



Fall 2017

Pitt State

MAGAZINE



Changing Lives

Study abroad trips teach life, humility. —page 16

Hundreds of campus and community members came together to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War by reading the names of those Americans who died in the war. Volunteers read each of the 58,288 names inscribed on the Vietnam Wall during a special multi-day commemoration event in May at the Veterans Memorial on the PSU campus.



PittState

MAGAZINE

Features

16 Cover: Changing Lives

cover photo: Pitt State biology major Hannah Pio (right) explores the ocean off the coast of Kralendijk, Bonaire, during a study abroad experience. (photo courtesy of Council on International Educational Exchange)

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More photos and stories at
magazine.pittstate.edu

From the editor

Campus is again alive and vibrant, as a new academic year is under way! We are full of joy, gratitude and hope as we begin another fall semester in Gorilla Nation. We hope this edition of the magazine brings that excitement to your home. We're thrilled to share with you the stories both in this magazine and online. Enjoy, and Go Pitt!



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instagram.com/Pittsburg_State



pittsburg_state



Please recycle.

#OAGAAG**@hunthes5**

The guy who greeted us off the bus at Walt Disney World was from @pittstate what are the odds!

@alinoyes

Such a great graduation weekend! I'm proud to be officially a Gorilla alum.

@calikaycox

Thanks for (literally) everything, @pittstate. You gave me more than I could ever ask for. #gorillagrad

@WeckerFaith

I can't wait to call @pittstate my home

@block22psu

Love seeing progress pics! The loft spaces in third-floor rooms are being framed in! #block22psu

@EthicsisEthics

@pittstate Is doing a great job putting on @Baja_SAE in Kansas..lot of energy flowing trying to get the baja cars qualified for competitions

@Nickistheway

Pitt State was the best thing that's happened to me

@RockTheChaos

Adventures are way more fun knowing I have @pittstate to come back to

@MariahCalyn12

Thank you for a once in a lifetime experience @pittstate ... you make saying goodbye so bittersweet.

@ZakHimes123

Big shout out to everyone graduating from @pittstate tonight! Welcome to the alumni side of things!

To the Editor:

Thanks for proving that I'm not losing my mind in my old age. The "Where in the World is Gus?" photo of Dale Gier (BST '89) in the spring issue of PittState Magazine backs my story that the Gus statue in front of the Overman Student Center is not a realistic rendering of a gorilla but rather a modern impressionistic piece. Why so important?

It goes back to one of my first days on campus as a new senior transfer art major in the fall of 1966. I was admiring the "Wooster" sculpture on a beautiful fall day, wondering what the deal was with the gorilla. It was nice, but why here and why a gorilla? Did the school have a big-time anthropology department? Was it "just" a nice public art piece? Not the typical subject matter of public art, however.

Curious, and being a journalist at the time and not afraid to ask questions, I asked a passing student, "What's up with the gorilla?" A look of utter horror came across his face. "That's OUR mascot, you idiot!" he replied, or something to that effect.

The point is that I've told this story many, many times and the fact that the sculpture was a modern rendition of a gorilla was important to me, an art major.

My wife really threw me a curve, though, when she said, "Look, dear, here's your gorilla" and showed me the Champions Plaza sculpture.

"That's NOT what I remember it looking like," I said. A moment later she found Gier's photo. Thank God.

JOHN LEE (BFA'68) (Vietnam '69)

Prairie vs. Woods

Regarding the article in the Spring edition of the magazine: Perhaps the O'Malley Prairie used to be a "sea of grass" like the early settlers might have seen, but at least around the sign and as far as the eye can see in the photo, this is an unmanaged, overgrown patch of woodies including sumac and trees.

It no longer supports native grasses and is an embarrassment to the university! Please get out the 2,4-D and chain saws and get those native grasses restored before promoting it with photos. Thanks.

BETTY ROSE BURLINGHAM, BA'73 Biology, and Konza Prairie Docent

PS: I really enjoy your magazine and learning about the current happenings at the university.

Editor's note: Thanks for pointing out that the growth in front of the sign is not native prairie, but typical plants found along most Kansas roadways, which this is. Beyond the sign, however, the native prairie thrives. We should have chosen a better photo. We're really glad you enjoy the magazine!



Pittsburg State's College of Technology hosted the 15th annual Adventures in Robotics workshop this summer. The two-week program gives children ages nine to 14 the chance to learn about robotics in hands-on, interactive ways. The workshop is conducted every summer at the Kansas Technology Center in conjunction with the Construct Your Future Workshop hosted by the School of Construction.



You may already be qualified to join.

The **Pittsburgh State University Heritage Society** includes and recognizes individuals who have provided support for the university in the form of a gift in their will or other estate plans. All members of the PSU Heritage Society will be invited to enjoy the Presidents Society annual celebration, where the newest members will be presented with a custom obelisk award for their generosity.

Membership in the PSU Heritage Society is available for anyone making a planned gift to PSU, no matter what size.

Three benefits of telling us about your planned gift:

- 1** We can follow your wishes, since we know what they are.
- 2** We can honor you with membership in the PSU Heritage Society.
- 3** Even anonymously, you set an example for others to follow.

Here are a few examples of planned gifts that are easy to make:

- Gifts from a Will or Trust
- Beneficiary Designations
- Appreciated Securities
- Life Insurance

If you have included Pittsburgh State University in your estate plans, or you would like to, please call or email us today.

Office of University Development
Call: 1-888-448-2778
Email: devel@pittstate.edu
Website: pittstate.giftlegacy.com



2017 SCHEDULE

Sept. 14.... Graphics & Imaging Technologies:
Student Perspectives

Oct. 19-22..... Pitt State Theatre:
"bobrauschenbergamerica"

Oct. 21SEK Symphony:
"Opening Night Concert"

Oct. 29.....Broadway's "RENT"

Nov. 14 Women in Government
Lecture Series: Tina Tchen,
Chief of Staff for Michelle Obama

Nov. 17 ... Bicknell Center presents: Fancifool

Dec. 1.....SEK Symphony:
"Holiday Extravaganza"

Dec. 5.....Moscow Ballet:
"Great Russian Nutcracker"

2018 SCHEDULE

Feb. 9 & 11PSU Music: "Gilbert and
Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance"

Feb. 22-25 Pitt State Theatre: "Noises Off"

March 14 ... Bicknell Center presents: Mike Super, Magic & Illusion

March 30 Bicknell Center presents: Churchill: The Blitz

April 7SEK Symphony

April 10 Bicknell Center presents:
U.S. Air Force Academy Concert Band

April 22Broadway's "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella"

April 26-29..... Pitt State Theatre: "Gruesome Playground Injuries"

The Best of Broadway productions, "RENT" and "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella," are made possible through the generous support of CDL Electric.



Pittsburgh State University
Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts
1711 S. Homer · Pittsburgh, Kansas

For performance times & ticket information: BicknellCenter.com or call 620-235-4796.

School of Nursing honored by U.S. Army

This spring, Army ROTC designated the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing as a Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence.

Only a small number of nursing programs in the U.S. achieve Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence status, which is based both on academic excellence and the relationship between the nursing program and ROTC. PSU's is the only Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence in Kansas.

The Center of Excellence designation gives priority to PSU students for nursing scholarships from the Army Cadet Command for this region. Additionally, ROTC students are guaranteed two seats in the upper-division nursing program at PSU each year.

Col. Andrew Morgado said the designation of PSU as a Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence was not the beginning of a great partnership, but the continuation of a longstanding one.

"I would be hard pressed to find another institution that supports its ROTC program like Pittsburg State supports theirs," Morgado said.

"Credit for this achievement goes to the faculty and staff in both the School of Nursing and ROTC for the way they work together for the benefit of our students.

It's the Gorilla way," PSU President Steve Scott said.

Morgado said ROTC cadets in the nursing program have undertaken a big challenge.

"It's an incredible challenge to become an Army officer and it's an incredible challenge to become a nurse," Morgado said. "We ask our young men and women to do both at the same time. We're asking them to be a professional twice."




Col. Andrew Morgado



Maj. Josh Shay and Dr. Cheryl Giefer



Dr. Amy Hite, Dr. Barbara McClaskey and Mr. Donald Shull

Watch online video. 



Rita Girth

Group honors dedication to student health

For the past 27 years, Rita Girth has worked to keep students at Pittsburg State healthy. In recognition of that dedication, the Central College Health Association (CCHA) honored Girth with the Ruth Sarna Spirit of College Health award.

"The award is special for a lot of reasons," Girth said, "but it was even more meaningful because Ruth Sarna was there to present the award to me."

According to the CCHA, the Sarna Award "recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to CCHA, the field of college health, and their own health center and campus." The award is named after Ruth Sarna, who served 26 years at the nurse-directed health clinic at Baker University.

"In college health, we have the ability to foster preventative care and encourage students to adopt healthier lifestyles that will benefit them well beyond their academic years," Girth said.

Girth, the director of operations at PSU's Bryant Student Health Center, was hired as a student health staff nurse in 1990. She was promoted to the position of assistant director in 2002 and became operations director in 2006.

Student groups honored for peer education

PSU's peer education groups Students for Violence Prevention and Gorillas in Your Midst were honored for their work with three awards at the NASPA-BACCHUS Initiatives Region IV-West conference.

Caitlin Martin, the student coordinator for Students for Violence Prevention, was selected to receive the "Outstanding Student Award for Excellence" for her commitment to inclusivity, activism and violence prevention in peer education.

Students for Violence Prevention was honored with a regional award for a sex education and healthy relationships program it presented on campus. They received the Outstanding Program award for "Sex in the Ballroom," an event held in February during Healthy Relationship Week.

The third award went to J.T. Knoll, adviser for Gorillas in Your Midst, who was honored with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for the more than 20 years that he has advised students in peer education.

In addition to receiving awards, Gorillas in your Midst and Students for Violence Prevention were selected to present the program "Gorilla Mental Health Toolbox" to other peer educators and advisers at the conference.



Summit brings manufacturers from around the globe to PSU

After the manufacturers and business leaders from around the world and across the U.S. wrapped up the 2017 Global Manufacturing Summit with a tour of the Kansas Polymer Research Center, former Kansas Secretary of Commerce Antonio Soave said he hoped the participants have a new appreciation of the opportunities available in Southeast Kansas.

"Once upon a time, they may have said, 'Why Southeast Kansas?'" Soave said. "Now we hope they go away and say, 'Why not Southeast Kansas?'"

The summit, hosted by PSU and the Kansas Department of Commerce, attracted attendees from Latin America, Europe, Asia and the U.S., Soave said. Speakers at the summit came from major manufacturers from the Great Lakes to the East Coast and the Southeastern United States. Keynote speakers included Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback; Cliff Pemble, the CEO of Garmin; and Cliff Illig, founder of the Cerner, Corp., and Sporting KC.

Soave said the Department of Commerce created a campaign, "Made in Kansas, the Heart of America," to embrace and promote manufacturing in the state.

"Trillions of dollars (of foreign direct investment) come into the United States and we have to make sure that we get our piece of that pie," Soave said. "That's one side of the transaction. The other portion is the fact that we are stimulating growth from within."

Watch online video. 



Top seniors

The 2017 Outstanding Seniors at Pittsburg State University practically grew up on campus.

Katelyn Flood, of Weir, and Cody James Lindbloom, of Frontenac, received the university's highest honors at the annual student leadership and awards banquet on April 28.

Flood, a biology major, is the daughter of Timothy and Christine Flood of Weir. Lindbloom, a psychology and counseling major, is the son of Carissa Lindbloom of Frontenac and Trent Lindbloom of Weir.

Flood's father, Tim, is chair of the Department of Mathematics. Lindbloom's dad, Trent, is an associate professor in Automotive Technology.

Watch online video. 

Romney emphasizes American goodness, laments political tone



Gov. Mitt Romney, left, takes questions from Lee Scott at the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series on Feb. 28. During his speech at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, Romney talked about American greatness and the need to return to a more civil national discourse.



Romney's visit also included a roundtable discussion with student leaders. Topics discussed included administration policies and the need for compromise between the political parties.

When Lee Scott established the speaker series that bears his name, he said he wanted to deepen the level of discourse and enrich the university experience by examining American life from the perspective of nationally prominent leaders and innovators.

The series appears to be doing just that.

Bill Clinton opened the series in 2015 with a focus on diversity and inclusiveness. On Feb. 28, Mitt Romney, the second speaker in the series, talked about American greatness and the need to return to a more civil national discourse.

"One thing that is essential to the greatness of the nation, and that is, in my view, an essential part of America," Romney said, "is that we are great because we are good."

Romney, a Republican, talked about his work organizing the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and also his service as the governor of Massachusetts, which had an overwhelmingly Democratic legislature.

Watch online video. 



Becky May

May named executive director of University Development

A familiar face is leading Pittsburg State University's Office of University Development. Becky May, who served the past year as interim executive director, has been named executive director of University Development.

"Becky is well known and respected by our donors," said Kathleen Flannery, vice president for University Advancement. "She provided tremendous leadership over the past year. I'm confident in her ability to continue moving our university fundraising efforts forward."

May served as Pittsburg State's director of donor relations before her tenure as interim executive director. Prior to that she served as director of publications and special events within the Office of University Marketing and Communication.

"It's an honor to serve in this role," May said. "The support Pittsburg State receives from its alumni and friends has never been more important to our students than it is today. Our development team is committed to increasing that support and ensuring it is invested for the benefit of the next generation of Gorillas."

Taking the initiative— New unit boosts partnerships



Shawn Naccarato, right, holds regular meetings with university and city leaders as part of his leadership of the University Strategic Initiatives unit.

