Music Department embraces change

When Keith Ward was chosen to fill the vacancy left by retiring Music Department Chairman Gene Vollen, he knew there were a couple of positions that would need to be filled. He could not have anticipated a list of coincidental late resignations that when totaled meant a turnover of nearly one-half of the department’s full-time faculty in one year.

"Some of the resignations came late," Ward said, "but we had people who had opportunities elsewhere that they couldn’t pass up. That’s not unusual, it’s just unusual to have so many in one semester."

The changes in the faculty didn’t frighten Ward. Instead, he saw them as opportunity. It helped to have a strong department with a solid core of veteran faculty members who were staying on, he said.

Ward said the department was fortunate in being able to attract some highly qualified, talented new faculty to join the veterans. In addition to Ward, the new faculty are: Todd J. Hastings, assistant professor and teacher of trumpet and jazz courses; Evan Hause, assistant professor and teacher of percussion and music theory courses; David Ross Hurley, assistant professor and teacher of music history, music
project included attention to the room’s acoustics and sound system and the room was also made handicapped accessible.

At the front of the room a large table or teaching station was added that includes computer technology as well as more traditional services such as gas, electricity and water. The instructor can control all of the technology from the station at the front of the room.

The lecture hall is shared by faculty in the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. Meeting the needs of such a diverse group of faculty and students with varied teaching styles, needs and wants was difficult, planners said. A zoology class, for example, would benefit from technology that allowed students to see and experience a wide variety of physical objects while a physics class concerned mainly with formulas might not need all of the bells and whistles that a high-tech classroom affords. Teaching styles also differ and some instructors are eager to use new technology in the classroom while others may be more comfortable with traditional approaches.

In the end, the decision was made in favor of technology.

Bob Backus, a member of the faculty in the Department of Physics and a member of the faculty committee that helped design the room, said Yates 102 is helping move faculty into the 21st century.

“I think as faculty use the new technology, they will become more excited about it,” Backus said.

Joe Arruda, Biology, said the new facility has changed the way he teaches.

The renovation gives us a remodeled, comfortable, and aesthetic classroom,” Arruda said, “but, more importantly, it gives us the use of modern instructional technology in the classroom. For my class, General Zoology, which as a biology class is very visual, the renovation allows me to incorporate true multimedia: animations, graphics, short video clips, and full internet connectivity into my lecture. I’ve spent about a year - in little bits and pieces - using presentation software to completely recast my lecture into what is an “illustrated” lecture. This form will benefit the students, who are strongly visual learners, without any loss in content. I can use visuals to illustrate points of animal biology. For example, rather than just talking about how the size of animals ears vary with climate as means to control temperature, I have digitized photos of three foxes: one desert with big ears, one temperate with "normal" ears, and one arctic with barely visible ears on the screen at one time - and the pictures show it all.”

Arruda said the multimedia approach to teaching enhances learning for students, but puts a greater burden on faculty.

“Traditional lectures take time to do well,” Arruda said, “but a truly synthetic multimedia lecture requires many extra hours of prep time to get material into digitized form, into the presentation software, and packaged into a good presentation. Importantly, this activity has made me more aware of what I teach and I have changed and rearranged much of my Zoology syllabus - I think the course content is better now than it was before.”

If the point of the new renovation was to benefit students, then, most agree, it has been successful.

Charles Blatchley, Physics Department chairman, said it is easier for students to hear in the new room. Bruce Daniel, Physics, who says he uses some, but not all of the new technology, says that although the room may not be perfect for everyone, it is an improvement on the previous lecture hall.

“It is better,” Daniel said, “and it is my sense that students are even friendlier in the new room than they were before.”
New Faculty:

**ART**

**Larrie J. Moody**, associate professor and department chairperson. Larrie received a bachelor of arts degree from Cameron University and a master of fine arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She teaches sculpture, 3-D design and exhibit courses and manages the PSU Gallery. Previously, she was an admission counselor at Indiana University and was a self-employed jeweler and metalsmith.

