A friendship that changed lives.

PERFECT MATCH
From the editor
We hope you enjoy this spring issue of the PittState Magazine as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

In this issue are some things we hope you will find fun and helpful. In addition to the ever popular Where in the World is Gus photos and class notes, you’ll find some odd looking things called QR codes. Tech-savy readers with smart phones and the right apps can scan the codes and link to a video story. Even if you aren’t packing the coolest digital equipment, you can see the latest news and video stories at www.pittstate.edu or look for us on Facebook.

Send us your class notes, letters, comments and suggestions by e-mail to psumag@pittstate.edu or by mail to University Marketing and Communication, 106 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762.
Letters

From the editor:
Most of our mail for this issue was in response to our story on ‘60s fashions, which included a number of photos of unidentified students. These old photos clearly brought back some wonderful memories. Thanks for sharing! – Ron

To the editor,
(In the) Photo on p. 20, upper right, Phil Adams is leftmost. (I) don’t recognize the two in the middle. Rightmost is me, Bruce McReynolds. (The) hat with the yarn around it is worn by Danny Resnick. I believe that Danny works or worked for Kansas SRS. I work at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, N.M.

Bruce McReynolds
(BA ’68, MS ’71)

To the editor,
Baby Boomer Fashions brought back memories. It is ironic that in the memory section you note the passing of the very first ‘hippie’ at KSC. Gerald Johnson was an art major and in about 1964 he grew his hair long, grew a full beard and wore clothes he obtained from the Salvation Army. Everyone thought he was strange and students were afraid to be seen walking with him on campus. A year or two later, other students began growing long hair and of course the rest is history.

My wife and I were art majors, attending KSC from 1963 – 1968, when we received our masters in art degrees.

Dwight Pogue

To the editor,
My name is Katie Kershner and my father, Ken Kershner, graduated from PSU in Dec. of 1970. He recognizes a couple of people in the Fall 2010 article “The ‘60s.” The gentleman in the middle of page 20 that is pictured by himself in a white shirt, my father said, is John Thomas. On page 21, the picture of the guy at the bottom right hand corner, my father said, is Tim Hervey.

My father, John Thomas, and Tim Hervey were all members of Lambda Chi. Thanks for the memories!!

Katie

To the editor,
I received my fall Pitt State Magazine and the article regarding Baby Boomer fashions on page 20-21 made me take a second look. I “think” the picture of the girl with all the books may be me. I graduated from high school in 1965 and started my first semester at Pitt State that summer. I graduated with a degree in social work in December 1970. My husband is a resident hall advisor and had to answer the one phone in the dorm after hours. Students had no dorm refrigerators, but big LP records, eight tracks in cars, TV in lounges with three channels and the platitude of knowing that Pittsburg was rated in Playboy as one of the top ten party schools. Animal House wasn’t even a movie yet.

As a female with mini-skirts and platform shoes, I remember that hair dryers were not invented and barbed-wire curlers were used to facilitate the painful ‘retro’ look. Often girls had to use the wall hand dryers to erase wet hair after swimming in the old gymnasium pool before attending classes. Males in ROTC had to hide their long hair with wigs. All ladies had to wear skirts on campus until 5 p.m. Jeans were not allowed. Luckily for that time period, longer ‘granny’ coats and skirts became popular to stop freezing derrieres. Polyester, the manmade fabric from Hell, allowed the paisleys, large collars, striped bell bottoms and plaids (stereotypical of the 2010 show “Mad Men”) to reign in style. We did sweat a lot in spring in summer, however without breathable clothing. We had plenty of time to prep since dorms were not coed and doors were locked by midnight on weekends. I was a resident hall advisor and had to answer the one phone in the dorm after hours. Students had no dorm refrigerators, but big LP records, eight tracks in cars, TV in lounges with three channels and the platitude of knowing that Pittsburg was rated in Playboy as one of the top ten party schools. Animal House wasn’t even a movie yet.

This Baby Boomer remembers the athletic wear of basketball and track stars with tight shorts, baggy sweats and plain converse shoes. The tennis team used wooden rackets and the football team

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This Baby Boomer remembers the athletic wear of basketball and track stars with tight shorts, baggy sweats and plain converse shoes. The tennis team used wooden rackets and the football team

Mystery girl...

To the editor,
(On) Page 21, (the) photo of the girl at the bookstore is of Martha Wendell.

Jane Riseling (BS ’64, MS ’68)

To the editor,
I “think” the picture of the girl with all the books may be me. I graduated from high school in 1965 and started my first semester at Pitt State that summer. I graduated with a degree in social work in December 1970. My husband is a resident hall advisor and had to answer the one phone in the dorm after hours. Students had no dorm refrigerators, but big LP records, eight tracks in cars, TV in lounges with three channels and the platitude of knowing that Pittsburg was rated in Playboy as one of the top ten party schools. Animal House wasn’t even a movie yet.

This Baby Boomer remembers the athletic wear of basketball and track stars with tight shorts, baggy sweats and plain converse shoes. The tennis team used wooden rackets and the football team

To the editor,
The ‘60s fashion article was a walk down memory lane in the PittsState fall magazine. The lovely black woman under the title was Ann Betis. She was a history graduate student and was the first Black Homecoming Queen who advocated Black Pride 1969. That fall was the first time there were two homecoming queens: a black and a white. The John Lennon look brought flashbacks to my freshman year in 1968-1969 as a rural white Gloria Steinham wanna be. As a female with mini-skirts and platform shoes, I remember that hair dryers were not invented and barbed-wire curlers were used to facilitate the painful ‘retro’ look. Often girls had to use the wall hand dryers to erase wet hair after swimming in the old gymnasium pool before attending classes. Males in ROTC had to hide their long hair with wigs. All ladies had to wear skirts on campus until 5 p.m. Jeans were not allowed. Luckily for that time period, longer ‘granny’ coats and skirts became popular to stop freezing derrieres. Polyester, the manmade fabric from Hell, allowed the paisleys, large collars, striped bell bottoms and plaids (stereotypical of the 2010 show “Mad Men”) to reign in style. We did sweat a lot in spring in summer, however without breathable clothing. We had plenty of time to prep since dorms were not coed and doors were locked by midnight on weekends. I was a resident hall advisor and had to answer the one phone in the dorm after hours. Students had no dorm refrigerators, but big LP records, eight tracks in cars, TV in lounges with three channels and the platitude of knowing that Pittsburg was rated in Playboy as one of the top ten party schools. Animal House wasn’t even a movie yet.

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To the editor,
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This Baby Boomer remembers the athletic wear of basketball and track stars with tight shorts, baggy sweats and plain converse shoes. The tennis team used wooden rackets and the football team
Corrections
To the editor,
I would like to offer a correction to a comment made in your article about Melissa Roush (“Cadet honored with rare military awards,” Fall 2010 issue). In it Captain Johnson said, “that to our knowledge, this is the first time that anyone from our department has ever received this award,” referring to the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award. Actually, I am aware of two other times it has been awarded to members of this department, in 1961 to Andrew Johnson, and in 1962 to me.
I am a 1963 graduate of the university, and enjoy reading the Pitt State Magazine. It’s an excellent publication.

Edward Finley
Legion of Valor
Bronze Cross Award, 1962

Mr. Finley, thanks for the updated information. To learn that at least two other PSU alumni received such a high honor makes us even more proud!

— Ron

Kay German Bunn, 1968-1972
Ft. Scott, Kansas
A reason to celebrate!

The 10-year, $120-million Campaign for Pittsburg State University came to a conclusion with fireworks and celebration last September. All told, the campaign raised $122,727,266 for everything from scholarships to major capital improvements on campus.

PSU President Steve Scott said the campaign has made the university much stronger than it would have been had the fundraising effort not taken place.

“Just imagine what Pittsburg State University would be today if we had not embarked on this ambitious plan a decade ago,” Scott said. The results are impressive. Student scholarships were doubled, and money was targeted for student development, campus internationalization and the Faculty of Distinction program. Bricks-and-mortar projects included the Student Recreation Center and Kansas National Guard Armory, the Bryant Student Health Center, the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, the Tyler Research Center, the Jungletron, the Bicknell Sports Complex and the expansion of Carnie Smith Stadium.

“The Campaign for Pittsburg State University has been successful because of the hard work and generosity of loyal friends and alumni of the university,” Scott said. “We want to thank them and take time to reflect on how their support has transformed this great university.”

Dr. Brad Hodson, vice president for university advancement, said the campaign demonstrated a bold vision for PSU.

“Ten years ago, a $120 million campaign was very rare for a public university our size,” Hodson said. “It was admittedly ambitious, but our success is proof that to succeed, you need to dream big.”

Healthy numbers

Pittsburg State is setting records both for the conferring of degrees and for enrollment. In 2010, PSU granted 1,648 degrees, breaking a record set just the year before. At the same time, fall 2010 headcount enrollment was 7,131, just under the record of 7,277 set in 2009.

PSU officials said healthy enrollment increases in several categories helped offset the record numbers lost through graduation.

“Headcount is off just a bit, but we’re teaching more credit hours than ever before and setting records in other categories,” said President Steve Scott. “The university continues to be on an upward trend of moderate, managed growth,” Scott said. “We had an increase of almost 8 percent in zero-hour freshmen and a nearly 24 percent increase in new graduate students. The number of students from Missouri and Oklahoma in the Gorilla Advantage program also increased by about 5 percent.”

Dr. Bill Ivy, dean of enrollment management and student success, said that despite the small decrease in headcount, the university was pleased with the numbers and what they mean for PSU’s future. He said a breakdown of the fall numbers showed some very positive signs for the university looking ahead.

“This fall, there are 1,253 students living in the residence halls,” Ivy said. “That’s a 19 percent increase over last year and the most in the university’s history.”

Ivy said the number of veterans on campus is also increasing, in part because of the new GI Bill. In the fall, 205 veterans were enrolled at PSU, a 53 percent increase since 2008. Of those, 87 are studying under the new GI Bill.

The university is also looking to northwest Arkansas as an important area for growth in the future. In 2010, the Kansas Board of Regents approved the university’s request to add two counties in northwest Arkansas to its Gorilla Advantage program.
Kudos to good ol’ PSU

We all know why we love PSU, but it’s always good to hear nice things from others. In 2010, PSU was singled out for praise by the Princeton Review, U.S. News and World Report and by G.I. Jobs.

The Princeton Review listed Pitt State on its list of the best universities in the Midwest. The Review quoted students who liked PSU’s smaller size “with a bigger university atmosphere,” its affordability and professors who are knowledgeable and are “always more than willing to help” outside of class.

U.S. News and World Report also took note of Pittsburg State, including it in its annual report on “Best Colleges 2011.” In the 12-state Midwest area, which includes the states of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio, PSU was ranked 22nd among regional public universities.

G.I. Jobs magazine, meanwhile, included PSU on its list of Military Friendly Schools for 2011. According to the magazine, “the list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s veterans as students.” Criteria for making the military friendly schools list included the university’s efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students and academic accreditations.

Housing transformation

The major transformation of on-campus housing continued at a rapid pace in 2010 with the completion of a complex featuring new style of housing for students and the renovation of another of PSU’s existing residence halls.

Officials snipped yards of crimson ribbon in October to officially open Crimson Commons, a 200-bed, $10-million apartment-style housing complex on Joplin Street. It was the first new student housing constructed on campus since 1966.

The Crimson Commons dedication occurred just weeks after the university celebrated a $1.2 million renovation of Trout Hall, which was opened in 1955. Trout Hall houses 115 students and is the second of the university’s existing residence halls to be renovated as part of a six-year program to upgrade all of the university’s existing housing.

In the fall of 2010, a record 1,253 students lived in university residence halls.

Mapping the future

In 1917 a Kansas City architectural firm sketched the university’s first master plan. The Oval, framed by academic buildings, remains today one of PSU’s signature features. Another Kansas City architectural firm began work in recent months on a campus master plan that could lay the foundation for what the campus will look like even into the next century.

