

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

TOWER

WINTER 2018

BRICK BY BRICK

Four KU alumni find themselves in Denmark creating one of America's favorite toys.

Page 14

BACK TO CLASS WITH:
DR. CHARLES F. ROTH, JR. '68

MONIQUE BOYKINS '07



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Kutztown University inducted the 39th annual class into its Athletics Hall of Fame in November. Seven inductees joined the Hall in front of a capacity crowd at the induction ceremony, in the Georgian Room of Old Main. The seven new inductees increase the membership to 206 since the Hall was formed in 1977.

Back Row L to R: Michael McCardell, baseball; Joseph Scheks '65, men's track & field; Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, university president; Stephen T. Dennis, men's basketball; Mukundan Nandakumar '05, men's tennis; Front Row L to R: Steve Hahn, assistant basketball coach (1986-2013); Kelley Healey Krater '09, field hockey; Stephanie Jeppesen Wyzykowski '10, women's swimming.

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L TO R: MADISON O'NEIL '13, LAUREN KING '08, AUSTIN WILLIAM CARLSON '12 AND MEGAN BLAIR '13 HAVE FOUND SUCCESS IN DENMARK, HELPING TO CREATE ONE OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE TOYS.

PHOTO BY MARTIN INGVERSEN.

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

TOWER

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KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Tower magazine, issued January 2018, is published by Kutztown University, a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. The Tower is published twice a year, winter and summer.

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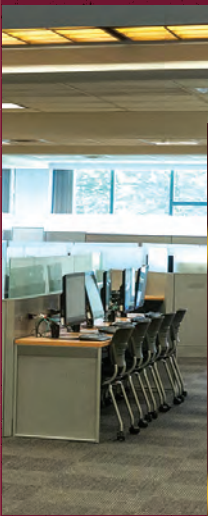
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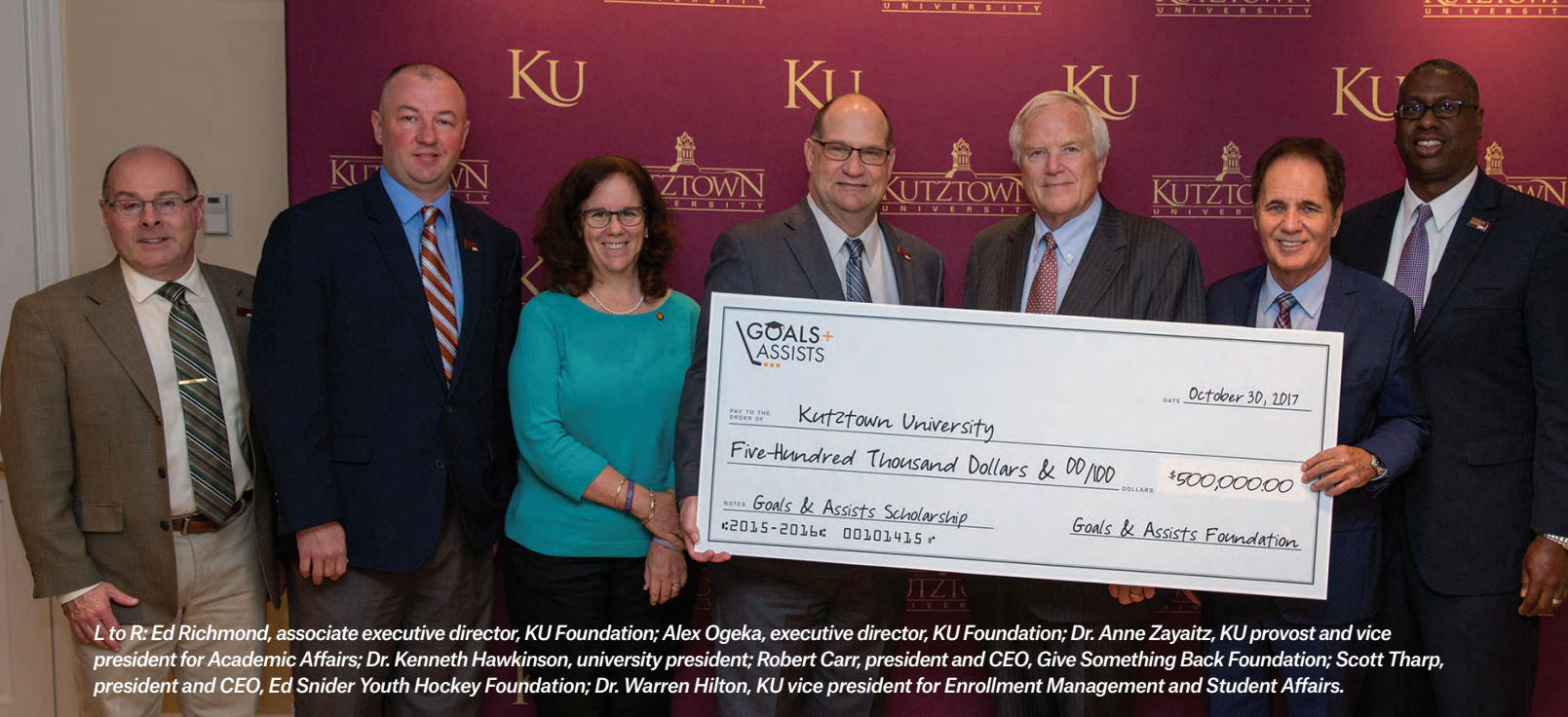
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ROHRBACH LIBRARY GETS A MAKEOVER

Kutztown University's Rohrbach Library underwent renovations to enhance and improve services for students. Along with a fresh new look, there are new collaborative areas with technology to encourage teamwork and group study, as well as an enhanced research services consultation space. The library, which was originally built in 1966, is now home to the University Writing Center.





L to R: Ed Richmond, associate executive director, KU Foundation; Alex Ogeka, executive director, KU Foundation; Dr. Anne Zayaitz, KU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson, university president; Robert Carr, president and CEO, Give Something Back Foundation; Scott Tharp, president and CEO, Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation; Dr. Warren Hilton, KU vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.

