



Pitt State

Fall 2014

MAGAZINE

The Magic of Nano-Medicine

The next big thing in the battle against cancer and other diseases is very, very small.





PittState

MAGAZINE

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From the editor

As much as we enjoy bringing you a wide variety of stories and photos in our fall and spring issues of the magazine, technology now gives us the opportunity to offer you a growing array of video and online content. Video camera icons throughout the magazine designate stories that have related videos. You also can keep up with all the Pitt State news "as it happens" by visiting the news section on the PSU homepage and following PSU on social media, including Facebook and Twitter. So keep in touch! We love hearing from you.



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Letters

#GorillaNation

comptonistic

Every morning on my commute to KC I see a bunch of cars sportin Pitt plates/plateholders. Love it. #PittPride #GorillaNation

jstevenson_14

Wearing a Pitt shirt in KC and numerous people have said go gorillas... makes me proud to be a gorilla! #gorillanation

lyssamarshmello

I went on a date today, found out he goes to UCM. I left. #GorillaNation

rachelwilson45

Reppin @pittstate all the way in Haiti #gorillanation

moncheriemack

So ready to enroll at PittState (: pittstategorilla @pittstate !!! @pittstate 2018 #GorillaNation

PittStateAD

#GorillaNation has ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPION!!! Congrats Jeff Piepenbrink on D2 natl championship in pole vault

DinaHorgan

Guess I'm a Arizona Cardinal fan now! Congrats @RIPJWALK5 #pittstate #GorillaNation

ryan_matney13

It's crazy how attached I've become to Pittsburg. I love it here and hate leaving! Our college town. >>> Yours @pittstate #GorillaNation

NotZacDickey

It's a great day to be a gorilla... Wait everyday is a great day to be one #GorillaNation

Likes the email magazine

This is Richard [Dick] Kelly, alumni of KSTC, mailing a well-deserved compliment to all the staff of Email Magazine! I received mine this morning and spent an enjoyable morning viewing the college I went to, starting in 1949 when I left the Army Air Corp. I earned the GI Bill with three years of service. The war was over in 1946 when I enlisted. I was in the Air Training Command teaching B29 bomber mechanics how to service the new jet engines that were coming in to use in B47s.

Upon my discharge and marriage, I came back to Pittsburg. My parents lived there. I was born in Arma, just up the road a few miles. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to study. After some counseling, I decided I would pursue a degree in Mechanic Arts, Printing. Everything was hot metal then. I had great teachers [Ray Boyer for one] and graduated in 1952.

My first job was in a country weekly in Garnett, Kan., called The Anderson County News. After two years we moved to Kittanning, Pa. I worked in two more newspapers and then was promoted to production manager in Zelienople, Pa., at the Butler County News and also worked for two other weekly publications, the Sharpsburg Herald and North Hills News News Record.

After 35 years employment I retired in 1987. I look back to my time at KSTC with fond memories. The e-magazine I just viewed brought so many back, especially the well-done piece about Russ Hall. I worked for the student council during my free time at their refreshment stand. My wife and I made sandwiches to sell between classes. Seeing the marble stairs at the entrance brought back many memories for its location was underneath those steps.

I am now 86 years old and thank you for allowing me to reflect on the time I was a student at Pitt State. It is a tremendous college that I am proud to have been a part of! The Pitt State Magazine is so well done. Keep up the good work for all of us alumni!

Sincerely

DICK KELLY

BS '52, Mech. Arts

Island greetings

Aloha Pitt State!

I thoroughly enjoy reading the magazine and learning about alums, new programs, new campus developments, etc. I graduated in '99 BS in CET and have burned with Pitt Pride ever since! As

a construction professional, I am beyond excited to see the progress of the performing arts center and am looking forward to its completion and opening. What a great addition to a beautiful campus.

As a co-founder of the Pitt State Bike Club (with Jason Barrett) in 1996-97, I have enjoyed many cycling adventures in my Pitt State kit and have attached (a photo from) one of those events. This was my finish atop Onyx Summit in California, 8,447ft. The ride culminated here after 78 miles and a total of 14,000 ft. of climbing. A downhill 40-mi. return to the start line was more than welcome!

My wife and I transferred to Honolulu last June 2013. Hopefully we'll return to the Mainland in a few years.

Go Pitt! Always a Gorilla,
BRIAN SHARP, '99 BS CET



Proud Gorilla mom

My name is Carin Gosch and I am a mother of two Pitt State students. My son, Cade Gosch, received his undergraduate degree in Communications in May of 2012 and received his masters' degree in Communication in May. My daughter, Krista, is a sophomore education major.

I enjoy reading your magazine even though I am not a Pitt State alumnae. I married into a long tradition of Pitt State alumni. My two children are 5th generation Pitt State students, which I assume is extremely rare. My children's great-great grandfather, great-grandfather, grandmother, and father were all Pitt State graduates. My father-in-law was a member of the 1961 national championship football team, and my brother-in-law was on the 1991 championship team. So as you can see, I'm not exaggerating when I speak of Pitt State tradition!

Thank you,
CARIN GOSCH

We enjoy hearing from our readers! Send your letters to psumag@pittstate.edu.

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Top: Pittsburgh firemen observe a moment of silence in memory of Rex Tanner, the student who died in the fight to save Russ Hall from fire.

Above: Old Glory, suspended from a Fire Department ladder truck, flies over the Russ Hall Fire Centennial ceremony.

Right: Provost Lynette Olson recalls the Russ Hall fire as the first test for new president, William Brandenburg.

University, community observe fire centennial

PSU welcomed scores of Pittsburgh firefighters and others from the community on Monday, June 30, at a commemoration of the centennial of the fire that nearly destroyed Russ Hall, its first permanent building.

Lynette Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, praised William A. Brandenburg, who, just 10 months into his appointment, was faced with a crisis that some believed could be the death knell for the young institution.

“President Brandenburg was presented with the greatest challenge a university leader can face,” Olson said.


That included the death of Rex Tanner, a student, who was killed when he came into contact with downed power lines while trying to calm the excited fire horses.

Olson recounted the way the city, the university and its students rallied in the aftermath of the fire, saying it was the foundation for the relationship that exists to this day.

“In many ways, Russ Hall is a physical reminder of the undying spirit of cooperation that exists between our city and our university,” Olson said.

As part of the observance, the university honored members of the Pittsburgh Fire Department for their efforts that night and more than a century of service to the university and the city.

Following the ceremony, guests toured an exhibit on the second floor of Russ Hall containing photographs and artifacts from the University Archives. Among those were scorched bricks, books rescued from the library and even the preserved hide of Deck, the fire horse killed in the fire.

Watch online video. 



Two familiar faces return to Russ Hall



President Woodrow Wilson appears to stare down as carpenter Mark Thompson sets the bust in its place of honor in Russ Hall. President Theodore Roosevelt occupies the niche on the opposite side of the stairs.



As anyone of a certain age can attest, the years take their toll. So when it was time for presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson to return to places of honor in Russ Hall, Art Department Chair Rhona Shand stepped up to make sure they looked their best.

For most of Russ Hall's history, busts of Roosevelt and Wilson occupied alcoves on the second floor of the building. The sculptures – copies of works by sculptor P. Bryant Baker – were removed from Russ Hall and placed in storage when the building was renovated in 2000. The busts, with a number of dings and chips, did not return when Russ Hall was reopened in 2002.

As plans for the observance of the

centennial of the Russ Hall fire were finalized in the spring, organizers decided it would be nice to return the iconic sculptures to their place of honor. Shand volunteered to make sure the presidents looked their best.

Shand took on the task of making minor repairs to the busts and giving them a new, impressive finish. Across campus, carpenter Pat Bennett built wooden pedestals on which to mount the sculptures. Graphic designer Larry Jump, meanwhile, created signage to attach to the bases.

"It really was a labor of love and it turned out to be a fun project," Shand said. "I got a kick out of driving around town with two presidents sitting in my car."

Krimson Kultuur moves to new location

After nearly six months at its original location at 111 W. 4th Street, the student-run Krimson Kultuur store, opened in May at its new downtown home at 508 N. Broadway.

The store, which sells items made by local and international artisans, is located next to Europe Park in downtown Pittsburg. Enactus Adviser Suzanne Hurt said the group plans to take advantage of the store's "attractive neighbor."

"Europe Park is a gem in our downtown area, and we're excited to have our store sit right next door," she said. "We see great opportunities to have cultural music and entertainment in the park, and it will be a nice place for students to sit and do homework and maybe have a cup of coffee."

And if all goes as planned, the coffee will come from Krimson Kultuur.

"We hope to work with some of our partners to open a little coffee shop in the store," said former Enactus president Sam Bogle said. "That would be a great addition not only to our store, but also to the downtown area."

Krimson Kultuur opened for business in November 2013, and Bogle said she's pleased with the store's success.

"It's gone very well so far," she said. "I think a lot of people doubted whether or not a new downtown store could do well, especially one that's run by students. But I think we've laid a solid foundation for what this store could be in the future. I'm incredibly impressed with our success thus far."



Not your father's library— **Axe changes with technology, new services**

Randy Roberts smiles when he imagines Odella Nation walking into Axe Library today.

"The technology would just be astounding to her," Roberts said. "All of those manual processes that she would be familiar with – most of that's gone."

Nation, one of the five original members of the Manual Training Normal School in 1903, established the institution's first library and served as head librarian until 1943. She saw the library grow from a small room at the Central School, space on the second floor of Russ Hall and into its own new building (Porter Hall) in 1926.

Nation might also be stunned to discover patrons sipping coffee and lattes and munching blueberry scones – definite no-no's in her day.

Roberts was named dean of library services at PSU earlier this year. He came to PSU in 1997 as curator of Special Collections and university archivist. He holds both a B.A. and an M.A. from PSU in history and a master's

degree in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Roberts said it is an exciting time to lead Axe Library.

"There's not been a time in the history of libraries when you've had a greater opportunity to make dramatic changes that affect users," Roberts said. "Change is happening very rapidly so it is exciting and it is challenging."

Part of the change Roberts speaks of is driven by technology and the rapid expansion of access to information.

"Libraries for a long time were centralized storehouses of the information that was available," Roberts said. "It was important for each library to have as complete a collection of books or periodicals or other kinds of materials as they could. Now, with technology, everything is changing. Instead of being a storehouse, we're an institution that provides access to information, no matter whether we have the physical copy on the shelf or whether we have it as an e-book or an e-journal or a digitized collection here or from anywhere around the world. People want easy access to information anytime of the day or night and from anywhere."

To help make that possible, the library is in the midst of implementing a new computerized integrated library

system. The 18-month project will go live next January and replaces a system that is more than 20 years old. In addition to major changes to the "back end," the new system will give patrons a much better user interface, Roberts said.

Another part of the change to the library that Roberts talks about is the evolving role the library plays in the life of the campus.

The modern library is much more focused on integrating a variety of services all targeted at helping students succeed. The Writing Center and the Student Success Center have recently opened in an area once devoted to stacks of periodicals and microfilm readers. There's also a Gorilla Geeks desk where patrons can get help with technology.

Other physical changes include both spaces for quiet individual study and spaces devoted to more lively group collaborative projects.

One of the more noticeable changes in recent years has been the addition of a coffee shop, the Axe Grind, on the first floor of the library. There, patrons can grab a cup of coffee, enjoy a pastry or even lunch.

"We certainly aspire to be a place on campus where everybody wants to be, whether it's to meet friends and to

continued

socialize, to get a coffee and a scone at the coffee shop, to do research for a class or to take advantage of the other services in the building such as the Student Success Center or the Writing Center,” Roberts said.

Roberts said changing technology and the new ways the library serves students are both exciting and challenging. While Odella Nation might find some

of these changes a little overwhelming, not everything would seem foreign to her, Roberts said.

“How we go about the day-to-day work is very different,” Roberts said, “but I think she (Nation) would still recognize that same service orientation and that same focus on student success as it was in her time. That dynamic hasn’t changed.”



Dean of Library Services Randy Roberts displays photos of Porter Library, constructed in 1927. Today, Porter Hall is home to the Department of Art. Axe Library was completed in 1979.

Finding Gus Gorilla

Can you find the hidden Gus? Search this issue for the iconic bronze Gorilla created by Larry Wooster in 1965.

Email psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry for our Hidden Gorilla Contest. Please include your first and last name as well as the page number and location you found the hidden gorilla. One entry per person. **Entries must be received by November 1, 2014.** The winner will receive a hardbound copy of the university's book, "Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years."

