



Adam Vogler/Collegio

R and B artist Kelley Hunt performs in McCray Recital Hall on the campus of Pittsburg State University Tuesday, Sept. 26. The nationally known singer, songwriter and pianist, whose son is a Pitt State senior, is a native of Kansas City. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Pitt State Music Department.

# Hall of Blues

## Kelley Hunt performs at McCray Recital Hall

DOUG GRAHAM  
Entertainment Editor

When Kelley Hunt took the stage at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in McCray Recital Hall, her lightly reverberating voice filled the room all by itself.

But when her band came out for a second song, things really started jumping. And that continued for nearly an hour and a half.

Hunt, a professional recording artist who sings and plays keyboard, has had three albums in addition to movie soundtracks and writing gigs, and has gained a following over the past few years through vigorous touring.

The songs she played at Tuesday's concert ranged from blues to rock to jazz and everything in between.

"The woman's got pipes... and fingers, and range," said Chelsea Smith, junior in communication. "And her band was amazing."

Smith was one of hundreds of people, students and community members alike, who came out to see the show. McCray Recital Hall wasn't filled, but it was close. The hall holds around 500.

Another was Jodie Buster, also a junior

in communication.

"Kelley Hunt is amazing and so gorgeous," Buster said. "And I love her moves."

In fact, the only complaint Buster had was that nobody got up out of their seats and danced along with Hunt.

Will Hsieh, freshman in English and international student, was also impressed.

"I'm very satisfied with the concert," Hsieh said. "Her voice is very powerful and energetic. And the sax player was very nice."

Sax player Mitch Rider let out several screaming solos during the night, but he wasn't alone. Everyone in the band got a chance to shine.

Rick Kurtz on lead guitar also had many solos and the rhythm section got a chance to show its stuff.

Kipp Voth, freshman in biochemistry, says he enjoyed the concert for the musical virtuosity on display.

"I thought the solos were good," Voth said. "I like listening to instruments mostly."

The concert officially ended at 8:52 p.m., but before many people filed out, Hunt and company were out on stage for an encore.

"I feel like an honorary Gorilla tonight," Hunt said, before explaining that her son actually is a Pitt State senior.

Hunt agreed to donate all of the proceeds from the concert and 15 percent of her merchandise sales to the PSU Music Department.

# Weekend brings families to PSU

## Parents involved in campus events

DOUG GRAHAM  
Entertainment Editor

During Saturday's football game, the Merando family was presented with the Honorary Family Award, an honor given every year to one family that is nominated by a PSU student and evaluated by the development office.

Marsha Merando says she's honored that her son thought of her and their family.

"The nice thing is, most of the time if anybody says something nice about someone, it's usually when they're not around to hear it or after they've died," Merando said. "It's a very big honor for me and for our family to have him say those kinds of things while we can be around to enjoy them."

Adam Merando, senior in biology and chemistry, says he nominated parents Steve and

Marsha because of their support during his time at school.

Merando says everyone in her family has gone to Pitt State – her four sons, her husband and herself.

The ceremony was part of Family Weekend, an event in which families of students came to catch a glimpse at what life is like at Pittsburg State University.

Ed Wirthwein, assistant director of Overman Student Center for Campus Activities (which sponsored the event), says this year's weekend was so successful it actually created problems. He didn't know where to put everybody.

"It's a great problem to have," Wirthwein said.

But everything went smoothly, Wirthwein said, including the timing, the weather, the activities and the family participation.

Wirthwein says the first big success of the weekend was

comedian Buzz Sutherland, who performed at 7 p.m. Friday in the U-Club of the Overman Student Center. At first he was concerned because at 6:45 p.m., only a few people had gathered. But 10 minutes later, the room was packed.

The next morning, Wirthwein says, the brunch with President Tom Bryant and the vice presidents was bigger than ever – families filled two floors of Russ Hall, and they may fill a third next year. During the brunch faculty went around to various tables interacting and answering questions.

But Saturday's biggest event was no doubt the football game against Missouri Southern at 2 p.m., which Wirthwein says sold out faster than any he can remember.

Other weekend events included campus tours, special sessions for parents, a campus open house, and a golf tournament at Four Oaks Golf Course.



Raymond Hilligas/Collegio

Pittsburg State University President Tom Bryant hands a plaque to the Steve and Marsha Merando family of Frontenac who were chosen for the 2006 Honorary Family Award. Adam Merando, left, senior in biology/chemistry, nominated his family for this award. The O'Neal family from Baxter Springs was runner-up.

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