



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

# BEAVER

December 2015

Buzz

## Call for upcoming newsletter content

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

>>> [megane@prattcc.edu](mailto:megane@prattcc.edu)

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## Upcoming Dates

<b>A Christmas to Remember</b>	Dec 4-6
<b>Finals</b>	Dec 8-10
<b>Dorms Close</b>	Dec 11
<b>Dorms Open</b>	Jan 11
<b>Last Day to Enroll in Classes</b>	Jan 11
<b>Classes Begin</b>	Jan 12
<b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	Jan 18

**PCC Campus Closed**  
Dec 24 - Jan 3

## eSports Coming to PCC

Pratt Community College is adding a new varsity program to their roster and it's not your typical jock sport. It's called eSports and PCC will be rolling out the virtual carpet to new and current students who are interested in the fall 2016 term. eSports, unlike the traditional athletic sport, is a new venture colleges all over the country, and the world, are adopting and implementing into their athletic and academic programs and organizations. It's the sport of competitive video gaming and Pratt CC is on board.

eSports typically involves computer based video games that can be played online such as the popular PC game League of Legends or World of Warcraft. On the collegiate level 100s of universities and community colleges have implemented eSports into their programs and compete regionally against each other as a part of the Collegiate Star League. PCC is in the beginning stages of planning and implementing this sport and has just recently announced approval from the Board of Trustees and PCC President Dr. Calvert.

Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, PCC Vice President of Instruction, has been researching this trending activity since before he began acclimating into his new role just a few months ago.

"I knew this would be a viable opportunity to not only increase enrollment but to also engage students in a way that they aren't traditionally," said Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick has no doubt that eSports will draw in many current PCC students as well as be a big interest to prospective students looking into colleges right now and eSports might just be the champion in their decision making.

"Recently we had a large group of students visit from Wichita area high schools and just from sitting with them for a few minutes and discussing eSports many of them expressed immediate interest and excitement about the sport," said Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick also said that his goal for eSports and Information Networking Technology program is to bring in 35 new students and a new faculty member that will also be the eSports coach. The PCC eSports team will be a Varsity coed academic sport that will be in association with the revitalized INT program that is slated to launch in the fall of 2016 as well. Current and prospective students from any and all programs are welcome to try-out for the team. PCC is currently searching for an INT Adjunct Instructor/eSports Coach and recruiting for the program and the eSports team will begin as soon as possible.

# Kurt McAfee Accepts New VP Position

Pratt Community College has found a new Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations from within the PCC family. Kurt McAfee, currently the PCC Athletic Director, was selected and accepted the new position within the Administrative team and will begin his transition into the new role in the coming weeks. The Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations, formerly known as the Foundation Director, is responsible for planning and executing fundraising events and opportunities as well as managing new and existing PCC alumni relations to better serve the college's needs and overall student success. This position reports directly to the president of the college, Dr. Michael Calvert and serves as a professional advisor to the Pratt Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

"This position was previously a director level position," said Calvert. "It is now a cabinet level position which will serve as a better way to communicate between the administration and the Foundation board.

McAfee is excited to transition into the new role and enthusiastic about getting to reconnect with PCC alumni. One of McAfee's initial goals will be to rebuild the PCC alumni database, engage with them, and help to reconnect them to the experiences they had while at Pratt.

"I went to PCC and am thankful for the foundation that was paved for me while I was here and I want to remind our alumni where they got started and how PCC began their path to success," said McAfee. "We have a lot of disconnected alumni throughout the state, especially in Wichita, that I want to connect with and build a relationship with."

Plans to establish an Alumni newsletter, enhance the annual fundraising auction by bringing in more alumni support, and raise money for more scholarship opportunities for students are also high on the list of priorities for McAfee and Calvert.

"I just have to believe that there are people out there that are willing to help and be a part of PCC again and my goal is to create an avenue for them to be able to give back," said McAfee. Calvert is enthusiastic about having McAfee enter into this role and believes that he is the best person for the job.

"Who better than Kurt to tell the PCC story," said Calvert. "Being a Pratt native, he went to PCC and played baseball here, he went off and ventured into the world and came back to Pratt. He has reestablished his roots and connections.

He's the living embodiment of the PCC student."

