

CHAPTER 2

UNIVERSITY HISTORY

STATE MANUAL TRAINING NORMAL

The United States acquired the vast tract of land known as the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Within a few years, the successful expedition of discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark revealed the varied nature of the land. The area in southeast Kansas comprising present-day Cherokee, Crawford, and part of Bourbon counties was once known as the Cherokee Neutral Lands. While this territory belonged to the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokees did not occupy the land. Kansas, a part of the Great Plains region of the United States, was a part of the Indian Territory from 1830 to 1854. The Federal Government designated this region as the Kansas Territory, on May 20, 1854. Kansas was admitted to the Union as the 34th state by an Act of Congress on January 29, 1861. The Kansas Legislature established Crawford County on February 1, 1867. The mining of coal, lead, and zinc shaped the economic beginnings of southeast Kansas. Pittsburg was established in 1876.

As Kansas began to develop educational institutions for the residents in various parts of the state, several normal schools emerged to remain open for only a few years. The Emporia Normal School, established in 1865, survived the fate of the others. The Kansas Constitution provided for a state system of public education. Eventually, the State Legislature created two schools at Hays and Pittsburg to serve as branches of the Emporia Normal School. The State Manual Training Normal at Pittsburg came into existence because of a growing interest in secondary schools in manual education later to be known as industrial arts. A growing need existed for manual arts teachers in secondary schools in various parts of the United States.

In February 1903, the Kansas State Legislature enacted into law the establishment of the Auxiliary Manual Training Normal School at Pittsburg, Kansas, to be under the control of the Emporia Normal School, Emporia, Kansas. That year saw several other manual training teacher preparation institutions emerge around the country. These included The Stout Institute, Menomonie, Wisconsin, the State Normal School, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois, James Milikin University, Decatur, Illinois, and Throop Polytechnic Institute, Pasadena, California.

William Thomas Bawden wrote **A HISTORY OF KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE** (1903-1941) that was published in 1952. In describing the birth pains for the Auxiliary State Manual Training Normal he wrote the following from an interview with R. S. Russ. “The Kansas State Manual Training Normal School came into existence only after a bitter and long-drawn-out struggle in the state legislature. Later, the institution achieved independent status only after another bitter and long-drawn-out struggle. Again, it achieved the right to confer upon its

graduate the life certificate to teach and the baccalaureate degree over the urgent protest of those who would have kept it a school of secondary rank. Still later, it achieved the right to offer graduate courses leading to the Master's degree only against determined opposition. As the first Principal of the School, R. S. Russ, aptly remarked, 'The fact is the friends and supporters of the Manual Training Normal School were fighting for something a good part of the time''

The proposal to establish a state school to educate teachers of manual training took place gradually over a period of about four years. As in all successful educational enterprises, it grew from a need to a vision and then to an action. Senator Ebenezer F. Porter introduced Senate Bill 234 in the Kansas Legislature in January, 1903. The Senate passed the legislation on February 11, 1903, the House of Representatives passed it on February 20, 1903, and the Governor of Kansas, Willis J. Bailey, signed the bill on February 21, 1903. Senate Bill No. 234 became law upon publication in the Topeka **CAPITAL** on February 26, 1903. It was named An Act to Establish at Pittsburg, Kansas, an Auxiliary Manual Training Normal School, and Making an Appropriation Therefor. The legislature appropriated \$18,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 1905, for current expenses and improvements.

The Kansas Board of Regents met in Pittsburg on May 2, 1903, to review the arrangements for the location and operation of the new school and to appoint R. S. Russ as the first principal. The Regents chose the Central School building located at the northwest corner of Fifth and Walnut Streets for the new manual training school. The Manual Training Normal School of Pittsburg operated as an auxiliary of the State Normal School of Emporia, Kansas.

