

Restorer and businessman Paul Russell receives his honorary degree from McPherson College for his years of contributions to the school and old car hobby.

Russell honored by McPherson College

On April 30, McPherson College honored Paul Russell with an honorary Doctorate of Applied Arts in recognition of his contributions to McPherson College, its automotive restoration program, and the collector car industry.

"We're most fortunate to have Paul involved at McPherson College," said Amanda Gutierrez, vice president for historic automotive restoration at MC. "He demonstrates the highest standards in both his personal and professional endeavors and has a wealth of expertise that he contributes. Beyond that, he believes in the liberal arts and values the well-rounded education our students receive."

One of the early members on the National Advisory Board for Automotive Restoration at McPherson College, Russell has served on the board for 12 years and as chairman for the last three years. He was instrumental in advocating to move automotive restoration to a four-year bachelor's degree, helped MC to create a strong strategic plan for the program and has hosted numerous events to benefit the college.

Paul Russell opened his automotive restoration business in 1978 as "Gullwing Service Company, Inc." The business is now known as "Paul Russell and Company." He has had a hand in many aspects of the collector car industry. His restorations of significant historical vehicles — including Mercedes-Benz, Ferraris and Bugattis — have won prestigious international awards at events such as the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and the Concorso d'Eleganza at Ville d'Este.

McPherson College, located in central Kansas, is a four-year private liberal arts college offering more than 20 bachelor's and pre-professional programs. The unique automotive restoration program is in its 40th year.