

Spring 2019



# Pitt State

MAGAZINE

## Brick. Mortar. Heart. Soul.

How four historic buildings, an innovative vision, and a unique partnership are opening the door to countless possibilities in Pittsburg. | 16



# PittState

MAGAZINE

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



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 @pittsburg\_state



### On the cover

This issue's cover features a close-up of a door original to the National Bank Building — one of four historic buildings that comprise Block22™. The door opens to what once was a vault, but now is a meeting room. That's the essence of Block22: preserved as a nod to the past, and repurposed with a look toward the future.

# Pitt State

## ONLINE PROGRAMS

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### Undergraduate Certificate

Hospitality Management

### Bachelor Degree Completion

RN to BSN

BS Workforce Development

### Master's Degrees

MBA Business Administration

(Accounting, General Administration,  
Human Resource Management and  
International Business)

MS Education - School Health

MS Educational Leadership

MS Educational Technology

MET Engineering Technology

(Construction, Electronics, Manufacturing,  
Mechanical, and Plastics)

MS Health, Human Performance and Recreation

MA History

MS Human Resource Development

MS Reading

MS Special Education Teaching

(K-12 High/Low Incidence)

MSN Nursing - Education

MS Teaching (ESOL, Elementary and Secondary)

MA Teaching

(Elementary, Secondary, Special Education  
(6-12) and Special Education Elementary  
High Incidence)

MS Technology

(Automotive Technology, Construction  
Management, Innovation in Technology,  
Personnel Development, and Technology  
Management)

### Specialist Degree

EdS Advanced Studies in Leadership

(Special Education and General School  
Administration)

### Doctorate Degree

DNP Nursing MSN to DNP

### Graduate Certificates

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Building Principal

History

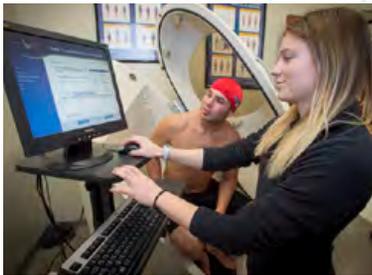
Reading/Language Arts

School Library

School District Leadership

Teaching English for Speaker  
of Other Languages

Technology Integration



Pittsburg State University

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

### President

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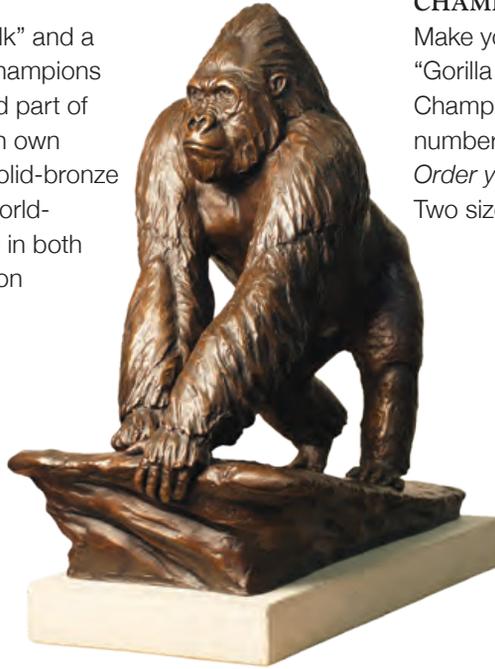


# Champions Plaza

## Bring the Tradition Home

### CHAMPIONS PLAZA SCULPTURE

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



## Make Your Mark

### CHAMPIONS PLAZA PAVER

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



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



## Let your passion for Pitt State live on.

You can make a lasting impact on the people and place you love.

Including the Pittsburg State University Foundation in your will is one of the simplest ways to leave a legacy gift.

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[ermartin@pittstate.edu](mailto:ermartin@pittstate.edu) 620-235-4863



Lynette Olson

## Longtime university leader to retire

Provost Lynette Olson, who also serves as Vice President for Academic Affairs, will retire in June 2019.

She has served in that capacity since March 2010, after serving as Interim Provost for a year when former Academic Affairs Vice President Steve Scott was named the ninth president. “It represents a significant milestone for PSU and in Dr. Olson’s professional career,” said Scott, who praised her for tireless efforts to lead planning initiatives, including a recent three-year process to transform General Education curriculum requirements. Olson was recognized with the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from Kansas State University and the Leader Award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences; and many local, state, and regional awards. She has held leadership roles in many professional organizations. She came to Pittsburg State in 1996 as professor and chair of the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences, then served as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

“I am grateful to all those who have supported me, provided counsel, and even nudged me on occasion,” she said. “Pittsburg State will always have a special place in my heart with many wonderful memories as I move into the next exciting phase of my life.”

A successor will be announced this spring.

## Conservation expert volunteers for new position

Jim Triplett dedicated 30+ years to every conservation-related activity he could find before retiring from the Biology Department in 2014.



Jim Triplett

But he’s not done: he’s now serving as the university’s first Special Assistant to the President for Sustainability. And he’s doing it as a volunteer.

Triplett, an avid outdoorsman, came to PSU on a football scholarship. A 19,000-mile summer research junket with a biology professor led to a degree in biology and an eventual position as chair of the department for 23 years.

Recognized as a state leader in conservation, solid waste, recycling, and natural resources, he walks the walk, using solar energy and a ground source heat pump at home.

In his new role at PSU, Triplett will provide leadership to the University Sustainability Committee.

President Steve Scott had hoped the university would one day be able to hire a Chief Sustainability Officer — an investment that would pay off in reduced energy consumption and new revenue opportunities. Budget challenges and pressing financial needs have prohibited that from happening.

“I think (Triplett’s volunteerism) has real promise for moving us forward at a more accelerated rate,” Scott said. “His commitment to sustainability is unquestioned and his passion for taking care of the planet is unmatched. I’m confident he can bring pace and purpose to our work.”



**Five veteran faculty members** have achieved the rank of University Professor: **Tim Bailey and Don Viney**, both in History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences; **Cheryl Giefer**, Nursing; **Casie Hermansson**, English and Modern Languages; and **Ananda Jayawardhana**, Math. The rank, good for seven years, indicates they are outstanding contributors in their field of specialization.

Casie Hermansson, Tim Bailey, Cheryl Giefer, Ananda Jayawardhana, and Don Viney.

## Happy 60th

Faculty, staff, students, and administrators gathered last fall to celebrate the 60th anniversary of *The Midwest Quarterly*, which pays tribute to its first Editor-in-Chief, the late longtime professor and noted author Dudley Cornish.

The journal, which has a global circulation, is now edited by Casie Hermansson, who noted that *The Midwest Quarterly* remains something of an oddity in the current market of academic journals because it combines interdisciplinary articles with poetry.

“His name is not on any campus building, but he remains fondly remembered by those here who did know him, and this journal, as well as the work of all who came after him, is testimony to his editorial legacy,” she said.



Prior to a public address, Soledad O'Brien visits in a roundtable discussion with 17 student leaders from across campus representing a variety of student organizations.

## Soledad O'Brien visits campus

A noted broadcast journalist, news anchor, producer, and philanthropist spent time on campus in October as part of the Women in Government speaker series.

Soledad O'Brien met with university student leaders for a panel discussion, met with student journalists, presented “Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes, and In Our Lives,” in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, and held a meet and greet with attendees.

She is the host and executive producer of a true crime series and

host of a weekly political magazine show syndicated across the country. She's also a contributing editor for PBS News Hour and a correspondent for HBO Real Sports, and won Emmy awards for her reporting in her acclaimed documentary series, *Black in America* and *Latino in America*.

O'Brien is the founder of PowHERful, a foundation that mentors and funds college tuition and expenses for young women.

The PSU Foundation sponsors the series through the support of the Helen S. Boylan Foundation.

## Introductions

### Abigail Fern

was named the new Chief Marketing and Communications Officer. Fern, who earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 and is on track to complete a master's degree in 2019, brings 19 years of experience in brand development; strategic, results-driven marketing communications; public relations; market research; customer service; and operations.



Abigail Fern

Prior to coming to Pittsburg State, she led the Sales Enablement & Customer Relations team at Pitsco. She previously served as marketing director for LEGO Education of North America. In that position, she was a member of the North America Leadership Team, helping to guide the growth of the company from \$8 million in 2003 to \$70 million by the end of 2015.

Fern has two sons, Webb and Beck, and resides in Pittsburg with her husband, Mark Fern. She is "excited to help young adults grow into who they're going to be. It's exciting to watch."

### Scott Donaldson

was named the new Director of Admissions. After a career in sales, he was inspired by his daughter to return to school to pursue his original dream and in 2008 earned a bachelor's degree in secondary business education.



Scott Donaldson

In 2010, he earned a master's degree

in business education and became a business instructor at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. In 2013, he earned a master's degree in educational administration from Emporia and was named assistant vice president of Student Affairs and director of Recruiting at NEO.

He is focused on growing enrollment and enhancing the existing campus visit system. His favorite thing about PSU: "the willingness and the passion to do whatever it takes to recruit, retain and graduate students."

### Keri Hanson

has been named the new Coordinator of the Center for Student Accommodations, which provides support services to students with diagnosed learning disabilities, physical, or mental illnesses that substantially impair one or more major life activities.



Keri Hanson

Hanson's experience in such work is both academic and practical in nature. She graduated from PSU in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in developmental disabilities. In May, she earned her master's degree in school counseling. For 13 years, she worked for the Early Head Start program as a family educator.

"I love being on this campus. I have a different admiration for it now as compared to as a student," she said. "I am excited about this position because I know each day will be new, different from the last, and it will keep me on my toes, so I have to be ready for anything!"



## TEDx returns

Pittsburg State will once again host a TEDx event, thanks to the success of the inaugural event held in March 2018. Auditions took place in February, with a slate of diverse speakers being chosen. The event will be held March 26 in the Dotty and Bill Miller Theater in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. Details will be available at [pittstate.edu](http://pittstate.edu)

## Passport help

Travelers now can receive assistance with passport applications and have their passport photos taken at the post office branch at Pittsburg State. Post Office Administrator Kevin Elrod asks that appointments be made at 620-235-4772. Elrod advised travelers applying for passports to allow four to six weeks for routine processing.

## Authors honored

Thirty-five years ago, Axe Library held the first reception to publicly recognize PSU employees who have been published or who have developed creative works during the previous year, with authors, editors, composers, and artists among the honorees. It's a tradition that has endured. In November, the 35th Annual University Authors Reception was held to celebrate 72 published works.



**Omar Brantley**, a member of the PSU Black Student Association and a sophomore from Bonner Springs, Kan., reads a book about diversity to third graders at George Nettels Elementary in Pittsburg. Brantley, along with other BSA members and PSU Hispanics of Today also led the students in hands-on activities to foster diversity awareness in recognition of Black History Month.

## Westar Foundation contributes to Nature Reach

Nature Reach, based in the PSU Biology Department since 1985, got a recent boost with a grant award of \$10,000 from Westar Energy Foundation.

Nature Reach, the focus of which is a live animal collection, is committed to providing natural history and environmental education outreach programming to school and community groups.

The annual budget for Nature Reach comes from program fees, grants, and private donations from the community.

Over the past five years, PSU Nature Reach has provided programming in 30 communities, primarily in Southeast Kansas, but also in Southwest Missouri and Northeast Oklahoma. It also provides day camp programming to elementary-aged children at the PSU Nature Reserve, conducts teacher workshops, and provides real-world training to university students pursuing careers in veterinary medicine, field biology, conservation, and wildlife management.

Mary Jo Meier, director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences, said the contribution aligns well with the mission of the Westar Foundation, as it invests in initiatives to improve students' educational development, from kindergarten to career or vocation.

This marks the third time Nature Reach has received support from Westar; in 2007 and 2011, Westar's Green Team provided wood, netting, and assistance in building two raptor enclosures at the PSU Nature Reserve.

