

# ENCOMPASS



Fall 2017

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK MAGAZINE



## DEGREE NO. 20

B.A. IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROPELS  
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK AND  
ITS STUDENTS INTO A NEW EVOLUTION







# MESSAGE from the DEAN

## Dear Members and Friends of Kent State University at Stark,

In my last Message from the Dean, I reflected upon the "rich history and incredible growth of Kent State University at Stark over the past 70 years," as we commemorated that wonderful milestone. In this edition of *Encompass*, you will read of our continued growth as we celebrate degree number 20 – the B.A. in Environmental Studies.

Nineteenth-century American novelist and poet Louisa May Alcott stated, "It takes two flints to make a fire." And a fire certainly was ignited this summer as the campus partnered with Canton City Schools to launch the Bulldog Flash Academic Institute. Imaginations sparked with the realization that dreams, coupled with hard work and determination, really can come true. Personally, and as dean, I look forward to seeing what these gifted young people will do for the enrichment of their own lives and that of our community.

**"The Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies prepares students to integrate concepts and knowledge on environmental issues from across multiple disciplines and to communicate about these in important ways. Basic scientific knowledge about environmental processes is used to inform different social goals. Students will develop a set of key competencies in earth systems science, environmental social science, human-natural systems and sustainability science to be able to solve specific environmental problems."**

– The 2017-2018 University Catalog.

An interdisciplinary degree, Environmental Studies is indicative of what magic can be created when collaboration and partnerships thrive in an academic environment.

Whether I am attending a Featured Speaker lecture, chatting informally over lunch with students during a "Dish with the Dean," or attending a cultural event in Stark County, I am reminded of how proud and humbled I am to serve as dean of this remarkable and supportive campus. One of my personal mantras is, "it's all about relationships." I invite you to join all of us at Kent State University at Stark in fostering those relationships, by getting to know our programs and our people. We look forward to it!

Warm regards,

Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.

### **Encompass**

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On the cover: Kristina Doering-Hippich, an environmental geography major, works on Kent State Stark's first campus garden.

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▼ Graduate Ashton Ruffing is all smiles as she receives her degree



▲ Dan Flowers, president/CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank



## ◦ COMMENCEMENT 2017 ◦

KENT STATE STARK CELEBRATES GRADUATES, AWARD-WINNING FACULTY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

The more than 190 graduates who received their degrees at Kent State University at Stark's 44th Spring Commencement ceremony May 12 cheered loudly for keynote speaker Dan Flowers after he candidly reflected about his early years of not being the world's best student, but persevered because of the encouragement of others. Flowers, president and CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, urged the new alumni not to "feel like there is something wrong with you if things don't seem to fall into place right away. No matter how great or small your academic achievements might have been at Kent State Stark, today they are granting you all admission to the party."

Kent State Stark Dean Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., also presented the 2016-17 Distinguished Teaching Award and Award of Distinction to faculty members Lindsay Starkey, Ph.D. and Aaron Shay, M.M., respectively.

The Distinguished Teaching Award is presented annually to a full-time faculty member selected by students and faculty colleagues. Starkey, assistant professor of history, was described by one student's nomination as a passionate teacher. "[Dr. Starkey is] one of the best teachers I've ever had. [She] goes above and beyond to ensure understanding."

Shay, an instructor of music, received the Award of Distinction, presented annually to adjunct faculty for excellence in teaching.

Shay teaches electric guitar at Kent State Stark. He was described by his students as knowledgeable and humble, and he makes the subject matter interesting. "I feel that Mr. Shay is a wonderful teacher. He teaches without notes, and speaks as though this is something he's known his whole life," one student wrote.

"No matter how great or small your academic achievements might have been at Kent State Stark, today they are granting you all admission to the party."

- Dan Flowers

▼ | Pictured at top, left to right | Aaron Shay, adjunct music instructor, winner of the Award of Distinction; A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, associate dean for academic affairs; Lindsay Starkey, assistant professor of history, winner of the Distinguished Teaching Award; Dean Denise A. Seachrist; and finalists Robert King, associate professor of English and Erin Hollenbaugh, associate professor of communication.







# DEGREE NO. 20

MILESTONE DEGREE – B.A. IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES –  
PROPELS KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK AND  
ITS STUDENTS INTO A NEW EVOLUTION

**G**ROWING UP, KRISTINA DOERING-HIPPICH SKIPPED DOWN  
TO EXPLORE THE CREEK that flowed near her childhood home in  
Green. She took to the outdoors, this girl who grew up in the Scouts and  
celebrated Earth Day with her family.

Now raising her own three children, she understands what we do today  
impacts the future of our planet: for ourselves, our children and our  
children's children.

"You can change the course of life, no matter where you are," said  
Doering-Hippich, a Kent State University at Stark junior majoring in  
environmental geography. "There's a point when you can shift and focus  
on green living, on giving back, on making a change."

That change begins this fall as environmentally forward initiatives at  
Kent State Stark reach a pinnacle point. Kent State Stark and Kent State  
University are simultaneously introducing a new degree: Bachelor of  
Arts in Environmental Studies.





*“An education is about showing the relevancy. We always are reflective and looking back at our history with pride, but we always are looking forward with hope. We have to find that balance, and this degree captures that nicely.”*

The move is a milestone marking the 20th bachelor's degree that can be completed in its entirety at Kent State Stark.

“We celebrate degree number 20,” said Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., Kent State Stark dean and chief administrative officer. “An education is about showing the relevancy. We always are reflective and looking back at our history with pride, but we are always looking forward with hope. We have to find that balance, and this degree captures that nicely.”

Kent State Stark's degree offerings have grown exponentially in number and scope over the years. Students can now start and finish 20 bachelor's degrees, four master's degrees, three associate degrees and more than 30 minors entirely at Kent State Stark. One such bachelor's program, music technology, is only available at the Stark Campus. Other popular degree tracks include nursing, biology, business management, marketing and middle childhood education.

“The environmental studies degree is unique for our campus,” explained A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs, “especially because this is probably the first time a new degree has been offered at the Kent and Stark campuses from the get-go.”



Students are being provided the opportunity to design, plant, water and harvest the new campus garden, located behind the Science and Nursing Building.

## Powerful Tools

A large globe finds a home in the corner of Room 217 in Main Hall. Blue and gold balloons float low to the floor following a recent celebration.

Doering-Hippich settles into her seat in Dr. Chris Post's classroom. The associate professor of geography turns to address the students in his nature and society course.

“Most people think climate change will harm Americans, but they don't think it will happen to them,” he said. “How could this be?”

A graph reflecting the survey results shines brightly on a projector screen. The numbers stare back at the students eagerly jotting notes. Doering-Hippich doesn't look up from her note-taking. She is familiar with the story and remains concerned that many in society are either unfamiliar or unwilling to take action steps that will slow harmful changes to the environment.

Cap and trade approach, climate protection agreements – all terms that for the lay person may seem daunting, but for students in this classroom they are powerful tools used to reduce harmful emissions.

The lessons Doering-Hippich and her fellow students learn in nature and society can be used toward the new environmental studies degree. The class is a core requirement.

The degree will prepare students to integrate concepts and knowledge on environmental issues from across multiple disciplines and to communicate about these in important ways. Throughout their studies, students will develop a set of key competencies in earth systems science, environmental social science, human-natural systems and sustainability science to be able to solve specific environmental problems.

Graduates of the program will understand the environment and how it relates to human activity and human resource needs. They also will be able to articulate how environmental problems are framed and how public attitudes and policies can be harnessed to provide solutions to environmental issues.

## Unique Offering

The B.A. in environmental studies is administered by the Department of Geography but the interdisciplinary components of the degree make it a truly unique offering.

“Working with environmental concerns is not just within the sciences, but it can work into the realm of the social sciences and the humanities,” Post explained. “We will be dealing with a lot of topics. Every geography Ph.D. can teach physical geography and human geography – it is all about the intersection of human activity and environment – that’s why geography and geographers will direct this degree program.”



Greg Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, gathers samples for research in the campus pond and wetlands area.

Post, along with Greg Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; and David Kaplan, Ph.D., professor of geography at Kent worked together to make the new degree program a reality.

“We are just excited about bringing a program to campus that will incorporate a number of faculty across departments – typically in higher education that’s not how you do it,” Post acknowledged. “You do not work interdepartmentally to establish a new program. We want to put our students in the best position to get the jobs they want, and that’s what we are accomplishing with this program.”

“I have had students coming to me and asking for some type of environmental degree for a few years now,” Post continued. “Dr. David Kaplan noticed the need to have such a degree that several programs already on campus can come together to play a part in. The hope is to retain on campus these students who have environmental interests but may want to use those interests to affect public policy.”

And for millennials such as Doering-Hippich, Kent State Stark’s timing could not be more perfect. She is interested in sustainability and paying attention to the environment daily.

“We would be behind if we were not offering this degree. This generation has grown up with climate change,” Seachrist said. “Couple that awareness with the interdisciplinary aspect of this degree and it becomes user-friendly for our students. If they have an aspect that they are really strong in they can focus on that while reaching out to a different discipline.”

The degree program, approved by the Higher Learning Commission and the Ohio Department of Higher Education, will appeal to any student with an interest in environmental studies.

“This is a good example of a degree that has both the sciences and social sciences mixed in,” said Kasturiarachi. “It is a very well-rounded degree and that is how it is designed in other parts of the country as well.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >

## Degrees Offered at Kent State Stark

The new environmental studies degree marks a milestone at Kent State University at Stark: 20 degrees offered on the 200-acre campus. Find out more by visiting [www.kent.edu/stark/degrees-majors-minors](http://www.kent.edu/stark/degrees-majors-minors).

Here's a look at the bachelor's degree programs that can be completed in their entirety at Kent State Stark:

- BIOLOGY
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- COMMUNICATION STUDIES
- COMPUTER DESIGN, ANIMATION AND GAME DESIGN (CDAGD)
- CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE STUDIES
- ENGLISH
- ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
- HISTORY
- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES
- INTEGRATIVE STUDIES
- MARKETING
- MATHEMATICS
- MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
- MUSIC
- MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
- NURSING
- PSYCHOLOGY
- SOCIOLOGY
- STUDIO ARTS
- TECHNICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES – COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
- **MASTER'S DEGREES**
  - M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction
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  - Online MBA

**20+** Student  
Clubs &  
Organizations

**7,250**  
Students  
Year-Round

**17:1**  
STUDENT:  
FACULTY RATIO

**Environmental  
Studies** Newest degree  
offered this fall

**\$400k**  
IN STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIPS



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7 &gt;

## A Perfect Fit

Both Kasturiarachi and Seachrist agreed the degree fits the mission of Kent State Stark.

