



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

# BEAVER

January 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](mailto:megane@prattcc.edu)

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## Upcoming Dates

Residence Halls Open	Jan 11
Spring Enrollment Ends	Jan 11
Pratt Classes Begin	Jan 12
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 18
No Classes	

# PCC Launches New Student Organization

Pratt Community College students, faculty, and staff are working together to launch a new organization to promote school pride, tradition, and enthusiasm within in the institution. The Blue Crew makes its debut in January as students return to an all out "Blue Out" week full of events, contests, and lots of Beaver Blue across campus.

Last year students and staff got together to discuss student activities and events that will promote overall pride and instill enthusiasm throughout the institution. Through these meetings students expressed interest in creating traditions such as homecoming events, inviting local schools to athletic events, and having a "Welcome Back" week that starts the semester with a bang!

The first initiative of the Blue Crew will launch Jan. 12-20 as "Blue Week" will involve student activities, a social media scavenger hunt, chances to win cash prizes, and even writing lyrics for a Pratt Community College Fight Song.

All students and staff are invited to attend all events and show their blue pride. Students who join the Blue Crew during Blue Week will have access to being entered in drawings for cash prizes, free food and drink at athletic events, T-shirts, lanyards, and a membership card.

Student members will be required to maintain an active status by attending events, setting up and cleaning up before and after, promoting future activities, and attending regular meetings. At these meetings students will have the opportunity to help staff plan and implement activities and work within the community to promote PCC.

The Blue Crew is accepting members throughout the year. For more information visit [prattcc.edu/bluecrew](http://prattcc.edu/bluecrew).



# PCC Hires New Athletic Director

The search for an Athletic Director has come to an end. Pratt Community College has announced that they have hired Bill Wilson as the new Athletic Director.

Wilson is expected to step into his new role in early January bringing a total of 27 years of intercollegiate athletics experience, including 16 years as a college head basketball coach.

Wilson previously served as the Director of Athletics at Northland College in Ashland, Wis. While at Northland College, Wilson developed the addition of men's and women's NCAA golf as well as junior varsity programs in several sports for the college. Wilson was also instrumental in upgrading athletic facilities on campus and developing the college's first athletic booster club.

Wilson is also committed to student excellence and recruiting. He implemented an athletic department recruiting software that worked closely with the college's admissions department in meeting enrollment goals. Wilson established a Student-Athlete Leadership Development program that was a three-phased program that focused on the development of student-athletes academically, socially and communally.

Though the list of credentials and accomplishments is impressive what Wilson truly enjoys is the interaction with coaches and opportunity to witness student athlete growth.

"The most fulfilling part of my job is getting to work with all of the players that I have had and seeing who they have become years later," said Wilson.

Wilson is also excited to make Pratt and PCC his new home. He was drawn to the institution and the athletic program because he is a fan of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference. He enjoys smaller communities and has seen the quality of people that work and matriculate at PCC during his visit.

PCC President Dr. Michael Calvert expressed that he is enthusiastic about having Wilson on board.

"We were blessed with a very competitive group of applicants with three strong candidates in the end. It's a good problem to have and Bill definitely has the experience and knowledge that will be valuable to PCC," said Calvert.

Wilson will be replacing Kurt McAfee as Athletic Director. McAfee is still in the PCC family having accepted the position of Vice President

of Advancement and Alumni Affairs. Calvert said that Bill will bring a fresh set of eyes and a new perspective to the athletic department and has no doubt that he will enhance the athletic programs and bring new opportunities to PCC through his experience.

"Because of his experience I think that he will be a good mentor to our coaching staff and student athletes," said Calvert.

Wilson says that he wants to continue to enhance the department and its programs through efficiency, competition, and a commitment to excellence.

In Wilson's spare time he enjoys traveling, fishing, and aviation. Though at the end of the day his true passion is collegiate sports and working with students.

"This isn't what I do. It's who I am," said Wilson.



Bill Wilson  
Athletic Director, PCC

# PCC Hosts Annual Legislative Luncheon

Pratt Community College administration and trustees sat down with several state representatives and a state senator at a legislative luncheon at PCC on Dec. 14.