## #OAGAAG

**@taylunke-** S/O to all my Pitt people, thank you for making Kansas a second home #OAGAAG

**@emily\_hanenber-** Thankful for all the amazing people Pitt State has blessed me with! I love my Pitt Family! #OAGAAG

**@C6Dash -** on football atmosphere- You won't find this type of atmosphere at any other Division II school. I can promise you that #oagaag

**@heatherbusch -** At what other university can you look out your window and see the President personally walking students to Admissions? #BeAGorilla #GorillaNation #OAGAAG @pittstate

**@PittStateROTC-** Congratulations to Pitt State Professor of Military Science Charles Costello on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. LTC Costello also got to promote Assistant Professor of Military Science Bryce Johnson to Captain. #army #armyrotc #gorillabattalion #oagaag #promotion

**@MrsSterneker-** Riley, you're making the best decision of your life. Now if you could talk some sense into my sister to go gorilla!!!! #OAGAAG

**@mreid1313-** Starting to feel like basketball season outside...and some @PittStGorillas hoops on the computer tonight!! Let's go @GorillasWBB!! #OAGAAG

**@BrianMHaag -** Congratulations to @GorillasVB on a wonderful season. From 15 wins the past 3 seasons combined to 18 wins this season alone. Thanks to all the players and coaches for all their hard work and dedication. You made me proud as always. #OAGAAG #GorillaNation

**@SRunyon89-** Proud to be living in a community that values authenticity, innovation and hard work. The people of #pittsburgks are doing some pretty awesome things and communities around the nation are taking notice! #ilovemyjob #ilovemytown #Block22PSU #OAGAAG

**@markileaming-** Thanks, @pittstate! It's nice to have an alma-mater that appreciates alumni. #oagaag

**@daniel11jackson-** Had a blast at Pitt State today. Unbelievable facilities and energy. Great place to be on a Saturday! Go Gorillas! #OAGAAG @CoachMillerPSU @davewiemers

# Spring 2019 Events Calendar

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

\*ticketed event

## Art

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

University Gallery Porter Hall

March 1 - May 1

**Gina Phillips**

April - May

**Graduating Senior Exhibition**

## Music

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

March 18

**Percussion Ensemble**

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

March 28

**PSU Symphonic Band**

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

March 29

**Solo & Chamber Music Series**

**NEXUS\***

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 12

**Opera Scenes**

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 18

**PSU Wind Ensemble**

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 24

**PSU Jazz Ensemble**

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 28

**Oratorio**

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 2

**4 State Band Festival**

Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

## Theatre

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

March 21

**Mark Nizer 4D\***

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

March 29

**Broadway's "The Sound of Music"\***

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 12

**Walkin' the Line (Johnny Cash Tribute)\***

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 25-28

**"House of Blue Leaves"\***

by John Guare

directed by Linden Little

Bicknell Center, Miller Theater

Thurs. – Sat.: 7:30 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. Matinees: 2 p.m.

## Community

May 10 – 11

**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 July 15, 2019.**

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

**Congratulations to John**

**Porter, BA Social Science**

- Pre-Law 1970, Neosho,

Mo., resident who found the

hidden Gorilla in the Fall 2018

magazine! (It was on page 36,

in the lower left corner of the

page.)

# 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 \$62 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.



## PROVEN. PROMISE. PITT STATE.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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

# Show your support of the arts. Honor a loved one.



John and Jane  
Doe

*Sample seat plaques*

In Memory of  
Jane Doe  
The Jane Doe Family

Seat plaques in the Linda and H. Lee Scott Performance Hall in the premium seating area are available for gifts of \$1,000.

Seat plaques in other areas of the Scott Performance Hall are \$500.

Learn more at  
[bicknellcenter.com](http://bicknellcenter.com)



## MARCH

- 21..... Bicknell Center presents: Mark Nizer 4D
- 28..... PSU Music Department presents:  
The PSU Symphonic Band
- 29 ..... **Bicknell Center presents: Broadway's  
The Sound of Music \***

## APRIL

- 3.....The Korean Culture Club presents: Korean Culture Day
- 12..... Bicknell Center presents:  
Johnny Cash: Walkin' the Line
- 18..... PSU Music Department presents:  
The PSU Wind Ensemble and The PHS Wind Ensemble
- 24..... PSU Music Department presents:  
The PSU Jazz Ensembles
- 25-28 ..... Pitt State Theatre presents: House of Blue Leaves
- 28..... PSU Music Department presents:  
Morning Heroes by Sir Arthur Bliss

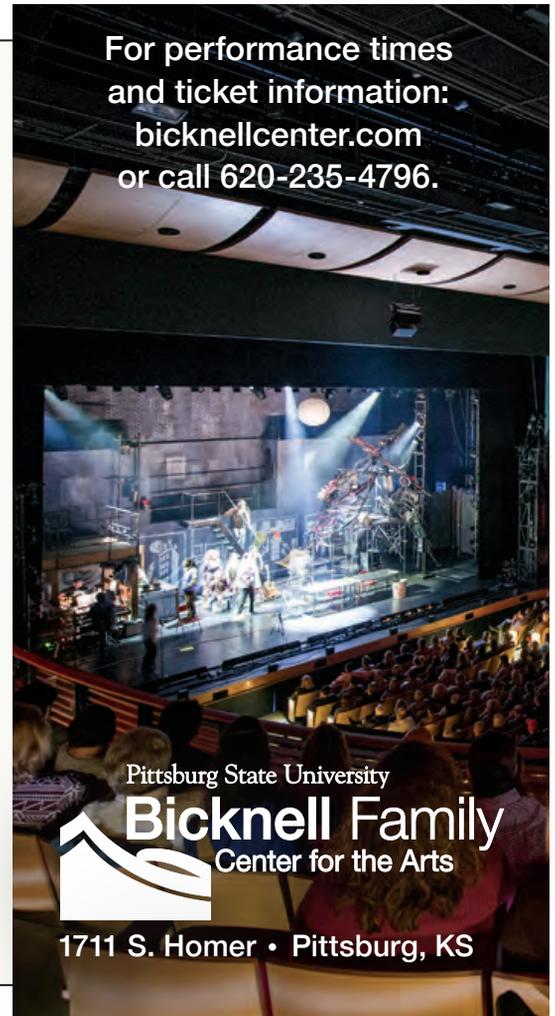
## MAY

- 2..... PSU Music Department presents:  
The PSU Wind Ensemble and Four-State Honor Band



\* 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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Don't miss the combination of original comedy, world class juggling, movement, music and technology that promises a spellbinding evening.



# Mark Nizer

EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE

*Show-stopping tricks and technology!* This innovative performer has opened for scores of celebrities at world-famous venues. He's juggled the unlikely combination of a 16-pound bowling ball, a lit propane torch, and a buzzing chain saw. Mark Nizer is truly "the juggler your mother warned you about." Or if she didn't, she should have.



**Thursday, March 21  
7:30 p.m.**



Powerhouse vocalist Bennie Wheels celebrates Johnny Cash with all the greatest hits, and many forgotten treasures, using the sound everyone loves and remembers.

## BENNIE WHEELS WALKIN' THE LINE

**Friday, April 12 • 7:30 p.m.**

**Bicknell Family Center for the Arts 2018-19 Performance Series**

**TICKETS:** [BicknellCenter.com](http://BicknellCenter.com)  
or call 620-235-4796.

Pittsburg State University  
**Bicknell Family**  
Center for the Arts  
1711 S. Homer • Pittsburg, KS



**Proud Gorillas** – Dr. Joe B. Smith (BS '65, MS '68, Ed.S '71), Marilyn James Smith (Cosmetology '65), Kay James Patton (who attended in 1965), enjoyed the holiday of a lifetime in Paris, France, at the Ryder Cup.

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?”



**Down under** – PSU alumni Chad Pio ('87 BST) and Maureen Jacques Pio (BSEd '89) spent 10 days “down under,” where they wore their PSU colors proudly touring the southern coast and watching the Penguin Parade on Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia.



**Going for a swim** – Right after this photo, Craig Jack (BBA '83) jumped into the Hudson River in front of the Statue of Liberty for a 1.5-mile race back to land! (He took off his Gorilla hat, first.)



**Land of the Midnight Sun** – Fredd Gunn (BS '73), visited the Globe at North Cape, Honningsvåg, Norway — a small Mageroya Island town that overlooks a pristine bay of the Barents Sea.



**By Doing, Learn** – Cody Renfro, a junior in Communication, and Nick Bartelli (BS Communication '18) spent two months teaching English at a Syrian Refugee school in Eastern Lebanon last summer, and repped a little Pitt State while there.

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



**Gorillas in Germany** – Gorillas traveled to Germany to visit Jeremiah and Jennifer Hull stationed with the Army in Kaiserslautern. The group represented Pitt State in southwest Bavaria at the Neuschwanstein Castle — the inspiration for the castle in Disney’s Sleeping Beauty. Jared (BS ’99) and Jennifer Stanley Mullinax (BS ’00), Ben (BBA ’00 and MBA ’01) and Becky Newman Burns, Stephanie Pierce Anglin (BA ’96) and Kerry Anglin (BSET ’98), Amy Taylor Smith (BA ’00) and Shawn Smith (BSET ’00), Jennifer Doss Hull and Jeremiah Hull (BGS ’01).



**Heritage trip** – John (BST ’91, MST ’07, Ed.S ’12) and Debbie Thompson (BBA ’93) visited Tikal National Park, Petén, Guatemala, on a heritage trip with their daughter Anna, who they adopted in 2002.



**Gorilla couple** – Jessica Baldwin (BA Communication/Broadcasting ’98) and Kyle Kelly (BS Construction management ’01), visited the Dominican Republic. The couple met through a dating app, where Kyle caught Jessica’s eye because he was wearing a Pitt State shirt!



**Ecuador** – Fred Meier (Masters Educational Administration ’78) and PSU Director of Development Mary Jo Meier (Masters in Educational Leadership ’16) took a trip to Ecuador for a family wedding, spending time in Quito, Banos, Manta, and Guayaquil. They visited the Pailon del Diablo waterfall in Banos.



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# The Great Gorilla Tour



14 days, 6 states, 4,226 miles  
*We're heading west on the ultimate road trip to see YOU!*

Alumni and friends, please join us for a Gorilla Gathering dinner!

**For reservations & more information:**  
[pittstate.edu/alumni](http://pittstate.edu/alumni)



PSU Alumni & Constituent Relations  
401 East Ford Avenue • Pittsburg, KS 66762  
620-235-4758 or 877-PSU-ALUM