One of the most significant events in the fledgling school's early years occurred when the Legislature in 1905 appropriated \$10,000 to purchase the campus site. The actual cost of the property amounted to only \$6,000. In 1907, the Legislature appropriated \$150,000 to build the first building. The construction of this first building, Russ Hall, began in August, 1907 and was completed in December 1908. On Sunday night, June 29, 1914, Pittsburg had a torrential rain and electric storm. At 3:30 AM on Monday morning, Russ Hall sustained a lightning strike and the building quickly erupted in flames. The building became a shell of its original structure. Within a day and a half, Pittsburg rallied with the commitment of \$136,000 to rebuild Russ Hall. In 1915, the Legislature appropriated \$188,565 to replace the funds provided by Pittsburg leaders and also complete the reconstruction of the building. A few rooms were ready for the students in September, 1914, although it took a year to complete the remainder of the building.

The struggle between the two normal schools, Pittsburg and Emporia, became bitter. By 1909, demands surfaced that the Board of Regents should separate the two institutions and the Manual Training Normal School become independent. Various groups in Pittsburg began to make their case for the separation. Numerous reasons for the separation became the talk of Pittsburg and the region. In 1911, an attempt in the Legislature to separate the two schools failed. The loss of Principal R. S. Russ became one of the casualties of this effort.

In 1911, George E. Myers succeeded R. S. Russ as principal. The following two years saw the controversy become even more intense. Renewed demands for the separation of the two institutions began to mount. The Legislature abolished the regular Board of Regents in 1913 and appointed a temporary Board of Regents giving them the authority to separate the two schools.

The temporary board accomplished this goal by firing the two heads of the schools. Then, they hired William A. Brandenburg, the superintendent of schools in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to become the first president of the Kansas State Manual Training Normal School.

In 1912, the Manual Training Normal School offered a four-year curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in education. The first thirteen baccalaureate degree candidates received their degrees in June, 1913.

Under the leadership of President Brandenburg, the development of the Manual Training Normal School accelerated. In 1915, the North Central Association, the regional accreditation organization for the middle United States granted accreditation to the Manual Training Normal School. That achievement gave the institution a firm foundation on which to build degree programs. He recommended that the Board of Administrators engage Hare and Hare of Kansas City, Missouri, a firm of landscape architects and city planners to landscape the grounds, and to draw up a building plan for the future of the school. Hare and Hare submitted the plans in October, 1916, and January, 1917, and they were adopted by the Board in the summer of 1917. With this first extensive planning effort, the Oval became a reality around which the campus would grow. That architectural planning triumph gave the institution a campus focus.

During the remainder of President Brandenburg's tenure, fourteen buildings were added to the campus. The strengthening of the faculty, the expansion of the curriculum, the stimulation of independence, the development of a physical plant, and the growth in enrollments during the first twenty years of the institution's history resulted from the hard work of many people. Few doubted that this institution in southeast Kansas was a stable and emerging bright star on the horizon of American higher education. In 1923, the Legislature added the crowning touch to all that had happened by renaming the Manual Training Normal School the Kansas State Teachers College.

Among the legacies of the Manual Training Normal School, the Alumni Association established in 1905 became the first. The Alma Mater, *The Gold and Crimson*, written by Lena Gertrude Martin Smith in 1910 became the second important legacy. It was first sung at the 1911 Commencement. The third was the renaming of the **MANUALITE** student publication to the **COLLEGIO** in 1923 at the suggestion of Lena Smith. She also served as editor of the **ALUMNIUM** that was established in 1935. The fourth legacy also occurred in 1923 when the school mascot became the Gorilla.

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

Kansas State Teachers College continued to build on the strengths that took it to the new organizational level. The concept developed that in order to be a good teacher's college, an institution must be a good college with acceptable standards of scholarship, faculty with appropriate credentials, and appropriate classrooms and equipment. The College emphasized the need for faculty who had advanced degrees. As the 1920s and 1930s unfolded the College faculty consisted of more and more members who had graduate degrees. Also in the 1920s, a Sabbatical Leave system added to the effort to strengthen the faculty.

The strengthening of the faculty led to an important development in the College curriculum when the Board of Regents authorized the conferral of the Master of Science degree in 1929. By 1940, graduate degrees were offered in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Commerce, Education, English, Industrial Education, Mathematics, Psychology and Philosophy, and Social Sciences. The North Central Association approved the offering of graduate degrees.