Congratulations to Heidi Nonnenmacher (BBA '85, MS '92) of Joplin, Mo., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Spring 2014 magazine!



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The PittState Magazine is produced by the Office of University Marketing and Communication

Associate Vice President

Chris Kelly

Jacob Anselmi Diane Hutchison

Terri Blessent Gregor Kalan

Brett Dalton Paulina O'Malley

Jenny Hellwig Malcolm Turner

Jay Hodges Ron Womble

Student Assistants

Mychal Peterson Taylor Piva

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

Circulation: 59,000

Vol. 22 No. 2 Fall 2014

EDITOR: Ron Womble

EDITORIAL

Brett Dalton Jenny Hellwig

Heidi Johnson Chris Kelly

DESIGN

Diane Hutchison Paulina O'Malley

PHOTOGRAPHY

Malcolm Turner Carla Wehmeyer

VIDEO

Jacob Anselmi

For extra copies or information:

PSU Office of Marketing
and Communication

106 Russ Hall

1701 S. Broadway

Pittsburg, KS 66762-7575

telephone: 620-235-4122

e-mail: psumag@pittstate.edu

Building the future

Construction everywhere made it a typical summer at PSU

Never in Pittsburg State University's history has so much construction been going on at the same time. But for Paul Stewart, director of facilities planning, and Lindell Haverstic, project architect, this past summer was pretty much a typical summer on campus.

"In terms of dollar value, yes (it is unusual), because of the Center for the Arts," Stewart said. "Also, the current projects are higher profile projects, so they have everyone's attention."


Stewart said that each of the nine summers he's experienced since coming to PSU have been busy.

"What I look at is the number of projects," Stewart said. "Whether it's a small project or a large project, it takes the same amount of our involvement. What we think about is the number of projects and Lindell and I have carried three to four projects a summer each and that's where we're at, still."

The Office of Facilities Planning coordinated five major projects representing more than \$60 million of work this past summer. Those include the installation of a new HVAC system in Heckert-Wells, the renovation of half of Nation residence hall, the expansion and renovation of the Overman Student Center, and the completion of the new Bicknell Family Center for the Arts and the new Plaster Indoor Event Center.

Some projects, like residence hall renovation, must be done in the brief time over the summer months when most students are away from campus, he said. This is the sixth consecutive year that PSU has renovated one of its residence halls. Additionally, the summer is when a lot of other university departments request services for new projects they are considering.

"I believe that we are exceptional in the amount of work that we have for the size of the university," Stewart said. "For our size. I'm just amazed at what we have going on."

Watch online video. 



Overman Student Center



Bicknell Family Center for the Arts



Plaster Indoor Event Center



Heckert-Wells

Grant benefits student research

PSU students will benefit from a five-year, \$19 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant, shared among several universities, will continue a longstanding cell and developmental biology research program.

PSU is one of 10 campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma that are part of the Kansas Institutional Development Award Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE). K-INBRE is a multi-disciplinary program to enhance Kansas' research capacity through faculty development, retention and infrastructure, as well as inspire undergraduate researchers to pursue careers in biomedical research.

PSU's participation in K-INBRE has made it possible for scores of undergraduate students to conduct original research and have very meaningful research experience, PSU officials said.

"K-INBRE has given PSU students opportunities to participate in undergraduate research and develop critical thinking skills," said Virginia Rider, PSU's K-INBRE coordinator and a professor of biology.

More information about the program can be found at www.k-inbre.org.

Water refill stations reduce waste

A growing number of water refill stations across campus is helping reduce the number of plastic bottles headed to the landfill.

"We have installed 18 water refill stations in 14 building across campus," said Tonya Pentola, recycling program coordinator. "Our goal is to supply all buildings on campus, including the dorms, to reduce the usage of plastic bottles at Pitt State."

Fall 2014 Fine Arts Calendar

Art

Contact rshand@pittstate.edu or call 620-235-4302 for more information.

University Gallery

Porter Hall

August 18 – September 26

"Semiotics"

Colby Parsons, Denton, Texas:

Glazed stoneware with projected video loop

Lecture: September 26, 4 p.m.

Porter Hall, Room 103; reception follows

October 3 – November 10

"Assembled Patterns"

Dave Ingram, McCune, Kan.

Ceramics and Wood

Reception: October 6, 2014, 6:30-8 p.m.

November 28 - January 23

"Assembly Required"

PSU Department of Art

Bi-Annual Faculty Exhibit

Rhona Shand, Marjorie Schick,

James Oliver, S. Portico Bowman,

Malcolm E. Kucharski, Josie Mai, Emi

Gennis, Janet Lewis, Deann Norris

Reception: November 21, 4-6 p.m.

Harry Krug Gallery

Porter Hall

August 25 – December 4

"Point Clouds"

Neil Lawley, St. Joseph, Mo.

Sculpture and mixed media

Lecture: December 4, 2 p.m.

English

For more information, contact the Department of English at 620-235-4689.

Distinguished Visiting Writer's Series:

September 11

Tom Averill, Crimson & Gold Ballroom, 8 p.m.

October 9

Chinelo Okparanta, Crimson and Gold Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Music

September 12

SCMS Chris Norman Ensemble

7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

September 15

Paul Barnes Guest Piano Recital

7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

September 25

Southeast Kansas Symphony

7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

October 2

Wind Ensemble Concert

7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

October 7

Jazz Ensembles Concert

7:30 p.m., St. Center

October 10

SCMS Andre Laplante Piano Recital

7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

October 12-13

Trumpet Festival All day, McCray Hall

October 24

Southeast Kansas Symphony

7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

November 7

Choir Concert

7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

November 14

SCMS Lorelei Ensemble

7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

November 20

Jazz Ensembles Concert

7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall

November 21

SEK Symphony and Opera

3 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

December 3 & 5

Timmons Concert

7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel

December 7

Holiday Band Concert

2 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

Theatre

For ticket information on PSU Theatre productions: www.pittstate.edu/ticket or call 620-235-4796

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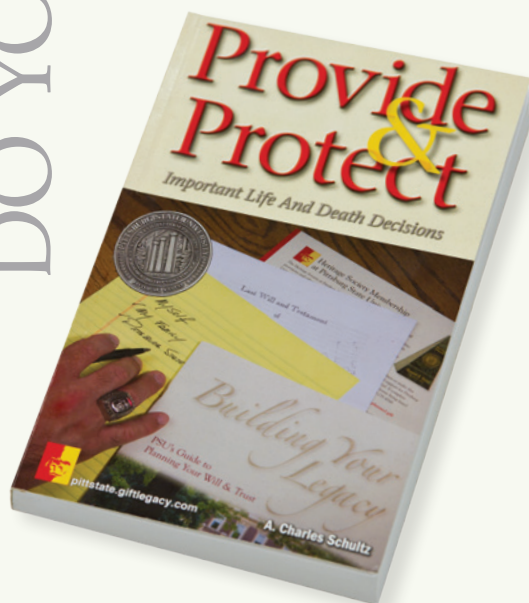
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Gorilla pride in Mexico – Danica (BME '04, MM '06) and Shane (BS '07) Gibson represented their Gorilla pride in Mexico when they visited the Mayan ruins at Uxmal.

“Where in the World is Gus?”



On top of the world – Jennifer Culler sports her Gorilla wear at 10,000 feet in the Swiss Alps. Jennifer attended PSU 2007-2010 and is now in pharmacy school at KU.



Jamaica Gorilla – Harry Hester (BSED '98 MS' 02) shows his Gorilla pride at Couples Resort in Negril, Jamaica, last May. Harry teaches and coaches football at Cherryvale (Kan.) High School and was selected as a defensive coach for the East side in this year's Shrine Bowl at PSU.

Gorillas and aliens – Rhonda Pernot Bradshaw (BS '81, MS '95), Robbi Pazzie (BS '81), Eric Bradshaw, BS '08), and Kerry Merrell Kubler (BS '79, MS '86) met some new out-of-this-world friends in Roswell, N.M.



On Mt. Fuji – Proud Gorilla William Sykes (BGS '86) accompanied by a young soldier, hiked to the summit of Mt. Fuji in Japan, where the retired Army officer now works for the Army as a civilian.

Stonehenge – The ancient mysteries of Stonehenge hold special allure for Bobby Winters, professor of mathematics and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.





In France – Mike Yuza (BS '97, Plastics Engineering) and Jenifer Yuza (BS '96, Commercial Graphics) are proud Gorillas on a visit to Saint-Honorat Island in France in April. Mike was rewarded with a trip to Cannes for being inducted into the PolyOne Chairman's Club.



Like mother like daughter – Carol Meza, BS '04, and her daughter show their Gorilla pride in Cabo, Mexico.



Gorilla anniversary – Zeb (BAS '11) and Tammie Burnett, show their Gorilla pride while celebrating their two-year anniversary in Jamaica at Sandals Whitehouse.

Tell us what interesting places Gus has visited.
E-mail your photo & a brief story to psumag@pittstate.edu



The Big Apple – Mitchell Hucke celebrates his May 2014 graduation with his sister Andrea, a junior, by visiting New York City. Here they are standing by the Hudson River near Riverside Park on the upper west side of Manhattan.



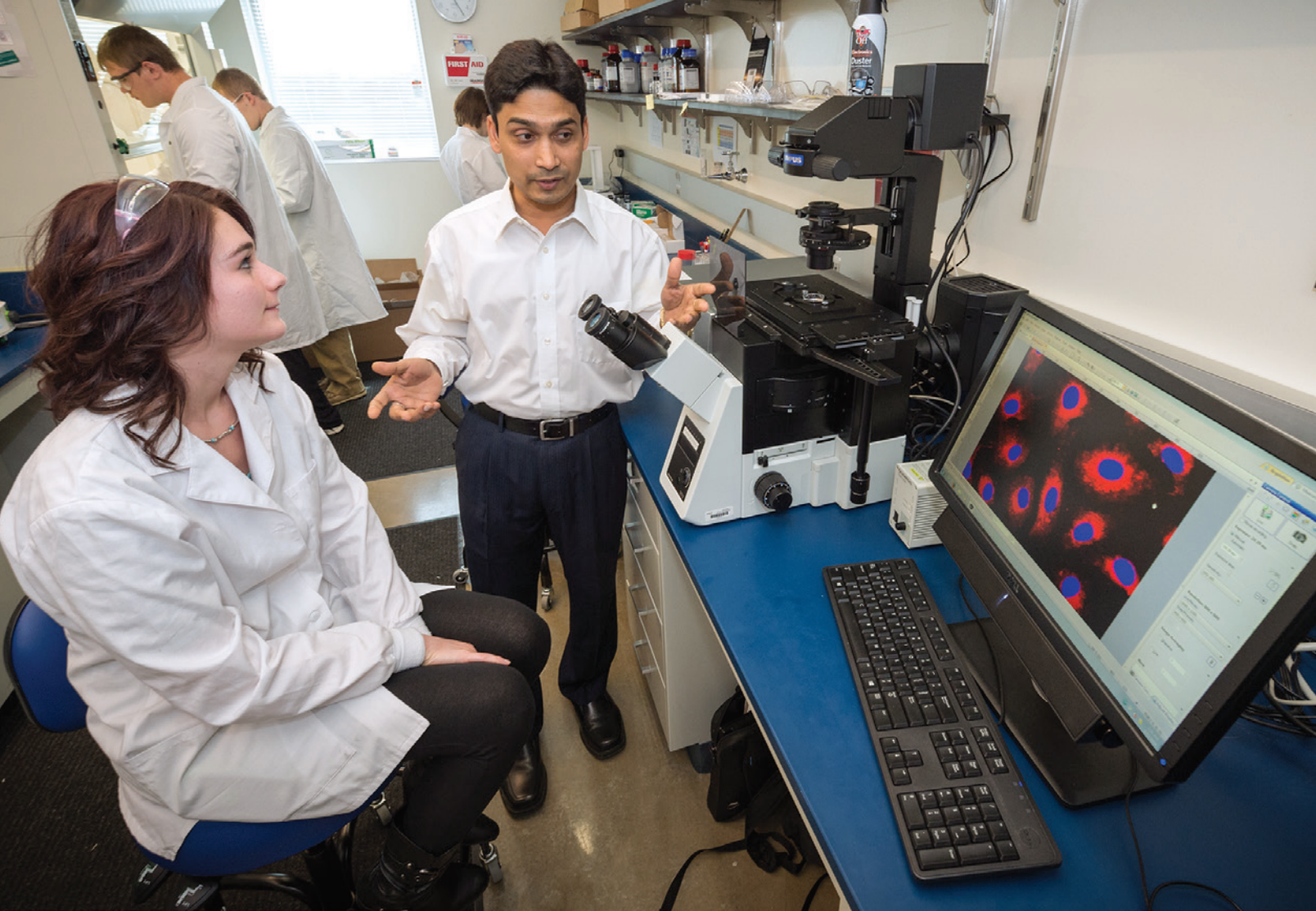
Gorillas in Europe – Pam (PSU alumna) and Guy (former faculty member) Owings display their Gorilla pride at a tulip farm near Amsterdam. Standing next to Guy is Ekaterina Bakulina, who graduated with a degree in accounting in May 1997. Ekaterina (Katya) now lives in Moscow, Russia. Standing next to Pam is Dimitri Prokopchic, who graduated with a degree in computer science in May 1994. Dimitri (Dima) now lives in Delft, The Netherlands.



