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Panhandle

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/CAMPUS UPDATE/

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Dr. Faltyn's multiple rodeo championship buckles were the originators of a room full of belly laughs from staff and faculty at the State of the University address on Wednesday, August 8th. The topics which were covered ranged from highlights to investments to academic plans, but not a word was muttered about budget cuts... except to note the fact that there would be no discussion about budget cuts for Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

The Anchor D Bank sponsored breakfast was well received amongst university members in precedence of Dr. Faltyn's address. After eating, the University President took to highlighting history-making accomplishments of the 2017-2018 academic year. He started with celebrating the facts that Panhandle State welcomed its largest freshman class in the fall of 2017 and closed the school year graduating the most degrees awarded in campus history in the spring of 2018. Panhandle State is also on track to beat that record again this coming fall.

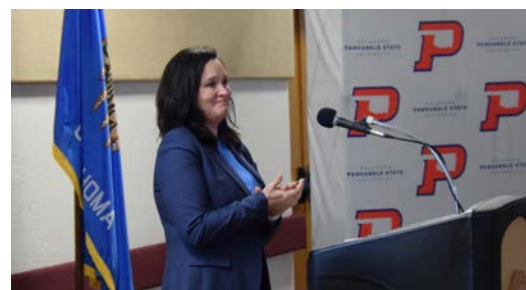
"We can all thank athletics for their impressive roster numbers, as well as the staff and faculty for their close attention to recruiting and retention efforts," Dr. Faltyn said as he stressed the importance of a team win in regards to enrollment numbers.

Robert Etbauer, Shelbie Weeder, and Sue Etbauer were honored for their back-to-back national rodeo championship feat with trophy buckles and applause. After the room was quiet again, Dr. Faltyn decided to lighten the mood even more, displaying not one, but three championship buckles around his waist, in reference to his excitement last year about the buckle he was honored with

for the 2017 National Champion Rodeo team.

Continuing in the "breaking records" category, Dr. Faltyn also emphasized that Oklahoma Panhandle State University is the first college in Oklahoma to become a Hispanic Serving Institution and gave kudos to Teri Mora for all of her hard work in that accomplishment. Looking back on the school year, President Faltyn noted that "there are too many accomplishments to count. If I included all of them, we would be here all day".

Dr. Faltyn emphasized numerous



"There are too many accomplishments to count. If I included all of them, we would be here all day." — Dr. Faltyn

investments including dorm renovations, sports facilities improvements, shooting sports range, expanded programs, and new competitive teams. He also brought hope and assurance about the future of Panhandle State's MBA program, emphasizing that the proposal for the addition of the program is now in the hands of a committee that is wise and supportive of Panhandle State. The speech soon morphed into recognizing the numerous ways Panhandle State has been able to save money this year through energy savings programs, grant development, and creating a printer solution program.

Faltyn highlighted not only the importance of having solid academic, strategic, and master plans, but also the importance of the university as a whole



coming together and being a part of those plans. He stated that every single staff and faculty member is relevant and holds a place in the plans, encouraging university employees to get involved in understanding and implementing the plans. **P**

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On the cover: Many do not know that Nursing is Panhandle State's largest enrolled major. Senior Caitlyn Wiswell, pictured on the front, was a 2018 CNFR qualifier and got to travel home from the finals in her brand new Dodge Ram pickup that she won as an NIRA member.



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/EDUCATION/

WELCOME WEEK

Fall 2018







/ STAFF /

KARINA JAUREGUI

Genuine. Hardworking. Friendly. These are only a fraction of things that coworkers of Karina Jauregui have to say about her character. With her presidential roll in the Staff Association Committee and her leadership within the Early College High School (ECHS) program, she is making waves at Oklahoma Panhandle State University and people are noticing. Jauregui’s love for Panhandle State stems from the sense of community and family atmosphere that she experiences at work. “It creates a type of energy that I have not experienced anywhere else,” Jauregui explains.

Jauregui is an Arizona native, but graduated high school in Dumas, which lead her to look into Panhandle State to further her education. She was already familiar with the area and it was close to home, making her decision easy and sound. Before graduating with a degree in Fine Arts, she was involved in HALO as well as Images Art Club. After graduating, she decided to make Panhandle State her work-home as well. Jauregui was placed in the Admissions Office, receiving early recognition for her efforts and soon after she was moved up to her current position as the Assistant Director of Admissions.

At this time, Jauregui is also the International Admissions Counselor, Concurrent Counselor, and ECHS counselor. She is the first point of contact with international and high school students who are looking to take college courses before they graduate. Jauregui also works with students wishing to qualify for the Early College High School Program. Her work inside the Admissions Department includes processing applications, sending acceptance packets, processing and sorting through documentation, processing transcripts, and helping students with various issues throughout the application and admittance processes.

In addition to her job in the Admissions office, Jauregui is also the Staff Association president. During her time in that roll, she has lead a complete renovation of the conference room in Sewell-Loofbourrow and has begun the annual tradition of the staff and faculty summer BBQ. She has proven to be successful in everything she has put her hands to.

Karina Jauregui embodies what a Panhandle State staff member should strive to be. “I am very thankful and humbled,” she noted about being featured for the Staff Spotlight.

Karina is married to Randy Jauregui and together they enjoy spending time outdoors, camping, and exploring. Jauregui is continuously creating art of all types and loves bringing her creativity into all that she does for Panhandle State. **P**

/ STUDENT /

DAVID PEEBLES

David Peebles is a senior Health and Physical Education major from Hermitage, Ark. set to graduate in May and he currently holds the title of Student Association President.

He has been a member of Student Senate for four years and commented on the news that he had been elected the President, “At first, it was actually really nerve racking because I had never been in a position like this before, but being in it now and having the student government executive council with me is great. They are a huge help and they make me feel like this is something I can do very well.”

