

Fall 2011



Pitt State

MAGAZINE

**PSU hosts
1st Baja
competition**

playing in the



PittState

MAGAZINE

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From the editor

This issue of the PittState Magazine is packed with stories and photos we're sure you will find interesting. It also reflects the changing nature of communication in our digital age. Throughout the issue, you will notice references to additional online content that you won't want to miss. Photos and videos allow us to tell the Pitt State story in ways we never could before.

Most importantly, let us know what you think. Letters to the editor, alumni notes, photos of your travels in Pitt State garb, your memories of old Carney Hall, your entries for the hidden Gus contest or just suggestions about ways in which we can improve the PittState Magazine are all part of the ongoing conversation that keeps us going.

Read on and enjoy!



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Love at PSU

To the editor:

My husband, Tom Erwin, and I met at Pitt State in 1977 during our senior year. He was president of the social work club and I thought he was hot.

The student social work club decided to take a trip to Arizona in March of 1977, to attend the National Student Social Work conference. Since it was the '70s, we loaded 12 people into a large van with carpet everywhere and drove ourselves there. We camped at a KOA campground, sleeping in two tents. We stopped by the Grand Canyon on the way there! It was during this trip that we decided to get married.

Within 7 months, we had dated, gotten engaged and were married. We were married on August 27, 1977, at Timmons Chapel after we both graduated with degrees in social work. All three of our social work instructors attended our wedding: William Schutter, Karen Subramonian and William Collinge.

We have been married 33 years and have two daughters. Our youngest daughter graduated from Pitt State 4 years ago.

Kathie Schairbaum Erwin

Memories of Lakeview Hall

The article in the last Pitt State mag brought back many great memories. We (my wife and I) moved into the two-story building (I guess it was called Lakeview Hall) the late summer of 1954. One floor was for married couples and one floor for singles. I forgot which was which. Since the bathroom and showers were at the end of the hall, it was protocol to yell "man on the floor" or "woman" when going down the hall to use the facility. Luckily we were moved to one of the barrack-style units in early fall. The units, as I recall, were four one-bed room units with a fence around the four. This made the back yard about 10 ft. deep with the length of all the

units. Our rent was \$30-something a month and that included utilities. Our daughter spent the first two years of her life there.

I do not recall if Al and Virginia Ortolani lived for a while in the barrack style housing but we became good friends with them as Al was a student also at the time. I recall their oldest son "Pug" was the same age as our daughter and they shared some time in the wading pool we had in the back yard.

Regressing a little about the great people produced by the university is the following:

Although a student, Al was also a mentor to me and helped me become oriented with the college & city and helped me find a part-time job.

Later, after teaching, I became the VP of the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) and contacted Al Ortolani, who was then the head trainer at Pitt State in addition to coaching, and asked if he would help us organize a national trainers association. He not only took charge but was later elected as the first president of the NAIA Trainers Assn.

I also got to know a little better a great coach and a superior instructor, Carney Smith who was the athletic director at Pitt State. I was fortunate to be able to spend some time with Carney at the NAIA athletic directors' meetings. There was not a finer individual.

Sorry for wavering from the subject of "homes for GIs" but those were great times spent at a great institution surrounded by great individuals.

Wallace H. Schwartz
(BS 1956)

From the Editor:

Lakeview memories

Gene Beauchamp, BS '66, wrote a memory-filled letter about his days in Lakeview Hall in which he describes in detail not only the structure, but also the dozens of unforgettable people he came to know through his experience.

He also recalls Lakeview as a great place to watch football games and home to "probably the fastest cars on campus."

Gene's letter, printed in full, including the names of some of his Lakeview Hall buddies and descriptions of their cars, is on our website, magazine.pittstate.edu.

Thanks, Gene, for taking us back!

—Ron

Teacher's oath

To the editor:

I just read the grand news in the latest issue of Pitt State Magazine that Pittsburg State's teacher education program has implemented The PSU Teachers' Oath. What a tremendous effort and vital consideration for the teaching profession, especially coming from PSU!

I graduated from PSU in 1964. I still recall my experience there student teaching in the elementary and the high school on campus before going to Chanute to complete student teaching. What a valuable experience it was to have had the opportunity to practice at all levels before graduating. Too bad those "lab" schools are not in existence today, as I'm told.

This is my 47th year in the classroom and I am still maniacal about teacher education and academic professionalism that connects and enhances the teaching and learning process. The oath that PSU has implemented certainly encompasses the profession well and serves as a reminder as to what teaching is and will be for the duration of each teacher's career.

Deans of Education Howard Smith and Andy Tompkins, as mentioned in the article, are to be commended for their efforts in making the oath a part of the graduation process.

Gordon S. Hale, 1964
Teacher, Academic Professional
Educational Consultant, Resources
Henderson, Nev.

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Associate Vice President

Chris Kelly

Jacob Anselmi

Terri Blessent

Jenny Hellwig

Diane Hutchison

Cassie Mathes

Paulina O'Malley

Malcolm Turner

Carla Wehmeyer

Ron Womble

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EDITOR: Ron Womble

EDITORIAL

Jenny Hellwig

Cassie Mathes

DESIGN

Diane Hutchison

PHOTOGRAPHY

Malcolm Turner

Carla Wehmeyer

VIDEO

Jacob Anselmi

For extra copies or information:

PSU Office of Marketing

and Communication

106 Russ Hall

1701 S. Broadway

Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-7575

telephone: 620-235-4122

e-mail: psumag@pittstate.edu

Missing Award

To the editor:

I just got around to reading the Pitt State Magazine. I graduated in January 1961, but can't make the 50-Year Reunion. However, in reading the Beta Gamma Sigma organization in one of the article, it made me remember something. In 1960 (I think it was), I received the Gamma Beta Alpha Award for having the highest grade point average for the Business Department, but at the meeting that night, I was told I would receive the award later. Later never came. Any idea where this is?

Harry L. Pell, CLU
Green Valley, Ariz.

Editor's Note: Harry, Congratulations on your award. Sorry this is 50 years late. I have it on good authority that you should be receiving something in the mail very soon. – Ron



Mystery girl...

To the editor:

I thought I recognized the girl in the bookstore (p. 2 in the Vol.19, No.1, Spring 2011 issue), and in checking my 1963-64 Kanza, I found her! Please see p. 65 -- the one printed in the Pitt State Magazine -- and then check p. 227. She is Martha Jane Wendal, from Wichita.

Sue Beattie

GI family

To the editor:

I was surprised and pleased to see a picture of my husband, our daughter, Janet (2 years old) and me in the PittState Magazine. It was the article about veterans returning to go to college after WWII.

Our name was Jarvis, and John (now deceased) was enrolled in manual arts and education. He became a teacher and spent about 30 years teaching at Whitewater, Kan., and Wichita, Kan., before returning to Cherokee County to the family farm where he operated a business making woodcraft items for craft shops.

The picture sparked many questions from our daughters about our living arrangements at the college. It also brought back many memories to me.

Martha (Jarvis) Teter
MS '74, Derby, Kan.



Editor's Note: In a subsequent phone conversation, Martha Teter said she believed John started the garden as a way to relieve stress. "He just dug up a little patch. It was more something for him to do. I don't recall that we ever got much out of it." Ms. Teter, now retired, spent seven years as a classroom teacher and about 22 years in library services.

–Ron

KPRC wins patent for polymer concrete

Ten years ago, researchers at PSU's Kansas Polymer Research Center (KPRC) developed a sustainable form of concrete that is based on soybean oil, a renewable source with a big economic imprint on the agriculture of the region. When the Tyler Research Center was built in 2007, they even used it to make tiles for an entryway to help demonstrate a practical use for the new material.

Now, with a U.S. patent finally awarded for the unique substance and the rising popularity of green construction, the scientists believe their new concrete is a product that's time has come.

In cooperation with the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, the KPRC is now searching for manufacturing and distribution partners for its "polymer concrete," which uses a soybean-based polyurethane (rather than other expensive or volatile petrochemical resins) as a binding material. The MSMC supported the initial research, and has helped fund the patenting costs.

Dr. Andrew Myers, executive director of the PSU Business and Technology Institute and the KPRC, said the concrete is a sustainable alternative to traditional mixes.

"This is definitely a unique product. It's a technology we've had waiting for a partner, and its uses are endless," he said. "We've spent a fair amount of time going to conferences and meeting with potential partners."

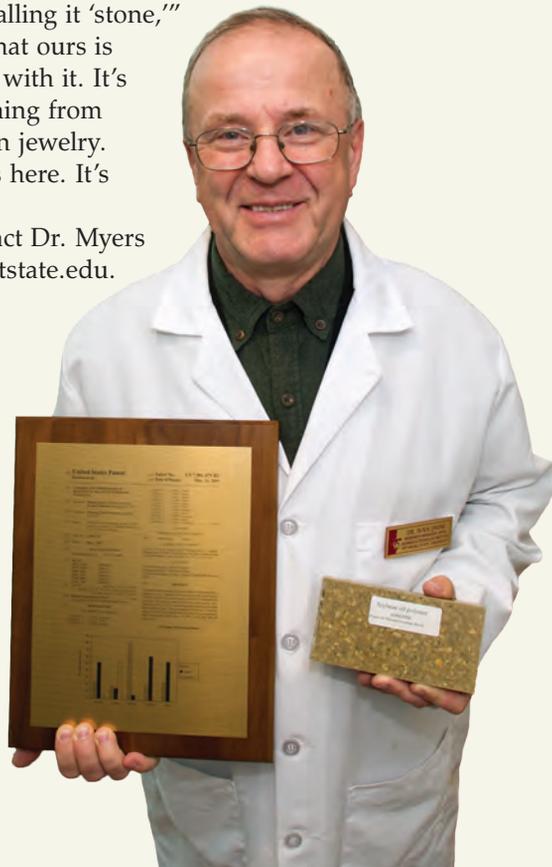
One of the advantages of the concrete is its incredible strength. Testing shows it to be 10 times stronger than most concrete available today. Myers said the concrete would be ideal for pothole replacements on roads, or even countertops and flooring in homes.

Zoran Petrovic, research director at the BTI and KPRC, said the only thing comparable is a blend of concrete being developed by an Italian company.

"Some of the splendid buildings in Dubai have been made with a variation of this, and they're calling it 'stone,'" he said. "What is unique is what ours is made of and what you can do with it. It's flexible enough to create anything from marble for construction to even jewelry. I can see a lot of opportunities here. It's just up to the imagination."

For more information, contact Dr. Myers at 620-235-6120 or amyers@pittstate.edu.

Dr. Ivan Javni, research manager for the Business and Technology Institute, displays a sample of the KPRC's polymer concrete and a representation of the patent.



KRPS exceeds spring goal

Faced with the possibility of severe cuts in state aid to public broadcasting, listeners to KRPS radio rallied to exceed the station's spring campaign goal of \$77,537 by more than \$11,000.

General Manager Missi Kelly said she was cheered by the fundraising campaign's success, not just in raising dollars, but in motivating listeners, as well.

"It's heartening to know that our loyal listeners are going to step up to support the station when they're needed the most," Kelly said.

"Through their pledges, our listeners reaffirmed their support of the unique programming KRPS offers our area. They see the value of public radio and they made it clear they want it to continue."

Kelly said the success belonged to every member who made a pledge.

"In all the excitement, it is important to remember that this is not my success, or the success of the KRPS staff or even of the station," Kelly said. "This success belongs to every donor who made a pledge. It belongs to every KRPS member who believes public radio is an important part of life in the four-state region and is willing to support that."

On the final day of the drive, listeners pledged a record \$36,128, Kelly said. An added incentive that day was a pledge from an anonymous donor to match gifts at the rate of two to one.



Thousands of friends and family members fill John Lance Arena during one of four spring commencement ceremonies. PSU held a commencement ceremony for graduates in each of the four academic colleges in May. Officials say the need to divide the ceremonies reflects the growth and development of the university over time.

Commencement grows to four ceremonies

Commencement in the spring was divided into four separate ceremonies, one for each college. Two were held on Friday evening and two on Saturday morning. University officials said the change is a reflection of the ways PSU has grown and developed over the years.

The ability of John Lance Arena to accommodate commencement safely and comfortably has been a driving factor in several decisions to change commencement over the years.

A campuswide committee led by Dr. Bill Ivy, dean of enrollment management and student success, planned the new commencement structure.

"Pittsburg State's commencement ceremony has changed many times over the life of the university," Ivy said. "These changes reflect the growth and maturation of the university over time. This year's changes are a response to the university's growth and we celebrate that."

