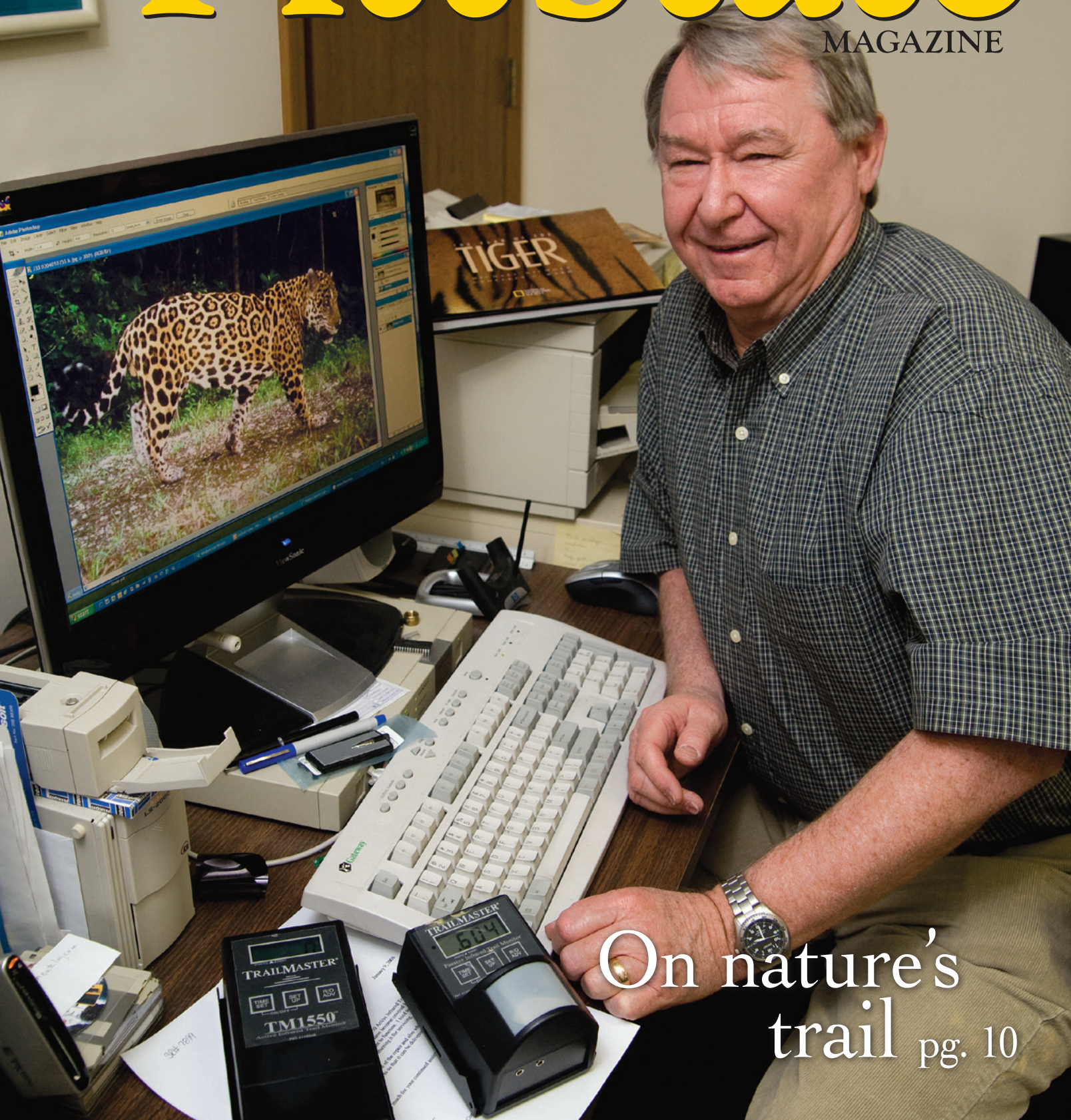


Spring 2008



# Pitt State

MAGAZINE



On nature's  
trail pg. 10





# Pittsburg State University

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# Pitt State

MAGAZINE



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## Welcome to the Pittsburg State University Magazine.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Pitt State Magazine as much as we have enjoyed producing it for you. Your letters and memories of your favorite places to eat made us smile. It is inspiring to learn of the many great things our alumni are doing and we hope you like hearing about what's happening on campus. We value your opinions, so let us know what you like and what you don't. We're listening. — *The editor*



### University refines crisis plan

Tragedies on campuses across the U.S. usually raise questions about how well universities are prepared to handle crisis situations. While crisis planning is nothing new at PSU, this past year has been one in which a good deal of effort has been devoted to expanding and improving the crisis response plan.

Howard Smith, assistant to the president, has led the effort to refine and expand the crisis response and critical incident management operations plan.

"Many people automatically think of Virginia Tech and similar incidents when they hear 'crisis management,'" Smith said. "While that is something we need to be prepared for, the most likely critical incidents to affect our campus are things like severe storms and tornadoes, fire, or contagious disease. The university's response plan needs to take into account a very long list of possible events."

Communication is a critical piece of any response to a crisis, Smith said.

"Since Virginia Tech, there has been a lot of discussion about the ways that we communicate in a crisis situation," Smith said. "Text messaging is one option. By this fall, PSU will have a system in place that will provide that, but we know it is just part of the puzzle."

"I'm excited about the progress we've made with the plan this year," Smith said.

Smith said that although he's pleased with the progress the university has made on the crisis response and critical incident management plan, it will never really be finished.

For more information call Howard Smith at 620-235-4100 or visit the safety Web site, [www.pittstate.edu/pres/EmergencyPreparedness.html](http://www.pittstate.edu/pres/EmergencyPreparedness.html).

### Outstanding faculty share a love of teaching

This year's Robert Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award winners share something in common: they love teaching and it shows in everything they do.

Dr. James McAfee of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Daniel Zurek of the Department of Biology, and Dr. Barbara McClaskey of the Department of Nursing were presented with the award at this year's Apple Day convocation on March 6.

The Outstanding Faculty Award is given to three faculty members each spring as a way to recognize them for their superior service to the university and its students. Faculty members are nominated and selected for the award by students, making it one of the most coveted recognitions on campus.

McAfee, who has taught courses in chemistry at PSU for 11 years, says that of all the grants he has won (currently he holds two research grants worth more than \$150,000), he can't compare that to the feeling of knowing students appreciate his efforts.

"I take teaching very seriously," McAfee said. "I can recall being their age. When young people come to college, they essentially have four years to make or break their lives. We (the faculty) have a tremendous responsibility being in that path. As a teacher, you can assist them in

reaching their dreams or you can stand in the way."

Award winner Zurek, who came to PSU 10 years ago from San Diego, says he isn't certain what he did to win the award for the second time, but that the long hours he's willing to give to students may have something to do with it.

"I know the concepts are difficult and these ideas are tough, but I'm not going to let anyone down who is willing to try," said Zurek, who will be escorting a group of students on a work-study trip to Peru this May. "I try to go above and beyond for them. I get evaluated in all kinds of ways, and of all the awards I could get, the one coming from the students means the most to me."

For McClaskey, the decision to leave her position as a hospital nurse 16 years ago in order to teach wasn't an easy one. But each year, as she sees students learn, grow, and graduate, she is continually in awe of how much she loves to teach.

"I loved what I did as a nurse and wasn't sure I'd love teaching, but I have. These are wonderful students and they love to learn," she said. "It's an incredible honor to receive this award. Knowing the number of highly qualified faculty on this campus, it is really humbling to be selected."



Dr. Daniel Zurek

Dr. James McAfee

Dr. Barbara McClaskey



## AxeDigital puts photos online

A new project at Pittsburg State University's Axe Library is opening some of the library's resources to anyone with access to the Internet. AxeDigital launched this spring with two photographic collections pertaining to life in Southeast Kansas.

The Ira Clemens Photo Album is a collection of photographs and postcards compiled by Ira Clemens in 1923. The Gordon Parks Collection contains selected photographs relating to the filming of "The Learning Tree."

"AxeDigital will allow the entire world to access some of the hidden treasures of PSU's Special Collections through the Internet," said Robert Walter, dean of Learning Resources. "The first two collections that are available for viewing now are the beginnings of what we hope will become a large collection of digitized information from Axe Library Special Collections."

Randy Roberts, curator of Special Collections, said Janette Mauk, senior administrative assistant; Morgan McCune, cataloging librarian; and David Nance, library systems manager, did the work of digitizing and organizing the collections and providing the technology needed to put the collections online.

Additional collections will be added over time, Roberts said.

For information, visit AxeDigital at <http://axedigital.pittstate.edu/> or call Axe Library Special Collections at 620-235-4880.

**St. Louis and San Francisco  
Railway Station in  
Cherokee, Kan. 1923**



**Grocery Store in Skidmore, Kan. 1923**



**Gordon Parks  
watches a scene from  
"The Learning Tree"  
through a movie  
camera lens while on  
location in Bourbon  
and Linn counties,  
Kansas. 1968**

## FROM THE OVAL



## New master's degree focuses on college teaching

A new graduate degree offered through the College of Technology will benefit students both in technology and in Family and Consumer Sciences.

The newly created master of science degree in career and technical education offers four different emphases that share a core set of courses. The emphases include family and consumer sciences, college teaching, technology education, and technical teacher education. The new degree replaces the technical education and technical teacher education master's degrees the college previously offered.

Dr. John Iley, professor in technology studies and coordinator of the effort to create the new degree, says the goal was to simplify what the college already offered.

"We had two degrees that addressed college teaching and we had Family and Consumer Sciences who wanted some advanced work tailored toward them," he said. "This degree will serve as an umbrella for four different areas."

The degree, which was approved by the Board of Regents last fall, is comprised of a 32-hour core of courses including methods and research, statistics, a teaching methodology course, and a history and philosophy course relating to technical education. Students in the existing master's degree plans have been converted into the new degree, Iley said, with some graduating as soon as December.

The degree is ideal for those who want to teach, but don't want to start over on a bachelor's degree.

"With this degree, someone with a technology background could do a quality job teaching at the college level," Iley said. "If they take this program and pick up the necessary teaching certification courses, it means they don't have to go back for another bachelor's degree just to teach."

For more information contact John Iley at 620-235-4373 or [jiley@pittstate.edu](mailto:jiley@pittstate.edu).





## FROM THE OVAL

### Naccarato welcomed as new director of Planned Giving



Shawn Naccarato

The Office of University Development has hired a new director of Planned Giving. Shawn Naccarato, who graduated from PSU in 2001 with a degree in political science, will work largely with friends and constituents who would like to support PSU with an estate gift.

Naccarato earned his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri in 2004. After completing his degree, he worked for three years for the Missouri Attorney General's Office as an assistant attorney general, specializing in criminal cases and special prosecution work.

For information on how to include PSU in your estate plans, contact Shawn at 620-235-4863 or snaccara@pittstate.edu.

### Transitions

#### College of Arts & Sciences

##### Faculty Retirements

Robert Backes, Physics  
Carolyn O'Hearn, English  
Mary Ross, Nursing  
Thomas Walther, History

#### College of Business

##### Faculty Retirements

Eric G. Harris, chairperson,  
Management & Marketing

#### College of Technology

Faculty Retirements  
Ted McCormick, Technology Studies  
Tom Musgrove, research technologist

## KRPS celebrates 20 years of broadcasting

Many people in the 80-mile radius around Pittsburg State University find it hard to remember a time when public radio was not a part of their lives. But 20 years ago, the four-state area was one of those parts of the U.S. that lacked a public radio station.

Long before public radio became a reality in the area, Dr. Grady Smoot, then the vice president for development and public relations at PSU, had a dream to make it a reality.

"The public didn't really know what public radio was about," said Smoot, who took on the difficult task of starting a radio station from scratch. Creating the station was a process that took several years.

An NPR consultant helped Smoot construct a grant proposal for \$500,000, the largest broadcasting grant of its kind at the time. That successful grant application laid the foundation for KRPS.

Even after initial funding was established, the search for a frequency began.

"I wasn't going to settle for anything less than 100,000 watts," said Smoot.

At the time, Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Mo., was also looking to begin a public radio station. But Pitt State administration decided to be patient.

"By waiting, we found a frequency previously owned by a church in Galena," said Smoot.

Through negotiation, PSU purchased the frequency. A 500-foot tower was built near Weir in Cherokee County to reach 100 miles in every direction, and a KRPS staff began to assemble.

At approximately 4 p.m. on April 29, 1988, KRPS broadcast its first signal.

This spring the radio station celebrated its 20th birthday. Some of today's favorite programs would sound familiar to the listeners of 20 years ago. One of the most popular shows that first year was "Car Talk," which remains one of the highest listener hours today.

And after 20 years, KRPS remains the only NPR broadcasting station in the four-state area.

General Manager Missi Kelly said that KRPS has kept its original purpose and continued to grow.

"We offer classical music and jazz programming that isn't found on other regional commercial formats," said Kelly.

She also added that the station offers the benefit of local announcers during daily programming and local news stories, as well as public service announcements and a calendar of events to publicize area events for the arts.

"We continue to sustain and grow in programming," added Kelly.

KRPS has now grown to a staff of eight with a total







**(top photo):** General Manager Frank Baker, center, reads from a script during the initial broadcast from the KRPS studios. PSU officials in the studio included, left to right, Gene Vollen, chairman of the Department of Music; Grady Smoot, vice president of University Advancement; Don Wilson, university president; and Robert Ratzlaff, vice president of Student Affairs.

**(bottom photo):** Engineer Keith Retzer, right, works with others at the station to get the equipment up and running in time for the first broadcast.

operating budget of \$712,000, of which 32 percent is provided by private gifts and membership. On-air fundraising also continues as a successful way to collect funds for equipment and programming costs.

"Early on we even got truckers listening, and then they began giving," recalled Smoot.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary, KRPS aired a montage from 3:55-4 p.m. on April 29 to mark the precise time the KRPS signal was first broadcast. The day also included a series of interviews from people that have been a part of the station since the beginning.

## FROM THE OVAL



### World-traveling grad tells students to make a difference

Maggie Fleming's life has been anything but typical since receiving her degree from Pittsburg State University.

The featured speaker of the 2008 Apple Day convocation, Fleming (BA '01)

was not long ago just like the students she addressed in March. But it is what she has done with her time since finishing her coursework at Pitt State that has kept people talking.

A native of Pittsburg, Fleming has spent much of the last seven years between Africa, Europe and the United States. In Africa, she served as a community health and AIDS prevention volunteer with the Peace Corps in Togo, and as an administrator and human resource assistant for a local NGO (non-governmental organization) in Tanzania. She also worked as a support-base manager/report writer for the Swiss NGO Medair in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 2005, Fleming received her master's degree in African Studies from the University of Edinburgh



**Maggie Fleming**

in Edinburgh, Scotland. During her research, she spent more than six weeks between Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Congo looking at the reintegration process women and children go through after having been raped in war-torn countries.

In the United States, she has worked in numerous jobs and trades—from a counselor at a camp for the elderly/disabled to a substitute teacher to a volunteer track coach. Currently, she is serving on Sen. Sam Brownback's foreign policy team in Washington, D.C. In his office, she serves as an aide and assistant on issues such as human trafficking, global health, religious freedoms, and human rights.

Fleming spoke on the day's theme, "One Gorilla Makes a Difference."





