



Spring 2017

Pitt State

MAGAZINE

Guys in Grade School

*Men remain a
small minority
among elementary
school teachers.*

—page 16



PittState

MAGAZINE

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More photos and stories at
magazine.pittstate.edu


From the editor


It's spring again and another commencement is on the horizon. It seems this academic year has just flown by! It's our great privilege to bring you the PittState Magazine and the many stories you'll find online. We hope you enjoy them and that they bring a little bit of Pitt State into your home. – *The editor*

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 instagram.com/Pittsburg_State

 [pittsburg_state](https://snapchat.com/pittsburg_state)



10% post-consumer fiber. Please recycle.

#OAGAAG**@myranda_lynn13**

i cannot believe i'm going back to college for my doctor of nursing practice. wowwowwow. here goes nothing #oagaag #DNP

@rave_lawls

Thanks for a great semester Pitt. So blessed to have met such great people #oagaag

@Macy_Rae3

Can we just appreciate that there is now a gorilla emoji #oagaag

@khamblin32

The squirrels on campus are so chill #pittstate

@Boman_Eric

Tailgate isn't a place or time, it's a lifestyle. #Homecoming #PittState

@MathiasKuhl

A chemistry professor, whom I took a class from 3 years ago in a giant lecture hall, still stops and talks to me when I see him #pittstate

@air_inkellz

Eli tipped our IHOP waitress \$10 b/c she said she was thinking about going to Pitt state

@brianaawad

Well at least the picture of me on the Pitt State home page is of one of the happiest days of my life!

@shelbbick

i love my department i love my teachers i love school i love pitt state!!!!

@Dr3www

Excited for what the future holds. Thank you @pittstate

Praise for the champs

Awesome! Congrats to the Gorilla women's track team for such an accomplishment! (Gorilla women win NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships, fall 2016 issue) Though I graduated from PSU 31 years ago, I am proud and thankful for my time there. Looking forward to more success stories from PSU. Keep it up!

DON BODEMANN, BS 1985**In response**

I still can't believe you printed the letter from the retired Lt. Col. The Alumni Magazine is not a place for Tea Party types to vent.

I for one was very proud to see Bill Clinton speak at PSU.

FRED SACK, BA 1974**Importance of various views**

I just can't pass up the opportunity to respond to the note from Lt. Col. Steve Ehart in the fall issue of the Pitt State magazine and his comments about former president, Bill Clinton. Mr. Ehart had already graduated when I was in school, but the leaders of Pitt State, at that time, saw little harm in having the head of the American Nazi party as a speaker. One of the great things about the American education system, which I assume Mr. Ehart defended, is the opportunity to provide a platform for various points of view! I would certainly hope that he is not suggesting that the current leaders apply some form of censorship to guest speakers!

I'm proud that I graduated from a university that respects diversity!

LYNN KNELLER, BS '69
Wichita, Kansas**Speechless Redux**

Wow! Now I'm speechless after reading Lt. Col. Steve Ehart's letter published in the fall edition of the PittState Magazine under the heading "Speechless." In his letter he takes great umbrage at PSU inviting President Bill Clinton to be the first speaker in the H. Lee Scott Speaker Series, endowed by a \$2.066 million gift from alumnus and former CEO of Walmart, Lee Scott and his wife, Linda.

I'm speechless for two reasons: 1) I have never known the PittState Magazine to print a letter that contained a diatribe against any

individual, let alone the former president of the United States. I find it ironic that the author of the letter watches "...in shock as the nuts from a Baptist Church in Topeka attend veterans funerals all over the U.S. and display hateful signs and slurs," yet spews his own hateful, censorious and condemnatory comments toward President Clinton and states that, "For the first time in 50 years I'm embarrassed to say I'm a graduate of Pittsburg State University." Clearly, Clinton was ethically and morally challenged, but even his most ardent critic and Javert-like prosecutor, Ken Starr, recently praised Clinton for the redemptive process of his post presidency, stating that, "President Carter set a high standard, which President Clinton clearly continues to follow." Star added, "His [Clinton's] genuine empathy for human beings is absolutely clear. It is palpable, and the folks of Arkansas really understood that about him - that he genuinely cared. The 'I feel your pain' is absolutely genuine."

And 2) I'm speechless that Pitt State was able to land a former president and the most gifted politician of our generation to be the first speaker in the Speaker Series. It is a coup of the highest order and cause for celebration. For those who are embarrassed to say they are graduates of Pittsburg State University because President Clinton was a guest speaker on campus, I say, Hallelujah! As a graduate of Pitt State, I won't have to be lumped with the self-righteous, the intolerant and the narrow-minded graduates who wish to hide their university affiliation because of embarrassment. As for me, I'm proud to be a graduate of Pittsburg State University. I went to college to open my mind, not to close it.

WILLIAM NOLAND, BS '66, MS '69
Puyallup, Washington**Unhappy reader**

I am extremely dismayed that you chose to print the ultra-right wing crap from Steve Ehart. You used half of your Letters space to demean Bill Clinton. It is sad that you chose this political stance over good taste. I have donated many years to my dear college, but I can guarantee you I am seriously considering ending that. Stick to what you are there to do. Leave the yellow journalism to Fox News. Utterly disgusting. Please think twice next time.

KERRY ELKINS, 1974



YES YES YES WORLD TOUR

Monday, April 3 · 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburg State University
Bicknell Family
 Center for the Arts
 1711 S. Homer · Pittsburg, Kansas

YES, YES, YES, is the ultimate new show from the Mnozil Brass. This unique septet will lead to performances of a very special kind. A plethora of cover versions and stunning choreography combine to make it an unforgettable evening.

Their improvisatory talent and simply amazing communication on stage will leave the audience gasping for breath and contented as they leave the theatre.

YES, YES, YES!
 Because one
 Yes is not
 enough!



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

Three benefits of telling us about your planned gift:

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

You may already be qualified to join.

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

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

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

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

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



Remodel prepares library for the Digital Age

Renovations at Axe Library are a vivid example of the power of digital media to reshape the world in which we live.

“What we’re seeing is the impact of technology,” said Randy Roberts, dean of library services. “There is a massive shift from print to digital, whether you’re acquiring information or creating it.”

Space in the building’s lower level, much of which was previously dedicated to long stacks crowded with magazines and other bound materials, was reconfigured last summer.

The tons of paper materials that were in the lower level have been replaced by digital scanners and modern spaces for the workers who are doing the ongoing work of digitization. Five new, mediated rooms in the lower level are equipped to meet the needs of students, faculty and others who are learning and creating in new ways.

“We still have traditional users, but students are increasingly working collaboratively, in groups,” Roberts said. “They’re also more likely to produce video or PowerPoint presentations in addition to the written papers they’ve always done.”

Roberts said additional changes to the library will take place in the coming years.

“The plan is for the whole building to be touched over the next five to six years,” Roberts said.

The tons of paper materials that were in the lower level of Axe Library have been replaced by modern work spaces.



Renovation of the lower level of the library included the addition of five new, mediated rooms.

Regents OK weapons policy

In December, the Kansas Board of Regents approved PSU’s weapons policy, which was written to comply with state law that allows concealed handguns on campuses beginning on July 1, 2017. PSU’s policy is very similar to that of the other regents’ institutions.

On July 1, as required by state law, anyone 21 years of age or older and lawfully eligible, will be allowed to carry a concealed handgun on campus in buildings without security, such as metal detectors.

PSU’s policy was developed with the cooperation of a weapons task force comprised of faculty, student, and staff representatives. The task force gathered input from campus over several months.

National recognition

Pitt State continues to get national and regional recognition for the quality of both its academics and its campus climate.

In recent months, Pitt State has been singled out by Victory Media for its support of veterans and by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best universities in the Midwest.

It’s the seventh year PSU has been honored by Victory Media.

“Pittsburg State has been a wonderful experience for me as a student veteran,” said Lucas Arnold, a junior recreation major, originally from Neodesha, Kan. “PSU does an awesome job of facilitating and creating a welcoming environment for veterans who want to better their future.”

Other recent honors include being listed as one of the 20 most cost efficient public master’s institutions in the U.S. in a study published in August in the journal “Research in Higher Education.”

Individual programs have received recognition, as well. For example, GradSource.com recently singled out PSU as having one of the top six best online master’s degree programs in the U.S.





An architect's rendering of the four buildings at Fourth and Broadway that will be renovated as part of the Block22 project.



The CIBD team is working closely with the city and Chamber of Commerce on economic development.

PSU partners with city on economic development

In December, PSU's Center for Innovation and Business Development (CIBD) signed an agreement with the City of Pittsburg to assist in the city's economic development efforts. The CIBD will work directly with the city and the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce to retain and grow existing businesses, support entrepreneurship and attract new, innovative businesses and industries.

As part of the agreement, the CIBD will focus on helping with the creation and attraction of new businesses and industries, while also helping in the growth and expansion of existing businesses.

The CIBD will also work to develop a "Come Home" community marketing campaign aimed at attracting back to Pittsburg PSU alumni and former residents.

Shawn Naccarato, executive director of the CIBD, said this type of partnership between the university, city and chamber is one of just a few in the nation.

"We've enjoyed tremendous growth and progress in Pittsburg and at Pittsburg State in the past five to 10 years," Naccarato said. "Our goal is to promote that growth and provide incentives for PSU alumni or others who have moved away to come back home and be a part of this exciting time in our community's history."

Block22 moves forward

Watch online video. 

A project to bring university housing and business development space to downtown Pittsburg is moving forward.

The project, known as Block22, will renovate four of Pittsburg's most historic buildings by transforming them into housing units for students, as well as retail, commerce and business development space.

Block22 is a joint project between Pittsburg State, the City of Pittsburg and a private developer, the Vecino Group from Springfield, Mo. Mat Burton, chief operating officer for the Vecino Group, is a Pittsburg native, a Pittsburg State graduate and former president of the university's Student Government Association.

The current project calls for the addition of 100 one-bedroom residential units with apartment styles ranging from traditional to loft and studio. It's designed to be a living-learning community to support entrepreneurship, innovation and economic prosperity.

"As we get closer to finalizing the details, we're beginning to hear from a lot of students who are excited about the possibilities," said Shawn Naccarato, executive director of PSU's Center for Innovation and Business Development. "It's a type of student housing we currently don't offer and has the potential of revitalizing the heart of our historic downtown district. It's a win-win situation for the city and university."

Smith leads enrollment, student success efforts

Howard W. Smith, formerly the dean of the College of Education, was named associate vice president for enrollment management and student success in November. He had served in that



Howard W. Smith

role in an interim capacity since July.

“Over the past several months, Dr. Smith has demonstrated strong and energetic leadership in mobilizing the entire campus around issues of recruitment as well as retention of students,” said Provost Lynette Olson.

“No doubt we have some challenges ahead of us,” Smith said, “but I believe our division can and will meet them head on. I’ve been extremely fortunate at Pittsburg State to have served in several roles, working with outstanding individuals each step of the way. I see this as a continuation of this blessing.”

The Office of Enrollment Management and Student Success oversees a variety of programs and services that begin with recruiting students to Pittsburg State but also focus on ensuring their success throughout their college careers through advocacy, enrichment and support. Those units include the Office of Admission, the Office of the Registrar, International Programs and Services, Student Diversity, Student Financial Assistance, Transfer and Articulation, Student Success Programs and the Exploratory Studies Program.

Smith earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from PSU, a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Kansas State University.

May leads University Development

Alumna and longtime employee Becky May has been named interim executive director of University Development. Kathleen Flannery, vice president for University Advancement made the announcement in October.

“Becky brings a tremendous amount of experience and energy to the position,” said Flannery. “Her commitment to the university and its donors is unquestioned. I’m confident in her leadership during this interim period.”

May has served as the director of donor relations since 2010. Prior to that she served as director of publications and special events within Pittsburg State’s Office of University Marketing and Communication.

“It’s an honor to serve in this role,” said May. “I’m looking forward to continuing our strong momentum as we move forward with our current capital campaign. It’s a great time to be a Gorilla!”



Becky May

Online courses increasingly popular

This past summer, a record number of the courses offered at PSU were online. Of the more than 450 courses offered for the summer session, more than 156 were online. Officials said 1,508 students took at least one online course during the summer session.

Provost Lynette Olson said online courses are becoming increasingly popular.

“Online courses are very important and popular because they allow students the flexibility to continue their education from wherever they spend the summer,” Olson said.

“Many of our students return to their hometowns during the summer, and offering online courses means they can continue their Pittsburg State

education with familiar PSU faculty.”

Junior Ali Noyes had a summer internship lined up at the University of Kansas Cancer Center, but she also wanted to take some summer classes to help lighten her load when she returned to campus in the fall. The solution was online.

“I like taking summer classes because it allows me to be able to focus on a few classes really well rather than balancing 15 to 18 credit hours like I have every semester since I began college at PSU,” Noyes said. “The classes I’m taking this summer will help me finish on time because they are electives that are only offered one time in the fall, and they do not fit into my ideal fall course schedule.”

Finding Gus Gorilla

Can you find the hidden Gus? Search this issue for the iconic bronze Gorilla created by Larry Wooster in 1965. (Hint: it’s **not** on page 12!)

Email psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry.

Please include your first and last name, as well as the page number and location where you found the hidden gorilla. One entry per person. **Entries must be received by June 1, 2017.** 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 Maribeth Kramer Long, BSE 1967, of Cimarron, Kan., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Fall 2016 magazine!





President Steve Scott and his wife, Cathy, welcome Bill and Collen Gray to the Crossland Family University House. The couple's visit surpassed the facility's 10,000-guest milestone.

