

Panhandle

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Where Legends
are Made

The Path to Greater Success at Panhandle State

Submitted by President Tim Faltyn

I've been so encouraged with all the people asking how they can help us given the state's on-going budget crisis. Specifically, Dr. Barias asked "What is the plan and what are ways that we can step up to help Panhandle State?" I'm so glad you asked.

The viability of Panhandle State to be around another hundred years depends on our ability to grow our enrollment so that we are less dependent on the state to be successful. The budget cuts the past three years have been severe, but the historical perspective is even less inspiring. Over the past 20 years, the portion of our total funding provided to us by the state has decreased to 21 percent.

It's my belief we're no longer a state school, we are a state assisted school. The bulk of the cost to attend our university is covered by the students and their families.

My top resource priority is need-based scholarships. Need-based scholarships like our Panhandle's Future Teacher Scholarship, as an example, go to students who are currently being priced out of the educational market. We have these types of scholarships in almost every academic area so students can go to school, graduate, do what they love for a living, and change the trajectory of their lives as well as the lives of generations to come.

Our most glaring weakness in the fight to recruit and retain students is our housing. We have a project underway to renovate and name each dorm room after the donor. Even though it is costly, the investment is already paying dividends with our largest freshman class ever this past fall.

Panhandle State's greatest asset is our people who show up every day and strive to be part of the solution and our greatest weapon is advocacy. It is important that we tell our state leaders as often as we can how important our university is to the success of our communities, region, and most importantly, the individual students whose lives we change for the better.

There's another piece that I think all of us could do better with as advocates.

We have world-class programs at Panhandle State that some people tend to take for granted. We must get people to see Panhandle State as a university of choice. The quality of our instruction, the employability of our graduates, and the excellence of our academic and activity programs prove our excellence.

We are a place that changes lives in a positive way for virtually everyone who walks through the door. I need



Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn - Photograph by Chris Urias

you to tell prospective students, parents, and anybody else in the world who will listen, that we are one of the best regional universities in America. You can do so with confidence because we have the track record to prove it.

There is a purpose and a plan in all we do. Our strategy for success is comprehensive and inspiring. I'd love to talk to anybody who's willing to hear it because I think you'll be impressed with how poised for greatness we are as a university. The results of what we are doing affirm we are headed in the right direction.

Unfortunately, the process of strengthening our university into one that changes lives for the better even more than we have in the past, is more complex than what fits into the social media post.

The vast majority of the results, opinions and feedback about our university are positive. In terms of measuring our success, we have shifted from, "the way we've always done it" to making decisions based on performance and results. This is a dramatic change for some people. It is also our only viable path forward if we want to be successful.

Our agenda is to make Panhandle State more prosperous and sustainable. In the end, if we don't start believing in the good we do, telling others about the good we do, and supporting Panhandle State like we are one of the best regional universities in America, we will lose the opportunity to prove it. **P**



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The 18th Annual Paul Farrell Memorial Art Auction was truly a special event. Many of the artists who had pieces for sale are pictured here.

Art Auction Provides Opportunities for Students

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

March 2nd marked the 18th Annual Paul Farrell Memorial Art Auction at Pickle Creek Event Center in Guymon, Okla. and this year certainly did not disappoint. Making history with the fastest recorded ticket sellout, guests from all over the region were at the event from Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and of course, Oklahoma.

Instructor Brent Shoulders said, “It was such a great time. We had people from all over the area. It was a great cultural event and learning experience for the students at Panhandle State. The community has been so accepting of the event and the patrons have really stepped up to help us with this auction and its success.”

The annual event all started as just a discussion among faculty and students many years ago. A local man and very talented artist named Paul Farrell had been painting, doing sculptures, and woodwork before being diagnosed with melanoma in one of his eyes. He ended up losing an eye and his wife encouraged him to take some courses at Panhandle State in an effort to regain some depth perception, a key tool for artists. He began taking classes and in his own quiet way would impart tidbits of wisdom to the students he was around. When he passed, a group of the students that had come to dearly love him gathered together and organized the auction in his memory.

The auction originally featured artwork from faculty and students at Panhandle State and has blossomed into

featuring the artwork of those students who graduate and want to continue to contribute to the event. Each year, a wide variety of work is submitted to a jury for the opportunity to be selected as an auction item. Pieces range from drawing and painting to photography, sculpture, ceramics, and encaustics. This year, the auction had 52 items up for sale. Additional items were available through the silent auction, a fairly recent addition to the annual event.

This year, the auction featured graduate Danielle Robinson who originally came to Panhandle State to study Psychology and play softball. She added a few art classes to her schedule with the thought of pursuing art therapy and what started off with a few classes turned into a degree in art. Following graduation at Panhandle State, Danielle attended graduate school at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan. and she is currently an adjunct professor there.

The high selling item of the night “Pressed for Time” at \$1700 was made by Brent Shoulders. It featured a handmade oak tortilla press, oak cutting block and high carbon steel chef knife; stoneware tortilla warmer, salsa bowls, wine/margarita goblets, and mortar and oak pestle. Acrylic paintings by Bryon Test and Instructor Yvonne Sangster were also among the highest selling items. In total, the live and silent auction saw over \$24,000. The money raised at the auction is split with 50 percent going to the artist and the other 50 percent for various scholarships, awards, and equipment expenses.

Instructor Bryon Test announced during the event that he was stepping down as department chair with the intention to get back into working as a full time artist, a career he started prior to his post in establishing the current art department. Test will continue to teach classes at Panhandle State while Shoulders will take on the duties as the Department Head.

It truly was a special evening a such a great learning experience for students. **P**

Panhandle State Earns Merit Certification as Certified Healthy Campus

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

Oklahoma Panhandle State University has recently met the criteria to become a Certified Healthy Campus. Certified Healthy Campus recognizes campus sites that make a positive impact on the health of employees and patrons.

There are three levels of certification: Basic, Merit and Excellence. Panhandle State earned the merit certification. The Panhandle State Wellness Committee members are: Dana Collins, Calandra Rose, Rene Ramon, Amber Hollis-Fesmire, Jill Olson, Stacey Hidalgo, Stacy Nordquist, Dr. Ryan Blanton, Naomi Rodriguez, Adrian Johnson, and Shambri Kelso (new student representatives).

Wellness Committee members Calandra Rose and Rene Ramon attended the annual Certified Healthy Oklahoma event on March 1, 2018 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Dana Collins states, “The Wellness Committee is dedicated to providing a healthy environment for faculty, staff, students and community members. We want to encourage an attitude for a healthier individual, campus, and community. I’ve always believed in the quote, ‘Healthy People are Happy People’ and I try to promote a healthy lifestyle to others. However, being healthy not only includes physical fitness, it also consists of being mentally prepared for life events. By maintaining a healthy lifestyle, employees are more involved in events and can successfully reach their goals. The Wellness Committee strives to make a healthier campus. We want to thank our new student representatives Naomi, Adrian, and Shambri for being involved in the health and wellness of the campus and look forward to working with them on student wellness events.”

Members of Panhandle State’s Wellness Committee seek to provide many ways to encourage a healthy lifestyle. All Panhandle State employees and their families receive free admission to the fitness center located on campus. The campus is tobacco free. Additionally, the committee organizes challenges through different fitness activities that employees may participate in. This year the group has offered several challenges and they are currently facilitating the Bike Miles and Miles Challenge. The second Annual Lazyman Triathlon is set to kick-off soon and everyone is invited to participate. The committee also sponsored a Wellness Luncheon on “Professional Burnout” on February 20th. The Luncheon saw 40 employees in attendance.

Vice President of Outreach Dr. Ryan Blanton shared with the group what a priority health and wellness is for the leadership team at Panhandle State. “Health and wellness are critical to our success; healthy and happy faculty, staff, and students are more engaged and productive in their work and in their studies. The efforts of our Wellness Committee has made a very positive impact on our campus culture.”

