

Fall 2018



# Pitt State

MAGAZINE

## Baja:

impacting generations  
of students. | 16



From Broadway shows to prestigious speakers to ceremonies that recognize student accomplishments, the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts has become a hub of activity that includes multiple disciplines across campus as well as the community.



# PittState

MAGAZINE

## Features

- 16 Cover – Baja: impacting generations of students
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More photos and stories at  
[magazine.pittstate.edu](http://magazine.pittstate.edu)

## From the editor:

Look around and you'll see transformative experiences happening every day at Pittsburg State in classrooms, on stage, behind the scenes, and across campus. At the heart of those experiences are people: students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors. This magazine gives you a taste of what those people have been accomplishing, but we hope you'll visit us soon, if you haven't in awhile, to see it in person. You'll be amazed, and you'll be proud. We are. #OAGAAG

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# Pitt State

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[pittstate.edu/graduate](http://pittstate.edu/graduate)



### Bachelor Degree Completion

RN to BSN  
BS Workforce Development

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(General Administration, International Business,  
Accounting, and Human Resource Development)  
MS Education - School Health  
MS Educational Leadership  
MS Educational Technology  
MET Engineering Technology  
(Construction, Electronics, Manufacturing,  
Mechanical, and Plastics)



MS Health, Human Performance and Recreation  
MA History  
MS Human Resource Development  
MS Reading  
MS Special Education Teaching  
(K-12 High/Low Incidence)



MSN Nursing - Education  
MS Teaching - ESOL  
MS Teaching - Elementary  
MS Teaching - Secondary  
MA Teaching - Special Education  
MA Teaching - Secondary  
MS Technology  
(Automotive Technology, Construction  
Management, Information Technology, Innovation  
Engineering, Innovation in Technology, Personnel  
Development, and Technology Management)



### Specialist Degree

EdS Advanced Studies in Leadership  
(Special Education & General School Administration)

### Graduate Certificates

Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages  
School Library  
Reading/Language Arts  
Technology Integration  
History



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# 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.



## Make Your Mark

### CHAMPIONS PLAZA PAVER

Make your mark on the university's famed "Gorilla Walk" by reserving a personalized Champions Plaza stone paver. A limited number of pavers are available, so don't wait! *Order your Champions Plaza paver today.* Two sizes: 8"x8" and 12"x12"



[pittstate.edu/championsplaza](http://pittstate.edu/championsplaza)



## Planning your legacy with Pittsburg State

Your legacy is more than just a scholarship; it is about transforming the lives of students for a better future. Invest in tomorrow. Be a part of the long-term success by making a gift in your will. Your gift supports students for generations to come.



For more information on how to create a lasting legacy at Pittsburg State, contact: Erica Martin, Director of Planned Giving at [ermartin@pittstate.edu](mailto:ermartin@pittstate.edu) or 620-235-4863. [pittstate.giftlegacy.com](http://pittstate.giftlegacy.com)





Brian McClendon

## Diversity in our world

Pittsburg State played host to its first TEDx event this year with “Diversity in Our World,” featuring a slate of 11 diverse speakers.

Held in the Dotty and Bill Miller Theater inside the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, it was livestreamed to watch parties across campus and recorded for the TEDx YouTube site.

Speakers ranged from Ruby Rios, a high school senior from Shawnee Mission, Kansas, who co-founded KC STEMInists — a program that helps girls apply technology to entrepreneurial and global issues — to Harold Wallace III, PSU’s assistant director of Student Diversity Programs, who was a first-generation college student from Los Angeles, Calif.

The event was the brainchild of Courtney Blankenship, who before graduating in May as an honor student with degrees in communication and political science, wanted to leave her mark on the campus and community. Those who attended said they hoped to see the event continue in the future.

Watch online video. 

### Partners for 50 years Pittsburg State's Paraguayan Student Association celebrated the 50th anniversary of Paraguay Kansas this year.

Kansas and Paraguay’s relationship began under the leadership of President John F. Kennedy, who began the program called “Partners of the Americas.”

“A benefit to the partnership has been that Paraguayan citizens can study at any Kansas Regents school as an in-state student,” noted Aaron Hurt, assistant director of International Programs and Services at Pittsburg State.

Hurt said there have been longstanding ties between Paraguay and Kansas in other ways, as well, including Kansas fire departments and libraries donating gently used equipment and books to Paraguay. In turn, when Paraguayan students attend Kansas universities, they share their rich culture and traditions.

A statewide celebration also was held to mark the long partnership.

### Google Earth guy

Speakers of international acclaim are not uncommon at Pittsburg State, where they impact students, faculty, staff, and community. The latest to make a stop at Pittsburg State was Brian McClendon, co-founder of the startup which became Google Earth. His lecture was attended by students in the Engineering Technology program and was open to the campus and community.

McClendon, a former vice president of engineering at Google, built the teams and programs behind Google Earth, Google Maps, Streetview, and Ground Truth, which revolutionized both mapping and the application of satellite and aerial imagery. He developed a world-class mapping program for Uber, enabling it to operate and compete more efficiently in the here and now, while simultaneously preparing for the coming dawn of autonomous driving.

Greg Murray, chair of Engineering Technology, noted that his students are taught to think around problems to find solutions that aren’t readily apparent — one of the reasons the program’s graduates enjoy a nearly 100 percent placement rate. It made sense for them to learn about innovative thinking from the man who developed the technology that is ushering in the age of autonomous driving.

Watch online video. 

KRPS General Manager Tim Metcalf (left) visits with Frank Baker, the station's first general manager. Baker returned to campus to visit KRPS for its 30th anniversary.



# KRPS 30th anniversary

Thirty years after he announced that it was officially on the air for the first time, Frank Baker returned to campus to visit KRPS 89.9. The anniversary coincided with the 50th anniversary of his graduation from PSU and his induction into the Half Century Club.

Baker, the station's original manager, said the station was founded to provide audiences with programming they couldn't find anywhere else — classical and jazz music, National Public Radio news, and more.

Listeners still appreciate that programming lineup today, noted current General Manager Tim Metcalf, who met with Baker and reintroduced him to former colleagues.

The station's powerful 100,000-watt signal reaches out approximately 100 miles in every direction, from its tower south of Pittsburg, to Bartlesville, Okla., and from Rogers, Ark., to Pleasanton, Kan.

"I'm very impressed with all of the expansion PSU has done — so many fantastic structures, and of course, the town itself seems fairly vibrant at this point, too," said Baker, who was joined by his wife, Karen. The two live in Overland Park, where they are retired.

**Thanks to alumni and other donors** across the nation, the PSU Capital Campaign — called **Proven. Promise. Pitt State.** — had such momentum, it met the initial goal of \$55 million.

The existing initiatives identified in that campaign are still priorities of the University, noted Becky May, executive director of University Development, so the campaign will continue with a new goal: reaching \$100 million within the next three years.

"Our donors understand now more than ever the need for private support," May said. "Pittsburg State alumni and friends believe in the power of education, understand the importance of hard work, and share a commitment to helping others focus on academic excellence, artistic expression, and advanced research."

Donate to the campaign at: [giveto.pittstate.edu](http://giveto.pittstate.edu)



President Steve Scott and Nick Popejoy

## One good apple

In conjunction with the 112th Apple Day celebration, the University recognized the first Good Apple Award winner, Nick Popejoy (BSEd '14, MS '16).

The award was established to honor a recent graduate who is putting into practice what it means to be a Gorilla.

Popejoy teaches math and coaches cross country, track, and basketball for Webb City School District, where his colleagues describe him as a leader. He was recognized for his dedication to helping others, giving back to his community, school, and church as a volunteer, and embodying the values of Pittsburg State. In his senior year at Pittsburg State, Popejoy was selected Outstanding Senior Man.

Also recognized at Apple Day were Gloria Flynn (Teaching and Leadership), Kristen Livingston (Communication), and Barbara McClaskey (Nursing), who received the Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award. The award was created to recognize those faculty members who make lasting impressions on students. Aaron Hurt (International Recruitment) and Tracey Eagon (Kansas Center for Career & Technical Education) received the Voya Outstanding Employee Recognition Awards.

Watch online video. 

# FROM THE OVAL



Lena Pinkston



Jared Zamoski



Stu Hite

## Introductions

**Lena Pinkston** was named the new Director of Digital Communication for the Office of University Marketing and Communication. Pinkston (BS '16), was the Director of Marketing and Events for Wheat State Wine Co. where she developed marketing plans, coordinated events, and promoted the brand using social media.

Now, she is working closely with students, staff, alumni, and campus community to promote Pittsburg State University digitally. She's no stranger to the UMC office — she worked there as a Student Marketing Assistant for two years. Pinkston said she's excited to be back at her 'home away from home' and serving her alma mater.

**Jared Zamoski** was named the new Assistant Director of Annual Giving in the Office of Development. He works closely with the Advancement Ambassadors, overseeing the annual Phonathon, determining an honorary family for Family Day, and collaborating with student groups who want to use crowdfunding to raise money for their projects.

Prior to coming to Pittsburg State, he worked with English Language Learners at a high school in Springfield, Missouri. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Missouri State University and a master's in education-reading from MSU.

**Stu Hite** (BA '91) was named the new University Police Chief. He replaced Mike McCracken, who retired after 20 years in the position. It was while working as a student dispatcher for University Police as a freshman that Hite was inspired to seek a career in law enforcement, and is pleased to have come "full circle" to once again serve on campus.

After graduating, Hite went on to have a long and decorated career with the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, where he most recently worked as a Detective Lieutenant and was an FBI Academy graduate. He is married to Amy Hite, who is an associate professor in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing.



President Steve Scott helps Michaela Bedene, PSU and Kansas Student Employee of the year winner, show off her awards.

## And the winner is...

The desire by Michaela Bedene to take charge, achieve success, and excel was what made her stand out to judges as the clear choice as Pittsburg State's 2017-18 Student Employee of the Year. It also made her stand out as the winner for the entire state of Kansas.

Bedene, a nursing student who works at the Registrar's Office, was one of 26 finalists to be nominated for the award from the more than 600 student employees working on campus.

During the awards ceremony, President Steve Scott — once a student employee on campus himself — said the university couldn't operate without student employees. In turn, Scott noted, the students benefit, too. Their colleagues often serve as surrogate parents, encouraging them when they have upcoming tests, asking how their weekends went, and inquiring about their health.

Also recognized were first runner-up Jaycie Polhlopek, a student in exercise science who works in Alumni and Constituent Relations; and second runner-up Kiersten Morris, a student in nursing who works in Health, Human Performance and Recreation.



## A university milestone

English Professor John Franklin's "ELA for M/S: A Guidebook for Beginning Teachers," marks a milestone: it's the university's first Open Education Resource textbook printed by a faculty member and shared with students for free. He gave the class of 2016 credit for field testing the book.

## University launches bike share program

Pittsburg State became the second entity in the state to offer VeoRide's dockless pay-as-you-ride bike share system.

In a launch event that coincided with an Earth Day celebration by the Students for Sustainability, the university unveiled 70 Pitt State-branded bicycles.

The program is gaining traction across the nation. Faculty and staff members of the Sustainability, Society & Resource Management degree program first learned of VeoRide at a conference last fall, and a steering committee began working to implement it.

Riders simply locate a nearby bike at designated parking areas via their smart phone and unlock for a quick commute or just a fun spin around campus by paying as little as 50 cents for 15 minutes.

"Hats off to Pitt State for recognizing the value that a bike share offers its students, faculty and staff," said Candie Xie, co-founder of VeoRide. "They're making a bold statement that bikes are not only a transportation asset, but also contribute to a healthier, more vibrant campus."



## #OAGAAG

[@KyleHammond20](#)

Thank you @pittstate for being a home away from home. Thank you for the countless friends and memories I've made here. Thank you for the great college culture I got to experience. Most of all, thank you for helping me get where I want to be in life. #ItsTime

[@rachp2005](#)

#DedicateAnApple there's so many amazing teachers to name, but definitely giving a shout out to @gorillateaching. If it weren't for PSU's passionate and dedicated educators, I wouldn't be prepared for my own 5th grade classroom next year. #oagaag @pittstate

[@leesagabel](#)

Dear @pittstate, Thank you for having flat-rate tuition! Because of it, @thegabelbagel will be taking ceramics and ballroom dance in the Fall. Flat-rate opens up so many possibilities beyond degree courses! Sincerely, A very happy #PittStateMom

[@flemonade07](#)

The best days on campus are the days that President Scott talks to your class. Because you know that he wants to be there. @pittstate #OAGAAG #PSU

[@002Murph](#)

I'm not even mad about having 8:00 am classes this semester because I love my major, my professors, and my peers at @pittstate in The Department of Teaching

[@TallJP](#)

As a @pittstate alum, St. Patty's Day is always a challenge to try and find green in my wardrobe...

[@kcooper1969](#)

Had a great visit with future educators at Pitt State University today. Always a great time interacting with young people ready to make a difference in the lives of kids. @pittstate @psugrimes

# Events Calendar

Go to [pittstate.edu](http://pittstate.edu), for the latest additions and changes to the calendar, as well as additional details about specific events.

