

Fall 2015



Pitt State

MAGAZINE

Pittsburg State University

Kerry Dean
Y DEAN TRACK

Big building, big impact

—Plaster Center opens, pg. 16



PittState

MAGAZINE

Features

- 16 Robert W. Plaster Center, Big Building, Big Impact
- 22 Profiles

College Close-up

- 26 College of Arts & Sciences
- 28 College of Business
- 30 College of Education
- 32 College of Technology

Departments

- 2 Letters
- 4 From the Oval
- 8 Fine Arts Calendar
- 12 Where in the World is Gus?
- 34 Athletics Update
- 38 Alumni News
- 40 Class Notes

From the editor

For the 111th time, a new academic year has begun on the Pittsburg State campus. It's an exciting time and we're sure you remember those feelings well. We hope this issue makes you feel like you're back on campus again. As the semester goes on, check in on social media to see what's happening on campus. And don't forget to send us your photos and alumni news so we can share them with the rest of Gorilla Nation.



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http://instagram.com/Pittsburg_State



Contains at least 10% post consumer recycled fiber. Please recycle.



#OAGAAG

TaylorGravett

If I ever run a horse in the Derby I'm going to name it "Gorilla Nation."
#KentuckyDerby
#KentuckyDerby2015

LJeronimo42

I have had the best four years of my life playing basketball at Pitt. Thank you, #GorillaNation.
#OAGAAG

emilyymika

Just got the sweetest email from a lady who works in the President's office. I love Pitt State #Family #GorillaNation

d_m_blu

Every night is a beautiful night for a walk on our campus!
#oagaag

victorialee_24

So ready to start my new chapter of my life this fall @pittstate

sierra_dahl

What a wonderful day in the jungle! Can't wait for it to be August! @pittstate2019 @pittstate

Scoot_Lester

Proud to be a GORILLA!!!
#collegetin5words
#GorillaNation

LaineyCaulfield

Graduated from @pittstate yesterday! The past four years have flown by at the best college ever! #gorillanation
#OAGAAG

brittwhitebread

Best decision I ever made!
#PittState #GorillaNation

Gellis1992

Asher Roth said it best, "Do I really have to graduate or can I just stay here for the rest of my life" #OAGAAG #classof2015
#PittState

Divided loyalties

I have both BS and MS degrees from Pitt State and was a staff member there serving as assistant director of field services and placement under Dr. L.L. Tracy. My doctorate was completed at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

My wife, the former Vicki Sue Greer, also attended Pitt and is a graduate of Northwest. Her parents owned and operated the Otto-Way restaurant one half block north of the campus at 1402 South Broadway. At that time they served as the training table for the Gorilla football team coached by Carney Smith. Many students found the restaurant a gathering place and a home away from home. There were no cafeterias on campus at that time.

I am retired after 45 years as a Distinguished Professor, Department Chair and Dean at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. The question about to whom I am loyal when Pitt and Northwest play one another in an athletic event is a frequent one. My reply is Pitt except when they play the Bearcats. I am grateful that I was afforded the opportunity for an education at Pitt and was happy as a student and employee there.

Your magazine is well done and gives me interesting and important information about what is happening on campus and the activities of graduates and I look forward to receiving it.

DR. FRANK GRISPINO

Maryville, Mo.

Fan mail

I am so impressed with your magazine and so is everyone else that I show it to. My, what a professional publication. The usual comment is that "That must really must be a classy school."

Please continue to make us all proud with your work. It does impress others!

ROSS BAIRD

Players, coaches make us proud

I have to confess that I had not seen a Pitt State basketball game, men's or women's teams, since 1964. Yep, saw a couple in the old barn of a field house that has been long gone for decades. I can't even remember the name of the old place. I was a commuting student who graduated in 1966 (B.A), thus I was not too connected to the campus community.

This year, my wife, Connie, and I went downtown KC to watch the men and women play in the MIAA Tournament. I wanted to share with you that I was most impressed with the conduct of the players and coaches of both teams. They played with joy and energy. It

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



It's the highlight of our day, actually. We love getting notes from our readers, whether you're writing to share campus memories or to comment on stories you've read in the magazine. Your comments help us make the PittState Magazine better and they keep the conversation going with more than 60,000 alumni all over the globe. So sit down at your keyboard (or pick up a pen, if you still use one of those) and drop us a note.

Send your letters to psumag@pittstate.edu.

was great to see the men win that title on Sunday, but especially satisfying to see those Gorillas beat Northwest the day before!

As we observed the interaction of the PSU fans with the players and with each other it was good to sense the support so many of you feel and share with each other, and the strong feelings so many of you hold for this fine university.

Go Gorillas! We'll have to make it down to see the campus one of these days. My best to you all. By the way, we really enjoy the Pitt State Magazine.

JAN R. HAYEN

Lenexa, Kan.

(When you visit, Jan, you'll be amazed at John Lance Arena, home for volleyball and men's and women's basketball. And where the old gym once stood, there's an amazing new extension to the student center. The welcome mat's always out! – ed.)

Never too late to enroll

This particular issue (Spring 2015) was simply one of your best: readable and enjoyable from cover to cover.

I enrolled at Kansas State Teachers College the fall of 1946 and this PittState Magazine made me wish for the return of my youth and a chance to start all over again with you. Your university has come so far over the years and gives me nothing but pride that I had a part of my education on your campus.

Although my husband, Charles Tewell '48, recently died, I am hoping that I will still receive your high quality publication. Kudos and more!

BETTY WHITESITT TEWELL

(We're sorry to hear of your loss, Betty. We're thrilled you enjoy the magazine and hope you continue to enjoy it for many years to come! – ed.)

Best of BROADWAY



Pittsburg State University

Underwritten by Via Christi Hospital

Ticket information: bicknellcenter.com

NOVEMBER

22

2 p.m. and
7:30 p.m.

BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

ELVIS PRESLEY | JERRY LEE LEWIS | CARL PERKINS | JOHNNY CASH

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
INSPIRED BY THE ELECTRIFYING TRUE STORY

FEBRUARY

6

2 p.m. and
7:30 p.m.

MARCH

22

7:30 p.m.

NETworks presents

Disney's
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
THE SMASH HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL

Pittsburg State University is proud to present its first ever Best of Broadway Series, which begins this fall at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

This exciting, unique venture was made possible by a partnership between Pittsburg State and Via Christi Hospital.

Thanks to this partnership, Pittsburg State University and the City of Pittsburg are once again a destination for the biggest and best Broadway musicals in the nation!

‘Beethoven’ at home in the Bicknell Center

Ludwig van Beethoven seems right at home in the new Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. Since February, the famous composer has looked over the James S. and Treva J. Dawson Lobby, a gift of Robert D. and Gwendolyn Tyler.

The piece is a 1987 serigraph by Andy Warhol entitled “Beethoven, II. 390.”

“It was over 10 years ago that I first thought of purchasing a Beethoven print by Warhol for the university,” Tyler recalled at a ceremony to unveil the gift.

Tyler said he initially intended to donate the piece for display in McCray Hall, but the completion of the Bicknell Center provided the perfect place to install the art.

“It is perfect for this place,” Tyler said, noting not only the building’s modern design, but also its dedication to the fine arts.

President Scott called the Tylers’ gift, which now becomes part of the university’s permanent art collection, “extraordinary.”

“The Tylers have a long history of supporting the university and this gift... speaks volumes about their belief in our mission and of our university’s commitment to the arts,” Scott said.

“Beethoven, II. 390” is an artist’s proof – number 9 of 15 artist’s proofs created. The Ludwig van Beethoven portfolio was the last collection produced by Warhol before his death on Feb. 22, 1987.



Watch online video. 

Robert Tyler and
PSU President Steve Scott

Campus adjusts well to new tobacco policy

In January, Pittsburg State did something that no other four-year, regents’ institution in Kansas had ever done. It became tobacco-free. At the end of the spring semester, committee members responsible for implementing the new policy reviewed the results and they liked what they saw.

“The initial response has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Rita Girth, co-chair of the Tobacco Policy Task Force. “It’s encouraging to see not only acceptance, but support, from such a large portion of our campus.”

“When we started this process we had hoped to create a culture of acceptance and self-regulation,” said Jim Triplett, co-chair of the Tobacco Policy Task Force. “It appears as if this is taking root.”

Committee members said that because of the positive response to the new policy, they will continue to focus on active education and promotion rather than enforcement methods.

“Our campus seems to have taken ownership of the new policy,” said Triplett. “We want to continue our momentum and this seems like the best way.”

Watch online video. 

Outstanding Faculty

Pittsburg State University’s 2015 Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award recipients came to teaching in different ways, but they all share a passion about teaching that has earned them the respect of their students. This year’s Outstanding Faculty Award recipients are, Phillip Harries (Biology), Phil McNew (Engineering Technology), and Jeff Poe (Management and Marketing).

Watch online video. 



Phillip Harries



Phil McNew

Keeping the campus spic and span

There's a new face leading the hard working men and women who keep the campus looking good.

Tim Senecaut, who has more than 29 years of experience managing civilian and military staff, is the university's new director of custodial and general services. Senecaut began his duties on June 8 after the retirement of former director Wanda Endicott. Endicott dedicated 26 years to Pittsburg State including seven years as director of custodial and general services.

John Patterson, vice president for administration and finance, said Senecaut brings a great blend of experience in both the private and public sectors to the position.

Senecaut retired as an Army colonel after almost 29 years of military service including 25 years in personnel administration, facilities and environmental management, construction and engineering services and financial management. His career included assignments at the Pentagon and in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Tim Senecaut



Jeff Poe

Planting kicks off effort to catalog, expand campus trees

Call them tree huggers. They won't mind.

Members of Botanica and the Kansas Association of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens from Wichita celebrated Arbor Day and their love for trees by planting a tree at the Wilkinson Alumni Center.

R.O. "Dick" Weidenbach, a landscape architect from Wichita and the founder and chairman of the KAABG, said he has been organizing similar trips all across Kansas for 30 years, but this was the first to Pittsburg.

"You have a beautiful campus," Weidenbach said, as members of the PSU landscaping crew prepared the site for a Yoshino cherry tree. Cate Breneman, PSU's grounds maintenance supervisor, said the tree was selected for its prolific and fragrant blossoms.

Ken Bateman, a PSU alumnus and director emeritus of Alumni and Constituent Relations, led the group on its tour of campus. He said planting the tree was the first effort in a drive to identify, mark and expand the number of trees on the campus. Private gifts and grants will support that project.

Breneman said that as trees are added to the campus landscape in the coming months and years, particular attention will be paid to selecting species that are native to Kansas and are hardy in this region.



R.O. "Dick" Weidenbach, a landscape architect from Wichita and the founder and chairman of the KAABG, right, prepares to help plant a tree at PSU's Wilkinson Alumni Center.

Housing, student center projects wrap up

Two major construction projects are wrapping up just in time for the opening of the fall semester. The renovation of Nation Hall East and the expansion and renovation of the Overman Student Center will be complete when students arrive.

The Nation Hall East renovation is the final piece in a multi-year project to renovate every on-campus living space.

“The completion of Nation Hall renovation marks the conclusion of a critical effort to both revitalize and create new options for on-campus student housing,” said Steve Erwin, vice president for student life. “Beginning in 2000 with restoration of historic Willard Hall, the university has invested well over \$30 million to assure that students have safe, comfortable and modern accommodations to support them in their academic goals.”

The student center project includes an expanded, flexible ballroom with a sound system and acoustics for multiple types of programs; an expanded campus activities center complex; more student gathering and lounge spaces, additional meeting rooms and a bigger U-Club with new food options in the lower level.



Watch online video. 

Nation Hall renovation



Overman Student Center expansion



Pavers express Gorilla pride

Watch online video. 

Friends and families gathered near the University Lake this past spring to unveil the first installment of pavers in the new Champions Plaza, just outside the entrance to Gorilla Village.

It was a time to take pictures, for families to gather and to recall the important role that Pittsburg State University has played in the lives of generations of Gorillas.

The pavers honor athletes and non-athletes alike. The only criteria is that honorees are proud members of Gorilla Nation.

“Every paver within this plaza tells a story,” President Steve Scott said to those gathered. “The stories you’ll find in Champions Plaza go well beyond athletics into the very fabric of Pittsburg State University...alumni, students, fans, supporters.”

For information about ordering pavers for Champions Plaza, visit www.pittstate.edu/championsplaza.

Sandness named staff physician at Bryant Student Health Center

Kathleen Sandness' long relationship with Pitt State has gotten even stronger. Sandness, who has served as the contracting physician for PSU's Bryant Student Health Center since 2011, has been named staff physician at the health center.

"The opportunity to have Dr. Sandness join the staff of the Bryant Student Health Center is an exciting opportunity in the growth and development of that facility and the services offered to students," said Steve Erwin, vice president for student life. "Her years of experience, connection to the local medical community, continuing involvement with Via Christi, and desire to immerse herself in the world of college student health presents a unique combination of attributes that will serve the campus and students in significant ways."