Ivy said an important aspect of PSU's commencement ceremony is the individual recognition of each graduate.

"That personal recognition at commencement reflects the university's commitment to the individual student throughout their academic career at Pittsburg State," Ivy said. "It is important for us to preserve that."

Looking into the future: University sets master plan

After the better part of a year's worth of planning, listening, and planning again, architects have come up with a plan for the next decade of the university's growth and development.

Architects with the firm of Gould-Evans spent many hours over several months in 2010 and 2011 listening to groups and individuals, conducting forums for campus and off-campus groups, and implementing themes they heard from various quarters. The result was a master plan for the university that was adopted by the president's administrative team and approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in the spring.

Paul Stewart, PSU's director of facilities planning, said a master plan is much more than just planning where to build buildings.

"It's an opportunity to align curriculum with facilities and the need for space. It should be a broad vision," Stewart said.

A representative of the architectural firm Gould-Evans discusses the university's master plan during an open forum on campus. The architects spent months meeting with campus and off-campus groups and used the input they received from those meetings to develop the plan.



Project highlights sustainability efforts

PSU President Steve Scott used a geothermal heating and cooling project at McPherson Hall and Timmons Chapel as an opportunity last spring to highlight the university's ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption, save money and become a more sustainable campus.

"It's been nearly a year since we formally adopted environmental sustainability as one of the university's six strategic goals," Scott said. "This is now a lens through which we view all projects and an essential part of our character."

The president said the installation of the new geothermal heating and cooling systems represented the first phase of a \$4.5 million energy savings plan.

"Through this plan, we will undertake a multi-year effort to reduce waste, maximize energy savings and educate our students, faculty and staff about best energy practices," the president said.

The geothermal projects, which cost about \$600,000, were made possible through a \$250,000 Department of Energy grant. The geothermal projects are the first steps in a \$4.5 million energy savings plan that the president described as "a multi-year effort to reduce waste, maximize energy savings, and educate our students, faculty and staff about best energy practices."

Scott said the energy savings plan is not just good for the environment, but also makes good economic sense.

"The savings in utility costs alone are expected to cover the initial investment of \$4.5 million within 13 years," Scott said.



Business student honored for campus work

Since the first day of her freshman year, Jessica Hicks has been a familiar face in the dean's office in the College of Business.

In the four years since, Hicks has taken on an increasingly important role in the operation of the office. Her work was honored in the spring when Hicks was named PSU's student employee of the year.

Hicks, according to PSU President Steve Scott, and the other 900 or so undergraduate and graduate students who work in offices across campus, play a major role in the day-to-day operation of the campus and the care of students.

"I just can't imagine how this university would operate without our student workers," Scott said.



Hicks



Treadmill goes off the grid

Now even an early morning workout can be environmentally friendly.

Earlier this year, the Student Recreation Center installed its first "human-powered" treadmill. Vince Daino, director of campus recreation, said the new EcoMill uses a battery that is recharged as the user walks or runs. The fact that the machine does not need to be plugged into an outlet is one of its important advantages.

"A standard treadmill needs to be near an outlet, but self-powered treadmills can be located anywhere," Daino said.

Users also like the fact that they're not using additional electricity when they exercise, Daino said.

Daino said that next year he hopes to add a second self-powered treadmill to the fitness center and expects a day not far in the future when none of the popular machines will be drawing energy from the electric grid.

"It's a small change, but small changes add up," Daino said.



Flannery

Flannery leads Office of Development

In January, Kathleen Flannery was selected to be the new director of the Office of University Development. As director, Flannery leads a staff of 10 who are responsible for the university's extensive private giving efforts.

"Pittsburg State University has developed a successful and highly effective program of private giving that is essential to the university's future," Dr. Brad Hodson, Pittsburg State University vice president for University Advancement said. "Kathleen's experience and demonstrated leadership in development make her a very good fit for this position and I am confident she will

not only continue the university's development work, but take it to even more successful levels."

Flannery comes to PSU from the Mount Carmel Foundation, which supports programs and projects of Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg. With strong ties to Pittsburg State, she served as interim director of International Programs and Services from 1998-99, as assistant to the vice president for student affairs from 1999-2003, as director of annual giving from 2003-2005 and as director of continuing and graduate studies from 2005-2008.

Flannery holds a bachelor of arts degree in public management from the University of Maine and a master of arts degree in higher education administration from Boston College in Newton, Mass.

Naccarato serves as director of government and community relations

Pittsburg State University President Steve Scott announced in June the appointment of Shawn Naccarato as the university's first director of government and community relations.

The position encompasses all duties currently held by the university's legislative liaison and expands those duties to include both federal initiatives and community relations. Naccarato reports directly to the president and works closely with the university's Classified Senate.

"Pittsburg State has a long history of working with local and state officials for the benefit of our students, faculty, staff and community," said Scott. "Having a dedicated liaison for all levels of civic engagement will help us build upon our already strong relationships to create new opportunities for our university, as well as our region."

Naccarato joined PSU's Office of University Development in 2001, serving as director of planned giving. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Pittsburg State, a juris doctorate from the University of Missouri School of Law, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Truman School of Public Affairs.

He is the past president of the Pittsburg Area Young Professionals, a member of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, and a board member of Pittsburg Rotary.



Naccarato



Robinson

Robinson named student health services director

Dr. Brenda Robinson, of Pittsburg, was selected as the director of student health services for the university in June.

"We are very excited to welcome Dr. Robinson to Pittsburg State University," said Dr. Steve Erwin, associate vice president for campus life and auxiliary services. "Dr. Robinson brings with her not only a wealth of medical experience, but also a commitment to the welfare of the university and its students."

As director of student health services, Robinson oversees the Bryant Student Health Center, which receives more than 16,000 student health visits each year.

Robinson, who is an emergency room physician at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Mo., earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from PSU in 1992. A Pittsburg native, she was a member of the first class of the PSU Honors College.

Robinson earned her MD from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1996 and served a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatric medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center from 1996 until 2000. She is board certified in both areas. Robinson worked in the Mt. Carmel Medical Center emergency room from 2000 until 2005, then at KU, and in the Freeman ER from 2008 until the present.

Homecoming 2011

October 10-15



Pittsburg State Homecoming is just around the corner! Visit www.pittstate.edu for a schedule of activities.



Finding Gus Gorilla

Our "Finding Gus Gorilla" contest in the spring magazine drew such a large and enthusiastic response that we knew we needed to do it again. The image you must find is that iconic bronze Gorilla created by Larry Wooster in 1965.

Find the 1965 Gorilla hidden in this issue of the Pitt State Magazine and enter to win a hardbound copy of the university's book, "Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years," by Randy Roberts, PSU archivist.

Send an email to psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry for our Hidden Gorilla Contest. Please include your first and last name as well as the page number and location you found the hidden gorilla. Please only one entry per person. Good luck!

**Entries must be received by October 15, 2011. The winner will be contacted by November 1, 2011, and announced in the next issue of the Pitt State Magazine.

Spring 2011 "Finding Gus Gorilla" winner: Ronald Harris, '79, Chanute, Kan.



Fine Arts Calendar

ArtDept.

Lecture and reception dates and times to be announced. Contact sbowman@pittstate.edu or call 620-235-4305 for more information.

University Gallery
Porter Hall

Aug. 23 – Sept. 23, 2011

Cathy Breslaw

Carlsbad, Calif.

Wall Sculptures/Hanging Textiles

Sept. 30 – Nov. 17, 2011

Hauling Hay

Danny Meisenger: Ceramics

Guinotte Wise: Sculptures

Fred Kautt: Photographers

Lecture Series: Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Nov. 25, 2011 – Jan. 19, 2012

Sean Fitzgibbon

Fayetteville, Ark.

Paintings

Lecture: January 19, 2012

January 30 – March 15, 2012

Marydorsey Wanless

Topeka, Kan.

“Evidence of Aging”

Tin Types and Photography

March 30 – May 6, 2012

Misha and Amy Kligman

Kansas City, Mo.

Visual Territory 1st Place Award

Paintings and Drawings

Harry Krug Gallery

Porter Hall

Aug. 29 – Sept. 26, 2011

TBD

Oct. 3 – 31, 2011

Ahecha Paraguay Exhibit

Graham Kreicker with

Dr. Alice Sagehorn

Lecture: Oct. 6, 4 p.m.

Reception: Oct. 6, 5 p.m.

Nov. 8 – Dec. 8, 2011

Paul Morris

Ceramics

Lecture: Nov. 8

Jan. 25 – March 8, 2012

Melissa Wilkinson

Painting

Lecture: March 8, 4 p.m.

March 15 – May 4, 2012

Jessica Orłowski

Ceramics

PALS

Performing Arts and Lecture Series: for ticket information and prices go to www.pittstate.edu/ticket.

Second City Improv Comedy Troupe

Sponsored by PALS

Sept. 13, 2011, 7 p.m.

Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

The Haunting Murder Mystery

Dinner Theatre

Sponsored by PALS

Oct. 7, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Crimson & Gold Ballroom –

Overman Student Center

Asia Project Poet

Nov. 12, 2011, 8 p.m.

U-Club – Overman Student Center

Sister Helen Prejean

(Dead Man Walking)

Time and Date: TBA

Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

PSU Theatre Productions

For ticket information on PSU Theatre productions visit www.pittstate.edu/ticket or call 620-235-4796

The Madwoman of Chailot

by Jean Giraudoux

adapted by Maurice Valency

directed by Gil Cooper

Oct. 27-29, 2011, 8 p.m.

Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

Theatre Unplugged

student directed

Dec. 2-3, 2011, 7 p.m.

Grubbs Studio Theatre

Betty The Yeti: An Eco-Fable

by Jon Klein

directed by Cynthia Allan

March 1-4, 2012

evening: 8 p.m., matinee: 2 p.m.

Grubbs Studio Theatre

Dead Man Walking

by Tim Robbins

Based on the book by

Sister Hellen Prejean

directed by Kristy Magee

April 26-29, 2012

evening: 8 p.m., matinee: 2 p.m.

Grubbs Studio Theatre

MusicDept

SEPTEMBER

25 **SEK Symphony**
3 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

OCTOBER

3 **Jazz Ensembles**
7:30 p.m., Overman Student Center

6 **Wind Ensemble**
7:30 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

9 **Trumpet Festival**
McCray Hall

10 **Trumpet Festival**
McCray Hall

NOVEMBER

3 **Chamber Orchestra**
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

DECEMBER

1 **Jazz Ensembles**
7 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

7 **Timmons Holiday Concert**
7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel

9 **Timmons Holiday Concert**
7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel

FEBRUARY

19 **SEK Symphony**
3 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

MARCH

2 **Jazz Festival Concert**
Vanguard Jazz Orchestra from New York
7:30 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

Solo & Chamber Music Series

All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. in McCray Hall. Tickets are available at the door and by calling the PSU Ticket Office at 620-235-4796.

Friday, Sept. 16

Sō Percussion (percussion group)

Sunday, Oct. 9

Joe Alessi (trombone)

Friday, Oct. 28

Washington Garcia (piano)

Friday, Jan. 20

Cantus (male vocal ensemble)

Friday, Feb. 10

Cuarteto LatinoAmericano
(string quartet)

Friday, March 30

Prizm (mixed chamber ensemble)

“Where in the World is Gus?”



In Paris

Sisters Kim Vitt Harrison, BA '86 and Danna Vitt, BBA '85, pause in front of the Eiffel Tower, where they were to run in the 2011 Paris Marathon. Kim and Danna have established a website, wellandtraveled.com, on which they expound on the joys of travel, meeting new people and staying fit.



Gorillas on the Mediterranean

Rob Lundien, EdS in school counseling '09, and Diana Baker, BS in social work '74, pause in front of the leaning tower of Pisa in Italy. Rob and Diana were part of a group of 20 students, parents and educators from Neosho, Mo., who spent 18 days traveling and touring Italy and Greece in 2010. The trip also included a Mediterranean Cruise that traveled to the Greek islands of Patmos, Crete, Mykonos, Santorini and to the Turkish city of Kusadasi.



In paradise

Judi Fast sent us this photo from aboard the Pride of America cruise ship in Hawaii. Judi writes that she was with a group from Pittsburg when they discovered that the ship's photographer was a Gorilla, too! Melissa MacDonald, '10, was a commercial graphics major who is using her photography emphasis in her "dream job" with the Norwegian Cruise Lines. In the photo, L-R: Bernadette Vogler, Melissa McDonald, Judi & Mike Fast.



