Students and faculty from the HHPR Department were on hand to receive awards and scholarships at the Clyde U. Phillips Ceremony on April 9, 2013, in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.

Dr. Mike Leiker received the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Front row: Lindsey Gordon, Nicole Goetz, Deven Morris, Stephanie Withrow, Chelsea Peck, Kathryn Wolfe, Kirby Clements, Jessica Reichenberger
Back row: Jacob Stevenson, David Schlee, James Weatherbie
Alumni Spotlight

Veronica Ausemus, BS Spring 2006, has been busy teaching and having fun with her physical education students at Westside Elementary School in Pittsburg. For the past seven years, Veronica has been sharing her love of movement and exercise with her students. A few activities Veronica conducts are Jump Rope for Heart, President’s Challenge fitness tests, Fitness gram, Westside triathlon, family P.E. nights, recess mileage club, and inviting parents to P.E. She works hard each year to earn grants for her school and for the P.E program for special activities and equipment. Her next endeavor is to raise funds for an outside asphalt “track” around their playground.

Veronica is currently working on her certification as a Director of Physical Activity. Her focus on the project is physical activity and family involvement. She is working at getting parents, students, and the community involved in physical education and physical activity in and outside of school. This year Veronica also began teaching brain breaks to classes on days when they do not have P.E.

Veronica is a member of KAHPERD and AAHPERD and is on the district Health and Wellness Committee. In the fall of ’11 Veronica completed her English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) endorsement and in the spring of ’12 completed her Masters degree in Teaching. In Veronica’s spare time she loves to run and workout. She has completed three marathons and is training to compete in her first half-marathon this Spring. Two days a week after school she leads a workout group for teachers in her building. Veronica and her husband Gary have two children, Jaxson, 4, and Lane, nearly 2.

Congratulations Dr. Spresser!
2013 Dance Division Merit Award

Dr. Spresser, KAHPERD’s 2013 Dance Educator of the Year, teaches dance workouts most days and has taught Zumba in twelve states and Paraguay. She has given 6 AAHPERD, 9 Central District and 13 state association dance presentations. She is a Master Zumba Instructor and her students actively seek her classes. She has also motivated many students into teaching various PSU dance classes!
Congratulations!

As a 22-year-old from Carl Junction, Mo., applying for an internship at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, the nation’s second-largest rehabilitation operation, can be stressful. “I had a phone interview, and I just did not feel good about it,” said Cara Stewart, a Pittsburgh State University senior majoring in Therapeutic Recreation. “The woman on the phone said there were 500 applicants. I told my friends and family that I didn’t think I was going to get it.”

An interview for a different internship went much better, and she was ready to put Brooks out of her mind.

“Then I got a phone call from Brooks telling me that I was the first person to be selected,” Stewart said. “I just started crying on the phone.”

Stewart was one of two applicants chosen for the internship at BRH, which is located in Jacksonville, Fla. The other is a student from Philadelphia. The 15-week experience will begin on May 20 and end on Sept. 2.

Stewart said the educators in PSU’s Health, Human Performance and Recreation Department played a vital role in helping her accomplish this dream.

"All of the professors in HHPR are wonderful and will do anything to get you there," she said. "I truly believe that is why I have gotten where I am. I've got to work closely with them and get to know them, and it's been awesome. I couldn't have earned this internship without the faculty here at PSU."

Because she was selected first, Stewart got to choose in which division to work. She chose pediatrics, specializing in brain injury.

“They asked me which area I wanted, and I knew I wanted to work with children,” Stewart said.
Wheelchair Basketball

Thank you to the following companies for their generous donations:
Crawford Country Convention and Visitor Bureau
Mac Fitness
Via Christi Hospital
HHPR Happenings

- Dr. John Oppliger and Dr. Bill Stobart presented in Ft. Lauderdale for NAHPEKE January 3-6.
- Dr. John Oppliger, Dr. Bill Stobart, and Dr. Rob Hefley presented at the Share the Wealth conference in Jekyl Island, Georgia January 23-25.
- Dr. Dan Ferguson, Ms. Laura Covert and Dr. Janice Jewett attended KRPA Convention in Topeka January 28-31st.
- Dr. Scott Gorman presented at the Central District AAHPERD in Jackson Hole, Wyoming February 20th-24th.
- Dr. Rob Hefley was a consultant for physical education curriculum through McGraw Hill in Miami, FL, February 22nd-24th.
- Dr. Janice Jewett’s Dance Appreciation students performed a flash mob at the PSU/MSSU basketball game February 27th.
- Dr. Janice Jewett talked to PHS sophomores about future professions and took students around campus to the various departments during a job shadow event.
- Dr. Bill Stobart is on sabbatical this semester working in parks and recreation facilities in New York and Boston.
- Dr. Dan Ferguson and Ms. Laura Covert attended the Midwest Symposium on TR in St. Louis April 15-17th.
- Dr. Julia Spresser and Dr. Janice Jewett presented at the National AAHPERD in Charlotte, NC April 23-26th.
- Dr. Jewett was recognized on April 23 for 20 years of service to PSU.
- Dr. Scott Gorman received the Outstanding Graduate Program Coordinator Award.