To better coordinate, implement and extend Pittsburg State University's economic development activities and innovation strategies, the university has created a new unit called University Strategic Initiatives.

The USI houses all aspects of Enterprise PSU (formerly the Center for Innovation and Business Development) and the Kansas Polymer Research Center (KPRC), as well as the university's governmental advocacy efforts. The USI will be a unit within the PSU President's Division.

Shawn Naccarato, who leads USI as the university's Chief Strategy Officer, said the new unit will help the university better leverage its strengths in the areas of economic development and innovation strategies.

"Our main mission is to take advantage of our internal and external partnerships to make Pittsburg and the surrounding region an attractive place to work, play and live," Naccarato said. "Simply put, the USI is responsible for finding the 'big things' that will help position PSU as the transformational university that it is."

Naccarato said partnerships with the university and the city are mutually beneficial for both parties.

"A stronger positioned Pittsburg and Pittsburg region makes PSU a more attractive university for current and future students," he said. "Enhanced partnerships with industry provides hands-on experience and career opportunities for PSU students both locally and globally."

One of the key initiatives led by USI is the Block22 project, which is transforming four historic buildings in downtown Pittsburg into student housing, a business incubator, co-working area, and a multi-function event and educational space.

Sydney Anselmi, who previously served as a small business consultant for the CIBD, serves as USI's director of operations and director of student initiatives.

"Since joining our staff more than a year ago, Sydney has exhibited remarkable leadership abilities and a true passion for innovative thinking," Naccarato said. "In her role as director of operations and director of student initiatives, Sydney will provide essential leadership, energy and the skills necessary to enhance our innovation initiatives."

PSU signs \$1M contract with Coca-Cola

Pittsburg State University has entered into a 10-year, \$1 million contract with Coca-Cola.

The agreement grants Coca-Cola campus-wide "pouring rights," including fountain dispensers in retail settings, campus vending machines and distribution at all athletic events.

In total, Coca-Cola's contract will result in the university annually receiving more than \$100,000 in income over the length of the agreement.

"In today's budget climate, maximizing our return on contracts is essential," said Doug Ball, PSU's chief financial officer. "The new agreement will provide the university with a larger amount of annual income and provide opportunities for additional scholarship revenue, all while maintaining quality service for our campus community."

The new agreement will mean a switch for the university, which had previously partnered with Pepsi.

"We knew this would be a difficult decision," Ball said. "It's why we put such a detailed bidding process into place. We've enjoyed our relationship with Pepsi and sincerely thank them for their partnership throughout the years."

The university took nearly three months to entertain and review bids from both Coca-Cola and Pepsi. The process included on-campus presentations and a detailed review by a campus committee.

"We actively sought out proposals," said Jim Hughes, PSU's director of purchasing. "We know how competitive the market can be, and we wanted to make certain we gave vendors ample time to prepare. We were pleased with the presentations and level of detail provided by both vendors."

Growth, optimism in local economy

The Pittsburg area economy is strong and getting stronger.

When Michael Davidsson began studying the local and regional economy more than four years ago, he saw signs of progress in the region.

"The Pittsburg area has great potential for economic growth and development," Davidsson said in early 2014.

Davidsson, an assistant professor in Pittsburg State's Kelce College of Business, is the lead researcher and author of the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report. In the latest edition is data that proves Davidsson was quite prophetic.

"Local economic development programs and improvement in the national economy in the last couple of years have stimulated the Pittsburg area economy," the report states.

Davidsson said that recent economic data shows "really good news" for the Pittsburg area.

"There are so many good things happening right now," Davidsson said. "Sales are increasing, wages are increasing and local poverty is decreasing. There has been tremendous investment in the local economy, and that has led to exciting growth and a renewed optimism."

Davidsson pointed to the increase in small business activity as a clear sign of economic growth.

"In 2016, there were 79 new, active local small businesses," he said. "What that tells us is that people are seeing a growing economy and are willing to take risks that they may not have taken a few years ago. It shows that people are more optimistic about where things are going and that they have high hopes for the future of our local economy."

The latest economic report states that overall revenue by private, non-farm industries in the Pittsburg area increased in 2016 to \$2.5 billion, an increase of 5.4 percent over 2015 data. Also, the average wage in the area increased nearly 5 percent to \$40,530.



High marks

Pittsburg State University has successfully undergone a major institutional review by its regional accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

HLC, one of six regional accrediting bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, is responsible for accrediting post-secondary educational institutions throughout the Midwest and requires a major review of each member institution twice during every 10-year period.

"It's an extensive review," said Jan Smith, assistant vice president for Institutional Effectiveness. "A review team looks at our entire operation to evaluate us against five criteria, including mission, integrity, academic and co-curricular offerings, governance, finances and resources."

Results from the recent review confirm that Pittsburg State meets all of HLC's criteria. These findings are an endorsement of Pittsburg State's commitment to quality education and continuous improvement.

HLC recently changed its review process to make it more meaningful and less burdensome. The new process relies more heavily on existing documentation. The result is a review that is more efficient and, in some respects, more meaningful for institutions.

Finding Gus Gorilla (Hint: it's not on page 5.)

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.

Please include your first and last name, as well as the page number and location where you found the hidden gorilla. One entry per person.

Entries must be received by November 15, 2017. 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 Wallace Souder, BS 1960, Overland Park, Kan., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Spring 2017 magazine!



Financial aid— Nursing school receives grant

Pittsburg State University's Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing has been selected to receive a nearly \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The two-year grant, known as the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) program, supports innovative academic-practice partnerships that prepare students to become primary care practitioners in rural and underserved settings.

The grant will be used to help qualified students in Pittsburg State's BSN-DNP program fully cover the cost of their education.

"This is monumental for our students and our program," said Cheryl Giefer, director of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing. "It's actually a two-part grant. It will provide funding for faculty, equipment and program development but, more importantly, it will cover tuition and expenses for many of our BSN-DNP students."

One of the many DNP students who'll benefit from the grant is Jordan Howard. A father of three young children, Howard is currently working the overnight shift as an Emergency Room nurse at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg.

"It's (receiving the grant) a huge weight off of my shoulders," Howard said. "I won't have to struggle financially through school, and I'll have more time for my studies. That's a big thing, especially having three kids and a fourth on the way."



50+ Graduate Programs 19 Online Programs

ONLINE PROGRAMS IN **RED**

College of Arts & Sciences

MASTER'S PROGRAMS:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Communication
- English
- **History**
- Mathematics
- Music
- Nursing - Education (MSN)
- Physics
- Polymer Chemistry
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN to DNP & MSN to DNP)

Kelce College of Business*

MASTER'S PROGRAMS:

- **Master of Business Administration (MBA)** with emphasis in Accounting, General Administration or International Business

* Kelce College of Business is AACSB accredited

College of Education

MASTER'S & SPECIALIST PROGRAMS:

- **Teaching** (Elementary, Secondary or English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- **Reading**
- **Educational Leadership**
- **Educational Technology**
- **Special Education**
- **Education - School Health**
- **Advanced Studies in Leadership**
- **Health, Human Performance & Recreation**
- **Psychology and Counseling**

College of Technology

MASTER'S PROGRAMS:

- **Engineering Technology**
- **Human Resource Development**
- **Technology** with emphasis in Automotive Technology, Construction Management, Graphic Design, Graphics Management, Personnel Development, Technology Management, Innovation in Technology, Innovation Engineering and Information Technology
- **Career and Technical Education**

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Graduate and Continuing Studies

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Fall 2017 Arts Calendar

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

Art

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

University Gallery Porter Hall

August 29-November 2

Tom Lundquist

November 14-February 2

Tony Hanson

November 15-16

High School Art Day

Harry Krug Gallery Porter Hall

September 5-December 2

Steve Ford (Biology)

Permanent Collection

Theatre

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

October 19-22

bobrauschenbergamerica

by Charles L. Mee

directed by Linden Little

Bicknell Center, Miller Theater

Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.;

Sat. & Sun., matinees 2 p.m.

December 1-2

Theatre Unplugged

Student Directed One-Acts

Grubbs Hall, Studio Theatre

Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m..

Music

For ticket information and prices go to: pittstate.edu/tickets or call 620-235-4796 . *ticketed event

September 28 – PSU Wind Ensemble

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

October 2 – Jazz Ensembles

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**October 8 – Crowder Jazz Orchestra
with Allen Vizzutti**

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**October 9 – Allen Vizzutti
(Guest Trumpet Recital)**

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

October 21 – SEK Orchestra*

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

November 3 – PSU Choirs

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

November 10 – SEK Children Concert

Bicknell Center, 9 p.m.

November 16 – Jazz Ensembles

Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

December 1 – SEK Orchestra*

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**December 2 – Kansas District II
Mini Convention**

Bicknell Center, all day

December 3 – PSU Wind Ensemble

Bicknell Center, 3 p.m.

December 6 – Timmons Chapel Concert

Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

December 8 – Timmons Chapel Concert

Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

Gorilla Activities Board

September 15 – Junglettron Movie

Carnie Smith Stadium, 7 p.m.

Mini-Theatre Showings:

Sept. 16-29, 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

September 19 – Talent Tuesday

Overman Student Center,

U-Club, 8 p.m.

October 26 – Hocus Pocus Premiere

Overman Student Center,

Crimson and Gold Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Mini-Theatre Showings: Oct. 26-31,
12 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

November 7 – Dear World Open

Photoshoot

Overman Student Center,

Crossroads, 9 a.m.

November 7 – Dear World Live Reveal

Overman Student Center,

Crimson and Gold Ballroom, 7 p.m.

**November 13 – Harry Potter and the
Sorcerer's Stone & Harry Potter and
the Chamber of Secrets**

Overman Student Center,

Crimson & Gold Ballroom, 4:30 p.m.

**November 14 – Harry Potter and the
Prisoner of Azkaban & Harry Potter
and the Goblet of Fire**

Overman Student Center,

Crimson & Gold Ballroom, 4:30 p.m.

**November 15 – Harry Potter and the
Order of the Phoenix & Harry Potter
and the Half-Blood Prince**

Overman Student Center,

Governor's Room, 4:30 p.m.

**November 16 – Harry Potter and the
Deathly Hallows: Part 1 & Part 2**

Overman Student Center,

Crimson & Gold Ballroom, 4:30 p.m.

**November 17 – Fantastic Beasts and
Where to Find Them**

Overman Student Center,

Crimson & Gold Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Mini-Theatre Showings: Nov. 18-20,
12 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

Two of the best Broadway musicals in the nation!



RENT
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TOUR



Measure
your **life in Love**



Sunday,
Oct. 29, 2017

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S
CINDERELLA



SUNDAY,
APRIL 22,
2018



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1711 S. Homer • Pittsburg, KS

Best of
BROADWAY

Tickets: BicknellCenter.com





Off the beaten path— On a “roads-less traveled” trip of New England, Joe Maghe (BA Geography '74), stopped at the Cabin Fever Restaurant in Bartlett, Vermont, where he met this fellow Gorilla.



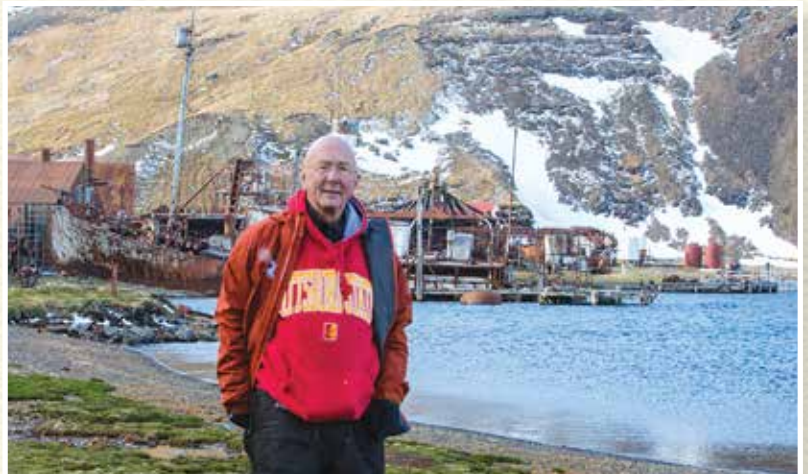
Beach buddies— Dennis Browne (BSBA '75), Gary Dodson (BSBA '74), Joe Sachen (BSBA '75) and Mel Myer (BST '74) enjoy the sun, sand and surf at Playa del Carmen, Mexico.



“Where in the World is Gus?”



Proud Gorillas— No one on the beach in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, could have any doubts about where these proud Gorillas' loyalties lie. Left to right are Howard “Biff” Hess (BSE '63); his wife, Ruby; Carol Billington Hess, (BSE '64); and her husband, Harlan “Whick” Hess, (BSE '63).



Gorilla in the South Atlantic— Ron Gates (BA '69) shows his Gorilla pride at Grytviken, South Georgia Island, about 1,000 miles east of the southern tip of Argentina. The tiny island, now a British research station, is home to millions of penguins, albatross and other birds, as well as elephant seals, but has a human population of just seven during the winter months.

Just hitched— Married in September 2016, Michelle Krause Ramsey (BS '10) and David Ramsey (BS '11) made sure some of their wedding photos were taken on campus. Congrats and best wishes from Gorilla Nation!



Gorillas on the Emerald Isle– John (BS Education '74, MS '79; Ed. S '85; MS in Counseling '90) and Dianna (BS '74) Baker show their Gorilla pride at historic Trim Castle in Trim, County Meath, Ireland.

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



Gorillas upside down & "down under"– David (BSET Plastics Engineering, '11) and Rachel (BS Accounting '09) Martin show their Gorilla pride from a different perspective in the midst of a bungee jump off the Kawarau Bridge near Queenstown, New Zealand.



