Creative Collaborators

Faculty mentors work with undergraduate students to bring research out of the classroom and into the real world.

SEE PAGE 18
FEATURES

A Lasting Photo Op
One man’s memories of a 1941 course in news photography led to a gift that will help students pursue their passions for years to come.
by Jan Senn

Making the Most of Year One
Our photo album highlights key moments of President Beverly Warren's whirlwind first year. (Opposite page, she joins students in a photo booth at an Inauguration event hosted by Kent State University at Salem.)

Traveling Stanzas
Children from Holden Elementary School Writer’s Club wrote a poem welcoming Beverly Warren to Kent State, and she wrote a praise song in response. An animated video of both poems were part of her Inaugural celebration.

Meeting of the Minds
These undergraduate students and their faculty mentors exemplify the collaborative research, scholarship and creative activity that generates a rich learning environment.
by Jan Senn

Toxic Threat
How Kent State researchers are helping find solutions to Lake Erie's harmful algae blooms.
by Tamar Nordberg

12 Fast Facts about Cece Bell
Learn more about alumna Cece Bell, whose graphic novel, El Deafo, received a Newbery Honor Award for her funny, poignant account of growing up hearing impaired.
by Jan Senn

DEPARTMENTS

Along the Esplanade
Across the Region
Alumni Life
Flashback

VISIT KENT STATE MAGAZINE online at www.kent.edu/magazine.
Kent State Magazine is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by Kent State University Communications and Marketing, PO Box 8200, Kent, Ohio 44242.
Printed on Finch Casa by Angstrom Graphics in Cleveland, Ohio.
Got This!
Imagine trying to keep your balance—and your belief in yourself—on a four-inch beam with 3,000 people yelling and screaming around you. That was the challenge for members of the Golden Flashes women’s gymnastics team as they competed in the 2015 Mid-American Conference Championship, hosted at Kent State, in March.
Gymnasts on the team had hit 23 consecutive routines and had closed in on defending champion Central Michigan when bars specialist and junior communication studies major Rebecca Osmer was the last one up. She hit her routine and stuck her dismount to clinch the Golden Flashes victory by one-tenth of a point, 196.375–196.275.
“I’ve been preparing for that moment all year,” says Osmer, who had visualized nailing it at the event. She had learned a new dismount at the end of last summer, and perfecting it helped her earn a career-high score of 9.9. But all her teammates had made the win possible; none of them had scored lower than 9.7 on any event.
“I can’t give the girls enough credit for their ability to believe in and trust themselves,” says head coach Brice Biggin, who is now five-for-five when hosting the MAC Championship. “There is no better feeling than to win a championship at home.”

Take Five
You don’t have to be a scholar to find something fascinating to read, view or listen to at Kent State University Libraries. Recent online acquisitions include:

- **Dictionary of American Regional English** (Harvard University Press) Did you know that snuff for chewing is called snooze in the Pacific Northwest and also goes by the name Swedish condition powder?
- **Early American Newspapers, Series 2, 1756–1800 (Readex)** Read what the Tombstone Daily Epitaph found newsworthy on a random day in 1881.
- **Grove Art Online (Oxford University Press)** Online view works of art from some of the world’s greatest museums and galleries without leaving your armchair.
- **Jazz Music Library** (Alexander Street Press) Listen to never-before-released performances from the Monterey Jazz Festival, live recordings from great jazz venues like The Apollo and thousands of jazz artists from legendary record labels. Access available to Kent and Stark campuses only.
- **Women’s Wear Daily 1910-present** (Proquest) Trace day-to-day news, opinion and socio-economic trends, from runway reports to beauty product reviews.
- **Explore these online collections (and more) at the library’s alphabetical list of databases:** http://libguides.library.kent.edu/alpha.

---

**Kent State Magazine**

**By the Numbers:**

**Student Accessibility Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,100–1,200</td>
<td>students registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80–85%</td>
<td>with “hidden disabilities” (learning, medical, psychological)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,050–3,600</td>
<td>tests and quizzes proctored for students needing accommodations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,160</td>
<td>hours of classroom interpreting (American Sign Language)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>hours of classroom transcriptioning (real-time captioning) for students who are deaf/hard-of-hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>books converted to electronic text or Braille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>813</td>
<td>requests for closed-captioning of digital media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Numbers based on last academic year
**Strong Finish**

Kent State is one of 27 universities nationwide offering a non-degree program tailored for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Career and Community Studies program, which was funded by a federal grant for its first four years, celebrated the first 19 students to complete the four-year college experience with a commencement-like completion ceremony in the Kent Student Center Kiva on May 5th. President Beverly Warren spoke and presented records of completion to each student.

The program focuses on academics, independent living skills and career development. Some courses are modified to support individual student needs. Students work on campus and in the community through internships that help improve their work and social skills. Those who qualify have the opportunity to live in a residence hall as part of a living-learning community.

The students took Kent State courses related to their career interests, attended sports events and hung out at local coffee shops like other college students. “Research shows that students often do better when they’re with their typical peers,” says Tom Hoza, Ph.D., Kent State’s director of outreach and employment for the Career and Community Studies program. “It’s been exciting to see everyone grow socially, academically and in their career field.”

Learn more about the Career and Community Studies program at www.kentccs.com.

---

**Play Ball!**

Although Leslie Heaphy, Ph.D., never played baseball as a child, she’s become a recognized expert on its history. Heaphy has published dozens of books, articles and encyclopedia entries on the Negro Leagues and women in baseball, has served on the selection committee to vote inductees into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and received a 2014 award of highest distinction from the Society for American Baseball Research.

An associate professor of history at Kent State University at Stark since 1995, Heaphy also has won numerous awards for her teaching, including the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013. The Ohio Academy of History recently named her Ohio’s “College History Teacher of the Year.”

We asked her to field some questions about America’s national pastime.