One of the significant developments in the 1930s at Kansas State Teachers College related to the acceptance of black students from Kansas City, Kansas. These students had serious difficulty gaining admission to other public institutions of higher learning in Kansas and Missouri. Pittsburg, Kansas, became known as the Little Balkans a generation earlier because of the liberal political views held by the majority of the residents. The ensuing political battles became widely known in the state. That same mentality welcomed the black students enrolling from Kansas City. Many of these students earned bachelors and masters degrees here. Their presence also attracted other black students from other parts of the nation.

One notable example, among many, was Dr. Kermit King. Coming to Kansas State College from his native New York City, he earned bachelor and masters degree here. He became the college record holder in the running broad jump. His record still stands today. In his chosen sport, he came to Pittsburg ranked 31st in the world in 1934. He moved up to 17th in 1935, to 5th in 1936, and finally to 2nd in 1937. After graduation from Kansas State Teachers College, he earned his doctoral degree at the University of California at Los Angeles. He pursued a career in higher education at historically black colleges. In 1954, he became the President of the National University in Monrovia, Liberia. In 1961, Dr. King again sought a larger stage. He joined the Agency for International Development within the U. S. Department of State, and served as a visiting professor and lecturer in comparative education at UCLA. During the next decade, Dr. King served as Chief of Education and Higher Education Development Officer with the State Department, and had assignments in Brazil, Central America, Kenya, and Cambodia. In 1973, he went to East Carolina University where he established a center for international studies and education. In 2002, Kermit King was inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. His athletic ability enabled him to become a champion. As an educator, Dr. Kermit King became a strong voice for Black Americans and Black Africa, a term he said referred to the Africa south of the Sahara Desert.

The years of World War II found many of the Kansas State Teachers College students leaving to serve their country in the two-ocean battle for freedom all over the world. The College served as a training facility for some of the military forces. The influx of veterans after the war swelled the enrollment and helped the College toward future expansion. For more than a decade after World War II, Kansas State Teachers College continued to grow and develop as a strong link in the Kansas system of higher education.

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE OF PITTSBURG

The change in the name to Kansas State College of Pittsburg recognized the institutional strengths developed over nearly six decades. The growing importance of the arts and sciences along with the professional programs in business, education, and industrial arts served as the

basis for the change from a teacher's college to a general liberal arts and sciences college curriculum with professional programs.

In 1966, Kansas State College of Pittsburg enacted the first major reorganization in the history of the institution. The appointment of an executive vice president and an academic vice president provided the administrative leadership to expand the academic departments from fourteen to twenty-two departments. Three schools emerged in the reorganization. They were the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Technology. Other administrative units included a graduate dean, a business manager, research and development, institutional research, and plant services. Each of the Schools had a dean. This reorganization served the College well as it continued to develop as an institution of higher learning.

During the 1960s, Kansas State College attracted nationally prominent speakers and entertainers. Among the featured speakers for 1966-1967, Senator J. William Fulbright spoke on foreign policy, John Ciardi, **SATURDAY REVIEW** poetry editor, discussed literary censorship, Yale University philosopher, Brand Blanshard, spoke on reason, feeling and morality and Duke University President, Douglas M. Knight, spoke on academic rights and responsibilities. One can easily detect the College's efforts to provide thoughtful commentary to students who experienced the violence of the 1960s on many college and university campuses.

The College began to receive national recognition in several ways. In 1960, Marie Neely Moreland, Class of 1934, who became a fourth grade teacher at Del Rosa Elementary School, became San Bernardino County Teacher of the Year, California Teacher of the Year, and National Teacher of the Year. Kansas State College of Pittsburg had experienced a rich athletic tradition in several sports. In 1957, the football team won the NAIA national title. The 1961 football team won the second national title. In 1968, Debbie Barnes became Miss America. These illustrate the variety of successful programs and their results in the lives of the Kansas State College students.

The graduates of Kansas State College of Pittsburg pursued a range of careers all over the country. In 1965, it was reported in the **ALUMNIUM** that the Class of 1965 members found employment in thirty-one states and four other countries. The College conferred 995 degrees, an increase of 8.5% over 1964. Baccalaureate degrees were awarded to 718, master's degrees to 273 and Specialist in Education degrees to four. Of the 718 baccalaureate degree graduates, 318 were teaching, 160 were employed in various occupations, 65 were in military service, 123 were continuing their education, 40 were homemakers, two were unemployed and 10 were unreported.

