



# Pitt State

Spring 2014

MAGAZINE



## Eye on the prize-

Student vet won't  
let injury spoil  
his dreams







# PittState

MAGAZINE

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PITTSTATE  
MAGAZINE  
ONLINE

## From the editor

We're ready for an exciting spring on campus with work underway on the Center for the Arts, the Plaster Center and soon, the Overman Student Center. While we keep you up to date on events here, please don't forget to keep us up to date on what's happening in your life! Check out the news, photos and videos we can offer only online at [magazine.pittstate.edu](http://magazine.pittstate.edu).

Watch online video. 

Cover photo courtesy of  
Dean Alberga/World Archery.



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## #GorillaNation

### TheSchoolPsych

I am officially a "Third-Degree" Nerd. I am proud to be a @pittstate student and @PittStateAlumni! #gorillanation

### JourdanMiller

No better place to be on a Saturday! #GorillaNation

### hannahpio

We'll cheer on our gorillas from anywhere! #Gorillanation

### taylor\_w21

@pittstate even the trees are Pitt colors. #fall #gorillanation

### ike\_maselera

There's only one #GorillaNation

### rachelwilson45

My campus is prettier than yours #pittstate #gorillanation

### Totes\_Beks

It's always a great day to be a gorilla. #GorillaNation

### Bigwill973

Thanks for the support. Pitt State really does have the best fans in the nation!!! #gorillanation

### SheilahCollette

I absolutely love being a gorilla & being a part of such an amazing band. #GorillaNation

### Mila\_Infanti29

I love seeing Pitt State bumper stickers and license plates in KC. #GorillaNation

### DicLit\_erature

Been in Lawrence, Topeka and KC almost every day for the last year and a half. Most prevalent license plate = Pitt State. #GorillaNation

## Early Gus revealed

Thanks for the great article about the genesis of "Gus." One of my favorite memories of Gus is Rick Woolfolk in a full-blown Gus costume, climbing down a rope from the second balcony to the main floor of the old science building during Apple Day festivities. Rick did an excellent impression of Gus Gorilla on this and many other occasions, some time between 1968 and 1970.

**RICH DAVIS**, BSSED 1969, MS Counselor Education 1971

## Gus and Dellinger Hall

In the fall of 1966, Dellinger Hall opened. In either 1968 or 1969, I served on the Dellinger Hall student senate that purchased the first Gorilla suit that would bring Gus to life. Several of the Dellinger Hall residents donned the costume. As far as I know, Gus appeared at all football and basketball games, parades, and many other activities. In the late '60s and early '70s the most famous and renowned resident of Dellinger Hall was none other than Gus the Gorilla!

**LLOYD EVANS**, '72

## Mother's story

*Molly Alford writes that when her mother, Freda Jean Elmore Weegar (Class of '47) died in West Covina, Calif., last summer, a number of stories about her time on campus were shared at her eulogy. – the Editor*

"It was because of her love of college that all of her children looked forward to attending college," Alford wrote. "Here is one story that might make you smile.

During her senior year, Freda was president of her sorority (Alpha Sigma Alpha), and there was a spring dance scheduled for the end of the year. Freda, of course, was busy organizing the dance, and discovered that she was going to have a conflict between her French final and the time she had scheduled to decorate for the dance. When she told the French teacher about the conflict, the teacher told her that she had a choice to make. If she missed the final, she would flunk the class and not get her diploma. Freda thought about it and decided the dance was more important and missed the final. She was allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies so her parents didn't know she hadn't completed her degree. It wasn't until years later that she made up the missing class and finished her degree. But she didn't miss the dance."

**MOLLY ALFORD**



Students attended classes in tents on the Oval in the summer weeks after the Russ Hall fire in 1914. In the background is the newly constructed Whitesitt Hall. Read more about that signature event in PSU's history on page 20.

**We enjoy hearing from our readers!** Send your letters to [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto:psumag@pittstate.edu).



*This* is the living room of the past...



help us to create  
the living room of the *future*.



It is estimated the total cost of the addition to the Overman Student Center will be approximately \$16 million. The majority of the cost, approximately \$14 million, will be funded by student fees as dedicated through a student referendum in March, 2012. A fund-raising campaign is now underway to close that gap.

**For more information:**

**Pittsburg State University**  
**Office of University Development**  
**620-235-4768**  
**[www.pittstate.edu/info/student-center](http://www.pittstate.edu/info/student-center)**



*Thank you for your consideration.*

*"Known as the 'Living Room of the campus', the Student Center serves students, alumni, faculty-staff and community guests in a variety of ways and has done so since 1951. In my own case, I met and courted my future wife in the Student Center. Now, 50 years later, we often look back with many fond memories. While memories are important, so too, is the future. It's time for improvements, an update and expansion of this campus centerpiece to better serve its many customers and especially the future generations of students."*

**- DR. JAMES AUBUCHON,**  
*Class of '63 & Vice President Emeritus*



## New Center for the Arts director named

Joseph Firman will have the task of managing the new Center for the Arts when it opens this fall. Firman assumed his duties at PSU in February.



Joseph Firman

“Mr. Firman brings a great deal of experience in the management of a facility of this type. Under his leadership, we are confident the Center for the Arts will have a major impact on the region,” said Steve Erwin, associate vice president for campus life and auxiliary services.

Prior to coming to PSU, Firman was the special projects coordinator at Dakota State University. Previously, he served as director of operations for the Sioux Falls, S.D., Convention Center and before that, as the facility manager for the Performing Arts Center at South Dakota State University.

While serving in the Air Force, Firman worked as a military broadcaster producing radio and television programming in Germany, Bosnia and Iceland.

Firman earned a bachelor of science degree in fine arts administration from Dakota State University in Madison, S.D., in 1997. He earned a master’s degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma in 2002.

As director of the Center for the Arts, Firman will be responsible for the overall management of the facility, including supervision of staff, program development, scheduling, marketing the facility and its programs and constituent relations.



## Peer education program earns national award

A student group at Pittsburg State University has garnered national attention for its efforts to help students combat the stresses of college life.

“Do The Gorilla Thing,” a program of the Gorillas In Your Midst peer education group, was selected as the Outstanding Prevention Program at the 2013 BACCHUS Network General Assembly in Reston, Va.

The “Do The Gorilla Thing” campaign is a campuswide program that translates to “Do The Right Thing” when it comes to diversity, vision, honor, academics and leadership, according to Gorillas In Your Midst adviser J.T. Knoll. The program aims to educate PSU students, particularly incoming freshmen, about substance abuse, mental health, stress management and bystander behavior.

“The purpose of this program is to have students take pride in being a Gorilla and associating being a Gorilla with doing the right thing,” Knoll said. “There are a lot of chances to make poor decisions when you’re in college, and our program was set up to encourage students to invest in good decisions.”

Knoll said being recognized by BACCHUS, a national peer education network, further validates the success of the program.

“It’s a great honor, and we’re proud to receive it,” he said. “What’s most important, however, is knowing that the program works and helps students make decisions that will benefit them today, tomorrow and later in life.”

The group presented “Do The Gorilla Thing” at the national conference, and it didn’t take long before other universities started thinking of creating a similar program.

“Just a couple of weeks after the general assembly, we received an e-mail from a student at Bowling Green State University,” Knoll said. “The student said she was inspired by our presentation and is trying to start a program like ours at her university.”

Also at the General Assembly, Gorillas In Your Midst student member and “Do The Gorilla Thing” program coordinator Tambree Wilson received the Outstanding Peer Educator award.



# A Gorilla with wings

Dr. Allan Stuber returned to PSU for a football game last fall, but he had perhaps the most interesting view of any of the 8,000+ fans in Carnie Smith Stadium – 1,000 feet in the air.

Stuber, a retired Navy pilot, airline transport pilot and flight instructor from Lawrence, Kan., conducted a pre-game fly-over during the National Anthem, trailing red, white and blue smoke from his plane.

Stuber said his flyover was a tribute to the nation and its military veterans. It is also a way to say “thanks” to Pittsburg State.

“Thank you Pitt State for helping the veterans and for pushing the students,” Stuber said. “There are Gorillas, and those who wish they were.”

Stuber said he arrived on the PSU campus as a freshman and ROTC cadet 50 years ago. After graduation, he entered the Navy, where he became an aircraft carrier pilot.

During a night training mission, a fire erupted in Stuber’s jet. There was an explosion and crash. The crash and salvage team cut Stuber out of the wreckage, but he was seriously burned and had a broken back and spinal cord injury. When he left the Navy, Stuber was in a wheelchair.

Stuber, with an infant son, returned



Alan Stuber prepares for a Carnie Smith Stadium flyover.

to PSU to finish a master’s degree in physics. He said staff in the Athletics Department helped him with therapy. Members of the faculty such as Dr. Bruce Daniel, Dr. James Thomas and Dr. Orville Brill “and countless others pushed me to never quit.”

Using leg braces at first, Stuber relearned how to walk and eventually even returned to flying.

He continued his education at the University of Kansas, earning an MBA and then a Ph.D. in engineering. Stuber and his wife, Dr. Gayle Stuber, founded Stuber Research Corp. at the Lawrence Airport.

Today, Stuber and a number of former military and professional pilots, make up the Stuber Gunslinger Squadron.

## Young chosen as associate VP for enrollment management and student success

In January, the university announced the appointment of Lee Young as the university’s new associate vice president for enrollment management and student success.



Lee Young

“Mr. Young has years of experience in enrollment management and service to students,” said Lynette Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “We believe his enthusiasm and experience will serve Pittsburg State very well in this important role.”

Young is responsible for the university’s strategic enrollment management initiatives. He oversees various student support services that focus on student recruitment and retention, including admissions, academic advisement, student financial assistance, student diversity, the registrar, international programs, student accommodations and the Honors College.

Young earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from Jackson State University. He expects to complete his Ph.D. in urban higher education leadership, also from Jackson State, this year.



Dr. Allan Stuber



## Greek chapters earn national awards

A Pitt State fraternity and sorority both repeated as recipients of prestigious awards in 2013.

### Crown of Excellence

For chapters of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, earning the prestigious Crown of Excellence award is among the most difficult of tasks. Earning the award two years in a row? That's nearly impossible.

Just don't tell that to the PSU Eta Eta Chapter.

One year after receiving its first Crown of Excellence Award in its 93-year history, the Eta Eta Chapter at PSU again earned the coveted recognition. Since its creation in 1985, only two Alpha Sigma Alpha chapters have earned the Crown of Excellence award in two consecutive years.

The Crown of Excellence award is given to the highest performing chapter within the national organization of Alpha Sigma Alpha. The top chapters in the country are given the award of Four-Star Chapter and from these select few, the Crown of Excellence Chapter is chosen.

"This is an incredible honor that many chapters work years to achieve," Chapter President Julia Sammur said. "This is an award well-earned by every single member of this sorority." Along with receiving the Crown of Excellence Award, Eta Eta was given the Four-Star Chapter award, the Philanthropy Award and the Sidney Gramillion Allen Panhellenic Award.

### Peterson Award

For the second straight year, the Zeta Iota chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity at Pitt State was awarded the Peterson

Significant Chapter Award, the highest honor an undergraduate chapter can receive.

Named for 38th Grand Consul, J. Dwight Peterson,

the award recognizes excellent performance by chapters in all major areas of operation and programming. The Peterson award is traditionally a symbol of dedication, idealism and achievement.

"We are very proud to receive the Peterson Award for the second straight year," said Dan West, chapter president. "Our members take great pride in living up to the standards that our fraternity has put in place, and this award is a major showcase of our success."

There is no minimum or maximum number of chapters that may win the award in any given year, according to the Sigma Chi website. Award criteria are assigned on an objective scale and encompass the entire gamut of chapter activities, from financial stability and recruitment to chapter and member reputation.



The women of Alpha Sigma Alpha are national award winners again!

## Online graduate program one of nation's best

U.S. News has recognized PSU's online graduate education program as one of the best in the U.S. The findings were published in the 2014 edition of U.S. News' "Best Online Graduate Education Programs," released in January.

To compile its rankings, U.S. News compared online graduate education programs at universities across the country. U.S. News ranked PSU 75th among the 234 universities surveyed.

Pawan Kahol, dean of graduate and continuing studies, gave much of the credit for PSU's ranking to faculty who have worked hard to build the online program.

"Our ranking in the top online graduate education programs in the nation is a tribute to our hardworking faculty members who are providing exemplary service to students through online education," Kahol said. "I am very proud of both the faculty and the leadership in the College of Education."



## Persistence pays off for Missouri alumni

Joplin resident Barry Williamson (BS '74, MS '77) was so eager to get a Pitt State license plate that he rose early on the day the applications became available and drove to Pittsburg to wait for the PSU alumni offices to open.

"Barbara (his wife, BS '75) and I sat up the night before thinking of what we wanted to have put on the plates," Williamson said. They settled on "IM4PSU" and "GO PSU."

Last summer, after a longer than expected wait, the Williamsons and PSU alumni across Missouri were finally able to pick up and install their new license plates and these proud Pittsburg State alumni couldn't be happier.

For a time, it looked as if PSU alumni living in Missouri were not going to be able to get the plates. After an almost two-year struggle to get the plates approved and applications and fees collected, the whole program ran into a political mess.

When Show-Me-State lawmakers learned that the University of Kansas also was working through the application process, they put their collective foot down, blocking license plates for universities from other states.

"We were really disheartened when we got the letter (informing us that the PSU plates wouldn't be issued)," Barbara Williamson said.