“The fact we have a LEED gold-certified Science and Nursing Building where we capture rain water and harvest the light, an environmental studies program really fits nicely with the goal of the campus,” Seachrist said.

Grants have provided for sustaining wetlands behind the Science and Nursing Building and a wind turbine, which generates some power. New funding obtained by Matthew Lehnert, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, was awarded by the Kent State University Foundation for the construction of a teaching and research greenhouse also on the eastern hub of campus.

From a biological sciences perspective, Smith said faculty commitment to undergraduate research and obtaining the resources to do the work is evident in the 17-acre parcel of land and wetlands on campus that has become an outdoor classroom. The pond is well-suited for wetland research, he explained.

“Biology is a support field in environmental studies, but the outdoor classroom is a good place for them to look at natural resources and potential impact on natural resources,” Smith explained. “We can focus on that area, which is surrounded by human influence. Over the course of their studies, they get to know that parcel well and from different perspectives. Students can really put their learning to the test.”

Smith added Kent State Stark, which offers a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, is experiencing increased enrollment in the biology program.

“One of the things that has been most evident over the past three years since I’ve been here, there is lots of support for research,” Smith said. “We’ve tried to get students more involved in research and more and more of our students are taking advantage of doing independent research projects. Our faculty is committing more time to working with students in the field. Grades are important but they need experience.”

A new course this past summer provided students with the opportunity to design, plant, water and harvest a campus garden. The course, taught by Post, focused on giving students the tools, time, contacts and guidance necessary to set up a network of organizations and individuals who participated in the food’s organic production and distribution. The goal: to empower students to find better solutions to food concerns.

“The overarching goal,” explained Kasturiarachi, “not only is to use the garden as a food incubator to provide fresh vegetables for our Conference Center but also for Flash’s Food Pantry and the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.”

“It is a beautiful cycle,” added Seachrist.

## ‘Save the World’

Where food is produced in the world and where there is malnutrition also was explored in Post’s summer garden course.

“When we look at global trends, we must look at local economies,” he said.

Back in Room 217, Post knows each of his students by name.

Geography, he explained, is the only discipline looking at scale and is best suited to understand issues of scale on a global, national and local level.

“How do we live green on campus, for example?” Post asked. “We build buildings that have as small a carbon footprint as possible. We use wind turbines and solar panels. We build a green roof on our new building, which is a way to counter carbon emissions.

“As we implement climate-safe progress into the classroom, that puts Kent State Stark at the forefront,” he told his nature and society students.

For Doering-Hippich, understanding environmental issues and how she can make a difference keeps her aiming for her degree while being mom to her 12, 9 and 5 year olds.

Recalling the creek near her childhood home where waters flowed with diverse wildlife, she now understands it’s all about sustaining what we have while positively impacting the future.

“I guess, really, what I’ve always wanted is what most of us want,” said Doering-Hippich.

“What I’ve always wanted is to save the world.”



Assistant Professor Greg Smith teaches a biology class in the campus pond and wetlands area.





Left to right: Val Kramer, senior biology major, Matthew Lehnert, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences and Fall 2016 graduate Kristen Reiter



Matthew Lehnert, Ph.D. and Val Kramer study microscope images of the vampire moth.





# GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

## *launching science majors to the next level*

### **MATTHEW LEHNERT, PH.D., AND HIS STUDENTS STUDY INSECT MOUTHPARTS, MEDICAL FIELD TO SEE IMPACT**

Val Kramer cradled the tobacco hornworm between her thumb and forefinger. The student researcher knew just how to find the mouthpart that has launched the lab on the first floor of the Science and Nursing Building into a headline-making success.

With a flick of her wrist, Kramer unfurled the newly emerged moth's proboscis. The long straw-like part is used to move liquids seamlessly to its digestive system. A senior at Kent State University at Stark this fall, Kramer is eager to continue what she describes as "niche research."

"Sometimes you must convince people it's exciting," said Kramer. "The evolutionary aspect is exciting for us, but people who aren't scientists by nature or trade want to know about the real-life applications of our research."

### **Groundbreaking Study**

The real-life application is breaking new ground in the field of medical research. The findings of Matthew Lehnert, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences and his team have been published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, one of the world's top science journals. Lehnert's research will be featured on the PBS series "Nature" in 2018. Lehnert's findings on the way insects ingest fluids may be used as a model for targeted delivery of disease-fighting drugs to humans.

In addition to enhanced drug delivery methods, Lehnert said his research could be used by engineers to manufacture tiny probes that can sample fluid inside of cells. That tool would be used by doctors to help diagnose diseases. Lehnert acknowledges he did not set out to break ground in the medical field.

"There is this drive to be better able to manipulate micro- or nano-size droplets of liquids. How are we going to gather such a small amount of liquid? You have to think about it on a nanoscale," Lehnert said. "I simply set out to study how butterflies feed on liquids. It was previously known that flies and butterflies independently evolved their mouthparts for feeding on fluids, but what was unknown before our study was that they both use the same principles for ingesting fluids – capillary action. We simply try to understand how things work and how patterns work in nature. The engineers and physicists take it to the next step."

### **Impacting Lives**

When his research began in 2010, Lehnert said he would have never guessed he could have an entire career based on mouthparts. Lehnert's recent research at Kent State Stark, which

is funded by a three-year, \$626,000 National Science Foundation grant, expands his research to other fluid-feeding insects. "It is unusual for studies to take distantly related insects and focus on finding similarities in their feeding mechanisms at the micro- and nano-scale," Lehnert said.

Earlier this year, the new findings landed a group of Kent State Stark undergraduate students, including Kramer and Kristen Reiter, at Argonne National Laboratory operated by the University of Chicago. Using a giant X-ray machine, they found evidence to support Lehnert's research. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work in a national laboratory. Undergraduate students usually do not get that chance," said Reiter, who begins graduate studies this fall in entomology at the University of Illinois. "I know for a fact this hands-on research experience Kent State Stark provided helped me get into grad school." And for Lehnert, that's true success.

"If I can spur a student's interest in scientific research, that's the key," said Lehnert, adding that, when he was a young child, his father taught him about evolution. "At age four, I began collecting butterflies and moths. What I didn't realize at the time is my interest in evolution and love of butterflies would go hand-in-hand because butterflies are often used as the model when studying evolutionary processes."

On a sunny afternoon this past spring, Lehnert exited the first-floor lab that is his home away from home. In hand, a netting contained live butterflies inside. He shook the pop-up cage. The orange and black Monarch butterflies fell to the pavement below, swaying back and forth before stretching their wings. "My students will see these and they'll probably laugh and say, 'Oh, Dr. Lehnert has been here.'" But before he knew it they were off, finding their own way.

## CDAGD PROGRAM EXPANDS ON CAMPUS, VIRTUAL REALITY ROOM TAKES SHAPE

# Virtual Reality is here

### COLLABORATION IS ANYTHING BUT VIRTUAL

between the campuses of Kent State University at Stark and Tuscarawas.

In fact, the computer design, animation and game design (CDAGD) partnership has been a reality for nearly a decade. This fall, Kent State Stark's position changes in a literal sense: the campus will host students in a newly designed classroom and virtual reality room in Main Hall.

"What is it we need to do to accommodate this growing program? That was our first question," said A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs. "Prior to this point, the program had been based at Kent State Tuscarawas and synchronously delivered to students on our campus and at Kent. Our students could tap in and earn their degree. We've arrived at a point where we are expanding, and the potential is right here at Kent State Stark."

Kasturiarachi and Dean Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., drafted a new Memorandum of Understanding with Bradley A. Bielski, Ph.D., dean of Kent State Tuscarawas. The agreement is based on the premise of expansion.

"We've taught the program for several years, and we've really had a lot of success," Bielski said. "Due to the proximity of the two campuses and long-range goals of both campuses, expansion makes sense. This is a way to offer unique programming to all students while enhancing each other's missions."

Nathan Ritchey, Ph.D., vice president for Kent State System Integration, said the agreement between Kent State Stark and Kent State Tuscarawas is the model partnership.

"We would like to use this arrangement as the standard for all programs that exist on one campus that would be needed on another campus," Ritchey said. "We want to establish

partnerships when it makes sense instead of each campus starting its own program. Through partnerships, we can assure implementing best practices across the board and having leadership responsible for that."

The CDAGD agreement includes a revenue share between the two campuses, which also are sharing the cost of renovating the Main Hall classroom and virtual reality room.

"The dedicated classroom has been designed specifically to deliver the CDAGD program," Kasturiarachi explained. "We have the right computers and the right equipment for synchronous delivery. Tuscarawas instructors will sometimes come here to deliver courses."

"We've gone from being the receiving group to receiving and delivering."

Bielski touts the program's efficiency. "Instead of having two courses with 12 students, we can have one section of 24 students, 12 at Stark and 12 at Tuscarawas, for example. We could broadcast with the instructor at Stark."

"Higher education is not unlike other organizations in that we are being asked to be entrepreneurs and to be efficient," he said. "Instead of offering separate courses or separate degrees, we are creating a program that is complementary, one that is about shared academic opportunities."

Seachrist agreed, stating: "It's collaboration at its finest."





# WHY STUDY

## COMPUTER DESIGN, ANIMATION AND GAME DESIGN?

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**FIND OUT MORE** by visiting [kent.edu/stark/computer-design-animation-game-design](http://kent.edu/stark/computer-design-animation-game-design).



# community connections

Kent State University at Stark is a strong advocate of developing partnerships throughout the greater Stark County community, as well as Northeast Ohio. Nathan Ritchey, Ph.D., vice president for Kent State System Integration, points out, "Partnerships are about efficiency, but more importantly, they are about consistency in our programming. We can assure quality across the board. We can assure we are implementing best practices and having leadership that is responsible for that partnership."

