



Spring 2018

Pitt State

MAGAZINE

A Home Away From Home

Making a connection
with the community. | 16







PittState

MAGAZINE

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More photos and stories at
magazine.pittstate.edu

We're sure you'll agree there is no place like our beautiful campus. But it's so much more than just landscaping and architecture. Twice a year, we attempt to capture it in these pages, from student successes to what our alumni go on to achieve, and all of the wonderful things in between. If you get a chance, drop us a line. Or stop by and visit. We'd love to see you. #OAGAAG
— The editor



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instagram.com/Pittsburg_State



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



Please recycle.

#OAGAAG

@MaddieHopew –

Housing assignments came out and I'm beyond excited! So ready to start my future @Madison0055 @pittstate (7/6/17)

@Zayshawn_Weston –

Best feeling is when you go to the college hall of fame in Atlanta and they have @pittstate for you to choose for your fav football team. (7/8/17)

@cnhoward94 – If there

was a pill I could take & be 21 again, to relive college. I'd do it in a heartbeat!! That campus is Unreal Now!! (7/19/17)

@LindyFike – I mean I

may be biased, but I think Pitt is pretty great, and has one of the two FACS Ed programs in the state.

@thicks63 – Got my Northwest boyfriend to buy our daughter a @pittstate onesie for her first outfit ...safe to say we all know who is the boss. #oagaag

@zac_green223 – I've never been more excited to go back to pitt I might just need to take a fifth year.

@Gudde620 – Pensacola may have the beaches but we have the best DII campus in the nation! @pittstate

@toddgthompson –

Amazing what @pittstate is doing with technology and the study of #polymers.

@SwadenSmith – Going to college @pittstate will forever be one of the best decisions I've ever made

Great Memories

The article "Changing Lives" brought back a lot of great memories for me. While I was at MSSC for my undergraduate degree, I was blessed to be able to participate in a Medieval Studies program at Cambridge University. This was one of the greatest experiences I have had! Before that summer I was a person who had to have maps and a traveling partner, but I spent many hours wandering through streets just to see what I would find. I had many interesting conversations with my fellow students from all around the world at dinner every evening. One weekend I flew to Sweden to visit a friend and her family, unintentionally leaving her contact information in my room at Cambridge. During the hour that I spent waiting for her in the train station I could not speak with anyone. This experience gave me an understanding of what immigrants to The United States often experience. I have never forgotten that feeling of helplessness. Over the past 17 years I have urged all of my students to take any opportunity to travel and study abroad. It is truly life changing. Thank you for a great article and magazine. This was my first one since my graduation in May, and I look forward to future issues.

BRENDA DURBIN

MS in Educational Technology '17

Dear Editor,

My name is David Powell and I graduated in the summer of 2000 from the great Pitt State. While reading the article about studying abroad, I couldn't help but think about my business trip to Torreon, Mexico, earlier this year. Upon my arrival, I truly realized what poverty was and how minimal our first world problems really are. I visited the John Deere facility and was astonished at the level of pride EVERY employee had. Those employees wore khaki slacks and long sleeve button-down shirts, while working in an engine/axle factory. They weren't there because of union benefits, paid vacations or good insurance. They worked because of pride, and every employee I met had the same enthusiasm. Every day, people complain about American jobs being in Mexico or other countries. Yet, they do not see, hear, or know the true stories. I was truly humbled by my experiences in Mexico and came back to America with a different mindset. I truly love receiving this magazine. It takes me back to those long lost days of walking through campus and hurrying to class.

DAVID POWELL

BBA in Economics '80

Product Manager, Coffeyville Sektam

Finding Gus Gorilla

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

Email psumag@pittstate.edu to submit your entry. Please include your first and last name, as well as the page number and location where you found the hidden gorilla. One entry per person.

Entries must be received by June 1, 2018. 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 Thomas R. Hourigan, BS 1970, Columbia, Mo., who found the hidden Gorilla in the Fall 2017 magazine!



Leave a Lasting Legacy

We all have a desire for significance.

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

PSU recognizes individuals who have provided support for the University in the form of planned giving such as:

- Bequests through a Will or Trust
- Beneficiary Designations
- Appreciated Securities
- Life Insurance



Office of University Development

1-888-448-2778 • devel@pittstate.edu • pittstate.giftlegacy.com



Notifying us of your planned gift allows us to understand the intent of your gift and honor you as a member of The Heritage Society. Membership in The Heritage Society is available for anyone making a planned gift to PSU, no matter what size. If you have included Pittsburg State University in your estate plans, or would like to, please call or email us today.

MARCH

10 ... Rondelli Vocal Competition	4:30 p.m.
14 ... Bicknell Center: Mike Super – Magic & Illusion.....	7:30 p.m.
15 ... PSU Symphonic Band Concert	7:30 p.m.
27 ... TEDx Event.....	TBA
30 ... Bicknell Center: Churchill: The Blitz.....	7:30 p.m.

APRIL

7 ... Southeast Kansas Symphony.....	7:30 p.m.
10 ... United States Air Force Academy Concert Band.....	7:30 p.m.
12 ... PSU Wind Ensemble Concert	7:30 p.m.
22 ... Best of Broadway: Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA* ...	7:30 p.m.
25 ... PSU Jazz Ensembles	7:30 p.m.
26 ... PSU Theatre: Gruesome Playground Injuries.....	7:30 p.m.
27 ... PSU Theatre: Gruesome Playground Injuries.....	7:30 p.m.
28 ... PSU Theatre: Gruesome Playground Injuries.....	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
29 ... PSU Theatre: Gruesome Playground Injuries.....	2 p.m.
29 ... PSU Choirs Oratorio Concert	7:30 p.m.

MAY

3 ... Four State Band Festival Concert.....	7 p.m.
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Pittsburg State University
Bicknell Family
 Center for the Arts
 1711 S. Homer • Pittsburg, KS



*The Best of Broadway production, "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella," is made possible through the generous support of CDL Electric.

For performance times and ticket information: BicknellCenter.com or call 620-235-4796.



From left: Foundation CEO and President Kathleen Flannery, Give Back Foundation Founder Bob Carr, President Steve Scott, Marie Yaghmour and her husband, Dr. Talaat Yaghmour, Foundation Trustee.

A story of generosity

A \$500,000 gift to the Pittsburg State University Foundation will give as many as 25 Kansas students who have experienced hardships the chance to attend PSU.


President Steve Scott called the gift “a story of generosity.” That story began with Bob Carr, who grew up in Illinois and received a \$250 scholarship to attend college. Today, he’s a highly successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and author.

In 2003, he founded his non-profit, Give Something Back Foundation. The organization has prepaid more than \$35 million in scholarships to help more than 1,500 students go to 20 colleges in six states. Such students might have been in the foster system, the children of incarcerated parents, or might have lost a parent to death.

Students are identified in their ninth-grade year, and are provided mentors and the tools to succeed. They are required to have a minimum 3.0 GPA in high school, take a college preparatory course load, and demonstrate strong character.

To bring the program to Kansas, Carr worked with a business partner, Kansas native Peter Mallouk, whose wife, Veronica Yaghmour Mallouk, grew up in Pittsburg. Peter is president and chief investment officer of Creative Planning, Inc.

Scott said there is tremendous need for such support of students. State funding is at the 2006 level, which has necessitated increasing tuition and fees.

Watch online video. 

Johnson appointed to NCAA Management Council

Jim Johnson, director of Intercollegiate Athletics, has been selected as a Division II Management Council member representing the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.



Jim Johnson

“The MIAA is fortunate that Jim, with his years of NCAA committee experience and governance leadership, will be representing our voice on important decisions.”

The Management Council is charged with recommending administrative policy and regulations governing Division II.

“The Management Council is a very important group in the NCAA governance structure,” said Mike Racy, MIAA Commissioner. “The MIAA is fortunate that Jim, with his years of NCAA committee experience and governance leadership, will be representing our voice on important decisions.”

Johnson's appointment, which will run through the 2022 NCAA Convention, comes immediately after a four-year stint on the Division II Championships Committee, on which he served as chair since 2016. Johnson also serves as 1st Vice President of the NCAA Division II Athletic Director Association and has past terms of service on the NCAA's Division II Men's Basketball, Football, and Membership Committees.

Historic fraternity returns

It's been nearly 20 years since Alpha Phi Alpha, the nation's first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American men, last had a recognized chapter at PSU.

The fraternity will return to campus this spring thanks to a two-year effort by alumni and students. Jason Kegler, assistant vice president for Student Life, served as the primary campus liaison when talks of reviving the fraternity first began in 2015.

"The initial interest came from students on campus, but it was our Alpha Phi Alpha alumni who really helped move the process forward," said Kegler. "These groups have put a tremendous amount of work into resurrecting the Pitt State chapter. It's wonderful to see such an historic fraternity return to campus."

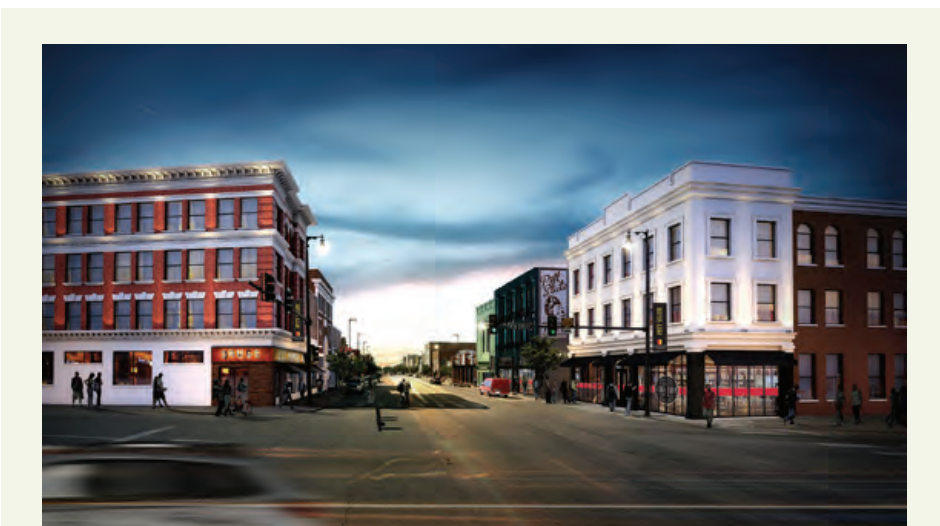
The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to "develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities."

Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on Dec. 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Small Crafter Licensing program launched

PSU is helping small crafters add Gorilla pride to their entrepreneurial spirit. The university has launched a new licensing program specifically geared to those crafters who want to sell homemade products that bear the university's trademarked logos and wordmarks.

"Our standard licensing program has thrived in recent years," said Jenny Hellwig, director of Creative Services and the primary contact



Block22 is being developed through a unique partnership between the university, the City of Pittsburgh and the Vecino Group at Fourth and Broadway.

Transformational

When Block22 opens in August 2018, four historic buildings at Fourth and Broadway will have been transformed into a unique living-learning community. Block22 will feature apartment-style housing for PSU students, a makerspace business incubator, Root Coffeehouse, professional offices, various dining options and more.

While much of the design will feature modern and even some futuristic themes, the overall project is as much about history as it is the years ahead.

"At the very heart of what we're trying to accomplish with Block22 is the rich heritage and history of Pittsburgh," said Shawn Naccarato, chief strategy officer. "Downtown Pittsburgh was once the center for business activity and entertainment in the city. We want to honor that past by helping revitalize the downtown district and build upon what our city's forefathers worked so hard to achieve."

A major part of that effort is preserving many of the original or historical aspects of the four buildings being renovated. That includes doorways, staircases, tin ceilings and mosaic tile floors.

Block22 is a joint project between PSU, the City of Pittsburgh and a private developer, the Vecino Group from Springfield, Mo. Mat Burton, a Pitt State alumnus and chief operating officer for The Vecino Group, said the project is leading the way for how universities and communities can partner to revitalize historic districts.

Watch online video. 

for university licensing. "But it's structured primarily for retail outlets. The Small Crafter Program offers crafters an easy, low-cost method of obtaining an official license to use our trademarks while

allowing consumers to know they're purchasing crafts from a licensed vendor."

Visit pittstate.edu/marketing to learn more or to apply for a small crafter's license.



Shama Ali



Andra Stefanoni



Danielle Driskill

Introductions

Shama Ali has been named the new Director of International Programs and Services. Ali comes to PSU from Creighton University where she served as the Coordinator of International Student and Scholar Services since 2003.

"We're excited to bring someone with Shama's international experience to Pittsburg State," said Howard Smith, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success. "She thoroughly understands the intricacies of federal regulations and has a proven track record working with international programs. I'm confident she will help us expand our university's presence as a destination for international students and scholars."

Ali earned her Master of Education Administration and her Master of Arts in Educational Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also earned a Master of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Karachi in Karachi, Pakistan.

Andra Stefanoni was named the new Director of Media Relations for the Office of University Marketing and Communication. Stefanoni (BA Communication 1991, MA Communication 1994), has written for newspapers, served non-profits and private industry, and has been a contributor to local, regional and national publications, for nearly 30 years. As a reporter for the Joplin Globe and Morning Sun, she covered the university extensively.

She replaced Ron Womble, who retired in Spring 2017 after 30 years of service, as the University's storyteller, media liaison, and editor of the Pitt State Magazine. Her husband, Brad (BA, 1994), also works at the University as the assistant director of purchasing.

Danielle Driskill was named the new Assistant Director for the Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations. Driskill (BA Communication 2012, MA Communication 2014), was a marketing account executive for Freeman Health System, where she developed marketing plans, campaigns, and projects, assisted with special events, worked with local media, and designed promotional items.

Now, she's working closely with alumni, volunteers, students, staff and the campus community to promote the office and its programming, and to gather feedback regarding constituent need. And, she's cultivating relationships with alumni and friends in order to assist with the recruitment of new students, as well as the donation of funds and resources to aid in university initiatives.



