

# **P**anhandle

November 2017

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Investing in  
the Future**



Anchor D gathered by the entrance to Anchor D Stadium at Panhandle State Homecoming on October 28.

## Aggie Athletics Sees Largest Single Gift

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Aggie Athletics will soon see facility upgrades at both the football stadium and the basketball arena thanks to the largest single gift in Aggie Athletic history given by Anchor D Bank and Anchor D Ranch.

Panhandle State officials announced the gift on Saturday, October 28 during the Homecoming Festivities. At the donors' request, the amount was not disclosed.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn was thrilled to announce the generous donation. "This generous gift also highlights the decades long partnership between Panhandle State, Anchor D Bank and Anchor D Ranch. The Freeman Family has been a blessing to this University for many years and we are honored to put their name on the stadium and arena."

The gift will allow Panhandle State to modernize the football stadium creating a multi-use athletic facility for both football and soccer which in turn opens the door to add a soccer program at Panhandle State. It also allows for the facility to be shared with Goodwell High School offering students at all levels the opportunity to play in a modern facility.



Both the stadium and the arena are expected to see scoreboard upgrades as well.

A historic partner with Panhandle State, Anchor D Bank, formerly The First National Bank of Texhoma, was established February 22, 1906. The name reflects an area ranch founded in 1878 which is similar to the time period this bank was opened. The ranch had headquarters in Texhoma, Goodwell, and Guymon, which is also where the bank's offices are located. Anchor D Bank is a closely held, family owned bank with quality service as the focus of the organization.

Deb Twyman, AVP/Lender, at the branch in Goodwell said, "We opened the Goodwell Office over 20 years ago, strengthening a strong and lasting partnership with the University. We serve a great community and love being there for the students and their parents- especially those away from home for the first time." 



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# CONTENTS



Cover Photo: (left to right) Ryan Duncan, EVP-Guymon President; Paul Freeman, CEO; Rowdy Slavin, EVP -Texhoma President  
Photo above: (left to right) Trey Freeman, Lender-Guymon; Paul Freeman CEO; Matt Freeman, Lender- Texhoma

<b>Education</b> .....	4-9
<b>Aggie Family</b> .....	10-11
<b>Campus Fun</b> .....	12-15
<b>Athletics</b> .....	16-19

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## Early College Credit, Master's Degree in Agribusiness Now Being Offered

As Published by The Oklahoman

**O**klahoma Panhandle State University will launch a pilot program next fall to give qualified students the chance to graduate from high school with a college degree.

President Tim Faltyn said high school students who enroll in the program will start as first-semester sophomores with two courses and will continue earning college credits each spring, summer and fall of high school for a total of 62 credits.

The program is designed to let students have “a high school experience” with a limited number of activities, Faltyn said.

To qualify, students must score 20 on the ACT or pre-ACT, or must have a grade-point average of at least 3.0 and rank in the top half of their class.

Students who complete the Early College High School Dual Credit Program will earn a high school diploma and an associate of science degree simultaneously, Faltyn said. They can choose education, business or STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as their area of concentration.

“We will register our first class of sophomores in the summer of 2018 after they have taken the pre-ACT and scored high enough to be accepted,” Faltyn said. “We will add a second cohort in fall 2019. It’s very exciting.”

He estimates the first cohort will have 10 to 30 students from Guymon High School and about five students from Goodwell High School.

“This is one of the ways we work with our K-12 partners,” Faltyn said. “I really believe this is the future for us.”

This summer, 20 students from Dove Science Academy in Oklahoma City began a similar dual-enrollment program with Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City. OSU-OKC President Natalie Shirley said the students are thriving.

First master’s program

Also coming to Oklahoma Panhandle State is the university’s first graduate degree program, a master’s in agribusiness that is being offered primarily online.

Faltyn said OPSU graduates about 100 agribusiness majors each year. “Next up will be a master’s degree in education,” he said. **P**

## FFA Interscholastic Contest Sees Record High

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

**T**he annual Oklahoma Panhandle State University FFA Interscholastic Competition was Tuesday, November 7, 2017 on the campus and at the school farm. The event was hosted by the School of Agriculture and Collegiate FFA and saw nearly 600 student competitors.

It was a sea of blue corduroy FFA jackets in Goodwell as high schools from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas tallying 32 in total brought students to compete in various contests with options in 14 Career Development Events (CDE’s) and 11 public speaking events.

Panhandle State Agricultural Education Director Nels Peterson was thrilled with this year’s event and the record-number of participants.

He said, “Not only does this provide a service to FFA Chapters as an exploratory event for them to determine what they know and what they need to know, but it is also a great ‘boots on the ground’ event for our Ag Education majors as they prepare to be in a classroom of their own.”

Peterson continued, “A great amount of the credit for the success of the contest goes to the Ag Education students. The entire School of Agriculture and the Science Department play a big role in making each event happen. The support from the entire OPSU family and community is huge in making this successful.”

Panhandle State student Alicia Allen helped organize the event. She commented, “Seeing how much effort the students put into practicing and how much the Ag teachers encourage and support them reminds us as Ag Ed majors why we are doing what we do.”

For many of the FFA students, college is right around the corner. This contest allows many of them to see the campus and become familiar with its buildings and faculty. Panhandle State showcases a broad spectrum of choices for students to pursue, even outside of the agriculture department **P**



A record number of area high school students participated in this year’s Interscholastic Competition on campus.

## Bryant Inducted into Higher Education Hall of Fame

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

**F**ormer Oklahoma Panhandle State University President, Dr. David Bryant, was one of ten leaders in teaching, research, medicine, government, economic development, and public service to be inducted into the 2017 Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. Dr. Bryant was honored along with the group during a dinner and induction ceremony at the University of Central Oklahoma campus on October 30.