Interested in knowing more about Kent State Stark partnerships? We highlight some in this issue:

## **STARK STATE COLLEGE REGISTERED NURSE (R.N.) TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (B.S.N.)**

Stark State College students can complete a B.S.N. following their seamless transition from their two-year studies at Stark State to a four-year degree at Kent State Stark. Also available to Stark State students pursuing their R.N. is the opportunity to take a free course each semester at Kent State Stark. **Read more about a new scholarship, page 29.**

## **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT TUSCARAWAS' COMPUTER DESIGN, ANIMATION AND GAME DESIGN (CDAGD)**

This fall, Kent State Stark will host students in a newly designed classroom and virtual reality room in Main Hall. Prior to this point, the degree was taught at Kent State Tuscarawas and synchronously delivered at Kent State Stark and the Kent Campus. **See full story, page 13.**



## **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

A Hospitality Management certificate and minor are planned for Kent State Stark in fall 2018. The curriculum will combine specialty classes in hospitality and business management, preparing graduates for positions as managers in restaurants, hotels, conference centers, country clubs and other hospitality venues.

## **CANTON CITY SCHOOLS, BULLDOG FLASH ACADEMIC INSTITUTE**

Thirty-three Canton City Schools sophomores converged on the Kent State Stark campus this summer for the first of a three-year program to encourage the pursuit of higher education. Kent State Stark will facilitate the Canton students' transition to college, including enrollment into College Credit Plus and a Kent State Stark scholarship upon completion of the program.

**See full story, page 16.**



## **WALSH UNIVERSITY, INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Kent State University at Stark and Walsh University will form a mutually beneficial partnership in which Walsh University students will be allowed to take language classes at Kent State Stark. The available courses will cover American Sign Language (ASL), Spanish and French. The agreement also will make it possible for Kent State Stark students who are interested in Museum Studies to take related courses at Walsh University. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be crafted for academic year 2017-2018.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION, LEAN SIX SIGMA**

A 3.5-day training program instructed by Kent State Stark's Corporate University, Lean Six Sigma is a business methodology that teaches organizations a new way to think about what is done every day. The tools can be used in organizations to eliminate waste, reduce variation in processes and eliminate defects.









## BULLDOG FLASH ACADEMIC INSTITUTE PREPARING CANTON CITY SCHOOLS STUDENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

### ON A SPRING DAY LAST YEAR, ADRIAN ALLISON SAT THINKING.

In his downtown office, the Canton City Schools superintendent was thinking about dreams that can't be contained inside four walls. He was thinking about opportunities. Allison envisioned a partnership that would better equip his students for higher education. And, for students who are the first in their families to attend a four-year university, such a program would prove life-changing.

His dream for Canton students was realized in a single phone call.

"This started with a vision of creating a pathway for some students," Allison said. "I'll never forget the day I was in my office, and I was thinking that I wanted McKinley High School to partner with a four-year higher education institution to create a pathway for our kids to realize a dream.

"I called Denise on a whim."

Dr. Denise Seachrist didn't hesitate. Create a new and dynamic partnership to encourage Canton City Schools students to pursue higher

education? The dean of Kent State University at Stark was all in.

The Bulldog Flash Academic Institute was established.

"It was that quick," Allison explained. "It is nothing short of amazing to find a partner so quickly. Dean Seachrist and Dr. Bathi (A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs) are simply amazing people. They really understand that some kids have barriers to college entrance and college success. It's about how we can help families and kids overcome those barriers, so we can securely hand them off to college."

### Breaking Barriers

Thirty-three Canton City Schools sophomores converged on the Kent State Stark campus this summer for the first of a three-year program. "We went from 25 slots to 40 allotted, with 60 applicants for the program," Allison said. "But Kent State Stark staff interviewed every single student and agreed to open up the program."

Seachrist said the Bulldog Flash Academic Institute falls under an overarching program, known as Rising Scholars.

"This could be replicated at other school districts throughout the county," Seachrist explained. "As we look around our regional school districts and see the different areas of need, who is going to fulfill the need? We are the public institution in Stark County and my team will hear me say our goal is to do the public good. In so doing that, where are the districts who need us the most?"





As the Bulldog Flash Academic Institute continues, new students will be recruited and enrolled in the program. Kristin Wray will coordinate the program for Kent State Stark. She will be assisted by Chris Deschaine of Canton City Schools.

"We are not just going to focus on academic skills, but also soft skills. In our program, we are not going to neglect the STEMM fields, or the arts and music," Kasturiarachi said. "We are going to keep a well-rounded approach to the program, so if students are interested in the social sciences and the humanities, they will get enough to taste that program and get a liking to do what they want to do and make the right kind of connections with mentors and faculty members."

### 'Worth The Effort'

Kasturiarachi, who has experience with the Upward Bound program, said students exiting the Bulldog Flash Academic Institute will have completed college courses through the College Credit Plus program and have a career in mind.

A Kent State Stark scholarship will be awaiting them, too. "If they choose another college, we will give them the necessary help to get to that goal.

"Success is what we are looking at, and not marginal success," Kasturiarachi said. "If it's marginal success, we would be disappointed. To me, the program has to have a component of excellence because it is about creating pathways for young academics by removing barriers. It also is about building a partnership between a great high school and an innovative university, and creating a living and learning community."

Allison said the program will make students feel the

way they should feel: like they have an opportunity.

"We want them to know they are part of something special - that these two entities are teaming up to help with the intention of wrapping ourselves around the student, not just academically, but during the adjustment to college," he said. "To have a partner like Kent State Stark, Dr. Kasturiarachi and Dean Seachrist is unique because of that heart. What a great thing for people to not just talk values, but do values.

"They are saying our values are way bigger. And, these kids' dreams are worth the effort."

As the first class of Bulldog Flash Academic Institute students walked the Stark Campus this summer, their smiles were wide. In the open air, it was clear that the education taking place goes beyond a classroom's four walls. It goes beyond the city streets they've known.

Opportunity is just around the corner.

**MARK NOWAKOWSKI** was about to make a life-changing decision. He paced around the kitchen of his parents' Chicago home. It was four in the morning. The son of Polish immigrants, Nowakowski wanted to do right by his parents, who had worked so hard to make a new life for their family. He walked back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. His mother came down the stairs. "I was afraid," Nowakowski said. "I was afraid to tell my parents that I was going to do this. My mother said, 'Well, it's a little bit scary, but just be good at it. Just do it right, and be good at it.'"

"That was my permission to take the leap."

Nowakowski, then an undergraduate studying computer science at Illinois State University, delved into studies in music theory and arts technology, graduating with honors in both. "While I loved the technology, I decided I was not going to be a very good computer programmer and all my time was being spent on music, anyhow," he said. "So, I eventually took that leap."

He's never looked back.

Now an assistant professor of music technology at Kent State University at Stark, Nowakowski begins his second year teaching on campus this fall. "The students have been good, they've been engaged," he said. "They don't have to be sold on the idea of why they should do something. They just go out and do it." Nowakowski said faculty mentors achieve a level of excellence, and campus administration is both effective and encouraging.

#### FINE ARTS EXPANSION

Music technology, located in the Fine Arts Building, is Kent State Stark's fastest growing program. Expansion of the building is underway with anticipated completion in 2018. The new building will include three music production labs, two world-class recording studios and new practice spaces – all of which will benefit the music program.

**“Our students** will have a uniquely functional space that will give them an advantage.

The (expanding Fine Arts Building) will allow us to accomplish what we could not before. This program is growing ... the potential is there for the program to develop a national and international reach.”

 **MARK NOWAKOWSKI, PH.D.**  
assistant professor of Music Technology

#### MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AT KENT STATE STARK

Kent State University at Stark offers a complete four-year curriculum in music technology. This program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and is offered only at Kent State Stark.

Students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Music Technology with a concentration in music production or audio recording.

FIND OUT MORE AT: [WWW.KENT.EDU/STARK/MUSIC-TECHNOLOGY](http://WWW.KENT.EDU/STARK/MUSIC-TECHNOLOGY)

The development of strong musicianship is an important aspect of the program's curriculum. Students are required to study instrumental or vocal performance, music theory and music history, including world music, to provide a well-rounded education in preparation for successful careers in the music industry.

"A lot of students are very practical; therefore, they are much more focused as a result. There is a lot of talk about entrepreneurship," Nowakowski explained. "Students are really trying to find a way to move forward while being in this idealistic state of 'I have four or five years to focus on just being an artist.'" Graduates of the program have gone on to become audio engineers, songwriters and composers, and music educators, to name a few.

"In our program, you must have musicality," said A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs. "If you are going to open your own business, we are encouraging a business minor. We are giving a well-rounded education to these music tech majors depending on what they want to do. Mark (Nowakowski) embodies that kind of thinking. He brings in a much-needed balance to the program.

"He is dynamic," added Kasturiarachi. "We are very excited that once the new building is completed, he will have all of the equipment and space he needs to effectively teach music production."

#### MOVING FORWARD

Dean Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., said Nowakowski is relatable to students. "Mark comes with his authentic self, and I like that," she said. That's important for Nowakowski.

Just as he leaned on his mother for discernment regarding his career path, Nowakowski, who did not grow up in a musical family, wants to provide that same support to his students.

"Students often ask, 'How should I be doing this? What are my career options? How can I move forward?' Always moving forward is very much a part of that diaspora, a deep part of my development," Nowakowski said. "As an artist, it gave me a different perspective, and I give to them what I have."



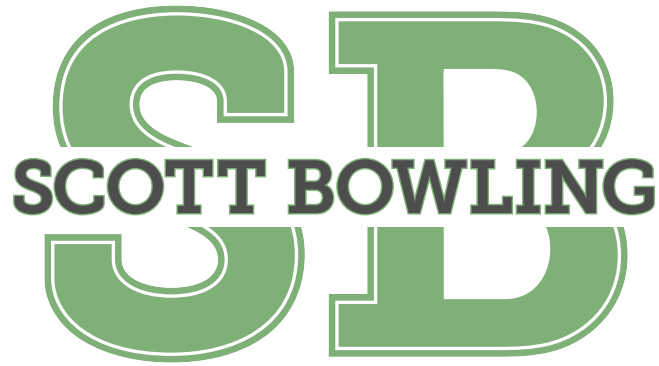
ON THE VERGE  
OF SOMETHING

| FACULTY SPOTLIGHT |

BIG

MARK NOWAKOWSKI JOINS TEAM  
HERALDING GROWING MUSIC  
TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM





## MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRADUATE TAKES HELM OF BROWN LOCAL SCHOOLS

As he prepared to kick the ball barreling toward him, Scott Bowling heard the shouts of fourth-graders at Tuscarawas Valley Intermediate School. “Mr. Bowling! Mr. Bowling! Mr. Bowling!” The ball went flying as Bowling took in the sights and sounds that were some of the most memorable of his teaching career.

