History Lessons

As Kent State continues its yearlong 50th commemoration of May 4, 1970, President Todd Diacon wants you to reflect on the dangers of polarization and the power of reconciliation. SEE PAGE 10
CONTENTS
FALL/WINTER 2019-20
On the cover: President Todd Diacon, PhD, was inaugurated as Kent State’s 13th president on November 1, 2019. See page 10.

COVER PHOTO: RAMI DAUD

FEATURES
10 A Dialogue with President Diacon
A Q&A with the university’s 13th president—plus his quiz to test your knowledge of Kent State.

16 Comeback Champ
Kent State football wide receiver Antwan Dixon hasn’t let a rare blood disorder derail his dreams.

18 Together We Rise
How the Rising Scholars Program at Kent State helps underserved students with potential prepare for a promising future.

24 Picture This
A selection of student photos from recent Kent State study away/study abroad programs and internships.

26 Future Forecast
Torsten Hieghmann, PhD, new director of the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute, talks about new frontiers in the field.

28 Check it Off!
The top things Kent State students think everyone should do before they graduate. How many have you done?

32 Wi-Fi Whiz
Where would we be without Wi-Fi? Jerry Pohmurski, BS ’88, helped pioneer wireless devices, but he never figured the technology would be so widely used today.

DEPARTMENTS
02 Readers Respond
03 President’s Perspective
04 Flash Forward

WEB SITE
www.kent.edu/magazine

CORRESPONDENCE
Kent State Magazine, 160 ASB P.O. Box 3190, Kent, Ohio 44242
magazine@kent.edu
330-672-2727

Kent State Magazine is published by Kent State University Communications and Marketing. It is mailed free to faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends of the university two times a year (fall/winter, spring/summer).

Printed by Angstrom Graphix, Cleveland, Ohio

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Ralph Ocola Ratta

PRESIDENT
Todd A. Diacon, PhD

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Karen B. Clarke

INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST
Melody Tannenbaum, PhD

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Mark M. Polatajko, PhD

Take Note
Kent State is a university on the rise, as is evidenced on almost every page of this issue. As former provost Todd Diacon has taken on his new role as Kent State’s 13th president, he says he’s been gaining an even greater appreciation for Kent State’s potential to impact Ohio and the world.

Students are taking advantage of exciting research opportunities and study away/study abroad programs that expand their horizons, boost their growth and propel their career prospects.

Rising Scholars, a program first started at Kent State’s Columbiana County campuses, is being rolled out to all regional campuses to help promising middle school students reach their full potential—and lift up their communities for generations to come.

The new FedEx Aeronautics Academic Center is accelerating the university’s commitment to graduate increased numbers of aviation professionals who will soar to greater achievements.

And speaking of things on the rise, recent news reports have noted that Kent State’s iconic black squirrels are increasing their range and becoming more common in the greater Cleveland area.

However, Greg Smith, PhD, an assistant professor of biological sciences at Kent State Stark, says squirrels typically don’t travel that far. It’s more plausible that small pockets of black squirrels naturally arose in Cleveland due to a genetic mutation in the grey or fox squirrel and their numbers are slowly growing.

Smith also says the minimal research available suggests that the squirrels’ dark color could make them more resistant to cold, increasing the population further north. In any event, they’re still hanging out on the pages of this magazine!

Squirrel Search
In each issue, we hide an image of a black squirrel on three pages (not counting the Table of Contents). If you find all three, you qualify for a drawing to win a squirrel-themed prize. Each squirrel will appear like this: (shown actual size and will not be distorted or rotated).

When you find them, send us an email at magazine@kent.edu, listing the three page numbers and places they appear, plus your name and mailing address. For rules and eligibility requirements see www.kent.edu/magazine/rules. Good luck!
And the WINNER is... Congratulations to Gretchen Woods, MA '05, Avon, Ohio, the winner of the random drawing from correct submissions to the Squirrel Search contest. She received a box of squirrel-themed swag from McKay Bricker Framing & Black Squirrel Gifts in downtown Kent.

The black squirrels can be found in the spring/summer 2019 issue on pages 9 (on top rail of bell stand to right), 28 (at bottom right of pink neon sign) and 38 (on stoll to right of seated girl’s head).

Thanks to all who entered!

via EMAIL

Help for Healing Brain Injury
As a Kent State psychology department alum who worked in brain function research for my masters (but jumped to clinical psychology for my PhD), I was excited and proud to hear of the launch of the Brain Health Research Institute and Dr. Michael Lehman’s vision for it (Brainstorming,” page 22, spring/summer 2019).

My husband incurred a traumatic brain injury in July 1999. Writing poetry has played a big part in his recovery that, given the extent of his injury, has been amazing. He is living proof of the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach that includes players like the Wick Poetry Center and the Institute of Medicine’s report “Becoming a Registered Nurse.” There is another “pathway” that was overlooked. The College of Applied and Technical Studies offers the ADN [Associate Degree in Nursing] program on four campuses: East Liverpool, Tuscarawas, Teinstburg and Ashtabula campuses. It also has an LPN to ADN bridge and a Paramedic to ADN bridge.

All ADN graduates are eligible to take a state license test to become an RN. It is a great option that costs less than a four-year degree and gets students working sooner. Many of our graduates go on to earn their BSN and higher degrees as well.

JANET PETERSON, RN, MSN, CNS
Nursing Skills Lab Coordinator
Kent State University at East Liverpool

Another Pathway
On page 21 of the spring/summer 2019 issue there is an article about “KSU Pathways to Becoming a Registered Nurse.” There is another “pathway” that was overlooked. The College of Applied and Technical Studies offers the ADN [Associate Degree in Nursing] program on four campuses: East Liverpool, Tuscarawas, Teinstburg and Ashtabula campuses. It also has an LPN to ADN bridge and a Paramedic to ADN bridge.

All ADN graduates are eligible to take a state license test to become an RN. It is a great option that costs less than a four-year degree and gets students working sooner. Many of our graduates go on to earn their BSN and higher degrees as well.

JANET PETERSON, RN, MSN, CNS
Nursing Skills Lab Coordinator
Kent State University at East Liverpool

As a tenured member of the nursing faculty and having served previously as the interim dean of the College of Nursing, I am well aware of the Institute of Medicine’s report and recommendation regarding the need to increase the number of BSN prepared graduates. However, you ignored another KSU pathway to becoming a registered nurse. The Associate of Applied Science Degree is offered on the Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Tuscarawas and Tuscarawas campuses of KSU. Students who complete these [ADN] programs sit for the same licensing exam as the BSN graduates.

Students who graduate from these programs continue to be hired at the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and community hospitals in our region. Between the four regional campus sites offering the associate degree, we are supplying hundreds of qualified registered nurses to the workforce. One advantage to this path is that once hired, employers will often provide tuition reimbursement to these RNs to complete their BSN. We strongly encourage students to obtain their BSN from the day they walk in our doors, and we highly encourage them to make a seamless transition from our program to the online RN to BSN offered thru the KSU College of Nursing. Many of the courses in the RN to BSN are taught by faculty from the ADN program on the regional campuses.

SUSAN STOCKER, PHD
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer
Kent State University at Ashtabula

Portrait of a President
Great spring/summer [2019] edition. Excellent articles all, and a beautiful portraiture of President Warren. Her warmth, personality and energy leap off the pages. No doubt she has provided remarkable leadership and will be missed greatly.

MEL GROSSMAN, BS ’55
Bellbrook, Ohio

Reason for Optimism
I enjoy reading this magazine each time it arrives. It’s amazing what young students aspire to these days. I feel a little more optimistic about the future after reading some of the stories about these young men and women. Thank you!

DONNA DUNN, RN ’94
Great Falls, Mont.

 Protect Your Passwords
Great article about security (“The Mean Streets of Cyberspace,” page 34, spring/summer 2019) and the example of the couple with shared passwords. The only time I’ve ever shared a bank password was with my friend (ironically, also named Susy). Luckily, I don’t think she memorized it, and I know she didn’t write it down. She hasn’t taken anything from me... yet.

JEFFREY ALL, DPM ’98
Broadview Heights, Ohio

We want to hear from you!
Respond to magazine content or comment on topics related to Kent State by writing: Kent State Magazine P.O. Box 5990 Kent, Ohio 44242-0001 or magazine@kent.edu. Responses may be edited for style, length, clarity and civility.

Visit us online
www.kent.edu/magazine

Making a Difference
One of the most enjoyable and invigorating parts of my job as president is to celebrate this great institution and its dedication to changing the world.

Kent State is a university with unmatched potential for meaningful impact in the state of Ohio and beyond. We graduate nearly 10,000 students annually who are determined to make a difference in our global society, and we have an incredible network of nearly 250,000 alumni worldwide.

Kent State is a motor for democracy, both for the fortunate few and the meritorious many. Our challenge, our mission and our commitment is: Every student we touch graduates.

In my first months as president, I’ve had the opportunity to meet some amazing alumni. Recently, I had a wonderful talk with a prominent graduate who retired as the senior vice president for one of the top ten corporations in the world. He was the first in his family to go to college, and he had a transformative experience here at Kent State. I hear that all the time.

Kent State is distinguished by the knowledge and creative work generated by our researchers, architects, engineers, artists, poets and historians. Their work makes all our lives better and richer.

Our university holds a unique place in our nation’s history. A tragedy on our campus shook the nation and shaped our future. We thrive today because the lessons of that day are more relevant than ever: that we avoid poisoned discourse and polarization; that we listen first and act with empathy and compassion.

Shaped by the American dream, steeled by tragedy and singular among universities in the lessons we can teach a divided nation—WE are Kent State.

Todd A. Diacon, President
Email: president@kent.edu, Twitter: @PresTDiacon

Kent State is a university with unmatched potential for meaningful impact in the state of Ohio and beyond.”
Goldwater Scholars
Two Kent State University undergraduate students have been awarded prestigious 2019 Goldwater Scholarships from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The foundation awards the scholarships annually to students studying mathematics, natural science or engineering. This year they awarded 496 scholarships, each for as much as $7,500 per year.

Meet the Kent State Class of 2023
More than 20,000 people applied to be part of Kent State’s Class of 2023 and 4,970 now call themselves Golden Flashes. Three of every 10 students are the first in their families to attend college, while 50 percent come from 38 states outside of Ohio and from the District of Columbia. The class also includes 69 international students arriving from 57 countries.

Summer Discoveries
Sara Roman
Hometown: Wellington, Ohio
Class: Junior
College: College of Aeronautics and Engineering
Major: Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Internship: Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) Intern Project
A paid internship hosted by NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, for 10 weeks in the summer, with potential continuation during the school year. Students are introduced to space communications and navigation knowledge and practices, and they communicate their findings in a final presentation to NASA management. Each student is paired with an experienced, multidisciplinary mentor who counsels the student and helps with career planning.

Summer project: High Speed Delay-Tolerant Network Heat Sink and Packaging Plan, which will be sent up to the International Space Station.

Preparation: “Kent State provided me with classes that built my skills from an early start, as well as teachers who encouraged me to challenge myself in and out of the classroom. Without them, I wouldn’t have had the confidence in myself and my skills to apply to this NASA internship.”

Key insight: “My internship helped me discover a newfound passion for learning, as I can now see how the processes taught in class are applied to real-life problems. I have even been inspired by my mentor, Norm Prekop, to pick up a programming minor because after working with him, I have learned how applicable the skill is to every project I encounter. College always felt to me like the last steps of education, just one more to go, but now I realize it’s my first step into a larger world.”

Future plans: “Besides looking to pick up a minor in computer science, I am inspired to continue my education and pursue a masters and/or doctorate after college.”

Hayley Shastien, a junior from Berlin Center, Ohio, is pursuing a dual degree in molecular and cellular biology and psychology. She hopes to eventually obtain a doctoral degree in cognitive neuropsychology and conduct research regarding cognitive impairment in patients with autoimmune diseases, with emphasis on systemic lupus erythematosus.

Michael Marhefka (Mansfield, Ohio) participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, a national program offered for students in grades 6 to 12 who have a drive to launch their own businesses. Last year, he created a clothing company that he named Thalli, LLC, and has been selling his clothing to local businesses. He also created a clothing company that he named Introtouch. He hopes to use his abilities as a photographer to create new perspectives in people around me,” says Marhefka, “and to help organizations such as Destiny Rescue convey their mission and create a need for change.”

Hayley Shastien:
Gracen Gerbig, a senior from Dover, Ohio, is studying cellular and molecular biology. She hopes to pursue a doctoral degree in microbiology, conduct research in infectious disease and eventually teach at the university level.

Michael Marhefka:
Megan Schinkler (Stow, Ohio), got a jump on her peers by helping identify a tiny specimen of an extinct, 300-million-year-old, unknown crustacean. While still a junior at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, she participated in Kent State’s College Credit Plus Science Experience Internship program by working in Kent State’s geology lab with Rodney Feldmann, PhD, a Kent State professor emeritus of geology, who continues to teach graduate-level courses in paleontology and conduct grant-funded research.