Certified Healthy Campus was created in 2011 to recognize both public and private post-secondary campuses and career technology centers that promote health and wellness for their faculty, staff, students, and even visitors. Promotion of health and wellness can be done in a variety of ways including: passing policies that encourage healthy lifestyles and making facilities available for physical activities. Any college, university, or career technology center, whether public or private, may apply for Certified Healthy Campus status. The program is administered by the Oklahoma State Turning Point Council and the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Center for the Advancement of Wellness. **P**



Rene Ramon and Calandra Rose, both members of the Panhandle State Wellness Committee, accepted Panhandle State’s Certified Healthy Campus Award at an event on March 1 in Oklahoma City.

SOEA Named Outstanding Chapter

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

The journey for students in the School of Education oftentimes takes them outside the classrooms on the campus of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and March 2-3, was just one of those very opportunities. Eighteen Panhandle State students, members of Panhandle State's chapter of the Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) and three faculty advisors traveled to Weatherford, Okla. for Outreach to Teach and the 2018 Spring Convention.

Outreach to Teach was March 2 at West Elementary in Weatherford. Each year, SOEA adopts a school to help renovate. The SOEA members from around the state gather to do various projects including such things as painting murals and classrooms, upgrading and installing playground equipment, planting flowers, and cleaning up the playground. This year, there were nine different project areas and all the participants worked hard to complete the projects in just one day. This marked Panhandle State SOEA's 12th time to participate in the outreach project.

Panhandle State's SOEA President Marcala Steckel said, "My favorite part of Outreach to Teach this year was getting serenaded by the students. First thing in the morning, all of the volunteers were called into the hallway, and the students sang to us and held up their signs of gratitude. It's always a GREAT experience."

SOEA Vice President Taryna Strydom added, "Everyone had a wonderful time at Outreach to Teach this semester! We were all able to work hard to help renovate the school and foster great friendships while we were there."

The evening of Friday, March 2, SOEA members were invited to participate in the 'Glow Prom' held at SWOSU's Pioneer Center. The prom is for the adult special needs population in the Weatherford area. Panhandle State's SOEA members were on site to assist where assistance was needed.

The following day, March 3, SOEA members attended different sessions for professional development at Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Pioneer Center during the 2018 Spring Convention.

Panhandle State's chapter was recognized during the convention as the 2018 SOEA Outstanding Local Chapter. Additionally, Panhandle State students who served as state officers for SOEA were recognized for their outstanding work and contributions as state officers. These students include Ely Esquivel-SOEA state president; Kathy Brooks-SOEA state secretary; Nancy Melendez-Trejo -SOEA state cultural ambassador.

Faculty advisors Jerry Mihelic, Jana Peterson,



Panhandle State's SOEA Chapter was recognized as the 2018 SOEA Outstanding Local Chapter. This marks the fifth time the chapter has earned the award since 2012.

and Dr. Cheng-Hsien Wu attended the event and were extremely pleased with the Panhandle State group.

Mr. Mihelic said, "We are Panhandle Proud of the work our students do and the recognition of their work by being named the Outstanding Chapter of the Year out of 25 chapters across the state. This is the fifth time since 2012 our chapter has been recognized as Outstanding Chapter continuing the tradition of excellence at Panhandle State."

Jana Peterson added, "It was a pleasure working beside these young men and women during the Outreach to Teach/Spring 2018 conference. Their energy and exuberance always revitalizes me and reminds me why I became a teacher."

Dr. Cheng-Hsien Wu continued, "I am proud of our SOEA members who have a can-do attitude, plus a will-do attitude as they participated in the outreach to teach event. They actively sought opportunities to take on the most demanding and difficult tasks and focused on what can be done, rather than on what can't be done. Their contribution on the projects definitely has a positive impact on the students' learning environment at West Elementary school. Their thirst for knowledge and eager for professional growth at the conference reflect the great teacher dispositions. I had lots of fun with them and know they will be the bright stars in the teaching community."

Students attending the conference include Marcala Steckel; Taryna Strydom; Lizet Gutierrez; Sarah Atha; Ely Esquivel; Kathy Brooks; Nancy Melendez-Trejo; Dominique De La Rosa; Casie Faye Campbell; Mariah Morigeau; Luis Morales; David Peebles; Christy Oldham; Sarah Sagebiel; Hannah Hattabaugh; Yesenia Vera; Ashley Price; and Emily Price. **P**



SOEA members work hard throughout the year conducting fundraisers and special events to raise money for their organization so they are able to participate in outreach efforts and attend their yearly conference.

Panhandle State Sends Delegation to OSGA Spring Congress

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

Oklahoma Panhandle State University sent eight students to the Oklahoma Student Government Association (OSGA) Spring Congress hosted by Langston University February 23 and 24.

Students attending the congress were Jasmine Brown-Jutras, Madison Linton, Autumn Wigley, Mariah Morigeau, Sean Skipton, Jorge Rosas, Jack Hudgins, and Thomas Casper.

The students had a chance to hear about important characteristics of a leader from Oklahoma State Regent Andrew W. Lester as he delivered the keynote address during Friday night dinner.

On Saturday morning, students split up into committee meetings. Students received hands-on experience of writing legislation in the form of bills and resolutions through these committees such as academic affairs, congressional affairs, external affairs and university affairs.

Any legislation that made it out of committee meetings was then heard during General Session on Saturday afternoon. The legislation topics included many hot topics among college campuses such as gun control, mental health, safe spaces, Title IX rollbacks, DACA, and the state-wide budget crisis.

Madison served as the Assistant Floor Leader and Parliamentarian for congress and when reflecting on the weekend stated, "I was honored to represent OPSU at the OSGA Conference. I learned so much about



Pictured left to right: Jack Hudgins, Thomas Casper, Madison Linton, Sean Skipton, Jasmine Brown-Jutras, Jorge Rosas, Autumn Wigley, and Mariah Morigeau.

what the students in Oklahoma want to see happen to our education system. We really need to be making a difference on our campuses. I look forward to working with the other delegates in making some changes on campus."

Jasmine completed her term as Vice President of OSGA and chaired the entire Spring Congress. When speaking with Jasmine, she has an obvious passion for chairing congress and teaching others about the proper way to address the body, bring up questions, and make motions.

She said, "It was an amazing experience to be able to serve as a State Officer! And an even better opportunity to be able to chair a 140 person Congress!"

The networking opportunity provided by this weekend event is a huge advantage to the students; 21 universities from across the state were represented through 137 students and 14 advisors. This was one of the largest Spring Congress sessions OSGA has seen. **P**

Students Prepare for Vet School

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

For a number of Oklahoma Panhandle State University students, the commencement ceremony on May 10th will not be the end of an educational journey but the mark of the start of the next chapter.

Kyler Jenkins and Bethany Schultz, with acceptance letters from the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, have recently learned that they are two of these students that will embark on a new journey following graduation.

Originally from Amarillo, Texas, Kyler will graduate from Panhandle State with a Biology degree. During his time as a student at Panhandle State, Kyler has been an active member of Student Senate, Science Club, and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) Leadership Team in addition to serving as the Chair of the Campus Improvements Committee. In the future, Kyler plans to own and manage his own large animal practice.

Kyler commented on his time as a student, “Panhandle has helped me achieve my goal of going to vet school by equipping me with a quality, affordable education. Doc Collins and many other professors have helped me greatly along the way. From writing a letter of recommendation to always being available for help outside of class I could not have possibly done it without their help. It has taken a lot of hard work and a lot of time to get here and I could not have possibly done it without Panhandle State.

“Being accepted into vet school is a dream come true. I have dreamed of being a vet since first grade. Being accepted has me ecstatic and relieved all at the same time. I can’t wait to see what the future entails and to see what God has planned for me.”

An Animal Science major, Bethany comes to Goodwell from Durango, Colo. As a student, Bethany has been a member of Block and Bridle, Collegiate FFA, Alpha Zeta, Student Senate in addition to serving as an Aggie Ambassador and working in the Firestone Meat Lab. Bethany’s goal after graduating vet school is to take over the family ranch and practice large and/or mixed animal medicine.