Crossland House welcomes 10,000th visitor

The Crossland Family University House serves not only as the residence for the university president and his or her family, it is also an important tool in the university's outreach to students, alumni, donors and a wide array of guests. The importance of that expanded role for the facility was highlighted in December when the Crossland House welcomed its 10,000th visitor.

Retired faculty Bill and Collen Gray, who attended a holiday open house hosted by President Steve Scott and his wife, Cathy, were recognized as the couple who put the facility past the 10,000-guest milestone.

Funded entirely with private dollars, the \$1.75 million Crossland House was constructed on the same site as the university's previous presidential residence, a ranch style house built in 1954.

Named in honor of the Ivan, Sr., and Virginia Crossland family, the 6,500-square-foot house includes a 3,100-square-foot private residence for the president and his or her family, and a large entertainment and engagement space for guests of the university.

"Cathy and I have hosted nearly 300 events in this space since the doors opened in 2012," said President Scott. "Whether we're speaking with a major donor, a legislator, or a student group; they all remark about how well thought-out and comfortable this house is. It's become an invaluable part of our development efforts. The university is incredibly grateful for the small group of donors who made this house a reality."

Smith named Campus Victim Advocate



Ali Smith

Pitt State now has a full-time, on-campus victim's advocate because of a unique partnership with Safehouse Crisis Center. Ali Smith, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from Pitt State, has been named Campus Victim Advocate by the Safehouse Crisis Center. Technically employed by Safehouse, Smith maintains an office in the Overman Student Center and she focuses her efforts on helping university students.

In this position, Smith provides direct client services such as crisis intervention, advocacy and support counseling to domestic violence victims. She also provides various types of counseling and support services to victims of domestic and sexual assault.

Bicknell Center welcomes 100,000th visitor

Although less than two years old at the time, PSU's Bicknell Family Center welcomed its 100,000th visitor last fall.

Bicknell Center Director Joe Firman said it was significant that it was a high school student attending a special, free performance of the PSU Theatre production of "Frankenstein" who sent the center over the 100,000-mark.

"I believe that it's important for young people to have exposure to the arts," Firman said. "It sets the stage for an adult life that, because of the arts, is richer and more joyful. The 100,000th visitor is a reminder of the impact this facility is having on the Four-State area."

For more on the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, including a list upcoming programs, visit their website at www.bicknellcenter.com.

Website enhances Veterans Memorial experience

A new website is making a visit to PSU's Veterans Memorial an even better experience. Created by the Office of University Marketing and Communication, the website is mobile-friendly and features a much improved search tool. The new website is available at psuvmemorial.org.

"Visiting the Memorial is an emotional experience for our veterans, their family and friends," said Gregor Kalan, director of web marketing. "We designed the website for mobile usage so that visitors can easily use their phones or tablets to find the location of specific names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall or on the more than 3,300 individualized pavers, located throughout the memorial."

The new website is first of several planned upgrades to improve the Memorial's visitor experience.

Student groups honored for peer education

PSU's peer education efforts continue to build a national reputation for their work to help students live healthy lives.

In November, PSU's Peer Education Group, which is comprised of Gorillas in Your Midst and Students for Violence Prevention, was named the Outstanding Peer Education Group at the BACCHUS Initiatives of NASPA General Assembly.

The groups were honored for their projects designed to increase awareness of domestic/dating violence and foster a campus conversation on these and other relationship issues.

At the assembly, students presented "Gorilla Training 101," an interactive program designed to teach advisers and peer educators creative ways to use dramatic techniques in addressing campus health issues.

For more information, contact J.T. Knoll, 620-235-4062, jknoll@pittstate.edu.



So many employers wanted to connect with PSU students that the Office of Career Services had to move the Fall Career Expo to the Robert W. Plaster Center.

Growing Career Expo moves to Plaster Center

So many employers signed up to meet students at the Fall Career Expo last October that the Office of Career Services had to move the event to the big spaces of the Robert W. Plaster Center.

More than 140 employers attended the event.

"The large number of employers was a reflection both of an improved economy and also the high regard employers have for Pitt State graduates," Cloninger said.

The Fall Career Expo is an event at which students from all majors network with employers and learn more about opportunities available in their field of interest. The fair targets experiential learning opportunities from summer employment at camps to internships and full-time professional positions.

Students 4 Sustainability keeps recyclables out of the landfill

A student group worked hard to ensure that all of the cardboard boxes students used to haul clothes and other necessities into their residence halls in August didn't end up in the landfill.

Students 4 Sustainability (S4S) collected, transported, and diverted more than 3,000 pounds of cardboard and for the first time, aluminum, mixed paper, and plastics from PSU's dumpsters on Move-In Day for recycling.

Stephen Wolfe, a senior in integrated studies with an emphasis in sustainability, society and resource management (SSRM), said the group's recycling efforts were valuable for a number of reasons.

"Not only do we save a few thousand pounds of cardboard from the landfill," Wolfe said, "we are also able to speak to a multitude of new students about the benefits behind living a sustainable lifestyle."

Watch online video. 

Gorillas on TV

Gorillas eager to keep in touch with their alma mater now have a new option for Pitt State news – TV.

This month, the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations will debut “Pitt Pulse” a new program that will air live, once a month, on PittState.TV.

“Pitt Pulse” will be an opportunity for our office to share highlights and interviews from campus leaders, faculty, and students about the many exciting things going on at the university,” said Jon Bartlow, director of Alumni and Constituent Relations.

Bartlow said the program was created to help the university stay in touch with its rapidly growing ranks of alumni across the U.S. and abroad.

“As much as we would like to physically meet with all of our alumni throughout the country and the world on a regular basis, we know that is not possible,” Bartlow said. “This program will allow us to connect in a more personal way than ever before.”

The first episode aired at 3 p.m. CST on Wednesday, March 29. It and future episodes will be archived so viewers can watch the programs at their convenience.

New apparel line based on Champions Plaza sculpture

Gorilla fans and alumni have a new way to show their Gorilla pride with the launch of a new apparel line called the Champions Collection. The Champions Collection, available only through partner Barnes and Noble, features a design based on the Champions Plaza sculpture by artist Tom Corbin.

Part of the proceeds from the Champions Collection goes back to the PSU Alumni Association to help support programming.

Champions Collection apparel is available in the Barnes and Noble campus bookstore and online at pittstate.shoptruespirit.com.

You Belong at Pittsburg State University



50+ Graduate Programs • 19 Online Programs

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 or English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- **Reading**
- **Educational Leadership**
- **Educational Technology**
- **Special Education**
- **Education - School Health**
- **Advanced Studies in Leadership**
- **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, Graphic Design, Graphics Management, Personnel Development, Technology Management, Innovation in Technology and Innovation Engineering
- **Career and Technical Education**

Apply today! pittstate.edu/graduate



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Graduate and Continuing Studies

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Spring 2017 Arts Calendar

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

Art

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

University Gallery Porter Hall

April 11 - May 6

Marjorie Schick, 50 Years Innovating Art for the Body

Lecture: May 6, 4 p.m.

Reception: May 6, 5 p.m.

Harry Krug Gallery Porter Hall

January 30 - April 7

Department of Art and Wood

Technology Student Collaboration

Curator's Talk: February 9, 5 p.m.

Reception: February 9, 6 p.m.

Theatre

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

April 27 - 30

Grave Matters

by Cynthia Allan with the Adv. Perf. Ensemble; directed by Cynthia Allan

Bicknell Center, Miller Theater

Thursday - Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. & Sun., matinees 2 p.m.

Music

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

March 27 - PSU Percussion Ensemble Concert

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

March 30 - Premier Concert, Tomlinson Harpsichord

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 3 - Mnozil Brass in Concert

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 14 - PSU Opera Scenes

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 20 - PSU Wind Ensemble Concert

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 21 - Sybarite5 (String Quintet)*

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 24 - PSU Cello Ensemble

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 26 - PSU Jazz Ensemble Concert

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 30 - PSU Oratorio Concert

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 4 - 4-State Band Festival

Bicknell Center, 12 p.m.

May 4 - 4-State Band Concert

Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

Community Events

April 5 - School of Construction Expo
Kansas Technology Center, 8 a.m.

April 7 - Meritorious Achievement Award Reception
Overman Student Center, 3:30 p.m.

April 11 - Great Gorilla Games
Weede Gymnasium, 8 a.m.

May 25-28 - SAE Baja
Kansas Technology Center.

Gorilla Activities Board

March 27 - Double Feature:

Now You See Me 1 & 2

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

March 28 - April 2, Mini-Theatre, (Now You See Me 1): noon, 3, 7 p.m.

April 3 - 10, Mini-Theatre, (Now You See Me 2): noon, 3, 7 p.m.

March 29 - Elliot Zimet
Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 5 - Live Music Fest
Carnie Smith Stadium, 7 p.m.

April 18 - Kevin Yee
Overman Student Center, 8 p.m.

April 27 - Spring Fling
Robert W. Plaster Center, 6:30 p.m.

May 3 - Jungletron Movie
Carnie Smith Stadium, 7 p.m.

May 4 - 12, Mini-Theatre, (Now You See Me 1): noon, 3, 7 p.m.

The Great Gorilla Tour



There's no
stopping us!

*We're taking the
ultimate road trip...
to see YOU!*

Alumni & friends of
Pitt State, make your
reservations today!

pittstate.edu/alumni

TEXAS

Monday, May 15, **Austin** Gorilla Gathering Lunch
Monday, May 15, **San Antonio** Gorilla Gathering Dinner
Tuesday, May 16, **Houston** Gorilla Gathering Dinner

LOUISIANA

Wednesday, May 17, **New Orleans** Gorilla Gathering After Hours

FLORIDA

Thursday, May 18, **Tampa** Gorilla Gathering Dinner
Friday, May 19, **Orlando** Gorilla Gathering Dinner

GEORGIA

Saturday, May 20, **Atlanta** Gorilla Gathering Dinner

TENNESSEE

Sunday, May 21, **Nashville** Gorilla Gathering Dinner



PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations

401 East Ford Avenue • Pittsburg, KS 66762

620-235-4758 or 877-PSU-ALUM

“Where in the World is Gus?”



Gondola Gus– Bob (BST '68, MS '70) and Jane Brown Bass (MM vocal performance '70), show their Gorilla pride on a gondola in Venice last July. The couple celebrated their 70th birthdays in Italy, where Bob admired the architecture and Jane enjoyed the music.



Seeing double– Dale Gier, (BST '89) thought he was seeing double when on a visit to the Topeka Zoo he happened on a duplicate of the iconic “Wooster” Gorilla sculpture that sits in front of the Overman Student Center. In this photo, Gier holds the cast of the statue that he made in Russ Rosmait’s Pattern Making and Foundry class.



Gorillas in Cabo– Don Lipasek (BS Mathematics, '69) and his wife, Mary, show their Gorilla pride at the Arch at Lands’ End in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, following a Panama Canal cruise.

Taking a break– Proud Gorilla Jim McGrath (BS '75) takes a break at the summit while cycling through Lolo Pass, Idaho.



Gus in the Rockies– John Purcell (BBA '01, MBA '02) Amy Purcell (BSE '03), Pat McNally (BBS '03) and Amber McNally (BSE '04), all visited the mountains of Breckenridge, Colo., last summer. The group hiked in the mountains, fly fished, and checked out what the city had to offer.



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



Gorilla reunion– Gorillas Karen (O'Sullivan) Marquardt, Laura (Pennington) Sullivan, Dianne (Stang) O'Bryan, & Nikki (Bumgarnder) Williams, who all met as freshmen in Nation Hall in 1990, share their pride at the Today Show plaza in New York. Their custom Go-Rillas t-shirts attracted the attention of the show's producer and the four got to meet Matt Lauer, Tamron Hall and Al Roker. The trip, a celebration of 25 years of friendship, included all of the big New York sights, as well as Mass with the Pope in Philadelphia.



Gorilla Generations– Wanda Endicott, retired director of custodial services, with Mistie Short (BBA '99, MBA '07) and Joshua Short (AAS '11, BAS '13 and BSE '17) show their Gorilla pride during a stop in North Dakota.



Right at home– Gus felt right at home with Ron Gates (BS '69) on his month-long trip to Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Ron spent the month photographing lions, cheetahs and other wildlife in southern Africa.



At the falls– Suzanne (Moore) Goff (BA Spanish, '06) and Travis Goff (Honor's College '01-'03, pre-pharmacy) are proud Gorillas at Niagara Falls, where they vacationed with their four sons. The Goffs also explored the Erie Canal, spent time in Toronto and sailed on the iconic Maid of the Mist into the Falls.



Gorillas on ice– Marilyn Smith Graham (BS '68, MS '72) and Sharon Brantley Frankenberg (BS '68) enjoy Iceland's Golden Circle. In the background is Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier outside the Arctic. (Great choice of reading material, btw.)



Caribbean adventure– Brad (BS '99) and Gina (BS '00, MS '05) Ulbrich, with their children, Hunter, Tanner and Fletcher, enjoy the beautiful Caribbean Sea during a trip to Puerto Aventuras, Mexico, in July.

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GUYS IN GRADE SCHOOL

MEN REMAIN A SMALL MINORITY AMONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

As in most school districts, men make up a small percentage of the teachers at the elementary level in USD 250. Those who choose to teach in grade school say it's a job that pays dividends they never dreamed possible.

Just some of the male elementary teachers in USD 250:

Front row: Steve Mahnken, fourth grade; Matt Burford, fifth grade; Jeremy (Jay) O'Ferrell, second grade.

Back Row: Brad McGowen, Title I; Zachary Sachs (student teacher), Destry Brown, superintendent; Paul Hanney, third grade; Brendan Finley, third grade; and Aaron Cicero, fifth grade.

