

Panhandle

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The New Class of Aggies

A.J. Ingo Photo



It's smiles all around at the Back-to-School breakfast.

Faculty and Staff Set for New Semester

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Fall classes are officially underway at Oklahoma Panhandle State University and the University's 15th president, Dr. Tim Faltyn, has plans to continue to build the Panhandle Brand as a "Brand of Excellence" as we look to the future.

Panhandle State faculty and staff members gathered for an annual back-to-school breakfast sponsored by Anchor D Bank on Thursday, August 10. Faltyn addressed the group with a State of the University speech.

After congratulating the recently crowned National Champion Men's Rodeo Team, Faltyn began by referencing the continued budget cut concerns saying, "We are fine, we are strong and there is a plan," to which a sigh a relief could be felt across the room followed by applause. He continued by acknowledging the fast pace of the recent school year and thanking everyone for their hard work on all the projects laid in place to propel the University forward.

Looking back on the last school year, Faltyn commented, "There have been lots of changes, but some things don't change." Panhandle State's mission, "Progress Through Knowledge," remains the same as well as the values of the university including integrity, quality,

diversity, excellence, and service. Panhandle State seeks recognition as a national leader in regional university excellence. Another constant, learning continues to happen everywhere from the classroom to the athletic events, the dorm, and the cafeteria.

Dr. Faltyn highlighted many numerous positive changes including the implementation of the new logo, bookstore restructuring resulting in a jump in sales, degree updates, and a new walking trail on campus just to name a few. At the time of the Thursday meeting, the enrollment for fall was higher reflecting a new enrollment process where faculty and staff members joined forces in the recruitment process.

President Faltyn referenced the facilities that have closed due to the budget concerns this past year including the campus golf course, Guymon Classroom building, and campus radio station. He added that Panhandle State is the only university in Oklahoma that to his knowledge did not have to do a reduction in force and facilities closing made that possible. Over the last year, the budget now has diversified sources in order to sustain amongst continued state allocation cuts.

Faltyn highlighted numerous reasons for faculty and staff to do what they do from the award winning student groups to the ultimate goal of students walking across the stage to get a diploma at graduation.

Plans for the upcoming year include the implementation of active directory, development of a strategic plan, and continued renovations to campus with an emphasis on dorm rooms. **P**



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Operation Orange at Panhandle State

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

It was a day in the life of a medical student for a number of area high school students who recently attended Operation Orange hosted at Oklahoma Panhandle State University on Tuesday, June 9. A medical summer camp directed by Oklahoma State University, the event drew a number of students interested in a career in medicine.

The day featured several hands-on demonstrations as students got the opportunity to perform intubations, chest compressions, and suturing with a simulator as well as study the human anatomy. Participants worked side-by-side as current Oklahoma State University medical students led the activities. During a panel session, the high school students had the chance to ask the OSU students questions about the journey pursuing their dreams in the medical field.

Panhandle State Admissions Counselors were on hand to share information on the pathways to medical school available at Panhandle State. Campus tours were available as well.

The day wrapped up with a resuscitation battle among the campers before send off.

Aden Collins will be a senior at Guymon High School this upcoming school year and he attended Operation Orange. Collins said, "I really enjoyed the hands-on experience I had during the sessions. Operation Orange educated me with the proper methods needed in the medical field. I would definitely attend another course to gain more knowledge about the medical field."

Macie Cossell also attended the event. Macie said, "Operation Orange was amazing! I learned so many new things about the medical field and I now know what I want to go into! A big thank you to Operation Orange and the OSU Medical students for the best experience!"

Special thanks to the Oklahoma State University-College of Health Sciences for putting the program on and to the Oklahoma State College of Osteopathic Medicine for providing lunch. **P**



Area high school students get hands-on instruction from OSU medical students during Operation Orange hosted at Panhandle State.



Chase Stone (center) was one of four Panhandle State students to graduate in the Kiamichi Technology Center Paramedic Class of 2017.

Students Complete Paramedic Program

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Four Oklahoma Panhandle State University students graduated in the Kiamichi Technology Center Paramedic Class of 2017 on Saturday, July 15, in Poteau, Okla.

This 16-month program consists of 674 classroom hours, 400 clinical hours, and 120 Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) hours totaling 1,194 hours. Classroom hours were spent at the Panhandle State Guymon Classroom and taught through telecommunication broadcast made possible by an agreement with Kiamichi Technology Center. Clinical hours were completed with cooperating hospitals and ambulance services.

This year's class included Panhandle State students Jaclyn Becker, Kyler Hand, Carson Kane, and Chase Stone all of Guymon, Okla.

Panhandle State Dean of Science, Math, and Nursing Dr. Justin Collins said, "This program is a great partnership between Panhandle State and Kiamichi which allows for Paramedic training in rural communities. The time and dedication of these students is to be commended because it takes a special individual to run toward a bad situation and not away from it."

Upon successful completion of this course the students receive a certificate of completion and the privilege to sit for the National Registry of EMTs examination. After the student receives Oklahoma and National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification they may apply for jobs at the level completed.

This training allows many opportunities to work in the health care field such as Ambulance Services; Fire Departments; Hospital Emergency Departments; Clinics; Industrial EMS, including off-shore; and medical flight services.

