

# ENCOMPASS



Spring 2017

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK MAGAZINE

## HOMETOWN GROWTH



Celebrating 70 Years!



## **Encompass**

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# MESSAGE *from the* DEAN

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

Over the past 70 years, Kent State University at Stark has made a lasting impression on the community. Not only has our physical presence grown, so has the number of students, academic programs and community partnerships. Last edition, we remembered our humble beginnings as Kent State University Canton – with 681 students at a number of locations from local high schools to an American Legion post. In this issue of *Encompass*, I would like to take a moment to reflect on how far we've come and how the campus will grow in the future.

Today, with 200 beautiful, rolling acres, seven buildings and thousands of students later, Kent State Stark has grown into a supportive, nurturing environment with a commitment to inspire and lead students to incredible outcomes and make a serious impact on the world.

I invite you to read about the journeys of our students, faculty and staff, and how they have achieved their own personal dreams – whether those dreams are about pursuing their degrees, performing compelling research, or spreading pride throughout

our community. I am excited for you to read these stories about how Kent State Stark has evolved into the wonderful campus it is today.

Yes, we have grown in student population over the years – including a record of 5,015 in fall 2016 – as well as expanded our academic choices, faculty expertise, and our multicultural and global offerings. But most impactful is how we have grown in our own hometown.

Even with all of this exciting growth, we never lose sight of our mission – serving students and the Stark County community. I can assure you the best is yet to come from your Hometown University.

On a personal note, my husband, Charlie, our three dogs and I have moved to Stark County. We are thrilled to plant roots in the community we've come to call home.

Kent State Stark has accomplished so much in the last 70 years. On to the next 70!

Warm regards,

Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.





# HOMETOWN PRIDE

**FOR MANY, FALL FRIDAY NIGHTS ARE** synonymous with high school football games. The marching bands, cheerleaders and the community rooting on their team. As part of the hometown education team, Kent State University at Stark partnered with GameDay Vision to 'wrap' local football stadiums to provide a win-win for all involved.

Approached eight years ago with a new marketing concept, Kent State Stark worked with GameDay Vision to provide graphic vinyl wraps or 'bleacher jerseys' featuring each school's colors and mascots, giving the stadiums a dynamic facelift and promoting pride, energy and excitement with the high schools, districts and local communities. Today, Kent State Stark sponsors jerseys at Canton South, Fairless, GlenOak, Jackson, Minerva, North Canton and Perry football stadiums.

"The Bleacher Jersey program is one way Kent State Stark engages with our local education partners," said Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., dean of Kent State Stark. "Not only is it a way to spruce up the football stadiums, it carries a subtle reminder that Kent State Stark is your Hometown University."

GlenOak Athletic Director Scott Garcia concurred with Seachrist's comments and added, "Students from GlenOak gain real-world experience through Kent State Stark as they work toward their goal of becoming college- and career-ready by earning college credits. Additionally, through our community partnership, Plain Local students have taken advantage of numerous opportunities, including guest speakers, college visitations and career exploration."

Whether providing programming or beautiful bleacher wraps at our local schools, Kent State Stark is committed to being an active community team player.



Kee'Auna Cherry

# UNIVERSITY GROWTH

KENT STATE STARK FOSTERS A DYNAMIC,  
VIBRANT LEARNING COMMUNITY



**K**ee'Auna Cherry's aspirations as a child were to be the best she could be, even if it was only to make someone else smile. "If I make someone smile, then I'm doing something right. But," she said, "it was also my dream to obtain a college degree."

Graduating from Kent State University at Stark with a bachelor's degree in communication studies in December 2016, Cherry has discovered the awesome power of a dream because of her experiences here.

"What made me decide to come to Kent State Stark was the atmosphere the campus provided, the passion the professors have for their students, and because of the impact that both my aunt and sister – who are Kent State alumnae – had on my college decision," said Cherry.

But it was the opportunities she had at Kent State Stark that truly helped her grow. "The school helped me to grow by giving me the opportunity to be a part of the communication studies program," she said. "The program had an immense impact on my experiences here. Because of the program and some great mentors along the way, I was able to thrive and aspire to be the best that I could be both professionally and personally. This program opened my eyes to the endless opportunities that are ahead for myself and our future generations. It made me appreciate the value of my community more and more by becoming involved with the campus in many ways."

With a degree in hand and a job in her field, Cherry said she has another dream.

"I always wanted to be a Radio City Rockette – it's still a dream of mine," she said.

So whether someone wants to be a biologist, nurse, musician or a Radio City Rockette, Kent State Stark students have been becoming the best they could be for more than 70 years – visions that capture their hearts, spirits and souls at the deepest level.



# At Kent State Stark, we empower our students to take on the world.

## AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK CHOOSES TO GROW

– not only for the benefit of its students but the community and world as a whole. Some areas of growth, like the expansion of the school's physical campus or increase in faculty numbers, are obvious for all to see. Other growth areas, like the university's globalization or multicultural initiatives, may be less apparent on the surface, but are equally important in fostering the kind of dynamic, vibrant learning community that Kent State Stark continually strives to achieve. Every progression the school undertakes is strategically aligned to meet the ever-changing needs of those it serves – the students.

### Growing in Numbers

In the fall of 1946, Kent State University Canton opened its doors to 681 students, many of whom had just returned from World War II. As years passed and the school grew to become the regional powerhouse that is Kent State University at Stark, ever-increasing enrollment acted as proof that the university was on the right track. By the year 2000, 3,000 students were entrusting their education to Kent State Stark and now, 70 years after it was founded, the campus serves more than 7,000 students year round. A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean of academic affairs, attributes this accomplishment to the exceptional programming and first-rate faculty who form the core of the institution.

“Every employee on this campus plays an integral role in student success,” he said. “Our professors and the programming they create form the core of this university, supported and surrounded by the ‘shell’ of administrative staff ensuring we operate smoothly day in and day out. One cannot exist without the other and we are strong in both areas right now.”

### Growing in Scope

Kent State Stark's degree offerings – much like its student population – have grown exponentially in number and scope over the years. Unlike the early days, the Stark Campus is no longer exclusively a starting point for degree completion at the Kent Campus; students can now start and finish 19 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. And of course, students can still begin coursework for 282 additional bachelor's degree programs available for completion at the Kent Campus, as well.

Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., is marking her first full year as Kent State Stark dean and chief administrative officer. She emphasizes that student and community needs are at the heart of the campus' objectives.

“Serving students and the Stark County community remain at the core of our focus,” Seachrist said. “We have expanded the opportunities available to them locally and globally by an increased focus on international study abroad, multicultural programming and bringing international students to campus. Not only have we enabled our students to go out and travel the world, we continue to bring the rest of the world to them and to Stark County.”



# 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio

## Growing in Expertise

Growth in enrollment and degree offerings necessitated significant growth in the university's faculty, as well. In the past three years, Kent State Stark has added 29 faculty positions – nearly double the rate of typical growth, which sees the school add four or five faculty per year. “Of these 29 new faculty positions, 17 were tenure track and 12 were full-time, non-tenure track, all hired strategically to grow our academic concentration offerings,” said Kasturiarachi.

Kasturiarachi also shows his pride in the fact that the campus has a 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio, making learning a more personal experience for students. There are no large lecture classes on campus. Students know their professors and professors know their students. “Our classes are small, personal and conducive to the type of learning experience that pushes students to become so much more,” he said.



## Growing the Campus

During its formative years, Kent State Stark operated out of numerous locations – including local high schools and an American Legion Post – before settling at its permanent address on Frank Avenue in 1966. Faculty and staff from the ‘early days’ remember a rural campus that housed only one building, what is still Main Hall, until 1971, when the Health and Physical Education Building (now the Conference Center) and the Fine and Professional Arts Building were added. The Learning Resource Center followed soon after in 1976, and it wasn’t until 1999 that the campus further expanded by adding the East Wing onto Main Hall and the Recreation and Wellness Center in 2000. In June 2004, the Campus Center opened, followed most recently by the Science and Nursing Building in 2015 – bringing the total building count to seven. In addition, the first phase of the Fine Arts Building expansion will begin this year.