She said, “Panhandle gave me the education and resources I needed to not only get accepted into vet school but also prepare me for the challenges ahead. I am ecstatic about being accepted into vet school it has been my dream all my life! I am excited about the future and I hope I can find great opportunities ahead!” **P**



Kyler Jenkins (left) and Bethany Schultz (right) celebrate their acceptance into the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

Girl Scouts Visit Campus to Earn Badge

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

Girl Scout Troop 5912 of Goodwell visited the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus recently as part of their Simple Meal Badge. Troop 5912 is a Junior troop made up of fourth and fifth grade girls.

The Simple Meal Badge teaches Juniors how to serve a meal to family and friends. The first step in earning the badge is to tour a professional certified kitchen to learn about the different cooking tools, equipment, and procedures as well as general kitchen safety.

Great Western Dining Food Service Director, Melinda Stephens gave the girls a behind-the-scenes tour of the dining facilities on campus. The girls saw a variety of kitchen equipment, but the walk-in freezer may have been the girls’ favorite part of the tour!

Other steps they will be working on to finish up the Simple Meal Badge include cooking an egg breakfast dish, coming up with a healthy lunch, and creating a delicious dessert. **P**



Pictured from left to right: Lillian Carman, Charlee Keasler, Sadie Eslinger, Addison Flaherty, Maecee Strain, Jackie Avila, and Karlee Thomas

History Club Travels to SWPACA

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

Members of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University History Club and faculty advisors recently traveled to the 39th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. February 7-10.

Panhandle State students had the opportunity to attend a number of sessions including workshops, panels, and sessions featuring everything from film to history to literary studies and even gaming culture. Professional development sessions were available to all participants throughout the week and included panels on publishing, the job search, and pedagogy, among others. The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Julia Lee, whose book *Our Gang: A Racial History of the Little Rascals* is the 2017 Rollins Book Award recipient. Dr. Lee discussed *The Little Rascals'* influence on American popular culture and the story behind how she came to write and research the cultural history of the comedy series.

Senior Kara Hill said, "I not only enjoyed listening to the different speakers discuss their topics, I also learned a lot about the breakdown of the various subjects. I enjoyed all of the presentations, especially the Films of Alfred Hitchcock panel, and it was great meeting each of the presenters."

Sophomore Hannah Johnson added, "SWPACA was such a wonderful experience for me. We really do help represent OPSU at a national level! We also get to spend quality time with our departmental professors and fellow students, and get to meet and network with graduates and professional scholars who share our interests."

Professor of History Dr. Maille chaired and presented in one panel. Professor of History Dr. Duren chaired four panels as he is Area Chair for Film and History. Duren is one of the conference's longest serving area chairs and participants, as this was his 21st SWPACA conference.

"The SWPACA is a great conference for students," Duren said, "as its breadth of topics demonstrates a unique, interdisciplinary approach to learning. Our students gain a lot from the sessions, and I am proud to say, they represent OPSU well, interacting both with graduate students and professional scholars. They definitely make great impressions and we receive a lot of compliments on our students and their knowledge!"

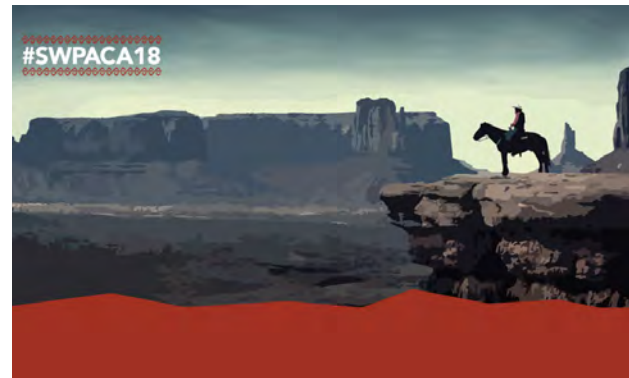
The mission of the SWPACA is to promote an innovative and nontraditional academic movement in the humanities and social sciences celebrating America's cultural heritages, and to increase awareness and improve public perceptions of America's cultural traditions and diverse populations. The SWPACA

provides a professional network for scholars, writers, and others interested in popular/American culture via our annual academic conference and through our open-source, peer-reviewed academic journal, *Dialogue: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Popular Culture and Pedagogy*.

Additionally, the SWPACA has a long-standing commitment to supporting the development of new and young academic professionals in the fields of popular and/or American cultural studies through conference travel grants, paper awards, and professional development opportunities.

Students attending the conference were Kara Hill, Shawn Smith, David Peebles, Hannah Johnson, and BJ Munsch. Faculty members Dr. Brad Duren and Dr. Patrick Maille served as the group's advisors.

Panhandle State's History Club is open to all students regardless of major. The club seeks to promote interest in the importance and study of history and culture as important building blocks to better understanding our world, our communities, and ourselves. **P**



History Club members and faculty advisors recently traveled to Albuquerque, N.M. for the 39th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference.

RODEO



“DOC” GARDNER



The Lynn Gardner Arena and practice facility are the pride of the Panhandle State Rodeo team. Used for weekly jackpots, training clinics and rodeo schools throughout the year.



Legendary, famous, notorious: synonyms that embody the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team and those responsible for creating the tradition of winning. It is a program that is unmatched in championships achieved and respect garnered from competitors across the nation.

The six national team titles speak to Panhandle State's tradition of winning inside the rodeo arena, but there is more to the Oklahoma institution than championship buckles. Nestled in the heart of one of the largest agricultural regions, Panhandle State provides students with a first class educational experience in a small rural community. It's not just any community though. It has been rightfully dubbed "Saddle Bronc Capital of the World" due to the continuous outpouring of championship-caliber athletes.

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) world champions such as Robert Etbauer, Tom Reeves, Jhett Johnson, Rocky Patterson, Jeff Willert, Taos Muncy and Spencer Wright all trace back to the Oklahoma town. With a large team of roughly 60 students, Panhandle State is a top runner as one of the best collegiate rodeo programs. The regional university has also produced 22 individual championships in every event, with the exception of the goat tying.

The program would not hold the legendary status that it does if it were not for those who dedicated a lifetime to the team and its members. **Richard Lynn Gardner**, known to many as "Doc," returned to his alma mater as the head of the Division of Math and Science while teaching chemistry. In 1965, two students asked Doc Gardner if he would sponsor the rodeo team. He agreed to be their advisor until they could find someone else to take the reins. No one was ever found to replace the beloved professor. So, for over 30 years until his

death, he was the coach.

Doc Gardner became an icon in the world of collegiate rodeo. His teams were well-respected locally, regionally and nationally. He wasn't a cowboy, but had a knack for finding talent and persuading them to attend Panhandle State. Due to his efforts, Panhandle State can boast the list of world champions that it does.

Outside of Goodwell, Doc Gardner served as Faculty Director for the Central Plains Region from 1974-1982. He witnessed his young contestants become individual collegiate champions and saw them move on to become world champions on the professional level. During his reign, the highly successful Panhandle State men's and women's rodeo teams qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo every year except for once since 1972. He never realized his dream of winning the college national team championship. The year following his death the team finally captured its first title and dedicated the championship to the late rodeo coach. Today, the annual Panhandle State rodeo is named in his honor in addition to the team's practice facilities.

At the time of Doc Gardner's death, his assistant coaches were Jim Boy Hash and Bret Franks. Bret Franks assumed the head coaching position and led the team to their first two national championships in 1997 and 1998. Bret is currently the head coach at Clarendon College while Jim Boy Hash leads the Broncbusters at Garden City Community College.

In 1999, Kurt Hall was at the helm of the winning rodeo team and continued the streak by claiming the third national championship in 2000. He continued to coach the Aggies until 2002 when the program was transitioned into the hands of Craig Latham.

Today, the Lynn Gardner rodeo facilities are under the watchful eye of **Robert Etbauer** who holds the title of head coach. Robert first made his way to the dusty

LEGENDS



ROBERT ETBAUER



"RAMBO"



CRAIG LATHAM

Oklahoma town in 1981 when he was recruited to rodeo under the direction of Doc Gardner, where he helped the team reach its highest placing since its inception; third place at the 1986 CNFR.

