

# **P**anhandle

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[OPSU.edu](http://OPSU.edu)

## Aggies Spread Cheer



# President's Update

## Red and Blue Plans for Future Housing

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**E**xciting changes are happening all around the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus and plans are beginning to take shape for student housing renovations.

Following a recent meeting with leaders of the Panhandle State Student Government Association, University President Dr. Faltyn said, "I asked the students to help by touring other campuses and putting together one-, three-, and five-year proposals. They have great ideas. I was so impressed by how good their work was."

Director of Student Services Rantz Trayler also attended the meeting. Trayler commented, "The students worked diligently to find out what would benefit student housing the best. The renovations will allow our students to feel like they are not living on a college campus but instead living in an extension of their home."

Senior Sarah Brady is serving as a member of the student committee. She commented, "It has been such an honor to be able to work on such a project for the university. We look forward to the next steps in the process and hope that everyone else is as excited about it as we are."

Jill Huseman is also serving on the student committee, and she said, "Being a part of this committee has been

an incredible experience! My aspiration, for this project, specifically the improvements of our facilities, will attract future students who expect a higher standard of living!"

Another student committee member, Kaylee Carroll, said, "What an incredible opportunity to give back to the campus that has done so much for us the last four years. Hopefully we can provide a place for more students to come and have all of the experiences and blessings we had."

Plans were discussed to renovate the current dorms with upgrades to current bathroom facilities and lighting improvements. Other plans include the addition of moveable furniture allowing students to personalize their rooms.

Regarding funding, Dr. Faltyn has plans over the next five years to solicit donations, ask the Panhandle State Foundation for additional funds, and utilize University funds from enrollment increases.



Leaders in the student government association recently shared their ideas for housing renovations. Left to right: Kaylee Carroll, Sarah Brady, Jill Huseman, and Kali Weber.



Image of future room design plans at Holter Hall



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Stacia Wallace (left) and Kalyn Moore, members of the Panhandle State Volleyball team, volunteer at a local food pantry.

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## ADMINISTRATION

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## PANHANDLE MAGAZINE

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1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

## Athletics Community Outreach

1. **Women's Basketball** - Held a book drive for the Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo
2. **Volleyball** - Volunteered at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of Guymon
3. **Sports Information** - Aggies CAN Make a Difference Food Drive during fall basketball season
4. **Golf**  
Helped clean up the Sunset Hills Golf Course in Guymon
5. **Baseball**  
Helped with local community cleanup and hosted a day of fun for Camp Alphonse kids
6. **Men's Basketball**  
Assisted with the games at the Texas County Golden Senior Olympics
7. **Football**  
Wrote letters of encouragement to elementary students receiving dictionaries from Guymon Rotary Club
8. **Softball**  
Held a clothing drive for the Northwest Domestic Crisis Center in Guymon



6.



7.

8.

# Aggies Spread Cheer— Holiday Giving Efforts

## 1. University College—Campus Coat Closet

The coat closet began on the third floor in Sewell-Loufborrow three years ago after seeing a need on campus. Many students come from much warmer climates, and when they visit Panhandle State in the summer it is 90 degrees outside. They have no idea how cold Panhandle winters can be, and they are not adequately prepared for the cold wind and snow. The coat closet enlists the help of community members, and the Goodwell Methodist Church has taken the project under its wing as well. The first year, 40 students received coats, gloves, or stocking caps.

## 2. HALO—Operation Christmas Child

HALO (Hispanic American Leadership Organization) students contributed 68 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Each November thousands of churches, groups, and individual donors prepare and collect shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal items, and other small gifts. These boxes are then distributed overseas by volunteers. The HALO group also enjoyed purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree in place of a gift exchange among themselves.

## 3. SOEA—Community Donations

For many, Christmas is a time of joy and blessings. For some, Christmas is a time of struggles and needs. The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) group wanted to help with some of those needs in the area this Christmas season. Through donations, they were able to donate several binders to students in need in the Guymon School District. In addition, the group raised enough money to sponsor two angels on the Image Art Club's Angel Tree. As future educators, group members know that they did their part in helping children in this community.

## 4. School of Agriculture

Students in the School of Agriculture who helped with the homecoming float used their winning homecoming float money to shop for Christmas gifts. The group shopped for a family of five children, a family of three children, and two individuals. Not only was it wonderful to give back to the community but also it was a great time spent with a close-knit group of ag students.

## 5. Images Art Club—Angel Tree

Once again, the Images Art Club did an act of kindness for the community in the form of its annual Angel Tree event. This event is a way to help families who are going through difficult times. The community comes together to help so that they can have a Christmas filled with love and joy. Individuals or groups can buy gifts for a family or an individual child. The art department and Images Art Club then takes charge of delivering the gifts.

## 6. Women in Ag—Christmas Tree Festival

A tree-decorating competition and exhibit, is open to all who want to share in the joy of the season. Community members may browse the beautifully decorated trees while enjoying a free-will donation soup supper in the Student Union ballroom.



