



Department of Automotive Technology News

Fall 2006 Edition

Pittsburg State University

PROFESSOR CARTER RETIRES

Clinton Carter retires after 29 years at PSU. His tenure included 16 years teaching in the Vocational Technical Institute 2 year Auto Body and Finish program and 13 years in the Automotive Technology degree program.

Professor Carter's industrial background began 56 years ago at the age of 13. It was a 30 hr./week informal apprenticeship at an International / Pontiac dealership in 1950. He worked four years in their body shop and front end alignment areas. His work history also included working in General Motors and Ford dealerships, and independent body shops both as a technician and in shop management positions. Mr. Carter owned and operated a collision repair shop for 17 of his 28 years work experience.

In the summer of 1978 Clinton accepted a job offer from the Vocational Technical Institute at PSU that was based on heavy industrial experience. He taught the Auto Body Technology program for the next 16 years until it was discontinued in 1993. Highlights of these years were near 100% placement of the program graduates, and participation of his students in skills competition. During those years PSU's auto body students entered Kansas VICA competitions, where they won more medals than all of the other post high programs combined.

During 1993 the Autobody certificate program was discontinued, and Mr. Carter was transferred into the Automotive Technology degree program. With the help of the Automotive Advisory Committee he began the development of the Autobody Repair and Refinishing course. It was implemented in 1994 as a required course for all PSU students receiving an Automotive Technology degree. Until his phased retirement began last year, Mr. Carter was teaching 2 sections of Body and Finish and 2 sections of Brakes and Suspension. He has also taught Computer Applications in Technology and Power Transmission Sys-



Mr. Carter Fall 1978



John Thompson and Tim Dell Presenting award to Professor Carter during advisory committee meeting Oct 26, 2006

tems before increased enrollment required 2 sections of the other courses.

Professor Carter's Professional memberships and scholarly Societies have included Vocational Advisory Committee, KNEA, KVA, AVA, KTS, I-CAR, SCRS, and NACE. Recently Mr. Carter spent portions of his summer vacations serving as an ACE REVIEW team member for the American Council on Education, reviewing 19 newly developed courses for the Oklahoma Department of Vocational Education and all 20 of the programs in their delivery system. This required visits to all 20 of the Collision Repair Programs in the Oklahoma system.

Clinton has spent a lifetime devoted to the study of automobiles and teaching that spans 56 years. He holds BS, MS, and EDS degrees from PSU along with many certificates of training. Also there are 8 degrees from Pittsburg State in his immediate family. His plans for retirement are to enjoy traveling the US with his wife, Beverly, in their RV and to spend time visiting with their children and grandchildren that

are located in 3 different states.

SkillsUSA

The PSU SkillsUSA chapter held an information session on September 14th, and officer elections were held on September 28th. Auto tech freshman Jack Frederick (former Kansas state secondary president and silver medalist in the National Skills USA auto service technology contest.) was elected to lead the PSU chapter. The chapter is titled " mixed group", which means that students from all trade disciplines are able to join and participate in all club functions.. Fall semester activities will include a fundraiser, adopt a highway program, and toys for tots during the holiday season. In the spring semester we will focus on the state contest which will be held April 18-20 in Wichita, KS. Club advisor Ron Downing would like to remind anyone who would be interested in judging at the state or national AST contest to contact him at 620-235-4825, or e-mail at rdowning@pittstate.edu

Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills

The Kansas and Missouri Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills and Ultimate Master Tech Challenge will be held May 9-10 2007. The competition will be held at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City. Assistant professor Ron Downing is the competition manager for the Kansas contest and works with Missouri state department staff who manage the Missouri contest. The contest is open to high school junior and senior automotive students. Teams will qualify by taking a written exam that will probably be held in February, 2007. The team with the best combined written score and the least amount of hood close time will be declared the winners and will represent their state at the National finals in June 2007. The Ultimate Master Tech Challenge (competition for Ford master techs from the central region) will also be held in conjunction with the state contests. There will be five master tech vehicles. The twenty five car field is the largest in the country for a state level competition and is open to the public. Contact Ron Downing for details at rdowning@pittstate.edu

Future Power Technology for Automobiles

The Automotive Technology Department has developed a course to expose our students to the newest technologies that are being explored as possible propulsion systems of the future of the automotive industry. The topics covered will be full electric powered vehicles, diesel, gasoline hybrids and fuel cells. Due to variety of systems, the course will cover operations, service issues and safety. In addition, various alternative fuels that may be used in the future will be discussed.