“The kickball tournament always occurred on the last day of school. It’s the kids against the teachers,” Bowling said. “There’s nothing like it; sharing the moment with students you’ve watched learn and grow so much throughout the school year. When you make it fun, there’s no better job.” Bowling, a 2001 graduate of the middle childhood education program at Kent State University at Stark, is ready for the next step in his career. Bowling is the new superintendent of Brown Local Schools.

For the past two years, Bowling has served as principal of the district’s middle school and high school, which share a joint building in Malvern. During his career, he’s also served as an educator in the Union Local and Toronto City school districts.

### MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Bowling was one of the first students to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Childhood Education, which can be earned entirely at Kent State Stark.

Lori Wilfong, Ph.D., associate professor of teaching, learning and curriculum studies, also serves as coordinator of Kent State Stark’s undergraduate education department. Wilfong said the middle childhood teaching license is a unique addition to the Ohio Department of Education’s licensure program and is designed for teaching grades 4-9. “Ohio is a pioneer in saying that we want our teachers to have a specific license,” Wilfong said. “That’s one of the reasons Kent State Stark started middle childhood education in 2000.”

Students in the middle childhood program choose two concentration areas from reading/language arts, mathematics, science or social studies. A generalist license can be earned for teaching grades 4-6 in any of the four concentration areas.

“A special kind of person chooses middle childhood education,” Wilfong explained. “Middle childhood is a special time. They love you one day and you are the greatest teacher ever, and then the next day they sit with their head on their desk throughout class. You must be okay with that. The positive

influence you have on them during early adolescence, however, cannot be replicated. It’s once in a lifetime.” Kent State Stark’s middle childhood program involves an extensive amount of field experience. Students are deployed to urban, suburban and rural school districts throughout the region.

At Canton City Schools’ Clarendon Elementary, for example, students work with fifth-graders on reading strategies. Students also spend time in the Fairless Local School District in the fall and in Jackson Local Schools each spring. “When our students graduate, they have an extensive number of student-teaching hours. That makes our program unique,” Wilfong said. “You do not shove a doctor out into the workplace and say, ‘good luck.’ We make sure our teachers are thoroughly prepared for the classroom.”

### GIVING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Wilfong said the department tracks alumni, and many, like Bowling, stay in the area. That allows Wilfong to team up current students with graduates of the program.

Bowling completed his student teaching at Canton City Schools, where his wife, Jeanie, now works as a teacher.

“It kind of comes full circle,” he said. Bowling said he chose Kent State Stark because of its neighborhood feel. “Being a smaller campus, I had the chance to get to know more people in a relaxed environment,” he said. “And, it was close to home.

“I was a nontraditional student,” he added. “I went back to college after we had our first child. I never felt out of place at Kent State Stark.” Bowling’s son, Jacob, now a freshman at Kent State University, is majoring in business. His youngest, Daniel, is a junior at Canton City Schools’ Early College High School.

The Bowlings live on Lake Mohawk. When they are not in the classroom, they are boating or taking to four wheels. “It’s a lot of fun,” Bowling said. “We love this area, but we especially love the great educational opportunities for kids right in our own backyard.”





## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT KENT STATE STARK

The B.S.E. in Middle Childhood Education can be completed in its entirety at Kent State Stark. While it is possible to complete the B.S.E. in four years by taking 16-18 credits each semester, it is more likely that 4.5 years will be needed for certain combinations of concentrations.

### MATHEMATICS CONCENTRATION

The content coursework in the mathematics concentration includes classes in algebra, trigonometry, calculus, geometry and statistics.

### READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCENTRATION

The content coursework in the reading/language arts concentration includes classes in communication, grammar, literature, reading and writing.

### SCIENCE CONCENTRATION

The content area coursework in the science concentration includes diverse classes in chemistry, biology, geology and physics.

### SOCIAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

The content area coursework in the social studies concentration includes diverse classes in economics, history, political science, geography and anthropology.

### **SCOTT BOWLING, B.S.E.**

*Superintendent of  
Brown Local Schools*

# 5 QUESTIONS WITH 3 TOP ACADEMIC AWARD WINNERS

## RACHEL GANG



### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

**MAJOR:** Middle Childhood Education

**AGE:** 23

**FROM:** Jackson Township

**ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE:**  
December 2017

**POST-GRADUATION PLANS:**  
Obtain teaching license and begin searching  
for a teaching position.

- 1 WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?**  
*Humorous, outgoing, competitive.*
- 2 HOW – AND WHY – DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?**  
*Since I was a little girl, I have always had the desire to be an educator. From day one (so it seemed), my parents told me that they knew I was bound to be a teacher and if I were to choose any other career path, it would be a mistake. Teachers have quite a unique job; unlike most careers, teachers have the firsthand opportunity to personally impact and/or make a difference in a child's life. Coming to that realization ultimately affected my choice in major. There were several teachers that greatly influenced the direction of my educational path, and I knew I wanted to make a similar difference in another child's life as those teachers did in mine. Without a doubt, I know that teaching is the career for me.*
- 3 HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN YOUR LEVEL OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?**  
*With the encouragement and motivation from my family, friends, mentors and professors, I have been able to maintain my academic excellence. And if it weren't for occasionally decompressing with exercise and spending time with friends and family, I definitely wouldn't be able to stay focused and keep pressing forward!*
- 4 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK?**  
*Kent State Stark, to me, seems like home. It's personal, it's inviting and it's inclusive. I feel like I have a place at Kent State Stark.*
- 5 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER INCOMING FRESHMEN?**  
*Get involved! There are so many opportunities for your voice to be heard, chances to make new friends, connections and opportunities to develop a stronger sense of who you are.*



# KENT WEAVER

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

**MAJOR:** Biology

**AGE:** 19

**FROM:** Sugarcreek

**ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE:**  
December 2017

**POST-GRADUATION PLANS:**  
Attend The Ohio State University College  
of Veterinary Medicine.



**1 WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?**  
*Analytical, studious, friendly.*

**2 HOW – AND WHY – DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?**  
*I chose the biology pre-med major for two main reasons. First of all, I have always been interested in biology, especially molecular biology and physiology. I like how biology helps us understand how life functions and exists in the world. The second reason I chose biology was because I knew it would help prepare me for my desired career as a veterinarian.*

**3 HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN YOUR LEVEL OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?**  
*I attribute much of my success as a student to the wonderful faculty that are here on campus, as well as the support that I have received from my family. When I decided to become a veterinarian, I also knew I would need to dedicate a lot of time to my education in order to be successful. Therefore, throughout my undergraduate years, I have prioritized my class work and studying over other activities, such as longer hours at work or recreational time.*

**4 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK?**  
*I love the Stark Campus and am very proud to say that I have been able to complete my entire degree here! I especially enjoy the small class sizes and the personal mentorship that the faculty here can provide. Not only are the classes more affordable, but the professors are highly qualified with Ph.D.s in their field. There is an incredible amount of resources here available to students, such as peer tutoring and research opportunities.*

**5 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER INCOMING FRESHMEN?**  
*I would tell incoming freshmen that they should get as involved as possible. They should join a club that they are interested in, form a relationship with a faculty member that has experience in the field they wish to pursue and make use of all the resources that are available to them. My most memorable moments at Kent State Stark have been working in Dr. Matt Lehnert's research laboratory. (Lehnert is associate professor of biological sciences.) I enjoy the learning and the discovery that takes place in the lab, and I have been extremely thankful for the opportunity to work there. It has supplemented my learning in a way that will be beneficial throughout my career.*

# RYLIE WOODS

## PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

**MAJOR:** Psychology

**AGE:** 22

**FROM:** Massillon

**ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE:**  
August 2017

**POST-GRADUATION PLANS:**  
Gain experience in the field; pursue a  
master's degree.



**1 WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?**  
*Ambitious, intelligent, funny.*

**2 HOW – AND WHY – DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?**  
*Early on in high school when people asked me what I wanted to eventually major in, I would say psychology because I had an interest in it. Once I started taking classes in psychology in college, I really enjoyed it and realized this was the perfect major for me. My psychology degree will allow me to do what I've always wanted to do in a career – help others.*

**3 HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN YOUR LEVEL OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?**  
*I work really hard! I cannot lie and say it has been an easy journey, because a lot of times it has been very difficult. I study and work on homework almost every night. Sometimes having so much work to do can get frustrating, but winning an award like (the Academic Achievement Award) really puts things into perspective and lets me know that it's worth it.*

**4 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK?**  
*Everything! I really have found a home here on this campus. I think the thing I appreciate most is all of the support I have received over the past four years. From my professors, to the advisors of the organizations that I'm involved in, to my supervisors for my jobs on campus, they have all given me so much encouragement and I have achieved great things because of them!*

**5 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER INCOMING FRESHMEN?**  
*Make the most out of your college experience. Work hard, talk to your professors, join a club, meet new friends, get out of your comfort zone. I would not be where I am today if I had not followed this advice.*

# An educator's mission: Never stop impacting lives

## SCHOLARSHIP DONORS WHO ARE PAST EDUCATORS GIVE BACK TO KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK STUDENTS



DR. JOSEPH CUMO



ALICIA PIEPER



DR. JOE WAGNER AND  
JOANIE WAGNER

**PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE OUTSIDE** of the classroom doesn't end when faculty say goodbye to creating syllabi, delivering lectures and grading term papers.

For many former Kent State University at Stark faculty members, creating an indelible stamp on students' lives continues long after retirement through the establishment of a scholarship.

"This dedication and commitment to student success both in and outside the classroom is truly an inspiration," said Karen Romas, M.A.Ed., director of advancement. "The depth and breadth of scholarships established by both retired and active faculty at Kent State Stark is demonstrative of just how deeply the faculty care about students."

The Stark Campus Association of Retired Professors (SCARP) was established in 1996 and is comprised of faculty and administrators who have retired from Kent State Stark. In 2014, the group created the **Stark Campus Association of Retired Professors Scholarship** to assist Kent State Stark students.