### PSU wins national honor for campus



**The Sen. Paul Simon Award “recognizes outstanding and innovative efforts in campus internationalization.” The award is named for the late Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), who was a strong supporter of international education throughout his life. Other recent winners of the award are Purdue University, Michigan State University, the University of Kansas, Georgia Tech, and the University of Oklahoma. For more information on NAFSA, visit their Web site at [www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org).**

The Association of International Educators (NAFSA) honored PSU this spring with its 2008 Sen. Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. Four other universities also received the award. They are the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Valparaiso University, Nebraska Wesleyan University and Goucher College. The five will be featured in “Internationalizing the Campus 2008: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities,” which will be published this fall. The awardees will also be recognized at the NAFSA annual conference in Washington, D.C.

According to NAFSA, its annual report “recognizes institutions that are leaders in the growing effort across higher education to better prepare students for a global economy and an interconnected world.”

Chuck Olcese, director of International Programs and Services at PSU, says the university is being honored for its internationalization work in the classroom, its efforts to offer international programming to the community, and its work in reaching out to school districts.

“It’s bigger than just recruiting international students,” Olcese says, praising academic departments across campus for implementing new programs that allow students to study abroad. “This is a really nice recognition for everyone who has been supportive of the international programs at Pitt State. It shows the high level of collaboration and the activity we have in the four states region.”

The number of PSU students who take advantage of study abroad opportunities has consistently been on the rise, growing by 25 percent since 2001. Last year, 117 students studied abroad in 17 different countries. At the same time, international enrollment at PSU has also grown. This spring, 437 international students are enrolled at PSU, an 8.2 percent increase over last year.

“I am impressed with the university’s commitment to internationalization, which is so important to many of our students who have grown up in the Midwest,” said Dr. William Ivy, dean of enrollment management and student success. “It’s great that this prestigious organization has recognized PSU and will help tell our story nationwide.”

For information on international programs at PSU, call the Office of International Programs and Services at 620-235-4680 or visit them online at [www.pittstate.edu/iss/](http://www.pittstate.edu/iss/).

### Passionate about research

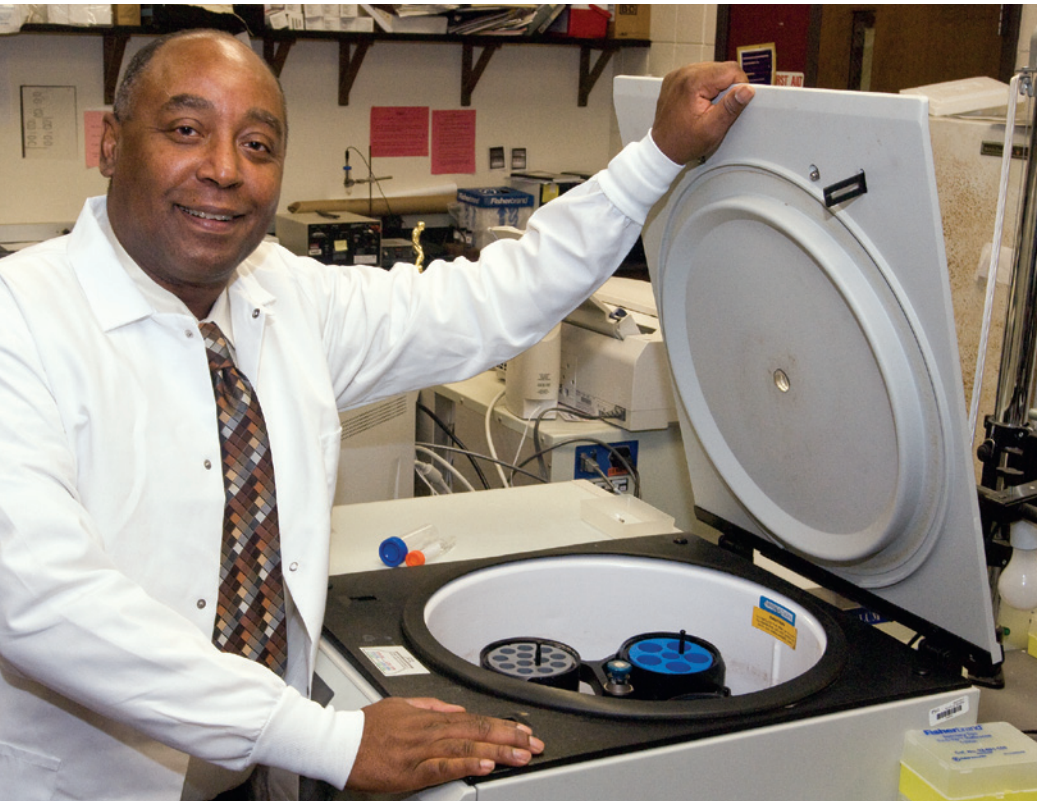
Dr. James McAfee, Chemistry, is passionate about research – both his own in the area of messenger RNA and also that of his students. A \$10,000 award this past year from the Kansas IDEa NetWork of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) was a boost for both.

McAfee is the fourth from PSU to be honored with K-INBRE’s Faculty Scholar Award since its inception. Previous recipients are Dr. Virginia Rider, Dr. Nancy Brooker and Dr. Daniel Zurek. K-INBRE established the Faculty Scholar Award for mid-level faculty of distinction. Its purpose is to acknowledge outstanding faculty, who are often targets of recruiting efforts by other institutions. The Faculty Scholar Awards include \$10,000 in flexible funds for academic/scholarly expenses allowable by NIH.

McAfee believes that one of the most important things he can do for students is offer







Dr. James McAfee

them a good research opportunity.

"The laboratory experience compliments the classroom experience," McAfee said. "Students (who do research) learn important techniques that make them marketable. Industry is interested in what you can do."

McAfee said that it was the lack of a solid undergraduate research opportunity in his own educational career that has inspired him to work so diligently with PSU students who show an interest in research.

"As a post-doc at Vanderbilt, I saw

undergrads doing research. It was a different culture," McAfee said. "In my own undergraduate experience, I don't think I had a faculty member who sat me down and explained the importance of research."

As a member of the faculty at PSU, McAfee has the opportunity to make sure Pitt State students can't say the same.

"As a faculty member, I realize that my kids have to be competitive with these kids (from universities that encourage undergraduate

research)," McAfee said. "That's my commitment -to make my students competitive with these students in the job market and also in the professional job market."

McAfee's commitment to his students continues long after they have left PSU. He hears frequently from former students about their activities in medical school, in industry or as professionals.

"There's an extra bond generated with students in a research setting," McAfee said. "These students become like family members."

## Federal funds boost bio-based research

PSU's Kansas Polymer Research Center has an additional \$1.1 million to advance its bio-based research, thanks to the passage of the federal 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

The appropriation is the largest amount of federal funding the center has received in its 13-year history. The money will be used for long-term research projects producing new bio materials from renewable resources such as vegetable oils and animal fats. Some of these new materials could include items like shoe soles, coatings, adhesives, and solvents.

"We are extremely pleased to be receiving these funds," said Steve Robb, director of the KPRC and the PSU Business and Technology Institute. "It's not every day something like this happens. Our challenge is to leverage the federal money into some special projects that can benefit the state of Kansas and the country as a whole."

Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback and Congresswoman Nancy Boyda worked to include the funding in the final legislation. The funds are being disbursed through the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service.

For more information, contact Steve Robb at 620-235-4925 or [rrobb@pittstate.edu](mailto:rrobb@pittstate.edu).





## FROM THE OVAL

### Donor establishes scholarship for veterans

A PSU supporter has stepped forward to create a new endowed scholarship for military veterans who want to attend the university. The PSU Veterans Endowed Scholarship will be available for veterans who have served in any branch of the military, including the National Guard and Reserve.

Lou Steele, a farmer from Arcadia, Kan., said he and his wife Polly (BSE '50) decided to establish the endowment after recently catching an interview with a veteran on a public radio station in Kansas City. The caller discussed his experience attending college on the GI Bill after World War II, and said he was shocked to discover the limitations of financial aid available to veterans today.

"This man is a member of the greatest generation and he felt it isn't right (that more assistance isn't available)," said Steele, who turned to the PSU Office of University Development to establish the scholarship. "There are always people who fall through the cracks, no matter what the law says and what the rules are. There just isn't enough help for them."

The Kansas Board of Regents does award scholarships to cover tuition for Kansas high school graduates who have served in the current Afghanistan or Iraq conflicts, and the national GI bill offers varying levels of assistance to qualified veterans and their family members. But this privately funded endowment, available for veterans who qualify for GI benefits, is the first of its kind for those attending PSU.

The endowment will generate money for scholarships by earning interest off Steele's gift. He says his goal is to encourage more donors to add to the gift, making the scholarships either larger or more numerous. It will be a great help, Steele said, for veterans who want to attend school but just can't find a way to afford it.

"We've got a lot of people who get involved in the Reserve and the first time they come home they may have a job. But the second time they come home they may not," he said. "It isn't going to do any harm to have this here for them."

It's certainly meaningful for Steele, who served in the Marine Corps during World War II. After leaving the military, he considered college but eventually joined the family business in Arcadia. His parents, James Steele and Dawn (Dunton) Steele, were graduates of Pitt State.

Ellen Carter, a major gifts officer for the PSU Development Office, said the university scholarship committee, in consultation with Scott Roberts, director of development, will award the scholarship to three or four students a year. First preference will be given to those veterans demonstrating the greatest financial need.

Additional donations to the PSU Veterans Endowed Scholarship fund are welcome. For more information, contact Ellen Carter at 620-235-4930 or [ecarter@pittstate.edu](mailto:ecarter@pittstate.edu)



### Ice storm ravaged campus landscape

With the lush green grass and traditional red and yellow tulips welcoming visitors to the PSU campus

this season, it's easy to forget the damage caused by last December's major ice storm. That is, until you look up at the trees.

The ice storm that dominated conversations for months brought down enough trees in the area

to compare the damage to that of a tornado. With trees snapping under the weight of the ice, it was no surprise that the landscape of the campus was left with pretty serious damage. By some estimates, as many as 90 percent of the trees on campus were damaged. In about half of those, the damage was significant.

"There were major limbs that fell off the trees that are needed to make a tree balanced and look whole," said Larry Miller, supervisor of the university's







# “Where in the World is Gus?”

## Gus in China

I'm Ladonna Graham and I graduated from PSU in 2006. I went on a two-week tour of China this summer and wore one of my favorite PSU T-shirts that I had made with Professor Ray Bachura. After walking on the Great Wall in Beijing, T'ien-an Men Square, traveling by train to Xian to see the Terra Cotta warriors, and cruising three days on the Yangtze past the Great Gorges, we ended our tour flying to Shanghai. I was proud to wear my shirt in China.

Wishing you many great travel opportunities,

Ladonna



ground maintenance crew. “There were a few that we had to cut down entirely.”

After the storm, crews permanently removed about 5 percent of the trees on campus, including three trees located by the old bookstore (near Axe Library), another east of Horace Mann, and a Chinese Elm located on the Oval.

One tree that survived but required major trimming and care, said Miller, is the most significant tree on campus: the water oak located on the southeast side of the Overman Student Center. Recorded by the Department of Treasury as a state champion tree, it is the largest water oak in the state of Kansas. In addition to the oak's significant damage, another large white pine on the Oval experienced its share of destroyed limbs, as well.

The shrubbery on campus also took a blow, and Miller said he hopes to receive additional landscaping funding next year to absorb the cost of planting new trees and plants.

“Many of the trees will be unsightly until they grow out on their own,” Miller said. “It made every tree left all the more valuable.”



## Gus in Iraq

Sgt. Dennis Britton shared this photo from 2005 when the 891st Engineering Battalion was in Iraq. Dennis said the battalion's call sign was Gorilla. The 891st was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004 and returned to Pittsburg in December of 2005.

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)





# A passion for guides

*If you've ever read National Geographic Magazine or visited a place you've been touched by the work of Bill Goodson (BST '69).*

Goodson and Associates, Inc., a company that Goodson started in 1980, manufactures TrailMaster infrared tracking systems that are used by wildlife photographers around the world to capture images that leave readers wondering "how'd they do that?" The same technology helps wildlife researchers and conservationists to learn more about the secret lives of animals. The custodians of our national parks and trails use it to accurately count visitors.

The road that took Goodson to his business today in Lenexa, Kan., began when he was just a boy. Because Goodson's father, who was in the Navy, was assigned to diplomatic duties, Goodson lived in places like Key West, Cuba and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

As a youngster in Ceylon, Goodson lived an almost storybook adventure, trekking into the jungle with a native guide and a colorful British military officer. He learned to track, call and hunt the local species. It was the beginning of a love affair with nature that would shape his future.

Back in the U.S., Goodson eventually returned to the Kansas City area to finish high school. He was recommended to Pittsburg State by his high school football coach, who knew Carnie Smith. Goodson said Smith helped him get a work scholarship and he played football



In his office, Bill Goodson is surrounded by images of exotic animals from all around the world. Photographers using his technology are quick to share their favorite photos. Goodson's interest in wildlife was sparked by childhood experiences in the jungles of Ceylon.

# wildlife a career

*national park, chances are good that*



Bill Goodson

for a couple of years while he worked toward a degree.

"It was an ideal situation for me," Goodson said of Pittsburg State. "It was a small school with lots of hunting and fishing nearby."

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree with a major in electrical technology, Goodson embarked on a career that would take him to companies both large and small. At the Bendix Corporation in Kansas City, Goodson managed to distinguish himself despite being in a very large company in which "you were just a number."

After a successful career at Bendix, Goodson returned to southeast Kansas to work for Kustom Electronics in Chanute, a pioneer in solid-state

digital amplifiers. There he focused his energies on solving problems with the company's microwave radar unit. At Kustom, Goodson helped turn a struggling unit that the company was considering selling into a profitable part of the company.

After several years with Kustom Electronics, Goodson returned once again to a large company, this time joining PP&G, where he oversaw the company's medical technology R&D. That intense experience, which required great amounts of travel, helped Goodson make the decision to strike out on his own in a business that drew upon both his love of nature and his knowledge and experience in technology.

"When we first started out, our

objective was to develop a product that could be set up in the woods and allow us to attach a camera to record the animals that passed by," Goodson said.

The first product, a passive infrared system, "didn't allow us the accuracy," Goodson said. "We abandoned that and moved to an active infrared system that uses both

*(see Goodson, pg. 12)*







This snow leopard in the high mountain country of India's Hemis National Park was captured on film using the Trailmaster TM 1550 and a Canon Sureshot camera. Photographer Rodney Jackson is director of the Snow Mountain Conservancy. ([www.snowleopardconservancy.org](http://www.snowleopardconservancy.org))

### **Goodson** (*from pg. 11*)

an infrared beam and a receiver."

Today's TrailMaster 1050 and 1550 models, provide the precision Goodson was after. The user can adjust the height of the beam and set the length of time the beam must be broken in order for the camera to take a photo. This allows the user who wants to photograph only tigers, for example, to get photos of tigers and not monkeys or people. There's even a "bat" model of the equipment that will capture bats in flight.

Appreciative photographers often send Goodson incredible photos they have taken with his equipment. TrailMaster is cited in a New York Times article about the technology that makes today's great wildlife photography possible. That framed news story hangs on his office wall beside photos of tigers, elephants and other exotic animals. A copy of Michael Nichols' book, "The Year of the Tiger," which features photos taken using Goodson's technology is in a prominent place on his bookshelf.

