



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

July 2016

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

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Upcoming Dates

Independence Day	
Campus Closed	Jul 4
Beaver Building Day	Jul 13

PCC Summer Hours

May 23-July 29, 2016
Monday-Thursday 7:45a-5:15p;
Friday 8a-1p

Chambers Named PHEA Teacher of the Year

Each year one of Pratt Community College's instructors is recognized by the Pratt Higher Education Association at graduation for being an outstanding instructor.

This year, the PHEA committee chose to recognize science instructor, Kip Chambers as this year's recipient.



"I am very appreciative of this award," Chambers said. "We have so many good teachers here and it is an honor to be recognized."

Chambers has been at PCC for 14 years and teaches General Biology, Environmental Science, Zoology and Botany classes' on-campus.

Since starting at the college, Chambers said his favorite part of teaching has remained the same.

"I love to interact with the students," he said. "It is rewarding to be in a classroom and have all the energy. I love to be able to see the students grow and improve their lives."

Chambers, who grew up in Pratt, said he has many teachers at the high school and college level that made a difference in his life and he wants to do the same for his students.

"I really enjoyed him (Chambers) as a teacher. He made things fun and easy to learn, along with making the process from high school to college easier," said Emma Hall, who will be a sophomore this coming fall. "He is my mentor on-campus. If I have an issue I always know I can go to him and he helped me find summer job opportunities. Not every teacher is willing to do those types of things."

Another reason Hall said she enjoyed Chambers as an instructor was because he made so much of the class hands-on through labs and field trips.

Chambers said part of the reason he thinks he is a good teacher is because he has the rest of the PCC faculty to ask questions to and help him when he has a questions or issue.

For being the recipient of the PHEA instructor of the year, Chambers received a \$500 check and plaque.

Stewart Gives KCCTE Workshop to High School Instructors



Nine high school vocational instructors were on the Pratt Community College campus June 21 through 24 for a small engines class taught by Ag Power instructor Rod Stewart.

The instructors were on campus participating in a workshop to learn a curriculum and hands-on sessions to take back to their schools and implement. This effort comes as a state wide initiative to have more vocational classes taught in Kansas high schools.

The single engines course that Stewart taught was contracted through Pittsburg State University Kansas Center for Career and Technical Education (KCCTE). KCCTE is a newly developed center in the state of Kansas created with the purpose of providing technical and professional development for Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors. They are offering courses to high school instructors in all areas of vocational trades such as automotive, history, agriculture and many more. Stewart is one of many college instructors putting on workshops throughout the state.

"There's a shortage of technicians in the industry," said Stewart. "This helps everyone from giving continuing education to instructors and them being able to implement that to young students to showing them what all PCC has to offer."

Rod says he believes in this initiative because he believes in continuing education for the high school instructors and it's a bonus because the instructors come to our campus and are able to see firsthand the facilities and what we have to offer.

The nine instructors that took the small engines course come from all over Kansas including Skyline, Pretty Prairie, Louisburg, Santanta, Cherryvale, Yates Center and Central Merriam.

"This is an excellent opportunity to utilize the facilities at PCC and get to know the people outside of our service area," said Stewart.

The small engines course provided a curriculum package to take back and implement in the classroom as well as working hands-on in the lab pulling apart and putting back together an engine

They took home a small engine, a text book, work book and answer key and handouts for the classroom.

Stewart says that there is a possibility that the same courses will be offered next summer.

"The feedback that we received from the class was very positive. They received hands-on experience which is exactly what they wanted," said Stewart. "The representative from Skyline says that she is going to be offering a small engines class at the high school and will be doing concurrent courses as well.

Concurrent courses are open to students to earn college credits while still in high school. Technical courses such as a small engines class are free. The free college tuition applies to any and all technical courses in approved programs at public community and technical colleges.

Jackson Provides CPR and First Aid Certification Classes on Campus

Pratt Community College and instructor Mike Jackson are coming together to offer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid certification through the American Heart Association on campus.

Jackson has been teaching certification classes for 15 years the last five of which have been through the American Heart Association. Jackson is offering several different types of classes depending on the need of the individual or group who wants to earn certification.

Heartsaver CPR is a course that teaches adult CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use, as well as how to relieve choking in an adult. This course teaches skills with the AHA's research-proven practice-while-watching technique, which allows instructors to observe the students, provide feedback, and guide the students' learning of skills. Infant and child modules are optional.

