



Pitt State

Spring 2015

MAGAZINE

A Dream Come True

The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts—
It took more than 40 years, but it was
worth the wait!





PittState

MAGAZINE

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From the editor

It's hard keeping up with all of the changes taking place on campus but we're having fun trying! In this issue, we take you through the new Bicknell Center for the Arts and by the time the magazine arrives at your house, the new Plaster Center will be almost done. You can check in on things daily at the PSU website or through social media. While you're at it, let us know what's happening in your life.



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http://instagram.com/Pittsburg_State



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#OAGAAG

NikkiLally

Congratulations to all the Pitt State graduates today! Good luck with your futures, and always remember, #OAGAAG

rachelwendt25

Done with my first semester of college! I'm so happy I came to pitt, I can't wait for next semester #OAGAAG

c4llm3daddy17

Met a lot of great people this first semester at Pitt and I couldn't be more happy with my choice of becoming a Gorilla. #OAGAAG

kaitlynherder

Such an amazing time at the @BicknellCenter ribbon cutting! There's nothing like @pittstate's community. #OAGAAG

CFrazell

Want to thank everyone for all the support and love this season!! #gorillanation #oagaag

Division2Stew

I've been to college football games all over the nation and there's nowhere I'd rather be than in Carnie Smith Stadium! @pittstate #oagaag

courtney51595

Can't imagine going to any other school. I'm so glad I chose the best school to attend. #GorillaNation #OAGAAG

tess_england

Watching that @RIPJWALK5 touchdown be played over & over won't get old. Happy to see him makin' moves in the @nfl. #oagaag

MorganMcCready

Just spent 15 mins w/ my boss pitching @pittstate for his daughter interested in nursing. He's excited for their visit now! #oagaag

JFez91

We are proud to be a @pittstate Gorilla!! We love the new Champions Plaza!! #OAGAAG

Fond memories

I am a physician living in Topeka, and during a recent home visit to an elderly gentleman and his pleasant wife, found out that they knew Ms. Perva Hughes fairly well. Perva was my grandmother, and she was an educator in Pittsburg for numerous years. She was the matriarch of the family, and rumor has it that mandatory retirement laws were scrutinized in Kansas based on the fact that she was still going strong at the age of 75.

It has been wonderful to read your magazine, especially about the fondness that many had for Perva, Gladys Rinehart, and Dr. Jane Carroll. All of these fantastic educators were a big part of my upbringing. This was in conjunction with a healthy love for PICCO's cherry limeades and feeding the geese at Lincoln Park.

JASON HUGHES, M.D.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



It's the highlight of our day, actually. We love getting notes from our readers, whether you're writing to share campus memories or to comment on stories you've read in the magazine. Your comments help us make the PittState Magazine better and they keep the conversation going with more than 60,000 alumni all over the globe. So sit down at your keyboard (or pick up a pen, if you still use one of those) and drop us a note.

Send your letters to psumag@pittstate.edu.

Pitt State gets greener every day

Refill stations reduce plastic use on campus

A growing number of water refill stations are helping the campus trim plastic bottle waste. More than 25 of the stations were installed this past year.

The refill stations can be found at water fountains in such buildings as Russ Hall, the Overman Student Center and the Student Recreation Center. Several stations can also be found in residence hall buildings.

"We have had overwhelming response to the stations and consider them to be a great success in helping us move further toward a sustainable campus lifestyle," Tonya Pentola, recycling program coordinator, said.



Bicknell Family Center for the Arts

2015 Inaugural Spring Performances

March 8 PSU Choirs Spring Concert
 March 12.... A Tribute to America and the Arts:
 Gene Bicknell in Concert
 March 25World famous illusionist, Reza
 March 27SEK Symphony
 Young People's Concert
 March 31 Steinway Society Concert
 featuring Reena Berger Natenberg

April 1 The Well Reds
 April 7 Steinway Society Concert
 David Osborne, "Pianist to the Presidents"
 April 9 Wind Ensemble Concert
 April 12..... Treble Clef Club of Pittsburg Concert
 April 13..... Performing Arts and Lecture Series presents STOMP
 April 15..... Air Force Big Band Jazz "The Falconaires"
 April 19..... 312th Army Band in Concert
 April 21PSU Jazz Ensembles present PSU & Jazz in Retrospective
 April 22 Women in Government Lecture Series
 presents First Lady Laura Bush
 April 26 PSU Choirs/SEK Symphony, Works of Handel and Dvorak
 April 30Four States Honor Band Festival Concert



For performance times and ticket information go to BicknellCenter.com

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performing on

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★★★★★

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Historic construction moves to completion

Construction and renovation are almost a given on campus, but this past year has seen more large projects than at any time in the university's history. Paul Stewart, director of facilities planning, said it has been a busy but exciting time to be at Pittsburg State.

"It's very satisfying to be involved in a number of projects that will have a long-lasting impact on students and the campus," Stewart said.


The fall semester began with the opening of a newly renovated Nation Hall, the next to last phase of a multi-year effort to renovate all of the university's residence halls.

Throughout the fall semester, the sights and sounds of construction were everywhere. The replacement of the HVAC systems in Heckert-Wells Hall were completed in the early fall as the massive expansion and renovation of the Overman Student Center got into high gear next door.

To the east, the new Plaster Indoor Event Center rose alongside the Weede Physical Education Building while work on the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts wrapped up in November.

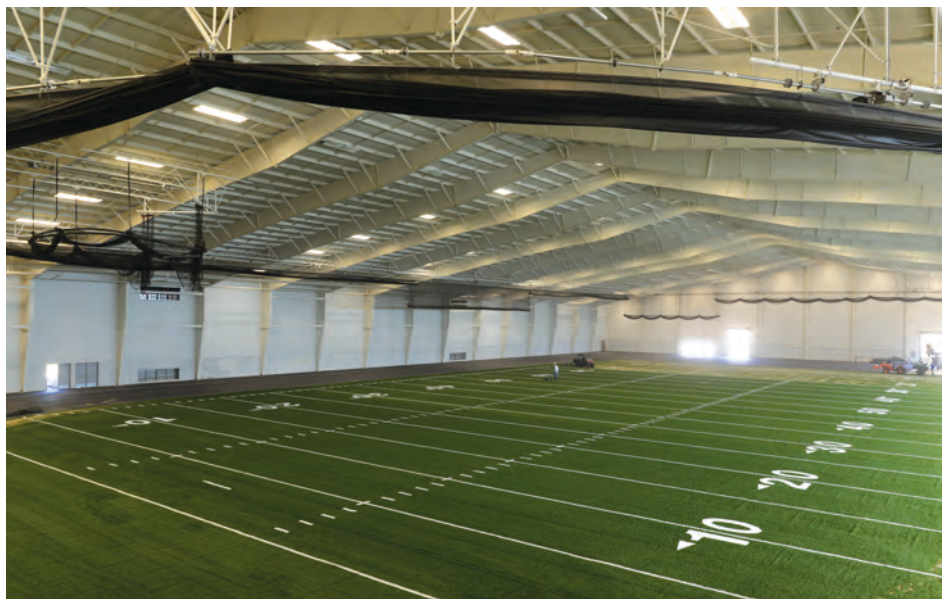
The Plaster Center is slated for completion midway through the spring semester, Stewart said, while the work on the student center is expected to wrap up in time for the opening of the fall term.

Renovation of East Nation, the last piece in the residence hall renovation plan, will get underway at the close of the spring semester and will be completed in time for the beginning of the fall semester.

Watch online video. 



The Overman Student Center's footprint on the Oval is a lot bigger these days. By the end of January, brick was going up on the outside of the extension on the east side of the building. Inside, crews were making great progress in both the new and renovated spaces. In addition to expanding the Crimson and Gold Ballroom, the project will create a new, larger U-Club, add numerous meeting and conference rooms and provide additional room for student dining.



In January, turf and track both went down in the new Plaster Center. Meanwhile, workers were busy in the building's 11,000-square-foot strength training facility and other areas of the building. The Plaster Center is expected to be completed before the end of the spring semester.

Watch online video. 



Scholarship campaign surpasses goal

The Office of Development celebrated the successful completion of its Pathways to PSU scholarship campaign at the GorillaFest tailgate party preceding the football game on Sept. 6.

Kathleen Flannery, executive director of development, said the campaign was launched in 2011 with a goal of raising \$12 million for endowed student scholarships. It concluded this year, having raised \$13.1 million.

"We are extremely grateful to the donors who recognized the importance of giving specifically for scholarships," Flannery said. "Their gifts will have a tremendous impact on individual students long into the future."

Pathways to PSU was the first PSU campaign targeted solely at student scholarships. Each year, PSU awards more than \$3 million in student scholarships.

Roelfs earns award

Melinda Roelfs, director of admission, has been recognized for distinguished service in her profession.



Melinda Roelfs

During the annual conference of the Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO), Roelfs became the third Pitt State employee to earn the Laura Cross Distinguished Service Award. The award is the highest awarded to an individual by KACRAO.

Roelfs joins Lee Christensen (2000) and Heather Eckstein (2012) as PSU recipients of the award.

"It was definitely a surprise to win this award," Roelfs said. "It means a great deal to me because it's voted on by our professional peers. To be recognized by that excellent group is very special."

Roelfs has served as director of admission since 2006. She has been a member of the PSU staff since 1997.

Phillips 66 Career Resource Center

Watch online video. 



John Lowe

Alumnus and former Phillips 66 executive John Lowe, right, joined President Steve Scott to dedicate the Phillips 66 Career Resource Center in the Office of Career Services. The renovated and updated resource center includes a wide range of online and physical resources for students planning their careers. While on campus, Lowe spoke to students about the keys to personal and professional success. "It's always great going to any college campus, but there is something special about coming back to Pitt State," he said. "The sense of community here is tremendous, and I don't think you can find that at many other universities in the country. PSU is truly a special place."



Tom Byler

Byler named director of KSBDC

Center for Innovation and Business Development Director Shawn Naccarato has announced the appointment of Tom Byler as the new director of the Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC).

Byler, of Fort Scott, has served as a business consultant within the KSBDC since 2008. He succeeds as director Kathryn Richard, who retired this year after more than 25 years in the position.

"My goal as director of the KSBDC is to be a leader in assisting small businesses innovate and grow, and as a result, help to have a positive impact on the economy of southeast Kansas," Byler said.

The KSBDC, a component of Pitt State's Center for Innovation and Business Development, is one of eight regional centers and 12 associate centers throughout Kansas. The KSBDC and its outreach centers provide assistance for small businesses located or intending to locate within its 12-county service area.

Love story goes viral

A video of two PSU students getting engaged went viral shortly after it was posted to YouTube in October. More than 1.9 million people have viewed the video of auto tech major Blake Bullinger proposing to clinical lab sciences major Carly Stene.

The couple and their video were featured by national media outlets such as Good Morning America and the Huffington Post. A quick Google search of their names reveals even more websites sharing their story.

The post about their story on the PSU Facebook page reached more than 300,000 people in a matter of days.

How does the couple feel about all of this attention?

"We think other people seem to be enjoying it a lot more than we are," Stene said. "It's not that we aren't enjoying it, but everyone thinks it is so amazing. Blake and I are more excited about being engaged and getting married. We are enjoying this very exciting time and not letting any of this attention take away from the special moment we shared and what it means for our future."

From vintage to new

There's some new furniture in a student lounge and resource room in the Family and Consumer Sciences Building thanks to the sale of some vintage furniture.

The department earned nearly \$2,300 last fall from the sale of several pieces of collectible Heywood-Wakefield furniture that were first used in the old Home Management House and then in Chandler Hall before being consigned to storage decades ago.

FCS Chair Duane Whitbeck said the furniture was used to teach home management lessons in the early years of the department's history. In more recent times, however, home economics has evolved and expanded into family and consumer sciences. Today, students in FCS no longer focus on the "domestic arts," like cooking, sewing and home management.

"The department hasn't had a use for this furniture for some time," Whitbeck said.

It's official: No more tobacco!

The university's new tobacco free policy, which prohibits the use of all types of tobacco products in buildings and on all university-owned, operated or leased properties, went into effect on Jan. 1. Pitt State was the first four-year, regents institution in Kansas to become tobacco free.

The road to PSU's status as a tobacco-free campus began in 2012 when students voted to recommend a completely tobacco-free environment. A task force was formed to explore the feasibility of making the campus tobacco free. That group spent more than a year gathering campus input through town hall meetings, surveys and small-group discussions, finally recommending a policy that was approved by the President's Council last year.





Greek groups earn accolades

The Eta Eta Chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha received the sorority's top honor for the third year in a row. The Crown of Excellence Award was presented to the chapter at the Alpha Sigma Alpha National Convention and Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas. They are the only chapter to ever win the award in three 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.

The PSU chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity received the Fred Schwengel Most Improved Chapter Award. James Saltat, a senior from Joplin, Mo., and chapter president, said the honor was one the fraternity has coveted for many years.

For his leadership in guiding Phi Sigma Kappa to nationally-recognized status, Saltat received a prestigious honor of his own: the Order of the Diamond Circle, the highest honor an undergraduate can receive from the fraternity.



Cassandra Stanley

Repeat champion

A PSU interior design student is two for two in national competition. Senior Cassandra Stanley was, for the second consecutive year, on the winning team at the International Interior Design Association's Design Wars competition in Kansas City. Cassandra was the only student in this year's competition who also competed in 2013.

"Having a year under my belt, and especially having won last year, I had a good feel for what the judges were looking for," Stanley said. "That definitely helped me, and I was able to use that experience to help our team."

The competition required the students to work in teams with students from other universities to develop a spatial layout for office space in Kansas City. Cassandra served on a team with two Kansas State University students.

"It's a great experience, because it challenges you in the areas of creativity and time management," Stanley said. "It also puts you in a situation where you collaborate with students from other schools, and you have to work together to succeed."

Associate Professor Denise Bertoncino said the competition is an important preview of what the students will experience as professionals.

Finding Gus Gorilla

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


Email psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry for our Hidden Gorilla Contest. Please include your first and last name as well as the page number and location you found the hidden gorilla. One entry per person. **Entries must be received by June 1, 2015.** The winner will receive a Gorilla Gift Basket, filled with nifty Pitt State goodies.

Congratulations to Scott Badders (BSET '89) of Liberty, Mo., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Fall 2014 magazine!