**Dena Hawes**, assistant professor. Dena received a bachelor of arts degree from Indiana University and a master of fine arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She teaches sculpture, 3-D design and exhibit courses and manages the PSU Gallery. Previously, she was an admission counselor at Indiana University and was a self-employed jeweler and metalsmith.

**Keith C. Ward** earned a bachelor of music degree from West Chester University in 1978, a master of music degree from Northwestern University in 1979 and a doctor of music, also from Northwestern, in 1986. He comes to Pittsburg State from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where he was an associate professor and former chairperson of music.

**Dennis Raverty** is an assistant professor. Dennis received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota, a master of arts degree from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University. He teaches art history and art appreciation courses. Previously, he was a lecturer in the Department of Art History at Rutgers.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Ann M. Andaloro** is an instructor. She received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arizona, a master of science degree from Purdue University and is ABD (all but dissertation) at Bowling Green University. She teaches broadcast and theater courses. Previously, she was a teaching assistant in Mass Communication at Bowling Green.

**ENGLISH**

**Karen R. Hamer** is an associate professor. She received a bachelor of arts degree from the College of Mount St. Joseph, and a master of arts degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. She teaches writing courses and computer-assisted instruction courses. Previously, she was a full-time lecturer in the PSU English Department.

(see New Faculty, pg. 4)
A professor's appreciation:
Anita Chancey
by Donald Viney,
Professor of Philosophy

Anyone who has been teaching as long as I have -- 18 years -- will agree that what makes teaching deeply satisfying is the influence one has on students' lives and careers. As the sole philosophy professor at PSU I have no colleagues in my discipline and no majors to advise. However, I have no lack of students who become enthusiastic about philosophy, some of whom take a minor in philosophy and some who are active in the PSU Philosophical Society.

One of this group deserves special mention. Anita Chancey, a single mother of three girls, Katie, Kelly and Ellen, took her first philosophy course in the Fall of 1994 as a junior majoring in communication. Within the year she decided to pursue a career in philosophy. Around this time, Anita’s oldest daughter, Katie, addressed a letter to me with a number of philosophical questions.

"Is my mom a philosopher," she asked.

“Yes, and judging from your questions, you’re in danger of becoming one too,” I replied.

Anita took a minor in philosophy, became active in the PSU Philosophical Society, and became a student member of both the American Philosophical Society and the Society of Christian Philosophers. Anita graduated in May 1996, Summa Cum Laude.

Anita wrote a paper entitled “Charles Hartshorne: A Philosopher’s View of Abortion,” which she presented at an undergraduate conference at Kirksville, Missouri in November 1995. She received many compliments for her work, but this paled in comparison with what was to follow.

In March 1996 she presented a revised version of the paper to a meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers at Utah State University in Logan. As Anita’s sponsor, I was nervous and plagued by self-doubts. What audacity to allow an undergraduate to present her paper before professors and philosophers of the first rank! However, my faith in Anita was well-placed. No one in the audience that day (save my wife and I) knew that Anita was an undergraduate; and I can say without prejudice that her presentation surpassed that of many others at the conference. A world famous philosopher, William Alston, called her paper “impressive.”

In September of this year Anita began work towards a Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma. Her paper was accepted for publication in the Journal “Process Studies.” There should be no doubt in Katie’s mind that her mother is a philosopher.

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

February 2, 1997 to March 6, 1997 • PSU Phonathon
March 22 - March 30, 1997 • Spring Break
May 16, 1997 • Technology, Arts & Sciences, Commencement, Weede P.E. Building
May 17, 1997 • Business, Education, Commencement, Weede P.E. Building
Oct. 4, 1997 • Family Day Oct. 25, 1997 • Homecoming
Biologist focuses on natural weapons to fight soybean nemesis

When someone jokes that Nancy Brooker is outstanding in her field, they may mean she is up to her knees in soybeans or they mean that she is one of a group of researchers who are changing the face of agriculture in the '90s. Either would be true.

