

Fall 2019



# Pitt State

MAGAZINE



*It's tailgating time!*  
Fans. Football. Families. Fun! | 16



# PittState

MAGAZINE

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More photos and stories at  
[pittstate.edu/magazine](http://pittstate.edu/magazine)

## From the editor

Nothing can compare to the feeling of a new school year at Pittsburg State University. The air buzzes with energy and spirit! Freshmen arrive with a sense of excitement and anticipation, and seniors begin a series of "lasts" as they look toward Commencement. As always, we hope the arrival of this magazine in your mailbox helps you recall that energy and spirit when you were a student here. And if it's been awhile, we hope you'll return to campus soon and feel it for yourself!

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**Bachelor Degree Completion**

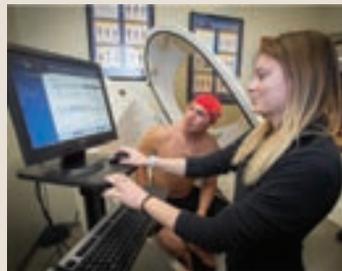
- BS Workforce Development
- RN to BSN

**Graduate Programs**

- MA History
- MA Teaching (Elementary, Secondary, Special Education)
- MBA Business Administration
- MET Engineering Technology
- MS Education-School Health
- MS Educational Leadership
- MS Educational Technology
- MS Health, Human Performance and Recreation
- MS Human Resource Development
- MS Reading
- MS Special Education Teaching
- MS-Teaching (Elementary, Secondary, ESOL)
- MS Technology
- MSN Nursing-Education
- EdS Advanced Studies in Leadership
- DNP-MSN to DNP

**Graduate Certificates**

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Building Principal
- Communication
- History
- Reading/Language Arts
- School Library
- School District Leadership
- Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Technology Integration
- Hospitality Management (Undergraduate)



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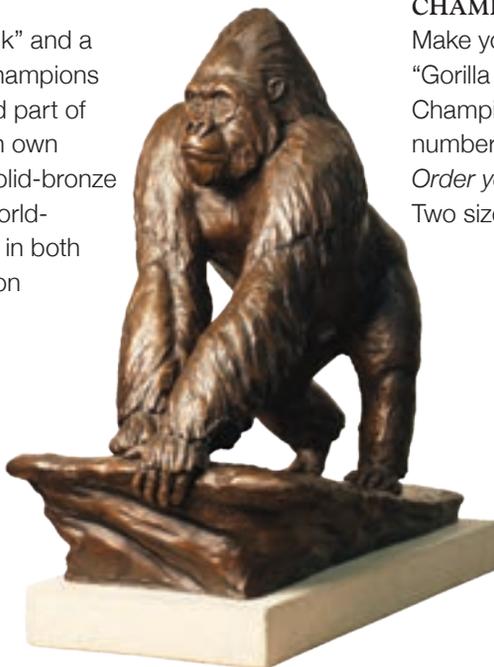
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## Champions Plaza

### 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.



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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)





**Registrar Debbie Greve, a two-time graduate of PSU ('97, '98) who worked for PSU for 31 years, retired in May. She first worked in the PSU Admission Office from 1984 to 1998, then worked at other institutions before returning to her roots at PSU in 2002. During her career, she played an active role in helping thousands of students go full circle, from enrollment to transcript management to commencement ceremonies.**

## Lasting Impressions

Three faculty were recognized this year with the Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Awards, created to recognize those faculty members who make lasting impressions on students.

Eric Harris, an associate dean in the Kelce College of Business and a professor of marketing, is highly published in academic journals and well-respected for his research, but is also very student-focused. He was nominated by a student for making a deep and compassionate connection with students, and always making time to help them.

Gary Wilson, an assistant professor in the Department of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences, specializes in community sociology, public policy/criminal justice, and social deviance. He was nominated by a student for being a faculty member who goes the extra mile, and always being positive.

Charlie Phillips, an assistant professor in the Technology and Workforce Learning Department, is the coordinator of the Architectural Manufacturing Management and Technology program. He was nominated by a student for teaching them the “why” as well as the “how,” and for giving 110 percent.

Eric Harris

Gary Wilson

Charlie Phillips



Condoleezza Rice

## Speaker series to feature Condoleezza Rice

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will speak on Oct. 3 as part of the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series: An Examination of American Life.

The series, established in 2015, is designed to bring nationally prominent leaders and innovators to PSU. The series' inaugural speaker was President Bill Clinton, followed by Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney.

Rice, who served as Secretary of State from January 2005 to 2009, was the second woman and first African American woman to hold the post. Rice also served as President George W. Bush's assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (national security advisor) from January 2001 to 2005, the first woman to hold the position.

Today, she is the Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business; the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution; and a professor of Political Science at Stanford.

In her remarks, she will focus on her time at the NSA, as Secretary of State, and the NCAA Commission on College Basketball.

Tickets are available through the PSU Ticket Office, 620-235-4796.

# Outstanding seniors

Long Xiao and Gretchen Reed were chosen from among the best and brightest graduating seniors to represent their class as Outstanding Senior Man and Outstanding Senior Woman.

Reed, who earned two degrees — a bachelor's in Management and Marketing and a bachelor's in English-Professional Writing, with a minor in Spanish — is a native of Olathe, Kansas. She graduated with a 4.0 and was active in Alpha Sigma Alpha, the Honors College Association, Student Government Association, Panhellenic Council, Enactus, Pitt Pals, and the Advancement Ambassadors. She began a job in commercial finance in downtown Kansas City over the summer, with the goal of becoming a leader in business.

Xiao also graduated with two degrees — Political Science and International Studies — with a 3.88 GPA. A native of Shenzhen, China, population 12 million, he was active as a leader in the Chinese Student Association and the International Student Association, as well as PSU Toastmasters Club, PSU Model United



Nations, Student Government Association, various honor societies, and the PSU Board of Governors. He started work on his master's and doctorate at the University of Florida and hopes to return to campus to teach one day.

A brass plaque inscribed with their names will be installed in the Senior Walk in front of Russ Hall in their honor.

# Student employee of the year



President Steve Scott presents Kaylah Ailes the 2019 Student Employee of the Year Award.

At the 30th anniversary of a time-honored tradition, Kaylah Ailes was named the Student Employee of the Year.

“Our 624 student employees play an important role here on campus – it would be a very different place in terms of a workforce if we didn't have them,” said Mindy Cloninger, director of the Office of Career Services.

Ailes, who worked in the Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation, was praised for being responsible, dedicated, efficient, pleasant, and welcoming, and for having great office skills. She created flyers, newsletters, bulletin boards, overhauled the department's computer files and filing system, and took on the task of serving as the editor of the Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation office journals and newsletters.

A Joplin resident, she graduated in May with a degree in English. She is the daughter of Christina Ailes of Oronogo, Missouri, and Dallas Ailes of Des Moines, Iowa.

The first runner up was Carter Stolberg, Department of Technology and Workforce Learning, from Prairie Village, Kansas. The second runner up was Erykah McClendon, University Development, from Pittsburg.

The Office of Career Services also recognized PRG Prototyping, owned by PSU alumnus Tyler Harrell; and Pitsco Education, owned by PSU alumnus Harvey Dean, with the Business Appreciation Award, for their dedication to hiring PSU students and graduates.

## Introductions

### Aaron Hurt

was named director of International Programs and Studies. Hurt has served in International Programs and Services since 2007 in many roles —



Aaron Hurt

administrative specialist, admission coordinator, assistant director, and interim director — before being named director for International Recruitment and Undergraduate Admission.

Beyond the formal tasks of ensuring international students can study at PSU, Hurt and team work to make them feel safe and at home.

“Despite declining numbers of students choosing to study in the U.S., interest remains high,” said Hurt. “It’s our job to help students choose PSU and then to create an environment of support so they have a successful academic, social, and cultural experience on our campus and in the Pittsburg community.”

Both the Registrar and International Programs and Studies are part of the Office of Enrollment Management and Student Success.

### Melinda Roelfs

was named Interim Registrar on June 1. Longtime registrar Debbie Greve retired at the end of May. Roelfs served as director of the Office of



Melinda Roelfs

Admission from 2006 to 2018, when she was named Assistant Registrar for Transcript Analysis. She has been a member of the PSU staff since 1997.

Roelfs is in a unique position, with

experience across a student’s entire college journey.

“For many years, I helped students as they started their college experience,” said Roelfs. “Now I have this fantastic opportunity to lead a team that guides students on their path to graduation. It’s very gratifying in different ways.”

### Howard Smith

began his new role as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on July 1. Previously the associate vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Success,



Howard Smith

he follows Lynette Olson, who retired.

Smith holds a bachelor’s in education from PSU, a master’s in education from the University of Kansas, and a doctorate in educational administration from Kansas State University. Past positions at PSU include associate professor and professor of Leadership Studies, interim chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, chair of Special Services & Leadership Studies, executive director of the PSU-Kansas City Metro Outreach Center, assistant to the president and legislative liaison, and dean of the College of Education.

“Having the opportunity to continue at Pitt State in another role is extremely exciting as well as rewarding,” Smith said. “Whenever I’m around long-time friends and colleagues, they mention that it must really be fun to work at PSU, and they are right. When your dream is your work, you are truly blessed and that’s how I feel.”

## Program expansions

New in Fall 2020 will be the expansion of the University’s Gorilla Advantage program from its existing portions of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, to include every county in those states. That expansion means students in those states will pay in-state tuition.

“Gorilla Advantage has been the most successful tuition program in the history of Pittsburg State and generates nearly one quarter of our total enrollment,” said Howard Smith, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Recent enrollment trends, together with similar initiatives by out-of-state competitors, prompted PSU to be aggressive in attracting new students.

In addition, a change in PSU’s participation in the Midwest Student Exchange Program, a multi-state tuition reciprocity program, will mean students from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, will pay no more than 150 percent of the in-state resident tuition rate. Previously, that program was limited to certain majors at PSU; now, it will be across-the-board.

“These two expansions mean great news for future Gorillas,” Smith said.



Learn more, spend less at Pitt State.



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**Full-time PSU students:**

Take 10 hours or 20 hours and pay the same rate! Take an extra class, earn a double major, graduate early!

## Donors complete rehearsal hall

Now, students in the PSU Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, University Choirs, and the SEK Symphony Orchestra sound just as good rehearsing backstage as they do performing on stage.

Donors contributed \$1 million to complete a rehearsal hall in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts for daily use by instrumental and vocal music groups. It was designed to mimic the acoustics of the Linda & Lee Scott Performance Hall and can be adjusted to the needs of the group using it.

“The Bicknell Center is a selling point when we have prospective students here on a visit or auditioning, and this room takes it to the next level,” said Susan Marchant, chair of the Department of Music and director of University Choirs. Previously, musicians rehearsed in a converted space at the Kelce College of Business.

“I’m a music performance major, and wherever I’m rehearsing and playing is a second home to me, if not a first home,” said Bryan Amor, a senior from Parsons who is a member of multiple music ensembles at PSU. “This new space is it. It’s meant for what we’re doing. This is our home now.”

A celebration officially marked the move to the new rehearsal hall, and was attended by students, staff, faculty, and the public.



Bass player Joe Pauli (Olathe, Kansas) and trombonist Garrett Manasco (Republic, Missouri) perform as part of the PSU Jazz Combo at a celebration marking the completion of the rehearsal hall in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

## Summer construction

This fall, Phase IV of renovations at Axe Library are expected to be complete. The project includes updating first floor finishes, ceilings, LED lighting, and space reconfiguration to meet the needs of 21st Century students and faculty based on a phased master plan.

In previous phases, the university invested nearly \$3 million to modernize the library. Starting in the lower level, and then on the third floor, state-of-the-art technology, multi-media labs, small group study areas, new ceilings, floors, doorways, and bathrooms were added.

The goal: to transform a building constructed during the era of

microfiche into one that can thrive in the age of instant information.

The current phase, which totals \$926,000, is being funded by state rehabilitation and repair dollars.

The lecture hall in McPherson Hall, home to the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, also is getting a \$500,000 makeover. The hall is original to the 1977 building and was in need of modernization to accommodate increased enrollment and current instructional needs.

Private donations are paying for new interior finishes, instructional equipment, LED lighting, and accessibility improvements.

## #OAGAAG

**hoo@bonnel\_austin** – I’m excited to announce my commitment to Pittsburg State University to continue my academic and baseball career. Thanks to everyone at Coffeyville Community College for being a part of my journey. #oagaag

**@PittStateAlumni** – We had a SOLD OUT crowd at our alumni dinner in Denver last night! We even had an alumnus travel from Wyoming to catch up with fellow Gorillas. What an awesome evening! Next stop: Las Vegas. #OAGAAG

**@kylefrank** – Man, I’m going to miss this place. Much love. #OAGAAG

**@\_erykahhh\_** – I’m a graduate, baby, and I’m just getting started. #OAGAAG

**@MsGosch** – I’m starting my masters degree in Ed. Leadership this summer, so I’m looking forward to whatever my awesome @pittstate professors want to teach me! #OAGAAG

**@LMaisberger** – I’d just like to say thank you. Thank you to Pitt State for bringing the best people into my life & making leaving THE hardest thing ever. I love y’all. I love this town. I love Pitt. @pittstate

**@oglez14** – You are not lying at all. BEST PLACE EVER TO GO TO COLLEGE AND BEST COMMUNITY. #OAGAAG

**@TylerDarrah** – Always good to be back in Pittsburg even if only for a short time! #OAGAAG

**@SaraJeanCoble** – Another reason I love @pittstate – they’re always giving back to their students. I’m grateful to receive the O.W. “Jack” Armstrong Scholarship. #OAGAAG

**@MakaylaSeverson** – Don’t get me wrong, I love being a Gov, but all my Gorilla friends are posting springtime tulips and activities on campus and it makes me miss the Jungle! #OAGAAG

**@JamesETaylor\_** – Pitt State, I’m here! #OAGAAG

**@carlijewell** – Pitt State loves me. The love is mutual. #OAGAAG

# Events Calendar

Go to [pittstate.edu/events](http://pittstate.edu/events) for a complete listing of events and latest event details.

