

Panhandle

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/CAMPUS UPDATE/

GROUNDBREAKING AND BANQUET PROMISE BIG FUTURE

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

November 29, 2018 held a special milestone for Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Oklahoma A&M State Regents, Department of Wildlife Officials, staff, faculty, and students gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the Panhandle State Shooting Sports Facility and Range.

The Shooting Sports Facility will be utilized by Panhandle State and the community as well. Local FFA and 4H clubs will have access to the property in order to practice for competitions, and also host some of their own events. The Department of Wildlife will be able to take advantage of the one and only facility in the region to educate the public about safe gun use, responsible hunting practices, and more. The new facility has already attracted many new students to Panhandle State and is anticipated to be a big draw for even more future students.

"This shooting facility is going to change the landscape across the entire panhandle region; it's going to make this area a destination for not just students, but for visitors for many years to come," Calvin Anthony, Chairman of Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, remarked.

The introduction of a shooting sports facility naturally comes with the introduction of a shooting sports team. Panhandle State is proud to plan on hiring a shooting sports coach in the spring of 2019 that will head archery, rifle, shotgun, and pistol teams as a part of Aggie athletics.

A common goal across the Panhandle State campus is to not only educate about

firearms, but also to bring the community together. The new range will be a tool to change the narrative about guns coupled with universities and combat the negative things that are associated with guns. Through example, Panhandle State will be able to practice what safe and responsible gun ownership is truly about.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim

hunting, fishing, archery shooting, and all of the outdoor sports that the Wildlife Department and a lot of youth, that are out here today support," stated Groendyke. He continued by quoting his father, an alumni of Panhandle State, "there are a lot of things that are impractical, but nothing is impossible; if you make your mind up, you're going to get it done."

Attendees of the groundbreaking got to see the range plans and the render of the future Groendyke building before the ground was turned from a line-up of individuals who have supported this project from the beginning. From the State Regents, to the County Commissioner, to the Panhandle Foundation President, to the Department of Wildlife officials, to Panhandle State administrators. All stood side-by-side to open a new chapter in Oklahoma Panhandle State University's history.

When the dust settled from the groundbreaking, attendees headed to

"This shooting facility is going to change the landscape across the entire panhandle region; it's going to make this area a destination for not just students, but for visitors for many years to come."

— Calvin Anthony, Chairman Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents

Faltyn commented, "this range is going to teach people that this part of our heritage is not something we need to be afraid of or ashamed of. It's something to be proud of and it can make us all better if we use it right."

The groundbreaking ceremony began with gratitude for the personnel when are making the shooting range possible. It was followed with the announcement that the facility will be titled the "John Groendyke Wildlife Center" after the generous contribution from Chairman for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife John Groendyke completed the fundraising for the new building.

"It will do great things for Oklahoma Panhandle State University and it will do a lot of great things to support the

Guymon for the annual Shooting Sports banquet. Between the auction and raffle, those who attended contributed over \$10,000 to support the Shooting Sports Club. Without the community and state-wide support, Panhandle State would not have been able to introduce the project of the Shooting Sports Facility.

Freshman and Vice President of the Shooting Sports Club Dillon Roesch commented on the day, "I am extremely excited to be able to utilize the Shooting Sports facility as a student. I am also very excited for the opportunities it will create for the community and OPSU. This is something our club has been working towards, and looking forward to, for a very long time and it seems like we can finally see it all coming together." **P**

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UPCOMING NAIA GAMES



On the cover: November 3, 2018 a special day in the history of Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Aggie Athletics, as a dedication celebration was held for the new Anchor D Stadium.



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CHILI COOK-OFF

Fall 2018







/ STAFF /

MEGHAN GATES

A scholarship to play volleyball may have been the original draw to Panhandle State for Castle Rock, Colo. native and Psychology major Meghan Gates, but the community and sense of family is the very thing that brought her back to serve as a staff member.

Meghan is currently the Director of Campus Communications, a position she accepted in August of 2018 after working as an Admissions Counselor in the High School and Community Relations Office for one year and a year prior to that as an Administrative Assistant in the Counseling Office. In her current role, she primarily focuses on advertising and marketing as well as communications among the campus and community. Gates is a member of the Staff Association as well.

