



Department of Automotive Technology News

Spring 2006 Edition

Pittsburg State University

DaimlerChrysler Vice President Joe Hilger Retires

The Automotive Technology program has had three graduates rise to national recognition and prominence as vice presidents of major corporations. They have brought great acclaim and stature to the program. They have also provided a tremendous amount of support to the program in a multitude of ways. Two of them have recently retired: Richard Chitty retired as a vice president at Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., in 2004. Joe Hilger, Vice President for DaimlerChrysler Global Service, retired in January of this year. The other Automotive Technology vice president is Dan Bonawitz, American Honda Motor Company.

Professor Ken Gordon had the honor of attending the "Joe Hilger Retirement Party" at the Walter Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills, Michigan, on January 18th. Gordon stated it was one of the highlights of his professional career—being at the retirement party of a former student who has done so much to enhance the reputation of Automotive Technology at Pitt State. Joe Hilger is not a "closet" graduate. He let it be known far and wide (and often) that he got his college degree at Pitt State. Many of his DaimlerChrysler colleagues speaking that evening made note that they were well aware that he was a "Gorilla".

Joe came to "Kansas State College of Pittsburg" in 1968 after graduating from Kingman High School. He graduated in 1972 and soon married another Pitt State graduate, Cheryl Stoughton. Joe worked his way up through parts and service. His tenure at MOPAR Parts brought him great national recognition in the industry. He worked very closely with "Big Daddy" Don Garlits, world renowned racing and automotive performance personality. Mr. Garlits was at the party and spoke briefly about his association with Mr. Hilger. Joe recently wrote: "After 33 great years at DaimlerChrysler I can say that Pittsburg State University helped pave the way for my career in many ways. Not only did PSU provide an excellent educational opportunity, it also provided me with a solid foundation to continue to learn and grow after college. Since my passion was in the automotive area I can only say great things about the Automotive Technology program at Pittsburg. Professor Ken Gordon, Dr. Weathers, the late Dr.



Brooker and many others made a huge difference in my life. Not only did they provide the education, they also provided the inspiration and the motivation. I am very grateful to Don Barton, Automotive Instructor at Kingman High School, for helping me at the high school level. Along with my parents, he helped me see the importance of not just a college education, but the benefits of an education in a person's field of interest like Pittsburg offers to prepare for

the future!". For me and many other people, Pittsburg State University brings it all together. It's a great place to learn and a great place to prepare for the future!"

The University and eighteen hundred Automotive Technology graduates wish Joe and Cheryl Hilger great happiness in retirement for many years to come!

John Deere Dealership Management Conference

March 2nd and 3rd Professor Dell and PSU students Clifton Landers and Enoch Doubledee participated in the annual John Deere Dealership Management conference. This year the conference was held in Waterloo, Iowa. The attending Universities were Pittsburg State, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, North Dakota State University, and Texas A&M. The conference events included touring the John Deere Engine Works, touring the John Deere Tractor Assembly Works, learning about the John Deere 8030 series new technology, and presentations on student dealership intern experiences. A dealership panel answered student inquiries relating to dealership operations and managing dealerships.

Four State Regional Technology Conference Automotive Technology

“This was the best Four State for Automotive Technology in 20 years,” shared one participant, who attended the Four State Regional Technology Conference (FSRTC), November 17-18, 2005. Planners of the 2006 FSRTC, slated for November 16-17, are hoping to repeat this level of success with another series of great presentations in the automotive area.

The FSRTC is in the process of planning this year’s conference and hopes to have it finalized by the end of the semester, so automotive teachers at the high school, technical school, community college, and university levels can make plans for next year. It is the planner’s goal to have a conference equal to or better than last year’s. Information will be available at the website: www.fsrtc.org.

The general public and automotive/power mechanics enthusiast and industry people are all welcome to attend. We would appreciate your attendance as well as your input into the planning process. The following questions are the basis for planning: “What do automotive instructors want in the way of presentations? What manufacturers do they want to hear from? What topics?”

If you have a suggestion for a topic and or a speaker, or you would like to share an activity or idea at the conference, please contact Ron Downing (phone: 620-235-4825 or email: rdowning@pittstate.edu) or John L. Iley, Chairman of Automotive Technology (phone: 620-235-4373 or email: jiley@pittstate.edu). We need your assistance. Thank you.