Dr. Bryant was named the president of Panhandle State in 2003. He immediately confronted several major challenges at Panhandle State, including reinstating strategic planning, developing constituent and community support, renovating campus infrastructure, and engaging the Hispanic community. Bryant gave the university a new sense of direction and renewed sense of purpose with his leadership and dedication to the campus.

His holistic approach was key to stabilizing and improving the institution and advancing the school's stature as a major contributor to the social and cultural life of the region and as an essential ingredient enhancing northwest Oklahoma's economic development potential.

He started with a very basic approach to revitalizing the physical campus: making it beautiful. Dr. Bryant emphasized landscaping and attention to detail, replaced sidewalks and campus signage, paved formerly-dirt parking lots, and planted gardens all with the goal of making the university a pleasant, inviting environment in which students could live, work and study. Bryant made significant contribution in support of affirmative action, including paying strict attention to supporting and following equal opportunity guidelines in the hiring of faculty and staff, advocating for the recruitment of a Native American students in the agricultural and biological sciences, and the recruitment of women into undergraduate and graduate programs.

Bryant also reviewed academic offering and established new programs to reinvigorate students' learning and interest. He developed several new associate degree programs including emergency medical technician, fire protections safety, and wind energy and maintenance training. These programs dovetail with community needs and the industrial and energy sector growth in the Oklahoma panhandle.

Since the beginning of his academic career, Bryant has published dozens of scholarly articles in scientific journal on a range of management topics. He is a frequent presenter at academic conferences in his academic fields, and served as an independent scientific consultant on 18 allotment management plans in Arizona. Bryant has



Former University President Dr. David Bryant (left) joined with current President Dr. Tim Faltyn (right).

also been instrumental in securing numerous high-profile grants, government contracts and special funds for all of the institutions he has served.

Dr. Bryant's educational history goes back to Lower Columbia College, where he earned an associate degree in zoology in 1963. He continued his studies at Washington State University, receiving his bachelor's in range management in 1966. He pursued his master's in range science at Texas Tech, and earned his doctorate in range management in 1971 from the University of Arizona. Bryant's administrative background in higher education began almost immediately after receiving his doctorate, when he served as chairman of the department of range management at Humboldt State University in California from 1973-76. From 1982-87, he served as the head of the Range Resources Department at the University of Idaho and then as the dean of the college of agriculture and biological sciences at South Dakota State University from 1987-98. In 1998, Bryant became the vice provost as well as the dean and director of the extension service at Montana State University and served in this capacity until being name president of Oklahoma Panhandle State University in 2003.

Dr. Bryant said, "Serving the students, faculty, staff, and community members of Oklahoma Panhandle State University as the President was the highlight of my working life."

He was joined at the induction ceremony by his daughter and two grandsons. Current Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn and former Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Wayne Manning were in attendance as well as several Panhandle State Alumni and staff members.

Dr. Faltyn commented, "We are very proud to help honor Dr. Bryant's legacy. Panhandle State would not be where we are without the leadership he provided during his time here."

The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to recognize and honor individuals, living and deceased, whose achievement and leadership in scholarship, teaching, research, administration, staff support, outreach and public service have brought honor and distinction to higher education in our state. This year represents the 24th year to honor these individuals' distinguished contributions. **P**

## Annual Noche de Gala Always a Favorite

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) did not disappoint this year with the always favorite Noche de Gala. Delicious food and delightful entertainment marked the evening with leadership recognition the focus.

HALO President Diego Arenas-Purvinis welcomed guests to the special event on Tuesday, October 17th in the Student Union Ballroom on campus followed by a welcome in Spanish by Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger.

Following a wonderful meal by Great Western Dining, Hispanic Student Services Director Teri Mora spoke about some of the honors HALO had received this past year through HACU, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Panhandle State is one of only two Oklahoma institutions that qualify for membership.

Mora introduced Panhandle State student Jocelynn Avalos to speak about two opportunities provided to her through HACU. This past summer, Avalos was awarded an internship in Washington, D.C. through HACU's Hispanic National Internship Program marking the second summer in a row for her to receive the honor. While in D.C., she was also the only student from Oklahoma to participate in the "Girl Up Leadership Summit." Avalos was then presented the "Orgullo Hispano" award, a Hispanic pride award in recognition of national achievements.

Another great honor for HALO was being selected for the third year as a participant in the Hispanic College Quiz Show, a televised show much like Jeopardy. Ami Torres represented Panhandle State at the Hispanic College Quiz Show in Nashville in July. Ami won the competition earning herself a \$4,500 scholarship and a trip to the National HACU conference in San Diego where she will be recognized for her achievements. Torres was then presented the "Orgullo Hispano" award as well.

A former student, Ms. Amada Alvidrez was then invited to the podium to speak about her experiences with education and her career. Alvidrez graduated in 1996 as the Valedictorian of Guymon High School and later graduated from Panhandle State in May 2000 with a degree in Secondary English Education, earning *magna cum laude* honors. She also attended three summers of Graduate School in Banking in Colorado and graduated in 2009 with honors. She has worked at City National Bank for 23 years and is currently the Vice President, heading all operations at the bank. In addition she has been a board member of the Texas County YMCA for four years and has put her teaching degree to work as a religious education teacher at St. Peter's for 12 years.

Alvidrez commented, "I loved my education here." She added, "I am certainly putting my degree to use." She was presented with the Hispanic Legacy Award.

Next recognition was given to the royalty crowned at the FIESTA in Guymon, Okla. this past September. Panhandle State has sponsored the FIESTA Royalty scholarship competition for the past 20 years. This year over \$15,000 was awarded in tuition waivers at the Guymon FIESTA. Lupita Jimenez was named the 2017 FIESTA Queen and Jose Lopez is the 2017 FIESTA King.