## Art

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

University Gallery Porter Hall

**Aug 23 - Oct 18**

**Stephen Watson/"Nearly Nothing"**

**Nov 1 - Feb 14**

**Christian Faur/"Formation of Things"**

**Sept 6 - Dec 13**

**Thomas Walther/"Umbra Sumus"**

**October 18**

**Chinese Calligraphy Workshop**

## Music

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

**October 2**

**PSU Jazz Concert**

Bicknell Center

**October 9**

**U.S. Air Force Falconaires**

Bicknell Center

**October 17**

**Robert Dean Smith w/SEK Symphony**

Bicknell Center

**December 3**

**Holiday Extravaganza**

**w/Southeast Kansas Symphony**

Bicknell Center

**February 22**

**Jennifer Knapp**

Bicknell Center

## Theatre

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

**September 7**

**Modern American Dance Company**

Bicknell Center

*continued*

**October 3**

**H. Lee Scott Speaker Series presents  
Condoleezza Rice**

Bicknell Center

**October 24-27**

**PSU Theatre presents "A Doll's House"**

Bicknell Center

**November 4**

**Broadway's "Bandstand"**

Bicknell Center

**November 12**

**Moscow Ballet's The Great Russian  
Nutcracker**

Bicknell Center

**November 23**

**Bette Davis Ain't for Sissies**

Bicknell Center

**January 26**

**Broadway's "Finding Neverland"**

Bicknell Center

**February 27-29**

**PSU Theater presents "Silent Sky"**

Bicknell Center

**March 4**

**Broadway's "An American in Paris"**

Bicknell Center

**April 23-26**

**PSU Theatre presents  
"The Windshield and the Bug"**

Bicknell Center

## Community

**September 12**

**Block22 Grand Opening**

Colonial Fox Theatre

**September 17-18**

**Company Days**

Kansas Technology Center

**October 23**

**Fall Career Expo**

Robert W. Plaster Center

**November 11**

**Veterans Day Ceremony**

PSU Veterans Memorial

**December 13**

**Fall 2019 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, 2019.**

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

**Congratulations to Gael McCully**, BS '63, Charlotte, NC., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Spring 2019 magazine! (It was on page 38, in the photo on the right.)

# Proven. Promise. Pitt State.



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

We're proud to announce that our capital campaign - Proven. Promise. Pitt State. - has raised more than \$65 million to date. Focusing on student success and faculty excellence, this \$100 million campaign will allow Pittsburg State to remain a destination of choice for the next generation of Gorillas.



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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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[bicknellcenter.com](http://bicknellcenter.com)



## 2019

- Sept. 7..... Modern American Dance Company
- Oct 9.....U.S. Air Force Falconaires
- Oct. 17..... SEK Symphony Orchestra
- Oct. 24-27 .....Pitt State Theatre's "A Doll's House"
- Nov. 4.....\*BROADWAY'S "BANDSTAND"**
- Nov. 12 .....Moscow Ballet's "The Great Russian Nutcracker"
- Nov. 23 ..... Bette Davis Ain't For Sissies
- Dec. 3.....Holiday Extravaganza

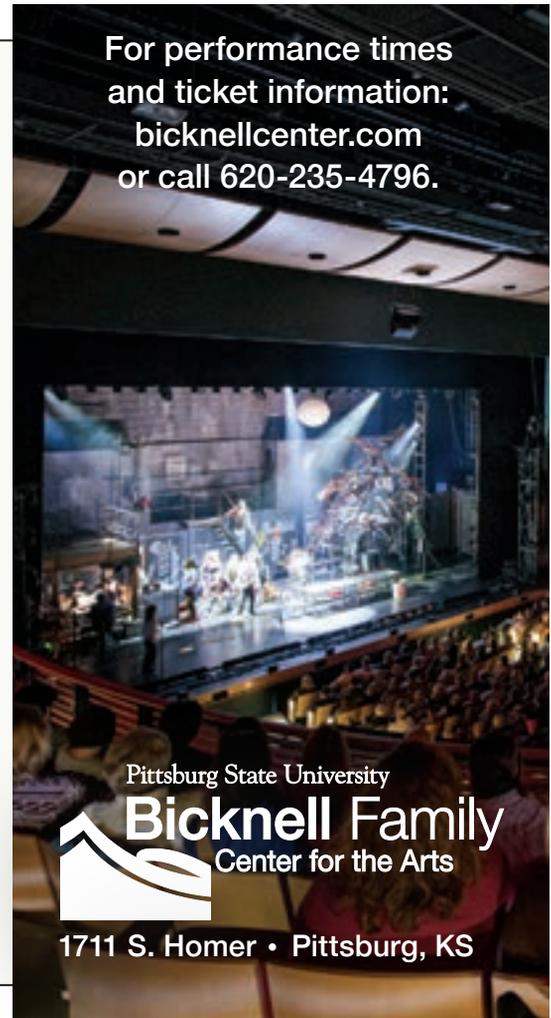
## 2020

- Jan. 26 .....\*BROADWAY'S "FINDING NEVERLAND"**
- Feb. 14 & 16 ..... PSU Opera Theatre with SEK Symphony Orchestra
- Feb. 22 .....Jennifer Knapp
- Feb. 27-March 1 ..... Pitt State Theatre's "Silent Sky"
- March 4 ..... \*BROADWAY'S "AN AMERICAN IN PARIS"**
- April 9..... SEK Symphony Orchestra
- April 23-26 ..... Pitt State Theatre's "The Windshield and the Bug"



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

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



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Best of  
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**2019-20 Performance Series**



**Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020**

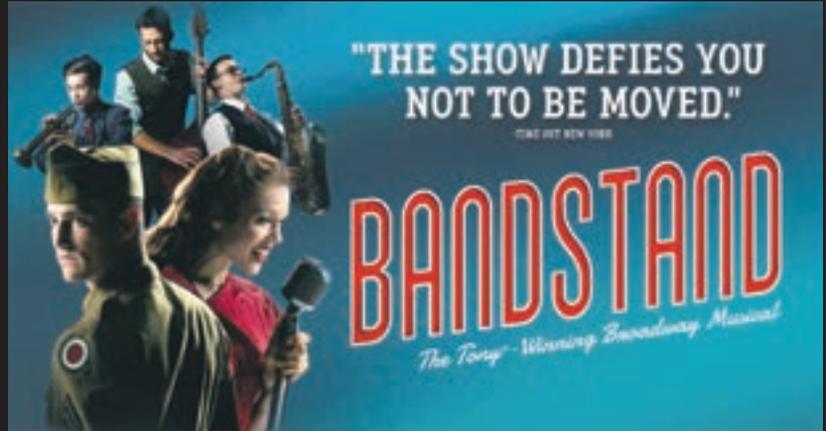
Join us for the story behind one of the world's most beloved characters, Peter Pan — a story in which playwright J.M. Barrie is inspired by four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother and their enchanting make-believe adventures.

**Showtimes: 7:30 p.m.**

**TICKETS:**

**BicknellCenter.com**  
or call 620-235-4796

*Season tickets available.*



**Monday, Nov. 4, 2019**

Don't miss this new American musical filled with infectious music and heart-stopping dancing set in 1945, when six soldiers have returned from war to a changed country and decide to form a band unlike any the nation has ever seen.



**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

Fans of Gershwin will love this story of World War II veteran Jerry Mulligan, who chooses newly-liberated Paris as a place to make a name for himself as a painter and meets a young Parisian shop girl with a secret.

Pittsburg State University  
**Bicknell Family**  
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More **Where in the World is Gus** photos at:  
[pittstate.edu/magazine](http://pittstate.edu/magazine) and [facebook.com/pittstate](https://www.facebook.com/pittstate)

# “Where in the World is Gus?”



**England in Korea** – Terry England ('96 Sociology) and Autumn England (a sophomore in Plastics Engineering planning to graduate in '22) remembered to pack their PSU flag for a photo on Jeju island in South Korea!



**Island vibes** – John Collar (BSBA '71) and Dona Collar ('69-'71) wore their crimson and gold on a trip to Maui with their family in honor of their first grandchild's high school graduation. He will be attending PSU this fall!



**Northern exposure** – Buzz (BSED '88 and MST '98) and Bonnie (BSED '10) Palmer showed Gorilla pride at Mt. Alyeska, Alaska. The couple were there to visit extended family and attend their son's Air Force promotion ceremony.

**Gorillas in Greece** – Two of our newest graduates, Ben Coltharp and Laura Phillips, are a couple of Gorillas in Greece! Both were math education majors, and they took a few weeks after graduation to see the sights. We're glad they remembered the appropriate apparel!



**Grand proposal** – Haley Riebel (BS '18) and Ryan Madden (BAS '18) took a week-long road trip to Arizona to see family and stopped at the Grand Canyon along the way — a scenic spot for a marriage proposal! Congrats, Haley and Ryan!

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



**Cathedral tour –** Marla Beatty (MBA, '01), wore the split-face on a 10-day visit to Portugal. While there, she toured the cathedral of the Convent of Christ in Tomar. The convent and adjoining castle complex were built in the 12th Century as part of a Knights Templar stronghold, and in 1983 were named as a World Heritage site by UNESCO.



**Next generation –** Kyndal Shockley (BS '09 and MS '14) and her 3-year-old son, Bryson, visited the Stonehenge replica in Odessa, Texas wearing Gorilla gear. The two were in Odessa with Kyndal's husband, Chris (BS '10), and their 8-year-old son, Brayden, for an RC Airplane Competition in which Chris took second place in his class.



**Universal Gorillas –** Steven Dooley (BBA Information Technology '12) and Ashleigh (Downes) Dooley (BA Sociology, BS Justice Studies, '12) celebrated their five-year wedding anniversary wearing the split-face at Universal Studios in Orlando.

**When in Rome –** Brothers David Kahn (BBA '65) and Paul Kahn (BS '73) represented their alma mater in Rome, Italy, where they visited the Coliseum and met a couple of Gorillas from Phoenix, Arizona: Manuel "Manny" Acosta played football for PSU and was an assistant football coach. His wife, Alice (Torgler) Acosta is from Girard, Kansas.



**European trek –** Mike Robinson (BS '78, MS '83), along with his wife and friends, enjoyed a trip to London and Venice, including a memorable trip on the Orient Express. He remembered to pack his Gorilla gear for a photo at Westminster Abbey in London. Robinson is the proud uncle and grandpa of two Gorillas, as well.



**Gorilla sighting! –** While in England, Tieg Tullis (BBA '11) spotted a gorilla on a patio in Newcastle, and wore one of his favorite PSU shirts to Tynemouth — a village that dates to the Iron Age and attracts visitors from around the world.

# NEW Collagewall®



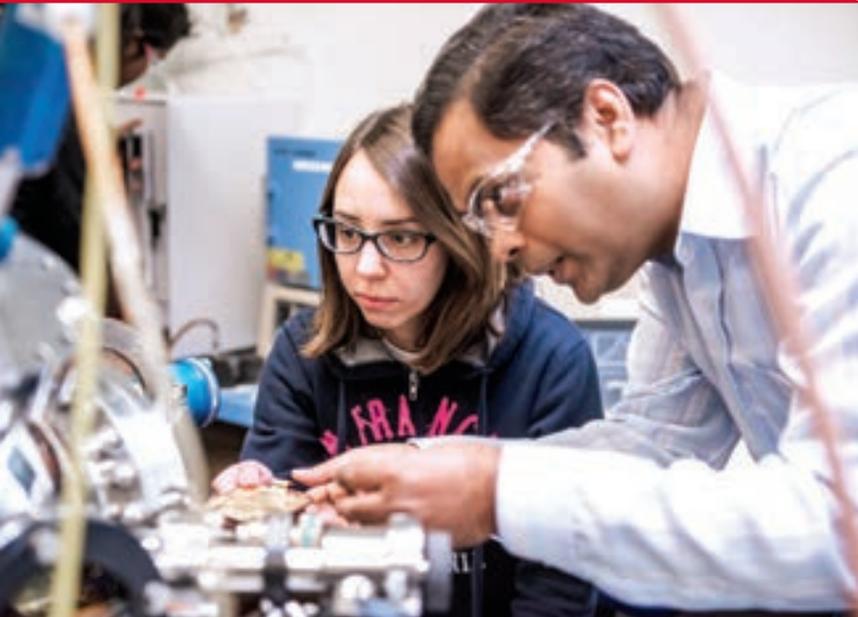
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There is only one Gorilla Nation, but there are many ways to participate every year!



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## Phonathon

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*Thank you!*



The sky is clear blue, the crowd is dressed in red, the breeze is slight, and burgers and brats are cooking on grills...

# It's tailgating time!

FOR DENISE GRASSO, IT'S THE perfect day in Gorilla Village just east of Carnie Smith Stadium.

Grasso (BSEd '77, MS '82, EdS '82), began tailgating here more than 20 years ago with a few friends from work and finger foods off of the back of someone's truck bed.

Things have changed.

Today, the Brown Lot is full. Pop-up tents dot the landscape. Vendors and balloon artists and children's

games give it the feel of a festival. Cheerleaders and the Dance Team engage the crowd.

