



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

MARCH 2019

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!

>>> meganm@prattcc.edu

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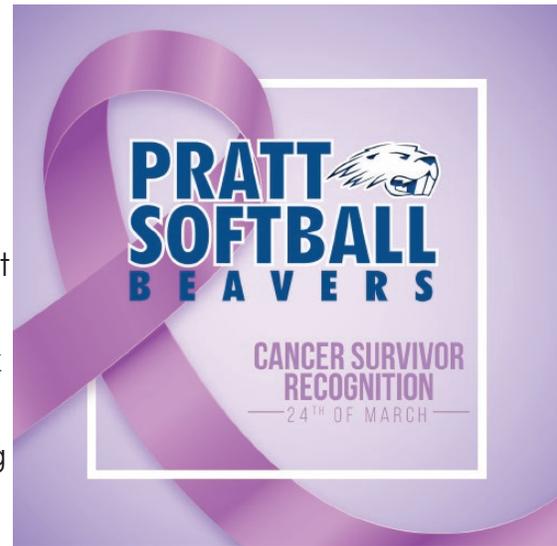
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Upcoming Dates

The Addams Family	Mar 8-10
Spring Break (No Classes)	Mar 16-24
Board of Trustees	Mar 18
Summer Fall Enrollment	Mar 25

PCC Softball To Honor Cancer Survivors During Game

The Pratt Community College Softball team has taken a new approach to raise cancer awareness by honoring survivors during their March 24 game against Northwest Tech. PCC players will be wearing lavender jerseys to represent all cancer types, which will also include the name of a cancer survivor on the back of each jersey. Each jersey will also be equipped with a colored ribbon coordinating with the cancer the respective honored survivor fought.



Savannah Burkhalter, assistant softball coach, said the team wanted to do something to raise awareness after a few players have recently had a loved one affected by the disease. The idea of each player wearing a lavender jersey during a game with a name of someone who has fought the cancer represented on the back came to mind.

"I had never really seen anyone do what we are planning to do before," said Burkhalter. "I've seen players wear pink jerseys to raise awareness for breast cancer, but I was trying to think outside of the box. I thought it would mean a lot more to have the players wear lavender jerseys to represent all cancers."

The players will wear the jerseys during their game against Northwest Tech on March 24. If inclement weather is predicted, the event will be moved to the game prior against Sterling on March 22. The team plans to play at Angood Field at Lemon Park depending on repair efforts from last year's floods. The official date and location will be announced closer to the game.

Burkhalter would like to honor 20 people who have battled with cancer in the past by putting their names on the back of a softball player's jersey for the game at no cost. Anyone who would like to be honored or to honor somebody else should contact Burkhalter at 940-395-2085 or savannahb@prattcc.edu.

PCC Helps Provide Meals To Local Circles Of Hope Program

During the month of February, Pratt Community College employees and students helped provide meals for the Circles of Hope, Pratt County program. Through the college's generosity, 145 people, including the program's Circles Leaders and community allies, were served meals each Monday. PCC employees donated and prepared food to be served at each meeting. Others, along with students from the Student Admission Representatives group, volunteered to help serve the meals at the First United Methodist Church and clean up.

Employees Susan Mayberry and Jessica Ward coordinated the project that brought warm smiles and full bellies to members throughout the community.

"At first, the thought of providing meals for each meeting the entire month seemed daunting, but Susan and I had faith the PCC employees would be more than willing to help," said Ward. "Thank you to all who donated their food, time, and efforts which helped make this community service project so successful."

Thank you to PCC students, staff, faculty and Administration who helped make a difference in the lives of members in our community.

The Circles of Hope program is part of The Hope Center of Pratt and offers a "hand up" rather than a "hand out" to those that are struggling financially and want to change their life. The program is part of Circles USA, a program building community to end poverty. If you would like to volunteer for Circles of Hope, Pratt County, contact The Hope Center of Pratt, 620-933-2166 or for more information visit <https://www.circlesusa.org/>.



A New Musical Comedy, The Addams Family, Comes To Carpenter Auditorium

The Pratt Community College Performing Arts department presents their Spring musical, The Addams Family, to debut March 8-10 in Carpenter Auditorium.

This new comedic musical, based on the infamous characters created by Charles Addams, was written by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice with Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lipppa. The Addams Family features an original story, and it's every father's nightmare. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family – a man her parents have never met. And if that weren't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's 'normal' boyfriend and his parents.