In regards to her goals within the position for the future she commented, "I'm all about stream-lining processes. Because so many things across campus have to go through this office and we always have so many projects going on at once, I want to be able to better serve the university by making things as uncomplicated and simple as possible."

Vice President of Outreach Dr. Ryan Blanton commented, "Meghan has been an excellent addition to our team. In a position where no two days are the exact same and deadlines are tight, she rose to the challenge from the beginning. Her skill set and vision lend perfectly to our goals for the future."

Her favorite thing about Panhandle State is definitely the people. "There is an overwhelming number of employees that have been here for years and years and care so much about this place. I have such admiration for their dedication and love for Panhandle State. Those people truly make the school what it is."

She added, "I am passionate about working at the university because of the students. College was a really difficult time for me, but it was also the time where I realized my relationship with God and grew to serve Jesus. I know that many students share the same struggles I faced and I want to be able to help in any way I can."

Aside from work, Meghan loves to spend time with her husband and best friend, Cody. A Panhandle State graduate, Cody works for a rancher and Meghan enjoys the days she gets to help him. The couple has a home outside of Guymon with horses, cattle, mini-donkeys, and Meghan's newest project, chickens. Meghan adds, "I'm a homesteader at heart and my dream is to be able to raise all of our own meat and produce." Cody and Meghan also run a college ministry every Tuesday evening for young adults and teach children at their church every Wednesday evening as part of its outreach program. **P**

/ STUDENT /

MELODY ETHLEY

Quite possibly one of the friendliest and most driven students on campus, Melody Ethley has certainly left a mark on campus during her time as an Aggie and her future looks equally as bright! A senior from Arlington, Texas, Ethley found her way to Goodwell with the opportunity to attend on a volleyball scholarship being the key reason.

She said, "The coach and the team were very welcoming when I came on my visit."

It seems to have been the perfect fit for Melody! She is extremely active on campus and is a member of the Volleyball team, Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), and Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP). She was named the 2018 Winter Homecoming Queen and is currently serving as the Volleyball Team Captain, PBL President, and AITP Secretary. Melody is also a writer for the student newspaper, The Collegian.

She has had numerous honors as a student including being named to the Dean's Honor, Chi Alpha Sigma Inductee, 2018 Honorable Mention at the US Information Technology Collegiate Conference, and 2018 USITCC Regional 3rd Place in Systems Analysis & Design.

Her favorite thing about Panhandle State is the people. "I have met some truly genuine people here on campus, and in the community. I also love that there is opportunity for growth for every student here."

As far as plans following graduation this spring, Melody has a couple of different options in mind. She is interested in continuing her education in Information Technology and pursuing a master's degree plan that will allow her to become Microsoft certified. Melody would like to attend Gonzaga University or Eastern Washington University. Other future plans include gaining an internship at her hometown in the field of Cybersecurity or Human Computer Interaction (HCI).

Panhandle State Instructor Kim Tuttle commented, "As Melody's academic advisor, it has been a pleasure to see her blossom at Panhandle State. I recall having her in class her freshman year in Introduction to CIS. This fall, she is in my Systems Analysis course which she placed in the regional competition in the subject area. She has unlimited possibilities in front of her for career paths and a bright future in whatever she chooses to pursue."

Melody has a Pit Bull named Buddy who "owns her whole heart" and she is the youngest of four girls. She loves everything about makeup and even taught a makeup class this past summer. **P**



/ FACULTY /

CEZANNE SHANNON

A “wife, mommy, teacher, student, and child of God”

Cezanne Shannon is “blessed by the best” and could not be happier with her new position as an Instructor of Math at Panhandle State.

Cezanne, her husband, Dedrick, and their three kids now make their home in Guymon, but they originally found their way to the Panhandle area from their hometown area of Chicago, Ill. The Shannon family quickly became members of the Aggie family as Dedrick accepted a position as the Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach.

“Coming from a big city, it was an adjustment to move to such a small, secluded area. After three years, I have grown to love the Panhandle! It has been a great place to raise my family. As for OPSU, I feel it was all a part of Gods plan to bring us here for my husband and now, for me. Being in higher education has always been on my radar and I am blessed to have the opportunity early on in my career to grow as an Aggie with great mentors such as Shawna Tucker and Sarah Green to lead me along the way!”