“It’s pretty typical to look at a new master plan every 10 years,” said Paul Stewart, PSU’s director of facilities planning. “It’s an opportunity to align curriculum with facilities and the need for space. It will be a broad vision.”

Representatives with the firm of Gould Evans spent the fall semester learning about the campus and meeting with various groups about campus needs, sustainability goals, integrating curriculum into facilities planning, and how the next 10 years of master planning can improve learning as well as student recruitment and retention.

In October, the architects unveiled

(continued on pg. 6)
Mapping the future (from pg. 5)
drawings reflecting general concepts that could form the foundation for a new campus master plan. Stressing that the drawings were representative of concepts and should not be taken literally, Architects Steve Clark and Dennis Straight outlined five possible ways the campus could develop over the coming decade.

“We implore you to look at them as sketches,” Clark said. “What we’re really looking for in terms of feedback is which of these arrangements, which of these patterns of buildings make sense to you in a broad brush sort of way.”

Clark said that the feedback the company gets from the sketches will help guide the team as it advances toward its goal of a specific recommendation.

“As we move toward focusing on one, two or a hybrid of these, we’ll start taking care of the details,” Clark said.

Information on the master plan, including timelines and concepts may be found at www.pittstate.edu/masterplan.

Nursing earns reaccreditation
Every year the standards seem to change and the bar gets higher, but PSU’s Department of Nursing continues to meet and even exceed the requirements for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In the fall, the CCNE awarded PSU’s BSN and MSN degree programs accreditation for 10 years, the maximum time period allowed.

“This was a real A-team effort for that kind of outcome to be achieved in this kind of environment,” Mary Carol Pomatto, department chairperson, said.

Pomatto noted that in her five years leading the department, the national standards the department must meet have changed at least three times.

“The bar for accountability is constantly rising,” she said.

Pomatto said the accreditation team met with PSU nursing students, members of the nursing program’s advisory board, representatives of the hospitals where students receive clinical experience and others. In every instance, Pomatto said, the evaluators came away impressed.

“These people were completely wowed by our students,” Pomatto said.

“They felt they (the students) represented well the future of nursing.”

For more information, contact the PSU Department of Nursing at 620-235-4431 or visit their website at www.pittstate.edu/nursing/.

Kyrgyzstan students find home at Pittsburg State
When business professor Choong Lee received his first international education grant nine years ago, he was soon making inroads in Central Asian countries that might have students interested in American study. Those recruitment efforts paid off this year when two students from the country of Kyrgyzstan arrived at PSU, marking the first time the university has ever welcomed degree-seeking students from that country.

Cousins Adilet Saralinov and Aiperi Imankolov arrived last fall after making the two-day journey from their home in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, which borders China and Kazakhstan. Imankolov, who graduated from the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, was eager for the opportunity to study in the United States. She and Saralinov are both studying business and finance at PSU.

“We like Pittsburg so much,” said Imankolov.

“This is the best opportunity I’ve ever had. It was scary at first to be so far away from my parents and family, but I’m glad to be here.”

Dr. Lee, who has been awarded nearly $500,000 in grant money since 2002, said the positive reputation of PSU is spreading in that part of the world.

“That area has become more critical than ever for world peace, and the leaders there understand that education is the key to developing their country,” he said.

“There are a lot of families there watching Adilet and Aiperi to see how they do. I can see many students in the future following them here.”

Adilet Saralinov and Aiperi Imankolov
2011 Fine Arts Calendar

Art Department
Lecture and reception dates and times to be announced. Contact sbowman@pittstate.edu or call 620-235-4305 for more information.

UNIVERSITY GALLERY
Porter Hall
February 4 – March 4, 2011
Visual Territory
National Juried Exhibit: Sherry Leedy, juror
Closing Reception: March 4; 6-9 p.m.

March 10 – April 7, 2011
Art Department Biannual Faculty Exhibit
Reception: March 11; 5-8 p.m.

April 11 – May 10, 2011
Michael Aurbach
Sculpture
Nashville, Tenn.
Lecture/Reception: TBA

HARRY KRUG GALLERY
Porter Hall
March 11- April 12, 2011
Collective Fusion:
A Salon Style Non-juried Exhibit by PSU Faculty & Staff
Opening and Reception: March 11; 5-8 p.m.

PSU Theatre Productions
For ticket information on PSU Theatre productions visit www.pittstate.edu/office/tickets/or call 620-235-4716.

“The Water’s Edge”
March 3-5, 8 p.m., and March 6, 2 p.m.
PSU Studio Theatre

“Woman in Mind”
April 28-30, 8 p.m., and May 1, 2 p.m.
PSU Studio Theatre

PALS/Theatre
Performing Arts and Lecture Series: for ticket information and prices, go to www.pittstate.edu/office/tickets/pals.dot.

April 19
Tracy Silverman, violin
7 p.m., U-Club, Overman Student Center (tickets required)

Music Department

FEBRUARY
20 ............... PSU/SEK Symphony
3 p.m., Memorial Auditorium, (tickets required)

28 ............... University Band Concert
7:30 p.m., Overman Student Center

MARCH
4 ............... PSU Jazz Festival Concert
United States Army Jazz Ambassadors
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium, (tickets required)

6 ............... PSU Choir
3 p.m., McCray Hall

10 ............... PSU Chamber Winds
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

APRIL
7 ............... PSU Chamber Orchestra
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

8 & 10 ........... PSU Opera Workshop
7:30 p.m. April 8, and 3 p.m. April 10, McCray Hall

12 ..................... PSU Band Concert
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

18 ...... Waddill Chamber Music Concert
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

25 ..................... University Band Concert
7:30 p.m., Overman Student Center

26 ..................... PSU Jazz Ensembles
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

MAY
1 ..................... PSU Oratorio Concert
3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 415 N. Pine, Pittsburg

5 ...... Four-State Band Festival Concert
7 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

SOLO & CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES
All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. in McCray Hall. Tickets are available at the door and by calling the PSU Ticket Office at 620-235-4796.

March 11..... Adam Holzman, guitar
April 1 .......... Chatham Baroque

Jump start for the arts

Although President Steve Scott was one of the first to caution that “there’s still a lot of work to do,” advocates for the construction of a fine and performing arts building on campus were encouraged in August when the university took the step of hiring an architectural firm to begin planning for the new facility.

Representatives from ACI/Frangkiser Hutchens, Inc., an architectural firm with offices in Leawood, Kan.; Kansas City, Mo.; and St. Louis, Mo., began meeting with various groups on campus in the fall to begin the complicated process of matching hopes and dreams with programs and resources.

The construction of a fine and performing arts building has been discussed almost from the day old Carney Hall was vacated in 1978. In his opening remarks to faculty in August, the president listed the fine and performing arts building as one area of strategic focus for the coming year.

“I want to energize the campus (around this project),” President Scott said. “Hiring an architect is a huge step forward.”

The dream got a jump start in recent years with a $10 million anonymous pledge. The university now has $6 million of that pledge in hand, Scott said, and it is time to make the dream a little less abstract so additional funding can be pursued.
from The Oval

What’s that funny looking box?

PSU Homecoming is just around the corner! Visit the Pitt State website, www.pittstate.edu for a schedule of upcoming activities.

October 10-15
Homecoming 2011

Selected stories in this edition of the Pitt State Magazine have been enhanced to include a new feature called a QR (Quick Response) Code. This small, square image is a type of two-dimensional barcode that allows us to share additional photos, video, audio, and other story content with you.

HOW TO USE QR CODES
In order to scan a QR code, you will need a device like a smartphone with a camera and QR code reader installed (some phones may come with this feature). Below are some instructions for getting a reader for Android based phones and iPhones. If your mobile device uses a different operating system, you may still be able to install a QR code reader – just consult your phone’s documentation.

Installation on Android
1. Open the “Market” from your home screen.
2. Press the search button on the Android keyboard and search for “zxing.”
3. Select the application named “Barcode Scanner.”
4. Press the Install button.
   If you are prompted to provide elevated access to your device, press the OK button to confirm.

Installation on iPhone
1. Open the “App Store” from your home screen.
2. Select the “Search” option at the bottom of the screen.
3. Search for “QR AT&T”.
4. Touch the application named “AT&T Code Scanner.”
5. Touch the “Free” icon at the top of the screen. It will change to an “Install” icon.
6. Touch the “Install” icon that just appeared.
7. Enter your iTunes password if prompted.

Once your application is downloaded and installed, the scanner can be launched by selecting it from your device’s home screen. After it has opened, simply point your phone at the QR code on the page, and the application will give you options as to what you’d like to do.
College of Education
online offerings grow

The demand for online courses and programs, particularly at the master’s degree level, has never been higher and the College of Education is working to expand its online options.

Students generally cite convenience and the cost of travel when they choose online courses,” said Dr. Howard Smith, dean of the College of Education. “That’s a special concern for students interested in a master’s degree or additional certification. Many of those students are employed full-time and are often balancing the demands of work and families.”

In recent years, the demand for an online educational leadership master’s program in the Kansas City metro area has grown significantly. The challenge was developing an instructional program that met the students’ desires for an online option without losing a personal, face-to-face component that faculty believe is important for this degree.

Their solution was an online program that includes two or three Saturday “executive learning sessions” at the university’s KC Metro Center in Lenexa, Kan.

“The focus of these face-to-face executive learning sessions is to provide the aspiring educational leader with the skills necessary to lead an organization composed of all stakeholders toward the attainment of a shared vision,” said Ed Streich, instructor in Special Services and Leadership Studies.

In these Saturday sessions, students learn from veteran, educational leaders who have served as administrators in Kansas and in Missouri.

“This is a good example of thinking creatively to both meet the needs of students while also maintaining the high quality that PSU’s educational programs are known for,” said Chris Christman, chairman of the Department of SSLS.

Meanwhile, the online ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program continues to be a popular choice for teachers in Kansas, Nebraska and even overseas and the online master’s degree in reading has a waiting list.

“Public School age children in Kansas speak more than 100 different languages and dialects,” said Alice Sagehorn, acting chairperson for initial programs. “The ESOL program was designed for classroom teachers and school administrators who want to implement best practices of teaching and assessment for English language learners in their classrooms.

Teachers who have English language learners already in their classroom, administrators who have or who are planning to have ESOL students, and graduates who are looking for a job all benefit from this program.”

Sagehorn said teachers may take one or two courses a semester, depending on how quickly they wish to complete the program.

An online master’s degree program in reading has also proved to be immensely popular, according to Dr. Susan Knell. Students in the program may choose from an option designed for classroom teachers who want to become better teachers of reading for their students and a second option that prepares them to be literacy coaches or reading specialists.

Knell said the program evolved into an online offering because of student demands.

“Once we went totally online, our numbers really skyrocketed,” Knell said. “I have gotten several positive comments from our graduate students about the program, especially the incorporation of recording through Tegrity. My students have said that the recordings make them feel like they’re in class with me.”

“Some courses are very good matches for online instruction. Some aren’t. And some may be great candidates for a blended or hybrid approach,” said Smith. “Our goal is to provide the highest quality instruction in the manner that best suits the needs of each student. That’s a constantly changing target that we are always focusing on.”

Finding Gus Gorilla

This past year marked the 45th anniversary of the 1965 Gus Gorilla created by Lawrence Wooster. The statue was later cast in bronze and currently stands south of the Jack H. Overman Student Center.

Find the 1965 Gorilla hidden in this issue of the Pitt State Magazine and enter to win four (4) sky box tickets to the Gorilla’s Football home opener on September 3rd.

Send an email to psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry for our Hidden Gorilla Contest. Please include your first and last name as well as the page number and location you found the hidden gorilla. Please only one entry per person. Good luck!

