Picking up the pieces when disaster strikes
Vol. 21 No. 2        Fall 2013

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From the editor
It’s been a great summer at PSU! It is especially exciting to see the new Center for the Arts rising and plans moving forward for the Student Center and Indoor Event Center. It is also great to hear from you, whether it is to share memories of your time on campus or exciting events in your own lives. So keep in touch! And don’t forget to check out the news, photos and videos we can offer only online at magazine.pittstate.edu.
Horace Mann memories

We had a wonderful response to our request for memories of Horace Mann. We’ve include some here and others are on-line. —the editor.

Great experience for teachers

When I was an Elementary Education student, 1957-1961, I did my first student teaching in the kindergarten at Horace Mann. It was a great introductory experience. Not very realistic – very small class with the kindergarten teacher/instructor and I think 3-5 student teachers. The instructor was so enthusiastic & understanding. I really enjoyed the experience.

By the way, your article in the SPRING 2013 edition of the Pitt State Magazine says that Horace Mann was “a lab school for grades 1-6 until 1971.”

I do not know when they started the kindergarten program there, but I do know that it was there in 1958-59 & beyond.

LANELL LINN RUSSELL ‘61

Student teaching in Horace Mann

During my teacher training at PSU, I was one of the fortunate students who was able to have the Horace Mann experience. I believe it was the fall semester of 1966. What a valuable training aid!

But my most vivid memories of Horace Mann happened after its closing as a lab school. I was hired as the Director of the Campus Child Care Center, which was organized by a committee of student families and faculty members at PSU. At that time, early childhood programs were licensed by Kansas Department of Maternal and Child Health. We were licensed for 24 children. We were allowed to open our day care facility in the Horace Mann building. But we were so much more than a day care center. We had a fantastic early childhood program from the very beginning.

One of the reasons is that PSU allowed us to equip our center from the furniture and educational supplies that were stored in the gymnasion on the first floor of Horace Mann. We were located on the top floor left, and because of the way the lab school was set up, we had a large main classroom, a smaller activity room and an office. At the same time, the lending library for student teachers was still located on the first floor of the building and I was able to check out materials to use with our lesson plans.

In addition, at various times, graduate students from the psychology department would get parent permission to practice their test giving skills. Also, I remember nursing students coming to our center as part of their “well child studies.”

We had a cook located at the Student Methodist Center located a block away and made the trek down the block daily for our lunch.

A small yard was fenced in for us on the east side of the building. Darryl St. Aubin, who was then Director of the Methodist Center, served on our Board of Directors, as well as Dr. John Connelly, from the psychology department. Most of the student families had most of their day care fees paid through the Title program, which was available at the time. In addition to student families, we also had some faculty children enrolled as well.

The 1973 yearbook included a very nice article and pictures about the Campus Child Care Center. We were located in Horace Mann for two years. After that time, we bought a house on West Billings and converted it into a child care facility.

LYNN (TORGLER) KEIDEL BS ‘75, MS ‘84, MS ‘85

Fond memories

I have fond memories of the early years of Horace Mann elementary school. It was an easy walk from my family home on Belleville Street. I started in kindergarten at age 5 in 1929 and finished the sixth grade in 1934. They believed in rapid advancement in those days. Dr. Jane M. Carroll was principal. Mrs. Peck, kindergarten; Miss Williams, 1st; Miss Carnegie, 2nd; Miss Grawe, 3rd; Miss Cross, 4th, Miss Hare and Miss Rinehart (my favorite) each had half a year of 5th; and Miss King, 6th. After that, my family moved closer to town and I went to Pittsburg public schools. I remember a practice election in 1932 where Mr. Hoover won handily over Mr. Roosevelt. I loved seeing the photos on your website.

PHILIP NORMAN, A.B. 1947, M.D. Baldwin, MD
Special Memories

I began school in 1931 - 1938. My teachers K through 6 were all great: Ms. Peck, Ms. Williams, Ms. Carnegie, Ms. Graywee, Ms. Cross, and Ms. King. Our music teacher, Edwina Fowler taught us well and took us to Music Hall for concerts and to listen to the organ music. Mrs. Bennington was our penmanship teacher, and was a precise teacher. Dr. Jane Carroll was our principal.

We had operettas every spring in Carney Hall. The College Art Department made our flower costumes of tissue paper, hats and all. I thought they were beautiful.

We also could go to the College Library and museum and the swimming pool at the Gym to learn swimming. They took us to Memorial Auditorium for special events, like Martin & Osa Johnson speaking of their safaris. We also heard George Washington Carver speak.

I met (my husband to be) Thurlyn Van Tassel in 3rd grade. He tied his horse to the flag pole in front. He loved horses.

I thought we had the advantage of many opportunities at Horace Mann. We both completed six years at College High School, one and a half years for me and three and one-half years for him at K.S.T.C. (now PSU). We were married in 1946 and raised 5 children, and have 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

BILLIE (PANKNIN) VAN TASSEL
Ozark, Mo.

Loved Horace Mann

I loved attending Horace Mann Laboratory School on the College campus. We always enjoyed having all the student teachers in our classrooms. I never have understood how one teacher could do all that the student teachers did for us. It just seemed so natural having eight or nine extra teachers each semester.

I also remember having classes in the room where they had cameras that sent our images over to the college campus for student teachers to watch us. Several of us would walk home through the campus and it would always be a surprise when one of the college students would say hi to us and call us by name. We didn't realize that they had been watching us on TV having our class.

Our teachers all through the years were master teachers who knew our families and had taught our older siblings before us. I still remember all of them and look back with happy memories of my days at Horace Mann.

I attended Horace Mann from 1952 - 1958, graduating from College High in 1966.

Thank you for letting me share my memories.

ROBERTA L. (GELSO) JOLLY
Independence, Mo.

Education began at Horace Mann

My educational experience began at Horace Mann Laboratory School in 1959, when I entered Miss Velda Williams' first grade class. Miss Williams was a wonderful teacher, who motivated me to read, and challenged me to do my very best. Dr. Aldon Bebb was my principal, whom I had great respect for.

My mother, Sue Billingsly, was a Third Grade Supervisor at Horace Mann that year, and my father, Leon Billingsly, was Principal of College High. I have fond memories of attending elementary and secondary functions with them. One of my favorite memories was playing on campus with Ann Stromquist, my best first-grade friend, whose grandfather, Reece Hughes was PSU President at the time.

First grade was one of my most important years growing up, because that was the year I decided I wanted to become a teacher, just like Miss Williams. Unfortunately, that was the only year I attended Horace Mann, because my family moved to Fayetteville, Ark., the summer after my first grade year.

I did, however, end up becoming a first grade teacher like my beloved Miss Williams, and a building administrator like Dr. Bebb. Through the years, I have often thought of those two educators, who had a great impact on my life at an early age. Their desire to provide an exemplary education to their students inspired me to attempt to carry on their legacy in the Webb City R-7, and Carl Junction R-1 school districts the past 37 years.

Thank you, Horace Mann and College High for providing a great foundation of learning for me and all my fellow students through the years.

With tremendous gratitude,

CONNIE BILLINGSLY GODWIN
Retired Principal of Carl Junction Intermediate School, Current Adjunct Professor at Missouri Southern State University

Memories of friends

My father, Dr. Don Quentin Milliken, took a job teaching science courses at College High in 1951, when classes were still being held in Russ Hall. I attended 5th & 6th grades at Horace Mann, went to middle & high school at the newly-built CHS, & graduated from Kansas State College of Pittsburg in 1963. I remember going to a dining room in Russ Hall (3rd floor?) for lunches while in Horace Mann. Twenty-five cents? I enjoyed 5th grade with Gladys Rinehart & 6th grade with Perva Hughes, both of whom included Spanish in their curricula. My best memories of Horace Mann are of friends I made, some of whom also graduated from CHS & from KSC. That was quite a trek together that now seems to have gone by all too quickly, a long time ago.

DON MILLIKEN

We enjoy hearing from our readers! Send your letters to psumag@pittstate.edu.
Missouri alumni say “Show Me” the Gorilla plate

It took a year longer than expected but Pittsburg State Alumni in Missouri will be able to display their Gorilla pride on official state license plates.

“It’s exciting news,” said Johnna Norton, director of alumni and constituent relations. “We received word in July that the governor had signed the bill into law and that we would be able to start exactly where we left off last year.”

University officials have been told to expect a 90-day wait until the first plates are produced and delivered to applicants.

“Ironically, the delay has actually increased interest in the program from our alumni,” explained Norton. “They can’t wait to be able to show off the best plate in the state.”

If you’re interested in applying for a Gorilla license plate please contact Johnna Norton at johnna.norton@pittstate.edu or by phone at 620-235-4758.

KRPS turns 25

KRPS, 89.9 FM, located on the campus of Pittsburg State University, turned 25 in April.

KRPS began broadcasting at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 1988. From the beginning, the station’s mix of NPR news, classical and jazz music, and other public radio programming filled a hole that had existed in the region.

The station’s powerful, 100,000-watt signal reaches out approximately 100 miles in every direction from its tower south of Pittsburg.

The station celebrated with an open house event. Missi Kelly, station general manager, said the event was conducted to allow those members to see what goes on behind the scenes at KRPS.

“This station wouldn’t exist without the support from our members, listeners and supporters,” Kelly said, “and this is a way to let them come in and see where their investment goes.”

Medal of Honor recipient shares powerful story

A living hero visited Pittsburg State University in April when former Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romesha came to campus. In February, President Barack Obama bestowed the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military decoration, on Romesha in a ceremony at the White House.

The award recognizes Romesha for his courageous actions in a deadly battle at a remote combat post in Afghanistan in 2009.

Pittsburg State honored Romesha for his extraordinary service on April 25 at the PSU Veterans Memorial, where a paver was installed in his name. Romesha also spent some of his time at PSU with ROTC cadets in PSU’s Department of Military Science and was a guest at the Gorilla Battalion Spring Awards Ceremony.

New recycling bins installed

The university improved its recycling efforts this year as new, custom-built recycling bins were placed in buildings across the campus. The large, wooden bins, built by PSU’s carpentry department, can collect bottles, cans, cardboard and paper.

The bins are currently located in Heckert Wells, Horace Mann, the Kansas Technology Center and Russ Hall, but program coordinator Tonya Pentola said every building will eventually have at least one.

“The goal is to have one of those large bins on every floor in every building, where it’s possible,” she said.
Foundation Stewardship

As state support for higher education dwindles, university officials find themselves relying more heavily on private giving to help fill the gap and reduce the burden on students.

In spite of these headwinds, Pittsburg State has been able to successfully move forward thanks to the generosity of its donors and the hard work of the Pittsburg State University Foundation and its board of trustees.

"We’re very lucky to have such an outstanding group of volunteers on our board," said Dr. Brad Hodson, vice president for university advancement. "These men and women give their time and expertise to the university make certain that our donors' gifts are properly managed."

The results over the past 10 years have been nothing short of amazing.

"This year we’ll distribute more than $3 million in scholarships," said Hodson. "That’s triple the amount we were able to offer just a decade ago. Private giving has played an integral role in many of the university’s recent construction projects. What’s really exciting is that our donors and trustees are making decisions that will benefit the university for generations."

Growing demands are bringing a change to the foundation in the form of additional trustees.

"The growing size and complexity of the foundation led us to this decision," explained Hodson. "Over the course of several years we’ll begin to increase the number of trustees up to a maximum of 100. We know that the more people we get involved with the foundation, the brighter our future will be."

Joan Cleland retires after 33 years

Joan Cleland, who served as administrative assistant to three PSU presidents, retired in June.

"Pittsburg State University is a wonderful place to work, and I will miss spending my days here," Cleland said.

Jaime Vanderbeck, who served for seven years as assistant director of PSU’s Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies, succeeded Cleland as assistant to the president on June 21.

Vanderbeck, 33, is a PSU alum, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2003 with a bachelor of science in psychology. In 2005, she earned a master of business administration from PSU.