TIM VESCO LOVES HIS JOB and it shows.

It's after lunch when Vesco, a fifth-grade teacher at Frontenac's Frank Layden Elementary School, dives into a math lesson involving fractions.

The students sit in small groups, scattered among a variety of bean-bag chairs, benches and high tables. Vesco pivots between the white board, where he illustrates the math problem, and the class, engaging the students in a rapid, problem-solving conversation. Hands fly up. Questions are answered. They move on.

"This is my 16th year," Vesco said. "I still love doing it!"

As one of two male elementary teachers in the school, Vesco is part of a small, but perhaps growing cadre of men who choose to teach our youngest students. Although teachers colleges have tried for many years to encourage more men to consider teaching at the elementary level, the numbers have been difficult to move above 10 percent.

Alice Sagehorn, chair of the Department of Teaching and Leadership in PSU's College of Education says the college has worked for a long time

to encourage male students to consider elementary education. She's pleased that recently a number of men have chosen elementary education, although women in the program still outnumber men more than 10 to 1.

This year, out of the 286 PSU students who are elementary education majors, 25 are men.

Nationally, researchers cite factors like prestige, salary and stereotypes about male and female roles as some of the reasons men have not come to elementary education in greater numbers.

But Vesco said his decision to enter elementary education was not based on salary or prestige.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher in 6th grade," Vesco said. "I grew up in Rock Springs, Wyoming, where I had an amazing 6th grade teacher, Pauline Meyer. She was so kind. She made you feel special. I thought, 'That's what I want to do. I want to be like her.'"

Adam Brown, a fourth-grade teacher at Lakeside Elementary School in Pittsburg was also inspired by a teacher.

"I had a really good fourth grade teacher," Brown said. "That's when it first came into my head that I thought it would be fun to be a teacher. I've actually written to my fourth grade teacher to tell her she was my inspiration. Now that I'm teaching fourth grade, I remember some of the stuff she did and I incorporate that into my own classroom."

Destry Brown, superintendent for USD 250 in Pittsburg, began his teaching career as an elementary teacher in Mound City, Kan. He said he, too, was inspired by a teacher.

"I went to school in Fulton, where we had combined classrooms," Brown said. "My teacher (for) third and fourth grade, was Welcome Van Sickle (Life Certificate 1928). She was always very positive and she told us, 'you're going to grow up and be somebody.' That's probably what hooked me, because I loved learning and she let us fly."

Brown said part of Van Sickle's legacy is a long list of students who went on to become teachers and administrators.

WHY ELEMENTARY?

Many men may say they feel called to teach, but few seem drawn to the early years. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, 42 percent of U.S. high school teachers are men, but just 2.3 percent of kindergarten and pre-K teachers are men. A little more than 10 percent of elementary teachers are men and by middle school it's around 20 percent.

Those men who do choose elementary say they like teaching the primary grades because of the kids and the opportunity they have to make a bigger impact in a child's life. Many found they just have a knack for working with younger students.

"We've been learning about all that elementary kids can learn," said Luke Lee, a senior who is doing his student teaching at Meadowlark Elementary School in Pittsburg this spring. "And elementary students love school!"

Destry Brown said he discovered he

liked working with youngsters through sports.

"Our next-door neighbor was the rec commission guy. (He) asked me if I'd coach a T-ball team. So I did that and I loved it," Brown said.

continued



Fourth grade teacher Adam Brown says teaching "is a work of the heart."



Tim Vesco says he sees little miracles happen every day in his classroom.

"I think it's good for students to see men working alongside women as colleagues and as equals. It's good for students to see men and women treat each other with respect."

– Destry Brown, superintendent, USD 250 Pittsburg

Then Brown began volunteering at the elementary school during his lunch breaks.

"I'd walk over to the elementary school and work lunch time out on the playground," Brown said. "I loved working with kids."

DOES IT MATTER?

Does it matter that few elementary teachers are men? Research is mixed about any correlation between the gender of the teacher and students' academic performance, even for troubled boys, who often struggle with learning.

Destry Brown says the district doesn't set out to hire male teachers, but instead looks for the best teachers.

"Sometimes those happen to be men," he said.

However, he does believe that it's important to have diversity in the teaching staff and that includes gender as well as ethnicity.

"I think it's important to have men and

women teachers in the same way that it's important to have teachers of different races," Brown said. "I think it's good for students to see men working alongside women as colleagues and as equals. It's good for students to see men and women treat each other with respect."

ROLE MODELS

Male elementary teachers say they are well aware of their status as role models and most embrace it.

"You see more and more children growing up without a strong male presence in their lives," Vesco said. "Sometimes we can provide that influence for those kids."

John Paul Juarez Garcia, an elementary education major from California, said he believes he has a lot to bring to the classroom and one of those things is his own personal experience.

"I was raised by just my mother," Juarez Garcia said. "A lot of kids have

that same experience. I want to give them a positive male role model."

Adam Brown, at Lakeside Elementary, said he agreed that many children needed positive male role models in their lives, but he thinks the issue extends beyond gender.

"I lived a very fortunate life," Brown said. "I had really good parents and I wanted to be that positive role model – not just male role model – but that positive role model in their lives."

ENCOURAGING OTHERS

Not surprisingly, men who are so passionate about teaching elementary students encourage others to consider following in their footsteps and they have some advice for men that applies to women, as well.

"Teaching's a hard job, but you won't find anything more rewarding," said Vesco. "It is so rewarding to see all of the amazing things that happen literally daily, minute by minute in the classroom."

Luke Lee, PSU senior, is student teaching at Meadowlark Elementary School in Pittsburg this spring.



You honestly see miracles happen every day. There's always just something that can take your breath away that's so impactful. If more men, or anybody, saw and understood that part of it, I think we'd get more of our best and our brightest to become teachers."

Adam Brown said men shouldn't be afraid to love their students.

"You have to be willing to bring your emotions into it and you can't be afraid to make relationships," said Brown. "You have to be able to open your heart, because teaching is a work of heart. It's more than just math, reading and writing. Don't be scared to open yourself up and love these kids."

Vesco agreed, adding, "Be prepared to give lots of hugs and lots of high fives. For many kids, that's the only ones they'll get all day. It's just so rewarding. I just love it."

Howard Smith, former dean of the College of Education and a former elementary school teacher said he tells students to be prepared to work hard and continually learn.

"Don't get in it if you don't want to work," Smith said. "Good teaching takes time and effort. No one class or student is the same, so you must be a continual learner to be a good teacher. You also need to be adaptable and flexible with a positive disposition to be good and today I also emphasize how important it is to be a strong communicator."

Destry Brown said the advice he would give to a man considering elementary education is the same as that he'd give a woman.

"I don't think there's a better job out there. The reward's so great," Brown said. "Doing this job is life-changing. If you really want to change lives, if you really want to make a difference, this is the job for you. You're not going to make a lot of money, but you're going to change the world." •

Why I teach third grade

Paul Hanney was THAT kid.

Hanney (BSE 2000, MS 2010), a third-grade teacher at Westside Elementary School in Pittsburg, is not shy about his academic record as a youngster.

"I absolutely hated school," Hanney recalled. "I was not good in a single thing, except art. When I was in elementary school, all of the desks were in rows and I sat in the very back. I loved it, because I could draw my little pictures and not listen to what the teacher was saying. So I was never really engaged."

Hanney eventually dropped out of high school and ended up in an Air Force recruiter's office.

"The recruiter never asked me if I had a high school diploma," Hanney said. "He asked me what my driver's record was. At the end of that week, I was on my way down to San Antonio for basic training."

In the Air Force, Hanney chose carpentry because it was on-the-job training as opposed to technical school.

After military service, Hanney's wife, Darlene Brown, encouraged him to go to college, thinking he might get a construction technology degree.

Hanney started with an art course, where he got his first A.

"I was on top of the world," Hanney said.

His wife was shocked when in response to her question about what he wanted to do next, Hanney replied, "I want to be a teacher!"

"I realized at that time, passing that art course, that I wasn't dumb like I thought I was," Hanney said.

Hanney began his teaching career at Cecil Floyd Elementary School in Joplin.

"Oh, man, that first year was tough," Hanney said. "One of the things that made it tough was that I had about four girls and about 18 boys. But I had a great principal there. He took a chance on me."



For Paul Hanney, student engagement is the key.

Now at Westside Elementary, Hanney hopes his own students can learn from his experience, which includes not only dropping out of high school, but also earning both bachelor's and master's degrees and graduating Phi Kappa Phi.

"I tell these kids, 'You have a teacher who is uniquely qualified to tell you how to fail and how to succeed.' I went home and I never studied. I never read. Guess how I did in reading? Terrible! I was terrible in spelling. Guess how much I practiced my spelling words? None! I was lousy in math. Guess how much I practiced math? Not at all! There is a connection there," Hanney said. "I'm not going to let them fail. That's why I wanted to be a teacher. I do not want kids to go through what I went through."

Hanney said he believes that being engaged in the classroom is the foundation for success, so he's incorporated that into the way the class operates.

"I do a lot of group work. All the tables are arranged in groups so they have to talk to each other," Hanney said. "I'm not concerned if you leave my class and you're not an A student as long as you try your best. It will happen. Don't give up!"

Hanney also stresses individual accountability and being polite.

"The thing that matters most to me over everything else is that I get across to them that it's the choices that you make that are going to really determine what you become," Hanney said. •



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Freshman Experience— Kylie DeClue

ACADEMICS. ARTS. ATHLETICS.

Kylie DeClue was looking for a university that “had it all.” She found it just 90 minutes from home.

As an accomplished cellist and softball player at Park Hill South High School, DeClue was looking for a university that strongly supported both the arts and athletics.

“And when I made my first campus visit to Pitt State during my junior year, the Bicknell Center was just built and the Plaster Center was being built right next to it,” she said. “Those were definitely strong selling points.”

Oh, and right next door to both of those new facilities was the nationally-recognized Kansas Technology Center.

“I knew I wanted to go into engineering, but I didn’t know what branch,” DeClue said. “During my tour of the KTC, they talked a lot about plastics. I thought it seemed very interesting, and the amount of equipment and machinery in the labs was very impressive.

DeClue, a Kansas City, Mo., native, has had an active first year at Pitt State. She’s a plastics engineering major, a music minor, a member of the PSU Honors College, a cellist in the university orchestra and an outfielder on the softball team.

It’s been an experience that she believes couldn’t have been possible at other schools.

“The size of Pitt State is just perfect for someone like me,” she said. “It’s big enough to offer a variety of different things, such as art and athletics. But it’s not too big so that you’re overwhelmed by one and don’t have time for the others.

“The orchestra, for example, has been very good about working with me on any scheduling conflicts due to softball,” she said. “The people here want you to be involved and want you to be successful, so they work with you. That’s really cool.”

She also finds it “cool” that the PSU faculty are so willing to give their time and attention to students.


While DeClue said it can sometimes be a struggle to manage academics, athletics and the arts, she said “the grind” is worth it.

“I wanted the full college experience, and I have it,” she said. “It’s hard at times, but it’s not impossible if it’s what you really want.” •



Kylie DeClue

“The people here want you to be involved and want you to be successful, so they work with you. That’s really cool.”

Watch online video. 

'It's alive!'

Theatre retells iconic horror story

SPECIAL EFFECTS MAKE-UP ARTIST Brandi Graber says she loved watching scary movies when she was little, so it was a two-hour labor of love when she transformed Stephen Reid from a friendly PSU junior into the iconic creature from Mary Shelley's novel, "Frankenstein."

PSU Theatre's October production of the Victor Gialanella play, based on Shelley's horror classic, was a tour de force featuring dramatic make-up, period costumes, electrified sets and, of course, an iconic horror story embraced equally by the cast and the audience.

Graber said she was drawn to theater as a youngster and eventually went to Hollywood, where she studied at the Joe Blasco Make-Up School.

"I started working in movies after that," Blasco said.

It's likely that the audiences that attended PSU's production had already seen Graber's work in films such as "Austin Powers," "George of the Jungle" and "Jurassic Park 2" and on television in "The X Files" and "Seinfeld."

"Frankenstein" director Gil Cooper said Graber's outstanding make-up work was just one of the many elements that came together to make this production special.

Those elements included fight training by a veteran choreographer whose husband is an MMA fighter, complex set changes by scenic designer Linden Little and period costumes by costume designer Lisa Quinteros.

Cooper said he was particularly pleased by the way the student actors embraced their roles.




Reida, from Wichita, said he was excited to play the creature.

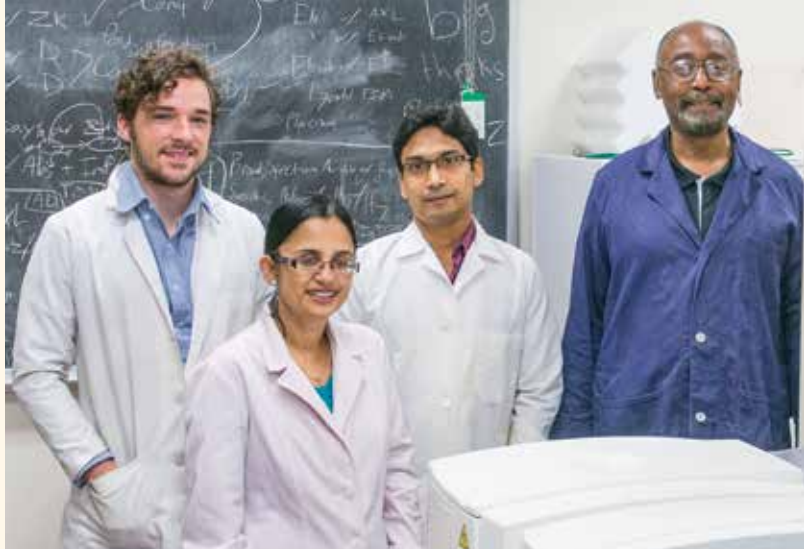
"My mom raised me on black-and-white scary movies," Reida said. "It's a lot of fun (to play this character.) I haven't gotten to do something like this on stage before."

