the university community, but also helped expand her understanding of the world.

One of those organizations was the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

"My sisters [Shimaa Shendy, BS '07, Ayat Shendy, BS '08, and Fatima Shendy, BS '16, MS '18] and I were all members of the MSA," she says. "It definitely helped us meet diverse groups of students on campus; I met students from Sudan, India, Pakistan and Algeria. I still keep in touch

with some of them today. We also had dinners and activities with other religious groups on campus, and it helped increase our awareness and knowledge about other religions and cultures."

Shendy says her time at Kent State also prepared her for where she is today. "I had the best professors and advisors. They had real-life experience, were knowledgeable and passionate about criminal justice, and I knew they cared. They believed in me and pushed me to reach my full potential. When I speak to young men and women about attending college or the police academy, I always recommend Kent State."

In her current role, Shendy's evident passion for her job is sure to inspire potential recruits. "If you want to become a change agent in your community, if you want to advocate for vulnerable populations and speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves, if you feel your calling is to help others rise, heal and move past trauma—then your calling is law enforcement," she says. "We're in the business of saving and changing lives, and nothing beats that. The ability to help, forgive, and bring others to healing and progress is my absolute favorite part of the job—and, I feel, the most honorable." 🌟

Learn about the Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment at <https://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ler/>.

Learn about Kent State's Peace Officer Training Academy at <https://www.kent.edu/policeacademy>.



Sarah Shendy with her father, Samy Shendy. *Courtesy of Sarah Shendy*

recruiting and hiring best practices. I'm a resource to all Ohio law enforcement agencies and am willing and eager to help with whatever they need.

"Whether it's talking to a group of high school students, speaking to a criminal justice college class, or presenting at the local mosque or church, these discussions are important. I want people to get to know the officers who serve their community and realize we are there to serve them and protect what matters most. If we properly educate people on what we do as police officers and why we love this job so much, I feel it will improve our recruitment efforts."

CATCHING UP WITH CAROL CARTWRIGHT

While Kent State President Emerita Carol Cartwright may be enjoying more extracurricular activities these days, she continues to work in service of higher education.

By Candace Goforth DeSantis, BS '94

Being a national thought leader in higher education doesn't leave much time for hobbies and artistic expression. But retirement—and a pandemic lockdown—has given Kent State President Emerita Carol Cartwright, PhD, exactly that.

"I've taught myself to do needlepoint, and I'm growing lemons on my back deck," says Cartwright, who moved in 2019 to Napa, California, with her husband, Phil, to be closer to two of their three children.

"I love to cook. For years, when I was a senior administrator, there wasn't a lot of time to be home during the dinner hour. So it's been fun to explore cooking."

Earlier this year, Cartwright retired from the prestigious Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, an independent group that provides authoritative leadership prioritizing college athletes' well-being and educational experience. However, that retirement only signals the next phase of a career devoted to higher education.

In 1991, when Cartwright was named president of Kent State University, she became the first woman to hold that position at any public college or university in Ohio. Prior to her time at Kent State, she served as dean for undergraduate programs and vice provost of Penn State and then vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, Davis. After a 15-year tenure at Kent State, she retired in 2006. She became interim president of Bowling Green State University in 2008 and was named BGSU's 11th president and the first woman to lead the university in 2009. She retired from there in 2011.

Since then, Cartwright's focus has been on the extracurricular activities—specifically athletics—that enrich students' college years.

"I absolutely believe that the college experience should be more than the academic component, which of course is very important," she says. "But for traditional-aged students, organizations and

activities as well as athletics help them learn, grow and figure out where they fit in life."

Cartwright was a prominent voice on the Knight Commission for more than 20 years. During that time, she served for several years as co-chair with Arne Duncan, who was secretary of education during the Obama administration.



Carol Cartwright, 2009 Courtesy of BGSU

The Knight Commission has no decision-making authority, but its research and recommendations often guide National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) policy. Under Cartwright's leadership, the commission made bold recommendations that resulted in major transformation in college sports for the benefit of college athletes. It encouraged colleges to devote a greater portion of their athletics department budgets to scholarships and financial aid and put more focus on health and safety precautions.

Cartwright also contributed to the commission's recommendation that institutions be rewarded for their teams' academic and graduation success through a change in the distribution of a portion of revenue from the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, known as March Madness. She also helped frame the commission's

recommendations for principles to guide new rules on the use of college athletes' names, images and likenesses.

This December, in one of Cartwright's last projects with the commission, the group recommended that the NCAA change the Division I model to spin off the top-tier football programs—the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS)—from the rest of the association. The FBS's lucrative tournaments are already governed separately.

In an unusually direct statement explaining its recommendation, the commission asserted that "separating the sport of FBS football from the NCAA would end Division I's financially dysfunctional system of governance, in which the

NCAA absorbs all national expenses for FBS football, without receiving any financial benefits from the sport or its College Football Playoff."

According to the statement, those expenses include enforcement, catastrophic insurance, legal services, health and safety administration, and research. Because of this growing financial burden, the commission felt an urgency to address the situation.

"We decided to take a more assertive approach than you've seen in past reports," says Cartwright, noting that the work of the commission dates back to the early 1990s, when the group was first formed as a project of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. "In the past we were more willing to keep 'working through the system.' But now, the [commission's] tone is that the stakes are too high. We need to be more assertive about getting people on board and having a more explicit path forward."

"FOR TRADITIONAL-AGED STUDENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS ATHLETICS HELP STUDENTS LEARN, GROW AND FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY FIT IN LIFE."

The Knight Commission recommended that this path forward include the creation of a new governing entity—the proposed National College Football Association—that would be funded by College Football Playoff revenues and would manage all issues related to the FBS.

In addition to the Knight Commission, Cartwright has held leadership positions in higher education's most renowned organizations, chairing the board of directors of the American Association for Higher Education and serving on the boards of the American Council on Education, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities. She also has been a leading member of numerous regional and statewide cultural, civic and economic development organizations, including the boards of NPR, KeyCorp, PolyOne Corp. and FirstEnergy Corp.

Highly regarded throughout the world of higher education, Cartwright holds a special place of honor at Kent State. When she left in 2006, the university renamed its auditorium building Carol A. Cartwright Hall.

For Cartwright, the appreciation is mutual. In 2017, she and her family made a \$1 million estate gift to establish the Cartwright Family Fund for Opportunities in the Arts, an endowment aimed at giving students from underrepresented populations the chance to participate in the arts. The Cartwrights also make an annual gift to the fund to ensure that the scholarship can benefit students



Carol Cartwright speaks in Washington, DC, at a meeting of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in May 2016.

Lisa Helfert/Knight Commission

right away. To mark her retirement, the Knight Foundation made a \$25,000 gift to the fund in her honor.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made these post-Knight Commission days look more like actual retirement than Cartwright ever intended. But she's enjoying the novelty of unscheduled time. She says she has completed a few needlepoint projects, and she particularly values her daily 2-mile walks with her husband.

However, that doesn't mean retirement is in Cartwright's long-term plans. She continues to serve as senior fellow and consultant for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and sits on the board of directors for the Collegiate Women Sports Awards and co-chairs the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

"I have been looking in the local Napa area for somewhere to volunteer. Before the pandemic hit, I was exploring something in literacy," she says. "As you can guess, I'm just not well wired for retirement." ⚡



Carol Cartwright and her husband, G. Phillip Cartwright, PhD, attend a Founder's Ball at Kent State in November 2019. Bob Christy, BS '95

Learn more about the Cartwright Family Fund for Opportunities in the Arts at <https://www.kent.edu/philanthropy/news/former-kent-state-university-president-gives-1-million-scholarships>.

Learn more about estate and planned gifts at www.kent.edu/legacy.

alumni LIFE
class NOTES

1940s

Alita (Boecker) Neff-Dupuis, BA '43, Beverly Hills, FL, turned 100 years young on Feb. 17, 2021. Since her children wouldn't be able to celebrate with her because of the pandemic, one of her daughters, Susan Grace, reached out to see if Kent State could give her a surprise Happy Birthday greeting.

She sent along a current photo and a clipping from a newspaper dated Jan. 25, 1941, which announced that Alita Boecker, a Kent State sophomore from Melrose, Massachusetts, had been named the first Chestnut Burr Queen.

After digging into Kent State's digital collections (https://omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/) we discovered that, in addition to being selected queen by more than 800 student votes, she also had been quite involved in extracurricular activities—as manager of the women's modern dance club, treasurer of Moulton Hall dormitory, secretary of the art club, chairman of the decorations committee for the Sophomore Sweater Swagger dance and more.

She majored in history and government and became a librarian after graduation. She also met her first husband, William G. Neff, at Kent State in 1940. He enlisted in the US Army shortly after Pearl Harbor and later transferred to the US Air Force. They married in 1944 and had five children. The family moved to Miami, Florida, after he left the service in 1957. Although they divorced in 1969 and later both remarried, they remained lifelong friends. (William Neff died in May 2014 at age 95.)

According to her daughter, "She still stays connected with her social club friends and remains engaged with her reading, gardening, fabric arts, computer activities, etc. Mom is thriving, living

independently and enjoying life to the fullest. Staying physically and mentally active has kept her young at heart and of spirit."

On her birthday, Kent State posted birthday greetings on Facebook and Instagram.



Above: Students named Alita Boecker the first Burr Queen in 1941. She is pictured in the 1941 Chestnut Burr. Inset, above left: A KSU Instagram post highlighted Alita (Boecker) Neff-Dupuis's 100th birthday on Feb. 17, 2021.