Among Panhandle State students recognized Joel Barbosa, Sergio Sosa, and Maxine Henderson received the "Newcomer" award. These students are always ready to volunteer and help wherever they are needed from face painting and taco making to Financial Aid workshops. Sam Ortiz was recognized for outstanding service and "step up" mentality. Ortiz is always willing to volunteer for events, has great leadership and insight, and always does so with a positive attitude.

Dianna and Phil Brown and Vonda Wilkins were presented the "Community Partner" award for their wonderful support of HALO and all the group's endeavors. Vice President of Outreach Dr. Ryan Blanton addressed the group before the evening's conclusion and spoke about plans for the future.

Special thanks to the Hooker High School HALO group for attending the event. **P**



Panhandle State's HALO group pauses for a quick photo following the always favorite Noche de Gala.



Alpha Zeta members gather together following a special induction ceremony on October 16.

## Alpha Zeta Inducts New Members

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Alpha Zeta Chapter held a special Fall initiation of new inductees of October 16th at the Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Extension Center Meeting Room.

The new inductees included Ben Brady of Marcus, Iowa; John Barger of Pawnee, Okla.; Allison Jones of Johnson, Kan.; Philip Kirongo of Kenya; Kierra Smartt of McClave, Colo.; Sequoia Smith of Boyd, Texas; and Ashby Williams of Amarillo, Texas.

Alpha Zeta, an honorary Agriculture Fraternity, was founded on November 4, 1897 at The Ohio State University. The Panhandle State chapter is the Oklahoma Beta and is part of the national organization.

Brothers Burkett and Cunningham were roommates while studying in the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State. They realized the need for fellowship among students dedicated to the cause of agriculture.

At the time, agricultural education was of low standing at the University. Similarly, there was little regard for the few students enrolled in agriculture courses. Burkett and Cunningham wanted an organized way to promote agriculture openly and cooperatively and to gain respect

for agriculture students.

It was three years between the first planning and the actual organization of the Fraternity. In June 1897, Brother Burkett and Brother Cunningham took the following oath, "The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta begins its work. Its spirit will be: To give, not to receive; to serve, not ourselves only, but the agricultural body, the whole cause of higher education, and in every way possible all people engaged in the profession of agriculture. May the Fraternity live forever."

Current Panhandle State Officers include: Chancellor- Makenze Twyman; Censor- Tyler Meyers; Scribe- Kristin Allen; Treasurer- Kayla Hook; Chronicler- Hannah Hammack; Historian- Sidney Tigler; and Student Senate Representative -Jordyn Bannon.

The group is very active on campus and have done a number of projects including Foundation Scholarships Donations, Campus Clean-Up, supply donations to the wildfire calf rescuers, organized kickball tournaments for stress relief during final exam week, sponsored Ag Career Day each Fall, sponsored "So You Want to Be a Vet" education meeting with veterinarians, sponsored Dr. Temple Grandin as a Distinguished Guest Lecturer, sponsored snacks for students in the Science and Ag Building during finals week, sponsored movie nights, sponsored game nights, sponsored facial nights for members, supported former members when they had tragedy hit their families through fires, held baby showers for Ag students, and helped with School of Ag float for Homecoming. **P**



## Trayler Receives NextGen Award

By Annawynn Drury

**N**umerous Panhandle State employees work “behind the scenes” to keep operations running smoothly on campus. Class of 2013 Alumni Rantz Trayler is one of these fabulous employees that works incredibly hard at keeping things flowing on campus. Originally from the area and raised in Dumas, Texas, Rantz is a great asset.

Trayler said, “I came to OPSU because it allowed me a place to further my education while continuing my athletic career.”

Rantz studied Health and Physical Education in addition to Education. While carrying a full time load, he started every year on the offensive line for the Aggie Football Team. He also was a member of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes (FCA), Student Government Association (SGA) senator for housing, and a Resident Assistant (RA) for all four years of his attendance.

While attending Panhandle State, Rantz met his wife, Destyni Trayler, another Panhandle State graduate. She graduated in the spring of 2013, and Rantz still remembers the first day they met.

When the couple has spare time, which Rantz reported “is getting less and less these days” they enjoy riding horseback together and traveling “pretty much anywhere. We like to see the world and experience what it has to offer.”

After the couple graduated, Rantz began working in the Student Affairs Department.

Since his first year as a Panhandle State Employee, Rantz has grown into taking care of a great portion of the campus. “I’m the Dean of Student Affairs and the Title IX Coordinator. Through these positions I oversee all of housing, manage campus conduct, report campus safety, plan campus activities, organize some campus improvement projects, serve as a SGA advisor, work on several committees such as Campus Wellness, enrollment/retention, cultural, reasonable accommodations and the staff association just to name a few.”

In addition to his daily work, Rantz is involved in a handful of projects on campus including co-leading the wellness committees biking challenge, housing improvements for the dorms and apartments, and continuously planning campus events so the student body have activities.

All of Rantz’s hard work was recognized this Fall as he was awarded Oklahoma’s state wide award, NexGen Under 30, for his first year of service as Dean of Student Affairs. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate talent, drive, and service to their communities. **P**



Nikki Stork decorated the Panhandle State table for the recent Guymon Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

## Panhandle State Table Named Winner at Chamber Banquet

By Panhandle State Campus Communications

**I**t’s no secret that Oklahoma Panhandle State University has a number of multi-talented faculty and staff members and Nikki Stork is no exception!

Stork serves as an Admission Clerk in the Admissions Office at Panhandle State and while she absolutely loves what she does each day, Stork also has a passion for Interior Design.

“I’ve done interiors and designs for over 20 years. It’s just something that I have a passion for and feeds my soul. It truly makes me happy. Working for Panhandle is exactly the change my family needed. I love being in town with my children.”

