Students attending Kent State University Stark Campus can avail themselves of opportunities that many larger institutions cannot offer—a chance to play and perform with local professionals to enhance their learning experience.

One area where this is particularly relevant is in the Kent Stark Theatre.

"Due to the cast requirements for many of our plays, performers from the community often fill many roles which gives our students the opportunity to work alongside experienced performers," stated Kent Stark Theatre Technical Director Richard K. Hess. "And because we are a regional campus, Kent Stark students have a much greater opportunity to get involved and experience all aspects of the Theatre here."

Working with seasoned actors can help inexperienced performers learn more than they would just in the classroom, according to Phil Robb, Theatre Director. "It's almost a mentoring type of set-up. Although you can tell students about discipline and developing a role, they learn much faster by illustration and observation."

Robb related that experienced actors recognize that they are also serving as teachers, and that most of them are more than willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Robb also stated that although the presence of actors from the community often serves to enhance the performance, qualified students are chosen first to fill a role.

"If a student is capable of handling a role, he or she automatically gets that role. Part of our job is to provide that participatory experience to the students," Robb explained. "We try to balance professionalism with the needs of the performance and of the students."

Another group balancing professionalism with the needs of the students is the Kent Stark/Community Concert Band. With 65 members comprised of both Kent Stark music majors and minors and community musicians, the Concert Band was established in 1986 to provide a large performing group for music students.

"This is a wonderful opportunity. Continued on page 4"
This issue of *Kinetics* continues a survey of selected aspects of Kent State Stark's extensive involvement in the Stark County community in areas ranging from business through the arts. We continuously seek to find new and better ways to bring the resources of a major University to Stark County.

If you haven't been on our campus yet this spring, please come visit us. It's a beautiful time here. You may particularly want to visit the new garden, described elsewhere in *Kinetics*, which has been dedicated to the memory of Professor Inga Mullen.

Sincerely,

William G. Bittle, Ph.D.
Dean, Kent State University
Stark Campus

*Kinetics* is published each semester by the Office of Communications at Kent State University Stark Campus. Please direct any questions or comments to: Christine K. Isenberg, Editor, 499-9600 extension 280.

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Kent Stark's Office of Special Programs and Continuing Studies provides an important link to the Stark County community by supplying high quality business and professional development courses as well as personal growth and development courses to business, industry, and community members.

"We are heavily involved in business and professional development programming, and work with the business community in Stark County to assess needs and develop and deliver programs to a significant cross section of businesses ranging from Stark County's largest and well-known to the small and medium-sized organizations," Gregg L. Andrews, Director of Special Programs and Continuing Studies at Kent Stark stated.

The Special Programs and Continuing Studies Advisory Board, comprised of 12 members drawn from business, banking, government and healthcare, serves to enhance Kent Stark's ability to respond to the business needs of the community through advising based on each member's own involvement with the community.

"Higher education must increasingly respond to the needs of the customer, for in fact universities do have customers in their students and the surrounding communities," informed Thomas E. Grove, Vice Chairman of the Special Programs and Continuing Studies Advisory Board. "Higher education has a responsibility to enhance and present new ways of doing business, to meet the knowledge needs of individuals to teach them how to learn."

Kent Stark responds to this need by providing customized management development programs, especially in the areas of computer training and human relations. Over 1,000 students have been involved in computer education, and 180 specific courses have been tailored to the needs of various Stark County companies over the past year alone.

The Kent Stark Teleconference Center provides high quality programs featuring nationally and internationally known presenters with live, interactive seminars via satellite for the business and professional community, educators and healthcare providers, as well as topics of general interest to the public. Well over 2,000 participants have been involved with The Teleconference Center since its inception, and an average of six teleconferences per month are currently provided to Stark County.

The International Business Resource Center reaches out to the community by bringing together educational, corporate and governmental resources to increase business leaders' awareness of the factors critical to successful business operations in foreign markets.

"Evaluation and training are the keys to worldwide competitiveness," Grove related. "A critical role of the university is to increase involvement in community needs by presenting people with knowledge and encouraging the development of new knowledge. I see my membership on the Board as one of helping Kent Stark blend the theoretical with the applied."