**Entries must be received by May 13, 2011. The winner will be contacted by May 27, 2011 and announced in the next issue of the Pitt State Magazine.**
Employers, students, and alumni
Find the perfect employee... or find the perfect job!

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- Search resumés
- Schedule on-campus interviews
- Manage and track resumés
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- Receive notification of upcoming career fairs, events, and workshops

Pittsburg State University Career Services
620-235-4140  www.pittstate.edu/office/careers

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The Best Plate in the State!

- ANYONE with a Kansas tag can get a gorilla plate.
- You can SWITCH your plates any time of year.
- ANY gift of $30 or more to any area at PSU qualifies you for a plate.
- If you have DONATED at least $30 to PSU within the past year, you may already qualify.

PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations
620-235-4758 or 877-PSU-ALUM  www.pittstate.edu/alumni

Coming to Missouri!
Call or visit the website for the details and timeline.
Gorillas in Switzerland
Tracy Naumann, a senior elementary education/middle school math student, shows her Gorilla pride in Baden, Switzerland, during the summer of 2009. Tracy and her mother, Mary, traveled to visit their former exchange student, Anouk Andres, and her family. They attended Anouk’s high school graduation and traveled throughout Switzerland and Germany.

On the Equator
Jim Daunheimer (BS ’64) and his wife, Jann, stand on opposite sides of the equator during their trip to Ecuador last August. Jim wrote that they traveled down the Andes from Quito to Cuenca, back to the Mindo Cloud Forest, and into the Amazon Basin. The Daunheimers live in Tucson, Ariz.

In Rio!
Michelle (Wooderson) DeGiusti (BA ’04) sends us this photo from the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Michelle writes that her job with National Oilwell Varco takes her all over the U.S. and the world to recruit college graduates for her company. In 2010, she traveled to Brazil twice and also to Moscow and Dubai.

D.C. Gorillas
Mark (BBA ’04) Juliana Hudson (BBA ’04) visited George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon, on a recent trip to Washington, D.C. They also visited many of the famous monuments and memorials along with two of the Smithsonian museums in downtown Washington, D.C.

We would like to know what interesting places Gus has visited. E-mail your photo and a brief story to psumag@pittstate.edu
SOME THINGS JUST SEEM DESTINED TO HAPPEN.

Brian Moorman met Taylor Speth when Taylor was just six years old and in the midst of chemotherapy for a brain tumor. Neither of them knew it that day, but it was a meeting that would change not only their lives, but the lives of many others.

In 2001, Brian and his wife, Amber, moved to Buffalo, N.Y., where Brian had joined the Buffalo Bills as a free agent. One of the first things the young transplants from Kansas sought to do was to become involved in the community.

“We both had been involved in the community at home,” Brian said, “And we always enjoyed being involved with kids.”

An official with the Bills steered them toward the Roswell Park Cancer Center.

Taylor met Brian in November at a holiday card party for pediatric cancer patients at the Bills practice facility.
“My parents wanted to take a tour of the locker room,” Taylor recalled. “I wasn’t too thrilled about it, but I went and Brian was the tour guide. My parents started talking with him. I talked with him a little bit, but not too much. It was more my parents. Afterward, he came over and sat down with me and we started painting together and talking.”

Something clicked between the two of them.

“I just hit it off with him,” Brian said. It was the same for Taylor.

“We had a lot to talk about,” Taylor said. “We really did enjoy talking to each other.”

Today, Taylor Speth is a cheerful high school sophomore with dreams of a career (he’s thinking maybe architecture) and life after school. For Taylor, the chemotherapy ended long ago, but the friendship that began that day just seems to get stronger every year.

Brian recalls that meeting as the first step in a process that led to a major effort to help young cancer patients and their families.

“We started going up as much as we could and being with the kids,” Brian said.

Soon, Brian and Amber decided that they wanted to do more than just visit the kids. In 2004, they founded the P.U.N.T Foundation to serve both the pediatric cancer patients and their families with programs and events designed to help them in their shared battle with the disease.

The foundation sponsors a number of programs, including Brian’s Locker, which includes games, books and activities for the patients and gift cards for groceries, gas and phone services for the families. At Brian’s Game Day, patients and their families sit in a private suite for a Bills home game, and the Helping Hands program offers families financial support for their daily living expenses.

“A lot of folks are involved in research,” Amber said, “and that’s very important. “What we try to do is provide emotional and financial support for the children and their families. We try to take their minds off of it a little bit.”

The Moormans said their focus on helping families was born out of admiration for the families they met.

“You meet these families and you think about them all the time,” Moorman said. “The parents are so positive. You just wonder how they do it.”

Amber, who gave birth to the Moormans’ first child, Cooper, in 2010, said being a new mother has only increased her admiration for the parents she sees.

“Now I can put myself in their shoes,” Amber said. “The parents are amazing.”

Kristen Fix, a social worker at Roswell Park, said the Moormans and their P.U.N.T. Foundation have helped many young patients and their families.

“What Brian and Amber have done for our families, by extending themselves to our kids here and establishing this foundation, is immeasurable. The smiles that a visit from Brian and Amber elicits are priceless,” Fix said.

“The simple things that many people don’t even think about, like gas money and groceries, become of huge importance to these families—even those middle and upper class families who many think should be able to manage just fine—most people do not budget for something like this to happen to their family. The look of relief and appreciation on a parent’s face when you hand them a gift card from the P.U.N.T. foundation is one I never forget. It is these small things that mean the world to these families.”

Taylor’s parents, Bruce and Debbie Speth, say the greatest gift Brian and Amber Moorman have given their family is friendship.

“Brian and Amber have fostered a relationship with us as a family and provided all of us with emotional

(see Perfect Match, pg. 14)
Perfect Match (from pg. 13)

support over the years,” Bruce Speth said. “Whenever we visit with them, they bolster Taylor’s spirit and make him and us feel special. Brian puts a smile on Taylor’s face and always takes an interest in his wellbeing and what is going on in his life. Brian has used his gift of athletics to help kids, make them feel better and make their families feel better. We hope that our son, Taylor, will be like that someday.”

Taylor said that all the work Brian and Amber have done for young cancer patients and their families has been important, but what he values most is their friendship.

“I think out of all the things Brian's helped me with and given me,” Taylor said, “the best thing is just to be there, to be able to talk to them. I just think that’s a great thing that he does.”

Comments like that seem to embarrass Brian and Amber just a bit.

“What we’re doing is small compared to what they’re going through,” Brian said.

Brian said he and Amber get back every bit as much or maybe even more than they give from their relationships with Taylor and the other youngsters they’ve come to know.

“There are days when we’ve have a bad day and maybe it would be easier not to go (to the cancer center). But afterward, we look at each other and say, I’m so glad we came today.’ I find myself asking, ‘Did I help them, or did they help me?’”

For more on Brian and Amber Moorman’s P.U.N.T. Foundation and the programs it sponsors, visit www.brianmoorman.org.

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Imagine how many more students could receive a quality education if each of us remembered Pittsburg State University in our will, trust or other estate plans.

For more information on “Building Your Legacy,” visit www.pittstate.edu/legacy or contact Shawn Naccarato directly at 620-235-4863 or snaccara@pittstate.edu.
Opportunity of a lifetime

THOUSANDS WILL VISIT PSU this May when the university hosts the 2011 Baja SAE Kansas competition, the first international Baja challenge to return to the state in a decade.

Approximately 100 teams—including 24 teams from eight other countries—will compete in the engineering design competition, which will be held May 26-29 on the PSU campus. Portions of the competition will be held at the Kansas Technology Center, while events such as the four-hour endurance race will be held on PSU property located east of Rouse Street near the Student Recreation Center and the Kansas Polymer Research Center.

Selected as one of three locations in the United States to host Baja competitions this year (other sites include Birmingham, Ala., and Peoria, Ill.), PSU automotive technology professor Trent Lindbloom said College of Technology faculty and staff have been busy preparing for the event since last summer. PSU’s centralized location, strong involvement with SAE, and available resources made the university an attractive option for the event, which was last held in the state at Kansas State University in the late 1990s.

“We could not be more thrilled that we were selected,” said Lindbloom, who was a founding member of PSU’s first Baja team 20 years ago. “We are using this competition as an educational experience for students from every department.”

With hundreds of students and faculty involved in the competition, there has been much work to get done. Construction students helped design the courses, build an access road to the property, and perform surveying and topography of the property. They’ve also been clearing land, building and testing the tracks, and maintaining the rugged course for the four-day competition.

Graphics and Imaging students are creating banners, apparel, and signage for the event. Automotive students have been busy fundraising for and building PSU’s competing Baja vehicles. Along with students from engineering technology, as well as technology and workforce learning, they will also serve as event volunteers.

College of Technology Dean Bruce Dallman said he’s ecstatic about an event that will provide such an incredible opportunity to showcase the College of Technology, university, and community.

“We have a longstanding tradition of involvement with our competitors, so to be able to have this event here is wonderful,” he said. “We are so excited for this event to take place.”

Top: The PSU SAE Baja team shows their U.S. pride during a competition in South Korea. The PSU team took second in the South Korean competition in 2006 and first in 2007.

Below: Tim Dell, chairman of automotive technology, speaks at the announcement that PSU had been chosen to host the 2011 Baja SAE Kansas competition.
There’s no place like home.

There’s a reason so many people call Kansas home. From our thriving communities to our progressive job opportunities, we make it easy to love life. Discover for yourself at ThinkKansas.com/psu, an innovative Web site full of features and videos about why Kansas is such a great place to live, work and play. Best of all, getting there is easy. All you have to do is click, and you’ll be on your way home.
SENIOR TAYLOR SIBALA is the starting second baseman on the Gorillas baseball team. He’s also a member of the Honors College, majoring in mechanical engineering technology. He’s highly involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where he serves on the outreach/worship team. Taylor sings in a band and plays guitar and piano. And in 2010, he was picked Homecoming King.

It’s a full slate of activities that would test just about any student, but Taylor seems relaxed and says he’s enjoying his Pitt State experience to the fullest.

“It’s been a great fit,” Taylor said of his choice to come to PSU.

He said he likes the tradition he feels on campus and the small classes.

“I love the fact that my professors know my name. That one thing says so much about Pitt State,” Taylor said.

He even has high praise for life in the residence halls. “It’s really a cool experience to live in the dorms,” Sibala said. “It was one of my favorite years at Pitt State.”

The key, he said, is getting out of your comfort zone. “Get to know people. Get out of your shell and start meeting people,” he said. “Especially in the dorms, when you start meeting all these people, this carries over through the next three years of your career at Pitt State.”

Now, with his senior year coming to a close, Sibala is thinking ahead. He’s looking forward to his last season of baseball on a team well stocked with both senior leadership and enthusiastic freshmen. He’s thinking about going to work for the Kansas City firm where he interned or possibly getting a master’s degree.

Wherever his path leads, Sibala said he will look back on the past four years fondly. “I’ve been fortunate to meet a lot of great people while I’ve been here,” Taylor said. “It’s a great campus and a great community.”
SEEING HEALTHCARE FIRST-HAND in the remote regions of a developing nation can have a lasting impact on a young pre-med student. Just ask the PSU students who participated in a study-abroad service project in Belize in 2010, who say they won’t soon forget their experience.

The PSU projects target remote villages in which residents may not see a healthcare worker during the year. A previous trip went to parts of Peru, but in 2010, the students headed to Belize.

There, the residents waited patiently in seemingly endless lines with ailments ranging from the simple and mundane to serious, long-term maladies such as tuberculosis and painful orthopedic problems.

“(It was) unlike anything I have seen before,” pre-med student Zach Krumsick said of the town. “The houses typically had one room, and everyone slept on a hammock that hangs from the center.”

Neil Bryan, a former PSU pre-med student who is now in medical school at the University of Kansas, participated in a trip to Peru. Bryan said one of the things that students learn on the trips is how sometimes simple and often inexpensive treatment can have a big effect.

