

# **P**anhandle

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Photo by Shawn Yorks



Projected renovations for the President's House.

## Renovations Set for President's House

**A**fter a little over 100 days in office, Oklahoma Panhandle State University President Dr. Tim Faltyn has opened up a new chapter for the university by starting plans to renovate the president's house—a historic building on campus.

Built in 1929, the current building, just shy of 3,000 square feet, will have an extra 3,156 square feet added during the renovation. The remodeling marks the first renovation since 1974.

“When you renovate space like this, you have to realize that it's not just you who lives there,” Faltyn said. “This house has more history than all of us combined, and that's the reason we aren't tearing it down and building a new one. The reason we want to renovate this house is because it is part of the university.”

The renovation is estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000 and be paid through donations from the Panhandle State Foundation and private donors. During a foundation special meeting on September 20, the board agreed on matching a \$250,000 donation to the project. Over \$75,000 in pledges for matching donations were received from some attendees.

The renovation is scheduled to start in November with plans to wrap up by the first of April. With four large bedrooms, the new building will have a meeting area over 70 people, a storm shelter, a library, and display cases that will contain items to highlight the university's history.

However, the renovation is only part of the picture. The project is the beginning of a campaign and plays

one of the first roles in putting the university's transformation in action.

Faltyn listed three goals for OPSU which include modernizing the campus, making the university more efficient in the region, and creating sustainability in the university.

“We need to be the engine that transforms positivity here,” Faltyn said. “When I think about leading OPSU and all the things we're doing in the Panhandle, I keep thinking about, ‘how is this going to transform

the region?’”

In order to paint the vision of the university's future, the campaign will focus on students, enrollment, structures, faculty, and more.

“If you want to change somebody's life, you get them to walk across the graduation stage,” Faltyn said. “The best thing about that is it doesn't just change that student's life; it changes the trajectory of their family forever. Chances are that person's (family/friends) will go on and earn a college degree.”

In order to increase enrollment, the university must provide reasons for students to come here by making them feel important, Faltyn said. A little thing called motivation.

Going into further detail, Faltyn said students are learning everyday—in classrooms, in financial aid offices, and dorms. From faculty to supporters, they all must take credit and understand that anything and everything the university is has a direct impact on students.

Panhandle State Foundation President Troy Morris said this project provides an opportunity to have better student housing.

“This house is a tool to be able to use this facility to bring in other students and bring in...fundraising opportunities. These things are important,” Morris said. “This is what we need to improve and move forward.”

McFarland Architects and Wiley Hicks Jr., Inc. General Contractors were hired by the Oklahoma A&M Regents prior to Dr. Faltyn's arrival and will perform the upgrade which will allow the home to last another century.

Donors who donate at least \$10,000 will have their name engraved on pillars that will be fenced around the house.

“We want to celebrate the people who are investing in this next chapter, and we want people to know these are the people who stepped up,” Faltyn said.

Pledge cards are available. For more information on how to donate, call OPSU at (580) 349-1302 and ask for the president's office.



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Janna Ruether is a sophomore at Panhandle State and is seeking a degree in Animal Science. The Beaufort, Mo. native came to Goodwell on a softball scholarship and pitched for the Aggies last spring before deciding to focus solely on her academic career. This year Ruether has added the role of Panhandle State Spirit Rider to her schedule.

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Mr. Wray and Dr. Tim Faltyn

## Passing the Torch

It was a passing of the torch of sorts when Mr. Bob Wray stepped out of his vehicle to extend his hand to Oklahoma Panhandle State University's 15th president Dr. Tim Faltyn.

Mr. Wray is the grandson of the fourth president of Panhandle Agriculture and Mechanical College, Dr. Fanning, who served as president from 1922 to 1933. Wray was born and raised on the campus in Goodwell



and as he shared tales of eating “college cheese” (cottage cheese) in the school cafeteria to driving lessons at the age of five with one of the coaches, you could almost catch a picture of what life may be like for Dr. Faltyn's four-year-old son Max as the family prepares to move into the president's home, the same place where Mr. Wray grew up, upon the completion of renovations.

Wray's visit was a 90th birthday wish granted by his daughter, Christie, who accompanied him on the visit. Dr. Faltyn guided Mr. Wray and Christie through the home carefully explaining the future plans which were displayed on drawings throughout the building. Following the tour of the home, the group took a look around campus with stops at the Noble Activity Center and the Science and Agriculture Building.

