



Pitt State

Spring 2009


MAGAZINE

President Bryant bids farewell

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Spring at the University Lake



Vol. 17 No. 1 Spring 2009

PittState

MAGAZINE

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From the editor

Each issue of the magazine seems to have its own character. This issue is special because we're saying "goodbye" to President and Mrs. Tom Bryant.

It was not an easy story to write.

Fortunately, the Bryants assure us they will always be part of the Pitt State family, so we can count on them to continue to support Pittsburg State University and PSU students. In the fall issue of the magazine, we'll profile PSU's new president in anticipation of many more great years ahead.

Keep your letters and e-mails coming!

We read and appreciate them all.



University's first "green" facility— Natural History Reserve lab opens

A long-term collaboration between the Biology Department and construction students at Pittsburg State University paid off with the official opening of the **PSU Natural History Reserve laboratory** last October.

The laboratory has been a work in progress for the past four years. The 2,400-square-foot building sits on the university's 80-acre nature reserve, which is home to a host of native wildlife and plants, as well as raptors, some of the stars of PSU's Nature Reach program.

Last September, Westar Energy's Green Team, HCC Contractors, and other area volunteers donated their time to build new cages for the birds. The program's non-releasable birds come from rehabilitation centers across the state. An anonymous donation of \$6,000 got the project rolling and when plans were finalized, the cages were built in less than a week.

A handful of PSU field biology

PSU officials celebrate the completion of the Natural History Reserve lab.



majors work at the reserve each semester, caring for the raptors and studying the habitat. The old lab, which was termite-ridden and had no running water or electricity, was torn down. More than 100 construction engineering students worked to rebuild the lab over the past four years.

The first "green" facility constructed for PSU, the lab was built with ECO-BLOCK, an environmentally friendly foundation insulator. The lab also features an energy-saving heat pump and recycled siding. The project was funded by the university and by a donation from the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society.

In addition to educational



Delia Lister, Nature Reach coordinator, introduces a nature reserve resident.

opportunities for Pitt State students, Nature Reach gives tours and classroom presentations to area schoolchildren throughout the school year. For more information: www.pittstate.edu/departments/biology

► Tremendous impact

Record enrollment means students contribute more than \$73 million to the local economy

The latest studies reveal what many already knew – PSU has a tremendous economic impact on the community and the surrounding region.

President Tom Bryant unveiled the results of the new economic impact study at a meeting sponsored by the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce last November. Bryant told the group that PSU's local direct

economic impact exceeded \$190 million in 2008 and continues to grow.

The university's direct economic impact includes expenditures by the university, students and visitors.

The survey, conducted by university analysts, updates a study conducted in 2003 that found each PSU student spent approximately \$9,000

per year in the Pittsburg community. That number has since risen to \$10,255 per year. That increase, coupled with a record enrollment, means that students alone contribute more than \$73 million to the local economy.

"The dollars students spend here, in addition to the dollars the university spends on faculty and staff -- that money rolls over into the local community," said



Enrollment milestones

Pittsburg State University continued to set enrollment records in 2008 and 2009. For the fall semester, headcount was 7,127 students, the most for any fall semester in the university's history. For spring 2009, headcount was 6,591, also a record for any spring semester.

PSU conferred more than 600 degrees at commencement in December.

More significantly, PSU's on-campus enrollments and credit hour production grew at an even faster pace than headcount.

"What this means is that more and more students are full time and taking classes here on campus," said President Tom Bryant. "That's good for the community and it makes the campus a more vibrant environment for learning."

For the spring semester, PSU had 6,071 students studying on campus. In comparison, Emporia State had 4,380 and Fort Hays State reported the smallest on-



Classrooms are full as a result of record-breaking on-campus enrollment for both the fall and spring semesters.

campus enrollment of the state's universities at 3,969.

"These students shop in local stores. They attend plays and concerts on campus and cheer on the athletic teams," said Bryant. "It is impossible to overestimate the value of on-campus enrollment not only to the economic health of the community, but also to the overall campus environment."

In the fall of 2008, PSU students enrolled in 94,205 credit hours of coursework.

Presidential search nears conclusion

The process of selecting the next president of Pittsburg State University is entering its final stages. The Presidential Search Committee has identified a list of finalists that will be further trimmed to a short list of about five who will be invited for campus interviews.

Committee chairman Bill Docking said he expects the committee to send three to five names to the Kansas Board of Regents some time in late April or early May.

Visit the PSU Web site, www.pittstate.edu, for information as the process moves ahead.

Howard Smith, assistant to the president. "I think business owners realize it more than non-business owners, because they actually see those dollars coming in. If there weren't 7,000 students here, there certainly wouldn't be as many restaurants and trades."

Blake Benson, president of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce,

said he witnesses the economic impact of PSU on many fronts.

"From the money spent by students and employees to the community support the university provides, PSU is extremely important to the region," Benson said.

"The university's leadership encourages faculty and administration to become engaged in the community. There's no way

to put a dollar figure on something like that, but the

Each PSU student spends approximately \$10,255 per year in the Pittsburg community.

support has been extremely helpful for organizations like ours."

PSU commissioned the study in order to better assess its role in the economy of Pittsburg and the surrounding area with the

intention of using the data to help drive planning and

decision-making in the coming years.

For more information on the economic impact study, contact Bob Wilkinson, director of Analysis, Planning and Assessment, at 620-235-4132.



Reduce your stress!

A PSU student group received a national honor for a program designed to help students cope with the stresses of college life.

Gorillas In Your Midst, a student group dedicated to the health and wellness of PSU students, received the Outstanding Program for Mental Health Awareness award for their weeklong program, "Reduce Your Stress For More Success - Promoting Good Mental Health." The award was given at the BACCHUS Network General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. The BACCHUS Network is a university and community-based organization focusing on comprehensive health and safety initiatives.

J.T. Knoll, adviser for the group, said the objectives of the PSU program were to educate students, faculty, and area mental health professionals; to combat stigma; and promote mental health awareness using a variety of activities related to emotional and behavioral issues; and to promote collaboration on and off campus.

Rewarding cultural awareness

The Office of International Programs and Services launched a new program in the fall of 2008 that rewards students for introducing themselves to other cultures.

Julia Helminiak, study abroad coordinator for International Programs and Services, said the new program, named **IKE**, (International Knowledge and Experience), rewards students with a certificate and a notation on their transcript if they participate in enough international activities during their time at PSU.

"Besides developing cross-cultural communication, it's a good thing for students to have on their resumé or grad school application to show that they're internationally involved," Helminiak said. "It shows that they did more than just one thing - they did events, they took classes, or they studied abroad - and they have a well-rounded international view."

Students enrolled in the program will get points

for various activities. For example, attending a cultural presentation or lecture will be worth a few points, while studying abroad would take care of half of a student's requirements.

The program does not require that students study abroad. They can take internationally focused classes, or regularly eat with international students (or their IEP conversation partner) at a Modern Languages & Literatures-sponsored language table, in

order to accrue points.

"We made sure that people don't necessarily have to study abroad to participate in this program," said Brenda Hawkins, administrative specialist in International Programs and Services. "A good example of something that would qualify, and would be wonderful for American students to do, is to be a conversation partner for an international student." For information: www.pittstate.edu/office/international/index.dot

Education majors meet representatives of school districts in PSU's annual Teacher Interview Day. Even in a down economy, schools still need teachers, although many districts remain cautious.





After the storm

This spring, PSU landscape crews finished replacing trees damaged or killed by a devastating ice storm in December 2007.

With the help of \$5,000 donated by the PSU Student Government Association, Landscape Architect Larry Miller was able to purchase about 50 trees to replace the ones lost in the storm. The trees include Bald Cypress, London Plane, Kentucky Coffee, Ginko, and Linden trees.

Miller, who has a degree in horticulture from Oklahoma State University, held similar positions with the University of Central Oklahoma, the Philbrook Arts Center in Tulsa, and the City of Tulsa Parks Department before coming to PSU 28 years ago.

"The community appreciates the atmosphere here," he said. "When you lose even one large tree that's provided a lot of shade and character to campus, it takes awhile for that area to readjust to the loss. There's a void for some time to come."

A worker plants a tree at the Kansas Technology Center this spring. University landscaping crews planted 50 trees in 2008 to replace those damaged in the December 2007 ice storm. For more campus photos visit www.pittstate.edu/psumag



Former President Budd dies

Dr. George F. Budd, president of Pittsburg State University (Kansas State College of Pittsburg) from 1965 until 1977, died on Jan. 2, 2009, at Cornerstone Village in Pittsburg. Dr. Budd was 93.



A man of many interests, Dr. Budd was an accomplished equestrian.

Budd served as PSU's president during a tumultuous time on college campuses across the U.S. The war in Vietnam, racial tensions and, by the early '70s, declining enrollments and layoffs made the president's job a difficult one.

Current PSU President Tom Bryant said he had empathy for Dr. Budd, given the conditions of the time.

"Even in the best of times, serving as president of a university is not easy," Bryant said. "Dr. Budd had the unenviable task of leading the university at a time when political and social forces well beyond his control made it even more difficult. In spite of the difficulties, Dr. Budd worked hard to serve the best interest of students."

In recent years, Dr. Budd was a frequent guest on campus. "As a former president," Bryant said, "Dr. Budd felt a special connection to the campus. I believe he was proud of the way the university has grown and developed."

Budd was born in Oswego, N.Y. He received a bachelor of science degree in education from the State Teachers College in Buffalo, N.Y., a master's degree in teacher education and a doctorate in higher education administration from Columbia University. Before coming to Pittsburg State, Budd served as president of St. Cloud University in Minnesota from 1952 until 1965.

Dr. Budd was preceded in death by his wife, Laura. He is survived by two sons, Dr. John C. Budd of Park City, Utah, and Dr. G. Thomas of Cleveland, Ohio; a daughter, Catherine E. Budd of Pittsburg; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. George and Laura Budd Scholarship Fund at Pittsburg State University.



Cutting 'e-waste'

PSU has bumped its recycling efforts up a notch by addressing e-waste, a growing problem at college campuses across the nation.

As more and more computers, printers, monitors, and other electronic items break down or become outmoded, questions often arise as to where to put this equipment, which often contains materials that at best are not biodegradable and at worst, are toxic.

In 2008, PSU struck a deal with two recycling centers that have agreed to take these useful, but sometimes hazardous, materials.

"The number of computers that are going into landfills is astronomical," said Jeff Stotts, campus environmental

officer. "This effort, if people did it all the way across the United States, would save so much landfill space, it's unbelievable."

A two-year grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment made it possible for the SEK Recycling Center to take PSU's e-waste. Once there, materials are sorted and sent to Asset Life Cycle, a state-approved e-waste recycling specialist in Topeka.

If equipment is broken, its valuable materials are stripped and recycled. Often, however, e-waste is perfectly usable. In that case, it doesn't remain waste for long. "Something we might get rid of every five years around here could be valuable to people who still have a very outdated model," Stotts said.

Basketball on wheels

Five professional teams from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas squared off in the first-ever Mt. Carmel Medical Equipment Gorilla Invitational Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, held from Dec. 19-21 at the PSU Student Rec Center.

The tournament, the first of its kind in the Pittsburg area, pitted the teams against one another in games that were nearly as fast and just as intense as traditional basketball. Intercollegiate rules were enforced, with just a few modifications, such as allowing players two pushes of their wheelchair before they have to dribble the ball.

Prior to the games, organizers held a three-hour referee's workshop. Graduate assistant Jason Miori helped train the referees in conjunction with National Wheelchair Basketball Association officials.

Competing teams included the Kansas Wheelhawks from Topeka, the Kansas City Thunder, the St. Louis Rolling Rams, the Mid-America Paralyzed Veterans Association Chargers from Oklahoma, and the no. 1-ranked Rollin' Razorbacks from Arkansas.

The tournament was sponsored by Mt. Carmel Medical Equipment; the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation at PSU; and the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau.