Cooper said in addition to the actors

who portrayed the 12 characters in the play, many more students worked long hours behind the scenes to make the production run smoothly.

"All together, there were about 50 students involved in some facet of the production," Cooper said. •

Watch online video. 



Great Gorillas!

Research team, L-R: Tyler Shelby, Tuhina Banerjee, Santimukul Santra and Professor James McAfee.

Battling foodborne illness

A GROUP OF PSU RESEARCHERS has developed a process that may one day make a night out at your favorite restaurant, a trip to the grocery store or turning on the tap in a developing nation a much safer experience.

Research detectives

Tuhina Banerjee, a chemist in the Department of Chemistry, along with Assistant Professor Santimukul Santra, Professor James McAfee, and six students in the department, combined magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and fluorescence to create a device that enables scientists to detect the presence of dangerous bacteria in food and water, and to do so in less than an hour.

Their research was published last year in the American Chemistry Society (ACS) journal, *Infectious Diseases*.

The research has major implications because bacterial contamination of food and water is one of the world's leading causes of sickness and death.

The culprit is often *E. coli*, a large group of bacteria that surround us every day. Most are harmless, but some, like *E. coli* 0157: H7, are very dangerous, as companies like Costco and Chipotle have discovered at great cost.

Santra, who came to PSU as part of its Polymer Chemistry Initiative, said news stories about *E. coli* contamination of foods in the U.S. inspired the PSU researchers to think about using nanosensors to try to detect common pathogens, first in water.

The nanosensors are made up of iron oxide particles combined with an optical dye and antibodies that latch onto the *E. coli* cells. The nanosensors clump around the bacteria and this can be detected by MRI, for very small amounts, and fluorescence, for large amounts.

The A team

For their research, Banerjee and Santra, teamed up with Professor James McAfee, a biochemist in the department. Additionally, six students assisted in the research and the senior researchers said their help was crucial.

Shoukath Sulthana, a graduate student in polymer chemistry, and Tyler Shelby, an undergraduate student in chemistry, who worked on developing the new bacterial contamination detector, said the research experience they've had at PSU is invaluable.

"I think it goes back to what makes this place special," Shelby said. "I don't

know where else you would have the contact time with professors that we do here. I've spent countless hours in professors' labs, talking to them about what they're working on."

McAfee said Shelby's PSU experience will be a big boost as Shelby applies to MD/Ph.D. programs.

"Having done this research and having a paper published in a highly regarded journal is worth a thousand A's," McAfee said. "That's one of the reasons that having students involved in this type of research is so important."

Banerjee said that since the researchers published their work, they have been getting calls from researchers around the world.

"The next step is to work with engineers to develop a chip that can take the process out of the lab and into the field," Banerjee said.

In the meantime, the researchers are exploring ways to use the technique they've developed for the rapid detection of other pathogens, such as influenza and Zika. •



Dixie Smith, chair,
Department of Biology

Prairies:

a glimpse into our past

THE ONLY SOUNDS ON THIS hot, humid September day are the insects and a crow in the distance as Dixie Smith, chair of the Department of Biology at Pittsburg State University, plods through the tangled mass of bluestem, bright azure asters, sunflowers, goldenrod and scores of other native grasses in the O'Malley Prairies just northeast of Cherokee.

The university has managed the prairies for a number of years under an informal agreement, but in 2016 received it as a gift from the descendants of Mary Elizabeth O'Malley and her brother, Charles David O'Malley.

These two small patches of undisturbed earth, totaling just under 12 acres, are a tiny remnant of the vast prairie that settlers first encountered

when they came to what is now Kansas. When she walks through the prairie, Smith imagines what the settlers thought when they first encountered this sea of grass.

"They were farmers," Smith said. "They saw this (the lush native grasses) and they thought, 'this is incredibly productive soil!' And it still is."

That soil and its importance to both the history and the future of the region are never far from Smith's thoughts.

"I suppose I could live anywhere," said Smith, brushing aside a five-foot-tall clump of bluestem. "So why (southeast Kansas)? ... What is it that's so special about this area? It's the soil!"

As Kansas and the Great Plains became the nation's breadbasket, producing food for a hungry nation, the native prairie lands rapidly disappeared. Today, outside of a few notable

Jim Triplett, left, and President Steve Scott, far right, accept the O'Malley Prairie gift from O'Malley family members Charles O'Malley, Phillip O'Malley, and Lois Carlson.



exceptions, the natural prairie exists only in small plots like the O'Malley Prairies.

In 1991, Charles David O'Malley and former Biology Department chair Jim Triplett made an informal agreement that allowed PSU to manage the two tracts of undisturbed land, located at the intersection of South 170th Street and East 510th Avenue. Since then, PSU biology students have used the land as an outdoor research lab, taking core samples of the soil and studying the plants and insects that thrive in that environment.

Smith said the transfer of title for the O'Malley Prairie won't change the way the university uses the land.

Students will continue to do research at the prairie and compare it to the adjacent Monahan Outdoor Education Center.

"Because the O'Malley and Monahan properties are adjacent to each other, it is perfect for students to compare and contrast native, undisturbed prairie with partially reclaimed land that has been mined," Smith said.

The Monahan Outdoor Education Center is a 153-acre site that was donated to PSU in 1988 by the Reals family of Wichita in memory of Mrs. Reals' father, Francis Monahan. One of the major features of the Monahan property is an 80-acre grassland that sits on top of a pile of coal mining

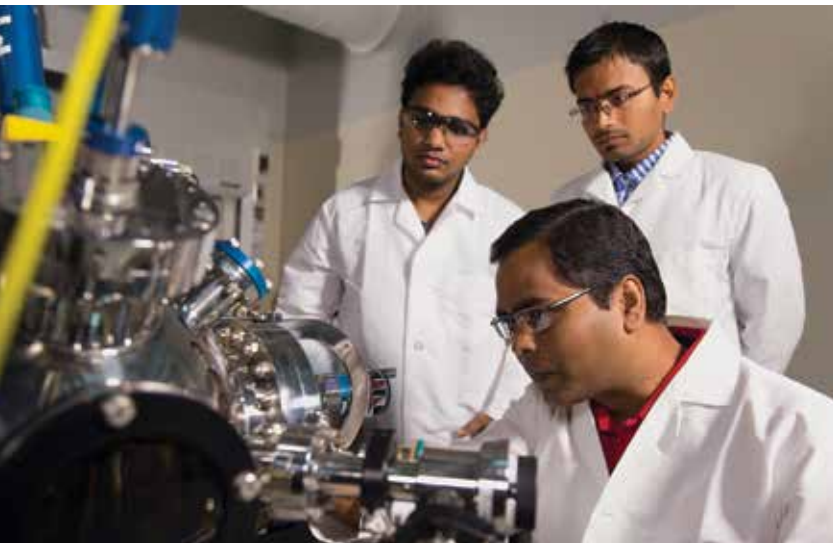
refuse. Reclamation of the site began in 1984.

"It's really dramatic when students compare core samples of the soil in the O'Malley Prairie and the Monahan site," Smith said. "They can see clearly the differences between the undisturbed grassland and the partially reclaimed mined land."

For more information about the PSU Department of Biology, visit their website at www.pittstate.edu/biology.


For information about the properties that make up the Southeast Kansas Biological Station, visit pittstate.edu/biostation •





Assistant Professor Ram Gupta (foreground) works with and mentors students in his lab at the Kansas Polymer Research Center

Professor helps students do research, publish

Watch online video. 

In the world of scientific research, publication in a respected scientific journal is the brass ring. It's the place where seasoned researchers share their work and expose it to the scrutiny of some of the best minds in their fields.

So it's a pretty big deal when a student's research – especially the work of an undergraduate student – is accepted for publication. For undergraduate students working in Ram Gupta's labs at PSU, this is precisely the goal.

Gupta, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, came to PSU as part of its Polymer Chemistry Initiative. In labs at the Kansas Polymer Research Center, Gupta mentors students in the university's undergraduate and graduate polymer chemistry degree programs.

Five of Gupta's undergraduate students this past year had research papers published by peer-reviewed journals. Their research is complex and deals with the rapidly expanding fields of nanoscience and nanotechnology, electrically conductive polymers, energy storage and supercapacitors.

Pawan Kahol, dean of research and graduate and continuing studies at PSU, said having undergraduate students do research and publish their work, especially in such complex fields, may seem ambitious, but it's critical to a solid undergraduate experience.

"An undergraduate's experience is incomplete if they haven't done primary research," Kahol said. "We're very lucky to have Dr. Gupta here. He works so well with the students. His focus is to make students think."

Gupta said he enjoys working with the undergraduate students.

"I enjoy teaching and nurturing them," Gupta said. "I try to design each project so that it works well with the time the students have."

Professor expands his research through Fulbright

In May, Roy Janisch, associate professor in History, Philosophy and Social Sciences, will complete a Fulbright fellowship at Vancouver Island University in Vancouver, Canada, where he is the university's first Fulbright Canada Jarislowsky visiting research chair in Aboriginal studies.



Roy Janisch

At VIU, Janisch is focusing on restorative justice, an approach that emphasizes the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community. Janisch is studying the confluence of identity, Indian sovereignty and governmental forms on crime and justice in Native American communities.

Online history master's program in the top 6

PSU's online history master's degree program has been ranked sixth in the nation by GradSource.com.

Barbara Bonneken, History, Philosophy and Social Sciences chair, said she is very happy about the national recognition that the department's online master's degree in history has received.

"The History faculty is very dedicated to our graduate students and strives for the perfect balance between the convenience of a fully online program and the personal interaction and support of a face-to-face program," said Bonneken.

Letner leads student publications

Josh Letner, a Pitt State graduate and former editor of The Collegio, is the university's new director of student publications. Letner succeeds Gerard Attoun, who retired in 2016 after 16 years directing the publication of The Collegio and Kanza yearbook.



Josh Letner

Letner earned a bachelor's degree in communication from PSU in 2009 and a master's degree in communication in 2010. Letner said his goals for student publications at Pitt State include helping student journalists adapt to the new digital age.

Pomatto named dean

After serving as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since the early part of 2016, Mary Carol Pomatto has taken on that responsibility permanently.



Mary Carol Pomatto

Provost Lynette Olson announced the appointment in October.

"After consulting with College of Arts and Sciences leaders, who without exception affirmed Dr. Pomatto's positive and steady leadership over the past months, it is evident to me that we could not ask for nor find a stronger leader for the college," Olson said.

Previously, Pomatto was director of PSU's Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing.

Whitbeck leads national FCS organization

Duane Whitbeck, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, was recently elected president of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). Whitbeck was sworn in as president of the organization at its national conference in Bellevue, Washington.



Duane Whitbeck

The AAFCS represents a field that has evolved to represent many areas, including human development; personal and family finance; housing and interior design; food science, nutrition, and wellness; textiles and apparel; and consumer issues.



The inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice class at PSU, left to right: Shawn Raymond, Tricia Sullivan, Johnna Costello, Cindy Noble, Jama Bogart, Amanda Swink, Sonja Albright, Jessica Dalton, Ben Cochran, Ashleigh Heter, Stephanie Adee and Trina Larery.

PSU awards first Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees

In December, the university reached an important milestone when it conferred its first doctoral degrees on the 12 students who have complete PSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

"It is such a gratifying feeling to finally see our first Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates!" said Cheryl Giefer, interim director of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing. "The graduation of our inaugural DNP class in the very same semester we achieved a positive CCNE accreditation visit for our DNP Program is monumental in the history of the School of Nursing."

Barbara McClaskey, a University Professor in the School of Nursing, said the investment in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program will pay dividends in the form of improved health care in the region immediately.

"The DNP program at Pittsburg State helps to assure that the region will continue to be served by practitioners with the highest possible level of education and clinical preparation," McClaskey said.

Prize honors former faculty member

The Midwest Quarterly has announced the establishment of a poetry prize in honor of longtime faculty member and Midwest Quarterly poetry editor Stephen Meats.

Five hundred dollars will be awarded to the author of the best poem published in the four issues that make up each volume of the quarterly, beginning with the Fall of 2016. The first winner will be announced in October 2017.

The Quarterly made the announcement of the prize in conjunction with Meats' return to campus as part of the English Department's Distinguished Visiting Writers Series last fall.

Meats retired in 2016 and lives with his wife, Ann, in Florida.



Stephen Meats

Watch online video. 



Future Kelce College of Business home

Building project moves forward

Exciting progress is being made on plans to renovate and expand the building that houses the Kelce College of Business.

Paul Grimes, dean of the KCOB, said Pitt State has completed the design development phase of the project. University officials spent most of 2016 working with Lawrence-based architecture firm Clark Huesemann LC on design ideas for Kelce.

“We’ve really spent the last 12 months working on different ideas and plans for how this project could actually play out,” Grimes said. “It’s been really cool to work on this and come up with the best possible design and arrangement for the building. The best part, in my opinion, is that we’re gathering input from faculty and students so that the end result is a building that fits our needs and that everyone is proud of.”

A major focus in 2017 will be fundraising. The project, which is estimated to cost more than \$18 million, will be funded by private donors. The project was made possible by an initial \$3 million pledged gift from alumni John and Susan Lowe, of Houston, Texas.

#4 in the nation!

Once again, the Kelce College of Business can rightly say it ranks above Harvard, Duke and Notre Dame.