McAfee began his collegiate career at Pratt Community College and went on to Wichita State University to receive his bachelor's degree. He began working at the Wichita Sports Commission until 2004 when he began working as the Director of Marketing Projects at Wichita State University. McAfee came back to Pratt to work at PCC in June of 2006 as Athletic Director. Since that time as AD he has successfully raised \$385,000 in developing new sports programs and upgrading athletic facilities, re-establishing the Beaver Backer Club (an athletic fundraising organization), chaired academic enhancements and initiatives to grow student athlete grade point averages, as well as overseeing all athletic operations and coaching staff.

The search for a new a new Athletic Director is currently underway. Interviews are being conducted and McAfee will continue to operate as Athletic Director until the position is filled.



Kurt McAfee  
Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
and Alumni Affairs

# Students make NIRA Scholar American Honors



Mason Brehm



Connor McNenny

The 2014-2015 NIRA Scholar American Honors were recently announced and two Pratt Community College students made the cut.

Mason Brehm, sophomore from Jonestown, Pa., and Connor McNenny, sophomore from Sturgis, S.D., both earned a 3.5 cumulative grade point average last school year and earned points in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, making them eligible for this honor.

"This is a huge honor for these students," said Lori Montgomery, Agriculture Instructor. "It shows that they work hard both in the classroom and in the arena."

Brehm majors in Farm and Ranch Management and competes in bulldogging and team roping.

McNenny majors in Electrical Power Linemen Technology and is a steer roper.

Both said they choose to come to PCC to rodeo because of the competition.

"I've always wanted to rodeo in this region," said McNenny. "They are known for being competitive and you don't have to travel very far to get to rodeos. PCC was the school I choose because they had my major."

The rodeo team just finished their fall season, which is four rodeos and will start up again in February, for six spring rodeos. McNenny is currently sitting in the top 10 of the region and Brehm said he isn't doing as well as last year because he's been on too many different horses. He is planning on coming back in the spring semester and performing better.

Both plan on being NIRA Scholar American Honor students this year as well.

"I wasn't expecting it my freshman year," Brehm said. "I've always had good grades but thought my first year of college I'd have issues balancing rodeo and school. Now that I know it's doable, I will continue to make sure I keep my grades up where they need to be."



# Soccer Athletes and Coach Recognized in All-Conference Honors

Pratt Community College Head Soccer Coach Kevin Kewley was named Coach of the Year and ten athletes from the Men's Soccer team, and one Women's Soccer player were recognized with All-Conference honors from the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference, as the conference named their All-Conference teams.

On the men's side, the Beavers placed two guys on the First Team: Jordan Stubbings and Declan Fitzpatrick. Peter Connelly, Matt Price, and Alex Morgan were named to the Second Team. Honorable Mentions included Julio Vielmas, Jesus Fernandez, Jesus Castillo, Luis Fernandez, and Lewis Verdouw.

On the ladies' side, Ashley Conteras was named Honorable Mention.



KJCC Head Soccer Coach of the Year Kevin Kewley (middle) with PCC President Michael Calvert (left) and Kurt McAfee, Athletic Director (right).

## Volleyball Athletes Earn All-Conference Honors

Mari Silva, Sopho-



Amber Culwell, Sopho-



Two PCC Volleyball players have earned all-conference honors in the Volleyball Division I Kansas Jayhawk West Community College Conference.

Amber Culwell, outside hitter, a Sophomore from Oklahoma received First Team honors. Culwell will be moving on to the next level to play college ball and will have a decision made in December.

Mariana Silva, middle, a Sophomore from Brazil received honorable mention in the conference. Silva was also a KJCCC Player of the Week in September of this year and has accepted a full ride scholarship to Lee University for the 2016-2017 year.

## Cross Country finishes 29th in NJCAA

The Women's Cross Country team finished in 29th place at the NJCAA Championship meet on Nov. 14. There were 43 teams and 303 runners who came out to compete in Fort Dodge, Iowa, with Lansing Community College from Michigan claiming the team title over Iowa Central.

The Beavers were led by sophomores Divina Flores who placed 123, Krystal Rivera who placed 126, and Elisabeth Richins placed 137. The meet wraps up a season that was highlighted by a top ten team finish at the Missouri Southern Stampeded in September and a fourth place finish at the Fort Hays Tiger Open in October.



# Performing Arts Department Receives Grant for Summer Camp



The Pratt Community College Performing Arts Department was awarded a grant from the South Central Kansas Community Foundation and Youth Making A Difference.

