Global Leadership

Discover how Kettering graduates are changing the world

LEARN MORE ABOUT KUSARA PROJECT

Kettering prepares for Homecoming
Global Leadership
Mary Barra ’85 was recently named the first female CEO of General Motors Corp. Read more about Barra’s outstanding career and learn about exceptional Kettering alumni having a global impact today.

Farewell, Dr. Simpson
After a long and distinguished career in higher education, Kettering University Provost Robert Simpson announced his retirement. Read about his impact and who will replace him.

Ready for Homecoming
Kettering University is preparing for its annual Homecoming celebration this spring. Learn more about the exciting festivities and how you can attend.

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Kettering Provided ‘Foundational Knowledge’ for Graduate’s Auto Industry Career

By Pardeep Toor

Ever since elementary school, Jacqueline Dedo ’84 wanted to combine her passion for technology and helping people to work in the auto industry, a goal she pursued at Kettering University and professionally for the past 25 years.

“It was a combination of my fascination with science projects and working on things that I could build with my dad,” Dedo said. “My father introduced me to different people at General Motors and used to talk to me about how General Motors is one of the most innovative manufacturing companies in the world and the impact that they have on society.”

In January 2013, Dedo brought more than 25 years of automotive leadership to her new role as the president of the Piston Group. Most recently, she served as chief strategy officer of Dana Holding Corporation, where she led the development and delivery of its global business plans across the organization’s four business units, including portfolio and process development and key joint ventures and acquisitions. Before that, Dedo was president of The Timken Company’s $1.5 billion Global Automotive Group. Prior to that, she served in leadership roles at Motorola, from 2001 to 2004; Covisint LLC, from 2000 to 2001; Robert Bosch Corporation, from 1987 to 2000; and Cadillac Motor Car Company, from 1983 to 1986.

“The auto industry is an amazing industry that is misunderstood,” Dedo said. “When you look at that level of technological sophistication in product and process and the level of GDP that it creates for our nation, it’s a very exciting place to be for any discipline of study.”

Founded in 1995, the Piston Group is a growing supplier of electrification systems, complex module assemblies, and build-to-sequence components for the automotive industry. Originally established in Detroit, the Piston Group today operates five manufacturing facilities in Michigan, Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky.

The Piston Group is in the midst of an expansion and Dedo’s responsibility as president is to strategize and guide that expansion in the appropriate direction to ensure continual and sustainable growth for the company.

“What sold me is the opportunity to bring together all my different experiences and join this company as we go to the next level of growth and expansion, with the ‘We’ve Got Your Back’ teamwork on which Piston has been built,” Dedo said.

Dedo began her career at Cadillac Motor Car Company where she completed her co-op while at Kettering and worked full time after graduating with an electrical engineering degree in 1984. For the past 12 years, Dedo has returned to Kettering as a member of the board of trustees to “give back” to the school that provided her the foundational knowledge and experience to succeed in the automotive industry.

“Kettering was a real turning point in my life,” Dedo said. “It was a huge opportunity to learn about something you love while translating it to something you can provide for your life. I think the Kettering education is one of the best because of the co-op opportunity, which provides a real learning experience from the ground up.”

Dedo still vividly remembers the overwhelming experience of working in the manufacturing plant. The seamless transition between the office and shop floor fueled her enthusiasm and brought her immense joy.

“I don’t know if people understand how amazing it is to walk from an engineering office into a factory and to see the theoretical being applied to make a difference in people’s lives and in communities,” Dedo said.

Dedo is one of many Kettering female graduates assuming executive leadership roles in corporations, a trend she expects will continue as the diversity in STEM fields increases and FIRST robotics competitions continue to cement themselves in elementary, middle and high schools. Dedo is particularly impressed by the steps that Kettering has taken to attract talented students while continuing to expand the co-op program to provide the most valuable professional and educational experience possible.

“Dr. Robert McMahan’s leadership at Kettering has taken our core competencies to the next level,” Dedo said. “His leadership will continue to improve the cohort experience and resulting opportunities.”
Faculty Member Helps Usher in New Era in Pediatric Crash Safety

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently introduced a new proposed child seat side impact standard, based on research done by Dr. Janet Brelin-Fornari, Kettering University professor of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Crash Safety Center. Fornari spent more than two years working on a Department of Transportation contract researching the proposed standard.


Kettering Receives Three NSF Grants

Kettering University received three out of three National Science Foundation grants – the maximum the school could apply for. Here is a breakdown of the three grants:

Dr. Jaerock Kwon obtained a research grant for a program entitled, “MRI: Development of High-Throughput and High-Resolution Three-Dimensional Tissue Scanner with Internet-Connected 3D Virtual Microscope for Large-Scale Automated Histology.”

Dr. Justin Young, Dr. Terri Lynch-Caris, Dr. Mehrdad Zadeh, Dr. Girma Tewolde and Dr. Giuseppe Turini co-sponsored a program that will receive funding entitled “MRI: Acquisition of a Motion Capture System to Facilitate Multidisciplinary Research Efforts and Enhance Undergraduate Research Training.”

Dr. Prem Vaishnava, Dr. Corneliu Rablau, Dr. Lihua Wang, Dr. Steven Nartker and Dr. Bahram Roughani secured a grant for Physics that will be used: 1) for research in materials characterization across multiple disciplines; 2) as a tool for teaching materials science-related classes; 3) for recruiting students and helping regional businesses in need of material analyses; and 4) for outreach opportunities for area middle and high school students through pre-college programs.

Clean Snow Team Wins Competition

Kettering University’s SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) clean snowmobile team placed first at the 2014 SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge at Michigan Tech University in March with a four-stroke gasoline engine.

“We’re ecstatic,” said team leader Matt Birt. “This is our first win at Michigan Tech, and we couldn’t be happier.”

The competition was fierce, but Kettering’s team triumphed in several award categories: the PCB Group Award for the Quietest Snowmobile; the Blue Ribbon Coalition Award for the Most Practical Solution, which balances cost with noise and emissions reduction; and the Emitec Award for Best Value, which incorporates cost, fuel economy and performance. In addition, Kettering’s team took home the new MacLean-Fogg Cup, a traveling trophy sculpted and cast in bronze by Michigan artist Sergio DeGiusti.

The team also placed first in Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price, first in Oral Presentation, first in the Noise Event, the best fuel economy among gasoline-powered snowmobiles, and the lowest emissions among gasoline-powered snowmobiles.

Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/ketterings-sled-brings-home-gold
Kettering Opens Ice Skating Rink at Atwood Stadium

Kettering University converted Atwood Stadium into a free public outdoor ice rink for area residents and students. The ice rink opened in January and provided the community with a unique, family activity during the winter months.

Atwood Stadium is an incredible facility and we strongly feel that this was a fun and joyful experience for everyone. – Jack Stock

“This was a great opportunity for area residents and Kettering students to enjoy the outdoors during the winter months while experiencing the grandeur and history of Atwood Stadium,” said Jack Stock, Director of External Relations at Kettering. “Atwood Stadium is an incredible facility and we strongly feel that this was a fun and joyful experience for everyone.”

Kettering acquired Atwood Stadium from the City of Flint in August 2013. Under the framework of the agreement, Atwood Stadium became a part of Kettering University’s campus. It still remains a venue available to host high school football games, the annual Atwood Stadium road race, boxing matches, concerts and other community events.

Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/kettering-university-unveils-ice-rink-atwood-stadium

Model UN Club Attends Harvard Competition


The team was assigned to represent the countries of Nepal and Serbia. Because of the small size of the KU team, the delegation represented only these countries in specific committees such as the Historical General Assembly, Legal Committee, and special political and decolonization committee. Topics discussed in these committees included cyber security and cyber defense, preventing narcotics trafficking, multinational corporations and international law, sustainable transport, sustainable agriculture and a comprehensive nuclear weapons test ban treaty.

