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Pittsburg State University College of Arts & Sciences

Universitas

Pittsburg State University • College of Arts & Sciences Newsletter • Vol. 13 Issue 1

ROTC shapes lives

Together, The Pittsburg State University College of Arts and Sciences and Army ROTC have a long history of shaping young lives. Talk to just about any alumnus and the same themes of leadership and responsibility emerge. Following are the stories of four PSU alumni whose careers have taken different paths, but each gives credit to Pittsburg State, ROTC and the Army for helping them become the people they are today.

Dr. Ron Seglie

RON SEGLIE

When Ron Seglie grew up in Franklin and Arma, Kansas, in the '50s, he was surrounded by World War II veterans. He still feels the impression they made on him.

When Seglie entered Pittsburg State University in the early '60s, ROTC was a big part of his life, as it was for many students of the day.

"Well over half of my fraternity brothers at Sigma Chi were in ROTC," he said.

Seglie earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from PSU in 1965 and applied to medical school. At the same time, he began his Army service and was originally sent to Air Defense School. His assignment changed, however, when he was accepted into medical school at the University of Kansas. After medical school, the Army sent Dr. Seglie to Germany where he served as a flight surgeon and was in command of a hospital.

Following his regular Army service Seglie remained in the Reserves and did a tour of duty in Iraq. Seglie maintains a close relationship with the PSU ROTC program and is a frequent speaker at ROTC functions.

Seglie, who maintains a busy medical practice in Pittsburg, said his experiences at PSU, in the ROTC and in the Army have had a tremendous influence on his life.

"College changed me," Seglie said. "I was the first member of my family to go to college."

In ROTC, Seglie said, he learned the principles and self-discipline that would become the foundation of much of his later success.

The Army not only provided great leadership experience, but it also gave him the opportunity to keep learning.

"The experience of being in command of a hospital in Germany and then later in a desert is an awesome responsibility to have," Seglie said.

To Seglie, those leadership opportunities are things that ROTC and military service can offer a young student.

"You are given responsibility far beyond your years," Seglie said. "Students who have these

(see ROTC, *pg. 9)*

Walk features art

The Art Department helped organize Pittsburg's first Art Walk in April. Hundreds of citizens strolled the city's streets where they enjoyed a warm spring evening, live music and art at several locations from downtown to the PSU campus.

Stephanie Bowman, director of the university's art galleries said the idea for a community art walk had its genesis several years ago.

"When I arrived in Pittsburg back in 2001, one of the first people I met was Alan Ross,"

(see Walk, *pg. 13)*

From the Dean

As you know, the College of Arts & Sciences is broad and diverse. This past year, we graduated the largest number of undergraduate students of all the colleges at Pittsburg State University. This is in addition to hosting the bulk of General Education courses for the university. We can assume that nearly every undergraduate student enrolled at PSU will at some point be touched by the College of Arts & Sciences. We take the business of higher education seriously in the college and seek to keep our programs competitive and responsive to the needs of today's students while maintaining the academic integrity of our disciplines. Current CAS initiatives supporting this venture:

- This summer we will launch a number of online general education courses.
- Next fall, the Department of Communication will begin offering their graduate program through the Kansas City Metro Center.
- The Bachelor of Integrated Studies program was legislated this spring, allowing for the development of interdisciplinary programs across departments and colleges.
- An additional instructional support specialist will be hired this summer to assist faculty, students and staff in the development of contemporary media skills.
- With the assistance of the past three years' student equipment fee initiative and other resources, 28 classrooms in eight different buildings within the college are now media ready and utilized by faculty for enhanced instruction.

This issue of Universitas will introduce you once more to a variety of students, faculty and alumni of the College. The spotlight, however, is on the Department of Military Science. Since becoming CAS Dean in 2001, I have witnessed 69 cadets commissioned. This issue of Universitas features CAS graduates who benefited from leadership development of the ROTC program across the years. Their careers in the Army led them to fulfilling and successful experiences. ROTC has been a part of university life at PSU since 1950. We appreciate and honor the service of all of our fine men and women who have served our country as a result of their experience at PSU.

Once again, I will ask that as an alumnus of CAS you help us accomplish our mission. We can use your support in a variety of ways. Please keep in touch and let us know how the foundation you built while at PSU is helping you today. Also, share this insight with prospective students. Recruitment in higher education is a highly competitive enterprise today. We need you to refer students to Pittsburg State University and the College of Arts & Sciences. And as always, costs continue to rise so that your gifts make an incredible difference in the lives of students and in the efforts of our faculty and staff. Please continue to give!

My best wishes for a wonderful year! I hope to greet you on campus one day soon.

Lynette J. Olson, Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

Kansas Senate honors art professor

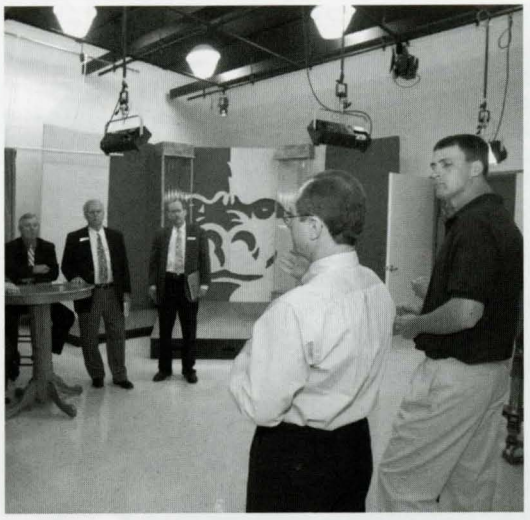
The Kansas Senate honored University Professor Marjorie Schick, Department of Art, this spring for her international, national, and state accomplishments. Sen. James Barone sponsored Kansas Senate Resolution No. 1820 congratulating and commending Schick for her "promotion of the arts" and for her "exemplary service as an ambassador for the state of Kansas." Among the honors mentioned in the proclamation is the fact that Schick was made a Fellow of the American Craft Council in 2000 and was chosen as a Kansas Governor's Artist in 2002.

The resolution, which will be a part of the Kansas Senate Record, lists some of the museums that hold Schick's work in their permanent collections, among them the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; and the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto.

The resolution notes a select group of places where Schick has been guest artist, including the National School of Art and Design in Oslo, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Middlesex Polytechnic and the Sir John Cass School of Art in London, and Silapakorn University in Bangkok.

Additionally, Schick's body sculptures and jewelry of non-precious materials have been pictured in numerous art books and periodicals both nationally and internationally and have been featured in solo exhibitions at Galerie RA, Amsterdam; Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and the Museum of Applied Art, Trondheim, Norway among others.

Schick has taught at Pittsburg State University since 1967.



CAPS 13 receives eight state awards

Pittsburg State University's CAPS 13 (Cable Access Pitt State) won eight wards at the Kansas Association of Broadcasters annual banquet in Topeka.

Students from Pittsburg State competed in a variety of broadcasting categories against students from all other colleges and universities in the state of Kansas.

CAPS 13 is Pittsburg State University's cable access channel airing student programming on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the school year. Troy Comeau, director of broadcasting is very proud of this year's accomplishments.