## Growing Within the Community

Serving Stark County and its surrounding communities has always been of the utmost importance to the university, particularly when it comes to preparing the next generation of college students for higher education. Since 1990, when the college enrolled the inaugural group of high school students in its Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO), Kent State Stark has partnered with area educators to ensure interested students have access to tuition-free college courses. From that time, the program has evolved into College Credit Plus, which allows accredited teachers to deliver college-level courses directly to students in grades 7–12 on high school campuses. In the 2016-17 academic year, 633 high school students were enrolled in the program through Kent State Stark.







One such partner, Fairless High School in Navarre, Ohio, is a shining example of how well College Credit Plus can work. Principal Larry Chambliss, Ph.D., has seen his students' participation grow and thrive in the last few years. He and his colleagues within the school system praise the benefits of the program.

"Our partnership with Kent State Stark has generated some remarkably predictive and equally exciting surprising outcomes," said Chambliss. "We have grown from an average of 50 students involved in the dual credit experience to well over 100 students now in the program. The Kent State Stark instructors are top shelf and our students and their families are the beneficiaries. Our aim is for our students to soar to excellence every day. Our partnership with Kent State Stark is allowing our kids to soar even higher."

Like Fairless, Kasturiarachi has seen College Credit Plus explode at other local high schools.

"The College Credit Plus program has experienced significant growth," said Kasturiarachi. "Between 2014 and 2015 we saw a 150 percent increase in enrollment, followed by an 80 percent increase from 2015 to 2016. This was thanks, in large part, to the grant money we received, nearly double our previous award."

## Growing on a Global Scale

It has always been Kent State Stark's mission to equip students with the tools they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom, preparing them to become productive citizens of their communities. In the 1950s, that meant meeting the rapidly growing need for teachers in the regional community by offering the coursework necessary to quickly and effectively train interested students to enter the profession via the Emergency Cadet Teacher Program.

Now, in 2017, it means preparing students to become effective citizens of a global community.

While the global economy brings with it exciting opportunities for growth and exploration, it also presents unique challenges and a need for multicultural understanding that Kent State Stark is continually working to foster in its students.

Take a look around Kent State Stark these days and you will notice a marked increase in globalization and multicultural initiatives on campus. Events like "Speak Your Truth," a series of programs that tackle current social issues through open, respectful discussion, and "Cultural Cafes," which allow





“Speak Your Truth,” a series of programs that tackle current social issues through open, respectful discussion

international students to introduce elements of their home country to peers, serve as great starting points for students to broaden their horizons and challenge preconceived notions. Professors also are integrating international and multicultural concepts in to their curriculum at every opportunity.

Kathy Kinzer-Downs, outreach program coordinator of multicultural initiatives, believes universities in today’s world have an obligation to educate students in this holistic manner, and Kent State Stark is no exception. “Our society is becoming more diverse and multiethnic, and our students need to be prepared to engage in a global community,” she said. “In order to give them the exposure they deserve, we have to integrate experiences outside of the classroom with the curriculum being taught in the classroom to ensure they receive a well-rounded education.”

Sarah Schmidt, outreach coordinator of global education initiatives, agrees. “It doesn’t matter what field of work you plan to enter – whatever career you choose, you will encounter people who are different than you,” Schmidt said. “It’s important to develop an appreciation for these differences in order to cultivate the kind of competency that is necessary to be a successful global citizen.”

Take a look around Kent State Stark these days and you will notice a marked increase in globalization and multicultural initiatives on campus.

Kathy Kinzer-Downs, outreach program coordinator of multicultural initiatives

*“Our society is becoming more diverse and multiethnic, and our students need to be prepared to engage in a global community.”*

This is one of the many reasons Kent State Stark continues to build its global education program, inviting students from around the world to come study abroad in North Canton for a semester. Unlike the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the Kent Campus, which sometimes sees students remain at the school for the entirety of their degree program and enter as non-English speakers, Kent State Stark’s program is reserved for those students who already possess a strong language proficiency and desire a short-term, immersive learning experience.



Chinese students from  
Shenzhen Polytechnic University  
and Beijing Wuzi University participated  
in the global education program.

"Studying abroad truly will change how you look at things and will open up new opportunities and dreams."  
Arundhati Thornberry, Kent State Stark sophomore

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During the Fall 2016 Semester, 27 Chinese students from Shenzhen Polytechnic University and Beijing Wuzi University participated in the program, up from 11 last year. It's the university's hope to grow the program with more students from additional countries in the future.

"Our aim is to bolster the students' English skills so they will be successful in their English major back home, and then have a leg up in looking for jobs after college that require English language skills," said Robert Sturr, Ph.D., undergraduate studies coordinator for the English Department. "Our core classes focus mainly on business English and writing, speech and debate, American literature and culture and American trade and marketing practices."

Outside the classroom, forging connections with Kent State Stark students and integrating into American culture have been pivotal to the international students' success. "Becoming fluent in another language can be daunting because it involves so much more than success in a classroom," said Sturr. "We have seen tremendous friendships arise between students at Kent State Stark and our international students, both last year and this year. Students have cooked dinner together, taken trips, enjoyed game nights, gone to see movies and have really taken to one another. That's where real progress happens in the acquisition of a new language and I think we are offering a unique and highly personalized experience in that way."

Brielle Black, a recent communication studies graduate of Kent State Stark, served as a conversation partner for the Chinese students in fall 2016. She is quick to point out that the learning goes both ways. "The program has certainly enhanced my own personal educational experience," she said. "Every time I met with the Chinese students, I learned something new."

"The exchange program is a conversation. It is a discussion that bridges a cultural divide and shatters assumptions," Black continued. "We are not that different after all – in fact, we have a lot more in common than I initially thought. The students aren't foreigners at all; they are friends, and the times we've shared laughing, having fun and discussing American food are times I will never forget. Being part of the conversation partner program is honestly one of the best decisions I ever made in my college career."

Junior communication studies major Emily Weiss, another conversational partner, taught English in Jiaozhou, China in early 2016 at the recommendation of associate communications professor Bei Cai, Ph.D. For her, the experience brought back fond memories of the students and friends she made while teaching abroad. "I was able to trade stories and learn even more about the culture [of my conversational partners]," she recalled. "I have been able to truly help them understand and experience the American culture in return, and spending these last few months with them makes me miss my students and friends from China – I am hoping I can return soon!"

Luca Wang (Wang Wen), one of the Chinese students from the fall 2016 class, calls the time spent with conversational partners her favorite part of the experience. She said one of the reasons she chose Kent State Stark was thanks to its small number of international students, as she wanted to truly experience the cultural differences of living in America without being surrounded by people from her own culture. "Young people should see more things; we should have wider horizons," she said.

John Lee (Li Zhengyan), another Chinese student attending Kent State Stark in fall 2016, echoed her sentiments, saying that while he enjoys most everything about America, "the best part is having fun with American friends. I like making friends with all people." Before coming to Kent State Stark, Lee said he never dreamed he would study abroad, but has found the people and professors he's encountered to be extremely kind and friendly. He is interested in returning someday to teach.

**"I sincerely hope that the inspiration of having students from China and other countries at Kent State University at Stark will inspire students from our region to pack up and seek new adventures by studying in another country," said Sturr.**

And they have – from summer 2015 to fall 2016, 123 students from Kent State Stark studied abroad in Germany, China, Denmark, Brazil, Ireland, Italy, Costa Rica, Japan, the United Kingdom, Nicaragua, France, Spain, South Korea and Switzerland.

Shekinah Mulkey, a senior computer design, animation and game design major who travelled to Rikkyo University in Tokyo, Japan on exchange, said that for her, the experience not only expanded her global perspective but also allowed her to achieve a level of independence and complete cultural immersion that wouldn't have been possible had she stayed in America. "I think it's very easy to get stuck in our own personal bubble without the desire to try something new, but it's when you step out of your comfort zone into something unfamiliar that you truly learn about the different cultures and ideas around you and even about yourself," Mulkey said.

