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## Apple Day Convocation, 1991

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### THE APPLE DAY TRADITION . . .

Pittsburg State University is the youngest of the state institutions of higher learning in Kansas. Founded in 1903, Pitt State opened as the Auxiliary Manual Training Normal School. Russell Station Russ, then Superintendent of the Pittsburg Schools, was elected Principal of the new Normal School which he helped to found. The school opened Tuesday, September 8, 1903, with 54 students and five faculty members in temporary quarters.

Mr. Russ spent considerable time in the State Legislature of 1907 during the debate for an appropriation for the first school building. As the issue was drawing to a close, the legislators lightheartedly reviewed the problem of nonmembers of the House appearing on the floor, and the motion was made that the next offender be fined a barrel of apples. Shortly after, Russ appeared to inquire about the progress of the bill and was duly fined a barrel of apples.

The incident was reported in Pittsburg, and Russ, discussing this with students, suggested that they fine the faculty a barrel of apples. The motion passed unanimously and a bewildered faculty paid the fine. Since that first observance on March 8, 1907, Apple Day or Commemoration Day has become an event to be noted on the Pitt State campus. Annually, this traditional fine is assessed by the student body, and the apples furnished by the Faculty Association are passed out to all those present at the Apple Day Convocation.



# Program

Welcome and Introductions	Dr. Donald Wilson, President Pittsburg State University
Musical Selections	
From the Pages of History	Mr. Gene DeGruson Special Collections Librarian Pittsburg State University
Commemoration Day Addresses	Mr. Robert Caldwell Kansas Board of Regents
	The Honorable Joan Finney Governor of Kansas
Presentation of 1991 Outstanding Faculty Awards	Mr. Mark Stewart Academic Affairs Commissioner Student Government Association
	Mr. George Zugmier, President PSU Alumni Association
Distinguished Service Award Dr. Ralf J. Thomas, Recipient	Dr. Donald Wilson, President Pittsburg State University
	Mr. George Zugmier, President PSU Alumni Association
"Piano Rags" by Scott Joplin	Susan Laushman, Pianist

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Student Government Association

Ms. Kaye Lynne Webb

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