Many times throughout the visit, Wray mentioned how proud his grandfather would be of what the University has become.

Mr. Wray currently lives just outside of Pine Grove, California in a log cabin that he and his family built on weekends. He retired from Hewlett-Packard and wanted a retirement home that wasn't in the city. He said, “It's a wonderful place to live.”

Dr. Faltyn and Mr. Wray talked of how Wray and his family were the first family to move into the house and how according to him, “A little kid, back in those days, could not have had a better place to grow up. Especially as small as the college was back then, all of the faculty just took care of me.”

As a bit of advice to pass on to the current students, Wray said, “The only thing I can think of is perhaps the admonition to respect your professors and instructors and get an education and go out in the world and do good things. Without an education it is pretty tough.”

Mr. Wray has plans to return to campus following the completion of the president's home renovation for its grand opening.



Susan and Manny Barias

## Panhandle State Art Jubilee Partners with Galleon

**F**rom junior high students to college-age students who help make it possible, a highlight of the school year for many area art students is the annual Panhandle Area Art Jubilee held at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Hosted by the Panhandle State Art department and Images Art Club, this year marks its 19th anniversary. This year the jubilee will be funded through a partnership with Galleon Restaurant of Guymon, Okla.

Through a three-year partnership, the relationship began with Galleon's search for a muralist for the interior of the building and the Panhandle State Art Department's need to fund the Art Jubilee. Art department faculty members were excited to engage in community service, so art professors Brent Shoulders, Yvonne Sangster, and Bryon Test together created an acrylic triptych of three galleons at sea on a map depicting the traditional spice trade routes. The triptych is approximately seven feet tall and ten feet wide. Galleon specializes in Spanish-

Mexican-Filipino fusion cuisine; the menu offers a fusion of cultures and spices carried on the Spanish trade routes from 1565 to 1815 from Mexico to the Philippines.

Galleon owners Manny and Susan Barias are passionate about community and the arts, so it was a natural partnership that will provide the jubilee with merit awards for area high school students as well as artist and workshop fees for the annual. High school students and community members can sit in and take advantage of art demonstrations by nationally and internationally recognized artists.

Panhandle State Art Professor Brent Shoulders commented, [Art Jubilee] opens an avenue for people in the five-state area to learn from top-quality artists in a very laid-back atmosphere, and it provides access to quality arts programming for many regional schools. The partnership with the Barias, and Galleon will make this all happen. Their support for the arts and OPSU is greatly appreciated because without it many students within our service area may never take part in such great programming."

This year's Art Jubilee is set for April 11-13 and will feature demonstrations and workshops by sought-after artists such as Kristy Patterson of Guymon, Okla.

Galleon Restaurant is located at 118 NW 6th Street, Suite 100 in Guymon. For more information, visit [www.1565galleons.com](http://www.1565galleons.com).



**Staff**  
**Calandra Rose**

## A Helping Hand

Oklahoma Panhandle State University has many faculty and staff members that are not only super involved, but also work extremely hard to keep things running smoothly on campus. One of those incredible workers is Calandra Rose. She will always have a smile on her face and a willingness to assist anyone who needs help.

Calandra Rose is originally from Springfield, Colo. She came here after her senior year of high school when she married her husband Cory. The couple has two kids in high school: Makenna, 17, and Tyrun, 15. Calandra worked at a bank for five years before she came here and started working. For six dedicated years she has impressed OPSU with her ability to multitask and carry heavy workloads.

Calandra Rose is the assistant for Benny Dain, the Vice President of Fiscal Affairs. She also works for Liz McMurphy, helps out in the business office, water lab and sometimes helps out in the mail room. She states, "I like to help out. Being able to help out is my favorite part of the job."

Aside from her job, Calandra says that her favorite part of Panhandle State is the people. "I like the people and I like the kids," she exclaimed. "It is really neat to see some of the kids from back home (where I come from) come here and graduate; I taught swimming lessons when I was in Colorado and now some of those kids are here and graduating from OPSU."

Mrs. Rose also serves as the President of the Staff Liaison Committee. "We are really wanting to act as a team, however, rather than me just being president," she explains. "We look forward to some really cool stuff being done this year."

She is also very involved with events on campus, her favorite of which being the Chili Cook-Off. Calandra Rose has clearly been a very helpful member of the Panhandle family. She is kind-hearted, strong-willed and determined to get the job done right. One can always count on her for a helping hand, some assistance or advice. If you get the chance, stop by and thank her for everything that she does for Panhandle State!



