

# Panhandle

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June 2018

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## Panhandle Pride Shines

PLUS an inside LOOK  
at Aggie Athletics!



## Panhandle State Holds 108th Commencement

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

It was standing room only at Anchor D Arena on Thursday, May 10, 2018 as family and friends gathered for the 2018 Oklahoma Panhandle State University Commencement Ceremony at Oscar Williams Field House. Over 155 graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.

Panhandle State faculty and special guests took the stage to the sound of bagpipes played by Lead Marshal Ian Briggs. The Panhandle State Concert Band, directed by Charla Lewis, performed a musical prelude, *All Glory Told* followed by *Fanfare and Processional*. The Guymon Fire Department presented the colors and the Panhandle State Chamber Singers sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and the *Alma Mater-Crimson and Blue* under the direction of Dr. Dee Wilkins. Father Mike Wheelahan, Pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Guymon, Okla., gave the invocation.

Dr. Tim Faltyn, Panhandle State President, welcomed everyone to the ceremony encouraging all to celebrate the special day by saying "This is a time to make joyful memories and reflect on the hard work and dedication of our graduates."

CEO of the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents Jason Ramsey brought greetings from the A&M Board. The Board has provided wise leadership and service to Panhandle State since 1944. Jason Ramsey has served the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents since 2003 and has been the CEO since 2012.

A memorial resolution was presented to Rose Miller in honor of David Miller. Mr. David Miller served at Panhandle State for 28 years. He began his career at Panhandle in 1988 as an adjunct business instructor. In 1993, he became a full-time instructor of Business and was promoted to Assistant Professor of Business in 1998. In 2004, Mr. Miller became the chair of the Business Department and was holding that position at the time of his passing, May 24, 2017.

Recognition was given to two Panhandle State faculty members who are retiring this year, Dee Seaman and Mindy Davis. Seaman, an Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science, has been with Panhandle State since 2002. She single-handedly developed the criminal justice program, is beloved by her students, and enjoys the reputation as one of the most organized people on campus. Mindy Davis, Associate Professor of Accounting began teaching at the University in 1980. She is a legend on campus and in her field but many will miss her infectious laugh the most.

The graduates had the opportunity to hear from one of their very own, Student Government Association President David Peebles. Peebles is majoring in Health



and Physical Education with minors in Social Studies, Education, and Music.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Sara Jane Richter, one of Panhandle State's very own legends. She encouraged the graduates by saying, "If you wake each morning passionate about your career, you will thrive. If you wake each morning eagerly embracing the day, you will be happy. If you wake each morning knowing you must be at your best mentally, physically, morally, and emotionally, you will succeed."

Dr. Richter added, "Whatever you want, do it. Don't settle for second best. Throw yourself into whatever you have chosen to do." She concluded with, "That is your charge when you leave Anchor D Arena and walk right smack dab into the future outside. Rope it, ride it, bulldog it, and make it yours."

Following Dr. Richter's speech, Charly Bloesser was named the mortarboard decorating contest winner by Student Services Director Mike Harris. He also presented Sarah Brady with the J.R.P. Sewell Award.

Alumni President Diane Murphey addressed the graduates on behalf of the Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends. Each graduate received a complimentary one-year membership to the Alumni Association.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger presented the Class of 2018 for graduation and certification.

The graduates recessed to *Fanfare and Recessional* after the benediction by Father Mike Wheelahan.

Based on preliminary numbers, Panhandle State is showing a 25 percent increase in graduate production over 2017. This is an 18 percent increase over the 2018 Complete College America target set by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree boasts the largest number of graduates among bachelor's degrees this year with Health and Physical Education, Biological Science, and Business Administration degrees next in line.

President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "The deans, faculty, and staff deserve all the credit. They have created an environment where students can be successful. Led by Dr. Dinger, we have completely changed our approach to recruitment, retention, and persistence from semester to semester, year-to-year and it's working! The best part is that we are not just changing the lives of our graduates we are changing the economic trajectory of their families for generations to come."

Faltyn pointed out, "More graduates means a more thriving economy for this region." **P**



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Tyler Meyeres (center) was named the Outstanding Agronomy Department student. Also pictured Agronomy Department Head Dr. Curtis Bensch (left) and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger (right).

## Ag Students Recognized at Annual Awards Banquet

Released By Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Annual Agriculture Awards Banquet was held May 9, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Extension Center in honor of the School of Agriculture students.

Interim Dean of Agriculture Davin Winger welcomed everyone to the banquet. A delicious meal catered by Hunny's of Guymon, Okla. was enjoyed by all following remarks from University President Dr. Tim Faltyn and an invocation by Class of 2018 graduate MaKenze Twyman.

Special departmental awards were given to outstanding students in each area of the School of Agriculture: Agronomy- Tyler Meyeres; Ag Education- Josh Frost; Agribusiness- Taten Schlochtermeyer; and Animal Science- Kristin Allen.

Special recognition was given to the students graduating from the School of Agriculture Class of 2018 with honors. Students must have a 3.5 to 3.74 grade-point average (GPA) to graduate *cum laude*, 3.75 to 3.99 GPA to graduate *magna cum laude*, and a 4.0 GPA to graduate *summa cum laude*.

Agribusiness: Sidney Rentz-*magna cum laude*, Makenze Twyman-*cum laude*; Agricultural Education: Sarah Brady-*magna cum laude*, Josh Frost-*magna cum laude*; Agronomy: Mary McCall-*cum laude*, Tyler Meyeres-*magna cum laude*.

Additional special recognition was given to three graduating seniors accepted to the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences: Kyler Jenkins, Janna Ruether, and Bethany Schultz.

Recognition was also given to members of the Panhandle State Agriculture department teams and clubs including: Crops Judging team, Alpha Zeta, Collegiate FFA, Block and Bridle, and Women in Agriculture.

Closing remarks were given by Dr. Curtis Bensch. **P**

## Convocation Ceremony Honors Education Graduates

Released By Panhandle State Campus Communications

A special Convocation Ceremony for graduates of the School of Education was held Wednesday, April 9, 2018 at 3 p.m. in Hughes Strong Auditorium. Twenty graduates received their cords.

Dr. Tim Faltyn, Panhandle State President, welcomed the graduates and congratulated them on a job well done following the processional played by Carol Hill and a prayer by Shelly Worm.

Interim Dean Dr. Jerry Mihelic presented the Class of 2017-2018. Elementary Education graduates include: Rylee Abert, Sarah Brady, Dakota Moon Dodge, Amber Hall Lorenzen, Quinten Mirabal, Brenda Rivera, Taryn Robison, Eryn Edenborough Stokes, Kelli Winters, Sydney Yates, and Kristina Simpson Ybarra.

Agricultural Education graduates were Lonnie Born, Sarah Brady, Josh Frost, Abigail Reinick, and Ashby Williams.

Mathematics Education graduates included Diego Arenas-Purvinis, Haley Bonilla, Kira Oliver, and Andreanna Wray.

"We are very proud of our graduates and the tradition of excellence they exhibit. We are excited our graduates will be teaching and making a difference in the world," said Dr. Mihelic.

Dr. Mihelic gave the closing remarks followed by the postlude by Hill. A reception was held after the ceremony. **P**



A special Convocation Ceremony for graduates of the School of Education was held Wednesday, April 9, 2018 at 3 p.m. in Hughes Strong Auditorium.



## Sarah Brady Named J.R.P. Sewell Award Winner

Released By Panhandle State Campus Communications

**S**arah Brady was named this year's J.R.P. Sewell award recipient at Oklahoma Panhandle State University Commencement Ceremony on May 10th.

A double major from Marcus, Iowa, Brady was selected from a strong field of graduating seniors. Brady has been an outstanding presence on campus serving as an active member and/or officer of Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA), FFA, Alpha Zeta, and Student Senate. Additionally, she has served as a Student Ambassador, campus photographer, and the chair of both the School Improvements Committee and Special Committee. She left a mark on the campus as part of the Dormitory Renovation Committee where she helped design the pergola and fire pit social point in front of Holter Hall. Brady also helped secure the new Disc Golf course at the walking trail on campus. Brady was honored as a SOEA Outstanding Local Leader. She served as a Panhandle State representative traveling to the Higher Education Day at the State Capital.

Brady completed her coursework in the fall of 2017 *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

She said her favorite thing about school is “the sense of family and community. Every teacher is concerned for your well-being and care to know your background. They know your goals and are willing to do anything they can to help you succeed.”

“I have been given endless opportunities during my time at Panhandle. I have been able to take on more responsibility and leadership. Working with a variety of people and skills has done wonders in helping me prepare for the future.”