"What an honor and privilege it is to come to PSU and to work at the Bryant Student Health Center!" Sandness said. "I look forward to working with the excellent staff here and continuing to deliver top quality mental and physical health care to our students."



Kathleen Sandness



Finding Gus Gorilla

Can you find the hidden Gus? Search this issue for the iconic bronze Gorilla created by Larry Wooster in 1965.

Email 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. One entry per person. **Entries must be received by November 1, 2015.** The winner will receive a hardbound copy of the university's book, "Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years."

Congratulations to Greg Preston, BSED, '83, principal at Soule Elementary in Dodge City, Kan., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Spring 2015 magazine!

Friends for life

Watch online video. 

There were undoubtedly many friends among the 1,270 members of this past spring's graduating class, but it's unlikely many had been together as long as a trio of women from Spring Hill, Kan.

Shannon Jesberg, Lenzi Sudduth, and Ellen Wieberg have been best buddies almost as long as they can remember.

Sudduth and Wieberg met at Happy House pre-school when they were two.

"It was friendship at first sight," Wieberg said.

Jesberg made it a trio when she met the others through rec sports. Since then, they've been pretty near inseparable. High school graduation almost sent them in different directions as each had offers at other universities. In the end, however, it came down to the PSU Honors College, where each of the women was offered a scholarship and each decided individually that PSU was the best choice for them.

Now, as they always expected, the three women's paths have diverged. Sudduth, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing, went to work at Overland Park Regional Hospital. Jesberg, who received a bachelor's degree in social work, has been accepted into a social work master's degree program at UMKC. Wieberg, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication, will spend a year working on a communications fellowship focusing on leadership and diversity. She has been accepted into the media and public relations masters program at Leicester University in England and eventually hopes to have a career with a non-profit organization.

The three friends are confident their bonds will endure any tests of time and distance.

"We stick together," Jesberg said.



(left to right):
Ellen Wieberg,
Lenzi Sudduth
and Shannon
Jesberg

Fall 2015 Fine Arts Calendar

Check the calendar on Pitt State's homepage, www.pittstate.edu, for the latest additions and changes to the calendar as well as additional details about specific events.

Art

Contact rshand@pittstate.edu or call 620-235-4302 for more information.

University Gallery

Porter Hall

Aug. 24 - Nov. 5 - Cory Peeke,
"A Higher Education"

Sept. 5: Artist Talk: 3 p.m.;
Reception: 4 - 6 p.m.

Nov. 16 - Feb. 6 - Daniel Hunt,
"Lucky Feet, Magic Holes"

Nov. 13: Artist Talk: 3 p.m.;
Reception: 4 - 6 p.m.

Harry Krug Gallery

Porter Hall

Sept. 14 - Jan. 8

**Highlights from Pittsburg State
University Permanent Collection**

Sept. 17: Curator's Talk: Dr. Li-Lin
Tseng: 3 p.m.; Reception: 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 14 - Oct. 22

Art Connectors Community Gallery

Radial Design: Sacred Circles

Sept. 19

Family Art Day

1 - 4 p.m.



Music

For ticket information and prices go to:
www.pittstate.edu/ticket or call
620-235-4796

Sept. 11 - Solo & Chamber Music Series:
Windsync, McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 18 - PSU Choirs Madrigal Dinner
Overman Student Center, 6 p.m.

Oct. 1 - PSU Wind Ensemble
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 - PSU Jazz Ensembles
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 11 - 12 - Midwest Trumpet Festival
Bicknell Center and McCray Hall

Oct. 15 - Southeast Kansas Symphony
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m..

Oct. 16 - Solo & Chamber Music Series:
Chamber Orchestra Kremlin
McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 29 - PSU Chamber Orchestra with
the Pittsburg Multigenerational Choir**
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m..

Nov. 6 - PSU Choirs
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 13 - Solo & Chamber Music Series:
Jason Vieaux, guitar
McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 19 - PSU Jazz Ensembles and the
KMEA District II honors jazz ensemble**
Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

**Nov. 20 - 22 - Southeast Kansas
Symphony & The Midwest Regional
Ballet** present *The Nutcracker*
Pittsburg Memorial Hall

Dec. 2 - Annual Holiday Luncheon
with the PSU Choirs
Overman Student Center, 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 2 & 4 - Timmons Concert
Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 6 - Holiday Concert
Bicknell Center, 2 p.m.

PALS

Performing Arts & Lecture Series

For ticket information and prices go to:
www.pittstate.edu/ticket or call
620-235-4796

Aug. 31

The Filharmonic Acapella Group
Bicknell Center, Linda & Lee Scott
Performance Hall, 7:30 p.m.,

Sept. 21

**The Todrick Hall Experience
featuring Todrick Hall**
Bicknell Center, Linda & Lee Scott
Performance Hall, 8 p.m.

Theatre

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

Oct 22 - 25

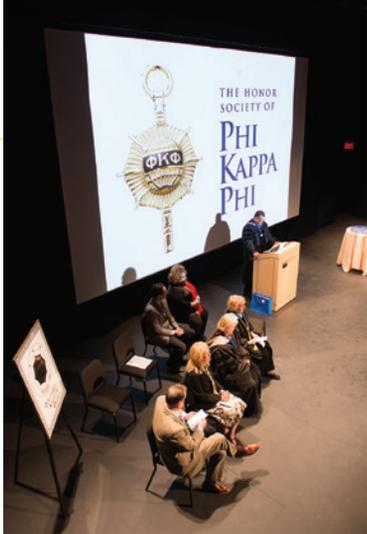
Charlotte's Web
adapted by Joseph Robinette/
based on the book by E.B. White/
directed by Megan Westhoff;
Bicknell Center, Miller Theater,
Thurs. - Sat.: 7:30 p.m.;
Sat. & Sun. matinees: 2 p.m.

Feb 25 - 28, 2016

The Merry Wives of Windsor
by William Shakespeare/
directed by Gil Cooper;
Bicknell Center, Miller Theater;
Thurs. - Sat.: 7:30 p.m.;
Sat. & Sun. matinees: 2 p.m.

April 21 - 24, 2016

The Shape of Things
by Neil LaBute/
directed by Caitie Almond;
Bicknell Center, Miller Theater;
Thurs - Sat.: 7:30 p.m.;
Sat. & Sun. matinees: 2 p.m.



Bicknell Center has rousing first season

The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts got off to a rousing start with its inaugural season in 2014-15. The facility's two performance halls were hopping with prominent speakers like Former First Lady Laura Bush and exciting national entertainment like STOMP. The fall and spring semesters brought a steady stream of entertainment of all types including Las Vegas pianist and alumnus David Osborne, "Pianist to the Presidents," the Southeast Kansas Symphony; the U.S. Air Force Academy Band; the illusionist REZA; PSU Theatre's production of "Eurydice;" the PSU Choirs; and many more.

Bicknell Center Director Joe Firman said he expects the hectic pace to continue.

"We're just getting a taste of what this amazing facility can do for PSU and the four-state region," Firman said.

For the latest information on events scheduled at the Bicknell Center, visit their website, www.bicknellcenter.com, look for them on Facebook or call 620-235-4536.

The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts is located at 1711 S. Homer in Pittsburg.

Watch online video. 





Scott joins DI athletics summit

President Steve Scott was chosen to join a group of college and university leaders who met to build the foundation for the future of college sports.

Scott joined college presidents, athletics administrators, faculty and students from across the nation at the NCAA Division I Strategic Summit Aug. 4-5. He was one of just three Division II reps to be invited to the summit.

While the summit focused on DI challenges and opportunities, DII and DIII leaders were also asked to participate. Scott said he was honored to be invited to the summit and enjoyed being a part of conversations about the future of amateur athletics.

“The NCAA is at a crossroad in its history. I’m pleased to be included in the discussions that are likely to shape collegiate athletics for the coming decade. It’s important for DII to be represented,” Scott said. “For Pittsburg State to be represented was certainly good for the university.”

I’m pleased to be included in the discussions that are likely to shape collegiate athletics for the coming decade.

—President Steve Scott

Part of history

Two Gorillas were inducted into halls of fame, ensuring they will be remembered for years to come.

All-America football player and track & field star Brian Moorman was selected for induction into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. He became the first four-time All-American football player in school history (1995-98), and was named to PSU’s prestigious 100th Anniversary Football Team in 2003. In track & field he earned All-America honors on 10 occasions, including three straight national championships in the 400-meter hurdles (1997-99).

Moorman played 14 seasons in the NFL, including stints with the Seahawks, Bills and Dallas Cowboys, he earned two Pro Bowl selections as a punter.

Women’s basketball alumna Leslie (Dudley) Morrow was inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame. Morrow played for the Gorillas from 1997-2000. During that time, she set school records for scoring and free throws and also compiled more than 500 career rebounds and 500 career assists. She was the 1997 MIAA Freshman of the Year and the 2000 Ken B. Jones Award winner.



Brian Moorman



Leslie (Dudley) Morrow



John Patterson, left, receives a lifetime achievement award from NACUBO president and CEO John Walda.

National group honors Patterson

Over the past 25 years, John Patterson, vice president for administration and finance, has managed the business and financial operations at PSU. In July, the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) recognized Patterson with its highest award for his “outstanding contributions to business and financial management in higher education.”

In honoring Patterson with its Distinguished Business Officer award, NACUBO noted that during his tenure at PSU, enrollment and staff figures have increased 27 and 37 percent, respectively, and as treasurer of the university’s foundation, total assets rose from \$9 million to \$84 million.

Patterson said the honor was as much for the university as for him.

“There are more than 3,000 institutions of higher learning in this country. For Pitt State to be the only institution to be recognized this year is truly meaningful,” Patterson said. “I appreciate the efforts put forth by our students, employees, alumni, and friends in making PSU a special place.”

Bicknell Family Center for the Arts

2015 Fall Performances

Aug. 27 Gorilla Radio presents: Zero 2 Panic..... 6 p.m.
 Aug. 31 PALS presents: The Filharmonic 7:30 p.m.
 Sept. 10..... Gorilla Radio presents: Uncountable Kings... 6 p.m.
 Sept.14 Faculty Voice Recital: Stella Hastings 7:30 p.m.
 Sept. 21..... PALS presents: The Todrick Hall Experience 8 p.m.
 Sept. 30 BFCFA presents Dallas Brass..... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 1 PSU Wind Ensemble Concert..... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 5 PSU Jazz Ensemble Concert..... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 8 Gorilla Radio presents:
 Sextonic Plates & Lunar Headz 6 p.m.
 Oct. 11-12.. Midwest Trumpet Festival 7:30 p.m.
 Oct.15..... SEK Symphony 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 18 BFCFA presents MET Rising Stars..... 7:30 pm
 Oct. 22 PSU Theatre presents: Charlotte's Web ... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 22 BFCFA presents Hot Sardines..... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 23 PSU Theatre presents: Charlotte's Web ... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct.24 PSU Theatre presents:
 Charlotte's Web 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 25 PSU Theatre presents:
 Charlotte's Web 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 29 PSU Chamber Orchestra & The Pittsburg
 Multigenerational – String Madness..... 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 30 Gorilla Radio presents:
 Southbound 69 & Burning Tide 6:00 p.m.
 Nov. 6 PSU Choral Concert..... 7:30 p.m.
 Nov. 9 Gorilla Radio presents: Starnoise & 17 years. 6 p.m.
 Nov. 12 Gorilla Radio presents:
 Jonah Corn & Megan McCoy 6 p.m.
 Nov. 19 PSU Jazz Concert 7:30
 Nov. 22 PSU Best of Broadway Series:
 Mamma Mia! 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Dec. 6 PSU Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert 2 p.m.
 Dec. 9 PSU Holly Jolly Tubas Christmas Concert 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburg State University

Bicknell Family
 Center for the Arts
*For performance times and ticket
 information go to BicknellCenter.com*

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Advertisement Features Pittsburg State University Students

“Where in the World is Gus?”



Desert Gorilla- Retired Army Major General, Jay Hood, ('75) and wife, Lynne, along with a camel friend, enjoy the desert life on the edge of The Arabian Peninsula's "Empty Quarter," while visiting the Qasr Al Sarab Resort in the United Arab Emirates.



At Pisa- Phillip Kubler (MS '60) shows his Gorilla pride near the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Pisa, Italy, in January.



In the Caribbean- Steven Barker (BA '09) and Shauna (Hillman) Barker (BSN '08) and son Caden show their Gorilla pride while on a family cruise to the Dominican Republic.



Gorillas on vacation-

St Louis is the home for the Gorilla family of Scott (BSET '95) and Misi (BS '94, MS '95) Holmberg and son Gavin, who sent us this vacation pic from their vacation to Atlantis in Nassau, Bahamas. Scott works as a senior design engineer for Tacony Corp. and Misi works as a senior benefits manager for Panera Bread. Future Gorilla Gavin is in middle school.



