

Select Highlights

College of Arts & Sciences 2019-2020

(As provided by the CAS Departments/School with minor edits)

ART:

Student Accomplishments:

- 32 Art majors within the department participated in group exhibitions, both within and outside the Department of Art, in the past academic year.
- Reyna Gabriel ('19) Art Ed, was named "A Teacher of Promise" by the KSDE.
- Art Ed majors have accepted, to date, positions for the coming year:
 - Shea Dalton - Diamond Elementary School in Diamond, MO
 - Madison Fleming - Shawnee Heights High School in Tecumseh, KS
 - Karrie Mathes - Independence High School in Independence, KS
 - Jaelina Jones - Nevada Elementary School in Nevada, Mo.
- Brianna Cooks, ('20) will be entering the MA program in Art Therapy at Adler University, Chicago, Illinois.

Faculty Accomplishments:

Janet Lewis (Jewelry/Metals) earned her Foundations in Design Thinking Certificate through IDEO U, an online learning resource center established by the award-winning global design firm IDEO.

Portico Bowman's "Business of Art" class, held at The Foundry Block 22 in downtown Pittsburg, celebrated the conclusion of the course with an art exhibit and sale of the course-created art.

BIOLOGY:

- Over 1 million dollars in external research support
- From the Herbarium - greater than 1900 specimens databased
- Student research winners - best oral presentation (Research Colloquium); best poster Kansas Chapter Wildlife Society
- Research presentations, 41 including oral and poster format
- Delia Lister, PSU Nature Reach director, was chosen by the Ks. Association for Conservation and Environmental Education as the recipient of a 2020 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Award.

CHEMISTRY:

- Undergraduate and graduate students attended the American Chemical Society Midwest Regional Meeting at Wichita State University where they heard the Plenary Speaker - Sir Fraser Stoddart (2016 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry).
- Felipe de Souza, one of the polymer graduate students, won the Capitol Research Summit Award in Topeka on Feb 26, 2020. He was also the winner of the PSU Graduate School award for the Capital Research Summit. He is one of the coauthors for a book chapter to be published in the ACS Book series and is working with Ram Gupta on flame-retardant polymers for a sustainable future.
- Summer research initiative and Greenbush workshops for recruitment
- \$35,000 in new instruments for the department purchased with external research funding
- Brought in more than \$300,000 in external funds for research in last year
- Renewal of ACS accreditation
- Santimukul Santra's recent publication was selected as the cover page of the journal "Biomaterial Science."
- Chemistry Major Tyson Rodriguez was selected as PSU Homecoming King in Fall '19.
- Graduating MS students have been accepted in nation's top chemistry and polymer chemistry programs including programs at Purdue and Virginia Tech.
- Graduating chemistry majors entered medical school.
- Undergraduates and graduates presented their research as posters and seminars at several national and regional scientific meetings.
- Honeywell silicone AM program brought in another \$200K this year for a grand total of \$2M since summer 2015.
- Together with Physics and Biology, hosted 60 Pittsburg High students for a science informational including tour of main campus facilities and KPRC.

COMMUNICATION:

Students:

- Won 23 undergraduate and graduate awards at the Kansas Association of Broadcasting annual conference
- Vanessa Tapia, senior in Media Production, is currently working for Kansas City Univision providing on-air updates on the coronavirus for the Spanish-speaking community of the area.
- Sakshi Bhati, graduate student, has been accepted into the K-State doctoral program in Communication with a full assistantship.

Faculty:

- Megan Westhoff successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on April 9. Dr. Westhoff will take over as PSU Director of Theatre on July 1, 2020.
- Kristen Livingston completed the E-Learning Academy while continuing to make progress on her doctoral degree.
- Alicia Mason is co-author of two chapters coming out in 2020 in the following books: *Global Issues and Innovative Solutions in Healthcare, Culture, and the Environment* and *Innovations and Implications of Persuasive Narrative*.

EML

- Offers the BSE in English Education; a BA in English with emphases in Creative Writing, Language and Teaching (new emphasis beginning fall 2020), Professional Writing, and Traditional; and, a BA in Modern Languages with emphases in French Language and Culture, French Teacher Education, Spanish Language and Culture, and Spanish Teacher Education. One of our alumni, Amy Trowbridge-Yates, received the Outstanding Alumni Award.
- Faculty published 3 books, 6 articles, 47 poems, and 3 short stories.
- Faculty gave 13 scholarly presentations at conferences and 5 gave performances.
- Six faculty held positions of campus leadership and 7 held positions of external leadership.
- Student success: Major Kaylah Ailes was selected as PSU Outstanding Employee of the Year. Major Haven Lander was named the Scholar Field Athlete of the Year for women's indoor track and field and women's outdoor track and field by the US. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.
- We held the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages AAPPL Familiarization Workshop on March 7th on PSU's campus with 17 educators from Kansas and Missouri in attendance.