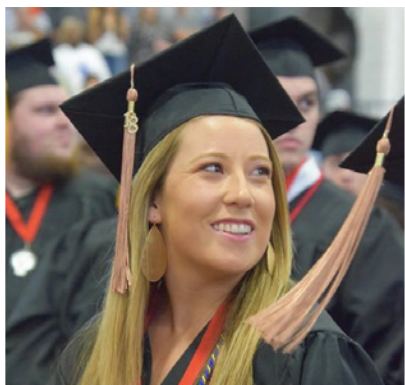
Brady's immediate future plans include working for the Iowa State Extension as a youth educator this summer. She will be teaching several different camps to various ages. As for the fall, Brady plans to teach in Iowa and study for a master's degree in Youth Development through Iowa State within the next few years.

She and her husband and fellow Panhandle State Class of 2018 graduate Ben Brady currently live in Marcus, Iowa.

On behalf of the Sewell family, Brady was presented with a gold watch, symbolic of her recognition as the J.R.P. Sewell Outstanding Graduate.

The J.R.P. Sewell Award was established in 1949 in memory of the late J.R.P. Sewell. A former Texas banker and civic worker, Mr. Sewell was instrumental in establishing and organizing the Panhandle Agricultural Institute, now known as Oklahoma Panhandle State University, in Goodwell.

This award was established to promote and honor scholarship, leadership, and citizenship among students attending Panhandle State. Only those graduating seniors who have completed all of their coursework at Panhandle State and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA are eligible. **P**



*Commencement Mon*



*ments to Remember*

# Aggie Family



## Staff

**Tiffany Murley**

**A** hardworking member of the Aggie family, Tiffany Murley was recently named the Staff Employee of the Semester. She wears a number of hats while serving as the Accounts Payable Clerk as well as the Bursar and Asset Manager.

Each position comes with a number of responsibilities for Tiffany meaning no two days are quite the same and requiring the utmost of organization and efficiency in the work she does. As the Accounts Payable Clerk, she makes sure all bills are paid in addition to calculating and completing various reports. In the Bursar's Office, Tiffany is responsible for billing student accounts. She sends out bills, makes payment plans and refunds any overpayment on a student's bursar account. As an asset manager, she records the cost of newly acquired assets and keeps track of existing assets. Not only does she get the job done, but she is also great to work with completing her tasks with a smile.

A Panhandle State graduate, Tiffany earned a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness with a minor in Agronomy in 2013. Born and raised in Crosby, Texas, Tiffany came to Panhandle State on a Livestock Judging Scholarship. As a student she was not only a member of the Livestock Judging Team, but also involved in the Women in Agriculture organization and she worked as the Assistant Editor of the Plainsman yearbook.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be selected as employee of the semester. I take great pride in working for PSU and there is no other place that I would rather call home."

Comptroller Liz McMurphy commented, "Tiffany is dependable, a problem solver, and does an excellent job accomplishing her various responsibilities. She is well deserving of this honor and I look forward to seeing her continue to grow and experience success at OPSU."

In regards to her favorite thing about the University, she added, "The atmosphere is energetic and the people become your family. PSU is a good place to call home."

Tiffany is joined in Goodwell by her husband Cameron Murley who is the Superintendent at the Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Extension in Goodwell. The couple has an almost two-year-old daughter named Paisley. They enjoy spending free time going to the mountains and the beach. Cameron is also an alumni of Panhandle State and they love raising their family in Goodwell. **P**



## Student

**Jakob Popple**

**O**riginally from Salado, Texas, Jakob Popple came to Panhandle State to play football for the Aggies and he certainly made a mark while he was on campus.

Jakob graduated this spring of 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems.

As a student, Jakob received numerous honors including multiple Dean's and President's Honor Roll recognitions. Most recently, he teamed up with fellow student Sean Skipton and the duo earned a national championship in Application Development at the first annual U.S. Information Technology Collegiate Conference (USITCC). With 31 colleges and universities in attendance and 35 teams in the Application Development event, this was no small feat.

Instructor and Programming Team Advisor Kim Tuttle commented, "It was always a pleasure to have Popple in class and on the Programming Team. He is quick on his feet and always ready to tackle any challenges handed to him. He also continuously pushes his classmates to think outside of the box."

In addition to his classroom achievements, Jakob was a key player on the football field for the Aggies as an Offensive Lineman. In 2016, he was an All-Conference Offensive Lineman in the Lone Star Conference. He was selected First-Team Offense on the 2017 Central States Football League (CSFL) All-League Team. Also, Jakob was named to the 2017 CSFL All-Academic Team and was recognized by the NAIA as a Scholar Athlete.

Russell Gaskamp, Head Football Coach, said, "As a coach you hope all of your recruits use the opportunity to be a student-athlete at OPSU like Jakob did. Not only was he an outstanding football player but he is walking out with a great degree in four years. I know he will be immediately employable and will be a great asset to any company he works for. Jakob exemplifies everything you wish for in a student-athlete. I am very proud of him."

Aside from his time spent in the classroom and on the football field, Jakob was very active on campus as a Resident Assistant (RA) for campus housing and a member of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) as well as Chi Alpha Sigma.

He said, "My favorite thing as OPSU is that the school is small and makes you feel welcome. It feels like a home atmosphere."

Future plans include moving back around home and pursuing a career in computer programming. **P**





**Faculty**  
**Pamela Sandvig**

**P**amela Sandvig is the Director of the RN to BSN program at Panhandle State and her responsibilities include recruitment, advising, teaching, administrative duties and maintaining accreditation status.

One of her favorite things about her job and Panhandle State is being able to have input at all levels within the Panhandle State organization. "Administration regularly seeks input from staff and faculty."

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger commented, "The Nursing Department is a flagship program at Panhandle State, the hard work of the Nursing faculty has led to tremendous growth in the last few years in both majors and graduates. We anticipate seating 105 majors this fall, that's almost double where we were two years ago."

One of the biggest accomplishments in her position has been successfully transitional all nursing classes to an eight-week schedule creating consistency within the program and helping to align with accreditation and industry standards. Another big accomplishment for Pamela while serving as the RN to BSN Program Director has been completing her doctorate.

Pamela earned a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a MSN Education from Southwest Baptist University. Recently, she earned her DNP from Chamberlain University.

Born in Little Rock, Ark., Pamela's father was in the United States Air Force and she moved quite a bit when she was younger. She graduated from high school in Omaha, Neb. and later moved to Springfield, Mo. to begin raising a family. She currently lives in Stratford, Texas.

Pamela and her husband Kyle have been married almost 23 years and have two kids. Kaylee just graduated from Missouri State University with a degree in Elementary Education. Matthew just graduated from Stratford High School and is planning to attend the University of New Mexico (UNM) and pursue a degree in Engineering. He has been offered and accepted a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship and will commission into the Navy following graduation at UNM.

Pamela loves to travel and experience new things and places. She and her family are going on a cruise this summer and have plans to go the beach this fall. They also love going to the mountains. **P**



**Alumni**  
**Caleb Holbrook**

**A**s a future Aggie Hall of Fame inductee (Class of 2019), Caleb Holbrook has made a huge impact in a short amount of time.

The 2015 Panhandle State graduate, came to Goodwell in 2012 as a transfer from Blinn Community College to claim the leading role as the Aggies' starting quarterback. He immediately went to work at the helm of the Aggie offense, amassing over 7,000 total yards, 63 touchdowns and finished off his collegiate career as the 2014-15 Male Aggie Athlete of the Year.

Panhandle's Head Football Coach Russell Gaskamp exults on his former player, "Caleb was an outstanding football player here, one of the best to ever play at Panhandle State. He was one of, if not the, toughest players I have ever coached. When we recruited him we told him he had a chance to be an all-time great here and he proved us right. He really was the catalyst for change for our football program."

Holbrook's efforts caught the attention of scouts as he was invited to play in the 2014 National Bowl following his senior season at Panhandle State. He gained a great deal from that experience stating, "It was really motivating for me to go out and play with some of the nations' best athletes." His team, the Blue Nation, arose victorious in the all-star bout giving him merited exposure in front of professional scouts.

From the National Bowl, Holbrook's post-collegiate career began. He made his professional debut with the Bloomington Edge in 2016. He quickly became one of the NFL's top quarterbacks, finishing his first season with an 8-6 record and racking up over 2,300 yards in passing, 300 rushing yards and combining for 54 touchdowns on the year. He competed two years with the Edge before a new opportunity came knocking.

In 2018, Holbrook signed to play with the Duke City Gladiators. He now calls Albuquerque, N.M. home, and, once again, the Aggie is making headlines. Holbrook has led the Gladiators to a 10-2 regular season record to claim the 2018 CIF Southern Conference Championship. They will advance to playoffs and clinched the home-field advantage to host the championship. "Things have gone really well this year. I've just been taking it one game at a time, and I'm grateful to have made it this far."

On every roster that Caleb Holbrook's name has graced over his illustrious football career, he is proud to have "Panhandle State" listed as his alma mater. "Playing at Oklahoma Panhandle State turned out to be a great experience for me. It made me who I am today and I will always be proud to rep OPSU!" **P**

## Great Weekend with Alumni

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**S**tarting off with the grand opening of the University House and wrapping up with the Annual Alumni Banquet, April 13 and 14 marked a weekend full of activity on the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus.