**Student**  
**Josh Frost**

## Frost Comes Home to Goodwell

When students enroll at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, they are welcomed into a community that becomes home. The small Oklahoma town full of rodeo legends drew Josh Frost from over 700 miles away. Since embarking on his journey in Goodwell, the Randlett, Utah cowboy has accumulated many accolades inside the rodeo arena while working towards his degree in Agricultural Education.

The backbone to any sports program is the coaches. The same holds true for the Panhandle State Rodeo Team. The legendary Lynn "Doc" Gardner helped launch the program to its distinguished status. Since then, Craig Latham and Robert Etbauer have kept the winning tradition thriving.

"I think a lot of the legacy is because of the attitude our coaches have," Frost said of Latham and Etbauer. "They want us to be successful in the classroom and rodeo arena and just be successful in life."

With the help of the renowned coaching staff, Frost has qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo twice in the last three years where he finished third in the nation, twice. On the professional level, Frost was the Wilderness Circuit Reserve Champion Bull Rider and All-Around Cowboy in 2014. Currently, he is in the top position of both the bull riding and all-around heading into the finals in November.

Things are also rolling in his favor on the collegiate stage as his senior season begins. After the first rodeo of the 10-rodeo season, Frost is leading the bull riding and has points accumulated in the tie-down roping.

"My goals are to win the all-around, bull riding and calf roping in the region. Also to qualify in the steer wrestling," Frost said. "I've been working hard at it for three years, was reserve in the all-around once and bull riding twice, but I had to miss rodeos due to injuries. This year I'm healthy and I'm going to stay focused and go be consistent every weekend."

The Frost Family has built a winning tradition of their own and Josh is continuing that legacy, as well as the Panhandle tradition of winning, as his collegiate career comes to a close.



**Faculty**  
**Russell Guthrie**

## **Faculty Senate President**

One of the professors that you are almost guaranteed to have at least once in your college career at Panhandle State is Mr. Russell Guthrie. This man is one of a kind; he's a fun spirited guy who is super involved on campus and genuinely cares about his students.

Mr. Guthrie is a Student Senate adviser and Faculty Senate president who has been reelected this year. He is also the manager of Panhandle State's KPSU Radio 91.7 and a renowned professor of speech. Another fun fact about Mr. Guthrie is that he is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian® with the National Association of Parliamentarians. Parliamentary procedure is one of his passions, and through the years, many have noticed his desire to uphold it properly.

He also enjoys being involved with the Oklahoma Student Government Association, which is a non-contest group that he states "passes recommendations affecting student bodies to the state regents twice a year." He calls himself an unofficial adviser to the group.

This will be Mr. Guthrie's second and last year as Faculty Senate president due to two-year terms; however, he is interested in running again in the future. Professor Guthrie is also serving a second and final year on the OSRHE Faculty Advisory Council, representing regional institutions.

"The role of the Faculty Senate is to worry about faculty problems across the university," he explains. "We represent only the faculty. Not staff, not students." A few issues discussed include modifying and including disciplinary procedures that keep the faculty in a safe and respected environment. Mr. Guthrie also explained that the School of Liberal Arts has three representatives and the minimum for any school is two. This is similar to our government system, where each state has a number of representatives based upon the population.

Mr. Guthrie is a helpful and knowledgeable person to know on campus. He is involved in many interesting activities and is passionate about the well-being of Oklahoma Panhandle State University.



**Alumni**  
**Troy Morris**

## **Alum: Troy Morris**

For over 100 years, Oklahoma Panhandle State University has graduated capable and credible students. Each of its graduates has a fulfilling and enriching education under his/her belt that has opened many doorways to even bigger and better opportunities.

One of these graduates is Troy Morris. Mr. Morris was born in Balko, Oklahoma where he spent his youth and attended high school. His father attended Panhandle State for three years where he developed many strong ties, friendships and connections. This motivated Morris to follow in his footsteps, so he began his college journey in the fall of 1980.

Mr. Morris was a double major in accounting and computer information systems. Not only was he an accomplished student but also he was also very involved in activities and organizations on campus. He served some time as the Student Senate president, was the president of his class for three years, played in the band, was a livestock judge, performed in plays, and was involved in vocational agriculture among other activities.

