



Pittsburg State University • Spring 2004 Edition

Program Leadership in Transition

A word from Coordinator Ken Gordon

I have determined the time is right for transferring the leadership of the Automotive Technology program to younger, proven junior faculty colleagues. I have been the administrative coordinator for the past 25 years, and the appointed coordinator since 1993.

I first became involved with Pittsburg State University in the fall of 1961 when I enrolled as a junior student majoring in industrial education with an emphasis in automotive teaching. I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences as a student of Professor George Brooker and I credit him for much of my professional success.

I received my BS degree in Education in 1963. My first professional position was as a sales trainee for International Harvester Company, but because it was a "traveling job" I resigned after one year and accepted a position as the automotive instructor at Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas. This was quite a challenge for a southeast Kansas farm boy, but I was successful, and served there until 1966.

Pittsburg State University offered me a position in August 1966, and I have enjoyed serving the University and its students for the past 38 years. My plans are to continue teaching full-time for another year or two and then possibly enter into a "Phased Retirement Agreement" with the University while having a reduced teaching load. The most rewarding aspect of my career has been the opportunity to promote many graduates for special honors and recognition, plus the joy of assisting in placing students in challenging professional positions.

The program has grown in the number of students, corporate partnerships, faculty involvement in fund-raising, student internship support, plus many other ways over the years. For the past five years Associate Professor Bob Frisbee has been assisting me by serving as an assistant coordinator for the diesel and heavy equipment area.

Professor Frisbee is the new "Light Automotive" coordinator. Instructor Tim Dell has agreed to serve as the new "Diesel and Heavy Equipment" coordinator.

Best regards and good fortune to all. -Ken Gordon

Coordinator Bob Frisbee

Ken asked me to share a little of my professional history as part of the leadership transition. I graduated from PSU in 1985 with a major in Automotive Technology. Upon graduation, I went to work for Chrysler Corporation as a District Manager Trainee in the Los Angeles Zone Office. I worked as a Service and Parts District Manager and then as a Service District Manager in Southern California for a total of three years. A position in the training group opened up, and I was able to transition into it. I was a technical trainer for Chrysler for four years.

After seven years with Chrysler, I took a leave of absence and went to Oklahoma State University and worked on my Master's Degree in Occupational and Adult Education. While in Oklahoma, a position at PSU opened. I was able to obtain the position starting the fall semester of 1993.

I have been at PSU for ten years and have worked both in the Diesel and Heavy Equipment area and the automotive area. During this time I also completed my Ed.D at OSU. We are truly thankful for Ken's leadership over the many years, and look forward to his continued leadership and guidance!

Coordinator Tim Dell

I graduated from Pittsburg State in December 1996 with a BS in Automotive Technology with an emphasis in diesel and heavy equipment. I accepted a job with Case IH in Racine, Wisconsin, in their Technical Service Group. Our team answered dealer and field personnel technical questions for 4WD tractors, combines, air seeders, and cotton harvesting. During peak loads we assisted the tillage and seeding group. My area of specialty at TSG was supporting combines.

In August 1999 I began a new career at Pittsburg State University. This May will make 5 years of teaching at PSU. I will share the coordinating position with Bob Frisbee. I currently teach AT 414 Automatic Transmissions, AT 614 Fluid Power, and AT 654 Advanced Hydraulic systems. I will also administer special topics courses and internship courses this next academic year. I have taught AT 612 Diesel and Hydraulic Lab, AT 651 Truck and Heavy Equipment Systems, and AT 403 Current Topics. I plan to finish my dissertation and receive a doctorate from K-State in December of 2005.

I completed my Masters Science in Technology Education from PSU in December 2000. I am currently working on my PhD at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. My last course will be July 2004.



Ken Gordon



Robert Frisbee



Tim Dell



Bob Schroer

New full-time automotive & heavy equipment instructor

The growth in the Diesel and Heavy Equipment area has necessitated the hiring of an additional instructor. Bob Schroer has been hired and will start full-time in August. Bob will teach Diesel Engine Fundamentals, Advanced Diesel Electronics and Diesel Engine Laboratory, and the On-Highway Systems class. He will also teach two courses each semester for the two-year Automotive Service Technology area.