Dan Spangler

Trip to see gorilla inspires donation

A trip to see a baby gorilla that fans of Pittsburg State helped to name Gus inspired a painting now displayed on the PSU campus.

Dan Spangler, a 1977 graduate, visited the Ft. Worth Zoo during a Gorilla Gathering sponsored by the Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations.

There, a world-class gorilla exhibit features a western lowland gorilla baby that in April 2016 was named Augustus, or Gus for short, in an online poll promoted by PSU and heavily voted on by PSU alumni.

Spangler, a Pittsburg native who graduated from Colgan High School in 1972, earned a bachelor's degree in biology and went on to a career in pharmaceuticals. His passion beyond work has always been art.

After a conversation with Gorillas Caryn and Greg Murray ('93), he was inspired to create a painting and donate it to his alma mater. In describing his painting and how he completed it over a three-week period, Spangler said he used oil paints and a 3-foot by 3-foot canvas.

It's called Gorilla Sunrise and is now part of the university's permanent art collection, displayed in the Balkans Room in the Overman Student Center.

Former White House staffer comes to campus

Tina Tchen, the former Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, was the featured speaker in the Profiles of Women in Government Lecture Series in November, an event held at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts and attended by community members and students from across the region.

The series was established in 2001 through a generous gift from the Helen S. Boylan Foundation to the PSU Foundation.

During her eight years in the White House, Tchen served as chief of staff to First Lady Michelle Obama, special assistant to President Barack Obama, and was executive director of the Council on Women and Girls, leading the first White House Summit on Working Families.

An attorney, her career accomplishments have established her as a powerful advocate for gender equality. She has championed women's and children's issues, and shared her perspective and insights on workforce diversity and inclusion, breaking through male-dominated industries, and ending campus assault.

Past speakers in the series have included former First Lady Laura Bush, Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey, Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle, White House Correspondent Helen Thomas, and Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Robert F. Kennedy.



Tina Tchen, former special assistant to President Barack Obama and chief of staff to First Lady Michelle Obama, visited campus for a public lecture and a panel discussion with students.



A title of distinction

Four veteran faculty members earned the distinction of "University Professor" last fall: Dr. Julie Allison, Psychology; Dr. Craig Fuchs, Honors College/Music; Dr. Mark Johnson, Technology and Workforce Learning; and Dr. Khamis Siam, Chemistry.

The rank of University Professor indicates that an individual faculty member is recognized by their peers both on and off campus as an "outstanding contributor in a field of specialization." To be eligible, candidates must also be recognized on campus for "outstanding contributions to the education program of the university."



Dr. Mark Johnson, Dr. Julie Allison, Dr. Khamis Siam, and Dr. Craig Fuchs.

Legacy lives on through trumpet donation

David Kuehn, an acclaimed musician and teacher, died earlier this year, but his memory lives on through a collection of vintage coronets and trumpets he entrusted to PSU Professor of Trumpet Todd Hastings shortly before he died.

The instruments date from the late 1800s to the 1940s. The collection also includes Kuehn's music library and many rare pieces written for trumpet.

Kuehn, who was first trumpet with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra for nearly three decades, became Hastings' trumpet teacher when Hastings was in 10th grade. Since then, Hastings has gone on to become an accomplished musician and educator in his own right.

Kuehn's music is housed in Special Collections in Axe Library and some students already are using the mouth pieces, mutes, and music. Hastings is working to find a permanent location on campus for the instruments.



James Oliver

Art professor opens exhibit in NYC

PSU art students have an advantage when it comes to learning the business side of art before graduating: their teacher, James Oliver, is also a working artist who brings his professional experiences into the classroom.

Last fall, he staged a solo exhibition in the George Billis Gallery in New York City, where he also had solo exhibitions in 2006 and 2010.

He engages students in discussions about such exhibitions, and involves them in prepping and packaging paintings for shipping.

Oliver joined the PSU faculty as an assistant professor in 2001. He currently serves as the interim chair of the Department of Art.




Axe Library... looking good!

Students have a new reason to spend more time at Axe Library. The second phase of a multi-year improvement plan has been completed with the renovation of the third floor.

The nearly \$1 million upgrade has resulted in a space that encourages both collaboration and quiet study. New features include the addition of eight enclosed study rooms for personal or small-group use, large study tables with personalized lighting, access to data and electrical ports, new furniture, and a 67 percent increase in seating.

"Today's library is about as far away from the 'hush and shush' concept as you can get," said Randy Roberts, dean of Library Services. "In addition to providing digital and print resources, we are active and alive with academic services, special programming, and professional consulting. With the completion of each renovation phase, we're increasingly an attractive destination for students who need an academic home."

Additional improvements will take place in Summer 2018 with the replacement of windows, elevator upgrades, and the addition of library classroom space.

Watch online video. 



Kelce College of Business

High marks

When it comes to offering options to students also balancing work and families, Kelce College of Business was ranked among the best in the nation last year.

Princeton Review ranked it at No. 3 on the list of Most Family Friendly Business Schools in the U.S and put the Kelce MBA program on the list of the Best 267 Business Schools for 2018, out of the approximately 800 AACSB-accredited business schools in the nation. For the rankings, the Review analyzed data from surveys of 23,000 students and administrators.

Also gaining high marks was PSU's Master of Science in Special Education through the College of Education, ranked No. 11 in the nation by Top Education Degree for tuition, relevancy of curriculum, and student to faculty ratio.

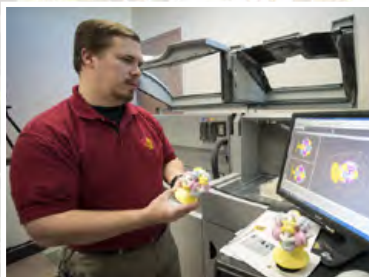
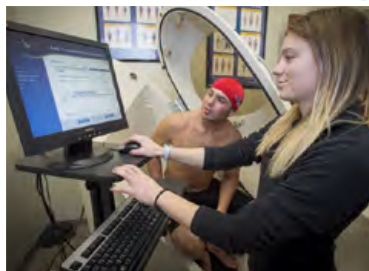
And, PSU's online Master's in Sports Management through the Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation, was ranked fourth in the nation among the Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Sports Management.

Pitt State

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Nationally Ranked

pittstate.edu/graduate



Bachelor Degree Completion

RN to BSN

BS Workforce Development

Master's Degree

MBA Business Administration

(General Administration, International Business, and Accounting)

MS Education - School Health

MS Educational Leadership

MS Educational Technology

MET Engineering Technology

(Construction, Electronics, Manufacturing, Mechanical, and Plastics)

MS Health, Human Performance and Recreation

MA History

MS Human Resource Development

MS Reading

MS Special Education Teaching

(K-12 High/Low Incidence)

MSN Nursing - Education

MS Teaching - ESOL

MS Teaching - Elementary

MS Teaching - Secondary

MA Teaching - Special Education

MA Teaching - Secondary

MS Technology

(Automotive Technology, Construction

Management, Graphics Management, Graphic

Design, Information Technology, Innovation

Engineering, Innovation in Technology, Personnel

Development, and Technology Management)

Specialist Degree

EdS Advanced Studies in Leadership

(Special Education & General School Administration)

Graduate Certificates

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages

School Library

Reading/Language Arts

Technology Integration



Spring 2018 Events Calendar

Check the calendar on PSU's homepage, **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

Feb 27 – Apr 26

Eric Kunsman

Harry Krug Gallery Porter Hall

Feb 6 – Apr 6

Faculty Show

Music

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

March 10 – Rondelli Vocal Competition

Bicknell Center

March 11 – PSU Choir Concert

McCray Hall, 3 p.m.

March 15 – PSU Symphonic Band

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

March 26 – PSU Percussion Ensemble

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 7 – SEK Symphony

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 12 – PSU Wind Ensemble

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 13 – Opera Scenes

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 14 – KS District HS Solo & Ensembles Festival

Bicknell Center

April 19 – KS State HS

Large Ensembles Festival

Bicknell Center

April 21 – Mid America Music Festival

Bicknell Center & McCray Hall

April 25 – Jazz Ensembles

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 26 – SEK Symphony

McCray Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 29 - PSU Choirs Oratorio Concert

Bicknell Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 3 – 4 State Band Concert

Bicknell Center, 7 p.m.

Theatre

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

February 22-25

Noises Off

by Michael Frayn

directed by Gil Cooper

Bicknell Center, Miller Theater

Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.;

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

April 26-29

Gruesome Playground Injuries

by Rajiv Joseph

directed by Cynthia Allan

Bicknell Center, Miller Theater

Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.;

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

Community

March 10 - NCAA Division II Men's and Women's National Indoor Track and Field Championships

Robert W. Plaster Center

April 4 – Construction Expo

Kansas Technology Center

May 11-12 – Spring 2018 Commencement

Garfield W. Weede Physical Education Building

May 17-20 – SAE Baja

Kansas Technology Center

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PittState Magazine, the official magazine of Pittsburg State University, is published for alumni and friends of the university.
Circulation: 64,500

Vol. 26 No.1 Spring 2018

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See 'America's Got Talent' finalist and 'America's Favorite Mystifier' **Mike Super** live on stage!!

**Wednesday,
March 14
7:30 p.m.**



Bicknell Family Center for the Arts 2017-18 Performance Series
TICKETS: BicknellCenter.com or call 620-235-4796.



*Randy Otto
has portrayed
Winston Churchill
for 43 years!*

It is 1940. England stands alone against Adolf Hitler and his Nazi war machine. Invasion is imminent. Join Winston Churchill on the roof of the Cabinet War Rooms where he waits for that night's bombing - what the British call The Blitz.

Original, audience interactive one-man play.
You are THERE. Winston literally comes
alive during Britain's Finest Hour.

Churchill: The Blitz
Friday, March 30 • 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburg State University
Bicknell Family
Center for the Arts
1711 S. Homer • Pittsburg, KS

“Where in the World is Gus?”



Legendary– Wallie Souder (BS Physics '60) and his wife, Mary Fern Souder, met at PSU in organic chemistry class. Last year, they took a river boat cruise on the Danube and took a side trip to Transylvania. Before they left home, they purchased two matching Pitt State fleece jackets with the express purpose of having their photo taken in them at Bran Castle – commonly known as Dracula's Castle.



Picture perfect– Shauna Rice-Newton ('03) and her husband, Michael Newton ('05) sported their Pitt State pride at Crab Island in beautiful Destin, Fla. They were feeling the winds from Hurricane Irma.



Adventure on the Danube– Roger and Mary Ann Forbes (BSED '67) and Cindy (MSED '93) and Norm Shay (BSBA '71) explored the culture and beauty of Budapest, Vienna, and Nuremberg on a recent Viking River Cruise.



Cruisin'– On a 50th wedding anniversary cruise in the Western Caribbean, Don Lipasek (BS Mathematics '69) and his wife, Mary, captured their Gorilla spirit on the dock in Progreso Yucatan Mexico. Don is retired from Sprint and they reside in Arma, Kansas.

London Bridge– Katie Barnett-Ervin (BS Sociology '98) and her family took Pitt State pride on a trip to Europe. Here, they're at the famed London Bridge.





Crimson and gold on the Emerald Isle— Chuck Crandon shows his Gorilla pride with daughter Courtney Crandon (BS Education/Spanish '12) and brother Tom Crandon (BS Math '61) at the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare, Ireland. The family toured Ireland on vacation last April to explore their heritage.



Passing it on— Betty Papish Kunshek (BS '68, MS '70), Robert Kunshek (BS '70) and grandson Baron Kunshek show their Gorilla pride while visiting Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.



Pitt State at the Falls— Linda McCall Leonard (BS '70) and Doug Leonard (BS '69, MS '70) show their PSU grandparent pride at Niagara Falls. Their grandson is now attending PSU, and their son and daughter-in-law also are Gorillas.

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



Gus goes to Mexico— Kaden Wimmer, a sophomore in Communication, took along his Gorilla spirit on a winter break trip to Mexico, where he visited the Ruinas Mayas de Tulum.



European vacation— Alyssa Zimmerman (BS '12) spent a month last summer exploring Europe. She paused from her adventures to pose at the "I Am Amsterdam" sign in her Gorilla gear.

What's on your hat?— Mark White (MBA '79) was asked several times on a cruise in the Adriatic Sea what the gorilla logo on his hat meant. Here, he poses at The Port of Split in Split, Croatia.



On safari— David Kahn (BBA '65), poses with Masai warriors in Kenya, Africa, on the Masai Mara National Reserve.