A beautiful piece of history, the University House saw its first renovation since 1974. The project was completed this fall and the addition brought with it an extra 3,156 square feet to the house. The house now offers a meeting space in the Baggerly Banquet Hall, a storm shelter, a library and display cases that highlight the University's history. President Faltyn and his family welcomed members of the Panhandle family including community members in addition to the Panhandle State Foundation, Aggie Alumni, faculty, staff, and students to the home Friday morning, April 13th for a special grand opening ceremony and tours of the home.

The Alumni Weekend continued with a luncheon for all of the guests in the Student Union Ballroom and the afternoon brought a vocal performance and art exhibit in Centennial Theatre. The vocal performance was led by Panhandle State's Director of Vocal Music Dr. Dee Wilkins. Art students and instructors including Sam Ortiz, Nels Peterson, AJ Ingo, Ezekiel Deherrera, Dustin Martinez, Larry Wiggins, Yvonne Sangster, Bryon Test, and Brent Shoulders teamed up to make a beautiful display of art in the entrance of Hughes Strong Hall for all to view. The day wrapped up with supper at Hunny's, the perfect chance for Alumni to mingle and enjoy some great food.

Saturday, April 14th marked the Annual Panhandle State Association of Alumni & Friends Banquet at the Noble Center on campus. The event started with a networking opportunity at 10:30 a.m. with faculty, campus clubs and organizations on hand to visit and share. Alumni President Diane Murphey called the meeting to order and all enjoyed a delicious lunch served by Great Western Dining before moving to the Association's business meeting. University President Dr. Tim Faltyn gave a State of the University message with highlights including the importance of alumni and the many ways they can help strengthen Panhandle State. Additional positive news included the largest freshman class recorded this past fall and increased retention numbers this spring semester. He also spoke of the shooting sports facility coming this fall, the master's degree in the works, and the Early College degree program. He stressed the need to focus on the University's strengths as the goal continues to be the positive transformation of the region. Dr. Faltyn shared, "One of my greatest honors is being



president of Panhandle State."

Following a report from the Panhandle State Foundation by Dr. Doris Looper, senior Colter Reust was selected from the drawing for the association's life membership. Diane Murphey gave a report on the Association to begin the official business portion of the meeting. Amongst the highlights, Murphey spoke of the increased memberships and gave an update on the implementation of a database software called Razors Edge NXT. Upon completion of the official business, the 2018 Alumni Ambassadors were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Karl Kimsey introduced inductees Jimmy and Sherry Quimby. Sherry Quimby was born in Muskogee, Okla. and lived in southwest Kansas for a number of years before her family moved to Dalhart, Texas where she graduated from high school in 1968. Sherry attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University after her high school graduation. She completed the two-year clerical program and was a member of the Aggie Cheer Team. In addition, Sherry worked for Oscar Williams and Jack Begley at the Field House.

Jim Quimby was born and raised in Hugoton, Kan., on a small farm and ranch. He graduated from Hugoton High School in 1972 as an Outstanding Ag Student. Jim attended Garden City Community College (GCCC) graduating in 1974 with an Associate's Degree. As a student at GCCC, he went to numerous Livestock Judging Contests and had the privilege of being on a very successful team. He began taking classes at Panhandle State in the Fall of 1974 and graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Jim was on the Livestock Judging Team at Panhandle. Personally, his best performance was at the Houston Livestock Show where he was the second-high individual in sheep and tenth high individual overall.

The next inductee, Dr. David Bryant, was introduced by his grandson Ryan Bryant. Dr. Bryant was named the president of Panhandle State in 2003. He immediately confronted several major challenges at Panhandle State, including developing constituent and community support, renovating campus infrastructure, and engaging the Hispanic community. Bryant gave the university a new sense of direction and renewed sense of purpose with his leadership and dedication to the campus. Dr. Bryant said, "Serving the students, faculty, staff and community members of Oklahoma Panhandle State University as the President was the highlight of my working life."

It was a great weekend as members of the Aggie family came together to reminisce and see the new. **P**





It was a weekend full of activity as Alumni gathered for the Annual Banquet on April 14th. The weekend started off with the grand opening of the University House on April 13th.

## Foundation Scholarships Benefit Students

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**E**ach year, Panhandle State Foundation offers over 250 scholarships made available by the continued generosity of donors, alums, local businesses, and civic organizations to students attending Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Foundation scholarships are open to all students ranging from academically outstanding to financially needy. Applications are accepted each year from December 1st through February 15th. All high school seniors interested in attending Panhandle State and returning Panhandle State students are encouraged to apply during this time.

This year, a record number of 2018-2019 scholarship applications were received by the deadline. Students from 22 states and seven foreign countries applied. The majority of applicants were Ag majors followed closely by Business and Education majors. Over 35% of the applications were submitted by incoming Freshman and 57% were female.

During each fall semester, donors receive a thank you letter and personal picture from the student receiving the scholarship they funded. It is a meaningful way for the student to express their appreciation to the donor and for the donor to have verification of distribution. Scholarship funds are applied directly to the student's Panhandle State account each semester. Most scholarship funds are distributed equally between the two semesters of the school year.

Competition for the available scholarships gets tougher each year with more students applying for the same number of scholarships. This continued increase in applicants was expected with the price of higher education on a steady incline causing more students to seek additional financial assistance. Unfortunately, the number of applicants is increasing faster than the number of scholarships.

The scholarships offered through the Panhandle State Foundation Scholarship Program provide supplemental financial assistance that is extremely valuable to Panhandle State students. Without this support, many students would not be able to afford a degree. For some students, a scholarship allows them to work less hours so that they can be more involved on campus or have more time to study. For others, it may halt them having to take out a student loan. Scholarships can also give students encouragement and show them that someone believes in their ability to impact the future in a positive way. Panhandle State Foundation is grateful to everyone who currently participates in our scholarship program.

Philanthropic contributions to benefit Panhandle State and its students are coordinated through Panhandle State Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Scholarship endowments can be set up for specific majors, classifications, GPA or ACT requirements, or based on need or other factors. Endowments generally start with a minimum initial \$10,000 donation which will provide an annual \$500.00 scholarship to perpetuity. Scholarship endowments are a generous and lasting way to honor or memorialize a loved one, support current students interested in your field of study, or give back to your alma mater. Please contact us at 580-349-1392 or [opsufoundation@opsu.edu](mailto:opsufoundation@opsu.edu) if interested in establishing a scholarship for the benefit of a Panhandle State student. **P**

## Animal Science Students Compete at NACTA

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**T**he Oklahoma Panhandle State Dairy Judging team attended the NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Judging Contest in Norfolk, Neb. at the Northeast Community College on April 19. The Dairy Judging Contest consisted of six judging classes, with three sets of oral reasons.

Coaches were Dr. Nels Peterson and Dr. Sandol Johnson. Team members included Wyatt Hammack of Platteville, Colo.; Hannah Hammack of Platteville, Colo.; Reilley Shore of Ulysses, Kan.; and MaKenna Carlock of Fort Morgan, Colo.

Panhandle State students also competed in the Livestock Management Contest. The team was fifth overall in the contest. The contest consisted of a knowledge test, a problem solving test, and an identification of common livestock management tools. Dr. Sandol Johnson coached the team of Wyatt Hammack, Carlock, Shore, and Trenton Sween of Shattuck, Okla.

“The Animal Science Department has not sent a team to the NACTA contest for approximately six years. This year, students were very excited about returning to the NACTA contest. The same team members will be able to compete in the 2019 contest that will be held at Murray State, Kentucky. As a Department, we look forward to next year’s activities.”

The students visited the old Nebraska Livestock Sales of Norfolk, Neb. This stockyard was at one time, the largest livestock sale in the nation with the number of livestock sold. The stockyards closed in 2015. Students were also able to tour the large hydroelectric plant on the Missouri River, Nebraska Public Power District which services 86 of Nebraska’s 93 counties. **P**



Animal Science students recently competed in multiple contests at the NACTA Judging Contests.

## SOEA Members to Serve as State Officers

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**R**ecently elected, three local Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) members will serve starting July 2018 as SOEA State Officers making three of the seven state officer positions Panhandle State students and continuing the tradition of excellence at Panhandle.

Interim Dean of Education Dr. Jerry Mihelic said, “We are proud of our students for running for office and the leadership the Panhandle provides statewide. Thanks also to advisor Dr. Wu who encourages and helps our students obtain leadership roles. In the Panhandle State SOEA, we are growing leaders in order to change the world one student at a time.”

Prior to consideration for a state office, students must demonstrate leadership abilities and skills at the local level. State officers are involved in statewide activities including planning for conventions and service projects. The state officers also serve as advocates for all SOEA members with state lawmakers and educational leaders throughout the state. The officers meet in Oklahoma City six times a year.

Nancy Melendez will serve as the SOEA State President, a position previously filled by Ely Esquivel, a 2018 Panhandle State graduate. Mariah Morigeau is the newly elected SOEA State Secretary and Dominique DeLaRosa is the Cultural Ambassador.

