University to replace Chandler Hall

Construction has begun on the new building to replace Chandler Hall, home to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences from 1951 until 2001. The new building is expected to be complete for the 2003 fall semester. Chandler Hall was razed this spring to make way for the new building.

And while the razing of Chandler and the construction of a new building were not part of the original plan, university administrators are pleased that the outcome will be positive for students and faculty for many years to come.

The university had planned to renovate Chandler Hall after all the Russ Hall renovation was completed and classes and offices returned to that building. In a planned domino effect, offices and students would move from Whitesitt Hall to Russ Hall, leaving space in Whitesitt to accommodate Family and Consumer Sciences during the renovation of Chandler Hall.

The plans changed, however, when engineers planning the renovation discovered structural problems with the Chandler Hall roof and the building. The building was closed ahead of schedule and classes relocated in any space available across campus. Faculty offices went to temporary space in Mitchell Hall and the preschool was moved to the old Hildebrant farm home on Rouse.

The issues rapidly became more complex and finally, in the fall of 2001, the decision was made to replace the building rather than try to solve the varied and expensive problems in the old one.

Kerry Beyeler, PSU director of Facilities Planning, said the building had multiple structural

Grateful university honors retired art professor

Editor's Note: Bert Keeney died August 14th, 2002.

The PSU Art Department paid tribute to an old friend last fall with an exhibit of selected works by Bert Keeney. Keeney retired from PSU in 1981. He lived with his wife, Lily, in their home near campus until his death this year.

Keeney's life story is, in some ways, similar to that of Pittsburg State's. His original training was in industrial arts and English. Keeney then combined his industrial training with an acute sense of the aesthetic to build a bridge between the industrial arts and fine art.

Keeney earned undergraduate degrees in English and industrial arts from Chadron State College and a master's degree in industrial education from PSU in 1937. He then joined the Winfield Public Schools, where he taught mechanical drawing and woodworking classes. It was in Winfield that he met his future wife, Lily. The two shared many interests and commuted to Wichita together for evening classes in metalsmithing and jewelry.

When WW II broke out, Keeney joined the Navy, who put him to work teaching coppersmithing classes to sailors. Later he was transferred to the Metal and Structural Repair Department for Navy airplanes in Alaska. Back home, Lily was teaching Bert's classes in Winfield, before she, too, joined the war effort, working in the B29 program in Seattle.

After the war, Bert enrolled in art classes at the University of Kansas. In 1946, however, Pittsburg State offered him a position teaching mechanical drawing and woodworking. He accepted and except for a sabbatical to pursue his master's degree, Pittsburg State would be his home for the next 34 years.
Faculty say Russ Hall was worth the wait

The recently completed renovation of Russ Hall has had a positive impact on students and faculty, according to those who teach in Pittsburg State's most historic building.

Thomas Walther, chairman of the Department of History, was one of many faculty and students who lobbied to save the marble stairway at the entryway to the building. Walther said that, as a historian, he is very pleased with the results. There are now handrails on the stairway, making for greater safety and there is now even more open space in the foyer. Walther said that the classroom improvements have created a better learning and teaching environment. The table arrangements and the restructuring of the larger classrooms, he said, benefits both students and faculty.

"Students can comfortably hear you, even as you walk about the room," Walther said.

Mike Kelley, chairman of the Department of Social Science, is mindful of the symbolic importance of Russ Hall.

"There is something called ambiance," said Kelley, "and it is as important for fine restaurants as it is for higher education."

The renovation of a building with the historic significance of Russ Hall sends the message that Pittsburg State University is interested in providing a quality education to its students, Kelly said. Echoing Walther, Kelley said that history is important. The remodeled building simultaneously gives a sense of being rooted in the best traditions of the past and of being an active participant in the making of the future of education in Kansas, he said.

The renovation of Russ Hall, begun in spring 1998, was completed early in 2002, although academic departments and classes returned to the building in the fall semester of 2001. Russ Hall is home to a number of administrative offices as well as the departments of History and Social Science and several classrooms. Improvements in the building include the installation of an elevator and remodeled and updated office spaces. Throughout the remodeling, special care was taken to preserve the historic and aesthetic qualities of the building. Russ Hall, the first campus building, was constructed in 1908 and was dedicated in honor of Russell S. Russ, the school's first and only principal, in 1912. In June 1914, Russ Hall was partially destroyed by fire and was repaired with the support of students, faculty, and town's people in 1915.

