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### Apple Day Celebration, 2006

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**Celebrating the Founding of Pittsburg State University**

Pittsburg State University

# Apple Day Celebration 2006

"A Tribute To Our Leaders"



**Convocation**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2006**  
**3:00 pm**  
**McCray Recital Hall**

# The Story of Apple Day

On February 21, 1903, Governor William J. Bailey signed the bill creating the Kansas State Manual Training Normal School Auxiliary, the first name of what is today Pittsburg State University. Classes began the following September in the city-owned Central School building at the northwest corner of Fifth and Walnut. Very soon the growing enrollment created a need for a larger facility. Senator Ebenezer F. Porter of Pittsburg led a successful fight for a building appropriation with the assistance of Principal Russell Station Russ, the faculty, and community leaders. After the funding bill was passed, Clarence Price, then mayor of Pittsburg, was fined a barrel of apples for lobbying on the floor of the legislature. Senator Porter, it should be noted, graciously donated two boxes of cigars to the House for passing the bill. Upon their triumphal return to Pittsburg, the story of the fine was told. In those days, students were disciplined for their absences. In the spirit of the celebration, Principal Russ and members of his faculty were fined a barrel of apples by the students because they had been gone to Topeka to help lobby. Thus, with the funding of the building we now call Russ Hall by the Kansas Legislature, the tradition of Apple Day was established in 1907.



# Convocation Program

## Welcome & Introductions

Ginger Niemann, President, Student Government Association

## Historical Presentation

Randy Roberts

## Presentation of the 2006 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Awards

Dr. Tom Bryant, President, Pittsburg State University  
Shirley Palmer, National President, PSU Alumni Association

## Presentation of the 2006 Outstanding Faculty Awards

Ginger Niemann, President, Student Government Association  
Jeremy Johnson, Academic Affairs,  
Student Government Association

## Golden Gorilla Student Leadership Awards

Dr. Tom Bryant, President, Pittsburg State University  
Scot Schiefelbein, Past Golden Gorilla Recipient

## Musical Selection by PSU Chorale

Directed by Susan Marchant

It was a lover and his lass  
(from Shakespeare Songs, Book III)  
Text from As You Like It

Matthew Harris

## Commemoration Day Addresses

Dr. James AuBuchon  
Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Announcement of Centennial Scholarships

Andy Majors, PSU Homecoming King  
Amanda Steuernagel, PSU Homecoming Queen

## Alma Mater

Apple Distribution  
Faculty Association

# **2006 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas**

## **Distinguished Service Award Recipients**

### **August and Helen Rua**

August, who died earlier this year, and Helen Rua are long-time benefactors to the university. August received both a bachelor's and master's degree from PSU. The Ruas have been members of the PSU Centennial Society, were original members of the President's Society and are charter members of the Heritage Society. They established the August and Helen Rua Athletic Scholarship Fund, supported KRPS radio and were benefactors of the August and Helen Rua Press Box at Carnie Smith Stadium.

Additionally, August served as a member of the PSU Foundation Board of Trustees, a member of the Athletic Advisory Board and was a Gorilla Ambassador. He was the 1969 PSU Alumni Association president and was a recipient of the PSU Meritorious Achievement Award. August was a PSU Half-Century Club inductee and was a Community Campaign volunteer.

### **Jack Overman**

Jack Overman received both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from PSU and returned to join the staff in 1940. After a long career at the university, Overman retired, but continues to support PSU as a volunteer.

His volunteer service has included playing a pivotal role in the site selection, planning and dedication of the Wilkinson Alumni Center. He has served as chairman of the Annual Fund and president of the PSU Alumni Association. A life member of the Alumni Association, Overman has served on the Phonathon Committee and is a member of the PSU Foundation and the President's Club. He is a recipient of the PSU Meritorious Achievement Award and is a member of the Alumni Centennial Society. Overman is also a recipient of the Kaye Lynne Webb Spirit Award.

Overman is a familiar face at a wide variety of university events. He has an almost unbroken attendance record for PSU football championship games and frequently attends other sporting, music and theater events.



