

# Endnotes

Pittsburg State  
University

\*\*\*

Department of English  
and Modern Languages

WINTER 2023

## What I Did with My Degree

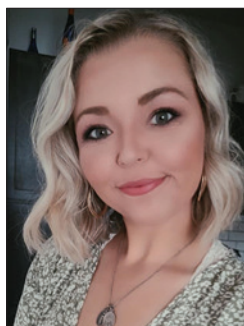
*By Reagan Greenwood*

There were two things I was sure of when I started college: one, I wanted to major in English, and two, I did *not* want to be a teacher. Now, if you're anything like me, no one really told you what you can do with an English degree... besides teaching. Completely lost and having absolutely no idea what to do for the rest of my life, I decided to major in the one thing I knew I'd enjoy — creative writing.

I wasn't sure what I was expecting when I chose this major, but what I got out of it surpassed everything I could have imagine. While my major honed my research writing, critical thinking, editing, and grammar skills, my Communication minor prepared me with a whole new skill set centered around marketing and advertising. These two emphases complemented each other well, and I was sure I would quickly find work. However, even after earning my bachelor's degree and working as a graduate teaching assistant for the English department while working on my Master's degree, I still found myself unemployed after graduation.

The following months were filled with numerous applications, a few interviews, and an overwhelming amount of stress. But then, I received a job offer from A Place for Mom (APFM) at the Overland Park, Kansas location. I was first hired as a copywriter, and as one of the first few writers hired to the new content team, I watched as the team tripled in size. Most of my daily tasks consisted of researching different senior living communities located across the United States and writing articles about various senior living topics. I also collaborated closely with my editor and began taking on more editing responsibilities. So naturally, after a little over a year, my career path shifted, and I now work as a copyeditor. Rather than researching and writing, I now work closely with editors and content strategists on a daily basis. I also create style guides for writers to follow, copyedit APFM's most trafficked pages, and oversee a small group of writers to ensure their copy is accurate, clean, and matches our company's style.

There are not words to accurately describe my gratitude for PSU's English program. Not only did I meet some amazing people and read mind-blowing novels, but I also learned skills and techniques that landed me a job I love. So, don't worry — English majors have a lot more job options than you think.



Greenwood

## Farewell from the Chair

*By Celia Patterson*

I have spent the last 30 years of my life at Pittsburg State University, the last 14 years as Chair of one or more departments, but it is finally time to say farewell. Much has changed during my time here. When I became Chair of the department in 2010, it was just an English department.

A few years later, the English Department and the Modern Languages and Literatures Department merged into the English and Modern Languages Department. More recently, the Intensive English Program also merged with English and Modern Languages. Very soon, the Department of English and Modern Languages will be grouped along with Art, Communication, and Music in the new School of Arts and Humanities.

Although much has changed, much has endured. The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series, the Victor J. Emmett memorial prize and lecture, Eichhorn Fellowships, the Conversation Partners Program, the scholarships that alumni provide for our students, the study abroad experiences that improve language skills and change lives, all of these, and more, have endured because they are some of the valuable assets that help to make our programs the best they can be.

Despite these assets, I'm reluctant to leave

*(continued on pg. 2)*



Patterson

## Schick Award

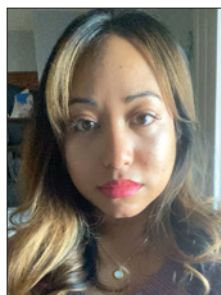
Megan Munger has won the seventh annual (and her second in a row) James B. M. Schick Best Graduate Essay award. Her winning essay, "Walt Whitman's Healing through Radical Empathy: A Trauma Studies Analysis," was published in the January 2023 issue of *The Midwest Quarterly*. Alexis Melson also earned an Honorable Mention from the judging panel. This award recognizes outstanding scholarship by graduate students at PSU. It was created in 2015 to memorialize Dr. James B. M. Schick, the long-time Editor-in-Chief of *The Midwest Quarterly* (1981-2012).