The Princeton Review recently published its 2017 list of the top 10 family-friendly business schools, and Pittsburg State ranks No. 4 in the U.S., one spot above Harvard University.

“This is very significant for the college and the university,” said KCOB Dean Paul Grimes of the ranking. “We take great pride in providing a family-friendly environment, and consistently being ranked in the top five nationwide means a great deal.”

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, Duke University, Indiana University, Rice University and the University of Notre Dame.

Along with being among the most family-friendly schools, the Kelce College of Business was also named by the Review as one of the top 294 business colleges in the nation.

Economic report indicates community confidence

Public and private investment in the City of Pittsburg has led to exciting and encouraging community growth, according to the latest edition of the Pittsburg Micropolitan Area Economic Report. The report is published quarterly by the Kelce College of Business.

The report, developed by assistant professor and economic researcher Michael Davidsson, features the latest facts and figures regarding economic, property and employment trends in the region.

The latest report states that the level of investment in the city over the past three years is a sign of growing optimism in the community’s future.

“Almost \$300 million in three years is a significant level of investment for a town the size of Pittsburg,” Davidsson wrote, “and it is not accidental. It results from conscious efforts to create an environment that improves the wealth of the entire community.”

In the report, Davidsson points to economic development programs such as trails linking business centers and parks, neighborhood revitalization programs, installation of fiber-optic cable to improve Internet infrastructure and the Block22 project that will enhance and revitalize downtown Pittsburg.

“Cities have to foster an environment conducive to quality of life and economic growth,” Davidsson wrote. “The City of Pittsburg has initiated and implemented numerous economic development programs in the last few years.”

Enactus students help city with homeless project

Pitt State students Tali Ayala-Feliciangeli and Cameron Brown are leading a group of Pitt State Enactus students who are working with city leaders to develop a plan for homeless shelters in the community. More than 10 members of Enactus are working with the Pittsburgh Homeless Solutions Task Force.

"What we're trying to do right now is raise funds to get a shelter started in Pittsburgh," Brown said. "Our short-term goal is to find a place for homeless individuals to go this winter. Long term, we'd like to see an official homeless shelter go up in Pittsburgh."

Enactus students are assisting in various aspects of the project, including fundraising, finance, marketing, policies, procedures and donations. Becky Gray, director of housing and community development for the city of Pittsburgh, praised the students for their hard work and dedication to the cause.

"I'm filled with inspiration watching the Enactus students respond to this community need," Gray said. "Their professionalism, creativity and ability to get things done gives me hope for the future."

Enactus held a donation drive for coats and blankets, which were distributed to the local homeless to help keep them warm over the winter.

"We are very committed to helping those in need," Ayala-Feliciangeli said. "Being homeless is hard enough, but it's even harder in the winter. We want to do everything we can to help those individuals stay warm."

KCOB to offer insurance courses

The Kelce College of Business will begin offering courses in insurance starting next summer thanks to a grant from the Kansas Insurance Education Foundation (KIEF).

The college recently received a \$21,000 grant from KIEF that will go toward the development of a new course, Introduction to Risk Management and Insurance. The three-hour online course will be offered each summer beginning in 2017. The funds will also be used to develop an upper-level insurance course that will launch in the summer of 2018.

"Development of these new insurance courses will significantly enhance our applied finance curriculum and expose our students to the field of risk management and insurance," said Paul Grimes, dean of the Kelce College of Business. "The courses will be offered as part of the statewide insurance certificate program in cooperation with the other participating Kansas Board of Regents institutions."

Grimes said the new insurance courses will benefit PSU students and also the statewide insurance industry.

"This program will help build a stronger labor pool for the insurance industry across the state of Kansas," he said. "We will market the certificate program to our external constituents and encourage our business majors and minors to pursue the certificate."

Faculty member presents at Oxford

Kristen Maceli, associate professor of management and marketing, participated in the Oxford Women's Leadership Symposium in the fall of 2016. The symposium is hosted by Somerville College in Oxford, England.

It was the second time Maceli had presented at the international event.

"I went two years ago and presented a paper I wrote about the obstacles women in the U.S. face due to gender," Maceli said. "I followed up the study this past year, and presented those results. It is a small conference, but a great experience since you meet women (and a few men) from around the world."

Horner honored as Outstanding Educator

Stephen Horner, associate professor of management and marketing, has been recognized for excellence in education in the field of management.



Stephen Horner

Horner was selected to receive an Outstanding Educator Award from the Federation of Business Disciplines. The award, presented by the Southwest Academy of Management (SWAM), recognizes educators who demonstrate excellence in teaching and serve as leaders and mentors to others in management education.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled by this award," Horner said. "I love working with our students in Kelce, and to be recognized by peers in the field is a tremendous distinction. It is particularly gratifying to receive this award as a member of the Pitt State faculty."

Marching dream comes true

Twins Blaze and Mia Perry love being in the Frontenac High School/Middle School marching band. They've made new friends and say that marching and performing gives them a sense of accomplishment. That's especially true because Blaze and Mia are both blind.

Music Teacher Linda (Sawyer) Evans (BME '01, MS '04, MME '12) said Blaze and Mia came into the band program as sixth graders. Mia plays French horn and Blaze is a percussionist.

"We march on the field and in parades in grades 7 through 12," Evans said. "I wanted Mia and Blaze to have the same individual experience as everyone else, but I wasn't sure how to do that."

Evans experimented with a variety of strategies to help the twins stay in their lines as they marched, but nothing was working.

"The day before the Homecoming Parade I was just pulling my hair out," Evans said.

Then she hit on an idea. She had used PVC pipe in the past to help students learn proper spacing as they marched, so she asked the custodian if he had some really thin pipe they could experiment with.

"We realized this was it," Evans said.

The day of the parade, Evans used tape to attach the pipe to the lines in which the twins marched.

"I don't think many people even noticed it," Evans said.

The simple device helped make a dream come true for Mia and Blaze.

"Seeing the faces on the twins when we got to the end of the parade was wonderful," Evans said. "They were just beaming."

D.J. Perry, the twins' father, said Evans' extra effort to help Blaze and Mia march in the band means a lot to his family.

"As a parent, you want your children to be able to do what all the other kids do," he said.

The marching part was scary, Perry said, but he was proud of Mia and Blaze for facing that fear and overcoming it.

Evans said she learned a lot from helping Blaze and Mia succeed in marching band. She says she feels fortunate to have been able to help the twins succeed.

"The cool thing is that it shows no matter what your disability, if you're determined, you can be successful," Evans said.



Blaze and Mia Perry share a special bond with their band teacher, Linda Evans, who helped them achieve their goal of marching with the band.

Learning by serving

Sometimes the most important lessons are taught from a book. And other times, students learn all they need to know from a simple smile.

Students in Laura Covert's Therapeutic Recreation for Older Adults course get a healthy amount of both.

Once a week for six weeks this past fall, students visited Gran Villas Assisted Living Center in

Pittsburg to work with residents on a variety of physical and mental activities. The goal of the weekly visit was to teach students how to care for older adults while also providing the residents with fun, engaging interaction.

"The experience allowed students not only to learn about aging, but also to learn valuable life lessons from the older adults, and it was a way for PSU students to give back to the Pittsburg community," Covert said.

Shanna Taylor, executive director of Gran Villas, said she enjoyed having the students visit because it provides the residents a fun and important experience.

"A lot of our residents do not have family in the area, so they rarely have visitors," Taylor said. "Having the PSU students here to work with them really adds a spark to their days, and it's very obvious that they enjoy the interaction."



Student Chandler Bishop shares a hug with a resident at Gran Villas Assisted Living Center.



Playing a sport blindfolded helped students in Laura Colvert's therapeutic recreation class appreciate the challenges others with disabilities may face.

Lessons beyond sport

Students in Laura Covert's therapeutic recreation class learned a new sport this past fall, as well as some lessons about life.

Jim Debus, a sight-impaired athlete, came to PSU to teach the students the Paralympic game Goalball and also some lessons about people who are blind or have other disabilities.

Goalball was invented in 1946 as a way to help with the rehabilitation of disabled World War II veterans. The game pits two teams of three blindfolded persons, facing each other, across a gym floor. The object is to roll a bouncy rubber ball, which has bells in it, past three defenders guarding a goal about 29 feet wide. The players rely on the sound the ball makes to react and defend the goal.

The PSU students, who wore blindfolds or blackened goggles, had to learn the basics. They learned to orient themselves by feeling lines taped on the floor on top of string. They also learned they had to listen to each other and to communicate verbally or by clapping or banging on the floor.

Group honors professor for vision, advocacy

When Don Ward retired from Pittsburg State's Department of Psychology and Counseling in December, he could look back at more than 40 years at PSU and a long list of honors and awards he has received. He didn't know it then, but he had one more coming.

In March, the American Counseling Association will honor Ward with its Thomas J. Sweeney Award for Visionary Leadership and Advocacy.

Ward said the award is especially meaningful to him because it recognizes two things that he calls his passion, vision and advocacy.



Don Ward

Honored teachers give students advice

Nicolette Hastings, a special education teacher at Baxter Springs High School, said a second-grade teacher made a big difference in her life.

"It was the first time in my life that I felt valued," Hastings said.

Hastings, the recipient of the College of Education's fall 2016 Distinguished Service Award for teaching, spoke to students at PSU's Student Teacher Recognition and Award Ceremony. Brandy Stanley, the school counselor at the Frontenac Junior High School and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for administration, also spoke.

Hastings, who said her family moved frequently when she was a child and was at times homeless, said her experience allowed her to understand her students in a unique way.

"Most of my students are going through many of the same things that I went through as a child," Hastings said. "As a special education teacher, it has been my privilege to be able to help many of my students."

Stanley urged the graduating seniors to always think about the "what ifs" in life.

"If is the biggest word in the English language," she said, "because it's full of possibilities."

Talking about her work as a school counselor, Stanley said it was like having a big family.

"I have four beautiful children," Stanley said, "but I have 224 students I call 'my kids.'"



Auto tech offers new certification training

Pittsburg State's Automotive Technology Department is offering its students a new technician certification.

Beginning last fall, the department integrated the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' (FCA) CAP LOCAL program into its two-year Automotive Service Technology curriculum. The program prepares technicians to work as Level 1 Technicians upon graduation from a certified, two-year training institution, such as a university, college, community college or technical center.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles established the program – known as CAP (Career Automotive Program) LOCAL – in partnership with the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) to train approximately 1,000 students annually.

Nico Prelogar, an automotive technology instructor at PSU, said the FCA-specific training will be online. Students will then complete 35 on-campus modules in various areas of automotive technology.

"For example, the FCA training modules for brake systems will be tied to our brakes class," Prelogar said. "When, at the end of our two-year degree they have completed all the modules, the students will be Level 1 certified through FCA."

Student launches #PeopleOfPSU series

During her internship in the University Marketing and Communication Office, recent graduate Jenna Bausch launched the #PeopleOfPSU series on the university's main social media accounts.

Bausch, who graduated in December with a degree in graphic design, launched the series as a way of sharing stories from Gorillas across campus.

"I kind of see it as our own version of the Humans of New York series," Bausch said. "Every person on our campus has a unique story, and I wanted to help share those through photos and social media."

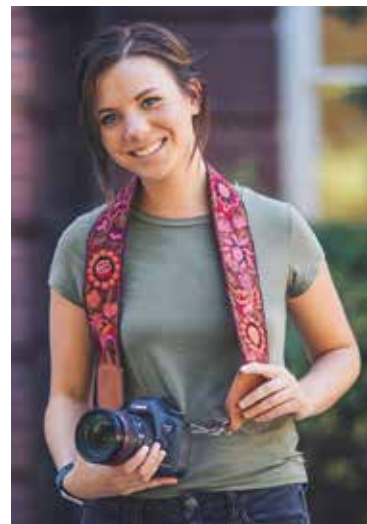
Brett Dalton, coordinator of social media at Pitt State, said the #PeopleOfPSU series has been a

valuable addition to the university's online presence.

"When Jenna approached me about doing this, I thought it was absolutely awesome," Dalton said.

A new person is featured every Wednesday on PSU's Instagram account, and the series has become quite popular with university students and staff.

"I look forward to seeing the new feature every week," said senior Chandler Wilson, who was featured in the series.



Jenna Bausch

Construction alumni raise \$73K for scholarships

For the first time since its inception in 1988, the PSU Construction Alumni Gorilla Golf Classic Series raised more than \$70,000, most of which will go toward student scholarships.

Hosted by the PSU Construction Alumni Association, the 2016 series of four golf tournaments throughout the region is one of the premier fundraisers for the construction management program. The four tournaments were in Pittsburg, Kansas City, Wichita and Rogers, Ark.

The total raised in 2016 was \$73,000,



of which \$45,000 will be presented as scholarships to 54 students. The remaining proceeds will help fund the association's endowment.

Joe Levens, assistant professor and key organizer of the series, said he's proud of

the continued success of the series.

"It's incredible how generous our faculty, staff and alumni are when it comes to supporting our students," he said. "To be able to fund scholarships for more than 50 students is a wonderful feeling for all of us."

Thomas named COT interim associate dean

Tim Thomas, a longtime COT faculty member and former department chair, is the college's first associate dean. He will serve as associate dean on an interim basis while the university conducts a national search for the position.



Tim Thomas

In this new interim role, Thomas will work alongside Dean Tim Dawsey to lead the COT into a new era of progress and advancement.

"I have tremendous respect and passion for the College of Technology at Pitt State, and I look forward to helping lead the college in this new role of interim associate dean," Thomas said. "I'm excited to work with Dean Dawsey and the faculty and staff to further enhance and promote the academic excellence that the COT has long enjoyed."