The cast of The Addams Family Musical includes several college students as well as community members. Gomez Addams is played by PCC sophomore Saul Garcia (Dodge City), community member, Melissa Jacobs plays Morticia Addams. PCC sophomore Kayley Geesling (Turon) cast as Wednesday Addams while PCC sophomore, Kendall Davidson (Pratt) plays her love interest, Lucas. Lucas' parents are played by PCC freshmen, Kedric Spurgin and Amber Jellison-Harris and the Addams family is finished out with Uncle Fester played by PCC freshmen, Drew Taylor, Pugsley Addams, 13 year old Matthias Holmes of St. John and Grandma Addams, Angela McGraw of Pratt. Looming over the family is Lurch the butler, played by Isaac Root freshman from Pratt. The chorus of ancestors completes the cast.

The show will run March 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. Saturday's show on March 9 will feature a dinner theatre option before the curtain at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for dinner show combination are \$15 per person and must be reserved by emailing Misty Beck at mistyb@prattcc.edu. The menu will include Central Park Pigeon (chicken), graveyard cake among other themed dishes.

"Our last dinner theatre sold out so I encourage guests to get in their reservations in early," said Misty. "Thank you to all who support the Performing Arts department by coming to our shows and concerts throughout the year."

General admission for The Addams Family will be \$5 at the door for each show. This show is rated PG.

PCC PERFORMING ARTS
presents

The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY
RATED PG



MAR 8-9
7:30 P.M.

\$5 ADMISSION
CARPENTER AUDITORIUM

MAR 10
2:30 P.M.

Dinner theatre Saturday, March 9 at 6:30 P.M. Tickets are \$15 for the dinner and show. RSVP to Misty Beck at mistyb@prattcc.edu.



BUILD OUR FUTURE

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Feature: Greg Lesh

"My parents instilled in us children that it was important for a family that was going to live in Pratt County to support the local businesses, institutions, and community. The college was one of the most important aspects in that area."

Gregg Lesh's family moved to Pratt in 1951 when his father became a car dealer in the community. Lesh's father knew more than anybody how important it was to support local businesses, something he passed onto his children. After graduating from Pratt High School in the spring of 1966, Gregg attended Pratt Community College, which was known as Pratt Junior College at the time.

"I was in the first class that went to the new building," said Lesh. "It was fun watching it progress and being built at that time."

During his first year at PCC, Lesh obtained his pilot's license. He then enrolled in the Spartan's School of Aviation in Tulsa, OK, where he proceeded to get his commercial and instructor's license at the age of 19. He returned to PCC in the spring of 1967 to begin his sophomore year while also acting as the only flight instructor in the county.

"One of the instructors at PCC taught ground school class and meteorology, but that was it," said Lesh. "As far as flight

instructors, I was it. I taught anybody and everybody."

After graduating from PCC, Lesh joined the United States Army and flew helicopters in Vietnam. When he returned, he moved to Wichita, KS to work for Cessna Finance Corporation before accepting a banking position in Hutchinson, KS.

"The bank in Hutchinson had a twin engine airplane and they needed somebody to fly it," said Lesh. "In turn, they would also teach me how to be a banker."

Lesh wound up banking for the rest of his life. In 1944, he became the president of Haysville State Bank in Haysville, KS, which eventually merged into the Intrust Bank system. He remained president until he retired.

Throughout his life journey, Lesh remained loyal to Pratt Community College. He involved himself in the annual scholarship auction and donated money to be used towards scholarships along the way, some of which was due to his brother, Dennis, who took over the PCC Foundation after selling the car dealership.

"Dennis had a way of talking you out of some money," said Lesh.

Lesh was so involved with the auction and PCC in general that PCC Vice President of Finance and Operations, Kent Adams,

cornered him one day a couple years ago to ask him to join the PCC Foundation Board. He has since served on the board and is currently president of the organization. Among his favorite projects he has worked on so far includes the event that helped him become involved in the first place.

"Fundraising, especially in regards to the annual auction has been my favorite aspect of being on the board," said Lesh. "We have some community members who live in Pratt that have been extremely supportive over the years to the college. It's been a lot of fun working with those folks because they are the ones that understand how strong of an influence the college has on the community – not just the City of Pratt, but the entire area around there."

The values and beliefs his parents instilled in him at such a young age are among the reasons he continues to give back to the institution he once attended as a student himself.

"I serve on the board because the community college is one of the better employers in town," said Lesh. "More importantly, it provides a conduit for students who want to obtain an associate's degree, or any follow up degree, or even vocational training. It gives them a relatively inexpensive way to get their education."