Martin E. Gordon, BS '44, St. Louis, wrote, "I am hoping to inspire young students who may be wondering whether their studies will ever become fruitful. I was a day student applying for numerous applications for medical school, yet I suddenly became the first Kent State University student to be admitted to the Yale School of Medicine.

"At 99 years of age, I wish to urge students to recognize the virtues of the Kent State valued scholastics and recall that your future rests on diligent focus, generated within. The background I received as a pre-med student contributed immensely to that Yale admission and then followed a career in academic teaching. I hope to stimulate others into the exciting and ever-expanding biosciences."

Dr. Gordon is a renowned gastroenterologist and expert in travel medicine. He served as clinical professor of medicine at Yale University School of Medicine and emeritus chairman and lifetime trustee at Cushing/Whitney Medical Library. During

his medical career, he diagnosed patients with mysterious gastrointestinal symptoms and provided fellow physicians with guides to diagnoses and cures via educational materials, lectures and exhibits. He has authored many scientific publications—which focus on clinical solutions—and has received awards for his medical films and other efforts.

His new e-book, Plants R Cures: An Almanac of Plants and Medicine (LifeRich Publishing, 2019), explores the intersection of plants and medicine, now and in the past, while also offering a practical guide to the use of herbs to treat a large variety of ailments. The book also features anecdotal patient cases from his storied practice and world travels.

Dr. Gordon continues as a senior attending physician at the Free Clinic in University City, Missouri, teaching medical, nursing and pharmacy students, while treating (with translators) many international immigrants.



1950s



For more information, see article from Cleveland Jewish News at: http://bit.ly/EllisLewinbarmitzvah.

Ellis Lewin, who attended Kent State from 1952–1953, Pepper Pike, OH, celebrated his bar mitzvah on Jan. 26, 2021—75 years after missing it while imprisoned as a 13-year-old at Auschwitz. His family and friends gathered virtually for the event, which he hadn't thought about doing until confined to bed last year.

Lewin's mother and sister were murdered in the gas chambers at Auschwitz, and Lewin was liberated from Dachau in April 1945 by the 3rd Armored Division of the US Army. Then 14, Lewin was separated from his father and brought to the United States by the Jewish Children's Bureau with nine other children and placed at the home of Winifred Freyer in Cleveland. He studied to be a concert pianist like his father.

In 1949, Lewin learned his father was in a displaced persons camp. Freyer paid for his father's passage to Cleveland, and Lewin relocated to East Cleveland to live with his father, graduating from Shaw High School, then commuting daily to the Kent Campus for two years. In 1953, he was drafted by the US Army and served as a tank commander in the 3rd Armored Division in the Korean War.

Upon returning in 1955, he married, became a businessman and raised his family in Cleveland Heights and Chester Township. For 20 years, he spoke about his Holocaust experience to high school students across Ohio and through Face to Face, the Holocaust education program then run by Congregation Shaarey Tikvah in Beachwood, Ohio.

Save the Date for Homecoming 2021!

Kent State will celebrate Homecoming 2021 on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021. Plans are underway for events activities, both virtual and in-person, that can occur safely, including such classic traditions as Homecoming Court, Kiss on the K and the Bowman Cup 5K Race. Details are still being determined and will be shared as they develop at www.kent.edu/homecoming.

In addition to Homecoming festivities, the university will celebrate the Class of 2020 with an in-person commencement ceremony during Homecoming Weekend. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual commencement ceremonies were held for the Class of 2020 with a promise to graduating students that they would be invited back to campus for commencement when it is deemed safe to do so.

"The commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on the Kent Campus," wrote Kent State President Todd Diacon in a letter to 2020 graduates inviting them back to their alma mater to celebrate their commencement. "It will be the full and complete celebration you deserve.

"We are looking forward to seeing alumni join us back on campus after having nearly a year and a half of virtual interactions," Diacon added. "There is a lot to celebrate, and honoring our new Class of 2020 graduates alongside their fellow Golden Flashes alumni here on campus is going to be very exciting."



Official White House Photo
by Shealah Craighead



Lou Holtz, BS '59, Honorary Doctor of Law '94, Orlando, FL, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Dec. 3, 2020. This prestigious award is the nation's highest civilian honor.

Holtz is recognized as one of the greatest coaches of all time for his accomplishments on the gridiron. He is also a philanthropist and author.

After growing up in a small town in West Virginia, Holtz attended Kent State and was the first member of his family to enroll in college. He played football, studied history and joined the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps. For the next seven years, he served as an officer in the United States Army Reserves.

Upon graduating from Kent State, Holtz began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at

the University of Iowa. He landed his first head coaching job at the College of William & Mary, leading the team to the Southern Conference title and an appearance in the Tangerine Bowl.

Over the next 35 years, Holtz led successful college football teams, including North Carolina State, the University of Arkansas, the University of Minnesota and the University of South Carolina. He also coached the New York Jets during a 13-game stint in professional football. He compiled an impressive overall record of 249-132-7. Most notably, Holtz earned an outstanding 100-30-2 record in 11 seasons at the University of Notre Dame. His 1988 team earned a perfect 12-0 record and was crowned national champion. Most importantly, he inspired generations of young athletes along the way.

Since his retirement from coaching, Holtz has authored several books and contributed to ESPN and CBS as a sports analyst. He continues to give back to his community through two charities, the Holtz Charitable Foundation and the Holtz's Heroes Foundation.

Holtz has received honorary doctorates from the University of Notre Dame, the University of South Carolina, Trine University in Indiana and the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame and the Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame, among many other accolades.

Mossman is well known in the community as a champion of preserving historic resources, a member of various advisory bodies, a popular speaker and a passionate and effective preservation advocate. The early days of the organization focused on Old Pasadena, the Colorado Street Bridge, the Civic Center and city neighborhoods.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, she traveled widely with her family, spending years in southern France, Bangkok and Rome. She graduated from Kent State with a major in English and moved to Southern California in 1969. Since 1976, she has lived in a Craftsman home in Pasadena's Madison Heights neighborhood, where she was a successful neighborhood advocate before joining the Pasadena Heritage staff.

1970s

Michael Chanak Jr., BS '71, Cincinnati, wrote, "The last film I was in for P&G, *They Will See You: LGBTQ+ Visibility in Advertising*, by Brent Miller, Otto Bell and Jordan Shavarebi (Great Big Story), has been nominated by GLAAD [an American nongovernmental media monitoring organization] for the 32nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards in the category of Outstanding Online Journalism—Video or Multimedia." See <http://bit.ly/TheyWillSeeYou>.

Barbara Brothers, PhD '73, Youngstown, OH, who had a distinguished 40-year career as a faculty member and administrator at Youngstown State University, has endowed a scholarship for Black graduates of Youngstown City School District. The Dr. Barbara Brothers Scholarship in Education will assist Black students majoring in education at YSU. Brothers expects that these students will return to the school district one day to inspire the next generation of educators.

Brothers began her career at Youngstown State as an adjunct instructor in 1960. She held various roles and spearheaded initiatives across campus, including state and federal grants for



1960s

Stanley Sipka, BS '64, MEd '74, Tallmadge, OH, wrote, "I taught at Cuyahoga Falls High School for 33 years, retiring in 1997. I just had my book, *Memoirs of a Shop Teacher*, published by Balboa Press. The book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Balboa Press."

Sue Mossman, BA '69, Pasadena, CA, executive director of Pasadena Heritage, received the California Preservation Lifetime Achievement award

Leona W. Farris, MA '70, Copley, OH, was honored by the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District, which declared Jan. 25, 2021, Leona W. Farris Day in honor of the matriarch of one of the first Black families to live in Stow, Ohio. A plaque displaying the proclamation was hung at the entrance of Stow-Munroe Falls High School, and a duplicate plaque was presented to Laura Farris-Daugherty, who accepted it for her mom (age 103), whom she calls "The Petite Wonder."

Leona Farris and her husband, physician Melvin Farris, moved to Stow in 1954, and their children were the first Black children to attend the Stow schools. Farris was involved with her husband's work in the Summit County Medical Auxiliary, volunteered with the PTA, and in the 1960s, helped stop the local Girl Scout group's use of minstrel shows for fundraising activities.

She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from The Ohio State University, where she joined a successful effort to integrate the dormitories. After earning a master's degree from Kent State, in 1969 she became the first Black woman to teach as an assistant professor at The University of Akron. The university established a Leona W. Farris Scholarship in 1987, and she retired from there in 1988.

Farris was also involved with the NAACP, United Way, the Western Reserve Girl Scout Council, American Field Service and she has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority for 82 years. (Vice President Kamala Harris is a sorority sister.)

The city of Stow honored Farris by renaming Silver Springs Lodge as Leona Farris Lodge. (See <http://bit.ly/LeonaFarris> and <http://bit.ly/LeonaFarris2>)

working with public schools. After serving as the acting graduate dean in 1993, she became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (now the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education). In 2001, Brothers retired from Youngstown State. In 2015, she received the university's Heritage Award for professional accomplishments and community service.

She remains active in civic causes and serves on the boards of YWCA Mahoning Valley, Youngstown Rotary, League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown, WYSU, Youngstown Garden Club, Lit Youngstown and the American Association of University Women.

