Dear Kent State Tuscarawas Community,

Best wishes to everyone as we move through examinations and into the holiday break. This semester has gone very quickly due to the level of engagement exhibited by students, faculty and staff here at Kent State Tuscarawas. Due to this spirit of collegiality, several initiatives have emerged that, when completed, will be of long term benefit to the campus. Just a few examples include the Growth and Enrollment Management Task Force, which is working to develop a series of commercial spots to be used on the new campus website and in other forms of media. The task force has identified several current students and alumni who have/will loudly and proudly describe the value of their Kent State Tuscarawas education. This task force is also looking for new ways to promote the Kent State brand here on our campus and within the community.

Speaking of the Web, the entire campus has been actively engaged in the development of our new website, which will be launched on Dec. 10. This large and important task has been led by the Office of Public Relations.

I am also aware of the work going on in the Student Success Task Force, where the members are discussing new experiences and traditions for the entering class of 2015. Likewise, the New Program Development Committee has met to explore additional academic program opportunities. In order to help improve instruction, the Electronic Communications Committee has already made a series of recommendations for investment in technology which will receive a high priority in the spring semester. The Blue and Gold Task Force has met to improve course scheduling and also is making suggestions with regard to program input. Lastly, the Faculty Affairs Committee works diligently to not only update current campus policies, but to also look for new ways to help lead and organize many academic initiatives. Many other task forces and committees continue to meet, each one dedicated to enhancing the academic and student experience on our campus.

The good things happening on our campus continue to be recognized and supported by the local community. To date, more than $600,000 has been received in the form of scholarship dollars, Performing Arts Center memberships, gifts from foundations and corporate sponsorships. I am very pleased to report that the internal campus community helped lead the way, exceeding last year’s numbers in terms of dollars and participation.

Mostly, I’ve been impressed with the students I speak with each day. Whether in the Student Union, the Library, Cyber Café or in the hallways of the Science and Advanced Technology Center, students demonstrate a passion for their education and a sense of gratitude for the campus they call home.

Have a great holiday break!

Bradley A. Bielski, Ph.D.
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer
In July 2014, I attended and presented a paper at the 19th Biennial New Chaucer Society Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. This was an exciting opportunity for me professionally because the New Chaucer Society Conference is selective, only a small percentage of medievalists from around the world were accepted to present. I presented original research that I am working on currently which examines medieval confessional manuals and discusses how they imagine a medieval Christian identity. The title of my paper was “Bios in The Prick of Conscience: The Apophasic Body and the Sensuous Soul.” This kind of research is important in thinking about how we imagine our religious identities in modern society and how that imagined self touches the past. This work will be the basis for my third book on medieval confessinals and how they create a certain kind of worldview. The conference lasted four days.

I also had the good fortune to take my wife and children along. We turned the professional trip into an extended family vacation lasting 15 days. After spending four days in Reykjavik, we rented a car to drive Route 1 or what Icelanders call the Ring Road. Iceland is as big as the state of Virginia and its population is 325,000 people. As we drove around the Ring Road, there were times that we were the only people amidst the glaciers, waterfalls, and lava fields. We were able to take a zodiac boat and float among the large chunks of ice that had fallen into the Fjallsárlón glacial lagoon from the Vatnajökull glacier. We even took a four-hour whale watching tour in Húsavík and spotted innumerable minke and humpback whales in the Arctic Ocean. Because of its geothermal activity, Iceland has innumerable geothermal pools and spas. Despite the cool temperatures, we often began our days soaking in the outdoor geothermal pools before a day of hiking or sightseeing.

Professionally and personally, the opportunity for my family and me to visit Iceland was a life-changing experience. Our exposure to the culture, geography, and people of Iceland are reminders that there is a whole world out there to explore and enjoy.

Dr. Chris Roman
Associate Professor of English
Kent State Tuscarawas

Dr. Christopher Roman (R back row) with his wife Dr. Nicole Willey (L) and their two sons Issac (L) and Jacob (R)
According to Chad Conrad, director of advancement, the Tuscarawas County University Foundation’s annual campaign – For the Future – is off to a tremendous start. “We are receiving a lot of support from the community,” says Conrad. “And regarding the Faculty/Staff phase of the campaign drive, we have raised $5,332 to date, approximately 36 percent participation.”