1,000 gorillas

Ed and Patti Hettler were among 1,000 people who dressed in gorilla suits for the 2010 Gorilla Run, an annual Denver fundraiser for Mountain Gorillas. (Really?! 1,000 people running in gorilla suits?) Ed (BSET '79) and Patti ('75-'78) live in Monument, Colo.



Russian fashion

Natalie O'Neal, BS '06; MS '08, tries on a traditional Russian fur hat in Izmailovsky Market during a Fulbright-Hays study abroad tour of Russia in 2010. O'Neal and 11 other teachers from around the U.S. spent a month learning about contemporary Russia. O'Neal is a kindergarten - 5th grade ESOL teacher at George Nettels Elementary School in Pittsburg.

What a view!

Crystal Stokes (FACS Education '08) and her son, Austin, are proud to wear their Pitt State shirts on the London Eye in July 2010.



We would like to know what interesting places Gus has visited.

E-mail your photo and a brief story to psumag@pittstate.edu



Amazon Rainforest

Delia Lister (BS '04) and fellow traveling Gorillas Lee and Sue Steanson, show their Gorilla pride on a platform 120 feet above the ground in the Amazon Rainforest Canopy in Peru. Delia, who is the coordinator for PSU's Nature Reach Program, plans to lead a group of students and others who wish to go to this same location in 2012.



Romance in the air

This happy couple is Matt and Katrina Hawthorne, both class of '95. Matt and Katrina celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary in Las Vegas in December 2010, where they took a romantic ride in a gondola at the Venetian Hotel and Casino. Matt continues his job with State Street Bank in Kansas City, Mo., and Katrina is in her 15th year of teaching and is currently with the Olathe School District.



World's biggest?

Lenny Miller, '63, is dwarfed by an 83-foot-tall gorilla under construction near Los Fresnos, Texas. Judy Miller writes that they happened upon the giant gorilla when they were vacationing at South Padre Island. According to the Los Fresnos Chamber of Commerce, the gorilla is part of an exhibit under construction at Bobz World.



Rockefeller Center

Susan Mathes, commercial graphics '84; Erin Montonye, junior in Fashion Merchandising; Lauren Williams, senior in Fashion Merchandising; and Trish Garrett, senior in Fashion Merchandising, show their Gorilla Pride during a class trip to New York City for a fashion study tour.



Big group in the Big Easy

This family knows how to throw a birthday party! Family and friends of Vicki (Stonerock) Couch, '82, pose for a snapshot in front New Orleans' iconic St. Louis Cathedral in 2010. The trip was planned to celebrate Vicki's 50th birthday. Congrats, Vicki!



playing in the

MUD!

PSU hosts 1st Baja competition

MUD! That's Mud, underlined with an exclamation point.

The mud might be one of the most enduring memories of the 2011 Baja SAE Kansas competition May 26-30. It was the kind of mud that would suck you ankle-deep and keep you there. Combined with a course that was designed to punish even the toughest vehicle, the mud helped make the endurance course one of the most challenging in BAJA SAE history.

A Canadian team took home the overall first-place trophy at Baja SAE Kansas, but the real winners of the competition – the first ever hosted by Pittsburg State – appeared to be the university, the community and the College of Technology faculty and staff who worked endless hours over the better part of a year to make the whole thing happen.

College of Technology Dean Bruce Dallman said he couldn't be more proud of the people who made it all happen.



“Hosting an event of this size (nearly 100 teams from around the world and thousands of visitors to the community) would not have been possible without the support and hard work of a great many people in the College of Technology, across the PSU campus and in the community,” – Bruce Dallman, dean, College of Technology

He singled out Trent Lindbloom and Bob Schroer, assistant professors in Automotive Technology, for special praise. Lindbloom and Schroer led the organization of the event and each spent long hours over many months preparing for the event.

“I’m not sure anyone knows how hard these guys worked to make this happen,” Dallman said.

Hosting an event of this size (nearly 100 teams from around the world and thousands of visitors to the community)

would not have been possible without the support and hard work of a great many people in the College of Technology, across the PSU campus and in the community, Dallman said.

At some point or another, it seemed nearly every student and every department in the College of Technology was helping to make the event a success. Students in construction programs, for example, designed and built the course. Students in Graphics and Imaging Technologies, meanwhile,

designed and printed t-shirts and programs. And, of course, another group of students designed and built PSU’s entry in the competition.

Another key to success was the way the community embraced the competition. Scores of corporate sponsors provided vital support and the Chamber of Commerce pitched in, even supplying numerous volunteers for the event.

Another group – broadcasting students from the Communication

(see Baja, pg. 15)



Baja SAE Kansas was five hectic days that included a visit from Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, left, who visited the KTC with PSU President Steve Scott and even slipped behind the wheel of one of the entries.



Baja (from pg. 13)

Department – helped set the bar high for other communities planning to host SAE Baja competitions in the future. The PSU students filmed and broadcast many hours of the competition over two days via live streaming on the Internet. More than 5,000 people from around the world logged on to watch portions of the competition and hear live commentary and analysis.

The only thing that didn't quite go according to plan was the weather. Torrential rains in the days preceding the competition left the area, which months

before had been farmland, a muddy mess. Although the mire made it a little more difficult for spectators, and certainly did challenge the cars, the student participants seemed unfazed, in part because lots of mud is a key component of any good SAE Baja course.

Sam Barill, who represented the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) at the event, called PSU's first hosting of an SAE Baja competition "a total success." Barill singled out the "enormous support from the local community," the hundreds of volunteers and the tireless

efforts of organizers Lindbloom and Schroer.

Is there another SAE Baja competition in PSU's future? Organizers say it's still too soon to tell, but the success of this year's event left quite a few people thinking it might not be too long until the competition returns to Pittsburg. If it does, one thing is certain: rain or no rain, we will have mud.

Read more and watch video of the competition at magazine.pittstate.edu •



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“(Photojournalists) take pictures to inform. That’s the only reason. We’re informing the public. All the donations, all the volunteers are only there because the media informed the world.” – Mike Gullett, Associate Professor, PSU Department of Communication, MA 2001



Tornado!

Photographer's images touch hearts around the world

LIKE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS on May 22, Mike Gullett was dreaming of summer. In what had become a family tradition, Gullett's family gathered at his home in Carl Junction, Mo., on the northwest edge of Joplin, to prepare the pool for the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Ahead lay scores of lazy summer days and backyard barbecues.

But while the Gulletts and most residents of the area were enjoying that warm Sunday afternoon, a monster storm churned in the west over Kansas. It was gathering strength for an explosive strike that would, in a matter of only minutes, transform not just a city, but an entire region and everyone who calls this place home.

Initially, Gullett said, he wasn't too concerned by the storm.

"We knew there was some bad weather coming possibly," Gullett said. "But we've seen that before. The lightning started, so we decided to go inside and eat something, hoping that after it passed we could get going again."

But the storm intensified. They lost power. Soon some of the 14 people who had gathered at the Gulletts' home began receiving ominous text messages.

"Some of my friends there were getting texts from their wives who were in Baxter (Baxter Springs, Kan.) and other places, saying, 'They've just reported that Home Depot's been blown away and Walgreens is gone.'"

Gullett, who spent 25 years as a newspaper photographer before joining

(see Tornado, pg. 18)

Tornado (from pg. 17)

the faculty in PSU's Department of Communication in 2000, still works for the Associated Press on a contract basis and he knew it was time to go to work.

"I told my wife, 'I have to go,'" Gullett said.

With just fragments of information gleaned from frantic text messages, Gullett headed into Joplin, unsure of what to expect. He began to see damage as he drove in from the northwest and then suddenly he entered a surreal world – a world that nothing in his many years of covering disasters prepared him for.

"No first-responders yet," Gullett said. "By this time, the first responders were the neighbors. Neighbors were helping neighbors. As I walked down past St. John's (Regional Medical Center), I couldn't tell what street I was on. And then I saw people. I've never seen people just walking in shock -- masses of people, just walking. They didn't know really where to go."

Gullett spent the next several days taking photographs and transmitting them to the Associated Press. The dramatic photographic story he told was repeated in major newspapers, on television and in online media across the U.S. and around the world. It was a compelling story that was at the same time heartbreaking and heartwarming, dramatic and uplifting. For his work, Gullett shared the Associated Press "Beat of the Week" honors with two other photographers covering the disaster.

As a newspaper photographer, Gullett has seen lots of "terrible things," but nothing has affected him so profoundly as did the May 22 tornado. The sight before him that afternoon was so overwhelming that, for just the second time in his career, Gullett wondered whether he would be able to make a picture.

"This is my hometown," Gullett said, pausing as the emotions came rushing back. "When this happened, it was kind of like I was personally involved, because it's my neighbors."



But Gullett did go to work. The story, he said, was too important not to tell.

"(Photojournalists) take pictures to inform," Gullett said. "That's the only reason. We're informing the public. All the donations, all the volunteers are only there because the media informed the world."

As rescue and recovery transitioned to clean-up and rebuilding, Gullett transitioned to shooting only occasionally, in order to document the

long road to healing and rebuilding. It is a process not only for the city, but for the survivors and Gullett, as well.

"I still remember the first bad picture I had to take when I came out of school," Gullett said. "There's certain images you just don't forget. In Joplin, it wasn't that there was any one image that I saw, it was the whole thing. Just day after day of it."

For a gallery of Mike's photos go to magazine.pittstate.edu •





The story behind the photo

As the first dramatic photos from the deadly Joplin tornado flashed across our TV screens and on the Internet, one photo leapt out at us and demanded more information.

The photo, taken shortly after the tornado struck, was of a young man in red Pitt State t-shirt who was helping attend to wounded in the back of a pickup, which bore a PSU license plate.

We soon learned that behind the dramatic photo, taken by Wichita Eagle photographer Jamie Green, was an equally dramatic story of how a PSU student (Lucian Myers) survived the tornado and teamed up with a Pittsburg doctor (PSU alumnus, Dr. Bill Sullivan) and his wife (Trish, an ARNP) to rescue other survivors.

You can read more of this incredible story at <http://bit.ly/myers-tornado> •

Helping out

Lucian Myers and Bill and Trish Sullivan may have been some of the first on the scene following the Joplin tornado, but they were just a few of the thousands of PSU faculty, staff, students and alumni who have worked or are working to help the Joplin community recover.

Some of the ways the Pitt State family helped included:

- Dr. Brenda Robinson, the newly appointed director of student health services at PSU and a PSU alumna, was working the emergency room at Freeman Hospital in Joplin the night of the tornado.
- Dr. Peggy Snyder and her husband, Jim, worked for several days with the Salvation Army's disaster response unit from Pittsburg.
- Pittsburg State opened its residence halls to hundreds of Missouri Highway Patrol officers and Red Cross disaster response teams.
- Pledging to begin class as planned in August, Joplin School Superintendent C.J. Huff (BS '96) and High School Principal Kerry Sachetta (BS '84, MS '90, Spec. '97) are leading the effort to get the school system back on its feet. At least eight of the district's buildings, including Joplin High School, were destroyed or damaged.
- Social work students earned high praise from Via Christi Hospitals and Catholic Charities for their help with case management.
- Undergraduate and graduate nursing students spent many hours in Joplin, where some helped staff the makeshift triage center at Memorial Hall.
- The Weede PE building was designated as a community collection point for relief supplies. More than 60 volunteers, including student athletes in town for the summer, shipped more than 100 pallets of much needed supplies to Joplin.
- The university joined the Joplin Schools' Adopt-A-Classroom project, pledging to adopt at least two classrooms. •

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Bill Hoyt, BA '09

Researcher cracks a 100-year-old code and is surprised by what he finds

A PSU GRADUATE student has cracked the code to some mysterious Civil-War era letters. What the letters revealed surprised not only him, but

also officials at the Kansas State Historical Society, who have opted to restrict access to the contents of the letters to adults only.

Bill Hoyt, an employee in PSU's Advancement Services Office and a PSU alumnus, said he came across the coded letters, written by John Brown, Jr., son of the famous abolitionist, while doing research for his master's thesis in history.

"I was going through the personal correspondence of a few members of the Kansas Seventh Cavalry, like Brown and Daniel Anthony (brother of Susan B. Anthony) when I hit on the Brown coded letters, which had recently been acquired by the Kansas State Historical Society," Hoyt said.