Munger

## Student Publishes in National Literary Journals

Saitharn Im-Iam graduated with a BA in English at PSU in spring 2022. While she was still an undergraduate at PSU, Im-Iam published creative works in two national literary journals. "The Stock of a Writer" appears in *Runestone*, Volume 8 (<https://runestonejournal.com/vol8/creative-nonfiction/the-stock-of-a-writer-by-saitharn-im-iam/>), and "Southern Pride" appears in *The Blue Route*, Issue 27 ([https://issuu.com/theblueroute/docs/blue\\_route\\_27\\_final\\_spring\\_2022\\_may\\_16](https://issuu.com/theblueroute/docs/blue_route_27_final_spring_2022_may_16)). While at PSU, she won the Jo McDougall Undergraduate Prize in Poetry. She is currently in the MA program at Emporia State University.



Im-Iam

## Faculty Take Sabbaticals

Dr. Jessica Jorgenson Borchert was on sabbatical leave during fall 2022. During her sabbatical she worked on several projects, including writing a manuscript on how academic caregivers use social media groups as a source for health support in caring for their children or dependents. She is also finalizing an edited collection titled *Academic Mothers Building Online Communities: It Takes a Village*, which will be published by Palgrave Springer in 2023.



Jorgenson Borchert

Lori Martin was on sabbatical leave in fall 2022. She finished substantial revisions on her 500-page novel, including new research on the underground railroad and adding a new point of view, written in epistolary style. Additionally, she researched era-appropriate regional dialects and contacted literary agents. She traveled to two writer's retreats, Eureka Springs, Missouri, and Ithaca, New York for a week on a working farm.



Martin

Dr. Brian Moots took his sabbatical during spring 2022. He led a study abroad program to Italy and France for 47 students and family members. After the students returned home, Moots conducted research on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century French theater. He also visited two of our partner institutions, one in the city of Rheims and the other in Rennes. In addition to these projects, he completed three publications, two articles, and one book chapter. Finally, the research for his publication on Teaching French with Humor resulted in a new course on French Comedy.



Moots

**Endnotes** is published by the Pittsburg State University Department of English and Modern Languages with assistance from the Office of University Marketing and Communication. Designed by Paulina Scholes.

*Endnotes* is an annual newsletter designed to keep our alumni and friends informed about people and events in the Department of English and Modern Languages. It is written and edited by Dr. Celia Patterson, with assistance from Shannon Spear.

### FROM THE CHAIR *(continued from pg. 1)*

at a time when so many outside challenges remain (for example, declines in federal funding and enrollment). However, I know that I leave the department in good hands. Our faculty and staff are also some of the valuable assets that make our programs great, as are alumni. Please continue to donate to our programs. Your gifts make more of a difference now than ever before to our students and to our faculty, who always appreciate your generosity!

## Eichhorn Fellowships

Each year, some English faculty are awarded Fellowships from the English Program's William J. and Mary E. Eichhorn Endowment for Faculty Development. Faculty use these funds to pay for research expenses or for a course release to pursue research. Over the last two semesters, two faculty used their Eichhorn Fellowships for a course release.

In summer 2022, Dr. Chris Anderson completed a poetry collection titled *Heart Tongue Fire*, which is currently under consideration at several publishers. With the help of a fall 2022 Eichhorn Fellowship, Anderson has started work on a new set of poems, with the goal of publishing them as a chapbook and eventually integrating them into a second full-length manuscript. Drawing upon a longstanding interest in Greek mythology, he has written several poems that reimagine the myth of the Minotaur. The Eichhorn Fellowship has also allowed Dr. Anderson time to enjoy reading several recent books by award-winning poets such as Diane Seuss, J. Bailey Hutchinson, and Saeed Jones.

In fall 2022, Dr. Susan Carlson used the course release to write a final draft of her article "They Don't