Spanish lessons– Janna Kirkpatrick Babcock (BBA Spanish and Marketing, '84) shows her Gorilla pride at the pre-Columbian city, Cichen Itza. Babcock explored in the historic sites and practiced her Spanish with her family, Sara, Mark and Bryan.



Mountain Gorilla– Megan (Spencer) Callanan (BSEd Psychology '05) and her husband, Mark, conquer Gros Piton in St. Lucia where they went for spring break. Megan is a school counselor at Blue Springs (Mo.) High School.



Deep South– Judson Hall (BSBA '80) shows his Gorilla pride in Key West, Fla., the southernmost point in the continental U.S. Hall and his wife, Carol, live in O'Fallon, Mo., where Judson is retired from Boeing and Carol is a nurse manager with St. Louis University.



Victorious Gorilla– Paul Schnichels, (BS '94) imitates the triumphant gladiators who would pass through the Victors Gate at the Colosseum in Rome.

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Emily Vue, an international business and international studies major, studied this summer at Hanyang University in South Korea.

Changing Lives

Study abroad trips teach life, humility.

OFTEN, THOSE PITT STATE experiences that have the greatest impact on a student's life take place far from the Oval.

Senior Emily Allen said she thought she understood something about poverty until she went on a trip to Peru this spring to study the Amazon Rain Forest.

"Until this trip I feel like I never really understood what it meant to not have access to clean water or school supplies," Allen said. "I had never seen so many individuals without shoes or clothes riddled with holes, because they

can't afford to buy any. The mortality rate where we were is very high, and if they had some of the medicines that are thought of as common in the States, it would save many lives."

The faculty who lead these off-campus study programs say it doesn't surprise them that students' lives are changed by the experience. In fact, that's the point.

"The thing that I heard just about all the students comment on was that they didn't realize that that level of poverty existed in the world," said Delia Lister, director of PSU's Nature Reach

program. “One particular family we visited – it was grandparents, their son and their son’s wife and kids – collectively made maybe the equivalent of \$150-\$200 a year and that was it.

“But they were happy and they were welcoming and so I think that really struck the students,” Lister said.

Lister said the trip to Peru was her fourth such trip.

“This was my fourth trip,” she said. “I went in 2004 as a student. I never thought I would have a chance to lead a group, myself.”

She said she enjoys these educational journeys, as they teach everyone a lot about life and perspective.

“When I was a student, I realized it’s a pretty big world out there,” she said. “I’m pretty lucky to be an American and to have what I have. When I start complaining about something I stop and realize that’s a first-world problem.”

Emily Vue, who double majors in international business and international

“I think you really gain a new appreciation for your own culture when you study abroad. By learning about other cultures, you learn a lot about your own.” – Emily Vue

studies, spent part of this past summer at Hanyang University in South Korea. During her study abroad experience, she took courses in ceramic arts and the Korean language.

“The opportunity to study abroad is one of the best parts about being a student at Pitt State,” Vue said. “I knew I could come to Pitt, which isn’t all that far from my hometown, and still have

continued



Emily Allen in Peru learning the process of crushing the juice out of sugar cane with the assistance of fellow student Logan Houk and Peruvian Guide Celso Hidalgo Riz.



Emily Allen at a local animal sanctuary where students had the chance to interact with toucans, squirrel monkeys, a three-toed sloth, spider monkeys, and this capuchin monkey.



Jessica Harrington getting her photo taken with a resident tapir at Ceiba Tops Lodge near Iquitos, Peru. Fellow trip participants are Morgan Houk, Emily Allen and Logan Houk.

the chance to see the world. It's really cool."

Vue credits the International Programs and Services Office at Pitt State for helping her accomplish her dream of studying in South Korea. Vue specifically thanked Assistant Director Angela Moots for her role in the process.

"Angela Moots really helped make this all happen," she said. "I was a little worried about how I would pay for this, and she told me about the Gilman Scholarship."

The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a grant program that enables students to study or intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to our national security and economic competitiveness.

"Angela helped me apply for the scholarship," Vue said. "I didn't think I'd get it since so many students apply. But then I got an email one day saying I had received the scholarship. It was probably the best email I've ever received."

Vue said all students should consider studying abroad.

"You gain a new appreciation for your own culture when you study abroad," she said. "When you get international experiences, you learn so much about new cultures and you see things you can't see here in the United States. At the same time, by learning about other

"My first day of freshman year here at PSU, I went straight to the study abroad office to start planning my trip and never looked back." – Lauren Hughes

cultures, you learn a lot about your own."

Pitt State students and alumni said studying abroad can be life-changing.

"My first day of freshman year here at PSU, I went straight to the study abroad office to start planning my trip and never looked back," said Lauren Hughes, who studied for six months in Berlin, Germany. "I didn't care how I got overseas. I just knew I needed to go."

"I learned more than I could have ever imagined over those six months," she said. "My experience quickly became about more than just travel. My favorite thing about my time overseas was not the places I went, but it is hands down the people I met and the experiences I had with them. I walked away from Berlin knowing so much more about myself because of the people I spent my time with."

Alex Ortiz was part of a faculty-led trip to London last year.

Ortiz, from Coffeyville, Kan., said he would encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity while in school.

"I think other people should really consider the benefits that can come from

studying abroad," he said. "It could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some and one you could regret passing on."

It also provides you with international experience that can give you an edge when applying for jobs. It can be such an eye-opener and helps remind us that there's a whole other world outside our own country."

Hannah Pio agrees. Pio, who studied biology at PSU, spent a month in Kralendijk, Bonaire, a small island in the Dutch Caribbean. Pio said she chose that location because of her career goal of being a marine biologist.

Along with attaining valuable experience and information that will help in her future career, Pio said the experience also taught her lessons that will benefit her overall life.

"I learned so much during my time in Bonaire," she said. "I learned to not be afraid to do things completely on my own, because the experiences you end up having are so worth it. It was really eye-opening to experience a different culture and to feel like an outsider. I feel like it really made me appreciate my home a lot more." •



Lauren Hughes, Berlin Germany



Alex Ortiz, London



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Art, wood tech students collaborate on exhibit

TYPICALLY, ART STUDENTS TEND to live in the abstract, while wood tech students focus on the functional. They don't often think the same, dress the same or even talk the same. Their worlds hardly ever collide.

It took an art exhibit to shatter those stereotypes.

That was the point behind "Home," an exhibit in the Harry Krug Gallery that featured seven pieces designed and created by teams of PSU art students and wood tech students.

"We were hanging out last spring, and Robby (2016 art graduate Robby Raio) mentioned something about collaborating on an exhibit," said Sam Galliart, a senior wood technology major. "I thought it would be interesting to have that experience, that

"This wasn't for a class project or for course credit. It was strictly for the experience. It was for the experience of having people from different areas come together to work on a project." – Robby Raio

new perspective. Wood tech students don't often think about creating art pieces for an exhibit."

Galliart and Raio recruited nearly 20 students to work on the project, which was planned and created outside of their regular course schedule.

"This wasn't for a class project or for course credit," Raio said. "It was strictly for the experience. It was for the experience of having people from



Robby Raio (left) and Sam Galliart inside the Harry Krug Gallery in Porter Hall.

different areas come together to work on a project."

Working in teams of two or three, the art and wood tech students collaborated on both the design phase and the construction phase of the pieces.

"What was interesting about this project was seeing how being around someone who thought in a different way than you could spark new ideas," Galliart said. "For someone like me who works in wood tech every day, hearing the artists' perspectives and ideas was fascinating. It opened my mind to new ways of thinking.

"It was an interesting challenge and a great experience to work with people from different backgrounds," he said. "Through this exhibit, I've made lifelong friends that I'll talk to for the rest of my life."

And that, Raio said, is why art is a vital component of society.

"Art can stimulate ideas and make people contemplate things that they might not have otherwise thought about," he said. "So this project wasn't as much about bringing art and wood tech together as it was about people in general coming together and learning from each other." •

Just did it— Plastics student lands dream job at Nike IHM

WHEN JORDYN SHOWERS ENROLLED IN THE plastics engineering technology program at Pittsburg State, she had confidence that her degree would one day land her at the job of her dreams.

“I knew that maybe five or 10 years into my career, I could end up at a large, well-known company,” she said. “Our plastics program is one of the best in the nation, so I knew it could take me pretty far.”

She was right about the big job thing. She was just off on the timing.

Following graduation in May, Showers moved to Beaverton, Ore., to begin working at Nike IHM, an independently run subsidiary of Nike that focuses on plastics manufacturing. In her role as a process engineer, Showers works with twin sheet thermoforming to produce air soles for various types of Nike shoes.

“It’s very exciting, because I never thought I’d make it into such a large company right off the bat,” she said. “I think it shows that our program at PSU is top notch and prepares you for these big opportunities.”

Showers said she was offered the job at Nike IHM after earning two internships at the company. She said her hands-on education at Pitt State helped her stand out from the thousands of applicants.

“Nike IHM expects you to come in and be on the machines,” she said. “You have to know what you’re doing, and PSU prepares you for that. The plastics program at Pitt is amazing because of all of the lab time. We have so much time on the machines, and we know how all of this works by the time we graduate.”

Showers said one of her main goals in her career in plastics is to help give plastics a better name.

“Plastics are blamed for a lot of the world’s problems,” she said, “but it’s not bad plastic. It’s bad application. I want to use my knowledge to better educate people and help them better understand the good that plastic does for the world.”




Jordyn Showers

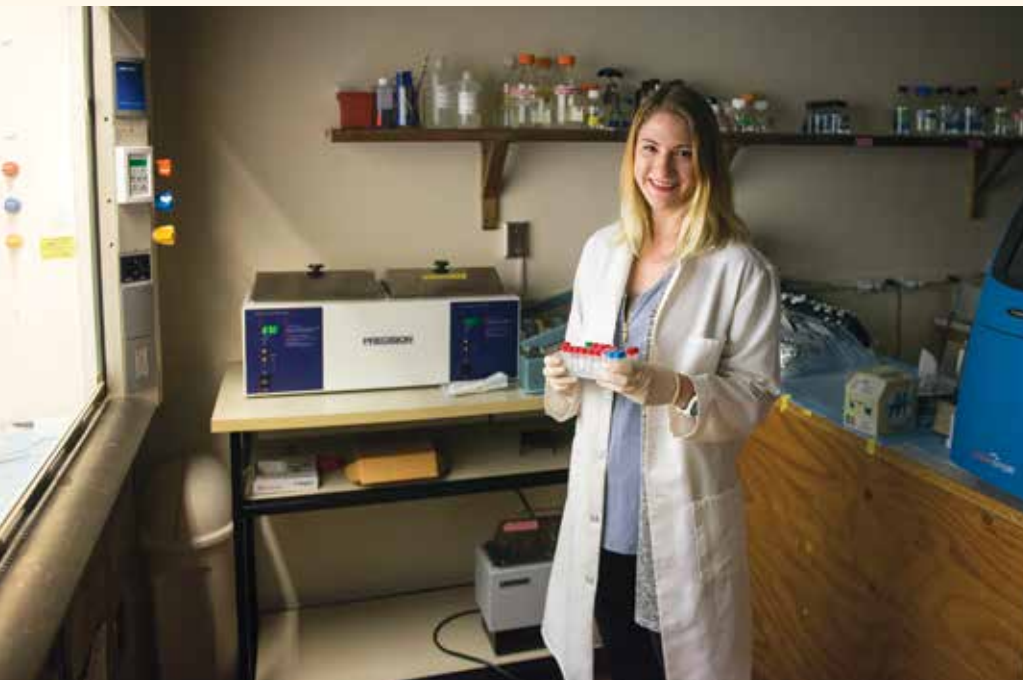
She also hopes her success will inspire young women to enter the field.

“Because there are fewer of us in the technology world, women have a real opportunity to shine and show people that we’re smart and capable,” she said. “Technology doesn’t have to be just a man’s world. I think as more women feel confident that they can find success in technology, you’ll see the trend of fewer women start to change.” •

“Nike IHM expects you to come in and be on the machines. You have to know what you’re doing, and PSU prepares you for that.”

– Jordyn Showers

Watch online video. 



Hannah Thomas

Student finds her passion and charts a new path

MANY OF US CAN POINT TO A person or event that changed the direction of our lives. For Hannah Thomas, who graduated in May, it's several people and two amazing experiences.

It's not the path Thomas expected to be on when she came to PSU from Ottawa, Kansas.

"I was thinking pre-med," Thomas said.

A member of the Honors College and also the Pride of the Plains Drum Line, Thomas settled into campus life quickly and began taking the biology

classes she would need for the pre-med program.

She realized something in the classes that covered biology of both plants and animals.

"It seems as if everyone hates the plant side, but I loved it," Thomas said. "Plants make so much more sense than animals."

She also came to understand some things about herself.

"I realized I didn't like the health care system, but I still loved science," Thomas said. "I also fell in love with research. There are moments in the lab

when you realize, 'I could do this my whole life!'"

In 2014, Thomas joined a biology student trip to Belize and it changed her life.

"It was a very eye-opening experience," Thomas said. "For the first time in my life, I met someone who might very possibly starve to death. I realized that medicine wasn't going to save them if they had no food."

In the first semester of her junior year, Thomas switched her focus from pre-med to plant biology.

Then came a second amazing experience. Thomas was accepted for a summer internship at the prestigious Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center at St. Louis where she worked under researcher Blake Meyers, who is known for his pioneering work in bioinformatics and plant genetics.

At the Plant Sciences Center, Thomas found herself at the center of groundbreaking research that has the potential to change the world. She even met Bill and Melinda Gates, who came to check on research their foundation is supporting.

