

Fall 2007

# Pitt State

MAGAZINE



Roy Jensen—  
*PSU experience inspired cancer researcher*



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Pitt State Magazine, the official magazine of Pittsburg State University, is published for alumni and friends of the university. Circulation: 51,000.

Vol. 15 No. 1 Fall 2007

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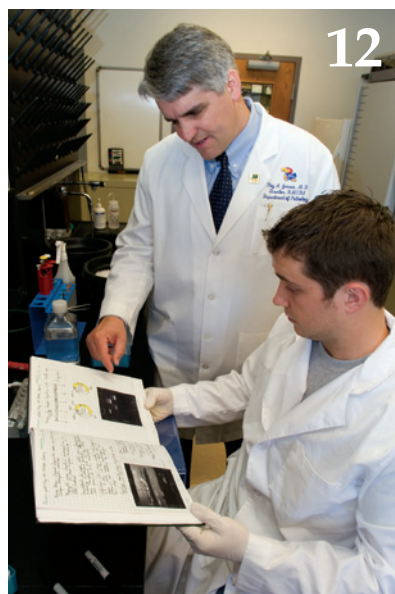
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Vol. 15 No. 1

Fall 2007

# Pitt State

## MAGAZINE



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### Welcome to the Pittsburg State University Magazine.

For many of you, this is a familiar publication, but for many more, this is the first time you have received this publication. We hope you enjoy the stories about the campus, students, faculty and alumni. We also hope you will give us your feedback. If there are stories you would like to see, let us know. If you have suggestions about how we can improve the magazine, we'd like to know that, too. Give us a call, drop us an e-mail or send us an old-fashioned note in the mail. – Ron Womble, editor



## 2007 PSU Outstanding Faculty

Three faculty who came to teaching on very different paths were honored with the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award.

For Brenda Letendre, who retires this year after 36 years in education, "Teaching was a way you could fulfill yourself as a woman." Letendre is an associate professor in the Special Services and Leadership Studies Department in Pittsburg State's College of Education. "And it was fulfilling," she added.

For Tysha Potter, a member of the faculty in the Department of Psychology and Counseling, teaching was a matter of "serendipity" although she came from a family of teachers with strong ties to Pittsburg State University.

"I really didn't plan on being a teacher," Potter recalled. "A position opened up that was temporary." Potter said she loved it from the start.

For Mark Peterson, an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences, higher education was the family business.

"Both my parents were university teachers," Peterson said, "so I could see how important it was."

Regardless of how they came to the profession, this year's PSU Outstanding Faculty agree on the satisfaction they get from teaching.

"This is the most fulfilling career," Peterson said. "I have an opportunity to change people's lives – to encourage students to feel the same excitement I feel with ideas."

"My students breathe life into me," Potter added. "I like knowing I can make a difference. I'm blessed."

Letendre quoted a quote from t-shirts many teachers wear, "I teach, I touch the future."

The Outstanding Faculty Award is presented annually by the PSU Student Government Association. A student committee selects the winners from a list of nominees submitted by students.

### *Construction continues*

## The changing face of PSU

For 40 years, thousands of students have sat in the hard plastic chairs in two large lecture halls in Grubbs Hall. This summer, the rooms are undergoing an amazing transformation. This fall, students who have classes in Grubbs 107 and 109 will find themselves in comfortable, well-lighted and technology rich learning spaces.

Paul Stewart, director of Facilities Planning, said the work in Grubbs Hall is just one of several projects the university is rushing to complete over the summer months. Another project that students will notice is a major renovation of the space around the entrance to Gibson Dining Hall.

That project includes concrete and brick pavers, planting beds, areas for seating and landscaping.

"It will create much more visually



pleasing entrance to the dining hall," Stewart said.

Another project that visiting alumni and returning students will notice immediately is the replacement of the university's aging and visually dated exterior lighting. The old lights, which were a space-age circular design, had become very expensive to repair and maintain. The new lights are much more efficient and more closely fit in with the main-campus architecture, Stewart said. An added bonus was that with the help of the university's Physical Plant, the old light poles were repainted and reused, significantly reducing the cost of the project.

One major construction project is almost at an end and another is on track for completion in 2008. The Tyler Research Center, which will house the scientists working in the Kansas Polymer Research Center, will be dedicated on Sept. 21.

Just a little north of the Tyler Research Center, work continues on the Student Recreation Center/National Guard Armory Project, which will be completed in 2008. That \$14.5 million project is a joint effort between the university and the Kansas Army National Guard. The university's portion of the building will house the three gymnasiums, a walking track and a fitness center as well as classrooms and



**OUTSTANDING FACULTY –  
Tysha Potter, Mark Peterson and  
Brenda Letendre.**





**SPRUCING UP –** PSU employees touch up the paint on new lights that were selected to complement the architecture of the main campus, far left. One major campus project is a plaza area and new entrance to Gibson Dining Hall, left.

offices for the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation and the Department of Military Science.

Stewart said that as these projects are completed, a whole host of work looms on the horizon. Much of that will involve the state's efforts to address issues of deferred maintenance on campuses across Kansas. This year, the Legislature has earmarked more than \$13 million to be used for deferred maintenance at PSU over the next five years. Stewart said the university had identified more than \$50 million in needs, but the \$13 million will be a good start. At the top of the list is McCray Hall, which was built in 1929 and houses the university's music programs. Another building high on the list is Porter Hall, built in 1927 as the university's library.

Stewart said that while campus construction and renovation may at times be inconvenient, the projects are necessary for the university to be able to serve its educational mission.

## Sororities, fraternities focus on improvement

The Greek community continues to be an important part of the campus life at Pittsburg State. This past year has brought a lot of change and a sense of renewal to the sororities and fraternities.

Last fall, a new Greek adviser, Travis Smith arrived on campus. Smith, a member of Sigma Alpha Mu, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami (Fla.) and a master's degree from Eastern Illinois.

This past year, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils focused on improving communication and connectivity among the Greek organizations on campus and on improving academic success among their members. Their efforts yielded immediate success. The all-Greek GPA rose, the all-fraternity GPA for the spring was the highest since 2005 and the all-sorority GPA continues to exceed that of the undergraduate average.

Smith said that the IFC and PHC also

began to emphasize re-commitment to the Greek values and promoting growth in the Greek Community.

The houses continued their strong philanthropic and community service efforts throughout the year and during Greek Week, the nine chapters raised more than \$2,300 for KVC Kids and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Good things are on the horizon for the Greek community, Smith said, including the return of one long-time fraternity. In the spring of 2008, Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), will be returning to campus.

For more on Greek life at PSU and the individual sororities and fraternities, go to their Web site at [www.pittstate.edu/union/greek](http://www.pittstate.edu/union/greek).

**PULLING TOGETHER –** Whether its having fun or raising money for their favorite charities, members of the Greek chapters on campus put all their effort into the project at hand.







## Journalism pioneer to visit PSU

The 2007 Profiles of Women in Government Lecture Series at Pittsburg State University will feature a legendary journalist whose groundbreaking coverage of the White House paved the way for female reporters.

Helen Thomas, commonly referred to as "The First Lady of the Press," will speak at the lecture series at noon on November 13, 2007, at the McCray Recital Hall on the campus of PSU.

Thomas, a former White House Bureau chief, has covered every president since John F. Kennedy, when she followed him to the White House in 1961 as a United Press International correspondent. It was during that assignment that she became famous for her sign-off "Thank you, Mr. President," when closing presidential press conferences. She served with UPI for 57 years, traveling around the world with presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush.

Thomas has been named one of the "25 Most Influential Women in America" by The World Almanac. Having recently left her post at UPI, she has joined Hearst Newspapers as a syndicated columnist.

The Women in Government lecture series is presented by PSU and the PSU Foundation through the support of the Helen S. Boylan Foundation.



## Program opens world of nature for youngsters

Spending her days surrounded by dozens of animals, birds, and insects at the PSU Nature Reach laboratory, Delia Lister is accustomed to surprises. Still, she couldn't help but raise her eyebrows when she was presenting a program at a school and learned some of the children had never seen a frog before.

"That was shocking to me," said Lister, director of Nature Reach. "You would think kids would be spending time in nature, but instead they're playing video games and doing things inside. It's just a totally different generation."

For all the attention she's giving to teaching kids new lessons, she's focusing even more on making sure the program of 22 years continues. Lister, who presents nature programs at area schools, community events, and at the PSU lab, has been working to secure funding for the center's budget.

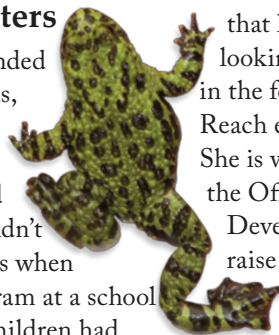
Although Nature Reach used to have a rehabilitation program for injured animals, Lister was forced to close it down last year. "We didn't have the money to correctly do the things that needed to be done," she said. "People still call me and are kind of appalled we don't have it anymore, but I think people would understand if they knew we're not fully funded by the university."

**EXPLORATION –** Biology literally comes alive in young hands in PSU's Nature Reach Program. For 22 years, the program has been taking natural history lessons to classrooms and to visitors to the Nature Reach laboratory in Heckert-Wells Hall.

It's this kind of need that has Lister looking for a solution in the form of a Nature Reach endowment. She is working with the Office of University Development to raise the \$500,000 needed to make the programs self-sustaining through interest on the endowment.

With about \$60,000 needed annually to feed and care for the animals (a hawk, for example, can eat more than \$2,000 worth of mice a year), Nature Reach has so far been supported by grants and donations, as well as funds from the Biology Department. Those monies also stretch to help fund the Research Reserve, a laboratory outside of Pittsburg that houses the raptor program. The reserve was damaged by a fire in 2000, and is slowly being rebuilt with the help of construction students from the College of Technology as funds become available.

For now, Lister is carefully watching the bottom line while making sure children are exposed to an education on nature as much as possible. "The more education we can do," said Lister, "the







more excited kids will be and eager to preserve what they have.”

For more information on the PSU Nature Reach program, visit their Web site at <http://www.pittstate.edu/biol/nature/index.html>

For information about donating to the Nature Reach Endowment, contact Ellen Carter in the Office University Development at 620-235-4930.

## Camps keep residence halls full

With many PSU students taking a break during the summer, classes certainly come to a slowdown. But for the Office of University Housing, summer has once again proved to be anything but a vacation.

This has been one of the busiest summers yet for the university in terms of camps that have brought visitors of all ages and talents to the PSU campus.

The summer kicked off with an Investment Casting camp for adults, held May 30-June 7. During the month of June, the Housing Office oversaw the stay of campers visiting for Honors College camps, high school boys and girls basketball camps, and the Kauffman Foundation. This year, the university broke a record by offering four separate high school football camps in June, as well.

“Last year we had the Shrine Bowl and

### SUMMER ACTIVITY –

**Don't think that just because its summer, the campus is a quiet place. Each summer thousands of high school students participate in a variety of camps ranging from flag corps and cheerleading (above left) and band to volleyball and the immensely popular football camps (above).**

we sponsored a Lions Club group that came in,” said Connie Malle, director of student housing. “We didn't have the Shrine this year, but we've picked it up in other areas like football camp.”

June also saw the visit of youth campers with Latter Day Saints, as well as the first of three rounds of girls volleyball camps. In July, the volleyball camps wrapped up, and well as a camp for UCA cheerleaders. The 14th annual Cutting Edge Auxiliary Camp filled the campus in late July with color guards and percussionists from 45 high schools across the Midwest. Summer camps wrapped up after the end of the Cutting Edge camp, which ran in conjunction once again with the Brass Spectacular performance featuring traveling professional drum corps at Carnie Smith Stadium.

“We've had thousands of people here this year,” said Malle. “We laugh that people think we don't do anything with the residence halls this time of year, because we do. They're full of campers. Our halls are busy all the time.”

## Samuels to lead Honors College

Former students in Julie Samuels' education classes remember the way she enthusiastically greeted each class with the question, “Who wants to be a teacher?” Now a new group of students will experience Samuels passion for learning.



Samuels, a member of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was selected as the new director of the PSU Honors College this summer. Samuels, who has been a member of the PSU faculty since 1999, follows Becky Brannock, who had directed the Honors College since 2002.

The PSU Honors College is designed to provide a more meaningful educational experience for select superior students. To be considered for admission, applicants must have a minimum ACT score of 28 and meet a number of other requirements including demonstrated high school academic achievement, a written essay, activities and letters of recommendation.

Samuels holds a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Ottawa University, a master of science degree in curriculum and instruction from PSU and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Kansas State University.

Samuels taught elementary school in Osawatomie, Kan., and Mansfield, Mo., and middle school in Westphalia, Kan., before joining the faculty at PSU. She currently teaches undergraduate reading courses as well as classroom management.

Her awards and honors include Kansas Outstanding Reading Educator, Osawatomie District Teacher of the Year and runner up for the Third Congressional District Kansas Teacher of the Year.





## FROM THE OVAL

### New activities planned for PSU families

The Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations is planning some new activities that will give PSU families some new options for entertainment during Family Day and Homecoming Weekend.

On Family Day, Sept.

22, Alumni and Constituent Relations will host games and campus tours for alumni, parents and kids.

Free carnival games will be available for children and parents on the Oval. Tours of the Nature Reach program, the Kelce Planetarium, and a presentation by the College of Technology will also be held prior to the football game.

New Family Day activities are just a hint of events to come. The office will host several other family-themed days throughout the year, including a campout and movie on the Oval held October 19, a fishing derby and baseball game next spring, and a parents/grandparents weekend in the dorms next summer.

"Our involvement is brand new this



year, and we're excited about the things to come," said Johnna Schremmer, director of alumni and constituent relations. "We're trying to bring back alumni, friends and kids to campus."

The office will continue reaching out to alums during Homecoming weekend, scheduled for October 27.

This year, the office will host a reunion for the Automotive Technology Department.

Although specific activities are scheduled for that group, Schremmer says everyone is invited to the Crimson and Gold Dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday night. Current students and alums can also take part in Casino Night the same evening.

On Homecoming Day, everyone is invited to the 9 a.m. parade before taking part in another new event: the alumni office will offer guided walking tours every half hour at the alumni center, the Tyler Research Center, the Veterans Memorial, and the Kansas Technology Center. The tours begin at 10:30 a.m. and run through 12:30 p.m. Beginning at 11:30 a.m. during Gorillafest, the office will sponsor a tailgate party complete with a chicken dinner. RSVP is required by Oct. 3 for both the Crimson

and Gold Dinner and the game day tailgate party, are RSVP. Tickets can be purchased by calling 620-235-4763.

