



Pitt State

Fall 2009

MAGAZINE

Steve and
Cathy Scott

PSU's ninth president—
Dr. Steven A. Scott
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L. Russell Kelce Planetarium

PittState

MAGAZINE

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From the editor

In this issue of the magazine, we welcome Pittsburg State University's ninth president, Dr. Steve Scott. Because Dr. Scott has been part of the PSU family for many years, it is not a welcome to PSU, but to his new role with the university. This story reminds us of the unique privilege we have to chronicle the life of this great institution. It is a story that belongs to each of you and we take that responsibility seriously. You can help us by keeping your letters and e-mails coming. We look forward to hearing from you.



► PSU on track for successful \$120 million capital campaign

With one year remaining in its \$120 million capital campaign, the Pittsburgh State University Foundation is on track after surpassing the \$100 million mark this July.

University Development Director Scott Roberts said despite the turbulent economy, fundraising efforts for “The Campaign for Pittsburgh State University: Continuing the Legacy” have been strongly supported by alumni and constituents across the nation. Although there was a 2 percent drop in giving nationally during the 2009 fiscal year, the number of large gifts at PSU increased significantly. The PSU Foundation had more than 12,500 donors last year, and saw a 14 percent increase of gifts over \$20,000.

The goal has included multiple campaign highlights, including a \$10 million gift for the future fine and performing arts building, as well as millions of dollars in “gifts-in-kind” such as large equipment for the College of Technology. Nearly 20 percent of the total amount raised since the beginning of the campaign has come in the form of planned giving commitments through the Foundation’s Heritage Society.

“When I speak with development professionals at other institutions, I consistently hear how incredible they think private support is at PSU, and they’re right,” Roberts said. “We’re fortunate to have such loyal and committed constituents. Without them, PSU would not be what it is today.”

Donors have provided funds for

campus enhancement projects including new buildings such as the student health and student recreation centers, as well as student scholarships. Since the campaign began, more than \$15 million has been received and awarded for scholarships.

The capital campaign was formed in 2000 by the PSU Foundation, with campaign priorities set under the leadership of former PSU President Tom Bryant.

“Pittsburgh State has always been a leader amongst its peer institutions in soliciting and receiving gifts to enhance the university,” said Dr. Brad Hodson, vice president for university advancement. “The campaign is an extension of the work that’s been going on at PSU for decades and decades.”

For more information on making a gift to PSU, contact University Development at 620-235-4768 or go to www.pittstate.edu/office/development.

KPRC to help in medical research

Scientists with the Kansas Polymer Research Center at Pittsburgh State University have joined forces with other Kansas groups for pioneering research in the medical field.

In May, the Kansas Bioscience Authority awarded a \$4 million grant to kick-start these efforts, led by the newly formed Center of Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopedic Research and involving researchers at PSU, K-State, Wichita State and others. Via Christi Health System organized the new center, which they say will create thousands of jobs in the Wichita area.

Steve Robb, director emeritus of the

KPRC, said the goal is to make sturdier yet lighter materials that can be used for any number of medical purposes.

“We use bio-based composites, made by combining other materials,” Robb said. “These will be used either for medical instruments or possibly equipment like operating tables and other things that are used in hospitals now that are made totally from steel. Eventually they will be made of materials that are lighter in weight but stronger than steel.”

Robb said these bio-based composite materials will prove especially helpful to hospitals treating heavier patients.

“You read about the obesity epidemic in the U.S.,” Robb said. “The patients are getting heavier and heavier, so the materials need to be stronger, and in order to move them around, they need to be lighter with the patients on them.”

Heavier patients are often those also in need of joint replacements – something Robb would like to see tackled one day by KPRC scientists.

“One of the goals of the Center of Innovation is to replace the metal hips and knees with a composite material that would allow the bone to grow into the composite material and form a joint,” Robb said.

The Kansas Polymer Research Center is one of the world’s leading centers specializing in vegetable oil-based polymer research and development. KPRC scientists work with industrial partners, state and federal agencies, and producer associations on developing and commercializing PSU’s intellectual property. For more information, visit: www.btikansas.com/home/KPRC.



2009 Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award winners: Dr. Mark Johnson, Dr. Chris Fogliasso, and Dr. Mark Peterson.

A “sweet” honor for Outstanding Faculty Award winners

Three veteran PSU professors were named the 2009 Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award winners during Apple Day Convocation on March 5.

Dr. Chris Fogliasso, university professor of management and marketing; Dr. Mark Johnson, professor of technology management; and Dr. Mark Peterson, assistant professor of social sciences, accepted plaques in recognition of the honor.

The award, named after a popular former professor and administrator, is given to faculty members who are nominated by students. A Student Government Association committee then selects the winners.

“It’s a wonderful affirmation of what I try to do for the students, which is to inspire them to recognize potential in themselves that they may otherwise not

have recognized,” said Peterson, whose 2009 Outstanding Faculty Award marks his fifth.

Fogliasso attributes her success to the material she teaches.

“I teach an unbelievable subject (business law and ethics),” said Fogliasso, who has now won the award seven times in her 25-year tenure at PSU. “It is so relevant. I’m just blessed to get to teach it.”

All three said they were grateful to their students for nominating them.

“It is always an honor to get any kind of recognition, and it’s particularly nice when it comes from your students,” Johnson said. “That’s at least some indication that you’re doing something right. I’ve been lucky in my 23 years—this is my third time to get it. But that doesn’t matter. It’s still a pretty sweet thing to get recognized and be honored by your students.”

Following the convocation, the speakers and honorees were invited to participate in the traditional ringing of the Centennial Bell.

New leadership—

Myers to head BTI

Andrew Myers, a former scientist and project manager with



Myers

TDA Research, Inc., a Colorado-based chemistry and engineering research company, assumed his duties as executive director of the Business and Technology Institute (BTI) in August.

As a primary investigator for TDA Research, Myers had developed a polymer and coatings nanocomposite research program by securing more than \$2.6 million in federal funding from organizations. During his 10 years with TDA, Myers patented three inventions, published and presented numerous findings in nanotechnology, and was recognized as one of the EPA’s Small Business Innovation Research “Success Stories.”

A native of Indianapolis, Myers earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Purdue. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees in chemistry from the University of Rochester. He worked as a post-doctoral research associate for the University of Washington in Seattle, and served as a post-doctoral chemist for Union Carbide Corporation in Houston, Texas, where he devised and researched new catalysts for polypropylene.



Handshakes, haircuts, and first impressions:

Career Services offers "Career Makeover"

When it comes to the competitive job market these days, students need every advantage they can get. After all, no potential employer wants to be distracted by the unkempt hair or limp handshake of their interviewee.

To better prepare students for the first impressions they make on the job hunt, the PSU Office of Career Services hosted "Career Makeover: From Handshakes to Haircuts" in May.

The event offered a number of image-polishing career prep stations with professionals offering instruction in areas such as how to properly tie a necktie, how to give an effective handshake, how to tastefully accessorize an interview outfit, and how to polish a resumé. Other stations included tips on shoe shining, creating business cards, preparing for interview dialogue, and more.

Career Services Director Mindy Cloninger said the event was helpful to students with any major.

"As competitive as the job market is, every detail of appearance, professionalism,

and business etiquette is more important than ever before," she said. "We're trying to equip individuals to make that transition from student to professional."

For more: www.pittstate.edu/office/careers

Program gives unwanted items new life

One man's trash is another man's treasure. That's the concept behind the first Move-Out Madness, a program held at the end of the spring semester that was designed to give items left behind by students moving out of Pitt State residence halls a second life.

"It is surprising, sometimes, what students leave behind," said Jon Bartlow, assistant director in the Office of Admission and chairman of the University Committee for Energy and Resource Conservation (UCERC). "We know some students who do not want the hassle of taking items home simply throw them away. It is our hope that Move-Out Madness will keep items out of the dumpsters and ultimately the landfills."

The event, sponsored jointly by the UCERC and the PSU Presidential Emerging Leaders Program,

raised \$809 that was used to help purchase additional recycling bins on campus and further promote ways to create a more sustainable PSU. Any items left over were donated to the Salvation Army.

"Very little actually ended up having to be thrown away," said Bartlow. "I think we are making PSU a little bit greener one small step at a time."

For more: www2.pittstate.edu/erc/

► A friendly face—Counseling helps students cope

A mental health counselor with PSU's University Counseling Services, Christy Perez sees a growing number of students who are willing to reach out for help with mental health issues.

"Our goal here is for students to be able to adjust to a college environment and be able to graduate," Perez said. "Students have a lot on their plate."

Perez said Pittsburg State University Counseling Services offers students aid

in a friendly atmosphere.

"I like a positive psychology realm," Perez said. "I'm the touchy-feely one in the office, the one who can handle the student crying in the waiting room. I enjoy working with students to find their strengths."

Perez, the president-elect of the Kansas Counseling Association (a branch of the national association), has served as president of the Southeast Kansas Counseling Association as well as the Kansas College Counseling Association. In addition to counseling services, she does mental health training with student leaders and teaches summer workshops and general psychology classes.

She said students come to the University Counseling Services offices with a variety of problems that range from home sickness, depression and anxiety to eating disorders and addictions.

In July, University Counseling Services moved into new quarters in the just-completed Student Health Center. The new facility brings together the university's health and mental health services for the first time.

For more: www.pittstate.edu/office/counseling/



Perez



GorillaFest adds to home game experience

Entering its 12th year of keeping students, alumni and friends excited, GorillaFest has a number of fun activities planned for this season.

GorillaFest is a free communitywide tailgate that precedes each home football game and takes place in Gorilla Village, just outside of Carnie Smith Stadium and the surrounding area.

"This has become such a great part of the home football game tradition," said Johnna Schremmer, director of Alumni and Constituent

Relations. "We want Pitt State families and friends to celebrate the Gorilla spirit, and we know this event captures that."

GorillaFest activities begin three hours prior to game kick-off and feature live music, free kids games and food vendors. Special activities this year include free inflatable games and a Gorilla Friends and Family Tailgate on September 26, the President's Chili Challenge on October 10, and an Alumni & Friends Tailgate on October 24.

For more information visit www.pittstate.edu/alumni or call the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations at 620-235-4758.

The Kansas Board of Regents and the
Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni
of Pittsburg State University

Cordially request the honor of your presence
at the inauguration of

Dr. Steven A. Scott
as the Ninth President of the University

on Friday, the Twenty-Third of October,
Two Thousand and Nine
at two in the afternoon

Russ Hall
1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, Kansas

Reception immediately following on the Oval

Rainsite: Weede Physical Education Building
1701 S. Homer



Make the dedication of Pittsburg State University's new
Student Health Center part of your Family Day Plans.

11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 • Lindburg and Broadway

Tours of the new facility will follow the brief ceremony.



fine arts calendar

Art Department

UNIVERSITY GALLERY—Porter Hall. Lectures and receptions to be announced. Contact 235-4305 for more information.

Sept. 16-Oct. 12, 2009

Mathew Burke

Lawrence, KS
Sculpture
Lecture: October 13, 11 a.m., 316 Hughes Hall
Reception: Noon, Porter Hall

Oct. 14-Nov. 11, 2009

John Richardson

Detroit, Mich.
Sculpture

Nov. 24, 2009-Jan. 20, 2010

Matthew Leahy

Hiawatha, Kan.
Paintings
Reception: TBA

Jan. 22 – Feb. 26, 2010

Jimmy Kuehnle

St. Louis, Mo.
Inflatable Sculpture
Reception: TBA

March 4 – April 2, 2010

Anya Lifting

Westport, Conn.
Photography, Sculpture

April 7-May 7, 2010

Merrie Wright

Tyler, Texas
Ceramics, Photography
Reception: TBA

HARRY KRUG GALLERY - Porter Hall

Aug. 24-Sept. 28th, 2009

Elissa Cox

Athens, Ohio
Installation Exhibit

Oct. 6-Nov. 18, 2009

Jennifer Anderson

Santa Monica, Calif.
Photography

Nov. 14-Dec. 8, 2009

Master of Arts

Graduating Exhibits
Reception: TBA

Jan. 22-Feb. 26, 2010

Jimmy Kuehnle

St. Louis, Mo.
Inflatable Sculpture

March 5-April 14, 2010

Trevor Dunn

Logan, Utah
Ceramics
Reception: TBA

April 14-May 10, 2010

Master of Arts

PSU Graduating Exhibits
Reception: TBA

PSU Theatre Productions

A Midsummer Night's Dream— by William Shakespeare

Directed by Gil Cooper
Oct. 22-24, 2009, Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Theatre Unplugged— student directed

Dec. 2-5, 2009, Grubbs Studio Theatre, 7 p.m.