Heartsaver First Aid is a course that teaches students critical skills to respond to and manage an emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives. Students learn skills such as how to treat bleeding, sprains, broken bones, shock, and other first aid emergencies.

Jackson also provides Basic Life Support (BLS) certification for those who require it for it for the workplace, including healthcare. A BLS certification teaches both single-rescuer and team basic life support skills for application in both prehospital and in-facility environments, with a focus on high-quality CPR and team dynamics. This course is for the health care provider, persons moving from a Certified Nurse Aid to a Registered Nurse and anyone in the medical profession.

To learn more about becoming certified in CPR and First Aid you can contact Jackson by visiting prattcc.edu/CPRcertification. From there you can submit a request for a one-on-one or group class that is geared toward your specific needs.



PCC Hires Melvin Jenkins as Softball Coach

Pratt Community College has hired Melvin Jenkins as their new head softball coach. Jenkins brings more than a decade's worth of experience at the collegiate, junior college, and high school levels.

"I am very excited about the hiring of Melvin Jenkins as our new head softball coach," said Bill Wilson, director of athletics at PCC. "Melvin brings a great deal of experience to PCC and we are confident that he will have us competing near the top of the Jayhawk Conference soon."

Melvin Jenkins is enthused to begin his tenure as head softball coach at Pratt Community College.

"I am humbled by the opportunity that Mr. Wilson and Dr. Calvert have entrusted me with to develop and lead the softball program at Pratt Community College," said Coach Jenkins. "I am immediately working to establish a recruiting presence with our local high school, regional, and national level. I look forward to contacting the current players to begin the process of getting to know each other. I'm seeking their full investment in the shared goals of a successful program and season."

Jenkins previously served as the head softball coach at Vernon College in Vernon, Texas. His teams produced 13 NFCA All-American Scholar Athletes over a four year span. Jenkins and his staff sent several players on to four year schools at both the NCAA and NAIA levels. He also helped implement programs and write grants that led to internet access and a new sound system at the softball facility.

Prior to Jenkins tenure at Vernon, he served as a teacher and head softball coach at three Texas high school programs. His community college experience stretched beyond his tenure at Vernon College, Jenkins coached at Northeast Texas Community College, and Cerro Coso Community College in California. Jenkins also coached at four year institutions, the University of Texas and St. Edwards University, both in Austin.

Jenkins received his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Texas at Austin where he played football for the Longhorns and competed in three bowl games. Additionally, he served as a student assistant coach for the Longhorn softball program. He completed graduate work at Texas Tech University and St. Edward's University where he received his master's degree in sport management. While at St. Edwards, Jenkins was a graduate assistant coach with the softball program. During his tenure, the Hilltoppers competed in the NAIA Softball World Series. Jenkins is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.



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Alyssa Rushton Hired as Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

Under the guidance of head women's basketball coach Carey Phariss, Pratt Community College has hired Alyssa Rushton as the assistant women's basketball coach.

"I'm very excited to add Alyssa to the PCC family," Phariss said. "Her playing experience in the Jayhawk Conference and at the NCAA Division II level will be a tremendous asset to our program. She will bring a wealth of knowledge and toughness to the coaching aspect of the game that is definitely needed in this conference."

"I would like to thank Coach Phariss and athletic director Bill Wilson for the opportunity to be the next assistant coach at PCC. This is a great start for my coaching career, and I'm very humble for the opportunity given to me."

Rushton comes to PCC from Augustana University where she was a graduate assistant in sports information. She is currently finishing her master's degree in sports administration and leadership from Augustana while taking on the responsibilities of assistant basketball coach.

Prior to her time at Augustana, Rushton was a guard for the University of Sioux Falls where she got her bachelor's degree in social science and criminal justice in the spring of 2013. As a player for the Cougars, she started all 27 games her senior year, averaged 10 points a game, and had 117 rebounds. During her junior year, Rushton led all guards with a 47 percent field goal percentage, finished second in 3-point percentage (39.4%) and steals (24).

Rushton started her collegiate career at Kansas City Kansas Community College where she was a second team All-Jayhawk Conference selection and team MVP both years she was at KCKCC. She led the team in scoring averaging 13.8 points per game as a freshman and 12.5 points per game as a sophomore. Rushton also joined the top five on the KCKCC stats lists for free throw percentage (83.4%) and three point percentage (41%). She also participated in the NJCAA All-Star game during her time as a Lady Blue Devil



PCC Partners with Skyland Grain for New Program



A new certificate program will be offered at Pratt Community College starting this Fall. PCC and Skyland Grain are partnering together for a Crop Application certificate that will give students a head-start in a Kansas career. The Crop Application program is a one year certificate program that students will be able to achieve with 34 credit hours, all of which are offered on the PCC campus. This program is a part of the Agriculture program. Upon completion of the certificate students will have the skillset to enter the workforce helping crops grow. To successfully complete the Program, students are required to enroll in an occupational work experience course, be prepared to test for the Commercial Pesticide Applicator License and obtain a Class A Commercial Drivers License upon employment.

