Major General Lee Tafanelli

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli was appointed as the adjutant general of Kansas by Governor Sam Brownback in January of 2011. As the adjutant general, Tafanelli provides command and control for more than 7,700 soldiers and airmen in the Kansas Army and Air National Guard. He also serves as the director of Kansas Emergency Management Division and the director of Homeland Security for Kansas.

Tafanelli has served in a wide variety of command staff positions as a traditional Guardsman, Active Guard and Reserve and Active Duty soldier at the company, battalion, brigade, state headquarters and Department of the Army level.

In 2005, as commander of the 891st Engineer Battalion, he led the battalion during a deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later served as commander of the 69th Troop Command and as director of operations for the Kansas National Guard.

Tafanelli joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1980, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers through Pittsburg State University's ROTC program in 1982. In 1999, he received a master's degree in Environmental Planning and Management from Kansas State University.

Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff
Outstanding Faculty Award Winners

Dr. Tatiana Sildus
Associate Professor

“She is an extremely caring person, and she does everything she can to help her students succeed... She gets to know her kids and makes class interesting for everyone.”
- Bailey Peak, nominator

Dr. Troy Comeau
Director of Broadcasting

“He wears several different hats in his position-sometimes all in the same day... Dr. Comeau has inspired me to obtain my PhD and give back to students in the same way I have watched him give his all.”
- Sydney Ward, nominator

Dr. Aesha John
Assistant Professor of Social Work

“Under her leadership Phi Alpha Honor Society has achieved significant goals... because of her interest in social work, I was privileged to learn the valuable depth of research.”
- Kori Bower, nominator
Golden Gorilla
Student Leadership
Award Winners

Kafui Alomenu
Brad Aubin
Derek Base
Krystal Beecher
Jaimie Berberich
Jordan Boyd
Aubrey Creitz
Jessica Criser
Ashley Fann
Lesli Gilbert
Krisanna Graham
Rodney Kimlin
Julie Martin
Lakota McCune
Rachael Osborn
Austin Price
Kylee Priddle
William Rhodes
Katie Robinson
Julia Sammur
Deandra Sexton
David Shrum
Jake Simmons
Whitney Southard
Alyssa York
Lauren York

PSU Chorale
Dr. Susan Marchant, Director

Joshua Crown
Genile Dennison
Ariele Foltz
Richard Harper
Anna Hautaniemi
Samuel Haynie
Mark Hoffhines
Laura Holthus
Robert Jenkins
Jee Yeun Kim
Mara Knight
Whitney Kraft
Jung Hee Lee
Daniel McDill
David McTeer
Stephen McTeer
Kathryn Parke
Megan Peters
Jordan Riggs
Halley Sageng
William Vance
Audra Welty
Dalton Williams

Arirang
- arr. Grant Cochran-

Sung in Korean.

Arirang, Arirang, arariyo.
O'er the hills of Arirang, far away, you must go.
I am left alone; why can't you stay?
Please come back, my darling; come home to me some day.

Arirang, Arirang, arariyo.
O'er the hills of Arirang, far away, you must go.
Just as there are bright stars shining in the sky;
There is also pain in my heart since you said your goodbye.

Arirang, Arirang, arariyo.
O'er the hills of Arirang, far away, you must go.
Soon the bountiful time will be arriving here;
Plenteousness and goodness flows throughout our land, so dear.

PSU Alma Mater

On the plains of Southeast Kansas,
'Neath an ever cloudless sky,
Far away from surging ocean,
And the storm-bird's plaintive cry;
With her prairies rolling Westward,
Where the buffalo once were great,
With her ensign proudly waving,
Stands our own Pittsburg State.

Refrain
Let us greet the Gold and Crimson
With a strong and cordial cheer;
Let our hearts be ever loyal
To our Alma Mater dear:
Dr. Ralf J. Thomas
Distinguished Service
Award Winners

Cathy M. Albright
Alan G. and Roberta Harlow Whetzel

Catherine Albright earned a bachelor of science degree in Automotive Technology in 1981. Albright is a loyal Gorilla and all of her siblings are also PSU grads.