The Student Health Center, which will house the university's physical and mental health services, has been ahead of schedule this spring. It is set to open this fall.

“Where in the World is Gus?”



Gus in Antarctica

Mike (MS '78) and Cheryl (BS '82) (Button) Sullivan sent this photo from a trip they took to Antarctica. Two Gorillas in a sea of penguins! The photo was taken on Paulet Island in December of 2008. The Sullivans live in Owasso, Okla.

Gus in Turkey

Dayna (Murphy) Tullis (BS '96), sent this photo of she and her husband, Kent, (BS '95). Dayna and Kent currently live in Turkey, where they are stationed at Incirlik Air Base. The picture is taken outside of Adana at Snake Castle. “We wear our Pitt State sweatshirts proudly!” Dayna wrote.



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

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‘Unlikely’ president

It isn't surprising that Tom Bryant, universally described as unassuming, humble and self-effacing, sees himself as an unlikely president. It is, after all, a role he never sought, but nonetheless relished, and one during which the university has changed significantly.

WHEN TOM BRYANT STEPS DOWN as president of Pittsburg State University in June, he will look back at a decade in which the university has repeatedly set and broken enrollment and fundraising records, constructed numerous new buildings and renovated others, achieved many honors, and transformed in a way that he likes to describe as growing from “a little college in southeast Kansas into a respected regional university.”

In his reflective times, which have been more frequent in recent months, Bryant seems surprised by the turns his life has taken.

In high school and then college, he recalled, “I wanted to be a high school principal and then maybe a superintendent.

“I never got to do either,” Bryant said with a smile.

Instead, his career includes the roles of high school teacher and coach, college professor, department chairman, dean of the College of Education, interim president, interim director of the Kansas Board of Regents, and president. The irony is that it has been the job that has pursued him, rather than the other way around.

“Being president of Pittsburg State University is one of the great blessings of my life,” Bryant said. “I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve students and the university. Had none of this ever happened, however, I would have been very happy to have spent my career teaching students in the classroom.”



Timeline

leaves rich legacy

Bryant joined the PSU faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1970. He was named chairman of the department in 1985. In 1992, he was named acting dean of the School of Education and in '93, dean.

Bryant's life changed dramatically in 1995 when PSU President Don Wilson resigned suddenly, citing philosophical differences with the Board of Regents. The regents gave board attorney Ted Ayers the responsibility of running the university for a few weeks while they considered an interim appointment that would allow enough time for a search.

Fearing that the regents might opt to choose an interim president from outside the PSU community, Bryant urged them to select someone currently on the campus who would have both a knowledge of the university community and a vested interest in serving PSU through a difficult time. He didn't expect his appeal to move the regents to select him.

Bryant recalled that when he entered the president's office, he didn't have the kind of experience most new presidents bring to the job.

"All I knew was, no one was going to work harder than I would," Bryant said.

It was going to take a lot of hard work. The regents gave Bryant a long list of tasks they wanted accomplished in a very short time. One of those tasks was to complete the funding for the proposed Kansas Technology Center. Ground had already been broken for the \$28-million project, but funding was still not in place and the leadership upheaval at PSU had left many at the state level wondering whether this was

a project destined to die before it even began.

Bryant joked that his inexperience may have worked to his advantage.

"I didn't know there were some things you weren't supposed to do," Bryant grinned. "So I went about putting the funding together the only way I knew how."

In July 1995, Bryant, Pittsburg businessman Gene Bicknell, and Gov. Bill Graves announced that \$4.5 million

"All I knew was, no one was going to work harder than I would."

had been pledged for the construction of the KTC and that the governor would ask the Kansas Legislature for an additional \$4 million for the project. That milestone event laid the groundwork for the dedication of the KTC in 1997.

Former Kansas Gov. Bill Graves recalled that Bryant's advocacy for the KTC played a big role in securing financial support from the state.

"I was especially pleased to be able to assist in securing legislative approval for the financial support necessary to properly complete the Kansas Technology Center," Graves said. "That support was provided based on the assurances I received from Tom Bryant that Kansas, and students at Pittsburg State, would reap tremendous benefits from this state-of-the-art teaching facility."

Bryant returned to his role as dean of the College of Education in January

1995

Tom Bryant is tapped by the Board of Regents to step in as interim president following the sudden departure of President Don Wilson. One of his first tasks was to complete the fundraising for the planned Kansas Technology Center.



Bryant at KTC site

1996-1999

Bryant initially returns to his post as dean of the College of Education. In 1998, the regents select him as interim executive director of the Kansas Board of Regents.

In 1999, Bryant returns home to Pittsburg as the eighth president of Pittsburg State University.



Tom and Koeta Bryant

2000

Centennial Bell Tower completed

Horace Mann, once an elementary school, is renovated and rededicated as the Student Welcoming Center, including offices for Housing, Financial Aid, Admission and Career Services.

continued

2000 *continued*

Renovated Willard Hall rededicated as a residence hall.

Cleveland Plaza between Horace Mann and the Overman Student Center completed.

2001

Brandenburg Stadium renovation

Sculpture "Night Song" dedicated

Russ Hall renovation completed



Russ Hall

2003

PSU Centennial Celebration

Sculpture "Galloping Horse of Gansu" dedicated



"Galloping Horse of Gansu"

2004

PSU Veterans Memorial completed

Centennial Mural completed

Family and Consumer Sciences Building dedicated

2005

Crimson Village dedicated

Campus completes transition to wireless Internet.

"A Student's Life," a major bronze sculpture by artist

1996 when Dr. John Darling became president. Bryant served in that role until July 1, 1998, when the Board of Regents came calling again – this time in need of an interim executive director for their own organization.

In February 1999, President Darling announced his intention to retire from the presidency. It was clear that there was significant interest in many quarters in sending Bryant back to PSU as the new president.

According to Bill Docking, former member and chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents, the board had hoped to persuade Bryant to remain in Topeka.

"The Regents tried to persuade Tom to stay in Topeka as the permanent head of the Board staff," Docking said. "However, the PSU campus was like a magnet pulling Tom home where his heart had always remained."

Bryant wanted the Regents to do a national search.

"I was willing to serve, but I thought it would be better to come through the search process," Bryant said.

The regents, however, believed Bryant was the person for the job. To confirm their thinking, they held 10 meetings in Pittsburg with groups representing faculty, staff, alumni, students and members of the community.

Docking reported getting "an avalanche of support" for Bryant. On

July 1, 1999, Tom Bryant became the eighth president of Pittsburg State University.

It was a decision the regents never regretted.

"A decade ago, while Tom was on loan to the Kansas Board of Regents as its Interim Executive Director and I was chairman of the Regents, he and I attended a meeting of the provost and deans at Kansas University," Docking said. "KU's provost introduced Tom by saying, 'Tom Bryant is both a great leader and a wonderful person.' His words have stayed with me all these years because it is the perfect description of Tom."

Former regent Docking is chairman of the committee leading the search for the next president of Pittsburg State. He said the next president will have big shoes to fill.

"Tom's long career of distinguished service to the university is legendary," Docking said. "PSU has flourished during his presidency. He has earned his place in the pantheon of great university leaders.

"Fortunately, the new president will come on board at a time when PSU is in great shape and hitting on all cylinders. However, the next president will have a significant challenge; he or she will inevitably be compared to Tom Bryant, and Tom is a mighty tough act to



Tom and Koeta Bryant, with Gus Gorilla, prepare to cut PSU's centennial birthday cake.

follow. Tom will long be remembered as the gold standard against which future presidents will be measured.”

Bryant seems uncomfortable with such high praise.

“I’ve responded when I’ve been asked to,” Bryant said simply. “This has never been about me.”

A remarkable decade

ONLY HISTORY can truly measure a person’s legacy, but it is fair to say that we already know that the “Bryant years” have been important ones in the university’s history.

Those years began with securing the funding necessary to complete the Kansas Technology Center in Bryant’s year as interim president.

Bricks and mortar are just one measure of Bryant’s legacy. Those projects include the construction of the Family and Consumer Sciences building, major renovations and expansions to Carnie Smith Stadium, a multi-million-dollar student recreation center and National Guard armory, a new student health center now under construction, Cleveland Plaza, and significant renovations to many of the university’s existing buildings.

Beyond construction, however, are accomplishments that Bryant considers even more important. He is quick to

point to a bevy of accreditations won or held by colleges, departments and programs across campus. The PSU Foundation has been able to double its scholarship offerings for students, which was an important goal for the president. Enrollment has been on a steady, measured climb over several years, passing 7,100 students in the fall of 2008. Most of those, Bryant points out, are full-time students who pump tens of millions of dollars into the local economy.

What is perhaps the most enduring part of Tom Bryant’s legacy will not be measured on a chart or counted on a list of building projects. Students, staff and alumni alike are most likely to point to Tom Bryant’s ability to make a personal connection with just about anyone he meets.

Ginger Nieman, BA ‘07, served as PSU Student Government president for nearly two years.

“I saw his dedication to the students of Pittsburg State first-hand,” Nieman said. “Every decision was made with the students in the forefront of his mind. Pittsburg State is great because of its students, and Dr. Bryant knew that. As a student leader, I had a wonderful adviser, role model, and friend in Dr. Bryant.”

While students praise the friendly way Bryant greeted them on campus, often

Tom Corbin, is installed in the Kansas Technology Center courtyard.



“A Student’s Life”

2007

PSU enrollment tops 7,000 for the first time in the university’s history.

Tyler Research Center completed

Brandenburg Stadium expansion completed

NCAA profiles PSU as model for town-gown engagement.

2008

Completion of the Student Rec Center/Kansas National Guard Armory



Student Rec Center/
National Guard Armory

Construction begins on the Student Health Center.

PSU scientists win the Presidential Green Chemistry Award for research in plastics based on renewable resources.

PSU wins Simon Award for Campus Internationalization

PSU receives \$10 million gift for the planned Fine and Performing Arts Center. This is the largest gift in the university’s history.



Getting to know students was one of President Bryant’s favorite activities.



President Bryant’s retirement announcement was emotional for him and for the campus community.

recalling personal information about them, alumni say they appreciate the effort Bryant made to attend Gorilla Gatherings around the country, despite the great demands of his office. Bryant is also known for his cordial relations with staff, who say

they appreciated being treated as important members of the campus community. Faculty praised his support for academic programs and for support for them, personally.

Bryant said his goal has been to “keep the character” of the university

while at the same time moving it forward into a new century. At the center of that character, he said, is a devotion to teaching students and making them and everyone who comes to Pittsburg State University feel welcome. •

Roots grow deep

THE RED ANGUS CATTLE

jostled for position at the feed troughs, their breath making white clouds in the cold January air. They had grown fat on pastures that were especially good this year, but they were eager for the grain that is pouring out.

“The pasture is good this year,” said Tom Bryant, “but I like to give them a little grain.”

This place – the farm where he grew up – is President Tom Bryant’s touchstone. It is difficult to understand the man without knowing about this place in the hills near Stockton, Mo.

As the cattle finished up the last of the grain, Bryant pointed across Polecat Creek to the opposite hill. There, where a house now stands, was a one-room Excelsior School. Bryant recalled the influence of a young teacher, Francis Phillips.

“We all had a crush on her,” he said, “and she had the added benefit of being a great first-baseman.”

Another influence, Bryant said, was his high school principal, Bud Engleman, “who taught me to

expect more of myself. He was a major influence on my life.”

But it was at home with his parents, that Bryant learned the most valuable lessons.

“We worked hard, we played hard and we went to church a lot,” Bryant recalled of his childhood. “My dad always said work was honorable, especially if it is by the sweat of your brow. My mother was the one who really wanted her boys to have an education. Like many farm wives, she was a teacher, counselor and mentor for her children.”

Bryant said his father was very proud of his career in

education and it was clear how highly he regarded the teaching profession.

