

Pittsburg State University

MAGAZINE

Gorilla logo turns 20

Look around...it's a favorite!





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Pittsburg State University

MAGAZINE

features

14 | On campus events
through photos
PSU host to numerous special events

16 | Academic Affairs VP retires
Colleagues pay tribute to Robert Ratzlaff

18 | Dual careers
span nearly 40 years
Jim AuBuchon leaves his mark

cover story:

20 | It's all about the eyes
Gorilla logo turns 20

23 | A memorable spring break
Two plastics majors travel to Germany;

24 | Harvey Dean's passion
Educator realizes business success

27 | Gorilla wedding takes the cake
Mark and Juliana Hudson choose red and gold

28 | Pro athlete shares his story
Gammon publishes "Life's a Snap"

30 | Dowell jumps at
travel opportunity
Trip to India provides inspiration

page 20



page 27



departments

2 | From the oval
32 | University Perspectives

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from the oval



BARNES & NOBLE NOW OPERATES GORILLA BOOKSTORE

Pittsburg State's on-campus bookstore has a new name and a new look. The Gorilla Bookstore is now managed and operated by Barnes and Noble under a new contract announced in the spring by the university.

"It is an honor to have been selected to operate the bookstore at Pittsburg State University," said Max J. Roberts, president of Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc. "We look forward to providing outstanding customer service to the faculty, staff and students."

Steve Erwin, PSU associate vice president for campus life and auxiliary services, said Barnes & Noble won the contract following an exhaustive six-month competitive bidding process. PSU representatives visited nearly 30 bookstores operated by the three bidders, Erwin said. Bidders included Folletts, which operated the bookstore at PSU for the past 27 years, Nebraska Bookstore, and Barnes & Noble.

"This was a difficult decision to make," Erwin said. "We appreciate the many years of service that Folletts has given to PSU. In the final analysis, however, it seemed that Barnes & Noble was going to be the best partner for Pittsburg State."

One of the company's strong points, Erwin said, was its array of Web-based services.

According to Barnes & Noble, the company offers students services that include online access to course and book information, the ability to have textbooks delivered to a student's location of choice or to have those same books prepared for in-store pick-up.

Another aspect of the agreement, according to Barnes & Noble, will be the availability of a larger number of less expensive used textbooks, which will be provided by Barnes & Noble's affiliate company, MBS Textbook Exchange, Inc., the nation's largest used textbook wholesale company. Barnes & Noble will also install the latest version of Text-Aid, a textbook management system.

Under the agreement, Barnes & Noble agreed to renovate and update the bookstore located in the Overman Student Center, which was completed before the start of the fall semester.

Founded in 1873, Barnes & Noble is one of the nation's largest booksellers. The company operates more than 500 campus bookstores for many of the nation's top schools such as Columbia University, Yale University and Harvard University. In Kansas, Barnes & Noble manages the campus bookstores at Fort Hays State University and Emporia State University.

Visit the Gorilla Bookstore by Barnes & Noble online at pittstate1.bkstore.com



COMMERCE BANK BRANCH NOW OPEN IN OVERMAN STUDENT CENTER

Commerce Bank has opened a full-service branch in the Overman Student Center and is now providing a variety of banking services tied to the identification card system for all PSU students. The contract was awarded to Commerce following a competitive bid process.

The Commerce branch opened during the spring. The new services tied to the PSU Gorilla ID card, including TM and debit enhancements, are being phased in over a period of months.

In a ceremony to announce the awarding of the contract, Wendell Wilkinson, president of Commerce Bank, Pittsburg, presented a check for \$50,000 to President Tom Bryant as the first payment on the new contract. The funds will be used to support general scholarships and improve other services on campus.

Commerce Bank already provides similar university ID card services to Wichita State, Fort Hays State and the University of Kansas.

Andrew Johnson, past president of the PSU Student Government Association, who served on the bid committee as a student representative, said the fact that Commerce was willing to open a walk-up facility on campus was important.

"Some of the companies bidding on the project were not willing to do that," Johnson said.

Steve Erwin, associate vice president for campus life and auxiliary services, said Commerce is one of a handful of companies nationally with demonstrated experience in offering a full line of banking services tied to university ID card systems.

BICKNELL SAYS FAREWELL TO PIZZA BUSINESS

For 43 years, pizza has been a big part of Gene Bicknell's life. So big in fact that NPC International, Inc., the company he founded, operates 790 Pizza Hut restaurants and delivery kitchens in 26 states. This spring, Bicknell and NPC International, Inc., announced that they had entered into a stock purchase agreement to sell 100 percent equity ownership in NPC to Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity.

NPC International is the largest Pizza Hut franchisee in the world. Bicknell '53, '91, opened his first Pizza Hut near the PSU campus in 1962, after receiving a \$5,000 loan from a Kansas bank. The company first went public in 1984 when it had 90 restaurants. The company went private again in 2001 after a merger won stockholder approval.

Bicknell, chairman of NPC, will no longer be with the company once the sale is complete. However, the restaurant services division will continue to operate in Pittsburg and the executive offices will continue to be located in Lenexa, Kan.

In an interview published in The Morning Sun, Bicknell said selling NPC was very difficult.

"It's my baby, I gave birth to it. When I went into the pizza business, people didn't know what pizza was. We pioneered the pizza business. We would go into a town and put in a store, and people didn't know what pizza was. We sort of trained the populace," Bicknell said.

Bicknell has earned much recognition for his business success and for his philanthropy. He was named the 2004 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the retail and consumer products division for his success in founding five companies. In addition to NPC, Bicknell's companies include: Pitt Plastics, a manufacturer of plastic can liners; National Mills, Inc., a T-shirt manufacturer and screen print company; Zouire, a national promotional apparel and supplies company; and M.S. Productions, an oil development and reserve operation. Bicknell said he would continue to operate those companies.

Bicknell has maintained close ties to PSU. He currently serves as national chairman of the Campaign for Pittsburg State University: Continuing the Legacy, a \$120 million capital campaign. He also chaired the university's two previous capital campaigns. He is a past president of the PSU Foundation. He has served as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Business. The Annual Gene Bicknell Celebrity Golf Tournament he founded raised \$1.2 million for PSU athletics and Mt. Carmel Medical Center during the course of 15 years. A wing of the Kansas Technology Center bears his name in recognition of his financial support and his leadership in getting the facility built. The university's outdoor sports complex is also named in his honor in recognition of his support of PSU athletics.



SMITH NAMED ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

During the 2005-2006 academic year, Howard W. Smith served as director of PSU's Kansas City Metro Center in Lenexa while also serving as the university's interim legislative liaison in Topeka. With the start of a new fiscal year, University President Tom Bryant announced that Dr. Smith had moved his primary office to the President's Office complex on campus and that he had been named assistant to the president. In addition to continuing to manage the university's outreach activities in Kansas City, Smith now serves as the university's legislative liaison in Topeka and he also serves as the central administration's representative in local activities with the city of Pittsburg, the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and other southeast Kansas initiatives.

Smith has been a member of the PSU faculty since 1996. He previously served as the chairman of the Department of Educational Administration at Emporia State and worked as a public school teacher, principal and superintendent from 1975 to 1993. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from PSU, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Kansas State.



The Fall Classic at Arrowhead V



GORILLA FOOTBALL RETURNS TO KC

Mark your calendars to be at Arrowhead Stadium on Saturday, November 4, for the annual showdown between Pitt State and Northwest Missouri State Bearcats. Kickoff is slated for 2 p.m. and the parking lot gates will open at 11 a.m. The stadium will open at noon.

Again this year enjoy the official PSU tailgate, GorillaFest, just north of the stadium where you will find great food, music and lots of fun.

Check out the Fall Classic at Arrowhead V Web site at www.pittstategorillas.com/Fall-Classic-V/ for more information on game tickets, GorillaFest and the huge Friday night pre-game party, sponsored by the PSU Alumni Association.

from the oval



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 spotlighted this 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.

For more information, visit www.pittstate.edu/music/Fiskop106.html

PSU STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Devin B. Gorman, a marketing major from Parsons, Kan., was presented the 2006 PSU Student Employee of the Year Award in April. In addition, he was selected to receive the 2006 Kansas Student Employee of the Year Award.



Gorman was nominated by the Office of University Development where he provides a variety of support services. Offices from across the campus nominated students for the honor. A committee of faculty and staff awarded Gorman the honor.



NATIVE AMERICAN ACTIVIST FEATURED IN LECTURE SERIES

Winona LaDuke, a Native American Indian activist and environmentalist, delivered the 2005-2006 Pittsburg State University Profiles of Women in Government lecture. She presented "Native Women in Education, Leadership and Government."

Winona LaDuke (Ojibwe) is an internationally renowned Native American Indian activist and advocate for environmental, women's, and children's rights. LaDuke joined Ralph Nader as his vice presidential running mate on the Green Party ticket in the 1996 and 2000 presidential elections.

The Profiles of Women in Government Lecture Series is presented by Pittsburg State University and the PSU Foundation, Inc., through the generous support of the Helen S. Boylan Foundation.

LAMPE HONORS SOUTHEAST KANSAS VETERANS

A retired Air Force general paid tribute to veterans, especially those from southeast Kansas, recognizing “their sacrifice for freedom” during the 2006 Memorial Day ceremony at the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial Amphitheater. Maj. Gen. (retired) George Lampe was the keynote speaker for a ceremony that attracted an estimated 1,000 people.

A special feature of the ceremony was the unveiling of a recent memorial enhancement. Private support made it feasible to install additional granite in the Brock Family Amphitheater on the low flanking walls.



Lampe retired in 1998 as a major general. His final assignment was deputy director

The Memorial Day ceremony included the “pinning” of the charter members of the Friends of the Memorial, a new organization established to support programming at the memorial.