## **KANSAS**

Tuesday, May 28 – Hutchinson

## **COLORADO**

Wednesday, May 29 – Denver

## **NEVADA**

Friday, May 31 – Las Vegas

## **CALIFORNIA**

Sunday, June 2 – San Francisco

Monday, June 3 – Los Angeles

Wednesday, June 5 – San Diego

## **ARIZONA**

Thursday, June 6 – Tucson

Friday, June 7 – Phoenix

## **NEW MEXICO**

Sunday, June 9 – Albuquerque

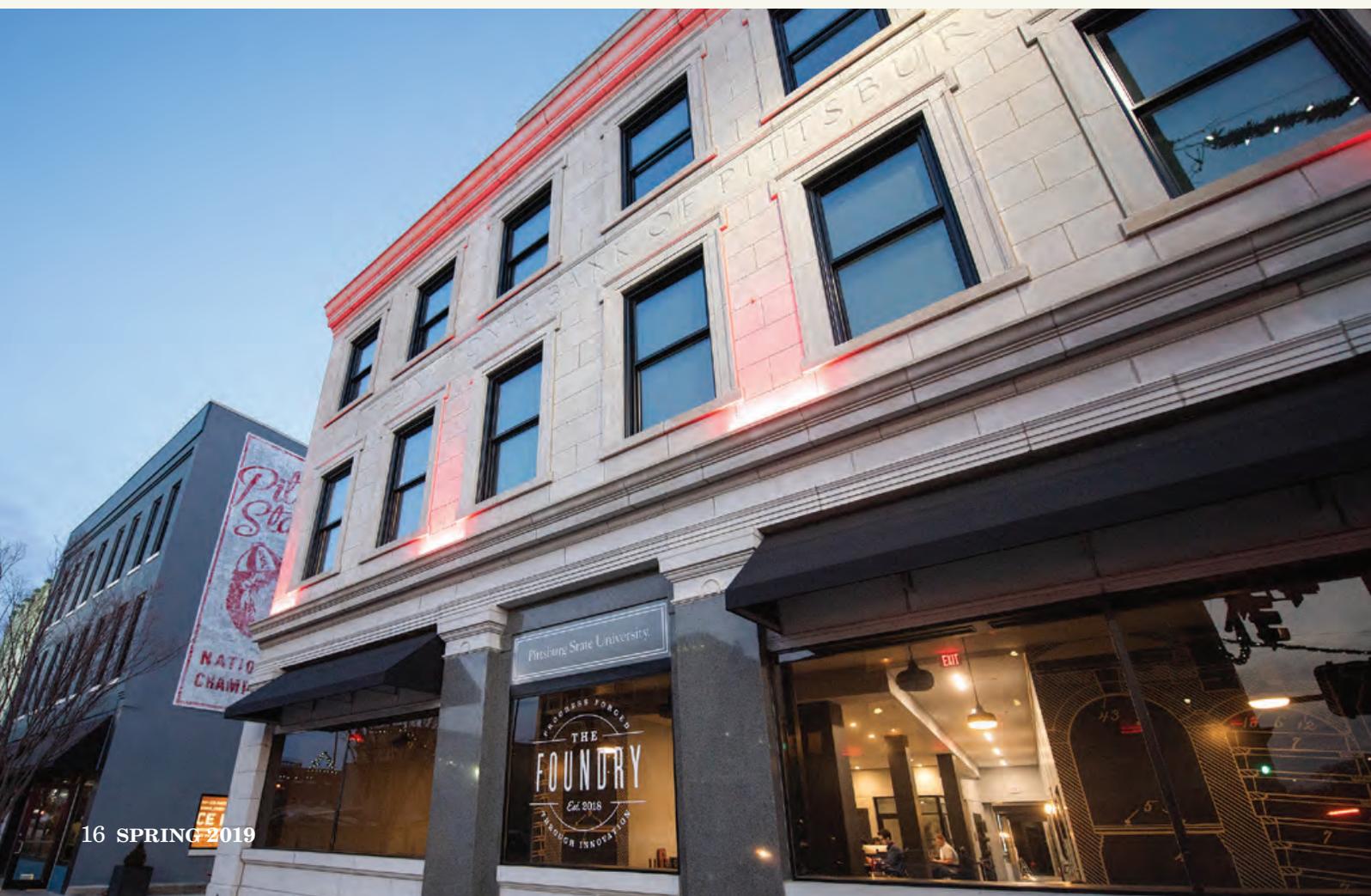
**Connect with us on social media!** @pittstatealumni





# 143 years ago,

Frank Playter, John Sargent, E.R. Moffett, and E.H. Brown came to an agreement: they mapped out four, 40-acre sections stretching eight blocks north to south and eight blocks east to west on the prairie of Southeast Kansas. The four men shared a vision: a new city would prosper.



Within the historic corridors of the buildings that comprise Block22™ are 97 modern, urban-style apartments for PSU students. Each is individualized and boasts the name of a real-life early Pittsburg business or business owner on the front door.

**Today**, their intersection looks very different: it's home to Block22™, an innovative project by Pittsburg State, the City of Pittsburg, and the Vecino Group, who, like the founders, envision a city that will prosper.

In Playter's day, the sections would share corners and would be the hub of a loading place for a railroad built between Joplin, Mo., 28 miles to the southeast, and Girard, Kan., 16 miles to the northwest, to carry lead, zinc, and coal.

On the southwest corner, now the site of the Wheeler & Mitchelson Law Firm, Playter built a general store. On the northwest corner, Sargent erected a small frame building for a drug store.

The two arterial streets that intersected at the four corners became known as Fourth Street and Broadway.

Today, the intersection is anchored by the Commerce Building and the Baxter Building on the northwest corner and on the northeast corner, the National Bank Building and the Opera House Hotel, brought back to life in 2018 after having fallen into disrepair and being shuttered for years.

Fresh paint and new windows gleam.

Unique, mixed-use living, learning, working, dining, and gathering spaces attract students, entrepreneurs, and community members.

It combines nearly 100 units of Pittsburg State student housing with more than 16,000 square feet of innovation space. There's a coffee shop, where people of all ages gather. And this spring, the newest component will open: three restaurants, each operated by Pittsburg State alumni.

*(continued on pg. 18)*

Located on the ground floors of the National Bank and Opera House Hotel buildings, The Foundry component of Block22™ includes a popular gathering spot for all ages, Root Coffeehouse & Creperie. It is owned by PSU alumni Lindsey Kling (BA '10) and Taylor Whiteley (BA '16).



Each student apartment at Block22™ comes fully furnished with full kitchens, living space, and private bathrooms. Special features include murphy and loft beds, spiral staircases, library ladders, built-in desks and shelves, and fireplace mantles.



## Living there

Juliana Cook is among the 90 residents who call Block22™ “home.”

“When I heard about Block22, I immediately found out everything about it and how I could live there,” said Cook.

“After reading and talking to others involved in Block22, I knew right away this where I wanted to spend my last year at Pitt State.”

Since August, the nursing major from Shawnee, Kan., has lived in the corner unit on the third floor of what’s now known as the Commerce Building. It’s been the highlight of her senior year, she said.

“I picked the biggest available unit because I knew it would be worth it,” she said.

Her favorite part?

“The windows,” she said.

She has six total and the view is split: half look out onto Fourth and Broadway, and the other half face northwest Pittsburgh.

“The coolest parts are the historical features,” Cook said.

Among them: black and white photographs in the hallways and stenciled names of former businesses on interior glass door windows.

“Those names are my favorite part, because I get to learn about what kind of businesses were once here and how important small businesses are to keep around,” she said.

Playter, Moffett, Sargent, and Brown would be proud.

And people like Brandee Johnson (BBA ’01), owner and president of the start-up digital marketing agency LimeLight Marketing, are inspired.

LimeLight is one of six businesses that occupy the first floor of the National Bank Building in a co-working space called The Foundry.

Also there are Creative124, DevSquared, Helianthus Ventures,



Votive Packaging and Solutions, and Root Coffeehouse & Creperie. Sonder & Co. will open soon.

“The essence of Block22 being a space that fosters growth, innovation, and economic development feels like a natural and perfect fit with our culture and values at LimeLight. That’s what attracts us to this space,” Johnson said. “We are excited to be part of Block22 because I feel that the atmosphere in this space fosters collaboration, creativity, and innovation.”

## Working there

It is in that National Bank Building that Gerard Eck, a junior from Colwich, Kan., who is dual majoring in Finance and Business Economics, spends much of his time when not in class: he’s one of the first students to

be employed at Block22 in University Strategic Initiatives — the PSU office that oversees the Block22 initiative.

“I wanted to work at Block22 because I found the project exciting and important to both the city and the school,” said Eck. “Everyone is excited about the new place.”

His job includes secretarial duties as well as working closely with EnterprisePSU to provide reporting and research services.

“I enjoy being so close to a good cup of coffee and the variety of businesses in The Foundry,” he said. “There is a lot of stuff going on that I previously didn’t know anything about, and everything is interesting!”

Like Cook, he finds the history of the place the “coolest part.”

“To be in such a unique combination of historical and future



The initiative has earned national recognition. It includes The Foundry — home to a variety of innovative, creative teams, including PSU’s University Strategic Initiatives, a maker/hacker space, business incubator, co-working space, conference rooms, and a large meeting space that can be used by PSU and community groups alike. A Gus Bus connects Block22 and the PSU campus, making a roundtrip in 10 to 15 minutes. Three restaurants will open this spring.

business is surreal at times,” he said. “At The Foundry, we hear all the time guests who say, ‘I worked right upstairs’ or, ‘My father had his office here for a number of years.’ To be able to connect with those guests and show them the new building is always a great experience.”

### “Home”

For both Cook and Eck, the experience has strengthened their connection to Pittsburgh.

“As a freshman, I didn’t do a very good job of getting involved,” Eck said. “That resulted in a tough year, and I knew there was more that the school had to offer. Getting involved

on campus and in the community has made me love and appreciate not only the school, but the entire area that I live in. There is so much history and endless connections in Pittsburgh, and I am proud to say I am a Gorilla.”

Each day, Cook drives from Block22 to the McPherson Hall, the Nursing building — about a 5-minute commute. She enjoys her time on campus, but finds a change of scenery downtown “refreshing.”

“I like having a change of scenery with study time at Root Coffeehouse, and if I want soup and a sandwich on a cold day, you’ll find me at Signet with all their homemade

goodies,” she said. If she’s restless or needs a spontaneous last-minute outfit, she heads to the nearby boutiques.

“They have everything I need,” she said. “The convenience of Block22 being downtown is the ability to just walk to wherever I need to go.”

“Block22 provides my own space in which I can sleep, relax, and study — all in one area. I’ve made friends with other residents on my floor, and I’d have to say it’s pretty great to have friends just down the hall for either a girls’ night or a group/family dinner,” she said. “Calling Block22 ‘home’ feels amazing.” •



## It's all in a night's work

Biology students gain field experience trapping bats

IT HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF A would-be Halloween movie: bats fly out of storm tunnels starting at sundown. Clouds move in front of the moon.

The bats flutter this way and that, their numbers increasing as the hour grows late.

But for students in Andrew George's biology classes, the scene has all the makings of the ideal classroom.

"You can learn some things out of a textbook or a lecture, but this is so

exciting and so valuable to experience in real life," said Jake Wright, a senior from Douglas, Kan.

A few times a week for several months, Wright and other students set up infrared video equipment to record and count bats as they emerge from their roosts, often working until midnight or later. Occasionally they use traps made of fishing line so that they can record biometrics.

Funded by a grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks



& Tourism, they're on a mission to establish a baseline of data that can be useful to scientists in the future.

Bats are valuable as pollinators, much like bees that have captured public attention in recent years, and with a diet comprised largely of insects, are a natural form of pest control.

But a deadly fungus that grows on bats while they hibernate has been making its way west from New York, killing off more than 5 million of them since 2006. Called white-nose syndrome, it was detected in Kansas in 2018 for the first time.

"We're counting them to see how populations change over time. To do that, you have to establish a baseline and then continue to count them," said Michael Barnes, a graduate student from Hendersonville, Tennessee, who has previous field experience with bats and serves as a mentor to undergraduate field biology students.

Bats can be tested for white-nose syndrome with a swab of their wings. Handling them carefully, Barnes is able to do that as well as other useful biometric screenings, and band a few with radio transmitters to track their migration patterns.

Tests on bats trapped over the summer were negative — not surprising, Barnes noted, as it affects populations the most during winter hibernation.

Wright takes the recordings back to the lab in Heckert-Wells, where he can slow them down significantly to do a frame-by-frame count.

George and his students also have assisted the State of Kansas with collecting bat guano for testing. And, they assisted a group of bat researchers on a trapping expedition in Oklahoma.

Maggie Murray, a sophomore from Frontenac, Kan., said going on that trip opened up numerous career options that she hadn't yet considered.

"I was measuring the forearm length of bats, looking at their wings for signs of white-nose, helping to put radio trackers on them," she said. "It took what I'm learning here at school way beyond just the classroom."

Rachel Wood, a senior in field biology from Jacksonville, Fla., described the

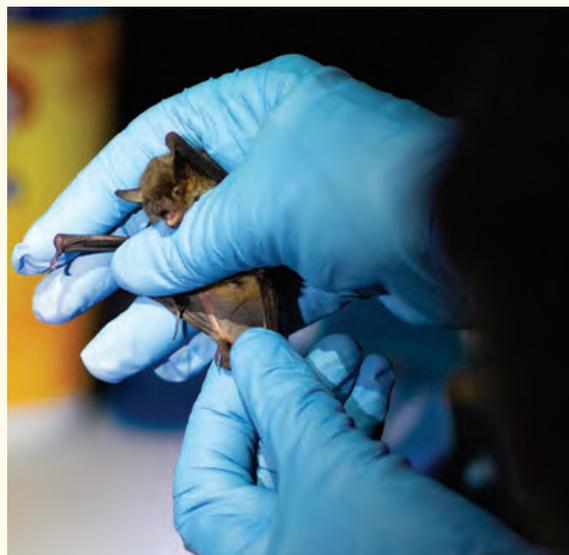
bat research project as "eye opening."

