



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

APRIL 2019

Buzz

Maximum Student Learning

Individual & Workforce Development

High Quality Instruction & Service

Community Enrichment

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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Upcoming Dates

Beaver Building Day	Apr 10
Good Friday (No Classes)	Apr 19
Board of Trustees	Apr 22
Beaver Building Day	Apr 24
Scholarship Auction	Apr 26
Finale Concert	Apr 28

PCC Enrollment Open for Summer and Fall 2019

Pratt Community College has opened the enrollment period for Summer and Fall 2019 and is now taking class registrations for new and returning students as well as community members and non-traditional students.

A few of the classes offered on campus this summer include Microcomp Office Apps I, Public Speaking, and Introduction to Music. Other classes being taught are College Algebra, English Composition I & II, Microbiology, and Anatomy & Physiology.

Pratt Online is offering Public Speaking as well as English Composition I & II.

A variety of Nurse Aide I, Medication Aide, and Medication Aide Update classes are being taught as hybrid classes online with labs and clinicals on campus on certain weekends.

EduKan is also providing a wide variety of classes related to art, science, geography, and more.

A full list of Summer and Fall 2019 classes offered can be

found on the PCC Course Catalog as well as in the PCC Admissions office.

For more questions about enrolling returning students can schedule an appointment with their advisor and new students and/or community members can call us at 620-450-2217 or visit prattcc.edu/enroll to get started.

Visit prattcc.edu/coursecatalog for a list of courses available for summer and fall.

Summer Sessions

May 29 - June 26

May 29 - July 26

June 27 - July 26

Fall Start Date

August 21



Tim Swartzendruber Named New Athletic Director

Tim Swartzendruber has been named the new athletic director at Pratt Community College. According to PCC president, Dr. Mike Calvert, Swartzendruber was selected from a pool of over 40 applicants from across the country.

Swartzendruber is a Kansas native and a Hesston High School graduate. He attended Bethel College, where he played football while receiving his Bachelors of Science in Industrial arts education/physical education. He went on to pursue a Master's Degree in sports Administration from Wichita State University.

After College, Swartzendruber "embarked on a public education career," teaching and coaching in Newton, Wellington and Kingman. In 2004, he was named head basketball coach at Hesston College, a position he held for four years.

"I chose public education because I wanted to stay involved in athletics and coach," Swartzendruber said. "I have always enjoyed working with young people and my mom was a teacher."

Swartzendruber has spent the past 11 seasons at McPherson College, where he led the men's basketball team to four NAIA Division II Tournaments. He is also an assistant professor at the college.

"We are very excited Tim accepted our offer and to have him be a part of our team," Calvert said. "Where ever he has been, he has seen the institution from more than just the coaching side. His experiences will be beneficial at PCC as the Athletic Director is a part of President's Cabinet, where decisions are made that affect the whole institution."

Swartzendruber was one of eight finalists selected by a search committee made up of faculty, staff and community members. Of the eight finalists, four were invited to on-campus interviews.

"With the recommendation of the search committee, feedback from the public forums, coaches' meetings and the interactions with the people on campus and in the community, we extended the offer to Tim Swartzendruber," Dr. Calvert said. "Pratt Community College will benefit from his many years of experience."

Swartzendruber said that he has always envisioned himself as an athletic director, a position that allows him to support public education and student athletes.

Tim and his wife Susan are the parents of five children.



PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ATHLETICS



Sue Peachey Recognized as 31st Boyd Davies Executive-in-Residence



Sue Peachey with Peachey Insurance will be recognized by Pratt Community College on Apr. 10 as the 31st Boyd Davies Executive-in-Residence.

The Boyd Davies Executive-in-Residence Award was implemented in 1988 by the Accounting and Business Department to give the students at PCC the opportunity to interact with a business person or persons from the area and learn about his/her experiences. Davies was the original recipient of the award. Nominees come from a large background of fields, exhibit a long and successful career in business, and are willing to share that knowledge with our college community.

The awardee is honored at a coffee reception for family and guests followed by a presentation in Carpenter Auditorium. An invitation only luncheon sponsored by Jonathan Davies concludes the ceremony. He believes Peachey is a great choice with an insurance agency that serves a large regional area, as a sizeable staff, and bilingual service.

"The Accounting and Business Department at Pratt Community College is honored to offer this event annually to help students connect with the community," said Carol Ricke, business instructor. "Sue Peachey is a great recipient of the award, and she represents what our Executive-in-Residence is all about."