While still in high school, Megan Schinkler seized on a research opportunity in Kent State’s geology lab.

Meeting the Kent State Class of 2023: More than 20,000 people applied to be part of Kent State’s Class of 2023 and 4,970 now call themselves Golden Flashes. Three of every 10 students are the first in their families to attend college, while 50 percent come from 38 states outside of Ohio and from the District of Columbia. The class also includes 69 international students arriving from 57 countries.

Numbers aside, this incoming class arrives with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds, as exemplified by the following two students:

Michael Marhefka discovered a passion for photography through foreign travel and exposure to other ways of life.

Megan Schinkler
find in literature and online sources. The two requested samples of pictures of lost samples from all over the world and examined them closely, cataloging their physical and structural attributes. They couldn’t find a match—and began exploring the morphology of these cyclops. Their research collaboration has led to articles in several scientific publications and presentations on their findings—and ignited Schinkler’s passion for geology. Now a freshman at KSU, she plans to double major in geology and chemistry and continue her work in Feldmann’s lab.
6th Commemoration of May 4, 1970

The featuring 6th commemoration of the May 4, 1970 shootings at Kent State is well underway. Here are just two of the fall semester’s many highlights:

Voices for Change Educators Summit: The kickoff event of the 50th Commemoration year, the three-day 2019 Educators Summit at Kent State University, titled “May 4, 1970 Then & Now: Voices for Change,” took place from July 31 to August 2. It was designed to prepare middle school and high school teachers to educate students about the history and legacy of May 4, 1970, and to inspire a new generation of student activism.

One of the two featured speeches, which were free and open to the public, was “Facts are Stubborn Things: Kent State—the Sixties at Fifty” by Thomas Grace, BA ’72, a historian, scholar, researcher, author of Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties (2016, University of Massachusetts Press) and one of the nine Kent State students wounded during the May 4 shootings.

The other featured speech, “I Am a Student—I Am a Voice for Change,” was given by Sara Abou Rashed, a poet, motivational speaker and Syrian refugee who moved to Columbus, Ohio, with her family in 2013. Rashed’s work has appeared in more than 12 publications, and most recently, she wrote and stars in her debut publication, The Business of Fashion.

One of best in fashion: KSU’s School of Fashion Design and Merchandising was named one of the best fashion schools in the world for 2019 by world renowned fashion publication The Business of Fashion.

One of best in graduate schools: KSU’s School of Information (iSchool) recognized as one of the nation’s top 20 graduate schools for its library and information science program by a US News and World Report study that examined 51 campuses.

Awards

WSKU wins awards: The radio station received top honors for General Excellence—Radio for the fifth consecutive year from Ohio Associated Press Media Editors (OAPME), along with nine other awards for stand-out work created in 2018. WSKU also received 10 Ohio Excellence in Journalism Awards by the Press Club of Cleveland and 10 Ohio’s Best Journalism Awards by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Pediatric device wins prize: The “Shear Force Mat” pediatric device took top prize at the Burton D. Morgan Foundation’s Launchtown Soar Competition in April, developed by an interdisciplinary team from KSU’s College of Podiatric Medicine and the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute.

Grants

Student mental wellness: With a $375,000 three-year grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, KSU’s Center for Public Policy and Health will partner with Black River Local School District and the Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board to improve student mental wellness. The project, called Medina County Aware, will be led by associate professor Dent Kenne, PhD, and research associate Kim Laurene, PhD.

Suicide prevention: KSU’s Division of Mental Health and Substance Use received the Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant for $316,000 from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The project, More Aware, is a collaboration with Student Affairs, University Health Services, Student Support Services and other divisions across Kent State, and is intended to raise awareness and promote mental health for Kent State students.

Educating Nigerian children: An interdisciplinary team of KSU faculty will participate in a $13.3 million grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to improve educational outcomes for Nigerian children. The grant has been awarded to the American University of Nigeria with partners Kent State University and Columbus University for a three-year project, “Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria.” KSU’s portion of the grant is $3.9 million.

Preserving the past: Kent State University Libraries’ May 4, 1970 Collection was awarded $30,561 through the Recordings at Risk grant program, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to preserve audio and visual recordings contained in Kent State University’s May 4 Collection.

Teaching English to Palestinian students: Kent State researchers won a diplomatic grant from the US Department of State to help Al-Quds University develop English courses for Palestinian students in business and technology fields through a program developed by professor Sarah Rilling, PhD, and assistant professor Ryan Miller, PhD, in the Department of English’s Teaching English as a Second Language program.

Noteworthy

Rankings

LGBTQ friendly: KSU named one of the most LGBTQ-friendly campuses in the US by the Campus Pride Index.

One of best in fashion: KSU’s School of Fashion Design and Merchandising was named one of the best fashion schools in the world for 2019 by world renowned fashion publication The Business of Fashion.

One of best in graduate schools: KSU’s School of Information (iSchool) recognized as one of the nation’s top 20 graduate schools for its library and information science program by a US News and World Report study that examined 51 campuses.

Awards

WSKU wins awards: The radio station received top honors for General Excellence—Radio for the fifth consecutive year from Ohio Associated Press Media Editors (OAPME), along with nine other awards for stand-out work created in 2018. WSKU also received 10 Ohio Excellence in Journalism Awards by the Press Club of Cleveland and 10 Ohio’s Best Journalism Awards by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Pediatric device wins prize: The “Shear Force Mat” pediatric device took top prize at the Burton D. Morgan Foundation’s Launchtown Soar Competition in April, developed by an interdisciplinary team from KSU’s College of Podiatric Medicine and the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute.

Grants

Student mental wellness: With a $375,000 three-year grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, KSU’s Center for Public Policy and Health will partner with Black River Local School District and the Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board to improve student mental wellness. The project, called Medina County Aware, will be led by associate professor Dent Kenne, PhD, and research associate Kim Laurene, PhD.

Suicide prevention: KSU’s Division of Mental Health and Substance Use received the Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant for $316,000 from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The project, More Aware, is a collaboration with Student Affairs, University Health Services, Student Support Services and other divisions across Kent State, and is intended to raise awareness and promote mental health for Kent State students.

Educating Nigerian children: An interdisciplinary team of KSU faculty will participate in a $13.3 million grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to improve educational outcomes for Nigerian children. The grant has been awarded to the American University of Nigeria with partners Kent State University and Columbus University for a three-year project, “Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria.” KSU’s portion of the grant is $3.9 million.

Preserving the past: Kent State University Libraries’ May 4, 1970 Collection was awarded $30,561 through the Recordings at Risk grant program, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to preserve audio and visual recordings contained in Kent State University’s May 4 Collection.

Teaching English to Palestinian students: Kent State researchers won a diplomatic grant from the US Department of State to help Al-Quds University develop English courses for Palestinian students in business and technology fields through a program developed by professor Sarah Rilling, PhD, and assistant professor Ryan Miller, PhD, in the Department of English’s Teaching English as a Second Language program.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GLASS

Kent State’s Studio Glass Program, one of the first of its kind in the country, was started in 1989 by Henry Halem, professor emeritus and cofounder of the Glass Art Society.

To celebrate the program’s 50th anniversary, KSU’s School of Art Collection and Galleries presented three exhibitions featuring local and national artists (Kent State Glass@50, Emerging Glass, Tim Stover (MFA ’73: Linear Integration)), which were on view September through early October at galleries on and off campus.

In addition, the celebration included a lecture, “The History of Kent State’s Glass Program,” by founding director Henry Halem, a curator talk on Kent State Glass@50 by current director and assistant professor Dina Ehbanks and visiting artist lectures. See a video at www.kent.edu/may4kentstate50 to learn more about upcoming events.

By the end of the spring semester, Kent State will have hosted more than 100 events, speakers, programs and exhibits providing insight into the history of May 4, 1970, its meaning today and its lessons for the future.

Check back often for updates as we continue to release new events and information.

Flash FORWARD
A Time to Give

Every fall since 2014, Kent State University celebrates philanthropy for the entire month of November during its Giving Tuesday campaign—the university’s spin on Giving Tuesday, the international day of philanthropy officially recognized on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, which falls on Dec. 3 this year.

From student scholarships to research opportunities, from athletics to poetry programs and everything in between, there are more than 60 featured giving options across the Kent State system. In addition to making individual donations, Kent State supporters can create individual peer-to-peer fundraising pages for the featured fund of their choice to help encourage their friends and family to support the university, as well.

It’s the best time of year for KSU donors who want to maximize the impact of their gift, as each featured fund has matching dollars—which means a gift of $50 becomes $100, a gift of $100 becomes $200 and so on. The featured funds are also eligible for many incentives throughout the month that financially reward the funds for bringing in donors and gifts.

“We call the Giving Tuesday campaign our most generous annual tradition.”

—DANIELLE HUPP, senior associate director of Special Giving Initiatives

“We call the Giving Tuesday campaign our most generous annual tradition because there is an overwhelming influx of support from alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends,” says Danielle Hupp, senior associate director of Special Giving Initiatives. “It is inspiring to see the impact that can be made in such a short amount of time when people come together.”

Since its inception five years ago, the month-long Giving Tuesday campaign has raised funds in support of more than 30 areas throughout the university network. In 2018, Kent State witnessed its most successful Giving Tuesday to date with a grand total of $1,030,000 in gifts that came from all around the world. Kent State Baseball raised the most funds with $36,500, and Kent State Track and Field attracted nearly 170 unique supporters.

How will you make an impact? You decide! Visit www.Kent.edu/GivingTuesday to learn about all the featured funds and support the one that matters to you!

Accelerating Takeoff

Kent State University’s new FedEx Aeronautics Academic Center provides a world-class training ground to help aviation students and future pilots soar to even greater achievements.

The sleek, modern learning center, made possible with gifts totaling $6.5 million from FedEx Corporation, was unveiled during a grand-opening event in September. The celebration showcased bold new technologies and innovative teaching tools essential for world-class pilots of the future. The event finale featured a dramatic flyover by Kent State alumni and student flight instructors.

The new 17,800-square-foot center is the second building for the College of Aeronautics and Engineering. “The FedEx Academic Center provides space for the growth of Kent State’s Aeronautics Program,” says Christina Bloebaum, PhD, dean of the College of Aeronautics and Engineering. “The FedEx Aeronautics Academic Center empowers us to broaden our educational reach, expanding student access to a nationally distinctive education and innovative spirit we inspire in our students.”

Partners in Flight

Kent State University’s nationally ranked Flight Technology program is one of only three nationwide that Delta Air Lines selected this year to become a Delta Propel Partner, a program creating career opportunities for students studying to be commercial pilots.

Through Delta’s Collegiate Pilot Career Path Program, the airline will interview, help train and recruit high-quality pilot candidates among Kent State students who meet the program’s eligibility requirements. Delta will employ successful candidates as pilots upon graduation from the Flight Technology program, located in Kent State’s College of Aeronautics and Engineering.
Todd A. Diacon, PhD, became Kent State University’s 13th president on July 1, 2019. As the university’s provost since 2012, Diacon (pronounced DIKE-en) has been a tireless advocate for student success. Committed to college affordability and access, he has earned national recognition for his efforts to boost student retention, graduation rates and academic achievement.

He brings more than 30 years of experience in higher education leadership to the president’s office. Before coming to Kent State, he served as the deputy chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and spent 21 years at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, serving as a tenured professor, department head and vice provost.

We listened in on several of President Diacon’s recent interviews to learn more about him and to garner his thoughts on a variety of university issues.

Why did you want to be president of Kent State University? From having been here seven years as provost, I know that Kent State is a great place. I wanted to continue contributing to the success of a great university.

What is it about Kent State that you find special? With multiple campuses and degree programs that span from associate to doctorate—plus, particularly on our regional campuses—a lot of certificate programs—Kent State is uniquely positioned to be all things to all people, in a good way.

You speak often about the transformative power of education. What role did education play in your family? When I was named president, I thought about the powerful impact that education had on both sides of my family in very different circumstances.

My mother’s side of the family are college educated individuals going back hundreds of years. Not only that, but my grandmother and my great-aunts all earned bachelor’s degrees and in the case of my great-aunts, master’s degrees right around World War I. So, on my mother’s side, I never was around anyone who wasn’t college educated; I grew up with that example.

At the same time, my father and his brother were the first in their family to go to college. My father’s family lived in utter poverty in the panhandle of Oklahoma during the Great Depression. My grandfather, who died in 1929, was a gas station attendant. My grandmother took in people’s washing. My father made ends meet as a shoe-shine boy when he was a kid, and we still have his shoe-shine kit. He taught me how to iron because his job was to iron when his mother washed other people’s clothes.

Then at 17, my father joined the war in December 1941, after Pearl Harbor. He was in the Navy and saw action throughout the Pacific. After the war, he went through undergraduate school and medical school in six years and became a physician. His life was transformed by education and higher education.