## Art

Contact [joliver@pittstate.edu](mailto:joliver@pittstate.edu) or call 620-235-4302 for more information.

University Gallery Porter Hall

**Aug 27 - Oct 27**  
**"Fortitude"**

**Nov 1 - Feb 28**  
**Group Exhibition of Comics**

Harry Krug Gallery Porter Hall

**Sept 15 - Dec 1**  
**Fort Hays State University**  
**Graduate Students**

## Music

For ticket information and prices go to: [pittstate.edu/tickets](http://pittstate.edu/tickets) or call 620-235-4796. \**ticketed event*

**September 7 – SCMS Chicago Brass\***  
McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**September 21 – Choir Dinner\***  
Student Center, 6:30 p.m.

**September 27 – PSU Wind Ensemble**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**October 1 – PSU Jazz Ensembles**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**October 5 – SCMS Russian Renaissance\***  
McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**October 7 – Trumpet Fest Jazz Concert**  
McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**October 28 – SEK Symphony\***  
Bicknell Center, 4 p.m.

**October 29 – United States Army**  
**Jazz Ambassadors**  
Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

**November 2 – PSU Choirs**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**November 4 – Todd Mosby**  
**New Horizons Ensemble**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**November 9 – SCMS Marguerite Krull**  
**(soprano)\*** McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**November 15 – PSU & Dist. II**  
**Jazz Concert** Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

**November 30 – SEK Symphony\***  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**December 2 – PSU Wind Ensemble**  
Bicknell Center, 3 p.m.

**December 5 – Timmons Chappel Concert**  
Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

**December 7 – Timmons Chappel Concert**  
Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

**February 16, 2019 – Post Modern Jukebox**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

## Theatre

For ticket information: [pittstate.edu/tickets](http://pittstate.edu/tickets) or call 620-235-4796.

**September 15**  
**The Thomas Jefferson Hour**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**October 9**  
**Broadway's "The Wizard of Oz"**  
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Oct 18 - 21**  
**Cabaret**  
by Joe Masteroff  
directed by Cynthia Allan  
Bicknell Center, Miller Theatre  
Thursday - Saturday, 7:30 p.m.;  
Saturday & Sunday, 2 p.m.

**November 10**  
**Moscow Ballet's**  
**GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER**  
Bicknell Center, 3-5 p.m. & 7-9 p.m.

**November 30 - December 1**  
**Theatre Unplugged**  
by Student Directed One-Acts  
Studio Theatre/Joplin Street Entrance  
(Grubbs), Friday & Saturday, 7 p.m.

## Community

**September 18 - 19 Company Days**  
Kansas Technology Center  
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**October 25 – Fall Career Expo**  
Overman Student Center  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**December 14 – Fall 2018 Commencement**  
Garfield W. Weede Physical Ed. Building

# Finding Gus Gorilla



Can you find the hidden Gus? Search this issue for the iconic bronze Gorilla that sits on the Oval in front of the Overman Student Center. The sculpture was created by Larry Wooster in 1965.

Email [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto: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, 2018.**

The winner will receive a hardbound copy of "Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years."

**Congratulations to Brooke Belcher**, BS Ed 1997, Ft. Scott, Kan., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Spring 2018 magazine! (It was on page 39, in the lower left corner of the photo.)

# Thank you!

Because of you, the PSU Foundation has met the initial \$55 million campaign goal!



Pittsburg State alumni and friends believe in the power of education, hard work, and a commitment to supporting others achieve academic excellence, artistic expression and advanced research. You understand that philanthropy is an important part of our success.

We're proud to announce that our capital campaign - **Proven. Promise. Pitt State.** - has achieved the goal of \$55 million! In our continued efforts to focus on student, faculty and program success, the campaign will be reaching for the new goal of \$100 million over the next three years. We hope you join us during this important campaign and allow Pittsburg State to remain a destination of choice for the next generation of Gorillas.



**PROVEN. PROMISE. PITT STATE.**

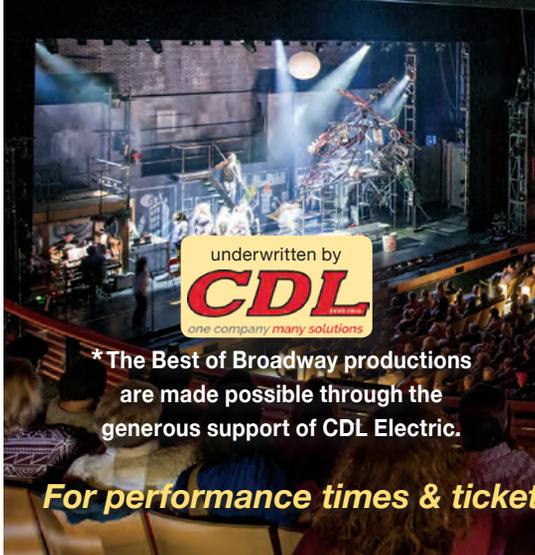
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Learn more at [giveto.pittstate.edu](http://giveto.pittstate.edu)



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\*The Best of Broadway productions are made possible through the generous support of CDL Electric.

*For performance times & ticket information: [bicknellcenter.com](http://bicknellcenter.com) or call 620-235-4796.*

## 2018

Aug. 23.....The Vault: Unlocked  
 Sept. 15 ..... The Thomas Jefferson Hour  
 Sept. 29 .....O-Sole-Trio  
 Oct. 9 ..... \* BROADWAY'S "THE WIZARD OF OZ"  
 Oct. 18-21..... Pitt State Theatre's "Cabaret"  
 Oct. 29 ..... U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors  
 Nov. 2 ..... PSU's University Choirs  
 Nov. 4 .....Todd Mosby New Horizons Ensemble  
 Nov. 15.....PSU's Jazz Ensemble  
 and KMEA SEK District Honor Jazz Ensemble

## 2019

Feb. 16 ..... Post Modern Jukebox  
 Feb. 21-24..... Pitt State Theatre's "The Revenge of the Space  
 Pandas or Binky Rudich and the Two-Speed Clock"  
 March 9 .....PSU's Barbara Rondelli Voice Competition  
 March 21 .....Mark Nizer 4D  
 March 29 ..... \* BROADWAY'S "THE SOUND OF MUSIC"  
 April 13 ..... "Walkin' the Line: a Johnny Cash Tribute"  
 April 18 .....PSU Wind Ensemble and PHS Wind Ensemble  
 April 25-28.....Pitt State Theatre's "House of Blue Leaves"

# Order your holiday gifts early!

Give the gift of Gorilla Pride to family, friends, or even yourself.

NEW license plate orders are

**50% off**  
 from November 26  
 thru December 21!



ANY gift of \$30 or more to any area at PSU during the calendar year qualifies you for a plate.

ANYONE with a Kansas or Missouri tag can get a gorilla plate.

**PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations**

620-235-4758 or 877-PSU-ALUM • [pittstate.edu/alumni](http://pittstate.edu/alumni)



# THE WIZARD OF OZ

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

The greatest family musical of all time, Broadway's "The Wizard of Oz," will touch down in Kansas! This magical production is a celebration of the 1939 MGM movie, and will be presented with breathtaking special effects.

# RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S The Sound of Music Book By Lindsay & Crouse

Friday, March 29, 2019

A new production of "The Sound of Music" is currently on tour across North America, and it's stopping here. The spirited, romantic and beloved musical story of Maria and the von Trapp Family in World War II-era Austria will once again thrill audiences with its award-winning score, including "My Favorite Things," "Do-Re-Mi," and the title song.



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More **Where in the World is Gus** photos at:  
magazine.pittstate.edu and facebook.com/pittstate

# “Where in the World is Gus?”



**D.C.** – Incoming freshman Ross Fry showed his Gorilla pride on a trip to Washington, D.C., with his grandmother, Denise Grasso (BSED '77, MS '82, Ed.S '86). Fry's parents also are Gorillas: Kevin (BS '96) and Megan (BBA '96).

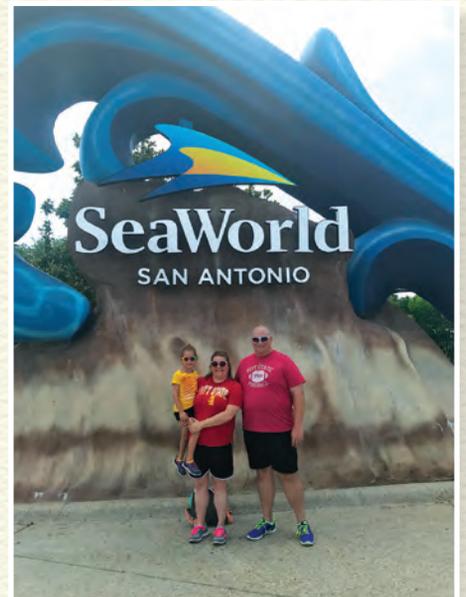
**Forever friends** – Wisha Rose (Class of 1969) and a group of fellow PSU alumni visited Alaska last summer to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their friendship. They're all members of Phi Sigma Epsilon and Alpha Gamma Delta! From left to right: Ken and Kathy Cattaneo, Janet and David Herman, Wisha and Gary Rose, Tess and Dan Michaelis, Marsha and David Reynolds.



**Down under** – Earlier this year former Pitt Cheer member Marvin Taylor (BBA '00) traveled to Southern Australia, visiting Melbourne and the surrounding areas. This photo was taken along The Great Ocean Road near the town of Anglesea about an hour west of Melbourne, Victoria. Across the road, there was a koala sleeping in a tree!



**Future Gorilla** – Janissa Ferraro sits on the gorilla statue outside of the gorilla enclosure at the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium on a trip with her dad, Jason (BST '02) and her mom, Julie (BSE '01). They hope to see her grow up to attend PSU, too!



**First trip** – Michael Pommier (BST '07) and Tiffany Shaffer Pommier (MS '08) took along their Gorilla wear on their first big family vacation with their daughter, Natalie. During their travels to several places in Texas, they stopped at Sea World in San Antonio.

**Tell us what interesting places Gus has visited.**  
E-mail your photo & a brief story to [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto:psumag@pittstate.edu)



**Sisters forever** – A group of Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters who lived in the sorority house in the late 1970s has stayed connected for 40 years, having reunions every July for the past 10 years. This year, to celebrate a birthday milestone for many in the group, they spent a week in beautiful Costa Rica! Back, left to right: Joy Welsh ('80) Brenda Roberts ('80 '88), Cindy Bradshaw ('78 '86), Carol Waggoner ('82), Carla Doss ('79), Robbi Pazzie ('81), Diane Letner ('80), Cathy Albright ('80), Theresa Coillot ('82), Catherine Linaweaver ('81), Judy Martin ('82). Front, left to right: Tracy Morris ('81), Jan Steele ('86), Cathy Hess ('82), Bette Lessen ('80), Lori O'Neill ('83), Nancy Meads ('80 '82), Janie Smith ('79 '84).



**Reading material** – Sharon and Mel Kluhsman (BST '83) always take along great reading material for the beach when they head to their favorite place: Cozumel, Mexico. They also love to sail the Hobie and dive the beautiful clear waters off the east shore. Kluhsman, who is president and CEO of Kluhsman Racing Components, was an Outstanding Alumni in 2001, and has served on the Manufacturing Advisory Board at the KTC for more than 20 years.



**Home away from home** – Atha (BS '70) and Carver Briley (BS '70, MS '71) have been married 48 years and for some 20 years have been making memories at Cancun Resort.