The position of associate dean was created this year to provide further support to the dean and faculty, said Provost Lynette Olson. Thomas, as interim associate dean, will handle many of the daily, on-campus duties within the College of Technology.

His focus will be primarily on the academic side of the college's operations. That support will allow Dawsey, as dean, to focus on building partnerships and interfacing with business and industry.


"This is a new leadership model for the College of Technology, and it's one we're very excited about," Olson said. "Tim Thomas has long been an admired and devoted member of our COT faculty, and his experience will prove invaluable in his new role as interim associate dean."



Students, alumni connect at Company Days

More than 200 companies participated in the 2016 Company Days event, which gives students the opportunity to network with professionals from across the country. Companies in attendance included national brands as well as local companies.

For the students, Company Days is a rare opportunity to have hundreds of potential employers all together in one place.

Watch online video. 


"It's pretty unique to have something like this at your school," said Ryan Urban, a communication major with a minor in graphic design. "It's an amazing opportunity for all of us."

For the many alumni who now represent their employers at Company Days, returning to the event is a reminder of its importance.

"Company Day was a huge help for me," said Katie George, integrated marketing manager for Boelte-Hall in Roeland Park. "Just getting to meet people in the industry and asking questions is invaluable."




Baja is back!

Watch online video. 

President Steve Scott announces that the Baja SAE Kansas competition will return to the PSU campus in 2018. Scott made the announcement at the conclusion of a news conference that was called to share plans for the 2017 competition, which will be held at PSU May 25-28.

Weede Renovations complete

Watch online video. 

Pittsburg State University celebrated completion of a four-year, nearly \$5 million project to remodel the Garfield Weede Building this past October.

“It’s exciting to finally see the project complete,” said Jim Johnson, director of intercollegiate athletics. “In many ways, it’s even better than we imagined.”

The total project began with a \$1.2 million lead gift from alumni Alan and Roberta Whetzel, for the remodeling of John Lance Arena. Since then, donors have supported work that has been completed in phases while the building remained in use.

The completion of the overall project means nearly every space and surface in the building, completed in 1971, is new. That includes an extended entryway, coaches’ offices, locker rooms, the mezzanine and new champions club, a new lecture hall and sports medicine center and even a new athletics Hall of Fame Wall.



Newly remodeled west entrance



Hall of Fame wall



Extended entryway



Freeman
Lecture Hall

The completion of the overall project means nearly every space and surface in the building, completed in 1971, is new.

East concessions area



Athletes make dreams come true

Pitt State Athletics celebrated Make-A-Wish Day on November 5 during the football game against Nebraska-Kearney.

This year, PSU helped make a wish come true for Shelly Mallams, a 16-year-old girl from Girard who battled cancer after a tumor was found in her lung. As part of the Make-A-Wish celebration, Mallams received free hotel nights and a shopping spree in Wichita.

Mallams had another dream come true on Nov. 5 when she became an honorary member of the PSU Spirit Squad. She cheered with the squad during the second quarter of the football game.

"I've always loved cheering," soft-spoken Shelly said. "I like that feeling of supporting the team."



Shelly Mallams' wish comes true on the shoulders of Pitt State Cheerleaders



Yuting "Zoey" Qi and Lana DaSilva

Volleyball players find new 'home' in U.S.

Lana DaSilva, a senior exercise science major from Sao Vicente, Brazil, always dreamed of leaving her home country to explore the world, but she never really planned to attend college in the U.S.

But after following a friend from Brazil to Cowley Community College, DaSilva eventually joined the volleyball team at Pittsburg State.

"When I was at Cowley, we scrimmaged here at Pitt State," she said. "I remember really loving it here, loving the campus, loving the community. After two years at community college, I really felt like PSU would be a great fit. Pitt offered me a good scholarship, and it all worked out well. I love it here."

DaSilva was one of two international students on the 2016 volleyball team. The other is junior Yuting "Zoey" Qi, a native of Shenyang, China. Qi came to Pitt State after two years at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo.

It wasn't always easy, Qi said, as she didn't speak any English when she arrived in the U.S. However, she felt tremendous support at PSU.

"Pitt State really takes care of its international students," Qi said. "They are very, very helpful, and there are many international students here. You don't feel alone or that no one understands you. It's really a great place to be."

DaSilva said the support students receive doesn't stop at the campus boundaries.

"The entire community has our backs," DaSilva said. "There is so much support for us throughout the entire town, and that really helps you feel like you're at home even when you're not."

Herlocker, Lungwitz embrace leadership roles

Senior guards Paige Lungwitz and Hadyn Herlocker have been a big part of one of the most successful periods for the Gorilla Women's Basketball program. Going into their senior season, the pair has been a part of 79 wins and only 21 losses and have made three trips to the NCAA Tournament. As they began their senior campaign, the two best friends and teammates reflected on their careers and discussed what the future holds ... on and off the court.

Growing up 14 miles from Pittsburg in Girard, Kan., Herlocker was already familiar with Pittsburg State's culture prior to joining the basketball team.

"I grew up watching Pitt State athletics, whether it was going to football or basketball games or going to all the [basketball] camps," said Herlocker. "I didn't have to come on a visit or anything because I knew since when I was little, [Pittsburg State] was where I wanted to go."

Lungwitz, on the other hand, hadn't the slightest clue what Pittsburg entailed until her official visit.

"I grew up in Wichita, so I was used to having everything at my fingertips," she said. "It was a little bit of a culture shock coming to Pitt State, just getting used to the size. It's much smaller."



Hadyn Herlocker

The goals of this year's squad were to work hard and reach their fullest potential.

"Ultimately, everyone's role is to lead to the team having success," said Herlocker. "We wanted to do well in the conference and just compete day in and day out. Our conference is one of the toughest in the nation."

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is paramount to their athletic careers off the court. This organization allows all student-athletes to give back to the community for their unconditional support.

"Keeping yourself motivated is a big thing," Lungwitz said. "It's definitely a dogfight to get through it all, but the experience you get out of it is 100 percent worth it in the end. The experiences and the relationships you build out of it are incredible. Even on



Paige Lungwitz

the hardest days, no matter what, just know that it will be rewarding in the end and keep yourself motivated."

Lungwitz and Herlocker will graduate in May. Following graduation, the two plan to stay in Pittsburg and attend graduate school at Pittsburg State and pursue master's degrees in Business Administration.

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Outstanding alumni return for Homecoming

The campus and community turned out to honor three outstanding alumni during Homecoming activities last October.

Father Mike Simone, director of vocations and chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, Kan.; John Lair, program director with New Hope Services and Special Olympics coach, of Pittsburg; and Holly Cranston, M.D., a physician in Pittsburg, received the 2016 Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award.

In addition to speaking to students, the trio attended a reception in their honor on Friday of Homecoming weekend and then rode in the Saturday parade.



Father Mike Simone, John Lair and Holly Cranston

Watch online video. 

Father Michael Simone

Father Michael Simone (BS in accounting, '96) studied at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md., where he earned a master of arts degree in theology and a master's of divinity in theology.

Fr. Simone was ordained a priest in the Catholic Diocese of Wichita in 2003 and assigned as associate pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Wichita that same year. In 2004, he was assigned assistant director of the Office of Worship in the diocese and later that year assigned vice chancellor of the diocese.

From 2006 until 2008, Fr. Simone studied at the University of St. Thomas Aquino in Urbe in Rome, Italy, earning a spiritual theology license and gaining advanced proficiency in Italian.

In 2008, Fr. Simone was named director of vocations for the Diocese of Wichita, where he is responsible for the formation of seminarian candidates. In addition, Fr. Simone serves as the parish administrator of the 1,000-family, bilingual St. Anne Parish, with a school of nearly 180 students.

Fr. Simone is the son of Jerry and Carol Simone, Pittsburg.

John Lair

John Lair (BS in recreation, '96) earned a master's degree in recreation from Missouri Southern State University.

Lair began his professional career in Pittsburg at New Horizons, where he worked with adults with intellectual disabilities. New Horizons grew into New Hope Services and Lair transitioned in the role of program director.

In 2001, Lair began the work of establishing a Special Olympics team, which became the New Hope Bulldogs and today serves as a bridge between people with intellectual disabilities and the community. He is a certified coach in 16 team and individual sports and has volunteered more than 2,000 hours for Special Olympics last year alone, all in addition to his full-time job.

Under Lair's guidance, New Hope athletes have graduated from Special Olympics' Global Messenger program, in which they are formally trained in public speaking and advocacy. In addition, most New Hope athletes are employed in the Pittsburg community.

Lair was recently named the president and CEO of Special Olympics Kansas.

Lair and his wife, McLinda, live in Pittsburg.

Holly Cranston

Holly Cranston (BS in biology, '98) earned a medical degree from the University of Kansas Medical School in 2003. At KU, Cranston received four of the seven awards given at graduation from the Family Medical Residency Program, including the Jack C. Walker Award for the most outstanding resident in family medicine. She also completed a year as a fellow in Geriatric Medicine at KU.

Cranston started her medical career in Pittsburg and opened her own private practice and clinic, The Cranston Clinic, in 2007. Cranston's Medical Board Certified Specialties include family medicine, geriatrics, hospice and palliative care.

Cranston practices at Via Christi Hospital where she has served as chief of the medical staff and on the board. From 2011 until 2013, Cranston was medical director for Via Christi's Home Health Services and was director for Southern Care Hospice between 2010 and 2012.

Cranston and her husband, Greg (BS '96), have two children, Caitlin, who is 11; and Madison, who is 8. They live in Weir, Kan.



Kell Smalley and Leah Flynn, center, celebrate the big day with friends and family.

Romance blossoms on Family Day

Family Day meant a little something more to PSU alumni Kell Smalley and Leah Flynn this year.

Flynn thought she was at the gorilla statue in Champions Plaza to take a group picture with her former Pitt State volleyball teammates, but moments later, she received the surprise of a lifetime.

After the photo was taken, Flynn's boyfriend, Kell Smalley, escorted her to a newly installed paver in Champions Plaza.

It read, "Kell & Leah Smalley #OAGAAG."

Watch online video. 


That's when Smalley dropped to one knee.

"Our first chapter began at Pitt State when we met in the PSU athletics training room," said Smalley, a 2011 graduate and member of the 2011 national championship football team. "I wanted our next chapter to start here, too."

Flynn, a 2013 graduate, said "yes."

"I was absolutely shocked and couldn't say 'yes' fast enough," Flynn said. "We started our lives together in Pittsburg, and he planned such a fun weekend with all of our friends and old college teammates to bring us back to the place where we began. I am so thankful for THE BEST friends, family and future husband. We have such great memories at Pittsburg State, and I'm glad we could add more even after we are gone."

These roots run deep

Watch online video. 

In nominating her family, senior Hannah Pio noted that she will be the 23rd member of her family and the fourth generation to earn a Pitt State degree when she graduates this spring.

"For as long as I can remember, my family has been Pitt State fans," Pio wrote. "Their love and support for Pitt State goes back generations. My great grandpa, Elton Cline, was a chemistry teacher at Pitt. My grandma, Carole Jacques, worked in admissions and my grandpa, Richard Jacques, was a professor in the Department of Graphics and Imaging Technologies for 39 years."

Pio, a biology major from Gladstone, Mo., said she has almost always known she wanted to come to PSU.

"I was a little girl and it was during one of the pep rallies in Gorilla Village

that a cheerleader gave me her pom-poms and had me come and cheer with her," Pio wrote. "From that moment on, I knew there was no other college for me."

For the past three years, Pio has been a member of the cheerleading squad. She's also a member of the Honors College, the Chemistry Club and the Phi Eta Sigma, Lambda Sigma and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies.

Chad and Maureen

Pio and their children, Hannah and Jack, were honored at Family Day ceremonies during halftime of the PSU-Northeastern State University football game on Sept. 17.



President Steve Scott, right, with the Honorary Family, Chad and Maureen Pio and children, Jack and Hannah.

Road trip!

Pitt State is taking a road trip to connect with alumni. Jon Bartlow, director of alumni and constituent relations, said his crew is packing a van for the "Great Gorilla Tour," which will bring a little bit of PSU to the south and southeast.

Beginning on May 15 in Austin and then San Antonio, Texas, Bartlow and his crew plan alumni gatherings in Houston (May 16), New Orleans (May 17), Tampa (May 18), Orlando (May 19), Atlanta (May 20) and Nashville (May 21).

"We chose these locations because they are the areas in this part of the country that have the highest concentration of alumni," Bartlow said.

In the past, Bartlow said, Alumni Relations representatives might fly into a city for a Gorilla Gathering once every two or three years, but current budget restrictions have caused them to try something new.

Bartlow said the office will use Facebook and Twitter during the trip so alumni can keep up with them on their tour and learn about the adventures they have on the road.

"It's an exciting opportunity to bring a piece of PSU to our alumni across the south and southeast," Bartlow said.

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coming summer 2018



Class of 1976

Robert J. Grassino (BSEd, EDS 1992) retired in 2012 after more than 28 years in public education. Dr. Grassino spent 16 years working in the Circle School District, USD 375, in Towanda, Kan. While at Circle, he served as the elementary principal, the high school principal, and the assistant superintendent. In addition to leaving public education, Dr. Grassino also recently retired from the United States Coast Guard Reserve as a captain following 28 years of service and two overseas deployments.

Class of 1980

Lanny Schoeling (BS) has been named vice president of oilfield innovation at NeoTek Energy, where he will oversee the implementation and integration of NeoTek's technology into the oilfield. Dr. Schoeling holds 27 granted patents in the oil industry and has also served in the U.S. Army.

