



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

JUNE 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!

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Contents

PHEA Teacher of Year	2
Dennis Lesh Awards	2
Teacher of the Year	3
Kids Camp Theatre	4
Miss Kansas at PCC	5
Basketball Students Transfer	5
Club 62	6
New Attica Auto Instructor	7
Track Takes on Nationals	8
Commencement Recap	9

Upcoming Dates

Miss Kansas Week	June 6-8
Kids Theatre Camp	June 10-22
Father's Day	June 16
BOT Meeting	June 17
Beaver Building Day	June 19
Nursing Orientation	June 26

Performing Arts Students Take Annual End of Year Trip

Students, instructors, and sponsors of the Pratt Community College Performing Arts department packed up their bags, loaded up the vans, and departed for their annual end of the school year trip to Tennessee and surrounding areas. This year marked the seventh year the department has offered this entertaining and fun week filled with what they love most – music and performing.



Eleven students, as well as various staff and sponsors, began their journey after graduation on May 10th, making it all the way to Columbia, MO before stopping for the night. The next evening, they arrived in Pigeon Forge, TN, where the next few days consisted of snow tubing, shopping, and exploring the popular theme park, Dollywood. Encore! students had the opportunity to perform as the opening act for a Mother's Day crowd at the Country Tonite Theater as well as a full concert at the Island at Pigeon Forge later in the week.



"The performance venues that the students perform in on the trip provide great opportunities to perform in a different (and much larger) venue than they are used to," said Misty Beck, PCC Instructor. "There are fun activities involved in the trip as well."

The group also traveled to Gatlinburg, TN, where they were able to enjoy Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, swimming, and of course, the Smoky Mountain National Park. After leaving the Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg area, students and sponsors enjoyed dinner and live music at King's Palace on Beale Street in Memphis before traveling to Eureka Springs, AR. There, they were able to enjoy the Turpentine Creek Big Cat Refuge, explore the city, and most of the group capped off the night with a one of the area's haunting ghost tours. The crew returned to Pratt on May 19 full of souvenirs and memories to last a lifetime.

"The annual trip is a highlight for the performing arts students," said Misty Beck, PCC instructor. "These students are very dedicated to community service and representing the college throughout the year and the end of the year trip rewards them for their hard work. The students fundraise for the trip they work hard to earn it in more ways than one."

Ghumm Recognized as 2019 PHEA Teacher of the Year

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

This year, the PHEA Teacher of the Year was awarded to science instructor, Jason Ghumm. Fellow science instructor and PHEA member, Dave Chambers, presented Ghumm with the award at the PCC Commencement on Friday, May 10.

Ghumm has worked at PCC for 6 years and has been a teacher since 1997. He teaches Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Microbiology, with the latter being his favorite. His favorite part of teaching is also what he believes is the most difficult.

"The most challenging part of teaching is keeping students interested," said Ghumm. "But that is also the most fun part!"

He believes he is successful as an instructor because he genuinely enjoys his job. He has served on numerous internal committees at PCC and enjoys seeking ways to keep students engaged.

"I would like to thank my wife for encouraging me to try new things and my colleagues for putting up with me," said Ghumm. "They make PCC an enjoyable place to work."

For being the recipient of the PHEA instructor of the year, Ghumm received \$250 and plaque in his honor.



Patterson and Collins Receive Dennis Lesh Recognition Awards at Commencement



Pratt Community College announced the winners of the Dennis Lesh Foundation Support Staff Recognition Award and Dennis Lesh Foundation Food Services Recognition Award at commencement.

The Dennis Lesh Foundation Support Staff Recognition Award is presented to a PCC support staff employee who, by his or her actions, exhibits courtesy, care and concern for the students. They are known for the quality of service that he or she consistently provides them.

Leah Patterson, Nursing Department Secretary, received the \$500 award at graduation.



The Dennis Lesh Foundation Food Services Recognition Award of \$500 is to be awarded to a Food Services employee who, by his or her actions, exhibits courtesy, care and concern for students and is known for the quality of service that he or she consistently provides them.

This year, Chris Collins, Snack Bar Operator for Beaver Bites, received the award.

Both Patterson and Collins were nominated by PCC students and staff and selected by a committee in the Foundation.

Hoffman Earns Dennis Lesh Teacher of the Year Award After First Year Teaching

Each year, Pratt Community College awards a faculty member the Dennis Lesh Foundation Teacher Recognition Award at commencement. The prestigious award is based on nominations from students, faculty and staff.

Jeff Hoffman, a first year Electrical Power Technology instructor, won the award this year after receiving nominations from 20 of his students, as well as EPT department head, Dave Campbell.

"Jeff has gone over and above in trying to provide for his students," said Campbell. "We are very happy to see Jeff excelling as an instructor in EPT. We know he has truly earned this award."

Hoffman was recruited to the program by Campbell after working ten years with the City of Pratt. While teaching was not something he actively pursued, he has discovered the career is a rewarding experience.

