Facing AIDS
Faculty research focuses on prevention through empowerment and communication

Picture This
Children’s book collection enhances research and teaching
One of the amazing characteristics of Kent State University is the way students, faculty and staff routinely make excellence a part of the university’s mission of education, research and outreach.

In June, Kent State launched the Centennial Research Park, rededicating the former campus bus garage — 44,000 square feet and surrounding acreage — to be the home of focused research and development that will benefit all of Northeast Ohio. The anchor tenant is the FLEXMatters Accelerator, a wide collaboration of researchers and entrepreneurs in the pursuit and commercialization of unique materials that combine the properties of liquid crystals and polymers.

News also reached the university that Dr. C. Owen Lovejoy, University Professor of anthropology, was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. This rare honor is the capstone of Lovejoy’s remarkable career, and enhances Kent State’s status as a major research university. Lovejoy is a leading world authority on early human locomotion, and his research has helped us understand the origins of our species.

While these developments show that Kent State’s influence is global, we also must realize that a public university serves many constituents. For instance, a gift from John S. Brinzo, a 1964 Kent State alumnus, will establish an entrepreneurial lab in his name within the College of Business Administration’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, to produce graduates who can lead Ohio in developing economic opportunities.

This issue of Kent State Magazine documents the wide variety of ways our efforts in research, education and outreach touch lives.

In partnership with area organizations and Summa Health System, Kent State researchers are confronting the new face of a deadly disease: African-Americans now make up 60 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in Ohio, and the disease is the number one cause of death in African-American women ages 20 to 34.

In response, Kent State researchers have impacted the lives of thousands of women in Northeast Ohio and around the globe through novel intervention strategies and education efforts.

A less urgent but nonetheless compelling Kent State initiative involves nurturing children’s creativity and study skills through the use of “picturebooks” and other youth literature. The university is a national leader in the study of children’s literature. Now, Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz have donated their collection of 21,000 children’s picturebooks and other materials as a permanent collection in the School of Library and Information Science’s Reinberger Children’s Library Center, a model classroom for future teachers and librarians.

From high-tech materials research and business growth to women’s health and the nurturing of children’s minds, we are proud of the myriad ways Kent State students, faculty and staff put excellence into action every day. 🌟
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Upcoming Events

Back cover
Dinell Johnson’s teenage children know what Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) looks like, and how it can change a family forever. Their mother, a gregarious 30-something former track athlete, represents the new face of a familiar epidemic.

Johnson, whose name has been changed to protect her job and her family, does not fit the stereotype of a person living with AIDS; this daughter, sister and mother is an African-American woman. Johnson was diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, in 2003 after a yearlong bout with flu-like symptoms that culminated in a 105-degree fever and hospital stay. The day after she was admitted to the hospital, doctors broke the news.

“I thought my life was over. A lot of people feel that way,” Johnson says. “I thought about my kids and my family.”

Johnson spent three weeks in the hospital, unable to get out of bed without assistance, getting sustenance through tubes in her nose. Johnson’s naturally wiry 125-pound body rebelled, shrinking to 98 pounds. Her legs would not work; she endured therapy to learn how to walk again.

“It was the worst time in my life,” Johnson says. Johnson says she knew “much of nothing” about HIV, until she was diagnosed. She contracted the virus five years before her diagnosis while in a heterosexual relationship she believed to be monogamous.

The new face of AIDS

More than 25 years after the first published reports of AIDS, a disease that emerged in the largely white, gay communities of San Francisco and New York, the epidemic now infects and kills more minorities than whites overall.

In keeping with the national trend, African-Americans make up 60 percent of the new HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in Ohio.

In her more than 20 years as an educator, Dr. Dianne Kerr, Kent State associate professor and program coordinator of health education and promotion, has witnessed a real change in the face of the epidemic. “In the ‘80s, it was gay white men in the United States — that was the first population infected,” Kerr says. “It’s so hard even today to get through to other groups that they can get it, too. It’s really become a disease that disproportionately affects minorities.”

The statistics bear out Kerr’s concerns. In 2005, half of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States were among African-Americans, many of them heterosexual women, many of them married. Put into perspective, African-Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, and currently are diagnosed with HIV at 10 times the rate of whites.

Many in the African-American community are in denial, slow to acknowledge homosexuality or drug use, and therefore less receptive to prevention messages and protective measures. “I think a lot of the problems we’re seeing in reaching young African-American women is the ‘I don’t believe it can happen to me’ factor,” says Anna Davis, program coordinator of Sisters Informing Sisters about Topics on AIDS (SISTA), a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-approved AIDS

Facing AIDS

Faculty research focuses on prevention through empowerment, communication
prevention program offered at the East Akron Community House. “In a relationship, a lot of times we close our eyes to things because we want to trust, we want to believe that our partner is being faithful when it isn’t necessarily true.”

The high price of denial

The CDC cites AIDS as the number one cause of death for African-American women between the ages of 20 and 34. Heterosexual transmission is the chief mode of infection, with more than 70 percent of women contracting the disease that way.

A whole host of factors render African-American women particularly vulnerable. African-American women are less likely to have regular access to health care and less likely to obtain early diagnosis. Often, they don’t find out they’re positive until they are sick or give birth. Similar to women of other races and ethnicities, they fulfill the role of caregiver within their families and tend to neglect their own needs.

Studies have also shown a direct relationship between HIV infection and income. Nearly a quarter of all African-American women live in poverty. As women are forced into social and economic survival mode, they are less likely to question men’s behavior. They’re afraid challenging their partner will cause the man to flee, taking economic stability with him.

In addition, because one in four African-American men have been in prison — currently, nearly one million are incarcerated — some
African-American women don’t feel they have many options for quality relationships, so they accept partners who may be high-risk.

“Most prisons do not provide condoms, primarily because they do not want to acknowledge the sexual behaviors that go on,” says Kerr. Risky sexual behavior, along with the use of needles and other unsterilized instruments in tattooing, for example, also leads to transmission of the virus.

Kerr says inmates are tested for HIV when they enter prison, but not before they are released. “The men are released and go back to wives and girlfriends,” she says.

Through studies and prevention programs, researchers and health educators are working to reverse the deadly trend among African-American women. Most agree that to be effective, efforts must address unequal power relationships between men and women, as well as help women understand their lives are worth protecting.

Prevention through empowerment

Dr. Stevan E. Hobfoll, Kent State distinguished professor of psychology and director of the Center for the Study and Treatment of Traumatic Stress, a partnership between Summa Health System and Kent State, conducted the first study funded by the federal government to address prevention of HIV among heterosexual women.

“I did not see HIV/AIDS as a simple health problem like diet or not smoking, but very much related to the stress in people’s lives,” Hobfoll says. “People have romantic relationships and sexual relationships for many reasons, and saying no to those relationships or putting limits on them adds additional stressors.”

Hobfoll’s study resulted in an intervention program — approved by the CDC and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration — that has served more than 3,000 Northeast Ohio women.

The program, composed of one part education, one part self-esteem building and one part communication skills developed through role-play and practice, has entered its 15th year and is used as a model for intervention worldwide.

The intervention employs negotiation skills typically utilized in business transactions and tailors them to meet the needs of inner-city women, Hobfoll explains.

“You might believe that your partner should use a condom or you should abstain until you’ve been tested or until your relationship is in a more mature stage, but all of that implies interpersonal skills and negotiation skills which people generally don’t have,” Hobfoll says. “No only means no if you have power. When you don’t have power over the other, you have to move to negotiation.”

For one-third to one-half of HIV-positive African-American women, a history of violence and abuse plays a role in their health behaviors and decision-making. Hobfoll is leading a new study involving women who, because of their painful histories, avoid conflict or become conflictual very quickly; neither strategy results in sound decision-making, he says.

“A lot of these women have tremendous anxiety and avoidance tendencies over sexual decision-making,” Hobfoll says. “Many of them have post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from past abuse, so in our newest generation of research we’re working on lowering their PTSD symptoms so they’re no longer symptomatic — now they won’t use drugs and alcohol to avoid thoughts and feelings about the traumatic experience; now they won’t avoid appropriate confrontation; now they’ll be able to use the negotiation skills we’ve taught them.”

Dinell Johnson is among the thousands of African-American women who have experienced violence or abuse; in her case, it was inflicted by a sibling. After learning she was HIV-positive, Johnson was mired in deep depression. She sought counseling at Violet’s Cupboard, an Akron-area social service agency, where she learned of a study conducted by Dr. Douglas Delahanty, Kent State associate professor of psychology.

The study examines prior history of traumatic events in individuals living with HIV, and the consequences of prior trauma. Three hundred participants were interviewed who, on average, suffered five traumatic events that could cause PTSD.

“What we find consistently is that depression and PTSD have very negative consequences toward medication adherence,” Delahanty says. “In HIV, much more so than for other disorders, medication adherence is very important — most HIV medication regimens require close to 100-percent adherence rates to be effective.”

When an individual is dealing with PTSD or depression, possibly using drugs or alcohol to dull the pain, they might not think about taking their HIV medication or care about maintaining their physical health.

“Almost universally researchers have concluded that until you address underlying psychological
issues, adherence interventions probably will not be efficacious,” Delahanty says.

Researchers are using what’s known as “prolonged exposure therapy” to treat participants, all of whom are of low socioeconomic status. The study marks the first use of this therapy on HIV-positive individuals.

“It’s not a pleasant therapy — you spend a significant period of time thinking about the thing that bothers you more than anything else in the entire world, that you’ve been trying to avoid for years and years,” Delahanty says. “But it’s striking how well people respond to it.”

The therapist slowly guides the patient in reliving the traumatic event until the patient reaches a fuller understanding of the trauma (how and why it happened), and thoughts of the trauma no longer invade the patient’s mind unbidden. Other symptoms of PTSD, including hyperarousal, increased vigilance and heart rate, also decrease.

Delahanty says feedback from participants has been positive. “This is a tremendously underserved population, so they’re just fantastically happy to take part,” he says.

**Prevention through communication**

Halting the spread of HIV/AIDS requires communication and open access to information, Kerr says. But as long as an HIV/AIDS diagnosis carries with it intense stigma, silence will remain a contributing factor to the spread of the disease.

In this age of information, what people don’t know can be baffling, especially when it comes to a deadly, completely preventable disease.

Kerr became involved in HIV/AIDS education back when the medical establishment referred to AIDS as Gay-Related Immunodeficiency. People thought the disease would run its course in just a year, she says. Since 1981, AIDS has claimed 25 million lives worldwide.

“Once science learned more about the virus, it became obvious there wasn’t going to be a quick fix because the virus mutates,” Kerr says. “This became evident in the late 1980s.”

“We haven’t been effective with AIDS education,” says Kerr. “Every year, 40,000 people in the United States are still becoming infected.”

Dinell Johnson is doing her part to help stop the spread of AIDS. Her calendar includes speaking engagements at high schools, churches, colleges and clinics. Her message is simple: Be smart, get informed, protect yourself and get tested.