The excitement is evident in Mary Carol Pomatto's smile as she announces the university's new doctoral program, a doctor of nursing practice. Pomatto is director of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing and also a PSU nursing alumna.

Watch online video. 

ANOTHER MILESTONE: PSU'S FIRST DOCTORAL PROGRAM

CERTAIN DATES ARE HIGHLIGHTED in the history of Pittsburgh State University:

- 1905, the university's first three-year certificate
- 1908, a four-year life diploma
- 1912, the first baccalaureate degree
- 1929, the first master's degree
- 1959, the first education specialist (Ed.S) degree

Add to those significant dates 2014, when the Kansas Board of Regents approved PSU's first doctoral program, a doctor of nursing practice.

Mary Carol Pomatto, director of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, said the new doctorate program is a major milestone for not just the school and the university, but for health care in the region.

"It is the culmination of years of

hard work by members of this school and of this university," Pomatto said.

At a ceremony celebrating the achievement, Karl Kunkel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, praised Pomatto and the school of nursing faculty for the hard work required to prepare for and earn approval of the new doctoral program.

"Despite having a full plate...the school of nursing leadership and faculty did not back away from the tremendous challenges involved with all of the background steps required to propose a new advanced graduate degree program," Kunkel said.

"Gaining this approval required a long process of feasibility studies, amassing available and needed resources and navigating various bureaucracies, both on and off campus."

President Steve Scott said the new

doctoral program gives PSU students new opportunities.

"No longer will they have to leave our region to attain the professional training they'll need to reach their professional goals," he said.

Scott quoted national projections that by 2020, doctoral graduates will need to double in order to build a primary care workforce in the U.S.

"This doctoral program will help fill that growing gap and together with our health care partners, form the foundation for a healthier region," Scott said.

The president noted that since FY 2006, when the Kansas Legislature approved a targeted investment in PSU's nursing program, undergraduate enrollment has grown from 112 to 233 and graduate enrollment from 17 to 49. •

"Gaining this approval required a long process of feasibility studies, amassing available and needed resources and navigating various bureaucracies, both on and off campus."

– Karl Kunkel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

A NEW TRADITION— PLAZA IS A PLACE OF HONOR

A NEW SPACE HAS JOINED THE RUSS HALL STAIRS, THE OVAL AND THE BRIDGE AT UNIVERSITY LAKE ON THE LIST OF GREAT CAMPUS ICONS.

ON OCT. 11, THOUSANDS OF PSU ALUMNI, STUDENTS and staff joined President Steve Scott on the east side of Carnie Smith Stadium for the unveiling of Champions Plaza and its central feature, a massive bronze Gorilla created by Kansas City sculptor Tom Corbin.

“The goal,” Scott told the crowd, “was to create an area that would honor the passion and pride of our students and alumni while at the same time, celebrate the achievements of our athletic teams.”

In addition to the bronze Gorilla and 1,500 inscribed pavers, Champions Plaza also includes the Circle of Champions, an area that commemorates the accomplishments of PSU coaches, from any sport, who have led their teams to capture a national championship.

As the dedication ceremony concluded, the PSU football team completed its traditional walk from the Weede PE Building to Carnie Smith Stadium. Each member of the team reached up to touch the Gorilla “as a symbol of unity and strength.”

Scott said alumni brought the concept of Champions Plaza to the university more than a year ago and the project was funded with private gifts.



Bronze medallions in Champions Plaza honor coaches who have earned national titles.

“It represents the perfect intersection of alumni engagement, private support, and Gorilla pride,” he said.

After the football team passed by, alumni, many with children in tow, took their turns reaching up to touch the Gorilla. As sculptor Tom Corbin watched the new tradition begin, he noted the lasting impact of his work.

“Every mark that I put in there is going to be around for a lot longer than I am,” Corbin said. “It’s kind of wild to think about all the people who are going to see it.”

President Scott said Champions Plaza is the latest addition to the rich and colorful history that ties together generation after generation of the Gorilla family.

To order Champions Plaza pavers, visit www.pittstate.edu/championsplaza.

Watch online video. 

Thousands of spectators watch as an imposing bronze Gorilla emerges from a rising cloud of crimson and gold balloons at the dedication of Champions Plaza.



Spring 2015 Fine Arts Calendar

Check the calendar on Pitt State's homepage, www.pittstate.edu, for the latest additions and changes to the calendar as well as additional details about specific events.

Art

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

University Gallery

Porter Hall

March 23 - May 1, 2015 - Ariel Bowman,
"A Magnificent Migration."

Artist Lecture - 3 p.m. April 2 Porter Hall
Reception - 4-6 p.m. April 2 Porter Hall

Harry Krug Gallery

Porter Hall

Jan. 20 - April 30, 2015, Teresa Harris,
"Storytellers."

Artist Lecture - 3 p.m. Jan. 23, Porter Hall
Reception - 4-6 p.m. Jan. 23, Porter Hall

English

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

Distinguished Visiting Writers Series

April 2 - Sally Keith, poetry reading for
Women's History Month,
102 Yates Hall, 8 p.m.

April 16 - Larry Heinemann, fiction
reading, 102 Yates Hall, 8 p.m.

Music

March 8 - PSU Choirs Spring Concert,
Bicknell Family Center for the Arts,
3 p.m.

**March 27 - SEK Symphony Young
People's Concert**, Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts, 11 a.m.

March 27 - Lark Quartet, Solo and
Chamber Music Series, Sharon K. Dean
Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

March 31 - Steinway Society Concert,
"Piano Extravaganza," Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts 7:30 p.m.

April 7 - Steinway Society Concert,
David Osborne, "Pianist to the
Presidents," Bicknell Family Center for
the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

April 9 - PSU Wind Ensemble Concert,
Bicknell Family Center for the Arts,
7:30 p.m.

April 17 - American Brass Quintet,
Solo and Chamber Music Series,
7:30 p.m., Sharon K. Dean Recital Hall.

April 18 - Mid-America Music Festival,
All-day event, at both McCray Hall and
Bicknell Family Center for the Arts

April 19 - 312th Army Band, Bicknell
Family Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

April 21 - PSU Jazz Ensembles present
"PSU & Jazz in Retrospective," Bicknell
Family Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

**April 26 - Choirs, SEK Symphony,
Oratorio Concert**, Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

April 28 - Opera Scenes, Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

April 30 - 4-State Honor Band, Bicknell
Family Center for the Arts, all-day
event.

PALS

Performing Arts & Lecture Series

For ticket information and prices go to
www.pittstate.edu/ticket

March 25 - Reza the Illusionist, Bicknell
Family Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

April 13 - STOMP, Bicknell Family Center
for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Theatre

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

**Feb. 26-March 1 - Pitt State Theatre
presents "Eurydice,"** Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

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Gorillas on the beach

Scott and Lynsey (Earl) Bernard, and their son, Paxton, show their Gorilla pride on the beach while on vacation in St. Lucia.



On the Plantation

and Marilyn Hayden Bournonville (BS '68, MS '91) and Sandy Askins Post (BS '67, MS '81) visited Magnolia Plantation near Charleston, S.C., in November. Sandy is a retired elementary teacher and Marilyn is a retired PSU office employee.



Gorilla sisters

Sigma Sisters from 1980, Diane Letner, Kathy Jorgensen, Cathy Linaweaver, Dr. Brenda Roberts, Carla Doss and Bette Lessen, visit the Boat House at Central Park in New York.

"Where in the World is Gus?"



Crandon Gorillas in Mexico

Crandon clan, including Tom Crandon ('61) showed their Gorilla pride on a visit to the Mayan city of Tulum. In addition to Tom, four of his five children and now two of his grandsons have attended PSU.

Gorilla in Sri Lanka

Jim Harris, ('68) sports his PSU gear in Sri Lanka, where he was attending a photography school. Jim and his wife, Glenda, live in New Mexico.



Gorillas in Paradise

Richard Horn (BBA '60) and Carolyn Lamborn show their Gorilla spirit at sunset on the summit at Haleakala National Park on the Island of Maui, Hawaii.





Gorilla on the Move

Andy Johnson, ('63) pauses at the eastern continental divide. At this point, Andy had completed 125 miles of the 150-mile Great Allegheny Gap Trail ride from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Cumberland, Md.

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

PSU spirit in Monaco

Fred Gunn (BS '73) a retired high school teacher for 36 years, shows off his Gorilla pride by an old race car in Monte Carlo. He also visited the Chagall and Picasso Museum in Southern France.



Gorilla in service

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dan Wnorowski sports a Gorilla patch he had made during his deployment to the southeast region of Afghanistan. Currently he is stationed at Fort Gordon, Ga.



Gorilla in Namibia

Sherri Spare (MS '07) with her host family in front of the compound in which she lived while teaching in Ongha, Namibia, for WorldTeach. Spare lived with the Mawetako Family and taught reading and computer skills at Mwadinomho Combined School.



No place like home

Heather Phillips (BBA '01) with Mikayla prove there are Gorillas in Oz at the Legoland Discovery Center in Kansas City.

They do exist!

Judson Hall (BSBA '80) shows his Gorilla pride alongside the Saint Louis University Billiken mascot. Judson visited the campus with his wife, Carol, who is an SLU alumna. The Halls reside in O'Fallon, Mo., where Carol is a nurse manager at SLU and Judson is retired from Boeing.



Gorillas on the Emerald Isle

Four PSU graduates, Beverly Dugan Burke (BSEd '71, MS '74), James Patrick Burke (BSEd '72, MS '75), Daniel A. Burke (BSEd '74), and Bev Zafuta Burke (BSEd '78, MA '87), all retired educators, show their Gorilla pride on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula in August 2014.



Gorillas at the fair

Brynlee and Braylen Frieden, with their parents, Brock and Elizabeth Fast Frieden (BSN '98) showed their Gorilla pride at the Barton County (Mo.) Fair.

"Your belief in our vision and your investment in this structure have produced an extraordinary outcome that will serve generations to come."

– PSU President Steve Scott at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, December 7, 2014.



A DREAM COME TRUE

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A LOT TO KEEP A DREAM ALIVE, BUT IF the dream is big enough and important enough, persistent people can make dreams come true.

On Dec. 7, 2014, more than 1,000 people from the campus and community came together to celebrate the opening of the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on the east side of the campus. The event was both a celebration for the opening of a magnificent facility and a tribute to those who believed in the dream of a new performance center, even in the darkest times.

continued

Watch online video.





President Scott congratulates Gene Bicknell at the ribbon cutting for the new Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. Members of the ribbon-cutting party, l-r: SGA President Jordan Schaper, President Scott, Gene Bicknell, Rita Bicknell, Kansas Regent Kenny Wilk, and PSU Foundation President Charlie Myers.

(continued from pg. 15)

“Throughout the time I have been president, I have kept a document on my desk that is dated May 1972,” said President Steve Scott. “On that document is a list of six construction projects that then President George Budd hoped to have privately funded. Number six on that list was a center for the performing arts.”

In the decades since that document was drafted, the campus has seen enormous change. Technology programs were brought together under one enormous roof with the construction of the Kansas Technology Center. Residence halls have been built and renovated, a new student rec center was constructed and a new student health center was built. Carnie Smith Stadium was renovated and expanded to become one of the premier Division II facilities in the country and around

the Oval, historic buildings have been modernized and updated.

But even after alumnus and entrepreneur Gene Bicknell made a lead gift in 2008 – the largest in university history – the dream of building a new performance venue seemed distant. More than a few on campus wondered whether the herculean task of raising the \$33 million needed for the new facility wasn’t just too big.

Despite occasional setbacks, Scott said, President Budd’s list helped him focus on the project and people like Gene and his wife, Rita, and many others worked to help push it forward. Even the students got involved, voting to commit significant resources for the construction.

At the dedication in December, Scott praised the students and the 636 private donors who have given to the project so far. In addition to Gene

and Rita Bicknell, he singled out Linda and Lee Scott and the Walton Family Foundation for two major gifts and also named some of the top donors to the project.

“Your belief in our vision and your investment in this structure have produced an extraordinary outcome that will serve generations to come,” Scott said. “What happens in this building in the days, months, and years ahead will lift spirits, evoke smiles and tears, challenge our views of the world, and strengthen our sense of community.”

When called on to speak, Bicknell used his time to turn attention from himself to the students, alumni and community donors who have supported the project.

“The relationships we have with PSU and this community surpasses one’s imagination,” Bicknell said.

He said the community has a way of achieving goals others might have considered too lofty.

"It amazes me how they (the Pittsburg community) always come together to meet their goals," Bicknell said. "Whether it's the YMCA or the United Way or the university, they come together."

Bicknell said the completed project is even better than he had dreamed it could be.

"In our vision, I never quite conceived it to be this grand," he said.

The first performance in the Bicknell Center was provided by the University Choirs under the direction of Susan Marchant, who sang Carley Simon's "Let the River Run." It was the same song they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for the building.

Scott quoted a line from the song that he said he found particularly meaningful.

"The line is 'Let all the dreamers wake the nation,'" Scott said. "I anticipate the Bicknell Center will indeed wake this campus and this community and even at times the nation to the power and importance of the arts, and it will serve as a symbol of inspiration for years to come." •



Alan and Roberta Whetzel Skylight

What's in a name?

Throughout the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, various named spaces honor the contributions of donors to a facility that promises to have a profound impact not only on Pittsburg State, but the city and the region.

The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts

The building itself honors lead donor Gene Bicknell, his wife, Rita, and their family. Gene, an alumnus and a lifelong supporter not only of PSU but also of the arts, in general, provided the gift that laid the foundation for the project.

A room near the Art Gallery provides insight into the life and times of Gene Bicknell. A collection of historic memorabilia will help tell his inspirational story of overcoming poverty to build and lead one of the region's largest corporations.

The Linda & Lee Scott Performance Hall

This hall, the heart of the facility, honors Linda & Lee Scott. Lee, a PSU alumnus and brother of PSU President Steve Scott, served as president and CEO of Walmart. The Walton Family Charitable Foundation made a major gift to the project to honor Lee's years of service.

The Dotty and Bill Miller Theater

This theater was made possible by a gift from the Nancy and Richard Miller family and the Faith and Dick Coleman family in honor of Dotty and Bill Miller. Bill Miller, who died in 2002, began a career in photography in 1939. From those humble beginnings, he built Miller's Professional Imaging, the largest professional photo lab organization in the U.S. Dotty Miller died in January 2015.