Kiamichi Technology Center is a part of Oklahoma's network of 29 technology centers on 57 campuses that serve high school and adult learners with specialized career training in more than 90 instructional areas. Kiamichi Technology Centers are located in southeastern Oklahoma with 10 campuses spread over 12 counties.

The graduation ceremony took place at the Seminar Center at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Poteau. **P**



Jerry Mihelic, Interim Dean of Education

Mihelic Takes the Reins as Interim Dean of Education

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

July 1 marks the official passing of the baton, so to speak, in the Oklahoma Panhandle State University School of Education as Mr. Jerry Mihelic takes the reins as Interim Dean of Education upon Dr. Wayne Stewart's retirement. Dr. Stewart has served as the Dean for over 20 years.

Mihelic said, "The School of Education is made up of wonderful students, staff, and faculty. I am excited about the new opportunities that await the School of Education and the opportunity to continue the tradition of excellence at Panhandle. My greatest joy is, and will continue to be, the day that I see our students graduate. Most of all I want to help make the student experience at Panhandle State amazing so that the students will be proud and excited to say, "We are Panhandle!"

As the Interim Dean of Education, Mihelic will oversee the operations of the unit including accreditation and scholarly activities, teacher certifications, faculty and student development.

Former Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey said, "Professor Mihelic has some great ideas that will help Panhandle continue to provide quality teachers for our area while increasing enrollment and teaching options for students."

Increased enrollment in the School of Education programs as well as increased programs and options for students in the Education and Health and Physical Education (HPE) programs are among Mihelic's goals as the Interim Dean. In addition, he would like to increase partnerships with community organizations.

Mihelic and his family came to Goodwell in 2005 from Arizona. Originally, Mihelic served as the field placement officer at Panhandle State and an instructor for the School of Education. Most recently, Mihelic was

serving as the Elementary Education Department Chair, Assistant Professor, and Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) advisor. Additionally, he assisted in the recent School of Education CAEP accreditation.

In his time as an SOEA advisor over the last 12 years at Panhandle State, the club has won four Outstanding Local Chapter of the year awards and a total of 18 state awards. In 2013, Mihelic was named the SOEA Outstanding Local Advisor of the year for the state of Oklahoma.

He holds Elementary Education Degrees from Mid-America Christian University and Arizona Christian University. He earned a Masters in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and is currently in the dissertation phase in Higher Education Leadership degree from Oral Roberts University.

Prior to his time at Panhandle State, Mihelic was the principal in rural Arizona at Rice Elementary School in San Carlos. In urban Arizona, Mihelic taught first, fourth, and sixth grade and was the assistant principal in Deer Valley Unified School District at three different schools in Phoenix.

Mihelic and his wife, Beth, have three children. Both of his sons have attended Panhandle State and one son is a graduate. His daughter is a high school student at Goodwell. Beth also works at Panhandle State.

Mihelic loves being part of the community. Most recently, he co-chaired the Walking Path Committee with Sarah Green. Together they have helped to lay out and implement a walking trail on the former golf course in Goodwell. The path is free and open to the public for use. He is a local school board member and was the school board president from 2013 to 2014. Additionally, he is a member of the Guymon Church of the Nazarene and assists with the youth group. He has had previous involvement with boy scouts and Troop 142 in Goodwell and has helped with Panhandle Services for Children. **P**

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PBL Continues Legacy of Leadership in Anaheim

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Summertime brings a break for some students, but it did not slow Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) members down. The group traveled to Anaheim, Calif. to participate in the 2017 PBL National Leadership Conference (NLC) June 24-27, and two members earned national recognition with top ten finishes in their respective competitions.

Madilyn Rider, a junior double majoring in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems, placed fourth in Administrative Technology. Australian Sam Lemin, a junior Accounting major, finished seventh in Cost Accounting.

Additionally, Panhandle State's chapter earned recognition for having the most students complete PBL's Career Membership Achievement Program (CMAP) in the Mountain Plains Region. CMAP is a comprehensive leadership and membership recognition program sponsored by the FBLA-PBL Organization. It utilizes PBL projects, goals, and programs to help college students develop their leadership and job skills, with a special emphasis on career development and preparation for the world of work. Ten students completed the program this year allowing Panhandle State to earn the award.

In addition to the CMAP recognition, which was a new award for the chapter, Panhandle State PBL Advisors Sara Hitch and Davin Winger added a new element to

their NLC experience this year as they teamed up to present a workshop entitled, "We Do Stuff." The duo has consistently led PBL groups that excel at the state and national levels since they restarted the chapter in 2009. The workshop was an interactive session designed to share information, suggestions, and advice with fellow advisors and PBL members.

Approximately two thousand future business leaders were in attendance to compete in various events, share successes, and learn new ideas about shaping their careers through workshops and exhibits. Panhandle State had nine students that qualified at the State Leadership Conference (SLC) to compete in Anaheim. Students representing Panhandle State included: Jocelynn Avalos of Guymon, Okla.; Selina Gaucin of Guymon, Okla.; Linden Robertson of New Orleans; Ely Esquivel of Guymon, Okla.; Sam Lemin of New Caberera, Australia; Brian Martinez of Guymon, Okla.; Madilyn Rider of Guymon, Okla.; Ami Torres of Guymon, Okla.; and Everly Wise of Fowler, Kan.

