University dedicates new FACS home, remembers Chandler Hall

April 30 was a day to honor the past while celebrating the future of Family and Consumer Sciences at Pittsburg State University.

After a brief ceremony to dedicate a marker in memory of old Chandler Hall, a crowd of students, faculty, alumni and friends moved a few feet west to celebrate the opening of the new home for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Two alumni, Lois Carlson, Class of 1964, and Ronda Staton, Class of 1974, and retired faculty member Doris Bradley, 1971 to 1987, spoke at the dedication of the Chandler Hall marker.

While Carlson shared fond memories of Chandler Hall, she said, “It’s been the dedication and inspiration of the leaders ... that has continued to make the department highly respected on our PSU campus. It isn’t just a building; it’s the people who make the difference.”

Bradley recalled some of the less pleasant aspects of the old building, including a roof that leaked and a basement that flooded every time there was a heavy rain or snowfall.

Lynette Olson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and former chairperson of FACS, said the new building is the culmination of many years of planning and focus by the university.

“It’s been a long journey and many have contributed to this project,” Olson said, citing a long list including the students and faculty who endured a number of moves during the demolition and construction phases.

Olson said that while she was sad to see Chandler Hall go, she now can’t imagine any other home for the department.

Following the ribbon cutting, FACS students provided tours of the new facility, and served refreshments. The students carved two cakes. One had been decorated to look like Chandler Hall and the other, the new FACS building.

Grant targets history education

Kelly Woestman, associate professor of history, won a $745,543 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve history education in southeast Kansas. The Teaching American History Grant includes PSU, the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, the National Archives and Records Administration and H-Net and was written for Parsons USD 503.

“This is a great opportunity for PSU history faculty to help Kansas teachers meet the stringent guidelines of No Child Left Behind and improve the teaching of history in Kansas Classrooms,” Woestman said. “Recent studies have shown that teachers are more effective when they know more content. How to implement it in their classrooms is the focus of Project eHIKES.”

Woestman said that a group of veteran teachers from the area will help design a results-based professional development program that will offer middle school and high school history teachers the opportunity to earn a master of arts degree in history from PSU.

Teachers in the program will work together

(see Grant, pg. 11)
Visiting Writers Series

For 18 years, the English Department’s Visiting Writers series has brought a wide range of writers from all genres to campus, but the 2003-2004 season, with two Pulitzer-Prize-winning alumni on the list, may have been the most remarkable.

The series hosted alumnus James Tate on Feb. 12. Tate won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1992. Alumnus Shirley Christian was a series guest on April 1. Christian won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1981.

In addition to Tate and Christian, the series presented fiction writer Ron Carlson and award-winning poet Walt McDonald.

English Department Chairman Stephen Meats says the series has become a great asset to the university and the community.

“It insures that citizens of area and university communities have available to them the enrichment of the literary arts, as well as other branches of the arts,” Meats said. “Most colleges and universities, even those much larger than PSU, don’t have anything that even comes close to matching our Visiting Writers Series.”

Students benefit from the series, Meats said, because they “see in the example offered by the visiting writers that they too can succeed, and they get a clearer sense of what success means for a writer, that it isn’t all about monetary gain or fame, but rather about the joyous expression of one’s creative talents. They also gain inspiration for their own writing. Writing is a lonely business, and students take courage from learning that there is a community of writers out there. It doesn’t hurt, either, that PSU is so fortunate as to have two Pulitzer Prize winners among our graduates. But even students who aren’t writers gain a lot from the readings, too. They come away from the readings with a sense that literature is a vital, on-going human activity that offers essential spiritual nourishment to writer and reader alike.”

Meats gives much credit for the series’ longevity to the PSU Student Government Association and the university administration.

“It’s a great tribute to the wisdom and fairmindedness of the PSU Student Government Association and the university administration that they have been willing to support the series so generously and consistently over the years,” Meats said.

He called the Visiting Writers Series “one of this Department’s proudest accomplishments,” noting that each writer draws audiences ranging from 60 to 200 students, faculty and members of the public from as far away as Kansas City.
Top teacher praises students
by Andra Bryan Stefanoni

It's not unusual to hear students say they chose a college or university because of the professors, but it is sort of a man-bites-dog scenario to hear of a professor who chose a university because of the students.