Royal Gorillas- Doug Eaton (BSBA '76); Jan Heck Eaton (BSEd '75); Kerri Vena Ptacek (MSEd '09); Linda Martin Vena (BSEd '75) and Mick Vena (BSEd '74; MSEd '76) met in Surprise, Ariz., over spring break to watch the defending American League Champion Kansas City Royals in action.

Class of '72- Patti Nutt, Stephen Nutt, Judy Becker and Howard Becker show their Gorilla pride at the Grand Canyon.



Tell us what interesting places Gus has visited.
E-mail your photo & a brief story to psumag@pittstate.edu



On the streets of London- John R. (BSED '74, MS '76, EdS '82) and Dianna (BS '74) Baker are proud Gorillas on the streets of London, where they went to celebrate their 40th anniversary. Congrats!

Hawaiian Gorillas-

If there's a reason Gorillas Randy and Debbie Cook look relaxed, it's because they're in Maui, where they made sure they included some Pitt State attire with their beachwear.



Gorillas in Haiti- Bill Simms (Class of '60) and his wife, Betty, show their Gorilla pride in Labadee, Haiti. Bill recommends riding the Dragon's Breath Flight Line, billed as the world's longest zip line over water.

Following the Vikings- Hal (BS '65, MS '68, EdS '83) and Karen Shute (BS '67) may be the first Gorillas to follow the Voyage of the Vikings. They paused during their chilly voyage to show their Gorilla pride in the icy waters of Nanortalik, Greenland.



At the Colosseum- Dennis Browne ('75), Joe Sachen ('75) and Kerry Regan ('85) tour the Colosseum in Rome. The three were on a group tour that started with Octoberfest in Munich, Germany, continued through Croatia, and ended up in Rome.

'Ciao' from Italy- Gorillas Jerry and Marilyn James and Glenda and Paul Uttley show their Gorilla pride near the Leaning Tower of Pisa. They visited Venice, Rome, Naples and Livorno in Italy as well as numerous sites in Greece, Turkey, France and Spain.



Gorillas love the beach- While not their native habitat, Gorillas love the beach, as demonstrated by Richard Bretches (BSBA, '68) and wife, Marla, on Coral Beach on Grand Bahama Island. Both are retired from State Farm Insurance.

“Where in the World is Gus?”

More Where in the World is Gus photos at: magazine.pittstate.edu

At the Great Wall-
Gorillas Cathy Lee Arcuino and Melinda Roelfs are great PSU ambassadors on China’s Great Wall.



Blue Gorilla- Steve Rother ('72) didn't have any Gorilla wear to display, but he assures us he was full of Gorilla pride when he met this Blue Gorilla, at Railyard Park in Santa Fe, N.M. The Blue Gorilla, made of recycled car doors, is 13 feet tall and weighs 900 lbs.



Gorilla anniversary-
Gorillas Doug and Rita Girth made sure to take their Gorilla pride with them to celebrate their 35th anniversary at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. *Congratulations!*

Pittsburg State University
www.pittstate.edu

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Big building; Big impact

IT'S CLEARLY A BIG BUILDING, but the Robert W. Plaster Center's location, away from the street and tucked behind the Weede Physical Education Building, makes it easy to underestimate the most recent addition to the campus.

"Visitors' reactions are almost always the same," said Tom Myers, associate athletics director for facilities. "Stepping inside the door sort of takes their breath away."

The official dedication of the Plaster Center in April drew hundreds of campus and community members who all have a stake in the new building and all expect it to have an impact to match its size.

President Steve Scott referenced that shared interest in his remarks to the crowd. He pointed out that the Plaster Center was funded through a partnership of private donors, student fees, support from the county and a \$5 million investment from the City of Pittsburg.

"The strength of this university is not in its buildings but in those who helped make them possible," said PSU President Steve Scott. "Our strength lies in the relationships we've been able to forge with our students, alumni, community and donors."

Speaking on behalf of the city of Pittsburg, commissioner Monica Murnan said the decision to invest in the Plaster Center was unlike any the commission had been asked to consider previously.

"The university's proposal made us pause to consider exactly what a facility like this would mean for Pittsburg," Murnan said. "Both parties, the city and the university, worked together to develop a plan that fit the needs of our community and its campus."

For its part, the city hopes to attract visitors to the community by hosting things like boat and RV shows. The university, meanwhile, has already been chosen to host the 2016 and 2018 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's National Track Championships and the 2017 and 2019 NJCAA National Championships, all of which will also attract visitors to the community.

The Plaster Center is named in honor of the late Robert W. Plaster, founder of Empire Gas. Plaster's daughter, Dolly Clement, represented the family and the Robert W. Plaster Foundation at the dedication.

continued



President Steve Scott and officials representing students, the city, the Kansas Board of Regents, the PSU Foundation and the Robert W. Plaster family join to cut the ribbon at the Robert W. Plaster Center.

Plaster Center details

Harvey Dean Track

- 300 meters
- Mondo Super X Performance surface (used in the Olympic Games)
- retractable seating

Artificial turf field

- 100-yard field
- Mondoturf surface
- complete automatic netting system

ProMaxima Strength and Conditioning Center

- 11,000 square feet
- 1,200 individual pieces of equipment
- more than 20,000 pounds of free weights
- Freeman Health Fueling Station
- wide-screen monitors

Crown Automotive Video Board

- 16 feet by 29 feet
- 10 mm pixels for HD
- six remote camera stations

Track & Field/Cross Country Locker Rooms

- 96 lockers in two rooms
- advanced ventilation systems
- made by Hollman, the nation's premiere athletic locker manufacturer

Track & Field/Cross Country Offices

- Offices for Men's & Women's head coaches & assistants
- reception room
- conference & team meeting room

Football Locker Room

- 125 lockers by Hollman
- advanced ventilation system
- multimedia room

Special amenities

- On-site catering kitchen
- control room to operate sound system and video board
- equipment and laundry room
- storage and staging room



Dr. Dolly Clement, executive director, Plaster Foundation



Track taught life lessons

One of the most impressive features in the Robert W. Plaster Center is the 300-meter track, one of the finest in the U.S., and it bears the name of alumnus Harvey Dean.

Dean, CEO of Pitsco, Inc., is a longtime supporter of Pittsburg State and has donated to a wide variety of causes on campus. He said he chose to make a major gift for the track because it was a project that reminded him not only of his early days in education, but also of the lessons he learned that would influence the business model he still uses today.

“I was 22 and right out of college, teaching at a small junior high and high school,” Dean recalled. “They didn’t have a track program and I started one. We didn’t even have a track. They just ran around the football field.”

The first year was hard.

“I was a miserable failure and almost all of the kids quit,” Dean said.

But Dean didn’t give up. He reached out to legendary coach Bob Timmons for advice and then developed a coaching system that provided advice and support, but put the responsibility for success on each individual.

The students responded and success followed. In his fourth and final year at the school, his team was runner-up for the state championship.

Dean said he took the things he learned from these early years and has incorporated them into his philosophy for running a successful company and even into the development of some of the company’s most successful products.

Since Dean founded Pitsco in 1971, more than 160 million students have experienced science, technology, engineering and math products purchased from the company. Dean was named Entrepreneur of the Year by Inc., magazine and in 2012, Pitsco was selected the Governor’s Exporter of the Year for the state of Kansas. Dean received the Small Press Book Award for his book, “Changing Education.”

continued



Harvey Dean, left, shares a moment with PSU Head Track Coach Russ Jewett.

Just how big is the Plaster Center?

The main athletics portion of the Plaster Center, which includes the Harvey Dean Track and the indoor practice field, measures approximately 450 feet by 275 feet. To put it in perspective, the space is 40 feet longer than the center field wall in Kauffman Stadium. It’s big enough to park two Boeing 787 Dreamliners, nose-to-tail, although getting them out might be a problem.



The ProMaxima Strength and Conditioning Center will serve student athletes from every sport.

A testament to hard work

The ProMaxima Strength and Conditioning Center, overlooking the Plaster Center field and track, is a testament to one Pitt State alum's belief in hard work and planning.

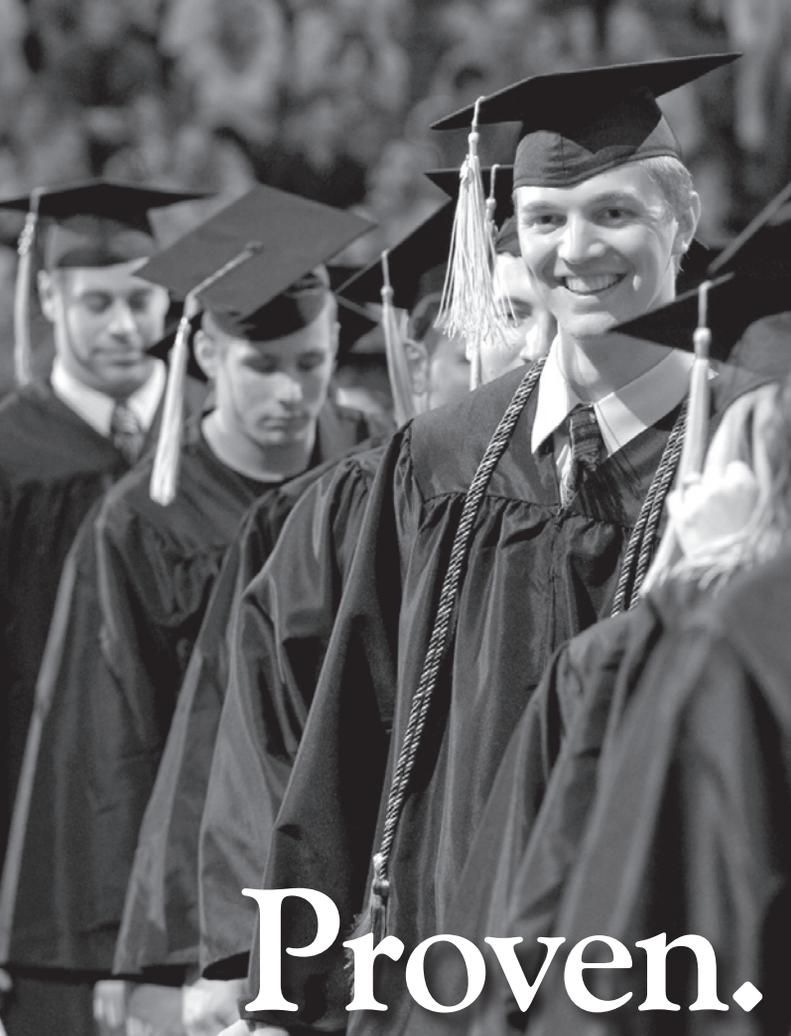
Bob Leppke (BS 1969) is the owner and founder of ProMaxima Fitness in Houston, Texas. Over the past 45 years, Leppke has built the company into one of the top names in commercial fitness equipment for college and high schools, the U.S. military, police and fire departments, hotels and health clubs.

“Bob is a big believer in hard work and strategic planning,” said Kendall Gammon, special assistant to the president. “It’s how he built his business, and why ProMaxima is an industry leader. When he saw the scope of the project and the level of support it had from our community, he knew he wanted his Gorillas to use ProMaxima equipment.”

Encompassing more than 11,000 square feet of space, the ProMaxima Strength and Conditioning Center is more than triple the size of PSU’s previous center. •

A massive graphic design proclaiming Gorilla Nation greets visitors to the Robert W. Plaster Center. At right, lockers honor PSU’s two Harlon Hill Award recipients, Ronnie West and Ronald Moore.





Proven. Promise.

Pitt State.

Pittsburg State alumni and friends believe in the power of education, understand the importance of hard work and share a commitment to helping others. Our focus on academic excellence, artistic expression and advanced research cultivates future leaders and lifts our region. Philanthropy is an important part of our success.

We're proud to announce the launch of our new campaign—**Proven. Promise. Pitt State.**

Focusing on student success and faculty excellence, this \$55 million campaign will allow Pittsburg State to remain a destination of choice for the next generation of Gorillas.



PROVEN. PROMISE. PITT STATE.
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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First-generation grad fulfills a promise



I wanted to grow and challenge myself. Higher education is one of the best ways to do that.”
– Shontae Cobb

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, SHONTAE COBB MADE A PROMISE TO HER grandfather. This year she kept it and in the process set an example for her four siblings and many others she may never know.

“When I was in first grade, my grandfather came to my school for Grandparents Day,” Cobb said. “He always told me that I told him that day that I’d be the first one in our family to graduate from college.”

In May, Cobb proudly walked across the stage to receive her diploma, a bachelor’s degree in construction management. That walk was a big step in a journey that was not always easy.

“Growing up in the inner city (Kansas City, Mo.) and seeing so many people who had never gone to college, I just knew that life needed to be different for me,” she said. “I wanted to get out of that environment. I wanted to grow and challenge myself. Higher education is one of the best ways to do that.”

At PSU, Cobb not only excelled, but was a leader. She worked to recruit more women into the field and helped charter the student Women in Construction group, serving as its first president. She was also the first president of the southeast Kansas chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction.

