



Department of Automotive Technology News

2018 Spring/Summer Edition

Pittsburg State University

Automotive Department Updates From Department Chair John Thompson

Greetings from the Chair of the Department of Automotive Technology! It's been almost a year since I took over as the fourth Chair of the Department of Automotive Technology, so I wanted to give an update on the department. I was hired on Monday, June 19th, 2017 and immediately hired a new Administrative Specialist to take over the position vacated by Kindra O'Connor. The first order of business was to update all our online contact information as well as contact information for offices across campus. Next, we needed to update all of our handout material, including contact information as well as all the new course names and numbers as we had realigned and renamed over half of our courses during the spring semester in order to better align our courses for the anticipated School of Transportation enhancement. Rather than simply update the current handouts, I worked with a senior in the Department of Graphics and Imaging to develop all new handouts including program guides and pamphlets.

We also updated our website adding intuitive and easy access ways to enroll, apply, or sign up for tours. We added Snapchat and Instagram accounts along with our existing Facebook account and began working with the PSU Media Developer, Jacob Anselmi, to create new videos for our online media presence and a TV channel conglomerate in the KC and Topeka market.

Curriculum: For the first time ever, we began allowing students into our 2-year program in January. We also added a 2-year Certificate, online BAS, and began examining a new emphasis area for Hybrid and Alternate Fuels as well as a Hybrid Certificate, Collision Certificate, and a Diesel/Heavy Equipment Certificate. We also continue to grow the master degree program which almost doubled in student count over the past year.

Facilities: We are looking to expand our footprint with a new "Outdoor Lab" which we have loosely named the "Davison Outside Lab" due to the wonderful gifts from the Davison family to help this dream become a reality. We are currently getting bids for the work and hope to have it completed before classes begin in August. The diesel faculty, lead by Dr. Tim Dell, worked on a new building design for the Diesel/Heavy Equipment program and we are working on a proposal for the location of it to be on our new "East Campus" location which is just east of the hospital. We also continue to look for ways to find room for our student clubs but this has proven very difficult as space utilization is maxed out.

Financial: Giving for our Alumni Phonathon Pledge Drive is down as well as financial support from the state so we began examining how to raise funds on existing activities such as Company Day, Automotive Orientation Day, serving on our Advisory Council, and development of a golf tournament fundraiser.

Staffing: Bob Schroer and Ron Downing have agreed to stay on teaching 6 hours (2 classes) per semester and advising students. We were also able to convert Chauncey Pennington to a tenure-earning position.

BAJA Returns To PSU For Second Year In A Row



May 17-20, 2018, 100 teams from across the world returned for a second year in a row. This was the fourth time that Pittsburg State University has had the distinct pleasure of hosting this national event. Professor Pennington, Professor Preloger and Professor Schroer spent many hours moving dirt and improving our site for what we believe was the best Baja event that we have hosted to date.

This PSU Baja team has been active designing, building and testing this year's entry. The students concentrated on a simpler design to reduce weight and increase performance. We have been excited to see what the students have accomplished and believe that this year's prototype will be a great contender in the competition. In addition to competing in Kansas we will travel

First Annual Pittsburg State University Automotive Golf Tournament



We are planning on hosting our first alumni golf tournament September 21, 2018. We have planned on having the event in conjunction with our fall Advisory Council meeting. Please make plans to stay around and participate in what we hope to be an annual event. Please be watching your emails for we will be sending detailed information for registration, hole sponsors, and other opportunities for you and your companies to get involved. We intend to use proceeds for scholarships and special activities within the department. We hope that you will be able to attend.

Case New Holland (CNH) Skid Steer Donation

A big thank you to Dallas Grothusen! Dallas was able to find and donate a skid steer to the automotive/diesel program. The skid steer will be used for maintaining the Baja facilities as well as a training tool in the diesel program. Without the help from our corporate partners, Baja and many other activities that we have for our students would not be possible. In addition, we have had many donations from Kiewit, Foley Equipment, Walsh Construction, NAPA (Pittsburg Automotive) O'Reilly's, and O'Malley Implement that have enhanced the Baja SAE Kansas Event. Thank you all for your continued support of Pittsburg State Automotive.



Pitt State Two-Year Student Takes Home First Place In Kansas State Skills Competition

Andrew Adams, a student in the AST program, placed first at the Kansas State SkillsUSA competition at Hutchinson, KS held April 25-27th. Several months of preparations were involved with the event. The competition consisted of 13 different skill stations ranging from body electrical diagnosis, wheel alignment and a written ASE style test. Andrew will be representing Kansas at the National contest to be held in Louisville, KY June 25-29th. If you would like to help and support Andrew, please mail your donations to the address below. Good Luck Andrew at Nationals!

Pittsburg State University
c/o Andrew Adams National Competitor Fund
Attn: Perry Cummins
KTC N105F



PSU's Construction Equipment Class Toured Two Heavy Equipment Facilities



PSU's Construction Equipment class toured two heavy equipment industries April 20th in Wichita, KS, along with Dr. Dell, professor Pennington and PSU alumnus and volunteer Simon Bishop. The first stop of the visit was to Foley Equipment's new facility located on West street. Students were able to tour the parts warehouse and the service repair facility. The next stop on the tour was the CNH Skid Steer manufacturing plant. The plant was busy manufacturing

rubber tire skid loaders and rubber track loaders. Special thanks to our hosts Tommy Phelps, Joe Freud, and Dallas Grothusen.