Extremely active on campus, David’s involvement in student life is sure to be an asset to his new leadership role. Currently, he is involved in Marching Band, Concert Band, SOEA, History Club, and NAFME as well as serving as the Head RA of Field Hall. He has previously also been a member of the Choir as well as serving as the Parliamentarian of Student Senate and working as a Student Coach for Aggie Football.

In his role as the president, David will serve as a bridge between administration and the student body. He runs the student executive council meetings and oversees the student government meetings both of which meet twice a month. As for future goals, David would like to actually fill each of the actual seats available within the student government association in an effort to make the voice of the students as big as possible. Part of reaching this goal will include starting new clubs and getting non active clubs involved again. Another part of his vision is to have an active executive council. “We want the clubs to know we want to support their events, and we are interested in what they want to do.”

Student Senate Advisor Kim Tuttle commented, “The student body looks up to David as a tenured student on campus and I am excited to see him continue to realize his potential as an effective campus leader.”

As far as his favorite thing about being an Aggie, “It is going to sound very cliché but it really is the people out here. It is amazing that the people around here are so open to the college kids and try to help them out anyway they can. With the university being small it helps me know that I am not a number and the teachers actually get to know who we are.”

The future looks bright for David as he continues to pursue his goals. Future plans include staying in this area to teach history and coach football. **P**



/ FACULTY /

STEVE MARTIN

When Steve Martin speaks about Panhandle State, his face lights up with excitement and genuine adoration. A true Panhandle Native, Martin grew up in Hardesty and has lived in the Oklahoma Panhandle his entire life. Upon graduating high school, he couldn't wait to get out and explore a larger city. In conflict with his plans, he found himself a freshman at Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

"I don't know what happened," Martin remarked about attending Panhandle State for college, "but I realized the things I valued were small-town things."

After graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems, winning the J.R.P. Sewell Award, and having a heavily involved academic career (AITP, choir, show choir, student senate), Steve Martin pursued his Master of Business Administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. With two degrees under his belt, he decided to dive into his career as a consultant. Shortly after, Diane Murphy was contacting him about an adjunct professor position that had opened at Panhandle State. One thing led to another, and Martin became the chair of the CIS department, his current position.

Martin states that his favorite thing about Panhandle State is that he has the freedom to teach students how to think so that they can do anything they want to do. He emphasizes this in every class that he teaches because he was once taught this philosophy when he was a student. "Teaching here is a means of giving back to Panhandle State everything they've given to me," Martin commented.

Currently, Steve Martin wears numerous hats at Panhandle State. He is the administrator for the D2L system, the online classroom network that every professor at Panhandle State utilizes. He has been known to create online classrooms for adjunct professors and help any and every one that might need it with the D2L system. Martin is also in charge of all the infrastructure for Carter Hall; he believes that it's important to actually perform what he is teaching to students. Along with his behind-the-scenes role in AITP, he is the faculty sponsor for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Upon learning that he was going to be featured for a faculty spotlight, Steve Martin remarked, "I feel honored. Sometimes you don't even realize what's happening because you're so into your work. Then you look up and something great like this happens!"

In his free time, Martin enjoys cooking. He provides catering for Panhandle State's Perfect Pairings and also enjoys playing the piano. He represents a fourth generation of farming and ranching in the Panhandle and still takes great delight in that line of work. **P**

/ ALUMNI /

RUSSELL TIDWELL

This fall marks the starts of the 25th year of teaching for Garden City High School Head Debate and Competitive Speech Teacher and Coach Russell Tidwell.

Born and raised in Guymon, Okla., Tidwell began pursuing a degree in Animal Science at Panhandle State immediately following graduation from Guymon High School.

Tidwell's interest gradually shifted as he began to take more and more speech and debate classes, a love that got its start for him as a junior in high school at speech and debate competitions.

He graduated from Panhandle State in 1993 with a double major in Speech and English as well as a minor in Education making him the first in his immediate family to graduate with a college degree.

During his time as a student, Tidwell was involved in some of the school plays both on stage and back stage as well as serving as an active member of the Baptist Student Union (BSU).

He served as a student manager for several BSU student members who traveled together all over the Oklahoma Panhandle performing at church buildings and at 5th quarter events.

One of the highlights of his college career comes from meeting his wife, Debbie. She too is an Alumni of Panhandle State earning a Music Education degree. Debbie is currently teaching in Holcomb, Kan.

As far as the impact Panhandle State had on his future, "In my career, my professors had the biggest impact and the BSU had the biggest impact on how I approached life in general. It was a cool time." He added, "The faculty members were incredibly instrumental and patient with me and helping me figure myself out as a student."

Tidwell is certainly passionate and intentional about the work he does each day as he commented, "I am constantly trying to find ways to be better."

Over the years, Tidwell has been selected for a number of honors. Most recently, he was inducted into the West Kansas National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Hall of Fame. This is the highest recognition a speech and debate advisor can achieve in the West Kansas District Honor Society. In addition, he was selected as the NSDA 2017-2018 Kansas Educator of the Year. He has earned the honor of the Crystal Apple Teacher for the County, a student nominated award that put him in the running for the Kansas Teacher of the Year.

He and his wife have one son, David. The couple is very active in their church and spend much of their summers traveling places to perform music. **P**



/ EDUCATION /

NEW STRUCTURE TO SEE MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Keeping pace with continual changes progressing into the future, Oklahoma Panhandle State University has consolidated its five schools - School of Agriculture; School of Business and Technology; School of Education; School of Liberal Arts; School of Math, Science and Nursing - into three colleges - College of Arts and Education; College of Business and Technology; and College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing. A faculty-led proposal toward higher sustainability and better shared resources was the leading motivator in the school's transition.

