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Apple Day Convocation, 2008

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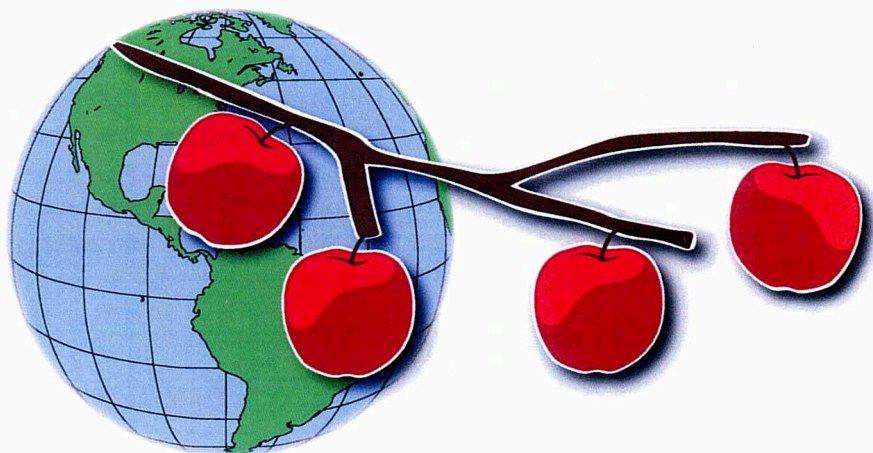
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EVERY GORILLA MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



**APPLE DAY CONVOCATION
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008
3:00 PM
MCCRAY 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.

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.

CONVOCATION PROGRAM

Welcome & Introductions

Jeremy Johnson, President, Student Government Association

"From the Pages of History"

Randy Roberts

Commemoration Day Address

Maggie Fleming

Musical Selections by PSU Chorale, Women's Choir & Jazz Choir

Directed by Dr. Susan Marchant

It Might as Well Be Spring (from State Fair)

Rodgers & Hammerstein
arr. John Purifoy

I Got Rhythm

George & Ira Gershwin
arr. Christopher Clapham

Presentation of the 2008 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas

Distinguished Service Awards

Dr. Tom Bryant, President, Pittsburg State University
Johnna Schremmer, Executive Director, PSU Alumni Association

Presentation of the 2008 Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff

Outstanding Faculty Awards

Skannnd Tyagi, Academic Affairs, Student Government Association

Golden Gorilla Awards Presentation

Dr. Tom Bryant, President, Pittsburg State University
Jeremy Johnson, Past Golden Gorilla Recipient

Announcement of Apple Dessert Contest Winners

Jonathan Eastman, Apple Day Planning Committee

Alma Mater

Centennial Scholarships Presentation

Zachary Robinson, PSU Homecoming King
Cherrelle Jones, PSU Homecoming Queen

Apple Distribution

Faculty Association

Centennial Tower Bell Ringing by Award Winners

MAGGIE FLEMING



A native of Pittsburg Maggie Fleming graduated from Pittsburg State University with a Bachelor's degree in Communication and a minor in Psychology in 2001. Since graduation she has spent much of her time between Africa, Europe and the States.

In Africa she served as a Community Health and AIDS Prevention volunteer with the Peace Corps in Togo, she has worked as administrator and Human Resource Assistant for a local non-governmental organization in Tanzania, and she worked as a Support-Base Manager/ Report Writer for the Swiss non-governmental organization Medair in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 2005, Fleming received her master's degree in African Studies from the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. During her research she spent 6-7 weeks between Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Congo looking at the reintegration process that women and children go through after having been raped in war-torn countries.

In the United States she worked numerous different jobs serving a variety of positions-- as a counselor at a camp for the elderly disabled, a substitute teacher, a touch-up painter, as a volunteer track coach, to mention a few – but now serves on Senator Sam Brownback's foreign policy team in Washington, D.C. Fleming serves as an aide and assistant to the Senator on issues such as human-trafficking, global health, and religious freedoms, but primarily serves on his human rights platform.

DR. RALF J. THOMAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Tom E. Beal is the CEO and president of Beal Properties, Inc., a commercial real estate investment company in Kansas City. Beal graduated from Pitt State in 1952 with a bachelor of arts degree in communication. During his time at PSU, he served as manager of the student radio studios, where he oversaw live broadcasts. After college, he worked in sales for KLWN in Lawrence, Kan. At age 26, he founded the Kansas City radio station KBEA, and in 1991 built KFEZ Radio. He later sold the stations in order to invest in commercial real estate.

Beal serves on the PSU Foundation Board of Trustees and is a lifetime member of the PSU Presidents Society, as well as instrumental in the formation of the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter at PSU. He is a past winner of the PSU Meritorious Achievement Award. Since 2000, Beal has served on the St. Luke's Hospital Foundation Board, and is also past-president of the Kansas City, Mo., Rotary Club. He is on the steering committee of the upcoming Kauffman Center for Performing Arts in Kansas City. Upon completion in 2010, the \$340 million center is expected to be the largest performing arts complex in the world.

