



PittState

MAGAZINE

Features

- **16** Former President Shares Lessons About Diversity
- **22** Profiles

College Close-up

- 28 College of Arts & Sciences
- **30** College of Business
- **32** College of Education
- **34** College of Technology

Departments

- **2** Letters
- **4** From the Oval
- 8 Arts Calendar
- **12** Where in the World is Gus?
- **36** Athletics Update
- **40** Alumni News
- 42 Class Notes

From the editor

The past several months have been very busy on campus – so much so, that there's just not room in one issue of the magazine to squeeze it all in. Be sure to check out the online magazine for more of your photos for "Where in the World is Gus," and university news. Please send us your alumni news, letters, photos and suggestions for the next issue. We love hearing from you!



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http://instagram.com/Pittsburg_State



Letters

#OAGAAG

ashlynnbarn Graduating from @pittstate today...never believed this day would actually come. Thank you for the memories, Pitt State, #OAGAAG

tchiggins58 42nd President of the USA giving a speech at Pitt State!! #amazing #oagaag

Dillon Bass Pittsburg State University's Plaster Center is my idea of paradise!! #oagaag

austindaniell I wouldn't trade these last 5 years for anything. Thank you to my family, my friends, my teammates, & the coaching staff for it all. #OAGAAG

MidwestTucsonan Forever grateful to @pittstate for putting me in the right direction to do something great with my life. #GorillaNation #OAGAAG

ArahSayOtterpay Just realized @pittstate follows me on here and that makes me so happy. Y'all are so good to your students. #oagaag

bethanniemae When it's Undergrad School Spirit Day at law school, I just get to show off my love for @pittstate even more! #OAGAAG

letme tellya Shout out to @RealGusGorilla for stopping by Family Art Day at Porter! I think I was more excited than the kids. #OAGAAG

AndraStefanoni Absolutely loved, loved, loved @pittstate choirs' musical dinner tonight in new Overman Student Center, Wow! #OAGAAG

hungryuncle It's hard to imagine a better college gameday experience than Pitt State. #oagaag

Another Gorilla with stripes

I read with interest the article in the PITT STATE magazine about officials, because I too was a Gorilla with Stripes. I'm an old geezer now, but I shall never forget my days as an official nor my days as a friend of Cliff Long.

During my junior and senior years ('BS 50), I was a member of a two-man team that officiated high school football games and basketball games. I also was a one-man official for many junior high, grade school, and town team games. I never made the big time but I managed to referee all those games and was never shot.

I was attending college on the GI Bill, but those nights when I would be paid between \$4 and \$10 for a high school game and as little as \$.50 for a lesser or town team league game, was a big help in caring for my family.

When I watch a game being officiated by a team of four or five, I wonder how we ever did it with two.

I ended a career as teacher, coach, administrator and finally as superintendent of schools my last 15 years. Now I am thoroughly enjoying being an old man who will turn 90 in February and who is fortunate enough to still know what's going on.

CARL A. OTTO

Lerov. Kansas

Fond memories

The letter from Dr. Frank Grispino in the Fall 2015 PITT STATE Magazine brought back many great memories for my wife and me. We both worked in the Otto Way 1961-1963 while I was a student getting my BSEd and my wife, Joan, was getting her PHT (Putting Hubby Through). Knowing the Greer family (Charles, Yvonne, Vickie, and Connie) was a great pleasure. My wife was a waitress and I was a dishwasher. We were very fortunate to have worked at the

Otto Way as we lived just across the street on East Carlton.

Just two years ago, I attended the Half Century Club Reunion and got re-acquainted with several former classmates. The campus had certainly changed in the positive with new and remodeled facilities. Getting the opportunity to stand on the marble steps in Russ Hall was so nice. For once when I got on the steps, I did not have to walk up to the fourth floor to take business classes with Dr. Ralf Thomas and the other excellent faculty.

Our Cox family is in its fourth generation at PSU. My mother (Myrtle Elmore Cox) earned her BSEd in 1962, I earned my BSEd in 1963 and MSEd in 1966, our middle son (Jay Cox) attended in 1984, and now a greatniece (Cali Cox) is a current student.

JERRY R. COX Flagstaff, Ariz.

Students help out small town

Two years ago I became part of the Erie, Kan., park board. We found out that Erie had been donated several scrap metal art sculptures by the late Robert Dorris. The sculptures are well known locally and could be seen from the highway west of Erie.

Not knowing how to even begin, I sent an email to PSU Professor Portico Bowman to see if there was any possibility that an art student would be interested in helping us.

She gave Jenna Spencer as an intern. It was a wonderful experience. Jenna helped us with the park design, fundraising, and designed the arch into the park area. We loved it.

We opened the park in July and although we still have more to do, she got us off to a wonderful start. We are now working with another intern, Mattie Parrigon, to design promotional materials.

Erie is a small town of 1,200, and we have limited resources. The support from PSU has been critical to the success of this project.

Proud to be an alumni.

KATHLEEN BRENNON ('68)



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to psumag@pittstate.edu.





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:

- We can follow your wishes, since we know what they are.
- We can honor you with membership in the PSU Heritage Society.
- 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 dinner, 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



Scott leads NCAA Division II Presidents Council

Pittsburg State University President Steve Scott assumed his duties as chair of the NCAA Division II Presidents Council at the group's recent business meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Scott was elected to the position last October. The 16-member Presidents Council is the governing body responsible for establishing and directing the general policy for Division II athletics.

"It's a transformational and challenging time to be involved in the governance of the NCAA, and to do so at the highest level, is an honor," Scott said. I'm looking forward to dealing with these complex issues and working to ensure the long-term viability of the association."

Scott said there is important work to do in the coming year.

"At the DII level, we have a number of initiatives underway that target the completion of our six-year strategic plan," Scott said. "The Presidents Council, which I now chair, will be investing more than \$6 million in new spending to fund these initiatives."

PSU Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jim Johnson said President Scott's initial selection to the board in 2012 and now his election as chair reflect positively on the role Pittsburg State University plays in the world of intercollegiate athletics at the Division II level.

"This does reflect the growing respect that Pittsburg State University has built, nationally," Johnson said. "That goes beyond high-quality athletics programs and outstanding facilities, and includes community engagement and, most importantly, PSU's embrace of what it means to be a true studentathlete at the Division II level."

Scott said he believes Division II is a perfect fit for Pittsburg State University.

"The focus on academics, championship competition and community engagement is exactly what we're building our athletics programs on," Scott said.

President Scott was named to the Division II Presidents Council in 2012. At the recent NCAA Annual Convention, Scott provided the annual review of Division II's accomplishments before nearly 1,000 university presidents, conference commissioners, athletics directors, and faculty athletics representatives.

New approach shortens KRPS fundraising

Given the chance to choose between traditional on-air fundraising and making pledges in advance by phone and online, KRPS listeners made it clear last fall what they preferred. In just two-and-one-half hours, the public radio station reached its fall fundraising goal of \$48,990.

Missi Kelly, KRPS general manager, said the brief on-air campaign was the result of a new approach to fundraising that the station began with its spring campaign, dubbed the warp drive.

Kelly said the warp drive involved promotion several weeks in advance of the scheduled on-air campaign in which listeners were urged to help shorten the traditional campaign by making their pledges early, either by phone or online. Like many other public radio stations, KRPS for years has relied on intrusive on-air campaigns that go on for days or even weeks.

Kelly said the success of the fall warp drive inspired the station to employ a similar tactic for the current spring membership drive.

Flannery named VP for advancement

In December,
President Steve
Scott announced
the appointment
of Kathleen
Flannery as
vice president
for university
advancement.
Flannery had
served as interim
vice president for



Kathleen Flannery

most of the year. In addition, she has also taken on the role of president of the PSU Foundation, a role in which she had also served on an interim basis.

According to President Scott, "Kathleen has guided a smooth and productive transition of leadership for the division. She has already demonstrated her strong capacity to lead with vision, energy, and professionalism. She has developed strong relationships with our many internal and external constituents."

Steve Sloan, chairman of the PSU Foundation, said Flannery received unanimous support from the Foundation Executive Committee, and also noted the work Flannery has done in her tenure as interim vice president.

Over a two-day period, Flannery met with a variety of campus stakeholder groups as well as leaders of the PSU Foundation. Following each of the sessions, attendees were asked to evaluate the candidate and provide feedback to John Patterson, vice president for administration and finance. Patterson served as the facilitator of an interview process designed to measure Flannery's suitability for the positions on a permanent basis.

"As I suspected," noted President Scott, "the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. It's clear Kathleen's record of serving this institution is well respected across the campus and throughout the community."

PSU hosts diversity conference

Pitt State hosted a conference Oct. 19-20 designed to help universities in the Kansas Board of Regents system address issues of diversity in more effective ways. The theme for the 2015 Michael Tilford Conference was "Diversity Practices: Culturally responsive strategies to champion diversity."

Faculty, staff and administrators from throughout the Regents system participated in workshops and listened to speakers who talked about the challenges Kansas universities face in teaching diverse populations on their campuses.

Keynote speakers for the conference included Mirta M. Martin, president of Fort Hays State University: Brenda I. Allen. associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at the University of Colorado, Denver; and Myra Gordon, associate provost for diversity at Kansas State University.

Participants chose from a variety of workshops on topics like building stronger recruitment and retention efforts, using culturally responsive reading selections, implicit racial bias and best practices for increasing the STEM pipeline.

Watch online video.





In addition to keynote addresses and workshops, the Tilford Conference provided opportunities for participants to learn from each other.



Brenda J. Allen, associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at the University of Colorado, Denver, makes a point during her keynote address.

Service shares PSU research and rare library holdings with the world

Every semester, faculty and students at PSU conduct an impressive amount of research that is then followed by papers, reports, theses and monographs. Until recently, finding and reading about that research was a task that required both skill and long hours in the library.

Now, thanks to a new service called Digital Commons, the wide range of student and faculty scholarship produced on the PSU campus each year is available for all of the world to see, in digital form, from any computer connected to the Internet.

Deborah White, the digital resources and initiatives manager at PSU's Leonard H. Axe Library, said that PSU material available on Digital Commons is growing daily as new research is added and as student workers scan theses, KANZA yearbooks and other resources from the library's considerable holdings into digital files. Digital Commons will also provide access to many of the rare and unique materials the library holds in its Special Collections area.

"A library's role is to share information in the widest and least restrictive way possible," said Randy Roberts, dean of library services "A service like Digital Commons is a modern tool that allows us to fulfill our mission in ways that were never before possible."

To access Digital Commons, go to http://axe.pittstate.edu.

Foundation celebrates 30 years of excellence

The PSU Foundation celebrated 30 years of success at the annual Presidents Society Dinner last September and looked ahead to the future with the launch of a new capital campaign.

"So many of the wonderful advances we've made over the past 30 years have been made possible by the hard work of this foundation and the generosity its donors," said Kathleen Flannery, who has since been named vice president for advancement and president and CEO for the foundation.

"It's difficult to think of what Pittsburg State would be without the PSU Foundation," said President Steve Scott. "Its support for our students and faculty has allowed this university to move forward when many others were forced to stand still."

Since 1985, PSU Foundation assets have grown from \$4.8 million to \$85 million. Scholarships have grown from less than \$400,000 to \$3 million and new facilities include the Bryant Student Health Center, Robert W. Plaster Center and the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

The capital campaign announced that night is "Proven. Promise. Pitt State." The three-year, \$55 million campaign has four goals: Scholarships, Faculty, Programs and Facilities. Details of the "Proven. Promise. Pitt State." campaign are available at giveto.pittstate.edu. Those wishing to become involved or who have questions can contact the PSU Development Office at 620-235-4768.

Watch online video.



PSU Foundation donors celebrated three decades of success in 2015 and also planned for the future with the launch of a new capital campaign.

Regents meet at PSU

PSU President Steve Scott led off the action portion of the Kansas Board of Regents business meeting, last October, with a presentation about PSU's new strategic plan. Scott told the board about the campuswide process used to develop the plan and then walked the Regents through the various components of the plan.