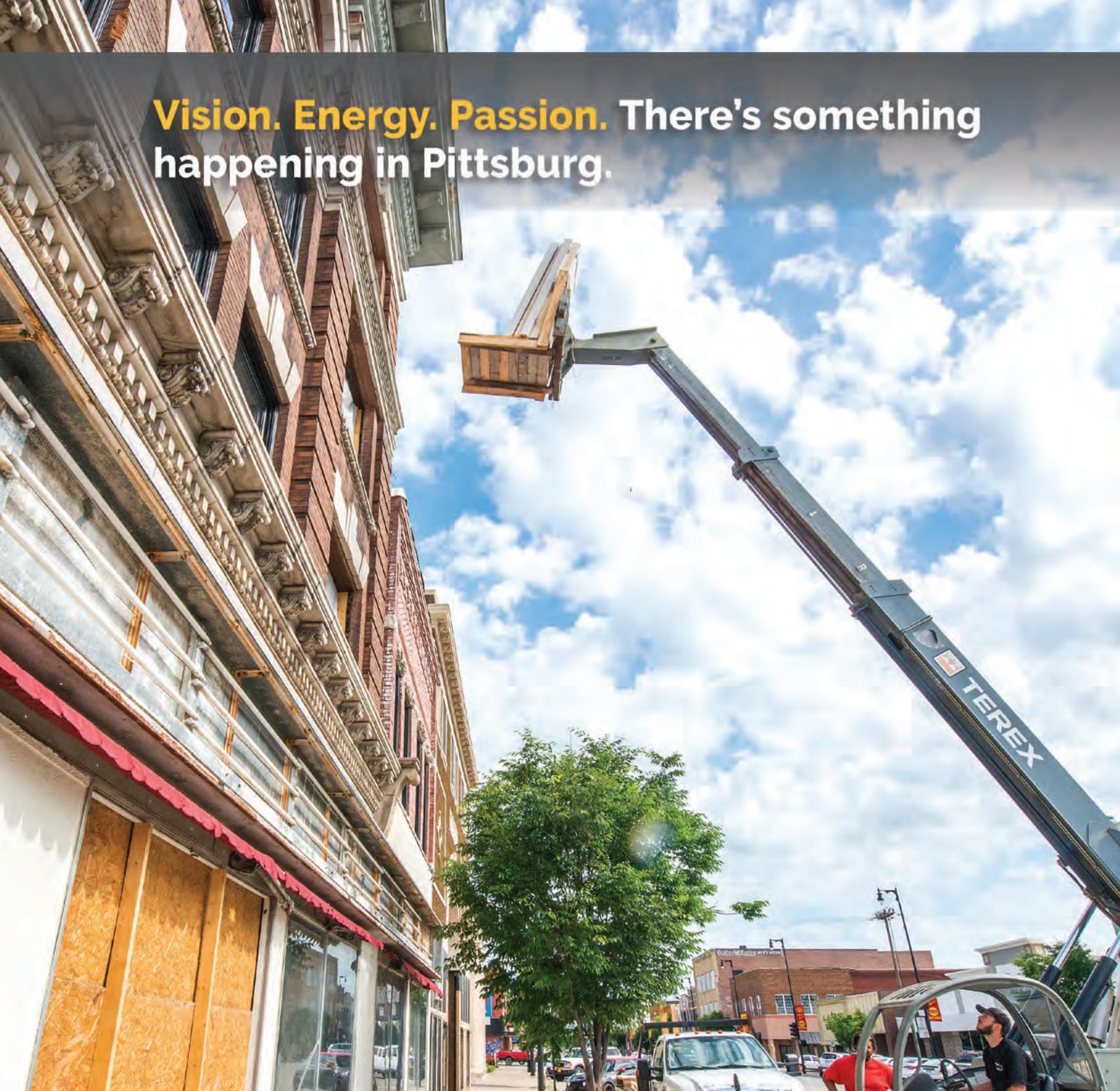
**Sailing** – Retired Air Force Pilot Jim Lincoln, (BS '70), traveled to the Caribbean from Grenada to St. Lucia on Island Windjammer's Diamant. Under sail for 12 days, he stopped at a different beach each afternoon for snorkeling, sunning and hanging out at the bar.



**On safari** – Marcia (Beachner) Gard (BS '86, MS '92) and her husband, Jeff Gard, took Gus on a camel safari ride in Cabo San Lucas while visiting Mexico in February.

**Tulip time** – When Jerry Lomshek (BGS '86) visited Keukenhof Gardens, near Leiden, Netherlands, in April, the crimson and gold tulips reminded him of Pittsburg State!





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Rotary

MAY 27-29

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TRENT LINDBLOOM CAN never guarantee how the Pittsburg State University Baja team will place in the Kansas SAE Baja, even when PSU hosts it, as it has four times since 2011.

But there is one thing of which he is certain: “Our industry people

will tell us they’ll hire Baja students over others,” Lindbloom said. “They don’t even realize what they’re learning – not just hands-on mechanical skills and engineering, but soft skills like conflict resolution, solving problems on the fly with what they have on the trailer, teamwork, leadership – all of it.”

And, now that PSU has been doing it for a quarter of a century, there are many former Baja team members in industry who return to campus to recruit.

“They know what it takes to do Baja,” Lindbloom said.

That’s why he still is passionate about it today: “I know what it did for me as a student way back when, and I know what it does for the students who participate in it today.”

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# tions of students

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NOW AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in automotive technology and the organizer of the Kansas SAE Baja event each time it comes to campus, Trent Lindbloom was president of the student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineering at PSU when he and fellow students expressed to the administration their desire to compete.

The collegiate design competition is based on the Baja 1000. It consists of three regional competitions held each year in North America that simulate real-world engineering design projects and related challenges. Engineering students are tasked to design and build an off-road vehicle that will survive the severe punishment of rough terrain.

“The dean told us he’d give us the money as long as we beat all the other Kansas schools,” Lindbloom recalled.

They built that first PSU car with salvage parts on a shoestring budget with \$1,000 from a subsidiary of GM and \$1,000 from then-Dean Victor Sullivan. The rulebook was 36 pages, typeset by hand. They came in 37th out of more than 70 cars that competed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin — not bad for the first time, he said.

In 2000, Lindbloom joined the PSU faculty, and in 2009, once again found himself going to the administration with another Baja proposal: this time, to host the event. Once again, they said “yes.”

The first was held in 2011, followed by events in 2014, 2017, and 2018.



The Baja competition draws teams from Brazil, India, Mexico, and across the U.S. It provides automotive students with hands-on experiences that make them highly sought-after by industry recruiters and has a positive economic impact on the Four State Area.

The event gives PSU broadcasting students, who livestream the competition from an enclosed trailer via a wireless bridge, an unparalleled opportunity, as well.

Past Baja competitors have repeatedly said they love it when PSU hosts the event, because in Pittsburg, everyone embraces it, from the 200 community volunteers to the event downtown called Baja on Broadway.



## Full circle

This year's Baja was especially noteworthy, as it brought the PSU program full circle. Two of the team's lead students, brothers Austin and Camden Mylott, are second generation. Their dad, Matthew Mylott (BST '93), was on the first team with Lindbloom in 1991-92.

"It's pretty neat that Pittsburg State has been competing in this long enough now, we're on the second generation," Lindbloom said.

In fact, it was PSU's participation in SAE Baja, coupled with its Automotive Technology program, that sold the Mylott brothers on attending Pittsburg State.

"We definitely got the story as far as how awesome Pitt State's automotive program is, and then Dad pulled up videos on the computer to show us the Baja, and

that was it," Austin said. "It was a no-brainer."

This year, Austin led the PSU Baja team as the president of the PSU chapter of SAE.

"To be able to continue the legacy is pretty special to both me and Camden," Austin said. "Baja trains people, gives leadership opportunities, trains students so they're better prepared for the workforce. We each get to take on one aspect of the car and make it our own."

"You meet so many people from so many places, and it grows your network," he said. "You make industry contacts – Polaris, Volvo, all the big-name companies in the program – and it's just phenomenal to have that experience while in college. It's a huge advantage."

## Changes

While the basics of the competition have remained the same since Lindbloom's college days, much has changed.

Today, the rulebook is 160 pages and much stricter, and cars have evolved as have budgets: the Mylott brothers' team spent \$16,000 to \$18,000. Registration is completed via internet, attracting teams from around the world and filling up in less than 5 minutes each year.

Cars now serve as senior capstone projects for many students in conjunction with engineering programs at competing universities. And, the academic program involvement has expanded: Construction students design and build the track. Students in Graphics & Imaging Technologies design brochures and promotional materials. Broadcasting students livestream the event from a trailer outfitted with equipment that can access wi-fi to let thousands see it around the world.

The event now engages the entire community: more than 200 people volunteer to pull it off, the All Aboard Foundation stages a downtown festival called Baja on Broadway, and retailers and hotels put out their welcome signs in anticipation of an economic boon.

Lindbloom still pinches himself when he considers the journey.

"When I think back about how far we've come...it's just been really rewarding for me, for our students, for PSU," he said. •

# Making a difference

DEPRICE TAYLOR IS A NAME familiar to fans of Pittsburg State University women's basketball. The Detroit native was one of the first players former head coach Lane Lord brought with him in 2008 from Barton County Community College after being tabbed to lead the Gorillas' basketball program.

"DePrice is probably the number one success story in my 23 years of coaching," said Lord. "Not just because of what she did on the court, but because of what she had to overcome to get there, and what she's accomplished since she left."

The 5' 8" guard, who averaged just over 11 points per game and earned First Team All-MIAA honors, was instrumental in helping Lord build one of NCAA Division II's most successful women's basketball programs.

"Coming from Detroit to Pittsburg, Kansas is definitely a culture shock," said Taylor. "But I can honestly say

those were some of the best years of my life. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Social Science and stayed on as graduate assistant which allowed me to earn my Master's Degree in Sports and Recreation Management."

Upon graduation, Taylor wasn't certain what she wanted to do for her career. So, she reverted to what she had enjoyed while on the basketball court: helping others succeed.

She found her calling while working for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dundee Township in Illinois. Now an Area Director with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Taylor oversees the daily operations, staffing, programs and activities for nearly 250 children at the Hawthorne and Independence Units.

"The Boys & Girls Club is the premiere organization for youth," said Taylor. "Our programs help prepare kids for success once they graduate high school. In fact, that's our strategic vision. To make sure that 100 percent of our kids graduate high school and have some kind of post-secondary plan. Whether that's directly into the workforce, into college, or identifying a trade."

The Detroit native is proud of her time spent on the court for Pitt State, but even more so of the university and community that adopted her as one of its own.

"I have a big picture in my office of us playing KU at Allen Fieldhouse," said Taylor. "When kids come in they ask, 'You went to Pitt State?'. I'm excited to take a group of teens there this summer to see the university and the community. It's a special place. I'm forever indebted to Coach Lord, Coach Davied and the university. I wouldn't be where I am without them." •





Kolleen Gladden



Nick Bartelli

# Outstanding seniors

Watch online video. 

NICK BARTELLI AND KOLLEEN GLADDEN have a lot in common. He founded Pittsburg State's first Christian fraternity, and she founded the first Christian sorority. They both were active as leaders in Student Government Association and community service.

Both excelled academically: Bartelli earned a degree in communication in three years with a 4.0 GPA, while Gladden earned two degrees — English and graphics communications — with a 3.92 GPA.

Both were members of the University choir.

Both balanced co-curriculars well: Bartelli was employed at three campus-based media outlets — he was a news and sports anchor for CAPS-13 TV channel, and a reporter for the Collegio and KRPS — and Gladden was a student athlete and founded the Student-City Advisory Council with the Pittsburg City Commission.

And both were chosen for the ultimate student award: Bartelli

as Outstanding Senior Man and Gladden as Outstanding Senior Woman. As such, they each delivered commencement addresses and plaques with their names will be installed at the flag pole in front of Russ Hall.

Originally from Platte City, Missouri, Bartelli was offered

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*"I just fell in love with learning here, and with the sense of community."*

— Kolleen Gladden

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significant scholarships to other larger state universities but chose instead to follow in the footsteps of his parents and attend Pittsburg State. He plans to continue his education at Pittsburg State as a graduate student this fall, following a study abroad trip to Spain and Portugal in May and a mission trip to the Middle East over the summer. Then, he's setting his sights on law school.

Gladden applied to just one university — Pittsburg State — having been attracted to the flat rate tuition so that she could earn two degrees. She also loved the opportunities she had to make a large impact and positive change.

"When my high school friends gather around to catch up, they often marvel at the opportunities that Pittsburg State provides that their larger schools simply do not," said Gladden, who praised faculty and staff for pushing her to reach her potential. She, like Bartelli, is going on to law school.

"When I began the interview process with law schools, they often made note of the many experiences that were only possible through Pittsburg State. How many students at a large state school have even met their university president, let alone received a heartfelt letter of recommendation?" she said. "I just fell in love with learning here, and with the sense of community." •

# From the Midwest to the Middle East

WHEN COURTNEY BLANKENSHIP was around nine years old, she discovered she had a passion for learning about Egypt and North Africa.

Following graduation in May, that childhood passion is becoming her full-time focus for the next two years: following a trip to the Middle East, she'll be headed to Morocco, where she'll work as a Youth Development Specialist for the Peace Corps.

"It's an area of the world with rich historical significance, cultural beauty, and hardworking people, but it's also an area that is sometimes very misunderstood," she said.

It may be thousands of miles away from Pittsburg State, but her experiences here have prepared her: she served as PSU's Student Ambassador for the Peace Corps, volunteered with a diverse group of international students on campus, was an officer in Student Government Association, and was the creator and organizer of the first TEDxPittsburgStateUniversity with the theme, "Diversity in Our World."

"And, I already know some Arabic," she said. "I've been working hard to be able to communicate well."



Courtney Blankenship

Blankenship took advantage of Pittsburg State's flat rate tuition to earn two degrees in three years — bachelor's degrees in Communication and Political Science — as well as a certificate in International Knowledge and Experience. She will be working in a Dar Chabab, or House of Youth, to implement after-

school programs and teach English.

Blankenship grew up in Pratt, Kansas, with parents who were both administrators.