**I always liked to watch baseball and read about it.** I didn’t know you could make it a career until my graduate school advisors were willing to let me write about it!

**I’d heard people talk about Satchel Paige and other black players, but 20 years ago I couldn’t find much about them.** My first book was *The Negro League: 1869–1960* (McFarland, 2002).

**Baseball’s origins are almost impossible to unearth.** Although some of our current rules were created in America, you can trace bat and ball games all the way back to the Egyptians.

**The Civil War spread baseball in America.** Before, it was played in the New York City area. America’s first professional team was the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings.

**Our first organized women’s baseball team** was Vassar College’s 1876 “Resolutes.”

**Jackie Robinson.** He integrated major league baseball. He changed the whole nature of the game.

**If women ever make it to the major leagues,** the first one is going to be a left-handed knuckle-ball pitcher. Because knuckle-ball pitching doesn’t require the speed and power of a fastball.

**Baseball should allow a women’s league.** There aren’t enough opportunities for women on the professional level.

---

**Our definition of diversity at Kent State simply says ‘diversity is the presence of difference.’ We welcome difference.”**

—ALFREDA BROWN, Ph.D., vice president for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Career and Community Studies completion ceremony, May 5, 2015

---

**Further reading about women in baseball:**

See Heaphy’s top picks for books about baseball at www.kent.edu/magazine/heaphy.

---
A Lasting Photo Op

One Kent State short course inspired a high school student’s lifelong love of photography—and was so memorable that he made sure to pay it forward. Now his generous gift gives Kent State students in photojournalism and photo illustration the opportunity to pursue their passions.

By Jan Stinn

In March 1941, Wally Hagedorn, a tall, lanky 18-year-old from Reading, Ohio, boarded a bus bound for Kent State University, about 235 miles northeast. He and a high school classmate were headed there to attend a five-day course in news and pictorial photography offered by the School of Journalism. It was the first time Hagedorn would travel so far from home.

His mother, Elsie, hadn’t wanted him to go, but she relented and driven them to the bus station in Silvertown. She knew her eldest child could seldom be stopped when he set his mind on something. As a young boy, he’d sometimes take off on his bicycle after school to visit his great aunt in Celina, Ohio, about 100 miles north. He’d leave a note, though, and his mother knew where he was likely to take. She got in the car, caught up with him about 10 miles away from home and informed him when he’d better be back or else she’d send the police after him.

So Hagedorn was eager for adventures, and when a high school teacher recommended that he and his friend attend Kent State’s Fourth Annual Short Course in News Photography (and may have helped them get a scholarship), he snapped up the chance—like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

A year later, a publication of the News Photographer’s Association, which had held its annual meeting at Kent State during the program, referred to it as “what some have chosen to call the finest Short Course in the history of the University.”

It was an experience Hagedorn never forgot and often recalled fondly to family and friends. Although he didn’t enrol at Kent State or pursue news photography as a career, he took thousands of photos as a hobby; using a Kodak point and shoot camera—he didn’t like to lug around a lot of equipment. He joined a camera club, entered and won several photography contests, and his winning photographs appeared in magazines and exhibits.

Hagedorn had contacted then President Lester Lefton and donated $20,000 for two photojournalism scholarships. At the time, he indicated that more might be forthcoming, but nothing else was heard about his plans until after his death. When Thor Wasbotten, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, received a call about the bequest in fall 2014, it came as a surprise: “It marks the largest single gift to Kent State University exclusively for student scholarships.”

As President Beverly Warren notes, “We can never underestimate the impact that Kent State has on people, whether they are graduates or not. Mr. Hagedorn wanted to give back in a meaningful way, and his generous gift to fund scholarships will have a tremendous impact on our students’ lives.”

Hagedorn may have had limited funds and opportunities as a young man, but his gift enables students studying visual storytelling at Kent State to dream big. That’s what the Short Course had done for him: It exposed him to a wider world, showed him he had talent, gave him a vision for what was possible—and heightened his ability to visually capture the meaningful moments in his life.

After Hagedorn graduated from Reading High School, he lived at home and commuted to Miami University, where his high school girlfriend and future wife, Joyce, was studying to be an elementary school teacher. He joined the ROTC, took courses in botany and horticulture and dreamed of going out west to become a forest ranger. (He helped with his father’s sod business during summers, and plants had become another of his passions.) His mother waitressed to help with his tuition, and he worked at a restaurant to earn extra money. But money was tight.

Sometimes one of his parents drove him to Oxford; most of the time he hitchhiked, as did many students in those days. One of his professors noticed him hitchhiking and started giving him rides. Then somebody got Publicity for the course promised DEPARTMENTS OF: COMMUNICATION STUDIES, MASS COMMUNICATION, VISUAL COMMUNICATION $200,000 annually to students studying visual storytelling at Kent State during the program, referred to it as “what some have chosen to call the finest Short Course in the history of the University.”

It was an experience Hagedorn never forgot and often recalled fondly to family and friends. Although he didn’t enrol at Kent State or pursue news photography as a career, he took thousands of photos as a hobby; using a Kodak point and shoot camera—he didn’t like to lug around a lot of equipment. He joined a camera club, entered and won several photography contests, and his winning photographs appeared in magazines and exhibits.

As a young man from a family of modest means, he felt like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

Left: News photography expert J. Winton Lemen of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York, taught the beginner’s session at the Short Courses, assisted by Kent State University photography students.

A two-day beginner’s session began a day before the regular course. At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, Hagedorn probably joined other beginners in Room 303 Kent Hall to learn the fundamentals of news photography. The program included demonstrations and opportunities to take pictures, develop film and make prints in the six new darkrooms in the basement.

During their time in Kent, Hagedorn and his friend stayed in the attic of a fraternity house. It was hot and stuffy up there, but he didn’t mind. As a young man from a family of modest means, he felt like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

A year later, a publication of the News Photographer’s Association, which had held its annual meeting at Kent State during the program, referred to it as “what some have chosen to call the finest Short Course in the history of the University.”

