

Special points of interest:

- Pitt CARES for Freshmen, Jan. 13
- Spring classes begin, Jan. 17
- Technology Open House, Feb. 17
- Tour Pitt State, March 10

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The Gus Files

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The Slipper Finally Fits Again: Gorillas Are National Champions

The slipper finally fits, again. For the first time in 20 years, the Pittsburg State Gorillas returned to the pinnacle of NCAA Division II football.

A perennial power, Pitt State annually battled for supremacy in Division II but the last three chances the Gorillas had for national championships in Alabama came up painfully close but short in 1992, 1995 and 2004.

Pitt State finished off a magical season with a 35-21 victory over Wayne (Mich.) State December 17th in the title game before a sea of crimson and gold clad fans which dominated the official crowd of 7,276.

Wayne State (12-4) returned the game's opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown 11 seconds into the game and the Warriors led 14-10 with 13 seconds to play in the opening period.

Pitt State (13-1), like it has multiple times in the season, remained determined and undaunted.

Chase McCoy booted a 34-yard field goal to trim the margin to 14-13 with 10:26 to play in the first half. Then, Pitt State swung the momentum of the contest when Paul Robinson

blocked a Stefan Terleckyj field goal attempt and Aries Herrion scooped up the ball and returned it 80 yards to score.

The Gorillas capped a 17-point second quarter with Zac Dickey tossing a six-yard touchdown

passing.

Elijah Olabode sealed the victory for the Gorillas with an interception in the PSU end zone – his second pick of the game – and the Gorillas hometown hero Dickey picked up a first down with a five-yard run, then clocked the ball three times for the victory.

Dickey completed 10 of 16 passes for 190 yards and rushed for a team-leading 68 yards on the ground.

John Brown caught five passes for a game-high 99 yards for the Gorillas.

Nate Dreiling made a game-high 15 tackles. Robinson had one

of three Pitt State interceptions to go with his blocked field goal and Olabode finished the game with two interceptions.

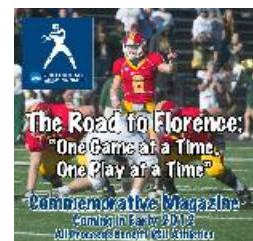
PSU Athletics will produce a special limited-edition commemorative magazine titled "The Road to Florence: One Game at a Time, One Play at a Time" chronicling the Gorillas run to the 2011 NCAA Division II National Championship. Click on the picture below for details.



pass to tight end Bristan Kelley with 15 seconds to play before the intermission, sending Pitt State to a 27-14 halftime advantage.

Neither team scored in the third quarter and Pitt State still held its 13-point lead until Toney Davis capped a 15-play, 76-yard drive with a one-yard run to make it a 27-21 game with 5:11 to play.

The Gorillas wasted little time quieting the Warrior uprising though. Two plays later, Dickey hit wide receiver Andrew Castaneda with a 53-yard strike down to the WSU 5. Two plays after that, Jason Spradling sprinted into the end zone untouched around the left end. Dickey then found Castaneda open in the end zone for a 2-point conversion and a 35-21 lead with 2:38 re-



Students take 'Teacher's Oath'



Students take the "Teacher's Oath"

About 85 students took the PSU Teacher's Oath this week at a recognition ceremony signifying the completion of their student teaching experience. College of Education officials said the oath reminds the students of the great responsibility they have as educators.

The oath concludes with these words:

"I will remember that I do not teach a lesson plan or a reading deficiency, but a human being, whose skills may affect the person's future family and economic stability. My

efforts will aim to teach the whole child, and help that child develop in mind and spirit.

"May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of teaching those who seek my help.

"I will be a competent, committed, caring professional throughout my career."

New foundation supports PSU research

Although Pittsburg State University may not be the first to come to mind when one thinks of research institutions in Kansas, the fact is that Pittsburg State is home to dynamic faculty-led research, as well as the Kansas Polymer Research Center. University officials believe the creation of a new foundation will help PSU strengthen its already impressive research credentials.

In a move geared toward the future, Pittsburg State Univer-

sity recently held the first meeting of the PSU Research Foundation (PSURF). The foundation will allow the university to better manage its current research projects and become a resource for researchers throughout the university.

"Pittsburg State has enjoyed a variety of successful research projects in the past decade, but in order to take the next step as a research institution, we really needed to develop a

better method of managing our research efforts," explained Andy Myers, executive director of the Business and Technology Institute.

"It's exciting because we're doing research that has the potential to benefit our environment as well as a company's bottom line," said Myers. "Perhaps even more exciting are the collaborations and potential that these types of discoveries hold for Pittsburg State University."

Metal casting students attend conference, win scholarships



Students in Pittsburg State University's metal casting program recently took part in a national conference that awarded some with sizeable scholarships.

In late November, Engineering Technology Professors Russ Rosmait and Jacob Lehman escorted a group

of six engineering technology students to the Foundry Educational Foundation College Industry Career Conference in Chicago. The career conference brings together students and professors from across North America in order to interact and meet face-to-face with leaders of the metal casting industry.