Stork recently got the chance to show off her skills at the Annual Guymon Chamber of Commerce Banquet during the Table Decorating Contest. She enjoyed “throwing back” to the “Best of the 70’s” theme. Her skills certainly shone as the Panhandle State table won the decorating contest and a full page ad in the Guymon Daily Herald.

Panhandle State President, Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “I am very proud of Mrs. Stork and the talent she exhibited. It is a pleasure to be involved in community activities and her skills have allowed us to do do even more.”

Since her transition to Panhandle State, Stork was able to retain many of her previous clients and add even add to her current clientele list for holiday, every day and wedding work by appointment. **P**

## Centennial Theatre Success with *Nobody Cries in This Play*

By Sidney Turner

Centennial Theatre kicked off its fall theater production with a bang on Sunday, November 5, 2017. As the performances continued on Monday and Tuesday evening, the theatre continually got more crowded each performance. *Nobody Cries in This Play* was a huge success for Panhandle State theatre.

Some of the leading characters were Suzzie, a stripper, and Marcy, a bossy independent woman who is trying to catch a break. Marcy, played by Sarah Atha, attempts to open the theater to debut her play, but disaster plagues her the whole time. Suzzie, played by Ashtyn Forbes, brings problems to opening night by taking Xanax before the production. Then Paula, played by Kamala I. Garrett, complains her costume is too tight for her, making her look like “a cow.” These complications combined with arguing amongst Marcy, Jane, and Rachel made for a catastrophic opening of Marcy’s production. Jane is played by Citlalli T. Vasquez and Rachel is played by Dr. Sara Jane Richter.

The production was led by Tito Aznar, an instructor of English on campus. Tito has directed all the theatre productions for many years now, and each year, the theatre seats begin to fill even more than the last fall’s production. The cast members that performed in *Nobody Cries in This Play* are students, faculty, and community members that represent the face of Panhandle State greatly.

The cast includes freshman Mariah Morigeau, who plays Ursula. She is an aspiring educator who makes her first debut in Centennial Theatre this fall. She’s from Elgin, Okla., and she enjoys being around her family and friends, especially her dog Ruger.

Ashtyn Forbes also makes her debut in Centennial Theatre playing Suzzie, the stripper. An elementary education major from Lamar, Colo., Ashlyn participates in band and drama actively. Throughout high school she was in five plays and plans to continue drama while in college.

Another freshman includes Sarah Atha, who plays Marcy, a controlling, bossy woman trying to get her crazy cast members to pull it together for the play. She is an elementary education major from Cheyenne, Okla. Sarah was very active in high school competing in one act plays, playing softball, and being a part of many organizations. At Panhandle State, Sarah is a member of the equestrian team.

The final freshman, Damien Cuellar, starred as Alex, playing a stage hand employed by Marcy. He is a computer graphics major originally from El Paso, Texas. Alex has acted in many productions and hopes to continue his career in theatre.

Among the cast members, there are returning cast members as well. Kamala I. Garrett returns to Centennial Theatre with her role as Paula. Kamala is an elementary education major originally from Ft. Washington, Md. Kamala films for the Aggie football team and is also a part of FCA, HALO, OIL, and SOEA.

Among the many freshman and returning actors and actresses, Panhandle Theatre also had a returning stage manager. Aaron Hammett, a junior on campus, has been a part of the last three plays at Panhandle State. He is double-majoring in general accounting and accounting information systems. He is from Boyd, Texas, and acts as stage manager for *Nobody Cries in This Play*. He participates in the PBL and is on the Aggie Cross Country team.

Citlalli T. Vasquez, playing Jane, also returns to Centennial Theatre. She is a veterinarian from Veracruz, Mexico, living in Guymon with her husband Felipe. She loves all art forms and was happy to return to the stage this fall.

Dr. Sara Jane Richter, Dean of Liberal Arts, plays Rachel in the play. Rachel is a cast member who endures all of Marcy’s demands and tries to appease Marcy in the process. Dr. Richter enjoys working with the theatre productions at Panhandle State and has acted in many productions on campus, including *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Rumors*, and *Little Women*. Sara has a brother Kevin, sister-in-law Debbie, and a cat named Louie Bob.

Congratulations to those who participated in the play! The production was great and it will be exciting to see what next fall holds for the theatre at Panhandle State. **P**



Cast members take a bow following a fantastic fall theatrical performance.

# Aggie Family



## Staff

Lori Ferguson

**P**assionate about helping students achieve their educational goals, the hardworking Director of Financial Aid Lori Ferguson has worked tirelessly to provide students the means to reach those goals in her seven years at Panhandle State.

Lori said, "I love people, and I love getting to interact with parents and the students. I love the energy and excitement for life the college students have. It is truly a joy to help them, especially when we see a need, and we are able to meet that need to benefit someone's future."

She and her "fabulous" staff work year round to process and disperse all the aid Panhandle State students receive including Federal and State Aid as well as scholarships including academic, athletic, departmental, Foundation and scholarships from outside entities. There is no slow period as they are continually processing requests. Not only do they assist Panhandle State students, the Financial Aid Department also travel to area high schools to assist any students as they fill out Financial Aid applications.

Lori finds delight in being able to impact a student's future. She said, "Education is always possible, and it's not something someone can take from you. There is always a way if you are willing and there is help if you want to put the time in to it. Once you earn that degree, it is always yours, and it is something to be very proud of."

Amidst the day to day work, a key focus for the Financial Aid Department is streamlining processes for both recruiting and retention efforts. A huge goal for the future, Lori would love to operate a paperless environment as it would allow the office to operate more efficiently.

A Panhandle State Alumni and Hooker, Okla. native, Lori feels that Panhandle State is a huge asset to the surrounding region, and she is proud to be a part of the Panhandle family. Lori earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minor in Business.