He graduated in 1984 and still has great things to say about the university. When asked what his favorite thing about Panhandle was, he said, "I like that you're able to get involved in activities and have small class sizes and direct contact with instructors. OPSU has the opportunity to provide so much more to a student than even bigger schools."

After graduating, Morris worked at an elevator in Spearman, Texas. For the past 28 years he has been working at Dean Cluck Feedyard where he is the CFO and Controller at their corporate office in Amarillo, Texas. He is also a Certified Public Accountant since 1991.

Since then, he has successfully completed his MBA in General Business Administration in 2015 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in accounting. Morris is also continuing to be involved with Panhandle State through the Alumni Association and Panhandle State Association. The Alumni Association inducted him into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 2003. He was also recognized as an Outstanding Contributor by the PSU Foundation in 2013. He served seven years as the president of the Alumni Association and is the current president of the PSU foundation.



Panhandle State Greenhouse

## Agronomy Students Team up with Baylor Botanist

**S**tudents in the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Agronomy Department have recently benefited from a research partnership with Dr. Robert Adams, a botanist and research professor in the Biology Department at Baylor University and have plans to continue the partnership this fall.

Panhandle State Agronomy Department Chair Dr. Curtis Bensch and recent Panhandle graduate Brandon Vaverka collaborated on a sunflower research trial with Dr. Adams and his assistant Amy TeBeest, both at the Baylor University off-campus lab in Gruver, Texas, this past spring. The primary focus of the study was to determine the optimum time to collect sunflower leaves to maximize hydrocarbon yields. The group has written a paper with the results of the study, which is scheduled to

print in an October issue of *Phytologia*.

This fall, the group will continue work with the addition of current Panhandle State student Tyler Meyeres. This time the research will focus on the genetics of sunflowers and the possibility of extracting useful chemicals from the plant. The trial will specifically focus on the concentrations of rubber in sunflowers and the genetics of this trait. The trials are performed in part in the university's greenhouse on the Panhandle State campus.

Dr. Bensch said, "This is an excellent opportunity for agronomy students to be directly involved in a research project and the publication of the results."

Vaverka is from Newton, Kansas and graduated in May with an agronomy degree from Panhandle State. As a student, Vaverka was a key member of the nationally competitive crops judging team and he is currently pursuing a master's degree at Oklahoma State University conducting research in the mathematical modeling of agriculture systems.

Meyeres is a senior from Springfield, Colorado. She is also an agronomy major and a member of the Panhandle State crops judging team.

Special thanks to Adams and TeBeest for this excellent learning opportunity.



## Panhandle State Students Benefit from Community Support

Oklahoma Panhandle State University has a history of strong partnerships with many employers in our community. This fall, we have brought those partnerships even deeper with commitments from two of our progressive and industry leading local businesses.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) and Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (PTCI) have committed to a memo of understanding in which each company will take two students from the School of Business and Technology per year and/or semester as paid interns.

The real-world, high-tech experience and mentorship provided by these businesses have been key components in the high demand of Panhandle State graduates. The availability of these phenomenal opportunities gives students a clear advantage over many other graduates without any real-world experience.



Ashton Bailey interns at PTCI.



PTCI intern Travis Pitterle.

Dean of Business and Technology Joe Breeden said, “While our academics are top notch, there is no substitute for hands-on mentorship by industry professionals.”

Many of the current employees at both TCEC and PTCI are Panhandle State alumni and graduates of the School of Business and Technology. They are passionate about giving back to Panhandle through their tutelage of the next generation of students.

Breeden added, “The key to our way of life in the Panhandle is relationships and family. These organizations treat Panhandle State and our students like family, creating bonds that will last a lifetime. Together, We Are Panhandle.”

Panhandle State graduate and PTCI Broadband Network and Data Services Supervisor Brian Hough said, “Many of the employees at PTCI are OPSU alumni and very proud of our time there. PTCI is always in search of great talent. Great talent with an Information Technology (IT) specific degree is in short supply in rural America. OPSU’s presence in rural Oklahoma and its outstanding track record in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) discipline provides the opportunity for a mutually beneficial partnership between OPSU and PTCI. PTCI’s CEO is very dedicated to growing the relationship between our cooperative and OPSU.”