After a 31-year career,

of Communications and Information for the United States Air Force and vice commander of the Air Force Communications and Information Center, both headquartered at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Lampe was born in Harper, Kan., and graduated from Pittsburg High School and earned a bachelor’s degree from PSU. He is a member of Sigma Chi International Fraternity, and was designated as a Significant Sig in 2002.

In 2000, he was awarded the Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award at PSU.

He and his wife, Pamela, have one son, Christopher, and reside in San Antonio.

PSU VETERANS MEMORIAL FEATURES 2,610 ENGRAVED PAVERS

Engraved granite pavers paying tribute to individual veterans or veterans’ organizations are featured in the Brock Family Amphitheater Plaza and the Guy and Claire Sutherland Entrance Plaza of the PSU Veterans Memorial. With the 130 pavers dedicated on Memorial Day 2006, the PSU Veterans Memorial now includes 2,610 engraved pavers.

Dr. James AuBuchon, special assistant to the president, said people have been eager to honor a friend or family member with an engraved paver. Proceeds from the sale of the pavers go toward ongoing support of the Memorial.

Pavers are still available for purchase in the Sutherland Entrance Plaza. Pavers purchased by Oct. 2, 2006, will be dedicated at the 2006 Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. Pavers are \$150 for an 8”x8” and \$300 for an 12”x12”. Pavers purchased after Oct. 2 will be dedicated in May 2007.

To purchase a paver, contact the PSU Office of Development, 620-235-4768, or lmetro@pittstate.edu. To see photos of the PSU Veterans Memorial, visit www.psuvetmemorial.org.



A special unveiling was held during 2006 Memorial Day ceremony. Two low walls that flank the arch in the Brock Family Amphitheater were clad in granite and then engraved with inspirational quotes. Gifts from Ivan and Betty Crossland of Columbus, Kan., and more than 90 Sigma Chi alumni funded the Veterans Memorial enhancement.

Another enhancement at the Memorial completed this summer, was the further expansion of the memorial paver display area in the Guy and Claire Sutherland Entrance Plaza. Later this fall, a computerized information kiosk will be installed near the entrance plaza.

PITTSBURG STATE STUDENTS SHINE IN PROJECTS WITH NASA

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

One team of students designed, built and raced the winning vehicle in the annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race in Huntsville, Ala. A second group of students designed and flew with an experiment that was selected to go on a NASA zero-gravity research plane this spring in Houston. For both groups, their experiences were part of well-established linkages with the space agency that give Pitt State students opportunities far beyond what many expect at a regional university.

This was the third time a Pitt State team has won the NASA moonbuggy competition. The annual event, which has its roots in NASA's original quest to build a lunar vehicle, requires teams of students to design and construct a vehicle that is lightweight and sturdy and can be stored in a defined area. The competition has become part of a capstone project for students in manufacturing engineering technology. The students believe that their hands-on experience in PSU's College of Technology gives them an advantage over students from much larger schools who do not have the same kind of manufacturing experience.

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, which included majors in physics, electronics engineering and commercial graphics, won the right to test their experiment on the NASA plane that simulates everything from zero gravity to twice Earth's gravity.

The student experiment was Crystal Oscillator Acceleration Sensitivity Testing or COAST. Data from the experiment will help the students learn what effects different levels of gravity have on the operation of crystal oscillators, which is valuable information for those concerned with communication with satellites.

The students who flew on the NASA flight said they were held to rigorous scientific and physical standards by the space agency. In choosing the PSU experiment, NASA put the PSU team in a select group of student teams from some of the best known research universities in the nation.

Whether designing a lunar vehicle or conducting experiments on a NASA research plane, PSU students this year have demonstrated that the Kansas motto, "To the stars through difficulty," is as applicable to today's PSU students as it was to the settlers who brought Kansas into the Union 145 years ago.



A Pitt State team sets the pace during NASA's annual Great Moonbuggy Race in Huntsville, Ala.



Pitt State students Cassandra Stuckey and Jeremy Burnison experience weightlessness as they run their experiment on a specially equipped plane in NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program.

The student teams:

Great Moonbuggy Race

Ryan Viola, McPherson
Ed Showalter, Overland Park
Rob Criger, Olathe
Jacob Lehman, Girard
Jorge Salina, Pittsburg

Crystal Oscillator Acceleration Sensitivity Testing

Cassandra Stuckey, Pittsburg
Jacob Stich, Chanute
Jeremy Burnison, Carl Junction, Mo.
Emily Pentola, Pittsburg



BORDERS, JOHNSON ARE OUTSTANDING SENIORS

Kellie N. Borders, Sterling, Kan., and Andrew K. Johnson, Wellsville, Kan., were honored as the Pittsburg State University Outstanding Seniors during spring 2006 commencement ceremonies. Their names will be inscribed on permanent markers on the Senior Walk in front of Russ Hall.

Seniors are nominated for the award by faculty and staff. A campus committee selects the honorees based on academic honors, activities, a written application and an interview process.

Borders is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Randall G. Borders, Sterling, and is a graduate of Sterling High School. Borders graduated with a 3.98 grade point average with degrees in finance and Spanish. She has been a member of the Presidential Emerging Leaders Program, the Pride of the Plains Marching and Jazz Bands, and has served as vice president of the Student Activities Council, among other activities.

Borders is an internal auditor with Sprint in Kansas City.

Johnson is the son of Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson, Wellsville, and is a graduate of Wellsville High School. Johnson graduated with a 3.52 grade point average with a degree in electronic engineering technology. Johnson was a member of the Crimson Club, the University Student Ambassadors, the Student Foundation Board, and is past president of the Student Government Association and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Johnson is employed with Cessna Aircraft in Wichita.

PSU GETS \$500,000 BOOST FOR NURSING

The Kansas Board of Regents announced this summer that the Pittsburg State University Department of Nursing is the recipient of \$502,244 in grants designed to help the state of Kansas address a critical nursing shortage. The PSU grants are part of nearly \$3.4 million that the Board of Regents awarded to 20 public higher education institutions across the state. PSU's grant total was the largest awarded. During its 2006 session, the Kansas Legislature provided funding to institutions across the state to begin addressing a critical nursing shortage as part of a 10-year plan.

At PSU, \$187,168 was earmarked for four additional full-time nursing faculty members and two part-time faculty members. Another \$302,245 was awarded to create a patient simulation and learning resource center. PSU also received \$12,831 for four Nurse Educator scholarships.

Department Chairperson Mary Carol Pomatto said the grants offer the university great opportunities.

"This gives us a tremendous opportunity to meet the health care and the educational needs of Kansas," Pomatto said. "This will not only allow us to add additional students to the baccalaureate nursing program, but also to add to the online RN-to-BSN program."

The RN-to-BSN program is designed primarily for registered nurses who have received their nursing education through community college programs and need baccalaureate degrees for leadership and administrative opportunities.

Pomatto said the patient simulation and learning resource center will be a great benefit not only to students in the Nursing Department, but also to students in other areas such as biology, to students at nearby community colleges, to area health care providers and perhaps even to K-12 students.

"This will be a new generation of patient simulation and will make Pittsburg State a leader in this kind of technology," Pomatto said.

The grants will also help PSU add to its master's degree program, which prepares the next generation of nurse educators, Pomatto said.

2006 GORILLA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DATE.....	OPPONENT.....	TIME
9/2.....	at East Central (Okla.)	6 p.m.
9/9	Panhandle State (Hall of Fame)	7 p.m.
9/16.....	at Missouri Western *	6 p.m.
9/23.....	Missouri Southern * (Family Day).....	2 p.m. (U.S. Cellular Miner's Bowl IX)
9/30.....	at Emporia State *	1 p.m.
10/7.....	Washburn *	2 p.m.
10/14.....	at Fort Hays State *	7 p.m.
10/21	Southwest Baptist * (Homecoming)	2 p.m.
10/28.....	Truman State *	2 p.m.
11/4.....	vs Northwest Missouri * at Kansas City, Mo.	2 p.m. (The Fall Classic at Arrowhead V)
11/11	Central Missouri *	2 p.m.

*denotes MIAA game Home games in RED and played at Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium

from the oval

STUDENTS SINGLE OUT THREE FACULTY FOR SPECIAL HONOR

When surveyed, students have high praise for Pittsburg State University's caring faculty. That fact makes being chosen by students as one of the year's

Outstanding Faculty especially gratifying, say the three who were so honored for 2006.

Julie Allison, a professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling; Becky Brannock, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling and director of the Honors College and Special Academic Programs; and Russ Rosmait, a professor in the Department of Engineering Technology; received the 2006 Outstanding Faculty Award during the annual Apple Day celebration in March. All three said the award had special meaning for them because it came from students.

"For me, it is so incredible that the award is by student nomination and student vote," Brannock said.

"I think it is evidence that students realize you care about them," Rosmait said.

Allison said receiving the Outstanding Faculty Award is "quite humbling, because there are so many great faculty around this campus."

All agreed with Rosmait that the hard work professors put into teaching pays off.

"You realize all the work you put in is recognized as something good," Rosmait said.

Allison earned a bachelor of arts degree, a master of arts degree and Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. She teaches courses in general psychology, applied psychology, psychology of adjustment, cognitive processes, and social psychology. She also advises psychology majors. Her current research interests include psychology and law, interpersonal violence and death and dying.

Brannock received a bachelor of science in education degree and a master of science degree from Southwest Missouri State University. She received an Ed. S. from PSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. She teaches courses in freshman experience, introduction to counseling, program planning and management of school counseling programs, school counseling practicum, and school counseling internship. Her current research interests include school counseling, educational psychology, school guidance programs and counseling in athletics.

Rosmait received a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. Rosmait teaches classes in metallurgy, metal casting, materials in industry, fabrication processes and manufacturing production control and management. He has received five faculty fellowships to the NASA George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Rosmait is also the adviser to the American Foundrymen's Society (AFS) Student Chapter at PSU and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.



