

Panhandle

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Turn the Page

Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents Visits Campus

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Members of the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents attended a regularly scheduled meeting hosted on the campus of Oklahoma Panhandle State University on Friday, April 21. The group joined Panhandle State faculty and staff members for dinner at Hunny's in Guymon, Okla. on Thursday evening, April 20.

Along with the delicious meal, the evening was full of joy and laughter as four retiring longtime Panhandle State faculty members received gorgeous platters handmade by Art Instructor Brent Shoulders. Members of the award winning crops judging and rodeo teams were highlighted.

The honored faculty members, Elaina and Wayne Stewart, Russell Guthrie, and Diane Murphey all have plans to retire this summer. Elaina is the Systems and Electronic Resources Management Librarian and an Adjunct Instructor in the Education Department. She has served at Panhandle State for 20 years. Dr. Wayne Stewart is the current Dean of Education and Athletic Director. Dr. Stewart has served 20 years at Panhandle State as well. Professor of Communication Russell Guthrie will retire after 39 years at Panhandle while current Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey will retire after 35 years on campus. Murphey will serve part-time as a special assistant to the President. In addition, she is the President of the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends.

Panhandle State Rodeo Team Assistant Coach Shelbie Weeder, as well as team members Josh Frost and Randi Buchanan, told about their experiences at Panhandle State as student-athletes. Weeder was honored to speak about Head Coach Robert Etbauer who most recently was named the Central Plains Region Coach of the Year for the third year.

Dr. Curtis Bensch, Head of the Agronomy Department, and six team members (Cody Fischer, Sidney Rentz, Ben Brady, Tyler Meyeres, Mary Kate McCall, and Kinsey Puryear) represented the Crops Judging Team. Dr. Bensch told a brief history of the team and how it got its start. Fischer and Rentz shared some of their experiences as members of the Crops Judging team.

Panhandle State was honored to host the Regents on campus the following day. The group followed their regularly scheduled meeting with a "dusty boots" tour of the University House as well as the current concept dorm room.

Chair of the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, Lou Watkins commented, "Board members were particularly pleased to enjoy a delicious dinner Thursday night at

Hunny's where we visited with the mayor and many wonderful community and campus folks and particularly with some outstanding students. We were touched by the years of faithful service of the retirees honored by Dr. Faltyn. It was our honor to be on the campus for our Friday meeting, and we are deeply appreciative for Dr. Faltyn and all who provide such a great educational experience at OPSU."

Special thanks to Hunny's for hosting the Thursday night event and providing an excellent meal. **P**



Faculty, staff and students enjoyed gathering with the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents for a Panhandle Family reception.



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The Sower statue has stood as the focal point of campus since its debut in 1915, welcoming decades of students and visitors to Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

A Panhandle Icon

By Flor Sanchez Ramos



Originally from Dumas, Texas, Flor is a sophomore at Panhandle State. She is a science major.

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.

One prominent figure that stands out on OPSU's campus: the icon known as The Sower. The Sower is much more than just a tribute to Van Gogh's painting. This spectacular alabaster statue emits an aura of peace to the campus plaza where The Sower stands.

It seems as though many who walk past The Sower on a daily basis greatly underestimate the peace that this small space creates. Every day as the sun rises in the east the beaming sun illuminates this tall chalky figure. He stands almost humanlike with his bag of seed over his shoulder. The Sower is also a tribute to those who lifted up the Oklahoma Panhandle from humble beginnings. Situated between Hesper and Sewell-Loofburrow Halls he stands in a small plaza in the middle of a four way crosswalk. He poses in an enclosed circular layer of

lush green bushes with petite but vibrant red and white flowers that dance around him as though they were dancing to their creator. Also thriving before him is a graceful magenta rose bush which compliments her master as well. Beyond the plants and crosswalk he is also surrounded by cement benches and picnic tables, which sit amidst a sea of olive green grass that stretches out for what seems like miles. This gallant figure is canopied in all directions by grandfather trees, which nest a variety of birds native to the Oklahoma Panhandle. To get away and de-stress from the pressures of work and school, few students enjoy sitting in his humble abode and sit back to breathe in the fresh Panhandle breeze. To his back stands a large clock tower serenading him with an array of tunes throughout the day. In all seasons, and in all types of weather, throughout all his time on campus it is as if he never ages. During the day he observes the faculty and students go on about their days. At dusk, as the moon comes out to play, he turns into a valiant guardian who protects the campus from danger.

Few statues stand so diligently in as beautiful of a landscape like The Sowers ambience. This statue is a true compliment to what OPSU and the Oklahoma Panhandle symbolize. The Sower is a true illustration of peace and calmness from the hectic college experience. **P**



Artist Frank Ingels created the piece as a gift.

Students Benefit from Panhandle Partnerships

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Panhandle State Foundation and the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends (PSAAF) exist to support Oklahoma Panhandle State University through student scholarships and university improvements. Recently, the Foundation and Alumni Association have teamed up with the University to offer state official personalized Panhandle State license plates.

The plates can be ordered by filling out a form available at www.opsu.edu and submitting it to the Oklahoma Tax Commission or your local tag agency. The plates are available for \$30 and the proceeds go to the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends.

The Foundation holds the PSAAF's project accounts as well as the life member and working accounts. Additionally, the Foundation reinvests the interest earned from those accounts into the PSAAF's working account, which along with donations and other fundraising, helps the Alumni Association achieve their mission. The Alumni Association receives approximately \$8,000 a year from them in interest.

Alumni Association President Diane Murphey said, "As the excitement and growth at Panhandle continue, the Alumni Association and Foundation have the opportunity to increase coordination and work cooperatively to support the University."

Panhandle State Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization created in 1961 with the sole mission of supporting Oklahoma Panhandle State University



Foundation and Alumni officials show off the new license plate design.

above what it receives from the State of Oklahoma. The primary method of provided support is through scholarships to students. It also awards professional development grants to faculty and staff. Additionally, Panhandle State Foundation is involved in many other areas of support such as campus improvements, securing updated equipment, assisting in the fundraising efforts for the Noble Cultural and Activity Center, the Student Apartments project and the Science and Ag Building. The Foundation also administers campus club and organization funds including the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends funds.

The Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3. The Alumni Association has assisted with a number of projects on campus. The Plainsman sign on Highway 54, the clock tower and chimes in the center of the plaza, the Alumni Solarium addition to the Student Union Building, the purchase of 200 chairs and 25 banquet tables for the new Noble Cultural and Activity Center, and three war murals created by the art department mounted outside the McKee Library are among the highlights. **P**

SHOW YOUR AGGIE PRIDE!



Simply visit OPSU.edu for ordering information.

Order your official state personal license plate today!