Anderson



Carlson

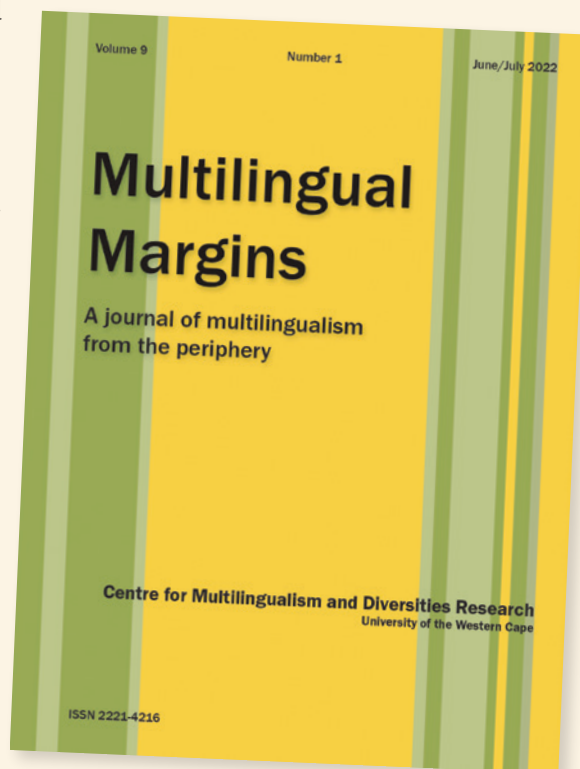
## Rudd Edits African Journal

Philip Rudd served as guest editor for South Africa's University of Western Cape's *Multilingual Margins: A Journal of Multilingualism from the Periphery*. For a special issue, published online on the 8th of November 2022, he composed an introductory essay, "African Urban and Youth Language (AUYL) Practices" which presents eight articles, which are the outcome of a workshop

convened on a Kenyan university campus during his 2017-2018 Fulbright sabbatical leave.

Rudd's overview pays particular attention to the symbolism of youth and urban identity and the multilingual composition of linguistic practices from across Africa including Nigeria and Cameroun in the west to Uganda and Kenya in the east.

Speakers of AUYL, conclude the researchers in the special issue, should not be considered victims or imperial debris. Rather, as Rudd points out, they have become agents who localize the global and globalize the local by being fluid enough to renegotiate the colonial with the traditional and engender a reconceptualization of what it means to be globalized, cosmopolitan, and African.



Read Very Well: A Six-Year Study of the Reading Comprehension Skills of College English Majors." The article has been accepted for publication by *The CEA Critic* in Spring 2023. To get the article ready, Carlson recorded all the codes from transcriptions on Excel, created charts, checked all the statistical data, read books and

articles on current distraction and attention disorders with students, reading comprehension problems, and previous studies on reading comprehension skills. She also gave a presentation on her research as a faculty development speaker for the department of English and Modern Languages.



## Meats Poetry Prize Awarded

The Editors of *The Midwest Quarterly* announced that the winner of the 2022 Stephen Meats Poetry Prize is Amy Sage Webb-Baza for her poem “When We Were Dogs.” Webb-Baza is Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emporia State University in Kansas. The prize was established by the Editorial Board of *The Midwest Quarterly* in 2016 on the occasion of Dr. Meats’s retirement after 31 years as the journal’s poetry editor and 35 years as Chairperson of the Department and then Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Meats remains active in retirement. He just completed an extensive revision of the biographical entry on William Faulkner for *The Literary Encyclopedia* (litencyc.com), an online reference work based in London, England. Meats has been writing for LE since 2004 and has published numerous articles for them, including several biographies, and entries on fourteen of Faulkner’s novels. His current projects include research for an LE article on a fifteenth Faulkner novel as well as a history of the one-room school he attended in Cloud County, Kansas, in the 1950s. Meats retired in 2014 and now lives in Florida with his wife, Ann, also a retired PSU English instructor, who keeps busy with gardening and with genealogical research on ancestry.com.



Meats

## Distinguished Visiting Writers Series

Award-winning author Whitney Terrell read from his new novel on March 24. Terrell’s novel, *The Good Lieutenant*, was selected as a Best Book of 2016 by *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Refinery 29*. It was long-listed for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. The story focuses on a female soldier and relies on the expertise of many women who served in Iraq. In 2006 and 2010, Terrell embedded with the U.S. Army in Iraq. He covered the war for *The Washington Post Magazine*, *Slate* and *NPR*. Terrell is an associate professor of English at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is also the author of *The Huntsman*, a *New York Times* Notable Book in 2001, and *The King of Kings County*, which was selected as a best book of 2005 by the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Writer and former Pittsburg State University art professor, S. Portico Bowman returned to campus on October 3 for a reading of her debut novel, *Cashmere Comes from Goats*. Bowman taught for 20 years in Kansas, where she worked until recently as an art professor, art writer, and gallery director in Porter Hall at PSU. Bowman grew up on the Canadian Prairies and has lived in Massachusetts, California, and Hawaii. She recently was awarded a \$25,000 Canada Council for the Arts Research and Creation grant for her second book, “Would You Give Up Arms for Wings? A story inspired by the visionary life and writings of Paulus Berensohn.”

