

Panhandle

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**A Season
of Giving**



PTCI Partnership

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The support Oklahoma Panhandle State University receives from partnerships in the area is remarkable and allows the University to do far more than it could on its own. One of these outstanding partners is Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (PTCI).

PTCI seeks to consistently provide progressive, affordable, high quality communication services which will enhance the quality of life for members and customers in the region. PTCI is a longtime supporter of Panhandle State through a number of ways.

PTCI CEO Shawn Hanson commented on the partnership, “PTCI views its relationship with OPSU as a long-term strategic partnership that is mutually beneficial, and good for the residents of the Oklahoma panhandle. We obviously strive to be the best telecommunications supplier we can be for OPSU, but we also want to do anything within our power to help OPSU achieve its mission and vision. This includes our work on filming and streaming OPSU events, our efforts to develop and maintain meaningful internships, collaborative public relations efforts, and our corporate sponsorship for athletics and academic team competitions. OPSU is viewed as a high-quality, long-term source of well-educated, talented and hard-working future employees and customers for PTCI.”

Most recently, the Video Department at PTCI has been assisting the Sports Information Department at Panhandle State in live streaming sporting events, so that alumni all over the world may be able to watch events from their alma mater.

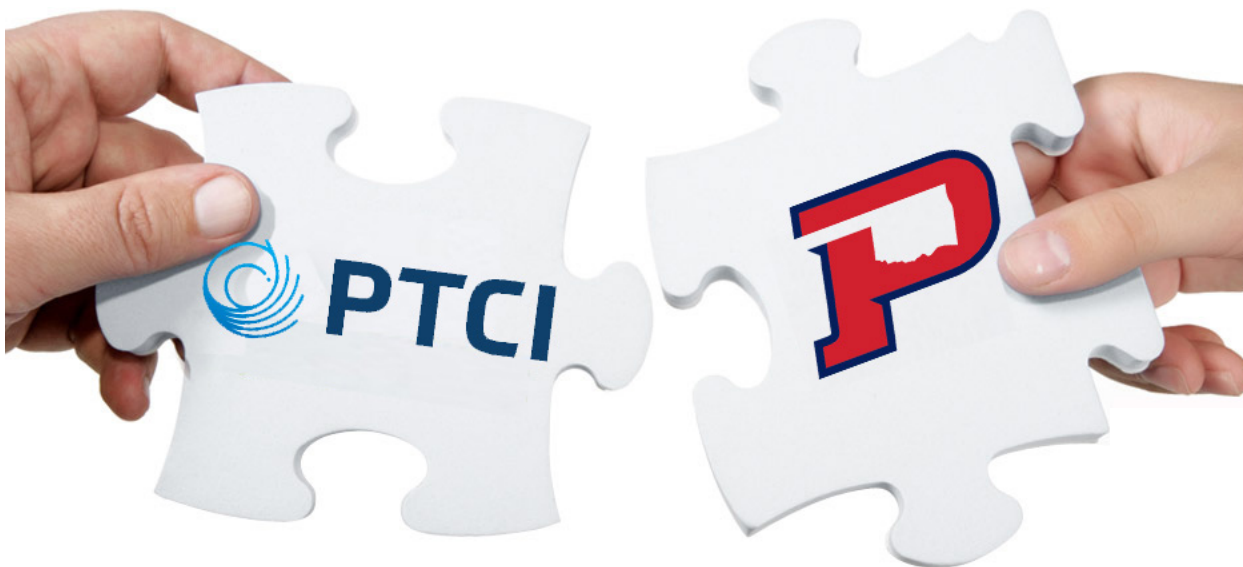
Panhandle State Class of 1994 graduate Nat Hall recently learned of this service and thanked PTCI. “I am having the pleasure of watching the OPSU Football Homecoming live from way up here in Alaska!”

President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “PTCI is helping us meet our goals as we seek to further our reach to our Aggie community.”

In addition to filming for sporting events, PTCI has also covered events such as Commencement as well as producing a monthly TV show that highlights the campus and student life as not everyone gets to see called Inside OPSU.

PTCI’s Multimedia Production Technician, Shawn Barbaree, said, “Through many partnerships, PTCI has had a long-standing cooperation with the university. For over 10 years, PTCI has documented campus events through an original show— Inside OPSU. It is my hope that PTCI and OPSU can continue this valuable partnership for the students. It truly gives the college a voice and a way to showcase life on campus.”