Automotive Technology Offers New Option

The Automotive Technology Department at PSU has always been a strong, nationally recognized program at the university. And now beginning this fall PSU will be offering an **Automotive Collision Repair and Insurance Management** option in Automotive Technology. Some of the courses offered in this 21 credit hour option will be:

- *Fundamentals of Collision Technology*
- *Structural and Non-structural Damage Analysis*
- *Damage Analysis and Management*
- *Automotive Insurance Appraisal and Adjustment*
- *Automotive Finishing and Refinishing*

Modeled with ASE and ICAR standards in mind, students will go through a planned step by step progressive program beginning with an industry overview, moving to the collision and damage analysis phase, into the body shop and repair stage, and then refinish and custom paint overcoats. They will look at insurance and the role it plays within the industry as well as paint, tools and other associations. Graduates will be qualified for an array of industry jobs including collision shop management; insurance representative positions; paint, parts or tools associates with a complete and comprehensive education in a program supported and sponsored by many successful companies in this vast and ever growing industry. PSU now offers the perfect “collision” between education and the collision repair/insurance industry, but it’s no accident!

Richard Weathers Seminar

On March 17, Scott Norman, a trainer at the DaimlerChrysler Academy in Kansas City presented information on the new Dodge Caliber. This new entry level vehicle had the new “World Engine” along with many new features. He discussed the newest technology related to the computer modules that are found on this vehicle. This vehicle had new “CVT Transmission”. This vehicle had a constantly variable drive system which allows for multi-speed from the transmission. The unit has only a forward and reverse clutch. The technology found in this new vehicle will be applied world wide to DaimlerChrysler vehicles. The seminar was attended by 26 instructors, including Dr. Richard Weathers.



PSU to Conduct A-Tech Workshops

Pittsburg State University Automotive Technology Department is one of five schools across the country that has been selected to take part in specialized engine performance and electrical training. The computer-based training program was developed by A-Tech Corporation and is being promoted by ASA (Automotive Service Association).

ASA will handle recruiting technicians, and PSU Assistant Professor, Ron Downing, will be the program instructor. Downing attended A-Tech training seminars this past year to become the only instructor in the area.

The first pilot program will start in May 2006. Several training sessions will be held during the year. The classes will be offered to service technicians, shop owners, and service managers. The training materials were donated to PSU by A-Tech and ASA and will be used to train PSU students in several classes

Automotive Honor Graduates Announced

Chris Beyer was chosen by the Automotive Technology faculty to receive the 2006 **Eugene V. Gardner Outstanding Automotive Senior Award**. The award is based on grade point average, extra-curricular activities, attitude and character. He received a plaque and certificate at the Honors Luncheon on April 26th.

Chris holds the distinction of being the only Gorilla football player to break his leg in 2005. He broke it a couple of weeks before the "Clash of the Champions" game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. He traveled to the game with the team and had to enter the field on crutches when the team was announced. He received a lot of accolades from the media and fans on how he handled this misfortune.

Chris wrote: "There were many options that I had to weigh before I decided what college I would attend

upon my high school graduation. One of the biggest things in my life, at that time, was the game of football. For this reason I spent a short time at Coffeyville Community College enjoying the game of football. After achieving an Associates Degree of Arts and Science at Coffeyville Community College I once again was faced with the decision of where I would obtain my bachelors degree.

While I didn't realize yet what field of work I wanted to enter, I knew that it would involve Automotive Technology. With my knowledge of automotive technology and my agricultural background, Pittsburg State University became the clear choice for me to further my education. The faculty at Pittsburg State University helped me combine these two interests and started me in the Diesel and Heavy equipment emphasis area. As an Automotive Technology major with an emphasis in Diesel and Heavy Equipment I have been granted numerous automotive scholarships, received two Academic All-American awards in foot-



Chris Beyer from Moundridge, KS, was chosen by the faculty to receive the "Eugene V. Gardner Outstanding Senior Award" for 2006. Chris will graduate in May.

ball, and more importantly have secured a career opportunity upon graduation. I have been presented many on campus opportunities to both talk to and formally interview with a wide array of automotive and diesel and heavy equipment companies. These interviews and face to face meetings with business leaders are the major reason for my career opportunity.

The job offer that I have accepted is in management for Murphy-Hoffman Company---the biggest Kenworth dealer in North America. I will begin my career in Kansas City, Missouri as a Management Trainee.

Other honor graduates recognized at banquet

The following 2006 calendar year automotive graduates were honored at the College of Technology Awards Banquet held on April 20 in the Jack Overman Student Center.

"Exceptional Seniors" in Automotive Technology (Cumulative GPA of 3.70 or better)

Three Exceptional Seniors in Automotive Technologies four year degree program were honored.