Poets and alumni Joshua Davis and Allison Blevins read from their work on April 28. After graduating from Pittsburg State, Davis earned an MFA from Stonecoast at the University of Southern Maine, an MFA from the University of Mississippi, and is now a doctoral candidate in literature at Ohio University. A former John and Renee Grisham fellow, he teaches poetry, fiction, and multi-genre workshops, and high school English near Tampa, Florida. After graduating from Pittsburg State, Blevins earned her MFA at Queens University of Charlotte. Her hybrid collection *Cataloguing Pain* (YesYes Books, 2022) was a finalist for the Pamet River Prize. Blevins serves as the director of Small Harbor Publishing and as the executive editor at The Museum of Americana.

Award-winning author Joe Dornich read from his fiction on October 25. His debut short story collection, *The Ways We Get By*, was released by Black Lawrence Press in 2020. The collection uses humor to examine some of the darker, lonelier aspects of human nature through the lens of the characters’ jobs, whether they are camp counselors, certified cuddlers, professional mourners, animal conservationists, or actors at religious theme parks. His stories have won contests and fellowships from The Master’s Review, Carve Magazine, South Central MLA, Key West Literary Seminars, and the South Carolina Academy of Authors. Dornich lives in California where he teaches at the University of California Riverside.

## Alum Wins Good Apple Award

Lynzee Flores was recognized for what she has achieved in the six short years since she graduated as a double major in communication studies with an emphasis in public relations, and in Spanish language and literature, quickly followed by a master's degree in communication with an emphasis in strategic communication. She was chosen as one of two recipients of this year's Good Apple Award. The award is given annually during the Apple Day ceremony to recent graduates who embody what it means to be a Gorilla.

She was drawn to Pittsburg State from Lamar, Missouri, because of marching band, having participated in the mass band production on the field for PSU Homecoming and "falling in love with the band and the campus."

After graduating, she was encouraged by her advisor, Alicia



Mason, to pursue a master's degree and eventually, a doctoral degree. Today, she's an instructor in Communication at KU, and at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, while she works on her dissertation to complete her degree in political communication.

She has assisted with the Kansas Women's Leadership Institute through the State Department at KU, which has brought together women from developing nations around the

world. Flores also believes in giving back to each of the communities in which she has lived: she has volunteered as a mentor at Ascension Via Christi Hospital, where she coached staff in how to speak basic Spanish so they could better communicate with patients and their families, and at Mission Adelante in Kansas City, a multicultural ministry community with Bhutanese refugees and Latino immigrants, where she teaches Spanish speaking individuals English.

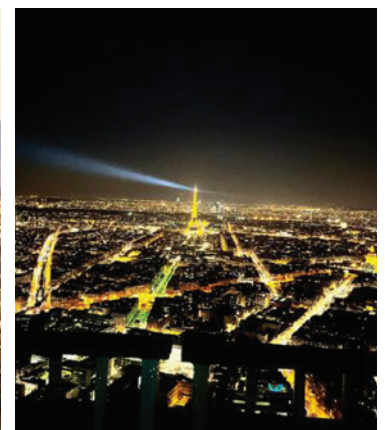
She is active in faith-based campus organizations and directs a Bible study out of St. Lawrence Center at KU and one with City on a Hill in Kansas City. "It may sound cliché but I believe in giving of myself, to pay it forward for everyone who has helped me," she said.

---

## Study Abroad Experience

Honors College Director Craig Fuchs, Associate Professor of English and Modern Languages Brian Moots, and Biology Professor Mandy Peak Bryan led a group of 37 Pittsburg State students, six community members, and three other faculty on a study abroad experience during spring break. They began in Rome, where they saw the Pantheon, Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica; toured Florence where they saw the Basilica of St. Francis; and finished up in Paris, where they saw such icons as the Champs-Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe, toured Versailles and the Louvre, and sat by the Seine.

For language majors, it was an opportunity to improve their language skills. For others, it was life changing to experience different cultures. A major high point, in both senses of the term, was the 414 stair climb to the top of the bell tower at the Duomo in Florence.





## 29th Annual Emmett Lecture

The English Department and *The Midwest Quarterly* at Pittsburg State University are happy to announce that Dr. Hyeryung Hwang delivered the Twenty-Ninth Annual Victor J. Emmett Memorial Lecture on September 22, 2022. In her lecture, Hwang discussed “Barbaric Modernity and Disabled Subjectivities: Memories of War and Colonialism in Peripheral Literature.”