Outstanding PSU faculty for 2006: Becky Brannock, Julie Allison and Russ Rosmait

PSU FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY FRIENDS

DEATHS

Joe Beeler

Alumnus and nationally acclaimed Western artist
April 26, 2006

John Beisel

Professor Emeritus
Department of Management and Marketing
December 3, 2005

Nick A. Henry

Professor Emeritus
Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies
December 8, 2005

RETIRED FACULTY

The following faculty officially retired from university service during the 2005-2006 academic year.

Ronald Clement

Professor
Management and Marketing Department

Steve Davis

Director Emeritus
Mid-America Manufacturing and Technology Center

John C. Glahn

Engineering Technician Emeritus
Business and Technology Institute

Keith L. McCoy

Instructor Emeritus
Social Sciences Department

Angela D. Peterson

Director Emeritus
Admission and Enrollment Services

Jerry R. Stockard

Professor Emeritus
Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department

James S. Taylor

Vice President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus
Psychology and Counseling Department

PSU PARAGUAY PROGRAM COMPLETES FIRST YEAR

It's been more than a year since Pittsburg State University faculty began traveling south to the plains of Paraguay to give students there a taste of a United States college education.

PSU Faculty Member Scott Gorman is hard pressed to say who enjoys the PSU in Paraguay program more – the students or the faculty.

"The students are so enthusiastic and are highly interested in sharing their culture," said Gorman, who taught a lifetime fitness course through the program last spring break. "It was a great experience for me, too. I'd definitely go back if I could."

The PSU in Paraguay program celebrated the end of a successful first year this spring. Developed after Dr. Alice Sagehorn, a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, traveled there in 2000 as part of a grant to internationalize curriculum, the program sends Pitt State professors to the country to teach courses through the Catolica Universidad in Asuncion, Paraguay.

The program may be a new venture for PSU, but the opportunity to form a partnership with Paraguay came much earlier. In 1968, President John F. Kennedy introduced Partners for America, a program pairing each state with a country from Central or South America. Most were paired based on their commonalities – such as Kansas and Paraguay both being landlocked farmlands that supply cattle, wheat and soybeans.

The Kansas Paraguay Partnership is still going strong when it comes to education. Although other Kansas universities send students to study in Paraguay for various disciplines, PSU is the first to offer courses there. So far, students in Paraguay have studied College Algebra, Introduction to Business, Music Appreciation, English Composition, and Biology, as well as other courses.

The program isn't limited to Paraguayan students. Pitt State students



Alice Sagehorn, far left, joined University President Tom Bryant, center, and Koeta Bryant, far right, at the president's home for a special evening with some of the students involved in the PSU in Paraguay program, which celebrated its first year in operation.

can also travel to Paraguay to earn their introductory college credits. Students can stay in the homes of their classmates, said Sagehorn, and enjoy a much lower cost of living in a different country. The

"This program is a great opportunity for PSU students to have an international experience."

difficulty has been spreading the word to students early enough to get them down to Paraguay before they've already taken their basic courses.

"This program is a great opportunity for PSU students to have an international experience and at the same time take classes they would normally be taking at PSU," said Graciela Ocampos, assistant director of the program. "It's a very unique project here in Paraguay. Students, parents and institutions appreciate the effort that we are putting in making this program succeed."

To enroll in the program's courses, which are taught in English, students must first pass the TOEFL.

"That's a problem," admits Sagehorn,

who is working to get alternative tests approved. "It's a high level of academic English and the test isn't offered that often, so students have to wait for it."

Once students have proven their mastery of the language, they enroll in one four-week course at a time. The program is set up so that in two years, students are ready to come to Pittsburg to finish their four-year degree. Five or six students, said Sagehorn, should arrive in Jan. 2007, and Ocampos has been told by many others they plan to come to Kansas as well.

With the program growing stronger in its second year, Sagehorn's goal is to increase recruitment efforts and get PSU students to see for themselves just how rich a semester in Paraguay can be.

"I don't think students really realize the program is there. In order to recruit, more students will need to have a big push," she said. "Since I've been able to travel, I don't look at the world the same. My children have been able to travel and it has changed their lives. I'd like to see all Kansas students have that. And I'd like to see Paraguayan students see the real United States."

PSU HONORS LOCAL EDUCATORS FOR SERVICE

The PSU College of Education honored a teacher and an administrator for distinguished service, and two additional teachers for achievements in the first years of their careers. These awards were part of the annual Clyde U. Phillips awards ceremony.

The 2006 Clyde U. Phillips Award for distinguished service for a teacher was presented to Tom Compton, a teacher at St. Mary's Colgan High School in Pittsburg, Kan. Compton, a 1991 graduate of PSU, has been associated with Colgan for 23 years and has taught math, history, geography, economics, government and a number of religion classes.

The 2006 Clyde U. Phillips Award for distinguished service for an administrator was presented to Matthew Wendt,

assistant superintendent for Pittsburg Community Schools, USD 250.

Wendt, who earned a master's degree from PSU in 1990, has been with the Pittsburg school district for six years. As assistant superintendent, he focuses on curriculum development and instructional excellence for the district.

Each year PSU recognizes one elementary school teacher and one secondary school teacher who have shown, within their first seven years of service, the potential to make significant contributions to education.

Tim Vesco, a teacher at Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac, received the elementary teacher award.

After earning his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Pittsburg

State in 2001, Vesco began teaching at Frank Layden Elementary School, where he has taught for the past five years.

Jamie Reagan, a seventh and eighth grade reading teacher at Frontenac Junior-Senior High School, received the secondary teacher award.

Reagan earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2002 and is currently working on her master's degree in reading and a reading specialist degree at PSU.

The College of Education awards are named in memory of Clyde U. Phillips, a graduate of Pittsburg State University and a well-known Kansas educator. Phillips completed his career in education as the superintendent of schools in Hays.



Joe Beeler, a 1957 graduate of PSU who was recognized as one of the premiere Western artists in the United States, died in April while working cattle in Arizona. During an October 2002 visit to the PSU campus for a retrospective exhibit of his work, Beeler and his late wife, Sharon, posed for this photo near "Night Song," an outdoor bronze sculpture by Beeler, located just east of Porter Hall.

PSU NAMES NEW COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY DEAN

PSU's College of Technology welcomed a new dean to campus in September. Bruce Dallman, the associate dean and director of the Ph.D. in Technology Management program at Indiana State University College of Technology, was selected as PSU's Dean of Technology following a national search.



Dr. Steve Scott, PSU vice president for academic affairs, said the university was very pleased that Dallman accepted the challenge of leading the College of Technology.

"During his visit to our campus," Scott said, "he very quickly saw the opportunities this tremendous facility offers and he recognized the depth of the expertise held by our faculty and their commitment to our students and their success."

Scott said Dallman brings "a wealth of experience at the college level from an institution that is highly regarded nationally."

Dallman was selected following an intensive national search. Scott said the search benefited from the involvement of faculty, staff and campus leaders and also from a serious commitment of time and energy from members of the College of Technology Advisory Council. That council is made up of leaders in business and industry from across the U.S.

"When I first became interested in pursuing the dean's position at PSU, everything that I found pointed to an outstanding opportunity," Dallman said. "When I visited campus, it was even more apparent that the College of Technology has outstanding faculty, students, and programs; a level of industrial support that, in my career, I had never witnessed before; the city of Pittsburgh that clearly embraces the university; and a university that truly appreciates and supports the College of Technology. It is my extreme pleasure to be a member of the PSU community."

Dallman received a bachelor of science degree in industrial education from Eastern Illinois University, a master of science degree in technology education from Eastern Illinois and a Ph.D. in industrial education from the University of Maryland-College Park. He has taught at Eastern Illinois University, the University of Maryland, Eastern Michigan University and Indiana State University. At Indiana State, Dallman had served as coordinator of graduate studies in the industrial professional technology program, chairman of the Department of Manufacturing and Construction Technology.

PRINCETON REVIEW AGAIN PICKS PITT STATE ONE OF THE 'BEST IN THE MIDWEST'

Pittsburg State University remains one of the "Best in the Midwest," according to the recently released Princeton Review's annual rankings of American colleges and universities.



The Princeton Review's annual ranking lists are online and in the new 2007 edition of its book "The Best 361 Colleges" (Random House / Princeton Review, \$21.95). PSU was selected for the same honor in the 2006 issue of the book.

The Review based its rankings on student surveys, which asked students to rate their schools on several topics and report on their personal experiences. Topics include: academics/administration, life at the school, their fellow students, and themselves.

Pitt State students surveyed praised the close, caring relationships they have with faculty and gave high marks for the quality of the academic programs on campus.

"Most of us take a lot of pride in our school, and that makes for a wonderfully unified student body," one student told the Review. Another wrote that professors create a "classroom environment that resembles a family atmosphere."

The Review noted that nearly everyone they surveyed believed his or her academic department deserved special recognition.

Students who choose Pittsburg State get a good value, according to the Review.

"Small classes and an 'easy-to-navigate' campus usually come with a much higher price," the Review wrote.

Pittsburg State University President Tom Bryant said that the Review's survey results are in line with what he hears from students on campus.

"The students I talk to are very appreciative of the attention and support they receive from faculty and staff," Bryant said. "They also appreciate the great small-college atmosphere and the high quality academic programs Pittsburg State offers."

For more information, visit the Princeton Review Web site at www.princetonreview.com/home.asp



Architects' rendering of the PSU Student Recreation Center/Pittsburg Armory

PITT STATE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD JOIN EFFORTS ON UNUSUAL JOINT PROJECT

The guest list at the groundbreaking ceremony at the Pittsburg State University Student Recreation Center/Pittsburg Armory was the best evidence of the kind of cooperation it has taken to conceive and obtain funding for a multi-use building that will soon be built just south of the PSU Veterans Memorial. Representatives from the PSU student government and the university administration were joined by Army officers, national and state elected officials and officials from the City of Pittsburg on May 6, 2006, to mark the ceremonial beginning of construction of the facility, which will be located at 2001 S. Rouse.