The legislation clearly targeted KU, making Pittsburg State and the University of Arkansas, which already had specialty plates in Missouri, unintentional victims. Over the ensuing months, the rhetoric cooled and Missouri officials eased the restrictions enough to allow exceptions for universities that had already been approved for plates. Translation: PSU and Arkansas.

For more information, contact the PSU Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations, 620-235-4758 or visit [www.pittstate.edu/alumni](http://www.pittstate.edu/alumni).



Barry and Barbara Williamson

### 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](mailto: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 June 1, 2014.** The winner will receive two tickets to the Gorillas' home opener football game.

**Congratulations** to Karla Traul '09 of Spring Hill, Kan., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Fall 2013 magazine!



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[www.pittstate.edu](http://www.pittstate.edu)

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# Celebration!

## PSU breaks ground on indoor event center

Confetti rained down as officials turned the first ceremonial spades of soil for Pittsburg State's newest addition. A large crowd from the campus and the community gathered for the indoor event center groundbreaking, which was held in John Lance Arena on Feb. 25.

"Today's groundbreaking is about more than the construction of a facility," said PSU President Steve Scott, "It's a celebration of the incredible partnerships that this university shares with its community, its students, its alumni and its donors. The strength of this university lies in these relationships and you see the results every time you walk onto this campus."

The event center is the biggest piece of an overall project that includes the recent renovation of John Lance Arena, an effort led by Alan and Roberta Whetzel.

President Scott and other speakers at the event praised students, the community and private donors who are making big projects campus possible. Those projects, Scott noted, include the Center for the Arts, just south of the Weede Athletics Complex, and an expansion and renovation of the Overman Student Center, which will begin later this spring.

President Scott used the groundbreaking to announce the name of the new facility.

"It is with great pleasure that I formally announce that from this day forward, the facility behind me will be known as the Robert W. Plaster Center," Scott said. "This gift (from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation) has helped us reach our goal and the end result will be a facility that will serve our campus and our community for generations to come."

The center will encompass 154,000 square feet and will include a 100-yard practice field, a 300-meter track, an 11,000-square-foot strength and conditioning facility, locker rooms for men's and women's track and football and seating for 1,500. Completion is expected in the spring of 2015.

Dr. Dolly Clement, executive director of the Robert W. Plaster Foundation, said her father would be proud of the facility that will bear his name. President Scott praised partnerships that made it all possible.





# Fine Arts Calendar



## Art

Lecture and reception dates and times to be announced. Contact sbowman@pittstate.edu or call 620-235-4305 for more information.

### University Gallery

Porter Hall

**March 27-May 2**

**It was a small country everyone was famous**

Kate Nelson, Georgetown, Texas  
Lecture: March 27, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.,  
Porter Hall, Room 103  
Reception to follow

### Harry Krug Gallery

Porter Hall

**March 10 – May 2**

**Cut and Tie**

Katherine Strause, Little Rock, Ark.  
Lecture: March 10, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Porter Hall, Room 103  
Reception to follow

## Music

**March 13 - Southeast Kansas**

**Symphony**, 7:30 p.m.,  
Memorial Auditorium

**March 26 - Reena Natenberg**

**Faculty Piano Recital**,  
7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

**March 28 - Solo and Chamber**

**Music Series**: Alcides Rodriguez  
Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

**April 5 - Regional Solo/**

**Ensemble Festival**, 12 p.m.,  
McCray Hall

**April 8 - Chamber Orchestra**

**Concert**, 7:30 p.m., McCray Hall

**April 10 - Wind Ensemble Concert**,

7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

**April 11 - Solo and Chamber Music**

**Series**: Rose Ensemble, 7:30 p.m.,  
McCray Hall

**April 22 - Jazz Ensembles Concert**,

7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

**April 27 - Southeast Kansas Symphony**,

3 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

**May 1 – 4 - State Band Festival Concert**,

7 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

**May 2 - Choir Concert**, 7:30 p.m.,

McCray Hall

## Theatre

For ticket information on PSU Theatre productions visit [www.pittstate.edu/ticket](http://www.pittstate.edu/ticket) or call 620-235-4796

**Dead Man's Cell Phone**

By Sarah Ruhl, directed by Cynthia Allen

**April 24-27**

Evenings: 8 p.m., Sunday matinee: 2 p.m.  
Grubbs Studio Theatre

# The Best Plate in the State



**ANYONE** with a Kansas or Missouri tag can get a gorilla plate.

You can **SWITCH** your plates at anytime of the year.

**ANY** gift of \$30 or more to any area at PSU qualifies you for a plate.

If you have **DONATED** at least \$30 to PSU within the past year, you qualify!

## PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations

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PSU President Steve Scott presents Bob Mays with the Heritage Society award at the 2013 Presidents Society dinner for including PSU in his estate plans.

### Ways your bequest can create a lasting legacy:

- Name a scholarship after yourself or in honor of a loved one.
- Specify your gift to one of the four Colleges or Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Make your gift unrestricted to allow the University to use the funds for its most urgent needs.

For more information on how to create a lasting legacy through a bequest to the PSU Foundation, Inc., please contact us or log on to our website. We look forward to helping you!

## Leave a Lasting Legacy

We all have a desire for significance. For many of us, significance comes through creating a legacy during our lives - something for which we will be remembered in the future. A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to leave a lasting legacy to Pittsburg State University.

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# “Where in the World is Gus?”



**On the menu?** – Fortunately, there is no evidence that the owner of these prehistoric jaws ever dined on Gorillas. Doug (BBA '99) and Lisa ('98 & '99) Stice stopped for a snapshot with future Gorillas Brandon, Nathan and Tyler, at a family vacation visit to the Dinosaur Resource Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., last summer.



**Familiar Face** – David Morrow (BS '01 Automotive Technology) wore his Gorilla gear for a walk on the Great Wall of China in 2011, where he was on a work trip for Caterpillar. David said a family from Emporia, Kan., commented on his attire. We can only imagine what they said.



**A family of Gorillas vacations at Panama City Beach, Fla.**– They are: Kelly Krause Parvin, '01; Jeremy Parvin, '02; David Ramsey, '11; Becky Krause, '01; Megan Krause, '09; and Michelle Krause, '10.



**Is it hot in here?** – The Mt. Kilauea Caldera at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park overflowed with Gorilla pride last July thanks to three generations of Gorilla alumni and fans. The are, front row: future Gorillas Molly James, Lucy James, Cooper Anglin & Carter Anglin; Second Row: Sue (Kennon) Pierce (BS '72), Steve Pierce (BA '71, MS '72), Stephanie (Pierce) Anglin (BA '96), Kerry Anglin (BSET '98); and Back Row: Sheri (Pierce) James (BBA '98, MBA '99) and Alex James.



**On the beach with grandkids** – Larry Rowan (BSED '76, MS '79), with the help of Grandma (Donna Carpino) made sure his grandkids had their Gorilla pride on for this photo on St. Pete Beach, Fla., for their annual family getaway. The little ones are MaKayla, Emma Grace, Tyler, and Hailey Paige.





**Speedy Gorilla** – Andrew Johnson (BS '63) placed second in both the 10K and 20K cycling time trials of the Senior Olympics held at Marshall, Va., last September.



**Gus at the Grand Canyon** – Christopher and Adrienne (Wosel) Strohmeier (BS '02, Plastics Engineering) visited the Grand Canyon in early November where Adrienne displayed her Gorilla pride while hiking along the south rim.



**Honeymoon in Paradise** – Joe (BST '06) and Krissy (BS '11) Taylor, support the Gorillas while on their honeymoon in Kauai, Hawaii.



**Croc hunters** – Adam and Sarah Goodman show their Gorilla pride despite the menacing jaws of Gomek the crocodile at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. The children visited the farm with their parents Cristie (BBA '99) and Dennis Goodman.

**We would like to know what interesting places Gus has visited.**

E-mail your photo and a brief story to [psumag@pittstate.edu](mailto:psumag@pittstate.edu)



**Gus in Cuba** – Angela Garner (BA '02, MAT, '09) wore her Gorilla gear on a visit to Viñales Valley, Cuba, last summer. She saw unique land formations called mogotes that are made of limestone and full of caves.

**Headed south** – Ray Eaton (BS '88) and Wendy (Volker) Eaton (BS '86) show their Gorilla pride on a trip through the Panama Canal. The Eatons, of Liberty, Mo., are beginning a new life in Boquete, Panama, this year.



**Standing out in the crowd** – Proud Gorilla Marlene Dunleavy (MS '01, Ed.S '03) stands out in the crowd at Buckingham Palace in London, where she was on a family vacation last summer.



Lance Thornton was one of the best at the Para-Archery World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand. Now he has his eye on the Olympics in Rio in 2016.

---





# Eye on the prize

## Student vet won't let injury spoil his dreams

ONCE HE REALIZED EVERYONE was OK, Lance Thornton let himself relax a little bit.

"I looked around the Humvee and saw that no one was hurt," Thornton said. "To be real honest about it, I started laughing."

The improvised explosive device (IED) exploded just as Thornton and the security convoy he was leading came over a bridge on a remote road outside of Baghdad, Iraq. It was around 11 p.m. on July 26, 2007. After the blast, Thornton, who joined the U.S. Army in 2005, quickly tried to secure his radio.

"That's when I realized something was wrong," he said. "I was trying to hold my radio, and it just wasn't there. I looked down and saw that my right hand was gone."

### Adjustment period

Thornton, an Environmental Health and Safety Management major at Pittsburg State University, often gets asked what happened to him. He makes no effort to hide the prosthetic that replaced his right arm nearly five years ago.

"I don't mind talking about it," he said. "I'd rather people ask me than just sit and stare. I know I'd be curious if I was on the other side of it."

It also gives him the chance to have a little fun with his classmates.

"Sometimes I tell it like it is," he said. "Other times I tell people an



photo courtesy of Dean Alberga/World Archery

"The first thing I wanted to do when I got back was come up with a way to shoot my bow," said Thornton, who discovered his passion for archery when he was 7 years old. "I knew it wouldn't be the same, but I had to shoot."

alligator or shark got me. It's pretty funny, really."

Thornton, who lives in Stotts City, Mo., said he especially enjoys talking about it with the College of Technology faculty.

"It's kind of like one form of therapy, really," he said. "Everyone here is very supportive, and I know I can talk to the faculty and staff about anything. I'm very lucky to be at a place like this."

He's comfortable talking about how the injury has changed his life, how it has made some daily tasks more difficult. He laughs when he talks about how many drinking glasses he's broken with the metal arm.

"It took me a while to get used to grabbing everything with my left hand," he said. "I'm naturally right-handed, so it's just instinct to use my

right arm first. After a few broken glasses, we decided not to have glass in the house until I got used to using my left hand all of the time."

He'll talk about how it may affect his future professional life or how it may limit him in other ways. He'll talk about the challenges. He'll talk about the "bad days."

But he'll also talk about the good days, the dreams he's chasing and his goals for the future.

### 'Had to shoot'

"The first thing I wanted to do when I got back was come up with a way to shoot my bow," said Thornton, who discovered his passion for archery when he was 7 years old. "I knew it wouldn't be the same, but I had to shoot."

After more than 20 surgeries to remove shrapnel from his arm and eyes, Thornton met Dell Lipe from Hanger Prosthetics in San Antonio. Together, they developed an artificial arm with a release that is triggered by Thornton's jawbone.

"It's very interesting, really," Thornton said. "Basically it mounts right under my jaw, and when I'm ready to shoot, I just push the trigger with my jawbone. I never thought I'd shoot a bow like that."

Of course, he never really saw any of this coming.

That includes his most recent adventure in Bangkok, Thailand.

*continued*



## Chance of a lifetime

In late October, Thornton traveled to Bangkok to compete in the Para-Archery World Championships as a member of the United States team. Up against some of the best archers in the world, Thornton found himself in what he called a “dream scenario.”

Thornton was sponsored by Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, where he works when not attending classes.

“Archery is one of my true loves in life, and to be in Thailand competing against some of the best in the world was quite an experience,” he said.

“Never could I have imagined having that opportunity, and I can’t thank Bass Pro enough for their support.”

Thornton finished ninth at the World Championships, but the ranking meant very little in the end.

“I was proud of the way I competed,” he said. “I was a little nervous, but I knew I had the skill and talent to shoot with the best of them.”

Never one to rest on his laurels, Thornton has now set his sights on a new archery goal: Rio 2016.

“I want to represent the United States at the Olympics,” he said.

“That’s my goal, and I’m going to work very hard to get there.”

## ‘My rock’

Robi Thornton, Lance’s wife, said she is proud of the way her husband has handled his injury.

“Unless you saw the prosthetic, you wouldn’t really know he has this injury,” she said. “He’s always positive, always smiling. He never once let this get him down, and I can’t tell you how proud I am to be by his side. He’s the love of my life.”

Lance said he finds his strength and optimism in his wife.

“Ever since I called her to tell her what happened to me, she’s been my rock,” he said. “She never once let me feel down about this or felt sorry for us. She has my back through everything.”



Para-Archery World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.

photo courtesy of Dean Alberga/World Archery

Married for eight years, Lance and Robi have two children, a 3-year-old daughter and 6-month-old son.

“And you wouldn’t believe how much of an impact it has just being able to be there for them,” Lance said. “I know that some things are a little different. I can’t hold them with two hands. Playing catch is a little different. But at the end of the day, I get to be there and have them in my life. My wife and my kids are everything to me.”

Robi said that feeling is mutual.

