Kent State University Libraries honors the 50th anniversary of May 4, 1970

The May 4 Commemoration provides an annual opportunity to remember the tragic events that occurred in 1970 at Kent State University. The 50th anniversary of this milestone will take place in 2020. This is a time of reflection, not only for the university, but also the country. Beginning this semester and continuing through May 2020, numerous special events, speakers, exhibits and programs will be presented to cover the history, perspectives, legacy and education of this observance.

Kent State University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department has been a consistent resource for information on the events and aftermath of May 4, 1970, housing more than 300 cubic feet of May 4 materials that have been used for documentaries, projects, academic lessons, exhibits and more.

Please take the opportunity to attend the various campus events, browse the resources and engage with others in our community to learn more about this important time in history and how it shaped the world in which we live.

• The Kent State University Press has published several books and resources detailing many aspects surrounding May 4. Their most recent publication, “Moments of Truth: A Photographer’s Experience of Kent State 1970,” is a moving photographic memoir by Howard Ruffner. In 1970, he was a college sophomore working as a photographer for Kent State’s student newspaper and yearbook, as well as a stringer for Life magazine. During a September book launch, this insightful documentary work was introduced to the public, unveiling nearly 150 engaging photographs captured during those unforgettable days, including one that appeared on the cover of Life. Purchase your copy at www.KentStateUniversityPress.com at a 20 percent discount through November 30, 2019 (promo code: FALL19).

• In spring semester 2020, Special Collections and Archives will partner with the Department of Pan-African Studies, the May 4 Visitors Center and Jackson State University to offer a multi-location series of exhibits. Collectively titled “50 Years: Long Live the Memory of Orangeburg, Jackson State and Kent State,” the exhibits seek to honor casualties of these separate instances of state violence and murder on three U.S. university campuses. The exhibits will situate these events in a broader, national context of student-led movements for civil rights, peace and social justice. More information on the dates and locations of the exhibits will be announced soon.

Learn more about Kent State’s 50th Commemoration of May 4, 1970, at www.kent.edu/may4kentstate50. Faculty and staff are welcome to schedule a tour of Special Collections and Archives at University Library for themselves, their unit or campus visitors. Please schedule tours in advance by contacting the department at specialcollections@kent.edu or 330-672-2270.
By the end of May 1970, Hyman W. Kritzer, then director of Kent State University Libraries, had formally committed to establishing our May 4 Collection. He and his colleagues recognized almost instantly that the primary resources related to the events of May 4, 1970, needed to be collected, organized and preserved. As we enter into the academic year in which the 50th anniversary of May 4 will be commemorated, I am proud to say that University Libraries made good on the vision and commitment of those leaders who came before us. We currently house a collection of May 4 materials that encompasses more than 300 cubic feet of primary source materials. We regularly work with researchers, documentarians and journalists in supporting further exploration of the events of May 4 and their aftermath. We have many to thank, but I want to recognize Head of Special Collections and Archives Cara Gilgenbach for her leadership and ongoing commitment to this work.

I am also proud that University Libraries and the University Press are playing a major role in supporting the May 4 commemoration events planned throughout the upcoming year. These include new books, exhibits and programs. This issue of The Essential Library highlights several of these events, including the recent book launch for Howard Ruffner’s revealing photographic documentary, “Moments of Truth: A Photographer’s Experience of Kent State 1970,” and the exhibit, “The Truth Demands Justice: A Snapshot History of the May 4th Task Force,” which will soon be displayed in the Marovitz Special Collections and Archives Gallery on the first floor of University Library.

I encourage everyone to attend and participate in the 50th commemoration events of May 4. It is a time for reflecting, honoring and sharing the lessons of May 4 with new generations of students and citizens.

As always, we are grateful for your support and hope to see you in our libraries soon.

Karen Ronga
Library Director
Kent State Trumbull, Library

Originally from Warren, Ohio, Karen Ronga attended Kent State and earned a bachelor’s degree in general studies and a master’s degree in library and information science. After college, she stayed at KSU, accepting a position as the manager of University Libraries’ Course Reserves in 2002. She successfully led the department for nearly 17 years before taking on a new challenge as Kent State Trumbull’s library director in April 2019.

Karen’s new responsibilities consist of managing all library operations, including cataloging, circulation, course reserves and further developing the library’s collection, in addition to supervising the staff and student assistants. She actively promotes the many resources that the library provides for students, faculty and staff.

