



# PAGETURNERS

EMBRACE WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

WINTER 2015 | ISSUE 8

## We The People...



*Library Friends,  
Jim and Nell Orndorf*

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**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
University Libraries

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## LETTER FROM THE DEAN



The diverse events that always seem to punctuate each semester help to make the Libraries one of the intellectual centers of the Kent State University campus. Fall semester 2015 was no exception.

Let's start with the Libraries' Constitution Day celebration on a beautiful Thursday, 17 September. This date marked the 228<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States.

How appropriate for a group of citizens, representing Kent State students, faculty, staff, and alumni as well as local community members, to gather in front of University Library to read the text of the Constitution in its entirety. The event started with a color guard and the singing of the National Anthem, led by an Air Force ROTC cadet, and concluded with cake for all – frosted in red, white, and blue, of course. I was proudly delighted that so many of our international students paused to listen.

Move ahead to 4 November when the Libraries hosted a panel discussion entitled "Respect for Sacred vs. Freedom of Speech." Representatives of different faiths and backgrounds led a civil discussion of sacred figures, places, and values from the perspectives of their different faiths. The program's goal was to offer a respectful and relaxed opportunity for interfaith and intercultural engagement about "change through non-violence." The Libraries was a great site for a program of this kind.

Let's not forget about books. In an intimate coffee-talk held in the Joseph F. Morbito Architecture Library, the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's Dean Douglas Steidl shared his personal thoughts and insights on selected books that influenced his life and career. We look forward to hosting more programs of this kind in the new Architecture Building scheduled to open in October 2016.

At this time it is equally appropriate to express gratitude to everyone who has supported the Libraries in the past year. In particular, the Libraries is proud to announce that long-time Libraries' supporter Lorraine R. Baumgardner, now serving a second term as chair of the University Libraries National Advisory Council, is the 2015 recipient of the Champion of the Library award. Also at this time the Libraries is delighted to recognize the 2015 Friends of the University Libraries. Thank you for helping us to kick start and renew this organization of library advocates which was retired many years ago. It is you, our old friends and our new friends, that make University Libraries Student Scholarships and other library initiatives pertinent to the success of our mission possible.

The Libraries appreciates the generosity of its many supporters. Thank you for continuing to support the Libraries.

Best wishes,

Jim Bracken, Dean of University Libraries





# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE DURING CONSTITUTION DAY

## WE THE PEOPLE...

So begins the U.S. Constitution, a revolutionary document that would bring forth a new country, establishing America's foundational laws and guaranteeing basic rights to its citizens.

On September 17, University Libraries brought that historical paper to life for the Kent State University community in recognition of Constitution Day.

Beginning with a presentation of the colors by the University's Army and Air Force ROTC and singing of the National Anthem, around 40 volunteers then gathered around the front entrance of the main library to read aloud the U.S. Constitution. Presented by deans, faculty, staff and students, as well as military and community members, the reading took approximately 45 minutes.

Busy pedestrians stopped to listen. Phones were held high to take pictures. International students captured video to show their families in countries far away, where a Constitution such as this is unheard of.

The event drew people of diverse backgrounds, ages and races together for one common cause: to remember the adoption of the U.S. Constitution more than 200 years ago. The fact that the entire community came together to support Constitution Day is significant, said Jim Bracken, Dean of University Libraries.

"The Libraries simply did what it does best," Bracken said. "Faculty and staff organized the program, while the Library's front entrance provided a very convenient and visible venue for a group of diverse American citizens to read aloud the document that makes our nation a nation. We had faculty, staff, students, and community members of all ages, shapes, and sizes."

Two volunteer readers, Jim and Nell Orndorf of Cuyahoga Falls, visibly engaged the crowd by dressing in costume as Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross. The authentic outfits, hand-sewn by Nell, were representative of what the early Americans would have worn. Nell carried with her the signature item of Betsy Ross, a 13-star flag.

"Not many students have seen the earliest American flag before," said Nell. "I think at some point in their lives, students will reflect upon this day and seeing a 13-star flag. Seeing Jim and I dressed as historical figures helps students understand the times back then better."

Following the event, Jim Orndorf reflected on the diversity of the many volunteers who made the reading of the Constitution come to life for the crowd that morning.

"It wasn't just a dry talk," said Jim. "It was read with individual personalities and accents. We didn't just hear it, but we felt it too because different people emphasized different things. Which is probably how it was originally written as well."

Seeing the international student community respond to the event was particularly moving, said Dean Bracken.

"What's been remarkable is the reaction of our international students," said Bracken. "They do double-takes, pull out their cell phones, and video record our readers. We are exposing guests in our country to some of what makes us Americans. This makes me very proud of my citizenship in our country."

Now that the 2015 Constitution Day is over, Dean Bracken is already making plans for next year's program, to be held September 16, 2016.

"With the participation of members of the ROTC, this year's program was expanded and much improved compared to the 2014 program," said Bracken. "How can you beat a cadet leading the crowd in singing the National Anthem? How can you top Betsy Ross and Ben Franklin—except with maybe George Washington and Thomas Jefferson? Maybe they will show up next year, especially if we can get enough participants to also read the Bill of Rights. I just love what we do on Constitution Day."

