



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

June 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

Beaver Building Day	June 22
Session 1 Withdraw	June 22

PCC Summer Hours

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

Haskell Receives Dennis Lesh Teacher of the Year

Each year students at Pratt Community College are invited to nominate a teacher that has made a positive influence on their learning career and life.

This year Jerry Haskell, a first year Electrical Power Lineman Technology instructor in Wichita, won the Dennis Lesh Instructor of the Year Award after getting nominations from six of his students.

"I felt Jerry was a great nominee for this award because of his excellent ability to teach students on a level that I have never experienced before," said student Greyson Pihl. "Jerry creates both a fun and productive learning environment in the classroom and on the pole field. Along with teaching us what we need to know to be successful in our jobs, he also taught us about life."

Haskell said his teaching philosophy was to teach them everything he could about line work and the dangers of the job so they could stay safe. He said he also tried to give them life lessons along the way about putting money in their 401K and being a good employee and co-worker and about having a good appearance.

All of these things are reasons why the committee picked him as this year's winner of the plaque and \$1,000.

"When we read through what the students said about him (Jerry), we knew he was who Dennis would have wanted as a winner," said Susan Mayberry, who served on the committee. "Dennis used to do the same thing, helping students in and out of the classroom. He would have been proud of this selection."

Before coming to PCC this past fall, Haskell worked at Butler Rural Electrical Cooperative as a lineman, foreman and service technician for 36 years.

"Being a first year teacher, I didn't know about this award so when they talked about the award and said my name with it, I was absolutely shocked," Haskell said. "It made it very special knowing the students nominated me."



EPT Students Awarded With Scholarships from Kansas Utility Company



Two students from the Electric Power Technology (EPT) program at Pratt Community College were awarded scholarships from ITC Great Plains, LLC on May 4.

EPT students Jacob Mader and Barret Freund were surrounded by PCC staff and fellow students in the program to accept the scholarship that will help them to complete their degree.

ITC has been providing scholarships for select students in the EPT program at PCC for more than four years. ITC is a transmission-only utility which seeks to build a more robust electricity transmission system providing access to reliable, non-discriminatory, competitive and low-cost energy throughout the Southwest Power Pool region.

Brett Leopold, President of ITC Great Plains presented the scholarship check to Freund and Mader.

"Pratt Community College's EPT program enables its students to be work-ready upon degree completion," said Leopold. "As a utility company founded on science and technology, ITC is pleased to make this important education investment."

"We appreciate ITC very much. They have supported this program over the years and it means a lot to the students to have a company in the industry give back," said EPT instructor Dave Campbell.

Friend is a non-traditional student from Great Bend who is an advocate for the program. Previously working in the oil industry he decided it was time for a change. Having a father and uncle in the utility industry he says that making the decision on a new career path and where to achieve that was a no brainer.

"PCC has excellent resources and a nationally recognized program. I knew it was going to be a challenge and I have never looked back," said Freund. "PCC is a perfect fit for me and am grateful for the scholarship from ITC."

Freund has already starting working at Mid-West utility for the summer.

Mader is from Nickerson, KS. He heard about the program from former students and friends who have graduated from PCC, gone through the program and are now working.

"After being in the program for one year I am loving it and am ready to start working," said Mader.

Mader will be working for Wheatland Electric over the summer and will return to PCC in the Fall.

"We very much appreciate the involvement ITC has had over the last few years and the opportunity that they provide our students," said Dr. Michael Calvert, president of PCC.

ITC is Based in Topeka, Kansas, ITC Great Plains holds transmission-only utility status in Kansas and Oklahoma, with authority to construct, own, operate and maintain a regulated, high-voltage transmission system.

Zoology Class Takes Trips with KDWPT

The PCC Zoology class recently participated in two field trips that were supported by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP). On Mar. 23 students toured the fish hatchery at the KDWP headquarters. Brett Houdyshell, a KDWP fisheries biologist led the class on a tour of the hatchery, and students were able to observe Walleye eggs in various stages of development. The eggs were recently collected and the resulting fry will be stocked into Kansas lakes and reservoirs to help supplement the Walleye population in those impoundments. Brett also provided students with information about the daily and seasonal operations of the facility.

"PCC Zoology would like to thank KDWP and Brett Houdyshell for providing our class with this unique opportunity," said PCC instructor Dave Chambers.

On Apr. 26 the PCC Zoology class joined a group of KDWP biologist to participate in a field trip that included a survey of the fish and macroinvertebrate communities in the South Fork Ninescah located just north of Pratt County Lake. The students collected fish using an electro-fishing technique. More than 15 species of fish were identified and released. Many of the fish collected were predatory sport fish that have moved into the river from Pratt County Lake or were washed into the river from other sources. Although these fish provide recreational fishing activities for local anglers, they have a negative impact on the native fish species in the Ninescah as they feed on, and compete for resources, with species that are indigenous to the river. The students also collected macro-invertebrates (primarily aquatic insects) using dip nets. The biologist from KDWP helped the students identify the invertebrates in the field. Ryan Waters and other members of the Environmental Services Department of KDWP have been providing support for this activity for PCC students for more than 10 years.