Festival of Colors marks the beginning of spring

Students from many nations came together in March to celebrate Holi, the Indian Festival of Colors. The festival is observed at the end of the winter season on the last full-moon day of the lunar month. The PSU Indian Students Association sponsors the event each year at the University Lake.

The most notable aspect of the celebration is that participants throw colored powder and colored water at each other and dance in celebration.

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Peace Corps, PSU partner in global prep program

Representatives of the Peace Corps and Pittsburg State University gathered on April 26 to announce a new partnership to increase opportunities for students to prepare for Peace Corps service.

The Peace Corps Prep Program offers institutions of higher education a way to gain a competitive advantage through a specialized curriculum promoting international service. PSU is just the seventh university in the nation to partner with the Peace Corps Prep Program.

Lynette Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the Peace Corps Prep Program is a good fit for Pittsburg State University. “Pittsburg State has a long history of encouraging students to develop a global perspective,” Olson said. “Whether it is through international study and travel, providing a welcome environment for international students who study here or working to internationalize our own curriculum, Pittsburg State has opened windows to the world for thousands of American students. It is also a place that encourages and supports the concept of student service.”

PSU alum helps reunite family with letters from WWII

It was only fitting that it happened on Memorial Day weekend. On May 25, two children of a World War II veteran were presented with 250 letters their father, Eural Harvill, and his brother had written to their parents during the war. Harvill’s daughter, Teri Winnett, said it was the “perfect way” to spend that holiday weekend.

Standing behind the scenes during the ceremony was Doug Eaton, a 1976 graduate of Pittsburg State University. Eaton was instrumental in returning the letters after they were recently discovered inside an old hatbox purchased at an estate sale.

“As I started to go through the letters, I realized that someone from the families of the two brother-veterans really should have the letters,” Eaton said. “It’s important that the family knows about that part of their history.”

After many phone calls, e-mails and text messages, Eaton made contact with Winnett and her brother, Mike Harvill. They were more than excited to travel to Drumright, Okla., to retrieve the letters.

Eaton, the author of “Letters from Walter,” will be at Hastings in Pittsburg from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 21 for a book signing event.

Gorillas In Your Midst program earns awards

“Do The Gorilla Thing,” a program of the PSU Gorillas In Your Midst peer education group, won the Excellence for Outstanding Program award at the April 6 Meeting of the Minds conference in Kansas City, a regional prevention and health education conference for college and university peer educators.

The campaign is a campuswide program that translates to “Do The Right Thing” when it comes to diversity, vision, honor, academics and leadership, according to Gorillas In Your Midst adviser J.T. Knoll. The program aims to educate PSU students, particularly incoming freshmen, about substance abuse, mental health, stress management and bystander behavior.

Knoll was also named outstanding adviser at the conference.
Early Impact Program benefits students and donors

A new scholarship program will help students feel the impact of private donors’ generosity more quickly.

The Early Impact Program, which launched July 1, and is in effect until June 30, 2014, seeks to make a more immediate impact on students with money that is donated to PSU as an endowed scholarship. During the program, any endowed scholarships of $25,000 or more will begin paying out as student scholarships during the next academic year.

Traditionally, endowed scholarships take at least one year to accrue earnings sufficient to award. Under this program, however, the PSU Foundation will “pay ahead” scholarships for any new endowment at the $25,000 level or above through fiscal year 2018. This will allow the donor’s gift to have an immediate impact on students.

“The goal of this program is for students to feel the full impact of our donors’ generosity as the scholarships develop,” Kathleen Flannery, PSU’s director of development, said. “It’s really a win-win for the students and the donors. The students are touched right away through scholarship money, and the donors get to see right away the immediate impact on students.

“The goal of this program is for students to feel the full impact of our donors’ generosity as the scholarships develop,” Kathleen Flannery, PSU’s director of development, said. “It’s really a win-win for the students and the donors. The students are touched right away through scholarship money, and the donors get to see right away the immediate impact they have on the students’ lives.”

The Early Impact Program is part of the university’s Pathways to PSU Scholarship Campaign, a three-year effort to raise at least $12 million for student scholarships. This year marks the final year of the Pathways campaign. Flannery said the university is “more than halfway to its goal.”

“We are extremely pleased by and grateful for the success so far of the Pathways campaign,” Flannery said. “We have passed the halfway mark of our fundraising goal, but there is still a lot of work to be done. With declining state funding for higher education, the need for student scholarships continues to increase. It’s very important that we not only reach our goal of $12 million, but that we exceed it and continue to grow our scholarship fund.”

Flannery said she also hopes the Pathways campaign raises awareness about the importance of endowments, which affect the university and its students in a variety of ways.

“Endowments enable the university to make commitments far into the future, knowing the resources to meet these commitments will continue to be available,” she said. “They are vital to our ability to provide scholarships to students now and in the years to come. It is also an opportunity for donors to create a legacy by naming a scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one.”

As with every scholarship, Flannery said, each endowment is created according to the donors’ intentions. A scholarship can address student financial need, recognize academic achievement or honor a PSU student who is enrolled in a specific degree program.

In 2012, more $3 million in scholarships were awarded to PSU students. With the changing environment surrounding funding for higher education, future needs for scholarship funds will be even greater.

“We were very proud to award more $3 million in 2012,” Flannery said, “but even that amount doesn’t quite meet the needs of our students. We need to continue to raise even more scholarship funds so that we can get closer to meeting all of the needs of our students. Students are at the heart of everything we do, and we will always strive to support them in every way we can.”

For information on how to give to PSU, visit www.pittstate.edu/office/development.

Arcuino named director of international programs

Dr. Cathy Lee Arcuino is the new director of Pittsburg State University’s International Programs and Services.

Arcuino had served as the program’s interim director since November 2012, when previous director Chuck Olcese resigned to become director of international programs at the University of Kansas. Prior to that appointment, Arcuino had served as the department’s associate director since January 2009.

“I am very excited about this new opportunity and look forward to working with our team to build upon, grow and enhance our current international endeavors,” Arcuino said.

Finding Gus Gorilla

Can you find the hidden Gus? Search this issue for the iconic bronze Gorilla created by Larry Wooster in 1965.

Email psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry 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. One entry per person.

Entries must be received by Nov. 1, 2013. The winner will receive a hardbound copy of the university’s book, “Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years,” by Randy Roberts, PSU archivist.

Congratulations to William (Bud) and Bev Wilkinson of Pittsburg who found the hidden Gorilla in the spring magazine!
Kristen Schatzman has always loved history. There’s just something about the stories, the people, the moments that are remembered forever.

So when she and her fellow Pittsburg State University Honors College students were offered the opportunity to take an overseas journey through World War II history, there was no chance she could turn it down.

“It’s one thing to read about history in books or hear about it in class,” said Schatzman, a PSU junior and native of Rogers, Ark. “But it’s quite another to get to see it for yourself. This trip was an amazing opportunity to see the places where history happened.”

Schatzman was among the 47 people – 37 Honors College students and 10 adults – who took a 16-day trip to Europe in late May to study World War II history. The trip included stops in London, Normandy, Paris, Dachau, Salzburg, Berlin and other sites that played a major role in the war.

Craig Fuchs, director of the PSU Honors College, said the Honors College takes a trip every year as part of its mission to promote and offer international studies.

“We see it as a way to open the students’ eyes to the world,” Fuchs said. “A lot of our students have never been outside of the United States, and we hope trips like this educate and also inspire.”

Fuchs, a self-proclaimed “World War II buff,” said he also hoped the trip would give the students a better appreciation for how large and historic the war truly was.

“One of the main goals was to give them a sense of the breadth and depth of that war,” Fuchs said. “We wanted them to understand why it was such a historic and world-changing event.”

Sophomore Ellen Wieberg said she appreciated learning about the war from the perspective of other countries.

“As Americans, we pretty much only learn about our side of the war,” she said. “Unless you really dig into it yourself, you don’t often hear about what went on in other countries and how they were affected. I think my main take away was that history isn’t always black and white. There are gray areas, and it’s important for us to understand that.”

The students said the trip was sometimes as emotional as it was educational. Personal stories of the war touched their hearts, as did certain sites in cities and surrounding areas. Nothing came close, however, to the emotions they felt while at the American Cemetery on the beaches of Normandy, the site of the famous D-Day invasion.

“Before we left, we learned of four Pittsburg families who have loved ones buried in the American Cemetery,” said Krisanna Graham, senior from Salina.

“We found those four graves and held special, small ceremonies for each. Dr. Fuchs played Taps on his trumpet, and we all started crying. It was an incredibly emotional moment for all of us. I think that taught us more than anything about how much was lost during the war.

“I’m glad we did that, though,” Graham said. “Some of those families have never had a chance to go to Normandy to pay tribute to their relatives. For us to get that chance to be there and honor their families was very humbling. That trip was definitely an eye-opener.”

Fuchs said the next international trip for the Honors College will be a two-week trip to Spain in 2014.

Members of the Honors College pose for a group photo in London.
Center for the Arts – *it’s going to be amazing!*

Crossland Construction worked hard to make sure a wet spring didn’t stop progress on the $33 million Center for the Arts, scheduled for completion in 2014.

“The grading we put in place ahead of time allowed the site to drain pretty efficiently,” said Jeff Machado, construction superintendent and PSU alumnus.

Machado isn’t the only one working on the site who has PSU connections. In addition to several other alumni, there are eight PSU student interns on the project.

Guests driving by the construction site this fall will see crews placing the Center’s final panels of precast concrete into place in preparation for the project’s final phase.

“It’s going to be an amazing building,” said Machado. “Our plan is to begin enclosing the building in October so that we can turn our focus to the interior. This will be a building that everyone can be proud to have on this campus and in this community.”

“It is extremely exciting and energizing to see the progress,” said President Steve Scott. “As I watch the construction, I can’t help but think of all of the donors who have made this possible.”

Many people have given generously to make the Center for the Arts a reality. A seat-plaque campaign is currently underway for those who want to be part of this historic project.

“We’re continuing to raise money,” said Kathleen Flannery, executive director of university development. “Every gift is important and regardless of the size of the gift, we want people to feel ownership in this building.”

For more information or to make a secure gift online, visit our website at pittstate.edu/centerforarts.

Cranes lift steel and pre-cast concrete panels more than 70 feet into the air for installation on the Center for the Arts. This view looks north, with the Weede PE Building in the background.

Architects’ drawings of the lobby interior include dramatic sweeping lines, a massive grand staircase and west-facing windows that are a central feature of the front of the building.
Student employees earn accolades

In the spring, the university honored the 800 or so student workers who keep the campus humming and the hundreds more who play important roles in businesses across the community. Two of those students were singled out for special recognition as the on-campus and off-campus student employees of the year.

Ashley Ferris, a junior from Carl Junction, Mo., was named the on-campus Student Employee of the Year. She works in the PSU School of Construction Office.

Rita Hardesty, administrative specialist in the School of Construction Office, said she is impressed by Ashley’s level of involvement in every aspect of the school.

“Not only is she a good assistant in the day-to-day operation, but she is a great ambassador for the program,” Hardesty said.

Kasey Paddock, a junior from Clinton, Mo., was named the off-campus Student Employee of the Year. He works at Unique Metal Fabrication in Pittsburg.

“Kasey is the ‘go-to’ person at Unique Metal Fabrications,” said Quality Assurance Manager Chris Jordan. “He supervises a crew of two to four college students. Kasey is willing to get down and dirty to get the job done as well as always paying great attention to the details.”

Why I give...

Unrestricted Gifts

“I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to go to Pitt State, thanks to a general need based scholarship. Unrestricted gifts fund needs and merit based scholarships as well as ensures faculty have the best training on the most current technology to educate the students. Unrestricted gifts benefit all students.”

– Amy Bowman, ‘11, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Amy said it well. Unrestricted gifts touch every aspect of Pittsburg State University – students and faculty, technology and classrooms, and campus improvements and modernization. No matter what amount you give, you will be helping to change lives.

EVERY gifts counts...EVERY gift makes a difference.

Pittsburg State University

For additional information, contact the University Development Office at devel@pittstate.edu or 888-448-2778.
Which regional university’s business college is listed among the most family friendly schools in the nation?