It was an experience Hagedorn never forgot and often recalled fondly to family and friends. Although he didn’t enrol at Kent State or pursue news photography as a career, he took thousands of photos as a hobby; using a Kodak point and shoot camera—he didn’t like to lug around a lot of equipment. He joined a camera club, entered and won several photography contests, and his winning photographs appeared in magazines and exhibits.

As a young man from a family of modest means, he felt like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

Left: News photography expert J. Winton Lemen of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York, taught the beginner’s session at the Short Courses, assisted by Kent State University photography students.

A two-day beginner’s session began a day before the regular course. At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, Hagedorn probably joined other beginners in Room 303 Kent Hall to learn the fundamentals of news photography. The program included demonstrations and opportunities to take pictures, develop film and make prints in the six new darkrooms in the basement.

During their time in Kent, Hagedorn and his friend stayed in the attic of a fraternity house. It was hot and stuffy up there, but he didn’t mind. As a young man from a family of modest means, he felt like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

A year later, a publication of the News Photographer’s Association, which had held its annual meeting at Kent State during the program, referred to it as “what some have chosen to call the finest Short Course in the history of the University.”

It was an experience Hagedorn never forgot and often recalled fondly to family and friends. Although he didn’t enrol at Kent State or pursue news photography as a career, he took thousands of photos as a hobby; using a Kodak point and shoot camera—he didn’t like to lug around a lot of equipment. He joined a camera club, entered and won several photography contests, and his winning photographs appeared in magazines and exhibits.

As a young man from a family of modest means, he felt like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

Left: News photography expert J. Winton Lemen of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York, taught the beginner’s session at the Short Courses, assisted by Kent State University photography students.

A two-day beginner’s session began a day before the regular course. At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, Hagedorn probably joined other beginners in Room 303 Kent Hall to learn the fundamentals of news photography. The program included demonstrations and opportunities to take pictures, develop film and make prints in the six new darkrooms in the basement.

During their time in Kent, Hagedorn and his friend stayed in the attic of a fraternity house. It was hot and stuffy up there, but he didn’t mind. As a young man from a family of modest means, he felt like he’d won the lottery by getting to travel to Kent State and attend the course.

A year later, a publication of the News Photographer’s Association, which had held its annual meeting at Kent State during the program, referred to it as “what some have chosen to call the finest Short Course in the history of the University.”

It was an experience Hagedorn never forgot and often recalled fondly to family and friends. Although he didn’t enrol at Kent State or pursue news photography as a career, he took thousands of photos as a hobby; using a Kodak point and shoot camera—he didn’t like to lug around a lot of equipment. He joined a camera club, entered and won several photography contests, and his winning photographs appeared in magazines and exhibits.
Hagedorn did landscape work for wealthy families in the area and took night classes in horticulture at the University of Cincinnati. Joyce would go with him to class—not to help him study, he joked, but to keep him from flirting with all the other girls.

After she graduated from college in 1945, they married and settled in Cincinnati. They didn’t have children. His wife taught third grade at Reading Central Community school for 42 years, and Hagedorn developed his landscaping and nursery business.

Both enjoyed Thoroughbred racehorses, and often traveled to the Keeneland Racecourse in Lexington, Kentucky, for meets. They would place bets of $2 or less, and they never lost more than a few dollars, but they thought that was extravagant.

Always frugal—they shopped at discount stores, and he started with his wife to all 50 states and many countries around the world. Several of his amateur photos won awards and were published in magazines.

A friend’s father who was in the nursery business once told him, “The nursery will make you a living; the land will make you rich.” And it did. Hagedorn chose his land well, starting his nursery in Springdale, a northern suburb of Cincinnati. He later sold it to the developers of a $25 million regional project, originally known as Tri-County Shopping Center, which broke ground in 1959, was fully enclosed by 1968 and expanded again between 1989 and 1992. Hagedorn moved his nursery whenever the land it was on proved to be more profitable than the plants he was growing on it.

Through the years, though, photography remained both a passion and a pastime, spurring his travels with his wife to all 50 states and many countries around the world.

Near the end of his life, when asked if he would have done anything differently, Hagedorn said he was happy with most things and didn’t believe in regrets—but sometimes he did wonder what would have happened if he’d made photography his career.

With help from Kent State University Special Collections and Archives, Jim Breitenbach (Hagedorn’s second cousin), Tammy Bundy (his neighbor for 11 years), Michael Minges (the husband of his niece, Jackie), and Pauline Twidale (Jim Breitenbach’s wife) worked for or recommended.

Instead of relying on financial experts, he said he got his investment tips from watching people and noticing what they were interested in—even chatting up people at the grocery store to find out what they liked about the type of coffee they were buying.

To explore how your bequest can make a difference in the lives of students, please contact the Center for Gift and Estate Planning at 0330/672-0401 or giftplan@kent.edu.

Hagedorn did landscape work for wealthy families in the area and took night classes in horticulture at the University of Cincinnati. Joyce would go with him to class—not to help him study, he joked, but to keep him from flirting with all the other girls.

After she graduated from college in 1945, they married and settled in Cincinnati. They didn’t have children. His wife taught third grade at Reading Central Community school for 42 years, and Hagedorn developed his landscaping and nursery business.

Both enjoyed Thoroughbred racehorses, and often traveled to the Keeneland Racecourse in Lexington, Kentucky, for meets. They would place bets of $2 or less, and they never lost more than a few dollars, but they thought that was extravagant.

Always frugal—they shopped at discount stores, and he started with his wife to all 50 states and many countries around the world. Several of his amateur photos won awards and were published in magazines.

A friend’s father who was in the nursery business once told him, “The nursery will make you a living; the land will make you rich.” And it did. Hagedorn chose his land well, starting his nursery in Springdale, a northern suburb of Cincinnati. He later sold it to the developers of a $25 million regional project, originally known as Tri-County Shopping Center, which broke ground in 1959, was fully enclosed by 1968 and expanded again between 1989 and 1992. Hagedorn moved his nursery whenever the land it was on proved to be more profitable than the plants he was growing on it.