“I don’t know what I would have done if I lost Lance,” Robi said. “Yes, I felt terrible that he lost a part of his right arm, but I’m also so very grateful that it wasn’t worse. He had been gone 10 months when the injury happened, and I was just happy to have him home.”

## No regrets

For as long as he can remember, Lance Thornton has had a strong affection for the military.

“There was just something about that brotherhood that appealed to me,” he said. “It’s being a part of something bigger than yourself.”

It was the devotion to country and his fellow soldiers that led him to provide cover when enemy combatant began firing upon the American troops shortly after the IED explosion,

despite having just noticed that he lost his right hand. For his actions on that evening, he received the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with Valor for heroism.

“I just did what I needed to do,” he said. “There was some small-arms firing coming at us, so I had to get off some rounds until the rest of our unit came up. It didn’t matter that I was injured. I had a job to do.”

Losing his right arm has not at all diminished his passion for the “brotherhood.”

“I have absolutely no regrets about joining the U.S. Army,” he said. “It made me the man I am today. I don’t have my right arm. Big deal. That’s a very small price to pay for the opportunity to serve my country.”

That is also the philosophy that he’s carried with him ever since that warm July night in Baghdad.

“The way I see it, there are two ways to deal with something like this,” he said. “You play the cards you’re dealt, or you curl up in a ball and die. I’m too young to sit here and feel sorry for myself.

“It’s tough at times, but a lot of people deal with things much worse than this,” he said. “If you have the right mindset and stay positive, you can do anything. And that’s exactly what I plan to do.” •



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## Graduate crafts heartfelt messages for millions *Sharing the love*

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO FIND JUST THE RIGHT words, especially for the people who mean the most to you. Amy Trowbridge-Yates (BA 2001) can help. She spends every day crafting just the right phrases so you can share your most personal sentiments or bring a smile to someone who needs one.

Trowbridge-Yates is a senior writer in the Creative Writing Department at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. Every day, thousands of people across the country see her work on everything from greeting cards to children's books to ornaments and plush toys.

Trowbridge-Yates clearly loves her work, but it can be challenging. First there are the limitations of the medium.

"Typically the word count and space allowed are dictated by the cost," Trowbridge-Yates said. "If you pay \$6 for a card – it's likely going to your wife or your mother – you want it to have a deeper, more personal message. Those longer, more heartfelt pieces are easier to write. It's the condensed, smaller messages (that still pack a punch) that are more difficult. That's especially true because Hallmark's

been around for 103 years. What has not been said? To come up with something fresh, heartfelt, and original is incredibly difficult."

Trowbridge-Yates said the process for writing a message for a greeting card begins with very specific instructions.

"When I'm given a project from the editor, I'm often given pretty detailed scenarios," she said. "In (one recent case – a Mother's Day project) I really got to stretch my skills. I wrote for millennial senders to single mothers. I did a few cards for senders who weren't close to their mothers, either geographically or emotionally. I also wrote for birth mothers, adoptive mothers and 'like a mother.' I love that Hallmark is acknowledging nuances and diversities in today's relationships and families. It allows us, as writers, to explore real, true-to-life messages that speak to what modern relationships are really like."

Assuming the voice of someone from a different generation or different circumstances with authenticity is a big challenge.

"Clearly I can write a card that I would send in my



own life pretty easily, but to write for a relationship or situation I've never been in – like grandmother to grandson, sympathy for the loss of child, or a baby boomer husband to wife – those can be difficult pieces to create. Essentially, it's stepping into someone else's shoes, (or heart)," she said.

For Trowbridge-Yates, that means doing lots of research.

"I only know the limitations of my own life and about my own relationships," she said. "I need to speak for millions of consumers, and make it as authentic as possible, so a big part of my job is simply observing people – in an un-creepy way," she said with a smile.

She said Hallmark is very supportive of its creative staff and encourages them to find inspiration in unexpected places, and card ideas come any time, anywhere.

"I'm always writing little notes to myself, or getting out of bed at night to jot down a line. I come up with quite a bit while driving. Some of my best-selling cards were written while sitting in traffic downtown," Trowbridge-Yates said.

The most difficult projects, she said, are humor.

"It's easy to make my friends and husband laugh, because we've got the same off-the-wall sense of humor," she said. "To write a joke that's not only a setup on the cover with a punch line on the inside, but that's also going to make millions of people laugh, now that's a challenge."

Ironically, those have been some of her greatest successes.

"Some of my top selling cards were humor cards intended for mom-to-mom sending that truly happened to me. I definitely get ideas from my own crazy life and kids," Trowbridge-Yates said.

Trowbridge-Yates also gives credit to her husband, Kevin (BBA 2001, MBA 2005) for her success in writing pieces with romantic messages.

"My relationship with my husband is a great source of inspiration," she said. "Thankfully I got a good one, so I've got a knack for the love cards."

*"I'm always writing little notes to myself, or getting out of bed at night to jot down a line. I come up with quite a bit while driving – I've got my office voicemail on speed dial, so I'll record an entire card or two over the phone. Some of my best-selling cards were written while sitting in traffic downtown."*

Trowbridge-Yates said that she writes so many messages and does them so far out ahead of production that it can be easy to forget which ones are hers.


"Last year, I went to the card shop looking for a Valentine for my husband. I bought the perfect one and was thinking 'this sounds just like us,'" Trowbridge-Yates said.

Later, she looked the card up in the system and discovered she had written it three years prior.

"So I told him, 'the you in the card, that's really you!'" she said.

Trowbridge-Yates has been at Hallmark for nine years, but still remembers the feeling she had when she first saw her work on store shelves.

"It was awesome," she said. "It still is. In a lot of jobs, you never see your finished product. In my case, I get to spend my days sending something out into the world that people are going to use to emotionally connect, and that's a really great feeling." •

Watch online video. 



Degree- BA English 2001 with an emphasis in creative writing

Influences- Prof. Laura Lee Washburn and sorority adviser Brenda Chappel

Advice to students- "Write all the time. Write in different ways. Don't think you can be a good writer without being a good observer of the world. And have a good backup plan."



Amy Trowbridge-Yates in her Hallmark Cards office.



We can only imagine the emotions shared by the hundreds of spectators who watched Pittsburg firemen battle the flames consuming Russ Hall in the early morning hours of June 30, 1914. Less than five years old, Russ Hall was the centerpiece of the fledgling Kansas State Manual Training Normal School.



Rex Tanner  
1892-1914

# Russ Hall fire lives on in PSU lore

WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK on that stormy June night, it appeared that Mother Nature might accomplish what foes in other parts of Kansas had failed to do – prevent the growth of a major state institution of higher learning in southeast Kansas.

But from the moment that the fire alarms first sounded, the spirit that would ensure the future of what is now Pittsburg State University was evident. Hundreds of students, faculty members and townspeople immediately rushed to help, despite considerable danger.

The volunteers removed books, desks, and other materials from the north end of the building until a strong wind from the south spread the flames throughout the entire structure. When chemicals stored in the chemistry lab exploded, everyone knew it was finally time to leave the building.

It is not hard to imagine the chaos, with firemen shouting orders over the roar of the fire. The sound and flames made Deck and Cap, two horses that pulled one of the fire engines, skittish and volunteer Rex Tanner rushed over to calm them.

Tanner, from Erie, was a graduate of the young normal school. After a year as public school principal at Weir, Tanner had returned that summer to work on an advanced degree. Standing next to him that night was another student, Harry Geminer, and a local resident, George Sparks. Suddenly, a power line that extended from Russ Hall to the nearby Industrial Arts Building fell.

The writhing wire snaked over the backs of the horses and the three men. Tanner and Deck were killed instantly. Geminer and Sparks were only slightly





injured. Deck's mate, Cap, was knocked down but eventually staggered to his feet and survived the ordeal. Two firemen, Clyde Miles and J.E. Sears, were caught beneath another live wire that night and received minor burns.

As dawn broke on the morning of June 30, firemen were still pouring water on the smoldering remnants of Russ Hall. With the new day came the full realization of the extent of the loss. Russ Hall was not just the school's first permanent building – it was essentially the school. Russ Hall was uninsured and it was not certain that the Legislature would support its reconstruction. The school could close.

The Russ Hall fire was the first test of leadership for President William A. Brandenburg, who had been selected to lead the school just 10 months before.

Less than 24 hours after the last flames were extinguished, President Brandenburg stood in the midst of the rubble and pledged to the anxious students and faculty that “SMTN would carry on.” Two hours after Brandenburg's proclamation, students, faculty, and townspeople gathered at the Orpheum Theater to make plans for temporary classrooms and office space.

Some classes were shifted into the just-completed Industrial Arts building. Other classes were scheduled for large tents that were erected on the campus grounds. Downtown buildings were borrowed for classrooms and the Methodist Church and a city high school were made available. A temporary auditorium was even erected next to the Industrial Arts building. Thanks to the efforts of the entire community, summer school classes continued without interruption and the campus was made ready for fall classes in September.

On the same day that Brandenburg declared that the normal school would go on, he began working with city leaders to ensure that funds would be in place for the rebuilding of Russ Hall, with or without help from the Legislature. Quickly, the citizens pledged \$100,300.

The work of clearing the rubble and rebuilding Russ Hall began immediately and by the beginning of the fall semester, the less-damaged north end of Russ Hall was ready for classes. In February 1915, the Legislature passed an emergency appropriations bill that provided for the reimbursement of citizens who contributed to the Russ Hall rebuilding fund. The central and south sections of the building, including the



Firemen pour streams of water on the burning embers of Russ Hall in the morning hours of June 30, 1914.

installation of the now beloved marble stairs, were completed by the fall of 1915 and the building was rededicated on September 30, 1915, just 15 months after the fire.

Today, the Russ Hall fire lives on as an iconic moment in the university's rich history. Inside the front entrance to Russ Hall, students and visitors pass by a brass plaque that honors Rex Tanner. The only visible evidence of the fire lies in the comparison of the stairs at the north and south ends of the building. Students heading to classes on the south end of Russ Hall climb up fire-resistant stairs of concrete and steel. On the north, however, they climb century-old oak stairs with carved newel posts.

In the century that has passed since the Russ Hall fire, the university has faced many challenges. In their quest for ways to meet those challenges, leaders from the university and the community alike frequently invoke memories of the spirit exhibited on campus and in the community that June in 1914 – a spirit that they say still exists.

E.T. Hackney, president of the Kansas Board of Administration, noted that community spirit when he visited Pittsburg two days after the fire.

“I am satisfied,” he said, “that there is no emergency which you people of Pittsburg cannot meet. . . . I believe that Pittsburg people now realize the importance of this institution, not merely to this city but to the state. No other educational institution in the state . . . so reaches out and touches the lives of all the people of Kansas as does the Pittsburg Normal. Neither the state nor the city can afford to permit a single day's halt in the forward progress of this institution.” •

Students, faculty and staff pose for a photo in front of what remains of Russ Hall in the days after a devastating fire in 1914.





# Which regional university's business college is listed among the most family friendly schools in the nation?

*Two years in a row!*



1. Brigham Young
2. Dartmouth College
3. Indiana University
4. University of North Carolina
5. **Pittsburg State University**
6. Pennsylvania State University
7. College of William and Mary
8. University of Notre Dame
9. Duke University
10. Cornell University

Source: *The Best 295 Business Schools, 2014 Edition.*  
Framingham, Mass., *The Princeton Review, Inc.*

- In 2010, *Entrepreneur Magazine* ranked the Kelce MBA programs in Accounting and Marketing/Management in the national top 15 for student satisfaction.
- Kelce is consistently named one of the "Best Business Schools" in the nation by *The Princeton Review*.
- The Kelce Enactus student team placed 16th in the 2012 Students in Free Enterprise national exposition and competition.



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# Alum fulfills dream of covering Olympics – *twice!*

KIM RHODE, A SKEET SHOOTING legend, had just become the first American to earn an individual medal in five straight Olympics. Step to the podium. Here comes her gold medal.

Cue the national anthem.

And that's when Beth Hamilton lost it.

"I couldn't help it," she said of that moment during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. "Once I heard our national anthem play, I started crying. It just hit me that I saw someone realize her dream, and at the same time, I was realizing mine."

Hamilton, a 2003 sports broadcasting graduate of Pittsburg State University, was covering the 2012 Olympics for NBC News Channel in Charlotte, N.C., where she has worked as a sports producer/photographer for nearly three years.

It was the chance of a lifetime. A dream come true. All of those cheesy clichés and more.

"It really was an amazing experience," she said. "Ever since I was four, I've loved watching the Olympics. I remember hoping and wishing that I would someday get to see them in person. I never could have imagined that I'd get to do it as part of my career."

Twice.

In September 2013, Hamilton's station asked her to be part of the coverage team for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"That was a cool feeling," she said. "I am passionate about my career and what I do every day, and it feels good to be recognized as someone who does it well. To be asked to cover the Olympics for a second time was just incredible."

The Belton, Mo., native said it can often feel surreal to be a part of an event as massive as the Olympics. She added, however, that she makes sure to cherish every moment.

"To get to travel the world and interview some of the world's best athletes is quite a rush," she said. "It's one of those experiences that many in our business dream about. I know I did, and I'm fortunate enough to have this chance. I don't take it lightly."

"It's a ton of work," she said. "It's 18-hour days for a month straight with no days off. It's not a cakewalk by any means, but it's a blast. It's the Olympics. It doesn't get any bigger."

And covering the Olympics is just one highlight of her young career. In fact, she got the news that she'd be going to London not long after returning from another major sporting event.