The past, *reimagined.*

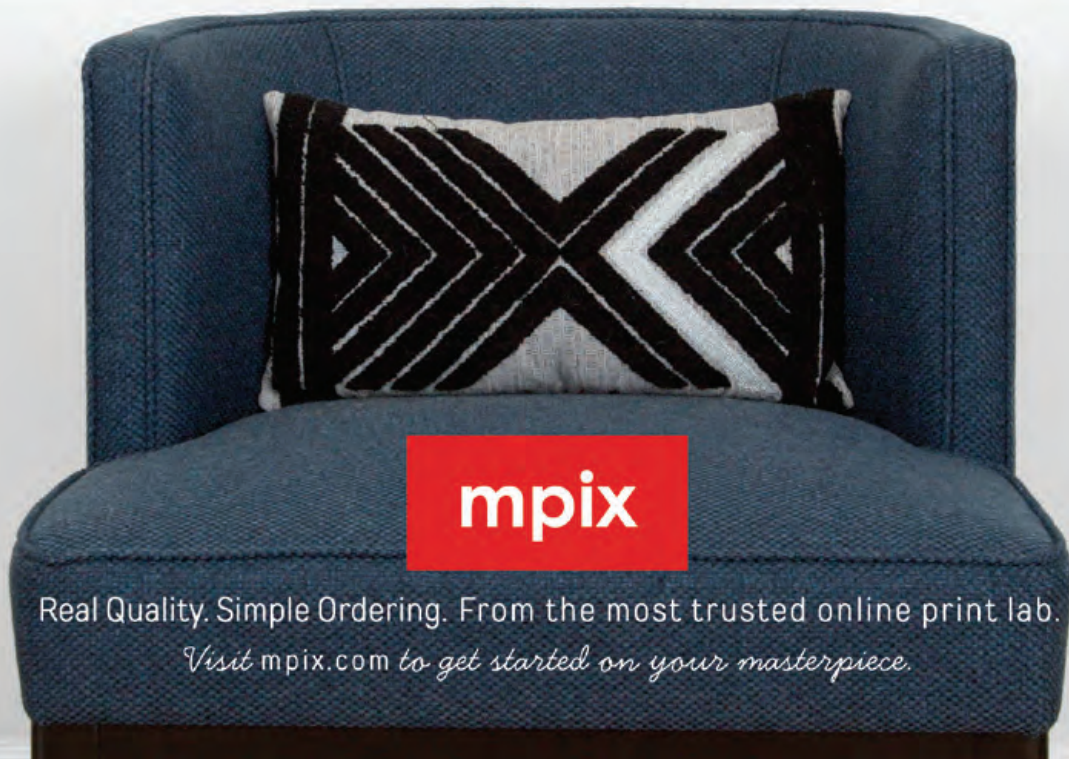
block22psu.com



Your walls, Your way

Say hello to Collage Prints.

Create personalized wall art featuring your favorite photos
with unrivaled color and quality.



mpix

Real Quality. Simple Ordering. From the most trusted online print lab.

Visit mpix.com to get started on your masterpiece.

A home away from home

Making a connection with the community.

WHEN CESAR SOBRINO ACUNA arrived in Pittsburg from Paraguay in Fall 2012 to begin his degree in music performance, he was nervous.

Most international students are.

They travel thousands of miles. They face a language and cultural barrier. Add to that their preconceived notions about the U.S.

“In a country like Paraguay, we have the tendency to consume international products, especially for entertainment — movies, music, TV shows — so based on that, I had an idea of what America was like,” he said. “But we also have the mistaken belief that every single place in the U.S. is like New York, Miami, LA, or Chicago.”

He wasn’t expecting to find a quiet but friendly town of 20,000 that welcomed him with open arms and smiles.

“I can honestly say that my experience in Pittsburg taught me more than just

what I needed for my degree,” he said.

“It showed me that things are not always what they seem, and that you have to live it for yourself before you can talk about it. I learned a lot about myself and other cultures, and it showed me the other side of the U.S. — the real one, which I loved.”

Conversely, Pittsburg residents have found that the addition of international students to the community each year enriches it in many ways. For Pittsburg teacher Susan Trowbridge, they brought to life her lessons.

“We wanted to expand our lessons in social studies from beyond just a textbook, so we invited PSU students from China and Brazil to come to our classes and share their culture,” Trowbridge said. “Our students learned so much from them — things they really couldn’t learn from just reading or watching a video. Having them here makes Pittsburg more global.”



Cesar Sobrino Acuna, who graduated in 2017, said he considers Pittsburg his second home.

Welcome

It's no surprise that Pittsburg welcomes international visitors. Like many Southeast Kansas towns, it was built by immigrants who flocked here by the thousands in the late 1800s and the early 1900s to fill jobs in the burgeoning coal mines, zinc smelters, and other industries.

The area became a melting pot of many cultures, ethnicities, and

Groups throughout the community make it their mission to ensure students not only feel welcome, but have the opportunity to learn more about American culture and in turn, share theirs.

languages, earning it a nickname still in use: The Little Balkans.

Today, groups throughout the community make it their mission to ensure students like Cesar not only feel welcome, but have the opportunity to learn more about American culture and in turn, share theirs.

Coordinated by Cynthia Pfannensteil with assistance from the International Programs and Services Office at PSU, a long-standing group called International Friends of Pittsburg is comprised of volunteers who agree to share their lives with international students.

The group also hosts formal activities, from large welcome dinners at a local church at the start of each semester, to "Friendship Families," in which they match students to community members based on common interests, such as sports or the arts.

"We have no membership dues or any requirements other

than interest and goodwill toward our new students," said Pfannensteil, who got involved in the 1980s.

For the past 10 years, she has been a board member.

"Many of the students have not been away from home before," she said. "Having a friend can ground them and make them feel included. Most of them come from very family-oriented cultures and they like having a special someone to call their family in Pittsburg."

Among them: Deborah Hurt Walker, whose parents were hosts to international students in the 1990s, and stayed in contact after their students returned home. So, Walker began hosting herself, starting in 2006 with a student from South Korea.

"Her name was Kate and we just fell in love with each other," Walker recalled. "She was here for one year and I would pick her up every Wednesday. She would cook and sew with me — even learned to quilt."

Walker, active in a long-running regional quilt show, witnessed Kate finish her first quilt in time to enter it; she took first place in the "first quilt" category.

"When she went home, we both had broken hearts, cried buckets of tears," Walker said.

Next, she hosted students from Sri Lanka.

"We still stay in contact — I even visit them at their new homes in St. Louis and Cleveland after they



Pitt Pals help international students learn about American culture.

graduated," Walker said. "These two girls and I did everything together: family dinners, grocery shopping, clothing shopping."

She even taught them both to ride bicycles.

Subsequent years found her hosting students from Iran and more students from South Korea.

"I took them driving down the dirt roads to teach them to drive," Walker recalled.

Those who befriend international students, said Walker, get something in return: the chance to dabble in another language, taste authentic meals made by natives of other countries, and discover shared values.

"I've learned a great deal about the home countries of each of the 10 students I've hosted, and had the chance to interact with their families

continued

through Skype,” she said. “They have enriched my life.”

For Cesar, it was community involvement that caused him to now consider Pittsburg his second home — so much so, he returned to visit from South America less than a year after graduating.

As a student, he was invited to sing at a local church, which readily adopted him into the congregation. And he began teaching music lessons to local children.

“Their parents treated me so well, I felt that those kids were like mine,” he said.

By the end of his five years at PSU, he was jumping from Thanksgiving to Thanksgiving, Christmas dinner to Christmas dinner, at the invitation of his American friends.

“People in Pittsburg never made me feel lonely, and I’m truly thankful for that,” he said. “To me, they were like family, as if I lived there my whole life. I think there will always be that connection.”

Giving back

Throughout their time at PSU, international students, in turn, give back to the community that welcomes them with open arms.

As they did for the classes at Westside, they often visit area elementary schools to bring to life lessons in social studies and geography.

Several times a year, they stage cultural events on and off campus to which they invite domestic students, faculty, staff, and area residents.

In December, students from Finland hosted a cultural celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Finland’s independence. They served Finnish foods and showed a Finnish movie.

The Chinese Culture Club is

The annual International Food & Culture Fair at Memorial Auditorium gives students a chance to share their cultures with the Pittsburg area community.



very active, and each February hosts a Chinese New Year Gala that includes a traditional Chinese dinner followed by traditional Chinese performances and cultural presentations.

Each Spring, Korean students host a Korean Culture Day that includes traditional and contemporary Korean performances ranging from songs to fan dances, followed by a traditional Korean meal.

The International Food & Culture Fair each March at Memorial Auditorium in downtown Pittsburg draws hundreds of area residents.

And twice a year, the Indian students invite the community to celebrate with them: at the Holi Festival of Colors in the Spring, and Diwali Festival of Lights to kick off the holiday season.

Faculty advisor Mark Johnson said such events allows attendees to get a taste of other countries without the travel.

“They can do it practically in their own backyard, so to speak,” Johnson said. “Students, faculty, staff, alumni, community – everyone comes together to share culture, food, fun, music, heritage, all in one place. It takes the idea of OAGAAG (Once a Gorilla, Always a Gorilla) to a global level.”

“You can see it, hear it, taste it. It’s the whole package. And it’s an amazing part of the Pitt State experience.” •



Dennis Lin

Hands-on experiences lead to global professional success



Students from China share their culture with students at Westside Elementary School in Pittsburg to bring a social studies lesson to life.

"Students, faculty, staff, alumni, community – everyone comes together to share culture, food, fun, music, heritage, all in one place. It takes the idea of OAGAAG (Once a Gorilla, Always a Gorilla) to a global level."

THREE STUDENTS, each from a different part of the globe, had nothing in common until they wound up in PSU's Department of Communication.

Now, they share a tie to Pittsburg, and professional success they attribute to the hands-on experiences they had here.

Ramina Wade, a Russian student who came here by way of South America, has gone from working on local radio and film projects in Pittsburg to landing a job with an international television network.

Dennis Lin of Taiwan went from taking photos on campus to taking photos of major sporting events.

And Marcelo Salazar went from learning broadcasting with PSU CAPS TV to producing news for a major network in his native country of Ecuador.

It was a red hat emblazoned with the PSU logo that sealed the deal for Wade, then living with her family in Paraguay, to pack up and move to the U.S. to attend college.

"We had heard about the program PSU had," she said. "We went to a

meeting to learn more, and then-President (Tom) Bryant was giving out hats."

Wade said it was what she got to do while on campus that propelled her to a career that has included the Discovery Channel, TLC, Discovery Science, and now the FOX network group in Madrid, Spain, which includes FOX,

"To all current and future Gorillas I would like to say, 'If you work hard, you can achieve anything you dream of.'"

National Geographic and Nat Geo Wild.

"As a student, I got to make advertisements for the radio, filmed different projects, and it was so thrilling for me that I couldn't stop learning," she said. "My masters project was my own film that was actually broadcast on TV."

Wade earned her bachelor's degree in Communication, with an emphasis in advertising, followed by her masters.

"Since graduating I never had a problem with finding

a job," Wade said. "PSU has given me an opportunity to learn different skills that are in demand in the market."

"To all current and future Gorillas I would like to say, 'If you work hard, you can achieve anything you dream of.'"

Salazar, meanwhile, has been dreaming of being the first person from Ecuador to win an Emmy. Now a national news producer, he returned to campus this fall to reconnect with his teacher, Troy Comeau.

"Everything I did in school was a great help. It was hands-on," he said, "We had a real studio, real camera, and real editing. It wasn't theoretical. We learned by doing."

Those experiences included working as a production assistant at CAPS TV, and a noon and 5 p.m. producer for KOAM TV, while still a student.

He landed a job with a TV production company, then returned to Ecuador to begin a career with a major television network. He currently produces a show based on tourism to promote his native country.

Lin, too, made it a point to spend time on campus when he returned to the U.S. for a visit this fall.

He said the experience he gained as an international student prepared him for his current career as a photojournalist and helped him learn American culture.

Lin, who came to PSU as an exchange student from Taiwan, went on to land a job as a sports journalist for one of the biggest internet-based media outlets in Taiwan. A semester-long project for his photojournalism class was among the experiences that laid a foundation for his career today.

"I worked hard on telling the narrative story of the PSU Student Health Center," said Lin. "I had to walk out of my comfort zone and break through the language barrier to finish it. It really meant a lot to me."

No surprise to his instructors, then, when Lin requested a media pass to shoot photographs at a football game during his visit. "This is where it began," he said. •



Doug Whitten's love of teaching and speed skating has made him a successful coach and competitor in the world of roller derby.

HAVE SKATES (AND TUBA) WILL TRAVEL

DOUG WHITTEN IS KNOWN TO most as a music professor, director of the university's renowned Pride of the Plains Marching Band, and one of the finest tuba players in the region.

But Whitten has a small secret. On certain nights, he will heed the call, lace up his skates, don the uniform and helmet, and patrol the skate track as Wheelzabub: roller derby player.

"In a prior incarnation of this life I was a speed skater, I practically lived in the rink as a kid," said Whitten. "I was at Roller King in Reno, Nevada, every morning at 6 a.m. I skated at a fairly high level back then, even went to the Olympic training center in Colorado. As I got older, I missed skating so I got into this."

Whitten's roller derby experience has provided him with the opportunity to see the sport as a player, a referee, and as coach of the Mo-Kan Roller Girlz, a member of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association.

"I really like him as a coach," said Chrissy Landberg, a member of the Roller Girlz team. "He works us hard

with endurance, but we learn a lot from him. He's good at knowing exactly where to put people and how to make practice flow. Because he plays, he understands the game better which makes him a great coach."

Whitten believes his career as an educator helps him be a better team leader in roller derby.

"To me, coaching and teaching are all about relationships," said Whitten. "What I do as a coach, is almost identical to what I do as a teacher. I give lots of feedback, and lots of praise for quality work."

Adrenaline-filled game play in roller derby consists of short match-ups, called Jams, in which both teams designate a Jammer who scores points by lapping members of the opposing team.

In effect, teams play both offense and defense at the same time.

"We want fans to see the excitement of the game," said Landberg. "I've found that fans really enjoy the skater names because they can then follow their favorite skater."

Skater names on the Roller Girlz roster include "Psycho-analyzer," "Rocnagem," and "Strychnine." Most have a connection to the players' professions which, on Whitten's team includes counseling, elementary education, and accounting.

"They help hype up the sport a bit and let fans know they're going to have a good time while they're here," said Landberg.

While the names are fun, once the whistle blows the competitors are all business. Heavy hits, strategy and tough play are always on display.

Whitten believes his students can learn a great deal from the women who compete in the WFTDA — a concept he developed as a speed skater and which the sport helped reignite.

"I think we need more grit in our society," said Whitten. "Roller derby is a community of women who come together and succeed at getting fit and taking charge of their lives. The sport teaches them toughness. Students need a little toughness in their life, too. Sometimes, I push them a little harder than they want to be pushed to show them that they can do it. Let them get out of their comfort zone and discover for themselves that they can accomplish great things." •

Nursing grad credits professor with success

THE LETTER WAS SENT

informally — technically a message, sent via Facebook from a former student to a professor.