“We want women to know that you can go into construction management and still be feminine,” Cobb said. “You can still be a woman.”

Cobb hopes her hard work and ultimate success serve as a model for her younger siblings.

“I want them to see me do this and know that anything is possible,” said Cobb, “I want them to know that there is a big world outside of the inner city and that it can be theirs if they work for it.”

After graduation, Cobb headed for Chicago to join Walsh Construction as a project engineer.

“I want to take a risk,” she said. “I want to get out of my comfort zone and see where the world takes me.”

Wherever that is, Cobb said, she’ll always be thinking of Pitt State.

“This place is amazing,” she said. “It truly is. The professors and instructors here take you in immediately and help you in any way they can. They become your family while you’re here. There is no place I would rather have earned this degree than Pittsburg State.” •

Called to serve

WHEN RICH HILL, MISSOURI, NATIVE ASHLEY ARWOOD first enrolled at Pitt State in 2005, she had dreams of becoming a P.E. teacher. And for two years, that's what she was on track to do. But Arwood felt "a calling" that just wouldn't go away. Choosing to follow that call would change Arwood's life in ways she could have never expected.

School was going fine, Arwood said. She liked her teachers and enjoyed life at Pitt State, but something kept nagging at her.

"I just felt while I was in school I wasn't doing anything (significant)," Arwood said. "I felt like I was stagnant."

Military service was a tradition in her family and when Arwood's younger brother decided to join the Marines in 2007, Ashley knew that's what she wanted, too.

At the end of her sophomore year, Arwood left PSU and entered the Marines where she trained to become a military police officer and a K9 handler. Initially, she was paired with an experienced explosive detection dog, Alma.

In 2009, Arwood got a second working dog, Hugo, who was just a year old, and the two bonded almost instantly.

"Hugo's a beautiful dog – all black, probably about 75 pounds or so and muscle-bound. He's a big baby until it's business time," Arwood said.

Arwood and Hugo trained day and night until November 2009, when Arwood became the first female Marine K9 handler to deploy to Afghanistan, where they led patrols, successfully seeking out improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Hugo's sharp skills couldn't protect the Marines from the rocket-propelled grenade launched in 2010. Although Hugo was not injured in the explosion, Arwood soon began to feel the effects of the blast. She returned to the U.S. where she had a series of surgeries on her leg, followed by months and months of rehab.

"That was probably the hardest and most painful," Arwood said. "We're doing better, now. I'm finally getting back to where I can run for short bouts...That's a vast improvement. I was 24 years old and walking with a cane."

The experience caused Arwood to rethink her

career. She returned to PSU and earned her bachelor's degree in physical education in May. This fall Arwood began work on a master's degree in special education and she hopes to become an adaptive P.E. teacher.

"I have a whole new appreciation for children who have to learn things in a different way," Arwood said. "My experiences, seeing wounded veterans, having my own wounds and having learned how to deal with it and make the best of it – it definitely changed my perspective."

Today the future looks bright for Arwood. She and her husband, Tyler, also a former Marine, have a daughter, Alli, who is three.

Arwood said a day doesn't go by that she doesn't think of Hugo, who is still serving in Afghanistan. She hopes to adopt him when he finishes his military service.

"There is nothing in this world that I would want more than to bring him home and spoil him rotten in his retirement," Arwood said. "The moment he's ready to come home I'll be on a plane to get him." •



Ashley Arwood works with students in a PE class in Nevada, Mo., where she did her student teaching (top). At right, she takes a break with her dog, Hugo, while on duty in Afghanistan.

‘Having people who believe in me has made all the difference’

“HAVING PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN me has made all the difference,” said David Schlee, his voice filling with emotion.

In May, Schlee was one of about 1,270 students who earned degrees from PSU. In fact, Schlee walked in two different ceremonies. On Friday, Schlee joined classmates in the College of Arts and Sciences to receive a bachelor’s degree in biology. He returned on Saturday to walk with the College of Education to receive his degree in exercise science. He also had a minor in chemistry.

This is a day, Schlee said, that seemed unimaginable not long ago.

“Never in a million years,” Schlee said of his prospects of becoming a college graduate.

For most of his childhood, Schlee was on a very different path. He grew up in the inner city in Kansas City, Mo., and although both of his parents were college-educated professionals, Schlee never had much interest in school.

“I was always the guy who was smart, but never applied himself,” Schlee said. “I was a very apathetic person.”

As a young teen, he hung out with the wrong crowd. There were suspensions and the daily grind of high school became increasingly intolerable. Midway through his sophomore year, Schlee dropped out.

It was economics that initially drove Schlee to earn his GED and then to explore the possibility of going on to earn a college degree. He attended a PITT C.A.R.E.S. advisement and

David Schlee’s big smile at commencement reflects his joy on a day he thought would never come.

enrollment session at PSU, his father’s alma mater, and left thinking PSU might be the right choice. He made the decision on the ride home.

Initially, Schlee was interested in something related to physical education or even physical therapy. He settled on the new exercise science program because he had always had an interest in science.

Well on his way to earning that degree, Schlee discovered a new passion in a general biology course.

“I was just blown away by this stuff,” Schlee said.

Virginia Rider, Schlee’s adviser in the Biology Department, said it was clear Schlee had found his special interest.

“He got interested in the material,” Rider said. “He was one of the best students I had in Development and it’s a really hard class.”

Schlee had discovered the joy of learning. Something else was happening, too.

“I’ve changed a lot in school,” Schlee said. “I’ve figured out I really like people and I like helping people. Maybe it is a little more maturity.”

One of the Pitt State experiences that had a big impact on Schlee was accompanying PSU Biology Professor



Mandy Peak on a trip to work in a clinic in Peru in the summer of 2013.

Seeing the children in the orphanage was like a slap in the face, said Schlee, who was born in Korea and adopted by his American parents when he was just a few months old.

“I was an orphan,” Schlee said. “I could have been left in the street. I cried a lot there in the orphanage.”

Schlee has been accepted into the master’s in public health program at the University of Kansas and hopes to earn admission to medical school. Wherever life takes him, he said, he knows he wants to return to the inner city to make a difference in the lives of kids just like him.

“I worry that I’ve disappointed my parents sometimes,” Schlee said, pausing for long seconds. “I’m amazed to be here and I’m so proud of myself. Never in a million years...” •

Gorillas with stripes

ON JUST ABOUT EVERY WEEKEND THIS FALL, YOU’LL find Gorillas on the football field, but these aren’t the DII powerhouse Gorillas who play in Carnie Smith Stadium or even those Gorillas who star on Sundays for the NFL. These Gorillas wear stripes.

“We do seem to have more than our share of Gorillas in the higher ranks of officiating,” said Mark Stewart (BS ’91), an NCAA football official in the Big 12, Mountain West and Southland Conferences. “That shouldn’t really be a surprise. There are lots of Gorillas excelling in all fields.”

Maybe it’s something in the game-day atmosphere in Carnie Smith Stadium. Whatever the cause, a long line of Pitt State alumni have risen through the ranks of football officials to be regarded as some of the best in the country.

Their stories vary, but in every case, these men share a love for sport and in particular, football.

“I loved the games, I grew up playing football, basketball and baseball and that’s what my friends and I did all year long,” said Mark Hittner, a 1979 grad who begins his 18th year officiating in the NFL this fall. “Whatever sport was in season, we were playing.”

Joe Blubaugh, a 1997 grad who has been a Big 12 official since 2005, said he loved playing football, but when his playing days were over, something was missing.

“There was kind of a void without sports,” Blubaugh said.

Almost all of the Gorillas in stripes say their officiating careers began with a little serendipity.

For Phil Laurie, a 1970 grad who worked as a football official in the Big 8 and Big 12 for 24 seasons before being named supervisor of MIAA officials in 2008, it was a call from his brother who needed another man to fill out an officiating crew for a high school football game.

Stewart said it was the neighbor of a co-worker in Texas who got him into officiating.

“I missed the competitive aspects and camaraderie of actual team sports,” Stewart said. “Officiating was a way for me to get back into that part of the game.”

Tom Stephan (BBA ’80), who is beginning his 17th year with the NFL after 6 years

with the Big 12, said he got his start as an official because of a course on Rules and Officiating taught by Cliff Long. One of the requirements was to work three junior high games.

“I enjoyed working these games and, due to a shortage of officials at the time, was soon getting phone calls to sub in for more games,” Stephan said. “Officiating was now in my blood.”

Hittner added that for a college student, officiating junior high sports helped pay the bills.

“The pay was better per hour than you could get anywhere else and I loved the game and the kids,” Hittner said.

It’s been decades, but all of the Gorilla officials say they are as passionate about the game today as when they were kids. They just have a different perspective.

“I love the atmosphere, the give and take of the flow of the game, the opportunity to make the right call when it is presented to me,” Hittner said. “It is such a thrill every week, to step on the field in the NFL.”

Stephan agreed and added, “Each and every game presents another set of challenges to conquer. You have to be prepared and have confidence in yourself to be able to look a coach or player in the eye and explain a difficult call that may not have gone his way.”

“I still get butterflies before I walk on the field,” Blubaugh said. “Hopefully, that’ll never stop.” •



Mark Hittner, a 1979 PSU grad, begins his 18th year officiating in the NFL this fall.



First doctoral students hit the books

The university's first doctoral students, 16 eager students in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing's new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, hit the books over the summer. Before they could get up to their ears in study, however, there was time for lunch and a brief celebration of this historic event.

"This really is a historic day," said Mary Carol Pomatto, director of the School of Nursing. "It is the culmination of many years of planning and preparation and the beginning of a new chapter in Pittsburg State University's already rich history of nursing education."

Siblings Patricia Sullivan, a nurse practitioner in Pittsburg; and her brother, Shawn Raymond, a nurse practitioner in Eureka, Kan., are both in this first cohort.

"She kind of pushed me," Raymond said of his sister. "She had been talking about it for a long time and finally, a few months ago, I decided to do it."

Sullivan and Raymond both have multiple degrees from PSU.

For more on PSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice program, visit the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing website at www.pittstate.edu/nursing and click on the Doctor of Nursing practice link.

Off to change the world

Not long after she and more than 1,250 of her classmates picked up their diplomas this spring, Natalie Black was off to make the world a better place, starting with Nepal, which was devastated by an earthquake in April.

Black, a native of Mound City, Kan., earned a degree in family and consumer sciences with an early childhood emphasis, but she had known for a long time that she wouldn't be following the typical career path that others with her degree follow.

"I knew what Jesus was telling me to do," said Black, who went on her first mission trip when she was just 13.

Over the years, Black has served in several countries, including Nepal in 2014, where she completed an FCS early childhood internship, teaching art to young children.

Black always expected to return to Nepal, but the earthquake is making the work she expects to do even more meaningful.

"The main focus will be helping the villagers rebuild," she said.



Natalie Black

National impact

For Mary Carol Pomatto, director of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, the appointment to a national board is a big opportunity. Pomatto was one of two



Mary Carol Pomatto

members named to the Ascension Health Senior Care national board of directors earlier this year.

"It is an opportunity to lead the transformation of delivery of senior health care in the U.S.," Pomatto said.

Ascension Health Senior Care offers programs tailored to meet the needs of older adults across the U.S. Pittsburg's Via Christi Hospital is one of Ascension Health's 34 ministries located in 11 states and the District of Columbia.

A lot of hardware

PSU student broadcasters hauled in a record number of awards at the 2015 Kansas Association of Broadcasters awards ceremony.

The tally included a dozen first-place awards, seven second-place awards and 11 honorable-mention awards. Director of Broadcasting Troy Comeau said it's the most awards in the most categories that PSU has won.

"We have really put an emphasis on the idea that students should get a variety of experiences in the broadcast field," Comeau said. "This diversity will make our students more marketable in the workplace and being recognized in the various categories really makes me proud of the work our students have done this year."



First production in Bicknell Center

Watch online video. 

Alexander Warstler (Orpheus) and Lindsey Lockhart (Eurydice), rehearse a scene from Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice," which was the first production in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts' Dotty and Bill Miller Theater this past spring.

Toys for sale

Shoppers came to the Oval in April to snatch up one-of-a-kind toys. The sale, by students in the class "Toy Design," was a collaborative effort by Portico Bowman, from the Department of Art, and Norm Philipp, from the School of Construction.

Bowman said the class taught students to blend art and design with technology like 3-D printing and computer programming in ways that engage children.

Profits from the sale went to the Safehouse crisis center.

The creations include Lisa Bogart's "Fidget Jewelry," which promises to entertain children with ADHD; Charles Breedlove's "Invento, The Electric Wizard," which introduces children to coding and electronics; Ashley Warner's "Labyrinthium," a game of strategy; Christen Wheat's card action game "Wait What?!" and more.

Senior Blane Siebert, Stillwell, Kan., offered his toy creation, "Little Riders," for just \$15.



Teaching is her passion



This fall, Cynthia Huffman began her 21st year of teaching mathematics at PSU. She said she loves her job today just as much, if not more, than ever before.