During the months of December through February, the delegation prepared for the conference by studying the history, culture, economics, politics and foreign policy of both nations so as to best represent them at the conference. As a delegation, they were tasked with representing the people of Nepal and Serbia just as their own nationals would represent them at the United Nations headquarters in New York. After this research, individual delegates then studied their committee topics in the context of the countries they represented to properly prepare them for debate and allow them to develop their own ideas for solutions, as well as understand current country foreign policy.

The HNMUN conference was founded in 1955, 10 years after the creation of the United Nations. It is the oldest and largest conference of its kind, with more than 3,000 students and faculty from over 40 countries participating. HNMUN and conferences of its kind provide a simulation of how the United Nations tackles world issues. This was the third time a delegation from Kettering University participated at the HNMUN conference.

The trip was sponsored by the Kettering Student Government, Student Life, the Liberal Studies Department, Office of Multicultural Student Initiatives, Provost Robert Simpson and President Robert McMahan. The MUN club provides a platform to understand world diplomacy, improve negotiation skills and broaden world perspective.
DECA Team Wins State Championship

Kettering University students earned several honors at Collegiate DECA’s State Career Development Conference in Battle Creek, Mich., February 7-9. Kettering’s chapter went head-to-head against students from University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Tech, Grand Valley, Central Michigan University, Northwood, Davenport (Grand Rapids) and Delta College. This year, 10 Kettering students captured 16 awards: two in first place, two in second place, and three in third place, with nine honorable mentions. At the conference, students took exams, solved current and practical business case study problems, wrote business plans, and role-played with industry judges. Of the 10 Kettering students who competed this year, five were new to the competition and had never competed before at Collegiate DECA. The following honors qualify students to attend the International Collegiate DECA Career Development Conference in Washington D.C., April 22–26.

FIRST PLACE
• Thomas Swanson (freshman in Business) in Entrepreneurship – Growing a Small Business
• Michael Woznicki (senior in Business) in Retail Management

SECOND PLACE
• Britany Parkhurst (senior in Business) in Retail Management
• Michael Woznicki (senior in Business) in Marketing Management

THIRD PLACE
• Anastasia Bubin (junior in Business), Allison Putnam (junior in Business), and Jacob Sherwood (junior in Mechanical Engineering) in Advertising Campaign
• Britany Parkhurst (senior in Business) in Human Resource Management
• Ashlea Reiter (senior in Business) and Michael Roethemeyer (senior in Electrical Engineering) in Entrepreneurship – Starting your own Business

HONORABLE MENTIONS
• Anastasia Bubin (junior in Business) in Fashion Merchandising and Marketing
• Alan Doucette (junior in Mechanical Engineering) in Retail Management
• Alan Doucette (junior in Mechanical Engineering) in Marketing Management
• Chelcee Lawrence (senior in Chemical Engineering) in Restaurant and Food Service Management
• Chelcee Lawrence (senior in Chemical Engineering) in Marketing Management
• Michael Roethemeyer (senior in Electrical Engineering) in Executive Job Interview
• Jacob Sherwood (junior in Mechanical Engineering) Accounting
• Thomas Swanson (freshman in Business) in Banking Financial Services

Collegiate DECA is a student-oriented organization focused on developing future business leaders. The four cornerstones of DECA are career awareness, civic consciousness, social intelligence, and leadership development with competitive events in: Business, Design, Entrepreneurship, Finance & Accounting, Food Service & Culinary, Hospitality & Travel, Information Technology, Management, and Marketing & Sales. Besides the yearly state and international Career Development conferences in the spring, collegiate DECA also sponsors a yearly Leadership Conference in the fall.

Bob Lutz Visits Campus

The Kettering University chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers hosted an event on campus featuring prominent author, speaker and the former chairman of GM North America Bob Lutz in February. Lutz gave a speech entitled, “Straight Talk on Leadership,” in McKinnon Theatre. Following the presentation, Lutz answered questions from students and attended a reception.

Lutz has had a long and distinguished career in the auto industry. He worked for GM Europe, was executive vice president of sales at BMW, was an executive vice president at the Ford Motor Company and served as the head of Chrysler Corporation’s Global Product Development. He retired as GM’s vice chairman of Global Product Development in 2009.

Lutz has many noteworthy accomplishments in his career, including emphasizing the need for automakers to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Lutz has written three books: Icons and Idiots: Straight Talk on Leadership; Car Guys vs. Bean Counters: The Battle for the Soul of American Business; and Guts: Eight Laws of Business from one of the Most Innovative Business Leaders of our Time.
Alzahabi Named to Alfred Grava Chair

Kettering University has named Dr. Basem Alzahabi to the Alfred Grava Chair of Engineering Design. The Alfred Grava Chair of Engineering Design was established by Dr. Martin D. (Skip) Walker and his wife Mary in 1998 to honor the legacy of their lifelong friend Al Grava, a 1957 Kettering/GMI graduate and former president of Masco-Tech Automotive Systems Group.

Walker graduated from Kettering/General Motors Institute in 1954 and went on to become the chairman/CEO of the M.A. Hanna Company. The Alfred Grava Chair is intended to support a Kettering University faculty member with expertise in noise, vibration and harshness (NVH).

“I am truly honored to be named the Alfred Grava Chair of Engineering Design,” Alzahabi said. “It is particularly gratifying that this honor recognizes my achievements and commitment to research and teaching in the field of noise, vibration and harshness (NVH).”

Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/alzahabi-named-alfred-grava-chair

oSTEM Chapter Formed

Thanks in part to a grant from the General Motors Foundation, Kettering University will soon become one of a growing number of universities nationwide to have an oSTEM chapter. As part of GM’s commitment to promoting diversity in STEM fields, a portion of a grant presented in September will help Kettering launch an oSTEM chapter. oStem — Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (www.oSTEM.org) — is a national society “educating and fostering leadership for LGBTQIA communities in the STEM fields.”

The mission of the organization fits with GM’s goal to foster more diversity in the industry. Three colleges — University of Michigan, Western Michigan and Michigan Tech — have established oSTEM chapters in Michigan. Albion College, Lawrence Tech and Michigan State University are currently in the process of forming chapters.

“Support of organizations like oSTEM is in alignment with our goals of promoting a diverse workforce, attracting the best and brightest students studying STEM subjects, and appealing to a diverse customer base,” said Bob Dziurda, Integration Engineer, GM Plus LGBT Policy Chair and Kettering University Lead Talent Scout for General Motors. “GM has been a leader in LGBT workplace equality since 2000, and we are one of the most progressive automotive companies in terms of outreach to the LGBT community. We strongly believe a diverse workforce is key to future success.”

Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/kettering-university-forming-ostem-chapter

El-Sayed Accepts New Position at Marygrove

After 18 years of dedicated and exceptional professional service at Kettering University, Jacqueline El-Sayed is moving on after accepting the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer position at Marygrove College in Detroit.

At Kettering, El-Sayed was the Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. In that position she had been supervising the Office of the Registrar, the Library, the Academic Success Center, the Center for Culminating Undergraduate Experiences, the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, the First Year Experience and Kettering’s renowned Co-operative Education program.

“I will remember my wonderful students, colleagues and fellow alumni at Kettering,” El-Sayed said. “Ours (Kettering’s) is a powerful learning model and I strongly believe that it constructs knowledge in a superior manner. It was a difficult decision to transition and I am going to miss everyone.”

Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/el-sayed-accepts-vice-president-position-marygrove
In 1987, Gary Cowger ’70 gave his first gift to Kettering University — a $10 donation to the University’s endowment. Fast forward almost 25 years and Cowger’s contributions and service have grown significantly and most recently came in the form of a $365,000 gift for a new Kettering boardroom. The boardroom will be named the “Gary and Kay Cowger boardroom,” once the renovations are complete.

“I think it’s a visible sign of support for the University,” Cowger said. “You want to see this great institution grow and flourish in the future. There is no better way to do that than give up your hard-earned cash.”

The latest gift adds to Cowger’s list of contributions to Kettering University. He has also established the Gary and Kay Cowger Endowed Scholarship, which provides support for female engineering students who demonstrate financial need and academic achievement.