# Aggie Family



Staff  
**Bobby Jenkins**

**W**alking into Sewell-Loofburrow Hall on any given day of the week, one will find the Office of the Registrar, where Mr. Bobby Jenkins works hard helping push Oklahoma Panhandle State University into a new age of greater efficiency.

Jenkins has been with the university as a registrar since 2004, but his connection to Panhandle State goes back much further. Jenkins, in fact, is an Aggie himself. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 1997. In 2013, nine years into his tenure at Panhandle, Jenkins received his Master's Degree in Psychology from West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas.

In the past two years, Jenkins has been asked to go above and beyond as the university began instituting the Banner system. Mr. Jenkins has done that and much more.

"The biggest challenge I have had as Registrar is the migration from our previous student system, SCT, to our current system, Banner. The students, faculty, and other staff have been great to work with during the Banner transition. I appreciate all of their patience and continuous feedback about the system. After Banner is fully implemented, it will be a better platform system for students and faculty, but there are several modules we are still installing. The primary objective of our offices is to provide quality customer service for our students, staff, and faculty. Students are and will always be our number-one priority. It is an honor to serve others through Higher Education to be a part of someone's journey toward their ultimate goals."

Bobby Jenkins' life is not all work though. When he's not overhauling the way students approach online access, Jenkins enjoys gaming on PS4, watching Netflix and Hulu, reading, and spending time with his family as well as his dachshund, Bella. Of course, anyone who has been to Mr. Jenkins' office knows that he is also a fan of the *Star Wars* franchise.

When asked who his heroes were, Jenkins responded, "St. John Paul II and Pope Francis. Their beliefs and standards regarding the dignity and respect for all humankind challenge me, every day, to be a better person and contribute to building a better world for everyone."

Jenkins is certainly following in their footsteps as his hard work and dedication have made him an unsung hero at Panhandle State.



Student  
**Kaylee Carroll**

**T**he student spotlight is on the extremely talented and hard-working Kaylee Carroll.

Kaylee is from Colorado Springs, Colo. and came to Oklahoma Panhandle State University to study elementary education. She stated that what drew her the most to campus was the "small class sizes and the quality and reputation of the teacher education program." She definitely came to the right school for that. The programs have very personal classroom environments and produce many outstanding young educators. She mentions that her favorite part of Panhandle State is the "tight knit community of students and professors."

Kaylee is very involved in different activities, including being a Student Senate representative, a member of the housing committee, a member of the Teacher Education Council, treasurer of Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) and most astoundingly of all, is the Oklahoma Cultural Ambassador for SOEA.

About this position, Kaylee explains, "As cultural ambassador, I use my experience as a member of the Cherokee Nation to work with colleges and universities across the state to recruit culturally diverse students into the education field as well as the SOEA organization. I meet in Oklahoma City with other state officers and Oklahoma Education Association members to coordinate professional development, outreach programs for Oklahoma public schools, distribute resources to colleges/universities/public school teachers, and advocate for the teaching profession in the Panhandle as well as at the state and national level."

She is clearly a very busy young woman.

Kaylee Carroll will student teach beginning in January of 2017 and graduate in May. After she graduates, she hopes to work in a middle school and eventually work towards a doctorate in organizational learning, performance and change at Colorado State University.

Kaylee's amazing ability to balance all of the activities she is involved in with classes and homework play a big part in the dynamic impact she is making on campus and beyond.



**Faculty**  
**Sarah Green**

Oklahoma Panhandle State University has many people who contribute to the success of its students, and Sarah Green is most definitely one of those individuals. Her bright smile meets students who are transitioning from high school into the college life and offers them advisement in the major decisions they make toward their educations.

Mrs. Green is from Goodwell Okla., and followed her long family tradition in attending Panhandle State just as her brother, parents, and grandparents before her. After graduating from Panhandle State, she received her Master's degree in educational counseling from Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Mrs. Green is married to a Colorado native and Panhandle State Rodeo Alum, C.A. Green, and together they have one son who is in seventh grade at Goodwell Middle School. Mrs. Green enjoys spending time watching her son's sporting events as well as watching the Dallas Cowboys and Oklahoma City Thunder with her family.

Mrs. Green has been working at Panhandle State since the fall of 2007 as an adviser, and she also teaches bridge courses to students who have a difficult time transitioning to the college curriculum. She helps those who struggle to understand certain subjects. Around campus, Mrs. Green has been a part of the Coat Closet Initiative that allows students who aren't prepared for the cold weather of the Panhandle to pick out coats to suit their needs. She has also been a part of the Financial Aid Committee, which helps students understand the educational choices and the impact it has on their lives.

When asked what she loves most about Panhandle State, she states, "I love the atmosphere. I love knowing my students, and that my students know me. I believe that allows me to have a more personal impact with the students I work with."

Green has developed a great reputation with her students, and her excellent work has shown through her long-time commitment to the university and those who attend.