"Field work like this helps us learn what careers we could do in the future — things we had never even heard about or considered until now."

That's the goal of the field biology program, Barnes said: "We want to get students out there in the field, outside of the classroom. And at the same time, we're contributing to science." •

*Opposite page:* Graduate student Michael Barnes examines a bat for signs of white-nose syndrome while senior Robin Goodreau assists with documenting biometric information last fall. Both students are on a mission to gather data of use to scientists, and in the process are learning valuable field experience.

*This page:* Graduate student Amy Hammesfahr works with Barnes to examine bats and document data.



# GREAT GORILLAS

Students in the Technology & Engineering Education program now learn — and practice teaching — in a state-of-the-art lab, thanks to donations from corporate partners and the Kansas Center for Career & Technical Education.



## Newly renovated lab making impact on students, recruitment

SENIOR CARTER STOHLBERG transferred to Pittsburg State to pursue a degree in Technology & Engineering Education for a reason: the reputation of the program.

He made the right choice, he said, after taking classes in the university's newly-renovated and state-of-the-art Technology & Engineering Education Lab.

The lab features a flexible presentation area with a large touch screen and four additional screens that allow a teacher to zoom in on work being done at the design-build centers on the perimeter.

Chair Andrew Klenke said the lab was designed to better equip future teachers like Stohlberg with the skills and strategies needed to implement Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities in their classrooms.

At each center, elementary and middle school students overseen by university students can engage in hands-on activities in robotics,

transportation, power and energy, and problem solving. There are customized tool drawer organizers. And, there's a fabrication area, an automation area with laser and CNC equipment, a video production room, and an elementary STEM lab.

"You look around this lab and you see the clean look, the new technology, the way it's laid out, and you can just tell this is the best around," said Stohlberg, who hopes to return to the Kansas City area to teach.

Approximately \$120,000 for the renovation came from corporate partners Depco and Pitsco — both Pittsburg-based technology education businesses that operate on a national scale — and the Kansas Center for

Career & Technical Education, also housed in the Kansas Technology Center.

"This lab can now serve as a model classroom for middle and high schools," said Byron McKay, an assistant professor in Technology & Workforce Learning who is one of the primary instructors in the lab. "We want our students to be exposed to this kind of approach and for schools to replicate it. It's organized, it's efficient, and it provides the best learning experience possible in this discipline."

"The better a lab is, the better students can perform, no matter their age," he said. "And for me, I walk in every morning and it's a great place to work, to teach, to learn."

Sarah Arnold, a transfer student from Nevada, Mo., feels the same way.

"What drew me to this was the hands-on interaction with the various technologies," she said. "I love the open space and flexible seating, because as a teacher that's important for classroom management. And the tools and resources we have here are by far the most amazing I've seen."

The lab is paying big dividends on the recruitment side.

"We have nearly doubled our enrollment in this program," McKay said. "People walk in our door on a tour, or just pass by as part of an event, and literally say 'Sign me up. I don't know what this is, but I want to be here'." •

*"You look around this lab and you see the clean look, the new technology, the way it's laid out, and you can just tell this is the best around." –Carter Stohlberg, senior*

Byron McKay (BSEd '13, MS '16), is now an assistant professor in Technology & Engineering Education and appreciates how far the program and the lab have come, both in terms of academics as well as recruiting.



# To the fifth degree

TRACY STAHL FIRST STARTED college at Pittsburg State University in 1985 as a bright-eyed, energetic freshman majoring in Marketing.

But she wasn't meant for that.

After completing her bachelor's in 1989, followed by her MBA in Business Administration in 1990, she changed paths to pursue something completely different: a nursing degree.

Inspired by a nurse who took care of her ill father in the hospital, and fueled by the desire to make that same difference with other patients and families, she enrolled at PSU again — this time in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing.

"That's when everything changed for me," she said. "I personally observed the nursing care that my father received from one particular nurse who was so caring and compassionate with my father, and he

made a difference for my father and our family in my father's last days."

She earned her BSN in 1994 and took a job at Ascension Via Christi Hospital, delivering hundreds of babies and caring for thousands of patients in her 15 years in labor and delivery, nursery, postpartum, pediatrics, and medical-surgical nursing.

Stahl also trained new, novice graduate nurses.

"I developed a passion to teach the students who were on my floor during their clinical rotations," she said.

Again inspired, she returned to school to earn her MSN with the goal of teaching at the college level. After graduating in 2009, she began practicing as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), and in 2010, the opportunity arose for her to teach at her alma mater while maintaining an "on call" practice.

Since then, she's spent her days training students to become nurses. They have gone on to careers at hospitals across the country.

Stahl wasn't quite done earning degrees. In December 2018, she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), the terminal degree for advanced nursing practice required for a tenure-earning teaching position at PSU.

"I feel a sense of satisfaction, accomplishment, and relief," she said.

Cheryl Giefer, director of the School of Nursing, said the school is fortunate to have Stahl.

"Not only does she have years of clinical experience she can share with her students, she also is a role model and inspiration to them to keep learning and growing in their profession," Giefer said. "We're very proud of all she's achieved."

### A family thing

Stahl and her husband, Greg have two daughters enrolled at PSU: Aubri is pursuing a degree in Computer Information Systems with an emphasis in System Design and a minor in Web/Interactive Media, and will graduate in December 2019. Kate is a freshman and plans to pursue a degree in nursing. •



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*"When my mother was ill and in the hospital, one of the students I had trained in school was there, caring for my mother as a nurse, and that was amazing. It made me feel so proud. What I had taught a student was being put into practice before my very eyes. That's what it's all about."* — Tracy Stahl

# The Fortissimo Project

## Long-distance musical friendship forged after chance encounter

IN A BRAZILIAN TOWN WHERE some don't have indoor plumbing, Arley Franca, a fireman and musician, talked his boss into allowing him to start an instrumental music program for children.

Five thousand miles away at Pittsburg State, where faculty in the Music Department frequently collaborate with international musicians, University Professor Craig Fuchs began using translated emails to forge a mutually-beneficial long-distance friendship with Franca and his transformational program.

"There is no music in Brazilian schools," said Fuchs, whose own life has revolved around music for decades. "It's difficult to imagine, and when I learned of Franca's program, of course I wanted to get involved."

Fuchs directed the PSU Wind Ensemble for years; performed as a member of the T.D. Pack Band, the

official band of the Kansas City Chiefs, for 13 seasons; and has served as an adjudicator in the regional marching band arena each fall.

He learned of the Brazilian program in 2010 through a chance encounter while conducting the National Symphony Orchestra of Paraguay — a country with which PSU has held a longstanding partnership.

"Franca was in attendance at the concert, told me about his program, and he gave me his card and said he would be in touch," said Fuchs, who a few months later traveled to Brazil to work with Franca's youth.

It was life-changing. The pair began collaborating, with Franca coming to Pittsburg and Fuchs returning to Brazil a few more times to conduct and work with youth. They also began planning a joint venture: The Fortissimo Project — a manual for

band programs in Brazil, and future workshops and honor bands.

In music, the word "Fortissimo" is denoted with the symbol "FF" and means "play it loudly." The "FF" also represents their last names: Fuchs and Franca.

The mayor of the town has publicly proclaimed he will support the endeavor, and Fuchs will return to Brazil in July.

"I have gotten so much out of this," Fuchs said. "It's so humbling and so rewarding. Building those relationships, helping kids know they can be successful. The goal is to continue to create joy and understanding through music." •



Craig Fuchs



University Professor Craig Fuchs is collaborating with a youth music program in a Brazilian town where music traditionally is not a part of public schools.

# Nursing school lands \$3.65 million in grants



U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), announces federal grant funding during a press conference at PSU last Fall.

The Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing was awarded \$3.65 million in grant funding in 2018, meaning the growing program can grow a bit more.

A \$2 million, three-year federal grant called Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention-Registered Nurses in Primary Care was awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It will provide tuition scholarships, iPads, and MacBooks to 26 registered nurses who enroll at PSU to complete an online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Five community health agencies have partnered with Pittsburg State so that RN-BSN students can earn the required clinical experience.

An \$800,288, two-year federal grant will fund a program to train Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners — registered nurses who have completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of patients who have experienced sexual assault or abuse.

Currently, there is just one SANE to serve all of Crawford County, and there are none in Bourbon or Cherokee County.

A \$1.5 million, two-year federal grant called Advanced Nursing Education Workforce is aimed at providing opioid education.

The school also marked a milestone in January: 100 percent of the first cohort of students in the BSN to DNP program passed the Family Nurse Practitioners National Board Certification — a must for them to be able to practice in most states as Family Nurse Practitioners when they graduate in May.



Kaitlyn DeMaranville, a social work major from Atchison, Kan.

## Homework: help others

Students in Kristen Humphrey's social work classes and Alicia Mason's communication classes have unusual homework assignments each semester: to positively impact the community.

In Humphrey's classes, students start by identifying a "problem," then propose a project to address some aspect of the problem or benefit a specific population, develop a budget, create a flyer, craft a media release, deliver an elevator pitch to anyone who will listen, and carry out the project.

Among other things, they conducted food and clothing drives for local agencies and shelters, and raised funds for area Humane Societies.

In Mason's classes, they are to work in groups to apply their communications skills to promote positivity throughout the semester.

Last fall's campaigns focused on education, advocacy, health awareness, and community outreach and included promoting awareness of first aid and CPR skills, ending negative labels, and encouraging neighbors to help neighbors.

# Research

Students and faculty continue their tradition of working side by side on research at PSU that contributes to the greater good. A sampling:

## Biology

Anuradha Ghosh, assistant professor of Biology, has been conducting a surveillance study for three years that investigates the distribution of three dominant tick species in Southeast Kansas, particularly the non-native *Ixodes* spp. that carries the pathogen for Lyme disease, and uses a molecular technique to detect tick-borne bacterial pathogens.

Virginia Rider, chair of Biology, has been overseeing students researching implantation and immunology of pregnancy in hopes that understanding the process will help women who want to have children someday.

## Nursing

Assistant Professor Kristi Frisbee and University Professor Barbara McClaskey, both in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, are collecting data at Ascension Via Christi Hospital regarding neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome. The second phase of their study will focus on intervention.

## Polymer Chemistry

Ram Gupta, associate professor of Polymer Chemistry, is working with students to research bio-based polymers, bio-compatible nanofibers for tissue regeneration, bio-degradable metallic implants, and green energy production and storage using conducting polymers, among other things.



**Professional vocalists Naomi O'Connell and Brent Ryan, who performed here as part of the Solo & Chamber Music Series, made a connection with Stella Hastings' vocal students and were inspired to share gently worn gowns, suits, shoes, and accessories for them to wear in upcoming recitals and auditions. Also contributing to the performance clothes closet was Foundation Board of Trustees Member Frances Mitchelson (BS '86).**



**Since 1999, students who are in Stage Direction Class have an unusual final exam: the public watches them take it. Each student's final exam is to direct a one-act play, overseeing all elements of the production. The one-acts are performed at the end of each fall semester in the Studio Theatre, lower level of Grubbs Hall.**

## Grimes inducted into Hall of Fame

Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business, has been inducted into the Mississippi Council on Economic Education Hall of Fame.

Grimes ('79 BS, '80 MS) is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Mississippi State University, where he worked for 25 years before joining the faculty at PSU.

His international economic education work includes projects in Russia, Paraguay, South Africa, and Indonesia, and he's the author of more than 100 scholarly research publications, and is editor-in-chief of *The American Economist*.