Melendez said, “Through our local SOEA chapter, I’ve had the opportunity to hold a state officer position alongside a few of my classmates and students around the state. This upcoming school year, I will hold the President position. I am excited for the new things I am to learn which will help me later on as an educator and as an individual. Also, I hope this continues on with future students to not only pursue opportunities for themselves, but also to demonstrate the caliber of educators produced by our institution.”

Melendez is a senior majoring in Math Education. She served as the State SOEA Secretary last year. Her future plans include student teaching in the Spring of 2019. Morigeau is an Elementary Education major. She just completed her freshman year and has been very active as a member of SOEA. DeLaRosa is a junior majoring in Math and has been an active member of SOEA in two years.

This marks the second year in a row that Panhandle State will have students in three state officer positions. **P**



The Panhandle State Programming Team traveled to San Antonio in April to compete at the USITCC.

## Programming Team Brings Home Two National Championships

Submitted by Kaley Conner, Panhandle State Collegian

**T**he Oklahoma Panhandle State University Programming Team traveled to San Antonio in April to compete in the U.S. Information Technology Collegiate Conference (USITCC). The conference hosted 31 colleges and universities with 225 students in attendance.

Panhandle State took 20 students to compete in eight different competitions: PC Troubleshooting, Security, Microsoft Office Solutions, Database Design, Network Design, Business Analytics, Application Development and Systems Analysis and Design.

Two students, Sean Skipton and Grant Sparkman advanced to the Top 10 finals in PC Troubleshooting out of 90 competitors; Skipton and Sparkman both received Honorable Mentions.

Three students, Jockson Bilbrey, Sean Skipton and Grant Sparkman advanced to the Top 25 in Security Contest out of 90 competitors; Skipton took Second Place and Sparkman received an Honorable Mention.

Madilyn Rider and Melody Ethley competed as a team in Business Analytics against 20 teams and received an Honorable Mention.

Martin Jurado and Madilyn Rider competed as a team in Microsoft Office Solutions against 50 teams claiming Second Place.

Elias Pitterle and Martin Jurado competed as a team

in Systems Analysis and Design beating out 25 teams for First Place, a National Championship.

Jakob Popple and Sean Skipton competed as a team in Application Development with 35 teams. They were selected as first place, claiming the National Championship.

Advisor Kim Tuttle comments, “The CIS Faculty are very proud of ALL 20 students that attended the conference. Friday was an intense competition day and most students put in 12 hours of brain power towards three competitions back to back with only small breaks. We definitely pushed the students beyond their typical comfort level and the results show the competence and intelligence of our students.”

Rider states, “The hard work paid off. Now my name will forever be on the Carter Hall Wall of Fame! None of it would have been possible without my incredible CIS and Business Professors who’ve all taught me a tremendous amount. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to bring back some bling for Panhandle State!”

The conference also hosts guest speakers and a Career Fair for internship opportunities. Outside of the competition, the team was able to have some fun through a team building exercise at Extreme Escapes, solving several problems inside themed rooms to escape within an hour. Additionally, a tour was set up with several Panhandle State Alumni at USAA to give the students a sneak peek behind the scenes at IT operations at USAA.

Skipton, a first time competitor, reflects on his experience, “Even if you don’t think you know enough about a particular contest, you might end up surprising yourself with how much you actually do know.”

Panhandle State students remain among the most well-educated and well-prepared computer information students in the entire country. **P**

## Crops Judging Team Competes at NACTA

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference was held at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb. April 18–21, 2018 and the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Agronomy Department was well represented competing in three contests.

A group of six agronomy students made the trip including Mary Kate McCall, John Paul Kain, Coleman Sintas, Allison Jones, Kierra Smartt, and Ross Brown. The group was accompanied by advisor and Agronomy Department Chair Dr. Curtis Bensch.

The team of Kain, Brown, Smartt, and McCall took sixth overall in the Crops Judging Contest in which 17 universities competed. Kain was 14th high individual overall. The crops judging competition is an intensive examination of agronomic skills and knowledge designed around the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program. The contest consists of four sections: laboratory practical, agronomic exam, math practical and plant and seed identification. In the laboratory practical, competitors identify insects, diseases, equipment, and crop products, plus determine crop growth stages, interpret pesticide labels or seed tags, name plant structures, identify nutrient deficiencies, and evaluate various crop production problems. The agronomic exam evaluated knowledge of crop production and management, crop physiology and breeding, soil properties, soil fertility, tillage, crop harvesting and storage, weeds, insects and diseases. The math practical included equipment calibration, pesticide application and other mathematical calculations. Plant and seed identification requires contestants to identify over 150 plant and seed specimens in vegetative and reproductive growth stages. In preparation for the national contest, Dr. Bensch and the students also competed at two regional crops contests where they placed 4th each time.

The young Panhandle State agronomists also competed in the Precision Agriculture contest. The team of Kain, McCall, Brown, and Jones finished fourth overall. The Precision Agriculture contest was made up of three sections. In the component ID sections, students identified equipment used for data collection and variable rate application on a combine, planter, and sprayer. In the written exam section, students answered questions relating to precision ag management, hardware requirements, and precision irrigation. A third section involved analysis and interpretation of precision maps and/or data.

The team of Kain, Jones, Sintas, and Brown also participated in the Knowledge Bowl contest. The Knowledge Bowl contest consisted of questions



The Crops Judging Team recently competed in three contests at the NACTA Judging Conference in Norfolk, Neb.

focusing on agribusiness and farm management, ag mechanics, precision agriculture, animal science, crops and soils, horticulture, and current agricultural events. The Knowledge Bowl team had a strong performance winning the first round before falling to the overall champions Iowa State University in the second round. The team went on to win two rounds in the consolation bracket before losing out in a sudden death playoff in the third round.

McCall, a senior, commented on the contest, “It is hard for a little university like OPSU to go up against major universities like Iowa State and K-State, but it only pushes us to work harder to be at the top with them. The competition gets harder and harder each year, but we have proven ourselves time after time that we belong. The major universities now know who Panhandle State is and respect us.”

Dr. Bensch said, “I am very proud of this group. They worked extremely hard in preparing for the contests and performed at a very high level in stiff competition against much larger universities and land grant colleges. They responded with maturity in the face of challenging situations.”

Also during the trip, the group visited Producer’s Hybrids, a seed company in Battle Creek, Nebraska. They were given a tour of the seed preparation, treatment and packaging facility and then had lunch with the manager and staff of the facility. Producers Hybrids is an innovative seed company focused on superior products, elite genetics and cutting edge trait technologies for producers in the Midwest.

Special thanks goes out to the team’s generous supporters including Brandon Tripp with Crop Production Services in Guymon, Okla. **P**

## PBL Represents at State Leadership Conference

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

A total of 16 Oklahoma Panhandle State University students traveled to Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City on Friday, April 20 -Saturday, April 21 for the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) State Leadership Conference. This year's theme was Elevate Your Future and the Panhandle State students' results were definitely elevated. The group finished with 15 State Championships (14 for student events; one for the chapter's Local Chapter Annual Business Report); nine second-place finishes; and six third-place finishes.

State championships went to Aaron Hammett, Cameron Hammett, and Sarah Smith in Accounting Analysis and Decision Making; Sam Lemin in Accounting for Professionals, Jocelynn Avalos in Administrative Technologies, Ely Esquivel in Client Service; Cameron Hammett in Cost Accounting; Madilyn Rider in Desktop Publishing; Shane Truelove in Financial Services; Sam Lemin in Forensic Accounting; Ami Torres Acuna, Jocelynn Avalos, and Selina Gaucin in Management Analysis and Decision Making; Alexandra Garcia and Skylar Behne in Network Design; Alexandra Garcia in Network Concepts; Jorge Rosas in Public Speaking; and Ely Esquivel in Social Media Challenge.

Second-place finishes went to Sam Lemin and Madison Dearmin in Accounting Analysis and Decision Making; Madison Rider in Accounting for Professionals; Aaron Hammett in Cost Accounting; Skylar Behne in Cyber Security; Shane Truelove in Financial Analysis and Decision Making; Sarah Smith in Financial Concepts; Alexandra Garcia in Help Desk; Madilyn Rider in Information Management; and Ami Torres Acuna, Jocelynn Avalos, and Selina Gaucin in Small Business Management Plan.

Third-place finishes went to Alexandra Garcia in Cyber Security; Brian Martinez Impromptu Speaking;

Skylar Behne in Network Concepts; Jorge Rosas in Programming Concepts; and Brian Martinez in Statistical Analysis.

In addition, Brian Martinez, a junior from Guymon, Okla. ran for state office, a process which was revised significantly from previous years. This year's candidates filled out an application and completed an interview with the state staff prior to the conference starting. Additionally, candidates gave a campaign speech and answered a series of on-stage interview questions in front of all conference attendees. Once each chapter's voting delegates had cast their ballots, Panhandle State's Martinez was elected as the 2018-2019 Oklahoma FBLA-PBL Vice President of PBL.