- Christopher Brumley from Catawba, North Carolina, came to Pitt State after attending a Caterpillar "Think Big" program at Florence-Darlington Technical College in South Carolina. He plans to take a management position with Carolina CAT in Charlotte, NC, after he graduates in May.
- Derek Williamson from Manhattan, Kansas. He is a "Two + Two" student who received an AAS degree in Automotive Service Technology at PSU in 2004. He plans to work into management at Jim Clark Dodge/VW in Lawrence, KS.
- Beau Malan from Pittsburg, KS plans to continue his higher education next year.

"Distinguished Seniors" in Automotive Technology (Cumulative GPA of 3.40 -3.69)

Ten of the sixty-five graduates were designated as "Distinguished" and honored at that same banquet.

Tyler A. Brake	Oswego, Kansas	Abhishek Rateria	New Delhi, India
Matthew P. Fisher	Wichita, Kansas	Ryan C. Smith	Mission, Kansas
Derek Hopper	Tiskilwa, Illinois	Thomas G. Wenninghoff	Kansas City, Missouri
Benjamin Moore	Hanna City, Illinois	Zachary P. Wimmer	Fulton, Kansas
Eric Ordemann	Overland Park, Kansas	Cliff A. Yarick	Hume, Missouri

PSU to Korea Mini-Baja Team

Pittsburg State University's relationship with Gyeongsang National University (Jinju, Korea) has taken another step forward in their ongoing relationship to provide international experiences for students. While PSU hosts 10 mechanical engineering students as part of the fifth PSU Korean Mini-Baja Program (begun in 2002; taught this year by Andy Grove, PSU Graduate Assistant), four PSU students will be traveling to Korea, attending GNU, and building a Mini-Baja vehicle to race in the 2006 Mini-Baja Korea at Yeungman University, in July.

PSU is first again! PSU was the first (and only program to this date) to host a Korean Mini-Baja team for a semester, and PSU is the first school to send a team to Korea to live and build a car in Korea for Mini-Baja Korea. PSU and GNU are providing truly unique experiences for their students. Automotive Technology is grateful to Gyeongsang National University for providing this unique study abroad opportunity to these students. GNU is also providing them with lodging and meal plan, while they reside in Korea.

A committee selected the following students to represent Pittsburg State University as part of the 2006 Mini-Baja Korea Team:

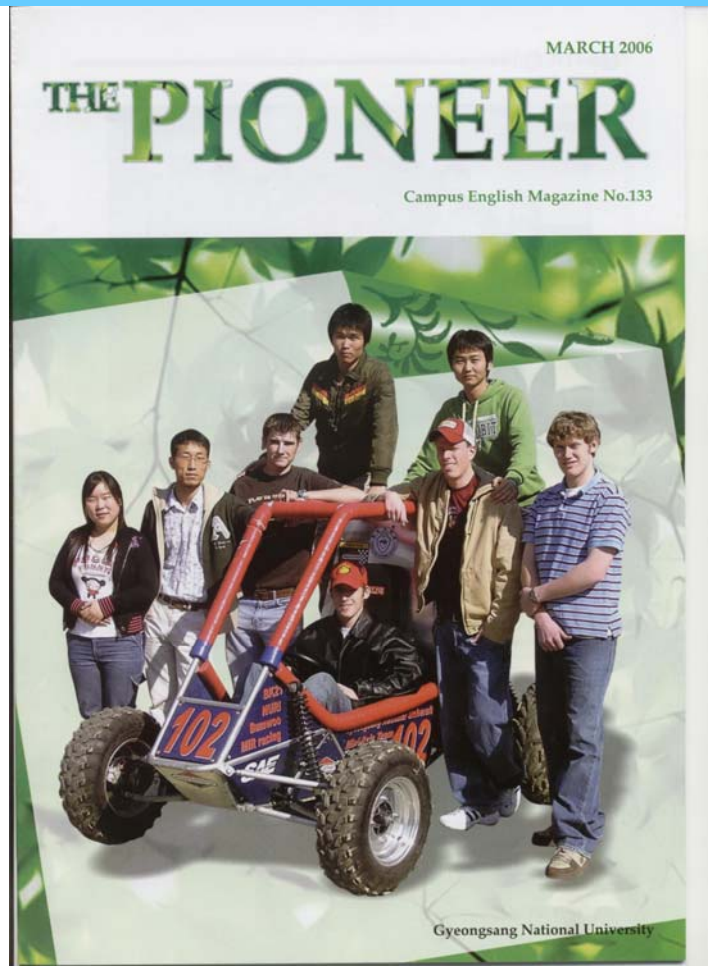
- Cody Emmert, Team Captain
- Vincent Bartone (Graduate)
- Mark Turner (Senior)
- Shawn Winkler (Junior)

The committee selected these young men on the basis of having the necessary attitude, maturity, and attributes of professionalism and diplomacy that will make them excellent PSU ambassadors to Korea and Gyeongsang National University. Each member brings their own unique talents and characteristics to the team. Collectively, they should make an excellent 2006 Mini-Baja Korea Team that will enable them to compete at the highest levels in the Korean Mini-Baja Competition, as well as meet the demands of their assignments at GNU.