Aggie Family



Staff

Howard Henderson

Howard Henderson is the Head of Panhandle State's Information Technology (IT) department and he recently received the Fall 2016 Employee of the Semester award.

His current job responsibilities involve maintaining and developing campus network and wifi; maintaining phone & voice mail system; PC repairs & maintenance to servers, projectors, and sound systems; maintaining ITV studios for distance learning; Banner (enterprise system) report programming; and custom programming and application support as needed. Mr. Henderson maintains a team of IT specialists that work with him to ensure that the network and computers of the college run smoothly.

Henderson has been working at Panhandle State for 27 years and has lots of experience in the field. He earned his bachelor's degree at Panhandle and then served as an IT Director at South Plains College for two years before attending the University of Texas in Austin and attaining his MBA with an emphasis in Information Systems.

Henderson said technology has changed since he began working in the IT department. Just prior to the time Henderson started, he said that everything was kept on paper and it was unimaginable how much the future would change to the world we live in today. "Technology is opening up a whole new world of opportunities, convenience, and new ways of doing things, while also creating a new set of challenges in managing and surviving all the changes. There was no such thing as email, websites, or campus network when I started at OPSU."

Howard takes networking security and the computer field very seriously. Henderson faces day-to-day issues ranging from minor computer repair to more serious issues such as hackers attempting to spam students and staff and constantly looking for ways to take control.

Henderson takes a very active interest in the students at Panhandle State. He helps them if they need it with problems such as computer repair and work such as network coding and database design.

Mr. Henderson is a generational farmer and enjoys farming and maintaining his land. "Farming is a big part of my life," said Henderson. He enjoys taking on challenges that he can overcome. Henderson also enjoys collecting farm equipment like tractors. Howard Henderson is one of the many great employees at Panhandle State. His passion for excellence will continue to maintain and keep Panhandle State great. **P**



Student

Cody Fischer

Cody Fischer, a senior Agronomy major from Hooker, Okla., was a key member of the 2017 Reserve National Champion Crops Judging Team.

The crops judging competition is an intensive examination consisting of four sections: laboratory practical, agronomic exam, math practical and plant and seed identification. "We only met for a few hours a week to study, so a lot of the studying was our own responsibility if we wanted to be successful."

Cody's sister, Sidney Rentz, an Agriculture Business major followed her brother's footsteps this year and joined the Crops Judging Team. "We couldn't have done it without her. We were able to place second at Nationals and she was a big part of that." He described it as "fun throughout the semester" as the siblings often battled it out over quizzes. "There was definitely some sibling rivalry."

Cody enjoyed his time and exposure through Crops Judging. Not only was the knowledge and exposure to his field of interest a personal benefit, but it also provided him with the real world application he needed to succeed as an intern for a crop consulting agency last summer and on the family farm. "Judging helped me understand why we do what we do on the farm, why we put herbicides on certain crops and overall it has helped me make educated decisions. Agronomy is special to me because you can see God's work at hand. Plants and people have quite a bit in common. Each plant has its own intricacies and differences just like we do."

Throughout his time at Panhandle State, Cody has been very involved with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). "The first three years of college, I became involved with the BCM through leading Bible studies and worship with students every Thursday." Cody had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to China with the BCM from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla., where he met his now wife, Rachel Fischer, a recent graduate of SWOSU. Fischer described his involvement with the BCM on campus as a great experience "It helped me grow in my walk with the Lord." Rachel and Cody were married last July and are patiently awaiting the arrival of their first child, Melody Marie.

Fischer is excited for the future and he is ready to work full time this summer and settle down. "I worked on harvesting crews in the summers of 2014 and 2015, and I look forward to working on the family farm." **P**



Faculty
Dr. Curtis Bensch

Dr. Curtis Bensch is a native of the Oklahoma Panhandle having grown up on a dairy farm in Beaver County. His involvement on the dairy and with the farming operations helped him discover his love for agriculture. He pursued his love for the land at Panhandle State and graduated with a bachelor's degree with a double major in Agronomy and Agribusiness in 1990. From there, he went to Oklahoma State University and completed a Master's degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in weed science in 1993. After completing his master's degree at OSU, Dr. Bensch taught at Murray State College in southeast Oklahoma for four years as the Agronomy Program Head. In 1997, Dr. Bensch moved to Kansas State University and completed a Ph.D. in Agronomy in 2001. While working on the doctorate degree at KSU he also taught Agronomy courses and coached the collegiate weed science judging team. Dr. Bensch returned home to the Panhandle in 2002 accepting a split appointment position with OSU and OPSU. The position was 60% OSU with job responsibilities as Director of the Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Extension Center (OPREC) and a 40% teaching appointment with OPSU. In 2008, Dr. Bensch went full time with Panhandle State, where he currently serves as professor of Agronomy/Biology and head of the Agronomy department. Dr. Bensch continues to work closely with OPREC.

Dr. Bensch's son Caleb is a freshman at Panhandle State majoring in Business Administration. His wife Michele is also a graduate of Panhandle State. Dr. Bensch states that his Christian faith is "the motivating dynamic of our lives and the reason why I have chosen a career of service to others."

Dr. Bensch has been a pivotal part of the Agronomy department at Panhandle for the last fifteen years and the accomplishments of the students echo the success of his mentoring. "We just recently placed second in the nation at the national Crops Judging contest. I've always said our students are as good as any university in the nation, and their performance at the contests prove that." He added, "My students have no trouble finding employment with a degree in Agronomy as there are always numerous opportunities for well trained professional agronomists."

In Dr. Bensch's down time, he enjoys participating in archery competitions shooting traditional recurves and longbows. **P**



Alumni
Hector Cobos

Hector Cobos Leon graduated from Panhandle State with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art and a minor in Photography in the Fall of 2010. Hector was an inspiration on campus as a student, and continues to make an impact as he works as a potter and ceramic artist.

Hector is originally from Guymon, Okla. and he currently resides in Oklahoma City with his wife Melissa. He lives, works, and displays ceramic art in the Paseo Arts District and says, "I am truly blessed to be where I am and fortunate to create art for a living. My work has been displayed in galleries throughout the nation."

Cobos was initially inspired by collegiate artists. "While in High School, I found an interest in the arts and was inspired by collegiate artists who would visit and demonstrate their work. Since then I have studied under living legends."

Hector finds inspiration for his work in all countries and continents through different pottery styles in addition to techniques, cuisine, and tools. For example, both kneading and sieving are steps in the ceramic process as well as steps used in cooking. Staining pottery can also be compared to egg washing a crême brulee.