In the early 2000s, he helped to re-establish the Mississippi Council for Economic Education and was the founding director of the Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy. Under his leadership, the center won an award from the National Council for Economic Education in 2008 for outstanding and innovative programs.

Grimes credited colleagues with contributing to a shared success.

"I am very honored and humbled to receive this recognition," he said. "Throughout my academic career I have been extremely fortunate to be in the right places at the right times and to be surrounded by the right people who have helped me on the way."



Paul Grimes

## Reorganization emphasizes collaborative environment

The administrative structure of the Kelce College of Business has been reorganized to do away with the traditional departmentalized concept.

Plans for the new building incorporate architectural design elements that go hand in hand with the new organizational structure.

Previously, faculty were divided into three departments responsible for more than one BBA major: accounting and computer information systems; economics, finance, and banking; and management and marketing.

Thirty-two faculty members were spread across three departments, each reporting to a departmental chair, some of whom were not within their discipline.

The reorganized structure replaces the traditional hierarchy with a "faculty of the whole" approach — a common practice among business schools of similar size. The new approach eliminates departments and transforms the KCOB into a collaborative environment.

Two associate deans will report to the dean: Bienvenido Cortes, the associate dean for the Graduate School of Business; and Eric Harris, the associate dean for the Undergraduate School of Business and Chair of the Faculty.

Three new appointments accompany the reorganization: David Hogard, director of Academic Advising and Career Readiness; Michael Davidsson, director of the Business and Economic Research Center; and Lynn Murray, who will take the lead on external constituents, internships, outside projects, and recruiting and retaining students to KCOB.



**The 2018 Homecoming Queen and King are both dual majors in marketing and management in the Kelce College of Business. Parker Welbourn, of Wichita, Kan., graduated in December. Desirae Hunt, of Kansas City, will graduate in May.**

## Foundation's \$1 million pledge gives project momentum

A \$1 million pledge by The Sunderland Foundation to the \$18.5 million capital campaign to renovate and expand the building that houses the Kelce College of Business has given the project momentum.

The Sunderland Foundation, started in 1945 by the president of the Ash Grove Cement Company in Overland Park, Kansas, has a long history of giving in higher education, health care and hospitals, human services, and arts and culture. The Foundation previously gave \$50,000 to the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

The campaign was kickstarted in 2015 with a \$3 million pledge from PSU business alumni John and Susan Lowe.

Vice President for University Advancement Kathleen Flannery, president and CEO of the PSU Foundation, said the donation is a major milestone and hopes the

university can break ground in 2020, provided all gifts and pledges are in hand.

KCOB Dean Paul Grimes said the project is vital to providing students with business education in a professional environment using state-of-the-art technology and teaching pedagogy, and will impact many generations of future Gorillas.

Originally a laboratory high school, the KCOB building is now one of the most heavily utilized buildings on campus, with more than 1,000 business students enrolled each semester.

Renovations will include more spacious and flexible classrooms to accommodate modern teaching pedagogies, seminar rooms for advanced undergraduate and MBA courses, team rooms for collaboration and group projects, and offices for graduate assistants, student organization leaders, and visiting executives.

## KCOB earns accreditation

Kelce College of Business faculty, staff, and students are celebrating their recent accreditation by the AACSB — the premier accreditation source by businesses and employers.

This marks the 20th anniversary of the KCOB earning its first accreditation — a milestone that is unique to other institutions in the region.

“This is verification that we have been a solid, strong business school for a generation,” said Dean Paul Grimes. “It’s a quality check that assures students, employers, and families that the education that we deliver is of the highest quality.”

Noteworthy in the process was a brand-new online MBA — a program aimed at mid-career professionals living off campus who are place-bound and who don’t have an opportunity to attend school in Pittsburg.

Also noteworthy was the new Business & Economic Research Center that creates a quarterly economic report valuable to city and business leaders.



### Associate Professor

Sang-Heui Lee spent a semester sabbatical teaching classes at Africa University in Zimbabwe, where students represent 28 different countries. He also gave presentations to business leaders who sought him out for advice. Lee helped foster a relationship between AU and PSU and is working toward a 2+2 articulation agreement. Several AU students are planning to come to PSU this year. “It was a life-changing experience for me,” Lee said.



## Student project serves individuals with special needs

When Taya Leach graduates in May with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation, she'll be ready, and so will her resumé: she already has experience working with special populations of a variety of ages and ability levels, thanks to a field day event that she and her classmates put on each semester at the Robert W. Plaster Center.

It has a lasting impact on the students and attendees, said Laura Covert-Miller, an associate professor in the Health, Human Performance, and Recreation Department who teaches in the TR program.

Her graduates work in diverse areas. One at a wellness center for people with physical disabilities, another in a retirement center, and still another with individuals with spinal cord injuries who are re-entering the community.

"This event has impacted me to think quickly on my feet in a real-world setting, to provide quick adaptations to activities so that everyone can participate and feel welcomed," Leach said.

Staff from agencies and school special education programs said it gives their consumers a chance to be active and social.

### More than 30

educators in this year's Greenbush Leadership Academy helped prepare 90 future teachers in the College of Education for Teacher Interview Day. The event was held in partnership with PSU's Office of Career Services.



Madison Freeman

Adriel Madison

## Teachers of Promise

The College of Education recognized two December graduates as Teachers of Promise.

Commerce, Okla., native Madison Freeman excelled in math in middle school. That inspired her to seek a degree teaching math, and now she's back in an eighth-grade classroom — this time in Tahlequah, Okla., as a newly-graduated teacher.

Freeman transferred to PSU from NEO and said it was a good call: she found encouragement from faculty and numerous hands-on experiences.

For Adriel Madison, a Monett, Mo., native, assisting with a preschool program at church prompted her to seek a degree in Early Childhood.

"I came here because I applied for a scholarship in the Honors College and was accepted, and that was a huge factor," she said. "But then I realized, once I got here and started classes in education, that I was getting a really in-depth look at interactions with children and hands-on experiences to a level I didn't expect."

Those experiences included working in the Little Gorillas lab preschool, which provides Early Childhood majors the chance to work in a preschool setting before they graduate.

COE Dean James Truelove said the two exemplify what it means to be a graduate of the College of Education.

"We're proud to be able to recognize them for their achievements," he said.



## History comes alive

Students in the College of Education often are treated to living history lessons, illustrating for them best practices for their future classrooms.

Debbie Restivo's Elementary Social Studies classes, for example, hosted a visit from Dagmar Snodgrass, who grew up in Berlin, Germany, during and after World War II. She shared her experiences with the "Candy Bomber," U.S. pilot Gail Halvorsen, about whom countless books, articles, and videos have been produced.

And Kaye Lynne Webb, long-time

administrative assistant to the president at PSU, came to campus to share her Italian heritage through food, music, and colorful stories of Southeast Kansas.

Ravyn Burdette, an elementary education major from Kansas City, said having access to speakers who lived history makes it more real to those who plan to teach it someday, and inspires her to find speakers for her future students.

"Having opportunities like this is so much more engaging than just a textbook," she said.

## Distinguished Service awards

The College of Education chose Marcia Base, a special education teacher at Andover Middle School in Andover, Kan., as the 2018 Distinguished Service Teacher, and Derek Holmes, principal at Concordia Elementary School in Concordia, Kan., for the Distinguished Service Administrator award. They received their awards in December.

Base (BSEd '81, MEd '83) is a native of Pittsburg whose father, Richard Jacques, was a long-time professor in the Department of Printing. Assisting at a school with children for special needs in her youth put her on the path for her degrees and career.

"It was like a call that this is where I'm supposed to be, this is what I'm supposed to do," she said. She is now in her 35th year in teaching at Andover.

Holmes (MEd '99), a native of Chanute, Kan., worked as a teacher, coach, and administrator at Altoona-Midway, Iola, and Beloit, Kan., before joining the Concordia district 11 years ago.

He takes pride in maintaining a positive school climate and giving students a positive, safe, and enjoyable learning environment.

"Our story is the lives we touch, the impact we have on students. That's the story that needs to be told," he said. "We need great educators. It's critical we get people who will be role models for students."

## College of Education earns national accreditation

The College of Education has received accreditation from the nationally-recognized Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation — one of only two universities in Kansas to do so.

It's based on rigorous standards developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs, and means students have received an education that prepares them to succeed in teaching in a diverse range of classrooms when they graduate.

Pittsburg State had to pass peer review on five standards which are based on two principles: 1. Solid evidence that graduates are competent and caring educators, and 2. Solid evidence that faculty have the capacity to create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.

Dean James Truelove said students and instructors should be proud of the work they're doing that helped the university achieve the accreditation.

"We've set a very high bar for our teacher prep program and this validates the hard work we are doing," he said. "The bottom line is that our students and their families are investing in an education program that is designated as nationally accredited for teacher preparation."



## Ronald McDonald House gets a hand

Electrical Technology students and Ronald McDonald House of the Four States are benefitting from a partnership with the help of alumnus Clint Myers, who with his dad, Chuck Reynolds, operates C&D Electric in Diamond, Mo.

Myers (AAS '11, BS '17) said he believes in giving back, so he agreed to help instructor Ed Moore provide students with on-the-job experience.

Among their tasks: to change out 300 worn outlets and almost 200 light switches at RMH, which provides bedrooms, a kitchen, and living spaces to 150 to 200 families per year while their children receive medical treatments at nearby health care facilities. In 2016, they changed hundreds of lightbulbs and fixtures from incandescent to LED lighting.

Moore started the collaboration with RMH to help the agency, which relies on private donations and grants to operate, and his students, who are being trained in residential electrical wiring, commercial electrical construction, and industrial electrical construction and maintenance.

## Partnership continues with South Korea

A partnership with two universities in South Korea is bringing students to Pittsburg State to explore technology, manufacturing, and business, as well as culture.

Last summer, a group from Gyeongsang National University spent a month in an internship/cooperative experience program in cooperation with the College of Technology.

It was the fourth year for the program, funded by a grant provided by the South Korean government, said Norman Philipp, the PSU instructor who facilitates the program with help from the Intensive English Program and regional companies.

Students partnered with the companies to find solutions for challenges in management, engineering, or production.

“It is very different here, to see the working conditions and how a company operates,” said student Sohyeon Baek. “I am learning a lot and am very happy to be here.”

A group of 40 students from SeoulTech also came to campus for an immersive learning program through Kelce College of Business and PSU Intensive English.

## Seniors in the

School of Construction won a national award last year for their capstone project: a bridge on the Ruby Jack Trail north of Joplin, Mo. In April, they'll receive the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America 2018 Outstanding Student Chapter Construction Management Award at the AGC's 100th Annual National Convention in Denver.





Hutchinson Community College President Carter File, PSU associate professor Jacob Lehman, Cosmosphere Executive Vice President Tracey Tomme, PSU Engineering Technology Chair Greg Murray, and PSU College of Technology Dean Tim Dawsey document the installation of PSU's award-winning Mars rover.

## Student-built Mars rover makes a landing at Cosmosphere

Any of the 110,000 visitors to the Cosmosphere International Science Education & Space Museum might be captivated by the Apollo 13 command module or the Apollo 11 moon rock. Since last summer, they've also had the chance to imagine exploring the surface of Mars via a human-propelled rover on display.

It hasn't been to the Red Planet, but it did compete nationally against other rovers and scored a first-place win in the telemetry category — the process of recording and transmitting the readings of an instrument.

PSU students conceptualized, designed, and fabricated it for NASA last year as part of the national Human Exploration Rover Challenge. PSU has entered the competition every year since it began 20 years ago and has brought home 13 awards, including three championship wins.

Greg Murray, chair of PSU Engineering Technology, Jacob Lehman, an associate professor who was on the 2006 national championship team, and Tim Dawsey, dean of the College of Technology, transported and installed it at the invitation of the Cosmosphere.

Tracey Tomme, executive vice president and chief operating officer there, said it was a great fit for the museum's exhibits, which annually are visited by about 15,000 youth who dream of careers in aerospace.

## GIT in the Top 12

Graphics & Imaging Technologies has earned accreditation as one of the 12 top programs in the U.S., making it official what students like Blake Broaddus already knew.