The beginning of 2018 left Panhandle State faculty facing multiple personnel changes and an opportunity to proactively create a campus-wide solution. The deans from the schools came together and made a formal recommendation to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger to transition from the five schools to three colleges in order to craft a more sustainable and competitive academic environment. After taking the recommendation to the University President Dr. Faltyn together, they met with Panhandle State's entire faculty to gather opinions, ideas, questions,

and concerns regarding the proposal. The multi-month process included discussing if the plan was feasible and what the college names would be, among other topics.

Dean of the College of Business and Technology Davin Winger commented on the faculty-led decision, "As personnel changes began to happen on campus, the deans thought it was a perfect time to examine how we could make things more efficient. All the deans took a close look at consolidation, and tried to consider all the pros and the cons before making a formal recommendation."

"I am proud of the fact that the faculty came together to shape the future of the university. Our faculty never lost focus for a moment that what matters most are our students in this process. They were very deliberate in making sure the names made sense for our students and their academic experience," Dr. Dinger remarked in regards to the naming process.

Once the colleges were outlined, the search for deans commenced. Dr. Brad Duren was selected by a hiring committee and now heads the College of Arts and Education as a tenured

Panhandle State History Professor. Ms. Shawna Tucker is currently the Interim Dean for the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing, overwhelmingly recommended for the position by fellow faculty. Davin Winger will continue to helm the College of Business and Technology, a position he accepted in July of 2017.

The University now houses three deans compared to five, therefore, the leadership within Oklahoma Panhandle State University can be more evenly distributed, allowing department heads to have greater responsibility and more of a voice in decision making. The consolidation also tightens communication within the faculty and allows them to work more closely with one another.

"This change right-sizes the colleges for our faculty amount and creates a pipeline of new leaders," Dr. Dinger said about the motivation behind making the switch.

The resources that were available to larger schools will now be spread more evenly amongst departments campus-wide. The School of Education was small in faculty and student numbers; combining it with the School of Liberal Arts allows Education majors to benefit from resources available to a larger student/faculty body. Science and Math are significantly benefitted from joining with the powerhouse programs of Agriculture and Nursing. In regards to the student experience, degree plans and advisors are not expected to change, opening the door for even greater opportunities at Panhandle State.

Regarding the benefits, Dr. Duren commented, "The merger of the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Education represents a step forward in providing students with the best educational opportunities possible. The sharing of resources and mind power between the two colleges, comprised of top faculty serving a wide array of degree tracks, places us in a stronger position to respond to the changing needs and demands of our students, our communities, and the world at large." **P**

"This change right-sizes the colleges for our faculty amount and creates a pipeline of new leaders." — Dr. Julie Dinger



/ EDUCATION /

TUCKER NAMED INTERIM DEAN OF COLLEGE OF AG, SCIENCE, AND NURSING

*Released by Panhandle State
Campus Communications*

Shawna Tucker is the Interim Dean of the new College of Ag, Science, and Nursing as of July 1, 2018.

Originally from Texhoma, Okla., Tucker has been teaching Mathematics at Panhandle State for 20 years and has served as the Department Chair of Mathematics and Physics for the last eight years. She earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's of Education degree with a Specialization in Mathematics from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger said, "Ms. Tucker is the right person to helm the consolidation of the School of Agriculture with the School of Science, Math, and Nursing. Her experience and recognition at the state level for her work putting OPSU on Math Pathways is just the start of the good things she will help us do in the coming year."

Initially, Tucker said "serving in this capacity was not on my radar....at all! However, I became somewhat interested after receiving encouragement from a few fellow faculty members. I was attracted to the challenge of leading the consolidation of two awesome Schools (Agriculture and SMN) into one amazing College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing (COASN)! Thankfully, because of OPSU's outstanding leadership and staff, coupled with the absolutely phenomenal faculty in the COASN, the fears have subsided. I'm very excited about this upcoming year and honored to be serving the university as Interim Dean of the COASN."

The students are Tucker's favorite thing about Panhandle State. "They are the heart and soul of the university. They make things interesting around here. They keep us on our toes. They require us to improve. They make us come up with creative solutions. They make us PROUD. And, like in any family, our Panhandle Family



Shawna Tucker will lead the College of Ag, Science, and Nursing after serving as the Department Chair of Mathematics and Physics and teaching math for 20 years.

reciprocates. I believe our faculty and staff strive to make things interesting for the students, keep them on their toes, require their improvement, and make them come up with creative solutions. When a student graduates from OPSU, they can be proud of the quality of their education."

Each May, she gets to experience the highlight of her career of Panhandle State which involves seeing the students walk across the stage, receive their diplomas, and begin their journey to building a better life. "And not only is a better life realized for the graduate, but also their entire family. It's an honor and a privilege to be a part of that process."

Unity will be a focus for Tucker as she gets set to head the consolidation of the Schools.

She and her husband, Jim, live in Elkhart, Kan. where he farms and serves as a County Commissioner in Morton County. They have four kids, Emily, Macy, Evyn, and Max. She enjoys reading and going to the kids' activities. **P**



Having served as the Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences for 19 years, Dr. Duren will take the reins as the newly formed Dean of College of Arts and Education.



/ EDUCATION /

DUREN NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

RELEASED BY PANHANDLE STATE CAMPUS COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Brad Duren is the Dean of the newly formed College of Arts and Education at Oklahoma Panhandle State University as of July 1, 2018.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger commented, "I was looking for a leader to unite the people and programs of two distinct and important academic units and help write the next chapter for these academic areas and the students we serve. This next academic year will have new challenges but also great opportunities, we are achieving great things and I have confidence in Dr. Duren as the leader of this new academic unit."