“There aren’t many black women out here talking about AIDS,” says Johnson. “I want to be one to break the silence.”

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.

**HIV/AIDS MYTHS**

**Dr. Dianne Kerr**, associate professor and program coordinator of health education and promotion at Kent State University, debunks two common myths about HIV/AIDS:

**Myth**: Two people with HIV/AIDS can have sexual relations without using protection because they already have the virus.

**Truth**: Even infected people can get re-infected with different strains of the virus.

**Myth**: The super drug cocktails that are now available make it possible for someone with HIV/AIDS to live a “normal” life.

**Truth**: While it is true that modern drug regimens can prolong the life of an HIV-positive individual, many of the drugs have dangerous (even deadly) side effects, and some strains of HIV have emerged that are resistant to all available drugs.

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVES**

**ADOLESCENTS AT RISK**

Dr. Douglas Delahanty, Kent State associate professor of psychology, is working on a Cleveland-based study to reduce risky sexual behavior among high-risk adolescents. Read more about this research at www.kent.edu/magazine.

**HOLDING STONES**

Pastor of Cleveland’s historic Antioch Baptist Church discusses the role of the black church in fighting HIV/AIDS at www.kent.edu/magazine.

**LIVING AND LEARNING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Alumnus **Will Harper**, ’05, turned a student-teaching opportunity into a life-changing career. Read about it at www.kent.edu/magazine.
Children’s book collection enhances research, teaching

By Rachel Wenger, ’00

In the great green room, there was a telephone, and a red balloon, and a picture of the cow jumping over the moon, and there were little bears sitting on chairs, and two little kittens, and a pair of mittens, and a little toyhouse, and a young mouse...

Goodnight room,
Goodnight moon,
Goodnight cow jumping over the moon...

Reading a book at the end of a long day is often as much a part of a child's bedtime routine as putting on pajamas or reciting evening prayers. Like many children who delay the onset of sleepiness, the bunny in the much-loved Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown puts off sleeping by saying goodnight to all of the objects in his sight. Goodnight Moon holds a special place in many children's and parents' hearts, evoking memories of nightlights, goodnight hugs and sweet dreams. Published in 1947, the book still finds its way into the bedtime routines of today's families.

But Goodnight Moon's poetic tone probably wouldn’t be as alluring without Clement Hurd's charming illustrations: Each flip of the page depicts the bunny's room growing darker, with the moon rising in the sky and the hands on the clock ticking forward.

While the storyline of Goodnight Moon and other popular children's picturebooks garner much admiration, longtime book reviewers and collectors Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz are more interested in the books' illustrations, and have taken the view for more than 40 years that picturebooks should be considered art objects, a stance supported...
Dr. Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz donated their collection of more than 21,000 children's picturebooks to Kent State's School of Library and Information Science.

by thousands of their reviews and articles. That notion led to the Marantz's cataloguing their picturebook collection by illustrator rather than by author, a system believed to be the only one of its kind.

“Picturebooks have great design and are very visual,” says Kenneth Marantz. “We don’t see the books just as literary pieces, but more for the medium, design and color used by the illustrator.”

Interest in the picturebook — spelled as one word by the Marantz’s, to indicate its value as artwork, as Sylvia Marantz would rather call it, of 21,000 children's picturebooks, along with publicity posters, artist correspondence and toys and puppets. In the spring of 2007, the collection, which includes first-edition works by such authors as Maurice Sendak and Dr. Seuss, found a new home at Kent State’s School of Library and Information Science as the Marantz Picturebook Collection, located in the school’s Reinberger Children’s Library Center.

Kenneth Marantz, a professor emeritus of art education at Ohio State University, and his wife, Sylvia, a retired school librarian, collected the picturebooks as part of their academic reviewing of more than 10,000 children’s books.

The collection expanded for about 30 years, with the Marantz’s goal being to develop a Center for the Art of the Picturebook. In 2000, the collection moved into the Columbus College of Art and Design. In the interest of ensuring a robust and enduring future for the picturebooks, the college contacted Kent State to pursue permanent transfer of the collection.

“Dr. [Carolyn] Brodie knew the collection should be housed in an environment where the books would be understood as art objects, to be researched by faculty and students, cataloged first by illustrator,” says Sylvia Marantz. “Kent State was interested in using the picturebook collection in the way that it was always meant to be used.”

Obtaining the grant to build the Reinberger Children’s Library Center four years ago has opened so many new avenues, says Brodie, professor in the School of Library and Information Science. As the only graduate classroom of its type in the country, the Reinberger Children’s Library Center attracts students and researchers from across the state and the nation.

It was a coincidence that Brodie was serving on the 2007 Caldecott Award Committee when she received an inquiry about Kent State’s interest in the Marantz Collection, she says. She also participated on the Newbery Committee twice, once as the chair in 2000.

Kent State has a history of supporting children’s, young adult and school library programs, and has encouraged growth in these areas, for which it is now nationally recognized, she also says.

The School of Library and Information Science's success is also spurred by the work of Dr. Greg Byerly, associate professor, who, together with Brodie, has obtained more than $6 million in grants over the course of their 18 years of working at Kent State. Many of those grants are connected to educating youth services librarians and providing continuing training for librarians and K-12 educators.

For example, one of the grants, totaling $634,000, is being used to develop partnerships among school librarians, teachers and museum partners. Another study involving Byerly and several other Kent State faculty members looks at how children are accessing and utilizing information online.

This dedication to children’s and youth librarianship — as evidenced through Kent State's collections, resources and faculty research in these areas — has helped boost the library school's ranking to 19th in the country, according to a U.S. News and World Report survey. The school was ranked as the second highest program of its kind without a doctoral program.

A 2007 Reinberger Foundation grant of $249,000 and a space donation from the University Library will allow the school to expand the Reinberger Children's Library Center by 1,600 square feet to house the Marantz Picturebook Collection, enabling it to play its unique role.

“The center gives students the opportunity to receive training in the type of environment where they will one day work,” Brodie says. “The Marantz Picturebook Collection will allow our graduate students to pursue new areas of study and research that were never possible before.”

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.
At the heart of political strife, gender inequity and the spread of deadly diseases is a necessity most people in the Western world take for granted — water.

Water respects no political boundaries, although governments are responsible for the cleanliness of the water their citizens drink and how the water within their borders is used. Yet this important resource continues to be mismanaged, and basic sanitation continues to elude a majority of the world’s population.

The world water crisis is one of the fundamental barriers to human development and, furthermore, nobody questions that it exists, says Dr. Robert Heath, professor of biological sciences and director of the Water Resources Research Institute at Kent State University.

Water use or scarcity issues are addressed in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) crafted by world leaders in 2000, but at the current pace of change, the 2.5 billion people worldwide lacking basic sanitation will continue to go without until 2076.

“Few issues of global significance resemble the world water crisis,” Heath says. “It kills millions, sickens tens of millions and deprives many more of their very basic rights.”

It also causes loss of hundreds of millions of hours in productive employment and school attendance, and is responsible for irreparable damage to ecosystems.

Clearly, global cooperation is needed to address these issues.

Breaking through political logjams

So what happens when governments of countries that share water resources don’t talk to one another, or share little more than mutual hatred? The Middle East presents a prime example.

As the governments of the countries in the Fertile Crescent — a region including the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that is home to nearly a quarter of the population of the Middle East — become ever more entrenched politically and ideologically, millions of
people suffer because they lack access to clean water. Water issues directly affect all aspects of life, ranging from agriculture to gender equity. For example, Heath says, women are responsible for sanitation tasks in the Middle East. "Young women are often made to stay home to do housework rather than participate in formal education," he says. He explains that women in villages without plumbing might have to trek to and from the nearest river 20 times per day to fetch the family’s water supply, leaving them very little time for anything other than survival.

Having worked together in the United States on a project begun in 2001, a group of water experts from the Middle East sought to carry on their work with the added purpose of expanding much-needed dialogue in the region. In 2005, they founded the Euphrates-Tigris Initiative for Cooperation (ETIC) at Kent State University under the direction of Olcay Unver, former Kent State University scholar-in-residence who recently became coordinator of the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme.

ETIC quickly stepped in to offer a platform for dialogue in a region where some governments interact only to trade hostilities. "The countries involved in ETIC have not in the past shared information about water resources," says Dr. Kenneth Cushner, Kent State executive director of international affairs and a founding member of ETIC. "The result of lack of cooperation is sub-optimal use of the resource."

Cushner refers to ETIC as a "nonthreatening initiative of scholars" that brings together academics and professionals from Turkey, Syria and Iraq.

Through workshops, training activities and conferences, ETIC engages in Track II diplomacy, a method of diplomacy created to mitigate political conflicts used heavily during the cold war era.

Though Track II diplomacy has never before been successfully applied to water issues, currently ETIC provides the only platform where the riparian parties have come together on a trilateral basis in more than 13 years.

The Iraqi Water Ministry has requested a capacity-building package from ETIC, including training activities for employees and managers, as well as new technologies — a testament to the initiative’s efficacy. "Iraq was a closed society for more than 10 years," Cushner says. "Iraq’s crumbling infrastructure was revealed in the aftermath of the United States’ invasion in 2003. They never received information about new technologies and practices [prior to the occupation]," Cushner says.

ETIC is currently finalizing another activity that will be funded by the U.S. Department of State, and talking with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on two other projects. But ETIC’s mission extends beyond the Middle East.

Water, water everywhere ...

"Internationally, there is a need for global water policy," Heath says, adding that developed nations have failed to take a leadership role on the issue.

Heath calls for governments to double their level of investment in sanitation and safe drinking water. "An additional $15 billion in aid would save the lives of approximately one million children during the next decade and produce a total economic benefit of more than $38 billion annually," he says.

The recent release of the long-awaited United Nations Global Warming Report, which definitively states that global warming is caused by human activity, only underscores the global significance of water issues. Current projections indicate melting glaciers will first cause major flooding in numerous areas; the flooding will be followed by increased draughts. Figures project as many as three billion people will lack access to drinking water, and further decreases in agricultural production will significantly worsen the food shortage situation, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the meantime — as the global community continues to lag behind its own MDG targets and governments deliberate means to curtail the effects of global warming — the cost of inaction continues to be borne by the poorest of the poor (women and girls), the disadvantaged and the environment, Heath says.

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.
The worn, stone pathway leads to the charming house perched atop a grassy hill. A petite, dark-haired woman answers my knock and then calls upstairs to her husband, Dr. Olaf Prufer, Kent State professor of anthropology.

A few minutes later, a short, grey-haired man using a hand-carved wooden cane descends the staircase and welcomes me in a soft German accent. He leads me past beautiful antique furniture and rugs to a room filled with books, mostly on the Holocaust. Cultural relics from around the world cram the shelves that border the room. Prufer’s own Dalí-like quill-and-ink renderings hang framed on the library walls.