**Alumni**  
**Destyni Trayler**

An Oklahoma Panhandle State University class of 2013 Psychology major, Destyni Trayler has lost no time in making her mark while pursuing her passion.

Originally from Jones, Okla., Trayler came to Panhandle State to play softball and "will be forever grateful for the tenacity of the coach who recruited me."

Trayler said, "This chapter of my life was jumpstarted at OPSU. Within a week of being on campus my freshman year, I met my husband, Rantz. I fell in love with psychology because of the professors I studied under there and I was pushed and prepared to pursue my masters. My work ethic and determination were shaped by playing softball at OPSU, working as a resident assistant and dorm director, and being surrounded by likeminded students, faculty, and staff. Even though I was 5 hours from my biological family, OPSU became like a family for me and my husband and we now call this area our home. It may sound cliché, but I would not be where I am today without OPSU's influence in my life."

She is currently the Executive Director at Panhandle Services for Children (PSC), Inc. in Guymon, Okla. The agency provides counseling, foster care, education, and prevention programs to youth and families in Texas, Beaver, and Cimarron counties.

Most recently Trayler was a NexGen Under 30 award winner. NextGen Under 30 recognizes and encourages the next generation of innovative, creative, and inspiring individuals who push the boundaries in various categories of endeavor. Award winners are selected based upon their participation in and contribution to their communities. A panel of respected business and civic leaders serve as judges. Winners were honored at an awards dinner and banquet on November 18th at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Trayler became the Executive Director of PSC at the age of 24 making her the youngest director out of the 42 designated youth service agencies in the state. In addition, she is the Northwest Cluster representative for the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services. On top of that, Trayler completed her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology this year.

She commented, "I love the idea of honoring younger professionals because, despite our reputation, my generation has a lot to offer."

Her husband Rantz is the Director of Student Services at Panhandle State.



2015 Fall Homecoming Queen Abigail Ferguson (left) and 2015 Fall Homecoming King Logan Litton

## Grandma's Kitchen

By Abigail Ferguson



*Originally from Texhoma, Okla., Abigail completed her Biology degree this December at Panhandle State. She plans to pursue her doctorate in physical therapy. Abigail was the 2015 Fall Homecoming Queen. As a student, she served as a resident assistant at Holter Hall and was a member of the Golf Team and ran Cross Country. In addition, Abigail served as a student leader at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. She was employed on campus by the Sports Information Department and worked as an assistant in the Football Office.*

*This essay was selected from a group of essays submitted by Dr. Ondyak's Freshman English classes. Students were asked to describe one of their favorite aspects of Panhandle State for an audience that has never visited the campus. The essays feature a number of different aspects on campus including the amazing people, places and events at the University.*

**T**he cafeteria is one of the most visited places on the PSU campus. The cafeteria has many smells, sights, and noises that make entering it much like entering grandma's kitchen.

There are so many smells that engulf students as they enter the dining hall. The aroma of peppered pork chops, buttered corn, and steamed vegetables floats forward to

stimulated noses, and the sweet fragrance of homemade desserts alights on anticipating nostrils as well. These yummy scents consist of warm, chocolate chip cookies that have just come out of the oven, fresh apple pie seasoned with cinnamon, just how grandma does it, and gooey, cocoa-rich chocolate cake batter mixed at the very moment. From across the room, smells of fresh waffles and delicious homemade soup reach hungry visitors. With all of these wonderful, home-kitchen aromas, it may seem hard to believe that students notice anything else. However, guests see sights upon entering the cafeteria too.

The first sight students view in the dining hall is a friendly staff member busy greeting people at the front door and checking their names off the meal list. More times than not, this amiable person is Ms. Lisa. This gray-haired, kind-hearted lady has nothing less than a smile on her face any time she is encountered. After visiting Ms. Lisa, students observe a sea of chairs and tables awaiting the occupancy of hungry cafeteria guests. These visitors are really like a large family reuniting and surveying a well-furnished home and delicious, home-cooked meal. The group watches as colorful food creations make their way onto awaiting dishes stacked as abundantly as grandmother's china in the cabinet. On top of all of these sights, many sounds come to life as well.

Everyone in the cafeteria seems to be talking at once. Friends learn of the latest drama, arrange study plans, and tell silly inside jokes. Laughter bubbles up and over as a table of girls erupts into high-pitched squeals and giggles. The cafeteria allows students to catch up and recap, and the constant clamor in the room makes the dining hall feel like a rambunctious family gathering. The background of this exciting atmosphere is filled with the occasional clanging of pots and pans, the whirl of a mixer, and the sudden, accidental crash as someone drops an entire tray of food. Everyone claps and carries on about the mishap. The student's friends will not cease to give him or her grief about this incident just as his or her family would not let the student live down a similar situation. Some kind soul plays surrogate mother and reminds the student not to be wasteful because there are children in impoverished countries who would love to have that food.