Regents Chair Shane Bangerter said meeting at PSU differed from past practices in that it combined the regular board business meeting with a campus visit. PSU was the first such meeting, but others will follow on other campuses in the state, Bangerter said.

On Thursday, the Regents began their day with breakfast at the Robert W. Plaster Center, where they learned about the university and city partnerships that have made buildings like the Plaster Center possible.

After breakfast, the Regents moved to the Kansas Technology Center for a series of presentations about the university.



Regents Joe Bain, left, and Daniel Thomas, with President and CEO Blake Flanders, listen to a presentation during their PSU visit.



Student group earns national recognition for stalking awareness program

A student group dedicated to sexual assault and domestic violence prevention has been honored with a national award for a stalking awareness program it presented on campus.

PSU's Students for Violence Prevention (SVP) received the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Outstanding Prevention Program award for "P.S. I Love You: Stalking Awareness Evening," which it presented on campus last January. The group received the award at the NASPA General Assembly, which was held in November in Reston, Va.

SVP is one part of an award-winning and longstanding peer health education effort on the PSU campus through the Office of Student Prevention and Wellness that includes Gorillas in Your Midst. Throughout the year, the student groups present programs that focus on responsible decision making, harm reduction, social norming, environmental management and peer health education.



Spirit Squad members make history

For the first time in Pitt State history, two members of the university's Spirit Squad qualified for national competition in partner stunting.

The Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) announced in November that Pitt State's coed partner team of Jayna Guerra and Myles Taylor finished fourth nationally in the qualifying round of the partner-stunting category. The team was invited to compete at UCA Nationals in Orlando, Fla., in January.

Planning for the future

Pittsburg State University continues to engage the entire campus in planning for the future, embarking this past fall on "Pathway to Prominence," the university's strategic plan for 2016-2022.

The planning process was formally launched in 2013 with the creation of a 20-member task force representing a cross-section of the campus.

The resulting plan includes four main goals: Academic Excellence; Student Success; Partnerships; and Campus Culture. Its foundation rests on these core values: Student-Focused: Diversity: Sustainability; Excellence; Community; By Doing Learn; and Innovation.

For details on the new strategic plan, visit http://pathwaytoprominence. pittstate.edu. Watch online video.



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 June 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 Anita Sue Hamilton, BSED '72 and MS '76, who found the hidden Gorilla in the Fall 2015 magazine! Ms. Hamiliton is a retired special education teacher who lives in Pittsburg.

TheOval

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

University Gallery Porter Hall

February 15 - May 6, 2016

Gwen Walstrand & Sarah Perkins "Cairo"

April 21: Artist's Lecture – 3 p.m.; Reception - 4 p.m.

Harry Krug Gallery Porter Hall

January 22 - April 7, 2016 "Collective Fusion"

PSU Faculty and Staff

English

Distinguished Visiting Writers Series March 24

Rilla Askew

8 p.m.; Governors Room, Overman Student Center; reception follows in the Heritage Room

April 14

Dr. Kathy DeGrave and Dr. Paul Morris 8 p.m.; Governors Room, Overman Student Center; reception follows in the Heritage Room

Music

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

March 21 - Percussion Ensemble McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 1 - SCMS Percussion Group Cincinnati* McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 7 - Wind Ensemble
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 8 - Opera Scenes McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 13 - Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra,* Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 16 - MidAmerica Festival

April 19 - Jazz Ensembles Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 21 - Symphonic Band Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 24 - OratorioBicknell Center, 3 p.m.

April 28 - 4 State Band Festival Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

Theatre

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

April 21 - 24

The Shape of Things

by Neil LaBute/ directed by Caitie Almond; Bicknell Center, Miller Theater; Thurs - Sat.: 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. matinees: 2 p.m.













Overman expansion transforms the campus

The building project that students anticipated most was completed just in time for the opening of the fall semester. The university formally dedicated the expansion and renovation of the Overman Student Center on August 19 to begin the new academic year.

To say it has transformed not only the Oval, but also the student experience is not an exaggeration. The building's expansive lounge areas, student offices, soaring ballroom, high-tech meeting rooms, expanded food options and a long list of other amenities left even the most ardent supporters of the project impressed.

At the dedication ceremony, President Steve Scott said the



completion of the student center put a cap on what had been a milestone year.

"We have celebrated the completion of three major construction projects, all filling an important university need, in less than nine months," Scott said. "Some ask, 'How did you do it? To which I answer, 'The way we do everything at Pittsburg State together."

The president praised students for their leadership on the projects.

"A great idea is nothing without those who believe in your vision and, in this case, our students became one of our earliest public supporters," Scott said.





from TheOval

One professor's legacy

When Blaze Heckert goes to class, it hardly ever crosses his mind that his family name is on the building in which he studies.

Blaze, a Pittsburg State University graduate student in polymer chemistry, has frequent classes in Heckert/Wells Hall, which is named after Leon Clayton Heckert, Blaze's great-great grandfather.

"Honestly, I didn't know that much about him until recently," Blaze said.

Mike Heckert, Blaze's father, said his experience was similar when he was a PSU student.

"I think I had only one professor even ask about it," Mike said.

Blaze's grandfather, Roger Heckert (BS chemistry 1968), said he remembers L.C. Heckert fondly.

"Everyone talks about my grandpa (Leon) because of how smart he was," Roger Heckert said. "But I remember him as a kind person. I remember him as a person who had a passion for students and for teaching."

Heckert said his grandfather was a successful chemist in Pennsylvania and was instrumental in the development of the pesticide DDT before coming to teach at what was then Kansas

Teachers College. During his career he was also a consultant for many chemical companies and played a key role in establishing Spencer Chemical Company in southeast Kansas.

Leon Heckert is also credited with forming the Vocational Technical Institute and served as its director for a time. He retired in 1961. The building that bears his name was dedicated in 1984.



Blaze, Roger and Mike Heckert

Leon Heckert's legacy also includes a long line of PSU alumni. In addition to Blaze, Mike and Roger, the family counts numerous Gorillas, including Roger's father, James, who attended for two years before joining the Navy in WWII.

"It all just makes me very proud," Roger said.



University targets retention

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the median weekly earnings of those who attain at least a bachelor's degree is almost 70 percent higher than those with just a high school diploma, which is why PSU is redoubling its efforts to make sure that students who begin the work of earning a degree actually finish.

"It's a priority," said Lynette Olson, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "We know our students have choices. We want to make certain we're meeting their academic and co-curricular expectations. Doing so will help improve their collegiate experience and ensure financial stability in these times of limited resources."

To help with the process, Pittsburg State has partnered with the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education (JNGI) to launch a new Retention Performance Management (RPM) process at PSU.

"JNGI has worked with more than 300 institutions throughout the world to improve their retention," said Steve Erwin, vice president for student life. "It's a multi-phase process that, in the end, will help our faculty and staff make strategic, data-based decisions to help us keep more of the students we admit."

PSU is actually starting ahead of many other colleges and universities in the U.S. The 2014 retention rate for first-time freshmen at Pittsburg State was 74.3 percent, which is nearly 10 percent higher than the national average, but that's still not high enough, PSU officials said.

The RPM process will include a survey of all current freshmen and sophomores as well as a review of academic programming.

"We're going to examine every facet of the university," said Olson.

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ONLINE PROGRAMS IN RED

College of Arts & Sciences

MASTER'S PROGRAMS:

- Biology
- · Chemistry
- Communication
- English
- ·History
- Mathematics
- · Music
- Physics
- Polymer Chemistry
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN to DNP & MSN to DNP)

Kelce College of Business*

MASTER'S PROGRAMS:

- · Master of Business Administration (MBA) with emphasis in Accounting, General Administration or International Business
- * Kelce College of Business is AACSB accredited

College of Education

MASTER'S & SPECIALIST PROGRAMS:

- Teaching (Elementary, Secondary) English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Reading
- · Educational Leadership
- Educational Technology
- Special Education
- ·Education School Health
- General School Administration
- · Health. Human Performance and Recreation
- Psychology and Counseling

College of Technology

MASTER'S PROGRAMS:

- Engineering Technology
- · Human Resource Development
- Technology

with emphasis in Automotive Technology, Construction Management, Graphics Design, Graphics Management, Personnel Development, Technology Management, Innovation in Technology

·Career and Technical Education

Apply today! pittstate.edu/graduate

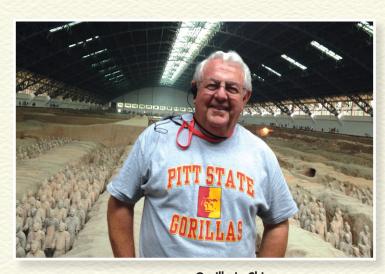


Pittsburg State University

Graduate and Continuing Studies 112 Russ Hall • 620-235-4223 • cgs@pittstate.edu

"Where in the World is Gus?"

Thailand adventure David Martin (BSET '11) and his wife, Rachel (BS '09), made sure to pack their Gorilla gear on a trip to Thailand last fall.



Gorillas at Yosemite Curt Squire ('71) Karen Squire ('70) Charlie Potchad ('70) and Mike Potchad ('71) take in Yosemite during a West Coast road trip in 2015.

Gorilla in China

Charles "Chuck" Puckett (BS '65) wears his PSU gear during a visit to see the famous TerraCotta Warriors on a recent trip to China.



Gorillas at the Wall Four Pitt grads, Jim Kirkpatrick (BS '65), Vicki O'Neal (MS Ed '79), Mary Kirkpatrick (BS '86, MS Ed '94), Lynne Self (BME '65, MS '85, EDS '87), stand in front of the Great Wall. The group traveled to China and toured Beijing and Xian.



Boatload of Gorillas

The six children of the late Henry and Madeline Yartz, all PSU alumni, gathered for a houseboat trip on Table Rock Lake last summer. L-R: Debbie (Yartz) Amershek (BA '91), Tom Amershek (AAS '85 & BS '85), Cynthia (Lundberg) Yartz (BSN '93 & MSN '01), David Yartz (BS '76), Susan (Yartz) Tewell (BA '89), Sheryl Swigart, Robert Swigart (BS '69 & MS '79), Ken Yartz (Cert '77), Jan Yartz, Madeline Yartz, Ron Yartz (BS '77), Lee Ann (Payne) Yartz (BS '78), Larry Yartz (BS '73), Sandy Yartz.

Tell us what interesting places Gus has visited.

E-mail your photo & a brief story to psumag@pittstate.edu



Gorillas in Taiwan

Brandi Dalgarn (BSEd '04 and MS '06), husband Joe Dalgarn (BS '03, MS '05, and EdS '08), and 9-month-old daughter Olivia show their Gorilla pride at the Chiang Kai-shek National Memorial in Taipei, Taiwan.



Gorillas fiddlin' around Dawn, Alex and Kevin McNay show their Gorilla pride in front of a giant fiddle at the Port of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.





Alumnae Pat Trainor (BS ,'65, MS, '69) and sister Jacque Trainor Songer (1961-64) show their Gorilla pride on a visit to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, where they visited Anne of Green Gables and shared the Pitt visitors.



Literary Gorillas

State story with other curious

Gorillas in Vegas While daughter

sports her Benedictine College colors, Wil Huston (BBA, '84) and son Jon Huston (BST, '14) display their Gorilla garb with pride.



Gorillas in Mexico

This family of Gorillas - Joel ('99), Sandy ('72), & Mike ('75) Emerson and Micholee (2004) and Chris (2004) Polsak plus two future Gorillas (Quinn & Avery) - showed their Gorilla pride on the beach at Riviera Maya, Mexico, in July 2014.

On the Inca Trail

Gay (Gregg) Hughes, BSEd '78, wears her "Welcome to the Jungle" shirt on the Inca Trail at Machu Picchu, Peru, during the summer of 2015.

"Where in the World is Gus?"



When in Rome...