“We have to convince the alumni that this is a growing and viable institution,” Cowger said. “We have to grow this great University and the way you do that is by building, doing new things, and demonstrating to people that it is thriving.

Cowger received his bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) in 1970 and his master’s degree in Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Sloan Fellow in 1978. He holds an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree from Lindenwood University (2002) and an honorary doctorate of Engineering from Kettering University (2007).

After graduating from Kettering in 1970, Cowger worked at General Motors for 45 years, most recently as Group Vice President of Global Manufacturing and Labor Relations. In this position he was responsible for directing all of GM’s manufacturing operations, manufacturing engineering, and labor relations activities worldwide, and was a member of the Automotive Strategy Board and the Automotive Product Board. He also served as President of GM North America, Chairman of Adam Opel AG, and President of GM de Mexico.

Cowger’s inspiration to give back to the school stems from his relentless belief in the value of Kettering’s cooperative model.

“Kettering is a crown jewel for the quality of education it provides to young men and women and for the entire co-op experience that produces practicing engineers and not just theoretical engineers,” Cowger said. “You also graduate with a job where people know your capabilities and help to mentor your career. That type of education and institution is well worth protecting and supporting.”

Initially, Cowger didn’t have Kettering on his radar when searching for colleges to attend as he was focused on going to Kansas State to play baseball. His high school counselor and mechanical drawing teacher urged him to consider General Motors Institute because he showed promise as an engineer. Even then, only when Cowger’s father informed him that he would make a “better engineer than a baseball player,” did he officially enroll at Kettering.

Cowger is now retired from General Motors but continues to serve on Kettering’s Board of Trustees (he is the immediate past Chairman of the Board), a role that he has maintained since 1999. His initial $10 contribution continues to grow as does his legacy at Kettering.

“Ten dollars can be a significant contribution when you’re running on $50 extra a month with a growing family. There is no right size gift,” Cowger said. “Those of us who have been lucky enough to be successful in our careers over the years need to give what we can to keep the University going forward.”
Oswalds Continue Support of International Experiences

Distinguished Kettering University alumnus Bob Oswald ’64 is reiterating his belief in international experiences by pledging to increase the Oswald International Fellowship endowment at Kettering University to $2 million. Over the past 10 years, the Oswald International Fellowship has supported Kettering students, studying aboard.

Thirteen students are studying abroad during the 2013–14 academic year and have many opportunities to travel while abroad because of the generous support of Bob and Marcy Oswald.

One recipient of the fellowship this year is Michael Colando, a Mechanical Engineering major scheduled to graduate in Spring 2014. Colando studied abroad at the Hochschule Ulm University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

“The Oswalds’ kindness gave me the ability to step out of my comfort zone and be independent in a place where I wasn’t comfortable. Because of that I’ve grown tremendously and feel prepared to live and work in the global world of engineering,” Colando said.

Colando now works for a German company, LuK USA in Ohio, and credits his unique study abroad experience for enhancing his opportunities at work.

Oswald graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering and earned a master’s of business administration from Michigan State University in 1972. Oswald retired from Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems in Elyria, Ohio, in January 2010 after serving as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since March 2002. Bendix is a member of the Munich, Germany-based Knorr-Bremse Group, the leading worldwide supplier of pneumatic braking and related safety systems for commercial vehicle and railroad applications. Prior to Bendix, Oswald was Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Robert Bosch Corporation, the North American subsidiary of the Stuttgart, Germany-based Robert Bosch GmbH. Oswald also served for 20 years on the Board of Trustees at Kettering University and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the school in 2013.

“The Oswalds had confidence in me and trusted that this opportunity to travel would be a good experience,” said Heather Mahon.

Mahon, a Computer Science major at Kettering, studied abroad at Hochschule Reutlingen University in Germany and utilized the Oswalds’ support to travel to 11 different countries.

The Oswald Fellowship allowed Steve Shaker, an Electrical Engineering major, to travel to Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, Czech Republic and France while studying in Germany. Shaker studied at Hochschule Reutlingen University and used the experience to travel in Europe and gain confidence in his professional life to “face the unknown.”

Dr. Robert L. Simpson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, said, “The Oswalds clearly understand the importance of providing students with a rich and intellectually challenging international experience. Their generosity ensures that our students will have the support they need to study abroad in perpetuity. I cannot thank them enough for their commitment to Kettering and our students. “Kettering offers study abroad experiences in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science and industrial manufacturing engineering and business and chemistry in Germany and Mexico. All study abroad classes are offered in English.
Tag Day Exposes Students to Impact of Philanthropy

As a way to raise awareness for the many ways donors impact Kettering University and its students, Kettering hosted a ‘Tag Day’ during both A and B sections.

The first Tag Day was held Nov. 15, 2013, in conjunction with National Philanthropy Day, and the second was held Feb. 27.

Tags with QR codes telling the stories of philanthropy and donor impact at Kettering were placed on 25 items at locations all over campus. Faculty and staff were invited to wear Tag Day stickers, signifying their philanthropic giving to Kettering.

The tags and stories associated with them were intended to show students that donors support their education in many ways, both obvious ones and subtle ones. During the common hour, student teams competed against a University leadership team in a Tag Day scavenger hunt. Teams raced across campus to answer questions about the impact of philanthropic giving at Kettering. Winners received Einstein Bros gift certificates and bragging rights. Approximately 400 students participated during the two events, taking a moment out of their busy schedules to sign thank-you cards for the donors who shape their Kettering experience.

In 2013, Kettering facilitated 2,088 scholar assistance awards, and this would not be possible without philanthropic giving. Each student who signed a card took a Tag Day sticker that indicated that Kettering alumni and friends gave to support their education. Many students expressed their gratitude for the support of donors, noting that the world-class education offered by Kettering would not be possible without them.

To read firsthand accounts from students about how vital these gifts are or to make a gift online, visit kettering.edu/keepmekettering.

Keep Me Kettering Kicks Off

Kettering University graduates share a unique bond because of the robust nature of a Kettering education. The rigorous time demands in class and studying for coursework, as well as the co-op experience that is unparalleled elsewhere make a Kettering education extremely challenging and the payoff for completing it extremely rewarding.

The ‘Keep Me Kettering’ scholarship fund debuted in 2013 as a way to remove financial burdens from the other stressors students face. This fund has been created to assist students in times of need, and to ensure they are able to stay in school and complete their education. To date, the campaign has helped 207 new students at Kettering overcome financial challenges and continue pursuit of their degrees.

Gifts of all amounts cumulatively make an important difference for families of incoming students, as well as sophomores, juniors and seniors who struggle to complete their degrees because of financial stress. Any amount you choose to give will help students keep their academic dreams alive.

To read firsthand accounts from students about how vital these gifts are or to make a gift online, visit kettering.edu/keepmekettering.
Matt Boddy ’95 makes an impact at his alma mater literally on a monthly basis. Boddy, Global Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Key Safety Systems, has made a donation to Kettering every month since February 2011. In fact, Boddy has made a donation to Kettering 45 times in the past 18 years. Boddy simply says of his generosity, “It is the right thing to do.”

Boddy is compelled to give back because he feels his experience at Kettering University helped him immensely both personally and professionally. After a few years living abroad, working in vehicle seating and visiting countless countries and territories, Boddy truly appreciates the opportunities that got him where he is today. Kettering University provided a solid foundation for his success.

Boddy made his first donation to Kettering in December of 1996, just 12 months after graduating. He then gave sporadically for a few years until 2011 when his current streak of consecutive months began. He knew that giving to Kettering was important but did not give on a regular basis until three years ago. Boddy believes that sometimes when you are young you do not realize how important giving back is and something has to trigger that for you. Boddy’s trigger was due to the investment a professor made in his success as a student.

During his undergraduate career, he worked closely with Professor Marty Wing, who inspired him to pursue a master’s degree in economics after graduating from Kettering. Wing, who passed away in 2008, was Boddy’s thesis advisor and the two spent a great deal of time together. Wing’s guidance, support and dedication instilled a philanthropic spirit in Boddy that is still with him today.