“Although such trips are certainly not ideal for managing chronic conditions, many problems can be dealt with effectively,” Bryan said. “Giving young women pre-natal vitamins is an example. (This is) a short-term, low-cost involvement that can prevent lifelong birth defects.”

Nicole Wilt, a PSU senior who also took part in the Peru trip, said the students spent much of their time in Belize on medical education.

“For the kids, we focused on how to brush teeth, wash hands, use latrines, etc.,” Wilt said. “For the adults, we focused more on good nutrition and exercise, how to prevent and/or deal with diabetes, and hypertension and hyperlipidemia.”

Although dealing with diseases and foreign travel were important parts of the trip, the students said, they were affected in deeper ways and they left Belize with vivid memories of specific patients in their heads.

“Sometimes the lines of patients never seemed to die down, and it was amazing to me how the people just wanted to be touched by the doctor,” said Krumsick.
Veteran teacher grows through international experience

EVEN AFTER TEACHING FOR 31 YEARS and being honored twice with PSU’s Outstanding Faculty Award, Dr. Becky Brannock says she is a better teacher today because of an international experience she had in 2009.

“I’m not the same person I was when I left,” she said. “Being able to travel and see things like that was life-changing. I cherished every single day,” said Brannock, a professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling and director of the department’s School Counseling Program.

Sponsored by a Rotary University Teaching Grant, Brannock went to Manila—the place of her mother’s birth—where she taught for four months in the spring of 2009 at De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines. The semester turned out to be as much a journey of self-discovery as it was one of educating her Philippine students.

“I had been encouraged to teach abroad for years, and I finally realized that this was a golden opportunity. It has always been on my bucket list of things to do,” said Brannock. “I couldn’t think of a better way to fulfill my life’s dream.”

As she taught graduate-level courses, made presentations to schools, consulted with educators about implementing comprehensive school counseling programs, and spoke at clubs and conventions, Brannock had soul-searching moments, as well. Dismayed at Manila’s high level of poverty, she began regularly purchasing and handing out food to the hungry on her way to class. She also had a surreal moment when she found the gravesite of her grandfather, a WWII POW who died in a concentration camp in 1942.

Brannock returned to PSU inspired and with a greater appreciation for the educational path she has traveled.

“What other degree allows you self-discovery, to be able to learn about relationships, and to gain a skill? One of the things I love about my work here at PSU is building relationships with students. No matter where I am, I find myself drawn to that,” Brannock said. •
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Dr. Craig Fuchs has conducted more musicians than he can count, both students and seasoned professionals. Although he appreciates them all, some eager youngsters in a poor town in Brazil hold a special place in his heart.

Last November, Fuchs, a member of the Music Department Faculty and director of the Honors College, was invited to conduct the Orquestra de Camara in Fortaleza, a thriving city of 2.5 million people on the northeast coast of Brazil. Part of his trip was set aside for a very different experience, however.

In addition to conducting the state-sponsored Orquestra de Camara, which is made up of professional musicians, Fuchs also taught and conducted the 200 youngsters in the orquestra sopros de Pindoretama, a wind orchestra for children in a poor city of 18,000.

The orquestra sopros de Pindoretama was founded 11 years ago by a fireman with a passion for music, Arley Franca. Franca’s aim was to lure youngsters away from the streets and the dangers of drugs and prostitution that seemed to be everywhere.

In the years since, the wind orchestra has grown from a handful of students to more than 200. To be part of the orchestra, students are required not only to rehearse, but to stay out of trouble. The success of the project can be measured in the fact that all but two of the orchestra’s participants have passed the national exam for admission to college.

“They are beautiful, very polite, very disciplined,” Fuchs wrote on a blog he maintained during his trip.

Fuchs wrote that he was captivated by the students’ enthusiasm and their eagerness to learn. And the fact that neither spoke the other’s language was not the barrier that might be expected.

“It was funny, without a translator, the students knew exactly what I was saying to them, just by the way my hands and face were speaking,” Fuchs said.

Fuchs spent four days with the students and conducted two concerts that drew large crowds.

Saying goodbye to the students was difficult, Fuchs said. “It was really quite touching.”

Fuchs thinks often of the students and his new friends in Brazil. He hopes to be able to bring Franca to PSU and would like to return to Pindoretama with some upper class PSU music students and former students with teaching experience who could conduct masterclasses.

“I think my students will learn so much from the experience and I know the students from the wind orchestra will love having American teachers work with them,” Fuchs said.
PSU has been making big changes to meet one of its major goals – sustainability. From weatherizing buildings to developing curriculum focused on sustainability, we’re continuing to find environmentally friendly ways of doing things. We’re leaving a greener footprint on our world. Here are some recent improvements we’ve made.

- Employees donated 2,234 items of e-waste for recycling in 2010, including old computers, appliances, and electronics.
- PSU becomes a charter member of the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).
- Sustainability is added as one of the university’s six strategic goals.
- Dining hall moves to trayless dining and new residence halls include eco-friendly restroom facilities to save water usage.
- Newer construction, including the Student Health Center, the Student Recreation Center and the Kansas Polymer Research Center all include sustainable details.
- Technology professors acquire LEED certifications to provide greener instruction in the classroom — as well as a hybrid automotive education grant.

Lindburg Plaza green space
University Lake
Hike/Bike Path
New trees planted
Recycling Service
Building improvements & weatherization (includes windows, doors, insulation, roofing, masonry restoration)
PSU Greenhouse
Porous concrete parking lots
PSU has been making big changes to meet one of its major goals—sustainability. From weatherizing buildings to developing curriculum focused on sustainability, we’re continuing to find environmentally friendly ways of doing things. We’re leaving a greener footprint on our world. Here are some recent improvements we’ve made.

**OTHER GREEN INITIATIVES**

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A lasting tribute—
Granite panels complete memorial

THE PSU VETERANS MEMORIAL was completed in 2004, but for many it never really “felt” completed until Nov. 11, 2010. That was the day that the university, the community and many veterans and their families officially dedicated the black granite panels that make up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

The memorial honors veterans of all times, but it was clear when it was built that “the Wall,” a dramatic black testament to the more than 58,000 soldiers who died in Vietnam, would be a major visual and emotional piece of the whole. Its significance in the memorial can be attributed to both the fact that it is a defining aspect of the lives of the Baby Boomer generation and also to the fact that it stretches as a backdrop across the width of the memorial.

The wall’s significance seemed to be heightened even more, when it began to succumb to the ravages of the intense Kansas sun. Crafted from painted steel, the wall was a gift of John Devitt, a Vietnam veteran who designed three half-sized versions of the original in Washington, D.C. The moving walls traveled each year around the U.S., but were never really intended to be permanently outdoors.

When the names on the wall began to fade and run, university officials realized the only solution would be to replace the steel panels with stone, a project that would require raising another $250,000.

Support for the project surprised even seasoned fundraisers. Perhaps because, as Jim Bishop, a Vietnam veteran and keynote speaker at the dedication said, the names on the wall weren’t just names. They were sons, brothers, fathers and friends.

And so, after a rainy fall morning, the clouds began to break and the sun began to shine on a standing-room-only crowd in the memorial. There were bagpipes and salutes and university officials gathered with vets and their families to snip the red ribbon. Behind them stretched the shining black granite wall – one that the Kansas sun can’t damage.

Finally, the work was done. •
From military barracks to homes for GIs

WHEN LAKEVIEW HALL was razed in the early '70s, it was the last remaining structure of a cluster of barrack-style buildings, including Quonset huts, which were built to house students in programs like the Navy V-12 College Training Program. After the war, the buildings were converted to student and married-student housing to serve the huge influx of returning GIs. Although the Quonset huts were dismantled relatively soon after the end of the war, many of the structures served the campus until the completion of the Bowen and Shirk residence halls in 1958. The last of the students left Lakeview Hall in the late '60s.

Today, the area is occupied by Axe Library, the Centennial Bell Tower and a parking lot. On-campus housing is in the midst of a major improvement program that includes the addition of new suite-style housing (Crimson Commons) that opened in 2010 and renovation of all of the other existing residence halls.

Share your memories and photos of life in Lakeview Hall and the other buildings that made up this brief but important part of PSU's rich history. Send us an e-mail (psumag@pittstate.edu) or drop us a line (PittState Magazine, Office of University Marketing and Communication, 106 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762).
'Five-O' competition fun for band

They didn’t win the competition, but the Pride of the Plains Marching Band achieved valuable recognition in a national contest and that was their primary goal, according to Doug Whitten, director of Athletics Bands.

To promote the debut of its new fall show, “Hawaii Five-O,” CBS sponsored a competition in which they challenged university bands to perform the show’s familiar theme song and post their videos to YouTube, where viewers could cast votes. The winning video was worth $25,000 and a brief appearance on one of the episodes.

The competition was stiff, Whitten said, but it was good to see PSU’s entry alongside those from universities like Notre Dame, Clemson and the University of Indiana.

Although PSU didn’t win the competition, Whitten said one of the main benefits of the competition was the way it raised the visibility of the band and of the program.

“And it’s also just a lot of fun,” he said.

Pre-Med Club expands free clinic services

The Pre-Med Club plans to expand its free-clinic services for women thanks to an $800 grant last fall from the Rita J. Bicknell Women’s Health Fund.

Bicknell and a group of her friends established the fund to address health issues related to women. The funds will be used to establish a women’s health night at the free clinic, which is offered every Tuesday at Wesley House, an outreach program that serves the needy.

The free clinic, which was launched in 1997, is staffed by PSU pre-med students. Dr. Kathleen Sandness (BS ’83) was instrumental in the clinic’s founding and continues to work with the students. Several area doctors volunteer at the clinic, as well as a physician’s assistant and some registered nurses.

In addition to touching underserved populations in the area, the clinic provides experiences for pre-med students that they would not have at other universities.

For more information about the pre-med program or the free clinic, contact the Department of Biology at 620-235-4732 or visit their website at www.pittstate.edu/biology.

ROTC cadets stand tall in Ranger Challenge

Some PSU ROTC cadets out-muscled a lot of D-I programs to make a big impact at the 2010 Army ROTC Midwest Ranger Challenge. PSU finished ahead of big schools like Nebraska, Iowa, KU and K-State to finish second and third in the 16-team competition at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

First place went to Iowa State’s A Team, but ISU’s B Team finished sixth.

“When team placements are combined, Pitt State ranked as the top Ranger Challenge university in the region,” said Maj. George Johnson, executive officer with PSU’s Gorilla Battalion.

The Ranger Challenge is an intense weekend designed to test the physical and mental fitness of cadets.

PSU’s A Team won 1st place in the one-rope bridge event while PSU’s B Team won 1st in the hand grenade assault course and rifle marksmanship. Out of the 144 cadets in the competition, A Team Captain and Senior Cadet Major Matt Boyd won the highest score on the Army physical fitness test.

Midwest Trumpet Festival features top performers

More than 85 students and professionals participated in the second annual Midwest Trumpet Festival in October. Featured guest artists for the festival were Billy Hunter, Jr., co-principal trumpet for the Metropolitan House Opera Orchestra in New York; jazz artist John Sneider, from New York; and Joel Treybig, associate professor of music in the Belmont University School of Music.

It’s a great opportunity for students to hear and to learn from some of the top musicians in the country, said Todd Hastings, a member of the PSU faculty and organizer of the festival.

Next year’s festival is scheduled for October 8-9, 2011.
Math activities inspire

To get kids excited about math, the challenge can sometimes be to show it in a whole new light. That was the goal of presentations at PSU’s annual Math Honor Day for high school students.

Students at Math Honor Day participated in interactive sessions ranging from “Statistical Thinking” and “Mathematical Games,” to “Bell-y Math” and “How Wii do Math.”

Dr. Tim Flood, chairman of PSU’s Department of Mathematics, said the sessions are designed to be fun and to test the students’ mathematical knowledge.

