



Fall 2016

Pitt State

MAGAZINE

National Champs

*Gorillas win first ever DII Outdoor Track and Field
National Championship— page 16*







PittState

MAGAZINE

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From the editor

One measure of all the great things happening on campus is the number of stories and photos we just didn't have room for in the magazine. Go online (magazine.pittstate.edu) to see more photos for Where in the World is Gus and lots more interesting content. It's an embarrassment of riches that we just love!

– *The editor*



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Letters

#OAGAAG

@Division2Stew

Really missing being at @pittstate Pitt CARES today! To all the freshmen, welcome to the best decision of your life! #OAGAAG

@DinaHorgan

Went to buy new eyeglasses today. Pair I wanted had some green in them. I made them order the red ones. Can't help it #oagaag @pittstate

@xtina_aiello

Casual 8 mile jog through our Nation's Capitol! Of course 2nd Lt. Zdeb and I rocked our @pittstate gear #OAGAAG

@elena_flott5

Big S/O to the women's track team bringing home that National Championship! Congrats! #OAGAAG

@Greyson_LaPlant

Couldn't have asked for a better first year at Pitt. Glad I'm gonna have to take that victory lap after all. #oagaag

@Elaineshelby07

So thankful I chose a school full of so many opportunities #oagaag

@kschmitz13

This morning in JO a PSU alum was in front of me at Starbucks, she bought mine & said Go PSU. The people make this university. #OAGAAG

@alexisfrank172

On a spring break trip & we've been talking for the past 30 minutes about how much love we have for @pittstate & the great faculty #OAGAAG

@evansingleton

No matter what college I ever attend, Pittsburg State will ALWAYS be my home away from home. #OAGAAG #GoRillas #PittPride

Kudos

I just read the spring issue of the PittState Magazine and wanted to tell you that you do a fantastic job. You make me wish I had gone to Pitt State.

I feel like I'm a Gorilla!

STAN HICKS, Enid, Okla.

(By the power vested in me as editor of the PittState Magazine, I pronounce Stan Hicks an honorary Gorilla! – RW)

Speechless

Well, my latest copy of the Pitt State Magazine just arrived. Bill Clinton lectures the student body at PSU. To say I'm speechless would be an understatement.

He's a liar...a draft dodger...an adulterer...and was impeached. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. How that background and resume qualifies for favorable consideration as a guest speaker escapes me.

For those of us who have left the great state of Kansas, and now reside in other places in the country, it sometimes mystifies us as to what's going on there. We watch in shock as the nuts from a Baptist Church in Topeka attend veterans funerals all over the U.S. and display hateful signs and slurs, and now we learn of this— Bill Clinton speaks at PSU as an honored guest.

Political correctness at the home of the famous Chicken Annie's. How sad.

For the first time in 50 years I'm embarrassed to say I'm a graduate of Pittsburg State University.

LT. COL. STEVE EHART, U.S. ARMY, RET.
BS '66
Edinburg, Va.

Setting the record straight

I have a correction for you in the "Class Notes" section of the Spring 2016 magazine. Under "Class of 1975--Randall Love," you indicate that Mr. Love played basketball at PSU under Coach Bill Johnson. That is not correct. Mr. Love played for my father, Bob Johnson. Thanks.

CHRIS JOHNSON, BA '71

(For readers who don't know, Bob Johnson served as head basketball coach at PSU from 1967 until 1980 and as head golf coach from 1977 until 1984. He also served as a long-time member of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department. Bob led the Gorillas to 157 victories during his 14-year basketball tenure, including the 1975 GPAC title. He also guided the Gorillas to a 22-8 record and a trip to the NAIA National Tournament in 1972. Johnson was inducted into the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1986 and was named to PSU's Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012. Thanks for catching that error, Chris! – the editor.)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to psumag@pittstate.edu.



Jim Otter, Director of the PSU School of Construction

Nearly 50 students from aSTEAM Village visited the Kansas Technology Center on July 21 and received a hands-on lesson in the various technologies within the Pittsburg State School of Construction. They met with SOC faculty, who helped them work with virtual reality machines, augmented reality programs, machine simulators and more.

2016-17 Performance Series

2016

September 16 Polly Gibbons Quartet
 September 24 Vogts Sisters
 September 29 Broadway's "Once"
 October 26 Navy Jazz Band Commodores
 October 29 Big Head Todd & the Monsters
 November 7 The Official Blues Brothers Revue
 November 28 Moscow Ballet presents:
 "The Great Russian Nutcracker"

2017

January 28 Jason Farnham
 February 18 Jeri Sager and SEK Symphony
 February 27 Broadway's "42nd Street"
 March 3 Count Basie Orchestra



For performance times and ticket information: BicknellCenter.com



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

Three benefits of telling us about your planned gift:

- 1 We can follow your wishes, since we know what they are.
- 2 We can honor you with membership in the PSU Heritage Society.
- 3 Even anonymously, you set an example for others to follow.

You may already be qualified to join.

The Pittsburg 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 celebration, where the newest members will be presented with a custom obelisk award for their generosity.

Here are a few examples of planned gifts that are easy to make:

- Gifts from a Will or Trust
- Beneficiary Designations
- Appreciated Securities
- Life Insurance

If you have included Pittsburg State University in your estate plans, or you would like to, please call or email us today.

Office of University Development
 Call: 1-888-448-2778
 Email: devel@pittstate.edu
 Website: pittstate.giftlegacy.com



Olson honored as 'Icon of Education'

Lynette Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Pittsburg State University, was one of 11 persons named 2016 Icons of Education this spring by Ingram's, a business magazine in Kansas City, Mo.

Ingram's defines Icons of Education as educators who "in classrooms or administrative roles, have demonstrated exceptional ability to influence students and elevate their academic performance, or whose administrative contributions have enabled teaching staffs to do the same."

President Steve Scott praised Olson's leadership at the university.

"Provost Olson is an exceptional academic leader who has found the secret to balancing the role of a leader who energizes and motivates others while at the same time being a servant to those who she leads," Scott said. "She expects those around her to have high expectations for themselves, exhibit humility, and always act in a professional manner and she models those characteristics on a daily basis."

Olson earned a bachelor's degree in Christian education from Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Mo., a master's degree in student personnel and guidance/higher education at Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. in family life education and consultation from Kansas State University.

Olson believes that the greatest measure of her own success is in that of the students and faculty she leads and serves on a daily basis. She told Ingram's that helping others achieve success was one of the most satisfying aspects of her work.

"It's much more exciting for me to hear about the successes of others, and realizing that, no matter how small my influence was in getting them to that point I enjoy it as much as if they were my own accomplishments," Olson told the magazine. "That's what energizes me."



Lynette Olson

Petersen to lead University Development

Bradley J. Petersen has been named executive director of university development. As such, Petersen, who has more than 20 years of fundraising experience, oversees all of PSU's fundraising activities.

Petersen, a certified fund raising executive, earned a BBA in management from Texas A&M University, and an MS with an emphasis in healthcare administration and human performance technology from Texas State University. He has been a full-time fundraiser since 1995.

Petersen's work experience includes service with the American Red Cross; Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas; LDS Philanthropies in Rexburg, Idaho; and Project REAL in Las Vegas, Nevada. For LDS Philanthropies, Petersen raised money for three universities, one college and an international humanitarian program.

"I have been greeted by Gorilla Nation with open arms," Petersen said. "I look forward to meeting and working with members of the PSU family to help advance this great university."



Bradley J. Petersen

Peer education groups win state recognition

The peer education groups Students for Violence Prevention and Gorillas In Your Midst presented programs at the Meeting of The Minds Area 4 West conference in Kansas City, earlier this year, and were selected for three awards.

Ali Smith, PSU coordinator for violence prevention and victim advocacy, received the "Outstanding Adviser Award For Excellence" for her work as adviser, trainer and mentor for Students for Violence Prevention.

Students for Violence Prevention, meanwhile, received the "Outstanding Program Award For Excellence" for their 2015 Domestic Violence Awareness Month program.

The group was selected to give a break-out presentation titled "Paint Your Campus Purple: Addressing Campus Violence" to other peer educators and advisers in attendance.

Kelsey Lueck, student coordinator for Gorillas In Your Midst, received the "Outstanding Senior Award For Excellence" for her four-year commitment to creativity, leadership and promotion in peer health education.

Gorillas In Your Midst also presented a break-out session. Titled "Gorilla Warm-Up," the session outlined the group's DO THE GORILLA THING (DO THE RIGHT THING) campus programming, which starts with the peer theater program presented to all incoming freshmen and continues throughout the year.

Lueck was also selected for the "Outstanding Leader" award at the Leadership and Awards Banquet. Kelsey's sister Sarah, a member of both Students for Violence Prevention and Gorillas In Your Midst, was selected to receive the \$1,500 Wintle Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership and Academic Performance.



John Thompson, Xiaolu Wu and Clark Shaver are recipients of the 2016 Pittsburg State University Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award.

Faculty follow different paths to the classroom

One of Pittsburg State University's Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award recipients for 2016 has known he wanted to be a teacher since second grade, but the others discovered their passion for teaching later in life. The Outstanding Faculty Award recipients were announced at the university's Apple Day celebration on March 3.

John Thompson, an assistant professor in the Department of Automotive Technology, is the third generation of teachers in his family.

"It was on my list as long as I can remember," Thompson said. "When I was in second grade and my teacher asked what I wanted to do when I grew up, I said 'I want to be a teacher.'"

Clark Shaver, an associate professor of electronics engineering technology, came to teaching from the world of business.

"I never planned to teach," said Shaver, who was also a Boy Scout leader. "I really enjoyed teaching the young men and I thought, if I could do something like this full-time, that would be awesome."

Xiaolu Wu hadn't planned on teaching, either. She came to the U.S. from China in 2001 to earn her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Illinois in Chicago.

"After I got my degree, I realized I really enjoyed the interaction with people," Wu said, "so I first found a job at a local community college. That experience reinforced what I felt about myself – that what I should do is teaching."

Thompson summed up all three of this year's honorees' thoughts about teaching.

"I get the incredible journey of teaching stuff that I love, that I'm super passionate about," Thompson said. "I love it! And then I get to meet students. It's just a great, great career and very rewarding."

Watch online video. 

New strategic planning effort begins

In March, President Steve Scott announced the university's vision for the future with the launch of the "Pathway to Prominence" strategic plan. The six-year plan focuses on four specific areas of emphasis: academic excellence, student success, partnerships and campus culture and 26 objectives.

While the launch may have gotten the headlines, the really exciting work began taking place over the summer with the formation of a new Strategic Planning Council.


"A plan is only as good as its execution," said Provost and Council Chair Lynette Olson. "This council brings together senior administration and stakeholders in shared governance in a manner our campus hasn't before experienced. This group will provide units with a formal review structure that ties together financial resources with strategic planning."

The 15-member council is formally tasked with providing the president with recommendations for annual strategic priorities and resource allocation. It will also make requests to the University Tuition Committee for enhancement funding for high growth programs/services and innovative opportunities.

"It's exciting because it moves us forward as a university," said Olson.

"Campus units will now have a clear understanding of planning expectations and funding priorities. This will include standardized templates, personal training and a higher level of engagement."

The council meets monthly and expects to have a finalized planning template available to units early in the fall semester.

Watch online video. 



PSU seniors' gift represents a time of growth

When a group of graduating seniors decided they wanted to show their gratitude to the university, they decided the perfect gift would be a tree.

"A tree is really reflective of our time here on campus," said Sydney Lemos, a finance major from Coffeyville. "We've seen so much growth on campus and we've grown, personally and academically at the same time."

Lemos said the seniors, including herself, Ryan Schulteis, Trista Dugan, Viet Nguyen, Emely Flores, and T.J. Graber, began thinking of the project in February. They worked with PSU's Development Office to reach out to fellow members of the Class of 2016 through an online funding effort, which, Lemos said, reached its \$2,000 goal.

Lemos said the leadership team

worked with Cate Walker, PSU's grounds and maintenance supervisor, to pick the best tree for the local climate and the space selected, which is on the Oval, near the southwest corner of the Overman Student Center.

The tree the students chose is an Autumn Splendor Caddo Maple, which was named the 2008 tree of the year for Kansas by the Kansas State Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service because of its drought tolerance and superior performance in heat and wind. The tree is known for its red and orange fall color and rapid growth rate.

"We want to inspire other classes to give back to the university and also to let them know what a special place this truly is," Lemos said.

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.

Please include your first and last name as well as the page number and location you found the hidden gorilla. One entry per person. **Entries must be received by November 1, 2016.** The winner will receive a hardbound copy of the university's book, "Pittsburg State University: A Photographic History of the First 100 Years."

Congratulations to J. Fiene, BME '83, MM '90, of Riverside, Calif., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Spring 2016 magazine!



University honors student employees

Courtney Rusch, a senior communication major from Overland Park, Kan., is the 2016 Pittsburg State University student employee of the year. Rusch received the honor in April, in ceremonies conducted by the Office of Career Services.



Courtney Rusch

Rusch is employed on campus as a sports broadcasting production assistant. It's a high-pressure position that demands responsibility, a cool head and an above-average work ethic, according to Troy Comeau, who directs PSU's Broadcasting Program in the Department of Communication and nominated Rusch for the honor.

In his nomination, Comeau wrote that Rusch has helped PSU's sports broadcasting program distinguish itself.

"Under her leadership, our sports broadcasting program has earned state and regional awards and had a clip featured on ESPN's top 10 plays of the day," Comeau wrote.

Mindy Cloninger, director of the Office of Career Services, said Comeau's praise of Rusch sounds familiar, because she hears similar comments about other student employees across the Pitt State campus.