Peachey grew up on a farm in Kentucky before moving to Kansas. She had worked at the Federal Land Bank for ten years before starting her own business in May 1996. Peachey Insurance started from scratch with zero plans before being built up to what it is today. The independent insurance agency currently services the Pratt area and throughout the state of Kansas. It is also licensed to serve in Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. They offer all types of personal insurance coverages, including car, home, life, health and motorcycle insurances, as well as business insurance. Peachey also specializes in farm and ranch insurance in part due to her farming background.

She admits there were frustrating challenges when the business first started.

"The biggest challenges at the very beginning were getting contracts," said Peachey. "Companies want a certain amount of volume. When you are small and you don't start by buying an existing agency, getting contracts is difficult. It takes a while to build enough volume to qualify for their marks. We had to work under different small agencies until we had enough volume on the books to get our own contracts."

Though the challenges were tough, the rewards were plentiful. Peachey now has a loyal customer base, which she admits, makes a job that is not very attractive or exciting, a fulfilling one to have. She recalls being a shoulder to cry on in many situations, such as after the Greensburg tornado in 2007.

"There was nothing more fulfilling than being able to deliver a check and knowing that our customers had a place to sleep that night. They were going to be able to rebuild everything and replace what they lost in their home – their entire life," said Peachey. "We're not just selling insurance to make a dime. We are trying to protect the most important things in people's lives."

The company's philosophy is to treat everybody with kindness, which is why Peachey believes it has garnered its loyal customer base and has become so successful. Building relationships and having great customer service is a way of life for Peachey and her employees, as they do not just sell insurance for the price, they try to search for the best deal for each individual client.

"We care about people," said Peachey. "Everything that goes through our office is about doing the right thing and about putting the customer's needs first. I knew if I did the right thing for the customer, God would take care of me and he definitely has."

Her advice to future business owners is to pick something they love and have a passion for, but to also work hard, show compassion, and do the right thing.

"With hard work and a good attitude anybody can do well in the business world," she said.

Peachey Insurance, located at 115 S. Main St. in Pratt, KS, currently employs four people in Pratt, as well as two others in Kinsley. They are dedicated to providing their customers with the best coverage at competitive rates and strive to educate the community on the best options for their insurance needs.

Peachey will be honored at Pratt Community College Apr. 10 with a coffee reception for family and guests followed by a presentation at 11 a.m. in Carpenter Auditorium.

PCC Ag Department, Kanza Partner on Mobile Ag Lab Project

Pratt Community College (PCC) Agriculture Department is collaborating with Kanza Cooperative Association to help bring agricultural education resources to students throughout the college's service area and beyond. Kanza recently presented \$6,000 to the Pratt Community College Foundation to fund the purchase of an enclosed trailer that will become a Mobile Ag Lab.

"We have great educational resources but they right now they are only accessible to student in our classes here at the college," said Lori Montgomery, Agriculture Instructor at PCC. "Purchasing a trailer will allow students in many communities and organizations to use our top quality equipment for education and demonstrations."

The idea for the mobile lab came when an anonymous benefactor contributed to the agriculture department to encourage the promotion of agriculture. The college owns a variety of equipment that can provide hands on learning experiences like a life-sized model cow with removable parts that can simulate insemination, palpation and birthing scenarios, and a spray table that allows students to calibrate nozzles and study spray patterns. This equipment is often too expensive for most groups to purchase.

Montgomery realized that these resources could have a much bigger impact if they were mobile and could be transported to surround communities. She hopes that the trailer will allow her and her students to help facilitate use of equipment in partnership with high school agriculture programs, 4-H clubs, county farm bureaus and other groups who want conduct hands on agricultural education activities.

Kanza staff became aware of the project through involvement in the college's Ag Advisory Committee and were excited to contribute.

"Our organization is rooted in agriculture and we want to support educational efforts to help people learn about the industry," said Nick Krehbiel, Kanza's Chief Operating Officer. "This program is a great fit because it allows us to invest in the future of agriculture and aligns with our desire to serve local communities."

Kanza secured matching funding through both the Land O'Lakes Foundation and the CHS Seeds for Stewardship program to maximize their gift to the PCC Foundation.

Plans are under way for the purchase and design of the Mobile Ag Lab. Montgomery hopes that the mobile lab will be ready to use by the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.