Mike Wilt, BS '73, St. Helena Island, SC, wrote: "From January to June 1973, I participated in the 1973 Spring Semester on the United Nations System program, sponsored by the Center for International and Comparative Programs. It included trips and studies in Washington, DC; New York, NY; Geneva, Switzerland; and United Nations offices and sites throughout Europe. It was truly a great experience in my life. Before long it will be the 50th anniversary of this trip, and I would love to locate the participants to reconnect and see what has transpired in all those years since then. I have everyone's name but I have lost track of their whereabouts. If you are one of the 18 participants from Kent State and/or know of the location of the other participant from Heidelberg University in Ohio, please contact me at mwilt08@gmail.com."

Fred Jermyn, BS '74, San Diego, wrote, "On Aug. 14, 2020, Brian Grubich [former athletics leadership annual giving officer and former assistant director of The Golden Flashes Club] announced via email the Kent State Men's Soccer

All-Decade Teams for the 1960s and 1970s. These two teams are the first selections by the school for any of their sports over the years.

"Voting was conducted by the men's soccer alumni last spring, since there are no personnel currently at the university who had knowledge of the performances of participants in the program, which concluded at the end of the fall 1980 season. The individuals selected had received the most votes as tabulated by the school. No one could cast a vote for themselves, there was only one ballot that could be submitted by each voter, and there was no outside influence for weighing votes.

"The intent of the university for recognizing all-decade teams is a tremendous honor for the Kent State Men's Soccer program and its participants." For a list of the best players and coach from each decade see http://ksu.convio.net/site/MessageViewer?em_id=9813.o&dlv_id=11183.

David C. Lange, BA '75, Malvern, OH, was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in October 2020, in recognition for outstanding service to the community, state and nation after military service. A Navy veteran (on active duty from 1968 until 1971) and accomplished journalist, Lange has written extensively on topics such as Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress in military veterans and is the author of a coming-of-age memoir, *Virginity Lost in Vietnam* (Act 3 Publishing, 2018).

During his journalism career, he worked at four newspapers in Northeast Ohio and served as editor at the *Geauga Times Leader*. He helped found a Western Reserve Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America in 1988, which is no longer active, and now is a member of the New Philadelphia chapter of Vietnam Veterans

Outstanding Service Award, the Jefferson County Friend of 4-H Award and the statewide Friend of the Forest award, presented by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry. She is a past recipient of the Agriculture Communicator of the Year award from the Ohio Agri-Women, the Ohio Farm Bureau's Agriculture Communicator Award and the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association's Distinguished Service Award.

She has also received numerous awards for her writing, including honors from the North American Agricultural Journalists, the National Newspaper Association, Inland Press Association and American Agricultural Editors Association. She is a five-time winner of the Best Columnist award from the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists.

Crowell has been the Distinguished Guest Lecturer in Agricultural Communications at The Ohio State University, and she is also a guest lecturer at Walsh University in North Canton. She served on the vice president's advisory council for the dean of The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and is a past president of the statewide OSU Extension advisory council.



Nick Saban Jr., BS '73, MEd '75, Tuscaloosa, AL, recently was named to the board of the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches, which aims to promote and produce qualified minority coaches at every level of football. Saban—who played defensive back at Kent State for coaching legend Don James and joined the staff at Kent State as a graduate assistant in 1973 while his wife, Terry, finished her degree—has been head football coach at the University of Alabama since 2007.

After leading Alabama to a 52-24 decision over Ohio State in the College Football Playoff National Championship on Jan. 11, 2021 in Miami, Saban owns the record for most national championships by a head coach in college football history.

The first coach to win a national title in three different decades, he has won seven national titles (the first at LSU in 2003, with the other six at Alabama), nine SEC titles and has the third-best winning percentage among active coaches.

He and his wife, who married while in college, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2021. Together they've raised and donated more than \$9 million to hundreds of organizations through their nonprofit, Nick's Kids.

For eight years, she was also one of Ohio's three delegates to the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching. She also served as the CARET liaison to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, the governing committee for the national Cooperative Extension System.

She was the first person from Columbiana County accepted into the statewide two-year agricultural Leadership Education and Development program (better known as LEAD), which culminated in a two-week international agricultural study tour to Chile and Mexico. She has also participated in agricultural study missions to the former Soviet Union, Israel and Cuba.

Crowell lives in eastern Ohio with her husband, Keith. They have two adult children, Annette and Jon. She is a member and elder of the New Lisbon Presbyterian Church and a member of the Columbiana County Farm Bureau.

alumni LIFE

of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He is on the board of the Carroll County Veterans Club.

Tom R. Halfhill, BS ’77, Burlingame, CA, has retired after 43 years as a journalist and technology analyst. Most recently he was a senior analyst at *Microprocessor Report*. Halfhill started at the *Lorain Journal* in 1977 and began covering technology in 1982. He launched five computer magazines and a technology newsletter, and he was a senior editor at *Byte Magazine*. He was a co-author, contributor or editor of more than 20 books on computers, the Civil War and crime. He also worked for British tech company ARC Cores. In retirement, he has joined the Microprocessor Report Editorial Board.

1980s

Lawrence R. Armstrong, BS ’80, BArc ’80, San Clemente, CA, was appointed to join the NAIOP Research Foundation’s Governors program. Individuals who demonstrate their commitment to the foundation’s mission by making a substantial contribution to the endowment fund are invited to accept this lifetime distinction. Armstrong was honored online at NAIOP’s CRE Converge Virtual conference, Oct. 7-8, 2020.

NAIOP—formerly known as the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks and now known as the Commercial Real Estate Development Association—is the leading organization for developers, owners and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. It provides industry networking and education, and it advocates for effective legislation on behalf of its members.

NAIOP’s sister organization, the NAIOP Research Foundation, was established in 2000 to provide practical research and education that allows commercial real estate owners and developers to capitalize on new trends and address challenges in the industry.

Armstrong is chairman of Ware Malcomb, a full-service design firm providing professional architecture, planning, interior design, civil engineering, branding and building measurement services to corporate, commercial/residential developers and public/institutional clients throughout the world.

He joined Ware Malcomb in 1984 and soon became responsible for running the firm’s Los Angeles office. In 1988, he was promoted to principal of the firm and became CEO in 1992. In 2020, Armstrong transitioned to the role of chairman of Ware Malcomb. His tenure as CEO is hallmarked by an unprecedented 40x revenue growth.

Armstrong is a member of the Kent State University Foundation Board and co-chair of the Campaign Executive Committee for Kent State.

Steven M. Altman, BGS ’85, Solon, OH, president and CEO of All-Pro Cleaning Services Inc., is celebrating 35 years of service. When he graduated from Kent State, he turned down job offers in sales to pursue entrepreneurship. The door-to-door window and gutter cleaning business he started out of his apartment now focuses on commercial buildings averaging 75,000 square feet and boasts more than 150 employees. In response to COVID-19, he ordered electrostatic disinfecting equipment and started a disinfecting division in the company.

Kathleen (Kirksey) Purdy, BS ’85, MED ’89, Alliance, OH, was elected president of the Alliance Area Democratic Club. She serves on the Stark County Democratic Central Committee and has held various positions with the AADC, including vice president. She received Ohio Education Association Minority Caucus Outstanding Political Activist recognition and hosted the Civics Essential: Ohio 2019 Game Hour produced by Soapbox Cincinnati and Fresh Water Cleveland, an initiative that works to raise residents’ knowledge of Ohio and how the law works.

Purdy is a community advocate with extensive leadership experiences ranging from topics on women’s issues, minority concerns, political action and professional development. She retired as an elementary school teacher in Plain Local School District, after a 33-year career.

Matthew T. Morris, BS ’86, Knoxville, TN, has been chosen by the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee to serve as deputy criminal chief for the Knoxville office’s white-collar and general crimes unit. He joined the US Attorney’s Office in 1996 and has focused on prosecuting white-collar and child-exploitation offenses, including environmental crime, fraud, public corruption and child pornography. He has served as the senior litigation counsel for the US Attorney’s Office since 2018. Morris has previously headed up the office’s Project Safe Childhood, environmental crime, asset forfeiture and affirmative civil enforcement programs. Prior to joining the office, he was an assistant regional counsel for the US Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta for five years. Morris earned his law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1990.

Teresa (Dixon) Murray, BA ’87, Broadview Heights, OH, directs the Consumer Watchdog office at the United States Public Interest Research Group, which looks out for consumers’ health, safety and financial security. Prior to her current roll at PIRG, she worked as a journalist and columnist covering consumer issues and personal finance for two decades for *The Plain Dealer*, Ohio’s largest daily newspaper. She is the recipient of dozens of state and national journalism awards, including Best Columnist in Ohio, Best Business Writer in Ohio and National

Headliner Award for coverage of the 2008–09 financial crisis. Among the accomplishments of which she’s most proud is receiving a journalism public service award for exposing improper billing practices by Verizon that affected at least 15 million customers nationwide. Her work caused Verizon to reach an \$80 million settlement with the FCC, the largest ever imposed at that time. She and her husband live in Greater Cleveland and have two sons and a dog. She enjoys biking, house projects and music, and she serves on her church mission team and stewardship board.



Eric Nuzum, BA ’88, New York, co-founder of Magnificent Noise, a podcast production and creative consulting company, published *Make Noise: A Creator’s Guide to Podcasting and Great Audio Storytelling* (Workman Publishing, December 2019), available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and Indiebound.

Nuzum was program and operations director at WKSU, 1998–2004. He worked at National Public Radio, 2004–2015, as director of programming and acquisitions, and later as vice president of programming. He was senior vice president of original content development at Audible Inc., 2015–2018, before co-founding Magnificent Noise in 2018. The company’s client roster includes The New York Times, ESPN, TED and Esther Perel Global Media.

