**Program gives students research opportunities**

Senior Brett Dunbar, Pittsburg, looks over the soybeans he is growing in the greenhouse on the roof of Heckert-Wells Hall. Brett doesn’t see them just as a cash crop, but instead a research project that could one day unlock the secrets to new antifungal or antibacterial agents.

Brett, who has been admitted to the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City for next fall, is one of five PSU students who have had significant research opportunities because of the Kansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (K-BRIN).

The K-BRIN program is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health to the University of Kansas Medical Center. KU-Med, in turn, was charged with setting up a research network. In addition to the PSU students the program includes student researchers at KU-Med, KU, KSU and Wichita State.

According to the NIH, the “ultimate purpose of a network is to build an effective research base in the state that will eventually lead to competitive research applications from multi-disciplinary research teams.”

Virginia Rider, Biology, said the K-BRIN program is having a positive effect at PSU.

“The K-BRIN program provides undergraduate students an opportunity to work on a research project during the semester,” Rider said. “The students receive a scholarship award. Additional benefits include travel money to attend national scientific meetings, and lunch with an invited outside speaker to

(see Research, pg. 10)

**Artist is a quiet revolutionary**

Her smiling face and soft-spoken manner belie Marjorie Schick’s reputation as a rebel. Schick, however, has spent most of the 36 years she has been in Pittsburg as an artistic rabble rouser, challenging traditional concepts of jewelry with what she describes as “wearable art.” Her efforts have won her acclaim on this continent, in Europe and in Asia.

Schick’s contribution to the world of art was acknowledged recently when she was selected as a 2002 Governor’s Arts Awards recipient. The Governor’s Arts Awards recognition is a cooperative program of the Kansas Arts Commission and the Office of the Governor.

Schick has had many recognitions, both in the U.S. and internationally, but this one was a special pleasure.

“My career has been based in this state,” Schick said. “To be honored by the state meant a great deal to me. It is a great honor for a long career in art here at Pittsburg State and I appreciate being recognized by the state for my contributions to art at the state, national and international levels.”

Schick said she was pleased, too, because the award “brings attention to Pittsburg State and to

(see Schick, pg. 11)
A cooperative project between the City of Pittsburg and geography students at Pittsburg State University could put valuable information at the fingertips of future planners and city officials.

The project, which was launched this year, is designed to help build a geographic information system (GIS) for the city. According to the Association of American Geographers, a GIS uses computer software to help users visualize geographic situations and problems by mapping and analyzing large amounts of geographic data. Put another way, a GIS links information about where things are with what things are like.

For example, a GIS might be used to create a map showing not only where every water and sewer line in Pittsburg is located, but also the age of the lines, their size and when they are scheduled to be replaced.

“The possibilities are unlimited,” according to Bob Hough, information systems manager for the City of Pittsburg.

GIS has applications not only for municipalities and government planners, but also for emergency services personnel, private business and industry and environmental agencies, according to Tim Bailey, a member of the faculty in PSU's geography program.

“In almost any field you can think of,” Bailey said, “there is a use for GIS.”

The project between the city and the university developed over the past year following a study the city commissioned to examine storm water drainage problems, Hough said. That study required the purchase of some computer hardware and software and costly digitized aerial photographs of the city.

When that project was completed, Hough said, the digital photos and the computer hardware and software came back to (see GIS, pg. 6)
PSU grads gain med-school admission

Graduates from Pittsburg State University's pre-professional biology programs have a long history of success and the most recent crop of graduates is making sure that history goes unbroken. At least 15 graduates have been accepted into medical, pharmacy, podiatry, optometry or graduate school programs. Two others have been admitted to medical schools through early decision, although they will be just juniors at Pitt State this fall.

Dr. Virginia Rider, a member of the faculty in the Department of Biology and director of PSU's pre-professional biology program, said she thinks one reason for the students' success is that while faculty research is supported and encouraged at PSU, “the university allows us to be teachers and mentors instead of just researchers.”

The result is that students have extraordinary access to and support from faculty, Rider said.

Rider, who came to PSU a year ago, said the number of PSU graduates who are admitted to graduate professional programs is solid evidence of the quality of Pitt State's undergraduate education.

“There isn’t a better way to measure our success than through our students,” Rider said.

It helps that PSU's reputation for being a good place to prepare for med school or other professional programs attracts good students to begin with.