1. Brigham Young University
2. Dartmouth College
3. Indiana University – Bloomington
4. Pennsylvania State University
5. Pittsburg State University
6. College of William and Mary
7. University of Notre Dame
8. Duke University
9. Cornell University
10. University of California – Berkeley


- In 2010, Entrepreneur Magazine ranked the Kelce MBA programs in Accounting and Marketing/Management in the national top 15 for student satisfaction.
- Kelce is consistently named one of the “Best Business Schools” in the nation by The Princeton Review.
- The Kelce Enactus student team placed 16th in the 2012 Students in Free Enterprise national exposition and competition.

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Fine Arts Calendar

Art
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
Aug. 21 – Sept. 23
Redefinitions
Jill Rumoshosky Werner
Lecture: Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Porter Hall, Room 103
Reception: 12-1 p.m., Porter Hall
Sept. 27 – Nov. 15
A Strange Place to Call Home
Vaughn Wascovich

Sept. 26
Family Art Morning
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Porter Hall

Sept. 26
Interdisciplinary Lecture Series
6-8 p.m., Porter Hall

Sept. 27
Interdisciplinary Lecture Series
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Porter Hall

Nov. 19 – Jan. 23
Working the Surface
Frank Pishkur
Lecture: Jan. 23, 6-7 p.m.
Reception: Jan. 23, 7-8 p.m.

Harry Krug Gallery
Porter Hall
Aug. 29 – Oct. 17
Varied States
University of Tennessee
Sally Brogden & Graduate Students
Sally Brogden, Ron Geibel, Jamie Alonzo, Kevin Kao, Aaron Benson, Erin Murphy, Kelly Berning, Hannah Short, Victoria Buck, Jessica Kreutter, Alicia Faciane, Darrin Ekern
Oct. 28 – Dec. 6
Transition
Sangsook Park

Music
Sept. 27 – Madrigal Dinner (Choirs)
6:30 p.m., St. Center
Oct. 2 – Southeast Kansas Symphony Concert
7:30 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium
Oct. 7 – Jazz Ensembles Concert
7:30 p.m., Overman Student Center
Oct. 8 – Wind Ensemble Concert
7:30 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium
Oct. 13 – 14 Midwest Trumpet Festival Concert
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall
Oct. 25 – Choir Concert
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall
Oct. 27 – Southeast Kansas Symphony Concert
3 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium
Nov. 21 – Jazz Ensembles Concert
7:30 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium
Nov. 24 – Southeast Kansas Symphony Concert
3 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium
Dec. 4 – Holiday Luncheon
11:30 a.m., Overman Student Center
Dec. 4 – Timmons Concert
7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel
Dec. 6 – Timmons Concert
7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel
Dec. 8 – Holiday Concert
2 p.m., Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

Solo & Chamber Music Series
Sept. 20 – Scott Bell (oboe), and Larry Allen, (piano and organ)
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall
Oct. 18 – Chestnut Brass Company (quintet), 7:30 p.m., McCray Hall
Nov. 8 – Enso String Quartet
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

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

“The Dinosaur Musical”
Music by Robert Reale, Book & Lyrics by Willie Reale, Directed by Gil Cooper
Oct. 24 – 26, 8 p.m.
Memorial Auditorium

“Theatre Unplugged”
Student Directed One-Acts
Dec. 5 – 6, 7 p.m.
Grubbs Studio Theatre

“An Enemy of the People”
By Henrik Ibsen, Adapted by Arthur Miller, Directed by Joey Pogue
Feb. 27 – March 2
Evenings: 8 p.m. Sunday matinee: 2 p.m.
Grubbs Studio Theater

“Dead Man’s Cell Phone”
By Sarah Ruhl, Directed by Cynthia Allan
April 24 – 27
Evenings: 8 p.m. Sunday matinee: 2 p.m.
Grubbs Studio Theatre

PALS
Performing Arts & Lecture Series
For ticket information and prices go to www.pittstate.edu/ticket

Dan Savage
Wednesday, Sept. 25
7:30 p.m., Crimson & Gold Ballroom
Limited seating - only 400 seats
Note: this show is not suitable for children

Michael Hingson
Friday, Nov. 1
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium
Free - ticket required

“The Miracle Worker”
performed by the Montana Repertory Theatre
Friday, Feb. 21
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

Bob Mintzer Big Band
Friday, March 7
7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium
More Where in the World is Gus photos at: magazine.pittstate.edu

"Where in the World is Gus?"

Gus at the inauguration - Don Murray (BS ’66) and Mary Lou Murray (BS ’63, MS ’77) took their PSU colors to Washington, D.C., in January, where they attended the second inauguration of President Obama.

Biker Gorillas - Proud alumni Al Letner (BSED ’76) and Tim Harris (BS ’07) showed their Gorilla pride on a 3,000-mile, two-week motorcycle adventure that included this stop at Robbinsville, N.C. The site is near a stretch of asphalt known as the Tail of the Dragon for its 318 curves.

Explorer Gus - Ron Gates (’69) took along his Gorilla spirit to explore the Galapagos Islands and other parts of Ecuador, where he spent late February and most of March.

Gorilla wizards - The new school uniform at Hogwarts includes Gus Gorilla, at least when the Kubler family is visiting. Greg Kubler (EDS ’86) & Cara (Best) Kubler (MS ’97) took their family for a trip to Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure in May. Their children are Jessica, Kyle, and Camrin.

Gus on Maui - Jayma Beadle (BS ’00 Elementary Ed, MS ’08 Library Science) and her mom, Patsy (Lucas) Allenbrand (BS ’72 Elementary Ed), share the black sand beach on Maui with Gus on a family trip.

Mountain Gorilla - Proud Gorilla Nicole Thomas, (BS ’09, commercial graphics) pauses during a visit to Colorado to show her Gorilla wear. She was in Colorado to see her mom graduate with a DPN in nursing.

Gus on Maui - Jayma Beadle (BS ’00 Elementary Ed, MS ’08 Library Science) and her mom, Patsy (Lucas) Allenbrand (BS ’72 Elementary Ed), share the black sand beach on Maui with Gus on a family trip.
We would like to know what interesting places Gus has visited.
E-mail your photo and a brief story to psumag@pittstate.edu

**Army Gorillas** - Cpt. Matt Moore (’03), Cpt. Dean Ray (’04) and Cpt. Matt Hill (’05) show their Gorilla pride at the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Va. The Gorilla flag has traveled to Iraq twice and Afghanistan once with Cpt. Ray.

**Gus across the U.S.** - On a cross-country trip in 2012, Jamie (BSET ’08) and Katy (BSED ’08) Leifer stopped at numerous points to chronicle their trip. “We took our lucky PSU pennant with us to capture a few of our favorite spots along the way. We even flew with it when we went skydiving over Zion Canyon National Park,” Katy wrote. Jamie and Katy fell in love with the West and, Katy wrote, Jamie found his dream job outside of Lake Tahoe, Nev., where they now live. For more photos, visit the PittState Magazine online.

**Mountain views** - Jan (Cooper) Magee (BSED ’71) and husband Brad Magee (BSIT ’70) look over Franconia Notch in the White Mountains of New Hampshire last August. Jan is a retired elementary teacher and Brad is a retired manufacturing manager. They live in Jonesboro, Ark.

**Gorillas in Italy** - Chuck (BS ’68) and Sharon Moriconi and daughter, Angela Moriconi, show their Gorilla spirit in front of the Colosseum in Rome. The April trip was a 40th wedding anniversary gift from Angela.

**Texas Gorillas** - Patrick (BS ’03) and Becky (BS ’05) Bales and their son, Reed, take a moment during a vacation trip to Port Aransas and Corpus Christi to show their Gorilla pride in front of the USS Lexington. The ship, decommissioned in 1991, is now a National Historic Landmark.

**Green with envy** - On a cruise of the Baltics aboard the Celebrity Constellation, Terry Hersperger (BS ’70) wears his Pitt State gear for a photo next to a big, green cousin of our own beloved Gus.
On a sunny afternoon this past spring, Lee Tafanelli watched in his Topeka office as an angry red blob on the radar screen rolled across his hometown in southeast Kansas. He knew that if the storm developed a tornado, he could be called upon to help pick up the pieces.

The Emergency Operations Center at the National Guard Headquarters in Topeka can become a beehive of activity when spring storms roll across Kansas.
AS ADJUTANT GENERAL of the State of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli is responsible for the Kansas Army National Guard and Air National Guard, the men and women who Kansans depend on when disaster strikes. He is also director of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Kansas.

Fortunately, the storm passed without serious damage, but, Tafanelli noted, it had already been a busy spring for the Kansas National Guard.

“In the past days, we’ve responded to fires in the west, a tornado and flooding,” Tafanelli said. “It’s Kansas, so we have to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at us. Depending on the time of year, that may be snow and ice storms, blizzards, floods, wind, tornados or wildfires.”

In his office in Topeka, where he oversees more than 7,700 soldiers and airmen and 2,300 state and federal employees, Tafanelli is never far from his days as a boy growing up in rural southeast Kansas.

“It’s hard to grow up (in southeast Kansas) and not have that be part of you,” Tafanelli said. “I think it’s that immigrant history that has played a big part for me. Those individuals came to this country with virtually nothing. They made a life for their families and the generations that followed them. It gives you a deep appreciation for the work ethic and tenacity they had.”

It’s been 33 years since Tafanelli joined the Kansas Army National Guard, but he didn’t set out to build a career in the military. In fact, he didn’t take his first offer because of the length of the commitment.

“In high school, I had an offer from the Navy to get into their nuclear engineering program,” Tafanelli said. “At the time, I
remember thinking, ‘four years of school and then you still owed the Navy six years.”

After graduating from Frontenac high school, he enrolled at Pittsburg State University, where he learned he could become an officer by going through PSU’s ROTC program. It is also where he met the late Col. Bill Hollenbeck.

“Militarily, the first individual who made a difference for me was the individual who swore me in here at Pittsburg State when I joined ROTC,” Tafanelli said. “Col. Bill Hollenbeck had a distinguished military career, (which included) service in Vietnam. He then went on to be a special assistant here at the university. After he left the military, he continued to make a tremendous impact here for all of us involved in the ROTC program. I’ll be forever grateful for that.”

Tafanelli joined the National Guard and found himself on a bus to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

“I signed up for six years and just thought I’d get my initial six years done and see what the world had to offer. And, after that, if I still enjoyed it, I would consider making it a career,” Tafanelli said. “After I got my commission from Pitt State ROTC, I had an opportunity to go to work for the National Guard full-time and the rest is history.”

That history is distinguished. Tafanelli has served in a wide variety of command and staff positions as a traditional guardsman, active guard and reserve and active duty soldier at the company, battalion, brigade, state headquarters and Department of the Army levels.

Tafanelli’s battalion and brigade level assignments include reconnaissance officer, equipment platoon leader, supply officer, company commander, and training officer in the 891st Engineer Battalion. He also served as the personnel officer and training officer of the 69th Infantry Brigade, 35th Infantry Division.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, Tafanelli was called to the Pentagon, where he worked for about four months on mobilization and support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2002, Tafanelli took command of the 891st Engineer Battalion and in 2005, led the battalion during a year-long deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later served as commander of 69th Troop Command and as director of operations for the Kansas National Guard.

In 2010, Tafanelli was named assistant adjutant general for Kansas Army National Guard, and commander of the Land Component for the Joint Force Headquarters-Kansas. He was sworn in as adjutant general on Jan. 28, 2011.

“We came in January of 2011 with the inaugural and we ended up with a severe winter storm,” Tafanelli noted wryly.

As he walks through the Kansas National Guard headquarters, Tafanelli said he feels a strong sense of history. On one wall, his photo is the most recent in a line that stretches back to Hiram J. Strickler, the first territorial adjutant general in 1855.

Over the years, Tafanelli said, each adjutant general confronted challenges unique to his own time. Today, those challenges are varied and complex.