Beal and his wife, Melinda, established the Melinda and Tom Beal Broadcasting Scholarship, as well as the Dr. Robertson Strawn Broadcasting Scholarship. They have three children, Perry, Christopher, and Elizabeth.

Ken and Debbie Brock are the owners of Names and Numbers, a telephone directory company based in Pittsburg that employs 300 people and serves more than 4 million residents. Ken got his start in the industry as a yellow pages salesman for his father's business, Brock Publishing Co. In 1974, he purchased a fledgling company out of Springfield, Mo., and brought it to Pittsburg, forming it into Names and Numbers. Today he serves as CEO of K.W. Brock Directories.

Ken has served as chairman of the board for the Association of Directory Publishers and is on the board of trustees at Mt. Carmel Medical Center. He is on the advisory board for the Kelce School of Business at PSU and is a director of University National Bank in Pittsburg.

Debbie, a 1980 graduate of Iowa State University, has served as vice-president of K.W. Brock Directories for the past 25 years. She serves on the board of directors for both the PSU Foundation as well as the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas. She also serves on the board of directors for the Colonial Fox Foundation and Friends of Cedar Crest. The Brocks are avid supporters of PSU and provided a lead gift for the PSU Veterans Memorial.

Ken and Debbie have two sons, Ron and Bob. Among their many adventurous activities, each member of the family is a pilot. The Brocks are very active as youth leaders at First Baptist Church in Pittsburg.

DR. ROBERT K. RATZLAFF OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD WINNERS

Dr. Barbara McClaskey
Professor, Department of Nursing

"The desire to make a difference in the academic and professional lives of these students is what motivates me to teach. The students I have had the opportunity to work with over the years has been great. These students are dedicated, caring, intelligent and it is a pleasure to work with them. It is great to see their sense of accomplishment and self satisfaction when these students contribute to the well being of others and when they recognize that their presence and knowledge and skill has made a difference and improved the lives of others."

Dr. Daniel Zurek
Associate Professor, Department of Biology

"I needed to pick the kind of career where teaching was the central part. It was then, and still is now, my students who motivate me. I make sure I get to know my students, what their hope, dreams and aspirations are, so I can provide them with access to opportunities and help them meet their goals. I get to meet some great people, and play a small role in their success."

Dr. James McAfee
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

"I feel that it is my job to understand all of the difficulties that a young person might face and help them overcome adversity. To have this privilege of helping young people realize their dreams is not only a motivating factor but I consider it an honor and a privilege. To be a part of helping a young person pursue and then attain their dreams is a powerful intoxicant and I don't feel could be matched by any other career. To leave a legacy in another's life, is truly a key to immortality."

GOLDEN GORILLA STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Hadyn Barnes
Katelyn Burton
Carrie Campbell
Grant Depoy
Daniel Funk
Deidre Galloway
Jessilyn Humble
Jill Kunshek
Yury Kuzmichev
Erin Mehl
Mallory Porter

Dana Pugh
James Rajchel
Beverly Ruedy
Analia Saldivar
Mandy Smith
Amy Ster
Robyn Studebaker
Ke'olani Verzon
Emily Walters
Jamie Wildschuetz
Jason Wright

PSU CHORALE, WOMEN'S CHOIR AND JAZZ CHOIR

Susan Marchant, Director

Briana Baker
Jessica Baker
Kari Baker
A.J. Beu
Ruth Cameron
Carrie Campbell
Carolyn Conway
Richard Cook
Erin Cooley
Erin Crist
Rebecca Cutler
Rebekah Dallman
Jonathan Eastman
Charlotte Evans
Yiming Gai
Bryan Ganer
Seth Harley
Mary Jo Harper
Richard Harper
Andrew Hayse

Kate Hockman
Kristin Humbar
Kondja Kamatuka
Christopher Korbe
Kirsten Kumberg
Sonya Lawson
Brandon Mills
Brittany Pittman
Dustin Rau
Misty Ristau
Riley Ross
Karen Slater
Mary Slater
William Stalcup
Kristen Taylor
Daniel Troop
William Vance
Brandon Wade
Rebekah Wells

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Cherrelle Jones
JT Knoll
Dr. Susan Marchant
Cassie Mathes
Cathy Pentola
Randy Roberts

Zachary Robinson
Travis Smith
Robyn Studebaker
Student Activities Council
Student Government Association
Lacey Taylor
Landis Tompkins
Skann Tyagi
Ed Wirthwein
Ron Womble

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.

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 2008 semester is eligible to participate. The recipient must be present here today and must enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the Fall 2008 semester.