Prufer speaks with absolute forthrightness and displays an incredible memory for historical facts and details. Although the illness that struck him three years ago may have physically slowed him down, it has in no way affected his intellect or passion for life.

In 2004, Prufer was diagnosed with stage three multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer. He was given six months to live by his local doctors, but his son-in-law, a surgeon practicing in Cleveland, recommended treatment at University Hospitals. Though his condition is incurable, doctors have managed the disease using highly effective new therapies. Despite weekly doctor visits, Prufer continues to teach two courses a semester at Kent State and has no plans to retire. “I’m not going to give up and stop doing what I enjoy,” he says. Prufer has taught archaeology and cultural anthropology classes for nearly 40 years at Kent State, and has created a lasting impact on all who have met him, particularly his students.

“After, perhaps, being startled by his gruff demeanor, students find Olaf is a very honest and compassionate person,” says Linda Spurlock, Ph.D. ’92, Ph.D. ’01, one of his former students at Kent State. Indeed, others agree.

During an archaeological dig as an impoverished graduate student, Dr. C. Owen Lovejoy, University Professor of anthropology at Kent State and another one of Prufer’s former students, mentioned to Prufer that he...
Dr. Olaf Prufer, Kent State professor of anthropology.

couldn’t afford to pay the rent on his apartment that month. The next night, they went drinking at a local pub, where Prufer bet Lovejoy $2 on a pinball game. Prufer lost but continued to double up each consecutive bet until the pot grew. “He kept losing, and I didn’t realize that he had thrown the game until days afterwards,” laughs Lovejoy. He adds, “It was Olaf’s way of providing me with unofficial funding.”

The thrill of discovery

The artifacts throughout Prufer’s home — like those at any archaeological site — speak to his amazing personal history and career. His current passion is collecting Roman fibulae, bronze toga brooches, on e-Bay. Before the days of electronic auction sites, Prufer collected the old-fashioned way, purchasing ancient items from around the world during his travels as an archaeologist.

His first foray into archaeology occurred when he was a 19-year-old soldier in the Indian army. While horseback riding during a mission, Prufer noticed several chards of red pottery on the ground. From these few pieces, he discovered an entire second millennium B.C. village named Dher Magra, a culture that was thought to have existed only in Pakistan. In 1951, his earliest professional publications described the artifacts he found in this ancient Indian habitation. That serendipitous ride led Prufer to his highly respected, lifelong career.

After working in India for five years, Prufer and his first wife moved to the United States, where he was offered a full scholarship to Harvard University.

“They didn’t know what to do with me,” says Prufer. “I never graduated from high school, but I have a Ph.D. from Harvard University.” Prufer completed his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in only six years, all at Harvard.

In 1961, he graduated and accepted his first teaching position at the Case Institute (known today as Case Western Reserve University) in Cleveland, Ohio. He taught for a short period at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst before his daughter became ill and the family returned to Ohio, where his daughter could be treated at University Hospitals, and where he was offered a full professorship at Kent State University in 1968.

Much of his time at Kent State was spent doing field work in southern Ohio at the Hopewell Indian mounds. “Olaf is the father of Ohio archaeology,” says Spurlock, who has co-authored several books on the subject with Prufer. “He has made many pivotal discoveries and is an expert on every Ohio prehistory time period.”

“Olaf is incredibly devoted to accuracy and detail, which, when mixed with innovation, make a fabulous cocktail for an archaeologist,” adds Lovejoy.

Transcending personal history

That devotion also makes for an amazing historian, as evidenced by Prufer’s massive collection of books about Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, on which he is considered an expert.

Born in 1930, Prufer spent his early childhood years in Berlin, Germany. After World War II erupted in 1939, his family moved to Brazil where his father, Curt Prufer, served as German ambassador for three years. In 1942, they returned to Germany, and at age 12, young Olaf was required to join a paramilitary Nazi group called Hitler Youth.

“As members of the anti-aircraft group, we were responsible for firing ammunitions at enemy aircraft,” says Prufer. As the end of the war drew near, Prufer’s father managed to evacuate the family from the country into Switzerland.

About his legacy, Prufer says: “When I realized what my country had done, I was embarrassed and horrified.” Several years after the war, Prufer discovered a shocking, ironic revelation about his own family. His mother, the wife of a high-level diplomat in the Nazi government, had Jewish ancestry. “My father went to great lengths to make sure no legal documentation was found,” he says. Prufer has devoted much of his career to unearthing the facts of the Holocaust that his father once sought to conceal.

Olaf Prufer’s life unfolds — soldier, scholar, teacher, mentor — and parallels the way we learn from artifacts. He piques our interest, and we discover the surface merely hints at the riches beneath. As American author Camille Paglia says, “Archaeology is our voyage to the past, where we discover who we were and therefore who we are.” Prufer’s life is an artifact of his generation, telling us a story about the past and present, and perhaps, the future.

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.
Accurate portrayal of American Indians is a goal of Stark Campus professor

By Melissa Edler, '00

Major issues on Indian reservations include problems of drug abuse, alcoholism and poverty, says Norton-Smith. According to the 2005 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, 25 percent of the American Indian population lives in poverty, the highest poverty rate of any race, and twice that of the overall population (12.6 percent). But perhaps one of the largest issues American Indians face is their invisibility in today’s world.

While more than 4.3 million Americans and more than 76,000 Ohioans reported American Indian ancestry in the 2000 U.S. Census — the first census in which people could mark multiple ancestries — many other people believe Indians no longer exist in this country, says Norton-Smith. One year during the Piqua Heritage Festival, where Norton-Smith demonstrates primitive camping as part of a living history exhibit, he was approached by a young boy who asked: “Are you an Indian? I didn’t think there were any more Indians.”

“This is exactly the image we’re trying to fight — the stereotype of Indians as red-skinned, feathered savages like Chief Wahoo,” says Norton-Smith, referring to the mascot of a local professional baseball franchise. He says that many people have an inaccurate notion of contemporary American Indians and are not aware of the problems they face.”

“Many people have an inaccurate notion of contemporary American Indians and are not aware of the problems they face,” says Dr. Thomas Norton-Smith, associate professor of philosophy at Kent State University’s Stark Campus and a member of the Piqua Sept Shawnee Tribe, named for a traditional political division of the Shawnee Indian tribe.

Thomas Norton-Smith, associate professor of philosophy, Kent State Stark

Photo by Bob Chirsty, '95
to the Cleveland Indians baseball team mascot. “We want to address the historical image of the Indian, but also show that Indians still exist and our culture is alive.”

Today, there are more than 560 federally recognized tribes and dozens more state recognized tribes in the United States. Each one has its own unique traditions, ceremonies and origin stories.

So why do young children fail to recognize their American Indian neighbors? Norton-Smith theorizes that preschool teachers are portraying American Indians in a stereotypical manner, as the red, feather-adorned, “noble savages” who enjoyed Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims — a portrayal reinforced by Disney’s representation of Indians as well as the presence of various “Indian” sports logos and mascots, like Chief Wahoo.

“Because no one resembling the stereotype lives next door, the implicit lesson is that all Indians are dead and gone and that Indians only have a historic presence and relevance,” says Norton-Smith.

To test his theory, Norton-Smith, along with Linda Norton-Smith, an adjunct education instructor at Kent State Salem, created a workshop titled “Redirecting Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms” with the help of a $5,000 Child Care Quality Grant from the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services. Designed for 21 preschool teachers in Summit County, the workshop provided an authentic historic and contemporary portrayal of American Indians, in addition to offering resources and teaching strategies to help convey an accurate representation to children in their classrooms.

Prior to the workshop, 65 percent of the participants expressed that they either had no knowledge or very little knowledge of American Indians, and one admitted: “My current understanding of Native Americans has come from movies — I guess you’d call it the ‘Hollywood Version.’” After participating in the workshop, she responded: “What we have been taught as children is not the truth. American Indians are no different from any of us, and we should respect their heritage and beliefs.”

Perhaps the most amazing example of how education can change one’s perspective is that of a teacher who, prior to attending the workshop, said that Native Americans are “lazy, drunken, white-hating savages.” After participating in the workshop, she responded: “What we have been taught as children is not the truth. American Indians are no different from any of us, and we should respect their heritage and beliefs.” At the very least, the workshop offers a small step toward making contemporary American Indians more visible.

For more information, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.
Fall 2006 — A Season of Firsts for the Golden Flash Football Program

The year 2006 was a season of firsts for the Golden Flash football program. Finishing with a 6-6 record and a second-place finish in the MAC East, the Flashes set a single-season attendance record, with an average of 17,810 fans at every home game.

Kent State football firsts in 2006 included:
• First five-game winning streak since 1976
• First-ever 4-0 start in the MAC
• First win over the Toledo Rockets since 1991
• First win at Bowling Green since 1972
• First win at Miami since 1988
• First win at Dix Stadium against arch-rival Akron since 1996 to reclaim the Wagon Wheel
• First Big 10 Team (Minnesota) to play in Dix Stadium
• First-time in school history registered attendance of more than 20,000 in three games (Akron, Toledo, Minnesota)

Kent State faces a challenging schedule in 2007, but dramatic improvements on both sides of the ball should prove helpful as the team faces five bowl teams.

The Golden Flashes open up at Dix Stadium Sept. 15 against Delaware State. Following two MAC road games against arch-rival Akron (Sept. 22) and Ohio (Sept. 29), Kent State will play three home games in four weeks. Miami comes to Dix Stadium on Oct. 6 for Homecoming, and then the Flashes will travel to Ohio Stadium to play BCS runner-up Ohio State on Oct. 13. The Golden Flashes will face Bowling Green (Oct. 20) and Central Michigan (Oct. 27) in critical conference match-ups.

Kent State will conclude its home schedule on Saturday, Nov. 24, at 1 p.m. against Buffalo.

Despite a tough schedule, the Golden Flashes enter the 2007 season with high expectations and a solid foundation established by Coach Doug Martin and his staff. Kent State returns 16 starters from last season, led by All-MAC honoree, quarterback Julian Edelman, along with explosive...
tailback Eugene Jarvis. Coach Martin has brought in another strong recruiting class, focusing again on speed and his goal to build depth.

Season ticket plans are available. Kent State offers a Family Pack and mini-packages. The Family Pack, presented by Hungry Howie’s Pizza, will provide four tickets, four drinks, four hats and a large Hungry Howie’s pizza for $55. The Gold Plan mini-package will provide tickets to the Miami and Central Michigan games, with reserved seating starting at $24. The Blue Plan provides tickets for Miami, Central Michigan and Bowling Green, with prices starting at $33 for the three-game set.

Group ticket packages offer fans sideline seating and the opportunity to “Party on the Deck.” Rent the hospitality deck at Dix Stadium, just yards from the field, and enjoy a unique view of Kent State football, up close and personal, with your friends or co-workers.

Smell a juicy burger sizzling on the grill. Hear a local band play country music. Taste a tall, cold draft beer on a warm day. Feel the bumps in a bean bag before tossing it into the cornhole board. See a Kent State fan dressed in blue and gold from head to toe. Welcome to Kent State’s Tailgate Alley.