"I found out about London about a month after getting back from covering the Final Four in New Orleans," she said. "KU was in it that year, and that's my favorite team. That was pretty cool."

She's also covered the NFL combine and a plethora of Carolina Panthers home games. And in another one of those "dream come true" experiences, she got to participate in the Michael Jordan fantasy basketball camp.

"I shot a free throw with Michael Jordan standing right over my shoulder watching me," Hamilton said. "So, you know, no pressure there. I made it and won a pair of Jordan's."

Her career isn't always fun and games, however. In the summer of 2013, she was assigned to help cover the George Zimmerman murder trial in Florida.



Broadcaster Beth Hamilton's whirlwind career includes covering the Olympics – twice – as well as major sporting and new events across the U.S.

"We needed people to help provide coverage, and I had some news experience at KOAM when I was still a senior at Pitt State," she said. "I went down there thinking it would be for a few days and ended up staying for a month."

Hamilton said the experience was much different than covering the sports world.

"There was so much emotion and so much international attention on the case," she said. "It was very interesting seeing our justice system through the perspective of journalists from other countries."

While she doesn't mind helping in news when need be, her passion remains with sports. That's why, she said, covering the Olympics gives her a thrill like none other.

"I don't know what the next big thing for me will be after getting back from Russia," she said, "but I hope it includes another Olympics someday." •





# Drag racing sisters feel the need for speed

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR YOUNG girls to dream about their first cars. They're drawn to the freedom of the open road, wind in their hair.

Megan and Rachel Meyer are no different. Growing up in Spring Hill, they thought often about their first cars. They thought about the color, the style, the tires. They day-dreamed about how they would look in the driver's seat.

The hair thing? Not so much.

"When you're going 175 miles per hour, your helmet is on so tight that you might as well forget about having good hair that day," Megan said.

Meet Megan and Rachel Meyer: Pitt State students. Drag racers.

"Our dad, Randy Meyer, has been drag racing for more than 30 years," Rachel said. "We grew up in this business. My earliest memories are at the track. We love it. We love going fast. We love the power those cars possess."

Megan, a junior graphic design major, got her start as a Junior Dragster at the age of 10. Rachel, a freshman mechanical engineering major, was eight when she first got behind the wheel. During the past decade, they've trained, practiced and earned their way up to the "real thing" and race with their father's team on tracks nationwide.

"It's an awesome feeling, really," Megan said. "In my dad's car, I got up to 220 miles per hour. It's a little nerve-wracking at first, but honestly

it's all pretty much a blur every time. It happens so fast and is over just seconds after you start. So you don't really get a lot of time to be nervous or scared."

Both women have used their education at Pitt State to enhance their drag racing experience. With the graphics knowledge she's attained, Megan has taken on much of the marketing duties for Randy Meyer Racing. Rachel works with the crew chiefs on the mechanical side of the industry.

"The things I'm learning at Pitt State have definitely helped me with the marketing aspect of our business," Megan said. "I didn't have any graphics background before coming here, and

I've learned a lot that has helped me in that way."

Both women plan to stay in the racing business professionally after graduation. Megan hopes to drive professionally, while Rachel is still trying to decide between driving and working on the mechanical side.

"I'd love to be a crew chief for a racing team, but you can't really do that and be the driver," Rachel said. "So, we'll see what happens."

The sisters have only raced against each other one time.

"I won that one," Megan said,

"But she's had a little more experience," Rachel replied. "It won't always be like that." •



Megan (left) and Rachel Meyer share more than just the family name – they both love racing, which is something they inherited from their dad.







EACH YEAR, NEIL SNOW, a member of the faculty in PSU's Department of Biology, and others like him identify and catalog a surprising number of new plant and animal species. It is a race against time, against climate change, and against the destruction of fragile ecosystems.

## Hidden in plain sight: Professor identifies new species

By his own count, Snow has described more than five dozen new plant species within the Myrtle family. This past year, one of his discoveries received special recognition.

The International Institute for Species Exploration selected one of Snow's finds as one of the top 10 new species of 2013. Snow's *Eugenia petrikensis*, a small woody plant from Madagascar, joined a charming monkey from the Congo, a tiny frog (the world's smallest vertebrate), and a cockroach that glows in the dark on the annual list of top finds.

"It was really exciting and professionally satisfying," Snow said of the work that went into identifying the new species.

It is time consuming and, some would say, tedious work that can focus on some pretty small and remote patches of real estate. In the case of *Eugenia petrikensis*, it was a coastal region in Southeastern Madagascar.

"We're talking about an area maybe the distance between Fort Scott and Pittsburg," Snow said, "and we've described eight new species from that one small area."

Because the Missouri Botanical Garden has had a long-running research presence in Madagascar, Snow said, he was able to work with local botanists and researchers to match photographs with dried specimens and thereby determine that *Eugenia petrikensis* was a species that had not been identified previously.

It isn't as if no one knows these plants and animals exist, Snow said.

"The local people know them and know what they can be used for," Snow said. "They have their own names for them."

Identifying and cataloging new species makes it possible for researchers to add new pieces to Earth's biological jig saw puzzle, Snow said. It also allows them to send up warning flags when species are threatened.

According to Snow's paper, *Eugenia petrikensis* is considered endangered and can be found only in the specialized humid forest that grows on sandy substrate within kilometers of the shoreline in southeastern Madagascar.

"Once forming a continuous band 1,600 km long, the littoral forest has been reduced to isolated, vestigial fragments under pressure from human populations," he wrote.

Snow, who holds a Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, joined the PSU Department of Biology this fall. He said one of the things that excited him about coming to PSU was the opportunity to serve as director of PSU's Sperry Herbarium.

"This is an important regional and historical collection of vascular plants and bryophytes," Snow said.

As director of the herbarium, Snow said he hopes to upgrade and update its collections and make them more accessible to a wider variety of users. He would also like to convert as much of the herbarium's data to readily accessible formats on-line as possible. •





# Look what was in this year's Grammy's goodie bag!

MANY OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST MUSIC STARS left the Grammy Awards in January with some nice hardware in their hands. But while only the winners took home a Grammy, all of the nominees took home an item made by a Pittsburg State student.

Pitt State senior and Chillicothe, Mo., native Tyler Dietzschold made 250 metal bottle openers that were included in the gift bags that all Grammy nominees received at this year's award show. The bottle openers were made using the new wax injection machine recently donated to Pitt State by MPI.

The opportunity came about when Rachel Ropp, wife of PSU graduate Trenton Ropp, was invited to showcase her furniture restoration business, Revamp & Revive, at the Grammy Awards vendors exhibit.

"As a vendor, I had the opportunity to include an item


in the goodies bag for all of the stars," Ropp said. "I wasn't really sure what to do, but I knew about my husband's experience at Pitt State and the university's wonderful technology center."

Dietzschold said he couldn't pass up the project.

"I really couldn't imagine saying no to something like this," he said. "It's a bit stressful because of the amount and the tight deadline, but it's for the Grammy's. I mean, how often do college students get a chance like that?"

One side of the bottle opener bore the split-face gorilla logo of Pittsburg State, and the other side bore the Grammy Awards logo.

"One of my friends saw the mold and asked why I was making something with the Grammy's logo on it," Dietzschold said. "It was cool to be able to say, 'Well, because it's for the Grammy's.'" •

Watch online video. 



Tyler Dietzschold





# Six-year-old inspires graduate

INSPIRATION CAN COME FROM SOME UNLIKELY PLACES. For Terry Killman, who graduated last December with a degree in vocational-technical education, it came from an energetic 6-year-old named Eli.

Killman was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia just a year into his degree program at PSU. The disease progressed quickly and eventually his oncologist told him that if he didn't start aggressive treatment immediately, he could be dead within the week.

"We had to try something," Killman said. "I wasn't ready to go."

One of the reasons Killman gives for being so determined to beat his disease is his grandson, Eli.

"Eli is important to me," Killman said. "I'm raising him like my son, even though he's my grandson. We've been pretty tight from the beginning."

Killman said his doctors concluded that his only hope of a cure was through an adult stem cell transplant, but that required a bone marrow donor. Fortunately, his older brother, Vic, was a perfect match.

It's been a long road to recovery for Killman, a 20-year

Navy veteran. Some of his doctors even advised him to just drop out of school, but he persevered. Killman said his PSU professors gave him the support he needed to complete his degree.

Killman said overcoming the disease has given him a new perspective on life, and he makes sure he takes time for the important things, like fishing with Eli.

"My health is now good. We are working to build up my immune system, and finishing my degree is what I wanted to do," Killman said.

And, he noted, he's looking forward to lots more days fishing and just hanging out with Eli. •



For Terry Killman and his grandson Eli, there is no more precious time than fishing on a sunny summer afternoon.

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## Department of Nursing— \$1 million gift and a new name

The Department of Nursing began the fall semester with a new name and an important gift.

In September, the department announced a \$1 million gift from Dr. Fay Bradley and also a new name. It is now the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, honoring Dr. Bradley's mother.

University officials said the elevation of the department to the rank of a school within the university recognizes the nursing program's growing size and complexity.

President Steve Scott said the announcement was a reminder of the roles that families play in the life of the university.

"I always describe our alumni as family," Scott said. "Family is a powerful word. It evokes memories in each of us...Family is what brings us here today. We are here to celebrate the love and sacrifice of a mother for her family."

The president described the life of Irene Ransom Bradley, who was born in Texas and moved to Independence, Kan., in 1919. There she met and married Henry Bradley and worked as a domestic in a private home earning just \$3.50 a week.


Neither Irene or Henry finished high school, but they believed in education and made sure their six children got their high school diplomas. Four of the six children earned college degrees and Fay went on to earn professional degrees in both law and medicine.

A retired physician who now lives in Independence, Kan., Fay Bradley earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from PSU in 1960.

Bradley came to PSU on a track scholarship, competing in the high hurdles, quarter-mile and mile relay. After graduating from PSU, he served in the Army as a medical lab technician. He went on to earn both a law degree and a medical degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Upon earning his medical degree, Bradley began a long career as a physician, serving with the United States Public Health Service until his retirement in 1992.

Dr. Bradley received PSU's Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award in 2009.

Watch online video. 

PSU President Steve Scott and Dr. Fay Bradley



## Art Day inspires

Art Day brought an explosion of color and creative energy to an otherwise wet and dreary day on campus last November. More than 430 high school artists from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma came to campus to practice and display their artistic talents.

"This has been great," said Whitney Beth, a teacher at Nevada (Mo.) High School, as her students were busy creating a colorful, life-sized mermaid on a mushroom. "This is an opportunity for our students to meet students from other schools who also enjoy art."

Rhona Shand, chair of the Art Department, marveled at the rapid growth of Art Day over its four-year history.

"We started with a half day and about 30 students," Shand said. "It's a reflection of the importance students place on art."

Shand said the event is designed to inspire students.

"It's purpose is to get kids thinking creatively," Shand said. "They're not all going to go on to be artists, but they are all going to need to be able to use creative thinking, whatever careers they choose."

Students at Art Day displayed their art and participated in a variety of events and competitions. Those included a self-portrait competition, construction of a 3-D project and a team competition based on this year's theme, "A fish out of water."

In the team competition, students were asked to design and create an environment in which one might find a fish out of water. The environments created by the student teams ranged from a train to a wedding chapel.

"I'm impressed with the talent many of the high school students bring to this event," Shand said. "I hope some of them come here. And even if they go somewhere else, I hope they continue to develop their art."

Watch online video. 



## ROTC instructor dies in Afghanistan

The campus community was saddened by the loss of one of its own in Afghanistan in November, but none more so than current and former members of the ROTC Gorilla Battalion.



Sgt. 1st Class **Forrest W. Robertson** died in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a former instructor in the Department of Military Science as well as a former history major at PSU.

"We are all deeply saddened by the news of Sgt. 1st Class Robertson's death," said PSU President Steve Scott. "On campus, he was an inspiration to the students in PSU's ROTC Program. Through his service and sacrifice, he is an inspiration to us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends in the midst of their great loss."

According to the Department of Defense, Robertson, 35, of Westmoreland, Kan., died Nov. 3, in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire. He was assigned to the 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Ga.

At a Veterans Day observance at PSU's Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11, a paver honoring Robinson was added to the more than 3,000 pavers honoring veterans that now fill the amphitheater and spread out on the plaza in front of the memorial.

## Interior design students on winning team

Nine PSU interior design students competed in the International Interior Design Association's (IIDA) Mid America Chapter Design Wars in November in Kansas City and two were on the first-place team. Faculty sponsors Denise Bertoncino and Holly Page-Sagehorn said the experience made all of them winners.

Lynsey Sholders, a senior from Newton, Kan., and Cassandra Stanley, a sophomore from Columbus, Kan., were members of the winning team.

The day-long competition required the students to work in teams with students from other universities to develop a spatial layout for the new IIDA headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. The teams created spatial layouts, developed furniture plans, selected materials, furniture, lighting, and finishes, drew elevations/perspective drawings, created boards, and made presentations.

Four interior design professionals judged the students' work and the winning team received \$2,000.

Sholders and Stanley were paired with two interior architecture majors from Kansas State University. She said the experience boosted her confidence.

"Walking away from the competition a winner made me realize that my education is really going to get me far in life," Sholders said. "I look forward to all the design opportunities that are out there after graduation. Basically it assured me and my confidence that I will be a great designer; I just have to personally believe."



PSU Theatre's production of "Dinosaur Musical" last October featured a fantastical set and whimsical costumes.