That's the case for Virginia Rider, however, a member of the faculty in the Department of Biology.

In 2003, Rider won an international, highly competitive research award for a manuscript detailing original research in gender-specific medicine. Rider is quick to give part of the credit for that honor to one of her former students, Sarah Keltner, who conducted the research as part of her master's thesis.

Rider says students are the best part of her career, and are, in fact, what drew her to Pittsburg State in the first place. Although Rider has worked in some of the premier institutions of higher learning in the U.S., she maintains that Pittsburg State beats the others out hands down because of its focus on students.

"At the larger institutions, all we were encouraged to do was to bring in research grants; that's typical of big research universities now. Here, students still do count. At other universities, sometimes you sort of put up with them," Rider said.

When Rider worked with Keltner on her master's thesis, she knew Keltner's research was well done and that it answered a question. But because the results were negative — in other words, they didn't support a specific scientific theory — she doubted the global science research community would take notice.

Still, Rider wrote a manuscript on the research and submitted it to the highly-competitive, international "Irene Ferrer Award" competition, one that recognizes "outstanding original research in gender-specific medicine."

"We really didn't expect any kind of award out of it because of the negative results. Last spring (2003), we found out the paper won," Rider said. "There were 15 manuscripts submitted from all over the world, and they underwent a peer review by other scientists and physicians. The award simply astounded me."

It was particularly sweet, Dr. Rider, explained, because of the topic Keltner researched under Rider's direction.

The research was focused on the link between autoimmune diseases (diseases in which a person's immune system fails to recognize them) and women.

(see Teacher, pg. 7)
Two professors win Fulbright fellowships

Arts & Sciences faculty are sharpening their skills and broadening their view of the world through the Fulbright Fellowship program. Harry Humphries, Social Sciences, won a prestigious Fulbright teaching fellowship to work with faculty and students in Kazan (Russia). This is Dr. Humphries second award of a Fulbright Fellowship.

Dr. Bert Patrick, professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in April 2003. Dr. Patrick spent the summer of 2003 presenting seminars and working with the faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages at Kazan State Agricultural Academy (University) in Kazan, Russia. He observed teachers in class and then gave presentations and workshops for them to help them develop additional teaching and testing strategies. This was Dr. Patrick’s fifth trip to Russia since 1998.

As a result of the seminars and workshops he presented, Dr. Patrick was invited to be a Visiting Professor in the Department of Germanic and Romance Philology at Kazan State University for the fall 2004 semester. To be able to accept this invitation, Dr. Patrick applied for a sabbatical leave, which was approved. Consequently, he traveled to Kazan in May to continue improving his skills in the Russian language. In September, Dr. Patrick will teach a Spanish course, conducting seminars for his colleagues in the Philology Department and doing research.

Elliott wins state honor

Christine Elliott, Family & Consumer Sciences, was named the 2003 Kansas Association of Technical Education (K-ACTE) Educator of the Year. The award recognizes career and technical educators who have recently provided or are currently providing significant contributions to professional associations and career and technical education programs for youths and/or adults.

Elliott received a bachelor of science degree in education from PSU and a master’s degree in education from Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass. Among her duties at PSU, Elliott is involved in the field supervision of family and consumer science student teachers. She also sponsors the student section of the Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Elliott and her husband, Alan, live in Pittsburg. They have two children, Janell and Brandon.

International Travel by Arts and Sciences Faculty

Arts and Sciences faculty recognize that it is in the best interests of their students to be familiar with people and places around the world. As a result, several Arts and Sciences faculty members made trips outside of the United States during 2003 for a wide variety of purposes. Two international trips of note were by Dr. Stephen Teller and Denise Bertoncino.

Dr. Teller, of the English Department, attended the Stratford [Ontario] Shakespeare festival. At that festival he attended three Shakespeare plays: "Troilus and Cressida," "Pericles," and the "Taming of the Shrew."

Bertoncino, associate professor in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department, took 14 students to France and Italy during the summer of 2003 to study architecture.

Major gift officer raises funds for Arts & Sciences

The Office of Development has announced the addition of a major gift officer who will help raise funds to benefit the College of Arts and Sciences. Brad Hodson, PSU Director of Development, announced that Johnna Schremmer was chosen to represent the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education as the university seeks to expand support for academic fundraising. Schremmer is one of two major gift officers added to the Development staff. The second, Scott Roberts, represents the College of Technology and the College of Business.