"Student employees play a vital role in the operation of the university," Cloninger said. "Through their work on campus, these students are both demonstrating their value for potential employers and also sharpening the personal and professional skills that will make them invaluable to the companies, businesses and organizations they will eventually work for."

These seniors are truly outstanding

Lynzee Marie Flores, of Lamar, Mo., and Viet C. Nguyen, from Hanoi, Vietnam, are the outstanding senior woman and outstanding senior man for 2016. The university's highest student honors were announced at the annual student leadership and awards banquet on April 22.

The selection of an outstanding senior woman and man is a campus tradition that goes back more than 60 years. Selection criteria include academic records, campus involvement, leadership in organizations, awards and honors, community service and volunteer work and the students' overall contributions to the university and the community.

Following tradition, the outstanding senior woman and outstanding senior man delivered remarks to their fellow graduates at commencement ceremonies on May 6-7.

Flores is the daughter of Cheryl Flores and the niece of Michael Flores of Lamar, Mo. She is a Spanish and Communication major.


At PSU, Flores has been a member of the Student Government Association, the Crimson Club, the College of Arts and Sciences Student Advisory Council, Student Ambassadors, the Newman Club, Hispanics of Today, the Public Relations and Advertising Club, the Spanish Club, Student Activities Council and the Pride of the Plains Marching Band.

Flores plans to begin a master's degree program in communication at PSU and to study for application to the Foreign Service Officer Program in Washington, D.C.

Viet C. Nguyen is the son of Nguyen Duc Vinh and Nguyen Thi Duong of Hanoi, Vietnam. He is a finance, management and economics major.

At PSU, Nguyen is a member of the Finance Club, the Kelce Leadership Council, Advancement Ambassadors, the Crimson Club, Enactus, the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, the Vietnamese Student Association, the Inter-Fraternity Council, and the Student Government Association. He has been inducted into numerous honor societies, including the Greeks Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi (all disciplines), Beta Gamma Sigma (business), Phi Eta Sigma (all disciplines), and Lambda Sigma (leadership and scholarship).

Nguyen plans to begin a master's degree in business administration at PSU, with an emphasis in international trade. He will also pursue his Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) charter and hopes eventually to have a career in investment banking.

Watch online video. 



Viet C. Nguyen

Lynzee Marie Flores

Cloninger, Gladden lead SGA

When sophomore Kolleen Gladden heard her name called as the next Pittsburg State Student Government Association vice president, her first thought was of her running mate and new SGA president, Hank Cloninger.

"Hank had been so incredibly stressed about the election that I just felt relieved for his sake," Gladden said.

Her response, slightly tongue-in-cheek, was Gladden's way of saying that the new president has and will always have her support.

"I believed Hank was the absolute best person for the (SGA president) position," she said, "and I knew that I had the passion for Pittsburg State University required to fill the VP position. I am fortunate to be surrounded by a wonderful group of people who all have amazing ideas for the University, and I hoped to team up with Hank to make these a reality."

Cloninger, a junior accounting major and Pittsburg native, said their goals for the coming year include securing free printing for students across campus, offering safety concealed-carry courses for students and adding degrees through "collaboration of departments to make specialized degree programs."

They also hope to organize a 10-week diversity project to show solidarity among various groups on campus.

Online project honors Joplin tornado victim

In conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the tornado that devastated Joplin in 2011, Kendall Gammon, assistant to the president and a former NFL long snapper, has launched an online project that both honors the memory of one of the victims of that tornado and offers individuals

across the country the opportunity to pay tribute to people who have touched their lives.

The project is called The Will Wall, in honor of Will Norton, who was driving home from his high school graduation when the tornado struck. Norton was one of 158 people killed in the disaster.

Gammon said the idea for the project came to him after Will's parents, Mark and Trish Norton, long-time friends and former neighbors of Gammon's, invited him to visit their son's room following the celebration of Will's life.

"When I walked in, the number 83 was painted in an elegant graffiti fashion on the wall," Gammon said, "and the display included a game ball I had given Will when they attended a Chiefs game years earlier."

Gammon said he had not considered giving the game ball to Will such a significant thing when he gave it to him.

"It was such a small thing to give a game ball to a fan," Gammon said. "It was something I did at nearly every game during my NFL career. I had forgotten about it, but it clearly impacted Will."



The wall in Will Norton's room was Kendall Gammon's inspiration for an online project.

Gammon said visiting Will's room and seeing the impact that a small gesture had made got him to thinking about how people can and do affect all of our lives every day.

"When we think about it, we have all had people do things for us that have made a difference or changed our lives for the better," Gammon said. "I wanted to create a simple way to just say 'Thank You' to those people."

The vehicle Gammon has created to do that is called The Will Wall, www.thewillwall.com. The website allows users to record a video to thank those people who have made a difference in the poster's life.

"You can record a video to thank a past teacher, a parent, family or friends and then send them a link to show them they matter to you," Gammon said.

Gammon said he hopes that visitors to The Will Wall will be inspired to "step up and give a personal 'game ball' to someone who has made a difference in their lives."

PSU, city honored for partnership

Pittsburg State and the City of Pittsburg were honored this summer for their partnership in a recent land exchange.

The university and city together were honored by Brailsford & Dunlavey and the International Town & Gown Association with its ImpACT Award: Putting Practice into Action for the Betterment of Communities. The award recognizes universities and communities that collaborate for the benefit of both institutions.

The ImpACT award given to Pitt State and the City of Pittsburg recognizes the land exchange that took place in November 2015. Under terms of the exchange, the city received 72.7 acres, valued at \$283,550, located just south of the Bitner Addition in the southeast part of Pittsburg. Pittsburg State received 25.10 acres of land just south of its current Baja competition site and the 5.18 acres of land on which its rugby field sits. This land is valued at \$283,992.

Shawn Naccarato, PSU's executive director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development and director of government and community relations, accepted the award on behalf of the university.

"It's an honor to receive an ImpACT Award from the ITGA," Naccarato said. "We are committed to making our partnership with the city the model for town-gown communities and relations. This initiative is a natural outgrowth of such a commitment and effective alignment in goals and planning."

Jay Byers, Pittsburg's assistant city manager, said the city's partnership with PSU is vital to the community's continued success.

"Earning an ImpACT Award is wonderful in and of itself, but I think the best part is that it highlights the success that the city and the university can have when they work together," Byers said. "We've worked closely with Pitt State on many occasions, and we look forward to continuing that partnership now and in the future."

Simplified tailgating rules

PSU has revised its tailgating policies in advance of the 2016 football season. The new policies focus on personal responsibility and provide clear expectations for those involved in pregame festivities.

"After reviewing last year's changes we found that our policies had become too complicated. I regret that," said President Steve Scott. "The new rules return us to the basics. They provide tailgaters with clear guidelines on how to enjoy the day safely and responsibly."

Officials largely followed the recommendations of a Game Day Task Force created at the end of the 2015 season. The task force was co-chaired by PSU alumni Kendall Gammon and Sara Beezley. Full details are available at pittstate.edu/GameDay.

Stadium safety, security efforts honored

With an average attendance somewhere between 9,000 and 10,000 fans, Carnie Smith Stadium is one of the top three Division II football venues in the nation. PSU officials are equally proud that the facility has also been honored for the university's leadership in addressing safety and security issues at the stadium.

PSU received the Facility of Merit Award at the 2016 National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) Conference and Exhibition in July. Other facilities receiving the honor include Michigan Stadium at the University of Michigan, McLane Stadium at Baylor University, Lubber Stadium at Grand Valley State University, Yankee Stadium, and Lambeau Field.

Mike McCracken, director of University Police and Parking Services, said maintaining a game-day environment that is both fun and safe involves many more people than just those who wear a uniform.

Last year, more than 59,000 fans attended PSU home football games.

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- **Advanced Studies in Leadership**
- **Health, Human Performance and Recreation**
- Psychology and Counseling

College of Technology

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- Career and Technical Education

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Fall 2016 Arts Calendar

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

Art

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

September 1

Luau on the Lanai: A Resource Fair
Outside Axe Library on the lanai,
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Harry Krug Gallery

Porter Hall

September 24

Family Art Day
2 - 4 p.m.

Music

For ticket information and prices go to:
www.pittstate.edu/tickets or call
620-235-4796 . *ticketed event

September 16 - SCMS,

Atlantic Brass Quintet*
McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

September 22 - PSU Opera Scenes

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

September 30 - Choir Dinner Concert

Student Center, 6:30 p.m.

October 3 - PSU Jazz Ensembles

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

October 7 - SCMS Sinta Quartet (sax)*

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

October 9-10 - Midwest Trumpet Festival

October 11 - PSU Wind Ensemble

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

October 21 - SEK Symphony

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

October 26 - US Navy Jazz Commodores

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

October 27 - String Madness

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

November 4 - PSU Choirs Concert

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

November 17 - PSU Jazz Ensembles and KMEA Dist. II Jazz

Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

November 18 - SEK Symphony

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

November 30 - SEK Symphony, Children's Concert

Bicknell Center, 10 a.m.

December 4 - PSU Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert

Bicknell Center, 3 p.m.

December 7 - PSU Choirs Holiday Luncheon

Student Center, 11:30 a.m.

December 7 - Timmons Chapel Concert

Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

December 9 - Timmons Chapel Concert

Timmons Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

Theatre

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

October 27 - 30

Frankenstein

by Victor Gialanella
directed by Gil Cooper
Bicknell Center, Miller Theater
Thursday - Saturday, 7:30 p.m.;
Sat. & Sun., matinees 2 p.m.

December 2 - 3

Theatre Unplugged

Student-directed one-acts
Grubbs Hall, Studio Theatre; 7 p.m.



Community Events

August 30 - Community Fair

The Oval, 11 a.m.

September 20 -21 -

Technology Company Days
Kansas Technology Center,
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

October 20 - Fall Career Expo

Crimson and Gold Ballroom,
Overman Student Center,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gorilla Activities Board

August 26 - Captain America Civil War on the Jungletron!

Carnie Smith Stadium, 7 p.m.

September 13 - Step Afrika!

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

September 16 - Finding Dory

Overman Student Center,
Crimson and Gold Ballroom, 7 p.m.

September 27 - Doyle Brothers

Overman Student Center, U-Club,
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

October 11 - Kyla Lacey, Spoken Word Art

Overman Student Center, U-Club,
8:30 p.m.

October 26 - Safe Trick-or-Treat TBA

October 31 - Halloween Comedy Night

Overman Student Center,
Crimson and Gold Ballroom, 9 p.m.

November 29 - Ryan Sallans

Overman Student Center, Crimson
and Gold Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

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Friday, Oct. 7 • 6-9 p.m. • \$20/person • RSVP by Friday, Sept. 30

620-235-4758

www.pittstate.edu/tasteofpittsburg

FOOD VENDORS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JOIN US FOR THESE ADDITIONAL HOMECOMING EVENTS:

Friday, Oct. 7 – Outstanding Alumni Award Reception, 4:30-6 p.m., Wilkinson Alumni Center

Saturday, Oct. 8 – Homecoming Parade, GorillaFest, Chicken Wars Tailgate

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“Where in the World is Gus?”



Italian tour– Amy Betzen (BBA '99) stops for a photo in front of the clock tower at St Mark's Square in Venice, Italy. Amy visited seven cities in Italy in May 2015 during a trip to see the Shroud of Turin with other members of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita.



South of the border– Felipe Verussa Martins, an exchange student from Brazil, proudly represents Gorilla Nation during a trip to Mexico, where he took this photo at the Cristo Monumental de Taxco statue in the city of Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico.



Tropical Gorillas– Terri Welch Hinton (BS '00) on the left with Chase Hinton (in her arms) and Morgan Hinton, Hailey Hinton in the center and Larry Welch (BS '77), Connie Welch (BS '83), and J. Kim Welch (BS '07 & MA '09) at Rum Point in the Grand Caymans. These Gorillas snorkeled with the stingrays, rode in a glass bottomed boat and held starfish on their vacation.



Celebrating Gorillas– Brenda (Steele) Luthi (BSE '76) and her husband, Rick (BS '76), left, and Mike (BSE '76, MS '80) and Sally (Adams) Cook (BS '80) celebrate the 40th anniversary of their graduations from PSU and their marriages at the Luthi's home in Alaska. The Luthi's have lived in Alaska for 38 years.



Gorillas studying abroad– Honors College Director Craig Fuchs and PSU Honors College students make their Gorilla pride known in front of the Florence Cathedral in Florence, Italy. On the left is the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore and on the right is Giotto's Campanile.

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



On top of Chicago- Tim Harris (BS '07) and Karen Endicott (BS '86) display their Gorilla pride high above Chicago in one of the glass skyboxes in the Willis Tower.



Higher Ed Gorillas- Bobby and Jean Winters show their Gorilla pride at the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin at the University of Oxford during a visit to Great Britain.



Gorilla at the Four Corners- Larry Bowden (BS '69, MS '74) shows his Gorilla spirit at the Four Corners National Monument where Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado meet. Larry visited the area in August 2015 while on a motorcycle trip.



Gorillas for lunch- Craig (BS '13) and Marcella Enschrapp (BSN '15), and their children, Carter and Alexa appear to be on the menu for a big shark in Port Aransas, Texas.

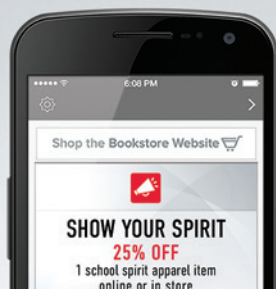


Gorilla brothers- Tom Kirkwood (BS '73) and Chris Kirkwood (BS '71) vacationed with family in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, this past February. The Sig Taus enjoyed sun and sand in the tropics.