Part of the reason I got into higher education is because of that demonstration effect.

I wouldn’t be sitting in this seat today if I hadn’t engaged in study abroad as a student. It opened my eyes to the world.”

— Todd A. Diacon, PhD
nothing to do with that, it has to do with the impact of study abroad on me as a freshman in college.

**How so?** I studied for three weeks in Copenhagen, Denmark, as a freshman, and we studied the Danish political system, Danish culture, and Danish arts. That opened up this amazing world, so now I’m a committed proponent of study abroad. It changed my life. I wouldn’t be sitting in this seat today if I hadn’t engaged in study abroad as a student. It opened my eyes to the world.

I see that kind of impact here at Kent State. We have students who take international trips where that’s the first time they’ve been on an airplane and the first time they’ve been out of the country. Those are life-changing experiences.

Kent State now has the second largest American university enrollment in Florence, Italy. We just surpassed Syracuse University to become the second largest; New York University is the largest. How great is that? We had 300 students going through Florence for the first time when I got here seven years ago; we’re now up to 800.

As a historian, what are your thoughts on the upcoming 50th anniversary of May 4, 1970? You don’t have to be a historian to understand the importance of May 4th in the history of the United States, but I am a historian and I do understand the seminal role that May 4, 1970 played in the nation’s history. For that reason, especially, it is my honor to be president during a time when we commemorate those events, those shootings, that tragedy.

When you look back on the national conversation that was going on at the time, you see how polarized it was, how dangerous the public utterances were on each side. Fast forward to 2019, and you can see a similar level of poisoned discourse and dialogue.

As educators, we are committed to learning lessons, and we have a unique opportunity over these next months to teach the world about the dangers of polarization and poisoned discourse. We’ll do that through more than 100 events on and off campus that include a seminar in our architecture program on how physical space has shaped protest, the theater department’s October production of the musical Hair, and programs sponsored by our School of Peace and Conflict Studies that will look at how nations, including our own, recover from civil war.

Our unique opportunity is to apply lessons of the past to a charged and dangerous situation in America today.

**What is your vision for the university’s future?** I have three initial visions for Kent State.

One, I want Kent State to continue being a university that reaches new heights of excellence, even while we honor our history of accessibility.

One of the university’s best success stories over the decades has been educating students—not all of whom come from the upper reaches of society; many of whom are first generation college students—and then watching them do great things. On the Kent Campus about a third of our students are first generation and about a third are Pell Grant recipients; that jumps to around 60 percent in both categories for our regional campuses. My vision is to continue that.

Two, I want Kent State to continue being a university that explores the life of the mind—and we have this great Brain Health Research Institute that’s exploring how the mind works, even while we feed our soul with our great arts programming.

Three, I want Kent State to continue achieving world-class excellence in fields that you don’t often see at universities. For example, we have the third-ranked fashion design and merchandising program in the United States. You don’t find that program at most universities, and we are third in the country.

We also have a top ten flight program and roughly 300 of our graduates are flying for commercial airlines right now. We recently created two new degree programs in aeronautical engineering and in mechatronics (a combination of mechanical and electrical engineering). Enrollments in those programs are growing and funded research in those areas is increasing.

We are regarded as the birthplace of liquid crystal displays and are continuing to do innovative research through the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute.

We have one of the country’s best translation programs, offering a bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD in translation. It’s world-class, it attracts scholars from around the world. They all get jobs when they finish.

We have the state’s only master’s program in library and information science. We have an excellent music school. We have one of the best poetry programs in America. We have wonderful musical theater and art departments.

We do all these great things. We’re leaders in brain health and in advanced materials and liquid crystals and, at the same time, we excel in the arts and in culture. I love that about Kent State.

So my vision is to continue with the things that Kent State does really well and to enhance them.

**How do you keep college affordable for students?** Since 2000, we’ve doubled the four-year graduation rate at Kent State and the fifth-year graduation rate is now the same as six years. Through messaging to students and rethinking our academic policies, we’ve had phenomenal success in...
improving our completion rates, so I am exceptionally proud of that.

The single best thing you can do to control the cost of higher education is to graduate in four years. One of the biggest problems we face as a nation is student debt. But the biggest tragedy we face are students who accumulate debt, but don’t graduate. If you borrow $25,000 and graduate, we know that over the course of your working life, you’ll make about a million or more because of that degree. That’s a great investment.

But if you take out loans and then you don’t graduate, now you’ve got debt and you don’t have the certificate and the training and the knowledge to make the additional income to recoup that investment. That’s a tragedy.

What is your favorite thing about being president so far? That’s a hard question because there’s just so much. Part of it is meeting great students, so that’s enjoyable. And I’ve met some amazing alumni who’ve done great things, so there’s that, as well.

I’m gaining an even bigger appreciation for the impact that Kent State has on not just Northeast Ohio, but all of Ohio and even the country and the world. For example, you think about the fact that we graduate so many great nurses and we dominate nursing in Northeast Ohio—and Northeast Ohio dominates healthcare worldwide because of the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.

So I’d say the thing I’ve enjoyed the most, so far, is realizing what a powerhouse university we are.

Kent State University enjoys good relations with the city of Kent. The university and the city are linked by Ohio RT. 59, which begins just outside of Ravenna and ends in downtown Akron. This state route is just 22.99 miles long. How many of those miles are in the city of Kent?

A. 8.97 miles
B. 6.32 miles
C. 7.00 miles
D. 8.14 miles
I n summer 2016, when a rare and serious blood disorder struck Kent State football wide receiver Antwan Dixon, it could have ended his college football career.

Dixon had made his debut at Kent State in fall 2015 by scoring a 20-yard touchdown on his first catch against Delaware State, and during his rookie season he led the Flashes in receiving yards (355 on 26 catches).

Then a recurrence of aplastic anemia, a condition that occurs when the body stops producing enough new blood cells, forced him to leave school for treatment. Doctors had first diagnosed Dixon with the blood disorder—which can cause exhaustion, high risk of infections and uncontrolled bleeding—when he was 16, attending South Fort Myers High School in Florida.

During his second go-round with the disorder, his weight dropped to 125 pounds, he was hospitalized, and he underwent chemo treatments before receiving a life-saving bone marrow transplant from his father, Anthony, in April 2017. He returned to Kent State in January 2018 and doctors cleared him to play six months later.

With grit and determination, Dixon fought his way back to the gridiron for the fall 2018 season. He led the team with 32 catches, the most by a Kent State player since 2014, and finished second on the team with 532 receiving yards.

“I had a lot to prove to myself,” he says. “I felt like I had to come back and show people that I had not given up, that I was performing better than before.”

Dixon’s efforts did not go unnoticed. In addition to being one of three athletes to receive the 2018 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award, he was named 2018 Male Athlete of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Columbus and nominated for the 2018 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award.

Dixon’s journey back to health and to Kent State’s football program was a difficult endeavor. However, he says his illness has proven to be a catalyst that challenges him to push for excellence on and off the field.

“One out of every million teens gets this disorder,” Dixon says. “All my awards are a blessing, but my blood disorder is a blessing, too. It is something that makes me push myself harder.”

“It is great to have [Antwan] Dixon back,” says Head Coach Sean Lewis. “He has a full year under his belt; more importantly, a full year of growth and training. He has worked tremendously hard this offseason. I am excited to see what he can do with his mental and physical development. His energy and the excitement he brings on a daily basis is contagious.”

Dixon recently demonstrated that enthusiasm as he championed a cause in which he believes. In July, following the NFL draft, Dixon, who previously had been a finalist for the 11th Uplifting Athletes Rare Disease Champion Award, is president of the Kent State chapter, and teammate defensive back Jamal Parker is vice president. Both lifted during the event.

Ho w did Dixon—who is majoring in organizational communication with a minor in psychology—make such a strong comeback to Kent State with enough vigor to attend classes, play college football and lead a charity event? “I have been following the plans from my coaches and doing everything they ask me to do,” he says. “They want the best for us—the best training facilities, the best food and the best practice plans. I follow the process that the coach has mapped out for us.”

Dixon fell in love with football at the age of four, when at 6 a.m. on Saturday mornings he would wake his dad to play football. Now he continues to have tremendous support from his parents and extended family. During the 2016 season, his grandmother surprised him by attending a game against Howard University, but he did not get to play because of a hip injury. His mother, Shemariah, and his aunt came to see him play in the Ole Miss game later in the month.

Now embracing his senior year as a Golden Flash, he is excited to show his folks and the Golden Flash family that he is back—all the way back.

“This year [2019-2020] will be a year to know who Antwan Dixon is and who the Kent State Flashes are,” he says with a smile.
measurements periodically to monitor tree growth and make decisions, for the workforce ready, socially savvy and committed to community. Program participants who attend Kent State University may receive scholarships and work in the program as mentors, receiving support on their college journey while also giving back by becoming role models to younger students in the program. The program specifically addresses the workforce ready and brain drain issues that many Ohio communities face. Program activities are designed to teach young adults the skills necessary to succeed in life after high school, and the program promotes a commitment to community service. The hope is that students who have gone through Rising Scholars will attend Kent State, but the program is designed to help each student find a suitable vocation or career. At the end of the program, the goal is for students to enroll in college or technical school, enlist in the military or enter the workforce. B ased on the program’s success at the Columbiana County campuses, Kent State decided to implement Rising Scholars at all regional campuses, beginning in fall 2019. “When fully implemented, the collective impact of the Rising Scholars Program over Northeast Ohio will be significant,” says Nathan Ritchey, PhD, vice president for Kent State System Integration. “Our regional campuses are small, but together our resources, talent and footprint are quite impressive.” Ritchey is convinced the timing is right for this program to expand across the Kent State campus system. “When we look at educational attainment in our region, we see that there are many gaps that affect economic development, personal stability and the overall health of the communities we serve,” Ritchey says. “Through the success of the Rural Scholars Program at our Columbiana County campuses, we are confident that we can begin to address these important societal issues.” W hen it comes to finances, Dees says providing a free education for qualified Rising Scholars is not as expensive as it may sound. “Many of these students, because of their background, qualify for a lot of financial aid—Pell Grants and things like that,” says Dees. “When I first started the program, I thought the secret was to get the college paid for. But eight years later, looking back, I see the most important thing is the mentors. The mentors are the secret sauce; those are the individuals who keep the students on the right path all the way.” At the end of the program, the goal is for students to enroll in college or technical school, enlist in the military or enter the workforce. In addition to mentors, support from community members is essential. “The importance of private support cannot be overstated,” says Stephen Sokany, vice president of Institutional Advancement. “We have been successful raising initial funds for the Columbiana County program and are looking forward to this program being elevated to a cross-university priority. “Thanks to the performance-based results from the existing Columbiana County program, we have a great narrative to show the communities surrounding our other regional campuses. It’s easy to see how this program can change lives and lift up the community.” “I believe each campus is eager to roll this out—and we need philanthropic support to make that happen.” When the program is fully implemented, Kent State will have the capacity to assist nearly 1,000 underserved students from seventh grade through bachelor’s degree. Ritchey says. “We are reaching students long before they enter college with a program that ensures they are ready for college in terms of academic preparation, finances and confidence. This program is a game changer.”

By Jan Senn and Julie Miller, BS ’87

How the Rising Scholars Program at Kent State helps promising students from low socioeconomic backgrounds get on track for a productive future.

Tree farming is not about a quick sale, it takes patience and planning. The Coldwell family currently plants more than 3,000 trees a year—but what they plant this year won’t be ready to harvest for 80 years. It’s a slow process, but they do it to protect the land, to watch something grow and to plan for future generations.

In that sense, the process of tree farming is an apt metaphor for Kent State’s Rising Scholars Program, which supports underserved students in grades 7-12 who have been identified by their middle schools as having the potential to be the first in their families to complete a four-year degree—an outcome that would be life changing for future generations.

Putting a tree scale stick into students’ hands and showing them how to use it passes a baton to the next generation. It’s a tangible means of emphasizing the importance of basic math skills and encouraging students to care for their local environments.

And, just as woodland managers take measurements to monitor growth and make decisions, Rising Scholars managers use an evidence-based approach to measure the program’s growth, evaluate its effectiveness and make a case for its continued expansion (see chart on pg. 23).

The program, known as Rural Scholars when David Dees, PhD ’00, dean and chief administrative officer of the Columbiana County campuses, created it at the Kent State Salem campus in 2011, was renamed Rising Scholars when rolling it out to the other Kent State regional campuses.

In the program, eligible middle school students are nominated by their teachers and guidance counselors at the end of the sixth grade to take part in the program, which combines mentoring with community and corporate assistance to create a support system that prepares the young adults for life after high school.