She currently lives in Texhoma and loves spending any time she can with her kids, Tyler and Sarah. Tyler works for Animal Health in Dalhart, Texas and Sarah is a junior at Texhoma High School. Right now, much of Lori's time away from work is spent cheering Sarah on at her numerous sporting events.

An outdoors girl, Lori finds great joy in working in her yard and with her flowers. She also finds a great blessing in a weekly Women's Bible Study that she attends. **P**



## Student

Madison Linton

**M**addy Linton came to Oklahoma Panhandle State from Fort Morgan, Colo. She came to the Panhandle her sophomore year of college and said, "After a visit with the volleyball coach and being on campus, I felt like this is where I should be, and I decided to come here." She is in the middle of her third year studying social studies with an emphasis in political science, and a minor in business administration. Maddy believes that "both areas of study have taught (her) more about (herself) and the society we live in." After graduation, she plans on attending law school to pursue a law degree centered in oil and gas, natural resource and energy law.

Maddy works to set a strong presence in the classroom, and she brings this same energy to the volleyball court. "I love playing volleyball; I have played for over thirteen years." She is an opposite hitter for the Aggies, but she also can play defense or outside. "I'm sort of an utility player. However, I like to hit the most; there's more action."

Maddy's family is a big motivation for her success on and off the court. "They have always supported my dreams of playing volleyball, and I wouldn't be here if it weren't for them. So, I go to practice and try to be the best that I can be to make them proud. I am also motivated by a really good family friend that passed away in 2015 to a battle with cancer. Mike Kosman taught me how to play and coached me. I always think of what Mike would say to me, and I also want to make him proud of me." Her dedication and motivation for the game shows as she had a great season this last year and looks forward to her last year on the court next fall.

In addition to volleyball and her academics, Maddy serves as the president for SAAC, or the Student Athlete Advisory Committee on campus.

"The Student Athlete Advisory Committee is a great club on campus and it is quite an honor that I not only get to be a member, but also am the president and work with Coach Russell Gaskamp. I chose to run for the presidential office because I want to make a change on campus with our student athletes. I want to make sure that they are getting the best opportunities that they can. The move to the NAIA is an awesome start to a change in that culture. At the beginning of the year I could feel a difference on campus. It truly feels like students want to be here and compete athletically."

Maddy serves as another excellent example of the high caliber students on campus. **P**



## Faculty

Jon Olsen

Among the many instructors that call Oklahoma Panhandle State University home is Professor Jon Olsen. A faculty member of Panhandle State for over 30 years, Olsen teaches a multitude of courses in the Industrial Technology program. These courses include welding, power mechanics, machine shop, leather work, building construction, and more.

Jon started teaching in 1986, but his roots here go even deeper than that. From 1977 to 1981, Olsen was a student in the Industrial Arts program, now known as Industrial Technology. He graduated in 1981 from Panhandle State, and five years later became an adjunct instructor here.

When he first started teaching in the fall of 1986, he was assigned a single Power Mechanics course. Over time, Olsen says his teaching load expanded until he was teaching 15-20 credit hours a week, but in only two days.

“The students make it all worthwhile”, Olsen said as a slight grin crept across his face. Perhaps that explains why he has continued teaching her for so long, as this fall marks his 31st year teaching at Panhandle State.

Teaching, however, is not Olsen’s only interest, far from it. Olsen has a passion for mechanics work that extends to motorcycles. Aside from the 1982 Goldwing that Olsen uses for his daily commute (weather permitting), he also owns two other Goldwings that he plans to rebuild himself. His passion for mechanics even goes as far as invention. Olsen has noticed an issue with the traditional motorcycle sidecar and says he has plans to build a non-conventional “leaning” sidecar that would sway with the bike as it turns. This, he claims, would allow a free-flowing turn which would then allow for normal operation of the bike, even though a sidecar is attached.

Olsen’s other hobbies include rebuilding old tractors, and shooting sports. Like many others in the Oklahoma Panhandle, Olsen says he is excited about the new shooting sports facility that will soon grace the campus.

Aside from mechanics, Olsen enjoys spending time with his family, whether that be helping with homework, or renovating an old house on the stead that he and his wife recently purchased. It is clear that Olsen is a family man, both at home and in the classroom.

“Panhandle State has been a big part of my life for almost 45 years”, Olsen said. Students and faculty are certainly hoping for many more. **P**



## Alumni

Amada Alvidrez

It’s no secret that Panhandle State is proud to have amazingly successful alumni, and Amada Alvidrez is certainly no exception.

Amada’s story in the United States begins as a fifth grade student who could speak no English following her family’s move from Mexico. Her hard work and determination quickly propelled her to the top of her class. She excelled academically graduating with a 4.0 as the Valedictorian of her class at Guymon High School.

Panhandle State was a natural choice for her as she looked to continue her education and wanted to stay close to home and her family. Amada received an academic scholarship to pay for her tuition and graduated debt free.

“I have not regretted going to OPSU for a single minute. As I heard experiences from my friends at other universities, I was fortunate to be in small classes. The teachers cared and wanted us to succeed.”

Amada graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor’s degree in English and minors in Spanish and Computer Information Systems (CIS). In addition, she took Education courses and worked as a tutor during her time as a student.

“I loved it (Panhandle State). I got to meet so many people and know them on a personal level. The teachers were so encouraging and made classes so fun.”

Amada is currently the Vice President at City Bank & Trust and she oversees Operations, Human Resources (HR), and Information Technology (IT).

In September of 2016, she was asked to join the Government Relations Council for Oklahoma Bankers Association and was elected to the board of directors in May. Not only is she the first Panhandle resident to serve on the board of directors, but she is also the first Hispanic member of the board.