Thomas said the internship at the Plant Sciences Center was one of the reasons she was accepted into the Ph.D. program at Cornell, but she gives most of the credit to her professors for giving her the tools she needed.

"Dr. Virginia Rider (Rider advises pre-med students and coordinates the campus Kansas IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence) had a big impact on my development," Thomas said. "Dr. Neil Snow (Snow is an assistant professor of botany and director of the T.M. Sperry Herbarium) and Dr. Rider were really important in helping me figure out my path." •

"For the first time in my life, I met someone who might very possibly starve to death. I realized that medicine wasn't going to save them if they had no food." – Hannah Thomas

“Tail-End Charley”

GARY BROWN NEVER THOUGHT OF his father as an adventurous man. And why would he? Jim Brown was an English teacher who spent more than 30 years in classrooms sharing his love of the written word with students throughout Kansas.

So it was a bit surprising when Gary came across a manuscript, following his father's death in 2011, detailing the elder Brown's time flying a P-47 fighter over Italy, France and Germany during World War II.

“He's just not a daredevil kind of guy,” said Brown. “So the fact that he's doing cartwheels in the sky was kind of an eyebrow raiser.”

Brown's original manuscript, written in the early '80s, describes his experiences as a small town Kansan who finds himself fighting in a war that spanned the entire globe.

“He kept a diary of each of his 85 missions,” said Brown. “The original story was a recapitulation of these missions as he thinks back to the kid in that plane.”

Jim dreamed of finding a publisher for his story but was unable to find any interest at the time. “His story wasn't salacious nor was he shooting down Messerschmitt's,” said Brown. “I can see why traditional publishers of that era would say no because there may not have been a market for it.”

After Jim's passing, Gary discovered a series of additional stories his father had written. These stories turned out to be the perfect bookends to Jim's original manuscript, providing details of his enlistment, his return to Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University) and the courtship of his future wife, Jean.

“They add a complexity to him as a narrator that wasn't there before,” said Brown. “It really makes for a compelling story. It's a tribute not just to my father, but to his entire generation and what they sacrificed for our country.”

Thanks to modern technology Brown was able to self-publish the book earlier this year. Titled “Tail-End Charley” (a reference to his position as the last aircraft in each flight) the book is available on Amazon.com in electronic and print format. More than 1,000 Kindle downloads have been purchased thus far, a figure Gary knows would make his father happy.

“Like most of his generation, he wasn't a ‘Hey, look at me’ kind of guy,” said Brown. “To be able to let people experience this period of time from his perspective is what I'm happiest about. His story has some reach now.”

After the war, Jim Brown returned to KSTCP to earn both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He married the

love of his life, Jean Helbig, in 1946. After spending a few years in Pittsburg, the couple would raise a loving family of four children and spend most of their lives in Lenexa and Overland Park, Kansas. •



Jim Brown earned his silver wings and commission as a second lieutenant at the age of 19 on May 23, 1944.



Brown on the wing of a P-47 in Biblis, Germany, in April 1945.

Capturing History

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING, noted Ron Womble, he probably shouldn't have wound up as one of the most revered storytellers in Pittsburg State University history.

With a class of 30, his high school newspaper was published on a mimeograph machine. And Womble, a practical joker, didn't take school seriously. His family, shaped by the Depression and World War II, lacked the means to support him.

"We moved from cheap rental house to cheap rental house, and my dad had an eighth grade education," he said.

But he defied the odds, and storyteller he became. Having served four university presidents, he leaves behind thousands of stories in newspapers, speeches, campus announcements, radio and television interviews, the annual commencement address, bulk emails, the Pitt State website, and this magazine.

"Some people leave behind a legacy of new shiny buildings, and some people leave a new academic program, and some people prepare the next generation of leaders," said PSU President Steve Scott. "But Ron leaves a narrative of this place."

Starting out

Having graduated from the University of Kansas where he learned from icons in journalism, Womble first cut his reporting teeth at newspapers in Ottawa and Clay Center, Kansas.

It was a dreary rainy day in April 1979, when Womble arrived in Pittsburg to accept a job as news desk editor at *The Morning Sun*. It wasn't



President Scott, right, provided Womble with a framed copy of the first and final University Magazine covers produced during his time at Pittsburg State.

Chris Kelly, right, presented Womble with a one-of-a-kind cooler on behalf of Womble's colleagues in the Office of University Marketing and Communication.

long before he'd been promoted to managing editor and become involved in numerous community organizations as a volunteer and leader.

Three years later, Womble accepted the position of Assistant Director of Public Affairs at Pitt State, working for Director Ellen Carter, a former reporter at *The Morning Sun*. His first piece? A news release on Nov. 17, 1986, announcing he'd been hired. Its appearance speaks to the changes he's seen during his career: written on a typewriter, it was sent via postal mail to area media.



In the years since, Womble has also seen other changes: from writing a few news releases per week to several per day, they now are disseminated by email, online, and via social media. Reporters can reach him instantly by

"Some people leave behind a legacy of new shiny buildings, and some people leave a new academic program, and some people prepare the next generation of leaders. But Ron leaves a narrative of this place." – President Steve Scott

text messaging. Photos no longer require hours to process – they are Tweeted by media outlets and by Pitt State directly from groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings.

And the University has grown.

Womble has told, and helped reporters to tell, campus stories.

Stories about groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings for the Kansas Technology Center, apartments, residence halls, the Bryant Student Health Center, the Crossland University House, sports complexes, the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, the Overman Student Center, and the Plaster Event Center.

Stories about the youngest PSU graduate and the oldest. Stories about a visit by a former President and a former First Lady. Stories of students overcoming challenges, departments receiving grants and gifts, and new administrators being hired. Stories about concerts, theatrical productions, and art exhibits.

Stories about enrollment climbing and budgets declining.

“The standard”

Chris Kelly, who when working in radio and television relied on Womble during assignments involving Pitt State, worked alongside Womble as the associate vice president of University Marketing and Communication. Kelly said Womble’s greatest strengths are his integrity, his patience and dedication to mentoring young reporters.

“He connects with readers intellectually and emotionally,” he said.

And, Kelly noted, Womble excelled at helping calm reporters facing deadlines, tough questions from editors, and unavailable sources, often accepting late night calls with last-minute requests.

Ellen Carter, former director of PSU Public Affairs, said the turnout of several area media outlets at Womble’s retirement reception was a testament to the type of relationship he had with them; media at retirement receptions is unusual.

Among them: Darin McCann, a longtime TV news videographer

with KODE, who said Womble “set the standard.”

“When reporters called him, we knew he’d get back to us – he wouldn’t leave us hanging,” McCann said. “And if something fell through, he’d always have a Plan B to help us out. With his journalistic background, he knew what our job was like.”

Diane Hutchison, who designs the Pitt State Magazine, said that saying Womble will be missed is an understatement.

“He is one of those people who instantly became a friend instead of ‘just’ a coworker, and proved that it doesn’t take a loud voice to accomplish tremendous things,” she said.

Next up:

After filing the last stories of his career – construction beginning in Axe Library, and the impact that study abroad trips have on students – Womble plans to begin creating a new narrative: Enjoying spending time with Connie, his wife of 40 years, and his grandchildren, who are active in sports and dance. •



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10.13
TASTE OF PITTSBURG
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*this is a ticketed event

Saturday
10.14
PARADE, GORILLAFEST, GAME
9 a.m., Parade Downtown Pittsburg
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., GorillaFest @ Gorilla Village
2 p.m., Carnie Smith Stadium vs. Missouri Western

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PSU, KCUMB renew partnership agreement

PSU and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB) have renewed their longstanding Partner Program agreement.

The Partner Program is an articulation agreement between PSU and KCUMB that allows PSU biology majors to apply to the medical school in their sophomore year.

Under the agreement, KCUMB reserves first-year seats for selected PSU students. Based on scholarship and interviews, the students are offered early admission to the KCUMB College of Medicine during their junior year. Those students skip their senior year on the PSU campus, but earn a PSU degree upon the successful completion of their first year of medical school.

Selection for the Partner Program is based on the students' ACT scores, freshman year academic performance, community service, undergraduate and high school activities and knowledge of and dedication to the field of osteopathic medicine.

Virginia Rider, a University Professor in biology who advises students in PSU's pre-medical program, said Pittsburg State has had a strong relationship with KCUMB for many years.

"Our graduates have had very good success in being accepted to KCU for a number of years," Rider said. "Quite a few went through the Partner Program."



RN to BSN degree now online

In order to expand the RN to BSN program's reach, Pittsburg State will, for the first time, begin offering it completely online.

That's a welcome change from the nursing degree's current status as a hybrid program, according to Cheryl Giefer, Director of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing.

"As our population ages, the demand for qualified nurses is becoming more intense," Giefer said. "Working RNs generally don't have time to travel and physically sit in a classroom. Moving the RN to BSN program online will allow RNs throughout the nation the flexibility to take classes when it fits their schedule."

Pittsburg State's RN to BSN online degree program is currently accepting qualified applicants. Applicants who have already completed the required general education credits can earn their BSN degree in as little as one year. Additional details are available at pittstate.edu/RNtoBSN.

Honeywell collaboration

Watch online video.

Officials from Pittsburg State and Honeywell signed an agreement this year that paves the way for expanded research opportunities, technology exchange and closer collaboration between the two entities.

"What I'm most excited about is where we are going next," PSU President Steve Scott said, noting that building partnerships is something PSU has done for a long time. "Time after time we've built partnerships that have allowed us to leverage up and do things that are pretty amazing."

Honeywell Vice President of Engineering Robin Stubenhofer said Honeywell is interested in the work going on at PSU in the field of polymer chemistry. She said Honeywell's mission in Kansas City is about national defense.

"We have, over the past several years, developed (university) centers of excellence with the intent that we want to move forward where the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration goes with future products," Stubenhofer said. "We want to make them safer (and) more manufacturable, and do it in a way that really benefits the nation."



President Steve Scott and Vice President of Engineering Robin Stubenhofer of Honeywell seal a collaboration agreement between the two entities.

National honor society leadership

Two mathematics professors had an opportunity to reflect on history when they were elected to national offices with Kappa Mu Epsilon (KME), the national mathematics honor society.

Leah Childers, an assistant professor, was elected to serve as president-elect for the organization. Cynthia Huffman, a University Professor, was elected historian and news editor of the KME's *Pentagon Journal*.

"I am honored to serve an organization that provides so many opportunities for students and has been pivotal in my own career trajectory," Childers said. "In addition, I'm excited to continue the tradition of Pittsburg State providing strong leadership to KME."

Pittsburg State's proud history with the KME goes back to 1934, when the PSU chapter was formed. It was just the third chapter of the organization in the United States. Because it was the first in

Kansas, it is known as the Kansas Alpha chapter.

Faculty have played an important role in the honor society's leadership over the decades, Huffman said. J.A.G. Shirk was the second national president of KME. Ron G. Smith, J.D. Haggard and longtime department chair Helen Kriegsmann all served as officers. Harold Thomas was historian and president and was honored by KME with its George R. Mach Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

Perhaps more important, more than 2,000 PSU students have been inducted into the KME over the years. PSU students routinely attend regional and national KME conventions, where they make presentations and frequently win awards. This year, students Landis Duff and Jacob Rowley were honored for making one of the top student presentations at the national convention.

Immediate science success

All seven of the students that graduated from the polymer chemistry program this spring went off to jobs with major companies or into highly regarded polymer chemistry Ph.D. programs.

"Over the past few years, the Chemistry Department has more than doubled the number of students in its graduate programs in chemistry and polymer chemistry and significantly increased the number of graduates," according to Petar Dvornic, chair of the Chemistry Department.

Pitt State awarded its first two master's degrees in polymer chemistry last year. Those two are currently in Ph.D. programs at the University of Texas and Oklahoma State University. In addition, four students earned chemistry degrees last year, but completed extensive work in polymer chemistry. Of those, one is now in a Ph.D. program in Switzerland, another is in a Ph.D. program at Oklahoma State, another is working for a company in Saudi Arabia

and the fourth is working for a biochemical company in Kansas City.

"Our graduates are almost instantaneously finding jobs or admission to graduate schools where they can earn terminal degrees," Dvornic said. "We believe that this is the surest indicator of the quality of our program and the quality of our students who graduate from it."

Harpsichord and Steinway pianos making music together



When the decision was made to add a harpsichord to the Steinway pianos already in use in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, Susan Marchant, chair of the Department of Music, did some research. She eventually chose Craig Tomlinson, a harpsichord builder in Vancouver, British Columbia, to provide an instrument that could match the high standards the space required.

"The choice of Craig Tomlinson followed a good deal of research into today's builders," said Marchant.

Marchant described the harpsichord Tomlinson built as a "full, two-keyboard harpsichord typical of the French approach to building that represents the pinnacle of harpsichord design in the 18th century." Its construction is based on an instrument crafted by Joannes Goermans in 1764 and rebuilt by Pascal Taskin in 1784 that is now in the Russell Collection in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"It is a stunning instrument, both visually and acoustically," Marchant said.

The new harpsichord at the Bicknell Center was purchased with funds donated by the Steinway Society, which last year funded the purchase of two Steinway pianos for the center.

Welcome to the future

These images give a glimpse of what the Kelce College of Business will look like upon completion of the college's major renovation and expansion project. The "new" Kelce College of Business will feature an inviting facility that fosters students' pursuit of active learning experiences, encourages students and faculty to collaborate, and promotes the engagement of students and faculty with the business community.

The project, being designed by the Clark Huesemann architectural firm, was made possible by a \$3 million lead gift from Pittsburg State alumni John and Susan Lowe, of Houston, Texas.