SCHOLARSHIPS ENHANCED BY \$500,000 DONATION

The Kutztown University Foundation and Kutztown University accepted a \$500,000 donation from the Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation and the Give Something Back Foundation. Working through their Goals & Assists partnership, Snider Hockey and Give Back assist students in overcoming

obstacles and succeeding in school. Goals & Assists serves children from urban neighborhoods in the Philadelphia area who learn important life lessons while playing ice hockey. The gift will fund scholarships for 25 Goals & Assists Scholars to attend Kutztown University.



GALLAGHER JOINS STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

KU senior Molly Gallagher of Kennett Square, Pa., has been named to the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. Gallagher is a communication studies major, with minors in leadership, public administration, women and gender studies and public relations. She is serving her second term as president of the Student Government Association and sits on the President's Administrative Council Board.

The 20-member Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing Pennsylvania's 14 public universities. The board establishes broad educational, fiscal and personnel policies, and oversees the efficient management of the State System. Among other tasks, it appoints the chancellor and university presidents, approves new academic programs, sets tuition and coordinates and approves the State System's annual operating budget. The Board comprises 11 members appointed by the governor, three students, four legislators, the governor or a designee and the state secretary of education or a designee.



PSECU UNVEILS RENOVATED
**FINANCIAL EDUCATION
CENTER**

Above, L to R: Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson, university president, Avalanche the Golden Bear and Greg Smith, president, PSECU, cut the ribbon to officially open the newly renovated Financial Education Center in the McFarland Student Union. One of 22 centers operated by PSECU, the KU office provides financial services assistance to the entire KU community. It also provides internship opportunities for students in the business and financial areas of study.



Dr. Laura Sherrod

**SHERROD APPEARS ON DISCOVERY
CHANNEL SERIES**

Dr. Laura Sherrod, professor of physical sciences at KU, embarked on a remarkable journey to Colombia to participate in a Discovery Channel series, "Finding Escobar's Millions." The series gave Sherrod, a lover of science, math and the outdoors, the chance to explore the hidden treasures Colombia has to offer. The six-part series premiered Nov. 3. It shadows American adventurers on a quest to discover historical fact from fiction in the South American country.



PFEILER-WUNDER HONORED AS OUTSTANDING ART EDUCATOR

Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, professor of art education, has been named the 2017 Pennsylvania Outstanding Higher Ed Art Educator by the Pa. Art Education Association (PAEA). Pfeiler-Wunder has been published numerous times and has designed several new courses at the university including Integrated Curriculum in the Art Class and Discover! Science and Art Integration for the K-12 Educator.

Pfeiler-Wunder is an actively involved scholar and presents extensively at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) regional, and international conferences. She served on the Editorial Board of NAEA's *Art Education Journal*, currently serves on the NAEA Research Commission and is the Higher Education Director-Elect for the NAEA Board.

Prior to joining the faculty at KU in 2009, she worked as an elementary art educator with the Iowa City Community School District. She holds a bachelor's degree from Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and both a master's and doctorate degree from the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

PAEA actively supports and promotes visual art education through professional development, leadership, and service.

Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder



WHITNEY NAMED INTERIM CHANCELLOR OF STATE SYSTEM

Dr. Karen M. Whitney has been named interim chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. She replaces Frank T. Brogan who retired in August. Prior to her appointment, she was the 16th president of Clarion University since 2010. The State System is currently conducting a national search for a new chancellor. The Board of Governors is also reviewing a redesign of system operations. For more information visit www.passhe.edu.

Dr. Karen M. Whitney

WOMEN'S CENTER OFFICE DEDICATED TO FORMER DIRECTOR

The Kutztown University Women's Center Director's Office was named in honor of Dr. Ann T. Gundry '81 in a ceremony in Old Main. The director of the Women's Center from 1991-2004, Gundry received the honor for her generous support and visionary leadership of the Women's Center, Women's Studies and Programs and women's Intercollegiate Athletics.

Right, L to R: Dr. Ann T. Gundry '81 and Dr. Connie Dent, professor emerita of Psychology/Counseling and Human Services, unveil a plaque officially naming the director's office of the Women's Center after Gundry.





Bryan Zellmer

ZELLMER TAKES HELM AT *KU PRESENTS!*

Bryan Zellmer has been named director of *KU Presents!* at Kutztown University. With 20 years of performance, production and arts executive experience, Zellmer is a seasoned manager who appreciates both the creative and analytical aspects of running a theater.

Prior to joining *KU Presents!*, he worked in leadership roles at a ten-thousand seat amphitheater in Pennsylvania, a casino entertainment lounge in New York, a state-of-the-art performing arts center in New Jersey and an historic theater in Colorado. Zellmer's performance history includes numerous lead, supporting and ensemble acting roles in prestigious theaters such as the Paramount Theatre, Bardavon Opera House and UPAC on Broadway.

KU RUGBY TEAMS PROMOTED TO ELITE CLUB STATUS

The Kutztown University men's and women's rugby clubs have been promoted to Elite Club Status. The Elite Status level was developed by the university administration to enhance the support, both financially and operationally, for clubs that meet specific criteria. In order to receive consideration for Elite Status, clubs:

- Must have a coach that is approved and hired by Recreational Services.
- The coach must meet national coaching standards of the sport's governing body.
- Cannot be a duplicate of a sponsored varsity sport at KU. Must compete in a sport that is generally recognized as an NCAA or Olympic Sport.
- Must have a National Governing Body in which it is affiliated. Must compete on the collegiate club level and be a member of a league.
- Must exist for at least five years at KU and must show a history of successful leadership and organization.
- Must conduct all fundraising and alumni activities in consultation with the KU Foundation and Alumni Relations.
- Must compete at the highest level with the potential to gain national recognition for the university.
- Strongest consideration will be given to those competing at the Division I level.
- Must demonstrate an ability to recruit both nationally and internationally.
- Must provide the necessary information in a timely manner for game results and publicity.

The KU men's rugby club, founded in 1984, has a long history of national success at the highest level in both 15s and 7s competition. The Golden Bears are coached by KU Presidential Medal recipient Dr. Gregory "Doc" Jones. Since taking over the helm in 1985, Jones' teams, between the 15s and 7s, have put together more than 60 winning seasons.

The KU women's rugby club was founded in 1994 and competes at the Division II level for 15s and the 7s regular seasons. Kutztown has advanced to the national Division II tournament in 15s under current head coach Sean Cobb.