"Eight awards are the most we've ever won in one year at Pittsburg State," said Comeau, "I think this not only says a lot about the quality of students we have at Pitt State, but also to the commitment the administration has put into our program."

Comeau was referring to the recent facility upgrades and the additional faculty position in video/audio production that was given to the Communication Department for next fall.

"We are now in a position to grow and this is an exciting time for our communication students," said Comeau. "The administration saw our needs and the students of Pittsburg State are now beginning to reap the rewards of their hard work."

For more information, contact Troy Comeau, director of Broadcasting, 620-235-4721.

Testing technology

Technology's promise doesn't always materialize. That's what Celia Patterson, English, discovered in a pilot project that integrated wireless laptops into a section of the introductory Technical/ Professional Writing class.

Patterson used a grant to test how using laptop computers would affect the class and, in particular, to determine the feasibility of using peer review. Patterson also hoped to determine whether grading digital versions of assignments would take more or less time than grading paper versions.

Each student in one section of the class received a wireless laptop to use for the semester. Another section of the class was taught in the conventional way to serve as a control group. In the class using the laptops, drafts of assignments were distributed for peer review 24 hours in advance. Students were required to logon to a forum at class time from a remote location to ask questions or post comments.

Patterson discovered that many students did not send their drafts in time for the peer reviewers to read them before the forum. Likewise, peer reviewers often didn't return drafts in time for the authors to make revisions before the assignments were due. Students with slow Internet connections found it difficult to keep up with the forum.

The digital assignments turned out to take more time to grade. Initially, Patterson found that grading the digital work took nearly four times longer to grade than the paper versions, although part of the problem was the inefficiency of the software used for online submission and grading.

Although the best use of technology in writing courses remains a matter of research and discussion, the experiment did prove some early concerns unfounded. None of the laptops were lost, stolen or damaged and no student forgot to bring the laptop to class on designated days.

With the conclusion of the experiment, the laptops began a second life in the Technical/ Professional Writing classroom where they are now part of a wireless computer lab for all sections of the class.

English adds graduate program in creative writing

Beginning in the fall, the English Department will offer a new graduate emphasis in creative writing. Currently, the department offers a master of arts degree in English with emphases in literature, professional writing and rhetoric, or teaching English in community college. Currently, there are 21 graduate students in English.

According to Laura Lee Washburn, director of the Creative Writing Program, "Many of the English Department faculty have been considering the new emphasis (or hoping for it) for some time."

PSU alumni, friends turn out for choir tour

From Boston to Montreal, the PSU Choir met Pitt State alumni on their spring tour who were eager to listen to their music and share a few words about events on campus. Susan Marchant, director, said she had notified PSU friends and alumni of the choir's tour March 17-24 and they turned out at every stop.

For the choir, the tour was an opportunity not only to perform in some of the most celebrated choral venues, but also to see a bit of the Northeast and experience one of Canada's most cosmopolitan cities.

The tour began in Boston where the choir performed for the prelude to the Sunday worship at Memorial Church at Harvard University. That evening, the PSU students served as the official choir for the Choral Eucharist service at Trinity Church on Copley Square, one of the most famous buildings in Boston.

The choir then traveled to Burlington, Vt., for a concert at the First Congregational Church. In Montreal, the choir performed a full-length concert at Christ Church Cathedral.

Along the way, there was time for tours of the C.B. Fisk Organ Shop and the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream factory as well as visits to the Gloucester, Mass., fishing community, the beach, Fenway Park, numerous historical sights and shopping.

Reaching for the stars

A team of Pittsburg State University students has lived the Kansas motto this year and while the students may not have actually reached the stars, their dreams have taken them well beyond the bounds of Earth.

The team of four students designed and flew an experiment that was selected to go on a NASA zero-gravity research plane this spring in Houston. Three members of the team then flew with the experiment on the research plane.

The students who designed the experiment that NASA selected for its Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program put two years of work into their project. The team included majors in physics, electronics engineering and commercial graphics.

The student experiment was Crystal Oscillator Acceleration Sensitivity Testing or COAST. The experiment was designed to help learn what effects different levels of gravity have on the operation of crystal oscillators, which are critical to communication with satellites.

The NASA plane simulates everything from zero gravity to twice Earth's gravity by alternately climbing and diving during its flight.

PSU Teammates Jeremy Burnison and Cassie Stuckey enjoy the feeling of weightlessness during a flight on a NASA research plane.

The students who flew on the NASA flight said they were held to rigorous scientific and physical standards by the space agency. Even after the experiment passed NASA's strict scientific standards, the flight was not guaranteed. Before they could fly, the students were required to pass physical tests at the space flight center.

On the flight, the students not only collected large amounts of valuable data, which will take some time to analyze, they also felt what it is like to float in space and imagine what it may be like to embark an a journey beyond our planet. At least one of the team members still dreams of that possibility. Cassandra Stuckey, Pittsburg, has hopes of applying to the space program. Stuckey, who graduated in May with degrees in physics and mathematics, will go to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to work on the TDRS satellite for the summer.

Other members of the team were Emily Pentola, Girard, who graduated in May with a degree in commercial graphics; Jacob Stich, Chanute, who graduated previously and now works as an engineer for Caterpillar; and Jeremy Burnison, Carl Junction, Mo., who graduated in May with a degree in physics and who has accepted a position with Eagle-Picher in Joplin.

Whether any of these students ever actually flies in space, this experience has already put them on some lofty heights among a select group of student teams from some of the best known research universities in the nation.

History professor makes her mark

Like many faculty members at Pittsburg State University, history professor Kelly Woestman is well known among colleagues nationally for the work she does both inside and outside the classroom. Woestman is passionate about improving the way teachers teach history and her enthusiasm is contagious.

Woestman

This past year, Woestman was the only historian chosen to serve on a national committee established to advise and make recommendations to Allen Weinstein, the archivist of the United States. Specifically, the Advisory Committee on the Electronic Records Archives (ACERA) will advise Weinstein on issues related to the development, implementation and use of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) system.

In addition to Woestman, the committee is made up of well-known librarians, archivists and experts on archives digital technology. Woestman said one of the things she can bring to the committee is her perspective as a researcher and user of archival information.

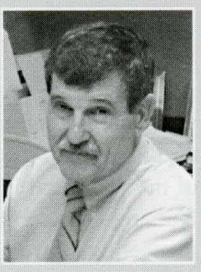
At PSU, Woestman is a professor of history and is director of history education. She is the associate director of two major projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education designed to improve history education in Kansas.

Project Primary Sources is a $930,280 grant through the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center that serves 100 middle school and high school teachers in 37 area school districts. Participating teachers not only enhance their knowledge of American history and correlate lessons to state standards, but also agree to conduct workshops for other teachers.

Project eHIKES (Enhancing History Instruction for Kansas Educators and Students) is a $754,543 grant through the Parsons School District. Project eHIKES seeks to increase historical knowledge and skills of middle/high school teachers by providing them with an understanding of primary and secondary history sources, their context, and research-based instructional strategies. The program emphasizes two themes: evolution of American political democracy from colonial days to the present-Constitution, Civil War, slavery, emancipation, and civil rights; and the changing character of American society and culture-arts, letters, education, thought, religion and values.