Keeney (from pg. 1)

During that time, Keeney established the metalsmithing, ceramics and sculpture programs at PSU.

His home, with an open-air tower/studio that rises above the surrounding trees, was at one time a magnet for student artists who came for raku parties or informal seminars. Keeney even dreamed of making the three lots into an artists' colony of sorts.

Although Pittsburg remained home for Keeney, his influence was not just regional. Keeney's sterling coffee service was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1989, he was included in the book, "American Studio Jewelry Since 1940."

Today, a diverse collection of ceramic, metal and wood pieces line the shelves and window sills of the home Keeney shares with his wife. The kiln hasn't been fired up for a long time and the outdoor studio is quiet, but Keeney's influence is still being felt. At Keeney's fall show, a separate exhibit contained works by some of his former students. At a reception held in Keeney's honor, some of those former students got to reflect on the influence Keeney had on them.

Wes Warlop, a local artist and former student of Keeney's, told a reporter covering the event that his former professor exhibited "a nice balance between art and science. I didn't always appreciate the emphasis he placed on the science aspect, because I just wanted to plunge ahead with the art. But I stuck with it, and I'm certainly glad I did."

Warlop called Keeney "a great educator, very encouraging and patient. He has a grace about him that helps him relate well to people."
By the time this newsletter is distributed, my first year as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences will almost be completed. Having served as a chairperson in one of the departments within the College of Arts & Sciences, I have found myself caught between the melancholy of knowing that long-time Dean Orville L. Brill would no longer be at the helm and the excitement of beginning a new adventure of my own. Due to his reassignment to the Vice President of Academic Affairs Office as associate vice president on a part-time basis, I have been blessed to have our former dean to consult with throughout the year. With any transition in leadership comes the potential for change.

Many phrases are used to describe change: “Out with the old, in with the new.” “History repeats itself.” “Don’t fix what ain’t broken.” Sentiments contained in these phrases run the continuum from radical change to absolutely no change. At the outset of this year, I set several goals to guide my decision-making for the year. The first was to create a smooth transition of leadership in the dean’s office. While we should never stand still in the college, I felt it important to provide a continuity of leadership through this first year. I purposefully wanted to avoid making too many changes up front and prior to hearing from faculty, staff and students about the college.

One of the most interesting things I did during the fall was to visit each department and hear from the faculty about their concerns and issues. Out of these meetings, I gained a sense of direction, at least for this year. While keeping up with the day-to-day activity within the college, we will launch new initiatives and continue others over the next few years. As alumni and friends of the College of Arts & Sciences, I thought you might like to know where we are headed so I am sharing three of these initiatives below:

- Expanded Development: All state affiliated higher education institutions face the challenge of having to look more broadly for funding to support classroom and teaching enhancements, faculty development and research and, of course, student scholarships and graduate assistant stipends.

- Enhanced Technology: The College of Arts & Sciences is technology intensive in its programs as well as administration. Nearly every program has a long list of needs in this rapidly changing area. We need technology not only to enhance faculty productivity and classroom instruction but also to strengthen student skills in the use of state-of-the-art equipment and programs they will use once employed.

- Upgraded facilities: We are pleased that a number of departments are and will enjoy wonderful functional and esthetically pleasing environments now and in the near future. Some departments are still in desperate need of adequate space to provide students with the best possible learning environment.

We value your support for the college as a whole. As I meet alumni and friends, I hope to convey our appreciation and encourage you to continue sending us students, providing financial support as you are able and providing input concerning the future of College of Arts and Sciences programs.

— Lynette J. Olson, PhD, CFLE, Professor and Dean

PSU students selected for Ohio Light Opera

Two Pittsburg State University students are in training these days, but it doesn’t have anything to do with the Olympics—summer or winter. Aline Carnes, Joplin, and Candice Coffee, Carl Junction, are preparing for a summer opera marathon. The two PSU students are among just 32 out of 400 who auditioned across the U.S. who were selected for the summer Ohio Light Opera.