Grasso stops here and there to catch up with friends, ultimately choosing grilled brats and burgers by Dave DeMoss (BS '70, MS '71, EdS '81), Jerry Leeds (BSBA '73), Bob Stefanoni (BST '71), and Dave Chiapetti. Her son, Kevin Fry (BS '96), is there, too, reminiscing about his days as Gus Gorilla. Grasso

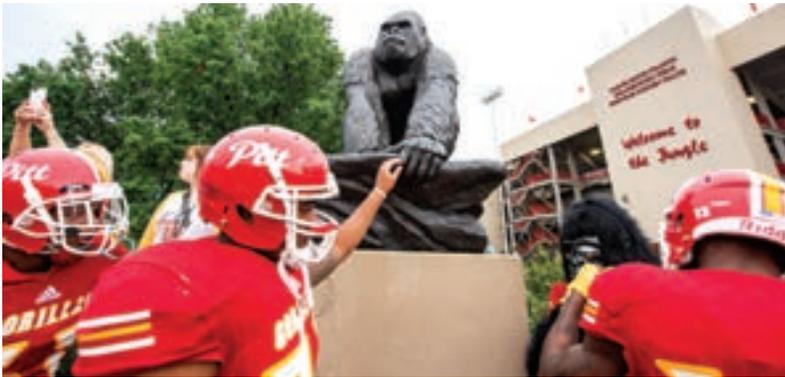
remembers taking him as a child to football games in the early days of Coach Dennis Franchione's career.

"There's always been a love among fans of all ages for Pittsburg State football, and game day has always been electric — that hasn't changed. But the magnitude of tailgating has," said Grasso, who serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. "It's a tradition handed down through the years,





“There’s always been a love among fans of all ages for Pittsburg State football, and game day has always been electric — that hasn’t changed. But the magnitude of tailgating has. It’s a tradition handed down through the years, from family to family, and that tradition has been built upon into something incredible.” – *Denise Grasso*



from family to family, and that tradition has been built upon into something incredible.”

Last year, tailgating for Grasso’s family took on a new meaning when Kevin’s son, Ross — her grandson — became a member of the Pride of the Plains Marching Band drum line.

### Community

Enter Doug Whitten. He’s directed the Pride of the Plains Marching Band since 2003, and he has a lot to say about game day.

“I think we are a vital part of the game day experience,” he said. “Certainly, football is the main attraction, but our presence is a big part of why being at a game live is so much better of an experience than watching on your phone.”

At 75 minutes prior to each home game, the band, which this fall will number a whopping 175, lines the path that extends from the Centennial Bell at Axe Library, east to the Weede, and on to the Kansas Technology Center.

At the heart of it is Tom Corbin’s oft-photographed and larger-than-life bronze Gorilla statue in Championship Plaza. Tailgaters

line the path, too, forming a human tunnel.

The band begins its playlist, starting with the iconic “You Don’t Want to Go to War” — a rowdy tune originally recorded by the Rebirth Brass Band.

And here come the Gorillas.

The crowd cheers.

The band plays on.

“During the walk, and the pregame, and inside the stadium, we play music that brings everyone together to support the school, community, and the nation,” Whitten said. “We get the crowd involved in the game and hope to inspire the team to give it that extra effort.”

“Football is about community as much as it is about wins and losses,” Whitten added. “Similarly, the marching band is there to support a much bigger role than just a musical experience.”

While Whitten notes that there is a legacy of excellence to uphold with the game day experience, much has changed over the years. That’s a good thing, he said.

“One of my favorite things about PSU is that, in addition to our long-held traditions, we can experiment

with new ideas and create new traditions,” he said.

### Changes

This season, fans will notice the band’s return to the student section on the east side, as it was years ago, so that they’re more closely positioned and can feed off of each other’s energy.

A new student section on the field in the north end zone — The Red Zone — will have special access and expectations.

Food vendors have been relocated this year to the parking lot, the Alumni Association has moved slightly east, and a stage has been added for the live musical entertainment and a pre-game show by ESPN 100.7.

Athletic Director Jim Johnson said his office works year-round on such changes to ensure the tailgating experience is the best it can be.

It’s come a long way, Grasso said.

“My favorite part of it all? The atmosphere,” she said. “You can feel it in the air. I truly live for football season and to quote my dad, ‘This is the best time of the year.’” •



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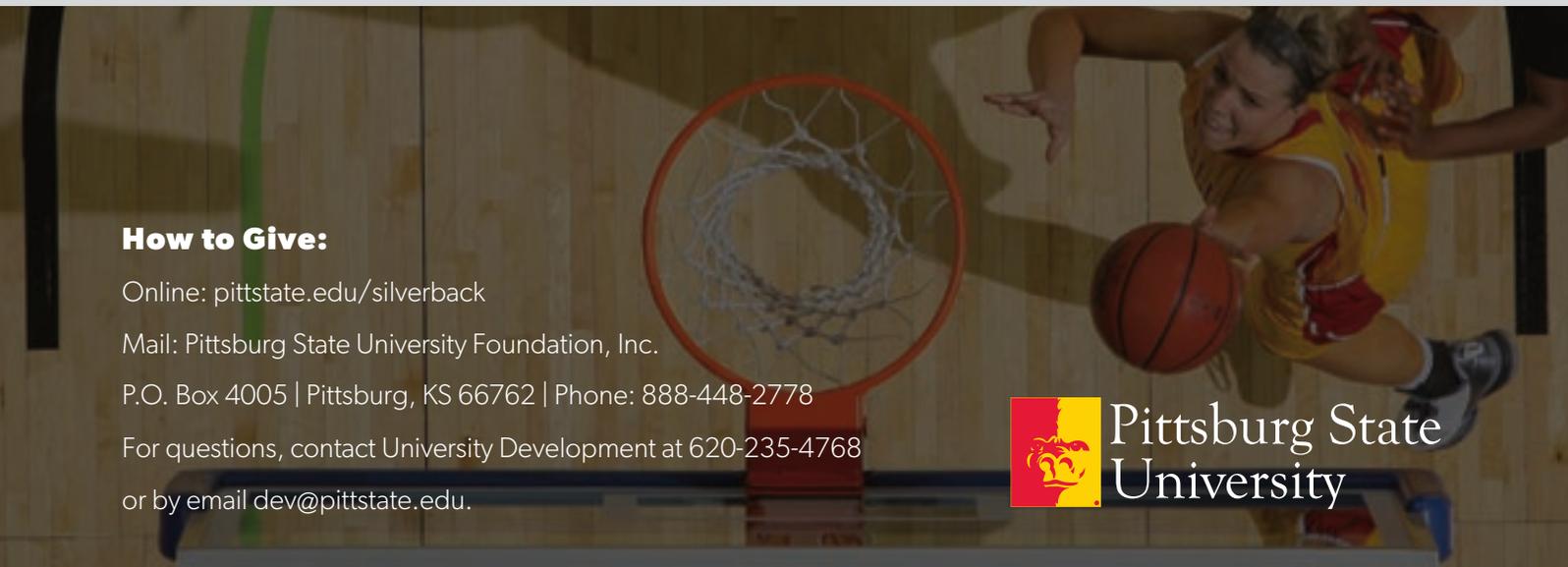
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## Dual degrees

MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR CHRIS Goddard's students were not surprised at all to see him performing with his band, Zero2Panic, on the roof of a downtown business during Pittsburg ArtWalk last Spring.

He's just that non-traditional.

And that includes his approach to higher education.

Goddard, at age 32, earned two degrees in May: his bachelor's in music education and his master's in music performance.

He already held one: a degree in music performance that he earned in 2011. But when he accepted an offer to be the instrumental music instructor at an area community college, he learned something: that education is so much more than just having content knowledge.

"I wasn't doing the school or the students any justice," he said. "I lacked classroom management and I lacked the soft skills."

He left it for a series of jobs, including working at a bank, a pizza kitchen, a burger shop, a car detailer, and a freelance musician. They paid the bills. And he was happy performing with Zero2Panic, as well as the bands Bill and Monica's Excellent Adventure and Crossroads Jazz Orchestra.

But he wasn't satisfied. So, he returned to PSU again in Fall 2017 — this time to pursue what he had originally set out to do as a freshman.

"I wanted to truly become a music educator," he said.

This year, he got to do just that: He student taught at an elementary school where he helped to plan the second-grade music program. He student taught at Pittsburg High School, where he conducted

*"...I knew I had to do it the right way with the right education...Pitt State gave me that."* – Chris Goddard

everything from the wind ensemble to the basketball pep band. And this fall, he's starting a job as the newly-hired K-12 music teacher for St. Paul, Kansas, School District.

"It's a job that will challenge me, and at the same time will be very rewarding because I'll get to see them grow," he said.

His wife, Amanda Damewood-Goddard, is a music educator and band director at Labette County, and also earned a bachelor's in music education from PSU. The couple performs together often with PSU Jazz Ensemble, SEK Symphony Orchestra, and PSU Wind Ensemble. Soon, she plans to return to campus herself to begin work on a master's in special education.

"It actually was Amanda who sat me down and told me what made me the happiest is what I should do," Goddard said. "That's always been teaching music, but I knew I had to do it the right way with the right education and the right knowledge. Pitt State gave me that. It feels really satisfying." •



# Pedal power

MITCH YEOMANS COMPLETED many hands-on projects during his time on campus. But one project in particular stood out, because it has the power to change lives.

“It could have a real impact on people,” said Yeomans, of Kansas City, Missouri, who graduated in May. “It will give the elderly and disabled chances they wouldn’t otherwise have.”

Yeomans was referring to a pedicab — a form of transportation common in big cities — that he and a team of fellow PSU Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology students designed and fabricated for Live Well Crawford County.

The non-profit organization promotes healthy lifestyle choices through education, motivation, and support for all generations and abilities, and

*“It will give the elderly and disabled chances they wouldn’t otherwise have.” – Mitch Yeomans*

approached the students about the project after an intern came up with the idea. It fits perfectly with the Live Well mission, said Director Brad Stroud.

Their goal: to be able to take people with mobility challenges on bike rides.

To achieve that, Yeoman’s team, which includes Joshua Alstatt, of Kansas City, Missouri; Ayman Alsunay, of Saudi Arabia; Trey Byrne, of Eudora, Kansas; Adam Fogle, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Nick Haynes, of Lawrence, Kansas; and Devin Lynn, of Cherryvale, Kansas; allowed room for a wheelchair or bench seating behind the pedaler, and included two 8-foot-long telescoping ramps.

The creation could become a model to other communities, as the group was invited to present a session at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference in Dubuque, Iowa, in October.

“It’s an awesome project on so many levels,” Stroud said. “What a neat thing for students to do something that, to our knowledge, hasn’t ever been done before.”

Partners in the project were Bodycoat, of Wichita; VanBecelaere, of Pittsburg; Pitt Power crowd sourcing donors; the Department of Graduate & Continuing Studies; the nation of Saudi Arabia; and Roger Lomshek, of Tailwind Cyclists. •

Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering students make an impact with original design.



## Study abroad

PSU STUDENTS DON'T JUST learn on campus in classrooms. Each year, Gorillas enrolled in Study Abroad venture to countries like Belize, Scotland, Costa Rica, Iceland, and Spain.

Among their many choices: medical mission trips, which provide those preparing for health-related careers the chance to learn hands-on clinical skills while serving patients who have had little access to health care.

For alumni, such trips are a way to give back.

Dr. Miles Crowley (BS '13), completed his first medical mission trip in 2012 as a student with Associate Professor of Biology Mandy Peak-Bryan.

"We helped set up clinics in Romania, and it solidified my passion to the pursuit of medicine," said Crowley. "It really served as a tipping point in my journey to becoming a physician."

He's now a resident physician in family medicine at the University of Missouri.

The transformative experience of the Romania trip also inspired him to take another medical mission trip this summer with Peak-Bryan and her pre-med students — this time to Mexico, and this time as a doctor.

"Having the opportunity, this time as one of the practicing physicians and student mentors, was an amazing experience to give back," Crowley said.

The 12 students on the trip, including one pursuing a nursing degree and two majoring in psychology, all agreed the lessons learned extended far beyond practical skills.

"The most memorable part of this trip was the human connection

Dr. Miles Crowley and Associate Professor Mandy Peak-Bryan



*"Having the opportunity, this time as one of the practicing physicians and student mentors, was an amazing experience to give back." — Miles Crowley*



Dr. Miles Crowley, students Louie Dill and Drake Shaw, and interpreter Robert Slaton

I formed with the people," said Samantha Knoblauch, a senior biology major from Wichita, Kansas, who dreams of becoming an optometrist. "And, this trip gave me more hands-on experience in the field I plan to go into than a classroom ever could. I saw and did things no other senior in college has probably done."

For Orion Battaglia, a senior biology

major from Pittsburg who plans to be a physician in cardiology, pathology, or surgery, that included aiding Dr. Neil Bryan (BS '08) in a memorable procedure in Puerto Escondido.

"He injected a numbing medication into the fascia plane of a patient with severe shoulder pain sustained from a tree fall injury," Battaglia recalled. "Using both an ultrasound displayed

on an iPad and a needle outfitted with a 50 ml syringe, Dr. Bryan was able to provide some much-needed relief to the patient who said that she felt instant effects.”

This marked Dr. Bryan’s fourth trip with PSU students. Now a hospital emergency room physician, he visits campus prior to each trip to teach students how to take pulse and blood pressure, use a glucometer, and other clinical procedures.

Peak-Bryan coached the students on passport applications, clinic setup, trip logistics, packing lists, medications, and travel safety. In turn, the students made presentations on Mexican history, health care, art, government, wildlife, and medical Spanish.