The Baby Dance— by Jane Anderson

Directed by Megan Weshoff
March 4-7, 2010, Grubbs Studio Theatre
Evenings: 8 p.m., Matinee: 2 p.m.

Brass Tacks— conceived and directed by Cynthia Allan

April 29-May 2, 2010, Grubbs Studio Theatre
Evenings: 8 p.m., Matinee: 2 p.m.

For ticket information on PSU Theatre productions visit www.pittstate.edu/office/tickets/ or call 620-235-4716.

PALS/Theatre

Meeting David Wilson

Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, 7 p.m.,
Crimson & Gold Ballroom,
Overman Student Center
Sponsored by PALS & PSU
Leadership Institute
ADMISSION – FREE,
No ticket is required.
www.meetingdavidwilson.com/

Comedy Killers –

“Citizen Candy Kane”

Dinner Theatre

Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, 7 p.m.

Crimson & Gold Ballroom,

Overman Student Center

ADMISSION: Tickets MUST be
purchased in advance

General Public – \$15

PSU Faculty/Staff; Senior

Citizens (65 & over); Children
(17 & under) – \$12.50

PSU Students – FREE

Tickets must be purchased by
4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Please
state any special dietary needs when
purchasing tickets or by contacting
the Campus Activities Center at 620-
235-4795. Ticket includes meal and
admission for play.

The Blanks

aka Ted's Band from Scrubs

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010

7 p.m., Memorial Auditorium,

503 N. Pine, Pittsburg

ADMISSION:

General Public – \$7.50

PSU Faculty/Staff; Senior

Citizens (65 & over); Children
(17 & under) – \$5

PSU Students – FREE

www.theblankwebsite.com

The Most Trusted Stranger

**in America: Frank Warren's
PostSecret**

Thursday, April 22, 2010

7 p.m., Memorial Auditorium,

503 N. Pine, Pittsburg

ADMISSION:

General Public – \$7.50

PSU Faculty/Staff, Senior

Citizens (65 & over); Children
(17 & under) – \$5

PSU Students – FREE

Music Department

SEPTEMBER

27 **Southeast Kansas
Symphony**
3 p.m.,
Pittsburg Memorial Hall

OCTOBER

5 **PSU Jazz Ensembles**
7:30 p.m.,
Overman Student Center

8-9 **Trumpetfest**
McCray Recital Hall

9 **SCMS**
American Brass Quintet,
7:30 p.m., McCray Recital Hall

13 **PSU Bands**
7:30 p.m., location TBA

29 **Chamber Orchestra**
7:30 p.m., McCray Recital Hall

NOVEMBER

6 **PSU Choirs**
7:30 p.m.,
McCray Recital Hall

13 **SCMS**
Hung Kuan Chen, piano
7:30 p.m., McCray Recital Hall

19 **PSU Bands**
7:30 p.m.,
Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

22 **Southeast Kansas
Symphony** 3 p.m.,
Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

DECEMBER

3 **PSU Jazz Ensembles**
7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall

4 **Madrigal Dinner**
6 p.m.,
Overman Student Center

6 **Community
Christmas Concert**
3 p.m.,
Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

9 **Timmons Concert**
7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel

11 **Timmons Concert**
7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel

For a complete listing of
performances, including senior
recitals, visit www.pittstate.edu/music/calendar.html.

“Where in the World is Gus?”



Gus in Greece & Belgium

Sally Marang (BSEd '98, MS '08, EdS '09) wears her Gorilla pride at Delphi, Greece, in 2006. Her sister, Laura (Clay) Stanley, who is stationed in Germany as a Army captain and also received her BSEd from PSU, wears a PSU sweatshirt while eating a delicious snack in Belgium.

Gus in Ireland

Kelly (Williams) Stice (BA '02) sent this picture from her trip to Ireland in June of 2008. This picture was taken along the Ring of Kerry on Ireland's west coast at Muckross House. Kelly and her husband, Marcus, currently live in Burlington, Kan., with their son, Colton.



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

Pittsburg State
University
www.pittstate.edu

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looking to the future

in uncertain economic times



Since he became Pittsburg State University's ninth president in July, Dr. Steve Scott has been on a listening tour, of sorts, taking every opportunity to meet with students, faculty and staff, members of the community, alumni, donors and friends. The most frequent question he gets is, "What is your vision for PSU?"

Scott said people are sometimes surprised by his answer.



Members of the community and the campus greet Dr. Steve Scott in front of Russ Hall on his first day at work as president of PSU.

► FIRST, he said, the vision for the university has to be a grassroots, collaborative effort in which everyone has a stake.

“The question is not, ‘What do I want to do?’ but rather, ‘What needs to be done for the institution?’”

► SECONDLY, Scott said, the vision for PSU’s future lies in the university’s past.

“I know that sounds counterintuitive,” he said, “but it’s not. Our campus culture is at the heart of our success. Day in and day out, we put students first and we always have. Our near obsessive focus on students and their success frames just about everything we do. That common focus creates a spirit of cooperation that is unrivaled

among institutions of higher education. Our vision for the future must include the continuation of this culture. I believe our long-term viability depends on it.”

In presentations before service clubs, alumni groups and at the opening faculty meeting, Scott has touched on a number of themes that will mark his administration. Those include planning, sustainability and technology.

Planning

Scott plans to reopen the university’s strategic planning process this fall.

“For us to grow through the turmoil that we now face, our actions must be purposeful and aligned,” Scott said at the opening

faculty meeting. “For us to have the future that we want for our students, the region, and ourselves, we must energize the planning process and make it work.”

Sustainability

“From the curriculum, to recycling, to procurement, to storm water runoff, to the use of pesticides, to solid waste disposal, to university vehicles, to the construction of new facilities, we’ve got to take a more responsible approach to what we do,” Scott said.

Technology

“I have been convinced for many years that our ability and capacity to understand and apply emerging technologies will have much to say about our future as an institution of



Dr. Scott visits with friends of the university during a luncheon on campus.

higher education,” Scott said.

These things don’t take place in a vacuum, however, and the recession, marked by unprecedented cuts to the university budget, will be a factor in nearly every decision the new president makes over the coming months.

In budget forums and in other conversations this fall, Scott spoke frankly about the cuts and the hard choices the university has already had to make and will likely need to make in the near future. He encouraged the campus community to focus its energy on solutions rather than complaining about factors beyond any individual’s control.

“We should have two rules: No whining and no hunkering down.”

Scott said every person on campus has a role to play, both in weathering the current economic storm and in moving the university forward.

“Your help is needed in finding those ways that we can do things more efficiently,” he said, “yet still accomplish our overarching mission of serving our students.”

Every person on campus, Scott

said, should consider themselves “admissions counselors and retention experts. As state support for higher education is reduced, we now rely more and more on tuition. That makes our enrollment even more important than ever. Each of us has a responsibility to help attract quality students to the university and help them find the program that will enable them to accomplish their goals and aspirations. In addition and just as importantly, we need to work daily to help the students who are here succeed.”

Scott said that despite the economic situation, opportunities abound for the university.

“These are transformational times and our thinking must be transformational in nature for us to be successful over the long term. What’s next? What’s coming? How do we prepare for it? How do we lead it? What investments need to be made to ready ourselves for a successful future?”

Scott said that despite the great budget challenges the university faces, he is very optimistic about PSU’s future, in part because of conversations he has had with

alumni, donors, faculty and staff, students, community leaders and friends of the university.

“There is great passion for this institution,” Scott said. “There are high expectations for it, and that’s OK, because just about every conversation I’ve had ends with, ‘Let me know how I can help.’ We are truly blessed by the level of support that we receive from so many generous people. Our job is to continue to earn their trust and support by doing what we know is our most important work: Creating and maintaining quality academic programs that lead students to successful lives and career opportunities, recognizing that it takes all of us working together to make that happen.”

A journey that began in a small town

An old black-and-white photo on a shelf in the president’s office tells visitors a lot about Steve Scott’s roots in Baxter Springs, Kansas. The photo is of the three Scott brothers – Jim, Lee and Steve – as the opening of school approaches. The three boys are seated on a porch with piles of school books in their laps. Their hair is cropped short and their blue jeans have cuffs several inches high.

The 1950s TV character Opie Taylor immediately comes to mind.

“At that time,” Scott said, “(Baxter Springs) really was like Mayberry. You knew if you misbehaved, someone would let your mom and dad know about it.”

For Scott, growing up in Baxter



Family plays an important role for Steve and Cathy Scott. Their new role as grandparents is one they both cherish.

The Scotts' son, Phil, far left, is an avid Gorilla athletics fan. Daughter Kylie is a member of the faculty in the College of Education. She and her husband, Chad Stewart, added a granddaughter, Josie, to the family in March.

Springs was pretty close to a '50s-era TV serial. His mother was a vocal music teacher, a community volunteer and she served on the library board.

"It was a time when not all women were leaders," Scott said. "I trace my leadership skills to my mother."

Scott's father, meanwhile, owned a couple of service stations and a small gas delivery service. He sold that business when he was 47 and went back to PSU to get a degree in industrial arts education, a subject he then taught in Baxter Springs for 12 years.

"He enjoyed watching his sons, whether it was in athletics or other activities," Steve Scott said.

It was at Baxter Springs High School that Scott began dating Cathy Johnson, who was a year behind him in school and who would become his wife. After high school, Scott went off to college at Pittsburg State, where he earned a degree in math education. Cathy followed, and

she, too, would become a teacher.

In those early days, Scott said, he never imagined becoming a university administrator.

"I was going to be a teacher and a coach," Scott said. "I really did enjoy mathematics. I enjoyed what mathematics did for people."

The Scotts had two children, Phil and Kylie, and Steve fulfilled his dream of teaching and coaching. Over time, he earned a master's degree from Oklahoma State University, an Ed.S. degree from PSU and an Ed.D. from OSU. He entered higher education, teaching at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M before joining the PSU faculty in the College of Education in 1989. Scott was named chairperson of the Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies in 1995 and dean of the College of Education in 1999. In 2006, Scott was named provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"I'm a linear person," Scott said.

"It probably wasn't until I was provost that I had serious thoughts about becoming a university president."

Scott said a lot of things were running through his mind on July 2 when he walked up the steps to Russ Hall as president of the university. He thought of his family and his upbringing in Baxter Springs and also of the first time he walked up those same steps as a PSU freshman.

"I was nervous," he said. "The first day was a bigger thing than I thought it would be."

Scott said the encouragement he has received from a wide variety of people has been helpful and it makes him excited about the future.

"As I have gotten out on campus and in the community, the outpouring of support for this university has been truly amazing. It makes me feel so optimistic about the future of this great university." •

President calls on campus to help weather budget storm

IN A FRANK DISCUSSION with the campus community about recent cuts to the university budget, PSU President Steve Scott concluded with two points he hoped everyone took to heart. Scott told those attending the two open sessions that coping with the new budget will require everyone's help and also that the state, the nation and our students need us now more than ever.