Pittsburg State is one of only

20 schools in the world to be certified by the FEF. This year, \$57,000 in special scholarships and awards were given to the FEF-certified schools at the conference. Two PSU students, Richard Brown, a senior from Purdy, Mo., and Kane Rohrig, a senior from Salina, Kan., each received about \$2,000 in scholarships from the organization.

PSU ROTC commissions new officers



Pittsburg State University ROTC commissioned three cadets as second lieutenants on Friday, Dec. 16, in ceremonies in historic McCray Hall. All three will receive bachelor's degrees in commencement ceremonies. The

new officers are Dustin Dice, a

construction management major from Kansas City, Mo.; Jake Oberlechner, a construction management major from Arkansas City, Kan.; and Neil Harding, a recreation major from Grove, Okla.

Since its inception in 1952, PSU's Army ROTC battalion, known as the Gorilla Battalion, has commissioned nearly 1,200 cadets as second lieutenants into the Army, Army Reserves and National Guard.

Finance students participate in global stock market competition

A team of Pittsburg State University finance students is taking part in an international competition focused on analyzing the stock market - while picking up skills they need for their future careers in business.

Kevin Bracker, a professor of finance at PSU, has been advising a team of five undergraduates this fall who are competing in the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Challenge, an international competition that tests students on their ability to prepare investment analyst reports for companies as well as professionally deliver their findings. Investment analyst reports are usually prepared quarterly for stockholders and other decision makers to give them an up-to-date view of the company's financial outlook and investment potential.

Pittsburg State's team is competing under the division of the Kansas City CFA society. They are going up against teams from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Central Missouri State

University, and Missouri State University.

All of the teams are analyzing the same company - Garmin, a manufacturer of GPS components and devices for fitness, marine, aviation, and auto. The PSU team has been busy collecting information to prepare their final 10-page report,



which is due for presentation in Kansas City in February.

"This has been an eye-opening experience," said Alena Lagunina, a senior economics and finance major from Russia. "It's given me a deeper understanding of what equity analysis is about and how knowledge received in the classroom can be applied in real life."

As part of their work, the team is creating a detailed model to pro-

ject earnings and forecast sales and profit margins.

"This is an excellent tool for bridging classroom knowledge and professional-level work," concurred Bracker, who encouraged students to form a team when he learned of the competition this summer. "Even if they don't end up going into this field as a career, it teaches them what they need to do to be top-quality."

Bracker, who as adviser is limited to only 10 hours of assistance to the team, said the students will each be putting 100-150 hours of time into the project - and that he hopes they'll be rewarded for their efforts during the presentation phase this spring. The top teams will go on to compete regionally and globally.

"I think our strength as a team is the quality of students we have," Bracker said. "They're motivated, they work hard, they're responsible. This is definitely a resume-builder for them."

Interested in our Kansas Technology Center?

The Pittsburg State University College of Technology will open its doors February 17th to high school and community college students who are interested in pursuing careers in technology. Lab demonstrations and tours of the facility will allow students to see where their knowledge of science and mathematics can take them. For registration information, please contact Jon Bartlow, Assistant Director of Admission, jbartlow@pittstate.edu or 620-235-4262.

Tour Pitt State!

Date: March 10, 2012
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Check-in begins at 9 a.m. This will be a casual and informative day, concluding by 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per student and \$5 per parent/guest.

- Go on a tour of campus with an outstanding student ambassador, including the residence halls
- Visit with admission counselors and student services staff to find out about financial assistance, scholarships, housing, student organizations and more
- Tour Pitt State is a great opportunity to visit our campus for those who can't visit during the week

Please note...faculty will not be available to discuss academic programs. Admission staff will be available to answer general questions. Remember...you can schedule a campus visit from 9-2, Monday -Friday to meet with faculty.

Registration opens in February. If you have questions call our office at 800-854-PITT.

SIFE receives grants to bolster employment programming

The Pittsburg State University business group Students In Free Enterprise is getting some notable assistance to help further their mission of supporting community members battling unemployment.

Recently, PSU's SIFE team announced it had been selected to receive a \$1,500 Women's Economic Empowerment grant from Wal-Mart through a project partnership with SIFE USA Headquarters. The grant will support many of the group's ongoing projects to help unemployed women in the community as they gain skills to find jobs.

This is the second significant grant SIFE has been awarded this semester. Earlier this fall, the group received \$2,000 from the Pitchett Trust through M&I Bank

in Pittsburg.

Katie Aikins, president of PSU SIFE, said the group is considering different options for how to use the grants.

"With the grant from Wal-Mart, there are different options for ap-

proaching a project," she said. "One is to help female entrepreneurs start or further a business, and the other is to provide resources, skills and workforce training for women to gain employment or promotion."

To prepare for the SIFE regional competition next March, the group has been offering computer literacy sessions, mock interviews, resume-writing assistance, and "dress for success" educational sessions. While the group works with both men and women, many of their sessions have been held at Choices Emergency Shelter, a resource for families.

Aikins said it is heartening to receive so much support that can be used to help the community.

"All our SIFE members are passionate about helping the community, and this support will enable us to make an even greater impact," she said.