"For the GIT program to be regarded as one of the top programs in the country is not only a phenomenal honor but also a well-deserved one," said Broaddus, a 2013 alumnus who is now a video production manager for J.B. Hunt Transport. Among the highlights of the report: PSU alumni go on to successful careers, and high marks for faculty.

"This is a big deal for the department as we are only the 12th program in the U.S. to receive this accreditation and the only one in the central U.S.," said Interim Department Chair Doug Younger.



## Louisiana company invests in AMMT program

After a career day event on campus last year, Gator Millworks was so impressed with the quality of students in Architectural Manufacturing Management & Technology — previously Wood Tech — that they not only hired three as summer interns, they returned to campus last fall and donated \$12,000 to the program.

President and CEO Chad Foster said he wants to see the program keep churning out qualified graduates for the workforce.

"PSU students are the future of our industry," said Foster. "Supporting the program, the only one of its kind in the U.S., makes sense. If we want a better workforce for our industry, this is truly where it all begins."

Foster said the students impressed his team with their knowledge and skills.

AMMT Assistant Professor Charlie Phillips said the funding will help to recruit more students to the program — something Foster is happy about.

"By investing in this program, we're investing not only in the school and its students, but in the future of our industry as a whole," Foster said.

## Four Gorillas Earn Google Cloud Academic All-America® Honors



Ned Bingaman



Ryan Dodd



Josh Hornback



Levi Wyrick

Eight MIAA student-athletes earned Google Cloud Academic All-America honors in 2018, but PSU was the only institution to have four honorees on the Google Cloud Academic All-America Division II football team.

Gorillas junior defensive lineman Ned Bingaman, junior offensive lineman Ryan Dodd, junior defensive back Josh Hornback, and sophomore defensive lineman Levi Wyrick earned 2018 Google Cloud Academic All-America honors.

Wyrick was named to the first-team Academic All-America squad, while Bingaman, Dodd, and Hornback all garnered second-team Academic All-America recognition.

Wyrick has a 4.00 GPA as a physical education major. He made 28 tackles (14 solo) with 6.0 tackles-for-loss and 2.5 quarterback sacks for the Gorillas this past fall.

Bingaman has a 3.96 GPA as a justice studies major; Dodd has a 3.90 GPA as a marketing major; and Hornback has a 3.72 GPA as a construction management major.

Bingaman made 17 tackles (six solo) with 2.5 tackles-for-loss on the season. Dodd, a first-team All-MIAA performer, helped pave the way for the Pitt State offense to average 30.1 points and 398.4 yards of total offense per game. Hornback, an honorable mention All-MIAA selection, made 54 tackles (31 solo) with 3.5 tackles-for-loss, an interception, and eight pass break-ups.

Pittsburg State has garnered 123 all-time Academic All-America performances, including 118 Academic All-America honors since joining the NCAA Division II ranks in 1990. The Gorillas football team has received 38 of the institution's 123 all-time recognitions.

## Sports complex improvements

A \$1.8 million project funded by private gifts has added state-of-the-art softball and baseball facilities to the Gene Bicknell Sports Complex.

"We're fortunate to have such tremendous private support," said Jim Johnson, director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "It's making a difference in the lives of our student-athletes and the success of our programs. With this project, we believe we'll now have all of the facilities in place to be nationally competitive in all 12 of our programs."

The project includes a new building just off of the third base dugout of the baseball field that will house a locker room, coaches' offices, an indoor practice area for baseball, and four fan boxes overlooking the third base line and bullpen.

Approximately one-fourth of the existing practice facility southeast of the softball field is being converted into a locker room and coaches' offices for softball. The softball program also will assume complete use of the remaining practice space located within the current building.

"It's a major step forward for both of our programs," said baseball head coach Bob Fornelli. "This is an example of why I came to Pitt State. This community and everyone at this university are committed to helping our students succeed on and off of the playing field."

Last year, the university installed AstroTurf brand synthetic turf to both fields, also funded by private gifts.



# Women's Cross Country 13th at NCAA-II Nationals

Pittsburg State's women's cross-country team finished in 13th place at the 2018 NCAA Division II National Championships in December, compiling 449 points in the national meet.

Senior Katren Rienbolt led Pittsburg State by finishing in 68th scored position in the six-kilometer race in 24 minutes, 17.40 seconds. Junior Piper Misse placed 75th in 24:20.8.

Grand Valley State claimed the national championship with a low score of 41 points, while the University of Mary (N.D.) claimed the national runner-up with 83 points.

The Gorillas, who placed 18th at the 2017 NCAA Division II National Championships at Evansville, Ind., secured their best nationals finish since the 2010 team placed 12th overall.

The Pittsburg State women captured their second consecutive MIAA title on Nov. 3 at Emporia, Kan. The Gorillas posted a low score

of 26 points in claiming the program's 10th overall MIAA Championship.

Senior Jordan Puvogel captured the MIAA individual title, winning the race in 21 minutes, 51.3 seconds. Sophomore Cassidy Westhoff (21:57.8) and Rienbolt (22:03.7) finished second and third, respectively, while Misse placed sixth (22:09.6). All four runners garnered All-MIAA honors by placing in the top 10 individuals.

PSU's fifth runner, senior Ashton Henson, placed 14th in 22:53.4 to garner honorable mention All-MIAA recognition.

Head coach Russ Jewett was named the MIAA Coach of the Year following the squad's conference championship performance. It marks the 41st time in his decorated tenure that Jewett, who serves as head coach for both men's and women's cross country as well as men's and women's track & field, has received the MIAA coaching honors among the sports.



Senior Jordan Puvogel captured the MIAA individual title, winning the race in 21 minutes, 51.3 seconds.



## Topping 1,000

Shelby Lopez became the 22nd player in the history of the Gorilla women's basketball program to eclipse 1,000 career points on Jan. 26 in a home game against MIAA rival Washburn University. Lopez is a senior nursing major from Wichita.

## Gorilla leader

Jim Johnson is serving as the President of the NCAA Division II Athletic Directors Association during the 2018-19 academic year. Johnson, who is in his ninth year as Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Pittsburg State, also is serving a four-year term as the MIAA representative on the NCAA Division II Management Council.

## GIT graduate scores logo design with NFL

Crista Cunningham (BST '14) didn't grow up a huge football fan but now roots for the Cincinnati Bengals, and with good reason: her logo is worn by the Special Teams Squad.

She uses her major — graphic communications, with an emphasis in graphic design and a minor in commercial art — daily in her job at Pitsco Education as a multimedia graphic artist.

She also has a freelance business designing logos and posters for area organizations, and was happy to help a colleague's brother, who is the Special Teams Coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals and was in search of a logo.

Cunningham said she owes much of her knowledge and skill to



hands-on experiences in Gamma Epsilon Tau, and to her professors. "They don't simply teach how to use software," she said, "but how to be a good communicator and how to see the project globally. This knowledge plays on a continuous loop in my brain when creating a design for clients. The support they offered me inside and outside the classroom was invaluable and I'm grateful for my time there."

## Longtime educator named president

Alumnus Glenn Coltharp was named president of Crowder College in Neosho, Mo.

He's spent the 37 years as an educator after earning three degrees from PSU — his bachelor's, master's, and specialist. His career has included teaching kindergarten, second, and fourth grades, serving as a principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent, and as vice president of Academic Affairs at Crowder.

His wife, Hazel Coltharp, is a professor in the math department and their children are both Gorillas: Jean Coltharp, an assistant professor at MSSU, and Benjamin Coltharp, a senior at PSU.



## (Ret.) Lt. Col. Kenny J. Kunstel

('65 BS, '67 MS) was inducted into the PSU ROTC Hall of Fame during halftime of the military appreciation-themed football game on Nov. 3. An aviator during Vietnam, he went on to become an Army officer with more than two decades of experience in infantry, armor, aviation, research and development, and program management, and worked in the Pentagon. He held several leadership positions in defense-related organizations and associations. In 2007, he received the PSU Meritorious Achievement Award. While on campus earning his degrees in physics, he was active in ROTC, varsity basketball and baseball, and was the president of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

## Vet honored in parade

One of PSU's oldest graduates and Meritorious Achievement Award winner, 100-year-old Lt. Richard Schiefelbusch (BSED '40), was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Lawrence Veterans Day Parade.

Two PSU graduates — Lindsay Hothan Quall ('09 BSEd) and Bret Hothan ('09 BSEd) — carried the banner announcing him and wore their letter jackets.

During WWII, Schiefelbusch flew eight combat missions over France and Germany in a B-24 Liberator, bombing Nazi military targets as part of the 506th Bombardment Squadron of the 44th Bombardment Group.

On one such run, his plane was shot down over the Baltic Sea and he bailed out at 27,000 feet. A German fisherman hauled him out of the water and for two years he was held as a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft and Stalag VIIA.

According to an oral history documented in his papers archived at Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, it was his PSU degree that enabled him to teach classes to keep fellow prisoners occupied.

After liberation, he was discharged and returned to Kansas, where he oversaw the creation of a speech and hearing clinic at KU and founded the Bureau of Child Research and its successor, the Institute for Life Span Studies, which now bears his name.

He also served as director of the Kansas Center for Mental Retardation and Human Development, the Kansas Research Institute in Learning Disabilities, and the Gerontology Center at KU.



Maggie Fleming



Marcella Phelps



Steve Sikorski

## Outstanding Alumni for 2018

A world traveling emergency response director, a special agent for the U.S. Government, and the president of two global manufacturing firms were honored at Homecoming with the 2018 Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award, named for longtime Director of Alumni Relations Ken Bateman.

After earning her degree, Maggie Fleming (BA '01) began traveling the world as a Peace Corps community health and AIDS prevention volunteer stationed in Togo, West Africa; working for the Swiss National Governmental Organization Medair in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and in a position with the International Rescue Committee in South Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Myanmar, Lebanon, Jordan, Central African Republic, and northeastern Nigeria.

She now serves as the Deputy Director of Emergency Response and said that what she learned in communications and history classes still is useful today.

Inspired by courses and faculty in the Kelce College of Business, Marcella Phelps (MBA '02), wound up with a career that included undercover work infiltrating fugitive networks, conducting counterintelligence interrogations, and investigating high-profile fraud cases that “put away a lot of bad guys.”

She currently is a special agent for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General, and often Skypes with students from far-flung locales as a way to pass on what she’s learned.

Steve Sikorski (BSET '96, MET '13), came to PSU from Chicago to pursue a degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and today is the president of MAGMA Foundry Technologies and SIGMA Plastic Services, a company that offers comprehensive solutions to the metal-casing and plastic industries, buyers, designers, and engineers.

Sikorski said faculty helped mold him, and he’s given back by donating \$1 million in licensing of industry “gold standard” casting process simulation and Autonomous Engineering software, MAGMASOFT®, to the College of Technology for student use.

In addition to being celebrated by friends, family, faculty, and administrators at an awards ceremony, the Homecoming parade, and the football game, the alumni spent time on campus visiting classes in their colleges and sharing their experiences with students.

## Grad helps reactivate fraternity

Gamma Chi, the local chapter of the historically African American fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has been reactivated at Pittsburg State University, thanks in part to the leadership of alumnus Damon Broadus (BA '91, MS '94).

He clearly remembers the impact the last reactivation of the chapter had on his life; he was a sophomore when it was brought back in 1989 after being offline since the early 1970s. Having grown up in urban Kansas City, trying to assimilate in a small, white, rural community was a culture shock.

Broadus, a pre-law and social science major, said joining the fraternity changed that; it gave him a group with which he could identify, and “made all the difference,” he said.

He now serves as the Board President of the Brothers of Gamma Chi Educational Foundation, and led the effort to reactivate to pay it forward with the help of Jason Kegler, assistant vice president of Student Life, and Steve Erwin, vice president of Student Life. The process took three years.

Their mission remains the same: “We develop leaders, and promote brotherhood and academic excellence while providing service and advocacy for our community.”



PSU President Steve Scott wishes Jack Overman a happy 100th birthday at a party in his honor last August.



