



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

March 2015

Buzz

Call for April newsletter content

If you have information, ideas for new content, fun facts, or PCC trivia, send them to Leighanne for inclusion in the next newsletter!

>>> leighanned@prattcc.edu

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Upcoming Dates

- **PTK / KBD Induction Ceremony**
3/3 | 7 p.m.
- **Spring Break 3/16 - 3/20**
No Classes - Cafeteria Closed
- **Board of Trustees Meeting**
3/16 | 7 p.m.
- **Last Day to Sign up for Graduation**
3/16
- **PCC 5K and Mighty Mite Mile**
3/21 | 9 a.m.
- **Fall 2015 Enrollment Opens**
3/23
- **Joint Council**
3/25 | 2 p.m.
- **"Fiddler on the Roof"**
3/27 and 28 | 7:30 p.m.
3/29 | 2:30 p.m.

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

This April, Pratt Community College will induct ten into the PCC Athletic Hall of Fame. All nominees were considered on the basis of outstanding and significant contribution to Pratt Community College and its athletic programs. The 2015 inductees are:

- Don Schwartz – athlete, coach, athletic director, contributor
- Carmen Forest – coach, contributor, instructor, athletic director
- Dani Leal – softball class of 2009
- Landon Kieswetter- wrestling class of 2013
- Skylar Angood – baseball class of 2012
- Ernie Rivera - football class of 1961
- Richard Dalbo – football class of 1961
- Thurman Couch - football class of 1968
- Keith Becker – track class of 1983
- Gregg Wade – coach, instructor, athlete.

Inductees will be recognized at a ceremony at 2 p.m. on April 25 at Pratt Community College and again that night at the Foundation's Annual Benefit Auction at 6 p.m. For more information about the Athletic Hall of Fame, contact PCC Athletic Director Kurt McAfee at 620-450-2154 or kurtm@prattcc.edu.

Foundation to Hold Donation Drawing



The 28th Annual Benefit Auction will be held at the Pratt 4-H Center on April 25 at 6 p.m. This fundraiser supports the scholarship fund for students. The evening includes a brisket dinner, an open bar, raffles, a silent auction and a live auction.



The Foundation is currently selling tickets for a Winchester Model 70 Super Grade Chambered in .280 REM, only 500 produced. Ticket sales will continue til the night of the auciton and are available for a donation of \$20, or for \$50 with a free Browning knife set included.

Contact Ann Ruder in the Foundation Office at 620-450-2179 or annr@prattcc.edu



PCC Hosts Annual Academic Olympics and Car Show



Video: "2015 Academic Olympics at Pratt Community College"

On Feb 23, approximately 650 students attended Pratt Community College's annual Academic Olympics. The students came from high schools around the state and competed in various scholastic, technical and artistic categories. The top three students in each category were awarded with certificates recognizing their achievement.

"I am so very thankful for the help and support I receive from all the faculty and staff in pulling off an event of this size," said event coordinator Heather Wilson, who teaches communication and journalism at PCC. "Although this morning's weather was very frigid and a bit snowy, all schools that had registered to attend managed to make the trip. Today's event was a success."



Guests to campus during the Academic Olympics also visited the annual car show presented by the automotive department. Eighteen cars of all makes and models were on display on loan from employees and community members with ties to the department. Visitors voted on the People's Choice, which was awarded to Al Wiese for his 1968 Chevy Camaro. Runner up was the 1970 Chevy Chevelle owned by Kenny and Karlene Roberts, and third place was the 1957 Buick Special owned by Doug Reh.



At right: Austin Cline of Newton High School placed first in the automotive mechanics category in the Academic Olympics. PCC Auto Instructor Daryl Lucas presented him with a tool box donated by NAPA Auto Parts of Pratt.

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Second Annual Technical Program Education Day



Video: "Technical Program Education Day 2015"

High schooler juniors and seniors interested in technical programs visited campus on Feb. 11 to explore our program options and facilities. Attendees toured four areas of interest, participated in classroom experiments and demonstrations and met with faculty.



All attendees were entered into a drawing for a \$500 tuition scholarship. Above, Admissions Director Elyse Birdsong presents the certificate to scholarship winner Jesus Herrera from Stafford High School.