"I wanted to have a clear conversation with the entire campus that covered what led up to recent cuts in state funding, what the university has done so far to deal with those cuts, what the future may hold and what each of us can and must do as we move through these difficulties to better days ahead," Scott said.

The president began with an overview of the State of Kansas budget, beginning with FY (Fiscal Year) 2008, when the state had a beginning balance of about \$935 million, to FY 2010, which the state is projected to finish with nearly zero in its coffers.

Scott then outlined a roller



President Scott outlines details of the university's response to budget cuts during a forum on campus.

coaster ride for state funding for higher education, which grew steadily over several years only to fall by \$100 million in a matter of months early in 2009.

Fortunately, Scott told the groups, PSU planners had seen the "train wreck" coming and had tried to plan for cuts.

However, "the sudden onset of the recession made this happen a year earlier than we expected," he said.

Following a \$1.6 million cut in the fiscal year that ended in June 2009, the university was hit with a \$4.6 million cut in the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2009.

At the same time that cuts were being made at the state level, PSU found itself having to plan for increased costs for things like group health insurance, an increase in the minimum wage, and a state plan to rectify inequities in the pay scale that covers classified employees.

The massive cuts in state aid, combined with increasing costs, left university planners staring at a \$5 million hole in the budget.

In response, the university

reduced operating budgets across campus, cancelled a major software purchase for the library, reduced travel and equipment purchases and encouraged everyone to reduce energy consumption. While there were no furloughs or layoffs, a number of positions were left unfilled. Others were filled in ways that helped reduce their cost to the budget.

On the other side of the ledger, PSU received approval from the Kansas Board of Regents for a tuition increase that would bring in an additional \$1.5 million. To make up the rest of the

.....
...the university reduced operating budgets across campus, cancelled a major software purchase for the library, reduced travel and equipment purchases and encouraged everyone to reduce energy consumption.
.....

difference, the university turned to \$1.4 million in one-time reserves.

The situation left administrators looking for adjectives. Words like “extraordinary” and “unprecedented” couldn’t adequately describe the magnitude of a budget meltdown unlike anything in modern memory.

Looking ahead to FY 2011, which begins July 1, 2010, Scott said most people think additional cuts are likely, depending upon the health of state revenues. Additional costs are also expected for group health insurance and other operating costs. Scott said enrollment growth could help by providing additional tuition revenue.

The president challenged everyone

on campus to come together to pull the university through the current economic challenge. To the question, “What can we all do to help?” Scott answered that every PSU employee can help attract students to the university. They can help students be successful. They can help the university reduce its operational costs through the use of electronic media and by conserving utilities. They can also be on the look for new opportunities and need to communicate those ideas to their supervisors.

Scott concluded the presentations with the assertion that Pittsburg State University is needed now more than ever before.

“We can’t hunker down. We shouldn’t hunker down. We’re in better shape than that,” Scott said. “What we’ve got to do is cut our costs, do things more efficiently, look for opportunities to serve students we have and the students who will be coming in five years and ten years and maybe students we aren’t serving right now, but could be.

“It’s kind of mission work, in many ways,” Scott said. “We do have a mission and that’s of service. As I look at the current economic situation we are now in, in my view we are needed more now than ever before. Students need us. Adults need us. They need to be retrained; they need to be recertified; they need a new degree. Where are they going to go that’s better than Pittsburg State? I think they ought to come here.

“What we do is important. What we do is of value. We want to keep doing it.” A video of the budget forum is posted on the university’s Web site.

Additional public meetings on the budget will be conducted this fall as the state’s budget situation unfolds. •



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If a picture is worth a thousand words...

then the nearly 400 photographs in Randy Roberts' latest book are doing double duty as they tell the rich history of Pittsburg State University.

Using photographs from the extensive collection in the University Archives, "Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years" takes readers from the early humble days of the university through 2008. It is the first photographic history of the university and the only one that covers the years after World War II.

Roberts, who is the curator of PSU's Special Collections and serves as university archivist, said the discussion of publishing an updated history of the university began around the university's centennial celebration in 2003. He gave much of the credit for seeing the project through to recently retired President Tom Bryant.

"This project would not have happened if not for his support and participation," Roberts said.

He also praised his coauthor, Shannon Phillips, who assisted in the project as a graduate student. Phillips is now a library associate at the Kansas City Public Library.

"Shannon was invaluable to me on this project," Roberts said. "She did a lot of the background research and she has a good eye for photographs."

The 216-page book is arranged into 10 chapters, including one on the university's centennial. According to the University Press of Kansas, which published the book, "this book strikes a judicious balance between narrative and illustration to reflect ideals set down in 1903 that guide the university to this day."

Virgil W. Dean, director for publications at the Kansas State Historical Society, wrote that this photographic history is "A handsome book that will appeal to anyone interested in the history of Higher Education, whether or not they have a personal connection to this particular Kansas academy."

Roberts said writing and editing the book gave him a greater appreciation for the recent growth and change on campus.

"There is a lot that has happened just since we finished work on the book," Roberts said. "It is amazing how much is going on on campus. That is symptomatic of a healthy institution." •



Randy Roberts

"Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the first 100 Years" is listed at \$24.95 and is for sale at the Gorilla Bookstore in the Overman Student Center and from the University Press of Kansas.

Contact information:

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Randy Roberts is also the author of "ZaSu Pitts in Parsons, Kansas" and "A Closer Look: A Brief History of the Buildings, Facilities, and Sites of Pittsburg State University."

STUDENTS AND FACULTY RETURNING to campus this fall noticed some significant changes on campus, thanks to a summer busy with construction.

The university used a combination of bond revenues, private giving and deferred maintenance funds to launch \$30 million worth of building and campus improvement projects this summer. It was money that could not be used to mitigate cuts in operating budgets, but could make a dent in the lengthening list of campus capital needs.

The typically quiet summer days were full of activity as workers took on the old (steampipe replacements under the Oval), the new (a walkway and “green space” project known as Lindburg Plaza), and the historic (careful refurbishing of Porter Hall).

The construction of a new residence hall began in July, with a completion date of summer 2010. The work improved approximately 15 areas across campus and created about 200 jobs for construction workers and tradesmen.

Funding for the projects came from a variety of sources, including bond revenues, private giving and deferred maintenance funds from the state.



Porter Hall

Construction, construction, everywhere!

“It all happened to come together around the same time, which has allowed us to have a very productive summer,” said Paul Stewart, director of facilities planning. “The work will impact students in many different ways, whether it be an enhanced living and campus environment or an improved classroom. These projects have resulted in a significant improvement to the facilities on campus.”

In addition to the work on Porter Hall, the completion of Lindburg Plaza and the new Student Health Center, and the groundbreaking for a new residence hall, the summer projects also included:

- The launch of \$12 million worth of major renovations to residence halls. This summer, Bowen Hall received new bathrooms, lounges, and a laundry area. Hallways and rooms received new flooring, ceilings, lights, windows and interior doors. Similar work on other dorms, including

Tanner, Trout, Nation, and Dellinger Halls, as well as Tanner Annex, will continue over the next few summers.

- Partial roof replacements, and new air conditioning units, windows and doors on several buildings.
- Approximately \$300,000 worth of work to the Wilkinson Alumni Center and the addition of nearly 500 new bleacher seats with backs in the mezzanine of John Lance Arena, along with new doors for the fieldhouse.
- Multiple physical plant improvements, ranging from the steam pipe replacement to a chiller used to cool portions of Whitesitt Hall.
- Remodeling of multiple departmental offices across campus. •

Site for new residence halls



Lindburg Plaza construction





Owings



Fuchs



Overman



Heckert



Harbeston

Alumni remember...

My Favorite Teachers

In the spring issue of the magazine, we asked our readers to tell us about the teachers who made a difference for them at PSU. The response, from alumni of all generations, reminds us that warm and caring faculty are at the heart of what makes Pittsburg State University a special place.

Next issue:

Campus Capers!

Whenever Pittsburg State University alumni gather, conversations often turn to practical jokes and pranks that seem to be second nature to college-age kids. Now it is time for you to share your favorites with the rest of the Gorilla family. Send us your favorite memories of pranks and practical jokes and we'll publish them in the spring issue. As always, photos are appreciated. **Send your submissions** to the Office of Public Relations, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS, 66762, or by e-mail to psumag@pittstate.edu.

Joyce Howard Johnson (BS '52)

It must have been the spring semester 1949 when my friend Barbara and I were enrolling for classes. Of course it was the old fashioned way, going from table to table to sign up.

We arrived at the table to sign up for History of Civilization, a required course, as I remember. As we were leaving, the man who had enrolled us casually asked Barbara if she knew who would be her professor, to which she answered, "Some old toad, I guess." And we scurried on to the next table.

When we entered the classroom on the first day, who should be in front of the class but the man who had done the enrolling. When the seats were filled, he turned to the board and wrote, in very large letters, his name: Dudley T. Cornish, and then he whirled around, and with a big grin said, "And the T, Miss Price, does not stand for Toad."

Dr. Cornish was my all-time favorite professor, no matter what college or university I attended. He remains in my

memory after all these years. *My last name was Meadows at that time. I entered KSTC as Joyce Howard and now my name is Joyce Howard Johnson and I am a retired teacher.*

PS: What does the T stand for?
The T, Ms. Johnson, stands for Taylor – editor.

Cheryl Sullivan (BBA '82)

Cheryl remembers her adviser, Dr. Guy Owings:

His guidance was very helpful over the years, including assistance with scholarship applications. As I got close to graduation and was getting prepared for the on-campus interviews, I needed some advice as to how to explain a potentially disastrous item on my transcript. My initial enrollment at PSU was in one night class, and resulted in an academic dismissal from school. At the time of my initial enrollment, I was a 17-year-old high school graduate with no driver's license, living on my own, working full-time to support myself. After a month of

finding it impossible to get back and forth to campus, I ultimately just stopped attending class. After a few years, I was able to return, initially as a part-time student and later on a full-time basis until graduation. Dr. Owings suggested that by full disclosure of my story, I could turn a very unsuccessful start at PSU into a positive story. His counsel served me well, and one of those on-campus interviews led to a lengthy and very successful career with Amoco.

Shirley Palmer (BS '65)
Names that come to my mind are Dr. Harbeston (he supervised my student teaching); Dr. Timmons, (he taught several administration courses) Ms. Campbell (Horace Mann, 3rd grade); Dr. Baker, Dr. Jack Barnett who had so much common sense. I really enjoyed his courses. Other names that come to mind are Perva Hughes and Joyce Hudiburg. As an alumna, I served as the national president of the Alumni Association in 2005-2006. I enjoyed traveling with and



Cornish



Haggard



Zurek



Strawn



Thomas

working with Dr. Tom Bryant and the alumni director, Mindy Cloninger, promoting PSU.

Kellie Borders (BSBA '06)
Kellie remembers two members of the faculty who were a big influence on her life:

I met Dr. Kevin Bracker my junior year; he taught my first course in business finance. Dr. Bracker was the type of professor that everyone wants in the classroom. He was also my assigned adviser and helped me think through many options regarding my future. Even while I made the decision that the world of investments wasn't for me, Dr. Bracker supported my internship in auditing. Dr. Bracker was a great influence while I was at Pitt and beyond. As friends on Facebook, I can

update Dr. Bracker on what's new in my life, as well as catch up on what's new with him and his family. Thanks for everything, Dr. Bracker!

Kelli also remembers Dr. Craig Fuchs:

Dr. Fuchs, affectionately known as just "Fuchs" to us band members, was the first professor I knew at PSU. As an incoming freshman, I arrived a week early to prepare for band camp as a member of the Pride of the Plains Marching Band. Fuchs immediately demanded focus, hard work and attention to detail from everyone. Learning new songs and marching for hours was a tough task, but the sense of

accomplishment after just that first football game was amazing! Fuchs inspired everyone to do their best; that work ethic remained with me throughout college and into my professional career. Thanks, Dr. Fuchs!