By 1968, Kansas State College of Pittsburg could cite professional accreditation in Teacher Education, Chemistry, and Music in addition to the College accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. A reference to the leadership in national organizations by members of the College administration also pointed to quality leadership in higher education. Dr. George Budd became President of the Association of State Colleges and Universities in 1969. Dr. Alvin H. Proctor, executive vice president and dean of graduate studies, became Chairman of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States in 1968. Dr. William P. Spence, dean of the School of Technology became president of the National Association of Industrial Educators in 1967. Dr. Homer Johnson was elected national president of Phi Delta Kappa, professional fraternity for men in education in 1967.

President George Budd in 1976 pointed to the direction for the future of Kansas State College of Pittsburg when he remarked on the prospect of the College being elevated to University status. After discussing relevant progress in the past, he said: “But perhaps the most important development is the most recent. That is the possibility of a name change for this College making us a university. This came about following our reorganization in 1966.” He noted that the state colleges at Hays and Emporia also reorganized their academic structure. He further noted that this organization change allowed for a difference in the role of the colleges and the junior colleges. He concluded: “And so when it was proposed that all three institutions—because they offer graduate work and do indeed carry on important research—request the Board of Regents to support us in introducing legislation to change the name of the State Colleges to State Universities that approval was forthcoming. In the next Legislative session we hope that we will be successful in making that change.”

The strength of the faculty was important in the process of becoming a University. President Budd noted that in 1965 only 26% of the faculty held the earned doctor’s degree. In 1976, that percentage had increased to 58% of the faculty with an earned doctor’s degree. “That improvement is something to be especially proud of because, it means that our faculty is better prepared to offer higher level courses needed in an expanding program.”

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Several significant events occurring during the years the institution was called Kansas State College of Pittsburg from 1959 to 1977 assured everyone associated with the College that the future looked secure. At the inauguration of James B. Appleberry on April 13, 1977, Kansas Governor Robert F. Bennet announced that he would sign the state college name change legislation upon his return to Topeka. With that development, Kansas State College of Pittsburg became Pittsburg State University with the legal publication in the **TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL** on April 21, 1977.

Just four days after the inauguration, the University conducted the ground-breaking ceremony for the \$2,900,000 Learning Resources Center that would be named the Leonard Axe Library. In announcing the completion of the new library facility and its opening on October 6, 1979, a statement made by Thomas Carlyle that “The true University of these days is a collection of books” served to launch the new University status well. The new library resulted from years of careful planning for its eventuality. Part of the history of the institution as Pittsburg State University demonstrates that libraries became more than books and journals in the 1980s and 1990s with the swift changes in new technologies.

Pittsburg State University celebrated its diamond jubilee in 1978 calling attention to its strong faculty and administration, its outstanding academic programs, its fine facilities, and its spirit as an emerging University with a national presence. President James Appleberry remarked to the faculty: “As we begin the celebration of our 75th anniversary, perhaps it is time for us to take stock of the University, its strengths, and those characteristics upon which we may build in the future. The challenge which I would like to lay before all of us today includes one of direction and emphasis as a University community.” As reported in the **ALUMNIUM** in 1979, “the most common impression left after the immediacy of last year’s gala events relate to the quality of the

University. This quality was re-emphasized during the anniversary in the variety of academic disciplines which were reviewed, the internationally known speakers and performing groups which appeared on campus and the historical re-creations.”

In 1983, Donald W. Wilson became the sixth president of Pittsburg State University. Under his leadership, the University began an annual planning process that started with each department and culminated in a composite report detailing strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement. In establishing a regular planning process, President Wilson made one of his greatest contributions to the future development of the University. He also embraced the newer concept of the assessment of student academic learning and identified it as a University priority. Under his leadership, new facilities were added to the campus environment, and the faculty became stronger academically. The ten years of Dr. Wilson’s leadership of the University are well documented in the Self-Study Report of 1993 for a comprehensive evaluation for continued accreditation by the North Central Association.