"Studying abroad truly will change how you look at things and will open up new opportunities and dreams," agreed Arundhati Thornberry, a sophomore computer design, animation and game design major who traveled to Italy on exchange. "What you learn in a classroom is important but what you learn outside the classroom can be just as important. Sometimes those are the things that can impact your life the most."

**3 students from Kent State Stark studied abroad.**

**HAITHAM ZOURRIG, PH.D.**

*Assistant Professor of Marketing*





# WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

AWARD-WINNING RESEARCHER BRINGS INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE INTO THE CLASSROOM

Given the quantity and quality of research studies he has already conducted in his academic career, it's no surprise that one of the largest draws to Kent State University at Stark for Assistant Professor Haithem Zourrig, Ph.D., was the marketing department's robust research initiatives.

"Designing and conducting research are my favorite parts of being a professor," said Zourrig, and it shows. His efforts so far have been productive and rewarding, earning him numerous awards and accolades in the marketing community. Zourrig's research has appeared in the *Journal of Business Research* and *Journal of Service Management*, *Academy of Marketing Science Review* and *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*. Most recently, he was awarded "Best Paper" in the Cross-Cultural category by the Society for Marketing Advances (SMA), for his work entitled "The perceived deceptiveness of insurance fraud: a cross-cultural perspective on Information Manipulation Theory."

Prior to joining Kent State Stark, he served at IESEG-Paris in France and the University of Regina in Canada. "I'm teaching international marketing, so I'm bringing a lot of examples from my international experience to the class," said Zourrig.

A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., associate dean of academic affairs, is excited by Zourrig's passion for research, and anticipates great contributions from the newly hired faculty member moving forward. "Dr. Zourrig has already presented me with an idea to start a consumer research lab on campus, something I am very much interested in doing," said Kasturiarachi. "Not only would the lab provide a platform for interdisciplinary behavioral research, it would enhance students' learning experience and provide the business community with a convenient space to test ideas, concepts and products in a structured environment."

Zourrig also was recently awarded a Transformative Consumer Research Grant from the Association for Consumer Research for his study of the "Effects of Stress on Consumption Patterns and Subjective Well-being of Refugee Consumers (VULN)," a project that will allow him to delve in to an understudied area of consumer behavior – one of Zourrig's special areas of interest.

"The goal of this particular study is to shed light on the activities of vulnerable refugee consumers," he explains. "It investigates changes in refugees' consumption patterns – viewed as consumers' efforts to cope with stressful life events – as well as vulnerable consumers' well-being. I'm looking forward to disseminating my research to our students and the community as a whole."

In addition to his wealth of research experience, Zourrig also brings an international perspective to the department.



# Business Administration Program Continues to Grow Under Dedicated Faculty

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**“OUR FACULTY MEMBERS COULD  
WORK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD  
BUT THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO  
HERE, IN STARK COUNTY, WHICH  
IS A HUGE BENEFIT TO OUR  
STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY,”**

– Victor Berardi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of  
Management and Information Systems

*/top/  
Associate Professor of Management and Information Systems, ▼  
Victor Berardi, Ph.D.*

*/bottom/  
Associate Lecturer of Marketing, ▼  
Don Thacker*





## LIKE SO MANY DEGREE PROGRAMS AT THE STARK

and Kent campuses, the true heart and soul of the Business Administration program is found within its dedicated faculty members.

"I think what truly makes our program excellent is that every single faculty and staff member is working together for student success," said Victor Berardi, Ph.D., associate professor of management and information systems. "When I sit in on someone else's class, I never fail to come away feeling like, 'Wow, that was really good; I better up my game.' For me, it drives a true sense of community because it is productive competition that drives us all to be better and collaborate for the students' benefit."

Don Thacker, associate lecturer of marketing, agrees. "Collaborating with my colleagues is indeed rewarding; we have a very strong focus on student outcomes and do a great job of moving students toward post-graduation success," he said. "Mediocrity is not the norm – rather, it's our goal to ensure each student excels in their field of study."

Students also excel at being change agents for local businesses. Thacker's marketing classes have worked with a number of companies in the last several years as a way for students to apply classroom learning to real-life business challenges. For example, four teams of students in Thacker's senior marketing class in spring 2016 helped steer the rebranding and focus of Fairlawn-based consulting company New Directions Learning and Development into Aegis 360 Consulting, by poring over financials, industry reports and projections to formulate group proposals on how to reposition the company. The students provided sound business advice, with the company using it to restructure some of the focus of what the company does. Ned Parks, founder of Aegis 360, told *Crain's Cleveland Business* in November 2016.

It is this passion for excellence that has secured Kent State's College of Business Administration accreditation by AACSB International, the longest-standing and most prestigious recognition available to business and accounting programs worldwide. It is an honor so exclusive, in fact, that less than five percent of the world's business programs possess it. Kent State also has the distinction of having dual accreditation for both business and accounting, an achievement shared by only 180 other institutions worldwide.

Berardi believes, among other things, that the college's AACSB accreditation is what has attracted top-level business faculty to Kent State, which, in turn, has allowed the college to build a diverse, challenging curriculum and expand specialized elective offerings.

"Our faculty members could work anywhere in the world but they choose to do so here, in Stark County, which is a huge benefit to our students and community," he said.

One such faculty member, Haithem Zourrig, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing, has completed his first semester at Kent State Stark after teaching internationally in Canada and France. Echoing his colleagues' opinions, Zourrig said it was the high-performance of the business college that brought him here. "The research quality and productivity of the Marketing and Business Administration faculty as a whole make this university exemplary," he said.

## Two Business Majors Available at Kent State Stark

Thanks to the expansion of faculty and class offerings, Kent State Stark added a second major – Marketing – in addition to Business Management several years ago. Students can now finish all requirements for both majors at the Stark Campus or can complete two to three years of coursework at the Stark Campus before transitioning to the Kent Campus if they wish to complete one of eight additional business majors available in the undergraduate degree program. Kent State Stark also provides a strong complement of elective courses in business that were unavailable in the past.

"We want employers to seek out Kent State Stark graduates because they perform when hired," said Berardi. "To achieve this, we work to improve our individual courses but also coordinate our curriculum so students who trust us by taking all their courses here find they get value that would have been missed had they piecemealed courses from different institutions."

## A Unified Goal

Regardless of whether a student attends the Stark or Kent Campus to obtain their degree, the goal is the same: preparing students for success.

"The Kent State Stark faculty have the same expectations of our students as the Kent Campus does, and we are proud to receive strong support from the college and our colleagues at Kent," said Berardi. "Our students perform well and that is the bottom-line measure we are all striving to achieve, regardless of which campus we occupy."

"The business faculty on the Stark Campus take a student-focused approach and connect students to area business practitioners through class projects and guest speakers," said Deborah Spake, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration. "This approach ensures that students understand the application of concepts learned in the classroom."





## STANDING OUT.

### KENT STATE STARK STUDENTS GAIN IMPORTANT WORK/LIFE LESSONS

They came dressed in their finest, as fine as their challenging budgets would allow. One student's business suit came from Kohl's; another's was purchased at Goodwill for \$1.50, but it didn't matter where they got their clothes. In September 2016, they attended a conference like no other – one that would give them the tools they needed to thrive and advance in their future careers.

Aside from the technical skills students learn in college, employers value employees with strong communications skills, initiative, critical thinking skills, the ability to get along with coworkers and a professional demeanor. Answering the call by local businesses to develop graduates with these abilities, The Corporate University at Kent State University at Stark created the first-ever Student Professional Development Conference, an innovative, daylong program for seniors and recent graduates that mirrored a professional business conference; a real world starter kit. The event was held at the Kent State Stark Conference Center.