Many other spaces within the center bear the names of individuals, families and corporations who have helped make this dream a reality. In the performance hall, plaques on individual seats recognize donors who have sponsored a seat.

Kathleen Flannery, executive director of the Office of University Development, said there are still important needs to be met for the Bicknell Center and opportunities to be involved. For more information on making a gift, contact the Office of Development at 620-235-4768, www.pittstate.edu/office/development.

More than just a pretty face

First-time visitors to the Linda & Lee Scott Performance Hall in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts are immediately struck by the beauty of the room. What the beauty conceals is function.

The hall is "tuneable" to accommodate almost any kind of performance.

"We designed into it a number of variable acoustic elements," said Joseph Myers, associate and principal consultant with Kirkegaard Associates out of Chicago. "There are curtains in the upper volume that can increase

or reduce the reverberation time. There are curtains at the rear walls that can give more or less sound back to the performers on stage. There are sliding glass fiber panels that can make the sound captured between the side walls a little bit more dense or more transparent, depending on what is needed."

In older theaters and concert halls, performers must try to adjust to the acoustics of the room, Myers said.

"Our room is able to adjust

continued

"We went to a lot of trouble in picking colors and shaping the room to make it intimate and to keep it warm.

Something I'm proud of is that the acoustics of the room capture that same sense of intimacy and warmth that the architecture itself captures."

(continued from pg. 17)

to the type of music so that the adjustments that a musician makes within a given acoustics within a given concert are small adjustments that he or she can make easily," Myers said.

Myers described the performance hall as intimate and warm.

"We went to a lot of trouble in picking colors and shaping the room to make it intimate and to keep it warm. Something I'm proud of is that the acoustics of the room capture that same sense of intimacy and warmth that the architecture itself captures."

Myers said his job takes him to universities and other venues around the country, but he was particularly keen on helping design and tune the Bicknell Center.

"I'm based in Chicago and I grew up outside of Philadelphia, but my mother grew up in Girard," Myers said. "For her, Pittsburg was the big city. When we were pursuing this project, I wanted it even more than I usually want a nice project like this because I was getting to do the performing arts center for what was once my mother's hometown."

Myers said he believes Bicknell Center patrons have a special experience ahead of them.

"They should expect to see a beautiful room. They should expect to hear a performance that sounds really lovely," Myers said. "I hope it will be a magical experience." •



Student musicians perform as sound engineers listen and tune the Linda & Lee Scott Performance Hall in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.



James and Treva Dawson Lobby, upper level.

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The Pittsburgh State University Heritage Society includes and recognizes individuals who have provided support for the university in the form of a gift in their will or other estate plans. All members of the PSU Heritage Society will be invited to enjoy the Presidents Society annual dinner, where the newest members will be presented with a custom obelisk award for their generosity.

Membership in the PSU Heritage Society is available for anyone making a planned gift to PSU, no matter what size.

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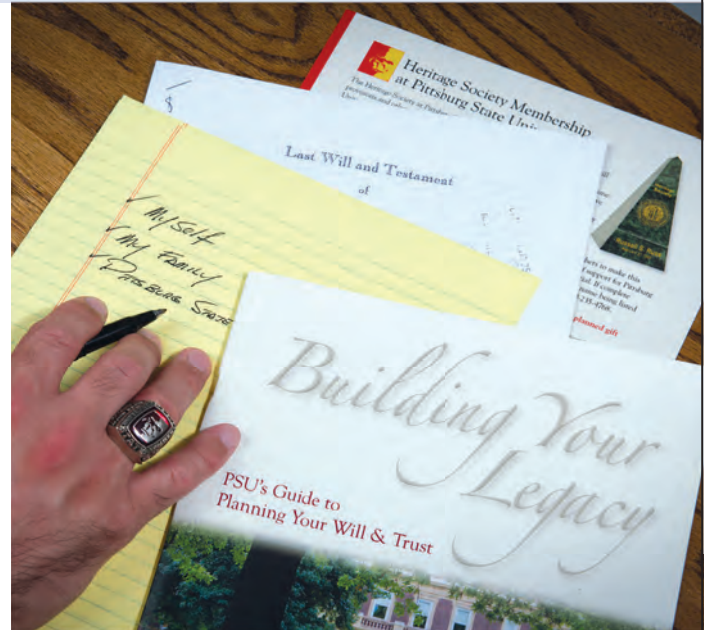
- 1** We can follow your wishes, since we know what they are.
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- 3** Even anonymously, you set an example for others to follow.

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Alumna's book looks "Inside Beverly Hills PD"

IN HER LATEST BOOK, ALUMNA AND Arma, Kan., native Helen Maxwell takes a look inside the Beverly Hills Police Department. The book, "Inside Beverly Hills PD," contains stories about presidents, film stars and, according to Maxwell, 'real' police work.

The book, Maxwell said, provides a more accurate picture of the complexities of American law enforcement and is at the same time a fun read about film greats from silent film star Mary Pickford to Elvis Presley. According to Maxwell, many of the stories in the book have never been told before.

Maxwell said that when she was initially contacted about writing a book about the Beverly Hills PD, she declined.

"A book owns you for several years," Maxwell said. "And, I didn't think that much crime occurred in Beverly Hills. I wasn't sure I could make a book about BHPD that interesting."

Maxwell said she reconsidered the project after her husband, who had been medically evacuated out of the Iraq War, died in her arms. Burdened by grief, Maxwell said, she badly needed something to fill her life again.

"All our plans were gone, no Golden Years to look forward to," Maxwell said.

Over the next four years, with the assistance of a retired BHPD investigator and Chief of Police David Snowden, a former brigadier general, Maxwell completed the book.

Some Pittsburg and Joplin residents may remember Maxwell, who received her bachelor's degree from PSU in 1965 and then completed a master's degree at Pitt State, both in music. She performed in PSU productions with film star Gary Busey. The two starred in Shakespeare's

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Dark of the Moon." Maxwell was an on-air personality and television newswoman in Joplin and served on the board of Joplin Little Theater. In Hollywood, Maxwell performed with the Doodletown Pipers network television song and dance group. She later appeared on "Days of Our Lives" and did a lot of live theater.

Maxwell said her life changed when she fell victim to a stalker.

"I fell back on my education from Kansas and began a new career," Maxwell said, "performing only once in awhile and only when the work was during daytime hours."

Maxwell said she now performs only benefit concerts.

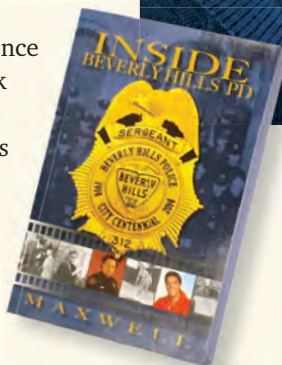
She has been called upon as an expert on home intrusion and burglary multiple times by "CBS This Morning" and has been a consultant on "Prime Time Live." She has been featured in the Washington Post and New York Times and has written for Law Enforcement Technology magazine and Police magazine, for the nation's police community. She eventually ran a federal, college-accredited program in Los Angeles county that had working police officers from all over the county as trainers.


"It is a credit to the more fundamental educational standards in Kansas that I survived professionally," she said. "Kansas tends to adhere to strong basic education, which allowed me to leap into a second career and succeed."

Inside Beverly Hills PD is available on Amazon.com and through LawTech.com, which has been in criminal justice publishing for more than 30 years. •



Helen Maxwell



Watch online video. 



Adrian Herrera

Video wins national award

ADRIAN HERRERA SET OUT TO HELP prepare the campus for a switch to a secure wireless system and ended up winning a national award.

Herrera, a graduate student from Topeka, received a first-place award at the National Student Electronic Media Convention sponsored by College Broadcasters Inc., for a video public service announcement he created to promote the university's switch to GusNet.

Troy Comeau, director of the broadcasting program in the Department of Communication, said the award showcases how different departments on campus can work together to create something that can be recognized nationwide.

Chief Information Officer Angela Neria said the PSA was part of a strong effort to prepare students for the change.

"As we moved the traditional open wireless network to our new secure network, GusNET, we knew that we would need a full marketing

campaign to effectively reach campus and communicate why this project was important and to encourage campus to move over to the new wireless seamlessly," Neria said. "Adrian took the job on and exceeded our expectations. The professionalism of the PSA and Adrian's ability to capture what we had in mind and create the perfect message was top notch. Not only was the PSA extremely successful in communicating the 'right' message so was the move to GusNET, due in part no doubt to the excellent work by Adrian."

Herrera said he was happy to be honored as one of the top national finalists and winning the top award was a complete surprise.

"I was very excited to find out that I won," Herrera said. "It's great that our department can be recognized for its achievements and it's nice that my work can be validated not only locally but on a national level." •

Faculty textbooks have global impact

THEIR CLASSROOMS MAY BE IN PITTSBURG, KANSAS, BUT faculty in the Kelce College of Business are touching students around the world.

Textbooks written by Pittsburg State business educators have been adopted at universities throughout the U.S. and in several countries.

University Professor Don Baack and Associate Professor Eric Harris, along with Don's son, Daniel Baack, co-wrote an international marketing textbook that has been adopted at schools such as the University of Wisconsin, Glasgow University and the University of Bologna.

Paul Grimes, dean of the KCOB, is a co-author of "Economics of Social Issues," which is used at Purdue, Arizona State and the University of Massachusetts.

University Professor Maeve Cummings co-wrote "Management Information Systems for the Information Age," which is used at the University of Southern California, UCLA and New York University.

The faculty authors said contributing to higher education on a global scale is just one of the benefits of writing textbook material.

"Writing textbooks is a natural extension of teaching," Grimes said. "Every time a student opens up your book, you're teaching."

Harris said their works around the world also bring attention to the Kelce College of Business.

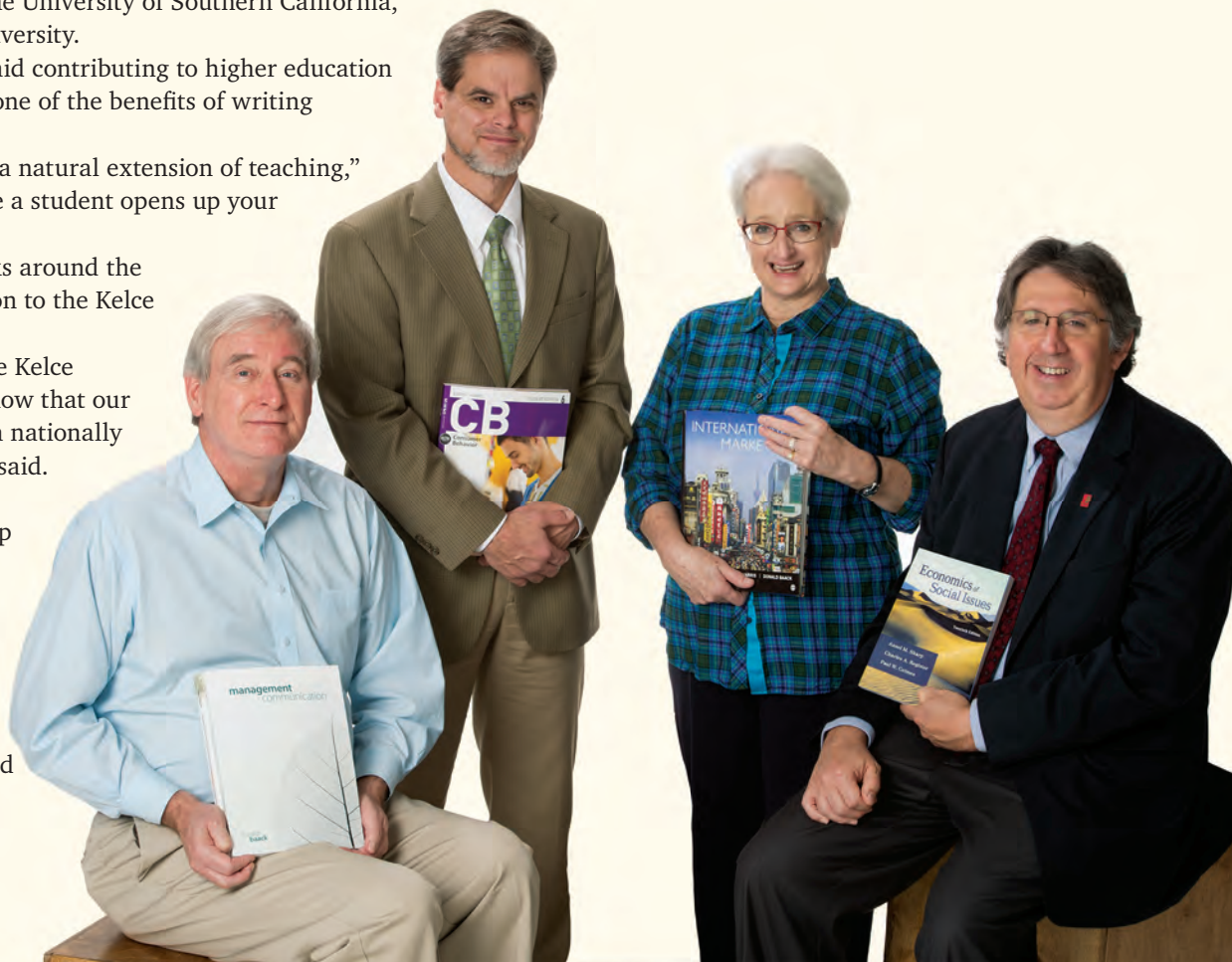
"It is important for the Kelce College of Business to show that our work has an impact both nationally and internationally," he said.

Baack said writing textbooks also helps keep faculty members up to date in their fields.


"The research involved keeps you engaged in the field," he said. "You constantly come across concepts and best business practices that you can talk about in the classroom." •

"Writing textbooks is a natural extension of teaching, every very time a student opens up your book, you're teaching."

– Paul Grimes,
dean of the Kelce College of Business



Don Baack, Eric Harris, Maeve Cummings, Paul Grimes.

Watch online video. 

Professors mentor young researchers

ON A RECENT AFTERNOON, TWO researchers were hard at work in a Chemistry Department computer lab. One of the scientists concentrated on the effects of common pesticides on human DNA. Nearby, the other was focused on finding a way to block the Ebola virus from docking with human cells.