Beginning in the seventh grade and continuing through high school, students in the program receive a combination of individual mentoring, career and college-knowledge workshops and structured program guidance as they work toward specified program outcomes.
Morgan Briand began seventh grade when she was called to the principal’s office at David Anderson Junior/Senior High School in Lisbon, Ohio. “I was a little scared because I didn’t know if I was in trouble or if there was a problem of some sort,” recalls Briand, who had just moved to Lisbon from Leetonia. There wasn’t a problem—there was a promise. She had been selected by teachers at her school to be part of the Rural Scholars Program, whose purpose is to identify underserved students with potential and help them find a path toward higher education and careers.

After six years of participating in the program, Briand graduated high school in 2018 and enrolled at the Kent State University at Salem campus, where she is mentoring new scholars in the program and majoring in business management—a path she chose after talking with agents at an insurance agency she visited with other scholars.

“Before I got into this program, I was really shy and didn’t know what I wanted to do,” says Briand. “Being part of Rising Scholars taught me about career paths that I never would have thought of on my own and helped me with my personal skills, like just talking to people.”

Through her years in the program, Briand realized how many people were helping her and others to find their places in the world. “I knew I wanted to give back in some way,” she says. “Wanting to be a mentor pushed me to be a better person and to do better in school. Now I’m setting an example for my mentees. When they see that I went through the program and am overcoming my challenges, it makes them realize they can do the same.”

While her eyes are on the future, Briand says she can’t forget how this journey began. “I didn’t know what to expect from Rising Scholars when I first started, but I’m so thankful that I had this opportunity. There is no way I could afford to go to college without this program and, knowing what I know now, I realize I had a lot to learn before I ever got here.”

“Every my parents see a big change in me—I am goal-oriented and much stronger as a person. Rising Scholars has changed my life.”

BOB CHRISTY, BS ’95

—MORGAN BRIAND, 2018 Rising Scholar Program graduate, mentor and sophomore at Kent State University at Salem.

Founder and Facilitator

A ny story of a student who navigates successfully from high school to college is heartening for David Dees, PhD ’00, dean and chief administrative officer of the Columbiana County campuses, who created the Rural Scholars Program at the Kent State Salem campus in 2011. He had started thinking about the need for such a program in the early 2000s, partly as a reflection of his own journey as a college student.

A self-described “rural Appalachian hillbilly from Kentucky,” Dees was in college at the same time as his mom and brothers. He earned a bachelor’s degree in communications with a minor in biology and a master’s degree in theatre from the University of Kentucky. After short stints as a college football coach, disc jockey and theatre teacher, he went on to earn a PhD in cultural foundations of education from Kent State University.

Along his educational journey, he experienced many of the challenges that first-generation college students face: being unfamiliar with academic terms, feeling reluctant to ask for help or talk with professors, struggling with the time commitment and navigating the system and the culture change with family and friends who weren’t able to assist with the process.

“Although my family was supportive, when I went away to college, I was getting lost in the shuffle, and I was struggling,” says Dees. “Even then, I thought, ‘there’s got to be a better way to help students navigate from high school to a university or college.’”

That thought kept coming up as he became a professor and later an administrator. One of his graduate students was interested in college access and studied programs across the country to increase college access, retention and graduation rates. Although their concept—which included mentoring in middle school—was powerful, financing remained a stumbling block.

Then, while Dees was working at the Kent Campus directing the Center for Teaching and Learning, a colleague suggested he apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) grant to help implement the program. He received the grant, and AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Wendy Pfrenger came to help him create the community partnerships and program design necessary to support the program’s first cohort of admitted seventh graders in fall 2011.

“We went to the community and asked, ‘What are the issues in Columbiana County that we, as a university, can help solve?’” says Dees. “And they told us, ‘We are losing our best and brightest; we have high-paying jobs we can’t fill; we need more educational opportunities; we need kids who are ready for the workplace—not just ready for college, but ready for whatever is next in life.’”

“To build the program, we took the best practices and ideas from programs around the country we had identified through research and put them together with the community input we had obtained over yearlong conversations.

“I think that’s why we’ve had so much success. We did our research, we followed through, and we had a lot of community buy-in for what we were trying to accomplish.”

COLUMBIANA COUNTY CAMPUSES

—DAVID DEES, PhD ’00, dean and chief administrative officer, Columbiana County campuses.

Scholar and Mentor

Organ Briand was beginning seventh grade when she was called to the principal’s office at David Anderson Junior/Senior High School in Lisbon, Ohio. “I was a little scared because I didn’t know if I was in trouble or if there was a problem of some sort,” recalls Briand, who had just moved to Lisbon from Leetonia. There wasn’t a problem—there was a promise. She had been selected by teachers at her school to be part of the Rural Scholars Program, whose purpose is to identify underserved students with potential and help them find a path toward higher education and careers.

After six years of participating in the program, Briand graduated high school in 2018 and enrolled at the Kent State University at Salem campus, where she is mentoring new scholars in the program and majoring in business management—a path she chose after talking with agents at an insurance agency she visited with other scholars.

“Before I got into this program, I was really shy and didn’t know what I wanted to do,” says Briand. “Being part of Rising Scholars taught me about career paths that I never would have thought of on my own and helped me with my personal skills, like just talking to people.”

Through her years in the program, Briand realized how many people were helping her and others to find their places in the world. “I knew I wanted to give back in some way,” she says. “Wanting to be a mentor pushed me to be a better person and to do better in school. Now I’m setting an example for my mentees. When they see that I went through the program and am overcoming my challenges, it makes them realize they can do the same.”

While her eyes are on the future, Briand says she can’t forget how this journey began. “I didn’t know what to expect from Rising Scholars when I first started, but I’m so thankful that I had this opportunity. There is no way I could afford to go to college without this program and, knowing what I know now, I realize I had a lot to learn before I ever got here.”

“Even my parents see a big change in me—I am goal-oriented and much stronger as a person. Rising Scholars has changed my life.”

Before I got into this program, I was really shy and didn’t know what I wanted to do,” says Briand. “Being part of Rising Scholars taught me about career paths that I never would have thought of on my own and helped me with my personal skills, like just talking to people.”

Through her years in the program, Briand realized how many people were helping her and others to find their places in the world. “I knew I wanted to give back in some way,” she says. “Wanting to be a mentor pushed me to be a better person and to do better in school. Now I’m setting an example for my mentees. When they see that I went through the program and am overcoming my challenges, it makes them realize they can do the same.”

While her eyes are on the future, Briand says she can’t forget how this journey began. “I didn’t know what to expect from Rising Scholars when I first started, but I’m so thankful that I had this opportunity. There is no way I could afford to go to college without this program and, knowing what I know now, I realize I had a lot to learn before I ever got here.”

“Even my parents see a big change in me—I am goal-oriented and much stronger as a person. Rising Scholars has changed my life.”

Morgan Briand (at right) with one of her mentees, Kaitlin S., an eighth grade student at Leetonia Middle School.

The mentors are the secret sauce; those are the individuals who keep the students on the right path all the way.”

—DAVID DEES, PhD ’00, dean and chief administrative officer, Columbiana County campuses.
Rural Scholars 2018

D

onny Larabee, BA ’18, could be a poster child for the Rising Scholars Program, even though he grew up prior to its founding.

He started out as a mentor in the program three years ago, while he was studying psychology at Kent State University at Salem, and his psychology professor, Rachael Blasiman, PhD, recommended him. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in psychology last May, he became a master mentor to coach new mentors and assist with programming. Recently, he was named interim program director for the Rising Scholars Program at the Columbiana County campuses.

From the first time Larabee heard about Rising Scholars, it resonated with him. “I immediately fell in love with it,” he says. “I’ve always had a large part of my heart devoted to helping kids.”

Perhaps that’s because his own childhood had a rocky start. Both he and his older brother, A.J., were removed from their biological mother and stepfather when he was seven years old and his brother was eight. They were placed in a group home before going to live with foster parents Richard and Kathryn Larabee, of Muskegon, Michigan. The couple adopted them at ages 11 and 12, when their biological mother’s rights were terminated. By then, the Larabees were retired, and both have since passed away.

But Donny Larabee keeps his adoptive parents’ memory ever present, having tattooed reminders of them on each of his forearms. On his left forearm is the logo of the Detroit Tigers in memory of his dad, who was a Tigers fan, along with his initials, RAL, on his right forearm is a lilac blossom in memory of his mom, who loved lilacs, along with her initials, K.L.L. His parents gave him a loving, stable home, but both of them had worked in factories, so they weren’t able to help him navigate the college admissions process.

Larabee joined the military and was in active duty for eight years, stationed in Alaska and Kentucky, with three tours in Iraq during that time. After meeting his wife, Katie, who is from Ohio, the couple moved to Columbiana County six years ago when he left the military. Katie Larabee, who recently gave birth to their second son, is taking courses at Kent State Salem in military and college student. So in this program, I want to share my experiences with the students and give them an idea of what’s available out there.”

“This summer, tenth grade Rising Scholars participated in a workshop titled “Locationology” and learned about regional enterprise and the economy, as well as geology, astronomy, geography, archaeology and history. Above, they are helping identify different species found in river water at a local park during a lesson on soil and water conservation.

In this program, I want to share my experiences with the students and give them an idea of what’s available out there.”

—DONNY LARABEE, BA ’18, interim program director, Rising Scholars, Columbiana County campuses

Proponent and Program Director

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN GET ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE:

Read with them every day when they are younger; keep them in the habit of reading as they get older.

Encourage them to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, allowing them to be involved in their community.

Talk to them about their interests; help them look into related careers.

Check in on their academic progress using online tools like ProgressBook, an integrated student information and learning management program.

Push them to take challenging classes rather than seek easy As; make sure they are meeting high school requirements for graduation and college readiness.

As they get older, accompany them on college visits and help them make the decision that is best for them.

See bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more checklists and advice.

Learn more about Rising Scholars at www.kent.edu/supportrisingscholars

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help

FOR COLLEGE:

GET ON TRACK

YOUR CHILDREN

How to help
Each year, Kent State students participate in off-campus study away/study abroad programs and internships in locations across the country and around the world. And they take photos—lots and lots of photos. Here are just a few shots students shared with us from the past year.

**Leah Cavanaugh** (Richmond, Ohio)
Senior (dual major, environmental conservation biology and environmental studies)
Tropical Field Biology Research Program
Winter break, December 2017-January 2018
La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica

**Small But Dangerous**
"On a tour our first day there, the La Selva Biological Station staff pointed out this baby eyelash viper, one of Costa Rica’s many native venomous snake species. This one was so small we hadn’t noticed it, even with its bright yellow coloring. In La Selva, my research group studied the effect of forest complexity on the diversity of herpetofauna [reptiles and amphibians of a particular region] in a secondary forest, which made this observation of an eyelash viper exciting!"

**Acacia Freeman** (Westerville, Ohio)
Senior (major, applied communication; minor, advertising)
RA International Exchange Program
November 2018
Melbourne, Australia

**Loch Ard Gorge**
“Ten resident assistants (RAs) were the first group from Kent State chosen to go on an RA International Exchange trip for a week in November to learn about residence services at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia—and their resident leaders (RLs) came to see us for a week in June. It was a great experience, and we still talk with each other on a regular basis. During our time in Australia, we got to go sightseeing. This photo [taken at Port Campbell National Park, Victoria, Australia] is of one of the prettiest beaches I have ever been to. The water was extremely blue, but ice cold.”

**Nathaniel Bailey** (Kent, Ohio)
Senior (major, journalism)
2019 Reinke Grant for Visual Storytelling
Summer 2019
Harrison County, Kentucky

**High Startle Response**
“As a 2019 Reinke Grant Recipient, my goal was to document the people and places of Harrison County. Ky. Here, Oden Orzellos and Parker Harris of Lexington, Ky., react as airport chairman Bobby Craft sends his plane into a dive during the Young Eagles event at the Harrison County Airport. The two boys were making noises into the headset, and Craft put the plane into a dive to quiet them down.”

**Alcohol Niyonzima, MA ’19** (Rwanda, Central Africa)
(Major, higher education administration with certification in internationalization)
“Rwanda After Genocide” course
Spring semester 2019
Rwanda, Central Africa

**Helping Hands**
“In summer 2018, I received an internship at the University of Rwanda to establish a mutual partnership between KSU and the University of Rwanda. On my return, I connected with Dr. Leslie Heaphy, a professor of history at the Kent State Stark campus, who designed a study abroad course to focus on the events surrounding the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, my native country, and how the country and people have searched for peace and reconciliation since.

I organized all of the activities to meet the learning outcomes of the class and led a group of 13 KSU students, who arrived in Rwanda on March 22, 2019, for 10 days. They participated in activities and lectures at the University of Rwanda, public institutions and private organizations. This photo shows the soil-stained hands of the KSU students and other volunteers who took part in a local community service known as “Umuganda,” a national cleanup day, which happens on the last Saturday of every month.”

Show Us Your Best Study Away/Study Abroad Shot!

With study away/study abroad programs in place for majors from accounting to zoology and numerous places to go, we’re sure you have taken some amazing photos over the years. Current students and alumni are invited to enter our Study Away/Study Abroad Photo Contest by July 1, 2020, for your chance to win a $25 Amazon gift card. Entries will be judged by University Communications and Marketing staff photographers and by popular vote. Selected photos will be published in the fall/winter 2020-21 issue of Kent State Magazine.