In the 1990s, the University achieved another stunning success with the construction of the Kansas Technology Center at a cost of \$28,000,000. In a sense, this culminated from a century of education in the manual arts, later the industrial arts, and eventually technology studies. The Kansas Technology Center became one of the finest facilities of its kind in the nation and houses the highly recognized programs in technology education.

John Darling became the seventh president of Pittsburg State University in 1996 and served for about three and a half years. He presided over the completion of the construction of the Kansas Technology Center.

Tom Bryant became interim president of Pittsburg State University in 1995 and served for almost a year in that capacity. He later went to Topeka, Kansas, to become the interim executive director of the Kansas Board of Regents. That experience gave him insights into the role of higher education in Kansas that later became valuable to him and to the University when he became the eighth president in 1999. He consolidated strategic planning and fostered a campus assessment culture that made these twin components of the modern university work. The Self-Study Report of 2003 has enabled the University to look back and forward to sharpen the focus on the significant goals and priorities that have been established through a strong strategic planning program.

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Pittsburg State University has engaged in private fundraising for more than a half century. In 1951, a group of far-sighted supporters of the University created the Endowment Association patterned after a similar organization at the University of Kansas. While the Endowment Association trustees did not engage in any regular and structured fund-raising activities, the group did provide a much-needed service for the University. They established a visible entity that, even by name alone, made it clear that private funding was intended to be a significant part of institutional support. The Endowment Association also identified particular individuals who, as Association members, publicly proclaimed their willingness to be involved in the private funding effort.

By 1970, a group of younger alumni captured a vision of developing current support for institutional needs. In order to achieve their objectives, this group organized the Alumni Foundation in 1970. In just a short time, the reality of a beautiful and functional Alumni Center made possible through the gift of Cecil and Eva C. Wilkinson, served as an impetus to advance the efforts of raising current funds. By the early 1980s private support had become more structured and visible.

In 1984, President Donald W. Wilson created a division of development and public relations and hired a vice-president to head the various entities. One of the most urgent tasks before the University was to create a merger of the two entities, the Endowment Association and the Alumni Foundation into one organization. On July 1, 1985, the merger had been completed when the Pittsburg State University Foundation began operations. At the end of FY 1984 the investment portfolio totaled \$2,162,914. When the two organizations were merged into the Pittsburg State University Foundation, the assets stood at \$3,023,257. That represented a growth of 39.78% in the first year of the operation of the new division of development and public relations. Within a year, the Pittsburg State University Foundation had consolidated its funds under one investment manager. A few years later, the Foundation engaged a financial consultant to give advice about investment returns compared to national norms.

Private support has served as an important mix in building facilities, supporting faculty development, and providing student scholarships. At the end of FY 2002, the Pittsburg State University Foundation endowment funds amounted to \$33,856,117. During FY 2002, the Pittsburg State University Foundation awarded \$1,273,208 in scholarships.

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Pittsburg State University Alumni Association was established in 1905, only two years after the founding of the Manual Training Normal School. The organization continued for more than fifty years as a strictly voluntary organization holding annual meetings. In 1960, Kansas State College of Pittsburg established the Office of Alumni Relations with a full time director.

The Alumni Association is an organization that strives to maintain and strengthen the University's relationships with its alumni, students, faculty, administration, and the community residents surrounding the University. Pittsburg State University alumni are important to the growth of the University, both for the support of their alma mater and for their personal career achievements.

The Alumni Association has the following Mission. "The Pittsburg State University Alumni Association fosters mutually beneficial relationships between the University and its alumni. Pittsburg State alumni constitute the largest single resource for advice, advocacy, student recruitment, and financial support for the University. The Association organizes alumni regionally, nationally and internationally, as a constructive and cohesive force for mutual support and to advance the University. Alumni, in conjunction with administrators, faculty, students, and friends, assist the University in fulfilling its mission."

At the end of FY 2002, Pittsburg State University registered a total of 52,554 living alumni. They reside in all fifty states and in about seventy-five countries around the world. Indeed, they constitute a strong force for good around the globe. Many of them have a national and international presence.

ALUMNI WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Pittsburg State University has 52,554 graduates who engage in a range of careers; many of them have achieved extraordinary accomplishments. Throughout the Self-Study Report, we refer to some of these alumni individually to put faces on our graduates.