This year, Pratt Community College is honoring those who choose to help build the futures of our students. Each month during 2019, PCC is proud to feature those alumnae, community members, board members and faculty who have done their part to build the future of the lives of students as well as the growth of the institution. If you would like to be considered for one of our monthly features, contact Jessica Ward at 620-450-2192, jessicaw@prattcc.edu.

New Members Inducted Into PTK and KBD Honor Societies

On Feb. 28, the annual joint induction ceremony for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Kappa Beta Delta (KBD) honored 20 new inducted members into PTK and six inducted members in KBD.

PTK new inductees were Kiauna Behee, Serena Blaske, Morgan Bullinger, Jacob Crabb, Jenna Fitzsimmons, Lori Gilley, Remyngton Green, Haley Gleason, Tal Hartley, Spencer Heise, Luke Hurt, Ashley Jorns, Dominick Kratzer, Lupe Lopez, MaKayla Michael, Brooke Smith, Garrett Smith, Tatyana Trufanova, Adam Ward, and Camryn Youngers.

KBD inductees were Morgan Bullinger, Jordan Doss, Elijah Gatlin, Lori Gilley, Tal Hartley, and Kendell Hutchison.

Presiding officers of the two honor societies welcomed the new inductees and provided an overview of their respective chapters to begin the ceremony before each newly inducted member was announced. Robin Macy, a founding member of the female country group the Dixie Chicks, and current Director of Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, KS, served as the guest speaker.

The ceremony was attended by family and friends of the inductees in addition to PCC faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. PTK Charter President, Linda Broce was also in attendance.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in higher education with nearly 1,300 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, plus Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 3.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 130,000 students inducted annually.

Kappa Beta Delta is an honor society for business, management and administration majors at accredited two-year schools. Kappa Beta Delta member institutions are accredited through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP).

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, contact chapter adviser Trisha Jackson at trishaj@prattcc.edu. For more information about Kappa Beta Delta, contact chapter adviser Carol Ricke at carolr@prattcc.edu.



PCC to Host Inaugural High School eSports Tournament

High school students interested in eSports are invited to join the Pratt Community College eSports team in an inaugural High School eSports Tournament event on Saturday, Apr. 6. The tournament will begin in Carpenter Auditorium at 9:00 A.M. Teams of six will battle in the PC game, Overwatch, until one team remains as the sole victor.

The event is to promote the growing field of eSports and provide a competitive event for high school students interested in the gaming community. It also provides students an opportunity

to meet the current PCC eSports team and coach, Chris Nelson, to learn more about scholarship opportunities and what it takes to participate on a collegiate team.

The tournament is free to all interested high school students. Those who would like to participate can sign up at www.battlefy.com/pcc-esports or contact Nelson at chrism@prattcc.edu.



**INAUGURAL PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL ESPORTS TOURNAMENT**
GAME: OVERWATCH - PC • SIX PERSON TEAMS
APRIL 6TH • 9AM
SIGN UP AT
BATTLEFY.COM/PCC-ESPORTS

Skyline Middle School Students Create Storm Glass at PCC

On Feb. 22, seventh grade students from Skyline Middle School visited Pratt Community College to participate in a scientific activity co-directed by PCC science instructor, Jason Ghumm. The students took part in an activity where they made Storm Glass, which is a closed chemical system that is said to be able to forecast the weather. In research conducted at Skyline before the trip to PCC, the students learned a little history. Vice-Admiral Robert FitzRoy, who was the captain of the HMS Beagle on Charles Darwin's famous expedition, used the device to predict the weather while on the voyage.

In order to make the device, students had to figure ratios and measure out all materials they needed. They had to dissolve solids into two separate solutions, then pour the two solutions together before sealing them into glass tubes. The result is a tool that will form crystals that will fall down and rise up while it's snowing or raining, collect at the bottom when it's cold out, or just remain nice and clear when it is sunny.

After making the tubes at PCC, students returned to Skyline where they made decorative stands and sat them in the windows for other students to see. The observation continues at Skyline with a display that invites students to record their observations of the Storm Glasses.

"I don't know if it's an actual predictor, but it's a fun little project that mimics what is going on with the weather," said Ghumm. "The activity was a great way to get students on our campus to learn more about science and hopefully get them interested in STEM related careers."