As a previous Kent Campus employee, she encourages her regional campus colleagues to take advantage of the many resources available to them, including personal and professional opportunities, such as technology workshops and Be Well Solutions. She’s grateful for all the wonderful people she has gotten to know through the library, both at the Kent and the regional campuses.

When she isn’t hard at work, Karen enjoys crocheting, baking, jogging and weightlifting.
Katie Clements grew up in Akron and stayed in the area, earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration at The University of Akron. She became a Golden Flash in June 2017, when she enrolled in the master’s of library and information sciences program while working as a graduate student assistant in University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department.

In her spare time, Katie enjoys being outdoors. She particularly loves Kent State’s beautiful campus. When not at work, she likes to run, hike, read and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Kent State alumnus Nick Fagan worked in the Joseph F. Morbito Architecture Library while in graduate school. Flash forward 13 years and he is the new head of the Architecture Library, located in the John Elliot Center for Architecture and Environmental Design, and an assistant professor. In addition to overseeing the daily operations in the library, supporting students and faculty in the various colleges he serves through research assistance, library instruction and collection management, he also collaborates with the College of Architecture and Environmental Design on the Belden Brick Materials Library, which is directly above the Architecture Library.

After spending much of his childhood in Hartville, Ohio, Nick enrolled at Kent State, earning a bachelor’s degree in architecture and master’s degrees in architecture and library and information science. In his current role, he hopes to further embed the Architecture Library in the fields it serves, demonstrating its increasing relevance in our digital world through teaching students how to navigate the evolving academic landscape and preparing them to be information-literate professionals.

Out of the office, Nick enjoys spending time with his two young daughters, reading graphic novels, watching movies and experiencing architecture and design.

Bryan Kvet, Ph.D., earned his advanced degrees at Kent State University. He holds two master’s degrees, one in history and another in library and information science. His passion for history prompted him to pursue his doctorate degree in the field.

After several years as a Kent State student, he decided to stay at the university as a faculty member. In August 2019, he began working as an adjunct librarian in two of University Libraries’ branches – Architecture and Fashion.

His responsibilities include assisting the heads of the two branch libraries by pitching in on major projects. His education and experience make him adept at helping students find the proper research materials. Soon, he’ll be taking on a new project, teaching information literacy sessions at both locations. Bryan would like to continue developing his library science and information literacy skills in hopes of landing a tenure track position in the Libraries’ Research and Instructional Services Department.

In his spare time, he is an avid reader and likes hiking at the Holden Arboretum. Bryan loves movies and used this interest in his doctoral dissertation, which was focused on the merging of film and history.
THE book that has been coming up in your conversations with Kent State University colleagues is now available with unlimited access to you, courtesy of University Libraries!

President Todd Diacon has encouraged Kent State leadership to read “Becoming a Student-Ready College” to equip each department with the knowledge and understanding to better address and respond to the needs of our students.

You don’t have to borrow the book from your co-worker. The libraries’ efficient Acquisitions Department purchased an electronic version that is available at no cost for current faculty and staff members to access simultaneously.

Download the Adobe Digital edition of the book from KentLINK today at http://kentlink.kent.edu/record=b5802896. Stop in the library or contact us at library.kent.edu/ask-us if you have any questions.

Free access to helpful book puts faculty and staff on the same page for student success

Students’ access to their library accounts just got easier

Kent State University students can access their online library accounts through their FlashLine dashboard. Kent State’s Information Technology Team recently noticed that “library” was one of the top three items students search for while logged into FlashLine. For convenience, the icon linking to University Libraries has been relocated to the header area (near the email icon) of the dashboard, making it present on every page while they’re logged into FlashLine.

Congratulations to University Libraries’ recently promoted employees

Throughout the past few years, Kent State University Libraries has experienced numerous personnel changes which made it necessary for some employees to step into interim roles to ensure that our students, faculty, staff and community were consistently receiving the best service possible.

Recently, the leadership team was solidified as three executive staff members accepted permanent positions in the roles for which they had previously been serving as interims.

In addition to those appointments, staff members in Course Reserves and Technical Services were promoted.

On behalf of University Libraries and all of our users, congratulations to these individuals on their new positions!

