



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

April 2015

Buzz

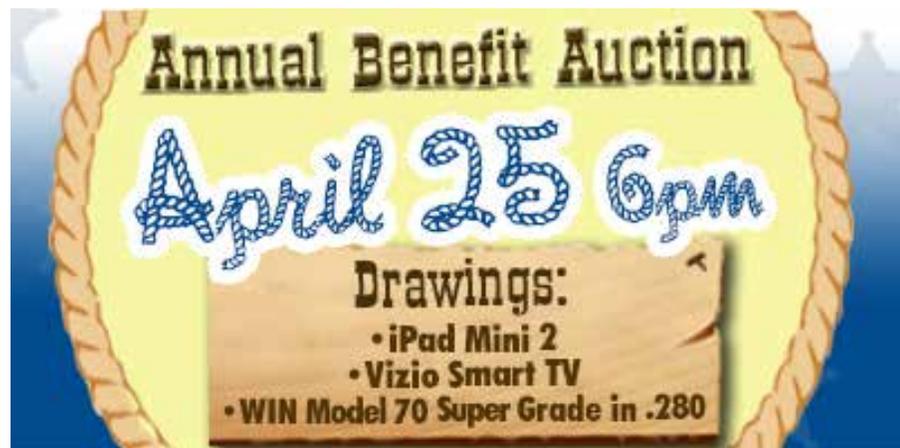
Upcoming Dates

- **Executive-in-Residence**
Cheri Hitt, owner of Farm Bureau Financial Services shares her business experience
4/2 | 10 a.m.
- **4/3 Campus Closed - No Classes**
- **Last Day to Withdraw from Classes**
4/7 | 5 p.m.
- **Jayhawkers Film Screening**
Free screening, Carpenter Auditorium, 1950s KU basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain.
4/9 | 7 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees Meeting**
4/13 | 7 p.m.
- **Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive**
18-44 years old, register to join the national bone marrow and stem cell donor registry.
4/14 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Beaver Building Day**
Fall 2015 Placement Testing & Pre-Enrollment
4/15 | 11:15 a.m.
- **Holocaust Education Speaker**
Skype with 2nd Generation Survivor in Library
4/16 | 8:30 a.m.
- **Tractor Safety Training**
For 14-15 y/o working for non family members
4/25 | 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- **Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions**
4/25 | 2 pm. | PCC Cafeteria
- **Annual Foundation Benefit Auction**
Dinner & open bar, live & silent auctions
4/25 | 6 p.m. | Tickets \$30 at door
- **Athletic Banquet**
4/27 | 6 p.m.
- **Beaver Building Day**
Fall 2015 Placement Testing & Pre-Enrollment
4/29 | 11:15 a.m.
- **Joint Council**
4/30 | 2 p.m.
- **Academic Awards Ceremony**
4/30 | 7 p.m.



Buy Tickets Now for Foundation Auction

Tickets on sale now for \$25 or after April 15 for \$30. Items to be auctioned include Colorado mountain getaway, Miss Kansas Pageant tickets, framed artwork, Reno Aces memorabilia, and more. **Contact 620-450-2179 or annr@prattcc.edu for event tickets.**



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 auction, and are available for a donation of \$20, or for \$50 with a free Browning knife set included.



FEARLESS AND FEMALE

90 Minute Self Defense Class for Women

When: Friday April 24, 7 p.m.

Saturday April 25, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday April 25, 1 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person, \$15 for PCC students

Where: Community Center, 619 N Main

Register: With PCC College Health Nurse

Leigh Ann Hall by April 20

Every participant receives a FREE STABBY KITTY.

McAfee Receives Alumni Award

Kurt McAfee, director of athletics at Pratt Community College, was recently honored by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity (Kansas State University chapter) with its 2015 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

The award is presented to graduates who have achieved high rank or honor in their professions, have a widespread effect on their communities, and are recognized for their achievements over the course of their careers.

McAfee is pictured second from left with fraternity brothers Grant Wuellner, Kevin Nelson and Jerry Hayes.