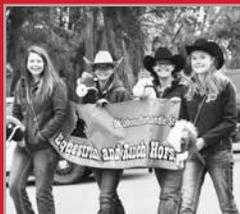
Also in 2016, Amada completed the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado University with honors.

Amada is extremely active outside her responsibilities at the bank. She and her husband, Sergio, whom she met at Panhandle State, are expecting their first child in February. She finds great joy in teaching a class for ninth graders at her church and she serves on the Parish Council as well. In the last four years, she has taken up running and recently completed her 10th half marathon. Traveling can also be found amidst the list of things she loves. She is a Class of 2016 Leadership Guymon graduate and a sorority member. **P**

# Homecoming



The 2017 Homecoming Parade was themed "Wild with Pride" with plenty of Aggie Spirit on display from start to finish.

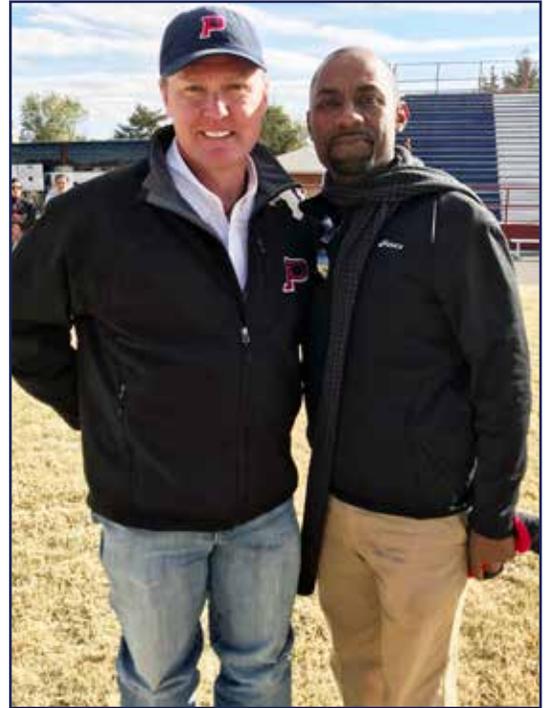


The Etbauer Family was this year's Honored Family during Homecoming and will forever be embedded in school history with the planting of a tree in recognition of the family's contributions and lineage of proud alumni.



Alumni from near and far gathered for registration during the Homecoming festivities, which included a delicious pre-game BBQ meal in the tailgate zone.

# Homecoming



Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltny and Langston President Dr. Kent Smith, Jr. enjoyed the renewed rivalry as their football teams battled for the bell during the Homecoming game on Oct. 28. The bell will be housed with the winners of the contest (Langston) until next year's meeting.



The Aggie Football team was revved up in front of a large and energetic Homecoming crowd for the first annual Oklahoma A&M Showdown game against Langston.



The 2017 Homecoming King and Queen were announced prior to the game; Jasmine Brown-Jutras and Sita Sesay. Also introduced for the special game was the new Aggie mascot, No Man Dan.

# Chili Cook-off

**W**ith the largest turnout of contestants in the history of the event, the 11th Annual Chili Cook-off did not disappoint the hundreds of hungry Aggie fans in attendance.

The annual fall event was a huge success with 27 different contestants offering a variety of amazing chili recipes. What started off as a brisk, overcast morning turned into a beautiful day!

This year's winners for the best chili as awarded by the judges went to:

- 1st Place- Images Art Club
- 2nd Place- PTCI
- 3rd Place- Anchor D Bank

Anchor D Bank won the People's Choice award. Best Presentation went to Panhandle State's PBL group with their Purp Out theme raising awareness for the March of Dimes. All tasting donation proceeds went to the March of Dimes.

Thanks to everyone who competed, tasted, and voted—we hope to see you again next year!



# Senior Day



While the Aggies were celebrating senior athletes on the football field, Panhandle State was hosting a Senior Day for future Aggies. Johnathan Perez was the winner of a \$1000 scholarship.



Seventeen senior Aggie football players were recognized prior to the final home game of the season on Nov. 11. Family and friends joined the young men in celebration with coaches and teammates.



## Six Former Aggies Qualify for WNFR

By Kashly Schweer

Each year the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) is dotted with former Oklahoma Panhandle State University athletes. This edition of the WNFR is no exception with six cowboys hailing from Goodwell.

The WNFR will take place December 7-16 with performances each night at 9 p.m. CST on CBS Sports or streamed on demand at ProRodeoTV.com.

Kicking off the finals will be Orin Larsen, who earned just shy of \$100,000 during the regular season to cash his ticket to Las Vegas in the 10th position of the bareback riding. The newlywed is no stranger to the bright lights and will be a force to be reckoned with over the ten days.

Hardy (Chad) Braden is hot off his Prairie Circuit Finals Championship in the saddle bronc riding, qualified for the Ram National Circuit Finals and is headed to his first WNFR. The Oklahoma cowboy is heading into the Thomas and Mack in seventh place with \$102,000 earned this season.

He is joined in the saddle bronc riding by Clay Elliott, Taos Muncy and Audy Reed. Elliott finished the season in 11th position last year and is returning to Vegas in the same spot. He is just a few dollars ahead of former world champion and 8-time WNFR qualifier, Muncy. The New Mexico native will go for the \$26,000 rounds with his all-out style. This is Reed's first trip to the big dance. He slid into the WNFR in the 15th slot.

Rounding out each performance will be Joe Frost in the bull riding. This will be Frost's fourth trip to the WNFR. Last year, he placed in five of the ten rounds and will be a consistent performer throughout the event.

These former Aggies will be vying for their share of the \$1.2 million payout. Don't miss any of the action by tuning in nightly to CBS Sports or ProRodeoTV.com. **P**

## PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame Class of 2017 Inductees Honored with Banquet and Ceremony

By Alyssa Fox



Saturday, October 28, four esteemed honorees were inducted into the PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame and gathered with family, friends, old classmates and Panhandle State administration and staff in the Student Union Ballroom for a truly memorable celebration.