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Pennsylvania's
STATE SYSTEM
of Higher Education



Dr. Donovan D. McCargo

NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS COMES TO KU

Dr. Donovan D. McCargo has been named assistant vice president and dean of students at Kutztown University. Previously, McCargo was the dean of students at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) since 2014. McCargo replaces Bob Watrous who retired in the spring after more than 30 years with the university.

Prior to his work at CCP, McCargo spent eight years at Rowan University, at both the Glassboro and Camden, NJ, campuses. He began his career as an assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program in 2006. He served as the associate dean for student life at Rowan from 2012 – 2014.

McCargo holds a doctorate degree in education from Rowan University, where he also earned a bachelor's degree in marketing. He has a master's degree in higher education from Iowa State University.

KU SUPPORTS FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH

Kutztown University and ChildPromise, Inc., Philadelphia, have entered into a four-year agreement to create a Providing Resources and Opportunities to Future Standouts (PROFS) program to assist young adults who age out of the foster care system. PROFS provides college access programs, college prep and financial literacy workshops for high school students in the foster care system and also retention programs for KU students transitioning from the foster care system.

Retention programs for KU students include academic and personal coaching, financial literacy workshops, and peer mentoring services. PROFS students will also be connected to on-campus jobs many of which include work hours over semester breaks, as year round housing for students will be provided as well.

ChildPromise has approved nearly a half million dollars by the end of the agreement in August 2021.

Many current KU students from the foster care system desire the support a parent would normally provide. In collaboration with ChildPromise, care packages can now be sent to these students. A care package can consist of, among other things, non-perishable foods, notes of encouragement, towels/wash clothes, as well as toiletries such as toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

Care packages can also be obtained by making a donation to ChildPromise, which will send a package to a student.

For more information or to obtain a care package visit www.sharethecare.net.



Alex Ogeka

OGEKA, RICHMOND PROMOTED AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



Ed Richmond

Alex Ogeka has been promoted to executive director of the Kutztown University Foundation and Ed Richmond has been promoted to associate executive director and chief financial officer of the foundation.

Ogeka and Richmond served as co-interim executive directors of the foundation during the search. Prior to that, Ogeka held several leadership roles with the foundation and university, dating back to 2006. Richmond has been the foundation's chief financial officer since 2009.

Ogeka most recently served as the foundation's senior director of Development and Alumni Relations, a position he was promoted to in 2014. He was responsible for providing strategic direction and oversight to successfully engage alumni, faculty, staff, friends and parents to build a robust program of philanthropy to support KU students.

Richmond has extensive expertise in serving not-for-profit organizations and institutions of higher education from both an internal and external perspective. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in accounting from Muhlenberg College.

The KU Foundation has been raising funds to support the students, faculty, programs and capital needs of Kutztown University since 1983. With the generous support of KU alumni and friends of the university, the foundation raises millions of dollars for student scholarships, endowment, building projects, academic programs, athletics and more. The foundation is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all gifts to the foundation are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. The KU Foundation also includes Alumni Relations, whose purpose is to improve the KU alumni experience.



Matt Santos M'03

SANTOS PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson, president, Kutztown University, has named Matt Santos vice president of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs. In this position, Santos will be responsible for the overall guidance of a diverse division that encompasses University Relations, University Marketing, Conference Services, Intercollegiate Athletics, Sports Medicine, *KU Presents!*, Kutztown University Radio, Recreational Services and the Pa. German Cultural Heritage Center.

Santos has been the director of University Relations since 2007. In his position he serves as the university spokesperson and is responsible for public relations, media relations, executive communications, university licensing and crisis communications. He was chair of the award-winning KU Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2016.

Santos began his career with KU in 1992 as the sports information director for athletics. In 1998 he was promoted to director of athletic advancement before being promoted to assistant director of University Relations in 2006. Santos is credited with the creation of the school's current mascot, Avalanche the Golden Bear, in 2005.

He has experience in all levels of communication and fundraising at the university. Prior to KU, Santos held positions in sports information at both Lincoln and Delaware State Universities. He has also hosted a variety of television and radio programs and is the radio voice of Golden Bear Football.

Santos, a native of Scranton, Pa., holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, and a master's degree in electronic media from Kutztown University. He is a graduate of Thomas McKean High School, Wilmington, Del.

TWO NEW DEANS APPOINTED

Dr. Michelle Kiec has been named dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Kutztown University. Kiec came to KU in 2012 as the associate dean of the college. She served as acting dean for the College of Education in 2016 and was named interim dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts in June of this year after the retirement of Dr. William Mowder.

Prior to her arrival in Kutztown, she spent nearly 12 years as an associate professor of music, department chair and coordinator of assessment and accreditation at the University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D.

Kiec balances a career as a musician and administrator. She is a frequent conference presenter in the areas of curriculum development, enrollment management, student success and assessment. As a clarinetist, she has performed with the Harrisburg Symphony, West Virginia Symphony, Kentucky Symphony Orchestra and Opera Lancaster.

Kiec earned a master's degree and doctorate in clarinet performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of The Johns Hopkins University. She holds bachelor's degree in saxophone performance and German from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Dr. John Ward has been named dean of the College of Education at Kutztown University. He was appointed interim dean at KU in August. Ward comes to KU from Millersville University where he served as the interim



Dr. Michelle Kiec



Dr. John Ward

associate dean of the College of Education and Human Services for the past two years.

Ward began his career as an assistant professor at Millersville in 1998 after teaching for five years in the Detroit Public School District. He was promoted to associate professor in 2006 and then chair of the Educational Foundations Department in 2007.

He is on the board of directors of the Pa. Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and regularly serves on site visit teams with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Ward holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in special education from the University of Detroit. He earned a doctorate in education from the University of Memphis.

MONIQUE BOYKINS '07

SAVING, INSPIRING AND
EMPOWERING LIVES

BY LISA MITCHELL '01



*"I'm utilizing science and
my sports mind together
to impact lives..."*

- Monique Boykins '07

Boykins stands at center court at Lower Merion High School where she is head girls' basketball coach.

Kutztown University alumna Monique Boykins has built a successful career in science and as a basketball coach. She loves both.