Through the years, though, photography remained both a passion and a pastime, spurring his travels with his wife to all 50 states and many countries around the world.

Near the end of his life, when asked if he would have done anything differently, Hagedorn said he was happy with most things and didn’t believe in regrets—but sometimes he did wonder what would have happened if he’d made photography his career.

With help from Kent State University Special Collections and Archives, Jim Breitenbach (Hagedorn’s second cousin), Tammy Bundy (his neighbor for 11 years), Michael Minges (the husband of his niece, Jackie), and Pauline Twidale (his younger sister).
Beverly Warren pledged to be a 24/7 president, and her schedule this first year in office has shown she’s as good as her word. Logging many miles on a Listening Tour across the country, meeting with campus and community leaders, reaching out to alumni and students, spearheading the development of a bold strategic plan—she’s been at the center of a whirlwind of activity, and we’ve got the photos to prove it. Here’s just a sample of the more than 10,000 shots our staff photographers have taken as they’ve hustled to keep up with her. They highlight her energy, warmth and unflagging spirit—all in the service of Kent State University.
“Ten months into the greatest adventure of my life, I stand before you humble, hopeful and so happy to be part of such an extraordinary community. ... You have my pledge that I will be a president whose leadership reflects our great hopes, respects our unique history, and always seeks the highest ground. I will approach my work with the dedication and the passion I see in Kent State faculty and staff members; the energy and the enthusiasm of Kent State students; the loyalty and pride of Kent State alumni—and the bold confidence of every black squirrel that ever raced across Summit Street.”
—President Beverly Warren, May 1, 2015, Inaugural Address. (Read the complete address at http://www.kent.edu/president/inauguration.)

Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 6:05 p.m.
Addressing an audience of alumni from the greater Cleveland area at the Cleveland Museum of Art’s Ames Family Atrium. President Warren made many stops on her Listening Tour, but the 39,000 sq. ft. atrium, designed by architect Rafael Viñoly as the centerpiece of the museum’s 2012 renovation and expansion, may have been the most breathtaking venue.

Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 10:41 a.m.
Learning about surgical techniques from fourth-year medical student Tatyana Astafev (Centennial, Colorado) during a visit to Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine. One of nine accredited podiatry schools in the United States, Kent State’s college offers the four-year graduate degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 4:23 p.m.
Sharing what she learned about “the heart of Kent State” after hearing the thoughts, ideas, concerns and suggestions of more than 5,000 participants during more than 50 scheduled events in the Presidential Listening Tour. “Our first task will be formulating a shared vision for Kent State’s future,” said Warren in her report, which can be read at www.kent.edu/president/speeches.

Saturday, October 18, 2014, 11:35 a.m.
Gathering with a group near the student center just before the “Kiss on the K”—a Homecoming day event that invites Kent State couples to meet at the “K” on Risman Plaza and share a kiss when the library bells strike noon.
Thursday, April 30, 2015, 2:59 p.m.
Sharing a laugh with former presidents Michael Schwartz, Carol Cartwright and Lester Lefton before planting their presidential trees at Manchester Field. In the grove of oak trees—which symbolize strength, power and endurance—different oak species represent each president’s unique contributions to Kent State.

Friday, May 1, 2015, 3 p.m.
Receiving the President’s Medallion from Dennis Eckart, Chair of Kent State University Board of Trustees, at her Inauguration as Kent State’s twelfth president. The medallion symbolizes the responsibility of the Office of the President and its central motif is the university seal.

Monday, March 17, 2015, 9:01 a.m.
Presenting a President’s Excellence Award to April Miller, a delivery worker at Mail Services. She was nominated for her operational efficiency and for being a role model and mentor to student workers who appreciate her work ethic, as well as her commitment to education as she completes a master’s degree.

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 2:59 p.m.
Sporting her new baseball jersey while pumping up Kent State baseball players before a doubleheader with the Oakland Golden Grizzlies at Schoonover Stadium. The Golden Flashes offered free admission and food for fans to celebrate the Inauguration. Flashes won game one in extra innings (4-5) and lost game two (4-3).

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 11:46 p.m.
Standing vigil on the spot where Allison Krause was killed during the May 4, 1970 shootings. “As Kent State pursues an incredibly bright future, we will continue to honor our past,” said Warren, who spoke at the 45th May 4 Commemoration, noting that “we still need to share the lessons of May 4th with a world that remains torn by war and filled with injustice.”

Friday, May 1, 2015, 3 p.m.
Receiving the President’s Medallion from Dennis Eckart, Chair of Kent State University Board of Trustees, at her Inauguration as Kent State’s twelfth president. The medallion symbolizes the responsibility of the Office of the President and its central motif is the university seal.

Friday, May 8, 2015, 7:32 p.m.
Posing for a selfie with a proud new Kent State graduate after a Commencement ceremony for those receiving their master’s and doctoral degrees. Across the university’s eight-campus system, 4,020 students graduated from Kent State this spring, including those receiving associate degrees.
THE TORCH
for Kent State President
Beverly Warren

Show us the stars
we can’t see
in the night sky.
Paint the picture of our future.
Draw the outline of tomorrow.
Be our light
and dance alongside us.

You tell us we matter,
words matter.
Outside your tall windows
our hearts open like tulips
unfurling in the sun.
Hear our cheers
welcoming you
to your new home.

You are the torch.
We are your fire.
Together we spark
a new story.

—Hollin Elementary
School Writer’s Club
KENT, OHIO

PRAISE SONG
for KENT STATE

Every day we begin anew
black squirrels racing across campus,
sunflower colossus filling the air
from cups clutched tightly
as respite from the winter’s chill.