Panhandle State's cafeteria is special because of the home-like feel it provides. From the delicious smell of home-cooked food to the friendly face of the grandma-resembling Ms. Lisa, to the hum of sound that parallels a family reunion, the cafeteria is similar to grandmother's kitchen and welcomes.





## CAEP Accreditation Visit

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**T**he Oklahoma Panhandle State University School of Education hosted an on-campus accreditation visit December 4-6. Three national team members from Indiana, New Jersey, and North Carolina were joined by two Oklahoma team members along with two Oklahoma state consultants, a public school observer, and a Board of Regents representative. The team began the on-site visit on Sunday afternoon with interviews of area public school teachers and administrators, current Panhandle State student teachers and their cooperating teachers, and recent graduates of the education program. Interviews continued on Monday with education candidates ready to student teach in the spring 2017 semester; members of the Panhandle State Teacher Education Council, Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) members; arts and science faculty and education faculty; along with visits with Dr. Faltyn, Panhandle State President; Diane Murphey, VPAA; Benny Dain, VPFA; and Delilah Henderson, Field Placement Officer.

On Tuesday morning, the National team chair, along with the state chair and state consultants, held an exit meeting in Dr. Faltyn's office presenting their findings. This meeting also included Dr. Stewart, Dean, and Jerry Mihelic, Department Chair. The team complimented OPSU and the School of Education on the preparation for the visit, the courtesy and collegiality of the education faculty and staff, and the relationship between the School of Education and the surrounding public schools.

While the School of Education will not receive final notification of the success of the accreditation visit until sometime in late March or early April, the team did congratulate the School of Education on a successful accreditation visit and stated that their report to CAEP would not contain any areas of concern but would include some areas of strength of the program. The Oklahoma state report was equally positive with only one minor area of concern.

Dr. Faltyn, Dr. Stewart, Mr. Mihelic, and all members of the Panhandle State Teacher Education Program wish to express a great deal of thanks and gratitude to the visiting team and their dedication to ensuring that the School of Education continues to provide quality teachers to the surrounding public schools.



Dean of Education Dr. Stewart (left) is pictured here with Johnnie Davis of Goodwell. Davis is holding a T-Rex skull created by a large-scale 3-D printer donated by an anonymous charitable foundation.

## Charitable Foundation Invests in Future Teachers

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**T**hanks to the generous donations of an anonymous charitable foundation Oklahoma Panhandle State University students in the Education Department are benefitting from scholarships and recent donations of technology teaching tools. Johnnie Davis of Goodwell, Okla. together with the other directors of this charitable foundation are playing a very instrumental part in the preparation of future elementary education teachers.

Davis said, "What we would like to do is help produce science teachers."

The foundation offers generous scholarships to elementary education teacher candidates who commit to extending course work in the area of science. This will be a benefit not only to the ones receiving the scholarships, but also to the public school students they will be teaching in the future. The Education program currently has a few elementary education teacher candidates receiving this scholarship and will continue to have students that qualify and benefit from this scholarship opportunity in the coming years.

In addition to the scholarship opportunities, the foundation has also provided the Panhandle State Teacher Education program with some new and innovative technology teaching tools that are currently being used in the teacher preparation program. One of these tools is a Smart Table. It is similar to a Smart Board and allows multiple students to interact with the programs it features. The Smart Table is an emerging technology tool that is appearing in more and more public school classrooms. Panhandle State teacher graduates will be prepared to make the best use possible of the table when they enter the classroom after graduation.

The other new item provided by the donation is a large-scale 3-D printer. This tool allows teacher candidates to create teaching manipulatives for the classroom, such as a large T-Rex skull. 3-D printers are also being used in many public schools and the Education Department graduates will be ready to use them.

Dr. Stewart, Dean of Education, says, "These scholarships and the new technology teaching tools are a great boost to our education program. We anticipate these donations will help us continue to produce quality elementary education teachers for many years to come."



Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Department of Communications presented a drama production, *Waiting for the Hearse*, on campus this November.

## Drama Production a Success

By Alexandria Trujillo

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Department of Communications presented a drama production, *Waiting for the Hearse*, on campus this November. After months of hard work and dedication, two casts and crews—Spanish and English—learned lines, put up an impressive set, and entertained hundreds of people over the course of two weekends.

*Waiting for the Hearse* (whose original title is *Esperando la Carroza*) is a play by Jacobo Langsner, a Uruguayan-Romanian playwright who writes about the hypocrisy of Latin America middle classes.

The play shows the relationships of three social classes in one family that lead to much of the drama. Susana and Jorge are the lower-class couple struggling with taking care of a baby and a “bothersome” old grandma called Mamá Cora. The middle-class couple, Elvira and Sergio, struggle keeping up appearances and keeping their rebellious teenage daughter, Matilde, in line. The upper-class couple, Nora and Antonio, are too caught up in their image to deal with children or elderly people, and so they live in their own world. The comedy takes place on an ordinary Sunday.