The team left in February and will not return till after the Korean Mini-Baja Race, which takes place in July. In addition to taking classes and building their Mini-Baja vehicle, they will be working with Korean students in Conversational English for fifteen hours per week. Other activities include: tours of Korean industries (e.g. Samsung Heavy Equipment); attending the Tool Exhibition in Seoul, attending the Busan Show (ten-day auto-related event); and visiting several Korean cultural sites and events.

The team members and PSU have incurred several thousands of dollars in expenses regarding travel, purchase of US off-road racing components, shipping of 700+ pounds of supplies and parts, and tariffs. It has been quite a learning experience (but a worthwhile one), for all the people involved. We hope that this activity will be continued in the future on an annual or biennial basis. For those who would like to assist in underwriting some of these expenses, **a special PSU Foundation account, entitled *PSU to Korea Mini-Baja*, has been established.** Your support is genuinely appreciated.

For further information, please contact Cody Emmert (email: Cody Emmert motoxracerz@yahoo.com) or John L. Iley, Chairman of Automotive Technology (phone: 620-235-4373 or email: jiley@pittstate.edu).



PSU students and a few Korean Car Club members on the cover of GNU English magazine. From left to right: Shawn Winkler, Mark Turner (in car), Vincent Bartone, and Cody Emmert (Captain).

Summer Courses Available

Prospective students from out-of-state should call Continuing Studies at 620-235-4223 for details on the enrollment process. See AT website for more info.

Course Number	Course Name	Presenting Company &/or Individual	Session Dates
AT 403-52 AT 795-52	Vehicle Design & Skills Competitions (SAE Mini-Baja, SkillsUSA, NASA Moon-buggy),	PSU Faculty and Veteran High School Teacher Participants (geared for secondary & post-secondary instructors)	June 6/7 all day & June 8 till noon Tues/Wed/Thurs
TE 403-51 TE 806-51	Problem Solving & Creative Thinking 1 or 3 credit hours	PSU Faculty and Veteran High School Teacher Participants	June 8, 6-9 pm June 9, 8:30-4:30 June 10, 8-noon Thurs/Fri/Sat
AT 403-53 AT 795-53	Cranes & Overhead Lifting, 1 credit hour	Kiewit – Chris Spencer	June 8 & 9 8:30-4:30 Thurs/Fri
AT 403-54 AT 795-54	Liberty 2.8L Diesel Engine & Fuel System 1 credit hour	DaimlerChrysler – Cecil Williams	June 13 & 14 8:30-4:30 Tues/Wed
AT 403-55 AT 795-55	Toyota New Technology & New Products 1 credit hour	Toyota – Johnnie Manley	June 15 & 16 8:30-4:30 Thurs/Fri

PSU Diesel and Heavy Equipment Building

Diesel and heavy equipment (D&HE) industries-equipment manufacturers, heavy construction and mining companies, agriculture-related users, on-road diesel vehicle dealers, and freight companies-are clamoring for management personnel knowledgeable of D&HE technology. The number of inquiries for PSU graduates, placement of graduates, and projected future needs of companies provide evidence and rationale for further developing the Pittsburg State University D&HE program and its facilities, including a new 16,500 square foot building.

Pittsburg State University is providing two programs to address the needs of the D&HE industries. These are the BST and BAS in D&HE. The BST is for students not previously receiving an AAS degree, and the BAS is for students completing an AAS degree in a D&HE program (e.g., Caterpillar ThinkBIG; John Deere Ag Tech). These programs have grown from an Automotive Technology emphasis area of 15 majors in 1997 (when the Kansas Technology Center [KTC] opened) to over 80 majors in 2006. However, the program area has outgrown its existing 2400 square foot laboratory space in the KTC. A larger facility is required to house equipment, accommodate teaching D&HE labs to a larger number of students, and host corporate seminars.



PSU is planning the construction of a \$3.2 million dollar, 16,500 square foot facility to be used for teaching off-road, on-road, and agriculture-related emphasis areas of the program. This facility consists of corporately-sponsored laboratory spaces addressing each emphasis area, and classroom spaces. The facility will be in proximity of the 278,000 sq. ft., Kansas Technology Center, to the north across the parking lot from the northwest corner of the KTC.