The letters, from John Brown, Jr., to his wife, Wealthy, are written in a numerical code and appear as columns of numbers. Hoyt said the coded letters had all been written around the time period in which he was interested, which motivated him to try to crack the code.

Hoyt insists that finding the key to the 150-year-old mystery wasn't as difficult as he expected it might be and he essentially had the solution after an evening's work.

"The code is a simple letter/number replacement system based on descending even and ascending odd numbers," Hoyt explained.

Hoyt was definitely surprised by what the key revealed. The letters turned out to be missives between John Brown, Jr., and his wife that Hoyt describes as "fiercely intimate."

"People who go looking for dirty words (in the letters) are going to be disappointed," Hoyt said. "By today's standards, the letters don't contain anything one might not hear on TV. Rather, I think the letters are better described as fiercely intimate, maybe even the 19th-century version of sexting."

The letters are graphic enough, however, that the State

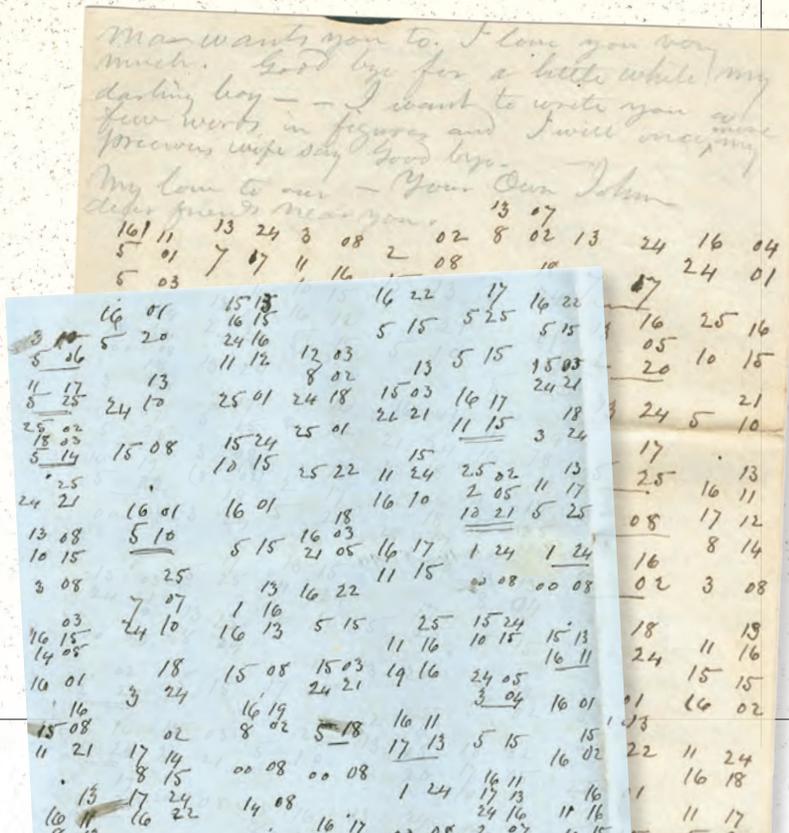
Historical Society decided against posting Hoyt's key to the code on its website in order to keep it out of the hands of school-age youngsters without their parents' consent. Patrons 18 and older may access the key and the letters at the Historical Society's reading room.

Hoyt said the letters didn't provide much help with his thesis research, but he's not disappointed.

"It's exciting to solve a mystery this old and it does add to what we know about some significant historical characters," Hoyt said. "The letters illustrate how much Brown missed his wife, and how hard it was for soldiers to be away from loved ones in the Civil War, even when they thought the war was really important. That (the letters) were considered inappropriate is a reflection of the ferocity of feeling and the intense desire for intimacy that Brown coded in the letters to his wife."

Dr. Mike Kelley, chairman of the Department of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences, said research often takes people in directions they didn't expect.

"Original research gets the blood pumping," Kelley said.



Through Adversity to the Top

IN DIVISION II ATHLETICS, two-sport athletes are few and far between. It's even more rare to have an athlete be successful in two sports that overlap. Larissa Richards, a senior Family and Consumer Sciences major from Great Bend, Kan., has managed to do just that.

Richards came to PSU in the fall of 2007 as a basketball and track recruit.

"We were fortunate to get Larissa," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Lane Lord. "I have watched Larissa play since she was a freshman in high school and she was a D-I caliber athlete who we are very happy to have."

The decision to compete at Pitt State was the easy part for Richards.

"I liked how involved the community was with PSU and the athletic programs," said Richards. "When I came down for my visit, I fell in love with the team."

But sticking with her decision in the face of adversity required both character and commitment. In the first game of her freshman year, Richards tore her ACL, ending both her basketball and track seasons. She played six basketball games her sophomore year, before suffering another season-ending injury.

"At first it was hard to stay positive," said Richards. "My teammates, coaches and parents helped me get through it."

"I know one of her roughest moments was going through her second year of college without being able to compete," said Lord. "Larissa's family has played a huge role in her overcoming adversity."

Richards returned to competition her junior year and after two full seasons of basketball and track and numerous conference and national accolades, has proved she is capable not only of succeeding, but excelling in two overlapping sports.

"She is such a competitor and wants to win so bad, that each year she has chosen to compete in at least one meet during basketball season. When she decided to compete in the indoor conference meet this past year, we arranged to pick her up in Kansas City from an afternoon basketball game in Nebraska so she could throw the next day at Central Missouri," said Assistant Track Coach Brian Mantooth."

Richards' coaches attribute her success to a combination of an incredible work ethic, a highly competitive spirit and the never-ending support of her family and teammates. •

Richards' Records

2009-2010

Basketball

School record for most single season blocks (49)

Track

MIAA Indoor Championships: 5th Shot Put

MIAA Outdoor Championships: 1st Discus, 3rd Shot Put

NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championships: 3rd Discus, 6th Shot Put

2010-2011

Basketball

School record for most single season blocks (58)

School record for career blocks (114)

Track

Stadium record in the shot put

MIAA Indoor Championships: 3rd Shot Put

NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships: 7th Shot Put

MIAA Outdoor Championships: 3rd Discus, 3rd Shot Put

NCAA Division II National Championships: 2nd Discus, 9th Shot Put





Lola Ide, BGS '11

One remarkable graduate

MOST graduating students have a small group of friends and family who cheer, whistle and applaud when they walk across the

stage to receive their diplomas. When Lola Ide made that important walk this past spring, the entire arena, including her classmates, gave her a standing ovation.

Ide, at 88, became something of a celebrity in the days leading up to commencement, as media learned of her graduation.

"It's all been a little overwhelming," Ide laughed about the attention she was getting.

Ide's story – a 70-year journey to get a college degree – began in 1941, when she enrolled as a freshman at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

"I was a speech and drama major," Ide said. "I really wanted to get into radio."

That path changed, however, when the young coed fell in love with and married Wilbur Lindsley, a young man studying to become a minister.

Life took Lola and Wilbur to churches in New York and Wisconsin. They had four children when Wilbur died at a young age in 1960. Eventually, Lola met and married another Lutheran minister, Conrad Ide. A widower himself, Conrad also had four children. Together, Lola and Conrad added a ninth child to the family.

As the years went by, Lola immersed herself in the busy life of a pastor's wife and mother of nine. But she never lost her love of learning or the dream of someday finishing the college degree she had begun to pursue so long ago.

"Over the years, I kept dreaming I was back in college," Ide said. "In my dreams, I went to about every college in Kansas."

After Conrad's death in 2004, Lola's children encouraged her to consider going back to school.

She took the plunge in 2006 by enrolling at PSU and beginning with an online class. She loved being back in school and soon settled into a routine of taking classes on campus in the summer and fall and online classes for the spring semester so she didn't have to get out in bad winter weather.

Bobby Winters, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor in the Department of Mathematics, said Ide brought a special dynamic to the classes in which she enrolled.

"She brings life experience," Winters said. "She offers a perspective that is different from other students. The faculty I've heard from love her."

Ide said completing her degree was a learning experience in many ways.

"In every class, I learned not only the subject matter, but I learned a lot about myself," Ide said. •



Lola Ide and some of her new friends in the Class of 2011.



Mattye Foxx, BS '69

Volunteerism from one generation to the next

MATTYE FOXX, BS '69, knows a little about volunteering. In 2010, she stepped down from her role as coordinator of the Red Cross Community Blood Drive. When she took on that job, 27 years previously, she had already been with the Red Cross for 13 years.

Foxx still volunteers at Via Christi Hospital, where she has been a fixture for 47 years.

"I started working there in 1964," Foxx recalled. "After our son died. Andrew thought I needed to get around people. I needed to do something."

For Mattye, volunteering and helping others is something that feeds her soul.

"It's just something that you just keep wanting to do," Foxx said. "There's always something that's more important than you are."

In addition to the Red Cross, the hospital and a long list of community organizations, Foxx has helped whenever her alma mater has had a need. In 2007, the Alumni Association recognized Foxx for her service with the Ralf Thomas Distinguished Service Award.

That spirit of volunteerism is being passed to a new generation of Gorillas through dozens of service learning opportunities for students. The largest

of those is the Big Event, a massive community service project held each spring.

This past spring, more than 700 students from about 15 campus organizations worked at 115 sites across the city. They raked, painted and performed other work from one end of Pittsburg to the other.

"One of the great things about PSU is that the students here do care about the community," said Emily Smith, this year's Big Event organizer.

David Adams, assistant director for campus activities, said service projects benefit both the community and the students.

"Students' lives are enriched when they give of themselves," Adams said. "The goal, of course, is to nurture service and volunteerism as a way of life." •

Students pick up yard tools before fanning out across the city for the Big Event.



John Thompson, BA '91

Auto tech professor turns 'life's passion' into coffee table art

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE great at your day job, but equally impressive at your hobby?

Don't be afraid to show everyone how you spend your free time.

John Thompson, a professor in Pittsburg State University's Department of Automotive Technology, did just that recently when he self-published a coffee table book of his work rebuilding a 1946 Chevy truck using parts from a salvaged Camaro.

The project, which took him about three years to complete, was a labor of love for Thompson, who came to PSU five years ago to teach auto collision and repair courses.

After purchasing the truck for \$500, Thompson bought the wrecked Camaro for \$1,000 about a month later. Gifted with a vision for being able to see a finished project before even starting it, he went to work rebuilding the two vehicles into one - spending countless hours in his garage converting the 62 HP truck into a 300+ HP "1946 Chevy Camaro Z28 truck."

"I wanted it to have the character of an old school truck, but for it to be like hopping in a brand new vehicle with all the new elements," he said. Some of his work included building a new fuel injection system, power seats, an in-dash DVD, air conditioning, power driver seats, remote and power "everything," decking out the inside with tan leather interior, and restoring and painting the outside a vivid red.

"Back when the Indians would shoot a deer, nothing went



to waste," he explained. "That was how the Camaro was for me. I used as much from it as I could."

And although parting with it on Ebay last summer couldn't have been easy, it's not like this was his first big project. Thompson has restored a '65 Mustang fastback, a '69 Cougar convertible, and '70 Cougar XR7 convertible, and still has been able to make time for his other hobbies like drawing and playing piano and guitar. All these things, he says, feed into his creative side.

"People say to me, 'How can you get rid of one of those after you build it?' and I say to them 'How do you get over a girlfriend? You get another girlfriend,'" he said with a laugh, adding that in addition to buying new living room furniture, he and his wife were able to pay off most of their debt with the sale.

"You do put your heart and soul into it and get attached to the vehicle and the vision. But you get another project," he said. "I hope to live to be 80 and be out in my shop until I'm 79½. When I'm out in my shop, I'm at peace with the universe. It's not my life's work, it's just my passion."

To order a copy of Thompson's hardback, 25-page picture book, contact him at jthompso@pittstate.edu. •

then & now



Memories of Carney Hall

FOR ALUMNI, at least those who graduated before 1980, old Carney Hall played an important role in their campus memories. That's especially true of the building's 3,000-seat auditorium where students attended everything from commencement to performances by nationally known performers and lectures by notable figures of the day.

Built in 1919, Carney Hall was for decades the cultural and social hub of the university. Deterioration and severe settling forced the university to vacate the building in 1978. It was razed in 1980 to make way of Heckert-Wells Hall, which opened in 1984.