Gorillas in Turkey – Gregor (BST '01) and Jasna Kalan and their children showed their Gorilla pride in front of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul in July where they stopped on the way to visit family in Slovenia.



Gorillas in Razorback land – Young Maddie Davenport, daughter of Mike (BSET '94) and Jennifer Davenport, shows her Gorilla pride during Red Ribbon Week at her school in Fort Smith, Ark. With her is her teacher, Laura Strassle York (BSED '93).



Dr. Santimukul Santra works with graduate students in his lab at the Kansas Polymer Research Center at PSU.

FIGHTING CANCER WITH NANOTECHNOLOGY

THE NEXT BIG THING IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES
IS VERY, VERY SMALL.

IN HIS LAB AT PSU, SANTIMUKUL SANTRA is conducting research on the use of polymeric and iron oxide nanotheranostics as potential delivery methods for life-saving anti-cancer drugs. As he works, Santra imagines a time in the not-too-distant future when treatments for cancer and a host of other diseases will be personalized, targeted and free of the debilitating and often dangerous side effects of some current therapies, thanks to the use of these tiny structures and nanobiotechnologies.

“This is my dream,” Santra said.

Santra’s research, with eight other scientists in New York, Florida and Massachusetts, was published this year in “Nature Communications.

Microscopic nanoparticles are the future of personalized medicine, Santra said.

“(Nanoparticles) provide more surface area, more surface energy and thereby, more reactivity,” Santra said.

At the same time, they can be designed to interact only with certain types of cells within the body.

In the study, Santra and the other researchers used iron oxide nanoparticles (ferumoxytol) as a vehicle for delivering chemotherapy drugs directly to human prostate and breast cancer cells. They found that the drugs were delivered much more efficiently using the ferumoxytol than by traditional methods.

One big advantage of using ferumoxytol, Santra said, is that it’s already clinically approved and is used frequently in the treatment of iron deficiency and for MR Imaging. Because of its magnetic properties, iron oxide is also easily traced and monitored in the body.

Once loaded with the cancer-fighting drug, the iron oxide nanoparticles act like microscopic packages that are small enough to pass through the kidneys and liver on their way throughout the body. When the nanoparticles encounter the cancer cells, they release their cargo, triggered by the specific pH of the cancer cell or enzymes it produces.

“That’s the magic of using nanomedicine to deliver therapeutic drugs directly to the disease site and this can be

continued



(continued from pg. 15)

easily done by decorating the nanoparticles' surface with receptor targeting molecules," Santra said. "(You no longer have) the chemotherapy drug destroying the healthy cells along with the cancer cells."

A great deal of work still remains before clinical trials can begin, but Santra said he believes the researchers' use of the clinically approved ferumoxytol as a delivery system could speed the process.

Santra and Ram Gupta, whose research focuses on the use of polymers as degradable biomedical implants and as super capacitors, were recruited to PSU as part of the university's new Polymer Chemistry Initiative (See related story). They have joined a team of more than a score of PSU researchers who have distinguished themselves in various aspects of polymer science.

Santra said he was attracted to continue his research at PSU because of the university's new Polymer Chemistry Initiative.

"The Polymer Chemistry Initiative is an ideal platform for me to continue my nanotechnology research for fighting cancer and infectious diseases," Santra said.

Specifically, he cited the relationship between the Department of Chemistry, the Kansas Polymer Research Center and the College of Technology and the facilities each contributes to support the initiative.

"We have cutting-edge research facilities. So whatever kind of research you want to do, you can do from here," Santra said.

Santra came to PSU from the University of Central Florida where he did almost six years of post-doctoral research. There, he had more than 18 top-class peer-reviewed papers published and accumulated six U.S. patent applications.

Santra earned his Ph.D. in synthetic polymer chemistry and organic chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. •

Definitions

What is a nanoparticle? A nanoparticle is a microscopic particle with at least one dimension less than 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one one-billionth of a meter. Still confused? Imagine this: A human hair is about 80,000 to 100,000 nanometers wide and a sheet of paper is about 100,000 nanometers thick. You get it – it's really, really, REALLY small.

What is a polymer? Polymers are large molecules consisting of many repeating smaller units. There are both natural and synthetic polymers and they're in you and all around you.



Deaven Thompson, a junior biology major from Pittsburg, works in a polymer chemistry lab at the Kansas Polymer Research Center.

*Program combines research, education
and economic development—*

Polymer chemistry

PETAR DVORNIC IS A MAN ON A MISSION. Dvornic, chairman of the Department of Chemistry, has been given the task of launching the university's Polymer Chemistry Initiative and it is unlikely a more passionate advocate for the program could be found.

The program, funded by a targeted investment from the Kansas Legislature, puts internationally recognized scientists together with the existing research and laboratory resources of the Department of Chemistry, Kansas Polymer Research Center and the technical expertise and labs in the College of Technology. A new bachelor's degree program in polymer chemistry began this fall and a similar master's degree option is in the works.

Dvornic said PSU's new polymer chemistry initiative is an academic program that will not only create polymer chemists for high-value jobs in industry, research and government institutions, but also support important research at PSU in one of the fastest growing scientific areas.

Polymer science, Dvornic said, is a relatively new field in an area that is essential to life as we know it.

"With polymers, you can make this table," Dvornic said,

slapping the hard surface for emphasis. “You can make the window. You can make the walls. Polymers taken away from our daily lives would be a catastrophe. Buildings would fall. There would be no cars or airplanes, no clothing, no computers, no food industry, no quality drinking water, no today’s medicine, no nothing as we know it. Without polymers we cannot imagine the civilization of the 20th and 21st century.”

“It is a very young science -- not even a century old -- but it developed exceptionally quickly,” Dvornic said.

As interest in polymer research grew, internationally recognized post-graduate polymer programs were established at large research institutions. This has led to evolution of new sciences from polymer science, including macromolecular engineering, materials science and nanotechnology, and made it a major contributor to computer development and miniaturization, robotics, biomedical sciences and up and coming personalized medicine, Dvornic said.

This focus on big post-graduate programs has left a niche that Dvornic said PSU can fill. That niche is a strong bachelor’s degree and master’s degree program in polymer chemistry that will feed the needs of both industry, which is looking for polymer scientists, and also graduate and post-graduate polymer chemistry programs in need of well-prepared students.

Dvornic said Pittsburg State was the logical choice for a polymer chemistry program because of a confluence of factors.

Those factors included the Kansas Polymer Research Center (KPRC), which had internationally recognized scientists, a research tradition and an excellent facility; the Kansas Technology Center with its extensive



Dr. Petar Dvornic



Dr. Ram Krishna Gupta



Dr. Jeanne H. Norton

ability for processing polymers into objects; and a strong Chemistry Department.

To launch the Polymer Chemistry Initiative, the university hired three very promising young scientists: Ram Krishna Gupta and Santimukul Santra (Chemistry), and Jeanne Norton (Plastics Engineering Technology). They, along with Dvornic, who holds a Ph.D. in polymer science and

to polymer education and research, particularly from the departments of chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics and the KPRC,” Dvornic said.

Karl Kunkel, dean of PSU’s College of Arts and Sciences, praised the Kansas Board of Regents, the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Sam Brownback for supporting an initiative that has the potential to make PSU a center for excellence in polymer science education, research and economic development.

“Our linking three solid areas of the university -- the Kansas Polymer Research Center, the Plastics Engineering Program in the College of Technology, and the Chemistry Department in the College of Arts and Sciences -- into a larger initiative creates synergy with significant impact,” Kunkel said. “It is unique in Kansas, the region, and the United States, and will tremendously benefit undergraduate and graduate students as well as industry in this fast developing and important scientific and production field. Over the past two years we’ve assembled a world-class faculty and created outstanding laboratories for teaching and research. I’m excited to see what the future holds for our polymer chemistry initiative.” •

*“Without them
(polymers) we
cannot imagine the
civilization of the
20th and 21st
century.”*

engineering from the University of Massachusetts; and Charles (Jody) Neef, an organic chemistry professor with research interests in polymer chemistry, form the core faculty for the initiative. Others across campus may also become involved in the initiative as it grows, Dvornic said.

“It will remain wide open for engagement of other PSU faculty and scientists interested in contributing

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The main stage was the perfect place for President Steve Scott to announce that the university's new center for the arts would be named in honor of the Bicknell family.

Center's name honors Bicknell family

REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDIA OUTLETS from across the region joined PSU officials on the main stage of the new center for the arts in June to hear President Steve Scott announce that the facility, to be completed this fall, has a name.

The center will be known as the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, in honor of lead donor Gene Bicknell, his wife, Rita, and their family.

Scott said that when Bicknell made his initial gift, he asked to remain anonymous.

"Until today, this donor has wished to remain anonymous in order to allow the focus of our efforts to remain where they should be, on this facility," Scott said. "This fact speaks volumes about the character of the donor and of the family."

The president praised Bicknell not only for his generosity, but also for his vision for a decades-old project that had failed to move beyond hopes and dreams.

"This project had been languishing on the drawing boards for nearly 30 years before Gene stepped forward in July of 2008 to become the lead donor," Scott said. "His transformational gift gave life to this project and inspired others to join us. Gene has been

an integral part of this project from the very beginning.

He has pushed us to achieve more than we thought was possible."

Scott said Bicknell's commitment to the facility was rooted in his devotion to the community.

"For Gene, this project has never been about recognition," Scott said. "It's about academics. It's about community. It's about the future of our region."

In the months and years following Bicknell's initial gift, Scott said, others stepped forward to support the project. To date, nearly 600 donors have given to the center with many more expected to join them. Scott singled out PSU students for particular praise for voting to commit \$7 million to the project and the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for investing \$5 million in honor of PSU graduate H. Lee Scott.

Bicknell has been a longtime supporter of Pittsburg State University. He was one of the founders of the PSU Foundation and served as its president. He chaired the Kansas Technology Center fund drive and PSU's first capital campaign. •



Gene and Rita Bicknell

Family donates art to PSU collection



Members of the Reals family gathered in the University Gallery, surrounded by the art collected by the late Dr. William J. and Norma Reals.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DR. WILLIAM J. AND NORMA REALS gathered in Porter Hall in July to officially donate the Reals' personal art collection to PSU and to celebrate the lives of two extraordinary individuals.

Dr. Reals was dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita for many years. Norma Monahan Reals was born in Pittsburg and was the daughter of Francis Monahan, a former mining engineer.

Over the years, the couple collected 31 pieces by Lindsborg, Kan., artists Berger Sandzen and Lester Raymer. Those treasured items decorated the couple's Wichita home until after Mrs. Reals' death in 2013. Dr. Reals died in 2002.

Bill Reals Jr., who represented the 5 Reals children, 18 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren at the event, said donating the art to PSU's permanent collection was his parents' wish.

"Our connection to the greater PSU community runs deep," Reals said, noting there were seven PSU graduates in the crowd. "We hope you enjoy this collection as much as our family has enjoyed it over the years."

Dean of Arts and Sciences Karl Kunkel said the collection held special meaning for the university.

"This is more than a collection of art, it is a reflection of the incredible artistic passion shared by Dr. William J. and Norma Reals," Kunkel said. •



Bill Reals, Jr., represented the Reals family in making the gift.



Generations of the Reals family gathered for the formal gift announcement.