*Constitution Day 2016 is observed on Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Mark your calendars!*



# INTRODUCING OUR 2015 CHAMPION OF THE LIBRARY

## Lorraine Baumgardner

University Libraries is proud to announce that Lorraine Baumgardner is this year's recipient of the Champion of the Library award. This annual award is presented to a Kent State University faculty, staff, student or community member whose commitment to University Libraries is extraordinary. Lorraine supports the current mission of the Library and promotes the Libraries as central to the success of the University. She works collaboratively with faculty and staff, promotes the Libraries' resources and services, and advocates for University Libraries to the campus community and the community at large.

Lorraine was instrumental in the creation of the University Libraries National Advisory Council, led the Council as its first chair, and is currently serving a second term as Chair. During this time, Lorraine had a prominent role in the development of the Friends of the Libraries Legacy Scholarship Dinner program along with revising and ratifying the Council's charter. As a leading legal authority on First Amendment rights in northeast Ohio, Lorraine was selected as the primary speaker at the Libraries' Constitution Day event in 2012. As a strong advocate for the University Libraries, Lorraine and her husband, Bill Gagliano, hosted a *Small Plates, Special Treasures* soiree' at Kent State's Cleveland Urban Design Center,

exhibiting a sample of the Borowitz Collection of True Crime held in Special Collections & Archives.

Although a graduate of the College of Wooster, there will always be shades of blue and gold in Lorraine's blood. Lorraine's father, Robert L. Baumgardner, Sr., was a proud graduate of Kent State University and served on the

University's Board of Trustees from 1963-1978. In 1969, he and his wife Margaret Baumgardner established the Robert L. Baumgardner, Jr. Memorial Collection of Contemporary Poetry in honor of their son who died in 1968 at the age of 21. Margaret Baumgardner later expanded and made significant contributions to the endowment in honor of both her son and her husband, following Robert Sr.'s death in 1995.

Lorraine Baumgardner Gagliano is, forever, a part of the Kent State University and the University Libraries family.



## EMBRACE OUR STAFF

# GEORGE LEGGIERO



University Libraries' senior applications analyst, George Leggiere, is more than an IT guy at Kent State University Libraries - he's a musician. For 42 years and counting, George has climbed the 80 foot spiral staircase to the top of the Church of the Covenant bell tower to play the *carillon*. The carillon is an instrument of bronze bells played through a console, much like a pipe organ,

but with bells instead of pipes. This particular instrument happens to have 47 bells weighing 15,000 pounds. The largest of them is 2800 lbs and is about 5.5 feet tall. The hollowed out organ-like

console consists of two rows of foot pedals at its base and two rows of wooden paddles or handles instead of black and white keys. The pedals and handles are connected to wires that lead out the back of the instrument and up through the ceiling to the bells above.

Every Sunday and sometimes a few times a week, George plays the carillon by tapping on the foot pedals with his feet and wooden paddle keys with his gloved fists. With every touch of a wooden paddle, University Circle resonates with the classical sounds of Bach and other 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century composers. Students, residents, workers, visitors, and more look forward to the 2016 Spring ½ hour Friday lunchtime concerts.

*The Friends of the McGaffin Carillon in University Circle* are working together to raise funds to renovate the instrument and expand concerts and other activities by the instrument's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. George Leggiere intends to play for as long as he can climb the tower. For more information, see <http://www.ucbells.org>.

# SEEING LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF A BOOK

## Architecture Library book lecture series brings meaningful message to students



Citing classic as well as modern literature, fiction and non-fiction, College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED) Dean Doug Steidl encouraged students to see their lives through the lens of literature during a lecture held September 30.

The talk was given in conjunction with the Joseph F. Morbito

Architecture Library faculty book series, coordinated by Assistant Professor and Architecture Librarian Marsha Cole.

Open to everyone, the book series brings architecture students and faculty together in an informal setting, according to Cole.

The surroundings allow students to get a personal look at their professors not typically seen in a classroom setting.

During his lecture, Steidl talked about the books that have most influenced his personal and professional life over the past 50 years.

“I started with *Image of a City* by Kevin Lynch, a book that explains how cities develop,” Steidl said. “Cities follow topography, natural features as well as human imposed elements. You have landmarks, places where intersections create locations, where people gather. There are edges, pathways and districts.”

Steidl then explained to his audience how to bridge literature with personal life experiences.

“What does that say about your life?” asked Steidl. “Where are the landmarks in your life? Did a big event happen that revised your thinking or your geographic location or your commitments? Where are the edges in your life? What are you afraid of? How did your pathway change as you moved through time? I tell my audience that books relate personally, not just professionally or intellectually.”

Tackling the issue of prejudice, Steidl referenced *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years* by Taylor Branch, a book about the Civil Rights movement.

“This is an important one because prejudice still exists today,” he explained. “I want my students to ask themselves ‘what can I do about this problem and how can I be part of the answer?’”

Steidl concluded with *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.

“This, essentially, is the ultimate love story,” said Steidl. “In some ways, it’s a Jesus story. It’s about asking yourself how much you care for someone else? Who do you love so much that you would give your life for their happiness? It’s about love, commitment and sacrifice.”