Like other researchers around the world, these two scientists dream of unlocking chemical and biological mysteries that will improve the human condition. What makes them different from most other researchers is their age. Adrian McAfee and Luke Arnce are high school seniors who come to PSU on their free time to learn the art and science of research.

Irene Zegar and her husband, James McAfee, have mentored high school students interested in research for more than seven years. Zegar said she and her husband give their time to mentor the young researchers because it is exciting to share their own passion for research.

"It's a lot of fun for me and a lot of fun for the student," Zegar said. "I'm excited because I see the excitement on their faces (when they make a discovery) and I want to continue to promote that as much as I can."

Zegar said that not all of the students she and her husband mentor go on to pursue careers in medicine or chemistry, but their research experience helps them nonetheless.

"It makes them think on a higher level," Zegar said. "It's very valuable to do such a sophisticated type of work because most high school students and even undergraduate students don't get exposed to this."

Zegar said the research experience also gets the notice of top universities when the students apply.

"A lot of top universities require high school students to do research," Zegar said. "So this puts the students (who have this experience) in a higher position in the application pool with many universities."

Both Adrian McAfee, a senior at Pittsburgh High School, and Luke Arnce, a senior at Carl Junction High School, say they hope to enter pre-med programs when they go to college.

"Just learning more each day and seeing the results is exciting," McAfee said. "(It's great) when you can see something has the potential to have an effect in the actual world."

Arnce said he expects to build on his experiences at Pitt State.

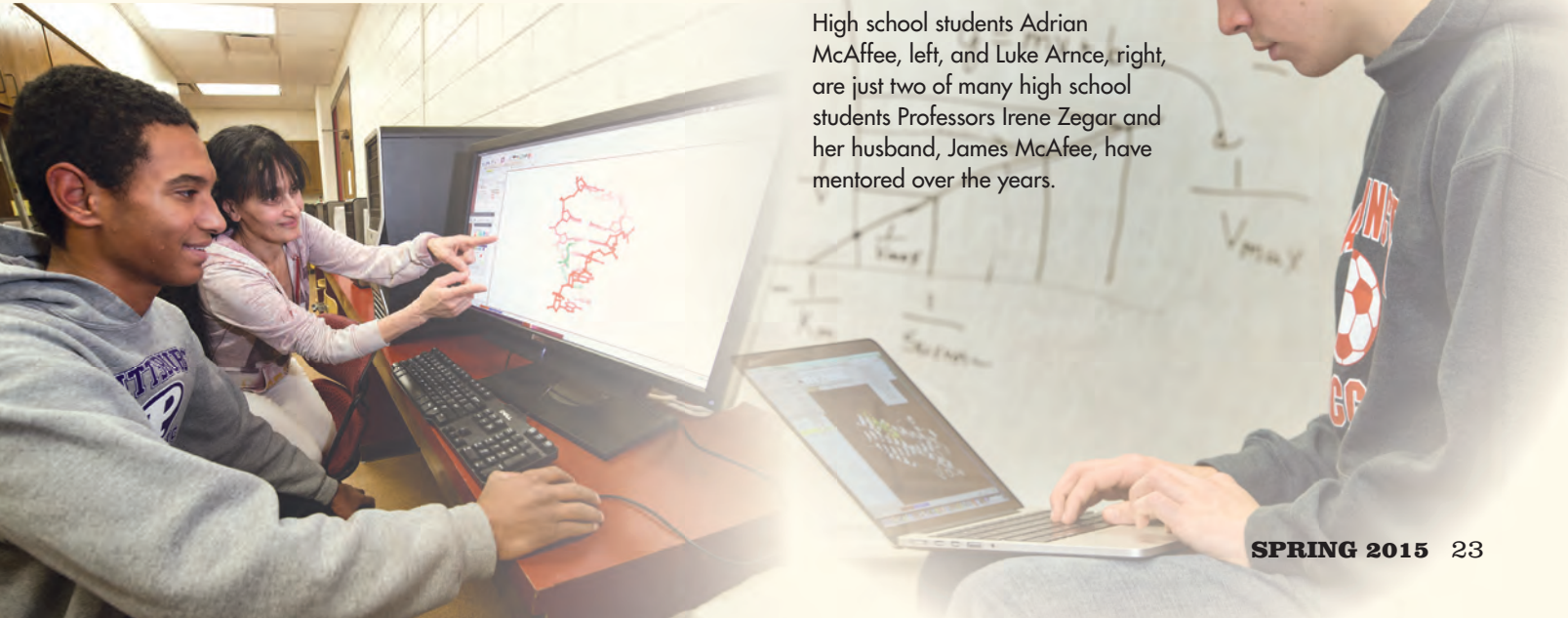
"It's definitely going to help prepare

me for different types of research. In fact, we'll probably be using the same methods and protocols that we're using here at whatever university I go to, so I'll have a head start on the programs and the methods that we'll be using," Arnce said.

Zegar said she and her husband are eager to mentor even more high school students in the future.

"Ultimately, I would like to make this research experience available to a broader pool of high school students," Zegar said, noting that over her 17-year career at Pittsburg State, she and her husband have seen many of the college students they have taught, as well as the high school students they have mentored, go on to rewarding careers.

"Our students go places," Zegar said. "In chemistry, our students go to top medical schools and top graduate schools. We send students to summer research programs at Harvard, Vanderbilt and other top universities around the country. We open doors for them." •



High school students Adrian McAfee, left, and Luke Arnce, right, are just two of many high school students Professors Irene Zegar and her husband, James McAfee, have mentored over the years.

Student accepts professor's challenge

FOR SOME TIME, RESEARCHERS HAVE KNOWN it is possible to run a gasoline engine by burning wood. This past fall, a PSU student actually did it.

In the late 1980s, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency produced a 39-page report describing how to build a wood-burning gas generator. Such a generator would be vital during periods of fuel shortages or other similar emergencies.

"It's an interesting read, let me tell you," said Jared Patterson, a senior from Mulvane, Kan., in Pitt State's automotive technology program.

More than just read the report, however, Patterson used FEMA's instructions to build the generator as part of a course project.

"(Associate Professor) Scott Norman said that anyone who wanted to take this on and build the generator could get out of taking the alternative fuels final," Patterson said. "I like a good challenge, so I accepted."

Patterson spent a month in the fall gathering the necessary materials and two days building the generator, which works by producing and filtering wood gas that can be used in internal combustion engines.

Watch online video.

Jared Patterson spent a month in the fall gathering the necessary materials and two days building the generator, which works by producing and filtering wood gas that can be used in internal combustion engines.



"Once we got it right, we were able to run an engine for about 12 minutes," he said. "We were pretty excited. That's not bad for our first shot."

Norman said he was impressed with Patterson's work.

"I liked that he was willing to take this on, and I was proud of the work he put in and the end result," he said. "He really did a great job on this."

Patterson said he learned a valuable lesson during the process.

"I learned that it can be done," he said. "This could be very useful if we ever lose power for a long period of time."

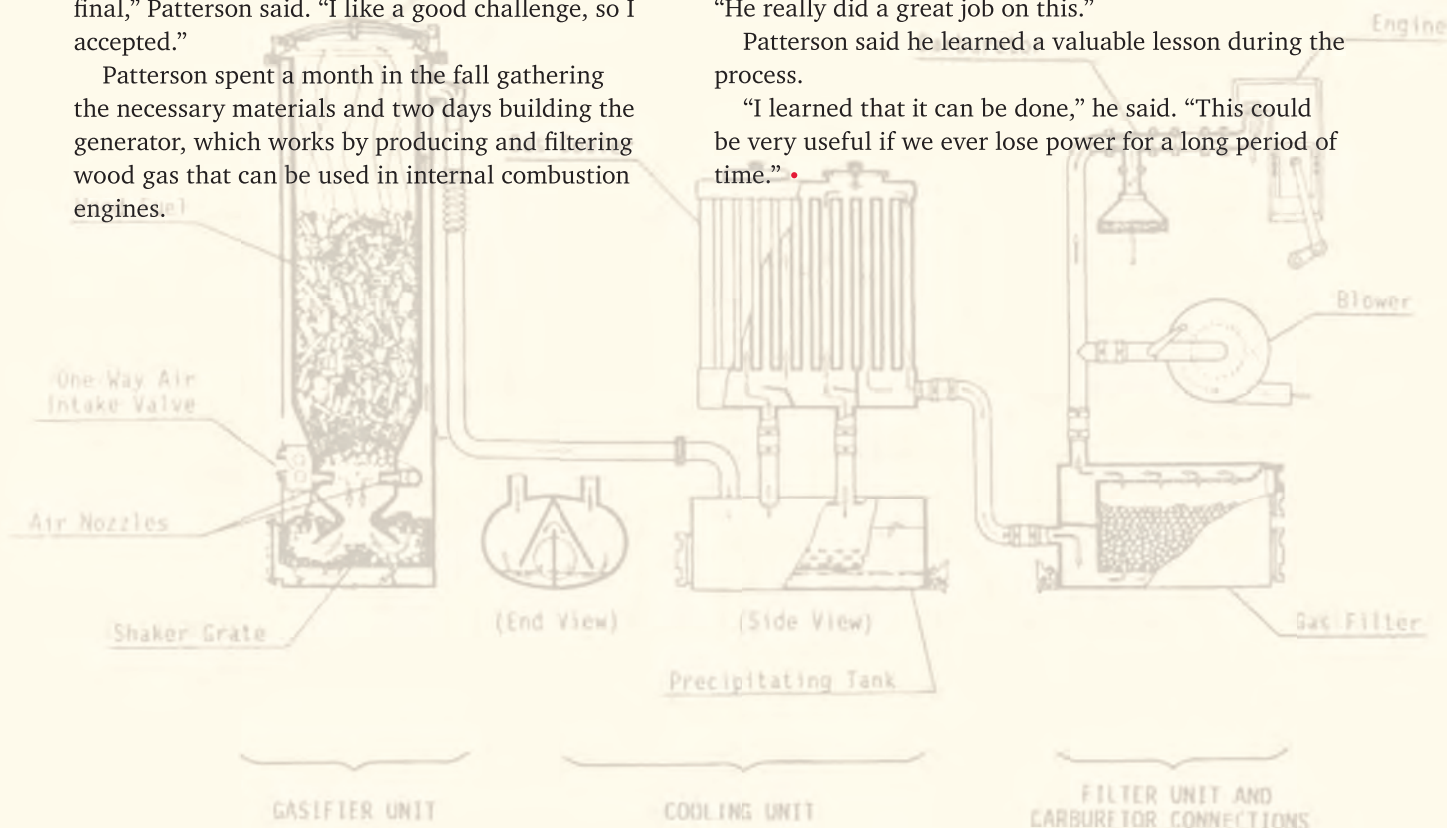



Fig. 1-2. Schematic view of the World War II, Imbert gasifier.

"I know I got a lot of looks from some of the other students," Jaeger said. "I think they were trying to figure out why a kid my age was in class."

Watch online video. 

Youthful graduate

ALEX JAEGER RECALLS THAT WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED on campus he got some looks.

"I think some of the other students were trying to figure out what I was doing in class," Jaeger said.

That reaction from classmates wasn't surprising, given that Jaeger was just 11, making him the youngest full-time student in PSU's history.

In December, Jaeger, now 15 years old, joined nearly 600 other graduates to receive baccalaureate degrees in music and biology.

Jaeger said he doesn't remember those first days on campus too clearly.

"I was probably pretty nervous," he said. "It's hard to remember. I was just 11."

Jaeger said soon the other students got used to seeing him on campus and in class. He smiled as he recalled pulling a wheeled case filled with books all over campus

during his first year. Now four years older, he has traded the wheeled cart for a more traditional book bag.

Jaeger said he felt accepted, despite the age difference. His teachers were warm and friendly, Jaeger said, which helped make his transition to college life easier.

One of those, Reena Natenberg, his adviser in music, said she's going to miss having Jaeger on campus.

"Alex is indeed an exceptional young man," Natenberg said. "Despite his unbelievable achievements, Alex remains a most humble and gracious individual. It has been my pleasure to have known and worked with Alex. I will miss him dearly."

Jaeger said he is planning on attending graduate school, although he's not sure where just yet.

He laughed as he pointed out, "It's not like I can go to work; I'm 15." •

Alex Jaeger



Regents OK polymer chemistry master's degree

Initiative took another step forward last fall with the approval of a new master's degree in polymer chemistry.

"It's an exciting time," said Petar Dvornic, chair of the Department of Chemistry.

The Kansas Board of Regents approved the new master's degree in October. The Kansas Legislature invested in PSU's Polymer Chemistry Initiative in 2013, allowing PSU to offer the first bachelor's degree in polymer chemistry in the region.

Arts and Sciences Dean Karl Kunkel said the undergraduate and graduate programs in polymer chemistry, along with the ongoing polymer chemistry research, have the potential to make PSU a center for excellence in polymer science education, research and economic development.

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

For more information on the PSU Polymer Chemistry Initiative and degree programs, visit www.pittstate.edu/department/chemistry.

Professor says international experience made her a better teacher

This time last spring, Casie Hermansson was just beginning her teaching experience at a university in Finland. Now, back at PSU, Hermansson says she's a better teacher because of her Fulbright experience.

A professor in the Department of English, Hermansson taught undergraduate and graduate classes in children's British and American literature and American literature from 1945 at the University of Turku/Abo Akademi on the southwestern coast of Finland.

"The students were very self-motivated so I enjoyed teaching both the undergraduate and graduate courses," Hermansson said.

One big adjustment, Hermansson said, was preparing for 90-minute class periods that involved a lot of lecture and PowerPoint.

"It was a teaching model I was familiar with as a student, since that's what I was used to from my own undergraduate studies in New Zealand," Hermansson said, "but I'd never been on the teaching side of it before. It inspired me to have more fun creating stimulating visual aids and using short film clips to keep things lively."

Hermansson said she found the academic environment, which was steeped in research, inspirational.

"It was very heady to work on two campuses that live and breathe research!" Hermansson said. "I met with a number of Ph.D students for lunches and coffees to discuss their research, and after giving my own research presentations on campus I would have a number of people follow up with me to talk further. The Fulbright reinvigorated my own research agenda."