Schremmer says she hopes the addition of the new activities to Family Day and Homecoming make visiting PSU a destination for more families and friends this fall.

"We're trying to build events everyone can be part of," she said. "Some alumni want to come back but wonder what there is for them to do. We're working to create something that will truly be a homecoming for them."



### High school students test science skills at PSU

It has become an annual right of spring. Each year hundreds of high school students from Kansas and Missouri descend on the campus to demonstrate their knowledge in chemistry, physics, biology and Earth and space science.

In addition to traditional tests, students compete in a variety of events that require hands-on science. For example, students will put physics principles to work in the Paper Tower, Mousetrap Car and other competitions. They demonstrate their knowledge of Earth and space science during the Seismic Shakers competition in which they are required to construct a paper tower that will withstand shaking produced by a machine that simulates earthquakes. The Mars Colony competition requires teams of students to build models of a colony on Mars that could sustain human life.

In midst of the organized chaos of the day, students not only show off their knowledge, they also have a little fun and perhaps learn what Pittsburg State has to offer them when the time comes for them to pick a university.



#### WE ARE FAMILY –

One of the big football weekends each fall is Family Day. At half-time, the university celebrates families with the Honorary Family Award.





**TEST FLIGHT –** High school students test a contraption they built to protect an egg in a fall from the third floor of Yates Hall. The annual Science Day activities provide fun and interesting competitions for hundreds of participants each year.

## Student employee of the year has 'great work ethic'

It is hard to imagine how the PSU campus would function without the 900 or so student employees who work in the offices and on the grounds. With that many great student employees, it is hard to pick one as Student Employee of the year.



This year's Student Employee of the Year, Nick Dellasega, was praised for being "professional with great business instincts. He has a great work ethic." Dellasega, a finance major from Pittsburg, worked in the Career Services Office.

Dr. Brad Hodson, PSU vice president for University Advancement, said that both the university and the student workers benefit from the relationship, citing research that shows student workers tend to do better academically than others. Additionally, Hodson said, student workers form a deeper bond with the university.

## Campaign advances, adds new scholarships

The \$120-million Campaign for Pittsburg State University recently finished its seventh year and with three more to go, it's still on track for a successful completion, according to Scott Roberts, director of Development.

Roberts said the university has continued to make new scholarships a priority for the campaign. As a result of that emphasis, 24 new scholarships were created for PSU students this past year.

"These scholarships were created by people who have an interest in helping deserving students achieve their educational goals," Roberts said. "They want to make a difference in the lives of students."



## University Professors

Five professors achieved the distinction "University Professor" this year. The achievement recognizes faculty for demonstrated excellence in at least two of three areas: teaching; research, scholarship and/or creative endeavors; and community and/or university service.

Candidates for university professor must have been at the rank of full professor for no less than seven years. University Professor status is for seven years.

University Professors for 2007 are:

Judy Berry-Bravo, Modern Languages and Literatures  
David Hurford, Psychology and Counseling  
Richard Lipka, Special Services and Leadership Studies  
Michael Muoghalu, Economics, Finance and Banking  
Russell Rosmait, Engineering Technology



## We see Gorillas in some of the most amazing places!

For construction management major Jeremy Milburn, a summer intern with the Atlantic Co. of America, it was at the very top of the Washington Monument during the monument's restoration. Today, Jeremy is with J.E. Dunn in Kansas City.

We love to hear your Gorilla stories. Send stories, photos or story ideas to [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto:psumag@pittstate.edu)





## FROM THE OVAL



### FANTASTIC PLASTIC –

Kansas City metro area students learn about plastics manufacturing and the recycling potential of plastics through activities at the Kansas Technology Center. The students are participants in the Kauffman Foundation's Kauffman Scholars Program.

### Urban youth experience Pitt State

They aren't ready for college yet, but two groups of urban youngsters from Kansas City got a first-hand view this summer of what a university and particularly Pittsburg State has to offer. The eighth graders and high school freshmen were participants in the Kauffman Scholars Program, which was developed by the Kauffman Foundation to prepare promising, yet challenged low-income students in Kansas City for college.

All of the students lived in university residence halls, ate in Gibson Dining Hall and spent time in college classrooms.

The Kauffman Scholars Program is unusual in that it works with students beginning in the seventh grade and follows them through college. Students selected for the program must live in the Kansas City, Kan., or Kansas City, Mo., school districts and attend a public or charter school in those districts. Selection for the program is based on family income and academic performance.

Manomay Malathip, lead life coach and scholar engagement specialist, said living in a university residence

hall, going to class and walking the same halls that regular PSU students walk helped the Kauffman Scholars to imagine themselves as college students. The academic activities also open the students' eyes to educational and career paths that might not have occurred to them previously.

### Center for autism formed

For Psychology and Counseling Chairman Dr. David Hurford, watching the "explosion" of children with autism and spectrum disorder in the Southeast Kansas area has been difficult, considering the lack of local resources for their parents, teachers, and doctors.

With the formation of the PSU Center for Autism and Spectrum Disorder, he's hoping to change that.

Hurford, along with Dr. Victoria White, former chairwoman of Special Services and Leadership Studies, developed the idea in 2005 for a center that would focus on autism and spectrum disorder (the new, official term for "autism"). Housed within the Department of Psychology and Counseling's Center for Human Services, the center will provide education to local teachers, students,

physicians, and parents. It will also provide assessments and training for children.

A pledge by the Helen S. Boylan Foundation last fall helped the center begin moving from theory to reality. The foundation has donated \$50,000 to the project, with the second half of the money arriving at the end of this year.

Hurford said that other financial needs still exist. To contact PSU about the project or to make a donation, call Ellen Carter in the Office of University Development at 620-235-4930.

### Pittsburg State University a 'Best Midwestern' pick

The Princeton Review consistently lists Pittsburg State University as one of its "Best Midwestern Colleges." The publication praises PSU for professors who "cultivate a 'classroom environment that resembles a family atmosphere.'"







## New lab makes Nursing Department a regional resource

A new lab in the Department of Nursing not only gives students a richer educational experience than was ever before possible, but it also establishes PSU as an educational resource for the wider health care community. The PSU Regional Simulation Center/Learning Resources Lab was established this year with a major grant from the Kansas Board of Regents. The money was part of a statewide effort funded by the Kansas Legislature that is designed to address the growing shortage of nurses in Kansas.

The hand-crafted simulators, which are computerized mannequins that look, feel and act like real patients, use technology developed for the military to train medics. They can be programmed to experience 90 different health crises. They can even “bleed” and “die.”

The lab contains a family of seven simulators, including an infant, in order to provide the widest range of patients possible. Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto, chairperson of the department, said the simulators do not replace the clinical training that students receive, but instead enhances that experience.

Kristi Frisbee, coordinator of the department’s Learning Resources Center, said the clinical experiences that students have can’t cover all of the real-life possibilities nurses encounter.

“We can’t just call up a hospital and say ‘Can you have someone die at noon today so our students can learn how to save a life?’” Frisbee said. “This is the best way for students to be trained and prepared for anything.”

Pomatto said although the lab is new, area health care providers are already excited about the educational opportunities it may provide for working health care professionals.

“Pittsburg State is pleased to play an

important role in meeting the health care needs of the region,” Pomatto said.

For more about programs in the Department of Nursing, visit the department Web site at [www.pittstate.edu/nurs/](http://www.pittstate.edu/nurs/) or call 620-235-4431.



### ALMOST REAL –

Pitt State nursing students use some of the most advanced technology available to learn about patient care. The human simulators, purchased with a grant from the Kansas Legislature, are capable of replicating many medical conditions.

### EAST CAMPUS EXPANDS –

Two new buildings are changing the look of the far east side of the PSU campus. The Tyler Research Center (below), will house the university’s ground-breaking polymer research program beginning this fall. The Student Recreation Center/National Guard Armory (bottom), is a unique cooperative effort between the university and the Kansas Army National Guard. When it is completed in 2008, the building will house the departments of Military Science and Health, Human Performance and Recreation. In addition to classrooms and offices, the building will also include a student fitness center. The Army National Guard meanwhile, will use the east portion of the building for its armory.







## FROM THE OVAL

### Retirements usher in a season of change

Like their counterparts across the country, PSU's Baby Boomers are beginning to retire and this means some very familiar faces on campus are giving way to a new generation of faculty and staff. This year, for example, four long-time administrators with a combined 140 years of service to PSU concluded their careers at Pittsburg State.

Jim AuBuchon, vice president for University Advancement, retired at the end of 2006. Larry Nokes, director of the Physical Plant; Teresa Massa, director of EOAA; and Lee Christensen, registrar and associate vice president for Academic Programs, retired at the end of the academic year. Other retirees include Steve High, Women's Basketball; Randy

Rosenbaum, Printing and Postal Services; and Jim Snyder, Military Science.

President Tom Bryant said each of these administrators, in his or her own way, made a dramatic difference at PSU.

"This university has been blessed to have faculty and staff who, over a long period of time, have worked tirelessly to make this the wonderful learning community it is today," Bryant said. "Their faithfulness to the university and to generations of Pittsburg State students is to be commended."

At the annual faculty retirement dinner, each reflected on decades of service to Pittsburg State. Each also paid homage to administrators from decades past who influenced them. One in particular, was long-time administrator Ray Baird, who was in the audience that night.

Baird served the university from 1947 until his retirement in 1987. The retirees said they tried to emulate Baird's quiet leadership style as well as his commitment to students.

"The university's special culture is passed from one generation of faculty and staff to the next," Bryant said. "It is important that as we change and adapt to the changing needs of students and society, that we honor our past and preserve the values and the culture that make Pittsburg State unique."

### In memory

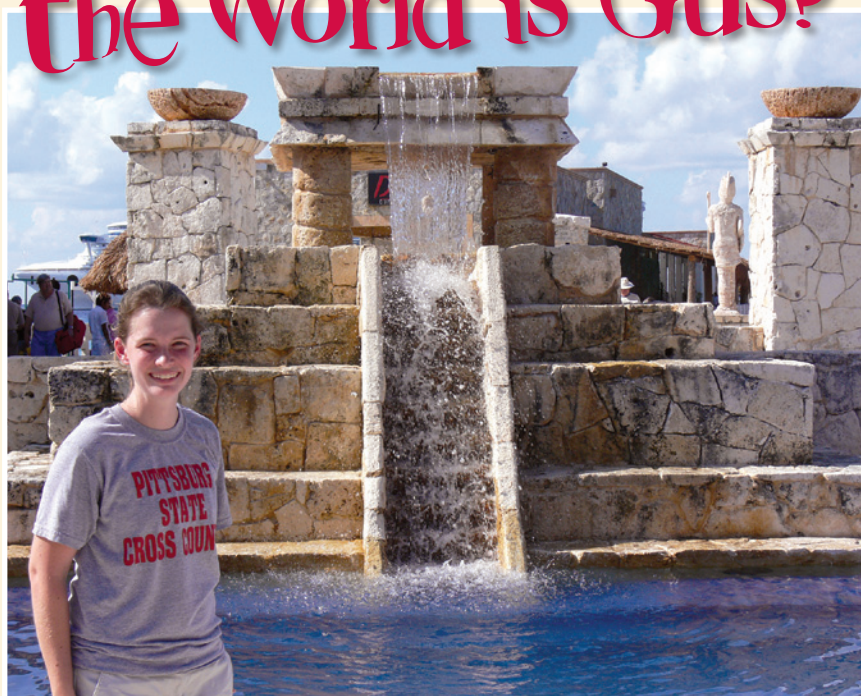
Rolland "Slim" Cummings,  
Instructional Media (June 11, 2007)  
Dr. James Taylor, Student Affairs  
(July 8, 2007)

## "Where in the World is Gus?"

My name is Megan Nelson, and I'm a 2005 PSU graduate. I'm also an alumna of the PSU Track & Field and Cross Country teams, so I have acquired my fair share of Gorilla merchandise over the years.

For a vacation last year, my husband and I traveled to Cozumel, Mexico during a five-day cruise. I wanted to wear something comfortable for a day of walking around the city, so I decided to wear a favorite PSU Cross Country t-shirt (I'm attaching a photo of me wearing the shirt in front of a fountain in Cozumel). And, as usually happens whenever I wear anything PSU, I was approached by some fellow tourists who said -- "Pittsburg, Kansas? That's a great school! Both of our kids went there."

Have a great day,  
Megan



We would like to know what interesting places Gus has visited. E-mail your photo and a brief story to [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto:psumag@pittstate.edu)



# Events Calendar

## Art

### UNIVERSITY GALLERY Fall 2007

Aug. 16 – Sept. 13  
**Craig Calnan**, Joplin, Mo  
*Prints and Drawings*  
*Narrative Surfaces*  
*Printmaking*

Sept. 17 – Oct. 17  
**Michael Baggarly**,  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
*Sculpture*

Oct. 24 – Nov. 26  
**KYLE**, Maitland, Fla.  
*Photography*

Nov. 29, 2007 – Jan. 24, 2008  
**Kim Kauffman**,  
Lansing, Mich.  
*Digital Image (scanner)*

### UNIVERSITY GALLERY Spring 2008

Feb. 5 – March 5  
**Mark Malloy**, Boone, NC  
*Photography*

March 8 – April 8  
**Lydia Thompson**,  
Richmond, Va.  
*Ceramics*

### HARRY KRUG GALLERY Fall 2007

Aug. 27 – Sept. 27  
**Michael Hunnewell**,  
Miami, Fla.  
*Paintings*

Oct. 5 – Nov. 9  
**Jed Schlegel**, Joplin, Mo.  
*Ceramics*

Nov. 2; 6-8 p.m.  
Harry Krug Gallery:  
**Family Art Night**

Nov. 14 – Dec. 7  
**MA (Master of Arts) Exhibits**

### HARRY KRUG GALLERY Spring 2008

Jan. 22 – Feb. 28  
**Eileen Cohen**, St. Paul, Minn.  
*Ceramics*



March 5 – April 14  
**Robert Quackenbush**,  
Kansas City, Mo.  
*Paintings*

**MA Senior Exhibits**  
April 16- May 9

*Call for updated lecture  
and reception times or visit  
the PSU Web calendar for the  
most current information.*  
620-235-4305,  
[sbowman@pittstate.edu](mailto:sbowman@pittstate.edu)

## English

**Robin Hemley**  
Thurs., Nov. 8; 8 p.m.  
reading  
*Governor's Room,*  
*Overman Student Center*

**Denise Low**  
Kansas Poet Laureate,  
Thurs., Sept. 20; 8 p.m.  
poetry reading  
*Balkans Room,*  
*Overman Student Center*

*Call for additional information.*  
620-235-4689

## Music

**SOLO AND CHAMBER  
MUSIC SERIES**  
**Anonymous 4**, *vocal*  
Friday, Sept. 21

**Ethos Percussion Group**  
Friday, Oct. 19

**Håkan Rosengren**, *clarinet*  
with Chiara String Quartet  
Friday, Nov. 9

**Enrico Elisi**, *piano*  
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008

**Cihat Askin**, *violin*  
Tuesday, March 4, 2008

**Piffaro**, the Renaissance Band  
Friday, March 28, 2008

*All performance times are at  
7:30 p.m. in McCray Recital  
Hall. Call for additional  
information. 620-235-4460*

## PALS

### PERFORMING ARTS AND LECTURE SERIES

**Second City**  
Thur. Nov. 7; 7 p.m.  
*Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium*

**Slam Poet - George Watsky**  
Thur., Nov. 14; 7 p.m.  
*U-Club, Student Center*

**Babes in Toyland**  
Fri. Dec. 7; 7 p.m.  
*Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium*  
*For additional information call  
the PSU Ticket Office,*  
620-235-4796.