Dr. Thomas Sosnowski, SCARP chairman, said the group worked together for so many years at Kent State Stark that "we did not want to give up that bond of collegiality.

"It has been a delight, and we wanted to give back to the campus that we love," said Sosnowski. "We have met many of the scholarship recipients; a number of them are nontraditional students who needed something extra."

Despite the fact Sosnowski and his fellow colleagues are retired, they still think of students first.

"We have a commitment to that place," Sosnowski said, "and a commitment to helping students because we know they are getting a quality education."

### Honoring Loved Ones

Scholarships also are a way to pay tribute to those who believed in the role education plays in impacting lives.

Education was always important to Mary Wagner. The woman from Brooklyn, N.Y., became one of the first graduates at Brooklyn College. She went on to grow her family of nine children and impress upon them the value of an education.

Dr. Joe Wagner said he always appreciated his mother's pioneering spirit. He and his wife, Joanie, both Kent State alumni, established the **Mary E. Wagner Memorial Scholarship** in honor of his late mother in 2006.

"She was an educator. There was nothing more important to my mother and my father than the education of their nine children," said Wagner, who taught English at Kent State Stark for more than 20 years.

The Wagners have met some of the scholarship's recipients over the past 10 years. The couple is pleased to give back. "We've had a lot of experience in our family with higher education at many levels," Wagner said. "My experience with Kent State Stark is just so positive. The campus truly offers the very best of higher education."

Dr. Joseph Cumo has had a similar experience at Kent State Stark as part of its Senior Guest Program.



"I am so impressed with the faculty teaching and the students studying, that I wanted to, in some way, express my appreciation and gratitude," Cumo said, "but also I wanted to emphasize the great opportunities for students in our area at our regional campus."

Cumo, a retired area educator and Kent State University alumnus, said he is honored to offer a new scholarship to students majoring in mathematics or the sciences at Kent State Stark.

The 2017-2018 school year marks the first time a student will receive the **Joseph and Shirley Cumo Endowed Scholarship**, which Cumo established in 2016 to honor his late wife.

"Shirley was an educator. She was a reading specialist and an excellent teacher. She, too, dedicated her life to education," said Cumo. "Our sons and our grandchildren have received numerous scholarships and grants, and it is all part of the process to give back and make sure our future is in good hands with educated leaders."

"This is our way of saying thank you."

## 'No Greater Reward'

Alicia Pieper began teaching at Kent State Stark in 1968.

She and her husband, John, established the **Alicia and John Pieper Endowed Scholarship** for Family and Consumer Studies in 2006 to assist students at the campus. One year prior, Alicia's mother, Thelma Uber, established the **Hal and Thelma Uber Endowed Scholarship**. The scholarship assists Kent State Stark students taking music courses.

"My husband and I were in education, and we felt pretty blessed," Pieper said. "We felt we could do it. It's that pay-it-forward mentality. Kent State Stark is a community where we do know each other, so there is a rich closeness."

"We know the students. We know they are working so hard to be in school and so many of them are trying to pay their own way," she continued. "Hopefully, they are learning great things. That's the goal and to be blessed to do something they really love."

Pieper said both scholarships pay tribute to the importance of education, adding: "When you think of your own life and how important your own education is, and if you can help others in their pursuit of higher education, there's no greater reward."

  
**TO DONATE TO ANY  
SCHOLARSHIP, OR FOR  
INFORMATION ABOUT HOW  
YOU CAN CREATE YOUR  
OWN SCHOLARSHIP:**

Contact Karen Romas,  
director of advancement, at 330-244-3225  
or [kromas@kent.edu](mailto:kromas@kent.edu).

**SCHOLARSHIP DONORS WHO ARE PAST EDUCATORS CONNECT WITH KENT STATE STARK IN A UNIQUE WAY. THEIR TIES TO THE CAMPUS CONTINUE BEYOND RETIREMENT, IMPACTING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS. ALONG WITH THE EDUCATORS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS STORY, OTHER DONORS INCLUDE:**

### DR. WILLIAM G. AND MARY LOUISE BITTLE VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. William G. Bittle and his wife, Mary Louise, established the Dr. William G. and Mary Louise Bittle Veterans Scholarship in 2007 to assist Kent State Stark students who are military veterans. Bittle, a veteran himself, received his Ph.D. from Kent State and taught history at Kent State East Liverpool and Kent State Stark from 1975-2004. He served as Kent State Stark dean from 1981-2004.

### PATRICIA AND VICTOR BERARDI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Victor Berardi, a business professor at Kent State Stark, established the Patricia and Victor Berardi Endowed Scholarship in 2006 to assist students majoring in business management at Kent State Stark. Berardi received his Ph.D. at Kent State in 1998.

### MICHAEL AND LYNNE DRAGOMIER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The late Michael Dragomier, a Kent State alumnus (1972, B.A.; 1994, M.S.) and an associate professor at Kent State in the College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology, along with his wife, Lynne, also an alumna of Kent State (1972, B.A.), established the Dragomier Endowed Scholarship in 2007. The scholarship assists Kent State Stark students.

### EDNA E. HUNTER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Charles D. Hunter, a Kent State alumnus (1967, M.A.) and an emeritus professor of technology, established the Edna E. Hunter Memorial Endowed Scholarship in 1999 in honor of his late mother. This scholarship assists Kent State Stark students majoring in early or middle childhood education.

### JOANNE AND SAM MALENE SCHOLARSHIP

Joanne Malene, a Kent State alumna, received her bachelor's degree in 2000 and her master's degree in 2001 from the College of Communication and Information. Joanne also taught at Kent State Stark for eight years. The Malenes created the Joanne and Sam Malene Scholarship at Kent State Stark in 2016 to support journalism, English or history students.

### INGA MULLEN SCHOLARSHIP

Inga Mullen taught German and French at Kent State Stark for many years. The Inga Mullen Scholarship was established in 1998 by her husband, William, following her death. This scholarship supports students enrolled in German or French courses at Kent State Stark.

### KENDALL WARD MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The family of Kendall Ward established the Kendall Ward Memorial Endowed Scholarship in 2008 in memory of Ward. The scholarship assists Kent State Stark students with a hearing, speech or language disability, or students enrolling in courses toward degrees in speech pathology and audiology, deaf education or educational interpretation. Ward was a Kent State alumnus (1953, B.S.; 1963, M.A.), and a retired professor and associate dean of Kent State Stark.

### DR. KENNETH R. WULFF ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Kenneth R. Wulff taught education at Kent State Stark before he retired. His son, Scott Wulff, established the Dr. Kenneth R. Wulff Endowed Scholarship in 2006 in honor of his father to assist Kent State Stark students majoring in early or middle childhood education.

# THE CORPORATE UNIVERSITY

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN TRAINING EMPLOYEES AND ACCOMPLISHING BUSINESS GOALS

## **Why choose the Corporate University? Just ask Kenan Advantage Group.**

"The Corporate University has the knowledge, skills and resources needed to offer quality training and development programs. Their facilitators provide highly interactive workshops that incorporate the use of real-life scenarios based on business and personal experiences. Small group exercises and discussions allow participants to interact and learn from each other.

"The Corporate University also provides measurement and evaluation services to gather data on the effectiveness of a program based on learner reaction, increase in knowledge/skills and ability to apply on the job. We are currently working with the Corporate University on developing a second evaluation form to measure behavior changes. This valuable data will be used to confirm program success, training impact and support for continued program funding.

"If your company is faced with the challenges of limited funding and resources to support your learning and development needs, the Corporate University's program offerings and services can help you expedite the implementation of quality development programs at a reasonable cost."

*Teresa L. Pitts, PMP, Learning &  
Development Manager at the  
Kenan Advantage Group*

**FAITH SHEAFFER-POLEN** knows an atmosphere of harmony is the fuel that propels businesses to the next level.

Without it, organizations are stuck in neutral.

Kent State University at Stark's Corporate University helps hundreds of area businesses and organizations from all industries shift into drive through organizational and professional development training.

"A simple way to understand what we do is to think of us like a matchmaking service," said Sheaffer-Polen, director of the Corporate University. "We conduct needs analysis and help identify gaps in development, match subject matter experts with those gaps, create relevant customized training solutions and bring the client and training programs together to build a strong, long-term relationship."

At the Corporate University, global resources are coupled with personalized attention. The result: custom programming and training plans that improve a business or organization's performance where it is needed most.

At Kenan Advantage Group in North Canton, the Corporate University's customized training plans have improved performance metrics at the tank truck transporter and logistics provider.

"Partnering with the Corporate University allowed us to quickly build a strategic plan for the development of current and up-and-coming leaders in the company," said Teresa L. Pitts, learning and development manager at the Kenan Advantage Group. "The Corporate University's professional staff and faculty provided us access to subject matter experts in leadership development and, oftentimes, practical business experience.



"As a result, we could jump-start our development program and meet our business needs with high-quality training, facilitated by those educated in adult-learning methodologies and the delivery of highly engaging and impactful training."

Studies show companies such as Kenan that invest in their employees via training have better-engaged employees and, overall, a more cohesive environment.

Marshall Hill, research coordinator at the Corporate University, said impactful training is critical.

"First, you have preparation before training," he explained. "A manager should discuss what the employee will learn during training and how the organization wants to use what is learned. The Corporate University studies behavior before and after training through the completion of a training impact survey.

"We want to see how the training impacts people in the workplace, and we give them tools to prepare goals. It's all about using smart goals to take the training back to work."

Pitts said Kenan Advantage was so pleased with the training results, a new full-time position was established within the company – hers. As the learning and development manager, Pitts works directly with the Corporate University to expand a Kenan associate's learning experience outside of the workshops and continue to measure training outcomes and impacts.

"The measurement and evaluation tools used by the Corporate University provided us with feedback and data needed to build our business case for greater/stronger leadership sponsorship," Pitts explained. "(It also provided) resources and learning activities to support associates in the continued practice and development of behavioral changes identified in post-training action plans."

Hill added, the Corporate University connector between training and accomplishing goals is not a 'one-and-done process.'

"It is an imperative endeavor," he said. "We want the strategic goals to match the company's. We want to be able to adjust things as we go and be flexible to create the best training impact we can. Follow-up and follow-through are important for true culture shift and change to occur.