“Tailgate Alley is two-and-a-half hours of pre-game fun that hits all five senses,” says Nancy Schiappa, ’85, M.Ed. ’90, associate director of alumni relations. “It creates an exciting and interactive atmosphere for people of all ages.”

Tailgate Alley was established last fall by the Student Athletic Advisory Board, Kent State Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics. The main goal was to create a Division 1A environment and turn football game days into events, says Pete Mahoney, associate athletic director.

Student and community organizations rent tents through the athletic department and provide various items such as food, club information and T-shirts for Kent State fans. Each game brings new attractions, such as music performances, inflatables and cornhole tournaments, which are stationed directly outside the stadium.

“The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive,” Mahoney says. “There is a new-found excitement for the football program, and we expect to see an even greater turnout this year.”

In the past, tailgating occurred in the stadium parking lot before football games. Fans parked their cars and grilled hot dogs or cooked chili, but they were not permitted to consume alcohol. Fans can now purchase food and alcohol inexpensively within Tailgate Alley’s perimeter.

Along with providing fans a festive environment on game day, Tailgate Alley also aids in traffic control on Summit Street. Having people arrive a couple hours before the game helps ease the inflow of traffic to the stadium, and the traffic route and shuttles allow them to exit easier, Schiappa says.

This fall, fans can expect to see more people, more tents and more fun at Tailgate Alley. There will also be maintenance improvements, such as increased blacktop surface, to accommodate set-ups in less-than-ideal weather conditions.

Schiappa says she hopes to see Tailgate Alley continue to grow and bring new attractions and people to Kent State athletic events.

“Just as we’ve created a pre-game atmosphere to get fans excited, I would love to see us host post-game victory parties in Tailgate Alley,” she says. “With continued support from the university and community, the possibilities are endless.”

Kent State’s graduation rates for student athletes places it at the top of the Mid-American Conference. According to 2006 NCAA data, Kent State’s football program graduates 83 percent of its players, and the women’s basketball program is the only team in the MAC that graduated 100 percent of players. Read more about these outstanding students at www.kent.edu/magazine.
The College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Kent State announced the appointment of Christopher Diehl as the new director of the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC). Diehl will lead the collaborative in its evolving role as a vital forum for architecture and design in Northeast Ohio.

As director of design at URS Cleveland, Diehl has been responsible for several award-winning projects including Tri-C’s Corporate College East, Simmons Hall at the University of Akron and the Idea Center historic renovation in Playhouse Square, Cleveland.

Diehl has been an active and creative force in the Cleveland cultural community, where he has authored projects on public art and has been a strong voice in supporting urban revitalization. Diehl has taught architecture at the Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University and Miami University. He received a bachelor’s degree from Miami University and his master’s degree in architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. He also has studied film and architecture at the Stadelschule Art Academy in Frankfurt-Am-Main, Germany.

Music school receives All-Steinway status

The name Steinway & Sons is synonymous with excellence in the music world. In March 2007, the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music announced a fund-raising campaign to become an All-Steinway School. The designation “demonstrates a university’s commitment to excellence by providing students and faculties with the best equipment possible for the study of music,” according to Steinway & Sons, which boasts 150 years of crafting “the world’s finest pianos.” The designation signifies that the school is working toward using only Steinway-designed pianos in its practice rooms and recital halls.

“Pianos affect everything we do in the School of Music,” says Dr. Josef Knott, director of the School of Music. “Whether a student is performing choral, opera or orchestra music, or is studying voice, strings, brass, wind, percussion, or even music theory, composition or history, the common foundation in these disciplines is the piano. No student can go through this school without directly or indirectly benefiting from a piano.”

Kent State’s School of Music is one of 55 universities worldwide including the United States, China and Asia that have received the All-Steinway designation. The Steinway pianos are “gradually arriving” says Knott, since the first shipment was delivered in March.

Fashion School honors Oscar de la Renta

Kent State’s School of Fashion Design and Merchandising inducted iconic fashion designer Oscar de la Renta into its Fashion Hall of Fame at this year’s Portfolio show in April. The annual event showcases the designs of Kent State’s junior and senior-level fashion students.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Rhodes, director of the Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, says de la Renta has contributed many garments to the Kent State University Museum, which
students use for study. An exhibition of his work — “Oscar de la Renta: American Elegance” — is currently featured at the museum through Sept. 2.

Portfolio 2007 also featured the dedication of the Burton D. and Margaret C. Morgan Fashion Design Wing in Rockwell Hall, and honored Helen Dix, ’38, who celebrated her 90th birthday.

New Research Park to feature unique high-tech collaboration

Kent State University has launched a new era in focused, 21st-century research and economic development, unveiling a leading-edge research park in the former bus garage on the Kent Campus.

“The Kent State Centennial Research Park is an important part of my vision for the university as it enters its second century, by cultivating and capitalizing on intellectual property,” says Kent State President Lester A. Lefton. “This innovative research initiative fits our mission as a major public research university to promote academic excellence, to provide regional development opportunities and to push the boundaries of discovery for the good of the public.”

The Research Park will provide space and support for specialized companies to thrive and grow near the university and its other partners. Kent State students will have opportunities for research, internships and employment; faculty researchers from the Liquid Crystal Institute and other disciplines will be available for collaborative projects; and the university has entrepreneurial assets available to aid business growth through its centers that specialize in technology transfer, small business development, business innovation and minority-owned businesses.

The anchor tenant of Kent State’s Centennial Research Park will be the FLEXMatters Accelerator, a broad, public-private high-technology collaboration, designed to produce a new generation of advanced materials and promote regional economic development.

The FLEXMatters Accelerator will work with local companies to develop and produce devices that are typically rigid on flexible polymer substrates. This collaboration will lead to production of liquid crystal-based flexible displays, eye wear, electronics and other devices. FLEXMatters Accelerator, a model for further expansion within the Centennial Research Park, arose from a partnership between Kent State and NorTech, a technology-based economic development organization for Northeast Ohio that has been a catalyst in building high-tech regional collaboration.

Kent State ranks fifth in the world and second nationwide among universities in the number of start-up companies formed per $1 million in research expenditures.

Centennial Research Park is located at the corner of St. Rtes. 59 and 261, in the Fiala Building, the former home of Kent State’s student-operated campus bus service.®

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

Photos by Jeff Glidden, ’87
University lecture halls are full of distractions — monotonously buzzing neon lights, nervous coughs, throat clearing, pencil tapping and the smacks of chewing gum.

But the challenge of concentrating on an exam while a two-year-old with a high fever waggles in the next chair takes the prize as one of Erica Williams’ more difficult testing situations — especially since the child in question was her daughter, Alora.

Williams couldn’t take her daughter to day care on exam day because she had a fever. Unfortunately, at the time, there were no other babysitting options available. She decided to go to class and to take Alora along.

Williams’ professor empathized, and she was able to take the exam with Alora by her side. She struggled to stay focused and says she did the best that she could. And given the situation, “Alora did her best too,” Williams laughs.

Most single-parent students can probably share similar, now-humorous tales: The time their child hid the car keys the morning of a class presentation or when their three-year-old decided to decorate their final paper with purple crayon. But single parents earning college degrees also share serious concerns balancing educational and parenting issues such as finding affordable day care and time to study.

Enter LIFE

LIFE, Literacy and Independence for Family Education, aims to answer these questions by providing support to single parents entering college. Started in fall 2006, the LIFE community at Kent State is a unique environment designed to help parents live, study and learn together. Ten single-parent students
Erica Williams and her daughter, Alora, are members of Kent State’s new community (LIFE) for single parents.

Photo by Jeff Glidden, ’87

and 11 children were admitted from a pool of applicants to participate in the program for academic year 2006-07.

With approximately 14 million single parents in the United States today, raising an estimated 21.6 million children, according to 2006 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the need for programming that supports single-parent families is evident.

“We didn’t have to go searching for students for this program,” says Rachel Anderson, director of Kent State’s Adult Student Center, and co-creator of LIFE with Eboni Pringle, assistant director of admissions. “The students were already here, on our campus.”

Few universities in the United States focus on the learning and living aspects of students and families. Most current college family programming centers are built around the social aspects of living communities, with families residing together in one large house, Anderson says.

LIFE is distinctive because the program is designed to promote independence in single-parent families, with parents and children residing in individual apartments within a larger complex. Allerton Family Housing on the Kent Campus provides a private living situation with access to campus resources and green space for playtime and outside activities, while allowing single parents to socialize and share resources, Anderson says.

LIFE students attend up to two classes together — a university orientation class specifically designed for adult students with multiple roles and an introductory English class. This gives participants the chance to learn from one another.

Real life

Williams, a freshman pre-medicine major, says she’s always dreamed of going to college. She learned about LIFE through her aunt, who resides in Allerton, and grew interested in the program because she could have her daughter close to her while attending school.

A Cleveland native, Williams became pregnant with her daughter Alora in 2004. “When I found out that I was pregnant I wondered if I really would be ready to have a child,” she says. “I had to ask myself ‘do my dreams end now, or do I incorporate my child into my dreams?’”

Today, Williams is planning a future with Alora by her side. Her career goal is to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, specializing in treatment and research surrounding the physiology and anatomy of the heart.

Academically, the first semester at Kent State was a challenge, Williams says, “but it made me work hard and made me strive. I learned how to keep on going.”

She received a 3.19 grade point average in her first semester, and is aiming for at least a 3.6 in the spring. Williams recently was admitted into the university’s Honors College, a move she hopes will help her gain entrance to medical school.

LIFE beyond academics

In LIFE, the resources don’t end with academic support. The program assists participants with financial aid, connecting with community resources and promoting healthy child development, Williams says.

LIFE programming also addresses parenting issues, such as how to balance spending time with your child while attending college, and how to prepare healthy snacks on a budget.

Each semester, workshops on everything from potty training to promoting verbal language development in children, are led by students in Dr. Rhonda Richardson’s Parent and Child Relationships class. Richardson, a professor in the School of Family and Consumer Studies, housed in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, has the class develop sessions to help LIFE students enhance their parenting skills.

The workshops serve two purposes, Richardson says. Her students gain valuable experience in developing programming focused on parenting relationships, while LIFE participants have the opportunity to learn and to ask questions.

“The workshops have to be very ‘hands on.’ The education students can’t just get up and lecture in front of these LIFE students. There is no PowerPoint involved,” Richardson says.

This spring, students attended the workshops and then went directly to a group birthday party for all of the LIFE moms and children that celebrated birthdays during that semester.

“This spring I really noticed what a close-knit group of parents they really are,” Richardson says. “They’ve formed real, informal support and camaraderie in the group. Every college student needs that.”

For more information about LIFE and interviews with other participants, visit www.kent.edu/magazine.
This article continues the series about Kent State history as the university approaches its 100th anniversary in 2010. Follow the links at www.kent.edu/magazine for updates on centennial-related events, historical information on the Web and more.