"I want to make a difference, I'm passionate, and I'm determined to make it work, whatever it is I'm doing," she said. •

*"It's an area of the world with rich historical significance, cultural beauty, and hardworking people, but it's also an area that is sometimes very misunderstood."* — Courtney Blankenship

# A Gorilla in Chiefs Kingdom

PREPARATION IS KEY TO Kendall Gammon's success in the Chiefs' broadcast booth

It's 2:58 p.m., on a Sunday afternoon in Kansas City, Missouri. It's only minutes away from kickoff and Arrowhead Stadium, home to the Kansas City Chiefs, is packed with nearly 80,000 exuberant fans.

Nearly 260 feet above the field, Kendall Gammon, color commentator for the Kansas City Chiefs Radio Network, takes a deep breath, quickly reviews his depth chart, gives his broadcast partner, the "Voice of the Chiefs," Mitch Holthus a fist-bump, and prepares to deliver the game action to nearly 1 million Chiefs fans across 80 stations and 14 states.

The scene is a long way from where Gammon's broadcasting career began, nearly two decades ago as an early morning intern at Sports Radio 810.

"On Tuesday mornings, my one day off, I'd go in at 5:30 a.m. and just be there to learn," said Gammon, who earned a degree in education from Pittsburg State in 1994.

It's also a long way from Carnie Smith Stadium, where Gammon was captain of the football team his junior and senior year. In 1991, he was part of the D-II National Championship team.

Gammon went on to become a long-snapper and tight end who played for three teams in the National Football League, including the Chiefs.

"I was fortunate that when I retired, 101 the FOX (the radio flagship for the Chiefs) asked me if I'd be interested in doing sideline," said Gammon. "I jumped at the chance to be involved in what I did for 15 years."

The transition from NFL Pro-Bowler to broadcaster wasn't an easy

Gammon, Mitch Holthus and members of the Chiefs' broadcast team deliver one of the NFL's best game broadcasts from high atop a packed Arrowhead Stadium.



one. Luckily, Gammon had one of the nation's best broadcast producers, Chiefs Radio Network Executive Producer Dan Israel, willing to help him out.

"Dan is a hands-on coach," said Gammon. "Three years before I transitioned from sidelines to the broadcast booth, Dan was working with me. Every Thursday we would be in his studio re-watching last week's broadcast and calling the games. I vividly remember the first one because I was so awful. There's no way I was ready. Dan prepared me for the booth."

Israel credits Gammon's coachability and work ethic with his successful transition.

"I don't care what you do for a living, the more prepared you are the better you will be," Israel said. "One of the reasons NFL players are able to make a transition into broadcasting is because they live this way. You have to know where you can go before you get to a crisis moment. I told Kendall,



Kendall Gammon

'If you throw 50 percent of your prep away each week, I'm good with that.'

Gammon, who works as special assistant to the president at PSU, is now starting his second year as the full-time color commentator for the Chiefs Radio Network. It's been more than 30 years since he first stepped onto a football field, but the thrill is still the same.

"You get used to the size of the stadiums," Gammon said. "But it's still game day. I absolutely love it." •

## Block22 eateries

# Gorillas in the kitchen!

Watch online video. 

THREE NEW RESTAURANTS will open this fall in Downtown Pittsburgh as part of the innovative, historic Block22 project. And at the heart of each of them are Pittsburgh State alumni.

The new restaurants are expected to open in October or early November.

### Toast

Heather and Roger Horton, owners of Sweet Designs Cakery in Downtown Pittsburgh, are opening TOAST, a fast-casual eatery with a diverse menu centered around toast.

“Toast has been around since the Romans,” said Heather (BA ‘05, MA ‘07). “Toast can be found in many households across America today for breakfast, a snack or even dessert. TOAST is comfort food at its finest. The combinations are limitless enough to keep it interesting and the premise is familiar enough to crave it daily.”

The menu will feature a variety of breads and toppings for toast, from white bread with seasonal veggies and hummus to sourdough bread with cinnamon and sugar.

### Brick + Mortar

With a focus on “food, vibe, and ambience,” Brick + Mortar has quickly become one of the top dining spots in Santa Monica, California.

For Travis Lester, who co-owns Broseph Restaurant Group with business partner Justin Safier, it’s a bit of a homecoming. Lester is a BA ‘04 graduate of Pitt State, where he played baseball for the Gorillas.

“My time at Pittsburgh State shaped me into the man I am today, Lester said. “It’s an amazing feeling to be able to come back and be a part of not just Pittsburgh, but also this exciting Block22 project.”

Brick + Mortar will incorporate the

elements of a classic neighborhood bar in a chic, luxurious way, while serving up a mouth-watering menu of Modern American fare that surprises the senses by adding a twist to the simplest.

### Cali Burrito

Asked to name a restaurant they’d like to see in Pittsburgh, PSU students often mention Chipotle. Safier and Lester are opening what they call a cooler, better version of Chipotle: Cali Burrito.

It will be a quick-service restaurant featuring fresh ingredients and “a cool, modern vibe.”

### Root Coffeehouse & Creperie

Since opening in the fall of 2015 at 802 N. Broadway, Root Coffeehouse has become a staple in Downtown Pittsburgh.

It has become so popular, in fact, that owners Lindsey Kling (BA ‘10), Trent Kling (BS ‘07, MA ‘10), and Taylor Whiteley (BA ‘16), began talking about finding a bigger space. When the opportunity to move into Block22 came up, they jumped at the chance.

“I think it’s going to be amazing,” said Lindsey. “When we opened three years ago, we just weren’t sure how it would go. You never know until you’re there and in it. The response from the community has been incredible, and needing more space is a very good problem to have.”

For more information about Block22, visit [block22psu.com](http://block22psu.com) •



Three new restaurants and a local coffeeshop are opening in Block22 this fall. Earlier this spring, owners of the new eateries gathered with city and university officials inside the Block22 site to sign their formal contracts.

# Students invest in community by opening own business

BRITTAN BRENNER IS A through-and-through Wichitonian, having grown up there. But she considers Pittsburg “home.”

“Just the way this community has invested in me, I can’t think of any place I’d rather go and be a young professional,” she said.

So, the Pittsburg State senior in communication decided to stay put and open a business with her best friend, Kailey Pearson — a sophomore in graphic design who also is a Wichita native — in the heart of downtown Pittsburg.

They were inspired by recent economic growth and Block22; Pearson was the first resident in line to sign a contract to live there.

For investment capital, they’ve used \$5,000 they won in the recent Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge as the first team to ever represent Pittsburg State. To create and run it, they’re using skills they used in their degree programs — Pearson in graphic design and Brenner in public relations.

Called Sonder & Co., and located on the ground level of the Commerce Building, it will be a boutique-style store showcasing and selling the works of area artisans — especially students.

“We talk a lot about place attachment, and about identifying problems in our community and how to fix them,” Brenner said. “We wanted our brand to really embody what Pittsburg is. We want our fellow students at Pitt State to have a place



Kailey Pearson and Brittan Brenner

attachment so when they graduate, they won’t take the lessons and skills they learned in our city limits to other places. They’ll use them here.”

Pearson agreed.

“It’s proven that if people have pride in where they’re at, and others have pride in them and what they’re doing, they’ll want to stick around,” she said.

The two say they know many students who make “amazing goods,” but don’t have the time or resources to market it themselves nor coordinate shipping. Sonder & Co. will offer them a 60/40 profit split, while community artists may sell their work at the store

by paying a \$40 monthly fee and their profit split is 70/30.

“Beyond the community engagement, we both see it as propelling into a career,” Brenner said. “It’s a way to continue to be part of the student community while establishing myself as a young professional. When we graduate, we’ll have options: we’ll have artisans who have a large stake in it by then and we could transfer ownership if we wanted to, and we’ve also set it up so it can be easily replicated in other communities, like a franchise.” •

## Staying connected

When Ryan Amick was in high school, his dad, Mark, never missed one of his band concerts; they both lived in the same town. In fact, Mark recorded them for family at a distance.

Now Mark lives in California, and Ryan is a music education major at PSU. But Mark is still able to listen to his son's concerts, thanks to a livestreaming initiative the university began a few years ago and has continued to develop.

"I am so very grateful to PSU for livestreaming the Jazz and Wind Ensemble performances," Mark said. "With the majority of Ryan's family living along the west coast, it's the only chance we have of watching him perform. I was afraid of losing that connection with him, but PSU came through for those of us unable to make it to campus."

Livestreaming is a joint effort between the Communication Department (home to the PSU Broadcasting program directed by Troy Comeau), technical coordinator Jonathan Eastman and his crew at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, the Music Department, Athletics, and University Marketing & Communication.

Livestreaming not only allows friends and families to watch special events like choir and band concerts, athletic events at the Robert W. Plaster Center, and annual traditions like Apple Day, it gives students valuable hands-on experience as they learn the technical aspects of running a livestream and the equipment.

It also shortens the distance; relatives of students from India were able to watch the PSU Diwali Festival of Lights, for example, from thousands of miles away.

At Fall and Spring Commencement ceremonies, viewers have tuned in from as many as 38 countries to watch. And at the four-day Kansas SAE Baja competition, a mobile broadcasting center and a wi-fi bridge allowed a livestream from a field to viewers around the world. Such broadcasts can be found in a searchable archive at [pittstate.tv](http://pittstate.tv).

The next step, those involved say, is to gain support from donors to purchase more equipment in order to more finely hone the programming and have everything in one location.



## Eyecatching crosswalks

Thanks to a grant from SEK Art Fest, students in the Department of Art got hands-on experience creating outdoor murals and elementary students got bright, eye-catching crosswalks.

The project, led by Art Chair James Oliver, added artwork to crosswalks at Pittsburg School District's four elementary schools. University students designed the murals and did the prep work, then engaged and interacted with elementary students while the murals were in progress.

"We were very excited when Professor Oliver submitted his application," said Jenna Spencer, who heads up SEK Art Fest and is a 2015 graduate of the Art Department. "This project not only supplies our community with incredible art, but it also serves as a way to bring awareness, and through that, safety, to the busy crosswalks by the elementary schools."

The project was done in cooperation with the City of Pittsburg.

## Inspired

An art class from Associate Professor Malcolm Kucharski inspired Alan Kirby (BGS '01) to start his own ceramics business. Two years ago, the creative bug struck again, and Kirby developed an interest in blade work, spawning a knife-making business. His talents were recognized by the History Channel's series "Forged in Fire," and in June, Kirby was featured on Episode 15 of Season 5 as a competitor after having been flown to New York for filming.



Alan Kirby

## Grant dollars = more nurses

The success of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing in training quality health care professionals has been recognized at the federal level in the form of grant dollars totaling more than \$2 million.

The multi-year grants will support the School's Doctor of Nursing Practice program through the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant and the RN-BSN program through the Nurse, Education, Practice, Quality and Retention program.

The grants will provide infrastructure support and educational funding for students including 26 registered nurses in the RN-BSN program and 30 students in the BSN-DNP program.

"Many rural areas, including ours, are known as Health Professional Shortage Areas," said Cheryl Giefer, director of the Bradley School of Nursing. "The demand for healthcare is simply outstripping the supply of qualified professionals. These grants will allow us to admit more nurses into our programs, who, in turn, will bolster our region's primary care nursing workforce. The end result is better care for you and your family."

The Bradley School of Nursing programs include the BSN, RN-BSN, MSN (Education Emphasis), BSN-DNP and MSN-DNP (Advanced Practice Nursing and Education Emphasis). Many of these programs are now available completely online. Visit [nursing.pittstate.edu](http://nursing.pittstate.edu) for additional information.

## "You're getting mentors who care"

Biology major Zach Denton, inspired by sports injuries during high school to become an orthopedic surgeon, had no trouble getting accepted by University of Kansas Medical School. Fellow biology major Sierra Schupbach, who wants to become a primary care physician, had no trouble getting an offer from Oklahoma State University. And their classmates boasted a high acceptance rate, as well. That's not uncommon for the PSU Pre-Med program.

"It's an outstanding program for many reasons," Denton said. "A friend of mine went to another university, and in his biology classes, there were 500 students. In chemistry, 600. I didn't think I could learn in that kind of environment."

At Pittsburg State, Denton found the student-faculty ratio to be 18:1.

"Faculty also plays a huge role in our success," Schupbach said. "They prepare us well. They're experts in their fields. And they actually know who we are. They want to help you. They want to see you succeed. We have them all on speed dial."

Gage Davies, who was accepted by KU Med School, said he found unparalleled research opportunities at Pittsburg State.

"I'm working with Dr. Daniel Zurek on a potential antibiotic, testing the effectiveness both in a medical setting and in agricultural crops," Davies said.

"I can text him, call him. He's accessible. I just don't feel like that happens everywhere. Here you're getting real value. You're not just getting classes. You're getting experience and you're getting mentors who care."



Students in Pre-Med have been accepted to medical schools across the midwest and beyond. They say faculty played a big part in their success.

## Kansas discovery

Sam Pryer, who completed her graduate degree in May, identified 33 plants never before seen in Kansas as part of her master's thesis, and 263 occurring for the first time in Crawford and Cherokee counties. In her adviser Neil Snow's 35-plus years in botany, he knows of no similar thesis that documented as many records in any state.