“Every gift I give is in memory of Marty Wing,” Boddy said. Matt now realizes that a Kettering education and the relationships that he developed in school were gifts, and he feels that giving back is just one way he can say thank you for those gifts.

After graduating and being away from campus for 18 years, Matt returned to campus for the first time in nearly 18 years last fall. Standing on the front steps of the Campus Center, he said, “Being back and being able to see Kettering’s progress makes me proud.”

GM Foundation Continues Support of Kettering

The Connie and Jim John Recreation Center at Kettering University was packed with hundreds of high school students from around Michigan competing in the annual Kettering Kickoff FIRST Robotics competition on Sept. 21.

Students sitting in the bleachers who, as a part of a team or as individuals, have been impacted by General Motors’ longtime support of FIRST and other initiatives that enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs were asked to come down to the FIRST playing field for a photo. By the time students finished making their way to the field, the once-packed bleachers in the recreation center were nearly empty.

The GM Foundation continued its support of FIRST and a variety of other Kettering programs at the event. Gerald Johnson ’85, GM North America Manufacturing vice president and Kettering’s key executive at GM, gave a signal and the robot from the Kettering-backed Metal Muscle FIRST team, transported a check for $110,000 to Kettering University President Robert K. McMahan.

“The GM Foundation has been instrumental in their support of a variety of Kettering University initiatives, including FIRST,” said Kettering University President Robert K. McMahan. “GM’s support of students in these programs that promote STEM education is truly inspirational. It opens new doors and gives new opportunities to students of all different backgrounds and introduces them to STEM concepts.”

Read about the many exciting programs this year’s grant supports: https://www.kettering.edu/news/gm-foundation-continues-longtime-support-first-kettering
Barra continues Kettering’s tradition of global leadership

“...you are the largest, richest and most tech-savvy generation in history. But, you are also the most inclusive and the most optimistic. Kettering students have an opportunity to impact the world.”

—Mary Barra

During her commencement speech at Kettering University in 2013, Mary Barra ’85 told students, “Opportunities will arise (for you) that you simply cannot imagine today.” A few months later, Barra was named CEO of General Motors Corp., the first female to lead a global automaker.

Barra, who succeeded Dan Akerson, was previously the General Motors Senior Vice President, Global Product Development. She currently sits on the Kettering University Board of Trustees. Under her leadership, GM is driving to become the global industry leader in automotive design and technology, product quality, customer care, and business results.

Barra began her career with GM in 1980 as a Kettering University (then General Motors Institute) co-op student at the Pontiac Motor Division. She graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. In 1988 Barra was awarded a GM fellowship and in 1990 she graduated from the Stanford Graduate School of Business with a master's degree in Business Administration.

During her commencement speech, Barra spoke highly of the current generation of students preparing to enter the workforce.
“There are 18 million of you in the ‘Millenial Generation,’” Barra said. “You are the largest, richest and most tech-savvy generation in history. But, you are also the most inclusive and the most optimistic. Kettering students have an opportunity to impact the world. The practical, real-world experience that a Kettering education provides is as practical today as it was 30 years ago.”

Barra’s path to global leadership started in some of the same classrooms in which current Kettering students are preparing for future impactful careers. In fact, she even had some of the same faculty who are still instructing Kettering students, including chemistry professor Reg Bell and Mo Torfeh, professor of Electrical Engineering. Some of those same attributes she displayed as a student at Kettering, which were further developed during her career, are what made her standout at GM.

“I’ve met and worked with many executives, both in the U.S. and abroad,” said Kettering President Robert McMahan. “She is among the standouts. I have not seen a weakness.”

She’s had a distinguished career at GM, beginning with her co-op experience. Barra was named Senior Vice President, Global Product Development in February 2011. She was responsible for the design, engineering, program management and quality for General Motors’ vehicles around the world. She is a member of the Executive Operations Committee and serves on the Adam Opel AG Supervisory Board.

Prior to this, Barra was most recently Vice President, Global Human Resources. She has also served as GM Vice President, Global Manufacturing Engineering; Plant Manager, Detroit Hamtramck Assembly; and Executive Director of Competitive Operations Engineering. In addition, she has held several engineering and staff positions. Currently, she serves on the General Dynamics and Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute board of directors.

“I’ve met and worked with many executives, both in the U.S. and abroad. She is among the standouts. I have not seen a weakness.”

–Robert McMahan
MARISSA PETERSON, President and CEO of Mission Peak Executive Consulting

Marissa Peterson is president and CEO of Mission Peak Executive Consulting which provides client-focused executive coaching and management consulting services. Coaching clients include Apple, Yahoo, Cisco, VMWare, Intel, HP, EBay, NetApp, Cadence, Symantec and many others.

Prior to starting her consulting practice, Peterson joined Sun Microsystems when it was still a small public company, helping it scale to reach a peak of approximately $20 billion in annual revenues. She retired from Sun after 17 years with an unprecedented legacy of concurrently leading some of Sun’s largest and most effective organizations: as Executive Vice President of Global Services, Executive Vice President of Worldwide Operations, and Sun’s Chief Customer Advocate.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and an Honorary Doctorate in Management from Kettering University where she studied as a full academic scholar graduating magna cum laude. Marissa also holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Harvard Business School, where she was selected as a GM Fellow.

WADE LUKIANOW, co-founder President and CEO, Tensentric Medical Devices

Wade Lukianow is the Co-founder, president and CEO of Tensentric Medical Devices. Tensentric is a specialized design and development firm that works exclusively on medical devices.

Lukianow has over 25 years of professional engineering experience in specific medical device experience. Some of the areas that he’s focused on include: handheld surgical instruments, plastic and reconstructive surgery systems, various blood glucose monitoring systems, insulin pumps, and surgical navigation systems for cardiac and neurosurgery.

He graduated from Kettering with a degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and received his master of science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado.

RODNEY O’NEAL, CEO & President, Delphi

As the head of Delphi, Rodney O’Neal leads more than 160,000 people and oversees 126 major manufacturing sites and 15 technical centers in 32 countries.

O’Neal's automotive industry experience began as a student in 1971 at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University). He later worked for GM, holding a number of engineering, production and manufacturing supervisory positions over the years in locations throughout the United States, Portugal and Canada. He became vice president and president of Delphi’s Interior Systems Division in 1997 and quickly rose through the ranks to president of Delphi’s Dynamics, Propulsion & Thermal sector in 2003. In 2005, O’Neal became president and chief operating officer of Delphi before ascending to his current position two years later, in January 2007.

O’Neal has a bachelor’s degree from Kettering University and a master’s degree from Stanford University. He serves on the board of directors of Delphi and is a former member of the board of directors of the Sprint Nextel Corporation and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

PAUL BASCOBERT, President, Bloomberg News

Paul Bascobert became president of Bloomberg Businessweek in 2010 and was named head of business operations for the Bloomberg Media Group in 2011. As president of Bloomberg Businessweek, he is responsible for the strategy, revenue and operations of the brand. As head of business operations for the Bloomberg Media Group, Bascobert is responsible for revenue growth and business execution. Prior to joining Bloomberg, Bascobert was CMO for the Consumer Media Group of Dow Jones & Company. Before joining Dow Jones in 2006, Bascobert held leadership positions in operations, sales and marketing for Exchange
a few of the many examples of world-changing industry leaders and entrepreneurs who graduated from Kettering.

Solutions Inc., Braun Consulting, and Vertex Partners.

Bascobert holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Kettering University and an MBA in Finance and Marketing from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

**LAWRENCE E. DEWEY, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Allison Transmission**

Lawrence Dewey is Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Allison Transmission. Allison Transmission is the world’s largest provider of commercial-duty automatic transmissions and hybrid propulsion systems.