Students were required to pre-register and expected to come prepared to attend a real business conference. In addition to keynote and breakout sessions, the program included networking opportunities and counsel from representatives with such local employers as North Canton's Graco Ohio Inc., Patriot Software Inc. of Canton and the Canton Charge; dining etiquette lessons and "Making a Lasting Impression with Employers" from Bob Pacanovsky of the Vätion Group; and a professional photo taken for LinkedIn™. While several of the students had taken part in Kent State Stark's Leadership Academy, the conference built upon skills learned in the academy by focusing on how to adapt to changes in the workplace and developing the willingness to learn through experience.

"The Corporate University is known for providing quality professional education to our business community. By hosting it at our state-of-the-art Conference Center, we were able to extend this unique opportunity to the students, where they received the same training as employees already in the workforce, but with their peers," said Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., dean of Kent State Stark.

Seachrist admired how seriously participants took the conference. "The students were focused on getting everything they could out of it," she said. "They arrived early, stayed late, asked great questions and showed a true desire to learn. For many of them, it was the first professional conference they had ever attended."

"Not only do employers expect a mastery of the 'hard skills' necessary for employees to do their jobs, they also expect employees will work harmoniously with others and tackle professional social situations with ease," said Faith Sheaffer-Polen, director of The Corporate University.

April Arbogast, a senior in applied communications from Randolph, Ohio, attended the conference and said it helped her polish her professional skills.

"Being a young professional in today's society, I am constantly looking for experiences that will enrich my résumé," said Arbogast. "The Student Professional Development Conference was a perfect opportunity for me to learn valuable tools that are not taught in the classroom, such as networking, interviewing and professional etiquette without leaving campus. Having business professionals lead the breakout sessions allowed students to have a 'real-world' experience. They were eager to answer questions and give advice to all of the students. I truly appreciate how Kent State University at Stark continuously gives its students opportunities that they can use to stand apart, and the Student Professional Development Conference sure did accomplish that goal."

Sheaffer-Polen added that the conference was successful because of the support and collaboration of several campus departments and the community, including the Kent State Stark faculty, Career Services, Conference Center staff, the Student Leadership Academy and local employers.

Plans are underway for next year's Student Professional Conference in October 2017.

▲  
*Bob Pacanovsky of the Vätion Group instructed students on dining etiquette and how to make a lasting impression.*





**TO THE  
UNSUSPECTING  
EYE, THE GROUP  
OF INDIVIDUALS  
GATHERED IN  
THE CONFERENCE  
CENTER LOOKED LIKE  
PARTICIPANTS OF A  
TYPICAL CORPORATE  
CONFERENCE.  
HOWEVER, A LOOK  
BEHIND THE  
SCENES REVEALED  
SOMETHING MORE.**



NEW WILLIAM G. BITTLE VETERANS COMMONS DEDICATED IN

# HONOR

OF ALL KENT STATE STARK VETERANS AND  
ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY

*The commons, named for Stark Campus' longest-serving dean, is a gathering place for veterans.*

Lawrence Weidleman tried attending college soon after being discharged from the U.S. Army. He had been injured during Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield so he was still very young. But he realized in short order that he wasn't ready.

The Kent State University at Stark student and 45-year-old Middle Childhood Education major told his story to a gathering of more than 100 onlookers during the dedication of the new William G. Bittle Veterans Commons on Thursday, Nov. 10. The space is designed for veteran students to gather between classes and talk or study together, or to provide each other with support.

"I tried college the fall after returning from Desert Storm," the Canton native said. "And like many other veterans, I dropped out, not because of the academic rigor but because my life experiences at the age of 23 were drastically different than the lives of my classmates. We are different. We have a different approach to life for many reasons, specifically, because of the way we were trained. Campus was an awkward place because of my recent past. This common area [on campus] makes a statement to veterans and active duty members who have experienced the same thing I did and is a comfort zone that speaks our language."

Named in honor of William G. Bittle, Ph.D., Kent State Stark's longest-serving campus dean from 1981-2004, the Veterans Commons offers computers and printers which will assist those working on projects and papers, while a SmartCard reader enables students to print out their military orders. Swipe card access at the door ensures that all who enter the room are current or former members of the military. Soft chairs and sofas, a TV and DVD player, refrigerator and microwave make the space a welcoming respite.

Bittle, himself a veteran of the U.S. Navy, expressed his gratitude for the honor and told the crowd how proud he was to be a veteran and civil servant, particularly at Kent State Stark.

"This is wonderful," Bittle said. "I was so honored when I was told first that the Veterans Commons was being built and then it was going to be named after me. A space like this is needed for our veterans and I'm proud that the campus I led for many years is providing it for students, faculty and staff."

An email survey and face-to-face interviews with Kent State Stark student-veterans revealed that they often feel alone, and could not relate to or connect with classmates who are not veterans, and who don't share the experiences of those who have served in the military. Universities around the country are taking note: nearly 50 percent of American universities offer a veterans student lounge or designated gathering space.

“

I was so honored when I was told first that the Veterans Commons was being built and then it was going to be named after me.

William G. Bittle, Ph.D

”



For many veterans, Bittle said, leaving the military can mean abandoning a profoundly defined identity, community and purpose. On college campuses, a way to help student-veterans is by creating a veterans center, a dedicated physical space where veterans can be connected with whatever services they need: medical, psychological, financial, emotional or academic. More importantly, it is a place where they can connect with and support each other.

Current Kent State Stark Dean Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., noted that there are about 160 military veterans from seven counties in Ohio taking classes on campus.

"We stand here today committed to their success," Seachrist said. "I am also very grateful to the many faculty and staff on campus who served in the military. It is important to pause and remember those who protect our uniquely American freedoms. On this day, let us reflect and pay tribute to those who have served and are currently serving in the military."

The William G. Bittle Veterans Commons is a 1,100 square-foot space adjacent to the Learning Resource Center on campus. The main area of the space can also be used for guest speakers such as local company employment recruiters and motivational speakers, while a smaller room offers privacy for counseling sessions with a campus counselor, if needed.

The Commons was paid for solely by donations from Canton-area business leaders and friends, including Diebold Nixdorf, the Dominion Foundation, the George H. Deuble Foundation and Levin Furniture, which donated the chairs and sofas for the room.

*For more information on the Veterans Commons, or to donate for future improvements to the space, contact Karen Fettig, director of advancement, at 330-244-3225 or [kfettig@kent.edu](mailto:kfettig@kent.edu).*



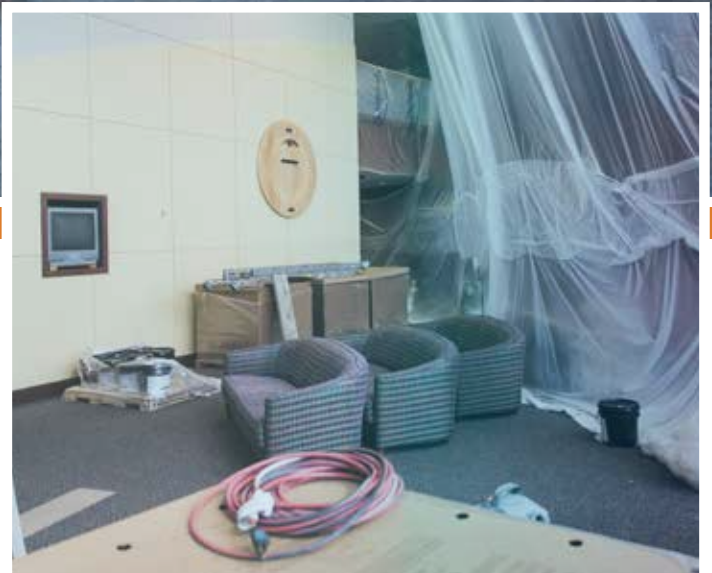




# EXPLORE THE REIMAGINED CONFERENCE CENTER

"UNDENIABLY KENT STATE." That is the feeling the newly renovated Conference Center emanates, with its contemporary, fashionable décor and blue and gold tones throughout.

"The Conference Center was a beautiful building before, but now it is the best in Stark County and perhaps all of Northeast Ohio," said Conference Center Director Stephanie Monastra. "This was the first major makeover since the building opened nearly 15 years ago. It was time to update the space to meet the changing needs of our clients."