Submit your high resolution photo and fill out the requested form at www.kent.edu/ksuphotocontest.
The new director of the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute sees a broader, even brighter future for the institute.

By Lisa Abraham

Dr. Hegmann’s main goals for the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute:

**INCREASING** the institute’s distinctive role in the future of liquid crystal and materials science to inspire a higher level of competitiveness for research funding.

**STREAMLINING** and modernizing the look of the institute’s buildings and laboratories, so that they reflect modern materials science.

**ELEVATING** the level of symposiums held at Kent State to national and international prominence beginning in 2020.

**RENEWING** the research infrastructure so that all instruments and equipment are state-of-the-art. The purchase of such equipment will be tied to better fundraising.

“Liquid crystal research is moving more toward biology and materials that respond to their environment in unique and unexpected ways. These are the new frontiers for the field.”

— Torsten Hegmann, PhD

Hegmann says he is looking forward to the “collaboratories” in the terrace level of the Integrated Sciences Building (to be completed in fall 2020) — spaces where scientists from various fields can work together and conduct joint research across multiple disciplines.

“Demonstrating the benefits of multifaceted research that crosses varied domains will take the institute to a higher level, he says, and is key to increased funding.

“We need to build critical mass in other materials research domains to complement our existing liquid crystal, soft matter expertise.”

Learn more about Kent State’s Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute at www.kent.edu/amlci.
We asked current students for a list of top things they think every Kent State student should do before graduation. How many items on the list can you check off? How many do you even recognize?

Illustrations by Jason Zehner

**Explore the Kent Campus**
- Add another layer of paint to the Rock
- Go sledding on campus
- Feed a black squirrel
- Visit the May 4 Visitors Center
- Visit the Fashion Museum
- Visit the Herrick Conservatory
- Hang out on the Student Green
- Dine at Rosie's after midnight
- See what's on every floor of the Kent State University Library
- Walk the Lefton Esplanade from Risman Plaza to downtown Kent

**Sample and Stroll downtown Kent**
- Order a late-night treat at Insomnia Cookies
- Have a drink at Ray's Place
- Get a grilled sandwich at Twisted Meltz
- Find your bliss at Peace, Love and Little Donuts
- Buy fresh produce at the Haymaker's Farmer's Market (Saturdays)
- Create a costume for Kent Halloween
- Dress in green for Fake Paddy's Day
- Celebrate our nation’s independence at Kent Heritage Festival

**Practice wellness**
- Stroll by the Cuyahoga River downtown
- Walk the stairs of the Kent State University Library (tallest building in Portage County)
- Travel the Portage County Bike and Hike Trail
- Kayak the Cuyahoga River with Crooked River Adventures
- Play intramural or club sports
- Skate at the Ice Arena
- Climb the Rec Center's rock wall
- Run a 5K on campus: Bowman Cup, Black Squirrel or Run the World

**Be your Best self**
- Join a student organization or two
- Volunteer for Super Service Saturday
- Sign up for supplemental instruction or tutoring
- Go on an Alternative Spring Break
- Participate in a Peer Leader Training Course
- Find your niche with an Involvement Expert (Center for Student Involvement)
- Polish your prose at Writing Commons
- Take a Financial Literacy Workshop

**Meet and greet**
- Make a friend in each class
- Get to know your academic advisor
- Chat with your resident assistant
- Snap a selfie with President Diacon
- Drop in during your professors’ office hours
- Give Flash the Golden Eagle a high-five
- Join a team at a Hackathon

**Attend Kent Campus Events**
- Check out the Black Squirrel Festival
- Celebrate Homecoming
- Catch a movie at Real Late Reels
- Start off the new school year at Blastoff
- Cheer on the Golden Flashes at an athletic event
- Watch a Dive-in Movie
- See a show at the Center for the Performing Arts
- Give something back at a fraternity/sorority philanthropy event
Regional Campuses

Tuscarawas
- Enjoy a Broadway show, comedy act or musical entertainment at the Performing Arts Center
- Design and 3D print something fun in the Makerspace
- Record a video, song or a narrative in the Video2Go Studio

Stark
- Join first-year students for the lightning bolt photo during Smart Start Orientation
- Chomp on homemade chips at the Emporium Grille
- Attend at least one Featured Speaker presentation
- Take in the campus wildlife at the Pond and Wetlands Research Area
- Volunteer at one of the longstanding community events, Boo U or Earth Day
- Study by the clock in the heart of campus

East Liverpool
- Eat lunch at the Hot Dog Shoppe
- Talk to the ghosts in the Mary Pat Building
- Sit at the wharf and watch boats and barges on the Ohio River

Salon
- Ignore the “No Fishing” signs at the pond
- Feed and/or dodge the geese
- Gather around the fireplace in Centofanti Hall
- Try to figure out the numbering sequence for the classrooms

Geauga
- Visit the Great Geauga County Fair (and the KSU Geauga Booth!) on Labor Day weekend
- Go to a pancake breakfast in Burton (Sundays in March), the heart of maple syrup country
- Play in the faculty/staff vs. students kickball game each fall semester

Regional Academic Center
- Attend Twins Days in Twinsburg (first full weekend of August)
- Eat lunch on the patio to enjoy fresh air between classes

What did we forget? Send us your list at magazine@kent.edu!

Score Yourself
- 50 - 73 You’ve totally embraced the Kent State community.
- 25 - 49 Maybe you’ve spent a little too much time studying.
- 15 - 24 You really ought to get out more.
- 1 - 14 Are you sure we’re talking about the same place?
- 0 “I just picked this up in my doctor’s waiting room. Who are you people?”
For many of today’s college students, there has never not been Wi-Fi. That amazing, ubiquitous wireless technology that makes our laptops portable and our moves streamable has only been in existence since 1998, thanks, in part, to Jerry Pohmurski, BS ’88.

A self-proclaimed “radio geek,” he was interested in ham radios and radio frequencies from an early age. His father, Joseph Pohmurski, was a professor of engineering at Kent State from 1969 to 1987, and Jerry Pohmurski grew up tinkering with equipment and components.

After graduating from Kent State with a degree in engineering, Pohmurski went to work at a small start-up company in Cleveland that was trying to integrate cell phone technology into a laptop. When that company ran out of money, he ended up at a company called Telxon in Akron, Ohio, that made electronic handheld devices used for inventory control in warehouses. Telxon spun off another radio-based division called Aironet, also based out of Akron, that focused on wireless data communication.

“They wanted us to find a way to transfer the barcode data collected on the handhelds’ backup to their mainframe computer without using a physical docking device, using radio waves instead,” says Pohmurski.

“We wrote a little software program to do that and tested its limits by playing video games to see how much data it could handle without crashing. Video games chew up a lot of bandwidth. Basically, we broke it and then figured out how to fix it, time and time again, until we could send larger and larger amounts of data at faster and faster speeds.”

In 1995, Pohmurski became the liaison between Telxon and Aironet, which was part of a consortium of companies working on the original spec for Wi-Fi—there are hundreds of names on the spec called 802.11B.

“We were conducting interoperability testing so that different devices could talk to each other,” he says. “That’s easy to do within one company, but we have to be able to talk to many different systems in the world and interact with them. We ran tests to ensure that everything worked together to get the spec to finally go through.”

Wi-Fi wasn’t actually called “Wi-Fi” in the beginning; it was known by the acronym WECA (for Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance – 802.11B direct sequence). By 2000, Pohmurski was working as an engineering manager for Cisco, which had acquired Aironet that March.

“Needless to say, my boss at Cisco wanted a name that was a bit more flashy,” he says. “He hired a marketing firm, Interbrand, to come up a better name, and they came up with seven options, one of which was Wi-Fi.”

When his boss went to Seattle to pitch Microsoft, he gave them the names. “I think Bill Gates was the one who picked Wi-Fi,” Pohmurski says. “The thing is, it doesn’t really stand for anything. It was just a take-off on hi-fi [high fidelity]. Just a catchy name.”

Pohmurski and his co-workers have formed lasting relationships that have spanned many years. They play in bands together and golf together.

“I met so many cool and smart people who could do all kinds of amazing things,” he says. After several years with Cisco, then directing new product development at a communications company, Pohmurski worked as a consultant and is now officially “retired.” But lately his friends have reached out to him to work on some new applications for Wi-Fi.

Although he got to know many of the people working on Wi-Fi development and remains friends with several of them, Pohmurski, one of the top experts in 802.11 wireless test and quality, says none of them thought Wi-Fi would become the commodity that it is now.

“We never, ever thought that the technology would be in such wide use as it is today. It just never occurred to us,” he says. “We didn’t start out to do what it has become today. It just happened. In 2003, when people started using it in their homes, is when it really took off.”

Jerry Pohmurski stands in an anechoic chamber at the Cisco Richfield facility. Anechoic means “without echo.” An anechoic chamber is a room designed to completely absorb reflections of either sound or electromagnetic waves.

“A sample of early models of Aironet wireless devices.”
The morning show off with the 10th annual Bowman Cup in Rock, named after former Kent State President George Bowman, the chip-timed race started and ended in front of the Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Alumni, family and friends enjoy the Native Welcome Home Party hosted by Kent State Alumni at the Center for Philanthropy and Engagement. The carnival-style event included food, games, music—and a lot of fun.

The Kent State Golden Flashes ring the Starner Victory Bell after winning the Kent State President Todd Diacon, this year’s Homecoming Grand Marshal, and his wife, Moema Furtado, lead the Homecoming Parade as they ride down Main Street in Kent Ohioville.

As the bell tolls 12:30 pm, couples who feel Kent State played an important role in their lives—married or not—take part in one of the university’s long-standing traditions.

Kent State celebrated Homecoming on Saturday, Sept. 21, as alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and the community took part in one of the university’s long-standing traditions.

Flash Mob
When the Antonczak family gets together for a family reunion, the theme is always the same—blue and gold. This flock of Flashes includes seven members who are all Kent State alumni, including three who married other Flashes.

Parents, James Antonczak, BA ’80, and Michelle (Cilligrone) Antonczak, BSN ’81, met at the Zephyr Pub on a blind date in 2007 set up by a mutual friend while they were both in school. They were married in 2007. Lisa is a nurse practitioner, and Andy is a pilot for Spirit Airlines, based in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

The Antonczak’s daughter, Andrea (Antonczak) Tyrell, BSE ’15, met her husband, Matthew Tyrell, BBA ’15, at Kent State, as well. They first met online when Andrea noticed a picture of Matt sitting in a Kent State airplane (her brother, Andrew, was Matt’s flight instructor). Their first date was at Taco Tonto’s, topped off by a visit to the Victory Bell on the KSU Commons. Both graduated in 2015 and were married in 2016. Andrea is a children’s book author, and she and Matthew are also both employed at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Finally, James’s brother, John Antonczak, BS ’66, was a proud KSU alumnus who worked for more than 40 years as an aeronautical engineer in General Electric’s Aircraft division, before passing away in 2018. The Antonczak family still enjoys participating in activities at Kent State—walking the grounds of the Kent Campus, visiting facilities like the May 4 Center and joining in on university events like the Bowman Cup 5K. This family is the epitome of “Flashes Forever.”

—Deb McGuinness, BA ’78


class NOTES

1950s
Harvey Dunn, BBA ’59, Encino, Calif., wrote: “I try book. Anticipton: Favors: A Complete Guide to Wealth and Happiness in Your Retirement, contains four manuscripts: (1) “How to become a millionaire at the age of 80” (I just need four 00,000 more copies of my book sold to become one), (2) “The 12 Things to do in Retirement to make you a happier person,” (3) “How to still be rich after 55 years of marriage” (fact or fiction?), (4) “How a sense of humor will add years to your life. My 35 years as an MC at the world-famous Laugh Factory comedy club in Hollywood,” Available on Amazon or my home page, harveydunnbooks.com.”

Donovan Kline, BBA ’55, Hendersonville, NC, wrote: “As one of six diplomatic couriers during the Cold War years of the 1950s, I’m on a video tour of our experiences traveling behind the Iron Curtain, which will be available permanently for public viewing at the Diplomatic Center Museum at the State Department in Washington, DC. Between 1957 and 1977, traveled 1,813,577 official miles on 306 trips (from 1 to 59 days) to 349 countries, including 30 trips to Moscow by air and rail. Personal travel during 10 years of living overseas took my total mileage over two million miles.”

1960s
Lance Buhl, BA ’61, Rockville, Md., is a retired business and nonprofit executive and consultant. He earned a PhD in American history from Harvard in 1969, taught history at New Bedford Institute of Technology (now the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth), Harvard and Cleveland State University (where he serves as assistant dean of Arts and Sciences and founding director of the Center for Learning). From 1981 to 1993 he served as program officer, manager and then director of British Petroleum’s corporate contributions program in the United States, where he created and managed the company’s programs in urban revitalization. Since leaving British Petroleum, he has provided consulting services to some 60 foundations, corporations and nonprofits.