SkypeEvent & BookDiscussion



April 16th
@8:30am at PCC

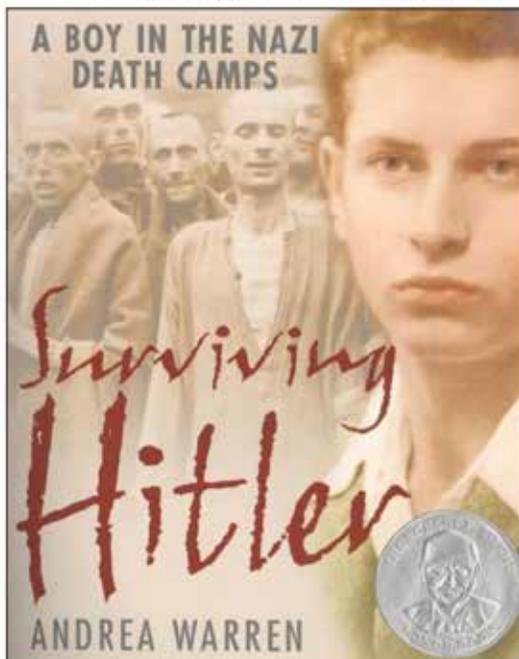


with Sharon Barber, daughter of Midwest Center for Holocaust Education founder Jack Mandelbaum.

Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps by Andrea Warren



photo by David Sosland; information from www.mchekz.org



Thursday, April 16 from 8:30 - 9:15 am in room 5 Q/A session with PCC students and community alike

Immediately following the Skype Event in the Linda Hunt Memorial Library. Coffee and coffee cake will be served

Campus to Sponsor Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive

When most students think about enrolling for their college classes they don't picture it happening in a hospital with their adviser lying in the hospital bed - but this was just one of the many things that Pratt Community College agriculture instructor Lori Montgomery did while battling with cancer.



In August of 2005, Montgomery was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, which is a cancer originating from white blood cells called lymphocytes. While she battling cancer for five years, Montgomery continued to work and be as active as possible.

"I use myself as an example that this isn't the end of the world," she said. "My children and students will be stronger for knowing this is what can happen in the real world."

In 2010 she received a stem cell transplant from a male donor in Germany and has since been given a clean bill of health. Montgomery's match was set up through Be the Match (BTM), a bone marrow stem cell organization.

Each year more than 12,000 people need a blood cancer transplant and 70 percent of them do not have a matching donor in their family. Knowing this information

and wanting to be involved in a cause that is bigger than themselves, PCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society decided to host a bone marrow drive on **April 14**, where students and community members can register to join the national donor registry.



"We hope to not only save lives through transplants, but also to promote awareness of blood cancers, which aren't made as public as some of the other cancers like breast cancer," said Leighanne Dean, PTK adviser.

The drive will be held in the Upper Commons at PCC from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will take anyone between the ages of 18 and 44. Participants get their cheek swabbed and fill out health information for screening.

The organization is always looking for a wide variety of ethnicities to choose from in order to find a good match for everyone. Montgomery said donating is no different than giving blood and that most people who give are at work the next day. People in the database are able to decline if they are unable to give at that time.

Along with having the bone marrow drive, PTK is also having a penny war and all money earned will go to the BTM. Penny jars are located in these PCC offices: Agriculture, Performing Arts, the Switchboard, Financial Aid, Athletics, and Area 9.

To find out more information about the BTM organization and other donor requirements, go to bethematch.org or call Dean at 620-450-2113.

Students Become Certified for Class

Pratt Community College agriculture instructors find it important for students to get certified in different areas they are learning about.

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

This semester 23 students on the rodeo team became certified in Humane Equine Management and seven students in the Beef Production Class received their Beef Quality Assurance Certification. The certifications come from the Animal Care Training website hosted by Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute and are animal science based courses to teach users proper animal care and handling.

The online testing process took PCC students three weeks to complete and the certification is good for two years.