Bob is in the process of completing his Masters degree and has taught the above diesel classes as an adjunct professor for the last two years. He is currently employed by Joplin Freightliner as a class A technician. He has also worked for Cummins Mid-America, Steve Spicer Motors-GM dealership, R&S Chevrolet, Kenworth Truck, Inc., and Mid-American Truck Maintenance.

We are excited to have Bob join us and help direct the growth of the diesel program, especially the on-highway area. Bob will bring a great amount of experience both to the diesel and automotive curriculum.

Richard Weathers, Don Carter, and Carolyn Brooker are special guests at dinner

Automotive Technology was happy to host some special guests at an appreciation dinner on March 18th. It was held the evening before the “Richard Weathers Automotive Seminar”.

Emeritus Professor Richard Weathers retired 10 years ago after serving the University as an automotive professor for 30 years. Richard’s wife, Mary, was also a special guest.

Other honored guests were Don Carter and Carolyn Brooker. Don graduated from Pitt State in 1968. He recently retired as the Strategic Planning Manager for Toyota Sales, U.S.A. Inc. He and his wife, Jennifer, were in Pittsburg to attend the wedding of their son, Steven, to Lisa Shoemaker. Steven is an Automotive Technology senior graduating on May 14th. It was a joy having Jennifer, Steven and Lisa join in at the dinner.

Carolyn Brooker was also an honored guest as the widow of Professor

George Brooker who is credited with laying the foundation that has provided the strength for the Automotive Technology program today. Others enjoying this special evening were: Vice President Jim AuBuchon, Cathy AuBuchon, Pitt State Foundation Director Brad Hodson, Ken Gordon, and Nancy Brooker, daughter of Carolyn and the late George Brooker, and current Pitt State biology professor. Nancy is nationally and internationally known as an expert in soybean genetics.

SAE Student Chapter

The PSU Student Chapter of SAE has been busy this year. The membership is approximately 60 students. The chapter has had a busy semester with a visit to Cobalt Boats and Big Dog Motorcycles, plus several other projects. They organized and hosted a car show on campus on April 17th. The students also manned a booth at the Kansas City Auto Show recruiting prospective students for Pitt State. The student chapter competed at the Kansas City Senior Chapter for the best chapter in Kansas and western Missouri. The chapter placed third and won \$700.00.

Mini-Baja

The Student Chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers is building vehicles for the Mid-West Mini-Baja that will be held June 4-6 in Milwaukee. The team consists of approximately 10 students. Greg Reber and Sam Karns are the two student team captains. One of the vehicles will have a solid rear axle and the other vehicle will have IRS (Independent rear suspension).

There will be three vehicles from Pittsburg State University at the competition. Pitt State is hosting a student team from GNU in Korea again this year. The Korean students built the car at Pitt State. Their local advisor is Chauncey Pennington, a 2003 graduate of the Automotive Technology program. The Mini-Baja Teams encourage anyone who can schedule a trip to the Milwaukee area to attend the competition and cheer for the three Pitt State teams.

Pittsburg State University Summer 2004 Short Courses

General Motors Electronics Toyota Hybrids DaimlerChrysler New Technology
Automotive Fuels and Lubricants NAVI-International New Engine Technology

The College of Technology and the Department of Technology Studies is offering five two-day, 1-credit hour courses, which are primarily designed for regional automotive, agricultural, & heavy equipment educators. Other students are welcome on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students will enroll through the Office of Continuing Studies for either 1-hour of college credit, or on a non-credit basis. The tuition is **\$131** for each two-day course for either 1-hour of undergraduate credit or no credit. Graduate students should enroll in the **TST 795**-course number at a tuition fee of **\$167**. Prospective students should call Continuing Studies at **620 235 4223** for details on the enrollment process.