Cynthia Huffman

Huffman's passion for teaching is one of the reasons she has received the Kansas Section of the Mathematical Association of America Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The award recognizes university or college mathematics teachers "who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful."

"As a student at Pitt State, I was influenced by wonderful professors who instilled a love of learning within me," Huffman said. "Now I am blessed to work with great colleagues as we try to continue that legacy. So many of our students are going on to make a difference in the world and that makes me very proud."

Huffman said one of her goals in every class she teaches is to open students' minds to the broader world around them.

"I believe it is important to expose college students to new ideas and concepts in order to help them become better problem solvers and better equipped to succeed at their careers," Huffman said.

Huffman credits her parents for much of her inspiration to teach.

"My mom was an elementary school teacher and my father (Wilmer Huffman) was an accounting professor at Pitt State," Huffman said. "I come from a family of teachers so it's sort of the family business."



Ryan Bevins

CFO of the Year

A Pitt State grad is among the top chief financial officers in the Kansas City area, according to the Kansas City Business Journal.

Ryan Bevins, a 2003 graduate who double-majored in accounting and finance, was selected by the Journal as one of 10 CFOs of the Year in the KC region. Bevins is in his first year as CFO at Sioux Chief Manufacturing in Peculiar, Mo.

Bevins is one of four CFOs honored in the category of for-profit industries with at least \$100 million in annual revenue.

“It’s really pretty crazy to see your name on a list with some elite company,” Bevins said. “I really don’t think it has set in yet. This is just my first year as a CFO, so to be recognized in this way is quite an honor.”

Bevins previously served in the controller position at Sioux Chief. Before moving to the KC area, he worked as director of accounting for NPC International in Pittsburg.

He said his education from Pittsburg State has helped him succeed in his professional career.

“The professors I had in Pitt State’s Kelce College of Business were just phenomenal,” he said. “Dr. Reding and Dr. O’Byran, in particular, were very helpful to me, but there were also many others who had an impact on my life. They not only prepared me for the classwork, they also got me ready for the business world and helped me set out on my career path.”

Enactus finishes in top 12 at nationals

It’s been another successful year for PSU’s Enactus group, which achieved its highest finish ever at national competition.

The Pitt State team finished in the top 12 out of 181 teams at this year’s Enactus U.S. National Exposition, the highest the team has placed since the competition’s global restructure in 2001.

“We had an amazing team this year,” said 2014-2015 President Danielle Ackermann. “Our presentation was very good, the speeches were great and we were prepared to succeed. There are so many seniors on this year’s team, and it was great to perform so well in our final year.”

Along with its high finish in competition, the Pitt State Enactus team was awarded more than \$7,000 in prize money for success in various projects throughout the year. The team received \$4,000 for being a national finalist for the Partnership Grant, and another \$3,200 in project-related prize money.

“We were very busy this year and accomplished many great things through our projects,” said Adviser Suzanne Hurt. “I’m very proud of the time and effort our team put into the projects this year.”

The Enactus students conducted four major projects last year, projects for which more than 7,378 volunteer hours were given. More than 81,000 people were impacted by the projects, Hurt said.



What is Enactus?

Enactus is a community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to enable human progress.

To learn more about Enactus, visit

www.pittstateenactus.com.

PSU teams with university in France

The Kelce College of Business and a noted French university have teamed up to offer a dual master's degree. The agreement, between PSU and La Rochelle Business School in La Rochelle, France, gives PSU students the opportunity to earn both a master's degree in business administration from Pitt State and a master's degree in management from La Rochelle, ranked by The Financial Times as one of the top 80 business schools in Europe.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain international business experience and earn a degree from two of the top business programs in the world," said Linden Dalecki, associate professor at Pitt State and coordinator of the dual degree program. "We are very excited to work with La Rochelle on this program, and we thank them for being partners in this unique venture."

To become eligible for the program, Pitt State students must complete 25 required Kelce MBA credits. Of those who are eligible, a maximum of three students will be chosen for the program each year.

Upon selection, the students will travel to France to complete a full semester at La Rochelle. That is followed by a European internship, which is generally arranged by La Rochelle. Once complete, the students will be awarded degrees from both institutions.

Top score on state CPA exam

Alumna Ashlee Phillips not only passed the rigorous CPA exam on her first try, she was the top scorer in the state.

"The pass rates on the exam, especially for people taking it for the first time, is low," David O'Bryan, Pittsburg State accounting professor, said. "More than half of those who take it fail. It's a very difficult test."

So it's easy to see why Phillips was nervous about taking the exam last summer.

"I did have some nerves about it," she said.

"I knew few people pass it on the first try, but I still wanted to do well."

And do well, she did. Not only did Phillips pass the exam on her first attempt, she was the top scorer in Kansas during the July/August 2014 testing window.

"I was quite surprised when I learned I had the top score," she said. "We were never notified of that fact. My dad is a CPA, and he gets the Kansas Association of CPAs newsletter. The newsletter listed those who passed the exam, and it mentioned me as the top scorer."

Phillips said she enjoys the accounting profession and hopes to one day become an accounting professor.

"My success in the CPA exam has a lot to do with the way the accounting faculty at PSU prepared me for it," she said. "Once I was in the room taking the exam, it didn't feel like a huge leap. I was well-prepared, and I'm incredibly grateful for the education I received at Pitt State."



Ashlee Phillips



PSU, city are great partners

The university and the City of Pittsburg are taking their economic development partnership to new levels.

Daron Hall, Pittsburg city manager, said the city has agreed to invest \$20,000 into the production of two regional economic reports that are developed by PSU business faculty. The two reports are the quarterly Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report and the annual Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Profile.

The reports, which are distributed to more than 900 area and regional businesses, feature the latest facts and figures regarding economic, property and employment trends in the region.

Led by assistant professor and economic researcher Michael Davidsson, the Kelce College of Business develops the reports to give area and regional business leaders a close look at the economic status of Pittsburg and surrounding communities.

"It's a broad overview of every sector of our regional economy," Davidsson said. "Its purpose is to help our business people be more informed about the economy so they can better position themselves for success in the future."

Hall said the reports provide valuable information to local and regional business leaders.

"The city is committed to getting useful information to our citizens and businesses in order to allow them to make good decisions," Hall said. "By utilizing the talent at PSU, specifically Dr. Davidsson, we now have access to this information and can quickly distribute it to our community and beyond."



Top Kansas teachers encourage students

Pitt State education majors had an opportunity to get some inspirational, real-world advice from some of the best teachers in Kansas this past spring. The 2015 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team visited the campus in March. After their formal presentations, the teachers took questions from students who soon will be leading classrooms of their own.

The students' questions were practical.

"Is there really as much paperwork as we have heard about?" "How does a teacher get lesson plans done in the plan time allotted?" "How much support do you get from paras, administrators and others?"

Lisa Holt, special education teacher and a member of the 2015 Kansas Teacher of the Year team, said she and the other regional Kansas Teachers of the Year were on campus to both inspire a new generation of Kansas teachers, but also to answer practical questions.

Holt, who teaches children with autism at Country View Elementary School in Winfield, and the other seven members of the team presented a fast-paced program that mixed practical advice with inspiration before breaking into small groups for individual questions from the students. It's a program the group repeats at universities across the state throughout the year.

"It's all about reaching as many students as possible," Holt said. "We hear that enrollments in teacher education programs are down. At the same time, we hear that record numbers of Kansas teachers will be retiring in the near future."

Holt said she hopes the group is able to inspire a new generation of teachers.

"We want the students to feel excited about being teachers," Holt said. "We want them to understand how important their profession is."

Holt said the campus visits give her some new energy.

"The students and teachers we've met seem very excited and well prepared," Holt said. "We're supposed to be inspiring them, but sometimes it seems they inspire us. It leaves me very hopeful for the future."

Among the best

PSU's online master's degree programs have earned national recognition. Teach Tomorrow, an online service for persons considering careers in education, ranked PSU 35th in the nation on its list of the Best Online Master's in Education Degrees.

Alice Sagehorn, chair of the Department of Teaching and Leadership, said the Teach Tomorrow ranking is recognition of the university's efforts to ensure that the online master's degree programs the university offers are of the highest quality.

"The Department of Teaching and Leadership faculty have made every effort to ensure that we offer excellent and effective graduate programs that positively impact teachers, principals, superintendents and P-16 students," Sagehorn said.

For more information about PSU's online master's degree programs in education, contact the College of Education at 620-235-4518, www.pittstate.edu/college/education.

Group honors Gorman

Add a national award for service to Scott Gorman's long list of professional honors.

Gorman, a University Professor in HHPR, was honored this spring with induction into the North American Society for Health, Physical Education,



Scott Gorman

Recreation, Sport and Dance (NAS). The event took place at the Society of Health and Physical Educators Society (SHAPE America) national convention & expo in Seattle, Wash.

Established in 1999, the NAS recognizes outstanding professionals from within the allied professions of health education, physical education, recreation, sport and dance in North America.

In announcing Gorman's induction, SHAPE America cited his long and varied service to both PSU and his profession.



2015 Distinguished Service – Teacher award recipient, Deborah L. “Debbie” Restivo.

Awarding educators

Receiving the honor was delayed by weather, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the 2015 Clyde U. Phillips Award recipients. Bad weather in April forced the cancellation of the awards ceremony, so the recipients were recognized in May at the student teacher recognition.

“We are immensely proud of these educators and we wanted to find a way to recognize their achievements,” said Dean Howard Smith.

This year's recipients were: Deborah L. “Debbie” Restivo, *Distinguished Service – Teacher*; Leigh Anne Neal, *Distinguished Service – Administrator*; Angelina Espinoza, *Outstanding Educator – Elementary*; and Jordan White, *Outstanding Educator – Secondary*.

Restivo has been a teacher at Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac since 1993. Neal is the associate superintendent for communications for the Shawnee Mission (Kan.) School District; Espinoza has taught kindergarten at Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac for the past five years; and White has taught at Seneca R-7 for three years, where he is assistant director of bands.

The Clyde U. Phillips awards were established in memory of Clyde U. Phillips, a graduate of Pittsburg State University and a well-known Kansas educator.

Watch online video. 

Kansas Kids Fitness Day

Jim Otter, director of the School of Construction, teaches Karate moves to third graders at Kansas Kids Fitness Day in Carnie Smith Stadium. More than 1,000 area children participated in the annual event which is run by faculty and students in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation.

Grant preps library specialists to serve Native Americans

In 2013, PSU received a \$487,000 grant from the Laura Bush 21st Century Library program to train and mentor master's-level library media specialists for school libraries serving the nine Native American Tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. This spring, that investment paid off when 25 students in that program received their master's degrees at commencement.

When the grant was awarded, President Steve Scott called libraries “the beating heart of any school.”

“They are also the repository for our culture and our history,” Scott said. “This project will help us train a new generation of specialists who can provide information that is critical to individual success and also respect and celebrate the Native American history and culture of the region.”

The program was a collaborative effort between PSU, the nine Native American Tribes, 16 school districts with Native American student populations greater than 10 percent, and the American Indian Center for Excellence (AICE) at Northeast Oklahoma A&M.



Library investment pays off—

Members of the Laura Bush 21st Century Library program gathered for a group photo prior to receiving their master's degrees in May.



Chrysler, Ford donate new cars

Students in the Department of Automotive Technology popped the hoods on two brand new sets of wheels this spring. What they found underneath were lots and lots of computers.

A brand new 2015 Dodge Dart and 2015 Ford Explorer are now part of the department's fleet of cars on which the students work and learn. The vehicles, with a combined value of more than \$50,000, were donated by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Ford Motor Company.

"At College of Technology Company Day last fall, representatives from Chrysler and Ford were here recruiting students," said Scott Norman, associate professor of automotive technology. "We walked them through our auto lab, and we started talking about how we could use some newer cars for the students to learn on. Those guys said they'd see what they could do, and now we have two new vehicles in our fleet."

Norman said having new vehicles in the lab is beneficial for many reasons.

"Most importantly, it's good for students because they can learn the ins and outs of the newest technology on the market," he said.

New GIT packaging emphasis

The Graphics and Imaging Technologies Department launched a new emphasis that focuses on how product packages are designed and marketed.

The new packaging emphasis was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in January and became a part of GIT's full curriculum starting in the Fall 2015 semester.

Doug Younger, associate professor in the GIT Department, said the new emphasis will help students understand all that goes into designing graphics to be marketed in stores.

"No matter where you go or what stores you shop in, nearly everything you buy is going to be packaged in some way," he said. "Many times, it is the package itself that leads to a consumer buying the product. If it's attractive, it sells. If the package design does not catch your eye, that product may sit on the shelves for quite some time."

The new emphasis is an expansion of packaging lessons previously taught through projects alone.



Graphics and Imaging Technologies Assistant Professor Christel Benson (sitting) works with Caitlin Shepard, a senior from Caney, Kansas, on a packaging project at the Kansas Technology Center.

Wood tech faculty honored

A national group has honored Wood Technology faculty Doug Hague and Charlie Phillips for their efforts in the classroom.