Previously serving as the Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, he has taught at Panhandle State for 19 years. He has made a tremendous impact on numerous students who have gone on to great careers after college.

Duren said, "I am deeply honored in the confidence shown to me by the administration and faculty in believing I am worthy to take on this important task! I do not take it lightly. I also know I have some big shoes to fill, as history shows it is never easy to follow a legend (Dr. Richter)!"

When asked, he commented, "My biggest accomplishment at OPSU so far is seeing the growth of the History program and the success of our graduates."

"My goals are to help foster the continued growth and development of the College of Arts and Education and its many quality programs."

— Dr. Brad Duren

Duren earned a bachelor's degree in music from Oklahoma City University. He went on to earn a master's degree in History from the University of Central Oklahoma and a doctorate degree in History from Oklahoma State University.

Moving forward, Dr. Duren said, "My goals are to help foster the continued growth and development of the College of Arts and Education and its many quality programs. We already offer top-tier programs across the board in our college, but I see tremendous possibilities thanks to the creativity, innovation, and evolution of the faculty within all of our departments. They are dedicated to the growth and success of our students, and I will stack them up against any faculty anywhere! With their energy, intelligence, and support, the sky is the limit for us, and I look forward to serving as an advocate for our students, departments, faculty, and OPSU as a whole."

Duren was raised in the southern Oklahoma town of Duncan and has many passions with history and horror movies topping the list.

Additionally, he enjoys spending time with his wife Melissa and his two sons. **P**



Dr. Faltyn will serve on a subcommittee designed to develop recommendations and action items related to institution requests for function change and/or mission expansion.

/ EDUCATION /

FALTYN TO SERVE ON FUNCTION CHANGE AND MISSION EXPANSION SUBCOMMITTEE

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Following the approval of a moratorium deferring consideration of potential changes in college and university function and mission through June 30, 2019, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education has announced the formation of a subcommittee to develop recommendations and action items related to institution requests for function change and/or mission expansion for State Regents' consideration.

Four State Regents will serve on this committee and Oklahoma Panhandle State University President Dr. Tim Faltyn has been named as one of nine campus presidents to serve as well.

Faltyn commented, "I'm honored to be a part of this working group. The policy that is produced will have a direct impact on Panhandles, both the university and the region, ability to grow and prosper.

"I have faith in Regent Helm's leadership. He has been an Oklahoma A&M Regent or an Oklahoma State Regent for almost all of my career in higher ed. I consider him a friend and a mentor and look forward to working with him."

Regent Ronald H. White will chair the subcommittee, and Regent Joseph L. Parker, Jr. will serve as vice-chair. Regent Jay Helm will serve on the subcommittee as incoming chair of the State Regents. The fourth member will be the State Regents' incoming Academic Affairs committee chair, whom will be appointed by Regent Helm.

Campus Presidents from Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, Cameron University, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Science and Arts

of Oklahoma, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Rose State College, and Tulsa Community College will serve on the committee as well.

The committee will develop and review criteria, guidelines, and recommendations related to institutional functions and missions that support the continued advancement of higher education in Oklahoma.

Several chief academic officers from state system institutions have been invited to serve as non-voting academic resource members in order to share their knowledge and expertise with the subcommittee.

For more information, visit <http://www.okhighered.org/news-center/function-change-mission-expansion-subcommittee.shtml>. **P**



Campus saw over 60 high school students this summer for Upward Bound Camp.

playground equipment. In addition, they painted the shelter at Prairiedog Park in conjunction with Pete Headrick and Sergio Alvidrez.

An awards banquet was held on June 27 and a trip to Colorado and Utah wrapped up the experience. The students explored Mesa Verde and the Great Sand Dunes in Colorado followed by a stop at Arches National Park in Utah.

Teri Mora, Director of Upward Bound, said, "I always look forward to having our students on campus and working with them during the summer. This year's theme gave us all an opportunity to delve into our family histories and ask questions that we may not have known about. One student was surprised to learn that part of her heritage included ancestors from Spain and not just Mexico. It was also fun that our college and cultural tour was done as a "mystery tour" and students only learned about the destinations at the beginning of each day of the trip."

Special thanks to the college students who served as camp counselors including: Panhandle students Diego Arenas-Purvinis from Dickinson, Texas; Sergio Sosa from Amarillo, Texas; Joel Barbosa from Uvalde, Texas; Ely Esquivel from Guymon, Okla.; Autumn Wigley from Stratford, Okla. and former Upward Bound students Juan Estrada from Optima, Okla.; Viridiana Avalos from Guymon, Okla.; and Brizzette Salazar from Texhoma, Okla.

This was the fourth summer that Arenas-Purvinis worked with the Upward Bound program and says, "Upward Bound has absolutely changed my life! When I first worked in the summer of 2015, I thought it would be like any other summer job. Little did I know it would turn into much, much more! Upward Bound has shown me my true passion for teaching and working with these students. This program changes lives and I'm so thankful that I got to be a part of that!"

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

/ EDUCATION /

GREAT SUMMER FOR UPWARD BOUND

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

It's an inside look at life as a college student at Oklahoma Panhandle State University and for most students in the Upward Bound Program it turns into a summer for the books packed full of great opportunities. Each June, high school students in the Upward Bound Program from Guymon, Okla., Hooker, Okla., and Texhoma, Okla. come to Goodwell for a five-week camp complete with classes, community service, and much more!

This summer, over 50 students and eight counselors gathered for the five-week summer camp that kicked-off with a reception for parents and students alike in honor of all the 2018 high school graduates.

The camp theme was "Rooted in family values and shaped by the branches of our future." The students were encouraged to research the history of one's family and reflect on how your family helps you, but does not define you.