From 2002-11 his work was based at Duke University and included being deputy director of the United States–Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values, a partnership between the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University and the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town. He has written extensively in each career. Currently he is a busy retiree, living in a retirement community just north of the District of Columbia.

From 1981 to 1993 he served as program officer, manager and then director of British Petroleum’s corporate contributions program in the United States, where he created and managed the company’s programs in urban revitalization. Since leaving British Petroleum, he has provided consulting services to some 60 foundations, corporations and nonprofits.

David Duda, BS ’58, Cooper City, Fla., received the G. Harold Martin Award, presented by the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc. (a nonprofit educational organization in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) for long and exceptional leadership, insight and dedication to the water safety of children and the cause of Making Every Child A Swimmer. Since 2005, he has been an adjunct college professor of education at Broward College, where he teaches sport, recreation and fitness curriculum. The founder and CEO of HMM Aquatics/Safety Training and Consulting, Duda’s focus is to teach aquatic skills to children and mentor instructors in diverse populations to help reduce child drownings.

Barbara (Hilla) Sposek, BA ’68, PhD ’77, Strongsville, Ohio, marked 30 years in teaching in May 2019. She taught in Brooklyn City Schools (Ohio) for 30 years and currently is a tenured professor of education at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio.

David Parkinson, BBA ’67, Belvedere Tiburon, Calif., received a Silver Rose Award, given by the Legion of the Silver Rose to Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange diseases while serving in the war. One of the missions of the Legion of the Silver Rose is to inform Vietnam veterans of the importance of yearly medical exams to detect potential Agent Orange-related illnesses.

The Morning Show off with the 10th annual Bowman Cup in Rock, named after former Kent State President George Bowman, the chip-timed race started and ended in front of the Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

The Kent State Golden Flashes ring the Starner Victory Bell after winning the 2019 Homecoming Game 62-20 over the Bowling Green State University Falcons.

At the bell tolls 12:30 pm, couples who feel Kent State played an important role in their relationship kiss on the “K” at North Hilltop, surrounded by the Kent Clarks—a cappella group.

Kent State President Todd Diacon poses with 2019 Homecoming Royalty Bobby Speaks and Haylee Hoyt. The Homecoming Court—more than 30 representatives from all Kent State campuses—were recognized at the game.

Lisa (Thrumm) Antonczak, Jim Antonczak, Chelley Antonczak, Andrea (Antonczak) Tyrell and Matt Tyrell.

Alumni, family and friends enjoy the Native Welcome Home Party hosted by Kent State Alumni at the Center for Philanthropy and Engagement. The carnival-style event included food, games, music—and a lot of fun.

The morning show off with the 10th annual Bowman Cup in Rock, named after former Kent State President George Bowman, the chip-timed race started and ended in front of the Beverly J. Warren Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

The Kent State Golden Flashes ring the Starner Victory Bell after winning the 2019 Homecoming Game 62-20 over the Bowling Green State University Falcons.
alumni LIFE

Robert Costa, MA ’77, PhD ’87, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, enjoyed long walks in the woods and parks, and was preceded in death by his beloved wife Eunice, who passed away on October 12, 2019. They both completed master’s degrees in speech-language pathology at Kent State University. Both Costa and Eunice were active Kent State alumni and former Kent State students and alumni using promo code AP2013. Pictured (l to r): Jean (Prinzo) Blosser, Anita Bixenstine, MA ’70, PhD ’89, Edwin Bixenstine, PhD

In 1978, since 2001, he has been a licensed professional geologist in Tacoma, Wash., a licensed professional geologist in Washington, DC, was appointed by the mayor of the District of Columbia Real Estate Commission. The Commission regulates the professionals of real estate agents and protects consumers by upholding the District of Columbia real estate license law.

Mark Landers, BBA ’74, Dayton, Ohio, would like to connect with former friends and classmates. Please email mark.landers.esq@gmail.com to get in touch.

Larry Lapidus, BS ’75, Poland, Ohio, is celebrating his 42nd year of providing mental health counseling services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award by Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services. He was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award through Youngstown State University Counseling and Health Services.
Daniel Talliano, BS ’80, Sheffield Village, Ohio, retired in February 2018 from 55 years in the exhibit industry.

Steve Debott, BS ’83, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, was named in his village as the historian of the town, Ohio—known as “The Historic crossroads.” Of Ohio, he serves similar roles in Shawnee Hills, Ohio, and Whispering Pines, N.C., and is also a surgical service director in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. He received an MPA in 1988 from the University of Toledo, earned the designation of certified public manager at the Ohio Certified Public Management program, and is a graduate of the Public Executive Leadership Academy at the University of North Carolina, School of Government in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Jeffrey Kurtz, BA ’81, MA ’84, Ravenna, Ohio, was inducted into the Northeast Ohio Athletic Director’s Associations Hall of Fame in April 2019.

Pamela Gent, MEd ’83, PhD ’96, Youngstown, Ohio, was named provost and academic vice president of Clarion University, beginning December 2018. Gent, who came to Clarion in 1988 as an assistant professor in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, had served as interim provost since July 2019.

Patrick Liverpool, DBA ’85, Hornace, Va., has been named interim provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs at North Carolina Central University, Carrboro, N.C. Most recently, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Elli Miller, BA ’81, Somerville, Mass., professor of neuroscience at MIT, was awarded the 2019 George A. Miller Prize in Cognitive Neuroscience, which recognizes excellence in cognitive neuroscience research.

Sandra (Halman) Ranck, BSN ’83, Ashbtubla, Ohio, was reappointed to the Ohio Board of Nursing for four years, term 2019-2023.

John Hale, AAB ’86, East Liverpool, Ohio, wrote: “I was named publisher of Herald-Star (Star Publishing Co. and The Weirton Times, Wv), on November 7, 2018. I am employed by Ogden Newspapers and have over 35 years experience in the newspaper industry.”

Bradley Pees, BBA ’86, Alexandria, Va., was named federal and state law controversy at nestle in October 2018. He was recently elected chair of the Virginia chapter of the Tax Executives Institute.

Peter Zeidner, BBA ’86, Kent, Ohio, received the Cathleen Lytle Murray Foundation Award at the 25th annual conference of the Alzheimer’s Association Cincinnati Chapter. Zeidner is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Cleveland.

Brian Wilson, BA ’84, North Canton, Ohio, of Brian Wilson Law Offices, was recognized with the Esther S. Weizman Optimist Award from the Ohio Association of Realtors. The award, presented in May 2019 during their annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, honors a trial lawyer who demonstrates relentless resolve and underlying enthusiasm in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Wilson, which has been named to the Ohio Super Lawyers list from 2008-2019, has litigated and tried personal injury cases that he decided to forgo more typical settings in favor of their local Target store in Eau, Pa. Their engagement photos, taken in mid-July, show them crossing the aisles, tracking down deals and stocking up on essentials.

Large new businesses, they shared their photos on Facebook. Little did they know the post would go viral. It was shared almost 10,000 times and liked over 100,000 times. Within 24 hours, many major news organizations were covering their fun engagement shoot.

Cupid Hits the Bullseye

“A new song from our love story,” DiPasqua says. “We never thought [or intended] for it to be shared so widely, but we love that it brought a smile to so many people,” DiPasqua says. “We’ve received countless comments and messages from all over the world saying how much the photos have touched their hearts.”

A love for Target isn’t the only thing they have in common. Both of them love Kent State. “The people at Kent State made me feel like a member of the family,” DiPasqua says. “I made so many friends that I’m still in contact with today.”

“Many people have asked why we chose Target instead of a wedding registry,” DiPasqua says. “Our favorite things are Target and Target is where we met. It was in December, and we became engaged in December,” DiPasqua says. “We wanted our wedding to be one big celebration with family and friends and decided on New Year’s Eve.”

We wish them a Target-funded gift table and much happiness! —AshWhaley, ’85, DeL, MED ’13

Brian Wilson, BA ’84, North Canton, Ohio, of Brian Wilson Law Offices, was recognized with the Esther S. Weizman Optimist Award from the Ohio Association of Realtors. The award, presented in May 2019 during their annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, honors a trial lawyer who demonstrates relentless resolve and underlying enthusiasm in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Wilson, which has been named to the Ohio Super Lawyers list from 2008-2019, has litigated and tried personal injury cases that he decided to forgo more typical settings in favor of their local Target store in Eau, Pa. Their engagement photos, taken in mid-July, show them crossing the aisles, tracking down deals and stocking up on essentials.

Large new businesses, they shared their photos on Facebook. Little did they know the post would go viral. It was shared almost 10,000 times and liked over 100,000 times. Within 24 hours, many major news organizations were covering their fun engagement shoot.

“A new song from our love story,” DiPasqua says. “We never thought [or intended] for it to be shared so widely, but we love that it brought a smile to so many people,” DiPasqua says. “We’ve received countless comments and messages from all over the world saying how much the photos have touched their hearts.”

A love for Target isn’t the only thing they have in common. Both of them love Kent State. “The people at Kent State made me feel like a member of the family,” DiPasqua says. “I made so many friends that I’m still in contact with today.”

“Many people have asked why we chose Target instead of a wedding registry,” DiPasqua says. “Our favorite things are Target and Target is where we met. It was in December, and we became engaged in December,” DiPasqua says. “We wanted our wedding to be one big celebration with family and friends and decided on New Year’s Eve.”

We wish them a Target-funded gift table and much happiness! —AshWhaley, ’85, DeL, MED ’13

Brian Wilson, BA ’84, North Canton, Ohio, of Brian Wilson Law Offices, was recognized with the Esther S. Weizman Optimist Award from the Ohio Association of Realtors. The award, presented in May 2019 during their annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, honors a trial lawyer who demonstrates relentless resolve and underlying enthusiasm in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Wilson, which has been named to the Ohio Super Lawyers list from 2008-2019, has litigated and tried personal injury cases that he decided to forgo more typical settings in favor of their local Target store in Eau, Pa. Their engagement photos, taken in mid-July, show them crossing the aisles, tracking down deals and stocking up on essentials.

Large new businesses, they shared their photos on Facebook. Little did they know the post would go viral. It was shared almost 10,000 times and liked over 100,000 times. Within 24 hours, many major news organizations were covering their fun engagement shoot.

“A new song from our love story,” DiPasqua says. “We never thought [or intended] for it to be shared so widely, but we love that it brought a smile to so many people,” DiPasqua says. “We’ve received countless comments and messages from all over the world saying how much the photos have touched their hearts.”

A love for Target isn’t the only thing they have in common. Both of them love Kent State. “The people at Kent State made me feel like a member of the family,” DiPasqua says. “I made so many friends that I’m still in contact with today.”

“Many people have asked why we chose Target instead of a wedding registry,” DiPasqua says. “Our favorite things are Target and Target is where we met. It was in December, and we became engaged in December,” DiPasqua says. “We wanted our wedding to be one big celebration with family and friends and decided on New Year’s Eve.”

We wish them a Target-funded gift table and much happiness! —AshWhaley, ’85, DeL, MED ’13
Golden Years

With the last name Golden, an illustrious collegiate career at Kent State University seemed almost destined to be for this student-athlete. In reality, it was through self-effort and determination that Alexa Golden, BA ’18, MA ’19, Kent, Ohio, made a name for herself at Kent State.

On the basketball court and in the classroom, Golden strove for excellence and achieved it. Her accomplishments in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout her collegiate career led to her nomination for this year’s NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association) Woman of the Year Award — among a record high of 376 graduating female college athletes nominated by NCAA member schools to honor their top graduating student-athletes.

Golden, a three-time Academic All-MAC honoree, has the distinction of being the only player in Kent State women’s basketball history to total 500 points, 500 rebounds, 200 assists, 1,000 steals and 100 three-point field goals. This past season, Golden’s senior year, she started all 33 games and averaged 7.6 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.8 steals and 2.5 assists per game.

In April, she received the Judith K. Devine Excellence in Leadership Award, which recognizes a senior Kent State student-athlete who demonstrates leadership abilities within their team, department, college unit and community. I hope to help other student-athletes with the [leadership] skills I learned along the way,” Golden said.

This unrelenting drive is nothing new to Golden, who maintained a 3.7 GPA while competing and completing degrees in four years. She took college level classes during high school, which allowed her to earn her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice/safety studies in two and a half years. Earlier this year, she completed her master’s degree in sport and fitness administration/management, adding that academic accomplishment to her mounting list of achievements.

— Bethany Sova, BS ’12

Alma Golden drives the court in a game against Youngstown State this past spring.
community and a commitment to advancing the concept of free enterprise. Her parents are former recipients of the award, and she has been with her family's business since 2006.