The people of Kent pull on Levi’s and lab coats,
shower and backpack, uniform and yoga pants—all dressed for success in the
down-to-earth, reach-for-the-stars town.

Praise song for a new day in my new home.

We meet at the MAC, the Rock, the Green, the Gables.
We imagine brilliant futures at Convocation and
stand witness to their arrival at Common—ement.

We gather on the Commons
to light the darkness and remember still.
Praise song for the bold and the fearless.
Praise song for those who dare ask, “Why not?”

Three hundred days at Kent State in our rising college town.
This champion of freedom and diversity.
This nexus of innovation and inspiration.
This transformative of lives.
This peaceful place we call home.
Praise song for the path we will travel tomorrow,
eternal linked, minds open, hearts full.

—Beverly Warren
PRESIDENT, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Created by the Wick Poetry Center for the Inauguration of the
12th President of Kent State University, Beverly J. Warren.
Illustrations by Rust Valley Design.
View an animation of these poems at TravelingStanzas.com.
Undergraduate research is thriving at Kent State, as students and their faculty mentors find mutual benefit in their collaborative efforts.

Scientific research, scholarship and artistic work don’t happen in isolation by lone individuals in a lab, study or studio. Such pursuits are usually part of a collaborative effort. Most creative people will tell you they owe much to mentors who help them focus ideas, find resources and figure out a way forward—who believe in them and encourage them to keep going. And mentors say these relationships enrich their lives and work, as well.

It was easy to find these kinds of stimulating partnerships at Kent State’s second annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity in March. More than 120 undergraduate students across Kent State’s eight campuses presented their work—and their enthusiasm for solving real-world problems—with their faculty mentors by their side or watching from the sidelines.

We highlight that spirit of creative collaboration in the four partnerships profiled below, selected from among those who won first-place awards. But everyone who participated was a winner. “You have chosen not to wait for the challenges to come to you after graduation,” noted Provost Todd Diacon, Ph.D., whose idea to celebrate undergraduate research and innovation sparked the event. “Instead, you have taken on the real-world challenges now!”

Invigorating a classic text

William Scharlott had never taken a design class when he signed up for Intro to Typography, but his teacher, Aoife Mooney, M.A., an assistant professor of visual communication design, soon realized he was unusually talented for his age. And he discovered that typography was a category for something he’d always loved: “My earliest memories are of shapes, colors and lines.”

After teaching him again in her Graphic Design 1 course, Mooney asked if he’d like to enter an assessment of student work by the International Society of Typographic Designers. “Will is an excellent typographer, a very good researcher and presenter, so I thought he could do it,” Mooney says, even though Scharlott was a sophomore and most applicants for admission to the society were in their third or fourth year. “He said, ‘This sounds like a lot of work. I’m in!’”

His brief was to take a classic text and reinterpret it for modern readers who appreciate type. He chose The Iliad because it was the first bedtime story his parents read to him. (His mother is a librarian, his father a professor.)

Scharlott investigated how to reinvigorate the text through manipulating type—easier to do on a computer than in manual typesetting—to create an emotional response in the reader.

For four months, they met weekly. Mooney would critique his work, give him feedback, and he’d rework it. Says Scharlott: “She’s a wonderful teacher. She helped me with the general (‘this is looking good, but the composition could be better’) and the precise (‘this could be moved up one pixel’).”

Scharlott entered his final project in the undergraduate research symposium, and over spring break, Mooney took his project, along with six other entries from the school, to London for the assessment. Although he didn’t get in to the society this time, the judges were impressed, and Mooney was proud of his effort.

“I’d love to try again,” says Scharlott. “Working with Aoife was a privilege, and submitting it to the undergrad symposium was rewarding. Anything else didn’t matter. I had already gained the experience.”

Exploring the effects of exercise

Aneela Qadir, a psychology major, noticed she could do homework after going for a long run, but writing a paper after finishing an intense crossfit class was a challenge. So she wanted to compare endurance and high intensity interval training to see their effects on students’ mood and cognition. She approached Misty Hawkins, Ph.D., a postdoctoral research associate in psychology (whose lab she’d volunteered in last fall), and asked if she could do her own study.

Hawkins appreciated Qadir’s skills as a research assistant and agreed to help the Honors student implement her idea—with some adjustments. “Her original idea would have taken months, but the longer the study, the more participants drop out,” says Hawkins. She met with Qadir regularly and helped her think through a series of questions that addressed things like study type, source of funding and safety concerns.
Muhammed Bahcetepe
Junior, Architecture
Rui Liu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Architecture and Environmental Design

The planning and approval process (Qadir also had to meet with the University’s Institutional Review Board) took a little over a year; the actual study took about 100 hours. She found that all three of her study’s interventions—endurance exercise, high-intensity exercise, watching a relaxing video—were helpful in returning participants to their normal mood after a stressful event (delivering an impromptu three-minute speech while being “videotaped”). But the group doing the endurance exercise showed significant improvement in attention over the others. (So students may not want to work out or sprint to class before taking a test.)

“I won an award, but if it hadn’t been for Dr. Hawkins, I never would have gotten this far,” says Qadir, who is heading to Colorado State University to pursue a master’s in public health concentrating in physical activity and healthy lifestyles. “She talked a lot about balance,” says Hawkins. “Besides research aptitude, you have to consider a researcher’s ability for time management and self-care. Annalena was good at that, too—with some reminders from me. I was blown away watching her come up with ideas and do the project. Plus, she inspired me to carve out more time for exercise.”

Evaluating dredged material
Muhammed Bahcetepe, a junior architecture major, is concerned about sustainability. When he heard his Structural Systems professor, Rui Liu, Ph.D., talk about his research project studying innovative and beneficial uses for dredged material from Cleveland Harbor, he asked if he could go with him to meetings about the project. Liu, an assistant professor of architecture, later hired Bahcetepe as a research assistant, with support from Ohio’s Lake Erie Protection Fund.