At PSU, Woestman is an enthusiastic advocate for the use of modern technology in teaching history. A colleague in the American Historical Association recently noted that she is among the pioneers in the use of blogs as a tool for teaching history to students.

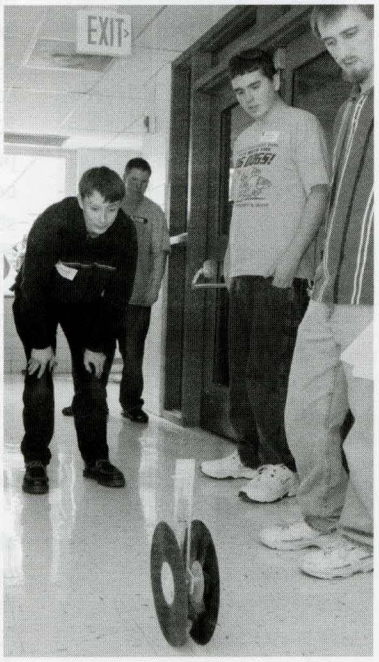
Triplett enters hall of fame



Jim Triplett, chairman of the Biology Department, has a growing reputation as an expert in resource management and public policy concerning water and stream ecology and solid waste management. This year, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Bureau of Waste Management recognized Triplett's work by inducting him into the Kansas Solid Waste Management Hall of Fame.

Triplett earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from PSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. He has led the PSU Biology Department since 1981. He teaches courses in ichthyology, herpetology, fisheries management and fish culture.

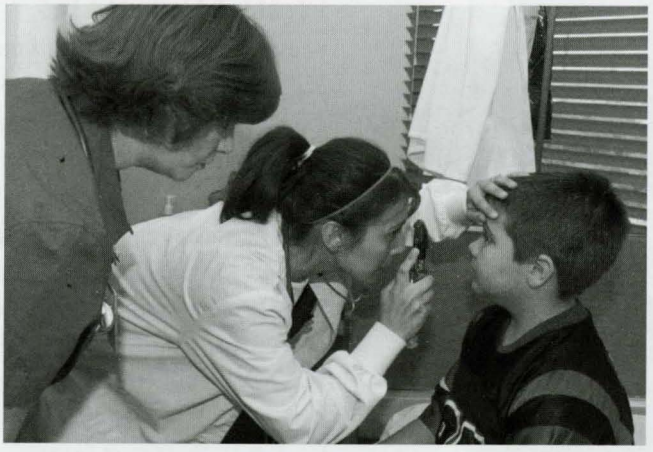
Triplett has served on numerous state, local and regional boards and committees. He has served as chairman of the Neosho Basin Advisory Committee, the Crawford County Solid Waste Planning Committee, the Kansas Special Commission on Surface Water Quality and the Grand/Neosho River Committee. Most recently, Triplett was asked to serve on the Kansas Geological Survey Advisory Committee and was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Southeast Kansas Recycling Inc.



Ben Jones, left, watches his Central High School team's mousetrap-powered car perform during competition at the annual PSU Science Day. Through events like Science Day and Math Relays, hundreds of four-state students not only have fun with math, chemistry, biology and physics, but also have an opportunity to consider continuing their educational careers at Pittsburg State.

Pitt State helps battle nursing shortage

New online courses and increased clinical enrollment are just two of the ways that PSU's Nursing Department is meeting a growing need for quality nurses. Mary Carol Pomatto, chairperson of the department, said that the department is addressing the needs of its diverse student body.



Students in the Department of Nursing assist with free medical examinations for students in the National Youth Sports Program.

According to Pomatto, nursing shortages are due to an increased demand in health care and not a decrease in nursing program applicants. Among the reasons for this demand, Pomatto cites an aging baby boom generation and changes in available health care that have created niches for nurses where none previously existed. She also said that the skills developed in the nursing program are skills that are in high demand in other areas of the workforce.

"Nursing students make attractive hires in other fields," Pomatto said.

Pomatto said nursing students are highly motivated and excel at leadership, organization, and communication among other qualities. The department takes pride in its 100 percent job placement for nursing graduates.

In the fall 2005 semester, the Nursing Department increased its upper-level clinical admittees by 10 percent. The department now admits 66 students each year into its upper-level clinical program. Pomatto said that PSU's program tends to be competitive and that the recent increase in admittees to the clinical program has helped. Federal and state guidelines regulate the ratio of instructors to students in the Nursing Department, Pomatto said, making the recent increase an "enormous accomplishment."

Pomatto estimated that a new online program will be available in the fall 2006 semester that will also help produce more bachelor's degree nurses. This program will allow students who are RNs with an associate's degree to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing, a BSN. Other programs similar to this exist in other parts of the country, but many students still prefer an online program that is based locally, according to Pomatto.

In addition to these recent changes, Pomatto said, the department is continuously looking toward the future. Preliminary work is being done to identify the long-term needs of the department. Eventually, a fundraising drive will provide for new technology in the department and additional scholarships for students.

In the meantime, PSU's nursing students are familiar faces in the local community. Pomatto said that a necessary complement to classroom learning is clinical work, and students enjoy being involved in the southeast Kansas community in a variety of ways. Recently, nursing students held a health fair at Cornerstone Assisted Living and screened an estimated 250-300 individuals as a part of their gerontology course. PSU's nursing students hold an Annual Heart Walk and provide blood drives and immunizations for area residents. The department also has a presence in the Pittsburg USD 250 school system where they provide health education.

For more information about nursing degree programs at PSU, call the department at 620-235-4431 or visit the department Web site at www.pittstate.edu/nurs.

Construction students help make Outdoor Education Center updates

Students in the Biology Department are working with students in PSU's Construction Engineering Technology program to make major improvements at the Monahan Outdoor Education Center and the Natural History Research Reserve.

Two projects are underway. The first is a pit toilet being built near the Pavilion. The facility will serve those groups using the Pavilion area. The second is a wetland being built at the south end of the reclaimed grassland.

At the Research Reserve, the building that housed Nature Reach's Raptor Rehab program and labs has been demolished. The department hopes to replace the building with new construction soon.

For progress updates and photos, check out the Web site at www.pittstate.edu/biol/construction/construction.html.

Growth

Pitt State, Army National Guard break ground on joint project

The Department of Military Science and ROTC will have a new home thanks to an unusual cooperative effort between the university and federal and state entities.

Because of rain, participants in the groundbreaking for the Student Recreation Center/National Guard Armory, turned dirt in John Lance Arena. Pictured above (from l to r): LTG (Ret.) Robert Arter, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army; U.S. Congressman Jim Ryun; Ginger Niemann, president of the PSU Student Government Association; Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, adjutant general of Kansas; Gov. Kathleen Sebelius; and PSU President Tom Bryant.