Amy Drilling (BSN '10) and her husband, Dustin (BSBA), are proud Gorillas in Rome. Amy joined Dustin, who was on a mid-tour leave from his Army duties in Afghanistan. This was Dustin's second overseas tour, having been deployed to Iraq in 2005-2006. The Drillings spent two weeks touring Italy.



Gorillas on the beach

Karrie (Ross) Fenech (BSEd '08), Dr. Michael Fenech (BS '04), Juan Mendez (BSET '04), and Ashlee (Zinnert) Mendez (BSN '06) show their Gorilla pride on Bavaro Beach, Dominican Republic, in June 2015. More Where in the World is Gus photos at: magazine.pittstate.edu



Retired Gorilla teachers

This group of retired teachers who are also proud Gorillas, pause for a vacation photo on the beautiful Yucatan Peninsula. L-R: Janie Dent Scott, Sandy Askins Post, Diana Davidson Carter, Phil Carter, and Debbie Post Potter.



Gorilla in jaguar country

Ron Gates (BS '69) is a proud Gorilla in front of Iguacu Falls in Foz del Iguacu, Brazil. Ron was in Brazil photographing jaguars at Jaguar Camp in Porto Jofre, where he was lucky enough to spot four of the elusive cats.



Hola! From Mexico

The Stuhlsatz family represents PSU proudly on the beautiful beach in Riviera Maya, Mexico. Jamie, Jenna, Andrew and Meghan are siblings and Pitt State grads. Jamie and Jenna each married PSU alums. L-R: Matt Stoskopf ('06), Jamie Stoskopf ('06), Andrew Stuhlsatz ('12), Jenna Manley ('09), Josh Manley ('09), Meghan Stuhlsatz ('15).

Pittsburg State University www.pittstate.edu

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Steven A. Scott, BS '74, Ed.S. '84

Vice President for University Advancement Kathleen Flannery

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Former president shares lessons about diversity

When Lee and Linda Scott decided to endow a major speakers series at PSU, it was clear that the first speaker in that series would need to be someone of national significance.

How about the 42nd president of the **United States?**

On Nov. 23, 2015, President Bill Clinton spoke to a standing-roomonly crowd in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, to officially open the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series: An Examination of American Life.

continued

Watch online video.







CLINTON SPOKE FOR AN HOUR, largely avoiding politics, but focusing instead on issues of diversity and inclusiveness. He made it a point to speak directly to students, who made up a significant portion of the crowd.

Clinton told the crowd that they are living in the most interdependent period in human history, in which people all around the globe are connected by technology.

"All over the world, in neighborhoods everywhere, you are seeing a crisis of identity,"

"Compromise and cooperation has to become an honorable thing, not a disgrace." Clinton said. "(People are asking,) 'Who am I and how do I relate to you, and do the differences between us make life more

interesting or more deadly? Or is there some way for us to affirm our differences that makes us stronger?"

He argued that diverse groups make better decisions than individuals or homogeneous groups of elites and refusing to work with others is an error.

"Compromise and cooperation has to become an honorable thing, not a disgrace," Clinton said.

Clinton talked about the role that storytelling – around the family table in Hope, Ark., in a time before television – played in his education and in his view of diversity.

"My Uncle Buddy was the smartest man I ever knew," Clinton said. "He taught me that

everyone was inherently interesting and to remember that everybody has a story and wants to be treated with dignity."

Clinton said he remembered his uncle's words when in Africa, working on his global initiative, he heard strangers greet each other with a phrase that translated, means "I see you."

It is a greeting that confers dignity on everyone they meet, Clinton said.

"None of us, in an interdependent world, can afford not to see people," he said. "We have to see people, not for the color of their skin or how they worship or their politics," he said.

Clinton cited the findings of human genome research:

"The most important finding of the human genome research was that every non-age related difference you can see in this audience... is rooted in one-half of one percent of your genome. Otherwise, we're 99 and one-half percent the same.

"For us to go into the 21st century with all of these amazing scientific discoveries and economic possibilities and all of these genuinely serious economic challenges; for us to spend all of our time fretting over our differences is crazy.

"We cannot afford, on a modern stage, with super powerful weapons and borders that look more like nets than walls, to pretend that our differences matter more than our common humanity. Especially when the most interesting, prosperous time in human history awaits us."



Series a gift to the students Watch online video.

An hour after President Bill Clinton delivered the first address in the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series and the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts was empty and quiet. Lee Scott was still smiling. It was clear the event had exceeded his expectations.

"I end this day prouder than I have ever been to be a Pittsburg State graduate," Scott said.

Scott said he and his wife. Linda. wanted to give Pittsburg State students opportunities that frequently are available only to students in big cities and at exclusive schools.

"By having a speaker series in Pittsburg, Kansas, where we bring in the same kind of speakers you see at any of the larger institutions, not only in Kansas, but anywhere in the United States, we're

providing an opportunity for the kids at Pittsburg State University to be exposed to the best thinkers, the best ideas, and the most current thinking that there is," Scott said. "I know that Linda and I would have been so thankful to have this kind of thing if we were still students at Pittsburg State."

Scott said the couple's desire to give back to the university and, in particular, to touch the lives of students has its roots in their Pittsburg State experience.

"I think the young people in the audience at the speaker series would have a hard time understanding what Pittsburg State University means to Linda and I," Scott said. "They see where we ended up and they don't think about where we started in that mobile home in Lone Star Trailer Park. They

don't really think about me working nights at McNally Manufacturing and Linda and I raising a child. For us, Pittsburg State really is what gave us the leg up, the ability to get that first job that then allowed you to prove yourself, to get that next job."

Scott said the goal of the speakers series is to present some of the best minds in a wide variety of fields in the coming years and he believes it can have a positive effect on people in the region.

"I hope that 20 years from now, as people look back....they get the same sense we've had after our first speaker and that is to be lifted up, each of us individually in how we think. I hope that 20 years from now, people look back and say, 'I think I'm a better person, I think I'm a better citizen, I think I'm a better parent because of things that I heard over the years in this series."



Growing up in Baxter Springs in the 1950s and '60s, they were known simply as the Scott Boys - Jim, Lee and Steve the sons of Harold and Avis Scott. They rode their bicycles all over town, walked to church for choir practice and pushed the lawn mower down the street to mow their grandmother's lawn.

Steve Scott was thinking about those days last Nov. 23, as he and his brother Lee, accompanied former President Bill Clinton onto the stage to deliver the first H. Lee Scott Lecture.

"You think about the very modest background that we grew up in," Steve Scott said. "And all these years later, we find ourselves on either side of a former president. It was an extraordinary feeling."

continued



Linda Scott, President Bill Clinton and Lee Scott.



And when President Clinton talked about his childhood in Hope, Ark., both Steve and Lee Scott understood how that experience had shaped him, because it was true for them, as well.

"We started with a great foundation," Steve Scott said. "Our grandparents, parents and our community instilled values that have sustained us over time."

"I think much like President Clinton, I can think back to my grandparents and my great grandparents, to the times we all spent together, the storytelling by my grandmother and the storytelling by my grandfather, who worked in the mines," Lee Scott said.

Those family ties, especially among the three brothers, have remained strong over the years as each took a different path. Jim, the oldest, served in Vietnam before building a highly successful career as a lobbyist, first in Topeka and then in Washington, D.C. Lee spent most of his career with Walmart, rising to become CEO of the world's largest retailer. Steve followed his passion for education, teaching at the high school and then college level before becoming a university administrator and eventually President of Pittsburg State.

Steve Scott said he and his brothers have been proud and supportive of each other throughout their careers.

"Jim and Lee have been incredibly supportive of me and have enjoyed watching my career unfold, Steve Scott said. "That's been a very nice part of the relationships among the three of us."

Steve Scott said one of the special moments at the inaugural speech of the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series was the standing ovation that students and the crowd gave his brother.

"The standing ovation for Lee just made me feel good," Steve Scott said. "It was a huge affirmation." • "We started with a great foundation," Steve Scott said. "Our grandparents, parents and our community instilled values that have sustained us over time."



The Scott family at home, including Jim (left) and Lee in the back row and Steve Scott with parents Avis and Harold Scott.



President Bill Clinton is greeted by Lee Scott, left, and Steve Scott prior to delivering the first address in the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series.



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Researcher seeks keys to a brighter energy future

SINCE MAN FORGED THE FIRST plow and stuck it into the earth, rust has been an enemy. But to Ram Gupta, an assistant professor and research scientist at PSU, rust, or iron oxide, may be one of the keys to a world powered by inexpensive, abundant and environmentally friendly energy.

Gupta, who came to PSU in 2013 as part of the university's Polymer Chemistry Initiative, teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Chemistry and conducts research in labs located in the Kansas Polymer Research Center at PSU. One focus of his research is on green energy production and storage using bio-waste, nanomaterials and 2D layer structured materials.

"I grew up in India in an area in which we got just four or five hours of electricity a day," Gupta said. "That's one of the reasons for my interest in energy."

Petar Dvornic, chair of the Department of Chemistry, said Pittsburg State has built a state-ofthe-art lab for advanced research in "electrically interesting" polymers with an emphasis on their use in batteries and photovoltaics.

That kind of research interests the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which is why Gupta spent part of this past summer in Los Alamos, N.M., doing research in a DOE Visiting Faculty Program.

Gupta's research interests are varied and include everything from optoelectronics and photovoltaics (solar cell) devices, high capacity energy storage devices, polymers and composites, and bio-based polymers, to biocompatible nanofibers for tissue regeneration, scaffold and antibacterial applications, bio-degradable metallic implants, dilute magnetic semiconductors, ferromagnetic materials and multiferroic materials for sensor and data storage applications.

That range of research possibilities keeps Gupta's five graduate and two undergraduate students hopping. He loves teaching, he said, as much as he loves research. For the students, it's a rare opportunity to do research with some pretty hefty practical possibilities.

Gupta said the unusual combination of a strong academic Department of Chemistry with polymer chemistry degree programs, a research facility like the Kansas Polymer Research Center, and the Kansas Technology Center's production and manufacturing laboratories made Pittsburg State the ideal location for him to continue his research.

"I don't think there is any other place that has this unique combination," Gupta said. •



Ram Gupta



Graduate students in Ram Gupta's lab work on combined "sputtering and thermal evaporator," equipment that helps them develop incredibly thin layers of material.

Student signs country music record deal

Watch online video.





Brody Caster

AT 6 FEET 4 INCHES TALL WITH BROAD SHOULDERS AND an easy smile, Douglass native Brody Caster is no stranger to catching eyes. But it's his smooth voice that has caught the attention of the country music industry and radio stations nationwide.

Though he's majoring in construction management at Pitt State, Caster's true passion is music. He began playing guitar at age 8 and began writing and performing country music songs a few years ago.

And in October, in one of those other dream-cometrue moments, Caster signed a record label deal with the Nashville-based SMG Records.

"It was truly unbelievable," he said. "I had sent some of my music to labels to see if there was any interest, and within

two hours I had an e-mail from SMG. I didn't know what to think. I thought at first that it might be a fake, but then I saw the Nashville address. I called the guy and found out that it was very real."

Since then, he's been on a joyride of radio tours, photo shoots and promotional concerts. His first album, "Small Town World," is on iTunes, Spotify, Pandora and several other online music sites.

And perhaps most important to Caster, he's on the radio. "That's pretty surreal, to be honest," he said. "The first time I heard my song on the radio, we were in Clinton, Missouri, on our way to Nashville. It's an emotional moment because it's been a dream for so long." •

For this doctor, families matter

WHEN MAUREEN MURPHY graduated from Pittsburg State University, she was well on her way to a career in journalism or public relations. Last October, however, Murphy was honored as the 2016 Family Physician of the Year by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Murphy is the first to say her journey into medicine was not typical, but it was a path that just seemed natural.

The daughter of legendary football and swimming coach Joe Murphy, Maureen grew up on campus.

"We lived just three blocks south of the campus," Murphy said. "I used to regularly ride my bicycle through the Oval and Dad took me to the locker room on Sundays. I knew all the football players."

