

## Writing Commons Opens in Library



The Writing Center has moved to the Main Library and is now called the Writing Commons. The new 3,000 square foot space features private tutoring rooms, a resource area, computer lab, reception area and lounge, and space for large groups.

The Writing Commons adjusted their hours to reflect traffic patterns in the Library, emphasizing weekend and evening hours.

- Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- Sunday, 3:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The Writing Commons offers students one-on-one attention in 45-minute help sessions. The diverse staff is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, and volunteer tutors from many academic disciplines, from accounting to fashion design to biology – and many more. Their mission is to help every student writer in every discipline, with any writing project, at any stage of the writing process.

Jeanne Smith, Director, (jrsmith3@kent.edu or 330-672-1788) reports that their new home in the Library is the ideal location for carrying out that mission. Writers need help with research and researchers often need help with writing. Housing these two vital student services in one location is an ideal partnership and has already resulted in students finding help on their projects more easily.

## EXCELLENCE in Action

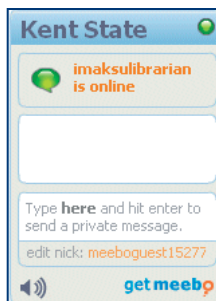
<http://www.library.kent.edu/footnotes/>

Editor: Barbara F. Schloman (schloman@kent.edu, 330-672-1665)

Online writing help is available from the Writing Commons at [writing@kent.edu](mailto:writing@kent.edu). Writers may attach work in progress to e-mail messages, as well as send questions to tutors who check the messages every two hours throughout the day. In addition to drop-in and by appointment tutoring, the Writing Commons offers tours, class visits, group help sessions, and writer's workshops on a variety of topics.

The Writing Commons is part of the Department of English. Its new facility was made possible by support from the Provost and Libraries & Media Services. The Writing Commons will host an open house in October to celebrate their new home in the Library.

## IMaKSULibrarian



You may be familiar with IMaKSULibrarian, the Libraries' reference service offered through instant messaging. Changes over the summer have made this service even better. As before, you and your students can add our service to the buddy list on your IM account (IMaKSULibrarian for AIM and Yahoo; IMaKSULibrarian@hotmail.com for MSN). Now you can also instant

message or "IM" reference questions from your Gtalk/ Gmail account by adding [IMaKSULibrarian@gmail.com](mailto:IMaKSULibrarian@gmail.com) to your contacts list.

Don't use IM? Anyone can now IM reference questions using the Meebo Widget found on many of the LMS web pages, like the one at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/askus>.

IMaKSULibrarian is staffed when the Main Library Reference Desk is open — check it out and ask us a question!

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## Resource News

### Database Additions

A Federal LSTA grant obtained jointly by OhioLINK, OPLIN, INFOhio, and the State Library provides for these new resources:

*Biography Reference Bank* (ancient times to present): Covers over 500,000 people and includes over 36,000 images.

*Consumer Health Complete*: Provides easily understandable health information including medical encyclopedias, reference books, and magazine articles.

*Science Online* (not the AAAS journal): Offers award-winning content of particular value to grades K-12.

*World Book Web*: Includes a dictionary, atlas, *World Book Advanced*, *World Book Kids*, and *Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos*; plus educator tools, student activities, pictures, audio, and video, complemented by current periodicals and related Web sites.

### Database Loss

The subscription to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, paid through a previous LSTA grant, was not renewed.

### Improved Searching of the Chadwyck-Healey Literature Collections

The Chadwyck-Healey Literature Collections now use the same software as the E-Book Center (EBC). The collections were brought together under this common interface over the summer, making cross-collection searching more apparent and easier. The collections included in this change are:

*20th Century African American Poetry Collection*  
*20th Century American Poetry Collection*  
*20th Century English Poetry Collection*  
*African American Poetry Collection*  
*American Drama Collection*  
*American Poetry Collection*  
*Bible in English*  
*Bibliography of American Literature*  
*Early American Fiction*  
*Editions and Adaptations of Shakespeare*  
*Eighteenth-Century Fiction*  
*English Poetry Collection* |  
*English Prose Drama*  
*English Verse Drama*  
*W. B. Yeats Collection*

Search tip: selecting any one of these collections from the "Research Databases" list will take you to the new American & English Literature site. Then, click on "More Search Options" and "Limit to Collection" to search within the collection of your choice. It is possible to search by words in text, author, title, or poetry first line. The American & English Literature site is directly accessible at <http://ebooks.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ch/>. Authentication is required from off-campus.