The play begins with Susana and Jorge arguing over taking care of the baby, while poor Mamá Cora mistakes Susana's mayonnaise sauce for flan and puts it in the oven. Nervous Susana, goes off on the old lady and storms off. Elvira and Sergio start their day with a disgruntled Matilde covered in soap when the water unexpectedly shuts off. To top off their annoyance, Susana and Jorge show up to “air out their dirty laundry” as they complain about how much of a bother Mamá Cora has become. They beg the couple to take the old woman for a while. Nora and Antonio show up for lunch, fashionable as ever, to Elvira and Sergio's home, and are surprised to see the unexpected guests. Elvira and Sergio are both still in their pajamas but eventually get dressed for the day still attempting to impress their guests. Susana storms off once again and the remaining family members try to figure out what the plan is for lunch, considering there is no water to boil Elvira's ravioli. The day gets even worse when Susana returns in search of Mamá Cora, who has gone missing.

The play goes on as this crazy family brings some laughs to the audience with their comedic ranting. Nora and Sergio are called out on having an affair, Susana and Elvira argue until their faces turn red, and a wake is held for an old woman they mistake as Mamá Cora. To all of the family's surprise, Mamá Cora shows up to her own wake, and they discover that they had the wrong woman all along. The macabre humor continues as they try to get the impostor out and convince Mamá Cora that there was no wake happening.

The Spanish cast consisted of the following, named in order of appearance: Melina Rivera, Teri Mora, Brian Martinez, Karen Esquivel, Ramiro Martinez, Jocelynn Avalos, Rocio Marquez, Omar Chacon, Blanca Jauregui, Brad Alba, Citlalli Talia Vazquez, Tim Faltyn, Ashley Barrios, Bailey Twilleger, and Larisa Stalldecker. The English cast consisted of many of the same actors, some in the same role, also named in order of appearance: Larisa Stalldecker, Teri Mora, Brian Martinez, Casie Campbell, Ramiro Martinez, Bailey Twilleger, Alexandria Trujillo, Tito Aznar, Citlalli Talia Vazquez, Brad Alba, Melina Rivera, Tim Faltyn, Ashley Barrios, Jocelynn Avalos and Karen Esquivel.

A huge shout out goes out to Tito Aznar for putting in more than double the hours to make the magic happen while directing, essentially, two separate plays. He spent so much of his time behind the scenes while painting and building the set, creating the costumes, visualizing the characters, and bringing this comedy to life in two different languages. Thank you!

The play was a success for both casts as the crowds laughed along with each scene. People came from near and far to catch this comedy in both Spanish and English, and the cast and crew did a wonderful job of working together to create some family-friendly quirky and hilarious entertainment for the surrounding area.

This production was made possible thanks to a generous grant by the Masonic Endowment for Cultural Enrichment.

## 20 Years and Going Strong for Panhandle State's BSN Nursing Program

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program began its 20th year of academic excellence this fall.

Panhandle State's RN to BSN program was founded in 1996 becoming one of the first nursing programs in the nation to offer all BSN nursing courses online. Four students graduated in the first class of Panhandle's BSN program in the Spring of 1998. Over the last 20 years, a total of 383 BSN students have graduated from the program earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The BSN program is currently the largest program at Panhandle State with 128 BSN students moving actively through the courses required to obtain their BSN degree. Currently, the program is graduating an average of 47 students per year. Each school year, approximately 40 to 60 new students are admitted to the program.

This unique program focuses on the adult learner and does not require campus attendance. With graduates in California, New Jersey, and the Virgin Islands, students successfully complete the program while living across the country. Applicants to the BSN program must be licensed Registered Nurses. The program is designed to meet the distinctive challenges that face busy, registered nurses balancing family, work, and outside obligations.

An affordable program, it offers both full-time and part-time options allowing students to set their own pace. Students may be admitted in the fall, spring, and summer.

In a recent study, "30 Great Small Colleges for a RN to BSN Degree", done by Best Master of Science In Nursing Degrees, the online RN to BSN Nursing Program at Oklahoma Panhandle State University was selected as number seven among the top 30 honorees.

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

For more information, please contact Judy Unruh, Program Interim Director, at [judy.unruh@opsu.edu](mailto:judy.unruh@opsu.edu) or 580-349-1436.



Panhandle State School of Science, Math, and Nursing recently received a telescope donation from Keith Farrar. The telescope is pictured here with Vance Farrar, Keith's son.

## Science Department Receives Telescope

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Students in the Oklahoma Panhandle State University School of Science, Math, and Nursing have new opportunities thanks to the recent donation by Keith Farrar of a Meade LX200 telescope.

Dean of Science, Math, and Nursing Dr. Justin Collins said, "We are extremely honored and excited for the opportunity to utilize the telescope in our classrooms. It will be a great benefit to our students as it is a more advanced telescope than the one currently available for student use."