At PSU, Murphy majored in English and minored in journalism. She worked on the KANZA and Collegio and after graduation, as a weekend reporter at KODE TV in Joplin. Attracted to big city life, she landed a public relations job with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine in Kansas City.

"I really enjoyed what I was writing about, which was the specialty of family medicine," Murphy said. "It just made a lot of sense."

The thought of taking care of families and communities appealed to Murphy, so she went back to school and took the Medical College Admission Test. She was accepted into the KU School of Medicine, graduating in 1985, with an award for Outstanding Student in Family Practice.

Following a residency in family

medicine at Duke, Murphy became a clinical instructor at the East Carolina School of Medicine Family Practice Center in Greenville, N.C. She was in private practice from 1990 to 2011 and founded an independent, full-spectrum, family medicine practice in Gastonia, N.C., where she became an advocate for both patients and physicians at Gaston Memorial Hospital. She established a family medicine department at the hospital and delivered hundreds of babies.

In 2011, Murphy's passion for teaching brought her to Cabarrus Family Medicine in Concord, N.C., where she mentors the next generation of family physicians and cares for patients of all ages. She remains very involved as a preceptor for medical schools both in and outside of North Carolina.

"I enjoy taking care of everything and also the person within the context of their family," Murphy said. "My practice has always been heavy on not just taking care of one person, but knowing how they function within their family and also how they function within their community."

Murphy said the specialty of family medicine is increasingly important.

"Particularly now," Murphy said,
"when we're looking at an aging
population and there's not enough
primary care doctors to take care of
them. Not all medicine happens in
tertiary care centers. A lot of medicine



Maureen Murphy

happens in places like Pittsburg, Kansas, or Sparta, North Carolina."

Murphy said her role as a family physician means she is privileged to be involved in all parts of families' lives.

"There's a lot of self satisfaction in being a primary care doctor and being part of somebody's life," Murphy said, "plus, you get a lot of cookies at Christmas!"

Krista Postai, a friend and former classmate who is now president and CEO of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, said Murphy took a road not taken at a time when women's career choices were typically more limited.

"She defied the odds and once accepted, there was no barrier too high personally or professionally for her to overcome, which she did with an enduring sense of humor and passion for life and people," Postai said. "Her goal was never to be somebody, but do something, and now she's accomplished both." •

Performance is also a display of will, attitude

STEPHANIE ROBINSON WAS BORN with a cyst on her brain that affects the motor skills on the right side of her body. But don't make the mistake of thinking of this energetic Pittsburg State freshman music major as someone with a disability.

"I think of it as an opportunity," Robinson said, flashing a contagious broad smile, "because I get to venture out and do something new, something that I really like."

In her first semester as a Gorilla, Robinson, from Uniontown, Kan., tackled the challenges that freshmen face with all of the optimism and determination that people who know her have come to expect. That included securing a spot in the Pride of the Plains Marching Band.

Robinson said she has loved music

since she began singing in the choir in first grade.

"Once I picked up a French horn in sixth grade, I fell in love with it and I knew that's what I wanted to do," Robinson said.

Robinson played French horn, using only her left hand, through high school and marched with the Uniontown High School Band. For years, she had her sights set on being a member of the Pride of the Plains Marching Band. That she has come this far isn't a surprise to Doug Whitten, director of the Pride of the Plains.

"I've known Stephanie a long time," Whitten said. "I knew her, actually, before she started playing horn. I've seen her be told, 'No, you really can't play the French horn,' and her become really quite solid at it. I've seen people say, 'No,



make it work. She is a very strong-willed

young lady."

Whitten said that although he could draw up halftime routines that would be less challenging for Robinson, "she absolutely refuses any accommodation."

"It's been really inspiring having Dr. Whitten as a professor," Robinson said, "because he cares for all of his students. He has helped me figure out ways to stay on the field and feel involved when sometimes it's a little harder."

Robinson has big plans for her future. At PSU, she sings in the choir and plays in the wind ensemble and hopes to earn a spot in the orchestra. Eventually, she dreams of earning a doctorate in music and would like to teach.

Whitten said he's betting on Robinson to achieve her ambitious dreams.

"I think she's going to get there because of her will," Whitten said. "She's a strong young lady."

Robinson said being a Gorilla is all about opportunities.

"It's an opportunity one, to show people that anything is possible," Robinson said. "No matter what happens, there are always possibilities. And it gives me the opportunity to overcome things that I never really thought I could." • Watch online video.



Stephanie Robinson

Scholarship couldn't come at a better time



Alex Watson

"It's such a blessing. I have four semesters left at Pitt State, and this will really help me pay for school and also for some other things I'll need over that time."

Alex Watson

WHEN ALEX WATSON, A PITT STATE SENIOR FROM LaCygne, Kan., received news that he'd won a major scholarship, his first instinct was to call his mom. But Watson's mother, Ginger, died in April following a battle with breast cancer.

"Moments like that are tough, but we have a great family, and I called my aunt to tell her. I know my mom is proud of me," Watson said.

Ginger Watson would be proud, indeed. Her son, a construction management major with an emphasis in civil construction, was the 2015 recipient of the \$20,000 Lamberson Scholarship from the Beavers, an association of heavy engineering construction professions. The scholarship, awarded to one student in the nation annually, is named for the late John R. Lamberson, a trustee of the Beavers Charitable Trust who died in 2012.

Upon his death, Lamberson left \$100,000 to the Beavers Charitable Trust, which was to be given to five students over five years in the form of \$20,000 scholarships.

Watson said he had to read the email announcement of the scholarship several times before it sank in.

"I just kept fearing that I had misread it," Watson said. "It seemed too good to be true."

Watson said he is "very grateful" for the scholarship, especially at this time in his life.

"It's such a blessing," he said. "I have four semesters left at Pitt State, and this will really help me pay for school and also for some other things I'll need over that time. It provides a valuable emergency buffer, which will help me relax some about money and really focus on school." •



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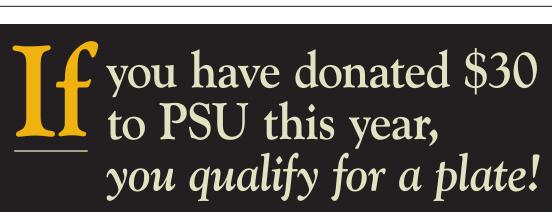
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College of Arts&Sciences



Cat Jepson

Letterpress revival

Senior art major Cat Jepson is living proof that those who wrote the obituary for letterpress printing in the 1980s were dead wrong. Thanks to people like Jepson, this early form of printing, developed by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid 15th century, is enjoying a worldwide renaissance.

In December, the Department of Art dedicated the Cat Jepson Fine Art Printmaking Letterpress Studio. The studio bears Jepson's name because she personally restored three old letterpress machines that will be used in the department's printmaking courses.

Jepson's love affair with letterpress printing began with an art class.

"I took Portico Bowman's printmaking and paper arts class in 2012 and I really fell in love with it," Jepson said. "That's when I became an art major."

In a corner of the studio where the printmaking class was taught, Jepson noticed an old, unused Vandercook No. 2 proof press. The press, delivered to the campus in 1928, was covered in bright blue paint and in disrepair. Jepson got permission to attempt to restore the old press as an independent study project.

"As a kid I was always reverse engineering things," Jepson said, "so this was something I was interested in doing."

Jepson completed the restoration of the press and in the summer of 2014, landed an internship with Skylab Letterpress in Kansas City. There, she soaked up everything she could learn about commercial letterpress operations.

In 2015, Jepson's boyfriend stumbled upon two more unused letter presses in Axe Library.

Jepson got permission from Dean of Library Resources Randy Roberts to restore the two presses, a Vandercook Universal I and a Potter Proof Press, which had sat unused in the library for a couple of decades. A research grant from Dean Pawan Kahol and the Office of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education made the work possible.

"The whole process has been so fulfilling," Jepson said. "I'm happy we've been able to reintroduce the letterpress into the curriculum and to pass along the knowledge I've gained through the restoration."

Pomatto named interim dean

In January,
Provost Lynette
Olson announced
the appointment
of Mary Carol
Pomatto, director
of PSU's Irene
Ransom Bradley
School of Nursing,
as interim dean of
the College of Arts



Mary Carol Pomatto

and Sciences. Karl Kunkel, who has served as dean of the college since 2011, has accepted a position as provost at Southeast Missouri State University.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Pomatto so willingly agreed to provide leadership for the College of Arts and Sciences during the next 18 months as we search for the next dean of the college," Olson said. "Pittsburg State University is fortunate to have the depth of leadership that allows this shift of responsibilities while not putting our exceptional Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing in jeopardy. Interim leadership for the IRB School of Nursing will be announced before long."

Pomatto said she is honored to represent the College of Arts and Sciences and the university as a whole during the interim period.

"The college has a strong history of excellence in each of its academic programs," Pomatto said. "I look forward to working more closely with all of the highly qualified, caring, dedicated faculty, department chairs and staff of the college as we continue to meet student needs, engage in research and scholarship and partner to serve our broader communities."

Olson said foundational work for the search for the next College of Arts and Sciences dean will begin this spring with the appointment of a committee. The position will be advertised during the late summer and early fall of 2016, anticipating an appointment by the end of the 2017 academic year.

Take a stand!

Sitting for long periods of time at work can be a killer, but are office workers ready to accept technology that gets them out of their chairs?

Christian Bedore, a graduate student in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, is testing ergonomically designed desks that allow users to work standing up or sitting down as part of her graduate research project. Bedore, with the help of three other PSU students, installed 16 of the sit-stand desks (SSDs) in offices across campus. After eight weeks, users of the desks will be surveyed to assess the users' acceptance of the new technology, their perceptions of the desks and how the desks affect their musculoskeletal discomforts.

Cheryl Giefer, a professor in the School of Nursing, is overseeing the students' research and conducted a smaller pilot study upon which this research is based.

Planetarium makeover

The L. Russell Kelce Planetarium, all refreshed and revived, debuted a series of new shows during the fall semester. David Kuehn. interim chair of the PSU Department of Physics, said the planetarium underwent a makeover last summer, including the replacement of its old, analog projector.

In addition to the new technology, the planetarium also received new paint, carpeting and upholstery.

Kuehn said the planetarium is a valuable teaching tool for hundreds of students in classes like Descriptive Astronomy and Physical Science each year. It is also an important outreach to the community, hosting tens of thousands of school groups and community members since it was first opened.

For more information, call the Department of Physics at 620-235-4391.



Students' mural now on Broadway

The students in Jamie Oliver's Mural and Large-Scale Painting class this past fall learned a lot about painting on a grand scale and also about life.

The class created a large mural that was installed in downtown Pittsburg just in time for the Art Walk on Oct. 30. Oliver, a professor in the Art Department, said the students learned not only about the techniques used to create murals, but also about the skills needed to work with clients, schedules, deadlines and other aspects of the work world.

The students were commissioned to do the work. which was installed on the south wall of the Beck and Hill Meat Market on Broadway, by Pittsburg's Downtown District Committee. Funding for the art came from a grant from the SEK Art Fest.

Each of the 12 students in the class submitted a design, based on a set of criteria developed by the Downtown District Committee. The committee selected one design from that group.



THE CHILDREN'S CLASSIC "CHARLOTTE'S WEB"

came to life last fall thanks to a large and talented cast, a flexible and changing set and lighting and fanciful costumes.

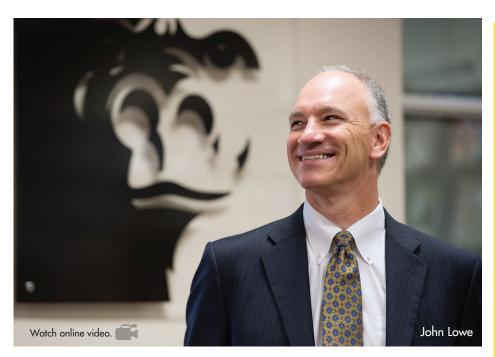
The production, under the direction of Megan Westhoff, played to full houses for five performances in the Bicknell Center's Miller Theater.