There is still time for employees to donate to the campaign which provides much needed scholarships to deserving students, as well as equipment and facility enhancements.

If you have any questions, contact Conrad at ext. 47445, or cconrad@kent.edu. Gifts to the Tuscarawas County University Foundation’s For the Future Campaign can be sent to Conrad via campus mail or from off-campus send to:
Tuscarawas County University Foundation
Chad Conrad
330 University DR NE
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Raya Williamson, sophomore marketing major

TOLLOTY TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR RECEIVES TWO OUTSTANDING GRANTS

We are sincerely grateful to the Harold C. and Marjorie Q. Rosenberry Tuscarawas County Foundation and the Dominion Foundation for awarding Kent State Tuscarawas grants totaling $50,000 for the new Tolloty Technology Incubator. These generous gifts will enable us to purchase essential equipment for the incubator, such as interactive instruction boards, LCD projectors and office work stations, to name a few of the items. The Tolloty Technology Incubator, which opened in June, is a high-tech business incubator that will enhance economic development and educational opportunities in Tuscarawas County and the surrounding region.

WE ASKED AND TUSC TALKED

NEWSLETTER NAMED

And the winning choice is – True Talk! After considering several submissions, True Talk was chosen as the permanent title for our new Kent State Tuscarawas internal newsletter. Congratulations to Rob Brindley for submitting the title and for winning a $25 gift card to Magoo’s and four tickets for Holiday Ice Spectacular on Dec. 16 at the Performing Arts Center! Brindley is the coordinator of academic services and student disability services. Thanks to all who took the time to participate in the contest.
Blue and Gold Fridays - Ongoing
Distinguished Teaching Award
Nominations - Ongoing
Game Night in the ACL - Every Thurs. 6 - 9 p.m.
Holiday Ice Spectacular – Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis – Dec. 18, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center
Christmas – Dec. 25.
STOMP – Jan. 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 4 at 3 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center
Tuition Due – Jan. 6
Spring Semester Begins - Jan. 12
Associate Degree Application Deadline for Spring 2015 Graduation – Jan. 16
Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Jan. 19, No Classes
Sister Act - Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center
Women’s Success Series - Feb. 7

Aubrey Gealsha, layout design technician at Kent State Tuscarawas, was recently recognized by Buckeye Career Center as an outstanding alumna.

“I was contacted by Buckeye Career Center to be a part of their new marketing campaign focusing on current and former students who are outstanding role models for the student body,” says Gealsha. “Another reason I was selected was because I am working in the trade I learned at Buckeye and that I am continuing my education by working toward a Masters of Education Degree in Instructional Technology.”

As part of the recognition, photos of the outstanding students and alumni have been placed on banners and are on display at the school.

“I graduated from Buckeye in 2006,” says Gealsha. “I was vocationally certified in Graphic Arts. I also took adult education night classes while still in high school to get additional certification in CAD.”

While at Buckeye Career Center, Gealsha was a student ambassador, tour guide and served as Buckeye Career Center’s SkillsUSA Chapter president, leading Buckeye’s largest vocational club of more than 500 students.

Gealsha was inducted into the National Technical Honors Society. She also was awarded the Presidential Student Award and the Most Outstanding Graphic Arts Student in both her junior and senior years at the school.

Upon graduation, Gealsha was awarded a Buckeye Career Center Foundation Scholarship, Buckeye Career Center VFW Scholarship and the Buckeye Career Center/Kent State Tuscarawas Pathway Scholarship that she used to attend Kent State University at Tuscarawas.

“I graduated from Kent State Tuscarawas in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Design and Animation,” adds Gealsha. “After earning my bachelor’s degree, I got a job at a local advertising firm until I began working at Kent State Tuscarawas in April 2013. I am an active member of several campus committees and I serve on the Kent State Tuscarawas Alumni Board. Plus, I maintain active involvement with Buckeye Career Center by serving on their Graphic Arts Advisory Committee.”

Congratulations Aubrey Gealsha on receiving this recognition from Buckeye and for being a valuable campus employee!