The facility is designed similar to the Kansas Technology Center with pre-cast concrete ("imitation granite") panels. It consists of:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 – Off-Road Lab | 2 – Classrooms (760 square feet each) |
| 1 – Ag-Related Lab | (can be converted to 1 room) |
| 1 – On-Road Lab | 1 – Computer Interface/Reference Lab |
| 1 – Overhead Crane | 2 – Storage Areas-General & Tool |
| 5 – 20-24' Overhead Doors | 1 – Office |

This building will be funded by individual and corporate giving. PSU has set aside land for the construction of the building and is committed to the future operation, maintenance and upkeep of the building. **A special account, entitled Diesel and Heavy Equipment Building, has been established by the PSU Foundation to accept tax deductible donations** from corporations and individuals, who are interested in seeing the D&HE Building become a reality in the near future. PSU faculty and administration are currently developing grant proposals and working hard to solicit necessary funding from foundations and other sources. We need the support of alumni and friends in helping us identify potential funding sources for this project. We believe there are individuals who would want this building to be a part of their legacy. If you are interested in supporting this endeavor or are aware of potential funding sources, please contact Scott Roberts, Director of Major Gifts for the College of Technology (phone: 620-235-6127 or email: sroberts@pittstate.edu). For questions concerning the program or building, you may also contact Tim Dell, Coordinator for Diesel and Heavy Equipment (phone: 620-235-4182 or email: tdell@pittstate.edu) or John L. Iley, Chairman of Automotive Technology (phone: 620-235-4373 or email: jiley@pittstate.edu). Pete Holman and Ken Buell, representing PSU alumni and advisory board, are spearheading efforts on behalf of these groups for the PSU Diesel & Heavy Equipment Building fund-raising efforts.

Ron Downing Has Busy Spring and Summer

Ron Downing, assistant professor in Automotive Technology, co-hosted the Kansas Skills USA AST contest April 19-20 in Wichita, Kansas. The contest featured many new stations. Downing tried to simulate stations that follow the national level guidelines. Several PSU faculty members and students helped with the state contest. Downing is also a member of the National Skills USA AST technical committee. He is responsible for designing the electrical circuit troubleshooting station for post-secondary National finalist. PSU Automotive Faculty members will serve as judges for the electrical stations at the June nationals in Kansas City.

Downing was recently appointed Competition Manager for the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skill Kansas. The state contest for high school automotive students that qualify was held May 3-4th at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City. Kansas and Missouri held their state contest side by side along with the Ford Ultimate Master Tech Challenge. This was a twenty-five car field (the largest contest in the nation). Downing was responsible for coordinating the Kansas contest and working with Ford Motor Company and AAA of Kansas and Missouri to conduct the contest.

In 2001, Downing was selected as a member of the National Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Supergroup. This is a committee of automotive professionals from around the country that prepare the vehicles (bugging with faulty parts) for the national finals. The National Finals will be held in June in Detroit, Michigan. Downing will also serve as a final judge in that competition.

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We're on the web!

<http://www.pittstate.edu/tst/autotech/index.html>

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2006 PSU Automotive & Diesel Calendar

- May 3-4** *Ford AAA Student Auto Skills and Ultimate Master Challenge for KS and MO @ KS Speedway*
- May 19** PSU Spring semester ends
- May 23-25** *Mini Baja Midwest Competition*
- May 22-June 2** Intersession Classes AT315-41 *Manual Transmission* & AT403-50 *Dynamometer*
- June 6** PSU Summer semester begins
- June 6-7** AT403-52 *Vehicle Design & Skills Competitions* short course, by PSU Faculty
- June 8-9** AT403-53 *Cranes & Overhead Lifting* short course by Chris Spencer-Peter Kiewit
- June 13-14** AT403-54 *Jeep Liberty 2.8L Diesel Engine & Fuel System* short course, by Cecil Williams-DCX
- June 15-16** AT403-55 *Toyota New Technology-Camry Hybrid & FJ Cruiser* short course, by Johnie Manley-Toyota
- June 22** *National Skills USA Competition* (Kansas City)
- July 21-23** *Four State Farm Show* (Pittsburg, KS)
- July 28** PSU Summer semester ends
- Aug 21** PSU Fall semester begins
- Sept 28** PSU Fall *Career Fair* in Student Center
- Oct 21** PSU Homecoming
- Oct 26** *Automotive/Diesel Advisory Committee*-annual business meeting
- Nov 16-17** *64th Annual 4-State Regional Technology Conference*
- Dec 15** PSU Fall semester ends