## Theatre

**Alice in Wonderland**  
Oct. 18 – 20; 8 p.m.  
*Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium*

**One-Act Plays**  
Nov. 30 – Dec 1; 7 p.m.  
*PSU Studio Theatre*

**Marisol**  
March 6 – 8; 8 p.m.  
March 9; 2 p.m.  
*PSU Studio Theatre*

**Fuddy Meers**  
May 1 – 3; 8 p.m.  
May 4; 2 p.m.  
*PSU Studio Theatre*

## Homecoming

Homecoming 2007 will take  
on a game show theme this  
year with "And Your Host  
is...Gus Gorilla!" Activities  
run all week, culminating in  
the football game with  
Ft. Hays.

### Monday, Oct. 22

4 p.m. - Gorilla Games and  
Yard Art, *on the Oval*

### Tuesday, Oct. 23

6 p.m. - King & Queen  
Presentations,  
*Crimson & Gold Ballroom,*  
*Overman Student Center*

### Wednesday, Oct. 24

Noon – Convocation and  
crowning of the king and  
queen, *Carnie Smith Stadium*

8 p.m. - Comedian:  
Ronnie Jordan,  
*Crimson & Gold Ballroom,*  
*Overman Student Center*

### Thursday, October 25

7 p.m. - Yell Like Hell,  
*Carnie Smith Stadium*

### Friday, October 26

8 p.m. - Casino Night,  
*Jungle Lounge,*  
*Overman Student Center*

### Saturday, October 27

9 a.m. – Parade, *Downtown*

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. -  
GorillaFest Tailgate Party,  
*Gorilla Village*, music by  
Winter Circle

2 p.m. - Football Game  
vs. Ft. Hays State,  
*Carnie Smith Stadium*



Roy Jensen admits that when he graduated from high school in Gardner, Kansas, he, like most his age, “didn’t have much of a clue” about what he wanted to do with his life. Two things were pretty certain, however. He loved playing basketball and he was sure that he didn’t want to become a doctor.

# PSU experience inspired cancer researcher

Today, Dr. Roy Jensen is leading the KU Cancer Center in an ambitious drive to become a National Cancer Center Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. The goal is to build it into one of the top research facilities in the U.S.

As he reflects on the surprising path his life has taken, Jensen points to Pittsburg State University, some PSU faculty and a very special PSU alumna who guided him into his current leadership role in the battle against cancer.

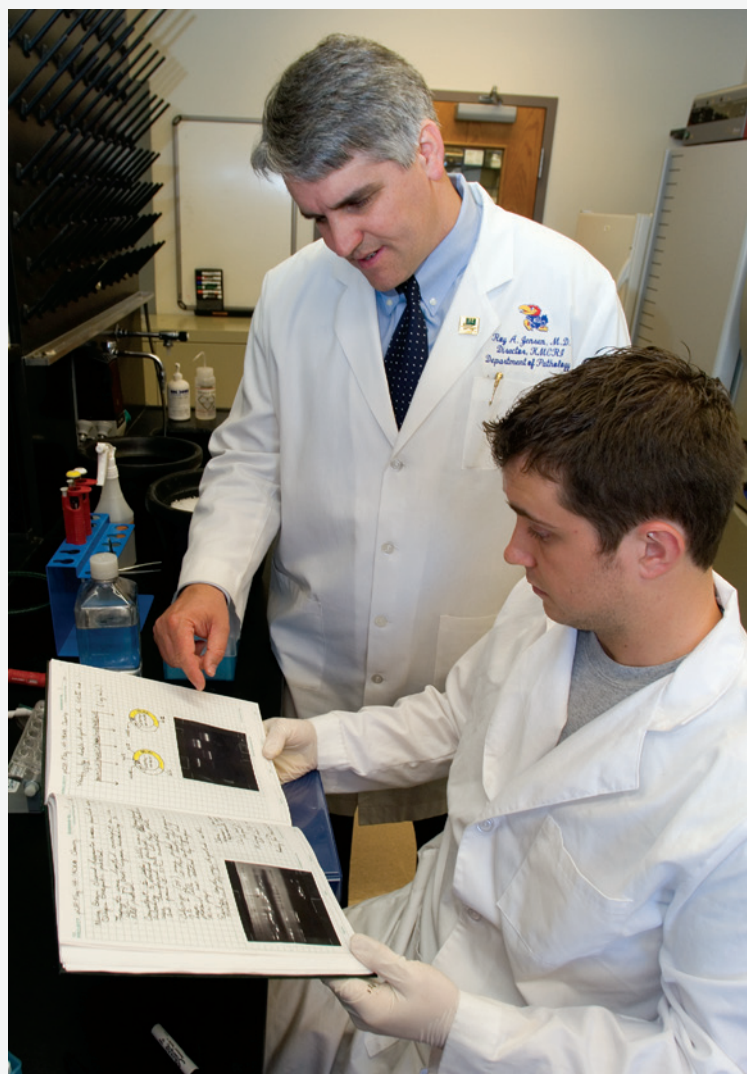
After high school, a scholarship to play basketball took Jensen to Neosho County Community College in Chanute, Kan. It was at Neosho County that Jensen met chemistry teacher Norma Steinman, a PSU graduate and a woman who, Jensen says, made all the difference.

“I started out with the idea that I might be a lawyer,” Jensen said, “but I always liked science a lot. Norma introduced me to the potential of doing research.”

Steinman, who received both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from PSU, clearly recognized something special in the young student. She arranged for Jensen to visit Pittsburg State University and encouraged him to think about the university’s well-respected pre-med program. Jensen took Steinman’s advice and arrived at PSU in 1978. He discovered immediately that his mentor had steered him in the right direction.

“There were great faculty on campus,” Jensen said, recalling names like Bettie Duncan, Alex Bednekoff, Jim Pauley and Leland Keller, who was, he said, “a force to be reckoned with.”

Jensen’s passion for research was nurtured immediately.



**CHASING CANCER** - Dr. Roy Jensen discusses research results with student research assistant Shane Stecklein in his lab at the KU Med Cancer Center.

He started doing microbiology research with Bettie Duncan and his first project was submitted for presentation at a medical conference in Nebraska. At that conference, Jensen heard a presentation by Dr. Zell McGee, a microbiologist at Vanderbilt University. McGee so inspired Jensen, that he eventually went to Vanderbilt for his medical training after graduating from PSU in 1980.

“Those years in Pittsburg,” Jensen recalled, “were an interesting time. My first year, we were in old Carney Hall, but then there was an inspection and the building was closed. They had to move the entire Biology Department to temporary quarters.”

Jensen said the sudden move to less-than-ideal settings didn't seem to affect the quality of the education, however.

“Everyone pulled together,” Jensen said. “There was an esprit de corps that made it work.”

In a recent visit to Pittsburg, Jensen spoke with students and faculty in the Biology and Chemistry Departments.

“I told the students they were lucky to be in a place where teachers are really committed to students,” Jensen said. “The professors at PSU are devoted to teaching. I had a great experience at Pittsburg State and many great teachers had a tremendous affect on my life.”

For information about pre-med and other undergraduate programs in the Department of Biology, call 620-235-4732 or visit the department Web site at [www.pittstate.edu/biol/ungr.html](http://www.pittstate.edu/biol/ungr.html).





# Invention — AND — Discovery

## *Kansas Polymer Research Center scientists honored with national award*

Increasingly, Pittsburg State University is becoming known across the U.S. for some groundbreaking research. Scientists in the Kansas Polymer Research Center at PSU have a growing number of patents to their credit and recently, they were honored with a national award for their discoveries with environmentally friendly materials.

Four scientists with the KPRC were honored in Washington, D.C., this summer by the National Academy of Sciences. Cargill, Inc., the KPRC's research partner, was presented with the 2007 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in the Designing Greener Chemicals category for the research performed by KPRC scientists Dr. Zoran Petrovic, Dr. Ivan Javni, Dr. Andrew Guo, and Ms. Alisa Zlatanic. The group is the only research institution in the state of Kansas to win this prestigious honor.

The award recognizes the KPRC scientists for the invention of the new family of BiOH Polyols. Derived from natural vegetable oils such as soybean oil, BiOH Polyols help manufacturers of flexible polyurethane

(used to make products such as foam and plastic chairs) reduce the impact on the environment.

The award, which represents more than 10 years worth of work by the scientists, comes at a time of forward momentum for the KPRC group. This fall, they will move into the new \$5.7 million Tyler Research Center on the east end of the PSU campus. The center is scheduled to open in late September. A dedication ceremony for the center is set for September 21.

"I am incredibly proud of the world-class research being performed by our scientists at the Kansas Polymer Research Center and the benefits their discoveries provide for our industry partners," said PSU President Tom Bryant, who attended the ceremony with Vice President for University Advancement Brad Hodson and KPRC Director Steve Robb. "The work they are doing is making our Earth a little greener and our technologies smarter. It is a wonderful honor for



these scientists and for Pittsburg State University."

Dr. Petrovic credits each of the scientists at KPRC for their work in achieving this award.

"This is great recognition for our group at PSU and what we've been doing here," he said. "We were pleasantly surprised. This was not something that was achieved overnight."

For more on the Kansas Polymer Research Center, visit their Web site at [www.kansaspolymer.com/](http://www.kansaspolymer.com/)

Or call 620-235-4920.



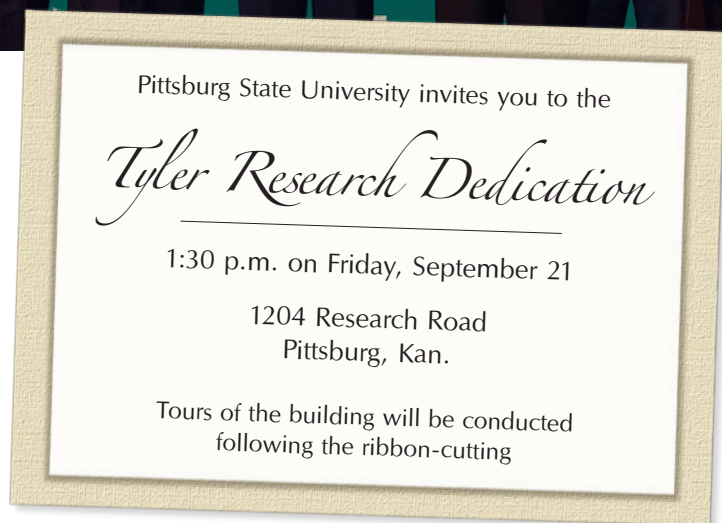
Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award



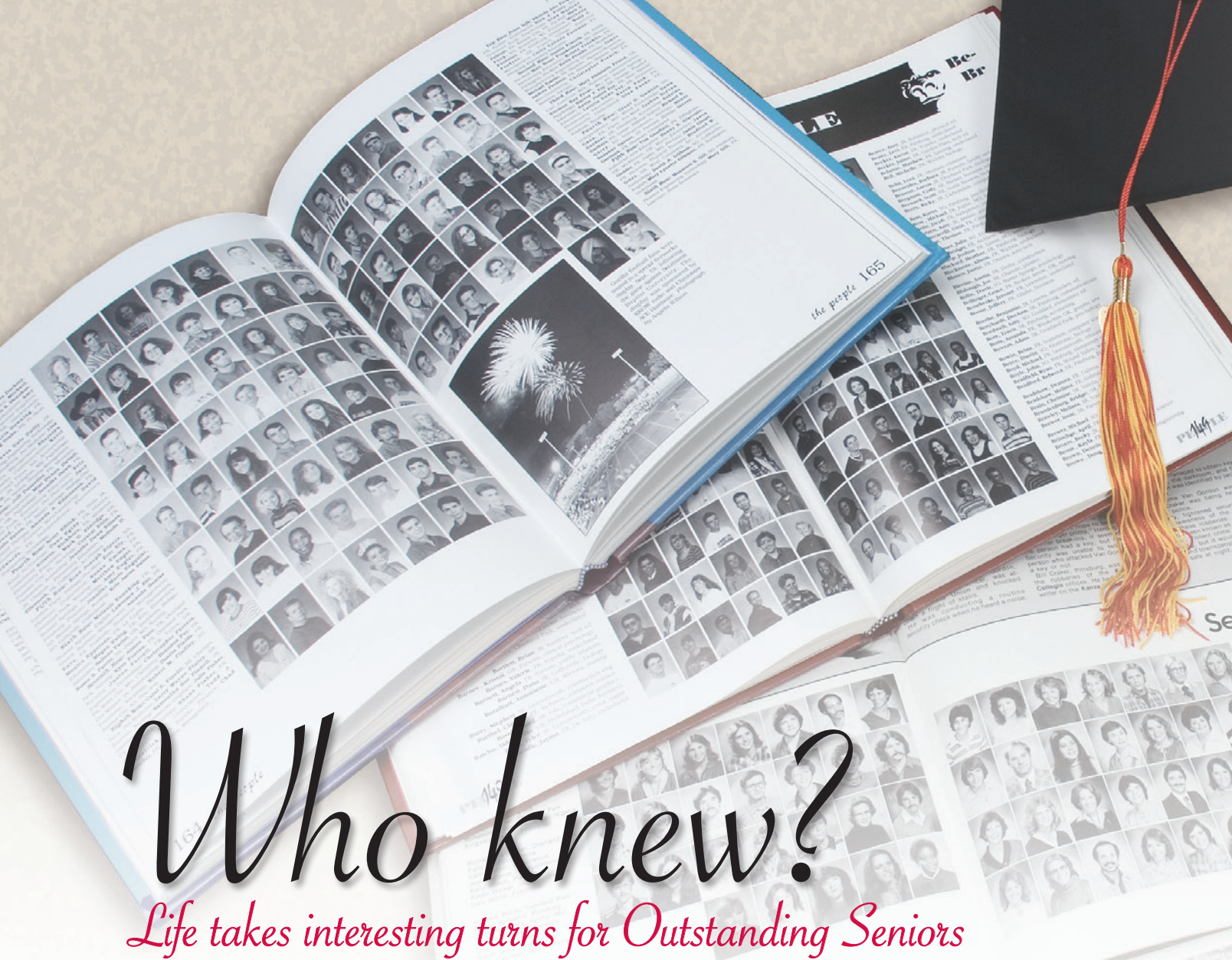
Kansas Polymer Research Center scientific team, left to right: Xianmei Wan, Dr. Yijin Xu, Ivana Cvetkovic, Dr. Mihail Ionescu, Dr. Ivan Javni, Alisa Zlatanic, DooPyo Hong, Steve Robb, executive director of the Business and Technology Institute, and Dr. Zoran Petrovic.