The Wood Machinery Industry Association singled out Hague and Phillips at the Wood Industry Conference in San Antonio, Texas, with its 2015 Educator of the Year Award, which is given annually to faculty within an educational institution or company with a structured curriculum tailored to training individuals for careers in the woodworking industry.

According to the Woodworking Network, Hague and Phillips were honored for conducting the Boot Camp session at the Wood Technology Industry Institute, which took place at PSU's Kansas Technology Center.

World competitors train at KTC

For students training for the automotive WorldSkills competition, there's no better place to prepare than Pitt State.

In July, Mike Elder, Scott Norman and other members of the automotive technology faculty helped two of Team USA's competitors get ready for the 43rd WorldSkills competition in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in August.

"It's a huge competition," said Elder, who serves as a WorldSkills Automotive Technology Expert in charge of training Team USA's automotive competitor. "There are students there from all around the world who really know their stuff. It's a wonderful challenge to witness and be a part of."

The students are Michael Mullen, of San Luis Obispo, Calif., who was set to compete in the automotive service technology category, and Dustin Martsof, of Atchison, who was competing in the heavy vehicle maintenance category.

For more information about the competition, visit <http://skillsusa.org/competitions/worldskills>.



Megan Meyer

GIT student wins Student Employee of the Year

Every now and then, an employee exceeds expectations in just about every way. That's what one person wrote of GIT student Megan Meyer in nominating her for the 2015 PSU Student Employee of the Year Award.

Meyer, a senior from Spring Hill, Kan., was named PSU's Student Employee of the Year for the contributions she made as a student employee in Technology and Workforce Learning. She also was named the Student Employee of the Year for the State of Kansas in 2015.

"I was very honored to receive both the campus award and state award," Meyer said. "There are many students who deserve the award just as much as I did, and it's great to be recognized right alongside all of them."

Meyer's supervisors said she played an important role in the planning for the Great Gorilla Games STEM Expo for 450 area high school students and in planning the International STEM Education Association conference in Branson, Mo.

She used her skills as a graphic communications major to develop a website, printed materials and signage.

Senior project earns national award

A senior project by six engineering technology students received a national award and left a lasting impact at PSU.

Students Tyler Casteel, Nick Crain, Brendan Herrera, Jeremy McLennan, Aaron Noack and Kyle Ragan created a mold for a hacksaw handle, improving upon and replacing the mold that has been used by Pitt State students for more than 40 years.

Their project won first place in the American Foundry Society and Foundry Educational Foundation 2015 Student Technology Contest. The students received a \$1,800 scholarship for their efforts, and their project paper will be published in the Winter 2016 issue of the International Journal of Metalcasting.

"Since the late 1960s, students in the entry-level Manufacturing Methods course have been making hacksaw handles as part of an introduction into

metal casting," said University Professor Russ Rosmait. "It's a tradition we've had in the College of Technology for decades. You take the class, you make a hacksaw."

The old mold for the handle had its flaws, though. So the students decided to make a better one.

"The old mold had a lot of issues," Herrera said. "It had defects. It was inefficient. It left a lot of scraps. For every 10 castings, there would be three good ones and seven bad ones."

Rosmait said he was happy to see the students take on the project.

"The hacksaw handle is a legacy here that began way before I came to Pitt State," he said. "One of the freshmen this year said his dad remembers making the handle when he was a student. To have these seniors create a new, better mold that will help continue this tradition is a neat thing. I thought they did a wonderful job."

KTC hosts largest ever Construction Expo

The School of Construction hosted its third annual Construction Expo, the largest to date, on April 1. The event, which took place at the Kansas Technology Center, allowed students the opportunity to operate various pieces of construction-related heavy equipment, including simulators, a skid-steer and power trowel.

Approximately \$5 million worth of professional equipment and products were on display at the Expo, and students had the chance to be at the controls of the equipment, which included everything from loaders and graters to excavators and concrete pump trucks.

Assistant Professor Seth O'Brien said the event is a great networking tool for the students.

"Along with the hands-on experience with the equipment, the Expo also gives the students the chance to meet and network with many industry professionals," he said.

Senior Samantha Kinkelaar said she appreciates PSU offering these opportunities for the students.

"It's so important to have these experiences and make these connections," she said. "We're very lucky to be at a university that understand that and that puts us in a great position to succeed."



Watch online video. 

Gorilla Top 10

The 2014-15 year was a great one for Gorilla Athletics! Collectively, the Gorillas earned four MIAA regular season titles, one MIAA Tournament Title and made several NCAA Championship appearances. The track and field teams each posted top five NCAA finishes. Pitt State team sports won 122 games, while the track and field and cross country teams had many individual champions at meets throughout their competition seasons, including two Outdoor National Champions.

To celebrate the success, Gorilla Athletics has put together the top 10 moments of the last year. Those moments follow in no particular order.

Plaster Center opens

Without a doubt, one of the greatest accomplishments of the 2014-15 year was the opening of the Robert W. Plaster Center (feature story on pg. 16).

Track & Field teams earn three MIAA titles

The men earned both the 2015 MIAA Indoor and Outdoor titles, while the women's team earned the 2015 MIAA Outdoor title. It was the fourth straight outdoor title for the men and the first for the women since 2004. It was the second straight indoor title for the men. The teams' successes helped head coach Russ Jewett earn the MIAA Men's Indoor and Outdoor Coach of the Year and the Women's Outdoor Coach of the Year honors. The Gorillas carried their outdoor titles into the NCAA Championship, where each team finished fifth. Each team had one National Champion, Garrett Appier in the men's shot put, and Antqunita Reed in the women's triple jump.



PSU men earned both the 2015 MIAA Indoor and Outdoor titles.

The PSU women's team earned the 2015 MIAA Outdoor title.



Football claims share of the MIAA title

The football team lost only one regular season game on its way to claiming a share of the 2014 MIAA title. The title was the 12th MIAA title in school history for the program. That success catapulted the Gorillas to an appearance in the NCAA playoffs. The team made a dramatic comeback in the opening round against Harding before falling to Minnesota State Mankato in overtime on the road. The team finished the season with an 11-2 record, and Coach Beck was named the MIAA Coach of the Year.

Softball reaches championship

The softball team battled injuries and adversity to a No. 2 seed in the MIAA Tournament. The team won its first three games to earn its way into the championship game to face regular season champion Central Missouri. The Jennies were able to take two from the Gorillas to win the tournament title.

The championship game appearance was only the fourth in school history and the first since 1995. The Gorillas finished the season with a 36-19 record, the first 30-win season for the program since 2009.

SAAC raises \$7,546 for Make-A-Wish

At the beginning of the year, the Gorilla Student-Athlete Advisory Committee set a goal to raise more money than it ever had for Make-A-Wish. The group raised three times more money than they had ever raised. The group held several events throughout the year, including Gorillas Got Talent, Bring a Dollar to the Game, Kids Day In and a Dodge Ball Tournament.

MIAA honors Gorillas

For the second consecutive year, Pittsburg State had both a male and female finalist for the MIAA's Ken B. Jones Award. Football player Keeston

Terry was a men's finalist. He was a third-team All-American and a two-time Capital One Academic All-District honoree. Women's basketball student-athlete Lizzy Jeronimus was the Gorilla's women's finalist. She was a four-time All-American and set Pitt State records for career points, rebounds and free throws, while also setting the single season scoring record. She also earned Academic All-America honors. The Pitt State SAAC group was also recognized as they took home the SAAC Cup for the third consecutive year.

Women's basketball makes history

For the first time since the '90s, the Gorilla Women's Basketball team reached the NCAA tournament in back-to-back years. Coupled with the men's basketball team's NCAA tournament appearance, it was the first time since 1997-98 that both teams made the NCAA field. The women made it to the regional semifinal before falling to Emporia State. The team finished with a 27-7 record, tying the school record for most wins in a season. The senior class finished their careers as the most accomplished class in program history, winning 94 career games with only 24 losses and never losing more than 10 games in a season.

Men's Basketball brings home MIAA tournament title

The Pitt State men's basketball team became the first No. 5 seed to win the MIAA Tournament title, as they earned a lopsided, 91-65, win over rival Missouri Southern in the MIAA Tournament Championship. MIAA Co-Coach of the Year Kevin Muff guided the Gorillas to be the first team to go 4-0 in the post-season tournament since the field expanded to 12 teams. Junior Trey Starks was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, while sophomore Josiah Gustafson was also named to the All-Tournament

The Pitt State men's basketball team became the first No. 5 seed to win the 2015 MIAA Tournament title.

team. The win gave the Gorillas an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, where they made the program's first appearance since 2007. The Gorillas finished the season with a 20-12 record, their first 20-win season since 2004-05.

Individuals earn special honors

Several student-athletes earned unique honors throughout the 2014-15 school year. Football player Deron Washington was the first student-athlete in NCAA history named to the NCAA Division II Management Council as part of his participation on Division II SAAC. Senior men's basketball player Sam Pugh enjoyed a trip to the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four in Indianapolis after being named to the Allstate Good Works Team. Pugh was one of only 10 players in all divisions of collegiate basketball to receive this honor. Football player Anthony Abenoja finished fourth in the balloting for the Harlon Hill Trophy, the highest honor given in Division II football. Abenoja finished his senior campaign with 3,871 yards and 32 touchdowns. He set an NCAA record with 314 consecutive passes without an interception. Freshman softball player Emmie Robertson made a splash in her rookie campaign. Not only was the right-handed pitcher named the



MIAA Freshman and Pitcher of the Year, she was also one of the top three finalists for the inaugural National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II Freshman of the Year Award. She posted a 26-10 record in the circle, tying the school record for single season wins, while also setting the single season strikeouts record with 238.

In addition, two Gorilla Alumni received Hall of Fame recognition in 2015. Women's basketball great Leslie (Dudley) Murrow was inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame while All-American football player and track and field star Brian Moorman was tabbed for the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame (see page 10 for more).

Academic Success

Thirteen Pittsburg State athletes earned Capital One Academic All-District honors during the 2014-15 season. Four of those, track athletes Jessica Macy and Hannah DeVries, softball player McKenzie Rynard and women's basketball player Lizzy Jeronimus, went on to earn Academic All-America honors. Additionally, the Gorillas had 184 student-athletes named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, 22 MIAA Scholar-Athletes, 11 earned the MIAA Award for Excellence and 66 earned the Division II ADA Academic Achievement Award.



Deron Washington

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Faithful volunteers

Pittsburg State singled out three alumni last spring for their volunteer service to the university. The Alumni Association presented its Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award to Jan Allai and Pete and Shirley Esch as part of PSU's Apple Day celebration on March 5.

The Alumni Association established the Distinguished Service Award in 1991 and presented the first award later that year. In July 2000, the award was re-named the Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award in memory of retired faculty member Ralf Thomas, who volunteered his service to the Alumni Association for 22 years and was the first recipient of the award in 1991.

Jan Allai (BS in elementary education 1969, MS in elementary teaching 1977) and her late husband, Wayne, helped organize the university's first capital campaign in 1985. At that time, they pledged their support for creating an endowment to provide scholarships for student athletes. Today, that effort has grown to become the Endowment for Excellence in Athletics,



Pete and Shirley Esch, PSU President Steve Scott and Jan Allai

which plays a vital role in supporting student athletes across campus.

After Wayne's death in 2003, Jan continued the couple's support for PSU and its students and is a familiar face among the fans at most PSU athletic events. She has also given valuable service to the Alumni Association through the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Pete Esch (BSBA 1951) and his wife, Shirley, have been faithful supporters of the university and the Kelce College

of Business for decades. Pete has served on the Alumni Association Board of directors and he and Shirley are lifetime members of the President's Club. They are also University Fellows in the Centennial Society and have established two scholarships in the Kelce College of Business, where they also funded a Faculty of Distinction position.

A loyal PSU alumnus, Pete continues to share his knowledge and business experience with PSU students and with the Kelce College of Business.

Retired prof celebrates college football days

At 89, retired PSU math professor and track coach Bryan Sperry showed he still has some good moves during the alumni scrimmage at the University of Kansas this past spring. Sperry, of Pittsburg, may be the only person to earn letters in football at both Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.

Sperry was 17 when he went to play football at Kansas State. His college career was interrupted by WWII and at 19 he served as an infantryman in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, Sperry tried out for and made the football team at KU. In 1947, he was with the Jayhawks in the Orange Bowl.

Sperry taught for many years at PSU and continued to help with the Math Relays, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics, for many years.



Photo: Jeff Jacobsen/KAI

Four honored for achievement

Watch online video. 

On April 10, the university honored four alumni for their professional and community activities with the 2015 Meritorious Achievement Award.

“This year’s Meritorious Award recipients are great examples of the ways that Pittsburg State University’s more than 65,000 alumni distinguish themselves in their places of work and in their communities every day,” said Jon Bartlow, director of alumni and constituent relations.