The University will celebrate its centennial year in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. A number of ceremonies and programs are planned throughout the year. One hundred years is a long time in the life of an institution of higher learning. These one hundred years have brought Pittsburg State University to the apex of its development as a University. One way to put faces on those 52,554 alumni and the ten decades of the history of the University is to refer to one graduate to represent all the others who received their degrees during a given decade. The following graduates distinguished themselves in unusual ways.

1913-1919

Vance Randolph (1892-1980) was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in the Class of 1914, the second graduating class of the Manual Training Normal School. He earned a Master of Arts degree in psychology from Clark University in 1915. He studied at the University of Kansas from 1922 to 1924. In 1951, the University of Arkansas conferred the honorary Doctor of Letters degree on him. He traveled among the Ozark people from the 1920s to the 1940s gathering folk tales, fiddle tunes, superstitions, home remedies, hill dialect, and bawdy stories. He was the author or co-author of more than twenty books on the Ozarks, the people, their folk tales, and their folk songs. He became known nationally as an author who knew well the mountain people and their lives as he documented the Ozarks culture.

1920-1929

Joseph Skubitz (1906-2000), a member of the Class of 1929, earned the Bachelor of Science degree. In 1934, he received his Master of Science degree. He later earned the Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University and served in the law firm of Skubitz and Blackmon in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation from Kansas State Teachers College, Skubitz began a career in teaching and administration in area high schools. In 1939, he became administrative assistant to Senator Clyde M. Reed of Kansas. He also served as the administrative assistant to Senator Andrew Schoeppel of Kansas. In 1966, he was elected to the United States Congress as a member of the House of Representatives. He was reelected seven times. During his Congressional career, he introduced legislation that saved the wooded area across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, from development by real estate developers. He also secured the funding over a period of years to restore and reconstruct Fort Scott as one of the premier frontier forts in the middle United States. He obviously accomplished many other enduring things for Kansas.

1930-1939

Lowell D. Eubanks received the Bachelor of Arts degree in physical science with a major in chemistry in 1936. He earned the Ph.D degree in physical chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1939. He then joined the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company as a research chemist and continued in various capacities throughout his working life. Late in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked DuPont to design, build, and operate a plant at Hanford, Washington, to produce plutonium. As the project got under way one of the difficulties requiring a solution was how to prevent corrosion of uranium 238 in the reactor pile. The protection of uranium from corrosion became one of the most difficult problems encountered. Eubanks had written two manuals for the DuPont Company. One gave instructions on his new flux for galvanizing steel that became fundamental to the steel industry. The other dealt with the chemistry of the fused salt system that presented new technology. DuPont transferred Eubanks to the Hanford Plant late in 1944 where he worked on a process to produce “canned” uranium slugs. The success of his method permitted the protection of uranium in neutron reactors. Eubanks’ work enabled the United States to build the uranium bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. In August, 1945, the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, cited him for “effective service in work essential to the production of the Atomic Bomb, thereby contributing to the successful conclusion of World War II.”

1940-1949

George Robert Gadberry earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1940. He entered the field of banking in 1952 after a career in broadcasting in Wichita, Kansas. He worked as a vice president for public affairs and also in estate planning at the Fourth National Bank of Wichita, Kansas. He contributed a great deal to various organizations serving the state, regional, national and international welfare. He has served as the past state chair of Radio Free Europe, the March of Dimes, and the Kansas Cancer Society. Later in life, he was invited to be the executive vice president of the American Red Cross, the largest non-profit health organization in the world. He supervised a staff of 350 people and coordinated the work of the fifty-nine divisions that affected the health of countless millions of people not only in the United States but worldwide.