Seamlessly weaving together his book selections and life experiences, Steidl encouraged his audience to evaluate the message of every book they read and apply it to their own lives.

“Everything you read, everything you perceive, should be put into the question of ‘how does this affect me?’” Steidl explained. “If you’re not self evaluating, you’re not growing and maturing. Everything you read in a book becomes personal. You need to ask, what’s this say to me? And then act on that.”



For more information about the Architecture Library book series, contact Marsha Cole at 330-672-1637 or [mocole@kent.edu](mailto:mocole@kent.edu).





## RESPECT FOR SACRED VS. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

On Wednesday November 4, 2015, University Libraries hosted a panel discussion entitled “Respect for Sacred vs. Freedom of Speech.” The discussion brought together three panel members of different faiths to discuss concepts of “sacred” from the perspective of their own faith, and to reflect on the values and implications of “sacredness” within their own communities. The members of the panel were: Dr. David Odell-Scott, Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, Professor of Philosophy at Kent State University; Dr. Zeki Saritoprak, Professor, Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies, John Carroll University; and Dr. Peter Haas, Abba Hillel Silver Professor

of Jewish Studies, Case Western University. The event was moderated by Murat Gurer, Director, Niagara Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio.

The discussion was an interfaith and intercultural engagement to promote understanding and change through non-violence. The panel engaged the audience in a respectful and relaxed atmosphere. Almost 90 attendees were present, filling the space to near capacity. The event was made possible through the work and sponsorship of the University Libraries’ Diversity Committee and the Niagara Foundation.



## 2015 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The University Libraries and Friends of University Libraries are pleased to announce our 2015 Library Student Legacy Scholarship winners. We were excited to be able to offer two scholarships this year, and hope to offer more in the future. Yacouba Kabore from Burkina Faso, our first international scholarship winner, is a business major who hopes to return to his home country to assist his father in running a small family business and to eventually start his own business. Our other winner is Jeremy Valcich from New Hampshire, an aeronautics major who is planning a career in airport or airline management. Congratulations to Yacouba and Jeremy!

**YACOUBA KABORE**  
Business Management



**JEREMY VALCICH**  
Aeronautics

## EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY

### CROWDSOURCING

*Crowdsourcing* is a modern business term coined in 2005 and defined by Merriam-Webster as the process of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people, and especially from an online community, rather than from traditional employees or suppliers. Within the realm of digital library and archives projects, crowdsourcing is used in much the same way: garnering the collective resources of many individuals to accomplish value-added enhancements to digital content, such as the creation of transcriptions of digitized hand-written documents, or fuller descriptions of people and locations depicted in scanned photographs.

The Kent State University Libraries has recently digitized 50 years of content from our university newspaper, the *Kent Stater / Daily Kent Stater*. This valuable local resource is now available in digital format from fall 1939 through fall 1989. One of the exciting functions our digital newspaper system offers is the ability to allow users anywhere in the world to help us edit the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) component of the digital archive. OCR essentially is a mechanism for taking scanned images of texts and converting them into computer-readable code so that this text becomes fully searchable and retrievable in online systems. While OCR is a powerful tool, imperfections in printed texts always produce errors in the computer-generated text that is output through this process. Therefore, many digital text archives, such as our *Digital Stater* system, contain some errors in text translation. Our crowd-sourced text correction feature allows users to help us fix translation issues



View shown once one is logged in with a user account.

that occur between the text of the newspaper and the OCR text being searched when a user conducts a keyword search of the content.

If you like finding and fixing mistakes and would enjoy reading historical articles from the *Kent Stater*, you are a great candidate for participation! For more information on how you can contribute to this effort, please see our Crowd Sourced Text Correction page.

[www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/dks correction](http://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/dks correction)



**GINIE DRESSLER**  
Digital Projects Librarian,  
Assistant Professor



**CARA GILENBACH**  
Head, Special Collections  
& Archives, Subject Librarian  
for Special Collections  
& Archives, Associate  
Professor



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*The next member meeting  
will be held on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>  
at 9 - 10:30am at the  
Architecture Library, Taylor  
Hall, followed by a tour of the  
May 4 Visitor Center.*

# SHARE YOUR PASSION FOR KENT STATE... ...AND CREATE A LASTING LEGACY



**Sandy Marovitz**  
Emeritus Professor of  
English, Former department  
chair

**Nora Marovitz**  
'72, MLS '86

Sandy and Nora Marovitz love Kent State, particularly the University Libraries. So they transformed that special affection into a permanent tribute through a bequest in their estate plan.

You, too, can create a lasting legacy that preserves your memory and the future success of many students.

If you would like to add Kent State to your will or want information about a gift that provides income for life, email or call us. Already have Kent State in your estate plans? Let us know, so we can ensure that your intentions are fulfilled, and welcome you into the Herrick Society of legacy donors.

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[giftplan@kent.edu](mailto:giftplan@kent.edu) | 330.672.1000

*"One of the advantages of  
giving back is that you can  
designate exactly where you  
want your gift to go."*

— Sandy and Nora Marovitz