The \$15-million, 97,000-sq.-ft. building will serve a wide variety of functions. Part of it will be devoted to student recreation and academic offices for the departments of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and Military Science/ROTC. The recreation center will include cardio equipment, free weights, an aerobics room and gymnasiums. For the Kansas Army National Guard, the armory will include offices, classrooms, an assembly hall, locker rooms, a kitchen, training and support spaces and an exterior compound.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius; U.S. Congressman Jim Ryun; the adjutant general of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting; PSU SGA President Ginger Niemann; and PSU President Tom Bryant all spoke in praise of the joint effort that will result in a facility that will meet needs on campus and in the community.

Funding for this new building is a combination of state and federal funds and private donations to the university. The foundation for this rare partnership began 11 years ago when the Kansas Army National Guard (KANG) approached the City of Pittsburg to discuss the need for a new armory.

Over the years, the possibility of a joint project between the KANG and a local entity was kept alive. In 2001, the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$410,000 for the preliminary planning and design of a joint-use facility. The City of Pittsburg appropriated funds to help with site preparation and infrastructure the following year. The final pieces to the puzzle fell into place in 2005 and 2006 when the Kansas Legislature appropriated funds for the building, the Kansas federal delegation helped secure financial support from Washington, D.C., and the university was able to identify private gifts for the new facility.

Construction of the Pittsburg State University Student Recreation Center/Pittsburg Armory is expected to begin in late fall 2006 and will take about 18 months. Horst Terrill & Karst Architects, PA, of Topeka and Overland Park is the principal architect on the project. A general contractor will be named following a competitive bid process.

CHRISTMAN TO LEAD PSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

James C. "Chris" Christman, is serving as interim dean of the College of Education.

Christman assumed the position when Dr. Steve Scott became PSU vice president of academic affairs in the late spring.

Christman has served as chairman of the Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies in the College of Education since 2002.

Christman received a bachelor of science degree in social science from Missouri Southern State College and both a master's degree and education specialist degree in secondary school administration from Pittsburg State. He received a doctorate in educational administration from Oklahoma State University.

Christman began his professional career as a social science teacher at Galena High School and served in the same role at Webb City High School. His school administration experience includes a stint as administrative assistant at Webb City High School, assistant superintendent at Galena USD 499 and superintendent at USD 499.

Christman is a frequent consultant for school districts in Kansas and surrounding states. He has helped 10 Kansas districts develop long-term or strategic plans and has helped a dozen school districts in Kansas, Arkansas and Louisiana with searches for superintendents.



University names new vice presidents

Dr. Steven A. Scott

Following a national search, Dr. Steven A. Scott, dean of the PSU College of Education, was named the vice president for academic affairs at PSU.

Dr. Robert Ratzlaff announced last fall his intention to retire from the administrative position at the close of the 2005-2006 academic year.

In a memo to the faculty announcing the appointment, PSU President Tom Bryant said “Dr. Scott has prepared himself well for the leadership role he is about to assume. He understands and shares the core values that we as a university community share. His passion for students, for Pittsburg State University, and for the faculty and staff is evident in everything he does.”

A native of Baxter Springs, Scott received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics education from PSU, a master’s degree in mathematics from Oklahoma State University, an Ed.S. in higher education from PSU and an Ed.D. in higher education from OSU.

Scott began his professional career as a junior and senior high school teacher and coach, teaching in Riverton and then Miami, Okla. He was an instructor in

(see Scott, pg. 14)



Dr. J. Bradford Hodson

Dr. J. Bradford Hodson, director of university development, assumed the duties of PSU vice president for university advancement following the retirement of Dr. James M. AuBuchon in early September. Hodson’s appointment followed a national search.

PSU President Tom Bryant said, “Dr. Hodson possesses the education, skills and experience we need in this very important leadership position. The university and the PSU Foundation are in the midst of important endeavors and I have great confidence in his ability to lead both successfully at this critical time.”

The vice president of university advancement supervises Alumni Relations; the Business and Technology Institute and the Kansas Polymer Research Center; Career Services; KRPS-FM, the university’s public radio station; the Office of University Communications and University Development. The vice president of university advancement also serves as the executive director of the Pittsburg State University Foundation, Inc., which has assets of more than \$50 million.

Richard Miller, current chairman of the PSU Foundation board of trustees and

(see Hobson, pg. 14)



Scott, (from pg. 13)

the Department of Computer Science at NEO A&M in Miami from 1981-1988 and joined the PSU family in 1989 as an assistant professor of education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. In 1995, he was named chairman of the College of Education's Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies. He held that post until 1999, when he was named dean of the College of Education.

Scott has a long history of public service at the local, state and national levels. Currently, he is the chairman of the Kansas Professional Standards Board for Teachers and Administrators, a member of the Kansas Board of Education's Professional Standards Board, is a member of the Family Resource Center Board of Directors, is a member of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and a member of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board. He served on the National Committee on Technology in Teacher Education from 2001-2004, and was member of the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Assistant Corps from 2003-2004. Scott is a 2005 graduate of Leadership Kansas.

Scott and his wife, Cathy, have two children: Kylie and Phil.

Hobson, (from pg. 13)

who served as chairperson of the search committee, said President Bryant had selected the best candidate.

"He fit all of the necessary qualifications to the 'T.' He will do an excellent job," Miller said.

Hodson was named director of university development in 2003. Previously, he was director of development for the College of Business at Eastern Michigan University. Before that, he was at Central Missouri State University, where he began as coordinator of the annual fund, then served as coordinator of corporate and planned giving and finally as assistant director of development. From 1995 until 1997, Hodson was director of annual giving at Baker University.

Hodson received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Missouri Southern State College, a master's degree in business administration from Pittsburg State University and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Nebraska. He serves on the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau and is a member of the 2006 Leadership Kansas class.

Hodson and his wife, Sue, live in Pittsburg with their children, Hannah, Abby, Kate and Daniel.

On



With the start of the fall semester, the campus was very busy with students getting back into the swing of things. Students living in campus residence halls returned to a renovated and very attractive Gibson Dining Hall (shown on right).



Campus



The university campus was busy this summer as the host to such special events as the Brass Spectacular (shown on left and above) and the Kansas Shrine Bowl (shown below.)



Colleagues pay tribute to Ratzlaff, administrator and historian

BY ELLEN CARTER,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Two fellow PSU administrators said it was Vice President Robert Ratzlaff who encouraged them to consider the university's history when making decisions that will have an impact on university programs for years to come.

After serving 20 years as vice president of academic affairs, Robert Ratzlaff retired at the end of the 2005-2006 academic year.

Steve Scott, the newly appointed chief academic administrator for the university, said Dr. Ratzlaff's perspective was often as a historian, and from that perspective, he had a great appreciation for where Pittsburg State University has been.

"He appreciated so much the early leaders, faculty, and staff who defined our culture and shaped the identity of the institution. He worked

hard to honor their contributions by basing his decisions on the traditions and foundation they had established. I learned many lessons from him regarding the importance of understanding where we have been before considering where we should go. To him, it was doing the work in such a way that we are considered good stewards of this institution and in fact, that we are eventually seen as good 'ancestors' of the people who follow us."

Scott went on to say that his "understanding of the academy and the academic life is far richer and more complete because of Dr. Ratzlaff's influence."

Becky S. Brannock, director of the PSU Honors College and Special Academic Programs, said that when



Left: As academic vice president, Dr. Ratzlaff was on the platform at nearly every commencement exercise for the past 20 years. Right: Fellow PSU faculty members and administrators Dr. Jim Triplett and Dr. Stephen Meats talk with Dr. Ratzlaff at a campus meeting.

she thinks of “Dr. R,” the word legacy comes to mind.

“Webster defines legacy as ‘something received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.’ What I have received from Dr. R. has been his wisdom, his guidance, his friendship, his encouragement, and his unwavering support. I have had the privilege of working with him very closely in my role for the past four years as director of special academic programs. As the current director of the Honors College and with him being the founder of the Honors College in 1988, I am extremely grateful to him for his vision, as are the past, present, and future graduates of our Honors College at Pittsburg State,” said Brannock.

Scott Gorman, a faculty member in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation, has known Ratzlaff in his academic role at the university, but also as a fellow baseball player and coach.

Gorman and Ratzlaff coached Pittsburg’s American Legion baseball team together in 1991-92 and from 2001 to the present..

“Anyone who really knows Bob Ratzlaff, knows of his love for baseball. What many people don’t know is how much he has done for baseball in this community during the last 30-plus years,” Gorman said.

Ratzlaff was honored by the local J.L. Hutchinson Baseball League with a lifetime service award. He has served the league as a coach, post season tournament official, manager, treasurer and board member.

This summer, Gorman led the charge to rename the annual Pittsburg Post 64 American Legion baseball tournament the “Bob Ratzlaff Wood Bat Tournament.” Even though Ratzlaff was recovering from some health issues this summer, the honoree was on hand to throw out the first pitch and be recognized by the Pittsburg community. ■

The Ratzlaff Legacy

Robert Ratzlaff joined the PSU faculty in 1966 as a history instructor. Except for a leave of absence from 1969 to 1970 to complete work on his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas, he has continuously served PSU as a faculty member and/or administrator.

PSU President Tom Bryant said he and Dr. Ratzlaff have always been professional colleagues as well as friends. They both began their higher education careers at PSU at about the same time.

“Bob Ratzlaff has many wonderful qualities. He has contributed in many different ways to this university. He has worked so much on behalf of the faculty and students. With Bob there has never been doubt about where his heart is – it is with Pittsburg State University,” said Bryant.

A native of Garden City, Kan., Ratzlaff earned a bachelor of science degree in history from Kansas State University; a master of science degree in history from Pittsburg State and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas.