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Cassie Caswell



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NATIONAL CHAMPION GORILLAS

NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championship

RUSS JEWETT RECALLS

returning to Pittsburg with his cheeks sore from smiling on the long trip back from the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships.

He had a lot to smile about. The Pitt State women's outdoor track and field team captured the program's first-ever national championship on May 28 in Bradenton, Fla., edging out powerhouse St. Augustine University 52-51.

It was the crowning achievement for a program rich in history and recognized as one of the most consistently successful in the country.

"I've always been very proud of the success we've had in the past," Jewett said. "And whenever these things would happen (MIAA championships and other accolades), not long afterward, I'd think, 'there's still more.'"

And there have been many accolades in the more than 30 years Jewett has been at the helm of the men's and women's track programs. The cross country and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field teams have racked up more than 30 MIAA titles. Jewett has been named MIAA coach of the year 35 times and national coach of the year twice. In May, the NCAA named Jewett the 2016 Coach of the Year for outdoor women's track & field.

"But this (winning a national championship) is special beyond words," Jewett said. "Year after year we would see other teams win national championships, and would think 'that's the level we aspire for our program to attain.' And now that we have, it seems almost like an out-of-body experience."

Jewett is quick to give credit for this year's success to some dedicated coaches

(see National Champions, pg. 18)

What a day!

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2016, WILL BE etched clearly in Head Coach Russ Jewett's memory for the rest of his life. It was the day PSU's women's outdoor track and field team captured the program's first-ever national championship.

"We scored 13 points total on Thursday and Friday," Jewett recalled.

On Saturday, the Gorillas started to build on their point total, including a national runner up performance by Cassie Caswell in the shot put. The high jump, which Emily Iverson won, took two hours and while she was battling for the gold medal, the Gorillas continued to add points. Jewett said it was hard to keep track of where the team stood in the midst of the intense competition.

"You're so busy coaching your team, you really don't have time to keep track of where you are in the overall standings," Jewett said.

While her teammates were adding points, Iverson focused sharply on her own event.

"The whole event, I was focused on myself," Iverson said. "It wasn't until there were only two jumpers left that I looked at the scores and realized we had a chance."

With Iverson's national championship performance finally in hand, the Gorillas had 52 points and had done everything they could to bring home a national championship. From that point on, their fate was in the hands of others.

"By the time we scored our 52nd point, there were just three events left and we had no one in any of them," Jewett said.

It's one of the dynamics that makes track and field different from most other team competitions, Jewett said.

The entire competition came down to the final race, the 1,600-meter relay. If perennial power St. Augustine University placed first or second, they would win the national championship. If they placed third, they'd tie the Gorillas and share the championship.

"It may have been the most exciting race I've ever watched," Jewett said, "and we weren't even in it."

SAU placed fourth.

"We were all celebrating," Jewett said. "We knew we'd won, but there was a part of me that just wasn't sure this was real."

The Gorillas had pulled it off – national champions by a single point.

"A part of me felt bad for the SAU relay team," Jewett said with a smile. "But just a small part." •



Russ Jewett

"We were all celebrating. We knew we'd won, but there was a part of me that just wasn't sure this was real."

National Champions, from pg. 17

and a group of hard working young athletes he says are special.

"We have the best assistant coaches in the country in Brian Mantooth, Kyle Rutledge and Matt Brown," Jewett said. "And we are blessed with a great group of committed student-athletes."

Jewett singled out Cassie Caswell, who had a school record toss of 54 feet, 7.25 inches on her sixth and final throw to claim a national runner-up finish in the shot put and Emily Iverson, who captured the national title in the high jump with a clearance of 5 feet, 9.75 inches. The 400-meter relay team of Ramie Grayson, Imani Hutchinson, Kelsey Lewis and Courtney Nelson set a school record time of 45.10 for a national runner-up finish.

"Cassie was the magic ingredient for this team," Jewett said. "She was team captain – the leader who inspired the team."

But everyone on the team, including those who did not qualify for nationals, played a role in winning a national championship, Jewett said.

Caswell and Iverson said this year's team had something special.

"This team is a family," Caswell said. "I think that's one reason why we won. Everyone gets along very well."

Iverson agreed.

"We are a very close team," she said. "We're a group of women who come from different places, but are one big family. We win together; we lose together."

Caswell and Iverson said that chemistry extends beyond the campus and into the community.

"The whole Pittsburg community supports us," Caswell said. "People take a lot of pride in what we do."

And that's not just when the team's chasing a national championship.

"Throughout the year, people in the community have shown their support," Caswell said. "They're always asking how

Coach Matt Brown shares a championship moment with the 4x100 meter relay team, L-R: Imani Hutchinson, Ramie Grayson, Courtney Nelson, and Kelsey Lewis.



National champion high jumper, Emilee Iverson.



we're doing and what's going on in our lives. My next-door neighbor would make me brownies."

Like Jewett, Caswell and Iverson said it took a bit for it to sink in that they were national champions.

"It was the craziest day," Caswell said.

"It's just the best feeling in the world," Iverson added.

For Caswell, who graduated in May and is now working as a registered nurse in Hutchinson, helping Pitt State win a national championship was the perfect way to leave the university.

"It couldn't have ended any better," Caswell said. "It was the perfect end to a perfect season."

It wasn't long after winning the 2016 championship – probably on the trip home to Pittsburg – that Jewett began thinking of next year.

"We're not as good as we can be," Jewett said. "We want the men's team to get on top of the podium one day, too."

He's optimistic about those possibilities.

"We know the formula," Jewett said. "We've always had the major ingredients – tradition and work ethic, the support of the president, the university and the community. The facility plays a role, too."

Thinking about the future, Jewett finds himself smiling, again. •



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Student honored for life-saving donation

WHEN BRITTA HESS REGISTERED AS a bone marrow donor in 2014, she did it to help a friend of a friend.

“A girl at my high school knew someone who needed a transplant, and she asked many of us if we would sign up as potential donors,” said Hess, a sophomore at PSU. “I registered as a donor, but I honestly didn’t think anything would ever come of it. The chances of being a match for someone in need is like 1 in 10,000.”

Then came the call.

“I got the call in December 2014 telling me that I was a match, but it wasn’t for the person my friend knew,” Hess said. “There was a little girl in Alabama who had aplastic anemia, and she needed a transplant.”

According to the organization Delete Blood Cancer DKMS, Hess’s bone marrow donation helped saved the life

of the little girl, Jayden. At the time of the transplant, Jayden was 6 years old. In May, in a moment Hess said she’ll never forget, she met Jayden for the first time at the DKMS Gala in New York City.

“It’s indescribable, really,” Hess said. “Jayden is so adorable, and she was so excited to meet me. That really touched my heart in a big way. Looking at her and knowing that a small part of me helped save her life just put a whole new perspective on what it means to be alive.”

James Kirkland, communications associate for Delete Blood Cancer DKMS, said he hopes Hess’s story will inspire other young men and women to register as donors.

“The most commonly requested donors are between the ages of 18 and 35, making college age registrants some

of the best donors available,” he said. “Britta’s story is a perfect example of the potential impact of having generous and engaged young adults join the registry.”

During the gala, the Delete Blood Cancer organization showed a video that told Jayden’s story. In the video, Jayden’s mother April thanked Hess for her life-saving donation.

“This young lady is an angel,” April said of Hess. “For her to give a part of herself to someone, to give them a chance to have their life back ... for someone to do that for my little girl ... she gave her back to me.

“It’s the best gift you can give anybody,” she said.

Hess is now a strong, vocal advocate for registering as a donor.

“It’s such a simple thing to do,” she said, “and it can literally save a life.” •



Britta Hess

A dream year

IF SOMEONE HAD GIVEN GARRETT APPIER ADVANCE notice of how his senior year at Pitt State would turn out, he wouldn't have believed it.

"This whole year was kind of a dream," Appier said. "I could not have ever imagined it would turn out like this."

The Paola native ended his track and field career at Pitt State as the greatest shot putter in Division II history. Along the way toward earning the 2016 national championship, Appier set the overall DII record and now owns each of the top-10 farthest throws in DII history.

In July, he competed against the best throwers in the nation at the U.S. Olympic Trials. He finished sixth in a field of 24.

To cap off his amazing year, Appier garnered National-Men's-Outdoor-Field-Athlete-of-the-Year recognition.

"All I can say is, it was a fun season and I'm still as blown away as anyone," he said.

While shot put is an individual event, Appier credits his coaches and teammates for all of his success.

"My coaches were very supportive and my event coach, Brian Mantooth, really knows his stuff," he said. "I definitely wouldn't be here or would have done anything I did without him. My teammates and friends were also incredible. And of course I can't thank God enough for the guidance and help along the way."

As he looks back on a season and career full of accolades, Appier said his greatest memories are of those with whom he shared the journey.

"The people I came to call friends over the years, we competed together, hung out together and we supported each other," he said. "There is no group of people I would rather have been around."

And there's no university he would have rather attended.

"The best thing about PSU for me is the atmosphere," he said. "It's a big college with a small-town vibe. Everyone is so connected, and the buildings are close together, which makes going to class easy. It's just a beautiful place, and there is nowhere else like it." •



Garrett Appier

In love with Gus

ONLY GORILLA NATION CAN TRULY understand how much we love our adorable mascot, Gus. So while it may have surprised the rest of the world, it made perfect sense to us when PSU alumni and friends embraced an online contest to name a new baby gorilla at the Fort Worth Zoo.

Earlier this year, the zoo, seeking community input on the new gorilla's name, conducted a poll on its social media accounts. Because "Gus" was one of the options, Pittsburg State shared the poll on its social media accounts and encouraged its followers to vote for "Gus." The name won by a wide margin and the fact that Pitt State played a role in naming a Texas gorilla drew the attention of media across the Lone Star state.

Avery Elander, public relations manager for the Fort Worth Zoo, said the zoo's staff enjoyed receiving so much feedback from the Pitt State community.

"It's been wonderful to watch people in Fort Worth and beyond city limits get so excited about our baby gorilla," Elander said. "It was especially exciting to see students at Pittsburg State get so invested in a gorilla that is states away. Western lowland gorillas are critically endangered in the wild, and we hope that little Gus and PSU's Gus can serve as ambassadors of their species."

As a show of appreciation for the university's role in helping the zoo name its new western lowland gorilla, the zoo sponsored Gus in the university's name.

"Animal adoptions are one more way our guests get to experience and support the zoo," Elander said. "All adoption money goes to the care and feeding of our animals, and in return the 'parent'

receives great information about the animal.

PSU President Steve Scott said he and the entire Pitt State community are proud to "adopt" baby Gus.

"Adopting baby Gus in the university's name is an incredible gesture by the Fort Worth Zoo," Scott said. "It was

so much fun watching our social media community get involved with the naming campaign and show its overwhelming support for the Gus name. We, of course, are very proud of our own Gus Gorilla, and now we also wrap our arms around the newest Gus gorilla in Fort Worth." •



Gorillas gather in Texas

Meagan Swafford, assistant director of Pittsburg State's Alumni and Constituent Relations office, wasn't certain what to expect when they put out the word about hosting an alumni event at the Fort Worth Zoo.

"We'd never held an event in Fort Worth," she said. "And summers in Texas can be pretty hot. But we knew our alumni were excited to see the zoo's new gorilla and celebrate the role they played in naming him after our mascot. We were hoping for at least 75 alumni to take part in the event."

Instead, more than 200 alumni answered the call.

"The response was amazing," said Swafford. "We had alumni travelling from Topeka, Little Rock and Pittsburg to join us at the zoo. Everyone wanted to see baby Gus and meet their fellow Gorillas."

The event consisted of a special viewing with baby Gus, his mother, Gracie, and father, Elmo, along with authentic Texas barbeque and a special university presentation in Texas Town, a fun recreation of life in the Lone Star State at the turn of the century.

The Friday event was the first to be held in Texas since 2012, and the first-ever to be held in the city of Fort Worth. A fact not lost on those in attendance.

"The Dallas-Fort Worth area is our second-largest base of Gorilla alumni outside of the four-state region," said Swafford. "It's pretty clear that Gorilla Nation is alive and well in Texas."

Our story in pictures

WHEN MALCOLM TURNER RETIRED from Pittsburg State in June, he left behind an office that spanned 275 acres.

He also left what many at his going-away party referred to as a legacy: hundreds of thousands of images taken during the 30 years that he served as the university's official photographer.

His photos chronicled daily life, special events, and landmark moments. They captured groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings for at least five new buildings and several that were renovated. They documented announcements and addresses by four university presidents and three decades worth of graduations.

Turner never considered any other career.

"From the day I developed my first photo, I knew," Turner said.

As a child, he sat with his father - also a photographer and owner of a local advertising company - as the elder Turner thumbed through the newspaper and described how the images were created and critiqued their composition.

Later, young Turner accompanied his father on jobs. He shot for the yearbook at St. Mary's-Colgan High School and as a Friday night stringer at football games for the Pittsburg Headlight Sun.

Turner attended school for two years at Pittsburg State in the late 1960s, then transferred to the University

of Kansas to earn a photojournalism degree.

After spending a few years at The Chanute Tribune and in multimedia in Dallas, Texas, he came across an ad in the Headlight Sun announced a job opening at Pittsburg State. It was a chance to return home.

"I just jumped at it and away we went," Turner said. "It was a turning point in my life, and a great decision."

His career at PSU started in August 1985 in Instructional Media, where he was tasked with creating attractive overheads and slides.

Since then, his career has included the famous, like White House Correspondent Helen Thomas, former First Lady Laura Bush, and former President Bill Clinton. And, it's included the not-so-famous, like students walking across the Oval and Gorilla fans tailgating.