Linden Little, who was in charge of set and lighting design, said one of the key factors he took into consideration in designing the set was the need for guick transformations.

"We actually had three barns," Little said. "They turned, spun and flipped. Everything had to be quick."

The sets took the audience from Zukerman's farm to the county fair, with stops in a child's bedroom in between.

Turning the cast of 20 humans into barnyard animals, including Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider, depended on the talents of Lisa Quinteros, who was in charge of costume and makeup design.



Alumni give lead gift for Kelce College of Business improvements

Pitt State alumni John and Susan Lowe, of Houston, Texas, have pledged the largest single gift in the history of the Kelce College of Business. The \$3 million gift will go toward facility improvements at the KCOB.

"John and Susan understand the difference a quality education can make in a student's life because they experienced it for themselves at Pittsburg State," said President Steve Scott. "Their lead gift will allow us to develop plans for a facility that meets the needs of tomorrow's business leaders."

John Lowe is a senior executive

adviser for Tudor Pickering Holt & Co., an energy investment and banking firm. Lowe spent more than 30 years with ConocoPhillips and predecessor firms, where he held a series of executive positions, including executive vice president of exploration & production; executive vice president of commercial; and executive vice president of planning, strategy and corporate affairs.

John Lowe earned a bachelor of science degree in finance and accounting from PSU in 1981. Susan Lowe earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration and finance, also in 1981.

Beta Alpha Psi earns distinguished status

Pittsburg State's Lambda Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals, achieved distinguished status during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Beta Alpha Psi is a nonprofit international honorary and service organization that recognizes and promotes achievements of accounting, finance, and information systems students. Beta Alpha Psi President Shawn Harter announced Pitt State's distinguished status in a letter sent to Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business.

New leaders in place

Four faculty members in Pittsburg State's Kelce College of Business have assumed new leadership roles.

Paul Grimes, dean of the KCOB, announced the following appointments in the fall:

Din Cortes, associate dean and director of the MBA Program; Kevin Bracker, chair of the Department of Economics, Finance and Banking; Lynn Murray, chair of the Department of Management and Marketing; and Eric Harris, professor and college director for research and engagement.

"Our recent organizational and leadership changes place the college in a great position going into the new academic year," Grimes said.



Din Cortes



Kevin Bracker



Lynn Murray



Eric Harris

Enactus store thrives, expands

Nearly two years after opening its doors in downtown Pittsburg, the studentrun Krimson Kultuur store is proving to be a successful business venture and a training ground for future business leaders.

Suzanne Hurt, adviser for Pittsburg State's Enactus group, said the store is enjoying substantial growth over its first year in business. The store, located at 508 N. Broadway, sells items created by local and international artists.

"Our sales are up more than 30 percent over this time last year," Hurt said. "Our students have done a remarkable job of bringing in quality items from a variety of local and global artists. The community has really supported us, and we're quite pleased with how things are going."





Kevin Bracker

Ultra runner

Three years ago, finance professor Kevin Bracker took up running as a way to lose weight and improve his health. It quickly became his passion. These days, Bracker is running anywhere between 50-70 miles a week and last fall completed the 50-mile ultramarathon at the Ad Astra per Ultra races in Derby, Kan. He finished in 9 hours, 19 minutes and 45 seconds. Congrats, Dr. Bracker!

Kelce is family-friendly

The Kelce College of Business is once again among the top five family-friendly business schools in the nation.

The Princeton Review recently published its 2016 list of the top 10 family-friendly business schools, and Pittsburg State ranks No. 4 in the U.S., one spot above Harvard University.

Pitt State is joined in the top five by Brigham Young University, the International Institute for Management Development and Dartmouth College. Other institutions in the top 10 include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Indiana University, Duke University, Texas Southern University and the University of Notre Dame.

"To see our name on a list right above Harvard is pretty incredible, and it's a testament to the family-friendly culture we cherish here at Pittsburg State," said KCOB Dean Paul Grimes.



College of Education



Superintendent offers advice to new teachers

Who better to offer words of encouragement and advice to new teachers than the Kansas superintendent of the year?

Cynthia Lane, a PSU alumna, superintendent of the Kansas City, Kan., schools and the 2016 Kansas superintendent of the year, spoke to education students in December, in advance of their graduation and the beginning of their careers as teachers.

Speaking at the College of Education's Student Teacher Recognition Ceremony, Lane said she was optimistic about the future.

"You are entering the field at a remarkable time," Lane told the students. "(It is) a time when our federal government and our state leaders are beginning to understand that we need to begin to focus on educating the whole child, not just the test score."

Lane congratulated the students for "choosing the profession that truly makes the most difference in the world. It is a worthy endeavor," Lane said. "It is a difficult endeavor. You will be challenged and you will be pushed and you will be asked to stretch yourself."

Lane didn't promise that the path ahead would always be smooth.

"Your first two years may not be a lot of fun, frankly. It's difficult," Lane said.

"But realize that you're learning to put it all together to help those children reach their dreams."

She offered three things for students to think about as they begin their teaching careers.

"Number one, be informed," Lane said. "Number two, be clear and intentional about every act and, number three, be inspired and inspire others."

Lane said one source of inspiration for teachers is in the students they serve.

"Listen to their stories," Lane said. "Find hope in their stories. And then use those stories to inspire you to get out of bed every day and know that each and every moment you spend with children shapes their lives, shapes our communities' lives, shapes our state and will transform this nation into the nation that we all dream America can be."

Following Lane's address, the College of Education presented a medallion to each graduating senior and recognized the Delta Kappa Gamma/Lyla Vaughn Award winners, Aaron Dean of Overland Park, Kan.; and Ashley Dyche, of Shawnee, Kan.

The event concluded with the students' taking of the Teacher's Oath.

Watch online video.



New minor promotes STEM education

A new minor in technological literacy is aimed at preparing future elementary school teachers to promote and teach various technological concepts.

A joint effort between the College of Education and the College of Technology, the new minor combines educational technology courses with technology and engineering education courses to provide a comprehensive approach to the practical use and implementation of computer skills, design and problem solving skills and teaming concepts into real world practices and experiences.

Tracy Rampy, an instructor in the Department of Teaching and Leadership, said the goal is to enable students to do more than just talk about STEM.

"We have created an environment that provides them with relevant, handson learning experiences that they can transform into their future classrooms," Rampy said. "They have the opportunity to investigate and explore activities, create rich, inquiry-driven lesson plans, and work alongside elementary students and their teachers to gain the confidence and knowledge needed to weave STEM concepts into the classroom."

Inspiring future teachers

They're still in high school, but a group of students who think they may one day become teachers learned some important lessons about the connections between learning and activity at the 2015 Future Educators of America conference at PSU.

"Our goal is to provide these high school students with information on current trends in education, the education programs we offer at PSU and to advocate for education in general," said Steve Brown, assistant coordinator for field placement and assessment in the College of Education.

Graduate continues family traditions

In December. Krista Gosch graduated from PSU with a degree in education. In January, she took over a fifth grade classroom at Webb City Middle School.



Krista Gosch

Krista's story is not unusual. In fact, it would have been surprising if she hadn't attended Pitt State and if she hadn't decided to become a teacher. A fifth-generation Gorilla, Gosch also comes from a long line of teachers.

"It runs in the family," Gosch said. The family's PSU legacy began soon after the university was founded, Gosch said, when her great, great grandfather, Clyde O. Davidson, attended what would eventually become Pittsburg State. In ensuing years, more of the family followed. Gosch's grandfather played on the 1961 national championship football team and an uncle played on the 1991 national championship football team.

"We attend a lot of football games," Gosch said.

Gosch's father, Brett, is a PSU grad, but her mother, Carin, is a University of Central Missouri alumna.

"We've made her an honorary Gorilla," Gosch laughed. "She was a Mule, but has come to love this place as much as the rest of us."

Many of Gosch's family members are or have been teachers and she said she knew she wanted to be a teacher from a young age.

"A gentleman came up to me one time and told me my grandfather (a school administrator) had saved his life by believing in him when he was a student," Gosch recalled. "If I can make that kind of impact on a child's life, that would be amazing."

Data doesn't surprise obesity expert

On a new U.S. map issued last fall, Kansas sits in the middle of a dark red swath that plunges down through the Midwest and engulfs the South. The map, issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows adult obesity rates for 2014. On this kind of map, red isn't a color anyone wants to be.



Mike Carper, center, discusses the testing equipment with visitors to the Human Performance Lab.

"I'm not surprised," said Mike Carper, assistant professor in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation. "This tracks pretty much along the same lines we've been seeing with our students."

Carper, who is director of PSU's Human Performance Lab, has done extensive research on obesity. He said the most recent numbers are troubling because of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and other illnesses that can be expected because of obesity.

For decades, Carper said, data has been collected on students in lifetime fitness classes at PSU. He has analyzed data collected on nearly 3,000 students since 2010, examining factors such as body mass index (BMI), waist-to-hip ratios, blood pressure, overall strength, flexibility and a number of other pieces of data that together give a picture of the overall fitness of each student.

"It's not just that they're putting on more weight," Carper said, "they're also getting less flexible and losing strength."

A healthy diet needs to be paired with physical activity to begin to turn the obesity epidemic around, according to Carper.

Alternative certification program revived

The Kansas City Fellows alternative teaching certification program has been "reinvigorated," according to Howard Smith, dean of the College of Education.

The masters degree program, which prepares people who have degrees in specific content areas to become middle school and high school teachers in the Kansas City, Kan., school district, enrolled its first cohort in 2001. More than 200 teachers went through the program over the next decade. Recently, however, there has been a gap.

Smith said the catalyst to reinvigorate the program is the same now as it was when the program began.

"There are a number of vacancies that the district just hasn't been able to fill through traditional methods," Smith said.

Smith said the teaching fellows program has already had a tremendous impact on students.

"We're excited to be able to help the district continue to meet the needs of its students and provide the high quality educational experience the district's patrons expect and deserve," Smith said.

For more information on the KC Fellows alternative teaching certification program, contact the KC Metro Center, 913-529-4487.

College of Technology



Westar donates solar panels

Westar Energy recently donated a mobile solar panel unit to the College of Technology as part of the educational component of the Solar Photovoltaic Project.

Erik Mayer, associate professor of electronics engineering technology, said the unit is used to help give students a first-hand look at how solar energy works.

"It's very nice to have something like this from Westar, because we can wheel it right outside and study the various ways that solar energy can be harnessed and put to use," Mayer said.

Online HR degree ranked 4th in nation

PSU's online Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Development is among the best online human resource degrees in the nation, according to the Affordable Colleges Online (AFC) website.

Pitt State's program is ranked 4th in the nation, according to AFC. The rankings are based on a variety of factors, including student-teacher ratio, cost and financial assistance options.

Construction receives accreditation

The construction management program at PSU is often described as one of the best in the nation. That reputation was validated recently by one of the nation's top accrediting agencies.

The program, within the College of Technology, is one of just two construction management programs nationwide to be accredited by ABET, a not-for-profit, non-governmental accrediting agency for programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.

"ABET is the gold standard for accreditation nationally," said Jim Otter, chair of the PSU School of Construction.

PSU makes push for School of Transportation

Pittsburg State is requesting \$1.5 million from the state for the School of Transportation, which would expand existing programs while creating new degree and certificate programs.

University officials believe that the creation of the School of Transportation would place Pittsburg State among the elite automotive programs in the nation and go a long way toward increasing the number of qualified transportation professionals in the workforce.

"Funding of this proposal would lead to direct and measurable outcomes, both for the university and the transportation industry," College of Technology Dean Bruce Dallman said. "Automotive Technology graduates would increase by nearly 35 percent over five years. This proposal offers the state of Kansas a unique opportunity to invest in postsecondary education in a way that will have an immediate and significant impact."



Largest ever, two-day Company Day

More than 250 companies from across the nation met with technology students in September during the largest ever Company Day event at the KTC. This was the first year the event took place over two full days.