"Without that, the vehicle stalls."

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

CHANGE MANAGEMENT | COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION | EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE | EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT | HUMAN RESOURCES | INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM PERFORMANCE | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING | LEAN SIX SIGMA | MEETING FACILITATION | ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE | PROJECT MANAGEMENT | SALES AND MARKETING | STRATEGIC PLANNING | SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING



**Faith Sheaffer-Polen**, director of the Corporate University, manages the personnel and operations of the department. She also oversees the Small Business Development Center, a nonprofit organization hosted by Kent State Stark.

A certified business coach, Sheaffer-Polen is skilled in one-on-one career counseling, group facilitation and business development.



**Marshall Hill**, research coordinator at the Corporate University, develops and delivers customized surveys, research and consulting services to provide organizations with the information they need to make data-driven decisions.

Hill is skilled in utilizing the latest research technologies in survey development, deployment, data collection and analysis in the design and completion of research projects.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Corporate University provides highly experienced and credentialed subject-matter experts, competitive pricing, state-of-the-art facilities, convenient locations, quick response and exceptional quality to help organizations bridge the gap between training employees and accomplishing business goals.

Contact the Corporate University today for a complimentary employee survey. For more information, visit: [www.kent.edu/stark/cucc/corporate-university](http://www.kent.edu/stark/cucc/corporate-university).





## SMALL BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS GET BIG START

WITH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

It starts with an idea. And most would-be small business owners have plenty of those. It is what they don't possess that the Ohio Small Business Development Center staff at Kent State University at Stark can help them obtain: the know-how to take their concept and make it a reality.

Victor Pavona, director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and his team help small businesses launch each year through a series of workshops and consultation sessions. "We have streamlined our educational programs to what we are really good at doing, and that's small business orientation," Pavona said. "The idea is to walk them through what they need to do to start a business."

What does it take to start a new business? "The number one thing that would-be small business owners need that they often do not know they need is the all-important, necessary business plan," Pavona explained. "You cannot start a business without a business plan. That's your key to everything, including financing your business."

### the stats:

- ON AVERAGE, THE SBDC WORKS WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ANNUALLY.
- OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE SBDC HAS, ON AVERAGE, HELPED LAUNCH 12 COMPANIES EACH YEAR.
- APPROXIMATELY \$5 MILLION IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT IS RETURNED ANNUALLY TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, THANKS TO SBDC-AIDED START-UP COMPANIES.
- 40 TO 60 JOBS ARE CREATED EACH YEAR.

## FIND OUT MORE

If you are a prospective business owner, sign up for the Small Business Orientation and find out more about the Ohio Small Business Development Center by visiting [www.kent.edu/kent/ohio-small-business-development-center-kent-state-stark-osbdc](http://www.kent.edu/kent/ohio-small-business-development-center-kent-state-stark-osbdc). Cost of the program includes a one-time materials fee of \$10. All follow-up business counseling and consultation sessions are without charge, thanks to grants from federal and state government offices and matching funds provided by Kent State Stark.

| Pictured at top |

Small Business Development Center Director Victor Pavona and client Krista M. Gesaman, Aeration Septic, Inc. CEO, discuss her business plan.

# SCORE SETS THE BAR HIGH

CANTON CHAPTER'S MISSION:  
PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Nestled in the Conference Center at Kent State University at Stark, the Canton Chapter of SCORE provides free and confidential business advice and counseling tailored to meet the needs of small businesses and nonprofits.

SCORE also offers workshops for both startup and in-business entrepreneurs. The Canton SCORE chapter, named National Chapter of the Year in 2016, boasts more than 40 mentors with decades of experience. "SCORE is what we call a resource partner of the Small Business Administration," explained Ed Messerly, chairman of the Canton organization, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. "We are a very active, growing chapter, with volunteers from a variety of backgrounds," said Messerly. "Our volunteers have experience in just about every business discipline. Some of our folks come from very high corporate jobs, so we have a lot of talent."

SCORE volunteers understand what it takes to start, run and grow small businesses and nonprofits, Messerly added. SCORE mentors and representatives from the local business community conduct a variety of regularly scheduled, educational workshops that provide valuable information and techniques necessary for establishing and managing a successful business.

Much of SCORE's local support comes from Kent State Stark, the Stark Community Foundation and the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation. SCORE also participates in the Small Business Growth Network with the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Our chapter would not have enjoyed the success we've had without the local support we receive," Messerly said. "We are especially grateful to Kent State Stark for the generous 'in kind' donation of excellent office space and meeting facilities in the Conference Center."

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CANTON SCORE

Counselors provide face-to-face sessions that are client confidential and free of charge. Canton SCORE conducts more than 60 workshops throughout the year on topics such as: Cash Management | Business Basics | Social Media and Email Marketing | QuickBooks Nonprofits | Grant Writing

**Make an appointment today.** If you have any questions about starting a business, running a current business or about SCORE, call 330-244-3280. Visit the Canton SCORE chapter online at [canton.score.org](http://canton.score.org).



# Grant Spotlight

Grant Funding Gives Life to Kent State University at Stark Initiatives

*Kent State University at Stark faculty always look forward. They are not limited by discipline, often working interdepartmentally to achieve results that will benefit students. Faculty aim for a high level of professional development, which in turn, aids classroom instruction. With the help of grants, faculty are reaching further to benefit students in the unique, collaborative fashion that is undeniably present at Kent State Stark.*

## Choose Ohio First STEMM Scholarship Grants \$78,000 (first year of two-year grant)

New to Kent State University at Stark are Choose Ohio First STEMM Scholarship grants – thanks to the efforts of A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs; Chrissy Kauth, R.N., Ph.D., professor of nursing; and Greg Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences.

“What I wanted was to give the opportunity to first-time freshmen to get into the STEM or nursing fields,” said Kasturiarachi, principal investigator of the grant. “We are hoping to attract highly motivated students with this substantial scholarship.”

Smith said the Choose Ohio First grants will be potentially available to students throughout the duration of their degree studies as long as they demonstrate strong academic performance. “The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) portion of the scholarship will offer up to \$4,200 annually for students in biology, chemistry, computer science, geology and mathematics,” Smith said. “We are looking for students interested in STEM fields or the medical field.”

The Choose Ohio First program is focused on in-demand fields throughout Ohio. Some examples include environmental sciences, nursing and computer sciences.

“This is the first time we’ve had a Choose Ohio First grant,” Smith said, “so we are pretty excited about it. The scholarship aligns with the mission of Kent State Stark and the campus’ commitment to the sciences and nursing. We have the resources to educate and train STEM and nursing students to be successful in their careers.”

Funding for scholarships also was received for nursing students participating in the R.N. to B.S.N. program between Stark State College and Kent State Stark.

The R.N. to B.S.N. program provides Stark State students the opportunity to complete a B.S.N. following their seamless transition from their two-year studies to a four-year degree at Kent State University. The bridge coursework can be completed at Kent State Stark while the B.S.N. program will be fully online through the College of Nursing at Kent State University.

“We want to continue to develop the relationship with Stark State and provide that seamless transition. Plus, hospitals are requiring a more educated workforce,” Kauth explained. “Many registered nurses that hire in are contractually required to complete their B.S.N. within three to five years, so the demand is going to continue to be high.”

A second exciting component of the Choose Ohio First grants involves partnering with the Kent Campus and Aultman Hospital to give eight traditional undergraduate students the opportunity to be involved with Linked into Practice (LIP). LIP enhances students’ understanding and aids integration into the workforce. As a result, all students’ clinical work will be completed at Aultman.

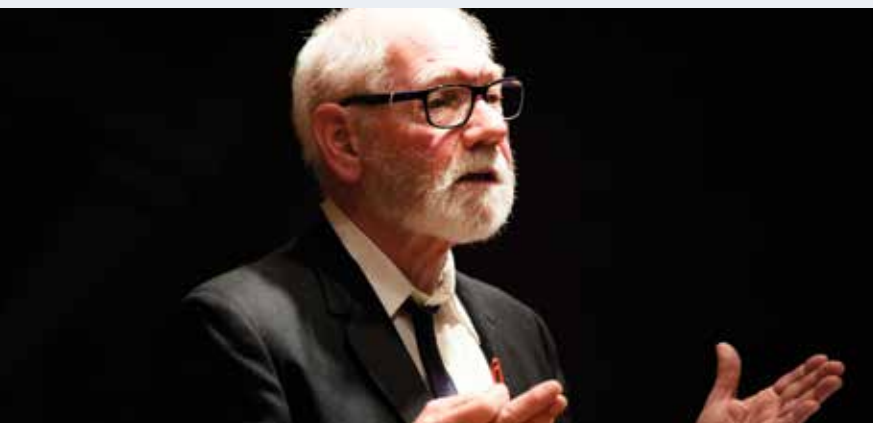
“We are really trying to bridge that education-to-practice gap and link up our students with mentors,” said Kauth. “Aultman has gone above and beyond to be supportive.”



## Grant Spotlight



Brian Chopko, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology



Robert Miltner, Ph.D., professor of English

## Creative Writing Assignment – \$6,500

It's an exciting opportunity to be granted both the time and the funding to pursue a creative endeavor. And, this summer, Robert Miltner, Ph.D., professor of English, earned a creative activity appointment to focus on his work, *Electric Boulevard: A Book of Creative Nonfiction*.

Not unlike the Electric Boulevard where he grew up, Miltner is taking a new direction. The book will be his first in the creative nonfiction genre and centers around a place: his hometown of Avon Lake, Ohio.

"I grew up near Lake Erie and Electric Boulevard was a street that used to be part of a trolley line you could take into Cleveland," Miltner explained.

When the trolley no longer was in operation, Electric Boulevard changed and was used in a different way. Less traveled by commercial vehicles, the backstreet road became well known to neighborhood children who centered their travels around it. "We would ride our bikes up and down," Miltner recalled. "Electric Boulevard is really a unique name that encapsulates how you progress and change. This book will include memoirs that explore the place where I grew up; some catch the history of it."

Miltner's anthology also will include lyrical sketches, including one described as "a sunrise moment in the Cuyahoga Valley."

## Research on Post-Trauma Adjustment Among Police Officers

Examining traumatic stress that police officers face every day and the role such stress plays in the development of physical and mental health issues is the focus of a longitudinal study tracking post-trauma adjustment among police officers.