It meant the world to its recipient, who cried when she read it.

“Hi Amy,” it began. “I was just thinking back recently to my 16 years of education and found myself thinking to a time when I was at my lowest point...”

That lowest point was when the letter writer, Erin Zilliox, became a new mother. She had just started nursing school.

“My personal life was in shambles and my education is in question...” she wrote.

She began coursework in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing in January 2013. An unplanned pregnancy nearly derailed her. But Zilliox was never short of support from her fellow students, faculty, and staff.

They even helped watch her baby when she took tests.

“It’s a family environment here, and my classmates became like siblings to me,” she said.

Still, it was a struggle. Zilliox recalled sitting in tears at a conference table with professors in McPherson Hall, talking about her future — not just as a nurse but as a mother and a person. She was considering dropping out.

Her professor, Amy Hite, wouldn’t let her.

“I’ll never forget...you turned to me and told me I could do this, we could do this,” Zilliox wrote in her message to Hite last fall. “You sat with your calculator and figured up the exact

number of points I needed to pass your class. You knew it would be hard, and probably even had your doubts...but you didn’t give up on me.”

Struggling for two years to get through school, Hite told her, would mean the difference between a minimum wage job the rest of her life and a career for herself and her daughter.

Hite said that’s how she approaches all students — not as a number, but with a name and goals.

“They each are important,” Hite said. “As faculty, our job is to educate them but more importantly to support, inspire, and encourage them along their academic journey. Sometimes we need to give them hope, especially when they lose perspective or have given up on themselves.”

Hite said it’s important for faculty to make connections with their students to understand the challenges they face in addition to school.

“When students know that we care

“I’ll never forget...you turned to me and told me I could do this, we could do this.”

about them, they will work a little harder and strive to make us proud of their accomplishments,” she said.

Today, Zilliox and her daughter, Jaelyn, have their own apartment in Lenexa, Kansas. She is employed by Truman Medical Center in downtown Kansas City, where she works in the Emergency Department as a registered nurse.

“I could have cried more and quit



Erin Zilliox said the support she and her daughter, Jaelyn, received from faculty in the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing meant the difference between her working a minimum wage job and building a career as an emergency room nurse at Truman Medical Center in downtown Kansas City.



that day. I now support my daughter on my own, with health insurance and all, and I don’t have any one person to thank more than you,” she wrote to Hite. “So, with all of this being said, thank you for all that you have done and currently do. Simple moments to you might be life changing for a scared college student.” •

Champions Plaza

Bring the Tradition Home

CHAMPIONS PLAZA SCULPTURE

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



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Make your mark on the university's famed "Gorilla Walk" by reserving a personalized Champions Plaza stone paver. A limited number of pavers are available, so don't wait! Order your Champions Plaza paver today. Two sizes: 8"x8" and 12"x12"



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If you have donated \$30 to PSU this year, you qualify for a plate!



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

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ANY gift of \$30 or more to any area at PSU during the calendar year qualifies you for a plate.

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Interior design students presented their design plans for a new Airbnb in downtown Pittsburg to Signet Coffee owners and customers. Airbnb is an online marketplace which lets people rent out their properties to guests, from vacation rentals to apartments to spare rooms.

Students design new local Airbnb

THREE SENIORS IN INTERIOR DESIGN CLASS will have an impressive portfolio when they graduate: they crafted plans for a real-world customer — a business in downtown Pittsburg that intends to use those plans to expand.

Signet Coffee Roasters plans to add an Airbnb above their newly-opened and completely renovated historic shop, but needed an interior design.

A customer, ID professor Denise Bertoncino, suggested her students come up with plans for fixtures, furnishings, a layout for the space, and a color scheme.

Owners Leah and Dennis Posterick thought it was a great idea.

The three students, Madison Vincent, of Springfield, Missouri; Lindsey Kearney, of Atchison, Kansas; and Chelsea Oliphant, of Erie, Kansas, met with them to tour the space, take measurements, and get a feel for their

tastes, then returned to pitch their presentation.

The Postericks were impressed and plan to use many elements from the interior design and perhaps the logo. They have a tentative open date of Summer 2018.

All three students said they loved the project because it gave them the first chance to interact with a real customer and see in person the space they're designing.

"And having this involvement gave us pride, to be able to impact the community in this kind of way," Kearney said. "When we come back some day, we can say 'We designed that'."

Vincent said she "definitely plans" to bring her family one day to stay in the Airbnb.

"It's great to be able to help grow Pittsburg," she said. "I feel like this is going to be a really great addition to the community, and to be able to say we're sort of leaving our mark here by being part of it is really special." •



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Back from the brink

A PITTSBURGH STATE HISTORY teacher and PSU students from several departments have helped bring a forgotten museum back from the brink of being closed forever.

The Crawford County Historical Museum had for several years struggled financially, drew few visitors, and had just one staff member who was not paid, with no volunteers and no board. That staff member turned the keys and the contents over to the Crawford County Commission in May 2015.

A few months later, with the endorsement of the commission, Amanda Minton, an adjunct history teacher in PSU's Department of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences, stepped forward to lead the effort to revitalize and reopen it. Minton earned her bachelor's degree in 2003 and master's in 2011, and had done an internship at the museum as a student.

"I felt strongly that it be saved," she said.

Joining her was Mason Lovelace, who holds a master's degree in history from PSU and now serves as vice president of the board. He had read about the museum's plight and it tugged at his heartstrings.

They joined others in leveraging



Adjunct history teacher Amanda Minton (BGS '03, MA '11), and several PSU student organizations and groups have helped re-open the shuttered Crawford County Historical Museum.

community resources and grants to make repairs and carve out new and interesting spaces. They developed a new logo and a new online presence.

And they engaged groups of PSU students. Senior Savannah Mitchell, Louisburg, and her fellow ROTC cadets helped move heavy collections, reconstructed exhibit walls, and controlled traffic and parking at large events. At a recent World War II re-enactment, they engaged with visitors by providing an up-close look at military vehicles.

"History is and always will be an important part of our future career as Army Officers, and we are lucky to be a part of a town that finds preserving history important," she said.

PSU Freshman Lauren Hurt, from Pittsburg, remembers as an elementary school student going to the museum on field trips — particularly the historic general store located on the museum grounds.

She was happy to be part of



breathing new life into it as a member of Circle K, a collegiate service club that Minton advises, which helped at a 1940s Christmas party and with children's programs.

Other PSU groups involved in the rehab included the PSU Volleyball team, Interior Design students, and the School of Construction.

"As a PSU alumna, I feel that it is important for the students and faculty to give back to the community that gives so generously to our University," Minton said. "When we perform community service alongside students, we are teaching the students how to get involved in the community after graduation, and they hopefully will want to donate their time, talent and treasure to their future communities." •



Virginia Rider

Mentor extraordinaire

Mallory Gibson, a junior in biology, wants to become a medical scientist.

Ashleigh Elbert, a graduate student, hopes future generations will benefit from what she and classmates are researching.

Both are among the many enrolled in PSU's premedical program who look to Virginia Rider, a University Professor in the Department of Biology since 2000, as a mentor.

Rider was recognized with the Joan S. Hunt Distinguished Mentoring Award, given in January at a symposium founded by Hunt.

There to see her receive it were more than 40 students, all chosen to present their research. Also in attendance were faculty from Biology and Chemistry, President Steve Scott, Provost Lynette

Olson, Associate Vice President Howard Smith, and deans Mary Carol Pomatto and Pawan Kahol.

Rider looked to Hunt, a reproductive biologist, as a model researcher and teacher. Hunt is considered one of the world's foremost scientists in the area of reproductive immunology. She served as a valued mentor to numerous emerging scientists across Kansas.

Today, Rider is taking up where Hunt left off. She said she enjoys her students' successes more than her own.

"That's a critical part of mentoring," Rider said. "You have to be just as excited — maybe more so — for them as you are for yourself."

The honor included a \$5,000 financial award to be used for research and/or mentoring activities.

PSU's broadcasting program drew national attention when students McKenzi Tims and Michaela Joines earned the College Broadcasters, Inc., 2017 Student Production Award for Best Documentary/Public Affairs.

Their documentary, "Enabled: The Haven Shepherd Story," delved into the life of a young woman from Carthage, Missouri, who lost both legs as an infant in Vietnam, yet went on to become a Para-Olympic hopeful in swimming. Their project can be viewed on YouTube.

Both students are working toward a Master's in Communication with plans to graduate this Spring. Their teacher is Leo Hudson. (YouTube— Enabled: The Haven Shepherd Story)

Students to benefit from planned giving

A scholarship fund established in 2013 by Robert Lee Mays in memory of his wife, Glenda, meant the world to Lindsey Viets, who earned her bachelor's in education in May 2017.

Now an English teacher, it helped her finish college in a financially stable position.

Last fall, PSU received another gift from Mr. Mays, who died in May 2017. His gift of \$250,000 to the PSU Foundation will ensure the Glenda Sanderson-Mays English Scholarship is funded for many years to come.

The money is earmarked for students from Crawford County, Kansas, who intend to major in English or Communication. Glenda Mays graduated from PSU in 1962.

Celia Patterson, chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, said that the gift was an especially welcome one and will enable PSU to compete with other schools to attract the best and the brightest students.



Foundation Chair Donna Geisler accepts a check from Kevin Mitchelson, attorney for the Mays estate, to be used for student scholarships.



Research scientist and assistant professor, Jeanne Norton, and Kevin McNay

A passion for polymers

Kevin McNay was introduced to the amazing world of polymers in a PSU summer camp, “Plastic is Fantastic,” in eighth grade.

Five years later, he returned to PSU to attend one of the top collegiate polymer programs in the nation, where he had access to an industry-endorsed Plastics Engineering Technology program, a renowned Polymer Chemistry undergraduate and graduate program, and a professional research laboratory.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in December, he began the graduate-level Polymer Chemistry program. He works as a research assistant at PSU’s Kansas Polymer Research Center, an internationally recognized center for chemistry and materials science.

“My undergraduate degree has given me the hands-on skills I need for the industry,” said McNay. “I know how an injection molding machine works. I know the problems that could arise.


But now that I’m going into polymer chemistry, I’ll be able to understand the plastic itself.”

Jeanne Norton, a research scientist and assistant professor with whom McNay works, described the KPRC as a “world-class research center.”

The KPRC has secured dozens of patents for its research and is the only university research laboratory in Kansas to have earned the prestigious Presidential Green Chemistry Award. Industrial partners include corporate giants like Honeywell, Ford Motor Company, and Cargill.

The fact that this level of academic and research prowess is located in Pittsburg, Kansas might surprise some – but not McNay.

“I knew from that moment in camp that this was what I wanted to do,” said McNay. “How lucky am I? I have one of the best schools in the nation in my backyard.”

Watch online video. 

Concerts connect students, professionals, and composers

When Wyatt Smith enrolled as a student, he had no idea that while earning his music education degree, he’d get to play his trumpet alongside such greats as Doc Severinson of Tonight Show fame, or Dave Hickman, the leading trumpet pedagogue in the world, in Pittsburg, Kansas.

It’s rare that student musicians get to rehearse with or play next to the composer of the piece they’re performing. At PSU, it happens — from the Midwest Trumpet Festival in the fall to the Four State Music Festival in the Spring.

And last year, students and faculty in the SEK Symphony Orchestra got to play original works from composers Barbara York and John Ross.

Both are known internationally, and both call McCray Hall home: York is a staff pianist, and Ross is a professor of music.

“Our students can ask the composer...what would you like to hear? What parts of this section can be played louder or softer?” said director Raul Munguia. “Very different than when you’re working on a piece by Mozart – who do you ask?”



Music student Justin Crossman had the opportunity to learn from internationally known musician Bill Williams during the Midwest Trumpet Festival.



From left: Sam Cicero, Ryan Hendrix, Kailey Pearson, and William Lamm were among the Enactus members who helped raise money and collect supplies for Communities in Schools.

Enactus gives back

Once again, Enactus is giving back.

The student-run group at PSU stepped up to help Communities in Schools of Mid-America with a project to address needs at Pittsburg's elementary schools, middle school, and high school.

"It's a great thing for everyone involved," said Coordinator Alex McNay. "It gives the university students the opportunity to be a program facilitator of something, to connect resources, to be involved in the community, to make a difference in the areas where there is the most need."

CIS got its start in New York City in the 1970s, when founder Bill Milliken put forth that relationships, not programs, change children. Putting community resources inside the schools would accelerate those relationships, he said. Today, the program is at work in 2,300 schools in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

In Pittsburg, Communities in Schools of Mid-America works with

counselors and staff to identify student needs according to severity, then assign them to one of three tiers of support. Those tiers range from providing more than 300 children the basics like food and clothing, to weekly meetings.

In turn, students in Enactus say they're glad to be involved in a valuable learning experience.

Cameron Brown, a finance and marketing major from Columbus, Kansas, said they connected with groups on campus like sororities and fraternities to recruit volunteers and get donations of food, clothing, school supplies, and more.

Ryan Hendrix, a marketing major from Bentonville High School, said it felt good to give back to the community by collecting non-perishable food on the Oval, at a home football game, and elsewhere to the tune of more than 1,000 items.

Enactus Advisor Suzanne Hurt said her students also helped high school students and unemployed parents with resumés and workforce preparation.



Dr. Paul Grimes helped coach local trainers in financial literacy in Jakarta.

Dean shares economic expertise

Paul Grimes, dean of Kelce College of Business, spent part of winter break in Jakarta, Indonesia, as part of an international effort by the Global Economic Education Alliance to develop financial literacy for poor and vulnerable youth. His group was training teachers how to teach those skills to those who desperately need it.

"The idea is that then they are equipped to make better financial decisions and they're more employable, which in turn will make Indonesia's economy more stable," said Grimes. "And that is directly related to political stability."

The long-term effect, he added, is an improved business and trade relationship between the U.S. and Indonesia, an oil-producing country.