1950-1959

Joe Beeler received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1957. He had studied at the University of Tulsa before transferring to Kansas State Teachers College. After his college graduation, he attended the Art Center School in Los Angeles, California. Returning to Oklahoma, he became the illustrator of books published by the University of Oklahoma Press. By 1960 he had created a body of art sufficient for a one-artist exhibit at the Thomas Gilcrease Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1961, he exhibited at the Montana Historical Society. The success he had with that exhibit caused him to move to Sedona, Arizona. In 1965, he and three friends organized the Cowboy Artists of America that has held annual exhibits since that year. Joe began his art career during the period identified as the “legacy of western realism” in the art of the American West. In his art studio, he has publications that include more than 60 books and numerous articles in magazines about him and his art. He has been said to portray “a life he honors with interested fondness.” Joe Beeler has always looked back “at the region’s culturally sustaining myths and legends.” He has begun work on a larger-than-life bronze statue of Senator Barry Goldwater. In announcing the selection of Joe Beeler to sculpt the bronze, Mrs. Goldwater described Joe

Beeler as the leading artist of the American West living today. Next year, a major art book published in Italy will feature all of Joe Beeler's bronzes and paintings. Earlier this month, the city of Sedona, Arizona, unveiled a 7-foot bronze statue of Joe Beeler to honor him as one of the foremost living artists of the American West. Pittsburg State University held a special exhibit, *The Western Art of Joe Beeler: A Retrospective*, in the University Art Gallery from October 25 to November 13, 2002, that attracted considerable interest. Joe Beeler has won numerous prizes and awards and has been featured prominently on television as well as in the press.

1960-1969

Shirley Christian earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. She later received the Master of Science degree at Ohio State University. In 1968, she held a postgraduate fellowship from the Inter American Press Association to do research and write about agrarian reform in Chile. She studied international economics as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1973-1974. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1981 for international reporting for covering the wars in Central America. She has written extensively for national magazines, including **THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY** and **THE NEW REPUBLIC**. She wrote a highly regarded book on revolutionary Nicaragua published by Random House in 1985. She retired in 1993 from the **NEW YORK TIMES** and returned to her home in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1999, she signed a contract with Farrar, Straus & Giroux to write a book tentatively called **BEFORE LEWIS AND CLARK; THE CHOUTEAU DYNASTY OF FRENCH AMERICA**. She lived and worked in several countries in Latin America for nearly twenty years. As a journalist and author, she has worked for the **NEW YORK TIMES**, the **MIAMI HERALD**, and the **ASSOCIATED PRESS**. She received the George Polk Award from Long Island University in 1981 for foreign reporting under dangerous circumstances, and a second-place award from the Overseas Press Club for magazine writing on a foreign topic in 1982. In 1985, she received the Maria Moors Cabot gold medal from Columbia University for career-long reporting from Latin America.

1970-1979

H. Lee Scott, who received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in 1971, serves as Chief Executive Officer and President of Wal-Mart, the largest corporation in the world. He succeeded David Glass on January 14, 2000. He joined the company in 1979 and has served in logistics helping to create Wal-Mart's distribution system that is recognized as one of the most effective in the retail industry. He became president and CEO of the Wal-Mart Stores division in 1998 with the responsibility of administering merchandising and operations for more than 2,300 Wal-Mart stores. Lee Scott has committed his business leadership to improving distribution and purchasing efficiency, building more versatile management teams, and implementing new ways to improve customer service.

1980-1989

Carla Stovall, Class of 1980, received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science and later earned the Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas in 1983. She distinguished herself in public service. In 1984, she became the first woman to be elected Crawford County, Kansas, attorney. In 1988, the governor of Kansas appointed her to serve on the Kansas Parole Board. In 1994, she became the first woman attorney general in Kansas and was elected to a second four-year term in 1998. She successfully argued *Kansas vs. Hendricks* before the U. S. Supreme

Court. This case provided the framework for new sex offender civil commitment laws across the United States. She served as president of the National Association of Attorney Generals in 2001-2002.

1990-1999

Christie Allen Logue graduated in the Class of 1994 Suma Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Elementary Education. She represents the finest among the University's graduates who distinguished themselves in academic study and in athletics. Upon graduation, she became an elementary school teacher and has distinguished herself in the classroom. She has taught in several schools at the seventh and eighth grade levels and has coached women's track. While in college, she became one of the outstanding women athletes in the history of the University. A cross country and track star, she won an unprecedented eight NCAA Division II national championships during her four-year career. She also finished her collegiate career with fourteen Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association individual titles. She won Verizon first-team Academic All-American honors twice. She won the Honda award for 1992-1993 as the NCAA Division II woman athlete of the year. She also was selected as one of the top six athletes in the NCAA Today's Top Six Award that recognized the top six student athletes from all of the NCAA member schools in Divisions I, II, and III. She represents the student athletes at Pittsburg State University who are truly student athletes. The University ranks fourth in the NCAA in all divisions in the number of academic All American honors awarded to its athletes.