Samuel “Blitz” Bazawale, BBA ’04, New York, NY, hip-hop artist, filmmaker and visual artist, is known by the stage name Blitz the Ambassador. He directed, scored and starred in the independent movie, The Burial of King, which was acquired by Ava DuVernay’s film distribution collective, ARRAY Releasing. The dramatic feature, streaming on Netflix as of March 31, 2019, played in select movie theaters in cities nationwide in spring 2019. Set in Bazawale’s native country of Ghana, the film, which has elements of magical realism, is a story of truth as-between feuding brothers and the journey of one of their daughters to save more than their family. He is expected to run in 2020 for a two-year term of his own.

Elizabeth Mowers, BBA ’05, Mogadore, Ohio, wrote, “In March, I celebrated the release of my first novel, A Promise Remembered (Harlequin Heartwarming), 2019.” Years ago, when my first child wouldn’t nap without being held, I rocked her to sleep while typing a book idea on my smartphone. After three years (and another baby), I had written the entire novel on my phone. While that book was rejected, it connected me to the woman who is now my editor and kicked off my full-time writing career. Follow me on Facebook or check out my website at www.elizmowers.com.

David Strukel, MEd ’04, Massillon, Ohio, has been selected to participate in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity’s 2019 Fellows Program, which aims to identify, train and advance the next generation of leaders in the legal profession. Chylik is a member of Madisend Stafford’s Cleveland office.

Kaitlyn Black, BA ’05, Shaker Heights, OH, starred in the Off Broadway premiere of Robin Lynne Norm’s musical comedy improv show #DateMe: An OKCupid Experiment at the Westside Theatre from June 20 to Sept. 15. The show follows a down-on-her-luck dater as she goes online and creates 33 fake dating profiles in hopes of better understanding the random nature of love and dating. Earlier this year, the short film, Relationship D, filmed by and starring Black, was featured in the 2019 Cleveland International Film Festival and on the popular funny or die site in October 2019. The film depicts a desperate woman and a dorky worker attempting to build their perfect relationship, sandwich-style. Black appeared on the CBS show Host of Dixie, playing fan-favorite character Annabeth from 2011-2015, providing regulatory compliance and risk management advice to consumer financial services companies, with a focus on data privacy and credit reporting issues. She was named a 2018 “Rising Star” in Banking by Ohio Super Lawyers and is active in local and national bar associations.

Elizabeth Treibler, MSN ’05, Cleveland, Sara Dorris, AAS ’06, BSN ’11, Youngstown, OH, Austin Jefferson, AS ’15, BSN ’17, Toledo, OH, Anthony (Taka) Palozorio, MSN ’15, Madison, Ohio, and Michelle Radovincic, AAA ’15, Madison, Ohio, were among 10 finalists for the “Nurse Hero” award, honored on the court during a pregame ceremony when the Cleveland Cavaliers hosted Nurse Night on March 9, 2019. Learn about their achievements at http://bit.ly/nursesheroes. Picture (from L-R): Jessica Robinson, Dawn Mackay, Kristina Smith, Austin Jeffers, Antanette Gott, Elizabeth Treibler, Michelle Radovincic, Sara Dorris.

Patrick Snoddy, BS ’08, Westerville, Ohio, member of the Kent State Bowling Club from 2003 to 2008, in May was designated Men’s Singles Champion (among 190 bowlers) at the 2019 Columbus (Ohio) City-10 Bowling Championship ($640 prize) and earned a Golden Award (along with Snoddy) at the IPS Invitational ($1000 to top team), where he also won the league bowling average. In July, his high 6-game handicap series at the Tony Black Doubles competition added $500 to his year’s earnings, which so far total $5,260. Picture left, Patrick Snoddy with his trophy.

Russell Galea Jr. BA ’05, Washington, DC, has a new position as a strategic planner in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs within the US Department of State in Washington, DC. He is also a major and serves as operations officer for the 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry, Ohio Army that prioritizes commercial interests. In her second statement, she called on the WHO to avoid conflicts of interest that arise when nongovernmental development and relief efforts are created via corporate partnerships. After graduating from Kent State’s College of Public Health, Campbell enrolled in a master’s program at the University of Brighton in England, where she studied health promotion. With her coursework completed, she is focused on writing her master’s thesis, which consists of an analysis of interview data from fathers in 10 different countries regarding the role of fathers in breastfeeding.

Her future aspirations are to work in the health policy arena. “My experience with Baby Milk Action and my involvement in the World Health Assembly have convinced me that major changes in health can be accomplished through health policy.” Campbell says. “That’s why I want to pursue a career either at the federal level back home in the States or with a UN organization.” When asked for any advice to students, she says,”Take any opportunities that come to you; don’t be afraid. I was terrified to speak, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance that I knew I had to take.” — Julie Miller, BS ’87

Eliza Miller, BBA ’06, Sherman Oaks, CA, Shemar Oaks, Calif., in the Off Broadway premiere of Robin Lynne Norm’s musical comedy improv show #DateMe: An OKCupid Experiment at the Westside Theatre from June 20 to Sept. 15. The show follows a down-on-her-luck dater as she goes online and creates 33 fake dating profiles in hopes of better understanding the random nature of love and dating. Earlier this year, the short film, Relationship D, filmed by and starring Black, was featured in the 2019 Cleveland International Film Festival and on the popular funny or die site in October 2019. The film depicts a desperate woman and a dorky worker attempting to build their perfect relationship, sandwich-style. Black appeared on the CBS show Host of Dixie, playing fan-favorite character Annabeth from 2011-2015, providing regulatory compliance and risk management advice to consumer financial services companies, with a focus on data privacy and credit reporting issues. She was named a 2018 “Rising Star” in Banking by Ohio Super Lawyers and is active in local and national bar associations.

National Guard. In addition, she serves on the Kent State University Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

In her first statement, Campbell called on the WHO to support efforts “to ensure publicly funded universal health coverage, with primary health care and prevention” and to make breastfeeding promotion available to all. She warned delegates of the risks associated with relying on privatized health services.

Speaking Up for Infants

Katie Campbell, BA ’18, Brighton, England, is putting her Kent State education in public health to work at the global level. This May, Campbell presented at the 2nd World Health Assembly annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. The assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO) and provides a forum to discuss, debate and decide global health policies. Campbell testified on behalf of the international Baby Milk Action Network, a global network of organizations dedicated to reducing infant mortality by promoting optimal infant feeding practices. She was present this opportunity as a result of her internship with UK-based Baby Milk Action, part of the network. In her first statement, Campbell called on the WHO to support efforts “to ensure publicly funded universal health coverage, with primary health care and prevention” and to make breastfeeding promotion available to all. She warned delegates of the risks associated with relying on privatized health services as if you were reading it naturally.

 Everest, Ohio, member of the Kent State Bowling Club from 2003 to 2008, in May was designated Men’s Singles Champion (among 190 bowlers) at the 2019 Columbus (Ohio) City-10 Bowling Championship ($640 prize) and earned a Golden Award (along with Snoddy) at the IPS Invitational ($1000 to top team), where he also won the league bowling average. In July, his high 6-game handicap series at the Tony Black Doubles competition added $500 to his year’s earnings, which so far total $5,260. Picture left, Patrick Snoddy with his trophy.

Russell Galea Jr. BA ’05, Washington, DC, has a new position as a strategic planner in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs within the US Department of State in Washington, DC. He is also a major and serves as operations officer for the 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry, Ohio Army
Meghan Hennessy Shimmin, BSE '10, Cleveland, received a “20 under 35” award from her high school, Saint Joseph Academy, in recognition for compassionate leadership, service in a global society, overall achievements and spirituality. Shimmin, who majored in early childhood education at KSU, has spent her career working in low-income school districts and works to create and implement enjoyable, school-wide activities that foster learning.

Stephanie (St. Jacques) Walker, MED '10, Whitmore Lake, Mich., is now associate director of the Science Learning Center at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining the SLC, she served as director of the Kent State University Academic Success Center.

Carolyn Drummond, BS '11, Durham, NC, has been promoted to program marketing manager, NA field marketing, at Red Hat (which acquired Ansible Automation), focusing on event management, content marketing and project management.

Lauren Kotmel, BA '11, Cleveland, was featured on Crain's Cleveland Business' “Twenty in Their 20s” list (in their June issue) of young leaders in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Kotmel, currently assisting the WTW team designing a new leadership development program, started a new position as an independent career coach at CareerKenek, assisting outplaced employees searching for their next career move.

Amelia (Chamberlain) Plunkett, BA '13, Dayton, Ohio, who moved up the ranks from intern to sales development manager since joining LinkedIn in 2014, was named one of the 2019 Top 50 Women in Dayton by Dayton Women in Business Networking, a program of the Better Business Bureau of Dayton and Miami Valley. The women were honored at the 20th Women to Watch gala in February 2019. She and her husband, Max Plunkett, BA '13, family wealth advisor/financial advisor at The Plunkett Group at Morgan Stanley, are both involved in their community and met when they were freshmen at Kent State University.

Corey Conners, BS '14, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., who played golf for Kent State from 2010–2014, won the Valero Texas Open at the TPC San Antonio Oaks Course in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2019. He finished T-2 under par with a final round score of 66 to secure his first PGA Tour win, banking a winning purse of $1.35 million and earning a trip to the Masters.

Alexander Evans, BS '14, BBA '14, BSFP '14, MBA '15, MSICG '19, Columbus, Ohio, joined Franklin County Public Health as an epidemiologist. His work will focus on understanding the public health impacts of climate change and implementing a GIS to enhance environmental health programs.

Meghan Marano, BS '14, Willoquy, Ohio, associate banking advisor at PNC Bank, was nominated for the inaugural Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year Award in 2019 by the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Cleveland. Previously, she was awarded Volunteer of the Year from Youth Opportunities Unlimited in 2017 for her service to youth in communities across NE Ohio.

Sarah Roman, BA '14, Lakewood, Ohio, received a “20 under 35” award from her high school, Saint Joseph Academy, in recognition for compassionate leadership, service in a global society, overall achievements and spirituality. Roman, who majored in art history at KSU, uses art to help others work through painful experiences and difficult times.

Hattie Tracey, MPA '14, Medina, Ohio, was named senior vice president of clinical services for Coleman Professional Services. Most recently, Tracey was senior director of clinical strategy, community outreach and health care integration at Child Guidance and Family Solutions of Summit County. She is both a licensed independent social work supervisor and a licensed chemical dependency counselor.

Brandon Bounds, BS '19, Columbus, Ohio, associate producer of TVO.com, was part of a team of top journalism students from 19 universities who earned the 2019 Student Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Digital Reporting for their project “Hate in America.” Their package of multimedia stories focused on acts of intolerance, racism and hate crimes across the country, as part of the Carnegie-Knight News21 program, an in-depth journalism collaborative based at Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Laura Roch, BS '19, Youngstown, Ohio, accepted a position with Notts Dame Mississans Volunteers AmeriCorps as the site director for Northeast Ohio (Cleveland/Youngstown). Among other duties, she will be recruiting potential AmeriCorps members and nonprofit educational sites in the northeast Ohio area, doing member training, and assisting with leadership skills and professional development.

Torey Frame, BA '17, Newton, Ohio, is the first full-time female police officer in Streetsboro in over 50 years. She graduated with a degree in criminology and psychology and decided to pursue law enforcement as a career.

Jasmine Summers, BA '16, Phenom Pahh, Cambodia, KSU Fashion School graduate, wrote, “I’ve spent the last year living in the capital city of Cambodia, running a fashion vocational training program for Nomi Network, a nonprofit economic development agency that seeks to eliminate human trafficking in India and Cambodia through education and economic empowerment. I’m returning to Cambodia in September for a second year to continue giving back my skills and education by supporting the education, up-skilling, capacity building and market growth of rising designers, social enterprises and producers who employ and empower impoverished women in Cambodia, so that they have more options than just factory work, sex work or migrant work.”

Jasmine Summers (in center, wearing floral dress) with students in her Basic Patternmaking class in Cambodia.

Madison Viering, BS '16, Carmel, Ind., received a master’s degree in school counseling from Butler University’s College of Education. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as school counselor at Suncrest Elementary School in Franklin, Ind. Pictured to her right is Holly Viering (mother), Madison Viering, Chip Viering, BS '86 (father) and Patrick Viering (brother).

Laura Roch, BS '19, Youngstown, Ohio, accepted a position with Notts Dame Mississans Volunteers AmeriCorps as the site director for Northeast Ohio (Cleveland/Youngstown). Among other duties, she will be recruiting potential AmeriCorps members and nonprofit educational sites in the northeast Ohio area, doing member training, and assisting with leadership skills and professional development.

Torey Frame, BA '17, Newton, Ohio, is the first full-time female police officer in Streetsboro in over 50 years. She graduated with a degree in criminology and psychology and decided to pursue law enforcement as a career.