PCC is currently enrolling for Summer and Fall 2016. Visit prattcc.edu to view the list of classes like Zoology that PCC has to offer.



Performing Arts Group Takes End of Year Trip

Instructors, students and supporters of the Pratt Community College Performing Arts department took their annual end-of-year trip last week as the school year came to an end. This is the fourth year the department has organized this trip for students to Tennessee and surrounding areas for a week of music, entertainment and fun.

Twenty-nine students and 7 staff members traveled from Pratt to St. Louis and on to Pigeon Forge, Tenn. making different stops along the way and doing what they do best, performing.

"We try to make the trip a combination of musical performances and fun along the way," said Misty Beck, performing arts instructor. "This trip is all about experiences and is really a "family vacation" to end the school year."

Their first stop was in St. Louis where they visited the zoo and City Museum. The group also made a detour to Metropolis, Ill. known as the "home of superman."

The rest of the trip was focused on the tourist towns of Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg located in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. There the students enjoyed two days at Dollywood to soak up some Blue Grass musical entertainment as well as a variety of other genres. The second day at the Dollywood the group was able perform for guests at the park. They also performed at the popular Country Tonite Show in Pigeon Forge on stage in front of a good sized audience.

"The experience was exciting and especially so for the students," said Landry. "They had a huge stage to work with, rising curtains, lights and the audience really enjoyed their performance."

Landry was invited to attend the trip at the beginning of the Spring semester and says that it was a great honor to attend and could not have had a better way to cap off 39 years of educating as she plans her retirement at the end of this academic year.

PCC freshmen Kaycee Rogers who is a member of Encore! says the trip was a valuable experience and she enjoyed getting to know her classmates on a deeper level as well as performing for all kinds of audiences on the trip.

"We sang God Bless America as our closing song in honor of veteran's who are in the crowd," said Rogers. "That was one of my favorite parts of the trip."

While in Pigeon Forge the group also visited PCC alumnae Kellye Huesman who is now a professional performer along with her husband for multiple venues in the area.

"We are so grateful to all of the wonderful individuals and businesses who have helped us this year by coming to our shows, participating in our fundraisers, donating money, sponsoring shirts, buying us food and supporting us through your positive thoughts and encouragement," said Beck.

Travelling back home the group stopped in Memphis for a tour and show at Graceland and spent time on Beale Street enjoying Blues music and a music history lesson then finished the trip Columbus, Kan. for an opportunity to sing at a Sunday morning church service and also at a care facility nearby.

"It was very inspiring and emotional," said Landry. "I was impressed with the students and moved by a song sung by Misty and JJ."

Overall the trip as full of fun and memorable experiences for students and chaperones.

"The choir and others in performing arts are my family," said PCC student Keenan Stultz. "The trip was an amazing experience and I grew a lot in my performances as well as in my relationships with my peers."

The Performing Arts Department at Pratt Community College performs a variety of shows and musicals throughout the year that students and community members participate in. During the summer the department organizes a Kids' Music Theatre Camp for community children who put on a musical at the end of the camp. This year Kids' Camp will be performing Honk, Jr. in June. For more information about the Performing Arts Department, please contact Misty Beck at mistyb@prattcc.edu.



Performing Arts Group Takes End of Year Trip cont.



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Rhode Signs With Sterling College

Taneasha Rhode, a forward on the women's basketball team, will continue her basketball career at Sterling College next year.

"Sterling got a good one," said Stephanie Thompson, former head women's basketball coach. "Over the course of her two years with us she has developed into a very solid post player. Her strength and size are hard to compete with and I know and she is going to be a great asset to the Sterling Warrior family. She will fit very well with their community and basketball program."

This past season, Rhode led the Beavers offense with 291 points. Defensively, she had the most rebounds on the team with 162 and second on the team in both blocks, 15, and steals, 26.

"While on my visit to Sterling, I was welcomed by everyone," Rhode said. "Everyone on campus was so nice. The girls on the team were very funny, and it seemed like a good fit. I am also excited about their elementary education program. I want to be a fourth grade teacher, and I think Sterling will really help with that."

While Rhode is moving on, she is thankful to PCC and the community of Pratt for making her time here memorable.



Micah Felton and Zac Schridde Sign to Continue Wrestling

Two Pratt Community College wrestlers are moving on to continue their academic and athletic careers. Micah Felton has signed with Fort Hays State University, and Zachary Schridde has signed with Central Missouri State University.