He was awarded the National Edward R. Murrow Award for News Writing. He is also the author of *Giving Up the Ghost: A Story About Friendship, 80s Music, A Lost Scrap of Paper, and What It Means to be Haunted* (2012), *The Dead Travel Fast: Stalking Vampires from Nosferatu to Count Chocula* (2007) and Parental Advisory: Music Censorship in America (2001).

Nuzum talked about his background and his recent book about podcasting on *Elevations*, a weekly radio show on WKSU, in two episodes in November 2020; see <https://www.wksu.org/2020-11-21/eric-nuzum-talks-about-successful-podcasting> and <https://www.wksu.org/2020-11-28/eric-nuzum-advises-podcast-startups>.

1990s

Ceyhun Ozgur, PhD ’90, Valparaiso, IN, wrote: “I have been employed by Valparaiso University and retired as a research professor of information and decision sciences in the College

Leading a Successful Vaccine Rollout

Kent State University Foundation Chair **John Elliot, BArc ’70**, Charleston, WV, his wife, Fonda, and their company, American Medical Facilities Management (AMFM) are major players in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in their home state of West Virginia.

With the help of Lifetree Pharmacy, AMFM’s partner pharmacy in Cabin Creek, West Virginia, all 19 AMFM centers located throughout the state were able to administer the first dose of the vaccine in three days—and, three weeks later, the second dose in three days.

“Never in our modern history has such a massive vaccination effort with this scale and urgency occurred,” says John Elliot.

He and his wife founded AMFM in 1982 and have built the company into West Virginia’s leader in skilled nursing, rehabilitation and long-term care services. Their company’s care centers employ more than 2,000 professionals and serve nearly 1,500 patients.

“Fonda’s and my role in vaccinating our employees and patients was to ensure we had the right leaders in place to oversee the vaccination process,” Elliot says. “Working with the West Virginia National Guard and our partner pharmacy, Lifetree Pharmacy, we hit the ground running as soon as vaccines were received.”

Lifetree Pharmacy used its courier service to deliver the vaccines to each of the 19 AMFM centers. Vaccination clinics were scheduled immediately the next morning or afternoon, depending on when vaccines arrived.

“Our own nursing teams administered vaccines throughout all the AMFM centers,” Elliot says. “Our patients felt more comfortable receiving the vaccine from someone they know and trust.”

As of March 9, 2021, 65% of AMFM employees and 84% of patients have been vaccinated. West Virginia has been touted as a leader in vaccinating long-term care and assisted-living patients, as well as the general population. The leadership, planning and execution of Lifetree Pharmacy helped West Virginia overcome the challenges other states have experienced in their vaccine rollout efforts, according to Elliot.

After graduating from Kent State, where he was a first-generation college student, Elliot founded John Elliot Associates, Architects and Planners, in

1972, and he began designing and building nursing homes in West Virginia in the late 1970s. He and Fonda, a certified nurse, began providing nursing home services when they founded AMFM, and he earned a degree in health services administration in 1991 from the West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

As the Elliots grew their business, they also grew their commitment to philanthropy, both in their local community and at Kent State, where they are the largest donors in the university’s history. In recognition of the Elliots’ generosity, in fall 2018 the Kent State University Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name “The John Elliot Center for Architecture and Environmental Design” in his honor.

The Elliots have supported numerous scholarships, fellowships and programs, including the Kent State University Scholarship Fund, the Elliot Studios for Design, the Elliot Scholars, the Elliot Professorship in Health Care Design, the Elliot Program for Healthcare Design, the John and Fonda Elliot Design Innovation Fellows and the Elliot Family Foundation Architectural Scholarship.

Since the Elliots founded AMFM, their focus has been on the care and well-being of the patients and employees in each care center. The vaccination program has further sharpened that focus.

Educating the AMFM community was key in the company’s successful vaccination effort, Elliot says. They gave AMFM employees multiple opportunities to learn about the vaccine. The centers also provided information to patients and their responsible parties so they could make decisions about taking the vaccine.

“Since our initial doses were administered in December, the number of COVID-19 positive patients and employees has continually decreased,” Elliot says. “Many of our centers are now open to schedule in-person visitation for our patients and families.

“Our advice to officials in other states is to follow the guidance of health officials and get the vaccine to vulnerable populations first, whether they are in a healthcare facility or in the community. This will save lives and ease the strain on our healthcare systems. It is the light at the end of the tunnel to put the COVID-19 pandemic in the history books.”



alumni LIFE

of Business. I have been serving as an associate editor of *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*. Briefly, I have co-authored a textbook, *Introduction to Management Science with Spreadsheets*, published by McGraw-Hill, and I have also published more than 45 peer-reviewed publications.”

Jan F. Jumet, BBA ’91, Darlington, PA, founder and CEO of Jumet Financial, recently obtained a CPFA certification. Jumet Financial, with offices in Darlington, Pennsylvania, and Scottsdale, Arizona, announces the opening of an office in Canton, Ohio. Jumet and his team of six serve more than 450 clients in 30 different states. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.

John Paxton, MBA ’91, Charlotte, NC, was appointed chief executive officer of MHI, an international trade association that has represented the material handling, logistics and supply chain industry since 1945. MHI members include material handling and logistics equipment and systems manufacturers, integrators, consultants, publishers and third-party logistics providers.

Prior to joining the MHI team, Paxton served for over 20 years in executive leadership roles at Demag Cranes and Components. He has been recognized for his volunteer leadership at MHI, including service as president of the Crane Manufacturers Association, president of the Hoist Manufacturers Institute and chairman of the board of MHI.

Dorn Wenninger, BA ’91, Bentonville, AR, has been named senior vice president of produce at United Natural Foods Inc., North America’s premier food wholesaler. He will oversee growth and execute the strategy and expansion of UNFI’s capabilities in produce.

Wenninger has more than 25 years of experience in the procurement, sales, marketing and operations of several prominent packaged foods and retail companies. Most recently, he served as vice president perishables for Walmart Mexico, where he was responsible for sourcing and buying, and product development for the fresh departments for 2,400 stores in the region as well as Walmart’s meat processing plants.

Timothy D. Eippert, BBA ’92, Painesville, OH, chief executive officer of MC Group / Icon, one of the leading brand implementation companies in the United States, has announced that the company changed its name to Stratus in September 2020. The rebranding comes one year after MC Group and Icon joined forces to expand their services and become one of the largest players in the facility services industry. Stratus builds better brands nationwide by offering signage, site refresh and remodel, repair and maintenance, and energy solutions such as lighting and electrical. A private-equity-

owned company, Stratus employs more than 700 people. The company has headquarters in Mentor, Ohio, and Rolling Meadows, Illinois; operations centers in Ohio, Florida and New Jersey; and manufacturing facilities in Illinois, South Carolina and Virginia.

Eippert is also on the Kent State University Foundation Board.

Jodi Andes, BS ’93, Columbus, OH, published her first book, *Master of Deceit: How a Veteran Con Man Scammed His Way into the White House* (Micro Pub Media, 2020), a true crime narrative about the criminal chameleon who pulled off the greatest breach in White House history. The book quickly shot up to No. 5 among true crime biographies on Kindle Unlimited.

Andes, a former reporter for *The Columbus Dispatch*, also worked as a senior investigator for the Ohio Attorney General’s office, where she was assigned to the case of “Bobby Thompson” (one of his multiple aliases), who ran a fake charity for US Navy veterans and gained access to the Oval Office before President George W. Bush left office in 2008.

After Andes left the Attorney General’s office, she worked as a licensed private investigator and continued to research the case. She is now a public information officer for the Franklin County Commissioners.

Robert Hunt, BSE ’96, PhD ’20, Chagrin Falls, OH, superintendent at Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools, has accepted a position as the next superintendent of the Barrington 220 Community Unit School District in Chicago. Hunt, who has one year left on his contract with Chagrin Falls Schools, will remain with the district through the end of this school year and support the transition to the next superintendent.

Hunt received the 2021 Ohio Superintendent of the Year award from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators at the Chagrin Falls Board of Education meeting on Oct. 21, 2020. He was hired as superintendent in June 2012 after serving one year as superintendent of Streetsboro City Schools. Previously, he had served Chagrin Falls Schools in a variety of roles, including assistant superintendent (2007-2011) and high school principal (2002-2007).

In 2007, he received the Ohio Principal of the Year award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Ohio Educational Library and Media Association Administrator of the Year award. In May, he earned the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Ohio Superintendent Outstanding Performance Award.

Hunt began his career as a middle school English teacher with Kenston Schools, where he went on to serve as assistant principal and athletic director. He earned a master’s degree in education administration from Ursuline College in Pepper Pike before completing a doctorate in K-12 educational leadership from Kent State.

Shana (Rozier) Smith, BA ’97, Canton, OH, became chief executive officer of YWCA Canton effective Dec. 8, 2020. She has been involved with several social service projects in the area, including Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health, Meyers Lake YMCA and Leadership Stark County. She has been teaching at Malone University and is pursuing a doctorate degree from Ashland University, where she earned an MBA in 2006.

Amy Pawlowski, BM ’97, MLIS ’03, Plain City, OH, has been named executive director of OhioLINK, Ohio’s academic library consortium. She joined OhioLINK in 2013 as deputy director for operations and e-licensing. In addition to her new role as executive director, she will continue to lead negotiations with publishers and information vendors to acquire shared electronic resources for OhioLINK’s 117 member libraries and more than 800,000 students across the state.