Dr. Stephen Brent Wolf, a PSU alumnus, donated his collection of Mexican Day of the Dead figurines to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.







*Krimson Kultuur open for business—*

## Shop ‘til you drop

A project of Pittsburg State’s Enactus group, the new student-run Krimson Kultuur store that sells products from the 10,000 Villages organization, opened Nov. 14 with an official ribbon cutting celebration. The store is located at 111 W. 4th Street in Pittsburg.

PSU officials, including President Steve Scott, Provost Lynette Olson and Kelce College of Business Dean Paul Grimes, were in attendance at the grand opening. Pittsburg city and chamber officials were also present.

“We are very excited to open our doors to the public,” said Enactus President Sam Bogle. “We think we have a lot of products that people will enjoy, and it will be fun to finally give this thing a go. I am very proud of all of the students for the time and energy they put into making this project happen.”

In September, Enactus received a Pritchett Trust grant in the amount of \$10,850 to help fund the store.

Founded in 1946, 10,000 Villages sells handmade gifts, jewelry and other pieces of art that were produced by artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Product sales help pay for food, education, health care and housing for artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.



PSU President Steve Scott was one of the many early shoppers at the November grand opening of the new student-run store, Krimson Kultuur.

Watch online video.

## Adviser named to national Enactus committee

When the Students in Free Enterprise organization changed its name to Enactus last year, it also took on an expanded mission: to make the group more inclusive and diverse.

Suzanne Hurt, PSU’s Enactus adviser, is proud of the way her group is already moving toward that goal. She also strives to make similar gains with the national organization.



Suzanne Hurt

Hurt, who has served as PSU’s Enactus adviser for two years and has 25 years of advising experience, was last year named to the Enactus United States Faculty Advisory Committee.

A group comprised of faculty and administrative personnel from throughout the U.S., the Faculty Advisory Committee is tasked with enhancing Enactus programming activities including training, developing mentoring and best practice sharing for all Enactus campuses and assisting in strategies to enhance Enactus team relations within the Enactus network.

“I am very honored to be selected to represent Pittsburg State University and our Enactus team at the national level,” Hurt said. “During a time of change within the Enactus U.S. organization, I believe my 25 years of experience in leading students and serving communities will allow me to bring meaningful input to the committee.”



## Innovation in the workplace is essential

The start of the spring 2014 semester brought with it a new minor option that promotes creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The minor in Innovation Engineering is a collaborative effort of the College of Technology and the Kelce College of Business and is open to any major on campus. The minor teaches students the techniques and systems used to create, connect, and commercialize unique ideas.

"The primary purpose is to provide students with the tools necessary to identify potential new ventures, create marketable concepts, connect with potential target markets, and to follow through and commercialize the product, service or activity," said Linden Dalecki, PSU associate professor of Management and Marketing.

Innovation and the ability to be creative continue to gain steam as attractive qualities in job applicants.

According to a survey conducted for the Association of American Colleges and Universities, 95 percent of employers say they give hiring preference to college graduates "with skills that will enable them to contribute to innovation in the workplace." Also, 90 percent of employers say that "innovation is essential" to their organizations' success.

The survey also concluded that more than three in four employers say they want colleges to place more emphasis on helping students develop five key learning outcomes, including: critical thinking, complex problem-solving, written and oral communication, and applied knowledge in real-world settings.

"More and more, employers are looking for applicants who can think outside of the box and be creative," Dalecki said. "They want someone who can solve complex problems and have the capacity for continued learning. For many, that's even more important than what the students majored in."

## Kelce College in the top 10– again!

For the second year in a row, the Kelce College of Business is among the most family-friendly schools in the nation.

The Princeton Review last fall published its list of the top 10 family-friendly business schools, and Pitt State again ranks No. 5 in the U.S., ahead of Penn State, College of William and Mary, the University of Notre Dame, Duke and Cornell. Brigham Young remained in the top spot on the list, followed by Dartmouth College, Indiana University, and the University of North Carolina.

Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business, said being ranked in the top 10 for the second consecutive year is a testament to the college's "consistent devotion" to its students.

"We take tremendous pride in being among the most family-friendly schools in the nation," Grimes said. "You look at that list, and we're in very good company. To see Pittsburg State University competing strongly with institutions like BYU, Notre Dame and Duke is a testament to the ongoing commitment to family at this university and its business college."

For the family friendly category, the Review examined student answers to survey questions concerning how happy married students are, how many students have children, how helpful the school is to students with children, and how much the school does for spouses of students.

## Casey named "Woman to Watch" in accounting field

A PSU faculty member was named to the "Women to Watch" list by the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Becky Casey, chair of the Accounting and Computer Information Systems Department, was one of two recipients of the "Women to Watch" award in the experienced leader category. The other was Karen Linn, managing director of Berberich Trahan and Co. in Topeka.

The "Women to Watch" awards are given out by the Kansas Society of CPAs in conjunction with the American Institute of CPAs.

The experienced leader award goes to KSCPA /AICPA members who are in a higher level or leadership position within their organizations, such as partner, owner, member, executive, elected official or appointee. Casey, who joined the Pitt State faculty in 2002 after 20 years experience in the accounting industry, said she was pleasantly surprised by the recognition.

"It was a wonderful surprise to receive the nomination, and I am thrilled to have been selected by the previous recipients for the 2013 KSCPA/AICPA Women to Watch award," Casey said. "Thirty-five years ago, I fell in love with the field of accounting, and the passion still burns. It is truly an honor to be recognized by my peers as a leader in this field."



Becky Casey



# Lab adds impressive technology



Graduate student Lindsey Gordon conducts a DEXA scan on Morgan Gross, an instructor in the English Department and assistant director of the Writing Center.

DEXA is just the latest piece of high-tech equipment in HHPR's Human Performance laboratory.

DEXA, short for Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry, is sometimes referred to as a bone densitometer and measures bone density and body composition. The new machine is being used by students in the department's rapidly growing Exercise Science Program.

Mike Leiker, assistant professor in HHPR and director of the Human Performance Lab, said DEXA is an important learning tool for students.

"After they graduate, some of our students will likely find themselves in clinical settings where DEXA is used," Leiker said. "This experience will not only teach them how to use the technology, but will also benefit them in developing important

professional clinical relationships with clients."

Mike Carper, also an assistant professor in HHPR, said DEXA gives students important information that can be used to plan or assess the effectiveness of exercise.

"We know that weight bearing activity adds to bone mass," Carper said. "Using DEXA, we can determine whether someone's health and wellness program is benefiting them."

Leiker said he expects DEXA to be used by a wide variety of students, but especially by students in the "Techniques and Instrumentation," and "Exercise Testing" classes.

"It's also a great recruiting tool," Leiker said.

Leiker and Carper emphasized that they will not use DEXA for diagnostics, but as a teaching and research tool.

Watch online video. 

## Veteran educator offers advice to new teachers

Andy Tompkins had some fundamental questions for newly minted teachers as they prepared for graduation in December. The first one was "Do you like kids?"

Tompkins, president and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents and also former dean of the PSU College of Education, admitted that the question may have seemed counter intuitive for a group of students who had chosen education as their career, had just finished a semester student teaching and were set to graduate on Friday.

But, Tompkins said, the time would soon come for every new teacher when they would have to answer that very basic question. It would come, he said, when the teachers were asked to help students who were the most difficult and unlikable.

"They (the students) will know," Tompkins said. "At the end of the day, you are going to have to decide whether you like kids."

Tompkins, the keynote speaker at the fall Student Teacher Recognition Ceremony, also asked the students, "Is your responsibility to teach, or to help others learn?"

He shared his own personal disappointment as a teacher when he discovered that there were times when students didn't respond to the lesson plan he had spent so much time preparing.

"I learned that it wasn't about me," Tompkins said. "If your interest is in their interest, most of the time (your responsibility) is in helping them learn."

Tompkins also talked about the importance of continuing to learn about, diagnose and address issues related to student learning; the responsibilities teachers have to their colleagues and the need to sustain one's passion for teaching over time.

He said he had no formula for the latter, but that one key element was keeping a balance in life.

"I wish for you the joy that I've had as a professional educator for all of my life," Tompkins concluded.

Following his address, the 66 students recited the "Teacher's Oath," a tradition begun five years ago and now part of every Student Teacher Recognition Ceremony.



# New PSU degree helps school nurses

Lorry Pichler loves being a school nurse. She loves the interaction with children and feels a sense of accomplishment

in being able to help with their medical needs. But as a nurse for the Southeast Kansas Interlocal #637, which provides special education services for 13 southeast



Lorry Pichler

Kansas school districts, Pichler realized she needed to know more about how to best serve the exceptional students she sees daily.

Pichler was one of a number of nurses who met with Pittsburg State University administrators in 2011 and 2012 to design a new master's degree program for nurses who work in school health settings. That new program got underway this spring.

The program leads to Master of Science degree in education with an emphasis in school health. The online program is a cooperative effort between PSU's Department of Teaching and Leadership and PSU's Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing.

"Special education has grown so much," Pichler said. "It is important for school nurses to understand the needs of these children and to learn how to interact with them in the most effective way."

Alice Sagehorn, chair of the Department of Teaching and Leadership, said the nurses' input was critical to developing the right program for them.

"We asked the school nurses what they wanted to learn so we could tailor the program to their needs," Sagehorn said. "There was a great deal of interest

among the school nurses in learning more about working with children with autism and other exceptionalities. It was also important to them for the program to be online, so they can continue to work as they pursue the degree."

The result was an interdisciplinary program. Twelve of the advanced hours are taught through the school of nursing. The remaining 24 hours are through the College of Education. Included in the

coursework is a leadership component.

Of the 36 hours, 15 are in special education, including courses on autism, children with disabilities, special education law and partnerships with families of exceptional children.

Sagehorn said that no similar program exists in Kansas. For more information on the Master of Science with a major in Education and an emphasis in School Health, call 620-235-4488.

## International student teaching experience 'life-changing'

Students who participate in PSU's student teaching abroad opportunity have a life-changing experience, according to Jean Dockers, director of teacher education.

"I think it's been very successful," Dockers said of the program, which allows PSU teacher education students to do part of their student teaching in Australia. "The three who went last year were profoundly changed."

Students in the program do 10 weeks of their student teaching in the U.S. before going to Australia, where they live with an Australian family and student teach in an Australian school.

This spring, two PSU students participated in the program, which is run through the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in cooperation with the University of Minnesota-Mankato. During the fall semester, a QUT representative visited PSU to talk about the possibility that students from Australia might have a similar student teaching experience at PSU.

Although cultural differences certainly exist, Dockers said, student who have participated in the program have discovered that "kids around the world are surprisingly similar and an effective teacher is an effective teacher wherever he or she may be."



Kelli Shay, BSED 2013, presents to students in Queensland during her student teaching experience.





Construction Management  
student Kelsey Billingsley

## New 'White House' at state fairgrounds

As the Kansas State Fair celebrated its century-long history last year, PSU students made their mark on the fair's next 100 years.

Construction management students served as managers of a project to build a new "Lair White House" at the state fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

Pittsburg State's involvement began in December 2012, when the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation asked the university's School of Construction officials for assistance in building a new museum and support facility. During the Spring 2013 semester, five Pitt State seniors took it on as part of their senior project.

"Those students served as pre-construction managers on the project," said Joe Levens, assistant professor in the School of Construction. "They were involved in everything from the design of the building to budgeting to scheduling. It was a unique opportunity for them to be involved in a real-world project really from the start."

Students worked closely with the building's owners' committee and construction faculty to create a 3-D virtual model of the new Lair White House. The 3-D model of the new facility was presented and sold at auction during the annual Boots and Bling fundraiser hosted by the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation. The highest bidder paid \$1,700 for the model then donated it to the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation.

Construction on the new Lair White House is set to be complete during the summer of 2014.

## Arizona students chasing dreams in PSU wood tech program

Mark Roberts never attended Pittsburg State University. He never taught at Pitt State. He has no direct ties to the university. And as a longtime technology teacher at Chandler High School in Chandler, Ariz., he spent much of life hundreds of miles away from Pitt State.

"But he had this giant split face gorilla poster in our wood shop class," said Steven Tran, a Chandler High School graduate and current wood technology major at Pittsburg State.

Roberts, who retired from CHS and now teaches at Mesa Community College, learned about Pittsburg State while doing research on high quality technology programs in the nation.

"There are no programs in Arizona for students who really have a passion for wood technology and related fields," Roberts said. "So, I started looking around the country to find places that I could recommend for our students here who really want to go into that field. I ran across PSU and quickly realized that no other school could top what it offers."

Ever since, Roberts has been an "unofficial recruiter" for Pittsburg State's wood technology program in Arizona.

His efforts have worked. The wood technology program at Pitt State has received an influx of Arizona students in the past few years, and the students echo what Roberts says almost daily about the university.

"There really is nothing like this in Arizona," said freshman Zack Swauger, who graduated from

Chandler High. "I came out here and took a six-hour visit of the campus and the technology center, and I knew this is where I wanted to go. I absolutely fell in love with this place."

Michael Morrissey, a junior from Chandler High, found his passion for wood working at a young age. He said the Pitt State program "is exactly what I was looking for."

"Arizona is so big, and I was expecting to find this place to be a little boring," Morrissey said. "I mean, we have Arizona State right down the street. But once I came here and saw what it was all about, I immediately made up my mind. There is that small-town feel, but the outcome is just as good as you could get any other big school."