He served as an instructor at Independence Community College and Independence High School prior to joining the PSU staff. He served PSU as a full-time faculty member in history until 1978, when he was named chairman of the History Department. He served as chairperson and continued to teach each semester until January 1987, when he was named interim vice president of academic affairs. In October 1987, he was named vice president for academic affairs. In addition to his administrative duties, he has always continued to teach classes.

The university underwent significant change and much was accomplished during Ratzlaff’s tenure as vice president. Some of the highlights of those accomplishments include:

- acquisition of funding, design and construction of the Kansas Technology Center
- development of the PSU Honors College
- earned national accreditation for the first time for the College of Business from AACSB
- design and construction of the Family and Consumer Sciences Building
- reached negotiated agreements with PSU/KNEA, the faculty bargaining unit
- recruitment of numerous deans, directors, chairpersons and faculty
- development of new degree programs in international business, nursing, accounting, instructional technology, engineering technology, criminal Justice and many more
- development of numerous degree completion programs offered at various locations throughout the state
- worked with Cessna to provide training for the work force at the Independence, Kan., plant
- merger of the Vocational Technical Institute with the College of Technology
- development of the Writing Across the Curriculum program
- development of the internal program review process
- development of the General Education Assessment program

AuBuchon leaves his mark in dual careers

BY ELLEN CARTER,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

After a nearly 40-year dual career in higher education and the military, James M. AuBuchon's resume is filled with accomplishments and honors. He has left his mark on the university, the U.S. Army Reserve, the community of Pittsburg and southeast Kansas.

The accomplishments and honors may be listed on his resumé, but AuBuchon told the students and other guests attending the PSU Apple Day 2006 convocation in March that he owed everything he has accomplished "to the time he has spent at PSU."

A scholarship provided by an anonymous donor made it possible for the Baxter Springs native to attend PSU. His parents and siblings never had the opportunity.

AuBuchon graduated from PSU in 1963 with a bachelor's degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army including a year in Vietnam, he returned to PSU to join the staff as the assistant director of the Overman Student Center. He completed a master's degree at PSU in 1969 and a Ph.D. from Kansas State in 1978.

At PSU, AuBuchon embarked on a career as an administrator in student affairs while continuing to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve. In both his military and higher education careers, he continued to advance and hold positions of increasing responsibility.

In 1995, his higher education career took a significant turn when he moved from the Division of Student Affairs into the office of University Development, where he served as director of major giving. He was named vice president for university advancement in 1998. In that role, he also serves as executive director of the PSU Foundation, Inc., which currently has assets of more than \$50 million.

Some of the more recent accomplishments in his PSU career include his involvement in raising \$6 million in corporate, government, foundation, and private funds to complete the nearly \$30 million funding package for the Kansas Technology Center. He helped manage the successful \$100 million capital campaign completed in June 2000, and has provided leadership in the \$120 million campaign currently underway. He provided leadership in the \$5.7 million campaign to renovate and expand the football stadium. He was the project director of the effort





Above: Pittsburg State University President Tom Bryant, Dr. James AuBuchon and Richard Miller, president of the PSU Foundation.



Right: Dr. AuBuchon is shown at one of the many ceremonies held at the PSU Veterans Memorial since its dedication in May 2004.

to design, raise funds and construct the \$1.3 million PSU Veterans Memorial Amphitheater. He has also been overseeing operation of the Veterans Memorial since its dedication in May 2004.

Richard Miller, president of the PSU Foundation, Inc., said the foundation has grown significantly and made progress in terms of further developing policies and improving operations during Dr. AuBuchon's leadership.

"The fiscal year 2005, the foundation realized a record year in terms of private support – receiving more than \$11 million. That type of private support helps build a stronger university, which is essential to the Pittsburg community's economic health and vitality. Jim has certainly done his part through his work with the PSU Foundation to ensure that the university continues to grow and serve well its students and many constituents," Miller said.

Dr. Kenneth Bateman, alumni relations director emeritus, said of his former boss, "Jim AuBuchon has made all our lives better by devoting his administrative expertise in the areas of student affairs and university advancement at Pittsburg State University and at state and national levels. He has truly left many visual remembrances on this campus of his many accomplishments."

Opposite page: The PSU Veterans Memorial is AuBuchon's most visible legacy at PSU. The memorial serves as a venue for such events as a ROTC commissioning ceremony.

AuBuchon retired from the U.S. Army in 1999 with the rank brigadier general after 36 years of active and reserve duty. He has received numerous military honors including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He is past president and past national councilman of the Department of Kansas Reserve Officers Association of the United States. He currently serves as chairman of the Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and as ambassador for the state of Kansas for the U.S. Army Reserve.

Throughout his career, he also worked on behalf of the city of Pittsburg and southeast Kansas. He served as mayor of Pittsburg and as a city commissioner. He also served on numerous boards for such entities as Mt. Carmel Medical Center, the Family Resource Center and Southeast Kansas, Inc.

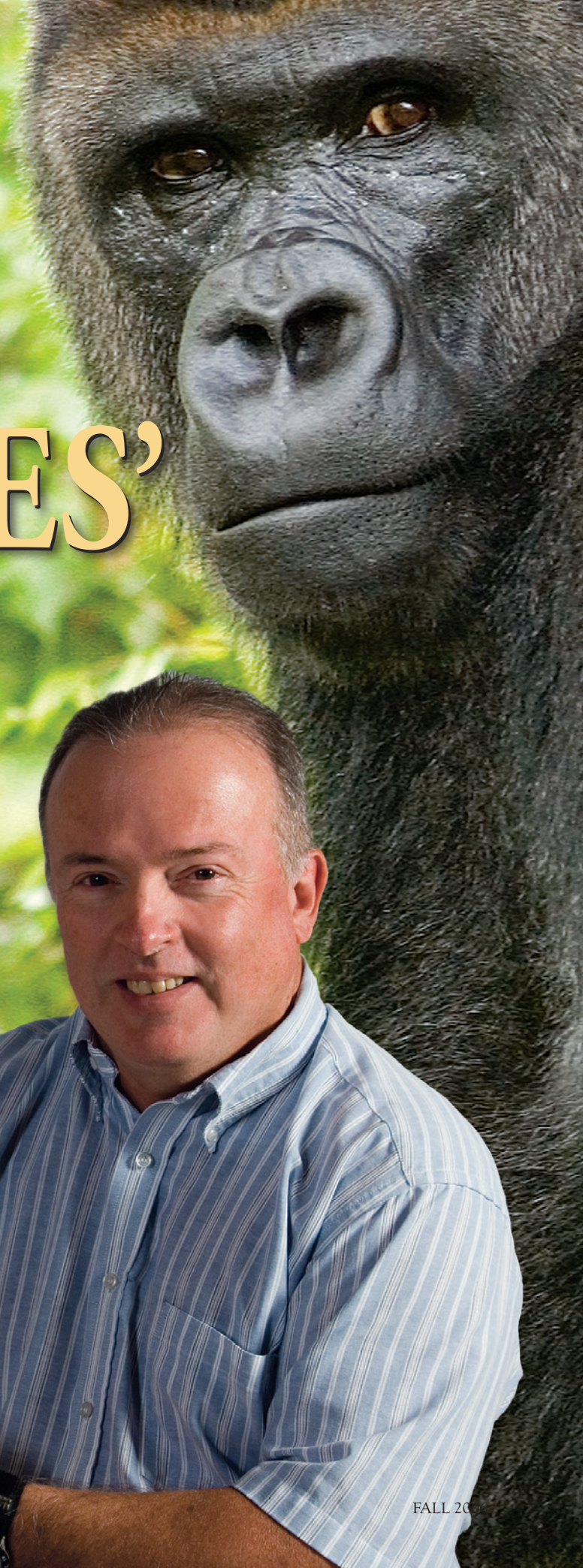
PSU President Tom Bryant said Dr. AuBuchon's leadership on campus and in the community will be missed.

"He is a person who was well-known across the campus, in the community and in many circles statewide and nationally. He has been involved in many highly visible initiatives during the course of his career. On behalf of the university, we appreciate Dr. AuBuchon's leadership and vision throughout his career, but especially in his role as vice president."

Although he will no longer serve the university as vice president for university advancement, AuBuchon promises he will not be a stranger on the PSU campus. He and his wife, Cathy, longtime Pittsburg residents, will be making their home near family in Overland Park, Kan. From his new home in Johnson County, AuBuchon will continue to be involved in PSU, handling responsibilities relating to the PSU Veterans Memorial and serving as a liaison to the university's federal legislative delegation. ■

'IT'S ALL ABOUT THE EYES'

Gorilla logo turns 20



Michael Hailey is a loyal Missouri Southern alumnus and has been publications director at MSSU for 20 years. So it is more than a little ironic that one of Hailey's most enduring works is one he did during a two-year stint with rival Pittsburg State University. Hailey is the creator of the beloved crimson and gold Gorilla logo, an image that turns 20 this year and seems to grow more popular each year.

PSU's Gorilla logo, sometimes referred to as the "split-face" logo because of its contrasting sides, can be seen on almost anything imaginable and in places that sometimes even surprises its creator.

Hailey said that he frequently sees the image and admits to feeling a great deal of pride at how popular it has become.

"When I see it on a shirt or cap at the mall," Hailey said, "there's a little part of me that wants to go up and say, 'I drew that!'"

Hailey said that creating a new logo for the university was one of the first tasks he was given when he arrived at Pittsburg State in 1984. Originally, he tried working with some of the many gorilla drawings that were circulating.

"It was a little bit daunting," Hailey recalled, and it just wasn't working.

Hailey's experience in art, graphics and advertising over several years at KODE-TV and then Leggett and Platt turned out to be invaluable as he tackled the job of creating a new gorilla logo.

"I knew I had to make the logo work in multiple types of environments," Hailey said.

The logo had to work small as well as large, which meant it had to be simple and clean. That was a major problem with preceding drawings that tried to realistically represent the gorilla. After several frustrating attempts at working with existing concepts, Hailey decided to start from scratch.