"We absolutely needed to make it a two-day event in order to give our students and the companies in attendance plenty of time to make those valuable face-toface connections," Bruce Dallman, dean of the College of Technology, said.

Tim Whittaker, a junior wood technology major, said Company Day is the premier recruiting event of the year.

"As students, we don't have time to go out and meet all of these companies face to face," he said. "So it's great that they all come to us. It's incredibly beneficial for us, and Pittsburg State makes it happen every year."

Watch online video.



Graduate scores 'dream job' at Tesla

For all but two of his 34 years, David Redick lived in the Midwest.

"I was born in San Diego, though, so I've always sort of felt like a Californian at heart," said Redick, who graduated in December with a degree in manufacturing engineering technology.

This spring, Redick returned to California to begin his professional career at Tesla Motors as an associate product excellence engineer. Redick, a self-proclaimed "car guy," said working for a company like Tesla was always a dream. But, he said, it was always just a dream.

"I never thought it would be possible," he said. "It was a pipe dream. Now that it's happening, I feel like I'm living someone else's life. It doesn't yet feel real."

Students design, build furniture for KCCTE offices

Two wood technology students not only designed, but built the impressive furniture in the new Kansas Career and Technical Education Center offices inside the Kansas Technology Center.

Students Mark Welle and Sam Galliart were challenged by Assistant Professor Doug Hague to take on the task of building the furniture.

"I thought it could be a nice challenge for our students to see if they'd be willing to design and build the furniture needed for the office," said Hague, assistant professor in the Wood Technology Department.

Save for a couple of weeks off for various reasons, Galliart and Welle worked all

summer to create the new furniture that is now inside the KCCTE offices.

"Our instructors told us a couple of things to think about and watch for, but for the most part, it was just us," Galliart said. "That's what made it such a fun and exciting challenge."

> Mark Welle and Sam Galliart



Dallman to end career as it began

Bruce Dallman began his academic career more than 30 years ago as a classroom teacher, and that is exactly how he prefers to end it.



Bruce Dallman

Dallman, who has served as dean of Pittsburg

State's College of Technology since 2006, will step down from the post at the conclusion of the spring 2016 semester. After taking some time off in the fall, Dallman will return to PSU to teach technology courses during the spring 2017 semester.

Then, full retirement.

"I started this amazing educational journey in the classroom, and I think that's a proper way to close it out," he said. "Getting back to teaching is something I've always wanted to do at least one more time, and I'm excited to have that opportunity here at Pittsburg State."

Dallman said he has enjoyed his 10 years as dean of the College of Technology, adding that his favorite part of the job has been the people.

"The thing I'll remember most about my time at Pitt State is just how incredible the faculty and staff are," he said. "I've had the pleasure of working alongside some very talented men and women, and they are the reason this job has been such a joy. Plus, the students here are exceptional. They work hard, they're eager to learn and they are a lot of fun to be around every day. I really couldn't have asked for a better place to spend the past 10 years."

Athletics

Lots of planning goes into hosting national event

Almost as soon as it was announced that the 2016 NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships would be held at Pittsburg State University, university and community organizers began planning.

"We began planning for this the day we were awarded the bid," said Tom Myers, associate athletics director for facilities. "We started having meetings with the NCAA in March of 2015 and campus constituent meetings in August."

It takes a lot of people to host an event of this size and importance, Myers said, and there are so many details to attend to. The list of things the committee worked on seemed endless and included: awards, banquets, broadcasting and Web streaming, the competition site, drug testing, equipment (for competitors and officials), equipment inspection, shipping and receiving of equipment for teams, financial administration, lodging, marketing and promotions, branding, fan engagement, media coordination and credentials, medical, meet management, merchandise and sales, officials and timers, parking, programs, safety and security, tickets, transportation and volunteers.

Myers said the championships, on March 11-12, brought an estimated 554 student athletes and staff of almost 250 to Pittsburg. About 3,000-3,500 spectators were expected to attend over the two days.

Myers said there were about 350 volunteer opportunities during the two-day championship. Volunteers helped in many areas, including with the banquet and opening ceremony on Thursday, March 10, as ushers, with merchandise sales and other activities on Friday and Saturday.

"This is a great opportunity for Pittsburg State, the Plaster Center and the entire Pittsburg Community to make a national impression," Myers said. "Many people have worked very hard to guarantee that impression is a positive one."



Gomez leads volleyball program

Jen Gomez, who for the past five seasons has served as the head coach at Colorado State University-Pueblo, has been named head coach at Pittsburg State. **Athletics Director**



Jen Gomez

Jim Johnson made the announcement in December.

Gomez is the 11th head coach in program history. She succeeds Jenny Mueller who resigned from the position in November.

Gomez takes over a Pitt State program that went 2-27 in 2015 and has enjoyed only one winning season in the past six years.

"I am just thrilled to be able to lead the volleyball program at Pittsburg State," Gomez said. "The athletic department has such a great reputation as a whole. I am beyond excited to be a part of that. I want to work to get the volleyball program where it belongs, at the top of the MIAA and nationally recognized once again."

Gomez has 10 years of collegiate head coaching experience and a 202-135 career coaching record. She averaged 26.8 wins per year in five seasons as head coach at Oklahoma City University from 2006-10 while restarting a program that had been dormant on campus since 1983. In her final season at OCU, she led the Stars to a conference tournament championship and the program's first berth in the NAIA Division I National Tournament.

A native of Dodge City, Kan., Gomez was an NJCAA All-America player at Garden City Community College, as well as an NJCAA Scholar Athlete, before twice earning Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Player of the Year honors at CSU-Pueblo.

Wishes do come true

The basketball game on Jan. 30 was a very special black-tie affair, thanks to the hard work of the PSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and a little girl named Lily.

SAAC hosted the Make-A-Wish celebration between the Women's and Men's games against Northwest Missouri State University for Lily, a 7-year-old from Wichita, Kan., who has a congenital heart condition.

Lily has dreamed of going to Broadway and meeting Alfie Boe, the actor who plays Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables" and the SAAC was able to make that wish come true by raising more than \$7,500 during the 2014-15 school year. For their hard work, NCAA Division II selected PSU SAAC to host a wish reveal.

The entire day was planned by SAAC. Lily was treated to lunch of her favorite foods with members of SAAC. She met both the men's and women's basketball teams and sat on the bench with the women's team during the second

half of their game against Northwest Missouri.

The real celebration began between the men's and women's games. The gym went dark and flashes began to go off as a red carpet was unfurled to center court. Lily was escorted to her seat at center court by baseball player Dylan Donley, where members of SAAC showered her with gifts that were clues about things that she would be doing in New York. She was treated to a performance from "Les Miserables" and then the voice of Alfie Boe filled the gym as he greeted Lily and invited her to spend time backstage with him before the show.

Both the Pittsburg State and Northwest Missouri teams wore Make-A-Wish shirts for pre-game warm-ups in honor of Lily and Broadway and New York themed songs were played.

PSU SAAC is already working to raise money for this year's Make-A-Wish goal. Anyone wanting to make a donation to Make-A-Wish for Pittsburg State can do so by visiting https://ssl.wish. org/NCAADII/, choosing Kansas for the state and Pittsburg State for the school.



Dylan Donley, baseball; Kylie Gafford, basketball; and Gus helped make it a special day for Lily.

Watch online video.



Student athletes honor faculty

Ten faculty members were honored for their support of student athletes during the Gorillas' final home basketball game. The 10 were selected by studentathletes from each team as part of an initiative by the PSU Athletics Council.

"Between practice, training and travel, it's not always easy to have a student-athlete in your classroom," said PSU Athletics Council Chair Karl Kunkel, "Our students wanted a way to thank their professors for helping them focus on academics and understanding their role and challenges as student-athletes."

Faculty and instructors honored this year are: Heather Eckstein, Lynn Murray, Peter Chung, Mandy Peak, Barbara McClaskey, David O'Bryan, Jeremy Wade, Rebeca Book, George Kaemmerling and John Iley.

Athletics

Brandecker gets a second chance

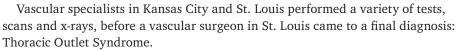
As the Gorillas begin their spring campaign, George Brandecker, a senior right-handed pitcher from Lee's Summit, Mo., is just happy to have a second chance.

After a game in early April 2014, Brandecker started to experience swelling and redness in his right arm.

"I was also noticing that I was out of breath when I was walking to class," Brandecker said. "It came to the point that sometimes, in the middle of the game after two outs, I would call a timeout and untie and retie my shoelaces just so I could catch my breath."

After Brandecker discovered a lump under his right arm, some specialists thought he could have a blood disorder that would require him to hang up his cleats immediately and take blood thinners for the rest of his life.

"That was one of the hardest things for me to hear, that my days of playing baseball could be done that fast," he said.



Thoracic Outlet Syndrome occurs when the nerves or blood vessels in the space between the collarbone and first rib are compressed, causing numbness, weakness and swelling in the arm.

Brandecker exercised a medical redshirt his senior season and underwent surgery in July 2014. He then began the long, slow process of strengthening his arm in order to come back stronger the following season.

"The therapy went relatively well," Brandecker said. "There were a few hiccups here and there that slightly delayed my therapy, but I was able to finish and eventually start throwing again."

In the summer of 2015, Brandecker took a job with a company in Los Angeles, commuting to San Diego twice a week to play for the San Diego Waves. Then, he was offered an opportunity to throw in the Cape Cod League in Boston.

"I couldn't believe it," Brandecker said. "My hand was shaking after putting down the phone. This league is a league everyone wants to play in. It was definitely a dream come true to be able to play in the best league in the country and pitch against the best hitters in college baseball."

Brandecker joined the league in July, moving from San Diego to Falmouth, Mass., to play for the Falmouth Commodores. The Commodores played 24 games in 31 days in July. Brandecker played in five games, pitching four innings and posting an 8.30 ERA.

"I still sometimes think about 15 months ago, when I was in a hospital room having a doctor tell me that I could potentially not be able to play baseball anymore," Brandecker said. "I am incredibly blessed and feel so fortunate.

"As I try to learn and experience as much as I can, I thank God whenever I can for giving me these incredible opportunities and allowing to have the best and most eventful summer of my life."



New sports medicine center opens

Pitt State athletes have a new space to relieve the aches and pains that competition often brings.

Intercollegiate Athletics hosted an open house for the newly renovated and expanded Freeman Health System Gorilla Sports Medicine Center in the Weede PE Building on Feb. 11. President Steve Scott, Freeman Health CEO Paula Baker and Dr. Michael Zafuta were on hand to officially open the new facility.

Phil Carr, head athletic trainer and associate athletic director for sports medicine, said the new facility increased the space to take care of student athletes from 1,250 square feet to 2,200 square feet.

"The partnership with Freeman also allowed Pittsburg State to almost double the athletic training staff, moving from three certified graduate assistant athletic trainers on staff to five," Carr said.

The center's new 800-gallon Grimm Scientific Hydrotherapy Console will accommodate eight large males on the cold side (450 gallons) and six large males on the hot side (350 gallons). The two 110-gallon stainless steel tanks previously in use would accommodate only two larges males at a time. The Grimm Hydrotherapy Console has a stand-alone, insulated cooling and heating system, which eliminates the need to add ice or continuously add hot water to keep the water at appropriate treatment temperatures.

The Sports Medicine Center also includes a new shuttle MVP Pro, which improves the athletic training staff's ability to rehabilitate knee, hip, back, ankle and eventually upper extremity injuries.

Carr said the facility improves the university's ability to continue to provide quality rehabilitation in-house following injuries and surgeries.



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Alumni News

Proud of these Gorillas

What do an NFL star, a community leader, a captain of business and a manager at one of the world's most respected hospitals have in common? They're all Gorillas and we couldn't be prouder of them.

PSU honored Ronnie Chang, Angela Robinson Markley, Brian Moorman and Timothy W. Puetz at Homecoming last fall with its 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award. The quartet spent the weekend doing everything from riding in the Homecoming Parade to speaking to classes and even found time to be honored at a special ceremony at the Wilkinson Alumni Center.