In addition to the conference, the students enjoyed PBL night at Disneyland and dinner at the Rainforest Café in Downtown Disney. They also enjoyed interacting with Panhandle State President Dr. Faltyn who graciously made the trip to support the members and celebrate their successes during the Awards of Excellence Ceremony.

Rider commented on the experience, "NLC in Anaheim was amazing! Competing against other students on the national level was a bit nerve-racking, but through my previous PBL experiences and everything I've learned at Panhandle State, I was well-prepared. Placing fourth nationally was a great honor and I'm thankful to the advisors, Dr. Hitch and Mr. Winger, for all the time and energy they put into the club! On top of the great conference, I was able to visit Disneyland and had an amazing time there." **P**



From left to right: Sam Lemin, Brian Martinez, Madilyn Rider, Ely Esquivel, Linden Robertson, Jocelynn Avalos, Ami Torres, Selina Gaucin, and Everly Wise.

Winger Named Dean of Business and Technology

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Davin Winger is the new Dean of Business and Technology at Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Winger said, “I look forward to being involved in the new vision for Panhandle State. I will strive to do the very best that I can, and I believe that there are great things in store for us. I am blessed to be here, and I am excited to see the future of Panhandle State.”

Winger has been serving at Panhandle State for ten years and most recently as an Assistant Professor in the School of Business and Technology. Along with teaching finance, economics, and small business management courses, Winger has been instrumental in the development of traditional and online courses. In addition, he serves as a faculty advisor to the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) club that he and Dr. Sara Hitch reactivated in 2009.

Although Winger has lived in this area for most of his life, he was not extremely familiar with Panhandle State before he began teaching here. He is very thankful for the opportunities he has had during his time as an instructor and the skills he has developed along the way.

With his new title, Winger will give leadership to the departments and academic areas of study under his jurisdiction. He will coordinate school and program initiatives such as distance learning, meeting specific requests of external organizations, and possible grant development and supervision.

Winger said, “I am constantly amazed at the energy and vision of the faculty in the School of Business and Technology. The students that graduate from OPSU are talented and ready to put their mark on the world. One goal I have is to make our region better aware of the resources available at Panhandle State and the School of Business and Technology, so we can foster partnerships that are mutually beneficial within our regions and abroad.”

Former Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey said, “Mr. Winger brings not only knowledge and experience, but also a love of the region and the school to his new position. We look forward to his leadership in the School of Business and Technology as he works with students, faculty, administration, and the community to implement a great future for Panhandle State.”

Originally from Gruver, Texas, Winger earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Texas Tech University, a master’s degree in Business Administration from West Texas A&M and a Master of Arts in Theology from Catholic Distance University.

Prior to his time at Panhandle State, Winger owned and operated a 1460-acre farm and cattle company for over twenty years. He enjoys traveling and watching the Texas Rangers, as well as calling Bingo at Hansford Manor, and he has recently been ordained as a deacon in the Catholic Church. He and his wife Teague have three children. **P**



Left: Davin Winger, Dean of Business and Technology; Right: Amber Glass, Registrar and Director of Admissions

Glass Serves as Registrar and Director of Admissions

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is pleased to introduce a new member of the Aggie family, Registrar and Director of Admissions Amber Glass.

Originally from Oktaha, Okla., Glass comes to Panhandle State from Connors State College where she has served two and a half years as the Assistant Registrar. Prior to her role at Connors State, Glass worked in recruitment at Bacone College.

She enjoys serving in higher learning commenting, “I have seen the vital role higher education plays in opening up doors for people and enriching lives. I believe that my experience in the higher education setting will greatly help me uphold the excellent reputation that Panhandle State has worked tirelessly to obtain.”

Glass is looking forward to the opportunities ahead as she supervises the Offices of Admission and High School and Community Relations. A great deal of her focus now is on Panhandle State’s new system, Banner, and her vision is to utilize it to serve the students better.

She officially stepped in to her new role on July 1, and says, “I feel at home here. You can tell everybody wants to be here and everybody wants to help the students. I look forward to serving and growing in a fast paced academic environment.”

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger said, “Amber brings expertise and a statewide reputation for her skills. I am excited to see the offices under her leadership continue to grow achieve great things.”

Glass earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Administration from the University of Phoenix. She and her husband, Joey, have three daughters, Madison, Sophia, and Hattie. They enjoy being outside, fishing, and spending time at the girls’ softball games. In addition to spending time with her family, Glass likes to read and catch up on DVR shows when there is time. **P**



The SASS program offers academic support to all students seeking to improve their classroom capabilities.

Students to Benefit from Unified Academic Support

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

A new level of academic support is expected at Oklahoma Panhandle State University as plans take place for tutoring as well as counseling and testing services to be offered at McKee Library on the Panhandle campus through Student Academic Support Services (SASS).

SASS provides academic support, tutoring, and related services to all students enrolled at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. In addition to the services provided to all students, focused services are directed to first-generation students, low-income students, and students with disabilities. Academic services coordinated by the Office of Student Academic Support Services include academic coaching, course placement, workshops, credit-bearing courses, tutoring, and individual academic sessions.

The SASS mission is to maximize the academic success and persistence to graduation of all students at Panhandle State. SASS contributes to this mission by helping students maximize their learning opportunities and assisting them in their personal growth. By focusing on the needs of individual students and offering academic support and other services, the office strives to increase the retention and graduation rate of all students. SASS collaborates with other campus offices and faculty to support Panhandle State students.