On May 17, Carnes and Coffee are scheduled to report to Wooster, Ohio, and 8-hour-a-day rehearsals begin the next day. Once shows start opening, the performers may rehearse two different shows and have a performance of yet another show, all on the same day, according the Jessie Martin, their instructor at PSU.

The students will perform in eight shows. Included on the schedule are: “H.M.S. Pinafore,” and “Ruddigore,” both by Gilbert and Sullivan; “Brigadoon,” by Lerner and Loewe; “Sweethearts,” by Victor Herbert; and “Autumn Maneuvers,” by Emmerich Kalman.

Martin said there was much more to Carnes’s and Coffee’s audition than just singing.

“Candice and Aline worked very hard to prepare,” Martin said. “They needed professional photographs and resumes and everything had to be done in just the right way. We worked very hard getting everything together.”

Martin said she is extremely proud of Carnes and Coffee and all the PSU students who auditioned.

“This is really quite extraordinary to have two students chosen from such a competitive pool,” Martin said. “And all the PSU students who auditioned were impressive.”
Nature Reach recovers from devastating fire

For Joey Williams, Nature Reach Program coordinator, the fidgety fourth graders filing into the room is a beautiful sight. In 2000, an electrical fire gutted the Nature Reach area in Heckert-Wells Hall. One-third of the animals died in the fire, equipment and displays were destroyed and for an agonizing time, it was uncertain whether the popular program would recover.

“It was a very depressing time,” Williams said. “At one point, we didn’t know if the program was even going to continue.”

Today, the story of the fire and its aftermath are preserved in laminated newspaper pages outside the Nature Reach entrance. It is a story of both tragedy and triumph.

When the fire occurred on Oct. 28, 2000, Williams was out of town. As he headed back to Pittsburg, others were working frantically to save as much as possible.

“Cindy and Steve Ford worked with the Fire Department to move the animals out and into a safe area,” Williams said. “We were fortunate that more of the animals didn’t die.”

When he returned, Williams worked with graduate assistant Sarah McCoy for nearly 24 hours nonstop to get the animals into clean containers.

“We made trip after trip to the car wash where we cleaned the soot from the containers,” Williams said. “It was exhausting work.”

Initially, the focus was on saving animals and salvaging items from the room. Then, attention turned to if and how the program could recover.

“When the word came down that Nature Reach would continue, there was a big sigh of relief,” Williams said.

Rebuilding the room has required the effort of a lot of people, Williams said. The result is a facility that in many ways is better than before.

“Dr. Triplett and the department have been very helpful,” Williams said. “They gave us some additional space for an office,” which allowed significant improvements in the display area.

Williams also praised the efforts of the Physical Plant and several private donors such as ClawPaws, a local pet shop, and Carolyn Brooker and woodworker Andy Denton, who helped Nature Reach get back on its feet.

Williams said the display area was redesigned to create a natural flow around a central island.

“We have the room divided into biomes,” Williams said, so visitors see animals grouped naturally according to the environment in which they live in the wild.

The redesign allows Nature Reach to handle more visitors than before the fire.

“We used to be able to accommodate only 20 students at a time,” Williams said. “Now we can handle up to 50 grade school students or a typical college class at once. The room is also handicapped accessible.”

Although Nature Reach has made a remarkable recovery from the brink of extinction, costs associated with the fire and a sharp drop in school visits have left the program “strapped,” Williams said.

School field trips, the fees from which supplement the budget, ended abruptly after Sept. 11, 2001, Williams said. Since (see Nature Reach, pg. 11)
Journal dedicates its pages to philosophers' letters

Don Viney rather enjoys the serendipity of it all.

If he and his friend had been able to find a parking place in downtown Austin that day in 1979, they would have taken lunch elsewhere instead of returning to the convention center. They would not have chosen a table next to the well-known philosopher Charles Hartshorne and they would not have sat enthralled as the man told anecdotes and answered their questions.