TCEC Vice President of Information Technology Brenda Merkle said, “Our longstanding relationship with OPSU has always been mutually beneficial. This internship agreement continues that tradition. Interns gain hands on experience alongside six highly qualified professionals, three of whom are OPSU graduates. Our department gains extra help and insight from the next generation of specialists.”

For more information about internships possibilities, please contact Joe Breeden at [joe.breeden@opsu.edu](mailto:joe.breeden@opsu.edu) or 580-349-1469.

## Brady Takes Initiative to Grow Technology in the Education Program

There are few times when students on college campuses have the opportunity to turn the tables and instruct the faculty. Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Sarah Brady has taken the initiative to teach herself how to use a SMART Table and then teach what she has learned to the professors of the education department. The SMART Table was donated to Panhandle State by a private donor. This kind of technology is very new to education. Brady has spent many hours learning and mastering this new technological tool. Now that she has learned the aspects, she is passing on what she has learned through a series of professional development training sessions for the Panhandle faculty.

SMART Tables are quickly becoming a mainstream part of today's elementary classrooms. The hopes are that after this professional development the professors will incorporate the SMART Table into their curriculum. This will give our teacher candidates another tool when they reach the classroom. The SMART Table has different options. Brady has been going through how to use the table in teacher mode, and in student mode; in addition, she shows professors how to download workbooks.

After spending many hours mastering the SMART Table, Brady believes that it could be very useful in a primary elementary classroom. It is designed to accommodate the lower elementary grades in terms of formatting and size. Brady feels that it could be a great tool to use for reviewing, and there are also features that allow the user to go back and look at what the students have done allowing teachers to check students understanding. Brady said her favorite feature about the SMART Table is the ability to have multiple students working together to solve problems, which encourages teamwork and critical thinking skills.

Brady is not a typical teacher candidate. She is pursuing two different educational degree programs: agriculture education and elementary education. This combination is rare. It's very impressive to see a student with so much passion for education that she is willing to take the road less traveled. Brady will enter the



Sarah Brady demonstrates SMART Table technology.

classroom to student teach in the fall of 2017. She will complete her internship in two different classrooms: half of the semester in an agriculture education classroom and the other half in an elementary classroom. Beyond the education program, Brady is involved in several organizations on campus. She is the SOEA president, Alpha Zeta and FFA secretary, FFA Interscholastics student coordinator, senior class student representative, and a Panhandle State photographer.

The junior from Marcus, Iowa, is the epitome of what it means to get involved and go above and beyond classroom work. The world needs more students like Sarah Brady. Here is what she had to say about the OPSU Education Department: "My favorite part of the Education Department is that the instructors know you on a personal level, and they make a point to get to know you. They go above and beyond to help a student when they are struggling, and to me that makes the program." Panhandle State is proud to have students like Brady who take initiative to make our campus an even better place.



Dr. Justin Collins

## Collins Visits Navy Base

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Dean of Science, Math, and Nursing Dr. Justin Collins recently returned from an Educator Orientation Visit (EOV) in San Diego, California. The trip was sponsored by Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Dallas via Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC), and Distinguished Visitors (DV) Program. Dr. Collins was one of ten educators, administrators, and community leaders from Texas and Oklahoma selected to attend.

The EOV is a Navy Recruiting Command program with a main focus of providing an up-close glimpse at the various facets of the Navy and the many career paths available to students. Dr. Collins toured several places on the base each day of the five-day trip. Among the many highlights of the trip was a tour of the USS *Sampson*, an *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer in the United States Navy. He also got to spend four hours with some of the United State Navy Seals, which he described as very “intense” as he was able to view some of their weapons. One afternoon was spent in the helicopter wing, and he also spent time in the Navy hospital.

About this amazing experience, Dr. Collins, he said, “I now have a better knowledge of the opportunities within the Navy, and I can promote it to any students I have that are interested. I didn’t realize all the career paths and options that are available. From chefs to medical positions, the Navy offers such a variety of choices. I feel like the opportunities the Navy offers can be extremely beneficial due to the rising cost of medical school for my students who are interested in furthering their education.”

Dr. Collins looks forward to sharing his experience with his students and explaining the opportunities that are available to them through the Navy.



## It’s Almost Time

Oklahoma Panhandle State University’s Dean of Education Dr. Wayne Stewart and the Education department faculty are looking forward to an accreditation visit from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation during the first week of December.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “I can’t tell you how appreciative I am for how hard everyone has worked to showcase the excellence of our educational program. We are proud of our students, faculty, and staff as well as the amazing work our graduates do in the community schools that surround us.”

## Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends 2016 Honored Family: *The Silvey Family*





## Change Lies Ahead for Aggie Athletics

**S**tudent athletes and coaches from all ten NCAA Division II sports at Panhandle State gathered Wednesday evening, in the Oscar Williams Field House, for a meeting called by University President Dr. Tim Faltyn, Athletic Director and Head Coaches.

The meeting informed the athletes of upcoming changes in the OPSU athletic department and to inform the student-athletes about the process and reasons behind the proposed changes. Since taking over as President on June 1, Dr. Faltyn has made the future of Aggie Athletics one of his top priorities, meeting with the head coaches and administration no fewer than a dozen times in the first couple of months. “Our focus has been the best way to create a culture of consistent growth and success among all of Panhandle’s athletic programs,” Faltyn said.

After months of discussion and thorough research of other institutions, a unanimous decision was made to shift all current NCAA DII programs into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Three main factors were considered as driving forces in

reaching this conclusion: student experience, economics, and competitiveness. Faltyn shared each of these with the student athletes during his address and stressed that his main goal, as well as that of the coaches, was to put Panhandle State athletics in a position where each sport is able to compete at a championship level and achieve post-season status.

As recent and past economic cuts by the State of Oklahoma have had an impact on budgets campus-wide, it was agreed upon by all parties that a move to a NAIA conference would not only lower association costs but also would greatly reduce athletic travel expenses. The Aggies head men’s basketball coach Jerry Olson spoke of the economic impact: “I really believe going to NAIA is the best for long-range plans to be competitive. It has been very hard to compete in NCAA Division 2 without the resources that everyone else has. Going NAIA will save on travel costs and will get us closer to scholarship limits. Dr. Faltyn has worked very hard at researching the move and has the best interests of our athletes at heart.” With some of the savings, Panhandle could then begin work to improve athletic facilities which would, in turn, have a positive effect on the recruitment of future athletes. Scholarships and coaching salaries are other areas that could also see potential expansion as the programs progress in the new league.

Throughout the course of the decision-making process, the president and members of the athletic department inquired about a number of options before coming to a consensus on joining the NAIA. Remaining in DII or moving to the Division III rank within the NCAA were heavily considered, but ultimately, the NAIA proved the best fit given the current state of the university and level of sports competitiveness in all athletic programs. Panhandle State Athletic Director Dr. Wayne Stewart expressed excitement about the future saying, “I think it will provide more competitive opportunities for our student athletes, and, hopefully they will be spending less time on the bus.”

A few student concerns arose in a question-and-answer period after Faltyn’s address: whether tuition would see an increase, what conference we would join, and would any sports be eliminated in the transition. Faltyn explained that this early in the process there are still a lot of unknowns; however, he did not foresee any tuition hikes in the near future. He also reminded the athletes that for the 2016-2017 seasons, they are all still competing at the NCAA Division II level and that they should remain committed to a cause greater than themselves saying, “This is not a punishment or a step backwards but a step up that will help us get to a place where we can be our best. We need you to continue being all that you can be by making good decisions on the field of play, in the classroom and beyond. You are all part of a

team now, but you will always be a part of the Panhandle family.”

Dr. Faltyn also explained the process involved with making the transition from NCAA to NAIA stating, “It is our intention to apply for membership within the NAIA to be effective starting 2017-2018.” The timeline is still uncertain as schedules and contracts must be taken into consideration for all sports. The application process will begin on October 1 and will be under evaluation through January when a site visit will be scheduled. Once those steps are complete a recommendation will be made sometime between February and March upon which the NAIA board will vote. As to which conference the Aggies will join, that is also still under consideration. Faltyn offered that the Sooner Athletic Conference “made the most sense” but that the Red River Conference was also an option that had not yet been explored. Both of these proposed conferences would accommodate all sports with the exception of football, which would more than likely, reunite with the Central States Football League (CSFL). Prior to joining the Lone Star Conference, the Aggies held an alliance with the CSFL and are familiar with the teams in that league. In all of the conferences mentioned significant travel cost savings would be realized.