Goodson points out that it isn't

just photographers who find the infrared systems he makes useful. Wildlife researchers have used TrailMaster equipment to learn about the habits of deer. The USGS uses it to monitor bears and, Goodson said, it has even been used to document species previously believed to be extinct.

The TrailMaster equipment tracks people, too.

"If you've walked the KATY Trail or go into a national park, it was probably our equipment that counted you," Goodson said.

Goodson's is not a large company. His wife, Victoria (BFA, '71), is likely to be the one answering the phone. In the back, three women assemble and test the units. Four engineers work on a part-time basis. The keys to success for a company such as his, Goodson said, are innovative products, quality and service.

"Part of the trick of being a small company serving a niche is to be resourceful," Goodson said.

That resourcefulness has allowed TrailMaster to not only succeed

(Goodson had customers in more than 105 countries), but it has allowed Goodson the freedom to have the professional life he clearly enjoys.

"The things I did at Bendix were very interesting. The things I did at Kustom were very satisfying. (But other things) have become more important to me as time goes by. It is an extremely satisfying business that we have."

Goodson said his PSU experience made a difference for him.

"The foundation I received at PSU in electronics from the College of Technology as well as the College of Business has been invaluable to me," Goodson said. "The personal attention given to me by my instructors gave me insights into the business world and personal management that have served me well in my career."

Bill and Vici have three children: A. Scott Goodson, Jill M. Goodson and Kent D. Goodson.

To learn more about TrailMaster, visit their Web site at [www.trailmaster.com](http://www.trailmaster.com).



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## Cook at home at the

Toby Cook (BA '90) was seven years old when his dad took him to his first Kansas City Royals baseball game. Through twice-a-year excursions to see the Royals from their home in Independence, Kan., and summer nights listening to the Royals on radio, Cook became a devoted Royals fan. So it is understandable why Cook finds it almost unbelievable luck that today he works for that same organization.

For the past year and a half, Cook has served as vice president of community affairs and publicity for the Royals. Cook's responsibilities with the club include a wide range of duties involving the Royals Charities and community service. He sets up the off-season Royals Caravans in which players visit fans in outlying towns and cities. Cook said the Royals first Fanfest, held in January, brought out more than 9,500 fans.

Now calling Kauffman Stadium home, Cook recalls those years as a child listening to the Royals on the radio.

"I became a Royals fan by radio," Cook recalled. "It was also radio that got me interested in broadcasting."

Unlike most childhood aspirations, Cook's interest in broadcasting remained. After graduating from Pittsburg State University, Cook embarked on a 15-year career in broadcasting that included the morning show at KOAM-TV in Pittsburg. (Toby keeps in touch with his partner on that show, Andy Carson (BA '92), who is still in television broadcasting in Portland, Ore.)



# PSU alumni find home in baseball

## job FAN

It was during Cook's service with WDAF-TV in Kansas City that he first came to the attention of the Royals.

Cook recalled that during a rough patch for the Royals in 2005, he always made a point to say something positive or optimistic about the team during his time on the air.

"I always had something positive to say," Cook recalled, "like, 'this is the day we're going to turn things around.'"

The Royals must have appreciated Cook's positive attitude because they called and asked him to emcee their Royals Charities Gala. Cook did so that year and the following, after which owner David Glass called him aside and told Cook that if he ever wanted to leave broadcasting, the Royals had a job for him. Within weeks, this number one Royals fan was packing his bags for an office at the "K."

"I've always loved the Royals," Cook said. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Although "there's an entire generation of Royals fans who have not seen them win," Cook thinks the team is "on the verge of finding its identity."

Cook said there have been a lot of positive changes on the team and a \$250 million renovation of the stadium is well underway. That construction will continue through this season, but should be completed for 2009.

Cook said one of the most enjoyable aspects of his job is working with

*(see Cook, pg. 16)*

## 'The day I stepped on campus, my life changed'

Richard White, BBA '82, puts it bluntly. "The day I stepped on campus, my life changed."

Today, White is the general manager -- licensing for the Major League Baseball Players Association in New York. As a high school senior at Shawnee Mission West High School, however, White didn't know what he wanted to do with his life, except he was pretty sure he didn't want to go to PSU.

"My oldest brother went to PSU and graduated as the Outstanding Senior Man," White recalled. "The last thing I wanted was to be compared to my older brother."

Then White met Dr. Henry Crouch,  
*(see White, pg. 16)*



## Wathan chooses "family business"

Baseball is sort of the family business for the Wathan family, so it's probably no surprise that Dina Wathan (BS in marketing '04) loves her role as coordinator of media services

for the Kansas City Royals. Wathan's father, John, is a former player and manager and the current bunting and baserunning coordinator for the Royals and her two brothers, Dusty

*(see Wathan, pg. 17)*







In a room filled with portraits of some of his childhood heroes, Toby Cook is now an enthusiastic member of the Royals' baseball family.

### **Cook** (from pg. 15)

current and former players in the community.

"We do a lot of stuff in the community," Cook said. That includes partnering with the Salvation Army and the United Way.

"There are a lot of guys willing to give their time," Cook said, but he adds, "There was none better than (Mike) Sweeney."

Cook said he was surprised when the pro baseball players he had idolized turned out to be such likeable people.

"I'm impressed by the fact that they're very, very nice people," Cook said, although he admits that when he's standing next to a big-name ballplayer and they're visiting like two guys anywhere, it can seem a bit "surreal."

Surreal or not, Cook is doing something he could only dream of when he was a 7-year-old listening to the Royals on a summer night in Independence.

"I always believed in the Royals," Cook said. Now he shares that confidence with a growing number of hopeful fans.

(Toby and his wife, Barbara (BS '91), have four children: Adam, 10; Molly, 9; Anna Belle, 6; and Andrew, who was born Jan. 29.) •

### **White** (from pg. 15)

a member of the faculty in the College of Business.

"Henry took a real liking to me," said White.

In June, White heard from Crouch again. Crouch told White he had found a couple interested in funding a scholarship. There was just one catch – the recipient had to be a business major. So that fall, Richard White enrolled at PSU as a business major.

At PSU, White discovered how easy it was to get involved. He jumped at the chance to serve in student government, where he said he learned self confidence. Like his brother before him, White was selected outstanding senior man in 1982.

White said he took advantage of the willingness of faculty to share time and conversation outside of the classroom.

"A couple of us would hang out in Dr. Colyer's office and talk about stocks," White said. He recounted similar experiences with faculty like Terry Mendenhall, Charles Fischer, Steve Wartick and Wilma Minton.

"I had the advantage of a small campus and faculty who were willing to take time with students," White said.

White said his PSU experience gave him a good start for the next stage of his learning experience, which began when he graduated and went to work for Hallmark.

"I worked for Hallmark 13 years and during that time I had 13 different positions," White said. "It was an awesome experience and spanned everything from sales and product management to marketing"

White said his Hallmark experience

developed him as a "generalist."

"A generalist is able to look at problems or opportunities from multiple perspectives," White said.

White finally left Hallmark to launch his own strategic marketing firm. His first client was the Major League Baseball Players Association. After two years, the MLBPA offered White a permanent position.

As the general manager of licensing for the MLBPA, White represents the commercial interests of the players and the association. He works with licensees, players and retailers across the U.S.

"It's a fun job," White said, "but it's still a business."

White spends a considerable amount of time on the go because the MLBPA is based in New York, his family and home are in Kansas City, and baseball's interests spread from coast to coast. Still, he manages to make family a top priority.

White and his wife, Kristy, have two sons: Alec, a 15-year-old freshman at Blue Valley North High School; and Jarod, a 12-year-old sixth grader.

"I have coached both of their baseball teams," White said.

White said one side benefit of his job is that his sons have met some of the biggest names in baseball.

"The great majority (of the major leaguers) are just like us," White said.

He believes baseball players are different from many other professional athletes because of their minor league experience.

"In baseball, to make it to the majors, you have to make it through the minors," White said. "The minors are a growing up experience."

## Wathan (from pg. 15)

and Derek, play in the Phillies and Cubs organizations.

Dina Wathan, a standout volleyball player for the Gorillas, said she knew she wanted to do something related to sports or entertainment when she graduated. A summer internship with the Royals was the perfect opportunity.

"From marketing, I moved into PR," Wathan said. "It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

Wathan said she and three others are responsible for working with the media, setting up interviews, putting press conferences together, doing media credentialing and producing publications that include the media guide and the game-day magazine.

"Sometimes it's very intense, but I have a lot of fun with it," Wathan said.

Wathan said she has particularly enjoyed working with the Royals alumni. She was in charge of the Royals Fantasy Camp in February in which 72 fans 30 years old and over lived their major league baseball dreams with 18 former Royals players.

"It was amazing to see those guys' faces when they walked into the locker room and saw their lockers with their

jerseys and equipment," Wathan said.

Wathan said she doubts she would have come to Pittsburg State if it weren't for one special person, PSU Volleyball Coach Ibrahim Suberu.

"I grew up in Kansas City and hadn't even heard of PSU," Wathan said.

"Coach Ib was my coach (in high school) and knowing he was going to Pitt State, he pushed for me (to choose Pitt State)."

Wathan said the choice wasn't very difficult for her to make, in large part because of her high regard for Coach Suberu.

"He's an all-around great guy," Wathan said. "He believed in me and was like a father figure for me."

Wathan, who was an all-American in 2003, said she is very happy with her decision.

"I made such great friends on that team," Wathan said. "We still keep in touch."

Wathan said the support the volleyball team gets from the fans at PSU and the small-town atmosphere and close-knit campus community all made her PSU experience special.

"It was a great choice for me," Wathan said. •



George Vanderpool, a painter in the PSU Physical Plant, makes sure Gus gets a good coating on his nose during a repainting of the campus icon. The Gorilla statue, created originally in fiberglass by faculty member Larry Wooster and later bronzed, had suffered some problems with its patina. The statue was a gift of the Class of '65.

## What was his name?

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*Dr. Nancy Brooker's office in Heckert-Wells Hall is full of fascinating gizmos and gadgets, educational books and souvenirs from her world travels. It is a far cry from the quiet country fields where she performs much of her research.*

But as serious as she is about her work, her choice of décor proves this is one scientist who loves life's little respites.

"Life is a juggling act for me," she says, and it seems appropriate she might pick up a ball for effect.

Brooker, who travels about 60,000 miles overseas each year for conferences, presentations and to live her leisure life, is in her 15th year as a genetics professor at PSU. An expert in plant pathology—a field she fell in love with while studying for her degrees both at PSU and at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville—Brooker decided to bring that knowledge back to her alma mater when she got a phone call from a former adviser.

"The PSU Phonathon called and it was Dr. Bettie Duncan asking for a donation," said Brooker, who under Duncan's guidance earned her BS in biology from PSU in 1986. Although she was content with her career path in plant science, she took notice when Duncan mentioned a few vacant positions.

"I had fond memories, so I decided to apply with an open mind. It was a really positive experience," said Brooker. After earning her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Brooker worked for the USDA in Beltsville, Md., genetically engineering fungal pathogens

to better kill weeds. She also worked on improving methods of controlling drug crops. Although she enjoyed the job, the lure of returning to PSU was strong. Her parents had both taught at Pitt State—her father, George, in automotive technology, and her mother, Carolyn, in nursing.

"I wanted to continue the Brooker legacy," Nancy said. "And Bettie had been the one who got me thinking about research as a career. I found how much I love the discovery of it."

What she has brought to PSU are major accomplishments of her own. Brooker, one of the only female science faculty to earn her full professorship, is in the process of receiving a patent for

her work in using lipid derivatives from plants as treatments designed to protect seed. The end product, which had been more than 10 years in development, helps farmers protect their fields from disease while improving their yields—an achievement that gives Brooker the passion to commit so much time to her work in the Midwest.

"Southeast Kansas is the perfect location because we're in the hotbed of plant disease here," she said, adding that she is continuing to explore natural alternatives to petroleum-based pesticides. "When we learn how to prevent disease at a basic genetic level, then we're talking about how that can affect world issues like eliminating



# Geneticist has





# deep PSU roots

hunger, expanding sustainable biofuels, and developing a solid livelihood for farmers. Farming is a hard lifestyle, but I feel like I'm giving the industry a whole other skill set to use."

Her support from the state in her research is invaluable. For 15 years, Brooker has received funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission, which gives her the resources to buy supplies and hire student help. She has also collected grants from K-IMBRE.

"Most of the stuff we do is labor-intensive and not cheap, so I'm glad to have student help when I'm out in 100-degree weather sampling 40 different plots," she said. "Until students do this kind of research, they really

don't know what it's about. Then they start comparing credentials with other graduates, and they realize they know a whole lot more than their competition because they got to do the work rather than read about it."

Brooker's life isn't all soybean seed and microscopes, however. She lights up when discussing her involvement with Women's Studies, KNEA, the Faculty Affairs Committee, and the friends and lifestyle she enjoys during her off-time overseas. At PSU, she has created new courses in bioethics and women in science, and has spoken out against the seemingly unbreakable "glass ceiling" that women working in science may experience.

"We talk about how the system can

be changed to get more women into the pipelines," she said. And in time, some have. There are now more female professors at PSU on a tenure track in biology, chemistry and physics than ever before. "To have faculty reflecting the diversity of our students," she says, "is a wonderful thing."

She hopes her students, no matter the gender, have the same success both in the classroom and out in the science field.

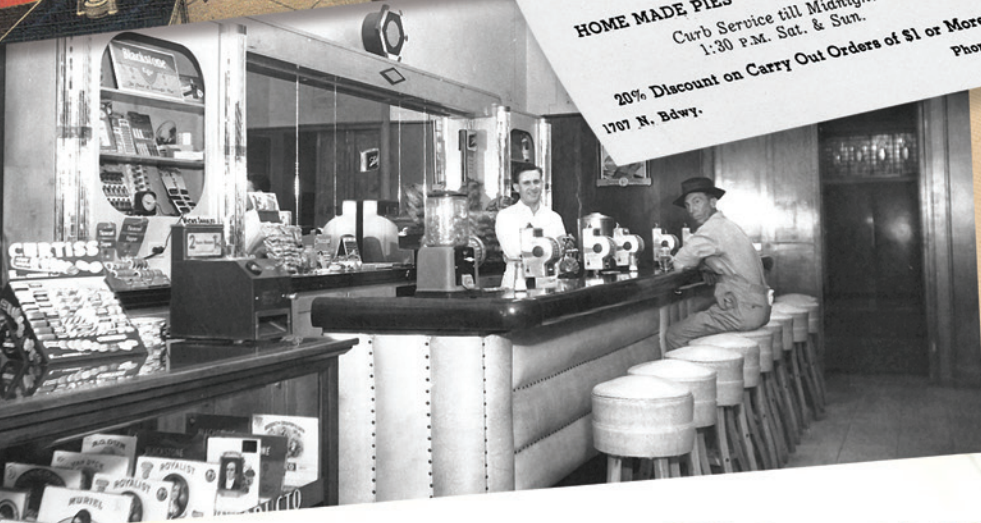
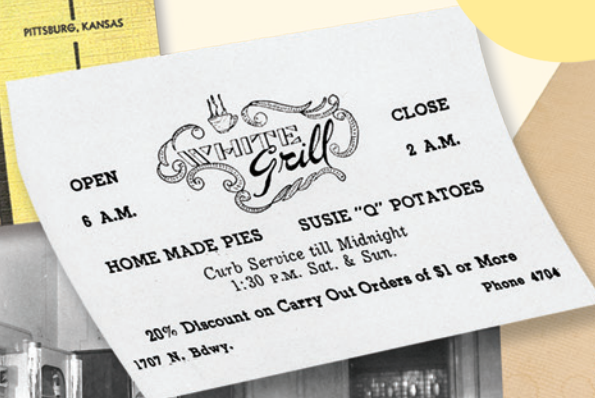
"I want them to be smarter than me and learn from the mistakes I made," she said. "When you make decisions based on what is best for the students, you are making them based on the right ideals. It's what I aspire to do in my position." •



Some of our fondest and strongest memories are linked with food. Whether it be roast turkey and family Thanksgiving dinners, Fourth of July picnics, or burgers at the drive-in with that special someone, food is inextricably linked with the memories we cherish.