More significantly, Viney would not have been inspired to write his doctoral dissertation on Hartshorne and the latest issue of “Logos-Sophia,” the journal of the Pittsburg State University Philosophical Society, would not be dedicated to correspondence between Hartshorne and Viney.

“I felt I was in the presence of genius,” Viney said of that first meeting with Hartshorne.

Viney, a doctoral student at the University of Oklahoma at the time, returned to Norman intent on learning all he could about Hartshorne. Hartshorne would be the subject of his doctoral dissertation. Unbeknownst to Viney, his dissertation adviser contacted Hartshorne and asked him to serve on Viney’s dissertation committee. Hartshorne accepted the invitation.

“It was a huge bonus both for me and for the committee,” Viney said of Hartshorne’s involvement.

The correspondence that sprang from that first meeting in Texas and Viney’s ensuing work on his dissertation is the subject of a special edition of “Logos-Sophia.”

Viney, a member of the Pittsburg State University Social Science Department and faculty advisor to the PSU Philosophical Society, teaches philosophy at PSU. He said dedicating an issue of “Logos-Sophia” to Hartshorne was especially appropriate because Hartshorne was influential in the creation of the PSU Philosophical Society.

“In 1987, I took a group of students to Edmond, Okla., to hear a talk by Hartshorne,” Viney said. “On the drive back, the students got really excited about forming a philosophical society on campus.” The students successfully formed the society and its first journal was published in the fall of 1988. The most recent issue is No. 11.

Readers of the correspondence may not find much in his own letters that is profound, Viney said, “although the same cannot be said of Hartshorne’s and there are a few things in them that I hope will interest scholars.”

Hartshorne died in 2000 at the age of 103, but he was “very sharp until the end,” Viney said.

Copies of the fall 2001 issue of “Logos Sophia” are limited.

“We want to make sure they are available in a select number of libraries,” Viney said.

Additionally, the book is available through Mostly Books in Pittsburg and by contacting Viney at 620/235-4326.
ROTC wins Ranger Challenge

For the second year in a row, the Pittsburg State University Army ROTC Ranger Challenge Team has captured the championship at the midwest competition at Fort Dodge, Iowa. PSU competed against teams from Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, Creighton, Drake, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the Marine ROTC program at Iowa State. The competition was held Oct. 12-13, 2001. Kansas State University took second place in the competition.

The Ranger Challenge consists of seven events staged over two difficult days. The events include: rope bridge, grenade assault course, rifle marksmanship, weapons assembly and disassembly, the 10k foot march, land navigation and the physical fitness test. To win the overall championship, the PSU team took first in rope bridge, grenade assault course, rifle marksmanship and weapons assembly and disassembly. The Gorillas were third in the gruelling 10k march.

The team captain for PSU was Jeff Blackard, a senior from Leavenworth, Kan. The remaining team members were Co-Captain Adam Lockhart, a senior from Effingham, Kan., who earned the MVP award; Matt Gilpin, a senior from Cherryvale, Kan.; Josh Urban, a junior from Walnut, Kan.; Joseph Jordan, a junior from Parsons, Kan.; Jonathan Mack, a junior from Pittsburg, Kan.; Sam Karr, a sophomore from Saint George, Kan.; Justin Martens, a freshman from Wichita, Kan.; and Nicholas Reynolds, a freshman from Salina, Kan.

PSU composer’s work wins national honor

Many things can inspire a piece of music—storm clouds on the horizon, a woman’s smile, a whippoorwill’s call. For John Ross, an assistant professor of music at Pittsburg State University, it was a poem by Marvin Bell that inspired “After a Line by Theodore Roethke.” Ross’ composition for soprano and orchestra was recently selected by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) from 245 submissions for the 22nd annual Rudolf Nissim Award.

Ross said the title of the composition came to him as he was reading a book of poetry by Bell, Iowa’s poet laureate. Although the poetry that inspired Ross is just a few stanzas, the introduction he wrote and the interludes between the stanzas combine to complete the 10-minute work.

“This is the second honor for “After a Line by Theodore Roethke.” Previously it was selected for performance by the Society of Composers, Inc.