# 2005 Outstanding Faculty Award Recipients

**Dr. Julie Allison**

Professor

Department of Psychology and Counseling

Nominated by: Garrett Reist

*"I try to get to know students on an individual level, and develop a relationship with them that is founded upon the trust that I have their best interests at heart and that I want to make a difference in their lives."*

**Dr. Becky Brannock**

Associate Professor

Department of Psychology and Counseling

Nominated by: Honors College Association

*"When students have done well by receiving academic honors at the end of the semester, I follow-up with a personal letter of congratulations. I also encourage students to let me know when they've accomplished various things throughout the semester that I am able to celebrate along with them."*

**Dr. Russ Rosmait**

Professor

Department of Engineering Technology

Nominated by: Sigma Phi Epsilon

*"On my office door is a quote from Mark Twain - 'twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did do.' This has become my mantra. Getting my student to think beyond today and to the future is another of my strengths."*

# Golden Gorilla Student Leadership Award

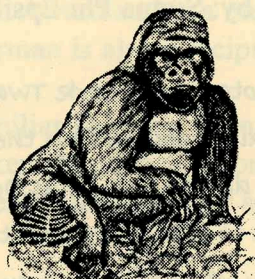
The Golden Gorilla Award was established in 1997 to honor students who have made exemplary contributions in community service, academic excellence, and campus involvement. According to tradition, 2006 recipients are introduced at Apple Day and recognized at the Spring Leadership Banquet. Students may receive this honor at any time during their tenure at Pittsburg State University, but are only eligible to receive the award once.

Congratulations to this year's recipients and nominees!

## 2006 Golden Gorilla Recipients

Garrett Reist  
Jeff Godfrey  
Ginger Niemann  
Surendra Shrestha  
Ene Tuyliyeva  
Paul Cope  
Ryan Fell  
Andrew Kleinberg  
Jennifer Stanley  
Clay Wardlaw  
Gregar Ketcham

Andy Majors  
Christine Baker  
Lisa Gruver  
Adam Merando  
Evan Besperat  
Ken Wagner  
Christina Barker  
Brent Cameron  
Amanda Rhorer  
Amanda Steuernagel  
Jennifer Werner





# PSU Chorale

Scott Allison  
Kimberly Arzoian  
Casey Brown  
Richard Cook  
Paul Cope  
Mariah Feist  
Daryl Foster  
Mary Jo Harper  
Drew Hayes  
Megan Hizey  
Kate Hockman  
Natalee Hulstine  
Kondja Kamatuka  
Carrie Kesler

Amy Mason  
Mary Helen McCloud  
Ginger Niemann  
Robin Nobles  
Patrick O'Halloran  
Sean Parks  
Lauren Perkins  
Karrie Ross  
Harrison Rowland  
Elisha Samuel  
William Vance  
Brandon Wade  
Rebekah Wells

## PSU Alma Mater

On the plains of Southeast Kansas,  
'Neath an ever cloudless sky,  
Far away from surging ocean,  
And the storm-bird's plaintive cry;  
With her prairies rolling Westward,  
Where the buffalo once were great,  
With her ensign proudly waiving,  
Stands our own Pittsburg State.

### Refrain

Let us greet the Gold and Crimson  
With a strong and cordial cheer,  
Let our hearts be ever loyal  
To our Alma Mater dear.

Let her worthy sons and daughters  
For "Our Pitt State" proudly stand,  
Shielding zealously her honor  
In one brave, unbroken band;  
Let them hold aloft her banner  
With a stout and steady arm;  
Rallying her children 'round it,  
From the city, town and farm.

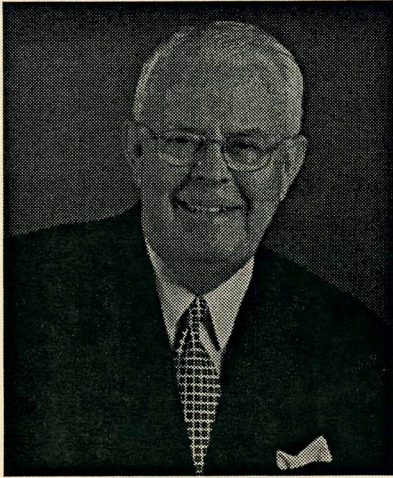
### Refrain

Let us greet the Gold and Crimson  
With a strong and cordial cheer,  
Let our hearts be ever loyal  
To our Alma Mater dear.



# **Dr. James AuBuchon**

## **Vice President for University Advancement**



Dr. James AuBuchon was born in Baxter Springs, Kansas and attended schools in Riverton and Baxter Springs. He graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He completed a Master's degree from PSU in 1969 and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University in 1978.

From 1963 until 1967, he served in the U.S. Army, completing assignments at Ft. Benning, Georgia; Ft. Riley, Kansas; The Republic of Vietnam; and Ft.