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- No. 2 Bowl of Oatmeal with Toast --- 35
- No. 3 One Egg, Ham, Bacon or Sausage with Toast and Hash Brown --- 60
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- No. 5 Three Hot Cakes with Ham, Bacon or Sausage --- 60
- Toast --- 35
- 25

## Dinners and Ala Carte

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- Chicken Fried Steak, French Fries and Salad 75
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- Cat Fish Steak, French Fries, Salad and Tartar Sauce 75
- Fried Shrimp, French Fries, Salad 1.30 6-1.25
- Chicken Basket 65

## Salads

- Cottage Cheese --- 20
- Lettuce and Tomato --- 25
- Head Lettuce --- 25
- Comb. Salad --- 25
- Potato Salad --- 20
- Tomatoes --- 20
- Ham --- 45-75

## Drinks & Desserts

- Choc Milk or 400 --- 15 - 20
- Home Made Pie --- 10
- Ala Mode --- 10
- Coffee --- 12 - 15
- Sweet Milk --- 12 - 15
- Hot Chocolate --- 12 - 15
- Iced Tea --- 12 - 15
- Hot Tea --- 12 - 15
- Shakes --- 12 - 15



**Editors note:** *We received some terrific responses when we asked alumni about their favorite restaurant memories from their campus days. Writers shared warm and funny memories of the food they ate while they were students. After reading these responses and perhaps thinking of some of your own, we suspect you may wonder, as did we, whether it was the food or the friendships that make these memories so sweet.*

Reading the last issue of the Pitt State Magazine brought back many good memories, including some of the great food in Pittsburg in the late 1960s. The first real pizza I had was at Momma Frasco's in Frontenac in 1966! Two of us shared a pizza, which was a half a circle in shape and real thick with lots of cheese and fixings-not like store bought pizza at all. Next were the always greasy, but oh so good burgers and fries at the one and only 1106! You could tell it was good by the grease that soaked through the paper bag before you got it to your car-or you could sit on the picnic table out front and watch the cars go by. Next was Jim's Steak House for fancier dinner dates when you wanted to impress. Great steaks and best onion rings I've ever had. Last, but not least were Chicken Annie's and Chicken Mary's. Sunday afternoon was almost always Chicken Night and you could eat your fill of great chicken and hard-crust Frontenac bread for less than three bucks. The great thing about these restaurants is that I visited the 1106, Jim's and Chicken Annie's during a stay in Pittsburg during

June 2007. Still great food and very reasonably priced. Pittsburg still has some of the best food in the World!

Rich Davis, BSED 1969, MS Counselor Education 1971

**This goes back to the early '60s: The Ottoway since it was near the school and had a nice atmosphere along with great food. The Pizza Hut for those much needed hamburger pizzas along with a quart of Schlitz beer-always at the beginning of the month when I treated myself. Last but not least, the Hotel Besse for those special occasions when I was flush, which was seldom, but well remembered when the opportunity came along.**

William Weiss, class of '65

The Gorilla Den in the basement of the Student Union was a favorite place to get snacks for those of us who worked on the Collegio and Kanza publications (also then located in the basement) in the 1960s and '70s. The friendly lady behind the snack bar counter was named Annie, and she was nice enough to let us take our food out on trays back to the offices so we could eat and work at the same time. We'd hoard trays and plastic coffee cups for a month or so and then return them en masse. My favorite purchase at the Den was the chocolate chip cookies. Dipping them into the coffee was just heavenly.

Nancy (Graham) Evans, Class of 1971, Eureka, Kansas

**Nostalgia you can eat is the best kind. In the 1950s, and long before, one of the most memorable spots was Argentina's, on North Broadway. US 69 then was a food/cultural haven presided over by Argentina Balma. When we were short on cash, or just short on pasta, my Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers and I**

**would head to Argentina's. The chicken fried steak or hamburger steak were hits, covered entirely by French fries. There was no place else to put them, other than on top of the meat-a good plan, we thought. Lots of good food on a small college budget-a meat and potatoes scholarship!**

Pizza was relatively new, and for Argentina it was an excursion. "You wanna pizza?" she would ask my fellow Tekes. "Comma back onna Tuesday. Imma gonna have to get the anchovies fromma Joe, and the sausage man comma on Monday, and..." The litany of special ingredients and purveyors would continue. The anticipation of the special occasion was worth the wait--and the weight. It invariably put on a few pounds.

**In the 1990s, the legacy lived on for a while, when her grandson ran Nona's, a popular restaurant a bit further south of her old stand. Nona is Italian for grandmother, and he--like her diners--never forgot her.**

Jack Kennedy, Pittsburg, BS '56, adjunct faculty '96-2006

I received my BS in '59 and MS in '60. There were still a lot of Korean War Vets on campus and we would all flock to the Den and drink coffee because it was nice and warm. I think we were all so grateful we weren't in Korea, the coldest place most of us had ever been. It was 2 degrees this morning-made me think about it.

Marion Taber

**I loved Chicken Annie's and Chicken Mary's mostly because it was so good and so much for such a little price. I think it was around \$1 or \$2 in 1970-'71.**

Pat (Kilgore) Grant, BSED 1971

One of my favorite places during my college career was "Sammy's," located in an old converted gas station about

(see Letters, pg. 42)



**CAMPUS SWEETHEARTS:** College days may be first and foremost for academic pursuits, but it is also a time when many romances first blossom. We want to hear your stories of romance and we'll share them in the fall issue. Send your stories to [kwomble@pittstate.edu](mailto:kwomble@pittstate.edu).



## Book showcases a lifetime of art

Ask the average person what they consider body art, and you could get answers ranging from jewelry to tattoos to forms of dance.

But the work of Marjorie Schick takes things into a whole new realm.

Schick, a university professor in the Department of Art, is an artist and teacher whose work redefines the concept of jewelry and art for the body. Pieces from throughout her career as both a student and professor can be seen in her new book, "Sculpture to Wear: The Jewelry of Marjorie Schick." The book was published by Arnoldsche Art Publishers of Stuttgart, Germany.

"I'd like to think I've made contributions to the field, that I've helped open people's eyes to sculpture they can wear," she said. "My work has been very different."

Her sculptures aren't your typical neck, ear, and wrist jewelry. The non-precious art materials (no gold, silver, or jewels) are formed into designs that wrap about the body, head, and appendages, and are made of everything from metal to papier-mâché.

For Schick, the book is the result of a long and focused career. After graduating with her MFA from Indiana University, she taught one year at the University of Kansas before coming to teach at PSU in 1967 with her husband, Dr. James Schick, a university professor in the Department of History. She continued to work on sculptures that could be worn on the body (or hung on the wall or placed on a pedestal when not in use), eventually creating about 500 pieces of art. Often, she only focused on one piece at a time, making the collection a true painstaking effort.

"Pittsburg has been a good place to live and do our work," Schick said of herself and her husband. "Our lives are focused on work, and we find that very rewarding."

It has resulted in work that is in

**Marge Schick's colorful art makes for a colorful publication. Her new book, "Sculpture to Wear," showcases a lifetime of work.**



high demand. For years, Schick, who is one of 200 artists in the country to be named a Fellow of the American Crafts Council, has traveled to cities in Europe, Australia, Japan, and Korea to lecture on her art. Last summer, a retrospective of her work was presented in San Francisco through International Arts and Artists of Washington, D.C. It was on display at Indiana University and Kansas State University earlier this year and will return to her in 2009.

Schick was interviewed in 2004 for the Archives of American Art Oral History Program at the Smithsonian Institution, as part of the Nanette L. Laitman

Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America. For this, the Smithsonian has requested her papers for their archives.

For those who don't live in an area with access to view her work, her 240-page book brings the creations of this artist to a much bigger audience.

"The book has been a nice record of my accomplishments," she said. "It has been a thrill for me to create this."

For information about purchasing the book, contact the Department of Art at 620-235-4302 or e-mail Schick at mschick@pittstate.edu.

## English Rocks...

These English majors wear their feelings about their course of study with pride. The words, coupled with a drawing of Stonehenge, made their clever play on words a good source of revenue for the student group.





## Music celebrates centennial

This spring, the Department of Music celebrated its centennial as a formal department within the university structure. The Kansas State Board of Regents officially recognized the Department of Music in September 1908, although music was part of the curriculum at the State Manual Training Normal School since as early as 1905.

The first public appearance of the Normal School Orchestra was at an all-school assembly program in 1905, just a few months prior to the organization of the Men's Glee Club. It was the beginning of a long and proud history of music education and performance that includes performances by nationally and internationally acclaimed visiting artists of the day.

To celebrate this milestone, the department hosted a Centennial Reunion Celebration on April 13.

"We wanted this celebration to honor our history with the university and community as well as feature the talented artists that have contributed to the department's success," said Craig Fuchs, department chairman.

The event included an open house and tours of McCray Hall with a special historical exhibit on display. Performances by faculty, past and present PSU composers, PSU bands, the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra and the alumni wind ensemble entertained guests. Other highlights included a historical perspective from Randy Roberts, curator of the Axe Library Special Collections, and a Walter McCray Tribute with a performance of the "Messiah" by the PSU Choirs.

For more about the Department of Music, visit their Web site at [www.pittstate.edu/music](http://www.pittstate.edu/music), or call 620-235-4466.

## Choir takes memorable European tour

It's hard to picture a more peaceful and intimate moment with strangers.

Imagine standing in the choir loft of a centuries-old cathedral in the middle of Europe, singing a hymn that predates you by hundreds of years and watching solemn worshippers as they come and go, sitting in old, wooden pews, quietly saying their graces.

And then the song is finished; the final chord hanging in the air for several seconds as it reverberates throughout the room.

For PSU Music Professor Susan Marchant, it just doesn't get any better.

"That moment makes a performer understand why music was written the way it was," Marchant said. "The expression on the choir members' faces when they hear a room operate that way makes the whole thing worthwhile to me. It doesn't hit home until they experience that."

Marchant and her students had plenty of those moments in January when nearly 50 PSU choir members and faculty traveled to Germany to perform concerts in Heidelberg and Munich. The choir typically tours some part of North America every other spring break, but going to Europe, and planning the trip during the winter break (Jan. 8-15), were new experiences.

"This year spring break fell between Palm Sunday and Easter, so that was a no-go for a lot of people," Marchant explained. "Going in January was beautiful, though. We had a gentle snowfall one day and it seemed like people enjoyed the timing. It's good to know we have flexibility with that."

What Marchant was perhaps more nervous about was the hit-or-miss rehearsals caused by students going home for the holidays. "We had rehearsals whenever we could and had one massive meeting the night before we flew out in Kansas City," she said. "Luckily a lot of the choir members were familiar with the songs."

The choir prepared more than an hour's worth of music they performed in churches they visited, including Wieskirche in Steingaden (made famous for its surviving example of Rococo architecture) and for the 1,800-seat Sunday morning service at Saint Luke's in Munich (the church played a significant role in aiding American troops during World War II). The group also took in the rich histories of Salzberg, Mainz, Munich and Heidelberg.

"At some of the venues we were completely unaccompanied, so we had to prepare a lot of a cappella music, which is a real challenge," Marchant said. "And we sang one song in German, so that was a new experience for some of our students."

For senior accounting major Beth Perrey, traveling and performing with the choir was something she'll never forget. "We got to see so much and sang in some of the most beautiful places I'd ever seen. I'm glad I didn't pass up the experience."





## SIFE project introduces youth to a global market

The Pittsburg State University chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) reached out to Pittsburg's youth in January with Just Imagine World, a project designed to teach area fourth and fifth grade students how to be buyers in the world market.

SIFE members began the annual event with cultural presentations about Mexico, Japan, Nigeria, and other countries. Then students were divided into teams to represent those companies. Team members were given certain responsibilities as buyers, sellers, marketers, etc., with the challenge to move a product (i.e. an airplane) from the production stage through simulated buying and selling at the stock market.

"We give them choices so that they can understand the concept of cultural marketing and entrepreneurship," said Adam Contreras, a senior from San Marcos, Calif., and president of the PSU SIFE chapter.

The event has been an ongoing SIFE project for the past five years. This year, 500 students from Pittsburg elementary schools attended.

**Some Pittsburg elementary students get a lesson about global economics from members of PSU's Students in Free Enterprise.**

"Something new is added each year," Contreras said about the growth of the project.

As part of their mission, PSU students involved in SIFE "develop and implement educational outreach programs that teach individuals in their communities the principles of market economics, entrepreneurship, personal financial success skills, and business ethics."

Just Imagine World is one of these outreach programs.

"It's a great opportunity for us to teach these students how to apply economics to a global market and put it into a fun, interactive format instead of the traditional classroom setting," said Contreras.

The PSU student organization is using the Just Imagine World project as part of their presentation in the market economics division of the national SIFE competition in May.



## New fraud examination minor preps students to crack crime

When PSU alumnus Kevin J. McCrary (BBA '82) took a job as a special agent with the FBI after completing his degree in accounting, he quickly realized how valuable good interviewing skills are when it comes to tackling white collar crime.

"If you're looking at bank theft and you're trying to determine the scope of the problem, you can either look at every single check or you can interview the subject and get a confession," he said. "It saves a lot of time, expense and frustration to ask the right questions and get them to admit what they've done."

PSU's latest minor offering in fraud examination, he said, should confirm the importance of basic investigative skills for accounting graduates.

"It's something I would have taken advantage of if I'd had the opportunity in college," said McCrary of the new 21-hour minor that combines courses in justice studies and accounting. "If you have those skills, you can come in ahead of the curve."

For students fantasizing about a career like those featured in television crime dramas, the new fraud examination minor may be just the start. The program, which combines courses in interviewing, crime-scene analysis, white-collar crime, and internal auditing, focuses on an area professors say both future law enforcement officers and accountants are interested in.

"It's a unique venture, because we're blending these areas," said David O'Bryan, a professor in the Department of Accounting. "It's described as part accountant, part cop, part lawyer, and part criminologist. It brings interviewing and detective skills to the table that accountants normally wouldn't have, and it can certainly teach a justice studies major how to follow the money trail."

The minor was developed, O'Bryan said, in response to the overwhelming





interest in major corporate fraud cases such as WorldCom, Enron and Tyco. The minor prepares students to become certified with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Dr. Roy Janisch, assistant professor in the justice studies program, says the collaboration between the two departments has filled a growing gap in law enforcement education. "Our methods of investigating have changed over time, and this is a modern-day fit for what investigators are doing now."