“The piece is hard,” Ross said of his composition. “What makes it hard is that it uses a lot of different rhythms. Also, the way in which the instruments are used changes throughout. To try to maintain a sense of continuity is difficult.”

In addition to the $5,000 Ross will receive for the award, the honor is expected to include a professional performance opportunity in New York. That is especially exciting for Ross, who looks forward not only to the performance, but also to rehearsals.

“The performance will be great,” Ross said, “but I also want to go back and listen to the rehearsals.”

Ross said he is eager to see how the musicians react to his work.

“You want to create something that’s interesting to performers,” Ross said.

Area audiences will have an opportunity to hear another of Ross’ works on March 3 when the Southeast Kansas Symphony performs a jazz number he has written.
ROTC plans 50th birthday party

The Pittsburg State ROTC is planning three days of events to mark its 50th birthday at PSU in September.

The festivities will begin with social time from 3-6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, in the Wilkinson Alumni Center.

Saturday will begin with the groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. for the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater at Ford and Rouse Streets. An informal lunch will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Crimson and Gold Room of the Overman Student Center.

Following the luncheon, alumni and their families are invited on a guided tour of the campus. From 2 p.m.-4 p.m., PSU ROTC will host an open house.

From 4 p.m.-6 p.m., alumni can get ready for the evening’s home football game at GorillaFest, a tailgate party just east of the Centennial Bell Tower, adjacent to the stadium. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Sept. 15, the day will begin at 8:30 a.m. for a memorial service at the Kansas Technology Center. Following the service, tours will be conducted at the KTC. The anniversary festivities will conclude with a farewell social from 9-10 a.m. at the KTC.

LTC Steve Pollock said PSU ROTC is doing its best to contact all alumni and said he expects a good turnout for this milestone in ROTC history. Persons interested in attending or needing additional information may contact Pollock or Maj. Jim Snyder at 620/235-4859 or by e-mail at spollock@pittstate.edu. They may also visit the PSU ROTC web site at www.pittstate.edu/mil.

Making a Gift to Pittsburg State University Through Your Estate

Most of us would like to make a difference – to do something that would make our world a better place. You can make a difference. Your contributions to Pittsburg State University, to our future, make a statement about you. Why not continue that support through your estate plan?

Consider a bequest. Gifts through your will can be a particular item or a percentage of your estate. They can be contingent (passing to PSU only if another beneficiary dies before you) or in trust, providing income to your spouse or children before passing for our benefit.

Give life insurance. You can name Pittsburg State as the beneficiary of a policy on your life or contribute an old policy that you no longer need.

Leave financial accounts. You can indicate that savings, CD’s or other financial accounts – including IRA’s – will be payable to PSU upon your death. Ask the account custodian for details. Bequests of IRA’s save significant taxes.

Include PSU in your revocable trust. Lifetime trusts (revocable living trusts) are popular for many reasons. They relieve the property owner of management responsibilities, reduce probate costs, afford privacy and can be changed without the formalities of a will. You can include PSU as a beneficiary of your revocable trust.

Whether you already have an estate plan or are just thinking about one, it is always a good time to review your objectives and make the plan work for you. If you have any questions regarding any of these giving options or need any assistance, contact:

George O. Pickell,
Associate Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts
Pittsburg State University Office of Development
401 E. Ford Avenue, Pittsburg, KS 66762-7518
telephone: 620/235-4863.
Biology Department marks improvements at Outdoor Education Center

The Department of Biology dedicated a new pavilion at the Frances A. Monahan Outdoor Education in 2001. The pavilion was named for the William J. Reals family, who donated the property for the education center in 1986. The Monahan Outdoor Education Center is 5.3 miles west of U.S. 69 and 1 mile north of U.S. 400.

The 156-acre tract that makes up the Monahan Outdoor Education Center was named after Frances A. Monahan, Mrs. Reals father, who was with Commercial Coal Company and acquired the property.

According to Jim Triplett, Biology, the property was once home to Mine #10 and included shaft mining (100-ft seam) and strip mining (25-ft seam). The most prominent feature on the property was the coal wash and rail loading activity (tipple), which left a large sediment pond and gob pile.