Dewey joined Allison in February 1989. Dewey served in various capacities at Allison, including President, a role he assumed in 2000; worldwide Director of Marketing, Sales and Service, Managing Director of Allison Transmission Europe, B.V., based in The Netherlands; Central Region (U.S.) Sales Manager; Marketing Manager; Manager of Aftermarket Products; and Production Manager.

Before joining Allison, Dewey held several positions of increasing responsibility in General Motors’ Diesel Equipment Division and Rochester Products Division. He began his career in 1974 as a General Motors co-op student at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University).

**PAUL GLOMSKI (’99), CEO of Detroit Labs**

Paul Glomski is the co-founder of Detroit Labs, a tech company that develops applications for the iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows 8. Detroit Labs is located on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit and its clients include Chevy, Cleveland Cavaliers, Quicken Loans, Domino’s, DTE Energy and Caesars Entertainment. Glomski is a native of Flint and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering from Kettering University. He earned his master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

**Sonia Syngal, Head of Global Supply Chain Organization for Gap Inc.**

In November 2013, Sonia Syngal was named the head of the Global Supply Chain Organization for Gap Inc. Since joining the company in 2004, Syngal has served in key leadership roles including Vice President of Corporate Sourcing and later of Global Production & Supply Chain, both working directly with Funnell in both positions. During this time, she was instrumental in delivering production and sourcing strategies for Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy. Most recently, she served as head of Old Navy’s International division where she led the successful expansion of the brand in Japan and set the strategies for Old Navy’s global growth.

Syngal holds a master’s degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Stanford University, and a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University.

**KARENANN TERRELL, Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Wal-Mart**

Karenann Terrell is Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Walmart). She is responsible for the company’s global technology systems, including stores and clubs, supply chain, merchandising and enterprise platforms.

Terrell joined Walmart in 2010 as Executive Vice President of Information Systems. Prior to that, Karenann was chief information officer of Baxter International, Inc. and Chief Information Officer of the Chrysler Group and Mercedes-Benz North America. She was responsible for the company’s global information technology function supporting its businesses worldwide. Terrell began her career at General Motors where her responsibilities included brand development, manufacturing and engineering at Cadillac.

Terrell earned her bachelor’s degree Electrical Engineering at Kettering University and a master’s degree Electrical Engineering at Purdue University.
KUSARA Project

Will Be Transformative for Kettering, Flint

An exciting new project by Kettering University has the potential to completely reshape the campus and the community and give Kettering an innovative facility in which to continue delivering a world-class education to the next generation of engineers.

The Kettering University Student Automotive Research Area (KUSARA) is a cornerstone of the University's Four Strategic Pillars. KUSARA will turn a piece of Kettering-owned land on the “Chevy in the Hole” property into a vibrant and useful space for the University and the Flint community. KUSARA will be an automotive and motorsports proving ground to be used by faculty and students, as well as by community and industry partners, to host events, to conduct research and to provide exceptional educational opportunities.

In 2012, Kettering University implemented four strategic pillars — optimized growth, global leadership, community vitality and engaged stakeholders. These pillars provide the strategic framework that guides all of the University’s work, and all four are perfectly highlighted as components of the KUSARA project.

“As people travel to campus from the new I-69 corridor from Hammerberg Road, passing the newly opened Powers Catholic High School and new Michigan School for the Deaf buildings approaching Kettering, the first sight they’ll see is an incredible automotive testing and research facility as the gateway to our campus,” said Kettering University President Robert McMahan.

“This facility will not only provide unparalleled educational opportunities for our students, it will also serve as a model for creative redevelopment of brownfields and industrial land nationwide."

The optimized growth pillar articulates Kettering’s intention to provide an education that appeals to students seeking premier instruction heavy in applied and experiential learning. KUSARA will give students a unique opportunity to learn engineering principles by engaging in a wide range of activities in a state-of-the-art facility that very few colleges in the country could offer to students. KUSARA will give Kettering another great facility, to go along with many existing labs and spaces on campus, that undergraduates will have access to as soon as they step on campus. That level of immediate access to labs and facilities for undergrads remains one of the strongest differentiators between Kettering and peer Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) institutions around the country.

“KUSARA will be a fantastic tool for faculty to take concepts discussed in the classroom and immediately let students test those concepts in a facility that replicates what they would experience in industry,” said Dr. Craig Hoff, Mechanical Engineering Department Head. “It will also give our Formula, Baja, Clean Snowmobile and AeroDesign SAE teams a great facility to test and improve their competition vehicles. In the
past, students have done a great job making use of limited spaces to test their vehicles. This proving ground will give them a facility that ensures they will continue to build on already impressive performances they’ve had in competitions.”

The outcome of a Kettering education is to produce global leaders in STEM fields. KUSARA will give Kettering students the access to both a strong grounding in theoretical instruction in the classroom and an amazing facility that will immediately allow students to test those concepts in a real environment. KUSARA will enhance Kettering’s already nationally ranked reputation as a STEM and business university.

Kettering’s future success is intrinsically tied to its community vitality efforts – the University is fully invested in improving its community, region, state, country and world. The KUSARA project will take a portion of property that is currently unused in the city of Flint and transform it into a beautiful facility that serves as a gateway to campus and the rapidly transforming surrounding area. KUSARA will also serve as a national model for how cities can productively reuse and redevelop industrial land. KUSARA will also attract leading researchers, industries and revenue opportunities to Flint.

The key to not only KUSARA’s success, but also Kettering’s success as a whole will be creating a culture of engaged alumni and stakeholders. KUSARA not only provides an opportunity for alumni and donors to ensure that Kettering continues to provide a leading education for future students, but also will give opportunities for alumni to conduct research, host or participate in events, and help provide access to many industry partners.

KUSARA will be utilized to educate the nation’s finest engineers to fulfill workforce needs for automotive and other related industries. It will enhance Kettering University’s rich tradition of excellence in educating the nation’s finest automotive and motorsports engineers by providing an outdoor laboratory to be used to develop and test vehicles. In doing so, KUSARA will attract the nation’s top students to study and research automotive and motorsports engineering in Flint, Mich.

For information about how you can support KUSARA, contact Cara Boeff at (810) 762-9746 or cboeff@kettering.edu. Visit Kettering.edu/True for more information about the University’s mission, vision, values and strategic pillars.
A decorated and illustrious academic career will come to an end this summer as Dr. Robert L. Simpson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kettering University, steps down from his current position at the end of May.

Simpson has served as the Provost at Kettering during two separate periods: once during the 2006–07 academic year and again during the past four years.

“Dr. Simpson has served Kettering University with dedication and commitment through two tenures with the University,” Kettering President Robert K. McMahan said. “He has played an integral part in our success and has played a key role in steering Kettering toward a bright future. He will continue to be a tremendous asset to Kettering and to (new Provost) Dr. James Zhang through the transition.”

Simpson originally committed to just two years in 2010, but that turned into four years as he oversaw the leadership transition to Dr. McMahan, who was hired as President of Kettering in August 2011, and the three new vice presidents who followed. Through the transition, Simpson is confident that Kettering is in a much better place than during his first tenure with the school in 2006.

“I’d already done administrative work for 10 years as a department head, so it was an easy transition The school I was working with was focused on science and math.”

—Dr. Robert L. Simpson
“Of all the Presidents that I have worked with, Bob McMahan has the most varied and, in some ways, eclectic background,” Simpson said. “He’s an incredibly good scientist. He’s an entrepreneur. He knows business inside and out. He knows how government works and has been part of government. He truly has a vision of what a small private university can mean for its community and for its region. He’s not only able to articulate it, but he’s able to execute it. He brings a strength that you don’t see in higher education very often. I knew Kettering’s potential from its students and the commitment of its faculty and staff. He’s brought a level of vision and a level of energy that has really rejuvenated this institution.”

After completing his doctorate degree in limnology (study of standing fresh water bodies like lakes and streams) at Cornell University, Simpson has had a prominent academic career at Rider University (1970-1985), William Patterson College (1985-1991) and as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (1991-2006). Simpson, in partnership with his research colleagues, has published three books on freshwater wetlands, ecology of soil seed banks and seedling ecology, and evolution.