Hwang

Hwang was invited to deliver the Emmett Memorial Lecture as the winner of the Victor J. Emmett, Jr., Memorial Award, which is given each year to the author of the best essay on a literary topic published in *The Midwest Quarterly*. Hwang’s essay, “J. M. Coetzee and the Place of Realism,” appeared in the Winter 2022 issue of *The Midwest Quarterly*. This is the second time that Hwang has won this award.

Hwang is Assistant Professor of World Literature in the Interdisciplinary General Education Program in the Department of Liberal Studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She is a multidisciplinary teacher-scholar with research and teaching experience in the fields of world literature and cinema, theories of imperialism and colonialism, and peripheral aesthetics and politics. Her research projects, drawing on both East Asia and South America, investigate what it means that the aesthetic choices of an older realism have been persistently replicated in the global periphery, exploring how the heterogeneous forms of peripheral neo-realism envision an alternative cultural analysis of global capitalism. Her recent publications include “J.M. Coetzee and the Place of Realism” (*The Midwest Quarterly*, Spring 2022), “After Magic: Juan Gabriel Vásquez’s *The Sound of Things Falling* and Narco-Realism” (*The Midwest Quarterly* 61.2, Spring 2020), “Peripheral Aesthetics after Modernism: South Korean Neo-realism and Chang-dong Lee’s Poetry” (*The Global South* 11.1, Spring 2017), and “Deleuze, Affect Theory, and the Future of Realism” (*Telos* 181, Winter 2017).

The Emmett Memorial Award and the Emmett Memorial Lecture are sponsored by the Emmett family, the PSU English Department, and *The Midwest Quarterly*. The award and lecture are named in memory of the late Dr. Victor J. Emmett, Jr., who for twenty-three years was a Professor of English at Pittsburg State University.

## Faculty Win Awards

Grant Moss received The Outstanding Faculty Award that is designed to honor teaching faculty who have demonstrated excellence in instruction, scholarship, and/or service. The nominations for this award are sent in and completed by the student population. Students described him as having an enthusiastic and positive attitude that is contagious and pushes them to grow in their abilities and reach their potential. Outstanding Faculty Award winners are recognized for making lasting impressions on our students.



Moss



Rudd

Moss was also one of the recipients of the 2021-2022 Sustainability Faculty Grant. Sustainability (in the broadest sense of the word) is an important initiative on our campus. Our goal is to engage our students and broaden their horizons to the possibilities of conscious sustainable living, empowering them to develop sustainable practices in every aspect of life. Moss is one of the faculty who are incorporating sustainability into their courses.

Both Moss and Phil Rudd were chosen to participate in the Summer African Language Institute (SALI) at the University of Kansas (KU). The Kansas African Studies Center (KASC) gave them a SALI educator award that supported their participation in two intensive language courses that operated consecutively in the summer 2022. Funding for the award comes from a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) grant from the U. S. Department of Education, which supports KASC as one of only 10 NRCs for African Studies in the entire U.S. It was Moss’s second year to study Arabic, and Rudd’s first year to study Wolof.

## 2022-2023 Scholarship Recipients

The faculty of the English and Modern Languages Department wish to express their thanks for the generous scholarship support provided for our students by alumni, friends, and other donors.

**Virgil and Dolores Albertini Scholarship:** Amanda Trout, graduate.

**Hans Beerman Scholarship:** Lesly Bocanegra, senior; Mauricio Masi Filizzola, senior; Logan Sandifer, senior; Kennedy Tomasi, junior.

**Dr. Jennings Blackmon Scholarship:** Marci Heatherly, senior.

**Inez Cunningham Scholarship:** Cole Martins, senior; Alexander Riley, senior.

**Eugene (Gene) DeGruson Scholarship:** Amanda Trout, graduate.

**Charles E. and Dorothy Guardia Scholarship:** Kennedy Tomasi, junior.

**Thelma Beasley Hays Scholarship:** Shae Gilstrap, sophomore.

**J & P Marshall Scholarship:** Rylee McElroy, senior; Arielle Corbett, junior.

**Marjorie McFarland Scholarship:** Kennedy Tomasi, junior.

**Florence M. Johnson & Merritt E. Thompson Scholarship:** Cooper Niemier, senior; Justice York, sophomore.

**Margaret J. Thompson Miller Scholarship:** Violet Norman, senior.

**F.H. Meriwether Scholarship:** Marci Heatherly, senior.

**John Reed Award:** Kayla Burns, senior; Kennedy Tomasi, junior.

**H. G. Roberts Scholarship:** Kennedy Tomasi, junior.

**Dr. Helen Alberta Gardner Rogers English Endowment:** Violet Norman, senior.

**Robert Mays & Glenda Sanderson-Mays English Scholarship:** Violet Norman, senior; Khadija Ceesay, junior; Justice York, sophomore; Aleana Erie, freshman.