Boykins studied microbiology, cellular and molecular biology at KU, graduating in 2007. She currently works on product development, both clinical and commercial, for Quotient Sciences Pharmaceutical, Philadelphia, a manufacturing facility.

She is also the head girls' basketball coach at Lower Merion High School, Ardmore, Pa. and a school board director at William Penn School District, Lansdowne, Pa., her *alma mater*.

"I save lives every day. We manufacture life sustaining cancer medications and I've had the opportunity to work in this field because I continued to go with my dream and I didn't let a 'no' stop me from moving forward. For every no that you get, there's going to be 10 yesses, you've just got to find them. That's what I teach the kids I coach and the kids in my youth organization."

"Coach Mo" as she is known to her players, lives to inspire and empower youth and women through basketball; however, science is never far behind.

"I'm utilizing science and my sports mind together to impact lives," she said. "When I meet kids and tell them I'm a scientist and I'm also a basketball coach, they look at me like I'm crazy."

Boykins credits KU and the variety of courses offered for her success in the sciences.

"If it wasn't for Kutztown University, I wouldn't be a scientist. In seventh grade I knew I wanted to work in science but it all came together when I got to Kutztown," she said. "It allowed me to expand the way I think. I thought science was this little box, but it's a plethora of different things you can get into."

In particular, Boykins credits former biology professor and current provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Anne Zayaitz, for encouraging her to stick with her biology studies after Boykin's grandmother passed during her senior year.

After graduation, Boykins, who ranks on three KU women's basketball leader boards and was on the 2004 All-PSAC Second Team, went on to play basketball for Global Sports Academy in Belgium, Holland and France.

Boykins created an organization called Team SUCCESS – Sustaining Unbelievable Character through Challenge Empowerments Sacrifice and Support – a basketball organization open to local youth in grades four through 11.

"Basketball alone is about life. How do I get through a challenge? How can I empower someone? How can I support someone? How can I support myself? All of those things are characteristics that we need," Boykins said.

Many times when she is coaching she is watching body language and personality.

"Being a coach, all of that is so important. That's where my science brain kicks in. We critique a lot. We want answers. We want goals. We want facts. And that's what I do. If a kid can't get this, there's a reason why. We drill and do experiments and figure it out. I don't believe in the word 'can't.'"

While coaching, Boykins wears a T-shirt that reads, "They say I CAN'T, I say I CAN, I WILL and I AM."

Boykins has expanded her coaching to adults, starting a women's basketball league in the local community.

"We come in all different shapes and sizes and attitudes and character and we need to empower one another. I ask women, 'what stops you from playing?' And they say 'life takes over, I'm a wife, I've got kids, I work.'"

So Boykins tells the women to bring their children to practices. While the women are playing basketball, someone's teaching the children spelling and reading. She teaches players to let basketball be their vehicle to wherever they want to go.

Boykins believes you have to be healthy inside in order to shine on the outside. She credits receiving God's blessings because she helps others.

"So many people focus on the word 'I' and 'me' but what they don't understand is at the end of the day, it is 'us' that is important," she said. "You don't worry about what's coming back to you; worry about helping somebody else and that's how I live my life. If enough of us would do that, we could change the world."



Boykins ranks on three KU women's basketball leader boards and was on the 2004 All-PSAC Second Team.



Boykins gave the keynote address at Convocation welcoming the class of 2021 in August.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A DREAM JOB

KU GRADS SEE SUCCESS WITH THE LEGO GROUP

BY NIKKI MURRY '98
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN INGVERSEN





You never know where your Kutztown University education and degree may take you. The sky is the limit, it all depends on what your goals are, where you set your sights, and if you apply yourself. Just ask Lauren King '08, Madison O'Neil '13, Megan Blair '13 and Austin William Carlson '12, all Communication Design graduates living and working in Denmark for the LEGO Group.

Explains O'Neil, a graphic designer for the LEGO® Star Wars™ division for about a year now, "It is something special, working for a company that is so recognizable and beloved by lots of children and adult fans around the world. You feel like you're part of a legacy."

THE LEGO® MISSION

Founded in 1932 by Ole Kirk Kristiansen in Billund, Denmark, the privately held, family-owned business, now led by grandson Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, has grown from a small carpenter's workshop to a modern, global enterprise built on the philosophy that 'good quality play' enriches a child's life – and lays the foundation for later adult life. The building block mecca's name came from a combined creation of two Danish words, "leg godt," meaning "play well." Today, the LEGO brand is present in children's toy boxes, on movie screens, and has its own LEGOLAND theme park chain worldwide.

For King, that her "work" is "play," is a big part of the fun of the job.

She explains, "I work with a group of incredibly talented people and look forward to going to work each day. I love collaborating with my colleagues to create the best sets possible. So, it really doesn't feel like work!"

The senior graphic designer, who first started working on LEGO Juniors projects, later moved to LEGO Friends work, creates graphics with fun details, illustrations and "Easter Eggs (aka: fun hidden details for fans)" for sets including Heartlake Surf Shop, Andrea's Speedboat Transporter, the Sunshine Catamaran and more.

They may just be toys her now five-month-old daughter, Gwendolyn, may play with in the not-too-distant future.

While King's position is hyper-focused, brand design specialist Megan Blair's position is more broad-reaching and detail-oriented in a different way.

Says the Greencastle, Pa. native, who carried a concentration in advertising and interactive design.

"I look after how the LEGO brand is designed across a variety of experiences, ranging from ad campaigns to digital content to print materials. This also involves developing brand guidelines and manuals and educating colleagues and partners on how to portray our brand consistently. I often use my design background to consult on how the LEGO logo, minifigures or bricks are used on different touch points. These assets could be printed in package designs, animated in a game or app, or even built at a large scale like you might see in stores, event experiences or LEGOLAND parks."

HOW KU HELPED GET THEM THERE

If you asked Blair how her KU education prepared her for her current position with the toy giant, she'd tell you it was, and is, crucial.

"I probably use what I learned from the amazing professors in the KU Communication Design program every day. They trained me to understand what it takes to effectively visually communicate to any viewer. Having a solid foundation in technical skills has also been vital to be able to provide art direction and fully understand how design work is built (think print production, coding, creative software). And having Portfolio class was extremely helpful in getting the job itself."

Hanover resident, 28-year-old Carlson, even believes his KU education might have "over-prepared" him for his job as graphic designer for LEGO Minifigures Collectibles.