“At this point, I’ve essentially fulfilled what I came to achieve and it’s time for me to retire,” Simpson said. “My only goal here is to help Kettering be successful. When I leave, I’ll feel like I’ve made a very positive contribution.”

Read more about Simpson’s career and achievements at www.kettering.edu/news.

“I learned there how to work toward deadlines. That’s been a helpful lesson throughout my life”

—Dr. Robert L. Simpson

Kettering University has appointed Dr. James Zhang as the University’s new Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Provost. Zhang will replace Dr. Robert Simpson, who announced his retirement last year.

“Dr. Zhang is a highly productive and recognized scholar who brings to Kettering a rare combination of scholarly achievement, administrative acumen and industry experience,” said Kettering University President Dr. Robert McMahan. “Dr. Zhang will be an exceptional Provost. He is committed to Kettering’s mission, vision and values, and throughout his career has been a passionate advocate for experiential education. His colleagues consistently praise his approachability, his collaborative and inclusive nature, and his ability to bring fresh approaches to challenges — all of which will make him an ideal fit at Kettering.”

Zhang has been Dean of The Kimmel School at Western Carolina University since 2012 and has been an Electrical Engineering faculty member at the university since 2003. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from Hunan University, a master’s degree from Indiana University in Telecommunications and a master’s degree and Ph.D. from Purdue University, both in Electrical Engineering. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 publications and holds seven U.S. and international patents.

“I am extremely excited to join Kettering University and work with the outstanding students, faculty, staff and alumni,” Zhang said. “The University truly has a remarkable track record of producing exceptional graduates prepared to solve global challenges and excel in leadership positions in industry. I am passionate about Kettering’s ability to harness the power of experiential learning and am committed to enhance Kettering’s endeavors to deliver a world class STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Business education to its students.”

Zhang was selected from among three finalists after an extensive national search process that included input from a broad cross section of the Kettering University community including faculty, staff and students.

“I am proud of the thoughtful nature of the search committee’s deliberations and their dedication and outstanding effort. I thank them for their work and for bringing this very important search to such a successful and positive conclusion,” McMahan said.
If one notices a pattern of Kettering students working and excelling in Walmart’s Logistics Engineering department, like everything else in supply chain management, it’s by design. Kettering graduates Avie (Fisher) Sassan and Dawn Dreyer are taking it upon themselves to grow Kettering’s presence at Walmart.

“We went to Kettering and believe in the quality of a Kettering education and experience,” Sassan said. “We want to continue to grow Kettering’s presence inside Walmart because of the highly skilled and qualified graduates from the University.”

Sassan and Dreyer were recruited to Walmart by Kettering alums Rebecca (Lee) Durkee and Paul Durkee. They have since recruited Loznee (Long) Chapman, Jenae Moore and Steve Boylston.

Sassan remains close with Dr. Pete Gheresus, an industrial engineering faculty member at Kettering, and through their collaboration, they have been able to recruit co-op students to Walmart.

“Building and maintaining a relationship with the University is key to our success of integrating the Kettering co-op program into Walmart,” Sassan said.

Dreyer grew up in Grand Blanc, Michigan, and graduated from Kettering in 2004 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Her co-op placement was with Johnson Controls in Plymouth, Michigan, where she continued full time for seven years after graduating. While at Johnson Controls, Dreyer reenrolled at Kettering in the master’s in manufacturing operations distance learning program. She was able to complete the program while being co-located in the U.S. and Germany.

“Kettering’s model supports students in achieving an education while in a professional setting at any stage of career, whether a co-operative student or working full time. The core principles behind all of the engineering functions are focused on problem solving, and when partnered with the professional experience of leadership skills, the result is a powerful skill set.” Dreyer was recruited to Walmart by Sassan in 2011.

“My current role with Walmart is more focused on industrial engineering; however, with my undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering, my Masters in Manufacturing Operations, and my 12 years of work experience I am set up for success,” said Dreyer.

Sassan started working at Walmart in 2008 after working at UPS for nine years, including her co-op experience. Sassan graduated from Kettering with an industrial engineering degree. With talent development a major part of Sassan’s position at Walmart, she is focused on maintaining a strong talent pipeline that is created by thoughtful utilization of intern and co-op programs. Kettering is well positioned to assist Sassan in this effort.

Sassan and Dreyer believe that the co-op program is mutually beneficial to Walmart and Kettering as it provides the company with future leaders while giving students experience in a global logistics department that they can take back to the classroom as they complete their education.

“There are quite a few Kettering alumni in our department, as well as the rest of the company,” Sassan said. “We are excited to utilize the full time presence on the team to display the value of the Kettering co-op program as a part of our talent pipeline. At the same time, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the school to help grow Walmart’s presence at Kettering.”

“Kettering’s model supports students in achieving an education while in a professional setting at any stage of career, whether a co-operative student or working full time.” —Avie Sassan
Preparations are underway to make Kettering University’s annual Homecoming celebration even bigger than last year’s.

The event, which will be held May 16–18, will feature several events and activities to welcome alumni back to campus and see some of the amazing changes that have been ushered in at Kettering over the last three years, including new and remodeled laboratories, a renovated B.J.’s Lounge, and Atwood Stadium, the historic Flint venue that recently became part of Kettering’s campus.

Kettering University professor Henry Kowalski (“Doc K”) will be honored during the weekend, commemorating his 50 years of teaching at Kettering. Doc K will show off his initial concept for a state-of-the-art robotics center for both Kettering and area high school students to utilize from 5–6 p.m. on May 17.

Kettering will also honor all reunion classes, with special emphasis on the classes of 1964 (50th) and 1989 (25th). The class of 1964 will be part of a special recognition dinner in the Connie and Jim John Recreation Center on May 17, host an “Afterglow” event in B.J.’s Lounge from 8–10 p.m., and culminate with the Golden Circle Brunch at President McMahan’s home on May 18.

Here is the full schedule of events:

**The Major Sobey Memorial Golf Outing**

**Friday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.**
Join us for the Major Sobey Memorial Golf Outing in the Captain’s Club at Woodfield in Grand Blanc, Mich. (10200 Woodfield Drive, Grand Blanc, MI 48439). This will be a four-person scramble. You can plan your team or be placed in one. The cost is $75 per person. A special 9-hole offer for teams or be placed in one. The cost is $75 per person. A special 9-hole offer for teams and activities to welcome alumni back to campus and see some of the amazing changes that have been ushered in at Kettering over the last three years, including new and remodeled laboratories, a renovated B.J.’s Lounge, and Atwood Stadium, the historic Flint venue that recently became part of Kettering’s campus.

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**PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:***
Greens fee and cart Access to driving range Lunch Participant gift Awards

**SCHEDULE:**
7:30 a.m. – Check-in with continental breakfast, photos and warm-up 8:15 a.m. – Call to carts 8:30 a.m. – Shotgun start 10:30 a.m. – Senior 9-hole At the turn – Lunch 1:00 p.m. – Networking 2:00 p.m. – Awards

**QUESTIONS:**
Contact: Jack Stock (810) 762-7873

**Student Guided, Tours**
Friday, May 16, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Come to the Great Court to join a student-guided tour of the University and see for yourself how the campus has transformed over the past year.

**Audit Current Classes**
Friday, May 16, 1:20 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Sit in on a current class and see Kettering students and faculty in action.

**Orbits of Isaac**

**Sculpture Dedication**
Friday, May 16, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Join Kettering President Robert K. McMahan and fellow alumni, faculty, staff and friends in front of the Campus Center to dedicate the installation of Kettering’s newest sculpture Orbits of Isaac. Known for producing grand structures that amalgamate science and art, sculptor Michael Dunbar will be present to celebrate his creation with the community. Orbits of Isaac is named after physicist Isaac Newton, who is best known for formulating the laws of motion and gravity.