Life in the fast lane—

John Brown's feet, heart blaze path to NFL

THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS have been a blur for John Brown, former All-American receiver for Pitt State who was drafted in the third round of the 2014 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals.

"It's been crazy getting to meet and talk to all of these big time players that I grew up watching on TV all the time," Brown said. "It's an honor to be on the field with them and learn from them."

That includes being introduced to the game of golf by Larry Fitzgerald — seven-time Pro Bowler out of the University of Pittsburgh. (The one with the h.) To the speedster from "the other Pittsburg," he's just Larry.

"I went golfing with Larry, and we ended up laughing a lot," said Brown. "That was my first time playing golf. I wasn't very good. Larry's been a great mentor already. He's shown me around a lot, been to his house, been swimming at his house."

In some ways, Brown always knew he'd be here. It was his dream to play in the NFL, and the guy who once upon a time was both too small and too slow to play anywhere isn't one to give up on chasing dreams.

In other ways, however, the past few months have been a ride so surreal that it's hard to believe it's actually happening. It began on the evening of May 9, when he got the phone call he's waited for his entire life.

"I was at home watching the draft, and I was telling my family that we'd probably have to wait until the next day to hear something," Brown said. "Then I got a phone call, and it was the Cardinals. My heart was beating 100 miles per hour. I couldn't really talk that much. Then I heard my name called at the draft."

Brown was the 91st pick.

"I never could have expected going in the third round," he said. "It's just crazy."

Then again, it would have been hard to expect any of this. It wasn't until he ran the second-fastest 40-yard-dash at the NFL Combine that anyone in the national sports universe knew he existed.

ESPN's draft guru Mel Kiper, Jr., named Brown as one of his "under the radar" players and described him as "a touchdown waiting to happen." Brown's picture was on the NFL website's homepage and his story was featured on the front page of the Cardinals' website.

"I wasn't aware of all that," Brown said. "There are some guys who pay attention to all that is said or written about them. That's not for me. I'm all about the team, and that's where my focus is."

It's possible that the leading receiver in PSU history is just being modest or politically correct. Even so, it's clear to everyone who sees him or talks to him that he's not kidding around when he talks about being focused.

"He's way ahead of most rookies," Cardinals coach Bruce Arians told the website *RevengeOfTheBirds.com* "And coming from a small school, that's unusual, but it doesn't overwhelm him at all. He learns fast and can apply it fast."

Brown said he's doesn't feel as if his learning curve was as steep as those of other rookies. That's because, he said, his "small school" prepared him perfectly for this moment.

"Being at PSU taught me a lot about what to look for in terms of certain formations and play-calling," Brown said. "I think I am catching on pretty



John Brown (right) walks with teammate Kevin Ozier at a spring practice.



John Brown

quick because the coaches at Pitt prepared me for this. A lot of it is real similar to what I did in college.

"There are times," he said, "when it feels like I'm still at Pitt."

Brown said he still keeps in touch with his old teammates and coaches, and he hopes to make an appearance at a PSU game this season.

"I'm hoping to get back during our bye week for the Northwest game," he said. "Being up at Maryville again, that's going to be a great game."

"I wish I could still suit up," he added.

Gorilla fans everywhere second that emotion. •

Family, friends, Pitt State and baseball make the difference— Beating the odds

AS GONZALO GONZALEZ took a noisy and energetic group of kindergartners through the day's PE lesson last spring, he was aware that statistically, he shouldn't be here – not in Kansas and certainly not beginning a career as a teacher.

Gonzalez (his friends call him Gonzo) was completing his student teaching at Northeast Elementary School in Arma in advance of graduating with a BSED from PSU in May. It's not an outcome that demographers, social scientists or even Gonzalez himself would have said was likely.

From the day he was born, Gonzalez has beaten the odds.

Gonzalo Gonzalez, Jr., was born in 1990 to Gonzalo and Araceli Gonzalez in Oceanside, Calif., where his parents had settled after immigrating from Mexico.

"I was born with leukemia," Gonzalez said. "For a long time, every time I was sick, it was a life-threatening situation."

Although Gonzalez's health improved, his odds of success still seemed long.

"My dad has a fourth-grade education," Gonzalez said. "He drives a tractor and my mom cleans homes. Where I grew up, if you were Mexican, you weren't going on to school."

"I have been blessed to have people in my life who care about me."

It was an area plagued by gang activity, said Daniel Esposito, who recruited Gonzalez to play baseball at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC). After two years at SWOCC, Gonzalez followed Esposito to PSU where he finished out his baseball career and focused on a career in education.

Gonzalez said many things, even

his illness, have played a role in his success.

"Probably because of my illness when I was a kid, I have always been interested in health and physical education," Gonzalez said. "I want to teach young people why being healthy is so important."

He gives much of the credit to his parents, who valued education and refused to let him become a statistic, and also to baseball for giving him the opportunity to get a degree.

"I have been blessed to have people in my life who care about me," he said.

Among those are Esposito, who is now the head baseball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and his wife, Tami.

"We are extremely proud of him as he graduates with a degree," Esposito said. "Over the past five years, Gonzo has been like family and we are excited to see what the future has in store for him." •

A group of Northeast Elementary School kindergartners listen intently as student teacher Gonzalo Gonzalez goes over the PE lesson for the day.



Baja returns to Pitt State

ORGANIZERS TRENT LINDBLOOM AND BOB SCHROER were all smiles as hundreds of dusty, tired and happy competitors in the 2014 Baja SAE-Kansas gathered to eat fried chicken and receive awards at the closing ceremonies just outside the Kansas Technology Center.

"Overall, it was a great event," Lindbloom said. "We have heard very positive things from SAE and the teams."

From the beginning, Lindbloom said, the event was designed to test the students to the limit.

"Every day, every event, every obstacle that they had to overcome was part of the learning experience," Lindbloom said. "Even on the last day, the students were learning."

This was the second time Pitt State has hosted Baja SAE-Kansas. The first time was in 2011. Lindbloom said the support of the community was one of the reasons Baja SAE returned to PSU.

"One of the things that impressed them most (Baja SAE officials) was the community and how they made the competitors feel welcome," Lindbloom said. "When the teams came into

town, they saw welcome messages on marquees and signs along Broadway. That's not the case in many cities where the competitions are held."

More than 1,100 competitors from nine countries took part in this year's event.

Staging an event of this magnitude required uncounted hours of work by volunteers and people from every department in the College of Technology.

"The support we get from our colleagues throughout the KTC is phenomenal," Lindbloom said.

For the Pitt State team, competing on their home course was exciting and a bit intimidating.

"It does add a little bit of pressure," said sophomore Jacob Sanders. "Not only do you want to do well, but you also feel a bit responsible for making sure everything goes well. We wouldn't trade it, though. There's no better place to have Baja than here at Pitt."

New to the event this year was Bajas On Broadway, an event in downtown Pittsburg that allowed all of the teams to show off their Baja cars.

Baja-Kansas concluded



PSU's team went up against stiff competition, such as UCLA, below.

with the popular endurance race. If the endurance race in 2011 was remarkable for the mud, what participants will remember about this year's race was the dust, and a level of difficulty that sent many competitors scrambling to repair their crippled cars.

"Dusty," said Erik Rasmussen, driver of the winning Iowa State car, describing the course. "The logs on that turn were really rough. It was a fast track. I really liked it. It was amazing for spectators."

Unfortunately for the Pitt State team, the endurance course, designed to break even the toughest cars, did its job on the host team, forcing them to spend much of the race attempting to repair their car.

The top three overall teams were Centro Universitario Da FEI, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Iowa State University. •





Rusty Jones, left, receives recognition for his role in beginning the Jazz Festival from director Bob Kehle.

Jazz Festival honors its founder

Rusty (Russell) Jones knew all eyes would be on him when he soloed on Pat Williams' "Oh Yeah Ballad," but as a veteran performer, he's used to that kind of attention.

What happened next at the PSU Jazz Festival Concert in March took him off guard.

To celebrate the 40th year of the festival and to honor Jones, who began the event, festival director Bob Kehle had secretly arranged for Pittsburgh Mayor Michael Gray to present Jones a certificate designating the day as Rusty Jones Day.

"I'm not sure it was deserved, but it was definitely appreciated," said Jones, chairman of PSU's Department of Music. Jones retired from that post at the end of the spring semester.

This year, 66 bands from three states participated in the Jazz Festival and it has earned a reputation as the premier event of its kind in the Midwest. The festival began much more modestly, however.

"That first year, we had 13 bands," Jones recalled.

Jones is quick to give the credit for the growth of the festival to Kehle.

"I attribute (the growth of the festival) to Bob's tenacity and attention to detail," Jones said. "There's an awful lot of planning that goes into this. In fact, he's already planning for next year."

Learning to make a difference

It's no surprise that PSU social work students are expected to make a difference in the world, but when she put pencil to paper at the end of the spring semester, even Associate Professor Kristen Humphrey was surprised at how successful her students had been.

Humphrey found that students in Advance Social Work Practice III organized and led 13 projects that raised \$12,119 for various organizations.

"That's impressive!" Humphrey said.

Raising dollars wasn't the most important aspect of the students' work, Humphrey added.

"Not all of the projects had raising money as their primary goal," Humphrey said. "In most cases it was about helping organizations and the people they serve."

Humphrey said projects like these are both a benefit for the agencies and a learning experience for students who soon will be following careers in social work.

"I am very proud of our social work students who led these efforts and proud of our other students who stepped up and participated in their efforts," Humphrey said.

Big turnout for Nursing Career Day

Zhahn Gonzalez grimaced as she guided the IV into the patient's arm. The patient didn't flinch, of course, because it was a mannequin.

More than 90 high school students filled the halls, classrooms and labs in McPherson Hall in April for the Irene Bradley School of Nursing's annual Nurse Career Day. Coordinator Judy Coltharp said the event was a learning experience both for the high school students and the 70 PSU nursing seniors who ran the event.


"Nursing Career Day gives our students an opportunity to demonstrate some of the things they have learned, but more importantly, it allows them to practice their leadership and teaching skills."

Coltharp said the large turnout for the day reflected not only



a heightened interest in nursing as a career, but also the growing reputation of the school of nursing and its programs.

"We had students leave at 4:30 in the morning from Tonganoxie (Kan.) to get here," Coltharp said. "Others drove nearly as far. Initially, we planned to cap enrollment at 70, but we had so many who wanted to come that we expanded it to 90."

Watch online video. 



The art of toy design

A new art class gave students a chance to play with their work while learning more about technology and business.

Students in the Toy Design class got a hands-on lesson about the world of toy design, right down to the point of selling their creations to the public.

"This course is an attempt to help students understand the industry and art of toy design," said Professor Portico Bowman. "I like to call this the 'beta version' of the course, because this is the first time it's ever been taught here."

Students studied the mechanics of toy making, the philosophy and psychology of toys and the purpose of play, while looking at the toy industry to analyze trends and marketing strategies.

The Art Department even teamed up with the College of Technology to provide students with experience in using a 3-D printer to produce their designs.

"This gives the students a better representation of what's actually going on within industry in terms of cross-collaboration," said Norm Philipp, assistant professor in the School of Construction. "It lets the students see both facets so that they can put something together and put it out into the world."

The course ended with a sale on the Oval at which students marketed and sold their creations to the public. Proceeds were donated to the SafeHouse Crisis Center.

Up, up and away!

The skies above Pittsburg were a crystal clear blue. It was a perfect day for ROTC cadets to take their first ride in an Army Blackhawk helicopter.

"Riding on a Blackhawk for the first time, combined with the contracting ceremony makes this a day these young men and women won't forget," said Lt. Col. Chris Lambert. He added that it was an early and important milestone in each cadet's life.

The Blackhawks flew to Pittsburg from the Kansas Army National Guard's 108th Aviation Battalion in Topeka. One of the pilots was Maj. Josh Urban, a 2004 PSU grad who has participated in previous training missions at his alma mater.

"It is always enjoyable to come back and work with the young cadets," Urban said. "I remember what it's like."



Nature Reach moves

There were the inevitable comparisons to the Biblical story of Noah and the Ark as Delia Lister, coordinator of the Nature Reach science education program, and a crew of volunteers and staff moved scores of animals from their home in Heckert-Wells Hall to temporary quarters in Hartman Hall in April.

The move, required by a major HVAC project in Heckert-Wells, went smoothly and gently.

