

BRIGHT SPOTS

Bright Spots is a periodic feature in Crain's, highlighting positive business news in Northeast Ohio. To submit information, please e-mail Scott Suttell at ssuttell@crain.com.

■ The Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau said it received six industry awards for various initiatives in 2011.

From the Ohio Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus it received a first-place Middy Award for its website, www.akrontravel.com, and two second-place awards for the "Greater Akron Video Tour" and a social marketing event/campaign called "Summit Up!"

The Ohio Travel Association presented the Akron/Summit bureau with a citation of excellence for the "Greater Akron Video Tour."

Finally, the Ohio Society of Association Executives awarded the Akron/Summit organization a first-place Achievement Award for "Summit Up!" and a Merit Award for the 2011-2012 Akron/Summit Visitors Guide.

The Akron/Summit bureau promotes Summit County as a destination for business and recreational travel. It also manages the John S. Knight Center and Greystone Hall.

■ Two faculty members at Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science received a National Leadership Grant totaling \$219,386 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Prof. Marcia Lei Zeng and assistant Prof. Karen Gracy will use the funds to help improve access to digital resources through what is known as "linked open data," or LOD.

"With linked data technologies, libraries can efficiently reach a much wider range and more diverse data universe, and more effectively provide services to their users," Dr. Zeng said in a statement.

"Libraries can enhance their existing digital collections and services with linked data technologies and LOD resources without significantly increasing the library's work-

load or requiring them to reengineer their existing bibliographic databases and websites."

Drs. Zeng and Gracy are developing prototype tools "to help libraries and museums connect to the unfamiliar data and metadata resources in the LOD world," according to Kent State.

"In this project, Dr. Zeng and I will be aligning metadata terms from different and diverse namespaces, which means that we will be analyzing semantic relationships among many different metadata schemas to identify areas of overlap and degrees of similarity," Dr. Gracy said in a statement.

■ Kowit & Passov Real Estate Group announced several new deals in Northeast Ohio.

Laz Cazuelas Express, a Mexican takeout restaurant with four locations in North Carolina, Florida and Ohio, will open a fifth location in March at 7205 North Aurora Road in Bainbridge, in Marketplace at Four Corners. Brad Kowit and Chuck Essreg represented the landlord on the 1,079-square-foot lease.

Asian Sun Martial Arts, a martial arts school with sites throughout

Northeast Ohio, opened its eight location last week, at 7735 Marketplace Drive in Bainbridge. Messrs. Kowit and Essreg represented the landlord on the 3,155-square-foot lease.

Sally Beauty Supply has a 2,000-square-foot store in the works for the first quarter of 2012 at Brunswick Marketplace on Center Road in Brunswick. Tori Nook exclusively represents Sally Beauty Supply throughout Northeast Ohio.

EdisonLearning, a charter school, will open a new Cleveland location at 3167 Fulton Road in Lin's Omni Square. Amy Doroba and Jim Wolf represented the landlord on the 7,000-square-foot lease.

Comprehensive Pain Management Centers bought a 12,800-square-foot, freestanding office building at 1560 Corporate Woods Parkway in Green.

It will move there in January from 3593 S. Arlington St. in Akron. The company has seven locations in Medina, Portage and Summit counties. Michael Weiss represented the buyer.

■ Software Answers Inc. of

Brecksville unveiled new product packaging and an updated logo for its ProgressBook Suite of student, classroom and district management web solutions used by K-12 public school districts, private schools, charters and education service centers.

In 2002, ProgressBook started as a single, web-based grade book application used by a handful of school districts for

teachers to move hard-copy grade books to the web. Since then, Software Answers said ProgressBook has been expanded through in-house software development, product acquisition and with business partnerships. ProgressBook now is used by more than 800 school districts.

Paul Chaffee, CEO and chief financial officer of Software Answers, said the repackaging and rebranding initiative "is a direct result of the continued growth of our company and product offering, as well as a desire to refresh the look of our products."

Solon marketing firm Goldstein Group Communications was hired to develop the new brand identity.



New STEM school in Rootstown appealing to rural population

By TIMOTHY MAGAW
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|| "There are a lot careers in the health care field"