Carolyn McCargish-Camfield will serve as the Dean of Student Academic Support and she is excited to see her vision for the future of academic support take shape.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, “This idea is a more modern approach to student success and I’m sure this area will benefit from Carolyn’s experience and leadership.”

Former Vice President of Academic Affairs Diane Murphey added, “We see the Library as a hub of academic support and activity. We are very encouraged by the positive changes taking place.” **P**

A Once in a Lifetime Occurrence

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Panhandle State students along with faculty and staff members enjoyed a once in a lifetime opportunity on August 21 thanks in part to the Earth Science Department. The group hosted an Eclipse Viewing Event on campus in the south Hamilton Hall yard complete with a filtered telescope and special glasses for viewing.

Earth Science Professor Beverly Meyer was pleased with the event. “Eclipse viewing on campus was awesome in spite of the clouds blocking our view at times. The crowd was well informed about what would be happening and asked lots of great questions. Thanks to Dr. Bensch for bringing along the welding filters to supplement both telescope and glasses. We had a great time.”

A feeling of awe and mystery swept across campus during the spectacular event that had not happened in the continental United States since 1979. It was truly a special time as the campus joined the rest of the United States and basked in the glory of a total eclipse as the moon’s shadow swept from Oregon to South Carolina. **P**



People across campus turned out to get a glimpse of the Solar Eclipse on Aug. 21.



Summer Camp Showcases College Life

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Summertime did not slow learning down one bit for area high school students in the Upward Bound program as they caught a glimpse of college life during a six-week summer program on the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus. This summer 55 students participated in the camp held June 5 - July 10.

This year's theme was "Hidden Figures...We are Hidden No More" and students were challenged to think of their future. The camp fully supports the program's intent to give each student the tools they need to become successful as they further their education.

Students participate in classes on campus, stay in the dorms, and eat in the cafeteria for an experience similar to a college student's weekly schedule. Each student is required to take math, science, English writing, and foreign language but may choose from a number of electives including Studio Art, Self-Defense, Novel, Leadership, History, Music, and Public Speaking.

While the camp places a great emphasis on education with a variety of courses available, leadership and service are also a major focus in the program. The group did community service in Guymon and Goodwell from picking up limbs to painting tables at Thompson Park in Guymon. Team building and group bonding activities were held each evening under the leadership of college students who also served as Resident Assistants (RAs) in the dorms.

The sixth week of camp saw an educational trip for the group with a visit to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Houston as well as stops at a slave plantation, a Holocaust Museum, and war ships in Galveston, Texas. A highlight for everyone on the trip was taking part in Escape the Room Texas which required teamwork and critical thinking skills to escape within the one hour allotted time.

Special thanks to all the instructors who helped make the camp possible:



The Upward Bound group pauses for a quick photo at Lighthouse Buffet at Kemah Boardwalk during their educational trip that wrapped up a six-week summer camp.

Michael Harris - Algebra I
 Robyn Harris - Geometry & Algebra II
 Tenoch Ramon - Science
 Melvin Jackson - Writing
 Brad Taylor - History/Current Events & Guitar
 Michelle Davis - Leadership & Novel
 Lindsay Skelton - Public Speaking
 Dustin Martinez & Rickie Baker - Studio Art
 Mari Carmen Martinez - Zumba
 Alex Trujillo - Music
 Karen Esquivel - Novel & Reading Plus

Also a special thanks to the college students who served as RAs: Diego Arenas, Riyadh Asad, Alma Avalos, Viridiana Avalos, Krista Ochoa, Tierra Roberson, DaShawn Stephens, Alexandria Trujillo, Dominique Thomas, and Kameroné Wheeler.

Alexandria Trujillo, RA and instructor, had this to say, "It was an amazing experience. I never expected to connect with the students so well. They are driven, respectful, and so ready to learn. There wasn't a single moment that I didn't enjoy teaching and guiding them."

The program is under the direction of Teri Mora and she is assisted by Davida Gomez. Both Mora and Gomez taught classes in addition to organizing the camp.

"This summer we saw tremendous growth in math and reading skills. Students had the opportunity to participate in a Reading Plus pilot program which continues through August 31," said Mora. "Our summer theme opened up many great conversations about "hidden figures," particularly in terms of diversity."

Upward Bound is a federal program of the Department of Education that operates year-round. The program is designed to provide students with the skills and resources to be successful throughout their high school careers and prepare them to attend and graduate from college. Participants range from those who have completed eighth grade to students that just graduated from high school. **P**

Aggie Family



Staff
Sue Etbauer

Glue is a unique substance; it fastens without being seen. For the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team, Sue Etbauer is just that.

“Sue means more to OPSU Rodeo than most people will ever know. She’s the glue that holds us all together,” Shelby Weeder, OPSU Rodeo Team Assistant Women’s Coach said.

In 2015, Sue Etbauer joined the Panhandle State family as the Rodeo Team Assistant. But long before Sue joined her husband and head coach, Robert Etbauer, at the helm of the legendary rodeo team, she played an integral part of the program. She not only assisted Robert whenever the practice stock needed fed or computer work completed, but also kept track of the points for the all the weekly jackpots and made sure each student was filmed at the rodeos.