Through Robert's career, he claimed the coveted PRCA World Champion gold buckle in 1990 and 1991. Robert went on to qualify for the NFR 12 times, 1988-1992 and 1994-2000, before retiring from his professional career in 2002.

In 2011, Robert returned to Oklahoma Panhandle State University, this time as Assistant Rodeo Coach to long-time friend and hauling partner, **Craig Latham**. Latham is considered an honorary brother to the clan of Etbauers who dominated the saddle bronc riding. He made nine trips to the NFR before transitioning from professional cowboy to head of the prestigious collegiate program.

Latham was at the helm of the rodeo program for 12 years, during which the team won two national championship team titles (2004 and 2013) and numerous individual event titles. Not only did Latham inspire students to make high-point rides and fast times, but also put an emphasis on students' academic careers by encouraging them to graduate in four years and pursue higher education. In 2015, Craig stepped down from his role due to medical reasons and handed the reins to Robert.

In addition to the help of Assistant Rodeo Coach, Shelbie Weeder, Robert relies on the support of many individuals to keep the teams at the top of their game. His brothers Billy and Danny Etbauer help each year with the annual Deke Latham Memorial Bronc Riding School, along with Craig Latham and other rodeo team alumni. Allen McCloy, a former rodeo alum, provides the outstanding bulls and horses for the hometown college rodeo and all the roughstock practices throughout

the year. Danny is also on hand at the majority of the roughstock practices to lend his advice. Robert continues a practice that Craig Latham started by bringing in professional rodeo athletes to instruct rodeo schools for the team members. Robert gives credit to the entire community who supports the rodeo program to the highest degree and is responsible for the team's success.

The Etbauer brothers will be the first to admit that horsepower is everything. Whether the equine partner is responsible for half the points in the bronc riding or breaking fast to a calf, the success of the cowboy is dependent on the horse flesh beneath him. Robert Etbauer's family is the owner of an equine athlete that has helped numerous cowboys and cowgirls reach their goals inside the arena.

Rambo, a roan stud, is just as famous as his world champion owner. The powerhouse stallion has been used in multiple events over the years, oftentimes with just a bit change between events. From the tie-down roping, breakaway roping, team roping, goat tying, steer wrestling and hazing, he truly defines an all-around horse. His efforts have not gone unnoticed by competitors as he has been voted Central Plains Region "Horse of the Year" five times.

As spring brings the birth of new foals, there will never be another quite like Rambo. However, just as horses have to be trained to become great, legends are not simply born; they are created through years of work, dedication and passion. Panhandle State has a legendary rodeo program due to those who carved the path to greatness. **P**

A Winning Tradition College National Champions

1986 Deke Latham
CNFR Bull Riding & Men's All-Around

1988 Craig Latham
CNFR Saddle Bronc

1992 Chad Hiatt
CNFR Calf Roping

1993 Cliff Norris
Saddle Bronc

1994 Marty McCloy
Calf Roping

1996 Andy Bolton
Team Roping

1996 Benjamin Blue
Team Roping

1998 Travis Goad
Team Roping

1998 Brian Dunning
Team Roping

1998 Josh McIntyre
Steer Wrestling

2000 Jesse Bail
Men's All-Around

2001 Jett Hillman
Team Roping

2001 Logan Olson
Team Roping

2005 Erica Brown
Breakaway

2005 Trell Etbauer
Steer Wrestling

2007 Taos Muncy
Saddle Bronc

2008 Krista Johnson
Breakaway

2010 Jordan Muncy-Taton
Breakaway & Women's All-Around

2014 Joe Frost
Bull Riding

2014 Orin Larsen
Bareback Riding

2015 Clay Elliott
Saddle Bronc

2015 Shelbie Weeder
Walt Garrison Award

1997 Men's Team

Otey McCloy (SB)

Cauy Hudson (MA, BB, BR)

Garrett Nokes (MA, CR, SW, TR)

Ryan Rodewald (SB)

Ben Blue (TR)

Rance Bray (SB)

1998 Men's Team

Garrett Nokes (CR, SW)

Cauy Hudson (BB, BR)

Travis Goad (SW, TR)

Rance Bray (SB)

Josh McIntyre (SW)

Brian Dunning (TR)

2000 Men's Team

Jesse Bail (BR, SB, SW)

Josh Canant (TR)

Matt Elliott (SB)

Casey McGooden (SB)

Clayton Moore (SW)

Rusty Slavin (CR)

2004 Men's Team

Matt Hebbert (SB, SW)

Logan Hodson (BB, BR)

Cody Taton (SB)

Cole Fritzlan (SW)

Ardie Maier (BB)

2013 Men's Team

Joe Frost (BR, SW)

Joe Harper (SB)

Dusty Moore (SW)

Allen Boore (SB)

Jake Watson (SB)

Jeff Bertus (BR)

2017 Men's Team

Jake Finlay (SB)

Cody Ballard (BR)

Nate Johnsrud (TR)

Will Martin (BB)

Ben Johnsrud (TR)

Josh Frost (BR)

Dylan Riggins (BB)

Longest Continuous Running Bull Test in the United States

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

In 1952, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, in cooperation with area beef cattle producers, implemented Oklahoma's first beef bull performance testing program. The program was developed to assist the state's beef cattle producers in gathering performance information on their cattle for the purpose of beef cattle improvement. The performance test has run continuously since its organization in 1952 making it the longest continuously running beef bull performance test in the United States.

There were 14 cooperators who started and participated in the first test in 1952. Although none of the foundation cooperators remain in the program today, the impact that their foresight has had on beef cattle performance has been tremendous.

The foundation cooperators were: Hoss Hale of Goodwell, Rentie Hamilton of Texhoma, Okla.; H.C. Hitch of Guymon, Okla.; Chester Bartel of Balko, Okla.; Claude Mitchusson of Balko, Okla.; Leon Morris of Balko, Okla.; Vernon Ratzlaff of Balko, Okla.; John Hiebert of Turpin, Okla.; Ernest Fischer of Guymon, Okla.; P.J. Pronger of Stratford, Texas; C.H. Clawson of Gruver, Texas; C.J. Frantz of Waka, Texas; J.E. Summerour of Dalhart, Texas; and Max Barth of Buffalo, Okla.

Although he wasn't one of the original cooperators, Phil Light of Turpin, Okla. is the longest continuous participant in the test. Mr. Light started his registered Angus cattle herd with five head in 1962 and soon after he and his father began sending bulls to the test in Goodwell. The test has been valuable in helping spread the word about the quality of Light Ranch Angus cattle.


Dr. Dan Daniels and Milton England were the Panhandle State Professors who worked with these cooperators in developing the program. Milton directed the test for 30 years, 1952-1982. Dr. Jerry Martin has directed the test since 1982.

Through the years, the testing station at Panhandle State has collected performance data on over 7050 head of beef bulls. Due in part to this program, the cooperating breeders have improved the performance of their cattle from an average daily gain of 2.59 pounds per day in 1952 to 4.59 per day in 2018. The top gaining individual bull in 1952 had a daily gain of 3.34 pounds and the top gaining individual bull in 2018 had a daily gain of 7.41 pounds.

Melvin and Betty Boling of Edmond, Okla. owned this year's high gaining bull, an achievement they are no stranger to having earned the same recognition the first year they participated in the test bringing their total to

six high gaining bulls. This year's average daily gain of 7.41 pounds set a test record with the previous highest recorded being 6.49 pounds in both 2008 and 2009. The Bolings and B&M Angus set another test record this year earning the high gains in each category measured including top gaining bull on test, top gaining junior bull, top gaining senior bull, top pen of junior bulls, and top pen of senior bulls. B&M Angus has been participating in the Beef Bull Performance Test since around 2003. Melvin utilizes the data gathered from the test to make decisions regarding his breeding program. B&M Angus currently runs around 100 head of cows. "It gives me a reputation of having high gaining bulls. After they get to the feedyard my bulls usually don't quit. Gwen and Jerry Martin have held it together all these years and we sure appreciate it. The feed test helps you pick out the high gaining bull." Melvin's nephew Jerry Fish is now participating in the test as well.