Visit giveto.pittstate.edu to learn more about the project and discover how you can become involved.



South Entrance



Northwest Exterior



Atrium

CIS students help with wifi project

Students studying computer information systems at Pitt State received a unique, hands-on learning experience this summer.

During the summer, the Information Technology Services Department installed wireless Internet access points in each of the university's 600 residence hall rooms. Tim Pearson, ITS assistant director, said the new access points should improve wifi connectivity in many ways.

"With access points in each room, students should notice cleaner, smoother and faster wifi speeds throughout the residence halls," Pearson said.

Pearson said he was approached by Pete Rosen, chair of Accounting & Computer Information Systems, who asked if some of the computer information systems students could help with the project.

"I thought this would be a tremendous experience for our students to have real-world experience helping with the development of a wifi network here on campus," Rosen said. "I'm very appreciative to ITS for allowing the students to participate."

Pearson said the students were "remarkable" coworkers.

"You couldn't ask for a better team to work with, students or professionals," Pearson said. "The students have a tremendous work ethic, and they're excited to learn. You can tell they take great pride in their school and the opportunity to make it better."

Enactus project ranked best in U.S.

A project by Pittsburg State's Enactus group was named best in the nation at this year's Enactus United States National Exposition.

The Pittsburg State Enactus Homeless Solutions project, which aims to raise money and awareness for the homeless population in Pittsburg, earned first place at national competition and earned the team a \$7,500 grant. As part of the project, Enactus students are working with city officials to develop a plan for homeless shelters in the Pittsburg community.

"We are very excited and honored by the first-place designation for the project," said junior Tali Ayala-Feliciangeli, one of the student leaders of the project. "We worked very hard on this project, and it's for such a noble and necessary cause. To be honored in this way is incredibly humbling."

And that was just the start of the good news for the PSU Enactus team at nationals.

The group, overall, placed 32nd in the nation and earned \$1,000. The group president, Jeffrey Yankovich, was inducted into the first cohort of the Enactus Student Fellows, and speaking-team member Heather Burger was named Enactus Student Ambassador for 2017-2018 while also earning a \$10,000 scholarship.

To cap off the team's success at nationals this year, Enactus adviser Suzanne Hurt was inducted into the Sam Walton Fellow Hall of Fame.

Kelce, city partner on parking study

Students in Pittsburg State's MBA program are working with the City of Pittsburg to study parking needs in downtown Pittsburg.

During the spring 2017 semester, undergraduate students in the Marketing Research course developed a survey for downtown merchants to assess parking concerns and needs. During the 2017 summer session, MBA students analyzed survey results and interviewed downtown merchants to gain more information.

The overall goal of the project is to help the city determine best practices for improving the parking situation in downtown Pittsburg.

"This was an opportunity for our students to participate in real-world data collection and research, while also serving the community," said Eric Harris, professor of marketing.



"The work our students put in on this project could go a long way toward helping the parking situation in the community."

Jay Byers, assistant city manager, said he appreciates the students' hard work on the study.

"Students approach issues with fresh eyes, so their involvement helps us to see things differently," Byers said. "Add to that their important analytical skills, and they bring real value to our projects."



New insurance course

Pittsburg State's Kelce College of Business is taking part in the new Kansas Insurance Certificate initiative by offering new insurance courses.

The Introduction to Risk Management and Insurance course, which was offered in June, was the first course offered at PSU as part of the statewide effort to build a stronger labor pool for the insurance industry in Kansas.

Last fall, the Kelce College of Business received a \$21,000 grant from the Kansas Insurance Education Foundation to help fund new insurance courses.

Other courses that count toward the 12-hour certificate program will be offered at multiple Kansas Board of Regents universities. The certificate program was proposed by the Kansas insurance industry with the support of the Kansas Insurance Commissioner and is designed to be a joint insurance certificate program supported through a network of universities in the state of Kansas.

A second new course, Personal Financial Planning, is expected to be offered during the summer of 2018. Other courses that count toward the certificate program are already part of the college curriculum.

Dean Paul Grimes said the insurance certificate program will benefit PSU students and the statewide insurance industry.

"Development of these new insurance courses will significantly enhance our applied finance curriculum and expose our students to the field of risk management and insurance," Grimes said.

New College of Education dean

James Truelove is the new dean of the College of Education.

Truelove was previously the chair of the Department of Graduate Studies in Education at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

Truelove said he is excited about the opportunity to lead the college.

"It is a true honor to serve as the next dean of the College of Education at Pittsburg State University," Truelove said. "I am looking forward to working with an excellent leadership team, experienced faculty and talented staff in continuing the legacy of providing a thriving learning environment for students. I am excited for the opportunity to support the continued success and develop future opportunities of the college."

Truelove holds a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Southwest Baptist University, a master's degree in religious education from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Arkansas.



James Truelove

Grant targets math and science education in rural schools

Karla Childs, an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, and four faculty members at Emporia State University, are working with three Kansas school districts this year to improve math and science education in rural schools.

Earlier this year, the team of educators received a \$194,605 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to deepen the cross-curricular content knowledge of K-6th grade mathematics

and science teachers in three districts: Neodesha (USD 461), Independence (USD 446) and Dodge City (USD 443).

The team conducted educational sessions in both Neodesha and Dodge City in May.

"Teachers in rural districts may not have as much access to professional development as teachers in other areas," Childs said.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. The department was created in 1980 by combining offices from several federal agencies.

First Principals' Forum focuses on mental health

Although there have always been abundant opportunities for teachers interested in professional development, the same cannot be said for principals. It was with that in mind that the faculty in the Department of Teaching and Leadership in the College of Education began planning the first Kansas-Arkansas-Missouri-Oklahoma Principals' Forum.

"We worked with superintendents to identify principals in the four states to invite," said Associate Professor Brenda Roberts, who was on the team that planned the conference.

She said they wanted to design an event that would help principals build their skills and also create a professional development network that they can turn to for ongoing support.

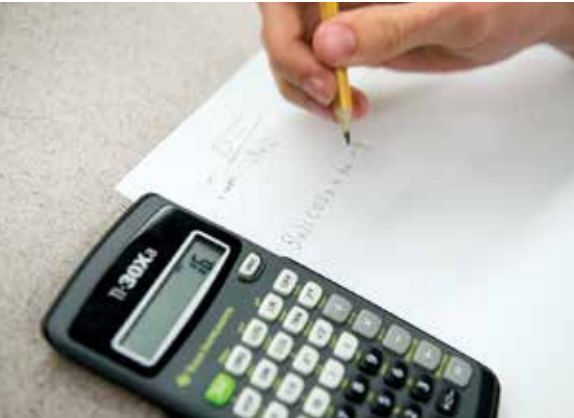
The topic they chose for the first KAMO Principals' Forum was mental health, an issue that administrators and teachers increasingly report wrestling with.

On April 12-13, the 62 participants in the first forum heard from a variety of presenters, including Beth Yoder Stein from the Wyandotte Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.; Lisa Garcia, the director of student services for the Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools; and Michael Berblinger, superintendent of the Buhler, Kan., School District.

The first day focused on mental health first aid and mental health issues of students. On the second day, the focus shifted to staff and the principals, themselves.

The participants said they found the discussion timely and valuable.

Sponsors for the 2017 Principals' Forum included PSU, the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies, the College of Education, the Department of Teaching and Leadership, Career and Technical Education in the College of Technology, Crossland Construction, and Jim Sather with SEK Financial LLC.



Alumnus honored for teaching

In June, Jim Hogan (BSE '70, MS '78) was inducted into the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame.

Hogan taught high school industrial arts for 35 years, before retiring in 2005. But Hogan wasn't recognized for the number of years he taught, it was for the lives he touched.

"I just like being around kids," Hogan said. "I thought that if I could just plant a seed, it might somehow make a difference."

Students who took Hogan's general shop classes at Roosevelt Middle School in Coffeyville from 1970-75 or his basic and advanced woodworking classes at Independence High School from 1976 until 2005, remember a teacher who stressed safety.

"I cared for my students and they knew that safety was my number one goal," Hogan said.

Beyond that, Hogan knew students could feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in the things they built in his classes.

"That kept them coming back," he said.

Hogan also knew that the skills students learned in his classes could transfer to other classes and to life in general.

Hogan graduated from Moline in 1966, attended Independence Community College and then transferred to Pittsburg State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in industrial arts education in 1970. He earned a master's degree in industrial arts education from PSU in 1978.

Hogan said his father, grandmother and many aunts and cousins were teachers and they inspired him to become an educator.



Jim Hogan

New HHPR faculty teaches value of recreation

As an undergraduate student, Sarah Ball volunteered for a Special Olympics competition. It was an experience that not only moved her emotionally, it also helped set the stage for what was to become her life mission: using recreation to help those in need.

"This passion led me to start thinking that I would like to educate others about the benefits of recreation," said Ball, a native of southern California.

Ball is among the newest members of the faculty in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation. She teaches therapeutic recreation and recreation administration courses and joined the faculty at PSU after earning her bachelor of science degree in exercise science and a master of arts degree in parks and recreation management, both from Ole Miss.

"Our department is one of the few accredited recreation programs in the country and has one of the only therapeutic recreation programs in the region, which attracted me to teach here," Ball said. "When I came to visit, the welcoming atmosphere and school spirit seen around campus and community really drew me in to wanting to teach at Pitt State."

Ball's passion for recreation is so strong, she is currently pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in health




Sarah Ball

and kinesiology with an emphasis in health behavior and promotion from the University of Mississippi.

Ball said she chose higher education as a career because of the importance of preparing future leaders.

"I believe that higher education is important because it is the key to solving a lot of issues we see in communities across the country," she said. "Having educated people that can lead and help make hard decisions is crucial. I hope that when my students are professionals in the recreation field they will remember the foundation that I have taught them - how to program and provide positive outlets for people during their leisure time - whether they are activities that are physically demanding, promote socialization, etc."

Watch online video. 

"I grew up hearing stories about teaching from family members and it sounded like a good profession," he said.

Hogan began his teaching career at Roosevelt Middle School in Coffeyville in 1970 and taught at Independence High School from 1976 until his

retirement in 2005. He also taught as an adjunct at Independence Community College.

Hogan's wife, Terry, earned both a master's degree and an Ed.S. from PSU and was also a teacher and counselor. Their daughter, Crystal, earned a degree in computer science from PSU.

New College of Technology dean

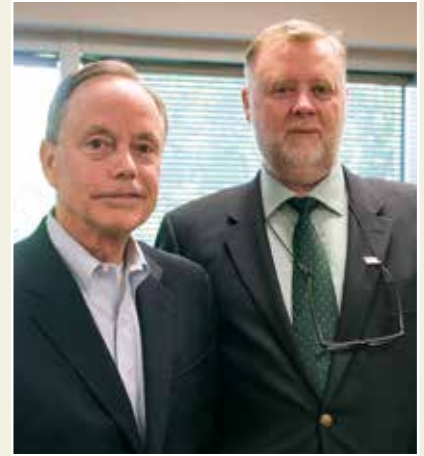
Bob Frisbee, who had served as chair of the Automotive Technology Department since 2012, is the college's new associate dean. He succeeds Tim Thomas, who had served in that role on an interim basis since August 2016.

The position of associate dean was created last year to provide further support to the dean and faculty. Frisbee will primarily focus on the academic side of the college's operations, while Dean Tim Dawsey focuses on building creative partnerships and interfacing with business and industry.

"I am very excited to serve the students, faculty and staff in the College of Technology in this new role as associate dean," Frisbee said. "There are many amazing people working in the COT, and I look forward to working with them and Dr. Dawsey to support all the existing activities of the college. I also look forward to the opportunity to work together in developing new and innovative initiatives to grow the impact and outreach of the COT."



Bob Frisbee



George O'Brien (right, with President Scott) recently donated nearly \$800,000 to the university's Human Resource Development (HRD) program, which is ranked as the fifth best program in the nation.

HRD program receives donation

This spring, George O'Brien donated nearly \$800,000 to the university's Human Resource Development (HRD) program, which was recently ranked as the fifth best in the nation.

O'Brien said he was inspired to donate to the program after talking to longtime friend and now girlfriend, Judy Smetana. Smetana is an assistant professor in PSU's Human Resource Development program.

"The HRD program is a tremendous program, but it's kind of an orphan in terms of outside support," O'Brien said. "It doesn't get the industry support like other programs. I thought that money could do some good for the program, and that's what we decided to do."

Along with the donation to the HRD program, O'Brien also directed \$30,000 to support the PSU Veterans Memorial.

"I have tremendous admiration and respect for our veterans, and I think the veterans memorial at PSU is fantastic," O'Brien said. "It's a true honor and privilege to support the memorial in this way."



Tech seniors partner with Cessna on project

A senior project with Cessna gave a team of students a very real-world experience.

Beginning in August of last year, six Manufacturing Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology students began working with Cessna to design and develop a new door-check fixture that would be used to check the curvature of the pre-fabricated door of a Cessna jet.

The students involved in the project were Chance Atchison, Princeton, Kan.; Austin Duncan, Mulvane, Kan.; Dakota Gray, Grove, Okla.; Rachel Meyer, Spring Hill, Kan.; Steven Redlin, Ottawa, Kan.; and Jackson Sanor,

Overland Park, Kan. All six were among the more than 1,200 graduates at this spring's commencement ceremonies.


The students worked closely with Cessna engineering professionals during the fall and spring semesters, including making nearly 10 trips to the Independence facility during the year.

"Starting back during the fall 2015 career fair, I was talking with staff from the Cessna facility about doing a project like this," University Professor Phil McNew said. "I thought it would be a tremendous learning experience for our students, while also being a chance for them to make a true, real-world difference."