In this generation, the cutting edge of technology has become progressively sharper and more advanced. Facilities, technology and knowledge verge on obsolescence as soon as they’re implemented. Renovations, innovations and discoveries stand poised to trump the status quo.

This seemingly relentless change presents a huge challenge for a university committed to preparing its students for the future. In many ways, as the line between tomorrow and today becomes increasingly blurred, the future is now.

Keeping up with technological and educational advancements could be exhausting. However, for Kent State faculty and students, it becomes an opportunity for excellence — an opportunity to stand out among the competition.

Kent State constantly updates existing facilities and creates new ones to meet the needs of its students. Infrastructure improvements, dedicated to improving the learning environment, extend to all eight Kent State campuses. Below are just two examples of Kent State’s excellence in action.

**STARK CAMPUS POND DEVELOPMENT**

Before the Kent State Stark Campus relocated to the Frank Avenue site in 1967, the area was home to the Frank family farm. The farm’s fertile soil was enhanced by underground springs and rain runoff. Those water sources eventually created a pond that fluctuated between lush and dry over the years.

Now the pond has been revitalized by Kent State Stark to provide yearlong sustainability for plant and animal life and is stocked entirely with species of animals and plants native to this area. This revitalization allows the campus and community to utilize the pond as an outdoor classroom for faculty and student research, as well as a hands-on learning environment for local school groups.

On Earth Day, the campus celebrated its commitment to the environment by dedicating the pond as one of Stark County’s protected wetlands.

“The pond is a place of beauty and reflection for our students, faculty and community members,” says Betsy Boze, Kent State Stark dean. “It also provides a laboratory for our students and those much younger.”

A simple aspect of nature has turned into an outdoor classroom for hundreds of students.

“This semester, our students are measuring the wealth of life in the pond,” Boze says “I believe their experiences are broadened with this real-life, hands-on experience.”

The Kent State Stark pond and wetland area is host to a...
In order to contribute to the health care boom and enhance educational experiences for its students, Kent State Ashtabula recently broke ground for a $15 million Health and Science Building.

“The building is extremely important for the growing health care programs,” says Susan Stocker, dean of the Ashtabula Campus “The labs have been handed down to the university and are out-of-date. We need better equipment and technology to keep up with the changing times.”

Kent State Ashtabula produces 80 to 85 percent of all health care employees working in Ashtabula County of the community.”

The building will benefit all Kent State Ashtabula students, not just those in nursing and health fields.

“The new curriculum requires every student working toward a bachelor’s degree to take a science lab,” Stocker says. “So all Kent State Ashtabula students will benefit from the new development.”

The building will offer the latest technology in the classrooms and labs. Anatomy, physiology, microbiology and chemistry labs will all be housed in the new facility.

“All around this country, brand new schools are being built,” Stocker says. “High school students are learning in cutting-edge technology facilities. Therefore, as a university, we need new technology and facilities to correlate with their high school experience. The health and science facility will enable the Ashtabula Campus to attract faculty who would normally not have been intrigued by a university with decade-old capabilities.”

Kent State Ashtabula is always in communication with future employers and business owners, who often provide jobs for Kent State students. By listening to the needs of that public, the campus is able to blend employers’ needs with those of the students to produce a successful learning environment, one that is vital to the students as they train for professional careers.

“One of the most important jobs of the university is to know what is going on in the world around us,” Stocker says. “We need to make sure our students are prepared so they are ready to go into the real world as professionals who can excel in their fields. This new facility will help them prepare for that.”

Geographic Time Scale and Planetary walks, offering self-guided tours through sequences of interpretive signage. The Geographic Time Scale Walk, which starts at the Akron/Canton Airport, represents life on earth. The length of each mark shows the amount of time that a specific species has inhabited the earth.

“Our students are growing up in a different generation,” Boze says. “The way they communicate and learn is different from how it used to be. We need new facilities and tactics that meet their needs.”

**ASHTABULA’S NEW HEALTH AND SCIENCE BUILDING**

The health care industry has become one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy. The demand for health care jobs is expected to increase more than 30 percent over the next decade.

Students studying in the nursing program at Kent State Ashtabula represent one third of the entire enrollment for the Regional Campus.

“This new building is not only important to the meet the needs of the students,” Stocker says, “but it is critical to the general and economic health school students are learning in cutting-edge technology facilities. Therefore, as a university, we need new technology and facilities to correlate with their high school experience. The health and science facility will enable the Ashtabula Campus to attract faculty who would normally not have been
Through the years, the styles change but the ritual remains the same. You think you are prepared to go away to college and then you realize that all the stuff you have packed will never fit in your dorm room, let alone the car. Most college students — and their parents — describe the first move-in day as “overwhelming.” However, this important day is most memorable as the entry point to the college years and all the great experiences that lie ahead.

Visit "The Hub" at www.ksualumni.org and share your move-in day memories.
46  Edmund J. Siennicki, Sharon Center, Ohio, is a music composer. He has had more than 200 works published, including several for young string orchestras and school bands. *

46  L. Timothy DeStefano, M.Ed. ’69, Carrollton, Ohio, is a retired assistant professor of music and band director from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. DeStefano has also received numerous professional awards throughout his career. +

46  Dorothy Schaal, Cheyenne, Wyo., recently retired from elementary school teaching. Schaal has been included in several editions of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers and has won numerous awards for her paintings. *

61  H. Levine, of Schoolbells.org, ’66.

62  Martha Margherio, Binghamton, N.Y., is the president and CEO of Farmland Dairies in Wallington, N.J. *

69  Dennis G. Karlan, Dallas, Texas, is the president of Karlan International Inc. +

69  Donald R. Smith, Spring Hill, Fla., has been certified and registered by the Florida Supreme Court as an alternative dispute resolution mediator and advanced arbitrator. He has recently been recognized for his astute mediation work and has established Doppler and Newton Inc. as an alternative case resolution practice. +

69  Michael W. Smith, Mogadore, Ohio, has retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and now works in home construction. +

69  Larry F. Walton, Canton, Ga., is the owner of Metal Associates Inc. in Atlanta, Ga. *

70  Robert K. Carson, M.Ed. ’70, Strongsville, Ohio, is a freelance writer, as well as a publisher for multiple magazines. He has won numerous awards throughout his career. +

70  Trina (Pfenniger) Gardner, Wilmington, Del., recently co-authored a book with another Kent State alumna, Gretchen Bierbaum, called Collage in All Dimensions. +

70  Peter T. Gilpatric, Morristown, N.J., is the senior vice president of LCOR Inc. in New York, N.Y. +

70  Alan Lavine, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., is a syndicated columnist and author for Alan Lavine Inc. Lavine and his wife write several financial columns for various publications. +

71  Cathy J. (Duffy) Fava, Batavia, N.Y., is the assistant principal for Genesee Valley BOCES in the Career and Technical Center in Mt. Morris, N.Y. During the summer, Fava is the principal of a regional summer school program. +

71  Nick Georgiandis, Norwalk, Ohio, will be retiring at the end of this school year after 36 years of being the band and choir director at Edison High School. +

71  Linda S. Janosko, M.A. ’81, Terre Haute, Ind., is an associate professor in the theatre department at Indiana State University. +

71  Karen E. Metcalf, Strongsville, Ohio, is a fourth grade teacher for Strongsville City Schools. Metcalf was recently selected for Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. *

72  Jane E. (Galena) Conroe, Maple Springs, N.Y., was recently elected to the board of directors of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, a nonprofit organization. *

73  Eugene R. Kotmel, M.Ed. ’89, Solon, Ohio, is the technology education chair and teacher at Shaker Heights High School. *

74  John H. Good, Highlands Ranch, Colo., is a deputy director for the U.S. government. *

74  Kathy S. Lammers, La Crosse, Wis., is an assistant professor at Winona State University in Winona, Wis. +

74  Steven A. Marshall, Kent, Ohio, was named executive vice president in charge of operations for The Davey Tree Expert Company. Marshall continues to manage eastern utility operations and will add The Davey Tree Surgery Company, Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada Ltd. and operations support. +

75  Harvey D. Rose, Thousand Oaks, Calif., is in sales at GFI/Antaky Quilting Company in Los Angeles, Calif. *

75  Rich Barnett, Wadsworth, Ohio, is a teacher of Media Communications at Wadsworth High School. *

75  W. Hubert Keen, Ph.D., North Woodmere, N.Y., was named the eighth president of Farmingdale State College in Farmingdale, N.Y. +

75  Dave C. Uitto, New Riegel, Ohio, is a teacher and baseball coach in the New Riegel School District. *

76  Amy C. Bridges, M.Ed., Winston-Salem, N.C., is a retired media coordinator. +

76  Robert M. Green, Elyria, Ohio, is a retired registered dietitian. +

76  Andrew W. Gilpatric, Morrisstown, N.J., is the senior vice president of LCOR Inc. in New York, N.Y. +

76  Alan Lavine, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., is a syndicated columnist and author for Alan Lavine Inc. Lavine and his wife write several financial columns for various publications. +

77  William R. Muni, Chesterland, Ohio, is a self-employed accountant. *

77  Andrew W. Stallworth, M.A., Ph.D. ’83, Lynn, Mass., has retired from federal service after 15 years as a Head Start program specialist in the New England region. *

77  Lois J. (Linderman) Vaughan, LaGrange, Ky., recently retired from her teaching career. (*)

(Continued on page 25)

* Annual Member  * Life Member  

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Homecoming Extravaganza
Kent Student Center
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Kent State University Alumni Association

A homecoming celebration for Kent State alumni, family and friends.

Welcome Home
Campus Tours and Open Houses
Revisit favorite campus destinations and explore what's new and exciting at Kent State.

Entertainment
Music
Enjoy the spirited sounds of the Kent State Marching Band, MacCallum Highlander Pipes and Drums, and more.

Family Fun and Games
Stop at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center for family fun, and at the Ice Arena for an open skate. Meet Flash and other Kent State friends.

Special Events
"Classes Without Quizzes" Lectures
For the second year, enjoy engaging presentations highlighting the research and expertise of Kent State faculty members.

Introduction to the Night Sky (Kent State Planetarium) – Smith Hall
Join us for this awesome encounter with the night sky, featuring prominent fall constellations and celestial objects visible to the naked eye.

Children's Storytime
Reinberger Center, 3rd Floor, Kent State library
Children 2-6 years old can enjoy a special storytime and activity featuring a special appearance by Kent State mascot, "Flash."

Class of 1957 Reunion Luncheon and Golden Order Induction
Class members and those who have already celebrated their 50th reunion are invited to this elegant luncheon at Rockwell Hall.
Log in, reach out
Online community lets alumni connect with alma mater

Dana Rader
Kent State Public Relations Student

In May, the Kent State Alumni Association officially replaced its Web site with the new interactive online community that provides alumni the opportunity to get connected and stay involved with the university, no matter how far they reside from campus.