Hitt Recipient of 27th Boyd Davies Executive-in-Residence

Growing up in North Dakota, Cheri Hitt would sit on her dad's knee reading the High Plains Journal with him, picking different ranches in Kansas that she wanted to own someday.

In 1990 Hitt made her dream of living in Kansas a reality and knew she was home when she hit the cobblestone streets of Pratt. Since that time, Hitt has recognized by becoming Rookie of the Year, qualifying for membership in the Million Dollar Round Table, and now becoming Pratt Community College's 27th Boyd Davies Executive-in-Residence. In 2005, she acquired Pratt's Farm Bureau Financial Services office.

"She's what we consider a good example to the students of a business leader," said Junnae Landry, event coordinator. "Along with being a business leader, she is also involved in the community, which is important."

Hitt was operating a day care when she decided that it was time for a career change. As her children got older and involved in more activities, Hitt wanted to find something different and the opportunity to start her business presented itself.

"It was very intriguing to me and allowed me to serve the community by utilizing my strengths," she said. "Becoming an insurance agent is not a career path that many give much consideration but I will attest that it is the perfect fit for the right person who loves to help people, and can be a very rewarding career. Caring for people came natural for me. It is what I had spent my life doing."

Her agency offers 83 different insurance products, over 400 mutual funds from eight mutual fund families along with Retirement and Estate Planning services.

"I love my career. It is a part of me, a lifetime commitment, and gives me the opportunity to serve and touch lives daily," she said. "My

proudest accomplishments have not been in the recognitions I have received but in having a proven track record of keeping my word and putting my clients' needs first every day."

Quite often Hitt's career requires her to work with people after the unthinkable has happened to them. In order to be good at her job, Hitt feels it is important to be empathetic to their needs because of what life has dealt them at that time.

"Life happens, and I'm there to help put back the pieces as best I can," she said.

While being recognized on April 2 at 11 a.m. Hitt will give the presentation she wrote entitled: "A Decade of Change – A Story to Tell" where she will talk about why she came to Pratt and what makes her business a success. The public is invited to attend.

"The main reason I accepted this award is so that I can talk to the students," she said. "I want them to walk away knowing they have a purpose and that no matter if they are a secretary or the CEO, their roll is vital to the team and to society. Each one of us has talents and we all have an obligation to each other to use our talents for the benefit of society."

When Hitt isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her two children and one grandchild. She also loves to spend time outside hunting, fishing, taking photos and gardening.

To find out more information about the Executive-in-Residence, please contact Junnae Landry at 620.450.2152 or junnael@prattcc.edu



Kansas Higher Education Celebrates No. 1 in Nation

On Wednesday, March 11, the Kansas Board of Regents met with Presidents and Board Chairs from Community Colleges and Technical Colleges across Kansas to celebrate the collaborative work that is being done in Kansas across our higher education institutions.

Governor Brownback was also in attendance, to recognize the recent announcement by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center which ranked Kansas as the national leader in the percentage of community college students who continue on to get a degree from a four-year institution.

The report lists only six states – Virginia, Iowa, North Dakota,

Texas and Illinois, along with Kansas – with 20 percent or more of students who started at a two-year public school finishing with a degree from a four-year institution. The national average was reported as 16.2 percent; Kansas had the highest rate at 25.2 percent.

"We are currently pursuing a goal to increase to 60% by 2020 the percent of Kansans with a higher education certificate or degree, because more and more of the job opportunities projected for Kansas will require higher education credentials," stated Dr. Andy Tompkins, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Softball

- 03/01 PCC loss to Dodge City 2-5
- 03/01 PCC loss to El Paso 4-5
- 03/09 PCC loss to Cowley 9-0, 13-3
- 03/11 PCC loss to Butler 16-1, 12-3
- 03/14 Beavers split with Colby 1-7, 5-4.
- 03/16 Beavers loss to Hutchinson 1-9, 0-10
- 03/21 PCC split with Dodge 1-2, 7-3
- 03/24 PCC split with Barton 2-16, 7-6
- 03/26 PCC loss to Seward 1-15, 2-6
- 03/28 PCC loss to Enid 1-11
- PCC loss to Jeffco 1-2, 10-12