"We are going to track police cadets over time," explained Brian Chopko, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology. "Our objective is to get a baseline while they are in the police academy, looking at mainly psychological and physical health and how those are affected by post-traumatic stress. Another focus of our study is what types of things protect police officers from developing health issues. What are the protective factors and the risk factors?"

Chopko's criminology and justice studies undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in the research. "At a minimum, we would love to track the police cadets over the next 15 to 20 years," Chopko said. "Police trauma is very complex because of the many different types of traumatic events a police officer can experience."

"We are looking at 34 types of events that are potentially traumatic," Chopko added. "Police officers differ in that they are exposed to many different types of traumatic stress repeatedly."

Chopko, a licensed psychotherapist and professional counselor, also is a former police officer. Chopko will complete the baseline study of police cadets this fall.



## Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Excellence Award – \$5,000

Andrea Myers, M.F.A., assistant professor of art, was awarded the Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Excellence Award in May.

The merit-based award was judged utilizing a blind-jury process; as a result, the state honor is known as a prestigious award.

Myers said her submission included nonrepresentational three-dimensional sculptures and flat images created from wood, paper and fabric. She also described her creations through a written presentation.

"Growing up, I was always drawing and working with my hands. I did a lot of creative writing, too," Myers said. "When I entered college, I started taking more art studio classes. There's a strong correlation between creative writing and art making."

The award will allow Myers, of Wooster, to delve into more projects. "All of my projects help inform my teaching and being able to relate to students in creative problem solving," she said. "I'm doing new works right alongside them. I understand the challenges."



Andrea Myers, M.F.A.,  
assistant professor of art





Marie Gasper-Hulvat, Ph.D.,  
assistant professor of art

## Historical Role-Playing Game – \$9,000

Immersive learning is Dr. Marie Gasper-Hulvat's goal. That led the assistant professor of art to write "Guerrilla Girls in our Midst: A Reacting to the Past Game."

"Creating these historical role-playing games are part of a growing movement in higher education pedagogy," said Gasper-Hulvat. "We establish scenarios in which students make historical choices and see how history could be impacted by those choices. And then at the end, we explain how it actually happened in history."

"Guerrilla Girls" is an elaborate game that requires extensive research by students to understand their roles and intensive engagement playing those roles through speeches and debates inside the classroom. The game is based in New York City in the 1980s and centers around a group of anonymous female artists known as the Guerrilla Girls.

"During the Reagan era, economic forces turned the art market into one shaped heavily by collectors interested in artworks as commodities," Gasper-Hulvat explained. "The Guerrilla Girls used statistics to examine the underrepresented status of women artists in this market and in the art world as a whole, especially at museums like the Met and the Museum of Modern Art." She continued, "We don't always think about the fact that the 1980s, for our students, is ancient history. A lot of artistic and economic problems we deal with today – so much of that finds its roots in the 1980s."

Gasper-Hulvat wrote the first version of "Guerrilla Girls" in 2012. At a game development conference in 2015, rigorous peer review inspired extensive revisions. "This grant helps me rewrite the game and incorporate all of those revisions. The ultimate goal is to publish a textbook," she said. "There is a lot of demand for this type of curriculum, and overall, for enhancing engagement in the classroom."



## New Course on Lifestyles of Medieval and Early Modern Europeans – \$9,000

Working interdepartmentally, Lindsay Starkey, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, and Ann Martinez, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, are creating a new course that examines the lifestyles of Medieval and Early Modern Europeans.

"Lifestyles of Medieval and Early Modern Europeans: An Introduction to Material Culture Studies" is an anticipated honors course to be offered in 2018. Starkey and Martinez are working together this fall to develop the course syllabus.

"Students are very interested in the period due to 'Game of Thrones' and other shows in today's popular culture," explained Starkey. "So, the interest is there. But once they enroll in a course, they can find the period exceptionally foreign which can cut off the engagement. This course will help facilitate student interaction with the period."

One way Starkey and Martinez propose to enhance engagement is taking students to the Cleveland Museum of Art where a large collection of arms and armor will make battle gear tangible for students.

"Lindsay will talk about armor and how that affected history," Martinez explained. "Some battles were won or lost based on armor. I'll discuss the literature of the time such as 'Le Morte de Arthur,' or 'The Death of King Arthur.' In medieval literature, usually when authors describe a character getting geared up in armor, they're telling the reader, 'Look! Here is our hero.'"

Martinez and Starkey will co-teach the discussion-based course. "I think we are both very lucky," Martinez said, "having someone on campus at the same time who is excited to offer students a course that can get them settled into a distant period."



Top: Lindsay Starkey, Ph.D., assistant professor of history

Bottom: Ann Martinez, Ph.D., assistant professor of English

## Kent State University at Stark Brings the World to Stark County

**BUILDING BRIDGES TO OTHER CULTURES** is a way of life at Kent State University at Stark – and not just during the fall and spring.



Kent State Stark's Second Annual Global Gateway Day in June provided local families a fun summer afternoon filled with cultural performances, international food samplings, global games and activities for all ages.

"A key initiative of Kent State Stark is to expand opportunities for students and to Stark County families to engage in global citizenship and participate in cultural events through our campus," said Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., dean of Kent State Stark. "This is the type of event that opens you up to new ways of thinking and teaches you about the world beyond your own."

Activities included cultural performances such as a Chinese Dragon Dance, salsa dancing and an African drum and dance interactive performance and workshop with Kent State University's own African Ensemble; sampling foods from the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, West Africa and Southeast Asia; and other fun events like participating in an Origami station, getting Henna tattoos, viewing Kent State Stark's study abroad photo gallery and having pictures taken in a world landmark photo booth.

## ▲ FIRST-EVER MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK SPOTLIGHTS FOUR DISTINCT COUNTRIES

The world came to our doorstep as Kent State University at Stark hosted its first-ever Multicultural Festival April 12-13 at the Campus Center. Students, faculty and staff enjoyed the international sights, sounds and flavors of Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran and Nepal.

A collaboration between the Diversity Committee, the Office of Multicultural Initiatives and the Office of Global Initiatives, the Multicultural Festival provided the campus community with the opportunity to explore and celebrate the culture, food, music and art of these four very different countries that have a daily impact on world events.



"The event is meant to encourage and celebrate diversity among students, faculty and staff," said Sarah Schmidt, outreach program coordinator for the Office of Global Initiatives. "We hope to make this an annual event, recognizing different countries each year."







## Inaugural Run The World 5K at Kent State Stark Benefits Students Who Want To Study Abroad

Studying abroad is one of the most exciting, invigorating and challenging things you can do while in college.

For two Kent State University at Stark students, the chance to study overseas came closer to reality in April. Nursing major Megan Stocker of Louisville and Zachary Cino of Hartville, who is majoring in technical and applied studies with a concentration in computer technology, won \$1,000 each in scholarships to study abroad. They won as a result of their participation in the Run the World 5K Stark on April 15 that brought more than 150 runners to the inaugural event.



Kristin Stasiowski, Dean Denise Seachrist and Sarah Schmidt

From left to right: Sarah Schmidt, Bathi Kasturiarachi, Denise Seachrist and Chris Post congratulate student Zachary Cino (center) on winning a \$1,000 scholarship to study abroad



"Studying abroad is a life-changing and enriching experience. This is one of the many reasons we continue to build our global education program," said Kent State Stark Dean Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D. "More than 120 of our students have studied abroad in the last two years, and we expect that number to grow. We are thrilled Megan and Zachary are taking part in this experience."

The inaugural Run the World 5K Stark was organized by Kent State Stark, colleges within Kent State University and the Office of Global Education to raise money for study abroad student scholarships. Run the World has now awarded a total of \$21,000 in scholarship funds to students since its inception three years ago on Kent State University's campus.

## STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Each year Kent State University at Stark recognizes outstanding staff members as nominated by their peers. One award is given to an outstanding staff member, and another is given to an outstanding administrator. **Stephanie Tarver** (left) and **Kristin Wray** (right), both of Student Services, are congratulated by **Dean Denise A. Seachrist** (center) on being named recipients of the outstanding staff member and outstanding administrator awards, respectively, for the 2016-17 academic year.



# by FACULTY

**Loretta Aller**, College of Nursing associate lecturer, presented "Exploring the Pre-Novice Using Grounded Theory" at the Grounded Theory Conference in Mill Valley, Calif., June 20-23, 2017.

**Sebastian Birch**, associate professor of music, performed "Detectio Sonoris for Flute and Piano" at CMS NorthEast at State University of New York (SUNY) Plattsburgh, N.Y., March 16-19, 2017.

**Andrew Burns**, professor of chemistry, presented "Real-life Examples as Applied to General Chemistry" at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Francisco, April 1-5, 2017.

**Daniel Castaneda**, associate professor of Spanish, presented "A Study of Spanish students' use of a Game-Like Application on a Mobile Device to Improve Verb Conjugations" at the June 2017 Conference of the International Association for Language Learning Technology (IALLT), Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

**Brian Chopko**, associate professor of sociology, presented "Utilizing the Critical Incident History Questionnaire to Measure Trauma Frequency and Severity Among Police Officers" at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Kansas City, Mo., March 22-26, 2017.

**Alan Chu**, assistant professor of English, presented "Making Secrets Public: Speaking Uncomfortable Truths, Dramatic Tension, and Fearless Speaking" at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in San Diego, April 10-16, 2017.

**Julie Cremeans-Smith**, associate professor of psychology, presented "Anxiety Sensitivity Moderates the Relationship Between Stress and Physical Health" at the American Psychosomatic Society Conference in Seville, Spain, March 14-19, 2017.

**Jennifer Cunningham**, assistant professor of English, presented "Cultivating Online Pedagogy: Feedback, Workshops and Experiential Learning in First Year Composition" and "Expanding Research Voices in Online Writing Instruction: Developing Plans, Building Projects, Finding Collaborators" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Portland, Ore., March 14-19, 2017; "Moving Within and Beyond the LMS: Opportunities and Challenges in the Online Writing Classroom" at the New Explorations in Teaching (NEXT) Conference, Akron, Ohio, February 24, 2017.

**Amy Damrow**, assistant professor of education, presented "Preparing Preservice Teachers Through Dialogue Across Distance and Difference" at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Antonio, April 27-30, 2017.