Pawlowski has nearly 20 years of experience in special, public and academic libraries and library-related private industry, with expertise in technology and the e-books/e-journals publishing ecosystem. Prior to joining OhioLINK, she worked with the Cleveland Public Library, CLEVNET and Overdrive Inc. She also served as archivist for the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra. She holds a master’s degree in music from the University of Hartford.

In 2019, Pawlowski was named a Change Agent by *Library Journal*’s Movers & Shakers for her role in negotiating a groundbreaking, inclusive-access textbook agreement with six major publishers, saving Ohio students approximately \$39.7 million annually. She is a frequent presenter at library conferences and active in professional organizations. She currently serves on advisory boards for EBSCO Books, Springer Nature and the Cambridge University Press (North America).

2000s

Byron Demery, BA ’01, MPA ’03, Lakewood, OH, published his second book, *An Evolved, Professing Christian Man*, in December 2020. According to Demery, the book details how he was able to persevere through a challenging 24-month period in his life. Through this experience he gained a greater appreciation for life and the meaning of love—and his relationship with God was strengthened. The book is available on Amazon and everywhere books are sold. For more information visit www.byrondemery.com.

Michele Nicole “Niki” Frenchko, MPA ’02, Warren, OH, wrote, “I was recently elected as Trumbull County commissioner.”

Katy Smith, BBA ’02, New Franklin, OH, has been named business editor for *The Columbus Dispatch*, starting in January 2021, and will

continue as editor of *Columbus CEO* magazine. Smith will lead an integrated business desk, with the goal of leveraging the assets of the *Dispatch* and *CEO* teams to produce content across print and digital, and daily and monthly platforms. She interned at the *Dispatch* in 2002 during college. After graduation, she worked for Suburban News Publications, covering Columbus suburbs as a reporter and editor. She then worked for *Business First*, first as a copy editor and then, from 2013 to 2018, as managing editor for print. She worked for a short time in the creative department for the Central Ohio Transit Authority before coming to *Columbus CEO* magazine as editor in 2019.

Jarrold Tudor, MBA ’02, EdS ’02, PhD ’05, MPA ’12, Columbus, OH, was named dean of campus and community relations for Ohio University’s Lancaster campus, starting Nov. 2, 2020. Previously, he was the dean and chief administrative officer of the Wayne College Regional Campus System of The University of Akron. He served as interim dean and chief administrative officer of Kent State at Geauga and the Regional Academic Center in Twinsburg, taught courses at Kent State in various departments for 18 years and was a member of the Faculty Senate, serving on the executive committee for three years.

Jason Watkins, BBA ’02, MA ’12, Alliance, OH, was elevated from manager to principal at the Dover, Ohio, office of Novogradac, a national accounting and consulting enterprise that specializes in affordable housing, community development, historic preservation and renewable energy, with 51 principals in more than 25 cities nationwide.

Watkins specializes in the federal and state new market tax credit incentive, the opportunity zone incentive, the federal and state historic tax credit world, and the federal and state renewable energy tax credit community. Watkins joined Novogradac in 2012 and works extensively on financial statement audits, tax return preparation, cost certification audits, compliance reporting and consulting services. He is also a speaker at the company’s new market tax credit preconference workshops, a contributor to the Novogradac *Journal of Tax Credits* and has been heavily involved with the Novogradac-hosted Opportunity Zones Working Group. Watkins is licensed in Ohio as a certified public accountant.

Jennifer Porter, BBA ’03, Milford, OH, has been appointed chief operating officer of the newly reorganized company Commonwealth Hotels Inc (CHI) and Commonwealth Hotel Collection (CHC). She previously served as vice president of operations at Commonwealth Hotel Collection. Prior to joining the company, she spent 25 years in the hospitality industry in many roles, most recently as vice president of operations at Winegardner and Hammons/Pyramid Hotels and, earlier, as general manager of multiple full-service hotels with Marriott,

Hilton, IHG and independent/boutique hotels. Porter’s experience spans lifestyle, all-suite and conference style hotels in urban, suburban, airport and resort locations across the country.

Courtney Mahan, BBA ’03, Bristolville, OH, has been named chief financial officer of Ferry Industries Inc., producer of rotational molding machinery for the global plastics industry. She had been with Ferry for three years, as accounting manager and then controller. She earned an MBA from Cleveland State University in 2010.

Melissa A. Davis, BS ’04, MS ’10, Chardon, OH, has collaborated with Megan E. Griffiths-Ward, PhD, and David Ward, PhD, on the recently published book *Problem Plants of Ohio* (The Kent State University Press, 2020), available on Amazon and at <https://www.kentstateuniversitypress.com/2020/problem-plants-of-ohio/>.

The book provides information on the identification and control of nonnative plant species formally listed as invasive or prohibited noxious weeds in Ohio. In addition, it treats many additional species considered a nuisance in gardens, landscaping or natural settings. The authors include basic information on control measures and suggestions for native alternatives.

Davis is a botany instructor in Kent State’s Department of Biological Sciences, horticulture facilities director at Kent State’s Herrick Conservatory and collections manager of Kent State’s Tom S. and Miwako K. Cooperrider Herbarium.



Ben Curtis, BS ’03, Hudson, OH, (above right) launched a new golf-centric weekly podcast, *Clubs & Corks Golf Podcast*, with co-host Luke Taylor on Feb. 2, 2021. The weekly podcast includes humor, stories, commentary, travel tips, course reviews, giveaways and insider tips to improve one’s golf game—and features interviews with well-regarded golf professionals and industry leaders from the golf and wine world.

The podcast appears on Buzzsprout.com, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Overcast. The Patreon membership platform (www.patreon.com/clubsandcorks) gives listeners access to bonus content, golf instruction, reviews and more. Curtis, a former Kent State University All-American golfer, competed on the PGA Tour

Griffiths-Ward is an adjunct professor in Kent State’s biological sciences department and has studied plant-plant interactions with a focus on understanding the mechanisms by which disturbance and competition impact plant communities.

Ward is the J. Arthur and Margaret Hatton Herrick Endowed Chair in Plant Conservation Biology at Kent State. His research interests lie in the ecology of plant species redistributions, including the study of both invasive and encroaching plant species, primarily trees. He also studies the effects of herbivory by large mammals (such as elephants) on the population biology, community ecology and conservation of plant populations. He teaches courses on plant ecology and invasion biology and co-leads (with Griffiths-Ward) student field courses in South Africa biennially.

Shaun W. Sarrett, BSE ’04, Beckley, WV, is expected to join the Los Angeles Chargers as assistant offensive line coach. Sarrett had been with the Pittsburgh Steelers since 2012 as an offensive assistant. He was promoted to assistant offensive line coach in 2019 and offensive line coach in 2019.

Prior to his time in the NFL, Sarrett spent time as an offensive quality control coach for Duke University and got his start in the college ranks at Marshall University as a graduate assistant. He was an offensive guard at Kent State and earned the nickname “Sweet Feet” after a teammate noticed that he had above average footwork for the position.

for over 13 years with wins at the British Open, Valero Open, Booz Allen and 84 Lumber Classic tournaments while also representing the US in the Ryder Cup. He currently operates the Ben Curtis Golf Academy in Hudson, Ohio. He and his wife, Candace, established the Ben Curtis Foundation to help underprivileged kids in the Greater Akron area.

Co-host Luke Taylor (above left), a former NCAA Division 1 athlete at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has a master’s degree in public relations and advertising from DePaul University, where he coached the men’s tennis team. He owns and operates Traderman Distributors, Ohio’s leading boutique wine distributor.



Making Magic

While magicians use sleight of hand, illusions and props to perform their magic tricks, mentalists use an understanding of how people think and behave to create magical effects. One couple from Tallmadge, Ohio, combines both approaches to astound audiences—and their act recently earned them a spot as contestants on a popular television show.

Stacy (Paquin) Greenamyre, BA '06, a mentalist, and her husband, Jason, a magician, appeared on the “Jedi Mind Tricks” episode of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* on Jan. 22, 2021. In the show, which airs on The CW Network, magicians compete by performing their best tricks in front of Penn & Teller. If the world-famous illusionists can’t figure out how the tricks were done, the contestants win a “Fool Us” trophy and perform as Penn & Teller’s opening act at the Rio Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

After auditioning for four years in a row, the couple, who perform as The Alans, finally made it on the show. “The process was long and difficult, but worth every minute,” Stacy Greenamyre says. This time, the producers asked them to submit a trick they had done a few years earlier. They reworked and perfected the routine for months before traveling to Las Vegas to compete on the show.

During the TV episode, The Alans share the “magical” story of how they met 10 years ago. He tells how he remembers it and she jumps in to remind him of how it actually happened. Their playful banter, while performing several different magic tricks, highlights their chemistry both as performers and as spouses. While they don’t fool Penn & Teller, they do impress them with their performance.

The couple—who married eight years ago and merged their lives and careers—also have had a four-year residency performing monthly at the Alex Theater, located in Metropolitan at the 9, a luxury hotel in Cleveland. They hope to reopen their show in the fall. Their main market is corporate events; prior to the pandemic, they traveled the country to perform at conferences, sales meetings and resorts.

Greenamyre has a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from The University of Akron and had worked as a therapist prior to her marriage. She is also a balloon artist and does balloon twisting and decor, working her balloon events around their magic performance schedule. Her husband got his first big break as a magician by landing a cruise-ship contract soon after graduating from Youngstown State University.

“When we aren’t performing, we are usually working on the back end of our business, which includes things like marketing our services, learning new tricks, writing new scripts, rehearsing and building props for our shows,” Greenamyre says. “Jason and I have never had an agent, and we do everything in our business ourselves.”