“Even after I went into administration, when my dad talked about his son, Thomas, he would describe him as a ‘teacher,’” Bryant said. “He was proud of that.” •



Tom Bryant grins as fat red-angus cattle gather for a little grain.



The Bryant family: Mother (Imogene) holding Dale, Gary, John, Tom, and Dad (Billie).



Life on the farm meant being surrounded by family and animals. Left to right: brother Gary, cousin Gene, Tom Bryant, and brother John.

The First Lady

Koeta Bryant reflects on an extraordinary time

FOR KOETA BRYANT, the past 10 years have been some of the most extraordinary of her life.

She has accompanied President Tom Bryant, her husband of 21 years, across the globe for recruitment and visits to alumni. She's served as the official PSU hostess, making it a point to open her home often to groups ranging from students to politicians. And name nearly any organization in the Pittsburgh area, and the odds are good that she volunteered with it at some point.

But when it comes to how this former English teacher really likes to spend her time, you can almost hear the pitter-patter of little feet.

"One thing I won't miss is how often I have to miss things with the grandchildren," said Bryant, who has two daughters, Kala, an attorney, and Angela, who works in human resources. "And in this position, you have to give up a lot of privacy. Sometimes you feel like you can't go to the grocery store in sweats – which I do." She smiles. "But not without a little bit of guilt."

It's that hometown girlishness that has always been an endearing quality of Bryant's, who grew up in Fort Scott and first became familiar with PSU while attending music camps in McCray Hall. Referring to herself as a "city girl" in comparison to her farm-raised husband, she has wonderful memories of college life at PSU, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English.



Koeta Bryant

In 1999, Koeta Bryant left a career as a high school teacher for a demanding new role: the spouse of a university president. She organized events, traveled, prepared their home to entertain large crowds, and perhaps most importantly, provided a set of supportive ears. In times when her husband needed to take an unpopular stance for the betterment of the university, she was strong and steady.

"It's like that Chevy commercial. He's as solid as a rock," she said. "It's amazing to think that anyone would ever believe he has an agenda about anything other than what's best for PSU. It's an important part of the job for me to be his sounding board."

For President Bryant, that support has been invaluable.

"She has certainly been a blessing to me," he said of his wife. "In all these years, I've never heard her say 'no' to anything we could do for the

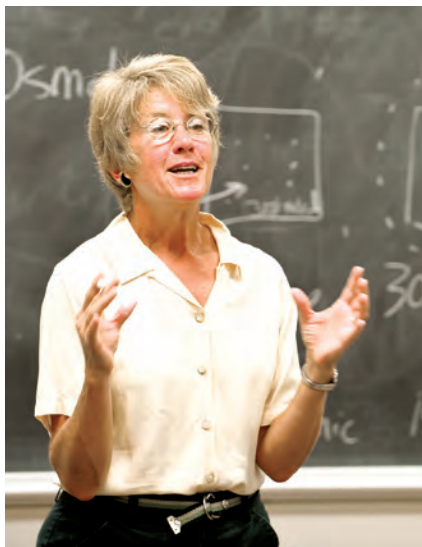
university and the students here. I can't imagine any president's wife anywhere who could care more about their university than she does."

For PSU's future First Lady, Koeta does have a few tips: Be flexible. Be pleasant. And write things down, because you don't want to forget years later how enjoyable the experience was.

"I've forgotten names, made social errors. I've done it all," she said, shaking her head with a laugh. "But in my wildest dreams, I could never have imagined a better experience. Sometimes Tom and I look at each other and say, 'How did we get here?' To get to see all the places we've seen and to meet the people we've met has been an enjoyable and amazing journey." •

Mentor

Professor honored for service to students



WHEN PRE-MED PROFESSOR DR. VIRGINIA RIDER came to Pittsburg State University eight years ago, she brought with her a resumé of awards and recognitions reflecting her exemplary career in science education.

But more important to her than the professional kudos was what she was bringing for students: her eagerness to teach, willingness to help, and attitude of student-oriented service.

Dr. Rider is one of many great teachers at PSU, but her acceptance of a national award for mentoring last fall gives biology students an extra reason to hope she'll be their adviser.

"I've been at bigger universities and I've seen the difference between those places and the kind of environment at PSU," said Rider, who previously taught at University of Missouri-Kansas City and Tufts University in Boston. "One thing I can honestly tell parents is that they will never regret sending their child here. These students receive

personalized attention that is unrivaled at other top institutions, and I know that because I taught at some of them. That continues to be my reason for teaching at PSU."

Last fall, Rider became the first winner of the Sidney A. McNairy, Jr., Mentoring Award through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The award honors Dr. McNairy, director of the Division of Research Infrastructure

"Dr. Rider is an outstanding example of the scientists in Kansas who educate students and care deeply about their development."

with the National Center for Research Resources at the NIH, for his insight and leadership in the promotion of biomedical research.

The sole Kansas nominee for her outstanding work in student mentoring, Rider traveled to Washington, D.C., in August to be recognized and to speak at the National IDEa (Institutional Development Awards) Symposium. The award, which will be given to one professor in the nation every two years, honors faculty for their dedication and focus mentoring students.

Rider was nominated by Dr. Joan Hunt, vice chancellor for biomedical infrastructure at the University of Kansas Medical Center and principal investigator of the Kansas Institutional Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, also known as K-INBRE, a grant program within the NIH.

Twenty-three states, as well as Puerto Rico, compete for the multimillion dollar INBRE grants, which are used to strengthen biomedical research in traditionally underfunded states.

Rider, the leader of K-INBRE initiatives at PSU, has received approximately \$35,000 from the program each year to help support research in the laboratories of faculty who train undergraduates in a variety of research projects.

"Dr. Rider is an outstanding example of the scientists in Kansas who educate students and care deeply about their development," Hunt said. "We are enormously proud to have her representing outstanding mentorship for the United States."

Rider's research focuses on the molecular action of the female sex hormones estrogen and progesterone in normal target cells and in disease. She has received several recognitions throughout her career, including the 2005 Faculty Scholar Award from the Kansas Biomedical Infrastructure Network, the 2003 M. Irene Ferrer Award in gender specific medicine through Columbia University, and the 1991 Smith Kline Beecham Award for Research Excellence, among others.

"My impact on human beings is greater through mentoring students than any research I publish or discoveries in the laboratory," Rider said. "If you can positively affect young people into productive careers where they're happy, that's the best thing you can have happen in your life." •

Campus icon

teacher's story spans half century

THERE ARE A LOT of things that make history professor Judith Shaw a unique member of the faculty at PSU.

She's not hard to spot in the crowds moving through the halls. Always wearing a hat and often riding a bicycle to Russ Hall, Shaw may not seem as conventional as other faculty.

But with an unrivaled 50 years of service to the university, doing things her own way certainly seems to be working.

Last fall at the opening faculty meeting, Shaw, 78, was recognized by PSU President Tom Bryant for a half-century of service to the university, an announcement that earned her a standing ovation from hundreds of faculty and staff.

She speaks of her early years in the same storytelling style she is so adept at using in her classes. The daughter of a college professor, she grew up in Kentucky and there earned her master's



PSU faculty and staff salute Judith Shaw for 50 years of service.

degree in European history. While working on her Ph.D., she accepted a Fulbright scholarship in Paris, spending a year at the famed Sorbonne. After traveling through other countries, she headed home to escape Europe's rising political turmoil.

With everything complete but her dissertation, Shaw began looking for a job late in the summer. Pressed for time, she joined a job-search group in Chicago. Her acceptance of a position
(see Campus Icon, pg. 17)

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Prof. Dudley T. Cornish, history, discusses a paper with a student in this photo from the PSU Archives. Cornish's book, "The Sable Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861-65," was chosen as one of the best books on the Civil War.

If you have memories of a favorite professor, we'd like to hear from you. Send your memories (and photos, if you have them) to psumag@pittstate.edu or by mail to Ron Womble, 106 Russ Hall, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762



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Campus Icon (from pg. 15)

with a little school known as Kansas State College of Pittsburg seemed like a good starting point.

"Pittsburg was a good town to raise a boy," said Shaw, who is widowed. Today, her son and grandson both live in the Kansas City area. "When I first came here, it was customary to stay two or three years and move on. But times changed drastically, and if you had a job, you hung on to it."

Over the years, Shaw got involved on campus and advised student groups in need of a leader including the Native American Student Association and Phi Alpha Theta, the history honorary society. She also taught a majority of the required European History courses.

An award-winning professor who is often ranked one of the favorites by alumni, she knew that when it came to sharing stories of history, she needed to bring students in and keep them hooked.

"There's a song from 'Mary Poppins'

about a spoonful of sugar, which I think is a great way to teach history," said Shaw, an avid mystery reader whose nostalgia over face-to-face communication has led her to be a holdout when it comes to using e-mail and computers. "Peoples' attention spans are not terribly long, so if you can slip in anecdotes – comedy, bloody stories, scandals – it certainly makes it more interesting. Then you can spoon in the sober facts before their eyes glaze over."

For Shaw, who marks her 50th anniversary with much humor and modesty, her eventual retirement will be a big loss to the department that has held her so close. But when the time comes for her to give up teaching, she says, she'll continue to be a fixture of the university community.

"I've always said I'll teach as long as I enjoy it and my health is good," she said. "I'm glad to have spent my career here. I feel lucky they put up with me." •

Alumnus is the keeper of skating history

DID YOU KNOW

Olympic gold medalist Tara Lipinski was a champion roller skater before she turned to ice skating? Or that several children of U.S. presidents have used the East Room of the White House as their own personal roller rink?

James Vannurden, a 2007 PSU graduate with a master's degree in modern world history, is now the man with all the answers when it comes to roller skating. Since June 2008, Vannurden has served as director and curator of the National Museum of Roller Skating in Lincoln, Neb.

"We are the only roller skating museum in the world, so normally when people donate, they'll do it here," Vannurden said.

One impressive artifact is the first patented roller skate, which was manufactured in 1819.

Vannurden said he's loved his first few months on the job.

While Vannurden's education at Pitt State didn't give him much training in the way of roller skates, it did prepare him for the research and writing he will do as curator of the museum.

The National Museum of Roller Skating is located at 4730 South Street in Lincoln, Neb. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.


For more information on the museum, call (402) 483-7551, or e-mail directorcurator@rollerskatingmuseum.com. •



James Vannurden

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College cars

Americans have a long love story with their cars and Pitt State alumni are no exception. We asked for your memories of the cars you loved and sometimes hated when you were students on campus and we got some great ones. Thanks for sharing!

Editor's Note – The response to this feature was so good that we couldn't get all of the stories received on these pages. We don't want you to miss out on these great stories, so we've posted the additional stories and photos, as well as some other interesting things online at www.pittstate.edu/psumag. If these memories spark some of your own, we'd be happy to post those, too. Send submissions to Ron Womble at psumag@pittstate.edu.

My Chevy Van

Terry Puett (BBA, MBA '81) wrote from Auburn, Kan., about his '76 Chevy van.

"A local banker let me assume payments for a friend, during spring break of '78. In August of '78, the van and I rolled into Pittsburg, with all I owned.

"A peek inside reveals old barn boards from Uniontown, saloon lighting, shag carpet, and a seating area with a table that converts to a bed. Thanks to Miss Kitty, from the TKE saloon party, for the curtains."

Terry still cares for and drives the old van. These days, he wrote, it is most likely to be seen pulling his boat to the lake. The old van still has some life in her, according to Terry, who believes she still has some history to make.

"I refused to let our daughter go out in it, and now her little brother wants the keys!"



First new car

Commencement Day 1969 was an especially big day for **Rich Davis** (BSED '69, MS '71). In addition to his diploma, Rich got a new '68 Mustang fastback. Rich posed for the photo in his regalia in the driveway of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity house. Before he retired, Rich served as the director

of Admissions and Enrollment Management for Missouri State University. Today, he and his wife, Judy, live in Lawrence, Kan.