Andrews echoed that statement by adding that the real community needs combined with the university's resources are playing an increasingly important role in Stark County development.
A place for quiet reflection is how Kent State University Stark Campus Groundskeeper John Burton describes the garden he helped design and construct in the memory of Professor Inga Mullen, who died after a short battle with cancer on July 7, 1989.

“Both faculty members and administration agreed on this site because it had a terrific view of the meadow and the woods behind the library,” Burton stated. “Besides being pleasing for the students, it is also a nice complement to the campus.”

The garden patio has a trellised interior seating area surrounding a fountain, and benches on the walls provide seating on the exterior. Originally proposed by Kent Stark Dean Dr. William G. Bittle, the garden is designed to provide a peaceful respite from hectic campus life.

Dr. Mullen was a professor of German and French and received Kent Stark’s Distinguished Teaching Award for 1989, an award she also earned in 1982. She began teaching at Kent Stark in 1972, and co-authored the Mullen-Ward Listening Test, a test designed to identify students with a proclivity for learning foreign languages. Dr. Mullen was born in Duisburg, West Germany, and earned her doctoral degree in Comparative Foreign Languages, specifically French and German, from Case Western Reserve University. She earned her master’s degree in German Literature from Kent State University, and her bachelor’s degree in French from the University of Akron.

In an interview with the Canton Repository shortly before her death, Dr. Mullen claimed that she loved to teach, and her main objective was “to teach people how to use their own resources to learn and apply what they learn in a variety of fields.”

Burton received assistance with the construction project from Kent Stark Maintenance men Marty Piatt, Jerry Stringfield, Bud Middleton; Groundskeeper John Mote; and Kent Stark students Steve C obedesh, Glyn Davis, and Phillip Noel. Many of these men donated their time to help with the completion of the project. The garden will be dedicated at a ceremony on the grounds May 11, shortly before the Seventeenth Annual Honors Convocation and Graduation.
for the students to play alongside experienced musicians," stated Concert Band Director Dr. Patricia Grutzmacher. "There are a good many professional music teachers, band leaders, and private instrumental instructors that play in the Band, as well as community people who are musicians by avocation."

Kent Stark is the only Ohio regional campus to have a full resident concert band, a point of some importance to the students here. "We have a reputation for quality performance, and the musicians take great pride in that," Grutzmacher related. "We play symphonic literature at the college level, and I try to cover each semester some of the standards of band literature that the students will need to be familiar with as performers."

The band members range in age from 17 to 85 years old, with three generations of teacher-students in the band. Some teachers, such as Kent Stark Percussion Instructor Kristine Naragon, play in the band alongside their students.

"Playing with professional and experienced musicians gives these students an edge that they may not acquire simply by playing with their peers," Grutzmacher affirmed. "The Concert Band offers them a unique opportunity to perform with a large musical ensemble as a means for learning and for personal creative expression."

Kent State University Stark Campus posted an increase in the number of enrolled students, according to Registrar and Director of Admissions Mary S. Southards. The Kent Stark spring semester enrollment is at 2,101, about 10% above last year.

"Although there are many reasons for the increase, a primary one is that students often transfer to Kent Stark from other colleges and universities for the spring semester because of financial or academic reasons, or due simply to personal preference," Southards related.

Additionally, although Kent Stark has consistently had a large number of non-traditional students, the number of traditional, 18-year-old students has steadily been on the increase. One reason for this could be attributed to the public’s awareness of the value of a college education, the high cost associated with going away to college, or to the excellent programs available at Kent Stark, Southards revealed. Fifty-seven percent of the 2,101 students at Kent Stark this year are part-time, and 43% are full-time.

The Special Programs Advisory Committee consists of: J. Peter Schaeffer, The Hoover Company; Thomas E. Grove, The Timken Company; Roger Calhoun, Diebold; Robert David, Camelot Enterprises, Inc.; James Ewing, Belden & Blake; Christine Krumian, First National Bank in Massillon; Thomas N. Lindsay, Central Trust of N.E. Ohio; Nick P. Navarra, Greater Canton Chamber of Commerce; Daryl Revoldt, Congressman Ralph Regula’s Office; Roland Theriault, Stark Development Board, Inc.; Theodore R. Walters, Timken Mercy Medical Center; Gregg L. Andrews, Ex Officio; Debbie Ruhe, Ex Officio.