The PSU Meritorious Achievement Award recipients for 2015 are, Kirby R. Brown, deputy to the commanding general at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Edith Harvey, former director of Improvement Programs for the U.S. Department of Education; Phil Laurie, retired teacher and businessman and long-time collegiate football official; and Miles Schnaer, owner of Crown Automotive, a Toyota, Scion and Volkswagen dealership in Lawrence, Kan.



Kirby R. Brown, Edith Harvey, Phil Laurie and Miles Schnaer

Half Century Club Reunion

Every class reunion includes a group photo on the iconic marble steps of Russ Hall. It’s a place that holds special memories for every alumnus, including these members of the class of 1965, shown here during their reunion this past spring.



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Class Notes

Class of 1970

Barbara Belles (BSE) retired from USD #413 after 22 years. She taught for a total of 37 years.

Class of 1974

Samuel J Marsh (BA) was publicly sworn into his seat as district magistrate judge in Columbus, Kan. Marsh received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1990 and worked for the law firm of Wheeler and Mitchelson in Pittsburg from 1990-1995. He was assistant county attorney in Cherokee County from 1995-1997 and served as county attorney from 1997-2001. He and his wife, Janice, have two children.

Class of 1976

Amy Bass (BS) retired from The Empire District Electric Company after 34 years of service. She has served on communications committees for the Missouri Energy Development

Association, Missouri Energy Warning Council, and the Southwest Power Pool. She currently serves on the board of directors at the Independent Living Center.

Kent Frazell (BSE) (MSE, 1990) has retired from USD # 413 (Chanute, Kan.), where he has taught physical education and health for 39 years.

Class of 1977

Sharon Boyer (MSE) was chosen as the USD 446 (Scott County) Teacher of the Month for May.

Class of 1979

Sandy Roecker (BSE) has retired from USD #413 after 32 years. She has taught for a total of 36 years.

Class of 1982

Jacqueline Vietti (MS) has been appointed as interim president at Emporia State University effective June 1, 2015. Vietti has worked in public

higher education for over 35 years, providing direction and leadership for community colleges and higher education systems in Kansas and Missouri and the 19-state region of the Higher Learning Commission. For over 17 years, she served as president of Butler Community College, the second largest public community college in the state, retiring in 2012.

Russell Vallier (BME) has retired after 29 years in Chanute's school district. He has been in education for a total of 31 years, teaching vocal and instrumental music.

Class of 1987

Mark E. Toutilliot (BS) has retired after 23 years at USD 234, Fort Scott.

Class of 1991

Marty Bicknell (BA) was named one of the Kansas City Business Journal's "Power 100" in April. Bicknell is CEO of Mariner Holdings, a global financial

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Class Notes

services firm based in Leawood, Kansas. The journal noted Bicknell's community service, including his support for the Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas, the American Royal, the University of Kansas Medical Center and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He is also a member of the Young Presidents Organization and on the board for the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

Class of 1994

Susan Beeson (BS) (MS 2006) has been named superintendent-principal of USD 397 (Centre) in Lost Springs, Kan. Beeson served as superintendent of schools for USD 505 (Chetopa-St. Paul) from 2012-2015. Prior to that, she worked 11 years as a school social worker and elementary counselor at Labette County USD 506 and the Garden City public schools. In addition to her bachelor's degree in social work from PSU, Beeson holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in educational leadership from PSU.

Class of 1996

Dustin Storm (BS) has been named superintendent for the Miller (Mo.) School District. For the previous six years, he served the district as principal of Carterville Elementary School. A former member of the Gorilla baseball team, Storm taught in Wichita, Kan.; Webb City, Mo.; and Carthage, Mo., before coming to the Miller School District.

Class of 1997

Jeff Jones (BS) (ME 2010) is the new superintendent/principal for USD #106 (Western Plains) in Ransom, Kan.

Class of 1999

Mark Shead (MM) owns a small company that helps businesses create efficient custom software. He's been working with teams at the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve Banks and helping

them make their software development processes more efficient and reliable.

Tonya D. Bell (BA) (MA 2004) has been named a distinguished faculty award recipient at Labette Community College. Bell's most recent accomplishments in the teaching area include chairing a committee to develop outcomes/competencies for Interpersonal Communication. She has also developed a partnership with the Parsons Chamber of Commerce to offer communication

majors the opportunity to intern in the field of Public Relations.

Class of 2006

Matt Wonser (BS) was chosen as the UDS 446 (Scott County) Teacher of the Month for March. He teaches 7th grade science at Independence Middle School.

Andy Majors (BS, MS 2010) has been named the director of player development for the University of

continued



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Class Notes

Kansas women's basketball team. Prior to joining the KU program, Majors spent five years at Stephen F. Austin University.

Class of 2007

DeAnna Holeman (BS), MSW, LCSW, BHC, has joined the Dallas County Family Medical Center in Buffalo, Mo., which is associated with Citizens Memorial Hospital. At DCFMC, she works as a substance abuse counselor with board certified family medicine physician Kurt Bravata, M.D., in the DCFMC Addiction Recovery Program.

Class of 2008

Gale Brown (MS, Ed.S. 2012) received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Labette Community College. Brown has been the director of the Radiography Program director at LCC since 2012. Brown and her husband, Brad, have a daughter, Stephanie.

Class of 2010

Adam Dorsey (BS) has been named the head coach for the girls' basketball team at Arkansas City High School. Adam and his wife, Melissa, a teacher at Adams Elementary School, have a son, Henry.

Class of 2011

Sherié Greenough (BS) has been named recreation coordinator for the Parsons Recreation Commission.

Class of 2012

Erica Kern (BBA) was newly hired as the new interim city administrator on a six-month trial period. Most recently, she worked for the city of Pleasanton as the deputy service clerk since November 2014.

Phased retirement and retirees

Judy Berry-Bravo, University Professor/Chairperson, Modern Languages & Literature
Dennis Bounds, University Police Officer, University Police & Parking Services
Irene Cavitte, Custodial and General Services
Edward Collins, Custodial Supervisor, Custodial and General Services
Olive Collins, Custodial Supervisor, Custodial and General Services
Cynthia Endicott, Custodial Supervisor, Custodial and General Services
Wanda Endicott, Director, Custodial and General Services
Jana Giles, Custodial Supervisor, Custodial and General Services
David Gordon, Associate Professor, Biology

Steve Hall, Facilities Specialist, Building Trades & Landscape Maintenance
Rita Hardesty, Administrative Specialist, School of Construction
Kurt Kasjaka, Equipment Mechanic Specialist, Custodial and General Services
Robert "Brent" Linder, Instructor, Technology and Workforce Learning
D. Ann Meats, Instructor, English
Anna Meyer, Custodial Supervisor, Custodial and General Services
Georgan Peterson, Custodial Specialist, Housing Maintenance
Zoran Petrovic, Senior Research Adviser, Kansas Polymer Research Center
Diana Polston, Administrative Specialist, Campus Recreation
Kathy Sanley, Team Coordinator, Information Services

continued

The Newman Club at Pittsburg State University would like to introduce the new St. Pius X Catholic Student Center Chaplain, **Fr. David Voss**. He began his new position in July and is excited about the opportunity to serve the students at PSU. Next time you are on campus, stop by to meet him!



Fr. David Voss

Also, the members of the Club invite you to join them for **Family Day on September 19th** and for Homecoming on **October 3rd** as we celebrate Catholic Ministry at PSU!

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Kathleen Spillman, Associate Professor, Teaching and Leadership
James Sours, Professor, Graphics & Imagining Technologies
Jo "Sue" Stidham, Associate Professor, Teaching and Leadership
Cynthia Triplett, Small Business Coordinator, Center for Innovation and Business Development
Larry Weaver, Applications Developer III, Information Services

In Memory

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

Deaths for Fall 2015

Corinne I. Clark, 1932, Bolivar, Mo.
Ellabeth (Diggs) Stillings, 1937, Atchison, Kan.
Beluah M. Murray Light, 1938, Rolla, Kan.
George T. Seabough, 1938, Apple Valley, Calif.
Cora M. Montgomery Fuller, 1939, Topeka, Kan.
Jo C. (Walker) Whittington, 1940, Concord, Mass.
Wayne G. Delavan, 1940, Arkadelphia, Ark.
D.A. Van Middlesworth, 1940, Neodesha, Kan.
Helen E. (Hammerton) Rennick, 1941, Pittsburg, Kan.
Pauline R. (Lynn) Bryan, 1944, Portland, Oreg.
Barbara J. Huffman Stover, 1944, San Jose, Calif.
Vivian L. Jackson Steinbuchel, 1946, Fairfax, Va.
Charles Clinton Green, 1947, Granbury, Texas
Charles W. Tewell, 1948, Arvada, Colo.
Dutch Nogel, 1948, Cheyenne, Wyo.
L.C. Crouch, 1948, Topeka, Kan.
Janet (Stuart) Dickey, 1949, Iowa City, Iowa
Harold D. Stroud, 1949, Chanute, Kan.
Albert F. Cerne, 1949, Olathe, Kan.
James M. Pike, 1949, Glen Burnie, Md.
Donald B. Smith, 1949, Junction City, Kan.
Samuel Jones, 1950, Beachwood, Ohio
Charles A. Lamm, 1950, Overland Park, Kan.
Barbara A. Keller, 1950, Chanute, Kan.
Phyllis Lou Wells Bridenstine, 1950, Caney, Kan.
Robert E. Fitz, 1950, Topeka, Kan.

Cecil Green, 1950, Louisville, Ky.
Kenneth G. McKeever, 1950, Topeka, Kan.
Paul A. Friskel, 1951, Iola, Kan.
Kathleen J. (McClanahan) Boore, 1951, Carl Junction, Mo.
Wilma M. Dains, 1951, Topeka, Kan.
Robert E. Stahl, 1951, El Dorado, Kan.
George R. McKinney, 1952, Kansas City, Mo.
Glenn M. Gable, 1952, Sterling, Kan.
Lewis L. Wilson, 1952, Joplin, Mo.
Jerry Ford Byrd, 1952, Galena, Kan.
George A. Stroud, Jr., 1952, Highland Springs, Va.
Gene L. Bell, 1953, Kansas City, Kan.
James W. Hamilton, 1953, Birmingham, Ala.
Gilbert N. Lietz, 1953, Wichita, Kan.
Elizabeth A. Chadwell, 1953, Springfield, Mo.
Virginia L. (England) Tucker, 1953, Olathe, Kan.
Reta N. Kennedy, 1953, Prairie Village, Kan.
George D. Holmes, 1954, Tyler, Texas
Richard E. Stover, 1954, Dearborn, Mich.
Charles A. Smith, 1954, Pleasanton, Kan.
Phillip Gene Smyth, 1954, Lyons, Kan.
Bob P. Patrick, 1955, Branson, Mo.
Robert E. Fitz, 1955, Burlington, Kan.
Carl W. Buck, 1955, Swartz Creek, Mich.

Barton E. Dorsey, 1955, La Mirada, Calif.
Paul D. Marquardt, 1955, Union, Ky.
Wilma L. Sullivan, 1955, Ozark, Mo.
William L. Foster, 1955, Neosho, Mo.
Orville D. Sibley, 1956, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
Martin E. Schifferdecker, 1956, Girard, Kan.
Max W. Birt, 1956, Afton, Kan.
Bill R. Inman, 1956, Kingsley, Kan.
Howard B. Thompson, 1956, Sun City Center, Fla.
Jesse W. Teel, 1957, Joplin, Mo.
Ben B. Day, 1957, Independence, Kan.
James G. Watts, 1958, Crestline, Kan.
Charles Seshier, 1958, Chanute, Kan.
Norman Lee Shaffer, 1958, Garnett, Kan.
Jack E. Barlow, 1958, Prairie Village, Kan.
Billie L. Pallett, 1958, Raytown, Mo.
Bettye J. (Brashears) Haggard, 1959, Pittsburg, Kan.
Phillip R. Pruitt, 1959, Little Rock, Ark.
Lloyd Arthur Scott, 1959, Tulsa, Okla.
Jean E. Royse Miller, 1960, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Gene E. Irvin, 1960, Adrian, Mo.
Betty Louise Woodroof, 1960, Leoti, Kan.