At PSU, Hermansson said she has added things to her classes that she found effective in Finland.

"I feel like I already had a good model for being a teacher at PSU, and some experience with being a researcher, but I now have a much better working understanding of how to be a teacher-researcher!" Hermansson said.



Casie Hermansson



Homeward bound.

There's no place like home

Traveling is great, but there's nothing like returning to the comfortable surroundings of home. We can only guess how happy the critters in the Department of Biology's Nature Reach program were to finally move back to the familiar surroundings of Heckert-Wells Hall late in the fall after spending several months in temporary quarters in Hartman Hall. Nature Reach, like everyone else in the building, vacated Heckert-Wells at the end of the spring semester so major renovations could be made to the heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems.

Watch online video. 



Grad gives trainees a lift—in a UH-60 Blackhawk

It's always nice to have alumni drop in, but when that alumnus is flying a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, he gets special attention.

Cpt. Justin Dillow flew one of three Blackhawks that came to campus from Ft. Riley last fall to conduct a training exercise for ROTC students on campus. Dillow, a 2010 graduate originally from Chanute, serves with Bravo Company, 3rd battalion, first combat aviation brigade.

"It is tremendous to come back and see these guys doing what I did four to five years ago," Dillow said. "It's great knowing that these cadets are going to go places and farther than they could ever imagine."

Student broadcasters shine at conference

Student broadcasters from PSU's Department of Communication continue to garner state, regional and even national awards and that's getting some attention. At the 2014 South Central Regional Broadcasting Conference in Edmond, Okla., last fall, PSU students won seven awards.

"We are starting to turn some heads at the regional level, which is a great thing for our program," said Assistant Professor Trent Kling. "The fact that seven of our 12 entries were recognized in some fashion showcases our students' commitment to excellence in their work, and they have the drive to continue to represent the Department of Communication in the best way possible."

Students from PSU competed in a variety of audio and video production categories against students from several other states including Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Arkansas.

Pittsburg State's broadcasting professors are Troy Comeau, Leo Hudson and Kling.



Guest artist David Hickman (left) in a master class.

Everyone learns at Trumpet Festival

The thing that draws many students to the annual Midwest Trumpet Festival is the opportunity to learn from some of the best in the business. As it turns out, it's the same for faculty, too.

After a master class conducted by the acclaimed performer and teacher David Hickman, Todd Hastings, professor of music and festival director, traded notes with other trumpet professors.

"He (Hickman) is the master when it comes to master classes," Hastings said. "I think we all have learned things that we'll take back to our classrooms."

Hickman, who is a regents' professor of trumpet at Arizona State University is widely considered one of the world's top trumpet virtuosos and has performed more than 2,000 solo appearances around the world.

Hickman said the annual Midwest Trumpet Festival is valuable because it brings together so many musicians and teachers from different states and different schools.

"What he's (Hastings) doing here is really valuable," Hickman said. "To get all these people, especially all the faculty, to come to something like this is amazing."

Successful alumnus inspires students

PSU grads are qualified and ready to do whatever their hearts lead them to do.

That's the message alum and former Phillips 66 executive John Lowe shared with hundreds of current business students during a visit to campus last fall.

"You don't have to be a graduate of Harvard or Yale to be successful in the business world," Lowe said. "Pittsburg State prepares you just as well, if not better, than any other university in the nation. You don't have to take a backseat to anyone with the education you receive as Pittsburg State."

And Lowe should know. After receiving a bachelor of science degree in finance and accounting from PSU in 1981, he quickly shot up the ranks of ConocoPhillips.

At the end of his career, he served as assistant to ConocoPhillips' chief executive officer, representing the company in many of its external relationships and provides assistance on special assignments. Prior to that position, he served as executive vice president of exploration and production.

Lowe said he encourages Phillips 66 leaders to look at and hire PSU students for many reasons.

"One, it's a terrific cultural fit," Lowe said. "The students here have the values and ethics that fit very well into the Phillips 66 family. Plus, PSU students are just really good. They receive an excellent education, and they come out of school ready to contribute to the professional world."

During his speech in McCray Hall, Lowe shared with students his top 10 keys to success. They included "always be honest" and "be curious."

"Perhaps most importantly," he said, "accept challenges. Don't shy away from anything. Don't be afraid to take chances."



John Lowe

MBA update

The MBA Association at Pittsburg State University has its first official sponsor.

Labette Bank donated \$3,000 to the MBA Association to help fund the group's annual events and activities. The donation comes as the culmination of the association's yearlong effort to raise funds.

"Fundraising is not an easy task, and we were getting to a point where our budget was running low," said Kevin Chrisjohn, December graduate and former president of the MBA Association. "I thought it would be important for us in the long-term to try to secure more stable funding sources."

Chrisjohn said he worked with Kelce College of Business leaders on the approach and proposal to Labette Bank.

"It ended up working very well because Labette Bank was looking to be more involved with Pitt State at the same time we were looking for sponsors," he said. "We talked to them about our needs, and they stepped up to help. We're incredibly grateful for their support."

Sha earns research award

Fairness and trustworthiness in the e-commerce industry is the subject of a research paper written by Associate Professor Wei Sha that received a prestigious honor from the International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS).

Sha's paper, titled "The Nomological Network Validity of Perceived Fairness in Business-to-Consumer E-Commerce," earned the Best Paper Award for the Research Division at the IACIS Conference in Las Vegas.

"It's an incredible honor for me and my family," Sha said. "I'm very excited and proud to receive the award."



Wei Sha

Sha said his paper focuses on the how online stores, through their websites, create "psychological contracts" with shoppers to earn and maintain trust. Once the store creates a level of trust with online buyers, Sha said, profitability increases.

Rosen new chair of ACIS

Peter Rosen is the new chair of the Department of Accounting and Computer Information Systems.

Rosen joined the Pitt State faculty last summer after spending nine years at the University of Evansville in Indiana, where he served as associate professor of management information systems.

"I'm incredibly happy and excited to be at Pittsburg State," Rosen said. "This is an excellent campus in a great community, and the programs here are first class. Students are back, and I'm very proud to call myself a Gorilla."

Rosen, who grew up in California, earned a Ph.D. in management information systems from Oklahoma State University in 2005. He earned a master of business administration degree from San Diego State University in 1996 and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1988.



Peter Rosen

Pilot program tests public domain educational resources

PSU is one of eight educational institutions nationwide that is participating in a pilot program to test the effectiveness of competency-based curriculum.

Lynette Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said that the university is partnering with open courseware specialists Lumen Learning to see if and how open educational resources (OER) can be effective in university and college classrooms. Open educational resources are teaching, learning and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under a copyright license that permits anyone to freely use and repurpose them.

Using OER in the classroom can save institutions money by reducing curriculum costs and save students money by reducing textbook expenses.

"More than just saving money," Olson said, "using OER material in place of a traditional textbook is beneficial because there is a wealth of information that can be accessed, and we can actually look at building courses around that content. It's a free exchange of ideas and information, and it could change the way we teach at the university level."

The pilot of the Lumen courseware program is expected to begin in the fall of 2015, said Brenda Frieden, director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Four courses within the Kelce College of Business will participate in the pilot. Those courses are Basic Marketing, Introduction to Business, Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.



Remodel uncovers building history

A remodeling project inside the Kelce College of Business has uncovered a portion of the building's rich history.

While pulling up the floors as part of a remodel for the Office of Information Services, workers uncovered the old shuffleboard and basketball courts that were used when the building was College High School.

College High closed in 1971, and the building was dedicated as Kelce Hall in 1975. Randy Roberts, university archivist and dean of library services, said the courts were most likely covered

up in 1974 during the transition remodel.

"That was very cool to see," said Angela Neria, PSU's chief information officer. "We knew they were there under our current flooring, but we didn't think they'd be in such good shape."

Neria said the remodeling project led to a collaboration room for OIS, which allowed them to conduct meetings and brainstorming sessions.

"It's a place where we share ideas and solve problems," she said.

Needs of soldiers, veterans leads to new program

The Department of Psychology and Counseling has launched a new concentration for undergraduate psychology majors that focuses on the unique issues faced by America's military men and women.

Professor Julie Allison said the concentration will help PSU students prepare for a wide range of jobs created by the military to meet the needs of service members experiencing behavioral health complications due to deployments, trauma and the effects of families being separated for long periods of time.

"In recent years the Department of Defense has hired an increasing number of people with social service graduate and undergraduate degrees," Allison said. "That includes psychologists, counselors, marriage and family therapists, social workers, drug and alcohol counselors, prevention specialists, social service assistants, and case managers."

Allison said the military is also looking at ways to increase human performance and resiliency, using a holistic approach.

"Most military bases now have resiliency centers and resiliency campuses to teach service men and women and their families resiliency techniques that help them deal more effectively with the unique challenges they have. As a result, they are seeing very positive outcomes in reducing problems."

Students interested in the concentration must be psychology majors who have completed 60 hours of course work with a 3.0 grade point average. After they apply, a background check is conducted.

"We are very excited about the possibilities for our students to help soldiers and veterans," Allison said.

For more information, contact the Department of Psychology and Counseling at 620-235-4523.

Program targets childhood autism

Kansas is doing a good job of identifying and diagnosing young children with autism, according to Terri Swanson, coordinator of PSU's autism certificate programs. The problem is that there is a shortage of professionals who are certified to provide services for very young children with autism. Parents of these children often find themselves on long and often frustrating wait lists, she said.

To meet the growing need for services for very young children with autism, PSU will offer a new early childhood autism certificate beginning this fall.

"Many early childhood providers have not yet received quality professional development on how to work with children with Autism Spectrum Disease (ASD)," Swanson said. "In addition, many early childhood centers are not fully prepared to support children with ASD and their extensive behavioral and medical needs. In a nutshell, young children with ASD are not receiving the intensive services they need each week."

Those extensive needs may require 25 hours or more of special services each week, according to Swanson.

PSU is partnering with a number of groups, early childhood special educators and parents of children with autism to offer the new certificate, Swanson said.

Participants in the new certification program will earn the 18-credit-hour certificate over three semesters, taking two courses per semester.

"The courses are designed to provide early childhood providers with professional development, clinical experience and mentoring on how to effectively implement screening practices, evidence-based teaching practices, develop comprehensive programs, and collaborate with families and other professionals," Swanson said.

College honors new teachers

Fredonia Superintendent Jim Porter recalled experiences from his own long career as an educator to inspire young teachers at the Student Teacher Recognition Ceremony in December.

Porter, who was recently elected to the Kansas State Board of Education in November, said teachers can never predict which lives they may affect.

"You're going to have kids in your class that aren't your favorite," Porter said. "There are kids who if we don't say something nice to them, nobody will. We don't know who we're going to teach. We have to be that person who makes a difference."

Jake Stevenson, secondary, and Ariel Ashbacher, elementary, were the recipients of the Delta Kappa/Lyla Vaughn (Teachers of Promise) Award.

Jake Stevenson

Ariel Ashbacher



Mr. Fix-It

Just call him “Mr. Fix-It.”

Last fall Tim Puetz (BS 2001, MS 2003) was named the operations manager for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. Since then, he’s been the go-to guy when it comes to making sure the world’s largest hospital devoted to clinical investigation runs smoothly.

“I’ve spent the last decade of my life getting a balance in training between bio-medical research and business management,” Puetz said.

Because he has both research and business backgrounds, Puetz said, he can often bridge the gap between research and administration.

“(When there are) conflicts between the administrative side of the house and the clinical side of the house, I’m able to...understand where both sides are coming from and then communicate that in a way that makes sense to both just because I’ve been on both sides of the table,” Puetz said.

Puetz said his Pitt State experience, including ROTC followed by 10 years in the Army, have prepared him for the big job he’s got today.

“There have been so many people who have influenced me,” Puetz said. “I learned something different from about everyone in the HHPR Department.”

Puetz, who calls himself a “9-11 baby,” served 10 years in the Army, first as an infantry officer with the 371st Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and then as a biochemist/physiologist with the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Army Institute of Environmental Medicine.

Later, he earned a master’s degree in public health from Emory University, an MBA in strategic management from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in kinesiology and biological psychology from the University of Georgia. He served as a management and program analyst at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and later as a research coordinator at the Carter Center, both in Atlanta, before joining the NIH as a presidential management fellow in 2012.

Despite his busy schedule, Puetz said, he still finds time to conduct research and write research papers and to run 50-75 miles a week.

“I continuously make it (running) a priority,” Puetz said. “Being busy is only an excuse.”



Clinical Center Director Dr. John I. Gallin, left, honors Tim Puetz at an NIH awards ceremony.



Making it “cool” for kids

PE teachers from across Kansas filled the Student Recreation Center for two days in October as the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation hosted the annual Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (KAHPERD).

Professor Scott Gorman, an organizer for the convention, said its most important function was to share information.

“We want people to be teaching our children the latest and greatest information that’s available about health, wellness, nutrition,” Gorman said.

Throughout the event, participants could choose from sessions on everything from new classroom games and techniques to new information of physical education research.

Cole Shewmake, an assistant professor in HHPR, taught one session on “Chinese jump rope,” an activity that involves a long string tied in a circle around the ankles of two players while a third jumps patterns around the strings.

Shewmake said it’s important to find creative ways to make old activities fun and “cool” for kids.

Dustin Parks, a PE teacher at Claude Hyuck Elementary School in Kansas City, Kan., said he was excited to take back some of the new tricks and techniques back to his own classrooms.

“It’s about trying to find ways to change the old and make it new,” Parks said. “You have to have something that grabs (the kids’) attention,” Parks said. “We don’t get them for a whole lot during the week so we have to make sure it’s exciting for the time we have them.”

He said it was also inspirational to be around so many other PE teachers.

“It’s nice to see how many people are excited about what I teach, besides just me,” Parks said.

Watch online video. 



Company Day 2014— Watch online video. 

A full house!

The College of Technology hosted its largest ever Company Day in September. More than 200 companies visited the KTC to meet, talk with and potentially hire Pitt State technology students.

“We never thought we’d be able to fill the KTC,” said Dean Bruce Dallman, “but we were over full. That’s just incredible. Industry professionals recognize that this is the place to be and that our students are the best fit for their companies.”

The companies in attendance represented most COT academic programs, including automotive technology, graphics and imaging technologies, construction management/engineering technology, environmental and safety management, electronics/manufacturing/mechanical/plastics engineering technology, and wood technology.