Accepting the award in Washington, D.C., left to right: Dr. Zoran Petrovic (PSU), Jeff Malsam (Cargill), Dr. Catherine Hunt (President, American Chemical Society), Diza Brakesmyer (Cargill), Ron Christensen (Cargill), James B. Gulliford (EPA), Dr. Andrew Guo (PSU), Dr. Tom W. Bryant (PSU), Dr. Brad Hodson (PSU), Dr. Ivan Javni (PSU), Steve Robb (PSU), Alisa Zlatanic (PSU), Wei Zhang (Cargill).







# Who knew?

## *Life takes interesting turns for Outstanding Seniors*



**Rick and  
Brenda  
Luthi**

When Brenda Steele met Rick Luthi at a Greek party their senior year, the two hit it off. Both originally from Kansas, they made a connection as service-minded young adults involved in everything from student government to community volunteering. With plans to graduate in six months, they were both also candidates for degrees through the College of Education.

Similarities aside, nothing seemed like more of a coincidence than when the couple learned they had been chosen as the two Outstanding Seniors for their graduating class of 1976.

"It was like lightening striking," said Brenda. "One of us said 'I got this letter,'

and the other said 'I did, too.' It was neat because we were engaged by then and both of us winning the award was kind of funny."

The plaque outside Russ Hall honoring outstanding seniors isn't the only thing that have kept this couple together: after graduating, they drove a truck up the Pacific coast on the way to teaching jobs in Alaska. Now married 29 years, the couple has spent much of their careers working in rural Alaska – flying "bush" planes into the small communities (often hundreds of miles apart and separated by water) to mentor teachers in those areas.

Today, Rick is a principal for the Napanuska-Susitna Borough, a school district roughly the size of the state of



*This year marks the 40th anniversary  
for the Outstanding Senior Award, which was  
established by the 1967 senior class.*

Ohio, and if being named Outstanding Senior Man wasn't the main cause he mustered the confidence to move so far away for his career, it has at least changed the course of his life in one way. "If anything, it helped Brenda Sue Steele marry me," Rick said with a laugh. "The recognition was a nice culmination at that point. There were people in Pittsburg that had an impact on our lives and it was a recognition of them."

This year marks the 40th anniversary for the Outstanding Senior Award, which was established by the 1967 senior class. The selection committee met the first year with the intention of selecting only one senior, but were unable to choose, instead awarding it to a man and a woman. The following year, only an outstanding senior man was chosen. After that, the committee returned to awarding one man and one woman.

Although the past 40 years have produced many outstanding seniors with careers in law, medicine, and business, others, like Michael Simone, have taken less-traveled paths.

A 1996 outstanding senior, Simone was highly involved with the Newman Center while attending PSU. He says he felt unsettled about his career choice as an accountant after graduation. "I had attended daily Mass at the Newman Center and had this gnawing feeling in my heart that I was supposed to pursue the priesthood," said Simone, who soon quit his job and applied at a seminary.

Today, the Weir, Kan., native is known as Father Michael Simone, and works for the Wichita Diocese. He has spent the

past two years studying in Italy, which gives him the distinction as one of the few outstanding seniors to have lived abroad. After finishing his post graduate degree in sacred theology, Simone plans to return to Kansas before receiving his next assignment.

"It was humbling for me to know that others thought I deserved the award, but I think what I drew on the most was my Newman Center experience and the leadership qualities I got at PSU," he said. "It's more about the relationships between faculty and students and the values that are instilled in you at PSU."

Closer to home, 1983 Outstanding Senior Kathleen Harnish-Doucet echoes those sentiments. Now the CEO and owner of her own Kansas City-based strategic facilitation business, she says her "incredible" years at PSU and the capstone award gave her a boost of confidence to take the road less traveled.

"To be the one selected was a huge honor for me," said Harnish-Doucet, whose company, Team Tech, Inc., was recently awarded with the 2006 Council of State Governments Innovations Award. The company has also been nominated for the IBM Innovations Award in Transforming Government for their project, "Kansas Collaborative," which improves communication between government entities.

"I do think it gives you a sense of affirmation for your leadership ability and your ability to build relationships," she said. "It's important to receive that, especially at that time in your life."



**Father Michael Simone**



**Kathleen Harnish-Doucet**

## The 2007 Outstanding Seniors

### Ginger Niemann,

Nortonville, Kan. Niemann received her BA in political science in May. She

is currently working in an internship for the Kansas Board of Regents.



### Scot Schiefelbein,

Pittsburg, Kan.

Schiefelbein received his BBA in accounting and economics in May. He is currently working at Deloitte & Touche, an accounting firm in Kansas City.



## Facts about the

### Outstanding Senior Award

- 2007 is the 40th anniversary of the Outstanding Senior Award.
- The award was intended to be for only one student, but the selection committee couldn't decide and instead gave it to a man and a woman the first year.
- Only once has the committee selected a single person to receive the award. (Stephen Lee Rhode, '68) The following year, they decided both a man and a woman should be awarded each year.
- With the passage of Title IX in 1977, the committee eliminated the "Man" and "Woman" designation and renamed the awards "Outstanding Seniors."
- Two outstanding senior couples have married over the past 40 years. They are: Rick E. Luthi and Brenda Sue (Steele) Luthi (both '76) of Palmer, Alaska and Stephen Portz ('78) and Susie (Peak) Portz ('77) of Las Vegas, Nev.
- Law is the most popular career for outstanding seniors, followed by medicine, business ownership, and education.
- In 1972, the committee began recognizing finalists with an honorable mention designation.





**BROADCASTERS –** Broadcasting students sharpen their skills in the CAPS 13 broadcast lab in Whitesitt Hall. The hours of work the students put into their productions paid off this year with a bumper crop of awards.

### Broadcasting students win record number of awards

PSU's broadcasting students brought home a record 17 awards this year at the Kansas Association of Broadcasters' annual banquet in Wichita.

The students were honored for programs they produced for CAPS 13 (Cable Access Pitt State). Broadcasting Director Troy Comeau said PSU students have been honored for the quality of their work before, but this year's high number of awards is a special achievement.

"The most awards we've ever won at the state level was nine two years ago," Comeau said. "To nearly double that in a couple years is impressive and the students should be very proud of their accomplishments."

Pittsburg State received six first-place awards, four second-place awards, and seven honorable mention awards.

### Carter named major gifts officer for College of Arts and Sciences

Ellen Carter has joined the Office of University Development at Pittsburg State as director of major gifts for the College of Arts and Sciences.

She will be responsible for cultivating alumni and friends to make charitable



gifts to benefit the programs in these academic areas.

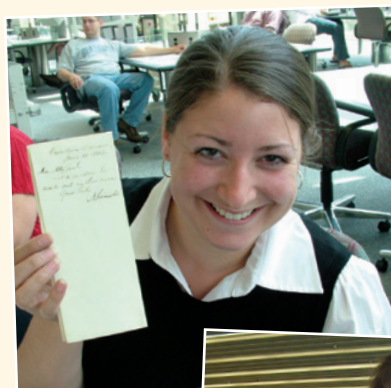
"There are many good stories to share from the College of Arts and Sciences including program achievements and the accomplishments of faculty, staff, alumni and students," said Carter. "I look forward to sharing that good news with alumni and friends, along with need for private support for scholarships, faculty development, and various program initiatives."

Carter graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She received her master's degree in education from PSU. After accepting the position of assistant director of public relations at PSU in 1984, she then served as director from 1986-2007 before moving into her current position in University Development. Before coming to PSU, she worked as a reporter for the Pittsburg Morning Sun newspaper and as the marketing director of the Northpark Mall in Joplin, Mo.

Carter and her husband, Greg, live in Joplin. She can be contacted at 620-235-4930 or [ecarter@pittstate.edu](mailto:ecarter@pittstate.edu).

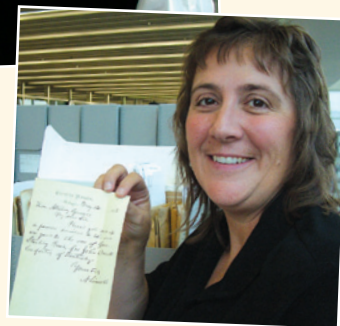
### Interns help search Lincoln papers

Six PSU student interns are spending part of their summer literally touching history. The interns are searching files in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for executive pardons in cases presented to Abraham Lincoln. So far,



Shannon Phillips

Debbie Jurgensmeyer



**LINCOLN'S LEGACY –** PSU students don't try to conceal their excitement upon finding another Lincoln document during a summer research internship at the National Archives.

the five interns have uncovered more than 50 Lincoln signatures.

"The look on their faces as they realize they're holding a document Lincoln once held is immeasurable," said Karen Needles, a PSU alumna and founder of the research company Documents on Wheels.

Needles said her company launched a "massive" digital project in 2002 that would put all federal records relating to the Abraham Lincoln White House years online. Needles says this is the first project to place an entire presidential administration's records online.

Needles said she worked with history professor James Schick, her college adviser, to advertise the internship for history majors. One reason she offered the internship for the students was to help students have a better idea of the opportunities available to them.

"If you can share your success, you will encourage future generations from PSU to think about the possibilities that are available," Needles said. "It can be your biggest gift to the university, and to our future."

## Williams honored for technical theater career

Before the lights come on, the curtain rises and the first actor walks on stage, successful theatrical productions have already gone through uncounted hours of hammering, sawing, painting, adjusting lights and a myriad of other tasks that are all part of “stagecraft.” These are the skills that Dan Williams teaches students in his technical production classes.

Williams is being recognized this year for his years of service to the craft with induction as a fellow in the U.S. Institute of Theater Technology.

Williams, a PSU assistant professor of technical theater and design, has worked nationally and internationally as a designer and technical director in theater, opera, dance, film and television. He has received four meritorious achievement awards from the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival for his design work. Williams earned his B.F.A. from Tarkio College and his M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University.

Williams said he has been a member of the USITT for about 20 years. The organization includes not just teachers, but also theater professionals.

“The USITT sets standards for technical theater in the U.S.,” Williams said.

Williams said PSU students get a good hands-on experience when it comes to stagecraft. He said he likes to find out what students are good at and “use their strengths for the good of the production.”

For more on the PSU Theatre Company and other programs in the Department of Communication, visit their Web site at <http://www.pittstate.edu/comm/> or call the Department of Communication at 620-235-4063.



## PSU trumpet students have a year to remember

Sometimes you just know that the timing is right. That’s the way Todd Hastings, associate professor in the Department of Music, felt about his trumpet students at the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year. Hastings said he noticed “an extremely high level of trumpet playing by the current class of students” and wanted to make it a special year by forming an ensemble to take advantage of the talent.

The effort paid off and the result was performances at the National Trumpet Competition at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and the International Trumpet Guild Convention at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass.

“I knew that I had strong players, hard-workers, and serious musicians in the trumpet studio,” Hastings said, “but I still had my doubts if we were going to be selected for these incredibly competitive events.”

The invitations to perform at both the National Trumpet Competition and the International Trumpet Guild Convention were like hitting the jackpot.

The National Trumpet Competition “was a great learning event and provided my students a chance to see how they are ‘stacking up’ against their future career competitors.”

At the International Trumpet Guild Convention, the students performed a prelude for the Orchestral Audition Roundtable discussion.

Hastings said the PSU students performed “brilliantly!”

“The exposure that Pittsburg State received from the convention performance is far-reaching and is just the beginning for us here in the Music Department,” Hastings said.

## ROTC Buddy Challenge

Just four days before the ROTC Army Ranger Buddy Challenge competition, Cadet Tyson Patrick discovered his “buddy” wasn’t going to be able to make the trip.



**Tyson Patrick and Katherine Medrano**

In stepped Cadet Katherine Medrano. That turned out to be fortunate for the two PSU students, because the pair brought home the first-place trophy from the event.

The cadets combined endurance and skills competition included 79 teams from 28 colleges and universities from 10 states.

Patrick and Medrano said their success at the Buddy Challenge reaffirmed that the rigorous preparation they go through on a daily basis in ROTC at Pittsburg State is preparing them well for the challenges they know are ahead.



**Left to right: A.J. Metzger, Trey Wadell, Matt Carter, Erin Smith Wayne Bergeron (LA studio and recording star), William Koehler and Todd Hastings**

## Transitions

### FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Hugh T. Campbell, Biology  
Peter Hamlet, Chemistry  
Robert R. Pavlis, Chemistry

### IN MEMORIAM

William G. Allen. Social Sciences  
(Oct. 14, 2006)

Mary M. Hankammer, Family and  
Consumer Sciences (Dec. 29, 2006)



## Business students score high on policy test

Several PSU students have demonstrated they are pretty savvy about making business decisions. Four students in Tom Box's Business Policy class recently scored among the top 25 teams worldwide in an online business simulation test. Box, a professor in the Department of Management and Marketing, said about 2,500 teams from around the world participated in the simulation.

The students are Jacob Boan, a senior accounting major from Overland Park, Kan.; Pierce Curran, a senior management major from Clarksville, Ark.; Steve Erdman, a senior management major from Pittsburg, Kan.; and Matt Pappas, a senior finance major from Lee's Summit, Mo.