Schremmer was a sales associate and realtor with Coldwell Banker Jim Bishop and Associates of Pittsburg prior to joining the PSU staff. She earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from PSU. She was very active in campus activities at PSU, including being involved in the Presidential Emerging Leaders and the Senior Gift Council. More recently, Schremmer has been active in Pittsburg community activities. She currently serves as president of the Pittsburg Little Balkans Festival Board.
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**A & S alumni honored**

Pittsburg State University honored two Arts and Sciences graduates with the PSU Outstanding Alumni Award in the fall of 2003.

**Sandeep Mukerjee**

Sandeep Mukerjee, M.D., is currently the medical director of anesthesiology at Sand Lake Hospital Division in Orlando, Fla. He is also a staff anesthesiologist with the Wolverine Anesthesia Consultants, M.D., P.A., and vice chairman for the Department of Surgery for the Sand Lake Hospital Division. He serves on the peer review committee and medical staff leadership at Sand Lake Hospital. He also is an associate professor in the CRNA program at Barry University in Miami, Fla.

Dr. Mukerjee earned a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry from PSU in 1983. He was named the PSU Outstanding Senior Man in 1983. He earned a medical degree from the Kansas University Medical Center School of Medicine in 1988. His certifications include: diplomat - National Board of Medical Examiners, and diplomat - American Board of Anesthesiology. He is a member of the American Medical Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, Florida Medical Association, Florida Society of Anesthesiologists, International Anesthesia Research Society, and Orange County Medical Society. Dr. Mukerjee resides in Orlando, Florida, with his wife Bratai, and their children Kierin and Jenna.

**Segaran P. Pillai**

Segaran P. Pillai, Ph.D., SM (AAM) is a microbiologist/molecular geneticist. He currently serves as the director of the Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, Miami, Fla.

Dr. Pillai is a voluntary assistant professor of medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He also is a member of the program advisory council of the Nova Southeastern University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, master of public health program. He serves as editor of the “Archives of Dermatology.”

He earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from PSU in 1989, graduating with departmental academic honors. He earned a master’s degree in science in biology (medical physiology) with departmental honors in 1990 from PSU. He earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry/molecular genetics in 1995 from the University of Kansas. He holds board certifications and licensure with the National Registry of Microbiologists and the American Academy of Microbiology.

He has earned numerous academic awards and honors. Dr. Pillai is an honorary member of Tri Beta Society and Phi Kappa Phi. He is a member of the American Society for Microbiology; Environmental Mutagen Society; Sigma Xi, the scientific research society; the New York Academy of Sciences; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for international scholars; Florida Public Health Association; and the Association for Public Health Laboratories. Dr. Pillai has published more than 30 articles, presented at 18 conferences, and has three patents. Dr. Pillai and his wife, Christine, live in Miami, Fla.
Student athletes excel in the classroom

In the 2003-2004 academic year, there were 66 student athletes who were majoring in departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. This represents about 25% of the 250 student athletes at Pittsburg State University. They are listed below under their sports with majors indicated. Many of these athletes were not only starters on their teams, but they are also excellent students.

The fact that Pitt State actively recruits good students as athletes is reflected in the fact that 50% of our student athletes had a 3.00 or higher cumulative grade point average. The three highest team grade point averages for the fall were women's cross country at 3.80, volleyball at 3.56, and softball at 3.55.

Pittsburg State University continues to produce more CoSIDA Academic All-Americans than any other NCAA Division II institution, following the completion of the 2003-04 academic year. Pittsburg State has produced 28 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans (as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America) since January 2000 to lead all Division II institutions. PSU produced five CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in the 2003-04 academic year. Pittsburg State led all Division II schools in CoSIDA Academic All-America placement in the 1990s with 39 honorees and now has produced 67 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in the past 14 years, averaging nearly five honorees per year.

Pittsburg State University also graduates student athletes at a significantly higher rate than the graduation rate for all students. In fact, PSU student athletes graduate at a rate above the national average and above the average for the Mid-American Athletic Conference. So it continues to be true that at Pittsburg State University, the word “student” is a vital part of the phrase, “student athlete.”