Leonard Wood, Missouri. He left active duty in 1967 and returned to Pittsburg where he joined the staff at Pittsburg State University as Assistant Director of the Student Center. He held the following administrative positions at PSU: 1972 to 1982 - Associate Director of Student Affairs and International Student Advisor; 1982 to 1992 - Director of Placement and Student Development Programs; 1992-1995 - Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; 1995 - 1998 - Director of Major Giving. He was named Vice President for University Advancement in 1998.

Some of the more recent accomplishments in his career at PSU include his involvement in raising \$6 million in corporate, government, foundation, and private funds to complete the nearly \$30 million funding package for the Kansas Technology Center. He managed the successful \$100 million capital campaign completed in June 2000. More recently, he provided leadership in the \$5.7 million campaign to renovate and expand the football stadium, construction of the \$1.3 million PSU Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, and the \$120 million capital campaign currently underway. As executive director, he manages the affairs of the PSU Foundation, Inc., which has \$51 million in assets.

Dr. AuBuchon retired from the U.S. Army in 1999 after 36 years of active and Reserve Duty with the rank Brigadier General. He currently serves as chairperson of the Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and ambassador for the State of Kansas to the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a member of the Kansas Transportation 2000 Task Force and the Governor's Economic Review Panel. He previously served as president of the U.S. Highway 69 Association and transportation council chair of SEK, Inc.

In the Pittsburg community, he served as chairman and member of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Carmel Medical Center. Currently he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Family Resource Center, Inc., and has served two terms as board president. He is also a member of the advisory board of Gold Bank of Pittsburg. He previously served as the mayor of Pittsburg and as a Pittsburg city commissioner.



# **Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff**

## **Vice President for Academic Affairs**



Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff joined the Pittsburg State University faculty in 1966 as a history instructor. Except for a leave of absence from 1969 to 1970 to complete work on his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas, Dr. Ratzlaff has continuously served PSU as a faculty member and/or administrator.

A native of Garden City, Kan., Ratzlaff earned a Bachelor of Science in history from Kansas State University; a Master of Science in history from Pittsburg State and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas.

He served as an instructor at Independence Community College and Independence High School prior to joining the PSU staff. He served PSU as a full-time faculty member in history until 1978, when he was named chairman of the History Department. He served as chairperson and continued to teach each semester until January 1987, when he was named Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. In October 1987, he was named Vice President for Academic Affairs. In addition to his administrative duties, he has always continued to teach classes. Some of the highlights during his tenure as Vice President for Academic Affairs are:

- Acquisition of funding, design and construction of the Kansas Technology Center
- Development of the PSU Honors College



- Earning accreditation for the College of Business from AACSB
- Design and construction of the Family and Consumer Sciences Building
- Successful completion of agreements with PSU/KNEA
- Recruitment of numerous deans, directors, chairpersons and faculty
- Development of new degree programs in International Business, Nursing, Accounting, Instructional Technology, Engineering Technology, Criminal Justice and many more
- Development of numerous degree completion programs offered at various locations throughout the state
- Working with Cessna to provide training for the work force at the Independence plant
- Merging the Vocational Technical Institute with the College of Technology Development of the Writing Across the Curriculum program
- Development of the internal program review process
- Development of the General Education Assessment program
- Continually working on the internationalization of the curriculum
- Working with the Faculty Senate on numerous issues

Dr. Ratzlaff has published two books and has published or co-authored numerous articles in professional journals.

In the Pittsburg community, Dr. Ratzlaff has been involved in Kiwanis, American Legion Baseball and Little League Baseball.

# Acknowledgements

Lindsey Baumann  
Missy Burgess  
Aaron Cadman  
Joan Cleland  
Mindy Cloninger  
Heather Eckstein  
Justin Frederick  
Jeremy Johnson  
Robbie Kinney  
J.T. Knoll  
Andy Majors  
Susan Marchant  
Ashlee Matthews

Ginger Niemann  
Larry Nokes  
David O'Bryan  
Cathy Pentola  
Angel McAdams Prescott  
Melanie Rambo  
Brian Ray  
Randy Roberts  
Scot Schiefelbein  
Amanda Steuernagel  
Ed Wirthwein  
Ron Womble

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*Apples are compliments of Faculty Association and Marrone's.*

*Following the Convocation, Award Recipients will  
proceed to the Centennial Bell Tower to announce their  
achievements by ringing the bell.*

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The Centennial Scholarships presented today are courtesy of the PSU Foundation, Inc. and are made available through funds received during PSU's Centennial celebration.

Any full-time undergraduate student enrolled at Pittsburg State University during the spring 2006 semester is eligible to participate. The recipient must be present here today and must enroll in the fall 2006 semester.