A few years ago, Turner said that he hadn't yet pinpointed when he would retire.

"It's part of who I am," he said. "Any photographer will tell you that, I think."

Now, however, he's decided: He wants to enjoy more time with his



Malcolm Turner

wife, Evelyn, their children and grandchildren.

"It's a job that's all the time, because things happen all the time," he said, "and you don't want to miss it. It's hard to leave it, but I'm ready."

"It makes me feel good that I've left a good legacy. And hopefully the next person who comes in will continue that and do more great things." •

For more of this story and Turner's images, go online at magazine.pittstate.edu.

Champions Plaza

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Bring the Tradition Home

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Part of the Gorillas' famed "Gorilla Walk" and a destination for alumni and fans, the Champions Plaza sculpture has become a beloved part of Pittsburg State tradition. Now, for the first time, you can own a piece of history with this authentic solid-bronze casting of the dynamic sculpture by world-renowned artist Tom Corbin. Available in both an eight-inch study and a limited-edition 16-inch maquette.



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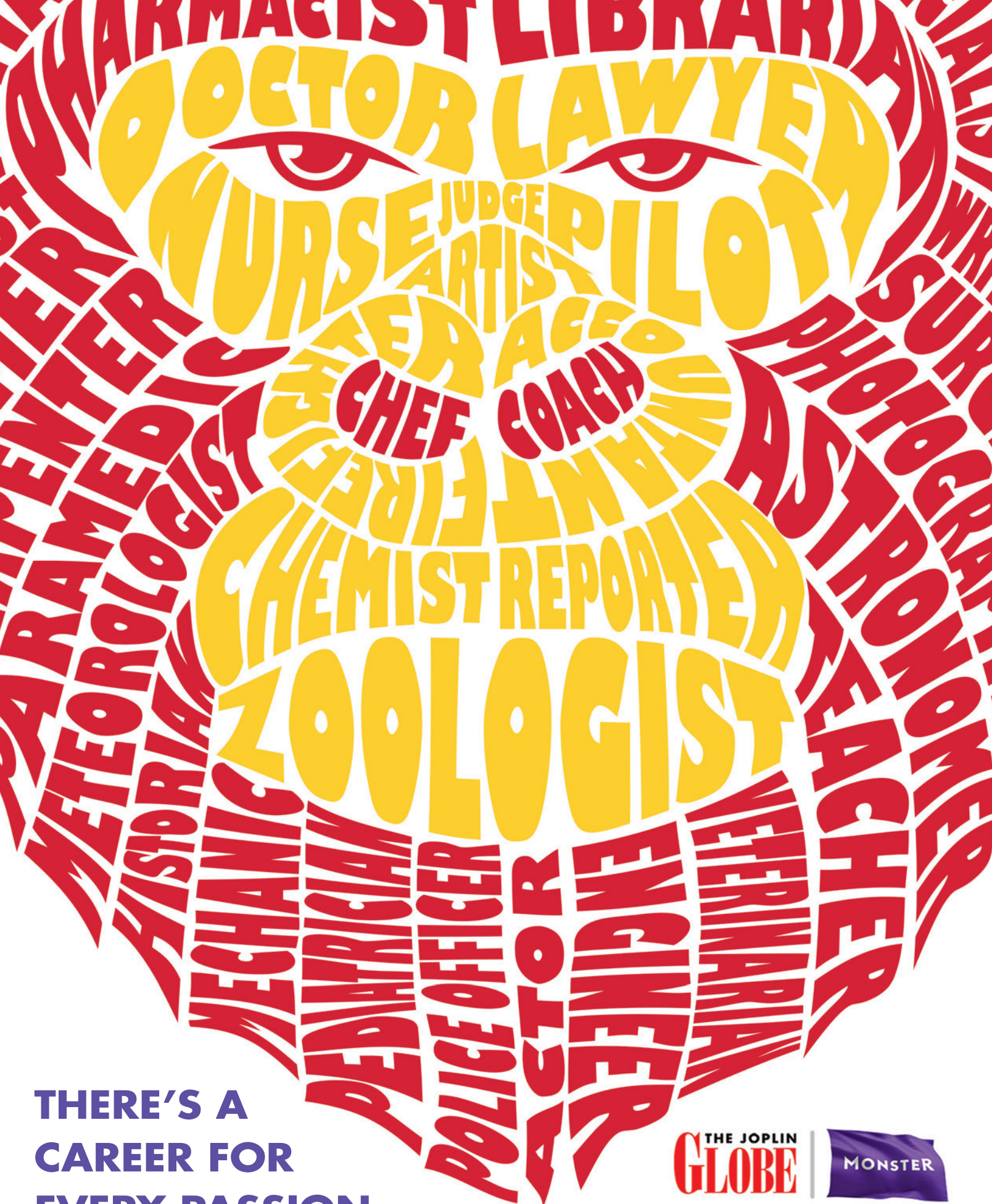
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Alumna founds state voice competition

Barbara Rondelli Perry recalls listening to the Metropolitan Opera on an AM radio in Chicopee, Kan., as a child in the 1940s and '50s. Now, this internationally known lyric soprano wants to encourage collegiate-level vocalists with a statewide contest designed to single out the best voices in Kansas.



Barbara Rondelli Perry

Thanks to a gift from Barbara and her husband, Richard R. Perry, the Barbara Rondelli Kansas Statewide Classical Voice Competition will be held at Pittsburg State University on March 11, 2017. The competition will award a significant prize to one winner in each of the categories of soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and baritone/bass.

“(This competition,) for classical voice students of Kansas colleges and universities will feature the finest singers,” Rondelli Perry said. “I hope it will serve as an inspirational experience for the competitors to continue their classical voice studies, preparing them for successful professional careers.”

Rondelli Perry performed her first recital on the McCray Recital Hall stage in 1956 at the age of 16, under the mentorship of faculty member Judy Bounds Coleman. She earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from PSU in 1960, and a master's degree in vocal performance in 1978.

From PSU, Rondelli Perry went to the Royal Academy of Music in London on a two-year Fulbright Scholarship, where she studied under the internationally acclaimed soprano Dame Eva Turner. Barbara was the first student from PSU to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. From there, she launched a long and busy international career.

Rondelli Perry has performed more than 40 major operatic roles, and more than 50 major oratorio roles in Germany, England, the United States, Mexico, and South Africa, in addition to many song recitals.

From 1975 until 2011, Rondelli Perry served as professor in the Department of Music at the University of Toledo. She was named Professor Emerita in 2012.

In 1963, she married South African born orchestral conductor Johan van der Merwe. He died in 1996. In 2000, she married Richard Russell Perry, a professor of higher education, emeritus, at the University of Toledo.

Richard Perry endowed the Barbara Rondelli Voice Scholarship at PSU in 2005, which has awarded scholarships to outstanding voice majors in the PSU Department of Music. He also endowed the Barbara Rondelli Perry Voice Scholarship at the University of Toledo in 1998. A total of 48 voice students have been scholarship recipients. In 2012, the scholarship was changed to the Barbara Rondelli Perry Competition for Superior Achievement in Classical Voice Performance, and is now in its fifth anniversary year.



Skip Morris



Kathleen DeGrave

Farewell words

Every year, the English Department, through its Distinguished Visiting Writers Series, brings a number of published authors to the campus to talk about their work. This past spring, two of those authors had strong ties to the campus.

Kathleen DeGrave and Skip Morris, both longtime faculty members, read from their work in the final Visiting Writers Series event of the spring. Both are retiring this year.

DeGrave taught in the English Department for more than 25 years. She's published two novels, “The Hour of Lead,” which is speculative literary fiction, and “Company Women,” a working-class novel. She's also the author of a scholarly book, “Swindler, Spy, Rebel: The Confidence Woman in 19th century America.”

Morris has been at PSU for nearly 20 years. His path to academia was not a straight one.

Morris joined the Navy during the Vietnam War. After his discharge, he worked in agriculture, as a bartender, as a book clerk, as a broadcast technician, as a student, and eventually, as an English professor at PSU.

He read from his book of essays, “Learning How to Become a Man in America: Personal Essays.” The essays, Morris said, “reveal the best, the worst, and the in-between moments of my life.”

A helping hand

When Heather Knechtges needed help solving some inherent problems with automobile fuel systems made of plastic, she knew just where to turn – the chemists at PSU.

“This is specifically very tailored to plastics and that’s what Pitt State is really good at,” said Knechtges, a senior product design engineer in the Global Fuel System Engineering Division of Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Mich.

Knechtges said she was well aware of the research capabilities available at PSU because she is a Pitt State alumna, having earned both a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in plastics engineering technology from PSU.

Earlier this year, Knechtges visited the campus to deliver a check for \$45,000 for the first year of what could be a three-year research project aimed at finding ways to make plastic fuel systems electrically conductive in order to reduce the dangers of electrostatic discharge.

Jody Neef, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, along with Assistant Professor Ram Gupta, will conduct the research. Neef and Gupta were both brought to PSU as part of the university’s Polymer Chemistry Initiative.

Knechtges said the research could have global implications.

“If this works, it will be a huge benefit for Ford,” Knechtges said. “I also hope it will be a huge benefit for PSU.”

Neef said this and similar research projects are a valuable part of the educational process for the students who help with the research.

“Being able to work on cutting edge research and involve students is a fantastic opportunity for Pitt State,” Neef said.



Heather Knechtges, Ford Motor Company, and Jody Neef, PSU Department of Chemistry

Classroom in the skies

More than 40 Pittsburg State University students gathered in a field for class this past spring, and the classroom came to them.

The students, all ROTC cadets in Pitt State’s Gorilla Battalion, boarded two Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters that flew in to take them to the Fort Chaffee, Ark., Maneuver Training Center for a weekend of training.

At Fort Chaffee, the cadets joined about 100 other cadets from Missouri State University and the University of Central Missouri for a Combined Leadership Development Exercise.



Cadets become officers

Nine Army ROTC cadets became second lieutenants on Friday, May 6, in a tradition-rich ceremony in the PSU Veterans’ Memorial Amphitheater.

The commissioning ceremony is one of the most memorable days in every officer’s career and the setting – clear blue skies and the memorial’s eternal flame and reflecting pool – make it picture-perfect for the families and friends who came to witness the important event.



Friendly competition

Math Relays and Science Day have been going on for decades and for generations of high school students, it’s their first exposure to PSU.

This year, more than 1,100 attended Math Relays and more than 550 came for Science Day. The students competed in a wide range of activities and earned recognition for their skill in everything from algebraic equations to physics.

More important, the students got a chance to visit the campus and perhaps imagine themselves as Gorillas one day.

Dean Grimes honored

Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business, was honored as the Fort Scott Community College Outstanding Alumnus for 2016.

Grimes, who earned an associate degree in business administration from FSCC in 1978, was selected for the honor by the FSCC Alumni and Friends Board of Directors.

"I'm honored to receive the Outstanding Alumnus award from FSCC," Grimes said. "I enjoyed my time as a student in Fort Scott, and those years helped me establish a solid base upon which I built my future educational and professional experiences."

After earning his associate degree from FSCC, Grimes earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Pittsburg State. He then earned his Ph.D. in economics from Oklahoma State University. Prior to his appointment as dean of the Kelce College of Business in 2011, Grimes served more than 20 years as a faculty member and administrator at Mississippi State University.

Gina Shelton, 2002 graduate of Pittsburg State, was also honored by FSCC. Shelton, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from PSU, was named the Outstanding Young Alumna by the FSCC Alumni and Friends Board of Directors. She graduated from FSCC in 1999 with an associate of science degree.



Paul Grimes

PSU, city partner on project

PSU is partnering with the City of Pittsburg on a project to redevelop 350 acres of land near the city's center.

Earlier this year, the city received a \$196,000 Environmental Protection Agency planning grant to clean up and redevelop more than 350 acres of land between 7th and Washington and Rouse and Joplin streets. The city is examining the possibility for both residential and commercial development.

Kelce College of Business Professor Eric Harris and Assistant Professor Michael Davidsson worked with city officials to develop and distribute a survey assessing the needs of the community. More than 1,500 surveys were sent to local retailers, business owners and multi-family residential properties.

"The goal of this survey was to get a good sense of just what our community needs in terms of property development," Davidsson said. "Do we need more office space or more residential property? Do we need both? The data collected from this survey should help answer those questions and help the city move forward with the project."

Davidsson said the results of the survey were turned over to Elan Planning, Design and Landscape Architecture LLC, the firm the city hired to oversee the grant, which will then design various plans for the site based on the city's needs.

"This is an important project both for the city and for Pittsburg State," Davidsson said. "We're thrilled to partner with the city on this project and to help in any way that we can."

Harris named Esch Family Faculty Fellow



Eric Harris

The Kelce College of Business has appointed Professor Eric Harris as the college's new Esch Family Faculty Fellow. The fellowship is made possible through an endowment started by Pete Esch, a 1951 graduate of PSU and a longtime supporter of the Kelce College of Business.

Harris, a professor in the Management and Marketing Department, will serve as fellow for three years.


"I'm truly honored to be selected to carry out the vision that Mr. Esch set forth when he created the endowment for the Kelce College of Business," Harris said. "The Esch family's support of our faculty has been tremendous, and I look forward to paying that forward through new opportunities for our students and serving the business community."

As part of his role as Esch Family Faculty Fellow, Harris will be tasked with organizing and administering the college's efforts to secure and expand student internship opportunities with local, national and international firms.

In addition, he will work closely with the Small Business Development Center and other campus outreach offices to place more student teams into consulting project roles, which will increase and enhance their hands-on learning experiences.