For more information on the fraud examination minor, go to [www.pittstate.edu/catalog/acctgminors.html](http://www.pittstate.edu/catalog/acctgminors.html) or contact O'Bryan at 620-235-4566 or at [obryan@pittstate.edu](mailto:obryan@pittstate.edu).

## Students study business climate through 'Discover India'

On his yearly trips to India over the past four years, Dr. Anil Lal has been very successful in his mission to recruit students to attend Pittsburg State University.

But when the economics professor had free time on his travels to consider what else PSU could provide for his home country-and what India could offer to PSU-the wheels in his business mind began to turn.

This January, Lal opened the doors to a new collaboration when he accompanied a group of students and faculty to New Delhi to participate in the "Discover India" program. The two-week trip was held Jan. 5-20, giving students from PSU, Harvard, John Carroll University and Washburn University the opportunity to learn about the business

climate of India. The groups toured companies, spoke with business leaders and took courses at the Rai Foundation, an Indian university developed by billionaire philanthropist (and former MIT engineer) Vinay Rai.

"I wanted the students to have an exposure to India and to see the part it plays in the world economy," Lal said. "Millionaires are increasing there at a faster pace than anywhere else in the world. At the same time, I wanted them to witness the extent of poverty. To see someone driving a Mercedes and then see people sleeping in the street touched them immensely."

In addition to the courses they took at Rai, which picked up most of the cost of the trip, students were required to prepare last fall by taking an economics class created to educate them about the country's business climate. While in India, the students were also able to

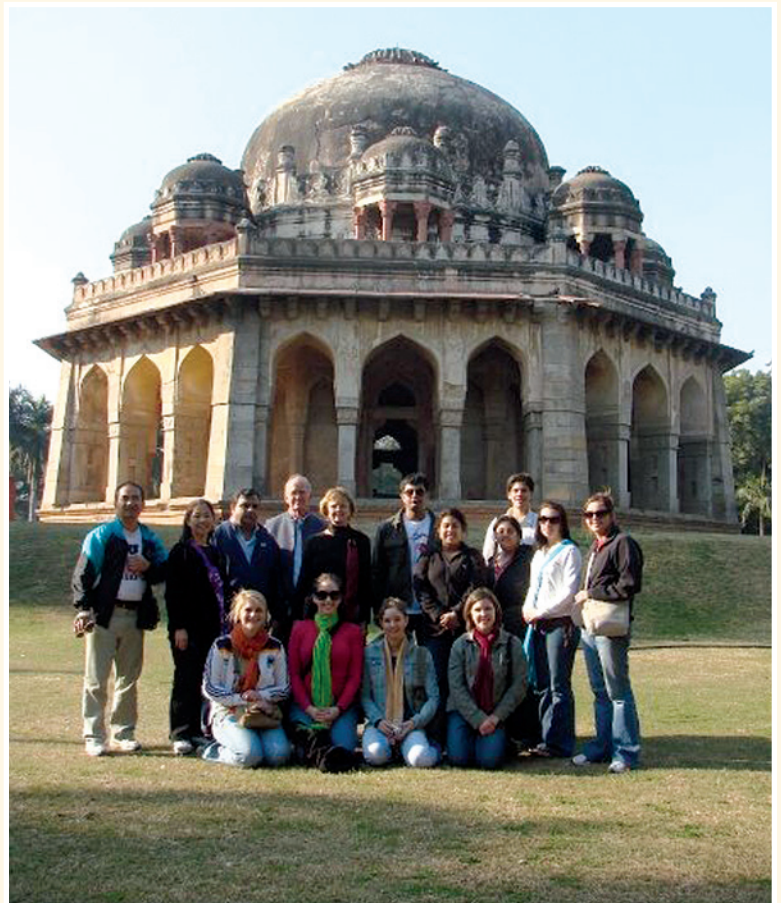
study culture and fashion.

"India is an older civilization, so culturally it's very different than here," Lal said. "Students have given me feedback saying this was a life-changing experience."

It certainly was for Misty Button, a graduate student working on her MBA, who also serves as the university's internal auditor.

"It was an opportunity to expose myself to a culture I couldn't find in Kansas," she said. "The experience allowed me to feel like a foreigner, which everyone should get a chance to feel. It makes you realize your way of doing business isn't better, it's just different."

Lal said he hopes the trips, which he plans to continue each winter break, will expand in the future, allowing faculty and students to participate in internships, exchanges, and business opportunities.





## Education Hall of Fame inducts Tompkins

It's not as if Dean of Education Andy Tompkins didn't have enough awards on his wall. Over his nearly-40-year career, Tompkins has been honored as the Kansas Superintendent of the Year, the Kansas Administrator of the Year and is a recipient of the University of Kansas Distinguished Service Award. In 2001, he was inducted into the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame. Add to that this past year, Tompkins' induction into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City Kansas Community College.



**Tompkins**

Tompkins' career has included stints as a high school teacher, principal and superintendent, teaching and administrative positions at Pittsburg State and the University of Kansas and Kansas Commissioner of Education.

## Program helps meet the needs of youngest students

The College of Education has created a new program that it hopes will help meet the growing national need for highly qualified professionals to work with very young children.

The new Early Childhood Unified Program is a unique undergraduate degree and licensing program that prepares professional educators to serve the learning needs of children from birth through age 8, including those with special needs. Students with a major in Early Childhood Education earn a bachelor of science degree in education through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies, and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

"This exciting new program in early childhood education is an important example of how our academic offerings continue to evolve as societal needs change," said Dr. Steve Scott, vice president for Academic Affairs.

"It demonstrates our responsiveness and our capacity to work across departmental and college boundaries to make good things happen."

Persons holding this license will be able to teach in infant-toddler programs, preschool programs, and primary grades in public schools in both general and special education. Majors learn about the development of children and develop skills for working with young children through coursework and practicum experiences beginning in the sophomore year of college.

For more information, call the College of Education at 620-235-4518.

## Summer workshop series addresses autism

As national attention focuses increasingly on the effects of autism and related diagnoses, the College of Education has scheduled a series of workshops that organizers hope will provide some valuable answers for both professionals and parents.

According to Dr. Victoria White,

academic director for PSU's Kansas City Metro Center, these workshops, planned for this summer at the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, are designed to be informative, increase awareness, and provide educational training.

"This is really our first public effort to address autism," said Dr. White.

Dr. Brenda Smith Myles will present "Practical Solutions for Preventing Tantrums, Rage and Meltdowns" from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on June 6. Dr. Myles is a nationally recognized expert in the field of autism spectrum disorders. She has done extensive research, publication, and teaching in the field.

"Understanding Autism: What teachers and parents can do to help our children succeed in school" will be presented by Tysha Potter from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 13. Potter is a full-time instructor in the PSU Department of Psychology and Counseling and is also the mother of a 5-year-old child with autism. Her research interests include the biomedical and educational treatments in autism and special education law.

Dr. Myles will also present "Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Practical solutions for school and home success" from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, July 18.

Terri Cooper Swanson will present "Visual Support Strategies and Students



**School officials court eager young graduates during PSU's annual Teacher Interview Day.**



with Autism Spectrum Disorder” from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, July 25. Swanson is a doctoral student at the University of Kansas and will complete her degree in autism. She will join the PSU faculty this fall.

These workshops are funded through the Helen S. Boylan Foundation and are offered to the public free of charge. Lunch will be provided at each session. College course credit is available for a fee. All workshops will be located at the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center in Greenbush, Kan. Space is limited and preregistration is encouraged. Register at <http://mc.greenbush.org/>. Click on “workshops.” For more information, contact Dr. Victoria White at [vwhite@pittstate.edu](mailto:vwhite@pittstate.edu) or call 913-529-4487.

## State invests in teacher education

The State of Kansas is funneling additional funds to PSU’s College of Education in hopes of getting more teachers into Kansas classrooms. PSU received the largest share of a new teacher education grant that was divided among three of the state’s public universities.

PSU will receive \$175,383 from the Teacher Education Competitive Grant program in order to expand existing programs and to educate approximately 65 additional secondary teachers within the next three years. The grant was awarded to support the university’s ongoing work toward educating more students in high-need areas such as special education, as well as fill positions in underserved areas throughout Kansas.

Dean Andy Tompkins said in addition to enhancing the retention of teachers, the funds will also go toward training teaching mentors and expanding the Fellows Program in Kansas City, an alternative licensure program that assists experienced industry workers in earning their teaching credentials and earning a master of arts degree in teaching.

“We’re excited to be awarded one of

**PSU is playing a key role in helping the state of Kansas meet its growing need for qualified teachers.**

the grants and to do our part in helping increase the number of teachers in high-need areas,” Tompkins said. “It’s a big enough issue that we all need to be involved. I think there’s a pretty good coordinated effort now to make a dent in those needs and make real progress.”

## Professor to lead national counseling association

A PSU faculty member is taking the reins of one of the largest psychological organizations in America.

Dr. Donald Ward, a professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling, is the incoming president of the Association for Specialists in Group Work, an international scholarly society that is a division of the American Counseling Association.

Ward, who has belonged to the organization for the past 30 years, was named to the post in March. His three-year term begins July 1.

At PSU, Ward serves as chairman of the counseling committee, teaching primarily graduate courses in clinical psychology, school counseling and school psychology. Much of his work focuses on group dynamics.

“All accredited counselors should be prepared to work with groups, because it seems our society is now more receptive to group work and connecting,” he said. “There’s a demand for cooperative learning and group work in the delivery of mental health services. I love to see how it is helping people.”



## Program meets need for pre-K special education license

Teachers have a new option to expand on their special education licensure. The College of Education currently offers a master’s degree in special education, a program that prepares teachers to become fully licensed to teach special education (adaptive and functional) classes within the K-12 education system. This program has now been extended to include a pre-K-12 adaptive license.

Dr. Victoria White, academic director for the PSU Kansas City Metro Center, explained that an overall need in education was the reason the college developed a more comprehensive program.

“With all the emphasis on early intervention, we wanted to respond to the need. By creating a program that extends to ages three and four, teachers can earn another endorsement with only nine additional hours of study,” said White.

The program is designed to provide educators with skills in classroom management, technology, assessments, research, teaching adaptive learning needs, and working with students with exceptionalities. Program participants earn a pre-K-12 adaptive special education endorsement. For more information on the special education graduate program, call 913-529-4487 or e-mail [kcmetro@pittstate.edu](mailto:kcmetro@pittstate.edu).



**Ward**



## McCoy hired as major gifts officer for College of Technology

Chasity McCoy, a native of Rockdale, Texas, has joined the Office of University Development to serve as the major gifts officer for the College of Technology.



McCoy

McCoy is responsible for cultivating relationships with the college's alumni and constituents, as well as consulting with industry partners to strengthen financial support for the college.

McCoy, who graduated in 2001 with a bachelor of business administration degree from Texas A&M, worked for the past four years for Schreiber Foods, Inc. at their Carthage, Mo., location. As a production team leader, she managed more than 150 employees and worked on projects such as equipment design and product innovation.

For information, contact Chasity McCoy at 620-235-4767 or cmccoy@pittstate.edu.

## Big donation arrives for College of Technology

Thanks to a gift from Caterpillar and Martin Tractor Co., students in Pittsburg State University's Diesel and Heavy Equipment Program are learning the inner workings of one of the construction industry's most important workhorses.

In February, company representatives presented their donation of a 160M motor grader to PSU administrators, staff and students at the Kansas Technology Center. Harry Craig, president of Martin Tractor, as well as nearly a dozen PSU alumni who work for the company, attended the presentation.

"It's a phenomenal donation," said Tim Dell, assistant professor of automotive technology and the college's diesel and heavy equipment coordinator. "It adds credibility to our program, it helps with recruiting students and building relationships with other industries, and it continues to grow an already strong program."

Caterpillar and Martin Tractor began discussions about the donation last fall. The donated motor grader, which is the newest technology on the market, has 220 horsepower, is controlled with a joystick (rather than a steering wheel) for easier control and can be equipped with laser beam and GPS systems. The machine is nearly 30 feet long, weighs more than 35,000 pounds, has a value of nearly half a million dollars.

Dell says that combined with earlier donations of a Challenger tractor and a D6 dozer, the companies have been responsible for nearly \$1 million in equipment gifts to the university. Pitt State features the only four-year Caterpillar "Think Bigger" program in the world, which allows students who have graduated from one of the accredited Caterpillar two-year programs to complete their bachelor's degrees in four semesters.

"When you follow the trends of education, you'll see that necessary equipment like cars, trucks and tractors are very difficult to obtain for classroom and laboratory instruction," Dell said. "It's a tremendous benefit when you can get that kind of machine donated."



Students and faculty gather to look over a big donation from Caterpillar and Martin Tractor Co.

## Grant will help meet KTC equipment needs

Students taking courses at the Kansas Technology Center will soon see some big improvements thanks to the money earmarked for the facility in the 2008 Federal Omnibus Bill.

In January, the center received more than \$260,000 for updates to technology and equipment. The money, which was approved along with approximately \$1.1 million for the Kansas Polymer Research Center, is scheduled to arrive this spring.

Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, who pushed for the funding, visited the KTC in February to tour the facility and hear where the money will go. She said she is pleased to see such a state-of-the-art facility remain on the cutting edge.

"This new investment will strengthen PSU's technology education programs and help the university graduate a new generation of Kansas leaders," she said. "The future of the Kansas economy depends on our ability to produce highly skilled graduates in science, technology, and engineering."





**Faculty in the College of Technology hope to get youngsters thinking about careers in technology early.**

## PSU students shine in national competition

Two students in the plastics engineering technology program were given top placement at this spring's Society of Plastics Engineers' Global Plastics Environmental Conference.

Michael Thurman, a senior from Chanute, Kan., and Semonti Sinharoy, a senior from India, attended the March conference in Orlando, Fla., and presented their research in the undergraduate student poster presentations. Thurman, who is interested in a career in the aerospace industry, designed his 4-foot by 3-foot poster with information about the efforts to bring the plastics industry into a more environmentally friendly environment – specifically by creating trash can liners

that are biodegradable to a certain degree.

Sinharoy, a dual plastics and chemistry major who hopes to go to work for a petro chemicals company, designed her first-place poster around her work with PSU's Kansas Polymer Research Center. The KPRC uses polymers and polyols from soybean oil to create everyday products such as foams and plastics. As a student worker there, she assists in research that focuses on making polyols recyclable so that the end products are biodegradable.

**Michael Thurman and Semonti Sinharoy**



## College of Technology plans 6th annual summer workshops

It will be another busy summer for the College of Technology, as the Department of Engineering Technology hosts the 6th annual summer workshops for kids. The workshops are open to children ages 9 to 14.

Workshops that allow kids to explore construction, get an up-close look at the plastics industry, and learn about robotics are once again on the list of offerings. The workshops are held at the Kansas Technology Center. Registration, materials and snacks are all part of the fee. Following is a schedule for this year's workshops:

### Plastic is Fantastic

Level 1 – July 7-11, 9 a.m.-noon

Level 2 – July 7-11, 1-4 p.m.

### Construct Your Future

Level 1 – July 14-18, 9 a.m.-noon

Level 2 – July 14-18, 1-4 p.m.