The Gus Bus

Chad Ehrlich (BS '97) grins when he flips through a fat photo album from college. The memories and the photos are all related to a red and yellow piece of steel that he and his buddies still call "the Gus Bus."

Ehrlich, along with **Sean Werth**, BS '97, and **David Willson**, BS '96, created the Gus Bus from an '81 Olds Delta 88 they found

Pride of the 'Pikes'

No story about cars on campus would be complete without a mention of the **Pi Kappa Alpha** fire truck.

The 1937 Ford truck was originally owned by the City of Louisburg but was purchased by the fraternity at a silent auction in 1966.

Wendell Wilkinson, BS '68, recalled that several fraternity members pitched in to buy the truck for an estimated \$225. They drove the open truck home to Pittsburg in the middle of a light snow shower. It took them two and one-half hours to make the 25-mile trip.

The truck has undergone numerous minor restorations over the years and a major restoration in 1985. A Homecoming Parade regular, the old red truck has been a symbol and a point of pride for "Pikes" for more than 42 years.



Subterfuge pays off

Russ Fill, BS '65, wrote from his home in Naples, Fla., that as a youngster in Manville, N.J., he never thought he'd have the chance to go to college, especially because he worked outside of school and didn't have stellar grades.

One of his teachers, Charles Guatney, who was a PSU alumnus, saw potential in the young man.

"For some reason, he singled me out ... and never gave up. He finally convinced me that 'somehow' he would figure out a way to get me accepted at Pitt State."

Guatney's plan, which was successful,

included submitting a high school transcript that was not entirely accurate.

Fill enrolled in a full schedule of classes, studied hard and earned a B+ average his first semester. In recognition of his work, the university sent a news release to Fill's hometown paper. That prompted Fill's high school principal to send his real transcript to the president.

"I was summoned to the president's office and grilled intensively by all of my instructors. I answered every single question, in detail. I was forgiven."

Fill realized another dream when he was able to buy a car for his junior year.

"I bought a 1960 Mini Cooper for \$300. I thought I was in heaven, but had to sell it for my second semester tuition."

The 1964 photo of the car, Fill, and Judy Willis is above.

"Forty-two years later, I bought a brand new '06 Mini Cooper S. Pittsburg was and always will be one of my most cherished memories."

Next issue

One of the great things about Pittsburg State is its faculty.

We all remember the professors who made a difference for us.

In the fall issue of the magazine, we'd like to share some of your memories of that special teacher or teachers. 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.



rusting in a yard. They cut off the roof, got the old girl running and painted it in the school colors, parking it prominently alongside the house they shared on Broadway just across from the campus.

Ehrlich has many fond memories of campus that include the great relationships he and his friends had with faculty in Auto Technology. His best memories,

however, seem to include the Gus Bus. Dozens of students would pile on the thing as they cruised around campus, Ehrlich said, and there were some occasions when the old machine left plenty of rubber in the driveway.

Most importantly, the Gus Bus remains a link among old friends. Ehrlich, Werth and Willson try to get together around one or more football games each year.

Ehrlich, who lives in Garden City with his wife, Shala, owns an auto parts store in Larned, Kan. Werth is with Chrysler and lives in Lawrence, Kan., with his wife, **Jennifer** (BBA '96). Willson is with Nissan and lives in Franklin, Tenn., with his wife, Christy.

The whereabouts of the Gus Bus are currently unknown, Ehrlich said. After graduation, the guys followed careers to other places and they left the Gus Bus to a new generation of PSU students. Ehrlich said he is curious about the old car's fate, but his memories are what matters.

"We had an insane amount of fun," Ehrlich said.

Global recession touches PSU

University makes cuts, prepares for more

NO ONE CAN PREDICT just how bad it will get. This much is certain, however, Pittsburg State University, along with all of the other state universities in Kansas, will have to make some painful choices.

The global economic free fall has had a profound effect on the state budget, leaving leaders in Topeka to consider ways to manage a budget shortfall that seems massive until one looks at predictions for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

PSU's administrative team began planning for possible cuts early in 2008, as signs that the slowdown was affecting state revenues multiplied.

"We prepared as best we could for the cuts that were ultimately mandated in February '09," said PSU President

Tom Bryant. Bryant said the university's all-time enrollment record in the fall of '08 also helped because it brought in additional tuition revenue.

After a contentious battle, the legislature passed and the governor signed a bill in February 2009 that reduced the state budget for FY '09 by \$326 million. With just four months remaining in FY '09, the university was forced to cut 4.25 percent, about \$1.64 million, from its budget.

Weeks earlier, the university announced a series of steps that helped it make the FY '09 cuts. The process of filling open positions was dramatically slowed and only positions deemed 'critical' were filled. Travel was reduced. The purchase of furniture and equipment, including a new



automated system for the library, was delayed. The university redoubled its energy conservation efforts and, finally, operating budgets were reduced.

"We were able to make the cuts because everyone stepped up and made the sacrifices necessary," Bryant said. "This is a lot of money in our budget and it certainly will be felt across campus, but we worked very hard to preserve the quality of the academic experience for students."

So much for the current year. What worries the president and his administrative team the most is FY '10, which begins July 1. Proposals now alive in the legislature call for additional cuts

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ranging from 10 to 15 percent or more.

"Every 1 percentage point means \$389,000 to PSU," said John Patterson, vice president for administration and campus life. "We're very proud of the way we have managed the resources we've been given and PSU has consistently had the lowest or next to lowest cost per credit hour in the system. That level of efficiency makes large budget cuts more difficult to manage."

Pittsburg State University's tuition and fees are consistently one of the lowest among its regional and national

peers, but President Bryant said the university won't be turning to large tuition increases to make up the budget deficit.

"Our mission is to provide opportunity," Bryant said. "While increases in tuition are sometimes necessary and perhaps inevitable, we are deeply concerned about putting a college education out of the reach of students."

How the university deals with the expected cuts for the coming year will depend in large part on the depth of those cuts, and that may not be

known until late April or May. In the meantime, Bryant said, he has asked the faculty and staff to remain focused on the tasks at hand.

In an e-mail to the campus, Bryant wrote, "As we move ahead, let us resolve not to become captive to anxiety and worry over things that may or may not happen or things beyond our control, but instead focus our energy on serving students. That, in the end, is what brings us here to this great university each and every day." •

Leaving a Legacy

Robert Barry died in 1990. Bernice Barry died in 2001. This year they helped 12 students, like Emily and Marcus, 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 Pittsburg State University 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 PSU in your will or other estate plan please contact Shawn Naccarato, 620-235-4863, snaccara@pittstate.edu.

Hooked on hiking

College professors often see summer as a chance to kick back and relax. Dr. Shirley Drew climbed up a mountain instead.

"I love being outside and seeing nature from vantage points that not a lot of people have seen it from," said Drew, professor of communication at PSU.

Drew went with a group of eight other women to Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine, on a yearly hiking trip last summer. While she didn't make it all the way to the top, three of her cohorts did.

For Drew and the others, it was only the latest in a series of adventures. She has been a member of the group, who call themselves "hik'rbabes," since its inception 10 years ago, and has participated in four of its yearly trips.

"I love hiking," Drew said. "I started when I moved to Pittsburg in 1993. During spring break I hiked with a friend at the Grand Canyon. I was hooked."

Drew said that the women, all at least in their 40s at the time of the group's

inception, had to re-learn what it's like to work with a group and decide "what's really worth discussing."

"It started out that everybody had the same goal," Drew said. "Now we say that everybody hikes their own hike. We go at our own pace. I will say this – I'm never the first but I'm never the last!"

Students look at data from outer space

Some PSU physics students are helping analyze data from outer space. The senior undergraduate and graduate students, under the direction of visiting assistant professor Alexander Konopelko, are looking at data gathered by the Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of California, Los Angeles.

"The Universe is home to various exotic and fascinating phenomena, such as black holes, merging stars, supernovae explosions and so forth," said Konopelko. "Many of these astrophysical objects can generate almost inconceivable amounts of energy, which more than billions of times exceeds the energy of light visible to our eyes."

According to Konopelko some of these emissions can be seen simultaneously with both the recently launched Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope (Fermi GLAST) and the ground-based Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS), located at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory near Amado, Ariz. VERITAS is a collaboration of universities and research centers from the U.S., Canada, and Ireland, with the headquarters at the University of Chicago.

"Blazars" are flaring active nuclei of remote galaxies. Their detection by GLAST is one of the most exciting results of modern astrophysics.

"Blazars are the most extreme variety of active galaxies and known as one of the most intriguing classes of astrophysical objects ever observed," said Konopelko. "What is happening inside of these monsters? How do they generate such powerful energy outflows?"

ROTC cadets earn high honors at Ranger Challenge

A group of cadets in Pittsburg State University's ROTC program showed their skills during a grueling competition held last fall.

Maj. Don Stoner, professor of military science, said that 18 students sacrificed their fall break - and about two months of sleeping in - to come out near the top in the Ranger Challenge Competition at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

"These guys volunteered to be a part of the Ranger Challenge team," Stoner said. "They participated in training five days a week at six o'clock in the morning to be a part of this."

While PSU was unable to best two large Iowa schools, the two teams from PSU placed 3rd and 4th out of 15.

"No other school was able to place two teams in the top 5, and this is especially noteworthy considering the size of the



Dr. Shirley Drew (back row, red shirt), professor in communication, poses with members of her hiking group, "hik'rbabes." Hiking has been one of her favorite summer activities since moving to Pittsburg 16 years ago.

Division I schools we were competing against,” Stoner said.

PSU remains the Kansas Champion, beating out both the University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

The Ranger Challenge Competition is a regional competition including ROTC departments from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri schools. Most of the schools in competition were Division I.

“I think the accomplishment really is that a school about 25 percent the size of these competitors is able to provide cadets who excel so much,” Stoner said. “This really speaks to the training and the physical ability of the cadets at PSU.”

PSU opens Music Preparatory School

The Pittsburg State University Department of Music established the new PSU Music Preparatory School in January. According to Music Department Chairman Dr. Craig Fuchs, the program is designed to provide “valuable musical training for the young people of southeast Kansas” as well as enhanced training for current musical students. The program is not restricted to children, but is open to community members of all ages.

The Music Preparatory School offerings include Musikgarten: The Cycle of Seasons for children 3-5; voice lessons for students from fifth grade to adult; piano lessons; traditional strings, wind and percussion lessons for students in sixth grade to adult; and Suzuki string lessons through the Scott Nelson Suzuki String Studio, which is a blended string program for students in kindergarten and above.

The voice, piano, traditional strings, wind, and percussion lessons are 30 minutes each week. Musikgarten is a minimum of 30 minutes and requires parent attendance and participation.

For information, contact the Music Department at 620-235-4466.

Broadcast students take first

For Anthony Monteleone and Tyler Swezey, getting an A in their Documentary Production class would have been enough. They had no idea their short documentary, “Everyone Lives Downstream,” would go on to win first place in a national competition.

Swezey and Monteleone, both seniors in communication with an emphasis in broadcasting, sunk weeks of work into the 25-minute film, which chronicles the effects of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) on Roaring River State Park in Missouri. The pair made the two-hour journey to the central Missouri park several times to gather interviews and shoot footage of the ill effects the CAFO has had on the popular fishing and camping destination.

“We tag teamed,” said Monteleone. “We both did interviews. We both stayed up really late.”

Their work paid off when the documentary was named as a finalist in the Documentary/Public Affairs

division of the College Broadcasting Awards, held in October as part of a national collegiate journalism conference. Monteleone and Swezey were up against entries from Ithaca University, as well as Washington State University and Central Michigan University.

“It felt rewarding to compete with the best,” Swezey said.

The win was also a boon for PSU Broadcasting Director Dr. Troy Comeau, who has worked with the two students since their Freshman Experience class four years ago.

“I’m pretty proud of them,” Comeau said. “I’ve always thought that at Pittsburg State, you get to learn early, and I think Anthony and Tyler have taken advantage of that.”