“It was definitely an eye-opening experience for them,” Peak-Bryan said. “The students learned about medical treatments and conditions, and how these conditions in lower socioeconomic settings may affect people differently — or may change the provided treatment, while also letting the patient know that someone cares.

In five days spent in four locations, the group treated 506 patients. Students, who each were responsible for paying their own way, earned two hours of credit in the spring and a credit in the summer. •

*“This trip gave me more hands-on experience in the field I plan to go into than a classroom ever could. I saw and did things no other senior in college has probably done.” – Samantha Knoblauch*



Student Drake Shaw and Dr. Miles Crowley examine a patient together.



Dr. Neil Bryan shows student Sarah Wilkinson how to use a portable sonogram and view the image on an iPad.



Student Samantha Knoblauch takes a patient’s blood pressure during a triage.



PITT STATE

# Champions Collection



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## Up on the roof



Students for Sustainability and the PSU Biology Department, including Cecily Stephens, Erin Kruse, and Charlie Beetch, are using fish to grow plants.

Fish are living on the roof of Heckert-Wells.

And those fish are growing plants.

It's a forward-thinking project by Students for Sustainability (S4S), Enactus, and the PSU Biology Department. S4S has gained a reputation for its recycling efforts, and its latest initiative, aquaponics, is one that's trending: it's the science behind sustainable food production.

On the roof, students tend plants growing without soil in a "garden" built of PVC pipe and covered with mosquito netting to diffuse sunlight. The fish, tilapia, live in a water tank and contribute organic waste that provides nutrients for the plants.

Heading up the project is Charlie Beetch, who moved his family from Hutchinson, Kansas, to Pittsburg to pursue a bachelor's degree in Sustainability, Society, and Resource Management (SSRM); it's the only program of its kind in Kansas.

S4S members had been dreaming of a food production project — especially one that would provide a learning laboratory experience. S4S President Erin Kruse, a SSRM major from Girard, Kansas, had experience with aquaponics, hydroponics, and farm-

to-table production at Johnson County Community College before transferring here.

Enactus provided a prototype hydroponic set-up used for a project in Haiti, as well as fertilizer, seeds, and other supplies needed, and offered to share what they had learned to help S4S get up and running.

"When properly balanced, the system provides extremely efficient food production in terms of resources, energy and space," said Jim Triplett, a retired faculty member who volunteers as the Special Assistant to the President for Sustainability — a position created last year as part of the university's focus on sustainability.

A trip to Nile Valley Aquaponics in Kansas City, Missouri, provided inspiration: the business features three, six-foot deep, lined trenches that house more than 60,000 tilapia in a closed-loop system.

"There is a lot more to do before our system is fully operational," Triplett said, "but this project has caught the imagination and interest of an active and enthusiastic group of students who are investing their time and energy to forge a new path in sustainable food production."

## New degree concentration

Family & Consumer Sciences will offer a new degree concentration option this fall for students interested in nutrition and wellness in a community setting — a growing career field thanks to a renewed focus nationally on public health, school nutrition, athletic and fitness programs, wellness and health promotion, and community programs.

In fact, the demand for workers in nutrition-related careers is expected to grow at a rate of 21 percent through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The new concentration builds upon the Family and Consumer Sciences focus, which is the application of the sciences to the betterment of individuals, families and communities.

Students who pursue the new concentration can combine it with Exercise Science, Hospitality, Public Health, and other areas.

## Coming home

World-renowned operatic tenor Robert Dean Smith, an alumnus of the Department of Music, will return to campus for a gala Homecoming performance. He's earned accolades performing around the world — from Dresden, Germany, to the Metropolitan Opera, and on Oct. 17 will perform with the SEK Symphony of Pittsburg State University at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

On Oct. 20, Smith and the SEK Symphony will perform an encore performance at the Helzberg Hall in the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City.



## In the doghouse

PSU art students collaborated with fifth graders on a colorful project that positively impacted the community. Measurement, assembly, design, and execution were all part of the learning process for their own puppy palaces, which were auctioned and proceeds given to the Southeast Kansas Humane Society.

"It's cool to show kids that adults can do art and be creative, too — it's not just an elementary thing," said art major Sada Kernodle of Shawnee, Kansas. "It's a lifelong thing."



**Members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, PSU's men's music fraternity, raised \$1,300 at concerts in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts to send to Pretty Prairie, Kansas, where the high school band room sustained an estimated \$75,000 in damages by vandals. "This is the most money our chapter has ever fundraised – and I can't think of a better cause," said music education major Devon Ellicott, the group's president. "Our mission is the advancement of music in America, and this fits that perfectly."**

## Dream research

When Megan Hyatt inquired about science research opportunities at PSU, her request was unique.

"My goal since my freshman year at Labette County High School was to attend an Ivy League university like MIT and major in chemical engineering, but living in rural Kansas, there aren't many opportunities to pursue that," she said. "My junior year, I applied for camps, programs, grants — anything I could find."

Because she had no experience, she got denied by all of them.

"It was very disheartening," she said. "In my mind, I knew I could do it, but based on a piece of paper, I couldn't."

Her counselor recommended she contact PSU. Hyatt emailed the chemistry department. To her surprise, Associate Professor Ram Gupta, who has received more than \$1 million in research grants from federal and state agencies, replied.

"He did everything in his power to help," she said. "Finally, I had someone on my side. By the end of the month, I was driving to PSU three days a week to research."

Their focus was developing a technology that generates energy from water — a solution to the rising demands on the environment and fossil fuels by the transportation industry causing global energy problems.

The research also helped Hyatt achieve her dream: based on her work at PSU, she was admitted to Stanford University as a member of the Class of 2022. And Gupta was recognized by Stanford with an award for exceptional teaching.

"It's extremely rewarding for a teacher to receive recognition from one of the top universities in the world," Gupta said. "I'm happy, honored, and thankful to students with whom I worked. It's overwhelming to see your students achieving their dream goals after working here at PSU."



Ram Gupta

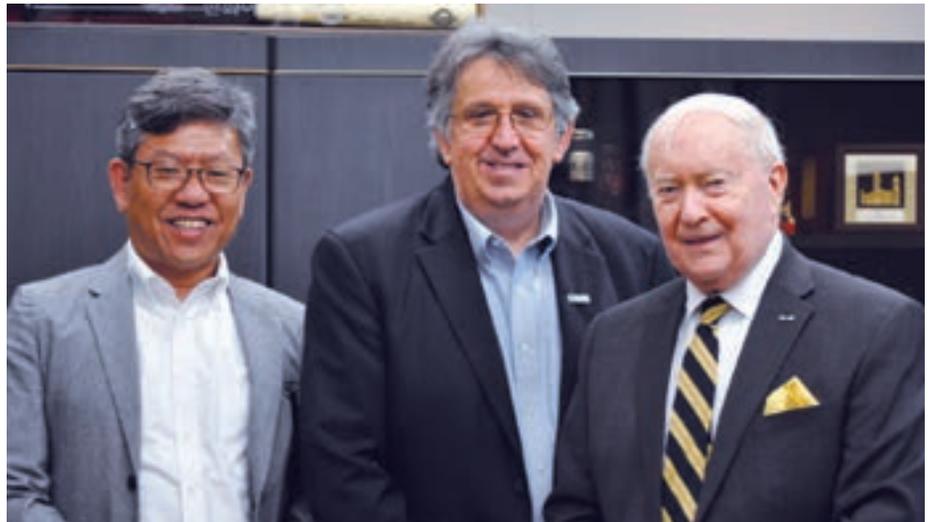
## Global partners

Kelce College of Business Dean Paul Grimes and Associate Professor Sang-Heui Lee spent time in Korea over the summer working on recruiting and a partnership with Woosong University's relatively new SolBridge International School of Business.

"We are working on finalizing a 2+2 program that ultimately will enable Korean students to navigate back and forth between here and there for coursework," Grimes said.

The two also made a presentation about PSU through Education USA, a U.S. Department of State network of more than 425 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries, at the U.S. Embassy there.

They continued building a relationship with Seoul National University of Science and Technology. And, while in Seoul, they also hosted



Sang Lee, associate professor of Management, Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business, and John Endicott, Pittsburg native and president of Woosong University.

the first official Gorilla Gathering of alumni in Korea.

"Having a cultural understanding and getting to know people one on one is so important in today's world of email exchanges," Grimes said. "We're

building relationships, understanding how they operate, their curriculums and constraints, which is all very beneficial to furthering what we do here on campus for our international students."

## High marks

The faculty and staff in the Kelce College of Business have earned two prestigious rankings this spring:

- No. 2 for the Most Affordable Online MBA program by College Consensus.
- One of the Top 10 Best Business Programs by The Knowledge Review — a publication designed to help students, particularly international students, find colleges that best fit their interests and goals. The KCOB was featured prominently in the magazine.

The KCOB earned high marks from both organizations for equipping students with teamwork, leadership, and a broad understanding of business essentials; for being AACSB-accredited; and for thriving on empowerment, service, innovation, and commitment.



**A contingent of 28 students from Seoul Tech University in South Korea came to campus in June for a two-week immersive learning experience that included classes at Kelce College of Business, tours of the Kansas Polymer Research Center and the Kansas Technology Center, and an inside look at regional businesses such as Miller's Professional Imaging, The Finishing Touch, and LimeLight Marketing.**

## Hall of Fame

H. Lee Scott Jr., a 1971 business graduate, was inducted into the Kansas Business Hall of Fame this summer in a ceremony in Manhattan, Kansas, marking a first for PSU.



H. Lee Scott

Scott grew up in Baxter Springs, Kansas, as the son of a gas station owner. He went on to become the president and CEO of Walmart — the largest company, by sales, in the history of the world.

It was while attending PSU that he met his future wife, Linda. They first lived in the Lone Star Trailer Court, with Lee working at McNally's manufacturing plant and on campus in order to make ends meet.

After graduating with a B.S. in Business, Scott began his career with a job in Springdale, Arkansas with Yellow Freight as a salesperson and manager, followed by a 25-year career with Walmart where he began as the assistant director of transportation.

He made many contributions to corporate operations, human development, and environmental sustainability. During his time as CEO, company-wide sales increased faster than inventory levels.

The performance hall in PSU's Bicknell Family Center for the Arts is named for Lee and Linda, in honor of a \$5 million contribution made by the Walton Foundation in their name. In 2015, the couple donated more than \$2 million to endow a national speaker series at PSU.

## Real-world projects a win-win

Kelce College of Business students are playing a big role in the success of two new downtown businesses.

Students in Mary Kay Wachter's marketing course worked with Davey Froman, owner of Miners + Monroe, on a comprehensive marketing plan for the mercantile store. The students also presented tips on how the store could create and host engaging events and enhance its social media presence.

"We will be able to take pieces of every team's presentation from Ms. Wachter's class and implement directly for our business," Froman said. "Each team prepared unique and beneficial ideas to help grow our business locally and regionally."

Students in Wachter's course also worked with Janie Rush-Williams, owner of Sugar Rush, on a marketing plan. In teams, they pitched their ideas for rebranding, enhanced social media posts — even a mobile ice cream store. Rush-Williams said she appreciated their fresh perspective and tech-savvy insight.

The students said the real-world experience was invaluable.

Justine Barrett, a senior from Olathe, Kansas, dreams of a career doing exactly what her team did in Wachter's course. Barrett combined industry research with what she's learned working part-time at LimeLight Marketing, another new downtown business, on the Sugar Rush project.

"Getting to work with a real client in class is preparing me for my career," said Lauron Hey, a junior from Rogers, Arkansas, who also wants to one day work in advertising making pitches to clients. "It's great that Pitt State has this kind of relationship with the community."



Teams of PSU students designed and pitched marketing strategies for downtown businesses, including Sugar Rush, a new ice cream and candy shop in Hotel Stilwell.

**Students in Enactus and Kelce College of Business teamed up to host an etiquette luncheon for high school students at risk of dropping out or falling behind in school. The experience was made possible with a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, JC Penney, and area Rotary clubs, and support from Communities in Schools.**



## Outstanding educators

A first-grade teacher at a small school district who struggled with reading as a child, and a physical education teacher at a middle school in a district of 11,227 students who is passing his love of basketball on to youth, were chosen by the College of Education for distinguished service.

Chad Dozier ('12), of Heller Elementary in Neodesha, Kansas, was awarded the Outstanding Elementary Educator Award. His nominators noted that he goes above and beyond for his students and his colleagues. He has chaired committees, is a district site council member, was the high school golf coach, has worked for the elementary after-school program, and has been instrumental in mentoring countless teachers. He's also active in the community.

Dakota Jones ('18), of George Bode Middle School in St. Joseph, Missouri, was awarded the Outstanding Secondary Educator Award. His nominators noted that he is an excellent role model, volunteers for bus duty every day, has dance-offs in the locker room, and started a morning basketball club to encourage students to get up and be active. A former Gorilla basketball player, he was a multiple-year member of the MIAA Academic Honor Roll as a physical education major and started 40 of 69 career games.



Chad Dozier

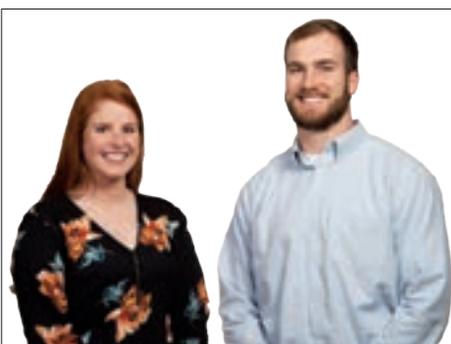


Dakota Jones

## College recognizes achievements



Dean James Truelove (left), presented Clayton "Bruce" Warner, PSU associate professor in Psychology & Counseling, with the annual Excellence in Teaching Award. Warner teaches undergraduate courses in research methods, human factors, human cognition and perception, and industrial/organizational psychology.