More than 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment must be removed annually from Lake Erie to keep Ohio’s channels and harbors clear. Cleveland built a confined storage facility to contain the dredged material, but it’s filling up fast and other Ohio communities need to deal with their dredged material, too. Placing it further out in the water harmed the lake’s ecosystem, and putting it in landfills is costly and depletes land resources. Liu hopes to develop alternatives.

“The project started in January, so over winter break I sent Muhammed background information to read, and he picked it up quickly,” says Liu. Bahcetepe bakes samples of dredged material, too. Placing it further out in the water harmed the lake’s ecosystem, and putting it in landfills is costly and depletes land resources. Liu hopes to develop alternatives.

Since films with femme fatale characters emerged in the mid-1940s, near the end of the war, Whiteleather wondered if they had been propaganda, too—serving as a cautionary tale to post-WWII women that independence leads to disaster, female autonomy will be your downfall and overt sexuality will be punished, usually by death.

Focusing on the femme fatale
Hagan Whiteleather loves black and white movies, and when she took a class in which she had to make a website about a topic of interest, she chose film noir. “As I researched the topic, I saw ties between film noir and pulp fiction,” says Whiteleather, an English major. “It was time to pick a topic for my Honors thesis, so I decided to explore it further.”

The scholars she read in her literature review mentioned that the femme fatale (a seductive woman who lures men into dangerous situations) was a result of male anxiety, but they didn’t go into depth.

Then she read a book about Rosie the Riveter and realized that she had been a form of propaganda during World War II. Toward the end of the war, though, propaganda about strong, independent women working to help the war effort took a sudden shift. They were expected to head home and make way for men returning to the workforce.

Since films with femme fatale characters emerged in the mid-1940s, near the end of the war, Whiteleather wondered if they had been propaganda, too—serving as a cautionary tale to post-WWII women that independence leads to disaster, female autonomy will be your downfall and overt sexuality will be punished, usually by death.

She’d read 26 books and watched 15 films to see what was going on during that period, and as she broke down the actions and dialogue in five films, she turned to her advisor, Kimberly Winebrenner, Ph.D. (an English professor with whom she’d taken two classes, Women’s Lit and U.S. Lit), to help her sort through her jumbled thoughts.

“She kept me sane,” says Whiteleather, who is applying to grad schools in the fall and taking a year off to save money and spend time with her family before she heads back to school. She plans to be a professor of English literature—just like her mentor.
I n recent summers, blooms of toxic algae have formed a mucky blanket on some Ohio lakes, killing fish and making swimming unsafe. But for several days in August 2014, these so-called blue-green algae, known technically as cyanobacteria, made national news by cripplling the public water supply serving the Toledo area. Strong winds blew the harmful algae blooms (called HABs for short) against Lake Erie’s shore, surrounding the region’s water intake system. And neurotoxins (in this case, microcystins) released by the organisms entered the intakes in high enough amounts to sound an alarm.

“Maybe something good has come out of Toledo last summer,” says Ortiz, whose research has taken on a new sense of urgency. “We’ve been galvanized to improve the situation.”

What Creates An Algae Bloom? Algal blooms aren’t a new phenomenon — these ancient organisms have been around for 3.8 billion years, says Ortiz. Although not all algae blooms are harmful, scientists still don’t know why some produce high levels of toxins. “Cyanobacteria are particularly toxic to multicellular life, yet there was no multicellular life when they first evolved,” notes Ortiz. He says the organisms are proliferating now due to an influx of nitrogen and phosphorus being pumped into rivers and lakes — and the blooms may become even more prevalent as the climate warms. “In the 1950s and ‘60s, we introduced high levels of nitrogen by dumping raw sewage into Lake Erie, saying ‘Dilution is the solution to pollution,’” Ortiz says. “That didn’t work so well.” Algae blooms, fish kills and industrial waste contaminated the lake and nearby rivers.

Over the next two decades, the United States spent $8 billion to improve wastewater treatment, and states and communities passed laws to lessen the levels of nutrients that nourish the algae. The measures were successful in restoring the health of Lake Erie by the ‘90s, but recently the blooms have returned, largely as a result of agricultural runoff.

“Sometimes when you fix one problem, you create another,” Ortiz says. “In trying to fix soil erosion, farmers were urged to go with low-till or no-till agricultural practices. But because they changed the way in which they applied the fertilizer, it would sit on the surface and be more apt to run off. That’s a big reason we’re having these gigantic blooms now.”

In the 1950s and ‘60s, we introduced high levels of nitrogen by dumping raw sewage into Lake Erie, saying ‘Dilution is the solution to pollution,’” Ortiz says. “That didn’t work so well.” Algae blooms, fish kills and industrial waste contaminated the lake and nearby rivers.

Over the next two decades, the United States spent $8 billion to improve wastewater treatment, and states and communities passed laws to lessen the levels of nutrients that nourish the algae. The measures were successful in restoring the health of Lake Erie by the ‘90s, but recently the blooms have returned, largely as a result of agricultural runoff. “Sometimes when you fix one problem, you create another,” Ortiz says. “In trying to fix soil erosion, farmers were urged to go with low-till or no-till agricultural practices. But because they changed the way in which they applied the fertilizer, it would sit on the surface and be more apt to run off. That’s a big reason we’re having these gigantic blooms now.”
Although the main character in the graphic novel *El Deafo* is a cartoon rabbit with long ears and a bob haircut, the book is really a condensed account of Cece Bell's experience of growing up hearing impaired.

Bell, who is a 1998 graduate of the Master of Arts program at Kent State's School of Visual Communication Design, has written and illustrated more than a dozen children's books. (See sidebar on page 27.)