Hasselblad workshop

Representatives from Sweden-based Hasselblad, one of the world’s leading photography equipment manufacturers, conducted a series of photography workshops at the KTC this past fall.

Sponsored by the Department of Graphics and Imaging Technologies, the sessions were open to students and the general public.

“This was an incredible opportunity for us, because Hasselblad not only makes the best photography equipment on Earth, but they also don’t come to the U.S. often,” said Rion Huffman, assistant professor in GI. “Our students got their hands on the best cameras in the world, and they learned from the best of the best. That’s huge for them and their education.”

KCCTE provides development opportunities

PSU took a big step forward in the field of education when it created the new Kansas Center for Career and Technical Education.

The KCCTE’s purpose is to provide technical and professional development for Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors through a variety of workshops, online resources and mentoring programs.

It includes the development of a network that will allow and encourage teachers who attend national conferences to share their knowledge with colleagues throughout the state and a web-based tool linking career and technical educators across Kansas. A mobile teaching unit, featuring simulators and training systems, will travel throughout the state to deliver hands-on teaching to instructors in their own school districts.

President Steve Scott said the KCCTE is a perfect match for Pittsburg State.

“It’s an area of strength for us,” Scott said. “It’s an area we have a statewide responsibility and a mandate for. It matches up with the governor’s roadmap. It matches up with Pittsburg State University. It matches up with the regents’ initiative.”

Gov. Brownback visited Pitt State last spring to announce the state’s \$1 million investment to create the KCCTE. That targeted funding for the center was part of a higher education funding bill passed by the Kansas Legislature last year.

Watch online video. 

Dainty named Teacher of the Year

Julie Dainty, assistant professor in Technology and Workforce Learning, was named the Postsecondary Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education (K-ACTE).

The K-ACTE is an organization that promotes excellence in career and technical education, and the annual awards are given to teachers who “have made extraordinary contributions” to career and technical education.

Dainty, who has been a member of the PSU faculty for more than 10 years, said she was “humbled” by the honor.

“There are so many amazing instructors across the state, and I’m honored to be chosen for this award,” she said. “It really could have gone to any of the outstanding educators in Kansas.”



Julie Dainty

New equipment boosts wood tech

The wood technology program received a significant upgrade in the fall thanks to the support from two major wood technology companies.

Veneer Services, based in Indianapolis, donated a double-knife guillotine, veneer splicer and glue clamp table, three state-of-the-art pieces of equipment that are used regularly in today's wood tech industry. The overall value of the equipment is more than \$210,000.

The other industry partner that had a hand in this donation was Houston-based Brochsteins. In 2013, Brochsteins donated approximately 1 million square feet of high-quality veneer, which the students used in their wood tech lab activities. A portion of that veneer was given to Veneer Services in exchange for the new equipment.

"Because of our budget, there is no way we could have ever purchased that quality of veneer or the new equipment that was just donated to us," said Assistant Professor Doug Hague, "but our industry partners have stepped up in huge ways to help give our students the educational experience they need."



In the driver's seat

A new crane simulator in the School of Construction is used to challenge students with situations faced by crane operators running many types of cranes on the typical construction worksite. Using a digital screen and construction-related software, students work through a variety of scenarios that they may someday encounter in the field.

"What this helps our students do is to understand that the person behind the controls can be in some very stressful situations," Assistant Professor Bill Strenth said. "Having a simulator like this is a major asset because the students learn how a crane is operated without the danger, pressure and stress of an actual worksite. So, when they graduate, they can go to the field and already understand the challenges of having a crane on their jobsite."

The new crane simulator is located in the simulation lab, which also features a variety of other construction-related equipment simulators.



Watch online video. 

STEM education focus of conference

PSU educators and students joined more than 300 educators and students who gathered in Branson, Mo., this past fall for the third annual International STEM Education Association (ISEA) Conference. The conference featured a variety of STEM-related sessions and activities aimed at advancing the attendees' understanding of how to teach STEM principles to students.

"The idea behind the conference is to put current and future educators in a single location where they can network and learn about new ways to integrate STEM topics into the curriculum they teach or will teach," said Mike Neden, assistant professor of technology education at Pitt State and ISEA conference chair.

Programs benefit auto tech students

Two new programs in Automotive Technology are preparing students for their professional careers.

The Pit Crew Program is a partnership between the COT, technical schools in the Kansas City area and regional Firestone stores. Through this program, prospective students for PSU's two-year automotive service technology program can have up to half of their tuition paid by Firestone if they commit to working in a Firestone store prior to their first semester at PSU.

The S-Tech Program is a certification program through Snap-On, a manufacturer of shop equipment products and automotive diagnostic tools. Through this program, AST students earn certifications on Snap-On service repair information and multimeters. Polley said these certifications will pay valuable dividends when the students enter the workforce.

Student athletes raise funds for Make-A-Wish

The PSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has worked to raise money for Make-A-Wish, the philanthropy of choice for NCAA Division II, for several years, but this year has decided to ramp up their efforts to raise funds for the national charity.

After the Division II Identity Conference last spring and the first Division II National SAAC meeting, PSU SAAC liaison Heidi Johnson and MIAA National SAAC member Deron Washington came up with some new goals for the Gorillas' group. The primary goal is to raise the money to be able to grant the wish of a child in Southeast Kansas.

One of the national initiatives through Division II and Make-A-Wish is the opportunity for schools that raise \$8,000 or more in a single year to be able to host a Wish Granting ceremony for a local child. The average cost of a wish is \$7,500, so the \$8,000 is just above what it would cost to grant one wish. The goal is a lofty one for the Gorilla group, as the maximum the group had raised in the past was just over \$2,000 and the total raised by the entire MIAA in the last year was only \$14,000.

The Gorilla SAAC group set took work early and had already earned \$5,200 by the end of the first semester. That amount does not include any online donations that were made through the NCAA's online donation site.

During the Week of Wishes in October, Pitt State's SAAC asked all fans to bring just \$1 to the Homecoming football game. Student-athletes collected money prior to the game and at halftime. A video stating the group's goal and reason for the goal played at the football game and was released through social media.

On Nov. 18, the group hosted its Third Annual Gorillas Got Talent. The



Eric Brantley serves as one of the emcees for the third annual Gorillas Got Talent. The Gorillas raised \$2,208 for Make-A-Wish at the event.

Track athlete D'Andria Blow works on crafts with kids at the Kids Day In.



all-student-athlete talent show featured five acts from women's track, football, softball and baseball. The women's track and baseball teams tied in the judges voting, but softball won the event after raising 68 percent of the \$2,208 raised.

On Dec. 7, SAAC invited local children for its second Kids Days In. For just \$10 per child, parents could drop off their children at John Lance Arena for four hours of fun, games and crafts

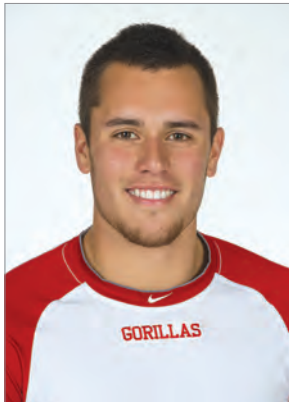
with many Pitt State Athletes.

At least one more fundraiser, a Spring Fling Dodge Ball Tournament with divisions for kids, college groups and adult teams, is planned.

Persons interested in donating to Make-A-Wish to help the Gorillas reach their goal, may donate through the NCAA's secure site at ssl.wish.org/NCAADII.

Abenoja receives national accolades

Senior quarterback Anthony Abenoja solidified his place in PSU football history, finishing fourth in voting for the 2014 Harlon Hill Trophy.



Anthony Abenoja

A native of Overland Park, Kan., Abenoja completed 263 of 432 passes (.609) for 3,871 yards and 32 TDs with 10 INTs, averaging 298.7 passing yards per game and compiling a 155.96 passer rating. He also carried the ball 70 times for 65 net yards with three scores. Abenoja ranks third in Division II in passing yards (3871), 10th nationally in passing yards per attempt (8.96 ypa), 12th in the country in passing yards per completion (14.72 ypc) and 15th nationally in passing efficiency (155.96 rating). He set an NCAA Division II record with 314 consecutive passes without an interception in 13 games, spanning from Oct. 19, 2013, to Oct. 18, 2014.

Abenoja holds seven of Pitt State's 10 top single-game passing totals, including a school record 442 passing yards vs. Lincoln on Sept. 27, 2013. He also set the Pitt State single-game total offense record (463 yards) that day. Abenoja enjoyed a pair of 400-yard passing days in 2014. During his 438-yard passing day vs. Emporia State on Oct. 11 he helped teammate Gavin Lutman break the MIAA's two-decade-old single-game receiving record. Lutman caught 10 passes for 268 yards and four TDs.

The Hill Trophy is sponsored by the City of Florence, Ala., Florence-Lauderdale Tourism, Opti-Net, the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa and Herff Jones.

Records fall for Jeronimus

Gorilla women's basketball fans knew this season would be a record-setting season for senior All-American Lizzy Jeronimus, though few probably knew exactly how many records the Lenexa, Kan., native would break.

Jeronimus' first record of the year came on December 16 against BYU-Hawaii, as she made her 564th career free throw to set the PSU and MIAA records for career free throws made. She added the MIAA and PSU career attempts records against Lincoln on Jan. 5 with 719. By mid-January, Jeronimus was 593-729 (.813) from the charity stripe. The records were previously held by Leslie Dudley who was 563-718 from 1997-2000.



Lizzy Jeronimus

She also added another record against Lincoln on Jan. 5 with her 706th career rebound, besting the record set by Dani Fronabarger from 1990-93.

On Jan. 28 Jeronimus became on the second player in school history to score 2,000 career points. Just three days later, Jeronimus grabbed a rebound and drove to the other end for a fast break layup to set the school scoring record. By the end of that game she had scored 2,050 points, the record for any basketball player (women's or men's) at PSU.

Jeronimus is one of only three players in school history to grab more than 500 rebounds and score more than 1,500 points.

Jeronimus also has 292 career assists, the sixth best total in school history. She is only the second player in school history to be in the top 10 for points, rebounds and assists.

Home Spring Athletics Schedule

Check full schedule at pittstategorillas.com

March 2015

15...Baseball vs. MWSU, 1 p.m.
27...Baseball vs. NW Mo., 4 p.m.
28...Baseball vs. NW Mo., 1 & 3 p.m.
28...Track & Field Wendy's PSU Invit.
29...Baseball vs. NW Mo., 1 p.m.

April 2015

10...Baseball vs. Fort Hays State, 5 p.m.
10...Track & Field 26th Annual Jack's Nitch- PSU Gorilla Relays (HS)
11...Softball vs. NW Mo., 2 & 4 p.m.
11...Baseball vs. Fort Hays State, 1 & 3 p.m.
11...Track & Field; 7th Annual David Suernram Gorilla Classic
12...Softball vs. Mo. Western, 12 & 2 p.m.
12...Baseball vs. Fort Hays State, 12 p.m.
15...Softball vs. Central Mo., 3 & 5 p.m.
17...Baseball vs. Central Okla., 5 p.m.

18...Baseball vs. Central Okla., 1 & 3 p.m.
19...Baseball vs. Central Okla., 12 p.m.
21...Softball vs. Rogers State, 3 & 5 p.m.
24...Softball vs. NE State, 2 & 4 p.m.
25...Softball vs. Central Okla., 1 & 3 p.m.
25...Football Spring Game

April 30 - May 2
Softball MIAA Tournament

MAY 2015

1-3...Baseball MIAA First Round
1-3...Track & Field MIAA Outdoor Championship
6-9...Baseball MIAA Final Four
8...Softball NCAA Regional
14-17...Baseball NCAA DII Regionals
21-23...Track & Field NCAA-II Outdoor National Championship

Coming Spring 2015



SUPPORT PITT STATE STUDENT-ATHLETES

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Krystal Henderson
Cake Designer

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Daniel Tocci
Meat Department

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Rachel Henderson
Cake Designer

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PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations

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Three receive alumni award



Watch online video. 

**PSU 2014
Outstanding Alumni:**
Benjamin Burns,
Emily Brown and
James Whitford.

This past fall's Outstanding Alumni Award recipients said they were both proud and humbled to be selected to represent their fellow alumni.

Benjamin Burns, vice president-internal audit & due diligence at Leggett and Platt, Inc., in Carthage, Mo.; Emily Brown, project executive and director of training and development for McCownGordon Construction in Kansas City, Mo.; and James Whitford, the co-founder and executive director of Watered Gardens Gospel Rescue Mission in Joplin, Mo., received their awards during Homecoming activities Oct. 10-11.

Benjamin Burns

Benjamin Burns earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from PSU in 2000 and an MBA from PSU in 2001. Currently he serves as the vice president of internal audit and due diligence at Leggett and Platt, Inc., in Carthage, Mo. Burns is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a certified fraud examiner and holds a certification in risk management assurance.

Burns and his wife, Becky, live in Joplin, Mo., and have two daughters, Addison and Avery.

Emily Brown

Emily Brown earned a bachelor's degree in construction management from PSU in 2001. At McCownGordon, she oversees approximately \$50 million in projects annually. Her area of specialty is health care, law firm and public works clients.

Brown and her husband, Chad Brown (MBA 1996), live in Shawnee, Kan. They have a son, Jake, who is 7.

James Whitford

James Whitford Whitford earned a bachelor's degree in biology from PSU in 1997 and a master's degree and physical therapy degrees from the University of Kansas Medical Center. He earned a doctorate in physical therapy from KU in 2008. He is the co-founder and executive director of Watered Gardens Gospel Rescue Mission, a 46-bed shelter for the homeless and outreach to the poor in Joplin, Mo. He is also the founder and director of the True Charity Initiative (TCI), an educational and public policy effort, calling communities to effective charity and freedom from welfare.

Whitford and his wife, Marsha, have five children: Nash, Caleb, Stevie, Ethan and Kelsey. They live in Webb City, Mo.

On-campus alumni events

Gorilla Gatherings

Last summer, Alumni and Constituent Relations hosted a number of Gorilla Gatherings for nearby counties on campus. Alumni and Constituent Relations Director Jon Bartlow said the beauty of the fall campus and opportunities to see the new Bicknell Family Center for the Arts and the Plaster Center all factored into the decision to host the gatherings on campus.