PSU held a groundbreaking ceremony this spring for a $15-million Student Recreation Center/ Pittsburg Armory to be built just east of Rouse Street. In addition to offices for Military Science and ROTC; the building will house offices and classrooms for the College of Education's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; and space for a new student recreation center. The recreation center will include cardio equipment, free weights, an aerobics room and gymnasiums.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Congressman Jim Ryun and the adjutant general of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting all participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies. The speakers emphasized the unusual cooperative nature of the project, which has been more than a decade in the making. Funding for the project is a combination of federal, state and private dollars.

Construction, which is expected to take about 18 months, will begin in late summer.

Universitas Ron Womble, *Editor*
Universitas is published by the Dean's Office with assistance from the Office of University Communications and is printed by PSU Printing Services. Graphic Design: Paulina O'Malley; Photography: Malcolm Turner. For additional copies or to contribute information, contact:

University Communications, Pittsburg State University, 1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762-7575, 620-235-4122, email: kwomble@pittstate.edu

Fisk Opus 106 turns 10

It's called the king of instruments and in Pittsburg State University's McCray Recital Hall, the organ – specifically the Fisk Opus 106 – reigns supreme.

The 2005-2006 academic year marked the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the Fisk Opus 106 Organ on the PSU campus. Throughout the academic year, the Fisk Organ Series sponsored a number of performers to draw attention to the versatile organ's abilities.

During its first decade, the Fisk Opus 106 has drawn some of the most renowned organists from Europe and the United States to the Pittsburg State campus. The organ has also been heard in collaborative performances with the Southeast Kansas Symphony, the PSU Choirs, and visiting artists such as the Eastman Brass Quintet. The organ has even been featured on the nationally-syndicated radio program "Pipedreams."

According to Susan Marchant, director of choral activities, organ and harpsichord in PSU's Department of Music, the Fisk Opus 106's most important role at PSU is as a teaching tool.

"The organ has served PSU's undergraduate and graduate organ students as one of the finest teaching instruments to be found anywhere," Marchant said. "Perhaps most importantly, the organ has provided many exciting moments for thousands of children who have visited McCray Hall for demonstrations and tours of the organ. This will continue to help build the audience of the future!"

The debut recording of the organ, a CD titled "Traditions," performed by Marchant, was released on the Pro Organo label in 1999 and was distributed to retailers throughout the United States and Europe. Copies of this recording may still be obtained through the Department of Music.

Organ-related activities are supported by a Friends group, the Fisk Opus 106 Organ Society. For further information concerning membership in the Society, contact the Department of Music, 620-235-4476.

Nursing students win national awards

Pittsburg State Nursing students received two national awards at the National Student Nurses Association Convention in Baltimore on April 6. The PSU chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students received the award for the most creative project for Breakthrough to Nursing Recruitment and the award for the outstanding Community Health Project Focusing on Older Adults. Only one award was given in each of those categories.

The Breakthrough to Nursing Recruitment Award was given for visits to grade schools promoting nursing as a profession, for the high school career day promoting nursing, and for promoting nursing with coloring books given to children in the hospital in Juarez. More than 100 persons were given information on the nursing profession and more than 30 nursing students were involved in at least one aspect of the project.

The award for the outstanding Community Health Project Focusing on Older Adults was received for a health fair for the older population in the community. The project was initiated in the class Health Care of Older Adults by two graduating nursing students – Megan Coltrane and Lacey Million with guidance from the instructor, Linda Bitner. Approximately 20 students participated and more than 300 older persons, their children, and grandchildren attended the health fair.

Internships pay off for fashion students

Heidi Himebrook, left, and Lana Ross learned a lot about the fashion industry through summer internships.

Heidi Himebrook certainly paid attention during those "how to land an internship" presentations during her time in college. She recalls being told to treat those question-and-answer sessions with the companies as rehearsals for a job interview – dress up, prepare a resume, and act professional.

So when it came time to prepare for her interview with fashion designer Joseph Abboud for a summer internship at his studio in New York City, Himebrook did just that. No matter to her that because it was a long-distance telephone interview, no one could see the professional outfit she'd chosen to wear. She laughs when admitting it was simply for her benefit.

She is a fashion student after all.

Himebrook is one of several Fashion Merchandising students in PSU's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences who have landed impressive internships with big name designers over the past year. That type of hands-on experience is valuable in any field, but these students say when it comes to working in the world of fashion, having a degree without the experience is like a needle without thread.

For Himebrook, it was a concentrated effort last spring to get her name "out there" that attracted the menswear clothing company. After sending out a stack of resumes from her home one evening, it took only a few hours before she got a call back. The company loved what they heard, and within weeks, she was on a plane to the Big Apple.

"It was definitely a culture shock," said Himebrook, who graduates in May. "I got out of the limo and the first thing I saw was the Brooklyn Bridge. I thought 'I can't believe it. I'm really in New York City.'"

Not much could have topped that moment of arrival, but there was a lot of adjusting to do. For one, the internship – like many in the fashion field – was unpaid, making it a financial hardship to go. "My parents were like, 'That's great that you got it, but there's no way you can go.' But then my mom's boss said 'What are you doing? This is the only place she could be successful. Take a loan out if you have to.' So she changed her mind."

It cost them about $7,000 for Himebrook to stay in the city all summer. But other challenges (leaving her apartment each morning by 5:30 a.m. to get to the studio on time, carrying her cooking utensils back and forth from the communal kitchen), paled in comparison to the "immeasurable" experience of working behind the scenes of a major design company. "When you're in fashion, you learn how to work the system and how long you should stay in each area, like retail," she explained. "I met people on their second and third internships and I was thinking I already

(see Internships, *pg. 15)*

ROTC *(from pg. 1)*

experiences come out leagues ahead of their peers."

Seglie is an enthusiastic advocate for ROTC and military service.

"I think it's a tremendous experience and I'm a firm believer that everyone should give back. It is also an opportunity for students to continue to grow and to learn."

ANDREW JOHNSON

Andrew Johnson was born in Chanute and grew up in Pittsburg. He attended Pittsburg State, then Kansas State College of Pittsburg, in the early '60s and earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the university in 1963.

Johnson was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1963. His first assignment was with the U.S. Army nuclear weapons custodial detachment in Germany. Later, Johnson served with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam, where he served as commander of the division's principle maintenance company and later as liaison between the division and the First Logistics Command.

Andrew Johnson and his wife, Annette.

After his tour in Vietnam, Johnson was assigned to field command at the Defense Nuclear Agency in Albuquerque, N.M., where he was the project director for several nuclear tests. His Army career includes stints in the Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Military Applications, the Inspector General's headquarters in Germany, the Strategic Operations Division of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and the NATO Senior Level Nuclear Weapons Protection Group. In 1988, Johnson was named deputy commander of the Army Nuclear and Chemical Agency. In 1989, then-Col. Johnson retired from the Army.

Since 1999, Johnson has been with Science Applications International Corp. in McLean, Va. He is assigned to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Threat Reduction Support Center. The Threat Reduction Support Center has played a key role in

(continued on next pg.)

Military Science plans reunion

The Pittsburg State University Military Science Department and Army ROTC will host a reunion this fall to honor 54 years of commissioning officers and to celebrate the dedication and sacrifice of more than 1,000 graduates of the program.

