

## From the Association president..

*This space highlights current issues and meetings as well as upcoming events, decisions, and volunteer “opportunities”.*

*Keith Kaniut*



**April 14, 2008:** During last Saturday’s April Board meeting we discussed several important topics including:

- New fund raising ideas and options
- New t-shirts based on the university’s current advertising campaign (“I am massively ahead of the game...”; “Extra parts mean you built it better”; etc.)
- New web page items: “Important Information for Prospective Parents”; “FAQ”
- Better give-away items for our many events like refrigerator magnets with our web address and “Parents have questions too...”; business cards; pens...
- How to improve our impact and visibility during the Prep for Success events

We continued to discuss the use of the Blackboard interactive web application to increase participation by out-of-state parents in our meetings. We propose to ask all new parents during Orientation Day whether they wish a logon for Blackboard. Once they are issued a logon ID they can participate in the discussion forums and the Association meetings using its interactive on-line features.

We are taking small and easily-managed steps with this new application to avoid being overwhelmed by its capabilities and the possibilities. But I foresee that it will soon become our primary means of communication with parents as greater percentages of us move “on-line”.

I’m very excited about our new reference for prospective parents and hope to add its link to our web page by the end of this month. The draft is currently circulating among the Association Board members as each one adds their own lessons and advice to the new parents. Interestingly, we will be using the Blackboard Discussion Forum feature to review and append this document during its development, hoping to speed up the process. Here are the topics to be covered by this new document:

- What is Kettering University?
- A versus B section
- Important Dates
- FAFSA
- Student Loans
- Housing Options
- Security: On & Off Campus
- Student Information Release forms
- Health/Medical Insurance
- Co-op: How it works and Why you want it...

- Computers
- Vacations
- Banking Options
- Social Life
- Transportation Options
- FAQ

As you may have noticed from the January meeting minutes, we actually raised less money than we spent last year due to less-than-expected Gold Card sales. The Board has decided to change our focus to t-shirts and polo shirts in an effort to reverse this trend. We hope to sell Parents Association shirts at all events where we participate this coming year. We also hope to find a way to set up an on-campus process for selling them in between these events. Any ideas on this last would be welcome.

Please read the April Board meeting notes for further details.

Finally, if you think of anything that would have been helpful to a new parent that we could have done, please let me know via the email link below.

Cordially,

Keith M. Kaniut  
President, Parents' Association

Contact Info:  
Ph - (248) 755-4141; Email - ([kkaniut@tir.com](mailto:kkaniut@tir.com))