"It's probably better here, actually," he added, "because you get so much hands-on experience and one-on-one interaction with your teachers. You wouldn't get that at Arizona State or other big schools."

Doug Hague, assistant professor of wood technology, said Pittsburg State is working closely with Roberts to continue recruiting efforts in Arizona.

"The work Mark Roberts is putting in down there is very beneficial not only for us, but also for those students," Hague said. "There are a lot of students in Arizona who are looking for programs like what we have here, and we're starting to see that as more and more students from Arizona make that pretty big leap to move here and enroll in our program."



# Baja is back

Pittsburg State has again been chosen to host Baja SAE - Kansas. The event, which will draw 100 competing teams with well over 1,000 team members from the U.S. and numerous other countries, is set for May 22-25, 2014.

"We are very excited to once again host this important event," said PSU President Steve Scott.

"Hosting Baja SAE - Kansas allows us to showcase our university and our community for visitors from around the world. The fact that PSU was chosen to host the event just three years after hosting it for the first time is a testament to the strong spirit of cooperation between the university and the community."


Baja SAE consists of competitions that simulate real-world engineering design projects and their related challenges. Engineering students are tasked with designing and building an off-road vehicle that will survive the severe punishment of rough terrain. The competition involves designing, planning and manufacturing.

Trent Lindbloom and Bob Schroer, both assistant professors in Automotive Technology, are coordinating the event.

The teams registered include universities from across the U.S. as well as teams from Egypt, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, Argentina, Venezuela, Bangladesh and India.

The competition is expected to bring more than 1,100 competitors, along with friends and spectators to Pittsburg.



Watch online video. 

## Women in construction

As an instructor in PSU's School of Construction, Jenny McCool-O'Dell has seen the increase in the number of women pursuing careers in the field firsthand.

"While women are still in the minority in the construction industry, our numbers are definitely going up," McCool-O'Dell said. "It's not just a career for men anymore."



Jenny McCool-O'Dell

Spreading that message and empowering women in the field is the goal of the new southeast Kansas chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction, of which McCool-O'Dell is the first president.

"The growth of construction in the area, as well as an increasing number of female students in the construction management program in the School of Construction at PSU brought to the forefront the need for a woman-focused construction association in the area," said Beverly Sauerwein, NAWIC Region 6 director.

The new chapter serves communities in southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri. McCool-O'Dell said the group's main focus is bringing together regional women in construction for "networking and mentoring."

Shontae Cobb, a junior construction management major from Kansas City, Mo., is the president of the Women in Construction student group, which is now a part of the SEK chapter of NAWIC. She said she's excited about the regional chapter and the added attention it brings to women in construction.

## New state capital desk, a work of art

In the spring of 2013, the Kansas State Department of Education asked PSU's Wood Technology program to build a new desk for the KSDE board room.

"And what we ended up with was a piece of art," said Dale Dennis, KSDE deputy commissioner.

Pitt State officials, faculty and students visited the KSDE on Nov. 12 for a special presentation on the new desk and other wood components that were built at the university's Kansas Technology Center.

Diane DeBacker, KSDE commissioner, praised the university for the "hard work and pride" that went into each piece.

Pitt State wood technology faculty Doug Hague and Charlie Phillips spent nearly 800 hours building the desk, tables and cabinets. Both said it was an "honor" to see their work now being used at the state capital.

The desk, which accommodates 13 people, is made of quarter-paneled walnut and zebrawood, which Phillips described as an "exotic material." It also features a special design feature: a birdseye maple inlay of the state of Kansas in the center.

Watch online video. 







## Mueller named head volleyball coach

Jenny Mueller, who has served as assistant volleyball coach at Pitt State for the past three seasons, has been hired as Pitt State's head volleyball coach. She replaces Ibraheem Suberu who retired following the 2013 season after 15 seasons as the Gorillas head coach.

"We are excited about the future of the Gorilla volleyball program with Coach Mueller leading our squad," said Jim Johnson, athletics director. "Jenny has earned the trust and respect of our student athletes. She has illustrated strong leadership qualities during her time working with Coach Suberu, and her coaching background and experiences have positioned her for continued success."

A full bio on Mueller can be found at [magazine.pittstate.edu](http://magazine.pittstate.edu)



### Fall 2013 honor

Jessica Macy, senior, finished as the national runner-up at the 2013 NCAA Division II National Cross Country Championships.

Visit [magazine.pittstate.edu](http://magazine.pittstate.edu) for a full listing of Fall 2013 honors.

## Suberu retires

Ibraheem Suberu, who built the Pittsburg State University women's volleyball program into one of the perennial powers in the MIAA during his 15-year tenure, has retired.

Suberu cited his desire to "take a long time off" to travel and his comfort in leaving the Gorilla program in a better place than he found it in 1999 as the guiding motivations for his unexpected departure.

"Making this decision was very hard on a lot of levels and I am sure it came as a surprise to the many wonderful people who are significant in many ways to our program: our past, current and future Gorillas, colleagues on our staff and in the profession, mentors and community of great friends on campus and beyond," Suberu said.

"I am very grateful to everyone whose vision and energy made my being a part of this exceptional educational institution and community of Pittsburg, Kansas, possible – from Coach Broyles, Dr. Bryant, Mr. Patterson, the late Tommy Riggs, President Scott, Jim Johnson, Diana Polston, former team members, current team members and their families, our outstanding colleagues at PSU Athletics, along with so many others on campus, and in and outside of Pittsburg, to whom I owe tremendous lifetime of thanks. I appreciate Jim's support over the years and his caring understanding when I shared my decision that this is the right time for me to take a long time off from coaching for family reasons."

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jim Johnson said he was surprised but supportive of Suberu's decision.

"I know I speak for all of our coaches and staff when I say we did not expect Coach Ib's news, but we certainly understand how he came to this equally difficult and exciting decision for his future," Johnson said. "We all have come to know him as a friend as well as a mentor for so many of our student athletes. Above all, he poured his heart and soul into the Gorilla volleyball program and the Pittsburg community. He will be sorely missed, but we are excited for him as he begins his journey in the next chapter of his life."

Suberu inherited a Pitt State volleyball program that had won just 35 percent of its all-time matches when he was hired prior to the 1999 season.

Suberu compiled a 264-237 record with the Gorillas, setting the school record in victories. During his 15 seasons, Pitt State recorded 45 percent of the program's 590 all-time victories. The Gorillas made six trips to the NCAA tournament and the squad was ranked among the nation's top 25 programs by the AVCA five times.

In addition to team success on the court, his squads consistently achieved at a high level in the classroom. His squads received the annual AVCA Academic Award 10 times with a program-best 3.72 GPA in the 2011-12 academic year.



Ibraheem Suberu





# All in the family

Often times people compare athletics teams, or even whole athletics departments to a family. While this is certainly true at Pittsburg State, there are also several athletes and coaches that benefit from having their actual family with them as well.

There are ten sets of siblings on rosters at PSU. Twelve of these athletes play the same sport as their brother or sister. Then there are the special parent/child relationships. Derek Beck and Luke Rampy spend everyday on the gridiron with their fathers, while Luke's brother Zach is a graduate assistant. Alex Muff, women's basketball, can stop into see her dad, head men's basketball coach Kevin Muff, whose office is right next door to her head coach. Tim Pierce, who works in the equipment room, gets to work closely with his dad, assistant football coach John Pierce.

In many cases, one family member deciding to come to Pittsburg State directly influenced a younger family member's decision. For the Brandeckers, they both came to Pitt State at the same time, but George joined the baseball team first, while Nick was going to play golf. After George had a great experience with baseball and with some prodding from the baseball coaches,

Nick also decided to play baseball.

"Alexa's experience definitely influenced me," Luke Bordewick said. "I hadn't really heard of Pitt State before she came here. Once she committed, I started looking at Pitt State and came to a couple camps here. I signed mid-June after my senior year. I came here and fell in love with it."

Having a family member so close and going through some of the same things can be comforting. The Bordewicks talk to each other often to work through frustrations, get sympathy after a hard practice or share in each other's successes. Trevor Gregory likes having his sister, Haylee, around for a good home-cooked meal. Alex Muff can often be seen talking to her dad before or after games.

"I know after games, I will get the coaching advice," Muff said. "After that I will get the more fatherly advice, the 'good games' and things like that. I know that he wants me to do a good job and be successful and I appreciate that so much."

Having a family member on your team can also provide another layer of competition that sometimes can spread beyond the field of play as well.

"At practice our teammates and



Alexa and Luke Bordewick

coaches joke around a lot and say 'Who is going to be the better twin today?'" George Brandecker said.

"It kind of motivates us both to be better," Nick added. "It is also nice to know that we always have someone to play catch with."

Luke and Alexa talk about how a friendly driveway pick up game at home can become a major battle.

No matter what, it is clear that family bonds are an overall positive thing and the real family bonds within the Pittsburg State athletics family makes our Gorilla family stronger as well.

"There are very few people that can be athletes in college," Luke Bordewick said. "Having someone as close as your sister go through some of the things you go through is pretty unique. I think it is awesome."



Haylee and Trevor Gregory



Nick and George Brandecker



Madison and Ryan McKay



Isaac and Israel Maselera



## Athlete overcomes hearing impairment, injury

When they step onto the field, some athletes stand out. It may be talent, attitude, knowledge of the game, or a strong work ethic. If a coach is very lucky, it's all of the above. Cheslyn Mitchell, a junior outfielder on the Pitt State softball team, is one of those special athletes.

Mitchell earned All-MIAA honors as a freshman. She is a positive person who is well liked by her teammates, coaches and fans. She is a strong, coachable hitter and a quick outfielder who can fill in at pitcher when needed. Her work ethic and ability to adapt is clear in her success, and has been a necessity her whole life.

When she was three, Mitchell was diagnosed with a hearing impairment. Her parents immediately set to work on the development lags due to her hearing impairment.

"Catching up has been a long process. We have battled and continued to battle each year," Mitchell said. "My parents have helped me so much. My school helped me by adapting and getting me the help that I needed to keep up."

As she grew up playing sports, Mitchell's coaches have made minor adaptations to help deal with her hearing impairment on the field. Things as simple as looking directly at her when speaking, adapting signs and being patient have helped her become the player she is today.

Having done her best to make sure her hearing impairment was not a hindrance, Mitchell got the grades she needed and had the kind of high school athletic career that earned her a spot on the Pittsburg State softball team. It was a dream come true for the Riverton, Kan., native.

"I knew I wanted to play softball at the collegiate level," Mitchell said. "Getting to play for Pitt State is like the icing on

the cake! PSU is a great school and has a wonderful tradition in its athletics programs, but more importantly, it's a great place to get a quality education."

As a freshman, Mitchell was the team's second-leading hitter, behind three-time All-American Manny DeCastro. She led the team in doubles and was the only member of the pitching staff with a winning record at 7-3.

Mitchell looked primed for a repeat performance in 2013 but a collision with the Northwest Missouri catcher left her with a season ending broken leg.

The rehab process was longer than expected and Mitchell was cleared to start softball workouts this January.

"The injury is really sort of a blur for me, a part I would rather forget and let go," Mitchell said. "But I do remember the tremendous outpouring of support from my teammates, coaches, friends and family. I would especially like to thank the Athletics Training staff, coaches, teammates, faculty, family and friends for their continued support throughout this rough time in my life."

Now Mitchell is ready to get back on the field, fight for a starting spot and help her team achieve its goals. "I am looking forward to being with my teammates and coaches as we start our hard work toward meeting our team goals," Mitchell said. "I am just so happy and blessed to be back!"



Cheslyn Mitchell

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## Outstanding Alumni honored



David M. Harrison, Angela Moriconi, Dottie R. Bringle and Gaberiel S. Bever.

Pittsburg State University honored four alumni with its 2013 Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Awards during Homecoming activities last fall. The recipients were selected based on their professional achievements, as well as their community and organizational involvement.

This year's recipients are: Gaberiel S. Bever, a research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and a member of the anatomy faculty at the New York Institute of Technology; Dottie R. Bringle, former chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at St. John's Hospital in Joplin; David M. Harrison, a Jerry S. Rawls professor of finance at Texas Tech University; and Angela Moriconi, a freelance photojournalist with KCBS/KCAL-TV and KNBC-TV in Los Angeles.

### David M. Harrison

David M. Harrison grew up just blocks from the PSU campus and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Pittsburg State in 1992. At PSU, he earned a Presidential Scholarship and was a member of the Honors College.

Harrison went on to earn an MBA from Wichita State University in 1994 and a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Florida in 1998.

Harrison began his teaching career as an assistant professor at the University of Vermont in 1998. In 2007, he moved to Texas Tech University, where today he serves as Jerry S. Rawls professor of finance in the College of Business.

Harrison's areas of specialty are real estate investment trusts, mortgage markets, real estate finance and housing policy issues. He has written scores of articles for journals in his field and is the editor of the *Journal of Real Estate Literature*. He is also the recipient of numerous awards for both teaching and research.

Harrison and his wife, Amy (Rosenbaum), have three children: Aaron, Katarina and Kamdon. They live in Lubbock, Texas, where Harrison has served as a volunteer youth football and baseball coach and has served on the board of Western Little League Baseball.

### Angela Moriconi

Angela Moriconi grew up in Frontenac and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1993. At Pittsburg State, she majored in communication and took classes in broadcasting where she worked at CAPS-13, PSU's student-run television channel.

Moriconi began her career as a photojournalist with KOAM-TV in Pittsburg in 1995.