### Announcing ARTstor

ARTstor is a digital library of nearly one million images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities, and social sciences with a set of tools to view, present, and manage images for research and pedagogical purposes. ARTstor collections are comprised of contributions from museums, individual photographers, scholars, special collections at libraries, and photo archives. Importantly, images are available for use in presentations for educational or other noncommercial uses.

ARTstor offers many specialized tools and functions. System requirements for Java, Flash Player, browsers, and monitor resolution are given at: <http://www.artstor.org/using-artstor/u-html/requirements.shtml>.

[Photograph: Bourke-White, M. "Towering smokestacks of the Otis Steel Co., Cleveland, OH," 1925].

### Learning Express Library plus Learn 2

*LearningExpress* provides skill-building interactive courses in math, reading, and writing, as well as online interactive practice tests for several types of exams including grade school achievement tests, Advanced Placement, Praxis II, the SAT, GED, TOEFL, U.S. Citizenship, and civil service positions. Complete answer explanations accompany each response.

To take a test, a user first sets up an individual account. Note: Setting up an account must be done at an authenticating site (on campus or at an Ohio public library or school). Thereafter, the account is accessible from anywhere. *Learn2* includes more than 50 computer skills tutorials that will help improve your computer skills. Tutorials cover basic through advanced skill levels for *Microsoft Access*, *PowerPoint*, *Word*, *Excel*, and *Outlook* plus *Adobe Acrobat* to name a few.

### Electronic Book Center is Growing

The OhioLINK Electronic Book Center (EBC) now includes nearly 1,500 e-books from Springer Publishing. Over 55 reference books from Gale Virtual Reference Library are also searchable and accessible. To access, go to <http://ebooks.ohiolink.edu>.

### Bestsellers at the Library

The Kent Campus bestseller list for July/August is available by clicking on "Advanced Search" at the KentLINK main menu. Then choose the "Hot Topics" link to the left of the "Ask a Librarian" button. Other useful lists will be found here as well including Kent Campus Audio Visual DVDs and Videos acquired in July/August.

## There's More...

### e-Portfolio Support from SMS

The SMS was excited to receive numerous requests this Fall from many faculty across campus interested in using e-Portfolios.

What's an e-Portfolio?

E-portfolios can be used in several ways: to document a student's progress in a single course, by advisors to evaluate a student's strong and weak areas, and by potential employers to measure a job candidate's likely contribution to their organization. Other universities report that a collection of student e-portfolios can document students' academic progress and, by implication, institutional effectiveness for accreditation teams.

Kent State does not currently offer a comprehensive e-portfolio management system, making the task of creating and using an e-portfolio daunting for many instructors and students. To help, the SMS has been exploring two easy and accessible tools for creating e-Portfolios: Microsoft Word and Google Sites.

While neither is perfect, they are both free, or in the case of Microsoft Word, readily available at low cost to students. A new tutorial, "Create a Website using Microsoft Word 2007" was created by the SMS staff and posted on the SMS' Tutorials website page at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/smsweb>. It covers everything a student needs to know to create an e-Portfolio website using either Microsoft Word 2003 or 2007 and "posting" it to the student's personal Web space on the Kent Personal Server.

Google Sites is also being explored as another alternative because it offers the additional, but extremely important, function of personal information security. E-portfolios published to the Kent Personal Server can be viewed by anyone in the world at any time. By contrast, Google Sites only allows "invited" viewers to view a website. The other great thing about Google Sites is it's almost as easy as creating a Facebook site and offers more flexibility in the design and layout of the pages and almost none of the problems currently associated with using the Kent Personal Server.

In addition to these online tutorials, the SMS also provides a professional work space where your students can work on their e-portfolios and get one-on-one support from peer multimedia technology consultants or professional staff. We are happy to assist any faculty or administrative staff with e-portfolio questions as well. Contact: Gary Mote, SMS Manager, SMS ([gmote@kent.edu](mailto:gmote@kent.edu)).

