Washington D.C. March 4, 2012

Andrew (Andy) Johnson, class of 1963 and quite possibly the oldest member of the Pitt State cycling team participated in the 2012 VASA Ride. The VASA ride is the region's annual kickoff to the spring cycling season. The ride is fashioned after the annual long distance cross-country ski race held in Sweden on the first Sunday of March. (See the definition of vasaloppet from Wikipedia below.) As with the tradition of the vasaloppet held in Sweden, after the ride participants were hosted by the Swedish Embassy for hot blueberry soup.

“Vasaloppet is an annual long distance (90 km) cross-country ski race (ski marathon) held on the first Sunday of March in northwestern Dalarna, Sweden between the village of Sälen and town of Mora. It is the oldest, one of the longest, and in popular consideration the biggest cross-country ski race in the world. In the 80th race, held on 7 March 2004, some 15,500 skiers competed in the main event. More than 40,000 participated in one of the seven different races held during the first week of March. The race was first run in 1922, inspired by a run by King Gustav Vasa in 1520.”

(See the definition of vasaloppet from Wikipedia below.)