Skyland Grain is offering scholarships to PCC students who enroll in the program. Skyland Grain LLC is headquartered in Johnson, Kansas and began operation August 1, 2004 with Johnson Cooperative Grain Co. and ADM Grain Co. as the founding

parent companies. Skyland Grain LLC has a full-service agronomy division that provides bulk liquid, dry, and anhydrous ammonia fertilizers, chemicals, and seed.

For more information about the Crop Application certificate program you can contact Ag Instructor Lori Montgomery at lorim@prattcc.edu.

PCC Campus Upgrades and Renovations

Pratt Community College is getting some upgrades and renovations before Fall start. Director of Facilities Dan Petz gave an update at the June Joint Council meeting with a summary of what all is being upgraded.

Beaver Bites is getting the biggest renovation and a completely different look. Petz says that the cafe has been completely gutted, ceiling painted and lighting converted to LED. Currently the PCC team has been working on painting the walls. One of the biggest renovations is a window hole that overlooks the arena. Next for Beaver Bites will be a new floor and all new appliances and serving stations.

Also inside PCC the flooring in the stairwell in the commons area has been replaced. Petz and his team have started converting to LED lights in the classrooms.

Outside the main entrance and parking lot are being worked on. The main entrance to the parking lot has already begun tearing up asphalt. Once the main entrance is finished the main parking lot will be closed off to receive a seal and stripping.

The upgrades are scheduled to be complete before the start of classes.



PCC Students and Staff Attend FFA Convention

Pratt Community College staff and students attended the Kansas FFA Convention May 31 in Manhattan on behalf of PCC and the Agriculture department.

The State FFA convention is an annual event where all the chapters of the FFA gather. This is an opportunity for the state FFA organization to provide awards to chapters and individual members for exceptional service as well as meet potential students and Kansas ag instructors.

PCC staff member Frank Stahl and students Kylie Mull and Savannah Pryor attended the event to get in front of more than 200 FFA students and talk about what the PCC ag department has to offer.

The PCC team gathered 125 student inquiry cards with interest in Ag and related programs.

"It was a lot of fun for me as I was an active FFA member during my high school years," said Stahl. "It is naturally a great opportunity for farm service organizations, and colleges to provide opportunities for students to learn about what they have to offer, particularly advantageous for PCC with our strong AG related and technology programs."



PCC Hosts Nursing Student Orientation

The Pratt Community College Nursing program will have 50 new nursing students in the ADN and PN program this Fall.

The orientation is a mandatory event that all accepted nursing students are required to attend. It is held annually approximately six weeks prior to the start of fall classes.

The students selected for the Practical Nurse, and Associate Degree Nurse programs on both the Pratt and Winfield campuses, Hybrid/Online ADN program were present on the PCC campus. There were 46 students from all parts of Kansas plus students from Oklahoma and Colorado.



The orientation event is a required component of the Nursing Program. It offers an opportunity to meet PCC administration, staff and nursing faculty. The students are provided an hands on introduction to each department on campus with which they will work over the next year. They are provided an opportunity to meet with financial aid staff, order uniforms and textbook packages and learn techniques to manage their self-service accounts and PCC email.

The day concludes with the PN and ADN classes meeting separately with the faculty of their specific program. The faculty, with input from Dr. Fitzpatrick, provided the overview of the program. The program expectations, goals, professional standards of conduct and gained a clear message as to the conduct and performance expected in the classroom. Additionally the faculty provided an overview to the clinical requirements, and the clinical schedule.

The first day of classes is Aug 16 at both Pratt and Winfield campuses.

Little Actors Entertain in PCC Production of "Honk"

About 115 children performed "Honk Jr." June 24 and 25 at the end of the two week Pratt Community College theater summer camp. Honk Jr. is the classic children's story of the ugly duckling named Honk. About three dozen other helpers from grades 7 to college took parts, helped with crafts and taught children their parts.



Photos and byline courtesy:
Gale Rose, Pratt Tribune