“Since 9-11, our world (and the way) we look at things has changed,” Tafanelli said. “There are many types of asymmetric threats around the globe and not just in the major urban areas. Those same things can impact and affect Kansas, as well. We work on a whole series of potential disasters that may impact Kansas -- everything from a potential terrorist attack to natural disasters. From a homeland security perspective, what we try to do is have an all-hazards...
Tafanelli is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Army Command and general Staff College, Air Command and Staff College, U.S. Army Airborne School, U.S. Army Assault School and numerous other military courses. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

He has a master’s degree in environmental planning and management from Kansas State University and a master’s in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Tafanelli served as Kansas state representative for District 47 from 2001-2011. He also worked for the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at KSU.

He and his wife Tammy live in Ozawkie (Kan.), with the son Nick and daughter Francesca.

response, so that whatever it is, we have the same response network in place so we can mitigate the effects as quickly as we can.”

Responding to natural disasters, Tafanelli said, means working closely with Kansas’ 105 county emergency managers and their staffs, who all receive training through the department.

“What we try to do in the Division of Emergency Management, is to make sure that we have an accurate picture of what the threat may be,” Tafanelli said. “Then we try to anticipate what the requirements are going to be coming from those towns, so when the county emergency managers and the mayors call and need assistance, we have a very well organized and coordinated response.”

Shrinking resources are a big concern, Tafanelli said.

“Militarily, we’re now coming down from 12 years of conflict and abundant resources to an era of restrained resources,” Tafanelli said. “Some questions we have to answer are: ‘How do we ensure that we’ve got our soldiers and our airmen positioned for the next time that phone rings and we have to deploy?’ ‘How do we retain our critical skill sets and operational knowledge in an era when there’s going to be considerably fewer resources?’”

The questions are tough and the job unpredictable, but Tafanelli remains optimistic about the future.

“I work with a great group of folks who are focused on the right things,” Tafanelli said. “(We are all trying) to make the organization better and position the agency to anticipate and adapt to the requirements that will be needed. That’s true for our missions overseas, or when we’ve had a disaster strike the state of Kansas.” •
Although the concept of a gorilla for a mascot dates back to 1920, it wasn’t until 1923 that student Helen Waskey created a drawing, giving Gus a likeness and a personality.

Jack Overman arrived on campus in 1936. As a yell leader, Jack was known to assume the Gus persona from time to time in order to fire up the students in advance of a big game.

Today, Gus Gorilla is one of the most recognizable and most loved of all PSU traditions and he remains unique among all U.S. college mascots.

What is your favorite memory of Gus?
Send photos and memories to psumag@pittstate.edu
PSU’s Gorilla mascot had his genesis in the antics of a group of enthusiastic students, who were derided by some as “gorillas.” That enthusiasm has not waned and today is an important part of the one of the best campus environments in the country.

Gus is beloved not only by alumni, but by thousands of youngsters who flock to him at every athletic contest and public appearance.
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A lot of us are print people. We love the feel of the paper in our hands and the smell of ink as we read the stories that interest us.

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Whether in print or online, we are committed to bringing you the news of your university and we’re depending on you to help us do that in the format that works for you.

Ron Womble, editor
PittState Magazine
psumag@pittstate.edu

Symphony saves best for last

Each concert in the Southeast Kansas Symphony 2013-14 season, “American Inspiration,” is special for its own reasons, but Director Raúl Munguía says the season finale on April 27, 2014, will be one to remember.

The concert will feature the Kansas premiere of violinist and composer Mark O’Connor’s “The Improvised Violin Concerto.” This is the first concerto to feature an entirely improvised solo part over a through-composed orchestral score.

Munguía described O’Connor as “virtuoso fiddler and a prolific composer whose music blends practically every form of American music into a highly artistic yet accessible whole.”

In addition to joining the symphony for the performance of his work, O’Connor will serve as guest artist in residence for a weekend that includes three days teaching a 15-hour seminar for middle school and high school teachers from the Four-State area.

Munguia said he hopes the event will attract audiences who love not only classical music, but fiddling and music from the Appalachians. O’Connor has dedicated his life to this genre.

For information about the concert and the Music Department’s spring “String Stravaganza,” contact the department at 620-235-4466. For tickets, call the PSU ticket office or visit them online at www.pittstate.edu/tickets.

Kansas City’s Tailgate Home to the Gorillas!

Fall Classic at Arrowhead XII
Pre-game Gorilla Gathering
October 18

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For additional information, contact the University Development Office at devel@pittstate.edu or 888-448-2778.

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Alum leads mission trip that unites gridiron rivals

AS A FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETE at Blue Springs South High School, Brett Shamblin knows just how heated the cross-town rivalry with Blue Springs High School can be.

“It’s a pretty bitter rivalry,” Shamblin, a 2008 PSU grad, said. “These are high school kids that, when put on the same playing court or field, really don’t like each other that much. It’s intense.”

Off the court, however, it can be different story. Never was that more true than this July when students from both high schools teamed up to take part in missionary service in Jamaica.

Shamblin led the group on the trip, during which the students helped build homes for the homeless. The trip, sponsored by Won By One To Jamaica, took place from July 7-14.

This year marked the third for Shamblin and BSHS students, but it was the first year that the South students also took part.

“It was so amazing to see those kids come together for a common purpose to serve that community,” Shamblin said. “Sure, when they are playing against one another, they are rivals. But on something like this, they all came together as a family and did a lot of good for people who desperately need it. Those kids worked their tails off. We all knew just how important the work was.”

Won By One To Jamaica is a ministry located in the community of Harmons in South Central Jamaica. It works to meet the “physical and spiritual” needs of people in the community. Shamblin first got involved with the group through a friend at church. He said taking part in the service trip to Jamaica is rewarding for him in many ways.

“For me, getting to serve in this capacity is a blessing because it opens all of our eyes to a different culture, a different way of life,” he said. “It’s a great feeling to know we’re helping so many people who very much need the help. Plus, to watch these 17-year-old high school boys become men in a span of a week is a wonderful experience.”

Shamblin earned bachelor’s degrees in accounting and Spanish in 2008. He earned a master’s degree in business administration in 2010. He is currently employed by Hudl, a company that designs and sells software for coaches.
Dear Pitt State alum:

I’m proud to call Kansas my home, and there’s never been a better opportunity to make our state your home. It’s an ideal place to live, work and raise a family. We have done much to improve the quality of life and expand economic opportunity in Kansas, especially in the rural areas of our great state.

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Visit TaxFree.ks.gov to learn more, see detailed profiles of participating counties, and find out about eligibility requirements and the application process.

I would love to welcome you to a Rural Opportunity Zone. Thank you for being a loyal and proud alum of Pittsburg State University!

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback

Office of the Governor

Kansas
Department of Commerce
Marchant says music ‘Chose me’

“IT CHOSE ME,” Susan Marchant said when reflecting on her long career as professor of organ and choral music. In fact, she almost took a different path.

“I had sort of a crossroads moment in high school,” said Marchant, who grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., and studied organ from a young age.

After Marchant’s mother, a medical technologist, took her on a tour of the lab in which she worked, Marchant decided to quit her organ studies and focus instead on biology. She built up her courage to tell her teacher, John Becker, who was the music director at a large Lutheran church in downtown Buffalo.

“I went for my lesson and told him I wanted to talk to him about something,” Marchant said. “He said he wanted to talk to me, as well. After the lesson, he told me that he needed an assistant and he thought I was ready. Then he asked me what it was that I wanted to talk to him about. I said, ‘Oh, nothing.’”

Marchant gives much of the credit for her early passion for the organ to her father, a pharmacist, who would take his work with him on his evenings off to a big church in Buffalo where Marchant could practice.

“He was making it possible for me to practice,” Marchant said.

After high school, Marchant earned an undergraduate degree in organ performance at the prestigious Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where in addition to her organ studies, she fell in love with choral conducting.

She went on to earn MM, MMA and DMA degrees from Yale University.

Teaching positions in her field were scarce when Marchant graduated from Yale. Her first full-time teaching position was at St. Cloud State University, where she filled in for a professor who was on a year-long sabbatical. At the end of that year, Marchant accepted a job at Pittsburg State.

“The experience was challenging,” Marchant said. “It was very part time.”

She said Gene Vollen, department chairman at the time, worked hard to put together enough pieces to eventually make Marchant’s position full time. In 1988, she was named director of choral activities.

Marchant will mark her 35th year at PSU in 2014. In her years at PSU, she has earned the Outstanding Faculty Award twice. She has led the choir on several biennial spring tours in the U.S. and abroad on which they have performed in a variety of beautiful and often historic venues.

One of her most significant accomplishments, Marchant said, was working with university administrators to plan and install the Fisk Op. 106 organ in McCray Hall. Marchant performed two concerts on Oct. 29, 1995, to debut the new instrument.

Whether in the organ program or choral studies, Marchant said, it is working with students that nurtures and motivates her. She is especially gratified when she hears from former students who say she made a difference for them.

“I don’t think there’s any better feeling in the world,” Marchant said.

Campus celebrates Overman’s 95th birthday

THE CAMPUS RECEPTION on August 22 to celebrate Jack Overman’s 95th birthday turned into a Gorilla family reunion. Friends and former colleagues joined community members, current staff and students to wish the campus icon a happy birthday and many more.

PSU President Steve Scott presented a Gorilla statue to Overman, saying “you bring life to us. You inspire us.”

The president said he had a story to tell about Overman, but it was one he would save for his 100th birthday celebration.

Jack didn’t disappoint the crowd. He led early arrivers in a spirited Pitt State cheer, gave hugs and high fives to Gus when he arrived and clearly enjoyed the attention he received from current Pitt State cheerleaders.

“I want you to know,” Overman said, “from the bottom of my heart, how much I love this institution and this community. Thank you for coming to see this old man.”

Overman said the event had him “charged up for the next two weeks!”

Overman, a 1941 PSU graduate, has become an iconic figure for generations of Gorillas. The former cheerleader and student leader, returned to the campus in 1951 to

(continued on pg. 28)
Overman (from pg. 27)
serve as the first director of the newly built student center. He served in that capacity for nearly 40 years, retiring in 1984. In 1985, the building was named in his honor.

Even after his retirement, Overman remained a part of the day-to-day activity on campus, which was made easier by the fact that he and his wife, Doris, lived just across the street from McCray Hall.

Even at the age of 95, Overman rarely misses an athletic contest and he is a frequent guest at important events in the life of the university. He continues to be active in the YMCA, Rotary Club and a host of community organizations.

Overman’s trademark noisemaker is a cowbell that he rings at football games. He says it is the same one he bought at a local feed store as a student in the ’30s.

Johnna Norton, director of alumni and constituent relations, said alumni have great fondness for Overman.

“Perhaps because they all share such affection for Pittsburg State University,” Norton said.

Unfinished business – Grad finishes degree after 55 years

DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE THINGS that bugs you: something you should have done or didn’t quite complete that is always in the back of your mind?

For Jay Brady, Class of ’58, that “thing” was three credits he needed to get his degree.

Brady came to PSU to run track for Prentice Gudgeon.

“We had an exceptional mile relay team,” Brady said.

Then, in his second year, Brady injured his leg and his track career was over. After a stint in the Army, Brady returned to school and resumed work on a business degree. In May of 1958, he participated in commencement with the intention of completing the final three hours of coursework over the summer months.

That spring, however, Brady had a job offer from Rohr Aircraft in San Diego, Calif. It was too good to pass up and he went west, putting aside his plans to complete his degree.

Two years later, Brady returned to the region to work for Grove Valve and Regulator Co., where he was in charge of sales in five states. He was with that company for 22 years before founding X-Sell, a pipeline equipment office in Tulsa, Okla.

Over nearly three decades, Brady had been a successful businessman. He was happily married with “three of the most lovely daughters in the world.”

Then, in 1996, Brady suffered severe heart problems. His condition was so severe that it required a heart transplant.

Over many months, Brady recovered. He retired from his business and got interested in genealogy. But those three unfinished hours of college work still bothered him and ended up at the top of his New Year’s resolution list.

“You look at things you would have liked to have done, that you should have done,” Brady said.

So Brady, who is now 79, picked up the phone and called Dr. Bobby Winters, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at PSU, about becoming a student once again.