(see Med School, pg. 7)

PSU ROTC celebrates 50 years

Right: LTG (R) Ronald Watts, Greensboro, Ga., reviews historic photos of the PSU ROTC program with PSU Cadet Kipling Marsh. Watts was attending the 50 year celebration of the ROTC program at PSU on Saturday, September 14, 2002. More than 80 PSU ROTC graduates, their spouses and guests attended the celebration which included the ground breaking for the PSU Veterans Memorial and a special recognition ceremony during the PSU football game. Below: ROTC alumni assemble on the field for recognition during at the football game during the ROTC 50th anniversary celebration.

Sandness named outstanding alumnus

Among the five persons honored with the 2002 PSU Outstanding Alumni Award during Homecoming activities was Dr. Kathleen Sandness, who received her bachelor of science degree in biology from Pittsburg State in 1983.

Sandness has her own private practice in internal medicine at Mr. Carmel Medical Center in Pittsburg and is also a physician coordinator for the PSU Pre-Med Club with the Pittsburg free clinic. Sandness is on the committee of the Governors Council, Kansas Chapter of the American College of Physicians, and a member of the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, the Kansas Medical Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Sandness earned her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and holds certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine.
Celebrating a Celebrated Pitt State Graduate: Ted Watts

Ted Watts says that he is basically a nut about college football and its history. This is true, and it shows in his work. Watts graduated from PSU in 1966 with a bachelor of fine arts degree. Since that time he has built a reputation as one of the premier sports artists in the nation. In the words of Sports Illustrated’s Douglas S. Looney, “On college campuses, Ted Watts is easily the best known sports artist in the land...” In his more than 30 years as a professional artist he has created more than 5,000 works of art, including portraits, posters, program covers, media guides, calendars, and most recently, murals. More than half of these artistic productions are devoted to college football.

Watts’ client list includes the United States Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. His art is displayed in the major sports halls of fame across the United States. In addition, Watts has worked with 11 NCAA schools to paint Hall of Fame portraits—Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma State, Kansas State, Texas Tech, Missouri, South Carolina, Oral Roberts, Nebraska, the United States Military Academy (ARMY), and PSU. Watts’ work for the University of Kansas, which began in 1976, resulted in what is currently the only published collection of his art, titled “Portraits of Excellence: A Heritage of Athletic Achievement at the University of Kansas” (Quality Sports Publications, 1999).

Watts’ most widely known work may be his series of 62 portraits of Heisman Trophy winners that are on display in the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana. Each year, about 100,000 visitors to the Hall of Fame appreciate Watts’ accomplishment. This project, which is dear to the artist’s heart, was conceived in the summer of 1991 at a celebrity golf tournament near Pittsburg. Eldon Danenhauer, one of the original Denver Broncos and a graduate of PSU, asked Watts about his “dream” art project. Watts said that he would like to paint all of the Heisman Trophy winners.

Four years later, in August 1995, with the help of a plan conceived by Danenhauer to underwrite the project, Watts’ dream became a reality when the exhibit of Watts’ paintings opened in South Bend. Pittsburg television sportscaster Jay Radzavicz quipped that Watts had done what no other man had ever done, tackled every Heisman Trophy winner. The latest addition to the series, a portrait of University of Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch, was unveiled in August 2002.

Watts’ most recent major project is a mural that depicts the history of the University of Oklahoma Sooners football program. The mural is in the Legends Lobby of the Barry Switzer Center adjacent to OU’s Memorial Stadium. Measuring approximately 33 feet long and 10 feet high, the mural in its present form includes portraits of 52 players, 14 coaches, and more than 50 graphic elements. Those who have seen the mural agree that Watts includes a maximum number of images without overwhelming the viewer.

In a sense, the Oklahoma mural takes Watts back to his roots. He received an associates’ degree from Northeastern Oklahoma A & M in 1962 where he studied with famed Oklahoma muralist and lithographer Charles Banks Wilson. Watts’ next major project is also a mural. He is presently working on a mural for Wichita State University, to be displayed at Eck Baseball Stadium. The mural will contain fewer figures than the Sooner mural, but it will be nearly twice as large—approximately 70 feet in length and 10 feet high. The mural is scheduled for unveiling in March 2003.