Baseball

- 03/03 PCC def. Lindsborg 6-3 and 8-1
- 03/07 Game 1: Beavers 3 Hutch 5
Game 2: Beavers 1 Hutch 5
- 03/08 Game 3: Beavers 0 Hutch 7
Game 4: Beavers 3 Hutch 4
- 03/10 PCC def. Garden City 6-2 and 17-13
- 03/18 PCC loss to Hutch 7-9, 7-10
- 03/21 Game 1: Beavers 5 Seward 11 Loss
Game 2: Beavers 5 Seward 4 Win
- 03/22 Game 3: Beavers 3 Seward 12 Loss
Game 4: Beavers 7 Seward 4 Win
- 03/24 PCC loss to Tonkawa 4-8
- 03/28 PCC def. Colby 3-2
PCC loss to Colby 2-3
PCC loss to Colby 13-6
PCC def. Colby 17-5

Track & Field

The PCC track teams competed against 20 other schools at the Emporia State Spring Open on March 28. The throwing trio of Rebecca Borger, Travis Ledom and Steven Black continued to show strong improvement. On the track, Andrew Gillespie scored for the Beavers in the steeplechase and Alfredo Vega placed in the 5000 meter run. Anthony Soto and Andres Pelayo both set season bests in the long jump.

Pratt Community College Produces Highest Paid Grads in State

According to new data released by the Kansas Board of Regents, Pratt Community College students graduating with an associate's degree between 2008 and 2012 have a higher annual wage than the average of associate's degree and bachelor's degree graduates in that same time from all Kansas public colleges and universities.

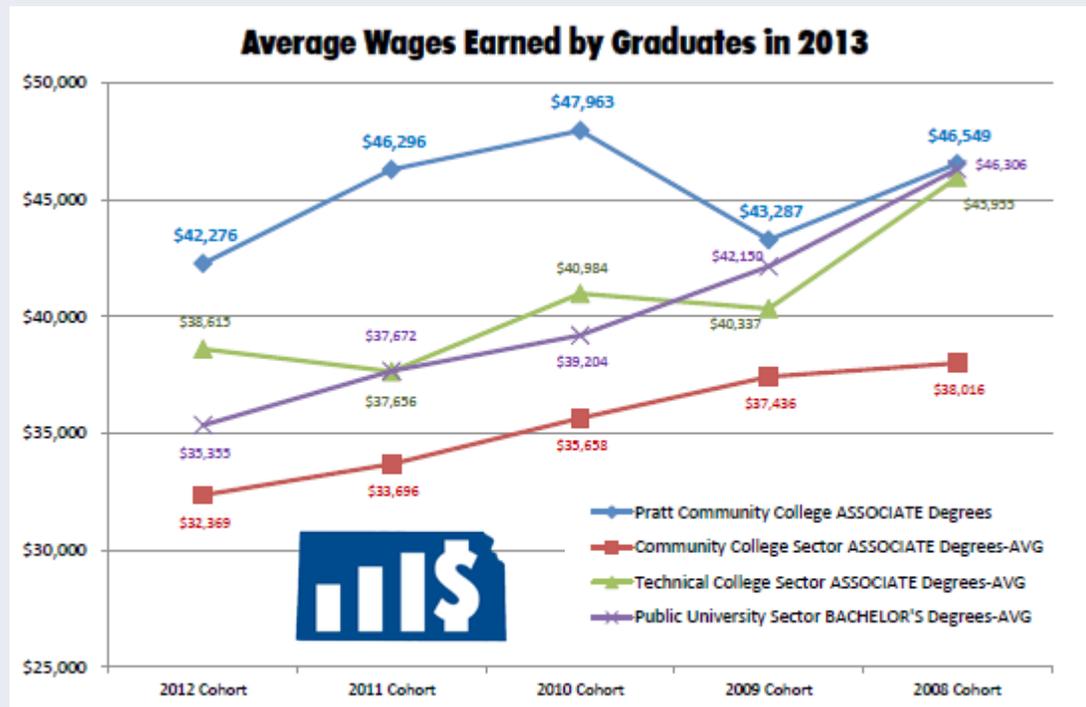
PCC students graduating with an associate's degree in 2012, which is the most recent cohort with measurable post-graduation wage data, made an average of \$42,276. The average of all Kansas community college graduates was \$32,369 and the technical college sector had an average wage of \$38,615.