The College of Education chose Karisa Garber, an elementary education major from Leavenworth, Kansas, and Levi Wyrick, a physical education major from Elk City, Kansas, as two Teachers of Promise. They received the Delta Kappa Gamma Lyla Vaughn Award.

## Global dyslexia initiative

Inspired by a former prison inmate who went on to become an Emmy-nominated actor, PSU's Center for READING has joined the Dyslexia Awareness Foundation to implement a global dyslexia screening and remedial reading intervention initiative in schools, jails, prisons, and community centers.

It's designed to improve literacy for children, teens, adults, and incarcerated persons, and to reduce crime and recidivism, said David Hurford, founder of the center, which has been part of the College of Education for 23 years.

The key spokesperson will be Ameer Baraka, a former prison inmate affected by dyslexia who went on to become not only an actor, but also an author, educator, and dyslexia activist. Baraka, who was a juvenile when he entered prison, said he ended up there because he chose crime over honest work because he couldn't read.

"Our proven methods of identifying children who are at risk of developing a reading disability, and appropriate remediation, already are being used in school systems," said Hurford, who works with educators and parents to identify students as early as possible who are at-risk. "We're looking forward to positively impacting the lives of potentially millions of people throughout the country and the world."

## Teacher scholarships

The College of Education has received a \$539,281 grant from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program to provide scholarships, mentoring, and laptops to 25 teachers from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, who are Hispanic and/or are teaching in districts with Hispanic populations ranging from 15 percent to greater than 50 percent.

Participants will earn master's degrees with an emphasis in library media, focusing on best practices and using culturally responsive teaching methods and assessments.

This is the second Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant for the COE. The first, in 2013, focused on Native American culture in teaching and provided scholarships to 25 school librarians.

## Pilot program

A new degree option was introduced last academic year as a pilot program by the College of Education. Beginning in the second semester of their freshman year, students may now complete the Elementary Education Unified program in which they earn both general and special education teaching licenses for grades K-6 simultaneously.

The pilot program was so successful, it has become a permanent part of the COE.

"I feel like I'm more prepared to help any student who walks into my classroom," said Ravyn Burdette, a senior from Kansas City, Kansas. "And I definitely feel like it makes me more marketable."

## Student project aids firefighters

Exercise Science Major Hannah Pintar, Lenexa, Kansas, wants to eventually have a career working with people in Occupational Therapy.

A unique project in the Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation enabled her to lay a hands-on foundation for that career: for six months, she and her classmates have been conducting health and fitness assessments of 24 firefighters using high-tech equipment.

"I'm getting to practice what I'm going to be doing the rest of my life before I even leave school, which is neat," she said.

A bonus: the project could help improve the lives of firefighters, who have a high risk of cardiac arrest on the job, studies indicate.

Using a unique protocol developed by their instructor, Allison Barry, who holds a doctorate in Exercise Science and is an assistant professor in Health, Human Performance, and Recreation, and her colleague, the students tracked the firefighters' daily physical activity during a normal two-week tour, with and without bunker gear, and analyzed their body composition.

They were able to determine bone mineral density, how the firefighters utilize oxygen and CO<sub>2</sub>, and their cardiac respiratory fitness.

Mohan Perumal, a senior from Overland Park, Kansas, said the research project was valuable to him as he begins a master's program.

"I hope to go on to Physical Therapy school and enter the field of research," he said. "This is a great way to prepare for that."

The team also included Evan Hutchison, a junior from Carl Junction, Mo., John Brackett, a senior



Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation students evaluate firefighters as part of unique research project.



from Lansing, Kan., and Tanim Dillon, a senior from Girard, Kan.

Barry said the study wouldn't be possible without the high-caliber equipment students are able to use in the PSU program.

"It's unique to undergraduates from what I've seen at other universities," Barry said. "This is the number one metabolic measurement tool you can buy, and it's rare to see students use this kind of equipment. This gives them valuable experience they can use in the field."

The next step: for the students and Barry to interpret the results and formulate a health and wellness initiative to help better the lives of the firefighters.

## Grads give back to Automotive Tech program in big way



PSU President Steve Scott, Automotive Chair John Thompson, CNH leader Kelly Burgess, Professor Tim Dell, CNH leader Ted Polzer, and CNH leader Dallas Grothusen.

Three of the first students to attend classes in the Kansas Technology Center had such a transformative experience, they reciprocated — and in a big way.

Dallas Grothusen ('00), Kelly Burgess ('01), and Ted Polzer ('02), went on to become leaders with CNH Industrial. In the spring, they returned to campus to help the Department of Automotive Technology officially unveil nearly \$300,000 worth of heavy equipment donated by the three.

“They benefited from the investment other people have made, and now full circle they’re coming back to help that next generation,” said President Steve Scott. “It’s not just a donation, it’s an investment in our students, in Pittsburg State, and in CNH – the better our graduates are, the better your business is going to be.”

Automotive Technology Professor Tim Dell said that 20 years ago when the Diesel and Heavy Equipment program was in its infancy, there were engines that students could disassemble and run, but no machines.

“Walk into our lab today, remove everything directly given by these three individuals – you’d be shocked by what that lab would look like today,” Dell said.

Department Chair John Thompson said the donations have a direct impact on students and on their future employers, because graduates are workforce ready.

The department also celebrated the success of Burgess, Grothusen, and Polzer: Burgess is Manufacturing Quality Manager at CNH Industrial, Grothusen is Product Quality Manager for AG/CE NAFTA at CNH Industrial, and Polzer is the Director of Field Service at CNH Industrial.

## Gorilla students win Viking axe competition



Logan Roseberry and Michael Paddock

Manufacturing Engineering Technology students Michael Paddock, a senior from Clinton, Missouri, and Logan Roseberry, a junior from La Harpe, Kansas, won “Most Captivating Design” for their Viking axe in the national Cast in Steel competition. Their double-headed design included the splitface Gorilla on the handle.

The mold for casting was done using the additive manufacturing sand printing process by Nathan VanBecelaere (BSET '10), employed by Emerson in Marshalltown, Iowa. The casting partner was Monett Metals of Monett, Missouri, which poured the 6150 steel alloy for the team.

Sam Galliant, a graduate student in Architectural Manufacturing Management and Technology, helped design and machine the handle.

Among the judges: Ben Abbott, two-time winner of the History Channel's “Forged in Fire.” [sfsa.org/castinsteel](http://sfsa.org/castinsteel)

## Leadership changes in COT and KPRC

Robert Frisbee, associate dean of the College of Technology, has been named interim dean. He replaces Tim Dawsey, who was named the new executive director for Advancement of Applied Science & Technology at PSU's Tyler Research Center, home to the Kansas Polymer Research Center (KPRC).

Dawsey came to PSU in 2013 as a senior research associate at the KPRC, where Plastics Engineering Technology and Polymer Chemistry converge. The move is a return to his roots as a polymer scientist.

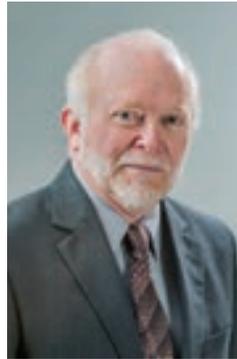
Frisbee, who is a graduate of the PSU Automotive Technology program and returned as a faculty member in 1993, served as chair of that department until becoming associate dean in 2017.

"We have great faculty and staff in the College of Technology," he said. "Because of them, we have many great opportunities ahead."

The COT, housed in PSU's Kansas Technology Center, includes the departments of Automotive Technology, Engineering Technology, Graphics and Imaging Technologies, Technology and Workforce Learning, and the School of Construction.



Robert Frisbee



Tim Dawsey

## Construction Expo

At what could be considered an enormous show-and-tell of the construction industry, hundreds of high school, community college, and university students gather at the Kansas Technology Center each spring to view demonstrations, try out equipment, and network for future careers.

The annual PSU Construction Expo is hosted by the School of Construction, part of the College of Technology, and last year attracted more than 107 exhibitors and 800 guests.

Visitors arrived to find the parking lot filled with cranes, concrete finishers, curb rollers, a drone display, semi-trailers outfitted with simulators, and more. Representatives of heavy equipment dealers and manufacturers discussed job opportunities and invited attendees to hop on and give the equipment a try.

Students picked up business cards and learned what internships were available, while high school students solidified their college and career plans and vendors scouted out prospective employees.

"It's gotten bigger and bigger each year," said Seth O'Brien, a faculty member and organizer.

At each Expo, students and faculty also have the chance to hear from industry leaders. Last year, keynote speakers were Dirk Elsperman, executive president of AGC of America and chief operations officer of Tarlton Corporation, and William Praderio, vice president and chief estimator of Massman Construction Company.

The 2020 Expo is planned for April 14-15, and details will be available on the COT website at [pittstate.edu/construction](http://pittstate.edu/construction).

## PSU represented in prestigious photo competition

Graphics and Imaging Technologies student Audrey Dainty, Frontenac, Kansas, is still pinching herself: From a field of 601 images submitted by 103 photographers across the nation to a prestigious competition called PhotoSpiva, her photo—"Troubled Psyche"—was one of 88 chosen.

Seven other images chosen also were from the GIT Department: three by students (Tara Blagg of Caney, Kansas; Anne Wood of Kearney, Missouri, and Alex Gourlay, of Topeka, Kansas), three by alumni (Derek Livingston '17, Jaydon Wilson '18, and Maisie Johnson '18), and one by faculty member Rion Huffman.

Their work is on display next to professional photographers from coast to coast. Last year, 11 images were accepted from PSU GIT—three by Huffman, four by Alex Gourlay, two by Andy Grotheer, and two by alumnus Derek Livingston.

Huffman said it's important for students to enter such competitions.

"They get to prove themselves against a national field of photographers," he said. "Our students create amazing work, but sometimes they don't have enough confidence in what they have created. Getting into a national gallery not only serves as a confidence booster, but it helps their portfolio and grows their network through others taking notice of their work while it's on display."



Brian Morris, Director of Project Development for McCownGordon Construction, presents the 2018-19 MIAA Commissioner's Cup to PSU's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jim Johnson.

## MIAA Commissioner's Cup

Pittsburg State University Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jim Johnson accepted the 2018-19 MIAA Commissioner's Cup on behalf of the Gorillas at the MIAA Spring Awards Celebration at Kansas City, Missouri, on June 3.

The Gorillas finished the cup standings with 133 points and had an average of 11.08 points to best second place University of Central Missouri by nearly a full point (10.15 avg).

PSU scored conference championships during the 2018-19 season in women's cross country, and women's indoor and outdoor track and field. PSU also posted a runner-up finish in men's outdoor track and field and registered top-five finishes in baseball, football, men's indoor track and field, women's basketball, and softball.

UCM won the inaugural MIAA Commissioner's Cup in 2016-17 and repeated as conference champion last year. PSU finished second in the standings both years. The MIAA previously awarded the All-Sports Trophy for five years between the 1998-99 academic year and the 2002-03 academic year.

In addition to the presentation in June, the cup will be presented on the PSU campus at halftime of the Sept. 14 football game against Emporia State.

## Player and coach share long friendship

Last November in New Orleans, Ron Randleman walked onto the Tulane University stadium field just before kickoff to speak with Willie Fritz — the head coach of a team in need of a win.

The two have a relationship that extends well beyond their four seasons together at Pittsburg State, where Randleman coached the Gorillas to two league titles and a spot in the 1981 NAIA Division I championship game, and where Fritz played as a senior defensive back on that team.

Fritz got his start in college coaching when Randleman hired him in 1984 as a graduate assistant at Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas. After a coaching job at a community college, Fritz later rejoined Randleman at Sam Houston State in 1991 as a full-time assistant. Fritz insisted on coaching special teams.

"Unusual for a young coach," Randleman said. Young coaches commonly think only about offense or defense. But Fritz saw the significance of punts and kickoffs.

Fritz now has 26 seasons of head

coaching experience at four different levels of college football and five different schools. He came back to Sam Houston State a third time when Randleman used his influence on the coach search committee to clinch the hire, and Fritz reciprocated with two national championship game appearances in four seasons there.

"He's like a dad to me," Fritz said of Randleman and his influence.

Long retired, Randleman attends roughly five Tulane games a year.

He saw Fritz win that November game in New Orleans, and one month later, win a bowl game for the first time in 16 seasons.

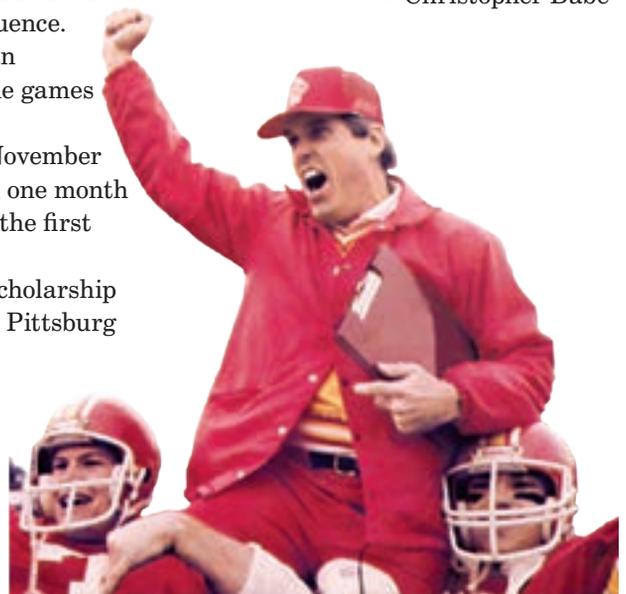
Randleman now has a scholarship endowment in his name at Pittsburg

Ron Randleman served as head coach at Pitt State from 1976-81, compiling a 36-25-2 record. He led the Gorillas to a pair of conference championships, in 1979 and again in 1981.