Lister noted that moving can be stressful for humans and animals, as well. "It's probably hardest on the mammals," she said, as she coaxed a pair of prairie dogs out of a tube in their enclosure.

Non-venomous snakes, the iguana and others were carried by hand to their new, temporary homes. The copperhead and rattlesnakes made the journey safely confined in their enclosures.

"We had a lot of help making the move today," Lister said. "That definitely made the process go more smoothly. We appreciate all the help."

Nursing outreach

Nursing students returned to the Four-State Farm Show in July, where they partnered with Via Christi Hospital to provide valuable health information on topics such as tick-borne illnesses, hypertension, farm accidents and nutrition to visitors.

Instructor Karen Tompkins-Dobbs said the event is a great experience for the students and valuable for the public.

PSU, city team on economic development study

The Kelce College of Business is playing a major role in the economic future of the Pittsburgh area. It's a role that goes beyond just producing future business leaders.

Led by assistant professor and economic researcher Michael Davidsson, the KCOB is embarking on a series of retail and economic development studies aimed at helping promote economic growth in the region.

"The Pittsburgh area has great potential for economic growth and development," Davidsson, a native of Reykjavík, Iceland, said. "What we want to do is study the economic trends in other areas our size and identify the true possibilities for our community."

The KCOB will work closely with the City of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Area Chamber of Commerce throughout the process, a partnership that Davidsson said is "vital to our success."

"Having Pittsburgh State, the city and

the chamber all working together for a common cause is a wonderful benefit for our community," he said. "We each play vital roles in the success of Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. I am very excited to work closely with city officials on this endeavor."

Also vital to the process is the publication of the quarterly Pittsburgh Micropolitan Area Economic Report, which is developed by Davidsson and his assistant, Deana Thompson.

The report, which is distributed to more than 700 area businesses, features the latest facts and figures regarding economic, property and employment trends in the region.

"It's a broad overview of every sector of our regional economy," Davidsson said. "Its purpose is to help our business people be more informed about the economy so they can better position themselves for success in the future."

Enactus earns national accolades

The Pittsburgh State Enactus team finished in the top 40 out of more than 600 teams at the 2014 Enactus United States National Exposition in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The group presented at the conference, highlighting its success with Krimson Kultuur, Enactus Community Employment and the Suit Up For Success program.

By finishing in the top 40, the PSU team earned \$3,000 in prize money. Enactus President Danielle Ackermann said the money will be used to further enhance Enactus programming.

"We were all pleased with how we did at nationals," she said, "but we all also know we can do much better. Being in the top 40 is wonderful, but we want to be at the top of the top 40."

The national exposition also allowed the students to market themselves as potential employees to some of the world's major corporations. The career fair featured representatives from companies such as Kraft, Sam's Club, Walmart, Walgreens, Home Depot and Pepsi.

"Overall, our students received 20 interviews with 17 companies, found 11 internship opportunities and spoke with recruiters regarding 13 potential jobs," Enactus Adviser Suzanne Hurt said. "That's one of the big advantages of being in Enactus. The jobs find you."

Kelce College of Business maintains AACSB accreditation

The Kelce College of Business has long been regarded as one of the top business colleges in the world. Once again, it has the backing of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business to prove it.



In March, the Kelce College of Business received word that it has maintained its business accreditation by AACSB International, a hallmark of excellence in business education.

AACSB Accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. Less than 5 percent of the world's 13,000 business programs have earned AACSB Accreditation.

"AACSB accreditation is important to the Kelce College of Business because it reaffirms the value of our programs and serves as a signal to students and employers that we are providing business education at the highest level of quality," said Kelce COB Dean Paul Grimes. "Kelce graduates leave the Pittsburgh State campus knowing that they can compete successfully in the global marketplace alongside graduates from the top business schools in the world."

Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

Baack receives Distinguished Educator Award



PSU President Steve Scott congratulates Donald Baack, recipient of the 2014 SWAM award.

Professor of Management Donald Baack received the 2014 Distinguished Educator by the Southwest Academy of Management (SWAM). He received the award in early March during the organization's annual convention in Dallas.

"I am honored to receive this recognition," Baack said. "It's nice to have your work acknowledged by your peers from other universities."

Baack has taught at Pitt State since 1988 and was recently re-appointed to the rank of University Professor, a title he will hold for seven years. Baack holds a bachelor of science degree from Dana College, an MBA from Southwest Missouri State University and a doctor of philosophy degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska.

The criteria used to select the winner of the Distinguished Educator Award include distinction in service to the profession, teaching, and scholarship, the three primary academic areas emphasized by SWAM.

Baack's teaching has been recognized on several occasions, including nominations for Pittsburg State's Golden Apple Award. He received the Kelce College of Business Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006.

Baack has written or co-written 16 books, nine of which are textbooks in the areas of management, marketing, international business, healthcare, and business communication. These works have been translated into four additional languages and are available in more than 30 countries.

His academic efforts include more than 100 publications in journals and at various conferences. These writings have been cited by other professors in more than 150 academic journal articles.

O'Bryan pens top manuscript, best of 2013

A manuscript written by Professor of Accounting David O'Bryan was named one of the best of the year by the Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business (IMA).



David O'Bryan

To help companies create internships that will best serve

companies and the participating students, O'Bryan led the development of an article titled "10 Best Practices for Business Student Internships." Much of the article's advice to companies was based on real-life experiences.

Pittsburg State alums Jennifer Shewmake, Sarah Sisseck and Jonathan Wiltse provided quotes for the article based on their own internship experiences.

"We brought together several students, and they put together a presentation of internship best practices they had observed from their experiences with several other organizations," O'Bryan said. "This presentation sort of became the starting point for our article."

That article, published last year in Strategic Finance Magazine, a prestigious publication in the accounting industry was recently chosen by the IMA as one of the top manuscripts nationwide in 2013.

With that honor comes a Lybrand Certificate of Merit, which is presented to IMA member authors for their "outstanding contributions to accounting and finance literature." The Lybrand Awards will be presented June 24 at the IMA's national conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

"I am pleased that practitioners found this article useful," O'Bryan said. "This was the whole reason we wrote it. We wanted to share our experiences with others in the hopes that they could learn from them. If more organizations decide to offer internships then I think everyone wins."

Event encourages childhood activity

If their energy could be harnessed, the 1,100 third graders running, jumping and playing in Carnie Smith Stadium in May could probably have powered a small city. The Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation (HHPR) hosted students from Crawford and Cherokee counties for the annual Kansas Kids Fitness Day, an event designed to reinforce the concept of physical activity as a key to a long and healthy life.

Shelly Grimes, coordinator of the event, held this year in Carnie Smith Stadium, said the statewide activity, hosted at sites across Kansas, reminds students to be active every day.



Students learn some karate moves from Jim Otter, director of the School of Construction, above. Below, colorful parachutes offer a different kind of activity.



Research helps local company

It's a partnership that benefits everyone: psychology students need to use their research skills and Pitsco Education relies on solid research to guide the development and improvement of its STEM learning systems.

Recently, PSU students have been or are involved in multiple research projects for the company, according to Jamie Wood, professor in the Psychology and Counseling Department. One of those looked at the effectiveness of a Pitsco method for teaching algebra.

Senior Devin Schulze examined data gathered from a large school district in the southeastern U.S., that compared classrooms using traditional methods of algebra instruction to classrooms using a Pitsco product that combines computer-assisted instruction involving cooperative learning, individualized lessons and group activities. Schulze said he found that students who used the Pitsco program did better.

"We found that if you include cooperative learning – students who worked in groups or teams – the ability for them to learn algebra increased," Schulze said. "The test scores increased and that was true across genders and all ethnic groups."

Matt Frankenbery, vice president for education at Pitsco, said research is vital to the company.

"The research is the name of the game," Frankenbery said, "because accountability is critical for us. The research has to validate that (the product) is actually effective."

Wood said the projects that students do with companies like Pitsco are especially meaningful because of their real-world significance.

‘Phil’s dad’ inspires teachers

President Steve Scott addressed about 90 soon-to-be teachers on May 1 at the university’s annual Teacher Recognition Ceremony, but not in his usual role. Scott said he was speaking to them not as president of the university, as a fellow teacher or as a PSU alumnus, but as Phil Scott’s dad.



Jim Foresman (left) and Phil Scott

The president began his presentation with a childhood photo of Phil, who was born in 1981, following a difficult birth.

“I graduated from Pittsburg State University with a teaching degree and for several years I was a high school math teacher, but not until I had a son did I understand what great teaching is,” Scott said.

When Phil was about 5, Scott explained, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. When it was time for Phil to begin school, Scott said, he and his wife, Cathy, had a mix of emotions.

“We had hopes, but we also had worries,” Scott said.

Over the years, a series of teachers made a difference for Phil, Scott said. He showed a photograph that he described as a metaphor for a great teacher.

In the photo, Pittsburg High School science teacher Jim Foresman stands beside Phil Scott, who is wearing a helmet and gear in anticipation of a rappelling challenge, which was part of an after-school program for middle school students Foresman ran.

“I love the look on Phil’s face,” Scott said. “What do you see? Doubt? Anxiety? But he’s concentrating and thinking about the task.”

And Foresman, Scott said, stands beside his son instead of in front or behind.

“The look on Jim Foresman’s face conveys a belief that ‘you can do this.’”

“That, in my mind, is what great teaching is all about,” Scott said.

The president concluded his brief remarks with a current photo of Phil standing in front of his apartment. He said that today, Phil is an outgoing, happy and active young man who works part time and maintains his own home. He gives much of the credit for Phil’s success to teachers.

“When I think of great teachers,” Scott said, “I think of Phil.”

Scott offered encouraging remarks for the teachers just beginning their careers.

“It is a huge responsibility,” Scott said. “I don’t know that there is a more important role in American life.”

Following President Scott’s remarks, the new teachers received medallions and took “The Teachers Oath,” a tradition that began with the Teachers Recognition Ceremony 10 years ago.

College honors educators

The College of Education honored three teachers and an administrator at the annual Clyde U. Phillips Awards Recognition Ceremony on April 9.

The Clyde U. Phillips Distinguished Service Award is given to one teacher and one administrator whose careers have been highlighted by significant achievement and excellence in education. This year, the awards went to Timothy Vesco, a fourth grade teacher at Frontenac Elementary School, and Kent Wire, the principal at Chanute High School.

Vesco earned his BSEd in 2001 and his MS in educational leadership in 2009, both from PSU. He has taught fourth grade at Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac for 13 years.

Nominators praised Vesco’s teaching techniques. He uses music to introduce or reinforce topics and has created videos with music to popular songs to teach students about the regions of the U.S.

Kent Wire earned his BSEd in physical education from PSU in 1982 and his district level leadership degree in educational leadership in 2011, both from Pittsburg State.

Wire began his career at Greensburg High School as a science and physical education teacher and coach. He moved to Ark City High School in 1987 to become their science teacher and coach. From there he became the assistant principal at Fort Scott High School in 1995 and served in that capacity until he became the principal at Chanute High School in 1999.

The Outstanding Educator Award is given to persons who have shown, within their first seven years of service, the potential to make significant contributions to education. Two awards, one for elementary level and one for secondary, are given. The 2014 Outstanding Educator Awards went to Melissa Box, a teacher at Carthage (Mo.) Junior High School, and Cory Martin, a second grade teacher at Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac.



New wood tech lab 'unlike any other'

The Design and Engineering Lab at the KTC is a classroom unlike any other. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February, participants used a saw to cut a ribbon, made of ribbon mahogany, to dedicate the lab.

"We thought that would be appropriate for this project," said Charlie Phillips, assistant professor of wood technology.


The lab, part of the Pitt State Wood Technology program, was designed during the Spring 2012 semester by graduate students Chris Bell and Scott Vasey, who both later went on to work at Advanced Fixtures Incorporated near Dallas.

Bell and Vasey presented the project to AFI leadership, and the company awarded a grant of \$30,000 to Pittsburg State to fund the project.

"When we both ended up at AFI," Vasey said, "we started talking about the lab we designed at Pitt State. Our boss asked us how much it would take to make it happen, and AFI made it happen. It looks incredible. It's even better than we imagined it could be."

Doug Hague, assistant professor of wood technology, said the lab was built mostly by wood technology students.

"It's an amazing room," Hague said. "It's a unique learning environment, and it's one that fosters creativity and exploration."

Watch online video. 