"The Illustration major helped me hone some of my character design skills and the advertising design education really gave me the insight of aligning design and respecting it."

Carlson, has enjoyed work on many LEGO projects since starting with the company about five years ago, including time spent on THE LEGO MOVIE and THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE, The Beatles Yellow Submarine, Disney, Jurassic World, creating the product line LEGO BrickHeadz and much more, including a 2½-year endeavor still yet to be released for the LEGO Minifigures Collectible Series.



Madison O'Neil '13

For O'Neil, KU was essential for helping land the LEGO gig, not just because of the software program skills he picked up, but for something much bigger: giving him confidence in his creative talents.

"I could say KU provided me with the connections that allowed me to get the job, but I think the most important thing that my time at KU instilled in me was a penchant for brainstorming, a hardworking attitude, and the ability to use creative criticism to my benefit," the Kutztown native said.

LIFE ABROAD

The foursome, who spend time together outside of work, have adjusted to living abroad, including, jokes Blair, the strange Danish obsession for black licorice, which she does not share.

Blair admits that aside from the obvious hardship of missing friends and family, she definitely misses her Amazon Prime, and confessed that when she visits the U.S. to see her loved ones on an upcoming trip, she has compiled a list of foods she has to eat, including making stops we might take for granted here, to places like Wendy's for fast food and to convenience stores like Sheetz for snacks.

While she misses those simple things and family, and the ability to go shopping at just about any hour, she, and the



Lauren King '08



Austin William Carlson '12

others agree that living in Denmark has definite perks, too.

At the time of writing this article, King was on maternity leave, definitely a different experience in Denmark than in the United States. She stopped work at eight months along, and could opt to take a year of leave if she wanted to, about seven months with full pay, and five with partial pay.

She believes that kind of benefit supports Denmark's cultural belief in a strong work/life balance, saying, "Childhood is very cherished here. Kids have the freedom to learn and experience things in their own way."

O'Neil adds that in Denmark, "Healthcare is free, and we get an insane amount of vacation days and sick days."

He and Blair, boyfriend and girlfriend who reside together in Vejle, are also quick to sing the praises of the public transportation system and how easily they can visit other countries.

Says O'Neil, "Since we've moved here less than two years ago, we've visited eight different countries. The public transportation system is easily accessible and well-developed. And we've met a ton of amazing people from all around the world who have come to Denmark for the same reason: to work at the LEGO Group!"

For Carlson, somewhat of the lone KU wolf, living in and working in Denmark (as Blair and O'Neil live together and King resides with her daughter and husband, Brian), the ability to travel has been a gift that has opened him up to other cultures, and he's enjoyed that experience, visiting places like England, Iceland and Ireland, a personal favorite.

“The people [in Ireland] are amazingly welcoming and it’s just a beautiful place,” Carlson explains. “Ireland, I think, really delivers what we imagine it to be.”

One thing all four seem to miss... the sunshine! Compared to good old Pennsylvania, it seems Denmark is a bit dark and dreary as each brought the topic up without coaxing.

Sums up O’Neil, “I’m not going to sugarcoat it; the weather in Denmark is pretty awful. It’s often rainy. The summer is short and in the winter, it can get dark around 3 p.m.”

FOLLOWING A DREAM

Though all four grads landed at the LEGO Group a bit differently, they all took a leap. Some for a dream they’d had for some time, some out of curiosity and to live what currently feels like a dream in many ways.

The LEGO Group was on Carlson’s radar from the time he was a four-year-old boy. His mother introduced him to the hands-on building blocks that felt like fun puzzles. He was hooked. He collected the catalogues and sent fan letters to the company. As a middle schooler, he even attended a LEGO Convention, Brickfair Virginia, where he was introduced to the fan community and discovered it reached far beyond just children. Over time, he learned that his love of art could lead him to use it in a future

career. And it did. When perusing LEGO fan sites a few months after graduation, he scoured job listings and applied for the one that would land him in Denmark.

It was also O’Neil’s personal passion for the LEGO brand that put him on the path to Denmark.

“As a kid, I had a LEGO table in my room and would spend hours creating with my friends. Before applying for the LEGO job, I had been creating custom LEGO minifigure designs as a hobby and posting them online. Lauren, who I previously met through an internship at Crayola®, saw my designs and urged me to apply. I then had a Skype interview, was flown to Billund, Denmark (LEGO headquarters) for two days of workshops and interviews, and two weeks later I had the job! My favorite aspect of the job is how it coincides so well with my own personal passions and fandoms. I’m a huge Star Wars nerd, and I’ve also loved LEGO toys since I was little enough to pick up the bricks.”

OFFERING ADVICE

For those KU students who aspire to work in a similar field or those looking to tackle some other dream that might seem “larger than life,” the LEGO crew offers up some helpful and inspirational advice.

King, who was working for Crayola® at the time she found the LEGO job ad, was apprehensive of applying and starting life in another country. She thanks her husband for encouraging her to “just do it.”

“It is good to keep an open mind and to take a chance, no matter how crazy it may seem at the time. You should always keep developing your networks, since you never know what opportunities will pop up. And, of course, always make sure your resume and portfolio are up-to-date!”

Blair, who traveled to Denmark with O’Neil, but started her LEGO career a few months later, says aspiring designers and illustrators should gain a wide knowledge of the design industry. “Be able to communicate and demonstrate the value of your work and how it impacts a brand.” Finally, she says, “Be curious, persistent and open to new and interesting opportunities.”

Her counterpart, O’Neil, says to it’s important not to put boundaries on what you can do.

“Don’t be afraid to chase what seems like an impossible chance. When an important opportunity arises, you need to be brave and jump on it, even if it requires you to move out into the unknown.”

And life-long LEGO fan Carlson, the first of the four to jet to unfamiliar Denmark for the LEGO career journey, stresses how important it is to value your dreams and the fact that they can change.

“Don’t always expect your dream job to be THE dream job. Life has a lot to offer and you may find that the dream you are looking for can be a totally different dream. But remember this: you will never know until you try.”



