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Pittsburg State
Apple Day

Pittsburg State University
Apple Day Convocation

Thursday, March 5, 2015

3:00 PM

Bicknell Family Center
for the Arts

Convocation Program

Welcome & Introductions

Jordan Schaper President, Student Government Association

Historical Presentation

Randy Roberts

Commemoration Day Address

Dr. Andy Tompkins

President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents

Musical Selection by Members of the PSU Choirs

Directed by Dr. Susan Marchant

Begin the Beguine, Cole Porter, arr. Andrew Carter

Alheli Aranda Britez, piano

Presentation of the 2015 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 2015 Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff

Outstanding Faculty Awards

Dylan McCollar, Academic Affairs Director, Student Government Association

Golden Gorilla Awards Presentation

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

Announcement of Apple Dessert Contest Winners

Jordan Schaper, President, Student Government Association

Centennial Scholarship Presentation

Brian Walker, PSU Homecoming King

Emily Mika, 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.

Andy Tompkins

Andy Tompkins, president and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, will deliver the keynote address at Pittsburg State University's 108th observance of Apple Day at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. Tompkins will speak on "Servant Leadership."

The Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions, which includes seven public universities, 19 community colleges, and six technical colleges.

Prior to being named president and CEO of the Board of Regents, Tompkins most recently served as the dean of the College of Education and as associate professor in the Department of Special Services and Leadership Studies at PSU. From 2005 to 2007, he served as an associate professor in the Department of Education Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Kansas.

Tompkins served as the Kansas State Department of Education's Commissioner of Education from 1996-2005.

Throughout his career he has held various positions in K-12 and higher education serving as a high school teacher, principal, superintendent, university associate professor, department chair, and college dean.

Tompkins earned his undergraduate degree in English at East Central State University in Ada, Okla. He earned his master's degree from Emporia State University and his doctorate from the University of Kansas in Educational Administration.

Tompkins has earned numerous honors including distinguished alumni and service awards from Emporia State University and the University of Kansas. He was inducted into the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame in 2001, was recognized as a master teacher in 1999, and was awarded the leadership Kansas Alumnus of the Year Award in 2002.

Tompkins and his wife, Glenda, live in Topeka. They have two children, Kyle and Amanda.

Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award Winners

Jan Allai and Pete and Shirley Esch

The Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Award honors persons who have demonstrated significant volunteer service to the PSU community. This year's honorees are Jan Allai and Pete and Shirley Esch.

Jan Allai (BS in elementary education 1969, MS in elementary teaching 1977) and her late husband, Wayne, helped organize the university's first capital campaign in 1985. At that time, they pledged their support for creating an endowment to provide scholarships for student athletes. Today, that effort has grown to become the Endowment for Excellence in Athletics, which plays a vital role in supporting student athletes across campus.

After Wayne's death in 2003, Jan continued the couple's support for PSU and its students and is a familiar face among the fans at most PSU athletic events. She has also given valuable service to the Alumni Association through the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Pete Esch (BSBA 1951) and his wife, Shirley, have been faithful supporters of the university and the Kelce College of Business for decades. Pete has served on the Alumni Association Board of directors and he and Shirley are lifetime members of the President's Club. They are also University Fellows in the Centennial Society and have established two scholarships in the Kelce College of Business, where they also funded a Faculty of Distinction position.

A loyal PSU alumnus, Pete continues to share his knowledge and business experience with PSU students and with the Kelce College of Business.

Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff

Outstanding Faculty Award Winners

Jeff Poe

Executive in Residence

“Professor Poe is one of the most approachable and encouraging professors I have had the pleasure to be taught by. Not only does he teach relevant, usable business skills, but he also gives every student the opportunity to contribute their ideas for the overall benefit of the class. It is an incredibly conducive environment in which to learn.”

- Myka Ross, nominator

Phil McNew

University Professor

“He comes to class with a positive mood and eager anticipation which encourages us to do the same...He takes time, even beyond office hours, to help students in need. He comes across not only as an instructor but a relatable person too.”

- Anonymous nominator

Dr. Phillip Harries

Assistant Professor

“He has made me a better student in many ways: he has helped me out with learning study skills, made my education feel of great value with all that I’ve truly learned, and given me confidence in my knowledge. I feel like he truly cares!”

- Cassidy Barnard, nominator

Golden Gorilla Student Leadership Award Winners

Danielle Ackermann
Austin Bailey
Cody Bott
Marcus Clem
Kiki Eigenmann
Kimberlee Fields
Mary Katherine George
Michael Giffin
Hillary Hunsinger
Marissa Ibarra
Jason Jones
Andrea Kratochvil
Syndey Lemos
Jessica Leone
Ryan Matney
Alexis McKinnon
Evan Mitchell
Mayuri Murali
Michael Saldivar
Jordan Schaper
Samantha Thomas
Ellen Wieberg
Aimee Wood
Jacob Yankovich
Taylor Zingg

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

Kaelee Allen
Noelle Amor
Lance Behning
Josh Bey-Peterson
Jesse Black
Seth Boyer
Joshua Burns
Mariah Bush
Ian Classe
Justin Crossman
Jocelyn Donegan
Ashley Dyche
Macy Gerken
Kolleen Gladden
Laura Holthus
Jee Yeun Kim
Mara Knight
Jung Hee Lee
Daniel McDill
Courtney Medsker

Kathryn Parke
Devina Reetz
Jordan Riggs
Megan Shumny
Wyatt Smith
Austin Stapleton
Zhengyuan Tao
William Vance
Michaela Wagner
Brock Willard
Laura Wray
Madison Youngberg King
Beidi Zhang

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

Fawn Baker
Jon Bartlow
Crimson Club
Jaime Dalton
TJ Graber
Dr. Amy Hite
Chris Kelly
JT Knoll
Dr. Susan Marchant
Dylan McCollar
Emily Mika
Rylie Miller

Cathy Pentola
Randy Roberts
Student Activities Council
Student Government Association
Eva Sager
Jordan Schaper
Meagan Smejdir
D’Juan Thomas
Brian Walker
Malory White
Ron Womble

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 2015 Spring semester is eligible to
participate. The recipient must be present and must
enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the
2015-16 academic year.