The simulation exam, GLO-BUS, is an exercise designed to test students' knowledge about a wide variety of aspects of running a company. According to the Glo-Bus Web site, the exam helps students "understand how the functional pieces of a business fit together, provides valuable practice in crafting profitable growth strategies, (and) sharpens (their) business judgment."

## Dean announces leadership appointments in Kelce College of Business

Two departments in the College of Business are under new leadership as the new academic year begins. Dr. Bienvenido S. Cortes was named chairman of the Department of Economics, Finance and Banking and Rebecca Casey was named interim chairman of the Department of Accounting.

Cortes, a University Professor of economics in the Department of Economics, Finance and Banking, replaced Dr. Chuck Fischer, who has led the department since 1980. Fischer has left the department chairmanship to return to the classroom full time.

Cortes received a Bachelor of Science in business economics from the University of the Philippines, a Master of Arts in economics from Wichita State University, and Ph.D. in economics from Oklahoma State University.

Cortes joined the PSU Economics Department in 1986. In 2001-2, he was a Fulbright scholar at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, where he taught regional economics, macroeconomics, and U.S. economic policies. He was also a visiting professor at Japan's Hiroshima University of Economics in 1993-94. He has participated in overseas faculty seminars focusing on economic growth and international business practices in the European Union, Hong Kong, and southern China.

In 2005, Cortes conducted and co-wrote an economic impact study for a proposed destination casino in southeast Kansas. He teaches international economics, introductory economics, and the economics capstone course as well as MBA courses. He is also co-director of the Business and International Education grant project of the Kelce College of Business.

Cortes is active in university and community service and represents PSU as a member of the Strategic Academic Resource and Policy Team Committee for Kansas, Inc. He is a member and former president of the Sunflower Kiwanis of Pittsburg. His wife, Paige, is an instructor in the Intensive English Program at PSU. They have two children, Ben, 12 years old, and Annie, 8.

Rebecca Casey has been a member of the Accounting Department faculty since 2002. She received both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master



Cortes



Casey

of Business Administration from PSU. At Pittsburg State, Casey teaches accounting classes and supervises the Kelce Academic Advising Center. She is also the adviser for Students in Free Enterprise.

Before coming to PSU, Casey, a Certified Public Accountant, held accounting and finance positions with First Federal Savings and Loan of Pittsburg; Pitsco, Inc.; Ozark Salad Company; and NPC International.

## Dearth named interim dean

Dr. Richard Dearth, chairman of the Department of Management and Marketing, was named interim dean of the College of Business this summer. Dearth follows Dr. Russ Hardin, who left PSU at the end of the academic year to become chairman of the Accounting Department at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

Dearth has taught Introduction to Business, Business Law, The Legal and Social Environment of Business and Business, Government and Society at Pittsburg State University since 1992.

"Dr. Dearth has demonstrated strong and insightful leadership in his tenure as the chairperson of the Department of Management and Marketing," said Dr. Steve Scott, vice president for Academic Affairs. "He is skilled at finding common ground and honoring the processes of higher education, and he applies those skills to encourage and achieve continuous improvement."

"Dr. Dearth quickly earned the respect of his colleagues in Kelce as a person who is professional, knowledgeable of current business practices, and committed to Pittsburg State University," Scott added. "He has worked closely with our former dean, in matters related to the accreditation of the business college programs. His



knowledge in this area and the leadership he has already provided will serve him and the college well in the coming months. Under Dr. Dearth's leadership, we are looking forward to a successful accreditation visit in the fall of 2008."

Dearth earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Kansas and a juris doctor from Washburn University of Topeka.

Dearth practiced law for 35 years and although he closed his practice and devotes his full time to teaching and administration at Pittsburg State University, he is currently admitted to practice by the Kansas Supreme Court, United States District Court, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit. He continues to be a fellow of the Kansas Bar Foundation and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. For a period of time, Dearth acted as the assistant city manager for Parsons. He advised a number of governmental organizations during his practice. While in Parsons, Dearth was active in a community service projects.

Dearth was the Sam Walton Fellow for PSU Students in Free Enterprise for 2003-2004 and continues to be actively involved as a member of the Board Business advisors for PSU SIFE. He was instrumental in chartering Beta Gamma Sigma, a business honor society and acted as the faculty adviser for three years. Dearth is the AACSB international coordinator for the College of Business. He served on many college and university committees during his time at PSU.

## New program focuses on information safety

As concerns rise about the safety of information in a world dependent upon electronic communication, a new degree program at Pittsburg State University is teaching students how to manage security issues associated with the storage and transmission of information.

PSU's Information Assurance and Computer Security program received its

first national distinction recently when it was INFOSEC (Information Systems Security) certified by the Committee on National Security Systems. The certification was made at an awards ceremony at Boston University on June 6. It makes PSU one of about 100 schools in the nation to achieve this honor.

Dr. James Harris, a professor in PSU's Computer Science-Information Systems Department, which offers the program, said the certification is the first step in the process of becoming a Center of Excellence, a distinction the Kelce College of Business hopes to earn within the next few years.

The Information Assurance and Computer Security program was introduced at PSU in 2005. Harris said the program goes far beyond technical training and teaches students that they need to manage a process that begins with policies and procedures. For more information on the Information Assurance and Computer Security Program, contact Dr. Harris at [jdharris@pittstate.edu](mailto:jdharris@pittstate.edu) or visit [www.pittstate.edu/csiss](http://www.pittstate.edu/csiss).

## Bard works to raise funds for College of Business

Blake Bard has joined the Office of University Development at Pittsburg State University as director of major gifts for the College of Business. He will be responsible for cultivating alumni and friends to make charitable gifts to benefit the programs in this academic area.

"I'm thrilled to represent such a dynamic school as the College of Business," Bard said. "It's great to be in a position to create opportunities by

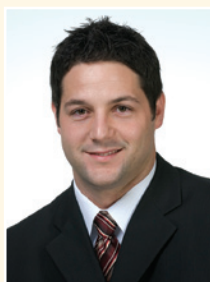


**Dr. James Harris, right, accepts the INFOSEC certification from CNSS. The award was presented by Ms. Joan Ruhl with the National Security Agency.**

securing scholarships, faculty fellowships, and gifts that will allow the university to address the college's needs."

Blake graduated from Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Mo., with a bachelor's degree in communication. He is a candidate to receive his master's degree in education from Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., in May 2008. He served as an Upward Bound coordinator for Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., a program that assists high school students in preparing to attend college. He has also worked as a sports information/marketing assistant for MSSU, and as a sports writer for The Joplin Globe newspaper.

Blake lives in his hometown of Webb City, Mo. He has a 2-1/2 year old son, Ayden. He can be contacted at 620-235-6127 or [bbard@pittstate.edu](mailto:bbard@pittstate.edu).



## Transitions

### FACULTY RETIREMENTS

J. Russell Hardin, College of Business

### IN MEMORIAM

Galen Rupp, Accounting (Aug. 2, 2007)



### Tompkins heads College of Education

One of the best known educators in Kansas has assumed the leadership role in the College of Education. Dr. Andy Tompkins, former Kansas Commissioner of Education, was chosen dean of PSU's College of Education this summer.



Tompkins is well known across the state through his service as Kansas Commissioner of Education from 1996 until 2005. He is no stranger to PSU, however, having served as chairman of the PSU Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies from 1994 until 1995 and as interim dean of the PSU College of Education from 1995 until 1996.

Tompkins received a bachelor of arts degree in English from East Central State University in Ada, Okla.; a master of science degree in educational administration from Emporia State University and an Ed.D. in educational administration from the University of Kansas. He began his career in education as a high school English teacher and later served as a high school principal, and superintendent of three Kansas school districts.

Tompkins is a frequent presenter on leadership and education topics and has been published in a wide variety of publications. Among his many awards and honors, Tompkins has received the Kansas Master Teacher Award, the Kansas National Education Association's Friend of Education Award, the Kansas School Public Relations Association's Key Communicator of the Year Award and the United School Administrators' Kansas Administrator of the Year Award. In 1991, Tompkins was named Kansas Superintendent of the Year and in 2001, he was inducted into the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame.

### College of Education examines poverty's effects

Years ago when faculty in the College of Education began discussing the performance levels of children in local schools, they hit on a common denominator that has changed the way they look at how children learn – and how they teach them.

In a word: poverty. Not only can it rob a student of the focus necessary to learn at school, but its effects on their home life can drop school to the bottom of a child's priority list.

Now, PSU's new Center for the Study of Poverty and Student Achievement is reaching out to teachers throughout the area to show them the effects poverty can have on a child's experience in school.

This summer, the CSPSA hosted its first regional educational event, "What Works in High-Performing, High-Poverty Schools." The two-day workshop featured William H. Parrett and Dr. Robert Barr, co-authors of "The Kids Left Behind: Catching Up the Underachieving Children of Poverty."

The workshop, held at PSU on June 13-14, brought in more than 100 teachers, administrators, special education directors, and university students each day. It was funded in part by a grant from the Abernathy Foundation of Baxter Springs.

"We feel like we made some headway," said Marilyn Dishman-Horst, project coordinator of the Center for the Study of Poverty and Student Achievement. "The participants felt like these were things they could take back to their school and use to help with students who are living in poverty."

As the first big event for the center, Dishman-Horst said the workshop will also help PSU faculty and student teachers analyze schools in Southeast Kansas to show what they're doing to



### POVERTY'S EFFECTS – Area teachers learn about ways that living in poverty affects children during a workshop at PSU.

reach out to impoverished students. "We plan to focus on our own area schools and see what we're doing close to home," she said. "And we're expanding it to look at our own students here and in area community colleges."

Because Southeast Kansas has such high levels of poverty, Dishman-Horst says the function of the center is more important than ever if students hope to achieve in school – and if future teachers like the education majors at PSU hope to be able to reach them.

"If we at the university change our teaching to meet the needs of students," she says, "then our students will better be able to meet the needs of theirs."

For information call 620-235-4518.

### PSU works to fill growing need for teachers

Experts predict that as an increasing number of Baby Boomer teachers retire, the nation's shortage of teachers, particularly in selected areas, will grow dramatically. Each year the PSU College of Education has requests that cannot be met from school administrators in Kansas, Missouri and across the U.S. for teachers in mathematics, English, special education, physics, chemistry, music, Spanish, technology education, ESOL and family and consumer science.



**IN HIGH DEMAND –** As Baby Boomer teachers retire in ever larger numbers, school districts from Kansas, Missouri and increasingly other states, come to Teacher Interview Day at PSU. During the event, which is held in John Lance Arena, soon-to-be teachers move from table to table to meet with school district representatives and learn about opportunities in their cities.

Already one of the most prolific producers of teachers in Kansas, the PSU College of Education has been working hard to develop new and innovative ways to fill the growing need for well-qualified classroom teachers. Recruiting good students into the teacher education programs is one part of the equation and those efforts have helped the Department of Mathematics to grow to the point that PSU is leading the state in the number of mathematics teachers graduated.

Another major endeavor for the College of Education is the alternative teacher licensure program that makes it possible for persons with bachelor's degrees in areas other than education to obtain a restricted teaching license. That allows them to teach while they earn a master's degree through Pittsburg State. To date, the PSU alternative licensure program has produced 167 teachers through the Kansas City, Kan., Fellows Program and an additional 9 southeast Kansas teachers. The program has helped meet a critical need for teachers in a historically under served urban area. This year, in fact, the Kansas City, Kan., school district was able to meet its need for science teachers.

New in 2007 is a master of arts in alternative teaching degree. Previously, students either earned a master of science degree or completed pedagogy requirements without earning an

advanced degree. Currently there are 58 students enrolled in the master of arts in teaching program who are Kansas City, Kan., Fellows and another 24 in southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri.

For more on the teacher education programs in the College of Education, visit our Web site at [www.pittstate.edu/curin/](http://www.pittstate.edu/curin/)

## Clinical psychology master's program wins approval

PSU's master of science degree in clinical psychology program is recently earned re-accreditation from MPAC (Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council).

Jan Smith, program coordinator, said the site visit went well. She noted that PSU's was the first program of its kind in the U.S. to receive accreditation and, Smith said, its graduates are "very well regarded and in high demand."

## Transitions

### FACULTY RETIREMENTS

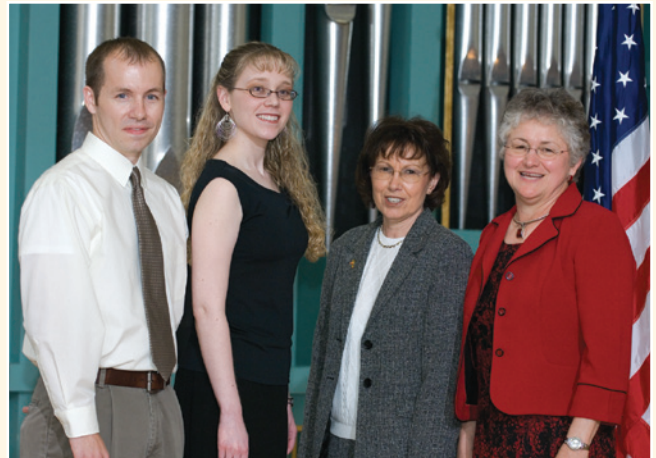
John F. Connelly, Psychology and Counseling

Brenda LeTendre, Special Services and Leadership Studies

## PSU honors educators for service

The College of Education honored a group of local educators for their service, their achievements and their potential with the Clyde U. Phillips awards in May. The Clyde U. Phillips

Distinguished Service Awards are given to a teacher and an administrator who have distinguished themselves over a lifelong career. The Outstanding Educator Awards are given to an elementary and a secondary teacher who have distinguished themselves during the first seven years of their teaching careers.



**The 2007 Clyde U. Phillips Honorees: Dwayne Taylor, Outstanding Educator - Elementary; Morgan Croan, Outstanding Educator - Secondary; Donna Gibson, Distinguished Service Teacher; and Linda Proehl, Distinguished Service-Administrator.**



### The wheels keep on rolling

Engineering technology students in the College of Technology are rolling along – literally. Three teams participated in competitions this past year that required the design and construction of vastly different vehicles and all met with success.

A team of PSU students used a second-place finish last year in the Mini-Baja competition at Yeungnam National University in Daegu, South Korea, as inspiration to bring home the first-place trophy this summer. The three-man team spent a month in South Korea making major modifications to the car they entered in the race last year. The final event in the competition was a 3-1/2 hour mountain endurance race in the mud, in which the PSU entry pulled ahead of all competitors.