“It was clearly important to Mr. Brady and we understood that,” Winters said.

“The solution was an online course, which Brady took from his home in Tulsa.

In May, while the Class of 2013 was walking across the stage in John Lance Arena, Jay Brady was home in Tulsa, where his family threw him a party -- complete with mortar board and tassel.

Congrats, Jay Brady, Class of 2013!
Jewett quietly builds track and field legacy

RUSS JEWETT DOESN’T FIT the stereotype of a collegiate coach.

Slender and soft-spoken, in the off-season he can often be found in a small office on the second floor of the Weede Physical Education Building.

It’s not until you sit down across from him and begin to talk that you realize you’re in the presence of an intense competitor.

Russ, or Coach Jewett as he is known around campus, has led the university’s men’s and women’s cross country and track & field programs for the past 30 years. During that time his teams have earned 34 conference championships and made 15 appearances in the NCAA Division II Championships.

When asked about the program’s incredible accomplishments, Jewett quickly credits his predecessors.

“My coach used to talk about standing on the shoulders of giants,” explained Jewett. “And it’s so true. Doc Weede, Prentice Gudgen, David Suenram... they provided the foundation that has allowed our program to be so successful.”

Success may be an understatement.

Gorilla track & field student-athletes have earned NCAA Division II All-America honors on 214 occasions during Jewett’s tenure, including 24 individual event national champions in both sports.

It’s because of this success that it is so surprising to discover that coaching was not Jewett’s first choice after his time on the track team at Pittsburg State.

“I graduated with a computer science degree and spent a short time in the computer field after graduation,” said Jewett. “But my head coach at Pitt had such a profound experience on me, almost like a second father, that it didn’t take me long to come back and commit to exploring collegiate coaching. There was really was no looking back after that.”

The life of a coach can be difficult with late nights and long hours on the road. Jewett said balancing family and work is almost impossible if you don’t have support at home.

“I wouldn’t have lasted as a coach without my awesome wife, Janice, and the understanding of my kids,” he said. “For me to feel good about being a coach, I have to feel good about being a father and a husband. I feel like I fall short of that sometimes but I always keep trying.”

Jewett has been honored as MIAA Coach of the Year 30 times since PSU joined the league in 1989. It’s a reflection of the respect he has earned from both his peers and student-athletes.

As for what the future holds, Jewett says he doesn’t plan to put away the coaching whistle just yet.

“I don’t have plans to quit anytime soon,” he said with a smile. “For me, the future is about how we can recruit the best athletes and build the best facilities. I’m having too much fun to walk away now.” •

Long-time track and field coach Russ Jewett is well known for his strong bond with student athletes. He has carried on a long tradition of success for which he credits predecessors like Doc. Weede, Prentice Gudgen and David Suenram (at right).
Outstanding selection

Both of the Outstanding Seniors for 2013 came from the College of Arts and Sciences. Jessica Berberich, an English major from Olathe, Kan., and Austin Osborn, a biology major from Carl Junction, Mo., learned they had been selected Outstanding Senior Woman and Man for 2013 at the leadership banquet earlier in the spring.

Almost immediately, both Berberich and Osborn began working on a major task that goes along with the honor -- preparing a graduation speech.

“We found out that we won on a Wednesday, and I started putting together my speech that weekend,” Osborn said. “It’s a big responsibility to stand up there in front of so many people and represent the senior class. I wanted to make sure I gave myself the proper time to do it right.”

Berberich and Osborn touched on familiar themes in their addresses to their classmates.

“I really wanted to use my address to talk about the challenges our generation faces and how our time at PSU has prepared us to take on those challenges,” Berberich said.

Students honor A&S faculty

Students singled out two College of Arts and Sciences faculty for the Outstanding Faculty Award this past spring. Troy Comeau, professor of broadcasting, and Aesha John, assistant professor of social work, were honored at Apple Day ceremonies in March.

Comeau, a member of the PSU faculty since 1998, said he discovered his drive to teach while pursuing his master’s degree from PSU in 1997.

“When I started my graduate degree, I had an opportunity to teach as a graduate assistant,” he said. “The first time I saw the lights go on in the students’ eyes, when I could really tell they were learning something, was the moment I knew I wanted to teach.”

John, in her third year at PSU, has long been driven to educate students of all ages.

“Troy has worked very hard for several months to collect the data, stitch together their presentation, and their hard work paid off,” said Serif Uran, who is a professor in the Department of Physics and the group’s adviser.

The students, Amie Beggs, Chris Ward, Robert Gilmore, and Merab Basilaia, presented their work, titled “MBBA and 5CB liquid crystal phase transitions,” and were awarded the top prize at the event for their scholarly effort.

“Can ONE person make a difference?

Justin Gambill did. For his senior project, Gambill, a social work and Spanish major from Chetopa, Kan., conducted a campus E-Waste Recycling Day this past spring. His goal was to collect 100 e-waste items for recycling and $100 in donations for the SEK Recycling Center.

On collection day, the weather was cold and rainy, forcing Gambill to move his collection from the Oval in the center of campus to the garage in the Physical Plant, but he was still successful. By the end of the day, a smiling Gambill had collected 302 items for recycling and had received $111.90 in donations.

Hard work nets top prize

Hard work pays off. That’s what a group of PSU physics students learned at a regional conference of the Society of Physics Students in April.

The students, Amie Beggs, Chris Ward, Robert Gilmore, and Merab Basilaia, presented their work, titled “MBBA and 5CB liquid crystal phase transitions,” and were awarded the top prize at the event for their scholarly effort.

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Laundry as a metaphor for life

Cynthia Allan believes that some of life’s most important and most poignant moments occur while we are engaged in mundane tasks. That’s the premise that drives “The History of Laundry,” an original work conceived and directed by Allan and staged by PSU’s Advanced Performance Ensemble in April.

Allan, who is chair of the Department of Communication, said the idea for “The History of Laundry” came to her many years ago when a friend made an off-hand remark about her “history of laundry.” Allan began thinking about the number of times laundry is referred to in our daily expressions.

“We talk about sorting things out, ironing out our problems, airing our grievances, and we admonish people not to air their dirty laundry. Really, I started thinking that laundry was a great metaphor for all our interactions,” Allan said.

The play is constructed as an improvisational work.

“In my productions, even though the actors know the basic structure of every scene, everything they say happens in the moment,” Allan said.

Math, science events draw students to campus

Math Relays and Science Day are two longstanding campus events that each year draw upwards of 2,000 high school students to the campus to compete, have fun and get to know the university better. These and similar events are recruiting tools for high school students considering where they would like to go to college.

On Science Day, students competed in chemistry, physics and biology, as well as Earth and space sciences. In addition to written and oral tests, the students competed a variety of hands-on activities designed to be fun while also demonstrating the students’ knowledge in physics, natural science, chemistry and biology.

Tim Flood, chair of the Math Department, said he remembers competing in Math Relays when he was a high school student.

“These are the best math students in their schools and they get to come here and test themselves against the best math students from schools throughout the region.”

Nearly 800 students competed in this year’s Math Relays, which were held in March.

KANS wins two national awards

The PSU chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students (KANS) wrapped up the academic year with two national awards for service projects and national recognition for the strength of the chapter.

The PSU chapter was honored for having the most successful school project demonstrating the national theme of “Committing to Community: Empowering with Knowledge.” That project is the first aid and information station staffed by the students at GorillaFest before each home football game and now before home basketball games.

The chapter also received a national award in the Legislative Education category for a forum the chapter sponsored with two candidates for the Kansas House of Representatives. The forum allowed the candidates to discuss their views on various health policy issues.

In addition to the national awards recognizing the PSU KANS chapter for community service programs, the National Student Nurses Association selected PSU as a Stellar School Chapter. The award recognizes the PSU chapter for involvement in leadership at all levels.

organization that promotes programs, resources and opportunities that encourage greater participation in the community of physics.
Business leaders offer insight, advice

Pittsburg State President Steve Scott joined other area business leaders at a symposium in March aimed at providing future professionals a look inside the life of organizational management.

The event, “Challenges of Leadership and Management,” was sponsored by PSU’s MBA Association. It took place inside the Kelce College of Business.

Joining Scott as featured speakers were Ken Brock, president of Names and Numbers; Rob O’Brian, president of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce; and Bill Pesch, president of ABLE Manufacturing. Michael Gray, associate general counsel for Watco Companies and a member of the Pittsburg City Commission, served as moderator.

Sonya Bhakta, president of the MBA Association, said the purpose of the event was to give students a chance to talk with and seek advice from business leaders from a variety of sectors.

The nearly two-hour discussion covered topics ranging from economic trends to advice for students preparing to enter the workforce.

Scott said one of the main keys to being successful in business is continuing to learn.

“If you think you’re ever finished learning, you’re in trouble,” Scott said. “If you think you’re ever finished learning, you’re in trouble,” Scott said. “If you think you’re ever finished learning, you’re in trouble,” Scott said. “If you think you’re ever finished learning, you’re in trouble,” Scott said. “It’s imperative that you continue to learn. I look at it like a tool belt. You keep accumulating the tools and the skills you need.”

Alum among top young internal auditors

Just six years after graduating from Pitt State with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with majors in accounting, management and marketing, Kayla Carter was recognized as one of the world’s top young internal auditors.

In the June 2013 issue of Internal Auditor Magazine, Carter, 28, was listed as one of the “Top 20 Under 30,” a list of professionals from around the world who the magazine describes as the “next generation” of internal auditors.

“Their fearlessness, professionalism, and passion for their work is driving the profession to new heights,” the magazine states.

Carter, a manager of IT consulting and internal audit at Protiviti in Overland Park, said she was surprised and honored to be among the prestigious group.

While at PSU, Carter completed the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Internal Auditing Education Partnership Program. She was also a member of the PSU Honors College and an officer in the PSU IIA Student Chapter.

Carter noted that conducting a third-party media buying contract review for an international retailer, which resulted in a cost recovery of more than $250,000, was another career highlight.

Game-day opinions count in MBA survey

If the game-day experience at Pitt State football games this year seems to have a little more hop, the MBA Association could be to thank.

In conjunction with the PSU MBA Association, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics conducted a survey aimed at examining the level of satisfaction among fans who attend PSU football games. Topics addressed in the survey ranged from ticket purchasing and quality of service to entertainment and condition of facilities.

“We value the opinion of our fans, and we want to create the best game-day environment that we can for them,” said Athletics Director Jim Johnson.

The MBA Association developed the online survey.

“This was a fun project that allowed us to use the information and education we are receiving in the classroom,” said MBA Association President Sonya Bhakta.
Student launches new campus leadership group

Every year, the National Society of Leadership and Success offers paid internships to college students who want to start a society chapter at their respective campuses.

And every year, thousands of students from across the country apply. For 2013, that number hit the 3,000 mark.

“Of those 3,000,” Paige Billingsley, a senior marketing student at PSU said, “only 30 got it. Thirty out of 3,000. It’s a tough one to get."

Billingsley applied and went through a rigorous process that involved “six or seven interviews."

“I was one of the 30 chosen to start a local chapter,” she said. “This is a great opportunity for me, but it’s also a great opportunity for Pitt State students to get involved with a successful and effective leadership program that will benefit them now and especially when they graduate.”

The National Society of Leadership and Success is a nationwide community of college leaders dedicated to “building leaders who make a better world.” It is one of the largest honor organizations in the United States.

Enactus earns high marks

A little more than a month after being crowned as one of the Midwest regional champions, the PSU Enactus team shined on the main stage at the national competition in Kansas City.

Along with being named the overall second runner-up, the PSU team also earned two impressive accolades.

During the opening ceremonies, the PSU team was recognized as the second-place winner in the Walmart Women’s Economic Empowerment Project Partnership contest and as the third-place winner in the Sam’s Club “Step Up For Small Business” competition.

The PSU team received the Women’s Economic Empowerment award for its community employment initiative. The second-place award included a $4,000 prize.

The team earned third-place in the “Step Up” competition for its work with the Grace House Event Center in Galena. That award carried a $3,000 prize. All told, they left Kansas City with $7,750 in grant money.