A complete overhaul of the Conference Center was completed in the summer of 2016 to help meet the needs of community clients.





## Visit Us for Lunch

Experience delicious, chef-inspired creations and our new state-of-the-art soup and salad bar for yourself. The Conference Center's dining room is open for lunch Monday through Friday. Please call 330-244-3300 for reservations. Cost is \$15 per person, plus tax.

The purpose of the overhaul, according to Monastra, was twofold. "Not only did we aim to match the building's overall look to the high level of service and hospitality we provide to our customers, we also wanted the new appearance to exude the pride we feel in being part of Kent State University," Monastra said. "Now, when you walk through the building, the blue and gold brand is evident – you know immediately you're at Kent State."

In addition to new paint and carpet throughout, visitors will notice other subtle touches of refinement in the soft seating furniture, refurbished dining room tables and chairs, and updated meeting room spaces. The Conference Center's culinary offerings also have been enhanced to provide customers with an expanded selection of food choices; healthy options that align with the Kent State of Wellness initiative are now interwoven with the classic comfort foods and decadent desserts customers have come to love. A state-of-the-art soup and salad bar is also now available on a daily basis, alongside the chef's executive lunch choice of the day. The culinary team accommodates dietary restrictions including offering gluten free and vegetarian options.

The changes are not purely cosmetic. The moment you enter the modernized space, you immediately sense a revitalized excitement surrounding the team's commitment to providing clients with the best possible experience, regardless of occasion.

"As one of only two facilities in Northeast Ohio accredited by the International Association of Conference Centers (IACC), we are well-positioned to provide premium service for any type of meeting, conference or group outing," noted Monastra. "We're striving to become the place where Northeast Ohio business leaders do business and the area's thought leaders gather. We offer something for everyone, and we pride ourselves on the high level of customization and attention to detail that is afforded to each and every customer who walks through our doors."

Even better, Monastra adds, this five-star experience does not impact the cost for customers. "Our meeting package costs have remained the same for the last 10 years," she said, "so we are still providing our clients with superior customer service at a highly competitive price."

## Schedule Your Next Meeting or Event at the Conference Center

While an open house will be scheduled in the near future, anyone interested in considering the Conference Center for an upcoming event should contact Janet Capocci, sales manager, at 330-244-3513. Affordable meeting packages are available and feature all-inclusive pricing per person, per day.

## NEW FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS



**ALAN CHU**

*Assistant Professor of English*

New Assistant Professor of English Alan Chu teaches writing and rhetoric, from college English to Technical/Professional Writing to Digital Rhetorics. His research focuses on whistleblower and marginalized rhetorics. A native of Taipei, Taiwan, Chu grew up in Oahu, Hawai'i. He received his B.A. in English Literature and M.A. in Composition and Rhetoric from the University of Hawai'i, and his Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Composition and the Teaching in English (RCTE) from the University of Arizona. Chu also served as a teaching assistant at the University of Hawai'i and graduate teaching associate at Arizona. He joined Kent State Stark in fall 2016.



**PATRICK DILLON**

*Assistant Professor of Communication Studies*

Patrick joined the Communication Studies faculty as a tenure track assistant professor in fall 2016. The Flint, Michigan, native is currently teaching Introduction to Human Communication; Introduction to Health Communication; Communication, Aging and Culture; and Communication and Conflict. His research focuses on health disparities; for example, differences in health status predicted by race/ethnicity, income, education and/or location in three specific areas: end-of-life care, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. Dillon received a B.A.A. and M.A. from Central Michigan University and holds a Ph.D. from the University of South Florida.



**JESSICA JONES**

*Lecturer in English*

Jessica is teaching College Writing Stretch and College Writing II in the department of English. The Ohio native also has taught college writing at her alma mater, the University of Montana, as well as the College of Wooster and the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. Her research focuses on social justice, American Indian education and poetry. She holds a B.A. in English from Kent State University and received her M.A. from the University of Montana in 2014.



**ROBERT KIPKA**

*Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

Robert joined Kent State Stark in fall 2016 as an assistant professor of mathematics, teaching Algebra for Calculus Plus, Introduction to Statistics, Linear Algebra and Analytic Geometry and Calculus 1. Kipka's research focus is in optimization and studying properties of problems in which some quantity must be maximized or minimized. The Marquette, Michigan, native taught as a graduate assistant at Michigan Technological University and Western Michigan University, and has held adjunct instructorships at Northern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College. Kipka holds a B.S. and M.S. in applied mathematics from Michigan Tech, an M.A. and Ph.D. in mathematics from Western Michigan, and was a postdoctoral fellow at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.





**ERIN VAUGHN**

*Lecturer in Music*

A lecturer in music, Erin is the guitar department and studio ensemble coordinator. He teaches Applied Studio Musicianship (electric guitar), Studio Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation and Roots of Rock. He joined Kent State Stark as non-tenure track faculty in fall 2016 following 10 years as an adjunct lecturer. His research focuses on theory and analysis of popular music. The Canton native previously taught at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, and Stark State College. He received his B.A. in jazz studies from the University of Akron and an M.A. in music theory from Kent State University.



**HAITHAM ZOURRIG**

*Assistant Professor of Marketing*

An assistant professor of marketing, Haithem is a tenure track faculty member who joined Kent State Stark in August 2016. He is the recipient of numerous grants and has been published extensively. Prior to joining Kent State Stark, Zourrig's most recent appointment was at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada from 2012-2016. He holds a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Montreal, which he received in 2010.



**KETURAH KNEUSS**

*Academic Advisor*

Keturah Kneuss is a new academic advisor in Student Services. The New Philadelphia, Ohio, native joined Kent State Stark in June 2016 after working in graduate admissions at Malone University and career advising at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. She received both her M.A. in higher education and B.A. in communications at Geneva College and is a former AmeriCorps service member with the Pittsburgh Health Corps.



**LAURA MARTINEZ MASSIE**

*Public Relations and Media  
Communications Coordinator*

Laura is responsible for working within Kent State Stark's creative team to support the campus through both promotional writing and media relations. She also serves as co-editor of the campus' award-winning *Encompass* magazine. With more than 25 years of experience in higher education communications, she served as director of media relations for the University of Akron and Case Western Reserve University and is former director of communications for the Ohio Board of Regents. She began her career in higher education at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. She holds a B.S. in journalism from Ohio University.



# Grant Spotlight

## Grant Funding Gives Life to Kent State University at Stark Initiatives

*Here's how recent awards will enhance Kent State Stark's programming and research:*



Associate Professor of Geography Chris Post, Ph.D.

### Grant Brings Campus Garden to Kent State Stark

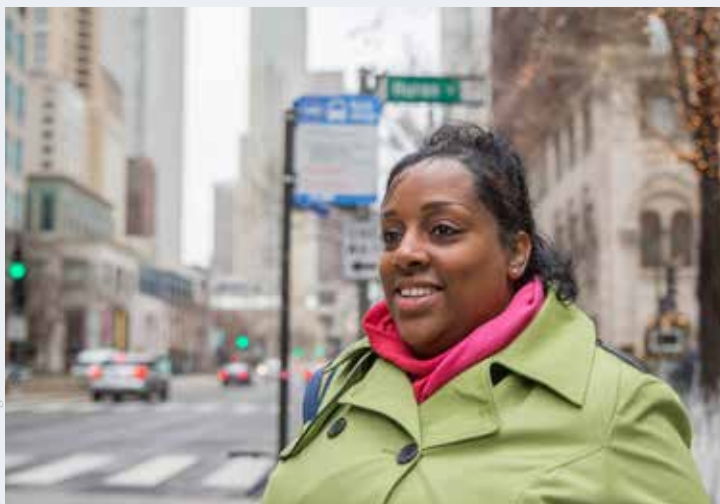
Issues of food supply and demand will take center stage in a new summer 2017 course taught by Associate Professor of Geography **Chris Post, Ph.D.**, who developed the class thanks to a \$9,000 Summer Teaching Development Grant from the Kent State University Teaching Council. The special topics course, tentatively titled "Campus and Community Gardens," will introduce students to concerns surrounding modern agriculture before exploring creative solutions to some of the most pressing sustainability issues facing our society today.