Sam Pryer



## New online MBA for business professionals

The Kelce College of Business is expanding the reach of one of its most popular programs thanks to a new agreement with online education service provider, Academic Partnerships. The new program will allow students to earn their MBA completely online in as little as 12 months.

The structure differs from the university's traditional MBA, in that it is designed specifically for working professionals.

"It's an accelerated program with seven-week courses, which makes it perfect for those who want to advance their career but whose schedule won't allow them to attend traditional classes on campus," said Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business. "Academic Partnerships manages the online enrollment while our professors deliver the academic instruction. Your MBA will now be as close as your computer."

The seven-week course design also allows students to begin their program at multiple points during a year.

"You will now have five opportunities to begin your MBA rather than the traditional two," said Grimes. "The added flexibility really fits the working schedule of today's professionals."

Enrollment for the online MBA will begin this fall with classes starting Spring 2019. Additional information is available online at: [degrees.pittstate.edu](http://degrees.pittstate.edu).



Projects by Enactus aimed at making a difference in the lives of children propelled the group to compete nationally.

## Enactus success makes a global impact

Pittsburg State's Enactus team rode momentum of one of its most ambitious public service projects to an appearance at the Enactus national competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

This year's team developed partnerships with area schools to provide support for school children, helped the City of Pittsburg open an overnight homeless shelter to protect lives during the harsh winter months, and constructed a unique solution for an orphanage in the Caribbean Commonwealth of Haiti.

"We discovered food scarcity was the biggest issue facing the orphanage," said Ryan Hendrix, last year's President of Enactus. "Our team developed a hydroponic system which allowed them to feed the orphans and sell any excess crops at the local market for a profit."

The Enactus team formally presented their projects to accomplished business leaders during intense competitions this spring. A win at regional competitions in Arkansas earned the team a spot at nationals.

Although this year's team didn't advance past the first round, the experience is one Hendrix won't soon forget.

"They talk about the 'Enactus Advantage' at competitions and it's definitely real," said Hendrix. "I'm meeting with Fortune 500 companies. I'm getting real business experience versus just learning about it in a textbook. More than that, I'm making the world a better place because of Enactus."

Hendrix' experience at Pittsburg State is paying off in terms of a professional career. Upon her May graduation, she began a position as a sales associate with Con-Agra in Chicago.

## MBA students get hands-on experience

Kelce College of Business MBA students are putting business theory into practice thanks to the efforts of alumna Dr. Mindi Garner.

Garner, a board-certified physician and 2017 Pitt State MBA graduate, is partnering with the KCOB to select students to manage the business operations of her recently acquired Merle Norman Cosmetics franchise retail store in downtown Pittsburg.

MBA students are responsible for nearly every aspect of the business including management, payroll, inventory, sales, and payment of corporate tax.

First-year MBA student and current store manager Emily Commons said the experience is bringing her classes to life.

“In class, I’m learning about taxes for business,” said Commons. “But

Garner helps students and the local economy through a unique partnership with the Kelce College of Business.

here (in-store), I’m actually doing it with inventory versus cost of goods sold. I’m going to have a lot more experience when I graduate thanks to Dr. Garner.”

In addition to student experience, the program is also keeping a local business in Pittsburg.

“My grandmother introduced me to this product and I couldn’t imagine



our community losing it,” said Garner. “I felt it was my duty to maintain it here.”

This isn’t the first time Dr. Garner has partnered with Pittsburg State students. She also sponsors the Premeds with Promise program which provides early clinical exposure to premed majors and ultimately better prepared future physicians.

## KCOB transformation moving forward

Architectural plans for the renovation of the Kelce College of Business are 90 percent complete. This spring, Lawrence-based architectural firm Clark Huesmann delivered plans that will transform the mid-20th Century facility into one that meets the needs of the 21st Century business student.

“The process Clark Huesmann used to develop these plans was impressive,” said Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business. “They took the time to understand the needs of our students and the vision of our faculty. Our plan ensures Pittsburg State remains the destination for students who desire the Midwest’s best business education.”

The completion of the architectural plans and conceptual imagery is attracting interest from industry and alumni, including John and Susan Lowe, whose \$3 million pledge allowed for the development of start-up plans and design work.

“Business leaders understand the importance of



a good investment,” said Holly Kent, director of Development for the KCOB. “There are few investments that will provide as high of a return as this project. Our alumni have a deep affinity for their college and are energized by the opportunity to shape Kelce for a new generation of Gorillas.”

The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$18.5 million with a projected start date of May 2020.

Learn more about the KCOB Renovation Project by visiting [giveto.pittstate.edu](http://giveto.pittstate.edu) or call Holly Kent at 888-448-2778.

## Outstanding educators

Each spring, the College of Education recognizes one outstanding elementary and secondary teacher who have distinguished themselves within their first seven years of service and exhibit the potential to make significant contributions to education.

Hope Lickteig, a third-grade teacher at Central Heights Elementary School in Richmond, Kansas, is the recipient of the Outstanding Elementary Educator Award. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from PSU in 2008, and her master's in technology integration in 2013. Her colleagues called her classroom "a laboratory of learning."

Lickteig also taught at Spring Hill Elementary and Wolf Creek Elementary in Spring Hill, Kansas. She said the hands-on learning experiences at Pittsburg State, combined with the personal interest of faculty, contributed to her success.

She was nominated for Teacher of the Year at both Spring Hill and Richmond.

Barbara Hilt, a high school speech and theater teacher at Garden City, Kansas, High School, is the recipient of the Outstanding Secondary Educator Award. Hilt received her bachelor's degree in theatre from Culver-Stockton College in 2002 and her master of arts in teaching from Pittsburg State in 2012. Her colleagues observed that hers is the fastest growing program in the high school since she began.

She also taught at Frontenac, Kansas, and Nevada, Missouri. Hilt said all of her teachers in the College of Education were excellent, and when her students say they want to become teachers, she encourages them to attend Pittsburg State.

Hilt and her students have won numerous statewide awards for their productions from Music Theatre Wichita.

Watch online video. 



Barbara Hilt and Hope Lickteig



## Partnership a win-win in tech literacy

Students from local elementary schools and from Pittsburg State have been learning together, thanks to a minor in technological literacy. The degree program, started in Fall 2015, is a joint effort between the College of Education and the College of Technology.

Several days each semester, classes of youngsters fan out in the Technology Learning Center to explore hands-on activities structured around a theme, like "Fairy Tale Problem Solving." They're guided by PSU students who ask them to predict, analyze, infer, measure, construct, and collaborate. This better equips the PSU students as future teachers who can implement Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math activities in their own classrooms one day.

"It helps me realize what works and what doesn't," said Jillian Sommerfeld, a senior. "I can see how to relate to students of different abilities."

Tracy Rampy, an instructor in Teaching & Leadership, said the partnership has been a win-win-win.

"It's helped our students, their students, and classroom teachers," she said. "There's a lot of power in us working together in a total hands-on learning environment. Down the road, it will set our graduates apart from others when it comes time for a district to make a hire."



Erica Hamm-Clark and Leslie Harris

## Teachers of Promise

The College of Education recognized two promising new teachers for their achievements with the Delta Kappa Gamma/Lyla Vaughn Award: Leslie Harris, who never imagined becoming a teacher until she became a parent, and Erica Hamm-Clark, a first-generation college graduate.

Both said the College of Education provided them with welcoming faculty and a wealth of hands-on experiences that prepared them for their future classrooms.

Harris graduated in May at age 37 with a degree in elementary education after changing career paths from advertising and graphic design to education. She was inspired by volunteering at her older daughter's elementary school, which she found fulfilling.

"It was a huge sacrifice

for my family, but it will pay off intrinsically," Harris said of returning to college for a new degree. "I know I made the right choice."

Hamm-Clark, who entered the workforce right out of high school, didn't think college was an option financially or academically; no one in her family had attended.

When she became a mother, she began questioning her future, and like Harris, enrolled in the College of Education. At age 29, she earned her degree in secondary education.

Her employer, Dr. Gregory Quinlan, allowed her the opportunity to leave work and go to class, and faculty members didn't mind her bringing her children to class in a pinch.

"There's not one thing I regret," Hamm-Clark said, "except to have done it earlier."

Watch online video. 

## PSU grad crowned Mrs. United States

Three-time Pittsburg State graduate Samantha Reinecke was crowned Mrs. United States this summer in Orlando, Florida — a surreal experience she found hard to describe.

Reinecke, a native of Chanute, Kansas, earned her bachelor's degree in education in 2007 and was hired to teach English at Chanute High School. She was crowned Mrs. Kansas in 2010 and 2015 and Mrs. Midwest in April this year.

The experiences she and her husband, Shawn, have with adoption — he is adopted and they adopted a child — inspired her to make adoption her national platform. As Mrs. Kansas, she shared her story with lawmakers in hopes of getting legislation changed.

It was her experience with her niece, who has muscular dystrophy, that inspired her to seek her advanced college degrees and alter her career path to focus on special needs children.

After earning her master's in special education in 2014, she began teaching in a third-grade interrelated classroom, then turned to online courses at PSU to earn her Ed.S. in Educational Leadership-Special Education in May.

"Having the option to take classes online was perfect," she said. "My husband was deployed several times — Afghanistan, Russia, Qatar, and Curaçao — and with four children, I could Skype from home with them on my lap."

She credits support from PSU Instructor Terri Swanson, as well as family and friends, for completing that degree, and has plans to continue her education next January with another advanced degree.

Meanwhile, she plans to use her new crown to take her advocacy for her chosen platforms to the next level.

"I could be a national voice for both adoption and special needs children on a much larger scale," she said. "That would be my dream come true."



Samantha Reinecke

## Plastics students land prestigious internships

When Lexington Peterson took a tour of the Kansas Technology Center at Pittsburg State as a high school senior, Assistant Professor Jeanne Norton handed her a plastic water bottle and sealed the deal on her future career field: Plastics Engineering Technology.

Attracted to the 100 percent placement rate, she knew she wouldn't have to worry about a job. But Peterson, who is pursuing a double major in polymer science, was surprised to find that she also wouldn't have to worry too much about landing a prestigious research internship: As a freshman, she was accepted by the Center of Bioplastics and Biocomposites, a collaborative project by Iowa State University and Washington State University, as one of only seven.

It was her experience in the classroom with injection molding and extrusion that set her apart from applicants at other schools.

"We're lucky to have great equipment — new machines — so that when we go into industry, we know how to use what they have," Peterson said. "It definitely will give us an advantage."

She was one of three students from Pittsburg State accepted for research internships over the summer: Kylie DeClue, a sophomore from Parkville, Missouri, was accepted by Virginia Tech's Macromolecular Innovation Institute. Shelby Bicknell, a May graduate who has returned to campus this fall to work for Norton as a graduate student in the Polymer Chemistry lab, was accepted by Iowa State.

Professor Paul Herring said internships aren't required, but they make graduates much more employable.

"They rise to the top," he said. "And this research opportunity for all three of them is unique. We think it speaks well of our program. To our knowledge, this is the first time Pitt State students have been chosen for such internships."



Kylie DeClue and Lexington Peterson credits the PSU Plastics Engineering Technology program for giving students experience with state-of-the-art equipment that helps them land prestigious internships.



## Boot camp

Students seeking a degree aren't the only ones drawn to the College of Technology to learn. Industry professionals from around the world regularly seek out specialized courses there to boost their knowledge using state-of-the-art equipment and processes in hands-on programs that no other university offers.

At Wood Tech Boot Camp, held each January and May, Assistant Professor Charlie Phillips in Technology and Workforce Learning, compresses a semester-long curriculum into one week. Attendees employed in sales and other aspects of wood-related companies learn mill working, finishing, CNC and CAD, and cabinetry skills and techniques to build a project to take home.

Similarly, the Investment Casting Institute's week-long course, facilitated by University Professor Russ Rosmait in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, draws industry professionals from as far away as Singapore, Ireland, Austria, and Italy, and cities across the U.S.

They come to learn investment casting techniques so that they can return to their companies with a better understanding of the process. Among other things, they have an opportunity to use a \$160,000 Smart Systems wax injection system donated by MPI — something no other university has.



Competing nationally gives students in the School of Construction the chance to apply what they've learned and connect with potential employers.

## Competition with real-world impact

Large-scale natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes happen in very geographically diverse regions, but they all have one thing in common: They leave people displaced from homes.

For the fifth year, a team of students in the PSU School of Construction and a team from PSU's sister university in South Korea worked for a semester to research, design, and construct a possible solution. They then competed with their design against other university teams from across the country in the 2018 John Brown University Disaster Shelter Design Competition in cooperation with the humanitarian group, Samaritan's Purse.

The challenge: to design a shelter of 150 square feet for a family of four in response to a disaster in Nepal that can be assembled in the field with minimal simple tools and weigh no more than 440 pounds.

"What students are doing has real-world application, from concept to actual fabrication," said Instructor Norman Philipp. "And, several of our graduates who were on past teams have been recruited for jobs with relief organizations."

Senior Spencer Troutman said the experience gave him insight into the design-build aspect.