For the 11th year, PSU was represented in NASA's Great Moonbuggy Race in Huntsville, Ala. PSU took two teams of seven students to the competition and came home with third place overall. The PSU team also won the Best Design Award for best solving the engineering problem of navigating the lunar surface. PSU is well known in the competition, having taken first place three times, second place two times and third place two times during the 11 years the Gorillas have competed.

Another team took on a new challenge this year, entering the Formula SAE competition in Fontana, Calif. While PSU may be considered a veteran in the Moonbuggy competition, Formula SAE is a much different animal and this year was a learning experience. The students spent months designing and building the car. Although the PSU team finished in the middle of the pack, they were recognized as a "Top 5 Rookie" team, setting the stage for even better performances in the future.

Although the vehicles and the competition venues may be different, the common theme in all of these projects is the learning experience that students



**ZOOM, ZOOM! – Students check their car during the Formula SAE competition (above). The Moonbuggy team makes final adjustments before competition (left). The Mini-Baja team (right) makes a victory lap.**

have. Working in teams, solving complex problems, working within budgets and technical constraints and putting theory to practice are all benefits of these major capstone projects.

One student, reflecting on the months of hard work and their success in the competition said simply, "This has been a priceless life experience. I couldn't be more pleased."

### Plastics project

Paul Herring, an assistant professor in PSU's Plastics Engineering Program believes it's not enough that students know their subject matter. He wants to see them put what they've learned to work in real-world situations.

This year, the students in Herring's Senior Class Project class had an additional opportunity to use their skills in a team design project. The opportunity arose when

**Paul Herring discusses a plastics project with students in Senior Design.**



a PSU alumna who is teaching special needs students in an Olathe elementary school called Herring for help.

Kerstin Womble, a life skills teacher at Clearwater Creek Elementary School, asked Herring whether his students would be interested in helping her acquire a tool, sometimes called a slant board, that is used to help special needs students improve their writing skills.

"The project fit our needs perfectly," Herring said. "It was simple enough to accomplish in the time we had. It also had the element of public service that we liked."

Herring said he had four goals for his students with this project.



"I wanted to introduce design tools and procedures, to complete the project in a timely fashion, to promote teamwork and to provide community service," Herring said.

The students accepted the challenge and each volunteered for one task.

The project began with a telephone interview with the teacher in which she described how the slant board would be used and aspects of the design that were important. The process that followed included competitive product analysis, definition of product requirements, search and selection of hardware, selection of the materials and the processes to be used, computer design, tool fabrication and, finally, the actual manufacture of the product.

The students actually created four prototypes using different materials that they delivered to Clearwater Creek Elementary School in March. From those four, the teachers who would be using the slant boards selected one design from which Herring's class manufactured a number of units to donate to the class.

"It was a perfect project for the class," Herring said. "The students were able to take the product from concept to production in a very short time. It is a condensed version of what takes place in the plastics industry on a daily basis."

The students in Herring's class said

they were challenged by constraints of time and cost – factors that every business must consider, according to Herring. They said that as they worked as a team, not everyone agreed, but they learned to compromise and depend on each other.

The result was a hit. Womble said other special education teachers were impressed with the Pitt State students' project.

"Pitt State is well known in the Kansas City area," Womble said, "but not everyone up here knows about all the great programs we have at PSU. It was good to show off just a little."

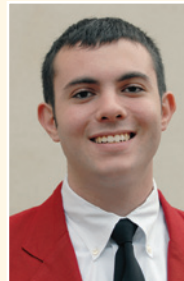
### SkillsUSA national officer

This summer at the national SkillsUSA Conference, Jack Frederick (sophomore, automotive technology) was elected as one of the five college/postsecondary officers of SkillsUSA.

According to the SkillsUSA Fact Sheet ([www.skillsusa.org/about/factsheet.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/about/factsheet.shtml)) more than 285,000 students and instructors join SkillsUSA annually. The annual conference is the single largest conference event hosted by Kansas City each year.

Frederick is the president of PSU SkillsUSA. The adviser is Ron Downing.

More than 4,500 outstanding career and technical education students—all state contest winners—competed in 87 trade, technical and leadership fields.



**Frederick**

### Transitions

#### FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Raymond A. Bachura, Graphics and

Imaging Technologies

Tom Baldwin, College of Technology

Clinton E. Carter, Automotive Technology

T. "John" Chen, Technology Management

John E. Leland, Engineering Technology

### New DVD promotes College of Technology

A new, comprehensive DVD featuring the College of Technology is making its way to PSU technology

supporters throughout the region.

The 35-minute DVD was developed over the past

several months by

Pittsburg State Marketing Director Kim Carlson and Marketing Intern Kimberly Schultz.

The DVD features testimonials from faculty members, technology majors, graduates, and industry professionals. It also provides information about each department and major, as well as footage from the different areas of technology.

"We're hoping to gain more awareness for the unique programs within the College of Technology," Carlson said. "Our hope is that everyone will distribute at least one DVD to prospective students, their parents, high school counselors, or technical teachers."

Copies of the free DVD, which are being used primarily as a recruitment tool, are available by e-mailing the College of Technology at [tech@pittstate.edu](mailto:tech@pittstate.edu) or calling 620-235-4365.



### Wood Technology students benefit from high-tech gift

The Michael Weinig Group of Mooresville, N.C., has installed a major piece of new equipment at PSU that will allow students to train on equipment that is both literally and figurative "cutting-edge."

The company loaned the Wood Technology program a new Raimann ProfiRip KM 310 M Optimizing Rip Saw valued at more than \$116,000.

The new saw will give students hands-on experience with equipment that is the future of the woodworking industry.





## PSU ATHLETICS UPDATE

### NCAA applauds PSU-community bond

To the thousands of fans who tailgate in Gorilla Village before each home football game, the atmosphere that permeates the community is just something that happens on each home-game Saturday. But visitors, including the NCAA, recognize something special.

It is so special, according to the NCAA, that they are urging other communities that are home to Division II football programs to emulate what happens in Pittsburg whenever the Gorillas play at home.

Last fall, the NCAA sent Dr. Rich Luker, a nationally recognized sports and leisure researcher, and a film crew to PSU to document game-day activities. The result is a video now posted on an NCAA Web site. In the film, which begins with breakfast at Bob's Grill on Broadway and ends with players tossing footballs with youngsters on the field after the game, Luker offers insights to other Division II universities on ways they, too, can engage their communities.

In the video, Luker, surrounded by area children, PSU football players, students and families, said the environment has a lasting impact.

"It's not just a one-time experience. When it comes times for them to think about school, when they think about community, this is what they remember," Luker said.

Check out the video at <http://www.diicommunity.org/>

### Athletics loses three loyal friends

Pitt State Athletics suffered a lot of losses over the summer. Longtime coach Bob Johnson died in early June. His



### GO GORILLAS— Fans pack Gorilla Village before every home football game.

death was followed within weeks with the death of defensive lineman Sean Kyle in a construction accident and by the sudden death of Associate Athletics Director Tommy Riggs.

Johnson, 80, was men's basketball coach for 14 years. He was a member of the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

Kyle, a member of the 2006 football recruiting class, redshirted last year and was expected to compete for starting time this year. He was a standout football player and wrestler at Edmond (Okla.) Memorial High School before coming to PSU. Kyle reportedly fell about 35 feet off some scaffolding while helping build a movie theater.

Riggs, 32, died from an apparent heart attack, which he suffered on a family outing near Kansas City. Riggs, BBA '98, served PSU Athletics for 10 years, the past four as associate athletics director for marketing and promotions. He helped bring the Kansas Shrine Bowl to PSU in 2002 and 2006 and he played a key role in recent expansion projects. He recently had been appointed to serve as a member of the NCAA Division II National Football Committee. He also served on the executive committee of the National Association of Athletic Development Directors.

### Gorillas return to Arrowhead

The Gorillas return to Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City on Saturday, Oct. 6, for the Fall Classic at Arrowhead VI. This annual showdown between Pittsburg State and the Northwest Missouri Bearcats is one of the highlights of the football seasons.

Activities begin on Friday, Oct. 5, with a PSU Gathering at Tanners Bar & Grill at 143rd and Old Metcalf in Overland Park, Kan. The Gathering starts at 2 p.m. and runs until closing.

On Saturday, GorillaFest, the pre-game tailgate party, begins at 11 a.m. in the Pavilion adjacent to Arrowhead Stadium. Admission to GorillaFest is free. Live music will be provided and food vendors will offer a wide variety of tailgate food and drink.

Kickoff for the Fall Classic will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for Club Level, \$20 for adults, \$10 for PSU and Northwest students and also for students high school age and under. Tickets are available at the PSU Ticket Office, 620-235-4796, [www.pittstate.edu/tickets](http://www.pittstate.edu/tickets)

Stadium gates open at 11 a.m. Parking is \$12.

For more information, call the PSU Office of Public Relations at 620-235-4122.

### Meredith the latest PSU athlete to shine academically

The accolades just keep piling up for PSU defensive end Ryan Meredith. A 2006 national finalist for the Draddy Trophy (the academic version of the Heisman), Meredith was named the MIAA's male student-athlete of the year.

Meredith, from Bartlesville, Okla.,



earned all-conference recognition at defensive end for four years and graduated Summa Cum Laude in December with a 3.915 cumulative grade point average as a management major.

In July, Meredith finished sixth in balloting by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) for the 2006-07 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans of the Year. Additionally, he is a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete, which is good for an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship.

Meredith is the fifth Pittsburg State student-athlete to win the award and he follows in a long line of PSU athletes who have been recognized for their academic success. In fact, Pitt State ranks second among all Division II schools in the production of CoSIDA Academic All-Americans.

## 2007 Gorilla Football Schedule

### AUGUST

25 .....vs. Texas A&M-Commerce, 1:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

1 ..... vs. East Central Okla. 7 p.m.  
(Hall of Fame)

15 ..... at Mo. Southern, Joplin, Mo., 6 p.m.  
(Miner's Bowl X)

22 .....vs. Mo. Western, 2 p.m.  
(Family Day)

29 .. at Central Mo., Warrensburg, 1:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER

6 ..... vs. Northwest Mo. at  
Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, 2 p.m.  
(The Fall Classic at Arrowhead VI)

13 ....at Truman State, Kirksville, Mo. 2 p.m.

20 ..... at SW Baptist, Bolivar, Mo., 1:30 p.m.

27 ... vs. Fort Hays State, 2 p.m. (Homecoming)

### NOVEMBER

3 .....at Washburn, Topeka, Kan., 1 p.m.

10 .....vs. Emporia State, 2 p.m.

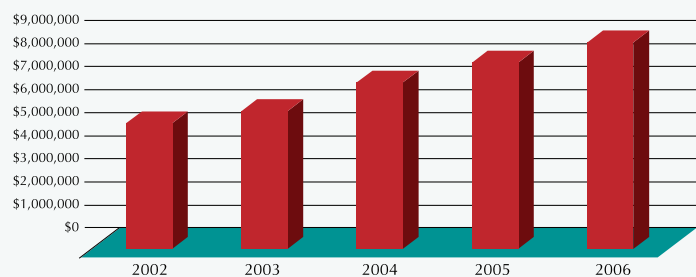
Dates in bold are home games

## Positive trends

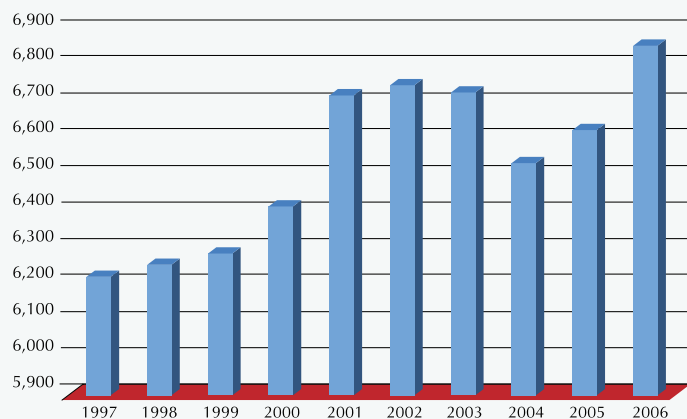
*In recent years, trends in enrollment, fund-raising and scholarship awards at Pittsburg State University have all been positive.*

As the accompanying graphs illustrate, enrollment has grown steadily over the past decade. At the same time, cash and in-kind gifts to the university have increased each of the past five years. These gifts have allowed the PSU Foundation to increase scholarship awards to deserving students. In fiscal year 2006, the PSU Foundation was able to provide more than \$1.9 million in scholarship aid to deserving students.

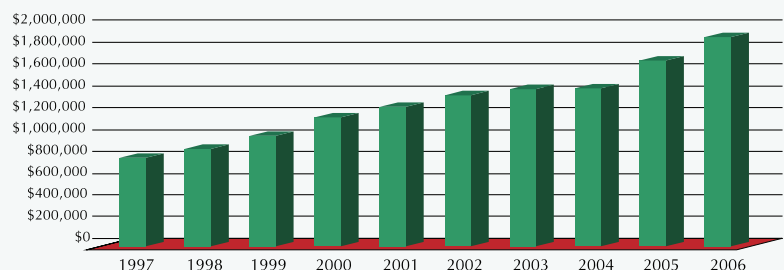
Cash and In-Kind Gifts



Enrollment 1997-2006



Scholarships Awarded





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## Alumni honored for lifetime achievement

Pittsburg State honored six alumni for their lifetime achievements at commencement ceremonies held last December and May. The PSU Alumni Association established the Meritorious Achievement Award in 1958. It is the highest award based on career achievement presented by the Alumni Association. Candidates for the award must have demonstrated substantial professional growth and advancement over an extended period of time.

The candidate's activities, including participation and leadership in civic and professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels, are also considered by the awards committee in selecting the recipients.

The honorees in December 2006 were **David Pierce** (BA '74), a professor of law at the Washburn University School of Law in Topeka; **Samuel Steele, Jr.** (BS '61, MS '62), a physician practicing urology in western North Carolina; and **Richard Stilwell** (BSBA '70), the president and founding shareholder of Insight Management Consultants in Prairie Village, Kan.

The honorees in May 2007 were **Bob Gaddy** (BSBA '63), chairman and CEO of Gaddy Investment Co.; **Collis Geren** (MS '72), a professor, dean of Graduate Studies and vice provost for research at the University of Arkansas; and **Kenny Kunstel** (BA '65, MS '67), the business development manager for all Boeing Army programs and related activities in the Virginia Tidewater area.