Mike Collura
Assistant Dean for Technology & Branch Libraries

Kay Downey
Assistant Dean for Collections & Technical Services

Stephanie Gaskins
Manager Reserve Services

Anita Miller
Manager Collections

Kara L. Robinson
Associate Dean

Students’ access to their library accounts just got easier

Kent State University students can access their online library accounts through their FlashLine dashboard. Kent State’s Information Technology Team recently noticed that “library” was one of the top three items students search for while logged into FlashLine. For convenience, the icon linking to University Libraries has been relocated to the header area (near the email icon) of the dashboard, making it present on every page while they’re logged into FlashLine.

Congratulations to University Libraries’ recently promoted employees

Throughout the past few years, Kent State University Libraries has experienced numerous personnel changes which made it necessary for some employees to step into interim roles to ensure that our students, faculty, staff and community were consistently receiving the best service possible.

Recently, the leadership team was solidified as three executive staff members accepted permanent positions in the roles for which they had previously been serving as interims.

In addition to those appointments, staff members in Course Reserves and Technical Services were promoted.

On behalf of University Libraries and all of our users, congratulations to these individuals on their new positions!
Copyright quirk results in millions of books being declared public domain

January 1, 2019 marked a major point in the copyright world. On that day, all copyrighted works that were first registered or published in 1923 became public domain. This was the first time works had aged into the public domain since the 1998 Copyright Extension Act (popularly known as the Sonny Bono Copyright Act).

Last month, reports on Vice.com and LifeHacker.com declared that millions of books – up to 80 percent of all books published between 1924 and 1963 – are already in the public domain. Surprisingly, this is a true statement.

An old iteration of U.S. copyright law required copyrights to be renewed and most authors did not comply with the rule. This discovery was made during a project conducted by the New York Public Library, in which scanned images from volumes of the “Catalog of Copyright Entries” were converted to XML format, enabling a machine to detect renewals or a lack thereof.

How does this affect affordable learning at Kent State? It allows public domain books to be used freely as part of our efforts to reduce textbook costs for students. Users can search for books through HathiTrust Digital Library at www.hathitrust.org. New records for books are posted daily at the blog “Secretly Public Domain” at https://botsin.space/@SecretlyPublicDomain.

More information on public domain, as well as several other related topics, will be covered at the third annual Affordable Course Materials Summit, hosted by University Libraries in spring semester 2020. Details will be shared throughout the university soon.

Open Access Discovery@Kent State

University Libraries makes it easy for faculty instructors to find open education materials through our Discovery Layer’s Open Access Search Engine at https://library.kent.edu/oa-search. Searches may be limited by collection, such as the Cleveland Memory Project; by source type, such as books; or by database type to specific collections, including: HathiTrust, Open Textbook Library, Government Printing Office Catalog and more.

Consult with your discipline’s Subject Librarian (library.kent.edu/subject-librarians-directory) for assistance in identifying quality open educational materials or other alternatives to traditional textbooks.
Creative ideas and solutions are developed in Kent State Tuscarawas’ Makerspace

In July, Kent State University at Tuscarawas’ Library Director Cherie Bronkar and Equipment Laboratory Technician Maria Feik co-presented at the Makerspaces for Innovation and Research in Academics conference, hosted by the University of La Verne. They discussed the role that their makerspace, located in the campus’s Academic Learning Commons, serves in students’ education.

One example from the presentation explained how nursing faculty used the makerspace to train their students to care for wounded patients. Faculty worked with Feik to create 3D models of a wound, used the vacuum former machine to create molds and worked with silicone to create stitch pads and wound simulations. The students used the products to learn how to perform sutures and other wound care techniques. The makerspace equipment allowed the faculty to create several skin tones to more adequately address the patients that the students will encounter.

The makerspace’s Video2Go Studio™ is a presentation lab where students can easily create MP4 videos. Newly added to the professional software and equipment are electric musical instruments, including guitars, drums, violins, keyboards, ukuleles and a karaoke machine. Students can sign up to learn or teach an instrument.

Workshops for students are held every Monday to promote the many projects that can be produced in the Tuscarawas Campus’ Design Innovation Node. Recently, workshops for faculty have been added on Fridays to specifically address how the makerspace equipment can be used to construct and complement instruction materials.

Tuscarawas Campus’ makerspace supports entrepreneurship, creativity and ingenuity for students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community. Visit http://libguides.tusc.kent.edu/makerspace to learn how this versatile space can make your ideas come to life.

University Library doubles the number of study rooms

Over the summer, the University Library transformed 11 research carrels on the sixth floor of the building into individual study spaces for all students to use. This brings the number of study rooms available in University Library to 20, as there are nine other study rooms split between the first and second floors.