Martinez, who was attending his third SLC had this to say about this year's conference: "State Leadership Conference 2018 has definitely been the most memorable for me out of my three years in PBL. I am so glad I stepped even further out of my comfort zone this year by running for state office; it was not only challenging but also exciting to be elected. I'm also glad I qualified for Nationals in an event. There are no guarantees, as SLC is competitive, and I am glad to represent OPSU at Nationals for the third year in a row."

PBL members now begin preparation for the National Leadership Conference and Competition in Baltimore, Md. June 23-26.

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda serves as an education association for middle school, junior high, high school and college students who are preparing for careers in business. In addition to the contests the students compete in, the aspiring business professionals get to attend workshops and network with peers and business industry leaders.

Dr. Sara Hitch serves as a faculty advisor for PBL and commented, "Panhandle PBL was so well represented at this year's State Leadership Conference by the 16 students who attended. From the significant number of individual recognitions to multiple chapter recognitions, our chapter once again showed how dedicated and competitive they are! A new company has assumed the leadership of Oklahoma FBLA-PBL, and as a result, the contests were more competitive than they have been in years past. Our students rose to the challenge, as evidenced by their final award count. We couldn't be prouder of them!" **P**



PBL members recently traveled to State Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City.


## Art Jubilee Wraps Up 20th Year

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

It was a beautiful day for the 20th Annual Art Jubilee on the campus of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Sponsored by the Galleon Restaurant, the day saw over 330 participants with 16 different high schools represented from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas.

The day was packed full of contests and demonstrations as well scholarships and prize money. Professional artist and tie-down roper Bradley Chance Hays joined Panhandle State's very own Brent Shoulders as guest artists for the event.

Hadley Smith, a senior at Cheyenne High School, has been attended the Art Jubilee since she was a sophomore and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in both Fine Art and Finance before pursuing a master's degree. "The Art Jubilee is an amazing experience and completely unique compared to the majority of art shows which are mostly held in Oklahoma City or Tulsa. It's so personal and the staff really takes an interest in the kids! It's definitely been worth the four-hour drive."

Special thanks goes out to the event sponsor The Galleon Restaurant and additional thanks goes to Anchor D Bank, Prestage Farms, Slats Market, Tri-County Electric, Top Value, Great Western Dining, and Kim's Ribs. 



Sponsored by the Galleon Restaurant, the 20th Annual Art Jubilee saw over 330 participants with 16 different high schools represented.







Head Volleyball Coach Angela Franke (left) is pictured here at the 2018 Chi Alpha Sigma banquet with honorees from the volleyball team.

## Chi Alpha Sigma Celebrates Student Success of 34 Aggie Athletes

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger welcomed guests Wednesday evening as they gathered in the Student Union Ballroom at Panhandle State for the Chi Alpha Sigma Honors Dinner.

Dr. Dinger opened by stating that this is her “favorite time of the year.” She expounded, “I love when we come together to celebrate and cheer on the accomplishments of our students and recognize the people who have helped them achieve their goals.” Dinger then charged the group of students with three principles to carry forward: 1. Be gracious, 2. Give back, and 3. Remember those who helped you along the way. An invocation was offered by Mr. David Coffey, Director of Baptist College Ministries in Goodwell. A plated meal provided by Great Western Dining followed.

Faculty Athletics Representative Patrick Maille got the awards ceremony underway, and extended his pride in recognizing the largest group of inductees in recent history. Maille spoke on the successes shared by student, coach and teacher and noted that “success is rising above adversity and being more, rather than having more.” He conceded that each semester students go through their own trials and suffering, but brought comfort and symmetry with a quote from Helen Keller, “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only

through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

Chi Alpha Sigma celebrates such success as the only national honor society specifically for collegiate student athletes. Its motto Excellence in Athletics and Academics and it promotes among its members the Four A’s: Athletics, Academics, Attitude and Achievement. Panhandle State is a member of the Beta Chapter and proudly inducted 34 members, including 12 graduating seniors, into the fraternity. In order to be eligible for induction, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average above 3.4 and must achieve a junior-level academic status.

2018 Chi Alpha Sigma honorees included athletes from rodeo (8), volleyball (7\*), softball (4\*), equestrian (4), women’s basketball (3), cross country (3), football (3), baseball (2) and men’s basketball (1). The list of new inductees include: Kassandra Benge-VB, Jerrell Doorbal-MBB, D’Lanee Doyle-VB, Melody Ethley-VB, Abby Gregory-SB, Zane Grigsby-Rodeo, Hannah Hammack-EQ, Aaron Hammett-XC, Cameron Hammett-XC, Lukas Holub-BB, Shambri Kelso-WBB, Samuel Lemin-FB, Corey Ley-BB, Madison Linton-VB, Dustin Martinez-Rodeo, Bridget Merrigan-Rodeo, Tierra Roberson-WBB, Kaylee Ann Smith-Rodeo, Sequoia Smith-FB, Hadleigh Summers-SB, Addie Williams-Rodeo and Caitlyn Wiswell-Rodeo. Graduating seniors received red cords in addition to a framed certificate and pin: Kristin Allen-EQ, Brooklynne Bolton-SB, Gabrielle Cruz-VB, Firas Ghazouani-XC, Kayla Hook-EQ, Julia Ibarra\*-VB & SB, Cody Kendall-Rodeo, Sadie Latham-Rodeo, Tyler Meyeres-EQ, Kayln Moore-VB, Jakob Popple-FB and Hannah Southard-WBB.

Congratulations to all of our Aggie athletes on their academic success and thank you to all those who have supported them on their educational journeys. **P**

# It's a **GREAT** t

## Anchor D Receives Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**T**wenty-seven business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized as innovative collaborations that further the education of Oklahoma's workforce.

A historic partner with Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Anchor D Bank, formerly The First National Bank of Texhoma, was established Feb. 22, 1906. Panhandle State's Aggie Athletics will soon see facility upgrades at both the football stadium and the basketball arena thanks to the largest single gift in Aggie Athletic history, courtesy of Anchor D Bank. Anchor D is a closely held, family-owned bank with quality service as the focus of the organization. The name reflects an area ranch founded in 1878 with headquarters in Texhoma, Goodwell, and Guymon matching the modern locations of the bank offices. The partnership will allow Panhandle State to modernize the football stadium, creating a multi-use athletic facility for both football and soccer, which opens the door to add a soccer program at Panhandle State. It also allows for the facility to be shared with Goodwell High School, offering students at all levels the opportunity to play in a modern facility. Both the stadium and the arena are expected to see scoreboard upgrades.

"The Freeman family has been a blessing to this university for many years, and we are honored to put their name on the stadium and arena," said Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants. **P**



# OVER 40 Individual & Team Rankings & 45 Academic All-Conference Awards

# Time to be an **AGGIE!**

## **2017-2018 ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES**

### **ALL-CSFL FIRST TEAM**

Dominick Bell-Football  
Orlando Haymon-Football  
Marcus McCants-Football  
Zachary Perez-Clack-Football

Jakob Popple-Football

### **ALL-CSFL SECOND TEAM**

Nathan Leithead-Football  
Cullen Oliver-Football

### **ALL-CSFL HONORABLE MENTION**

Preston Baker-Football  
David Smith-Football  
Kameron Taylor-Football  
Nick West-Football

### **ALL-SAC FIRST TEAM**

Jewell Lee-Softball

### **ALL-SAC SECOND TEAM**

Brooklyne Bolton-Softball  
McKenna Clement-Volleyball  
Madison Dearmin-Women's Basketball  
Jena Konieczka-Softball

Karah Ortiz-Softball

Jaylinn Reyes-Softball

Haleigh Scott-Softball

### **ALL-SAC THIRD TEAM**

Jace Kerr-Men's Basketball

### **ALL-SAC HONORABLE MENTION**

Kendra Butler-Volleyball  
Addison Munsch-Women's Basketball  
Jaedon Whitfield-Men's Basketball

### **ALL-SAC GOLD GLOVE**

Jewell Lee-Softball  
Bradley Ruiz-Baseball



## **TOP-25 NAIA INDIVIDUAL/TEAM RANKINGS**

### **FOOTBALL**

#1-Opponent Fourth Down Conversions

#5-Pass Defense Efficiency

#6-Total Defense/Game

#6-Opponent First Downs

#7-Sacks By/Game

#8-Opponent Third Down Conversions

#10-Scoring Defense/Game

#11-Rushing Defense/Game

#13-Pass Defense/Game

#16-Sacks By

#19-First Downs/Game

#21-4th Down Conversions

#21-Punting

#25-Rushing Offense/Game

### **VOLLEYBALL**

#10-McKenna Clement (Digs/Set)

### **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

#4-Monti Regier (3-Pt FG Made/Game)

#6-Madison Dearmin (Free Throw Pct)

#13-Monti Regier (3-Pt FG Made)

#19-Madison Dearmin (Double-Doubles)