“Bell-y Math,” conducted by Dr. Cynthia Woodburn, teaches students about the connections between bells and math.

“I’ve done this activity with the bells many times at Math Honor Day and then I perform a couple of songs on the handbells during the dessert course at lunch,” Woodburn said. “It’s a hands-on activity I do with the students where we take a look at connections between

bells (in particular, the change ringing of tower bells) and mathematics. I first give the students some background and then they work in groups to write their own composition, which they play on handbells for the rest of the groups to hear.”

In addition to the workshops, the students participated in the Honor Day Luncheon and Award Presentations. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was alumna Jennifer Jabben. Jabben, an associate actuary with Allstate Insurance, earned a bachelor of science degree from PSU in 2003, majoring in mathematics with an economics minor. Jabben lives in Streamwood, Ill.

A trip to remember

Road trips are important for choirs, according to Susan Marchant, director of choral activities. The trips raise the visibility of the university and the Music Department and serve as an important recruiting tool. Some trips, Marchant said, can have a profound impact on the students in the choir.

That was the case for the students who went to Ireland in 2010 for the choirs’ major biennial tour.

“I will never forget this trip,” said Josh Donaldson, a junior from Girard, Kan., “especially since it was completely focused on what I love to do most, sing.”

The students sang on six occasions throughout the week, including a special St. Patrick’s Day Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Kilkenny.

Dr. Cynthia Woodburn looks on as students perform.
Society receives exemplary status

The Beta Gamma Sigma organization at PSU, a dean’s honor society for top business scholars, was named an Exemplary Chapter last fall at the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic deans meeting in Chicago. A small number of schools at the event received the designation, which is available only to institutions that have earned the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation.

The designation is awarded to chapters based on how many eligible members they induct, as well as having a certain percentage of members accept lifetime memberships to the society. Last year, PSU President Steve Scott and Provost Lynette Olson were both inducted, along with 24 students and faculty from the College of Business.

The honor brings with it eligibility to participate in Beta Gamma Sigma’s matching funds scholarship program, in which the organization matches scholarships awarded to members by PSU.

The business of sports

One of the most high-profile executives behind the image of major league baseball spoke with students last fall about the business side of professional sports.

Richard White, the general manager of licensing for the Major League Baseball Players Association, visited through the college’s “Executive on Campus” program. Each semester, a successful business graduate is invited to campus to share their wisdom and reflect on their career with students.

White is responsible for the development and execution of all business strategies for the MLBPA, including MLB players’ licensed goods (trading cards, video games, apparel, memorabilia) as well as the MLBPA’s internet and digital presence. He is also responsible for various television and streaming video shows including the Players Choice Awards, Big League Home Run Challenge and Now You Know.

Prior to taking his current position in 1998, White worked at Hallmark Cards for 13 years. He was also a founding partner of McDowell-White, LLC, a strategic marketing consulting firm focused on the development of intellectual properties in the entertainment field.

White graduated from PSU in 1982 with a bachelor of business administration degree. During his time at PSU, he was named Outstanding Male Senior and served as student body president. In 2003, he was honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Meet the firms

Students had a chance to meet with businesses at the 7th annual Meet the Firms Day last September. The career fair gave finance and accounting students an opportunity to visit with representatives from companies such as Oneok, KPMG, Connolly, Inc., BKD, LLP., Conway Truckload, Koch Industries, Wal-Mart, and Leggett and Platt.

Last July, PSU business majors Ivan Hunnicutt (left) and Matt Witt (right), were accepted to study for a month at Chung Yuan Christian University in Chung Li, Taiwan. The two received an all-expense paid trip including airfare, accommodations, and a stipend. While there, they joined students from other American universities to attend lectures, make company visits, and take cultural trips to learn about the economy of Taiwan. This is the second year PSU students have been selected for the trip.
La Rochelle program returns this spring

Students in the College of Business had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about international business when they attended PSU’s first La Rochelle study abroad program.

The program will continue this May when a new group of students, accompanied by Management and Marketing professors Linden Dalecki and Jay VanWyk, travel again to the University of La Rochelle in La Rochelle, France.

A new partnership for PSU, the month-long program gives students a chance to attend European business courses, visit international companies, and (for many of them) travel internationally for the first time.

Student passes national fraud examination

Alexa Keller, a senior finance and accounting major, scored a rare honor last fall when she successfully passed the national Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) test. The examination, which can only be passed when the tester scores at least 80 percent on all four parts, is how professional fraud examiners gain certification to work in the areas of forensic accounting and fraud-related auditing.

“We don’t see a lot of our students attempting a professional certification of this difficulty,” said Rebecca Casey, chairwoman of the Department of Accounting and Computer Information Systems.

With fraud examination as a new minor at PSU, faculty are seeing more students show an interest in careers uncovering white-collar crime.

Keller’s successful scores, along with her involvement in a long list of honors organizations, associations, and campus clubs at PSU, are resume-builders she hopes will land her a great job come graduation.

One of the best

Pittsburg State University is one of the best schools in the country to earn an MBA according to the Princeton Review, which has again named the PSU College of Business within its annual list of top business programs.

PSU was listed in the review’s 2011 edition of the 300 Best Business Schools in the country. Schools on the list are selected based on their academic programs and offerings as well as the ratings of students.

The edition includes the opinions of more than 19,000 students at the top AACSBovered MBA programs in the world. According to the publication, PSU business students reported being impressed with the number of student activities on campus, the high quality of professors and courses, and the strong bond between the community and university.

Professor honored for leadership

Gail Yarick, a professor in the Department of Accounting and Computer Information Systems (ACIS), has been honored by the national Beta Alpha Psi organization for leading the student branch at PSU to a distinguished status.

Yarick, adviser for the Lambda Gamma Chapter, was recognized by the Beta Alpha Psi board of directors. The honorary organization, open to students who meet certain academic requirements, encourages members to attend professional events and perform service activities (typically done through PSU’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program).

To earn and maintain this designation, each student in the chapter is required to perform 20 hours worth of service and assist in outreach activities. This is the first time in the branch’s seven-year history at PSU that it has been named a Distinguished Chapter.

“Students need something to set themselves apart from other students, and being in organizations like this is one way to do that,” Yarick said.
Kids’ game inspired H-Ball
When Rob Hefley was a young teacher in the Kansas City area, he found himself watching a group of youngsters playing the old game of foursquare and it started him thinking.

“I got to thinking a little bit about how I could expand that game,” said Hefley, who is a professor in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation. “I decided to put it on a basketball court in the gym. Then I must have gone to a volleyball match or something that night, because then I took some of the principles of volleyball and added that.”

The result is a game that Dr. Hefley’s students have dubbed “Hefley Ball” or “H-Ball,” for short.

The game Hefley developed and introduced has developed a growing following. Student teachers he has taught have taken it to their schools, where it has caught on. Hefley thinks people like the game because it is fast-paced, easy to learn and adaptable for people of a wide variety of ages and physical abilities.

“You can play it with as few as four people on a side or as many as eight on a side,” Hefley said. “The ball is typically a volleyball with older kids. With younger kids, you can get a little lighter, bigger ball that they can handle better.”

Today, Hefley said, a week rarely goes by that he doesn’t get e-mails with questions about H-Ball. The inquiries come from nearby and from as far away as Canada and Australia. In some four-state schools, students play the game before school and on their lunch breaks.

Hefley said he enjoys seeing the game he created being played.

“It is neat to go out to schools and see (the game) played at all levels and know that people are enjoying it,” Hefley said. “I can’t say it’s my one great contribution to my profession, but it makes me feel good that it has become as popular as it has.”

Those interested in learning more about H-Ball may contact Hefley at 620-235-4668 or by e-mail at rhefley@pittstate.edu.

Lindskog honored
Psychology and Counseling Professor Rick Lindskog was surprised by his colleagues at the 2010 Kansas Association of School Psychologists meeting with an award for lifetime achievement.

Afterward, at a campus reception to honor Dr. Lindskog, the longtime faculty member gave much of the credit for his success over the years to a supportive campus.

“It takes a professionally vibrant academic community to let me go out and do the kinds of things I do in order for this (the award) to happen,” Lindskog said.

PSU’s academic community is one in which “excellence is expected and the support is there to do the professional activities I’ve done,” Lindskog said. “It’s an extremely rewarding thing to be confirmed by your colleagues and have this kind of honor,” he added.

Lindskog joined the PSU faculty in 1982 as an assistant professor of special education. Previously, he worked for nine years as a school psychologist and as a service agency program director in Minnesota and Indiana.

Jewett praised for leadership
Dr. Janice Jewett, HHPR, is a recipient of the 2010 Vicki Worrell Service Award, which is given by the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Jewett received the award at the KAHPERD convention Oct. 21-22 in Wichita.

The Vicki Worrell Service Award is given to persons who show “outstanding leadership and/or teaching in innovative programs with children, youth, special groups, community service and/or innovative projects.”

Jewett said she is like many of her colleagues who are heavily involved in community and professional service.

“As a professor, I believe it’s very important for students to practice what they’re learning in a community setting,” Jewett said. “As a result, we often provide dance demonstrations or go to a local school to teach dance. The recreation students provide numerous programs throughout the academic year in which they’re responsible for providing and developing a theme and then implementing a program.”
Oath expresses core values for new teachers

Jordan White said he was thinking of two teachers who inspired him as he repeated “The Teachers’ Oath.” White and other winter graduates of Pittsburg State’s teacher education program took the oath as they prepared for commencement exercises on Dec. 17.

White, who received a bachelor of science degree in music education, said he thought of the example set by Carl Junction, Mo., music teachers Ryan Churchill and Kathi Cassady. In them, White said, he saw a model of the kind of teacher he hopes to be.

“Music has always been a huge part of my life,” White said. “I want to be able to share the passion I have for music with students.”

The oath, which PSU education majors take as they prepare to graduate, has been around for just a few semesters, according to Dean of Education Howard Smith. He and previous dean, Andy Tompkins, modeled PSU’s oath on one created by a school principal.

“Teaching is a profession,” Smith said. “Other professions have oaths that express the ideals and standards that their members live by. It seems important that teaching should have one, too. The oath our teachers now take is a written and verbal expression of the values educators have long held.”

White said taking the oath was a meaningful experience.

“I definitely will hang that up in my office where I can see it every day,” he said.

The PSU Teachers’ Oath:
I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:
I will respect the hard-won gains of those educators in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.
I will apply, for the benefit of my students, all strategies known to be effective, avoiding busy-work in favor of work with real meaning to the students and their families.
I will remember that there is art to teaching as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the textbook reading or the multiple choice test.
I will work with my colleagues to inspire one another to achieve excellence.
I will not be ashamed to say “I know not,” nor will I fail to call in my colleague when the skills of another are needed to help my students.
If it is given to me to enhance a life through teaching, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to cast a shadow over a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty.
I will remember that I do not teach a lesson plan, or a reading deficiency, but a human being, whose skills may affect the person’s future family and economic stability. My efforts will aim to teach the whole child, and help that child develop in mind and spirit.
May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of teaching those who seek my help.
I will be a competent, committed, caring professional throughout my career.

Dockers leads teacher ed

Dr. Jean Dockers was named director of teacher education in 2010. Dockers came to PSU from Oklahoma State University, where she was an assistant professor in the School of Teaching and Curriculum Leadership.

Dockers began her teaching career in Colwich, Kan., where she taught grades 6-8. She taught seventh grade science at Derby Middle School from 1993 until 2003 and was an adjunct instructor of biological sciences at Cowley County Community College from 2001-2003.

Dockers holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Bethel College, a master of science in education degree from Wichita State University and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Arkansas.