2012 graduates from PCC out-earn even those with degrees from four year institutions; the average wage of 2012 public university graduates with bachelor's degrees was \$35,355. Kansas State University grads posted a wage average of \$36,590, while those from the University of Kansas averaged \$32,831.

The information comes as the fourth installment of data from Foresight 2020, a 10-year strategic agenda approved by the Kansas Board of Regents for the state's public higher education system.

Established in September 2010, the plan sets long-range achievement goals that are measurable, reportable, and ensures the state's higher education system meets Kansans' expectations.

The report and its appendices provide data for 21 metrics, including demographics, graduation and retention rates, student success index rates, credential production, and data on graduates' rates of employment and average earnings in Kansas.



Our Middle Name is Community: Pratt Soccer Teams Coach Local Kids

The Pratt Community College men's and women's soccer teams have spent their spring semester using their talents to give back to local youth.

Earlier this month, six players and two coaches traveled to Argonia, Kan. to put on a free youth soccer clinic. Approximately 50 kids were in attendance, and the clinic was deemed a huge success. Assistant Soccer Coach Mike Daniels noted that it was encouraging for rural towns to have such a showing of support for the sport.

"It was evident that all of the kids had a really good time," said Daniels. "That is of huge importance for kids this age when introducing them to the sport."

On March 23 and 24, the teams threw a similar clinic for the Pratt Recreation Commission. Even more youth showed up, with each day bringing in nearly 60 kids.

"It is really fun being able to see these kids have such a great time with us and our sport," said Head Coach Kevin Kewley. "Giving back to our community is very important to us. We also use this as a learning tool for our current players. Giving them the responsibility to manage and instruct groups of kids is a great opportunity that helps build leadership skills."

Several of the players who helped with the clinics will spend the rest of the semester serving as referees during the kid's spring soccer season. Community service is an integral part of Pratt athletics as it helps develop several service learning initiatives, and the coaches believe that the skills that are learned will help better serve their players later in life.

Soccer clinics are just one of the ways that PCC celebrates being part of the Pratt community. Our mission is maximum student learning, individual and workforce development, high quality instruction and service, and community enrichment.

Each year, the members of the PCC family contribute more than 13,000 hours in community service and engagement to South Central Kansas. Our middle name is community.

Do you have a story about how we have assisted your organization or partnered with your segment of the community? Contact Leighanne Dean, coordinator of marketing and college relations, at leighanned@prattcc.edu to share your story.



Concerns Identified in Nursing Accreditation Site Visit

On Thursday, March 12, 2015, the Associate Degree in Nursing Program (ADN) at Pratt Community College was informed by site visitors from its national accreditation agency, the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), that it would not recommend continued accreditation of the ADN Program to its board of commissioners.

The program was placed under warning status following the most recent ACEN site visit in 2012.

They cited various reasons related to the number of faculty and staff, curriculum, and outcomes. Their recommendations will be taken to their board for action in June 2015 where they will make their final decision later this summer.

Until that time, the ADN program remains accredited by ACEN. Students graduating prior to this final decision will complete their studies under an accredited program.

On the same date, the ADN Program was informed by site visitors from the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN), that deficiencies in the program were identified. They will complete their report and submit it to the KSBN Board for review and action in June. Further action may be taken at that time which could include the program being placed on "conditional approval."

Current ADN students who complete their courses and program prior to July, will not be affected by either KSBN or ACEN recommendations.

The PCC Practical Nursing (PN) program is not affected by either of these board's recommendations.