Harris will also coordinate the college's other outreach efforts including economic development projects and funded research work. He currently serves as editor of The Journal of Managerial Issues, the college's academic research journal.

MBA program among nation's most affordable

Watch online video. 

The Kelce College of Business offers one of the best and most affordable Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees in the nation, according to the online business education and career guide, Top Management Degrees.

Pitt State's MBA degree is ranked second on Top Management Degrees' "Top 50 Affordable MBA Programs 2016" list. The list includes universities from across the U.S., including Auburn University, Indiana University and the University of Michigan.

According to TMD, the top 50 were selected from a list of more than 500 schools in the U.S. that hold accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), widely regarded as the gold standard for business school accreditors.

Kelce College of Business Dean Paul Grimes said he's proud, but not surprised, to see PSU's MBA program on a list with the nation's best.

"We've long regarded our MBA program as one of the top choices for business students nationwide," Grimes said. "Our faculty are second-to-none, and students who pursue an MBA degree from Pitt State enjoy the highest quality educational experience. Being named to this Top 50 list is a testament to our hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence."

The MBA program at Pitt State is also consistently ranked among the nation's top business programs by the Princeton Review.

Architect selected for KCOB project

As co-owner of the Lawrence-based architecture firm Clark Huesemann LC, Steve Clark is no stranger to the PSU campus.

"Members of our firm, including myself, have been working on projects at Pittsburg State since 1994," he said. "We enjoy working with PSU because the people there are fantastic. We work with a lot of universities, and the folks at PSU, from Dr. Scott on down, are second-to-none."

Clark and his firm are again working with PSU, as the university has hired Clark Huesemann as the architect for the Kelce College of Business renovation and expansion project. The project was made possible by a \$3 million pledged gift from Pittsburg State alumni John and Susan Lowe, of Houston, Texas.

"We are very excited to hire Clark Huesemann as the architecture firm for this project," said Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business. "The firm does excellent work, as it has proven many times on our campus."

Grimes said the project is now in the "programming stage," a time when the university and architects will develop a plan of action for the facility.

"During the next 12 months, we'll work closely with the architects to determine just what we need and how we can best accomplish our goals," he said. "We want to create a facility that will enhance the learning environment for our students, and we're excited to begin that process."



Viet Nguyen

Student receives academic honor

Pittsburg State graduate Viet Nguyen has been honored as an outstanding student in finance and accounting by the Kansas City chapter of Financial Executives International.

Nguyen, who triple-majored in finance, management and economics, was one of three regional university students to receive the academic award from FEI Kansas City this year. The others are Brooke Kunkel from Park University and Matt Weaver from Washburn University.

"FEI is pleased to recognize these outstanding students," said Bryan Griffin, president of the FEI Kansas City chapter. "As Kansas City's premier networking and professional development group for financial executives, FEI sponsors our annual academic awards to help develop the next generation of leaders for the region."

Nguyen, a Vietnam native who graduated from PSU in May 2016, said he was honored to represent Pittsburg State on the list of honorees.

"I am proud to not only receive the award, but also to represent PSU, a university I truly love and that has become a second home to me," Nguyen said.

Financial Executives International is a leading association connecting senior-level financial executives. The FEI Kansas City chapter has more than 200 members representing area companies and organizations.

Classroom tech: **Floppy discs to mobile computing**



Floppy discs were the latest and greatest technology when President Steve Scott began the Technology and the Classroom Conference 20 years ago.

dean of the College of Education founded the conference, said his journey with classroom technology began with punch cards in the basement of Hughes Hall. He recalled a steady march of technological advances, including the Commodore 64 and floppy discs and showed slides of various devices that today have been replaced by smartphones and other mobile devices.

“Think about how life has changed and our language has changed over the past 20 years,” Scott said.

He told the nearly 200 K-12 teachers at the conference that one of the most powerful developments in recent years is the use of video.

“Today, it’s all about the video,” Scott said, “and it’s all about mobile.”

He noted that thousands of people view the videos that the university produces for its website and 60-70 percent are doing so on mobile devices.

The pace of technological change may have slowed a bit as the Internet and mobile devices have begun to saturate markets around the globe, Scott said, but the impact of technology on our everyday lives will only continue to grow.

“In today’s world, everyone needs a high level of technology skills,” Scott said.

He urged the teachers to embrace classroom technology, but to do so with a critical eye.

“The use of technology should focus on its appropriateness and effectiveness,” Scott said. “It has got to add value and it has got to make sense.”

Following the president’s remarks, the participants spent the remainder of the day in small-group sessions where they learned about the effective use of technology to improve teaching practices and student learning, research-based best practices for classroom technology integration and project-based learning.

When President Steve Scott opened the 20th annual Technology and the Classroom Conference on June 3, he took a moment to remember some of his early experiences teaching about the use of classroom technology.

“I’ll never forget doing a workshop on the Internet and we were on dial-up,” the president said, describing in detail the pain of waiting for images to slowly appear on the screen.

“It was a different era.” Scott, who as

Serving where needed

Two members of the COE family are taking on new responsibilities for the coming year. Dean Howard Smith has been appointed interim associate vice president for enrollment management and student success.

Provost Lynette Olson said it is a one-year appointment. Jan Smith will serve as interim dean of the College of Education during that same time period.

Provost Olson said Howard Smith was dedicated to PSU and had “proven himself as a strong and capable leader. He is well respected by the campus community and though the faculty and staff in the College of Education are reluctant to let him go, even for a year, they also support this appointment as they know it is in the best interest of the university at this point in time.”

Jan Smith is a member of the faculty in the Department of Psychology and Counseling and currently serves as assistant vice president for institutional effectiveness.

“Dr. Smith is one who steps up when asked to help,” Olson said. “She is well qualified to provide strong leadership for the College of Education over this next year and I look forward to working with her in an expanded role.”



Howard Smith



Jan Smith

New beginnings

If they were nervous or anxious, they didn't show it. The newest Pittsburg State teachers were all smiles as they took the Teacher's Oath and crossed the stage to receive their medallions at the Student Teacher Recognition Ceremony on May 6.

"This is the 14th year we've done this," Dean Howard Smith said. "It's a very meaningful event for the students and their families."

The 2016 recipients of the College of Education's Outstanding Educator Awards were on hand to encourage the new teachers. Kendall Patterson, a first-grade teacher at Chanute Elementary School; and Julie Laflen, a speech and debate/forensics teacher at Pittsburg High School, each offered encouragement and advice to the grads.

"When you go to your new school,


find a group of people who are supportive and helpful," Patterson said. "Surround yourself with the right people."

Laflen told the students that although she never imagined being a teacher, her choice to become a teacher has been the right one.

"I am so happy," Laflen told the students. "I have just as much enthusiasm for my students today as I did that first day seven years ago."

The ceremony was also an opportunity to honor Garry Wickerd, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling with the PSU Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Award and to recognize four faculty who are retiring or beginning phased

retirement: Chris Christman, associate professor in Teaching and Leadership; Kenny McDougle, professor in Teaching and Leadership; Frank Miller, professor in Teaching and Leadership; and Bill Stobart, professor in Health, Human Performance and Recreation.

Watch online video. 



Father-son ties

Fathers and sons do a lot of things together – ball games, fishing, hunting, and the like. But for Jim Kidd and his son James, of Columbus, the activity that's brought them together most over the past five years has been going to class. The pair completed an unusual education journey in May when they graduated together.

PSU officials say that although it is not unusual for parents and children to be enrolled or even graduate at the same time, the Kidds stand out because they took every single class together.

"We started together and we wanted to finish together," James said.

The father-son duo, who were both exercise science and therapeutic recreation majors, began their journey serendipitously.

"James had gone to another college and he just felt he wasn't getting the kind of education he wanted," Jim recalled. "I was working for a company and one of the interns at that company said they had started a new program at PSU in exercise science."

It was the type of program that Jim thought would fit both he and his son, so he told James about it.

I said, "Dad, if you go back to school, I'll go back with you," James said.

"Not thinking that I would," Jim quickly added, laughing.

Not every student might welcome having a parent with them in class, but James said his dad fit right in.

"We all got along great," James said, "especially in our rec classes. He was just one of the guys. Even my fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, treated Dad like he was in the fraternity."

Now, with their degrees in hand, Jim's and James's paths will diverge, but they both say the past five years have been a special time and an experience that they are glad to have shared together.

James Kidd (left) and Jim Kidd



Dawsey named Technology dean

Tim Dawsey is the new dean of the PSU College of Technology and executive director of the Kansas Technology Center. Dawsey succeeds Bruce Dallman, who retired as dean of the COT after 10 years in the position.



Tim Dawsey

Dawsey has served since 2013 as director of innovation and commercialization at the Kansas Polymer Research Center at Pitt State. He holds a doctorate in polymer science from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he also earned a bachelor's degree in polymer science.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as PSU's next dean of the College of Technology," Dawsey said. "I am delighted by the opportunity and look forward to an exciting future as we continue to find new ways to leverage our many strengths and to advance and expand our technology programs."

Prior to joining the KPRC staff, Dawsey served in various leadership roles at Spartech Corporation in St. Louis. He also served for 15 years with Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, Tenn., where he held multiple positions with both technical and business focus.

PSU President Steve Scott said Dawsey's unique skill set will serve the COT and the university well.

"Dr. Dawsey brings a unique set of skills to this critical position," Scott said. "I'm excited to see him lead the Kansas Technology Center as we seek to build on its great tradition and many successes. His passion for building creative partnerships and his experience interfacing with business and industry will serve the students, faculty and staff of the College of Technology quite well."

Alum among nation's top construction leaders

Reed Graham, a 2001 PSU graduate and Chief Operating Officer at Erickson Construction in Chandler, Ariz., was named a 2016 winner of Professional Builder Magazine's "40 Under 40" award. The honor recognizes young industry leaders who are making a significant impact at their respective companies.

Graham, 38, has helped Erickson increase revenue by 33 percent and quadruple profits from 2014 to 2015. He worked with Pulte Homes' Kansas City division when the unit led the national builder in customer

satisfaction and when Pulte's Phoenix division was ranked No. 1 by J.D. Power & Associates.

Graham credits his education at Pitt State for preparing him for a successful professional career.

"The construction management program at Pitt State does an incredible job of blending hands-on, real-world experiences with valuable classroom lessons," Graham said. "The program most definitely prepared me not only to go out into the workforce, but it gave me the tools I needed to be successful in the workforce."

Rosmait serves on national board

Russ Rosmait, university professor of engineering technology, has been elected to the national board of directors for the American Foundry Society.

Rosmait will serve a four-year term on the national board from 2016 to 2020.

"I'm honored and excited to serve on the AFS board of directors," Rosmait said. "It's a privilege to represent PSU on the board, and I look forward to working alongside peers from across the nation."

Rosmait is the faculty adviser for the AFS student chapter at PSU and is active with the AFS Tri-State, Mo-Kan and Plains States chapters.

The American Foundry Society is the leading U.S.-based metalcasting society, assisting member companies and individuals to effectively manage their production operations, profitably market their products and services and equitably manage their employees.



Russ Rosmait

Auto tech receives parts donation

Automotive technology students at Pittsburg State have an increased supply of tools and parts on which to train thanks to a donation from a local business.

Molle Automotive in Pittsburg recently donated a collection of vehicle parts and tools to the Pitt State auto tech program, which will be used by students in a variety of ways.

"These were parts that Molle had in a warehouse and were no longer using," Associate Professor Scott Norman said. "They approached us to see if we could put them to use, and we knew that we could."

Norman said the parts, which include everything from spark plugs to fan belts, will help enhance the students' educational experience.

"The more our students can be exposed to, the better," Norman said. "Being able to examine and learn about a variety of different parts and functions is vital to a complete automotive technology education."

Tech Ed. students compete at national conference

Technology education students had an opportunity to demonstrate their skills on a national stage recently by representing Pittsburg State at the International Technology and Engineering Educator's Association (ITEEA) conference in Washington, D.C.

The Pitt State team finished in first place in the transportation competition and third place in the educational display competition.

The 14 PSU students who attended the conference competed in various events against students from nearly 20 other universities from across the nation. The students represented Pittsburg State in eight competitions including quiz bowl, live manufacturing, live video communication, teaching lesson, educational display, transportation, robotics and problem solving.

"The Technology and Engineering Education students represented PSU very well at the competitions," said Associate Professor Andy Klenke. "I am very proud of their accomplishments and how they performed as a team. They are a great group of students and will undoubtedly make tremendous teachers once they begin their teaching careers."

Along with competing, the students also attended professional presentations at the ITEEA conference. Sessions included the New Teacher Workshop, CNC Programming, and Makerspace.



Construction Expo, all hands-on

Students got a chance to operate various pieces of construction-related heavy equipment, including simulators, a skid-steer and power trowel at the School of Construction's fourth annual Construction Expo, held at the KTC in April.

Along with hands-on experience with heavy equipment, students also got the chance to meet and network with representatives from more than 45 construction-related companies.

"The overall goal of the expo is to expose our students to the types of things they'll encounter in the workforce," said Assistant Professor Seth O'Brien. "There is only so much you can learn in the classroom. It's important for our students to get out there, run the equipment, meet the professionals and put themselves in a position to get that job after they graduate."

As part of the expo, Associated General Contractors of America Chief Economist Ken Simonson spoke to students and faculty. Simonson is a nationally-recognized speaker on economic trends in the construction industry.

Watch online video. 



Students in Wood Technology put their hearts and souls into their senior projects, and it shows. Mark Welle, from Milford, Iowa, left, spent more than 550 hours building an executive desk with a retractable computer monitor system. At right, Ryun Snyder, from Joplin, turned to his fiancée, Abby Prince, for advice on building a cherry and zebra wood bed frame that the couple will share when they are married in September.