At the beginning, performing was new to her, and she started out as her husband’s assistant on stage. “We quickly realized that assisting did not fit my personality, and Jason introduced me to a few mentalists and gave me a few books to read,” she says. “He knew my background in psychology would mesh well with mentalism. I was hooked. Using my psychology background on stage made me more confident and comfortable, too. From then on, we began changing our act to be a duo instead of magician and assistant.”

Greenamyre discovered her love of psychology after taking one psychology course two years into her bio-engineering studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. “It was the first time I found myself reading a textbook for pleasure,” she says. “That’s how I knew I wanted to change majors. I had always had a passion for working with people, as well.”

As a junior, she moved back to Ohio to live with her family and save money by commuting to Kent State to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“Kent State is where my love for psychology grew,” she says. She worked in a research lab for two years with psychology professor Maria Zaragoza, PhD. “The work was fascinating, and she was an amazing professor and mentor. I still talk about my experiences in that lab.”

—*Lindsey Vlasic, BS '22, is a public relations major and intern at the Center for Philanthropy and Engagement.*

For more information and to view *The Alans’* performance on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, see www.TheAlansLive.com.

George Barlow, BBA '06, MSA '07, Canton, OH, was elevated to partner at the Dover, Ohio, office of Novogradac, a national accounting and consulting enterprise that specializes in affordable housing, community development, historic preservation and renewable energy, with 67 partners in more than 25 cities nationwide.

Barlow specializes in new markets tax credits, historic tax credits, renewable energy tax credits, the opportunity zones incentive, and other state tax credits and incentives. He has consulted on more than 400 tax-credit transactions with cumulative development financing exceeding \$5 billion. He works with real estate developers, community development entities, syndicators, lenders and investors on the complex structuring, financing and syndication of tax credit and opportunity zone transactions. He also advises on tax and regulatory matters in addition to providing traditional audit, cost certification and tax services. Barlow is licensed as a certified public accountant in Ohio.

Rob Bryant, BBA '07, Strasburg, OH, was elevated to partner at the Dover, Ohio, office of Novogradac, a national accounting and consulting enterprise that specializes in affordable housing, community development, historic preservation and renewable energy, with 67 partners in more than 25 cities nationwide.

Bryant specializes in consulting services for new markets tax credits, renewable energy tax credits, historic tax credits and opportunity zone transactions. Bryant has provided consulting and financial modeling services for more than 450 transactions, exceeding \$11 billion in new markets tax credits allocation. He also has experience with financial statement audits, tax return preparation, final cost certification audits, cost segregation studies and transaction document review services. Bryant is licensed as a certified public accountant in Ohio.

Seth Runser, BBA '07, North Lawrence, OH, has been promoted to the new role of chief operating officer for ABF Freight, effective Feb. 1, 2021, and will become ABF president on July 1, 2021. Runser joined the company in 2007 as a management trainee in Cleveland and moved around the country serving in various roles before relocating to the corporate headquarters in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Most recently, he was vice president of linehaul operations for ABF, which is a leading less-than-truckload carrier, operating over 240 service centers across North America.

Bassam M. Deeb, PhD '08, Buffalo, NY, president of Trocaire College, was awarded a 2020 Buffalo Business First C-Level Executives Award by Harter Secrest & Emery LLP and Northwest Bank, recognizing western New York’s most effective business leaders during a challenging year shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lindsay McCoy, BS '08, Hudson, OH, is a Summit County native and an anchor and reporter for WFMJ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Youngstown. She started her news career in radio news at 1590 WAKR in Akron. She also blogs for *Northeast Ohio Parent* magazine. When she’s not running around with a camera and a tripod, she’s playing with her 1-year-old daughter, Allison.

Pawan Verma, MBA '08, Short Hills, NJ, joined MetLife as executive vice president and chief information officer, effective Nov. 9, 2020. Previously, he was the chief information and customer experience officer at Foot Locker, where he was responsible for leading a 4,000-member team to transform the technology, data and supply chain ecosystem. Verma was recently recognized by *Forbes* with the CIO Innovation Award for his digital and data work that yielded revenue augmenting innovation.

Prior to Foot Locker, he served as vice president of digital marketing technology for Target, where he managed mobile and digital development, data, cloud engineering and architecture. He also has prior e-commerce and mobile experience from roles with Convergys Corp. and Verizon Wireless.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Dr. Hari Singh Gour University and a master’s degree in computer application and software engineering from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in India.

Derek Hickman, BGS '09, Aurora, OH, was installed as the senior pastor at The Church in Aurora on Dec. 1, 2019. He received a graduate degree in theology from Ashland Theological Seminary in 2013. His pastoral duties began as a youth and associate minister in Newcomerstown, Ohio. He also served as a senior pastor in Ashland, Ohio, and most recently as the senior pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Ravenna, Ohio. Rev. Hickman was ordained as an elder in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2018. He is married to Jenna, who is a teacher at Miller Elementary School in Aurora, and they have two young children.

2010s

Karie McMillen, BBA '10, Dover, OH, was elevated from manager to principal at the Dover, Ohio, office of Novogradac, a national accounting and consulting enterprise that specializes in affordable housing, community development, historic preservation and renewable energy, with 51 principals in more than 25 cities nationwide.

McMillen has several years of experience in providing tax and various audit and attestation services to real estate partnerships. She works with the low-income housing tax credit, tax-exempt bond financed developments, nonprofit

organizations and those subject to the auditing requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also works with upper-tier tax credit equity funds and tax credit syndicators. In addition, McMillen specializes in LIHTC consulting and financial modeling. She also has significant experience in conducting HUD Multifamily Accelerated Processing and Healthcare Quality Control and Construction Loan Administration reviews.

McMillen holds a master’s degree from Salem International University. She is licensed as a certified public accountant in Ohio.

Joe Manofsky, BSE '11, Newburgh Heights, OH, is the co-founder of One Step Ahead, a Northeast Ohio nonprofit foundation. The mission of OSA is to ensure that local citizens as well as donors know exactly what their tax-deductible donations are funding. They currently facilitate three outreach programs: Heroes of Hardships, Trade School Scholarship Fund and Brown Bag Breakfast. For information on how to help the local community grow, visit www.1-stepahead.org or email direct request to info@1-stepahead.org.

Jeffery L. Pellegrino, MPH '13, Hudson, OH, an assistant professor of emergency management and homeland security in the Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services at The University of Akron (UA), recently became the first non-Canadian inducted into the Order of the Red Cross, the highest honor bestowed by the Canadian Red Cross. Over the past 34 years, he has served the American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross in various capacities, including disaster volunteer and first aid instructor, scientific expert, policymaker and author of first aid guidelines and practices.

Pellegrino, editor in chief of the *International Journal of First Aid Education*, is also the lead author of an important paper that appeared in *Circulation*, the journal of the American Heart Association, in October. The paper, “2020 American Heart Association and American Red Cross Focused Update for First Aid,” provides updates to several first aid procedures, including the immediate treatment of life-threatening bleeding, the use of aspirin for chest pain, the recognition of stroke, and cooling techniques for hyperthermia and heatstroke. The updated procedures and guidelines are being adopted by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross and UA’s College of Health Professions in their educational materials.

Terri Brown Lenzo, PhD '14, Findlay, OH, is a trustee of The Ohio Music Education Association and the editor of *TRIAD: The Official Publication of OMEA*. She co-presented a research session at the National Association for Music Research and Teacher Education Conference in



Taléa R. Drummer-Ferrell, PhD '14, Kent, OH, was appointed dean of students at Kent State on July 1, 2020, the first Black woman to be named to the position. (In Kent State's history, Milton E. Wilson was the first Black man named dean of student affairs in September 1978.)

Drummer-Ferrell serves as the university's primary student advocate and assists Lamar Hylton, vice president for student affairs, in leading the Division of Student Affairs. Prior to her appointment as interim dean of students on Oct. 1, 2019, she served as director of Kent State's Student Multicultural Center, starting in October 2016.

Drummer-Ferrell oversees advocacy, support and well-being, including recreation and wellness services, the Center for Sexual and Relationship Violence Support Services, the Office of Student Conduct, psychological services, parent and family engagement, basic needs and students in crisis. She also has focused on coordinating emergency resources for students during the pandemic.

Drummer-Ferrell recently was appointed to the AVP Steering Committee for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Her term runs from March 23, 2021-April 4, 2023.

February 2021: "'We Performed Our Own Piece!' Composition in Middle School Band through Integration of Orff Schulwerk and Chrome Music Lab Song Maker." Lenzo is an assistant professor of music education at Ohio Northern University.

Kristie Graybill, BS '15, Kent, OH, has been named a full-time contributor to "The Fred Show," which airs from 5 a.m. to noon weekdays on the iHeartMedia Top 40 station known as KISS FM. Until November, Graybill had spent two years as morning co-host at KSLZ in St. Louis. A native of Louisville, Ohio, she began in radio at WDJQ in Canton, Ohio, and later worked for WKFS in Cincinnati.

Tyler Hostetler, BSN '15, MSN '20, Chardon, OH, worked for two years in a Level 1 Trauma ICU after receiving a degree from the Kent State Geauga Campus in 2015. He returned as a part-time student in graduate studies at the Kent Campus in 2017, while working full-time in University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center's Emergency Department. He completed the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner program and graduated in 2020. He plans to return to the ICU as an acute-care nurse practitioner.