On campus, the students take a variety of classes and live in the dorms while dining in the cafeteria. Classes range from the common core requirements of English, writing, math, science, and foreign language to electives such as dance, crafts, guitar, and physical education. This year featured a couple of new courses and highlights among the courses in Sign Language and Career

Exploration. Other highlights came in the form of a visit from a leading youth engagement organization called CoolSpeak and classes on the History of Mexico and tracing family roots taught by Brad Taylor.

Aside from classroom time, the students spent time working on activities and projects with their "family groups" led by the counselors. Each of the family groups were named after trees in conjunction with the theme.

A new project the Upward Bound students helped with this year was the McKee Library Summer Reading program for youth from grades K-6. The theme of the program was "Stories from Other Lands" and emphasized stories and legends from countries of Hispanic heritage.

The students also were able to assist with community service work at Thompson Park in Guymon painting

"Upward Bound has shown me my true passion for teaching and working with these students. This program changes lives and I'm so thankful that I got to be a part of that!" — Diego Arenas-

Purvinis



PBL members traveled to National Leadership Conference this summer in Baltimore.

/ EDUCATION /

PBL ELEVATES TO TOP FINISHES

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

“Elevate Your Future” was the theme for this year’s Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Baltimore and Oklahoma Panhandle State University students certainly did that very thing securing six top 10 finishes and a National Championship in Accounting Analysis and Decision Making.

The team of twin brothers Aaron and Cameron Hammett and Sarah Smith combined forces to bring home the national title.

The team commented, “We are so grateful for the opportunities that OPSU has given us that made winning possible. We could not have made it this far without our amazing professors and teammates supporting us the whole way.”

Top 10 finishes were as follows:

Cameron Hammett- fourth place in Cost Accounting

Madison Dearmin and Sam Lemin- fifth in Accounting Analysis and Decision Making

Madilyn Rider- sixth place in Information Management, sixth place in Desktop Publishing

Ely Esquivel- seventh in Client Service

Aaron Hammett- ninth place in Cost Accounting

Panhandle State also received sixth place in Local Annual Chapter Business Report, which was submitted by the group’s Executive Council. In addition, Panhandle State’s Dr. Sara Hitch received the Outstanding Local Chapter Advisor award for Oklahoma.

Dr. Hitch and Davin Winger rechartered the chapter in 2009 and went to the first NLC in 2012. Since that time, the group has earned 28 Top 10 National Finishes (including one National Championship in 2014) and two Open Event National Champions. This year’s awards bring the overall total to 35 Top 10 finishes in seven years.

Panhandle State students had the opportunity to attend activities in addition to the conference including a chance to exhibit their escape skills in the Charm City Clue Room and an evening watching the Baltimore Orioles.

Another trip highlight was the opportunity to interact with University President Dr. Tim Faltyn as he made the trip to Baltimore to support the students.

Faltyn commented, “Our PBL is amazing. With these students the future of the Panhandle is as bright as it can be.”

He continued, “I’m just as proud of our faculty who take the raw talent of our students and shape them into some of the best in the nation at what they do. Dean Winger, Dr. Hitch, and Mrs. Harris do a great job of getting them prepared for this experience. So much goes into this and they make it look easy.”

Over 2000 students were in attendance at the conference, which is a highlight of the PBL experience. PBL groups from across the country gathered to compete in various business events, share their successes, and learn new ideas about shaping their career futures through workshops and exhibits.

Panhandle State students attending the conference included: Jocelynn Avalos of Guymon, Okla.; Skylar Behne of Guymon, Okla.; Madison Dearmin of Balko, Okla.; Ely Esquivel of Guymon, Okla.; Alexandra Garcia of Plainview, Texas; Selina Gaucin of Guymon, Okla.; Aaron Hammett of Boyd, Texas; Cameron Hammett of Boyd, Texas; Sam Lemin of Canberra, ACT, Australia; Madilyn Rider of Guymon, Okla.; Jorge Rosas of Felt, Okla.; Ami Torres of Guymon, Okla.; and Sarah Smith of Ulysses, Kan.

Advisers attending included Robyn Harris, Sara Hitch, and Davin Winger. **P**



Panhandle State has once again recorded the largest freshman class and enrollment is up across the board.

/ EDUCATION /

ENROLLMENT

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The buzz around the five-state area has been about how busy Oklahoma Panhandle State University's campus was the first weeks of classes. With significant enrollment increases, it was obvious on move-in day that Panhandle State has grown! The fall 2018 semester has already seen a 9 percent increase in total enrollment compared to the fall of 2017.

"This year's enrollment success is attributed to a total university effort," Martin Nevarez, Director of High School and Community Relations stated in regards to the teamwork utilized this year.

Students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni can all be thanked for their dedication to providing a welcoming environment for future students. Panhandle State prides itself on the family-like community that defines it, a community that truly cares about each individual student and their future. By emphasizing recruiting efforts across campus, prospective students got a taste of what being an Aggie is actually like and how it feels to say "We are Panhandle!"

Dr. Julie Dinger, the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs said, "our team buckled down this year and took advantage of the growth and excitement on campus. This growth was truly a true team effort, from the grounds and facilities in the best shape to the faculty making high school visits, and the staff who met each prospective student with a smile, I couldn't be more proud of everyone at PSU for pulling together to make this happen."

Nels Peterson, the professor for Agricultural Education, coined that, "the success in recruiting is the result of campus-wide culture that has been created and nurtured...we are encouraged to build relationships with not only the students we are recruiting, but with parents and the faculty and staff at high schools and junior colleges. I truly believe that the change in the way we offer scholarships has been a major factor in our ability to recruit students."

Panhandle State's largest enrolled major, nursing, has seen a summit in numbers as well. The nursing program offers a unique, completely online curriculum and has drawn attention from all over America. Between one on one academic counseling, special scholarships for Oklahomans, and a welcoming online learning environment, nursing students are very excited about attending Panhandle State.