With the loss of Carney Hall, the university also lost its only large venue for plays, performances and lectures. Since that time, those events have been staged at Memorial Auditorium in downtown Pittsburg. The university is currently working to secure the funding needed to construct a new, on-campus fine and performing arts building with the hope of bringing these memory-making events back on campus. (To learn how you can help, contact the Office of Development at 620-235-4768.)

Please share your special memories of old Carney Hall and the events you remember in the Carney Hall Auditorium. (psumag@pittstate.edu or by regular mail to PittState Magazine, 106 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762) We'll publish your responses in the spring issue of the PittState Magazine.

Spring Commissioning

Brian Dean, a brand new second lieutenant in the Army, gets a hug from his mom, Ellen, during spring commissioning ceremonies. Ms. Dean and Brian's sister, Morgan, pinned on his bars to signify this next chapter in his career. In all, nine cadets received their commissions. Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of the State of Kansas and a PSU alumnus was the guest of honor at the ceremony, during which he was inducted into the PSU ROTC Hall of Fame.



New degree focuses on sustainability

Officials believe a new degree program offered for the first time this fall will give students the tools they will need to solve some of the nation's most difficult and most important problems.

The bachelor of integrated studies with an emphasis in sustainability, society and resource management is an interdisciplinary approach that combines skills and knowledge from biology, communication, geography and social sciences. It is designed to prepare graduates to work in a variety of public community settings that are responsible for resource management and policy.

"More and more cities, agencies and organizations are looking for people with interdisciplinary skills to direct and oversee their sustainability efforts," said Dr. Jim Triplett, a University Professor in the Department of Biology.

Graduates of this program, according to Triplett, will work in areas where ecological, social and political issues intersect. It is an area, he said, where conflict can easily arise over the management of limited resources, which is one reason why the program includes communication and social sciences components.

Triplett said students were showing keen interest in the new degree program, even before it was formally approved by the Board of Regents.

"This is a good example of the ways in which we are preparing students for problems that haven't been created yet," Triplett said.

Kunkel named dean

Following a national search, the university has selected Dr. Karl R. Kunkel as the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Kunkel's appointment began in June.



Kunkel

"Dr. Kunkel rose to the top of an incredibly talented group of finalists," said Olson. "He brings a wealth of experience to the university, both as an educator and an administrator. I'm happy that he has accepted the opportunity and challenge of leading the College of Arts and Sciences."

"I'm very pleased and honored to be the next dean of the College of Arts and Sciences," said Kunkel. "PSU has a long history of providing an excellent education for its students and I'm excited to be a part of continuing that trend into the future."

Kunkel came to PSU from Missouri State University in Springfield, where he was head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology. He received his bachelor's degree, master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Student designs a winner for ROTC

It is hard to imagine any young man was ever more excited about sliding behind the wheel of a new vehicle as was Anson Pruneda this past May.

Pruneda, an art major and student employee in the Department of Military Science, was one of the first in the driver's seat when a new Humvee, covered in images depicting PSU ROTC, rolled into town. He was given the honor because it was his design that won a national competition, for which the top prize was the use of the Hummer for a year.

The design, called "Evolution of an Officer," covers both sides, the front and rear portions of the vehicle, and includes photographs of various aspects of an ROTC cadet's life.

ROTC officials plan to put the Hummer to good use in the coming year. They expect it to be a great marketing tool for the ROTC program and for the university as a whole.





Science Day

Dr. David Kuehn, PSU Physics Department, readies Matt Maynard's (Webb City High School) tower for testing on the seismic shaker. Nearly 500 high school students from Kansas and Missouri tested their science skills at PSU's annual Science Day on April 21. Organizers in the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics say the annual event is an opportunity for high school students to showcase their science knowledge, have fun and become better acquainted with the campus.

Service project wins national honor

The National Student Nurses Association honored PSU's student nurses with one of its top awards for a service project the students conducted in New Orleans.



Senior Rachel Ramsey works with a client in a clinic in New Orleans.

The PSU Chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students (KANS) took first place in the Image of Nursing Awards category.

The PSU student nurses traveled to New Orleans where they assisted in a PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) clinic. The students performed

a variety of tasks, including helping with assessments in the clinic; assisting a wound care specialist with assessment, education and dressing changes; attending home care visits with nurses, and assisting with occupational and physical therapy.

Barbara McClaskey, professor and member of the Nursing Department faculty, said the service project was especially valuable for students because it exposed them to the special needs of the elderly and also a unique culture.

"Providing respectful care, whether it be for the elderly or for persons who come from a different culture, is an important skill for student nurses to learn," McClaskey said. "This project was a rich experience for the student nurses who participated."

McClaskey said the students returned to Pittsburg with a new perspective on the roles they will play as registered nurses.

Bob Kehle, Music, leads the Pittsburg Summer Kicks jazz band in a free concert to celebrate summer on the Oval. The band included students, faculty, staff and members of surrounding communities.

Art meets technology

Sometimes the worlds of art and technology seem far apart, but as students in Portico Bowman's sculpture class at Pittsburg State University worked in the Kansas Technology Center concrete testing lab last spring, it became clear how closely the two are related.

The collaborative project began with two professors.

For some time, Dennis Audo, a member of the faculty in the Department of Construction Management and Construction Engineering Technologies, had thought that there should be something to do with the excess concrete his students generated in the concrete testing lab.

Portico Bowman, a member of the faculty in the Art Department, meanwhile was preparing her syllabus for the spring semester. For a decade she has had her students work in the KTC's metal casting program, but she was also intrigued by the possibilities concrete might offer art students.

When the two talked, a new art experience for students blossomed.

"We do a lot of concrete testing and many times just throw it out," Audo said. "I asked her (Bowman) if there was any way her class could use it and she told me about the forms they make, so we decided to collaborate. It's been a very good thing."

Bowman said the assignment she created for the students is a "totem trophy" that incorporates concrete, ceramics and metal.





Grimes

Grimes named dean

Following a national search, Pittsburg State University named Dr. Paul W. Grimes dean of the Kelce College of Business. Grimes came to PSU from Mississippi State University, where he was the associate dean for Instruction and Operations for the College of Business.

“Dr. Grimes has a distinguished academic and administrative record and we believe he is very well suited to lead the Kelce College of Business at this important time in its history,” Provost Lynette Olson said. “His commitment to teaching, research and service is a good match to those same values that are part of the history and culture of the College of Business and the university.”

Grimes, who holds both a bachelor of science degree and a master’s degree in economics from PSU, said he was excited to return to his alma mater.

“I am thrilled to be coming home to Pittsburg State University. This is a fantastic opportunity for me and I am pleased it came along when it did,” Grimes said.

Grimes said one of the things that he found attractive about returning to Pittsburg State was the university’s leadership.

“Pittsburg State has a very strong leadership team with a clear vision for the university’s future,” Grimes said. “I appreciate the confidence President Scott and Provost Olson have shown in me and I look forward to working with them to advance not only the Kelce College of Business, but the university as a whole.”

In addition to his two degrees from Pittsburg State University, Grimes also holds an A.A. degree from Fort Scott Community College and a Ph.D. in economics from Oklahoma State University.

Partnership readies students for higher standards of accountability

Recent financial scandals have not only shaken the economy, they have also inspired businesses and industries to look for a new generation of employees who will help them meet higher standards of accountability. A program at PSU is preparing students for this new role.

A growing number of PSU business students are taking advantage of a unique relationship between the PSU Internal Auditing program and an international organization that is giving them an edge.

Pittsburg State is one of only 41 schools in the world to be partnered with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), a global professional organization that provides its schools with special resources for auditing courses. For students who will pursue a career in internal auditing, the unique certification they can achieve through the IIA sets them apart.

“There are certain companies looking for the best in internal audit, and we’re seeing them come back to recruit again and again,” said Becky Heath, an accounting professor at PSU and director of the Internal Auditing Education Partnership (IAEP). “Companies are aware of what this program is, and they see it as a plus.”

Pittsburg State is the only university in Kansas to have this partnership.

Executive shares international business lessons

Anna Allen, a PSU alumna, gave College of Business students a picture of what working in international business is really like during an Executive on Campus presentation this past spring.

Allen, currently the interim state director of operations for the March of Dimes in Kansas, talked to students about her extensive career working for companies operating globally and she shared with them some of the lessons she learned along the way.

Allen, who received a degree in finance from PSU, began her career as a public accountant and worked her way up to top-level management. She has worked for a variety of companies and was CFO of two different divisions of Duke Energy (formerly Cinergy), a worldwide company.

The stories of her experiences traveling and living in other parts of the world for her job were valuable for students hoping to work internationally.

She advised students to accept that not everything is within their control and encouraged them to find balance between work and life. She urged them to always continue their learning (especially foreign languages) and stressed the value of doing well in school, networking early and earning real job experience while still in school.

“PSU has done so well in advancing international programs. I’m amazed at how many accomplished PSU graduates there are who have gone on to work for big companies,” Allen said.

Anna Allen





Bill Cornell, director of surveillance at Downstream Casino, speaks to a group of PSU students about methods criminals use to cheat at gambling tables.

New course targets cybercrime

Students interested in a career uncovering fraud and crime can get a fresh perspective through a new course in the Department of Accounting and Computer Information Systems.

Jim Harris, a professor in ACIS, began offering the topics course, "Computer Forensics," in the Spring 2011 semester. The new class delves into the underworld of cybercrime.

Harris, who came to PSU 31 years ago after working in programming and software engineering for NASA, prepared for a year for the new course, which is focused on methods for uncovering the traces of computerized criminal activity.

"Students in this class learn the latest tools and procedures to properly trace evidence," he said. "We knew it would be a course students pursuing this line of work would be interested in."

At some point, said ACIS Chairperson Becky Casey, the course may become part of PSU's fraud examination minor, which has been growing since it was introduced four years ago. A minor available to justice studies and ACIS majors, it looks at uncovering broad areas of criminal activity.

In the spring, students and professors from both departments traveled to Downstream Casino Resort in Quapaw, Okla., where they listened to casino officials present sessions on security and surveillance as well as money laundering. Security officials discussed the role employees and interns have in uncovering criminal activity such as theft, the use of counterfeit money, and cheating at gambling tables.



Dearth picked nation's most supportive dean

Dr. Richard Dearth, former dean of Pittsburg State University's College of Business, was recently honored for his steadfast support of the PSU chapter of Students in Free Enterprise. Dearth was named the nation's most supportive dean at the SIFE national competition in Minneapolis in May.

SIFE officials selected Dearth from 561 deans eligible for the award based on comments included in a nomination letter from students. The students praised Dearth for coaching and working with them as they prepared their presentations. They also wrote of the many ways that Dearth, his wife, Patti, and their family welcomed them and made them feel part of a special group.

Dearth said he was flattered by the nomination and honored to receive the award, but he said it was really a testament to the "high quality of the PSU SIFE team and the College of Business as a whole."

Students practice business strategy

A group of PSU business students demonstrated this spring that they have what it takes to guide a business through a complex economic environment.

The students, all enrolled in PSU's online Business Strategy course taught by business professor Thomas Box, competed as a team against 2,600 other teams around the world to guide their company to success. At least twice during the semester, the PSU team was ranked 68th or higher.

GLO-BUS, which stands for Global Business, is a weekly online competition that requires teams to operate a mock company, teaching them to increase their market share through marketing, pricing, trading, opening mock retail stores, and competing to see which teams can run the most successful businesses.

"The students submitted decisions each week about how to manufacture, market and distribute products," said Box, who has been using the online competition as a learning tool in his class for about 20 years. "It is a very comprehensive simulation for them."

SIFE competes at nationals

PSU's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team advanced to national competition May 10-12 in Minneapolis, but was unable to advance to the finals. Texas State University-San Marcos won the National Exposition.

Adviser Robyn Hess said PSU had a good presentation in what turned out to be a very competitive field.

PSU SIFE's project, Building Pittsburg, was a three-phase project that addressed three areas preventing community members from obtaining employment or promotion. Those needs included a lack of basic computer skills, a lack of experience with resume writing and interviewing skills and a need for a professional appearance.



Hughes Hall upgrades

Hughes Hall, home to the College of Education, received some much needed improvements over the summer.

The work was extensive, including replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems that serve the second and third floors and the installation of new, more efficient windows throughout.

To accommodate a tight schedule designed to get the work finished over the summer, administrative offices and faculty who were teaching over the summer began moving into temporary quarters in Whitesitt Hall even before the spring semester came to a close.

"The move went very smoothly," said Dean Howard Smith. "It was helpful that faculty who were not teaching summer classes didn't have to move. Everyone had plenty of time to prepare and approached the move with a good attitude."