### Adventures in Robotics

Adventures I (first session) –

July 21-25, 9 a.m.-noon

Adventures I (second session) –

July 21-25, 9 a.m.-noon

Adventures II (only session) –

July 28-Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-noon

For more information on curriculum, fees, or to sign up for a workshop, contact Randy Winzer at 620-235-4370 or the Department of Engineering Technology at 620-235-4350.





## PSU ATHLETICS UPDATE

### A track record of success

Vanessa Lee has set some Olympic-sized goals and those who have watched her during her career as a student and an athlete at Pittsburg State say Lee has what it takes to succeed.

Track Coach Russ Jewett describes Lee, who has one eye on the Olympic trials and another on med school, as “the total package.” That’s coach talk for a student who is outstanding both as an athlete and as a student.

“She surpassed all expectations from day one,” Jewett said, “and she still sets high standards for the rest of the team.”

From her first days at PSU, Lee was a pre-med biology major. She later added Spanish as a second major. Dr. Peter Chung, assistant professor in Biology and Lee’s academic adviser, said Lee has always had a strong sense of confidence.

“As an athlete, she is competing with the best and she knows how to manage her time well, something I see in a lot of student athletes,” Chung said. “She works hard in her classes. But at the same time she is always humble and down-to-earth. That says a lot about her character.”

Lee has always excelled academically, but she didn’t get serious about running until her sophomore year.

“I got faster and more competitive. I really began running well,” she said.

That’s when the idea of competing in the Olympics began to grow.

Lee approached her Olympic goals methodically. She mapped out each season, knowing she planned to take five years to complete her bachelor’s degree, which would put her on target for the 2008 Olympic trials.

Chung was not surprised when Lee told him of her plans to train for the Olympic trials.

“I know that when she sets her mind on her goals, there is no waffling. When she told me she wanted to train, I knew she had thought things through,” said Chung.

The first round of the 2008 Olympic trials are scheduled for the end of June in Eugene, Ore., and Lee is training hard.

Training for the Olympic trials meant giving up competing at the collegiate level this year. Lee said it was a difficult decision to red shirt so she could concentrate entirely on running only the 800-meter race.

Although, she doesn’t wear a Pitt State uniform this season, Lee still has an influence on the team.

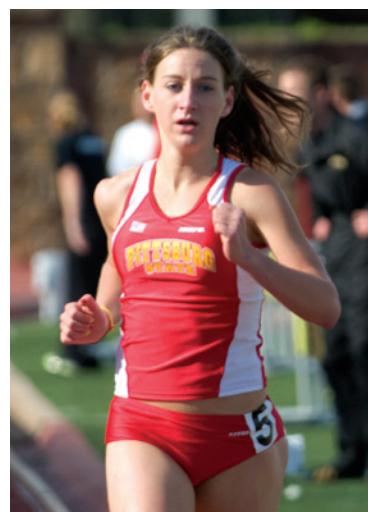
Encouragement has come from all levels. Lee said she is very thankful that she can still train with the Pitt State team and has been given the opportunity to focus on her personal goals.

“I’ve had a lot of opportunities here I wouldn’t have had elsewhere,” Lee said of her PSU experience.

Her parents and even grandparents show endless support and attend every meet possible. She said that her dad is the “biggest track fan ever” and even motivates her by calling her to update her on other runners’ times.

Lee says she has yet to meet the biggest challenge of her running career.

“At some point I will be deciding when I’m going to quit running, and I know I’ll have to go to medical school. I don’t want to quit, thinking I could have run faster. Right now I know I can run faster.”



### 10 selected for Athletics Hall of Fame

An elite group of former Pitt State athletes was inducted into PSU’s Athletics Hall of Fame last fall.

Class of 2007 was headlined by a pair of former All-Americans, football standout Kendall Gammon (1988-91) and women’s basketball star Jenni (Miller) Croy (1994-97). Doug Bullard (1990-93) and Tom Stringer (1979-82), both All-American offensive linemen as members of the Pitt State football team, were also added. LeRoy “Uhlie” Uhlenhop, a three-time All-Central Intercollegiate Conference basketball player (1939-41) and captain of the 1941 CIC All-Stars, was inducted.

Additionally, Andy Bertuzzi (1941-43), a member of PSU’s 11-man 50th Anniversary Football Team, and four members of the Gorillas 1933 mile relay team were inducted in the Hall of Fame’s “Legacy” category, which focuses solely on athletes from the school’s first 50 years (1903-53). Three members of the mile relay team—Wendell “Windy” Davis, Laurence Swisher and Richard Terwilliger—already have been enshrined in the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame as individual athletes. David German, the fourth member of PSU’s relay squad, joined the elite Hall of Fame group.





## Gammon accepts position in University Development

Kendall Gammon, former long snapper for the Kansas City Chiefs, is the newest addition to the development team for the university.

Gammon was hired as the first major gifts officer for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

His primary responsibilities include working with Intercollegiate Athletics to identify financial needs and to meet with supporters interested in making financial contributions to the 11 varsity intercollegiate athletics programs at Pitt State.

Gammon returns to his alma mater after a 15-year career with the NFL. He graduated with a bachelor of science in education degree with a major in physical education in 1994.

For information contact Gannon at 620-235-6583.



## Kroenke leaves coaching for support staff role

Bill Kroenke has been appointed as assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions after serving as a member of the Gorillas' football coaching staff the past

18 years. In his new role, Kroenke oversees PSU's comprehensive licensing program and handles advertising and corporate sponsorship programs for the department's 13 varsity intercollegiate athletic programs. He also assists with



scheduling, the administration of the annual Scholarship & Fund Drive, and the coordination of special events.

Kroenke first served as a graduate assistant football coach at Pitt State in 1990 while pursuing a master's degree in secondary school administration. Kroenke became a full-time staff member in 1993, upon completion of his master's degree.

For information contact Kroenke at 620-235-4148.

## SPORTS UPDATES-

### Football finishes 8-3

The Pittsburg State University football team posted an 8-3 record during its 2007 season. The Gorillas narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA Division II national playoffs.

Junior quarterback Mark Smith, junior running back Caleb Farabi and senior offensive tackle Zac Robinson each earned All-MIAA honors. Smith and Farabi are set to return to the 2008 Pitt State squad. The Gorillas figure to play one of the most difficult schedules in Division II football in 2008 with games against three teams ranked in the top seven nationally in the final 2007 AFCA Division II Poll. (See the schedule online at [www.pittstategorillas.com/football/schedule](http://www.pittstategorillas.com/football/schedule).)

### Volleyball makes national tourney

The Pittsburg State University volleyball team posted a 28-9 record during its 2007 season. The Gorillas made their fourth National Tournament appearance in the past five seasons.

Head coach Ibraheem Suberu's squad once again averaged one of the top home attendance figures in Division II as the Gorillas played before an average crowd of 700 fans at John Lance Arena.

For the first time in nearly two decades, Pitt State will host a large regular season tournament in 2008 on the weekend of Oct. 4.

## Men's Basketball – Gorillas fall in MIAA tournament

The Pittsburg State University men's basketball team posted an 18-10 record during its 2007-08 season. The Gorillas opened the season with nine straight wins and PSU climbed as high as No. 13 in the NABC/Division II Top 25 poll in January.

PSU posted a 9-9 record in MIAA play and the Gorillas drew the No. 7 seed for the MIAA Postseason Tournament at Kansas City, Mo. Second-seeded Northwest Missouri State University ended the Gorillas' season in the tournament's first round.

## Women's Basketball – Lord begins to build a new team

The PSU women's basketball team posted a 10-17 record during its 2007-08 season under first-year head coach Lane Lord. The Gorillas showed flashes of promise, including a 10-point road win over then 23rd-ranked Missouri Southern.

A strong nucleus of players are set to return to the Pitt State lineup in 2008-09.

## Cross Country teams enjoy success

The Pittsburg State University men's and women's cross country teams enjoyed successful seasons in 2007, highlighted by the Gorilla men qualifying for the NCAA Division II National Championships at Joplin, Mo.

The young Pitt State men's squad placed 17th overall at nationals, and the Gorillas expect to return six of their top seven runners from the 2007 squad.

The PSU women narrowly missed a repeat trip to nationals with a third-place finish at the South Central Regional. The Gorillas finished as the conference runner-up at the MIAA Championships as well.



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## PSU honors three alumni

Pittsburg State University honored three alumni with its Meritorious Achievement Award during commencement activities on Dec. 14, 2007. The PSU Alumni Association established the Meritorious Achievement Award in 1958. It is the highest award presented by the association. The Meritorious Achievement Award is based on career achievement.

The December recipients of the award are: Robert L. Bailey, the retired chairman, CEO and president of the State Auto Insurance Companies; Roy Jensen, M.D., the director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center; and Dr. David L. Sallee, president of William Jewell College.

**Bob Bailey**, BA '55, is the retired chairman, CEO and president of the State Auto Insurance Companies. He is the author of the book "Plain Talk About Leadership" (Franklin University Press, 2002), and is a columnist for Rough Notes magazine, one of the nation's leading insurance industry publications.

Bailey earned a bachelor of arts degree with a major in language and literature-speech in 1955. Bailey is the director emeritus and former chairman of Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. In 2006, Franklin honored Bailey with an honorary doctorate degree.

Bailey and his wife, Sylvia live in Sarasota, Fla. They have three children: Janet Baas, Nancy Baker and Jim Bailey.

**Roy Jensen, M.D.**, BS '80, is the director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center where he is leading an effort to achieve the National Cancer Institute's designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center. Jensen



David L. Sallee, Roy Jensen, and Bob Bailey

also serves as director of the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute and is the first William R. Jewell, M.D., Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professor in Cancer Research. Jensen is also a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and a professor of anatomy and cell biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. In addition, he is an adjunct professor of molecular biosciences at the University of Kansas.

Jensen earned a bachelor of science degree with a major in biology and chemistry from PSU in 1980 and an M.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1984.

Roy Jensen and his wife, Linda, live in Gardner, Kan. They have three sons, Andrew, Brett, and Derek.

**David L. Sallee**, MS '76, is the president of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. Sallee earned a master of science degree with a major in

physical education from Pittsburg State University in 1976. He went on to earn a doctor of philosophy degree in adult and higher education from the University of Oklahoma in 1993. Sallee also holds an associate's degree from Crowder College and a bachelor of arts degree in physical education from Oklahoma Baptist University.

Sallee was named president of William Jewell College in 2000. Since that time, the college has been named by Time magazine as the Liberal Arts College of the Year. Jewell's students have received three Truman Scholarships, a Marshall Scholarship, three Goldwater Scholarships and three USA Today All-Academic recognitions. Two students have been Rhodes Scholarship finalists.

Sallee and his wife, Mary, live in Liberty, Mo. They have two grown sons, Andrew and Patrick.





### Three honored for service

The Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations honored three longtime supporters of the university at Apple Day ceremonies on March 6. **Tom Beal** and **Ken and Debbie Brock** are this year's recipients of the Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award, which honors persons for significant support of the university's programs, projects and services.

**Tom Beal** (BA '52) is the CEO and president of Beal Properties, Inc., a commercial real estate investment company in Kansas City. He is a lifetime member of the PSU Presidents Society, as well as instrumental in the formation of the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter at PSU. Beal and his wife, Melinda, established the Melinda and Tom Beal Broadcasting Scholarship, as well as the Dr. Robertson Strawn Broadcasting Scholarship.

**Ken and Debbie Brock** are the owners of Names and Numbers, a telephone directory company based in Pittsburgh that employs 300 people and serves more than 4 million residents. Ken is on the advisory board for the Kelce College of Business. Debbie serves on the board of directors for the PSU Foundation. The Brocks are avid supporters of PSU and provided a lead gift for the PSU Veterans Memorial.

To nominate someone for the Ralf Thomas Distinguished Service Award, please contact the office of Alumni and Constituent Relations at 620-235-4758.



Tom Beal, left, and Debbie and Ken Brock receive their awards for support of the university's programs.

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620-235-4763.

*(Accompanying children must be ages 4-12.)*

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**FAMILY DAY 2008 - Saturday, Sept. 13**



Dianna L. "Dee" Timi and her parents, Bill and Wilma McQuade.



Ni Mei

## Patience and perseverance pay off

Dianna L. "Dee" Timi's memories of PSU begin early. She recalls "running around on the oval as a kid while my mother was earning her degree and her masters. There was many a summer concert with free root beer floats or popcorn and trying to be quiet in the old library."

As a university student, Dee had fun "watching 'Tent by the Lake' theatre and then working many shows at 'Playhouse on Broadway.' There was Apple Day-my first blood donation-playing in the band/orchestra, which meant hours of rehearsal in the music rooms."

"My memory of being sworn into Theta Alpha Phi is one of my best," Dee wrote, "then there was working on floats and walking in the Homecoming Parade. There are the professors that I remember and some I can't recall, and, of course, FRIENDS!"

Dee wrote that it took her seven years (and three babies) to get through her college classes. Even then, she didn't get her diploma because she was lacking one credit hour. After a fourth child, Dee "finally got it in gear and went back for that last credit in 1988."

Dee earned a BA in speech and theatre. "That diploma proudly hangs on the

wall in my office," Dee writes. Today she is supervisor of Senior Services at Freeman Health System in Joplin.

## Graduate joins Chicago Symphony

Ni Mei, who earned her bachelor's degree in music in 2003, was recently named 1st chair violin with the Chicago Symphony. Mei, who is originally from China, earned a master's degree at Rice University in Houston after finishing at PSU. She later won a chair with the Detroit Symphony and had been performing with that group.

While at Pitt State, she was named multiple times as the winner of the Southeast Kansas Concerto and Aria Competition. She also served as concert mistress for the SEK Symphony.

Mei described her experience in an e-mail to faculty in the department.

"I sat still in the dressing room they put me in after I played, and tried to breathe under my fast-beating heart," she wrote. "The maestro himself offered me the position and here I am, re-living the moment ever since."

Mei is relocating to Chicago, where she will begin her new position in July.

"For us, this is comparable to

an athlete getting signed on by a professional team," said Stella Hastings, a PSU music professor and conductor of the SEK Symphony. "She is an absolutely amazing performer. We are very happy for her."

## Kramer wins pharmacy honor

"Pitt State started me off on the right foot," writes Joan Kramer, who was



Joan Kramer

a member of the Honors College from 1991-1993. Kramer left PSU in 1993 to attend pharmacy school at the University of Kansas, where she earned a doctor of pharmacy degree in 1997. She completed the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Accredited Primary Care Pharmacy Residency at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fla., in 1998.

Joan, who now is a clinical research and hospital medicine specialist at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, was

(see Kramer, pg. 37)





### Nominations for the 2008-2009 PSU Alumni Association Board of Directors

The PSU Alumni Association nominating committee has nominated eight persons for membership on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Six of those nominated will be elected to serve a three-year term on the board starting on July 1. The board is comprised of 18 elected members and one member appointed by the incoming president of the board. The board advocates on behalf of, advises on programming and services, and facilitates funding for the PSU Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations.