From welcoming college kids to their family home to making emergency room runs when inevitable occurred in the roughstock events, Sue made sure every student athlete was taken care of. After moving into her new position, Sue began taking care of those who rodeo at Panhandle State to an even higher degree.

“Sue is definitely a big part of the OPSU Rodeo Team by doing everything behind the scenes and making sure all the paperwork and not so fun stuff is taken care of properly, and most importantly, on time,” said Katie Hughes, Panhandle State Rodeo Alumna.

Her qualifications exceed the job description. One can bet Sue kept Robert on track during his professional career as he claimed two world championship titles in the saddle bronc riding, but aside from keeping Robert going down the rodeo trail, Sue raised three top-caliber rodeo athletes: Chancy, Trel and Shade Etbauer. All of the Etbauer children have accomplished greatness inside the rodeo arena and are paving their own way into the history books.

Sue attended every youth, high school and college rodeo with her children. With her camera bag over her shoulder and clipboard in hand, the veteran rodeo mom never missed a time, score or filming a run. Often times, she had the points figured before the official sheets even made their way to the rodeo office. She was the rodeo mom others in the stands aspired to be like, and now, she is helping to make the Panhandle State Rodeo Team one with which other programs across the country compare themselves. **P**



Student
Ami Torres

Ami Torres is a senior majoring in marketing with minors in finance and computer graphics. She is a Guymon, Okla. local and is involved in a handful of different organizations on campus that have helped her gain the most out of her college experience.

“I am the vice president of HALO (Hispanic American Leadership Organization) and have attended numerous conferences with HALO which has made me become a better leader and role model; it has given me many opportunities for internships and networking with several important people.”

In addition to HALO, she is also involved in PBL (Phi Beta Lambda) which is a business club. “I am the Vice President of PBL, I participated in the State Leadership Competition where I received first place in Client Service.” This summer Ami had the opportunity to attend the PBL National Leadership Conference.

Ami’s involvement in these clubs have been very pivotal to her growth while at Panhandle State.

In addition to her involvement with HALO and PBL, Ami participated in the Hispanic Quiz Bowl this year. “Hispanic College Quiz was a great experience. The quiz went well, and I encourage everyone to watch the show. The Hispanic College Quiz will air during Hispanic Heritage Month. My favorite part was being able to experience how it really is to be in a TV Show.”

It seems that Ami is constantly on the move. Last summer she was an intern with Brown & Associates. “The internship was great; it helped me grow my communication skills. Dianna Brown and the staff were wonderful and treated me like family. After my internship, I was offered the chance to become an insurance agent and I accepted. I have been working for Brown & Associates for a year now. Dianna is very supportive in everything I do in college and I really appreciate it. She has helped me show people in the community why insurance is so important.”

As the first person in her family to attend college, she looks back at her time on campus fondly, “my favorite things about OPSU is having a close connection with my professors. If I attended a larger university, I wouldn’t have that. I love that everyone is so friendly.” She sets a great example for her brothers and sisters who she enjoys spending time with. In her spare time, she loves to play soccer and she participated in the summer soccer league in Liberal, Kan. this past summer. **P**



Faculty
Dr. Sara Richter

Dr. Sara Jane Richter was born in Atchinson, Kan. and later moved to Marysville, Kan. until the sixth grade when her family settled in Hennessy, Okla. She moved to Oklahoma for the climate because her brother, Kevin, could not tolerate the climate in Kansas which affected his allergies tremendously. Upon moving to Oklahoma, Sara fell in love with the climate, geography, and most importantly, the people.

Dr. Richter attended Phillips University achieving her bachelor's degree in history. She then transferred to Oklahoma State University and received a master's in History and later, English. She was a dedicated student, and she attended college for fourteen straight years, which resulted in four minors and two majors in undergraduate school as well as three graduate school degrees. To Dr. Richter, "Making the best grade wasn't my bag, but I'd do my best, and that's what mattered to me."

She is very active on campus and in her own studies as well. She is the Dean of Liberal Arts at Panhandle State and researches and writes about many topics that interest her. Her dedication to writing is outstanding and the proof lies in some of the many awards and honors she has received. She has received awards such as "2011 Oklahoma Humanities Award" for spreading the importance of humanities in Oklahoma. She has also written her own books entitled "The Oklahoma Panhandle" and "Guymon."

She loves Panhandle State and although she never considered staying for thirty-two years, she never regrets it. She has been in the classroom since 1978 where she started teaching at OSU. She liked it there, but, "The students didn't compare to those students in the Panhandle." Dr. Richter has never wanted to do anything else other than teach, unlike most children, she was born knowing she would teach. She began teaching at Panhandle State in 1985.

She could never imagine teaching anywhere else because "This is home. The Panhandle is my home." She is avid about making an impact on students and believes anybody is capable to learn because, "Everybody is a seeker for education and experience. Everybody seeks order and achievement. I try to let them see the world in a different way; expand their horizons." **P**



Alumni
**Tammy & Stephen
Lehew**

It's no secret that Oklahoma Panhandle State University seeks to provide the best teachers in the area upon graduation from the teacher education program and the program is doing just that. This past Spring, Panhandle State graduate Mrs. Tammy Lehew was named Teacher of the Year for Northeast School in Guymon, Okla. as well as District Teacher of the Year for Guymon Public Schools for the 2016-2017 year.