**George and Mary Ball Schuultz Scholarship:** Shae Gilstrap, sophomore; Sandra Clark, sophomore; Elliott Johnson, sophomore; Mauren Flack, freshman.

**Jess and Joe Skubitz Scholarship:** Kayla Burns, senior.

**Thomas D. and Audrey M. White Scholarship:** Rhiannoa Jay, junior; Cassidy Tucker, junior; Jesse Cox, sophomore; Madilyn Kramer, sophomore; Jacob Peterson, sophomore; Justice York, sophomore; Josie Lynn, sophomore; Allison Rickey, sophomore; Laney Roller, sophomore; Gloria Carson, freshman; Madison Graff, freshman; Grace Morris, freshman; Elana Stanger, freshman.

**Woodcox English Scholarship:** Eleana Erie, freshman.

**English Alumni Scholarship:** Grace Morris, freshman.

**International Study Alumni:** Ann McCord, senior; Daniel Mendoza, junior; Riley Johnson, sophomore; Hannah Eckstein, sophomore; Coleen Ndedi Ntepe, sophomore.

## Outstanding Student Awards

We have many excellent students in our programs, but these students distinguished themselves as outstanding from the rest this year.

### UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

#### Outstanding

##### Senior in English Education:

Breanna Hampton Taylor

##### Senior in Creative Writing:

Amanda Trout (Honorable Mention: Hana Coleman Stubblefield)

##### Senior in Professional Writing:

Saitharn Im Iam

##### Senior in Literature:

Jaylynn Blythe

##### Senior in French:

Jaylynn Blythe

##### Senior in Spanish:

Logan Sandifer

##### Service to the English Program:

Amanda Trout

##### Service to the Modern Languages

Program: Amanda Trout

##### Research within the English

Program: Amanda Trout,

Saitharn Im Iam

##### Outreach for the Modern

Languages Program: Brent

McDowell

### GRADUATE AWARDS

#### Excellence in

##### Scholarship:

Hope Lindner

##### Research/Publication:

Megan Munger, Alexis Melson

##### Teaching:

Megan Munger, Emily

Trejo, Hope Lindner

##### Professional Service:

Ellen Davis, Alexis Melson

# Alumni

## Tell us about you!

Please forward your alumni news, including your name, degree, major field of study and year of graduation to: [capatterson@pittstate.edu](mailto:capatterson@pittstate.edu)

.....

## Your gifts make a difference!

Support the PSU Department of English and Modern Languages by making a donation online at [pittstate.edu/givenow](http://pittstate.edu/givenow) or call the Office of University Development, 620-235-4768.

Pittsburg State University  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES  
1701 South Broadway  
Pittsburg, KS 66762-7510

620-235-4689  
[pittstate.edu/languages](http://pittstate.edu/languages)



### *In Fond Remembrance of Skip Morris*

Professor Emeritus Paul "Skip" Morris died this year after a long battle with leukemia. Rather than providing a traditional obituary, I thought you would prefer to read the words he wrote when he retired:

*I came to Pittsburg State when I was 47 years old and will be 64, almost 65, when I retire next spring. I always tell my wife Sandy that Pittsburg, Kansas, has been good to us. And it has, but that's even more true about my job here at the university. This school has treated me well, and I've been lucky enough to work with a lot of intelligent teachers and students. While here, I renewed my interest in my personal writing, all with the help and support of college professors at Pitt State. It's been a great privilege to work here. I'll finish my career working in a department known for its collegiality under a great chair and dean as well as a provost and president who have always been very supportive. Although we've enjoyed our time here in Pittsburg, Sandy and I miss the mountains and the desert. So we bought a small place in Walsenburg, Colorado. No particular plans beside moving there and getting ready for next winter.*

We miss you, Skip.