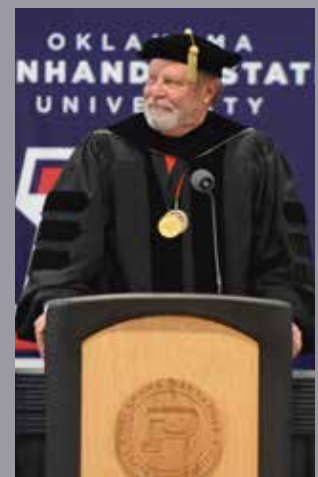
Teaching, cooking, eating, and traveling on food tours are among Cobos' favorite hobbies that tie in with his work. Cobos feels as though he is always in both teacher and student mode dealing with dozens of students interested in the process and with different walks of life. He also works with collegiate groups like our local Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) chapter.

A very active student while on campus, Hector was a Student Ambassador, student photographer, member of Images Art Club, a member of the cross country team, and involved at the BCM. He is still very involved with the University today. Most recently, Hector was a featured artist at the annual Art Jubilee.

Panhandle State Art Instructor, Brent Shoulders, spoke of his former student, "Hector is quite possibly the most talented and driven artist to come out of OPSU. His drive was evident early during his years in the department as he soaked up knowledge, not just from professors, but from students, magazines, articles, the internet, and more. He is truly a great example of taking an education seriously and striving to apply that education to his career!"

Cobos says that even though OPSU is a smaller campus, it opens up a whole passport full of other worlds. **P**

2017 Commencement



Congratulations Graduates!



2017 Commencement



Students were allowed to decorate their mortar boards and enter them in a contest for the first time at this year's graduation ceremony.

Graduates got the opportunity to show their Aggie Pride off on their mortarboards during the 2017 Commencement Ceremony. All graduating seniors were invited to enter their cap in the first annual decorating contest. Judging took place during commencement rehearsal. A winner was selected among the entries submitted within respective schools. Each winner received a beautiful diploma frame. **P**

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Agriculture:	Samantha Prather
Education:	Danielle Gonzalez
Liberal Arts:	Sage Kinsey
Science, Math and Nursing:	Olivia Wallace



Congratulations Graduates!



2017 Commencement



Congratulations to the Panhandle State Class of 2017

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oscar Williams Field House was packed on Saturday, May 20 as family and friends watched over 200 graduates walk across the stage to accept their diplomas at the 2017 Oklahoma Panhandle State University Commencement ceremony.

Lead marshal Jasmine Brown-Jutras led Panhandle State faculty members and special guests to the stage to the beat of a drum cadence. Under the direction of Charla Lewis, the Concert Band performed a musical prelude, Song for the Earth. The graduates marched in to Fanfare and Processional. Boy Scout Troup #142 of Goodwill presented the colors followed by the Star Spangled Banner and the Alma Mater- Crimson and Blue sung by the Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Dee Wilkins. Reverend Mike Enright of Panhandle Centenary United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn greeted the graduates and welcomed their guests to the ceremony. Dr. Faltyn encouraged the graduates to, “celebrate with great enthusiasm. Today is a great occasion and deserves celebration.” Regent Douglas Burns greeted the graduates and encouraged them to dream big, make a difference, and give back by staying a part of the Aggie family.

A posthumous degree was awarded to James Cameron III. Memorial resolutions were presented to the families of Jimmie Draper, Thomas Palmer, Ron Murphey, Rachel Wright, and Kelby Eddleman.

Student Government President Elida Esquivel addressed the graduates encouraging them to “Take your Aggie pride with you wherever you go.” She continued, “OPSU is your tree and you are the branches extending out in the world.” She charged the graduates as they faced unexpected challenges to work hard to overcome them.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) CEO Mr. Zac Perkins and Panhandle State alumnus gave the Commencement address. Perkins reflected back 17 years to the time when he was sitting in the same seats as the

current graduates and said it was through the dedication and support he found at OPSU that he is where he is today. He addressed the graduates saying, “be patient, you have a lot to learn along the way. Have integrity and be true to your word.” He also reminded them, “Respect is not given, it is earned.” He added, “You have a great foundation to work on from here. Be proud of your degree; you have earned it.”

Student Services Director Rantz Trayler presented Sage Kinsey with the J.R.P. Sewell Award. The J.R.P. Sewell Award was established in 1949 and honors the memory of the late J.R.P. Sewell, a local banker and strong supporter of this University. The award promotes and encourages leadership and citizenship among the students. Graduating seniors who have completed all coursework here and have above a 3.0 cumulative GPA are eligible, and faculty vote for the winner. Sage earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and excelled in and out of the classroom as a student at Panhandle State.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey addressed the graduates on behalf of the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends. Murphey encouraged the graduates to stay connected with Panhandle State. Each graduate received a complimentary one-year membership to the Alumni Association.

Dr. Brad Duren presented the Class of 2017 as Dr. Faltyn awarded each graduate with their diploma.

The benediction was given by the Branch President of the Guymon, Okla. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Spencer Leiter. **P**



Sage Kinsey was selected by the faculty as the 2017 J.R.P. Sewell Award recipient.

Congratulations Graduates!

Pinning Ceremony Honors Nursing Graduates

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Class of 2017 Associate of Applied Science in Nursing graduates were joined by family and friends for a special Pinning Ceremony on Saturday, May 20 in the Science and Agriculture Building. The Spring 2017 Nurse Science graduates include Tayler Clubb of Balko, Okla.; Annawynn Drury of Hofen, Germany; Richelle Macalindong of Elkhart, Kan.; and Samantha Prather of Boise City, Okla.

Drury welcomed everyone to the ceremony and gave the invocation. Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn gave a welcome on behalf of the University and thanked the graduates for their hard work. Dr. Joey Fronheiser, Vice President of Academic Affairs at OSU-Oklahoma City, and Dr. Mary Malaska, Division Head Health Sciences at OSU- Oklahoma City, both brought greetings as well.

Laughter and tears filled the room as the graduates got the opportunity to honor those most important to them in attendance during a rose ceremony and continued as each graduate gave a speech. Drury addressed the class saying, "I am surrounded by greatness in you all and I'm excited to find my own greatness." Susan Radcliffe, Nurse Science Faculty, led the Presentation of Pins and each graduate was pinned by someone special to them. The graduates recited The Florence Nightingale Pledge and the Nurses's Prayer before the closing remarks.



University President Dr. Tim Faltyn addressed the nurse candidates at the 2017 pinning ceremony.

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing program is made possible through a partnership between Panhandle State and Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OSU-OKC). Since it began in 1996, the program has produced over 170 graduates.