The \$850 award will assist with purchasing craft supplies for the 2016 Summer Music Theatre Camp for Kids. The music theatre camp is a low cost, two week intensive camp in which the campers, ages 4-12, rehearse a musical, make their own costumes, help build the set, sing, dance and do craft projects and education projects related to the theme of the show.

At the end of the two week camp, campers perform the musical on Friday and Saturday evening.

This is the second year the department has received this grant for the Music Theatre

Camp. These funds help purchase the craft and costume supplies that are needed for the more that 140 campers. The grant enables the department to keep the costs low for campers.

Traditionally, campers have been from Pratt, Kingman, Barber, Stafford and Reno counties with several attending from out of the area and out of state as well. Area high school and college students assist in the running of the camp.

The plan for Summer 2016 is to produce the musical "Honk, Jr." which is based on the story of the Ugly Duckling.

For more information about any of the programs in the Pratt Community College Performing Arts Department, contact Misty Beck at [mistyb@prattcc.edu](mailto:mistyb@prattcc.edu).

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## PCC Get's Ready for Annual Christmas Show



Come kick off your holiday season with Pratt Community College Performing Arts Department, as they perform their annual Christmas show Dec. 4-6.

The annual performance of 'A Christmas to Remember,' will once again feature entertaining Christmas musical numbers and holiday favorites during the first half of the show and during the second half will focusing on the true meaning of Christmas and traditional hymns.

The show will feature solos, duets, the ensemble and full community choir. There will also be children's numbers.

"It promises to be a fun show with the classic favorites and also some new music," said Misty Beck, show director.

The event will take place in Carpenter Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 and 5 and at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 6. Admission to the event is \$5.

# PCC Employee and Student Artwork on Display

'Tis the season of giving and Pratt Community College is giving students, employees, and the community the gift of artwork on display at the Delmar Riney Art Gallery. The November and December exhibit will display an array of artwork from photography and paintings to cross stitching all of which have been contributed by PCC employees and students.

Eight PCC employees from all departments and areas of the college submitted a collection of their personal artwork. Photography pieces were submitted by Brian Elkins, Jennifer Barten, Lisa Perez-Miller, John Patton, and Sharon Lukens. In addition to photographs on display there are also acrylic paintings, cross-stitching, sketches, and blown glass pieces submitted by Megan Eaton, Jackie Mundt, Junnae Landry and PCC student Nicole McDonough.

Elkins, who is the Coordinator of Enrollment Services at PCC, has submitted original photography for display for the second time in a year. His pieces in this month's exhibit captures the beauty of indigenous fowl in flight.

A PCC adjunct professor also submitted several ornate photography pieces. John Patton, who teaches photography, utilizes the effect of light and shadow to find beauty in ordinary objects such as a guitar pick and strings or a somber green apple.

The exhibit will be on display from Nov. 16 through Dec. 18 in the Delmar Riney Art Gallery at PCC. The gallery shows a new exhibit every month. For more information or to be considered as a "Featured Artist of the Month," contact Lisa Perez Miller at 620-672-3559 or lisam@prattcc.edu.



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## PCC Hosts More Than 60 High Schoolers

Pratt Community College hosted several high school tours in November from Maize and Newton. PCC Admissions along with Dr. Fitzpatrick engaged with more than 60 students in group sessions across the institution in efforts to educate students about higher education and the possibilities at PCC.



*"I really enjoyed spending time on campus. It was clear that PCC focussed on our future success and that meant a lot to me."*

**- Katrina, Maize High School**

*"I found the converstations engaging and learned so much about PCC and what they have to offer."*

**- Conner, Maize High School**

DEC 3



Movie Night!

9 p.m.  
Woj



Hall Meetings  
Woj Hall · Mandatory

Pick One

Dec 1st @ 9:00pm  
Dec 3rd @ 8:30pm

DEC

4-6



'A Christmas  
to Remember'

Carpenter Auditorium  
Fri/Sat 7:30  
Sun 2:30

DEC 11

12:00pm  
Dorms  
Close!

Late Night  
Breakfast  
Cafeteria 9-10pm

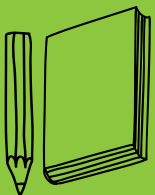
DEC 7

DEC

8-10



FINALS!



Good  
Luck!

Winter  
Break

Dorms Open  
Jan 11th

See you next year!



**PRATT**  
Community College  
prattcc.edu

DECEMBER 2015

Student  
Activities