Although sports art is Watts’ forte, he has put his artistic talent to a variety of uses, including local history. In 1980, Watts teamed up with Gene DeGruson (formerly special collections librarian at PSU) and Shelby Horne (a local attorney) to produce “The Little Balkans Review: A Southeast Kansas Literary and Graphics Quarterly.” The journal went through five volumes, published on a quarterly basis until 1984, then sporadically until the final number—a special issue in memory of DeGruson—in the fall of 1999. Watts served as arts and graphics editor for each of the 19 issues. His work included illustrating the cover of the journal and drawing portraits of the contributors. Watts credits DeGruson with making him more conscientious about cataloguing his artwork.

Watts has a deep fondness for Pittsburg State University, and the College of Arts and Sciences in particular. “I’m a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences,” he said, “and I’m proud of it.”

He expressed this pride, in part, by serving for six years on the PSU Alumni Association and during 1982-83 as president of the association. He has created more than 50 original works of art for PSU, including 20 straight years of Gorilla football promotional material. If Watts has never ceased to be grateful to his alma mater, his alma mater has returned the favor. He was an Outstanding Young Alumnus in 1976. In 1988 he received the Pitt State Meritorious Achievement Award and in 1999 he was inducted into the PSU Athletic Hall of Fame. Most recently, in October 2002, Watts gave the Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture at Axe Library. The art of Ted Watts is ubiquitous on campus. It is displayed prominently, among other places, in the President’s Office in Russ Hall, the Weede Physical Education building, the newly renovated Horace Mann Student Welcoming Center, and the Overman Student Center.
A Farewell to Dean Brill

It has been said that humility is the one virtue you can't brag about. This explains why Professor Orville Brill's work as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1990 until 2001 would go unnoticed were it up to the former dean to tell the story. He said that he enjoyed helping faculty and students while remaining invisible. Above all, says Dr. Brill, he saw his job as facilitating others to do what they do while fostering an atmosphere of trust and fairness. If one asks faculty and students in the College of Arts and Sciences about Brill, it quickly becomes apparent that he has their respect for always conscientiously having tried to do the right thing.

Before becoming dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Brill was the chairman of the Department of Physics. One might suppose that the office of the dean brings with it greater power and freedom to accomplish one's aims for the college. In reality, explained Brill, a dean is relatively powerless in light of the autonomy of the departments within the college—there were 14 when he was dean. Brill said that he encouraged the various academic units to be independent while not ceasing to behave as a single college with common goals. Brill tirelessly promoted the importance of the college, noting that in addition to offering the bulk of general education courses, it generates fully half of the majors at Pittsburg State.

During his tenure as dean, Brill saw many changes in the college that he views with deep satisfaction. Many new faculty members were hired during his 11 years, and Brill took an active role in the interview process with the various departments. Brill noted that the science education center is now funded by the university and is integrated into teacher education programs. The two director of science education positions in physics and biology grew out of this program. Other advances included support for a geographic information systems program (offered out of the Department of Social Science) and the development of a campuswide pre-medical program.

Brill said that when all is said and done, his greatest source of satisfaction as a dean was in his contacts with students. He was instrumental in extending the bachelor of general studies program, thereby giving students an option outside traditional degree programs to accomplish their educational goals. However, Brill took a special interest in helping students at a more personal level to solve their problems and achieve their life goals. Very often the solutions were simple and mechanical. At other times, more energy, commitment, and creativity were needed. The dean's office was, for many students, a last resort, the place where they turned when there was nowhere else to turn. Brill tried to ensure that students were offered all avenues of support to resolve their problems. He took a special interest in academic dismissal cases. He has fond memories of a number of cases in which students began with academic problems but ended by finding success in the classroom and beyond.

Professor Brill presently works as the associate vice-president of academic affairs and chairs the university task force on general education.
Pittsburg State University Nursing Department faculty and students are using Gus Gorilla's familiar image to help preschool children overcome their fear of visiting the doctor's office.

Nursing instructors Susan Seglie and Janis Schiefelbein have written a children's book, "JR Gets Ready for School: A Visit to the Health Clinic," that they use in presentations to very young children. The book describes JR's (Gus Gorilla, Jr.) visit to the health clinic for a preschool checkup and vaccination. The book was illustrated by Adam Papish, a graphic arts student from Frontenac.