Rob Friggeri, Kansas Wildlife & Parks, helps Adrianna Cabanas Chamorro, Paraguay, experience fishing at the University Lake. Each summer, U.S. students in Scott Gorman’s Camping and Outdoor Education class pair up with new international students to introduce them to American outdoor recreation.
New certifications, program enhancement for CMCET

Approximately 10 faculty and several graduate assistants within the Department of Construction Management and Construction Engineering Technologies completed certification training with the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) at the beginning of the 2010 academic year.

NCCER is a nationally recognized construction education program that includes curriculums in various trades as well as safety, surveying, and project management. Respected by many large construction companies in the Midwest, certification in the program gives graduates an edge.

“It’s an education they can keep building on,” said CMCET professor Joe Levens, who presented the certification training to faculty. “It makes their employability go up. So many programs are built on this foundation.”

The training was made possible in part by a $400,000 congressionally directed grant that was awarded to the College of Technology by the U.S. Department of Education. The money was awarded in response to PSU’s well-received proposals for funding to ultimately create a School of Construction.

In addition to the NCCER training, the grant provided summer salaries to CMCET professors, who used this time to improve curriculum and develop new curriculum and laboratories. The department has also used the funds to purchase HVAC and estimating equipment, as well as a Nuclear Density Gauge, a machine that tests the density of objects and substances such as soil and asphalt. The grant also provides funding for faculty development and the purchase of a 3D laser scanner.

Grant boosts hybrid training

The Department of Automotive Technology has been awarded a $150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to bolster faculty education in the area of hybrid technology.

Automotive professors Trent Lindbloom and Roger Adams worked together to pursue the grant, which helped the department during its recertification process with the National Automotive Technical Education Foundation this spring. The foundation, which requires schools to recertify every five years, recently added the area of hybrid technology as a new focus.

“We’ve been seeing hybrids on the road more often now and seeing them end up in independent repair facilities, so there’s a growing need for our students to know how to work on these vehicles,” said Lindbloom.

Funds from the two-year grant will go toward purchasing hybrid components for the auto lab, developing self-learning units, creating new curriculum to enhance the two- and four-year automotive programs, and faculty training.

Wood tech students win big for furniture designs

The artistic creations of two Pittsburg State wood technology students have been recognized as some of the best pieces in the country.

Eric Warnick and Nathan Schrock, students in the Wood Technology program, took first and second places (respectively) in the Case Goods category of the 2010 International Woodworking Fair, held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta last September.

Judges ranked the original pieces of 50 finalists from 21 schools, including powerhouses like Purdue, Brigham Young, and Iowa State, within the competition’s six categories.

Warnick, a senior from Overland Park, Kan., made a mahogany-framed, king-size bed with quartered, book-matched sapele veneer. Schrock, a graduate student from Harper, Kan., built a nine-drawer, quartered, figured walnut veneer dresser. Both students worked on their projects over the course of the spring semester – a unique opportunity, as PSU has the only four-year program in the country with an emphasis of secondary wood manufacturing.

Previously, students from PSU have taken home the titles of First in Class (2002) and Best of Show (1988). They not only designed the projects, but they also manufactured all the parts, assembled, and finished the projects at PSU.

Many design schools farm out the actual manufacturing of their project parts because they don’t have access to equipment or they lack the technical expertise.
Grant improves residential construction program

In January, Justin Honey, CM CET faculty, traveled to the International Builders Show Awards Ceremony in Orlando, Fla., to accept a grant that will bring big changes to PSU’s residential construction emphasis.

The $95,000 HELP (Housing Education and Leadership Program) grant awarded by the National Homebuilders Endowment – the philanthropic arm of the National Association of Homebuilders – was officially granted to the department last fall, after faculty members spent nearly a year competing with 24 other construction schools for the money. Penn State was the other recipient of the grant.

Over the course of the next four years, the department will receive disbursements of the grant, which it will use to strengthen its residential construction management emphasis within the BST Construction Management Program. The residential emphasis is one of four emphases (residential, safety, field and company) that CMCET students can choose from.

Within the residential emphasis, current courses will be revamped and new courses created. Nationally recognized designations and certifications such as Certified Green Professional (CGP), Residential Construction Superintendent (RCS) and Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS), among others, will also be incorporated.

“The big focus is to give our students the skills they need to make themselves more marketable,” Honey said, adding that training will be provided to industry professionals through partnerships with local homebuilding chapters – a potentially profitable venture that will make the curriculum improvements sustainable.

Company Day

If the number of employers attending Company Day is a reflection, it appears the job market is beginning to look up. Nearly 80 companies attended the event, speaking with approximately 500 students seeking internships and jobs. “It’s the graduates who have the job skills along with the knowledge of the newest technology that we’re hoping to meet,” said Dereck Renfro, a representative with Charloma, Inc., in Cherryvale, Kan. “PSU is exactly where we need to be.”

Summer camps

A new, week-long automotive summer camp was introduced for kids last summer that focused on the basics of car maintenance, auto body, diesel technology and the makeup of an engine. The camp will be offered again this year, along with camps in robotics, plastics and construction.

Taiwan students visit

Four students and one professor from Nan Kai University in Nan Tou, Taiwan, spent a week with the Automotive Technology department last fall learning about how automotive education takes place in the U.S. PSU faculty members have been taking part in the exchange program with the university for several years.
Chuck Broyles honored

Pitt State officials honored former head football coach Chuck Broyles at the 2010 home opener for his outstanding 20-year tenure (1990-2009) as the Gorillas mentor. Broyles retired from the position following the 2009 season with a 198-47-2 career record, leading the Gorillas to the 1991 NCAA Division II National Championship and 15 trips to the NCAA-II postseason.

PSUathletics update

Freshman linebacker named to elite squad, earns honors

PSU redshirt freshman linebacker Nate Dreiling, who led NCAA Division II in tackles during his rookie campaign, was named to the 2010 Associated Press Little All-America Team.

Dreiling (6-4, 218) made 160 tackles, including 20.5 tackles-for-loss, to lead the country in total stops, averaging 13.33 per game. He was one of only two freshmen named to the elite squad that encompasses NCAA Division II, Division III and NAIA.

Dreiling, a Hutchinson, Kan., native, also garnered first-team All-America honors on the Daktronics/Division II All-America Team. He is the 47th player in the history of the PSU program to garner AP Little All-America recognition.

Pitt State marks new era with Mineral Water Bowl victory

The Pitt State football team entered a new era in 2010 as long-time assistant coach Tim Beck assumed the head coach’s role for the Gorillas. Beck, who served the previous 16 seasons as the Gorillas’ offensive coordinator, infused 20 transfer players with the nucleus of a Pitt State squad that featured just seven returning starters and 33 returning letter winners from 2009.

The Gorillas finished the 2010 season with a 6-6 overall record, which included a victory over Concordia-St. Paul in the Mineral Water Bowl.

For 2011, Pitt State anticipates returning 15 starters (7 offense, 8 defense) from its 2010 squad. The Gorillas open the fall campaign on the road against Missouri Western on Sept. 3. They return to Carnie Smith Stadium on Sept. 10 for a 7 p.m. game against Emporia. For the complete schedule, visit the Intercollegiate Athletics website at pittstategorillas.com.

Johnson named PSU athletics director

Jim Johnson became the 10th all-time director of intercollegiate athletics at Pittsburg State University on July 30, 2010. He officially began his tenure at the school on Sept. 7.

As athletics director, Johnson provides leadership and support for the Gorillas’ 13 varsity intercollegiate sports programs as well as the department’s more than 50 full-time and part-time administrative and coaching staff members.

Johnson also provides leadership in the development and implementation of a departmental strategic plan.

Johnson served as commissioner of the MIAA from July 1, 2007, until 2010.

From 2005 to 2007 he held the position of athletics director at Texas A&M University-Commerce, before taking his assignment with the MIAA. Johnson briefly served as an intercollegiate athletics consultant before becoming the associate athletics director for development in 2003 at the University of Central Missouri.

In 1997, he accepted a position with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, first as a membership services representative and later as a Division II governance liaison.

Johnson became the national chairman of NCAA Division II Men’s Basketball Committee in June 2010 after serving on the national committee the previous year. He also served on the NCAA-II Membership Committee from 2005-09. Johnson served on the NACDA Executive Committee from 2006-07. Johnson holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Tarleton State University, where he served as the compliance coordinator and men’s athletic coordinator at Tarleton State from 1993-97.

Jim and his wife, Cindy, have two sons, Ely (11) and Riley (8).
Women claim MIAA, regional titles in 2010

The Pittsburg State University women’s cross country team enjoyed a banner season in 2010. The Gorillas captured the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association championship with a dominating performance on Nov. 6 at Hays, Kan. Pitt State followed that effort up two weeks later by capturing the NCAA Division II South Central Region crown at Warrensburg, Mo.

The Gorillas’ regional title earned the squad a berth in the 24-team NCAA Division II National Championships field—the team’s third appearance in the national field in five years.

At the national meet, held Dec. 4 at Louisville, Ky., Pitt State closed out the season in style with a 12th place finish. It marked the Gorillas best national finish since the 2000 squad placed 12th overall.

Six Pitt State runners earned All-MIAA honors with their performances at the conference meet. Seniors Brittney Graff (5th), Caitlin Laskowski (6th) and Jennifer Butler (10th) and sophomore Melissa Peden (9th) earned All-MIAA accolades with top 10 individual finishes in the six-kilometer race. Sophomore Kaley Temaat (14th) and senior Jenna Mellen (15th) also garnered honorable mention All-MIAA honors for placing among the second 10 individuals.

Butler, from Bennington, Kan., led the squad with a third-place individual finish at the South Central Regional, while Peden, an Overland Park, Kan., native, led the Gorillas by placing 52nd overall in the national field.

The Pitt State men’s cross country team enjoyed a promising 2010 campaign before the Gorillas were beset with injuries down the stretch.

The short-handed Gorillas placed fifth among eight teams at the MIAA Championships. Sophomore Adam Volkert (5th) and junior Matt Haffner (8th) secured All-MIAA honors with top 10 efforts in the eight-kilometer race.

Pitt State finished ninth as a team at the South Central Regional, but Volkert’s fourth-place individual finish earned him an individual berth to nationals.

The Lee’s Summit, Mo., native enjoyed a solid nationals performance, placing 56th overall in the talented field.

Pitt State head coach Russ Jewett was voted the MIAA Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year by his conference coaching peers. It marked the fifth time in his decorated career that Jewett earned Coach of the Year honors from the MIAA for women’s cross country.

Volleyball players earn All-MIAA accolades

The Pitt State volleyball team ended the 2010 season on a high note with a three-match win streak capped by a 3-2 (20-25, 25-23, 17-25, 26-24, 15-8) victory over Southwest Baptist in November.

Three Pittsburg State volleyball players earned All-MIAA honors. Senior Cassie Wilson earned third-team honors, while senior Molly Bergkamp and junior Corrine Stringer were selected as honorable mention players.

Wilson has spent four years in the Gorilla program, three of those years as the team’s libero. She finished third on the program’s all-time career digs list with 1,889 digs. Her 616 digs this season also rank as the sixth best single season performance in school history. She played in all 130 sets for the Gorillas this season averaging 4.74 digs per set. She also led the team with 28 service aces.

Stringer led the Gorillas with 2.92 kills and 3.33 points per set this season. She hit at a .220 clip, which was second on the team. She put down 58 total blocks on the season, including 21 solo blocks. She also averaged 2.13 digs per set and had 13 service aces. Stringer has 812 career kills which ties for 10th on the Pitt State all-time list.

Bergkamp was second on the Gorilla squad with 2.25 kills, 3.24 digs and 2.58 points per set this season. Her production picked up at the end of the season and she was named the MIAA Player of the Week on Nov. 8 after a big weekend against Washburn and Emporia State. Bergkamp also contributed 19 service aces and 39 blocks on the season.