Mike Sullivan (MS '79)
Jack Overman hired me in the summer of 1976. I arrived in Pittsburg as a brash, cocky young man who thought he knew everything about student unions and programming activities. Jack soon taught me how little I really knew. I worked for Jack for five years and treasure the memory.

Jack was enough of an inspiration to me that I still work in student affairs,

holding the position of student union director at Tulsa Community College.

Jack has remained a dear friend and valued part of my life. It is always a joy to visit with him. Jack has inspired my wife and me with his generosity to the university. Following his example we have endowed a scholarship for students involved in student government or another student organization housed within the Overman Student Union.

Brooke Boaz, Pharm.D. (BS '03)
Dr. Dan Zurek in the biology department will forever earn my respect as an inspiring professor and a motivating
(see My Favorite Teachers, pg. 19)

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My Favorite Teachers (from pg. 17)

adviser. Although I had him for more than one class, Dr. Zurek always kept me engaged, constantly challenged me and took a genuine interest in my success. I will never forget the time I was disgruntled after taking an exam I knew I should have done better on. Dr. Zurek saw me on campus later that day and reassured me it was just a bump in the road and gave me tips on how to better prepare myself for

the next one. He definitely played a role in my decision to pursue grad school; a decision I am extremely happy I made. Thanks Dr. Zurek!

Guy Sutherland (BS '57)

Guy Sutherland writes from his home in Bartlesville, Okla., that there are several faculty members he recalls fondly from his days on campus:

I had many wonderful teachers. Each of them treated students like family and worked alongside us to develop our abilities.

I remember my chemistry classes and Dr. Heckert, who was chair of the department. He would drop by the lab and actually work with me on experiments until I fully understood them.

Dr. Robertson Strawn, chair of English, and Mr. Francis Short were my debate coaches and we spent many hours at their homes working on the debate topic each year and then many days on trips to represent KSTC.

Dr. J.D. Haggard, in math, and Dr. M.J. Little, financial

VP, were the faculty advisers to my fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and they worked closely with me during the year I served as chapter president. I took most of my math from Dr. Haggard and he was always ready to stay after class to assist.

Dr. Ralf Thomas, Business Department chair, was always available to answer questions from our business classes. He would restate your question in a different way and many

(see My Favorite Teachers, pg. 40)

Leaving a Legacy

Robert Barry died in 1990. Bernice Barry died in 2001. This year they helped 12 students, like Marcus and Emily, realize their dreams of a college education.

Robert & Bernice Barry spent the 53 years of their marriage in Southeast Kansas. They believed deeply in helping area students better themselves through education. To ensure that future generations of high school students could earn a college degree, they included a bequest for scholarships to the Pittsburg State University Foundation in their will.

Thanks to the Barry's, more students will receive a world-class education at PSU for generations to come.

For more information on how you, too, can leave a lasting legacy by including the PSU Foundation in your will or other estate plan please contact Shawn Naccarato, 620-235-4863, snaccara@pittstate.edu.

Meats serves as interim dean; Patterson interim chairperson

After heading up the Department of English at Pittsburg State University for the past 19 years, Dr. Stephen Meats is stepping into the role of interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Meats replaces Dr. Lynette Olson, who is serving the university this year as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, a position previously held by now-president Steve Scott. A search to fill the provost's position will take place later this academic year.



Meats



Patterson

This is Meats' second stint filling in as dean of the college. He served as acting dean for one semester back in 1983 during a search for a new president.

At the same time, Dr. Celia Patterson, professor and director of technical/professional writing, will step in as interim chairwoman of the English Department.

Doing double duty

One of the ways the university is coping with major budget cuts is by asking veteran staff to temporarily take on additional responsibilities.

For the current academic year, Dr. Craig Fuchs, chairman of the Department of Music, will also serve as acting chairman of the Department of Art. Dr. Bobby Winters, assistant to the dean, will serve as the acting chairman of the Department of Chemistry. Winters

is also a member of the faculty in the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Tim Flood, chairman of the Mathematics Department, is serving as interim chairman of Physics.

"The role of chairperson of a department is time consuming and often very difficult," said Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Lynette Olson. "Pittsburg State University is very fortunate to have persons with talent and experience who are willing to take on these additional responsibilities in these extraordinary times."

Dept. of Defense honors Nursing Department

The U.S. Department of Defense has recognized the way PSU's Department of Nursing has worked to help students who are also soldiers. The DOD awarded the department its national Patriot Award, which is given to employers and supervisors who go above and beyond to help military personnel achieve success in civilian life.

Senior nursing major Cortney Prezel, who graduated in May, and is a member of the 190th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) with the Air Force, nominated the PSU program for the award.

In the midst of her junior year, Prezel received word that she was being deployed to Iraq. Realizing she'd be returning six weeks late into her senior year, Prezel turned to the nursing faculty to see if there was anything she could do to stay on schedule.

"I was so scared I'd be put on the three-year program because of this," said Prezel, who transferred to Pitt State with an associate's degree after hearing good things about the program. "After all this work with my classmates, I really wanted to finish with them."

The faculty worked with Prezel to make it happen. Prezel took on double coursework, racing through the already



Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto and Cortney Prezel

heavy demands of studies, exams and clinicals with the help of professors and her fellow students.

Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto, department chairwoman, said the extra effort was worthwhile.

"When a student has gone to that kind of effort to recognize you, it validates what you do as a faculty member," Pomatto said. "She fulfilled a tremendous obligation on behalf of the rest of us, and to know she would graduate on time, and to be honored for helping her do that, was a wonderful moment for our entire department."

Experience opened a world of possibilities

Recent graduate Crystal Pihl has always had educational interests that reached far beyond



Pihl

her Midwest home. But it wasn't until she began her education at PSU that the windows of the world truly opened.

For Pihl, who finished her degrees in international studies and Spanish in May, it started out with a college roommate from South Korea and fascinating international conversation groups. Before long, she was hitting the road: spending a semester in Finland, taking a trip with

the College of Business to Kazakhstan, and searching for humanitarian internships in Latin America.

That's when opportunity really came knocking.

Pihl got in touch with the International Organization for Sustainable Development, which recommended her for an internship with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

"You learn so much in school, but I really didn't know how the UN process worked and why it does what it does until I was there," Pihl said. "And the help my friends gave me - I wouldn't have had the same experience if it weren't for the friendships with international students I met at PSU."

Pihl, who recently returned to NYC to search for a humanitarian position that will allow her to help fight human trafficking, says her opportunities to get out into the world have taken her on a path she'd never dreamed.

"The international student representation here on campus was invaluable for me," she said. "Those relationships have changed my life forever."

Broadcast students win big

Student broadcasters from PSU took home 17 state awards, including nine for first place, at the Kansas Association of Broadcasters' annual banquet, held in Topeka.

"This university prides itself on giving students an opportunity to succeed," said Dr. Troy Comeau, director of broadcasting. "When that success is recognized it makes our entire PSU family very proud."

Students from PSU competed against students from all other colleges and universities in the state. In addition to the first place awards, PSU students received three second-place awards and five honorable mention awards this year.

Learning from the ancients

Dr. Cynthia Woodburn, mathematics, spent part of her sabbatical learning from the ancient Egyptians. She has already put some of what she learned to work in the classroom.

Woodburn went to Egypt with about 30 others on a Mathematical Association of America mathematical study tour.

"I gathered a lot of information which will be useful in teaching History of Mathematics as well as other classes," said Woodburn. "I also took many



Woodburn

pictures which will be incorporated into lectures."

It is working. One student wrote, "I appreciate the historical insights and travel stories you've offered. That kind of information makes math click for me."

Bugs, plants, and animals: Nature Reach camp gets kids outdoors

For children in the Nature Reach Summer Day Camp this summer, the whole world was their classroom. The camp was held at the Natural History Reserve, a conservation area just west of Pittsburgh. Students in the camp, all fifth graders, learned about everything from bugs to birds to identifying different types of plants.

"We've always wanted to do something like this, to be able to immerse kids in nature. Now that we have this facility, we're able to do that," said Nature Reach Coordinator Delia Lister. "The nice thing about this age group is that you can get into more advanced things."

"This has been a really good experience for me," said Riley Zerr, a camp participant. "I'm becoming more interested in the details of nature and learning that you have to work with nature and not against it. Now bugs aren't so gross."

For information on Nature Reach, call 620-235-4727 or go to www.pittstate.edu/departments/naturereach/index.dot.



Fifth graders had the opportunity to get up-close and personal with nature during the Nature Reach Summer Day Camp.



John Lowe

Successful alumnus gives back

In April, John Lowe spent part of his day in classrooms in the Kelce College of Business. This is just one of the ways that Lowe, a ConocoPhillips executive, is giving back to his alma mater.

Lowe was on campus to accept the Brandenburg Medallion for extraordinary achievement and to deliver the Brandenburg Lecture. Now an assistant to the ConocoPhillips CEO, Lowe is the former executive vice president of exploration and production for the company.

At the conclusion of his lecture, which he delivered in McCray Hall, Lowe surprised the audience with the announcement of a \$100,000 gift to endow scholarships in honor of Guy Owings, professor emeritus from the Department of Accounting. Lowe said Owings went beyond anything he expected to help him earn the accounting degree that opened doors for him with ConocoPhillips.

In his lecture, Lowe reflected on his time at Pittsburg State and also on the key values he believes have been the foundation of his success.

"As I walked on campus today," Lowe

said, "the memories came flooding back of all the great days I spent here."

Originally from Oskaloosa, Iowa, Lowe found his way to Pittsburg State because of football and Coach Ron Randleman.

"I fell in love with the campus on day one," Lowe said. "I knew immediately that this was the place for me."

Lowe said he told the students he spoke to today that there are several important factors that are keys to success, but the most important was "honesty, integrity and credibility." He put most of the blame on the current economic problems on a lack of those three characteristics.

Lowe said it was also important to be willing to work hard, to embrace change and to communicate well.

He also said it is important to seek balance in one's life.

Lowe, who lives in Houston, Texas, was accompanied by his wife, Susan (BBA 1981), and members of his family. Previous winners of the Brandenburg Medallion are Kansas Gov. Bill Graves and Lee Scott, former CEO of Wal-Mart. The medallion is awarded to persons who have made "significant contributions and who are recognized

for extraordinary achievement in their particular field of endeavor. The recipients may make their mark in business, government, education, public service, or one of the other endeavors that make our society great. The recipients do not have to be graduates of Pittsburg State University."

The Brandenburg Medallion is named after William A. Brandenburg, president of PSU from 1913 to 1940, who supervised the school as it grew from a manual training normal school to a four-year college offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Brandenburg also served as president of the American Association of Teachers Colleges and the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

'Jungle Journey' helps prepare students

To entice students to take advantage of all the ways PSU can prepare them to have well-rounded social, cultural and leadership skills, the College of Business is rolling out a new program that puts greater expectations on business majors.

This fall, the college introduced "Jungle Journey," a program that requires business students to get more involved on campus. Students receive a handbook with a jungle-designed map on the inside, complete with "stops" they must check off during their time at PSU. Jungle Journey requires them to attend activities that teach them about resumé building, searching for jobs, learning business etiquette, and attending cultural events, among others.

"We're trying to give them an incentive to get better prepared for the job market," said Lynn Murray, professor in marketing and management. "We also want them to take advantage of opportunities that will enable them to have richer lives."

For more information on the program, contact Murray at lmurray@pittstate.edu.

Another man's treasure

For Felix Dreher, hearing someone refer to an aging computer as "old" is just code for "golden opportunity."

"You don't say that a 1950s Rolls Royce is old, you call it a classic," said Dreher, who chairs the Department of Computer Science & Information Systems. "Students have to have the ability to master the new and the classic. They need to know how to operate legacy systems."