Special thanks and recognition are extended to the OSU-OKC Administration and the following Health Sciences Scholarship Providers: Chris Pitts, Dr. Lois Salmeron, Barbara Statum, Larry Love, Deaconess Auxiliary, Laverne Aldridge, Nancy Hall, Lois Faye May, and Tracy L. Harris. **P**



Education graduates received their cords at a special convocation ceremony on Friday, May 19. Elementary Education graduates include Angelique Archer, Kaci Bell, Trina Burke, Kaylee Carrol, Danielle Gonzalez, Madison Heathington, Ashley Knier, Amairany Pena, Christina Rodriguez, Cristal Ruiz, Vanessa Solis and Mercedes Trenary. Agriculture Education graduates include Christopher Johnson and Justin Lenox.



The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted the annual Honors Ceremony and Reception on April 18, 2017 in Hughes Strong Auditorium.

Honors Ceremony and Reception 2017

By Brian Martinez, Panhandle State Collegian

The outgoing SGA President Jasmine Brown-Jutras opened the event followed by an introduction from Panhandle State's President Dr. Tim Faltyn. The first awards presented by Vice-President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey were the Dean's Fall and Spring 2016 Honor Rolls. To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must carry at least 12 credit hours of university courses, have no "Fs" or incomplete courses, and have between a 3.50 and 3.99 GPA for the semester. Dr. Faltyn then presented the President's Fall and Spring 2016 Rolls. To qualify for the President's Honor Roll, a student must carry at least 12 credit hours of university courses, have no "Fs" or incomplete courses, and a 4.0 GPA for the semester.

Next were the Outstanding Student Awards 2016. Each department nominates one or two students to recognize as stand-outs from their fellow classmates to receive a plaque. The recipients are as follows:

Elementary Education: Kaylee Carroll; Secondary Education: Christopher Johnston; Liberal Arts: English: Bailey Twillegger; Art: Sam Ortiz; Band: Jasmine Brown-Jutras; Choir: Jacob Schmitt; Psychology: Olivia Quintana Ramos and Bridget Twedt; History: Anyssa Barbosa; Criminal Justice: Gustavo Ramirez; Business Administration: Jade Cathcart; Computer Information Systems: Cole Tolbert; Industrial Technology: Kyaq Tay; Accounting: Kari Stover; Agriculture: Animal Science: Logan Hernandez; Pre-Veterinary: Kayce Ingram; Agronomy: Kinsey Puyear; Agri-Education: Justin Lenox; Agri-Business: Logan Patterson; Science, Math, and Nursing: Biology: Emily Goeken; Chemistry: Erica Newman; Emergency Service: Jared Loftis; Mathematics: JB Frontz; Nursing: Tziporah Chait.

The final portion were the Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities 2016. A minimum GPA of 2.75, completion of a minimum of 60 credit hours and a nomination from a Panhandle faculty or staff member were all necessary requirements. **P**

Local SOEA Leaders to Serve as State Officers

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Recently, three members of the Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) at Oklahoma Panhandle State University were named SOEA state officers. Among these positions, Ely Esquivel is the State President, Kathy Brooks is the State Secretary, and Nancy Melendez is the State Cultural Ambassador.

Prior to consideration for a state office, students must demonstrate leadership abilities and skills at the local level. Ely is the current president of Panhandle State's SOEA organization. Kathy has served on various committees and helped to accomplish many local activities this year. Nancy was a past secretary of the local unit.

State officers are involved in statewide activities including planning for conventions and service projects. The state officers also serve as advocates for all SOEA members with state lawmakers and educational leaders throughout the state. The officers meet in Oklahoma City six times a year.

Panhandle State Education Instructor and SOEA advisor Jerry Mihelic said, "As local advisors, Dr. Wu and I are very proud of the three students. We know they will represent Panhandle well. We are excited to have these students bring the local excellence of Panhandle State to the entire state."

Panhandle State is currently the only university out of 25 chapters that holds three state officer positions. **P**



From left Nancy Melendez, Kathy Brooks and Elida Esquivel represent the SOEA as state officers.



Panhandle State PBL had ten students qualify for nationals at the recent State Leadership Conference.

PBL Continues Legacy

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Legacy of Leadership was the theme for this year's annual Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Oklahoma State Leadership Conference (SLC) in downtown Tulsa Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. Members of Oklahoma Panhandle State University's PBL group certainly built on the legacy of excellence set before them as 10 students qualified for Nationals in Anaheim, Calif. The conference was at the Tulsa Community College Metro Campus. Eleven Panhandle State students attended the event as well as advisors Dr. Sara Hitch and Davin Winger and Instructor Kim Tuttle.

As a chapter, Panhandle State won first place in Public Relations, first place in the Local Chapter Annual Business Report, and second place in Make a Difference, an award recognizing community service. Additionally, the group will be recognized at Nationals as a Gold Chapter Seal of Merit. The final award of the day also went to Panhandle State as the Outstanding Chapter in the State of Oklahoma. The Mitchell Ober Traveling Trophy will be returning to Panhandle State for the second year in a row.

The students earned eight state championships, three second-place finishes, and two third-place finishes. State championships went to the team of Jocelynn Avalos, Selina Gaucin, and Linden Robertson in Business Ethics; Ely Esquivel in Future Business Educator; Ethan Fischer in Entrepreneurial Concepts; Sam Lemin in Cost Accounting; Brian Martinez in Public Speaking; Madilyn Rider in Administrative Technologies; and Ami Torres in Client Service. Second place finishes went to

Ethan Fischer in Small Business Management Plan; Brian Martinez in Computer Concepts; and Everly Wise in Public Speaking. Both, Selina Gaucin and Madilyn Rider earned third place in their respective events, Management Concepts and Computer Concepts.

In the open events, Madilyn Rider was second place in FBLA-PBL Facts. Brian Martinez was second in PBL Grammar and PBL Leadership. Sam Lemin was third in PBL Grammar.

Brian Martinez, who attended his second SLC this year, had this to say about the experience: "Since returning from SLC on Saturday, I have done a lot of reflecting of this past weekend and even of my first SLC last year. To go from a total of two awards to four, including a medal, makes me indescribably happy, honored, and humbled at what can be achieved through hard work in the face of significant challenges and competition. My game plan going into the competitive NLC scene is to continue to prepare in exactly the same way, and I know that this is only the beginning for me and Panhandle PBL."

Students representing Panhandle State at the conference included: Jocelynn Avalos, Ely Esquivel, Selina Gaucin, Brian Martinez, Madilyn Rider, and Ami Torres of Guymon, Okla.; Ethan Fischer of Hooker, Okla.; Sam Lemin of Canberra Australia; Jill Huseman of Panhandle, Texas; Linden Robertson of New Orleans; and Everly Wise of Fowler, Kan.

PBL members now begin preparation for the national conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Davin Winger had this to say about the group's performance: "Our students are always such amazing representatives of our school and region. They were engaged, supportive, and respectful throughout the entire conference. We had high hopes for this year's group, and they definitely did not disappoint! We are excited to see how they do in Anaheim." **P**



From left to right: Cole Tolbert, Martin Jurado, Grant Sparkman, Brian Martinez, Elias Pitterle, Madilyn Rider, Chance Hayden, Travis Pitterle, Jorge Rosas, Allston Hadley, Ricardo Quezadaponce, Kim Tuttle.