### Library Services for Faculty

Just a reminder that information specific to faculty instruction, research, and services is available at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/faculty>.

### Statistical and Qualitative Software Support Undergoes Changes

Tina Ughrin has recently joined LMS as the new Statistical and Qualitative Software Support Consultant. Tina's services include: one-on-one assistance, development of on-demand seminars tailored for specific class requirements, documentation and online help, and 60-Minute Seminars in SPSS, NVivo, and SAS software (forthcoming). She can be reached at [cughrin@kent.edu](mailto:cughrin@kent.edu), 330-672-8548.

*Software Support and Availability* -- Tina presently supports the following software packages: SPSS, SAS, SPSS Text Analysis for Surveys, EQS, LISREL, AMOS, and NVIVO. Most packages may be purchased either at the Audio Visual Services Desk (3rd floor of the Main Library) or by credit card online. Purchasing online can be found by clicking on the "Personal" link on the library home page. Current prices are at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/StatSoftwarePricing>.

*Needs Assessment* -- This year we are conducting a needs assessment to determine what statistical and qualitative software support is needed for both research and research courses at KSU. A series of fall focus groups will be followed by a survey of the University community to gain a more comprehensive picture of statistical software package and service needs. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.library.kent.edu/statsoftware>.

### GIS Software Access

Geographic information system (GIS) software at both the Main Library GIS station and in the Map Library has been upgraded to ArcGIS 9.2. Both locations offer full-color printing, 2000 Census data, and individual appointments for locating other GIS data, assistance with basic data manipulation and base maps. Contact Edith Scarletto for more information ([escarlet@kent.edu](mailto:escarlet@kent.edu); 330-672-1674).

### Sage Reference Sources Available Online

New acquisitions in the Electronic Book Center (<http://ebooks.ohiolink.edu>) include titles from the publisher Sage. These encyclopedias are fully searchable and cover:

- Bilingual Education
- Counseling
- Education Law
- Educational Psychology
- Global Health
- Global Warming and Climate Change
- Interpersonal Violence
- Obesity
- Race, Ethnicity, and Society
- Social Problems
- U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior



## Updates

### Music Library Closed for Renovation and Expansion

Beginning in May 2008, the Music Library began a renovation and expansion in conjunction with the School of Theatre and Dance's Roe Green Project. The result will be an increase in both study space and shelf space in the Library, along with the creation of two computer classrooms and two multimedia group study rooms. Listening and viewing facilities will also be completely updated through the generous support of the Kulas Foundation.

The Library will reopen in Spring 2010 as the Performing Arts Library. Until that time, all collections remain available and can be requested online through the KentLINK catalog. Further information is available at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/music>. Contact Daniel Boomhower, Head of the Music Library, with any questions (330-672-1667, [dboomhow@kent.edu](mailto:dboomhow@kent.edu)).

### Japanese Film Series

Libraries and Media Services will present five recent, critically acclaimed films from Japan on October 23-26 at the Kiva in the Kent Student Center.

The films depict significant social and historical issues, with comments and discussion of each film facilitated by KSU faculty experts. The films in the series have been featured at major international film festivals and several have not yet been released in cinemas, including Hitoshi Matsumoto's "Big Man Japan," and Koji Wakamatsu's "United Red Army." This is a unique opportunity to be among the first to see major new films in an important cinematic tradition. Details are at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/japanesefilms>.

A series of French language films will be presented on March 6-9, 2009. For more information about either series, contact Daniel Boomhower (330-672-1667, [dboomhow@kent.edu](mailto:dboomhow@kent.edu)).

### A Very Special Acquisition

Special Collections and Archives recently received a Book of Hours, printed in 1507, as a gift from the estate of Gertrude L. Feiss. The Library now has three early printed Books of Hours in the collection, providing researchers new possibilities for comparative studies.

Books of Hours are liturgical texts that were made for lay people who wished to include elements of monastic life and prayer rituals into their daily routines. They were first produced in the Middle Ages as illuminated manuscripts, copied manually by monks working in a scriptorium. With the advent of movable type and the printing press in the fifteenth century, books could be produced more rapidly and economically. People began publishing printed versions of this popular type of book, making them much more widely available. Many of these early printed Books of Hours were designed to resemble the illuminated manuscripts people were familiar with.