Wrestler Andrew Beck Places Sixth in Nation

The PCC wrestling team competed at the Region VI Championships on Feb. 14 in Colby, Kan., placing fourth. The team set a new school record of seven wrestlers to

qualify for the NJCAA National Tournament out of the 10 weight classes.

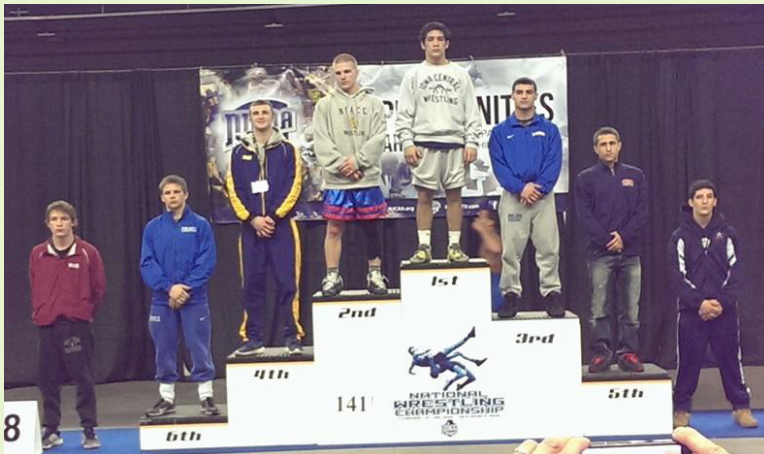
At left, PCC's Financial Aid Department and Education Support Professionals (ESP) wish the team good luck before the tournament.



On Feb. 27, the team traveled to Des Moines, Iowa to compete in the NJCAA National Tournament. Freshman Andrew Beck of Centralia, Kan. dropped a heartbreaker to the number three ranked wrestler in the country, and finished in sixth

place, claiming NJCAA All-American status. Pictured on podium, second from left.

Sophomore Daniel Melcher, sophomore Austin Hughey, freshman Travis Quarterman and freshman Micah Felton all fell on the backside just one round away from the podium. Freshmen Zachary Schridde and Dylan Beckner lost close matches in their first two bouts. Pratt finished in the Top 20 in the nation.



Track Competes at Regionals

The PCC women's track team placed 10th place in the region and the men placed 14th at the region championships in Manhattan on Feb. 21.

"While that may not seem very exciting, these are signs of improvement," said Head Coach Dan Adler.

From 2005-2014, the women's team scored a total of three points. On Saturday, the women tallied 19 points. Elisabeth Richins, Krystal Rivera, Divina Flores and Grasiela Navarro. will be competing at the national meet in Albuquerque, N.M. on March 6 - 7.

The men's team was led by a fourth place finish from its distance medley team of Andres Pelayo, Dennis Barfield, Greg Guajardo and Alfredo Vega. Pelayo just missed qualifying for nationals with his 2:00.9 performance in the 800 meter run. Vega took another 15 seconds off of his personal best time in the 3000 meter run, breaking the tape at 9:10.

"We didn't score as many points as I had hoped, but we had a lot of middle-of-the-pack finishes," said Adler. "We scored in the distance races, which will be our trademark moving forward. In 2014, we only had one woman and eight men compete. This year, we had seven women and 15 men compete at the region meet. I'm pleased with our overall finish."

On Feb. 10, PCC soccer players David Nobo, Greg Roller, and Sam Nobo signed letters of intent with McPherson College.

On Feb. 26, soccer sophomore Josue Romero from Liberal, KS signed his letter of intent with Tabor College.



Men's Basketball

2/04 PCC def Cloud 82-72
2/07 PCC def. Seward 86-76
2/09 PCC def. Dodge 72-67
2/11 PCC loss to Garden 67-75
2/14 PCC loss to Butler 73-82
2/18 PCC loss to Hutchinson 71-75
2/21 PCC def. Barton 81-63
2/25 PCC def. Colby 74-73
2/28 PCC def. Northwest Tech 77-64
Advance to quarterfinals.