"I wasn't sure how gratifying this job would be after coming from industry," said Hoffman. "But it's rewarding to see the students go from not having an idea of what exactly they want to do to being employed in two semesters. That's the highlight of the job so far."

While this was only his first year teaching, his drive and focus on helping each student succeed has earned him the respect of his students, many of which see him as a mentor.

"Jeff puts in a lot of hard work to make sure we learn the most we can in the time we have," said Levi Stein, EPT student. "He brings a lot of real world experience which makes concepts easier to understand."

Fellow EPT student Jacob Peters echoes his statement.

"I have never seen an instructor so bent on making us succeed," said Peters. "His relentless resolve for giving us the best quality training is comforting."

Hoffman teaches numerous classes in the EPT program, but he enjoys teaching Lab and Field Training the most. In lab, he gets to see his students outside working and practicing what they have learned.

"I am very appreciative to those who nominated me," said Hoffman. "When my name was announced at commencement, I was floored. It took me by absolute surprise. It's great to be recognized."

The Dennis Lesh Foundation Teacher Recognition Award is awarded annually to a Pratt Community College teacher who is recognized as an excellent teacher, student advocate and exhibits general care and concern for the student body. The recipient is presented \$1000 during commencement to be used to enhance the recipient's skills and abilities.



PCC Theater Kids Camp to Present Alice in Wonderland JR.



Travel down the rabbit hole and join Alice, one of literature's most beloved heroines, in her madcap adventures in this year's summer music theatre camp production, Alice in Wonderland JR. Featuring updated songs from Disney's thrilling animated motion picture, Disney's Alice in Wonderland JR. is a fast-paced take on the classic tale.

The PCC performing arts department will host 125 area students, ages 4-11 for the production, including camp alumni, sixth grade and up, as camp counselors and production techs.

The camp begins on June 10 and ends on June 22 with their final performance of the show.

The two week camp includes one week of learning staging, music, crafts and costumes, games and library time with the last week dedicated to putting the show together.

"I am always amazed at the number of kids in Pratt and the surrounding communities who commit to this camp," said Misty Beck, PCC Performing Arts instructor. "The arts are alive and well in South Central Kansas."

Kid's camp wraps with a two-night performance of Alice in Wonderland, JR., on June 21 and 22 with both shows beginning at 7 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door for \$5. For more information about camp or the performing arts department you can contact Beck at MistyB@prattcc.edu.



PCC Welcomes the 2019 Miss Kansas and Miss Kansas' Outstanding Teen Organizations

This year, Pratt celebrates 64 years of hosting the Miss Kansas Pageant. Pratt Community College is the longtime provider of the pageant's unique venue and a major in-kind sponsor. The event, which brings hundreds of people into the community from around the state, has been held on campus for over half of its history in Pratt. The pageant is held in the college's Dennis Lesh Sport Arena, and contestants spend the week residing in the college residence halls.

PCC is also an in-kind scholarship sponsor, meaning that it is one of 20 higher education institutions in the state that partners with the Miss Kansas organization to offer scholarships to contestants, contingent upon eligibility and specified requirements. Many Board of Regents schools are facing funding cuts and in numerous cases, in-kind scholarships are the best option for Kansas women to complete their degrees and graduate on time.

The pageant will be held June 6, 7 and 8. Miss Kansas 2019 & Miss Kansas' Outstanding Teen 2019 will be crowned June 9 in the Dennis Lesh Sports Arena.

Providing facilities and services for a large scale event like the pageant is just one of the ways that PCC celebrates being part of the Pratt community. Our mission is maximum student learning, individual and workforce development, high quality instruction and service, and community enrichment. Each year, the members of the PCC family contribute more than 10,000 hours in community service and engagement to South Central



Pratt Sophomores Announce Four Year College Decisions

Sophomores Courtney Cleveland and Tianna Tullis announced that they will be continuing their college academic and basketball careers.

Cleveland, a 6'1 forward from Arlington, Texas, has signed to play at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Sam Houston is a member of the Southland Conference.

Cleveland was named a member of the Second Team All Jayhawk Community College Conference team and received Second Team All-Region VI Team. She started all 31 games in her one season with the Beavers. She averaged 14 points and eight rebounds in the Jayhawk Conference.

Tianna Tullis will attend Life University in Marietta, Georgia. Life is a Division-I NAIA Program. Tullis is a 5'8 forward from San Antonio. She started 26 games over her two years at Pratt. She was a team captain and consummate leader, averaging five points-per-game and five rebounds over her career. Both will receive their Associates degrees from PCC.





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Club 62+ Summer 2019 Schedule

**Dodge City Casino // Tuesday June 25 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$10.
Please RSVP by June 18. (Pay in advance)**

Transportation will be provided to the casino in Dodge City for a day of fun. You will be responsible for your own lunch at the casino. We must have 20 or more people to make this trip possible.