The work on Hughes Hall totaled more than \$1.1 million and was paid for with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Hughes Hall was named in honor of Rees Hopkins Hughes, the second president of the university and a professor of education and psychology. Hughes served as president from 1941 until 1957 and retired from the university in 1961. Hughes Hall was completed in 1962 at a cost of \$475,000.

New teachers face tight job market

It's not unusual for graduating student teachers to have butterflies before beginning the rapid-fire interviews at Teacher Interview Day. At this spring's event, however, the increased competition for the limited jobs available kicked the stress level up another notch.

Elementary Education major Marcus Cornelius said he was nervous as the day began but quickly settled down.

"It went from nerve wracking to feeling like I was in my comfort zone," Cornelius said.

New student teachers this spring were squeezed from both sides. Not only was this PSU's largest group of new teachers ever, it also came at a time when state budget cuts made districts unable or unwilling to hire.

Jean Dockers, director of teacher education, said that although it has been a challenging year for new

teachers, some jobs were available.

"Some districts were hiring, especially for graduates certified to teach in certain specific areas," Dockers said. "Also, students who are not place-bound and who are willing to relocate always have better luck finding teaching positions."

Forty-six school districts participated in Teacher Interview Day, a drop from previous years. Dean Howard Smith said he was grateful for those who came.

"There were some districts here who did not have any open positions at the time or were unsure whether they would have any this year," Smith said. "We really appreciate these districts taking the time with our students."

The tight job market wasn't bad news for everyone. One representative from a rural district with several openings said he noticed the difference.

"I've been coming here for several years and I think I've been busier this year than ever before," he said.



Promoting fitness for kids

More than 900 southeast Kansas third graders ran, jumped and burned up thousands of extra calories when the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation (HHPR) hosted its 20th annual Kansas Kids Fitness Day in May.

Shelly Grimes, PSU fitness director and coordinator of Kansas Kids Fitness Day at PSU, said the event has a dual purpose.

"This is a great way to show the community and students what fitness is all about," Grimes said, "and it gives the HHPR majors a hands on learning experience with working with such a large number of kids."

Dr. John Oppliger, HHPR Department chairman, said Kansas Kids Fitness Day has strong ties to PSU.

"Dr. Tom Bryant (then a member of the HHPR faculty) was on the Governor's Council on Fitness when Kansas Kids Fitness Day began and was the grant director for the funds used to support the event across the state," Oppliger said.



Pittsburg students get a hands-on math lesson from one of the instructors with the “If I Had a Hammer” project.

Educators assess program’s effectiveness

Members of the College of Education faculty joined with faculty in the College of Technology and a private company this past year to assess the effectiveness of some real-world experience in helping youngsters learn basic math skills.

Dr. Chris Christman, chairman of special services and leadership studies, and Dr. Marilyn Dishman-Horst, assistant professor in curriculum and instruction, worked with faculty in the Department of Engineering Technology and Crossland Construction Co. to organize an “If I Had a Hammer” project for sixth graders from Pittsburg Community Middle School.

The students learned practical math skills that they applied to the construction of an 8-foot by 10-foot house. The If I Had a Hammer curriculum and workshop, based in Franklin, Tenn., aims to show students that math really does matter in everyday life.

“The thing that really is impressive is that it makes math concepts relevant,” Christman said. “We’re moving more toward preparing kids for 21st century employment skills. This program fits right in with that.”

Christman said PSU is now assessing the effectiveness of the program by looking at pre- and post-tests given to the students. The tests will quantitatively show how well the program teaches state-required math skills.

PSU offers new degree in exercise science

PSU will offer a new degree this fall that officials believe will give students many more career options. The program was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents earlier this year.

The bachelor of science degree with a major in exercise science can be a launch pad for careers ranging from personal training and fitness management to cardiac rehabilitation and physical therapy, according to Dr. Mike Leiker, an assistant professor in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation.

“The new degree puts an emphasis on the science in exercise science,” Leiker said.

Students in the program will take core courses that cover topics such as anatomy and physiology, exercise testing and prescription, kinesiology, nutrition and research.

“There are many things a student can do with a degree in exercise science,” Leiker said. “Many of the graduates may go on to a graduate program, or into a professional program such as physical therapy.”

For more information, contact the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation at 620-235-4665.

College honors educators

Dennis Burke and Dee Dee Allai have made a difference in the lives of more students than they know. For their service to education, Burke, a superintendent, and Allai, a classroom teacher, were recognized by the PSU College of Education at the Clyde U. Phillips Awards Recognition Ceremony in April.

Burke, superintendent of USD 508 in Baxter Springs, Kan., earned a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and superintendent certification all from Pittsburg State. He began his career as a history and government teacher and for the past 23 years has served as an administrator, first in Riverton, Kan., and now in Baxter Springs. Under his leadership, the districts he has served have gained national recognition for academic achievement. He is highly engaged with his community as is evidenced by a high level of support and involvement in the schools.

Allai, a fourth-grade teacher at Westside Elementary School in Pittsburg, started her career as a social worker. The problems she saw in that job convinced her that if she wanted to make a real impact on the lives of children, it needed to be in the classroom. Allai, who already had a bachelor’s of science degree in social work from PSU, returned to her alma mater to get her teaching certification. For the past 29 years of her 31-year career in teaching, Allai has taught in Pittsburg. She has played a vital role in helping her schools win numerous state reading, math and writing awards.



Dennis Burke and Dee Dee Allai, left, were honored for their years of service to students at the Clyde U. Phillips Award Ceremony. Kayla Pruitt and Gene Nelson, right, were recognized for the potential they have shown in their first years of teaching.

School of Construction funding approved

After years of hard work by area representatives, administration, faculty, PSU alumni and corporate partners, funding for a new School of Construction at PSU has finally been secured. The Kansas Board of Regents approved the plans for the school in 2007, but funding has been stymied by state budget concerns until this spring, when legislators approved \$750,000 for the School with the caveat that the university match it dollar-for-dollar.

The School of Construction will be part of the College of Technology, and located within the Kansas Technology Center.

As proposed, the plan will:

- Expand the Construction Management and Construction Engineering Technology programs
- Expand the bachelor of applied science degree program in construction with the goal of establishing numerous 2+2 agreements with community and technical colleges that offer construction related AAS programs
- Create a new bachelor of science degree program in safety, health and environmental technology.

In addition, future academic programs that could be added include a possible bachelor of science degree program in land surveying, cooperative minors with Automotive Technology in heavy/diesel equipment in construction, cooperative minors in various construction areas such as mechanical/plumbing, electrical and civil construction, and certificate programs developed jointly with regional community colleges in an effort to enhance workforce development in skilled craftspersons for the construction industry.

A third component of the plan is the establishment of the Kansas Center for Construction Advancement. The center will focus on K-12, community college and technical

college engagement and also on construction industry professional workshops and continuing education programs.

The legislature's action will help ensure an increase in the number of qualified construction professionals for the construction and construction related industries. Other benefits will include establishment of the

first safety, health and environmental management program for the State of Kansas and a location for Kansas contractors to send their employees to enhance their skills. In addition, a School of Construction will bring increased interaction between and support for K-12, community and technical colleges and the PSU baccalaureate construction program.

Students create space voyage

A group of PSU technology education majors took an entire elementary school into outer space this year. It's a trip they'll never forget.

The students at Lakeside Elementary School explored a lost planet, used robots to retrieve space rocks and searched for the lost crew of a previous mission. This amazing journey was possible because PSU technology education students designed and built a unique educational experience that filled the school gymnasium.

Mike Neden, an associate professor in the Department of Technology and Workforce Learning, said the annual project gives the PSU students experience they'll use in the classroom, especially for those on track to become technology teachers.

"This gives our students a chance to practice new and interesting ways of teaching important concepts to school children," Neden said. "It also helps them to learn about building displays that illustrate those concepts."

"It is a huge undertaking," Neden said, "but the result is educational not only for the elementary school students, but also for the university students."



Students at Lakeside Elementary School embark on an exciting voyage to space as part of a unique educational experience designed by PSU Technology Education students.



Kevin Hunninghake, Chris Grable, Brian Kuhn, Adam Perkins, and Caleb Krier, proved they are some of the best in the U.S. at the Mechanical Contractors Association of America convention in Hawaii.

PSU team shines in Hawaii

It couldn't have been much closer. The PSU student chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America missed taking first place for their presentation at the MCAA national convention in March by just one 200th of a point. If the students felt any disappointment, it may have been blunted by the fact that the convention took place in Maui, Hawaii.

The invitation to present at the convention followed an outstanding performance at the MCAA Student Summit in Chicago, where the PSU team was ranked as one of the top four in the U.S.

"I am so proud of these students," said Shannon Nicklaus, the PSU MCAA adviser who accompanied the team to Hawaii. "They were the most professional presenters and they definitely have assisted in putting PSU on the map once again."

The PSU team was challenged to create and present a building plan for a capital investment headquarters building in Palo Alto, Calif.

Elder named teacher of the year

Mike Elder, a long-time Pittsburg High School automotive technology teacher, has been selected as the first Valvoline ASE Teacher of the Year. The award was established in 2010 to honor the top ASE certified teachers in the U.S.

Elder received a bachelor of science degree from PSU in 1980 and a master of science degree from PSU in 1982.

Elder, who has previously taught at PSU as an adjunct, began teaching full-time at PSU this fall.

TECA takes gold, silver

A dozen PSU students struck gold and silver in Minnesota this year. The students, members of the PSU Technology Education Collegiate Association (TECA), traveled to Minneapolis with Professors

Mike Neden and Andy Klenke to compete at the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Conference. After competing with 17 other universities, the PSU Manufacturing Enterprise team was awarded first place and the Design and Problemsolving Team was awarded second place in their respective competitions.

"These prestigious awards have positioned the Technology Education Program as one of the premier programs in the country," Neden said.



Members of the Manufacturing Team work on their winning project at the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference.

Beginning this fall— KC Metro Center offers new programs

Technology management

Beginning this fall, PSU is offering students with applied science degrees a path to both a bachelor's degree and expanded job opportunities. PSU launched the new bachelor's of applied science degree with a major in technology management program at the KC Metro Center in Lenexa, Kan., with a goal of appealing to students who want to earn their degree while still working full-time.

The program is a combination of Interactive Distance Learning and face-to-face class formats that can be

completed in just over three years. PSU officials say the degree prepares students to be leaders in the industrial and technological workforces.

For information, call the KC Metro Center 913-529-4487 or visit their website, <http://kcmetro.pittstate.edu>

Auto technology

A new degree program at the KC Metro Center will allow students to maintain their full-time jobs while completing a bachelor of applied science degree in technology with an emphasis in automotive technology.

This program is designed to prepare

students for supervisory positions in industrial organizations to assume responsibility in product development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, training or teaching.

Students must have an associate of applied science degree in automotive services technology. Classes are spread out over three and one-half years and are conducted in the evenings at the Metro Center and online.

For information, call the KC Metro Center 913-529-4487 or visit their website, <http://kcmetro.pittstate.edu>

Seven members tabbed for PSU Athletics Hall of Fame

Pittsburg State University will induct seven individuals into its Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame during ceremonies on Saturday, November 5.

PSU's Class of 2011 is headlined by former head football coach and athletics director Chuck Broyles, who compiled 198 career coaching victories during a decorated 20-year tenure including leading the Gorillas to four NCAA Division II National Championship Game appearances and the 1991 NCAA-II National Championship.

Two-time All-American Oscar Gonzalez (1996-99) and three-time All-American Leslie (Dudley) Morrow (1997-2000) also join the Hall of Fame, representing the sports of men's and women's basketball. All-American baseball athlete Justin Annin (1999-2000) and All-American football athlete Albert Schmidt (1968-71) also have been selected for induction.

Additionally, Floyd Leroy Scott (1918-21), the first four-time all-conference player in Pitt State football history as well as an all-conference track & field athlete, and Frank C. German, who served the Pitt State athletic department for four decades as a volunteer and member of the school's Athletic Council, will be inducted in the Hall of Fame's "Legacy" category. The Legacy category, created in 2005, focuses solely on individuals from the school's first 50 years (1903-53) in an attempt to bolster the school's rich heritage from its first half-century.

Gonzalez originally was selected for induction with the Class of 2010 but he was unable to travel from his native Spain to attend last year's ceremony, prompting Pitt State officials to defer his induction to 2011 following his retirement from professional basketball last year.