Jakarta is the center of economics, culture, and politics in Indonesia. It also has challenges: overpopulation and ecological breakdown, gridlock traffic, and poverty and inequality.

The program Grimes is participating in is one of five to be funded; the programs will be evaluated later this year to determine their effectiveness, and one will be continued for five years.

Alumni inspire students

Professors within the Kelce College of Business understand that sometimes, the best lessons aren't found in a textbook. It's why they consistently invite successful alumni back to campus to speak with students.

"It's important to allow students the opportunity to interact directly with those in the field," said Lynn Murray, associate professor and chair of the Management and Marketing Department. "The alumni who return to campus aren't just successful in business, they're successful in life, and love to share their experiences with their fellow Gorillas. Their stories inspire our students because they demonstrate what is possible."

Campus speakers during the fall semester included Steve Cranford, CEO and Creative Chairman of New York-based marketing agency, Whisper; Chris Medley, senior vice president with R.W. Baird & Co., and NFL Pro-Bowler and current color commentator for the Kansas City Chiefs Radio Network, Kendall Gammon.



Alumnus Chris Medley (BBA '80) visited campus to share his experience with students.

Bank donates \$300,000

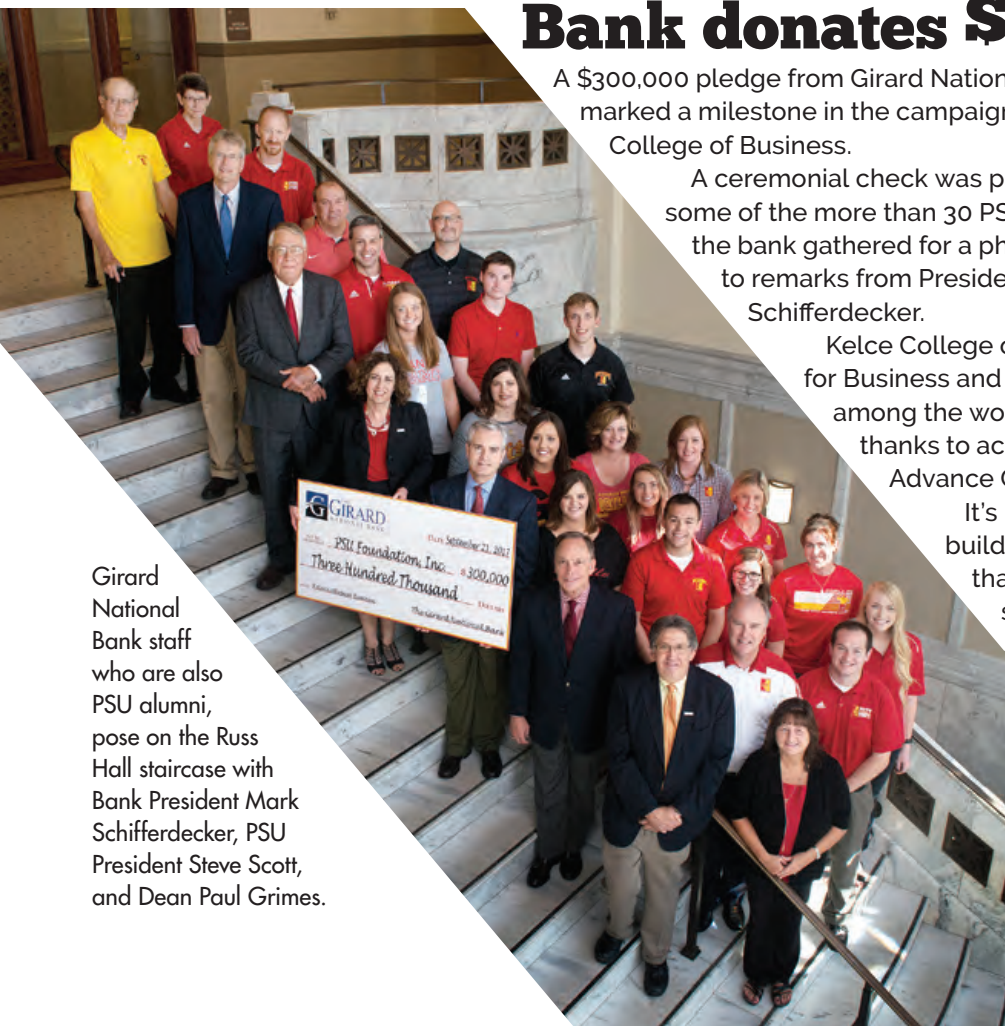
A \$300,000 pledge from Girard National Bank and its University Bank locations marked a milestone in the campaign to renovate and expand the Kelce College of Business.

A ceremonial check was presented last fall at Russ Hall, where some of the more than 30 PSU graduates and students who work at the bank gathered for a photograph on the staircase and listened to remarks from President Steve Scott and Bank President Mark Schifferdecker.

Kelce College of Business, formed in 1977 as the Center for Business and Economic Development, is now listed among the world's top 5 percent of business colleges thanks to accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

It's housed in one of the most heavily used buildings on the PSU campus and has more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in business classes each semester. But it requires additional space, and the building is showing its age: originally constructed in 1950 as a high school, its mid-20th Century layout and technology are unable to keep pace with the demands of a 21st Century business degree.

Girard National Bank staff who are also PSU alumni, pose on the Russ Hall staircase with Bank President Mark Schifferdecker, PSU President Steve Scott, and Dean Paul Grimes.





Angela Abbott (center) inspired her students, including Daniel Golden (left) and Kara Alexander (right).

Education comes full circle

When Daniel Golden was a fifth grader, his teacher, Angela Abbott, wrote him a letter praising how much he had progressed as a student and his kind and cooperative nature.

"If you ever need anything, I will always be here for you, Daniel," wrote Abbott before placing it in a scrapbook that she carefully created for each of her students. That was May 18, 2004.

It eventually wound up in a plastic tote, stored in his parents' garage, while Golden went on to graduate from high school and begin work on a degree in computer science.

On April 27, 2014, it was picked up by a tornado along with many other belongings and discarded on the street.

Golden eventually found it, and last fall brought it to Abbott in the College of Education. She's a faculty member there now after spending 20 years in the Baxter Springs, Kansas, school district.

Her focus: training the next generation of teachers. Those include Golden, a senior education major who is set to graduate in May. Abbott was his inspiration.

"She was fantastic," Golden said. "Everything we did was always hands-on. Everything we did stood out. She still ranks as my favorite teacher."

Golden decided during his pursuit of a degree in computer science that it just wasn't the right career for him.

"I thought back to people who really impacted my life, thought back to them and what they did, and I decided I wanted to make a difference like them," said Golden, who transferred to PSU and found himself once again in Abbott's class.

"I was excited," he said. "And now, I am able to see everything we did in fifth grade from the opposite perspective — from the perspective of a teacher instead of a student. I love that she's teaching from her experiences."

Few things have been more rewarding, Abbott said, than seeing him reach the point of student teaching last semester.

Abbott, who herself received inspiration to become a great teacher from Dr. Alice Sagehorn and other faculty in the College of Education as a student in the early 1990s, is a three-time published author in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series and owns a consulting company.

She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from PSU in elementary education and psychology, and a master's degree in education.

Hall of Fame

University Professor Becky Brannock of the Department of Psychology and Counseling, has been inducted into the Kansas School Counseling Hall of Fame.

Brannock also serves as the director of PSU's School Counseling Program, which prepares candidates for careers as professional school counselors in Pre-K-12 settings.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of school counselors, school counselor educators and school administrators who base the award on several criteria: school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills, and contributions to student advancement.

Brannock has been an educator for 38 years and joined the faculty in 1995.

"I believe with my whole heart that what school counselors do does make a tremendous difference and has a lifelong impact on the students with whom they work," Brannock said.



Becky Brannock



Susan Knell

Prestigious appointment

Susan Knell, a longtime faculty member in the College of Education who has gained an international reputation in children's literature, has been appointed to the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award Committee.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international distinction given to authors and illustrators of children's books and recognizes lifelong achievement.

The committee on which Knell now serves will nominate U.S. authors and illustrators and choose books for the biennial IBBY Honor List.

"It's the biggest thing I've ever served on," Knell said. "I'm excited to dive in a scholarly way and look at what these folks have done."

Knell joined the faculty at PSU in 1996. She teaches early childhood classes in children's literature and the online graduate program for a reading specialist degree, and has coordinated the PSU Young Authors Conference for many years.

Alice Sagehorn, chair of Teaching & Leadership, said she and the entire department were proud of Knell's appointment.

"This is a great honor and a testimony to her scholarship in children's literature and international folk tales," Sagehorn said.

A triple win partnership A partnership between Pittsburg schools and PSU has proven again to be a triple win. More than 40 students and faculty from the College of Education, as well as the Department of Art, the College of Technology, and the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences, staged family nights with hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

They benefitted the PSU students who researched and developed the activities, the elementary students, and parents.

"This is preparing us for the classroom and how to get it to the kids' level," said Jordan Lawyer, an elementary education major. "We're enjoying the chance to interact with kids in a school setting and see what works and what doesn't."

Distinguished service honorees

The College of Education chose Jason Walker, principal and athletic director at the middle school in Baxter Springs, Kansas, as the 2017 Distinguished Service Administrator, and Steve Davidson, math teacher and coach at the high school in Lakin, Kansas, as the 2017 Distinguished Service Teacher.

Walker earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from PSU in 1997, followed by his Master of Science in Education Leadership in 2001 and his Educational Specialist degree in 2016.

"I chose education as a career because I wanted to share my love of science with young people," he said.

Davidson graduated from Labette County High School in Altamont, Kansas, in 1981, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in education from PSU in December 1987.

"It's been rewarding," Davidson said of his career in education. "To be a good coach, you have to be a good teacher — and there's no doubt in my mind that the coaching part also helps out in the classroom. They both go together."

The two were honored in a ceremony in December at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.



Jason Walker (BSED '97, MSED '01, EDS '16) and Steve Davidson (BSED '87) were recognized by PSU for their impact in education. For many years, Walker has served as a principal and athletic director and Davidson has been a teacher and a coach.

It's a win-win

Five years ago, Justin Honey, associate professor in the School of Construction, approached Summit Homes with a request: Did they have an internship available for a bright, hard-working student who was a native of Kansas City and was looking for work experience?

Shortly after, a recent PSU graduate joined the Summit team, and the relationship began to grow, as did Summit — now the largest new home builder in the Kansas City market as well as an emerging land development leader in the area.

Today, the relationship means not only scholarships, but jobs. Summit sponsors the School of Construction's team at a national level in the National Association of Home Builders Student Competition and the International Builders Show with \$10,000 in support.

Summit also recently started a scholarship program at PSU, which will provide \$2,000 each to five students majoring in construction.

"Students from PSU receive a well-rounded education in the construction industry that allows them to jump into work in the 'real world' easily and begin contributing immediately," said Whitney Rinne, marketing manager for Summit Homes. "They are well-versed in purchasing and estimating processes, principles of project management and current protocols and procedures for safety."

And, Rinne noted, they are passionate and hard-working, and bring energy to the team.

Among them: Chris Collins, who heard about PSU in high school and when Gorilla Advantage offered him in-state tuition, "it sealed the deal," he said.

After an internship with Summit, he got a job offer. Collins attributed his success to what he learned at PSU, from hands-on coursework to leadership training to the fact that faculty have experience in the field.

Spencer Yohn, Summit's director of construction, landed a job with the company in 2013. He plans out the new project starts, manages trade partner relations, and sources new trade partners.

"Because of my education at Pitt I am able to understand how to create and read blueprints and plot plans, estimate projects, be organized, know how to utilize computers and technologies to be more efficient in the construction industry, and overall how to effectively manage a construction project and a team," he said.

The relationship isn't limited to construction alumni. Kyle King, (BBA '08) is a project manager at Summit who said the fact that he was a PSU graduate was a "big deal" in the interview process.



PSU alumni Kyle King, Spencer Yohn, and Chris Collins were snapped up by Summit Homes, which recognizes the value of graduates from the School of Construction.

"The business program at Pitt helped me. You have to be self-motivated, independent. Our business school has such great ratings for the size of the school. I can't say enough good things about it."

King looks forward to returning to campus on a future recruiting trip to sign on more Gorillas.

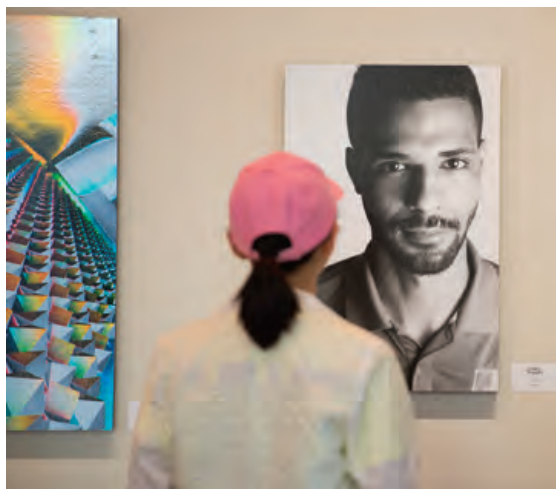
Grant targets mentoring

New teachers have few resources and survival strategies. This is especially true in Career and Technical Education, where high turnover rates are experienced. These teachers are often the lone teacher of their discipline in their district.

A nearly \$900,000 grant awarded to Greenbush - The Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, aims to assist these CTE teachers in Kansas by partnering with the Kansas Center for Career and Technical Education (KCCTE) at PSU.

This enhanced mentoring program is specifically designed for first- and second-year CTE teachers.

"It [the CTE Mentoring Program] matches experienced teachers with new teachers, and provides downloadable curriculum and workshops to help them stay current in industry skills," said Director Greg Belcher. Coursework can be completed at three locations - Salina, Kansas City, and Pittsburg - as well as online. In many instances, this coursework helps teachers move up on the pay scale.