Subaru Donates Two Vehicles To The Two-Year Automotive Program

Last fall, the Department of Automotive Technology was contacted by Subaru and asked if there was interest in participating in their Subaru University training program for students. The Department agreed to meet with the Subaru representatives in late November to discuss the program.

During the discussion they said the program is one hundred percent online and requires minimal administrative support from Pittsburg State's end. If a student chooses to participate in Subaru-U, the designated instructor signs them up. From there, they get a Subaru-U ID and password to access the website and take training courses based on Subaru's vehicles and technology.

There are rewards at various completion levels, such as T-shirts for the students. At the end of the program they will have completed the same training that is required of entry level dealer technicians. This puts students that are headed down that career path roughly a year ahead of someone who did not complete this training. These students also have the opportunity to take higher level instructor lead classes at one of Subaru's training centers.

Both Subaru and Pittstate agreed that this was a good fit. The agreement was signed in January and Subaru-U is being administered through the Automotive Service Technology program. As of this writing, they have already received a factory scan-tool and two vehicles which are a 2016 WRX and a 2016 Crosstrek. Additionally, students that have elected to participate in this program are very positive about it so far.



Industrial Tours Class Visits Caterpillar and John Deere Facilities



Industrial Tour is a class offered during the spring semester. Professors Randy Jones and Bob Schroer take about 30 students to visit different automotive and diesel/heavy equipment facilities. This year one of our new professors, Chauncey Pennington, joined us as he will eventually be taking Bob Schroer's place on these trips. For many of the students it is the first time they have ventured out past their surrounding area they live in. It is also the first time many of them have toured through manufacturing facilities to see equipment they may have used or worked on. We have ventured to many different locations over the past seven years and even though I have been through some of the facilities more than once, I never get tired or lose appreciation for final product that is designed, engineered and assembled by the men and women of these companies.

This years Industrial Tour class traveled northeast to Iowa and Illinois to visit John Deere and Caterpillar facilities. We left Pittsburg, Kansas on Sunday, April 8th and arrived in Moline that evening. On Monday, April 9th we visited John Deere Harvester works in Moline, IL. After that tour we traveled to John Deere Davenport works in Davenport, Iowa. We then traveled to East Peoria, Illinois to stay the the next two nights. While we were in East Peoria the professors and some of the students met up with a former alum, Pete Holman, who treated us to a very nice steak dinner. THANKS PETE, it was awesome! The next morning on April 10th we toured through Caterpillar Mapleton Foundry in the morning and in the afternoon the Track Type Tractor Assembly facility. At the end of the day we visited the Caterpillar Visitor Center. On Wednesday, April 11th we were treated to something a little different than a manufacturing facility when we visited the Caterpillar Technical Center. Once that tour was complete we ventured back to Pittsburg. I want to thank all of the Caterpillar and John Deere employees who made it possible for us to go on these



Follow the Automotive Department on Social Media



Pittsburg State University Automotive has now entered the social media era. We now have a Facebook page, Snapchat account, Instagram and in the works YouTube channel. The social media outlets will be used to help keep the public and alumni informed of what is happening in the department. The other idea is to help in recruiting new students to the program. You can find them by searching

@psuautotech



Department of Automotive Technology
Pittsburg State University
1701 S. Broadway
Pittsburg, KS 66762-7566

Save the Date!
Compay Day Sept. 18-19
Visit www.pittstate.edu/autotech

We're on the web!

<http://www.pittstate.edu/autotech>

Department of Automotive Technology Contacts

Administrative Assistant

Carrol Bell

cbell@pittstate.edu

620 235-4973

Automotive/Diesel Technology/Collision Contacts (4 Year)

Dr. John Thompson, Assoc. Prof / 620 235-4380 John.thompson@pittstate.edu

(Department Chair)

Dr. Tim Dell, Assoc. Professor / (620) 235-4182 tdell@pittstate.edu

(Diesel Coordinator)

Mr. Scott Norman, Assoc. Prof / 620 235-4826 rnorman@pittstate.edu

(Automotive Coordinator)

Mr. Ron Downing, Part time Assoc. Prof / 620 235-4825 rdowning@pittstate.edu

Mr. Nico Prelogar, Instructor / 620 235-4982 nprelogar@pittstate.edu

Mr. Bob Schroer, Part Time Assoc. Prof / 620 235-6126 rschroer@pittstate.edu

Mr. Randy Jones, Assoc. Prof / 620-235-4197 crjones@pittstate.edu

Mr. Mike Elder, Assit. Prof / 620-235-4557 melder@pittstate.edu

Mr. Trent Lindbloom, Assoc. Prof / 620 235-4198 tlindbloom@pittstate.edu

Mr. Chauncey Pennington, Instructor / 620 235 4819 cpennington@pittstate.edu

Automotive Service (2 Year)

Mr. Perry Cummins, Professor 620 235-4827 pcummins@pittstate.edu

(Program Coordinator)

Mr. Steve Polley, Assoc. Prof 620 235-6515 spolley@pittstate.edu

Fax: 620 235-6190

**Summer/Fall 2018
Automotive Department Calendar**

June 18-22 National Skills USA

July 20 Farm Show Setup

July 21-22 Farm Show

July 25-27 Dell Heavy Diesel Workshop

July 27 Summer Sessions close

August 20 Classwork Begins

August 24 Tool Show

August 29 4:00pm Welcome Back BBQ

September 18-19 Company Days 2018

September 20 Fall Advisory Council

October 11-12 Fall Break

November 20-25 Thanksgiving Break

December 10 Finals Begin

December 14 Commencement