Pittsburg State University once again played host to the international Baja SAE competition this year. More than 1,500 students from 110 teams participated in the engineering design competition. Countries represented at the 2017 event were the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, India and South Africa.

Pitt State will host Baja again in May 2018. The university also remains committed to staying on the three-year hosting rotation, including hosting again in 2020.

Watch online video. 

Packaging program among nation's best

Pittsburg's State packaging graphics program was recently recognized as being among the top in the nation.

The Value Colleges website released its list of the top 20 packaging programs in the United States. Pitt State's program is ranked number 16, behind large schools such as California Polytechnic State University, San Jose State University, Purdue University and the University of Florida.

In 2015, Pitt State's Graphics and Imaging Technologies Department added the packaging emphasis to help students understand all that goes into designing graphics to be marketed in stores.



PSU-TEECA named nation's Outstanding Chapter

This spring, Pitt State's chapter of the Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association (TEECA) group received the national Outstanding Chapter Award, a recognition given to just one university chapter nationwide. PSU-TEECA membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in technology and engineering education and technology programs.

TEECA is for college students who are preparing for their future careers as public school technology and engineering education teachers. Participating in competitive events, students enhance their experience, skills, and knowledge in areas such as teamwork, technical/design interests, problem solving and project management.



School of Construction honored by ACI

Pitt State is one of just 26 universities nationwide to receive an Excellent University Award from the American Concrete Institute (ACI). The ACI is a leading authority and resource worldwide for the development and distribution of consensus-based standards, technical resources, educational and training programs.

The Excellent University Award is given to programs that are highly active in ACI-related programs, such as workshops and student competitions.

"We are proud to receive this award from ACI," said Assistant Professor Seth O'Brien. "We like to have our students involved with ACI because their activities are wonderful learning opportunities. We're proud to be involved with ACI, and this recognition is a tremendous honor for the Pittsburg State School of Construction."

Anderson takes the reins at Pittsburg State

Walk into Kim Anderson's office and you'll notice something is missing. Anderson, the new leader of Pittsburg State's men's basketball program, has a coaching pedigree that includes stops at Baylor University, the University of Missouri and the University of Central Missouri, where his teams earned seven invitations to the NCAA DII National Tournament, two Final Four appearances and a National Championship.

Yet, the only visible office mementos of his past success are three small basketballs tucked away in a back corner, each embossed with a small Mizzou Tiger to commemorate his time at the helm of his Alma Mater's program.

"I haven't really had time to think about that stuff," Anderson said. "And to be honest, I'm not quite sure where to start. I don't think our Gorilla fans would appreciate stuff from my days as a Mule. Now that I'm in Kansas, I also don't think it's wise to put up a lot of Missouri stuff. I'm actually hoping my wife can help me once she moves down from Columbia."

You can forgive Anderson, or "Coach A" as his players call him, for not spending much time on interior decorating. Announced as Pittsburg State's newest basketball coach in April, Anderson has a "to-do" list that's almost as long as he is tall. (For the record, Anderson's height is 6'7".)

"This is the third time I've taken over a program," he said. "I've learned that you need to start with getting to know the players already in the program. They need to feel comfortable with you. But then you also have to hire staff, recruit players, finalize a schedule, get to know everybody in the community, and get to know the nuances of the job."

Anderson's arrival at Pittsburg States comes after a three-year, high-profile

stint as head coach at the University of Missouri. In some ways, his coaching career has mirrored that of his mentor, Coach Gene Iba who also led a Division I program before coming to Pittsburg State.

"I was a graduate assistant under Coach (Norm) Stewart at Mizzou when Coach Iba was hired at Baylor," said Anderson. "Coach Stewart called Coach Iba and said, 'Hire this guy.' Coach Iba was like, 'Wait a minute. Who is this Anderson guy? I gotta check this out.'"

Anderson's first meeting with Iba led to a second interview and an unexpected request.

"I interviewed with Coach Iba in Lexington, Kentucky at the Final Four. After our first meeting he called me back and told me he wanted to talk again but he had one request. He said, 'Can you loosen up a little bit?' I never exactly thought of Coach Iba as a wild guy but, well ... the end result was I got the job. I've been eternally grateful to him ever since."

Anderson has kept in close touch with Iba throughout the years. In fact, it was Iba who helped convince Anderson to come to Pittsburg State.

"When this opportunity came up, we talked many, many times," said Anderson. "He loves this place. He couldn't say enough about this program, this community and the leadership we have at this university. I didn't want to leave coaching the way I left at Missouri, but I didn't want to go just anywhere. It had to be the right fit. Pittsburg State fit the bill. It really was an easy decision."

The competitive fire burns brightly within Anderson. It's clear he wants



Kim Anderson

to win, and that drive is shared by everyone associated with his program. But as much as he anticipates success on the court, there's something he looks forward to even more.

"Winning a national championship is great," said Anderson. "But my best memories are of getting to see my players cross the stage at graduation. As coaches, our jobs are about much more than just basketball. We help our players develop as men. That's what I tell them when I recruit them. Basketball may bring them to Pittsburg State, but they're here for much more."

"When you see a young man develop into a leader and stand there on graduation day in his cap and gown with his family all around him, well, that's why you coach. There's no feeling in the world like it."

As he looks ahead to the coming season, Anderson has a request of members of Gorilla Nation.

"Be supportive and be loud," he said. "Come to the women's games, and stay for ours. I think we'll have a good team. How good? It's too soon to tell. When it comes to building a program, you're looking at a marathon, not a sprint. We inherited some outstanding young men. With the new guys we have coming in, I think we'll be able to build on that and win some games. I'm looking forward to getting the season underway."

Special Teams Anchor

Glance at Carter Anchors' football stat sheet and you'll notice something unusual. The Kansas City native is not only Pittsburg State's starting punter, he also is credited with blocking a punt on special teams.

"I think I actually got my hands on two last year," Anchors said. He then paused to smile before adding, "But it's not like I'm keeping track or anything."

Originally recruited as a linebacker, a position he still plays, you can find the Park Hill High School product on the field during kickoffs, kickoff returns, and punt blocks. This is in addition to his role as the team's primary punter.

Punting is something he never expected to do at Pittsburg State. He isn't the only one.

"We were really frustrated with our punters a few years ago," said Tim Beck, Pitt State's head coach. "Instead of having a dedicated punter stand in the pocket to punt, we decided we were going to find an athlete who could also punt. We had open tryouts, and Carter turned out to be a natural."

"It was my freshman year," Anchors said. "I wasn't even going to try out, but a friend told them (coaches) that I used to punt in high school. I'm really glad it worked out because it helped me get on the field as a freshman and play special teams."

Carter averaged nearly 40 yards per punt in 2015, including a school-record punt of 84 yards. His play on the field impressed his teammates so much that they selected him as Pitt State's first special teams captain.

"When my teammates wrote me in as team captain it was a great feeling," he said. "To know that they thought of me that way was special. I'm honored to represent this school and this program."

Anchors isn't the first member of his family to play for Pittsburg State. His uncle Tim, who played linebacker for the Gorillas from 1972-75, was an All-American and letterman.

"We talk about football a lot,"

Anchors said. "He gave me advice, and told me a lot about Pitt State. He said I'd love it. He was right."

Anchors' love for Pitt State started the moment he stepped on campus for a visit.

"Everyone knew my name," he said.

"It was clear that this was more than a football program, it was a family.

I remember Coach Pierce saying a prayer before our dinner, which I really enjoyed. Pitt State was unlike anywhere else. I knew they were going to care about me as a person."

"We tell our players that we do things the right way at Pitt State," Beck said. "Success takes hard work. You can't cut corners. We only get 11 opportunities to perform. Everyone in this program does everything they can, the right way, to put us in a position to win on Saturdays."

The first Saturday is now just a few weeks away and the anticipation in the locker room is growing.

"Everyone here has one goal in mind," Anchors said. "And that is to



Carter Anchors

win national championships. In the last couple of years, we haven't been able to live up to that standard. That's something that's on everybody's mind. We had a really good spring (practice) and had a lot of people here this summer. I'm excited about the season, and ready to get it started."

Pittsburg State will open the season on Aug. 31 at Central Missouri. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Fans can listen to the game on the Gorilla Sports Network, in Pittsburg on ESPN 100.7 FM, or online at www.espn1007.com. The game is also available via livestream video on the MIAA Network. Streaming details can be found at themiaa.com.



National honors

Pittsburg State University senior heptathlete Emilyn Dearman has earned the title of NCAA Division II Women's Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The Stockton, Mo., native captured the NCAA Division II national championship in the heptathlon at the 2017 Outdoor National Championships at Bradenton, Fla., earlier this year.

Emilyn Dearman

Change that radio dial

Pittsburg State University Athletics have a new radio home. The university signed a three-year agreement with Pittsburg-based My Town Media (MTM). MTM owns and/or operates 16 radio stations throughout Kansas and Missouri including ESPN 100.7 in Pittsburg.

The agreement will allow the university to create the Gorilla Sports Network. This multi-station network will provide radio coverage throughout the four-state region and beyond.

"MTM provides us with the perfect mix of traditional and online channels," said Jim Johnson, director of intercollegiate athletics. "Whether you're listening on your radio or on your smartphone, you can expect great Gorilla coverage."

While the radio station may be different, the voice behind the mic will remain the same. Eddie Lomshek, who has served as the "Voice of the Gorillas" for the past 13 years, will continue this role with longtime color commentator B.J. Harris at his side.

"Eddie and B.J. bring an energy to the broadcast that is unmatched in our conference," Johnson said. "Fans are going to like what they hear this fall."

Gorilla fans throughout the world can listen to Gorilla games online at espn100.7.com or by downloading the Gorilla Experience on Apple's App Store or on Google Play.

Gorillas making strides under Gomez's leadership

Jen Gomez, Pittsburg State's second-year head volleyball coach, has just as much energy and fire as she did when she wore the uniform. "I'm a competitor," said Gomez. "It's the way I played, and it's the way I coach. I'm not certain our players knew how to take me during those first few games, but by the end of the season they were playing with that same level of enthusiasm."

It's that type of passion that helped Gomez be successful at her previous head coaching positions at Oklahoma City University and Colorado State-Pueblo. The Gorillas, who were 2-27 prior to Gomez's arrival, showed progress last year with a final record of 6-24.

Gomez has been active over the past year recruiting a new class of Gorillas, and helping instill a new sense of purpose into the program. She credits

"Recruiting is never easy, but there's something special about Pittsburg. It's the Gorillas in everybody's yard. They (recruits) see our facilities and then say, 'Wow. This is like a division one school but in a community that loves and supports you.' And they're right. This place is great."



PSU volleyball coach Jen Gomez brings a competitive, passionate spirit to the game. Gomez said she coaches in the same way she played.

the community with helping move the program forward.

"Recruiting is never easy, but there's something special about Pittsburg," said Gomez. "It's the Gorillas in everybody's yard. They (recruits) see our facilities and then say, 'Wow. This is like a division one school but in a community that loves and supports you.' And they're right. This place is great."

Pittsburg State will start its season on the road in the Washburn Invitational Tournament at 11 a.m. on September 1. The Gorillas' first home game takes place on September 29 when they host the Nebraska-Kearney Lopers.



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games will now have In-App Audio
streaming available**



Gorilla Experience




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Two receive Meritorious Achievement Award

Watch online video. 

Marty Bicknell and Lemuel Sheppard are the 2017 recipients of Pittsburg State's Meritorious Achievement Award, the university's highest honor.

Bicknell, a 1991 graduate, is the founder and chief executive officer of Mariner Wealth Advisors in Leawood, Kansas.

Sheppard, a 1982 and 1983 graduate, is an award-winning musician.

Bicknell and Sheppard were honored by the university with a public reception on campus in April.

"This year's honorees are a vivid example of the many ways that the more than 65,000 Pittsburg State University alumni have an impact on the world," said Jon Bartlow, director of alumni and constituent relations. "One is a pioneer in the field of wealth management. The other is pioneer in music and culture. Each has left an imprint that will be long-remembered."

Bicknell has two children, Savannah and Zach, and one granddaughter, Parker.

Sheppard has three children: Isaac; Alexander, who is also a PSU graduate and musician; and Ellen. He met his wife, Gail, while in graduate school at PSU.

A public reception in honor of the 2017 Meritorious Achievement Award recipients was held on Friday, April 7, in the Heritage Room of the Overman Student Center.



Marty Bicknell



Lemuel Sheppard



Half-Century Reunion

One traditional part of every Half-Century Reunion is a class picture on the iconic marble steps of Russ Hall. Members of the PSU Class of 1967 reunited on May 11-12, 2017.

On the road—

Alumni office visits eight major cities

To connect with Gorillas in the Four-States region, the Pittsburg State Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations often hosts Gorilla Gatherings throughout the Midwest.

“Our Gorilla Gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to meet and engage with PSU alumni all across our region,” said Jon Bartlow, director of Alumni and Constituent Relations. “It’s always fun to interact with our alumni, hear about their experiences and also share with them a little about what’s happening at their alma mater.

“We wish we could conduct these events all across the country,” Bartlow added.

Well, this spring, they made that wish come true ... sort of.

Beginning May 14, the alumni office and Gus set out on the university’s first ever Great Gorilla Tour, a nine-day road trip that included Gorilla Gathering events in eight major cities. The Great Gorilla Tour visited Austin, San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans, Tampa, Orlando, Atlanta and Nashville.

Bartlow said the idea for the Tour came out of a long-held desire to reach more PSU alumni.

“Pitt State has more than 65,000 alumni across the country and around the world, and of course we wish we could meet with all of them,” he said. “With the Great Gorilla Tour, we were able to visit places beyond our traditional reach. It was an incredible experience that really affirmed just how proud and excited our alumni are to be PSU Gorillas.”