"In addition to cross-examining more traditional or indigenous methods of the past and those utilized in developing countries with our own, we will also study how urban and local farming can assuage problems like 'food deserts' (depressed urban areas lacking access to fresh, healthy food) and implement our very own garden on campus," said Post.

Students will survey campus gardens around the country to get a feel for best practices; for example, what types of crops to grow in certain regions and how to plant them – and will find community partners to both provide supplies for the garden and help distribute the harvests. The three-week course will culminate with the actual planting of Kent State University at Stark's first campus garden.

"The garden will start small, a few 4-feet by 8-feet raised beds," said Post. "The point is to use this as a teaching tool and learning experience as much as it is to produce food. Hopefully over time the garden grows to accommodate more programs, students, faculty, community partners and beneficiaries of our produce."





Assistant Professor of Sociology Gwendolyn Purifoy, Ph.D.



Left: Assistant Professor of Art Marie Gasper-Hulvat, Ph.D.

Right: Assistant Professor of Biological Science Gregory Smith, Ph.D.

Bottom: Associate Professor of Art Jack McWhorter (left), M.F.A.



## Additional Grants Awarded Within the Kent State Stark Community

Assistant Professor of Sociology **Gwendolyn Purifoy, Ph.D.**, was awarded a \$1,900 Scholarship Committee Research Grant from the Midwest Sociological Society for her body of work surrounding the violence and aggression black men encounter in public transit settings. "Examining violence and black men through a mobility lens will provide data that helps us better understand the daily, face-to-face consequences of institutional inequalities and provide resolutions that counter such interactions," said Purifoy.

The Research Council of Kent State University granted two Summer Research Appointments to Kent State Stark faculty in 2016 – one to Assistant Professor of Art **Marie Gasper-Hulvat, Ph.D.**, and the other to Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences **Gregory Smith, Ph.D.**, both in the amount of \$6,500. With her award (and an additional award from

Kent State Stark to allow for a research assistant) Gasper-Hulvat was able to complete three chapters of her monograph on early 20th-century Russian avant-garde artist Kazimir Malevich. She also completed a four-page prospectus outlining the book project, which has been submitted to a university press editor for review.

Smith's appointment, on the other hand, funded research on the population dynamics of the estimated 100 million feral and free-ranging domestic cats in the United States. "This research will provide data

that will help municipalities, agencies and health departments set policy for cat management and the protection of native species," said Smith.

A Creative Activity Grant from the Kent State University Research Council in the amount of \$2,000 was awarded to Associate Professor of Art **Jack McWhorter, M.F.A.**, supporting his exhibition at The Painting Center in New York City. Thanks to the exposure he received from that exhibition, his body of work, titled "Signals That Gather," is set to be featured in a solo show at the same gallery in May 2017.

**Haithem Zourrig, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of marketing, was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Association for Consumer Research for his work titled "Effects of Stress on Consumption Patterns and Subjective Well-Being of Refugee Consumers." According to Zourrig, his research project "investigates changes in refugees' consumption patterns viewed as consumers' efforts to cope with stressful life events, as well as vulnerable consumers' well-being."

## FEATURED SPEAKERS SERIES CONTINUES SPRING SEMESTER WITH CAHALAN, QUINONES

Kent State University at Stark's 26th Featured Speakers Series continues this spring with national and international experts in civil rights, politics, education, health, environmental activism, literature and arts.

The *New York Times*' best-selling author of *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness* and *New York Post* reporter Susannah Cahalan spoke about her struggles with mental illness and her efforts to raise awareness surrounding the disease on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017.

ABC News reporter and *20/20* anchor John Quinones takes the stage as the final featured speaker of the 2016-2017 season, Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. He will focus on his odds-defying journey and celebrate the life-changing power of education, standing as a champion for the Latino American dream and provide thought-provoking insights into human nature and ethical behavior. Tickets for Quinones' appearance will be available Monday, March 27.



**John Quinones**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available Monday, March 27 at 8 a.m.  
A limit of two (2) tickets will be available per person.

### **Ticket & Venue Information**

- Programs are free and open to the public.
- Tickets are required and seating is limited.
- Pick up tickets at the Main Hall Information Desk, beginning at 8 a.m. each weekday.
- Programs are held at the Conference Center.

For more information, please visit  
[www.kent.edu/stark/featured-speakers-series](http://www.kent.edu/stark/featured-speakers-series)

## Kent State Stark Brings Campus, Local Community Together on Global Gateway Day This Summer

### **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK'S GLOBAL GATEWAY DAY**

is a family-friendly afternoon filled with cultural performances, international food sampling, global games and activities for all ages. The event will take place on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Campus Center. The event is free and open to the public.



"A key global initiative of Kent State Stark is to expand opportunities for students and the local community to engage in global citizenship and participate in cultural events through our campus," said Associate Dean A. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Ph.D. "Global Gateway Day will bring together

our campus community and the surrounding Stark County area on our campus to celebrate diversity and internationalism."





#### ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- **International Food Sampling:** Among the more than 10 regions to offer authentic food samples are Mediterranean, European, South American, Indian, Asian and African.
- **Live Cultural Performances:** Attendees can experience performances by a Ukrainian singer/songwriter, a Chinese traditional vocalist, Nepalese dancers and an African drum and dance tribe.
- **Games and Activities:** Families can participate in an Origami station, make-your-own rain stick, view the study abroad photo gallery and enjoy the World Landmark photobooth.

Contact Sarah Schmidt at 330-244-3579 or [sschmi16@kent.edu](mailto:sschmi16@kent.edu) or visit [www.kent.edu/stark/global-gateway-day](http://www.kent.edu/stark/global-gateway-day) for more information on Kent State Stark's Global Gateway Day.

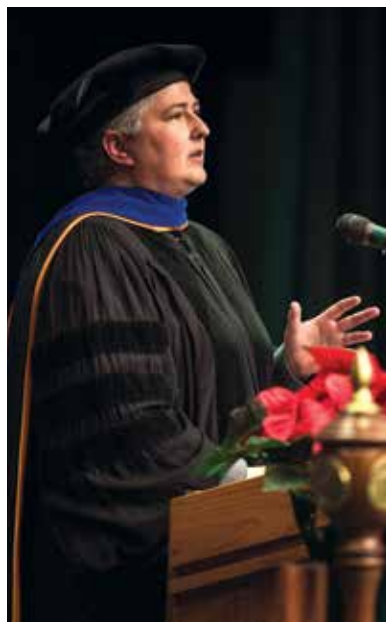


## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR APRIL 23

Kent State University at Stark commemorates Earth Day 2017 with several on-campus events to inspire the awareness of environmental responsibility and to improve the appreciation for our planet's natural resources. The annual celebration will be held on Sunday, April 23, from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Campus Center and Campus Pond area. Attendees will enjoy a family-friendly afternoon filled with environmental educational activities, entertainment, demonstrations and discussions for all ages.

Throughout the event, various Kent State Stark student organizations and contributing groups will conduct demonstrations and discuss how to positively impact our world. Participating organizations in 2016 included: Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, Brewer-Garrett Company, Canton Audubon Society, Canton Country Day School, Green Energy Ohio, Kent State University at Stark Security, ODNR Division of Forestry, Stark Parks, Stark Soil and Water Conservation District, Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, The Ohio State University Extension, Vegetarian Club of Canton and the Wildlife Habitat Conservancy.

## Congratulations, graduates!



Deirdre Warren, Ph. D., delivers the fall 2016 convocation speech.

One hundred and forty-four graduates became new Kent State University alumni during Kent State University at Stark's ninth annual fall Commencement ceremony on Dec. 16. Held at the Umstattd Performing Arts Hall in Canton, the bachelor's, master's and associate degree recipients heard Deirdre "Dee" Warren, Ph.D., current chair of Kent State Stark's Faculty Council and associate professor of criminology and justice studies, give an inspiring convocation speech.