The cooperators in the test over the years have been primarily from the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. The breeds tested have been Angus, Hereford, Red Angus, Polled Herefords, Simmental, Brangus, Charolais, Limousin, Chianina, Beef Master, Barzona, Belgian Blue, Gelbveih, Maine-Anjou, Beef Shorthorn, and Salers. The bulls are primarily sold within a 150-mile-radius of the University for commercial use.

Dr. Jerry Martin commented on the test "The principle beneficiaries of the bull performance testing program at Panhandle State have been the cooperators that have participated in the program and those producers that have had performance data available in their selection of bulls to use in their breeding program. However, the value of the program to the education of the university's agriculture students may be overlooked. The use of the animals and their performance data in certain classes has been important. Also, the conduction of the program by the university has provided student jobs for over 250 students." 



AG LEGENDS

According to “The Heritage of the Panhandle” by Kathryn Sexton, the year was 1907 and residents of the Panhandle area felt there was a need for a farmer’s institute. It was approximately two years before Pan-Handle Agricultural Institute was created in 1909 by the Oklahoma State Legislature as a secondary agricultural education center for the Panhandle region. A great number of talented instructors have impacted and continue to impact students’ lives as well as the Agriculture program that came from such a modest beginning.

Faculty members at Panhandle State are known for touching students’ lives, but the impact they make on the community surrounding the University is also great.

Raymond Peck is a true example of the value professors and field specialists bring to local producers. Peck graduated from PAMC in 1943. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps until 1946 when he returned to the University. Peck was a professor and Head of Agronomy at Panhandle State for over 30 years. At one time,



Mr. Peck was labeled as one of the top experts in the Agronomy field. He supervised research and was involved in several joint assignments between Panhandle State and Oklahoma State University (OSU). For a period of 27 years, Mr. Peck was actively engaged in conducting simulated hail damage studies on field crops, hosting workshops and schools for the Crop Insurance Industry. Mr. Peck passed away in 2005.

As with Raymond Peck, some of the most influential leaders at Panhandle State were once students. **Dr. Estes Firestone**, Professor of Animal Science and Biology, was associated with the University from 1938-1942 as a student and from 1942-1983 as a faculty member until his retirement in 1983. He graduated from PAMC in 1942 with a B.S. in Animal Science. His tenure was interrupted when he served three years in the navy during WWII. He also received his master’s degree from OSU and his doctorate from Colorado State University. He was very active on campus serving in many capacities and beloved and respected by both the faculty and student body.



The Firestone Meat Laboratory was officially dedicated in his name in 1984.



Like many, **Milton England’s** legacy will live with Panhandle State forever. Milt served as Head of the Animal Science Department for approximately 30 years of his 36-year tenure on the Animal Science faculty. Livestock Judging was an

important part of his life; he coached the teams at Panhandle State for 25 years. He served 32 years as Executive Secretary for the Alumni Association and was known as “Mr. Alumni.” He set the direction for the association and held it together through many lean years. Milton was instrumental in organizing, promoting and fundraising for Alumni sponsored events. Some events include the Panhandle State News, scoreboards, highway signs, campus chimes, Life Membership Program, Hall of Fame Program and the Panhandle State Foundation, which was his pride and joy. Milton England passed away on November 17, 1996, but left an abundant and thriving Alumni Association.

Just as Milton England had an instrumental part in the successful livestock judging program, **Dr. Kenneth Woodward** had a great part in the success of numerous judging teams at Panhandle State. Kenneth and his wife, Maxine, graduated from Panhandle A&M College in 1957 with degrees in animal husbandry and home economics. Kenneth received his master’s degree in animal science from OSU in 1959. They returned to the panhandle and became involved in the family farming and ranching operation. In 1965, Kenneth accepted a position with Panhandle A&M College as an Instructor in Animal Science. He also coached the Panhandle State Livestock Judging Team. During this time, Kenneth served as President of the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends. After six years at Panhandle A&M, the Woodward family moved to Iowa where Kenneth earned his doctorate in animal growth and development. In 1976, Dr. Woodward returned to Oklahoma Panhandle State University to continue teaching and coaching the livestock judging teams. Dr. Woodward was actively involved in the establishment of the agri-business major that



dramatically increased the number of students receiving degrees in agriculture. Maxine worked in the Registrar's Office until 1982 when she accepted a teaching position in Texhoma, Okla. In 1982, Kenneth became the department head of Animal Science, then Dean of Agriculture in 1995. With Maxine's help, Dr. Woodward has hosted numerous reunions over the years for students who were agriculture majors, judging team members or others involved in agriculture programs.

In 1996, Dr. Kenneth and Maxine Woodward were inducted into the Panhandle State Foundation Distinguished Contributor's Honor Roll and into the Panhandle State Association Hall of Fame in 1998. Dr. Woodward has been a Panhandle State Foundation board member since 2000 and served as president from 2006-2008. Both Kenneth and Maxine are currently retired but remain active in supporting their community, Panhandle State, and its students.

Supporting students has always been a constant among Panhandle State faculty. **Dr. Floyd James "Jay" Lark** grew up in Raton, New Mexico, with a flock of siblings and cousins. He earned a doctorate and taught on both the high school and college levels, finishing his career with 27 years as director of Agricultural Education at Panhandle State. He served as the Collegiate FFA Advisor as well. Known as "Doc" to his students, he was a passionate teacher and especially enjoyed road trips to national competitions and conferences.



Gwen and Jerry Martin have remained active in the institution to a highly-admirable degree by dedicating 50 years of service to Panhandle State. The couple is from a little town in southeastern Oklahoma called Antlers, where they went to grade school and high school. During their senior years in high school, Jerry was the president of FFA and Gwen was the President of FHA as well as Queen of their FFA Chapter. After graduation, Jerry Martin went to OSU for one semester before joining

the Marine Corps. Jerry then proposed to Gwen and they were married on her birthday in 1953. He served a tour of duty in Korea after their marriage and upon his discharge, he enrolled at OSU.

Jerry earned three degrees (BS, MS, & Ph.D.) at OSU while Gwen worked in the Agriculture Economics Department. Upon graduation, Jerry got a job at Murray State College in 1961. Gwen also worked there in the registrar's office. Jerry was there for six years when Freeman McKee, the president at Murray and nephew of Marvin McKee (the Panhandle State President at the time) asked Jerry if he would like to go to Panhandle State with him for a new job. That was the beginning of a wonderful relationship with the University that continues to this day. Jerry was hired jointly by Animal Science and Biology Schools to teach and he conducted Beef Cattle Research in conjunction with OSU before retiring in 1994. Jerry taught biology, comparative anatomy, histology and physiology along with all the animal science courses offered at one time or another during the fall, spring and summer sessions.

Actively involved in Aggie Athletics, Jerry ran the clock and Gwen kept the score book at all basketball games until they retired in 1994. They were also the cheerleader sponsors from 1980 until 1990. Jerry was the FAR representative for the athletic department, was athletic director once, and interim athletic director once. Gwen worked all the years prior to retirement as Chief Clerk in the Business Office, Interim Business Director twice and the president's secretary. Jerry was the first and only Dean of Agriculture from 1972 until retirement in 1994.

Retirement was short lived as both Jerry and Gwen began working again a mere five months after they retired in 1994. Jerry has taught Animal Nutrition and conducted the Bull Test, while Gwen is the administrative assistant for the School of Agriculture. **P**



Firestone Meat Lab Offers Products and Service to Public

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

The Firestone Meat Lab has been in operation since its construction in 1982. It serves as a facility for students learning in the meats industries as well as providing a service to local producers and charitable groups.

Each semester, the meat lab hosts grading, retail, and harvesting classes giving students the educational opportunities to learn all aspects of the meat processing industry. In addition, materials are harvested to support numerous other courses and labs at the college and area high schools.

Students have the opportunity to be employed at the lab in addition to taking courses there. Each semester, six to eight students assist with operations.