An unparalleled experience

Watch online video. 

“Student Perspectives,” a first-time event in the Bicknell Center Art Gallery last fall, gave photography students an unparalleled experience: the chance to exhibit their work in a prestigious space after having been judged by experts.

Such an opportunity might not happen for many photographers until they become professional, noted their instructor, Rion Huffman, an assistant professor in the Department of Graphics and Imaging Technologies.

It was comprised of 58 captivating

images, chosen out of 140 entries. Miller’s Professional Imaging — the largest professional lab organization in the U.S. and based in Pittsburg — offered up three judges with professional experience and national credentials. University photographer Sam Clausen was the fourth.

Miller’s also helped make the exhibit a reality by easing the financial burden of printing gallery-style photos.

“It was awesome,” said Jaydon Wilson, a senior from Bentonville,

Arkansas, of having two of his photos chosen. “Not many times can you say as a student — or even an adult — that your work has been displayed in such a grand place.” Tara Henderson, a senior from Waverly, Kansas, said she enjoyed the competitive experience. “To see I’d made it — and there were so many good ones — it’s reaffirming of my skills.”

Huffman said he and Bicknell Director Joe Firman hope to make the competitive exhibit a recurring project.

Baja returns

Watch online video. 

For the second year in a row, Pittsburg State will host the Baja SAE Kansas competition. More than 100 teams from throughout the world are registered for the competition which will attract thousands of competitors and fans to PSU’s campus and community.

“This will be the fourth time we’ve hosted the competition,” said Trent Lindbloom, associate professor of automotive technology and event organizer. “Teams love coming here because the campus and community do so much to support the event. It’s also a great experience for our students because they’re able to take everything they learn in the classroom and compete against some of the world’s premiere Baja teams.”

The event will take place May 17 – 20. Fans are encouraged to attend in person or watch the live streamcast, produced by PSU broadcasting students, at pittstate.tv.



The Baja SAE Kansas will return to PSU again in May, and for a fifth time in 2020.



Mikaela Burgess

Hardcourt to classroom

As captain of the PSU women's basketball team, Mikaela Burgess was well-versed in teamwork and pressure. She played against some of the nation's best competition on its biggest stage in her career, including three NCAA Division II Region championship tournaments and one Elite Eight.

As an Early Childhood Education major, she faced a different kind of pressure: she was a student teacher to 24 second graders.

Her decision to become a teacher couldn't have come at a better time: area school districts have faced a teacher shortage. A recent survey by the College of Education predicted area districts will need to fill as many as 1,386 teaching positions by 2020.

To a student athlete like Burgess, the 1,000 hours of required field work to become a teacher could seem daunting with an already full schedule. What Burgess found at PSU: coaches and faculty work together.

Coach Lane Lord shifted his team's practice times to accommodate players' academic schedules.

"We're going to do whatever we have to do to get them all together for practice without sacrificing class time," Lord said. "If that means holding practice from 9 to 11 at night, that's what we'll do. We want to win games, but the focus is always on academics first."

Student athletes are provided schedules well in advance, communicate planned absences with their professors early, and even attend class via Skype while on the road.

"Coaches and faculty all work together and it's for one reason: our students," Lord said.

The results of that type of cooperation and focus on academics are reflected in the team's overall grade point average: the 2016 team G.P.A. of 3.7 earned it a seventh-place tie on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Academic Honor Roll.

Burgess said she was appreciative not only of the coaching staff's accommodations, but of the professors in the College of Education for helping nurture her passion for teaching.

Plaster Center contributes to uptick in economy

Local lodging revenue, room sales, and hotel jobs in Pittsburgh were up in 2017, with the Robert W. Plaster Center getting some of the credit.

The \$13 million, 154,000-square-foot center, completed in Spring 2015 as a joint venture between the City of Pittsburgh, Crawford County, and PSU, includes a 100-yard turf field and one of only six university-owned 300-meter tracks in the nation. It seats 1,500.

"We knew it would be a popular facility," said Jim Johnson, director of intercollegiate athletics. "But it's been even more popular than we imagined. When you pair it with the incredible facility we have in the Bicknell Center, it really sets us apart."

Devin Gorman, executive director of the Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau, agrees that the facility has put Pittsburgh and Crawford County on the national radar for sporting events that result in tens of thousands of visitors to the area, and has been an incredible economic boon.

Hotel managers say they have noticed the impact, and the latest Pittsburgh Micropolitan Report reflects it: Pittsburgh saw a 25.3 percent increase in total room revenue for the first 10 months of 2017. All told, the local lodging industry sold 77,634 room nights — up 21.4 percent.

This year's offerings include an MIAA Championship in February, and an NCAA Championship and NAIA Championship, both in March.

A Commitment to Excellence

Russ Jewett doesn't spend much time looking at the trophies and awards that line his office walls. After nearly 30 years of leading Pittsburg State's men's and women's cross country and track and field teams, there are almost too many to count.

His women's cross country teams have earned nine MIAA titles, including the 2017 MIAA Championship, and 11 trips to the NCAA Division II National Championships. His men's track and field teams have earned 11 MIAA outdoor titles, and four MIAA indoor crowns. And his women's track and field teams have won five MIAA indoor titles, 10 MIAA outdoor titles and the 2016 NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championship — the first in university history.

Jewett, who has been named MIAA Coach of the Year 38 times during his tenure, says when he does take time to reflect, it's rarely about the actual competition.

"I think about the team," said Jewett. "I try to remember the people who were on that particular team and what they accomplished together. They become like family. I sometimes wonder what they're doing now."

Jewett understands the special bond that develops within a team because he's experienced it himself.

Recruited as a half-miler and a hurdler by legendary PSU head coach David Suenram, Jewett first stepped foot onto campus in the fall of 1979. He didn't know it then, but meeting Suenram would change his life.

"He was almost like a second father to me," Jewett said. "After experiencing track and field under him, I knew that just going out and

making money for a living wasn't going to do it for me. I wanted to be a coach."

Jewett's coaching philosophy stems directly from his mentors. But he doesn't consider it "old school."

"I don't think the 'old-school' I had as an athlete would be very productive today," said Jewett. "I'm talking about where the coach smiled one time a year and there was no messing around. If you came into this program you'd see that it's okay to have fun as long as we get the job done. Of course, we want everybody to be accountable, and everybody to pull their weight so from a work-ethic standpoint; yeah, we're still 'old-school' there."

That type of flexibility and drive are exactly why some of the nation's best student-athletes are attracted to PSU. Emily Iverson of Grove, Oklahoma, who in 2017 captured the NCAA Division II National Championship in the high jump, loves Jewett's coaching philosophy.

"As a coach's kid, I've grown up around athletics," said Iverson. "He's a very competitive man, but he puts a lot of care and a lot of trust into his athletes and his coaches. He talks a lot about family, and how we're here to

win and here to leave a legacy. That's what he bases his program on, and I absolutely love it."

It's that type of attitude that has allowed Jewett's program, and the student-athletes and coaches within it, to maintain such a high-level of success for nearly three decades.

"You need to get up every day wanting to be the best you can be and wanting to help others be the best they can be," Jewett. "Then, you surround yourself with good people. I'm fortunate to have some of the best coaches and administrators in the nation at Pitt State. When you put all of that together and add in a lot of hard work, you have the perfect formula."



Russ Jewett credits his mentor, legendary PSU Track and Field coach David Suenram, with inspiring him to coach.

Pitt State launches Silverback Fund

It's no secret that the rising cost of a college education is placing an increasing burden upon students and their families.

What isn't often realized is the impact that has on university athletic departments, especially at NCAA Division II institutions such as PSU, where few student-athletes receive a "full-ride" athletic scholarship.

"As tuition increases so, too, does the cost of a scholarship for a student-athlete," said Jim Johnson, director of intercollegiate athletics. "Over 50 percent of our operating budget, which primarily comes from student fees, ticket sales, corporate sponsorships, and private support, now goes directly to scholarships for our student-athletes. When you throw in the rising costs of medical, equipment, and travel, it really limits your ability to reinvest in your programs."

Realizing the need for change, university administrators last year formed an advisory board, comprised of campus, community and alumni leaders, with the goal of developing a new program to annually fund athletic scholarships. Thanks to their hard work and vision, the university has launched a new program called The Silverback Fund.

"It's a targeted approach to annual giving that we really haven't had before," said Johnson. "Much like the Ahearn Fund at K-State or the Tigers Scholarship Fund at Mizzou, the Silverback Fund will be used to support scholarships."

The university formally launched the program at its 2017 Gorilla Gala. Early feedback is positive, but the next 18 months are critical to the long-term success of the program.

"You won't find a fan base more passionate and supportive of their teams than what we have here at Pitt State," said Johnson. "This gives

them an easy way to help our student-athletes achieve their primary goal of earning a degree, and do so at any financial level in the manner that best suits their current situation. Whether you're a recent graduate or longtime alum, you'll be helping a fellow Gorilla achieve in the classroom and on the playing field."

Within 10 years, Pittsburg State aims to provide scholarship support, up to the maximum allowed by NCAA legislation, entirely with private funds through this program.

It's a lofty goal, but one Johnson believes is attainable and essential

for the continued success of Gorilla athletics.

"We operate in a competitive landscape," said Johnson. "A successful annual scholarship fund will allow us the financial flexibility to reinvest into our programs, and maintain the high level of success our fans expect."

In addition to the knowledge that their support will help student-athletes, Gorilla fans will also be able to select a payment method that best fits their schedule.

To learn more about the Silverback Fund visit pittstate.edu/silverback.

New turf on the diamonds

PSU softball and baseball fans will notice a major difference in the university's stadiums this year. Thanks to the generosity of several anonymous donors, the university has installed new turf on both fields.

The wall-to-wall AstroTurf brand synthetic turf was installed on all playing surfaces, batting cages, and bullpen areas. The turf is similar to that currently in use at Carnie Smith Stadium and the Robert W. Plaster Center.

"This is a big step forward for our facilities," said Tom Myers, head baseball coach. "It helps us in so many ways. It saves money because we no longer have the expense of maintaining the natural turf, and all of the time we spent mowing, weeding, and sodding can now be spent on the practice field. It's great for our programs and our student-athletes."

The AstroTurf was funded completely with private dollars.

GORILLA GEAR HEADQUARTERS

JOCK'S NITCH
SPORTING GOODS

523 N BROADWAY, PITTSBURG, KS - JOCKSNITCH.COM

The advertisement features a collection of Pitt State Gorillas merchandise. On the left is a grey hoodie with "PITT STATE GORILLAS" printed on it. In the center is a red and white baseball glove. To the right of the glove is a red and white plaid shirt with "PITT STATE" printed on it. Further right is a white t-shirt with "GORILLAS" printed on it. On the far right is a red baseball cap with "gorillas" printed on it. The background is a dark, textured surface.



The **Silverback Fund** is a unique opportunity for Pittsburg State alumni, friends and fans to make a direct and meaningful impact on the academic achievement of our student-athletes. Show your Pittsburg State pride by lifting the burden of academic costs for these outstanding Gorillas and helping them achieve success on the field and in the community.

With a one-time, annual or monthly donation, you can provide our student-athletes with financial peace of mind.

How to Give:

Online: pittstate.edu/silverback

Mail: Pittsburg State University Foundation, Inc.

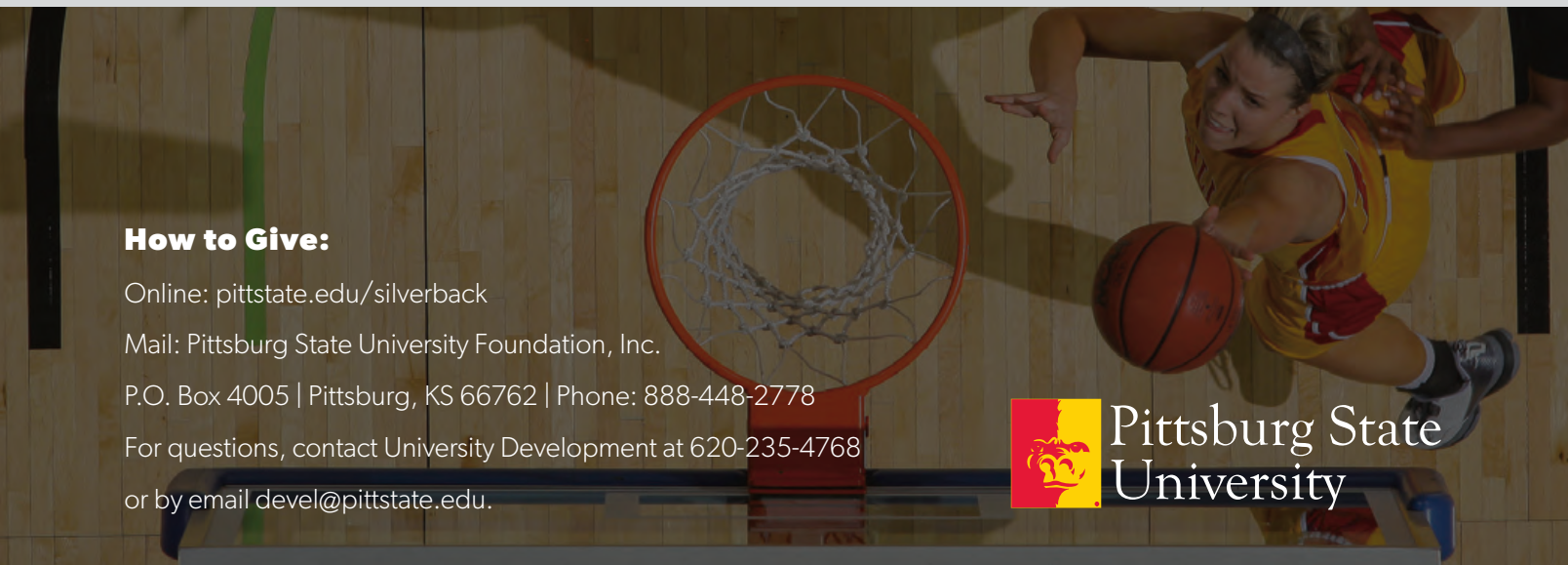
P.O. Box 4005 | Pittsburg, KS 66762 | Phone: 888-448-2778

For questions, contact University Development at 620-235-4768


or by email devel@pittstate.edu.