"This excitement is felt by potential students when we visit, talk on the phone, or simply email them about the program and university. One more thing that makes the RN to BSN program at Panhandle State special is the amount of student referrals we

receive. This indicates that students are pleased with the advising and enrollment procedures, overall courses, and learning opportunities, and support from staff and faculty," said Dr. Pamela Sandvig, Panhandle State's Director for the RN to BSN program.

Concurrent enrollment is up 39 percent compared to last year, and credit hours are up 8 percent. Panhandle State followed up last year's history-making largest freshman class with a 4 percent increase in freshman headcount. It is clear that in the midst of Oklahoma's education budget crisis, Panhandle State is flourishing. With these preliminary numbers, the promise of another record-breaking year is encouragement across the Panhandle.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn, said, "I am so proud of the collective energy put into this year's enrollment figures. Those numbers represent hours of labor and love of almost everyone on campus dedicated to improving lives of our students."

Throughout the summer, the numbers were alluring, but the real joy came from witnessing Move-In Day, where staff and faculty got together and were able to look on the harvest of their hard work.

The recent tradition of staff, faculty, and the executive team helping students move in continued on Panhandle State's Move-In Day on the Saturday before the first day of classes. Pickups and hatchbacks lined the curbs of our various campus housing as smiling faces of university employees met Aggies and their families. One by one, the boxes were unloaded and the rooms were filled. While those already moved in took advantage of free food provided by the Goodwell Baptist Church or climbed the National Guard's mobile rock wall.

Linzie Van Horn, a transfer student from Nebraska stated, "on Move-In Day, I was running late for check-in. To my surprise, [faculty, staff, and administration] had stayed past the check-in time to help me transition to my new home. I am extremely thankful for the kindness everyone in the community has shown!"

Over the past three years, Panhandle State has seen significant changes. Sequoia Smith, a Senior at Panhandle State, remarks, "I have seen the Panhandle branding nationally. The environment around campus feels like a real college atmosphere compared to when I first arrived at Panhandle State four years ago. Between dorm renovations, a new field, and overall campus appearance, it's easy to tell that we're always striving to better this university." **P**



Panhandle State had 98 student athletes qualify for the SAC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

/ATHLETICS/

SAC SCHOLAR TEAM AND COMMISSIONER'S HONOR ROLL AWARDS RELEASED

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The Sooner Athletic Conference granted its highest number of Scholar Team awards ever with 67 teams across the league collecting the accolade in the 2017-18 seasons.

This academic honor is presented to teams that have accrued a 3.0 combined grade-point average in conference-sponsored sports. Of the total teams across the league, Oklahoma Panhandle State has six honored teams gracing the list. Of the six qualifying women's basketball teams, OPSU ranked fifth, of the six each of men's cross country and women's cross country teams OPSU came in second and third respectively, the Aggies held the last spot of the four women's golf teams, softball ranked fourth of seven teams, and volleyball secured the seventh spot of nine teams.

The SAC Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll was also released at the end of June which honors student-athletes who have been a member of a SAC-sponsored sport team and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher throughout the academic year.

The Commissioner's Honor Roll is compiled by Cypress Risk Management, an insurance agency based in Omaha, Neb. that specializes in providing customized solutions for collegiate student health and athletic accident insurance. The organization currently insures over 500,000 students nationwide and is already engaged with several other NAIA conferences in similar type of partnerships.

Of the twelve schools with representing athletes, Panhandle State has the third-most qualifying student athletes with a total of 98 across nine sports. Aggie Baseball and Lady Aggies Softball boasts 23 and 20 student athletes respectively, men's and women's cross country exhibited a combined 11,

men's basketball placed 8 and the Lady Aggies Basketball team showed 13. Men's and women's golf featured a combined 7 student athletes, and Lady Aggies Volleyball rounded out the list with 14.

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy expresses great pride in all facets of Aggie Athletics, saying, "I am proud of our student athletes for achieving outstanding goals not only in their sports but more importantly in the classroom. All of our coaches instill in their athletes the prominence of succeeding as students first, and encourage them to perform to their fullest capacity every day on the field and off. These accomplishments are reflections of their eagerness to thrive and of the passion of Panhandle State to help them to do so."

A full list of all SAC Commissioner's Honor Roll and SAC Scholar Team awardees may be found at sac.org. **P**



/ATHLETICS/

AGGIES POST NO. 4 PRESEASON RANKING AT SAC FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

RELEASED BY PANHANDLE STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

The Sooner Athletic Conference hosted the inaugural SAC Football Media Day at the historic Davey O'Brien Sports Lounge at the Fort Worth Club on Thursday, July 19. The event included Commissioner Stan Wagnon's announcement of the 2018 SAC Preseason Coaches' Poll that predicted the Aggies to finish fourth among the nine football playing schools in the SAC.

Panhandle State Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy was present at the event and commented, "This is a great experience for the players and coaches. It is an excellent way to showcase our football teams and the growth of the Sooner Athletic Conference."

The Media Day event kicked off Wednesday evening with a rooftop dinner at the Reata in downtown Fort Worth for the entire group of coaches, players and administration. Representatives were present from each of the nine SAC programs including: Arizona Christian, Langston, Lyon College, Ottawa-Arizona, Panhandle State, Southwestern Assemblies of God, Texas College, Texas Wesleyan and Wayland Baptist, as well as conference administration. TWU served as the host institution and had many athletic boosters and supporters in attendance to greet guests and assist with the two-day affair. Former NFL offensive lineman

Cory Proctor offered a motivational presentation which captivated the crowd. Proctor's message of "Get rid of the noise; be a leader; and keep moving forward," resonated with the young athletes.