Microbiology Class to Research Tiny Earth in a Collaborative Effort to Discover New Bacteria

Students in Jason Ghumm's microbiology class will be viewing the earth from a much different perspective following spring break. The class will delve into a new program, Tiny Earth, which is a crowd sourcing effort to find new antibiotics. The current rate microbes are becoming resistant to antibiotics is making it critical to discover any antibiotics that are naturally occurring.

Ghumm discovered the program last summer and applied to receive training during summer 2019. Once he was approved into the program, he was informed by the program leaders they would rather began his training in January instead. He traveled to the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery at the University of Wisconsin – Madison for the training that took place Jan. 7-11. Approximately 35 other faculty members from various schools and universities participated in the training, where new techniques related to researching microbes were taught.

The program was started in June 2018 by Jo Handelsman, a former Yale instructor who currently works at the University of Wisconsin. The lead instructors for the program originate from the University of Wisconsin, as well as the University of Connecticut. The goal of the program is to inspire students to pursue careers in science as well as to address the worldwide health threat of the diminishing supply of effective antibiotics.

At this time, Ghumm plans on doing a truncated version of the program in his microbiology class. Students will do soil surveys, isolate microbes, grow them, and test them. Eventually, he would like to get the equipment to be able to extract chemicals out of the microbes and purify them. Students will then test the purification and if they have good results, they will send the microbes to the Wisconsin Institute of Discovery to do more extensive research. If there is any promise to the research, the microbes then will be sent to a pharmaceutical company to be refined and made into an antibiotic.

"I'm really excited to do this program with our students," said Ghumm. "The students will learn valuable skills that will cross over into research, laboratory work at a hospital, and graduate work."

Students will have the opportunity to showcase their findings by doing oral or poster presentations at the Tiny Earth Annual Symposiums at the University of Wisconsin. Participants can obtain scholarships to universities for research that can open doors in the ever-growing scientific research field. Ghumm would like to have students participate in the symposiums eventually, but for



Tiny Earth
studentsourcing antibiotic discovery

right now, he's focused on refining the program.

"Because this is my first time doing this with students, I don't think I am going to have them prepared to present at that level," said Ghumm. "This semester will be my practice round, then hopefully once we become more involved with the program and get a little more equipment in, we can identify bacteria at the DNA level so students can make a poster and participate."

Ghumm plans to have his current class prepare posters and present them in the library so PCC employees, students, and Pratt community members can walk around and see the research they discovered in the second half of the semester.

Currently, PCC is only the fifth school in Kansas to adopt the program. Fort Hays State University, Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, and Russell High School have all begun working in the collaboration, with the latter starting as recently as last summer. Ghumm hopes the program will attract new students interested in research, as well as spark an interest in those who have never thought about research before.

"When we get some equipment in, who knows what will happen?" said Ghumm. "Maybe some of our students will identify a brand new bacteria. This is real world application of what students can potentially be doing in the science field. That's why I really wanted to get involved with it. Hopefully I can do it justice with the students, and maybe move some over to the research side of science."



College Prep Day

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**THE ULTIMATE
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PREPARING
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**TIME TO
START
PLANNING**

APRIL 3

9-12:30

Pratt, KS

PRATT 
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ATTENTION!



REGISTER ONLINE

prattcc.edu/CollegePrepDay

OR CALL US

620-450-2217



Step-by-Step

FAFSA

ADMISSIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

HOUSING

Women End Season With Four-Quarter Loss To Butler

A 49-40 loss to Butler Community College ended the Lady Beavers season, leaving them with an overall record of 20-11. The Region VI quarterfinal game was played at Hartman Arena Saturday. It was a tough night of scoring with neither team breaking 30 percent shooting from the field. The first



quarter only saw 18 total points with the Lady Grizzlies taking a two-point lead into a more aggressive second quarter. Pratt gave up eight more points in the second quarter to go into the break trailing 18-28.

The Lady Beavers came out swinging in the third quarter, cutting the deficit and then some. They produced the highest scoring quarter of the game to take a 39-38 lead into the final quarter of play. Pratt ended their final quarter of the season with a single free-throw. Butler put up 11 points in the quarter to win the game 49-40.

Courtney Cleveland was again the leading scorer for Pratt and the only one to put up double digits. She finished the night with 17 points and five rebounds. Rylee Alexander knocked down a pair of threes, helping her finish the game with nine points, four rebounds and four assists.

Season Ends With Loss To Hutchinson

The Pratt Community College men's basketball team gave up a 19-4 run in the second half of the Region VI quarterfinal game against Hutchinson Community College Sunday afternoon, ending their season. The 91-74 loss to the Blue Dragons dropped the Beavers overall record to 15-17 to end the season.