The new sixth-floor rooms may be reserved for up to a total of two one-hour sessions for same-day use during the academic term. The scheduling availability varies through the week. Outside of the schedulable blocks of time, the sixth floor study rooms are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Previously, the sixth-floor study rooms were research carrels, used exclusively by faculty and graduate assistants, and were concealed behind frosted glass and locked doors. For the converted spaces, the doors no longer lock and the spaces now have clear glass. Each room is equipped with a small table, a chair and an electrical outlet. All except one have a window that allows sunlight to brighten not only each carrel, but also the floor’s adjoining open study area.

Visit https://libguides.library.kent.edu/studyspaces for more information about all of the available study spaces in University Library and how to schedule them.
Grants provide funds to renovate Kent State Ashtabula’s Main Hall Auditorium

Kent State University at Ashtabula is celebrating the campus’s 60th anniversary this year. In conjunction with this milestone, their Main Hall Auditorium, one of the original and most heavily used facilities on campus, is receiving a much-needed facelift.

The impressive renovation was funded through a $250,000 Eastgate Regional Council of Governments grant, written by Ashtabula Library Director Amy Thomas, and a $500,000 grant from the Robert S. Morrison Foundation.

The extensive project transformed the original facility into a collaborative learning space that is designed to provide more opportunities for students, faculty, local businesses and community members to acquire the necessary skills and training to be successful in tomorrow’s high-demand jobs. The auditorium’s stage was removed, new seating was installed, along with acoustic ceiling panels and upgraded technology. The new ADA-compliant lecture hall now has the capacity to seat approximately 200 people and includes variable seating options to accommodate large classes, lectures and events.

The renovation has greatly increased the teaching versatility of Ashtabula Campus’ Main Hall Auditorium. Dean Susan J. Stocker, Ph.D., noted that the facility’s improvements will help to address the current instructional needs of the students, faculty and professional learners. “We teach much differently now than we did in the past. We use technology and we tend to ‘flip’ classroom space to facilitate working in small groups versus the old way of just lecturing,” she said.
Grant to fund the digitization of rare audiovisual content from May 4 Collection

In May 2019, Kent State University Libraries was awarded a $30,561 grant by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) through the Recordings at Risk grant program, which is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. CLIR’s Recording at Risk program supports the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual content of scholarly value. The “Commissions, Committees and Commemorations: Preserving Audio and Audiovisual Responses to the Kent State Shootings” grant will focus on digitizing roughly 200 audiovisual items of rare and obsolete formats, such as magnabelts, Beta and UMatic recordings, from the Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department’s May 4 Collection.

As one of University Libraries’ most heavily used archives, the May 4 Collection includes more than 300 cubic feet of primary sources related to the Kent State shootings and aftermath and is currently supporting more than 20 major projects related to the upcoming 50th anniversary of the shootings.

Coordinated by Virginia Dressler, digital projects librarian, and Haley Antell, digital initiatives and outreach librarian, the grant will support the high-resolution digitization process for the content and make it possible for University Libraries to preserve and provide access to hundreds of audio and audiovisual recordings generated by the historic event.

CLIR is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions and communities of higher learning. To learn more about CLIR, visit www.clir.org.

University departments collaborate in support of research data

Kent State University Libraries (UL), Information Technology (IT) and Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP) are working together to support the data needs of researchers. This initiative aims to help researchers with all aspects of the data lifecycle, no matter where they are in the research process. Each participating unit brings complimentary expertise related to research data, making a wholistic research data service portfolio possible.

The collaborative initiative is currently conducting a gap analysis of research data support, identifying services already available and determining new services that are needed. You can look forward to hearing more about this emerging initiative soon, but in the meantime, if you have any questions about research data or need help, don’t hesitate to contact Michael Hawkins from UL’s Research and Instructional Services Department, at mhawki11@kent.edu.

Tell us what you think of University Libraries

University Libraries is currently engaged in a self-study and one of the areas of focus asks “How do our stakeholders view us?”

In the coming weeks, you will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback, but we welcome any and all to complete this brief survey (only a few questions):

LIBRARY.KENT.EDU/SELF-STUDY

Please visit this link and tell us what you think. We appreciate your feedback!
LaunchNET Kent State, with support from University Libraries, hosted students from 10 Northeast Ohio colleges and universities at the end of July for an entrepreneurial experience like no other. The students resided in Kent Campus dorms during the five-day program, which included opportunities to hear entrepreneurial lessons from faculty, staff and regional business leaders.