MBA program has global appeal

Mohamed Abdellatif didn’t plan to stay long.

“I came to Pittsburg State in Summer 2012 for the International Mini-MBA program,” the Egypt native said. “I planned to take it in one month and then go back home.”

However, a long talk with PSU’s MBA program director, Professor Michael Muoghalu, convinced Abdellatif to make Pittsburg his home for a bit longer.

Abdellatif is one of the nearly 70 international students seeking a Master of Business Administration degree. Of the 121 MBA students in the spring 2013 semester, 67 are citizens of somewhere other than the United States.

“This is a trend that we’ve seen grow over the past several years,” Muoghalu said. “We have a great international presence in our MBA program.”

The diversity is significant. More than 20 countries are currently represented within the MBA program.

Muoghalu said diversity is important within a business school because of the ever-growing global marketplace.

“It’s important to understand different cultures and different human behaviors,” he said.

Professor Mike Muoghalu, far right, is proud that students in the MBA program represent nations around the globe.
Grant targets libraries serving Native American students

Representatives from PSU and the Inter-Tribal Council joined PSU President Steve Scott to officially receive a major grant to improve libraries serving Native American students.

A major grant is helping Pittsburg State University train library specialists for schools serving the nine Native American Tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri.

PSU officials announced the grant from the Laura Bush 21st Century Library program at the Inter-Tribal Council Building in Miami, Okla., in May.

“As a lifelong educator, I know that libraries are the beating heart of any school,” PSU President Steve Scott said. “They are also the repository for our culture and our history. This project will help us train a new generation of specialists who can provide information that is critical to individual success and also respect and celebrate the Native American history and culture of the region.”

The three-year grant, for $487,212, will pay for books and tuition, a laptop computer and a stipend for 25 students in PSU’s master of science in Educational Technology - Library Media Specialist Program. In addition to an online, two-year course of study beginning this summer, students will complete a year of mentorship.

The program, which is titled the 21st Century Library Alliance, is a collaborative effort between PSU, the nine Native American Tribes, 16 school districts with Native American student populations greater than 10 percent, and the American Indian Center for Excellence (AICE) at Northeast Oklahoma A & M.

Dean Howard Smith praised the efforts of Alice Sagehorn, chair of Teaching and Leadership, and Professor Sue Stidham in winning the grant, which Stidham administers.

New grads praise cooperating teachers

As excited new teachers took the Teacher’s Oath this past spring, many, like Ryan Pittsenbarger, say they had their cooperating teachers to thank for much of their success.

Pittsenbarger, an early/late childhood major from Lamar, Mo., said he had accepted a job offer from the Liberty (Mo.) school district and will begin his first teaching job there this fall. Pittsenbarger said his cooperating teacher, Alicia Shorter, a second-grade teacher in Carl Junction, Mo., is responsible for him landing his first job.

“Everything I said in that interview, I learned from her,” Pittsenbarger said. “It was the best experience I think I could have imagined,” Pittsenbarger said of serving as a student teacher under Shorter. “I learned so much!”

Mother inspired faculty honoree

Tatiana Sildus said she was inspired to teach by her mother.

“My mother was a high school teacher,” she said. “It’s the never-ending nature of learning that appeals to me. I like teaching. I like learning. I learn as much from my students as they can learn from me. In my classroom, everyone is a student and everyone is a teacher.”

Sildus, associate professor in Teaching and Leadership, was one of three faculty selected by students for the 2013 Outstanding Faculty Award in March.

Sildus said the award is especially meaningful since it comes from student selections.

“This makes me feel very special,” she said. “There is no higher honor than to be nominated and selected by the students.”
Gorman honored as mentor

Scott Gorman has won many accolades during his teaching career, but one, recognizing his efforts as a mentor is one of his proudest achievements.

Gorman, a professor in PSU’s Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation, was named the 2013 national mentor of the year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE). Gorman received the award at the NASPE Hall of Fame Banquet in April 26.

John Oppliger, chairman of the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation at PSU, called Gorman “one of the most student-oriented professors I have known. He always finds time for students, whether coming back to work in the evening to advise a student who is arriving late from out of town or making sure our students get the recognition they deserve.”

Healthy and fun

It was cold and rainy outside, but inside John Lance Arena, 900 third graders ran, jumped and danced their way to a healthier lifestyle in May. Students from schools in Crawford and Cherokee counties participated in the 2013 Kansas Kids Fitness Day, sponsored at PSU by the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation. HHPR Instructor Shelly Grimes coordinated the event.

Teachers honored for service, excellence

The College of Education honored three teachers and an elementary school principal for service and teaching excellence at the annual Clyde U. Phillips Awards ceremony in April. At the ceremony, the college also awarded more than $150,000 in student scholarships.

Ann Lee, the principal at Westside Elementary School in Pittsburg, and Richard Holroyd, a teacher at Labette County High School, were the recipients of the Clyde U. Phillips Award for Distinguished Service.

Lee has earned three degrees from Pitt State. She began her career as a fifth grade teacher in Joplin before serving as an elementary school counselor in the district. She came to Pittsburg Community Schools (USD 250) in 2005, where she worked as an elementary school counselor until 2009, when she was named assistant principal at Pittsburg Middle School. In 2011, the district named Lee to her current position as principal of Westside Elementary.

Holroyd began his teaching career as an industrial arts teacher at Horton (Kan.) High School in 1973. There, he established new programs in materials and processes and the world of construction and also taught woodworking and drafting. In 1976, Holroyd accepted an offer to teach at Labette County High School, where he teaches today.

The Clyde U. Phillips Outstanding Educator Awards went to Ke’olani Addis, a third grade teacher at Carl Junction, Mo., and Salvador Prado, a junior and senior high school band teacher at Jasper R-V schools.
Technology goes 3-D

The College of Technology is using a variety of 3-D technology equipment to prepare its students for the ever-changing world.

The COT’s School of Construction recently purchased a 3-D printer that faculty said is creating new ways of teaching and learning. This type of printing has been a major benefit to the construction industry, as it allows builders, contractors and designers to view and assess a physical model of what is to be constructed.

“Traditionally, design is done using two-dimensional blueprints,” assistant professor Norman Philipp said. “By adding a 3-D model, it allows you that direct communication from a 3-D design to a 3-D product. We can’t always go out and build the things we’re talking about in class, but we can design it in 3-D and print a model that our students can hold and study.”

In the Graphics and Imaging Technologies Department, a 3-D scanner made headlines for its use in a project to scan ancient fossils and dinosaur bones. The scans will be used to create digital archives of the fossils, which will enhance the study of the bones.

Assistant professor Jason Ward said the 3-D technology is making the impossible possible.

“Once you have a 3-D scan of the object, you can always replicate it,” he said. “If you have something that is one of a kind, such as a dinosaur fossil, you can replicate it out of anything.”

Sean McCartney, a recent PSU grad who worked with Ward on the project, said PSU is one of the few institutions to use 3-D scanning for this purpose.

GIT’s Wilson is Educator of the Year

The Printing and Imaging Association of MidAmerica has named Barry Wilson, chairman of the PSU Graphics and Imaging Technologies Department, the 2013 recipient of the Jerry Watson Educator of the Year Award.

The award is named for Jerry Watson, an award-winning graphics professor at College of the Ozarks, where Wilson received his undergraduate degree. In 1999, during Wilson’s senior year, Watson and five others died in a plane crash in southwest Missouri.

Following his death, two awards were named in Watson’s honor: an award for graphics students and one for educators. Wilson, a former recipient of the student award, is the first person to receive both honors.

“Jerry Watson was an important mentor for me,” Wilson said, “and I never got a chance to say ‘thank you.’ So, when I learned that I was receiving his award, I was dumbfounded.”

Tech students stage ‘Amazing Race’

In April, technology education students took Liberal Middle School on an “Amazing Race.” It was the latest in a series of school-based interactive activities designed to teach important technology concepts.

As part of the program, Liberal students visited a variety of stations that represented several different locations around the world. Their journey began at “Liberal International Airport” and took them to Peru, London, Saudi Arabia, China, Australia and Hawaii. Each station featured some type of lesson or activity.

“There was a lot of planning, building and work that went into this,” Byron McKay, PSU technology education major and a 2002 graduate of Liberal High School, said, “and seeing the kids light up and have such a great time definitely made it all worth the time and energy.”

Youngsters from Liberal, Mo., go on an ‘Amazing Race.’
School of Construction adds iPlan Tables

When the College of Technology purchased a 55-inch iPlan Table last fall, for its construction management program, it was one of the nation's first universities to boast the new technology.

Not long after, the college purchased two additional iPlan Tables, which gives students more access to the technology that is reshaping the construction industry.

“The two new iPlan Tables were purchased so students could have access at multiple locations and will be part of some of our future simulations,” Jim Otter, School of Construction chairman, said. “This way, students can have access regardless of class being in progress.”

“More and more, construction companies are eliminating the use of paper,” Bill Strenth, assistant professor in the School of Construction, said. “Everything is trending toward digital, which is in line with companies trying to go lean and green on projects. We want our students to be exposed to these technologies while they’re at Pitt State so they’ll be fully prepared to use them once they enter the workforce.”

MPI donates new wax injection machine

Russ Rosmait can’t help but smile when talking about one of the newest pieces of equipment installed at the Kansas Technology Center.

A new 25-ton wax injection machine, valued at approximately $160,000, was recently donated to PSU by MPI, a worldwide leader in wax-room equipment, with headquarters in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

“It’s incredibly exciting to have this state-of-the-art piece of equipment,” Rosmait said. “This will add a whole new level of learning to our investment casting program.”

Bruce Phipps, MPI president and founder, praised PSU for its investment casting program and said he is proud to have his company help contribute to its success.
Pittsburg State University will induct seven people into the Hall of Fame on Saturday, Nov. 2.

PSU’s Class of 2013 is headlined by a trio of decorated athletes: four-time All-America defensive lineman Aaron McConnell, who competed in football for the Gorillas from 2000-03; standout distance runner Jeanette (Mott) Owens, who earned All-America honors on six occasions in the sports of women’s cross country and track & field between 1998-2002; and record-breaking outside hitter Dina (Wathan) Blevins, an All-America and three-time All-Region performer in volleyball between 2000-03.

Former football athletes Frank Crespino and Chuck Shelton also have been tabbed for the Hall of Fame as meritorious achievement inductees. Crespino coached football, basketball and baseball at St. Mary’s-Colgan High School, leading the school to five state titles in a tenure that spanned from 1961-79. Shelton served as a head coach in the NCAA ranks for 19 seasons – at Drake (1977-85), Utah State (1986-91) and Pacific (1992-95).

Additionally, Charles Morgan, who served as head football coach at Pitt State from 1931-48, and Vern Akins, a sprinter who excelled on the track & field cinders for the Gorillas from 1939-41, both will be inducted in the Hall of Fame’s “Legacy” category as meritorious achievement honorees. The Legacy category, created in 2005, focuses solely on individuals from the school’s first 50 years (1903-53) in an attempt to bolster the school’s rich heritage from its first half-century.

In addition to this group, PSU standout Ronnie West (1990-91) was inducted into the 2013 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Hall of Fame class. West captured the Harlon Hill Award as the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year in 1991, leading Pitt State to a perfect 10-0 record.

Anyone who listens to KKOW radio broadcasts of PSU Athletics knows just how passionate Eddie Lomshek is about the Gorillas.

Lomshek, the station’s sports director and a 1999 PSU graduate, admits that he gets emotional during the Gorillas’ games because of his love for the university.

But he also gets emotional for another reason: he loves what he does. For that devotion and commitment to the field of broadcasting, Lomshek was named the 2013 recipient of the Hod Humiston Award.

The award is given annually to a Kansas broadcaster who has made significant contributions to the field of sports broadcasting. It is named for Hod Humiston, who became the state’s first television sportscaster when he did play-by-play coverage of college games for KTVH in Wichita.

Lomshek was recognized May 1 at the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Sports Seminar in Kansas City.