The book has been incorporated into programs the nurses and their students do for youngsters called "Gorilla Clinics." In addition to preparing for visits to the doctor's office, the clinics teach children about hand washing, nutrition, proper tooth brushing technique and other health issues.

Using a junior Gus Gorilla as the main character was a "natural" choice, according to Seglie.

"Gus Gorilla is a very recognizable character for children in this area," Seglie said. "Most of them have seen the Pittsburg State mascot at football and basketball games, so they feel as if they know him."

Seglie said writing a book was necessary because there wasn't much material available for preschool children.

"We applied for and received a Pritchett Trust grant, which provided some technology and made printing the books possible," Seglie said.

The grant makes it possible for the presenters to give the books to the children who participate in the Gorilla Clinics, Seglie said. Additionally, the books are on sale at the Pittsburg State University Bookstore in the Overman Student Center. Any proceeds from book sales go to the Department of Nursing.

GIS (from pg. 2)

the city. At about the same time, he said, he was contacted by Tim Bailey who wanted to know whether the city would be interested in putting those resources to work in a collaborative project with the university.

The result was a $330,000 in-kind grant to PSU and an agreement to work together on a GIS project for the city. Included in the project are four paid student internships.

Bailey said the city has been very helpful in getting the computers in the Geography Information Systems-Spatial Analysis Lab at PSU networked and working properly. Students have been learning the ESRI software that runs the system, Bailey said, and the groundwork is being laid for a beginning GIS.

"This project is very good for students," Bailey said. "In other situations, a student's experience might be limited to following and observing the experts. Here, the student becomes the expert."

From the city's point of view, the students are providing an opportunity for the city to develop a system that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

"GIS is very resource intensive, especially on the front end," Hough said. "That's why this is such a good project for the city. We can at least get started pretty cheaply."

A GIS uses data that is already collected, but often in a wide variety of forms. For example, detailed data is kept on everything from tax records to water and sewer usage.

"We've been collecting lots of data for a long time," Hough said.

A GIS ties the data to specific points on a digital map. The GIS software allows users to view the information as "layers" added one on top of another over a base map. The result is a visual representation of information.

Bailey gave examples of how this way of looking at information has been valuable in recent years. He said a GIS was in use almost immediately after terrorists brought down the World Trade Center, allowing emergency services personnel and engineers to understand the areas and types of buildings affected. Insurance companies have used GIS to respond to areas devastated by hurricanes and GIS has long been used to manage forests and wetlands. Business and industry have used GIS to plan locations for stores and factories and GIS has become an integral part of the planning process for municipalities and governments.

Much of the students' work at present is focused on using the software to convert information to digital files so a good base map can be created for Pittsburg's GIS. The experience the students are gaining, Bailey said, will be an advantage for them if they follow a career path that involves GIS.

Both Bailey and Hough agree that everyone comes out a winner in this project. The city improves the way it can use and manage data and students have a richer educational experience.

"It definitely is a win-win situation," Hough said.
Med School (from pg. 3)

"I couldn't be happier with the quality of students we have," Rider said. "They're not only extremely bright, but they are fun and delightful people to be around."

Rider said there seems to be no shortage of freshmen who express an interest in becoming doctors.

"We may start out with 60 or 70 students who say they want to go pre-med," Rider said. "Of that, we can expect a core group of probably 15 to be accepted into med school or some other professional program."

Rider said the goal of PSU's pre-professional biology program is not to weed students out, but to help students understand the wide range of careers available to them and help them find the best match for their talents and interests. For example, a student who comes to the university thinking about med school may discover that dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine or biological research would be a better choice for them. To that end, a pre-med orientation class strives to introduce students to the many opportunities open to them.

"We have a wide range of professionals speak to the students," Rider said.

Guest speakers include medical doctors, optometrists, dentists, veterinarians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and others.

"This community is so fantastic," Rider said. "I never have problems getting professionals to talk to the students. They are always eager to help and answer the students' questions."

In addition to giving students a better understanding of their individual fields, local professionals often play a key role in helping students get admitted to the professional school of their choice, Rider said.

"A critical step in the acceptance process is the interview," Rider said. "For every student who gets invited for an interview, we do mock interviews."

Rider said local professionals have been an invaluable help with the interviews because they have been through the same experience.

"The local professionals are absolutely dedicated to helping our students," she said.