Megan Blair '13

KU CELEBRATES the HOLIDAYS

Faculty

KU Foundation Ladies Holiday Tea



KU Presents!
Chanticleer



Breakfast with Avalanche



President's Cookie Delivery



President's Cookie Delivery



Faculty/Staff Holiday Reception



Faculty/Staff Holiday Reception



Faculty/Staff Holiday Reception



KU Foundation Ladies Holiday Tea



KU Foundation Ladies Holiday Tea



KU Foundation Ladies Holiday Tea

Emeriti Luncheon



Christmas on the Farm



Christmas on the Farm



Emeriti Luncheon



Department of Music Holiday Concert



BACK TO CLASS WITH ...

DR. CHARLES F. ROTH, JR. '68

BY NIKKI
MURRY '98

If you think of your retirement years as a time for “taking it easy,” you certainly don’t view it the way Dr. Charles F. Roth, Jr. does. Roth, a 1968 Kutztown State College graduate and, from 1989 to 2011, a communications and technology professor in the Kutztown University College of Education, seems to find it hard to sit still.

He believes in living life to its fullest – and even more so – living on the edge, you might say. Though traveling is his vice, it’s not the kind of sightseeing adventures you or I might consider. Roth, rather, is a well-versed hobby photographer and storm chaser extraordinaire. His ideal vacation? Traversing the often difficult to access Sun Road in Montana, part of Glacier National Park with weather so extreme it can usually only be accessed in July and August of each year.

He’s racked up more than 3,200 miles between California and Arizona in the course of a single week via trips booked with semi-professional and professional storm chasers, all in the name of capturing that perfect lightning shot.

“When the hair on your arms stands straight up, you know you’re pretty close,” admits the self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie, explaining the hobby is certainly not for everyone, including those weak of body or heart.

ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE

It all started in 1969 when Roth served with the Air Force and while on loan to the Army, spent time in Vietnam.

He recalls upon his arrival, “The first thing I did was buy a camera.”

His storm chasing stems from his love of photographing nature and natural phenomena. An ideal trip would include time spent capturing the colors of the southwestern United States, or maybe the landscapes of Montana or Utah. There are only two states in the nation he hasn’t seen: North and South Dakota.

Roth doesn’t try to sell his images for publication or recognition; instead he shares his captures with friends, family and those with whom he strikes up a conversation. That usually results in an interested party asking for – and receiving – a digital file of an image that might strike his or her fancy. No charge. What they choose to do

with it is entirely up to them, but Roth notes you could see some of his photos adorning the walls of doctor’s offices and the like.

Though he travels as much as possible, a trip with a professional storm chaser could take a year of planning as only a handful of individuals are able to sign up. Sometimes those running the tour want to see prior images to assure the person booking the tour knows what he or she is doing and is aware of the dangerous nature of the experience.

No doubt about it, it’s risky. Asserts Roth, “There are people [professionals] who do not survive. Storms are unpredictable.”

Participation involves signing a lot of waivers and it’s not uncommon to be told, somewhat jokingly, “We’ll try to bring you back alive.”

The goal is to get the person with the camera into a position for a dynamic shot, be it while chasing a tornado – which Roth has accomplished – or traversing a slot canyon (narrow gorge) in Arizona.

When it comes down to it, it’s a hobby Roth has learned from self-study and practice over many years’ time. And it all harkens back to the retired professor’s love and appreciation for education.

STUDENT FOR LIFE

The Northampton resident, born and raised in the Lehigh Valley, knew he wanted to be a college professor when he attended Kutztown State College. And he knew he wanted to attend Kutztown because it had a great reputation and was convenient.

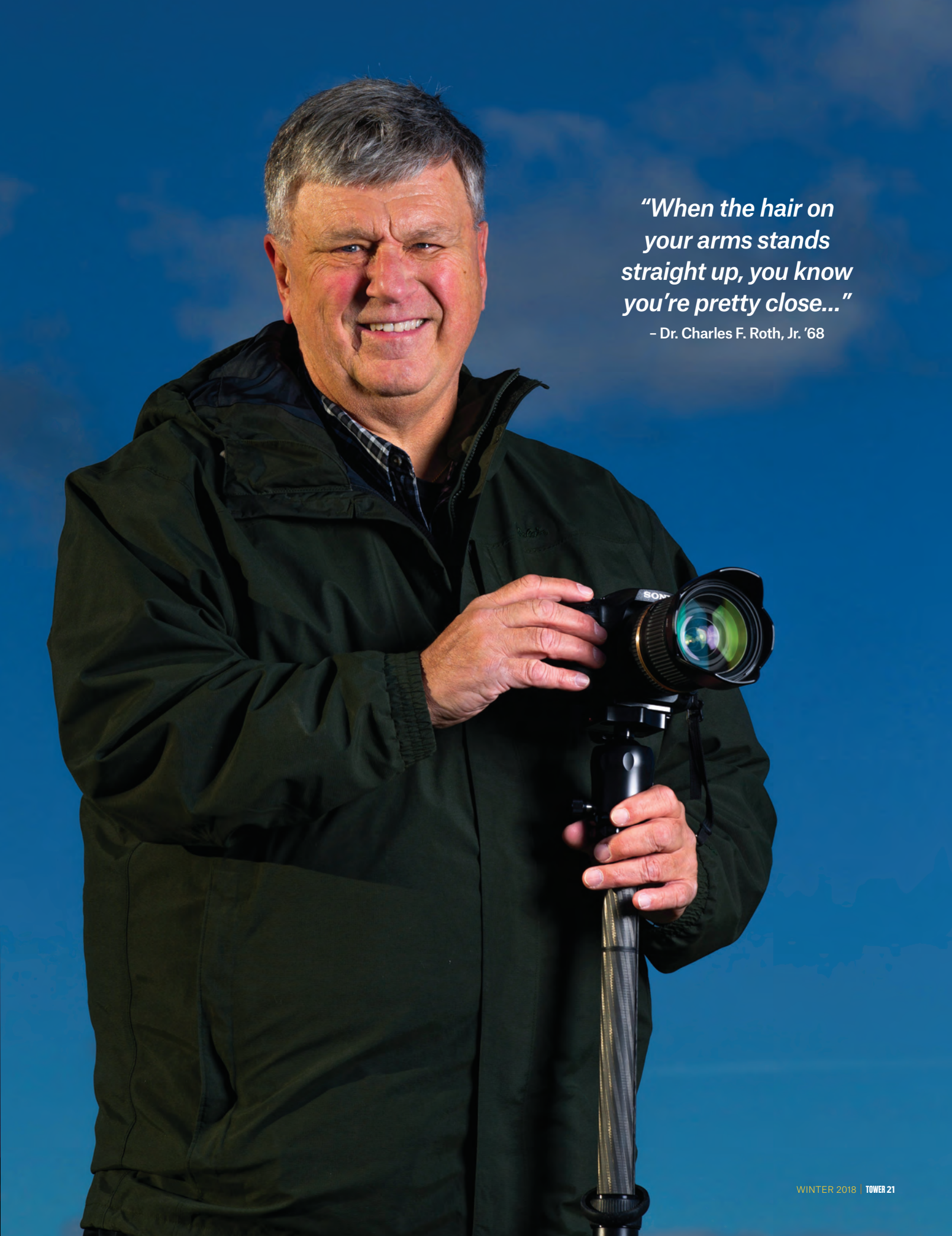
As a student, he relished his college days, remembering “The faculty was always accessible. My peers were nice people with values, and many are my friends to this day.”