### December 2006 Honorees



David Pierce



Samuel Steele, Jr.



Richard Stilwell

### May 2007 Honorees



Bob Gaddy



Collis Geren



Kenny Kunstel

## PSU grad is Kansas History Teacher of the Year

Deborah Shaffer is a storyteller. She is also the Kansas

History Teacher of the Year. Shaffer, who teaches fifth grade at Guthridge Elementary School in Parsons, received the distinction recently from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America.

"I do believe that history is a story, and that I, as the teacher, am the storyteller," Shaffer said. "As with any good story, it



is full of characters, a plot, and a theme. That is what I try to do – bring my stories to life whether by role playing in the classroom or through literacy books that I read to my students."

Shaffer's efforts to integrate history into other curriculum areas she teaches helped win her distinction, according to Glenn Wiebe, social studies curriculum consultant at the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas.

Shaffer earned her elementary education certification and master's degree in history from Pittsburg State University. She was a participant in eHIKES (Enhancing History Instruction for Kansas Educators and Students).





### Your alumni connections



Schremmer

Two alumnae with close ties to Pittsburg State are now leading Alumni and Constituent Relations.

Johnna Pesavento Schremmer, BSBA '02, MBA '03; became director last December and Whitney Plowman, BS '05, MA '07; was named assistant director this spring.



Plowman

"We have a lot of great new things planned for this year and I look forward to meeting and

getting to know alumni and their families as the year goes on," Schremmer said.

If you are interested in alumni events on campus or in your area, contact the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations at 620-235-4758 or visit their Web site at <http://www.pittstate.edu/alum/>.

### PSU honors alumni at Homecoming

Pitt state recognized five alumni during PSU Homecoming activities last fall for their professional and civic achievements. The Outstanding Alumni for 2006 are:

**Robert Dale Gardner**, a senior engineer at Raytheon Aircraft Corporation in Wichita; **Fredrick Lewis Strasser**, director for the Intermountain Medical

Center construction project in Salt Lake City, Utah; **Donna L. Dutcher**, a Pro Se Law Clerk, working with the magistrate judges of the United States District Court in the Central District of California; **Michael Paul Zafuta**, an orthopedic surgeon working in private practice in Pittsburg; and **Jeffrey J. Quirin**, an associate professor for the School of Accountancy at Wichita State University.



PSU Alumni Association President Jody Billiard and 2006 Outstanding Alumni: Robert Dale Gardner, Fredrick Lewis Strasser, Donna L. Dutcher, Michael Paul Zafuta, and Jeffrey J. Quirin.

### Distinguished service honorees

Three alumni were also honored at the traditional Apple Day Convocation in March with the Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award. The honorees were **C. Ray Baird**, **Richard L. Chitty** and **Mattye Shaw Foxx**. Baird is a retired PSU vice president who served the university from 1947 until 1986. Chitty (BST '67) is a retired executive from Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Foxx (BS '69) is a retired social worker.



2007 Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award recipients: Richard L. Chitty, Mattye Shaw Foxx and C. Ray Baird.

TO LEARN HOW TO NOMINATE A PSU ALUMNUS for the Meritorious Achievement, Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumnus or Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service awards, visit the PSU Alumni Web site at <http://www.pittstate.edu/alum/> and click on the "Awards and Recognition" link or call 620-235-4758.



## 1950s

**Carl Otto**, BS '50, MS '57, has published six books since he retired in 1989, after a long career in Missouri and Kansas as a teacher, coach and superintendent. Otto, now of Pittsburg, has written about his childhood and his experience serving in World War II.

## 1960s

**Frank Elliott**, BS '62, retired from the Osawatimie school district after serving for 42 years in a variety of roles including teacher and counselor. He also had a tremendous impact in raising money for scholarships. In his most recent role with the district, he spearheaded fund-raising efforts that resulted in the scholarship endowment increasing to more than \$1 million.

**Robert "Steve" Locke**, BS '65, chairman and CEO of First State Bank in Junction City, Kan., served as the chairman of the of the Kansas Bankers Association for 2006-2007.

**Dr. Larry Evans**, BS '65, an oral surgeon for 35 years, closed his Wyandotte County office last fall. He still maintains a practice in Leavenworth

County. In addition to his medical practice, Evans has been traveling to Jamaica on an annual basis to do missionary work.

**Maybelle Circle**, BME '66, MM '71, was inducted into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame in Dodge City this summer. Circle is a music teacher in the Marysville Elementary School. She was named a Master Teacher by the Marysville Education Association in 2005 in addition to many other honors during her career.

**Bob Jones**, BS '69, is the administrator at Riverview Estates Nursing Home in Marquette, Kan. Jones had 38 years of experience in healthcare in Kansas prior to joining Riverview this year.

## 1970s

**Steve O'Hair**, BS '71, is the coordinator of Student Success at Cowley County Community College. He was a teacher, counselor and coach at the high school level for 35 years before assuming his current position with Cowley.

**Jim Karleskint**, BS '72, MS '73, is the superintendent of schools for Holton USD 336. He previously served as

assistant superintendent for Royal Valley USD 337.

**Navy Reserve Senior Chief Petty Officer Clifford D. McQuillen Jr.**, BS '72, MS '74, has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal for participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. McQuillen is an administrative officer with 23 years of military service.

**Glenda Holmes**, BS '73, received the "Nursing: The Heart of Healthcare Award" presented by the University of Kansas School of Nursing. Holmes, of Riley, Kan., was nominated for the award by a former lung cancer patient from Manhattan, Kan., who described her as "a truly remarkable nurse."

**Chuck Seilnacht**, BS '73, is the director of Furniture Galleries Excellence, a system to drive consistency and operational excellence for the La-Z-Boy Galleries furniture store network. Prior to joining La-Z-Boy, Seilnacht, of Dearborn, Mich., was with Ford Motor Company for 20 years focusing on retail performance improvement.

**David Alan Shinn**, MS '73, was recognized by Allen County

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## Former student becomes president of Crowder College

After having served Crowder College for more than 20 years, PSU alumnus Alan Marble has been named president of the growing school.

Marble attended Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., in 1973. Marble went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Missouri Southern in Joplin, Mo., in 1979, a master's degree in psychology from PSU in 1988, and recently earned his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees, Marble returned to Crowder, where over the next 20 years, he held a variety of positions including dean of business and support services. He was appointed Crowder's interim president in 2006. In 2007, following a national search, the college's board of trustee removed the interim from his title and named him president stating in news release that Marble was "a product of the very culture he is now called upon to honor and promote."

In recent years, the college has experienced significant enrollment growth. Last spring's enrollment stood at 2,410 full-time and part-time students. Marble is charged with preserving the culture of the institution, "one of serving and caring for people," while at the same time keeping pace with the enrollment growth.



Community College as the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus. Shinn is a teacher of mathematics at Uniontown High School. As the distinguished alumnus, Shinn presented the commencement address at the spring 2007 ACCC commencement exercises.

**John Farris**, BS '74, is the president of Boss Tank, Oswego, Kan., a manufacturer of field-erected tanks and silos for both dry bulk and liquid industrial storage. Farris has more than 30 years experience in the storage industry. Most recently he was president of All State Tank Manufacturing in Grove, Okla.

**Thomas V. Murry**, BS '74, MS '75, has been in the insurance business 30 years. He is president of ICI Insurance Center serving south central Kansas. Murry served as president of the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents in 2001.

**Wendy Scheidt**, BS '74, is director of the Leavenworth Main Street Program. Scheidt has experience in small business administration and historic preservation, as well as grant writing and grant coordination.

**Jeffery L. Martin**, M.D., BS '75, is the director of primary care services for Providence Medical Center, Kansas

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City, Kan., and St. John Hospital, Leavenworth. He is responsible for managing the hospitals' current primary care practices and developing new practices. He is board certified in family practice.

**John Purvis**, MS '76, is the principal of Rose Hill, Kan., High School. Purvis has been in education for 35 years, with 26 years in administration. He has served students in Altamont, Belle Plaine, Clay Center and Augusta prior to his position at Rose Hill.

**Roger P. Schrum**, BS '77, is the vice president for investor relations and corporate affairs for Sonoco. He joined Sonoco in 2005 with more than 20 years in business communications and investor relations experience. Sonoco is a \$3.5 million global manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products.

Sonoco headquarters are in Hartsville, South Carolina.

**Mark A. Ward**, BA '78, is a Sixth District Court Judge serving the Kansas counties of Miami, Linn and Bourbon. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Ward who has 25 years of legal experience, having been in private practice and having served as general counsel to the Kansas State Fire Marshal's office.

**Mike Good**, BS '79, received an Excellence in Education Award from Labette County USD 506 this spring. He serves as the technology coordinator for USD 506.

**Michael Hall**, BS '79, is president of the U.S. subsidiary of Lohman and Rauscher International, a world leader in medical products, which has its North American base in Topeka.

Worldwide, L&H has 2,900 employees and sales in excess of \$450 million. Prior to joining L&R, Hall worked for Smith Orthopedics and Payless ShoeSource.

## 1980s

**James Presley**, BS '80, MS '81, was named 2007 Teacher of the Year by his USD 286 colleagues. Presley teaches high school English and serves as assistant softball coach in Sedan, Kan.

**Steve Hull**, BS '80, has been named vice president and manager of commercial banking for Bank of the West in Wichita. He is responsible for the bank's commercial lending business in Wichita and western Kansas. Prior to his new position, Hull was a franchisee in Las Vegas for Dealer Specialties, a data collection service for car dealers.

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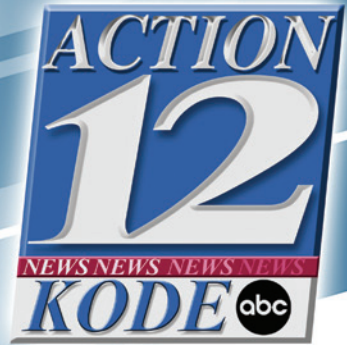
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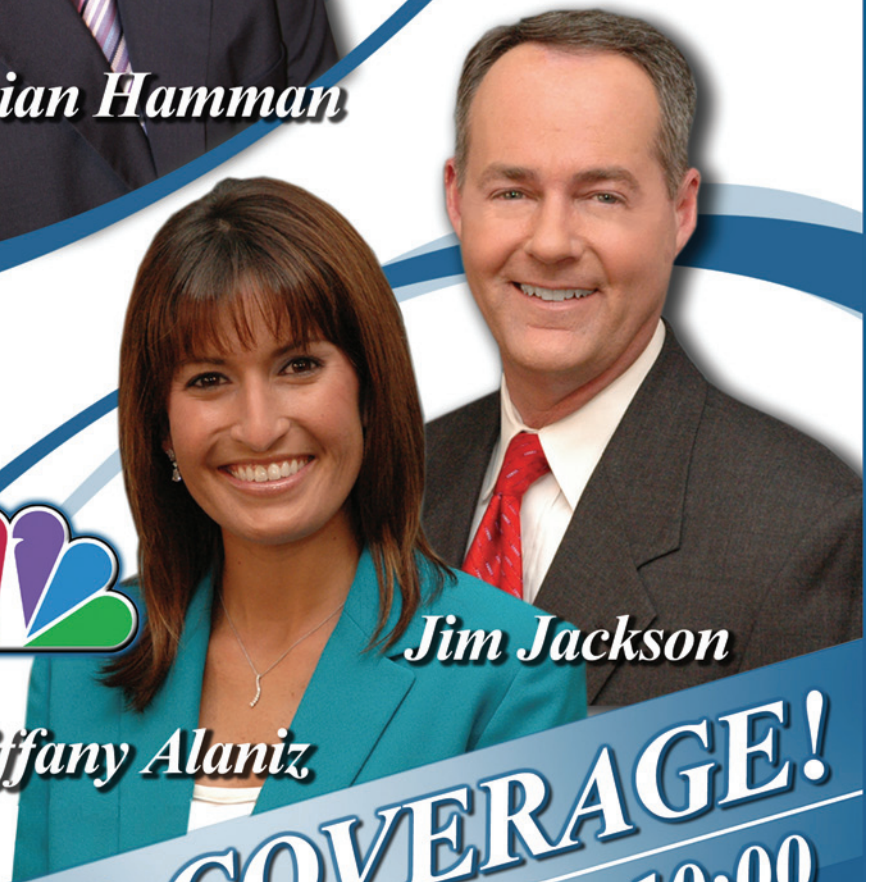
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## PSU alumnus first American on Toyota's Board of Directors

This year, automaker Toyota, for the first time in its 72-year history, named an American to its board of directors. That American, James Press, is a 1968 graduate of Pittsburg State with a bachelor's degree in management and marketing.

As president of Toyota Motor North America, Inc., Press, 60, has been overseeing the automaker's rapid growth in this country. Press joined Toyota in 1970 after two years at Ford Motor Co. The year Press joined Toyota, the Japanese automaker sold just over 200,000 cars in the U.S. Last year, Toyota moved into the top three in U.S. car sales.

In national news reports, Press has been described as "one of the most influential car guys in the U.S."

A June 2005 Los Angeles Times article credited Press with helping Toyota become the leading import brand in the U.S. He is credited with Toyota's successful introduction of the Prius, a hybrid vehicle, into the American market.

Press was born in Pasadena, Calif., but moved to Prairie Village, Kan., with his family when he was 7. A USA Today news article described his many hobbies, including competing in triathlons, competitive swimming, motorcycling, boating, and flying – he has a commercial pilot's license.

Press was awarded PSU's Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award in 1995.



the school district with 19 years of teaching experience, having taught in Axtell and Holcomb. He and his family live in Osawatimie, Kan.

**Mark Braun**, BA '83, was appointed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as judge of the 3rd Judicial District, which serves Shawnee County. Braun had most recently been the associate general counsel for the Kansas Securities Commissioner.

**Kim Benedict**, BS '83, is the publisher of The Daily Ardmoreite in Ardmore, Okla. Benedict had served as publisher of the Hillsdale (Mich.) Daily News. She has more than two decades of experience in the newspaper industry.

**Melinda Owens**, BS '84, was presented a 20-year-service pin by the Stafford District Hospital. Owens, of Stafford, Kan., is a registered nurse.

**Randy Sloan**, BS '84, is the chief information officer for PepsiCo Europe. Previously he served as the vice president of enterprise systems development for Pepsi Business Solutions Groups. Sloan has been with PepsiCo for more than 20 years. Sloan is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Janet A. Graham**, BS '86, is the owner of Janet A. Graham Public Accountant, Inc. in Columbus, Kan. She opened the business in 1990.