Video Production Technician/PR Assistant Emanuel DeHerrera commented on the partnership saying, “PTCI supports our community as a priority, and filming and streaming OPSU’s events is just another way we can give back. It is crucial for alumni and families of new students to have this technology available to see the Aggies competing on game day. I am blessed to have graduated from Panhandle State in 2008 and now have a career at PTCI. For me, this partnership is win-win.” **P**

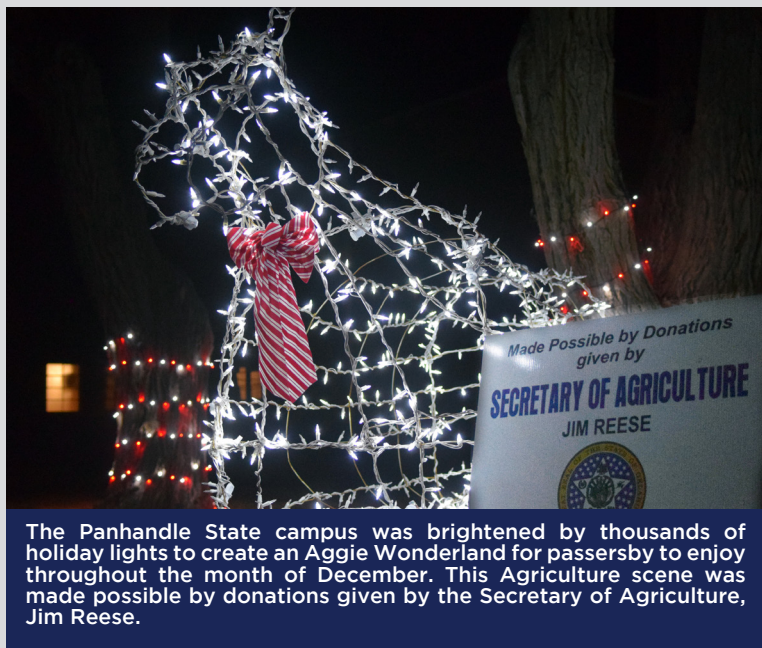




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The Panhandle State campus was brightened by thousands of holiday lights to create an Aggie Wonderland for passersby to enjoy throughout the month of December. This Agriculture scene was made possible by donations given by the Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Reese.

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The Aggie Wonderland show kicked off December 2 and ran through January 2, offering the sights and sounds of Christmas all around the Panhandle State campus.

The event was the first of its kind for the university and was made possible by generous donations from community partners. University President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, "This is something special we wanted to do in an effort to give back for all of the support we continually receive. We are very pleased to offer something like this to our region. It is our intention to make this an annual tradition and we anticipate it will get bigger and more enjoyable each year."

Tri-County Electric CEO Zac Perkins said, "This is a just an example of the great things that can happen when we work together in the Panhandle."

A tradition for many families, it is the hope that visitors make Aggie Wonderland a must-see destination for year's to come.



No Man Dan dropped by to help load up the abundance of gifts donated for area children to the Images Art Club Angel Tree project (above). Aggie men's basketball and Panhandle State's HALO club took part in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes drive (below).

A Time to Give

As the temperature drops the need for warm clothing rises on campus. The Aggie Coat Closet offers students in need new and gently used items such as jackets, gloves, knit caps and other cold-weather gear. All items are generously donated by campus and community members and given at no cost to students.



Fa-La-La-La-La



The Panhandle State Music Department hosted an evening of Holiday Sounds including a choir and band concert (above), followed by an outdoor Christmas sing-along at the Clock Tower (right). Guests were also treated to hot cocoa and cookies.



Panhandle State's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) donated all proceeds from their Penny Wars to the Christmas Cheer for Children program (below).



A cookie contest among the administration was held in the University House, giving students, faculty, staff and friends the chance to be the judges (above).



We are Panhandle!

Campus Ag Clubs used a cash prize received for winning the Homecoming float contest to purchase baskets full of gifts for the Images Angel Tree (left). Students in Panhandle's Future Afterschool program helped decorate a Christmas tree that was on display for the faculty/staff holiday luncheon. (right)



Aggie Family



Staff
Nikki Stork

A Panhandle native from Optima, Nikki Stork is a highly motivated Admissions Clerk. She has been with Panhandle State for almost three years, and she is preparing to celebrate her first year in the Admissions Department.

Nikki and her husband Chris of 21 years have two children, a son and daughter. Davis is a senior and Pencie is a freshman, both at Goodwell High School.

"I really love it here! It is much faster paced than my prior position, but I love the interaction with the students, their family and the faculty. It really does give me a great feeling when I am able to comfort a worried mother that is sending their baby several hundreds of miles away from school. It's a hard thing letting your children go and grow, it's very gratifying that I am able to help make that transition easier for families. I love the people I work with, we have great compatibility in our office and things truly do roll very smoothly. I also love the windows! We are lucky we have, I believe, the best view on campus."