"College Halls of Fame are designed to recognize elite individuals on school campuses, and that is obvious with the Pitt State Athletics Class of 2011," athletic director Jim Johnson said. "This is a diverse group with tremendous collective honors and achievements among them. There are record setters and pioneers among the group. Most importantly, they are men and women we are proud to call Gorillas and they all are most deserving of joining the elite group of all-time Hall of Fame members at Pittsburg State University."

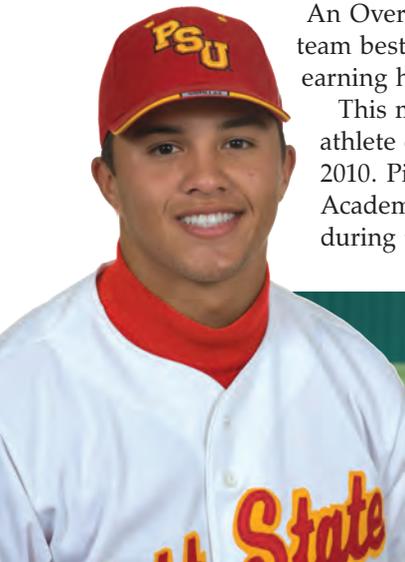
Sibala named Academic All-American

Pitt State has added to its long list of Academic All-American's this spring with the addition of Taylor Sibala.

Sibala graduated summa cum laude with a perfect 4.00 grade-point-average as a mechanical engineering major. He was a third-team Academic All-America® pick as a junior in 2010.

An Overland Park, Kan., native, Sibala hit .328 with a team best five triples, 38 runs scored and 17 stolen bases, earning honorable mention All-MIAA recognition.

This marks the third occurrence of a Pitt State student-athlete on an Academic All-America® list since January 2010. Pitt State led each of the past two decades in Academic All-America honorees, placing 39 honorees during the 1990s and 47 during the 2000s.



2010-11 Highlights

- Women's Cross Country team raced to a MIAA Championship and 12th at the NCAA Division II Championships.
- The Football team posted a 13-9 victory over Concordia – St. Paul in the Mineral Water Bowl.
- Former Pitt State football and track & field star Brian Moorman ('99) was inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2011.
- In January 2011 Jenny Mueller was added to the Gorilla Volleyball Staff as assistant coach.
- The Women's Basketball team made it to the semifinals of the MIAA Tournament.
- Baseball standout Taylor Sibala was selected as one of three finalist for the Ken B. Jones Award, an annual award that honors the conference's top male and female student-athlete.
- Men's Basketball home game attendance ranked 10th among Division II Schools.
- Ten Track & Field athletes received All-American Honors, **Indoor:** Gretchen Clark, Joe Stephens, Kiara Jones, Ethan Hobbs, Larissa Richards, Heidi Smith. **Outdoor:** Larissa Richards, Gretchen Clark, Ethan Hobbs, Amber Kloster, Keenan Soles, Tyler Drake, Monica Wuertz.
- Former football stand out Ronnie West will be inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in October.



Gorilla Gala

More than 300 people participated in the first annual Gorilla Gala on June 24. The gala is the premier fundraising event for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. After a social hour and silent auction, guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner and dancing to the music of the Area 51 band. They also participated in an exciting live auction featuring everything from autographed sports memorabilia to a box rental at a Kansas City Chiefs football game.



Throughout the summer, crews were worked diligently to upgrade the Weede Physical Education Building. As part of PSU's differed maintenance plan, the building received a new exterior skin around the gymnasium making the building more energy efficient and cosmetically appealing.



"Ladies Night at the Pitt" receives honors

"Ladies Night at the Pitt" has been selected the conference winner of the 2011 NCAA Division II Community Engagement Award of Excellence representing the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

During this event Head Football Coach Tim Beck, his coaching staff and Pitt State players provided basic instruction on the game of football to area women. The evening activities included a Football 101 session, followed by dinner and on-field demonstrations at Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium.



The Community Engagement Award of Excellence recognizes Division II institutions that successfully "build bridges" with the communities in which they are located. The commitment to help member institutions build stronger civic relationships is a central part of the Division II philosophy.

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Gorilla Legislative Network



What happens when you combine a Gorilla's love for Pittsburg State University with their passion for politics? You get the Gorilla Legislative Network.

"We were hearing from a number of alumni and friends of PSU who wanted to become more involved in helping the university at the legislative level," said Johnna Schremmer, director of alumni and constituent relations. "The Gorilla Legislative Network turned out to be the perfect way to connect our many supporters and keep them informed about topics that are important to Pittsburg State and our community."

The idea caught on quickly and even Schremmer was surprised by the response.

"We weren't certain how long it would take to recruit members," said Schremmer. "We knew we had hit upon a good idea when more than 200 people signed up in the first few weeks."

The new members undoubtedly helped Pittsburg State and the region during one of the most challenging legislative sessions in recent history.

"Although PSU did see another cut in state aid, we also enjoyed some success," Schremmer explained. "After years of hard work by a number of groups, we were finally able to secure funding for our School of Construction. In addition, the governor included the expansion of Highway 69 from Fort Scott to Arma in the state's new transportation plan. All in all, it was a good first year and I'm excited about the future of the GLN."

The Gorilla Legislative Network is open to anyone with a passion for politics and Pittsburg State University. To learn more visit pittstate.edu/gln.

PSU honors alumni for achievement

Three alumni were awarded the Meritorious Achievement Award, the highest award given to graduates based on career achievement. Established in 1958, the award is given to candidates that have demonstrated substantial professional growth and advancement over an extended period of time. The candidates' activities, including participation and leadership in civic and professional organizations at the local, state and national levels, are also considered by the



Bill Neighbors, Gary Tredway and Robert Tyler participate in a question-and-answer session with alumni, staff and students.

awards committee in selecting the recipients.

This year's recipients are William E. Neighbors III, president and CEO of Tank Connection Affiliate Group in Parsons, Kan.; Gary E. Tredway, president of American Fidelity Educational Services in Oklahoma City; and Robert D. Tyler, president and founder of Winfield Consumer Products in Winfield, Kan.

For complete biographies of the three winners, visit the alumni website at <http://bit.ly/psumeritorious>.



Members of the Class of 1961 gather on the iconic marble steps of Russ Hall for a photo during their Half-Century Club reunion in May.

PSU honors two with service award

Pittsburg State honored two alumni with its Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award during the Apple Day Convocation on Thursday, March 3, in McCray Recital Hall. This is the 20th year for the award, presented by the PSU Alumni Association, which honors alumni who have demonstrated significant volunteer service to the PSU community.

This year's honorees are Kathleen M. Sandness, MD, BS '83; and Dale M. Dennis, BS '59, MS '66, Spec. '83. Sandness is a Pittsburg physician and Dennis is the deputy commissioner of education for the State of Kansas.

Among her many acts of service, Dr. Sandness founded and continues to nurture the Pittsburg Free Clinic at Wesley House. PSU pre-med students, under the guidance of local physicians, gain valuable experience at the clinic and also participate in a rewarding act of service. In addition, Dr. Sandness is a tireless mentor for PSU pre-med students and a loyal supporter of the university and the Department of Biology.

Over decades of service to the school children of



Dale M. Dennis, PSU President Dr. Steve Scott and Kathleen M. Sandness.

Kansas, Dale M. Dennis has become a legend as a calm and reliable voice on school finance and other important issues facing Kansas schools and Kansas educators. His participation in PSU's Roaring River Conference for Kansas K-12 superintendents has been central to the event's prestige and longtime success.



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Class of '54

Robert E. Mosier (BS '54, MS '62) has been named the national 2011 Earth Team Individual Volunteer Award winner by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mosier is the retired superintendent of the Greensburg, Kan., schools. He volunteers through two NRCS. Mosier helped establish the Sunflower Regional Recycling Program and he helps in the collection of electronic waste in Kiowa County. Mosier collects and recycles bicycles for the "Bikes for Youth" program and he helps the needy by participating in the "Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry" program.

Class of '64

Mary Ann Castagno Horgan (BS '64, MS '73) of Weir, Kan., retired in 2010 after teaching 45 years at Cherokee Grade School, Cherokee, Kan. She taught kindergarten for five years then moved to first grade, which was her dream, for the remaining 40 years. Her husband, Mike Horgan, is a 1964 PSU graduate. Their son Micael A. Horgan graduated from PSU as well as son Bryan D. Horgan and daughter-in-law Dina Hogard Horgan. They also have two grandchildren, Bryan M. and Erin Horgan, whom they enjoy spending time with.

Class of '67

Larry Cole, Ph.D., psychology, recently published two books through Turner Publishing with coauthor Byrd Baggett, CSP. The books are "97 Things To Take Your Sales Career to the Next Level," and "Charisma Based Leadership: Be the Leader Followers Like to Follow." Both books provide "how to" steps to manage personal change, the interpersonal skills to manage working and selling relationships, and to be the person with whom prospects like to be from and team member want to work. Cole attended Fort Scott Community College and received degrees from both PSU and the University of Oklahoma. He has published six books, co-wrote

the eBook True Growth leadership series and has written more than 100 articles for professional journals. Cole is working on another book, "Transformational Teamwork: Putting the Team in Teamwork to Work." His consulting company, TeamMax®, helps people work together in a variety of organizations. Cole and his wife, Shelvie, live in Conway, Ark.

Class of '70

James Glenn (BS '70, MS '71) this past spring received the prestigious AGC of St. Louis award from the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of St. Louis. Glenn president of Glenn Construction Company, Inc., in Eureka, Mo. Glenn Construction has been in business for more than 20 years. The organization praised

Glenn personally for his contribution "to the mission and goals of the AGC of St. Louis and the Construction Training and Advancement Foundation (CTAF)." Glenn served on the AGC's board of directors from 1994-2001 and was president of the board in 2000. He served as a trustee on the CTAF from 2004 – 2008 and was chairman in 2006-2008. Adding to his contributions to the AGC of St. Louis, Glenn has served on the permitting & codes committee, governmental affairs policy committee (two years as chairman), various legislative resource groups, education subcommittee, the AGC's charter school task force, the AGC Education Foundation task force and the professional development committee.

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Class of '73

Diane Bohling Wahto (MA English) received the 2011 April Salina Poetry Reading Series New Voice Award. Wahto gave a poetry reading at Moka's Coffeehouse in Salina. The month-long event was sponsored by the Salina Public Library and the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission. Wahto earned a teaching certificate from PSU in 1974 and retired from Butler Community College in 2001.

Class of '74

Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen (BSE) has been named the commanding general of all Marine forces in the Pacific and is now stationed in Hawaii.

Class of '82

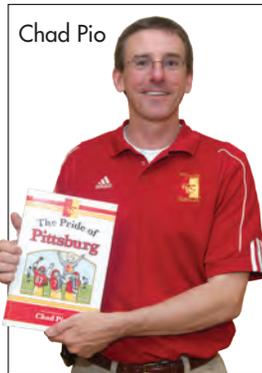
Theresa Farris, (BS) was named this spring the 2011 Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year award by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC). As the 2011 honoree, she earned an expense-paid trip to the National Foundation for Ag in the Classroom. Farris teaches kindergarten at the Service Valley Charter Academy (SVCA) in Oswego, Kan. Farris has spent 21 years at Service Valley, teaching kindergarten and first grade. SVCA is one of two charter schools in the state with a focus on agriculture.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli was named adjutant general of Kansas and promoted to major general in the Kansas National Guard in January. As the adjutant general, Tafanelli oversees the activities of the Adjutant General's Department. This includes providing command and control for more than 7,700 soldiers and airmen in the Kansas Army and Air National Guard. As the director of Kansas Emergency Management, a division of the department, he guides a professional core of personnel that prepare for, respond to and mitigate disasters. In addition to the part-time soldiers and airmen, the department he leads includes about 2,300 full-

time state and federal employees. Additionally, 105 county emergency managers and their staffs receive guidance and training through the department. Tafanelli is also the director of Homeland Security for Kansas, where he works to ensure security in the state is a top priority.

Class of '87

Chad Pio had a new children's book published in 2011 that is based on a kid's view of a PSU football game. In the story, PSU wins, of course, and does so against rival Northwest Missouri State University. Pio's book, "The Pride of Pittsburg," is part of his "RivalReads" book series. The book is available at the Gorilla Bookstore by Barnes and Noble on the PSU campus or through Pio's website, www.rivalreadsbooks.com. Pio lives in Gladstone, Mo.