BASEBALL
Michael Campbell, Biology; Joe Garrison, Biology; Jason Guess, Justice Studies; Mickey Nichol, Social Studies (History); Daniel Shepard, Communication; Kyle Wade, Biology; Dan Walters, Biology

VOLLEYBALL
Marianne Carrier, History; Lyndsay Shineman, Nursing; Lyndsey Watson, Political Science

FOOTBALL
Nahan Alleman, Chemistry; Tim Austin, Communication; Ramon Barber, Biology; David Blanco, Biology; Tyler Colums, Physics; Caleb Guermsey, Biology; Ryan Hellwig, Social Studies (History); Chris Jaxx, History; Jeremy Neville, Social Studies (History); Justin Olds, Justice Studies; Craig Pauly, Biology; Neal Philpot, Biology; Germaine Race, Political Science; Michael Rose, Biology; Scot Schiefelbein, Biology; Justin Shepard, English; Nick Smith, Geography; Laramie Todd, Biology; Scott Walker, Chemistry (Pre-pharmacy); Brent Watson, Justice Studies; Chad Weeks, Social Studies (History); Nathan West, Social Studies (History)

SOFTBALL
Anna Bott, Biology; JoAnna Brozovich, Biology; Cassie Bueche, Biology; Emily Gastineau, Biology; Katie Henderson, Chemistry

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Maggie Apt, Nursing -- switched to an undeclared major.; Nikki Pierce, English

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK AND FIELD
Amy Beckwith, Biology; Jessica Casley, Biology; Vanessa DoRasario, Communication; Lisa Douglass, Chemistry; Jennifer Durkin, Communication; Marty Garrison, Biology; Courtney Howard, Social Science; Kristi Julian, Mathematics; Melissa McCoy, Justice Studies; Margaret Mohr, Mathematics; Megan Nelson, English; Natalie Nee, Communication; Abbey Oshel, Biology; Jen Roe, Nursing; Stephanie Rohner, Biology; Leah Shireman, Communication

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK AND FIELD
Kyle Becker, Biology; Adrian Boyd, Social Science; Kyle Brown, Biology; Justin Johnson, Biology; Robert Oneljo, Social Science; Matthew Pappas, Biology; Brett Pettibon, Social Science; Lance Reichenberger, Biology; Garrett Reist, Communication

MENS BASKETBALL
Greg Campbell, Biology; Wes Thornton, Mathematics

Following are some individual biographies written by Sports Information Director Dan Wilkes.

Dan Walters - Biology
Walters is a junior member of the PSU baseball team. The Erie, Kan., native earned All-MIAA honors in each of his freshman and sophomore seasons (2002-03) and was named the MIAA Freshman of the Year in 2002. He also has been a member of the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll with a 3.48 GPA.

Marianne Carrier - History
Carrier completed a stand-out four-year career in the PSU volleyball program in 2003. The Wichita, Kan., native earned All-MIAA honors in each of her final three seasons with the Gorillas. She helped PSU record a school-best 26-8 overall record in 2003, helping the Gorillas to their first-ever NCAA Division II post-season berth. Carrier also has been recognized on the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll and on the MIAA All-Academic Team with a 3.49 GPA.

Neal Philpot - Biology
Philpot is a senior member of the PSU football team. He is entering his fourth year as PSU's starting quarterback. The Norton, Kan., native earned All-America (see Athletes, pg. 10)
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  
1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762-7518  
telephone: 620/235-4863.
Class of '42
Maryba E. (Walje) Dungans, BS, is retired from the U.S. Civil Service and lives in Shawnee, Kan. She and her late husband have six children: Ruth Hanson; Herbert W. Dungans, Jr.; Charles L. Dungans; Kathryn L. Scherer; and Philip E. Dungans.

Class of '64
Valerie Squires Foons, BSED, is a leasing consultant. She and her husband, Craig, live in Lawrence, Kan., where he is a computer account executive. They have two children: Cam, an Apple Computer systems engineer; and Kelly, an assistant women's soccer coach at KU.

Class of '68
William Hoffman III, BS, is the maintenance person for an apartment complex for the elderly. His wife, Mary, is a bank teller at Commercial Bank. They live in Oswego. The Hoffmans have three children and six grandchildren. One daughter and one son-in-law are also PSU alumni.