The 2015 Outstanding Alumni
Award recipients are: Ronnie Chang,
general manager and vice president
of the Integrated Bagging Systems
Division of Inteplast Group, the largest
manufacturer of integrated plastics
in North America; Angela Robinson
Markley, the 6th District commissioner
for the Unified Government of
Wyandotte County and Kansas City,
Kan., and in-house counsel to BRR
Architecture, Inc.; Brian Moorman, a

record-setting NFL punter and founder of the P.U.N.T. Foundation, which serves pediatric cancer patients and their families; and Timothy W. Puetz, operations manager at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md., the world's largest hospital devoted entirely to clinical research.

The four honorees have had vastly different careers and their accomplishments are varied, but back on campus, they shared surprisingly similar thoughts and emotions.

"The professors I had, the coaches I had, the people in the community

– Pitt State changed my life and I'm very thankful to have attended here,"

Moorman said.

Puetz credited Coach Russ Jewett and the cross country and track team for his love of lifetime fitness, the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation for putting him on the path to his current career and ROTC for helping him develop his leadership skills. Markley said she honed the writing skills critical to the work she does today in the Collegio newsroom and in class under professors like Mark Arbuckle and Gerard Attoun.

For Ronnie Chang, Pittburg State was his introduction to the U.S.

"I was so impressed by the people I met at PSU," Chang said. "Since graduation, I've been traveling nationwide, internationally, and I can tell you that the experience that I had just proved PSU and the people of Kansas represent the best of America. That is honesty, decency and hardworking people. I was lucky I was immersed in that culture and that shaped me."

"The professors I had, the coaches I had, the people in the community — Pitt State changed my life and I'm very thankful to have attended here."

– Brian Moorman





2015-16 Alumni Association Board of Directors

Front Row: DeAnn Hill, Amy Vinton, Jennifer Huff, Jan Allai, Billie Jo Drake, Dotty Willis, Dave Torbett, Dan Duling, Jon Bartlow. Back Row: Nick Dellasega, Steve Zimmerman, Susan Cook, Kelly Peak, Garth Herrmann, Jeff Ney, Robyn Harrell, Christine Schremmer, Kevin Cofer





Workers make progress on the installation of the elevator in the Wilkinson Alumni Center. When completed, the project will provide easy, safe access to both levels of the building.

Class Notes

Class of 1950

John Vitt (BSE) and his wife, Eileen (Bach), celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in Bartlesville, Okla. Vitt is a retired control systems designer for Phillips Petroleum Co. The Vitts have four children: Michael, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Janet, of Sacramento, Calif.; Cynthia Murphy, of Norman, Okla.; and Elaine, of Bartlesville. They have seven grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren.

Class of 1952

Forrest Nelson (BSE) recently celebrated his 93rd birthday and was featured on "Brad's Beat" on KSNF, NBC. Forrest keeps busy by working a couple of hours a day at his store with his son.

Class of 1957

Marcel Normand (BSE, MS '59), a retired social science instructor from Fort Scott Community College, recently published his second book, "The Lucile James Story: Portrait of a Remarkable Teacher," which tells the story of a woman who wanted to teach since she was three. A native of Pleasanton, Kan., James received a BS from KU and an MS from PSU. She went on to become a successful and effective English and literature teacher at Fort Scott High School. Normand taught with James for 25 years.

Class of 1959

Patricia Louise (Tassi) McKee (BSE, MS '66, '77 EDS) has retired from Northeast High School in Arma where she taught for 50 years. A native of Arma, McKee graduated from the Arma high school in 1954. She accepted a position as biology teacher and guidance counselor at that same school in 1964. Through the years, McKee was always a counselor, but also taught career education, psychology and freshman orientation.

Class of 1960

John Kekec (BSE, MS '66) had his book, "The Passing Years," accepted for publication by the University of Florida Academic Press. The book is a fictional account of a terrorist plot set in the Ozarks. Kekec is a retired college instructor and consulting engineer. He and his wife live in Bonne Terre, Mo.

Virginia Rush (BSE) was featured at the 63rd annual convention of the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA) at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center

Class of 1967

Steve Gash (BA, MS '69) has been named rifle editor for Shooting Times magazine, and will contribute monthly features on various topics. He has written for various outdoor publications for more than 20 years. Published by





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the Integrated Media Division of the Outdoor Sportsman Group, Shooting Times has a circulation of 232,000 monthly and is the premier journal of technical information for shooting enthusiasts.

Class of 1971

Christopher R. Johnson (BA) retired after 39 years of court management service last September. Johnson spent 11 years with the Kansas Judicial System and 28 years as United States District Clerk, Western District of Arkansas.

Class of 1975

Randall Love (BSBA Finance) recently retired as a partner from KPMG LLP after 38 years in the Big 4 public accounting business. Love played basketball under coach Bill Johnson. Since 1979, Love has lived in the Los Angeles area with his wife, Jan (a 1974 Pitt State graduate), three daughters, and two grandchildren.

Class of 1980

Debbie Alvord (BSE) was honored at a PSU football game as Educator of the Game. Alvord was awarded a \$500 check, which she is deciding how to spend in a manner that will affect most students at Parsons USD 503.

Class of 1983

Kent Barfoot (BST) retired as Humboldt Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Chief after serving for 29 years.

Class of 1990

Steve Noble (BSE) has been named the superintendent of the Seaman School District in Topeka, Kan. He will begin his duties on July 1. Noble previously served as superintendent of schools at USD 410 in Hillsboro. After earning his bachelor's degree at Pittsburg State, Noble went on to earn a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and a doctorate from Wichita State University.

Class of 1991

Rance McClain, DO, FACOFP, FAOASM (BS '91) assumed the position of associate dean, clinical sciences, and professor of clinical sciences at the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg, Miss. He oversees the clinical education of more than 200 third- and fourth-year medical students during their clinical rotations. McClain joined WCUCOM after spending more than 15 years

in medical education at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Kansas City, Mo. A 1996 graduate of KCUMB, McClain is a board certified family physician and is also board certified in neuromusculoskeletal medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine and holds a certificate of additional qualifications in sports medicine.

continued





Class Notes

Class of 1994

Jane A. Anderson (MS) and Robert (Bob) Jackson of Ontario, Canada, were married in January 2015. The couple met on the square dance floor in south Texas in the Rio Grand Valley in 2013. Jane and Bob travel back and forth from a home in Grove, Okla., to Ontario, to Mission, Texas, every year.

Class of 2005

Jessica Busse (BSET, MBA, '10) has been promoted to Beechcraft Premier 1, Hawker 400, Cessna Citation M2 business jet technical support manager. Busse has been with the Cessna/ Textron Aviation in Independence, Kan., for almost 10 years.

Class of 2007

Zach Weast (BBA) was promoted to the position of vice president of commercial lending at Rose Hill Bank. In his new position he will continue to focus on building and servicing the bank's portfolio of business loans.

Class of 2008

Brandon Rogers-Plott (BA) has been named director of employment services for Engage Life Institute. This department requires specialized licensing through the State of Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (Vocational Rehab). The organization assists persons diagnosed with physical, emotional and cognitive barriers in finding employment. Brandon previously worked as a certified professional life coach and holistic practitioner for Engage Life. Engage Life serves the entire state of Oklahoma with its focus primarily on clients who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, or who are transgendered or who are rehabilitated offenders.

Class of 2009

Hannah Dillon (MS) has been named assistant principal of North Lawn and Heller Elementary in Neodesha, Kan. Prior to that, she taught 4th grade at North Lawn Elementary for nine years. Dillon joined current and aspiring leaders from 25 Kansas school districts to participate in Greenbush Leadership Academy for the 2015-2016 school year.

Class of 2010

Tiffany Martin (BS) and Sharif Mekkaoui, both of Wichita, Kan., were married in September 2015.

Class of 2011

Tyler Riggs (BS) along with his wife, Kayla Riggs, opened Riggs Chiropractic in December of 2015 in Pittsburg, Kan. Tyler played football for the Gorillas and is the nephew of the late Tommy Riggs as well as Kendall Gammon. Both Tyler and Kayla are graduates of the Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City.

Class of 2013

Jayson Stettler (BS) has been promoted to A.V.P. commercial loan officer with University Bank, where he has worked since 2011. For the past two and one-half years, he has worked in loan administration and as a credit analyst. Stettler is scheduled to receive his MBA from PSU this May.



St. Pius X Catholic Student Center and Newman Club

Faith Forward

St. Pius X believes in advancing our Faith forward into new and exciting missions for our Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot accomplish this without the help of our dedicated alumni and wider St. Pius X community.

Many thanks to our newly formed Advisory Council headed by alumnus and professor of Mathematics, Dr. Timothy Flood. Please send us your prayers and support in helping to lead the students to Jesus Christ and forming them in relationship to Him.

In Christ, **Fr. David Voss**

Chaplain of St. Pius X
Catholic Student Center



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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.

Dorine L. (Bowman) Hager, 1938, Venice, Fla.

Melissa S. (Ogle) Hardin, 1938, Kansas City, Kan.

Jennie O. (Sheldon) Herring, 1942, Wichita, Kan.

Kathryn M. (Calhoun) Kroger, 1942, McPherson, Kan.

Kathleen I. (Gering) Lee, 1947, Pittsburg, Kan.

Ross I. Pauli, 1947, Manhattan, Kan. Don L. Yerkes, 1947, Independence, Kan. Ruth M. (Trabue) Doty, 1947, Joplin, Mo. Georgie E. (Potter) Clayton, 1948,

Bartlesville, Okla.

Virginia A. (Stirewalt) Langford, 1949, Joplin, Mo.

Danny Schuberger, 1949, San Jose, Calif. Betty J. (Kissee) Lawson, 1949, Eagle Mountain, Utah

Mary L. (McNally) Aubert, 1950, Overland Park, Kan.

Charles E. Peterson, 1950, Pittsburg, Kan. Ron E. Hedrick, 1950, Spokane, Wash. Kenneth E. Bean, 1950, Weston, Texas Herbert P. Levan, 1950,

Fort Washington, Md. Morten A. Gundersen, 1950, Torrington, Conn.

Hugh C. Price, 1950, Wichita, Kan. Robert R. Trimble. 1950. Columbia. Mo. Clinton Brown, 1951, Derby, Kan. Royal W. Boone, 1951, Billings, Mont.

Mary E. Kirby, 1951, Valley Center, Kan. Norma L. (Johnson) Hamilton, 1952,

Wakeeny, Kan.

Harold L. Norris, 1952, Pratt, Kan. J. B. Towner, 1953, Pittsburg, Kan. Charles H. Angle, Jr., 1953, Tulsa, Okla. Bill C. Hopkins, 1953, Coffeyville, Kan. Reta N. (Boyd) Kennedy, 1953, Prairie Village, Kan.

Barbara R. Palling, 1953, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Irene E. (Hepler) Smith, 1954, Iola, Kan. Terry W. Wolfe, 1954, Wichita, Kan. Bonnie J. (Funk) Wood, 1954,

Osawatomie, Kan.

Lowell W. Van Tassel, 1956, Baxter Springs, Kan.

David L. Suenram, 1956, Mountain Home, Ark.

Bert N. Felter, 1956, Independence, Mo. Charles W. Stengel, Jr., 1957, Brentwood, Tenn.

Marvin W. Butcher, 1957, Houston, Tex. Nellie I. Myers, 1957, Winfield, Kan. Raymond H. Holloway, 1957, Novato, Calif. Ethel M. (Brown) Jones, 1958, Atchison, Kan.

Mary N. (Mason) Beth, 1958, Fort Scott, Kan.

Billie L. Pallett, 1958, Raytown, Mo. Richard O. Tessmer, 1958, Bella Vista, Ark. Don R. George, 1959, Mulvane, Kan. Richard D. Silfr, 1959, Fairfax, Va. Donald D. Bolander, 1959, St. Joseph, Mo. Ronald J. Breneman, 1960, Girard, Kan. Garry J. Bowersock, 1961, Independence, Kan.