The mining produced off-site pollution of waterways, which led to reclamation in 1984. A joint effort by the Crawford County Conservation District and the Southeast Kansas Resource Conservation and Development Project resulted in the allocation of $800,000 in Abandoned Mine Land funds for the Soil Conservation Service to complete the project.

Because public funds were used to reclaim the area, Reals wanted the public to benefit from the project. PSU took on the project with collaboration and support from the Crawford County Conservation District and the SEKAN RC&D.

The plan for development of the Monahan Outdoor Education Center consists of three phases.

Phase one was the construction of a maintenance/storage facility and caretaker’s quarters on the west side. This was completed in 1988.

Phase two, the construction of a visitors’ pavilion and trail system, which would enable public use, has just been completed.

Phase three will include the development of a nature center to the south of the pavilion along the ridge between the grassland and the woods. The ground floor will open into the understory of the woods, while the second floor will open into the canopy on the east and onto the prairie on the west. This phase is still in the planning stage.

International studies major program added

With the aid of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Pittsburg State University has added an international studies major degree program.

A U.S. Department of Education grant set the project in motion in 1999. The grant, for $171,000, was obtained through the Department of Education’s Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) Program. Steve Harmon, History, is the project director and Paul Zagorski and Harry Humphries are co-directors.

The grant was designed to accomplish five objectives:

• Strengthening and enhancing undergraduate foreign language instruction.
• Creation of an international studies major degree program.
• Establishment of an international studies faculty development program.
• Support for and expansion of existing study-abroad programs.
• Improvement of learning resources and creation of a community outreach program devoted to international studies.

Harmon said that internationalization has been a goal of both the university and the Kansas Board of Regents for a number of years. Pittsburg State, Harmon said, had been involved in several faculty exchanges. Additionally, a growing number of students and faculty have traveled abroad for study and research.

Cow Creek Review gets a new look

Thanks to the hard work of Laura Washburn, Kathy DeGrave, and their creative writing students, the Cow Creek Review, the English Department student literary magazine, now has a much more professional appearance, both inside and out.

Formerly, the magazine was published once each semester, but now it’s published only once a year. With a year’s worth of submissions to choose from, the published selections are of higher quality. Switching to an annual publication also gives the staff more money to spend on improvements. The staff also sponsors more fund-raising events than in the past.

Another major difference is the size of the staff. Staff members attended many campus activities to recruit students from other departments. As a result, the staff increased from three students to 15. Students from the Graphics and Imaging Department who joined the staff have greatly improved the layout and design of the magazine.

The larger staff also allows a greater division of labor. Instead of one editor, there are now four: managing editor, fiction editor, poetry editor, and art editor. Each editor conducts a workshop for those staff members who will help make selections from the submissions. The workshops teach the staff members how to evaluate the genre for which they are responsible. These workshops have also increased the quality of the works chosen for publication.

The new Cow Creek Review has been a labor of love for faculty and staff, with the emphasis on labor during the production process and on love for the finished product. Persons wishing to visit the magazine’s new web site, can go to http://www.pittstate.edu/union/organizations/ccr/.

Publication of the Cow Creek Review is made possible by the generous financial support of the Student Government Fee Council, the H. G. Roberts Foundation, the English Department, and contributions from individual supporters.
Dinosaur’s grin has Biology Department smiling

The mosasaur may have a face only a mother could love, but Steve Ford, Biology, is obviously awfully fond of Pitt State’s toothy, 140-million-year-old specimen. This ancient fossil has become one of the stars at the Biology Department. The mosasaur, at 16 feet, is an impressive sight, Ford said. It was acquired from the famous Kansas paleontologist George F. Sternberg in 1930. Sternberg discovered the mosasaur in Logan County.

For many years, the fossil was part of the natural history museum that the university housed on the third floor of Porter Hall. Most of the museum’s exhibits were dismantled in the ’50s and ’60s, Ford said, and the mosasaur was all but forgotten.

About 8 or 9 years ago, as Porter Hall was remodeled to house the Art Department, the mosasaur came to the university’s attention once again. With little public fanfare, the fossil was moved to Heckert-Wells Hall where it has quietly resided since.