Mrs. Lehew has been teaching for seven years and is currently a first grade teacher at Northeast Elementary. Originally from Guymon, Mrs. Lehew earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education/ Early Childhood from Panhandle State in 1997.

Mrs. Lehew commented on her time as a student at Panhandle State, "I felt like it was home. I felt that the professors cared about me as a person."

She also spoke about her goals within teaching, "My goal is to be able to reach out and help any student no matter what language they speak or no matter what level they are on. I want them all to know they can be successful in my classroom."

Mrs. Lehew gets to do what she loves right alongside her husband, Mr. Stephen Lehew, who currently teaches third and fourth grade music at Guymon Public Schools.

Mr. Lehew attended Panhandle State as well and graduated in 1998 with a degree in Music Education.

"It seems that going to a smaller college the instructors cared about me as a person. I was more than just a student to them. They cared whether I was successful or not. Panhandle State is also where I met my wife and we decided we wanted to stay in this area to raise our family."

As a student, Mr. Lehew was active in Band, Choir, Pizzazz (Show Choir), and the Once Upon a Mattress Musical.

He has been teaching for 19 years and was named the 2015/2016 Teacher of the Year for Academy School in Guymon.

In addition to his position at Academy, he is also an ordained Pastor at Guymon Church of the Nazarene where he serves as Children's Pastor.

Interim Dean of Education Mr. Jerry Mihelic said, "I have known Mr. and Mrs. Lehew for many years. They truly live the mission of the School of Education to change the world one student at a time. We are Panhandle Proud of these two graduates." **P**

Back to School

ENROLLMENT DAY



MOVE-IN DAY



Welcome Week

ICE CREAMSOCIAL



COFFEECREATIONS



DISCGOLF



THREE-POINTCONTEST



NEW STUDENTORIENTATION



CAPTURETHE FLAG



Aggie Pride Picnic

A buzz of energy swept across campus as Panhandle State students, faculty and staff members joined with community supporters to kick off a new school year at the Aggie Pride Picnic on Aug. 21. Emcee Ken Stonecipher led the celebration with an introduction of the 2017 National Champion Men's Rodeo Team.

Smiles and laughter filled the tailgate zone as the crowd enjoyed a special word from Head Rodeo Coach Robert Etbauer and Asst. Coach Shelbie Weeder. Brief season previews from each sport's head coach followed.

The event was complete with a delicious meal served by Great Western Dining and live music from the Jimmy Lee Jordan Band. The evening was capped off with a Fall Aggie Football Scrimmage under the lights at No Man's Land Stadium.

*It was a **huge honor** to be a part of this. I'm so proud of our kids.*

*We couldn't have done it without **everyone's support**. We are so thankful for everything that Dr. Faltyn and Panhandle State does for us.*

ROBERT ETBAUER,
HEAD RODEO COACH

Panhandle State Rodeo Championship Celebration!



*It was **so awesome** to be a part of this and I can't wait to see what this year brings for all of the Aggie teams.*

SHELBY WEEDER,
ASST. RODEO COACH



Aggie Pride Picnic



*I'm ready to see the tailgate zone and stands full of **Rockin' Aggie Fans** for all the home games this year!*

RUSSELL GASKAMP,
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



*I am **very proud** of the way our students, staff and community are brought together by events like this.*

*Strong support year-round will help carry all of our teams to **successful seasons.***

MEGHAN MULCAHY,
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Teamwork Propels Men's Rodeo to Sixth National Championship

Submitted by Panhandle Rodeo

Rodeo is often thought of as an individual sport, but for collegiate rodeo action, team performance becomes critical. Oklahoma Panhandle State University has excelled in both aspects and this year's edition of the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyo. was no exception as they will bring home yet another National Men's Team Championship.

"This win is for everyone at the university past, present, and future. It takes the entire campus, their family and friends, and our community to make these young people successful. This is a win for everyone involved," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, University President.

Faltyn is especially proud of the student-athletes. "The best part is these kids won with class and grit. I feel blessed to have been there and see our students make history. They made us all proud. Both Robert and Sue Etbauer along with Shelbie Weeder work so hard do a great job, I am so happy for them."

In a true team effort, Panhandle State qualified six men to the short go on Saturday night. Will Martin set the tune for week early on with a 78.5-point ride in the bareback riding on the opening day of action.

"That ride felt great. I was really glad to draw a good horse. It is important to have good horses under you," Martin said of his second-place finish in the first round.

He kept the tempo going strong to start the short round for the Aggies with a 74.5-point ride. Combined with his scores from earlier in the week, Martin secured sixth place in the national standings and accumulated valuable points for his team.

Dylan Riggins also covered all three of his bareback horses, but wasn't able to make the top 12 to qualify for the short round.

Panhandle State is expected to earn points in the classic event of rodeo with its rich saddle bronc riding tradition. The lone saddle bronc rider to qualify for this year's CNFR was no stranger to the big stage, but after coming down before the 8-second whistle in the first round, Jake Finlay's plans changed.

"I think that's what got me a round win," Finlay said about bucking off his first horse in Casper. "I sure as heck wasn't going to let the next two get away from me and it motivated me a lot in the next two rounds."

That motivation fired Finlay's spur stroke in the third round where he scored 79.5 points to claim the top spot and secure his position in the short round. When the dust settled, the Australian cowboy placed fourth in the nation.