"I studied the gorilla for a while and tried to determine its essence," Hailey said. "I decided it was intelligence and extremely powerful. All of that was in the eyes."

(see Gorilla Logo, pg. 22)

Opposite page: Michael Hailey, the graphic artist who created the PSU split-face gorilla logo 20 years ago, is shown with the original artwork.



GORILLA LOGO HAS

LEGS!

Everyone has their favorite Gorilla logo story. Mindy Cloninger, director of alumni relations, tells of one PSU alumnus who wore a PSU ball cap to a pub in Ireland. A patron recognized the Gorilla logo immediately.

"Pittsburg, Kansas?" he asked. "My brother went to school there!"

From airports and theme parks to national wilderness areas, the popular Gorilla logo pops up in some of the most unlikely places.

"It is so unique and eye catching," said Heather Eckstein, interim co-director of admission. "It says 'Pittsburg State University' to anyone who is even remotely familiar with the university." Melinda Roelfs, interim co-director of admission, thinks the Gorilla logo is one of the most recognized mascots in Kansas.

"The words 'Pitt State' don't even have to be attached to it for people to know what it represents," Roelfs said that the logo is immensely popular with prospective students. Even those who are not interested in attending Pittsburg State want to pick up publications with the logo on it at college fairs and recruitment events, she said.

Cloninger said the prominent use of the logo on the university's Legacy Scholarship license plate is an important factor in the plate's success. Nearly 1,000 of them have been purchased.

"It just pops off the plate," Cloninger said. "When people see that plate going down the road, they want one."

(see Legs!, pg. 22)



Gorilla Logo (from pg. 21)

The art seemed to flow naturally from that realization.

"When I sat down (to draw), it was there," Hailey recalled. He said the final image emerged from his first attempt. "I didn't change a line."

The response to his logo was immediate and positive.

"I didn't know what to expect," Hailey said. "I thought it was good, but you never know how others are going to react. I was really surprised."

Now 20 years later, the logo is more popular than ever and that clearly pleases Hailey.

"I was hoping it would last," Hailey said, "but things change. As an artist, it feels good to have the public respond so well to something you have created." ■



Mike Hailey, the graphic designer who created the split-face gorilla logo, is shown in the Gorilla Bookstore on campus.



Howard Smith, PSU's Assistant to the President, and Doug Roberts, a PSU alumnus from Joplin, Mo., enjoy the activities at Gorilla Fest prior to a football game. Both are sporting apparel featuring the PSU gorilla logo.

Legs! (from pg. 21)

Kim Carlson, director of marketing at PSU, said that when building a brand image, being distinctive is imperative.

"Certainly the Gorilla as a PSU mascot is distinctive," Carlson said, "but the graphic uniqueness of the Gorilla logo takes it to a different level. People are drawn to it. I agree with Mike Hailey (the artist who drew the original Gorilla logo) that it's all about the eyes. As we build the awareness for Pitt State, the Gorilla logo is an asset we'll want to consistently use."

As the use of the image continues to grow, more Gorilla logo stories will almost certainly be added to the already lengthy list. Cloninger, meanwhile, says her favorite is still about a time that she passed through the airport in Los Angeles wearing a shirt emblazoned with the Gorilla logo.

"A woman came up to me and said, 'Is that Pittsburg State?'" Cloninger recalled.

Cloninger, expecting to meet a PSU alumnus or perhaps the relative of a current student, proudly replied that indeed it was the Pittsburg State University logo.

"I'm from Emporia State University and we hate you guys!" the woman said. ■

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GUS?

We continually hear stories of unusual places all around the world where friends and alumni of Pittsburg State University have unexpectedly come across someone wearing the friendly, familiar Gus Gorilla logo. We'd like to hear from you. Tell us about your favorite Gus sighting. Better yet, send us a photo of the logo in settings we might not expect. For example, you in your Gorilla ball cap in front of the Eiffel Tower or someone in a PSU shirt at the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. We'll run the best and most interesting submissions in the next issue of this magazine. (To be returned, photos must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Digital files are great, but remember when shooting to make them as large as possible for printing purposes.) Send your submissions to University Communications, 213 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762. E-mail your digital photos to dhutchis@pittstate.edu.

Kim Acinger and Adriane Wiltse recall their spring break last March with wide smiles. While droves of American college students were flocking to popular beach destinations, these Pittsburg State University plastics engineering majors combined international travel with the job search of a lifetime.

Acinger, a senior from Spring Hill, Kan., and Wiltse, a junior from Ulysses, Kan., were the personal guests of the president of one of the top engineering companies in Germany, whom they had met at an industry conference.

“We were thinking the whole time, ‘What are these crazy people doing with us? Why are we here?’” said Wiltse, recalling their fine dinners, top-shelf accommodations, and ski trip to the Swiss Alps – all compliments of the business leaders hosting them. “It was unbelievable. We cried the whole way home.”

If these students have learned anything outside their rigorous coursework at PSU, it’s the importance of networking. Acinger and Wiltse landed the invitation to visit the Geiss AG headquarters in Sesslach, Germany, when they met the owner of the company at a thermoforming conference.

The students’ story begins in 2005 when Acinger scored an internship at shoe company Nike. While there, she helped with the company’s latest project – the development of the Air Max 360 Sole. The high-tech tennis shoe uses polyurethane bubbles throughout the sole to mimic the feeling of walking on air.

At Nike, Acinger met an employee with Geiss AG, the company hired to create and install the thermoforming and processing equipment Acinger was operating.

“I talked to the Geiss contractor, and he mentioned they’d be in Milwaukee,” said Acinger, referring to the Society of Plastics Engineers Thermoforming Division Conference coming up that fall. When she and four other classmates – including friend and fellow plastics major Adriane Wiltse – arrived at the same conference, they located the Geiss booth. The contractor introduced Acinger to company President Rolf Obermann, and the conversation turned to the business’ infrastructure, its moves to break into the U.S. market, and a surprising offer to visit the German facility.

“I had three job offers when I left that conference,” said Acinger. “In our business, it really is who you know. Our whole network of people in this industry worldwide is about the same number of people at PSU. At the conference, (company leaders) were like, ‘Well, you could work here and then I’ll steal you away from them.’ It’s all about what you can do for this company now. The technology department here is great about getting you into these conferences.”

Job offers aside, the students now had a trip to look forward to. After months of arrangements and hours of flying,

“This has been a good year”

Plastics students explore
European thermoforming companies



Adriane Wiltse and Kim Acinger

they finally arrived, jet-lagged and glad to be on the ground in Munich, Germany, on March 15.

The two spent the week learning about Geiss AG, and Jacob Kunststofftechnik – another thermoforming company in Wilhelmsdorf, Germany. In addition to the glamorous perks they didn’t anticipate, such as a trip to the Alps, the students were able to attend the European Thermoforming Conference in Salzburg, Austria. At that conference, they saw plastics engineering like they’d never seen before. They also discussed the possibility of returning to Europe upon graduation and working for the various companies.

Back in the U.S. and with at least a year of school left for each of them, the students’ focus is once again on coursework. Both outstanding students, Acinger and Wiltse were two of four plastics engineering majors at PSU who received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Society of Plastics Engineers. This summer, both Acinger and Wiltse had internships. Acinger returned to Nike’s St. Louis facility and Wiltse worked at Flexpak Corp. in Phoenix, Ariz.

As they look ahead, Acinger and Wiltse see lots of opportunity. Both say they’d love a chance to discuss an overseas career, and think their education at PSU has prepared them for a lifetime of adventures.

“I think our program here is above par,” said Acinger. “Our opportunities have been great. This has been a good year.” ■

A passion for education, Dean's company continues to grow

BY ELLEN CARTER,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Some people describe Harvey Dean as a successful businessman and entrepreneur. But those who really know him say he is an educator who has realized business success.

Dean, the president and CEO of Pitsco, Inc., with headquarters in Pittsburg, Kan., has two graduate degrees from PSU and at one time served as the executive director of the university's Business and Technology Institute. As an alumnus and Pittsburg business owner, he has supported numerous PSU initiatives over the years. Of his company's approximately 200 employees, 67 are graduates of Pittsburg State, according to Tom Farmer, Pitsco's communications manager.

Dean has had many different job titles in his professional career: high school and junior high industrial arts teacher, university instructor and administrator, business owner and book author. His interests have been wide ranging but he has always remained focused on his passion – leading change in education.

The final sentence in his 1997 book "Changing Education" says it all

according to Dean: "This is about the kids."

He is proud that his fledging business (started in 1971 in Pittsburg) has grown into the Technological Literacy Group with five affiliated companies. But he is even prouder of the fact that his company and its various products now have an impact annually on more than seven million students each year in the U.S. and Canada.

With some recent successful ventures in various parts of the country, Dean said Pitsco is well positioned to

affect learning opportunities for even more students. In addition to extending the company's reach in this country and Canada in the coming year, Pitsco products will soon be used in schools in Mexico for the first time. While Pitsco's products shipped to several countries last year, Dean's primary focus is on students in the U.S.

"We are on the cusp of becoming an even larger player nationally in education, not just in select pockets as we have been," Dean said.

This coming growth will be fueled by successful initiatives in several states



Harvey Dean is shown with students at the Tiger Woods Learning Center in California. (photo courtesy of Pitsco, Inc.)





A timeline on the wall behind Pitsco founder and CEO Harvey Dean illustrates the company's growth and development since 1971. (photo courtesy of Pitsco, Inc.)

including California, South Carolina, Florida and more. (A look at two recent initiatives accompanies this article.)

It has not all been smooth sailing for Dean as a business entrepreneur. He has had more than one failed business venture along the way. Those that failed, he said, usually strayed from his original focus – leading change in education.

During the early years, there were many long hours and little financial reward for Dean and his family.

“One year, not too long after we started, I think we made a profit of

57 cents,” he said. But with the help and support of his wife Sharon, their three children, and many dedicated employees, the company has succeeded.