Women's Basketball

2/04 PCC loss to Cloud 59-62
2/07 PCC loss to Seward 69-84
2/09 PCC def. Dodge 77-69
2/11/ PCC def Garden 65-56
2/14 PCC loss to Butler 36-59
2/18 PCC loss to Hutchinson 46-72
2/21 PCC def. Barton 65-59
2/25 PCC Loss to Colby 69-71
2/28 PCC def. Allen 76-54
Advance to quarterfinals.

Softball

2/06 vs. NOC-Enid
Game 1: PCC loss 13-11
Game 2: PCC loss 15-2

2/08 vs. NOC-Tonkawa
Game 1: PCC loss 5-4
Game 2: PCC loss 11-1

Baseball

2/06 vs. Northeast Texas Community College
Game 1: PCC loss 9-15 Game 2: PCC loss
Game 3: PCC loss 0-12 Game 4: PCC loss 5-6

2/20 - 2/21 vs. Seminole State College
Game 1: PCC win 2-1 Game 2: PCC loss 7-10
Game 3: PCC loss 3-4

2/26 vs. Garden City Community College
Game 1: PCC loss 7-18 Game 2: 8-11



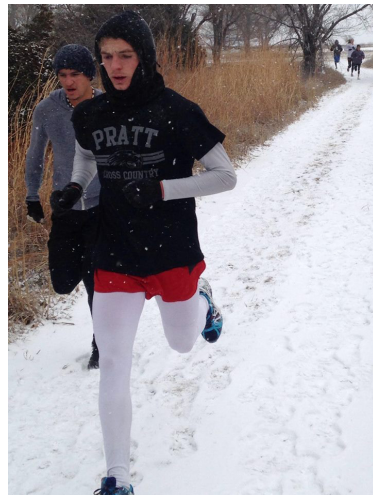
Rodeo

Rocky Patterson (left) comes on board as Interim Head Rodeo Coach. Patterson is a three-time World Champion Steer Roper and former PCC Head Rodeo Coach. Daine McNenny comes on board as Interim Assistant Rodeo Coach.

"These are great additions to our program and practices are already going well," said rodeo spokesperson Lori Montgomery.

"We have five rodeos left in our season and several athletes have acquired enough points in our region to get them into the top 15 of their event. We are staying strong and pushing hard into the last string of rodeos."

PCC will search for a permanent Head and Assistant Rodeo Coach later this spring.



Cross Country

"Winter weather is the perfect time to get in some hill work," said Head Coach Dan Adler. "No \$12 million track needed. 218 days until the Chile Pepper Festival in Arkansas."

PCC Students Honored as Phi Theta Kappa All-Kansas Scholars

On Feb. 12, two PCC students were honored in Topeka as members of Phi Theta Kappa's 2015 All-State Academic Team. Pratt native Shannon Neifert and Wichita native Callie Hobkirk were selected to represent PCC's Phi Zeta chapter.

Neifert will transfer to Bethel University this fall to study nursing. Hobkirk will transfer to Washburn in the fall to study Health Services Administration.

Michael Calvert, president, Lisa Perez Miller, vice president of students and enrollment management, Joe Varrientos, vice president of instruction, Board Chairwoman Michele Hamm and Board Trustees Dwane DeWeese, and Ken Van Blaricum were also in attendance.

Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director and CEO Dr. Rod Risley spoke at the luncheon and shared that a recent study shows that **Phi Theta Kappa members have an overall student success rate of 91 percent, compared to a national community college student success rate of just 38 percent.**

"The data shows that Phi Theta Kappa is a valued partner in student completion," Risley said. "It is estimated that 65 percent of jobs will require some kind of postsecondary credential by 2018. Phi Theta Kappa is establishing itself as a powerful tool in helping community colleges meet the challenge issued to them in 2010 to produce an additional 5 million certificates and degrees by the end of the decade."

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in higher education with 1,280 chapters around the world.



Watkins Named Director of Nursing



After working at PCC for two and a half years as a nursing instructor, Kay Watkins saw many changes that were needed so when offered a promotion, she jumped on the opportunity. Watkins took over as Director of

Nursing at the beginning of January. The two things she has already started working on are improving the pass rates getting the faculty to operate more uniformly so students know what to expect in each class.

"I'm having a lot of fun with the new position," she said. "It is challenging and rewarding at the same time."