Women find opportunity in engineering

For a young Jennifer Bradley, watching the popular TV show *MacGyver* wasn't quite enough.

"I needed to understand *MacGyver*," she said. "I couldn't just sit there and enjoy the show. It was more than that. I was obsessed with *MacGyver*. I wanted to be *MacGyver*."

The fictional troubleshooter spoke to Bradley's innate desire to solve problems, to figure out how things work.

"That's the kind of stuff that gets me going," said Bradley, now a manufacturing engineering technology major at PSU. "I love thinking about how things work, how things were designed to work. I want to get my hands on things and tackle problems head-on."

Bradley, a member of the Society of Women Engineers student group at Pitt State, said she believes there are many more women in the world who share those interests but are reluctant to turn them into a career. National statistics agree, as a recent report by the American Society for Engineering Education shows that women account for just 18 percent of engineering degrees nationwide.

A national push to get more women in engineering has been taking place for several years, said Rebeca Book, assistant professor in the Department of

Engineering Technology.

"A lot of females don't consider engineering as a career," Book said. "They are either not aware of it, or they don't feel comfortable pursuing the degree. Many still feel that it's a man's world. We need to change that. We need women to know that they are just as equipped to be engineers as their male counterparts."

Book said she is confident that the number of women in the engineering field will increase with more awareness and encouragement.

"I definitely think we'll see more and more women go into engineering," she said. "

Earlier this year, Book, Bradley and other representatives from Pittsburg State attended the fourth annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) in Kansas City.

Bradley spoke at the conference as a member of the college panel, and she said her message was simple.

"There were so many young girls there, and we wanted to leave them with the belief that they can do this," she said. "Engineering is a complicated, difficult field, and a lot of people have certain fears about it. But whether you are a male or a female, you can do it if you put your mind and heart into it."

Students design shelter for Syrian refugees

A group of construction management majors took second place in a contest that challenged them to design and build a shelter for Syrian refugees.

The 2014 World Vision/John Brown University Disaster Shelter Design Competition challenged students from across the country to design and construct a rapidly deployable transitional disaster shelter that would “meet the needs of a typical Syrian family who are seeking refuge in one of the numerous border camps dotted along the Syrian border in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.”

This is the first year Pitt State students competed in the event. The team finished second behind the host school, John Brown University.

“It’s an awesome competition to be a part of,” senior Austin Leake said. “It’s exciting to know that something that is designed by Pitt State students could have ended up helping families who are trying to survive war in their home country.”

The competition took place in April at JBU in Siloam Spring, Ark.

“We are incredibly pleased and proud of how our students performed at the competition,” Assistant Professor Norman Philipp said. “They worked really hard on this project for many months, and that effort paid off at the competition.”

Watch online video. 

Heflin earns national ADDY Award

It started with local awards. Then came regional honors. And then Matt Heflin received the highest honor awarded in the 2014 American Advertising Awards (AAA).

Heflin, a PSU graphic design major who graduated in May, received a Gold Award for his design of Brew Chew, a product he describes as “an after-beverage gum.”

Now a professional designer at Leggett & Platt in Carthage, Mo., Heflin was one of 20 students nationwide to receive a Gold ADDY Award. More than 40,000 entries were submitted to the AAA this year.

“The whole experience was incredibly surreal,” Heflin said. “The honor of receiving that type of award didn’t sink in until the night of the ceremony and realizing that there were only a handful of students that were being honored.”


Heflin, an Oswego native, credited the faculty and staff at PSU for his success.

“I have nothing but gratitude to God for this gift and to my family, department and teachers,” he said. “The competition at that level was fierce, and I am truly blessed to have been a part of it. We have an incredible graphics and imaging department at Pitt State, and I’m so happy I landed there.”



Matt Heflin

PSU hosts first Great Gorilla Games

Watch online video. 

Nearly 500 high school students from across the region visited Pitt State in April for the first ever Great Gorilla Games.

The event featured a variety of STEM-based challenges and competitions, most of which took place in John Lance Arena. Challenges ranged from building rubber-band-powered dragsters and airplanes to designing and building an autonomous robot.

“This had been in the works for about a year,” said Mike Neden, associate professor in technology and workforce learning and one of the key organizers of the Great Gorilla Games. “It’s an

expansion of an annual event we called the Gorilla Games, which kept growing to the point where we knew we’d one day need more space.

“We want the students who participate to truly get a broad-ranging scope of what STEM and technology education is all about,” Neden said. “We want to expose them to this type of environment and hopefully show them why this field continues to grow in relevance and importance.”

When they weren’t competing, students were able to view a series of technology-related presentations inside and outside the Kansas Technology

Center, including demonstrations by the Teeniemunde Rocketry Club and professional drag racers.



Jeronimus earns MIAA's Ken B. Jones Award



Lizzy Jeronimus

PSU's own Lizzy Jeronimus was the women's recipient of the 2013-14 MIAA Ken B. Jones Award, an award recognizing the top male and female student-athlete in the conference. She was recognized at the league's annual awards ceremony on June 5.

Gorilla football standout Nate Dreiling was one of the top three finalists for the men's award.

Jeronimus has established herself one of the top basketball players in the MIAA and NCAA Division II. A junior from Lenexa, Kan., Jeronimus was second last season in the MIAA in scoring at more than 18 points per game and she ranked among the MIAA's statistical leaders in rebounding, field goals percentage, assists and blocked shots. At the conclusion of the season she garnered first-team All-MIAA as

well as first-team All-America accolades. Next season she will enter her senior year as the nation's second leading active career scorer in Division II, having already scored over 1,600 career points.

Off the court, Jeronimus was a volunteer in cleanup efforts from a tornado in Baxter Springs, Kan.; she helped with a clinic for area Girl Scouts; she was active in the annual Backpack Program food drive; and, she was an active member of PSU's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter.

Academically, Jeronimus has earned both MIAA Scholar Athlete honors as well as Capital One Academic All-District honors. She also has been a multiple award recipient of the Pitt State Provost Award for Academic Excellence. She is currently a management major with a 3.80 GPA.

"This award means a lot to me because it not only shows my athletic success, but also my success in the classroom and my work in the community. It was my goal to be a student first and an athlete second at Pitt State. I am fortunate enough to have had many people support me along the way. My family, my coaches, teammates, professors, and fans have kept me going throughout my journey.

Jeronimus said her family's support has been central to her success.

"My parents, brothers, grandparents and uncles make it to almost every game. It means the world to me to always have family members cheering me on in the stands. Their support motivates me to be the player that I am but most importantly I know that no matter what they are always proud of me."

Athletics fills key positions

Over the summer, Athletics added two new staff members. Tom Myers, the new director of athletics facilities, will play a key role in the use and upkeep of the new Robert W. Plaster Center. Matt Nelson, director of strength training and nutrition, will be responsible for the continued effort to provide the best services for Gorilla student-athletes to have Pitt State competing at the highest level possible in all sports.

Myers returns to his alma mater after serving the past seven seasons as head baseball coach and supervisor of James R. Crane Stadium at Robert N. Tompkins Field at the University of Central Missouri (2008-14). He previously served as an assistant baseball coach at Kansas State University for five years (2003-07).

Myers, a native of Bartlesville, Okla., earned a BA in management from PSU in 1999, after enjoying a decorated three-year baseball playing career for PSU.

Tom is married to the former Tiffany Beshore, who played basketball at PSU from 1997-98. The couple has two children, Logan, 9, and Addison, 7.

Nelson comes to Pitt State from William Jewell College where he served as the Cardinals' head strength & conditioning coach for the past year. He also served as an assistant strength & conditioning coach at Northwest Missouri State University and served strength & conditioning internships at TCU and MU.

Nelson earned a BS in corporate recreation and wellness from NWMSU and a master of science degree in applied health/sports sciences from the school in May 2011. He is a certified strength and conditioning specialist (NSCA).

The Maryville, Mo., native was a three-year starter on the football team for the Bearcats, earning honorable mention All-MIAA honors as a senior in 2008. He started 44 consecutive games while helping the Bearcats make four straight NCAA Division II National Championship Game appearances.

NCAA DII Spring Awards

Two track national champions highlight spring award winners for Pitt State Athletics. Junior Jeff Piepenbrink won the NCAA Division II men's pole vault title. He cleared 17 feet, 4.5 inches to best his school record in the event. Fellow junior Antqunita Reed, also a guard on the Pitt State women's basketball team, took the NCAA Division II title in the women's triple jump. Reed jumped 43 feet, 8.5 inches. Reed also placed third in the long jump with a leap of 20-3.5.




Jeff Piepenbrink



Antqunita Reed



A strong contingent of alumni returned to participate in the 33rd annual Gorilla Football Golf Invitational on Monday, June 23, at Crestwood Country Club. The event and related activities not only support Gorilla Athletics, but also provide alumni an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones among the growing PSU family.

Watch online video. 

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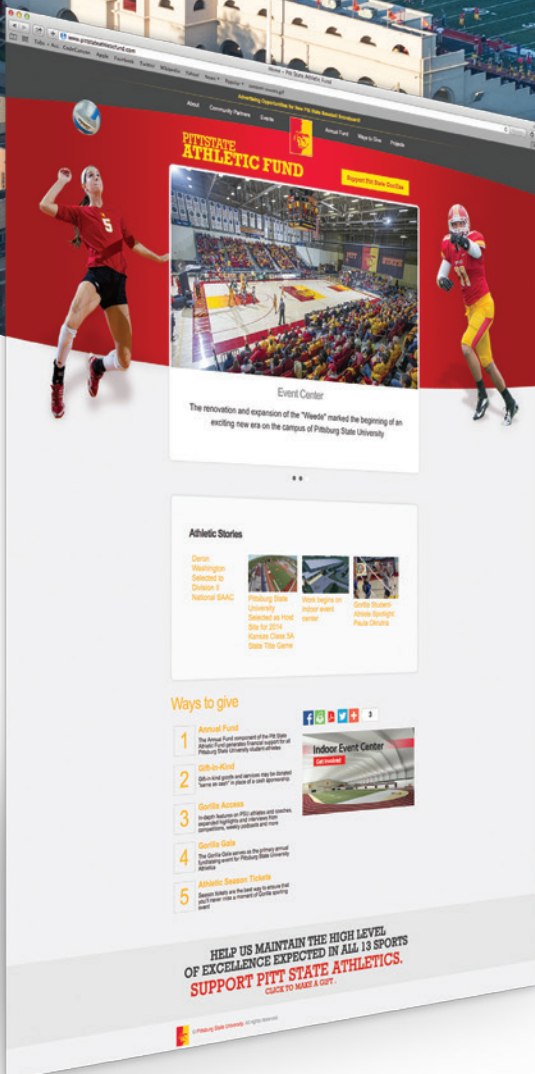


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Distinguished Service



Alumni Association President Ray Jacquinot, left, and President Steve Scott, right, present the Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award to Barry Williamson and Steve and Mary Beth Robb.

In March, PSU honored Barry Williamson and Steve and Mary Beth Robb with the 2014 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award.

President Steve Scott said the Distinguished Service Award recipients were chosen because of “their passion for student achievement and for Pittsburg State University.”

The Alumni Association created the award in 1991 to recognize volunteer service to PSU and presented the first award later that year to Dr. Ralf Thomas, a retired faculty member and volunteer for the Alumni Association.

Williamson, former vice president at the Insurancecenter in Joplin, received a bachelor’s and master’s degree from PSU. Previously, he has been recognized by the university with its Outstanding Young Alumni Award and is currently serving on the Foundation Board. He has been a Phone-a-thon volunteer and is a Lifetime Member of the President’s Club.

Scott called Williamson and his wife, Barbara, (Class of ’75) “lifelong Gorillas” and praised them for their hard work in helping bring the Pitt State license plate program to Missouri.

“In fact, Barry’s and Barbara’s were the first applications we accepted for

the program, which now sits at nearly 300 license plates,” Scott said.

Steve Robb is the former executive director of the Business and Technology Institute at PSU. Mary Beth received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from PSU in 1979 and today is the director of the KUMC Area Health Education Center, housed in Shirk Hall.

Scott praised Steve Robb for his

assistance with the university economic development impact study and many other special projects. He noted, however, that Steve and Mary Beth may be best known for the colorful fags and banners they install at GorillaFest and other PSU events.

A full bio on each recipient can be found at magazine.pittstate.edu.

Honored for Career Achievements

PSU’s Meritorious Achievement Award recipients for 2014 have distinguished themselves in education, business and military service.