It was a team effort all week long at the 2017 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) for the Panhandle State Men's Rodeo team as they secured their sixth national title.

Moving to the timed event end of the arena, the Johnsrud brothers were the sole cowboys to represent the red and blue with ropes in hand. They proved Panhandle State produces top caliber athletes in all facets of rodeo with a fast time of 5.4 seconds in the second round to take home the championship rings in that round.

"We had a pretty good steer and I hit the start perfectly," Ben Johnsrud said of the duo's second run in Casper. "I felt like we could have been faster, but I couldn't get the rope out of my hand. Nate [Johnsrud] roped him fast and it felt like the easiest run out of all of them this week."

After a five-second penalty in the championship round, the brothers landed in sixth place overall. "It was pretty fun to rope with my brother on this big of stage because I have been roping with him my whole life," Nate Johnsrud said.

As the team kept tallying points in each of their respective events, all eyes were on the bucking chutes as the final curtain fell on the 2017-edition of the CNFR. Two Panhandle State cowboys qualified for the short go in the bull riding. Cody Ballard started his week with a bang by winning the first round with an 81.5-point ride.

"It always feels good to get the first one rode in the bull riding and it gives you confidence in the next three rounds," Ballard said.

That confidence propelled Ballard to a 72.5-point mark in the second round of action. Unfortunately, he was not able to make the whistle on his final two bulls of the week, but still placed third in the nation and helped scoot his team to the top of the leaderboard.

Josh Frost is no stranger to the yellow chutes of the CNFR. The recent Panhandle State graduate was able to cover his bulls in the second and third round to qualify for the championship performance. Although *(continued)*

Frost fell short of the required eight seconds in the final round, the Utah-native placed seventh overall.

“Panhandle has been a big part of my life both with my education and rodeo. It’s just a great place to be,” Frost said.

Contributions from all the team members throughout the week helped land Panhandle State at the top of the men’s team standings with 827.5 points. Sam Houston State University placed second with 715 points while Tarleton State University was third.

“The kids all did good – every one of them, boys and girls,” Coach Robert Etbauer said. “They all got points and gave us a heck of an opportunity.”

On the women’s side, Randi Buchanan rounded out a dominating collegiate rodeo career at Panhandle State by qualifying for the short go in the breakaway roping. Buchanan’s combined time of 8.9 seconds on three head was fast enough to secure eighth place.

“Being a part of the OPSU Rodeo Team wasn’t even really being a part of a team. They were my family. I was successful in my career because I have a family who are my teammates who were there for me, coaches who pushed me and believed in me,” said the outgoing senior.

Buchanan also competed in the barrel racing where she was joined by teammate Melanie Roman, who finished in the top 20 of the event.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better ending for my first year of coaching,” said Assistant Coach Shelbie Weeder. “We will go home, work hard and hopefully qualify a men’s and women’s team next year and eventually add a women’s team title to the list. Working with Robert [Etbauer] is going really well. We feed off each other and see everything from a different angle which gives us the opportunity to have a different take on things.”

Five of the seven men representing Panhandle State at this year’s CNFR will be returning in the fall, meaning the red and blue vests will continue to be a force in both the Central Plains Region and on the national platform.

“It’s hard to believe it’s over,” Coach Etbauer said, “We’re ready to get to work on another great year.” **P**



Cowboy Jake Finlay celebrates victory at CNFR.

Volleyball and Baseball Teams Recognized for Academic Excellence in 2016-2017

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information



As the new 2017-2018 year commences, Oklahoma Panhandle State University can reflect fondly on its preceding year, full of athletic and academic accolades, and begin with hopes of paralleling goals this school year.

For the seventh time in eight years, Panhandle State volleyball has received honors for their performance off the court. The American Volleyball Coaches Association added the Aggies to a record-breaking list of recipients who earned the 2016-2017 AVCA Team Academic Award, which honors collegiate and high school teams that displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

Head Coach Matt Heffner praises his team on their commendation, saying, “The whole team worked very hard this past year in the gym and in the classroom. We are very proud of our athletes’ achievement and want to keep working hard to make this a yearly benchmark for our program.”

Furthermore, Panhandle State Baseball received academic honors for the second straight year, earning the American Baseball Coaches Association’s 2016-2017 Team Academic Excellence Award and making Panhandle State the only Oklahoma institution represented on the list of over 130 NCAA schools throughout all three divisions. The ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award honors high school and college programs that posted a team grade point average over a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the 2016-2017 academic year, a truly remarkable feat signifying Aggie Baseball athletes are making developmental marks on and off the field.

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy responded with pride, saying, “The baseball team did a great job in the classroom this year, and I am proud of their effort.” **P**



Ron Murphey and Jack Begley were inducted into the Class of 2017 Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association (OBCCA) Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 3 in Ada, Okla. Diane Murphey (left) and Eric Begley (right) accepted the awards on behalf of the inductees.

Aggie Connections Run Deep for OBCCA Hall of Fame Inductees

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University graduates, Jack Begley and Ron Murphey, were inducted into the Class of 2017 Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association (OBCCA) Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 3 in Ada, Okla.

Begley and Murphey joined Cecil Hankins, Robert Sprague and Bailey Van Zant as the Class of 2017 inductees. The class was honored during a luncheon at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Chickasaw Business & Conference Center Foundation Hall on the campus of East Central University.