"I get to see everything from the concept to the final design to the actual construction build and learn how to make modifications and do problem solving along the way," he said.

Caitlin Crooks said it will help her in her future career.

"I've always wanted to join a company that helps people, maybe the Peace Corps or something like that, and this is setting me up to be able to do that," she said.

This year, PSU finished third in the on-site emergency build and won the heat retention category.

## National leaders

Two graduates from the School of Construction have risen to the top in their fields, and both returned to campus during the annual Construction Expo to share their expertise.



Shawn Burnum

"It's a special year when two PSU Construction alumni take over leadership of two of our key regional trade associations



Scott Casebolt

with many

members that

routinely hire our graduates," said Jim Otter, director of the PSU School of Construction. "For them to return to campus for the expo to interact with students and pass on what they've learned is a bonus."

Shawn Burnum (BST '94), a division manager with Performance Contracting Group, was named president for the Builders Association of Kansas City, an AGC of Missouri/Kansas City association, and serves on the board of AWCI, a nationwide board that represents 2,200 companies in the wall and ceiling industry.

Burnum, a native of Webb City, Missouri, recalled his class surveying the grounds on which the Kansas Technology Center was built.

Scott Casebolt (BST '99), vice president of Key Construction in Wichita, was named president of Associated General Contractors of Kansas (AGC-Kansas).

A native of Shawnee, Kansas, he spent his final two years on campus in the brand new KTC. His company has been recruiting at Pitt State for more than 20 years, and he's from a family of PSU graduates.

## Fornelli named new coach

There'll be a new manager in PSU's baseball dugout in the Spring.

Bob Fornelli

was tabbed for the top position by Intercollegiate Athletics Director Jim Johnson following the departure of Tom Myers, who resigned to pursue interests outside of collegiate athletics.

Fornelli brought 22 years of NCAA Division II experience to Pittsburg State, and came to the Gorillas from MIAA rival Emporia State University where he fashioned a 599-266 (.692) record in 15 seasons of leading his alma mater. Fornelli led the Hornets to 13 trips to the NCAA Division II National Tournament, two appearances in the D2 World Series, and a national runner-up finish in 2009.

"Bob Fornelli is one of the great collegiate mentors among the Division II ranks," said Johnson. "For him to leave his alma mater and a highly successful program at Emporia to join the Gorillas is a testament to where we see our baseball program headed."

The Gorillas were invited to play in this year's NCAA National Tournament. It was their first appearance on the national stage in 16 years.

Fornelli is looking forward to continuing the momentum created by this year's Gorilla team.

"Tommy (Myers) did a great job in his two years of leading the program," said Fornelli. "Coach (Steve) Bever and I go way back, as well. I have the utmost respect for him. I'm fired up for this opportunity and excited to begin the process."

Fornelli has a 905-379 (.705) record in 22 years as a collegiate head coach.



Bob Fornelli

## Memories on the mound

At a spring baseball game against Missouri Southern State University, there were two starting pitchers, rather than one, who took the mound. And both were in elementary school.

Peyton and Bearett Vanderpool,

brothers from Carl Junction, Missouri, each got to stand with the team during the National Anthem and throw a ceremonial first pitch, followed by time in the dugout with the team, thanks to the PSU Love Your Melon Campus Crew.

Peyton, 9, was diagnosed with a rare form of brain and spinal cord cancer three years ago and has been battling it ever since.

Bearett, who is 10, was diagnosed with Spina Bifida and has undergone serious corrective surgeries; he now wears leg braces and walking is challenging.

"He used to be able to run and play, but now he has a lot harder time getting around," said their mother, Morgan Vanderpool. "He was very sports oriented but can't participate now."

Love Your Melon Campus Crew, a local chapter of a national philanthropy group that provides experiences for children battling cancer, matched the boys with the PSU Baseball Team last fall for practice. Then, they sweetened the deal: they worked with the baseball team to make the brothers become honorary members.

The brothers received PSU shirts and hats, courtesy of Assistant Coach Aaron Meade, and spent time with the team and the coaching staff in the dugout.

"To me, it makes me grateful and thankful that these college-aged kids are taking the time to invest in my kids, to give them something exciting and happy to look forward to," their mom said.

Former Head Coach Tom Myers said it's difficult to imagine what the Vanderpools have been through. But the team did lose 22-year-old Jake Clark in March after his own battle with cancer.

"When our players have been through the loss of a close friend, it's impactful to our players to know they can share stories, memories, and really understand the value of friendships young and old, and how we can impact lives of other people just for a moment," Myers said.



After throwing a ceremonial first pitch, brothers Peyton and Bearett Vanderpool, who became honorary members of the PSU baseball team, spent time with the team and coaches in the dugout.

## A dream come true

Amanda Davied has been named the new head coach for the Pittsburg State University women's basketball program. The Farlington, Kansas native replaces her former mentor, Lane Lord, who accepted the head coaching position at NCAA Division I member, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

"I'm grateful for the confidence that President (Steve) Scott and (Athletic Director) Jim Johnson have shown in me," said Davied. "I've learned a great deal from (former head coaches) Steve High and Lane Lord. I can't thank them enough for their guidance and support."

Davied has served the past 14 seasons as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Pittsburg State and was highly involved in all aspects of program administration. Prior to this, she played four decorated years for the Gorillas.

"We're excited about this new chapter in the program's history," said Jim Johnson, director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "We've known for some time that Amanda Davied was one of the most talented assistant coaches in the country. I can't imagine anyone more qualified to lead the Gorillas."

For Davied, the elevation to head coach completes a journey that began in high school.

"I remember coming to Pitt State as a teenager and watching players like Jenny Miller, Jenny Pracht, and Megan Reid," said Davied. "To be named head coach is a dream come true. We're going to work hard and get better every day. This program's expectations aren't changing and I don't think the results will change either."



Amanda Davied

## Gorilla Sports Network adds an affiliate

Pittsburg State fans have a new option when it comes to listening to Gorilla athletics. Broadcast partner My Town Media, has added a radio affiliate in Springfield, Missouri. Fans will be able to listen to Gorilla football on KRZD (107.9 FM, 1550 AM).

"Springfield is an important market for us," said Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "We have a number of alumni in the Springfield region and now, thanks to My Town Media, they have a hometown radio option for Gorilla football."

The university is entering its second year with My Town Media as its broadcast partner. The southeast Kansas based broadcasting group has been diligent in its efforts to

expand the Gorilla Sports Network, incorporating both tradition and online media outlets.

"General Manager Bill Wachter and his team have been outstanding partners," said Johnson. "The Gorilla Sports Network now has 11 radio affiliates, with stations in Kansas City, Joplin and Parsons, as well as online audio, and streaming video of coach's shows. We're looking forward to another exciting year."

A full listing of affiliates is available in the Fan Zone section of the [pittstategorillas.com](http://pittstategorillas.com) website. Take the Gorillas with you by downloading the "Gorilla Experience" mobile app available for both iPhone and Android.

## Silverback Fund gaining momentum

Pittsburg State's newest athletic fundraising initiative, the Silverback Fund, is finding an audience with Gorilla fans and alumni. The Silverback Fund offers Gorilla supporters an avenue to easily contribute a one-time, monthly or annual donation to help fund scholarships for student-athletes.

"Most people are surprised when I tell them that there isn't a student-athlete at Pitt State that receives a full-ride athletic scholarship," said Jim Johnson, director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "The Silverback Fund is the easiest and most effective way to ensure our student-athletes get the support they need to succeed in the classroom and on the playing field."

One of the most popular options is a three-year pledge to the Silverback Troop. Contribution levels vary, but those who choose the \$616/month level will fully cover the equivalent cost of a student's tuition for one academic year.

"In the wild, gorillas travel in troops," said Kendall Gammon, special assistant to the President. "They're led by a single silverback who carries the sole responsibility of ensuring the troop's well-being. It's much the same for our student-athletes. They depend upon our donors to ensure their success. The Silverback Troop resonates with our donors because they understand our Gorillas need their leadership and support."

Those who wish to contribute at a higher level can do so by participating in the Silverback Leader category.

To learn more about the Silverback Fund visit [pittstateathleticfund.com](http://pittstateathleticfund.com).

Watch online video. 



Pitt State fans cheer their Gorillas onto victory.



Pitt State Senior Bo Farrow shares an emotional moment with his parents after winning the shot put national championship.

# *There's no place like home, to win your first* **National Championship**

Pittsburg State University's Men's Indoor Track & Field team earned its first-ever NCAA Division II National Championship this year in the friendly confines of the Robert W. Plaster Center. The national championship was part of a record-setting season for the men's and women's squads, which also earned MIAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships, and set several individual records including senior Bo Farrow's winning shot put toss of 62 feet, 2.5 inches.

The United States Track and Field and Cross Country Association (USTFCCA) named head coach Russ Jewett its NCAA Division II Indoor Coach of the Year, and assistant coaches, Kyle Rutledge and Brian Mantooth, its National and Regional Assistant Coaches of the Year.

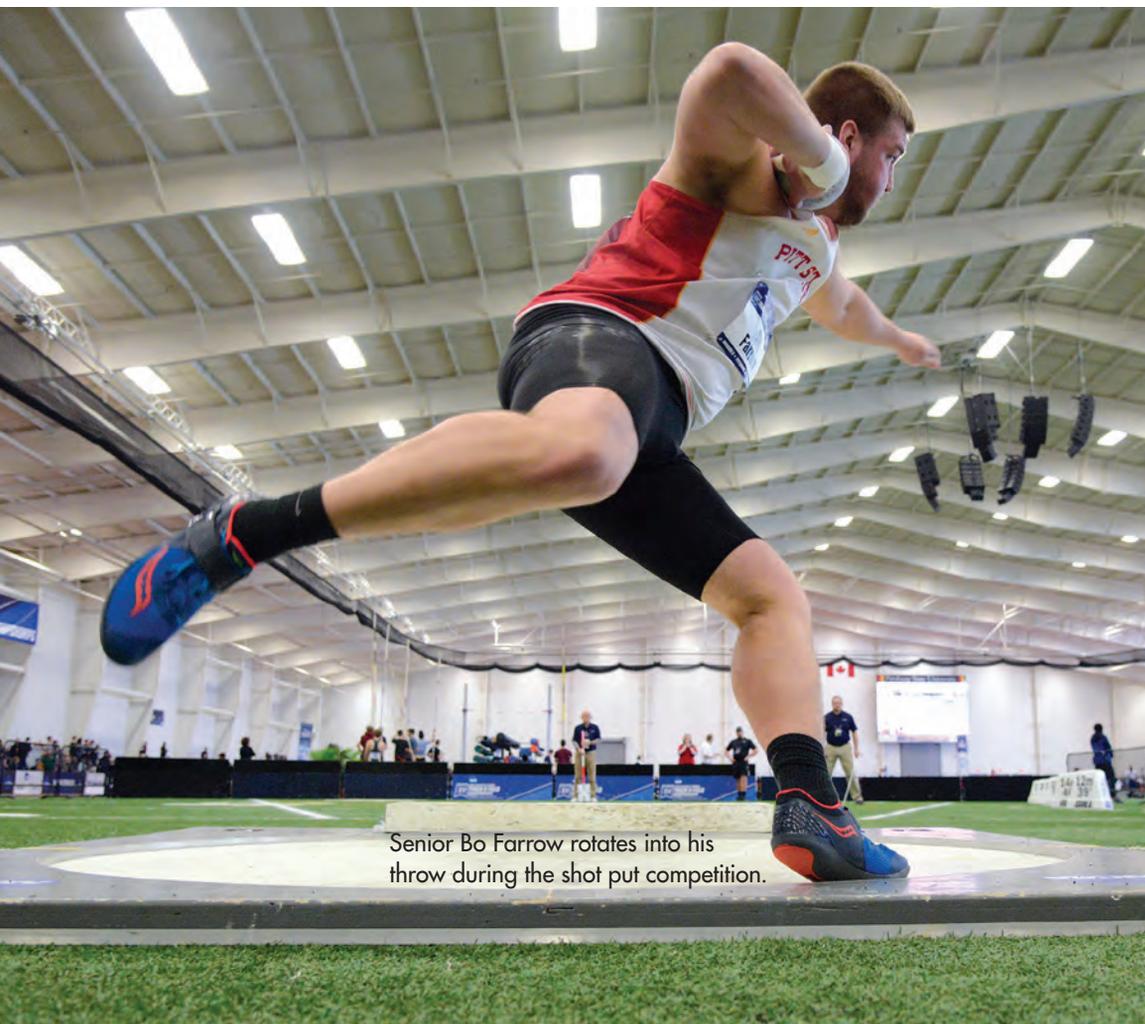
Photography: Evert Nelson/NCAA Photos

Pitt State athletes and coaches enjoy the moment as they raise the NCAA Division II National Championship trophy for the first time.





Junior NaRon Rollins stretches toward the finish line in the 200 Meter Dash.



Senior Bo Farrow rotates into his throw during the shot put competition.



Sophomore Ira Hines launches into the air during the triple jump competition.