PCC Nursing to Host Open House for Interested Students

The Pratt Community College Nursing Program is hosting an Open House Tuesday, April 23 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Chandler Hall and Wednesday, April 24 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Winfield Campus for anyone interested in learning more about the program and what it has to offer,

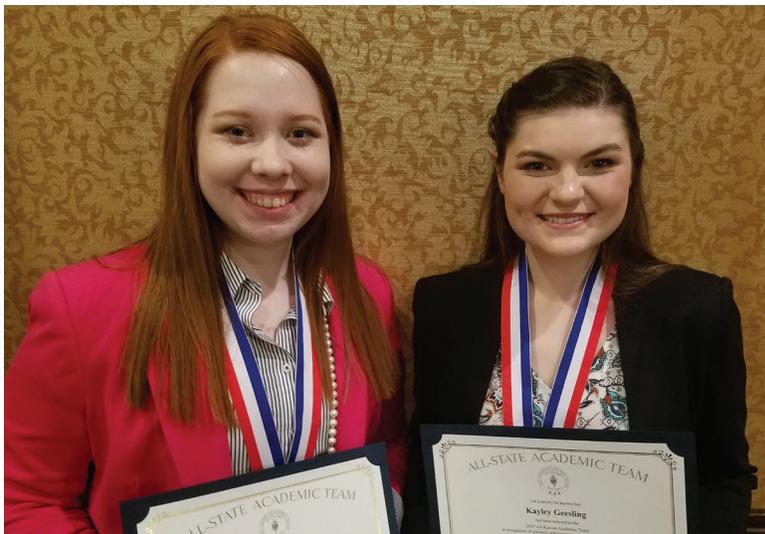
This academic year, PCC Chandler School of Nursing introduced a blended classroom delivery method for theory instruction utilizing face-to-face and synchronous video conferencing. This video conferencing system allows students to attend a "Zoom Room" which provides remote conferencing services using cloud technology. Each Pratt classroom is equipped with two 75 inch and one 55 inch high-definition television along with a 10 foot by 6 foot high-definition video projector screen. Each Winfield classroom is equipped with three 75 inch and one 55 inch high-definition television. Video output from the classroom can be customized to display the instructor, presentation material, and/or remote classroom.

The decision to introduce this new method of delivery was based on the following factors:

To maintain consistent education delivery at multiple locations.

- A shortage of qualified nurse educators in the state of Kansas.
- To maximize the benefit of faculty expertise.
- To maximize the use of PCC resources.

PTK Students Honored at 2019 All-Kansas Academic Team Luncheon



Two Pratt Community College students joined their peers when Kansas saluted the 57 community college scholars for their academic accomplishments March 7 in Topeka. Representing the state's 19 community colleges, a private college, and a technical college, these scholars were named to the 2019 All-Kansas Academic Team, sponsored by the international headquarters of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents.

PCC's PTK chapter is sponsored by faculty member, Trisha Jackson. The two student award recipients are Jenna Fitzsimmons and Kayley Geesling.

"It was a great honor to be chosen to represent PCC on the PTK All-Kansas Academic Team. The luncheon was fantastic with great speakers and food as well as overwhelming attendance from all different supporters," said Fitzsimmons. "One of my favorite parts of the luncheon was the Kansas Senators and Representatives joined us and I was able to converse with our own Senator Mary Jo Taylor. I am very thankful for this experience and honored to be a part of such an amazing school and academic society."

The luncheon was held at the Ramada Inn Hotel in Topeka. Those in attendance included the scholars, members of their families, PTK chapter sponsors, community college administrators and trustees, university representatives, legislators, and members of the Kansas Board of Regents staff. The keynote speaker was Dr. Brian Black of Spirit AeroSystems.

Michael Calvert, President, Michael Fitzpatrick, Vice President of Instruction, Jackson, and Board of Trustee members Stan Reimer and Michele Hamm were also in attendance.

Phi Theta Kappa is the honor society for students attending community and two-year colleges. Membership is based on high grade point averages and other criteria, with members focusing on scholastic achievement and service to community and campus. The student scholars are part of a statewide student body of more than 123,000 students enrolled at the 19 Kansas community colleges.

Each scholar was selected by his or her own community college for the annual statewide academic team, and was presented with a medallion, certificate, and scholarship awards from the Presidents' and Trustees' organizations at the Luncheon. Each scholar also is a nominee for the 2019 All-USA Academic Team, sponsored by the newspaper USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges. First team members will receive a \$2,500 stipend and will be featured along with second and third team members in USA Today. Names of the students will be placed on the Society's website, www.ptk.org.