Albright's service to PSU began as a student caller and has continued throughout her years as an alumna. She was president of the PSU Foundation in 2008-2009 and vice president in 2006-2007. She has been a Class Agent, a Foundation Board Trustee and Executive Committee member. Albright served on the PSU Presidential Search Committee and has been the scholarship contact for the Mary Frances Duffin Scholarship. Albright and her husband, Jay, have made a number of significant gifts to the university and have established a Testamentary Trust.

The Albrights live in Stillwell, Okla. They have two sons, Matthew and Michael.

Alan Whetzel earned a bachelor of science degree in education from PSU in 1960. His wife, Roberta, earned a bachelor of science degree in education from PSU in 1959.

The Whetzels met on a Pitt State basketball trip in 1958. A two-time basketball letterman with the Gorillas, Alan played for and later coached with PSU's hall-of-fame men's basketball coach, John Lance. Roberta was a cheerleader, active on campus, and an ardent supporter of athletics.

Alan and Roberta have been faithful supporters of the university and in particular, of student athletes for many years. They are longtime active members of the Wichita Chapter of the PSU Alumni Association and Alan has served as a member of the PSU Foundation Board of Trustees since 2006. In 2012, the Whetzels gave $1.2 million for a dramatic renovation of historic John Lance Arena, which included a new hardwood floor and new seating.

Convocation Program

Welcome & Introductions
Lara Ismert President, Student Government Association

The Story of Apple Day
Randy Roberts

Commemoration Day Address
Major General Lee Tafanelli
Adjutant General of Kansas

Musical Selection by PSU Chorale
Directed by Dr. Susan Marchant

Arirang Traditional Korean Folk Song

Soloists: Jee Yeun Kim and Jung Hee Lee

Presentation of the 2013 Dr. Ralf J. Thomas Distinguished Service Awards
Dr. Steven A. Scott, President, Pittsburg State University
Dan Alcala, National President, PSU Alumni Association

Presentation of the 2013 Dr. Robert K. Ratzlaff Outstanding Faculty Awards
Taylor Gravett, Academic Affairs Director, Student Government Association

Golden Gorilla Awards Presentation
Dr. Steven A. Scott, President, Pittsburg State University

Announcement of Apple Contest Winners
Lara Ismert, President, Student Government Association

Centennial Scholarships Presentation
Ryan Robinson, PSU Homecoming King
Alyssa Marsh, PSU Homecoming Queen

Alma Mater

Apple Distribution
Faculty Association

Centennial Tower Bell Ringing by Award Winners
Acknowledgements

David Adams
Tiffany Alanize
Luis Aranda
Jon Bartlow
Barbara Barto
Joan Cleland
Crimson Club
Ashley Cross
Heather Eckstein
Taylor Gravett
Jim Hughes
Lara Ismert
JT Knoll
Dr. Susan Marchant
Alyssa Marsh
Registrar's Office
Cathy Pentola
Dowe Quick
Merrick Rhodes
Randy Roberts
Ryan Robinson
Ash Sahni
Johnna Schremmer
Wynn Shepard
Jake Simmons
Meagan Smejdir
Student Activities Council
Student Government Association
D'Juan Thomas
Kassandra Turner
Jaime Vanderbeck
Ashley Wadell
Sydney Ward
Bobby Winters
Ron Womble

Apples are compliments of
Faculty Association and Marrone's.

Following the Convocation, Award
Recipients will proceed to the Centennial Bell
Tower to announce their achievements by ringing
the bell.

The Centennial Scholarships presented today are courtesy of the PSU
Foundation, Inc., and are made available through funds received during
PSU's Centennial celebration.

Any full-time undergraduate student enrolled at Pittsburg State University
during the Spring 2013 semester is eligible to participate. The recipient
must be present here today and must enroll as a full-time
undergraduate student in the Fall 2013 semester.