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Pittsburg State University
Apple Day Convocation



Thursday, March 4, 2010
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 waving,
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.

Convocation Program

Welcome & Introductions

Andrea Cole, President, Student Government Association

Historical Presentation

Randy Roberts, University Archivist

Commemoration Day Address -

“Dr. Inez Y. Kaiser: A Trailblazer’s Legacy: Opening Doors of Opportunity”

Dr. Inez Y. Kaiser

Musical Selection by PSU Chorale

Directed by Dr. Susan Marchant

Over the Rainbow

arr. Mark Hayes

Hannah Brewer, piano

Presentation of the 2010 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas

Distinguished Service Awards

Dr. Steve Scott, President, Pittsburg State University

Johnna Schremmer, Executive Director, PSU Alumni Association

Presentation of the 2010 Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff

Outstanding Faculty Awards

Bryan McCoy, Academic Affairs Director, Student Government Association

Golden Gorilla Awards Presentation

Dr. Steve Scott, President, Pittsburg State University

Andrea Cole, President, Student Government Association

Announcement of Apple Dessert Contest Winners

Andrea Cole, President, Student Government Association

Special Announcement

Jon Bartlow, Chair, University Committee on Energy & Resource Conservation

Centennial Scholarships Presentation

Ryan Sorell, PSU Homecoming King

Holly Kerr, PSU Homecoming Queen

Alma Mater

Apple Distribution

Faculty Association

Centennial Tower Bell Ringing by Award Winners

Dr. Inez Y. Kaiser

A Trailblazer's Legacy: Opening Doors of Opportunity

Dr. Inez Y. Kaiser earned a bachelor of science degree in education (home economics) from PSU in 1938 and a master's of science degree from Columbia (N.Y.) College in 1958. She also studied at Chicago University, Rockhurst University and Dartmouth College. In 1952, Lincoln University awarded her an honorary doctor of law degree.

Dr. Kaiser began her career as a teacher in the Kansas City schools. In 1960, she became the first African-American woman in the U.S. to open a public relations firm, Inez Kaiser and Associates, Inc. She remains the CEO of the firm to this day.

Over her lifetime, Dr. Kaiser has been a pioneer, recording a long list of "firsts" as an African-American and as a woman. Among them: member of the Public Relations Society of America, which has named two scholarships in her name; member of the Advertising and Sales Executive Club; inducted into the Hall of Fame for Women in Public Relations; member of the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City; member of the Kansas City Women's Chamber of Commerce, member of the American Marketing Association and member of the American Women in Radio and Television.

In addition, Dr. Kaiser was one of four Americans selected by CBS Television to participate in the worldwide broadcast of "What's Right with America." She was selected to represent U.S. women at the United Nations Conference on the Economic Status of Women in Liberville, Gabon. The U.S. Department of Commerce named her the National Business Advocate of the Year in 1997.

An adviser to Presidents Nixon and Ford on issues relating to minority women in business, Kaiser worked with Lever Brothers, Sears & Roebuck, Seven-Up and Pillsbury on marketing to African-American consumers.

An author and frequent speaker, Dr. Kaiser lives in Overland Park, Kan.

Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award Winners

Harlan Hess, BS '63, MS '68

A retired school teacher and administrator, Harlan Hess has remained involved with Pittsburg State University since his graduation. Hess served on the PSU Alumni Association Board and has been a volunteer for the Kansas City Phonathon. Hess, who was inducted into the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1990, is a charter member, past president and present member of the Kansas City Gorilla Club. He and his wife, Carol, are members of the Excellence in Athletics endowment fund and are lifetime football and basketball ticket holders. Harlan has helped administer the Gorilla Open Golf tournament for the past 28 years. A former Lt. Col. in the Army, Hess is also a lifetime member of the Friends of the PSU Veterans Memorial. Harlan and Carol Hess live in Pflugerville, Texas.

Rob Kobel, BST '80

From the time Rob Kobel graduated and joined the Service Center management team with Ford, he has given back to his alma mater. During his years with Ford, Kobel supervised and mentored more than 100 Pittsburg State University graduates. Kobel served on the Automotive Technology Advisory Board and has been a resource for faculty seeking to help the program grow. He has been a frequent participant in on-campus career fairs and Automotive Orientation Days. Kobel, through his association with Ford Motor Co. was instrumental in securing valuable in-kind donations that included educational software, automotive components and even vehicles. Kobel has been a major contributor to the annual PSU Phonathon and he and his family have established the Kobel Family Endowed Scholarship, which helps out-of-state students meet expenses after choosing to come to PSU and study Automotive Technology. Kobel, his wife, Karen, and their family live in Allen Park, Mich.

Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Award Winners

Mr. Ron Downing

Assistant Professor, Department of Automotive Technology

"Mr. Downing stands out as an educator, mentor and friend. He takes the extra steps needed to ensure that students are getting the most from their education."

--Case Clough, nominator

Dr. Cynthia Woodburn

Professor, Department of Mathematics

"On top of her extreme accessibility, preparedness, natural gift at teaching, love of students and fun, interesting personality, Dr. Woodburn is a phenomenal mathematician."

--Erin Kellogg, Luke Henke, Jason Knight and Emily Walters, nominators

Mr. Bob Schroer

Assistant Professor, Department of Automotive Technology

"Because of his 30+ years of industry experience, he brings a personal knowledge and genuine love of the subject to every class that he teaches."

--Nick Couch, nominator

PSU Chorale

Susan Marchant, Director

Kimberly Arzoian	Christopher Korbe
Jessica Baker	Whitney Kraft
Hannah Brewer	Brittany Pittman
Kayla Bush	Aaron Powell
Erin Cooley	Tiffany Raftopoulos
Rebekah Dallman	Misty Ristau
Derek Dixon	Allison Rodriguez
Joshua Donaldson	Breana Sullivan
Jonathan Eastman	Daniel Troop
Charlotte Evans	William Vance
Tracy Fogliasso	Blair Watkins
Ariele Foltz	Aaron Weatherbie
Joseph Gregory	Rebekah Wells
Richard Harper	Megan Wood
Andrew Hayse	Madison Youngberg

Golden Gorilla Student Leadership Award Winners

Jason Bilberry	Zach Krumsick
Adam Brown	Vidhi Kundali
Christy Cox	Whitney Lovell
Katie Engelland	Bryan McCoy
Jonna Fearmonti	Melissa McDonald
Jack Frederick	Brandon Mills
Grant Gabel	Marcus Nelson
Thomas Gregory	Mark Neely
Samantha Heady	Rohan Ratnapal
Alyssa Hillman	Erin Richmond
Holly Hrabik	Emily Smith
Ivan Hunnicutt	Matt Weber
Eric Jones	Jenna Wendt
Emily Klaver	

Acknowledgements

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Bryan McCoy
Cathy Pentola

Erin Richmond
Randy Roberts
Student Activities Council
Student Government Association
Johnna Schremmer
Ryan Sorell
Landis Tompkins
Meghan Walsh
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 2010 semester is eligible to participate. The recipient must be present here today and must enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the Fall 2010 semester.