**Off Campus Class Gatherings and Fraternity Activities**
Friday, May 16, beginning at 5 p.m.
A number of reunion classes and fraternities have scheduled informal gatherings for Friday evening. For a complete list, contact the Alumni Engagement Office by phone at 1-888-884-7741 or by email at alumni@kettering.edu.

**Breakfast with the Faculty**
Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Start your Homecoming day by enjoying breakfast treats catered by Einstein’s Bros Bagels. Meet new faculty, talk to our students, and get reacquainted with some of your favorite faculty members. The breakfast will include faculty and student poster displays. Breakfast and the poster session will be held in the Sunset Room of Campus Center.

**Alumni & Student Car Show**
Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Enter your favorite car and enjoy the car show with fun activities for your entire family. Kids will enjoy inflatables, Lego building, face painting and other fun activities. The car show is open to all makes and models, cars and trucks. Special interest, unrestored and in-process vehicles and motorcycles are welcome. Registration is $10 in advance and $15 on the day of the show. Early entries will receive commemorative dash plaques. Please complete the registration form.

**CATEGORIES:**

This year Kettering is hosting the FIRST Robotics Center. One of 12 built by General Motors for the Parade of Progress show in the 1940s and ’50s. Restoration began in 1999 by a dedicated crew of volunteers. You won’t want to miss this amazing display. Throughout the car show, food, beer and soft-drinks will be available for purchase in BJs Lounge.

**Reunion Classes Reception, Dinner and Doc K Celebration**
Saturday, May 17, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
The reunion-year reception will take place in one of Doc K’s newest haunts – the FIRST Robotics Center. The cost for the reception and dinner is $60 per person.

**SCHEDULE:**
It didn’t take long for Dr. Henry (“Doc K”) Kowalski, professor of Mechanical Engineering, to find out what was special about Kettering University: the students.

“Kettering students are the best,” Kowalski said. “I learned that during my first lecture. I was discussing the bending of beams and mechanics, and one of the students raised his hand and said, ‘That’s not how we do it at Chevy.’ Right then I knew these students were very focused and pragmatic, and that has stayed constant over the years.”

Kettering will honor Doc K’s 50 years of service during Homecoming Weekend 2014 in May (see details on page 21). Kowalski, who earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Wayne State University, and started at Kettering in 1964, has a background in engineering mechanics and aeronautical engineering. He’s built his reputation among students at Kettering as a teacher who encourages “outside the box” thinking and a mentor who cares about the success of his students both inside the classroom and out.

“He helped me with my first invention, a self-cleaning pilot tube, and more when I worked with him at GMI’s Business and Industry Development Center in the mid-1980s,” said Michael Salmon ’77, who currently works for the Miltec Corporation in Huntsville, Ala. “His mentoring led me to start three businesses and turn a fourth one around. His enthusiasm for invention was infectious and led me to get 26 patents. He made a huge difference in my life and I know that he has positively influenced virtually all of his students.”

Kowalski has often used innovative teaching methods to keep students engaged in learning, including experiments in which students blow up mailboxes or retrofit skeet shooters to test catchers’ mitts. His Experimental Mechanics class, in particular, is well-known for allowing students to unleash their creativity.

“Doc K was always thinking ahead of the times,” Salmon said. “I’ve been blessed to have him as a mentor and friend.”

Another former student, Monica Roca (formerly Denis) ’08, has similar memories of Doc K’s impact inside the classroom and out.

“Doc K is an effective teacher because he gets to know his students,” she said. “I was a tour guide while at Kettering. I always brought the tours through the basement of the Academic and into Doc K’s ‘blue room.’ Doc K went over his ‘Wall of Fame’ and the excitement that he held for that class and its students always captured the students on the tours. Whether Doc K was explaining how much force is exerted on the heel of a high heel shoe, or the different stresses in a bone, he could not contain his excitement for all the projects and what was learned from that project. As Doc K talked about his classes, he couldn’t hide the love he has not only for teaching, but also for his students.”

“Doc K was always thinking ahead of the times. I’ve been blessed to have him as a mentor and friend.” – Michael Salmon
Doc K has made a major impact on the lives of many students, but in particular on students involved in FIRST Robotics. He became involved in FIRST nearly 10 years ago. Roca led a group of Kettering students interested in starting a FIRST team that would work and build at Kettering.

The team needed a faculty advisor, and Roca approached Doc K. After first suggesting the students wouldn’t be able to use the machining labs because he didn’t have a key, Denis got approval and access to the labs. Then Doc K raised a concern about liability and safety issues for the high school students but, again, Roca was able to resolve that concern, leaving Doc K no choice but to accept.

“Well, I agreed to do it because Monica was relentless,” Kowalski said. “She wouldn’t take no for an answer, and now that I’ve been involved and seen up close the impact of FIRST, I’m glad she didn’t.”

Roca, noting that Doc K actually never said ‘no,’ says that once he became involved in FIRST, the program took off from there.

“Students, whether high school or college, are Doc K’s life,” she said. “Once we started the team, there was no way anyone could stop Doc K! This is the greatest asset Kettering has – professors like Doc K that are one in a million who truly care about the students. Having a professor like Doc K happens once in a blue moon.”

Kettering’s FIRST team has impacted students from 17 different school districts and home-schooled students that provided opportunities from disadvantaged districts who wouldn’t otherwise have an opportunity to get exposure to FIRST.

“We’ve had a lot of kids involved who are good, disciplined kids,” Kowalski said. “They just didn’t have the opportunity to participate in FIRST through their schools either because the school was too small to have a program or because they didn’t have the funding for one.”

Kowalski has also been instrumental in Kettering’s program ever since he became involved, helping secure scholarships for high school students who couldn’t afford participation fees and helping admissions staff recruit potential Kettering students through FIRST activities.

“He’s been an important partner and inspiration for me,” said Bob Nichols, Kettering’s Director of Alumni Engagement, who first partnered Kettering with FIRST in 1998. “Doc K’s energy and creativity have made a great impact on so many young people. He’s motivated by the fact that he cares for them and he wants to see them succeed and go to college.”

During Homecoming Weekend, FIRST Robotics will play a large role in the festivities. Along with honoring Doc K’s service to Kettering, the University will also unveil a FIRST Community Center, which will be housed in the old gymnasium in the Academic Building and provide a regulation practice field and a work space for high school FIRST teams in the region. This is the first of its kind to be housed on a university campus.

“This is going to be a great use of the old gym’s space,” Kowalski said. “These kids need access to a modern machine shop, design space and a practice field, and this will give them a chance to have a simulated field that really prepares them for their competitions.”

“Once Doc K got involved in FIRST, he immediately recognized the impact that FIRST has on the career decisions for these high schools students. He also saw the potential of these high school students to attend Kettering. He personally mentors so many young students and he does not feel he is successful unless they definitely go to Kettering or at least a college or university somewhere,” Nichols said. “This FIRST Community Center is a major piece of the legacy he’s built at Kettering.”
Graduate Helps Forge Matriculation Agreement Between Kettering, Ivy Tech Community College

By Pardeep Toor

Kettering alumnus Thomas Snyder is attempting to take his experience in education and implement a co-op education model on a much larger statewide scale in Indiana.

Snyder is the president of Ivy Tech Community College, the largest institution of higher education in Indiana and the nation’s largest single-accredited statewide community college system. Snyder leads the strategic, academic and operational processes of Indiana's largest college system that serves more than 200,000 students annually at 30 campuses and 100 learning centers that provide a full spectrum of educational resources, transfer credits, associate degrees, workforce training and professional certification.

“My experience in a co-op environment (at Kettering) was really invaluable,” Snyder said. “I started working side-by-side with various people from other educational institutions, and I felt like I was as well prepared as any of my peers.”

Snyder graduated from Kettering in 1967 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He completed his co-op experience at Delco Remy in Anderson, Mich.

“They made sure that every work session had a meaningful opportunity, and the students were rotated through multiple departments,” Snyder said. “We went through all the engineering functions, including all of the industrial engineering functions. We were certainly well positioned over the four-year period. We were given exposure to higher and higher levels of responsibilities and exposure to the top people, including the general manager.”