Dan L. Ikerd, 1961, Sedalia, Mo. James L. Berry, 1961, Lawrence, Kan. Richard D. Falkenstien, 1961, Parsons, Kan. Donald J. Martin, 1961, Webb City, Mo. Max L. Bryant, 1961, Bartlesville, Okla. Lena (Smith) Legg, 1962, Carl Junction, Mo. Ray W. Slomer, 1962, Pearland, Texas Rilda B. (Carter) Whitehead, 1962,

Carthage, Mo.

Louisa J. (Bruce) Moore, 1963, Colorado Springs, Colo. Jimmie W. White, 1963, Eureka, Kan. George Henry Gadow, 1964,

Leavenworth, Kan.

Davy Holt, 1964, Arkansas City, Kan. Douglas E. Johnson, 1964, Hutchinson, Kan. Dennis C. Hasson, 1964, Topeka, Kan. James V. Tate, 1965, North Amherst, Mass. Alan H. Ebesu, 1965, Pearl City, Hawaii. Nancy K. (Dunham) Greenwood, 1965,

Chesterfield, Mo.

Joe F. Stone. 1965. Chandler. Ariz. John P. Maycumber, 1965, Fort Scott, Kan. Jack R. Fulton, 1966, Leavenworth, Kan. James F. Trousdale, 1966, Springdale, Ark. George A. Dean, 1966, Kansas City, Kan. Jack L. Stults, 1966, Joplin, Mo. Ted R. Watts, 1966, Oswego, Kan. James M. Orr, 1966, Springfield, Mo. Hazel M. (Waggoner) Heitz, 1967, Topeka. Kan.

Warren L. Cooksey, 1967, Russell, Kan. Roma J. Turner, 1967, Bartlesville, Okla. Francis B. Howell, 1967, Pittsburg, Kan.

continued



Class Notes

Jimmy J. Farley, 1967, Rich Hill, Mo. Raymond L. Attebery, 1968, Lebanon, Mo. Eunice A. (Bromert) Doolittle, 1968, Lee's Summit, Mo.

James R. Gunnels, 1968, Drexel, Mo. Andrew J. Lemes III, 1968,

Los Angeles, Calif.

Frances M. (Niel) Herynk, 1968, Kincaid, Kan.

Carl K. Allen, 1969, Liberty, Kan. Barbara A. Payne, 1969, Fredericksburg, Va. Ruth J. (Meier) French, 1969, Omaha, Neb. Shirley E. (Brumgarner) Huggins, 1969, Parsons, Kan.

Jim L. Kelley, 1969, Lawrence, Kan. Judy K. (Long) Chowning, 1969, Ronan, Mont.

Robert W. Williams, 1969. Lee's Summit. Mo.

Ron L. Rollheiser, 1970, Overland Park, Kan. Douglas H. McDonald, 1970, Chanute, Kan. Carl W. Nicholson, 1970, Olathe, Kan. Carole A. Richmond, 1970, Tulsa, Okla. Raymond E. Vietti, 1970, El Dorado, Kan. Larry D. Zook, 1970, Paola, Kan. Alan Ramsey, 1971, Fayetteville, Ark. Gordon E. Huggins, 1971, Parsons, Kan. Jane A. (Menghini) Kelly, 1971, Pittsburg, Kan.

Dennis W. Anderson, 1971, Newton, Kan. Rosetta M. (McDougal) Chambers, 1971, Dewey, Okla.

J. E. Cowan, 1971, Raymore, Mo. Mark Crooks, 1971, Kansas City, Mo. Hannah (McDaniel) Ewell, 1971, Raleigh, N.C.

George A. Hyatt, 1971, Plano, Texas John T. Planchon, 1971, Enterprise, Ala. Jerry D. Smith, 1971, Marshall, Ark. Robert C. Wilson, Jr., 1971, Kansas City, Mo. Roselle (Mengarelli) Gorrell, 1972, Arma, Kan.

Walter L Shufelt, 1972, Bentonville, Ark.

Kathleen I. Cardwell, 1972, Omaha, Neb. John K. Devers, 1972, Rocklin, Calif. Anita (Fine) Gray, 1972, Bentonville, Ark. Betty J. (Chamberlin) Gregory, 1972, Coffeyville, Kan.

Cheryl A. (Freeman) Felling, 1972, Overland Park, Kan.

Charles A. Fouts, 1972, Estes Park, Colo. Yvonne A. (Jackson) McBeth, 1972, Kansas City, Kan.

Charlotte R. (Nicholson) Biberstein, 1972, Wichita, Kan.

Howard L. Steen. Sr., 1972, Evansville, Ind. Marce C. Swing, 1972, Kissimmee, Fla. Melvin D. Owen, 1972, Wichita, Kan. Doris M. (Mayse) Denny, 1972, Lamar, Mo. Frank F. Thuma Jr., 1972, Huntington, W.V. Robert O. Brashier, 1973, Kansas City, Mo. Ira T. Foster, 1973, Franklin, Tenn. Sherry L. (Behzade) Koch, 1973, Topeka. Kan.

Anna Naden, 1973, Wichita, Kan. Totton C. Howe, 1973, Topeka, Kan. Melvin C. Nolte, 1973, Zephyhrills, Fla. Edwin C. Kime, 1974, Pittsburg, Kan. Rodney C. Kirkpatrick, 1974, Sedan, Kan. Robert M. Gudenkauf, 1974, Olathe, Kan. William K. Morris, 1974, Olathe, Kan. George D. Peterson, 1975, Pittsburg, Kan. Martin E. Puckett, 1975, Bartlesville, Okla. Steven R. Mueller, 1975, Springfield, Mo. Steven D. Vaughn, 1975, Wichita, Kan. Gary W. Kinzer, 1976, Shawnee, Kan. Jerry L. Aaron, 1976, Kansas City, Mo. Steve Carroll, 1976, Hutchinson, Kan.

Bob E. Golay, 1976, Pittsburg, Kan. James R. Hall, 1977, Joplin, Mo. Inez M. (Folscroft) Baker, 1977,

Doris E. Garrison, 1976, Wichita, Kan.

Bonner Springs, Kan.

Sylvia K. (Vik) Hensely, 1977, Joplin, Mo. Bert L. Besthorn, 1977, Hays, Kan. Thomas R. Meyers, 1978, Emporia, Kan.

Patricia A. (Bray) Ward, 1978, Hideaway, Texas

Warren A. Pike, 1978, Joplin, Mo. Vernie S. Stallings, 1979, Colbert, Okla. Phillip G. Lang, 1979, Lee's Summit, Mo. Sharon M. White, 1980, Greenbrier, Ark. Barbara K. (Moore) Berry, 1981, Tulsa, Okla. Gretchen S. (Stauffer) Torres, 1982, Joplin, Mo.

Deborah L. Pate, 1982, Pittsburg, Kan. Brenda A. (Swift) Lage, 1985, Mission, Kan. Norman E. Sorenson, 1987,

Yates Center, Kan.

Steve F. Sullivan, 1987, Pittsburg, Kan. Roman F. Wiehebrink, 1988, Wichita, Kan. Denny W. Rice, 1988, Mulberry, Kan. Cynthia J. (Becerra) Nieva, 1989, Pittsburg, Kan.

Anne Erickson, 1989, Coffeyville, Kan. Susan K. Caldwell, 1989, Bentonville, Ark. Lois J. (Pinkerton) Padgett, 1990, Sedan, Kan.

Cheryl L. (Renoe) Tinkler, 1993, Pittsburg, Kan.

Jennifer A. Harrah, 1995, Kansas City, Kan. Lora M. Riley, 1998, Hannibal, Mo. Peter L. Monsour, 2005, Pittsburg, Kan. Benjamin R. Hlasney, 2006, Topeka, Kan. Joyce J. (Foster) Gonzales, 2007, Fort Scott, Kan.

Michael T. Everhart, 2007, Paola, Kan. Jay D. Brady, 2007, Tulsa, Okla.

Class year unavailable

Phil D. Brownlee. Parsons. Kan. Charles J. Carson, Bend, Ore. William M. Ramage, Pittsburg, Kan. Guy L. Romine, Pittsburg, Kan. Doris M. Sindt, Lawrence, Kan. Daniel R. Sopata, Joplin, Mo. Sylvia A. (Silvia) Spruk, Pittsburg, Kan.

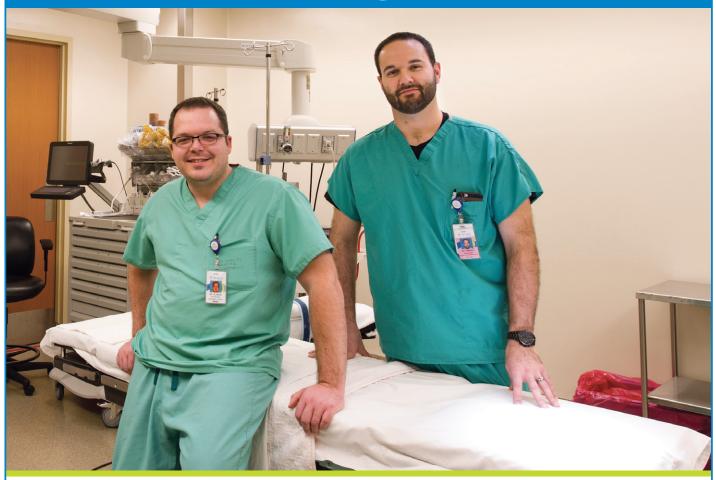


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Physicians Brett Dunbar and Michael Fenech are two of the many proud Gorillas who have returned home to care for their neighbors.

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Dr. Brett Dunbar: 620.235.7605 **Dr. Michael Fenech:** 620.230.0044



...because your life matters





Charlie and Debbie Myers, center, are recognized by the PSU Foundation for their support of Pittsburg State University. With them at the Presidents Society Dinner are Steve Sloan, Foundation Board chairman, left; President Steve Scott, far right; and Susie Collins, whose family foundation generously matched the Myers' gift.

Gifts help students and honor family

For Charlie and Debbie Myers, giving to PSU has been a way to support deserving students and the community they love, as well as a way to honor their Gorilla family heritage.

"Several years ago, Debbie and I started a small scholarship for PSU students from Chetopa, Kan., where Debbie is from," Charlie Myers said. "It has been very satisfying for us to see the students who have been helped by those scholarships."

Most recently, Charlie and Debbie provided a gift toward the Kelce College of Business building project, which was matched by the Collins Family, where Charlie serves as vice president and CFO of Collins Investments, Inc. The gift honors Charlie's parents and their "selflessness and hard work."

Charlie said that he and Debbie are committed to supporting Pitt State and the students of southeast Kansas.

"Pittsburg and southeast Kansas was such a wonderful place to grow up," Myers said. "The university was then and still is a huge part of making it such a great place to live and raise a family."





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

Spring 2016 Calendar

| March 29 Northwest Arkers Di |
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| March 29 Northwest Arkansas DinnerRogers, Ark. |
| April 5 Springfield Area Dinner Springfield, Mo. |
| April 5 Wichita Area Networking Lunch Wichita, Kan. |
| April 8 Meritorious Achievement Award |
| Reception PSU Campus |
| April 13 Tulsa DinnerTulsa, Okla. |
| April 14 Kansas City Area |
| Networking LunchOverland Park, Kan. |
| May 17 Wichita Area Family Fun Evening Wichita, Kan. |
| May 20 Family Movie Night |
| on the JungletronPSU Campus |
| May 26 Kansas City Area After Hours |
| at Boulevard BreweryKansas City, Mo. |
| June 4 Northwest Arkansas |
| Naturals NightSpringdale, Ark. |
| June 15 PSU Night at Sporting Kansas City Soccer |
| June 20 Phoenix Area Gorilla Gathering Scottsdale, Ariz. |
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*Dates are subject to change.

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





witter.com/pittstatealumni



in Pitt State Alumni & Constituent Relations



PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations

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