Third Place National Finish for AITP

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Programming Team recently finished third place in Systems Analysis and Design in the nation at the 2017 AITP NCC (Association of Information Technology Professionals National Collegiate Conference) in St. Louis, Mo. held April 6-9 at the Hyatt Regency.

The team took 11 students to AITP NCC and they competed in a range of contests: Microsoft Office Solutions, Systems Analysis and Design, Network Design, Database Design, PC Troubleshooting, Cyber Security and Business Analytics.

The team also took third place in the Top Monkey Award which faculty member, Kim Tuttle describes, “It is a formula of number of attendees from your university, number of contests entered, and number of miles traveled all multiplied together. It’s more of a fun award, but out of 48 universities in attendance, we were recognized for having a large number of students attend and compete in multiple contests.”

The Systems Analysis and Design team consisted of Cole Tolbert and Travis Pitterle. Travis and Cole were both part of first place teams at Regionals last fall at Amarillo College. Cole is a graduating senior and he reflected on his overall experience, “AITP has been not only an amazing career building organization, allowing me to meet other individuals working in the CS industry;

it’s also been a great confidence builder as I’ve had the opportunity to go toe-to-toe with some of the top schools in the nation.”

CompTIA recently purchased AITP so there were a few announcements about changes for the future. Student membership will be free moving forward and students will receive a one-year professional membership free upon graduation. Students will also have access to a career portal with a comprehensive job board in the future and 15 percent discounts on all certifications offered by CompTIA. The career fair at NCC is always a huge success in Panhandle State’s students finding jobs after graduation. This year sponsors included, State Farm, USAA, Progressive, IBM, WraySec, Herzog, and College Raptor.

When Travis was asked about his thoughts on the experience, he commented, “It was an honor to take home third place for OPSU. However, the competitions aren’t the end of the utility we get for being able to compete. AITP allows us to get out into the world and socialize with other IT professionals, see more of the wide world, and helps us quickly build teamwork and community with our peers and our professors. The relationship and social skills we practiced in St. Louis are invaluable for a field like ours, especially for students like us living in small town Oklahoma. Seeing what the world has to offer, and building strong relationships with our classmates should show for a strong network of OPSU Alumni for the future.”

Overall, the conference had 555 attendees with 404 being students representing 48 colleges. Panhandle State’s Programming Team is looking forward to a bright future with CompTIA supporting the AITP organization moving forward. **P**



Teacher Prep Program Recognized for National Excellence

Released by CAEP

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced that Oklahoma Panhandle State University is one of 16 providers from 10 states and the District of Columbia to receive accreditation for their educator preparation programs. The spring 2017 review by the CAEP Accreditation Council increased to 50 the total number of providers approved under the CAEP teacher preparation standards—rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

“These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate,” said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. “Seeking CAEP accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider and provides opportunities for continuous improvement to programs committed to excellence.”

CAEP is the sole accrediting body for educator preparation. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. CAEP was created by the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. It is a unified accreditation system intent on raising the performance of all institutions focused on educator preparation. Currently, more than 800 educator preparation providers participate in the CAEP accreditation system, including many grandfathered into accreditation under former standards.

Educator preparation providers seeking accreditation must pass peer review on five standards, which are based on two principles: 1. Solid evidence that the provider’s graduates are competent and caring educators, and 2. There must be solid evidence that the provider’s educator staff have the capacity to create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.

If a program fails to meet one of the five standards or required components under the standards, it is placed on probation for two years, or until it provides evidence that it meets the standard. When seeking first-time



CAEP officials meet with Dean of Education Dr. Wayne Stewart and University President Dr. Tim Faltyn.

accreditation, providers that do not meet one or more of the standards are denied accreditation.

Oklahoma Panhandle State University serves a five-state area and prepares future teachers in Elementary Education, Agriculture Education, Music Education, and Mathematics Education. The School of Education also offers an Education Minor for those prospective teachers who may seek certification in areas such as English, Social Studies, Science, and Health & Physical Education among others. The relationship the Education Department has with the public schools, teachers, and administrators in its service area continues to be an area of strength to the program, as noted by the combined national (CAEP) and state team that visited Panhandle State in December.

According to Dr. Wayne Stewart, Dean of Education, “We are appreciative of the CAEP/State team’s visit to the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus, their diligence in the review of the EPP and the programs within, and their kind words during the exit interview. We are proud of our small program; we know we produce quality teachers for our surrounding area; and we are dedicated to continue ‘Preparing Effective Teachers who are Competent, Caring, and Committed!’”

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “I am extremely proud of our School of Education and the team who worked so hard to prepare for the CAEP visit. This accreditation is so important and directly reflects the excellence of our program as well as our people.”

Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey added, “We are pleased that the OPSU School of Education faculty, their hard work, and our successful program have been recognized at a national level by CAEP, the accrediting body for educator preparation.”

Panhandle State joins 15 other providers to receive CAEP accreditation in spring 2017. They join the 34 providers previously accredited. Overall, 50 preparation providers from 25 states and the District of Columbia have received CAEP accreditation. **P**

Crops Judging Team Places Second at National Contest

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

While it may be no surprise that students at a small rural university situated in the heart of farming country would be capable agronomists, what is truly impressive and perhaps even hard to believe is that these same students could compete against and outperform students at major land-grant universities from across the United States.

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Crops Judging team recently finished second in the nation at the 2017 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference in Manhattan, Kan. held April 6-8 at Kansas State University. It was the largest crops judging contest to date with 17 four-year colleges and universities participating. Iowa State University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln finished first, second, and third, respectively. The Panhandle State Agronomy Department is no stranger to success as this is the second time in the last three years for the crops judging team to place second under Coach Dr. Curtis Bensch, Head of the Panhandle State Agronomy Department.

Panhandle State junior and team member Tyler Meyeres said, “We are lucky to have him (Dr. Bensch).

He could be teaching anywhere. He really does a good job of making it easy to understand. He breaks it down for us. On top of that, he cares about each of us and gives at his own expense.”

Another team member, Cody Fischer, will graduate in May with a degree in Agronomy and Dr. Bensch has played a key role in his education. “Dr. Bensch isn’t just a professor teaching from the books. He wants to teach us the latest and the greatest. He grew up on a farm and understands the importance of keeping us informed of the newest developments.”