Class of '69
Teitheel (Chandler) Campbell, MS (Music), is retired. She and her husband, Bob, live in Parsons, Kan. She has completed two terms as president of the Kansas Federation of Music Clubs.

Class of '70
Timothy J. Bergen, Jr., MS & EdS, is the associate dean for academic affairs and a professor in the college of education at the University of South Carolina – Columbia. Timothy received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1974. He recently served as a Fulbright Fellow at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. While there, he taught English to land mine victims at Wat Thanh Pagoda. Timothy has taught previously in Mexico, Egypt, Korea, Brazil and Israel. Timothy and his wife, Loretta, live in Columbia, S.C. They have two sons: Tim and Michael.

Class of '71
Stephen Wiard, BA, BSED (History/Political Science), is pastor of the EI Pueblito United Methodist Church in Taos, N.M. After receiving his commission through ROTC in 1972, Stephen spent 18 years as a high school social science teacher in Council Grove, Kan. Stephen served three two-year terms in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1988 until 1994. He has two children. His son, Erik, is in the U.S. Coast Guard and his daughter, Erin, is an attorney in Jackson Hole, Wyo. To celebrate his 54th birthday, Stephen went skydiving.

Class of '72
Stephen Rother, BA (History), is a retired supervisory special agent of the FBI and lives in Springfield, Va. He is currently in his second career with Northrup Grumman Mission Systems, a Washington, D.C., defense contractor. Rother's oldest daughter, Erin, graduated from Fordham University and is currently in graduate school at City University of New York. Daughter Kelly is working and attending George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Son Brian is a corporal in the Marine Corps and is stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Class of '78
Philip A. Cenedo, BS, is a general surgeon in Pittsburg. He and his wife, Melissa Butcher Cenedo, have four children: Aaron, Ashley, A.J. and Alexandra.

Class of '81
Rod Percy, BS, and his wife, Loretta, are both social workers for the State of Missouri. They live in Nevada, Mo.

Karen (Taylor) Mason, BSED (Vocational Education), is a Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher at East Newton High School. She lives in Stella, Mo. Karen was recently elected vice president elect of the Family and Consumer Sciences Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). Karen has one daughter, Miranda Babb.

Joe Johnson, BSED & MSED, has begun a new Christian sports ministry called Next Play Sports. His wife, Elizabeth (Thomas) Johnson, BSN '84, is also involved in the ministry. Previously, Joe spent 18 years teaching and coaching basketball and served for four years with Athletes in Action. The Johnsons live in Lee's Summit, Mo. They have four sons: Thomas, Craig, Ailan and Michael.

Class of '82
Donald W. Wimmer, BS & MS (Biology), is a registered land surveyor in Marion, Ind. His wife, Lisa K. (Fisher) Wimmer (BSN '84) is a registered nurse. They have two children, Joshua and Christopher. Last year Donald completed the requirements to be registered as a land surveyor in Indiana.

Class of '83
Dann Brown, BS & MS (Biology), is an associate professor of agriculture at Eastern New Mexico University. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Portales, N.M. She is the district manager of the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau. He is currently serving as the president of the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association.

Class of '84
Jon M. Lee, BS (English), is a teacher and coach at Andover High School. His wife, Teresa (BSED '84), is a teacher at Towanda Elementary School. The Lees, who live in Andover, have four children: David, Tony, Hannah and Shauna. David is a redshirt freshman on the PSU football team is a third-generation Gorilla, following his parents and his grandparents (James and Joyce Lee, classes of '60 & '62).

Class of '85
Brent T. Crandon, BS (Biology), is a doctor of optometry in Lawrence, Kan. His wife, Elizabeth, is also an optometrist. Brent has been in private practice in Lawrence since 1989. Additionally, he has done volunteer medical work in Guatemala and Honduras. Brent and Elizabeth have three daughters: Lauren, Stephanie and Erica.

Class of '90
Jeanne Dunbar, BS & MA (English Lit), is a graduate assistant and is teaching English classes part-time at PSU. Dunbar returned to PSU to work on her master's degree in justice studies. She is also writing grant proposals to get funding for a new project, COPING (Children of Incarcerated Parents Needing Guidance). Her stepson, Chase Lee Miller, Pittsburg, has a new baby boy, Damien Kane Miller. Her stepdaughter is Carmella Nadene Robinson.