#20-Madison Dearmin (Def.Rebounds/Game)

#21 Madison Dearmin (Total Rebounds/Game)

### **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

#1-Jaedon Whitfield (Total Rebounds/Game)

#1-Jaedon Whitfield (Def. Rebounds/Game)

#2-Jaedon Whitfield (Double Doubles)

#5-Jace Kerr (Scoring/Game)

#6-Jaedon Whitfield (Total Rebounds)

#22-Tyler Pate (3-Pt FG Made/Game)

### **SOFTBALL**

#7-Batting Average

#9-Hits Per Game

#12-Total Runs Batted In

#13-Total Hits

#14-Total Runs Scored, RBI/Game, Total Triples

#16 Runs Scored Per Game

#17-Total Doubles

#24-Doubles Per Game

#6-Jewell Lee (Total Hits)

#7-Jewell Lee (Hits Per Game)

#16-Jewell Lee (Batting Average)

#20-Jewell Lee (At Bats Per Game)

#21-Jewell Lee (Total At Bats)

#22-Jewell Lee (Total Triples)

#24-Jewell Lee (Total Bases)

#25-Jewell Lee (Total Runs Scored)

### **BASEBALL**

#14-Total Triples

#19-Triples Per Game

#1-Bradley Ruiz (Fielding Percentage)

#8-Nate Kelly (Triples Per Game)

#9-Nate Kelly (Total Triples)

#17-Nate Kelly (Assists Per Game)





# It's a **GREAT** t

*“We have created a **New Brand of Excellence** for Aggie Athletics, and you can feel the effect of their **success** across campus. Improvements to athletic facilities really help us to recruit and retain quality student-athletes and enhance the overall experience for students and fans alike.”*

*-University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn*



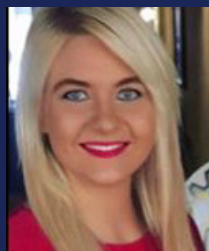
*“The Panhandle State community is **rejuvenated** about our sports teams; you can see the **excitement** at our pre-game tailgates and in the stands.”*

*- Head Football Coach Russell Gaskamp*



*“Our team mindsets are a lot better after a **successful** year, and I see them working harder to take our program to **another level.**”*

*- Head Women's Basketball Coach Victor Esparza*



*“With the new **opportunities** that offering Competitive Cheer has created, we are establishing a new home to the many new **quality** student-athletes.”*

*- Head Competitive Cheer Coach Alyssa Freeman*



# Time to be an **AGGIE!**



“This year our teams were much more **competitive** across the board, while also playing great competition. With our teams being able to reach and continue to **expand** their goals, we will only see the student-athletes’ **confidence** rise.”

- Athletic Director/Head Softball Coach Meghan Mulcahy



“We have seen a **growing crowd** in attendance not only at home, but on the road, and that has been an incredible process to witness and a great source of **empowerment** for our student athletes.”

- Head Baseball Coach Jason LaRocque

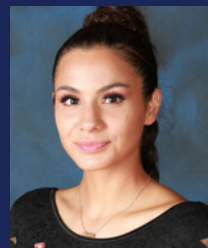


“In our second year at the NAIA level, our **expectations** could not be higher. Panhandle State is heading in the **right direction**.”

- Head Men's Basketball Coach Aaron Coombs

“This is a **unique** and exciting time for the program and heading into this upcoming season the **possibilities are endless**. ”

- Head Volleyball Coach Angela Franke



“Moving to NAIA has changed our programs in a **positive** way. We competed better, which I think brought everyone **together**.”

- Head Cross Country Coach Denise Levine



“Many people have commented on the **change** that is going on at Panhandle State and I can see the **pride** in their eyes when they talk about it!”

- Head Golf Coach Dewayne Mauldin



## Aggie Softball & Baseball Qualify for SAC Tournament

By Alyssa Fox

**T**he 2018 athletic season has yielded new and exciting changes for Aggie athletes and coaches, seeing multiple sports progress and succeed with winning seasons, the welcoming of new coaches to the Aggie family, and now Panhandle State University can add two new milestones to their diverse athletics history.

The Aggie softball team qualified for the Sooner Athletic Conference Tournament for the first time in ten years, since their participation in 2008 as part of the Heartland Conference, and the Aggie baseball team played in the Conference Tournament for the very first time in known school history. This tremendous breakthrough in both sports is the culmination of hard work, dedication and passion invoked by both the student athletes and their coaches. The tournament was hosted by the University of Science and Arts-Oklahoma in Chickasha May 3-7.

The softball team, coached by Head Coach Meghan Mulcahy and Assistant Coach Bill Berry, achieved a 26-32 overall record on the season, going 12-20 in conference. In reflecting on their notable season, Coach Mulcahy expounds, “I am proud of this team for not giving up this season and during games. They have worked hard and have put themselves in a position to compete with every opponent we have faced this year. Their dedication to accomplishing our team goal of reaching post season for the first time in ten years has paid off in a big way.”

Although they did not advance past the preliminary stage of the tournament, going 1-2 in the event, Panhandle State Softball stands proud of reaching their season goal. The Aggies defeated Bacone College in their third and final matchup of the two-day trial.

Aggie softball athletes amassed a hefty amount of Sooner Athletic Conference and national NAIA rankings for individual efforts, including six SAC All-Conference athletes and one All-American performer. Freshman Jewell Lee was named to the NAIA All-America Second Team, NFCA All-Region First Team and SAC All-Conference First Team rosters for her stellar season in the Aggie outfield and at the plate. Senior Brooklyne Bolton, sophomores Karah Ortiz and Jena Konieczka and freshmen Jaylinn Reyes and Haleigh Scott each earned SAC All-Conference Second Team honors.

Panhandle Baseball Head Coach Jason LaRocque completed his first year at Panhandle State, and wasted no time in titivating his team in both culture and performance. LaRocque and his coaching staff of Assistant Coach Keith Schulz, Pitching Coach Brandon Mercer, and student assistants Brendan O’Flynn, Sam Beattie and Haden Adams, with their athletes at the

forefront, have concluded their regular season record at 25-32, going 12-15 in conference play.

Aggie Baseball gained a big win early in the tournament, defeating No. 23 Texas Wesleyan as their first opponent in the double-elimination bracket-style tournament. The Aggies fell in two hard-fought final efforts, leaving Chickasha with their heads held high.

As a unit, the baseball team not only qualified for the tournament, but they placed at the sixth seed out of eight teams. Individually, they have been successful across multiple facets within the Sooner Athletic Conference rankings. Sophomore outfielder Bradley Ruiz caught the attention of coaches throughout the league, being recognized with an SAC Gold Glove Award. The school’s first recipient in documented history.

LaRocque fervidly explicates, “This has been a season of resiliency; we have battled so much adversity throughout this spring and I believe those trials have brought us closer together. We’ve been really close to playing some of our best baseball- against some of the nation’s best talent- and in some facets we have come up short, but we have never failed. I believe it is that makeup that our program has developed this year that has truly set the bar for greatness going forward. We have a young team and our players have felt the grind of the adversity we’ve been through this season and although our leadership is few, it is strong. However, it is seeing that all come full circle with our guys from the fall to their transition through the spring, it is a blessing to see that shift in development and culture first hand, but more importantly seeing our guys now have a desire to win and a pride for the ‘family’ they play for makes this an extraordinary time in Panhandle State Baseball.”

University President Dr. Tim Faltny expounded, “Not only have these teams made history, they have set an excellent example that we can all be proud of. Success builds confidence, and shows that we can continue to do great thing, things that have never been done before.” **P**





## Aggie Basketball Names Two New Head Coaches

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Aggie Athletics are proud to announce the hire of two outstanding head coaches at the helm of Men's and Women's Basketball and is eager to debut one new and one familiar face to the accredited staff of Panhandle coaching. Following a nationwide search, Aaron Coombs was selected as the new head of the men's team, and Victor Esparza was secured as the new head coach of the women's team after he successfully filled the interim role last season.

Coombs most recently served in the NCAA-Division II ranks at Missouri Western State University (April 2013-March 2018) where he gained valuable preparational experience. His other coaching accolades include the chief recruiting coordinator at Missouri Western where he was also the lead Assistant Coach before accepting the Interim Head Coach title with the Griffins. Prior to his time at MWSU, Coombs served as the Lead Assistant Coach at Missouri University of Science and Technology during the 2012-2013 season.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn is excited to have Coach Coombs join the Panhandle State family, stating "We have added a great member to our team, and I look forward to watching the accomplishments of Coach Coombs and our students unfold."

Panhandle State Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy looks ahead with great pride and optimism, "I am very excited to have Coach Coombs join our team. I believe that he will be a great fit within our coaching staff, and his enthusiasm and knowledge of the game will make an immediate impact on the men's basketball program, both on and off the court."

Coombs is eager to get to Goodwell and start working with the team, expressing, "My program will showcase

passion, character, and a level of competitiveness that will be unmatched. My goal will be to push my players to help them achieve their goals on the court and in the classroom, but more importantly become great adults, husbands, and fathers. I could not be more excited to be an Aggie!"