Class of 1986

Renee A. Grassino (BSEd, MS 1989, EDS 1992) retired from public education in 2012. Dr. Grassino spent time teaching in Lamar, Frontenac, and Arma before working 20 years as a middle school counselor in the Wichita public schools. She and her husband, Robert, are now both retired and living on Table Rock Lake in Shell Knob, Mo.

Carla Farmer (BGS) has been promoted to vice president of marketing and strategic communication at Cottey College. She joined the school in 2009 as the campaign manager and senior major gifts officer where she implemented a \$35 million campaign, managing more than 5,800 volunteers nationwide. She traveled the country with her colleagues, building a network of potential donors, which resulted in the campaign topping \$40 million. Farmer then moved her way up through other positions at Cottey College until being selected for her new title.

Class of 1988

David Hardwick (BST) was named service manager for Randall Ford, Inc. in June 2014 at Fort Smith, Ark. Randall Ford is the third oldest Ford dealership in America. This is after Hardwick spent 24 years as a master service adviser, including corporate accounts, during which time he earned several awards of distinction with Ford Motor Company. His awards included, Silver Medallion Award in 1994 and 1995, Memphis Region Winner's Circle Sweepstakes in 1995, Quality Care Leader in 1996, Regional Fast Track Retail Sales Leader in 1998 and 2008, #8 ranked in five states in 2009 and #1 ranked master service adviser in seven state area in 2012.

Class of 1996

Scott Wilson (BGS) was hired by First National Bank in Pratt, Kan., as the new financial adviser for First National Financial Services. Wilson has 10 years

continued



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of experience as a financial adviser and previously worked in a banking institution.

Class of 1998

Clare Hyatt (BS) is a doctor of veterinary medicine and currently resides in Phoenix, Ariz., where she has been awarded diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC). ACVECC recognizes veterinarians who have completed a three-year residency and successfully passed the certifying examination as specialists in veterinary emergency and critical care.

Class of 1999

Chris McLean (BSE, MS 2003) was named District No. 1 Elementary School Principal of the Year in the state of Kansas, which is broken up

into six districts. He currently works at Broadmoor Elementary School in Louisburg, Kan. McLean began his career in Osawatomie, teaching fourth and fifth grade from 1999 to 2004, then served as the assistant principal at Osawatomie Middle School from 2004 to 2008 before coming to Broadmoor Elementary.

Shara Reilly (BBA) was nominated for the award of Kansas Teacher of the Year. Reilly began her education career 10 years ago, and currently works as a fourth/fifth grade looping teacher at Mize Elementary School in the De Soto School District.

Class of 2000

Jennifer Brannon (BA) published a children's book entitled, "Missionary Kid Stories," which tells fictionalized,

first-hand accounts of six different missionary kids and the countries where they live. She grew up in Mexico as a missionary child and used that experience to write her book, which is meant to help families learn about missionaries and other countries. Brannon now lives in Kechi, Kan., with her husband and three children.

Class of 2002

Andrew Nave (BBA) has been hired as the executive vice president of economic development for the Greater Wichita Partnership. Nave previously worked in economic development positions in Johnson County, Overland Park, Shawnee and south-central Missouri for more than a decade. He is chair-elect of the Kansas Economic Development Alliance.

continued

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Class of 2011

Eric Jones (BS) was hired as the new center director for Gadsden Job Corps Center, which is a no-cost education and career technical training program carried out through the U.S. Department of Labor. He was previously employed by Alutiiq, which recently took over the Gadsden Job Corps Center contract. Jones went through a similar vocational program after dropping out of high school, giving him a unique perspective as the center director.

Class of 2013

Ashley Wilbert (BBA) joined the Sinnett & Associates firm as an associate. She has three years of experience with operational audits, cost-recovery reviews as well as internal control and compliance activities in the natural gas industry.

Class of 2016

Melanie Garrison (Early Childhood Autism Certificate) has been selected by the Kansas Council for Exceptional Children as one of the special education teachers of the year. Garrison is an early childhood special education teacher in Garden City.

In Memory

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

James T. Akers, 1961
Tina L. Allen, 2006, Pittsburg, Kan.
Gregory N. Ambrose, 1975, Olathe, Kan.
Dorothy L. (Shade) Ames, 1963, Fort Scott, Kan.
Helen L. Anderson, 1949, Parsons, Kan.
Kent E Anderson, 1976, Kansas City, Kan.
Nancy J. (Jones) Anderson, 1958, Vincennes, Ind.
Robert W. Baker, 1952
Raye A. Barnes, 2005, Miami, Okla.
Robert C. Basye, 1971
Michael J. Beal, 1991, Lawrence, Kan.
David M. Beaman, 1967, Iola, Kan.
David R. Beaver, 1997, Meade, Kan.
Roger M. Bennett, 1958, Citrus Heights, Calif.
John M. Biles, 1976, Lawrence, Kan.
Charles E. Birt, 1950, Clayton, Calif.

Nancy Lee (Horton) Bowlus, 1946, Dayton, Ohio
Lewis L. Boyer, 1961, Carl Junction, Mo.
Arthur R. Boyle, 1971, Bartlesville, Okla.
Doris M. (Cordier) Bradley, 1969
Rhonda J. (Pernot) Bradshaw, 1981, Pittsburg, Kan.
Orville J. Bridenstine, 1950, Bartlesville, Okla.
Mary M. (Robberson) Brixey, 1979, Vinita, Okla.
William E. Brookhouser, 1950, Wichita, Kan.
Lavon (Crawford) Brosseau, 1971, Concordia, Kan.
Mary C. (Carter) Brown, 1953
Richard A. Brown, 1956
Susan C. (Austin) Buffington, 1966
Robert L. Burcham, 1963, Fort Scott, Kan.
Wynona J. (Barrett) Bush, 1943, Long Beach, Calif.
Jeanne M. (Malcolm) Butcher, 1940, Emporia, Kan.
Rose (Shular) Campbell, 1942, Pittsburg, Kan.
Rocky J. Carter, 1973, Afton, Okla.
Catherine (Adams) Cheek, 1979, Wichita, Kan.
Beverly J. (Fields) Chouinard, 1957, Pittsburg, Kan.
Leslie W. Clark, 1960, Gardner, Kan.
Rick L. Clark, 1971
Jerry P. Coburn, 1961, Joplin, Mo.
John M. Cochran, 1957, Wichita, Kan.
Marilyn C. (Jones) Cole, 1960, Willis, Texas
Cathi L. (Vandervoort) Cook, 1977, Springdale, Ark.
Curtis A. Cooper, 1968, Kansas City, Mo.
Jack R. Copen, 1947, Grove, Okla.
Donald E. Corder, 1980, Baxter Springs, Kan.
John R. Cornella, 1957, Wichita, Kan.
Linda L. (Ogle) Coulter, 1998, Fort Scott, Kan.
Eldon E. Crane, 1958, Fort Scott, Kan.
James M. Creevey, 1956, Dodge City, Kan.
Aubrey R. Crews, Jr., 1956, Overland Park, Kan.
Allen B. Crisler, 1963, Paragould, Ark.
Mary C. (Chubb) Dale, 1949, Joplin, Mo.
Larry E. Davis, 1969, Granbury, Texas
Verne D. Davis, 1976, Fort Dodge, Kan.
Darrell W. Degenhart, 1953, Palm Springs, Calif.
Martha J. (Shannon) Dela Cruz, 1968, Kingwood, Texas
Steven R. Delmez, 1973, Joplin, Mo.
John T. Dernovich, 1967, Arvada, Colo.
Darrell W. Divine, 1956, Parsons, Kan.
Jim A. Doti, 1952, Terre Haute, Ind.

continued

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Evelyn G. (Pappas) Dowling, 1957, Edmond, Okla.
Malcolm D. Downing, 1982, Bella Vista, Ga.
Barry W. Duncan, 1976, Joplin, Mo.
Mark B. Eaton, 1940, Lenexa, Kan.
Neil R. Edds, 1951, Independence, Kan.
Marla J. (Overby) Eisenbrandt, 1977, Anderson, Calif.
Merlyn N. Elder, 1956, Wichita, Kan.
Gilbert E. Emerson, 1986, Pittsburg, Kan.
Ashly Renee Erickson, 2016, Pittsburg, Kan.
Bobby D. Erisman, 1965, Ottawa, Kan.
Donna G. Evans, 1982, Joplin, Mo.
Gary W. Evans, 1957, Athens, Ala.
Linda E. Feland, 1960, Webb City, Mo.
Ronald G. Fike, 1962
Kathleen D. (Giefer) Firestone, 1975, Sausalito, Calif.
Barbara E. (Runkle) Foresman, 1960, Pittsburg, Kan.
Tony J. Fornelli, 1989, Wichita, Kan.
John E. Francis, 1967, Rose Hill, Kan.
Bob Gadberry, 1940, Overland Park, Kan.
Mila J. (Sawyer) Gaede, 1957, Las Vegas, Nev.
Dee A. Gallemore, 1978, Sarcoxie, Mo.
Susan E. Gardner, 1981, McLouth, Kan.
Don A. Gillenwater, 1956, Wichita, Kan.
Roberta L. (Crow) Gingerich, 1972, Lawrence, Kan.
Emma J. (Hinkle) Goade, 1973, Tulsa, Okla.
James D. Goodwin, 1961, Overland Park, Kan.
Franye S. (Dudgeon) Gray, 1958, Grove, Okla.
James M. Gray, 1961, Grove, Okla.
Ronald E. Greathouse, 1963, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Norma J. (Allen) Gregory, 1961, Joplin, Mo.
Jon R. Hamilton, 1968, Salina, Kan.
William C. Hanson, 1970, Pittsburg, Kan.
Chalmers E. Harris, 1956, Raymore, Mo.
Merrill W. Harris, 1976, Wichita, Kan.
John H. Hartford, Manhattan, Kan.
Mardeen M. (Bolze) Hartford, 1949, Manhattan, Kan.

Karen J. Hatcher, 1984, Grove, Okla.
Berniece H. (Ewing) Hatfield, 1934, Wichita, Kan.
Jeremiah J. Hawley, 2011, Riverton, Kan.
Virginia Hayes (Ashbaugh) Mills, 1966, Wichita, Kan.
Richard L. Hayes, 1967, Denver, Colo.
Karen S. (Lewis) Hays, 1960, Wichita, Kan.
Constance A. (Cockerill) Hembree, 1943
David J. Hemphill, 1973, Lawrence, Kan.
Dan H. Hickman, 1982, Siloam Springs, Ark.
Clyde B. Higgins, 1976, Miami, Okla.
Bob L. Hill, 1955, Fort Scott, Kan.
Kathy L. Hoegler, 1991, Paola, Kan.
Harris D. Hopkins, 1948, Columbus, Kan.
Pamela K. (Melton) Hopkins, 1982, Pittsburg, Kan.
Frank E. Horn, 1952, Broken Arrow, Okla.
Doris M. Horton, 1957, Topeka, Kan.
Marvin C. Howard, 1961, Joplin, Mo.
Don R. Howey, 1959, Brownwood, Texas
Leonard J. Imhof, 1943, Fort Scott, Kan.
Rod R. Ivy, 1969, Crosby, Texas
Suzette (Smith) Jackson, 1992, Lawrence, Kan.
Lavon A. (Baker) James, 1990, Pittsburg, Kan.
Myles D. Jennings, 2009
Carolyn J. (Love) Johnson, 1965, Racine, Wis.
Jonny D. Johnson, 1993, Oswego, Kan.
Jimmie L. Jones, Joplin, Mo.
Mary C. (Kilger) Jones, 1943, Pittsburg, Kan.
Theodore J. Juenemann, 2014, Herndon, Kan.
Glenda S. (Graves) Julian, 1996, Pittsburg, Kan.
Inez (Yeargan) Kaiser, 1941, Overland Park, Kan.
Brian A. Kavanagh, 2002, Baltimore, Md.
Floyd R. Kelley, 1970, Gainesville, Texas
Ronald F. Kendall, 1958, Bartlesville, Okla.
Lucille (Good) Kennedy, 1960, Joplin, Mo.
George L. Kenney, 1965, Fort Myers, Fla.
Larry K. Kilmer, 1971, Cotopaxi, Colo.

Robert M. Kite, 1943, Tulsa, Okla.
Howard A. Kivett, 1972, Fort Scott, Kan.
Rita L. (Whisman) Kline, 1984, Joplin, Mo.
Carl D. Knepper, 1950
Casinda S. (Moberg) Kremeier, 1970, Pleasant Hill, Mo.
Helen F. Kriegsman, 1944, Pittsburg, Kan.
Steve L. Kruse, 1988, Hepler, Kan.
Millicent G. Laberge, Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Jack L. Laird, Columbus, Kan.
Ruth C. (Hinkle) Lance, 1942, Wichita, Kan.
Murle E. Lassman, 1961, Carl Junction, Mo.
Paul K. Laughlin, 1950, Eucha, Okla.
Ronald F. Layden, 1963, Pittsburg, Kan.
Sharon L. (Henson) Leach, 1978
Roy Lee, 1947, Riverside, Conn.
Wanda M. Lee, 1964, Overland Park, Kan.
Ted W. Leigh, Girard, Kan.
Elsie Ruth Leistikow, 1953, Independence, Kan.
John L. Lenhart, 1941, Wichita, Kan.
Tom R. Lindahl, 1960, Weston, Mo.
John J. Livingston, 1960, Joplin, Mo.
Damon C. Lloyd, 1951
John D. Lloyd, Riverton, Kan.
Max E. Lundquest, 1953, Pittsburg, Kan.
Karen S. (Thompson) Lutes, 1975, Cherryvale, Kan.
Tim J. Malone, 1986
Phyllis (Thomas) Manning, 1936, Overland Park, Kan.
Catherine M. (Mendenhall) Maris, 1958, Butler, Mo.
Paul H. Marshall, 1971
Jerry F. McCloud, 1973, Shawnee, Kan.
Waldon E. McCoy, 1947, Lowell, Kan.
Claxton D. McCullough, 1959, Bartlesville, Okla.
Rex C. McGugin, 1965, Dodge City, Kan.
Tom J. McNally, Pittsburg, Kan.
Gary D. Melton, 1975, Pittsburg, Kan.
Patrick B. Mercer, 2016, Kansas City, Mo.
Mary E. (Cleland) Meriwether, 1990
Joseph C. Miller, 1974, Wilmington, N.C.
Nancy L. Miller, 1970, Fort Scott, Kan.
Blaine H. Miltner, 1977, Lawrence, Kan.
Altricia R. (Ogden) Misse, 1972, Leawood, Kan.
Margaret L. (Brennan) Monaghan, 1983, Dallas, Texas
Paula S. Monsour, 1988, Denver, Colo.
Dwane O. Morgan, 1960, North Little Rock, Ark.
Carol A. Morris, 1973, Miami, Okla.
Larry L. Mosburg, 1961
Doris A. (Moyer) Moscoe, 1951, Austin, Texas
Lyndell G. Mosley, 1978, Marianna, Ark.
Dolores M. (Ristau) Mulnix, 1996, Eureka Springs, Ark.
Diantha E. (Tedlock) Muzingo, 1959
Billy J. Myers, 1970, Wichita, Kan.