In today's world of rapidly changing technology, using a 10-year-old computer may seem like a throwback to another time. But to Dreher, who acquires used computers from all over campus, their value is immense. In the past few years, he's collected about 75 computers that he's refurbished and set up in labs, simultaneously saving the department money and teaching computer students a thing or two about older models they may run into in business.

"We bring the computers into our shop, install new systems, and give them a second life," he said. "If you're a business and you have a perfectly good system that's doing its job despite being several years old, how important is it for you to find someone that is willing and able to work on it? Especially in a tight economy – it may be old, but it's still a viable product."

Students get hands-on experience investigating fraud

Two academic departments gave their students a rare opportunity this spring to work with the IRS investigating fraud cases.

The Adrian Project, a series of simulated, financial crime investigations conducted under the guidance of federal agents, stopped by the Kansas Technology Center to offer students a hands-on experience in solving crime.

A partnership between the



Students give a PC new life.

Departments of Social Sciences and Accounting, as well as the IRS Criminal Investigation unit, made the project possible. Students participating in the Adrian Project were invited to assume roles on a mock investigative team. The students received intense training on interviewing subjects and witnesses, surveillance techniques, analysis of documents and financial records, writing affidavits for search and arrest warrants, as well as being part of an undercover investigation. They were also given the opportunity to learn about employment in the field of financial investigation. Nearly 30 students with accounting and justice studies majors or fraud examination minors participated.

After completing different scenarios including a money laundering investigation and a federal fraud case, students went through a debriefing and graduation ceremony.

Dr. David O'Bryan, accounting professor, said the project served to bridge two disciplines: "It really helped the students tie law enforcement and business/accounting together."

Accounting majors get experience through free tax prep program

With students tightening their belts to adjust to a rough economy, a free tax service offered this spring through the Department of Accounting may be just what the financial adviser ordered.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offered at PSU is set to run again from early February to April 15. The program, which offers free tax assistance and filing, is available to students and to community members who meet income guidelines. VITA is offered in Kelce Hall 105.

Each spring, a number of accounting majors cut their tax preparation teeth by volunteering for the program. The IRS provides thousands of dollars of tax preparation software for the program each year. Rebekah Heath, director of VITA, said students will be working to increase advertising efforts in order to serve more people this spring.

"The community is wonderful in the way they support the university, and this is our way of giving back," Heath said. "We're anticipating a large crowd this year."

For more information on VITA, contact Heath at 620-235-6197.

SIFE does well at nationals

The Students in Free Enterprise organization at PSU is celebrating another success after the group took first runner-up in May in the opening round of the National Exposition in Philadelphia.

The group participated in the competition after being selected as regional champions earlier this spring. At nationals, they competed against teams from Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, California, Nebraska, and Maine. They received a trophy and a scholarship that will be used for SIFE projects this year.

The competition consisted of a formal, 25-minute presentation covering the projects and successes of the SIFE teams over the past year. More than 100 teams competed at the National Exposition.

The last time PSU SIFE placed at nationals was in 2005, when the team received a second runner-up award in the opening round. In 2001, SIFE was one of the top 16 teams.

Two enter Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame

The Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame has inducted two PSU graduates who have had exemplary careers in education.

Alma Cook, an elementary school teacher from the Baxter Springs School District who retired last year, and Rex Babcock, a math teacher and chairman of the math department at the Chanute Senior High School, were both welcomed into the organization this year. Both traveled to Dodge City this summer for a luncheon and the induction ceremony, in which eight teachers from across the state were honored. Nominees are eligible after 25 years in the industry.

In a touching gesture, Cook, whose husband and sons all work in education, was presented with her award by her son Dr. Phillip Cook, superintendent of the Carl Junction (Mo.) School District. Babcock received his award from Kent Wire, principal of Chanute Senior High and fellow PSU grad. Both Babcock and Cook have received numerous professional honors during their careers.

"It's a nice feeling to be recognized. It makes you feel everything you did had a purpose," Cook said. Babcock agreed: "I have no regrets about being a teacher and spending my life that way."



Cook



Babcock

Phillips Awards recognize students, teachers and faculty

Dr. Jamie Wood had no shortage of supporters when he was honored this spring with the college's Excellence in Teaching Award. The award was presented at the 34th annual Clyde U. Phillips awards and scholarship ceremony.

Wood, an associate professor in psychology and counseling whose research interest lies in the area of disorders such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), was praised for his work both in and out of the classroom. His teaching skills are consistently ranked high by students, and he is also regularly published for his writings. Wood was also selected for his service to school districts in which he operates a screening service for students suspected of having ADHD.

"When you call on Dr. Wood, he's not only willing to help, but he does it with a good attitude," said College of Education Dean Andy Tompkins.

Also at the ceremony, scholarships worth more than \$160,000 were awarded to 95 students. Four of this year's PSU education graduates - Gloryanna Boge, Courtney Howard, Krista Nucci and Taurean Staten - were named Teachers of Promise. Joni Benso and Joy Crockett took home Outstanding Educator Awards, while Lorna Belew and David DeMoss received Distinguished Service Awards.

The awards are named after Clyde U. Phillips, a PSU graduate who went on to complete his career in education as the superintendent of schools in Hays, Kan. He left a substantial amount of money in his will to be given to PSU education students in the form of scholarships.



Wood

Grads earn honors for educational leadership

Two PSU graduates have earned top honors in their states this year for educational leadership.

Kerry Sachetta, who has been the principal of Joplin (Mo.) High School for seven years, was named Missouri High School Principal of the Year by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals after being named as the nominee for the state's southwest district, which is represented by more than 300 principals. Sachetta, who has three degrees in education from PSU, sits on the PSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, teaches occasional courses as an adjunct instructor, and is a past winner of the Clyde U. Phillips Award and the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Steve Jameson, the principal of Columbus High School in Columbus, Kan., has been named Kansas High School Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals. Jameson, who finished his bachelor's degree at PSU in 1987, has been with the district for 13 years, serving nine of those as principal. In 2006, he was named Area II Principal of the Year by the state.

Both men will travel to Washington, D.C., in October to attend the Metlife/NASSP National Principal of the Year program and to be recognized at the 2009 Principals' Institute and Awards Banquet.



Sachetta



Jameson

First graduates complete Paraguay Program

This past spring, the PSU in Paraguay Program hit a major milestone when it celebrated the graduation of its first participants.

Spearheaded by the College of Education, the program brings students from Paraguay to Pitt State to complete four-year degrees. The program was initiated in 2005 after a review of the 1968 Kansas Paraguay Partnership (KPP), part of Partners of Americas program formed under President Kennedy's administration.

The three graduates - Analia Saldivar, Maria Ferreira, and Jasmine Ramirez - all from Asuncion, Paraguay, finished their years at PSU with high marks, resumes of campus involvement and leadership opportunities, and plans to attend graduate school.

"There are things you don't truly understand when you're living in the bubble of home," said Ramirez, who is now studying at the University of Salamanca in Spain. "I think this program is wonderful for the youth of Paraguay. It is successful and is changing futures."

"For me, the experience has been so great because of the people," Ferreira said. "Compared to what we have at home, there are unlimited opportunities here."

This year, PSU is hosting nearly 40 students from Paraguay. Dr. Alice Sagehorn, professor in curriculum and instruction, heads up the program and says it has been invaluable not only to students, but also to the 25 professors who have internationalized their curricula by teaching in Paraguay.



Analia Saldivar, Maria Ferreira, and Jasmine Ramirez

Professor recognized for victims' rights work

Professor Julie Allison, psychology and counseling, has been honored with the Community Champion Award, which recognizes a community member or group that has made a significant difference for victims in their community. Allison received the award from Kansas Attorney General Steve Six at the 12th annual Crime Victims' Rights conference held in April.

"Dr. Allison is well-known locally, as well as across the nation, as a powerful force in stopping violent crime and serving victims," Six said.

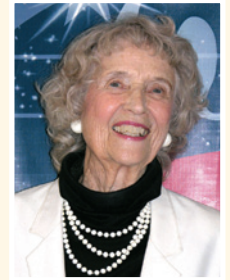
In addition to her teaching duties, Allison is director of the PSU Office of Violence Response and Prevention. She serves as a member of the Crawford County Domestic Violence Task Force and president of the community's Sexual Assault Prevention Committee "SE KS is Safely Educating Our Kids." She is also a past board member of the Crisis Resource Center and has served on many other boards and committees in her quest to stop violence.



Allison

LA alum a pioneer

A PSU alumnus with more than 50 years of teaching experience is being credited as the first college instructor in the U.S. to develop and teach a speech class for foreign students.



Spilios

Jane Baxter Spilios, who graduated with a degree in education in 1941, has taught at Los Angeles City College since 1946. After teaching both physical education and English, she transferred to the speech department in 1949 and quickly learned how popular the college was for students learning English.

"These were degreed, educated people who could read and write English, but couldn't speak it very well," she said. "The chairman asked me, 'Can't we do something?' and so we did."

Baxter Spilios began by asking her students to pronounce "thank you," and found a variation of the "th" sound - everything from "z" to "s" to "d." After working with students to manipulate their mouths and breath, she found the keys. Over time, she wrote a book on the subject, "Improve Your Spoken English," which is still in print and has now sharpened the speaking expertise of thousands of students. At 89, she still teaches at the college twice a week.

"I call English a 'spit-out' language because you have to use your lips and project," she said. "Students come to the language with different problems, but it's so rewarding. I still get calls from all over the world, telling me how the class made a difference in their success."

Tech students donate doghouses to lucky pooches

A few lucky dogs received new, customized homes this year, thanks to the work of several technology education majors.

Students in Mike Neden's Construction Systems class donated the doghouses to the families who adopted the animals, after building them throughout the spring semester.

"We were looking for a smaller building project," said Neden, associate professor of technology studies. "Students really enjoyed the fact that they were doing something good for the community. It was a good project because everyone wins."

After meeting the two dogs that were soon to be adopted from the Southeast Kansas Humane Society, students got a feel for their size and needs and began building the doghouses, which featured flip-up roofs for easy cleaning, well-insulated walls, and a Pitt State paint job. Name tags were laser-cut into the shape of bones and attached to the houses.

The dogs, which were adopted last spring, visited PSU in May for a tour of their new homes.

"When the dogs were adopted, the owners knew they would be coming with a doghouse," Neden said, giving thanks to Home Depot, which provided discounted materials. "This was a great experience for the students. It's definitely something we'll try again."

New Department of Construction launches with plans for "greener" education

Moving quickly to enhance one of the most impressive construction education centers in this part of the country, the new Department of Construction Management and Construction Engineering Technologies (CMCET) at Pittsburg State University is celebrating their official launch this fall with "green" educators and cutting-edge technology for students.

As part of the department's plan to incorporate green and sustainable construction practices into the curriculum, five CMCET faculty members recently completed the difficult Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional (AP) examination, which provides a set of performance standards for certifying the design and construction phases of commercial, institutional and high-rise buildings. The LEED AP evaluates and accredits knowledge about green building design and construction and the entire LEED application process for buildings. Many general contractors hire LEED APs to manage their

green/LEED certified projects. Faculty members Shannon Nicklaus, Bill Strenth, Justin Honey, Seth O'Brien and James Otter passed the examination.

The CMCET Department next will work to incorporate the Green Associate accreditation as part of the current required CMCET 691 Professional Certification Seminar course.

Already handling some of the largest enrollment on campus at 350+ majors, the department is getting a lot of help in the area of equipment from both congressionally directed grants and industry friends. Recent additions include a new 120,000-lb. universal testing machine, a hydraulic soil compactor, two robotic total stations, three GPS rovers and a base station, TEKLA software, new estimating software, a plumbing/mechanical connections display, and a cement storage silo. A new 40-seat computer-based estimating and construction management computer lab, funded primarily by student technology fees, is almost complete, and will facilitate the incorporation of 4D/5D BIM and 3D site modeling into the curriculum.