All alumni and association members may vote for six of the nominees, including write-in candidates. Those wanting to vote may do so electronically by visiting "The Jungle" at [www.pittstatealumni.com](http://www.pittstatealumni.com) or by e-mailing [alum@pittstate.edu](mailto:alum@pittstate.edu). Votes by phone or mail will also be accepted. Voting ends June 1. For more information, or to vote by phone or mail, contact:

PSU Office of Alumni and  
Constituent Relations  
401 East Ford Avenue  
Pittsburg, KS 66762  
620-235-4725 or 877-PSU-ALUM

#### Nominees:

Daniel Alcala  
Dennis Burke  
G. Peter Cole  
Lisa Bishop Grosdidier  
George P. Lampe  
David Lewis  
Doug Roberts  
Kerry Sachetta

**DANIEL ALCALA** (BST '73) is a construction manager for The Law Company, a construction company in Wichita, and has been with them for more than 18 years. In his community he is involved with the Guadalupe Clinic, which provides health care to the uninsured. Daniel serves on the advisory board for the PSU Construction Department and is a life member of the PSU Alumni Association. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and while attending PSU, Daniel was a yell leader. He has two sons who live in Florida and two step daughters who live in Ohio. He and his wife, Marilyn, live in Wichita.

**DENNIS BURKE** (BSE '82, MS '88, Ed.S. '90) is the superintendent of schools for USD 508 in Baxter Springs, Kan. He serves as president of the Baxter Springs Chamber of Commerce and co-president of the Baxter Springs-Riverton United Fund. While a student at PSU, he was active in the Student Senate, Newman Club, intramural sports, and Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society. Dennis and his wife, Mary, have three children: Martin, a current PSU student and member of the football team, Molly, who will attend PSU as a freshman in the fall, and Evan, a freshman at Baxter Springs High School.

**PETER COLE** (BS '82) is the director of finance for A. Zahner Company. He is the recipient of the 1996 U.S. Small Business Administration Region VII "Financial Services Advocate of the Year." Peter is also the vice president for the PSU chapter of the Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association.

**LISA BISHOP GROSDIDIER** (BBA '94) is an accounting manager at Sprint Nextel Corp., where she leads the reporting, controls, and special projects teams within the capital asset accounting department. Lisa has served as a member of Sprint's recruiting team for PSU and she currently serves as the treasurer of the PSU Alumni Association. While attending PSU, Lisa was active in the Sigma Sigma Sigma National Sorority, Accounting Association and Lambda Sigma Honor Society. Lisa and her husband, Kelly Grosdidier (BS '90), live in Overland Park, Kan., and have two daughters, Mandy and Macy.

**GEORGE P. LAMPE** (BA '65) is a retired U.S. Air Force major general with more than 31 years of active service. He is now engaged by a number of leading private-sector information technology companies across the U.S. and Canada as an independent management and information technology consultant. George was awarded the U.S. Air Force's highest peacetime decoration, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal. He is a life member of the PSU Alumni Association and a recipient of the PSU Meritorious Achievement Award. He has served the San Antonio-Austin PSU Alumni Chapter as president and is a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, serving as the president of the Zeta Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity Alumni Association. George and his wife, Pamela, live in San Antonio and have one son.

**DAVID LEWIS** (BBA '76) has been with the Liberty Savings Association in Fort Scott, Kan., since 1988, serving as president and CEO for the past 11 years. He has served as chairman for the



Fort Scott Community College Board of Trustees and president of United Way of Bourbon County. He also currently serves on the PSU Awards Selection committee. David and his wife, Debbie Sauerwein Lewis (BS '77, MS '80), have two children, Mark (BS '05) and Erin, currently attending the University of Kansas.

**DOUG ROBERTS** (BS '80) is the owner/operator of Play It Again Sports franchise, which sells new and used sporting goods and is located in Joplin, Mo. A Little League baseball coach for 27 years, Doug was named Missouri State Amateur Coach in 1992. He is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and was chapter president when he attended PSU. Doug currently serves as the vice president of Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni

Association. He is a longtime volunteer for the PSU Athletics Scholarship Drive. He and his wife, Brenda Robinson Roberts (BSEd '80, MS '88), live in Joplin and have three children, Tricia (BS '05), Billy, and Jaxon.

**KERRY SACHETTA** (BSE '84, MS '91, Ed.S. '97) is the principal for Joplin High School. He serves on the North Central Association Quality Assurance Review Team as chairman for School Improvement and the Southwest Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Kerry is the recipient of the 1998 Clyde U. Phillips Outstanding Educator Award, 1997 Excellence in Professional Service Award, and 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award. Kerry and his wife, Amber, have two sons, Gabriel and Luke.

**Kramer** (from pg. 35)

honored last September by the Kansas Association of Pharmacists Kansas with their Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award for 2007.

In honoring Joan, the association said, "In her brief career thus far, Kramer also has a wealth of experience as a professional journal reviewer, a preceptor for pharmacy students and resident graduates, pharmacy consultant in physician rounds, a member of various professional committees and organizations, a presenter of continuing education programs, an author and co-author of clinical articles and posters, and a participant in numerous research projects."

Kramer and her husband, Tim, also a pharmacist who practices at the VA Medical Center, live in Wichita.

"I have many happy memories of PSU," Joan wrote.

She added that PSU has been the first choice for more than one member of her family. Her mother, Sharon Madison, is also a PSU alumna. A cousin, Amanda Blubaugh, earned a nursing degree from PSU.

## Upcoming Alumni Events

### MAY

May 29: Kansas City— Lunch Series at Cinzetti's

### JUNE

June 17: Kansas City— T-bones game

June 20-21: Sleepover in the dorms for alumni and their families

Log on to "The Jungle" for more information or to register for events. All events for Fall 2008 will be posted on the Web site this summer. Find an event in your area and get involved with fellow Gorillas!

[www.pittstatealumni.com](http://www.pittstatealumni.com)





## Letters

### Editor:

I wanted to let you know what a kick I got out of the photo of Coach Smith and the players with the circus gorilla. I cut it out, framed it and it is in my office with many other Gorilla collectibles. Everyone who walks by wants to hear the story behind it! You should consider selling a nice duplicate.

**Jim Breitenbucher** – Gorilla fan!

### Editor:

I'm Bart Northam, an Australian, and graduate of Pitt State when it was KSC back in 1973/4/5. I've been back two times with my wife since these times, the last in 2006, to see friends in Pittsburg. This was a wonderful experience to see and say thanks to such wonderful people who helped us unstintingly when we were "on the bones of our arse" with four little kids living in the married student apartments. One of our sons was born, thanks to Dr. Bena in Pittsburg. We especially remember with great fondness and gratitude Lesley Campbell a close friend, and Bob & Alice Pursley who are still living in Pittsburg. I acknowledge with great sadness and fond memories Robert Noble and Dale Frihart who were instrumental in the happiness of our time at KSC.

Our thanks to everyone at Pitt State and in Pittsburg for generosity and friendship, which reflected the bond still existing between American and Australian people in today's uncertain times.

If you or anyone happens to have an e-mail/postal address for Dave & Rita Olsen and Gary & Maureen LaFaver who were in the married student apartments with us at this time, we would love to contact them.

Thanks,

**Bart Northam** (MS '73)

*(You may contact Bart Northam by e-mail at [bartandmarie@bordnet.com](mailto:bartandmarie@bordnet.com).)*

### Class of 1941

**Wilma Bartholomew**, BS, is a retired teacher in Alton, Kan.

### Class of 1946

**Laura Page Holland**, BSEd, is a retired cartographer in Grandview, Mo.

### Class of 1949

**L. Ed Scott**, MS, is retired as the owner of Scott Sales Co. in Salt Lake City, Utah. Today he lives in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He and his wife, Ann, have six children. Ed writes, "as a former student in the Naval Officers Training Program, a master's degree graduate and former faculty member at Pittsburg State, I would love hearing from former classmates and students." You may write to him at 17 Kavenish Dr., Rancho Mirage, Calif., 92270.

### Class of 1959

**Rudolph A. Pouch**, BSEd was recently honored by the Lions Clubs International association. Rudy received both the Presidential Medal for Leadership and the Presidential Medal for Commitment to Humanitarian Service. The two presidential medals are two of three considered the 'Second Highest Awards' given by the international president. Rudy was also honored with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, so named after the organization's founder, and a 1 Diamond Progressive Melvin Jones fellow. The fellowship is the highest award made by the Lions Clubs International Foundation, the humanitarian wing of the Lions Association. His family was also involved in the recognition. Rudy has been a Lion since 1969. Over the past 15 years, he has served as a district governor and state council chair [highest office in the Kansas Lions organization]. Rudy writes that "much of this

recognition was due to my early upbringing in Cherokee, Kan., being taught to serve others, and my education from Kansas State Teachers College, now Pittsburg State University.

### Class of 1960

**Carol Maples Wilson**, BSBA, MS '63, and her husband, Charles (BSBA '60), live in Broken Arrow, Okla. Carol was an assistant professor in the College of Business at PSU from 1965-'69. In May 2007, she was awarded faculty emeritus status at Oral Roberts University, where she worked for 32 years. In 2002, Carol received the Mountain-Plains Business Education Association Collegiate Business Teacher of the Year Award.

### Class of 1964

**Carol Billington Hess**, BSEd, is a retired school counselor in Pflugerville, Texas. She and her husband, Harlan (BSEd '63, MS '69) have three children.

**Beth Hudson Wood**, BSEd, is a retired child development teacher in Frederick, Md. She and her husband, Dean, have two children.

### Class of 1965

**Sister Helen Joseph Knoeber**, Masters in Business Education, lives in Wichita where she is a typist, receptionist and driver for others at Mt. St. Mary's. She toured Rome in 2006.

### Class of 1967

**Robert D. Copeland**, BSBA, is retired and lives in Joplin, Mo.

### Class of 1969

**Douglas L. Leonard**, BS '69; MS '70, is

Ever wonder what's going on with the kids you were on campus with?

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retiring from Humboldt High School after 37 years of teaching upper level mathematics. Douglas began his teaching career in the math tutorial room of Yates Hall, taught at PSU for one year, taught at Fredonia for one year and moved to Humboldt where he taught upper level math, dual credit math classes and coached volleyball and track. Douglas writes that he plans to enjoy his retirement gardening, continuing to raise cattle and spending lots of time with his four grandsons.

### Class of 1970

**Richard W. Stillwell**, BSBA, and his wife, Constance (BSEd 1970), live in Prairie Village, Kan. Richard received an MSBA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1973. Richard is the president and founding shareholder of Insight Management Consultants, a professional services firm focused on assisting clients in their pursuit of sustained competitive success.

### Class of 1977

**Laura Wolfe Willard**, BSEd, is a retired home economics teacher in Webb City, Mo. She and her husband, Iridell, have three children.

### Class of 1980

**Terry Puett**, BBA; MBA '81, lives in Auburn, Kan., with his wife, Patty. Terry is a vice president with Banker's Bank of Kansas and Patty is an accountant. They have two children: "Sarah, our KU journalism grad/KC Star reporter and Brent, our Jr. High drummer and wannabe driver of my old white van. Dreams do come true."

### Class of 1982

**Davoud Derogar**, BA, MS, writes from Los Angeles to remind students "how lucky you are to be attending PSU." Davoud writes that he has "many wonderful memories" of PSU, including his time working in the student center to pay his way through college. "My best friends are my college buddies

from PSU," Davoud writes. "We still get together and I call and talk with many. They are my true friends, even after 30 years. Davoud works as an auto technician for the Los Angeles Police Department and is a part-time teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

### Class of 1985

**Kristi Rennie Sachetta**, BSE, is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Southeast High School in Cherokee, Kan. She married Lawrence Henderson in June of 2007.

### Class of 1986

**Michael A. Finley**, BBA, and his wife, Lizabeth, BBA '83, live in Altamont, Kan. Michael is the county executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency in Bates County, Mo. Michael has been head city clerk and finance director for the city of Altamont since 1987. The Finleys have two daughters, Autumn, 18; and Lora, 11.

**Michelle R. Walker**, BBA, earned a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma in 2000. Today she lives in Tulsa where she is a pre-arrangement counselor with Floral Haven Funeral Home and Cemetery. She also serves on the board of Reach Hands, a charity that is sponsored by the United Way.

### Class of 1989

**Kenneth F. Torgler**, BBA, was appointed last fall to serve as the director of examinations for the Division of Banking at the Office of the Kansas State Bank Commissioner (OSBC). Ken also graduated with honors from the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado. He began his career with the OSBC as a banking field examiner in 1989 in the Wichita office and transferred to the Overland Park office in 1990. Most recently, Ken served the OSBC as regional manager of the East Region, encompassing 77 banks in a

19-county area surrounding Kansas City and Topeka. In his new position as director of examinations, Ken will oversee all bank and trust examination staff of the agency as well as the oversight of the 253 state banks and 10 trust companies regulated by the OSBC.

**Masahiro Cho**, BBA, received an MBA from the University of Miami in 1991. He also has a Bachelor of Law degree from Tokyo University in Tokyo, Japan. In 2006, he was named the chief financial officer and chief administrative officer for Glovia International, a subsidiary of Fujitsu. He lives in Los Angeles.

### Class of 1990

**Tony Dellasega**, BBA, lives in Pittsburg with his wife, Susan, and their four children. Tony is president of Community National Bank in Frontenac. In 2006, he was named Outstanding Graduating Student in the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado.

### Class of 1991

**Deborah Clark Beachner**, BS, is a highway contractor and owner of RFB Construction. She and her husband, Richard, have three children. They live in Pittsburg.

**Jan Tate**, BBA, lives in Fort Scott, Kan. She is an agent for American Family Insurance in Nevada, Mo. Jan won the J.D. Power And Associates Award in 2006. Jan's daughters, Janelle and Jennifer are both PSU graduates as is her mother, Virginia Dare, and two brothers, two nieces and two nephews.

### Class of 1992

**Brad Biles**, BA, began working as the communication coordinator in the Office of University Advancement at Park University, in Parkville, Mo., last July. Brad handles the communications for the university, including all internal communications with faculty, staff and students. He also does some media relations work and writes for the faculty-





staff newsletters, the university's Web site and other publications. Prior to joining Park University, Brad was an editor with Ascend Media in Overland Park.

Brad writes that he returns to campus every year for Homecoming and remains very active in his fraternity (Sigma Phi Epsilon). He has served on the fraternity's alumni board of directors since graduation and has been the alumni vice president of communications since 1997.

## Class of 1993

**Roger Seufferling**, BBA, lives in Wilsonville, Ore., with his wife, Deana, and their daughter, Emma Grace. Roger is controller for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

## Class of 1994

**Scott Lawson**, BBA, lives in Miami, Okla., where he is vice president of manufacturing for Newell Coach Corp. He is past president of the Grand Lake Manufacturers' Council, chairman of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence, a team leader and member of the board of examiners for the Oklahoma Quality Award Foundation and a member of a Rotary group exchange team to South Korea.

## Class of 1995

**Matt Brown**, BSEd, was recently promoted to assistant vice president and dean of students at Northern Kentucky University. Matt received his master of science degree in counseling and student services from Oklahoma State University in 1998 and his PhD in educational administration from Indiana State University in December. He served as the director of university housing at Northern Kentucky for four years prior to his most recent promotion. Northern Kentucky University is a regional comprehensive university with an enrollment of 14,900 students and it is located just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

## Class of 1997

**Christina Dudley**, BSEd, is the art teacher at Platte County R3 School District in Platte City, Mo. She previously taught at Plattsburg, Mo., for 9 years. Christina received her master's degree in education with a specialty in multiculturalism from Park University in 2001.