PSU President Steve Scott and his wife, Cathy, hosted the events on the patio of the Crossland University House where participants enjoyed Southeast Kansas fried chicken with views overlooking the campus lake, Timmons Chapel and Carnie Smith Stadium.

After brief remarks from the president, participants at each gathering got a tour of the campus, including a behind-the-scenes look at the Bicknell Center.

Bartlow said it was exciting to see the passion for PSU in the faces of the alumni.

"Pittsburg State is a wonderful place to talk about, but it is even better when alumni and friends can experience it in person," Bartlow said.

Half Century Reunion

PSU will honor the class on 1965 for their Half Century Reunion on **May 7-8, 2015**. As in years past, graduates from 1965, as well as any previous Half Century Reunion inductees, are invited to attend numerous events throughout the two-day reunion. A big change for 2015 will be a dinner, program, and dance on Thursday evening featuring live music and local musicians the

For more on these outstanding individuals, visit magazine.pittstate.edu

alumni would have often heard in Pittsburg in the 1960s.

After kicking the reunion off with a dinner and dance on Thursday, Friday morning is reserved for less structured time exploring the campus. Attendees can browse the university bookstore, go on an individual tour of campus, or attend the commissioning of PSU ROTC's latest group of officers. Lunch will be held in the Wilkinson Alumni Center during which time President Steve Scott will induct members of the class of 1965 into the Half Century Club. Individuals present from the classes of 1960 and 1955 will be recognized as well.

After lunch there will be a driving tour of campus and class picture on the steps of Russ Hall followed by a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception in the Alumni Center. To top the event off, all members of the class of 1965 are invited to participate in Commencement ceremonies, walking in the procession and being recognized at graduation.

Out of the Jungle Senior Send Off

The Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations made some exciting changes to the Out of the Jungle Senior Send Off event in November. The event has always been a celebration of seniors' upcoming graduation as well as an opportunity for the Alumni and Constituent Relations Office to be able to share some of what they do with these soon-to-be alumni.

"Rather than having an event where we spent a great deal of money on food and a small period of time actually interacting with students, the alumni relations staff decided to revamp the event to include more time visiting with the graduating students," said Jon Bartlow, director of Alumni and Constituent Relations. "Additionally, the money that had been spent on providing food for the event was used instead

No Half-Century Club reunion would be complete without gathering for a group photo on the iconic stairs of Russ Hall.

The 2015 Half Century Reunion is scheduled for May 7-8. For more information visit the PSU Alumni website: pittstate.edu/alumni



to buy outstanding give-away items including a 42-inch TV, an I-pad mini, a lap top, and a Fitbit just to mention a few.

"The best change, Bartlow said, "was the ability for us the sit down one-on-one with these students, talk to them about their plans, and take more than just a couple of minutes to share with them the great programs and opportunities that await them as alumni."

Each student came to the Wilkinson Alumni Center and spent 15-20 minutes visiting with alumni staff and representatives at various tables, each of

which covered particular topics relating to various programs and benefits offered by the PSU Alumni Association. These topics ranged from the PSU Official Kansas and Missouri License Plate Program to how to get involved as a County Champion or Alumni Association board member to what benefits and services are offered to PSU Alumni. Each student who attended the event was entered into the prize drawing.

As an added gift to graduates, the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations waived the \$30 fee for Official PSU Kansas and Missouri license plates for students graduating in December.

Class Notes

Class of 1939

Ed Brewer (BS, business) was interviewed by the Winfield (Kan.) Courier, for a special Veterans Day supplement published Friday Nov 7, 2014. At 99 years old, Ed is one of the few remaining veterans from World War II. The article detailed his war-time experiences in the Coast Guard as well as his time as a student at Pittsburg State 1935-1939 and as a professor 1945-1949.

Class of 1965

Jim Feagins (BSE) was honored by the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) with the Hamilton Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest award the society gives to professional archaeologists. Feagins, who also earned an MS from the University of Oklahoma, had two careers – teaching science for 30 years, then retiring to become an archaeologist. He is a prolific

author for various journals, newsletters, and quarterlies and has delivered 47 professional papers, plus countless archaeological talks to various groups. During the course of his archaeological career, Feagins has identified two prehistoric cultures and recorded more than 900 prehistoric and historic sites. He is a president emeritus for the MAS and continues to serve on the board of trustees.

Class of 1973

Maureen Murphy (BA) was named the 2014 North Carolina Family Physician of the Year in December by the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians. She was singled out for “a lifelong commitment to delivering both comprehensive and coordinated care to patients, helping to advance the specialty of family medicine, and tirelessly serving North Carolina’s communities.” Murphy began her career in

communications, working as a television reporter and public relations writer. She joined the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine as their membership and public relations director in 1977 and it was in this role where Murphy would discover her true life’s calling: family medicine. Murphy earned her medical degree from the University of Kansas Medical Center. After graduation, she went on to complete her residency training in family medicine at Duke University in 1988. Murphy has served North Carolina communities ranging from the medically underserved in rural Sparta, N.C., to busy suburban communities. Murphy cares for patients and continues to help educate family medicine residents and medical students at Cabarrus Family Medicine in Concord, N.C., where she serves as faculty coordinator of student programs. She resides in Concord with her husband, Scott Maxwell.

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Class Notes

Class of 1975

Andy Gilner (BSEd) is in his 37th year teaching at Tonganoxie High School where he teaches social studies, American Government and psychology. He is a Tonganoxie City Council member, as well as district marshal of the fourth degree for the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal order in the Catholic Church.

Class of 1978

Scott Greeno (BGS) has been hired as a corrections officer 1 in the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office in Topeka. In his new position, he will maintain security in the jail.

Class of 1986

Todd Dulek (BSBA) has been named executive director of Altrus in Savannah, Ga. Altrus provides group and family model personal care homes throughout Georgia.

In this capacity, Dulek will be responsible for all Altrus operations, including services for both family and group model segments as well as the services to the developmentally disabled population through the DD Host Home program.

Previously, Dulek was in regional home care management for ResCare for more nine years in the north Atlanta/ North Georgia markets. Prior to this he worked at Federated Mutual Insurance for 14 years in various roles and finally as marketing administrative manager at the end of his tenure.

Class of 1990

Toby Cook (BA) is the vice president of community affairs and publicity for the Kansas City Royals. Cook is responsible for organizing the ball clubs' charitable endeavors and also for promoting the team's appearance at special events. He is also responsible for spreading the word about the Royals' playoff appearances, ticket sales, and other events. Prior to joining the Royals, he spent 15 years

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Class Notes

as a news anchor and reporter at four television stations including KOAM-TV.

Class of 1994

Clayton Tatro (BS) has been named the new assistant dean of instruction at Washburn Tech. in Topeka. Tatro most recently served as president of Fort Scott Community College. Before that, he was dean of instruction at Garden City Community College, where he also began his teaching career.

Class of 1995

Roger Wen (BBA '95, MS '96) has been named director of the online campus at California State University – East Bay. Previously, he served as the dean of the online campus at William Woods University in Missouri. Wen has his Ph.D. in technology teaching from the University of Missouri and has a long career in multi-media administration, teaching and research.

Class of 1996

Valorie LeBlanc (BS) has been promoted to magistrate judge. She interviewed for the position Aug. 22, 2014, and was notified the same day that she was chosen. She has been a member of the Bourbon County Bar Association and the Sixth Judicial District Community Corrections Advisory Board since 2002. As a member of the board, she has assisted with giving advice and overseeing the operations for the adult and juvenile supervision and prevention services for the Sixth Judicial District.

Class of 1998

Kathi Yokum (BSN) has joined Dr. Robert Thomen's Family Medicine Practice at the Chanute Clinic. She has also completed her master of science degree in nursing in 2014. She has served 18 years in health care in Neosho County. Yokum has fulfilled positions of CAN, phlebotomist, RN in emergency care and OB, and house supervisor with the Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center.

Kim Davis (BSN) has joined the staff at the Cotton-O'Neil Clinic in Carbondale, Kan. She completed a master's degree in nursing in 2000.

Class of 1999

Noll Saunders (BBA) has been named risk management consultant for Euler Hermes North America. In his new role, Saunders covers Texas and surrounding states. He is a 2014 graduate of Baylor University's executive MBA program and also serves on the Dallas Business Club's board of directors.

Class of 2003

Bill Martin (BS) is the current sheriff of Bourbon County, Kan. He currently belongs to the Kansas Sheriff's Association.

Class of 2004

Carla A. Berger (BS) has been promoted to major for the U.S. Army in Pirmasens, Germany. Maj. Berger's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (60LC), the Army Achievement Medal (10LC), the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, and the German Armed Forces Military Proficiency Badge (Silver). Her mother, sister, and niece attended the promotion ceremony in Germany.

Class of 2005

Kenny Felt (BA) was recently chosen as one of The Knot magazine's Best Wedding Photographers for 2015. His work has been published multiple times in publications such as Sports Illustrated, ESPN magazine, Guideposts, as well as other newspapers around the world. He is in his ninth year as a portrait photographer. Prior to starting his business, he was a photographer and staff writer at The Fort Scott Tribune from 2001-05 and continues as a freelancer. He also worked as a freelance journalist for Icon Sports

Media. He worked at Captured Images photography studio from 2005 to 2011. Felt currently serves on the board for the Keyhole youth center.

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.

M. Arlene (Hoyder) Shawgo, 1938, Keller, Texas
Delbert Allen Van Middlesworth, 1940, Neodesha, Kan.
Delbert Van Middlesworth, 1940, Neodesha, Kan.
Lena M. Gallop, 1940, Sterling, Mo.
Mary V. (Corporon) Shead, 1941, Fort Scott, Kan.
Agnes A. Ryczek, 1941, Pittsburg, Kan.
Gertrude H. (Walker) Thorsell, 1941, Chanute, Kan.
Clyde E. Milligan, 1941, Columbine Valley, Colo.
John L. Lenhart, 1941, Wichita, Kan.
Wilma B. (Smith) Homrighausen, 1941, Paola, Kan.
Alice C. (Benton) Reitz, 1943, Gainesville, Fla.
Donald E. Vossen, 1944, Winfield, Kan.
Bret Brewer, 1944, Houston, Texas
Raul F. Aponte, 1944, Houston, Texas
Erma L. (Munday) Stone, 1944, Arkansas City, Kan.
Buena C. (Warren) Baird, 1946, Fort Scott, Kan.
LaMonte Filby, 1946, Joplin, Mo.
Virginia B. (Endicott) Fairley, 1946, Winfield, Kan.
Virginia "Ginger" (Kingston) McKinney, 1947, Winfield, Kan.
Sara K. (Roberts) Gilmore, 1947, La Veta, Colo.
Charles C. Green, 1947, Granbury, Texas
John Park Philips, 1948, Olathe, Kan.
Fannie E. (Burnett) Bassett, 1948, Chetopa, Kan.
Glenn E. Tolle, 1948, Frontenac, Kan.
Dr. Paul Stuart Sell, 1949, Independence, Kan.
Robert L. Lorenzen, 1949, Pittsburg, Kan.
Leon J. Setter, 1949, Wichita, Kan.
Harold L. Downing, 1949, Fort Collins, Colo.
Leo A. Gilmore, 1949, Pittsburg, Kan.
Willma (Hefley) McElroy, 1949, Columbus, Kan.
Janet (Stuart) Dickey, 1949, Iowa City, Iowa
Ruth A. (Attkisson) Bloomcamp, 1950, Pittsburg, Kan.

Norvel J. Trask, 1950, Dallas, Texas
Williams S. Ross, 1950, Cheney, Kan.
Joseph V. Heenan, 1950, Humbolt, Kan.
Bill R. Albers, 1951, Denver, Colo.
William J. Dowling, 1951, Edmond, Okla.
William T. Moody, 1951, Wichita, Kan.
Eva Frances Jenkins, 1951, Chanute, Kan.
Margaret A. (Tinder) Furtkap, 1951, Crestwood, Ky.
Don Huffman, 1951, Pella, Iowa
Stephen R. Blum, 1952, Lenexa, Kan.
Harold L. Peak, 1952, Enid, Okla.
Hubert A. Stover, 1952, Coffeyville, Kan.
Louis L. Johnson, 1954, Belleville, Kan.
Walter R. McGregor, 1954, Overland Park, Kan.
Ray Max Lundstorm, 1954, Des Moines, Iowa
Naomi L. (Yeager) Newton, 1955, Wichita, Kan.
Gail R. Redd, 1955, Bloomington, Minn.
Loretta E. (Butts) Colvin, 1956, Paola, Kan.
Donald D. Roblyer, 1957, Bryan, Texas
Joe B. Spence, 1957, Coldwater, Kan.
Joe R. Sanders, 1957, Bluffton, S.C.
Paul A. Friskel, 1957, Iola, Kan.
Dorothy E. (Blackford) Willcutt, 1957, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Julia A. Gorman, 1958, Mound City, Kan.
Leonard H. Wesley, 1958, Wichita, Kan.
Joanna E. (Mathiews) Green, 1958, Joplin, Mo.
Bobby D. Jackson, 1958, Madras, Okla.
Clyde B. Nance, 1958, Belton, Texas
Paul H. Schmidt, 1958, Columbus, Kan.
Bob S. La Forte, 1959, Galveston, Texas
Deanne K. (Rayl) Kenn, 1959, New Castle, Pa.
Donald L. Allegrucci, 1959, Topeka, Kan.
Terry H. Monson, 1959, Columbus, Kan.
Glenn A. Hamilton, 1959, Pittsburg, Kan.
Bill R. Thompson, 1959, Gainesville, Texas
Phyllis I. (Eastwood) McLain, 1959, Atlanta, Mo.
Glenn Hamilton, 1959, Pittsburg, Kan.
Kenneth Dale Robb, 1960, El Dorado, Kan.
Gerald W. Jeffries, 1960, Jefferson City, Mo.
Gene M. Wilmoth, 1960, Gardner, Kan.
Jennene L. Jackson, 1960, Garland, Texas
Otis C. Mitchell, 1960, Lawrenceburg, Ind.
Jean E. (Royse) Miller, 1960, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Merima (Short) Carver, 1961, Ferdonia, Kan.
James W. Garrison, 1961, Pittsburg, Kan.
Harold D. Cope, 1961, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Henry J. Fritze, 1961, Renton, Wash.
Richard L. Garner, 1961, Saint Louis, Mo.
Barbara A. (Sprigs) Johanson, 1961, Austin, Texas

Harold Dean Cope, 1961, Neosho, Mo.
Dena A. (Cole) Prochaska, 1961, Bradenton, Fla.
James L. Cullum, 1961, Neosho, Mo.
Robert Lee Klein, 1962, Plevna, Kan.
Robert J. Varsolona, 1962, Parsons, Kan.
Elsie M. (Force) Knapp, 1962, Pittsburg, Kan.
Orville L. Hamilton, 1962, Gladstone, Mo.
James E. Menhusen, 1962, Anthony, Kan.
Wilbert L. Enole Jr., 1963, Arma, Kan.
Donald R. Pargen, 1963, Joplin, Mo.
Gertha O. Peasley, 1963, Joplin, Mo.
Clifford R. Coffman, 1963, Callao, Mo.
Dwayne E. Gladson, 1963, Fort Worth, Texas
Mary B. (Hainline) Lohman, 1963, Fort Dodge, Iowa
Wanda L. (Hogan) Swails, 1963, Akron, Ohio
Floyd L. Hood, 1963, Rolla, Mo.
Richard A. Gudgen, 1964, Webb City, Mo.
Jim Sherer, 1964, Dodge City, Kan.
Clyde J. Leftner, 1964, Grass Vally, Calif.
Beula N. (Miller) Dockery, 1964, Lamar, Mo.
Dennis C. Hasson, 1964, Topeka, Kan.
Cleo M. (Greenwood) Carson, 1965, Parsons, Kan.
Betty A. Parmele, 1965, Waxahachie, Texas
Sharon C. Gamble, 1965, Pittsburg, Kan.