Bartlow said the response from alumni who participated in the events was humbling and fulfilling.

“I think the best part of the Tour experience was seeing how happy our alumni were to be together in their respective cities,” he said. “We could really feel how grateful they were that we visited their cities and helped bring Gorillas together.”

To see photos from the Great Gorilla Tour and learn more about Alumni and Constituent Relations activities, visit facebook.com/pittstatealumni.



Alumni Director Jon Bartlow (right) said the best part of the Great Gorilla Tour was meeting and interacting with proud Gorillas from across the country.


PSU honors two for service

In conjunction with its 2017 Apple Day observance, Pittsburg State honored two alumni with its Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Awards.

This year’s honorees were Al Brown, a senior technical service representative for household, industrial and chemical blow molding at Chevron Phillips Chemical Company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and Homer Cole, a retired businessman, veteran and former mayor of the City of Pittsburg.

The Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award is given to those who have rendered significant volunteer service to the university in such areas as Alumni Association activities, the PSU Foundation, PSU athletics, academic departments and student service programs.

It is named after Dr. Ralf J. Thomas, who served the university for more than five decades, as a faculty member, administrator and volunteer in the Office of Alumni Relations.

Watch online video. 



Homer Cole and Al Brown.

Classes of 1969 & 1970

Tom McDaniel (BFA, MS 1989) & **Anita Harvey McDaniel** (BSE, MS 1989) co-authored the book *Beantown, USA: The History of Erie, Kansas (1866-2014)* and *Neosho County, Kansas Old Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion* with a group of Erie residents. After completing the book in 2014, Tom and Anita began working on a second book, *Beantown, USA: Images of Erie, Kan.*, which contained images and town founders who were not included in the first book. It was finished this year for Erie's Sesquicentennial.

Class of 1970

Jim Hogan (BSE, MS 1978) was inducted into the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame this spring. Hogan worked as a teacher in the Industrial Arts for 35 years before retiring in 2005. He began his career at Roosevelt Middle School in Coffeyville, Kan., before moving on to teach at Independence High School and Independence Community College where he remained until his retirement.

Class of 1978

Lisa Ward (BSE) was honored as a 2017 Kansas Distinguished Financial Educator before her retirement this spring. Ward taught at Fort Scott High

School for 33 years, where she was also a sponsor for the Interact club, the Future Business Leaders of America club, junior class magazine sales, and student council.

Class of 1981

Rhonda Gilpin (BSN, Ed.S. 1994) retired after 30 years of being a nurse educator at Labette Community College (LCC). Gilpin worked as a staff nurse at Mercy Hospital and Labette County Medical Center in intensive care and critical care before filling her position at LCC. During her time there, she taught a variety of courses, recruited and advised students, served on college committees, and completed a yearly service project.

Mark Rounds (BS) was recently recognized as one of "50 Missourians You Should Know" by *Ingrams Business Magazine* of Kansas City in the January 2017 edition. Rounds spent the first 30 years of his career as a public servant in Claremore, Okla., where he was the City Manager. In 2013, he moved to Lexington, Mo. where he is now a city administrator. Once there, Rounds was able to put a four-county economic-growth program in place that has gotten him noticed across the state.

Class of 1982

Jeff Brown (BGS) has been hired as a Senior Research Associate at Georgia Tech Research Institute's Cybersecurity, Info Protection & Hardware Evaluation Lab (CIPHER Lab). The CIPHER Lab conducts applied research focused on cyber threats and countermeasures, secure multi-level information sharing, resilient command and control network architectures, reverse engineering, information operations and exploitation, high performance computing, and data analytics. Jeff previously worked at the Maui High Performance Computing Center in Maui, Hawaii, which is a Department of Defense Super Computing Resource Center. He is also the Pacific Region President and a National Executive Committee member of the Navy League of the United States.



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Gregg Wilson (BBA) has been named the new executive director of Catholic Charities of Omaha. He most recently served as chief administrative officer at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Wilson will focus on new strategic planning that will match with the charity's Christian mission.

Class of 1984

Janet Buzzard (MS) was selected to be the new dean of the College of Business & Technology at Northeastern State University (NSU). Buzzard started her career as a graduate teaching assistant before moving on to become an associate professor at Eastern New Mexico University. She also taught at Missouri Southern State University and worked as an information technology specialist with the Department of Defense. Prior to accepting the position at NSU, Buzzard served as the dean of the College of Business at Eastern New Mexico University.

Class of 1988

Mark Drennan (BST) has been named the general manager of ACDelco, the General Motors Original Equipment parts brand for Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, and Cadillac. Drennan previously worked as the director of GM Accessories, where he integrated sales and distribution with the design, production and marketing of GM's vehicle accessories portfolio. He has also worked as a field zone sales manager and a regional service manager.

Class of 1989

Shelly Kiblinger (BSE, MS 1997) has been hired to be the superintendent of the Cherryvale school district. Kiblinger is originally from Neodesha and took the position to be closer to home after working in the Fredonia, Garden City, and Hutchinson school districts.

Lonnie Moser (BA) has accepted the position of superintendent for the

Hiawatha school district and will begin this fall. Moser began his career at Salina South Middle School in Salina, Kan., and then moved on to schools in Little River and Pittsburg. He was most recently the K-12 principal and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at the Chetopa-St. Paul school district.

Class of 1993

Lorinda Hackett (Ed.S.) has been appointed interim dean of the Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) School of Education. Hackett started her career as a social science teacher at Pittsburg High School before she advanced to teaching at MSSU. Before becoming interim dean, she started out as a teacher certification officer, an assistant professor, and then a full-time instructor, eventually serving as chair of the Teacher Education Department. While serving as chair, they became the first in the state to meet new

continued

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accreditation standards set forth by the Council for Accreditation Preparation.

Class of 2002

Joe Marlow (MS, Ed.S. 2007) retired from public education in 2015 and is now a semi-retired educator, consultant, and writer. Last October Governor Brownback appointed him to the Kansas Volunteer Commission where he now serves as vice chair. Dr. Marlow also volunteers in his grandchildren's schools and is an occasional substitute teacher. His wife Karen just retired and they are living in Olathe with Lilly Mae, their West Highland white terrier.

Class of 2006

Melissa Kipp (BST, MA 2014) was the recipient of the 2016-2017 Labette Community College Distinguished Faculty Award. Kipp is a professor of

graphic design and has been teaching at LCC in Parsons, Kan., since 2008.

Class of 2008

Mackenzie Garst (BA) was named as one of the Joplin Regional Business Journal's 2017 Class of Most Influential Women. She currently serves as the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa County.

Class of 2011

Barb Roberts (BSE) was honored as the 2017 Administrative Faculty Member of the Year at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Roberts is currently the director of undergraduate recruitment, programs, and services. She previously worked as a high school social sciences teacher, a student employment coordinator and career counselor at PSU, and as an admissions and financial aid counselor at UNLV.

In Memory

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

Unknown Year

Robert J. Pursley, Katy, Texas
Laurence E. Smerchek, Arma, Kan.
Evelyn W. Cattelino, Kingwood, Texas
Harold Holder, Wichita, Kan.
Lucy K. (O'Reilly) McFall, Girard, Kan.

1938

Margie E. (Banzet) Miller, Norwalk, Conn.

1939

Edgerly L. Brewer, Parker, Colo.

1940

A. Marihta (Gobl) Rutherford, Arma, Kan.

1941

Julius C. Clemans, Palatka, Fla.

1943

H. Lindley Cox, Tulsa, Okla.

Champions Plaza

Bring the Tradition Home

CHAMPIONS PLAZA SCULPTURE

Part of the Gorillas' famed "Gorilla Walk" and a destination for alumni and fans, the Champions Plaza sculpture has become a beloved part of Pittsburg State tradition. Now, you can own a piece of history with this authentic solid-bronze casting of the dynamic sculpture by world-renowned artist Tom Corbin. Available in both an eight-inch study and a limited-edition 16-inch maquette.



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pittstate.edu/championsplaza



1944

Ray W. Sloan, Dallas, Texas

1946

Laura J. (Page) Holland, Raytown, Mo.

1947

Verl E. Shufelt, Edna, Kan.

1948

Clarence L. Williams, Bella Vista, Ark.

1949

Herbert W. Butler, Springfield, Mo.

Donald L. Cooper, Bristow, Okla.

1950

M. Keith Gilmore, Starkville, Miss.

Joe W. Peel, Lombard, Ill.

Ruth (Green) Stockinger, Shreveport, La.

1951

Carl R. Blancett, Northridge, Calif.

Lewis E. Kollhoff, Salina, Kan.

Elmer J. Silvia, Pittsburg, Kan.

1952

Betty J. (Williams) Mielke, Coffeyville, Kan.

1954

Dewey Combs, Carthage, Mo.

George H. Fair, Tucson, Ariz.

1955

Darlene E. (Darling) Barthelomew,
South Bend, Ind.

Richard A. Brooker, Fort Scott, Kan.

John R. Garrison, Albuquerque, N.M.

1956

Charles H. Arnsperger, Merritt Island, Fla.

Marie C. (Eichhorn) Brinkman,
Pittsburg, Kan.

John C. Garralda, Wheat Ridge, Colo.

1957

Florence M. (Kurtz) Babcock,
Coffeyville, Kan.

Patricia R. (Park) Baker, Cumming, Ga.

Bill Dobbins, Frontenac, Kan.

Robert M. Edwards, Osage Beach, Mo.

Clarence E. Hayward, Kansas City, Kan.

Mary L. (Denton) Johnson,
Claremore, Okla.

James G. Karnaze, Kansas City, Kan.

Laurence D. Martin, Pittsburg, Kan.

Charles R. Mhoon, Napoleon, Mo.

Frank D. Villamaria, Pittsburg, Kan.

1958

Theodore R. Carman, Sun City West, Ariz.

Dorothy L. (Gadberry) Hemphill,
Princeton, N.J.

Jack C. Rutledge, Prescott, Kan.

Kenneth D. Yoss, Parker, Colo.

1959

Robert J. Kazmierski,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Delbert C. Mosler, Altamont, Kan.

Bob M. Trager, Bella Vista, Ark.

1960

Mary J. (Noel) Abel, La Cygne, Kan.

Pat Alexander, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Anthony J. Bresnick, Kansas City, Mo.

Margaret L. (Jenkins) Brohl, Weir, Kan.

P. Bernie O'Nelio, Bartlesville, Okla.

1961

Karen Sue (Williams) Coit, Houston, Texas

Melvin E. Geier, Girard, Kan.

Alice E. (Bauman) Hosfield, Joplin, Mo.

Lawrence D. Jontra, Howard, Kan.

Peter J. Quiroga, Independence, Mo.

Gary D. Starr, Girard, Kan.

1962

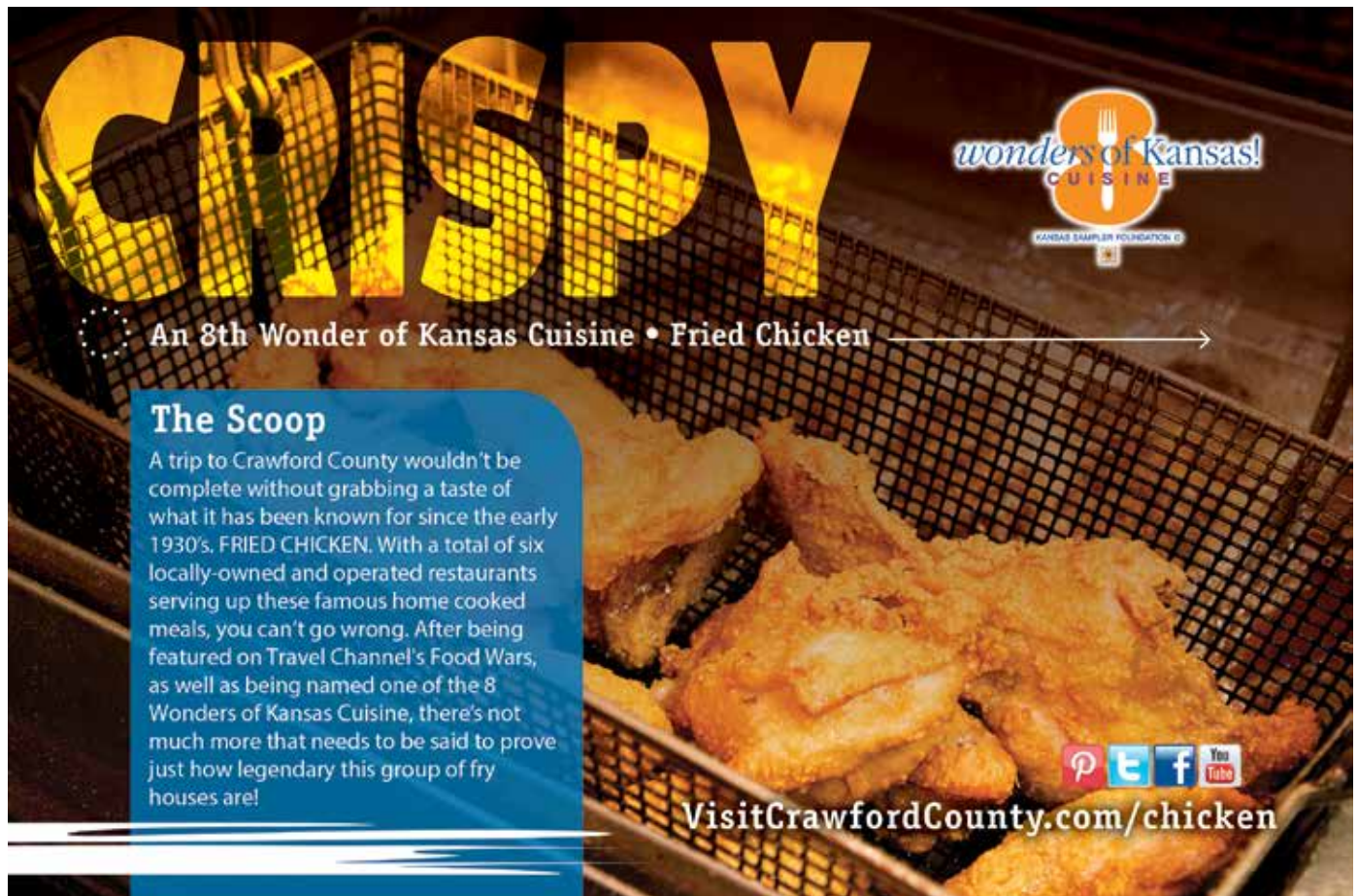
Lorene (Williams) Burrows, Paola, Kan.