"These two young men are great examples of following the process and becoming great leaders," Coach Ken Kepley said. "They are tremendous leaders and will be very successful at the NCAA level. Fort Hays State University & Central Missouri are getting two great young men added to their program. Worst part about this entire process is knowing that we have to compete against them down the road."

Both wrestlers leave PCC after successful careers in the classroom and on the wrestling mat. Felton is a two time NJCAA national qualifier and an All-American at the 184lb. class. He finishes his PCC career with a record of 39-14. Schridde is a 2015 NJCAA national qualifier and a two time academic All-American. He finishes his career at PCC with a record of 20-21.

While contributing to two top 25 team finishes in their two seasons at PCC, both student athletes were key components for the Beavers in academic awards. This includes being the 2015 NJCAA Academic Team of the Year with the highest GPA in the nation, and the NWCA and NJCAA Academic Team of the Year in 2016. They were also members of the NJCAA 2015 and 2016 All-Academic teams that PCC had posting a team GPA over a 3.0 for the eighth consecutive semester.



Breanna Phillips signs with Missouri Valley

Another Pratt Community College cross country runner is going to Missouri Valley. Breanna Phillips will be joining fellow PCC teammate Divina Flores this fall at Missouri Valley running both cross country and track for the Vikings.

"I'm happy that we have found a home for another one of our student-athletes, something that is always a great feeling," said assistant cross country and head track Coach Josh Harden. "Missouri Valley has gained another great student-athlete."

Coach Harden added, "Breanna is one of the hardest working student-athlete on the team. She is the definition of what it means to be a student athlete. The work that she puts in the classroom and into her sports is amazing. She is a two time Academic All-American for Cross Country, while being one of the key contributors to the building success of our cross country program."

Breanna has made a huge impact at PCC. During her tenure as a cross country runner, she was able to break into the record books with a top four time at 20:11.

"She came in under the radar with some talented recruiting classes that were brought in at Pratt, and has flourished to have a stellar career here for us," said Harden. "I think she is extremely deserving of this opportunity, and I wish her and the Missouri Valley program the best. I know she will be a great student athlete for that program."

As a dual sport athlete, Breanna was a contributor in the long distance events for track and field.



Beaver Bites Under Renovation

Beaver Bites is going under the knife and getting a new look. During the summer the campus café located in the Dennis Lesh Sports Arena will be getting updates to the dining area, kitchen and to the menu.

Of the updates to the facility you will see new floors and a fresh coat of paint along with an entire new kitchen including the addition of a convection oven, fryer, grill, a new menu board and countertop bar. One of the biggest changes will be the addition of a glass window overlooking the sports arena with a bar on the inside for patrons to sit and look out at.



Having new equipment means more opportunity for tasty treats as well. Robin Lemon, Beaver Sites Supervisor, says that she will expand her menu to include foods like omelets, hash browns, homemade nachos, fried pickles, chicken wings, chicken strips and a few new savory hamburgers with a side of french fries, tater tots or onion rings.

Beaver Bites has already gotten new lighting and has been cleared out for more work to be done. Lemon expects Beaver Bites to make its grand re-opening at the start of Fall Semester.

eSports Team Joins Intercollegiate Gaming League

The Pratt Community College eSports program is making preparations for the start of their team this Fall semester and have already been accepted into the intercollegiate gaming league known as the Collegiate StarLeague (CSL).

The Collegiate StarLeague is a gaming league open to all accredited colleges and universities in North America and Europe. CSL currently organizes leagues for competitive online video games like League of Legends which the PCC eSports team will focus on starting out.

"I'm excited for our first season of competition and will hopefully be presenting some new or different strategies for League of Legends competitions," said Kenton Small, eSports head coach. "It has been a learning experience preparing for fall, as eSports is not only new to PCC but relatively new in the country. I am very grateful for the support given in preparation for our first season and I look forward to watching the team continue to grow."

In order to compete with other colleges, PCC had to become a part of CSL. The college was approved May 16 and each of the students in eSports will be a card-carrying member. Besides being able to compete, members of Star League are eligible for scholarship money.

"There are tuition and books scholarships available," said Small. "Graduating high school students should especially look at this as an opportunity to help fund their education through competitive gaming. I cannot think of a more exciting way to accomplish that."

Competitions with CSL are much like an NCAA traditional sport tournament. Teams will be seeded by ranking from the first round and mixed with teams from other conferences. Top teams advance to playoffs, which features a single elimination bracket. Teams are also required to have a coordinator a minimum of five unique players.

Tournaments are hosted by colleges and universities throughout the year and are broadcasted online for spectators to watch.

Enrollment for Fall 2016 has begun and students who are interested in learning more and enrolling or trying out for eSports can contact Small at kentons@prattcc.edu.



**COLLEGIATE
STARLEAGUE**

Pratt Humane Society Brings Animals for Finals Week



PCC COMMENCEMENT AND NURSING PINNING 2016