The annual Entrepreneurship Education Consortium program, funded by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, challenged 40 student participants to collaboratively create innovative solutions to address current industry and community issues encountered by the sponsoring business partners. On the final day of the program, leaders from these businesses heard each group’s presentation on how they proposed to resolve these real-life problems and chose the groups who were most deserving of the cash awards.

“This year’s event encompassed a major change from the past 12 years, in that we invited company and community partners to introduce specific industry challenges to the student teams,” said LaunchNET’s Executive Director Julie Messing. “Additionally, we created student teams from multiple schools in order to give the participants more of an opportunity to network and get to know their colleagues from other schools.”
The new freshman class of Kent State University had their preconceptions of a college library turned upside down during KSU Kickoff. They were welcomed to University Library with a live DJ, dancing, video games, ice cream, a photo booth, lots of pizza and Elvis!

The annual Late Night at the Library party attracted nearly 2,000 students to the building’s first and second floors, decorated in a beach theme. Everyone enjoyed their introduction to the library, especially the theatre major who won a new pair of Apple AirPods for connecting with University Libraries on her social media accounts.

Not every visit to the library may be as exciting as this one during their first week at Kent State, but we’re sure the students will be back during the semester. Seven consecutive years of being voted as the #1 Best Place to Study in KentWired.com lets us know that we continue to make a great impression among the students.

Freshmen kick off the school year at University Libraries’ pizza party

Freshmen Rachel Gorman - social media drawing winner of the Apple AirPods
Constitution Day inspires voter registration drive

Kent State University Libraries’ civic responsibility was fulfilled through a voter registration drive held on Constitution Day, which was nationally observed on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Helping with the event was the Kent State Votes Coalition, an organization comprised of Kent State students, faculty, staff and community members that encourages students to vote and supports them with relevant information.

University Libraries’ staff, Tiera Moore from Kent State Votes and representatives from Undergraduate Student Government collected 45 registration forms to vote in Ohio, as well as one absentee registration. Several people approached the table requesting information about registration deadlines and how to vote as a college student living on campus. Students received cookies and cupcakes from “Betsy Ross,” portrayed in period attire by Nell Orndorf, a devoted library volunteer.

A monitor on the library’s first-floor computer lab was dedicated as a self-registration site to allow people to confirm if they were registered to vote in the upcoming election and/or to register online.

The knowledgeable staff at the library’s Ask Me Desk, as well as the Kent State Votes organization, is available as a voter’s resource whenever needed. Find answers to your questions about voting at https://libguides.library.kent.edu/voting.
JOIN KENT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES FOR THESE FALL EVENTS

OCTOBER 14 THROUGH MAY 2020
Marovitz Gallery exhibit

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16 • 5-7 PM
GARDEN ROOM
Business After Hours with the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce

THURSDAY, OCT. 17 • 5-7 PM
STUDENT CENTER, SCHWEBEL ROOM
Faculty Club; Recognizing faculty tentured and promoted during 2018-19

TUESDAY, OCT. 22 • NOON-4 PM
GARDEN ROOM & 2ND FLOOR
GREEN ROOM
LaunchNET’s Lift Off! Career Fair for Start-ups

TUESDAY, OCT. 22 • 1-5 PM
Map Library Open House

FRIDAY, OCT. 25 • 9 PM - 12 AM
GARDEN ROOM & 2ND FLOOR
The Haunted Library

FRIDAY, NOV. 8 • NOON - 1 PM
Performing Arts Library Open Mic Lunch

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13 • NOON - 1 PM
ROOM 334
Pizza for Your Thoughts

TUESDAY, DEC. 3 • 9 - 11 AM
Architecture Library’s Coffee and Canines

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
GARDEN ROOM
Recognition Luncheon for graduating library student employees and volunteers

MONDAY, DEC. 9 & TUESDAY, DEC. 10
3 - 5 PM
GARDEN ROOM
Stress-Free Zone

FOR THE LATEST UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES EVENT UPDATES, VISIT:
WWW.LIBRARY.KENT.EDU

Kent State University, Kent State and KSU are registered trademarks and may not be used without permission. Kent State University is committed to attaining excellence through the recruitment and retention of a diverse student body and workforce.