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Pittsburg State  
Apple Day

Pittsburg State University  
Apple Day Convocation

Thursday, March 6, 2014  
3:00 PM

Sharon Kay Dean Recital Hall  
McCray Hall

# Convocation Program

## **Welcome & Introductions**

Taylor Gravett, President, Student Government Association

## **Historical Presentation**

Randy Roberts

## **Commemoration Day Address**

Paula Baker

Freeman Health System President and CEO

## **Musical Selection by Members of the PSU Choirs**

Directed by Dr. Susan Marchant

## **Presentation of the 2014 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas**

### **Distinguished Service Awards**

Dr. Steven A. Scott, President, Pittsburg State University

Ray Jacquinet, National President, PSU Alumni Association

## **Presentation of the 2014 Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff**

### **Outstanding Faculty Awards**

Bailey Peak, Academic Affairs Director, Student Government Association

## **Golden Gorilla Awards Presentation**

Dr. Steven A. Scott, President, Pittsburg State University

## **Announcement of Apple Dessert Contest Winners**

Taylor Gravett, President, Student Government Association

## **Centennial Scholarship Presentation**

John Fatkin, PSU Homecoming King

Kristina Willis, PSU Homecoming Queen

## **Alma Mater**

## **Apple Distribution**

Unclassified Staff and Faculty Association

**On Stage Photos and Centennial Bell Tower Ringing by Award Winners**

# 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.

# Paula Baker

Paula F. Baker is the President and CEO of Freeman Health System in Joplin, Mo.

Baker joined Ozark Center, part of the Freeman Health System, in 1981, serving as CEO from 2003-2008. Through her dedication to continuous quality improvement, Ozark Center grew to become the largest and most comprehensive behavioral healthcare provider in the four-state area. She was a guiding force behind the development of Ozark Center for Autism and continues to provide executive leadership for the program. In 2008, she was named Freeman Chief Clinical Officer and assumed the helm as Freeman President and CEO on January 1, 2012.

Baker's honors include the Missouri Hospital Association 2008 Visionary Leadership Award, Joplin Tri-State Business Journal inaugural class of ten Most Influential Women, appointment to the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders in 2008, PSU Outstanding Alumni Award, PSU Meritorious Achievement Award, and Joplin Citizen of the Year Award.

Additionally, Baker was appointed to the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders in 2008. She serves on the Community Advisory Council of the Missouri Foundation for Health, the PSU Foundation Board of Trustees, and the boards of Ronald McDonald House, Arvest Bank, Talkington Foundation, Mid America Service Solutions, Aspire of Southwest Missouri, Missouri Hospital Association, Healthcare Services Group, and VHA Mid-America.

Baker holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Pittsburg State University.





# Dr. Ralf J. Thomas

## Distinguished Service Award Winners

Barry Williamson  
and  
Steve & Mary Beth Robb

The Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have demonstrated significant volunteer service to the PSU community. Distinguished Service Award recipients have given generously of their time and talent for the betterment of the university and are an inspiration to all of us who love Pittsburg State. This year's honorees are Barry Williamson and Steve and Mary Beth Robb.

A former Vice-President at The Insurancenter in Joplin, Barry Williamson received his Bachelor of Science in Education in the Health, Human Performance & Recreation Department in 1974. In 1977, he received his Masters of Science in Health, Human Performance & Recreation. He has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumni, has served three terms on the Alumni Association Board and is a past president of the board as well. Barry is also a Lifetime Member of the President's Society. He has been a phonathon volunteer and currently serves on the PSU Foundation Board. Barry was a pioneer supporter and promoter of the Missouri Gorilla License Plate Program. Barry's involvement with this program was crucial in getting it off the ground. His application for the new plate was the very first application accepted.

Steve Robb is the former Executive Director of the Business and Technology Institute at Pittsburg State University. His wife, Mary Beth, received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1979. While Mary Beth was in college she was in the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She is currently the Director of the KUMC Area Health Education Center. Steve and Mary Beth show their PSU pride by putting up flags and banners at numerous university events on campus and away. Steve has been involved in assisting with the university economic development impact study and has volunteered for many other PSU special projects over the years.

# Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff

## Outstanding Faculty Award Winners

### **Dr. Darren Botello-Samson** **Associate Professor**

"Dr. Botello-Samson is very easy to come and talk to with any concern I have about a class, or my career path. He teaches profoundly and I remember things from four years ago. He has helped make me passionate about my college career."

- Nicole Book, nominator

### **Dr. Cynthia Huffman** **University Professor**

"Dr. Huffman sets herself apart from other professors with her dynamic teaching style and caring attitude. She sets high standards for her students by challenging us to think critically and problem solve. She has inspired me to complete research in mathematics and to become a math teacher or even professor someday."

- Rachel Sachs, nominator

### **Dr. Donald Baack** **University Professor**

"Dr. Baack has impacted my college career because he made me feel like I wasn't just another student, but also a person. He always takes a minute to stop and talk to me, and see what I'm up to and when I graduate. He always made me feel like I was an important part of this university."

-Taylor Ritthaler, nominator

# Golden Gorilla

## Student Leadership Award Winners

Boya Abudu  
Ariel Ashbacher  
Kate Bishop  
Nicole Bishop  
Matthew Brooks  
Yi-Ting Chen  
Ashley Cross  
Brendan Finley  
Eric Hansen  
Clint Hayes  
Kaitlyn Herder  
Samantha Hlinicky  
Megan Huls  
Hillari Lamaster  
Tadd Lucian  
Alyssa Marsh  
Erin Martin  
Lindsay Ong  
Joshua Packard  
Bailey Peak  
Alessandra Rocha Lima  
James Saltat  
David Schlee  
Grace Simmons  
Victoria Simoncic  
Canese Spooner  
Jessica Wade  
Elle Walker  
Tessa Westhoff  
William Reed White  
Tambree Wilson

The Golden Gorilla Award was established in 1997 to honor students who have made exemplary contributions in community service, academic excellence and campus involvement.

Congratulations to this year's nominees and recipients!



# Members of the PSU Choirs

Dr. Susan Marchant, Director

Noelle Amor	Jung Hee Lee
Alheli Aranda Britez	Daniel McDill
Lance Behning	David McTeer
Jayson Canton	Stephen McTeer
Joshua Crown	Courtney Medsker
Walker Duty	Cullen Messer
Rachel Evans	Anthony Nelson
Katelyn Flood	Megan Peters
Ariele Foltz	Jordan Riggs
Macy Gerken	Megan Shumny
Anthony Gonzalez	Katie Sites
Samuel Haynie	Wyatt Smith
Aaron Hayse	Cesar Sobrino
Gabrielle Hornsby	Austin Stapleton
Emma Huskey	Jodi Stuhlsatz
Tyler Jones	Emily Tarter
Jee Yeun Kim	Michaela Wagner
Mara Knight	Caleb Wood
Katie Knoles	Laura Wray
Whitney Kraft	Madison Youngberg King

I'll ay call in by yon town (from *Three Scottish Folksongs*)  
arr. Mack Wilberg Junle Li and Shu Zhang, piano

## 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.

# Acknowledgments

David Adams  
Fawn Baker  
Jon Bartlow  
Jeanine Van Becelaere  
Crimson Club  
John Fatkin  
Michelle Forbes  
TJ Graber  
Taylor Gravett  
Debbie Greve  
JT Knoll

Dr. Susan Marchant  
Bailey Peak  
Cathy Pentola  
Randy Roberts  
Student Activities Council  
Student Government Association  
Meagan Smejdir  
D’Juan Thomas  
Kassandra Turner  
Jaime Vanderbeck  
Kristina Willis

Apples are compliments of  
Unclassified Staff and Faculty Association and Marrone’s.

Following Convocation all of today’s award  
winners should convene on the stage for group photos.  
Winners are also invited to ring the  
bell following pictures.

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 PSU  
during the 2014 Spring semester is eligible to  
participate. The recipient must be present and must  
enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the  
2014-15 academic year.