“Pittsburg State University’s more than 56,000 alumni are doing some incredible things across the U.S. and around the world,” said Jon Bartlow, director of alumni and constituent relations. “These three individuals represent many others who each day distinguish themselves in their places of work and their communities.”

The Meritorious Achievement Award recipients (pictured at right) for 2014 are, William J. “Jody” Billiard, vice president, chief accounting officer and corporate controller of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated; Brigadier Gen. Peter A. Gallagher, deputy commanding general of Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM); and Cynthia Lane, superintendent of the Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools.

While on campus, the honorees spoke to classes, met campus and community leaders and participated in a public panel discussion. A full bio for each recipient can be found at magazine.pittstate.edu.

Watch online video. 



A Taste of Pittsburg

Homecoming participants have a taste of 10 local favorites. The annual event is sponsored by Alumni and Constituent Relations and held on homecoming weekend, Oct. 10. For more information on homecoming activities, visit pittstate.edu/alumni.

2014 Meritorious Achievement Award recipients

Brigadier Gen. Peter A. Gallagher,
Cynthia Lane and William J. "Jody" Billiard.



Phased retirement and retirees

People make Pitt State the special place it is. We wish to thank these members of the faculty & staff for their service as they enter retirement.

Sandra Bauchmoyer, Professor, Health, Human Performance & Recreation

Judy Berry-Bravo, University Professor, Modern Languages & Literatures

Dennis Bounds, Officer, University Police & Parking Services

Tom Bryant, President Emeritus, Professor, Health Human Performance & Recreation

Henry Emadipour, Professor, Plastics Engineering Technology

Steve Hall, Electrician, Building Trades & Landscape Maintenance

Richard Herling, Assistant Professor, Technology & Workforce Learning

Bill Ivy, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management & Student Success

John Johnson, Strength & Conditioning Coach, Athletics

Larry Joy, Electronics Technician Senior, Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology

Chuck Killingsworth, Professor, Health, Human Performance & Recreation

Donna Lair, Lab Educational Technician, Biology

Cederick Lindskog, Professor, Psychology & Counseling

Stephen Meats, Professor, English

Lorna Metro, Senior Administrative Specialist, Development

Marilyn Miller, Custodial Services, Custodial and General Services

Sarah Tosh, Administrative Specialist, History, Philosophy & Social Science

Jim Triplett, University Professor, Biology

Cap Ulrey, Electronics Technologist, College of Technology

Half Century Club Reunion

The Half Century Reunion class took time from their reunion activities for a group photo on the marble stairs of Russ Hall.



Class Notes

Class of 1960

John Kecec (BSE '60, MS '66), has published a historical fiction novel entitled "Fire in the Hole," set in and around Pittsburg. The novel's central characters are two Austrian brothers who come to southeast Kansas in the 1880s to mine coal. For his novel, Kecec relied on his experience growing up in Pittsburg and his family's rich mining heritage. Kecec is a retired Mineral Area College instructor. He and his wife live in Bonne Terre, Mo. "Fire in the Hole" is available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other online bookstores.

Class of 1970

Gregory Alan Schell (BSEd, '70) retired from teaching in 2011 and has been inducted into the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame. At PSU, Schell majored in history and minored in biology. He received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching in 1986

and worked as science consultant for the Kansas Department of Education from 1993 to 2004.

Class of 1971

Larry Freeze (BA '71), editor of Kansas Country Living magazine in Topeka, received the George W. Haggard Memorial Journalism Award for 2014 from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The award recognizes and publicly commends the editor and electric co-op publication that demonstrates the most lucid, forthright, and effective presentation of ideas advancing the objectives of electric cooperatives and issues that affect them and their consumer-owners. Freeze, who was editor of The Collegio in 1970-71,



has served as the magazine's editor since 1979 and has presided over a circulation increase from 75,000 to 122,000 monthly.

Class of 1973

Diane Bohling Wahto (MA in English, '73), has had two poems, "Leap of Faith" and "After," published in "Kansas Time + Place," former Kansas poet laureate Caryn Mirriam Goldberg's new web project. Wahto also had poems in Goldberg's anthologies, "To the Stars Through Difficulty: A Kansas Renga in 150 Voices" and "Begin Again: 150 Kansas Poems." Wahto participated in the readings around the state that took place after the two anthologies were published.

Class of 1981

Catherine Morrell (BSE '81, MS '86) retired from USD 413 after teaching for 30 years in Chanute, Kan. Morrell received the Outstanding Educator Award

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Class Notes

in 2006 and was nominated for Kansas Teacher of the Year Award in 2007.

Class of 1983

Rex Babcock (MS '83) has retired from USD 413 in Chanute, Kan., after teaching math and science in the district for 35 years. Babcock was awarded the USD 413 Outstanding Young Educator of the year in 1982, the National Milken Educator Award in 1993, the Kansas Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year award in 1994, the Kansas Teacher Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Kansas North Central Association Excellence In Education Award in 2002.

Dann Brown (BS '83, MS '85), dean of University College and director of the PACE Center at Texas State University, was recognized as a 'Leader of Change' by the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation (NCCI) at the organization's annual meeting on July 18. Brown was nominated for the 'Leader of Change' award based upon his leadership for the redesign of the first-year experience at Texas State and implementation of an innovative one-stop shop process designed to help students clarify their career goals while developing plans for graduating from college in a timely manner. Since its inception in June 2012, the Texas State PACE Center has served more than 12,000 freshmen with academic advising, career exploration, peer mentoring, and academic coaching services.

Class of 1986

Ronda Fincher (BM '86, MM '87) has been named assistant superintendent for USD 250 in Pittsburg, Kan. Fincher is a 1981 graduate of Pittsburg High School. She has served in education since 1987 in the roles of teacher, principal, curriculum coordinator, and superintendent. Most recently, she has been the director of alternative learning for Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush.

continued



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Class of 1988

Alan D. Marble, Ph.D., (MS '88) was named president of Missouri Southern State University in June after serving as the institution's interim president for nearly a year. Previously, Marble served Crowder College for 27 years, the last seven as its president.

Class of 2002

Lucas Hunziger (BSE, technology education, '02) has been named director of technical education at Highland Community College. He will be located in the HCC Technical Center in Atchison, Kan. Previously, Hunziger was the industrial technology instructor at Easton USD 449.

Class of 2005

Margaret Bideau (MS, educational leadership, '05) has retired from the Chanute, Kan., school district, where she taught kindergarten, first grade, fourth grade and fifth grade at Chanute elementary schools. She has also been a coordinator for Youth Friends for USD 413.

Class of 2007

Kelly (Livingston) Shaer (BBA '07, MBA '09), a certified public accountant with James Moore, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants in Gainesville, Fla., has been promoted to senior accountant. As a senior accountant, Shaer will perform audit and accounting procedures necessary to complete financial statement audits. She will participate in various phases of audit, compilation and review engagements, including budgeting and planning. Shaer will also be responsible for directing and reviewing the audit work of associate accountants and staff accountants. She joined the firm in December 2013.

Class of 2009

Rob Lundien (EdS Counseling, '09), Counseling Department chair at Staley High School, North Kansas

City School District, was selected as the Greater Kansas City School Counseling Association (GKCSA) Secondary Counselor of the Year. Lundien was recognized earlier this spring at the GKCSA annual spring banquet in Independence, Mo. He is now in the running for the Missouri School Counselor Association (MSCA) Secondary School Counselor of the Year Award, which will be announced at this fall's annual MSCA conference at Tan-Tar-A. In addition, Lundien also completed his 25th half marathon this past June by running the Hospital Hill Half Marathon in Kansas City.

Class of 2012

Kelly Fincher (BS Sociology '12) has been named director of community relations and development for CLASS, a nonprofit organization that provides services for individuals with intellectual or other developmental disabilities in Southeast Kansas. Fincher is responsible for planning, coordination, and support of CLASS' community relations and development activities, including special events and fundraising campaigns.

In Memory

Deaths are listed based on information received from families or reported in local newspapers. They are listed by date of graduation or attendance.

Alice A. (Dail) Ange, 1937, Fair Oaks, Calif.

Cecila (Ensmann) Waggoner, 1939,
Pittsburg, Kan.

Arlene M. Shawgo, 1939, Anderson, Mo.

Robert N. Hornbuckle, 1940, Tucson, Ariz.

Elma J. (McKinney) Gay, 1941, N.M.

Nora J. (Bass) Osborne, 1941

Joseph James White, 1941, Fort Scott, Kan.

Russell Neas, 1941, Tulsa, Okla.

Bill J. McCallop, 1942, Shawnee, Kan.

Frank Horn, Jr., 1942, Ames, La.

F. Jean Householder, 1942, Atchison, Kan.

Lavern Mausolf, 1944, Overland Park, Kan.

Lois M. Bellm, 1944, Aiken, S.C.

Angela M. (Reda) Kiefer, 1946,
Independence, Mo.

Edna Farren, 1947, Lane, Kan.

Alathea L. (Walker) Alsuo, 1947,
Vienna, W.Va.

Harold C. Severt, 1947, Parsons, Kan.

Robert A. Crews, 1948, Houston, Texas

Mardeen Maxine (Bolze) Hartford, 1949,
Manhattan, Kan.

Leonard Tunnell, 1950, Miami, Okla.

Herber J. Swender, 1950, Chanute, Kan.

Phyllis Lou (Wells) Bridenstine, 1950,
Caney, Kan.

Wilma Dains, 1951, Topeka, Kan.

Donald D. Uhlenhop, 1951, Andover, Kan.

Patricia H. Denham, 1951, Georgetown, Texas

Hubert A. "Pete" Stover, 1952,
Coffeyville, Kan.

Dwight Howard, 1953, Iola, Kan.

Horace E. Cornell, Jr., 1953, Wagoner, Okla.

Andrea J. Scott Thompson, 1954,
Houston, Texas

Harry A. Troop, 1954, Salisbury, N.C.

Neale D. Shaw, 1955, Parsons, Kan.

Donald E. Wilson, 1955, Pittsburg, Kan.

Ernest G. Amoneno, 1956, Willis, Texas

Sidney G. Hicks, 1956, Southern Pine, N.C.

James A. Didier, 1957, Pittsburg, Kan.

Clarence Lee Miller, 1957, Overland Park, Kan.

Dorothy E. (Sawtelle) Fultz, 1957,
Parsons, Kan.

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Donna J. (Brage) Millard, 1957, Wichita, Kan.
Earnestine Johnson, 1957, Lenexa, Kan.
Billy Mack Norris, 1957, Yates Center, Kan.
Rex McDaniel, 1958, Pittsburg, Kan.
Marilyn (Tipton) Flanders, 1958, Cherryvale, Kan.
Richard N. Day, 1959, Sarcosie, Mo.
Howard N. Dix, 1959, Brea, Calif.
Charles Edward Neubecker, 1959, Overland Park, Kan.
Joseph Y. DeCuyper, 1959, Kansas City, Mo.
Carl Stuffings, 1959, Artesia, N.M.
Sandra L. Benson, 1960, Olathe, Kan.
Edward M. Gripkey, 1960, Columbia, S.C.
Robert H. Vermillion, 1960, Seneca, Mo.
Calvin Cassady, Jr., 1960, Carthage, Mo.
Francis L. Hesse, 1960, New Orleans, La.
Dorothy Jane Owens Benjamin, 1960, Garnett, Kan.
Fred Christman, 1960, Locust Grove, Okla.
Russell D. Pryer, 1960, Arma, Kan.
Sunshine (Short) Erickson, 1961, Chanute, Kan.
Lawrence H. Gentry, Jr., 1961, Dallas, Texas
Merima Carver Short, 1961, Altoona, Kan.
Loren Evison, 1962, Paola, Kan.
Marilyn K. (West) McCormick, 1962, Mount Hope, Kan.
Charles G. Logan, 1962, Clinton Beach, Kan.
James Edwin Menhusen, 1962, Anthony, Kan.
Mary Martin, 1963, Diamond, Mo.
Margie A. (Smith) Williams, 1963, Baxter Springs, Kan.
Larry Goode, 1964, Joplin, Mo.
Jerry A. Potts, 1964, Jamestown, Ky.
Myrtle F. Pickens Livesay Crowson, 1964, Blue Springs, Mo.
Gracie J. Coble, 1964, Miami, Okla.
Constance J. Davis, 1964, Colcord, Okla.
Charles L. McCormick, 1964, Mount Hope, Kan.
Dr. James Gray, 1964, Tulsa, Okla.
Charles W. Hirsch, 1965, Muskogee, Okla.
Donald Ray Sern, 1965, Fort Scott, Kan.
Sheila K. Dabbs Huchaby, 1965, Memphis, Tenn.
Mary Charlotte (Cuthbertson) Crawford, 1966, Merriam, Kan.
Vivian L. Cole, 1967, La Russell, Mo.
Ronald E. Mitchell, 1967, Copperas Cove, Texas
Howard R. Beerbower, Jr., 1967, Springfield, Ill.
James Morris Gray, 1967, Tulsa, Okla.
George H. Parker II, 1967, Topeka, Kan.
Joan (Townsend) Smith, 1967, Farlington, Kan.
Willis Eugene Pewitt, 1967, Webb City, Mo.