Betty J. (Reece) Huffman, 1965, Overland Park, Kan.
Cinda Lou (Pallister) Krenzin, 1965, Chanute, Kan.
Herby J. House, 1965, Ferdonia, Kan.
Marlyn D. (Flater) Mills, 1965, Girard, Kan.
William Hugh Spencer, 1965, Denver, Colo.
Dwight R. Clum, 1966, Hiawatha, Kan.
Tom A. Lundberg, 1966, Joplin, Mo.
Don R. Hughes, 1967, Joplin, Mo.
Charlene (Welcher) Hemphill, 1967, Joplin, Mo.
Terry Salmans, 1967, Willard, Mo.
Robert J. Patrick, 1967, Webb City, Mo.
Frank D. Dunnick, 1967, Girard, Kan.
Kirt E. Duffy, 1967, Pittsburg, Kan.
Florence E. (Stallings) Wilson, 1967, Fairland, Okla.
James M. Conroy, 1968, Joplin, Mo.
Mary Ann (Schiska) Rhoads, 1968, Joplin, Mo.
James A. Seward, 1968, Miami, Okla.
Nikki J. (Patrick) Teller, 1968, Pittsburg, Kan.
Tena (Runnells) Calahan, 1968, Iola, Kan.
Clarence G. Judy, 1968, Deridder, La.

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Peggy Yvonne Dunavan, 1968, Hartley, Texas
James L. O'Shields, 1968, Coffeyville, Kan.
Ronald K. Spriggs, 1969, Columbus, Kan.
Lila H. Rutherford, 1969, Hastings, Neb.
Philip D. Smith, 1969, South Coffeyville, Kan.
Ron R. Ziegler, 1970, Houston, Texas
Walter A. Wigton, 1970, Sedan, Kan.
Gary M. Walters, 1970, Killeen, Texas
Mary E. (Gunderson) Cash, 1970, Pittsburg, Kan.
Jack Dennison, 1970, Victorville, Calif.
Gary D. Martin, 1970, Gig Harbor, Wash.
James W. Coonfield, 1970, Pittsburg, Kan.
William "Bill" Redman, 1970, Valley, Wash.
Thomas L. Brown, 1970, Basehor, Kan.
Wayne T. Cameron, 1971, Independence, Kan.
Roy G. Black, 1971, Joplin, Mo.
Sarah Jane (Write) Ingle, 1971, Osawatomie, Kan.
Georgia M. (Little) Evitts, 1971, Joplin, Mo.
David C. Bear, 1971, Albuquerque, N.M.
Mary L. Taft, 1971, Spearfish, S.D.
Jerry L. Williams, 1971, Miami, Okla.
Violet M. (Winklepleck) Torower Morgan, 1971, Parsons, Kan.
Larry Anderson, 1971, Galena, Kan.
David B. Brown, 1971, Coffeyville, Kan.

David S. McCormack, 1971
Stephen K. Smith, 1972, Pittsburg, Kan.
Charles Richard Kellogg, 1972, Rich Hill, Mo.
Cheri L. (Swing) Anderson, 1972, Tucson, Ariz.
Randie S. Evans, 1972, Paola, Kan.
James R. McDaniel, 1972, Des Moines, Iowa
Karen S. Wilson, 1972, Springfield, Mo.
Keith R. Needham, 1972, Mound City, Kan.
Kendall R. Theobald, 1972, Bend, Ore.
John M. Cramer, 1973, Manhattan, Kan.
Sherry L. Behzadi, 1973, Topeka, Kan.
Gene M. Brownlee, 1973, Coffeyville, Kan.
Robert R. Hill, 1973, Seminole, Okla.
Melissa (Reese) Ruberson, 1973, Independence, Kan.
Robert B. Passmore, 1973, Rogers, Ark.
Sheldon R. Geodeke, 1974, McCune, Kan.
Milo H. Fields, 1974, Letona, Ark.
David K. Guardia, 1974, Overland Park, Kan.
Mary Elliott James, 1975, San Simeon, Calif.
Melvin L. Swink, 1975, Salida, Colo.
Gregory T. Bumgarner, 1975, Fort Worth, Texas
Rebecca T. Blunk, 1975, Brookline, Maine
Leon W. Lowe, 1975, Springfield, Mo.
Lee Miller, 1975, Overland Park, Kan.

Steven R. Mueller, 1975, Springfield, Mo.
Verne Davis, 1976, Ft. Dodge, Kan.
Don H. Pound, 1976, Inverness, Fla.
Marlene M. (Harris) Hall, 1977, Mulberry, Kan.
Dennis D. Maples, 1977, Excelsior Springs, Mo.
Max C. McReynolds, 1977, Webb City, Mo.
Ronald D. Cherry, 1977, Parsons, Kan.
Tom A. Buchanan, 1977, Bartlesville, Okla.
Michael T. Fitzmorris, 1978, Parsons, Kan.
Toni R. (Baker) Rogers, 1978, Commerce, Okla.
Jack L. Copeland Jr., 1978, Shawnee, Kan.
Timothy M. Murphy, 1978, Shawnee, Kan.
Christine Eileen Babich, 1979, Fairbanks, Alaska
Natalie J. Young, 1979, Noel, Mo.
Penelope S. (Hudson) Province, 1979, Fort Scott, Kan.
Charles E. Somers, 1979, Haysville, Kan.
Patricia I. (Chrisman) Davis, 1979, Bartlett, Kan.
Janet A. (Lindemann) Chubb, 1980, Parsons, Kan.
Michael P. Leon, 1980, Independence, Kan.

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Jim B. Lepley, Jr., 1980, Surprise, Ariz.
David E. Cashman, 1980, Kansas City, Kan.
Elizabeth (Traylor) Hooker, 1981, Joplin, Mo.
Nita M. Thornburgh, 1982, Joplin, Mo.
Rose F. (Brenner) Byrnes, 1982, Pittsburg, Kan.
Ruby M. (Vail) Gurwell, 1982, Independence, Kan.
Georgia A. (Milleson) Treadaway, 1983, Brunswick, Ga.
Danny C. Buffington, 1983, Pittsburg, Kan.
Benna M. (Beck) Yates, 1984, Springfield, Mo.
Jill Ann (Frenchette) Carlson, 1984, Manhattan, Kan.
Becky Lou (Harwood) Saliba, 1984, Broken Arrow, Okla.
Carl F. Hafer, Jr., 1984, Iola, Kan.
Bobby J. Dragoo, 1984, Salina, Kan.
Marty D. Pinegar, 1984, Gastonia, N.C.
Charles G. Ray, 1984, Manhattan, Kan.
Bob E. Cannon, 1985, Lane, Okla.
Steve W. Harrison, 1985, Independence, Kan.
Lee W. Ireland, 1985, Neosho, Mo.
Brenda G. Porter, 1985, Newton, Kan.
Bob L. McMichael, 1985, Pittsburg, Kan.
Mike R. Estrada, 1986, Ventura, Calif.
Troy J. Matthews, 1986, Pittsburg, Kan.
Fredric J. O'Grady, 1986, Dallas, Texas
Keith J. Piha, 1986, El Dorado, Kan.
Jean A. Rose, 1986, Independence, Kan.
Dale W. Smith, 1986, Wichita, Kan.
Jon S. Hall, 1986, Booneville, Ark.
Ann E. Currier, 1986, Coffeyville, Kan.
John G. Esch, 1986, Joplin, Mo.
Tina L. (Sluder) Belfield, 1987, Riverside, Calif.
Deann R. Crismas, 1987, Collinsville, Okla.
Jeanette Hetz, 1987, Mount Vernon
Ruby A. (McGuire) Sims, 1987, New Market, Tenn.
Jeanine A. (Thompson) Vetaw, 1987, Saint Louis, Mo.
Mark A. Young, 1987, Centennial, Colo.
June M. (Hill) Pommert, 1987, Joplin, Mo.
Kathryn J. (Wilcoxon) Sarver, 1988, Iola, Kan.
Steven Ray Aikins, Sr., 1989, Altamont, Kan.
Douglas D. Hull, 1989, Cherryvale, Kan.
Connie Sue (Barnett) Polley, 1990, Osawatomie, Kan.
Julie C. (Adams) Hisey, 1990, Kansas City, Kan.
Janice I. (Herndon) Edwards, 1990, Nowata, Okla.

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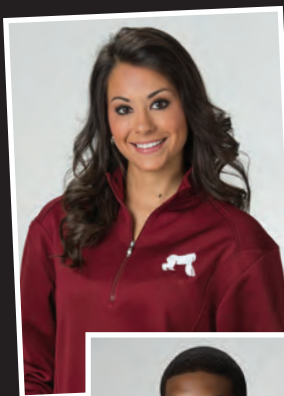
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Dawn E. Carter, 1991, Fairland, Okla.
Paul E. Burch, 1991, Overland Park, Kan.
Tamara J. (Hahn) Roberts, 1992,
Wichita, Kan.
Margaret E. (Diehl) Brackett, 1993,
Girard, Kan.
Rodney D. Stockard, 1993, Princeton, Kan.
Donald Gene O'Neal, 1993, Hutchinson, Kan.
Tracy L. (Graves) Helm, 1996, Fort Scott, Kan.
David Ray "Cotton" Beaver, 1997,
Meade, Kan.
Rhonda D. (Sell) Thompson, 1997,
Opolis, Kan.
Evylyn (Burch) Farmer, 1998,
Independence, Kan.
Elizabeth Marie (VanVactor) Brown, 2000,
Pittsburg, Kan.
Teresa L. Byrd, 2002, Duenweg, Mo.
Marcia E. (Wilson) Bruce, 2014,
Baxter Springs, Kan.
Capt. James Hurt, 2005, Pittsburg, Kan.
Milton Clair Brown, 2005, Wellsville, N.Y.
Christopher J. Schuetz, 2007, Gardner, Kan.
Donna L. (Ross) Fuller, 2008, Topeka, Kan.
Makenzie Kay Forbes, 2010, Parsons, Kan.
Scott Varvel, 2010, Burlington, Kan.
Zachary J. Langston, 2011,
Overland Park, Kan.

Jeffery A. Hall, 2014, Pittsburg, Kan.
Taylor C. Thomas, 2014, Pittsburg, Kan.
Tyler B. McBride, 2014, Liberal, Kan.
Nick S. Ewing, 2014, Wellington, Kan.

Class Year Unavailable

Karen Sue (Wilderman) Jent, Pittsburg, Kan.
Cormick "Pat" Cronister, Pittsburg, Kan.
Grace (Lindsay) Kilgore, Johnson, Kan.
David C. Nelson, Overland Park, Kan.
Andy Anderson, Galena, Kan.

Joe F. Zakowski, Pittsburg, Kan.
Robert J. Rhoads, Goodland, Kan.
Margaret L. (Brennan) Monagham,
Dallas, Texas

Faculty and Staff

Roberta M. (Phillips), Nepple,
Columbus, Kan.
John R. Loch, Sr., Columbus, Kan.
Michael J. Breneman, Asbury, Mo.

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William R. and Karen Lewis (left) and Cathy and Steve Scott.

Pitt State experience inspires couple

WILLIAM R. AND KAREN LEWIS say the role Pittsburg State University has played in their lives is one important reason they continue to support their alma mater.

Bill, who was the student sports information director, and Karen, who was the featured twirler for the Pride of the Plains Marching Band, met on campus in the mid '70s. Today, Bill (BSBA '75) is the owner of a CPA firm, Wealth Management Concepts, and also a book publishing company in Lincoln, Neb.

"I attribute much of my success to the great education I received from PSU," Bill said. "It is important for Karen and I to now give back to PSU, both financially and personally, as we both received needed financial support and scholarships through others' generosity, which allowed us to attend college."

The couple established an endowment to provide scholarships for accounting students and Bill has spoken to students as part of the Kelce College of Business Executive on Campus series.

"The opportunity to share with PSU students was the highlight of my year," Bill said. "I hope to return each year to share my story."

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2015

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March 5	Apple Day	Pittsburg
March 26 ..	Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Rogers, Ark.
April 7	Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch	Wichita, Kan.
April 16	Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch	Kansas City
April 16	Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Tulsa, Okla.
April 28	Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Springfield, Mo.
May 2.....	Gorilla Family Fishing Derby	Pittsburg
May 5.....	Alumni After Hours.....	Kansas City
May 19.....	Family Fun Night	Wichita, Kan.
May 22.....	Family Movie Night on the Jungletron	Pittsburg
July 7	Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch	Wichita, Kan.
July 23.....	Gorilla Gathering Networking Lunch	Kansas City

Dates are subject to change.

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