She joined KBAK-TV in Bakersfield, Calif., in 1997. Moriconi worked at stations in Las Vegas and San Francisco before moving to WFOR-TV in Miami, Fla., in 2004. Since 2007, she has been a freelance photojournalist for KCAL-TV and KCBS-TV in Los Angeles. In 2012, she also began freelance work for KNBC-TV in Los Angeles.

In her career, Moriconi has covered a wide range of national, dramatic news stories ranging from Hurricane Katrina to the mass shootings in an Aurora, Colo., movie theater. She has covered the Oscars and the Emmy Awards as well as major sporting events like the Pro-Bowl and Superbowl.

She has won more than a score of professional awards, including an NPPA best of photojournalism national award in 2004 and Suncoast Emmy Awards in 2005 and 2006 and a Pacific Southwest Emmy Award in 2004.

Moriconi lives in Los Angeles, Calif. Her parents, Charles and Sharon Moriconi, live in Frontenac.

### Dottie R. Bringle

Dottie R. Bringle earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from PSU in 1990. At the time she earned her degree, she was employed as a staff nurse in the Emergency Department of St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin. Bringle went on to earn a master's degree in health science



administration at Southwest Baptist University in 1993.

Bringle worked for St. John's for 25 years, where she took on increasing responsibilities. She served as the first trauma coordinator and was instrumental in development of the trauma program. She also was director of Emergency/Trauma/Flight services and later ICU and Surgical Services before being named chief nursing officer in 2004, becoming responsible for all nursing functions in the hospital. In 2010, she was named Chief Operating Officer, which added all other clinical departments to her responsibilities.

Bringle was serving in that position when a devastating tornado struck the hospital in 2011. She played a major role in the hospital's reaction to the disaster and its recovery.

Bringle left Mercy in August 2012 to return to PSU where she will complete a degree as an advanced nurse practitioner in May 2014.

Bringle lives in Diamond, Mo., where she is engaged to be married to Brian Murphy, M.D. She has three children: Shawn Dodson, Brianna Blackledge and Michelle Hucke. Her parents, John and Derotha Hetherington, live in Cameron, Okla.

### Gabriel Bever

Gabriel Bever grew up in rural Farlington, Kan., and attended Girard High School before graduating from PSU in 1996 with a degree in biology. He earned his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin and was subsequently awarded an interdepartmental research fellowship at Yale University. He is currently a research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and a member of the anatomy faculty at the New York Institute of Technology. He recently was elected an honorary research scientist at the Evolutionary Studies Institute in

Johannesburg, South Africa.

Bever's publications on major evolutionary transitions have been covered by more than 200 media outlets including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, CNN, and the BBC. He is an active field researcher and has collected fossils in some of the most

remote parts of the world, including western China, the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and across southern Africa.

Bever and his wife, Amy Michelle Balanoff, who is a resident research associate in paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, live in New York.

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## Bartlow named director of alumni and constituent relations

For nearly seven years in the Office of Admission, Jon Bartlow worked with PSU students as they were beginning their educational journey. His focus now turns to those who have completed the quest.

Bartlow has been named director of Pittsburg State's Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations. He succeeds Johnna Norton, who held the position for seven years before accepting a new position as director of the Mt. Carmel Foundation.

In his new role, Bartlow serves as a senior member of the University Advancement team and is responsible for the organization, management, and implementation of the university's comprehensive alumni and constituent relations program. He also serves as the executive director of the Pittsburg State University Alumni Association.

Bartlow served as associate director of alumni and constituent relations from December 2005 to April 2007 before becoming associate director of admission and coordinator of freshmen orientation.

"I'm very excited to return to the alumni office and build upon the many great things that are taking place there," Bartlow said.

Ray Jacquinot, president of the Pittsburg State University Alumni Association, said he's looking forward to working with Bartlow in the coming years.

"I am very impressed by Jon and his knowledge of Pittsburg State," Jacquinot said. "He brings a lot of energy and versatility to the position, and I'm excited for the opportunity to work with him."

Since joining the staff at Pittsburg State, Bartlow has been active both on campus and in the community.

He is co-chair of the University Sustainability Committee and a member of the Unclassified Staff Senate. He is a past president of the Little Balkans Days Festival Association, a member of the Southeast Kansas Symphony Board and a founding member of the local Big Bang Rockfest fundraiser event.

Bartlow earned bachelor's (1999) and master's (2003) degrees in communication from Pittsburg State. He is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in higher education administration from Saint Louis University.

Bartlow is married to Amy Bartlow, who teaches third grade at George Nettels Elementary School. The couple has a 2-year-old son, Cole.



Jon Bartlow



# Class Notes

## Class of 1987

**Kent Thompson** (BBA) was appointed to fill the 9th District seat in the Kansas House of Representatives made vacant by the death of Ed Bideau. Thompson previously served 12 years on the Allen County Commission. A life-long resident of Allen County Kansas, Thomson owns and operates a large cattle operation as well as Thompson Realty, Inc.

## Class of 1993

**Mikel J. Ward** (BS, MS) was honored by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals with its Area 6 Middle School Principal award. Ward is the principal at Lakin Middle School. Ward holds an associate's degree from Washburn University and both a bachelor's degree and master's degree (educational leadership) from PSU. He earned a superintendent certificate in district leadership from PSU in 2002.

## Class of 1995

**Julie Crain** (Ed.S.) was named principal of Shawnee Mission West High School in Overland Park Kansas last July. She is a

14-year veteran principal in the district, having led two other high schools in Shawnee Mission before returning to SM West HS where she was an associate principal from 1999-2007.

**Cynthia (Nelson) Wiseman** (BS) finished 11th in the nation at Intermediate Level at the 2013 American Eventing Championships in September. Wiseman describes eventing as an equestrian triathlon, including dressage, endurance (or cross-country) and show jumping. Following graduation from PSU, Cynthia earned a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University, where she met her husband, Heath. The two own a small animal veterinary practice in Springfield, Mo. A track athlete who earned numerous MIAA conference championships and set the 400m hurdle record at PSU, Cynthia says she transitioned her passion for speed and hurdles from the track to the equestrian sport of eventing.

## Class of 1996

**Dr. Michael Calvert** (Ed.S) is the new president of Pratt Community College.

Calvert assumed his new role in Sept. 2013. Prior to assuming the leadership of PCC, Calvert served as campus president/college vice president for Central Community College in Grand Island, Neb. Before that, he served for 20 years at Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan., where he was a dean for 14 years. In addition to his Ed.S. from PSU, Calvert holds a Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern College, a Master's Degree from the University of South Dakota and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

## Class of 1998

**Gregg Walls** (BSE, MS) received the Circle USD 375 Distinguished Alumni Award. Walls, a 1990 graduate of Circle High School, is the technology education teacher at Circle Middle School and is also the platoon sergeant for the 242nd Engineering Company of the Kansas Army National Guard.

## Class of 2004

**Lt. Col. Anna Renae Friederich-Maggard** (BFA) was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army in



### Alumni Association Board of Directors 2013-14

**Front row:** Steve Scott, Dan Duling, Billie Jo Drake, Jan Allai, Dotty Willis, Robyn Harrell, Jennifer Huff, Ray Jacquinot, Michael De La Torre, David Torbett, Johnna Norton. **Second row:** Jeff Ney, Kevin Cofer, Kelly Peak, DeAnn Hill, Susan Cook, Bill Pallucca, Daniel Alcalá, Nick Dellasega.



# Class Notes

August 2013. Col. Friederich-Maggard began her enlisted military career in 1985 as a combat medic with the U.S. Army Reserve and later transitioned to the Kansas Army National Guard, 891st Combat Engineers in Chanute. She received her active duty officer's commission in 1991 through PSU's ROTC program, where she also earned a master's degree in fine arts.

## Class of 2007

**Dr. Ashley R. Craven** (BS) has joined the Grene Vision Group in Hutchinson, Kan. Craven attended optometry school at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry, graduating in 2011. After graduation, she moved back to Kansas to work in private practice until joining the Grene Vision Group.

**Kelly (Livingston) Shaer** has joined James Moore, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants in Gainesville, Fla., as an associate

accountant. Prior to joining the firm, Shaer worked as an accounting coordinator in the self-insurance program at the University of Florida. Shaer received a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration from PSU. As an associate accountant, Shaer works in both the tax preparation and audit departments. She is responsible for assisting with the performance and supervision of compilations, reviews and audits, and research and preparation of income tax returns.

**Justin Hobbs** (BS) has joined Landmark National Bank in Miami County, Kan., as vice president and commercial loan officer. Hobbs received a bachelor of science degree in communication from PSU. Prior to joining Landmark, Hobbs has 10 years of banking experience, primarily in commercial and agricultural lending.

*continued on pg. 44*

## Alumni Relations launches new programs

Alumni and Constituent Relations is pleased to announce several new programs to benefit PSU alumni. For more information visit [pittstate.edu/alumni](http://pittstate.edu/alumni)

### Special offer on auto and home insurance

Pittsburg State University alumni can receive exclusive savings on Liberty Mutual Auto and Home Insurance. The company offers personalized coverage, multi-car and multi-policy discounts, 24-hour claims assistance and more.

### New Gorillas Helping Gorillas Mentorship Program

Alumni and Constituent Relations has launched the Gorillas Helping Gorillas mentor program. This program is a LinkedIn group connecting PSU students or recent graduates with alumni and faculty who mentor them by providing advice, information, and support. Interested in becoming a mentor or mentee?

### Career Development Speaker Series

Alumni and Constituent Relations and Career Services has teamed up with Talent Marks to provide Pitt State Alumni with an online career speaker series. This series features authors and career experts who will share their secrets, research and tips with you as a job seeker for free, plus there are many other services offered to those who sign up.



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# Class Notes

## Class of 2008

**Kenisha Morton** (BA) has been named the new team leader for the Children's Case Management Program at Labette Center for Mental Health Services. Morton earned an associate of arts degree in psychology and sociology from Coffeyville Community College in 1998. In 2008, she earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from PSU.

## Class of 2009

**Thom Hanrahan** (MA) has been hired as managing editor of the Brownwood Bulletin in Brownwood, Texas. Hanrahan manages an editorial and advertising staff of 8-10 people and is responsible for the operation and content of the daily newspaper in a town of about 20,000 in the center of Brown County. Hanrahan previously taught journalism at Missouri Southern State University and at Missouri Western State University.

## Class of 2011

**Shawn Raymond** (BS, MS) has joined Independence Family Medicine, owned by Wilson Medical Center. He serves Dr. Petie Schwerdtfeger's practice as a board certified family nurse practitioner. Raymond earned a nursing degree from Labette Community College and both bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from PSU. He has more than 10 years of experience as a nurse in various hospital settings. Prior to that, he served for 12 years in the U.S. Army.

## 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.

**Ellabeth (Diggs) Stillings**, 1937, Atchison, Kan.

**Winifred (Vrooman) Coyle**, 1937, Coffeyville, Kan.

**Helen Elizabeth 'Betty' Maberry**, 1943, Fort Scott, Kan.

**Mary Belle (Keenan) Boeding**, 1945, Omaha, Neb.

**Fern I. (Goodwin) Doile**, 1946, El Dorado, Kan.

**Rosemary J. (Sullivan) Hall**, 1946, Newport, Va.

**Paul T. Brennecke**, 1948, Chanute, Kan.

**James Westervelt**, 1948, Columbus, Kan.

**Gerald E. Ross**, 1949, Mission Viejo, Calif.

**Olen Neil 'Bud' Endicott**, 1949, Caney, Kan.

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

**Kenneth McKeever**, 1950, Topeka, Kan.

**Nadine E. Viets**, 1950, Girard, Kan.

**Leonard Hartford Tunnell**, 1950, Miami, Okla.

**Leila Elaine Mulliken**, 1951, Lawrence, Kan.

**Norma (Hopkins) Blankenship**, 1951,

Columbus, Kan.

**Theodore 'Ted' Gould**, 1951, Vancouver, Wash.

**Marvin L. Cherry**, 1951, Parsons, Kan.

**Stephen R. Blum**, 1952, Lenexa, Kan.

**Joseph D. Martin**, 1952, Parsons, Kan.

**Margaret E. Charlton**, 1952, Pittsburg, Kan.

**James E. Embrey**, 1952, Claremore, Okla.

**Juanita Wilson**, 1954, Nevada, Mo.

**William "Bill" Currier**, 1955, Coffeyville, Kan.

**Willard A. Phillips**, 1956, Parsons, Kan.

**Aubrey R. Crews Jr.**, 1956, Overland Park, Kan.

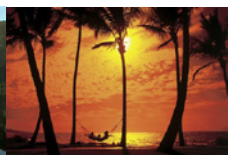
**Glenn Rex Wiseman**, 1957, Wichita, Kan.