The Face Behind the Music: Stephanie Hawkins



For as long as she can remember, Stephanie Hawkins has been hooked on the piano. When she was four years old, she would visit her grandmother's friend to watch her play and even strike the keys a little herself. Sunday mornings were spent with both eyes and ears focused on PBS, where an organist performed a weekly concert to all those who would listen. She even convinced her parents to buy a baby grand piano sold by Skyline High School, which was eventually housed in her bedroom in an old school house in Sawyer. She could wake up and play music, then go to bed and play music. It was no surprise when her passion morphed into a career, though it was not becoming the next Liberace - her original dream noted down on a junior high school paper. Instead, she makes an impact sharing her passion and educating others by teaching the wonderful sound of music.

Hawkins recently was an elementary music teacher for USD 361 for eight years. She currently runs a private music studio in Medicine Lodge that at one time had 26 students, where she teaches piano and voice. In 2017, she was approached by Misty Beck, PCC Drama and Theatre Instructor, to play as an accompanist for the choir.

"I said sure," said Hawkins. "I thought I could fit it in and it became one of my five jobs

that I was doing."

The choir and band instructor position at PCC opened up while she was an accompanist, so she was asked if she could adjunct starting in January 2018. The following April, she was hired full time.

Hawkins wears many hats, literally and figuratively, as the current instructor of Introduction to Music, Pep Band, and Encore!. She also directs a community choir and conducts private piano lessons. Her PCC journey technically began when she was a student herself involved in choir, band, and show choir. At the time, the music program was among the top programs in the state – something she would like to bring it back to.

"In 1987 to 1988, the PCC music department was one of the most outstanding in the state of Kansas," said Hawkins. "I want to be back there. We were recognized as having the best two year college music department and the best music programs overall in the state. I want that to be us again. It's on my bucket list."

Her five year plan includes building up the band, which currently only has seven members. The band has open enrollment, meaning anyone in the community can join and can earn credit hours if they would like. She hopes to add enough members to play at home basketball games again, as well as enough people to play jazz music and participate in smaller ensembles at concerts throughout the year.

"I know it's been sad for me and for others that have gone to the games with no band," said Hawkins. "The band makes a big difference. It helps keep the spectators going. The rhythm and adrenaline with the band playing upbeat and peppy songs while the spectators are clapping and screaming along – that's when you affect the players I believe. I'm looking forward to building the program."

In addition to an open enrollment band, Hawkins is also working on building the community choir.

"I want more community members," said Hawkins. "Let's get some more voices. The more the merrier! There's nothing better as a pianist being surrounded by voices."

She would like to incorporate both groups into the various concerts held at PCC throughout the year, such as the Broadway, USO, and Christmas shows, as well as the Finale concert held at the end of the spring semester. In addition, she would like to perform at community events, such as the carnival at Pratt Regional Rehab Center and going on an area high school tour to promote the programs.

"The show choir currently does school tours," said Hawkins. "If we had a band, I would like to perform at the schools like we did when I was a student here. This year, we are going to take our show choir on a school tour and hit general areas such as Stafford, Kingman, and so on. Last year, we took Encore! on a church segment, including my church in Medicine Lodge to perform one evening and it had a great response. I'm hoping we can go again."

Along with directing the show choir, community choir, and band, Hawkins also teaches Introduction to Music. She has several musicians of various backgrounds visit the class to share their experiences. One guest includes her nephew, Aaron Woods, who speaks about the business aspect of being a musician. Other guests include Tammy Thimesch, who brings a variety of instruments for the students to try out.

Whatever she is teaching or directing, Hawkins's favorite aspect of her job are the students she shares her knowledge with.

"Connecting with the students and seeing their faces light up is my favorite thing about being an instructor," said Hawkins. "The connections I have made are awesome. I want to be that shining light in their lives that they can always come to, but in turn they are like my shining light."

Next fall, the band will meet twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:25 p.m., while the choir will meet once a week on Mondays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. Those interested in joining can contact Hawkins at stephanieh@prattcc.edu or 620-450-2183.

Local eSports on the Rise

Story by Gale Rose, Pratt Tribune

An invitational eSports tournament at Pratt Community College this weekend has gamers buzzing with excitement, and with college scholarships in the offering nowadays, it is something to pay attention to.