The crops judging competition is an intensive examination of agronomic skills and knowledge designed around the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program. The contest consists of four sections: laboratory practical, agronomic exam, math practical and plant and seed identification. In the laboratory practical, competitors identify insects, diseases, equipment, and crop products, plus determine crop growth stages, interpret pesticide labels or seed tags, name plant structures, identify nutrient deficiencies, and evaluate various crop production problems. The agronomic exam evaluated knowledge of crop production and management, crop physiology and breeding, soil properties, soil fertility, tillage, crop harvesting and storage, weeds, insects and diseases. The math practical included equipment calibration, pesticide application and other agronomic calculations. Seed and plant identification requires contestants to identify over 150 plant and seed specimens.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “We are so proud of everyone involved. This is just another example of the excellence represented at Panhandle State.” *contd.*



Panhandle State University Crops Judging team recently finished second in the nation at the 2017 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference in Manhattan, Kan. held April 6-8 at Kansas State University. Pictured from left to right: Cody Fischer, Tyler Meyeres, Dr. Curtis Bensch, Sidney Rentz, and Ben Brady.

This year's Reserve National Champion team is made up of four students: Ben Brady of Remsen, Iowa; Cody Fischer of Hooker, Okla.; Tyler Meyeres of Vilas, Colo.; and Sidney Rentz of Hooker, Okla. Other students who traveled and competed with the team were Kinsey Puyear of Johnson, Kan. and Mary Kate McCall of Yuma, Colo.

Dr. Bensch is extremely proud of the team's second place finish, "to be successful in this contest students must demonstrate a mastery of the knowledge and skills essential for success in agronomy. These OPSU students showed that they could perform on a national stage, and it was especially satisfying for them to do so well at my alma mater, Kansas State University."

In preparation for NACTA, Dr. Bensch and the students have put in the miles this spring competing at two other regional contests in Iowa and Nebraska.

In addition to competing in the crops judging contest, the students also participated in two other contests, the Knowledge Bowl and the Precision Ag Contest. The Knowledge Bowl contest consisted of questions focusing on Agribusiness/Farm Management, Ag Mechanics/Precision Agriculture, Animal Sciences, Crops/Soils, Horticulture, and Current Agricultural Events. Sponsored by John Deere, the Precision Ag contest was based around skills related to precision agriculture applications for planting, crop protection, and harvest. Each section involved component identification, mathematical calculations, and a situational analysis. A final section involved analysis and interpretation of precision maps and/or data. Hands on activities were completed with planters, sprayers and combines on site. Panhandle State placed fourth as a team in the Precision Ag contest with Cody Fischer finishing as the second high individual overall in the Precision Ag Contest. Fischer also won the sprayer portion of the contest.

Following graduation in May, Fischer plans to farm full-time in the Hooker, Okla. area. The "real life application" of the Agronomy courses at Panhandle State is important to him and will continue to play an important role in his farming practices in the future as he strives to make educated decisions.

Taking every opportunity to gain knowledge, Dr. Bensch organized tours of Veris Technologies and The Land Institute both of Salina, Kan. for the group during the trip to Kansas. Earlier in the year while at a regional contest the students toured Monsanto's Water Utilization Learning Center at Gothenburg, Neb.

Thanks goes out to the team's generous supporters including: Crop Production Services, Dekalb, Asgrow, DeltaPine, Dyna-Gro, All-Tex, Bayer Crop Science, Syngenta and SportsZone and a very special thanks to Brandon Tripp with Crop Production Services of Guymon, Okla.

Panhandle State was also represented at the NACTA Judging Conference by Tyler Hall of Scott City, Kan. in the Meats Judging competition. Hall was the ninth high individual. **P**

Rodeo Members Prepare for Casper

Submitted by Panhandle State Rodeo

Rodeo isn't for the faint of heart. It is all-night drives, convenience store dinners, riding through the rain and roping in the snow. The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team conquered all these elements and more during the 2016-2017 season and continued the winning tradition by claiming the Central Plains Region Men's Team Championship. Panhandle State will send seven men and two women to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyo. June 11-17.

The men in red and blue dominated the competition all season by winning seven out of ten rodeos and edging the competition by nearly 2,500 points when the dust settled. The team was led by Jake Finlay. The Australian saddle bronc rider claimed the saddle bronc title for the region and will head to Casper for the second time.

Will Martin secured the regional championship in the bareback riding. Martin will be joined in the opening event by Dylan Riggins who placed third in the region.

The boys from Goodwell were able to make a clean sweep in the roughstock events with senior Josh Frost winning the bull riding. Josh has represented Panhandle State at the Rose Bowl of Rodeo three times. He will be joined behind the chutes by CNFR rookie Cody Ballard who placed third in the region.

At the timed event end of the arena, the Johnsrud brothers will compete in the team roping. Ben and Nathan proved consistency is key as they paved their path to their first CNFR. With the same plan in mind, the Kansas boys will be a strong force in Wyoming.

The women's team fought hard all season, missing the second place qualifying position by just 68 points to place third overall. Two Panhandle State ladies qualified for the big dance. Randi Buchanan finished her regular-season collegiate career in high style by dominating the women's all-around race. Buchanan is no stranger to the bright lights of the Casper Event Center and will be a dominating force in both the breakaway roping and barrel racing. Buchanan will be joined by Melanie Roman who placed third overall in the barrel racing.

These nine individuals will carry on Panhandle State's tradition of winning in Casper, Wyo. under the direction of Coach Robert Etbauer and Coach Shelbie Weeder. Follow Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo on Facebook to stay up to date with the team's success at the CNFR. **P**



OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

AGGIES

NAIA

SAC

CSFL

Aggies Officially Accepted as NAIA Member

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Panhandle State Athletics was granted full membership into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) on Wednesday, April 12 at the 76th Annual NAIA National Convention in San Diego, Calif.

Describing the ten-month long process, Dr. Tim Faltyn, President of Oklahoma Panhandle State University said, “This has been a difficult journey, but I’m so proud of the work put in by our entire athletics staff, as well as the support received from the Central States Football League and Sooner Athletics Conference. This wouldn’t have happened without such a concerted group effort from all parties involved.”

All ten of the Aggies newly sanctioned sports will enter into full NAIA schedules starting in the fall of 2017, and each will be eligible for post-season play. Nine sports including baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, men’s and women’s golf, softball and volleyball will compete in the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC), with football entering into the Central States Football League (CSFL).

With the addition of Panhandle State and Central Christian College, the SAC now supports twelve member schools: Bacone College, John Brown University, Mid-America Christian University, Oklahoma City University, Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Southwestern Christian University, Saint Gregory’s University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and Wayland Baptist University. Six of the twelve schools are located within the state of Oklahoma, with three in Texas, two in Kansas and one in Arkansas.