On Saturday, local press and media from throughout the conference area gathered to witness history in the making. Commissioner Wagnon opened with a statement about the long-standing championship traditions of the Sooner Athletic Conference and how adding football would strengthen the league and increase visibility nationwide. After announcing the results of the coaches' poll, Wagnon announced the preseason offensive, defensive and special teams players of the year before bringing each team up for a brief question and answer segment.

Head Coach Russell Gaskamp offered comments on his team's position stating, "I am not surprised that we were ranked fourth in the league. We lost a lot of really good players last year, especially on the offensive line, and we are going to be a significantly different team than last year." He added, "The question we will find out the answer to is, "Will we be better or worse?" We have some depth chart questions to work out during camp, starting with who is going



to lead our team at quarterback; so, early in the season we are going to have to rely heavily on the defensive side of the ball."

Defensively, the Aggies bring back several key playmakers including linebacker Nathan Leithead who was named the SAC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year. Gaskamp feels the defense, under the direction of Defensive Coordinator LeMarcus Gibson, has a chance to be "very good" this year. "That all starts with Nate and our linebacker crew," Gaskamp added. "Between him, Jawan Purifoy and D'Darrin Primes, we have three very productive and proven players."

Leithead, a junior from Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, led the team in tackles last year amassing 69 total tackles with 32 solos. He added 2.5 sacks and one interception to help the Aggies turn in the No. 7 ranked Total Defense in the nation.

Panhandle State football finished 2017 with a No. 24 final team ranking among all NAIA programs, which leads Gaskamp and his coaching staff to focus on achieving new heights for 2018. A complete listing of the coaches' poll and preseason awards is available on the Sooner Athletic Conference website (SAC.org) along with the full release. **P**

"This is a great experience for the players and coaches. It is an excellent way to showcase our football teams and the growth of the SAC." –

Meghan Mulcahy



Signe Coombs
Women's Volleyball

/ ATHLETICS /

AGGIE VOLLEYBALL SET FOR SUCCESS WITH THE HIRE OF HEAD COACH SIGNE COOMBS

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy was pleased to acquire a top-quality replacement in an expeditious manner upon the unexpected departure of the Aggie volleyball's previous head coach. Iowa City native Signe Coombs was eager to take over the program and seeks to supply nothing but positivity, passion and pride within her organization.

The Aggies' newly appointed head coach expressed intent and appreciation, "First, I would like to thank Dr. Faltyn, Meghan Mulcahy and their staff for the opportunity to join OPSU Athletics. I look forward to bringing a high level of passion, competitiveness and accountability to the OPSU volleyball program. My coaching staff and I will ensure our student-athletes carry themselves with pride, confidence and integrity and build a program that the community can be proud of for years to come."

A graduate of the University of Iowa, Coombs competed for the Hawkeyes as a member of the NCAA Division I Volleyball program and earned recognition as a scholar athlete. Her collegiate coaching career began at Missouri University of Science and Technology, where her team achieved the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship in 2012 and maintained a cumulative team grade point average of 3.5. From there, she served as an assistant coach at the NCAA Division II level Missouri Western State for three years while earning her Master's Degree. Within her first two years at MWSU, the team celebrated back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time in roughly two decades, and posted their first winning season within the MIAA conference since 2000.

In addition to her coaching background, Coombs has proudly served as an Admissions Counselor, Director of Academic Services for Athletics, Senior Women's Administrator and Associate Athletic Director of Academics, giving her the tools to empower her athletes to be champions on the court, in the classroom and within the community.

Coombs' focus going into the 2018 season is to maintain a quality program built upon excellence, integrity and service. She states, "I believe that Panhandle State encompasses all of those characteristics, and I am very excited to be able to continue my coaching career at this university."

As the newest member of the Aggie family, Coombs has already taken a servant leadership approach with her team, lending helping hands to the local YMCA and churches during a pre-season team service project. "I enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with others to ensure success within our organization and provide service to others. I look forward to serving those at OPSU and our partners within our community."

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn boasts on the entire athletics coaching staff, "Our student athletes are blessed to have such a fine group of individuals at the helm of all of our programs. I truly feel that this group, now more than ever, has the opportunity to really start making major changes that will impact this university for decades to come. With their leadership not only as coaches, but as mentors and pillars in the community, everyone will know about Panhandle State and will want to be a part of the great things going on at this university."

Coach Coombs' staff will consist of Assistant Coach Shelby Bartley who is a Panhandle area native from Canyon, Texas. Bartley brings a fresh perspective, having recently graduated from the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M. There she was a member of both the Mustangs' volleyball and track and field teams, earning scholar athlete honors as well as All-Conference awards in both sports.

Mulcahy commented on the hire stating, "Signe [Coombs] was without a doubt our first choice for the job. She made great strides for the student success program as our Academic Resource Center Coordinator, and we knew her personality, experience and work ethic would be a perfect fit for this program. I am extremely proud of the coaching staff we have created at Panhandle State, and see nothing but great things in store for Aggie Athletics."

Coombs is the wife of Aggie Men's Basketball Head Coach Aaron Coombs. The coaching power couple live in Goodwell and are the proud parents of daughter Adley Marie. **P**



/ATHLETICS/

MEN'S RODEO WINS CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUBMITTED BY KASHLY SCHWEER

When a team rises above expectations and seizes an opportunity, grand achievements follow. The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team swept the men's team standings in the Central Plains Region throughout the regular season and was expected to perform highly at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo.; an expectation that they not only met, but exceeded by claiming the 2018 National Men's Team Championship.

The team had a good-sized advantage heading into the championship round ahead of Tarleton State University and Northwest Oklahoma State University, but still had their work cut out for them Saturday night.

Focused on the championship round, Etbauer commented, "We just try to win first in everything that we have a chance to."