Jasmine Summers, BA '16, Phenom Pahh, Cambodia, KSU Fashion School graduate, wrote, “I’ve spent the last year living in the capital city of Cambodia, running a fashion vocational training program for Nomi Network, a nonprofit economic development agency that seeks to eliminate human trafficking in India and Cambodia through education and economic empowerment. I’m returning to Cambodia in September for a second year to continue giving back my skills and education by supporting the education, up-skilling, capacity building and market growth of rising designers, social enterprises and producers who employ and empower impoverished women in Cambodia, so that they have more options than just factory work, sex work or migrant work.”

Jasmine Summers (in center, wearing floral dress) with students in her Basic Patternmaking class in Cambodia.

Brandon Bounds, BS '19, Columbus, Ohio, associate producer of TVO.com, was part of a team of top journalism students from 19 universities who earned the 2019 Student Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Digital Reporting for their project “Hate in America.” Their package of multimedia stories focused on acts of intolerance, racism and hate crimes across the country, as part of the Carnegie-Knight News21 program, an in-depth journalism collaborative based at Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Kent State’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication recognized Bounds earlier this year with the Robert G. McCruder Student Award for Diversity, for his work on the project, which also received a 2019 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in the college category. The 2019 winners were recognized at the Edward R. Murrow Awards Black Tie event, hosted by the Radio Television Digital News Association on Oct. 24 in New York City.

May 16, 2016: She is pursuing a doctorate in nursing practice and an adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner graduate certificate. A registered nurse who has achieved board certification, she currently serves as assistant nurse manager at Cleveland Clinic Heart and Lung Transplant Unit in Cleveland and as adjunct faculty in Kent State’s College of Nursing.
alumni LIFE

Chad Kozan, BA ’77, CERT ’18, Madison, Ohio, is a natural resources officer for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, specializing in marine and operating while under the influence enforcement. He gives back to the community as a boating instructor on a volunteer basis and is attending Bowling Green State University for a master’s degree in criminal justice.

Diane Smith, MA ’77, Phoenix, public relations and communications manager at Pima Medical Institute, was awarded “Best Public Relations Pro (Female)” by Arizona Foothold Magazine.

Emma Buss, BBA ’19, New Philadelphia, Ohio, was hired as marketing services coordinator by Whitneymer Advertising, where she interned in summer 2018. Her responsibilities include assisting account executives in digital and social media marketing strategies and media research and implementation, along with operations and client service responsibilities.

Send Us Your Class Note

We’d love to hear from you!

To share your news: Fill out the form at www.kent.edu/classnotes (You may include a high-resolution image in JPEG, GIF or PNG format) or write:

Kent State University Alumni Center for Philanthropy & Engagement
P.O. Box 5990
Kent, OH 44242

Limit your note to 100 words or less, and include your degree(s), class year(s), and your current contact information. Notes may be edited for length or clarity and published as space allows.

Deadline for submissions: Spring/Summer December 31 Fall/Winter June 30

TRIBUTE

“Voice of Mission Control”

This year’s 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969, brought to mind a KSU alumnus who served as NASA’s “Voice of Mission Control.” Paul Haney, BA ’51, managed the Cape Canaveral and Project Mercury communication programs, where his work in the Mercury program set the standard for all subsequent NASA information efforts.

From 1962-63, Haney served as public affairs officer for the Office of Manned Space Flight (now the Johnson Space Center), and directed the information coming out of the Gemini and Apollo manned spaceflight programs. It was in this position that he became known as the “Voice of NASA’s Mission Control” and the “Voice of Apollo.” Haney served NASA with distinction throughout the Gemini program and the early phases of the Apollo program. He left NASA in 1969 after the successful Apollo 9 mission.

In 1976, Haney passed away on May 28, 2009, but he made to his parents more than 10 years ago and set an example for his daughter.

Haney’s memorial service on May 19, 2019, at the Second Presbyterian Church in Tallmadge, Ohio, was attended by family, friends, and neighbors.

The Foothills Magazine “Best Public Relations Pro (Female)” award was presented to Haney by his daughter, Julian Edelman, BIS ’19, at the memorial service.

“Voice of Apollo.”

“Voice of NASA’s Mission Control” and the “Voice of Mission Control” were terms Haney made famous.

Building a Foundation of Journalistic Excellence

Paul Haney monitored the flight of the Gemini VII spacecraft from his console in the Mission Control Center.

A compendium of alumni news

in MEMORY

1940s

Farn (Bucks) Greenaway, BS ’41, May 26, 2019
Mildred Dixon, DPM ’44, November 26, 2018
Mildred Roberts, BS ’45, MEd ’53, February 19, 2019
Theodore Tashman, BS ’47, September 27, 2019
James Braimiler, BS ’48, MA ’49, February 13, 2019
Alvin Howdyshell, BBA ’49, April 21, 2019

1950s

Phyllis Gambale, BA ’50, September 16, 2018
Louis Kauczur, DPM ’50, December 1, 2017
Donald Kagey, BBA ’50, January 31, 2019
Martin Pinhgraaff, BS ’50, October 17, 2018
Thomas Anstine, BS ’52, MA ’55, January 21, 2019
Richard Knuth, BS ’54, MEd ’73, June 20, 2019
George Paris, BS ’54, August 16, 1981
Robert Shafter, DPM ’54, September 30, 2018
Clayde Woods, BBA ’54, February 21, 2019
Lillian Ech, BSE ’55, January 27, 2019
Edward Seely, BS ’55, December 22, 2018
Ervin “Skip” Robinson, BS ’56, MEd ’59, April 25, 2019
Robert Hutchinson, BS ’55, February 10, 2018
Shirley Shifferly, BS ’57, MA ’66, February 21, 2019
George Grieses, BS ’58, March 5, 2019
Marcia Smith, BS ’58, February 5, 2015
Sarah Smith, BS ’58, March 19, 2019

1960s

Barbara Cruishall, BS ’60, November 20, 2018
Daniel Emmett, MD ’60, August 25, 2017
Elizabeth (Schneider) Hail, BS ’60, November 20, 2018
Marcia Cohen, BS ’61, July 8, 2017
John Hively, BBA ’61, MBA ’61, June 3, 2018
Paul Hulka, BS ’61, August 9, 2017
Phillip Smith, BS ’62, May 23, 2019
Judith (Simpson) Weik, BS ’62, July 7, 2019
Ray Gibson, BFA ’63, December 5, 2018
Gerald Stephen, BS ’63, MEd ’97, January 3, 2019
Ronald Williams, BS ’63, September 28, 2018
William Susco, BS ’63, January 22, 2019
Robert Tienman, BBA ’64, April 5, 2019
Christine Whitacre, BS ’64, February 11, 2018
Albert Lackney, MD ’65, February 3, 2019
Raymond Land, DPM ’65, May 21, 2019
Margaret Miller, BS ’55, MEd ’65, May 3, 2019
William Blair, BS ’66, October 26, 2018
James Gray, BS ’66, MEd ’73, March 18, 2018
Jeanneke Toff, BS ’56, MEd ’60, PHD ’74, January 25, 2019
Sara Ledford, BS ’66, MEd ’66, January 29, 2019
Charles Rasper, MEd ’66, December 30, 2018
Grace (Baters) Schmiedel, BS ’67, May 10, 2019
James Ondrako, BBA ’67, February 3, 2019

1970s

Louis Endress, DPM ’70, October 1, 2019
Barry Koblentz, DPM ’70, December 18, 2018
Geraldine Radicliff, MEd ’70, April 20, 2019
Art Guha, BA ’71, April 11, 2019
James Hoasley, MEd ’71, December 4, 2018
John Rowe, BFA ’72, January 12, 2018
Darryl Steward, BS ’72, MPA ’72, April 17, 2018
Marcia Whites, BSE ’72, MED ’83, March 7, 2019
Robert Bell, BBA ’73, September 17, 2019
George E. Hagi, DPM ’73, October 3, 2019
Patrick McGilvray, MEd ’73, October 25, 2018
Doris Jane Regas, BS ’73, February 19, 2019
Sall Featheringham, BS ’74, MEd ’75, October 17, 2018
Lillian Goldberg, MLS ’74, June 20, 2018
Joel Sickey, BS ’74, May 10, 2019
Donna Welchez, BS ’74, October 10, 2018
Gerry Kuhel, BS ’75, May 3, 2019
Gale Ellis Tallman, BS ’75, February 23, 2018
Mark Camperchioli, BS ’76, March 5, 2018
Thomas Herr, MSA ’76, December 30, 2018
David Foy, DPM ’79, September 26, 2018
Edward Floyd, DMD ’79, February 6, 2019
Charles Zurbola, AAS ’79, October 31, 2018
Circine Fazekas, BM ’79, September 11, 2018
LARRY Hartmane, AA ’79, September 6, 2018

1980s

Frank Kushner Jr., BSN ’81, September 15, 2018
Judith Mally, med ’81, February 26, 2018
Ronald Spangler, MA ’81, January 10, 1991
Beverly MacPherson, BS ’82, January 3, 2019
Jean Wood, MEd ’82, January 13, 2019
Donald Carroll, PhD ’83, June 5, 2019
Nelson McCann, MEd ’83, May 10, 2019
Milan Chovan, BA ’84, June 9, 2019
Didi Schwicke, DPM ’84, November 27, 2018
Amanda Calhoun, BS ’85, June 28, 2019
Sunil Jha, MBA ’86, December 1, 2018
Robert Kaminski, BSN ’86, March 30, 2018
Peter Zelidetz, BSN ’86, March 15, 2019
Joceline Phillips, DPM ’87, February 2, 2019
Barbara Maguire, BS ’88, May 26, 2018
Donna Marks, BS ’88, January 23, 2019

1990s

Sandra Hawkins, BS ’92, March 26, 2019
Craig Thompson, BS ’93, Barc ’01, March 4, 2019
Melanie Lockard, BSN ’93, October 28, 2018
Jessica Spears, BA ’94, January 20, 2019
Catalia Sipp, BS ’07, June 7, 2019

2000s

Amber Evans, MLIS ’14, March 23, 2019 (body found), missing since January 26, 2019

FALL/WINTER 2019-20 | 47
The Drapes of Wrath

I was proud to be a senior English major at Kent State University in 1971 and that my photograph would appear in the 1972 Chestnut Burr. But when I read the “instructions” for having my picture taken for the yearbook, I was incensed. I had spent four years at KSU, experiencing May 4, the rise of Black United Students and the rumble of women’s liberation. I learned not only academic lessons at Kent State, but gained a better understanding of the changing world and my own individuality.

And then I, like every other senior woman, was required to wear an ugly black drape for my photo, a uniform with no regard to one’s comfort level, personal tastes or consent. My father, a professional photographer, and my mother, an oil portrait painter, would never expect someone to wear something he or she disapproved of for a sitting.

So I wrote a letter to The Daily Kent Stater, which appeared in the Oct. 14, 1971 edition, under the headline “Coed objects to yearbook ‘drape’.”

I admit to having a few qualms after I saw the letter in print, just a few days before my photo appointment. Would the company and photographers who contracted with the school be upset? Would they vandalize my senior photo with a Groucho Marx moustache and glasses drawn with a black marker?

To the company’s credit, they rescinded the dress restriction for female students. I was elated.

I decided to play it cool, just show up on time for my photo session and not say a word about who I was. A smiling photographer greeted me and pointed to a dressing screen where I could change into the drape. Not on your life.

The photographer glared at me, looked at the name on my appointment card and snarled, “Oh, you are the one who wrote the letter.” To his credit, after that comment, he treated me like everyone else, and my senior picture came out just fine.

Not every woman chose to forgo the drape that year. Many preferred the traditional drape look, and that was fine. It was their choice, and that was the important thing—to have a voice in the matter.

Almost five decades later, remembering the incident makes me smile. A number of women students had contacted me after the letter was published and thanked me for my one-woman campaign.

Was that the most important victory for women at KSU that year? Of course not. Not even close. And I like to think I left a small mark on KSU in more significant ways. If nothing else, than by being an unofficial ambassador for my college all this time.

I cherish my Chestnut Burr, dust it off once in a while, look at the senior picture of a younger, thinner, no-gray-hair me and recall with humor the Great Drape Escapade. And here’s the other thing: like many liberated women on campus in the early 70s, I wasn’t wearing a bra under the dress I wore for my senior portrait. Simply scandalous. —Jill Veleba Sell, BS ’72, Sagamore Hills, Ohio


Send us YOUR Flashback:
Share your memories from Kent State and they may appear in a future issue of Kent State Magazine. Email your stories and photos to magazine@kent.edu.

---

The world called, and I answered. Each glance ignited to a gaze. I caught my breath and called that life, swooned between spoonfuls of lemon sorbet.

I was pirouette and flourish, I was filigree and flame. How could I count my blessings when I didn’t know their names?

Back when everything was still to come, luck lecked out of everywhere. I gave my promise to the world, and the world followed me here.

—Rita Dove
Special “K”
Members of Kent State University’s Class of 2023 form a “K” on the Kent Campus for a photo with President Todd Diacon, Kent State cheerleaders and the university’s mascot, Flash. Learn more about the Class of 2023 on page 5.