FCS

- New faculty member, Jennifer Murray, will be leading the Nutrition & Wellness program area. Both the Nutrition & Wellness degree area and minor are now operational.
- Extended recruitment to the NW Arkansas region with a faculty member making more than 12 recruitment visits to high schools.
- One faculty member was selected to participate in the AAFCS National Leadership Academy.

- A faculty member worked on developing a business plan with members of the Pittsburg business community to create a high-quality child-care option for middle income families.
- Continued to develop the “FCS-Connect” program which now has 168 high school teachers in four states receiving curriculum and resources from FCS every month who are helping to promote not only our FCS programs but also the university as a whole to their students.
- Continued with our efforts to get our students involved with professional development opportunities with over 60% of our students having some external professional development opportunity in the past year.
- Sheila Cook is now Dr. Sheila Cook having completed her Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas.
- Amber Tankersley, faculty and director of Little Gorillas Preschool, was appointed to the KS Early Childhood Recommendations Panel of the KS Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund.
- The Spring 2020 FCS Newsletter is now available at:
<https://www.pittstate.edu/fcs/files/documents/Newsletter/fcsspring2020news.pdf>

HPSS

- In 2019, HPSS faculty: taught a total of 5,006 students; published 24 conference papers, 10 journal articles, and three edited book chapters; and, served 119 times on PSU committees and in professional organizations.
- Philosophy faculty, together with a colleague from Biology, presented PSU's first Darwin Day. One faculty member from Geography participated in a NASA workshop at KU. Chris Childers (History) serves as president of the Kansas Association of Historians.
- Students from Social Work and Sociology organized food, clothing, and essential necessities drives. Political Science students participated in the Model United Nations. A History graduate student was awarded the 2019-2020 James BM Schick MQ/GCS PSU Graduate Best Essay Award.
- Our Social Work program teamed up with the School of Social Work at KU to offer an online Master's in Social Work (KU Degree) at PSU.

MATH

- The department hosted the 2019 Kansas Section meeting of the Mathematical Association of America. In conjunction, our students competed in the Kansas Collegiate mathematics contest winning first place!
- Our graduating students enjoy near 100% placement in careers or graduate school.
- Morgan Panovich, one of our student teachers this spring, was selected as a PSU Teacher of Promise.
- Student Mingshi Yao presented a poster at the 2020 national Joint Mathematics Meetings in Denver, Colorado.
- We hosted the SCUDEM SIMIODE Challenge Using Differential Equations Modeling for the first time last fall. Three of our students participated.

MILITARY SCIENCE:

Summer 2019:

- Sent two cadets to Latvia and Botswana to participate in training and cultural learning
- Sent one cadet to Airborne School and one cadet to Air Assault School
- Sent 14 Cadets to Fort Knox for Cadet Summer Training
- Had three Distinguished Military Graduates commissioning into the active component

Fall 2019:

- Commissioned 3 Cadets into the Kansas Army National Guard
- Sent one Cadet to Air Assault School to complete training
- Planned and held our first annual Alumni Banquet for Army ROTC during the Military Appreciation game weekend
- Planned and trained over 100 Cadets on field craft and small unit tactics taking classroom instruction on leadership and tactics and applying it real time to enhance learning and retention
- Supported numerous athletic, university, and community events with Color Guard
- Won the Task Force Ranger Challenge for our Brigade, Cadet from the Gorilla Battalion competed against 8 different schools on a grueling 26-mile course
- Sent one cadet to Northern Warfare School in Fort McCoy, WI
- Created classes that engaged students allowing them to make decisions virtually
- Commissioning 14 Cadets between May and August; utilizing Zoom for commissioning; bringing in MG Gallagher as the guest speaker during this celebration; ensuring we still allow cadets to celebrate such a great accomplishment and allowing public recognition of cadets

MUSIC

- During the fall semester, the Southeast Kansas Symphony presented performances at the Bicknell Center and in Kansas City's Kauffman Center with internationally acclaimed tenor and PSU alumnus Robert Dean Smith.
- Prior to the difficulties resulting from the Coronavirus crisis, two PSU student ensembles had received invitations to perform in locations away from Pittsburg - the University Choirs in five historic venues in Austria and the Czech Republic and the Trumpet Ensemble at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Columbus, Ohio.
- The PSU Jazz Festival hosted 70 participating schools, totaling around 1500 students. This March event included clinics by guest artists and culminated with a performance featuring the PSU Jazz Ensemble and the Tom Kubis Big Band, comprised of some of today's greatest recording artists from Los Angeles.
- The new online newsletter, *PSU Music Notes*, can be accessed at: musicnotes@pittstate.edu
- The First Annual "Music Major Test Drive" successfully expanded the department's student recruitment outreach.