Panhandle State alumni Victor Esparza filled the women's head coach position in an interim role this past season and led the Aggies to their best record (14-14) since 2007-2008.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn is pleased to have retained Coach Esparza, and expressed pride for what Esparza has accomplished thus far, "It means a great deal to the Aggie family for one of our own to grow into the kind of coach that will have a positive impact on so many lives now and in the future."

Esparza served as the assistant coach at Panhandle State under Head Women's Basketball Coach Charles Terry (2016-2017) and held the assistant coach position for the Aggie men's basketball team under Head Coach Jerry Olson from 2007-2013. Prior, Esparza was an assistant women's coach at Missouri Southern State for one season and the head coach at Raton High School in New Mexico.

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy spoke on Esparza's selection, "I am very excited to have Coach Esparza taking over the Women's Basketball team on a permanent basis. His enthusiasm and existing relationship with the team will help build upon the great foundation he was able to implement as the interim head coach. He did an excellent job of changing the culture of the team this past year, and I am looking forward to seeing what he will do in the future."

Coach Esparza is elated with the opportunity and eager to move the program onward and upward, "As the new head coach of women's basketball at Panhandle State University, I look forward to building Panhandle State women's basketball into a consistent championship-caliber program both on and off the court, and I promise to work diligently and with passion to take this program to new heights. We have a tremendous group of student-athletes, and I am eager to help them develop as students, players and stewards in the community." **P**



## Derek Barton Signs on as “Voice of the Aggies”

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

**W**ith the growth and success of the Panhandle State athletic programs, comes an overwhelming eagerness to improve upon all aspects of the Aggie Athletic Department. From facility upgrades and game day activities, to the student-athlete experience as a whole; the coaches, staff and administration are staunchly dedicated to showcasing the athletic accomplishments of past, present and future generations of Aggies.

Creating a consistent and identifiable “voice” to audibly unite game day coverage with community outreach, was deemed imperative in establishing Aggie Athletics as a marketable and dynamic entity. Further providing connectivity among all sports, this “voice” will engage students, fans and guests in an energetic home-stand atmosphere, while broadening the reach regionally with advertising and marketing campaigns that support the goals and purpose of the athletic department and Panhandle State.

The call to fill this new and inspired role was answered almost as quickly as it was proposed, by an individual who possesses a strong background in broadcasting, entertainment and marketing. Mr. Derek Barton has worked closely with Panhandle State’s Communications and Sports Information offices this past year, and has proven himself as a trusted and enthusiastic advocate for both the University and its athletic programs. Barton most recently served as the station manager for Guymon’s KGYN Radio, and has over 30 years of radio broadcasting experience under his belt. As a card-carrying member of the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboy’s Association), he has also become a known fixture in the rodeo arena; announcing and directing event music for close to 50 shows a year on average across the country.

Barton’s vast experience in both the press box and broadcast booth will translate well into Panhandle’s great game day traditions, as he will now proudly serve as the Voice of the Aggies. Fans can look forward hearing his professional commentary over the speakers at Anchor D Stadium for all home football games this fall. He will also cover a vast majority of home volleyball and basketball games inside Anchor D Arena, as well as many home baseball and softball games in the spring. In addition to enriching the atmosphere on game days, you can expect to see Barton out and about at University events and assisting the athletic department outside the campus community with new outreach initiatives.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn conveyed a

warm endorsement of Barton offering, “We are so excited that Derek is going to officially join the Aggie Family. His energy and presence is going to make our already excellent events even better.”

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy echoed Faltyn’s sentiment stating, “It will be great to have a cohesive element shared at all our facilities on game days. Derek has been wonderful to work with and is passionate about what he does. He will definitely elevate our sporting events to a more professional level.”

When asked to comment on his new venture, Barton expounded, “I am very excited to be a part of the amazing OPSU staff. This is an outstanding University and I hope that I will be able to add to the already hard-working athletics program. I am really looking forward to the future of where Panhandle State is heading and am honored to be a part of it.” **P**

## Great Turnout for SAAC Spring Event

By Alyssa Fox

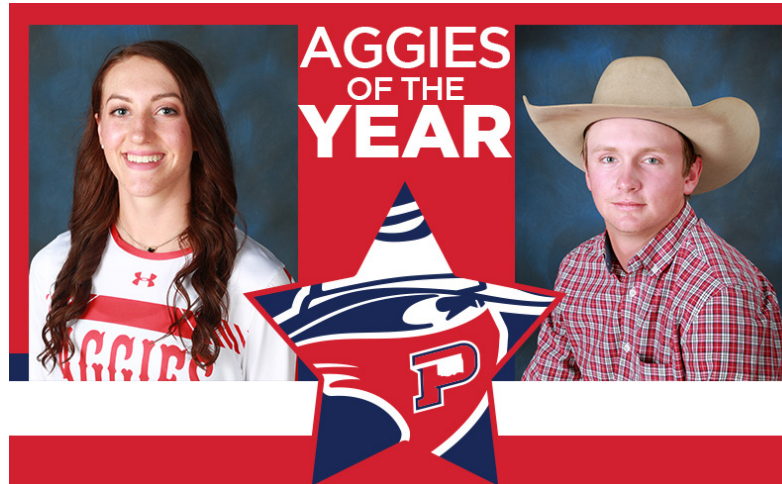
**O**n Sunday, April 15 students and community members gathered on the OPSU practice football field for a day of fun in the sun with a 7 on 7 tournament and barbecue held by the Panhandle State Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

In finding fun and enjoyable activities for all OPSU students, SAAC president Madison Linton encouraged, “SAAC is trying to become more involved with everyone on campus in order to make Panhandle State the best environment for our students.” Involvement for the event was widespread, with seven teams in participation, and team members coming from all around the Panhandle community, including campus groups and two teams from neighboring Texhoma.

After the football festivities, participants were able to wind down the afternoon with a grill-out of delicious burgers and sides, feeding over one hundred participants and observers. “There was a really good turnout. We look forward to planning more events and making them not only campus-wide but also involving the surrounding communities,” said Linton.

SAAC Advisor Russell Gaskamp is equally enthusiastic about the committee’s strides in the campus community, saying, “I am proud of how our SAAC members came together to put on a fun event for the community. They are growing in their leadership here on our campus and I look forward to seeing these type of events in the future only getting better and better. Thank you to everyone who participated and to those you came out to support the tournament.” **P**





## Munsch and Martin: Aggies of the Year

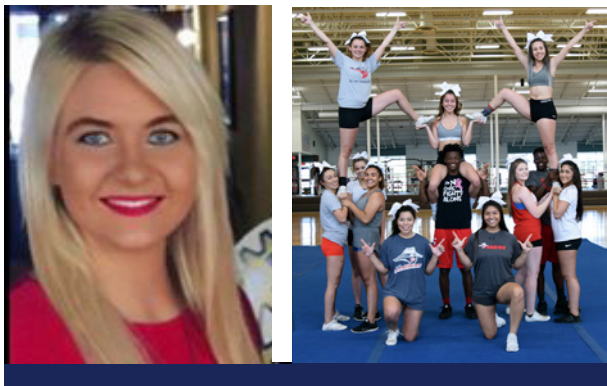
By Alyssa Fox

**T**he 2018 Aggie Athletic Banquet celebrated all around student athlete success, as honors were given to athletes from each sport.

Two special superior awards were given to recognize the Aggie Athletes of the Year, an award reserved for one male and one female student athlete who exemplify not only outstanding performances in their respective sports, but who also embody Panhandle pride and excellence both on and off campus. The female Aggie of the Year Award went to women's basketball player, sophomore Addison Munsch, and the male Aggie of the Year was awarded to rodeo athlete, senior Will Martin.

Rodeos coaches Robert Etbauer and Shelbie Weeder were quick to compliment Will Martin's skills in the arena as well as his personal characteristics, saying, "We nominated Will because he had a phenomenal season by winning 9 out of 10 rodeos in the bareback riding, and he always manages to take care of business and is a great asset to our team." Martin's feats in the OPSU Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo earned him the Panhandle State Bareback Champion as well as the Year-End Bareback Champion titles, and the overall 'All Around Cowboy' title for the Central Plains Region.

Sophomore Addison Munsch, was named to SAC Honorable Mention All-Conference following her successful season. Munsch dominated with a remarkable 145 field goals made on the season and her hard work earned her the No. 5 spot in the Sooner Athletic Conference rankings in scoring. Head Coach Victor Esparza offered high praises of Munsch, advocating both her athleticism and her steadfast dedication, "She not only was nominated by us as coaches but by her teammates as well for her consistency all year both on and off the court. She deserves everything she gets because of her work ethic. She is one of our hardest working girls on the team and she does a great job of leading by example." **P**



## Panhandle State Proud to Add Competitive Cheer as NAIA Sport

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

**A**s the Aggies wrap up a successful first year of competition in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) as members of the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC), Panhandle State is proud to announce the addition of a new program that will compete alongside the established ten-sport family of Aggie Athletics.