Curtis Cofojohn, BA '17, Mantua, OH, is founder and managing partner of AllCollegeRentals.com, a site that serves the needs of both students and landlords for off-campus housing. The site gives students a chance to walk through properties virtually via 3D tours, compare properties side by side and apply for housing. In addition, students can download a lease, sign it and save it in their device rather than having a paper lease. Cofojohn started the business with listings in Kent, but now the company, which has been active for over a year, has extended beyond Ohio to New Jersey, Michigan, Texas and California.

He is also co-founder and partner of Buy360Tour LLC, which facilitates creative content creation through 3D virtual reality photography and video along with standard professional photography and drone photography for all industries.

Marissa "Rissa" Durbin, AA '17, Twinsburg, OH, self-published *Awakening Shadows* (Lilac Daggers Press LLC), the first in a series of fantasy novels under the pen name Sydney Hawthorn, in September 2020. She imagined the book's fantasy world when she was 8 years old, as an escape from being constantly bullied, and at age 12, she wrote the book's first draft, which she revised years later.

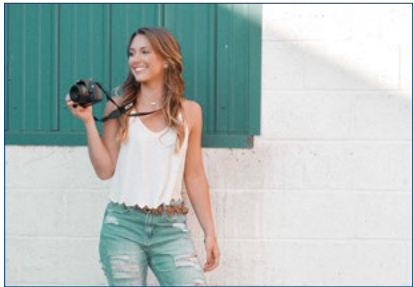
Awakening Shadows is about a princess saving her kingdom from darkness, but it's also "about finding yourself and realizing, whether you believe it or not, you are strong enough and always will be," says Durbin. The second book in the series, *Whispering Shadows*, is due to be released in summer 2021. The books can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and several other retailers, such as The Learned Owl in Hudson, Ohio. Merchandise and signed copies of her book are available on her website, www.worldofsydneyhawthorn.com.

Morgan Mervenne, BS '17, Grand Rapids, MI, recently joined Burco as sales and marketing coordinator of the Michigan-based automotive mirrors and windshield racking systems manufacturer. She previously held positions as a corporate merchandiser and e-commerce specialist at Forever 21 and Air Waves LLC.

Jack Murphy, BS '17, Kent, OH, was appointed global account manager at Akron Dispersions. Murphy had served in research and development as a chemist at Kent Adhesive Products Co. (dba Kapco), with product development and account

responsibilities, for the past six years. Akron Dispersions, founded in 1958, manufactures water-based dispersions and emulsions of chemical ingredients for the polymer industry and employs various processing systems for dry chemical processing. He is on the executive board of the Kent Jaycees and was Jaycee of the Year in 2019.

N.J. Akbar, PhD '19, Akron, OH, was elected president of the Akron Public Schools Board of Education for 2021. He had served as vice president in his first year on the board. Akbar, an associate vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at Kent State, is heading the board's initiative to develop a racial equity policy for the Akron school district.



Hallee Larissa Smith, BBA '19, Sandusky, OH, a marketing major with a graphic design minor, has amassed 1 million followers on the social media app TikTok since last December, after her freelance design business dried up when the coronavirus hit. She has accrued most of her following since June, and is also on Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat. She also started a consulting/coaching business, Hallee Media & Design LLC, where she consults with business owners over how to grow their social media footprint, specializing in short-form video content creation. See her Instagram account @hallee-media and Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/3562881650498926/.

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

in MEMORY

1940s

Lowell "Newt" Baker, BBA '49, December 15, 2020
Sarah Brainerd, BA '49, August 17, 2020

1950s

Charles Beckwith, attended 1945–1950, November 30, 2020
Donal Beard, BS '52, February 27, 2020
Mary Ann Juh, BS '52, September 20, 2020
Saima Macek, BS '52, February 2, 2020
Kenneth Whipkey, BA '53, MA '58, January 18, 2020
Helen Kirk, BS '54, MED '57, November 9, 2020
Marilyn Rundle, BS '54, August 23, 2020
Barbara Winograd, BS '54, April 10, 2020
Fay R. Biles, MA '56, October 28, 2020
MaryLou Good, BS '56, August 8, 2020
Ada Wirbel, BS '56, September 12, 2020
Edward W. Crosby, BA '57, MA '59, February 10, 2021
Louis J. Mikula, BS '58, MED '58, November 13, 2020
F. Bernard Smith, BS '58, August 3, 2019

1960s

Carol Beal, BS '62, MED '65, June 17, 2020
Larry E. Carpenter, BS '62, MED '64, April 14, 2020
Richard Carter, BS '62, July 18, 2020
Michael Sipes, BS '62, MA '62, March 18, 2020
***Rudolph "Rudy" S. Bachna, BS '63, MED '67**, February 20, 2021
Irvin Donick, DPM '63, August 11, 2020
Edmund B. Thomas Jr., MA '64, December 6, 2020
Thomas R. O'Donnell, BA '65, BS '70, MA '73, November 12, 2020
Robert B. Sivert, BS '65, January 25, 2021
Richard Worthing, BS '65, July 1, 2020
Michael Jozsa, BBA '67, January 1, 2020
Lowell "Buzz" Starner, BS '67, November 28, 2020
Robert Mencini, BA '68, August 24, 2020
Phillip C. Radcliffe, BBA '68, May 9, 2019

1970s

Janet (Deitrick) Achberger, BS '72, December 8, 2020
Alan Canfora, BA '72, MLS '80, December 20, 2020
Thomas Shilling, BS '72, October 27, 2020
Thomas R. Castelluzzi, BBA '73, September 16, 2007
E. Timothy Moore, BFA '73, MA '77, MFA '83, February 1, 2021
Gilbert Janke, BArc '75, December 7, 2019
Ilze Gagliardo, BS '76, March 22, 2020
Carol (Javitch) Press, MED '76, December 29, 2020
Judith Sieck, BSN '76, February 2, 2020
Dennis C. Eberhart, BS '77, September 4, 2020
George Gatta, BArc '77, July 12, 2020
Thelma Osgood, MLS '77, March 5, 2019
James "Jim" E. Davis, BS '78, March 7, 2020

1980s

James T. Hutton, BA '80, July 23, 2020
Christine Junia, BSN '82, August 18, 2020
Lawrence Meaney, AAB '83, July 8, 2020
Kimberly Winebrenner, BA '85, MA '88, PhD '91, December 3, 2020
Mark Fachada, DPM '86, October 17, 2020
Cynthea Brea (Weiland) Sanders, BA '89, MA '04, August 4, 2020

1990s

Steven Urchek, BSE '91, January 20, 2021
Geoffrey Stevanus, BSE '96, September 22, 2020

2000s

Zelma "Zee" Edgell, LSM '05, December 20, 2020
Robert "Bobby" Makar, BS '09, MA '11, November 11, 2020

2010s

MJ Eckhouse, BS '18, October 21, 2020
Jonathan Morrish, BBA '18, September 13, 2020
Hannah Schnorrenberg, AA '18, July 23, 2020
Michael John Gallagher II, BA '19, December 10, 2020
Abby Achauer, MA '20, January 25, 2021

faculty/staff

Richard G. Bentley, PhD, January 26, 2021
He was Emeritus Professor of Technology and Journalism (1956–1981). While at Kent State, he developed a graphic arts program with the School of Journalism. He was president of the International Graphic Arts Education Association in 1970, a member of the Faculty Senate, and at retirement he was awarded the Clinton Van Deusen Award for lifetime achievement.

Fay R. Biles, MA '56, PhD, October 28, 2020
She served as head coach of the field hockey and lacrosse teams (1956–1972), received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1970, served as vice president of Public Affairs and Development (1972–1978) and retired in 1985.

Edward W. Crosby, BA '57, MA '59, PhD, February 10, 2021
He was Emeritus Professor of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literature (1969–1994). He became a professor at Kent State in 1969 and helped create the Institute for African-American Affairs, which later became the Department of Pan-African Studies. He is also credited with working with Black United Students and the Center for Human Relations to coordinate the first Black History Month on Kent State's campus in February 1970, before the month was widely recognized nationwide as an annual observance. After his retirement in 1994, he remained an advocate in the Black Education field.

Rudolph "Rudy" S. Bachna, BS '63, MED '67, February 20, 2021
He co-founded the Kent State men's and women's gymnastics program in 1959 (with his wife, Janet, and brother, Joe) and served as head coach for both teams until 1978. He continued to lead the women's gymnastics program until retiring (1963–1991). He also relaunched the men's soccer program in 1963, and he served as head coach for the men's soccer team from 1963–1972. He and his wife were inducted into the Varsity "K" Hall of Fame in 1993.

E. Timothy Moore, BFA '73, MA '77, MFA '83, February 1, 2021
He was Associate Dean Emeritus for Advising and Undergraduate Student Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences (1998–2010) and also Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pan African Studies (1974–2010). The first Black faculty member at Kent State to receive the Alumni Association's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993, he also was selected for Who's Who Among American Teachers for 1996 and 1998, and he was presented with Kent State's Diversity Trailblazer Award in 2015.

Kimberly Winebrenner, BA '85, MA '88, PhD '91, December 3, 2020
She was a professor in the Department of English (1998–2020) and served as faculty advisor for *Luna Negra* for many years.

Zelma "Zee" Edgell, LSM '05, PhD, December 20, 2020
She was Emeritus Professor in the Department of English (1992–2009). A native of Belize, she wrote four novels and five short stories set in Belize. She also founded *The Reporter* newspaper in 1967, served as director of the Women's Bureau in the 1980s, and later was a lecturer at what is now the University of Belize. In 2007, she received an MBE from Queen Elizabeth II for her services to literature and the community.