“It’s a tremendous honor to be among the outstanding broadcasters who have won this award,” he said. “It’s great for me personally, but this is also a team award. What I do every day wouldn’t be possible without the people I work with, many of whom aren’t heard or seen. They are just as important to making the broadcast what it is.”

Previous Hod Humiston Award recipients include such notable broadcasting personalities as Max Falkenstein, Bob Davis, Mitch Holthus and Fred White.

Lomshek began working part time at KKOW just before the 1996 football season. In 1998, he began working on air with Pitt State basketball. He graduated from Pitt State in 1999 and was hired full time by KKOW as the assistant sports director. He became sports director in 2004.

Lomshek said his career wouldn’t be what it is without the support of his family, especially his wife, Amy.

“When sports seasons get rolling, I’m gone from home quite a bit,” he said. “My wife is incredibly understanding and supportive of that. My career wouldn’t be possible without her being willing to accept that I’m going to be an absentee husband at certain times during the year.”

As for calling games at his alma mater, Lomshek said he can’t help but show his excitement and support for the Gorillas.

“There is a lot of emotion, and I’m sure that comes through in the broadcasts,” he said. “I know how important the Gorillas are to this community. I know how important athletics are to this community. It’s an honor to get to call their games, and it’s a lot of fun.”

Video: http://youtu.be/SIJ22s7p7zY
Murray era begins strong

For the first time since the 2004 season, the Pitt State baseball team qualified for the MIAA Postseason Tournament. The Gorillas, under first-year head coach Matt Murray, knocked off perennial power Central Missouri in a best two-of-three series in the opening round of the tournament, earning the right to advance to the final four at Community America Ballpark in Kansas City, Kan. The Gorillas dropped a 9-0 decision to Missouri Southern in their first game at Kansas City, but Pitt State countered to knock off Central Oklahoma, 3-1, in an elimination game. Unfortunately, the Gorillas season ended the next day with an 11-4 loss to MIAA regular season champion Missouri Western, a game away from the MIAA Championship game. The Gorillas ended the season with a 29-24 record, equaling the squad’s highest win total since the 2005 season.

Following the season, Matt Stalcup was selected in the ninth round of the 2013 MLB Amateur Draft by the Oakland A’s, becoming the Gorillas’ second-highest draft pick all-time (Steve Eagan was selected in the 6th round of the 1967 draft by the Boston Red Sox).

Capital One Academic All-American honors

Five Pittsburg State University student-athletes received Capital One Academic All-American honors this spring: Emily Ballock (Women’s Track and Field), Brad Foss (Baseball), Larissa Richards (Women’s Track and Field), John Talbert (Men’s Track and Field) and Monica Wurtetz (Women’s Track and Field). Visit magazine.pittstate.edu for a full list of athletic award recipients.

Conference Champions

PSU Men’s Track and Field team capture their second straight MIAA title.
“Five for Fans” improves game-day experience

PSU football fans are now able to get their Gorilla game-day tickets from the convenience of their home.

Beginning this season, tickets to home football games can be ordered and printed online, allowing students and fans to avoid long lines at the ticket office and stadium.

The new ticket technology is one of several improvements to game-day as a result of a recent survey by PSU’s Kelce College of Business MBA Association.

The survey was made available to students and the general public online from April 1 through April 22. Printed copies were also mailed to all season ticket holders.

“There’s no place quite like Carnie Smith Stadium on a Saturday in the fall,” said PSU Athletics Director Jim Johnson, “but we know there’s always room to improve. That’s why we went directly to our fans to find out what they think.”

Another improvement coming as a result of the survey is the installation of credit card machines at concession stands inside the stadium. Most debits cards will be accepted, but they must be run as a credit transaction.

“More and more these days, people are using their debit and credit cards over cash,” said Steve Erwin, associate vice president for campus life and auxiliary services. “This is one more way we’re responding to what our fans are requesting.”

Nearly 1,100 people took part in the survey, which focused on game-day activities such as ticketing, concessions, restrooms, parking and special events.

In response, PSU developed an action plan called, “Five for Fans.” It focuses on the five areas of improvement: ticketing, stadium signage, stadium facilities, parking and concessions.

“These were the areas our fans said would make the biggest difference on game day,” explained Johnson. “Some of the changes you’ll be able to see immediately while others will take longer to put into place. The bottom line is that we want to make certain PSU continues to provide the very best game-day experience.”

Improving the game-day experience for football fans is the driving force behind a number of changes at Carnie Smith Stadium this fall.

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PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations

620-235-4758 or 877-PSU-ALUM
www.pittstate.edu/alumni

Chariots and gunny sacks

Members of PSU’s Greek organizations celebrated Greek Week with a mixture of service projects and fun events, including Gorilla Games and the Red Bull Chariot Races. The only requirements for the chariots were two wheels and a strut. In addition to points for winning the race, the teams were judged on construction and style.
PSU honors three for service

On Apple Day, Pittsburg State University honored an individual and a couple for their longstanding service to the university and its students with the Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award. The 2013 recipients of the award are Catherine M. Albright and Alan G. and Roberta Harlow Whetzel.

The award, established in 1991, honors the late Ralf J. Thomas, a long-time member of the faculty who volunteered his service to the PSU Alumni Association for 22 years and who was the first recipient of the award.

Johnna Schremmer, director of alumni and constituent relations, said this year’s recipients represent many alumni and friends of the university whose unsung service to PSU make it a special place for students, faculty and staff.

“Volunteers play a vital role in the life of the university,” Schremmer said. “When students see volunteers helping to make the university better, it sends a strong message that they are valued members of the Pittsburg State family.”

To read more about their stories visit magazine.pittstate.edu.

Alumni recognized for diverse achievements

Pittsburg State University’s Meritorious Achievement Award recipients for 2013 couldn’t be a more diverse group.

One is a Las Vegas performer who has been a favorite pianist of presidents from Carter to Obama. Another is a retired executive who was responsible for tens of billions of dollars of business for one of the nation’s largest insurance companies. The third is a woman who began her career as a speech and English teacher and today is the warden of a federal detention center housing everything from persons facing minor federal charges to accused terrorists awaiting trial.

PSU honored Catherine Stareck Linaweaver, David Osborne and Gary Grant with its Meritorious Achievement Award on Friday, April 19.

“This year’s Meritorious Achievement Award recipients are a fascinating group of people,” said Johnna Schremmer, director of alumni and constituent relations. “The diversity and level of accomplishment among PSU’s 55,000 alumni continues to amaze us and this year’s group of honorees is a good example of that.”

To read more about their stories please visit magazine.pittstate.edu.
Half Century Club Reunion
The Half Century Reunion class poses for a group photo on the marble stairs of Russ Hall. For many member of the Class of ‘53, those stairs brought back vivid memories of the hours they spent in Russ Hall and the teachers, staff and other students who touched their lives.

Batter up! Gus helps out with fan promotions at the Northwest Arkansas Naturals Game during the Gorilla Gathering.

Phased retirement and retirees
People make Pitt State the special place that it is. We wish to thank these members of the faculty and staff for their service as they enter retirement.

Roger Adams, Professor, Automotive Technology
Connie Baker, Custodial Services, Custodial and General Services
Jo Anne Beezley, Government Documents Librarian, Library Services
Eileen Begando, Chemist 1, Chemistry
Steve Bever, Assistant Athletic Director, Intercollegiate Athletics
Marilyn Bournonville, Administrative Specialist, Cashiers and Student Accounts
Tom Box, University Professor, Management and Marketing
Chuck Broyles, Special Assistant to the President, Presidents Office
Patty Clay, Instructor, Teaching and Leadership
Joan Cleland, Administrative Assistant to the President, Presidents Office
Barbara Clutter, Administrative Specialist, Engineering Technology
Rich Denton, Carpenter, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
Gerald Dietz, Power Plant, Custodial and General Services
Cris Elliott, Instructor, Family and Consumer Sciences
Bonnie Geier, Custodial Specialist, Student Center
Linda Grilz, Instructor, Graphics and Imaging Technologies
Max Holcomb, Research Technologist, College of Technology
Jan Keith, Custodial Services/Manager, Custodial and General Services
Mike Kelley, Professor/Chair, History, Philosophy and Social Sciences
Charles Kentler, Technical Support Consultant, College of Arts and Sciences
Ruby Lucchi, Custodial Services, Custodial and General Services
Marie Seward, Storeroom/Supply Room, Custodial and General Services
James Tullis, Professor, Technology and Workforce Learning
Tony Zupon, Grounds Maintenance, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
Class of 1986
Kim Bezinque (BSN) was recognized with one of the most prestigious awards that Midland College gives its faculty. Bezinque was awarded the teaching excellence award at Midland College.

Class of 1993
Jeff Martin (BS) was promoted to vice president of regulatory affairs at Westar Energy. Martin had previously served as executive director of regulatory affairs, director of reliability and resource scheduling. He also received his master degree from Kansas State University.

Andy Klenke (BSE, MS ’06) has received the Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional designation by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITTEEA). Klenke is an associate professor of the Technology and Engineering Education Department at Pittsburg State University.

Class of 1998
Carrie Agosto (BS, MS ’02) was named counselor of the year by the professional Kansas Counseling Association. Agusto has been a counselor in the Independence school district for nine years.

Sally Marang (BSE, MS ’08) has joined the staff at the Labette Center for Mental Health Services in Parsons as a full time therapist. Marang has experience as truancy diversion, family therapy, children and adult therapy and foster care therapy.

Class of 1999
Dan Ipock (BS) received the Chambers Excellence in Education Award. The award was given by the Miami Chamber of Commerce for Ipock’s dedication to the Northeast Technology Center in Afton, Okla.

Class of 2000
John Wyrick (BS, MS ’03) has been hired to serve as the new superintendent for all of the USD 101 district schools. Prior to accepting the position, Wyrick served as superintendent for the Havilland USD 474 district.

Clifford Pray (BSET) received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts last month in recognition of his work with the Webelos Den.

Garth J. Hermann (BA) has been promoted to Shareholder for the Gilmore & Bell, P.C, in their Wichita office. Hermann has been practicing law since 2006 and is a member of the Wichita and Kansas Bar Association.

Mike Farrington (BST) has been promoted to senior project manager for Crossland Construction. Mike’s new role will challenge him as a key leader in not only being a project manager of his own work but also overseeing the work of other project managers in the Eagle’s Division along with being a mentor to them and the division’s office engineers.

Mark (BBA) and Julianna (BBA) Hudson welcomed a new Gorilla, Greer Marie Hudson, on May 10 at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield, Mo.

Class of 2006
Andy Davis (BSE, MS ’07) was hired as an assistant baseball coach for Tabor College. Davis is a former Pittsburg State baseball student athlete.

Erik Yoakam (BSE) was named head coach of the Fort Scott Tigers football program. Yoakam spent the past year at Fort Scott as an assistant on Bob Campbell’s staff and he will begin his duties in the fall of 2013.

Cooper Neil (BME) received Pittsburg Community Schools’ Rising Star Award in May. Cooper, an instrumental music teacher for USD 250, was commended for his “energy and his passion for music.” The award is given to a certified staff member who has been with the district less than five years and who has demonstrated exceptional teaching and leadership in their content area.

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

Helen S. (Knowles) Flaharty, 1941, Independence, Kan.
Mary E. (Carleton) Hancock, 1941, Loveland, Colo.
Betty (Hackney) Thompson, 1941, Phoenix, Ariz.
Maxine (Sarver) Wollen, 1942, Ottawa, Kan.
Dorthy E. (Shideler) Porubsky, 1945, Topeka, Kan.
Carl Bert Hall, 1946, Wichita, Kan.
Eldon L. Kastler, 1947, Coffeyville, Kan.
Alice C. (Allen) Lovely, 1948, Essex, Maine
Sam Misasi, 1948, Liberty, Mo.
Bill J. Sellers, 1949, St. Joseph, Mo.
Wendell Frazell, 1951, Iola, Kan.
Let's Travel - “Go Away with Gus”

2014 FEATURE TRAVELS* UNVEILED

- PANAMA CANAL CRUISE (total transit) - January
- ELBE RIVER CRUISE (Germany & Czech Rep.) - April
- NEW YORK CITY & THEATER EXPERIENCE - April
- SPAIN & PORTUGAL ADVENTURE - June
- AMAZON ADVENTURE (including cruise) - October
- ULTIMATE HAWAII CRUISE - October

*FEATURE TRAVELS - These are select personally escorted travel experiences featuring varied travel experiences throughout the world. “All inclusive” pricing is present, meaning there are no hidden or surprise charges. Travel protection insurance is always included, as is round trip air transportation and preferred sightseeing experiences. Special savings and benefits are present for all persons associated with PSU, with the savings and benefits extending to all members of the traveling party. The PSU Alumni Association also benefits monetarily.