One man's trash is another man's treasure!

Only in the Failure Analysis class does that statement hold true. The first session of the new class is going strong with students examining failed parts such as, pistons, gears, bearings and other components to determine the root cause of failures. With help from manufactures and others that have helped by supplying failed components and information about failures, our students are getting a good idea of what goes into doing a good failure analysis investigation. Anyone out there who may have components from an interesting failure is asked to contact Bob Schroer at rschroer@pittstate.edu



Failed Semi-truck Axle shaft

Pitt State Wins Korean Mini-Baja Endurance Race

On February 23rd 2006, the Pitt State Korean Mini-Baja Team comprised of Shawn Winkler, Mark Turner, Vincent Bartone, and Cody Emmert made history as they left for Jinju Korea. They became the first US team to live in Korea, build a Mini-Baja vehicle there, and then compete in the Korean Mini-Baja Competition. History was made again on July 16th, when PSU became the first Non-Korean team to win both the Korean Mini-Baja Endurance Race and the Henkel-Loctite Technical Design Award for best vehicle design. The program worked great in conjunction of the Gyeongsang National University and Pittsburg State University SAE mini-baja workshop. The students lived in the dorms on campus and worked in the English lab, helping the GNU students with their conversational English. Working in a different culture 6500 miles from home the PSU team still lapped all 77 cars in the endurance race.

AGCO Engine Donation and Alumni visit

On June 1st, 2007 professors Bob Schroer and Tim Dell had the opportunity to receive a generous donation from AGCO. Mr. Steve Schrag, Projects Manager, was responsible for donating the Cummins QSM11 diesel engine. In addition to receiving the engine, They were given a tour of the Hesston facilities by PSU Alumni Jason Kelly. Bob and Tim also visited PSU Alumni: Todd Hatzenbuehler, Jason Messer, Kendall Graber, Stephen Wegerer, Aaron Beyer, Dustin Koehn, Chad Neuenschwander, and PSU intern Kyle Tindell. Several other Alumni work for AGCO in Hesston, KS but were unavailable that day including, Josh Leitner, Tracy Jahay, Dale Kaiser, Brad Fullbright and Scott Sweasy. Thank you AGCO for this generous donation!



Tim Dell and Bob Schroer receiving engine donation from Steve Schrag at AGCO

New Automotive Faculty

John Thompson

John Thompson came to PSU in 1987 and graduated in 1991 with Auto Tech-Service mgmt degree with minor in business. He worked as a technician at Roger Comer Chevrolet after graduation and earned ASE certifications. He then moved to Royal Motors in Pittsburg and was there for over 5 years as a Service Advisor for 2 years and as Body Shop Manager for over 2 years. Hired by Allied Insurance in 1996 as an estimator, moved to an Auto/Casualty Investigator position, and later promoted to Senior Material Damage Specialist. Currently working on a Masters Degree at PSU. He has been married for 16 years. Has four kids and is active in youth sports, church, and auto-body repair at home restoring old cars and performing collision repairs as well.



Matthew Keller

Matthew Keller came to PSU in the fall of 98, and graduated from the Automotive Technology department with an emphasis in Manufacturing in 2002. Matthew worked with the first Korean Mini-Baja team to visit PSU his senior year and discovered that he enjoyed teaching. In 2003, he graduated with a Masters in Technology Education and pursued a career with Fort Scott Community College. Keller taught in the John Deere Career Partnership in Frontenac, KS until starting his position in August. He teaches several classes in the Automotive Service department and Electrical Lab in the Automotive Technology department. Keller also joins Trent Lindbloom and Bob Schroer as SAE and Mini-Baja advisor.