The Beavers lost a two possession game to Hutchinson back in February, and the first half of Sunday's game was on track to be just as exciting after the first half of play. Pratt went into the second half trailing by just three- a gap they quickly closed with a 5-2 run.

Tied at 44, Hutchinson went on a shooting tear scoring nine straight possessions. The Beavers could not keep up, giving up a 19-4 run that put them down 65-48 with just under 12 minutes left in the game.

Hutchinson went on to outscore Pratt 49-35 in the second half to take the game 91-74. The Beavers gave up a double-digit shooting percentage and rebound deference in the season-ending loss.



Three Beavers finished the night with double-digit scoring. Teddy Fifer III went a perfect 10-10 from the charity to finish with 25 points, three assists and three steals. Blake Furcron came off the bench to score 18 points. He also added six rebounds to his stat sheet.

Tyvon Taylor rounded out the scoring with 17 points, three assists and three steals.

Pratt went 20-56 from the field, shooting 35.7 percent.

KJCCC Baseball Player and Pitcher of the Week, Wk. 4

Two Pratt Community Baseball players earn Baseball Player of and Pitcher of the Week by the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC).

This is the first time that PCC student athletes have been named both player and pitcher of the week.

PCC sophomore shortstop Elerie Rivera batted .615 (8-for-13) with two doubles, two triples, five runs scored and three driven in last week. He also had three straight multi-hit games.

PCC sophomore pitcher Sean McElwee allowed just two hits and no run with 10 strikeouts over seven innings last week against Highland. He struck out the side in the 5th inning on 9 straight pitches.

2019
Baseball Player and Pitcher of Week

SS Elerie Rivera
 Pratt

Pitcher Sean McElwee
 Pratt

Week 4 KJCCC.org [@kjcccmedia](https://twitter.com/kjcccmedia) **KJCCC** **TJCAA**

PCC BEAVER BACKERS DUCK RACE

ENTER TO WIN

1 duck - \$10 3 ducks - \$20

THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2019 5:30PM
 JACK EWING PARK



1st Prize

\$1,000

2nd Prize

\$250

3rd Prize

\$100

Name:

E-Mail:

Phone:



The third annual Beaver Backer Duck Race is set for Thursday April 25 at Jack Ewing Park! Tickets are on sale now at the PCC Athletics Office.

- Must be 18 or older to win*
- Current PCC Student Athletes are NOT PERMITTED to purchase a duck/ticket*
- Everyone who attends the event and previously purchased a duck, will get an extra duck*
- Ducks are available for purchase until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday April 25, 2019*





March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Add Bucky Beaver @prattcc @prattcc @prattcc Beaver Nation				1 Friday Night Movie	2
3 Mid Terms 4 th - 8 th	4 PCC Softball VS Butler Double Header 2PM & 4PM Lemon Park	5 PCC Baseball VS McPherson JV 2PM Baseball Intramurals	6 PCC Softball VS Independence Double Header 2PM & 4PM Lemon Park	7 Paint Night Cafe 8PM	8 Friday Night Movie Addams Family - 7:30 PM	9 PCC Baseball VS Cloud Double Header 1PM & 4PM
10 Addams Family - 2:30PM	11	12 Baseball Intramurals	13 Martial Karate Tournament Scholarship Hall E:45PM Sign-up 9PM start	14 PCC Baseball VS Butler Double Header 1PM & 4PM	15 PCC Softball VS Rose State Double Header 2PM & 4PM Lemon Park	16
Spring Break						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 PCC Baseball VS Barton Double Header 1PM & 3:30PM
24 PCC Softball VS Northwest Tech Double Header 1PM & 3PM Lemon Park	25	26 Baseball Intramurals Play-offs	27 Tie Dye Outside Woj Hall 9PM	28 PCC Baseball VS Dodge City Double Header 1PM & 4PM	29 Pratt After Dark Sports 9PM to Midnight	30 PCC Softball VS Colby Double Header 2PM & 4PM Lemon Park
31	Performing Arts Presents... The Addams Family March 8 th & 9 th @ 7:30PM March 10 th @ 2:30PM Auditorium		March 29th Pratt After Dark Sports 9PM to Midnight		Friday Night Movies Fridays @ 8PM in the Woj Hall Lobby March 1 st March 8 th	

For PCC Away Games Visit: WWW.GOBEAVERSPORTS.COM

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