Cherokee Rose (Robertson) Wilkins, 1968, Miami, Okla.
Joan E. (Prete) Lewis, 1968, Pittsburg, Kan.
Dee Baxter, 1968, Deby, Kan.
Patricia C. (Sawyer) Price, 1968, Dallas, Texas
Patricia Carol Price, 1968, Dallas, Texas
Sherlyn (Riley) Karst, 1968, Port Orange, Fla.
Betty Jean (Noggle) Fetterly, 1968, Tulsa, Okla.
Terry D. Howard, 1968, Springfield, Mo.
James "Jimmy" Wilson, 1969, Independence, Kan.
Doris Jean (Crockett) Wood, 1969, Briarbrook, Mo.
G. Kent Ketcher, 1969, Miami, Okla.
Larry D. Schell, 1969, St. Clair, Mo.
Louanne Corey, 1970, Fisherville, Va.
Dr. Fred Linebarger, 1970, St. Charles, Ill.
Wayne Thomas Cameron, 1970, Independence, Kan.
Karen (Crum) Proctor, 1971, Wichita, Kan.
Jane (Cunningham) England, 1971, Altamont, Kan.
Steven Eugene Springer, 1971, Prescott, Kan.
Garry J. Hess, 1971, Joplin, Mo.

John William Martin, 1971, Chanute, Kan.
Jack Lundstrum, 1971, Chanute, Kan.
Joann L. Clough, 1974, Oswego, Kan.
Charles R. Dykens, 1974, Joplin, Mo.
Dennis D. Mollnow, 1974, Andover, Kan.
Eanest Bernard Hall, Jr., 1974, Springfield, Mo.
Carlos Duane Harwood, 1975, Farmington, Mo.
Daivd F. Jenkins, 1975, Weir, Kan.
Cecil Raymond Wilson, 1975, Liberal, Kan.
Ernest B. Hall, Jr., 1975, Willard, Mo.
Donna (Maxwell) Jones, 1976, Iola, Kan.
Suzan (Guinty) Spiser, 1976, Arkansas City, Kan.
Patricia M. (Waggoner) Brando, 1977, Grove, Okla.
Merlin D. McCool, 1977, Pittsburg, Kan.
Thomas Alan Buchanan, 1977, Bartlesville, Okla.
Viki Lynn Simmons, 1977, Carthage, Mo.
William M. Troth, 1978, Pleasanton, Kan.
Kathy J. (Zagar) Grilz, 1979, Pittsburg, Kan.
Larry Dugan, 1979, Galena, Kan.
Christine Eileen Babich, 1979, Fairbanks, Alaska

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Class Notes

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Viola L. Reavis, 1980, Miami, Okla.

Dawn D. (Christian) Thomas, 1983,
Fairfax, Va.

Marcus L. Swinson, 1984, Carthage, Mo.

Paul Dudley Robbins, 1984, Parsons, Kan.

Gregory A. Mix, 1984, Troy, Mo.

David Paul Banahasky, 1984, Melbourne, Fla.

Fredric John O'Grady, 1986, Kansas City, Mo.

Timothy Bishop, 1987, Kansas City, Kan.

Gladys (Strohm) Groves, 1987, Howard, Kan.

Thomas S. Mikels, 1987, La Crosse, Wis.

Kathy A. (Marler) Moses, 1987,

Springfield, Mo.

Joseph Kazmierski, 1988, Pittsburg, Kan.

Gary D. Gibson, 1988, Cumberland, Ky.

Margaret A. (McDonald) Lyden, 1988,
Little Rock, Ark.

Lois A. (Mullin) Mallory, 1989, Wichita, Kan.

Carolyn M. Dahl, 1989, Bentonville, Ark.

John H. Hodge, 1989, St. Louis, Mo.

Ronald D. Whaley, 1989, Miami, Okla.

Margie L. (McAtee) Crager, 1990,

St. Paul, Kan.

Raphael V. Joseph, 1990, Shawnee, Kan.

Judith (Schippert) Harvey, 1990,

Pittsburg, Kan.

Melanie B. (Boone) Nye, 1990,

Bartlesville, Okla.

Lilly M. (Hoffman) Perea, 1991,

Pittsburg, Kan.

Jimmie L. Williams, 1991, Sarcovie, Mo.

Pat A. Wachter, 1991, Houston, Texas

Roy "Lee" Rogers, 1993, Kearney, Mo.

Rodney Dale Stockard, 1993, Princeton, Kan.

Deborah S. (Wright) Viets, 1998,

Independence, Kan.

Misty R. (Gale) Chalker, 1998, Parsons, Kan.

Douglas B. Urie, 2001, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Benjamin Bish, 2001, Americus, Kan.

Alta Tennyson, 2001, Iola, Kan.

Matthew Smith, 2002, Lenexa, Kan.

Garold Shafer, 2002, Caney, Kan.

Kathleen Dickerson Petree, 2003,

Rogers, Ark.

Lance E. Carlson, 2004, Stark, Kan.

David Lee Walker, 2004, Wichita, Kan.

Jake S. Fincher, 2008, Baldwin City, Kan.

Angela Traylor, 2011, Andover, Kan.

Justin William "Bubba" Ramirez, 2014,

Parsons, Kan.

Class year unavailable:

Mary Ellen (Stilwell) Edwards, Elk Falls, Kan.

William "Bill" Gene Nims, Milo, Mo.

Clark T. Van Pelt, Owasso, Okla.

James "Jimmy" Thomas, Joplin, Mo.

Steven Ira Nickelson, Pleasanton, Kan.

Randy Adcock, Pittsburg, Kan.

Dorothy Mae (Dintaman) Edds,

Carthage, Mo.

Harry Dale Foreman Sr., Walker, Mo.

Rinda Utes Gilpin, Chetopa, Kan.

Jay Don Frazell, Iola, Kan.

Wesley L. Boner, Cherryvale, Kan.

Patricia Anne (Parker) McAdoo,

Ness City, Kan.

Marilyn (Kirkpatric) Walker,

Baxter Springs, Kan.

Gregory M. Hanson, Kansas City, Mo.

Winifred Vrooman (Vrooman) Coyle,

Coffeyville, Kan.

Oluf E. Nielsen, Quapaw, Okla.

Robert M. Nevin, Coffeyville, Kan.

Peter Edmonds Mackey, Kansas City, Kan.

Raymond L. Tripp, Fort Scott, Kan.

Gerald T. "Gary" Allen, Independence, Kan.

Patricia Emerson, Ochelata, Okla.

Reva Harris, Garland, Shawnee, Kan.

Nancy Lillis Atkins, Fort Scott, Kan.

Sharon Afton (Clayton) Viets,

Independence, Kan.

Employees:

Susan Cathleen (Pucci) Gaston, Tulsa, Okla.



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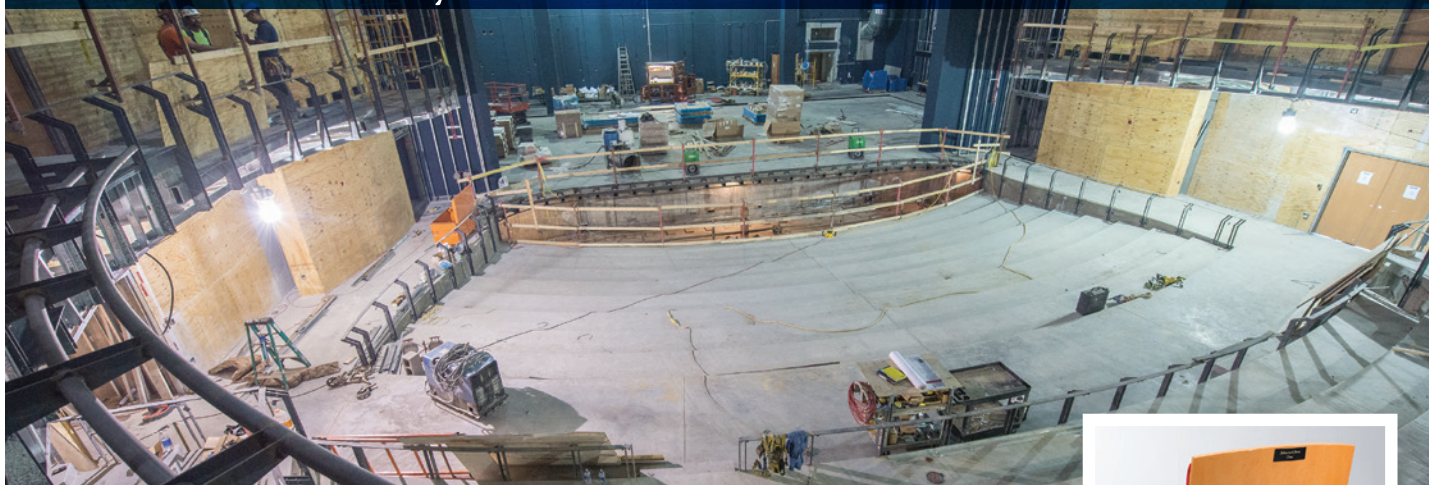
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The Jane Doe Family



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Marvin Clothier, DDS, and his wife, Becky, may not be Pitt State alumni, but they are proud members of the Gorilla family, nonetheless. Two of the Clothiers' children are PSU alumni and their daughter-in-law also has a degree from PSU. The Clothiers have given to the Annual Fund for more than 25 consecutive years.

The Clothiers are owners of Smile Solutions in Pittsburg. They say that as small-business owners, they recognize the important role the university plays in the local economy and the life of the community.

"PSU is important to our family and the community," Marvin said. "It is one of, if not the, primary stabilizing force in the local economy and the entire SEK region."

In addition to the economic benefits PSU brings to the community, Marvin believes the university also has an important impact on the quality of life in the region. That's important to the Clothiers, who have three grandchildren growing up in Pittsburg.

"Maintaining the structure and activity of such a valued institution is clearly essential," Marvin said. "It is an entity worthy of support."

For more information on how to give to PSU, visit www.pittstate.edu/support-your-passion.

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2014

Aug 29.....	Movie on the Jungletron: "Maleficent"	PSU
Sept. 9.....	Retired Faculty and Staff Brunch	PSU
Sept. 16.....	Gorilla Gathering Dinner on PSU Campus.....	Bourbon County
Sept 23.....	Gorilla Gathering Dinner on PSU Campus.....	Labette County
Sept 27	Family Weekend Fiesta Carnival.....	PSU
Sept 30	Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Jasper County
Oct. 7.....	Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Neosho County
Oct. 10.....	Taste of Pittsburg	PSU
Oct. 11	Homecoming/Chicken Wars Tailgate	PSU
Oct. 14.....	Gorilla Networking Lunch	Wichita, Kan
Oct. 18.....	PSU vs. NWMO Tailgate.....	Maryville, Mo.
Oct. 22.....	Gorilla Gathering Dinner on PSU Campus.....	Cherokee County
Oct. 23.....	Gorilla Networking Lunch	Kansas City
Oct 25.....	Chili and Salsa Challenge Tailgate.....	PSU
Nov. 1	PSU vs. MSSU Tailgate.....	Joplin, Mo.
Nov. 4.....	Northwest Arkansas After Hours	Northwest Ark.
Nov. 8.....	Chris Cakes Tailgate	PSU
Nov. 11	Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Montgomery County
Nov. 13	Joplin After hours.....	Jasper County
Nov. 20.....	Wichita After Hours	Wichita, Kan
Dec 1	Gingerbread House Decorating Contest.....	PSU

Dates are subject to change. Please check the Alumni and Constituent Relations website for updates or changes.



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