State, from which scholarships will be awarded to football players who best exemplify his traits of leadership and encouragement.

Fritz said he carries with him much of what he learned from the old coach. His hope? To have as much impact on his players as Randleman had on him. He wouldn't be where he is without it.

— Christopher Dabe



# Wyrick named MIAA winner

Redshirt junior track and field and football standout Levi Wyrick was named the MIAA Ken B. Jones Award winner as the conference's Male Student-Athlete of the Year.

Wyrick outscored four additional finalists — Fort Hays State wrestler Brandon Ball, Nebraska Kearney track and field athlete Jacob Bartling, Emporia State football player Landon Nault, and Lincoln basketball player Grant Olsson — to earn the prestigious honor.

A native of Elk City, Kansas, Wyrick has a perfect 4.00 grade point average as a physical education major.

Among his athletic achievements, he twice earned NCAA Division II All-America honors during the 2019 track and field season, placing sixth in the hammer throw at the Outdoor National Championships. In football, he started three games at defensive end, making 28 total tackles (14 solo) with 6.0 tackles-for-loss and 2.5 quarterback sacks.

He also claimed the NCAA Elite 90 Award for the Indoor National Championships as the male student-athlete with the highest GPA at the championships. Wyrick received Google Cloud Academic All-America® honors in both football and track and field. He also



Levi Wyrick

earned the MIAA Academic Excellence Award, and he was named an MIAA Scholar Athlete and a member of the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

Wyrick's campus and community service accomplishments include serving as a volunteer coach for the football program's annual Youth Football Clinic and a volunteer at the Gorilla Relays high school track and field meet. He also has been a food server and volunteer for The Lord's Diner in Pittsburg, which serves 250 to 300 meals nightly to those in need.

## Hall of Fame Class of 2019

Seven individuals and one team – will be formally inducted into the Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame during halftime of the football game against Lincoln on Oct. 5.

The class includes Kim (Erickson) Downey (1990-93), a multiple-time All-MIAA performer and record setting catcher in softball; Venessa (Lee) Nobles (2005-09), a three-time NCAA Division II national champion and record-breaking middle distance runner; Jeff Moreland (1991-95), an All-America quarterback who posted a 30-2-2 record as the Gorillas' starter; and Sean Simoneau (1998-99), a national champion and record-setting javelin

thrower in track and field.

The 2004 football team, which shattered the NCAA's all-time single season scoring record en route to a 14-1 record and the NCAA Division II National Runner-Up finish, also will be inducted.

Tom W. Bryant, who served as PSU President from 1999-2009 and served as a tremendous friend and supporter of PSU Athletics throughout his decorated tenure, will be inducted for Meritorious Achievement.

Bill Presson, a record-setting halfback in football and an All-CIC sprinter in track and field, and Ralph Redmond, a former Gorillas

basketball athlete and a decorated officer in the U.S. Army who lost his life in combat in Vietnam, will be inducted in the Hall of Fame's "Legacy" category.

"Once again PSU Athletics is blessed with the opportunity to pay tribute to a handful of elite individuals representing the proud history and tradition of Gorilla intercollegiate athletics," said Dan Wilkes, associate athletic director and chair of the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame Committee. "We are tremendously proud of this group that comprises the Class of 2019 and we are eager to appropriately honor and celebrate them next fall."

# Special Recognition for alumni

## Distinguished Service Award

Longtime PSU supporter and community volunteer Joe Hart (BA '59) was chosen as this year's winner of the Dr. Ralf J. Thomas

Distinguished Service Award, presented on Apple Day.

"I was surprised and I'm very, very appreciative of it," said Hart, a native of Richmond, Kansas, who came to PSU after serving two years in the U.S. Army.

Hart gained leadership experience as a student in the Language & Literature Club, the Newman Club, and intramural sports.

His wife, Sally Hart, also is a PSU graduate, as is their son, Brian, a Wood Tech major who was named Outstanding Senior, and their daughter, Cindy, a business and nursing major.

After graduation, Hart remained in Pittsburg and has had a 60-year career as a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual.

He is a former president of the PSU Alumni Association, a season ticket-holder in Athletics, has been a Phonathon and a Community Campaign volunteer, and is a charter member of the Heritage Society through the PSU Foundation.

He also hosted for many years a reception to honor senior scholar athletes, and in 2014, he and his wife created the Joe and Sally Hart Athletics Scholarship endowment for student athletes in volleyball and track and field.

Hart has consistently hired PSU students to work in his office and has made it a priority to connect business leaders in the community with PSU leaders.



Jon Bartlow, Director of PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations, and PSU President Steve Scott congratulate Joe Hart (center), recipient of the 2019 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award.

## Meritorious Achievement Award

Pittsburg State University chose Dave DeMoss, Col. (Ret.) Dr. Kenneth Hart, and Vice Adm. (Ret.) Jeff Wieringa to receive the 2019 Meritorious Achievement Award, the university's highest honor.

DeMoss, a 1970, '71, and '81 graduate, was the first in his family to attend college. He earned a bachelor's degree in Printing Technology, a master's in Administration, and signed on to be the executive director



2019 Meritorious Award recipients: Jeff Wieringa, Dr. Kenneth Hart, and Dave DeMoss

of the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush from its founding in 1976 through his retirement 33 years later.

Hart (BS '61), became a doctor of osteopathy, a decorated Air Force veteran, a consultant for NASA, and a pioneer in aerospace medicine. As an 8th grader, he used the campus telescope just as the nation's space program was getting underway. His career would lead to research that contributed to safer conditions for astronauts and new methods for treating wounds in the specialized field of hyperbaric medicine.

Wieringa, a 1975 graduate who said he thrived in the PSU Physics Department, wanted to fly jets as a child. He became both an award-winning pilot in the U.S. Navy and a chief engineer and vice president at Boeing, and had a long and notable career in military aviation, with more than 4,000 flight hours and 534 carrier landings.

"This year's Meritorious Award recipients are living testimonials to the fact that PSU graduates can leave our campus and make a tremendous impact that is lasting and significant," said Jon Bartlow, director of alumni and constituent relations.

## Good Apple winners

Kyle Lang, one of two Good Apple winners this year chosen as part of Apple Day, has been a Pittsburg State alumnus less than five years, but his impact and reach already have been felt across Kansas.

A 2014 graduate with a degree in Environmental and Safety Management, he first worked for the Kansas Department of Labor where he was instrumental in the development of the Kansas Amusement Ride Act Inspection process.

Now the safety manager for Faith Technologies in Kansas City, where he manages the safety on work



PSU President Steve Scott and Good Apple recipient, Kyle Lang

sites that may have as many as 600 company employees at any one time, he attributes his success partially to being active and involved during his time on campus, and to staying involved after his graduation.

Alheli Aranda Britez, a 2014 graduate in Music who earned her master's in Human Resources in 2016, is the human relations manager for Bimbo Bakeries in Arizona and New Mexico.



PSU President Steve Scott and Good Apple recipient, Alheli Aranda Britez

Alheli, who is from Paraguay, was chosen as one of four Youth Ambassadors to study in the U.S. as a teen. Today, she directly supports 350 hourly and salaried associates in the areas of manufacturing, sales and distribution.

"I'm honored to receive this award in the name of my family, my country, and all the other international students who left their homes to achieve their 'American dream,'" she said.

## Know a Good Apple?

Each year at Apple Day, Pittsburg State recognizes an outstanding recent graduate as a "Good Apple" who has made an impact in a career field or a community while showcasing Gorilla pride.

The selected recipient is featured as a speaker during the Apple Day Celebration. It's our hope that this individual can help inspire current students to go forth and make a similar impact when they leave campus.

**Qualified candidates must have earned a bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University between May 2014 and May 2019.**

### Details

Email Alumni & Constituent Relations at [alumni@pittstate.edu](mailto:alumni@pittstate.edu) or Campus Activities at [tpanczer@pittstate.edu](mailto:tpanczer@pittstate.edu) for instructions on accessing an application. **Applications are due by midnight on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.**

Nominations must include the nominee's name, graduation year, current city and state of residence, current employer and occupation, special honors, awards, and achievements, contributions they've made to their employer or community, and the qualities they have that resonate with what it means to be a Gorilla.



A group of alumni from the late '60s and early '70s stay connected to PSU through a scholarship they created.

## Pittsburg Divas pay it forward

A group of seven KC residents who bill themselves as the Pittsburg Divas were students here 50 years ago, but they haven't forgotten their alma mater.

Each year for the past three years, these Gorillas pay it forward by giving a scholarship award to a student in honor of another PSU alumna, Dr. Inez Kaiser — a highly successful African-American woman who earned the university's Meritorious Achievement Award in 2010. She died in 2016 at age 98.

The Kansas City Star noted that she was a "fierce fighter for black women in business." She became the first black woman in the U.S. to own a public relations firm and built a base of clients locally and nationally. She also advocated for minority women to have a voice, was a champion of civil rights, and advised two U.S. presidents as part of a panel on minority women in business, the Star reported.

This year's recipient, Yahzmen Abraham, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a management major in the Kelce College of Business.

The pictured donors include Joyce Avery Simms ('71), Ann Sanders Turner ('72), Marisa Baker Chase ('69), Beverly Miller Pendelton ('71), Marjorie Brown Miller ('71), Bernice Powell Cottrell ('73), and Brenda Wright Kelly ('71 and '73).

## SGA plans alumni reunion for 100th

During Homecoming, PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations and the Student Government Association will hold a reunion and celebration of the group's 100th anniversary.

### Oct. 17 at Carnie Smith Stadium

• Yell Like Hell competition • Royalty crowning

### Oct. 18

• Breakfast hosted by President Steve Scott and campus tours of the newest buildings  
• Taste of Pittsburg • SGA After Hours mixer

### Oct. 19

• Homecoming Parade (alumni may ride in parade)  
• SGA Office open house (Overman Student Center)  
• Reunion photo  
• Tailgating & football game

Attendees will receive a t-shirt, a limited-edition anniversary lapel pin, and a printed copy of the reunion photo. Register at 620-235-4758 or visit [pittstate.edu/alumni](http://pittstate.edu/alumni).



Rozanne Sparks (left), and Becky Brannock.

## Lifetime achievement

Rozanne Sparks, a 26-year veteran of the Department of Psychology and Counseling, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the department this spring. Sparks was a professor of education, coordinated the School Counseling Program, and was the director of the Teacher Education Program.

"This award is given to an individual who we believe deserves recognition for reflecting a lifetime career of achievements within their profession and who we believe has contributed to our department in a positive way," said Becky Brannock, current director of the School Counseling Program.

Sparks earned her master's in school counseling at PSU in 1982, and her Ed.S. in counseling at PSU in 1985. She was a school counselor and teacher at schools in Missouri and Arkansas for 19 years before returning to PSU as a faculty member.

Sparks was highly published, invited to be a frequent presenter, and was active in numerous state, regional, and national organizations including serving as the president of the Kansas Association for Counselor Education and as vice president of the Kansas School Counselors Association. Brannock, who had Sparks as an advisor when she completed her own Ed.S in counseling in 1990, is working on a children's book that highlights the role school counselors have in schools. It's called, "Meet my school counselor, Mrs. Sparks."



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# CLASS NOTES

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

## Class of 1962

**Gary Arnett** (BS, MS '63) was inducted into the Clay Center Community High School Hall of Fame. He had a career with NASA from 1963-1985, serving as research scientist, branch chief, and payload engineer. Among his many responsibilities and accomplishments, he advanced the "Heat Flow and Convection" experiment for Apollo 17. The results provided justifications for the International Space Station.

## Class of 1968

**Larry Pogue** (BA) donated a 7-foot-tall sculpture to the City of Bella Vista, Arkansas, titled "Marilyn Monroe." He's now a St. Louis-based artist, and taught for 28 years at East Central College in Union, Missouri.

## Class of 1970

**Gerri Wetta Hilger** (BSEd) published *OUR DUTY* – a fictional book offering perspectives of WWII and its effects in Wichita, Kansas. The two main heroines in the book are based on her mother and her best friend – two young, student nurses learning about the medical field during a trying time, yet still enjoying their lives.

## Class of 1972

**Dave White** (BS) was awarded the 2019 National Conference of Bar Foundations Excellence Award. He is a long-standing Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation board director and veteran, having served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve for 27 years as a Lieutenant Colonel and earning the Legion of Merit. He led

the initiative to form Military Matters to increase veterans' access to legal and other support services, as well as to raise awareness of the problems faced by the veteran and military population as they reintegrate into civilian life.

## Class of 1975

**Kirby Brown** (BST, MS '77) was appointed Dean of Park University's College of Management in Parkville, Missouri. As dean, he serves as the chief administrator, fiscal and academic officers of the College of Management.

## Class of 1980

**Mike Wilmouth** (BSEd, MA '13) was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Service Award by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce in Wellington, Kansas, in honor of his lifelong achievements in the community. He moved to Wellington more than 38 years ago to begin his teaching and coaching career.

## Class of 1981

**Jon Garrison** (BBA) retired from Fort Scott City Hall as director of finance. He served in the position since 2012.

**Donald Sampson** (BST) was awarded the 2019 Arkansas Hall of Fame Award by the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment for his outstanding service to the housing industry. He recently retired from the Pine Bluff Economic and Community Development Department after three decades with the agency.