Their focus is intense as players move their characters through the video gaming world of League of Legends. Members of the Pratt Community College eSports team worked on their skills Wednesday afternoon as they stared intently at their computer screens and made comments on the action to their teammates.

As the popularity of eSports continues to grow, PCC is keeping pace with a team of their own. The popularity of the sport has led to a tournament that will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 6 in Carpenter Auditorium on the PCC campus. High school teams from Pratt, Fredonia, Kiowa County and Fairfield as well as some individual players are expected to attend this high energy event, said PCC eSports Coach Chris Nelson.

Teams will play "Overwatch" during the tournament that is free and open to the public. A big screen will be set up so fans can follow the action. Each team will have six players and two teams at a time will square off in one on one competition. Each team member will have their own computer and will work together to score the most points in the tournament, Nelson said.

"Whoever scores the most points wins the tournament," Nelson said.

The tournament will be round robin fashion and each team will play at least two matches depending on the final number of teams at the tournament. Each game of the tournament lasts about 10 minutes.

The PCC team will provide a couple of live color commentators. The public is invited to come and watch this free event and cheer on their favorite team.

If time allows, the PCC eSports team, that is helping run the tournament and will not compete, may give a demonstration with the winning team, Nelson said.

The PCC team will provide a couple of live color commentators. The public is invited to come and watch this free event.

The tournament on Saturday is an example of the growing interest in eSports. Nelson said the eSports world championship was televised on the same day as the Super Bowl last year. When the numbers were in, the eSports Championship had more viewers than the Super Bowl. A professional eSports tournament for the game "Overwatch" was televised opposite the NCAA men's basketball tournament the weekend of March 30-31.

The members of the PCC eSports team can get college scholarships just like other sports. Just like other sports, the team members have majors like nursing, welding, technology and so on.

"eSports has an advantage over the other sports because team members are a lot less likely to get a concussion," Nelson said.



During class, team members work on improving their skills. Just like other sports, some players are better with offensive characters and others with defensive characters. The students run timing drills and work together to improve their response time as a team. Team members can either log on in the eSports classroom or they can play from their residence hall room. At a practice Wednesday afternoon, one team member was ill and was practicing with his team from his residence hall room.

"You don't want one person trying to carry a team," Nelson said.

One advantage over other sports is the team doesn't have to travel to take part in competitions. They just log on in their classroom and play from there.

"It's all done remotely on tournaments. You don't have to travel. That's the good part," Nelson said. "We have been invited (to attend in person) but have not participated yet."

There is no entry fee to participate in a tournament. All eSports equipment is provided by the college.

Pratt High School has its own eSports team and will play in the tournament Saturday. The PHS team uses the PCC facility to practice, their coach is Brandon Wade who competed in eSports when he was in college, Nelson said.

The PCC eSports team meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. four days a week. They have had 14 tournaments this year and have won about half. In college level eSports, teams compete from NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA schools. The PCC team had a victory earlier this year over a team from Purdue. Last year, the PCC eSports team took fourth the playoffs, Nelson said.

There are 12 members currently on the PCC team. Dylan Brown from Skyline, Alex Gonzales from Pratt, Aaric Kipp from Greensburg, Colin Bell from Goddard, Erick Estrada from Bisby, Ariz., Garrett Smith from Coldwater, Jacob Crabb of Merrian, Jarrek Henderson from St. George, Juan Sierra from Coldwater, Luke Hurt from Fall River, Nelson Nolan from Ellinwood and Taylor Ray from Great Falls, Mont.

The popularity of eSports continues to grow. There is a proposal in south Philadelphia for a \$50 million eSports complex. Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. is has been renamed Hy-Vee Arena and is being converted to support youth basketball on the lower level and eSports on the upper level, Nelson said.

Shooting Team Takes Sixth at Nationals

The Pratt Community College shooting team traveled to San Antonio, Texas last week for the ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships. The Beavers took sixth as a team with sophomore Joshua Dixon leading the Beavers, shooting 497 out of 600 targets.

This was the largest championship turnout with almost 1,000 students representing 92 schools.

Four freshman and four sophomores represented the Beavers. After shooting practice rounds Monday and Tuesday, the Beavers opened the championships with international trap and skeet. Only the top three shooter's scores are calculated into the team score for the international events.

Freshman Dru Butler led the team in international trap, shooting 76 out of 100. Chase Bunyard and Dixon both shot a 75 for a team total of 226. The Beavers placed sixth in the event.