Alumni are joining the online community every day, and some have already noticed the difference. Chrissie Loomis, ’77, a marketing consultant for Sports Image Magazine, who now resides in Washington, D.C., was one of the first alumni to join.

“I currently keep in touch with other classmates and the university through e-mail. I think it is a fantastic tool and wonderful idea,” says Loomis. “I am looking forward to being able to scroll through and see who is on it when more alumni join.”

Although it gives alumni the opportunity to mingle online, Elizabeth Slanina, assistant director of alumni relations, stresses that the online community will still protect member privacy.

“E-mail addresses are kept private, and alumni can control what information is viewed,” she says, “It is a very secure, password-protected site.”

Loomis says she is pleased with the new site’s privacy options and other features.

“It is better than the old site because it is more active, more targeted and easy to navigate, and alumni have the option for posts to show or not,” says Loomis. “It is a really nice and well-thought-out tool.”

Dixy De La Rosa, ’98, a program manager for Ericsson from Frisco, Texas, says the new online community is an “excellent” way to get people involved and connected.

“I found four of my classmates already, and I started looking for a lot of other people,” says De La Rosa. “I miss a lot of them.”

De La Rosa, who earned her bachelor’s in architecture, stays connected with almost all 33 of her former classmates. She says she joined the online community because it makes getting connected even easier.

She adds that having the opportunity to share a biography and photos also proves to be a great networking tool to obtain a new job.

“Two people from Kent State had a job opening and contacted me after seeing my bio. I already have a job, but it’s nice to see that alumni are looking after one another,” she says.

In addition to the online career networking component, in which alumni can sign up to be mentors or search the mentor database for career contacts, the new community offers an electronic mentor database for career contacts, the new community offers an electronic alumni directory — the first time such a service is available free of charge. The Web site also provides online event registration, up-to-date university news and secure online transactions for renewing Alumni Association membership and making donations to the university.

Slanina says the online community uses technology to provide more convenient and customized information to each visitor.

“If you live in Central Ohio, you will see an event going on in your area,” she says. “This way, we hope that alumni who want to be involved will see relevant information and be more likely to participate in alumni activities.”

For more information or to join the new online community, log on to www.ksalumni.org or contact the Kent State Alumni Association at 330-672-5368. For first-time users, the nine-digit ID number to the right of your address on the back cover of the magazine is your constituent ID for access.

(Continued from page 23)

78
Richard K. Baird, Marion, Ohio, is the band director at Marion Harding High School. * + Joe Giancola, M.A. ’80, Ph.D. ’88, Kent, Ohio, will become the new superintendent of Kent City Schools. * + Donald J. Reaves, M.A., Ph.D. ’81, Chicago, Ill., was named chancellor of Winston-Salem State University by the North Carolina Board of Governors. + Jan (Snyder) Rodriguez, Houston, Texas, recently gained a position in Shell Oil Company as the global security and compliance manager for two of Shell Downstream’s operating units.

* + Marjorie J. (Vancura) Sullivan, Wellington, Fla., is the vice president of Palm Healthcare Foundation in West Palm Beach, Fla.

79
Sheri L. (Fetters) Busch, Jefferson, Ohio, recently celebrated 20 years of working as an accountant for the nonprofit organization Ashtabula County Community Action. + Tom Hose, West Linn, Ore., is the principal management consultant for The Navigator Group LLC. + Barry D. Rice, Grapevine, Texas, is a solutions architect at Cognos Corporation in Irving, Texas. + Paul G. Turevon, McKinney, Texas, is the director of talent management for Perot Systems Corporation in Plano, Texas. Turevon recently retired from the U.S. Army Reserve after 26 years of active and reserve service.

* + David A. Zwicker, Portsmouth, N.H., was recently appointed as vice president of marketing for Whaleback Systems.

Walter E. Horton, Ph.D. (above), Stow, Ohio, was named vice president for research and associate dean for graduate studies at Northeastern Ohio Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy. He is a full member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Skeletal Biology Development and Disease study section and serves on multiple NIH special emphasis panels. Horton is also the associate director of the School of Biomedical Sciences at Kent State University.

(Continued on page 27)
Joe Thomas, '96:
Alumnus offers a fresh view of newspaper journalism

By Alison Turner
Kent State Public Relations Student

Despite the layoffs of print newspaper staffs taking place all over the country due to declining subscriptions, Joe Thomas, '96, says he believes newspapers will be around in the near future because of dedicated readers and exceptional stories.

Thomas, national editor of the Akron Beacon Journal, says, “We just have to keep finding ways to win over readers, and the most honest way to do that is to continue cranking out top-notch journalism.

“What’s great about newspapers is that they plug you into what’s happening in the world around you without needing to be connected to any wires or gadgetry,” he adds. “They are a momentary respite from a maddeningly digital world.”

According to the State of the News Media annual report on www.journalism.org, roughly 51 million people purchase a newspaper on an average day. Readership and advertising sales have been declining since the 1990s, mainly due to the increased popularity of digital formats and online journalism.

“All signs point to the Internet becoming an even more dominant force in the news business,” Thomas says. “Already, online publication is a higher priority than the print product at some U.S. newspapers.

“The more this shift continues, the more likely it is that print journalists will have to start seeing themselves as primarily online journalists,” he adds.

Thomas has seen the change in the industry firsthand. He began his career as a part-time sports statistician during his freshman year at Kent State. The job became a full-time position after he graduated. Thomas left the Akron Beacon Journal as a copy editor and was promoted to national editor in 2001.

A lifelong newspaper enthusiast, Thomas says he knew as a child he was meant for the journalism field. He says he decided to attend Kent State because of the excellent reputation of the journalism program and the proximity to home.

“I’ve loved reading and writing as far back as I can remember,” Thomas reflects. “I used to leave inky fingerprints all over the house from all the time I spent hogging the newspaper. And I felt right at home as soon as I was immersed into the newsroom atmosphere.”

While Thomas was at Kent State, he worked as a graphic artist, editorial cartoonist, copy editor and beat reporter for the Daily Kent Stater. He also worked as a graphic artist and a contributing writer for The Burr magazine.

Thomas became interested in Kent State when he attended Journalism and Mass Communications Press Day at the university while he was in high school. It was here he met his future mentor, Associate Professor and News Coordinator Barb Hipsman-Springer.

“I was among a group of prospective journalism students who won Kent State book awards, and as Barb gathered us to pass out the documentation, she gave a straightforward recruiting pitch and assured us, ‘We’re going to look after you here,’” Thomas says.

“Barb became a great mentor and friend who helped me get my foot in the door at the Beacon and also steered me toward several scholarships. After I had graduated and gained several years of professional experience, Barb recruited me to come back to Kent State as an adjunct instructor.”

Thomas says his experience at Kent State influenced his personal and professional life today. “Not only did those experiences build a solid foundation for my career, but they also introduced me to friends and colleagues with whom I work today at the Beacon,” he says.

Thomas says he is slightly worried about his future in the newspaper industry after witnessing the national downsizing of newspaper staff members.

“I’d be lying if I said I’m not at all worried,” Thomas says. “Newspapers all over the country are laying off employees and downsizing in other ways. It’s difficult watching colleagues lose their livelihoods, and it makes you wonder if you’re going to be the next to lose your job.”

Thomas, a father of two-year-old twins, says if his newspaper career is forced to end, he would continue writing.

“I like to dabble in creative writing and cartooning,” says Thomas. “I have been working on a handful of ideas for novels and children’s books, and I’m hoping that someday that work will really take on the life of its own that I’ve always been hoping to give it.”

Despite the dismal outlook for the future of newspaper journalism, Thomas says the Akron Beacon Journal’s readers inspire his positive perspective.

“I don’t think newspapers are in danger of disappearing in the near future. Some 280,000 people read the Beacon Journal each day — and by that measure, we’re far from irrelevant.”
By Nicole King, ’07

Amber Jimenez, ‘02, a Kent State University College of Business Administration graduate, is seeking new experiences and exploring the world. Along the way, she is using her Kent State education to help young people develop leadership skills and gain a respect for the environment.

Jimenez, originally from Ohio, has lived as far away as Northern Ireland and Costa Rica. She has also lived in Colorado and Washington, D.C., and now resides in Arkansas. Welcoming challenges is part of what makes her enjoy life.

After graduation, Jimenez moved to Washington, where she worked for a member of Congress. After three years as a legislative correspondent, Jimenez chose to abandon a political career for a path toward personal fulfillment.

Jimenez moved to Costa Rica to work with Costa Rica Rainforest Outward Bound, an organization that inspires and develops leadership, compassion and responsibility. The group also emphasizes respect for the environment and commitment to serve through adventure-based wilderness experiences led by a skilled, safety-conscious staff.

“I have always wanted to work with youth organizations and that is why I took the chance and moved to Costa Rica,” she says. “I really went out on a limb and ended up loving what I do.”

She says that Kent State gave her opportunities for real-life experiences that supplemented her studies.

Jimenez credits Kacy Toberg, M.A. ’99, a graduate assistant in recreational services when Jimenez was a student — as empowering her to strive for her personal best.

“I was preparing to interview for a customer service position at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center when Kacy pulled me aside and asked why I wasn’t applying for the supervisor position,” she says. “I took her advice and applied and received the position. That is the same kind of empowerment that makes me excited to be in my current position as camp director. I’m excited about making those ‘powerful suggestions’ to summer camp staff.”

Jimenez, who is currently working at Camp Cahinnio, a residential Girl Scout camp, says her best advice to students is to be open-minded about career possibilities.

“I think that the majority of your life experiences, no matter how random, all come together in the end,” she says. “There should be less focus on picking that one career because that’s not realistic in today’s job market, and you may be ruling out a whole lot of possibilities to find a career where you are fulfilled and happy to go to work every day.”

Amber Jimenez, ’02: Alumna took a chance and fulfilled a dream

(Continued from page 25)

’80

M. Maureen Cox, M.Ed. ’05, Brownsburg, Ind., was recently married and has moved to Indianapolis, Ind. * — Scott M. Ellar, Mentor, Ohio, is a national accounts representative for sales and marketing at Ritrama in Cleveland, Ohio. * — Warren D. Grossman, Ph.D., Cleveland, Ohio, has released the second edition of his book *To Be Healed by the Earth.* — Bradley S. Keefé, M.A. ’84, Massillon, Ohio, joins the faculty at Kent State University, Ashtabula, Ohio, as an assistant professor in history. — Nora R. Klebow, San Francisco, Calif., is a project director for a new medical center campus of Kaiser Permanente in San Leandro, Calif. * — Monte S. Leeper, Oceanside, N.Y., is a Long Island architect recently honored for devoted service to education, the highest honor given by the Long Island Works Coalition.