**Mark Ogle** (BBA) was chosen by Brookfield Assisted Living in Claremore, Oklahoma, as the new community marketing director. He has 12 years of experience in healthcare marketing and 10 years of experience as the local service center director for the American Red Cross.



St. Pius X Catholic Student Center  
301-A East Cleveland, Pittsburg, KS 66762  
620.235.1138 [SpX@CatholicGorillas.org](mailto:SpX@CatholicGorillas.org)

The Pittsburg State University Newman Club would like to thank those who have gifted or pledged to the

## To The Heights: A Second Century Campaign

As you can see below we are well over half-way to the goal!

To learn more or to donate, visit:

[Totheheights.org](http://Totheheights.org)



### Class of 1984

**Jeff LeBar** (BBA) joined American State Bank as the Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer in Salina, Kansas. He has 25 years of commercial lending experience, having most recently worked at Sunflower Bank in Lawrence, Kansas.

### Class of 1986

**Laurel Rosenthal** (MS, EdS '89) was awarded the Making a Difference for Women Award from a local Soroptimist International Organization, which recognizes women who make extraordinary differences in the lives of women and girls. She has served as the principal of Mark Twain Elementary School in Carthage, Missouri, for more than 30 years. She also taught more than 20 years as a kindergarten teacher. She was awarded PSU's Meritorious Achievement Award in 2018.

### Class of 1987

**Lynette Jackson** (BSEd, MSED '00) retired after 31 years in education. She started her teaching career in Shawnee, Oklahoma, followed by 30 years at USD 234 in Fort Scott, Kansas, as a kindergarten through third grade teacher and instructional coach.

**Mike Reith** (BSEd) became the new principal for USD 235 Uniontown Junior and High Schools, in Uniontown, Kansas. He has 32 years of teaching experience in math, including in Olathe, Kansas, and McPherson, Kansas, and also coached several sports, including basketball and track.

### Class of 1988

**Dana Eversole** (MA) was honored as Educator of the Year by the Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists. She is a professor of media studies at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and also serves as coordinator of the

communication and media studies department. She is an award-winning writer with specialties in print media, public relations, and crisis communication.

### Class of 1990

**Joe Piccini** (BST) was promoted to president of Reiloy USA Corporation in Maize, Kansas. He has 29 years of experience in the plastics industry, most recently serving as plant manager for both Silgan Dispensing Systems and AEP Industries.

### Class of 1991

**Deborah Fox** (BBA, MBA '93) was named the 44th president of Highland Community College in Highland, Kansas. She most recently served as director of Business Operations and Management for USD 446 Independence, and she previously served Highland Community College

as the vice president of Finance and Operations and assistant dean of Regional Instruction.

**Beccy Yocham** (BBA) was named city manager for the City of Lenexa, Kansas. With more than 20 years of experience serving the Lenexa community, she most recently was community development director and led a team responsible for planning, engineering, building and construction services, right-of-way management, and community standards.

**Stephanie Heman** (BSEd) was named Monett High School principal in Monett, Missouri — the first woman to ever hold that position. She previously served as the assistant principal, and has 17 years of experience as a teacher and a coach, and 11 years in administration.

*continued*

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## Class of 1992

**Shana Plasters** (BA) was promoted to Dean of Students at Greensboro College in Greensboro, North Carolina. In this role, she oversees all aspects of student development and residence life. Since 2015, she served as director of residence life.

## Class of 1994

**Stacy Manbeck** (BS, BS '95) was named the new executive director of Spring River Mental Health & Wellness, Inc. in Cherokee County, Kansas. She made the transition to Spring River with nearly 20 years of experience from KVC Health Systems.

## Class of 1995

**Bryan Holt** (BBA '95) – Became President and Chief Executive Officer of Union State Bank in Fort Scott, Kansas. Bryan is the fifth generation of the Holt family to hold this position.

## Class of 1996

**Gregg Heinselman** (MS) was selected as Dean of Student Success at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. His career has been in student affairs for the past 30 years, including having served as director of the Overman Student Center and Student Life at PSU.

## Class of 1997

**Billy Tipps** (MSEd) was selected by Enid Public Schools in Enid, Oklahoma, to lead the school's sports program as the district's new athletic director. He previously served as athletics/activities director and assistant principal in Winfield, Kansas.

## Class of 1998

**Justin Burchett** (BS, BSEd '00) was named superintendent for Osawatomie USD 367. He previously served as assistant superintendent of schools and interim principal of Osawatomie High School.

**Katie Ervin** (BS), who holds a doctorate degree, was appointed as associate vice president for Academic Operations at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. She will oversee the operation of multiple academic systems and processes within the Office of Academic Affairs.

**Tom Stegman** (BSEd, MSEd '03) was named chief operations officer for Pittsburg Community Schools USD 250. He most recently served Girard High School in Girard, Kansas, as the assistant principal.

## Class of 1999

**George Radcliff** (BST) was promoted to vice president of sales and marketing at Reiloy USA Corporation in Maize, Kansas. Working in the plastic industry for more than 19 years, he previously served as Regional Sales Manager for Cloeren Inc., for sales in North and Latin America.

## Class of 2001

**Stephen Parr** (BST) was named by Bridgestone Americas as plant manager of the Aiken County Off-Road Tire Plant in Trenton, South Carolina. He will oversee all aspects of the plant operations at Aiken ORR. Previously, he was director of manufacturing industrial operations for Bridgestone Americas in Nashville, Tennessee. He has 17 years of manufacturing experience.

## Class of 2002

**Stephen Gilbreth** (MS, SSLS '05) was named Principal of Joplin High School in Joplin, Missouri. Prior to this new position, Gilbreth, who earned his doctorate degree, served as assistant superintendent of Learning Services, where he worked to enrich and enhance Joplin Schools' curriculum.

## Class of 2003

**Ashante Everett** (MSEd), who also holds a doctorate degree, was named principal at Newton County Theme School in Covington, Georgia. She joined the school system in 2009, and most recently served as Newton County School System's secondary coordinator for curriculum instruction and professional learning.

**Wes Streeter** (BST, MSEd '06) was named 7-12 principal at St. Mary's Colgan in Pittsburg, Kansas. He most recently served as Dean of Students for Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in New Braunfels, Texas.

## Class of 2006

**Kay Barriger** (MSEd) was named the 2018-2019 Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Smoky Valley Chapter of Kansas Society of Professional Engineers. As the local award winner, she advanced to the state-wide competition. She is a Library Media Specialist at Oakdale Elementary in Salina, Kansas.

**Jess Ervin** (BBA) was named chief executive officer at Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP). His office is located in Girard, Kansas. Previously, he served as chief financial officer for SEK-CAP, which serves children, families, and communities in 12 counties in Southeast Kansas with community engagement, early childhood services, housing, and transportation.

## Class of 2007

**Amy Bartlow** (BSEd, MSEd '14) was awarded a Love of Learning Award worth \$500 from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. She was one of 100 recipients nationwide to receive the award, which is designed to help fund post-baccalaureate professional development.

*continued on pg. 44*



Alumni & Constituent Relations Director Jon Bartlow (BA '99, MA '03), Communication Student Anna Farrow, and Assistant Director Danielle Driskill (BS '12, MA '14) heading out on the Great Gorilla Tour: West Coast Edition.

Debby (BSEd '73) and Randy (BSEd '72) Morrow showing some love to Gus the Gorilla in Phoenix, Arizona.

# The Great Gorilla Tour

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9 cities · 9 states

225 alumni & friends

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San Francisco Bay Area Gorillas spanning many generations – from the Class of 1952 to the Class of 2014.



More than 50 Gorillas gathered together in the Denver area on the second stop of the Great Gorilla Tour!

Nasser Ahmadi (BST '70, MST '71), Iraj Morshedizadeh (BST '70, MST '70), Gus the Gorilla, Iraj Ameri (BST '70, MST '72), and Mahmoud Jaffarzadeh (BS '70, MS '71) at Brick + Mortar in Santa Monica, California, for the Los Angeles stop of the Great Gorilla Tour. This group of Gorillas formed a friendship during their time at PSU and continue to remain friends to this day.



## Class of 2008

**Russ Cramer** (BSEd, MEd '19) was named high school principal by Northeast High School in Arma, Kansas. He has worked for the school district for seven years as a weights teacher, volleyball head coach, basketball head coach, and assisted with track and field.

## Class of 2009

**Nick Hansen** (BSEd) was named Southeast Junior High School principal in Cherokee, Kansas. He previously served as a social studies teacher at Mulvane High School in Mulvane, Kansas, for seven years. He also coached middle school track and high school cross country.

## Class of 2011

**Allison Blevins** (MA) launched Harbor Review, which publishes poems online and may eventually transition to a hard-copy publication.

**Tim Testa** (BSEd) was named Junction City High School Girls' Basketball Coach in Junction City, Kansas. He most recently served as the head track and cross-country coach at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. During his time at PSU, he was a member of both the cross country and track teams.

## Class of 2012

**Ardy Dehdasht** (MA, MEd '14) was named Osawatomie High School's new principal in Osawatomie, Kansas. He most recently served as Holden Middle School principal in Holden, Missouri. He began his career in education as a math and science teacher in Kansas City, Kansas school district and the Blue Valley school district in Overland Park, Kansas. Prior to becoming an educator, Ardy was a researcher in the nuclear physics field.

**Kristy Magee** (MA) was appointed to the new position of Mishler Theatre Manager by Blair County Arts Foundation in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Her responsibilities include booking and scheduling productions and events, supervision of staff, box office operations, and day-to-day operations.

## Class of 2013

**Jamie Ward** (BS) was honored as Professional Staff Employee of the Year at Crowder College, Neosho, Missouri, by the McDonald County Chamber of Commerce. She is a counselor at the Student Success Center at Crowder College.

## Class of 2016

**Josh Regan** (MEd) was named principal at St. Mary's Catholic School in Fort Scott, Kansas. He has been an educator for 11 years.

## Class of 2017

**Garret Platt** (BSEd) was awarded the 2019 Kansas Horizon Award by the Kansas Department of Education. This award recognizes exemplary first-year teachers with outstanding performance. Garret is a middle school technology education teacher at Seaman Middle School in Topeka, Kansas.

**Haley Poulter** (BSEd) was honored as a 2019 Kansas Horizon Award Winner by the Kansas Department of Education. She is among 32 educators from across the state who were recognized as exemplary new educators. She is a kindergarten teacher at Mize Elementary School in Shawnee, Kansas.

## In Memory

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

1934

**Margaret Kinne**, Erie, Kan.

1940

**Louise J. Hutson**, Fort Worth, Texas

**Gussia J. Butler**, Kan. City, Mo.

**Mary V. Gadberry**, Columbia, Mo.

1942

**Bob I. Maurer**, North Arlington, NJ

1943

**Warren G. Hopkins**, Olathe, Kan.

1945

**Dorothy I. Knouse**, Horton, Kan.

1947

**Robert E. Hickman**, Copperas Cove, Texas

**George B. Highfill**, Overland Park, Kan.

1948

**James L. Kuhns**, Lewisville, Texas

1949

**Leon Foster**, Independence, Kan.

**Bill R. Baker**, Pittsburg, Kan.

**Janet Dickey**, Iowa City, Iowa

**Harry V. Glades**, Joplin, Mo.

1950

**Harry E. Cann**, Broken Arrow, Okla.

1951

**Benjamin J. Davis**, Prairie Village, Kan.

1952

**Roger K. Garrison**, Altoona, Wisc.

**Thomas E. Beal**, Prairie Village, Kan.

1953

**Merlin G. Kirby**, Leawood, Kan.

**Norma Irene Karhoff**, Emporia, Kan.

**Meldon E. Wesley**, Minneapolis, Minn.

1954

**Donna R. Needham**, Fort Scott, Kan.

**Larry O. Tinsley**, Paola, Kan.

**Nadean E. Bass**, Seattle, Wash.

**Gerald E. Dillon**, Overland Park, Kan.

1955

**Joseph Moheban**, Meshad, Iran

**Charles W. Foster**, Casa Grande, Ariz.

1956

**Tom R. Turner**, Weir, Kan.

**James L. Waggoner**, Caney, Kan.

## 1957

**Sandra M. Switzer**, Raytown, Mo.  
**George W. Miller**, Webb City, Mo.  
**Don W. Norton**, Torrance, Calif.  
**Colleen E. Hayden**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Jack R. Hill**, Olathe, Kan.  
**David S. Kawakami**, Toledo, Ohio

## 1958

**Selola B. Lewis**, Syracuse, Kan.  
**Robert L. Wheeler**, Saint George, Utah  
**Andrew J. Zezza**, Pittsburgh, Penn.  
**Billy D. Wood**, Des Moines, Iowa  
**Henry C. Wuerdeman**, Bartlesville, Okla.  
**John W. Racy Jr.**, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Donald L. Terlip**, Georgetown, Texas  
**William E. Allen**, Carl Junction, Mo.  
**Milton F. DeArmond**, Concordia, Kan.

## 1959

**Joe Giacomini, Jr.**, Chanute, Kan.  
**Leona A. Durham**, Smyrna, Tenn.  
**Marion A. Taber**, Enid, Okla.  
**Glen E. Hastings**, Wichita, Kan.  
**Leland R. Hein**, Donna, Texas  
**Kay Melkus**, Topeka, Kan.  
**George H. Hess**, Amarillo, Texas  
**Vae R. Fultz**, Jacksonville, Ill.  
**Paul V. Russell**, Redfield, Kan.  
**Jean L. Smith**, Dearing, Kan.  
**John E. Phipps**, Nevada, Mo.