Gift boosts math students

Scholarships for math students got a big boost this spring thanks to an estate gift of about \$285,000 from alumnae Viola Hutcherson.

Hutcherson, who died in 2008 at the age of 93, received two degrees in mathematics from PSU in the 1940s. She taught math for 40 years, retiring from the Kansas City public school system. Hutcherson left her entire estate to the university.

Her gift, which will be available to students in the fall of 2010, was presented to PSU in March. The money will be used to create a mathematics endowment, making nearly \$12,000 available for student scholarships each year.

Hutcherson, who had been a regular donor to PSU over the years, was an honorary life member of the Kansas National Educators Association, a member of the PSU Half-Century Club, and vice president and program chairman of the Kansas Retired Teachers Association.

“It’s very exciting what has been made possible,” said Dr. Tim Flood, mathematics chairman.



Tyler Swezey and Anthony Monteleone

Dearth picked as COB dean

After serving as interim dean for the Kelce College of Business since March of 2007, Dr. Richard Dearth was appointed to the position permanently at the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year.

“Dr. Dearth demonstrated strong leadership in his role as interim dean,” said Dr. Steve Scott, PSU provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Faculty and administrators appreciate his vision for the college, his ability to find common ground, and the depth of his professional knowledge.”

Scott praised Dearth for his commitment to the university, to high academic and professional standards and to the process of continued improvement. Scott said his recent conversations with department chairpersons and faculty in the College of Business revealed widespread, enthusiastic support for Dearth as dean.

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

Dearth practiced law for 35 years and although he closed his practice and devotes his full time to teaching and administration at PSU, he is currently admitted to practice by the Kansas Supreme Court, United States District Court, and United States Circuit Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit.

Dearth joined the PSU faculty in 1992 and served as chairman of the Department of Management and Marketing before his appointment as interim dean.



Dearth

Businesspeople learn new skills through Mini-MBA

Ever wondered if having an MBA would give you a leg up in business, but thought the cost and time required to earn one was out of your means?

Turns out getting in the MBA frame of mind is easier than once thought. Business leaders in southeast Kansas recently took part in a rare opportunity to learn more about running a business from an academic perspective through the College of Business's new Mini-MBA program.

The program, a series of 10 three-hour courses, was held on Friday evenings this past winter. The courses included strategy, marketing, advertising, finance, accounting, legal considerations, human resource management, international business and leadership.

Dr. Thomas Box, professor of

management and marketing and organizer of the program, said that participants have found the coursework to be useful.

“Students have learned new skills in a variety of functional areas,” Box said. “Feedback from the program has been positive and we plan to offer it again in the fall because it has been so successful.”

With courses presented by instructors with years of practical business experience, the program is designed to help businesspeople at all levels learn about the realities of 21st century competition. Students do not need to have a previous degree to enroll in the program. Upon completing the courses, participants receive a certificate of completion from the Kelce College of Business.

For further information, contact Box at 620-235-4582 or tbox@pittstate.edu.



President Bryant presents the Meritorious Achievement Award to Sutipong Ittipong (BA '72, MS '74). Ittipong is the senior executive vice president of the operations group of Siam City Bank Plc. (SCIB) in Bangkok, Thailand. While at PSU, Ittipong met with students and faculty in the College of Business.

Casey named Accounting chairperson

After serving as interim chairperson since fall 2007, Rebecca Casey has been tapped to lead the Department of Accounting at Kelce College of Business on a permanent basis.



Casey

Casey has been a member of the Accounting Department faculty since 2002. She received both bachelor of business administration and master of business administration degrees from PSU. In 1992, she received her Certified Public Accountant certificate from the Kansas Board of Accountancy.

At Pittsburg State, Casey teaches accounting classes and is adviser for Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society. She is currently working on a doctorate in higher education leadership at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

SIFE focuses on ethics

The PSU chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) tackled a timely subject this spring – business ethics. Organizers said the international financial crisis, massive government bailouts and almost daily revelations of investor fraud and abuse made discussion especially relevant.

“Ultimately these are things that we can learn to prevent in the future,” said Brittany Squire, a junior marketing major from Ransom, Kan., and a member of SIFE. “Ethics is a part of why some of these failures have occurred. It’s definitely something that we should give attention to.”

To help teach students and others about the ethics of running a business, SIFE held a week of events Feb. 9-13. Each day during that time, SIFE erected a different business ethics display in the Overman Student Center.

College celebrates AACSB reaccreditation

The Kelce College of Business was celebrated recently for maintaining what Dean Richard Dearth calls the “gold standard” of accreditation for business schools.

The College of Business has been enrolled in the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) program since 1999, an association that evaluates its schools every five years.

Following rigorous evaluations, including a site visit last fall, the AACSB ruled that the PSU program continues to meet its strict criteria. Only one-third of business schools worldwide have earned this accreditation.

“It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn and maintain AACSB accreditation,” said Jerry Trapnell, chief accreditation officer for AACSB International. “Schools not only must meet specific standards of excellence, but their deans, faculty and staff must make a commitment to ongoing improvement

to ensure continued delivery of high-quality education to students.”

Dearth said this accreditation brings with it a number of benefits that justify the hard work faculty and staff have exerted in the last year.

“It has a variety of benefits, and some are not really tangible at first,” Dearth said. “It really does help in attracting students, especially at the graduate level. It provides us with measurements and standards and guidelines that help us do the things that we need to be doing.”

Dearth said that the AACSB review team, made up of deans from other colleges, was impressed with what they saw.

“Every single member of the staff, faculty and administration played an important part in reaching this recognition,” Dearth said. “Most importantly, the students were actively involved in the process and deserve much of the credit as well.”

Pittsburg State’s achievement will be recognized this spring at the 2009 AACSB International conference and annual meeting in Orlando.



Dean Richard Dearth addresses a campus gathering to celebrate the university’s successful efforts to maintain (AACSB) accreditation.

PSU student HHPR major of the year

A recreation major at Pittsburg State was chosen Health, Human Performance and Recreation Undergraduate Major of the Year at a state convention in the fall.



Osterthun

Matt Osterthun, a senior in HHPR with a minor in business administration, received the honor at the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention, held in October in Emporia, Kan. The award denotes outstanding work in community involvement, academic achievement and extracurricular activities.

Osterthun is originally from Arkansas City, Kan., and has attended PSU for the past four years.

Each HHPR department (or its equivalent) at seven Kansas schools chose one student for the honor.

College offers new special education license

The College of Education has taken a step toward making special education teaching much more accessible to those interested in it by offering what faculty are calling an innovative program.

Those who have an undergraduate degree with a minimum 3.0 grade point average and have experience as special education paraprofessionals now have the opportunity to earn a license to teach adaptive special education, grades 6-12.

Dr. Victoria White, academic director at the KC Metro Center, said Pittsburg State is the only institution in Kansas offering such a license.

"Usually you would have to take coursework to earn a license to teach a general education content area, and then

earn a license to teach special education," she said.

"That's what makes it innovative."

White says this program provides school districts with more applicants for special education teaching vacancies, and, ultimately, it will help children with disabilities by providing more qualified teachers.

Courses will be a combination of on-site and online, and will be offered via interactive distance learning (two-way videoconferencing) at sites in eastern and southeastern Kansas.

For information about the program, academic requirements, or admission procedures, contact White at vwhite@pittstate.edu or 913-529-4488.

Professor takes counseling expertise to Philippines

A professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling sees her trip to the Philippine Islands as a potentially life-changing experience, one that she anticipates passing on to her students when she returns.

Dr. Becky Brannock, who also coordinates the school counseling program, received a Rotary Foundation grant for university teachers, which allowed her to take a sabbatical leave from PSU during this spring semester.

Brannock is working in the Counseling and Education Psychology Department at De La Salle University in Manila, where she is teaching courses related to school counseling and education.

While in the Philippine Islands, she is volunteering part time in area high schools, working as a school counselor.

"I expect it to be a life-changing



Brannock

event," said Brannock, after receiving the grant last fall.

"Not only will I be able to gain experiences teaching and working in a developing country, I anticipate being able to share those rich experiences with my students when I return to PSU next fall."

Teachers of Promise

Each semester, faculty from the College of Education select two Teachers of Promise, an honor held for the most outstanding students pursuing careers in education. Students selected are pre-service student teachers working in the field when they are chosen.

"These students have done well in their coursework, but they also have demonstrated that they can interact well with students, parents and colleagues," said Dr. Howard Smith, chairman of Curriculum and Instruction.

Faculty make recommendations and vote for one elementary education student and one secondary education student. The recipients receive a certificate and recognition as a Teacher of Promise.

"It's a wonderful thing for them to put on their resumés," said Smith.

Teachers of Promise for the fall 2008 semester were Taurean Staten and Courtney Howard. Recipients for the spring 2009 semester are Krista Nucci and Gloryanna Boge.

Children's author teaches PSU students the power of "please"

How do you get a gorilla out of your bathtub? Simple. Just ask nicely, and say "please."

That's what John Hall, author of "How to Get a Gorilla Out of Your Bathtub," told a group of education students in Dr. Susan Knell's Children's Literature class. The book, which has been nominated for the Bill Martin, Jr.

**John Hall**

Picture Book Award, is meant to teach kids the importance of being polite.

Hall is a children's author based in Tennessee, but he grew up in Turner, Kan., and went to school at PSU.

As a crusader for better manners for the last several years, he has found the trick is convincing kids to be nicer in a fun way.

To that end, Hall is planning to launch the "Power of Please" program, a series of DVDs with lesson plans that are centered on his book. Hall said Kansas, his home state, will be the launching pad for the program.

For more information on Hall's books, go to www.redrocketbookworks.com.

Building program teaches life lessons

The teacher wearing blue jeans with the hammer hanging off his tool belt had the kids' attention, and despite the distracted nature of 5th graders, he hadn't lost them yet.

Eagerly they raised their hands – answering questions, volunteering for exercises – and as the house they were building through the "If I Had a Hammer," program began to go up, the lessons of the day took shape through the work of their hands.

"What does it mean to have a job? What does it mean that you have to do each day?" asked Rick Craig, the 'If I Had a Hammer' instructor leading the kids through the build at 5-Mile Camp

in Quapaw, Okla. "Let's talk about responsibilities. What does it mean when other people depend on you?"

They were beginning to understand. A program designed by carpenter Perry Wilson and introduced in urban areas throughout the nation, 'If I Had a Hammer,' a two-hour exercise that walks students through the process of building a home, is educating Four-State area children thanks to a partnership between PSU's College of Education and the camp, which services thousands of high-risk students throughout the year. Crossland Construction of Columbus, Kan., also had a role in getting the Hammer program up and running last fall.

Giving each child their own hammer, the program's instructors teach them crucial skills such as reliability, teamwork, following instructions, and respect, as they – literally – raise the walls of an 8' x 10' "house" inside one of the camp's buildings. When the children are done, they spend the afternoon enjoying the camp's other offerings, such as animals, ropes courses, and the 5-Mile Creek, which bisects the 2,000-acre property. Back in their classrooms, students recreate the exercise on paper and are assessed on what they learned.

Owned by the John Archer family (Archer is a trustee of the Abernathy Trust, which funds the camp), the rolling property just across the Kansas state line is bustling during the summer.

"Teachers and counselors look for

children who wouldn't have the money to attend private summer camps and refer them for this opportunity," said camp coordinator Susan Gantt as she gave a tour of the facility, complete with buffalo, horses, a cafeteria and an Olympic-sized indoor pool.

Knowing of the camp's underutilization during the school year, Dr. Chris Christman, chairman of Special Services and Leadership Studies at PSU, contacted his friend Archer about using it for the Hammer program. The camp was happy to oblige, and since last October, has welcomed students from throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. By this summer, more than 2,700 students will have participated in a build.

PSU faculty are using the experience to learn more about the effect of hands-on activities in improving learning.

"We're hoping we can better our teacher education," said Marilyn Dishman-Horst, who coordinates the program for PSU. "Ultimately we're hoping we can find ways for all students to achieve a better education."



