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# Apple Day

Commemorating the founding of Pittsburg State University

Thursday, March 3, 1994

Convocation

10:30 a.m.

McCray Hall



*Sowing the Seeds of Excellence*

# 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 non-members 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.



# Convocation Program

## Welcome

Amy Patton, *President, Student Government Association*

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## From the Pages of History

Gene DeGruson, *Special Collections Librarian, Pittsburg State University*

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## Introductions

Donald Wilson, *President, Pittsburg State University*

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## Commemoration Day Address

Stephen Jordan, *Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Regents*

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## Musical Selections

“Annie Laurie”, *arrangement: Alice Parker & Robert Shaw*

“Witness”, *arrangement: Jack Halloran*

The University Choir, Susan Marchant, *Director*

.

## Presentation of 1994 Outstanding Faculty Awards

Sarah Loquist, *Academic Affairs Commissioner,*

*Student Government Association*

Brad Mattivi, *President, PSU Alumni Association*

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## Distinguished Service Awards

Donald Wilson, *President, Pittsburg State University*

Dr. Theodore M. Sperry, *Recipient*

Dr. Elmer W. Williams, *Recipient*

Brad Mattivi, *President, PSU Alumni Association*

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## Closing

Amy Patton, *President, Student Government Association*

## Acknowledgements

*Appreciation is extended to all those whose help and cooperation made today's program possible.*

### Student Apple Day Committee

*Co-chairpersons:* Jim Allen • Dianne Stang

*Committee:* Ross Albertini • Marlene Cruz • Heather Heath

Jason Pujol • Susan Stang

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## Pittsburg State University 1994 Distinguished Service Awards Recipients

### Dr. Theodore M. Sperry

Since retiring as a Professor of Biology in 1974, Theodore M. Sperry has served as Curator of the Herbarium which bears his name. Dr. Sperry donates 20-30 hours per week to the herbarium which is utilized by students, researchers and the public. Beginning with some 300 specimens, the herbarium now houses nearly 50,000 specimens. Many of these are his personal collection. The herbarium is nationally recognized and serves as an important regional collection. The herbarium also houses collections from numerous countries around the world. Dr. Sperry has brought national recognition to PSU and is considered the Founder/Father of Ecological Restoration. He is responsible for the Curtis Prairie, the first tallgrass prairie restoration project known worldwide. Because of his work in restoration, the Nature Conservancy (Dr. Sperry is a founding member of this internationally known organization) included him in an important film, The Garden of Eden, now shown throughout the United States. Dr. Sperry continues to remain very active in writing and presenting papers.

### Dr. Elmer W. Williams

Dr. Elmer W. Williams retired from the Department of Social Science as a Professor of Political Science in 1986. Since his retirement he has served as Coordinator of the Para-Legal Studies Program offered through the Division of Continuing Studies at PSU on a voluntary basis. Dr. Williams is responsible for all recruitment of instructors, scheduling of classes, maintaining records of students in the program, arranging for reference materials, preparing original materials, etc. Additionally, he teaches at least two classes each trimester in the program. He is on campus nearly 40-60 hours a week for about 45 weeks each year fulfilling his obligations to the program. He has given over 10,000 hours of volunteer service in 1986.