When Nikki is not working on campus, she is pursuing her passion of interior and floral design. "I've been blessed with a variety of occupations over the years but florals and design has always been a constant for me for the past 20 years. It's just something I have a true passion for and feeds my soul, it's a talent I am very lucky to have been blessed with. When I was pregnant and then newly delivered, with my oldest child Davis, I was able to complete the Oklahoma Master Florist program. It has been a great tool over the years for me!"

Nikki received additional training from taking a "hands on" approach with the opportunity to attend a State Floral Convention to pick up as much advice as she could from the professionals in the field. "It's very rewarding to see a person's creations come to life with just a bit of guidance." She said she has had many favorite projects over the years, but her favorite work has been the arrangements she has created for weddings and funerals.

Nikki recently competed got to exhibit her talents as she decorated Panhandle State's table at the Annual Guymon Chamber Banquet and she found great success. "We came back with a very large gold trophy, it was very exciting for everyone!"

Nikki is another wonderful addition to the Panhandle State family and truly illustrates how important it is to follow your passion. **P**



Student
Jose Reyes

This year Panhandle State unveiled its' first ever Mascot, and since his first appearance at Anchor D Stadium, fans have come to know and love No Man Dan, but just who is the man behind the mask?

Senior, marketing major and Panhandle baseball player Jose Reyes was excited and eager to don the mascot head for the first time, and has since developed his own personality and charisma for No Man Dan.

One could surmise it runs in the family, as Reyes' mother, Christine, was a Loboette- the school mascot for Levelland High School in Levelland, Texas. "I love cheering up the crowd and the positive effect it creates just being around people," says Reyes. Adults and students alike have taken a liking to No Man Dan and his game-time antics, and children love to seek him out for a hug and a high-five.

No Man Dan is always bursting with energy and Aggie adulation, but a side of him also has a proclivity for mannered mischief. "I feel invincible in the uniform," says Reyes. "Some things I can do I would probably be kicked out for if I wasn't wearing the mascot uniform," he continues, as we see him practicing his 3-point shot during halftime at basketball games. When he isn't animatedly contesting calls or having a bit of fun with the referees, No Man Dan is stepping along with the cheerleaders and getting the crowd revved up for the Aggies.

The newly beloved figure was introduced in grand fashion during the Fall Homecoming Pep Rally in front of hundreds of students, staff and fans. In the week's preceding his first appearance, a campus-wide campaign and mascot naming contest took place, giving everyone the chance to be a part of Panhandle State history. Names were submitted by student organizations and each athletic team, and three top prospects were sent out via email to the entire Panhandle State campus. Hundreds of votes were received, with "No Man Dan" reining as the clear-cut winner. The name embodies the region of No Man's Land in which the school was proudly founded back in 1909.

Jose is originally from Kansas City, Mo. and the opportunity to further his education and baseball career attracted him to Goodwell. His favorite thing about Panhandle State is the people. Aggie fans will be seeing a lot more of Jose Reyes as Aggie baseball opens at home on January 26. **P**



Faculty
Nels Peterson

Professor of Agriculture Education Nels Peterson was born and raised in Turtle Lake, North Dakota on his family's farm and ranch.

Upon completion of his bachelor's degree, he taught for two years before returning to the family farm to work with his dad. Following his father's passing, Dr. Peterson and his wife Kathy bought out the estate and continued to farm for five years until he returned to the classroom to teach at Halliday High School.

In 1994, he was recruited into corporative extension work and took a job in Nelson County, North Dakota and served as the Extension Agent for 15 years focusing on Agricultural, 4-H, and economic development. Nearly each of those years, he was fortunate enough to take students to the National Land and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City and almost every trip saw his students walk the stage to receive awards with a national runner-up in 2007. In 2008, Dr. Peterson was the national winner for Outstanding Crop Production Education Programs, a county and regional needs driven agriculture program designed to help crop producers.

Through opportunities presented to him at the national contest in Oklahoma City, Dr. Peterson learned of Panhandle State. He completed his doctorate degree in education in the spring of 2009 and began teaching in Goodwell that very next fall. Throughout his time at the university, he has taught the Agriculture Education courses, Soil Science, Natural Resource Conservation, and Horse Science. He also serves as the Collegiate FFA advisor and the past year he served as the Academic Advisor for the Rodeo team.

Dr. Peterson and his wife have four sons and three grandchildren he loves to spoil. As time allows, the couple has been remodeling their house, and Dr. Peterson has a number of hobbies he enjoys including woodworking, gardening, and reading. He likes taking courses at the college and has taken an art class each semester since 2013. They are also active at the Oslo Lutheran Church.