The experience was mirrored as a KU professor. Memories of his students are among his favorites.

“They were motivated and interested,” says Roth. “They wanted to learn and get as much out of KU as they could.”

And the KU connection continues through the generations. Roth’s two sons, Byron and Jarrett, also have KU degrees. Daughter Kimberly is a Shippensburg University grad. With seven grandchildren, ranging in age from four to 13 years waiting in the wings, who knows, the KU connection may continue for generations to come.

Photo by
Dr. Charles
Roth '68

A middle-aged man with grey hair, smiling, wearing a dark green jacket over a plaid shirt. He is holding a black Sony camera with a large lens mounted on a tripod. The background is a solid blue color.

*“When the hair on
your arms stands
straight up, you know
you’re pretty close...”*

– Dr. Charles F. Roth, Jr. '68



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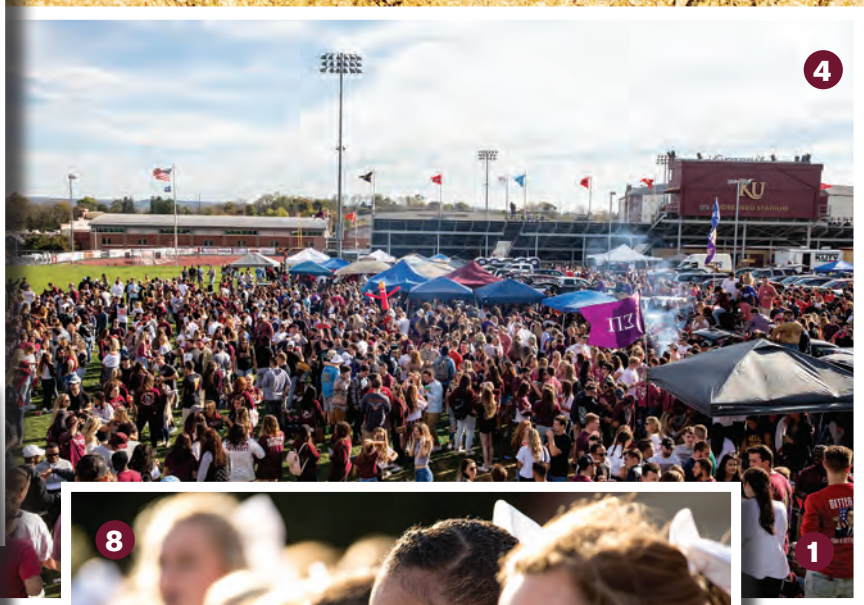
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KUTZTOWN Homecoming

1 L to R: Phil Smith '17, 2015 Homecoming King Darius Pleasant '16 M '18, Nathan Schwartz '17 and 2016 Homecoming King Jacob Sims '17 at the football game. 2 Murphy Lill '17 and the KU men's rugby on their way to a 66-10 win over Wheeling Jesuit. 3 The Kutztown University Marching Unit parades through campus. 4 The tailgating area outside Andre Reed Stadium was a popular spot to reunite. 5 It was standing-room only as the Golden Bears took on Shippensburg. 6 The annual pep rally was moved to a bonfire at the Pa. German Cultural Heritage Center. 7 Alumni of the Department of Cinema, Television and Media Production gathered outside the stadium. 8 The KU Cheer Team added spirit to events throughout the day. 9 Mary and Samuel Westmoreland '66, professor emeritus



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17

of anthropology and sociology, returned to campus for the festivities. 10 D. Jane Joyce '65, Jim (Bear) Joyce '66 and Bob Muschlitz '65 enjoy the pregame tailgate in the Student Rec Center. 11 It was senior day for the field hockey team, which earned a 2-1 win over Limestone. 12 Anne Marie Hayes-Hawkinson and KU President Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson enjoy a post-game s'more. 13 Jenelle Fuller '20 helps KU women's rugby earn an impressive 89-14 win over Drexel. 14 Hannah Wenk '20 performs with the KU Marching Unit at the bonfire pep rally. 15 A KU photo booth was a popular spot for attendees. 16 Molly Gallagher '17 and George Fladeland '17 were named queen and king. 17 L to R: Joseph Coco and son Joey Coco '17 at the pre-game tailgate. 18 The Black Alumni Reunion at Golden Bear Plaza.

The 1960s

John D. Rausch '64, M'72 leads Pennsylvania German classes at Belleman's Church, Mohrsville, Pa., with all contributions going to the upkeep of the church. Belleman's was built in 1815 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The 1970s

J. Gail McGrew-Fruecht '72 endowed a fourth scholarship with the Mensa Education and Research Foundation; a national award for veterinary students. Her previous three scholarships have assisted more than 35 students so far.

Robert Stickloon '73, M'76 hosted a 35-year retrospective exhibition of drawings and paintings at Penn State, Berks Campus.

Rose (Bateman) Buscarini '75 has published three children's books, "Grandma's Teddy Bear," "Nick Rabbit Takes Charge" and "Drew's Aquarium Adventure."

The 1980s

Carol (Grim) DeHaven '83, M'88 recently retired after 33 1/2 years in public education, all of them spent at Boyertown Area Senior High School, as a special education

teacher. Her last 10 years were spent as an emotional support teacher in a program she spearheaded for the district. She lives in Gilbertsville, Pa., with her husband Brian.