The *Feiss Book of Hours* was printed in Paris by Philippe Pigouchet, who happens to be the same printer who produced another Book of Hours in the Libraries' collection. These two books are very different in style, demonstrating the range and versatility of printers in Paris in the early sixteenth century. Although printed a year earlier than our other *Pigouchet Book of Hours*, the Feiss Book of Hours looks more like a modern printed book and provides a good example of the simultaneous appearance of different styles of books during this period. Like the Internet today, the printing press launched a technological revolution that had a profound impact on the availability of the written word. But it didn't happen overnight; there was an interesting transition period of about fifty years as the shift to printing took hold. Books from this period can provide important insights into the process of how this change took place.

Researchers who wish to see this Book of Hours (and other items in the collection) can visit the Special Collections and Archives' Reading Room, located on the 12th floor of the Main Library building, between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

### In an Average Day:

6,000 searches are performed on KentLINK, the Libraries' online catalog

700 books are checked out of the Libraries

220 books are loaned out to students and faculty at other OhioLINK institutions

700 other books are checked in

360 books that are currently checked out are renewed

10,500 hits are served up on the library's web site

770 full text articles are downloaded by Kent State users from the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center

3,100 online searches are performed by Kent State users on EBSCOHost, one of our major research database providers

1,000 full text journal articles are downloaded by Kent State users from EBSCOHost

2,375 is the average daily number of users entering the Main Library.

116 users receive assistance at the Reference Desk



# A Note from the Dean

## Mark Weber, Dean of Libraries and Media Services

[mweber@kent.edu](mailto:mweber@kent.edu)

### Our Child-Centered World

In my hometown, much of the conventional wisdom of the day was outlined and discussed in Nubs Weaver's Barbershop directly across from the courthouse and next door to the Purity Bakery. Most mornings, Nubs and his customers would comment (in a less than favorable fashion) on the various attorneys seen entering the courthouse to do business. Much more sympathy was forthcoming for the defendants who would arrive "dressed up" in the current fashion of rural Wisconsin. Haircuts cost 50 cents and the whole point was to wheedle a dollar from my father so that I could make a stop at the Purity Bakery and then go to the barbershop.

Like Nubs, my father was a nervous man and a chain-smoker....except that my father smoked Chesterfield and Nubs smoked Camel Unfiltered. My father worked in our shoe and hat store six days a week including Shabbat and even part of Sunday. He had no hobbies and he enjoyed being at work. My mother, a former home economics teacher, was a full-time homemaker until I was in high school. Then she helped my father in the business. While at home, she cooked me breakfast before I went to school and she provided a lunch for me when I came home for lunch. She was a very serious bridge player and she played as many as three afternoons a week. She and my father played in local bridge tournaments and were moderately successful. They never thought to include me in their passion for bridge. To this day, I cannot play bridge. When I played basketball in high school, my parents never came to see me play and, frankly, I would have been embarrassed to have them sitting in the stands rooting and clapping for me. I did not really seek my parents' approval. Instead, I sought to avoid their disapproval which could have had unpleasant consequences for me. When it came time for me to go to college, the only affordable option was local campus of the University of Wisconsin system about twenty miles away. My parents never put much if any pressure on me to work hard in high school and they did the same when I was in college. I lived in a dormitory and seldom heard from my mother. I never went home and I was expected to solve any school problems that might arise. When I graduated, I received a nice crisp fifty dollar bill. I considered myself to be fortunate indeed.

II.