“This specimen has many levels of value,” Ford said. “Of course it has a tremendous scientific value. It is a particularly nice specimen. It is complete. It is also very attractively presented and it is of considerable monetary value.”

Chandler (from pg. 1)

Chandler Hall was built as a cafeteria in 1922. It became home to Family and Consumer Sciences, then called Home Economics, in 1951. The building was rededicated as Chandler Hall in honor of Sarah Preswick Chandler Hartsock in 1964. She was a member of the Manual Training Normal School’s first class and taught domestic arts at the school.

Whitbeck to lead FCS

Duane Whitbeck, interim chairman of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, has been named chairman of that department. The announcement was made by Dean of Arts and Sciences Lynette Olson.

“Dr. Whitbeck not only has excellent credentials and experience,” Olson said, “but as the interim chairperson of the department, he has demonstrated that he is well qualified to lead this department.”

Whitbeck joined the PSU faculty in Family and Consumer Sciences in 1997. Previously, he taught at the University of Tennessee, the University of North Dakota, and North Dakota State University. He was named interim chairperson of the department in July 2001.

Whitbeck holds a bachelor of science degree in child development and family relations from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah; a master of science degree in child development from North Dakota State University; and an Ed.D in curriculum and instruction from the University of Tennessee.

Whitbeck is a frequent presenter on early childhood education for both professional and lay audiences. He has presented an average of 10 workshops each year for the past 15 years to parent audiences on topics such as Dealing with
Faculty are students once again in language classes

Contributed by Judy Berry-Bravo, Modern Languages & Literatures

What makes faculty and staff at Pittsburg State University decide to enroll as students in language classes taught by their peers? Their motives are as diverse and fascinating as they are.

Art Fischer, Management and Marketing, is taking French I alongside other students in Myriam Krepps’ class.

“I am hoping that with this course as a foundation I will be at least marginally prepared for my trip to Paris next June,” Fischer said.

Fischer will be at Dauphine IX University to talk with students and faculty about PSU and to conduct research concerning cultural differences in the management of older workers.

Guy Owings, Accounting, took a three-week Spanish for Travelers course from Judy Berry-Bravo last summer.

“When I told a couple of Latino acquaintances I was taking a short course in Spanish, they were excited about my doing it,” Owings said.

“As I took the class, our brief and irregular meetings revealed an increased bonding and sharing. I believe they considered it a compliment that I wanted to learn their language. There is little doubt that even a cursory knowledge of a language promotes greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures.”

Bobby Winters, Mathematics, has been studying Russian for three semesters and calls it one of the most refreshing experiences of his career. He can’t imagine anything that would have better aided “in my professional development, given me fresh insight on the challenges faced by our students, and taught me about abilities that I did not know that I possessed.”

Bert Patrick, Spanish, agreed that “being a novice in a class reminds me of the struggles my own students are going through. It is good to be reminded on a regular basis that what is now easy for me was not always so.”

Classmate Don Book, Engineering Technology, believes that the most significant part of his language studies “is the broadening of my cultural understanding and awareness. Instead of the world seeming smaller every day, it actually gets bigger as I realize how utterly diverse our world is culturally. The other part of my brain really enjoys the learning challenge. Class is an oasis to me. I look forward to entering a mentally challenging environment.”

Kathy DeGrave, English, is taking Spanish I from Edmée Fernández. DeGrave said she is learning a lot that she can apply in a graduate-level course she teaches on ethnic American literature.

“When we get to the Latino section, knowing some Spanish will help me understand certain puns, or whole passages in the writing,” DeGrave said.

Anne Patterson, Music, began her Portuguese studies last summer with four days of lessons in Portugal. She discovered that the people “were delighted that I was making an effort to learn the language, and they were happy with whatever I said, regarding it a tremendous gesture of good will.”

Classmate Todd Hastings, Music, agrees that studying Portuguese has been a lot of fun and says the experience has made him much more tolerant. He has come to realize just how fast he speaks English.

Department receives large gift

The English Department has received a bequest of $239,000 from the estate of the late William J. and Mary Emma Eichhorn. The bequest specifies that the funds are to be used “for the benefit of the English Department.”