Manager Daren Stephens said, “The ability to have hands-on experiential learning opportunities gives OPSU students an advantage over their peers from other institutions. Our students have the opportunity to be responsible for all aspects of harvesting, fabricating, further processing and retailing of multiple species of meat animals. This allows our graduates to have better exposure to the processes and conditions involved in industry.”

Open to the public, the meat laboratory provides full service beef and swine processing for local producers. Customers may walk-in and purchase from the meat market or bring their own animal in to be harvested.

A community partner, Firestone Meat Lab sponsors interscholastic meat evaluation contests each year and also provides workouts for local meat judging teams. Firestone Meat Lab also generously donates processed meat for several campus events as well as community wide events.

Most recently the Meat Lab announced, with the help of a grant from the Noble Foundation, a new smokehouse is being purchased. The smokehouse will allow the facility to produce a better product. In addition, it will increase the speed of the smoking process and possibly open the doors for a new product line to be established. The smokehouse will bring with it plenty of new learning opportunities for students.

Assistant Meat Lab Manager Anthony Ingo said, “We are very excited to have the opportunity to produce a more consistent product and enhance the student learning experience.”

Follow Panhandle State Meat Lab on facebook and Instagram for all of the latest information and deals. For questions or to place an order, email meatlab@opsu.edu or call 580.349.1518. **P**



Representatives from Panhandle State attended the Block and Bridle National Convention in Florida. From left: Daren Stephens, Kayla Hook, Allison Jones, Cassie Alcorn and Chris Widener .

Block and Bridle National Convention

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communication

Members of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Block and Bridle chapter traveled to the 98th National Convention hosted by the University of Florida's Block and Bridle Chapter in Orlando, Fla.

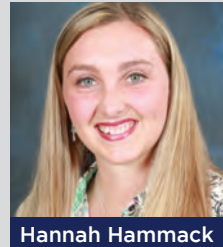
The mission of Block and Bridle is "to promote the improvement and increase the interest among students of Animal Science and to bring about closer relationships among men and women pursuing some phase of Animal Science as a profession." The mission is accomplished through the following objectives: 1)To promote a higher scholastic standard and a more complete understanding of Animal Science. 2)To promote animal agriculture through development of a program of activities that will supplement students' study of the animal sciences. 3)To enhance professionalism of students who will one day be leaders in the animal agriculture industry. 4)To bring about a closer relationship among all students pursuing some phase of animal agriculture as a profession.

The convention ran from March 1-3 starting with a welcome dinner with Trent Loos as the Keynote speaker followed by the annual business meeting.

On March 2nd, there were industry tours of Florida. Panhandle State members traveled to the Disney properties to tour the warehouse system and learn about the logistics of supplying food and beverages to the Disney properties in Florida as well as their cruise ships. Next, the group traveled to Central Seafood, a seafood processing facility that is a major supplier to Disney and is progressive in their food safety processes. The tour concluded at Buckhead Meats, again a major supplier to Disney but also a supplier to many premier restaurants, hotels and institutions. Buckhead also engages in a unique process offering a large selection of dry aged Prime beef and other branded beef products. Additionally, students were able to observe state of the art slicing and portion control production.

On the final day student delegates were able to attend a number of break-out sessions ranging from: preparing for graduate school, equine production and management, global agricultural systems, genetic technology, business management and more. The event culminated with a banquet, awarding of scholarships, chapter awards, and a dance.

The students attending were: Kayla Hook, Cassie Alcorn, Allison Jones and Chris Widener. The convention allowed the students to see agricultural production in a different portion of the United States. Attendees were also able to network with their peers from other institutions and professionals from different segments of industry. **P**



Hannah Hammack



Hammack Competes at National Equine Show

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The Aggie Equestrian team capped off a successful season with one rider qualifying for the International Horse Show Association 2018 Western Semi-Finals held March 17-18 at Black Hawk College in Galva, Ill.

Junior Hannah Hammack collected enough points throughout the season to represent OPSU on the national stage at semi-finals. Hammack showed among schools from six zones and twelve different regions ranging from the University of Nebraska, Laramie County Community College to schools from the New England area (Mount Holyoke) to the University of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee State and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. Though she did not progress beyond the preliminary rounds, Hammack showed well with a great ride, motivating her to return to the semis for her senior season.

Head Equestrian Coach Lisa Drumhiller joined Hammack at the event and was extremely proud of her performance, "Hannah did a superb job representing Panhandle State at the IHSA National Western Semi-Finals and competing against schools from across the country. She had the opportunity to ride some outstanding horses, as well as experience the fun and celebrations that go on with such a prestigious event. I and the entire equestrian team are so proud of Hannah's excellent representation."

Hammack also offered comments on the experience stating, "All of my hard work finally paid off, allowing me the opportunity to compete at semi-finals. I had a blast in Galva and, even though I did not make it past the preliminary round, I took away an amazing experience. I want to give a huge 'Thank you' to my coach Lisa Drumhiller, my advisor Dr. Sandol Johnson and my family for all of their support and help through this unforgettable journey. I am so excited for next year's show season and seeing our team's potential unfold."

The semi-final show wrapped up the competition year for the equestrian team, but they are already looking ahead to the coming season this fall. For more information on the Panhandle State Equestrian program please contact Coach Lisa Drumhiller at lisa.drumhiller@opsu.edu or by phone at 580-349-1533. The team is open to riders of all skill levels including beginners. **P**

Aggie Family



Staff

Deborah Ask

It only takes a minute of visiting with the Murphy-Brown Water Quality Testing Lab Director Deborah Ask to see her passion for the work she does, as well as the passion she has for educating the region regarding water testing.

Born in Elk City, Okla., Deborah and her family moved many times throughout her childhood and she is familiar with both small town and city life. She attended college at Kennesaw State University (KSU) in Kennesaw, Ga. and earned a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry in 2007. While taking courses at KSU, Deborah met her husband Michael Ask and the couple was married in June 2007.

Following graduation and marriage, Michael and Deborah moved to Dallas and she worked at Collin County Community College as a Chemistry Lab Adjunct Instructor before the couple moved to the Panhandle. Deborah took a job at High Plains Bioenergy plant as a Lab Analyst and Michael took courses at Panhandle State where he now instructs Math and Physics.

In October of 2008, Deborah accepted the job as the Lab Supervisor at the Water Lab on the Panhandle State campus where she has served as the Director for a year.

Originally, the lab primarily performed bacterial analysis. From there, the services the lab provides has grown and currently the Water Lab offers drinking water, wastewater, and other testing services to communities, businesses, schools and individuals in the Oklahoma panhandle and nearby areas. In addition, field sampling is available. The Water Lab is accredited and each year goes through a renewal process to keep that accreditation current.

Deborah and her team, Lab Technician Billy Pier and Water Lab Assistant Jamie Stout, take great care in meeting the needs of the area. They have an open door policy and are always willing to troubleshoot any problems or answer any questions that may arise. A great educational opportunity, the Water Lab also offers course credit to students who work in the lab.

As far as Deborah's favorite thing about Panhandle State, she likes the accumulation of knowledge that is represented. "Whether I need my favorite book repaired or need to identify a certain weed that bothers me, I know who to go to that will be able to help me."

Deborah and Michael have two boys and aside from family time, she enjoys reading, going to the movies, building Legos, and backpacking. One of her favorite activities is seeing her husband on stage in a community theater production. **P**



Student

Hannah Hammack

Hannah Hammack, a junior, is pursuing a degree in Animal Science degree with an emphasis in nutrition. A Mead, Colo. native, Hannah enjoys her time at Panhandle especially "how nice and kind the people are. I have grown up in a small agricultural town, so going to school in one makes me feel at home. I like to be involved in organizations on campus as it allows me to interact with students all over campus, not just the Animal Science Department. I also like that it allows me to get to know professors and faculty around campus from different departments. I also want to show prospective students what an amazing University OPSU is and why I love it."