PSU Spirit Squad and sponsor Linda Graham greet Overman, one of PSU's oldest and most colorful cheerleaders.

## Overman celebrated as ardent lifelong Gorilla

Jack Overman, perhaps Pittsburg State's most ardent cheerleader, died on Dec. 8 at age 100, just months after celebrating his centennial birthday with fans of all ages in the student center that bears his name.

Born Aug. 23, 1918, he was known by generations of students, staff, alumni, and community members as a passionate and loveable cheerleader.

"Jack Overman represents everything that's good about Pittsburg State...his passion for Gorilla athletics, his commitment to individual students, and his enduring love for the institution," said President Steve Scott. "His impact on Pitt State has been evident over the past eight decades and certainly will be felt for decades to come."

Overman was employed at PSU when Scott was a student in the 1970s and he had been a classmate of Scott's mother; a signed 1940 yearbook is among Scott's cherished possessions.

"He signed it on a page that included a photo of him decked out as a yell leader and wrote encouraging words to her in the same spirit as he has encouraged me over my time as a faculty member and campus leader," Scott said. "I feel blessed to

think about my family's connection to Jack over all of these years. He left his mark here and on me personally. We should all admire and be forever grateful for the life he has led and the difference he has made."

Overman attended Pittsburg High School, where he was a yell leader. When he enrolled at PSU — then known as the Kansas State Teachers College — in 1936, he continued to perform on the cheer squad at pep rallies and bon fires, convocations, and marches to downtown Pittsburg.

He was a leader, serving as student body president, charter member and past president of the Pep Club, Kappa Delta, and as business manager of the Kanza yearbook.

After graduating in 1940, Overman spent a year as Assistant Dean of Men and then a year with the W.A. Sheaffer Pen Co. He was named executive director of the Pittsburg YMCA and continued to be active there into his 90s, swimming laps each morning.

In 1951, he returned to the university as the first director of the new student center and earned a master's degree in 1954.

The Kansas Board of Regents renamed the student center after him

following his retirement in 1984. In 1986, he was given the Meritorious Achievement Award by PSU Alumni & Constituent Relations and was inducted into the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009.

Overman's trademark cowbell, funny hats, and crimson and gold garb were part of the game-day atmosphere at countless athletic contests.

Perhaps the most remarkable of Overman's achievements was his ability to connect with students. Well into his 80s, he was known to climb onto a picnic table in Gorilla Village to lead a Pitt State cheer.

Overman also was active in the community, including the Pittsburg Rotary Club, First United Methodist Church, YMCA, Salvation Army, Gold Bank, Pritchett Trust, Mount Carmel Foundation, Boy Scouts, and Elm Acres. He was a recipient of the Spirit of Pittsburg Award.

For most of his adult life, he and his wife, Doris, lived across the street from McCray Hall, in a house built by physics professor James Garfield Shirk, and attended numerous university events.

Scott said of Overman's death: "There will never be another Jack."

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## Class of 1940

**Lt. Richard Schiefelbusch** (BSEd) celebrated his 100th birthday and served as the Grand Marshal of the Lawrence, Kan., Veterans Day Parade.

## Class of 1966

**Jim Triplett** (BA, MS '68), a longtime award-winning conservationist and retired biology faculty member, was appointed as the first Special Assistant to the President for Sustainability at PSU.

## Class of 1974

**Christy McNally** (BSEd) was named to the 2019 President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower Excellence in Public Service Class. The program provides a first-class leadership experience for select outstanding

women with the goal of encouraging, mentoring, and preparing them for new levels of government and politics.

**Tony Thiebaut** (BSEd) published a book titled "Fine Lines & Creative Rhymes for Kidults." Tony created the sketches, which were accompanied by poems by Michelle Brittain.

## Class of 1975

**Kirby Brown** (BS, MS '77), who retired after 40 years of military and federal service, was named dean of Park University's College of Management.

**Chuck Smith** (BSEd, MSEd '78 SSLS '98) was inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. He was a two-sport athlete during his time at PSU and was the longest-winning St.

Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools head football coach.

## Class of 1976

**Rob Hefley** (BS, MS '81) was featured on the History Channel's American Pickers television show. The show was filmed at the residence of his late father in Baxter Springs, Kan., and showcased his vast collection.

## Class of 1979

**Paul Grimes** (BS, MS '80) was inducted into the Mississippi Council on Economic Education Hall of Fame. Before returning to PSU as the dean of Kelce College of Business, he served in many positions while working at Mississippi State University, including Professor of Economics and Associate Dean in the College of Business.

## Class of 1980

**DeAnn Hill** (BBA) was named to the 2019 President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower Excellence in Public Service Class. The program provides a first-class leadership experience for select outstanding women with the goal of encouraging, mentoring, and preparing them for new levels of government and politics.

## Class of 1983

**Russ Jewett** (BS, MS '93) was named 2018 MIAA Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year after leading the Gorillas to the program's 10th all-time MIAA Championship in November. This is Jewett's 41st time to receive the honor for his leadership with men's and women's cross country and men's and women's track and field.

## Class of 1984

**Dan Younger** (CERT) competed in the 134th U.S. National Target Championship & U.S. Open in Dublin, Ohio, where he qualified for the Sweet 16. He is currently ranked fourth in



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the nation in the master's archery division.

**Jeff LeBar** (BBA) was named Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer, for American State Bank in Salina, Kan.

#### **Class of 1986**

**Lisa Paterni** (BBA, MBA '96, MS '11) was recognized with the 2018 Kaye Lynne Webb Influential Woman in Business Award by the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Paterni is president of Pitsco Education, where she directs the strategic vision for the Pitsco family of companies and the development of relationships with key industry partners.

#### **Class of 1988**

**Lt. Commander Pat Sweeten** (BM, '89 MM) was named the new director of the United States Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Md.

#### **Class of 1993**

**David Hogard** (BBA, MBA '95) joined the City Council in Frontenac, Kan., replacing longtime member and alumnus AJ Menghini (BS '63).

#### **Class of 2000**

**Kenny Underwood** (BSET, MSET '09) traveled to Stratton Mountain, Vt., where he ran in the North American Obstacle Course Racing Championship. It included 9.3 miles, 4,000 feet of ascent, and 39 obstacles.

#### **Class of 2001**

**Bill Feuerborn** (BGS) was reappointed to a second term on the Kansas Board of Regents. Since joining the board, he's remained invested in Pittsburg State events and activities. In recent years, he was a guest speaker at the opening ceremony of the Robert W. Plaster Center and attended the unveiling

of the renovated Overman Student Center.

#### **Class of 2002**

**Jessica Clements** (BS) was named a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Being named a "Fellow" honors members who have distinguished themselves by their contributions in research, education, or leadership in the medical physics community.

#### **Class of 2005**

**Dawn Oldenettel** (MSEd) was selected as a 2018 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. She is the principal of St. John's Lutheran School in West Bend, Wis.

*continued*

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## Class of 2006

**Katie Sawyer** (BA) was named to the 2019 President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower Excellence in Public Service Class. The program provides a first-class leadership experience for select outstanding women with the goal of encouraging, mentoring, and preparing them for new levels of government and politics.

## Class of 2007

**Amy Bartlow** (BS, MS '14) was honored as a Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association distinguished paper winner. She presented her research at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association in New York, N.Y.

**Quentin Holmes** (BST) was named director of Community Development and Housing for the City of Pittsburg, Kan. Originally from Basehor, Kan., he has served in many roles in the Pittsburg community; he and his wife, Monica, own The Cheer Pitt.

**Josh Lutz** (BST) was promoted to Market Segment Manager at Nazdar Ink Technologies. He now manages the entire product line lifecycle, from strategic planning to tactical activities for Nazdar-manufactured UV inkjet products.

**Samantha Reinecke** (BSEd, MSEd '16 SLS '18) – Crowned Mrs. United States this past July. Samantha is a special education teacher in Chanute, Kan., and previously held the title of Mrs. Midwest.

**Kelly Shaer** (BBA, MBA '09) was promoted to director at James Moore & Company, P.L. in Gainesville, Fla.

## Class of 2010

**Arice Pittman** (BSEd, MS '16) was hired as a defensive line coach at Southern Arkansas University. He was a two-time captain and a four-

year letterman for Gorilla Football. He also served as a graduate assistant for the team.

## Class of 2011

**Aaron Anders** (BST) was promoted to full-time photographer at the Salina (Kan.) Journal. He worked part-time for the newspaper for almost five years.

**Alex Kuhlman** (BS '11) and Bailey Kuhlman (BS '13 BSN '13 MSN '17) opened Physi-Kuhl Therapy in downtown Pittsburg.

**Ramiro Miranda Rios** (BS), assistant professor of violin, viola, and conductor of orchestras at Emporia State University, was accepted to the prestigious Nadia Boulanger Institute in Paris, France.

## Class of 2012

**Barbara Hilt** (MA) was one of three named the 2018 Crystal Apple Teachers of Finney County. She was also the recipient of the College of Education's Outstanding Secondary Educator Award.

**Kelly Stringer** (BS, MS '15) was hired as the new Unit Marketing Coordinator for Sodexo at PSU. She is responsible for promoting Sodexo services via social media and in print and digital communications.

## Class of 2013

**Nate Dreiling** (BGS) was promoted in the 2018 season as PSU Football's defensive coordinator after serving as Safeties Coach the season prior. During his collegiate career as a Gorilla, Dreiling was a four-time All-American linebacker, garnered NCAA Division II National Defensive Player of the Year, and led PSU to an NCAA Division II National Championship in 2011.

**Gabe Hayes** (BST) was honored as one of the 2018 Emerging Manufacturing Leaders at the annual

Dream It Do It Oklahoma Makers, Builders, and Dreamers Breakfast. He is an engineering manager at Wood Systems, Inc. in Tulsa, Okla.

## Class of 2014

**Crista Cunningham** (BST) created a logo for the Cincinnati Bengals Special Teams. She works at Pitsco Education as a multimedia graphic artist, and she also has a freelance design business.

## Class of 2015

**Blaze Heckert** (BS, MS '16) presented his doctoral research at the International Astronautical Congress in Germany. His research focus was improving materials used in aerospace components to better absorb energy and reduce vibration. He is pursuing his doctoral degree in materials science and engineering at Oklahoma State University at Tulsa.

## Class of 2017

**Sam Galliard** (BST) was featured in AWI's Design Solutions Magazine.

**Magali Chase Mallorquín** (BS) sang at the Miss Paraguay Pageant at Hotel Guarani.

## Class of 2018

**Abbey McCandless** (BS) was recently hired as a designer at Grooms Office Environments, a full-service commercial furniture dealership based in Springfield, Mo.

**Frank Papish** (BS), KBI Assistant Director, was elected and installed as the Second Vice President of the FBI National Academy. This leadership role is the first step toward the executive board.

**Stephanie Powers** (BS) placed fourth in the Best DJ Audio national competition. This award was the first national award earned by a PSU student in radio. She is the Program Director of KKOW 96.9.

## In Memory

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

### Unknown Year

**Ginny (Fiaccavento) Schneider**,  
Frontenac, Kan.

**Walter L. Shear**, Rowland Heights, Calif.

### 1920

**Fannie (Smiley) Flower**, Topeka, Kan.

### 1938

**Ray Rowland**, Leawood, Kan.

### 1940

**Betty (Dorsey) Smith**, Patoka, Ind.

### 1941

**Fay M. (Degan) Jacoby**, Newton, Mass.

### 1943

**Eva M. (Dorsey) Kreisher**, Cary, N.C.

### 1949

**Leon Foster**, Independence, Kan.

### 1950

**Kenneth D. Furlow**, Concord, Calif.

**Charles T. Rinkel, Jr.**, Johnson, Iowa

**James H. Shanks**, Columbus, Kan.

**John F. Vitt**, Sacramento, Calif.

### 1951

**Ruth A. (Bauersfeld) Blue**, Melbourne, Fla.

**Robert J. Colson**, New Braunfels, Texas

**Harold L. Kirk**, Leawood, Kan.

**Vil Lindeman**, Tampa, Fla.

**Patrick J. Massmann**, Richland, Wash.

### 1952

**Shirley C. (Monroe) Barker**,

Spirit Lake, Idaho

**Dorothy A. (Wolfe) Conklin**,

Bartlesville, Okla.