Brooker, a member of the faculty in the Department of Biology, is a leading researcher in the battle to find natural solutions to a variety of serious soybean diseases. Brooker's research focuses on a naturally occurring compound in soybean oil to fight a number of soybean foliage diseases that reduce farmers' profits each year. That inexpensive compound, Brooker says, could replace chemicals that are not only costly, but are also hazardous to the environment.

This year, in cooperation with a researcher at Kansas State University, Brooker tested her compound on a test plot of soybeans south of Pittsburg. The soybean field was harvested in October by Kansas State University staff and the data are currently being analyzed statistically by Dr. Jim Long, a KSU Agronomist.

Brooker said the general yield trends are already apparent within the data, "and it does appear that the plant derived compounds do affect plant development and also influence disease development. In addition, fatty acid and lipid analysis of the soybeans from treated plots will be analyzed for changes in oil content. Previous studies suggest that seed oils can be altered using these plant derived compounds."

Based upon the preliminary data, Brooker has written a grant to the Kansas Soybean Commission for a three-year comprehensive field test to continue to evaluate the compound's efficacy. Brooker said she will fine tune the "unique sustainable disease management approach" to improve its consistency in the field. If funded, the grant will provide a graduate assistantship and undergraduate support for several PSU students as well as money for laboratory supplies.

Laboratory results of the testing have

been published in a short article entitled, "Inhibition of Three Soybean Fungal Plant Pathogens by Lipid Derivatives and Natural Compounds," 1997 (Barnes, B.J., Norman, H.A. and Brooker, N.L.) in "Physiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Plant Lipids." Currently a manuscript is being written regarding the greenhouse testing of these compounds on four soybean varieties.

Brooker defies a number of old stereotypes. She is not only a woman in a male-dominated field of study, she is also one of a vocal number of original researchers who do not teach at large research institutions.

Brooker said she has heard other researchers complain that there is just not enough time or support to conduct original research at smaller schools. She maintains, however, that serious researchers can find a way.

In addition to her research, Brooker advises 50 students and teaches 21 hours of graduate and undergraduate courses.

"I don't think I've ever been more productive in my life," Brooker said. "I really believe in what I do. If I could create more hours in the day or grow another pair of hands, I would."

New Faculty (from pg. 4) music theory courses. Previously, he was a graduate teaching assistant of music theory at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

David Hurley Ross is an assistant professor. He received a bachelor of music degree from the University of Michigan and both a master of arts degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He teaches music history, music appreciation and elementary theory courses. Previously, he taught at the Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University.

Warren D. Olfert is a full-time lecturer. He received a bachelor of science degree from Bob Jones University, a master of music degree from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D., from Florida State University. At PSU he is the band director. Previously, he was the director of bands and instructor of music at Cameron University.

Loraine Sims is a full-time lecturer. Loraine received a bachelor of arts degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, a masters degree in education from Southwest Texas State University and a doctor of music arts degree from Louisiana State University. She teaches voice courses. Previously, she was an adjunct instructor of voice at Southeastern Louisiana State University.

NURSING

Jackie Pelan is a full-time lecturer. She teaches psychiatric/mental health nursing courses. Previously, she was an assistant professor of nursing at Missouri Southern State College.

PHYSICS

Thomas G. Shoeborg is a full-time lecturer. He received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska, Omaha; a master of arts degree from Wasington University in St. Louis; a master of science degree from the University of Texas-Dallas; and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He teaches earth science courses. Previously, he was a lecturer of physics at St. Xavier University.
Observatory is window to the stars

Thanks to PSU, thousands of students in southeast Kansas have a window on the stars.

Pittsburg State, in cooperation with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center in Greenbush, dedicated the PSU-Greenbush Astrophysical Observatory in September. The opening of the facility is the result of a collaboration that will benefit school children throughout the region as well as university students.