**Martha Daniels**, English department lecturer, presented "Student Success and Retention: Focusing on the Ends of the Under-preparedness Continuum" at the Teaching Academic Survival and Success Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., March 19-21, 2017.

**Lucas Engelhardt**, associate professor of economics, presented "Dispelling the Winner's Curse: The Role of the Financial System" at the Austrian Economic Research Conference in Auburn, Ala., March 9-12, 2017.

**Mary Gallagher**, assistant professor of sociology, presented "Contextual Moderators of Identity Discrepancy" at the North Central Sociological Association Conference in Indianapolis, March 29-April 2, 2017.

**Kim Garchar**, associate professor of philosophy, served as program co-chair and discussant for a session on "Ethics in American Philosophy" at the annual meeting for the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Birmingham, Ala., March 15-19, 2017.

**Marie Gasper-Hulvat**, assistant professor of art, served in the capacity as treasurer of the Space Between Society during the organization's conference in Oxford, Miss., May 24-27, 2017; published two scholarly articles, "Material Reenactment: The Missing and Replaced Paintings of Malevich's 1929 Retrospective", *Il Capitale Culturale. Studies on the Value of Cultural Heritage*, no. 14 (2016): 347-368.; and "On Finishing Prelim Exams and Beginning the Dissertation Quest" in *Reflections on Academic Lives: Identities, Struggles, and Triumphs in Graduate School and Beyond*, editors Staci Zavattaro and Shannon Orr (New York: Palgrave Macmillan) 59-60. Presented "A lot of labor, primarily peasants': Kazimir Malevich's Autobiographies" Space Between Society, Oxford, Miss., May 25-27, 2017.

**Robert Hamilton IV**, associate professor of biological sciences, co-presented "Restoration of Sippo Lake and Cottonwood Wetlands" at the Northeast Ohio Watershed Environment Association 2017 Watershed Seminar, April 5, 2017, at Sippo Lake, Perry Township, Ohio. Also co-taught an instream workshop, "Roosevelt High School Stream Assessment Workshop at Hiram College", which included teaching in the water and collecting, identifying and quantifying benthic macroinvertebrates (stream insects), Hiram College Field Station, Hiram, Ohio, May 12, 2017.

**Leslie Heaphy**, associate professor of history, attended conferences, presented awards and attended a board meeting serving in the role of vice president during the Analytics, Nine and SABR Conference in Phoenix, March 5-13, 2017.

**Erin Hollenbaugh**, associate professor of communication studies, published "Getting your feet wet: Graduate students and the Ohio Communication Association", *Ohio Communication Journal*, 54, 18-22, 2016; presented a poster, "An Exploratory Study of Young Adults' Privacy Management in the Use of Multiple Social Networking Sites" at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, November 2016 (research with undergraduate co-author); participated in discussion panels, "#NewFacultyLifeHacks: Professional development challenges in differing types of institutions" and "Roots and branches of OCA: Reflecting on the past, present and future of the Ohio Communication Association," co-presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Communication Association, Ashland, Ohio.

**Eldy Lazaroff**, senior lecturer in nursing, presented "Facebook as a Teaching Strategy in the Nursing Classroom" at the National League for Nursing Education in Orlando, Fla., Sept. 21-24, 2016.

**Chih-Ling Liou**, assistant professor of human development and family studies, presented "Perception of Aging Among College Students: A Comparative Study Between U.S. and Taiwan" at the 43rd Annual Educational Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education in Miami, March 8-11, 2017; co-authored "A Case Study of Exploring Chinese Elders' Social Support within a Chinese Church Community in the United States" in the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, 31, 293-309. Also presented a paper, "What can we learn from them? Best practices from dementia day care in Taiwan" at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, November 2016.

**Keith Lloyd**, associate professor of English, presented "Psyche, Suasion Style: Comparative Rhetoric and the Mind" at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference in Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017.

**Jack McWhorter**, associate professor of art, presented "Curator Report: Slow Formations" at The Painting Center in New York City, April 26, 2017. Report detailed preparations for solo exhibition May 25-June 17, 2017. Also presented in "Life on Earth" group exhibition, WAH Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., May 20-June 11, and "Big Idea: Invitational Exhibition" at The Painting Center in New York City, Feb. 1, 2017.



**Robert Miltner**, professor of English, served as co-editor of “Community Boundaries and Border Crossings: Critical Essays on Ethnic Women Writers”, Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2016; “Brief Creative Writing” College English Association of Ohio Spring Conference at Xavier University, Cincinnati, April 22, 2017; “Electric Boulevard: A Book of Creative Nonfiction”: KSU RAGS Creative Activity Summer Grant, 2017; “Soldier Child” (poem) and “Embracing the Bodhisattvas” (poem) in *Concise Journal* (March 2017); “Arrival and Departure” (Creative Nonfiction) in Panoply 6 (Spring 2017); “Haibun with Birds” (Creative Nonfiction) in Midway Journal 11 (April 2017); “Shadows of Crows Crossing Over” (Creative Nonfiction) in Pithead Chapel 6:2 (February 2017); wrote lyrics for “Three Songs from Orpheus & Echo” for the Kent State Stark Faculty Composition Recital: New work by Sebastian Anthony Birch, associate professor of music at Kent State Stark, April 17, 2017.

**Deepraj Mukherjee**, assistant professor of economics, presented “Tata Motors’ Acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover: Entry Motives of the Emerging Country Multinationals” at the MBAA International Conference in Chicago, March 22-26, 2017. Presented “Can Financial Development Enhance Information Transparency?” at Contemporary Issues in Development Economics Conference in Kolkata, India, Dec. 20, 2016-Jan. 2, 2017.

**Andrea Myers**, assistant professor of art, exhibited multiple works at McCormick Gallery as part of the internationally recognized art fair Art Miami in Miami, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2016. Completed an artist residency at The Studios at MassMOCA in North Adams, Mass., March 24-30, 2017.

**Mark Nowakowski**, assistant professor of music, presented two pre-concert lectures and performed “Sub Tuum Praesidium: A new work for ancient instruments” at Three Notch’d Road: Flower of Paradise in Charlottesville, Va., Feb. 2-5, 2017.

**Chris Post**, associate professor of geography, presented “Thoughts on Affective Commemoration from a Pedagogical Perspective” and participated in a panel on digital-mapping technology in the classroom at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Boston, April 4-9, 2017.

**Gwendolyn Purifoy**, assistant professor of sociology, presented “Blackness in a Globalized World” at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, March 29-April 2, 2017.

**Janet Reed**, College of Nursing lecturer, presented “Facebook as a Teaching Strategy in the Nursing Classroom” at the National League for Nursing Education Summit in Orlando, Fla., Sept. 21-24, 2016.

**Mary Rooks**, assistant professor of English, presented “An ‘Other’ Moral Matter: Nurturing Vice in the Works of Charlotte Dacre and Sarah Fielding” at the South-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference in Salt Lake City, Feb. 16-18, 2017.

**Oliver Ruff**, assistant professor of mathematical sciences, presented “Higher-dimensional Darboux Transformations” at the American Mathematical Society Spring Central Sectional Meeting at Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., March 31-April 3, 2017.

**Carol A. Savery**, communication studies adjunct instructor, co-published “How older adults and their families perceive family talk about aging-related EOL issues: A Dialectical Analysis” in *Behavioral Sciences*, February 2017.

**Carrie Schweitzer**, professor of geology, completed field work in El Calafate, Argentina, March 17-31, 2017.

**Denise A. Seachrist**, dean and chief administrative officer and professor of musicology-ethnomusicology presented “Snow Hill: In the Shadows of the Ephrata Cloister” at the 127th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania German Society in Greencastle Pa., June 3, 2017.

**J. Brad Shepherd**, assistant professor of psychology, presented “LGBTQ Aging and Mental Health: Qualitative Differences Between Midlife and Old Age?” at the American Counseling Association Conference and Expo in San Francisco, March 16-20, 2017.

**Paul Sommer**, assistant professor of communication studies, served on the discussion panel “Best Practices and Ideas for Creating New Courses and Assignments in Organizational Communication” at the Central States Communication Association in Minneapolis, March 15-18, 2017.

**Lindsay Starkey**, assistant professor of history, published three scholarly journal articles: “Gangrene or Cancer? Sixteenth-Century Medical Texts and the Decay of the Body of the Church in Jean Calvin’s Exegesis of 2 Timothy 2:17” in *Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Reforme* vol. 39 no. 3 (summer 2016): 111-132; “Let the Waters Be Gathered Together and Let the Dry Land Appear:” Sixteenth-Century Exegeses of Genesis 1:9-10 in Context, *Explorations in Renaissance Culture* vol. 42 no. 2 (December 2016): 165-189; and “Why Sea Monsters Surround the Northern Lands: Olaus Magnus’ Conception of Water”, *Preternature: Critical and Historical Studies on the Preternatural*, vol. 6 no. 1 (winter 2017): 37-68.

**Don Thacker**, marketing department associate lecturer, presented in a roundtable discussion on the article, “Preparing your sale course for Gen Z” at the National Conference in Sales Management / Pi Sigma Epsilon Conference in St. Louis, April 17-23, 2017, and at the 2017 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Tiffin University, Tiffin, Ohio, May 16. Served as a coach and judge at the National Collegiate Sales Competition at Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Ga., March 31-April 3, 2017.

**Andrew Turowski**, criminology & justice studies adjunct instructor, wrote “Technology Limitations in Policing (The Reality Is...)” a chapter in the textbook *Law Enforcement and Technology*, published in 2017.

**Haithem Zourrig**, assistant professor of marketing, presented “The Perceived Deceptiveness of Insurance Fraud: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Information Manipulation Theory,” which won two awards including 2017 McGraw-Hill Education Distinguished Paper Award and Best Paper Award in the Global and Cross-Cultural Marketing track at the Association of Collegiate Marketing Educators Conference in Little Rock, Ark., March 7-12, 2017; the paper also received the Best Paper Award in Global and Cross-Cultural Marketing track at the 2016 Society for Marketing Advances (SMA) Conference in Atlanta, Nov. 5-7, 2016; and Best Paper Award at the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences in Las Vegas, March 22-26, 2017; co-published “How Twitter Challenged McDonald’s Japan’s 40-Year Honeymoon with its Customers”, *Research Journal of the Institute for Public Relations* (2017).

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