**Lloyd L. Duncan**, Wichita, Kan.

*continued on pg. 44*



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1953

**Martha J. (Barta) McClintick**,  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

1954

**Bob G. Palmer**, La Quinta, Calif.

1955

**Tex Crutcher**, Springfield, Mo.

**Nadine L. (Stocker) Johnson**,  
Pittsburg, Kan.

**Del G. Ruff**, Hutchinson, Kan.

1956

**Ted H. Condos**, Colorado Springs, Colo.

1957

**Jerry E. Linthicum**, Frontenac, Kan.

1958

**Patricia E. (Seaton) Hearson**,  
Crawfordsville, Ind.

**Glenn E. McCullough**, Nevada, Mo.

**Lloyd L. Ott**, Derby, Kan.

1959

**Thomas L. Bair**, Joplin, Mo.

**Wendell D. Barrow**, Girard, Kan.

**Jerry E. George**, Scottsdale, Ariz.

1960

**Wesley D. Buller, Sr.**, Lawrence, Kan.

**Frances A. (Crain) La Forte**,  
Galveston, Texas

**James A. Pollock**, Independence, Kan.

1961

**Roy F. Cagle**, Joplin, Mo.

**Mary Ann Setter**, Overland Park, Kan.

1962

**Leonard E. Bierman**, Kansas City, Kan.

**Bob D. Blakenship**, Richland, Wash.

**Marjorie A. (Swinney) Frankenbery**,  
Altoona, Kan.

**Donna E. (Longerot) Garthwaite**,  
Hutton, Texas

**Carl A. Hendon**, Lawrence, Kan.

**Gary D. Hill**, Ponca City, Okla.

**Verlene M. (Framer) Ringgenberg**,  
Cushing, Okla.

**Deen A. Ruppelius**, Wagoner, Okla.

1963

**Donna L. Commons**, Hays, Kan.

**Nancy V. (Thomas) Cummins**, Olathe, Kan.

**Helen J. Hight**, Carthage, Mo.

**Roscoe L. Jontra**, Fredonia, Kan.

**James R. Towner**, Pittsburg, Kan.

**Shirley A. (Farnsworth) Wigton**,  
Sedan, Kan.

1964

**David A. Drachenberg**, Bella Vista, Ark.

**Soloman A. Evans**, Yates Center, Kan.

**Dallas F. Reynolds**, Joplin, Mo.

**Ronald G. Tucker**, Chanute, Kan.

**Leslie H. Van Winkle**, Coffeyville, Kan.

**Tim E. Witty**, Elkhorn, Neb.

**Richard D. Worley, Jr.**, Aledo, Texas

1965

**Duane Bechtle**, Wichita, Kan.

**Marvin D. West**, Overland Park, Kan.

1966

**Ann E. (Brewer) Gafford**, Raymond, N.H.

**Edna W. (Spohn) Hollis**, Fredonia, Kan.

**Frank G. Little**, Pittsburg, Kan.

**Judith A. (Cochran) Rodgers**,  
Louisburg, Kan.

**Sheila K. (Kelly) Warick**, Ochelata, Okla.

1967

**Douglas T. Adams**, Topeka, Kan.

**Warren L. Cooksey**, Russell, Kan.

**Betty R. (Amsler) Keezer**, Neosho, Kan.

**Richard N. Parsons**, McCune, Kan.

**Linda J. (Robertson) Sutherland**,  
Argyle, Texas

**Donna J. Taylor**, Normal, Ill.

1968

**Dean Alloway**, Edna, Kan.

**Norman R. Bair**, Roswell, N.M.

**John E. Benson**, Overland Park, Kan.

**Dixie A. (Gail) Collins**, Chetopa, Kan.

**Jeanne M. (Kramer) Cooper**, Iola, Kan.

**Show C. Ho**, Peachtree City, Ga.

**Bert E. Mahon**, Deer Park, Wash.

**James D. Moody**, Hot Springs, Ark.

**Carolyn K. (Krueger) Nichols**, Galena, Kan.

**John G. Tripp**, Claremore, Okla.

1969

**James M. Berthot**, Venice, Fla.

**John C. Biddle**, Marshfield, Mo.

**Shirley F. Hansen**, Joplin, Mo.

**Wanda J. (Holly) Jenkins**, Grandview, Mo.

**Mildred P. (Lusebrink) Tanner**,  
Jefferson City, Mo.

**James E. Wilson**

1970

**Rebecca A. (Ball) Goodman**, Ottawa, Kan.

**Stephan D. Hite**, Pittsburg, Kan.

**Randall W. Lewis**

**Auman L. Medley**, Joplin, Mo.

**Leland D. Wood**, Fort Scott, Kan.

1971

**Bernard V. Hurt**, Tonganoxie, Kan.

**John R. Koschin**, Independence, Kan.

**Janet A. Postler**, Neodesha, Kan.

**Robert S. Rose**, Lenexa, Kan.

**Patricia A. (Williamson) Turnbull**,  
Aurora, Mo.

**Walter A. Wigton**, Sedan, Kan.

1972

**Gladys L. (Rench) Davis**, Broken Arrow, Okla.

**Patricia G. (Dwight) Hamilton**, Basehor, Kan.

**Anne Marie (Caruso) Hudson**,  
Pittsburg, Kan.

**Mike P. Jarrett**, Gardner, Kan.

**Pedro Muriel**, Fort Worth, Texas

**Marjorie E. (Nelson) Stanley**, Buffalo, Mo.

1973

**Dana K. Anderson**, Emporia, Kan.

**Cheryl A. (Freeman) Bolack**,  
Arkansas City, Kan.

**Owen A. Dunlap**, Girard, Kan.

1974

**Robert E. Hill**, Girard, Kan.

1975

**Greg T. Bumgarner**, Fort Worth, Texas

**Wendell I. Ross**, Wyandotte, Okla.

**Clinton O. Stubblefield**, Richards, Mo.

1976

**Robert A. Emmert**, Branson, Mo.

**William G. Lang**, Kersey, Colo.

**Mark Loy**, Pittsburg, Kan.

1977

**Marsha M. (Kellogg) Butler**, Olathe, Kan.

**Cecil L. Dawes**, Lawrence, Kan.

**Thomas A. Erwin**, Newton, Kan.

**Elsie A. (Adams) Fly**, Fort Scott, Kan.

**Quintella Fulton**, Parsons, Kan.

**William L. Lisk**, Siloam Springs, Ark.

**Charisse L. (Senecaut) Naylor**, Girard, Kan.

1978

**Michael R. Hull**, Chanute, Kan.

**David E. Potter**, Overland Park, Kan.

1979

**Georgianne L. (Irvin) Christian**,  
Stone Mountain, Ga.

**Robert W. Crook**, Lowgap, N.C.

**Joseph J. Huckaby**, Kansas City, Mo.

1980

**Kenneth L. Crook**, St. Paul, Kan.

**Rudy W. Polchlopek**, Pittsburg, Kan.

**S. Elaine (Jones) Shewmake**,  
Webb City, Mo.

1981

**Kenneth R. Bailey**, Stella, Mo.  
**Daniel L. Bales**, Mesa, Ariz.

1982

**David L. Dunlap**, Georgetown, Texas  
**Douglas A. Walsh**, Lawrence, Kan.

1983

**Paula J. Ross**, Topeka, Kan.

1984

**William E. McDowell, Jr.**, Jasper, Mo.  
**Randolph N. Russell**, Gardner, Kan.

1985

**Judy A. (Wilhite) Bay**, Woodburn, Iowa  
**Janese A. (Keitar) Correll**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Tim D. Lundberg**, Arma, Kan.  
**Gary A. Shepard**, Cherryville, Kan.

1988

**Neil D. Holloway**, Lexington, N.C.

1989

**Patricia C. Current**, Saint Joseph, Mo.

1990

**Christine D. (Herrenbruck) Crandon**,  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
**Melissa L. (Brown) Massman**,  
Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Susan E. (Lydick) O'Bryan**, Uniontown, Kan.  
**Don D. Stogsdill**, North Miami, Okla.  
**David J. Wilson**, Williamsburg, Kan.

1992

**Billie J. (Kaze) Trahin**, Baxter Springs, Kan.

1993

**Bill R. Harman**, Arma, Kan.  
**Rochelle A. (Quick) Meister**, Owasso, Okla.

1994

**Thomas D. Polk**, Wichita, Kan.

1995

**Daniel E. Hall**, Fort Scott, Kan.

1997

**Chris J. Allen**, Jasper, Ind.  
**Brett A. Johnson**, Wichita, Kan.

1999

**Christina S. (Giffin) Lawlor**, Lenexa, Kan.  
**Kim K. (Folk) Lay**, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Nancy M. (Bauder) Lemieux**, Girard, Kan.

2000

**Lori E. Vinson**, Pittsburg, Kan.

2002

**Audrey B. Gardner**, Iola, Kan.  
**Eric Hatcher**, Chanute, Kan.

2003

**Jay Hodges**, Mulberry, Kan.

2006

**Clint D. Barker**

2009

**Donald R. Peterson, Jr.**, Golden City, Mo.

2013

**Jordon T. Binyon**, Wichita, Kan.

2018

**Jacob Bryan Clark**, Lee's Summit, Mo.

## In Memory

Pittsburg State faculty and staff

**Donald L. Bigelow**, Sheldon, Mo.  
**James A. Geier**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Steve M. Hefley**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Neal E. Hinton**, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Jay Hodges**, Mulberry, Kan.  
**Jean (Ensman) McClaskey**, Richland, Wash.  
**Wilma B. Minton**, Sun City West, Ariz.  
**Jack H. Overman**, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Ginny (Fiaccavento) Schneider**, Frontenac, Kan.  
**Walter L. Shear**, Rowland Heights, Calif.

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# PSU Foundation Spotlight:

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## Ida Spradling Locarni

WHILE FAMILY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE to Ida Locarni, she also has a passion for music. Her long-time involvement with Pittsburg State University has included both.

Through the Helen S. Boylan Foundation, named for her late sister, Locarni has helped to support the Women in Government Lecture Series since its founding in 2001. Her brother, the late Jim Spradling, collaborated with University staff to establish the lecture series to encourage women to become involved in public service.

It has brought to campus such notables as First Lady Laura Bush and former Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. Last fall, broadcast journalist Soledad O'Brien inspired middle school, high school, and university students to pursue their dreams and make a difference.

Locarni, with her daughter, nieces, a nephew, and other board members oversee the foundation's philanthropy.

But Locarni first became involved with PSU in the 1970s when she decided to pursue a master's degree in music. After a professional career as an opera singer, she returned to her hometown in Carthage, Mo., to marry and have a family. Having earned a bachelor's



Ida Locarni

degree in vocal performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, she joined the music faculty of Missouri Southern State University to share her passion with students.

A fellow faculty member encouraged her to pursue a master's degree with the well-known and respected PSU vocal music professor, the late Margaret Thuenneman — or “Miss T,” as many will remember her. Locarni, who earned her master's degree in music from PSU in 1978 described her as “absolutely wonderful.”

Because of that experience and her love of music, Locarni established a scholarship for vocal performance students in the PSU Music Department. She was honored last fall with a Presidents Society donor recognition gift for her long-time support of the University and the Music Department.

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Pittsburg, KS 66762-7500

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March 21 ... Springfield Gorilla Gathering Dinner

March 28... Northwest Arkansas Gorilla Gathering Dinner

April 2..... Bourbon County & Neosho County County Gorilla  
Gathering Dinner at Block22

April 9..... Cherokee County & Labette County Gorilla Gathering  
Dinner at Block22

April 11 ..... Joplin Area Gorilla Gathering Dinner at Block22

April 18..... Wilson County Gorilla Gathering Dinner

May 2 ..... Wichita Area  
After Hours

**Dates are subject to change.**

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*See page 15.*

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