When Dr. Peterson started at Panhandle State, then President Dr. David Bryant referenced his life work as the President of the University which got Dr. Peterson thinking, "My life's work now really is these young men and women that I put out as teachers because of the generations they are going to affect long past my time and hopefully not just the Ag Ed majors but the other students that I come in contact with too." **P**



Alumni
Representative
Casey Murdock

Coming from a family that settled in the area and now represents five generations of Oklahomans, one can see how Panhandle State Alumni Casey Murdock is passionate about giving the panhandle region a voice at the state capitol. Murdock, a farmer and rancher from Felt, Okla., is currently serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives in addition to running for Senate District 27.

Murdock graduated in 1992 earning a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness. "What I tell people today (about Panhandle State) is that you know everybody. It is very, very close-knit. Going to a small high school and transitioning to Panhandle was very easy."

Panhandle State gave Murdock the opportunity to run cattle while completing his college education. "While I was taking classes at Panhandle, I can remember going home one morning to ship cattle, and still being back on campus in time to take an exam that same day."

His time at Panhandle plays a great part in what he is doing today and his vision for the future of higher education. "The experience at Panhandle gives me an appreciation of our small regional universities and their purpose. There is a need for them in Oklahoma and unless you went to a small university you can't understand it."

"I am so proud of Panhandle State. It has most definitely changed since I graduated in 1992. I am so impressed with Dr. Faltyn and his vision and thinking outside the box."

"Our region needs to provide a workforce in our area. We need to continue to look and partner with industry to provide workforce."

Murdock's successes are numerous but he commented, "When I first graduated from college, my goal was to get rich and be a big cattleman. I think a lot of times people line up achieving goals by how much they have in money, toys, assets... I think I was about 30 when I realized life is not about money. It is about being happy. If you wake up every morning doing what you love, the money is gravy. Providing for my family and being happy, that is my greatest accomplishment."

Politically speaking one of the great accomplishments is giving the Panhandle a voice at the state capitol. "When I walk into a room, they know where we are at."

As far as other interests, Murdock said, "I thoroughly enjoy getting to go watch my son play basketball." **P**

OIL Attends Fall Session

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University plays host to a number of organizations that give students the chance to take learning outside the classroom for hands-on application and Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (OIL) is certainly one that opens the door for students to have this opportunity.

One of the largest groups to participate in recent years, 10 members of Panhandle State's OIL organization recently traveled to Oklahoma City for the second session of the 49th Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature November 29- December 3.

Students that attended include Diego Arenas of Dickinson, Texas; Jasmine Brown-Jutras of Hermitage, Ark.; Jasmine Estrada of Guymon, Okla.; Kamala Garrett of Fort Washington, Md.; Deirdre Harbison of Guymon, Okla.; Tristan Hubler of Bartlesville, Okla.; Ian Licea of Boise City, Okla.; Edyth Mercado of Hooker, Okla.; Mariah Morigeau of Elgin, Okla.; and Elizabeth Vega of Hooker, Okla. Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. David Cole went as the group advisor.

OIL was started in 1969 by then-Lieutenant Governor of the State of Oklahoma George Nigh in an effort "to provide an organization in which students can learn the legislative process and practical problems of state government." The goals continue to be accomplished 40 years later as students gather each semester to simulate the governmental process.

Students can participate in the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Executive Branch, the Supreme Court, and most recently, the OIL Press Corps. Panhandle State had six Senators and four Representatives while Garrett participated in the Journalism sector and Estrada in moot court. Additional, Brown-Jutras served as the Rules Chair and Mercado was the Assistant Floor Leader.

Members of Panhandle State's OIL meet weekly and spend much of their time learning the legislative process as well as how to debate, both critical processes throughout the mock sessions they attend. Each member of Panhandle State OIL that attends the state session is required to write a piece of legislation of their choice and be prepared to debate it if necessary. The five-day session is jam packed with real life learning opportunities as well as networking each evening.

Garrett said, "OIL Session was a great experience. I learned so much, and I can't wait to go back again in the spring."

This session, Panhandle State collected the most awards the group has earned in recent records. Vega won first place among the freshman bills within the senate

awards. Among the House awards, Garrett received third place among the freshman bills. She also earned second place in journalism. Delegation Chair Brown-Jutras wrote legislation that passed and was signed by the student governor. Her bill will now be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature for review.

Brown-Jutras said, "I am incredibly proud of how much the OPSU OIL club has grown since my first Delegation meeting five years ago! I can't wait to see the amazing things they can do in years to come!"