Rhonda (Vilcheck) Friese '83 has retired after 31 years of teaching. She currently resides in Elizabethtown, Pa., with her husband, **Rick '83**.

Susan (Rozzi) Murray '84 is the chief operating and financial officer for Soroptimist International of the Americas, a global volunteer organization that works to improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls through programs leading to economic empowerment.

Debra (Glass) Harris '89 is the director and producer of the national health and beauty DVD, "The Chinese Acupressure Facelift."

The 1990s

Debra L. Kerchner '90 was named Assistant Principal of the Year for the state of Maryland. She lives in Woodbine, Md., and is the assistant principal at Glenwood Middle School.

Candy (Bare) Maggioncalda '91 has expanded the art program at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School to include design in real world experiences. Maggioncalda is a professional photographer, and she gives her students the opportunity to photograph and display their work in local businesses through a grant for the school's traveling art show. Maggioncalda is also an integral part of the Entrepreneurship, Design and Innovation (EDI) program where she serves as the facilitator for EDI Professional Learning Time. In addition, Maggioncalda developed the AP 2D Studio and Photography Major Program at PWHS.

Christopher Leese '95 is now the head wrestling coach at Penn State, Mont Alto. Leese is also a science teacher at Yellow Breeches Middle School, Boiling Springs, Pa. He has been at South Middleton School District for 13 years and has been teaching and coaching for 23 years.

Todd Davies '96 has been named superintendent for the West York Area School District. Prior to that, Davies taught special education for 10 years and worked in several administrative positions for the Pottsgrove School District, Pottstown, Pa.

Mary Lasota '98 joined the law firm High Swartz, Norristown, Pa. LaSota concentrates her practice on estate and business planning and has built a reputation for providing estate planning for families and offering legal solutions for startups and entrepreneurs across Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Philadelphia counties.

The 2000s

Jean (Blaettler) Monchik '00 released her debut novel in May. She began her writing career after a successful science career in research and development.

Rebecca Murga '03 was one of only three directors selected to direct the 2017 ABC Discovers: Los Angeles Talent Showcase. Murga is a successful writer, director and advocate. She also served as a U.S. Army Captain and Public Affairs Officer, and has been deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. She was awarded a Bronze Star for her work with the Special Operations Command in Afghanistan, and was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for her service in Iraq.

Raymond Harris '07 is the chief of business development at Netizen Corporation which was awarded a General Services Administration contract to protect state, municipal, local and federal organizations from cyber-attacks.

The 2010s

Shana Rose '16 attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/Conference of the Parties as a delegate on behalf of the American Association of Geographers. The conference was hosted by the German and Fijian governments.



**DO YOU NEED TO
UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI
CONTACT INFORMATION
WITH THE ALUMNI
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Please visit:
www.kutztownufoundation.org



The Kutztown University Presidential Ambassadors held a 20 year reunion in the fall. Founded in 1997, the Presidential Ambassadors is a KU student organization that works directly with the Office of the President and the Kutztown University Foundation and Alumni Engagement.

IN MEMORY

ALUMNI

Mildred (Peters) Hetzer '35
 Esther (Kershner) Peters '38
 Edward Burchill '39
 Shirley (Lengel) Dieffenbach '41
 Analene (Bower) McDonald '45
 Bonne (Folk) Ritter '45
 Raymond Rauenzahn '49
 Mary Josephine (MacCallum) Fox '52, M'67
 Douglas MacCrimdle '53

Addison Planz '53
 Jess Cwiklinski '55, M'66
 Alma (Schaeffer) Fisher '57
 Wayne Miller '57
 Joseph Miller '60
 Nicholas Giardiello '61
 David Kudleck '62
 Frank Jamiolkowski '65
 Beverly (King) Lufkin '65
 Marilyn (Smeltz) Nye '69
 Betty (Fritz) Bankes '72
 Marsha (Robertson) Bartholomew '74

Robert Becker '74
 John Crampsie '75
 Doris Brunner '79
 Sandra (Weinperl) Solonoski '87
 Christine Dech '91
 Lisa Jurgensen '97
 Paul Rabouin '08

EMERITI FACULTY/STAFF

Okan Akcay
 Karen Christman Lorish

WE NEED YOUR NOTES! Submit your class note to alumni@kutztownufoundation.org.

ALUMNI SPRING EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 12-16

KU Alumni I Heart KU Week*

FEBRUARY 15

KU Presents!

Birdland All-Stars with Tommy Igoe**

FEBRUARY 16

KU Alumni at Reading Royals Hockey*

MARCH 24

Easter on the Farm

Pa. German Cultural Heritage Center

MARCH 28

KU Presents!

National Dance Company of Ireland**

MARCH 30

Social Work Community Forum

APRIL 7

KU Jazz Alumni Event*

APRIL 19

KU Alumni Dinner with Golden Bears*

APRIL 20

*KU Presents! Joey Alexander Trio***

APRIL 28

KU Alumni Day*

MAY 11-12

50th Class Reunion Weekend*

**Alumni event requires pre-registration. For more information please call the KU Foundation and Alumni Relations office at 610-683-4110 or email info@kutztownUfoundation.org. Visit www.kutztownUfoundation.org for more information.*

***KU Presents! event and ticket information can be found at www.kupresents.org.*

*Come back to KU and celebrate
all that is golden!*

For complete information:
www.kutztownUfoundation.org
610-683-4110

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MAYOR SANDY GREEN AWARDED PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

Kutztown Borough Mayor Sandy Green was presented the KU President's Medal in December. Born on a farm in Maxatawny Township, Green is a lifelong resident of the Kutztown area. She has served the past 12 years as mayor of the Borough of Kutztown, the first female to hold that position, retiring in January. Part of her mission as mayor was to be a liaison between the borough and the university, to create positive town and gown relations that benefit the entire community. Green is a regular fixture on campus, attending most events and annually riding a shuttle bus on Move-In Day to welcome families to the community and answer questions. This is the sixth President's Medal presented since its inception in 2014 when the award was created by the Office of the President to be awarded to individuals who bring honor and distinction to the university, and who serve as examples to KU students and alumni.