Here are a dozen other facts about Cece Bell:

1. She lost most of her hearing at age four and a half after contracting meningitis. Her parents didn't realize she couldn't hear until several days after she returned home from the hospital.
2. She's an excellent lip reader. (As long as you don't have a mustache or beard.) Since she already had four years of hearing and had developed speech, her parents decided not to enroll her in schools for the deaf or sign language.
3. It took her years before she felt ready to write about her childhood. “I finally came to a place in my life when I could say, ‘Okay, I’m deaf!’ I had tried to keep it hidden for so long. . . . My hearing loss was quite traumatic and adjusting to the hearing aid in school caused me so much embarrassment that the memories and feelings from that period of my life were easy to get to.”
4. The Phonic Ear she wore as a child isn’t as large as it appears in her drawings. It’s actually 3 inches wide x 4 inches tall, but to young Cece, who wore it strapped on her chest (hid under the bib of her overalls), it felt huge. (See left.)
5. She was aiming for emotional truth over literal truth. “I wanted to show readers how it felt to be the only deaf kid in the school, and what it sounded like, too. I also wanted to tell an entertaining story. So I had to slightly readjust my personal time line and make a few composites of the people I knew. Otherwise it would have been confusing and you’d be asleep by page 21.”
6. She has never written a graphic novel before. She worked on it for about five years, along with other projects. “I don’t know how graphic novelists make more than one in their lifetime!” The comic-book approach helped her tell the story. In several scenes a character’s speech balloon is empty or filled with gibberish. “It’s the perfect visual way to show how a hard-of-hearing or deaf person might or might not be hearing.”
7. She’s not really a rabbit. In *El Deafo*, she made her characters rabbits because they have giant ears and are good at hearing. “It was sort of a visual metaphor to show how I was feeling . . . like the one rabbit whose big ears didn’t work. So that’s why everyone became a rabbit. And rabbits are cute.”
8. *El Deafo* was her nickname for herself. She didn’t share it with anyone, though, during her younger years. Someone had told her about an *ABC Afterschool Special* episode in which one kid calls a deaf kid “Deafo.” “I thought it was funny at first. Then it made me mad. I thought: I’ll call myself that so if anyone says it to me, I’ll be ready! It did help.”
9. Her graphic memoir has resonated with many hearing-impaired children and adults. As she notes in the book's afterword, there’s a spectrum of deafness and every deaf person's experience and approach is different. Still, she says, “One of the biggest thrills for me since the book came out has been finding folks who are a lot like me. It’s the best.”
10. She’s married to another successful children’s book author. She met her future husband, Tom Angleberger—whose books include the Origami Yoda series (Harry N. Abrams) and Crankee Doodle (Clarion Books, 2013), illustrated by Cece Bell—at the College of William and Mary, where they both majored in art. They live in Virginia and have two sons.

11. She named one of her characters after her teacher and mentor at Kent State. The main character, Jerry Bee, in her book Bee-Wigged (Candlewick Press, 2008) was named after Jerry Kalback, Professor Emeritus of Visual Communication Design. “It’s still my favorite of all the books I’ve done.” She read from it when she returned to the Kent Campus in March 2009 to teach a workshop.

12. Her most recent book is about a donkey and a yam. “It’s called I Yam a Donkey (Clarion Books, 2015), and the premise is: A donkey and a yam get into a big argument about grammar. There ya go. In some ways, it’s closer to how I actually am as a person today: playing for the yuk-yuks, not worrying about the deafness so much.”

“Our differences are our superpowers.” —CECE BELL

EL DEAFO written and illustrated by Cece Bell, Copyright 2014. Used by permission of Amulet Books, an imprint of Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York. All rights reserved. Watch videos of Cece Bell at www.kent.edu/magazine/CeceBell. Learn even more at www.cecebells.com.
Douglas Graham ’05

President Barack Obama has a daughter’s photo taken with Doug Graham, Personal President, Personnel Office, in the Oval Office. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Class Notes

The little sunbustle dancees an Alumni Doug Graham, President, Personnel President, Personnel Office, in the Oval Office. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Douglas Graham ’05 planned to go to law school before he was exposed to other career possibilities as part of Kent State’s 15-week Washington Program in National Issues. He met Supreme Court justices, members of Congress, the editor of The Washington Post, and lobbyists. “I broadened my horizons,” says Graham, who interned at the Democratic Congressional Committee and later helped lead the Democratic National Committee’s opposition research effort for the 2008 presidential campaign. He worked as a consultant for tech companies and congressional campaigns before being tapped to help vet presidential appointees for Obama’s second-term cabinet. “I worked with attorneys, the FBI and the IRS to do thorough background checks before individuals were announced as nominees,” says Graham, who made sure appointees could withstand congressional scrutiny.

In January 2015, he left the White House to become managing director of Investigative Group International, an investigation and corporate intelligence firm. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, law firms, universities, high-net-worth families and government entities. “It is an important time to have that they have the right people as it was for the President,” says Graham. We asked him how to interview someone and make sure they’re reputable.

To find the truth:

1. Do your research. Don’t rely on Google; you can find free information in public records about a person’s professional and financial past that will provide insight into their character. Search for different versions of a person’s résumé, CV or LinkedIn profile (online or at past employers) to compare with the one you have.

2. Ask specific, probing questions. When a candidate realizes you have done your homework, they may be more honest or, if they are hiding something, they will have to commit to a story that later you can either confirm or refute.

3. Pay attention to cues. Early in the interview, ask a question you know the answer to that may be uncomfortable for them to address (for example, if they’ve ever been arrested or kicked out of school for a job, etc.). Study their response, including tone of voice, eye contact, hand and facial gestures. If they attempt to mislead, omit info or even lie, you may be able to detect a “tell” [an unconscious action thought to betray an attempted deception, such as speaking in a monotonous tone, avoiding eye contact or limiting physical expression] to look for during the remainder of the interview.