ADN Nursing, its faculty, staff, and administration, along with all staff, faculty and administration for Pratt Community College, are committed to and will provide instruction and service to its Nursing students, its community, and all other stakeholders as it transitions through these challenges.

There are many unanswered questions at this time involving the future of the PCC Nursing Program. The Nursing Department, College Administration and Board of Trustees will be working diligently to decide the best course of action for students, faculty and staff and recommendations will be made public in the near future.

Questions: Contact Kay Watkins, Director of Nursing at kayw@prattcc.edu or 620.229.5992. Additional information can be obtained at www.acenursing.org or www.ksbn.org.

PCC Prepares for Emergency Drills



Aggressive persons, active killers, and other hostile situations repeatedly affect our communities and institutions. One way Pratt Community College addressed this was by holding an "Active Shooter in the Building Tabletop Exercise" during March. The purpose of the exercise was to provide college administrators, staff, emergency personnel and other community members an opportunity to review and discuss existing policies and procedures related to aggressive persons in preparation for a live campus drill to be held at PCC in the fall of 2015.

"Safety of our students and staff are of utmost concern on a daily basis," said PCC President Michael Calvert. "We appreciate the community's efforts to be involved in this type of exercise as we all share similar concerns of an intruder in our buildings and how best to react and connect with available resources. The conversations that occurred were eye opening and much appreciated."

The exercise followed the guidance of FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and was coordinated by Tim Branscom with Pratt County Emergency Management. It was attended by Sheriff Vernon Chinn, City Manager David Howard, the Andover and Rose Hill police chiefs, and representatives of Pratt law enforcement, the State of Kansas, Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt USD and Skyline Schools.



Wind Turbines Save PCC Energy

With the help of some major pieces of equipment, Pratt Community College remains a leader in renewable energy among Kansas institutions of higher education. PCC supplements their energy usage with wind turbines, one of the fastest growing segments of energy production.

Between 2008 and 2015, wind and solar energy tripled in the United States, according to a recent Washington Post report on Bloomberg New Energy Finance's 2015 Factbook. Worldwide wind power production increased 44 percent in 2014, says Inhabitat, a blog dedicated to architecture, technology and sustainable home design.

"PCC supports environmental stewardship and energy savings in many ways," said Kent Adams, Vice President of Finance and Operations. "In addition to recycling and energy efficient lighting and boilers, the college's wind turbines supply approximately 20 percent of our electrical needs."



The college installed three turbines on campus in 2008 designed to last 30 years. The free standing towers are 100 feet tall with an additional blade height of 24 feet. The average energy production of PCC's

turbines is 202,582 kwh and the seven year production total was 1,418,078 kwh at the end of last year.

Facilities Director Dan Petz and his crew perform small routine maintenance tasks on the machines, such as unplugging and resetting them when the wind speed reaches above 50 mph, the machine's high wind capacity. Semi-annual maintenance is taken care of by Ethos Distributed Solutions in Wheat Ridge, Colo., the closest company that services this type of equipment.

"The ground around the turbines is securely fenced and locked to deter intruders and prevent tampering," said Petz. "We've never had any accidents or problems associated with their presence and find them to be a great benefit to our operations."

Kansas Community Colleges

TOPEKA – The Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT) and the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA) announced the successful negotiation of a global reverse transfer agreement between all eighteen private colleges and all nineteen community colleges.

Any student who earns at least 45 credit hours from a Kansas community college or 2-year private college, and then transfers to one of Kansas' private, non-profit institutions may send their transcripts back to their community college. If the student has completed the relevant and sufficient credit hours at the private, non-profit college, the community college then mails the student his or her associate's degree.

Even if the student does not complete a four-year bachelor's degree, they will still have earned at least an associate's degree. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, annual median incomes for associate's degree holders are \$2,600 higher than those with some college but no degree, and \$6,500 more than those with only a high school diploma.

"We are pleased to announce this agreement with our Independent College colleagues", said Dr. Carl Heilman, President of Barton Community College and the KACCT Council of Presidents. "The agreement maintains our focus on students being our first consideration and will help them achieve completion of an associate's degree on their path to bachelor's degree or higher. This will lead to timely completion of a four-year degree, greater lifetime incomes, lower unemployment, better health outcomes, and increased community involvement."