Warren ruminated over what she would have wanted someone to have told her as she was about to graduate. "But I also didn't want (this advice) only to come from me, so I contacted our faculty, staff and administration and asked for their input as well," Warren said. "I really wanted this to come from your campus community."

Warren encouraged the graduates to "take a breath" and forget about the pressure of

getting a job, expect the unexpected, make valuable connections with new people and to think beyond your borders.

"You have gained substantive knowledge that will help you move forward in your life, critical thinking skills that have made you a more discerning adult, and hopefully a sense of community and exposure to diversity that has made you more aware of humanity," Warren said. "It is true that with knowledge comes power, but with knowledge also comes responsibility. As I tell my students, once you know something, you can't un-know it.

"So take a breath, expect the unexpected, make connections and be engaged," Warren concluded.







RJ Mitte hosts a Q&A session with Kent State Stark Communication Studies students.

## Featured Speakers:

# Zombies as Teaching Tools and Being Your Best Self

The kick-off lecture to the 26th season of Kent State University at Stark's Featured Speakers Series in October provided words of wisdom about not only being the best you can be in the face of overwhelming odds, but also on using flesh-eating zombies as teaching tools on how to survive an "apocalypse."

Writer, satirist and actor Max Brooks uses a fictional metaphor - zombies - and historical events to prompt serious public discourse on large-scale problem solving for today's world. Brooks, who spoke at Kent State Stark on Oct. 17, is the son of actor and director Mel Brooks and the late Academy Award-winning actress Anne Bancroft and has taken the zombie apocalypse to a whole different level, drawing parallels to today's society. Brooks is the best-selling author of such zombie-themed books as *World War Z*, which was made into a major motion picture, *The Zombie Survival Guide* and *The Zombie Survival Guide: Recorded Attacks*.

Brooks is widely credited with helping to propel zombie lore from niche sub-culture fascination to mainstream pop culture obsession.

Next up was RJ Mitte, who spoke on Nov. 16. He portrayed Walter "Flynn" White Jr., on the highly-acclaimed AMC series *Breaking Bad*. Mitte, like his character on the show, has cerebral palsy, which he said he has turned into an advantage. He emphasized that if it were not for his condition, he would not be doing what he is doing today.

"I really did not know I was disabled," he said. "I thought everyone went to occupational therapy and everyone did physical therapy. I didn't see it as abnormal until I went to school."

He also talked about dealing with bullies and said he never backed down. While he was technically assaulted, he never thought of himself as being a victim because he stood his ground. Your actions define who you are, he said, and he never let the challenges in his life get him down so he could always be his best self.

The AMC series, which ended in 2013, was placed in the Guinness World Records as the most critically acclaimed show of all time.



Max Brooks



## LOCAL TRICK-OR-TREATERS ENJOY ANNUAL BOO U CELEBRATION

GHOSTS, GOBLINS, DINOSAURS AND MINIONS – also known as local kids – and their families came out in droves to the Kent State University at Stark campus for the annual fall festival, Boo U, in late October. The fan favorite is designed as a fun and educational event for kids, elementary school-age and younger.

More than 1,000 costumed children invaded the 200-acre campus, winding through a trail of trick-or-treat stations manned by similarly dressed Kent State Stark students. The kids and their parents also were treated to spooky science experiments, a coloring contest and other activities, including the opportunity to hold Archie, the resident snake who lives in the biology department.



# by FACULTY

**Paul Bagavandoss**, associate professor of biology, presented "Inhibition of Cervical Cancer Cell Proliferation by Cannabidiol" at the 9th Joint Natural Products Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 23-30, 2016.

**Victor Berardi and Greg Blundell**, associate professors of management and information systems, co-presented "Towards Evidence-Based Teaching, Problem-based Learning and the Metacognitive Assessment Cycles" at the EDSIG Conference in Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 6-9, 2016.

**Brian Chopko**, associate professor of justice studies, 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, 2016.

- » Co-published *Spirituality and Health Outcomes Among Police Officers: Empirical Evidence Supporting a Paradigm Shift in Criminal Justice Studies*, August 2016.
- » Co-published *Posttraumatic Growth in Relation to the Frequency and Severity of Traumatic Experiences among Police Officers in Small to Mid-Size Departments in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, May 2016.

**Julie Cremeans-Smith**, associate professor of psychology, presented "Cytokines and Pain among Patients Undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA): Differences between Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Relationships" at the American Psychosomatic Society – Midyear Conference, Neuroscience of Pain in New York, N.Y., Oct. 14-16, 2016.

**Jennifer Cunningham**, assistant professor of English, presented "Cultivating Online Pedagogy: Feedback, Workshops, and Experiential Learning in First Year Composition" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Portland, Ore., March 14-19, 2016.

**Patrick Dillon**, assistant professor of communication, presented "African-Americans and End-of-Life Care: Accounting for the Social Risks of Hospice Enrollment" at the American Public Health Associate Annual Meeting in Denver, Colo., Oct. 30-31, 2016.

- » Presented "Case Studies in End-of-Life Communication" at the National Communication Association in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 9-11, 2016.

**Allyson Drinkard**, assistant professor of justice studies, presented "Fear of Violence, Family Support, and Adolescent Well-being," at the American Society of Criminology in New Orleans, La., Nov. 17-18, 2016.

**Mary Gallagher**, assistant professor of sociology, Co-published *Disease Burden among Individuals with Severe Mental Illness in a Community Setting* in *Community Mental Health Journal*, May 2016.

- » Published *Adolescent-Parent College Aspiration Discrepancies and Changes in Depressive Symptoms in Sociological Perspective*, June 2016.
- » Published *Distinguishing Obligatory and Voluntary Identities in New Directions in Identity Theory and Research* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- » Presented "Gender and Closeness to Parents as Moderators of the Relationship Between Adolescent-Parent College Aspiration Discrepancies and Depressive Symptoms" at the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Seattle, Wash., Aug. 14-20, 2016.

**Claudia Gomez**, assistant professor of management, presented "An Exploration of Immigrant Entrepreneurs' Motivations for the Use and Contribution to their Ethnic Communities' Social Capital" at the Midwest Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Fargo, N.D., Oct. 6-7, 2016.

**Leslie Heaphy**, associate professor of history, presented "Peer Mentoring" at the National Collegiate Honors Council in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 12-17, 2016.

**Erin Hollenbaugh**, associate professor of communication studies, presented "Roots and Branches of OCA: Reflecting on the Past, Present and Future of the Ohio Communication Association" at the Ohio Communication Association Conference in Ashland, Ohio, Oct. 14-15, 2016.

- » Presented "An Exploratory Study of Young Adults' Privacy Management in the Use of Multiple Social Networking Sites" at the National Communication Association 102nd Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 9-11, 2016.

**Matthew Hollstein**, assistant professor of education, gave three presentations at the National Council for the Social Studies in Washington, D.C., Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2016: "Books, Bugs and Fish: Teaching Sustainability Through Text"; "Social Studies Education and Teacher Preparation in South Korea and the United States"; and "Making the Comfortable Uncomfortable: A Call for Subversive, Anti-Entropy Social Studies Teaching and Learning in Schools and Communities."

**Gro Hovhanniosyan**, associate professor of mathematics, presented "Darboux Transformations on a Time-Space Scale" at the Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems Conference in Oxford, Ohio, Sept. 23-25, 2016.

**Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic**, assistant professor of mathematics, presented "Evaluation of an Intelligent Tutoring System through Subsequent Mathematics Courses" at the 13th International Congress on Mathematical Education 2016 at the University of Hamburg, Germany, July 24-31, 2016.

**Jessica Jones**, full-time lecturer, was poet-in-residence at Ronan Middle School on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Pablo, Mont., Dec. 19, 2016. She also presented at a series of events for the publication of the book, *Poems Across the Big Sky: An Anthology of Montana Poets* in Missoula, Mont., Dec. 12-16, 2016.