David Flowers, Bob Wakefield and Georgia Walton were presented with recognition plaques and Aggie Class of 2017 rings, and the family of Jerry Linton proudly accepted his award mementos as he was inducted posthumously.

To begin the banquet ceremony, University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn spoke eloquently of the treasured tradition of the PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame and honoring of the admirable and talented athletes of Panhandle State University history. Dr. Faltyn acknowledged the horizons the university has matured to expand to while also honoring the past, which allowed us to grow, saying, "Tonight we will celebrate those whose shoulders we stand upon."

While the induction ceremony celebrates candidates who have graced the stat-shattering leader boards of Panhandle yester-year, the PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame selection committee strives to select those with accolades extending beyond their athletic ability, as Dr. Faltyn notes, "These are the kind of people that make everything in the room better. Their accomplishments are about their faith and their growth and hard work. They are the perfect people to honor."

Panhandle past and present joined together in storytelling nostalgia over a delicious meal provided by Great Western Dining with service by the Aggie Ambassadors. When attendants had finished their meals, emcee Derek Barton of KGYN Radio in Guymon, announced the first of the inductees, David Flowers, and welcomed to the podium Flowers' former Panhandle football coach and PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame committee chair, Carroll Gribble to provide his introduction.

Gribble recalled fondly his first impressions of Flowers' as he set foot on the Panhandle campus, and how he grew into a valued member of the '76-'80 football team. "We were looking at a 22-year-old freshman rookie," said Gribble, "He was a great example for the team and it's been a privilege and an honor to know David and to be able to introduce him." Flowers was welcomed at the podium by a loud round of *(continued)*



From left: David Flowers, Bob Wakefield, Georgia Walton and the family of Jerry Linton gathered for a night of celebration at the 2017 PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony.

applause from his sizeable group of friends and family in attendance. He spoke highly of Coach Gribble offering him a second chance at playing football, recalling, “They met with me and gave me a chance, that’s all I ever wanted.” Flowers continued with dotting appreciation for his wife, Lou Ann, family and friends who stayed by his side throughout his playing career and beyond, “I can’t thank my family enough for the support. I had a blast doing the thing I love, it opened doors for me and I got to do what I dreamed of.” Flowers concluded his speech with words of advice that resonated throughout the ballroom, “Never give up on your dreams, you never know what could happen.”

The second inductee of the evening was ‘79-’81 Aggie Basketball team member, Bob Wakefield. Wakefield was introduced by former fellow player Jeff Levetzow. Levetzow reminisced of memorable shared times of the basketball duo, saying, “I quickly realized that playing on Bob’s team was a lot better than playing against him.” Levetzow spoke highly of Wakefield’s caliber playmanship and equally impressive character. “You might think from his stats he was a ball hog, but he was a true team player, he was a humble player. But, no matter how hard they covered him, Bob found a way to beat them,” revealed Levetzow. Wakefield received a warm applause, and staying true to his colleagues’ word, kept his acceptance speech brief and humble. “I feel very welcomed and very blessed. I appreciate this so very much,” said Wakefield as he accepted his PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame plaque.

From the 1985-87 women’s basketball era, Georgia Walton was the third Aggie honoree of the evening. Walton was introduced by former Panhandle State Women’s Basketball coach Royce Chadwick. Chadwick was elated and began, “I am proud to be able to introduce one of the best basketball players I have ever coached.” He recalled a moment of coaching clarity when Walton

joined his team, complimenting, “She was electric. Because of that young lady, I made it. If we could all leave here with a slice of her charisma, we would all be better. She’s not just an All-American player, she’s an All-American girl.” Walton was applauded as she stepped to the podium, and proceeded to speak from the heart about her appreciation and admiration for her older brother and late mother. “I played because I loved it,” said Walton, “I want to dedicate this award tonight to my mother. I wouldn’t be standing here if it wasn’t for my mother, she is the reason I played, she encouraged me to follow my dreams.” Walton continued with words that enveloped all the honorees, “This award validates true hard work from all the inductees. I am humbled, this is the ultimate recognition.”

The fourth inductee into the PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame Class of 2017 was admired ‘59-’61 Aggie Football player Jerry Linton. Linton was inducted posthumously as close family and friends attended the ceremony to celebrate his memory. Linton’s son-in-law- Matt Uhr spoke warmly of his father-in-law’s start as a humble boy from Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and his development into one of Panhandle State University’s top leading scorers in football. Uhr captivated the ceremony attendants with stories of Linton’s self-effacing nature, honor and integrity, and received loving laughs from an anecdote of Linton’s championship racquetball career. “It is an honor to enlighten you all on the man that was Jerry Linton,” said Uhr, “Jerry would have loved this ceremony. Determination and grit are the reason for his induction.”

The evening culminated in venerated congratulations as family, friends and Panhandle staff celebrated the lives and accomplishments of the four regarded inductees of the PTCI Aggie Hall of Fame Class of 2017. In two years, all will gather again to commemorate the Class of 2019 inductees, Carroll Gribble, Gary Cornelsen, Norman Deckman and Caleb Holbrook. **P**

## Aggie Volleyball Runs With It: J. Dee Marinko

By Alyssa Fox

**P**anhandle State athletes and coaches were treated to a special presentation from former Aggie football player, and Men's Sitting Volleyball Paralympian J. Dee Marinko as he visited the Hughes Strong Auditorium on Monday, Oct. 10 to share his incredible story.