The "If I Had a Hammer" program teaches students how to build a house – as well as teamwork and self-esteem.



College of Technology structure changes

This spring, the Kansas Board of Regents approved a proposal to restructure the College of Technology. The new organization reflects growth in the college and also lays the groundwork for the establishment of a School of Construction in the future.

The new structure combines the existing Technology Management and Technology Studies departments into the Technology and Workforce Learning Department. Additionally, the Construction Management and Construction Engineering Technologies Department will separate from the Engineering Technology Department effective July 1, 2009.

The rationale for the combination of the Technology Management and Technology Studies departments is based on the similarity of the missions of both departments. Both have a consistent focus on education, although they serve two different age groups. For Technology Studies, the focus is primarily on K-12 and technology education, while Technology Management's target is industrial and organizational populations.

The separation of the construction-related programs from the existing Engineering Technology Department has been driven by significant growth in enrollment. Last fall, Engineering Technology recorded more than 700 majors, significantly increasing the challenges for a single chairperson.

Previously, the university proposed the creation of a School of Construction. The plan drew considerable private and public support, but funding has not been available to move the proposal forward. The new structure approved for the College of Technology this spring, moves the college one step closer toward its goal of eventually creating a School of Construction.

Dean Bruce Dallman said the goal

is always to provide students the best education possible and to do so in the most efficient way possible. The new structure, he said, accomplishes those goals.

For more information, contact the College of Technology at 620-235-4365.

Grilz honored for variable data efforts



Grilz

Linda Grilz, an instructor in the Department of Graphics and Imaging Technologies, is a recipient of the Electronic Document Systems Foundation (EDSF)

2009 Innovation in Higher Education Award. The award recognizes both Grilz's achievements and the GIT Department.

Grilz's recognition is directly related to a course on digital and variable data printing that she began teaching in 2008. At that time, Grilz had no software or output device. After attending a variable data printing boot camp, Grilz solicited donations from industry and identified classroom space and equipment for a lab. Enrollment in the class has steadily increased and as a result, a growing number of students are preparing for this important part of the industry.

Students place in construction competition

A team of PSU construction students brought home honors from the Student Construction Management Competition at the North Central Associated Schools of Construction – Region IV meeting last October. The PSU team was third behind the University of Northern Iowa and Iowa State University in the Commercial Building category.

Student teams in the competition

used real plans and specifications from projects that have already been or are currently under construction. The overall intent is to place students in the “real life” project management situations.

In an 18-hour period, the students must schedule, estimate, run cost analysis, and resolve several issues that arise as the project is being built. A panel of judges from industry reviewed and graded the team proposals that were prepared in the 18-hour time period by the students.

The competition is designed to highlight the students' knowledge and ability to work together in an active environment that closely emulates project management reality. Members of the team were Lucas Lackey, Justin Berko, Erin O'Brien, David Derakhshanian, Michael Strick and James Doll.

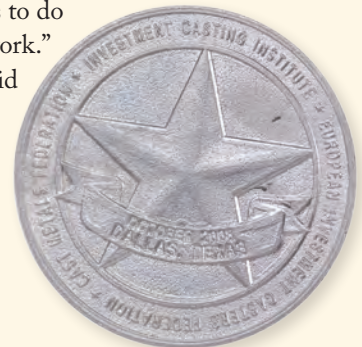
Students make medals for casting conference

Students in PSU's metal casting program got to show off their skills for the 12th World Conference on Investment Casting, held last fall in Dallas.

The Investment Casting Institute wanted to do something special for the event, so they contacted various businesses to cast souvenir medals emblazoned with the group's logo. They also got in touch with Pittsburg State to help make 250 of the medals.

“We're the only school that was part of the group that made these medals,” said Russ Rosmait, university professor of engineering technology and a member of the ICI board. “Our equipment is pretty sophisticated, so it makes it possible for us to do this kind of work.”

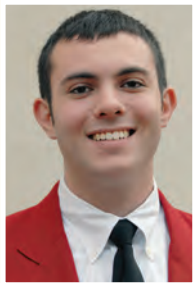
Rosmait said PSU already had a close relationship with the Investment



Casting Institute thanks to a yearly summer certification program held in the Kansas Technology Center. The program presented a great opportunity for hands-on learning.

"Making the medals gave the students some real-world experience - a task that has to be done, that has a deadline, that we're not just doing in class," Rosmait said. "When somebody from the outside is giving them deadlines, they have to meet these deadlines. Otherwise they're not going to this conference."

PSU auto tech student chosen to represent U.S.



Frederick

Jack Frederick, a junior in automotive technology, has been selected to represent the United States in a competition with the world's best technicians.

Frederick, a Wichita native, will travel to Calgary, Canada, in September for four grueling days at the WorldSkills International Competition.

"It's the Olympics of technical education," Frederick said.

This is the second time a PSU student has been selected by SkillsUSA to represent the United States in the competition. Rusty Brown went to Seoul, South Korea, in 2003, and brought home a silver medal.

Frederick will compete in the automobile technology division of the competition, requiring an encyclopedic knowledge of every major automotive system. He will have to diagnose and repair a problem with a vehicle, and will be graded on diagnostic strategy, speed and communication.

Frederick will be trained by Ron Downing, assistant professor in automotive technology at PSU, who has trained the country's best technicians for the biannual competition since 2001.

GIT kicks off centennial celebration

The Department of Graphics and Imaging Technologies is getting an early start on its 100th birthday celebration.

GIT kicked off its centennial celebration with an awards banquet in March that featured historical characters Johann Gutenberg and Benjamin Franklin.

"Our theme for the banquet was 'Roll Over Gutenberg' and we had Benjamin Franklin as our keynote speaker in period dress. He offered his unique 300-year-old perspective on our industry," said Linda Grilz, GIT instructor.

Chairman Jim Sours said the department traces its beginnings to the classes offered for the first time in 1910.

"It's amazing to think that we've been around for a century," Sours said.

The department will host a series of centennial events this fall and throughout 2010. For more information on the celebration, contact the department at 620-235-4419 or visit their Web site at www.pittstate.edu/departments/graphics.

Skills USA leader chosen from PSU again

For the second year in a row, a student from Pittsburg State has been appointed to one of the highest positions in Skills USA, a national student organization with more than 300,000 members.

Case Clough, junior in automotive technology from Wichita, Kan., has been selected as the organization's vice president. Last year, PSU student Jack Frederick served as president of the postsecondary division of Skills USA, which caters to students enrolled in training programs for technical, skilled and service occupations.

"What's really unusual about this whole situation is that both of these men are currently starting in their junior year, they're both auto tech majors, they're both from the same hometown of Wichita, Kan., and they're roommates," said Ron Downing, assistant professor of automotive technology and Skills USA adviser. For more information on Skills USA, contact Downing at 620-235-4825.



With their "Tim the Tool Man" skit, members of the Technology Education Collegiate Association at PSU were featured performers at the 2009 International Technology Education Association Conference in Louisville, Ky. Hannah Burdette, Colin Sutter, and Ryan Miller portrayed the roles of Heidi, Tim, and Al, giving away \$1,000 in new tools (donated by PSU partners) to audience members.



Coach Chuck Broyles, right, accepts the Coach of the Year trophy from Liberty Mutual representative Matt Ingalls.

Broyles named Coach of the Year

Local cancer patients, young abuse victims, needy area children and future university students will all benefit from Pittsburg State Head Football Coach Chuck Broyles' selection as the 2008 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year.

Broyles and Liberty Mutual presented three local charities, an endowed scholarship fund, and the Pittsburg State Alumni Association with a combined \$70,000 to support their programs at the annual Gorillas football banquet in January.

Broyles donated \$10,000 each to Kansas Angels Among Us, a local organization that provides financial assistance to area cancer patients; and the Pittsburg Children's Advocacy Center, which provides a safe haven for young abuse victims. The Pittsburg Family YMCA received \$5,000, which will directly provide 200 scholarships for needy children. The remaining \$25,000 was directed to the Kyle Broyles Memorial Endowment Fund at Pittsburg State, a year-old scholarship established following the death of the Broyles' then 29-year-old son on November 14, 2007.

Liberty Mutual also awarded \$20,000

to the alumni association of each winning school to foster scholarship.

Chosen by a combination of votes made by fans on the Web site and an elite selection committee of national media and College Football Hall of Fame players and coaches, the award honors Broyles as the Division II college football coach who best exemplifies responsibility and excellence on and off the field of play.

Kansas Shrine Bowl selects PSU

The Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game will return to Carnie Smith Stadium on July 31, 2010. This marks the third time PSU will play host in the 37-year-history of the event.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl is the premier high school all-star event for graduated high school players in Kansas.

Women's basketball team goes 20-9, coach honored

The PSU women's basketball team finished their season 20-9 overall and 14-6 in MIAA play. The Gorillas narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA-II National Tournament. It was the program's first 20-win campaign since 1995. The Gorillas ended their season with an 83-64 loss to 11th-ranked Washburn University in the semifinal round of the MIAA Tournament.

The dramatic improvement in the women's basketball program has not gone unnoticed. Head coach Lane Lord was named the 2008-09 Russell Athletic/Women's Basketball Coaches Association NCAA Division II Region Six Coach of the Year.

Athletes earn academic honors

Pittsburg State University's senior tailback Caleb Farabi and junior offensive lineman Jay Nuñez earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors while sophomore volleyball libero Cassie Wilson earned Academic All-District VII in great representation of Gorilla athletics.

Farabi, a Pittsburg native with a 3.79 GPA in management, was named to the first-team Academic All-America squad for a second straight season. Nuñez, a native of Alva, Okla., with a 4.00 GPA in history/government, was selected to the second-team Academic All-America squad. Wilson maintains a perfect 4.00 GPA as a biology major. The Pittsburg native was named to the second-team Academic All-District squad.

Since January 2000, Pitt State has produced 44 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® student athletes, the highest total among all Division II institutions and the 10th highest total among all colleges nationwide.



Farabi



Nuñez



Wilson



Coach Lane Lord, third from left, receives a check for women's basketball scholarships.

Women's basketball receives \$100,000

The Gorilla Women's Basketball program got a big boost in January with the announcement of a \$100,000 donation toward a scholarship endowment fund from the Goppert Foundation.

Second-year head coach Lane Lord has led the Gorillas to a winning season, after Pitt State had struggled at or below the .500 mark in five of the last six seasons. Lord, who recorded his 100th career collegiate coaching victory in the Gorillas' home win over Missouri Western on Jan. 24, said the gift would have a big impact on the program.

"I have always felt that the local and regional community has embraced PSU Athletics and Gorilla Women's Basketball," Lord said. "That was one of the best selling points when I was interviewing for the coaching position. Our coaches and players are greatly indebted to the Goppert Foundation for this gift. It's an understatement to say that this donation will make a substantial and far-reaching impact on our program."

The Goppert Foundation was established in 1959 by Clarence H. Goppert. Goppert, an area banker and philanthropist, believed in reinvesting earnings back into the community. The Farmers National Bank of Kansas, with

offices in St. Paul, Walnut and Hepler, is owned by the Goppert family. The foundation makes grants in the areas of health, education and advancement of elderly and youth services.

Beck picked for D2 honor

Pittsburg State University assistant head football coach/offensive coordinator Tim Beck has been named the 2008 FootballScoop.com NCAA Division II Coordinator of the Year. Beck was nominated by his peers and was selected by a panel of former coaches and players. Beck received his award at the American Football Coaches Association convention in January.

Beck, a native of Ness City, Kan., has served as offensive coordinator at his alma mater for 15 seasons (1994-2008). He previously served as Pitt State's defensive coordinator in 1992-93. Beck played two seasons as a defensive back for the Gorillas in 1985-86, after transferring to PSU from Dodge City Community College. He earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1988 and a master's degree in 1989.