In addition to the learning that takes place when the group is together, community service is another area of focus among the members. The group has completed two service projects this fall semester including a Constitution Day on campus in an effort to promote voter awareness and a clean-up day at Sunset Park in Guymon, Okla. Collectively, the group has over 250 hours of community service aside from the two group projects they completed. Also, this semester OIL hosted an interactive game show during the week of Homecoming activities this fall.

Special thanks goes to all who support the group and those who have helped with fundraising projects.

OIL is one of the largest and oldest intercollegiate student legislatures in the United States. Next semester's session promises to be special, as it marks the 50th session. **P**



Members of Panhandle State's OIL organization traveled to Oklahoma City for the second session of the 49th Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature November 29- December 3. Pictured from left to right: Jasmine Estrada, Ian Licea, Jasmine Brown-Jutras, Diego Arenas, Deirdre Harbison, Mariah Morigeau, Kamala Garrett, Edyth Mercado, Tristan Hubler, and Elizabeth Vega.

Panhandle State to Offer Electronic Transcript Delivery

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is soon to offer an innovative and easy to use service for the electronic delivery of transcripts called Parchment.

Parchment is a comprehensive platform that connects students and those issuing as well as receiving transcripts. Panhandle State Alumni in addition to current students will be able to request a digital exchange of their transcript information. Paper transcripts will still be available upon request.

The implementation of Parchment will streamline the current transcript request process. The requester can log on to request a transcript through a link on the Panhandle State website and for a small fee the transcript can be sent digitally wherever it needs to go. This will eliminate both wait time and staff processing.

Parchment focuses on making the requester's experience of ordering, sending, and using their credentials simple and smart.

Panhandle State Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger is excited to be able to offer this service to alumni and students.

"This will be a great tool for us. I am looking forward to the opportunities this platform will bring to our Admissions Office and especially our graduates and Alumni."

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn added, "This is a great step for us and we are especially pleased to be able to provide a fast, simple, and easy to use service like this to our Alumni."

Implementation of the platform is expected to begin this spring. **P**



Oklahoma Panhandle State University is soon to offer an innovative and easy to use service for the electronic delivery of transcripts called Parchment.



Panhandle State Students Earn American Degree

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Future Farmers of America (FFA) members are encouraged to go beyond their comfort zone to expand leadership skills by trying new activities, meeting new people, and going new places. One of the highest achievements these members can achieve is the American Degree and Oklahoma Panhandle State University is proud to have three students that are among the leaders who earned the award this year.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs). It is a great honor with less than one percent of FFA members receiving this award. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key.

The American Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year. This year marked the 91st time for the national event. It was held October 24-27 in Indianapolis.

Panhandle State students receiving the degree include Hannah Hammack of Platteville, Colo.; J.T. Surrage of Mead, Colo.; and Sarah Murphy of Texhoma, Okla.

Hammack said, "It is an absolute honor to receive this prestigious degree. Being a part of the one percent of FFA members that receive the American FFA Degree is a very proud accomplishment. FFA has given me so many experiences, leadership skills and memories. I will forever hold FFA in a special place in my heart." **P**

Staff Association Making a Difference

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Holiday cheer filled the air as members of Panhandle State's Staff Association made their rounds across campus giving each staff member an early Christmas gift in the form of two free movie passes to Northridge Cinema 8 courtesy of the Staff Association Committee.

Karina Jauregui, Staff Association President, said, "One of our focuses this year is staff incentives. We were so pleased to be able to do this as a reward for everyone and show some appreciation for all of the hard work being done."

The Staff Association Committee serves as a collective voice seeking to assess, communicate, and respond to the needs of the Panhandle State staff. The committee represents a highly diverse group of individuals whose performance levels are critical to the quality, integrity, credibility and continued growth of the University.

Members of the current committee were elected this past August and serve a two-year term. As a reflection of new leadership, the group has a new vision and the committee size has increased in an effort to better serve the staff body. The group meets once a month and this fall they have focused on establishing new roles as well as making plans for the future.

The committee hosted an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest during the annual Faculty and Staff Christmas Party with prizes for the winner. The group will once again host the fan favorite Staff Association Silent Auction. The auction is set for February 24 during the Aggie Basketball games at Oscar Williams Field House. The auction features a number of different items including gift certificates, memberships, art work, and a variety of Aggie gear. Donations are currently being accepted. Auction funds benefit the staff scholarship awarded each fall. Panhandle State staff members, their spouses or children are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Funds are also used for staff incentives and campus beautification projects.

The committee is currently organizing a campus beautification project with the goal to begin work on it this summer.

Jauregui said, "We met with Dr. Faltyn twice this semester regarding the committee and our future plans. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be the intermediary between him and the staff."

She added, "As OPSU grows and improves, I would like to encourage all staff members to reach out to us with needs, questions, and concerns. As a team, we can continue to make great changes for staff, faculty, and students."