One of the less desirable byproducts of the self-indulgence of the 1960's was the rise of a "youth culture" and the general premium that the culture placed on youth and youthfulness. From this came something called "parenting," and this was considered a very self-conscious activity which was composed of a set of "skills." The bug of parental attentiveness really comes into its own when a child starts school. No effort, no matter how extensive, is out of bounds when it comes to getting little Colby, Lindsay or Luc into the right school. This begins with nursery school and continues. The pressure on children, whom all of this well-intentioned but somewhat

neurotic attention is lavished, is not slight. Children anguish over taking the ACT or the SAT. Every high school now boasts a regiment of specialized counselors. These include guidance counselors, special education teachers, psychologists, and...why not?...college application specialists! It is amazing how students in school are watched over and tested again and again. When I have an occasion to talk with high school teachers in middle class suburban school districts, they all agree that parents sometimes drive them crazy. There are requests for meetings so that we can discuss why Courtney received a B- in algebra. There are phone call and e-mails checking into little Basil's performance. The child becomes part of the family's investment portfolio. So much has been spent on private violin lessons, and ballet lessons, private summer camps, and tutors that Kelsey or Kyle cannot be allowed to fail in their parent's quest to get them into the "best colleges."

III.

How do colleges and universities react to this environment of helicopter parents? In an effort to compete for undergraduate enrollment, colleges often attempt to recreate the suburban environment out of which the entering class of first year students came. Universities construct dormitories that resemble hotels, they construct recreation centers with "state-of-the-art" equipment, and in general they contribute to the empowerment of students as "consumers." This consumer mentality has contributed to a decline in academic standards and academic rigor. For example, at a recent professional meeting, a colleague told me of several faculty at her institution who have stopped assigning research papers in their courses because students will not sign up to take the course, choosing instead to take the course from another faculty member who requires less work. The librarian came to learn of this issue when several faculty informed her that library research instruction would no longer be needed in their courses! This situation is probably fairly widespread.

Irate students inform the instructor that they work and have families and "do not have time for all this extra work." An additional dilemma is that many public colleges and universities are caught in the squeeze between struggling to maintain standards and also to increase their undergraduate FTE enrollments upon which state subsidies are often based.

IV.

The university is not an extension of the home or of high school or of one's adolescent peer group. Instead, in its best sense, it should be an experience which may challenge some of that comfort and complacency and should demand effort and excellence from students. "No damn excuses please," Nubs told a teenager getting his haircut..."just buckle down and work!"

Good advice, hard work, no excuses, and a willingness to improve should be one of the cornerstones of a college education. If students do not hear it from us, who will say it?

# FRIENDS'

# CORNER



## Matthew J. Bruccoli

Matthew J. Bruccoli died on June 4, 2008. For nearly 40 years he held the Emily Brown Jefferies Distinguished Professor of English chair at the University of South Carolina. Before his tenure at South Carolina, Professor Bruccoli was in the English Department at Ohio State University where he became friends with Hyman W. Kritzer. When Kritzer came to Kent State as Director of Libraries, the two maintained their friendship; and Bruccoli became very helpful as Kent State's Libraries began to develop its Department of Special Collections.

As a scholar, bibliographer, and book collector, Professor Bruccoli had a wide acquaintance with the "book world" and was generous in sharing his knowledge with Hy Kritzer. He provided important contacts with Clarence and David Gilman, booksellers at Crompound, New York, which led to Kent State's purchase of their entire stock of 250,000 volumes. Similarly his connection with book collector B. George Ulizio led Kent State to acquire his library of important rare books in English and American literature.

From Professor Bruccoli himself Kent acquired important collections of works by Nelson Algren, Raymond Chandler, Stephen Crane, Ring Lardner, John O'Hara, and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

In 1968 Bruccoli and his fellow book collector C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr. presented Kent with its 500,000th volume—the manuscript of a speech by Ohio Governor Warren G. Harding.

Over the years, Professor Bruccoli maintained his contact with Kent State's Libraries, and we have benefited from his advice and friendship. It is fair to say that he was instrumental in helping our Department of Special Collections get off to a very fine start. He was a good friend indeed.

## Upcoming Events

**October 16**, 4 p.m., Gerald and Victoria C. T. Read Special Collections Classroom (Library, 10th floor)  
Fred Baumann: *The Importance of a Liberal Education*

**October 23-26**, Japanese Film Series (Kiva, Kent Campus)  
Details at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/japanesefilms>

**October 28**, 4 p.m., Gerald and Victoria C. T. Read Special Collections Classroom (Library, 10th floor)  
Robert Jackson: *The Future of the Book*



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Libraries and Media Services

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