Beck

PSU mourns loss of Hall of Fame Trainer Al Ortolani

Alfred F. "Al" Ortolani, (BS '55, MS '56) who fashioned a Hall of Fame career as athletic trainer and head baseball coach at Pittsburg State University during a tenure that



Ortolani

spanned five decades, died November 28, 2008. He was 80. Ortolani established himself as one of the nation's most respected athletic trainers at his alma mater.

He served as head athletic trainer from 1956-95. Following his retirement, Ortolani remained a faculty member in the Health, Human Performance and Recreation Department, and served the past three years as an athletic trainer for the Pitt State baseball program.

Beyond his responsibilities at Pitt State, Ortolani was a USA Olympic trainer from 1973-96, serving at four Olympics and countless World and Pan Am games. He served as PSU's head baseball coach from 1962-72 and guided the team to a 95-90 overall record, including a pair of Central Intercollegiate Conference titles and a trip to the NAIA District III playoffs. Ortolani was named the NAIA Coach of the Year in 1965.

In 1995, PSU opened its on-campus baseball facility, named Al Ortolani Field. Ortolani was the first athletic trainer inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. He has been inducted into five Halls of Fame, including the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame for meritorious achievement in 1992 as well as the National Athletic Trainer's Association Hall of Fame.

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Image courtesy of Carla Wehmeyer PSU PR/Athletics.

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Two honored for service

PSU honored two alumni with the Dr. Ralph J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award at the annual Apple Day ceremony March 5. In its 18th year, the Distinguished Service Award honors alumni who have demonstrated significant volunteer service to the PSU community.

This year's recipients are Pittsburg Realtor Jim Bishop; and Ivan Crossland, Jr., CEO of Crossland Construction in Columbus, Kan.

Bishop earned a BSBA in 1965 from PSU. He joined the Air Force where he became a pilot, serving a year in Vietnam.

Today, Bishop is the owner of Coldwell Banker – Jim Bishop & Associates in Pittsburg. He was named Kansas Realtor of the Year in 1997 and currently serves as president of the Pittsburg Board of Realtors.

At PSU, Bishop was co-chairman of the fundraising campaign to build the Veterans Memorial; a volunteer with the Community Campaign; a PSU Foundation trustee and past-president; a lifetime member of the President's Society; and has established an endowed scholarship.

"The service I do for PSU is an opportunity for me to repay what the university has done for me," Bishop said.

His wife, Nancy (BGS, MS '82) works as office manager for the Pittsburg orthodontics business owned by their daughter, Gina Pinamonti. Both Gina and their other daughter, Lisa Grosdidier, an accountant, are also PSU graduates.

Ivan Crossland, Jr., first attended PSU after graduating from high school in 1977. After one semester, he accepted a scholarship with the School



Ivan Crossland, Jr., and Jim Bishop

of Architecture at the University of Kansas. A year later, he returned to work in his father's new construction business. After working a few years, he began taking classes at PSU again, finishing his degree in construction engineering in 1984.

"Coming back to PSU after going to school somewhere else was like coming back to a really great experience with teachers who knew you and who cared," Crossland said. "You weren't just a number. Those people make you successful."

After working for Crossland as a job superintendent, he became president of the company in the early '90s. When his father died in 2002, he became CEO.

Married to Betty Lou Crossland (BBA '86), and father of Mattie May, 17, and Ivan, 14, Crossland has served as a PSU Alumni Association Board member, a Foundation Board trustee, and is a lifetime member of the President's Society. He serves on the College of Technology National Advisory Board and the PSU Construction Advisory Board Executive Committee. After graduating from PSU, he received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

"What you have to learn is that you can't take all your life, you have to give back," Crossland said.

Nominations for the 2009-2010 PSU Alumni Association Board of Directors

The PSU Alumni Association nominating committee has nominated seven persons for membership on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Six of those nominated will be elected to serve a three-year term on the board starting on July 1. The board is comprised of 20 elected members and one member appointed by the incoming president of the board. The board advocates on behalf of, advises on programming and services, and facilitates funding for the PSU Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations.

The nominees are:

Kellie Borders
Jennifer Phillips Boren
Michael De La Torre
Greg Hough
Ray Jacquinet
Bill Pallucca
David Torbett

All alumni and association members may vote for six of the nominees, including write-in candidates. To read candidate biographies and to vote electronically, visit www.pittstate.edu/alumni. You may also vote by e-mailing alum@pittstate.edu. Votes by phone or mail will also be accepted. **Voting ends May 15.** For more information, or to vote by phone or mail, contact:

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



PSU honors alumni with Meritorious Achievement Award

PSU honored three alumni with the Meritorious Achievement Award during the 2008 Winter Commencement ceremonies in December.

Sutipong Ittipong (BA '72, MS '74); **Lt. Gen. Duane David Thiessen**, (BSE '74); and **Gary Heine** (BST '82) received the award.

Ittipong is the senior executive vice president of the operations group of Siam City Bank Plc. (SCIB) in Bangkok, Thailand. Ittipong and his wife, Vipra, live

in Bangkok. They have two daughters, Jidapa and Nattaporn, and one son, Pavaris.

Lt. Gen. Thiessen serves as assistant deputy commander for programs and resources for the United States Marine Corps at the Pentagon. Thiessen lives in Springfield, Va. with his wife Lynn. They have two children.

Heine is the quality assurance powertrain manager at Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc., in Torrance, Calif. He lives in Redondo Beach, Calif.



Sutipong Ittipong, Gary Heine, and Lt. Gen. Duane David Thiessen

Upcoming Alumni Events & Gorilla Gatherings

- April 25 North Central Texas
- April 26 Washington, D.C.
- April 30 Kansas City Lunch Series
- May 1 Retired faculty and staff,
President's home
- May 2 Denver, Colo.
- May 12 Sedgwick County, Wichita, Kan.
- June 2 Kansas City T-Bones
- June 16 Wichita Wingnuts
- Aug. 11 Sedgwick County
SEK fried chicken picnic
- Aug. 13 Kansas City
SEK fried chicken picnic
- Aug. 27 Kansas City Lunch Series
- Aug. 27-29.. Paint the Town Red, Pittsburg
- Aug. 29 Crawford County Tailgate
- Aug. TBA Retired faculty and staff,
meet the new president, Alumni Center
- Sept. 5 Tailgate Decorating Contest
- Sept. 11 Arrowhead
Friday night event, Tanner's Bar & Grill
- Sept. 12 Fall Classic at Arrowhead

For more information on these and other events, contact Alumni and Constituent Relations at 620-235-4758 or visit their Web site at www.pittstate.edu/alumni.

BASEBALL, BBQ & GORILLAS

Join alumni & friends at a
summer baseball game!

Tickets are limited so register early!

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009

KANSAS CITY T-BONES BASEBALL

5:35 p.m. pre-game picnic • 7:05 p.m. game begins
(\$21 per person includes picnic, two drink tickets and select seating.)

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009

WICHITA WINGNUTS BASEBALL

6:05 p.m. pre-game picnic • 7:05 p.m. game begins
(\$16 per person includes pre-game picnic and ticket in lower level.)

**Register online: The Jungle, www.pittstatealumni.com.
For more information: Whitney Kiesling, 877-PSU-ALUM.**



Football tailgating rose a notch last fall when the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations sponsored a tailgate decorating contest. This group, calling themselves the "Jungle Chuggers," won first place.



Chili masters and chili novices alike polished their favorite recipes for the President's Chili Challenge, held on Nov. 1 as part of the pre-game tailgating activities before the football game with Washburn. The event was sponsored by the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations.

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Letters

Students identified

Just had a chance to finish the magazine. Two classmates jumped out "From the Archives." Luanna Rodarme (Parsons High School Class of '71) and Don Seifert (Parsons High School Class of '70). My husband and I were in the class of '70 and '71 in Parsons, as well, and Kansas State College of Pittsburg, Class of '75. The picture brings back so many memories. Thanks for the reminder.

Margaret Ann (Huggins) Puckett
Bartlesville, Okla.

Alumnae remembers PSU

I just received my Pitt State magazine in the mail today and wanted to share a few of my memories of my PSU days.

I lived in Nation Hall in 1988 my freshman year. On Sept. 19, 1988, my best friends and I were driving down the main drag in town when I spotted my future husband. There he was, all 6'1" 240 lbs, a Pitt State football player walking in front of Russ Hall. Little did I know my life would change forever that day.

We officially met that night at Hollywood's Bar and were together until his death in 2002. His name was Justin Wayne Kennedy and he was recruited in 1987 to play football at PSU. Wayne was from Slidell, La., so he was a long way from home. We married exactly three years later Sept. 19, 1991, and moved to Slidell after I graduated in 1993.

Wayne became a St. Tammany Parish deputy in 1995, became a father in 1998, and was killed by a drunk driver in 2002. Everyone who knew Wayne loved him. He had the biggest heart. He would go to the football stadium long after his glory days were over to reminisce. He always pulled for the underdog. He was an inspiration to his teammates.

College (1988-1993) was one of the

best times of my life and I miss Pitt State immensely. Our son, Jake, is following in his Dad's footsteps and has been playing football since he was 5. He hopes to attend Pitt State one day and play football like his Daddy. My only problem with that is - that's way too far to be away from his mama. I stayed in Slidell even after Wayne's death because this is my home, now, and this is what Jake knows. I was so blessed to go to Pitt State and will always have fond memories of our time there.

Michelle Ashley (Andrews) Kennedy
('93) Slidell, La.

Fond memories

I had many fond memories at Pittsburg State University as an undergraduate and graduate student. Possibly one of my fondest was when I played for Coach Carnie Smith his first year as head coach, for assistant coach Joe Murphy and, the staff who were my instructors, coaches and trainers. Gene Bicknell was there as a Gorilla.

I had been an All-American for American Gridwire of Santa Anna, Calif., in 1946-47, playing for Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami, Okla. Possibly, I was the first All-American to play on PSU's field. I recall Jim Jolgen possibly was the second in 1949. Capt. Joe Steffy of Army fame and Claude Reid of Florida A&M played as visitors there, also in 1949.

At the close of a Thanksgiving Day Homecoming game in 1949 for the Central Intercollegiate Conference Championship with Rockhurst, I received a standing ovation from both teams and all of the fans in the stadium. That event was held at the close of the game won by the Gorillas 41-6. All stayed in the stadium until I left with an escort. I recall my cleats caused me to fall on the concrete. The crowd awed. I got up and waved and went on to my

objective. That was embarrassing.

My wife, Georgia Marie, and son, Hartford, came to the bench and told me the crowd was doing the ovation for me. Carnie signaled me to do what you do. I did according to his signal.

My play was as a two dimensional player on both offense and defense. I captioned and called defensive play patterns. My performance was as both a lineman and in the backfield. Also, one of the linebackers.

I will never forget that celebration at PSU with all those kind folks and my having related to all them as a sportsmanship example. I had many honors as an athlete but that has to be among the very best.

Len Tunnell, BS '50 (MS Ohio State)
Miami, Okla.

Class of 1958

Dr. Frank D. Grispingo (BS '58, MS '62) and a ROTC graduate has been chosen as the recipient of the Tower Award and named distinguished professor at



Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo. Grispingo is a professor of educational leadership and directs the Northwest Missouri State University/University of Missouri-Columbia Cooperative Doctorate Program. He received his doctorate from the University of Kansas and is married to the former Vicki Greer. They have two children, Frank II and Kristina. Vicki's parents, Charley and LaVon Greer, owned and operated the Otto Way restaurant near the Pitt State campus for many years. At the time, the restaurant served as the official training table for the Gorilla football team as well as an eating establishment for many PSU



students. The Greers frequently honored the PSU football teams with steak banquets during the many successful years under Coach Carnie Smith.

Class of 1968

Effie May Foster (BSEd) turned 101 in August 2008. She taught for 45 years in Cedar Vale, Kan., and is very active in resident life at Dexter Care Center in Dexter, Kan.