Rider said the faculty takes a good deal of pride in each student selected for post graduate professional study. And, she reminds them, their former teachers at PSU will be watching their careers with more than a passing interest.

"I tell all of our students that when they've been practicing for several years and are successful professionals, we'll be calling on them to give back to their alma mater and to a new crop of students," Rider said.

---

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.
class of '41
Darthea Jane Baxter Spilios, BS, is a professor of speech at Los Angeles City College. She is teaching part-time so she can enjoy long weekends with her husband, Dennis, who is retired. They have two children, Dana Baxter Spilios and Dean Forrest Spilios, and reside in Glendale, Calif. Darthea reports that she would love to hear from anyone who still remembers her as she was extremely active on campus.

Class of '43
Marjorie Bricker Booher, BS, is a retired home economics teacher in Lawrence, Kan. She has three daughters, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. A grandchild is currently enrolled at PSU. Among her family there are seven school teachers and they celebrate every September with a get-together titled "Apple Day." They spend each summer on the lake in Minnesota enjoying lots of guests and good fishing. Her e-mail address: MinnesotaLoon@webTV.net. She reports that her 104-year-old mother died August 2002.

Class of '48
Emma Jean Jones McIntosh, BSEd, received her MS from Chicago State in 1963. She has retired from teaching and lives in Chicago. Her three children, Willie R., Phyllis L., and Deborah Kaye take her to her dance class one night a week. She is taking ballet and liturgical dancing at Mayfair Academy. Emma reports that she is thankful for her children's concern, as her driver's license is restricted to day driving.

Class of '53
Virgil Albertini, BS, MS, '60, and Delores Albertini, English, '59, live in Maryville, Mo. Virgil is a retired university professor and Delores is a retired university librarian from Northwest Missouri State University. Virgil was recently awarded the University's first Distinguished Emeritus Professorship.

Class of '55
Robert L. Bailey, AB, is the author of a book entitled "Plain Talk About Leadership" (Franklin University Press-2002), and is now working on his second book, "Plain Talk About Sales-Why Consumers Ask About Price But Buy Value." Robert retired in 2000 as chairman, CEO and president of State Auto Insurance Companies. Under his leadership, sales rose from $214 million to more than $1 billion, and net worth increased from $139 million to nearly $1 billion.

Class of '57
Alice Gay Cunningham-McClain, BA Language and Literature, retired from USD #441 in 1997 after teaching for 37 years. She taught English and literature at the junior and senior high levels. Her husband, Eugene S. McClain, passed away May 22, 1972. He was a '53 graduate with majors in history and psychology. He also taught in USD #441. Their daughters include Lisa Kay Iffland, an occupational therapist in Chicago, Ill.; and Suzanne Gum, who formerly taught music in Johnson, Kan., for 11 years and is now a stay-at-home mom.

Class of '59
Kay Branaman Eakin, BSEd, MEd, '79, is an international educational consultant. Her time is divided between her work, assisting U.S. and foreign families as they move around the world find suitable educational options for their children, and the presidency of the Foreign Service Youth Foundation a 501(c)3 organization for children who move around the world because of their parents' foreign service occupation. Kay and her husband, Terry C., Eakin, now retired, live in Mesa, Ariz. They have two children, Clay, 40, and Will, 39.

Class of '68
William Shrum, BS, is owner and manager of State Farm Insurance in Ames, Iowa. He was recently elected vice president of the State of Iowa Library Board of Trustees. He has previously served as president of Ames Public Library Board and president of Ames Parks and Recreation Board. He is also a board member for Habitat for Humanity of Story County, Iowa. His wife, Ellen, is an elementary teacher. Their son, Michael, is a senior at Iowa State University and their daughter, Anne, graduated from the University of Texas and now lives and works in Houston, Texas.

Class of '69
Jean Farris Fuller, BME, is an organist for St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. In July 2002, they toured Wales and England performing choral and organ concerts at St. David's, Colwyn Bay, and the Leonard Stanley Music Festival, in Wales and Tewksbury Abbey, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and Broughton Castle, in England. Her husband, George Fuller, is a helicopter pilot in the Texas and Army Air National Guard. They have two daughters, Susan, 21, and Allison, 16, and live in Austin, Texas.

Class of '72
Charlotte Gwynn Burkhardt, BSEd - Home Economics. Her husband, Ernest, is a distributor for Garst Seed Co. They have two sons, Kevin J. Brownlee and Kyle W. Brownlee and live in Bramen, Okla.