**Kelly Hammons Zampiti**, BS, and her husband, Pete, had their first child, Brody Carson, on March 23, 2007.

## Class of 1998

**Amy Polston Canada**, BS, is a general manager for Old Navy in Springfield, Mo.

**John Duncan**, BS, graduated with a degree in plastics technology. He is currently a manufacturing technology manager with the 3M Company, developing new products in the Projection Systems Division. John helped invent and develop a micro projector for 3M, which was launched in January. John earned his MBA at Xavier University '06. He and his wife, Valerie (BA '98), live in Cincinnati, Ohio. They have four sons ages 1-7.

## Class of 2001

**Kacey Clarke Preston**, BSE, is a family and consumer sciences teacher in Frontenac, Kan. Kacey is working on a master's degree in secondary education at PSU.

## Class of 2002

**Wilmar J. Bergmann**, Social Work, will receive her master's degree in social work, from Kansas University on May 18.

**BIG CATCH -- Johnna Schremmer**, director of Alumni and Constituent Relations, prepares to measure one little boy's catch at a fishing derby at the University Lake this spring. The fishing derby was one of several family oriented events planned by Alumni and Constituent Relations this year. For information about alumni events, visit the Alumni and Constituent Relations Web site, <http://www.pittstate.edu/alum/>.

## Class of 2003

**Kellie Herndon**, BS, is teaching for Cowley County Head Start in Arkansas City, Kan.

**Jerry Ross**, BSEd, lives in Joplin, where he was recently named senior vice president of First State Bank.

## Class of 2004

**Jessica Brungardt**, BBA; MBA '05, lives in Shawnee, Kan. She is an inventory buyer for Zouire Marketing Group. Jennifer writes that she enjoys Kansas City, but misses PSU.

## Class of 2005

**Lindsey Berry Hoelting**, BS, is a lead preschool teacher at Learning With a Smile Education Center in Louisburg, Kan. She and Tom Hoelting were married in September of 2006.

**Emily Martin**, BS, married Tyler Bray in July of 2007. She is a family and consumer sciences teacher in Oswego, Kan.

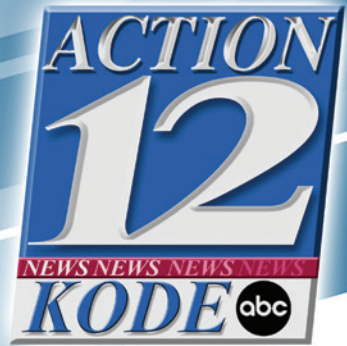
## Class of 2006

**Kim Jordan**, BS, and Joseph Johnson were married on June 2, 2007, in Beloit, Kan.

**Kaylee Hollinger**, BS, is the lead customer service representative for Ralph Lauren in Honolulu

**Justin Eastwood**, BS, is a recruiter with Aerotek Energy Services in Kansas City, Kan.





*Lauren Hieger*

*Brian Hamman*



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*Toni Valliere*

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## Letters (from pg. 21)

one mile south of campus on Broadway. The "one and only," Sam Thomas was owner and manager of the establishment and he was the life of the party. His favorite statement was what does K.S.T.C stand for, and of course, the correct answer was - Keeping Sammy Thomas Company. Just a fond memory from a very old grad.

Jim Gadwood, Class of 1956

**When I was an undergraduate in the late 50's, the favorite eating spot was Ottaway's Drive-in just north of the campus on Broadway. A burger in a basket with fries was the most common order, whether you were in a car or inside. The building has had several tenants since those days. If you had a really special date, you went for dinner and dancing at Lefty's Barn on North Broadway, also now long gone (I think a service station is now on that corner. The other places we ate that are still around (and which we go to every time we return to Pittsburg) are Chicken**

**Annie's and Jim's Steakhouse. The latter, of course, didn't serve alcohol in those days!**

**I received my B.S.Ed. in 1959 and my M.S.Ed. in 1979. I taught in 8 countries, preschool to adult ed and still do international educational consulting working with expatriate families moving from one country to another.**

**Kay Branaman Eakin**

I ate a lot of hamburger and chicken fried steaks at Scotties on the northwest corner of Joplin (and Cleveland) streets. It cost 50 cents. If you wanted to splurge, you could go out on North Broadway to Argentina's, I think, and get the same with a big side of spaghetti. Or (you could go) across and down the street a ways and have a filet mignon for \$1.25 This was in the late fifties.

Bill Conrow

**I was one of many "starving students" that was fortunate enough to be able to live (and eat) with a local elderly couple,**

**so I ate most of my meals with them; I also ate a lot of 19 cent hamburgers at a little place across the street from the campus – which is probably no longer there.**

**Larry W. Brillhart, '65, Professor of Engineering Design Graphics, Lone Star College System- North Harris, Texas**

I remember the place across the street from the former college high school, Jack's (I think was the name). You could purchase a meal ticket and for a struggling new student this was a wonderful way to insure you could purchase a good meal-home cooked-and not run out of money too early in the month. I used it as a freshman and sophomore and then Jack moved up on North Broadway and opened a bigger place with a ballroom/bar in the back that was the scene of many good times.

Probably the best dinner/bar experience at Jack's up North was when my brother Don called me to tell me a mutual friend from high school was down visiting from KU. I was on the Pittsburg Police

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Department and made frequent visits to the drinking establishments to make sure folks were being responsible-yea, as if that worked. Val was with a bunch of friends and I came up behind them and called her by name, saying I needed to see her ID. She looked around and saw this COP in uniform, not recognizing me, and after I heard a thump hit the floor, she proceeded to assure me she was not consuming, where upon I took off my hat and told her who I was. She liked to have died, but we had a great time visiting for a few minutes. Don of course caught heck from her for just a little bit, but all enjoyed the visit.

Pittsburg was a truly great place to go to school and all the eating establishments were wonderful. I still try to go to Chicken Mary's or Annie's. I ate many meals at the Steak House up on North Broadway. Many late meals were consumed at the burger joint on South Broadway. The truly greatest place to eat was at Mrs. Kovacic's in Arma, a private kitchen for friends of her two kids - a truly lucky break for me.

Rick Woolfolk, '70

**During my freshman year at Pitt State, my best friend, Stephanie (Rohner) Karleskint '06 and I always ate lunch together on Fridays, usually in the Gorilla Crossing (before it was remodeled!). We had such fun catching up on our happenings from throughout the week and making plans for the weekends, sitting at the high top tables that used to be in there. Sometimes we'd sit there for a couple of hours, just enjoying being Gorillas and the wonderful experiences we were having.**

Becky Moore '06

I attended PSU from 1977-'80 and fondly remember going to Washington's Cigar Store to meet friends and drink 25-cent Schlitz beers. Sometimes we had red beers-Schlitz with tomato juice. Washington's was such a friendly place and so crowded on a Friday afternoon that you could barely get in the door. Charlie, the owner, was very friendly to all students and patrons. There was

**We've been getting great feedback from our alumni—including a note to correct a story that ran in last fall's magazine.**

In "Who Knew? Life takes interesting turns for Outstanding Seniors," we incorrectly reported that 2007 marked the 40th anniversary of the Outstanding Senior Award. The award actually began in 1954. The winners from 1954 through 1967 are: Joan F. Saporito Fitzgerald and Gene Francis Craven ('54); Carolyn M. Ramsey Shankel and Paul Donald Marquardt ('55); Sally M. Allyn Edmiston and Arnold Negley Clum ('56); Jo Ann Bevan Hays and Billy Neil Loeffler ('57); Betty J. Fliginger Bierbaum and Lewis John Bertalotto ('58); Diantha E. Tedlock Muzingo and James Edward Daniels ('59); Virginia L. Kuykendall Fortner and Jerry Leon Davis ('60); Jane M. Shanks Forster and Robert Farrell Strahan ('61); Jean Marie Miller Sleeth and Andrew J. Johnson ('62); Carole K. Kazmierski and Edward Joel Finley ('63); no winners were named in '64, '65, or '66; Gwendolyn D. Daily Coe and Scott Andrew Clugston ('67).

Unfortunately, the stone markers in front of Russ Hall name only the winners from 1967 to today.

We regret the omission of these prestigious winning alumni. Thank you, Diantha Tedlock Muzingo (BS '59, MA '73), for catching the oversight!

## Even more Outstanding Seniors

always a contingent of "regulars" as they were known-a collection of older gentlemen who lived nearby and enjoyed hanging out with college students. Charlie had a large snooker table and he played with us, but most of us lost to him. That was a very difficult table to play. I often think of the great times I had in Pittsburg and especially at Washington's Cigar Store.

Janet Meddings

**I worked to help pay for my college education at the College Inn, owned by Jack Quier back in the '60s. Seventy-five cents an hour and all you could eat. I waited tables, washed dishes and ran the cash register. This was a blessing for a poor farm boy. It got me through two years of college. It was across from the campus on the west side of Broadway. I think the price for a good evening dinner was 80 cents -- hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, corn or green beans, a drink and bread. Family food and plenty of it. Jack later owned Jack's Steak House in the old Tower Ball Room, long since torn down.**

**The White Grill on North Broadway was a place all of us used to go after a night on the town at Sammy's on west 4th or The Idle Hour, owned by Mr. Barto in Frontenac. The White Grill had the best 'burgers in town. There was a little burger joint on west 4th on the north side of the street that had a dozen burgers for a buck- used to live on those during finals.**

Larry Clum, Maize, Kan.

When we were at Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Kan., from 1951 to 1953, the best (and very economical) place we liked to eat was a hamburger joint way out on North Broadway, about equal to where the hospital was at that time, that served broiled hamburgers and the most delicious chiffon pies of several different flavors I have ever had. The couple running it were not young then, so I doubt if there's one operating now. It was pretty barren as far as fixtures or decorations went, but the food was superb.

Darrell Degenhart





## From the archives...

We have no idea who these young couples are, but their affection is clear as they head off Brandenburg Field on a Saturday after a football game sometime in the 1970s.

(This seemed like the perfect photo to pull from the archives for this issue of the Pitt State Magazine. Earlier – see page 21 – we asked you to share your memories of romance that blossomed on campus.

Send them to:

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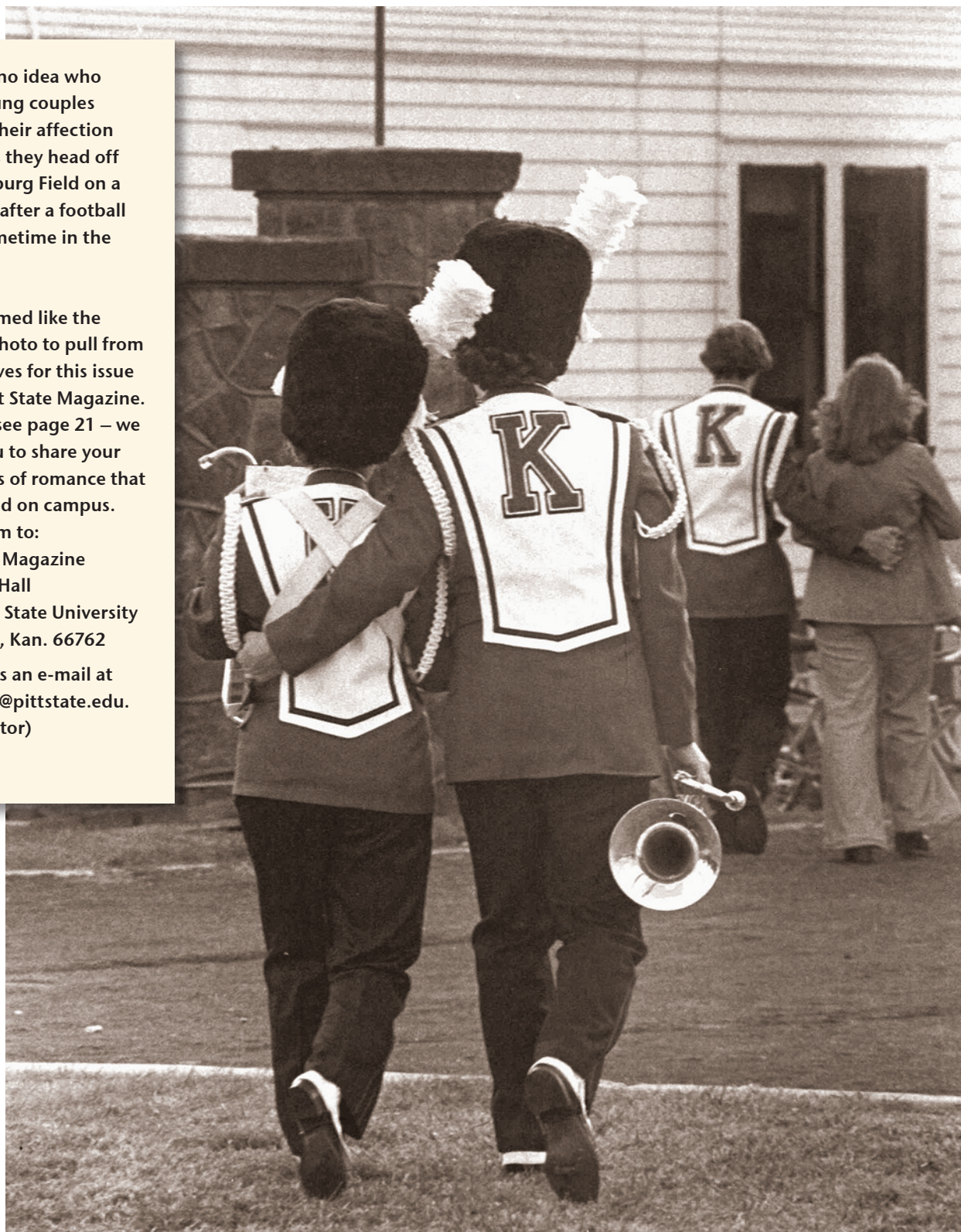
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-- The Editor)







## *PSU Foundation Spotlight—Bill Sollner*

Moving to the Pittsburg area was not pleasant for Bill Sollner as a teenager. He didn't want to leave his friends where he lived near Abilene, Kan., and move to Arma, where he knew no one.

"I felt like I was torn up by the roots. But I came and thrived at Arma High School," Sollner said. He has never regretted his connection to the community since that move in 1939.

Sollner grew up knowing the value of giving back to his community. His father was a dentist and World War II veteran. His mother was a registered nurse who often became the default healthcare provider for the neighborhood.

After a stint in the Navy, Sollner graduated from the University of Kansas and eventually landed in Hawaii. His father died in 1987 and in 1991, Sollner and his wife, Fay, returned to Arma to care for his mother. She died in 1993.

Sollner stayed and continued to be involved in the community and with the university, especially through his love of the theater.

"I have been involved in more than 50 productions through the community or PSU and I've produced three plays," said Sollner. One of the most memorable roles he played at the age of 77 was the lead of Petruchio in a production of "Kiss Me

Kate." Sollner is also a puppeteer, attending annual conferences and events whenever possible.

When Sollner and his wife decided to honor the memory of his parents, they planned something that would carry out their legacy and connect it to a passion of their own. They established the Anson and Esther Sollner Endowment for the Theater Arts.

"We wanted to memorialize my parents who were so well-loved and did a lot of good work in Arma and the surrounding area," said Sollner.

The endowment provides scholarship funding for students in theater. Sollner recently established a planned gift that will be directed to this endowment fund.

"Theatre is so important. It deserves the same kind of support as other programs and is every bit as satisfying," Sollner said.

Fay Sollner died in 2005, but Bill remains active. He said he hopes their effort of giving can encourage students to pursue their talents for many years to come.

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