Cezanne attended Governor’s State University earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 2015. In 2017, she completed her Master of Education in SPED and ESL in 2016 from National Louis University. In 2017, she earned her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from National Louis University. Prior to teaching at Panhandle State, Cezanne was a sixth grade math teacher at North Park Elementary in Guymon, Okla.

Her favorite thing about Panhandle State is the students. “At first, I wasn’t sure how to connect with the college students and draw the line at being an instructor. However, after my first day, I realized they were students just the same. They need me to teach, mentor and motivate. I enjoy having conversations about life with them that I hope will stick with them.”

While she currently teaches predominately freshmen in an algebraic modeling and basic statistics course, Cezanne’s goals include continuing to learn and grow as a college instructor.

“I would like to teach another math class and eventually teach education method courses also.”

Her passion for math goes far beyond her classroom at Panhandle State as she does private tutoring for elementary and high school kids each weekday.

“I was never a straight A student, unless it was in math. It has always been my favorite subject! I come from a line of teachers and I knew I wanted to be involved with student growth and academic development. I also wanted to make one of the most hated subjects (math) a subject that should be appreciated and fun.”

With any rare free time, Cezanne enjoys playing volleyball, basketball, and doing CrossFit as well as cooking. **P**

/ ALUMNI /

APRIL ENGLISHBEY

No stranger to Oklahoma Panhandle State University,

the tables have turned for April Englishbey a 2013 graduate who is now instructing an Animal Science Problems class, Basics of Meat Science and Food Safety. April graduated *summa cum laude* in December of 2013 with a degree in Animal Science. She played Volleyball for the Aggies and worked in the Firestone Meat Lab both of which served her well for her future.

She commented, “Working in the meat laboratory, I made life-long friends and learned valuable skills that have assisted in my higher education and knowledge of the meat industry.”

After graduating from Panhandle State, April attended Mississippi State University to pursue a Master of Science degree in meat and animal sciences from January 2014 to December 2015. She received a Borlaug Global Food Security Graduate Research Fellowship grant and conducted research in Vietnam about the baseline prevalence of Listeria, Salmonella, and Escherichia coli in beef, pork, and chicken in various retail settings. After earning her master’s degree, April went to Texas Tech University (TTU), from January 2016 to May 2019, to pursue a doctoral degree in food microbiology and animal science. While at TTU, she continued to conduct baseline studies in harvest, processing, and retail settings in developing countries and the United States, evaluated lactic acid bacteria based probiotic effectiveness in feedlot cattle, conducted numerous antimicrobial intervention studies, and created and taught courses. Additionally, her dissertation project over the past two years focused on the dissemination and fate of foodborne pathogens and indicator bacteria after antimicrobial interventions of sulfuric acid fertilizer or Ultra-Violet light were applied prior to being drip or furrow irrigated during spinach and cantaloupe growing seasons. April will defend her PhD in December 2018 and graduate in May 2019.

She has accepted a Technical Support Specialist position with Hygiena and will provide science-based support for the BAX® PCR Testing System. Food companies, service labs, and government regulators around the world rely on the BAX® System to detect unwanted pathogens in raw ingredients, finished products, and environmental samples by utilizing a DNA-based detection method.

Reflecting back on her time in Goodwell, April comments, “Throughout my career in academia and now industry, I really attribute my life path to the time that I spent at OPSU. I learned so much through the animal and plant science courses, and the amount of hands-on experience that I was afforded really made me stand out in my master’s program. Most of all, the meat lab managers, AJ (Anthony Ingo) and Chief (Daren Stephens), introduced me to an entire industry that I had no clue about and encouraged me to search further and pursue a passion.” **P**



/ EDUCATION /

PROGRAMMING TEAM PROVES SUCCESSFUL AT REGIONALS

Submitted by Melody Ethley, Panhandle State Collegian

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Programming Team

traveled to Amarillo College this past weekend to compete at the U.S. Information Technology Collegiate Conference (USITCC) South Central Regional competition. Twenty-five students were taken to compete in a variety of contests: Systems Analysis and Design, Network Design, PC Troubleshooting, Cybersecurity, Microsoft Office Solutions, Mobile Applications, Database Design, Java, and C#.