Class of '74
Marla S. Moore, BA History, MS Poli Sci, '77, is a state court administrator. She was named the associate director of court services comprising research and technology, court interpretation, court reporting, communications and judicial liaison, and equality in the courts for the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, a department of the Georgia Supreme Court. Her husband, Richard A. Gosselin, is a trainer/HR consultant. They live in Atlanta and have one son, Ronnie A. Gosselin.

Class of '77
Janey Marshall, BSN, is a cardiology nurse working in outpatient cardiac rehab at St. Mary's Hospital, Blue Springs, Mo. Her husband, Marc, is a maintenance manager at Yellow Freight System in K.C., Mo. They have one daughter, Rebecca, 18, a senior in high school who plans to attend KU, and one son,
Nathan, 22, a senior at the University of Missouri-Rolla, a civil engineer major. Janey and Marc celebrated their 25th anniversary this year. Rebecca and Janey went on an educational tour/trip to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, and Paris last July. Janey reports that "both kids are doing great." Out patient cardiac rehab is "booming." They moved to a larger facility in the medical mall last Feb. Last month the department received a new monitor system to enable more patients to be monitored. They also started monthly support groups two months ago. Janey reports that this area is very positive, growing, and satisfying and she loves it. The family resides in Oak Grove, Mo.

Class of '85

Michael Spradlin, BS Biology, is a physician/anesthesiologist at Olathe Medical Center in Olathe, Kan. His wife, Sylvia Aves Spradlin, is a dentist. They have three children: Mica, 11, Megan, 10, and Josh, 2, and live in Lenexa, Kan. Michael continues to practice anesthesia at Olathe Medical Center and reports that he has many fond memories of PSU including friends, faculty, and the pre-med program.

Class of '96

Harlan J. Bryan, MS in music, is director of instrumental ensembles at Southwestern Assemblies of God University. His wife, Crystal, is a housewife. They have two children: Hannah, 5, and Ethan, 3, and a baby on the way. The family lives in Waxahachie, Texas.

Class of '99

Margie Rayls, MSN, is a nurse practitioner. Her husband, Edward, is an X-ray technician. They live in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Class of '01

Teri Lynn Nelson, BS/MS Sociology, is a victim DV advocate for SafeHouse, Inc. Her husband, Charles A. Nelson Jr., owns Nelson Construction. They live in Pittsburg, Kan. and have a daughter, Amber Dawn. Teri hosted, along with SafeHouse, Inc., the annual candlelight vigil for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the University Lake.

Wendi O'Rand, BS in FCS, is a student obtaining her second bachelor's degree in elementary education. Her husband, Jerry, is a '99 graduate in elementary education and is a teacher and coach at Girard Middle School. They live in Girard and are expecting their first child in April.
University honors artist with retrospective of his work

Pittsburg State University celebrated the work of alumnus Joe Beeler, BFA '57, with a retrospective of his art in the University Gallery, Oct. 25-Nov. 13, 2002. The exhibit also included work by Joe's wife, Sharon, and their daughter, Tracy.

Beeler, originally from Joplin, Mo., first studied art at the University of Tulsa following service in the Korean War. Later, he transferred to Pittsburg State University where he earned his bachelor of fine arts degree. After earning his degree at PSU, Beeler studied art at the Art Center School in Los Angeles.

For a number of years, Beeler worked in Oklahoma as an art illustrator while at the same time establishing his painting career. By 1960, he had produced a body of work sufficient to earn him a one-man show at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. A year later, he exhibited at the Montana Historical Society.

Those successes gave Beeler enough confidence to move with Sharon to the artists' colony of Sedona, Ariz. The Beeler's built a ranch-style home on five acres, which over the years has become an art center complex in which Joe's work is exhibited throughout.

In 2002, the City of Sedona unveiled a 7-foot bronze statue of Beeler to honor him as one of the foremost artists of the American West.

In Pittsburg, the Beeler's attended an opening reception for the exhibit and a number of Homecoming events.

Prevention

Pittsburg veterinarian Dick Peterson, left, with the assistance of Nature Reach Coordinator Joe Williams, gives a falcon at PSU's raptor rehabilitation center a vaccination against West Nile Virus. The virus, which has spread rapidly across the U.S., has been particularly deadly among birds.