The two-day reunion will be held Nov. 10-11 in Pittsburg. An open house will be held from 1-4 p.m. at Hartman Hall on the 10th. A dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m. that evening at the Holiday Inn. Events the following day include a breakfast at 8 a.m. at the PSU Alumni Center, followed by an update about the Military Science Department and ROTC. At 10 a.m., the public is invited to attend a Veteran's Day ceremony at the PSU Veteran's Memorial. At 11:30 a.m., a pre-game tailgate party will be held at the campus lake. The final reunion activity will be the football game between PSU and Central Missouri State University, which kicks off at 2 p.m. The ROTC cadets will perform their traditional push-ups and cannon activities for every Gorilla point.

This is the second reunion celebration the department has organized in the history of the program. The first reunion was held in 2002 to honor the program's 50th year.

"The camaraderie of serving the nation and being a leader in the military is in the forefront of a lot of things now," says CPT Shannon Nicklaus, assistant professor of military science at PSU and former commander of the 891st Engineer Battalion. "You develop a bond with officers who have been commissioned through the same program."

Since PSU's program began in 1952, 1,126 cadets have been commissioned, entering their active duty term as officers in the U.S. Army. Last year, the university ranked in the top 10 percent of all programs for training excellence. In three of the past four years, the program has commissioned a cadet in the top 1 percent of the nation. This year, the department commissioned seven cadets as second lieutenants.

"It's important to recognize the tremendous tradition and reputation that ROTC alums have established over the past 54 years," said Lt. Col. Scott Craig, chairperson of the Military Science Department. "And it's a great way to introduce our current cadets to some of the finest officers of the United States Army."

For more information or to make a reservation, contact the PSU Military Science Department at 620-235-4859 or email snicklau@pittstate.edu.

(continued from previous pg.)

the elimination of strategic nuclear weapon systems in the states of the former Soviet Union.

Johnson gives credit to Pittsburg State and to Army ROTC for developing those characteristics that have made him successful in both his military and civilian careers.

"I was not aware of it while I was in ROTC and at PSU," Johnson said, "but later I learned how well ROTC had prepared me for my long journey in the professional work force. My current job requires me to assist the Defense Threat Reduction Agency to eliminate legacy nuclear weapon delivery systems of the Former Soviet Union. This means that my staff and I develop project requirements, statements of work to be performed, cost estimates, recommendations for the cost effective means to procure the necessary goods and services, recommendations on which contractor to hire, etc. Put this up against the planning that one has to do to carry out an effective combat mission, and you will see the same basic sequence of events and thinking. Likewise, the leadership skills learned in ROTC are just as applicable to corporate life as they are to getting the job done in combat."

KEN CLELAND

Ken Cleland grew up in Arma, Kansas, and graduated from high school there. Today, he still roams the halls of the high school, but now as assistant principal and athletic director of what is now Northeast High School in Arma.

Cleland got his bachelor's degree in history from PSU in 1970. It was the midst of the war in Vietnam and like many of his classmates, Cleland was wondering what the future held for him.

"The top 10 percent got their branch choice," Cleland said, "so I worked hard at that. I wanted to get into military intelligence, but Col. Lynch said, 'You would make a good combat officer,' so that's what I chose."

After training at Fort Knox and Fort Hood, Cleland, was sent to Germany to lead a platoon on the border.

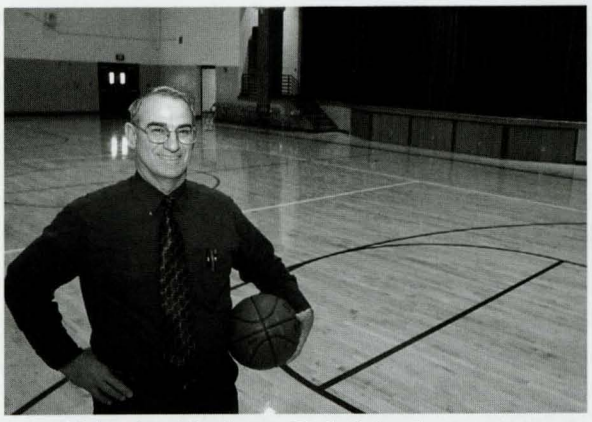
"Our mission was patrolling the East-West border," Cleland recalled.

The 18-month assignment evolved into three years, Cleland said. His wife, Joan, also a PSU graduate, joined him in Germany and it became an experience neither will forget.

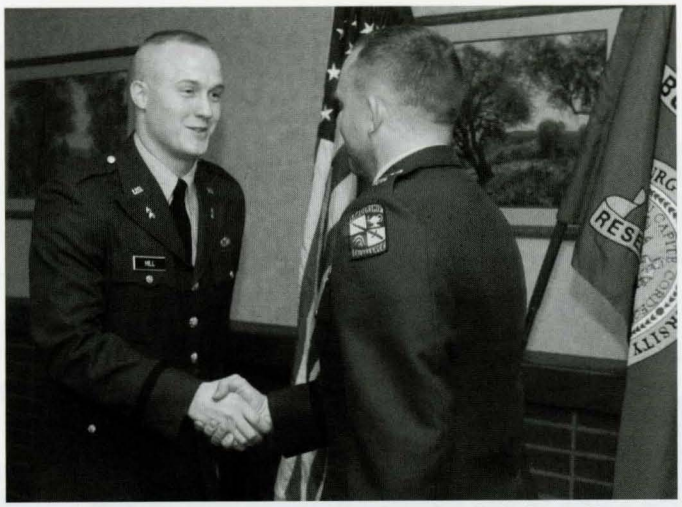
When his duty was finished in 1975, Cleland began teaching and coaching in his hometown and used the G.I. Bill to complete his master's degree at PSU. Today he is assistant principal and athletic director at Northeast High School in Arma. Cleland said his ROTC and military training and experience have helped make him a better teacher and administrator.

"We were given such good training in leadership," Cleland said. "Commanding groups of people gave me skills that have helped me in an educational setting. I wouldn't trade that part of my education for anything."

Cleland said that as he advises and counsels students, he often recommends that they consider ROTC.



Ken Cleland at Northeast High School.



Matt Hill receives his commission from Lt. Col. Scott Craig.

MATT HILL

Matt Hill wants to be a teacher and he thinks his ROTC experience has helped prepare him to be the kind of teacher he would like to be.

Hill, who is currently stationed in Ft. Riley, Kan., grew up in Mapleton, Kan. After graduating from Christian Heights High School in Fort Scott, he attended Fort Scott Community College. Hill came to PSU in 2002 and entered ROTC. He earned a degree in mathematics education from PSU in 2004.

"I was bashful in high school," Hill recalled. "ROTC gave me a lot of confidence. By the time I was finished with ROTC, I had no problem talking to 50 or more soldiers at a time."

Hill discovered how valuable that training was when he did his student teaching, where he taught high school pre-algebra and geometry.

"I loved it!" he said. "ROTC helped me be a better teacher. By nature, I'm a little bit of a pushover, I suppose, but I only had to get on a class one time. I didn't have problems with discipline and ROTC probably helped me with that."