Begley, who died in 2004, coached at Texhoma and Clinton high schools from 1958 through 1966. Following a year coaching in Texas, he returned to Oklahoma as head coach of Panhandle State for eight seasons.

In four seasons at Clinton, Begley won back-to-back state championships (1964, 1965) with the help of All-Staters Melvin and Carlos Bell.

Upon leaving the coaching ranks, Begley entered Oklahoma politics. He was elected and re-elected to seven consecutive terms in the Legislature. For 10 years, he served as chairman of the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education.

Begley graduated from Panhandle A&M College with a degree in Commerce in 1958. He played basketball during both of his years at the school and was selected to

the all-conference team during his senior year. Begley's lifelong love for this area and Panhandle State began during his time as a student.

Murphey, who died in 2016, spent 29 years coaching high school basketball at Felt and Texhoma.

At Texhoma from 1980 through 2000, Murphey won a state championship (1994) and had a runner-up team (1988) and coached in the 1996 All-State and Faith 7 games.

He had two stints at Felt in Cimarron County. He started his career there in 1971, before moving to Texhoma. He worked as superintendent at Plainview (2001-11) and came out of retirement in 2014-15 to earn his 400th victory at Felt.

Murphey graduated in 1970 from Panhandle State with a degree in Health and Physical Education. While sharing the titles of Panhandle State graduates and Texhoma Head Basketball Coaches is pretty neat in itself, the connection runs deeper for these 2017 inductees.

Jack Begley's son, Eric, commented on the induction and all the connections, "Looking at the list of previous OBCCA inductees, I noticed that Jerry Anderson had been inducted into the OBCCA Hall of Fame. Coach Anderson recruited and coached Dad at Panhandle A&M College and was the coach he followed when he returned to Panhandle State. I know Dad would have been very pleased to be inducted in the same class as Coach Ron Murphey. He recruited and coached Ron at Panhandle State. He took great pride in the success of his former players and Coach Murphey's induction is a great indication of his success."

Murphey's wife Diane commented, "The shared connection is a great thing. Ron would be honored to get inducted with Jack Begley." **P**



Personnel Changes Bring New Life to Athletics Dept.

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

With the recent shift from NCAA to the NAIA ranks came a bevy of staff changes within the Aggie Athletics Department. Meghan Mulcahy now leads as Athletic Director, overseeing operations for all ten sanctioned sports programs. Mulcahy continues to serve as the Aggies' head softball coach and enters her sixth season at the helm.


Adding the Associate Athletic Director title is Panhandle State's head football coach, Russell Gaskamp. Gaskamp will assist Mulcahy with the strategic planning process and will oversee facility usage as well as serve as the NAIA Champions of Character Liaison.

The newly appointed Head Coach of Women's Basketball, Victor Esparza, also steps into a leadership role within the department, named Assistant Athletic Director in charge of promotion and development. Esparza will coordinate departmental fundraising efforts as well as special events such as the annual Hall of Fame Banquet and End-of-Year Athletic Banquet.

Set to work closely with Esparza on all athletic events including game day operations is Sports Information Director Justine Gaskamp. Gaskamp also received additional support with the hire of Assistant Sports Information Director, Alyssa Fox; Fox will assist with statistical reporting, website maintenance, social media output and other day-to-day functions.

Other administrative positions within athletics include men's basketball head coach Jerry Olson, who now also serves as the Athletic Sponsorship Coordinator responsible for securing game day and program sponsors and executing athletic fundraising activities. Dr. Patrick Maille continues to lead as the Faculty Athletics Representative and Chief Compliance Officer, and Stacy Nordquist now assists student-athletes as the Athletic Academic Advisor. Emma Montoya takes control as the full-time administrative assistant for athletics, offering much-needed support to the entire coaching staff.

Coaching changes also took place over the summer with former assistant Matt Heffner named Head Volleyball Coach for the Aggies. Recent Panhandle State graduate Denise Levine will take over the cross-country program as head coach, and will assist Esparza with women's basketball; many will recognize Levine from her leadership on the court as a former starter for Aggie Basketball. A new face to campus is Jason LaRocque, who was named as the head coach of Aggie Baseball in July.

Full releases on the above athletic personnel changes are available online at opsuaggies.com. 



MEGHAN MULCAHY
Athletic Director



RUSSELL GASKAMP
Associate Athletic Director



VICTOR ESPARZA
Assistant Athletic Director



JERRY OLSON
Athletic Sponsorship



PATRICK MAILLE
FAR/Compliance Officer



STACY NORDQUIST
Athletic Academic Advisor



EMMA MONTOYA
Athletics Admin. Assistant



JUSTINE GASKAMP
Sports Information/Events



ALYSSA FOX
Assistant SID



MATT HEFFNER
Head Volleyball



DENISE LEVINE
Head Cross Country



JASON LAROCQUE
Head Baseball

— save the date —
Panhandle State
HOMECOMING
& *Alumni Weekend*

October 28, 2017

opsu.edu/homecoming



8 am

Alumni Registration

9 am

Honored Family Reception-Etbauer

10 am

Tailgate Area Open

10:30 am

Homecoming Parade

11 am

Alumni BBQ

1 pm



Aggie Football vs. Langston
Oklahoma A&M Rivalry

7 pm

Hall of Fame Banquet