Members of the 2017-2018 Staff Association include Karina Jauregui, President; Tammy Clark, Vice President; Rantz Trayler, Treasurer; Calandra Rose, Abigail Rice, Emma Montoya, Rene Ramon, Bonnie Maille, Nikki Stork, Amber Fesmire, and Raelee Olson. **P**



The Panhandle State Staff Liaison Committee: (Back row from left) Rene Ramon, Raelee Olson, Nikki Stork, Rantz Trayler (Front row from left) Karina Jauregui, Abigail Rice, Calandra Rose, Tammy Clark, Amber Fesmire and Bonnie Maille. Not pictured: Emma Montoya.



MARCH 2 2017

PAUL FARRELL ART AUCTION



Art Faculty among Panelists at Oklahoma Arts Conference

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Art faculty members Brent Shoulders and Bryon Test were among featured panelists during a discussion on fundraising for the arts at the recent Oklahoma Arts Conference.

The 2017 Oklahoma Arts Conference was held October 24-26 in Enid, Okla. This year's theme was "True North" and Enid the mystique of the western Oklahoma landscape in Enid was the ideal host for exploring this year's theme. Participants were encouraged to discover how to align their goals with the direction of the arts industry as it seeks to meet important needs in Oklahoma and across society in the 21st century.

Shoulders and Test were part of an interactive discussion called "The Life of the Party" and addressed how fundraising events can be the catalyst for attracting new support and leadership to an organization. The session covered the main things to consider before launching a new fundraising event or evaluating an existing one such as attention to detail, budgeting, marketing, and volunteer recruitment. Shoulders and Test were able to offer a rural Oklahoma perspective.

Shoulders commented, "We greatly enjoyed it. It was an awesome opportunity to speak to art leaders from

around the state."

An Associate Professor of Art at Panhandle State, Shoulders is originally from Sunray, Texas. He earned degrees in geology, health and physical education, and humanities-art from Panhandle State. He attended West Texas A&M University where he received a Master in Fine Arts in Ceramics and Master of Fine Arts in Painting. Shoulders has taught in higher education for over 17 years, and in the last 14 years he has been the recipient of several honors and awards at regional art exhibitions. He has worked with colleagues to build the Art Department and grow a culture around art since his time as an undergraduate student. Shoulders is a 2015 graduate of the Oklahoma Arts Council's Leadership Arts program, and he remains involved in many community organizations in the Oklahoma panhandle. He currently serves on the board for Artist Incubation, Inc. and the Guymon Area Arts and Humanities Council.

Bryon Test currently serves as the Head of the Panhandle State Art Department. He was born and raised in Guymon, Okla. Test earned a Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a Master of Arts from West Texas A&M University. As a professional artist, his paintings have been featured in several national festivals and exhibitions. He is one of the founding members of the Artist Incubation, Inc., All Fired Up in Guymon, Okla., and the MacCreeds Gallery in Bennette Springs, Mo. Test received the Arts in Education Award at the 2005 Oklahoma Governor's Arts Awards. Test is also the founder of the Paul Farrell Memorial Art Auction, which has raised more than \$200,000 in scholarships for Panhandle State students. **P**

De-Stress Fest



Panhandle State students were treated to five days of fun during the finals week De-Stress Fest hosted by the Dean of Students Office. Daily activities including massages, stained glass painting, play dough molding, water gun painting and therapeutic dog-petting gave students a much-needed break from the stresses that studying for final exams can bring.

CSFL Names 2017 All-Academic, Champions of Character Teams

By Alyssa Fox

The Central States Football League announced the 2017 All-Academic Teams and Champions of Character Teams. Panhandle State proudly graced both lists.

The CSFL regulates that student athletes selected to the All-Academic Team must earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and have successfully completed 12 hours of coursework at their current institution. Out of 129 selected representatives from nine league schools, Panhandle State brandishes 11 students. The Aggies are proud to announce the All-Academic Team

of 2017 honorees: Nathan Leithead, Jasper Smiley, Sam Lemin, Brandon Ramon, Jacob Test, Dominique Coutee-Thomas, Sequoia Smith, Cullen Oliver, Zachary Perez-Clack, Matthew Granz and Jakob Popple.

To be honored on the Champions of Character Team, student-athletes must embody the five core values of the NAIA: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. Two player representatives are chosen for the Champions of Character from each CSFL conference institution. The Aggies' two Champions of Character Team members are young men who have shown their potential and pride on and off the field. Panhandle State is pleased to congratulate seniors Diego Arenas-Purvinis and Linden Robertson.