Pitsco, which includes five companies serving various components of education, includes Pitsco Catalog Division, Synergistic Learning Systems, LEGO Education, Hearlihy, and Technological Fluency Institute. Some divisions he and his staff developed from the ground up; others were acquired.

It all started when three industrial

arts teachers, Dean, Max Lundquist and Terry Salmans, met one evening in the early 1970s to discuss writing a book. In just their second meeting, they decided teachers like themselves didn’t need another book, they needed something more. That “something” was complete packages, including real curriculum materials and all the supplies needed to teach an activity, wrote Dean in his book “Changing Education.”

“Our development goal was to help teachers not only get up to speed on processes in industry but also teach their students about industry,” said Dean.

From those discussions, the company, Pittsburg Industrial Teachers Service Company—or “Pitsco”—developed.

Both Lundquist and Salmans would eventually choose to remain in teaching. Dean, however, stayed with the business and would build Pitsco into what is today a nationally recognized company in the field of education.

“When we first started our business in the 1970s, our motto was ‘fast, friendly service,’ said

Dean. In the 1980s, the company’s motto evolved into “Innovative Education.” Today, the company’s vision statement is “To lead educational change that positively affects learners,” and its motto is “Leaders in Education.”

In a discussion of the company’s growth and success, Lisa Paterni, Pitsco’s chief operating officer, said “Harvey is a risk taker. But it is really all about his passion for education and the kids.”

Dean’s passion for leading change in education has served the company well, Paterni said.

(see Dean, pg. 26)

Dean (from pg. 25)

Both Dean and Paterni agree that the company's focus has set Pitsco apart from many competitors. There were copycats along the way, Dean said, but many did not survive because they did not do the necessary research and development of new products, and they were not as committed to providing quality products and prompt service to teachers as Pitsco.

According to company literature, Pitsco focuses on "offering proven hands-on solutions to those who take an active role in positively affecting student success."

"As long as we do not lose sight of our vision and purpose, and as long we continue to offer quality products and good service," Dean said, "the company should continue to do well and positively impact increasing numbers of students."

And in the end, that is what Dean and Pitsco are all about. ■



Pitsco founder Harvey Dean has been involved in many initiatives at PSU, especially in the College of Technology where the largest classroom is named for he and his wife, Sharon, in recognition of their financial support for the construction of the building.

Pitsco's East and West Coast Success Stories

The Tiger Woods Learning Center

Since Tiger Woods' name is associated with the project, it is not surprising that "60 Minutes," ESPN, CNN and other national news outlets covered the story earlier this year in Anaheim, Calif., when the Tiger Woods Learning Center (TWLC) opened. Pitsco, of Pittsburg, Kan., was part of that national news story since they provided 80 percent of all the curriculum in the new \$25 million education facility.

The TWLC is designed to enhance the educational experience for students in Grades 4-12. Students come to the center during and after school to explore math, science and language arts through real-world applications.

Katherine Bihr, executive director of TWLC, said they looked at many, many programs in their search for the best curriculum to match the goals of the center. They determined that the modules offered through Pitsco's Synergistic Learning Systems "were a great match for us."

"We were impressed by Pitsco's core offerings and flexibility to meet our unique program needs," Bihr said. "In addition, the delivery of the curriculum via technology, coupled with a hands-on experience, helps us create an authentic learning experience for the young people who come through our doors."

Harvey Dean, Pitsco's CEO, said the association with the Tiger Woods Learning Center has brought the company some national visibility. Another professional athlete involved in developing an after-school program is looking at what Pitsco has to offer. Other opportunities for Pitsco are sure to come based on the company's connection to Tiger Woods' venture into education and helping kids.

The Star Academy

The Star Academy, a South Carolina program designed to prevent dropouts in the eighth grade, has so impressed state and local education leaders there that they have plans to expand it to additional schools. Pitsco's curriculum is the central component in the program.

The success of the Star Academy has received tremendous attention in South Carolina and is being considered in schools throughout the southeastern U.S.

Eighty students deemed as at high risk for dropping out because they had failed one or more grades by eighth grade, were enrolled in the Star Academy. Of the original group, 71 students successfully completed the program. Of that total, 58 earned enough credits to advance to the 10th grade, and therefore rejoined their original classmates in school. Thirteen others in the program finished one credit shy of being able to move to the 10th grade.

Other positive results included significant behavior change and improved attitudes by the students and their parents toward education.

Pitsco CEO Harvey Dean said the Star Academy was a collaborative effort involving state and district education leaders working with Pitsco to improve the educational system.

"There are some horror stories in that area of the country along the I-95 corridor in terms of educational opportunities. The success of the Star Academy will open doors for our company but more importantly for students," said Dean.

Dean noted that there are many similar success stories of Pitsco's K-12 curriculum being implemented in small and large districts through the U.S.

Graduates' wedding reflects love of everything PSU

Guests at the July 1, 2006, wedding of Juliana Cologna and Mark Hudson in Springfield, Mo., probably picked up on a prominent theme pretty quickly. It was purely intentional on the part of the bride and groom, both 2004 graduates of PSU, to show their affection for their alma mater on one of the most special days of their lives.

The first clues were the bridesmaids who walked down the aisle in red dresses carrying red and gold flowers. When the guests made their way to the reception, the homage to PSU became even more evident. The guests were greeted by a display of two stuffed gorillas dressed as a bride and groom and a groom's cake featuring the PSU baseball team logo with the familiar gorilla split face. There was little doubt left when the happy couple entered the reception to the PSU fight song.

It seemed appropriate, Cologna said because "we both get pumped up when we hear the PSU fight song."

Cologna and Hudson met through mutual friends on campus and have dated since 2001. As they planned their wedding, they decided it would be fun and appropriate to pay tribute to their alma mater.

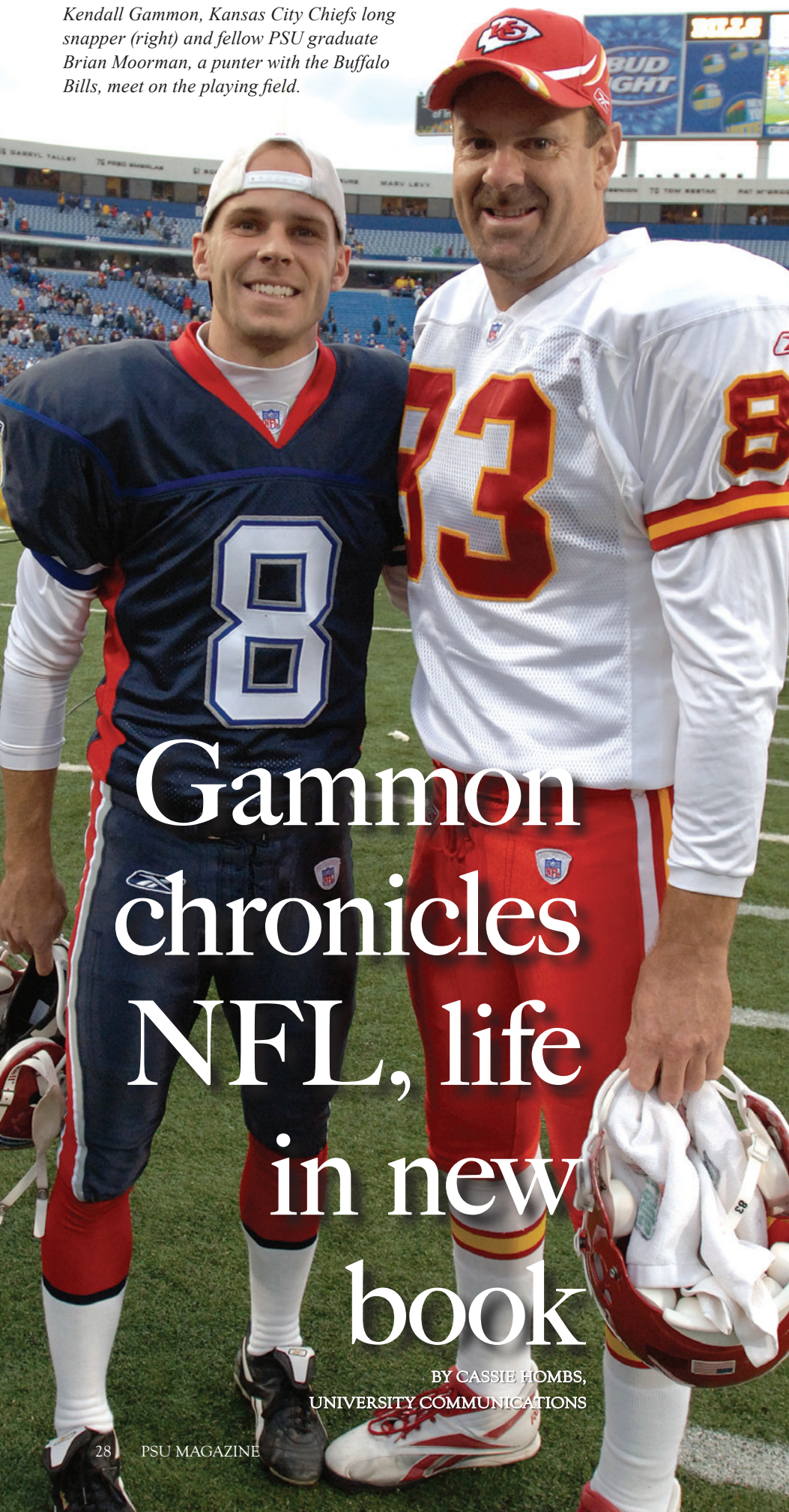
"We love Pitt State," said Cologna.

The couple are continuing a family tradition. Hudson's parents, Dave and Pat (Johnson) Hudson met while attending PSU. The groom was in fact the 12th member of his family to attend Pittsburg State.

The tribute to PSU at the Hudson wedding went over well since 17 members of the wedding party are PSU graduates.