Class of '91
Kristen Humphrey, BSW, is a research associate at the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas. She completed her Ph.D. in Special Education at KU. Her husband, Scott Norman (BST '90), is a technical training instructor for Daimler/Chrysler. Kristen and Scott live in Olathe. They have two children: Violet, born in 2001, and Elliott, born in 2003.
Class of ’93
Wayne Gilmore, BS (Biology), is an optometrist in Parsons. His wife, Tracy (Hines), is a pharmacist. They have two sons, Luke and Zachary. Wayne was recently honored as a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

Class of ’94
Rochelle M. (Bailey) Marsh, BFA, is the innkeeper for the Halcyon House Bed and Breakfast in Lawrence, Kan. Her husband, Curtis N. Marsh, IV, is the associate director of marketing for continuing education at the University of Kansas.

Class of ’97
Brian Johnson, BSW, is a social worker with Value Options, Inc., in Glendale, Ariz. His wife, Patricia, is a fourth grade teacher at Tomahawk Elementary School. They have one child, Xavier, who was born in January 2003.

Class of ’99
Danielle Lythgo-Beitzinger, BS (Fashion Merchandising), was a buyers’ assistant for Steve’s Shoes until deciding to stay home with her children. Her husband, Brian Beitzinger (Marketing ’93), is in pharmaceutical sales with Apria Healthcare. They live in Olathe with their two daughters.

Class of ’01
Robyn Moss, BME, has returned to her hometown of Leon, Kan., to take a position as director of bands at her alma mater.

Jessica Frakes, BS, is an interior designer for Metzler Remodeling in Kansas City, Mo. Her husband, Jon Frakes, is a welder for a local pipe company. The Frakes live in Atchison with their daughter, Lillian Marie, who was born in August 2002. Jessica recently won awards for two of her projects. One was first-place for a kitchen remodel of $30,000 and under. Another was first-place for a kitchen remodel of $60,000 and under. Jessica is working toward becoming a certified kitchen and bath designer.

Class of ’02
Chasity (Pearce) Ware, BSED (Family & Consumer Science), teaches FACS at Miami R-I School in Amoret, Mo. Her husband, Brian, is a union painter for Advanced Protective Coating. The Wares live in Blue Mound, Kan. They have three children: Brileigh, Brielle and Brance.

Centennial art
Mark Switlik, BFA 1979, has reason to smile now that he has completed the Centennial Mural at PSU. Switlik, who now lives in Phoenix, Ariz., worked on the massive project during the summers of 2003 and 2004. He put the finishing touches on the painting in early August.

A prolific muralist, Switlik was not intimidated by the 41-foot by 43-foot area on the north end of Nation Hall that was chosen for the painting. The challenge, he said, was the complexity of the work, which includes more than 20 images that reflect important events and themes in the university’s history.

The mural was planned with the future as well as history in mind. The paint Switlik chose is a special German paint that bonds with the brick surface. It includes ground quartz, which gives the mural a bright, almost iridescent look. Switlik estimated that the paint should easily last 50 or 60 years before needing any maintenance.

Switlik has painted murals in many cities and overseas, but coming home to his alma mater was obviously special for the artist. During his weeks on campus, he took special joy in visiting with students and getting their reaction to the work as it evolved.

“Most seemed to like it,” he said.

Scholarly publications in social work
Wayne Busby, Social Work, had papers published in the 2003 “Selected Papers: Image of the City Conference.” One paper was titled “Urban Geography and Economic Opportunity.” The other was “Income and Inflation: Unraveling the Mystery.” More importantly, Busby was selected as a keynote speaker at the Poverty Coalition conference. The coalition published a piece by Busby called “Poverty Is: Program on Understanding Poverty, A Multidiscipline Approach.”
Athletes (from pg. 6)

honors and was named the MIAA’s Offensive MVP as a junior in 2003. Philpot is one of only three quarterbacks in NCAA Division II history to rush for more than 2,000 yards and pass for more than 4,000 yards in a career. He also is a two-time member of the MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll with a 3.0 GPA.

Nick Smith - Geography

Smith is a junior member of the PSU football team. After battling injuries, he is bidding to see significant action in the Gorillas defensive secondary in 2004. The Pittsburg native was the Kansas All-State, All-Class quarterback as a senior at St. Mary’s-Colgan High in 2000, playing for his father and PSU graduate Chuck Smith. He is a member of the MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll with a 3.05 GPA.