Panhandle State football will compete against some familiar opponents in the CSFL, joining schedules once again with Bacone, Southwestern Assemblies of God, Texas College, Wayland Baptist and long-time rivals Langston. New teams to the league include Arizona Christian and Lyon College (Ark.). Head Coach Russell Gaskamp looks forward to a very competitive season saying, “I think we can compete in a conference championship in football quickly, while renewing a commitment to excellence in all of our athletic programs.”

Athletic Director Wayne Stewart commented on the school’s acceptance into the NAIA ranks, “I am excited and pleased with the decision of the NAIA Council of Presidents to accept Panhandle State into NAIA membership beginning this fall. I also want to thank the Sooner Athletic Conference presidents, athletic directors and commissioner for their support and acceptance of our programs.” Stewart added, “I look forward to this positive change in associations and conferences and anticipate great things for Aggie Athletics as we begin writing the next chapter in the life of Panhandle State.”

Each coach has expressed support for the change with Head Women’s Basketball Coach Charles Terry saying, “I’m so glad that the process has played out and we can begin our next journey with the NAIA. I’m looking forward to facing the new challenges that lie ahead.” Men’s basketball coach Jerry Olson believes that the move will greatly save on travel costs, which will have long term, positive impacts on other athletic resources.

While all sports expect to face stiff competition in their new leagues, many see that as a refreshing opportunity to strengthen their programs. Panhandle’s head volleyball coach Mike Stephens said, “Confirming our acceptance as an NAIA institution is a terrific opportunity for our program and university as a whole. It will be great to compete on a much more regional scale, and we can start working towards meeting our athletic goals right away this fall.” Aggie Baseball’s head coach Jason Miner is excited to join such a prestigious conference and feels it will provide a great place for his team to compete for years to come.

Commenting from the student athlete’s perspective, junior men’s basketball player Jake Regier said, “Going into the NAIA level is an amazing opportunity for OPSU and all of the student-athletes on campus. I am very excited to join the Sooner Athletic Conference, and we cannot wait to put together championship caliber seasons for Panhandle State and the surrounding community as we take this next step in our athletic department.”

Aggie fans can expect plenty of excitement in the upcoming seasons and will not want to miss out on one moment of the action. The fun beings on Thursday, August 31 with Aggie Football’s season-opener at home against NCAA-DIII opponent McMurry University; CSFL play opens on the road Sept. 23 at Bacone. Panhandle volleyball kicks things off with their annual Aggies Challenge Tournament Sept. 1-2 and will compete in their first SAC contest against USAO that Saturday. **P**

Student Athletes Honored at Chi Alpha Sigma Banquet

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Twenty-five Aggie athletes were recognized on May 11 at the Chi Alpha Sigma Honors Dinner held in the Student Union Ballroom.

Every year student athletes who meet specific guidelines gather for induction into the National College Athlete Honor Society, known as Chi Alpha Sigma. Students must not only have excelled in their respective sports, but must also meet certain academic and individual criteria. Chi Alpha Sigma is the only national honor society designed specifically towards collegiate student athletes. The organization promotes “the Four As” among its members: Athletics, Academics, Attitude and Achievement.

Student athletes must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.4, have achieved a junior or senior level in their sport, and uphold a strong character element for consideration of induction. University President Dr. Tim Faltyn opened the evening by congratulating the students saying, “Academic excellence will propel you to great things.” He continued, “Tonight is about fellowship and celebration.” Faltyn concluded by paraphrasing Julius Caesar, “The world is conquered by those who excel at more than one thing.”

Sodexo provided the prime rib dinner for the event and after the meal Panhandle State’s Faculty Athletic

Representative, Dr. Patrick Maille began the awards presentations. Maille also gave well-deserved credit to the group of outstanding student athletes by quoting Vince Lombardi, “The price of success is hard work.” He applauded the students’ “intensity of effort” in both their sports and in the classroom stating, “It’s adding that extra level of effort to your intelligence that will set you apart.” Prior to handing out the individual awards, Maille added, “I love people who are their own worst critics, because those who give their best never settle for good enough.”

Athletic Director Dr. Wayne Stewart was also present to help present the framed certificates and lapel pins to the inductees; red cords were given to graduating seniors to wear with their cap and gown during commencement. Dr. Stewart, Dr. Faltyn and academic advisors joined the students for pictures during the presentation. In all, 18 new members were inducted with seven seniors receiving cords.

The 2017 Chi Alpha Sigma honorees are listed by sport (*denotes graduating seniors). Volleyball- Rylee Abert, Julia Ibarra (dual sport), Madison Linton, Kayln Moore, Emily Goeken*, Bristen Graves*; Football-Samuel Lemin, Sequoia Smith; Golf-Sydney Dougherty, Will O’Hair; Equestrian-Kristin Allen, Kayla Hook, Kayce Ingram*, Erica Newman*; Rodeo-Josh Frost, Sadie, Latham, Randi Buchanan*; Women’s Basketball-Tierra Roberson, Hannah Southard; Softball-Brooklyne Bolton, Julia Ibarra (dual sport), Darcie Wilson*, Baseball-Austin Beckner, Zane Grigsby, Dallas Guerrero, Logan Litton.*

Congratulations to these fine representatives of Aggie Athletics and Panhandle State University; and to the parents, coaches, teammates and faculty whose attention and support helped them succeed. **P**



The 2017 class of inductees and graduating seniors for Chi Alpha Sigma joined with University President Dr. Tim Faltyn (back right).

Aggies Honor Three as All-Around Athletes of the Year

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Three seniors received the title Aggie Athlete of the Year to cap off their collegiate careers at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. For the women's sports, Madison Heathington (softball) and Randi Buchanan (rodeo) were selected as co-athletes of the year, and Josh Frost was named the Athlete of the Year for the men. The head coaches of each sport as well as the athletic director and sports information director vote on the awards.

This marks Heathington's second time to receive the honor, as she earned the Aggie Athlete of the Year award for her efforts in 2016. The Aggies' starting catcher played all four years under head coach Meghan Mulcahy who stated, "I am extremely proud of Madison and what she has accomplished here at Panhandle State. Not only did she have a great season, she has had a great career."

Heathington finished out her senior season as the team-leader in eight categories: games played/started 51-51, at bats 140, batting average .364, hits 51, home runs 10, runs batted in 39, total bases 93 and slugging percentage .664. The two-time Athlete of the Week winner also earned All-Heartland Conference honors, named to the 2017 All-Conference second team roster. She ranked in the top five of the Heartland charts for slugging percentage, home runs, total bases, batting average and RBI; and sat 6th for on base percentage .433.

With their most successful year in recent history, the Panhandle State Women's Rodeo team closed out the 2016-2017 season as the third-ranked team in the Central Plains Region. Standout cowgirl Randi Buchanan was a huge part of the team's achievement. Buchanan ended her senior season as the clear leader for Women's All-Around; she totaled 1,178.33 points, to claim a 355-point

advantage over the second-ranked cowgirl in the region. In the highly competitive Central Plains Region, she finished fourth in barrel racing, fifth in breakaway roping and also made the charts in team roping and goat tying.