The CMCET Department, which parted from the Department of Engineering Technology after experiencing overwhelming growth in enrollment, now houses the current four-year degrees in construction management and construction engineering technology, a safety minor, as well as a bachelor of applied science degree with an emphasis in construction for students transferring with an associate's degree. The department also co-offers an online master's degree in engineering technology. Future plans for the curriculum include new construction emphasis areas and the conversion of the safety minor into a four-year degree.

To contact the department, call 620-235-6555 or go to www.pittstate.edu/departments/construction.edu.



A puppy soon to have a new home seems excited about his bright, new dog house.

Experience meets service

A program that has benefitted organizations throughout Southeast Kansas with \$1 million worth of construction work is giving the students behind it valuable experience, as well.

This spring, construction management students took part once again in what is becoming a ritual for the Department of Construction Management and Construction Engineering Technologies. Students took the reins on an ongoing construction project from a group of graduating seniors. In the past, this collaboration between classes has led to the construction of restrooms, shelter houses, suspended cable bridges, and a bridge meant to accommodate emergency vehicles. This spring, the most recent class completed a garage located at the Plagens Conservation Area near Pittsburg, as well as a shelter at Elm Acres, a youth and family services facility.

The work is especially helpful for construction management students who are learning how to lead teams of workers (made up of underclassmen). Determining what materials need to be ordered and developing work schedules are an important part of what they'll soon do on the job.

"I think it's a great opportunity," said

one student. "Not every graduating senior can say they were able to be a part of something like this. With this we're leaving something behind for years."

Jim Otter, chairperson of CMCET, said hands-on experience is an essential part of the PSU curriculum.

"Higher education is often locked into theory and not enough practice," Otter said. "This is similar to an education major's semester-long practicum. We have the students assume leadership roles and then do most activities that they would assume once they graduate. It's had a tremendous benefit for them and for the community."

COT granted \$285,000 for equipment

The PSU College of Technology received \$285,000 for new equipment and technology through a Congressionally directed grant.

"This is equipment that allows us to stay as leading as possible in areas throughout the college," said Dr. Bruce Dallman, dean of the College of Technology. "We have little other money for equipment. Some dollars do come from student fees, but it doesn't come in blocks like this. This allows us to have transformational changes in equipment."

Departments such as Graphics and Imaging Technologies will feel a greater impact from the grant, according to Dallman. GIT is adding a variable data digital press, two digital cameras and major software upgrades.

"One of the additional things I think is important to know is our excellent track record of leveraging federal gifts with partners in business and industry," Dallman said.

Equipment purchased through this grant will join the \$17 million in equipment already in the Kansas Technology Center, much of which has been donated by business and industry.

"This is a real asset to the state," Dallman said.

PSU hosts conference for metal casting professionals

The College of Technology hosted the 9th annual Investment Casting Certification Program, a world-class event for investment casting professionals, this summer.

Participants were invited from member companies of the Investment Casting Institute from around the United States, and some of those companies have worldwide connections.

Russ Rosmait, university professor of engineering technology, said the conference draws "participants from all over the world."

Twenty-two industry professionals traveled to PSU for this year's camp, which gets metal casting professionals up-to-speed on the latest information in the industry.

For more information, call the Department of Engineering Technology at 620-235-4350.



Students put their knowledge and skills to work for community service.



PSU grads take top MIAA honors

A pair of recent PSU graduates –All-American football player Caleb Farabi and three-time national champion track & field distance star Venessa Lee– each captured 2008-09 Ken B. Jones Award honors as the MIAA's male and female student-athlete of the year.



Farabi



Lee

Farabi, a Pittsburg native, graduated from PSU in December with a 3.78 GPA as a management major.

Lee, from Cleveland, Mo., graduated from Pitt State in May with a 3.83 GPA as a dual biology (pre-medicine) and Spanish major.

It marks the first time in the 16-year history of the award that student-athletes from the same school received the honor in the same academic year. Pittsburg State University has produced an MIAA-leading eight Ken B. Jones Award winners since the honor was initiated in 1994: Jenny Pracht, women's basketball, 1996; Brian Moorman, football/track & field, 1998-99; Leslie Dudley, women's basketball, 2000; Jeanette Mott, cross country/track & field, 2002; Ryan Meredith, football, 2007; Farabi, and Lee.

Judging for the Ken B. Jones Award is conducted in four areas: 2008-09 Athletics Accomplishments, 2008-09 Academics Accomplishments, 2008-09 Campus/Community Service and Career Athletics, Academics and Service Achievements.

Pitt State on top of academic list

PSU continues to lead the nation among NCAA Division II institutions at producing CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, following the completion of the 2008-09 academic year

Pittsburg State has produced 46 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans (as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America) since January 2000 to lead all Division II institutions.

To be eligible for CoSIDA Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must first earn first-team All-District honors following a vote of CoSIDA members in each district.

To qualify for nomination to the all-district ballot, a student-athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or better, have attended the school at least two terms, be at least a sophomore in athletic eligibility and be a starter or key reserve in their respective sport.

Seven enter Hall of Fame

PSU inducted seven individuals into its Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame during ceremonies on Friday, Sept. 4.

PSU's Class of 2009 was headlined by a pair of former All-Americans, football/track & field star Brian Moorman (1995-99) and basketball standout Marc Eddington (1996-97). Three-time All-MIAA performer Eric Miller, who helped the Gorillas efforts at restarting the school's baseball program from 1991-94, also joined the Hall of Fame. All-American heptathlete Busarind Rogers (1990-92), representing women's track & field, was inducted posthumously, along with former football standout and long-time PSU faculty member Col. E.W. "Bill" Hollenbeck as a meritorious achievement inductee. Additionally, Francis "Fritz" Snodgrass (1923-26),

a standout half-miler in track & field and later a decorated coach at Wichita East High School and Wichita State University was inducted in the Hall of Fame's "Legacy" category, along with ardent Gorilla supporter and long-time PSU employee Jack Overman. The Legacy category, created in 2005, focuses solely on individuals from the university's first 50 years (1903-53).



Women's basketball 10th nationally in home attendance

The Pittsburg State University women's basketball team ranked 10th among the NCAA Division II membership in home game attendance during the 2008-09 season.

The Gorillas averaged 1,412 fans in 13 home dates last season as Pitt State enjoyed a 10-3 home mark.

The Gorillas helped the MIAA lead Division II in attendance as well. PSU has nearly doubled its home attendance in the past two seasons.



Track & field honored

Three members of the PSU men's track & field program were named to the 2009 NCAA Division II Men's Track & Field All-Academic Team by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association on July 7.

Sophomore Mike Beeler, sophomore Ethan Hobbs and junior Alex Kuhlman all garnered the recognition.

Beeler completed the Spring 2009 semester with a 3.90 GPA as a chemistry major. The Overland Park, Kan., native earned NCAA-II All-America honors with a fourth-place showing in the javelin at the 2009 NCAA-II Outdoor Championships. Hobbs completed his second year at Pitt State with a 3.48 GPA in technology education. The Anderson, Mo., native placed 10th in the pole vault at the 2009 NCAA-II Indoor Championships in March. Kuhlman completed the spring 2009 semester with a 3.45 GPA in biology. The Ness City, Kan., native met the NCAA-II provisional standard in the triple jump during the 2009 outdoor season.

New athletics Web site

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Pittsburg State University recently launched a new version of its official Web site, www.pittstategorillas.com. The site continues to provide comprehensive coverage of the Gorillas' 13 varsity intercollegiate sports, as well as in-depth information regarding PSU Athletics. Now, the site also features a high-quality image that mirrors the brand identity of the school's home page.

New features to www.pittstategorillas.com include enhanced search capabilities and easy "one-click" site navigation. Also PSU Athletics has joined the social networking site Twitter to help alumni/fans stay connected with Gorilla happenings.

Volleyball receives academic award

The PSU volleyball team was one of 46 NCAA Division II programs to earn the 2008-09 Team Academic Award from the American Volleyball Coaches Association when the honors were released in July.

The award honors collegiate and high school volleyball teams that displayed excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale or a 4.10 cumulative team GPA on a 5.0 scale.



During the 2008-09 academic year, the Pitt State volleyball team compiled a 3.39 cumulative GPA. This marks the sixth time in Coach Ibraheem Suberu's tenure that Pitt State has earned the AVCA Team Academic Award.

PSU mourns death of 'Voice of the Gorillas'

Dr. Pete Hamilton, who joined the PSU faculty in 1972 and served for more than a quarter century as the public address "Voice of the Gorillas," died on Aug. 6. He was 65.

Hamilton first took the microphone as the public address announcer for athletics on Nov. 8, 1980, for the Gorillas' regular season finale against Emporia State University. He served in that capacity for 26 seasons, fittingly retiring after Pitt State's regular season finale against Emporia State on Nov. 10, 2007.

Hamilton came to the U.S. from his native Scotland at age 8. His family moved to Milwaukee, Wis., and he attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he earned a national championship in



Hamilton

debate during his collegiate days. He later earned his master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1967, and his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1972.

Hamilton began his career at PSU in 1972, when he was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Communication. He served as chairman of the department for 19 years.

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Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., Mark S. Hittner and Craig Cave.

Meritorious Achievement Award presented to three

Three alumni with diverse careers that span the fields of business, law and athletics, were awarded the 2009 Meritorious Achievement Award at Pittsburg State University during commencement activities May 15-16.

The PSU Alumni Association established the award in 1958 as the highest award based on career achievement. Candidates for the award have demonstrated substantial professional growth and advancement over an extended period of time. The candidate's activities, including participation and leadership in civic and professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels, are also considered by the awards committee in selecting the recipients.

This year's recipients are Craig Cave, founder of Technical Machine Sales, Inc., in Longview, Texas; the Honorable Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri; and Mark S. Hittner, a National Football League official and part-owner of a Kansas City-based financial services firm.

For complete biographies of the three Meritorious Achievement Award recipients, visit the Alumni Web site at www.pittstate.edu/audiences/alumni-friends.

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MS '90, EdS '97)
Joplin, Mo. Principal,
Joplin High School

David Torbett (BA '65,
BS '66, MS '70),
Independence, Kan.

Anita White (BA '89,
MS '92), Pittsburg, Kan.
Journalism Adviser,
Pittsburg High School





that we had with each other and with the university.”

Between 200-300 signed up for the four-day reunion, some coming from as far away as California and Virginia. Several, according to Donna Jackson Campbell Brice (BS 1968), were in their late 80s or early 90s.

In addition to renewing friendships, Huff said, the reunion was also designed to inspire young minority students, build networks and eventually to raise scholarship dollars.

The attendees, Huff said, were “professional people, successful people from all walks of life...who saw the value of education. We want to motivate students to stay in school or go back to school.”

Huff and Brice ticked off an impressive list of attendees that included doctors, lawyers, teachers, business executives, an opera singer and a dean from Howard University.

These successful alumni may be an inspiration to minority students and also the framework for a network of PSU alumni who can be of help to new graduates entering the workforce, Huff said.

Huff and Brice gave much of the credit for the Affiliates Pittsburg reunion to John L. Battles (BS 1971), a business administrator and developer from San Antonio, Texas. Battles, they said, was an enthusiastic promoter of the event.

In addition to the campus and community tours on Friday, the Affiliates Pittsburg reunion included golf, a gala dinner, tours and a Sunday church service, all in Kansas City.

For more on Affiliates Pittsburg, visit their Web site at www.affiliatespittsburg.com or contact Leslye Steptoe, director of student diversity at PSU, at 620-235-6556.



Fascinated youngsters learn about symphonic instruments at an unusual petting zoo.

Program opens a new world of music for children

Musicians with the Southeast Kansas Symphony gave the world-premiere performance of symphony for children in June. “Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin,” an award-winning book written by Lloyd Moss and the muse for a composition by John Ross, was the foundation for the performance designed for community children.