Pitt State finished the season with a 14-18 overall record and a 7-13 record in MIAA play. The team graduated three seniors, Cassie Wilson, Molly Bergkamp and Riann Deere, but will return six players who have started 10 or more matches on the season and three more players that saw action in over half of the team’s matches.
Alumni honored

Pittsburg State University honored four graduates with the 2010 Outstanding Alumni Award during Homecoming festivities this past fall. The recipients were selected based on their professional achievements, as well as their community and organizational involvement.

This year’s recipients are: Virginia Brackett, Ph.D., chairperson of the Department of English and Modern Languages and director of the Degree with Honors Program at Park University; Toby Cook, vice president of community affairs and publicity for the Kansas City Royals; Brendan Murphy, senior partner with Lippincott; and Dr. Steven Waldren, director of the American Academy of Family Physicians’ Center for Health Information Technology.

Virginia Brackett
A prolific author and scholar, Dr. Brackett serves as the chairperson of the Department of English and Modern Languages and also as the director of the Degree with Honors Program at Park University. Brackett joined the Park University faculty in 2006. Previously, she served as the chairperson of the Department of English, the director of the Scholars Program and as a member of the faculty at Triton College in River Grove, Ill. She taught at Johnson County Community College, the University of Kansas and East Central University in Ada, Okla., previous to that.

Brackett is the author of numerous academic, fiction and nonfiction books and a contributor to many academic journals.

Brackett received a bachelor of science degree in medical technology from the University of Arkansas Medical Center in 1972, a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a management and marketing major and an English minor from Missouri Southern State College in 1989, a master of arts degree in English from Pittsburg State University in 1991 and a doctor of philosophy degree in English from the University of Kansas in 1998. Her academic specialty areas are the English Renaissance, Alexander Pope, women writers and women’s literature, children’s literature and creative writing.

Brackett lives in Kansas City, Mo.

Toby Cook
Toby Cook is the vice president for community affairs and publicity for the Kansas City Royals. Cook oversees community relations and publicity for the ball club, including player and staff appearances, partnerships with civic organizations and Royals Charities.

Cook received a bachelor of arts degree in communication from PSU in 1990. His interest in broadcasting began at an early age and by the time he was 16, he was on the radio in his hometown of Independence, Kan.

Prior to joining the Royals organization, Cook spent 15 years as a news anchor and reporter for four television stations. He helped start the first morning show at KOAM-TV in Pittsburg and was named Broadcaster of the Year while working at WSET-TV in Lynchburg, Va., before moving back to the Midwest in 1998. Cook had worked for WDAF-TV in Kansas City for nearly nine years when he was approached by Royals president Dan Glass about coming to work for the Royals.

Throughout his career, he produced, wrote and hosted thousands of newscasts and specials. Cook was involved in number-one rated programs for most of that period and contributed to significant viewer growth at each station. He is active in Catholic lay activities and serves on charitable boards and organizations, including Rotary, the Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired, and the Kansas City Crime Commission.

Toby and his wife, Barbara (Winslow) BS ’91, have five children and live in Overland Park.

Brendan Murphy
A native of Dublin, Ireland, Brendan Murphy is a senior partner with Lippincott, worldwide consultants in corporate identity, brand strategy, design, and brand management. He joined the company in 1996, having previously worked for firms in the U.S. and Ireland that included Siegel Gale, Carbone Smolan, Bruce Blackburn, and Firehouse Design.

Murphy has more than 25 years of experience creating and implementing global corporate identity programs across the full range of media from print- and web-based applications to environmental graphics. He has designed logos and managed identity systems for companies across a wide

His pro-bono work includes: Be the One, the Cure Alzheimers Fund, the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Hole in the Wall Camps, Metafore, Pigtale, and Lighthouse International.

Murphy’s work has been featured in Design Management Journal, Graphis, Metropolis, Novum, PRINT and The Wall Street Journal. It was discussed on National Public Radio and published in numerous books on corporate identity design including Designing Brand Identity.

His work for the Society of Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD), a series of symbols for the sight- hearing- and physically-impaired and the concept of a universal access symbol, is now in use by many leading cities and organizations including The Museum of Modern Art.

Murphy also has been a senior lecturer in information design and corporate identity at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and a speaker for the Columbus Society of Communicating Arts and NYU. His work has received awards from the SEGD and the Type Directors Club of New York and has been exhibited at the Type Directors Club and the Oireachtas in Dublin.

Murphy received a bachelor of science degree in commercial graphics from Pittsburg State University in 1989 and a master of design degree from the University of Cincinnati. Murphy and his wife, Catherine Larimer, live in Bronxville, N.Y. They have two children, Aran and Rowan.

Dr. Steven Waldren

Dr. Steven Waldren is the director of the American Academy of Family Physicians’ (AAFP) Center for Health Information Technology, based in Leawood, Kan. The center is a national leader in computerizing physicians’ offices to increase the quality and safety of health care and to reduce its cost. Dr. Waldren works on national standards for health information technology, advocates in the federal government and works with national information technology vendors.

In his time with the AAFP, Waldren has helped the organization increase its members’ adoption of electronic health records by 500 percent to more than 50 percent of the total, which is two-and-one-half times the national average. Under Waldren’s leadership, the AAFP has become the leading physician organization in the area of health information technology. Evidence of this is his appointment to the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Plan Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), which advises the U.S. Congress on these issues.

Waldren is a family physician, completing his family medicine residency at Wesley Family Practice in Wichita. Waldren earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from PSU in 1995, a medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1999 and a master of science degree in health informatics from the University of Missouri in 2004.

Waldren was a National Library of Medicine Fellow at the University of Missouri from 2002 until 2004 where he conducted research on the use of information technology in ambulatory medicine. He is a 2002 recipient of the Donald Lindburg Outstanding Student in Health Informatics Award at the University of Missouri and was nominated in 2007 as one of the 100 most powerful people in health care by Modern Health Care magazine.

Waldren and his wife, Stefanie, live in Kansas City, Mo.

Gorilla Legislative Network

The Gorilla Legislative Network has been created to organize, educate, and lead into action a network of PSU alumni, students, and friends residing in the state of Kansas to communicate with state legislators and others the needs and issues at the university regarding higher education.

Membership is open to all PSU alumni and friends. Members will receive timely updates about issues facing higher education in the State of Kansas through the efforts of PSU’s legislative liaison and the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations. At key points throughout the session, these offices will send e-mail updates to GLN members asking them to take action by contacting their local lawmakers on issues of importance to PSU and higher education. Members will also have the opportunity for training and to attend events with legislators.

For more information or to join the GLN please contact Johanna Schremmer, director, Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations, at 620.235.4758 or e-mail gln@pittstate.edu.

License plate program provides legacy scholarships

The Legacy Scholarship program, facilitated by the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations, awarded scholarships to 89 students for the 2010-2011 year – revenue earned through the Gorilla License Plate program. This year’s recipients, incoming freshmen who had a parent graduate from PSU and carried a 3.0 GPA or scored at least a 21 on their ACT, shared $33,000. The program is currently available to drivers in Kansas and may be expanded to Missouri by the summer or fall of 2011.

PSUAlumni NEWS
Pittsburg State University recognized two alumni with its Meritorious Achievement Award during the 2010 Winter Commencement ceremony. Recipients of the award were Calvin E. Mein (BS ‘96), and Daniel L. Mildfelt (BSBA ‘79).

The PSU Alumni Association established the award in 1958 as the highest award given to graduates based on career achievement. Candidates for the award have demonstrated substantial professional growth and advancement over an extended period of time. The candidate’s activities, including participation and leadership in civic and professional organizations at the local, state and national levels, are also considered by the awards committee in selecting the recipients.

Calvin E. Mein
Dr. Calvin E. Mein, of San Antonio, Texas, is a board certified vitreoretinal surgeon in private practice. Dr. Mein received a bachelor of science degree from PSU in 1969. He went on to earn a master’s degree in analytical chemistry from the University of Illinois and a medical degree at the University of Illinois Peoria School of Medicine, where he graduated in the top of his class.

Dr. Mein completed his internship at the Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco. After serving as a general medical officer at the Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Ill., he completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He served as a staff ophthalmologist there for a year before completing his fellowship training specializing in retina and vitreous at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Fla.

Dr. Mein served on active duty with the Army at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver, Colo., and as the Army retinal surgeon in Europe. He was stationed for two years in Frankfurt, Germany, before returning to Brooke Army Medical Center, where he served as chief of the Ophthalmology Service until he retired from the Army in 1991.

In 1991, Dr. Mein began private practice in San Antonio, specializing in diseases of the retina. He is an associate clinical professor of ophthalmology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Dr. Mein is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, the Bexar County Medical Association, the American Society of Retina Specialists and the San Antonio Society of Ophthalmology.

He and his wife, Mary, live in San Antonio.

Daniel L. Mildfelt
Daniel L. Mildfelt, of Chanute, Kan., is the president and chief executive officer of Community National Bank & Trust and Community Bancorp, Inc. Mildfelt earned a BSBA from PSU in 1979. He has completed additional graduate hours in banking at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and at the School of Agriculture at Kansas State University.

Mildfelt began his financial career in 1979 as an examiner with the National Association of Securities Dealers. From 1979 until 1986, he was vice president of the regional division of Boatman’s Bank in Kansas City. In 1986, he was named senior vice president and manager of the $400 million Corporate Division at Mercantile Bank, also in Kansas City.

In 1987, Mildfelt was one of the founders of Community National Bank & Trust. He has been president and CEO of the bank for nearly 20 years. In his tenure as president and CEO, the bank has grown from one community bank with $27 million in total assets and 12 employees to its current size. In addition to these duties, Mildfelt also serves as a director of Gardner Bank and Gardner Bancshares, Inc., which is a $95 million banking institution with banks in Gardner and Lenexa, Kan.

He is a recipient of the PSU Outstanding Alumni Award, the College of Business Outstanding Alumni Award, the Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce Partner in Progress Award, the Chanute Downtown Merchants Distinguished Service Award, the Chanute Downtown Merchants Distinguished Service Award, and the SEK-CAP, Inc. Meritorious Service Award. He received the Governor’s Award of Excellence as the Volunteer of the Year in Kansas in 2002 and was one of four bankers in the State of Kansas nominated to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Topeka.

Mildfelt and his wife, Lisa, a 1978 PSU alumna, live in Chanute. They have four grown children, Adam, Erica, Dallas and Natalie.
Whether you choose to experience the ominous size of Big Brutus ...

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Class of ’57, ’59
Marcel Normand, (BSE ’57, MS ’59), a retired social science instructor from Fort Scott Community College recently published a biography of a priest who changed his life and that of his family. The book, “Fr. John Reinkemeyer: God’s Humble Servant,” tells the story of this priest who wanted to be a farmer, but God had other plans.

Class of ’64
Roy G. Saffold, (BA ’64, MS ’66) received the Joseph W. Kearney Pioneer Award from the Association of Old Crows (AOC) in October 2010. The award is presented annually for notable pioneering efforts and long-term participation in electronic warfare and information operations. The AOC is an international professional association engaged in the science and practice of electronic warfare, information operations and related disciplines. Saffold entered the field of EW in the 1960s and has worked for McDonnell Douglas and Boeing since 1971. He has worked on practically every significant electronic warfare program in St. Louis, including the F-4G, F-15, C-17, F/A-18, EA-18G and Next Generation Jammer. Saffold’s past achievements include the McDonnell “Award for Distinction for Outstanding IRAD” (1986, 1988, 1990) and the McDonnell Douglas “Leading Edge” Award (1997).

Class of ’67
Eileta (Johnson) Creekpaum (BSEd) retired in 2007 after teaching kindergarten in the Tulsa public schools for 40 years. Eileta, known as one of the best kindergarten teachers in Tulsa, was honored with the Oklahoma Elementary Teacher of the Year Award from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, for which she received a $10,000 stipend and her elementary school received a $2,000 stipend. Her husband, Eddie, who submitted this information, wrote that Eileta is a strong good-will ambassador for PSU and is eager to tell people what a fine university PSU has become. One of her principals in the ’70s was Dr. Harry McPhail, also a PSU graduate.