Before coming to PCC to teach first and second level courses, Watkins worked as a nurse in the ICU and ER for 27 years, many of those years in management. At the age of 11, Watkins decided she wanted to be a nurse when her dad had open heart surgery. She begged to go into the ICU, even though she was too young. Her mom finally got her in and Watkins said she knew as soon as she saw her dad that she was supposed to be a nurse.

Watkins received her undergraduate degree from Cook County College in Gainesville, Texas. To get her degree paid for, Watkins joined the Army for three years and was part of the military police.

When she's not at work, Watkins enjoys being out in her garden and canning. She also has a miniature American Eskimo dog that keeps her busy and is getting her doctorate in nursing from Chamberlin College of Nursing.

Above left: President Calvert with Hobkirk, Neifert, and Chapter Advisor Leighanne Dean.

Below left: Honorees with Misty Beck and JJ Rupe, mentors and PCC performing arts instructors. Neifert and Hobkirk are both active in the performing arts department and members of Encore!, PCC's select vocal ensemble.

Artists' Guild: Next Meeting

The South Central Kansas Artists' Guild is a cooperative of the PCC Delmar Riney Art Gallery and the Vernon Filley Art Museum. The Guild was created for individuals who share a love of the arts and photography and are interested in gathering to learn, engage, promote and share information about the arts and photography. Membership is free and open to the public, ages 16 and older. Next meeting:

March 11, 7 p.m., PCC Delmar Riney Gallery



Ryan Walton: From Student to Instructor



After attending PCC for two years, Electrical Power Lineman Ryan Walton knew he wanted to come back and teach.

"I had a great experience at PCC," Walton said. "I knew I wanted to give back to the college."

Walton graduated from PCC in 2009 with an associate's

degree. He then worked at Kiwash Electric Co-Op in Cordell, Okla. In January, he returned to PCC and is teaching at PCC's Wichita campus. Walton decided to become a lineman because both his father and grandfather were electricians.

"I knew I wanted to keep working with electricity and I liked the idea of climbing."

His goal is to strengthen the Wichita program, which has a one-year certificate option and classes for high school students.

When Walton isn't working he said he enjoys spending time with his baby, who is almost a month old, hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

Agriculture Department Receives Grant

Seeing an opportunity to help make improvements to the college, agriculture instructor, Lori Montgomery applied for a grant that would help students with the cost of student learning and rodeo facilities.

Montgomery received word in early January that they received \$12,000 from the Lola Lee Jackson Animal Welfare Foundation in El Dorado, Kan.

The grant will be used for two purposes: to help defray the cost of the online student certifications and rodeo course and to bring the college's livestock handling facilities to an industry acceptable level.

PCC agriculture and rodeo students are required to get online certifications for many of the animal science based courses to teach them proper animal care and handling. They use the online program Animal Care Training which has over 200 modules in many fields. Each certification ranges between \$25 and \$325.

"It is important for students to achieve these certifications in animal handling, food safety and quality assurance. The agriculture industry and consumer is starting to demand it

of its producers," Montgomery said. "It allows our students to leave here with a certification even if they don't leave with their degree for some reason."

The other part of the grant will go to updating the holding and handling areas at the rodeo arena. The arena is more than 65 years old and is needing many repairs.

Montgomery has worked at the college for 17 years and this was the first grant she wrote.

"I know the budget is tight," she said. "Instead of passing the cost of what we needed to on the students with more fees, I thought it was worth giving this a try."

Montgomery said she will continue to apply for this grant in the future to help with different department cost.

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Great Western Dining Staff put together a festive feast for Valentine's Day.

PCC Meets with Local Schools

On Feb. 9 we welcomed the board members and administration from USD 382 to campus for a dinner and discussion. We are thankful for opportunities to partner with the fantastic school districts in our area.

Students and employees gather in the PCC library to celebrate Mardi Gras on Feb. 17



PCC Performing Arts to Present Fiddler on the Roof

Pictured below, show leads Callie Hobkirk, Shannon Neifert and Talia Kruger preview a musical number for the Rotary Club.



March 27 & 28
7:30 p.m.; \$5

March 29
2:30 p.m.; \$5.

Dinner theatre
March 28; \$15
6:30p.m.