Head Coach Russell Gaskamp is extremely proud of all of these young men stating, "This is just a great group of guys all around. They work hard and do things the right way, which will lead to success in all facets of their lives. It's a great thing to witness as a coach." **P**

Rodeo Alumni Continue Winning Tradition

By Kashly Schweer

For Hardy (Chad) Braden, the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo was nothing short of a Cinderella story. The Oklahoma cowboy qualified for his first trip to Las Vegas in the saddle bronc riding and capitalized on the last ten days of rodeo action winning day money in eight of the ten rounds and placing second in the average with a combined score of 764 points on nine head of bucking horses. His efforts were worth \$150,192, nearly \$30,000 more than he won throughout the regular season. Braden landed in fourth place in the world standings.

Also adding money to the pockets of their Wrangler jeans in the saddle bronc riding were Audy Reed, Taos Muncy and Clay Elliott. Reed was perfect for the first nine rounds of action, making the whistle on every horse he climbed aboard. Things headed south though in the final round on Saturday night when Reed hit the Las Vegas dirt a little too early. The Spearman, Texas cowboy still earned fifth in the average worth \$22,846.

Muncy and Elliott were uncharacteristically quiet inside the Thomas and Mack Center. Elliott earned two checks during the week while Muncy decided to leave Vegas in style. The two-time champ of the world reminded everyone how he earned those gold buckles with an 87.50-point ride in the tenth round.

In the bull riding, Joe Frost continued his consistent performance. The newlywed from Utah placed third in the final round of action with an 82.50-point mark. When the dust settled, he was the second best across ten head with a total score of 585 points on seven qualified rides. Frost finished the year with \$304,565 in earnings from the regular season and his WNFR performance, making him the fourth place bull rider in the world.

Panhandle State was represented in all three of the roughstock events with Orin Larsen in the bareback riding. After a solid start to the 10-day affair, Larsen ran into trouble in the ninth round by failing to make the whistle, dropping him from the top eight money holes in the aggregate. He still headed home with \$61,769 for his efforts at the WNFR.

Living up to his name, Shade Etbauer also earned accolades in Las Vegas as he was crowned the 2017 Resistol Rookie of the Year in the saddle bronc riding. The Goodwell native won \$41,725 his first year as a cardholder, almost \$12,000 more than the rest of the field of rookies. Shade's newest title is added to the Etbauer collection, including the All-Around Rookie of the Year championship that Trell Etbauer claimed in 2008.

With the Panhandle State 'P' adorned proudly on their vests, it is safe to say these cowboys continued the winning tradition as the books close on 2017. **P**



Six former Aggies competed at the NFR December 7-16. Pictured here at the Back Number Ceremony from left to right: Taos Muncy, Audy Reed, Orin Larsen, Joe Frost, Clay Elliott, Hardy Braden.



Panhandle State alum Shade Etbauer claimed the Rookie of the Year title at this year's WNFR.



New Online Ticket System Now Available for Aggie Athletics

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Panhandle State University and Aggie Athletics are pleased to announce the addition of a new online ticket system through TicketRoar powered by Eventbrite. Having started November 30, Aggie fans and guests are able to pre-purchase tickets online for all home athletic events and select campus events using a convenient and secure online service.

Links to the new service are available on the athletics website opsuaggies.com, and fans now have several ways to access the new system. "Ticket" links appear on the sport schedule pages next to each home contest date as well as a "Purchase Online Tickets" button, offered on the home page. The "Fan Central" tab also has a link to purchase tickets along with a listing of current admission prices and ticket policies.

Those not opting to purchase tickets in advance will still have the option to buy tickets at the gate on game days. The on-campus ticket booths now accept credit/debit cards in addition to cash and checks. Aggie Athletics has paired up with the Panhandle State Art Department, which also plans to utilize the new ticketing system for their yearly Paul Farrell Auction. Other groups may follow in the future.

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy was excited to implement the new system stating, "TicketRoar is a great opportunity for us to help enhance our fans' game day experience, while also creating a more convenient way for them to purchase tickets for events across campus."

The digital ticketing platform not only offers fans a quick and simple purchase option, it also provides Panhandle State with a new marketing platform and analytics to help with the continued efforts to improve all university events. Online purchases are subject to a minor service charge, and all athletic ticket sales are final with the exception of game cancellations or date changes. **P**

Panhandle Football by the Numbers

By Alyssa Fox

There is an auspicious horizon on the verge of Panhandle football, and the Aggies are coming for it. Working laboriously to adjust to the new NAIA division and match up against a slew of tough teams, the Aggies remained stalwart and emerged at season's end as a developing powerhouse.