Looking ahead, Aggie football head coach Russell Gaskamp said, “Dr. Faltyn and our administration are taking the necessary steps to not only ensure the long-term health of our great institution but also are renewing a commitment towards excellence in our athletic programs. We feel like this moves us in that direction and the coaches are fully behind the decision.” For the present, however, Gaskamp remains focused on the current season and gaining success in the Lone Star Conference. “For the time being, our staff and players are solely focused on winning every game we can this year as a Division II member of the LSC, which we are very proud to be a part of.” Some of the football players are unhappy about the perceived step down. One athlete said, “I’m upset. I feel like we can and do compete on a Division II level.”

One staff member shared similar feelings commenting, “I’m a little disappointed with the timing of this change, particularly where football is concerned; I think it is something that should have taken place several years ago when the team was independent and already competing (and winning) against NAIA opponents. The coaches and players have worked so hard to get this team into a premier Division II program like the LSC and have already shown that they have great potential to compete within that league. Unfortunately, now we will not get to see how that could have played out.” The employee went on to say, “I do, however, understand the decision and the reasoning behind it; and I look very forward to

seeing, not only football, but all Panhandle sports adding wins to their records and being proud of the teams and the school they play for.”

Assistant Athletic Director and head women’s basketball coach Charles Terry commented on the move saying, “I recommended this shift to hopefully move all programs forward, and to get focused on the tasks at hand of developing good-character players and be competitive in all aspects. It will be a process, but I’m looking forward to the change.” Panhandle volleyball head coach Mike Stephens is also confident that this change will bring a competitive edge for the Aggies adding, “We will be able to compete at this level, and logistically, it makes sense from a travel and geographic standpoint. Our commitment to bringing in quality student athletes will not waiver. We will have higher expectations athletically and will strive for academic excellence as always.” Meghan Mulcahy, head softball coach, also looks forward to what this change has in store for her team and the growth of the softball program.

While some student athletes appeared to be skeptical about news of the switch, others have already expressed their support with one team member saying, “Moving to NAIA is big news to a lot of us, but excitement is already brewing, and I think this transition will help open up new doors for the Aggies and will put Panhandle State athletics on the map.” The Aggies head baseball and cross country coach Jason Miner also sees the move as beneficial, especially to the athletes. “The NAIA has some great institutions that focus on some of the same things that Panhandle State promotes, such as a good education and service to community. The NAIA Champions of Character initiative is something that we can embrace and be proud of,” Miner offered. He continued, “From a coach’s perspective, I am also looking forward to playing some schools that are closer to us regionally and working to compete at a national level.” One of Miner’s baseball players, Quinn O’Neill was happy to comment on the change stating, “I feel that this move, as a whole for the university, is a good move. It may not feel like it to certain athletes; however, in the big picture I think it’s the best move for us as a college.”

Dr. Faltyn assured the athletes that he carried great respect for each one of them and, therefore felt it necessary to address the situation in person as soon as possible to avoid any confusion or misrepresentation of the facts. He also encouraged athletes to talk openly with their coaches and parents about the impending changes and vowed to keep everyone as informed as possible throughout the process. Information will also be shared publicly as the shift transpires and actions are finalized.



## Aggie Fans Are About to Enter the Tailgate Zone!

**G**et ready for more action, more fun and more time to celebrate being an Aggie! This year, during all Panhandle State home football games, fans, students, alumni, businesses and friends will have a space on prime real estate to gather before each game and get their tailgating on!

The parking lot between the Oscar Williams Field House and the east side of the stadium will offer reserved spaces, specifically for tailgaters, which will be sold for \$50 per game or \$200 for the full season (four games). With their purchase fans will receive two side-by-side parking spaces with a 10' x 10' tailgate tent, furnished by the university and set up and taken down by university staff; the tent will back up to the parking spots and sit on the grassy area north of the newly-bricked Path of Pride. In addition, those with reserved tailgate space will receive free promotional items and a tailgate pack at each game. Those interested in reserving a Prime Tailgate Space can contact Russell Gaskamp at 580-349-1332 or by email at [rgaskamp@opsu.edu](mailto:rgaskamp@opsu.edu).

Tailgating space is not just limited to the six reserved tents currently available. All are welcome to come and join the fun for FREE, as picnic tables will be spaced throughout the tailgating area and smaller tents will also be made available for use by student groups and

campus organizations. Rantz Trayler in Student Affairs can be contacted for reserving tent space for a campus organization or student group.