Farrar, a lifelong farmer from Hugoton, Kan., has owned multiple telescopes over the years beginning with one he built himself in sixth grade. Farrar went on to build his own observatory at age 76. He served as a Kansas state representative for 12 years and on the Kansas State Board of Tax Appeals for seven years. In addition, he has traveled around the world, built two speed boats, and crossed the United States twice on Indian motorcycle. Farrar is a private pilot and a Navy veteran.

Looking for someone who could use the telescope as it was intended, Farrar was delighted to hear Panhandle State could use it and was thankful for a "good home" for his telescope.

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**AGGIES HALL OF FAME  
FEB 3, 2017 - 7PM**  
For tickets contact Jerry Olson 580-206-0184



## **Aggies Offered Membership in the Sooner Athletic Conference and CSFL**

In pursuit of making a transition to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) ranks, Oklahoma Panhandle State University has been officially invited to join as full member of both the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) and the Central States Football League (CSFL).

Memberships for each would start during the 2017-2018 academic year and would include immediate eligibility for post-season conference championships and achievement awards. Panhandle received unanimous approval from the SAC Council of Presidents along with Central Christian College of Kansas, which will also join the league next year.

The Aggies would compete in nine sports within the SAC including baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, softball, and volleyball. Football will resume play within the CSFL through the 2017 season, after which that sport will be absorbed into the SAC as part of an expansion effort.

While the university must still go through an approval process with the NAIA, coaches and

administration are extremely enthusiastic and optimistic about the future of Aggie Athletics. All parties involved view this transition not only as necessary but also as a vital move that will present Panhandle's student athletes with the best possible opportunities for success on and off the field.

Aggie Softball's head coach Meghan Mulcahy sees the SAC as "a great place for us to begin our NAIA journey" and states that her team is looking forward to the competition this level will offer. Competitive edge was one of the main aspects considered during the deliberation process of shifting from the NCAA Division II level to the NAIA. Other contributing factors expected to greatly benefit athletic programs down the road are largely financial and include lower travel costs, due to a more centrally-located league, as well as decreased association fees which will also provide overall savings that can be used for department-wide improvements to facilities and athletic infrastructure.

University president Dr. Tim Faltyn has been a supportive and driving force throughout this process and shares the excitement of his athletics staff for the future of Panhandle State sports. "We are extremely honored by the invitation to join the Sooner Athletic Conference and the CSFL. This move is going to make a big difference not only to the coaches and student athletes but also to the student experience as a whole on this campus."

Looking forward to what lies ahead, Aggie Men's Basketball Coach Jerry Olson commented, "I am really excited to be accepted into one of the premier NAIA conferences in the country. There have been a lot of National Champions out of the Sooner Athletic Conference." Olson also expressed his appreciation stating, "Dr. Faltyn has worked very hard to get us into a conference and in a position where we can be successful."

Panhandle's Head Football Coach Russell Gaskamp offered a statement as well: "I am very excited about being a full member of the CSFL. Being familiar with that league from our previous scheduling alliance, I am even more excited that our kids will have the opportunity to compete for a CSFL championship as early as 2017 and feel like we can be very competitive right away." As a prior NCAA Division II independent team, the Aggies entered the Lone Star Conference for football only in 2016 to solidify scheduling needs. Those needs will be stabilized with the school's acceptance into the NAIA.

Although there is still work to be done to attain NAIA status, the Aggies' invitation for membership into the SAC and CSFL are two very big steps in the right direction. Dr. Wayne Stewart, Athletic Director at OPSU, stated, "We are tremendously excited about the move to the NAIA and the membership opportunities in both the SAC and the CSFL. This move will allow OPSU student-athletes the ability to better compete on a level-playing field, will add to the OPSU student experience as a whole, and will allow OPSU to continue to offer competitive sports and maybe even add sports in the future. It is a great time to be an Aggie!"



Aggie O-lineman Jakob Popple was one of four Panhandle players to receive LSC All-Conference recognition.

## Four Aggies Earn LSC All-Conference Honors

**T**he Lone Star Conference released its 2016 All-Conference Awards recipients Friday afternoon with four Aggies honored for their performance both on and off the field this season.

Sophomore defensive end Sequoia Smith earned high honors as one of eleven players from throughout the conference to be placed on the 2016 LSC Football All-Academic team. The Boyd, Texas, native is pursuing a degree in animal science at Panhandle State and has maintained an outstanding academic record during his first two years on the team. In order to be nominated for All-Academic honors, the player must have played at least 50 percent of the team's contests, must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing, must have completed on a full academic year at the nominating institution, and must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.30.

Smith has also excelled on the field playing in 20 games over two years and starting in all 11 of the Aggies' contests in 2016. He's combined for 43 tackles and 4.5 sacks in his two seasons of play and looks to be a strong contributor on the defensive side of the ball in the future. Head Coach Russell Gaskamp was extremely pleased with the news of Smith's recognition saying, "I'm very proud of Sequoia. He has been an excellent asset to this team and embodies the term 'student-athlete.'"