Tom Myers

Myers leads Gorilla Baseball

In May, Tom Myers became the fourth head coach to lead Gorilla Baseball in the 37-year history of the program.

For the past two years, Myers has served as associate athletic director for facilities at PSU and he played a big role in the construction and first year of operation of the Robert W. Plaster Center.

“But, once coaching is in your blood it’s there forever,” said Athletic Director Jim Johnson. “Once we knew there would be a change in leadership in our baseball program, we looked to Tom for ideas moving forward. In those discussions it became obvious to me that Tom, himself, had an interest in leading his alma mater. It was an easy decision to give him that chance.”

Myers’s credentials spoke for themselves. Prior to joining the Pitt State administrative staff, Myers enjoyed a decorated 7-year career as head baseball coach at the University of Central Missouri, where he compiled a 311-91 (.774) record and led the Mules to four MIAA regular season titles, four MIAA Tournament crowns and three NCAA Division II Regional Championships.

Before taking the head coach job at UCM, Myers spent the previous four seasons as an assistant coach at Kansas State University and, before that, three seasons as an assistant coach at UCM, including the Mules’ 2003 Division II national championship season.

A native of Bartlesville, Okla., Myers earned a bachelor’s degree in management from PSU in 1999, after enjoying a decorated three-year playing career for the Gorillas (1996-98).

Following graduation, he served as a student assistant coach at PSU in 1999 and 2000, helping the Gorillas capture the 1999 MIAA Tournament title and earn their third straight NCAA Division II Regional berth.

He earned his master’s degree in sports and business administration from Central Missouri in 2001.

“My desire to be around baseball never left me, but I needed an opportunity to spend more time at home with my wife and children,” Myers said. “The past two years have been an amazing experience for me personally and professionally. They also opened my eyes to the reality that my family loved being a part of something bigger than just the four of us. So, now is the right time for the Myers family to get back on the baseball field. I’m ready for the challenges of being the head baseball coach at Pittsburg State University and I’m excited to get reconnected with our outstanding Gorilla alumni and friends.”

Myers is married to the former Tiffany Beshore, who played basketball at PSU from 1997-98. The couple has two children, Logan, 11, and Addison, 9.

“I know we have the support of the Pittsburg baseball community, Gorilla baseball alumni and many others in making this appointment,” Johnson said. “There is undoubtedly a collective anticipation to see where Gorilla baseball goes under Tom’s leadership.”

Catcher bounces back from brain cancer

Nicole Nease sits behind the plate and catches every ball that is pitched, and has done so for almost every pitch the past three years. She calls the games and knows the Gorilla pitchers’ strengths and weaknesses better than anyone else, but only



Nicole Nease

a few years before coming to Pittsburg State, Nease, an all-MIAA player from Owasso, Okla., didn’t know if she would ever play softball again.

When she was in middle school, Nease began to have seizures. Often it would just look like she was zoning out in class. Her face would go blank and her eyes rolled back in her head. She never knew when these little episodes would happen and it was frightening.

“I was a cheerleader and also played softball then,” Nease recalls. “We needed to figure out what was going on so it wouldn’t happen while I was on the field or in the middle of a stunt.”

At first, doctors thought she had epilepsy, but tests eventually confirmed that Nease had a rapidly growing tumor in her brain.

Surgeons removed the tumor and some of the brain tissue around it. When Nease woke up, it was almost as if nothing had happened. She said it took a bit of time to regain full speech, but her personality and attitude were just as they had always been. And, she had full function in her extremities. The surgery could not have gone better.

Three months later, she was back on the softball field. Nease finished her junior season with a .306 batting average and hit a team-leading 17 home runs. She has 43 career home runs and needs only 13 more to tie the Pitt State record. She is a three-time All-MIAA honoree and earned second-team all-region honors as a sophomore.

Nease says she has big goals for her senior season, and when she accomplishes them, Gorilla fans will now understand why they are just that much more special.

Practice makes perfect

Ask members of the Pittsburg State women's basketball team about last year's magical season and you're likely to get a surprising answer. Yes, you'll hear about the record-setting 15-game winning streak, the thrill of winning a regional championship on their home court and the honor of playing in the Elite 8, but, for players, the most vivid memories come from a January practice that was anything but normal.

"It was the practice after we lost to UCM (by 18) at home," recalled senior guard Paige Lungwitz. "Coach really laid it out for us and explained what the season could hold if we would come together. It may have been the toughest practice I've ever been a part of."

Junior guard Mikaela Burgess had a different description for that practice.

"Coach gave us a little physical encouragement," she said with a chuckle. "But we had a great group of women who understood what it took to win, so we knew what we needed to do to turn our season around."

The team went on to beat SBU in overtime the next day and not lose another game until the MIAA post-season tournament championship in Kansas City. The bond forged during that January practice propelled the Gorillas into the post-season where fans were treated to a thrilling regional championship victory over conference rival Emporia State.

"We couldn't believe the size of the crowd during warmups," said Lungwitz. "Our fans had the place packed. It was one of the best experiences I've had playing at John Lance Arena."

The team's reaction after the game provided fans with an insight into how much the support meant. As they were cutting down the net, they invited the band, yell leaders and fans onto the court to celebrate with them.

"The atmosphere we had at John Lance Arena that night was the most unbelievable experience I've had as a coach at Pittsburg State," said Lord. "Our fans are amazing and we wanted them to enjoy every moment (of the championship) because they were a big part of it. There's nothing like Gorilla Nation."

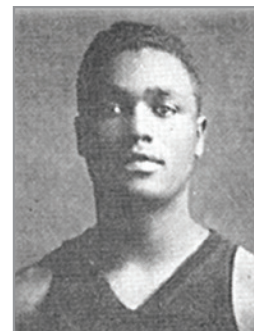
Although the Gorillas fell short of their ultimate goal in their Elite 8 matchup, the season is one that players and coaches won't soon forget.

"After a couple of weeks, it began to set in just how special this season was," said Lord. "I go back to that practice because that's where it began. They pushed each other to be better, but more than that, they believed in one another. When you have that, you can accomplish anything."

A regional championship in front of a packed house in John Lance Arena is just one of the memorable moments in an amazing season.



Hall of Fame inducts PSU pioneer



George Sweatt

George Sweatt, the first African-American athlete to letter in any sport at PSU and one of the greatest baseball players in Kansas history, is one of 12 new members to be inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame (KSHOF) this fall.

Sweatt, from Humbolt, Kan., lettered in football, basketball and track & field following his service in the Army during World War I. Sweatt was a six-time all-conference performer in track.

Sweatt signed with the Kansas City Monarchs baseball club of the Negro Leagues while still in school at Pitt State and went on to play in seven professional seasons with the Monarchs and the Chicago American Giants. He played in the first four Negro Leagues World Series – in 1924 and 1925 with the Monarchs and in 1926 and 1927 with the American Giants – winning three Negro Leagues World Series championships.

Sweatt was inducted into the Pitt State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame in 2011.

The induction ceremony will be held Sunday, October 2, 2016, in Wichita.

National championship experience

Competing in a national championship is the goal of every student-athlete. Hosting a national championship is the goal of every university. Pittsburg State achieved that goal in March when it welcomed the 2016 NCAA Division II Indoor National Track and Field Championships to the newly-constructed Robert W. Plaster Center.

Pitt State women's and men's indoor track teams performed well in front of the partisan crowd with the women earning their best-ever indoor finish (fourth) and the men also earning a top 10 national finish (seventh).

"It was a tremendous success," said Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State's director of intercollegiate athletics. "Our staff put in a lot of hours to make certain student-athletes, coaches and fans experienced the very best the NCAA and Pittsburg had to offer."

More than 1,000 of the NCAA's finest Division II athletes and coaches took part in the two-day event, which attracted more than 2,000 fans. The influx of competitors and fans brought smiles to the faces of business owners and community leaders. In all, the weekend provided the region with an estimated economic impact of nearly \$2.5 million.

"That time of year is normally pretty slow for our hospitality and retail partners," said Blake Benson, Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce president and economic development director for



The Plaster Center has been a busy place since the first day it opened, but nothing could top the thrill of hosting the NCAA Division II National Indoor Track and Field Championships.

the city of Pittsburg. "Our restaurants were busy, our hotels were packed and our community was filled with energy. It was the perfect opportunity to introduce an entirely new audience to our city and see what we have to offer."

Pittsburg State is set to host the NCAA Division II National Track and Field Championships again in 2018 and the National Junior College Athletic Association National Track and Field Championships in 2017 and 2019.

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Campus honors three with highest award

Watch online video. 

As a busy day of touring the campus and meeting with students, faculty and alumni came to an end, each of Pitt State's three Meritorious Achievement Award recipients for 2016 said they were humbled and honored to be recognized by their alma mater.

This year's award recipients are Ed McKechnie, Maureen Murphy and Kenneth Nance. McKechnie, a 1986 graduate, is the executive vice president and chief commercial officer for Watco Companies. Murphy, a 1973 graduate and the 2016 National Family Practice Physician of the Year, is a physician with Cabarrus Family Medicine in Concord, N.C. Nance, a 1990 graduate, is vice president for governmental sales for Fastenal, North America's largest fastener distributor and a worldwide supplier of original equipment, maintenance, repair and construction products.

"This year's Meritorious Award recipients are great examples of the ways that Pittsburg State University's more than 65,000 alumni distinguish themselves in their places of work and in their communities every day," said Jon Bartlow, director of alumni and constituent relations.

Ed McKechnie

Ed McKechnie earned a bachelor's degree in communication from PSU in 1986. He joined Watco Companies, a Pittsburg-based transportation company that is one of the largest short-line railroad operators in the U.S., in 2000.

As executive vice president and chief commercial officer, McKechnie leads Watco's strategic development and marketing teams, focusing on growing the business and finding new opportunities in the transportation industry.

McKechnie's public service includes five terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, beginning in 1991. He also served on the personal staff for

Gov. John Carlin and U.S. Congressman Dan Glickman in Washington, D.C.

In 2010, McKechnie was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents and was named chairman of the board in 2011.

McKechnie and his wife, Kristy, live in Arcadia, Kan. They have two sons, Austin and Jackson.

Maureen Murphy

Maureen Murphy earned a bachelor's degree in English from PSU in 1973 and a medical degree from the University of Kansas in 1985. In 2011, she joined Cabarrus Family Medicine in Concord, N.C., where she is a family medicine specialist and serves as a mentor for medical students and a preceptor for medical schools both in and outside of North Carolina.

The daughter of the legendary football and swimming coach Joe Murphy, Maureen began her first career in journalism and public relations as a television reporter in Joplin. A public relations job with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine in Kansas City inspired her to pursue a career in family medicine. Last fall, Murphy was

honored by the American Academy of Family Physicians as the 2016 Family Physician of the Year.

Murphy and her husband, Scott Maxwell, live in Concord, N.C.

Kenneth R. Nance

Kenneth R. Nance earned a bachelor's degree in history from PSU in 1990 and a master's degree in history, also from PSU, in 1991. He serves as vice president for governmental sales for Fastenal, North America's largest fastener distributor and a worldwide supplier of original equipment, maintenance, repair and construction products.

When Nance joined Fastenal in 1992, his first responsibility was in entry-level sales as an assistant store manager. Over the years he has served in roles of increasing responsibility and was named to his current position in 2015.

Nance has two daughters, Sophie, who is 15, and Arielle, who is 14. He lives in Winona, Minn.

(Read the recipients' full bios online.)



Ed McKechnie

Kenneth R. Nance

Maureen
Murphy



Shirley Palmer, Monica H. Murnan and President Steve Scott.

Palmer, Murnan honored for service

PSU honored two of its alumni for their volunteer service to the university as part of its Apple Day celebration on March 3. The Alumni Association presented its Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award to Shirley J. Palmer and Monica Hartong Murnan.

Shirley Palmer (BS in elementary education 1965, MS in school administration 1971, EdS 1979) has a long history of voluntary service and leadership for PSU. She has served in leadership roles on the Alumni Association Board, the PSU Foundation Board, the PSU Education Advisory Board, the Fort Scott Alumni Chapter and as a PSU Phonathon volunteer.

As Alumni Association National President, Palmer traveled to nearly 100 percent of the Gorilla Gatherings across the U.S. and hosted every home football game in the Rua Press Box.

Palmer, now retired, taught elementary school for 40 years, was named Kansas Teacher of the Year in 1982 and was inducted into the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame in 2002.


Palmer and her husband, Ron, live on a farm near Fort Scott. They have two sons, Brian and Gary.

Monica H. Murnan (BS in education 1987, MS in Special Services & Leadership Studies 1994) is a native of Erie, Kan., and was one of four children in her family to attend Pittsburg State University.

Murnan has served two terms on the Alumni Association Board, with one of those years as president. As president, she represented the Alumni Association at a long list of Gorilla Gatherings and other functions both on campus and across the U.S. She has also provided important leadership to the College of Education through her service on the Education Advisory Board.

Murnan is the director of student support services at the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, Greenbush.

Murnan and her husband, Rob, who is also a PSU grad, have three daughters, Alexandria, Francesca and Gabrielle.

Watch online video. 



Ron Watts



Jim AuBuchon

Two alumni named to U.S. Army ROTC Hall of Fame

Two Pittsburg State University alumni were selected for induction into the inaugural class of the U.S. Army ROTC National Hall of Fame. Ron Watts, BS 1956, and Jim AuBuchon, BS 1963, received their honors on June 10 in ceremonies at Fort Knox, Ky., commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of ROTC.