**Kris Kehl**, BS '86, MS '06, is the activities director for Wellsville, Kan., schools. He previously was the principal and football coach at Jayhawk-Linn High School in Mound City and has previously taught and coached in Missouri and Louisburg, Kan.

**Dennis Blochlinger**, BA, BS '87, is teaching the Liberty (Mo.) High School's first ever introduction to engineering design class using the

**Marcia McIntire**, BS '80, was named Winfield USD 465's Master Teacher. She is a Success for All facilitator, head teacher and testing coordinator at Winfield Intermediate School.

**Mark Ogle**, BA '81, was featured in the January 2007 issue of The Rotarian Magazine in the segment "10 questions with a Rotarian." Ogle, a member of the Claremore, Okla. Rotary Club, is a manager for the American Red Cross

and a foster parent. The magazine is sent to more than 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide each month.

**Brian Vaughn**, Cert. '81, opened MC Auto just outside Mound City, Kan. He has 26 years of experience in auto mechanics. He is ASC master certified.

**Clint Bailey**, BS '83, teaches science and is the head football coach at Osawatimie High School. He joined





## PSU alumnus assumes FSCC presidency

Pittsburg State and Fort Scott Community College have a number of collaborative efforts in place including a Qualified Admissions program, the John Deere program and the Harley Davidson program. Even though FSCC faculty and staff welcomed a new president to their campus this summer, they won't have to spend a lot of time educating their new leader about their higher education partner to the south.

Dr. Clayton Tatro, FSCC's new president, earned two degrees in psychology at Pittsburg State: a bachelor's degree in 1994, and a master's degree in 1995. He also earned a doctorate in community college leadership at Colorado State University. Tatro was involved in numerous campus activities during his time at Pitt State.

Tatro is taking over the reigns of FSCC at a time when the college is offering more programs than ever and is experiencing growth. He is taking over the presidency from Jim Miesner who retired in July after leading the college for four years.

A Glasco, Kan., native, Tatro most recently served as dean of learning services and chief academic officer at Garden City Community College.

In announcing his appointment, the college's trustees described Tatro as enthusiastic and "very well educated," and as "bringing lot's of experience to FSCC."



**Jill Soper**, BS '88, received the Excellence In Nursing Award in Community/Home Care Nursing at the Freeman Excellence in Nursing Gala held in Joplin, Mo. Soper is the clinical supervisor of Freeman Home Care Services.

## 1990s

**Kimberly Clark**, BS '90, is the executive director of the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas with headquarters in Pittsburg. Clark previously served the foundation as director of development and programming. Clark is a graduate of the National Planned Giving Institute at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

**Roger Denton**, MS '90, is the city planner for Leavenworth, Kan. He previously was the director of public works for the city of Atchison.

**John Scoggins**, BS '90, has been named the Wamego USD 320 head football coach and mathematics teacher. Scoggins has previously taught or coached in McAlester, Okla.; Seaman (Topeka), Emporia, and Effingham.

**Timothy Lednicky**, BS '90, was named the 2006 state Teacher of the Year from the Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education. Lednicky is an associate professor of railroad welding at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan.

**John Curran**, BA '97, is the internal auditor for the city of Olathe, Kan. He previously served as senior performance auditor with the Kansas Legislative Post Audit in Topeka and as an auditor project manager with Sprint Nextel. He is a certified internal auditor (CIA) as well as government auditing professional.

Autodesk Inventor software program. Blochlinger, who has been a teacher for 18 years, says he has never seen his students so excited about learning since he began using the Autodesk software program.

**Cynthia Isaac Harris**, BSN '88, received the Honor for Excellence Award from St. Francis Health System in Tulsa, Okla. Harris, a native of Iola, is a registered nurse and clinical instructor in labor and delivery.

**James Rubow**, BBA '88, is advertising director for The Chanute Tribune. Rubow, a Chanute native, has extensive background in sales support, annuity administration and management.

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**Lindell Franz**, MS '91, is the principal at the Andale, Kan., Grade School. Franz has spent the last 25 years in education, most recently serving in Oxford.

**Kyra Reichardt**, BSN '93, MS '01, received the Excellence in Nursing Award for Advanced Practice RN/CRNA at the Excellence in Nursing Gala held in Joplin, Mo. last spring. Reichardt is a nurse practitioner for Dr. David Zuehlke and Dr. Robert Stauffer, cardiologists for the Freeman Heart Institute.

**Army Spec. Jason Jambrosic**, BFA '94, graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. Jambrosic, of Kansas City, Kan., earned distinction as an honor graduate.

**Steve E. Pegram**, Ed.S. '94, is serving as the interim superintendent of Sante Fe Trail USD 434 schools. He was previously superintendent of Silver Lake USD 372. Pegram has also served as elementary school principal, high school principal and superintendent for the Cherryvale school district.

**Matt Smith**, BS '94, is the wildlife biologist at Wilson State Park which serves the Kansas counties of Lincoln, Ellsworth, Russell and Saline. He also serves as the area biologist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Hays, Kan. He previously served as a biologist technician for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Dodge City.

**Joseph D. Harris**, BS '95, MBA '96, was appointed director of business development - residential furnishings for Leggett and Platt with corporate headquarters in Carthage, Mo. Since 1999, Harris has evaluated more 150 acquisitions with combined revenues in excess of \$4.5 billion for Leggett and Platt. Prior to joining Leggett, Joe

worked for Sprint Corporation and Koch Pipeline Company.

**Michelle Traxson**, BS '94, received the Excellence In Education Award for an elementary teacher from Labette County USD 506. She teaches first grade at Edna Grade School and serves as Gen-Y coordinator, Pathways coordinator, and assistant track coach. Also for the district, she serves on the professional development council and the science curriculum committee.

**Justin Burchett**, BS '98, BS '00, teaches mathematics and is an assistant football coach at Osawatomie High School, in USD 367. He lives in Osawatomie, Kan.

**Brian Comstock**, BBA '96, is the chief financial officer at Citizens Bank of Fort Scott. Previously, Comstock, a CPA, was vice president and chief financial officer

for A. Zahner Company, an architectural metals company in Kansas City, Mo.

**Kyle Littrell**, BS '97, is the defensive football coach for Osawatomie High School. He previously taught in Shawnee Mission and Drexel.

**Wade Gerstner**, BA '98, is the general manager of KDNS and KSDY radio stations in Glen Elder, Kan. He previously was the sports director for KMZA in Seneca, Mo.

**Dawna Huhman**, BS '98, is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner at the South Hutchinson Kansas Medical Center.

**Megan Reid**, BS '99, teaches eighth grade at Royster Middle School in the Chanute school district. She previously taught in USD 232 in DeSoto.

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## 2000s

**Brenda Berry**, MS '00, is the family and consumer sciences teacher in the Anthony, Kan., school district. Berry, of Norwich, Kan., has taught for more than 20 years, having previously taught in Cheney and Norwich.

**Sarah McCoy**, BS '01, MS '03, is a biological sciences instructor at Neosho County Community College in Chanute, Kan. While working on her master's degree at Pitt State, McCoy served as the Nature Reach program director and served as a biology instructor.

**Mark Schremmer**, BA '01, MS '01, has joined the Topeka Capital Journal as copy editor and page designer. Schremmer was formerly with the Morning Sun in Pittsburg for seven years.

**Amber Wheeler**, BS '01, MS '05, is the principal of Anthony Elementary School in Anthony, Kan. She previously taught in the Chanute school district.

**Grant Allison**, BS '02, has opened a computer repair business, M & Computing Solutions, in Parsons. He taught at Labette County High School for three years prior to opening his business.

**Kayleen French**, BS '02, MBA '03, is cashier at the American Bank in Baxter Springs, Kan.

**Hayley Marchant**, BBA '02, is the treasurer and controller for First Independence Corporation. She has been employed by First Federal since 2002 as a staff accountant.

**Rhonda Trimble**, MS '02, is the principal of Valley Heights elementary schools where she has implemented a professional learning system, which

emphasizes staff collaboration to increase student learning,

**Wes Streeter**, BS '03, MS '06, teaches technology at Royster Middle School in the Chanute school district.

**Maggie Wolken**, BS '03, is a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Kindergarten Center in the Chanute, Kan., school district. She previously taught fourth grade in Humboldt.

**Christopher Woods**, BS '03, was named the 2006 Officer of the Year for the Pittsburg Police Department.

**Allison Bauer**, BS '04, is the managing editor of the Humboldt Union newspaper in Humboldt, Kan. She previously worked at The Iola Register.

**Brendan Burke**, BS '04, has joined the Salina law firm of Norton, Wasserman,

Jones and Kelly as an associate attorney. Burke will practice principally in the areas of domestic and civil litigation.

**Elizabeth Crooks**, BS '04, is teaching basic and advanced automotive classes at Junction City High School. Crooks worked as a Firestone technician for eight years before being moving into the classroom. Crooks is currently working on a master's degree in technology education.

**Jason DeLong**, BS '04, is the 2007 Outstanding New Teacher for the Independence, Kan., school district. DeLong is in his second year of teaching fifth graders at Washington School.

**Taylor Ferraro**, BBA '04, is the assistant to the president of Heartland Bank in Kansas City. Her work will focus on marketing and event planning.

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and GorillaFest

2:00 ..... PSU vs. Missouri Western

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**Jeff Jordan**, BS '04, is the technical director at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center in Iola. He had been the assistant technical director of Pittsburg's Memorial Auditorium since 2001.

**Jennifer Kramer**, MS '04, is the principal of Earl M. Lawson Elementary School in Leavenworth, Kan.

**Max Bradbury**, BS '05, was honored as the Quality Teacher of the Month by Independence, Kan., USD 446. Bradbury joined the Independence school district in the fall 2005 as a chemistry and physics teacher. In addition, he coaches the high school Scholars Bowl Team, is the IHS Science Club sponsor, is the sophomore class sponsor and coaches freshmen boys' basketball.

**Toby Conrad**, BS '05, teaches sixth-grade science at Osawatomie, Kan., Middle School. He lives in Mound City, Kan.

**Nick Crooks**, BS '05, is an elementary physical education instructor in Pleasanton, Kan.

**Ashely Ausemus**, BS '06, is a first-grade teacher at Alcott Elementary School in the Chanute school district.

**Debbie Baird**, BS '06, is a fourth-grade teacher at Alcott Elementary School in the Chanute, Kan., school district. Baird previously taught at Buhler High School.

**Theresa Barr**, BS '06, is the Family and Consumer Sciences instructor at Pleasanton High School. Barr is a longtime Mound City, Kan., resident.

**Leslie Jenkins**, BS '06, is a third-grade teacher at Trojan Elementary School in Osawatomie USD 367. She lives in Louisburg.

**Lisa Ruark**, BS '06, is a fourth-grade

teacher at Alcott Elementary School in the Chanute school district.

**Kimberly Speaks**, BS '00, MS '06, is a member of the Galichia Medical Group's Fredonia office. Speaks, a family nurse practitioner, will focus on family medicine and women's health issues. She has achieved certification in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, and trauma nursing core course.

**Kristen Stotts**, BS '06, is the tourism director for the Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**April Allen**, BS '06, is the Central Heights junior high math teacher in Franklin County, Kan. This is Allen's first teaching assignment.

**Lu Ann Hargrove**, BS '06, is the Central Heights family and consumer sciences teacher.



#### FOND MEMORIES—

Fifty years ago, the people in this photo were students climbing these marble stairs on their way to classes in Russ Hall. This past spring they gathered on these same stairs for a class snapshot during the Spring Reunion. For alumni, the regular reunions give them a chance to reconnect with old friends, visit some of their old haunts and see all of the changes that have occurred on campus. For information about planned reunions or an informal visit to campus, contact Alumni and Constituent Relations at 620-235-4758 or visit their Web site at <http://www.pittstate.edu/alum/>





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Some of our favorite memories of our college days are associated with food and the restaurants and cafes where we would often hang out. What made it special? Maybe it was that perfect burger, the best fries in town or the cute waitress.

We want to hear your favorite restaurant stories from your days at Pittsburg State. Send them to Ron Womble, Public Relations, 213 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762 or by e-mail to [kwomble@pittstate.edu](mailto:kwomble@pittstate.edu). We'll put together some of the best remembrances for the April issue. — Editor



Many alumni remember banquets in Chandler Hall.

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### From the archives...

#### MASCOT ENCOUNTER –

When LeRoy Simpson was going through some mementos of his college days recently, he came upon this photo, taken sometime in 1954. Simpson recalled Coach Carnie Smith getting a few of the guys together and making a quick trip to a site north of Pittsburg where a traveling circus was set up. Coach and players posed for a photo with a diminutive gorilla, which, Simpson recalled, was not part of the circus act, but was a pet belonging to one of the trainers. Those pictured, left to right: Frank Crispino, Simpson, Dale Bergsten, Carnie Smith, Burl Fowler and Bob Hill.







# Enterprise

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## PSU Foundation Spotlight— *Roger Seufferling*

When Roger Seufferling graduated from Louisburg, Kan. high school, he thought he would be heading west to be a KU Jayhawk. A better scholarship offer lured him south to Pittsburg State where he had a “phenomenal college experience.” The 1993 PSU Outstanding Senior Man says now he couldn’t imagine having gone anywhere else.

As an undergraduate involved in the PSU Student Foundation board, Seufferling learned what a difference private support made at the university. He is proud of the fact that he was personally involved in helping resurrect the PSU Senior Class gift program. Just one example of the program’s impact – four senior class gifts helped fund construction of the PSU Centennial Bell Tower.

As a young professional right out of college living in Wichita, Seufferling remained involved with Pitt State, serving as a phonathon volunteer and an officer of the area alumni chapter. A career advancement as a controller for Enterprise-Rent-A-Car required that he relocate to northwest Oregon. That distance from campus has limited his volunteer activities for PSU. But even with a growing family and significant

*Roger, wife Deana  
and their daughter  
Emma Grace*



distance from campus, Seufferling has remained supportive of the university. He makes annual gifts to the PSU Foundation, because he knows that every gift, no matter what size, makes a difference for today’s students.

Seufferling said he cherishes his ties to Pitt State and plans to continue to support the university with annual gifts. And, he’s ready to resume his volunteer efforts for PSU. His family’s game room is decorated in Pitt State’s red and gold, ready for a Gorilla Gathering for fellow PSU alumni living in the great northwest.

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