Near the end of the year in 2008, J. Dee Marinko made a trip to his local physician for treatment for poison ivy. Marinko mentioned to his doctor that he also had a sharp pain in his left foot and was sent to see a podiatrist. It was during this visit that a mass was discovered in Marinko's left foot, though the podiatrist was optimistic that it was simply a cyst. Marinko was told there was about a one percent chance it could be a cancerous tumor.

Shortly after, Marinko's test results came back and showed what had been feared but never suspected, a cancerous tumor in his left foot. After being sent to see a specialist in Oklahoma City, Marinko had two choices: to undergo attempted therapy and keep his leg, though the chances of the cancer returning were high, or to amputate. At the time, Marinko had a six-month old son at home, and after deliberating with his wife the choice was hastily, but confidently, made to amputate, and the following week he had his left leg surgically removed below the knee.

Marinko had been in the one percent of a ruinous outcome, but he has since made his life about being part of the one percent of hope. A previously competitive athlete and active individual, Marinko may have easily let the despondency of his amputation steer his life down a path of woe, but instead, J. Dee chose to run with it, and the motto of his new take on life was born. "Run With It" has since become his official slogan and provides a constant affirming reminder of what he has overcome.

In 2010, Marinko made a trip to Edmond, Okla. and visited the U.S. Paralympic Training Site where he took an interest in sitting volleyball. Marinko was met with challenge after challenge, but that did not slow down the determined athlete in him. Intrepid and resolute in succeeding, he kept focused and hard at work. In 2010, Marinko took part in the ParaVolley World Championships where he and the team came in 10th place overall, and in 2015 Marinko was named USA Volleyball Male Sitting Volleyball Player of the Year and earned 67 points over the course of seven matches that year as Team USA took home the silver medal in the Parapan American Games. He continued on and was a part of the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro where his team came in 8th overall.

One afternoon, while listening to a podcast, Panhandle Volleyball Head Coach Matt Heffner heard

Marinko's story and decided to delve further. Heffner was happily surprised to learn Marinko was an Aggie alumni of Panhandle State. Marinko had attended Panhandle State and played football from 1999-2001. Heffner reached out to Marinko and was delighted to hear that the alum would return to campus and share his story with faculty, staff and students.

"It brought back a lot of memories," said Marinko of stepping back onto Panhandle ground, "It was a bright spot for me." He also took notice of the changes the campus has underwent since his former college days. "I had a chance to speak with Dr. Faltyn, University President, and the things he and the administration are doing are just amazing," said Marinko. "I remember when we were doing three-a-days [for football] and we went back to the dorms and there was no AC in Field Hall where I lived," he said nostalgically with a laugh. Marinko was pleased to be able to return to campus and hopes he can return for an Aggie football game at No' Man's Land Stadium in the future.

While on campus, Marinko acted as guest coach and led a seated practice with the Panhandle State volleyball team. He forewarned the Aggies that when he first began his strenuous work-out regime for sitting volleyball, "I had muscles hurting that I didn't even know could hurt." Junior Madison Linton soaked up the Paralympian's athletic knowledge and skill, and the team plans to utilize Marinko's mental and physical focuses throughout the rest of their season. "Working with J. Dee was an exhilarating experience. We had so much fun learning how to play sitting volleyball with someone who is just incredible. I think every single one of us walked away from the gym grateful. He couldn't have come at a better time for our team in the season, he gave us insight on what was really important and how to put it all together to finish our season," said Linton.

When asked what his hope for current Panhandle students was he answered assuredly, "They have a lot of great things in front of them, education is so important and I wish I would have realized that at the time. I did my general education and then I moved on, but everyone there is there for a reason. Your teachers, professors- they are all there because they care. They are not going to waste their time so you shouldn't waste their time either. They are there to teach, but also to care and to help. That's what I would tell my 18-year-old self." Marinko continued, "Have no regrets and take full advantage of what's in front of you."

If he has one piece of advice for students to take away from his story of triumph over an irresolvable situation, he shares this sound guidance, "If you have a bad day, that doesn't mean it's the end of it. If you go to class and you don't pass a test, make tomorrow be better. Don't ever let a bad situation snowball. I was no different than any other kid and now I get to do amazing things and travel the world. Bad things happen all the time but what's important is how you make it positive. I took a really bad situation and I ran with it." **P**

# AGGIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Former Aggie football player and Men's Sitting Volleyball Paralympian, J. Dee Marinko visited campus and shared his story with Aggie athletes on Monday, Oct. 9.



Aggie Volleyball said Thank You to four seniors on their last game.

## ALL-CONFERENCE HONOREES

MCKENNACLEMENT

KENDRABUTLER



Congratulations to McKenna Clement and Kendra Butler for receiving All-Conference recognition.



SHAY SPITZ  
OCT 2-8: Rodeo



BRANDON RAMON  
OCT 2-8: Football



KENDRA BUTLER  
OCT 9-15: Volleyball



BRADY BARRETT  
OCT 9-15: Football



SUMMER MIDDLETON  
OCT 16-22: Volleyball



DANTE SHIPMAN  
OCT 16-22: Football



HAGEN BRUNSON  
OCT 23-29: Rodeo



JAKE FINLAY  
OCT 23-29: Rodeo



MADISON DEARMIN  
OCT 30-NOV 5: WBB



ORLANDO HAYMON  
OCT 30-NOV 5: Football



ADDISON MUNSCH  
NOV 6-12: W. Basketball



JOHN POLSTON  
NOV 6-12: Football

\*NOTE: A complete listing of the Aggie Athlete of the Week recipients and their accomplishments is available at [opsuaggies.com](http://opsuaggies.com)



We  
Are  
Panhandle

Aggies  
Since

progress  
through  
1909  
Knowledge  
@ PSU

~  
*President Tim Faltyn and the entire  
Panhandle family would like to wish you...*

~  
*a very happy holiday season!*