Michael W. Neden, 1978, Carthage, Mo.
Carlene (Schifferdecker) Neihart, 1950
Ruth L. (Clark) Nipper, 1962
Matthew D. Nutter, 2014
Jim R. Oberzan, 1948, Joplin, Mo.
Gaynelle (Gilbreath) Oehme, 1959, Pittsburg, Kan.
Donald Ollenburger, Houston, Texas
Corinne R. (Long) O'Neal, 1964, Riley, Kan.
Shirley G. (Crist) Orlando, 1982, Joplin, Mo.
Lida M. (Wood) Overton, 1957, Parsons, Kan.
Donald P. Pannell, 1973, Clarksville, Ark.
Tyler G. Pate, 1973, Austin, Texas
Thelma M. (Steeby) Patterson, 1963, Goddard, Kan.
Effie E. (Knight) Paul, 1942, Wichita, Kan.
Ronald G. Peak, 1959, St. Louis, Mo.
Beatrice I. (Tompkins) Pearson, 1951, Monticello, Ark.
Donald C. Pearson, 1953, Springfield, Mo.
Robert S. Pearson, 1950, Monticello, Ark.
Dennis A. Pendrak, 1971, Joplin, Mo.
Bill P. Peters, Jr., 1973, Enid, Okla.
Patsy M. Petzold, 2009, Olathe, Kan.
Ronald G. Phifer, 1972, Olathe, Kan.
David E. Pinkelman, 1963, Olathe, Kan.
Sandra S. (Carrico) Pirrong, 1978, Miami, Okla.
Avis (Harvey) Polley, 1963, Osawatomie, Kan.
Robert E. Porter, 1962, Galena, Kan.
Carl W. Primm, 1956, Olathe, Kan.
Mary E. Probert, 1967
Karen K. (Crum) Proctor, 1966, Wichita, Kan.
Michael E. Pruitt, 1966, Nevada, Mo.
Carolyn J. (Middleton) Randall, 1959, Joplin, Mo.
Kathy A. (Whitmore) Reilly, 1975, Olathe, Kan.
James R. Roberts, 1949, Overland Park, Kan.
Ronnie J. Robinson, 1975, Mound Valley, Kan.
Jack D. Rockefeller, 1954, Topeka, Kan.
Iris J. Rodman, 1963, Montgomery Village, Md.
Mary (Roberts) Roper, 1963
Merrill Ray Ross, 1942, Topeka, Kan.
John W. Rucker, 1962, Leawood, Kan.
James D. Saar, 1957, Stillwater, Okla.
Gordon B. Sailors, 1941, Topeka, Kan.
Randy S. Salmans, 1968, Topeka, Kan.
Burton L. Sanders, 1948
John E. Sartore, 1951, Elkhorn, Neb.
Melvin L. Schaper, 1962, Independence, Kan.
Gloria B. (Tucker) Schilling, 1970, Fort Scott, Kan.
Amelie E. (Hobart) Schwindt, 1956, Sacramento, Calif.
L. Ed Scott, 1949, Rancho Mirage, Calif.
Linda S. (Nicholas) Scott, 1983, Independence, Kan.
Pauline R. (Phillips) Scott, 1954, Fort Scott, Kan.

Esther K. (Pease) Seaman, 1934, Paxton, Ill.
Mark D. Seeley, 1985, Parsons, Kan.
Lona F. (Berry) Sharp, 1959, Miami, Okla.
Carole F. Shaw, 1974, Kansas City, Kan.
Marilyn L. (ZurBuchen) Shireman, 1950, Joplin, Mo.
Seymour Siegler, 1957
Stephanie L. Simpson, 2002, Tulsa, Okla.
Bobbie J. Sisk, 1953, Granbury, Texas
Joseph P. Skye, 2015, Baxter Springs, Kan.
George E. Slaven, 1958, Robinson, Ill.
Sheryl L. (Flick) Sloan, 1980, Overland Park, Kan.
Robert S. Small, Jr., 1966, St. Louis, Mo.
Dan E. Smith, 1959, Parsons, Kan.
Dennis A. Smith, 1972, Topeka, Kan.
Marie Smith, 1953, Wichita, Kan.
Kathryn I. (Newman) Smith, 1955, Fort Scott, Kan.
Lee A. Smith, 1981, Nevada, Mo.
Marvin L. Smith, 1966, Pittsburg, Kan.
William D. Sprenger, 1959, Indiana, Pa.
Richard Stadter, 1969, Osawatomie, Kan.
David G. Steele, 1967, Parsons, Kan.
Jerry A. Steele, 1969, Pittsburg, Kan.
Nancy A. (Ruehlen) Steinle, 1982, Lawrence, Kan.
Michael T. Stephens, 1969, Joplin, Mo.
Virginia E. (Cooper) Stone, 1941, Brevard, N.C.
Marisa B. Stotler, 2014, Joplin, Mo.
Charles F. Stout, Jr., 1959, Fort Scott, Kan.
Charles N. Stribling, 1966, Joplin, Mo.
Alice L. (Williams) Swisher, 1943, Topeka, Kan.

Mary Ann Talbot, 1955, Baxter Springs, Kan.
Mona I. (Lay) Taylor, 1967, Carthage, Mo.
Charles T. Thomas, 1949, Winfield, Kan.
Harold R. Thompson, 1953, Joplin, Mo.
Robert M. Tollman, 1949, Dunwoody, Ga.
Angie D. (Edmonds) Traylor, 2011, Andover, Kan.
Mark A. Tremain, 1976, Clarksville, Ark.
Rebecca L. Tucker, 1984, Wichita, Kan.
Brenda J. (McGinnis) Ungeheuer, 1966, Centerville, Kan.
Richard L. Valentine, 1968, Wichita, Kan.
Scott R. Van Becelaere, 1996, Pittsburg, Kan.
Cynthia Vietti, Arcadia, Kan.
Robert W. Voss, 1942, Orange City, Fla.
Deborah S. (Jones) Walker, 1976
Mark B. Walker, 1991, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Gerald L. Warren, 1968, Bel Plaine, Kan.
Desmond T. Watson, 1983, Kansas City, Kan.
Larry G. Weaver, 1996, Pittsburg, Kan.
Keith L. Weller, 1975, Pittsfield, Mass.
Robert E. Whitten
Shirley A. Willey, 1974, Garland, Kan.
James K. Wilson, 1966, Ozark, Mo.
Joyce M. (Morgan) Wilson, 1958, Wichita, Kan.
Norma F. (Evans) Wilson, 1949, Lawrence, Kan.
Sheree L. (Porlier) Wilson, 1979, Suffolk, Va.
Jane (Baldrige) Wiswall, 1957, Fort Smith, Ark.
George L. Wolfe, 1968, Joplin, Mo.
Carol J. Wonderlich, 1968, Hutchinson, Kan.
Gary M. Wyancko, 1971, Olathe, Kan.
Ronald P. Young, 1958, North Port, Fla.

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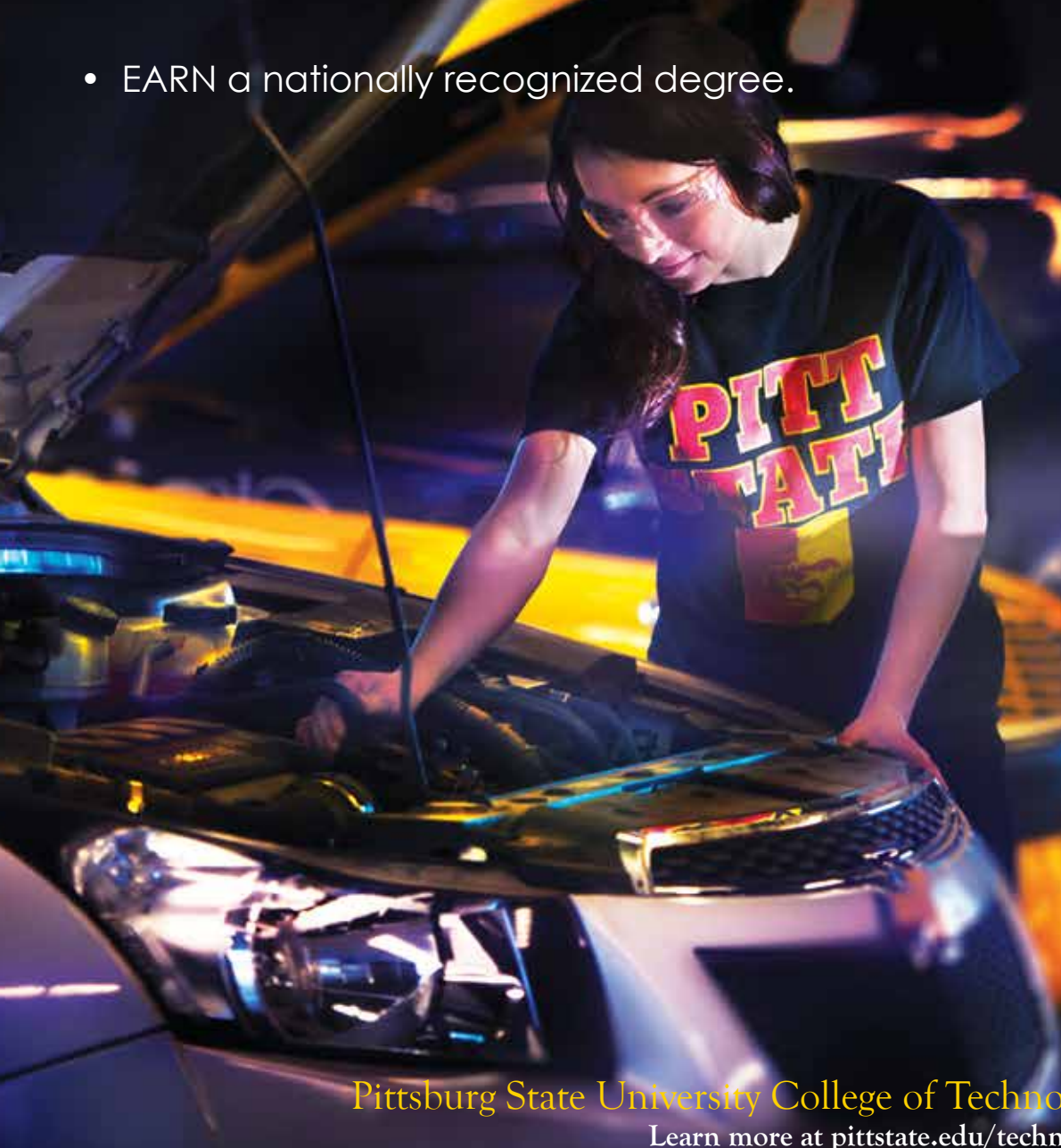
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Pittsburg State University

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Pittsburg, KS 66762-7500

Spring 2017 Gorilla Gatherings*

March 28 ... Gorilla Gathering Dinner..... Northwest Ark.
 April 4 Gorilla Gathering Lunch Wichita, Kan.
 April 12 Gorilla Gathering Dinner..... Tulsa, Okla.
 April 13 Gorilla Gathering Lunch Overland Park, Kan.
 April 27 Gorilla Gathering After Hours..... Boulevard Brewing Co.,
 Kansas City, Mo.

May 6..... Alumni Relations/Parks & Rec Fishing Derby..... Pittsburg

July 6 PSU Night at Sporting KC..... Kansas City, Kan.

*Dates are subject to change.

There's no stopping us!

We're taking the ultimate road trip...to see YOU!

The Great Gorilla Tour

Monday, May 15 through Sunday, May 21
 various cities, see page 11

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

Alumni & friends of Pitt State,
 make your reservations today!

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 PSU updates, event details, photos,
 contests, prizes, giveaways and more!



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Pitt State Alumni & Constituent Relations

Mark your calendar!



PSU Class of 1967
Half Century Reunion
May 11-12, 2017

*Dinner & dance
 and live band!!*

Reconnect with your classmates
 March at Commencement
 Induction into the Half Century Club
plus many more activities

For more information:

PSU Office of Alumni
 & Constituent Relations
 620-235-4758 or 877-PSU-ALUM
www.pittstate.edu/alumni



PSU Alumni and Constituent Relations

401 East Ford Avenue • Pittsburg, KS 66762

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