Snyder’s own co-op and professional experiences is stimulating a partnership between the auto industry in Indiana and the community college system that could alter the very nature of community college education across the state.

“The auto industry in the state is creating an industrial maintenance program that is modeled after Kettering, because Kettering is quite well known in Indiana,” Snyder said. “It’s all about creating a co-op experience. I think that co-op engineering and co-op education is going to see a resurgence that is truly needed.”

Snyder cites Subaru and Chrysler as partners currently spearheading the implementation of the program in coordination with the statewide community college system.

“One of the issues, the market wants someone to come in with the technical skills and the soft skills,” Snyder said. “No one is going to get a better experience in the soft skills than someone participating in Kettering co-op.”

Ivy Tech Community College also recently signed a matriculation agreement with Kettering University that makes it easier for students to transfer to Kettering. Snyder states that the purpose of the community college system is to provide career-based training and transfer opportunities to students, and the agreement with Kettering, in combination with co-op opportunities, fulfills both needs.

Prior to joining Ivy Tech, Snyder held Chairman and CEO/President positions at Flagship Energy Systems Center and Delco Remy International, Inc. He began his career at General Motors Corporation, advancing through executive positions in engineering, marketing and sales for automotive batteries, magnetics and electric vehicle components. Snyder also completed a six-year tour of duty with the Air Force with research and development assignments at Vandenberg and Andrews Air Force bases and the Pentagon.

Snyder was also one of four college presidents to testify at a hearing on college affordability before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in July 2013. His comments and writing have appeared in numerous national news outlets to advocate for the affordability and efficiency of public education.

“I'm saddened that big co-op programs are starting to wane. It’s a national issue,” Snyder said. “I think it (co-op) is important for us at the community college level. Students are not going to get the soft skills in their home environment as easily as they would if they were from more affluent communities. But, at-risk students will get the education and soft skills necessary through co-op.”
**Matt Tsian** was named President of General Motors China in December 2013. Tsien received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Kettering University in 1981, a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1982, and a master’s degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1993.

**Nathan Wilke** has made the switch from the automotive industry to the health care field and is excelling by utilizing his engineering expertise in a corporate environment. For the past three years, Wilke has worked for the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Wisc. In his current role as program director, value analysis, his primary responsibility is helping the healthcare network maintain and improve its performance levels while also identifying opportunities to reduce costs and operate more efficiently. It’s a new role in the organization, and he’s the first director. Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/kettering-graduate-using-engineering-skills-healthcare-field.

**Richard Topolewski** joined Rader, Fishman and Grauer as an associate attorney in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Michael L. Schirmer** completed his Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) at Wilmington University, New Castle, Delaware. His dissertation was entitled Minority Business Certification Programs in a Mid-Atlantic State: Participants’ Perceptions of Capacity Building. He was inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta international honor society for business, management and administration. He is currently the Faculty Chair of Business Programs at Peirce College in Philadelphia, Penn.

**Akron Brass** Company, a global marketer and manufacturer of high performance firefighting equipment, has announced the appointment of Sean Tillinghast to the role of president.

**Scott Hogan** was named a Michigan Super Lawyer’s Rising Star for 2014 in the area of intellectual property law.


**Paul Glomski**, founder of Detroit Labs, appeared on 60 Minutes on CBS in October of 2013 to discuss downtown Detroit’s revitalization. Glomski is the founder of Detroit Labs, a tech company that develops applications for the iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows 8. Detroit Labs is located on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit and Glomski believes its geography provides an advantage over other similar companies across the country. Glomski is a native of Flint and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering from Kettering University. He completed his master’s in mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and also earned an
Michael Groesbeck, whose degree is in Electrical Engineering, competed in Kong Off 3 in Denver, Colo., Nov. 16–17. The competition, centered around the iconic arcade video game, featured 32 of the highest scoring players. Groesbeck finished in eighth place in this year’s competition with a score of 1,020,700. He also registered one of the top scores in Donkey Kong history earlier this year when he posted a 1,023,600.

Amanda Mallek, currently working for John Deere, chose Kettering both for her undergrad and graduate education. Find out why: https://www.kettering.edu/news/kettering-allowed-graduate-dive-engineering-right-away


Stacy Gardner discusses how the co-op program drew her to Kettering all the way from Missouri. Read more: https://www.kettering.edu/news/alumna-was-always-ahead-curve
Path to Entrepreneurship for Graduate Started at Kettering

Since graduating from Kettering University in 2005, Andy Cronk has already founded three companies. Cronk recently secured $3.2 million in Series A funding from Hyde Park Venture Partners, Chicago Ventures, Divergent Ventures and angel investors for his current company, TempoDB.

The company, founded in 2011 by Cronk and partners Justin DeLay and Mike Yagley, is a time series database service for sensors and measurement data. Their mission is to “make sense of the measured world.” The database stores billions of data points from internet-connected sensors to serve clients in industries such as energy, manufacturing, healthcare and more. The database is intended to make time series data storage simple and powerful. TempoDB was named a 2013 Smart Grid News Company to Watch and earned Techie.com’s Editor’s Choice award for emerging technology.

“It is a high-level database that helps make sense of the measured world,” Cronk said. “So far, we’ve learned that the demand is huge as we’ve found many companies looking to transform their business with sensor data. We’ve also discovered the technical challenges we’re tackling are pushing the boundaries of streaming analytics and distributed computing. It’s a great time to be building our business in this market.”

Cronk, a Computer Engineering graduate from Flushing, Mich., who co-oped with UPS, credits Kettering’s co-op model for helping him get started on a fast track to business success.

“Co-op was amazing,” Cronk said. “When I graduated and started working full-time, I was able to start above an entry level position because of my co-op experience. It definitely set me on the path to entrepreneurship.”

Cronk plans to use the funding he’s received to expand his team with more software engineers and a technical sales team to reach customers on a global scale. He also noted that he’d like to potentially add co-op students from Kettering in the future.

Cronk also noted that he hopes his success with startups helps show that successful business ideas can come to life anywhere.

“We did it right here in Chicago, here in the Midwest,” Cronk said. “You don’t need to go to Silicon Valley to launch a successful startup. If you can provide something that people need, there are resources to make it happen anywhere.”

“You don’t need to go to Silicon Valley to launch a successful startup. If you can provide something that people need, there are resources to make it happen anywhere.”

—Andy Cronk
Scholarship Spotlight

An up-close look at the impact scholarships have on Kettering University students.

**PAUL WOODSON**, senior Mechanical Engineering major

**Hometown:** Sterling Heights, Mich.

**Co-op:** Magna Exteriors

**Extracurricular Activities:** President, Society of Plastic Engineers; officer in the Computer Club; part of the leadership of Kettering CRU

**Scholarships Received:** Omron Scholarship in Engineering and Science and The Bennett Memorial Scholarship

**How have scholarships helped you and your family?**

“I do my best to apply for any scholarships that I am able to, but even with the assistance that the government gives and money made from my co-op job, school is still very expensive. There are five kids in my family; therefore, there is no way that my parents would be able to put that many kids through college. I am very passionate about continuing to learn whether I am at school or on work terms. I never want to stop learning, and these scholarships have been instrumental in helping me to continue my education. If you have ever supported, currently support, or are thinking about supporting Kettering students, I want to say thank you.”

**What are your future career plans?**

“I plan to graduate at the end of the year with a major in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Plastics Engineering, and I hope to work at Magna Exteriors, which is where I have been working as a co-op student. I will be working on the design side of engineering for at least a few years, but I would love to get the experience of working on the processing side sometime. While I work for Magna Exteriors, I would like to continue my education by getting a Master’s in Plastics Engineering or an MBA and either rise in a company or start my own business. I am very much an entrepreneur at heart and would love the challenge of starting my own business.”

For more information about how you can support Kettering scholarships, visit https://www.kettering.edu/alumni-donors.