Watts, originally from Seneca, Mo., was commissioned into the Army in 1956. When he retired, 33 years later, Watts had achieved the rank of lieutenant general and was the commanding General of the VII Corps, U.S. Army Europe, and Seventh Army. Watts' service included tours in Korea, Vietnam and Europe.

In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in industrial education from PSU, Watts also earned a master's degree in political science from Auburn University. Today he and his wife, Anita, live in Englewood, Fla.

AuBuchon, originally from Baxter Springs, Kan., was commissioned into the Army in 1963. Following his active duty service, which ended in 1967 and included a tour in Vietnam, AuBuchon served in the U.S. Army Reserve, achieving the rank of brigadier general.

In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in education from PSU, AuBuchon earned a master's degree in social science from PSU and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Kansas State University.

He joined the PSU staff as assistant director of the student union in 1967 and over the next four decades served the university in a variety of roles, retiring in 2006 as vice president for university advancement.

AuBuchon was also active in the community, serving two terms on the city commission and as mayor, twice. Today, he and his wife, Cathy, live in Leawood, Kan.

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Class Notes

Class of 1960

John Kekec (BSEd, MS 1966), with his wife, Mary, have published "The Kansas/Missouri Border War," the second book in their Our American Heritage Series. The book is about two pioneer families that migrated west from North Carolina and Pennsylvania and then came together in southeastern Kansas Territory just in time to be caught up in the Kansas/Missouri border war and the Civil War campaign in Missouri that followed.

Class of 1965

Thomas Dean Hankins (BS, MS 1968) retired from Wichita Public Schools after 36 years of service, including 13 years as a teacher and 23 years as an administrator. Hankins is a past elder at Hillside Christian Church and has served for several years on the Greater Wichita YMCA Board. Hankins is a 17-year cancer survivor and he and his wife, Kathy, will celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary in December.

Larry L. Mathis (BA) was inducted into the Healthcare Hall of Fame in March. Mathis, the former longtime CEO of Houston Methodist Hospital System, guided the organization through dramatic changes in the health care industry. Under his leadership, Houston Methodist grew from a single-site hospital to a system of 16 corporations and 37 affiliated hospitals in the U.S. and abroad. Mathis' national leadership was recognized by Business Week magazine, which named him one of the five best managers in non-profit health services in the U.S. In 1991, he was named one of the 24 most influential health policy makers in the U.S. Mathis joined 100 other industry leaders who have been inducted into the Health Care Hall of Fame, including Benjamin Franklin, Clara Barton, Sen. Ted Kennedy and Dr. Michael DeBakey. The hall is permanently housed at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, America's first hospital.

Class of 1966

Sandra Bugni (BSEd, MEd 1970) is a retired educator and preschool director. She and her husband, Joe, live in Overland Park, Kan.

Class of 1967

A.J. Wachter (BSEd) has been reappointed to a two-year term as the chief judge of the 11th Judicial District, according to a news release from the Office of Judicial Administration. Wachter, whose new term runs until Dec. 31, 2017, has served as district judge in the 11th Judicial District since 2002. He presides over cases in Crawford, Cherokee and Labette counties.

Class of 1968

Joyce Hartmann (MS), of Choctaw, Ark., took home the top prize in the Conway League of Artists Spring Show. Hartmann, 82, received a special

continued



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ribbon and \$150 for her oil painting, "Night Lights." Hartmann, who majored in health, physical education and recreation at PSU, taught physical education for many years. Now retired, she paints at her Rock 'N' Pine Studio, located on the 45 acres she and her husband own in the mountains of north-central Arkansas.

Class of 1970

Alan D. Ames (BSIT) retired as a physical damage senior field adjuster after more than 18 years with American Family Insurance. He lives in Salina, Kan.

Class of 1973

Diane Wahto (MS) had three of her poems, "At the Truck Stop in Pittsburg, Kansas," "Last Bus," and "Jim Morrison," win honorable mention awards in the Kansas Voices literary contest, sponsored by the Winfield Arts Council.

The poems will be published in the Kansas Voices Anthology.

Class of 1977

William James Moore (BSBA) has recently released a self-published book, "Threats To Our Liberty & Survival." The book is available through Amazon.com.

Class of 1981

Cindy Knoepfel (BSN) has been named chief clinical officer at Newton Medical Center. Knoepfel joined Newton Medical Center in 2007 as risk manager. She became executive director of service lines in 2011, and she most recently served as the hospital's associate chief nursing officer. Knoepfel holds a BSN from PSU and an MSN from Wichita State University. She is a certified perioperative clinical nurse specialist and is also certified in perioperative nursing practice.

Class of 1983

Kerry Sachetta (BSEd, MS 1990, EDS 1997) has been named assistant superintendent of operations for the Joplin, Mo., schools. As the assistant superintendent of operations, Sachetta, oversees the operational departments of the district including facilities, food service, transportation, technology, and safety. He also oversees athletics and other responsibilities as needed. He most recently served as principal for Joplin High School, a position he held for 14 years. With 23 years of experience in education, he also has served as a teacher, coach and university instructor. Prior to becoming an educator, he held the position of sales manager for a distribution company for 12 years. In 2009, the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals named Sachetta the Missouri State High School Principal of the Year. Currently, he serves as



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president of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

Class of 1987

W. Curtis Koutelas (BST) has been appointed to the board of directors for Tallgrass Energy GP and to the board's audit committee. Koutelas founded Arrowhead Contracting, Inc., in 1990 and has served as its president for the past 26 years. Arrowhead provides general construction, remedial construction, environmental engineering, facility operations and maintenance and homeland security services to a broad base of federal agencies and large-business prime contractors.

Class of 1991

Michael Reisig (BS) received the 2016 Outstanding Graduate Alumni Scholar Award from Washington State University's Criminal Justice and Criminology Department. Reisig received his master's degree from Washington State in 1992 and his doctorate in 1996. Currently, Reisig is a professor in the Arizona State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Besides policing, Reisig is a recognized expert in the areas of corrections and victimization. He is a co-editor of The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing and co-author of the textbook, "American Corrections."

Todd York (BS) has been named the new senior vice president of wealth management for the Bank of Blue Valley. York will be responsible for leading banking professionals from the Bank of Blue Valley's trust, investment services and private banking teams to provide a diverse array of wealth management solutions for customers. York is a 24-year veteran of the financial services industry, spending the last 11 years working as managing director of the

private client group at U.S. Bank in Lawrence. He also spent 10 years at UBS Financial Services and three years at Edward Jones.

Class of 1992

Brett C. Riley (BBA) has been appointed as an independent member of the board of Green Plains Holdings LLC. Riley will also serve as chairman of the board's conflicts committee and member of the board's audit committee. Riley led the strategy and mergers and acquisitions activities for Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., a publicly traded master limited partnership, from June 2003 until April 2016. From 2007 to 2016, Riley served as senior vice president for business development for Magellan GP, LLC, the general partner of Magellan Midstream Partners.

Class of 1994

Kendall Gammon (BSEd) has been named special assistant to the president at PSU. Drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1992 as a long snapper, Gammon spent 15 years in the NFL before retiring in 2006 from the Kansas City Chiefs. Gammon returned to

PSU in 2008 when he was named the development director for intercollegiate athletics. In that role, he helped direct the planning of the Robert W. Plaster Center, which was opened in 2015. Gammon also serves as a color-analyst and pre-game host for the Kansas City Chiefs radio broadcasts.

Class of 1995

Paul Doleshal (BST) has been promoted to National Motorsports Marketing and Asset Manager for Toyota. Doleshal has been employed with Toyota since July 1995. He works with NHRA and NASCAR.

Class of 1997

Ted Hessong (BSEd, MS 2004) has been named superintendent of USD 456 in Melvern, Kan. Born and raised in Fort Scott, Hessong taught and coached two years at Pleasanton High School, followed by 17 years as a science teacher and coach at Frontenac. Hessong served as the assistant principal at Frontenac Junior High, before returning to the high school as principal for the past five years.

continued



HOMECOMING 2016

October 8th

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.....



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Courtney McCartney (BSEd) has been named principal of Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac. Previously, McCartney taught at Lakeside and Meadowlark Elementary Schools in Pittsburg and most recently served as principal at Lakeside.

Class of 1998

Ryan Sutterby (BSEd) has been named varsity baseball coach at San Tan Foothills High School in San Tan Valley, Ariz. For the past four years, Sutterby was the assistant varsity baseball coach and freshman head coach at Poston Butte High School.

Class of 1999

Shally Lundien (MS) has been named principal of Columbia Elementary School in Joplin, Mo. Previously, she served as assistant principal at South Middle School.

Kristi Zukovich (MS), has been named vice president for communication by the Kansas Health Foundation, where she oversees the foundation's media and public relations efforts. Previously, she worked for 28 years as the spokeswoman for Sedgwick County.

Class of 2001

Brian Olivera (BSEd) has been named principal at McKinley Elementary School in Joplin, Mo. He previously spent 15 years teaching students in every grade from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Class of 2002

Gina Shelton (BBA) was named a 2016 Outstanding Young Alumna by Fort Scott Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in 1999. Shelton worked at Diehl, Banwart, Bolton CPAs PA for nearly 14 years, assisting small businesses with accounting and tax work. In 2015, Shelton passed the Certified Public Accountant Exam. She joined Unified School District 234 as the business manager/clerk in 2015.

Class of 2003

Jason Cravens (MS) has been named principal of East Middle School in Joplin, Mo. Previously he served the district as executive director of secondary education. Before that, Cravens worked in the district as a high school teacher, assistant principal and director of instructional services.

Melissa Fite Johnson (BSEd, MA 2005) has been honored with the Kansas Notable Books Award for 2016 for her chapbook of poetry, "While the Kettle's On." The book, Johnson's first, was previously selected for the Kansas Authors Club's Nelson Poetry Award. Johnson teaches English at Pittsburg High School.

Class of 2004

Philip Thies (MS) has been named the new principal of Quail Run Elementary School in Lawrence, Kan. Prior to his current position, Thies taught at

the elementary level for 10 years in the Gardner and Blue Valley school districts.

Class of 2005

James Vannurden (BA, MA 2007) has accepted the job as curator of the Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita, Kan. He was previously the director and curator of the National Museum of Roller Skating in Lincoln, Neb., for eight years.

Class of 2008

Scott Cichon (BSEd) finished the 2016 Boston Marathon in 2 hours, 43 minutes and 30 seconds, finishing 172nd in his division. Cichon's time was just seconds under his time he posted in the race the previous year.

Keith T. Kerr (BBA) has been promoted to market manager of Carson Bank in Derby, Kan. He has five years of banking experience.



One traditional part of every Half-Century Reunion is a class picture on the iconic marble steps of Russ Hall. Members of the PSU Class of 1966 reunited on May 5-6, 2016.

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.

Jackie L. Abel, 1978, Eudora, Kan.
Joyce N. (Shepard) Akins, 1973, El Dorado, Kan.
Pamela J. Andersen, 1977, Puyallup, Wash.
Daryl M. Andrews, 1964, Neosho, Mo.
Dr. Mary (Schwartz) Anne Andrews, 1963, Carthage, Mo.
Cheryl K. (Early) Arnwine, 1987, Independence, Kan.
Noushin (Katouzian) Arshadi, 1976, Laguna Niguel, Calif.
Astrid E. (Whitaker) Barkis, 1964, Olathe, Kan.
Leroy A. Bash, 1951, Missouri City, Texas
Robert H. Beeler, 1960, Kansas City, Kan.
Terry L (Coak) Begley, 2013, Springfield, Mo.
Jim R. Belfield, 1983, Lake Quivira, Kan.
Jerry L. Bever, 1962, Bartlesville, Okla.
Donna N. (Maffry) Beverlin, 1979, Paola, Kan.
Tom C. Billionis, 1994, Springfield, Mo.
John C. Bland, 1971, Alba, Texas
Gary A. Boyd, 1972, Kansas City, Kan.
Jim W. Brauer, 1977, Shawnee, Kan.
Mary (Harpole) Brockwell, 1950, Santa Fe, N.M.
Elizabeth S. Brookover, 1987, Coffeyville, Kan.
Jon A. Brooks, 1960, Bella Vista, Ark.
Joseph E. Brown, 1961, Rochester, N.Y.
Lonnie C. Brown, Jr, 1983, Jacksonville, Fla.
Sarah E. (Carter) Brown, 2002, Kansas City, Kan.
Rayann H. (Fair) Burdick, 1956, Topeka, Kan.
Wayne A. Burnett, 1959, San Bernardino, Calif.
M. Victorine Buser, 1942, Wichita, Kan.
Max W. Buzzard, 1960, Miami, Okla.
Edwin R. Byrd, 1942, Kansas City, Mo.
Tom Cameron, 1961, Joplin, Mo.
Steven C. Campbell, 1975, Atchison, Kan.
William M. Carl, 1957, Wichita, Kan.
Edward Cole Carter, 1963, Lawrence, Kan.
Janice M Cashero, Frontenac, Kan.
Al F. Cerne, 1949, Olathe, Kan.
Lois (Engelhardt) Cerne, 1946, Olathe, Kan.
Alberta J. (Smith) Chesner, 1977, Columbus, Kan.
David K. Clapsaddle, 1969, Larned, Kan.
David C. Clark, 1958, Overland Park, Kan.
Gladys (Willis) Cobb, 1927, Bartlesville, Okla.
Angela S. (Cole) Love, 1982, Tulsa, Okla.
William J. Coltrain, 1983, Joplin, Mo.
Joey V. Cornella, 1949, Concord, Calif.
Paul W. Cox, 1950, Joplin, Mo.
Charles J. Crawford, 1971, Lawrence, Kan.