Research (from pg. 1)

learn more about biomedical research as a career option.

Rider said the program has also provided money to connect the PSU campus via the tele network with all of the other institutions of higher learning in Kansas and money to purchase computers.

"PSU K-BRIN participants will have access to a bioinformatics specialist who will help train students using the techniques necessary to mine databases, including the human genome," Rider said. "This program is going to give our undergraduate students state-of-the-art experience that will benefit them after graduation, regardless of their chosen career path."

Dunbar agreed that the research had already paid benefits. It even helped him in the interview process as he was applying to medical schools.

"One of the things they look for when you interview is to see whether you've done some research," Dunbar said. "You need to be able to show you are able to work in different fields."

Rider said students are selected for the program on the basis of scholarship, "so it is definitely a prestigious award."

"Moreover," she said, "because the funding comes from the National Institutes of Health, such funding is recognized on a national level. Aside from the prestige of being associated with the award, doing research teaches students about persistence, patience, and deferral of short term gains for long term rewards. Any student anticipating professional school, therefore, benefits from research training. If students work hard and have a bit of luck, their research efforts may be presented at a national meeting or be published as part of a larger effort from the laboratory. There are some medical schools such as Washington University in St. Louis, for which almost all medical school applicants have some sort of laboratory research experience. Thanks to K-BRIN, we can now provide similar opportunities for our students."

PSU students who participated in the research this past summer and their mentors are: Brett Dunbar, Pittsburg, Daniel Zurek; Clinton Seifert, Fort Scott, Virginia Rider; Janae Jarred, Chanute, Virginia Rider; Ryan Edress, Eureka, Kan., Virginia Rider; and Joseph Symes, Milo, Mo., Nancy Brooker.
PSU honors faculty authors
When the Leonard H. Axe Library hosted the 19th annual “Faculty Author Reception” on Nov. 7th, most of the honorees were from the College of Arts and Sciences. The library sponsors this event as one way to recognize the works of PSU faculty published in paper or electronically. Those Arts and Sciences authors included:

Marjorie E. Donovan, Social Sciences, “Sociology: Relationships That Make a World”


Casie E. Hermansson, English, “Reading Feminist Intertextuality Through Bluebeard Stories”

Harry L. Humphries, Social Sciences, “Sociology: Relationships That Make a World”

Janis J. Schiefelbein, Nursing, “JR Gets Ready for School: A Visit to the Health Clinic”

Susan M. Seglie, Nursing, “JR Gets Ready for School: A Visit to the Health Clinic”


Schick (from pg. 1)
Pittsburg as well. I am the first from Pittsburg to be given the award, but there are many here who are also deserving.”

Building a reputation in the art world may be just a little bit more difficult for an artist working on the edge of the prairie, Schick admitted.

“I think that when you live anywhere in the Midwest,” Schick said, “sometimes you have to work harder to get recognition. Actually, what is nice about exhibiting in Europe is they make no distinctions about Midwest versus East Coast.”

Recognition is no longer a problem for Schick. She was named a Fellow of the American Craft Council, one of the highest honors given to craft artists in the U.S. Her works are part of public collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; the Royal Museum of the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh; the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of Modern Art; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the American Craft Museum in New York; the Museum of Fine Art in Boston; the John Michael Kohler Art Center in Seoul, South Korea; the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo; and other museums in Norway, the Netherlands and the U.S.

Schick’s works have been featured in galleries, museums and exhibitions across the U.S. and around the world and have been included in numerous books and publications. She is the featured artist and appears on the cover of the October/November issue of “American Craft” magazine.

Known for her use of brilliant, rich and often iridescent colors, Schick eschews the precious metals and gems of traditional jewelry. Instead, she is likely to turn simple wooden “biscuits” into glowing feathers for a body drape or strips of torn paper into waves of color for a necklace. Her pieces are designed to be worn, but are just as likely to be displayed on a wall or on a pedestal in a gallery.

Schick is currently working on a new piece for an upcoming show in Topeka. The piece consists of 61 wood and paper necklaces, “which represents my age,” Schick said. “This one is the year I met Jim,” she said, picking one of the necklaces from the pile.
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
Address
City
State
Zip
Phone (_______)
Maiden name
Spouse’s name

PSU grad?
Yr.
Major

Occupation(s): your’s

spouse’s

Children

News