There were approximately 150 students representing 12 different universities competing, and Panhandle State students were able to bring home 13 top five finishes. This is the first time in history that Panhandle students were able to place in all nine contests! Not only did the programming team basically sweep the competition, but they also co-hosted the event. Sponsors Kim Tuttle, Vicki Pasque, and Steve Martin assisted in problem statement creation, designating room proctors, gathering sponsors, and other event operations.

Madilyn Rider, Association of Information Technology Professionals

(AITP) President, reflected on the conference, "I had an awesome experience at Regionals! It's great being able to compete against other schools and get to know my fellow classmates outside the classroom. The best thing about competing for the OPSU Programming Team is being able to bring back awards and recognition to the CIS department that has taught me so much!" Rider received an Honorable Mention in Database Design with Tanner Daniel, and an Honorable Mention in Systems Analysis & Design with teammate Braxton Dain.

Firas Ghazouani, and Amanda Blanton both agreed that the experience was an amazing one. Blanton went on to say "This was my first time competing, and it exceeded my expectations. While it was stressful during the actual competitions, the sense of accomplishment over having done something I could be proud of was amazing."

When asked how he prepared for competition Ghazouani says, "I read some of the A+ questions and answers. For security, I went over the problem statement we had in class. I also took a cheat sheet for systems. We had access

to the internet during contest, so I didn't have to prepare for some things. Also, during the competitions, I stayed till the last minute and gave all I had."

Instructor, Vicki Pasque, comments on the role that each of the professors play in preparing their students, she says "Our goal is not to prepare students for specific competitions, but to guide them into using the knowledge and skills they have already learned here at Panhandle. We love it when our students realize they have what it takes to compete successfully against their peers from other colleges and universities. That confidence prepares them to take on the many challenges they will meet in the workplace."

Conference results are as follows:

Mobile Application Development:

-3rd Place - Jockson Bilbrey

-Honorable Mention: Cameron Branch and Jorge Rosas

Systems Analysis and Design:

-2nd Place - Sean Skipton and Firas Ghazouani

-3rd Place - Melody Ethley and Grant Sparkman

-Honorable Mention: Gustavo Sanchez

-Honorable Mention: Braxton Dain and Madilyn Rider

Network Design:

-2nd place: Stetson Elam and Gustavo Sanchez

Java Programming:

-2nd place: Jockson Bilbrey and Cameron Branch

Office Solutions:

-Honorable Mention: Amanda Blanton and Gustavo Sanchez

C# Programming:

-Honorable Mention: Firas Ghazouani and Tanner Daniel

Cybersecurity:

-2nd Place: Jockson Bilbrey and Grant Sparkman

Database Design:

-Honorable Mention: Tanner Daniel and Madilyn Rider

PC Troubleshooting:

-Honorable Mention: Firas Ghazouani

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "Seeing these students represent the university and making history truly exemplifies our commitment to excellence. I couldn't be more proud of each of them as well as the advisors."

Coming off such a successful regional conference, members of the programming team are anxious to compete again in the spring at nationals. That event will be hosted April 4-6, 2019 in Galveston, Texas. Kim Tuttle comments on the upcoming event. "We look forward to taking a strong team to that event as well." Congratulations to AITP, and the Programming Team on such a victorious weekend. **P**

"The best thing about competing for the OPSU Programming Team is being able to bring back awards and recognition to the CIS department that has taught me so much!"

— Madilyn Rider, AITP President

Noche de Gala was once again an evening of excellence.



/ EDUCATION /

NOCHE DE GALA CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE

*Released by Panhandle State Campus
Communications*

An annual delight, this year's Noche de Gala featured traditional Mexican folkloric dance, delicious food, and notable speakers. Panhandle State's HALO was proud to host the event, bringing together staff, faculty, students, and community members as one big family. As well as the Panhandle State HALO group, Hooker High School's and Guymon High School's HALO officers and advisors were in attendance to support this wonderful night.

The night opened with HALO President Sam Ortiz emceeding and introducing Panhandle State Comptroller Liz McMurfhey to share a brief message in Spanish. After the conclusion of her welcome, guests were invited to partake in the evening's buffet, which lined the wall with chicken and beef fajitas, tortillas, beans, rice, salsas, and bunelos.