Mary Eichhorn, the only child of Edward J. and Mary Mabel Maurer Devitt, was born in 1910. She earned a degree in English from Kansas State College of Pittsburg in 1932. She married Jack Silva in the late 1930s and later married William J. Eichhorn in 1960. A Pittsburg resident all her life, Mrs. Eichhorn worked in her first husband’s business and also for Crawford County. She died on November 12, 1999.

The Department has established a permanent endowment named in honor of the donors. The income from the endowment, approximately $11,000 per year, will be used to support the professional development activities of English Department faculty and students.

Each year, four department faculty will be selected as Eichhorn Fellows. They will receive grants of $2,000 each to fund such professional expenses as travel, sabbatical expenses, equipment, or reduced course loads. The remainder of the yearly income from the endowment will be available in small grants to full-time and part-time faculty and students on the basis of applications for specific purposes.

Eichhorn Fellows for Spring 2002 are Carolyn O’Hearn and Laura Lee Washburn. Fall 2002 Eichhorn Fellows will be Kathleen Nichols and Casie Hermansson.

The department faculty and students are very grateful to the Eichhorn estate for this gift.
PSU students win national videographer award

Bora Yenal and Bogac Yenal, Pittsburg State graduate students from Turkey, were the winners of the Award of Distinction in the 2001 national videographer awards held in April. The students won for their production of “PSU Half-Time Report: Defensive End.” Their work was judged against more than 2,400 entries from across the U.S. and several other countries.

The Videographer Awards is a national awards organization that helps set the standards for the video production industry. The Award of Distinction is given for projects that clearly exceed industry standards. The competition is open to video production companies; independent producers, directors, writers, videographers, editors and other production professionals; corporate communications departments; educational institutions; broadcast and cable television operations; and advertising and public relations agencies.

This is the third award received by PSU Communication Department graduates in the past three years.

Whitbeck (from pg. 9)


Wish you had bought a Kanza yearbook of your college years?

It's not too late ... not yet, anyway. A small number of previous years' Kanzas are available, so you can still relive your fond memories of Pittsburg State University.

Available are 2001, 2000 and 1999 Kanzas at $30 each (plus $5 shipping and handling).

In addition, the Student Publications Department wants to clear out its supply of older Kanzas, which range from 1998 back to the 1960s. A limited number of these are available at $20 each (plus $5 shipping and handling). Credit cards are accepted.

For more information, call Gerard Attoun at 620/235-4809. Or, write to: Pittsburg State University, Kanza, 210 Whitesitt Hall, 1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

PSU honors outstanding alumni

Daniel Arthur Brown was one of six alumni honored by PSU during Homecoming activities Oct. 12-13, 2001, for professional and civic achievements. Brown, who received a bachelor of science degree in biology in 1983 and a master of science degree in biology in 1986, is an assistant professor of agriculture in the Department of Family, Consumer Sciences, and Agriculture at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, N.M. Brown’s duties include teaching, advising, research, and service to students and the university community. He is the coordinator of freshman academic advising, where he is responsible for the administration and oversight of programming for freshman academic advisement at Eastern New Mexico University.

Nature Reach (from pg. 4)

then, school visits have come back slowly as public schools wrestle with budget worries of their own.

“We have had about half as many (school visits) as normal this year,” Williams said. “The cost is a real concern.”

Despite the budget concerns, Nature Reach has plans for some new exhibits to complement those already established. Williams said a new snake display will be built and a spider display may be ready for the fall.

“We’re always planning for the future,” Williams said.
No news isn't always good news!
Please drop us a line and let us know about your latest endeavors.

Mail to: Newsletter Editor, Universitas, Office of University Communications, Pittsburg State University, 1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762-7575

Name ____________________________________________________________
Degree ___________________________ Yr. Grad. ___________________________
Address ____________________________ __________________________________
City ______________________________ State __________________________ Zip _____________
Phone (______) _____________________ Maiden name ____________________________
Spouse's name ____________________________ ___________________________
PSU grad? __________________________ Yr. __________ State ___________________________
Major ____________________________________________________________
Occupation(s): your's _________________________________________________
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