Hill said his ROTC experience also taught him about his chosen profession. In the Army, he said, "There is a lot you have to train and teach. I have learned a lot about how people learn, which helps me as a teacher."

Alumni News

In Memory

Robert F. Edmiston, B.S. in Business Administration, 1955, died in 2005 after fighting pancreatic cancer for 42 months. Robert retired as a lead engineer with the MITRE Corporation of McLean, Va., in 1999, after 15 years of service. He then joined son Jip at eko systems Business Services in Fairfax, Va., until 2004, when he and his wife, Sally, retired together and moved back to Missouri. Sally is also a PSU graduate of 1956 with major in Language and Literature (speech and Journalism).

William Poole, B.S. William passed away on June 17, 2005 with services in Webb City at First Christian Church, followed by Honor Guard service at Mt. Hope cemetery. Graveside services were held in Allerton, Iowa. William was retired from the United States Air Force with 20 years of service. William and his wife, Doris Jeanette, have three children, Michael, Nancy and Mark. Doris now resides in Webb City, Mo.

Class of '37

Mary Magdalene Mertz Stauffer (Meg), B.S. in Home Economics. Meg was a home economics teacher before her marriage to Earl Evans Stauffer in 1940. She was then a librarian in Edna Buschow Memorial Library and was "Granny Meg the Story Lady" for 3-5-year-olds. Mrs. Stauffer's husband suffered a heart attack and died while fighting a house fire as a volunteer fireman in 1966. They have three children: Shirley, Marg Jane and Jim. Meg is a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma and is originally from Fort Scott, Kan.

Oran E. Need, B.S., 1937; M.S., 1938. Oran taught for 39 years and has 62 years of military service, which included both active and retired Air Force Reserves. Oran had Math Department fellowships in 1937 and 1938. He and his wife, Millie, live in Miami, Okla.

Class of '39

William (Bill) Munday, A.B. & M.S. Since William retired in 1977 from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where he was a chemist, he has been involved in the Masonic Lodge where he served as master for one year and secretary for 10 years. He has kept his interests in music, playing violin in the PSU, MSSU and Ozark Christian College orchestras and singing bass in church choirs. William lost his wife, June Stewart, also a PSU graduate of '39, in 2000. He lives in Joplin, Mo., and has two cats.

Class of '40

Margaret (Thompson) Miller, B.S. Margaret and her husband, Paul, live in Wichita and have four children. Timothy is pursuing his doctorate at the University of Kansas. Michael is head of the Reuters News Service Tokyo Bureau. Gretchen is head of administrative judges for southern Oregon, and Jeff teaches institutional management at Colorado State.

Class of '41

Kenneth Johnston, B.S. Kenneth received his master's degree from the University of Colorado in 1954. He taught math and science in the Joplin schools for 33 years. For 10 of those years, he was a principal of North Junior High and the other years at South Junior High. He is now in the Mt. Vernon, Mo., Veteran's Home and is battling Alzheimer's disease. Kenneth and his wife, Vera, have three children: Virginia, Roger and Elaine.

Jane Baxter Spilios, B.S. Jane is a professor of speech at the Los Angeles City College in Los Angeles, Calif. In addition to her PSU degree, she received a master of science degree from USC in 1944. Mrs. Spilios is a 1977 recipient of the "Outstanding American Education" award. Jane and her husband, Dennis, have two children: Dana Baxter and Dean Forrest. They live in Glendale, Calif.

Class of '42

Waynona Brown, B.S. Waynona is a retired social worker in child welfare. Waynona earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago in 1953. Her husband, Richard, is a retired professor of physics and electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois. They have four children: Peter (deceased), Allan, Stephen, and Katheryn Blackwood. Waynona and her husband live in Urbana, Ill.

Class of '50

Ronald E. Lehman, B.A. Ronald was a manager of international training in Crown Cork & Seal Co. He is now retired and lives in EdenTerrace Independent Living Community. He and his wife, Arline, have two daughters, Lynette and Kelly.

Class of '51

William B. Stewart, Jr., B.A. in Biology. William was a D.D.S. for the United States Navy and is now retired. His wife, Rosalie, is also retired and was an elementary school teacher. William and Rosalie have seven children, 19 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They had five of seven children as officers in the Armed Services at once. Last year, they had four grandchildren in Korea, three in Germany, and one in Brazil. Since retirement, William has kept busy with shipbuilding, scouting, singing the National Anthem at many functions, sitting on 40 cases for the V.C. Grand Jury, attending city, chamber of commerce, and Navy functions. He has also gone on some great ocean cruises (QE-2, QM-2, Ecstacy). He and his wife reside in Port Hueneme, Calif.

Clyde Ellsworth West, B.S.Ed. (Math). Clyde is a minister. He was honored by former members of St. Andrew's Church in St. Louis with a new and completed chapel at the Farmington Presbyterian Manor. Clyde and his wife, Helen Louise, now make their home at the Farmington Presbyterian Retirement Home.

Class of '56

C. Byrne Wood, B.M.E.C. Byrne was a band and vocal music teacher for 11 years in Pleasanton, Kan., Salem, Mo., Fort Scott High School and Fort Scott Community College. He has retired from 38 years with N.I.S. Financial Service in Kansas City, Mo. C. Byrne and his wife, Rosalie, have four children and 12 grand children, and live in Russell, Kan.

Class of '58

Louis Flowers, B.S. in Elementary Education and M.S. in Math in 1959. Louis retired from RCA in 1989. He and his wife, Alberta, live in Satellite Beach, Fla., and have two sons, Donald and Richard.

Class of '66

E. Enid B. Blevins (Boswell), master's degree. Enid is a retired professor emeritus of Missouri Southern State University, where she taught English. Enid is now retired. She tutors and teaches an adult Bible study. Enid remains active in church and community activities, socializes with friends, travels to spend time with family and finds time to go fishing and read. She now resides in Carl Junction, Mo.

Class of '67

Samuel J. Newland, M.A. in History. Samuel is a historian and a professor of military education at the U.S. Army War College where he holds the Colin Powell Chair of Military Studies. He returned in July 2005 from a stint as a visiting professor at the Marshall Center in Garmisch, Germany. He recently completed a monograph for the Strategic Studies Institute and is working on his fourth book. Samuel received his PhD. from the University of Kansas in 1982. He and his wife, Rhonda Wynn Crites-Newland, have four children: Rebecca Anne, Mark Alan, Samuel Jay II, and Daniel Wynn. They live in Carlisle, Pa.

(continued on next pg.)

Herbarium web site features regional plants

Visitors to the T.M. Sperry Herbarium's new web site can access photos of many of the common plants of southeast Kansas. The web site was developed by Joe Arruda, Biology, who directs the herbarium.

Arruda said the site is still developing and will eventually include common trees, grasses and bryophytes of the area. He has worked to design a user-friendly site that visitors can access by common name, scientific name, family name and color.

To see the site, go to www.pittstate.edu/herbarium/.