The Aggies went 7-3 this 2017 season, producing the winningest class of seniors in the last thirty-five years. Amassing their seven wins is a feat that has only been accomplished once before since 1986, and they accrued an impressive four road wins, a dormant deed last achieved in 1981. The Aggies suffered their share of seasonal battle-scars on penalties and turnovers, but deficiency was not in their playbook. With Head Coach Russell Gaskamp at the helm, Panhandle State entered their inaugural NAIA season predisposed and primed for victory, and resurfaced with a breath of new life that landed the Aggies at a No. 24 ranking in the nation, their first time in the Top 25 since 1981.

The Aggie's outstanding efforts earned them a host of favorable Top 10 national overall rankings, including No. 1 in the nation in opponent fourth-down conversions, No. 5 in pass defense efficiency, No. 7 in sacks and No. 7 in total defense. The CSFL released its 2017 All-League Teams, and the lists are splashed with Panhandle red and blue. Junior RB-Orlando Haymon and senior OL-Jakob Popple were selected to First-Team Offense; senior DL-Zach Perez-Clack, senior LB-Dominick Bell, and senior DB-Marcus McCants were selected to First-Team Defense; senior OL-Cullen Oliver was selected to Second-Team Offense; and sophomore LB-Nathan Leithead was selected to Second-Team Defense. Honorable Mentions include: senior RB-Preston Baker, junior WRs Nick West and Kameron Taylor and senior DL-David Smith.

At the culmination of the season, the Aggies will lose 17 seniors and, inescapably, some truly talented (*cont.*)

2017 NAIA FINAL TEAM RANKING	
#1	OPP. 4TH DOWN CONVERSIONS
#5	PASS DEFENSE EFFICIENCY
#7	TOTAL DEFENSE
#7	SACKS

AGGIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



athletes who helped pave the way for a new Panhandle program path. However, Coach Gaskamp is looking ahead to the 2018 season with devout alacrity. Gaskamp is enthusiastic for the progress of offensive returners Nick West, Kameron Taylor, Orlando Haymon and Brady Barrett, and defensive returners Nathan Leithead, Jasper Smiley, D'Darrin Primes and Jawan Purifoy.

Gaskamp is optimistic that a compound combination of his athletic leaders of today and upcoming experience of tomorrow will produce the recipe for another winning Aggies season in 2018. The Aggies will be playing on a whole new field, as Anchor D Stadium receives the turf treatment and new renovations will welcome the crowds of Aggie fans. Game attendance has doubled, and even quadrupled for several home games this season. Hopes for an even further increase are high.

"The program is growing and expanding in a positive direction," says Gaskamp as visions of a new exhilarant season have already piqued in his mind, "Of course our goal will always be to go out and win the CSFL every year." With a winning season behind the venerated Aggies team, their outlook remains roseate and their future golden. **P**



ADDISON MUNSCH
NOV 13-19: Basketball



JACE KERR
NOV 13-19: Basketball



MONTI REGIER
NOV 27-DEC 3: Basketball



JACE KERR
NOV 27-DEC 3: Basketball



MADISON DEARMIN
DEC 11-17: Basketball



TYLER PATE
DEC 11-17: Basketball

Tri-Aggie-Thon Succeeds with Triple the Fun

By Alyssa Fox

On Sunday, November 12, the Panhandle State campus was buzzing with SAAC members and Aggie athletes as the first annual Tri-Aggie-Thon got underway.

Participants partook in three different phases of team competition including a 3-point shooting contest, relay race and a trivia showdown. The event was open to all ages. Students, adults and children alike enjoyed a rousing day of fun. Third place went to softball's team, The Brotato Chips, followed closely in second place by baseball's Team Okay, and the winners were women's basketball and their Team BAMF.

SAAC member, junior Madison Linton, hopes students will extend their ideas for more exciting and entertaining events to add to next year's Tri-Aggie-Thon. SAAC Advisor Russell Gaskamp is excited about the expanding role SAAC will have on campus and its impact for the school as a whole, saying, "SAAC is a group that is going to be very active on campus as well as a voice for the student athletes. The goal of the group is to try to improve the student-athlete experience here at Panhandle State, and putting on fun events for the student athletes as well as the community is part of the mission. We look forward to suggestions for our next event, which will be in the Spring. We want to make great ideas come to life and show off our awesome campus!" **P**



SAAC members gather with participants at the first annual Tri-Aggie-Thon.

Rodeo Team's 2018 TOP HAND AUCTION



**FEB 3
6 PM** **PICKLE CREEK EVENT CENTER**

Live Auction of Western Items & Pairs of Rodeo Athletes for a day of labor
Entertainment provided by Ken Stonecipher and The Wooden Nickel Band
Free dinner courtesy of Hunny's

Save the Date

**Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo
April 26-28, 2018**