Present at the luncheon were Rep. Greg Lewis 113th District (including Pratt County), Rep. Jack Thimesch 114th District, Rep. Ron Ryckman 115th District, Rep. Kyle Hoffman 116th District and Sen. Steve Abrams Dist. 32.

The annual luncheon at PCC is held every year before session begins Jan. 11 of next year. PCC has 5 representatives and 3 senators whose legislative districts touch the PCC service area.

"Funding is always a big issue," said Dr. Michael Calvert, PCC President. "The legislators each shared their views on the upcoming session and felt that higher education funding was important to the training of the workforce and that they

would support at least the current level of higher education funding."

Barret Friend, a non-traditional Electrical Power and Technology student at PCC was also at the meeting. Friend shared with the legislators how PCC has helped him, as one of those who is training for the workforce, to keep up with evolving technology changes in the EPT field.

Former PCC student and current Pratt city electric department director Jamie Huber said success in his career of over 24 years in Pratt was because of his training at PCC.

"I got here because of their leadership," Huber said.

Because of the EPT program at PCC he has hired many students to work for the city.



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## Miss Kansas Attends PCC Board Meeting

Miss Kansas, Hannah Marie Wagner attended the Dec Board of Trustees meeting on Dec 21 to extend a special thank you for Pratt Community College's support of the Miss Kansas Pageant held on campus annually each June. The college is a major sponsor of the pageant and also provides in-kind scholarship support. The pageant, an affiliate of the Miss America Pageant, will celebrate its 75th anniversary in June. Of those 75 years, the pageant has been held 60 years consecutively in Pratt.



Pratt CC Board of Trustee Chair, Mike Koler and Vice Chair, Jeff Shumway with Miss Kansas, Hannah Marie Wagner

# January Featured Artist, Elaine Ray

The Delmar Riney Art Gallery welcomes a new exhibit to start off the New Year. Local photographer Elaine Ray is the first Featured Artist for 2016.

Ray is a native of Pratt and works from home in her own art studio. Ray is the on call photographer and social media manager for the City of Pratt Fire Department.

She studied art in high school and college, squeezing in as many art classes as possible and has continued taking classes at Pratt Community College, Vernon Filley Art Museum, attending various workshops, and online certification in interior design.

Ray recently completed an advanced photography class taught by Master Photographer Stan Reimer, who she says constantly challenges and introduces Ray to new ideas and techniques.

Some of Ray's paintings, jewelry, and photography has been at exhibited at County and State Fairs, Ft. Hays Art Show, Women's Federation Art Show, and the Delmar Riney Art Gallery. Ray's photos have also been published in the National Geographic Natural Disaster book series.

"I have always had an insatiable desire to create and constantly try new forms of art. My latest venture I learned in a photo transfer class I took at Vernon Filley Art Museum taught by Jodi Ray. I enjoy this medium because it incorporates photography, painting and limitless creativity," said Ray.

Featured in this month's exhibit Ray has included a variety of work including landscapes from a fall weekend trip to Arkansas, some abstract pieces, a car show, industrial photos and photo transfer works on canvas.

The exhibit will be on display from throughout the month of January in the Delmar Riney Art Gallery .



# Club 62+ Spring 2016 Schedule



**Beaver Basketball** // Pratt CC, Dennis Lesh Sports Arena, No RSVP Necessary

Club 62+ Members receive half-price admission to all PCC Sporting Events throughout the year. Come cheer on your Pratt Beavers in the Beaver Dome during the Basketball Season! Game day dates and times can be found at [prattcc.edu/calendar](http://prattcc.edu/calendar).

**Dillon Lecture Series: Dr. Beck Weathers** // Tuesday, Feb 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$10. Please RSVP by Feb. 10.

Beck Weathers is a pathologist from Texas best known for his role in the 1996 Mount Everest disaster that has been the subject of many books and films, most notably the 2015 motion picture "Everest" starring Josh Brulin. Lunch will follow the lecture at the Dutch Kitchen. We must have 20 people or more for this trip.