**Pittsburg State
University**



Outstanding Alumni for 2017

Watch online video. 

A medical physicist, a military strategist, and a nanotechnology researcher were honored with the 2017 Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award during Homecoming activities in October.

Jessica Freeman Clements (BS '02) went on to earn a master's degree in nuclear engineering sciences from the University of Florida in 2005. She's now the Chief Physicist and Regional Radiation Safety Officer for Kaiser Permanente, Southern California Permanente Medical Group, where she manages a team of nine medical radiation physicists and two lead medical radiation physicists.

Lt. Col. David Oakley (BS '98), went on to earn a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma, two masters of military arts and sciences degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army's School of Advanced Military Studies, and a Ph.D. in security studies from



Jay Maharjan, Jessica Freeman Clements and David Oakley

Kansas State University. He's served nearly 20 years as a national security professional in the U.S. Army and the intelligence community, and is a strategist at National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

Jay Maharjan (BS '97), went on to earn a master's degree in leadership,

with an emphasis in public policy analysis from the University of Southern California. Currently, he is conducting research under the guidance of USC Sol Price School of Public Policy to understand the National Cancer Institute's strategy for nanotechnology alliance in cancer.



Pittsburg State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, 2017-2018

Front row, left to right: Angie Saporito; Robyn Harrell, *secretary*; Ruth Duling; Catherine Linaweaver; Denise Grasso; Eric Wilkinson; Gretchen Bolander; Ben Burns; Amy Vinton, *2nd vice-president*; PSU President, Steve Scott

Back row: Jon Bartlow, *executive director*; Chris Schremmer, *treasurer*; Steve Zimmerman; Kelly Peak, *president*; Jeremy Hildebrand; Steve Pierce; Garth Herrmann, *1st vice-president*; Avery Adair; Mark Chesnut; Nick Dellasega, *past president*



Alumni Eric Gudde (left) and Keith Aikin (right), who were recognized by associate professor Andrew Klenke (center).

Alumni recruit fellow Gorillas

Whether it's recruiting employees or recruiting future students, PSU alumni play an important role.

At College of Technology's Company Day last fall, Dustin Doherty, ('16), welcomed current students with an eye toward finding positions for them.

His company, Ward Kraft, was one of more than 200 companies that filled the Kansas Technology Center. Doherty credits Company Day with helping to get him there, so he was happy to return as an alumni recruiter.

Alumnus Larry Walls (BST '90), who in 1990 landed a job at Master WoodCraft Cabinetry LLC®, is now the senior plant manager of the company.

Walls returns to campus twice a year to recruit in the Wood Technology program, and last fall flew students and their instructor, Charlie Phillips, to his plant in Marshall, Texas, on the company jet. Walls said PSU students will be eligible for future scholarships from the company.

Alumni, too, are helping to recruit the next generation of Gorillas.

Frontenac High School teachers Eric Gudde (BST '02, MS '05) and Keith Aikin (BSE '04 and MS '07) were recognized by the College of Technology's Legacy Program, for those who let their students know about PSU's technology and engineering education.

Fourth grade teacher Mandy Arck (BSED '01, MS '09, MS '14) was thrilled to be able to take her students to a hands-on field trip to the KTC last fall.

"I'm telling my students to look around. Look at the classrooms. Look at what's here. Start considering college, and get ready for it," she said. "And I tell them that if you want the best, it's right here in your own backyard."



H. Lee Scott, Jr.

Scott receives national award

PSU alumnus H. Lee Scott, Jr. (BBA, '71), is a recipient of the 2018 Horatio Alger Award.

For more than 70 years, the Horatio Alger Award has been annually bestowed upon admired leaders who have succeeded despite facing adversities, and who have remained committed to higher education and charitable efforts in their local communities.

Scott grew up in Baxter Springs, Kansas, and paid his way through college by working at an hourly wage factory job making steel tire molds. Lee's brother, Steve, also graduated from PSU and is now serving as the university's ninth president.

Lee went on to become the president and CEO of Walmart. During his final year in that role, Walmart was the best performing stock in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Lee was known for his efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower prescription drug costs, and build a more responsible global supply chain.

The performance hall in PSU's Bicknell Family Center for the Arts is named for Lee and his wife, Linda, in honor of a \$5 million contribution made by the Walton Foundation in their name. In 2015, the couple donated more than \$2 million to endow a national speaker series at PSU.

CLASS NOTES

Submit Class Notes information online to: psumag@pittstate.edu.

Class of 1959

Clara Reida (BSE) is the subject of a recent book, "Because We Wanted To: Two Women, A Dream, and a Ranch Called Singing Acres," written by award-winning author Carol Ann Wilson. The story chronicles Reida's adventures with Margaret Locarnini, whom she met at a Girl Scout Camp and who, like her, dreamed of raising horses in the Colorado Rockies. They overcame adversity to open a ranch.

Class of 1964

Robert Fleming (BSBA), judge of the Kansas 11th Judicial District, retired after a 21-year career on the bench. Fleming was appointed to the district court in 1996 by Gov. Bill Graves.

Class of 1967

A.J. Wachter (BSE), chief judge of the 11th Judicial District of Kansas, retired on Dec. 18 after a successful legal career. He was in private practice from 1969 until he was named to the bench in 2002. He was also inducted

into Pittsburg State's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

Class of 1968

Tim Cagle (BA) had two books published in 2017: "Whispers from the Silence" and "Unexpected Enemy."

Class of 1971

Lee Scott (BSBA), the former president, CEO and chairman of the executive committee of the board of directors for Walmart Stores, Inc., was selected for membership in the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. The nonprofit education organization honors the achievements of outstanding individuals and encourages youth to pursue their dreams through education.

Class of 1973

Dennis Franchione (BSE), was recognized for his successful coaching career, which included stops at Kansas State, Southwestern and Tennessee Tech, Texas Christian University,

Alabama, Texas A&M and, of course, PSU, with induction into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 1.

Class of 1974

Gary Green (BME) organized a gathering of music alumni, faculty, and staff for Homecoming Weekend. The group met for a reception in McCray Lobby and then moved to the stage of the Sharon Kay Dean Recital Hall for a group photo. They hope to do so again in the future.

Class of 1975

Kirby Brown (BST, MS '77) was awarded Presidential Rank by the Department of the Army's Civilian Senior Leader Management Office — one of only 36 senior executives within the federal government to receive the prestigious award. He works at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, as the Commanding General's principle advisor and the senior expert in force management, joint capabilities integration and development, requirements determination, and material acquisition.

Class of 1983

Diana Phillips Cavin (BSE) was honored in 2017 for teaching 30 years at USD 234 in Fort Scott, Kansas. She taught third and fourth grade in Missouri, before returning to Fort Scott to teach fifth grade. She retired in May 2017 after 34 years in education.

Class of 1984

Ruth Duling (BBA) was named the CEO of the growing Girard Medical Center in Girard, Kansas.

Class of 1987

Johnathon Johnson (BS), president, CEO, and bank director for Home Savings Bank in Chanute, Kansas has been named to the Kansas Bankers Association Board of Directors as a Regional Representative.

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Class of 1989

Shelly Kiblinger (BSE) was named superintendent of the Cherryvale, USD 447 school district. Kiblinger's teaching career includes stops in Fredonia and Garden City, Kansas.

Steven Westfall, (BBA, MBA '90), has been named President of EFCO Corporation, which provides innovative customer solutions to satisfy commercial design challenges.

Class of 1990

Becky Brannock (EDS), a faculty member and director of PSU's School Counseling Program, was inducted into the Kansas School Counseling Hall of Fame. She has nearly 40 years of experience as an educator.

Mark Cole (MA), inspired by visits to national parks, had one of his works of art selected for the 2017 National Art Education Association Member Exhibition — one of just 65 out of 422 works from around the world. He is

an art teacher at Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School in Joplin, Mo.

Julie Swearingen Schaller (BS) was named one of 25 "Women Who Mean Business in KC." PSU was the only school mentioned at the awards ceremony. Schaller found her vocation by working as a student for Col. A.T. Flagg in the HR department at PSU.

Class of 1991

Stephanie Heman (BSE) was named the new assistant principal at Monett High School in Monett, Missouri. Her career includes stops at Aurora High School and Webb City High School.

Class of 1992

Susan Mynatt Harrison (BA) recently co-authored the book "Difficult Conversations Just for Women, Kill the Anxiety, Get What You Want." She's currently working on a series of short books about stress and communication.

Class of 1993

Tammy Merrett (BA) was recognized by the College Media Association with its Distinguished Adviser Award. Merrett is currently the media adviser at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Class of 2002

Matt Spurlock (BST) accepted a position as Director of Technology with Foulston Siefkin LLP of Wichita, Kansas. Foulston Siefkin LLP is the largest law firm in Kansas.

Class of 2011

Barb Roberts (MS), a former PSU employment coordinator and career counselor, was named the 2017 Administrative Faculty Member of the Year at the University of Las Vegas.

Sarah Runyon (BST) was named the Chief Information Officer for the City

continued

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of Pittsburg, Kan. Runyon is the first person to hold the position for the city.

Class of 2012

Jessica Booth (BSE, MS 2013), a Basehor-Linwood High School mathematics teacher, was named the 2017 Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher in Kansas.

Class of 2013

Ashley Wilbert (BBA) has been promoted to Senior Associate at Stinnett & Associates, a professional advisory firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ernesto Estigarribia (BME) has been named the new conductor of the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra in Rochester, Minnesota.

Class of 2015

Cori Austin Bohnenblust (BS) went on to earn her Masters at the University of Northern Iowa and is a Team Representative/School Psychologist at Central Rivers Area Education Agency in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She lives in Waterloo, Iowa with her husband Brad Bohnenblust (BST 2014).

Krista Gosch (BSE) was chosen as the Webb City Cardinal Teacher Award winner for Webb City Middle School in 2017.

Jenna Spencer (BA) has become active in the Pittsburg art scene as a muralist and is a charter member of Art Forms Gallery in Pittsburg. Her

work can now be seen on the sides of historic buildings and on public art installation pieces around town. She is the administrative assistant at Memorial Auditorium.

In Memory

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

Unknown Year

Charles E. Kellogg, Jr., Pittsburg, Kan.
Patricia A. Behlar, Pittsburg, Kan.
Donald M. Cash, Independence, Mo.
Constance W. Gangwer, Pittsburg, Kan.
Ron G. Hopkins, Salina, Kan.
Karen S. Rowland, Oswego, Kan.
William J. Sollner, Arma, Kan.
Pat M. Swartz, Bentonville, Ark.

1935

Veta Z. (Smith) Foster, Glendale, Ariz.

1939

Hazel L. (Shideler) Douglass, Kennesaw, Ga.
Thomas D. White

1940

Margaret J. (Thompson) Miller, Wichita, Kan.

1941

Elizabeth F. (Willis) Stone, Hutchinson, Kan.

1944

Arvestine L. (Fowler) Williams,
 Overland Park, Kan.

1947

Marinell (Clark) Webber, Lenexa, Kan.

1948

Robert L. Hartman, Sugar Grove, Ill.
Jay F. Holt, Wichita, Kan.

1949

Kenneth A. Brock, Springdale, Ark.

1950

Ruth A. (Williamson) Barr, Pittsburg, Kan.
Ken W. Smith, Manhattan, Kan.

1951

Donald M. Huffman, Pella, Iowa

1952

Thelma C. (Ligett) Cann, Broken Arrow, Okla.
Robert E. Laforge, El Dorado, Kan.
Joe W. Robinson, Broken Arrow, Okla.

University mourns the death of Dr. Joseph Grady Smoot

PSU vice president emeritus Joseph "Grady" Smoot died Friday, Jan. 5, 2018, at Via Christi Village in Pittsburg. He was 85.

"Grady loved this university and this community," said President Steve Scott. "But, more than that, he loved life. He has left a legacy at Pittsburg State that will benefit Gorillas for generations to come. On behalf of Pittsburg State University, I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Smoot, who grew up as a self-described "farm boy," went on to become widely traveled, visiting more than 100 countries on seven continents. At age 73, he climbed Mt. Kenya with his family. At age 75, he walked across the Golden Gate Bridge for the third time in his life.

He came to PSU in 1984 as vice president of Development and Public Relations, the university's first full-time development staff member. He also served for eight years as assistant to the president under Dr. Tom Bryant.

In 1985, Smoot was named the new PSU Foundation's executive director. He was credited with spearheading several large campaigns for the university, including the Campaign for Distinction and the Centennial 2003 Fund.

He also is credited with establishing this magazine, KRPS-FM radio station, raising millions of dollars for the Kansas Technology Center, and inspiring Jim AuBuchon to move forward with creating the PSU Veterans Memorial.

His contributions to Pittsburg also were substantial, including serving as a trustee for the Pittsburg Public Library, the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, and the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation, and as a fundraiser to save the historic Hotel Stilwell.



Dr. Joseph Grady Smoot

1954

Ada M. (Lathers) Viets, Lenexa, Kan.

1955

Ken C. Cochran, Salina, Kan.

Lois J. (Edgell) Lundy, Enid, Okla.

Roy J. Smith, Kansas City, Mo.

1956

James J. Bodine, Kansas City, Mo.

Ed E. Cain, San Diego, Calif.

Billy D. Horn, Topeka, Kan.

Ardyce I. Koonce, Independence, Mo.

Glen R. Pape, Blue Springs, Mo.