Emily Gastineau - Biology

Gastineau is a sophomore member of the PSU softball team. She is in her first year as a starting first baseman after transferring to PSU from St. Gregory’s (Okla.) University. The Clinton, Okla., native has been featured in Faces In The Crowd in Sports Illustrated after setting a pair of NCAA Division II records this spring. She has set a Division II single-game record with two grand slams in a game, and she now holds Division II single-season and career records for grand slams (4). Gastineau, who has a perfect 4.0 GPA, also has set an MIAA single-season record for RBI.

Amy Beckwith - Biology

Beckwith is a junior member of the PSU cross country and track & field programs. The Fort Scott, Kan., native is in her first year competing for the Gorillas. She helped the PSU cross country team capture its third straight MIAA title in 2003. Beckwith, who has a 3.44 GPA, also is the sports editor for The Collegio, PSU’s student newspaper.

Abbey Oshel - Biology

Oshel is a senior member of the PSU cross country and track & field programs. The Clay Center, Kan., native is an All-American in the 1,500 meters in track & field. She also is a three-time All-MIAA cross country performer, helping PSU to three straight conference titles and trips to the NCAA Division II National Championships. Oshel also earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors in 2003. She is an MIAA Presidential Scholar, a member of the MIAA All-Academic Team and the MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll. Oshel was a finalist for the 2002-03 Ken B. Jones Award as the MIAA’s Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She has a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Leah Shireman - Communication

Shireman is a junior member of the PSU track & field team. The Girard, Kan., native earned All-America honors in the javelin as a sophomore for PSU in 2003. She was an NJCAA All-American in the event before transferring to PSU from Johnson County Community College.

Brett Pettibon - Social Science

Pettibon is a junior member of the PSU track & field team. The Moundville, Mo., native entered 2004 as a three-time All-MIAA performer in the horizontal jumps and as a member of relay teams. He helped PSU capture a conference title in the 1,600 meter relay in 2003. He is a member of the MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll with a 3.3 GPA.

Wes Thornton - Mathematics

Thornton is a senior member of the PSU basketball team. The Lenexa, Kan., native helped PSU post an 18-11 overall record in 2003-04. He started all 29 games, averaging 8.9 points and 6.9 rebounds from his forward position. Thornton overcame a shoulder injury from his sophomore season to return to PSU’s starting lineup this winter.
Library honors PSU authors


Additionally, published authors of articles, conference papers, poems, book chapters and reviews were recognized with a display of their works in the Library Browsing Area. Article authors' works displayed included Dixie Smith and Virginia Rider, Biology; Kathleen DeGrave, Stephen Meats, and Kathleen L. Nichols, English; Lynette Olson, College of Arts & Sciences; Kelly Woestman, History; Tadeusz Dobrowolski, Ananda Jayawardhana, and Cynthia Woodburn, Mathematics; Paul Smith, Modern Languages and Literature; Kandace Landreneau, Nursing; Debbie Burns, administrative assistant for the Department of History, "Journal of Managerial Issues," assistant editor.

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Grant (from pg. 1)

for two weeks each summer for the next three years and will also attend one-day colloquia each fall and spring. Nationally recognized scholars will come to Parsons each summer to serve as the lead historians.

Primary sources will be emphasized in the first year. This past summer, Dr. Constance B. Schulz of the University of South Carolina shared her expertise about incorporating documentary photography analysis into teaching history. She is the author of "Bust to Boom: Documentary Photographs of Kansas, 1936-1949."

Legal and constitutional history will be the focus of the second year. Chapman Distinguished Professor of History Paul Finkleman of the University of Tulsa College of Law will be the lead historian.

Dr. Sandra Mathews-Lamb of Nebraska-Wesleyan University will be the lead historian for the third year when the program emphasizes social history.

Additionally, teachers will take online and IDL courses from PSU and conduct research in the National Archives. As teachers decide which areas of American history to study further, they will take research trips to other archival facilities including Washington, D.C.; Fort Worth, Texas; and Chicago.
No news isn’t always good news!
Please drop us a line and let us know about your latest endeavors.

Mail to: Linda Rybnick, Office of Development/Advancement Services, Pittsburg State University, 401 East Ford Avenue, Pittsburg, KS 66762

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