Class of '92

Norm Conard (MA) of Fort Scott, has a new book out, which consists of the story of he and his students and their work on a well-known international project. The book is "Life In a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project." The creative non-fiction book tells of his four Kansas students discovering one of the heroes of the Holocaust. Two of the four, Megan Felt and Jessica Ripper, are graduates of PSU. Nine of the 37 students who have worked on the project also graduated from PSU. The book is written by Jack Mayer of Vermont and is available at Hastings Book store or at www.irenasendler.org

Class of '98

Jay Fredrick (BA) and his wife, Jennifer, recently purchased an Anytime Fitness franchise in Canon City, Colo.

Stephanie Sorenson (BS '98, MS '02), a second-grade teacher at Stony Point South Elementary School in Kansas City, Kan., received the Crystal Apple Award from Fox 4 TV in the spring. The award recognizes teachers who go "above and beyond" in their profession. Along with the award, Sorenson received two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines and a weekend getaway at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

Class of '07

Jacquelyn Slater (BA) has been appointed assistant professor of bibliography and librarian, Western History Collections in the University of Oklahoma's University Libraries.

In Memory

Deaths are reported based on information received from families or reported in local newspapers. Listed by date of graduation/attendance.

- Meg Stauffer**, 1937, Valley Center, Kan.
- Gladys Maxine Henrie**, 1938, Wichita, Kan.
- Lyndia L. Passmore**, 1939, Joplin, Mo.
- Elma J. Friley**, 1939, Joplin, Mo.
- Walter L. Hoyt**, 1939, Kansas City, Kan.
- Muriel C. Geisert**, 1940, Chicago, Ill.
- Gerald A. Robinson**, 1940, Sun City, Ariz.
- Berdean Eaton**, 1940, Ventura, Calif.
- William E. George**, 1941, Erie, Kan.
- Leland Sutterby**, 1942, Caney, Kan.
- Mildred Leamon**, 1943, Arma, Kan.
- Betty J. Winslow**, 1943, Saint Clair, Mich.
- Andy F. Bertuzzi**, 1944, Corpus Christi, Texas
- Anna I. Duecy**, 1944, Parsons, Kan.
- Raymond W. Lance**, 1944, Pittsburg, Kan.
- Janet I. Carpenter**, 1945, Oswego, Kan.
- Phyllis A. Hodgson**, 1947, Iola, Kan.
- Vera C. Rogers**, 1947, Sun City, Ariz.
- Vincent L. Sternitzke**, 1948, Hobe Sound, Fla.
- E. Maxine Long**, 1949, Parsons, Kan.
- Glen M. Erikson**, 1949, Great Bend, Kan.
- Martin A. Semonick**, 1949, Scammon, Kan.
- L. Jack Woods**, 1950, Greenley, Colo.

continued

Thomas M. Barrett, 1950,
Richmond, Texas
William P. Horton, 1950, Salina, Kan.
Wallace B. Blackwood, 1950,
Wichita, Kan.
Dr. Max E. Pickerill, 1951, Colby, Kan.
Louis T. Crowe, 1951, Nevada, Mo.
Bill D. Kobel, 1951,
North Ridgeville, Ohio
Alfred A. Johnson, 1951,
Pittsburg, Kan.
Elaine Miles, 1951, Pittsburg, Kan.
Bill J. Allen, 1951, Staten Island, N.Y.
Arthus L. Guerrieri, 1951, Tulsa, Okla.
Eugene T. Onelio, 1953, Girard, Kan.
Shirley J. Strevell, 1953,
Overland Park, Kan.
Mary Lou Carlin, 1954,
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Des Dehon, 1954, Nevada, Mo.
Kenneth D. McCracken, 1955,
Calvert City, Ky.
J. Robert Lowther, 1955, Chanute, Kan.
Harold Ray Kelly, Jr., 1955,
Hutchinson, Kan.
William F. Anderson, 1956, Arma, Kan.
Robert Jackson, 1956, Coffeyville, Kan.
Ruth A. Dugan, 1956, Fort Scott, Kan.
David L. Burr, 1956, Frontenac, Kan.
Opal Prouty, 1956, Independence, Kan.
Leta R. Deckard, 1956, Park City, Kan.
Sonny A. Campbell, 1957,
Atchison, Kan.
Richard L. Cox, 1957, Burlington, Iowa
Donna M. Roblyer, 1957,
McLoud, Okla.
Iolanda T. Blazic, 1957, Pittsburg, Kan.
Robert C. Boyd, 1958, Amarillo, Texas

J. Lyle Patterson, II, 1958,
Excelsior Springs, Mo.
Freddie J. Thompson, 1958,
Kansas City, Kan.
Margery Spillman (Adams), 1958,
Moran, Kan.
Mary I. Balk, 1958, Nevada, Mo.
Dr. Jerry L. Mathis, 1958, Salina, Kan.
Jerry L. Mathis, 1958, Salina, Kan.
James V. Enders, 1958, Wichita, Kan.
Thelma F. Balknap, 1959,
Fort Scott, Kan.
Albert D. Fast, 1959, Hiawahi
Anthony R. Russo, 1959,
Overland Park, Kan.
Viola May Wardlow (Etcheson), 1959,
Webb City, Mo.
Norma E. Hill, 1959, Wichita, Kan.
Leila Fay Vail Rucker (Vail), 1959,
La Cygne, Kan.
Charles W. Gray, 1960, Grove, Okla.
Louis H. Preston, 1960, Pinole, Calif.
Jerlene List, 1961, Belton, Mo.
Robert D. Arnce, 1961, Joplin, Mo.
Donald L. Welch, 1961, Moran, Kan.
Sam Gibson, 1961, Neodesha, Kan.
Cleda Irene Strandberg (McKoon),
1961, Osawatomie, Kan.
Raymond B. Bennett, 1961,
Republic, Mo.
Lawrence D. Boling, 1962,
Fort Scott, Kan.
Donald G. Ellis, 1962, Pittsburg, Kan.
Donna Lee Martin (Souder), 1963,
Columbus, Kan.
Edgar Earl Schroeder, 1963,
Emporia, Kan.
William Tolliver, 1963,
Hutchinson, Kan.
Christine A. Scott, 1963, Pittsburg, Kan.
Imogene Wheeler (Bailey), 1963,
Tank, Okla.
John Heitmann, 1964, Horton, Kan.
Edward E. Lindsay, 1964, Las Cruces,
N.M.
Michael A. Vietti, 1964,
Southwest Harbor, Maine
Sister Helen Joseph Knoeber, 1965,
Wichita, Kan.
Jewell M. Alcorn, 1966, Arma, Kan.
Jack D. Parsons, Jr., 1966, Grove, Okla.
James M. Hall, 1966, Joplin, Mo.
Jimmie L. Frazier, 1966,
Mount Vernon, Mo.
Martin W. Davis, 1966,
Santa Cruz, Calif.
Robert D. Carpenter, 1967, Joplin, Mo.
Dorothy L. Umphenour, 1967,
Miami, Okla.

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Steven Dewey Mosler, Parsons, Kan.
 Carol S. Patchin, 1968, Parsons, Kan.
 Thomas A. Verner, 1968, Wichita, Kan.
 Thomas L. Swan, 1969, Desoto, Texas
 Doris E. Reed, 1969, Parsons, Kan.
 John L. Gore, 1969,
 Rancho Murieta, Calif.
 Donna K. Ferrell (Lawson), 1969,
 Tulsa, Okla.
 William M. Puls, 1969, Wichita, Kan.
 William Puls, 1969, Wichita, Kan.
 Bob J. Appino, 1970, Dallas, Texas
 Suzanne Stuart, 1970, Springdale, Ark.
 Stephen H. Cole, 1971,
 Broken Arrow, Okla.
 Jerry J. Christian, 1971, Neosho, Mo.
 James V. Smith, 1972, Ellsworth, Kan.
 Nancy L. Poe, 1972, Roswell, Ga.
 Sherry Kaye Prettyman (Richmond),
 1973, Hannah, Mo.
 Melissa R. Ruberson, 1973,
 Independence, Kan.
 George Douglas Sheets, 1973,
 McPherson, Kan.

Connie J. Johnson, 1973, Mission, Kan.
 Philip Tom Barbieri, 1973, Arma, Kan.
 Nancy Lou Sutton, 1974,
 Arkansas City, Kan.
 Tom Barbieri, 1974, Brandon, Fla.
 Billie J. Hussong, 1974, Galena, Kan.
 Margaret L. Norris, 1975,
 Florissant, Mo.
 David John Mirostow, 1975,
 Kansas City, Kan.
 Janet Eads (Marlow), 1975,
 Parsons, Kan.
 James A Borders, 1976,
 Albuquerque, N.M.
 Carol L. Carey, 1976, Elkhart, Kan.
 Robert H. Cleeland, 1976, Eurika, Ill.
 Jane A. Milligan, 1976, St Louis, Mo.
 Dr. Elaine Smokewood, 1977,
 Augusta, Kan.
 Gregory S. Wright, 1977, Girard, Kan.
 Carol Ann Mix (Dixon), 1977,
 Lee's Summit, Mo.
 Carol Mix, 1977, Lee's Summit, Mo.
 Betty J. Scott, 1977, Pittsburg, Kan.

Fern P. Andrews, 1978, Joplin, Mo.
 Ellen K. Carson, 1978, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Mary J. Bremmerkamp, 1980,
 Columbia, Mo.
 John D. Hartley, II, 1980,
 Pittsburg, Kan.
 Clayton W. Schul, 1982, Wichita, Kan.
 Theodore L. Hill, 1982, Logan, Kan.
 Kenneth C. Wheeler, 1985, Girard, Kan.
 Patsy R. Sumner, 1985, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Gerald A. Snell, 1986, Wichita, Kan.
 Robin K. Bayless, 1987, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Brian Val Hauck, 1988, Afton, Okla.
 Bradley Hull, 1989, Independence, Kan.
 Michael E. Resa, 1992, Sarcoxie, Mo.
 Kevin P. Galvin, 1993,
 Kansas City, Kan.
 Annmarie G. Peacock, 1993,
 Pittsburg, Kan.
 Rebecca R. Stanley, 1995, Iola, Kan.
 Sherri A. Harris, 1996, Wichita, Kan.
 Jim J. Schmidt, 2000,
 Overland Park, Kan.
 Russell T. Howard, 2002, Joplin, Mo.

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PSU Foundation Spotlight– *Richard and Teresa Massa*

Richard and Teresa Massa know the power of education. Each was the first in their respective families to earn a college degree and they both say the value of that experience can't be calculated. That's why they established the Richard and Teresa Massa First-Generation Scholarship through the Pittsburg State University Foundation.

Teresa Massa retired from PSU in 1996 as the director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Dr. Richard Massa retired from Missouri Southern State University in 1999 as the head of the Department of Communication and director of the Institute of International Studies. Both say their lives would have been very different without the college degrees they earned and the private support that made it possible.

"I went through college on scholarships, work study and financial aid," Teresa Massa said. "Someone gave the scholarship funds that made it possible for me to go to college."

Richard Massa added, "It's important, when you have the opportunity, to help a new generation."

Stephanie Jepson, a senior from Chouteau, Okla., is one of the recipients of the Massas' scholarship. Stephanie is a triple major in Spanish, psychology and social work. She said she has been impressed not only by the Massas' generosity, but also by their personal concern for her. "They really care about me as a person," Jepson said. "They're wonderful people."

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- Sept. 22 Labette County, Parsons
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- Oct. 1..... Fall Classic at Arrowhead GorillaFest
- Oct. 5..... Cherokee County, Galena
- Oct. 14..... Outstanding Alumni Award Reception & Taste of Pittsburg
- Oct. 15..... Parade, Tours, & SEK Chicken Wars Tailgate
- Oct. 27 Kansas City Area Lunch & After Hours
- Nov. 5 Chris Cakes & Topeka Area Alumni Tailgate
- Nov. 10 Montgomery & Surrounding Counties, Independence
- Nov. 12 Joplin Area Alumni Tailgate & Gorilla Chili Challenge
- Nov. 15 South Central Kansas After Hours, Wichita
- Nov. 28 Gingerbread House Contest
- Dec. 8 Ice Skating, Kansas City area

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- Jan. 10 South Central Kansas, Wichita-Lunch
- Jan. 26..... Kansas City Area-Dinner
- Jan. 31 Joplin Area-Lunch
- Feb. 4 Family Day at Gorilla Basketball

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