Presented by the PSU Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations along with the SEK Symphony, the performance was a way for young children to learn about different musical instruments while listening to classical music interwoven with the colorful story from the book. The 35-minute performance included narration from PSU communication professors Cynthia Allan and Gil Cooper.

Stella Hastings, conductor of the SEK Symphony, said she loved the idea of presenting a symphony for children.

“Anytime we can reach out to the community and let them know that classical music is for any person of any age and any income, it is a wonderful feeling,” Hastings said. “This is a great opportunity to help people understand that culture is for all of us.”

The family-friendly performance ended with an instrument “petting zoo,” in which the musicians allowed children to see and listen to the instruments up close.

What was his name?

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Letters

We always enjoy hearing from our readers, even when it is to point out an embarrassing grammatical error in a cutline, as several of you did following the last issue. Compliments and suggestions for stories you would like to see or suggestions for improving the magazine are always welcome, too. Send your letters to PSU Public Relations, 106 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762 or e-mail them to us at psumag@pittstate.edu.

To the editor:

Today, I just received the spring 2009 edition of your Pitt State magazine and was so taken with the photography of the campus I enjoyed from 1956 to 1960, when I graduated from KSTC. I was a freshman living in Lakeside Hall in 1956 (which is now gone) and prior to graduation in 1960 I lived in Shirk Hall. I was a dorm counselor during this period in both Lakeside and in Shirk. Dr. Ralph Wright was the Dean of Men and he interviewed several of us counselors to be his assistant. I was selected. Serving as the assistant dean as an undergraduate and for a semester as a graduate student before entering Naval Preflight in Pensacola, Fla., was the highlight of my educational life.

While living in Lakeview, we would often in winter ice skate on the lake. During spring, we would often study across the lake from the president's home. I do not recall any spring that seemed as beautiful as your picture! Are these red bud trees or perhaps some of them cherry trees planted there that look very similar to those along the basin in Washington, D.C., where I was stationed in the early '60s?

My congratulations to the photographer of the shot and to the grounds keepers that have done such an excellent job of their talents. I visited

Pittsburg on my return from a tour in Tokyo with the United States Forces Japan in 1980 and enjoyed a short visit to the university at that time. I enjoyed and appreciated the many changes that have been made but did not get to view the lake. I am now a retired Navy captain living in New Orleans (I just took GUS to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and hope to send a picture for your 'Where in the World is Gus' feature). I hope I will be able to visit the campus in the near future. I remain a loyal alum from KSTC/PSU and have on many occasions given blessings for the sound education I received there.

Francis L. Hesse, Capt. (USN) Ret.
New Orleans, La.

Thanks for your kind words! The trees in the photo are both redbud and flowering crab apple trees. The landscaping and grounds crew works hard to make sure the campus is beautiful in every season.
— *The editor*

To the editor:

The issue of Pitt State Magazine came yesterday and was a very good issue. I have always had close feelings for Pitt State since my mother and stepfather, Helen and Harry Hartman, were active in campus activities. When my mother was 43, since her daughters and sons-in-law had finished college, she started and went right through for a BS and an MS in business. She was secretary to President Rees Hughes for several years. Harry was a faculty member for 39 years. In those days, the faculty had a steak fry at College Lake every year and he cooked, which he enjoyed very much. When he retired, the building in which he taught was named for him. Keep the interesting magazine coming!!

Lida (Schasteen-Urquhart) Magness
(BA '49)

To the editor:

(I) Enjoyed reading the "ROTC cadets earn high honors at Ranger Challenge" in the Spring '09 issue. My congratulations to Major Stoner, and all the cadets who participated.

As an old Airborne/Ranger, I know full well that the Challenge will test the endurance and training skills of all who give it a try.

The PSU ROTC Department has a long tradition and record of excelling against its competition. I recall during the early to mid-60's, PSU had an enviable record of finishing first at ROTC Summer Camp at Ft. Riley. Many in my platoon from KU, Notre Dame, Purdue, Michigan State, and other much bigger colleges were puzzled about how the guys from that small college in southeastern Kansas kept taking home the Camp Trophy year after year. That record was a reflection of the outstanding active Army cadre who worked tirelessly to prepare us for our upcoming roles as junior officers.

I've read about how many colleges have dropped the Army ROTC program from their curriculum, due to political pressure and other campus priorities. It makes me proud to know that my alma mater is still training future military leaders who will go forward to protect our rights and freedoms.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Ehart
(BS '66) Edinburg, Va.

To the editor:

My friends enjoyed our Chevy Van story in your spring magazine. Martin Schifferdecker from Girard made the van loan way back when. The story brought a grin to his face, according to his son Mark. Ken Holt, president of Union State Bank-Uniontown, called to say, "Cool story!" You really did an excellent job editing my story. Well done!

Many Thanks!
Terry Puett (MBA '81)



Class of 1950

Leonard H "Len" Tunnell (BS) started his coaching and teaching career at PSU and Pittsburg High School, where he alternated with math teacher Earl Ludlum at Pittsburg High School. Then, Tunnell spent more than 30 years acting as a principal, athletic director, coach (3 sports), and teacher (physical education, sciences, and social studies), lastly in Miami, Okla. Tunnell retired and went into business activity. He started an engine repair business and wrote songs on the national and international level. He wrote poems distributed nationally and internationally, lastly and currently for Nobel House Publishers for worldwide distribution. Currently, Tunnell is in a personal business association with Mid-America Opportunity Research Enterprises, Inc., in Goessel and Wichita, Kan. Tunnell writes that he is "honored to be in your Veteran's Memorial at Pitt State, having served in five major campaigns in Europe during WWII."

Class of 1965

Loren Pontious (BS) retired in June from Edward B. Stephenson & Co., after more than 40 years of service. In recognition of his community service, Pontious was given the Community Cornerstone Award for June from CornerBank. The Community Cornerstone Award recognizes the time and effort of volunteers dedicated to serving people and enhancing the quality of life in Cowley County.

Class of 1974

Randy Cook (BS, MS '74) retired from teaching in Norfolk, Va., in 2002. He was on the track and cross country teams at PSU. Randy keeps busy umpiring tennis, coaching, and giving tennis lessons. He was selected as the Official of the Year for the Mid Atlantic section in 2005, National Grassroots Official of the Year in 2005, and Coach of the Year for Virginia for 2006. Randy married Debra Gleason

of Virginia Beach, Va., on May 23, 2009. Last year, Randy established a \$10,000 scholarship for track and field students. "I originally had it in my will but would rather see the money helping kids while I am still alive to see it!" Randy said.

Class of 1975

Kevin Carr (BSBA) was named interim president and chief executive officer by the KTEC Board of Directors in June. Carr, a 22-year veteran of KTEC, and the organization's former chief operations officer, was responsible for managing central administrative functions of the corporation. As an original member of KTEC, Carr managed seed capital, business development, university grant programs and strategic planning.

Class of 1979



John Farmer, right, with teammates.

John Farmer (MS) rode the El Tour de Tucson 109-mile bike ride Nov 22, 2008, for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. This was his fifth event for them. Farmer rode the 100-mile ride at Lake Tahoe twice and the Salisbury, M.D. Seagull 100 and did a sprint triathlon at Mt. Gretna, Pa. In all, he has raised just over \$20,000 for research to find a cure for blood diseases. John's family and friends have been hit with Leukemia and he writes that it has given him new goals in life. "In addition, it has kept me in pretty good shape as I train year round with my cycling buddy Denny Kapp, who is a survivor of Leukemia." Two weeks after the El Tour de Tucson, John turned 68. The picture is at the finish

line at the El Tour de Tucson. John is on the right and the other two are teammates Ted Reese (left) and Kui Kanthatham.

Class of 1997

Tyleen (Winterbower II) Caffrey (BS) graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss., on May 9, 2008, with a master's degree in social work, and a certification in nonprofit management from American Humanics. She was awarded a scholarship through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and was recognized as an American Humanics Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders Program (NextGen), a competitive internship scholarship/stipend program for American Humanics students. Following graduation, a military move brought her to Clovis, N.M. She is currently employed with the Air Force as the outreach manager in the Family Advocacy Program. She is also employed with the New Mexico Workforce Connections, providing social work services to low-income families. She continues public speaking engagements focusing on foster care awareness and is a member of the National Foster Care Alumni Association, and the National Association of Social Workers. In addition to her Social Work career, she co-hosts a morning radio show on 99.9 KTQM, and continues playing trumpet with the Clovis City Band. She is married to Technical Sgt. Edward Caffrey. They have three children: Jacob, Claire and Susan, and she has a son, Dalton, who resides in Missouri.



Shane Shinn (BSBA) has accepted a new position for Guardian Life as the western states regional director. Shane spent 11 years as a financial planner and a sales manager for Prudential Financial. His



most recent position was assistant vice president for Kansas City Life. Shane, a former resident of Fredonia, Kan., now makes his home in Olathe, Kan.

Class of 2000

Monica Bay (BSED) was named Joplin Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2009. Bay, originally from Coffeyville, teaches first grade at Jefferson Elementary School. She and her husband, Chad, have a son, Caden, who is 3.

Class of 2001

Alison Blackmore Bogart (BBA), Bogart Risk Auditing, LLC., was recognized by LEAD Brevard (Fla.) for LEAD Brevard's 5th Annual 4 Under 40 - Celebrating Brevard's Next Generation of Leaders recognition. The 4 under 40 event recognizes the achievements of Brevard County's young adults.

Dana Watts (BBA) accepted a summer internship at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in Geneva, Switzerland. Watts is a second-year law student at the University of Kansas. Watts conducted research and attended World Trade Organization sessions over the summer. The U.S. Trade Representative is a cabinet-level appointee responsible for the negotiation and enforcement of America's bilateral, regional and multi-lateral trade agreements with foreign governments.

Class of 2004

Brandon Schartz (BS Biology) was awarded a doctor of medicine degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine commencement exercises this past spring. Prior to entering his residency, Schartz plans to continue his education this fall in pursuit of a master of business administration degree.

Gary Wall (BSBA) was installed as president of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association at the group's annual convention in April in Topeka. Wall and his family own Carson-Wall Funeral Homes, which has businesses in Parsons, Girard, Erie and St. Paul. Wall serves as a senior trustee of the PSU Foundation. He lives in Parsons with his wife, Shirley. They have three grown children.

Class of 2005

David Levi Allison (BS Biology) in May received the degree of doctor of osteopathic medicine from the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Allison was also the recipient of the David B. Wheeler, D.O., Memorial Award in Pathology, which is presented in recognition of excellence in pathology and for continued commitment to advancing the field. Allison and his wife, Joslyn (Buck) Allison, have relocated to Illinois, where Allison was accepted into the pathology residency program at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago. Allison has also been promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

Amanda Richards (BMED) was named the Wyandotte (Okla.) 2009 teacher of the year. Richards teaches K-5 elementary music, middle school and high school choir.

Class of 2006

Kellie Borders (BS auditing) was recently awarded the Circle of Excellence award at Sprint.

The Circle of Excellence is the top annual performance award for non-commissioned, non-care employees below director. The Circle of Excellence recognizes employees who exemplify Sprint Imperatives and make significant contributions to our company's success. Employees considered for Circle of Excellence achieve specific, measurable results by demonstrating behaviors that support the Sprint Imperatives. They: exceed job expectations and customer expectations, deliver outstanding results in an innovative and creative way, foster an environment of teamwork and caring, and demonstrate a commitment to integrity.

Class of 2008

James Leifer (BS in automotive technology) and Katherine Thompson (BSEd) are engaged to be married on October 3, 2009. James proposed to Katherine the morning of the Fall Classic VII Game vs. NWMSU. They were both high school and (PSU) college sweethearts. After graduation, James accepted a job as a technical service engineer for Ford Motor Company in Detroit. Both currently reside in the Detroit metropolitan area.

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

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Share your news – births, weddings, promotions, etc. – and we'll put it in the next issue of the magazine.