As soon as the meal was finished, Alma Folklórica began their performance of dances from three distinct regions of Mexico. As the skirts twirled and their smiles shined, the audience was taken aback by their talent and wonder.

Following the dance, Ortiz spoke of the resounding accomplishment of Panhandle State becoming Oklahoma's first Hispanic Serving Institution. One of the many benefits of receiving that credential is that Panhandle State is able to be a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Through this membership, the university's students are able to be involved in various programs, such as the Hispanic National Internship program.

Of the three Panhandle State students that participated in the program this summer, Karen Rios privileged the attendees with the story of her internship. Rios has goals of becoming a neurosurgeon and stressed how much this internship will help her achieve those dreams. Because of her national achievements, Rios was presented with the "Orgullo Hispano" award.

Following Rios' award were two individuals that were awarded for their outstanding commitment and responsibility to HALO during their first semester in the group. Stacy Jimenez and Yesenie Cano were called forward to accept the "Newcomer" award.

As the night continued, the crowd was becoming increasingly excited to listen to the keynote speaker, Marisel Herrera. Director of Hispanic Services Teri Mora introduced Herrera as not only as the director of an award-winning coaching center at Arizona State University, a mentor and coach, but also as a dear friend. Herrera has been recognized for her leadership and advocacy with various local and national recognitions and was recently one of 10 recipients of the 2017 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate award by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition.

Herrera inspired and encouraged with her words and when finished, was presented with the "Hispanic Legacy" award. Shortly after that, Sharon Torres

and Daniel Gaytan were announced as the 2018 FIESTA Queen and King.

The next awards presented were the "Step Up" awards, given to individuals from HALO who have demonstrated outstanding service and have a "step up" mentality. This year's awards went to Maria Ortiz and Vanezza Martinez.

The night then transitioned into a conversation about James Mireles, the honored Hispanic alumni guest at the event. After graduating, Mireles had a very successful career in education, serving as a teacher, coach, and administrator in Texas and Kansas schools. His presence at Garden City High School had a major part in the tremendous multicultural growth that was experienced there. Because of his work and accomplishments with many Hispanic Students, Mireles was presented with the "Hispanic Legacy" award.

Progressing into the evening, Antonio Velaquez on behalf of Tortilleria Velaquez and Sons was given the "Community Partner" award for their generous donations of hundreds of tortillas over the years to help with the HALO taco sales. The second "Community Partner" award was bestowed to Ricardo Mora and Yeiry Carrillo on behalf of Seaboard Foods for never hesitating to help with donations and sponsors for HALO.

After the awards were finished, Teri Mora counted off all of the amazing things Panhandle State has done during Hispanic Heritage Month, including: Hispanic Leadership Day, the "Soctober" soccer tournament, and Latin dance night. She thanked the efforts and passion of the members of HALO, as none of the events would be possible without them.

In conclusion to the evening's festivities, Vice President of Outreach Ryan Blanton spoke on Panhandle State's vast diversity and that the school is not only supportive, but extremely proud of its Hispanic community and all they have done. **P**



/CAMPUS UPDATE/

PANHANDLE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTED TO EDUCATION IN THE REGION

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Thanks to a generous donor that wishes to remain anonymous, a recent gift of \$500,000 that will be matched dollar for dollar by the Panhandle State Foundation is creating an endowed scholarship for students wishing to pursue a degree in education at Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

A community driven partnership between Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Oklahoma Panhandle public school districts, and community and private donors, the scholarship pursues two complementary objectives designed to meet the dual community needs of connecting residents with meaningful education that translates to sustainable wages and meeting the local education workforce demand.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "This is a case where citizens of the Panhandle are addressing a need in our region that will support the future of our success for decades."

Anticipated to be a highly competitive scholarship, the concept is relatively simple and would essentially mean that the recipient could earn a degree for free with the scholarship covering any additional tuition expense beyond what is covered by financial aid. The scholarship is a "gap funding" scholarship meaning for qualified students, it pays the expected out-of-pocket costs for tuition and fees a student would face after federal and state aid, and all other scholarship the student receives are applied. Panhandle State also funds up to \$2,000 per year in tuition waivers for

each eligible student. The average unmet "gap" for Panhandle State students is \$16,800 over four years. The only academic cost to students will be their book rental fees.