Course Number	Course Title Subject Area	Presenting Company and/or Individual	Session Dates
AT 403-81 (Grad students enroll in TST 795-81 Special Topics in Technology)	Current Topics in Technology (Automotive Product Updates & New Technologies), 1 credit hour	AC Delco (GM) Chuck White	June 8 & 9 Tuesday Wednesday
AT 403-82 (Grad students enroll in TST 795-82)	Current Topics in Technology (Advanced Engine Control Systems and/or Hybrid Synergy Drive), 1 credit hour	Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Kent Layton	June 10 & 11 Thursday Friday
AT 403-83 (Grad students enroll in TST 795-83)	Current Topics in Technology (New DaimlerChrysler Technology—2005), 1 credit hour	DaimlerChrysler Robert Scott Norman	June 15 & 16 Tuesday Wednesday
AT 403-84 (Grad students enroll in TST 795-84)	Current Topics in Technology (Automotive Fuels and Lubricants) 1 credit hour	Pittsburg State University Ken Gordon	June 17 & 18 Thursday Friday
AT 403-85 (Grad students enroll in TST 795-85)	Current Topics in Technology (Diesel Engine Design & Performance Enhancement), 1 credit hour	NAV-INTERNATIONAL Thomas Dunakey	June 21 & 22 Monday Tuesday

Professor Ken Gordon is the automotive faculty member coordinating the courses. **Details on the enrollment and credit process should be done through Continuing Studies.** Other questions or concerns can be addressed by Professor Gordon at: 620 235 4380, or e-mail at kgordon@pittstate.edu

Harley-Davidson, Fort Scott Community College, and Pitt State

Last fall several representatives from Harley-Davidson met with a steering committee made up of members of the PSU and Fort Scott Community College staff, plus local community leaders to determine the possibility of developing a Harley-Davidson motorcycle technician training program. Dr. John Iley, Steve Vergara, and Mike Bean developed the proposal. The characteristic that makes this program unique is that students who complete this AAS degree at Fort Scott Community College, can transfer the hours into a Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology at Pittsburg State.

In November, Steve Phillips, Vice President in charge of technician and dealer development, came to the Pitt State campus to present a contract that committed Harley Davidson to this project. They will supply motorcycles and the needed specialty tools for state-of-the-art motorcycle service training. A new building is being built just north of Pittsburg near the famous “Chicken Annie’s” corner on highway 69. Steve Vergara has been hired as the first instructor. Classes will begin in the fall with approximately 40 students and two instructors. Dedication of the site was held on Saturday, April 24th, in conjunction with the weekend activities involving “Blessing of the Bikes” in Frontenec.

Honor graduates announced at the College of Technology banquet

Christopher Matheis was chosen by the Automotive Technology faculty to receive the annual **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 recent College of Technology Awards Banquet.

Christopher had a very successful and rewarding internship experience with Caterpillar in Peoria, IL, last summer; and will work as an intern with Cummins, Inc. near his hometown in Indiana this summer.

He has worked as a laboratory assistant in the George Brooker Diesel Laboratory for the past year and has done an excellent job.

The following is a brief statement from the honoree:

“How did someone from rural Southern Indiana end up at Pittsburg State University? Knowing I wanted to pursue a career in the diesel industry, my education options were limited to a few select colleges. My first interest of Pittsburg State University came when a graduate of the Automotive Technology program shared the advantages of the program and some of his experience with me. The professional and technical experiences I am gaining as a student are preparing me for my future career. The corporate support and recruiting opportunities here create a competitive advantage for any student attending Pittsburg State University.”



Christopher Matheis from Dubois, IN, was chosen by the faculty to receive the “Eugene V. Gardner Outstanding Senior Award” for 2004. Christopher will graduate in December.

Other honor graduates recognized at the College of Technology Awards Banquet

The following 2004 calendar year automotive graduates were honored at the College of Technology Awards Banquet held on April 15 in the Jack Overman Student Center. They were honored again at a “Automotive Honors and Appreciation Luncheon” on May 6th.