Faculty Visit with Graduates in Michigan

Professors Ken Gordon and Bob Frisbee had the pleasure of meeting with several graduates in mid-July at Big Buck's Steakhouse in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, Jon Bartlow, helped arrange the informal dinner meeting. Professors Gordon and Frisbee enjoyed visiting with the graduates about current happenings in the Automotive Technology Department. Graduates attending were: Jerry Haller (BSIT, 1969), Joe Hilger (72), Glenn Duvall (78), Danny Sublette (86), Steven Corle (86), Kelly Kyle (90) and his wife Pamela, Jack Johnson (99), Mike Lightfoot (04), Matthew Mahnken (04), and Cameron Carlson, an intern scheduled to graduate in 07.

During the trip Gordon and Frisbee were hosted at a dinner and tour of Johnson Controls in Holland, Michigan, by J.L. Johnson. Johnson earned two degrees at Pitt State in 1999, one in Mechanical Engineering Technology and one in Automotive Technology.

While in the Detroit metro area, the professors also visited graduates and Ford Motor Company managers at the Ford Technical Hotline Center in Allen Park. Ford managers Kurt Kiser, Kevin Ricks and Stacy Balzer plus several Pitt State graduates employed in the Center reviewed the activities and partnership opportunities available. Graduates in attendance were: Rob Kobel (80), Paul Garcia (99), Tom Root (99), David Wynn (02) and Ian Griffin (02).

Alumni Corner

Clayton Geschke

Clayton, who grew up in small towns in Nebraska and Iowa, received a two year Associates in Automotive Electronics Technology from Hawkeye Comm. College, he then spent some time over seas with the Military, then came to Pitt State. He was the first Pitt State grad of the new BAS program, graduating in Spring of 2006, Doc Adams steered him towards the insurance industry. Currently, He is a Claims Rep for Allied Insurance in Lincoln, NE. This position is providing Clayton a great opportunity to learn about car accidents and start carving a path towards a position in the field, fraud investigating, and/or various other opportunities in the industry.

Troy Kaiser Manages National Center

Troy Kaiser, a 1991 Automotive Technology graduate, is currently the Customer Center Operations Manager at the Toyota Material Handling, U.S.A., in Columbus, Indiana. He was instrumental in designing the new center. He and Kendall Alstatt (1985) gave Professor Gordon a tour of the center last August when he stopped by for a courtesy visit. Kendall is the manager of service and product training. Both Pitt State AT graduates have been with Toyota for several years.

Pitt State Mini-Baja Midwest

The PSU mini-baja team did really well in the 2006 Midwest event. The team finished 41st overall out of 149 cars. They did outstanding in the driving events such as 25th in Endurance, 7th in Maneuverability, and 13th in the mud bog. The team was made up of all mini-baja beginners since the 4 previous members went to Korea. They overcame many obstacles and still made PSU proud. The team was made up of students Booby Larimore, Cody Kilmer, Bobby Dejoux, Nico Prelogar, Tim Drake and Nick Weeks.

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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

Nov 16-17 - 64th Annual 4-State Regional Technology Conference
Nov 22-24 - Thanksgiving Holiday Break
Nov 29 - Scott Norman presenting DaimlerChrysler New Vehicle Technology in AT 410 Emerging Developments
Dec 6 - AT 410 Short session
Dec 15 - Fall 2006 semester ends

2007

Jan 17 - Enrollment
Jan 18 - 1st day of Spring semester
Feb - College of Technology Spring Open House
Mar 1 - PSU Commemoration Day
Mar 2 - 4 - VISION Hi-Tech Training & Expo (Kansas City)
Mar 7 - AOD Dinner 7 pm Chicken Mary's Restaurant
Mar 8 - Automotive Orientation Day
Mar 8 Car show in KC
Mar 9 - Richard Weathers PSU Automotive Seminar -
Mar - Kansas City Auto Show
Mar 17-25 - Spring Break
Mar 22-24 - Mid-American Truck Show, Louisville, KY
Apr 21- SAE Car Show
May 18 Commencement