The agreement will go into effect in the 2015-2016 academic year.

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GRADUATION & COMMENCEMENT

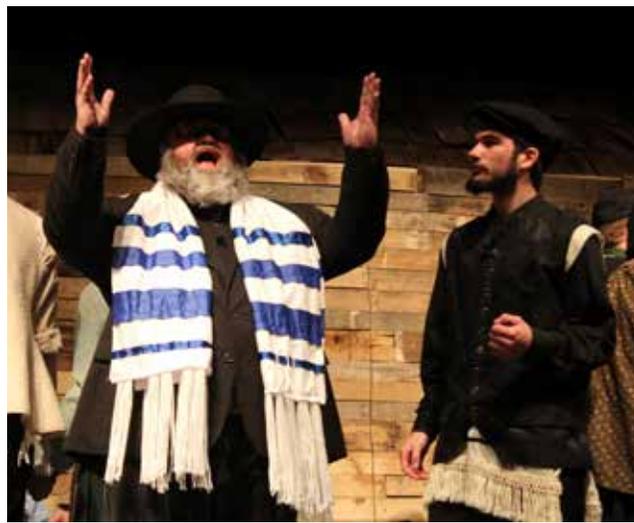
combined ceremony with nursing pinning

MAY 8, 2015 2 p.m.

dennis lesh sports arena
more info coming soon

Fiddler on the Roof

Tevey, a Jewish milkman, tells of the customs in the little Russian town of Anatevka. It is 1905, and life here is as precarious as a fiddler on the roof, yet, through their traditions, the villagers endure.



"A big thank you to everyone who came out to support the production, helped provide props, food for the dinner theatre and more. Your support means so much to our program and we greatly appreciate it!" – Misty Beck

"Congratulations to our Performing Arts students, Misty Beck and JJ Rupe on the outstanding performances this past weekend. The consensus throughout the community seems to affirm that this was perhaps the best production ever for PCC!" - Dr. Westerhaus

PCC Meets With Local Schools

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



Club 62+ Bakes Bread

Enormous thank you to Michele Hamm, our board chairwoman, for leading our Club 62+ bread baking workshop on St. Patrick's Day. Our participants got to knead and take home their own honey wheat loaf and Michele's own recipe. Visit prattcc.edu/club62 for upcoming events and workshops for area senior citizens.





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ONLINE

Enrollment now open for summer and fall 2015

Shooting Sports Team Competes at Nationals

March 24-29, the PCC Shooting Sports team traveled to the National Collegiate Clay Target Championship in San Antonio, Texas, to compete against the best college teams in the US.

Mason Welsch shot 100 out of 100 targets in the American trap competition and is now ranked 12th in the nation in collegiate trap. Welsch was also chosen for the \$500 Scholarship Shoot based on his sporting clays score and won the contest after four rounds of ties against the remaining 14 shooters. Welsch graduated from Skyline High School last year and will graduate with his automotive degree this May.

The team took eight shooters which is the highest number in the five years PCC has been attending.

The other seven students in attendance were Trey Ford, Tracy Freeman, Josh Locke, Devyen Eggleston, Alex Gregg, Grant Vrba and Briana Fahrenbruch. They competed against 76 teams from all over the nation and placed second out of the 10 two-year schools that attended.

“It was very rewarding as a coach to watch several shooters achieve their goals they had set,” said Wildlife Instructor and Shooting Sports Coach Luke Laha. “The whole team represented us well. We also owe thanks to the college - without a supportive school and atmosphere we wouldn’t have been so successful.”

The mission of the Pratt Community College Shooting Sports Club is to promote the safe handling of firearms, instill a lasting respect for the shooting sports, and provide the opportunity for members to improve their leadership and team building skills through a variety of training courses, competitions, and community service projects while enjoying the recreational and social benefits the shooting sports have to offer.