2000-2002

Margaret Kathleen Fleming, Class of 2001, received her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Communication. A graduate of St. Mary's Colgan High School, Maggie participated in numerous community activities as a high school student. She enrolled in the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville on a track and cross country scholarship. After two years, she transferred to Pittsburg State University because of its size and the opportunities offered to her as a student. At Pittsburg State University, she competed as a member of the track and cross country teams, worked as a student employee in the Office of University Communications, and participated in community activities for youth. During the summer of 2001, she decided to forego several job opportunities and accept a job working at a camp for adults with both mental and physical disabilities in Rock Hill, New York. Upon returning to Pittsburg in the fall of 2001, Maggie continued her quest for community service experience. In May, 2002, she was accepted into the Peace Corps program. In September, 2002, Maggie was stationed in Togo, West Africa, working in the Peace Corps' Community Health and Aids Prevention Services. In Togo, she lives in a village of 3,000 people and oversees the community health needs for that village. Her assignment will continue through December, 2004. She represents the best in our students as she identifies with world needs.

SUMMARY

Pittsburg State University has served Kansas, the region, the nation, and the world for one hundred years. Beginning as a manual arts teacher training institution, the first baccalaureate degrees were granted in 1913 and the initial accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools occurred in 1915. Becoming Kansas State Teachers College in 1923, the institution had a substantial campus, an array of academic programs, and fine educational leadership at the helm.

Kansas State Teachers College developed in strength during the following four decades as it offered graduate degrees beginning in 1929. The strengthening of the arts and sciences curricula as well as to the professional degree programs led to the change of the name to Kansas State College of Pittsburg in 1959. By the mid 1960s, the College completed the first major reorganization in its history with central administrative officers in academic and financial affairs. The College also organized academic divisions of arts and sciences, education, and technology. This led in 1977 to the recognition of Kansas State Teachers College as having reached the level of a comprehensive university with liberal arts and sciences as well as professional curricula in business, education, and technology. Consequently, the Kansas State Legislature, upon the recommendation of the Kansas Board of Regents designated Kansas State College of Pittsburg as Pittsburg State University in 1977.

The University established an Alumni Association in 1905 that grew and developed into a modern Alumni Association with various programs for the growing number of alumni living in various parts of the country. By 1951, the recognition of private support as essential to the development of the institution led to the creation of the Endowment Association in 1951 and the Alumni Foundation in 1970. These two entities merged in 1985 and the Pittsburg State University Foundation began to secure more private support. At the current time, the size of endowment assets ranks the University Foundation among the top quartile of comprehensive university foundations in America.

STRENGTHS AND CONCERNS

Pittsburg State University has numerous strengths. The education and experience of the faculty ranks foremost as the University delivers its academic programs of study to qualified students. The campus facilities rank among the best in the country for a comprehensive university. The University is led by talented administrators and directors of departments. The University has established a strong alumni association and a top-flight foundation for private support. Pittsburg State University has elevated strategic planning to a new level of strength building on two decades of planning. The University has embraced the concept of the assessment of student academic learning and created a culture of assessment that will grow over time to strengthen even more the University's learning environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the current Self-Study Report, there are numerous recommendations in the various chapters regarding the University. In Chapter 16 which states the University's major strengths there will

be recommendations regarding these strengths and how they might be sustained and made even stronger. There will also be noted in Chapter 16 the major University concerns and recommendations on how these concerns might be made strengths.

CONCLUSION

Pittsburg State University has a long and marvelous history that has now reached one hundred years of service to Kansas, the region, the nation, and the world. In 2003, the University will celebrate its centennial with many programs and activities. The University has particularly emphasized during the past few years the consolidation of strategic planning and the creation of a campus culture of assessment. The University welcomes the opportunity to review its past, present, and future with the North Central Association's Commission on Higher Learning. Fortuitously, the comprehensive evaluation of the University in its centennial year will serve to launch the second century of important growth and development as an institution of higher learning.