Dixon, Bunyard and freshman Spencer Heise posted the top three scores in international skeet. Dixon led the team shooting an 80 out of 100, Heise posted a 76 and Bunyard shot a 70 for a team total of 226. The Beavers placed third in the event. Connors State College took first with a team total of 265.

The top five shooters scores were calculated into the final four events.

Pratt took eighth in super sporting clays. Dixon again led the team, shooting an 82. Butler shot a 75, freshman Drew Kratzer shot a 72, Heise shot a 70 and Kamron Welsh shot a 69.

The Beavers also took eighth in American Skeet. Dixon only dropped ten targets, posting a 90 and shooting a perfect round of 25 straight. Heise was second with an 84, Kratzer and Butler both shot an 81 and Bunyard rounded out the team with a 76.

In sporting clays Pratt placed fifth with a team score of 343, finishing just one clay behind the Auburn University Clay Shooting Club. Dixon was first for the Beavers, shooting an 81. Kratzer finished with a 73. Bunyard and Heise both shot a 66 and Butler finished with a 57.

The wind picked up on the final day of shooting and the Beavers were one of the last teams to shoot. Kratzer and Dixon only dropped 11 targets, posting 89's. Butler shot an 81, Heise shot an 80 and Bunyard broke 78 targets for a team total of 417.

Audri Martin was the only female shooter for Pratt this year. She shot several personal bests, shooting a 71 in American skeet, 80 in American trap, 48 in international skeet, 49 in international trap, 67 in super sporting clays and 56 in sporting clays.

Sophomore Marcus Sanders also represented the Beavers for his first collegiate shoots. Sanders improved a lot over the week, shooting a 28 in international trap, 41 in international skeet, 40 in super sporting, 64 in sporting clays, 62 in American trap and 62 in American skeet.



PTK to Host 'Bleed for the Throne' Blood Drive April 23

The Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Pratt Community College will host a blood drive on Tuesday, Apr. 23 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. via the blood mobile in the parking lot in front of Benson Education Center. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

Appointments to donate can be made at redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are also welcome to the event.

This year all donors who come to donate blood at the blood drive will automatically be entered for a chance to win a full-size Iron Throne from HBO's Game of Thrones! Plus, they will get a commemorative Bleed for the Throne poster, while supplies last.

Phi Zeta, PCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa regularly and proudly partners with the American Red Cross to hold blood drives on campus. The Red Cross has over 130 years of experience providing humanitarian aid – including more than 70 years of supplying blood to those in need.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.



BUILD OUR FUTURE
PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

31ST ANNUAL
scholarship auction

Friday April 26, 2019
Dennis Lesh Arena

Doors Open 6:00PM Dinner 6-8PM
Live Auction 8:00PM

Reserve a Table
or Tickets Call 620-450-2240
or Email donnamp@prattcc.edu

2019 Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees



The Pratt Community College Athletics Department will induct two new members into the Athletics Hall of Fame Saturday, Apr. 13 at 10 a.m. The Class of 2019 inductees include Steve Blankenship, 1987 alumnus, and Jenn Reifschneider, 2008 alumnus.

Hall of Fame members are decided by a team of stake holders, longtime residents in the community, staff, coaches and PCC alumni to put together criteria for athletes to be in the hall of fame and also to pick this year's inductees.

The committee decided that the hall of fame would be open to individuals who have made outstanding contributions as a superior competitor, a team with a significant accomplishment, a coach with a distinguished record, an administrator who has made an exemplary contribution through strong leadership or an individual who brought distinction to the athletic program in other ways.

While at PCC, Blakenship competed in football and track for the Beavers. He played on the grid iron for 1985 season and also participated in javelin during the spring in 1986 as well as the 1987 season. Blankenship earned NJCAA All-American honors in 1986.

After graduating with his Associate of Science from PCC, Blakenship continued his track excellence while at Fort Hays State University. Blakenship competed

for the Tigers in the 1990 season earning NAIA All-American honors and at that time earning the school record. Blakenship graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1990.

Blakenship then moved to California where he taught for 6 years in both football and basketball and was named Freedom League Coach of the year in 1995 and 1996.

After being in California for over a decade Steve moved back to Kansas as a principal at Basehor-Linwood High School in the Kansas City area from 2003 to 2007. In 2007, Steve made his way back to Pratt High School where he has been principal since returning. In 2010, Blakenship became Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools. Steve was also involved in the Kansas State High School Activities Association Board of Directors from 2009 to 2014 as well as Kansas State High School Activities Association from 2012 to 2014. Steve served on the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce from 2013 to 2016, and serving as President in the 2014-2015 term.