**Submit class notes to:
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In Memory

(Deaths are reported based on information received from families or reported in local newspapers. Listed by date of graduation/attendance.)

Vetra (Hargis) Beringer, 1924,
Salina, Kan.
Pauline L. Potter, 1925
Agnes N. (Cropper) Lee, 1926,
Colusa, Calif.
Charles F. Yoe, 1926, Wichita, Kan.
Nellie N. (Ross) Hooper, 1927,
Thomas, Okla.
Thelma A. (Jemison) Hollowell, 1928
Maude E. Laney, 1928, Fort Scott, Kan.
Elmer D. Robinson, 1929
H. Harold Kelly, 1930
Lillian E. (Long) Knadle, 1930,
Independence, Kan.
Lois Myers Statton, 1930, Wichita, Kan.
Hazel (Stewart) Mendrick, 1931,
Edna, Kan.
Tracy W. (Masera) White, 1931
W. Dale Cole, 1932, Elyria, Ohio
Ernest Habeger, 1932
Avys Rae (Taylor) Hagman, 1932,
Fort Scott, Kan.
Helen Lortz, 1932, Washington, D.C.
Dorothy D. Hubbard, 1933,
Belen, N.M.
Alton M. Lockyear, 1933
Dorothy A. (Hill) Dent, 1934,
Prairie Village, Kan.
Sr. Mary Borromeo Donohue, 1934
Hildreth M. (Simons) Glotfelty, 1934,
Wichita, Kan.
Levert E. Enterline, 1934, Grove, Okla.
Shirley B. (Saunders) Grading, 1934,
Kansas City, Mo.
Deena M. (Newman) Cougher, 1935
Carol B. (Hales) Allen, 1936, Yuma, Ariz.
Beth M. (Holmes) Johnson, 1936,
Shawnee Mission, Kan.
Vivian A. (Foreman) Reece, 1936
J. Aileene (Kingsbury) Rotha, 1937,
Winfield, Kan.
Bill H. Munday, 1938,
Bullhead City, Ariz.
Agnes M. Smith, 1938, Cherryvale, Kan.

Olive M. (Stites) Smith, 1938,
Independence, Kan.
Floella Carol (Nowell) Ryan, 1939,
Westminster, Calif.
Jessie H. (Butler) Goodrich, 1939
Mary E. Zieger, 1939
Dorris H. Horley, 1940,
Kansas City, Kan.
Thelma G. Porter, 1940, Wichita, Kan.
Myra L. (Baker) Rataczak, 1940,
Joplin, Mo.
K. Lorene (Blake) Dougherty, 1941,
Muskogee, Okla.
Velma (Hagood) Harper, 1941,
Falls City, Neb.
Fred C. Perdue, 1941, Lubbock, Texas
Maryba Walje Dungans, 1942,
Shawnee, Kan.
William G. Trimmell, 1942,
Wamego, Kan.
Marian C. (Hart) Predmore, 1944,
Wichita, Kan.
Beth C. (Siron) Gump, 1945
Dorothy V. (Burger) Hasenplaugh,
1945, Brea, Calif.
Bertha G. (Pinon) Jacoby, 1946,
Vinita, Okla.
E. Louis Lechien, 1947,
Lee's Summit, Mo.
Victor E. McCabe, 1947,
Burlington, Kan.
Jack E. Tryon, 1947, Jamul, Calif.
Lenell M. Slaten, 1948,
Big Rapids, Mich.
Verle E. Hill, 1949,
Springs Village, Ark.
William E. Lassman, 1949,
Lawrence, Kan.
Donald C. Lynn, 1949
John B. Westfall, 1949,
Bartlesville, Okla.
Joseph W. Horton, 1950, Girard, Kan.
Isobel R. McKinley, 1950,
Laguna Beach, Calif.
Nita M. (Pearson) Waddle, 1950,
Joplin, Mo.
Lelus M. Brunell, 1951
Floyd J. Cortner, 1951,
Overland Park, Kan.

Marie A. Etter, 1951
Charles B. Ball, 1952, Duncan, Okla.
Mary M. Hendrix, 1952
Margaret J. Lloyd, 1952
M. Carmelita Stoerman, 1952
Bill M. Williams, 1952, Joplin, Mo.
Jack I. Frazier, 1953, Topeka, Kan.
Helen L. (Kerr) Jackson, 1953
Duane D. Lawellin, 1953, Joplin, Mo.
Eva (George) Taylor, 1953,
Neodesha, Kan.
Hattiebell (Winn) Christy, 1954,
Iola, Kan.
Dorothea L. Davis, 1954, Galena, Kan.
Joan F. (Saporito) Fitzgerald, 1954,
Albuquerque, N.M.
Robert Van Hoozer, 1955,
Lake Charles, Louisiana
Charles H. Smith, 1956,
Overland Park, Kan.
Arthur L. Bailey, 1957, Fort Scott, Kan.
Charles T. Bell, 1957,
Tullahoma, Tenn.
Laura A. (Roam) Gay, 1957
Z. Pearl (Donham) Hight, 1957,
Carthage, Mo.
Juanita J. (Harper) Howlett, 1957
Hilma G. (Nelson) Simmons, 1957
Edris L. (Dimmick) Bowersock, 1958,
Independence, Kan.
Robert M. Sneller, 1958, Neosho, Mo.
E. Earl Ventura, 1958, Paola, Kan.
Helen M. Carlson, 1959
Lucile R. (Stepp) Davis, 1959,
Parsons, Kan.
Virgie A. (Patton) Nash, 1959,
Greenfield, Mo.
Robert W. Oppenlander, 1959,
Denton, Texas
Ada R. (Pickens) Windal, 1959,
Bellevue, Wash.
Mary A. Frusher, 1960, Ness City, Kan.
Ida C. (Moore) Merwarth, 1960,
Brady, Texas
Veda L. (Thomas) Woodward, 1960,
Parsons, Kan.
Mary J. (Meadows) Heckathorn, 1961,
Miami, Okla.

continued



In Memory

Sybil Marguerite Lortz, 1961
 Velma G. (Swisher) Scott, 1962,
 Wichita, Kan.
 Marsha K. (Kaltenbach) Gross, 1964,
 Joplin, Mo.
 Glenn E. Loafman, 1964
 E. Horton Bolin, 1965, Caldwell, Kan.
 Gerald L. Stevens, 1965,
 Los Angeles, Calif.
 Lawrence E. Akin, 1966, Fort Scott, Kan.
 Willis E. Allen, 1966, Douglass, Kan.
 Bill E. Cussimano, 1966,
 Littleton, Colo.
 Richard A. Evans, 1967, Topeka, Kan.
 Delbert A. Gentry, 1967, Neodesha, Kan.
 Willa V. (Boston) Smieshek, 1968,
 Springfield, Mo.
 Stephen J. Johnson, 1969, Wichita, Kan.
 Joseph L. Fanska, 1970, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Judy M. Merewether) Woodruff, 1970,
 Kansas City, Mo.

Michael M. Davis, 1971, Chester, Ill.
 Carol E. (Krouse) Jemison, 1972,
 Pittsburg, Kan.
 Carolyn R. (Simmons) Porter, 1972,
 Pittsburg, Kan.
 Paul E. Jeter, 1973, Wichita, Kan.
 Delbert W. Johnson, 1973, Joplin, Mo.
 Deanna D. (Allison) Lane, 1973,
 Independence, Kan.
 Earl L. Minks, 1974, Winfield, Kan.
 Shirley C. (Foust) Bourell, 1975,
 Liberal, Mo.
 Gary L. Roland, 1975, Kansas City, Kan.
 Earle V. Core III, 1976, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Michael J. Mitts, 1976, Olathe, Kan.
 Lorene M. (McDaniel) Jameson, 1978,
 Joplin, Mo.
 William R. Carter, 1979, Joplin, Mo.
 Gwynne L. (Miller) Wintjen, 1979,
 Coffeyville, Kan.
 John A. Moeder, 1981, Wichita, Kan.

Robert W. Wehmeyer, 1982,
 Topeka, Kan.
 Richard L. Franklin, 1983,
 Fort Scott, Kan.
 Denise A. Sherrill, 1984,
 Overland Park, Kan.
 Stephen G. Stephens, 1986
 Donald E. Krouse, 1987, Oronogo, Mo.
 Marc D. Conklin, 1988,
 Kansas City, Kan.
 James E. Thomas, 1990,
 Independence, Kan.
 George L. Berline, 1991, Caldwell, Kan.
 Dale L. Harrison, 1991, Jarrell, Texas
 Teresa L. (Gilstrap) Kemp, 1991,
 Joplin, Mo.
 Marion S. Collins, 1992, Parker, Kan.
 Travis L. Newton, 1996,
 Kansas City, Mo.
 Chad L. Webb, Butler, Mo.
 Aaron B. Kichler, 2009, Ottawa, Kan.

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My Favorite Teachers (from pg. 19)

times get you to answer your own question.

Lt. Col. Mossaman was our ROTC commander and he was always ready to support us. We learned much about leadership from the ROTC program.

Of course Jack Overman would always stop by to see how we were doing when we were spending a little time in the student center. He was a friend to all the students.

Lida (Schasteen-Urquhart) Magness (BS '49)

In 1947 and 1948, I was a language and literature major. Every semester, I looked to see what Dr. Walter Pennington was teaching and enrolled. He was a very fine man and great teacher. He loved what he taught so much that it "rubbed off" on his students.

Jeff Latz (BA '68, MS '73)

On arrival for my junior year, I was glad to note Dr. Cornish was a Civil War historian as I had much interest in that period. He did not become my adviser until I returned to Pittsburg to begin work on a master's in history.

While in Pittsburg I also went into 1010th Supply and Service Company, U.S. Army Reserve. The unit met in a former car dealership building, but, plans were underway to build an Army Reserve center at the Industrial Park. Which speaker would dedicate the building? I pushed for Dr. Cornish. They were naming the center for a black Army lieutenant from Pittsburg who had died in Korea. Dr. Cornish was the author of "The Sable Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army." Dr. Cornish was more than qualified to give such a dedication address. And give it he did.

Dr. Cornish's speech ended up being in "Great American Speeches." It also helped win him a year's teaching history as a visiting professor at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth. •

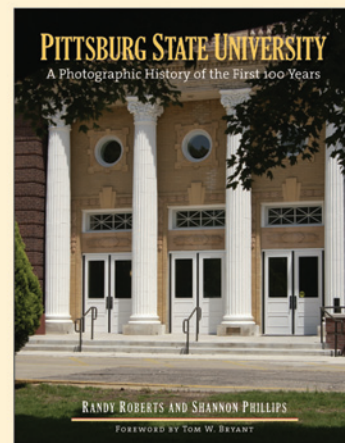
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PSU Foundation Spotlight– *Emily Wingert Brown*

It is clear from the smile on her face that Emily Wingert Brown, a project manager for McCownGordon Construction, loves what she does for a living. With heavy equipment roaring in the background, scores of tradesmen and laborers focused on their individual tasks and a complex building project unfolding, Brown said she is enjoying a career that she hadn’t even considered when she first arrived at Pittsburg State University.

Brown, a Mission, Kan., native, said she was drawn to PSU by scholarships and the opportunity to participate in the Honors College.

She decided to explore options in the College of Technology partly because her older brother was already a technology major. It didn’t take long until she was hooked.

A 2001 graduate, Brown has a long history of support for PSU and especially the Engineering Technology and the Construction Management program. In addition to gifts for scholarships, Brown serves as an advisory board member for the college.

As a student, Brown was a phonathon volunteer calling alumni to solicit donations. Now she is happy to be on the other end of the phone line.

“I just think it is important to give back,” Brown said. “As a scholarship recipient, I benefited from someone else’s generosity. Now I want to help the next generation of students.”

Brown and her husband, Chad, (MA ’97) live in Shawnee Mission, Kan.

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