## Smithsonian connection

Getting hired as an intern by the Smithsonian Archives of American Art was a welcome surprise for PSU alumnus Ross Schartel and his former art professor, S. Portico Bowman: to her knowledge, he's the first PSU graduate to work there.

But an even bigger surprise awaited when he showed up for his first day of work:

seven boxes of papers by a world-renowned artist had been delivered the day before, and his task was to help unpack, decipher, and annotate them. The artist to whom they belonged?

The late Marjorie Schick, who taught for 50 years in the PSU Art Department and for whom Schartel had worked his senior year.

Schick was known internationally for her wearable art. Schartel had helped her prepare a retrospective of her work, hosted by International Arts and Artists of Washington D.C., was exhibited at museums and galleries throughout the U.S. and Europe through 2008 and most of 2009. It also can be found in museums and private collections around the world.

He was devastated to learn of her death last fall, but elated to be given such a special task at a nationally-revered institution.

His connection to Schick helped when it came to identifying dates, places, and names in the documents.

"It feels very odd to go from working with Marjorie, to working on Marjorie, but I've kept the same level of admiration for her," he said. "I can't even begin to talk about how influential Marjorie is/was/will be in my work and thoughts."

Schartel, who earned a history degree and a minor in art, previously worked at the Nelson Art Gallery in Kansas City. He said keeping in touch with faculty, including Bowman, helped him secure the job at the Smithsonian.

"It just goes to show that faculty care about students here even after they're gone," he said. "They stay in touch; they want to see you succeed."



Alumnus Ross Schartel (BA '14) credits Professor S. Portico Bowman with getting him to the Smithsonian.



Marjorie Schick

## Alumni award recipients Watch online video.

### Distinguished Service Award

In conjunction with Apple Day, three were recognized with the Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award by the Pittsburg State University Alumni Association.

Dr. Richard Peterson, of Langdon Lane Animal Hospital, donated his services to PSU Nature Reach from its inception in 1985 until Fall 2017, when he retired and closed his practice.

Without the donation of his services to that program, countless birds of prey and other wildlife would not have survived, nor would Nature Reach still be in existence. Peterson is the son of a PSU alumna. Peterson also was active in several civic organizations.

Frank Naccarato (BS '72, MA '94), served as a volunteer assistant football coach at Pittsburg State from 1992 until 2014, putting in 23,000 hours. He helped the Gorillas reach four trips to the NCAA Division II National Championship Game.

As the head football coach at Galena High School from 1981-91, he led GHS to a pair of league titles, three district championships and a bi-district championship.

Dr. Mindi Garner (BS '94, MBA '14) is a board-certified physician of internal medicine who has contributed to the premedical program at Pittsburg State. She sponsors Premeds with Promise, which provides early clinical exposure to premed majors and she orchestrated a symposium of speakers from insurance companies, hospitals, electronic medical records, and IT departments.

She operates the only completely paperless electronic medical record office in the area, has a satellite clinic in Girard, Kansas, and retains active medical staff privileges at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg and Girard Medical Center.

*continued on next page*

## Meritorious Achievement Award

Pittsburg State University Alumni Association selected Terry Clark, Ivan Crossland, Jr., John Roderique, and Laurel Brouse Rosenthal to receive the 2018 Meritorious Achievement Award, the university's highest honor.

Clark (MST '86) is plant manager of Cobalt Boats, in Neodesha, Kansas, a world-wide leader in manufacturing with more than 100 dealers.

Previously, Clark was president of Cobalt until the acquisition of that company by Malibu Boats in 2017. Prior to that, he was with Textron Aviation, which formed by the merger of Cessna and Beech Aircraft. He has 25 years of experience in leadership in manufacturing, sales, and service operations in the aviation industry and 10 years in the machining, metal forming, and tooling industry.

Crossland (BS '84) is the CEO of Crossland Construction Company, Inc., in Columbus, Kansas, where he has worked since the company was founded in 1977. He became vice president of the company in 1979, president in 1992, and CEO in 2002. He has led the company in building everything from schools to water treatment plants to Wal-Mart Supercenters, to several buildings on the Pittsburg State campus.

Roderique (BSE '90, MSE '92) has been the head football coach at Webb City, Missouri, High School since 1997 and has racked up 19 district championships, 13 Show-Me-Bowl appearances and 11 state championships. He is the winningest coach in Missouri high school football history by percentage, has been named Coach of the Year 11 times, and was inducted into the Missouri Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Rosenthal (MSE '86, Specialist '89) is the principal of Mark Twain



**2018 Meritorious Achievement Award recipients:** John Roderique, Laurel Brouse Rosenthal, Terry Clark, and Ivan Crossland, Jr.

Elementary School in Carthage, Missouri, where she began teaching 50 years ago. She has impacted generations of students. In 2009, she was named Citizen of the Year by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce. She's been named Outstanding Teacher for Carthage R-9, received the Carthage R-9 Golden Key Award for Outstanding Administrator, and

was named Outstanding Principal of Southwest Missouri.

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

**2018 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award recipients:** Frank Naccarato, Mindi Garner, and Richard Peterson



# CLASS NOTES

Submit Class Notes information online to: [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto:psumag@pittstate.edu).

## Class of 1965

**Dennis Swan** (BFA) was promoted to rank of Grand Master, 9th Dan Black Belt, in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon-Do. Grand Master is the highest ranking in Tae Kwon-Do, and Dennis is only the 13th individual ever to achieve this rank.

## Class of 1977

**Dr. Laura Colmenero-Chilberg** (MA) was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award at Black Hills State University — the highest honor a faculty member can receive at the University.

## Class of 1978

**Trish Costello** (BS, BA) was mentioned in a recent Forbes article “How More Women Are Stepping Up to Fund More Entrepreneurs in 2018.” She is the owner of Portfolia, a company that designed their funds with a special interest in appealing to

women who own half of the wealth, buy the majority of products, but rarely invest in startup companies.

## Class of 1980

**Col. (Ret.) Timon Oujiri** (MS, BBA, '86) leads the Iowa Veterans Home, which has 900 full and part-time employees and nearly 500 residents.

## Class of 1984

**Randall Dawson** (MS) was recently named Vice President for Academic Success at Alamo Colleges District – St. Philip’s College (San Antonio). Dawson has served as Interim VPAS since 2017 and was recommended by the college president, Dr. Adena Williams Loston, for the permanent position after a competitive search.

## Class of 1987

**Jennifer Brunetti** (BA) was appointed as the 11th district Judge. The 11th District is comprised of

Cherokee, Crawford, and Labette Counties in Southeast Kansas.

**Renee Marie Hamilton** (BSN), was recognized by the International Nurses Association for her publication in Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator in Knoxville, Tenn.

## Class of 1994

**Shawn Burnum** (BST), the Division Manager with Performance Contracting Group, assumed the role of president for the Builders Association of Kansas City.

**Heather Eckstein** (MS, BA, '01) received Volunteer of the Year Award from Pittsburg Family YMCA.

**Brian Hutchins** (BBA) was inducted into MIAA Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

## Class of 1996

**John Lair** (BS), President/CEO of Special Olympics Kansas, was nominated for the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

## Class of 1999

**Scott Casebolt** (BST), Vice President of Key Construction in Wichita, assumed the role of President of Associated General Contractors of America.

**Oscar Gonzalez** (BSEd) was inducted into MIAA Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

**Nishidha Kumaresan** (BA, MBA '02) is the owner of Pioneer Technologies in Irving, Texas. The initial business started with two employees and now exceeds more than 300 who provide quality IT development services to various clients across the U.S.

## Class of 2002

**Taylor J. Wine** (BSEd) was appointed Chief Judge of the 4th Judicial District for the State of Kansas.

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### Class of 2003

**Amanda Davied** (MS, BSEd, '08) was named Head Coach of the PSU Women's Basketball Team.

### Class of 2004

**Matt Davis** (BST), co-owner of Wood Shop BBQ in Seattle, Wash., was featured on Rudy's Texas Chili with Guy Fieri on the popular food show "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives."

### Class of 2005

**Justin Remington** (BSEd) has been named as Richmond High School's athletic director in Richmond, Mo.

### Class of 2008

**Quentin (Q) Gilkey** (BA) has been working at Aftermath Entertainment in LA as a recording engineer. Q does recording work for Dr. Dre, the rapper, and recently was involved with Eminem on his January release. He also has a gold record for his work

on the remix of the Michael Jackson album, "Michael," a posthumous release in 2010.

**Chastity McCullick** (BSN, MSN) joined Citizens Memorial Hospital and Bolivar Family Care Center in Bolivar, Mo.

### Class of 2009

**Hannah Wright** (MS) has been named Educator of the Year in Neodesha, Kan. She received the award at the recent 50th annual awards banquet. Wright's educational career began in Neodesha when she was hired as a fourth grade teacher, then became assistant principal for both North Lawn and Heller Elementary schools there. This year, she became principal at North Lawn.

### Class of 2013

**Cory Kepley** (BBA) has been named as the Director of Finance for the City of Chanute.

**Ronald Scott Swaggart** (BBA) a real estate agent from Belton, was recently named to Ingram's "20 in their Twenties," a program that recognizes young professionals for setting standards of excellence. Swaggart works with Keller Williams Real Estate. His office is located in Raymore, Mo.

### Class of 2014

**Nick Popejoy** (BSEd) received the inaugural Good Apple Award at Apple Day. He is a coach and teacher for Webb City (Mo.) School District.

### Class of 2015

**Leah Fischer** (BST) was named Project Manager for Big Machine Label Group Records in Nashville, working with recording artists Justin Moore, Eli Young Band, Carly Pearce, Danielle Bradbery and Drake White.

*continued*

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## 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 1968 reunited on May 10-11, 2018.

**Michael Koonce** (EdS) was recognized in May with the Outstanding Student in Educational Leadership Award from the University of Arkansas, where he earned his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership. This fall he begins a new position as principal of Quail Run Elementary School in Lawrence, Kansas, after serving as director of Learning Services for the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center since 2010.

### Class of 2017 and 2018

**Mikaela Burgess** (BSEd '17) and **Bo Farrow** (BSEd '18) were among the 10 finalists from MIAA member institutions for the 2017 Ken B. Jones Award sponsored by the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

## 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

**Marcella L. (Kimmel) Page**, Frontenac, Kan.  
**Daryl J. Wilcox**, Houston, Texas

### 1931

**Ina M. (Bassett) Clagg**, Lawrence, Kan.

### 1933

**Dorothy J. (Ruble) Warren**, Loudon, Tenn.

### 1935

**Clyde H. Mathis**, Wadsworth, Ill.

### 1936

**Georgia C. Fox**, Independence, Kan.

**Louise (Lechien) Rickel**, Wichita, Kan.

**Mary W. (Gilmore) Royer**, Haven, Kan.

### 1937

**Elizabeth E. (Daniels) Brown**, Boise, Idaho

**Milton W. Clingan**

**Genevieve M. (Russell) Cummings**,

San Diego, Calif.

**Emma L. (Martin) Roth**, Olympia, Wash.

**Irene L. (Overley) Stevenson**,

Oklahoma City, Okla.

*continued*

1938

**Eugene E. Bump**, Aurora, Colo.  
**Harold M. Cessna**, La Verne, Calif.  
**Albert J. Delmez**, St. Louis, Mo.  
**Edythe V. (Tuggle) Rankin**,  
Citrus Heights, Calif.  
**Esther P. (Anderson) Wagner**,  
Redmond, Wash.

1939

**Sam B. Allen**, Gentry, Ark.  
**Harriet E. (Potter) Harper**, Mission, Kan.

1940

**Mary I. (Landsdowne) Bailey**, Vista, Calif.

1941

**Wilma A. (Breckenridge) Bartholomew**,  
Gypsum, Kan.  
**Maxine (Stocking) Heasty**, Mayfield, Kan.  
**Opal M. (Brous) Jackson**, Madera, Calif.  
**Robert A. Lewis**, El Dorado, Kan.