AS YOU LIKE IT TRAVELS - This is an “additional” PSU travel savings and benefits program for those of you who prefer other destinations and/or dates - as well as for those who prefer traveling with no personal escort. Ideal for couples, families and small groups of friends. Every program and departure date of every travel company and cruise line is available at the same- or quite often better - price anywhere else (including direct special offers from cruise and travel companies.) Then, “on top of and in addition to this best price you receive additional PSU savings. The Alumni Association also benefits monetarily.

Request details & brochures - GUS/Please Go Away™ Vacations
Toll Free: 1-800-362-9347, Email: Gus@TravelPleaseGoAway.com

Billy Dan Windsor, 1951, Wichita, Kan.
Max V. Wilson, 1951, Wichita, Kan.
Robert E. Harrison, 1951, Kansas City, Mo.
Eldon B. Hart, 1951, Rosemount, Calif.
Archie Dean Montee, 1951, Shawnee, Kan.
Hideno (Inamne) Uyechi, 1953, Honolulu, Hawaii
Cleo V. (Campbell) Frederick, 1955, Fort Scott, Kan.
Linnea E. "Sue" (Lofgren) Lenn, 1955, Kansas City, Mo.
Bob Hunter Faulkner, 1956, Prairie Village, Kan.
David D. Harbaugh, 1956, Springfield, Mo.
Carl R. Pond, 1956, Kansas City, Mo.
Frank L. Wattelet, 1956, Joplin, Mo.
J.C. 'Coach' Davis Jr., 1957, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Francis Marion 'Cisco' Read, 1958, Fort Scott, Kan.
Kenneth 'Ken' Wayne Rundle, 1958, Medicine Lodge, Kan.
Floyd D. Goade, 1958, Table Rock, Mo.
Bobby J. Lyerla, 1958, Olathe, Kan.
Donald E. Semonick, 1958, Wesley Chapel, Fla.
Kozue (Tomita) Cox, 1958, Kailua, Hawaii
Marcelyn (Hutton) Gilbert, 1958, Kansas City, Mo.
Arthur L. Hardwick, 1958, Austin, Tex.
Jerry D. Harrell, 1959, Tahlequah, Okla.
Eric Erickson, 1959, St. Augusta, Minn.
Frank R. Pichler, 1959, Bartlesville, Okla.
Jerry A. Lipasek, 1959, Arma, Kan.
Bobby D. Campbell, 1959, Mt. Vernon, Mo.
Joan A. (Goldrick) Kroecker, 1960, Noblesville, Ind.
Jean A. Sundgren, 1960, Las Vegas, Nev.
Claire 'Betty' Frohsh, 1960, Columbus, Kan.
Gloria (Gasto) Thomas, 1961, Weir, Kan.
Dr. Ronald Marquardt, 1961, Hattlesburg, Miss.
Wilbur G. Dodson, 1961, Caney, Kan.
F. Patrick 'Pat' Wynne, 1961, Maryville, Mo.
Donald Paul Staten, 1962, Cedaredge, Colo.
Neva (Snodgrass) Rous, 1962, Pilot Grove, Mo.
Buck L. Lowery, 1963, Pueblo, Colo.
Larry A. Dunn, 1964, Columbus, Kan.
Orval L. Purkey, 1964, Girard, Kan.
V. James 'Jim' Sherer, 1964, Dodge City, Kan.
Devon Acie Tickel, 1964, Cherokee, Kan.
Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Parmele, 1965, Ranger, Texas
David L. Cummings, 1967, Kansas City, Mo.
Raymond A. Tredway, 1968, Chanute, Kan.
Lee R. Johnson, 1968, Wilmington, Ohio
Tom Storm, 1968, Joplin, Mo.
Dick James, 1968, Tyler, Okla.
Larry E. Davis, 1969, Granbury, Tex.

continued
Via Christi Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Brett Dunbar and Dr. Michael Fenech to our ministry. Dr. Dunbar and Dr. Fenech, both Pittsburg State alums, return to our community to better serve your health care needs.

Brett Dunbar, DO, specializes in your general surgery needs. Call to schedule your appointment with Dr. Dunbar today at 620.235.7605.

Michael Fenech, DO, specializes in your Obstetrics and Gynecology needs. Call to schedule your appointment with Dr. Fenech today at 620.230.0044.
Marylyn D. (Lambert) Brauninger, 1969, Kansas City, Mo.
Harris I. Peterson, 1969, New Richmond, Wis.
Chin Chang, 1969, Staten Island, N.Y.
Ronald L. ‘Ron’ Rollheiser, 1970, Raleigh, N.C.
Sam J. Wynn, 1970, Vinita, Okla.
David Roy Tarvin, 1971, Butler, Mo.
Keith C. Billingsly, 1971, Joplin, Mo.
Richard N. Paul, 1971, Salt Lake City, Utah
Mark Minton, 1971, Sun City West, Ariz.
Russell Lloyd Winkler, 1971, Republic, Mo.
Nora Moriconi, 1971, Prairie Village, Kan.
Roberta L. (Crow) Gingerich, 1972, Lawrence, Kan.
Oscar Aravens, 1972, San Antonio, Texas
Larry L. Thomas, 1972, Carl Junction, Mo.
Kendall R. Theobald, 1972, Bend, Ore.
Elizabeth Ann (Kane) Tippey, 1973, Twin, Falls, Idaho
James H. Hawkins, 1973, Dallas, Texas
George D. Sheets, 1973, McPherson
Stephen Francis VanLeeuwen, 1974, Brazifton, Kan.
LaVerne D. Stieben, 1974, Hays, Kan.
Evelyn Tidball, 1974, Lamar, Mo.
Mark R. Dubois, 1976, Auburn, Ala.
Ronald W. Farmer, 1977, Burnet, Texas
Glenda L. (Williams) Bachman, 1977, Miami, Okla.
Flora J. (Patrick) Harrison, 1977, Joplin, Mo.
Ivor ‘Dave’ N. Davis, Jr., 1977, Humboldt, Kan.
Shelby Jean (Blakenship) Way, 1979, Miami, Okla.
Greg Lang, 1979, Lee’s Summit, Mo.
Carla Jean (Killion) Eighmy, 1980, Coffeyville, Kan.

Class year unavailable:
Douglas ‘Doug’ Lahey, Bartlesville, Okla.
Sharron Lee (Holmes) Slider, Emporia, Kan.
Terry Lynn Adams, Omaha, Neb.
James E. McLean, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Chance H. Kentner, Lamar, Mo.
Sharon G. Loveland, Carthage, Mo.
John Charles Spradlin, Sr., Arkansas City, Kan.
Charles M. Lister, Jr., Kansas City, Kan.
If you’re looking for an affordable, relaxing weekend getaway, a family day trip, a week of outdoor recreation or great sports you’ll find it in Crawford County, Kansas. Crawford County is the ideal destination featuring a unique blend of history, heritage, art and culture, food and activities for all ages! Crawford County, Kansas “We Have Your Next Getaway Cornered!”

VisitCrawfordCounty.com

Friday, Oct. 4  •  6-8 p.m.  •  KTC Courtyard  •  $20/person  •  RSVP by Sept. 25

New vendors!

Bamboo  •  Barto’s Idle Hour  •  Big Ben’s BBQ  •  Café Del Rio  •  Chatters/House of Wings
Josie’s Ristorante  •  The Mall Deli  •  Pallucca’s  •  Sodexo  •  Sweet Designs Cakery  •  Plus More!

Enjoy samples from your favorite area restaurants!

A new homecoming tradition!

Taste
of Pittsburg

New beer & wine tasting!

Plus, live music from Area 51!

Friday, Oct. 4 – Outstanding Alumni Award Reception, 4:30-6 p.m., Wilkinson Alumni Center
Saturday, Oct. 5 – Homecoming Parade, Campus Tours, GorillaFest, Chicken Wars Tailgate
THE GREAT SUPPORT Pittsburg State University receives from local businesses inspired the NCAA to use PSU as a national model for community engagement. There may be no better example of that PSU spirit than Ron and Barbara Rhodes, owners of Ron’s Supermarket.

Whatever the need – student scholarships, athletics, the Center for the Arts, or unrestricted gifts – Ron and Barbara are there to help.

The Rhodes’ connection to Pitt State and the community goes back many years.

“My mom and dad owned Rex’s Superette, the grocery store to the south of the college,” Barbara said. “Many faculty, staff and students always shopped there and were loyal customers and friends. Many are still customers today.”

Like so many PSU alumni, the Rhodes say the university changed their lives in a very personal way.

“We met and fell in love while in college,” Ron said, “so PSU has been important to us since the beginning of our life together.”

Now the Rhodes are giving back. One way they do that is by employing PSU students.

“We both had to work in order to go to college, so we know how important it is to students to have flexible employment,” Ron said. “We try to work around their class schedules, activities and athletic commitments. It feels good to be in a position to be able to give back and support current students.”

The Rhodes’ wide range of support for Pitt State and its students earned them the Rex Crowley Award, which recognizes members of the community for exceptional civic leadership through service to PSU and the community.

For more information on how to give back to PSU, visit www.pittstate.edu/support-your-passion.
Something for everyone!

Attend a Gorilla Gathering in your area or an event on campus!

2013

Sept. 7 ........ Gus’ 90th Birthday Celebration Tailgate ........................................ Pittsburg
Sept. 12 .......... Gorilla Gathering Dinner ............................................................ Bourbon County
Sept. 17 .......... Gorilla Gathering Dinner ............................................................ Neosho County
Sept. 21 ........ Gorilla Family Fun Day ............................................................... Pittsburg
Sept. 24 ........ Gorilla Gathering Dinner ............................................................... Labette County
Oct. 4 ............ Taste of Pittsburg ............................................................... Pittsburg
Oct. 5 ............ Chicken Wars Tailgate ............................................................ Pittsburg
Oct. 8 ............ Career Services Career Development Event ................................ Kansas City
Oct. 8 ............ Gorilla Networking Lunch ...................................................... Wichita, Kan.
Oct. 16 .......... Gorilla Gathering Dinner ............................................................ Cherokee County
Oct. 18 .......... Gorilla Gathering Pregame Event ........................................ Kansas City
Oct. 19 .......... Gorilla Fest at Arrowhead Tailgate ........................................ Kansas City
Oct. 24 .......... Gorilla Networking Lunch ...................................................... Kansas City
Oct. 29 .......... Gorilla Gathering Dinner ............................................................ Montgomery County
Nov. 2 .......... Gorilla Chili & Salsa Challenge Tailgate ........................................ Pittsburg
Nov. 5 .......... Career Services Networking Event ........................................ Kansas City
Nov. 5 .......... Young Alumni After Hours ...................................................... Wichita, Kan.
Nov. 8 .......... Gorilla Gathering Dinner and Pregame Event ................................ St. Louis, Mo.
Nov. 16 .......... Chris Cake’s Tailgate ............................................................... Pittsburg
Nov. 21 .......... Young Alumni After Hours .............................................................. Joplin, Mo.

Check the website for all of our 2014 events!

Where in the U.S. is GUS going next?

St. Louis, Missouri!

Thank you to everyone who voted and made this contest fun!

SAVE THE DATE: Nov. 8, 2013

Dr. Scott, Gus and crew will be in town for numerous events!

Look for upcoming NEW programs for YOU!

Career Services for Alumni
Mentoring Program for Alumni & Students
Educational Webinars
(topics like social media, photography, & more)