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Dr. Michael Fenech: 620.230.0044



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Theora Margaret (Haage) Slone, 1960, Tuscombia, Mo.
Donald Arthur Plotner, 1960, Winterset, Iowa
Dorothy J. (Owens) Benjamin, 1960, Garnett, Kan.
Tom J. Boyd, 1960, Washington, D.C.
Raymond L. Atterbery, 1960, Lebanon, Kan.
Benjamin F. Cooksey, 1960, Rice Lake, Wis.
Robert R. Malaby, 1960, Tulsa, Okla.
Phillip A. Rose, 1960, Eureka, Calif.
Bill B. Vivers, 1960, Paola, Kan.
Peggy Ann (Pens) Adelgren, 1960, Wichita, Kan.
Arnold Watts, 1961, Wellington, Kan.
Margaret A. Jeffcott, 1961, Neosho, Mo.
Garland L. Adkins, 1961, Nevada, Mo.
Thomas J. Coyle, 1961, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Kenneth H. Buchinal, 1961, Tulsa, Okla.
Wiley Thomas "Tom" Powell, 1962, Pratt, Kan.
David P. Wilson, 1962, Springfield, Mo.
Evelyn A. Gamble, 1962, Temple, Texas
John Robert Sullivan, 1963, Manhattan, Kan.
Tom E. McCourt, 1963, Osawatomie, Kan.
Earline (Rose) Patton, 1963, Somerset, Ky.
Joe Derryberry, 1963, Coffeyville, Kan.
John A. Willingham, 1963, Toledo, Ohio
Lela F. Maddox, 1964, Grove, Okla.
James V. Walker, 1964, Pittsburg, Kan.
Shirley Ann (Ratledge) McCourt, 1964, Wichita, Kan.
Donald E. Jerome, 1964, Plano, Texas
Lydia May Phillips, 1965, Parsons, Kan.
Faith E. (Warn) Clay, 1965, Wyandotte, Okla.
Billy M. Bumgardner, 1965, Queen Valley, Ariz.
Thomas L. Lynch, 1965, Kansas City, Mo.
Anna M. Ball, 1965, Duncanville, Texas

Betty V. Edwards, 1965, Pittsburg, Kan.
Mary S. Hack, 1965, New Orleans, La.
Beverly C. Swafford Smittle, 1965, Tulsa, Okla.
Don Beasley, Jr., 1965, Belton, Mo.
Gary J. Terlip, 1965, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Billie S. Blythe, 1966, Pittsburg, Kan.
Richard L. Jones, 1966, Fairbanks, Alaska
Gary D. Passmore, 1966, Joplin, Mo.
Emma J. Lannan, 1966, Miami, Okla.
Timothy J. Hobson, 1967, Olathe, Kan.
Stephen F. Weiner, 1967, Overland Park, Kan.
Beatrice M. (Peirce) Crowley, 1967, Lawson, Mo.
Donald J. Reif, 1968, Hoisington, Kan.
Mary E. (Best) Clemans, 1968, Colony, Kan.
George N. Fuller, 1968, Jefferson City, Mo.
Roll W. Davis, Jr., 1968, Waterville, Maine
Marvin W. Hafenstein, 1968, Winfield, Kan.
Andrew Bumpers, 1968, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Salena C. (White) Officer, 1968, Gaithersburg, Md.
Michael A. Wilcox, 1968, Carrollton, Texas
Stanley "Stan" P. Scoville, 1968, Iola, Kan.
Henry A. Burnett, 1968, Glenn Dale, Md.
Joseph F. Lannan, 1968, Miami, Okla.
Ura C. Hitchcock Oliver, 1968, Miami, Okla.
Phillip S. Lyon, Jr., 1969, Belton, Mo.
Dorothy P. (Hall) Mundell, 1969, Erie, Kan.
Chester C. Fikes, 1969, Pittsburg, Kan.
Dorothy G. (Peffley) Amos, 1969, Columbus, Kan.
James L. Kelley, 1969, Lawrence, Kan.
Mitchell E. Miles, 1969, Lamar, Mo.
Dorothy I. (Chism) Eddleman, 1969, Osawatomie, Kan.

Thomas William Wishart, 1970, Pittsburg, Kan.
Clifford A. Plummer, 1970, Cherryvale, Kan.
Dwyane R. Hicks, 1970, Neodesha, Kan.
William L. Redman, 1970, Kent, Wash.
Elizabeth A. Henningsen, 1970, Salina, Kan.
Joan Diver McCoy, 1970, Kerrville, Texas.
Mark W. Miller, 1970, Jacksonville, Fla.
Violet M. Trower-Morgan, 1971, Parsons, Kan.
Gertrude R. (Kennedy) Gallo, 1971, St. Paul, Kan.
John M. Bratton, 1971, Navarre, Fla.
Daniel M. Shaffer, 1971, Early, Texas
Bill R. Lawrence, 1971, Parsons, Kan.
Stephen A. Wilkins, 1971, Rochester, N.Y.
Charles E. Shipman, 1972, Pensacola, Fla.
John V. Green, 1972, Eastpoint, Fla.
Joseph R. Meeks, 1972, Fort Scott, Kan.
Darrell C. Newton, 1972, Brazoria, Texas
Gary D. Bukowski, 1972, Fort Scott, Kan.
Sharon Lea Harper, 1972, Pittsburg, Kan.
William A. Demoss, 1973, Springfield, Mo.
Gerald L. Niedens, 1973, Harrisonville, Mo.
Francis A. Smith, 1973, Pittsburg, Kan.
Thomas Vincent Murry, 1973, El Dorado, Kan.
Philip M. Borders, 1974, Leavenworth, Kan.
William E. Carter, 1974, Chetopa, Kan.
Robert "Bob" Gudenkauf, 1974, Seneca, Kan.
Warren C. Hartsock, 1974, Bellaire, Texas
Jorrol E. Ayers, 1975, Pittsburg, Kan.
Deborah S. (Alcorn) Folk, 1975, Basehor, Kan.
Linda J. Jensen, 1975, Coffeyville, Kan.
Phillip M. Borders, 1975, Kansas City, Mo.
Charlene E. (Bond) Husted, 1975, Gate, Okla.
Clarence G. Reitemeier, 1975, Parsons, Kan.

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Mildred Lee Lager, 1975, Fort Scott, Kan.
Steven B. Loether, 1975, Sperry, Okla.
Linda J. Babb, 1975, Wakeeney, Kan.
Jim R Cady, Jr., 1975, Leavenworth, Kan.
Gerald W. Eckhardt, 1975, N.Y
Raymond C. Hall, 1975, Alta Vista, Kan.
Evan A. Ridlon, Sr., 1975, Mount Holly, N.C.
Craig A. Ross, 1975, Iola, Kan.
Montague K. Tillman, 1975, Tempe, Ariz.
Rodger D. Sisco, 1976, Webb City, Mo.
Robbin W. Robbins, 1976, Springfield, Mo.
Ray D. Ellis, 1976, Fairland, Okla.
Inez M. Baker, 1977, Bonner Springs, Kan.
Cynthia L. Petrehn, 1977, Vail, Colo.
Shun W. Wang, 1977, Los Angeles, Calif.
Larry H. Becannon, 1977, Amarillo, Texas
Joe R. Brown, 1977, Carthage, Mo.
James William Brauer, 1977, Shawnee, Kan.
Bobbie S. Waugh, 1978, Kansas City, Kan.
Roscoe W. Baker, 1978, Coffeyville, Kan.
G. Robert Bard, 1978, Oswego, Kan.
Naomi L. Lyra, 1978, Miami, Fla.
Cathy C. (Harrison) White, 1978, Joplin, Mo.
Myrna D. Dusenbury Rickart, 1978,
 Kimberling City, Mo.
Leslie E. Judy, 1979, Vidor, Texas
Elgit Clark, 1979, Independence, Kan.

Esther Yi-Hok Yeung, 1979, Pasadena, Calif.
Steven W. Hettler, 1979, Mount Sterling, Ky.
Gail Diane (Turner) Wright, 1979,
 Fredonia, Kan.
Roger Dean Weast, 1979, Wichita, Kan.
Patricia I. (Chrisman) Davis, 1980,
 Barlett, Kan.
Clayton W. Schul, 1982, Goddard, Kan.
Julie A. Fitzsimmons Townsend, 1983,
 Joplin, Mo.
Margaret Louise Monaghan, 1983,
 Dallas, Texas
Mark E. Hofer, 1984
Melinda A. Kinsaul, 1984, Ballwin, Mo.
Allen L. Robinson, 1984, Harrisonville, Mo.
Michelle J. (Walker) Carpenter, 1984,
 Carefree, Ariz.
Norman Edgar Sorenson, 1987,
 Yates Center, Kan.
Donald L. Spainhoward, 1988, Humbolt, Kan.
Kathryn J. Wilcoxon Sarver, 1988, Iola, Kan.
Paul D. Yates, 1989, Independence, Kan.
Patricia R. Kreutzer, 1989, Fort Scott, Kan.
Joe Crabtree, 1989, Rogers, Ark.
Marcia E. Fairchild, 1989, Olathe, Kan.
Tom W. Heter, 1990, Tulsa, Okla.
Bev K. Werner, 1991, Aberdeen, S.D.

Loretta M. (Swenson) Bettis, 1992,
 Kansas City, Kan.
Donna L. Phillips, 1992, Wichita, Kan.
Terri M. Brungardt, 1992, Parsons, Kan.
Jon C. Kirby, 1993, Olathe, Kan.
Ching Chen, 1994, Pittsburg, Kan.
Kimberly A. Hesse, 1994,
 Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Vivian McCormick, 1995,
 Baxter Springs, Kan.
Cynthia J. Long, 1996, Overland Park, Kan.
Ross Nichols, 1996, Columbia, Mo.
Douglas E. Massey, 1996, Pittsburg, Kan.
Patricia L. (Gillespie) Engledow, 1996,
 Pittsburg, Kan.
Sandra L. Wolf, 1996, Fort Collins, Colo.
Norma J. (Ruark) Carlin, 1998,
 Kansas City, Mo.
Jon M. White, 1999, Lenexa, Kan.
Johnny W. Vietti, 2000, Atlanta, Ga.
Bryan C. Deonier, 2002, Pittsburg, Kan.
Adam D. Darnaby, 2004, Joplin, Mo.
Julie Nicole (Dickerson) Petrie, 2004,
 Rogers, Ark.

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Kenneth D. Marshall, Topeka, Kan.
Elaine Watson O'Connor, Parsons, Kan.
Paul Flowers, Plano, Texas
Pete Ferraro Jr., Pittsburg, Kan.
Beth A. Johnson Frank, Gardner, Kan.
Elizabeth R. Strukel, Girard, Kan.
Robert 'Bob' Pazzie, Pittsburg, Kan.
Cherie K. Branson, Joplin, Mo.
Carrie A. Williams, Parsons, Kan.
Judith Ann Windsor, Frontenac, Kan.
James D. Burris, Spring Hill, Kan.
Earl "Tom" Jones Jr., Rose, Okla.
C.G. 'Perk' Reitemeier Jr., Parsons, Kan.
Jennifer B. (Howard) Friedel,
Baxter Springs, Kan.
Donald L. Morrison, Coffeyville, Kan.
LaMae 'Neas' Bryant, Nevada, Mo.
Ruth E. Blome, Cherryvale, Kan.
Aaron Michael Garnsey
Leonard A. Banz, Hutchinson, Kan.
Jared Pond, Joplin, Mo.
Robert 'Rob' Gill, Cherryvale, Kan.
Aldon McKee Bebb, Pittsburg, Kan.
L. Davis Lewis, Sarcovie, Mo.

Lois Darlene Harding, Concordia, Kan.
Dale Arlyn Bradford, Mt. Vernon, Mo.
Merrill Harris, Wichita, Kan.
Estell Damien Grooms, Olathe, Kan.
Laurence H. Deck, Winfield, Kan.
Robert G. Weir, Overland Park, Kan.
Skip (Withey) Becker, Iola, Kan.
William A Harper, Pittsburg, Kan.
Floyd R. Rutschman, Whitewater, Kan.
William J. Morrisey, Pleasanton, Kan.
James Thomas Mantonya, Cherryvale, Kan.
Margaret L. (Brennan) Monaghan,
Dodge City, Kan.
Kiowa-Verda M. (Spicer) Diel,
Greensburg, Kan.
Robert Pazzie, Arma, Kan.
Carol J. McDaniel, Coffeyville, Kan.

Faculty and Staff

Phyllis Ambler, Cherokee, Kan.
Donna Matthews, Emporia, Kan.
Cherie K. (Watson) Branson, Joplin, Mo.
Thomas Morgan Box, Carthage, Mo.
Earl Lee, Pittsburg, Kan.
Henri Freyburger, Aiken, S.C.

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- Sept. 12 GorillaFest in Gorilla Village PSU campus
- Sept. 19 Gorilla Family Fun Day PSU campus
- Sept. 22 Joint Bourbon County/Labette County
Gorilla Gathering PSU campus
- Oct. 2 Taste of Pittsburg PSU campus
- Oct. 3 Homecoming/ Chicken Wars Tailgate PSU campus
- Oct. 8 Neosho County Gorilla Gathering PSU campus
- Oct. 13 Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch Wichita, Kan.
- Oct. 17 GorillaFest in Gorilla Village PSU campus
- Oct. 21 Gorilla Gathering Dinner Cherokee County
- Oct. 22 Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch Kansas City
- Oct. 31 GorillaFest/Costume Contest
in Gorilla Village PSU campus
- Nov. 10 Gorilla Gathering Dinner Montgomery County
- Nov. 14 Gorilla Chili & Salsa Challenge Tailgate PSU campus
- Nov. 19 Jasper County Alumni After Hours Joplin, Mo.
- Nov. 19 Northwest Arkansas After Hours TBD

*Dates are subject to change.

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