**Goodies "In-a-Bag"** // Friday, March 4, 9-10:30 a.m., Pratt Community College, Room TBD, Please RSVP by Feb. 25

Join Anita DeWeese from the Pratt County Farm Bureau Association in making delectable treats in a baggie. Anita will show us how to craft pumpkin pie in a bag, ice cream in a bag, granola in a bag and her special Wheat Babies! Take home and share these treats and recipes with grandkids, friends, and families.

**Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center** // Thursday, March 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$15 plus Lunch. RSVP by April 15.

Take a journey through the history of space travel. Witness the world's most significant collection of U.S. and Russian space artifacts that include the actual Apollo 13 command module Odyssey, Liberty Bell 7 Mercury capsule, and a flown Vostok spacecraft. And a 45 minute presentation of Journey to Space in the Carey Digital Movie theater. For lunch we will go to Jillian's Italian Grill. Lunch menu items range from \$7-12. We must have 15 people or more for this trip.

**"Esther"** // April 1-2, 7:30 p.m. and April 3, 2:30 p.m. \$5 Carpenter Auditorium, Pratt Community College

This year's main musical is a special treat. Based on the book of Esther in the Bible, this family friendly musical includes a delightful score and plenty of both comedy and drama for everyone. The musical was written by former Pratt Community College instructors Rose Beilman and Ed Davis. Beilman and Davis wrote the musical and produced in on the PCC stage in 1996. For the 20 year celebration of its creation, the performing arts department will be bringing it to the stage once again. Many members of the original cast will be joining the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cast as well.

**Wydlewood Cellars** // Friday, April 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$20 plus lunch. RSVP by April 8.

Wydlewood Cellars Winery has won over 500 awards both nationally and internationally. The largest winery in Kansas has taken its place on the world stage of fine wines. We will be introduced to some of their finest wines in a tasting and pairing class as well as a video tour of their winery and learn about their processes. Bring extra cash for roaming the retail store with a wide selection of wines and varieties. We will go out for a group lunch before our tasting and tour of the winery. We must have 20 people or more for this trip.

**Casino Day at Kansas Star** // Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$10 plus lunch. Please RSVP by April 25.

Transportation will be provided to the casino in Mulvane for a day of fun. You will be responsible for your own lunch. We must have 20 or more people to make this trip possible.

# Blue



# CREW

## Membership Info

### GET INVOLVED • GET ENGAGED • GET EXCITED

PCC's Blue Crew is a student organization that promotes and implements student activities, instills school pride, and upholds Pratt Community College traditions. Blue Crew will collaborate with appropriate college and community groups in an effort to increase enthusiasm and involvement on our campus and in our community.

## BENEFITS

- Blue Crew Annual T-shirt
- Membership Card
- Blue Crew Lanyard
- Plan & Promote Events/Activities
- Win Cash & Prizes for Involvement
- VIP Game Day Seating
- Free Food & Drink at Events

## SIGN UP TODAY!

Visit [prattcc.edu/bluecrew](http://prattcc.edu/bluecrew) to get signed up!

\$10 Annual Membership Fee

### #PCCBLUECREW



### @prattcc

**PRATT**  
Community College

# Blue

# WEEK



## Calendar of Events

ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
REC CENTER  
9:00 PM

12

WATER PONG  
BEAVER DOME  
9:00 PM

13

FIGHT SONG  
REC CENTER  
8:00PM

14

GAME DAY!  
FREE SODA & POPCORN  
BLUE CREW MEMBERS

@HOME

2:00 & 4:00

16

PEP RALLY  
BEAVER DOME  
TBA

19

STAY TUNED ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOR CHANCES TO

WIN CASH  
PRIZES  
& MORE!

#PCCBLUEWEEK



@prattcc

GAME DAY!  
BLUE-OUT

BLUE PAINT BLUE HAIR BLUE PRIDE

@HOME

2:00 & 4:00

20

Event Incentives, drawing eligibility, and prizes for Blue Crew Members Only.

To find out more about becoming a member visit [prattcc.edu/bluecrew](http://prattcc.edu/bluecrew)