In addition to Smith's All-Academic honors, three more Aggies were also listed as All-Conference

Honorable Mention players. Offensive lineman Jakob Popple, wide receiver Devyn Williams, and safety Darryn Cain received recognition for their contributions on the field this season.

Popple also puts an emphasis on the "student" in student-athlete and was nominated along with Smith for All-Academic honors; the junior has played in 18 games for the Aggie O-line and will, no doubt, be a key contributor going into his senior season. Williams finished his junior year as the Aggies' leading receiver with over 600 yards on 43 receptions for three touchdowns on the season; he also led the team in returns totaling 409 yards and one touchdown on 19 kickoff returns and had 24 yards total on punt return.

As a true freshman out of Channelview High School in Houston, Darryn Cain was an integral part of the Aggie defense this season. He finished as the team's second-leading tackler with 66 tackles (35 solos) and had 8 pass break-ups for the year. To put a stamp on the first season of his collegiate career, Cain finished as the conference leader in interceptions with 5 takeaways totaling 147 yards and 1 touchdown, his longest being a 75-yarder against Tarleton State.

The full release by the Lone Star Conference listing all 128 student-athlete honorees can be viewed at [lonestarconference.org](http://lonestarconference.org). Congratulations to the entire Panhandle State Football coaching staff for their continued support of these outstanding young men and to the players who exemplify what being a "student-athlete" is all about.



## Panhandle Baseball Brings Fun to Children Battling Cancer

Submitted by Panhandle State Sports Information

**M**embers of the Aggie Baseball team took some time out of their busy schedules to brighten the day for a group of kids from Camp Alphonse in Amarillo.

The first weekend in November Aggies' Head Coach Jason Miner and Assistant Coach Keith Schulz arranged a special day to share with some very special young people. Several Aggie baseball players, along with their coaches, traveled to Amarillo to host a fun-filled day for a group of kids from Camp Alphonse who are currently battling cancer.

Camp Alphonse is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing children suffering from cancer, as well as their families, a place to experience some new things, make new friends and connections and, more importantly, to relax and forget about their worries. The goal is to offer kids a place of healing that invokes the childlike spirits of kids and parents alike who, otherwise, have heavy burdens on their shoulders.

Coach Schulz has been a counselor at Camp Alphonse for several years now, and has seen first-hand how relationships built with these children can have a positive impact on all parties involved.

Schulz helped organize the event to let the kids be kids and allow the players an opportunity to interact with children who look up to them as athletes. Through the experience the players found things they had in common with the different children, and each athlete paired up with a child to become pen pals for life so they could share their progress with each other.

The day of fun was held at the Party Barn in Amarillo, and the Aggies had plenty planned including minute-to-win-it games and arts-and-crafts time. LaBella's provided everyone's favorite food for lunch, pizza!

The team plans to bring a group of Camp Alphonse kids to one of their home games in the spring so their new friends can enjoy a day at the ballpark. More information on Camp Alphonse and how to get involved with the camps or become a donor can be found by visiting the website at [campalphie.org](http://campalphie.org).



Aggie Football Head Coach Russell Gaskamp was recognized by the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful organization for Panhandle Football

## OPSU Coach Wins Environmental Excellence Award

Submitted by Panhandle State Sports Information

**P**eople from all over Oklahoma met to celebrate Oklahoma environmental excellence.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) hosted its 26th Annual Environmental Excellence Celebration last Thursday. This event, held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, celebrates the work of municipalities, businesses, organizations, and individuals doing their part to keep Oklahoma beautiful. Coach Russell Gaskamp with the Oklahoma Panhandle State University football team received the Collegiate Effort Award.

Many groups volunteer with Main Street Guymon, but perhaps none as frequently or as dedicatedly as the OPSU football players and coaches. Coach Russell Gaskamp comes in early and learns what needs to be done. This year, 40 of the team members were on trash duty, cleaning every single entry into town, plus most of the parks. It is not unreasonable to count 150 bags of trash filled by the football players. Another crew of 40 helped put down a parking lot for the local health clinic; others painted at the airport. For four years, Gaskamp has ensured that his team gives back to communities through hard work and compassion.

For 26 years, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful has recognized Oklahomans who support the mission to empower Oklahoma citizens to preserve and enhance the state's natural beauty and ensure a healthy, sustainable environment.

"Keep Oklahoma Beautiful's annual Environmental Excellence Awards is our time to recognize good works and accomplishments from all across our great state," said Jeanette Nance, Executive Director of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful. "It is the time that our affiliates, partnering communities, individuals and corporations can be spotlighted for their efforts to help us keep a more beautiful Oklahoma. This time is always so special because we can recognize small communities, large communities as well as people young and old who share our passion to keep Oklahoma's beauty running deep. We absolutely love this chance to say thank you for all you do!"

# November Athletes of the Week



Emily Goeken

**Week:** 10: OCT 31-NOV 6  
**Name:** Emily Goeken **Sport:** Volleyball  
**Achievement:** The senior totaled 22 kills, 2 aces and 1.5 blocks in her final two games as an Aggie. She held the game-high with 13 kills against St. Edward's and had 9 vs. DBU.