Kendall Gammon, Kansas City Chiefs long snapper (right) and fellow PSU graduate Brian Moorman, a punter with the Buffalo Bills, meet on the playing field.



Gammon chronicles NFL, life in new book

BY CASSIE HOMBS,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Kansas City Chiefs long snapper Kendall Gammon has never had the sort of life that kept him out of the limelight.

After spending 14 years under the scrutinizing microscope of the NFL, the choices he has made have reaped certain rewards: a successful marriage to his college sweetheart, a career that allows him plenty of time to spend with his family, opportunities to play in both a Pro Bowl game and a Super Bowl, and an unrivaled string of consecutive game play.

Somewhere in there, it seems like he would have had a bad day.

And although the ordinarily reserved Gammon is happy to let his teammates bask in the attention, the past few years have led him to contemplate what he might have to offer to his fans. Five years ago, he began journaling his thoughts on everything from football practices to some of the familial challenges he faced growing up. Pretty soon, he realized he had a book in the works.

"I wanted to make a difference. I had a lot of things to say, a lot of things that happened to me that probably a lot of people go through," said Gammon, a 1992 alum. "They just see I'm this man in the NFL with a beautiful wife and two great kids, and that's all they see. I thought this would connect me to them more."

While the image of 'sports hero who has everything' certainly rings true on the surface, Gammon believed it would be through the book that readers could see the struggles that have shaped his history. Last December, after rewriting the book three times with the help of a ghostwriter, he self-published "Life's a Snap: Building Your Business and Personal Future." Starting with his childhood in Rose Hill, Kan., the book begins by telling the story behind Gammon's abusive relationship with his mother, who passed away when he was 19. With older siblings out of the house

“I wanted to make a difference. I had a lot of things to say, a lot of things that happened to me that probably a lot of people go through.”

and a father who worked long hours, Gammon writes that it was his love for extracurricular activities that kept him motivated to do well in life. Writing about his rocky experiences at home, he said, was important.

“It wasn’t hard to talk about (my mother) in the book,” he said. “Things could have been helped by a different situation, but I think she had issues, and I think it was worse for my brother. He kind of protected me. I wanted to be honest about how it was. When Dad read the book, I think some things surprised him. It was more than he’d realized.”

Despite the challenges at home, Gammon excelled in sports, specifically basketball. Although football would become his future career, it wasn’t a focus for him until he accepted a scholarship to play at PSU. As a high school freshman, he was a starting player on the basketball team – an opportunity that taught him having a hot shot attitude can be isolating.

His desire to be a more positive, optimistic person (a theme he weaves throughout the book) began to take shape in college. At Pitt State, he helped lead the football team to the 1991 NCAA Division II National Championship. When he was invited to the NFL Combine in 1992, he was picked up by the Pittsburgh Steelers, where his nerves were tested to the limit through years of stiff competition and a devastating Super Bowl loss. Just before the start of his fifth season and the birth of his first son, he got word he had been cut from the team. Within 10 hours, he had signed with the New Orleans Saints.

“I believed in my destiny and my ability to adjust and persist,” he writes. “I know nothing is random.”

His next life challenge would come with the births of his children, both of whom suffered intestinal issues that

required surgery as newborns. In one chapter, Gammon discusses the couple’s decision to not risk a third pregnancy.

Today, at ages 9 and 6, both Blaise and Drake are healthy boys. As they take turns meandering through the kitchen in their home, their father gives them each a hug, asking about various sports practices and interests. This is when Gammon’s All-American Dad persona comes out – he sips a Diet Coke, gently scolds the family dog when she jumps on the furniture, and steps outside to check on the pool while his wife Leslie walks in to make a sandwich.

“A part of me felt too exposed by the book at first,” she said, taking her husband’s seat at the table. “The stories in there are part of my life, but they’re part of his life too. I realized his sincerity. His life looks so perfect, but it’s a big thing to struggle with the things he has. I constantly continue to admire him.”

Gammon, who is getting ready to start his 14th year in the NFL and now works on annual contracts, realizes he may be out of the game in another couple of years. He speaks about the inevitable final cut, and says his family will stay in Kansas City where he has played since 2000. Despite a leg injury last fall that broke his record-setting string of playing in 218 consecutive games over the past 13 seasons, he has continued to be referred to as one of the best long snappers in the NFL.

What he hopes to continue to be called by his family, however, is the best dad. When training camp begins this summer and takes Gammon out of town for a few weeks, he plans to continue the rituals that have drawn his family so close. A Williams-Sonoma addict and “Martha Stewart wannabe,” Gammon spends his time away from home creating pillowcases for his sons with screen-print photos of training camp. At

night, he videoconferences his family and reads his sons stories before bed. Gammon says his commitment to his family, as well as his job, is not lost on his teammates.

“I’m the oldest player on the team, and I work out as hard as I ever did, maybe even harder,” he said, adding that most football careers last less than four years. “If they see the old man working out, then it will push them.”

The book has also been a positive influence. Teammate Tony Gonzales read it, telling Gammon he “wished everyone would.” And for former coach Dick Vermeil, writing the book’s forward was “a real honor.”

“I’ve always believed a man basically demonstrates what he is by what he does,” writes Vermeil. “Kendall demonstrates he is an unselfish, caring, hardworking person who wants to do more than just make a living – he wants to make a difference.”

Until Gammon’s career winds down, he plans to do more of his newfound love – motivational speaking – as well as keeping his hands in the other pies of his life (a mentor at his church, a competitive juggler, and a small business owner). And with his book on shelves, he says the goal is to make it a three-part series by writing and publishing two more in the future. Encouraging people to stay positive and recover from past obstacles, he said, deserves a few more volumes.

“When I speak to people, I hope they take away a sense of optimism,” he said. “I believe if you’re at peace with your life, happy with what you’re doing and feel like it’s making a difference, then go with it. In my mind, you can do anything and accomplish anything.”

To order a copy of Gammon’s book “Life’s a Snap: Building Your Business and Personal Future,” visit his Web site at www.kendallgammon.com. ■

Trip to India

When Angie Dowell arrived home from her five-week trip to India early in the spring 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."

But she found 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.

Dowell jumped at the international travel opportunity to India provided by Rotary International. The Pittsburg Noon Rotary Club nominated her for the service club's annual cultural exchange program.

"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."



"...from waking up to going to bed, everything was different. When I came back it was almost culture shock again."

provides inspiration

BY CASSIE HOMBS,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Sitting in her campus office, Dowell 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. "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."

Although there were some not-so-pleasant surprises during her trip (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."

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."

This fall, she is teaching "Dress and Culture," and is incorporating her experiences from India into her class. And she is already looking forward to her next opportunity to travel internationally. ■



University Perspectives

James M. AuBuchon

Vice President for University Advancement
and Executive Director, PSU Foundation, Inc.

Signing off...

I had the honor and privilege of coming to Pittsburg State University not once but twice. The first was as a student in the fall of 1958 fresh out of high school. Skinny, a little shy, with no money, but ready to learn—that was me succinctly stated.

After graduation and a period of active duty in the U.S. Army, I had the opportunity to come to Pittsburg State a second time. But the first time made possible the second time and set the stage for a career at Pittsburg State University that was quite interesting, fulfilling, and lengthy. It was characterized by periodic promotions and ever increasing opportunities to do good and important things. It has been a good ride but the time has come to finally move on. So that is what Cathy and I will do—move on.



Thanking the many...

It would be impossible to mention and thank everyone by name who had a hand in making my military, civic, and university endeavors unfold as they have.

Even though unnamed here, you know who you are. I am grateful for the many courtesies you have extended to me and my family over these many years. You are donors, friends, alumni, colleagues, community leaders, and elected officials. To each I extend a hearty and heart-felt “thank you.”

A final request...

I have but one request of you as I bring this column and my Pitt State career to a close. Stay engaged with Pittsburg State University. In order to make Pittsburg State University an even greater university, your help is necessary; indeed, it is vital.

Volunteer your time, attend PSU events, and continue with your private gifts to the good and wonderful programs and projects of the university.

Now, a final thank you for what you have done and will do in the future. Pittsburg State University is worthy.

It is a great day at Pittsburg State University. Pass it on!

Editor's note: Dr. James AuBuchon officially retired from his role as vice president on Sept. 8, 2006. He continues to serve the university as a special assistant to the president, dealing with federal legislative issues and the PSU Veterans Memorial. See the related story on page 18.



After years of service to the Foundation, 18 individuals moved from trustee to senior trustee status. Carolyn Brooker is one of those recognized with senior trustee status. Foundation President Richard Miller, left, and University President Tom Bryant presented the trustees a painting of Russ Hall in appreciation for their years of service.

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PSU Foundation Spotlight– *Ken and Debbie Brock*

When Ken and Debbie Brock drive up to their corporate headquarters in southeast Pittsburg, they like what they see. Growth is evident at their corporate headquarters for K.W. Brock Directories/Names and Numbers where two new buildings are nearing the final stages of construction. Ken Brock said he has plans for an even larger building expansion within the next five years. And they like what they see just to the northwest, the university's new Kansas Polymer Research Center, which is currently under construction.

The Brocks are Pittsburg business leaders who believe in looking to the future. They see the future of their telephone directory business, the university and

the Pittsburg community as intertwined, with all three on a contemporary growth track.

The Brocks were the lead donors in the university's fundraising efforts to construct the PSU Veterans Memorial Amphitheater. This fall, they are entertaining guests in their corporate skybox at Carnie Smith Stadium. Ken has been a guest lecturer in the Kelce Executive on Campus program and he serves on the Kelce Advisory Council. Debbie is a trustee of the PSU Foundation, Inc.

Ken and Debbie Brock are excited about what the future holds and are committed to supporting the continued growth of their business, the university and their community.

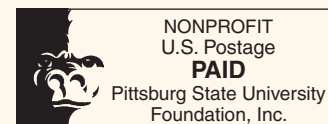


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