Dr. Bill Stobart’s Sabbatical

Dr. Bill Stobart was on sabbatical for the spring semester. His sabbatical centered on studying Central Park in New York for eighteen days and Boston Common in Boston for five days. While in New York, Dr. Stobart participated in New York University’s visiting professor program in which he stayed in the Gramercy Green Residence Hall and gave a lecture on recreation to residents of the hall. Dr. Stobart walked to Central Park every day and studied the layout of Central Park, taking pictures for future PowerPoint presentations for his class on recreation facilities design. He also visited other sites and various parks in New York including Riverside Park, Morningside Park, Zuccotti Park, and the campus of Columbia University.

Dr. Stobart traveled from New York to Boston on an Amtrak train. He arrived in Boston four days after the marathon bombing. While in Boston, he studied Boston Common, the first public park in the United States. Among the features of the park were a public cemetery, militia training grounds, a public hanging tree, and a grazing area for cattle. Dr. Stobart also visited other sites and parks in Boston including the Public Gardens, Commonwealth Mall, the Freedom Trail, and Fenway Park.
Student Spotlight:

Jason Ramirez (right) was the Secondary Education Teacher of Promise Recipient last fall.

Teachers of Promise

The “Teachers of Promise” award is one of several honors presented by the Kansas State Department of Education. The annual award is given in connection with the Teacher of the Year program. Every year each college in Kansas with an accredited teacher education program selects one elementary and one secondary pre-service teacher to receive this award.
JaVon McGee, PE Major (left) and Drew Roberts, Rec Major (right) have both scored 1,000 points in their careers at PSU!

Katelyn Birchfield, was recognized as the Spotlight Athlete in softball (left) and Gonzalo Gonzalez Jr. (right) has been selected to play minor league baseball for the Mariners of Ensenada, Mexico! Both are PE Majors.

Men’s Track Conference Champions
HHPR Majors (Shane, Cote, Darrien Holmes, Chris Musgrove, Spencer Paul, Josh Philips, Jeffery Piepenbrink, Ryan Ramler and Adam Volkert)

Women’s Track 2nd at Conference Meet
HHPR Majors (Kirby Clements, Hilary Dickey, Amber Green, Amber Kloster, Alex Moase, Lauren Ouderkirk, Jalexis Peterson, Jessica Reich- enberger, Shanise Rice, Larissa Richards, Delaney Smith, Whitney Southard, Charissa Wall, and Tessa Westhoff.)
Kansas Kids Fitness Day

Kansas Kids Fitness and Safety Day is a statewide event held every year on the first Friday in May. This event focuses on increasing physical activity and safety awareness among 3rd grade students in Kansas. Nearly 19,000 students participate each year at more than 40 sites across the state. This year Pittsburg State hosted 15 different school districts for a total of over 1000 students. Ms. Shelly Grimes served as director for PSU’s site.
Enhanced Creativity in the Classroom

Class Times: June 13th - 14th
June 13th : 8:00am-4:30pm
June 14th : 8:00am-1:00pm

This workshop is designed for classroom teachers, physical educators, and anyone else looking to expand their creative minds. In this workshop, promotion of creativity and ways to spark imagination in students will be covered. Activities and ideas to enhance classroom learning will also be examined. Participants are encouraged to bring their own activities as well. This will be an interactive group environment. Activities will also be done in gym setting, please dress appropriately.

OUR STATE of OBESITY

The Exercise Science Program Presents:
1st Annual Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation Summer Health Series
Funded by Kansas Health Foundation Grant

Class Dates: July 26th-27th 2013
Location: Student Recreation Center
Friday, July 26th 12:00PM-5:30PM
Saturday, July 27th 8:00AM-1:00PM
Alumni Spotlight—Solomon O’Neil

After graduating from PSU with my MA in 2006, I moved to Las Vegas where I began teaching K-5 PE at Myrtle Tate ES. While at Tate I helped start an intramural sports league that has grown from about 5 (elementary) schools in 2007 to over 15 this year. The intramural league began by just offering football and soccer, but now has grown to include basketball, cheerleading, wrestling, and track and field.