Reifschneider graduated from Maize High school in 2006. Following graduation Jennifer continued her academic and athletic career at PCC for the Beaver Softball team. Reifschneider completed two successful seasons for the Beavers where in 2007 PCC was seeded third in the Region Tournament and finished with 32 wins. In 2008, Reifschneider would help guide the Beavers to a 36 win season and losing to potential conference champion Johnson County.

Reifschneider would go on to receive post season recognition earning Second team All-Region VI and First team All KJCCC in 2007 as well as being named First Team All-Region VI and First team All-Conference KJCCC as well as being recognized as a NJCAA All-American recipient. Reifschneider would go on to break single season record for home runs, doubles, and runs batted in.

Reifschneider not only excelled on the field but also in the classroom with earning Academic honors with a 3.76 GPA earning Cum Laude and Kappa Beta Delta member and earning her Associate in Science.

After graduating from Pratt Community College, Jennifer continued her softball career and education at Ball State University. Reifschneider earned Second Team All Mid-American Conference as well as also breaking the single season record for home runs and doubles. She was also named Under Armour First Team All-Tournament team. Reifschneider currently works at Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane, Kansas where she is executive chef for Woodside Fire Grill.

Sophomores to Continue Athletic and Academic Careers



The Pratt Community College women's soccer team had two sophomores sign to four year schools on scholarship Thursday.

Avery Villines, from Owasso, OK, signed to Harris-Stowe State University in St Louis, Mo. She spent two years with the Lady Beavers and received Second Team All-Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference honors her freshman year. Villines was named captain her sophomore year. She led the team, finishing the season with 12 points on 17 attempts.

Kenyonique Thompson was a transfer student from Nassau, Bahamas and only spent one year with the

Lady Beavers. Coach Ashley Burnett described her as a very technical player who "has fun with ball and is a pleasure to watch."

In her 16 games, Thompson had 17 shots on goal for four points and two assists. She has committed to continue her athletic career at Mount Marty College.

"I am very excited for both of these young ladies furthering their academic and soccer career at four-year schools," Burnett said. "I am very proud of Avery and Ken, and wish them all the best as they continue on!"

Beaver Baseball Moves to 4-12 in KJCCC

March marked the start of conference play for the Pratt Community College baseball team. The Beavers ended the month with a split series against Dodge City Community College, leaving them with a 4-12 KJCCC record.

Pratt kicked off conference play with a double-header against Cloud County Community College. They gave up game one 2-0 and game two 11-2, starting the season 0-2 in the KJCCC. They turned things around the following weekend, completing the four game series against Cloud in Pratt. Brenden Tauber led the Beavers to a 4-3 victory in game one with two hits and two runs-batted-in.

The Beavers struggled in game two with Elerie Rivera scoring their only run in the fourth inning. They lost game 5-1 and the four game series against Cloud 3-1.

An eight game losing streak followed the loss to Cloud with Pratt dropping four game series against Butler Community College and Barton County Community College. The Beavers ended that streak with a double-header against McPherson College JV, a non-conference matchup.

They took game one 10-1, crossing six runners in the first two innings. DH Michael Davis finished the game with three hits and three RBIs. Rivera also had a good night, going 3-4 at the plate with three runs and an RBI.



Pratt returned to conference play on March 28, kicking off a four game series against Dodge City Community College at home. Dylan Hamilton went 1-3 with one run and two RBIs in a 5-4 win in game one. PCC went on to win game two 14-4, ending it in just seven innings.

The Beavers pushed their winning streak to three, taking game three at Dodge City. Game four ended in a 6-5 loss, leaving them with a 4-12 conference record.

Tuesday, Pratt lost a 7-1 game to Northern Oklahoma College, a non-conference rival. They currently sit at .500 with a 17-17 overall record. They return to conference play tonight hosting Garden City Community College.

Three Sophomore Wrestlers End Season with All-Conference Honors

Three Pratt Community College wrestling team concluded an injury heavy season finishing 19th in the country with three national qualifiers. The Beavers fell just 15 points behind Cloud County Community College, who finished the season with eight national qualifiers.

“At times it seemed like anything that could go wrong went wrong,” said head coach Ken Kepley. “But I am proud of the way we handled it. We had a lot of downs but we also had some ups at the end of this year that provided us with some clarity.”