Outstanding Automotive Seniors (Cumulative GPA of 3.70 or better)

Sam F. Halcomb	Franklin, KY	Kenton L. Mitchell	Joplin, MO
Colin W. Holthaus	Topeka, KS	David G. Pike	Wichita, KS
Robert M. Lyle	Houston, TX	David L. Schulte	Spearville, KS
		Jeriah M. Whitcraft	LaCygne, KS

Distinguished Automotive Seniors (Cumulative GPA of 3.40–3.69)

Justin P. Allman	Bedford, IA	Lukas G. Horst	Emporia, KS
Rusty L. Brown	Sumner, TX	Andrew D. Lopeman	Humbolt, KS
Shannon L. Dudley	Topeka, KS	Jeffrey T. Metzinger	Arkansas City, KS
Chris W. Dukes	Overland Park, KS	John G. Ochsner	Overland Park, KS
Ethan A. Forsberg	Valley Falls, KS	Cheyne A. Sager	Moran, KS
Fredrick P. Griffiths	Paola, KS	Zachary L. Wade	Tyro, KS
Eric D. Heinen	Seneca, KS	Eric D. Wagner	McPherson, KS

Dick Chitty makes presentation in senior automotive management class

Students in Professor Gordon’s service management class had a special experience on May 6. Recently retired Toyota Vice President Dick Chitty, a special guest lecturer, reviewed his professional experiences primarily as a vice president with Toyota and Lexus.

Prior to his presentation, Mr. Chitty enjoyed fellowship and good food at an “**Automotive Honors and Appreciation Luncheon**” in the Jack Overman Student Center. Faculty, faculty associates, student assistants, and about twenty **2004 honor graduates** were in attendance along with Pittsburg State University President Tom Bryant. Professor Gordon gave a short PowerPoint presentation on “**The First 100 Years of Automotive Technology at Pitt State**”.



Professor Gordon attends Southern California alumni chapter meeting

The Southern California Pitt State Alumni Chapter met for a dinner meeting on Saturday evening, March 20th in Fullerton, CA. About 25 people attended including five automotive graduates and their guests. Automotive graduates attending with year of graduation and company affiliation were: Todd Bergeson (00) Toyota; Dan Bonawitz (69) Honda; Gary Heine (82) Toyota; Randy Reida (82) Toyota; and Randy Wagner (91) Toyota. Dan Bonawitz was honored as out-going president of the Southern California Alumni Chapter. He is a vice president for American Honda. Dan was also recently elected to serve on the Pittsburg State University Foundation Board. Many thanks are extended to Dan for his continuing service to the University.

Other Pitt State representatives attending the meeting were PSU President Tom Bryant, College of Education Dean Steve Scott, and Alumni Association Director Ken Bateman.

While in Los Angeles Mr. Gordon visited with additional graduates employed in the area. Included were Toyota employees Jay Brown (00), Robert Crotts (00), James Dowdy (03), Clayton Meyer (98), Mike Robinson (95), and Randy Schiltz (97).

Professor Gordon also visited the Toyota Fuel Cell Hybrid Vehicle maintenance and research facility in Torrance. Toyota employee and former student Jay Brown took Gordon for a test drive in the vicinity around the Toyota national headquarters.

He also visited with human resource officials at the Nissan national headquarters in Torrance.

Automotive Technology Faculty

Dr. Roger Adams	4386
Professor Clinton Carter	4826
Instructor Tim Dell	4182
Instructor Ron Downing	4825
Dr. Bob Frisbee	4380
Professor Ken Gordon	4378
Instructor Bob Schroer	4104

Please contact any of the following:

Office of Admission-620 235 4251 or 1 800 854 7488

Technology Studies Chair John Iley -620 235 4371

Automotive Technology Coordinator-Robert Frisbee-620 235 4380
Email-rlfrisbe@pittstate.edu

Diesel & Heavy Equipment Coordinator-Tim Dell-620 235 4182
Email-tdell@pittstate.edu

Automotive Service Technology

Professor Perry Cummins	4827
Instructor Trent Lindbloom	4198