’81

Susan S. Richards, M.S., Perrysburg, Ohio, is a hydrogeologist at Envirosafe Services of Ohio Inc. in Oregon, Ohio. * — Cindy Dormo, M.B.A., Munroe Falls, Ohio, is the director/CHPA of Akron Children’s Hospital in Akron, Ohio. * — Chuck Sheldon, Dublin, Ohio, is a realtor for RE/MAX Achievers. *

’84

John N. Bell, Arlington, Va., is the production editor at the American Society for Microbiology in Washington, D.C. * — Stephen E. Strasser, Piedmont, S.C., is an electrical engineer at UST Technologies in Pelzer, S.C. *

’85

Bret A. Belknap, B.S. ’88, Ravenna, Ohio, is a plant engineer at Ranpak Corp. in Concord, Ohio. * — Mark A. Rogers, Coldwater, Mich., is a reporter and photographer for GateHouse Media/The Daily Reporter. *

’86

Robert R. Hawkins, M.L.S., Prince Frederick, Md., is a librarian II at Prince George’s County Memorial Library in Hyattsville, Md. * — Tim Shuman, Kandern, Federal Republic of Germany, is the director of Black Forest Academy. — Laura R. Weyenberg, Solon, Ohio, is a controller and CPA for Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio. *

’87

Paula J. (Hummer) Behe, M.L.S., Youngstown, Ohio, is a librarian at the Public Library of Youngstown. — William D. Garghill, Margate, Fla., is a pilot and director of customer support and aviation

(Continued on page 29)
Mike Beder, ’00:

Alumnus finds a home and a career in Kent community

By Dana Rader
Kent State Public Relations Student

Multiple business owner and recently named Kent Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year, Mike Beder, ’00, says he would not be where he is today without Kent State University. “The university is what brought me to Kent in the first place,” Beder says. “The close-knit feel of the university and community are why I stayed.”

Born in Connecticut and raised in Westlake, Ohio, Beder is co-owner of BarCode Nightclub, Water Street Tavern, Bistro on Main and Mangiamo restaurant. All four establishments are located in Kent and have been open less than six years.

Kent City Manager Dave Ruller says the city is fortunate to have Beder as a business owner. He says Beder is a great role model for future Kent State graduates. “The city’s goal is to get graduates from Kent State and have them apply what they learn to the downtown area, and Beder is living proof this can work,” Ruller says. “He is part of the renaissance of Kent, and I love what he is doing for us. I wish I could clone him.”

Beder graduated from Kent State with a bachelor’s degree in general studies. As a junior, he joined Undergraduate Student Senate and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and became a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Portage County. By his senior year, he was elected president of the Undergraduate Student Senate.

“A classroom may not have all the answers you’re looking for,” he says. “It opens you up to new ideas, but the experience gained from Kent State’s student organizations and my involvement with the community made me who I am today.”

While a student, Beder also worked as a bartender at the Robin Hood on Main Street. He says this experience is what opened him to the idea of owning his own bar, and advice from his student senate advisor, Donna Carlton, ’82, assistant director of the Center for Student Involvement, helped his dream become a reality.

“After I graduated, she knew I was interested in getting into the bar industry,” Beder says. “She heard Bellies Deli on North Water Street was for sale and suggested I go for it.”

In 2001, Beder opened Glory Days, known today as Water Street Tavern, with the financial backing of Denny Symes, former Robin Hood manager, and Ed Schiciano, former Robin Hood accountant.

Within two years, his bar was a success and has since moved to its current location on South Water Street. It was named Best College Bar by Cleveland Scene magazine in 2003 and by Playboy Magazine in 2001 (http://www.waterstreettavern.com/news/bestbar/bestbar.html).

Beder says one of the most memorable moments of opening Water Street Tavern is when then-University President Carol A. Cartwright attended his grand opening.

Cartwright says Beder’s success as a general studies graduate speaks volumes for the number of skills gained from any baccalaureate degree earned from Kent State. She adds that she has strong, lasting impressions of his commitment and creativity as a student leader.

“I remember a very engaged and thoughtful leader in Michael Beder,” she says. “He is someone able to entertain many sides of an issue and works to make the best decisions.”

Cartwright adds she has been monitoring Beder’s success since, and is especially impressed with his creativity and “spirit of innovation.”

Aside from co-owning and operating four local businesses, Beder serves the community as a member of the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as president of the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Portage County.

Beder says he is proud to be a Kent State graduate and a member of the Kent community. His advice to students who are unsure about what they want to do is to go to college and soak up as much life experience as possible.

“Get involved while you’re here,” Beder says. “Put yourself in real-world situations to prepare for variables that can make things go wrong and opportunities to make things go right.”

“Get involved while you’re here.”

Mike Beder, ’00
management at Banyan Air Service in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. + Joseph M. Griffin, New York, N.Y., is the director of investment analysis at Verizon Wireless. + Aaron M. Pitcher, Flint, Mich., is the president of Cashless Payments Inc.

88 Lou Bernard, Columbus, Ohio, is an elementary school teacher for the Columbus Public Schools. + James R. Cozzarin, Mentor, Ohio, is a lead editor for PreOd Communications Inc. and has been named president of the 5,500-member American Medical Writer’s Association for 2006-07. This is the sixth consecutive year that Cozzarin has served on the national executive committee. + Sandra L. (Reed) Deluca, Akron, Ohio, is a volunteer services coordinator at Summit County Children Services. + Kevin S. Fleming, Papillion, Neb., is in the U.S. Air Force. + Jill K. Goodland, M.Ed., Bath, Ohio, is the senior technical communicator at Rockwell Automation in Mayfield Hts., Ohio. + Debra L. (Kamile) Johanyak, Ph.D., Mogadore, Ohio, recently published the book Behind the Veil: An American Woman’s Memoir of the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis. + Tony Trigilio, Chicago, Ill., recently won the 2006 Three Candles Press first book award for his book of poems titled Forget About Me: Contemporary Men Only fitness magazine featured as Mr. Exercise in the fitness magazine Exercise for Men Only. + Ruth E. Pugel, Brighton, Colo., is currently self-employed doing insurance sales. + Manuel L. Salvador, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is a probation officer for Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

91 Carey Basciano, Hilton Head, S.C., is the owner and creator of Street Meet American Take Out & Tavern, with the help of four other Kent State alumni. Previously, Basciano managed a restaurant on Hilton Head Island for 12 years. + Jeff L. Bayer, New York, N.Y., is the head of cataloging at the New York Public Library and its branches. + Sean P. Duggan, M.Ed., Lubbock, Texas, recently became an executive board member and has been the southern district representative from Texas Tech University + Vendra L. Foster, M.Ed., Akron, Ohio, was named the department chair for the 2006-07 school year at Kent City Schools where she is a teacher.

92 Quinn Dalton, Greensboro, N.C., has written an essay published in an anthology titled Don’t You Forget About Me: Contemporary Writers on the Films of John Hughes. + Denise M. Dezolt, Ph.D., Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was recently appointed as provost for the online institution Walden University. + Christopher C. Hlozek, Studio City, Calif., was recently featured as Mr. Exercise in the fitness magazine Exercise for Men Only.


94 Roger J. Adams, Hilton Head Island, S.C., of Adams Home Remodeling, designed and constructed the bar and restaurant for Street Meet American Take Out & Tavern. + Robert L. Tillis, Canton, Ohio, is the manager of Modern Builders Supply. + Thomas E. Zajkowski, Raleigh, N.C., is the director of corporate taxes at Tekelce in Morrisville, N.C. + Don Decker, Weston, Fla., is the parks and recreation manager for the city of Weston, Fla., and is responsible for managing the community center as well as citywide special events. Decker is the director of the Southeast Region of the Florida Recreation and Parks Association. Decker was recently chosen to participate in an international Rotary business exchange program in Milan, Italy. + Darlene C. (Stewart) Hill, M.B.A., West Orange, N.J., is the director of equal opportunity for Avis Budget Group Inc. in Parsippany, N.J. + Lorie A. Linberger, M.A.’00, Galt, Calif., is a special education teacher for the Stockton Unified School District + Jeff Syrone, Cincinnati, Ohio, is a market research specialist and moderator for Ipsos Understanding Unlimited. + William L. Zeuch, Wheaton, Ill., is the senior vice president of merchandising and supplies for OfficeMax Inc. in Naperville, Ill.

95 Sam Bluso, M.B.A. ’95, M.B.A. ‘97, Hudson, Ohio, is the managing director for Eurohypo AG in New York, N.Y. + Kelly A. Dagan, Ph.D., Jacksonville, Ill., was recently promoted to associate professor of sociology at Illinois College. + Shirley D. (Tolliver) Hollingsworth, M.L.S., Cleveland, Ohio, is a librarian and the branch head of Cleveland Public Library’s Harvard-Lee Branch. + Scott L. Randall, Brooklyn, N.Y., is the program director of Sprout in New York, N.Y. + Mark P. Vogel, London, United Kingdom, is the associate director of electronic trading at Chicago Mercantile Exchange. + John C. Zuckett, Canton, Ohio, is the assistant relay manager for Roadway in Copley, Ohio.

96 Steve Hare, South Euclid, Ohio, is a publisher for rivals.com and Kent Sports Report. + Megan E. Insalaco, Runnemede, N.J., is the Halloween costume and accessories buyer for Spencer Gifts/Spirit Halloween Superstores in Egg Harbor, N.J. + Daniel J. Leslie, Akron, Ohio, was recently appointed managing director for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network’s Akron office in Ohio.

(Continued from page 27)
Scott Lautanen ‘83

Scott is a film director in Hollywood and currently produces and directs the hit drama, CSI Miami. He has also directed episodes of The Pretender, Numbers, Bones and CSI New York. He stays connected to the university by serving as an alumni mentor, and comes back periodically to talk with students interested in careers in film and television. As a Kent State student, he had a brief career as a campus tour guide, was involved with TV2 and played all intramural sports. His hobbies include travel, scuba diving, going to rock concerts, playing golf and spending time with his family.

Scott was a telecommunications major and journalism minor and is a native of Ashtabula, Ohio.

Why Kent State

Loved the campus, and the people. There are professors here who really care about students — it was true when I attended and it remains true today. It was also far enough away from my hometown that my parents weren’t going to just “drop in.”

Favorite Kent State memory

Socially, Halloween parties bring back great memories. But, academically, I remember that one day, my communications prof. Ben Whaley brought in a lighting grid from the Barney Miller show. I always remembered seeing this tangible piece of the business.

Something most people don’t know about me

Even when I graduated, I didn’t know I wanted to direct. But on a visit to Los Angeles the summer before graduation, I took the Universal Studios tour and knew I wanted to be a part of Hollywood, doing whatever they would hire me to do. After about ten years of climbing the ladder in various positions, I got my first opportunity to direct television.

Most significant accomplishment(s)

In my professional life, I am proud to be part of the no. 1 most-watched television program in the world, viewed by 83 million people around the world each week. Personally, I take great pride in my family: wife, Michelle, ‘83, and children Alec (12) and Emma (9).