- PSU music majors have continued to receive word about successful auditions for graduate study. The following students to date have been awarded assistantships and/or full tuition scholarships:

Doctoral Level: Han Xue Gao, piano: Texas Tech University

Master's Level: Hannah Overbey, voice: North Dakota State University
Colton Sprenkle, oboe: Oklahoma City University
Devon Turner, harpsichord: McGill University, Montreal
Henry Zimmermann, trumpet: Wichita State, where he also won the second trumpet position in the Wichita Symphony

NURSING

- Since 2017, the IRBSON maintains the distinction of being one of the nation's eleven Army "ROTC Cadet Command Centers of Excellence". Jonathan Gonzalez will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on May 15, 2020.
- Pediatric Hal was purchased with outside funding for maternal-child health nursing simulations.
- Master Advisor Training was completed by 100% of our faculty in December 2019.
- eLearning Academy: IRBSON faculty (N=7) completed; 2 faculty completed Fall 2019.
- Quality Matters, Peer Reviewers: Janis Schiefelbein, Karen Johnson, Jennifer Harris and Kristi Frisbee
- IRBSON faculty certified by the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator program: Karen Johnson, Mandi Alonzo and Kim Byler
- *Midwest Quarterly* featured the SON in the April 2019, 60th Anniversary Edition.
- Awarded federal grants include: FNP, ANEW, NEPQR, and RN-BSN funding for tuition. The new awards totaled \$6 million over the next 4 years.
- At the Annual Spring Convocation, President Scott announced that the School of Nursing had received \$6 million in private gifts to create a new Simulation Hospital.
- IRBSON will establish the first rural primary care nurse practitioner residency program in Southeast Kansas, a federal grant written by Amy Hite.
- Dr. Bradley, long-time generous supporter of PSU nursing, recently provided funding for an expanded computer testing lab in the SON.
- The family of nursing senior Katy Pitts was selected as the 2019 Honorary Family for PSU Homecoming.
- Nursing majors, Piper Misse and Marcus Yoakum, were named PSU Outstanding Seniors 2020!

BSN Program, Pre-Licensure:

- The 2019 NCLEX Registered Nurse Board Pass Rate by Pitt State students is 91.03%, which compares to the total first time US Educated Candidate pass rate of 88.18%.
- Progress was made on the 3-Year Plan to increase Pre-RN nursing student numbers from 76 to 90 with 80 students admitted in the fall of 2017; 86 students admitted in the fall of 2018 and 90 students admitted in the fall of 2019.
- National Student Nurse Association *Stellar Chapter* Award, 10 years running!

- Received from NSNA, *Empowering Resolutions Award*, 2019, for Pittsburg State's work in "Promoting Heart Health" and "Educating Our Community"
- Gorilla Athletes from Football, Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Cross Country, Dance Team, Cheer Team, and Track & Field are amid the clinical students.
- Currently six seniors serve on the State Board of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students.
- The PSU Blood Drive is hosted every semester in collaboration among PSU Nursing, ROTC, and Omicron Delta Kappa.
- ROTC sponsors 10 nursing scholarships for Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing students.

RN-BSN Program:

- RN-BSN student numbers have increased from 26 majors in Fall of 2016 to 96 majors in Fall of 2019.
- Academic Partnership agreements were signed with numerous area community colleges enabling nursing students to be concurrently enrolled in nursing classes at their home institutions and at PSU.

MSN Program:

- Currently there are 20 students in the MSN Program, Education Emphasis. The first four graduates from this program did so in 2019 and are now working as nurse educators, teaching the next generation of nurses.
- Graduates of the MSN program are eligible to sit for the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator, CNE® Examination.

DNP Program:

- The first and second cohorts of BSN-DNP students have achieved a **100% pass rate** on the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board Examination scoring above the national average.

PHYSICS

- Halle Helfrich was accepted to the REU program at Georgia Tech.
- Levi Humbard was accepted to the Notre Dame University Electronics Engineering PhD program with an accompanying salary in support of studies.
- Sneha Patel was admitted as a GA to the PhD physics program at the University of Arkansas.
- Shahid Iqbal, a past graduate student of ours, recently graduated with a PhD from Western Michigan University.
- Chris Ward, past physics minor, completed a medical research doctorate finishing his degree at University of Kansas.
- Castro Abughayada, a past graduate student, obtained a PhD in Physics degree from Northern Illinois University.

- Luke Callanan, past undergraduate and graduate student, recently began employment at Garmin in the Kansas City Metro area.
- Donavan Wheeler, past undergraduate and graduate student, began a new position at Greenbush.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS are extended to those faculty with changes in academic rank effective this academic year including: Catherine Hooey, Darren Botello-Samson, John Franklin, Alicia Mason Collins, James McBain, Matthew Montague, Philip Rudd, Li-Lin Tseng, Irene Zegar, Kristi Frisbee, Jennifer Harris, Kirstin Lawson, Raul Munguia, Kyle Thompson, and Scott Thuong. Faculty members John Daley, Jonathan Dresner, Casie Hermansson, Karen Johnson and Neil Snow were on sabbatical leave one of the semesters of this academic year. Congratulations to these distinguished faculty.