It's the more, the merrier in the Aggie Tailgate Zone, and everyone will be able to enjoy the music, games, giveaways and a great pre-game atmosphere! Contests will also be held each week for the "Best Decorated," "Most Rowdy and Game-Ready," and the "Best Club or Student Group" tailgate sections. Prizes will be awarded each week 30 minutes prior to kickoff. All tailgaters will need to provide their own seating for tented areas as well as grills, tables, and other such necessities; fans are reminded that alcohol and tobacco products will not be permitted inside the stadium.

Season tickets are still available in limited quantities and can be purchased along with reserved tailgate space through Coach Gaskamp. Also, anyone wishing to purchase an engraved brick to add to the Path of Pride may do so through Gaskamp as well; there is currently no deadline for brick orders. More information on season tickets and the Buy-a-Brick campaign can be found on the football page of the [opsuaggies.com](http://opsuaggies.com) website.

As the Aggies open their home schedule on October 1 against last year's LSC Football Playoff runners-up, No. 7 Texas A&M-Commerce, they will look for the added support from their fans and community to make Carl Wooten Field at No Man's Land Stadium an energetic and intimidating arena during each home contest. There's no better way to show the Panhandle players and coaches they are backed by the best fans on the planet than having a jam-packed and spirited tailgate section right outside their locker room! The countdown to kickoff begins...it's almost time to Wear Red, Get Rowdy and REV IT UP for your Aggies!!!

# Aggie Football Named as Finalists for KOB Award



The Oklahoma Panhandle State Football team has been named a finalist in the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Practices Award. Main Street Guymon nominated the group for its outstanding work with the Community Clean-Up Days last April.

The team, which assists a community each spring in their community clean days, makes a tremendous difference to what gets done. “With about 80 young, strong, college men working about four hours, there

is a lot of work that gets completed,” says Main Street Director Melyn Johnson. “We are so appreciative of their help.”

This past April the players helped work on the parking lot for the Panhandle Health Clinic, painted at the City of Guymon airport and did major trash pick up along every entrance into Guymon.

The winner of the award will be named at the KOB Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 17, in Oklahoma City at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

# September Panhandle State Aggie Athletes of the Week Winners

	WEEK	NAME	SPORT	ACHIEVEMENT	
 Emily Goeken	1: AUG 29-SEP 4	Emily Goeken	Volleyball	Led the team in kills with 17 in opening tournament of the season.	
		Andrew Hernandez	Football	Scored two TDs and totaled 133 yards receiving in season-opener at D-I Sam Houston.	
 Andrew Hernandez	2: SEP 5-11	Emily Goeken	Volleyball	Totaled 35 kills over four games and also led in digs with 38.	
		Brandon Trotter	Football	Helped the Aggies defeat D-I UA-Pine Bluff with a game-winning TD.	
 Brandon Trotter	3: SEP 12-18	Bridgett Marrigan	Women’s Rodeo	Won the Women’s All-Around title and helped women notch a team title at Colby.	
		Josh Frost	Men’s Rodeo	Won the Men’s All-Around making short-go in three events to help men earn the team title as well.	
 Bridgett Marrigan	4: SEP 19-25	Kalyn Moore	Volleyball	Totaled 11 kills and 13 digs in two conference matches.	
		Rod Moore	Football	Held the game-high in all-purpose yards with 177 against No. 11 Midwestern.	
 Josh Frost	5: SEP 26-OCT 2	Hannah Hammack	Equestrian	Earned two second-place finishes at the NCTC Western Show.	
		Darryn Cain	Football	Had two interceptions on No. 6 TAMU-Commerce and led the team in tackles with seven.	
 Kalyn Moore		 Rod Moore	 Hannah Hammack	 Darryn Cain	

AGGIE FOOTBALL  
AT 1 P.M.  
CARL WOOTEN FIELD



Oklahoma Panhandle State University  
Tenth Annual

# CHILI COOK-OFF 11.12.16

JUDGING STARTS AT 11 A.M.



LOCATED AT THE PARKING LOT WEST  
OF  
OSCAR WILLIAMS FIELD HOUSE

WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT HALFTIME OF THE FOOTBALL GAME.  
FOR COMPLETE RULES AND ENTRY FORMS CALL:  
580-349-1302



Dr. Grandin to Visit OPSU

*Dr. Grandin is an autistic animal behaviorist, as well as a professor at Colorado State University, and teaches courses on Animal Behavior and Welfare.*

*Thursday, Nov. 10  
@ 6 p.m.  
in the Oscar Williams Field House.  
Event is free to the public!*