Class of ’81
Mark Ogle (BBA) has seen his efforts as a playwright blossom since he wrote his first play 17 years ago. Mark is the director of the Rogers/Mayes/Wagoner County Service Center, Tulsa (Okla.) Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. In his spare time, he writes murder mystery plays that are used by service groups such as Rotary and the Red Cross as fundraisers around the world. To date, he has written 17 murder mystery plays, four children’s stories and a Christmas play. His work has been performed by groups in nine countries and 16 states. Mark, who received PSU’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 1993, and his wife, Karen, have five children ranging from 3 to 20 years old and have been foster parents to 75 children. They live on a 20-acre farm outside of Claremore, Okla.

Class of ’83
Ken Harris (MS ’83, Ed.S. ’93) retired in 2006 after 30 years in education, 25 of which he served in the Carthage R-9 System, where he was a high school counselor. Harris then took a job with VersaCourt as warehouse laborer, doing normal shipping/receiving of the company’s products. He quickly moved up in the company and in 2008 was recognized as the top salesman in the U.S. for GoalSetter Basketball Systems. Today he serves VersaCourt International as its vice president of sales. Ken writes that his PSU education “was as beneficial in my degree field as it has been currently. (It is) good to see a university, even in economically challenging times, continue to be progressive minded. Go Gorillas!”

Class of ’89
Marcus W. Falleaf (BS) was recently selected as the Air National Guard’s human resource adviser for the state of Texas. Promoted to chief master sergeant, Falleaf works directly for the adjutant general in areas of force management, force development and diversity education. Falleaf began his military career in the Marine Corps in 1975. He guarded the National Security Agency in Ft. Meade, Md., until he was discharged honorably in 1978. Falleaf joined the Air National Guard in 1986, and has worked his way up through the ranks in such positions as command and control, public affairs, historian, first sergeant and most recently, state human resource adviser. Traveling with the military, Falleaf visited Saudi Arabia, England, Germany, El Salvador, Jordan and many other places throughout the world. Falleaf and his wife, Vicki, live in Houston, Texas. He attends drill at Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. As a civilian, Falleaf is a teacher in the Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Houston.

Judy Stiles (MA) was named by the Joplin Tri-State Business Journal in August 2010 as one of the most influential women of the year. Stiles has served as the general manager of KGCS-TV at Missouri Southern State University since 1993. She also works as a part-time instructor at
MSSU, teaching in the Department of Communication and with the First-Year Experience Program. Stiles has been at Southern since 1986. As general manager, she oversees the daily operations of the regional broadcast television station that reaches 167,800 households. Stiles’ community activity includes service as the president of the Joplin NALA Read board of directors. She has also served as a volunteer for local Girl Scouts, the Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau, United Way of Southwest Missouri, Main Street Joplin, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and her church.

Class of ’90
Clint Miller (BBA), of Charles Town, West Virginia, has been promoted to market manager for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. A native of Columbus, Kan., Miller has been with Wal-Mart since 1991 and has most recently been a store manager for the past 13 years. Miller now manages seven Wal-Mart Supercenters in northern Virginia. He and his wife, Lynn, have one son, Evan, who is 8.

David Stephan (BBA, Accounting) had his book, “Mozan and the Return of Magic,” published in 2010 by Fyonhareshizer Publishing. The book is a children’s fantasy that is intended to challenge their minds and help adolescents overcome the many challenges they face. Stephan is an analyst with Sirius Solutions, an international business consulting firm.

Class of ’91
Martin (Marty) Bicknell (BA) was listed second on Barron’s list of the top 100 independent investment advisors in America in 2010. Bicknell is the CEO of Mariner Wealth Advisors and Mariner Holdings in Leawood, Kan., where he leads a staff of 115. Bicknell is a former senior vice president for investments of A.G. Edwards & Sons, where he led a staff of professional financial consultants in providing customized wealth management solutions for public and private corporations, high net-worth individuals and their families, and charitable organizations. According to the Kansas City Business Journal, the growing company reached $5 billion in assets under his management this past year, two years ahead of schedule.

Class of ’95
Dr. Roger Wen (BBA ’95, MS ’96), was granted tenure at William Woods University in 2010. At William Woods University, Dr. Wen is an associate professor of education and business and director of instructional technology.

Class of ’00
Lisa Walser (BS) of Miami, Okla., is the new community relations coordinator at the Independent Living Center in Joplin, Mo. For the past eight years, she worked in Texas as a corporate trainer and as the director of the training and auditing departments, contracting hospitals in 14 states. Lisa reports that at the Independent Living Center, she has the pleasure of working with several other proud PSU alumni.

Class of ’02
Kevin Miller, (BME 2002, MM 2004) was selected as a regional semifinalist for Kansas State Teacher of the Year this last September. Miller, who teaches music at Henry Leavenworth Elementary School, was named a semifinalist for Region 2, which covers the state’s second congressional district. Miller, 33, is in his fifth year with the Leavenworth school district. He also taught in Humboldt and Pittsburg.

New Gorillas
Landon Dively (BS ’04, MSED ’07) and Jenny (BS ’04) Dively, Independence, Kan., welcomed the arrival of their son, Ethan Marx Dively, on Aug. 20, 2010, at Stormont-Vail Health Care in Topeka, Kan. Ethan was born three months early and weighed 2 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 15 inches in length. He was welcomed by his older brother, Trent, age 5. Ethan was hospitalized in the neonatal intensive care unit at Stormont-Vail Health Care until Oct. 15, when he was able to go home, where he is doing well.
Charles Taylor, 1955, Richardson, Texas
William F. Eddy, 1956, Maple Valley, Calif.
Estella A. Fritz, 1956, Springfield, Mo.
Donald Frank Chesterman, 1957, Junction City, Kan.
John C. Robinson, 1957, Lees Summit, Mo.
S.W. ‘Dr. Bill’ Scorse Jr., 1957, Joplin, Mo.
Claire Irene Sutherland (Wheeler), 1957, Lamar, Mo.
Jacqueline Ann Webster (Hunt), 1957, Kansas City, Mo.
Roland H. Wilson, 1957, Joplin, Mo.
Donald Gene Dressler, 1958, Gravos Mills, Mo.
Donald D. Jones, 1958, Leon, Kan.
George F. Krieckhaus, 1958, Joplin, Mo.
Ronald D. Maffett, 1958, Cleveland, Texas
Patricia A. Tatro (Alexander), 1958, Fort Smith, Ark.
Clarence B. Barker, 1959, Topeka, Kan.
Gerald G. Degraffenreid, 1959, Arlington, Texas
Hoyt Verner Stocker, 1960, Joplin, Mo.
Chester G. Twitchell, 1960, Coffeyville, Kan.
Floyd E. Brookhauser, 1961, Kansas City, Mo.
Harriet J. Fuller (Risner), 1961, Joplin, Mo.
Lee W. Johnson, 1961, Joplin, Mo.
Larry Gail McKee, 1961, Columbus, Kan.
James L. Osgood, 1961, Imperial, Mo.
James Rea, 1961, Crossville, Tenn.
Ethel L. Capps (Peck), 1962, Corsicana, Texas
Nancy N. Jones (Thomson), 1962, Columbia, Mo.
Donald S. Leaman, 1962, South Coffeyville, Okla.
James W. Garrison, 1963, Joplin, Mo.
Deane Davis, 1964, Manhattan, Kan.
Paul L. Husted, 1964, Tulsa, Okla.
Edward A. Stoddard, 1964, Bryant, Ark.
Michael A. Vietti, 1964, Southwest Harbor, Maine
Paul E. Cook, Jr., 1965, Fort Mill, S.C.
Janice Kay Hoffman (Goodsell), 1965, Fort Scott, Kan.
Herman C. McMullin, 1965, Commerce, Okla.
L. Wayne Reed, 1965
Jack D. Parsons Jr., 1966, Grove, Okla.
Maxine Della Willse (Oakes), 1966, Winchester, Kan.
Jeff L. Ault, 1967, Weatherford, Texas
Gwendolyn D. Coe (Daily), 1967, Plattesville, Wis.
Mary Charlene Jones, 1968, Carthage, Mo.
Randolph W. Richardson, 1968, Saint Louis, Mo.
Donald Roy Halbauer Jr., 1969, Birmingham, Ala.
Betty Jean Harshaw (Logan), 1969, Grand Prairie, Texas
James P. Hatch, 1969, Atlanta, Ga.
Sarah A. Lawhorne (Kapple), 1969, Nevada, Mo.
JERRY H. McCarthy, 1969, Oconomowoc, Wis.
Jean Peterson (Cameron), 1969, Frontenac, Kan.
Marlene A. Runnels (Hubbard), 1969, Tulsa, Okla.
Walter E. Gibbs, 1970, Kansas City, Mo.
W. Mike Janssen, 1970, Aurora, Colo.
Gennetta Springer, 1971, Houston, Texas
Randal Joe Adams, 1972, Mannford, Okla.
Leon B Davis, 1972, North Little Rock, Ark.
Randal G. Ewen, 1972, Grove, Okla.
Donald Dean Jones, 1972, El Dorado, Kan.
James V. Smith, 1972, Ellsworth, Kan.
James R. Spradling, 1972, Carthage, Mo.
Gary L. Waltz, 1972, Jasper, Mo.
Tom Barbieri, 1974, Brandon, Fla.
Karen E. Blakely (Brown), 1974, Tahlequah, Okla.
Larry Redmon, 1974, Columbus, Kan.
Carl C. Hedges, 1975, Houston, Texas
Beth Ann Herman (Bebb), 1975, Olathe, Kan.
Melvin F. Meyer, 1975, Arlington, Texas
Larry P. Redmon, 1975, Branson, Mo.
Delmar E. Tinsnell, 1975, Atwater, Ohio.
Adah M. Gilbert (Matheson), 1976, Phoenix, Ariz.
Florence E. Hawes, 1976, Mo.
Fred C. Holt Jr., 1977, Miami, Okla.
Steve W. Jarrett, 1977, Joplin, Mo.
Boney Green, 1978
Ida L. Gray, 1979, Kansas City, Kan.
Dennis L. Thurman, 1979, Joplin, Mo.
Darla Renee Hawthorne (Bishop), 1985, Tulsa, Okla.
Dennis M. McCarley, 1985, Asbury, Mo.
Maxine C. Young, 1985, Kansas City, Mo.
Terry L. Siemsen, 1990, Sugarland, Texas
Nola J. Hatfield (Arbuthnot), 1991, Nevada, Mo.
Eric P. Sierck, 1991, Kansas City, Mo.
R. Keith Bauer, 1992, Salt Lake City, Utah.
James E. Ragsdale, 1994, Destin, Fla.
Rebecca R. Weddle (Harvey), 1996, Moundridge, Kan.

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...because your life matters
Lori Ann Spacheck’s love of public radio began at a young age. “My mother would always have our local public radio station on the car radio,” she says with a smile. “I didn’t want to admit it to her but I loved listening to it. I guess you could say I was a bit of a closet listener.”

A Texas native, Lori Ann brought that love of public radio with her when she and her family moved to Pittsburg in 2005 to open an office with State Farm Insurance. Although not a graduate of Pittsburg State University, she quickly came to love all things Gorilla, including her local public radio station. “When I discovered that KRPS was associated with Pittsburg State it was the best of both worlds,” she explains. “It gave me the opportunity to continue my support of public radio and help students succeed.”

Lori Ann and her husband Jeff have taken the next step in supporting PSU by including the Foundation in their estate plans and becoming members of the Heritage Society. “Neither one of us are alumni of Pittsburg State,” says Spacheck. “But we believe so strongly in this university that we wanted to make certain we left a legacy of support for future Gorillas.”

Lori Ann, and her husband Jeff, have three children Abigail, Rebecca and Thomas. They live in Pittsburg, Kansas.
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