Dan L. Goodwin, Harlingen, Texas

Wiley T. Powell, Haviland, Kan.

Bruce L. Stephens, Joplin, Mo.

continued



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Max V. Stephens, Topeka, Kan.
Barbara J. Tipton, Topeka, Kan.

1963

James R. Beaver, Bartlesville, Okla.
David R. Dove, Neosho, Mo.
Don G. Landrith, Topeka, Kan.
Nelson E. Lundgrin, Charleston, S.C.
Leonard J. Miller, Riverside, Mo.
Gene E. Russell, Olathe, Kan.

1964

James G. Row, Platte City, Mo.

1965

Harold Doty, Carl Junction, Mo.
Donald J. Robbins, Gower, Mo.
Janet K. (Morrison) Treat, Colby, Kan.

1966

Edgar L. Brown, Fayette, Mo.
Kenneth R. Roach, Reeds, Mo.

1967

Robert H. Abel, Hadley, Mass.
Loyal D. Campbell, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Gerald D. Eades, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

1968

Judith A. (Smith) Baker, Kansas City, Mo.
Mary C. (White) Brant, Chanute, Kan.
Thomas C. Gorman, Fort Scott, Kan.
Dan D. Plake, Independence, Kan.

1969

Lonna L. (Hutchison) Andre, Leawood, Kan.
Larry D. Cassatt, Oronogo, Mo.
James R. Dalton, Columbia, Mo.
Larry E. Dixon, Lockwood, Mo.

1970

Sam W. Shaw, Tulsa, Okla.
Mary E. (Thiebaud) Stinson, Joplin, Mo.

1972

Sandra L. Dudley, Fort Scott, Kan.
Arthur A. Martin, Erie, Kan.
Roger L. Pollard, Hays, Kan.

Retirees

Congratulations to this year's retirees! Thank you for your service and enjoy your retirement.

John Bartels, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
John "Bill" Brown, Technology and Workforce Learning
James "Chris" Christman, Teaching and Leadership
Bruce Dallman, School of Construction
Ron Downing, Automotive Technology
Joseph Ensich, Purchasing
Ricky Faucett, University Police and Parking Services
Robert Ferro, Graphics and Imaging Technologies
Jack Freeman, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
Jimmy Hattabaugh, Teaching and Leadership
Janet Huston, Advancement Services
Russell Jones, Music

J.T. Knoll, Student Center
Kenny McDougale, Teaching and Leadership
James Schick, History, Philosophy & Social Science
Marjorie Schick, Art
Mary Scimeca, Accounting and Computer Information Systems
Treva Sherman, Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology
James Snyder, Admission
Peggy Snyder, Technology and Workforce Learning
Paul Stewart, Planning, Design & Construction
Thomas Petz, Teaching and Leadership
Mike Row, Housing Maintenance
Don Ward, Psychology & Counseling
Ron Womble, University Marketing & Communication

Sandra B. (Cloonan) Wilton, Erie, Kan.

1973

Mary J. (Burton) De Land, Eureka Springs, Ark.
Paul T. Dixon, Brighton, Mich.

1974

Christine P. (Harris) Betz, Neosho, Mo.
Denis W. Buche, Girard, Kan.
James G. Martin, Scammon, Kan.

1975

James G. Anderson, Greenwood, Mo.
Steve R. Brown, Olathe, Kan.
Al L. Burgert, Asbury, Mo.
Michael J. Coysh, Oswego, Kan.
Nancy L. Hall, Salina, Kan.
Sandra K. Willsie, Leawood, Kan.

1976

John L. Borjas, Hookerton, N.C.
Susan J. (Duroe) Dohrmann, Fayette, Iowa

1977

Joe L. Clark, Pittsburg, Kan.
William H. Failes, Ottawa, Kan.
Teresa A. Miller-Copling, Overland Park, Kan.

1978

James E. Dorssom, Lawrence, Kan.

1980

Debra K. (Roedel) Hodge, Spring Hill, Kan.

1981

Ronald P. Anderson, McPherson, Kan.
Jimmy L. Davis, Chetopa, Kan.
Richard D. Fry, Olathe, Kan.

continued on pg. 46



Fall 2017 Gorilla Gatherings

Dates are subject to change, please check our website: pittstate.edu/alumni

Sept. 8 Paint the Town Red
Downtown Event, Pittsburg

Sept. 9 GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village

Sept. 21 Bourbon County
Gorilla Gathering, PSU Campus

Sept. 23 Gorilla Family Fun Day, PSU Campus

Sept. 28 Labette County
Gorilla Gathering, Labette Co.

Sept. 30 GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village

Oct. 13 Taste of Pittsburg, PSU Campus

Oct. 14 Chicken Wars Tailgate,
PSU Gorilla Village

Oct. 17 Gorilla Gathering Lunch, Wichita, Kan.

Oct. 17 Cherokee County
Gorilla Gathering Dinner, Cherokee Co.

Oct. 19 Neosho County
Gorilla Gathering Dinner, Neosho Co.

Oct. 24 Crawford County
Gorilla Gathering, Pittsburg

Oct. 26 Gorilla Gathering Lunch, Kansas City

Oct. 28 Gorilla Chili & Salsa Challenge Tailgate,
PSU Gorilla Village

Nov. 7 Montgomery County
Gorilla Gathering Dinner, Independence

Nov. 11 GorillaFest in Gorilla Village, Pittsburg

Nov. 16 Alumni After Hours, Wichita, Kan.

Nov. 29 Joplin Area
Gorilla Gathering Dinner, PSU Campus

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1982

Robert D. Hubbard, Sedona, Ariz.
Larry D. Swanwick, Chetopa, Kan.
Ralph B. Westerman, Piqua, Kan.

1984

Michelle J. Groves, Columbus, Kan.
Jo M. Wachter, Olathe, Kan.

1985

Martin A. Cook, Pittsburg, Kan.

1986

Bob L. Hough, Pittsburg, Kan.

1988

Troy D. Beerbower, Fort Scott, Kan.
Janette L. (Holland) Brown, Tulsa, Okla.
Sharon D. (Dalri) Morey, Pittsburg, Kan.

1989

Jean J. Hall, Joplin, Mo.
Douglas B. Hazelbaker, Redfield, Kan.
M'liss A. Neil, Joplin, Mo.
Russell P. Owen, Davisville, Mo.
Brian E. Poznich, Houston, Texas
Eugenia R. (Brown) Vincent,
Fort Scott, Kan.

1990

Sandra J. (Boyd) Bemis, Joplin, Mo.
Robin L. (Jackson) Purdon, Mulberry, Kan.
Jerry D. Stephenson, Pittsburg, Kan.

1991

Ron E. McIntosh, New Port Richey, Fla.
Andy J. Smith, Elk City, Kan.

1992

Missi A. (Lindsay) Kelly, Pittsburg, Kan.

1993

Betty L. (Hamlin) Bottom,
Independence, Kan.
Steve C. Frank, Hutchinson, Kan.
Connie L. (Vaughan) Green, Galena, Kan.

1994

Michelle R. Setter, Lane, Kan.

1995

Ryan P. Murphy, Billings, Mont.
Elizabeth A. (Brotherton) Vanatta,
Caney, Kan.

1996

Roger D. Lavender, Altamont, Kan.

1997

Joe A. Douthitt, Leavenworth, Kan.

1998

James W. Hill, Independence, Kan.

2001

Marianne E. (Jones) Fletcher,
Rockford, Mich.
Steven F. Hellwig, Pittsburg, Kan.

2008

James W. Privett, Jasper, Mo.

2016

Brittney G. Feuerborn, Pittsburg, Kan.

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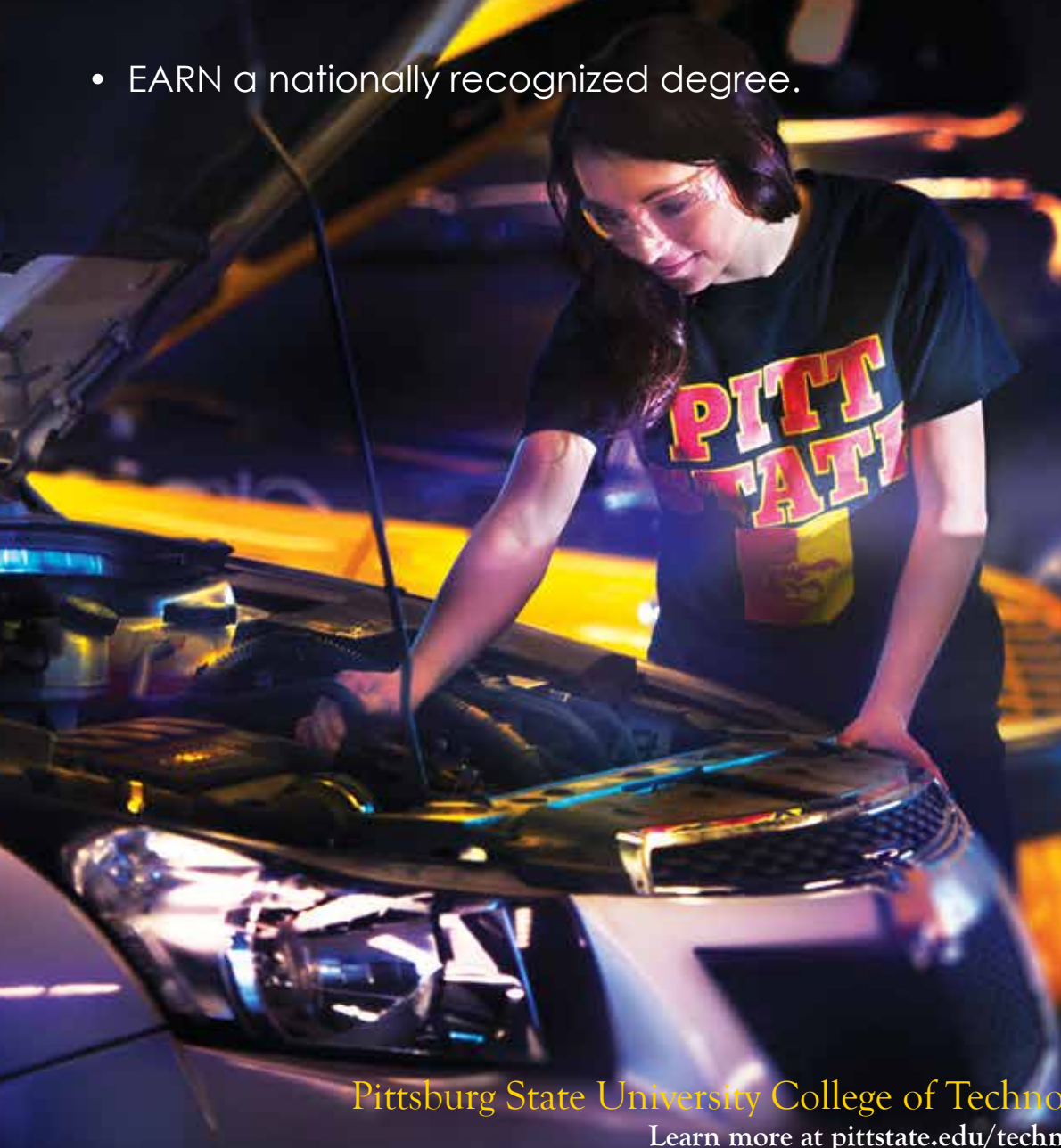
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Alumni like Chris Medley are supporting Pittsburg State in ways they never imagined.

It's been nearly 40 years since Chris Medley earned his undergraduate degree in economics and finance, but he remembers the moment Pittsburg State changed his life as if it were yesterday.

"Kenneth Colyer (in the Kelce College of Business) reviewed the Wall Street Journal with us during each class," said Medley. "I became hooked on the financial markets. It was a turning point in my life."

Now a senior vice president with R.W. Baird & Co., Medley is using the skills he first acquired at Pittsburg State to make a difference in the lives of students. Through the PSU Foundation, Medley created

the "Auman and Kathleen Medley Endowed Wood Technology Scholarship" in 2008 to honor his parents. He currently serves as the chair of the PSU Foundation Investment Committee. This fall, he will return to campus as a Kelce College of Business Executive on Campus.

"There are so many ways to give back to your university," said Medley. "It can be so much more than just a monetary contribution. Take the initiative. Reach out to the university and begin the discussion. If you want to make a meaningful difference, there's no better place than Pittsburg State."

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Friday, October 13 Outstanding Alumni Award Reception
4:30-6 p.m., Wilkinson Alumni Center

Saturday, October 14 Homecoming Parade,
GorillaFest, Chicken Wars Tailgate



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