## 1960

**Joyce R. Reasor**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Norman L. Reynolds**, Stillwater, Okla.  
**Jimmy W. Roy**, Springfield, Mo.  
**Cerena M. Foresman**, Wyoming, Mich.  
**June L. Fossey**, Mound City, Kan.  
**David E. Hall**, Neosho, Mo.  
**Dale C. Caldwell**, Dewey, Okla.  
**Verle L. McCoy**, Owasso, Okla.  
**Floyd A. Tinsley**, Mission, Kan.  
**Lewis A. Ferguson**, Laguna Niguel, Calif.

## 1961

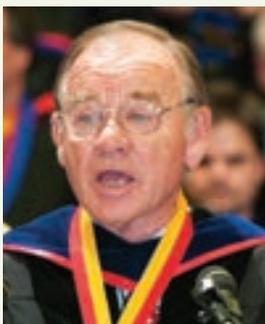
**Charles H. Anderson**, La Grande, Ore.  
**Charles W. Mount**, Lees Summit, Mo.  
**Robert E. Lowe**, Edgerton, Kan.  
**Anna J. Shadid**, Okla. City, Okla.  
**Donald E. Racy**, San Antonio, Texas

## 1962

**Patricia Steffens**, Girard, Kan.  
**Garold L. Morlan**, Largo, Fla.  
**Hal V. Davis**, Chanute, Kan.  
**Hubert C. Bird**, Baxter Springs, Kan.  
**Earl J. Frevele**, Tonganoxie, Kan.

*continued*

## Campus mourns passing of former vice presidents



Robert Ratzlaff

### Robert Ratzlaff

Faculty, staff, and alumni mourned the loss this year of retired Vice President and Professor Emeritus Robert Ratzlaff, 78, who died on May 19, 2019, at his residence in Pittsburg.

Ratzlaff was employed by PSU for 40 years and the Outstanding Faculty Award was named in his honor.

He earned a master's degree in history from PSU and joined the faculty in 1966 as a history instructor, a position he held until 1978 when he was named chair of the History Department. He was named interim vice president for Academic Affairs in 1987.

Known for injecting personality into his classes, he occasionally dressed up in costumes and told Civil War stories as if he knew and talked with Abraham Lincoln.

He played a role in the acquisition of funding, design, and construction of the Kansas Technology Center, in the development of the PSU Honors College, in the first national accreditation for the Kelce College of Business, the design and construction of the Family and Consumer Sciences building, new degree programs in international business, nursing, accounting, instructional technology, engineering technology, criminal justice, the merger of the Vocational Technical Institute with the College of Technology, and more.

"I've had a 40-year love affair with this institution," Ratzlaff said in 2006 when he retired. "The ironic part of it was that when I came over from Independence, I was just going to stay until I got my PhD and then I was going to go to a better institution. I couldn't ever find a better institution. This was what I was looking for all along."

Memorial gifts can be directed to the Robert Ratzlaff Scholarship Fund in care of the PSU Foundation, PO Box 4005, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

### Wilma Minton

Former colleagues and alumni remembered longtime administrator Wilma Minton as being dedicated leader and consummate professional.

Minton died in January 2019 in Arizona after a short illness. She was 88.

She began her career at PSU by teaching ninth grade at College High School in 1964 and earned her master's degree in guidance and counseling from PSU that same year.

She went on to become a counselor, Assistant Dean of Women, Dean of Women, Dean of Students, and finally Vice President of Student Affairs.

For her contributions to higher education, Minton received the "Pillar of the Profession" award from the Foundation for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

She retired in 1995 and with her husband, former KOAM TV newscaster Mark McDaniel Minton, moved to Arizona. Donations in her memory may be made to the Minton Leadership Fund in care of the PSU Foundation, PO Box 4005, Pittsburg, KS 66762.



Wilma Minton

# CLASS NOTES

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

## 1963

**Sharon L. Coon**, Sumter, SC  
**William K. Reasor**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Paul W. Lovgren**, Amelia, Ohio  
**Charles R. Barrick**, Allen, Texas  
**Jon S. Sherman**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Wellington C. Engel**, Mansfield, Penn.

## 1964

**Spencer L. Fickel**, Gunnison, Colo.  
**Helen J. Barrett**, Wichita, Kan.  
**Terry D. Phillips**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Rolland B. Beougher**, Vacaville, Calif.  
**Gregg M. Kirkendoll**, Midwest City, Okla.  
**Richard O. Kratzer**, Gorham, Maine  
**Francile Bilyeu**, Richmond, Virginia  
**Sandra S. Lawrence**, Springfield, Mo.  
**Russell F. Johnston**, Lenox, Mass.  
**Rex E. Peterson**, Liberal, Kan.  
**Clifford A. Connaway**, Springfield, Mo.  
**Margaret A. Haddix**, Schell City, Mo.  
**Joyce E. Hillbrant**, Iola, Kan.  
**Paul J. Heiderbrecht**, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.  
**Donald K. Vaughan**, Frontenac, Kan.

## 1965

**Wynona M. Stout**, Fort Worth, Texas  
**Ed Miller**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Joyce A. Niebrugge**, Louisburg, Kan.  
**H. Richard Cooper**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Dorothy L. Aker**, Flower Mound, Texas  
**David L. Evitts**, Coffeyville, Kan.

## 1966

**Charles R. Allen**, Sheldon, Mo.  
**Jane Daniel**, Hull, Mass.  
**Lois A. Steed**, Plano, Texas  
**Judith A. Peterson**, Liberty, Kan.  
**Ewin E. Robertson**, Webb City, Mo.  
**Deryl L. Layton**, Olathe, Kan.

## 1967

**John D. Laws**, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Tom W. Robertson**, Plano, Texas  
**Suzanne D. Street**, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Dennis E. Stittsworth**, Lenexa, Kan.  
**Loris S. Crossley**, Joplin, Mo.

## 1968

**Vicki Jo Babbitt**, Pineville, Mo.  
**Robert C. Morrison**, Sun City West, Ariz.

**Doug M. Collins**, Fort Scott, Kan.

**Genie M. Phillips**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Jerry G. Henry**, Altamont, Kan.  
**Walter L. Wheeler**, Great Falls, Mont.  
**Orian K. Hinshaw**, Pineville, Mo.  
**Imogene E. Swisher**, Collinsville, Ill.  
**Donna K. Ferrell**, Brookings, Ore.

## 1969

**Bill A. King**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Patricia L. White**, Springfield, Mo.  
**Laurence E. Conboy**, Albuquerque, NM  
**Karen L. Cooper**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Daryl K. Swanwick**, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**John E. Harryman**, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Robert J. Eshelbrenner**, Fishers, Ind.  
**James A. Ellis**, Holden, Mo.  
**Eugene L. Dochow**, Columbus, Kan.  
**Dorothy I. Eddleman**, Paola, Kan.  
**Alpha O. Bibbs III**, Burlingame, Calif.  
**Richard L. Allen Jr.**, Coeur D Alene, Idaho

## 1970

**Celia K. Harris**, Edna, Kan.  
**Phillip G. Boatright**, New Port Richey, Fla.  
**Robert L. French**, Ottawa, Kan.

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1971

**Steven K. Turnbull**, Aurora, Mo.  
**Dale W. Spieth**, Columbus, Kan.  
**Eda L. Bever**, Girard, Kan.

1972

**Buck A. Adrian**, Spring Hill, Kan.  
**Ro Ann German**, Saint Charles, Mo.  
**Nancy L. Scott**, Eudora, Kan.  
**Robert A. Faville**, Danville, Calif.  
**Robert L. Sutherland**, Oronogo, Mo.  
**Steven H. Breneman**, Bonner Springs, Kan.

1973

**Mark S. Richardson**, Hutchinson, Kan.  
**Wayne Rettig**, Haven, Kan.  
**Lou M. Farmer**, Girard, Kan.  
**Glenn J. Swan, Jr.**, Galena, Kan.  
**Rodney W. Hayes**, Galena, Kan.

1974

**John B. Schmidt**, Abilene, Texas  
**David A. Godsey**, Pittsburg, Kan.

1975

**Lola P. Spieth**, Columbus, Kan.  
**Brent C. Levi**, Frontenac, Kan.  
**Lee Davis**, Fort Scott, Kan.

1976

**Paul W. Wheeler**, Hudson, Colo.  
**Gertrude M. Bush**, Pittsburg, Kan.

1977

**William D. Cherry**, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Kenneth E. Shields**, Justin, Texas  
**Brian D. Smith**, Owasso, Okla.  
**John A. Hovevar**, Girard, Kan.

1978

**Scott B. Greeno**, Salina, Kan.

1979

**Imogene Sandella**, Tulsa, Okla.  
**Luella M. Carrithers**, Rose Hill, Kan.  
**Edwin L. Arner**, Reeds, Mo.

1980

**Dolores N. Rice**, Carl Junction, Mo.

1981

**Martha J. Cabbage**, Nevada, Mo.  
**David L. Sprague**, Olathe Kan.  
**Judith K. West**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Kathryn Duncan**, Pea Ridge, Ark.  
**Susan K. Daniel-Brey**, Emporia, Kan.

1982

**Keith E. Schrader**, Sturgis Mich.  
**Mike H. Mantel**, Shawnee, Kan.  
**Keith A. Sanders**, Weir, Kan.  
**Mary B. Griggs**, Parsons, Kan.

1984

**Charles L. Vann**, Independence, Mo.  
**Mary A. De Armond**, Joplin, Mo.

1985

**Michael D. Marquez**, Pearland, Texas

1986

**Travis D. Isnard**, Spring Hill, Kan.

1987

**Craig W. Stinson**, Olathe, Kan.  
**Lydia R. Tarver**, Dearing, Kan.  
**John D. Kelley**, Scammon, Kan.  
**Teresa K. Fink**, Springfield, Mo.

1989

**Duane L. Jordan**, Spring Hill, Kan.

1990

**Bruce A. Robinson**, Skiatook, Okla.

1993

**Curtis W. Dougherty**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Chris R. Furnas**, Sycamore, Kan.  
**George McDuffee**, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Kenna Kay Elliott**, Fort Scott, Kan.

1995

**Carol L. Cessna**, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Linda G. Banzet**, Forsyth, Mo.

1996

**Marvin H. Ledford**, Golden, Mo.

1999

**Jonathan L. Matson**, Galena, Kan.  
**Larry F. Hauck**, Frontenac, Kan.  
**Maggie J. Jackson**, Liberty, Mo.  
**Jeanne M. Davied**, Arma, Kan.

2000

**Jennifer W. Lunsford**, Miami, Okla.  
**Kregg W. Muninger**, Parsons, Kan.

2001

**Kimberly N. Dixon**, Wichita, Kan.

2007

**Mark J. Lynch**, Joplin, Mo.

## In Memory

Pittsburg State faculty and staff:

**O. Lee Baker**, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Joan B. Moffatt**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Larry D. Fennern**, Cherokee, Kan.  
**John B. Barnett**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Albert G. Chambers**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Jerry W. Smith**, Carl Junction, Mo.  
**Rita A. Tierney**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Robert K. Ratzlaff**,\* Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Pam K. Sells**,\* Joplin, Mo.  
**Joyce K. Rose**,\* Buckner, Mo.

\*PSU alumni

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# PSU Foundation Spotlight



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Phillips 66 has employed Pittsburg State alumni from across colleges and disciplines for decades. In 2015 they created the Phillips 66 – Energizing Your Future Scholarship which supports students studying accounting with a goal to work in industry, including the energy industry. Every year, Phillips 66, the Kelce College of Business, and the PSU Office of Career Services host P66 Days as a talent recruiting effort for Phillips' future full-time employees and interns.

Knowing that Pitt State alumni make excellent employees, Phillips 66 works closely with the PSU Office of Career Services. The company annually sponsors the Phillips 66

Career Resource Center, where students receive resume and job search assistance, as well as career counseling to help ensure they are making solid career choices. This center provides support not only for future Phillips 66 employees, but all PSU students.

Phillips 66 is also a Matching Company, meaning that when employees of Phillips 66 give back to their university, the company matches their charitable gifts, making an even greater impact on PSU and its students.

It is a cycle of giving and receiving. Companies like Phillips 66 understand what giving back to Pittsburg State means to the higher education community and what the return on their investment means to their global company. These types of employer relationships are invaluable to the university and to our students, as they prepare to become the employees of tomorrow.

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- Sept. 5.....Oklahoma City Gorilla Gathering Tailgate – PSU vs. UCO
- Sept. 14.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village
- Sept. 17.....College of Technology Company Days  
After Hours Gorilla Gathering
- Sept. 21.....Family Day & GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village
- Sept. 26.....Winfield Gorilla Gathering Dinner, Wheat State Wine Co.
- Oct. 1.....Kansas City Gorilla Gathering Lunch
- Oct. 1.....Kansas City Travel Show
- Oct. 5.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village
- Oct. 8.....Bartlesville Gorilla Gathering Dinner
- Oct. 10.....Crawford Co. After Hours Gorilla Gathering, Jolly Fox Brewery
- Oct. 18.....Taste of Pittsburg
- Oct. 19.....Homecoming & GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village
- Oct. 22.....Grove Gorilla Gathering Dinner
- Oct. 29.....Labette Co. Gorilla Gathering Dinner
- Nov. 2.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village
- Nov. 7.....Wichita Gorilla Gathering Lunch
- Nov. 7.....Wichita Travel Show
- Nov. 12.....Montgomery Co. Gorilla Gathering Dinner
- Nov. 14.....Tulsa Gorilla Gathering Dinner
- Nov. 16.....GorillaFest, PSU Gorilla Village

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