James R. Yockey, B.S. in Mathematics. After spending 35 years in the paper industry and 32 of it in sales, James has retired and started a new career. He obtained a real estate license and for the past two and a half years has been working as a land broker with Land Group Atlanta, Inc. He is mainly engaged in land sales to developers and builders. Also he does some sales in commercial properties. James and his wife, Brenda, now reside in Alpharetta, Ga. They have one son, Steven, who is a playwright and is a marketing director for Dad's Garage Theatre in Atlanta, Ga.

Jana (Sibley) Finkbiner, B.S. in Education. Jana retired from Wichita Area Technical College. she and her husband, Robert, reside in Wichita.

Class of '68

Howard Leon Bruce, M.S. in Math. Howard has taught math in high school and pastored various churches throughout the years. He is now a pastor of Conchas Baptist Church. He and his wife, Louise, have two children, Howard and Robyn, and reside in Conchas Dam, New Mexico.

Class of '70

Rick Unsell, B.S. in Biology. Rick is the director of Sports Vision Somers Eye Center. The practice was selected as one of 100 across the nation as a provider for Nike-Bausch & Lomb sports vision contact lenses. They are also the eye care providers for the "T-Bones" professional Baseball Team, along with numerous high school and college teams in the Kansas City area. Rick and his wife, Rebecca Jane, have two children: Tracy and Tyler, who is also PSU graduate with B.A. degree. Rebecca is the president of ACR Medical Consultant. The couple resides in Parkville, Mo.

Class of '72

Sue Cowen, M.A. in Music. Sue is now a semi-retired music teacher. She sings in church and rings handbells. Sue now holds elective offices in five political units, including legislative district, county committee, senatorial district, HCMFWDC, 7th district MFWDC, and an office in AAOW. Sue and her husband, Joseph, have two children, Clinton and Christi, and one granddaughter, Kaci. Joseph is a Buzzi Unicem USA environmental manager in Pryor, Okla., and Independence, Kan. The couple resides in Joplin, Mo.

Jack Allen Cook, M.F.A. Jack is a conductor of the BNSF Railway and is eligible for retirement in less than two and a half years. He and his wife, Carol Ann Larsen, have three daughters, Kacy, Cayla and Kortny. They now reside in Arvada, Colo.

Class of '74

Hal Taylor, B.S. in Biology/ Chemistry. Hal is now an artist, and makes the "finest rocking chair in the world." He has taught hundreds to make rocking chairs through his "Rocking chair University" program. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Fredericksburg, Va., and have three children: Rachael, Rose and Aaron.

Class of '76

Janie Kleibert, B.S.N. Janie works full-time as an intake RN for Saint Francis Home Health in Tulsa, Okla. She and her husband, John, own a promotional advertising specialty company. Their daughter, Emily, is an OU graduate with a degree in marketing and works in New York City.

Class of '77

Janey (Brogan) Marshall, B.S.N. Janey is a Registered Nurse in cardiac rehabilitation at St. Mary's Medical Center in Blue Springs, Mo. The cardiac rehabilitation program she works for recently received national accreditation from the American Association of Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. Cynthia Peters, RN, another PSU graduate, is coordinator of cardiology services at St. Mary's Medical Center. Janey is married to Marc, also a 1977 PSU graduate with a major in automotive technology, who is now parts manager at Yellow Freight Roadway in Kansas City. Janey and her husband have two children: Nathan and Rebecca. Nathan is a civil engineer in bridge design with the Kansas Department of Transportation in Topeka. Rebecca is a student at University of Kansas, majoring in communications and psychology.

Class of '84

Steven Ronsick, B.A. Steven is now a pulmonary and critical care physician. He and his wife, Christy, reside in Hutchinson, Kan.

Class of '92

Vicki S. (Cox) Parsons, B.S.N., Pittsburg, Kan. After 14 years as a pediatric nurse, Vicki has taken a position as a performance improvement nurse at Mt. Carmel Medical Center in Pittsburg. Her children, Brandy Stanley, Micah Parsons and Andrea Jordan, are all PSU grads.

Class of '95

Connie (Cunningham) Hudson, B.S. in Social Work, Neodesha, Kan. Connie became the program director for Generations, an in-patient psychiatric program for senior citizens at the Wilson County Hospital in Neodesha in 2004. She received her master's degree in social work from KU in '98 and worked at the Four County Mental Health Center where she developed the program, Senior Outreach Service. Connie and her husband, Mike, have three children: Dr. Rachel Duncan of Emporia; Jeff Hudson of Dallas; and Rob Fairbanks of Lawrence. They also have five grandchildren.

Bobbi Jo Bonds (Stewart), B.S. in Social Work. Bobbi is married to Luther Bonds and has a son, Dante, 14. The couple is expecting a new arrival late 2006. Bobbi and her family reside in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Class of '97

Shelli Renea Lochner (Smith), B.S. in Social Work. Shelli and her husband, David Earl, have three children, Jimmie, Andrew and Mike, and one grandson, Mason. Jimmie is a Katrina hurricane survivor. Shelli and her husband now resides in Dearing, Kan.

Class of '99

Laura (Sayder) Handshy, B.S. in Piano Performance, Frontenac, Kan. In 2003, Laura received her BSN from PSU. Laura is now an RN at the Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center in the Transitional Care unit. She continued her music passion by becoming a choir director and a minister of music in the First Baptist Church in Cherokee, Kan. Laura's husband, Chad, is the owner of and the general contractor for Done-Right Construction. Laura and Chad have a daughter, Cadence Elise.

Class of '00

Aaron M. Bogart, B.S. in Chemistry, Kansas City, Mo. Aaron is a medical student in Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Aaron and his wife, Amy, reside in Kansas City.

Kimberly D. Pempin, B.S. in Biology. Kimberly is an in-home daycare provider in Baldwin City, Kan. She and her husband, Robert, who is also a PSU graduate, have made their home in Baldwin City following four years of Army service, including a tour of duty in Iraq. They have two children: Isabel and Isaac.

Melissa Thurman, B.F.A. and Psychology minor. Melissa is in the M.S. – Counseling Psychology program at Northeastern State University in Okla.

Class of '04

Li-wen Shih (Sheree Li-wen Shih), M.A. in Communication. Li-wen is an executive assistant to the president at Blaylock Diesel Service in Baxter Springs, Kan. She is in charge of translation and interpretation of daily correspondence with Chinese vendors, export and import. She has been working at this company since last May, and just recently got her H1B visa application approved. This means that Li-wen will be able to work in the United States for three more years before she has to renew it again. In the meantime, she seizes every opportunity of being a loyal Gorilla fan for PSU football team.

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Walk *(from pg. 1)*

Bowman said. "His commitment to the community and his love for the people and history of Pittsburg was quickly apparent… and in those first few months I came to know and see the community as Alan did. When I first learned of Alan and LaStacia's vision to see an Art Walk happen in Pittsburg, I was not surprised because an event like this is intended to bring the people and talent of a community together in a fun, interesting and exciting way. Karl Lipscomb's experience with a much larger, but similar event in Springfield gave the early planning meetings a goal to work towards, and we all set about doing what we could to create an event that is common in many cities around the country. And although Pittsburg does not have the population of other places it has all the heart and all the art it needs for this event to take off."