1957

Charles D. Belk, Joplin, Mo.

Nick J. Berardi, Kansas City, Mo.

Fred F. Bogina, Arma, Kan.

Virginia M. Chambers, Iola, Kan.

Dwight E. Giger, Banning, Calif.

Darrell K. Knetzer, Saint Joseph, Mo.

Bill N. Loeffler, Plano, Texas

Walter H. Ramsay, Neosho, Mo.

1958

Marilyn J. (Tipton) Flanders, Cherryvale, Kan.

Claudine M. (Egbert) Neer, Boonville, Ind.

Robert E. Starburg, Junction City, Kan.

1959

Gene Clanton, Pullman, Wash.

Charles R. Jackard, Jr., Clayton, N.M.

Harold W. Olehy, Katy, Texas

1960

Thelma S. Dement, Fort Scott, Kan.

Rodney R. Storey, Camdenton, Mo.

Howard L. Turner, Kansas City, Mo.

William H. Wilcox, Mound Valley, Kan.

Ray E. Wilson, Smyrna Beach, Fla.

1961

Edward E. Hedges, Topeka, Kan.

Earl W. Watson, Jr., Grandview, Mo.

1962

William P. Kilgore

Don P. Orender, Pittsburg, Kan.

1963

Jim M. AuBuchon, Leawood, Kan.

Glen W. Clothier, Montesano, Wash.

Frank M. Edwards, Tulsa, Okla.

Betty J. (Humble) Kalusha, Frontenac, Kan.

Lucille W. (Leonard) Romig,

Lee's Summit, Mo

Treva M. (Bates) Smith, Erie, Kan.

1964

George R. Rennick, Charlottesville, Va.

1965

William G. Malone, Tishomingo, Okla.

1966

Bill L. Biggs, Overland Park, Kan.

Gordon J. Boerwinkle, San Antonio, Texas

David G. Carson, Muskogee, Okla.

Roger R. Easson, Germantown, Tenn.

Bonnie L. (Chab) Givens, Olathe, Kan.

1967

Neil E. Holmes, Leawood, Kan.

Joyce B. (Morarity) Lemon, Manhattan, Kan.

Larry C. McGhee, Baton Rouge, La.

Mary K. (Aschentrop) Meyer, Goddard, Kan.

1968

Richard J. Riley, Salem, Ore.

Jon M. Ulm, Edmond, Okla.

continued



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1969

Douglas R. Cooper, Skiatook, Okla.
Robert A. Correa, Litchfield Park, Ariz.
Vic Finkenbinder, Spring Hill, Kan.
Joe L. McIntyre, Benton, Kan.
Marjorie F. (Kepley) Neely, Chanute, Kan.
Iris E. (Gallion) Pfautz, Kingsland, Ga.

1970

Richard L. Perry, Parsons, Kan.
Charles J. Stein, San Jose, Calif.

1971

Stephen L. Ireland, Sparta, Mo.
Connie S. (Miller) Lehman, Sabetha, Kan.
Robert W. Lowe, Lee's Summit, Mo.
Steven P. Stavrou, Houston, Texas
Suzan H. Woodhead, Athens, Ohio

1972

Donna L. (Fish) Harrington, Pittsburg, Kan.
Carolyn J. (Cochran) Jolly,
 Laguna Woods, Calif
James R. Jolly, Laguna Woods, Calif.
Kevin P. Kelly, Kansas City, Mo.
Robert L. O'Block, Springfield, Mo.
Faye R. (Wallance) Smith, Mindenmines, Mo.

1973

Brenda K. (Allen) Beck, Shawnee, Kan.
John J. Busse, Chanute, Kan.
Marrison E. (Tillman) Delange, Hepler, Kan.
Wanda L. Garner, Aptos, Calif.
Ben E. Johnson, Carthage, Mo.

1974

Tim J. Bloomfield, Fort Scott, Kan.
Maxine Carlson, Webb City, Mo.
Tim A. Fox, Parsons, Kan.
Stanley D. Gavin, Pittsburg, Kan.
Dale H. Kime, Webb City, Mo.

1975

Maria C. (Poelma) Edwards, Springfield, Mo.
John F. Hornick, Front Royal, Va.
Debra K. (Rink) Keller, Branson, Mo.
Florence A. (Nightingale) Russell,
 Olathe, Kan.
Ted W. Williams, Nevada, Mo.

1976

Kelly W. Filkel, Fort Scott, Kan.
Michael T. Holmes, Marble Falls, Texas
Joe E. Marshall, Erie, Kan.

1977

Wayne C. Atherton, Iola, Kan.
Michael N. Close, Prairie Grove, Ark.
Sally D. (Adams) Cook, Riverton, Kan.
William T. Gorman, Pittsburg, Kan.
Jean C. (Warsop) Owens, Miami, Okla.
Jerry L. Whitson, Wheatland, Mo.

AuBuchon leaves visible mark in Pittsburg

Brig. Gen. James "Jim" AuBuchon, a retired longtime PSU administrator, died Sept. 1, 2017, at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He was 77.

For nearly 40 years, he played a significant role in the expansion of the campus, university programming, the growth of Pittsburg, and in military service.

President Steve Scott said AuBuchon was the "very definition of a leader."

"His tenacity allowed him to not just define a vision, but to marshal the forces necessary to construct it," Scott said. "Our campus and our community are stronger because of Jim's unending desire to make a difference."

AuBuchon, who graduated from PSU in 1963 with a bachelor's degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, often said he owed everything he accomplished to the time he spent at PSU.

After a tour of duty that included a year in Vietnam, he returned to PSU to join the staff as the assistant director of the Overman Student Center. He completed a master's degree at PSU in 1969 and a Ph.D. from Kansas State in 1978.

AuBuchon's career included serving as an administrator in student affairs, in university development where he served as director of major giving, and in university advancement where he served as vice president. He also served as the executive director of the PSU Foundation.

He played a key role in raising funds to complete the Kansas Technology Center, Carnie Smith Stadium, the Tyler Research Center, and the Student Recreation Center/Pittsburg Armory.

In 2016, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the US Army ROTC National Hall of Fame.

He chose the columbarium at PSU's Timmons Chapel as his final resting place. A service honoring his life was held on Sept. 16 at the PSU Veterans Memorial, of which AuBuchon oversaw the creation and development.



Brig. Gen. James "Jim" AuBuchon

1979

Judith A. (Sterns) Bernhardt,
 Arkansas City, Kan.
James V. Lasseter, Spring Hill, Kan.

1981

Kandy J. (Costley) Landreneau,
 Shreveport, La.
Cindy L. (Ward) Skaggs, Derby, Kan.
Rick W. Williams, Overland Park, Kan.

1982

Barbara J. (Crawford) Brown, Parsons, Kan.
Dara L Schnabel, Olathe, Kan.

1985

Gary R. Berry, Asbury, Mo.

Nina M. Maddux, West End, N.C.
Sharon K. Matthews, Pittsburg, Kan.
Coletta M. (Lowe) Pitts, Galena, Kan.

1986

Larry D. Pounds, Carl Junction, Mo.
Lisa L. (Nicholson) Reece, Ash Grove, Mo.

1987

Ralph E. French, Redfield, Kan.
Wayne A. Schwalm, Osawatometie, Kan.
James E. Torrence, Edmond, Okla.

1990

Ron M. Elbrader, Webb City, Mo.
Mary L. Hodson, Lawrence, Kan.

continued on pg. 46



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1991

Richard S. Blythe, Claremore, Okla.
Vallajeon R. (Roberson) Younger,
Pittsburg, Kan.

1992

Lance P. Kocur, Arma, Kan.

1994

Arthur W. Riddle, Chetopa, Kan.

1999

Deidre C. (Johnston) Spahn, Weir, Kan.

2002

Matthew M. Smith, Lenexa, Kan.

2007

Michael D. Vickery, Lenexa, Kan.

2008

Natalia Pugh, Lamar, Mo.

In Memory 2017

Pittsburg State University
faculty and staff:

Jim M. AuBuchon, Leawood, Kan.

Patricia A. Behlar, Pittsburg, Kan.

Kathleen Cameron, Pittsburg, Kan.

Donald M. Cash, Independence, Mo.

Edward E. Craddock, Weir, Kan.

Jack Fay, Joplin, Mo.

Alberta M. (Combs) Fisher, Franklin, Kan.

Constance W. Gangwer, Pittsburg, Kan.

Doris M. Genisio, Wichita, Kan.

Karen E. Harper, Pittsburg, Kan.

Steven F. Hellwig, Pittsburg, Kan.

Ron G. Hopkins, Salina, Kan.

Missi A. (Lindsay) Kelly, Pittsburg, Kan.

John B. Mingee, Kansas City, Kan.

Louise Baker Oakes, Pittsburg, Kan.

Robert Roy Pavlis, Girard, Kan.

Larry L. Reese, Weir, Kan.

Melvin L. Rupard, Frontenac, Kan.

Gene E. Russell, Olathe, Kan.

Marjorie K. Schick, Placentia, Calif.

Faye R. (Wallace) Smith, Mindenmines, Mo.

Joseph Grady Smoot, Pittsburg, Kan.

Audrey L. Tewell, Pittsburg, Kan.

Doris M. Wilkin, Pittsburg, Kan.

Schick remembered for her innovative and enduring art style

Porter Hall lost a little of its color last fall: Marjorie Schick, who taught 50 years as a college professor and was known internationally for her wearable art, died Dec. 17, 2017, after a short illness. She had just retired at the end of the Spring Semester.

"Marjorie was the innovation, she was the revolution, and she did it with a quiet grace that allowed everyone to participate," said Rhona Shand, associate professor of art. "She did this not only by the work she made, but her commitment to how she made it and who she was: witty, humble, and completely approachable. She will be missed."

Art Department Interim Chair Jamie Oliver said she impacted countless students and faculty.

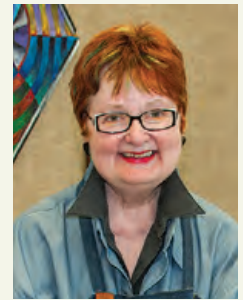
"Nothing I can say will actually encompass the amount of love and respect that we as a Department hold for Marjorie and her work," he said. "Her teaching modeled her artmaking process: leading by example and consistently innovating."

Schick was known for her body sculptures and large-scaled jewelry of painted wood and papier-mâché.

Her husband, James Schick, was a PSU history professor for 50 years. Their dual professorships as a married couple would set the record as two of the longest, if not the longest, in the university's history.

Schick's work has been included in the Smithsonian Institute archives and can be found in museums and private collections around the world.

A hardcover book of her art, "Sculpture to Wear: The Jewelry of Marjorie Schick," was published in 2007.



Marjorie Schick

Don Cash recalled as passionate, tough

Don Cash Sr., a retired faculty member who taught in the Kelce College of Business for 30 years and served as a department chair for 10, died on Dec. 5, after a long illness. He was 87.

Cash came to PSU in 1966, teaching accounting for 30 years and serving for 10 years as chair of the department until his retirement in 1996.

"I had him for a class," said David O'Bryan, an alumnus and a University Professor. "And he was chair when I returned as a full-time faculty member in 1992. The constant that I remember most was that he was passionate about us having a high-quality accounting program at PSU – as passionate as anybody could be."

Cash also was very active in the community, particularly in civic organizations, including Sunflower Kiwanis, Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Business Incentives Task Force, Habitat for Humanity, and Boy Scouts. He served as mayor from 1998 to 1999.

The family has requested donations in Don's memory be made to The Don Cash Accounting Development Fund, 200 Shirk Annex, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762, in care of the PSU Office of Development.



Don Cash, Sr.

Campus mourns loss of retired, current faculty

Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni are mourning the loss of two retired faculty members and a current faculty member.

Dr. Jack Fay, a professor emeritus of accounting in the Kelce College of Business, died Jan. 19, 2018. He was 79. PSU President Dr. Steve Scott called him a “true scholar” who cared deeply about his students. Fay joined the faculty in 1996 and retired at age 78.

Dr. Robert Roy Pavlis, a professor in the Department of Chemistry since 1986, died Nov. 30, 2017. He was 76. Scott said his efforts brought chemistry to life for his students. He retired in 2007. Memorial contributions can be made to the PSU Foundation toward the Robert Pavlis Memorial Scholarship.

Current faculty member **Dr. Kathleen Cameron**, an associate professor of Justice Studies in the Department

of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences, died Jan. 24, 2018, after a prolonged illness. She was 66 and had taught at PSU since 1996.

“Dr. Cameron loved teaching and the difference it could make in the life of a student,” Scott said. “She was a leader in the field of Justice Studies, both at our university and on the national stage. On behalf of Pittsburg State University, I offer my condolences to her family and friends.”

Senior Nina Pittman, a justice studies major with an emphasis in criminal justice, said Cameron played a pivotal role in her education and her future.

“Dr. K has made a huge impact in my life and who I am today,” Pittman said. “I can’t thank her enough for always pushing me to my highest potential. She was always reminding me that my work was outstanding and that she loved having me as a student in her classes.”

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Demetrius Bernard

Recipient of the Paul and Brenda Rua Chappell Scholarship



Emily Kurec

Recipient of the Jack H. Overman ROTC Spirit Scholarship



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Recipient of the Z.S. Chang and Family Scholarship

Drew Martin

Recipient of the Glenda Overbeck Scholarship



Benjamin Coltharp

Recipient of the Helen Kriegsman Scholarship



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- March 29 Northwest Arkansas Gorilla Gathering Dinner Rogers, Ark.
- April 10 Tulsa Area Gorilla Gathering Dinner Tulsa, Okla.
- April 12 Wichita Area Gorilla Gathering Lunch Wichita, Kan.
- April 24 Wilson County Area
Gorilla Gathering Dinner Wilson County, Kansas
- June 7 Oklahoma City Area Gorilla Gathering Oklahoma City, Okla.

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