**Donna J. (Brage) Millard**, 1957, Wichita, Kan.

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**Doris Horton**, 1957, Topeka, Kan.  
**Dottie J. (Chastain) Kramer**, 1957, Altamont, Kan.  
**William Lee 'Bill' Lewis**, 1958, Overland Park, Kan.  
**David E. Cullop**, 1958, Houston, Texas.  
**Gladys Stiles**, 1958, Overland Park, Kan.  
**John Catone**, 1959, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Andrew J. Curran**, 1959, Paola, Kan.  
**Philip J. Saia**, 1959, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Wayne Stringer**, 1959, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Robert Eugene 'Bob' Overstreet**, 1960, Ozawkie, Kan.  
**Col. Edward M. Gripkey**, 1960, Kansas City, Kan.  
**George Ferguson**, 1960, Girard, Kan.  
**Fred Christman**, 1960, Loveland, Co.  
**Robert G. Bray**, 1960, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Ron F. Oney**, 1961, Webb City, Mo.  
**Richard 'Dick' Garner**, 1961, St. Louis, Mo.  
**Garland Leroy Adkins**, 1961, Nevada, Mo.  
**Bill Brown**, 1961, Olathe, Kan.  
**Sunshine (Short) Erikson**, 1961, Chanute, Kan.  
**Orin W. Turner**, 1961, Ozawkie, Kan.  
**James Seitz Whitt**, 1962, Parsons, Kan.  
**Ronald G. Broadhurst**, 1962, Winfield, Kan.  
**Thelma L. Bonner**, 1962, Grove, Okla.  
**William H. 'Bill' Schneickert**, 1962, Parsons, Kan.  
**Charles E. 'Bing' Lomshek**, 1962, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Mary Lee Breen Carson**, 1963, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**G. Leonard Leadstrom, Jr.**, 1963, Kincaid, Kan.  
**John Wendel**, 1963, Lansing, Kan.  
**Wayne B. Gibson Jr.**, 1964, Parsons, Kan.  
**Curtis J. Kamler**, 1964, Webb City, Mo.  
**John K. Sehnert, Sr.**, 1964, Sarcxie, Mo.  
**Dorothy Lucille Spring**, 1965, Kansas City, Mo.  
**Ray Wesley Gillespie**, 1965, Kailua Kona, Hawaii  
**Michael Gregg Brown**, 1965, Neosho, Mo.  
**Lois K. Morehead**, 1967, Neosho, Mo.  
**Ronald Mitchell**, 1967, Copperas Cove, Texas  
**Donald E. Carter**, 1968, Loch Loyd, Mo.  
**Michael W. Hayes**, 1968, Joplin, Mo.  
**Carl Kenley Allen**, 1969, Liberty, Kan.  
**Kent Ketcher**, 1969, Miami, Okla.  
**Virginia F. (Carter) Thomas**, 1969, Joplin, Mo.  
**Kevin June (Rowden) Brumback**, 1970, Columbus, Kan.  
**James 'Jimmy' Mahaffy**, 1970, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Clair Murry**, 1970, South Coffeyville, Okla.  
**Jimmy Lucas**, 1971, Weir, Kan.  
**Dennis F. Malle**, 1971, Pittsburg, Kan.

**Russell L. Winkler**, 1971, Springfield, Mo.  
**Kenneth M. Beal**, 1971, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Gary A. Boyd**, 1972, Kansas City, Mo.  
**Dennis A. Smith**, 1972, Topeka, Kan.  
**Delmar Richard Bowman**, 1972, Garnett, Kan.  
**Donald Floyd Salsbury**, 1972, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Perry L. Dorothy**, 1972, Anderson, Mo.  
**Jerry F. McCloud**, 1973, Shawnee, Kan.  
**Gene Brownlee**, 1973, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Robert M. Patrick, Jr.**, 1973, Hartford, Alaska  
**Roland A. Schmidt**, 1973, Houston, Texas  
**David Olson**, 1974, Chanute, Kan.  
**Carole F. Shaw**, 1974, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Milo H. Fields Jr.**, 1974, Letona, Ark.  
**Amelia P. Lewis**, 1974, Evanstrom, Ill.  
**Linda Jo Jensen**, 1975, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Patricia Grace (Brown) Lawson**, 1975, Joplin, Mo.  
**David Francis Jenkins**, 1975, Weir, Kan.  
**Allan N. Darnall**, 1976, Arkansas City, Kan.  
**Patricia Marie (Waggoner) Brandon**, 1977, Grove, Okla.  
**Mary B. Spriggs**, 1977, Seneca, Mo.  
**Richard L. Shields**, 1978, Erie, Kan.  
**Renee' Colette Ackerson**, 1979, Kansas City, Mo.

**Stephen Eugene Kalen**, 1980, Olathe, Kan.  
**Patricia Joice (Miles) Hutinett**, 1980, Chanute, Kan.  
**Iva N. Baber**, 1980, Kasson, Minn.  
**Donna (Day) Walker**, 1982, Overland Park, Kan.  
**Debi J. Pittman**, 1983, Independence, Kan.  
**Dawn Dee Christian Thomas**, 1983, Fairfax, Va.  
**Charles Ray**, 1984, Manhattan, Kan.  
**Donna Jolene House**, 1986, Grove, Calif.  
**DeLores Jane (Roach) Erwin**, 1986, Uniontown, Kan.  
**Joan Elizabeth (Prete) Lewis**, 1986, Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Timothy 'Tim' Thomasson**, 1987, Lawrence, Kan.  
**Robert Tedd 'Bob' Combs**, 1989, Parsons, Kan.  
**Ronald D. Whaley**, 1989, Miami, Okla.  
**Steven A. Endicott**, 1989, Cherokee, Kan.  
**Greg S. Trout**, 1991, Galesburg, Kan.  
**Greg Plunkett**, 1992, Fort Smith, Ark.  
**Steven Burt**, 1992, Helper, Kan.  
**Myra (Swenson) Bettis**, 1992, Kansas City, Kan.

*continued on pg. 46*

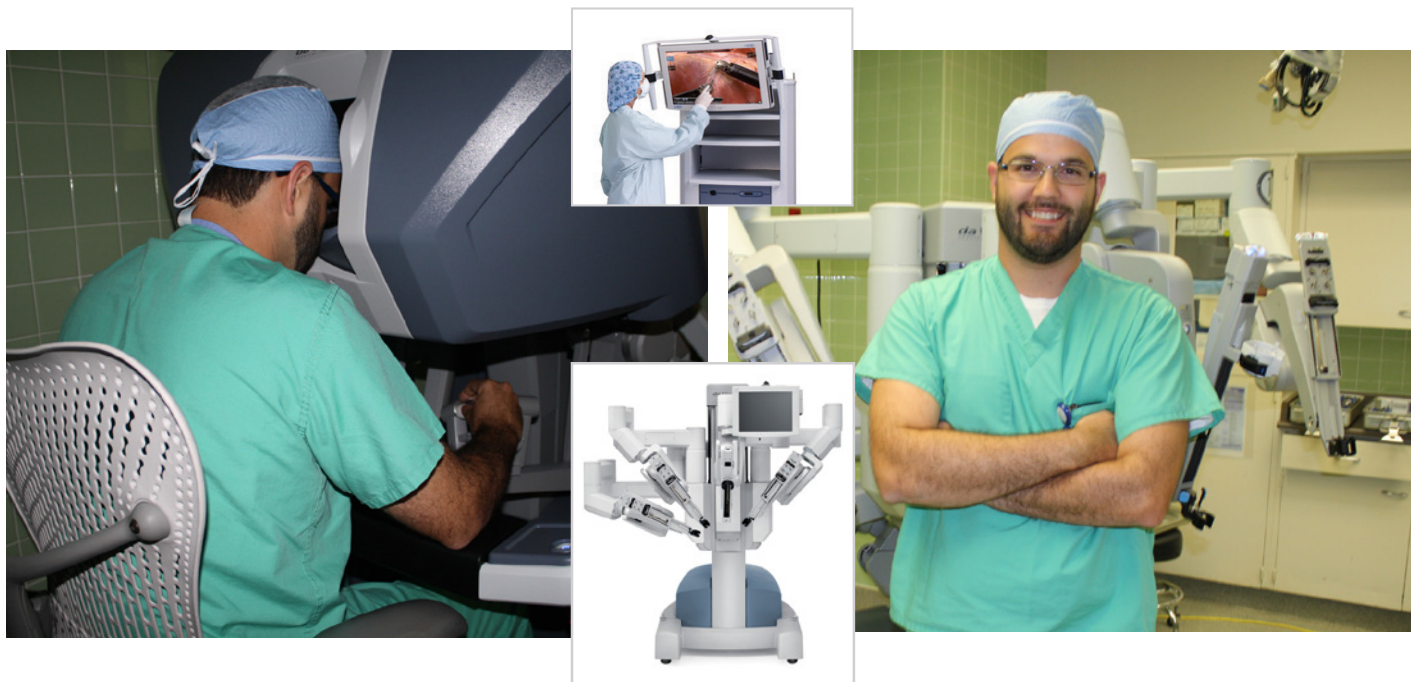


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# Class Notes

## In Memory *continued*

**Larry E. Jent**, 1992, Arma, Kan.  
**Jeffery Klotzbach**, 1995, LaHarpe, Kan.  
**Fred Evans**, 1995, Columbus, Kan.  
**Frank L. Torchia**, 1995, Spring Hill, Kan.  
**Linda (Steel) Bitner**, 1996, Cherokee, Kan.  
**Robert B. Fairbank**, 1996, Hays, Kan.  
**Deborah S. (Wright) Viets**, 1998,  
 Independence, Kan.  
**Nancy Alice (O'Connor) Weigand**, 1998,  
 Pittsburg, Kan.  
**Travis Martinez**, 2000, Parsons, Kan.  
**SFC Forrest W. Robertson**, 2012,  
 Westmoreland, Kan.  
**Nicholas Chase**, 2013, Olathe, Kan.  
**J.J. Potonik**, 2013, Frontenac, Kan.

## Class year unavailable:

**Smith Ann (Coolbaugh) Flanary**,  
 Cassville, Mo.  
**Sue Gray**, Grove, Okla.

**Shelby (Hughes) Hayden**, Coffeyville, Kan.  
**Patricia 'Patsy' Joan Manson**,  
 Louisburg, Kan.  
**Iva Carolee (Ferguson) Goetz**,  
 Sun City, Ariz.  
**Betty Jean Howard**, Hiawatha, Kan.  
**Louis M. (Silvers) Kovacic**, Arma, Kan.  
**Micheal W. Young**, Parsons, Kan.  
**Mary (Roberts) Schiller**, Oskaloosa, Kan.  
**Pauline Jewel (Rife) Stith**, Atchison, Kan.  
**Helen J. Sailors Sheldon**, Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Eleanor J. (Myers) Brockway**, Ottawa, Kan.  
**Gerald T. Landon**, New York, N.Y.  
**Eleda M. Bird**, Erie, Kan.  
**Henry H. Kost**, Joplin, Mo.  
**Betty P. Sackett**, Fort Scott, Kan.

## Faculty/Staff

**Dr. Willis Lynn 'Tom' Tompkin**,  
 Kansas City, Mo.  
**Susan Kathleen (Pucci) Gaston**, Tulsa, Okla.

Send us your news and submit class notes information  
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Seat plaques in the large performance hall are still available  
for gifts of \$500 and \$1,000.

*Having your name on a seat does not guarantee event tickets for that specific seat.*

For more information visit: [pittstate.edu/centerforarts](http://pittstate.edu/centerforarts)  
To make a gift visit: [pittstate.edu/givenow](http://pittstate.edu/givenow)  
University Development • 620-235-4768 • [devel@pittstate.edu](mailto:devel@pittstate.edu)

Sample  
seat plaques

John and Jane  
Doe

In Memory of  
Jane Doe  
The Jane Doe Family



# Sharing their blessings



Carl and Mary Buchman

## Buchmans invest in students

“We’re just a couple of small-town kids who want to help somebody,” said Carl Buchman (BS ’64, Management and Marketing).

Buchman and Mary, his wife of 50 years, recently endowed a scholarship for students in Management and Marketing. They said they wanted to help good students who, without financial assistance, might not be able to fulfill their educational dreams.

After graduating from college, Buchman returned to his hometown of Paola, Kan., where he took over his parents’ grain business. Over the years, he launched a construction business, which evolved into an electrical contracting business.

Carl and Mary raised a family, sent two of their children off to PSU and this fall will watch a grandson follow in those Gorilla footsteps.

Now retired, the Buchmans said they didn’t want to wait until they were gone to give back to PSU.

“PSU made a big difference for me,” Buchman said. “Mary and I want to pass along some of the blessings we have received to a new generation.”

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  

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FOUNDATION

401 East Ford Avenue • Pittsburg, KS 66762 • 620-235-4768

For more information on how to give back to PSU, visit [www.pittstate.edu/support-your-passion](http://www.pittstate.edu/support-your-passion).



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Pitt State Alumni & Constituent Relations

## Attend a Gorilla Gathering in your area or an event on campus!

### 2014

April 3 .....	Gorilla Gathering Dinner.....	Tulsa, Okla.
April 5 .....	Gorilla Family Fishing Derby.....	Pittsburg
April 8 .....	Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch.....	Wichita, Kan.
April 12.....	Gorilla Family Fun Day.....	Joplin, Mo.
April 17.....	Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch.....	Overland Park, Kan.
April 29.....	Gorilla Gathering Dinner.....	Springfield, Mo.
May 16 .....	Family Movie Night on the Jungletron.....	Pittsburg
May 16 .....	Alumni After Hours.....	Kansas City, Mo.
June 6 .....	Gorilla Gathering at NW Arkansas Naturals.....	Springdale, Ark.

## Register now!

Half Century Reunion - Class of 1964

**May 8-9, 2014**

- Reconnect with classmates
- March in commencement
- Meet President Scott at the Crossland University House
- Tour campus
- Receive your 50-year medallion and be inducted into Half Century Club

**Check the website for all of our 2014 events!**



## New 2014 programs for alumni

- Career Services for Alumni
- Gorillas Helping Gorillas Mentoring Program
- Educational Webinars

For more information visit  
[pittstate.edu/alumni](http://pittstate.edu/alumni)



**PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations**

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