Robert "Bobby" G. Makar, BS '09, MA '11, November 11, 2020
He was an adjunct professor in the Digital Media Production program (2011–2020) and helped produce the program's feature films *Unlucky* (2016) and *Fly By Night* (2018).



ALAN CANFORA

BA '72, MLS '80

2/13/1949 – 12/20/2020

Courtesy of John Filo, BS '72

A half century is a long time—whether recalling a life span of 50 years, or denoting the same course of decades, say from 1970 to 2020. Since the shootings at Kent State, eight presidents have shaped the 110-year-old university. For one person to influence nearly half of the university's institutional life would be unusual, if not altogether unique.

Yet one Kent State graduate, Alan Canfora, may rival any for influence on the university over the past 50 years. Thrust into national prominence on May 4, 1970 by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer John Filo, BS '72, Alan

was photographed waving a black flag at armed National Guardsmen, and he came to define the struggle against the Southeast Asia War. Neither the photo nor Alan's role went unnoticed.

Eager to exculpate the Ohio National Guard members who killed four students and wounded Alan and eight others, Portage County prosecutors indicted him, his sister, Chic, and 23 others for their roles in the May 1970 protests.

The Canforas—brother and sister—resisted the indictments and those against their fellow defendants, winning dismissal of the charges. That

success marked but one phase of Alan's remarkable life of activism.

His opposition to the war didn't end, and his efforts to ensure that the killings would be remembered were just beginning. Partnering with the Indochina Peace Campaign, he helped organize an antiwar rally that drew 7,000 people to the university Commons in May 1974 to remember the lives of those lost.

Knowing that it took organization to maintain the commemorations, Alan and other students formed the May 4th Task Force in 1976. For the next 43 years, until the university agreed to resume the

responsibility for the commemorations in 2020, the task force, with Alan's steady guidance, ensured that the Commons was witness to a memorial every May.

And, when the university announced plans for a gymnasium to be built on the site where guardsmen maneuvered and students were shot, he initiated a six-month struggle to safeguard the integrity of the campus landscape. For his involvement, he sustained further arrests, which ensnared his five family members. The construction of the gym followed legal setbacks—the dismissal of a criminal case against the National Guard and its exoneration in a suit that 13 plaintiff families brought to trial in 1975.

Alan never took losing well. He had a fiercely competitive nature. Fast friends and roommates in Johnson Hall in 1968, we hadn't known each other long before I learned of his 400-foot walk-off homerun a few years earlier in a state baseball tournament. Whatever the arena, he remained steadfast. And whether living near or far apart, we drew strength from one another.

He kept plaintiff families informed about developments on campus that affected their legal appeal and, along with the task force, began to agitate for the construction of a campus memorial for those slain on May 4. The appeal produced a new trial, which won an out-of-court settlement. The five-year campaign he initiated for a tribute to the students occasioned the dedication of the May 4 Memorial on the Kent Campus in 1990.

Other forms of remembrance followed. By the mid-1990s, university presidents accepted that teaching about the fatal confrontation should be part of Kent State's educational mission. Locations near the Prentice Hall parking lot where the four students had died were closed to traffic, while an interpretive marker offered context. Still later came the May 4 Visitors Center, outdoor historical signage and, most recently, the placement of markers where the nine students were wounded. All of these projects benefited from Alan's vast knowledge of the felonious events.

Laura Davis, BA '76, the co-founder of the May 4 Visitor Center, wrote of Alan: "In agonizing courtroom sessions, he witnessed every word spoken, every rock, map point or photo argued. In the years that followed, he continued to study testimony transcripts, every one of the thousands of photos that emerged. . . . He held all of this information, of five decades, in his being and could bring it forth at any and all moments."

Utilizing his graduate school training in library science, Alan established the Kent May 4 Center, the nation's largest private collection of materials related to the fatal shootings. Being much in demand, he spoke about the killings throughout the country. At the Kent Campus, he gave tours of the site, which became a National Historic Landmark in 2016, to high school student groups, history clubs, educators and incoming university presidents.

A Summit County Elections commissioner for several decades, Alan became director of the Akron Law Library in 2011. Pugnacious and partisan throughout his life, his success over many years as the chair of Barberton's Democratic Party produced a steady stream of election victories for the party's candidates.



Thomas Grace (left) and Alan Canfora, circa 1970s *Courtesy of Thomas Grace*

In one pivotal election year, I spent weeks working under his direction and saw how nothing escaped his attention. The arrangement suited our different personality types and further cemented a lifelong friendship: Alan the voluble leader, confident in the public glare; me his ceaseless assistant, happier working in his giant shadow.

Professor Richard Perloff, one of many who benefited from his expertise and generosity, summed up Alan's legacy well: "He found his life mission during the afternoon of May 4, 1970, and lived it for five more decades, in the face of skepticism and anger, refusing to bend, a model of courage who helped so many see what they initially refused to apprehend: that America had perpetrated an injustice on four students one May afternoon and had to come to terms with it." ⚡

—Thomas M. Grace, BA '72

Thomas Grace, PhD, one of the nine students wounded on May 4, 1970, is an assistant professor of history at the State University of New York's Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York. His major fields are 1960s political history and the Civil War. His book, *Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2016.

Alan's friend Michael D. Solomon, BBA '74, established the Alan Canfora Activism Scholarship to honor Alan's legacy through the support of purposeful and impactful student activism. To donate, see <https://flashes.givetokent.org/Canfora>.



Front Campus, circa 1915. Looking southeast from Lincoln Street, left to right: Lowry Hall and Merrill Hall, built 1912-1913; the Administration Building and Science Hall (renamed Kent Hall), built 1914-1915.

Climbing the Hill at Kent

A wooded ridge was the central topographic feature of the 53-acre farm William S. Kent gifted to the state when the Normal School Commission selected Kent as the site of the new northeastern normal school in 1910.

When the newly appointed Board of Trustees met on July 17, 1911, the trustees named it Kent State Normal School in appreciation for the gift, making it the first state-assisted campus in Ohio to bear the name of an individual.

At that memorable meeting, the trustees also named John Edward McGilvrey as the school's first president and chose Cleveland architect George Francis Hammond to draft a campus master plan and design its original buildings.

With Hammond, McGilvrey envisioned a semicircle of classical revival buildings at the top of the hill, originally known as "Normal Hill." However, as construction was underway in 1911 on the first two buildings, Lowry and Merrill halls, McGilvrey grew impatient. He began extension classes in 25 northeastern Ohio communities and marked the start of Kent State's regional campus system.

As McGilvrey hired the first faculty members in 1912, Merrill Hall was still under construction. It opened for the first summer term held on campus on

May 19, 1913, with 47 students and 20 faculty members. On June 16, a second term began with 290 students registered. Lowry Hall, originally built as a women's dormitory, didn't have enough rooms, so McGilvrey appealed to local homeowners to absorb the overflow.

In those first years, students and faculty members made their way up steep, often muddy paths and navigated around construction sites to reach the buildings on the hill. In 1914, the summer sessions met on Front Campus in tent classrooms and a large temporary pavilion (with a wood roof, canvas walls and a dirt floor) while Kent Hall was being built.

The Tabernacle, as it was called, could hold 1,000 people, serving as an assembly hall, auditorium, theater and classroom. On July 29, 1914, a crowd of 3,000 jammed the pavilion and Front Campus to see the school's first 34 graduates receive a two-year diploma.

In 1929, the Ohio General Assembly authorized the addition of colleges of liberal arts and the awarding of degrees in arts and sciences, as well as baccalaureate degrees in education—and the school (known since 1915 as Kent State Normal College) became Kent State College. (Six years later, in 1935, it became Kent State University.)

Perhaps to commemorate this achievement, and all it took to get there, May Prentice, one of the first four hires in 1912, wrote the lyrics to "Kent State"—with the apt refrain, "Climbing the hill at Kent"—which appeared in the 1930 *Chestnut Burr*.

It was set to music and included in the first edition of *Official Songs of Kent State College*, published in 1931 (see the sheet music at right), appearing again in a second edition published in 1951. For decades, these official songs were taught to incoming freshmen.

At the dedication of the May H. Prentice Memorial Gate, on Jan. 15, 1935, the diploma and degree classes from 1928 to 1934 presented the gateway to the college as a tribute to Prentice, who was unable to attend. After the presentation, the students sang "Kent State," in addition to musical selections by the Men's and Women's Glee clubs.

If you would like to hear "Kent State" sung (probably for the first time in decades), Bryon Black II, adjunct professor in the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music and director of Coro Cantare and Gospel Choir, had Coro Cantare students record it in March. Visit the magazine's digital edition to hear the song and see more photos. ⚡

Kent State

Words by
MAY H. PRENTICE

Music by
RUTH HARTLERODE

1. Kent State Col - lege is set on a hill To win to her
2. Kent State Por - tal is o - pen wide, You've made the
3. For hills of the earth or hills of the soul it's all the
4. But keep a step - ping and first you know, You're up - on -

door you must climb with a will, And Kent State hill is
grade and you're safe in side There's a clar - ion call to
same for they take their toll One of the bo - dy and
top where the cool winds blow, Be - low far stretched lies a

wear - i - ful long But we trudge on to geth - er a glad heart-ed throng,
maid - en and youth For now is the time you be - gin in truth
one of the mind And the sum - mit is hard to gain we find
won - der - ful view And glad are the eyes and the heart of you That you

CHORUS
Climb - ing the hill at Kent
Climb - ing the hill at Kent
Climb - ing the hill at Kent
climbed the hill at Kent That you climbed the hill at Kent