Hannah is a Student Ambassador, an Alpha Zeta officer, and a Collegiate FFA Officer. She additionally is the head RA for Holter Hall, involved with shooting sports, and an active participant in the Panhandle State Equestrian team. This year, the team made it to semi finals, Hannah shared with us that she "had the pleasure of qualifying and attending the IHSA 2018 Semi Finals located in Galva, IL. I have worked so hard to get to where I am today with my riding. We received a new coach, Lisa Drumhiller, at the beginning of the semester in January and she has been nothing but helpful and supportive to all of us on the team. At Semi Finals there were two preliminary rounds and a final round. There were eight riders in each preliminary round and they then took the top eight out of the 16 to the final round. I did not make it past the preliminary round, but I had a wonderful experience and got to ride an awesome horse. I was amongst a group of very talented riders from all over the United States."

Hannah has been riding horses competitively since she was a sophomore in high school. She relayed that she has "competed in Interscholastic Equestrian Association and when I graduated high school I knew I wanted to continue competing at the collegiate level. I look forward to next year's show season and I am so thankful for all of the support I have been given by my coach Lisa Drumhiller, my Advisor Dr. Johnson, my family and friends, along with my awesome teammates."

Hannah continues to keep her sights toward the future as she looks forward to graduation in the coming years. She plans on pursuing a master's degree in Dairy Nutrition and grow her own dairy herd and start a career in her respective field. **P**



Faculty

Tito Aznar

Originally from Argentina, English Instructor Tito Aznar's story at Panhandle State begins for him as a student at the age of 22.

He began taking courses in 2000 as an English Education major. Prior to moving to Oklahoma, Tito taught English as a Foreign Language at a private institute in Argentina. At Panhandle State, in addition to his degree courses, Tito took music lessons which led to his involvement in the theatre program and its musical productions. Initially, he helped with stage management. All of this led to his love for and work in directing the theatre program at Panhandle State now.

Tito graduated *magna cum laude* in 2004 and was named the J.R.P. Sewell award winner.

Following graduation, a position within the English department opened up and Tito began to teach. He has taught numerous courses including Comp I, Comp II, Critical Approaches to Literature, American Drama, Modern Drama, Sentence Diagramming, Analysis of the Short Story, Elementary Spanish I, Elementary Spanish II, Experiences in Humanities: Santa Fe, Musical Theatre, Forensic Activity, and Conversational Spanish. His favorite classes to teach include English Usage and Diagramming.

In addition to the courses he teaches, the students he advises, and his role as the director of the theatrical productions, Tito is always willing to proofread for whoever may need a little extra help. He serves on the Teacher Education Council, Graduation Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and has served on the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends Association Board. He is also going to write and proofread for the University's next report for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

"I love the University. I am comfortable here. I like the peace and quiet. It is a small school, and I like that everyone knows everyone. And nothing beats the sunset here."

Tito is currently pursuing a masters in English with an emphasis in rhetoric and composition. He has a dog named Lancelot Creon and enjoys watching great theatre productions and taking photographs.

Tito's attention to detail and perfection is second to none. It goes without saying that anything Tito is involved with from teaching to the many activities he helps with, the work he produces is outstanding and always done with a smile! **P**



Alumni

Josh Gordon

It all started at a very young age for Oklahoma Panhandle State University graduate Josh Gordon.

"My love for Agricultural started on the farm. My grandfather's wife passed away on my first birthday, so he and I both were looking for some attention. I spent a lot of time with him on the farm. As his health deteriorated, he would tell me what to do. He was the brains and I was the brawn. He spent a lot of time teaching me. His love for farming made me love farming."

Gordon is currently working as a Crop Specialist for Servi-Tech, the nation's largest crop consulting firm and agricultural laboratory. He covers territory along Highway 83 from Garden City, Kan. south to Perryton, Texas and works with farmers and cattle operations evaluating crops and giving agronomic advice.

"It is great. It is something new every week. Hardly ever are you looking for the same thing two weeks in a row. It is amazing to watch the plants grow. Being at the first field around dawn with the brisk morning air is a great way to start your day."

Immediately following graduation in May of 2016, Gordon began the job with Servi-Tech. "It happened to be God's plan for me and where he wanted me."

In January, at a Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Kearney, Neb. for all the field agronomists at Servi-Tech, Gordon was named the "Outstanding New Agronomist." In order to qualify for the award, individuals must have started working at Servi-Tech within the last 18 months and the winner is selected by a vote among all of the crop consultants.

"It was pretty humbling to be voted in by people that you work with every day without thinking about the impact you may be making helping them and the company out."

Panhandle State Agronomy Department Head and Crops Judging Coach Dr. Curtis Bensch is a key part in Gordon getting where he is today.

Gordon is originally from Yuma, Colo. where his family still farms. During his time at Panhandle State, he played on the Baseball team and was very active in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) serving on the leadership team. During this time, he also met his sweetheart Abbie (Ferguson) and the couple will celebrate their first wedding anniversary at the end of this month. Abbie graduated with a Biology degree and is currently furthering her education in the Physical Therapy field. **P**

Meghan Mulcahy Selected as Aggie Athletic Director

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Meghan Mulcahy has been named the Director of Athletics for Oklahoma Panhandle State University. This follows a nationwide search for the position that ended this week with the interview of prospective candidates by a select committee of administration, faculty, staff and community members.

Mulcahy received a unanimous vote from the group among the field of highly qualified individuals considered for the job.

Coach Mulcahy, now in her sixth season as the Aggies' head softball coach, successfully managed to implement several advancements within the athletic department while serving as the Interim Athletic Director since June of 2017.

After assisting with the school's transition from NCAA to the NAIA ranks, she has begun the development of an athletic department strategic plan. Her five-year initiative includes six critical components: student success, governance/structure, facilities, finances, marketing/reputation and successful competition.

"Anytime you go on a campus, there is only one chance to make a first impression," said Mulcahy. "I want our department to come across as growing in a positive direction."

"There are several facility upgrades that have already been put in motion, and we have plans for more in the future including, but not limited to, weight room renovations and a baseball/softball complex," she said, speaking of the strategic vision.

As athletic director, Mulcahy will continue her pursuit of beneficial partnerships like the cooperative agreement she has been building this year with the Goodwell and Texhoma Public School systems for shared facility usage. Such relationships create connectivity between the University and the community it serves. A focused goal in the coming years is to increase the engagement of outside constituents and offer opportunities for businesses, alumni and fans to support the growth and progress of Panhandle State and Aggie Athletics.

"Everything we are trying to accomplish is with the goal of improving the student-athlete experience at OPSU. These goals will be accomplished with hard work and strategic partnerships within Texas County and the Panhandle. We want our athletics program to be a standard of excellence in the region and state."

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Mulcahy came to Goodwell in 2012 from West Virginia University Institute of Technology in Montgomery. A graduate of Nicholls State University, she earned her BA in Psychology in



2007 and went on to obtain a MS in Kinesiology in 2009 from the University of North Texas.

As she enters into the next chapter of her career at Panhandle State, the creativity and commitment to excellence Mulcahy brings will help build on the pride of past, present and future generations of Aggie athletes. "I am very excited for this opportunity," Mulcahy expressed. "My team and I have been able to begin a lot of new initiatives this past year, and I am looking forward to continuing these and other endeavors in the future that our alumni and community will be proud of."

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn focuses on the same goals and feels that Mulcahy is a talented leader and tremendous asset to Panhandle State saying, "Coach Mulcahy is going to be an excellent Athletic Director. Her experience, mind, and passion for helping student athletes will help take our athletic program to an even higher level." **P**



Renovations are underway at several athletic sites on the Panhandle State campus.

Aggies Display Attributes of NAIA Champions of Character Program

By Alyssa Fox

Panhandle State University is proud to be a productive member of the NAIA Champions of Character Program, encouraging all of Aggie Athletics to participate in various community service and outreach opportunities throughout the year.

Each sport has continued to make a difference both on and off campus in the surrounding communities, and following their efforts in hosting a successful ‘Special Game Day,’ Panhandle Baseball has extended their outreach to some of the Guymon elementary schools. Each Friday, several members of the Aggie baseball visit a different elementary school, including Prairie, Salyer and Carrier, to partake in activities with the children such as arts and crafts, reading, playing at recess, joining them for lunch, and tutoring.