Winning first is just what they did. With 750 points accumulated throughout the six days of rodeo action, Panhandle State was 100 points over second place TSU to bring the title back to Goodwell for the second set of consecutive championships, 1997 and 1998 as well as 2017 and 2018.

"I think, first and foremost, what

winning does for our University is back up and exemplify the commitment to excellence we find in every corner of this campus," Dr. Tim Faltyn, Panhandle State President, said.

Commonly dubbed as "Saddle Bronc U", Jake Finlay and Dawson Dahm proved that the little Oklahoma town comes by its nickname rightfully. Finlay has found success inside the Casper Events Center by placing the past two years, but had his sights aimed higher for his final trip to the CNFR. The Queensland, Australia native made a big move in the third round when he scored 81 points to win the round and jump into first place in the aggregate heading into Saturday night's championship go. He continued to have the throttle open during the short go where he marked his highest point ride of the week of 82 points to place second behind Brody Cress of TSU. With consistent high-marked rides, Finlay tallied 311.5 points on four head, 16.5 points ahead of his nearest competitor, and was named the 2018 National Champion Saddle Bronc Rider.

"I'm overwhelmed and so stoked," Finlay said following his win. "I'm so happy for the team. It's almost better than the (individual) national title in

some ways."

The Aussie wasn't alone behind the Powder River bucking chutes. Teammate Dahm started the week strong by splitting the opening round win with a score of 78 points. He continued to make strong rides throughout the week to come back to the final round in third place. After spurring a dirty buckler that never gave him two jumps alike on Saturday night, the Canadian cowboy landed in third place in the round behind his senior teammate and was named the Reserve Champion Saddle Bronc Rider.

Panhandle State may be famous for the success in the saddle bronc riding, but the team excelled in multiple events to claim the team title. Will Martin showcased his all-around talents by competing in the bareback riding and the steer wrestling. Martin slipped into the championship round in the last hole of the bareback riding with his total of 218.5 on three head.

"The week started pretty slow," Martin said of his bareback riding performance. "I had a weaker horse in the first round, but it gradually got better."

Better is an understatement. Martin marked higher point rides with each horse he put his riggin on throughout the week and finished with a 79-point ride on Saturday night to split third and fourth in the short go and move up to eighth place in the national standings.

"Will started us out with an awesome bareback ride," Etbauer said with Assistant Coach, Shelbie Weeder, adding, "After Will



The Panhandle State Men's Rodeo team secured the University's second consecutive set of National Titles on Saturday night, June 16th at the CNFR in Casper, Wyo. This championship took the University's tally to seven with previous titles in 1997, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2013, 2017, and now 2018.

was 79 points in the bareback riding to start the night, I knew the boys were going to handle it."

The final member of the PSU team in the championship round was Dustin Martinez in the bull riding. Martinez's highlight came in the second round when he went 79.5 points to place second. That was enough to punch his ticket for Saturday night. Although Martinez failed to make the 8-second whistle, his performance earlier in the week gave the team the boost they needed to help secure the title.

"I'm just lucky to get to come up here to Casper and watch these kids," Etbauer said. "They work hard at it in the practice pen all year and it is pretty special when it all comes together. I'm lucky to be along for the ride."

In addition to the four individuals in the short round, Panhandle State had several other accomplishments during the week. Callum Miller broke the ice for the team by scoring 70 points in the opening round in the bull riding. He barely missed the short go by placing 13th. After separating his ribs on a big, stout horse in the first round of the bareback riding, Dylan Riggins had trouble in the following rounds but stayed in Casper to support his team on their quest for the national title.

Representing Panhandle State at the timed event end of the arena, Luke Meier competed in the team roping where he partnered with Sloan Smith from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. The duo had never roped together before nodding their head in Casper on Monday morning, and although they suffered penalties during the week, landed in 16th overall.

On the women's team, Caitlyn Wiswell competed in the breakaway roping. After enduring a no time in the first round, she was gunning for first during the slack Tuesday morning. She stopped the clock in a rapid 2.1 seconds, but got a speeding ticket added on. She finished the week with a solid run of 3.0 seconds and hopes to return to Casper next year, and will do so in her new Dodge Ram that she was awarded during the performance on Saturday.

"Everyone who buys their NIRA card is eligible and they draw names out and give the truck away during the short go of the CNFR," Wiswell said. She was notified of her good fortune in May when she received a phone call from the NIRA office. After tears of gratitude and excitement, Wiswell recorded miles on her new ride by following Coach Weeder back to Goodwell where she will return for her final year of studies.

Kaylee Smith also qualified for the big dance in the goat tying. She finished her first trip to the CNFR with a 7.0-second run in the third round. Although too long on three head to make the cut for the short go, Smith was recognized for her outstanding academic and civic performance by receiving two scholarships

including the prestigious "Duke of the Chutes" scholarship in honor of the great Harry Vold.

"They didn't have the week they thought they would in the arena, but Kaylee walked away with two scholarships and Caitlyn is driving off in a brand new pickup," Weeder said. "We will get home on Monday and start all over again. We have had the best recruiting year since I have been around, so we will be a little young, but still have a chance next year to have two teams in Casper."

Giving young athletes opportunities to grow, develop and prosper is something Etbauer and Weeder have a knack for with Etbauer now having three team titles under his belt and Weeder being onboard for the recent back-to-back championships.

"As President, it is an honor to work with everyone at the University, but Robert, Sue and Shelbie inspire me to be better," Faltyn said. "The team's academic advisor, Dr. Nels Peterson, had majority of the team on the President and Dean's honor roll which means they're not just getting it done in the arena, but in the classroom as well."

As the tally moves to seven, the tradition of winning continues to hold strong in the Panhandle. **P**

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