PSU purchased the telescope for the observatory from the Blue Mesa Observatory at New Mexico State University in 1992. The 61-cm. Cassegrainian telescope has a 24-inch mirror diameter and is capable of imaging distant planets, observing double star systems, and detecting stellar flares and other astronomical phenomena. Telescope images can be viewed through a single eye piece by way of large screen monitors. Cameras incorporated into the telescope also allow images to be transmitted through the Interactive Distance Learning Network to more than 35 area schools.

In addition, the video capability allows for classroom viewing of events as well as video taping of phenomena for later classroom observation. The new telescope is the largest research grade telescope in the area.

Charles Blatchley, physics, said, “This unique combination of an educational tool and a professional research facility will be very attractive to first-rate university scientists.”

Those involved with the project believe the observatory will help increase student achievement and interest in pursuing math and science careers.

Quarterly (from pg. 2)

issue are published. Each issue is between 100 and 150 pages. MQ is also published by University Microfilm Inc., and appears on CD ROM.

Although MQ’s editorial board is peopled entirely by PSU faculty, the journal is not intended as a vehicle for PSU authors, which is not to say that PSU authors have not published in its pages. Submissions from authors from around the globe are sent to the MQ office to be considered for publication. Professor Schick distributes every submission to MQ’s editorial board members for comment and review. Board members advise on whether the article is acceptable for publication.

The dues from subscriptions pay a 1/4 time staff position, held by Donita Barone. Professor Schick receives a 1/4 relief time from teaching to serve as editor-in-chief. Schick corresponds with all authors and summarizes for them the comments of the editorial board concerning each article submitted. In addition, he reads all submissions and rereads articles accepted for publication two or three times in the process of copy editing.

Another unique feature of MQ is the annual Victor J. Emmett, Jr. Memorial prize, named in honor of the former chair of the English department and a former editor-in-chief of MQ. The prize, made possible by a generous endowment from the Emmett family and co-sponsored with the English department, is awarded in a contest for the best essay written on any aspect of Victorian and modern British literature, literary analysis or the teaching literature. The winning article is published in MQ, the author receives an honorarium and is invited to PSU to deliver the annual Victor J. Emmett, Jr. Memorial Lecture.

Works by some rather well-known figures have appeared in the pages of MQ. For example, Barry Goldwater and Hubert Humphrey published articles in an early edition. James Tate, who won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, published in MQ as did former editor-in-chief Rebecca Patterson, a leading Emily Dickinson scholar. Charles Hartshorne, one of America’s leading philosophers, also published in MQ.
President Darling announces architects chosen for Russ Hall renovation

At a press conference in November, PSU President John Darling announced that the architectural firm of Glenn, Livingood, Penzler of Lawrence had been selected to plan the $8 million renovation of Russ Hall. The renovation process itself will have a significant impact on the campus and in particular the Departments of History and Social Science. Russ Hall will be closed approximately two years for the renovation, beginning in the summer of 1998. Those two department's faculty offices will be relocated and their classes will be offered elsewhere on campus. Department Chairs Thomas Walther and Dale Frihart are both serving on the Russ Hall planning committee. The renovated Russ Hall will be handicapped accessible and should provide greatly improved classroom environments for History and Social Science.

Alumni News

In Memory

Alice Wilson, AB '46, died in November, 1994. Because of her work as the founder of the Parkinsons and other Neurological Disorders Group, Alice is being recognized by Freeman Hospital with the naming of a new building in her honor.

Class of '58

LeeRoy Pitts, BS, MS '67, is a recipient of the Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence for 1996. He teaches biology at the Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City. Pitts and his wife, Eligene, live in Kansas City, Kan. They have four children: LeeRoy Pitts II; Eric Wayne Pitts, M.D.; Jeanette Marie Pitts, M.D.; and Darren Eugene Pitts.

Class of '64

Terry Aikins, BFA, MS '65, was recently featured in The Terry C. Aikins art exhibit at Pratt Community College.

The exhibit included work in stoneware, raku and saggar ware. Other exhibits of his work have been held in Lindsborg, Kan.; Springfield, Ill., Greeley and Estes Park, Colo.; and Wichita. Terry recently retired after serving 27 years as the head of the Art Department at Wichita High School Heights.