1942

**Lois G. (Sutterby) Grubbs**, Paola, Kan.  
**Paul A. Morrison**, Houston, Texas

1943

**Evelyne P. (Smith) Moseley**, Los Angeles, Calif.

1946

**Norman R. Babcock**, Leawood, Kan.  
**Nelson T. Palmatier**

1947

**Gwendolyn V. (Percell) Askew**

1948

**Juanita D. Allen**  
**David T. Baird**, Tucson, Ariz.  
**Orlanda M. (Manci) Bazin**, Kansas City, Mo.  
**Martha G. (McIntosh) Black**  
**James E. Brown**, Leawood, Kan.  
**Ben H. Coe, Jr.**, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Shirley A. (Simmons) Fuller**, Topeka, Kan.  
**Bill A. Peaslee**, Topeka, Kan.  
**Darlene (Bailey) Presley**, Vero Beach, Fla.  
**Donald E. Salsler**, Olathe, Kan.  
**Elizabeth (McGown) Zimmerman**, Clinton, Iowa

1949

**Pete Castagno**, Louisville, Ky.

*continued on pg. 44*



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## 1950

**Eugene W. Albright**, Carson, Calif.  
**Gerald O. Beaman**, Uniontown, Kan.  
**Rosalie L. (Machetta) Castagno**,  
 Louisville, Ky.  
**James R. Hare**, Celeste, Texas

## 1953

**Marlene (Plagens) Kirkendoll**, Tulsa, Okla.  
**Dorothy L. (Wolkar) White**, Livermore, Calif.

## 1954

**Gene F. Craven**, Corvallis, Ore.  
**Norma E. (Wilson) Craven**, Corvallis, Ore.  
**Don A. Macheers**, Bixby, Okla.

## 1955

**Donald W. Carrington**, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Delayne R. Hudspeth**, Marathon, Fla.  
**Vivian (Sheehan) Shewmake**

## 1956

**Mary Grace (Hiatt) Burkhead**,  
 Prarie Grove, Ark.  
**Lester W. Carson**, Stockton, Calif.  
**Victoria F. Castiaux**, Mission, Kan.  
**Bob E. Cukjati**, Olathe, Kan.  
**Kathleen (Eichhorn) Freeman**,  
 Bartlesville, Okla.  
**Elizabeth F. (Ewing) Houk**, Rawlins, Wyo.

## 1957

**Leonard A. Hawley**, Denver, Colo.  
**Margaret A. (Angelcyk) Neff**,  
 Scottsdale, Ariz.

## 1958

**Janet A. (Shepherd) Anderson**,  
 Carl Junction, Mo.  
**Doris L. (Spencer) Balk**, El Paso, Texas  
**John T. Griffin**, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Zellamae C. (Compton) Hood**,  
 Sun City West, Ariz.  
**Donald L. Reniker**, Gaheysville, Va.  
**Elizabeth I. (Shelton) Ross**, Pleasanton, Kan.  
**Bill Smith**, Carthage, Mo.  
**William M. Wade**, Indianapolis, Ind.  
**Richard A. Walker**, Sterling, Kan.

## 1959

**Carolyn M. (Buckley) Buche**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Dean R. Eaton**, Milpitas, Calif.  
**Gerald G. Helms**, Welch, Okla.  
**William W. Newman**, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Sallie L. (Dodds) Steve**, Springfield, Mo.  
**Jay D. Vineyard**, Webb City, Mo.  
**Irene O. (Hinman) Waltman**, Joplin, Mo.

## 1960

**Robert L. Blackman**, Mission, Kan.  
**Ann (Paul) Dean**, Sun City, Ariz.

**Richard D. Humphrey**, Saint Joseph, Mo.  
**George M. Paine**, Sun City, Ariz.  
**Alan G. Whetzel**, Wichita, Kan.

## 1961

**James R. Audrain**, Miami, Fla.  
**Ruth N. (Mitchell) Brown**, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Samuel M. Steele, Jr.**, Newland, N.C.  
**Lloyd E. Winter**, Carthage, Mo.

## 1962

**Curtis R. Finch**, Blacksburg, Va.  
**Marjorie A. (Swinney) Frankenbery**,  
 Altoona, Kan.  
**George E. Hopper**, Montgomery, Texas

## 1963

**Ruth A. (Newland) Bateman**, Raymore, Mo.  
**Nancy J. Emerson**, Mission, Kan.  
**Loma L. (Singleton) Lemes**, Fullerton, Calif.  
**Justin I. Marshall**, Sahuarita, Ariz.  
**Margaret M. O'Bryan**, Prarie Village, Kan.  
**John C. Rees**, Cherokee, Kan.  
**Thomas F. Rice**, Sedalia, Mo.  
**Marion E. Thorpe**, Universal City, Texas

## 1964

**Betty A. (Meredith) Barker**, Joplin, Mo.

## 1965

**Della J. (Hoagland) Fought**, Peoria, Ill.  
**Robert W. Stahl**, Pittsburg, Kan.

## 1966

**Jeffery A. Bailey**, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Enid B. (Bowell) Blevins**,  
 West Des Moines, Iowa  
**Bill N. Cole**, Cypress, Texas

## 1967

**Dixie V. Alexander**, Independence, Kan.  
**Rufus F. Maynard**, Kiefer, Okla.  
**Sandra D. (Blackett) Nixon**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Eula A. (Carter) Simmons**, Miami, Okla.  
**Robert R. Sweatt Jr.**, Prarie Village, Kan.

## 1968

**Howard L. Bruce**, Whitney, Texas  
**Evan D. Capron**, Columbus, Kan.  
**Virginia A. (Taylor) Clark**  
**Chris A. Coots**, Afton, Okla.  
**Laura F. (Hunter) Douglas**, Kansas City, Kan.  
**Marvin W. Hafenstein**, Winfield, Kan.  
**Nelda B. (Walker) Holt**, Wichita, Kan.  
**Madeline A. (Herynk) Kersley**, Garnett, Kan.  
**Charles J. Kitchen**, Loiusburg, Kan.  
**Paul F. Napier**, Princeton, Ky.  
**Charles R. Shaver**, Atchison, Kan.  
**Sue E. (Fingerle) Taunton**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Floyd R. Warner III**, Saint Louis, Mo.  
**Robert M. Wesley**, San Antonio, Texas

## 1969

**Gene L. Allton**, Hutchinson, Kan.  
**Jim Klusman**, Olathe, Kan.  
**Douglas K. Rutherford**, Topeka, Kan.  
**Archie A. Yeager II**, Independence, Mo.

## 1970

**Dale Carter**, Fredonia, Kan.  
**John L. Jeimer**, Mayfield, Kan.  
**Mary C. (Shrum) Stover**, Sidney, Ohio

## 1971

**Mike C. Jones**, Kinsley, Kan.  
**Alan C. Lester**, Hobbs, N.M.

## 1972

**Carolyn I. (Severs) Allmond**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**John A. Potter**, Riverton, Kan.

## 1973

**Dick M. Holroyd**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Russ E. Long**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Ronda K. (Arnold) Ruby**, Mission, Texas

## 1974

**Debra A. (Lumbley) Hendryx**, Fall River, Kan.  
**Margaret P. (Thomas) Jackson**, Parsons, Kan.  
**George R. Lopp**, Bettendorf, Iowa  
**Victor E. Smith**, Girard, Kan.

## 1975

**Wayne W. Allai**, Ozark, Mo.  
**Jack L. Groff**, Cherryvale, Kan.

## 1976

**John W. Hensley**, Erie, Kan.  
**Michael D. Pattison**, Leawood, Kan.  
**Gloria A. (Brown) Zimmerman**, Miami, Okla.

## 1977

**Earl D. Riggan**, Pittsburg, Kan.

## 1978

**Robert M. Carr**, Ponca City, Okla.

## 1980

**Kristie A. Richards**, Columbus, Kan.

## 1982

**Rebecca A. Faulk**, Carthage, Mo.  
**Dareld C. Simpson**, Lawrence, Kan.

## 1983

**Orville W. Kroenke**, Iola, Kan.

## 1984

**Craig F. Levi**, Frontenac, Kan.

## 1985

**Steve Perry**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Gilbert A. Scourten**, Arlington, Texas

## 1987

**Lori A. (Pitsch) Southern**, Pittsburg, Kan.

*continued on pg. 46*



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1989

Lynn Parsons, Webb City, Mo.

1990

Ed L. Good, Springfield, Mo.  
Larry C. Walls, Marshall, Texas

1991

Stan E. Morrison, Leon, Kan.

1992

Judith E. (Golob) Hayes, Overland Park, Kan.  
William D. Henson, Independence, Kan.

1993

Charles L. Hunsaker, Pittsburg, Kan.

1994

Johnathan S. Gray, Garnett, Kan.

1998

Sharon L. (Hill) Mattson, Girard, Kan.

1999

Carol A. Goddard, Butler, Mo.

2000

Tim J. Ridgway, Weir, Kan.

2001

Leo A. Prettyman, Arma, Kan.

2005

Jessica J. Pope, Erie, Kan.

2007

Julie E. Gelpke, Pittsburg, Kan.

2008

Donna L. Aronson, Carthage, Mo.

2015

Bryan S. Claeys, Weir, Kan.

2016

Isaac Scroggie, Paola, Kan.

## In Memory 2018

Pittsburg State faculty and staff:

Kathleen A. (Mill) Cameron, Pittsburg, Kan.

Kathleen M. Cerne, Frontenac, Kan.

Gary Corcoran, New Hampton, N.H.

Johnna L. (Sears) Dodson, Galena, Kan.

Correne A. (Johnson) Herron,  
Frontenac, Kan.

Mildred P. (Moon) Kavanagh, Walnut, Kan.

Jolene K. (Zacarello) Robinson,  
Pittsburg, Kan.

Stanley G. Sunderwirth, Columbus, Ind.

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# To the Heights!

To the Heights: A Second Century Campaign, was named after Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati's motto "verso l'alto" meaning "to the heights," for his love of the mountains and vigor in prayer.

With the support of Bishop Kemme and the prayers of many, this capital campaign is hoping to raise \$3.2 million to remodel, renovate and enhance the St. Pius X Catholic Student Center so that the space is conducive to more spiritual growth.

**For more information contact:**  
St. Pius X Catholic Student Center  
301A East Cleveland • Pittsburg, KS 66762  
620.235.1138  
[catholicgorillas.com](http://catholicgorillas.com)

**Gary Corcoran**, director of PSU bands from 1972 to 1990, died Friday, July 6, 2018, in New Hampton, New Hampshire, at age 74.

So beloved was he by former colleagues and students that a GoFundMe account seeking to raise \$2,600 to have an original musical composition commissioned in his honor quickly raised \$6,930.

A professor of music who specialized in trumpet and percussion, Corcoran founded the Four State Band Festival in 1983, which remains a prestigious music event that attracts hundreds of musicians from dozens of area high schools.

"He was one of the reasons I stayed at Pitt State," said Bob Kehle, professor of music. "Not only was he a great musician, but also a super person and gentleman. His knowledge and demeanor were such a great influence on me, and you saw it in the students. In one word, 'respect!'"

Former band member Neil Bryan remembers auditioning for PSU band as a freshman at Pittsburg High School — a recruiting effort Corcoran started.

"He treated us with such respect and no differently from the college students," Bryan said. "I credit him with the opportunity to grow as a percussionist that let me do so many things."



Gary Corcoran



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Left to right: Heather, Chris, Sue, Max, Anna, Reid and Spencer

# Sharing the University's vision

The Davison family believes in the future of Pittsburg State University, and that makes giving back to their alma mater a natural thing to do.

Reid Davison (BS Accounting '70), has lent his expertise to the university by serving on the PSU Foundation Board of Trustees. Reid and his wife, Sue, created a scholarship for students both in the Kelce College of Business and the College of Technology's Department of Automotive Technology, from which their son Chris received his bachelor's degree in 1999. As a student, Chris was involved in the SAE Baja program, another program the family has seen grow and continues to support.

These connections have sparked a legacy of investing in projects identified within the **Proven. Promise. Pitt State. Campaign**, including the renovation and expansion of the Kelce College of Business building and facility improvements for the Heavy Equipment/Diesel lab. Through employer matching gift programs, Reid and Chris have been able to make a bigger impact with their gifts.

The Davisons look for opportunities to make a difference for students. Sue pointed out that it isn't always the programs in the spotlight they choose to support. "We're in it for the students. Students need direction to be successful and we feel that Pittsburg State provides that direction."

Reid explained that they feel the leadership of PSU is student-driven, with sincerity and vision that comes from the top down. "We see the University progressing and want to support what students need for the future," he said. "To me, we're moving forward. You can't help but want to support these efforts."

**To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit [giveto.pittstate.edu](http://giveto.pittstate.edu)**

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### Fall 2018 Calendar

Aug. 30.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village – PSU vs. Central Oklahoma

Sept. 13.....Crawford County After Hours, Pittsburg

Sept. 14.....Ladies Night Out Gorilla Gathering, Joplin

Sept. 22.....Family Day & GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village – PSU vs. Nebraska-Kearney

Sept. 27.....South Central Kansas Gorilla Gathering, Wheat State Wine Company, Winfield

Oct. 6.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village – PSU vs. Northwest Missouri

Oct. 10.....Kansas City Gorilla Gathering Lunch

Oct. 19.....Taste of Pittsburg, Bicknell Family Center for the Arts

Oct. 20.....GorillaFest & Southeast Kansas Fried Chicken Homecoming Tailgate, PSU Gorilla Village – PSU vs. Central Missouri

Nov. 3.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village – PSU vs. Washburn

Nov. 7.....Wichita Gorilla Gathering Dinner

Nov. 10.....Joplin Tailgate, PSU at Missouri Southern

Nov. 13.....Montgomery County Gorilla Gathering Dinner

Dates are subject to change.

For more information, please visit [pittstate.edu/alumni](http://pittstate.edu/alumni).

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**Friday, Oct. 19**.....Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman  
Outstanding Alumni Award Reception,  
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**Saturday, Oct. 20**.....Homecoming Parade, GorillaFest,  
Southeast Kansas Fried Chicken Tailgate



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