Why I joined the Alumni Association

It’s a great way to keep up with the university. It’s really a no-brainer. There was never a question about my support of the institution.

www.ksualumni.org
(Continued from page 29)

'97
Nicole S. Basciano, Hilton Head Island, S.C., is a business partner in Street Meet American Take Out & Tavern. + Denise A. Hilliard, M.A.T. '03, Hudson, Ohio, is aiding in the restoration of water and sanitation systems destroyed by Hurricane Stan in Guatemala as a Peace Corps Crisis Corps volunteer. + Jody L. Leverknight, Charleston, S.C., is a captain for Flight Options in Cleveland, Ohio. *

'98
Kari A. Fragnoli, Denver, Colo., is an event manager for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. + Lisa S. Lewarchick, B.B.A. '02, Akron, Ohio, was recently promoted to assistant risk manager for Diebold Inc. in North Canton, Ohio. + Andrea M. Muto, M.L.S., Washington, D.C., is a law librarian and senior attorney for Checch Consulting. Muto is currently working in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a contractor for the U.S. International Development Agency. + David J. Newvine, Canton, Ohio, is the operations and business manager at Diebold Inc. in Uniontown, Ohio. + Susan R. Whiting, M.B.A, Kent, Ohio, is a certified business consultant for the Kent Regional Business Alliance. *

'99
Lonesha R. (Brown) Akaba, Canal Winchester, Ohio, is a Web programmer at Franklin University. + Matt Babb, North Royalton, Ohio, is a producer and director for WKYC-TV in Cleveland, Ohio. + Tammi R. Lewis, Akron, Ohio, is the public relations manager and director of marketing at the Novus Clinic in Tallmadge, Ohio. + Piyapun Raengkhum, M.A.E. '00, M.B.A. '99, Bangkok, Thailand, is a senior associate at Bualuang Securities Public Company in Bangkok, Thailand. + Heidi D. (Franks) Taylor, Hicksville, Ohio, is a human resources manager at Fleetwood Travel Trailers in Edgerton, Ohio. + Harriett J. Walker, Ed.S., Las Vegas, Nev., recently retired from Akron Public Schools and is now teaching early childhood special education in Clark County Schools in Las Vegas, Nev. *

'00
Jill (Lagle) Eubanks, Salt Lake City, Utah, is an office assistant for the University of Utah's geography department. + Cathy Handen, Aiea, Hawaii, is a marketing coordinator at Rider Hunt Levett & Bailey in Honolulu, Hawaii. + Mary L. Hennessey, M.Ed., Ph.D. '05, Gainesville, Fla., is an assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling and public health at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Hennessey was awarded the National Council on Rehabilitation Education's 2007 Outstanding New Career in Rehabilitation Education Award. + Christine A. Lucas, Atlanta, Ga., is a nurse practitioner with Grady Health System. + Dolores Park, Castleton, Vt., recently published a children's book titled Will Joye Find His Heart? She is also affiliated with the National Association of Women Artists, The Southern Vermont Art Center and several other local artist groups. + Jonathan J. Shoop, Painesville, Ohio, is an audit manager and CPA for Deloitte & Touche LLP in Cleveland, Ohio. + Alan M. Weston, Gordon, Ga., recently accepted the position of sports information director at Georgia College and State University. *

'01
Amanda M. Hall, North Olmsted, Ohio, is a risk manager at Key Bank in Cleveland, Ohio. + Erica L. Kinser, Franklin, Ohio, is in sales for McKesson Corporation. + Amie Kuse, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is an Even Start teacher for Canton City Schools. + Jay Leach, Arlington, Va., is a senior account manager at ITM Associates in Rockville, Md. + Dan Markiewicz, Akron, Ohio, is an architectural intern at Braun & Steidl Architects. + Patrick J. Rabideau, Maumee, Ohio, is a systems engineer for Meyer Hill Lynch. *

'02
Nicolette E. (Wozniak) Canonnie, Seven Hills, Ohio, is a plant personnel supervisor for Glastic Corporation in South Euclid, Ohio. + Sarah L. Coyne, Bowling Green, Ky., is a commercial lines account manager for Center of Insurance. + Matthew K. Filmeck, Henderson, Nev., is an agent at 4Wall Entertainment in Las Vegas, Nev. + Antonil S. Flores, Rochester, Minn., is a resident at the Mayo Clinic. + Juliane M. George, Washington, D.C., is currently working as a specialist in public affairs for the Defense Secretary as a presidential appointee. + Kimberly D. Hoffman, Uniontown, Ohio, is a registered nurse in labor and delivery at Akron General Medical Center. + Michael T. Iceman, Chesterfield Twp, Mich., is a territory and sales manager at Worthington Industries. + Richard Mauch, Raleigh, N.C., is in pension calculations for Fidelity Investments. + Megan E. Morrissey, Tustin, Calif., is a teacher in the Anaheim Union High School District in Cypress, Calif. + Matthew J. Mukavetz, Cleveland, Ohio, works for Ligget-Stampshaw as the information technology and operations manager. + Carie A. Starr, M.S.A. '04, North Ridgeville, Ohio, is an assistant coordinator at Stock Equipment Company in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. *

'03
Jennifer A. (Nolan) Boeroi, Ogdensburg, N.Y., is a visa clerk for the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. + Adam C. Kern, North Canton, Ohio, is a self-employed actor. + Arica J. Kress, Columbus, Ohio, was recently promoted to the director of marketing and promotions for the Columbus Crew. + Eugene D. Walters, Philadelphia, Pa., is the director of marketing for Sodexho USA. *

'04
William E. Alderman, Dover, Ohio, is a fiscal specialist for Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services. + Kristin R. Beltz, Altamonte Springs, Fla., is a public relations account executive for Gilbert & Manjura Marketing in Longwood, Fla. + Maria L. Held, M.S.N., North Royalton, Ohio, is a clinical nurse specialist at the Cleveland Clinic. + Megan K. Hill, Warren, Ohio, is a financial management analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense in Cleveland, Ohio. + Latresha J. Morton, Kent, Ohio, is a substitute teacher for PPIE Head Start in Ravenna, Ohio. + Molly G. Parsons, Kent, Ohio, was hired as a graphic designer at Malone Advertising. Parsons is a member of the Society for News Design. + Mark P.ucci, West Palm Beach, Fla., is a teacher in the Palm Beach County School District in Florida. + Nicole D. Tomassetti, Sagamore Hills, Ohio, is an analyst in search engine marketing for Brunalt Inc. in Beachwood, Ohio. *

'05
Brenda K. (Gowin) Hudkins, Atwater, Ohio, has been promoted to associate director of marketing in the Office of Alumni Relations at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. + Jennifer A. (Terwilliger) Kessen, North Ridgeville, Ohio, has been promoted to associate art director at Cleveland Magazine. + Ryan E. Morrison, Boston, Mass., is a senior auditor for Citizens Financial Group. + Sara E. (Lower) Schlieger, Rockhill, S.C., is a project coordinator for URS Corporation in Charlotte, N.C. + Marie J. Steiner, Eaton, Ohio, is a health educator for the U.S. Peace Corps, currently on assignment in Senegal, West Africa. + Kenneth A. Weppler, Marietta, Ohio, is an administrative assistant at Washington State Community College. *

'06
Sarah G. Byler, Warren, Ohio, is a clinical nurse at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital. + Viola M. Firtik, Cleveland, Ohio, is the staffing manager for Robert Half International. + Kerry R. Fix, Manhattan Beach, Calif., is a junior national account executive for Clear Channel Outdoor in Los Angeles, Calif. + Christopher B. Piatt, Atlanta, Ga., is a video journalist for CNN. + Amanda J. Seese, Arlington, Va., is an analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C. + Cynthia K. Sheldon, Orlando, Fla., is employed by Walt Disney World.
The following members of the Kent State community have passed away.


"48 William G. Crorey, Palm Harbor, Fla., December 2006. *

"51 Judy Houser, Panama City, Fla., January 2007. = Bill Wolcott, Kent, Ohio, April 2007. *


"81 Katherine Stinson, Amherst, Ohio, December 2006. 

"86 John D. Constiner, Cortland, Ohio, March 2007.

"91 Rebecca A. Marec, Medina, Ohio, February 2007.

* Annual Member  * Life Member

Life Members of the Kent State University Alumni Association

The Kent State University Alumni Association strives to support the mission of Kent State University and provide its members with benefits and services. As space permits, Kent State Magazine will acknowledge new and current life members of the association. A partial list has appeared in each issue since spring 2004; additional names will appear in future issues. A complete list of life members can be found at www.kualumni.org. For information on becoming a life member of the alumni association, call 330-672-KENT or toll free at 1-888-320-KENT.
Be a Mentor for a Lifetime and Beyond.

Being a member of the Herrick Society is a meaningful way to enrich your life by sharing your experience with students.

Emeriti professors Dr. Art and Margaret Herrick are Kent State’s very own pioneers, whose lifetime relationship with the university grew into a lifetime philanthropic plan. We are grateful for the Herricks and all of our alumni and friends who have included the Kent State University Foundation in their estate plans. Donors like you allow us to plan our future—a future like that envisioned and supported by Art and Margaret Herrick.

Whether made through bequests, life income gifts, trusts, retirement plans or other arrangements, long-range gifts are essential to the continued growth of Kent State. If you are currently a member of the Herrick Society, we thank you again for your generosity. If you have included Kent State in your estate plan and wish to be recognized as a member of the Herrick Society, please let us know so we may welcome you!

Make a provision today, make an impact tomorrow

To receive a Kent State Legacy Packet contact the Center for Gift and Estate Planning at 330-672-0421, giftplan@kent.edu or www.kentstate.plannedgifts.org
Fall 2007

For a complete listing of concerts, lectures, performances, exhibits and other events at Kent State’s eight campuses, visit www.kent.edu/ecalendar.

Sept. 5
6th Annual Starner Distinguished Speaker Series: Don James, Former Head Football Coach
Kent Student Center Ballroom
330-672-8399

Sept. 7-15
The Marriage of Bette and Boo
Kent State Stark
Fine Arts Theatre
330-244-3352

Sept. 9
Aviation Heritage Fair
Celebrating Aviation Education for the Community and Beyond
Kent State Airport
330-672-9476

Sept. 18
State of the University Address
President Lester A. Lefton
Kiva, Kent Campus
330-672-2210

Oct. 6
Homecoming Extravaganza
Activities for alumni, families and friends
www.ksualumni.org
1-888-320-KENT

Oct. 12
An Evening with Mark Twain
Starring Don Maurer
Tuscarawas Campus
330-339-3391

Oct. 24
Wick Poetry Reading
Alberto Rios and Anna Leahy
Kiva
330-672-1769

Nov. 10
Kent State Folk Festival
Rosanne Cash
Kent Student Center Ballroom
330-672-3114

WKSU and Kent State bring a live broadcast of Michael Feldman's "Whad'Ya Know" to the Canton Palace Theatre on Sept. 15. Call 330-672-3114 for ticket information.