Class of 1969

Margaret L. (Littlejohn) Dean (BS) has retired from the Topeka Public Schools, where she taught from 1969 until 2008. Ms. Dean began her career with the Topeka Public Schools as a teacher at Avondale East Elementary School. Over the years, she taught at Parkdale Elementary, the Topeka Adventure Center and at Chase Middle School.

Class of 1972

Kenneth A. Clouse (BSEd, MS '80) announced his retirement as president of Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, Kan. Clouse presided over numerous additions to the college during his tenure, including an 11,000-square-foot Diesel Technology addition and three new programs. Clouse plans to spend more time with his wife, JoAnn, and family.

Bob Homer (BS, MS '74) took over as principal of Bartlett Grade School in Bartlett, Kan., following the departure of another PSU alum, **Craig Correll**. Homer was previously principal at Commerce (Okla.) High School and then moved to Parsons as activities director.

Class of 1974

David Scott (BS, MBA '81) was recently named administrator of Legacy Park, a nursing home in Peabody, Kan. He lives in an on-site apartment during the week and travels home to Topeka on weekends to be with his wife, four children and two grandchildren.

Class of 1975

William R. Lewis (BSBA) has published "MONEY – For Your Used Clothing," a guide to valuations for more than 700 clothing and household items commonly donated to charity. The guide is intended to help taxpayers who itemize charitable gifts. Lewis's original publication, "CASH - For Your Used Clothing," was first published in 1990. His tax savings strategies have been recognized in Kiplinger's, Money magazine, USA Today, the LA Times and the Wall Street Journal. He has also been a guest on many radio talk shows. Lewis has been a practicing CPA for more than 30 years. Lewis is a certified financial planner and holds a masters degree in business administration. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Nebraska Society of CPAs, and currently is on the board of directors for the People's City Mission in Lincoln, Neb.

Class of 1976

Mike Ferraro (BSEd, '89 MS, '02 Spec.) now teaches physics and chemistry in his hometown of Columbus, Kan. His physics class's year project is building a solar-powered bike.

Class of 1977

Paul Strukel and his wife, Kim, announce the birth of their third grandchild, Trevor James Beyer, born Aug. 19, 2008. Trevor joins other grandchildren, Taylor Mac Yocham-Schroyer & Sadie Dawn Schroyer. Paul is a machine shop supervisor at KMT Waterjet, Inc. in Baxter Springs, Kan. Paul and Kim live in rural Quapaw, Okla.

Linda (Shafer) Watt (BS) is on furlough until June 2009 from Niger West Africa where she and her husband, Milton, work as missionaries in Bible translation and literacy. Linda and Milton have two children, Alicia 12, and John 11. They maintain a blog, mlwatt.blogspot.com.

Class of 1978

Dr. Sue Courtney (BS) recently became dean of Business and Technology at Kansas City Kansas Community College. The position is newly created and will encompass direction of various programs at the school's Technical Education Center and Business and Technology divisions. Last year marked her 24th year at KCKCC.

Class of 1981

Mark Ogle (BBA) has recently learned that one of the mystery plays he has written will be performed by the Rotary Club of Bangalore, India, under the direction of internationally renowned and national award winning theatre director and actor, Prakash Belawadi. His newest play, "The Reading of the Will" will be performed on March 27-28 in the Will Rogers Auditorium on the campus of Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla. The proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross. Ogle is the Rogers-Mayes County Service Center Director of the American Red Cross, Tulsa Area Chapter. He and his wife, Karen, live in Claremore, Okla. They have three children: Jacob, MacKenzie and Parker.

Class of 1983

Dann Brown (BS, MS '85), is dean of University College at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Dr. Brown has received a U.S. Department of Education grant for Hispanic-serving institutions for \$2.3 million for 2008 - 2010. His grant will provide funding for the development of services and strategies enhancing student success in engineering. Working with the Texas Pioneer Foundation, Brown also recently received \$134,000 for the purchase of a Mobile Go Unit, the Javelina Express. The Javelina Express, a 42-foot custom trailer with satellite internet connectivity and equipped with laptop computers, will be used in A&M-Kingsville outreach efforts in new student recruitment, financial aid and scholarship



application processes, placement testing and transfer student academic advising and registration.

Class of 1984

Dr. Steven Ronsick, (BS), has been named director of the sleep lab at Hutchinson (Kan.) Hospital. He has been a physician at Hutchinson Clinic since 1998 and is board certified in pulmonary medicine, critical care medicine and sleep medicine.

Class of 1986

Bryan Dawson (BS, MS '87) has recently published two books, "Supplemental Mathematics for the Curious: Number Theory," and "Supplemental Mathematics for the Curious: Number Systems." Dr. Dawson is Prof. of Mathematics at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Dawson and his wife, **Martha (Kirkley, BSN '88)**, live in Jackson, Tenn. They have three children: Matthew, Patricia and Tiffany.

Class of 1989

Merri Beth (Boyd) Kudrna, (BSED), recently completed a doctorate in curriculum and instruction at Loyola University in Chicago. Kudrna also holds a master of science degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas. Currently, Kudrna is director of curriculum in the Wood Dale School District, a suburb of Chicago. Previously she taught several years before becoming an elementary school principal. Kudrna and her husband, Christopher, live in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Class of 1990

Angie Baur (BS) is now CEO and president of the Community Foundation of Greater Butler County. Baur recently moved back to Kansas from California, and now lives in El Dorado, Kan.

Class of 1994

Melinda Ewan (BS psychology) received an MS in management from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2000.

In April 2008, she became a licensed nursing home administrator for the states of Indiana and Kansas. She lives in Indianapolis and works for Golden Living Center, a 208-bed facility for developmentally disabled adults.

Class of 1997

Craig Correll (BA, MA '02) recently became assistant superintendent and curriculum director at Coffeyville USD 445, and moved to Coffeyville with his wife, Jessica, in April 2008.

Shane Shinn (BSBA) is the newly appointed assistant regional vice president south for Kansas City Life in Kansas City, Mo. Previously, Shinn spent 11 years with Prudential Financial--two as a financial planner and nine years as a manager of financial services. In addition, Shinn had a private practice with 1,300 clients.

Class of 2000

Ryan Elliott (BSEd) is now band director at Garden City High School, where he played tuba as a student 13 years ago. Elliott will lead a 200-member marching band.

Jamie Hancock (MS) has joined the staff of the K-State Research and Extension Shawnee County office as a horticulture agent. Hancock previously worked as a horticulture instructor at the Kaw Area Technical School in Topeka and as an assistant site director at the Topeka Correctional Facility.

Class of 2004

Lucas Nodine (BS) graduated from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kan., on May 17, 2008, with the degree of Juris Doctor. Nodine is a managing member of Nodine Legal Technologies, LLC, a technology solutions provider for the legal community.

Class of 2006

Jerod Norris (BST) is the publisher of M.D. News, Greater Kansas edition. Married in October of 2007, Norris currently resides in rural St. Paul, Kan., with his wife, Tammi, and stepdaughter, Ashton. M.D. News magazine will be published on a monthly basis and distributed directly to Kansas physicians. M.D. News is a business and lifestyle magazine serving leading physicians and surgeons since 1993.

Tim Wass (BS) is now Student Life specialist at Labette Community College in Parsons, Kan. Wass had previously worked for the KOAM and Fox 14 TV stations.

Class of 2007

Katie Weil, (BSED), has been honored with the 2008 Horizon Award for first-year teachers. The award, sponsored by the Kansas Department of Education, recognizes exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. Weil teaches Spanish at Gardner-Edgerton High School.

Class of 2008

Blaire Burke (BSED) is a new fourth grade teacher in Paola, Kan.

Robbie Manthei (BST) joined Straub Construction Kansas City as an assistant superintendent after completing an internship with the company. He recently collaborated on a project with Mid-Am Building Supply Co. in Spring Hill, Kan.

Ever wonder what's going on with the kids you were on campus with? They're wondering the same thing about you! Share your news -- births, weddings, promotions, etc. -- and we'll put it in the next issue of the magazine.

*Submit class notes to:
psumag@pittstate.edu*



In Memory

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

Fred W. Baker, Jr., 1937,
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Laura M. Grubbs, 1937, Roseburg, Ore.
Galen Blackmore, 1938, Andover, Kan.
Leota Lance Sage, 1939,
Fort Smith, Ark.
Helen P. Edson, 1941, Kansas City, Mo.
Margaret A. (Ray) Himbury, 1944,
Ponca City, Okla.
Billie (Macpherson) Carleton-Johnston,
1945, Lake Crystal, Minn.
Ruth M. (Payne) Denison, 1949,
Dallas, Texas
Mary J. (Regan) Dewitt, 1951
Harold L. Hardwick, 1951,
Marksville, La.

Aaron W. Eldred, 1952, Joplin, Mo.
Betty J. (Leffler) Ketch, 1953,
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Cathren I. (Stewart) Davis, 1954,
La Mirada, Calif.
Al Ortolani, 1955, '56, Pittsburg, Kan.
Joseph L. Dechario, 1957, Geneseo, N.Y.
Edward James Kelly, 1957, Dallas, Texas
Richard J. Burns, 1958,
Bonner Springs, Kan.
Rex W. Cornett, 1959, Topeka, Kan.
R. B. Daniels, 1959, Crossville, Tenn.
Otis E. Divine, 1960, Springfield, Mo.
Lester W. Lyden, 1961, Chanute, Kan.
Leon Ballenger, 1962, Springfield, Mo.
Theobell G. (Chandler) Campbell,
1962, Parsons, Kan.
Bob L. Gaddy, 1963, Fayetteville, Ark.
Monty Hines, 1964, Brentwood, Tenn.
John M. Hogan, 1964, Joplin, Mo.

Marjorie (Hart) Carpenter, 1965,
Nevada, Mo.
Susan L. (Wilson) Endicott, 1967,
Paola, Kan.
Roger R. Deill, 1968, Peculiar, Mo.
Lawrence M. Beard, 1969, Joplin, Mo.
Clyde A. Dyke, 1969, Dennis, Kan.
Glenn L. Amend, 1971, Caldwell, Kan.
Robert J. Grissom, 1972, Ocala, Fla.
Gregory V. Bever, 1976, Girard, Kan.
Phyllis A. Emery, 1981,
Cantonment, Fla.
Linda L. (Muninger) Bevens, 1983,
Mulberry, Kan.
Liana L. Gann, 1986, Joplin, Mo.
Leota L. (Brook) Huls, 1991,
Welch, Okla.
Teresa L. Gooch, 1995,
San Marcos, Texas
Helen Gibbs, Fort Scott, Kan.



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PSU Foundation Spotlight—*Paul Bergant*

Paul Bergant grew up in West Mineral in southeast Kansas, located in one of the poorest counties of the state, so he saw the discouragement that can come from not being able to afford a college education.

Bergant received a bachelor of science degree in social science from PSU in 1968 and went on to earn a law degree. Today, this successful leader in the transportation industry is holding out a helping hand to students from that still underserved area of the state.

Bergant, executive vice president with trucking giant J.B. Hunt in Rogers, Ark., has established an endowed scholarship for the PSU Foundation, stipulating that the money be awarded to Southeast High School graduates who fall into the gray area of financial aid – those whose parents make slightly too much to qualify for most federal or state grants, but who still can't afford tuition.

Bergant has been actively involved in philanthropy for much of his 30 years in northwest Arkansas and he has learned that donors should give to projects they “have a heart for.”

“The thought of a kid really having the desire to attend college but it being out of reach didn’t sit well with me,” said Bergant, whose coal miner father dropped out of high school but always insisted his children would go to college. Bergant, who recalls having “great experiences” both through his fraternity and his academic life at PSU, always appreciated his parents’ sacrifice.

With several students set to benefit from his gift each year, Bergant said he hopes it will bring their goals within reach. “I hope they will take the money, use it to expose themselves to education and make the most of the opportunity,” he said. “For people like me who can understand how PSU directly affected their ultimate success, I hope they’ll consider how they can pass it back.”

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