Competitive Cheer is now offered at Panhandle State as a supported program which will follow the same recruiting, academic and eligibility standards as the other ten sanctioned Aggie sports. Student athletes recruited for the cheer team will now be afforded the same opportunities as the other competitive sports, including Scholar-Athlete and All-American honors, and the ability to compete on a regional and national level. The NAIA is currently the only collegiate athletics association to offer a national championship in competitive cheer, and recently held the 2nd annual NAIA Competitive Cheer & Dance National Championships at Oklahoma City University in March. OCU is currently one of five SAC member schools to offer competitive cheer, along with Wayland Baptist, Texas Wesleyan, Southwestern Christian and now, Oklahoma Panhandle State.

With the dawn of a new program comes the hire of a new coach, and the athletic administration could not be happier to have added Alyssa Freeman as the Head Cheer Coach for Panhandle State. Freeman brings a rich knowledge and deep passion for cheerleading to the table and instantly impressed those on the hiring committee with her professionalism and enthusiasm.

A native of Midlothian, Texas, she comes to Panhandle from Cumberland University in Tennessee where she served as an intern assistant coach for the past year. Freeman cheered throughout her high school and college careers and believes that her strong college and competitive cheer background can help bring a new level of experience, knowledge, and transformation to the OPSU Cheer Team program.

Freeman states, "I want to create a great game day environment for all of those that attend any and all Aggie sporting events. I want to also create a strong competitive cheerleading program that will provide many male and female student-athletes the experience to compete at the collegiate level." She adds, "I enjoy bringing in community interaction and involvement, starting with mini, junior and high school cheer camps. I am a firm believer that community involvement builds not only character and leadership, but new relationships that can better both the school and its surrounding towns. I have had a great deal of success coaching at all levels of competitive and sideline cheerleading, and think I will be a great asset to OPSU and the future of the Aggie Competitive Cheer Team."

Panhandle State will still provide a great game day atmosphere during the sport seasons with a rejuvenated sideline squad, but will now look to increase their numbers and incorporate the competitive aspect into the existing program. Freeman feels that with the support from the athletic teams, administration, school and community the Aggie Cheer Team will be a growing, successful program that people will want to be a part of. Proud to have trained athletes of all skill sets, including those completely new to cheerleading, stunting and tumbling, Freeman requires two things of her athletes: first, the desire to learn and second, the ability to be coached. She quotes one of her team mottos, "You will never know your limits unless you push yourself to them."

Jumping right into action, Coach Freeman offered two open tryout clinics within her first month on campus. After the first audition period in May Freeman had already formed a team of 18 co-ed members. A second round of tryouts is set for the end of June, with the intention to fill the remaining slots before the team heads off to an intensive stunt and technique camp in July. Those interested in becoming a part of this competitive new squad may contact Coach Freeman by email at [alysa.freeman@opsu.edu](mailto:alysa.freeman@opsu.edu) for information regarding tryouts and walk-on opportunities. **P**



### FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Alternate Shot Skins Game at Sunset Hills Golf Course  
Followed by **Aggie Sunset Social**: Dinner, Drinks, Live Music & Silent Auction  
**at Pickle Creek Event Center in Guymon**  
*(separate tickets available for non-golfers)*

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

4-Man Scramble Tournament at Sunset Hills Golf Course  
CA\$H PRIZES; Side Games; Lunch Provided

**CONTACT RUSSELL GASKAMP FOR INFORMATION AT 580-651-4480**

OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY



**PLEASE NOTE:** At the time of print Panhandle State Men's Rodeo clinched back-to-back National Championships and Jake Finlay was crowned as National Champion Saddle Bronc Rider. Look for the full story in the next addition of *Panhandle Magazine*.

## Rodeo in Pursuit of Another National Title

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**P**anhandle State Rodeo and College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) are two phrases often associated with each other and it is no secret why. The team has certainly earned their reputation as one of the best in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) with six National Champion Men's Teams over the years coupled with individual national championships in every event, with the exception of the goat tying.

The 2018 edition of the CNFR kicked-off on Sunday, June 10 with the Bulls, Broncs, and Breakaway event as the 2018 CNFR qualifiers in the red and blue vests looked to continue the path of success set before them during the 2017-2018 season. Oklahoma Panhandle State University was represented by seven cowboys and two cowgirls.

The men in red and blue aimed to repeat their 2017 national team championship coming off yet another dominating regular season. The men won seven out of the ten regular season rodeos edging out the competition by nearly 1,500 points when the dust settled.

The team was led by senior Will Martin. Martin had a year to remember winning the bareback riding in nine out of the ten rodeos during the regular season. Not only did he claim the Central Plains Region Bareback Riding title, but he also claimed the Men's All-Around region title proving to be a force to be reckoned with at both

ends of the arena. Martin competed in the steer wrestling in addition to the bareback riding.

He was joined in the bareback riding by teammate Dylan Riggins who finished right behind Martin in the year-end standings earning the regional runner-up in the bareback riding.

Goodwell is commonly referred to as the "Saddle Bronc Riding Capital of the World" and Jake Finlay and Dawson Dahm were focused on that legacy as they qualified for the CNFR by winning first and second in the region respectively.

Panhandle State was also represented by a strong force in the bull riding. Callum Miller earned the Regional Runner-Up title in the Central Plains Region year-end standings. Miller was joined at the finals by teammate and local Guyton talent Dustin Martinez.

The men's team was rounded out by Luke Meier. Meier represented Panhandle State in the team roping, heeling for Sloan Smith of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Martin, Riggins, and Finlay are no strangers to the lights of the CNFR, having all been members of the 2017 National Championship team.

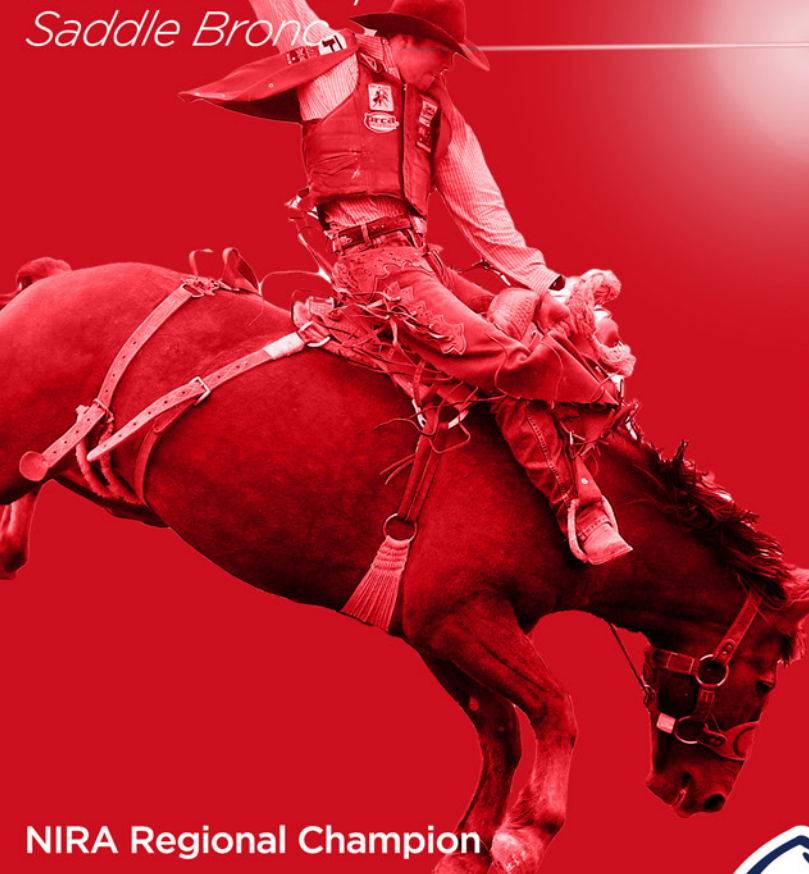
Assistant Coach Shelbie Weeder said, "Last year we had an outstanding CNFR. From the way things look, we have a great shot to have another fantastic year. Everyone that made it this year worked very hard to get here. I'm proud of them all."

On the women's team, breakaway roper Caitlyn Wiswell secured the third spot in the regional standings to punch her qualifying ticket to Casper. Wiswell has worked hard all year in hopes of being a strong contender at the finals. She was joined by teammate Kaylee Smith who qualified in the goat tying looking to turn up the heat in hunt of a strong performance in Casper. **P**

# AGGIE STANDOUTS

**Jake Finlay**  
*National Champion*  
*Saddle Bronc*

**Jewell Lee**  
*Second Team-OF*



**NIRA Regional Champion**

COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**



SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

**NAIA & NFCA ALL-AMERICAN**

**Dawson Dahm**  
*Reserve National Champion*  
*Saddle Bronc*



**First Team All-Region**  
**First Team All-Conference**