Salyer Elementary School Teacher and Panhandle State alum, Cassidy Livengood, has reached out with positive comments on the baseball team’s endeavors in the classrooms in accordance with the Champions of Character program. “I have had the privilege of having



Connor Bachert in my classroom; he is always ready to give 100 percent and gives each and every kid attention. [He is a great example of the type of program being run at OPSU.] Thank you for sending such great [kids] to Salyer!”

Panhandle State President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, emboldens all Aggie athletes to be successful in the game of life as well as in their sports, and commends Head Coach Jason LaRocque for taking the initiative to set this great example and create constructive opportunities for his team off the field. Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahey concurred, “Our baseball team has done a great job buying into the NAIA Champions of Character mindset and becoming servant leaders in the community.” **P**

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AUG 3-4

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Franke Named Head Coach for Aggie Volleyball

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is pleased to introduce Angela Franke as the next head coach of Aggie Volleyball. A search for the previous year's interim position was opened in February, with Franke exemplifying all aspects of the job description.

Franke comes to Panhandle State after serving the 2017 season as the head volleyball coach at the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M. Under Franke's leadership, the Mustangs finished with a winning 16-14 season, and qualified for the RRAC conference tournament as a No. 3 seed with a conference record of 9-5. Prior to taking over at USW, Franke spent three years at Loyola University-New Orleans as the Head Women's Volleyball Coach, where she led the Wolf Pack to a pair of Southern States Athletic Conference tournament appearances.

Her coaching experience spans both the NAIA and NCAA ranks, as she served as the Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Mississippi Valley State University, an NCAA Division I program, prior to taking over at Loyola. MVSU boasted a third-place SWAC Eastern Division finish and a first round SWAC tournament upset of top-seeded Prairie View A&M during her tenure. At the Division II level, Franke spent one season as the head coach at St. Andrew's University in North Carolina; her lasting impact helped restore and revitalize the Knights' previously dormant volleyball program.

McCook Community College in Nebraska, brought Franke her first head coaching opportunity in 2009, after she entered the intercollegiate coaching profession as a graduate assistant at NCAA Division I Alcorn State University in 2007-08. Her playing career began at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, and continued at the NCAA Division I level at Jackson State. Franke earned both her Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Science degree from Alcorn State.

Coach Franke and her two children, daughter Alyx and son Alijah are excited to join the Panhandle State Family. "I am eager to join a Panhandle volleyball program that is up and coming. Coach Matt Heffner left a lot of positive things that will be great foundations to build off, including 15 returners." Franke adds, "I love

the excitement of what's possible and the enthusiasm I've already seen from the players."

Instilling the values of the NAIA Champions of Character program is something that Franke is also excited to bring to her team. Her community service-oriented leadership style will bring the Aggies out in the public eye with fun new initiatives, while maintaining some of the community events that Aggie fans have come to know and love over the years. Franke plans to carry on the traditions of the annual Pink Out game as well as the ever-popular Halloween Spiketacular event. One new outreach effort she plans to implement involves the Panhandle area Girl Scouts groups. "I try to find not-so-typical things to do, so that people are more interested in participating. The Girl Scouts game will bring outside groups on campus and we will host a free one-hour volleyball clinic after our match."

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy stated, "I am excited to have Coach Franke joining our staff. Her experience and knowledge will be a positive addition to our team." Associate Athletic Director Russell Gaskamp offered comments on the new hire stating, "We are very excited to add Coach Franke to the OPSU Athletic Family. We feel like she is going to be a great fit and that the team will respond well to her. We look forward to seeing what she and the team can put together this fall to take the next step in being a competitive force within the Sooner Athletic Conference." **P**

Four Aggies Earn SAC All-Conference Honors

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

On the heels of two successful seasons, the Panhandle State men's and women's basketball teams received recognition with four players named to the Sooner Athletic Conference's 2017-18 All-Conference Teams.

The Aggie women boasted two players on the SAC Women's Basketball All-Conference Team. Senior Madison Dearmin earned a spot on the Second Team and Addison Munsch was named as an Honorable Mention athlete. Dearmin finished her college career as the team's leading rebounder with 223 boards over 26 starts. The Balko, Okla. native averaged 8.6 rebounds per game to land second in the conference ranks; also sits second in defensive rebounds per game, averaging 6.12 for the season. With 363 total points, Dearmin finished tenth in the SAC for scoring per game (13.96). Shooting 83 percent from the line, she earned a fourth-place spot within the conference and ranks seventh in the nation for Free Throw Percentage. Dearmin also totaled nine double-doubles on the year to rank second in the SAC.

Munsch's sophomore season showed she is clearly stepping into a leadership position on the team. As the Aggies' leading scorer, Munsch hauled in 407 points for Panhandle State over 26 starts. She led the team in minutes played, averaging 34.8 minutes per game and was the team leader at the line totaling 119 points in free throws. The Boise City native holds three top-ten (*contd.*)

(contd.) spots within the conference ranks including No. 4 for scoring (407), No. 5 for scoring per game (15.65) and No. 9 for Field Goal Percentage (.422).

For the men's team, junior Jace Kerr was listed as a Third Team member and teammate Jaedon Whitfield, a sophomore, earned Honorable Mention recognition. Both Kerr and Whitfield finished their seasons at the top of the charts, combining for 11 individual rankings within the top-ten of Sooner Athletic Conference standings. Kerr led the Aggies in Field Goal Percentage, shooting over 49 percent for the season, and in Free Throw Percentage, going 136-167 at the line for an 81.5 percent average. He ranked seventh and respectively within the SAC in both categories and sits sixth in Scoring with a total of 441 points. The Forgan, Okla. native was the team leader in Scoring per Game, averaging 22 points per game; this earned him a second-place spot in the conference ranks and a No. 7 national ranking.

Originally from Boise City, Whitfield was a force on both ends of the court this year, claiming four No. 1 positions on the conference charts and three top-three spots nationally. Whitfield boasted 17 double-doubles on the season, emerging as the conference leader in that statistic. His effort at the boards brought in three No. 1 spots within the Sooner Athletic Conference for Total Rebounds per Game (12.88), Total Rebounds (309) and Defensive Rebounds per Game (11.13). Whitfield ended his sophomore season as the nation's leader in both Total Rebounds per Game and Defensive Rebounds per Game; he ranks third in the nation among NAIA Division I athletes for Total Rebounds. On defense, he finished ninth in the conference for Blocks (19) and Block per Game (.79) and offensively finished tenth in the SAC for Field Goal Percentage averaging .473 for the season. **P**



Aggie Basketball celebrated five seniors during their last home games of the season. From left: Tierra Roberson, Teraye Gillum, Tyler Pate, Madison Dearmin and Hannah Southard.



Freshman centerfielder Jewell Lee helped the Aggies earn three conference wins against Central Christian. Her efforts earned her SAC Player of the Week honors for Feb. 19-25.

AGGIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



MADISON DEARMIN
WEEK 19: Basketball



COREY LEY
WEEK 19 & 21: Baseball



JEWELL LEE
WEEK 20: Softball



TYLER PATE
WEEK 20: Basketball



JAYLINN REYES
WEEK 21: Softball



WILL MARTIN
WEEK 22: Rodeo



ERIKA CHARTRAND
WEEK 22: Rodeo



ADRIAN LOPEZ
WEEK 23: Baseball



HALEIGH SCOTT
WEEK 23 & 24: Softball



BRADLEY RUIZ
WEEK 24: Baseball

A complete listing of Athlete of the Week recipients can be found at opsuaggies.com

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COLLEGE NATIONAL RODEO CHAMPIONS

1997, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2013, 2017



2

nd in the Nation
at the 2017 NACTA
Crops Judging Contest



M E A T L A B



One of two undergraduate operated USDA custom processing Meat Labs at college/university campuses in Oklahoma.

We are Panhandle!