Retirees

Congratulations to this year's retirees! Thank you for your service and enjoy your retirement.

Ruby Ashmore, Student Center
Gerard Attoun, Student Publications
Mark Barnes, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
William Clark, University Police and Parking Services
Kathleen DeGrave, English and Modern Languages
Jack Fay, Accounting and Computer Information Systems
Charles Fischer, Economics, Finance and Banking
Charles "Pat" Flanagan, Custodial and General Services
Cynthia Ford, Biology
Steven Ford, Biology
Earl W. Lee, Library Services
Kim Main, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
Christine Mekkaoui, Intensive English Program
Anna Meyer, Custodial and General Services
Frank Miller, Teaching and Leadership
Bill Moore, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
Paul Morris II, English and Modern Languages

Dorothy Murphy, Custodial and General Services
Mary Prince, Housing Maintenance
David Redd, Custodial and General Services
Robert Schwindt, Technology and Workforce Learning
H. Rozanne Sparks, Psychology and Counseling
Kathleen Spillman, Teaching and Leadership
Bill Stobart, Health Human Performance and Recreation
Carolyn Tatum, University Police and Parking Services
Ray Tatum, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance
Deborah Thompson, Custodial and General Services
Malcolm Turner, University Marketing and Communication
Rod Tweedy, Information Services
Evelyn Woodrum, Student Financial Assistance
Paul Zagorski, History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences

Mary C. (Cuthbertson) Crawford, 1966, Merriam, Kan.
James M. Creevey, 1956, Dodge City, Kan.
William W. Currier, 1955, Coffeyville, Kan.
Esther L (Breed) Daneke, 1978, Pittsburg, Kan.
Barry S. Davidson, 1972, West Palm Beach, Fla.
William C. Davis, 1973, Kansas City, Mo.
Ruby N. (Dikeman) Dennis, 1976, Coffeyville, Kan.
Virginia P. Dollard, 1947, Newton, Kan.
Diane P. Dooley, 1985, DeSoto, Kan.
Dorothy M (Gathman) Dudley, 1946, Sedgwick, Kan.
Carl W. Durr, 1974, Englewood, Colo.
Hal F. Durr, 1966, Burlington, Iowa
Mark B. Eaton, 1940, Lenexa, Kan.
Marla J.(Overby) Eisenbrandt, 1977, Anderson, Calif.
John B. English, Joplin, Mo.
Nancy E. (Graham) Evans, 1971, Eureka, Kan.
Johnnie E. Favero, 1958, Prairie Village, Kan.
Kenneth J. Feuerborn, 1961, Palatine, Ill.

Jim L. Finney, 1976, Wayside, Kan.
Michael A. Forbes Sr., 1971, Parsons, Kan.
Matty E. (Shaw) Foxx, 1969, Pittsburg, Kan.
Anna K. Fullerton, 1993, Carthage, Mo.
Gary J. Gallo, 1974, Parsons, Kan.
Steve E. Geier, 1983, Erie, Kan.
Peter D. Gent, 1969, Kansas City, Mo.
Frances M. (Seckman) Gibson, 1952, Baxter Springs, Kan.
Dorothy B (Brunkhorst) Gillette, 1948, Tipp City, Ohio
Melva D. (Miller) Glaser, 1963, Pittsburg, Kan.
Edward L. Goodwin, 1956, Tulsa, Okla.
Terri R. Green, 1984, Joplin, Mo.
Fred R. Harder, 1960, Tucson, Ariz.
Samuel P. Harnden, 1968, Dallas, Texas
Margaret M (Brownie) Hartman, 1958, Uniontown, Kan.
Bill J. Hayden, 1970, Van Nuys, Calif.
Frank O. Hildebrand, 1984, Lamar, Mo.
Pamela L. Hinton, 2007, Leavenworth, Kan.

continued

Class Notes

Submit class notes information online: psumag@pittstate.edu

Kay (Dugan) Holsinger, 1960, Pittsburg, Kan.
Dorothy (Cowan) Houchin, 1947,
Cascade, Colo.
Burton L. Howard, 1953, Nixa, Mo.
Roberta G. (Nordstedt) Hutchens, 1940,
Burlington, Kan.
Mrs. Myrlene (Stevens) Jarmin, 1958,
Ozark, Mo.
Ania (Labunski) Johnson, 1972,
Prairie Village, Kan.
Bonnie J. (Brock) Johnson, 1963,
Wichita, Kan.
Georgine M. (Ciet) Johnson, 1958,
Midland, Texas
Marvin J. Johnson, 1958, Springfield, Mo.
David T. Johnston, 1983, Joplin, Mo.
Roberta M. (Moore) Jones, 1939,
Independence, Mo.
Jeanette L. (Gardner) Keckley, 1942,
Joplin, Mo.
Fred N. Keidel, 1988, Wyandotte, Okla.
Richard T. Kelly, 1952, Zelienople, Pa.
Bill P. Kelly, 1990, Bonner Springs, Kan.
Ronald F. Kendall, 1958, Bartlesville, Okla.
George L. Kenney, 1965, Fort Myers, Fla.
Leota E. (Klopfenstine) Korns, 1966,
Cortez, Colo.
Wilma D. Lafalier, 1985, Quapaw, Okla.
Ray A. Laing, 1961, Phoenix, Ariz.
Catherine D. Lepoglow, 1999, Franklin, Kan.
Mary K. (Avery) Lessin, 1971, Bel Aire, Kan.
Cecil P. Lind, 1957, Arlington, Texas
Don J. Lind, 1961, Coffeyville, Kan.
Lois A. (Niemann) Llewellyn, 1954,
Lawrence, Kan.
August L. Longo, 1970, Arma, Kan.
Morris P. Luedke, 1955, Iola, Kan.
Max Lundstrom, 1954, Johnston, Iowa
Eugene L. Mahaffey, 1967, St.
Simmons Island, Ga.
Joe D. Marlow, 1953, Nevada, Mo.
Lottie B. Martin, 1968, Fort Scott, Kan.
Earl J. Matson, 1950, San Diego, Calif.
Delia C. (Imel) Maxwell, 1966, Joplin, Mo.
Frances H. (Townsend) McCune, 1944,
Derby, Kan.
James A. McClendon, 1958, Liberal Mo.
Charles C. McGinness, 1950, Joplin, Mo.
Warren A. Milks, 1992, Mound Valley, Kan.
Brees R. Millard Jr., 1966,
Leavenworth, Kan.
Lewis N. Milleman Jr., 1984, Wichita, Kan.
Samuel K. Miller, 1966, Morris Plains, NJ
Larry A. Mills, 1987, Joplin, Mo.
Dorosa A. Minniear, 1958, Coffeyville, Kan.
Mark L. Mishler, 1979, Princeton, Texas
Delores D (Ross) Montgomery, 1952,
Pittsburg, Kan.
Dale E. Moore, 1963, Camdenton, Mo.

Jay B. Munsell, 1962, Tulsa, Okla.
Marcia K (Bowers) Neel, 1971,
Cherry Valley, Ga.
Martin L. Nelms, 1960, Independence, Kan.
Alvis T. Nichols, 1957, Scott City, Kan.
Patricia A. (Myers) Nichols, 1956,
Scott City, Kan.
Virginia L (Sullivan) Ortolani, 1955,
Pittsburg, Kan.
Craig C. Overman, 1972, Columbus, Kan.
James R. Palmer, 1979, Pittsburg, Kan.
P. Ronald Payne, 1961, Neodesha, Kan.
Mary Ann (Privitt) Pendleton, 1965,
Coffeyville, Kan.
Leslie V. Peterson, 1961,
Baxter Springs, Kan.
Jimmie L. Poe, 1966, Arkansas City, Kan.
Barbara L. Potter, Wichita, Kan.
Elizabeth (Whitworth) Potter, 1960,
Overland Park, Kan.
Leroy D. Potter, 1963 Joplin, Mo.
Doris A. (Albert) Potts, 1959, Pittsburg, Kan.
Melvin L. Potts, 1957, Pittsburg, Kan.
Harold B. Rauch, 1977, Broken Arrow, Okla.
Elizabeth A. (McCullough) Rhoads, 1975,
Overland Park, Kan.
Lonnie E. Rhodes, 1957, Fort Dodge, Iowa
Peggy A. (Dye) Riedle, 1986,
Coffeyville, Kan.
Melvin L. Rinehart, 1960, Frontenac, Kan.
Robert D. Rossell, 1961, Los Altos, Calif.
Wilma L (Cooper) Sabo, 1956,
Cincinnati, Ohio
Merl K. Salsbury, Pittsburg, Kan.
Tina R (Layton) Schicke, 1989,
Independence, Kan.
Stephen L. Schulz, 1974, Pittsburg, Kan.
Joseph L. Scott, 1972, Sugarland, Texas
Norma J. (Peterson) Seaton, 1953,
Pomona, N.Y.
Charles E. Shell, 1963, Saint Paul, Minn.
William C. Shinkle, 1943, Mound City, Kan.
Georgianna P. Short, 1974, Dublin, Ohio
Charles W. Smart, 1962, Independence, Kan.

Connor L. Smith, 1967, Farmington, Minn.
Lewis B. Smith, 1971, Osprey, Fla.
Robert E. Spain, 1954, Novato, Calif.
Alma I. (Ingram) Sprouse, 1962,
Chetopa, Kan.
Dale E. Staley, 1971, Juneau, Alaska
Clara N. (Doty) Stark-White, 1964,
Independence, Kan.
Stephen W. Stark, 1983, Independence, Kan.
Rosalea (Caulkinds) Stocker, 1948,
Parsons, Kan.
Charles N. Stribling, 1966, Joplin, Mo.
Annette J. (Collins) Taylor, 1996,
Everton, Mo.
J. Dwight Taylor, 1966, Tulsa, Okla.
Steve A. Taylor, 1976, Newkirk, Okla.
Barbara L. (Brohl) Thimmesch, 1968,
Mission, Kan.
James D. Thomas, 1969, Derwood, Md.
Hattie E. (Highfill) Thompson, 1946,
Lawrence, Kan.
Ron R. Thompson, 1970,
Overland Park, Kan.
Leon Stevison Troxel, 1961
Shannon B. Tuckwin, 1995, Lawrence, Kan.
Hugh E. Turner, 1951, Tulsa, Okla.
Richard L. Turner, 1961, Grove, Okla.
Jonathan P. Unruh, 1996, Joplin, Mo.
Wayne E. Vacca, 1958, Liberal, Mo.
Elsie M. (Long) Vail, 1967, Altamont, Kan.
Alan F. Vermillion, 1974, Wichita, Kan.
George L. Weiss, Jr., 1950, Frederick, Md.
William A. Weiss, 1965, Holden, Maine
Jean L. (McQuade) White, 1970,
Kansas City, Mo.
Nancy J. (Allgood) Wilson, 1980,
Pittsburg, Kan.
Leland C. Wood, 1956, Mena, Ark.
Ruby F. (Morrow) Wood, 1961,
Cherryvale, Kan.
Betty L. (Clayton) Woodroff, 1961,
Leoti, Kan.
Cole D. Worrell, 1977, Ellsworth, Kan.
Owen P. Zeigler, 1989, Seattle, Wash.



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Investing in the future

For companies like Black & Veatch, supporting Pittsburg State students and the university is an investment in the future.

“We are always trying to find and recruit the critical thinkers and problem solvers of tomorrow, and we’re confident many of them are now attending Pittsburg State,” said John McLaughlin, college recruiting manager for the Black & Veatch Corp. in Overland Park, Kan. “By making financial contributions through the Black & Veatch Foundation to the Pittsburg State University Foundation, we are demonstrating support of education and the delivery of opportunities and programs to students at PSU.”

McLaughlin said one of the company’s core values is good stewardship of the relationships with the companies they serve.

“The relationships we have with the City of Pittsburg and the university are important to us,” McLaughlin said. “We think our financial support of student organizations and departments is an investment in both students and the institution, and that is positive for the city and Black & Veatch.”

Employees like these PSU grads; **Ian Ponds, Anthony Viviano, Jason Malcom, Garrett Johnson** and **Jennifer Lockwood**, are some of the reasons Black & Veatch invests in Pittsburg State University.

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Fall 2016 Gorilla Gatherings*

Aug. 30-31	Paint the Town Red	Pittsburg
Sept. 1	GorillaFest Home Opener	Pittsburg
Sept. 17	Family Day	Pittsburg
Sept. 20	Bourbon Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Fort Scott, Kan.
Sept. 24	PSU v. Lindenwood Pre-game Event	St. Louis, Mo.
Sept. 29	Labette Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Parsons, Kan.
Oct. 7	Taste of Pittsburg	Pittsburg
Oct. 8	Chicken Wars Tailgate	Pittsburg
Oct. 11	South Central Kansas Lunch	Wichita, Kan.
Oct. 19	Cherokee & Neosho County Dinner	PSU Campus
Oct. 22	GorillaFest in Gorilla Village	Pittsburg
Oct. 27	Kansas City Lunch	Overland Park, Kan.
Oct. 27	Lawrence Gorilla Gathering Dinner	Lawrence, Kan.
Nov. 5	GorillaFest in Gorilla Village	Pittsburg
Nov. 5	Montgomery Gorilla Gathering	PSU Campus
Nov. 8	Hutchinson Gorilla Gathering	Hutchinson, Kan.
Nov. 12	PSU v. MSSU Pre-game Event	Joplin, Mo.
Nov. 17	Joplin Area After Hours	Joplin, Mo.
Dec. 1	South Central Kansas After Hours	Wichita, Kan.

*Dates are subject to change.

Check www.pittstate.edu/alumni to confirm dates and times.

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