Nick Lucas made the national semi-finals, but suffered an injury late in the tournament. “I think he would have easily taken third if he wasn’t injured,” coach Kepley said.

Lucas was named first team All-KJCCC at 165.

At 197, Chris Henderson was also a first team selection. Henderson won four straight matches to make All-American, finishing seventh.

“Every kid he beat was by bonus points, he beat them by eight or more,” Kepley said. “That is impressive. I have never seen that before and he should have been in the finals.”

Sophomore Brayan Balderrama was also a national qualifier, with his two losses coming from the wrestlers who finished third and fourth in the nation. He finished his tournament run just one spot away from placing.

“He just ended up on the wrong side of the bracket,” Coach Kepley said. “He wrestled light-out the entire tournament, I am so proud of that kid.”

Balderrama received Second team All-Conference honors at 125.



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:

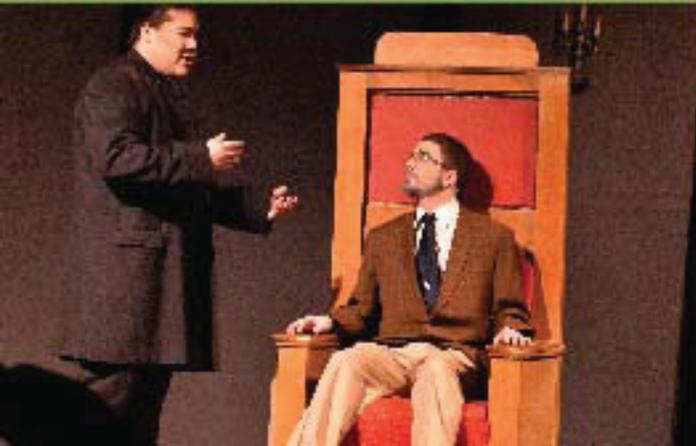
E-Mail:

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*





April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Beaver Fever Week March 31 st : Student Movie Night – Captain Marvel Barron Theatre @ 7:30 PM: Free Admission April 1 st : Skate Night - Rolla Rena @ 9PM April 2 nd : Water pong – Beaver Bites @ 9PM: 8:45PM Sign-up April 3 rd : Fortnite tournament – Beaver Bites @ 9PM: 8:45PM Sign-up April 4 th : Plant Night – Commons @ 9PM				PCC Softball VS Barlow Double Header 2PM & 4PM Lemon Park	Pratt After Dark Carnival Commons 9PM - Midnight	PCC Baseball Garden City Double Header 1PM & 4PM
Family Weekend April 5 th – 7 th				PCC Baseball VS Harick Double Header 1PM & 4PM Lemon Park	Friday Night Movie Woj Hall 8PM 	PCC Softball VS Hutch Double Header 1PM & 3PM Lemon Park
14	15 Easter Egg Hunt Commons 5PM 	16 PCC Baseball VS Barlow 4PM	17 PCC Softball VS Barlow Double Header 2PM & 4PM Lemon Park	April 10 th Executive in Residence Convocation Carpenter Auditorium 11AM	19 Good Friday No Classes	20 PCC Baseball VS Southeast Double Header 1PM & 4PM
21 Easter PCC Baseball VS Southeast 1PM	22 NO CLASSES OFFICES OPEN	23 PCC Baseball VS Ennis 1PM	24 Pizza with the President 	25 Pizza with the President DUCK RACE Jack Ewing Park 6PM BEAVER BAKERS	26	27 PCC Baseball VS Seward Double Header 1PM & 4PM
28 Family Concert Carpenter Auditorium 2:30PM	29	30 Academic & Athletics Awards Ceremony Auditorium 7PM	Family Weekend April 5 th : Pratt After Dark Refreshments, Carnival games, and Disney's (1941) Dumbo Benson Commons @ 9PM April 6 th : Beaver Tailgate and BBQ - Outdoor Basketball Court @ 11:30AM Make Your Own T-Shirt – Commons @ 7PM Mary Poppins Returns – Woj Hall Lobby @ 9PM April 7 th : Free Sno Cones and Kickball – Green Sports Complex @ 1PM			
Pizza with the President April 24 th : Beck at 9PM – Woj at 10PM April 25 th : North and Sch in Scholarship at 9PM – Vot at 10PM						

CHECK IN AT EVENTS • EARN POINTS
GET REWARDED