**Ellinwood Underground Tour // Thursday July 18 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$10 plus lunch.
Please RSVP by July 11. (Pay in advance)**

Christopher McCord, an Ellinwood, KS native, is the proud owner of The Historic Wolf Hotel. He never dreamed he would own The Wolf Hotel, but now he is living his life around it. With lots of hopes and dreams for the future, McCord has repurposed and restored the Wolf Hotel. Next up is the opening of the bar, "The Underground", located in the tunnels and working toward many more days restoring the hotel to its former glory. We will be touring the Wolf Hotel and underground storefronts and also the Ellinwood Underground.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
Susan Mayberry 620-450-2184



PCC Hires Automotive Instructor for Shop in new High School Program in Attica

Pratt Community College's Automotive Technology program is excited to announce the hiring of new instructor, Daniel Meng.

Meng will be teaching area high school students at the newly acquired automotive shop in Attica starting in the fall. He brings to the program a wealth of knowledge and a lifetime of experience, including 20 years at Lubbers Cars.

The love for automotive technology began when Meng was a 6th grader working at his family's shop business in Kingman. After graduating from high school, he attended a Vocational-Technical college for a year, before beginning his career as a technician. He eventually worked his way up to service manager and supervisor at various dealerships and independent mechanic shops. While he might not have always had his eyes set on teaching, his switch to an instructor was an easy decision to make.

"I've always enjoyed working with other technicians and trying to teach them," said Meng. "My wife is a teacher and I always thought it would be fun to teach. (Instructors) are very much needed because there's not a lot of young people going into the industry."

One of Meng's goals is to spark more interest about the automotive technology discipline into high school students. He hopes that after taking his classes, they will be inspired to continue on with their education at PCC, as they will have a head start in obtaining their degrees.

He will be teaching four introductory classes – Brakes, Steering & Suspension, Electrical I, and Engine Performance – all of which fall under Senate Bill 155's Excel in CTE program, which allows high school students to take technical college classes tuition free.

"I think I will really enjoy teaching," said Meng. "There's a real satisfaction when you see the lightbulb pop above a person's head and you know they understand what you have taught them. It's extremely gratifying."

The Automotive Technology department at Pratt Community College works on an "experience the learning" concept and is fully certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc. (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The automotive technology students work in a shop environment with state of the art equipment they will find in the auto industry. Students have the opportunity to earn an occupational certificate or an Associate of Applied Science degree. Students will also have the chance to participate in a race car project, car shows and several other activities. All these experiences prepare students to test to become ASE certified prior to graduation, enhancing the students' earning potential and career opportunities. For more information contact Greg Bacon at gregb@prattcc.edu.



Track and Field Take on the National Championships in New Mexico

The Pratt Community College Men's and Women's Track and Field team traveled to Hobbs, New Mexico to compete at the National championships on May 16 being hosted by New Mexico Junior College.

The PCC National Qualifiers included students Jamhad Booth (100/200/4x100), Keshun Byrd (TJ), Yves Cherubin (110mh), Priest Foust (100/200/4x100), Xavier Howard (400mh), William Jones (LJ), Robert Maston (400/4x400), Sameer Mateen (400/4x400), Chase Murray (400mh/4x400), Jevony Murray (100/200/4x100), Kylan Wess (800/1500), Nikera Durr (800), Sylvia Freeman (200/4x100/4x400), Feja Hodges (400/4x400), Casly Israel (400mh/4x400), Shantierra Jackson (1500), Jakyevia Nickerson (4x100/4x400), Nikesha Pierre (100/200/4x100) and Kadesha Prescott (100/200/4x100).



After the dust settled on the three day competition, the PCC men would find themselves as the #13 team and the PCC women tied at #24 in the overall standings. Both finishes are the highest in the final standings for both programs in the history of PCC.

Along the way the PCC men and women would pick up seven total All-American honors throughout the weekend as well as continue to rewrite the record books. The highlight of these new individual records was Jevony Murray continuing to lower his new 200 meter record (previously held by Ollie Anderson) to 20.33 seconds and Yves Cherubin racing to a time of 13.81 seconds in the 110 meter hurdles. Yves now holds 8 of the top 10 times in school history.

The women were able to lower their own record they had previously set in the prelims to 3:51.29. Nikesha Pierre also set a huge new record for the women's 200 meter dash while just missing the final finishing in 10th place. Both William Jones and Keshun Byrd have now earned double All-American status on the season as they were also indoor All-Americans for the Beavers. Achieving their first All-American honors were freshmen Chase Murray and Jamhad Booth.

"This season was one for the ages and the Beaver men and women look forward to duplicating and improving the success of the 2018-19 season next year," said Head Coach Jamaal Barnes.

Those being recognized as All-Americans are as follows:

William Jones- Long Jump (5th place)

Keshun Byrd- Triple Jump (4th place)

Yves Cherubin- 110 meter hurdles (4th place)

Jamhad Booth- 100 meter dash (7th place)

Jevony Murray- 200 meter dash (5th place)

Chase Murray- 400 meter hurdles (5th place)

Women's 4x400 meter relay (4th place): Jakyevia Nickerson, Feja Hodges, Casly Israel and Sylvia Freeman