Class of '66

Jon Eric 'Ric' Tribble, BA, was featured in a newspaper article in Lancaster, Pa., where he opened Ric's Bread a year ago with his wife, Mary. He says his "bread and butter" is fun and fulfills a definite "knead." In addition to baking more than 25 types of bread and selling the finished products at Central Market three days a week, he also bakes bread for several restaurants, so there is no time for "loafing." Ric quit his full-time job in sales to devote himself to the bread business and he and Mary are supported in the endeavor by their son, Max.

(see Alumni, pg. 8)

PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS AT PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

EVERYONE NEEDS A WILL

More than one-half of the adults in this country do not have wills. That is an astonishing fact. A will is the appropriate means of disposition of property after death. All of us who want to make our own decisions about this matter should have wills. In the absence of a will, the state will make decisions concerning a person's assets. If you already have a will, you should remember to review it periodically. You should be certain that your will reflects current concerns and desires. It is especially important for you to review your will if you have moved from another state since your will was drawn. You will want to confer with an attorney to make sure that your will conforms to new state laws.

FOUR TYPES OF BEQUEST:

1. A Specific Gift: You can leave a particular sum of money or a particular piece of property, such as stocks, bonds, or real estate.

2. A Percentage of the Estate: It is possible to stipulate in your will that the PSU Foundation should receive a specified percentage of the total estate.

3. A Residual Gift: You may stipulate that the PSU Foundation should receive those assets that remain in the estate after all other bequests have been made.

4. Testamentary Trust: A testamentary trust is a trust established in a will. A typical form of trust provides an income for life for one or two beneficiaries, and directs the trust assets to the PSU Foundation upon the death of the beneficiary.

For more information on planned giving options, contact the PSU Foundation 401 East Ford Avenue Pittsburg 66762-7517 phone: 316/235-4768.
No news isn’t always good news!
Please drop us a line and let us know about your latest endeavors.

Mail to:
Newsletter Editor, 
*Universitas*
PSU Department of Social Science-317B Russ Hall
1701 South Broadway
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-7531

Alumni (from pg. 7)

Class of ’80

J. Scott Swango, MD, BA, a hand and orthopaedic surgeon practicing with the Ozarks Area Orthopaedic Associates in Springfield, Mo., since 1992, is among 101 new members recently elected to the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. The Society currently has 1,509 members from the United States, Canada and 35 foreign countries representing general, plastic and orthopaedic surgery specialties. The purpose of the society, founded in 1946, is to stimulate research and investigation, as well as provide continuing medical education in the methods of prevention, correction and treatment of diseases and injuries of the hand and upper extremities.

Class of ’81

Paul M. Garvin, MA, was appointed as general counsel and assistant secretary of the Kansas Department of Health & Environment by Gov. Bill Graves. Prior to this appointment, Paul was previously the lieutenant commander of the judge advocate’s general corps at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Class of ’87

Renee (Willingham) Hamilton, BSN, received her masters degree in health administration in 1994 from the California College of health Sciences. Currently she works PRN in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit of Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, Ky. She also serves as editorial consultant for the “Journal of Post Anesthesia Nursing.” She and her husband, Steven Hamilton, M.D., have two children, Alexis Marie, 2, and David James, 1.

Class of ’88

Carla D. Caputo, BBA, has recently taken a new job in Florida. She is now an analytical engineer specialist with Intelletec in Deland, Fla.

Class of ’94

Under the direction of Dan Wilkes, BA, the Pittsburg State University Sports Information Office was honored recently with two national publications awards from the College Sport Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The 1995 PSU Football Program was judged “Best in the Nation” among NCAA Division II and NAIA Division I institutions, while the 1995-96 Gorilla Women’s Basketball Media Guide was judged fifth best nationally. This marks the second time in four years that the PSU Football Program was so honored, having earned the same distinction in 1992.

*The PSU Alumni Association is compiling a list of veterans. Your help is appreciated.*