My first year at Myrtle Tate didn’t really feel like a first year at all, and I attribute the smooth transition from college to a professional position to my education and training I received at PSU, as well as the wonderful mentoring and support staff that was in place when I arrived at Tate. I continued to teach at Tate ES from 2006-2010, and after passing up a couple of opportunities to leave Tate earlier in my career I decided to take a position in 2010 at Sunrise Mountain High School to teach 9-12 Physical Education. While at Sunrise I was also given the opportunity to coach freshmen and sophomore football. The year at the High School level was both rewarding and challenging at the same time. I learned a lot about myself as well as the kids that I taught, and after giving it a lot of consideration I decided to leave Sunrise Mountain HS to pursue a lifelong dream of teaching abroad.

In June of 2011 I was offered an elementary PE teaching position in Casablanca, Morocco, and the offer was simply too amazing to pass up. I moved to Morocco in August, 2011 and began teaching at George Washington Academy. The 2011-2012 school year was probably one of the best school years of my life. Add to that, it was also simply one of the best years of my life. While teaching at GWA I was able to meet some amazing individuals and experience a variety of cultures that we (as Americans) usually only see on television. I was also able to travel to places that I had dreamed about since I was a child. However, the most memorable thing about teaching overseas was simply getting to meet some of the most amazing people (and professionals) that I have ever known. It truly was a blessing that I will cherish forever.

Once the school year ended in 2012, I felt like my life was being drawn in a different direction, and as much as I loved living and teaching abroad I decided to move back to the U.S. where I am currently living and teaching in Las Vegas once again. I have found a wonderful home at Somerset Emerson Academy, and have once again begun to implement some of the programs that I left behind when I moved away in 2011. Since I began at Somerset Academy in August, we have once again joined the Sierra Valley Sports League (intramural league started in 2007), and we now offer numerous sports/activities for our students.

To say that I have been blessed would almost be an understatement. Since leaving PSU in 2006 my life has certainly had its ups and downs, but through it all I wouldn’t have been able to make it through it all without the love and support from God, my family, and my Pittsburg State family. I am so thankful to have been able to call PSU home for 3 years, and I’m proud to call myself a GORILLA!!!

Where Are They Now?

Current Doctorate Students
- Sergio Molina (M.S.) - University of South Carolina
- Steve Brown (M.S.) - University of Arkansas
- Beverly Ruedy (M.S.) - Oklahoma State University
- Cole Shewmake (B.S./M.S.) - Univ. of Arkansas
- Mark Mann (M.S.) - University of Arkansas
- Whitney Southard (B.S.) - Baylor University
- Jenny Letner (B.S./M.S.) - Univ. of Arkansas
- Adam Gault (M.S.) - Frostburg State University

Current Graduate Students
- Alex Kulman (M.S.) - Missouri State University
- Corey Barrone (B.S.) - University of Kansas
- Becca Pierson (B.S.) - Rockhurst University
- Emily Ballock (B.S.) - Rockhurst University
- Kayla Williamson (B.S.) - Pittsburg State University
- Hillary Dickey (B.S.) - Pittsburg State University
Morgan Ghosey passed her CTRS exam
Leslie Rausch received the Pepsi Scholarship
James Weatherbie received the Byard & Roberta Whetzel Gosch Scholarship
Devon Morris received the Wanda Weickert Carol Cichovslei Scholarship
Nicole Goeltz received the Evelyn Triplett Scholarship
Stephanie Withrow received the Helen Messenger Scholarship
Jessica Reichenberger received the Karl Larson & Rowena Larson Scholarship
David Schlee received the Scott F. Davis Scholarship
Kirby Clements received the Scott F. Davis Scholarship
Kathryn Wolfe received the Nadire Shiffield Scholarship
Lisa Bell received the Bryant Scholarship
Colten Gehrke passed the ACSM PT Exam
Brandon Neal passed the ACSM PT Exam

Congratulations!
A special THANKS to those who gifted the
HHPR Endowment in 2013

Bob Ahrens
Mary J. Coplen
Susan and Ron Downing
Rob Hefley
Jack and Jean Gilmore
Richard and Stephanie Grinage
John and Kathy Oppliger
Marian Simpson
Gary Thompson