Buchanan collected three All-Around titles this season and received Athlete of the Week honors four times this year; her stellar season earned her a spot on the 2017 College National Finals Rodeo team. Panhandle State Women's Rodeo Coach Shelbie Weeder stated, "Randi has been a huge asset to the rodeo team for four years. She always works hard and leaves everything in the arena." Buchanan is no stranger to the CNFR. The cowgirl earned the Reserve Champion title for breakaway roping during her appearance in 2015 and claimed third place in the women's all-around at the event that same year.

In the midst of her busy season with the Aggies, Buchanan also made time to compete in, and win, the 2017 K-State Iron Woman event in Manhattan, Kan. this February. The all-female, timed event is open to women of all ages who compete in barrel racing, goat tying, breakaway roping and team roping.

Leading the Panhandle State men's team to a first place finish for the Central Plains Region was all-around cowboy Josh Frost. With over 300 points lead, Frost finished his senior season as the undisputed bull riding champion and also ranked within the region for steer wrestling. Frost currently ranks fifth in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association for bull riding, and won that event at four of the team's ten rodeos this year. He's received three Men's All-Around titles and is a three-time Aggie Athlete of the Week winner.

Working outside the college circuit, Frost competed in the Wilderness Circuit Finals Rodeo in Heber City, Utah in November, where he was named Aggregate Champion for the weekend in the bull riding. He also claimed the year-end championship in bull riding as well as the all-around. Frost will represent Panhandle State at the CNFR in June; he has competed at the event the past two years, placing third in the bull riding in both bouts.

Offering a statement on Frost, Weeder said, "Kids like Josh don't come around very often. He's been the guy that we could always count on. His work ethic and mental toughness are amongst the best in the business."

Head Rodeo Coach Robert Etbauer also offered comments on the two athletes saying, "Josh and Randi are two kids that are fun to be around. They have both been great assets to the rodeo team and the school, and have been great leaders for the rodeo team. I have probably learned more from them than they have from me. We are going to miss them both."

On top of their athletic accomplishments, all three of these outstanding individuals got the job done in the classroom as well. Heathington, Buchanan and Frost each earned induction into the national athletic honor society Chi Alpha Sigma. Heathington and Buchanan both graduated this past weekend with degrees in Elementary Education and Biological Science respectively; Frost will wrap up his student teaching this fall and is set to graduate in December. **P**



Athletes of the Week: April



Melanie Roman

WEEK 29: MAR 27-APR 2

Sport: Women's Rodeo

Roman claimed the barrel racing title in Garden City with a time of 26.24 seconds on two runs.



Will Martin

WEEK 29: MAR 27-APR 2

Sport: Men's Rodeo

Martin captured the Men's All-Around title at Garden City and was named co-champion of the bareback riding.

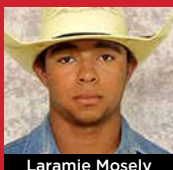


Randi Buchanan

WEEK 30: APR 3-9

Sport: Women's Rodeo

Earned the Women's All-Around title at SWOSU, qualifying for the short round in all four of her events.



Laramie Mosely

WEEK 30: APR 3-9

Sport: Men's Rodeo

Covered both bulls at SWOSU to claim the bullriding title with 159 points on two heads.



Madison Heathington

WEEK 31: APR 10-16

Sport: Softball

Heathington went three of seven at the plate at LCU, taking two homeruns for four RBI over the three-game series.



P. Booranakunamane

WEEK 31: APR 10-16

Sport: Men's Golf

Tied for 6th overall with a two-round score of 148, helping the Aggies take third as a team at OBU.



Randi Buchanan

WEEK 32: APR 17-23

Sport: Women's Rodeo

Won the All-Around title for the women with two solid runs in goat tying and a good go on the barrels at OPSU rodeo.



Josh Frost

WEEK 32: APR 17-23

Sport: Men's Rodeo

Took the Men's All-Around title with a first-place finish in bullriding at OPSU's Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo.



Congratulations to Brooklyne Bolton and Madison Heathington for their selection to the 2017 All-Heartland Conference Softball Team.

Athletics



Panhandle State alumnus and Aggie Hall of Fame inductee Mario Mendoza of Turpin, Okla. served as the guest speaker at the 2017 Aggie Athletic Banquet.

Athletic Success Celebrated

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

After another great year of Aggie Athletics, friends, family and fans came together on Monday, May 8 in the Noble Activity Center to celebrate the hard work and dedication of over 300 Aggie student athletes at the 2017 Aggie Athletic Banquet.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn welcomed the guests and David Coffey, Director of the Baptist College Ministry, offered the invocation. Head Football Coach Russell Gaskamp introduced guest speaker and Panhandle State alumnus Mario Mendoza. The 2014 Aggie Hall of Fame inductee spoke of his pride in Panhandle State saying, "It gave me an opportunity to get an education and to play football. It prepared me for life."

Each sport presented team awards along with their Aggie of the Year athletes who were selected by teammates and coaches from each team. Plaques provided by Panhandle Printing went out to the individuals with some teams giving additional recognition to their athletes. Recipients are listed below by sport.

- Volleyball Aggie of the Year-Kendra Butler
- Football Aggie of the Year-Andrew Hernandez
- Cross Country: Male Aggie of the Year-Aaron Hammett; Female Aggie of the Year-Shelby Perry
- Equestrian: Aggie of the Year-Jesslin Lamont
- Women's Basketball: Aggie of the Year-Denise Levine
- Men's Basketball: Aggie of the Year-Jace Kerr
- Golf: Male Aggie of the Year-Ruben Figueiredo; Female Aggie of the Year-Ashley Ogle
- Rodeo: Male Aggie of the Year-Josh Frost; Female Aggie of the Year-Randi Buchanan
- Softball: Aggie of the Year-Darcie Wilson
- Baseball: Aggie of the Year-B.J. Henry



Support Aggie Athletics!



**JULY
7/8**

**ALL NEW
TWO-DAY
EVENT**

Bigger and Better Than Ever!

FRIDAY, JULY 7

3-Man Skins Game at Sunset Hills Golf Course
Followed by Happy Hour, Dinner, Live Music & Silent Auction at
the Hitch Arena Building (separate tickets available for non-golfers)

SATURDAY, JULY 8

3-Man Scramble Tournament at Sunset Hills Golf Course
CASH PRIZES (1st-\$750, 2nd-\$500, 3rd-\$250)
Boxed lunch offered at the turn; side games available throughout the course

CONTACT RUSSELL GASKAMP FOR INFORMATION AT 580-651-4480