Rod Moore

**Week:** 10: OCT 31-NOV 6  
**Name:** Rod Moore **Sport:** Football  
**Achievement:** Had 48 yards on 7 carries against ENMU and totaled 3 catches for 16 yards and the team's only touchdown in the game. Moore also had the longest return of the game with a 44-yard return on kickoff.



Taylor Acosta

**Week:** 11: NOV 7-13  
**Name:** Taylor Acosta **Sport:** Women's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Put up a team-high of 14 points against NM Highlands and added 9 points against WNMU in opening tournament.



Malcolm Glanville

**Week:** 11: NOV 7-13  
**Name:** Malcolm Glanville **Sport:** Men's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Totaled 32 points in the Aggies' season-opening double-header against WNMU. Shot a game-high of 30 in game two for the first win of the year. Also totaled 12 boards in the series.



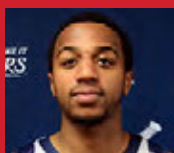
Addison Munsch

**Week:** 12: NOV 14-20  
**Name:** Addison Munsch **Sport:** Women's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Munsch scored a team-high of 15 points against SGU and totaled 8 rebounds; also led the team in steals with 4.



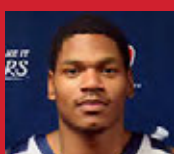
Darby Price

**Week:** 12: NOV 14-20  
**Name:** Darby Price **Sport:** Women's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Price was the Aggies' leading rebounder totaling 16 on SGU and earning a double-double in the game with 11 points.



Riyadh Asad

**Week:** 12: NOV 14-20  
**Name:** Riyadh Asad **Sport:** Men's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Scored a game-high of 19 points against Barclay and offered 9 assists to lead the game.



Devonta Brooks

**Week:** 13: NOV 21-27  
**Name:** Devonta Brooks **Sport:** Men's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Hit winning three-point shot in buzzer-beater against Bethel; earned back-to-back double-doubles averaging 17 points and 12.5 rebounds over two games.



Denise Levine

**Week:** 13: NOV 21-27  
**Name:** Denise Levine **Sport:** Women's Basketball  
**Achievement:** Led the Aggies in scoring with team-highs of 13 points in two games of Thanksgiving Classic.



## Strong Performance for Former Aggies in Vegas

By Kashly Schweer

**F**ive former Panhandle State Rodeo team members found success inside Las Vegas' Thomas and Mack Center during the 2016 WNFR December 1-10.

Clay Elliott's hot streak from his win at the Canadian Finals Rodeo turned cold during the opening night of the WNFR when Bridal Shower of Dakota Rodeo bettered the cowboy's efforts. Elliott didn't let the slow start put a damper on his first qualification to the big dance. The former collegiate champion went on to place in five rounds with his biggest paycheck coming from round eight with a second-place finish. Elliott pocketed \$59,711.53 over the ten nights, including his qualification bonus of \$10,000.

Even while in college, Allen Boore was a picture of consistency. The pattern held true during his first WNFR qualification as the Utah cowboy covered 9/10 broncs. He snatched paychecks in four rounds, but more importantly, placed third in the aggregate: a \$43,153.85 paycheck. With his qualification bonus, Boore surpassed the \$100,000-mark for the 10 days.

Sneaking into the WNFR in the 15th position, Jake Watson quickly proved that he deserved to ride with the best. The Canadian cowboy was leading the aggregate until Tuca's Warsong caused Watson to meet the Thomas and Mack dirt for the first time in the ninth round. His total of 747.5 points on nine head landed the WNFR rookie in second place in the aggregate when the final curtain fell. Watson was the highest-earning Panhandle State cowboy with a 10-day salary of \$136,006.41.

For Orin Larsen, the first five rounds in Las Vegas were anything but glorious. After sustaining an injury to his ribs during the opening performance, Larsen struggled to find his rhythm in the bareback riding. However, that all changed at the halfway-mark. Larsen fought through pain to place in five rounds earning \$77,692.31.

Joe Frost has become quite comfortable inside the Thomas and Mack. During his third trip to the WNFR, Frost made the eight-second whistle on five bulls to place fourth in the aggregate. Frost accumulated \$100,538.47, including the \$10,000 qualification bonus.

When the final chute gate was pulled, the Panhandle family of cowboys earned a combined \$481,044.86 at the 2016 WNFR.

# OPSU RODEO TEAM



## 2017 TOP HAND AUCTION

February 4 | 6 p.m. | Pickle Creek Event Center  
Live Auction of Western Items & Pairs of Rodeo Athletes for 4 hours of labor  
Entertainment provided by Ken Stonecipher and The Wooden Nickel Band  
Free dinner courtesy of Hunny's



OKLAHOMA  
**PANHANDLE STATE**  
UNIVERSITY



**Doc Gardner Rodeo**  
**April 27-29 Guymon, OK**