Julie Fitzwater ’09, Columbus, Ohio, wrote, “On August 6, 2014, my husband, Kevin Ppospilich ’10, and I were married at Fred Fuller Park in Kent, Ohio. We had a perfect location for our wedding because Kevin and I first met at the Kent State University Student Center. We celebrated our wedding with pictures at the front steps of Old Main, and I baked our own wedding cake. We started the night away, Kevin and I both graduated from Kent State, and it will forever be a big part of our lives.”

Pictured above: Genevieve Okorika, Kelley Gerbig ’12, Ryan King, Jennifer Fitzwater ’05, Sarah Groth, Jessica Fitzwater ’10, Greg Ppospilich ’03, Kara Ppospilich ’05, Ron Dear ’77, Jacki Fitzwater ’01 and ’00, Kevin Ppospilich. Julie Fitzwater.
Michelle Darvis
Multimedia concept artist Kent, Ohio

During 2014, Michelle Darvis tackled a challenging art project—completing one painting outdoors every day for an entire year. Among other things, she dealt with cold weather (above normal snow falls and below normal temperatures in January) and a busy schedule (planning her wedding in August).

Darvis says painting en plein air, a French expression that means “in the open air,” gave her a new appreciation for the beauty of the seasons. Paintings from her project, “A Year in Plein Air,” feature scenes of Ohio and other places from around Kent State. “The campus is so beautiful,” says Darvis, who studied fine and professional art with a concentration in drawing at Kent State from 2003 to 2007.

She believes “we should do what we love every day of our lives,” and even painted with her husband on the morning of her wedding. “My constant was painting on an eight-by-ten-inch canvas with oil paints. My constant was painting on an eight-by-ten-inch canvas with oil paints. My constant was painting on an eight-by-ten-inch canvas with oil paints.”

To keep motivated:

• Tell people your goals. If the people around you don’t know your goals, how can they help you reach them? If someone tells you that your goals are impossible, move on. Find people who truly believe in you—they are out there!

• Build support. Ask someone to check on your progress every day. Make it a point to talk to them or send them a daily update. It will help you move closer to your goal.

• Take care of yourself. Being outside each day will give you a boost of oxygen, improve your mood and might even give you a new outlook. And stay hydrated; I try to drink at least 8 cups of water each day. Whenever I’m feeling sluggish, often I’m just dehydrated.

• Focus on one thing at a time. Instead of counting how many days were left, I concentrated on the current day. If I felt overwhelmed, I would complete the next task, washing my brushes or laying out my palette. Then I’d feel ready to head out.

• Work for a higher purpose. I work for and am inspired by God. No matter what your beliefs are, having something outside yourself to work for—your family, people you love, people who need help—makes motivation come naturally.

In Memory

• The little sunburst denotes an Alumni Association member. For a list of life members, visit www.kasuallumni.org/life members.
• Olivia Gifford ’38, January 18, 2015
• Harold Brozo ’39, January 19, 2015
• Arlene Burton ’41, November 29, 2014
• Ruth Fenton ’41, January 27, 2015
• William Lee Guisevich ’43, February 25, 2015
• Earl Stanley ’43, February 11, 2014
• Barbara Gallivan ’47, May 18, 2014
• Charles Francis ’48, March 30, 2014
• Robert Proper ’49, April 18, 2013
• George Dam ’50, August 7, 2013
• James Barnes ’51, November 26, 2014
• Daniel Weil ’51, January 29, 2014
• Daniel Bella ’52, November 13, 2013
• Patricia Mowley ’52, January 8, 2013
• Richard Roberts ’52, December 3, 2013
• John Frankenburger ’53, December 16, 2014

January 13, 2014
May 4, 2014
On Your Mark. Get Set. Go!

Kent State’s Rowboat Regatta—the brainchild of an unnamed student in a 1939 journalism class—was sponsored and staffed by the Kent Stater every spring from 1939 to 1969. Regatta Day typically began with a parade of cars heading to the site. The first competitions were held on the Cuyahoga River, but were later moved to Brady Lake, Hudson Springs Park and then Round-Up Lake.

Sororities, fraternities and independent groups competed for trophies, and women with at least a 2.0 grade point average were eligible to try out for Regatta Queen. Rowers were required to pass a swimming test, but all students could enjoy the races and other contests, which over the years included relays, tug-of-war, frog-leaping, barrel-rolls and canoe jousts.

In 1947, however, the popular event—meant to be a satire on Ivy League rowing championships—was swept into the spotlight. Life magazine telegrammed the Kent Stater that they were assigning a photographer to cover the event, and Akron radio station WAKR planned to broadcast a play-by-play.

“We hope it is not growing too quickly,” wrote Kent Stater editor-in-chief Robert E. Hoyt in the May 14, 1947 issue. He noted that organizing the event was a tremendous amount of work done by very few people. “We’ve wondered if it could be possible that any difficulty could exist which has not presented itself.”

The next week’s issue contained a letter from Merle “Wag” Wagoner, faculty manager of athletics and official starter for the Regatta, who wrote, “I am very sorry that the excessive delays in running the races caused some criticism. . . . It would be a damn shame to lose the event because of delays that could be overcome with a slight bit of planning.”

Although Life photographer George Skadding photographed the event (see a slideshow of his photos on the magazine website), Life’s editors later wrote to say they would be unable to schedule the story, according to a June 24, 1947 Kent Stater article titled, “Life Sends Regrets.”

Even so, current Kent Stater editors—maybe it’s time to revisit some version of this tradition?

Hats Off to Our New Graduates!

Mortar boards became the base for a bevy of creative designs and messages from this year’s graduating class. Here’s a selection from among hundreds spotted at Kent State’s Spring Commencement ceremonies.

This spring, Kent State conferred 3,883 degrees, including 2,864 bachelor’s degrees, 874 master’s degrees, 142 doctoral degrees and three educational specialist degrees at the Kent Campus. May you all fulfill your dreams!
Way to Go!

Flash high fives President Beverly Warren during an Inauguration event hosted by Kent State University at Salem.

For more photos from our 12th president's first year, see page 10.