Bowman and the other Art Walk organizers said they plan for this to be an annual event.

Gail Dubray, executive director of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Crawford County, left, receives a donation from Laura Garrison as the other members of the PSU Social Work Club look on. The club made the donation from funds they raised through their annual Kids Fun Fair.

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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?

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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 these giving options or need any assistance, contact:

George O. Pickell,
Associate Director of Planned Giving & Major Gifts
Pittsburg State University Office of Development
1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762-7518
Telephone: 620/235-4863.

Trip to India inspires teacher

Fashion Merchandising instructor Angie Dowell displays some of the colorful fabrics she brought back from a recent trip to India.

When Angie Dowell arrived home from her five-week trip to India earlier this semester, she came back to a world that didn't seem so familiar anymore.

"I was headfirst in a culture so different from our own," said Dowell, a fashion merchandising instructor in the Department of Family and Consumer Science. "Literally from waking up to going to bed, everything was different. When I came back it was almost culture shock again. It's still hard to find my place again. I still don't feel like the old Angie."

And she thought she'd only have to worry about jet lag.

But she's finding ways to integrate her India experience into life back here at home. Now in her fifth year at Pittsburg State University, Dowell is a leader in fashion education. Working with students and teaching fashion courses, she always had an interest in studying the discipline globally.

"If you're interested in high fashion, you might want to go to France or Italy," she said. "But if you're interested in the textile industry, or culturally specific types of clothing, then India is of great importance and interest. The tide is turning and India is really coming in."

The clothes on her back prove it. Sitting in her office on this warm morning, Dowell is draped in a sheer white kurta – a dressing gown commonly worn by men and women – and her wrist jingles with fuchsia bangles. The rest of her, however, is modern American – blue jeans and pointed heels. She holds up various Indian articles: men's drawstring pajamas, a Himachali cap, hand-stitched shawls. She leans forward, pointing to the tiny stitches on the backside of the garment. "This is how you can tell it's handmade," she says in a conspiratorial tone. "This was the equivalent of $22, and it would have cost hundreds here. You can't conceive of the costs until you've seen it. People are sitting on the floors of these factories hand-stitching these garments and I'd walk down the street and pay $20 for it."

Preparing for the trip, which was sponsored through Rotary International's annual cultural exchange program, was a bit of a whirlwind. Dowell first applied for the fellowship in September, and was approved and packing her bags by Christmas. And although there were some not-so-pleasant surprises (the booming population means utilities cut in and out, leaving Dowell to sleep most cold nights fully dressed and to take cold showers), there were also experiences that made her feel as though she had stumbled into a world she'd always longed for.

"I became spoiled with the familial elements," she said. "Things move much more slowly. I realized what warm and kind people they are. I'm attracted to their culture's emphasis on tradition, the idea that a country that has seen such vast change can maintain their ties to tradition.

"I feel like it was such a significant part of my life. I have to figure out how to take my experiences there and incorporate them into my life here."

What was most revealing, more than the amazing fashions and the chance to leave behind the frenzied pace of the U.S., was her quick understanding of the working culture. Spending long hours hand-stitching the garments, the workers at many factories sat on concrete floors. Some wore no shoes. Factories were poorly lit, and some worked on rooftops.

Although she was initially shocked at the conditions, Dowell surprised herself at how quickly she accepted this. "I expected myself to be very uncomfortable seeing those things. But the approaches to work suddenly made sense to me," she said. "You cannot look through an American lens at the Indian culture."

Although she's ready for her next trip, she's back in the classroom for now. Next semester she'll be teaching "Dress and Culture," and plans to incorporate the experience into her class. And although she's still adjusting to life back at home, there's always the kurtas hanging in her closet.

"When I first got back, I wore something from there everyday," she says. "Now I'm down to just a few times a week."

Internships *(from pg. 8)*

needed to get cooking on something else."

For senior Lana Ross, an internship during the spring semester with Indian designer Nirali Patel in Kansas City has given her valuable one-on-one training. "I want to design, and my internship is giving me that experience."

A nontraditional student with a husband and child at home, Ross says working with Patel this semester allowed her to attend showings in big cities and pick up innovative design tips – as well as use her minor in marketing to learn what it's like to run a small business. "I think it's our great internships that are allowing us to compete with people from places like New York. Our department has a lot of success stories. There are definitely opportunities out there, it's just how much you make out of it."

Senior Kaylee Hollinger is hoping to make a lot out of her upcoming summer internship. She plans to spend six weeks starting in July interning with luxury sportswear designer Barry Bricken in his New York City offices. "The hands-on experience is so valuable," she said, describing her anticipated duties as assisting designers, photographers and pattern makers.

For Hollinger, a scouting trip she and her classmates took to the city during Spring Break helped her clarify her career focus. "Some of the companies I previously thought I'd like to work at didn't excite me as much when I actually got up there," she said. "I had been more interested in merchandising and working in publications. But the showrooms got me so excited. It's changed my focus."

Overseeing these students as head of FCS, Dr. Duane Whitbeck says the internships they snare not only serve as real preparation for the workforce, but that they also show students big dreams can really happen for fashion students from a small town.

"These are places they didn't expect to visit let alone work," he said. "Future students have an opportunity to hear about past internships and they think 'If them, then why not me?' Overwhelmingly, our graduating students say the most significant part of their time at PSU was their internships. The successful students are ready for the challenge and willing to step forward."

Hollinger agrees, and isn't hesitating to pack her bags.

"You can only be taught so much in the classroom," she said. "To be there and have it be real and make those huge connections – it's definitely important to me to have this now."

Consider a scholarship gift

Remember how PSU shaped your future? Now it's your turn to change lives.

Students always have been and still are the first priority at Pittsburg State University. The university strives to provide the best academic experience possible and to prepare students to lead successful lives.

The rising cost of education threatens to become a barrier between students and their families and the educational opportunities that Pittsburg State University offers. As a result, one of the university's major goals is to keep higher education accessible to all by providing more scholarships to deserving students. PSU needs the support of its generous alumni to provide scholarship funds that will benefit all those who dream of a college degree.

Please think about how a scholarship that you received changed your life; how a family member provided financial support so that you could concentrate on your studies; or how a professor gave you the advice and encouragement that has served you well throughout your life. Giving to support scholarships is one way to repay that generosity.

It is easy to start a scholarship at PSU and almost unlimited options are available as to how to help students through that newly created scholarship. Scholarships can be created to address financial need, recognize academic achievement, or honor a PSU student from a particular geographic region or one who is enrolled in a specific degree program. Scholarships can be current or endowed. Current use scholarships are given on an annual basis at a minimum of $1,000. Endowed scholarships provide money in perpetuity to be awarded to students and only $10,000 is necessary to create the endowment. Scholarships can also be funded through your estate plans, so now is the time to ask questions about how you can support PSU through a planned gift. Gifts of any size can also always be given to the general scholarship fund.

Please consider changing the lives of PSU students by funding a scholarship.

For more information on scholarships, contact:

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University Development
1701 South Broadway • Pittsburg, KS 66762
106 Russ Hall • phone: 620-235-4767
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