**Matthew Lehnert**, assistant professor of biological sciences, published "Mouthpart Conduit Sizes of Fluid-Feeding Insects Determine the Ability to Feed from Pores" in the Royal Society journal *Proceedings B*, Jan. 4, 2017.

**Chih-ling Liou**, assistant professor of human development and family studies, presented "What Can We Learn from Them?: Best Practices from Dementia Day Care in Taiwan" at the Gerontological Society of America in New Orleans, La., Nov. 17-20, 2016.

**Ann Martinez**, assistant professor of English, presented "Under the grene wode tre: Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest as Preservationist Green Space" at the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Mich., May 12-15, 2016.

- » Published *Bertilak's Green Vision: Land Stewardship in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight at Arthuriana: The Journal of Arthurian Studies*, Winter 2016.
- » Presented "The Death of the Groundling and the Birth of a New Digital Stage: How Control of the Viewer's Gaze Changes the Theatre Space" at the World Shakespeare Congress in Stratford-Upon-Avon and London, United Kingdom, July 30 - Aug. 6, 2016.

**Mitch McKenney**, associate professor of journalism and mass communication, presented "Convergence, Collaboration, Content: The Evolution of Our 'Digital-first' Newsroom" at the Associated Collegiate Press National Convention in Washington, D.C., Oct. 23, 2016.

**Jack McWhorter**, associate professor of art, exhibited *Big Idea*, National Exhibition of Contemporary Paintings, at The Painting Center – Curatorial Exhibition Report, in New York, N.Y., Oct. 4-5, 2016.

**Robert Miltner**, professor of English, was the featured reader at: Oceanside Writers Festival, Virginia Beach, Va., Oct. 23, 2016; Lit Youngstown at the Youngstown Playhouse, Jan. 4, 2017. He also co-edited and published the collection *Community Boundaries and Border Crossings: Critical Essays on Ethnic Women Writers* (Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2016). He also published the creative nonfiction pieces:

- » *Audio Echo* in Eastern Iowa Review, Fall 2016.
- » *The Death of the Fugitive Charles Floyd in a Cornfield Outside of East Liverpool*, Ohio, Oct. 2, 1934 in Hawai'i Pacific Review, December 2016. He published the poems: *shore line: epistle to Eurydice, idleness & indolence and charcoal sketch: Eurydice, in the Rappahannock Review and My Father at Fifty in Dressing Room Poetry*, both in December 2016.



**Deepraj Mukherjee**, assistant professor of economics, published *Understanding the International Trade-corruption Linkage: Taking Stock and Moving Forward* in *The Business & Management Review*, April 2016.

- » Co-published *Do Literacy and a Mature Democratic Regime Cure Corruption?* in the *Journal of Economic Development*, June 2016.
- » Presented “Case Analysis: Tata Motors' Acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover” at the International Academic Conference in Paris, 2016, in Paris, France, Aug.15-16, 2016.
- » Published *Case Analysis: Tata Motors' Acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover* in *The Business & Management Review*, November 2016.
- » Presented “Can Financial Development Enhance Information Transparency?” at the Contemporary Issues in Development Economics Conference in Kolkata, India, Dec., 21-27, 2016.

**Andrea Myers**, assistant professor of art, presented “The World is Flattening” at the Mid-America College Art Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 26-28, 2016. Also exhibited multiple works through Art Miami, McCormick Gallery, in Miami, Fla., Nov. 29 – Dec. 2, 2016.

**Stephen Neaderhiser**, assistant professor of English, presented “Mute Points Taken for Granite: Eggcorns, Malapropisms, and Metaphoric Interactivity” at the Metaphor Festival in Amsterdam, Netherlands, September 2016.

- » Published *Conceiving of a Teacherly Identity: Metaphoric Invocation in Teaching Statements in Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture*, Fall 2016.
- » Presented “Fixed Text, Flowable Formats, and the Fluidity of Context: Technology's Challenges to Genre” at the Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 2016.

**Chris Post**, associate professor of geography, delivered the keynote presentation “Going Beyond May 4: Memorialization and Public Pedagogy at Kent State” at the 10th Annual Landscape, Space and Place Conference at Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., March 4, 2016.

- » Presented the poster “Creating a Campus Garden... and a Course to go with it.” Kent State University Celebrating Teaching Conference in Kent, Ohio, Oct. 21, 2016.
- » Published *Beyond Kent State? May 4 and Commemorating Violence in Public Space* in *Geoforum*, November 2016

**Janet Reed**, lecturer of nursing, 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.

**Oliver Ruff**, assistant professor of mathematics, presented “Darboux Transformations on Time-Space Scales” at the American Mathematical Society Fall Western Sectional Meeting in Denver, Colo., Oct. 7-10, 2016.

**Carrie Schweitzer**, professor of geology, presented “Diversity and Paleoenvironments of Fossil Decapod Crustaceans” at the IX Brazilian Crustacean Congress in Fortaleza, Brazil, Nov. 4-12, 2016.

- James Seelye**, assistant professor of history, presented “On Native Grounds: Studies of Native American Histories and the Land” at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., June 19-July 15, 2016.
- » Presented “We are Honoring Them: Contemporary Perspectives on the American Indian Mascot Debate” at the Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Conference in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 8-9, 2016.
  - » Presented “Frightening Nights: Missionaries, Native Americans, and the Struggle to Define Space in the Nineteenth Century Great Lakes” at the American Society for Ethnohistory in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 8-14, 2016.

**Brad Shepherd**, assistant professor of psychology, presented “LGBTQ Physical and Mental Health at Midlife in Older Adults” at the American Psychological Association in Denver, Colo., Aug. 3-7, 2016.

**Jay Sloan**, associate professor of English, presented “Challenging Tutoring Models; Challenging Student Ideas: Seeking Metanoia in the Writing Center Tutorial” at the International Writing Centers Association Conference in Denver, Colo., Oct. 13-16, 2016.

**Paul Sommer**, assistant professor of communication studies, presented “The Domestic Construction Industry and Its Knowledge Management Practice” at the National Communication Association 102nd Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 10-13, 2016.

**Lindsay Starkey**, assistant professor of history, presented “Sea Creatures and Conceptions of Water in Sixteenth-Century European Cosmographical Texts” at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Bruges, Belgium, Aug.18-20, 2016.

**Eric Taylor**, assistant professor of geology, presented “A Walk in the Park: Earth Science Service Learning” at the Earth Educators' Rendezvous in Madison, Wis., July 20-23, 2016.

**Don Thacker**, associate lecturer of marketing and entrepreneurship, presented his publication, *Faculty Certification Program—Challey Assessment* (GrowthPlay, 2016) at the Sales Education Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 11-12, 2016. Published *Preparing Your Sales Course for Generation Z* in *Business Education Innovation Journal*, December 2016.

**Scott Tobias**, assistant professor of human development and family studies, presented “Crisis Collections: Using Creative Projects for Student Engagement” at the National Council on Family Relations in Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 1-5, 2016.

**Relja Vulanovic**, professor of mathematics, presented “Measuring the Degree of Violation of the One-Meaning – One-Form Principle” at QUALICO (Quantitative Linguistics Conference) 2016 in Trier, Germany, Aug.22-28, 2016.

**Deirdre Warren**, associate professor of criminology and justice studies, presented “Focusing on the Courts: Media Constructions of California's Proposition 8” at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La., Nov. 16-19, 2016.

**Lisa Waite**, associate lecturer of communication studies, presented “COMM-unity: Answering the Civic Call through Training” and “Communication's Civic Callings: Assessing the Needs of Underprivileged Populations” at the National Communication Association 102nd Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 10, 2016.

**Lori Wilfong**, associate professor of education, presented “A Writer's Workshop for the 21st Century” at the Ohio Middle Level Association Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct.26-28, 2016.

**Haithem Zourrig**, assistant professor of marketing, presented “The Perceived Deceptiveness of Insurance Fraud: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Information Manipulation Theory,” which won Best Paper Award in the Cross-Cultural and Global Marketing track, at the Society for Marketing Advances in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 2-6, 2016.



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