Qualifying students will commit to attend Panhandle State for four years and in return for an amazing value, the recipient would agree to teach in one of the 16 public school districts in the

Ramos commented, "For them to offer to pay my whole education would be wonderful."

"This is a program that transforms our region," Faltyn said. "It not only changes the student's life, but it changes the whole trajectory of their family's future."

The scholarship program could be an answer to the current teacher shortages that Goodwell School Superintendent Jerry Birdsong is so familiar with handling. "This is going to be a tremendous opportunity for the public schools in the Oklahoma Panhandle."

The Panhandle Promise Program is poised to transform the region by putting the best and the brightest in the classroom to teach the kids that are the next generation of success for the Panhandle.

Guymon School Board President Mike Ray is all too familiar with the same issues Birdsong faces. "By working with Panhandle State, it enables us to have

"This is a case where citizens of the Panhandle are addressing a need in our region that will support the future of our success for decades."

— Dr. Tim Faltyn, President

Oklahoma Panhandle for a minimum of two years following graduation from Panhandle State.


The university is anticipating more applicants than the endowment received will support. Applications are expected to be available after the first of the new year and recipients will be named on July 1, 2019. Preference will be given to students who have an ACT score of 19 or above, a qualifying OGET score, and who plan to teach in a public school in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

For students like Gabby Ramos, a freshman at Panhandle State from Guymon, Okla., who is working and running Cross Country for the Aggies all while attending school full time, the scholarship could be life changing.

kids who grew up in the Panhandle, understand the Panhandle, understand the weather and what it is like, and love it to stay here and to give them a job."

Special thanks goes to the donor and the Panhandle State Foundation who enable this vision to take place and is assisting Panhandle State in continuing to fulfill the promise of their potential by helping people reach their dreams.

Faltyn commented, "It seems like thanks isn't enough. It is hard not to be excited when you think about not just what has happened, but the great things that are going to happen with these resources. That is why I am thankful."

For more information and a complete list of criteria, visit panhandlepromise.opsu.edu. 



A recent surplus auction lends in giving new life to a piece of Panhandle State history.

/ EDUCATION /

LOOPER PRESERVES AND GIFTS HISTORY

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

On October 6, 2018, a Panhandle State Alumnus and retired instructor, Lloyd Looper made his way to the university's surplus auction along with other community members. Midway through the auction, a pair of old, broken, and worn-down desks came to the front.

Without anyone bidding, Looper stated, "I saw it and I thought to myself, 'I'm going to save that. I can't let it go.'"

Looper snagged the couple of projects for a small fee of five dollars per desk. Upon bringing his new purchases home, he decided to take a closer look at the antique treasures. A "43" was stamped on the desks, as well as a "Panhandle A&M College '56" stamp. Looper believes the desks were built in 1943, then inventoried at Panhandle State in 1956.

With such a treasure, Looper wanted to make the history last, so he decided on making cutting boards out of the desks. He began wood working in 1967 when his wife, Doris Looper, gave him a lathe to suit his interest in creating wood projects. After many years of wood working and creating wood pieces to help support scholarships, Looper was well practiced when the desire to save school history was put on his heart.

Looper decided that he wanted to give one of the cutting boards to Kelly Faltyn, Panhandle State's First Lady. He believes that the history in the oak is what is where its worth lies and wants to keep that history alive by gifting it back to those who appreciate it.

Panhandle State President Tim Faltyn stated, "it's a wonderful thing to have people



like Lloyd Looper preserving and valuing the history of what makes Panhandle State great. I can't thank him enough for his generosity and thoughtfulness."

Looper intends to be able to produce 16 complete cutting boards out of the two desks he purchased and wants to continue to spread them around. With people like Looper in the community, Panhandle State's rich history will continue to live on through the generations. **P**



The Chamber Singers took part in a two-day tour focused on service.

/ EDUCATION /

CHAMBER SINGERS TRAVEL FOR A CAUSE

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Chamber Singers took a two-day “Kids and Cancer” tour with performances across the panhandle area as well as at the Jimmy Everest Center and the OU Children’s Hospital.

Director of Vocal Music Dr. Dee Wilkins commented on the tour, “Every destination had a purpose and was stop for an individual or organization on the journey a child and family go through in their fight with childhood cancer. More than that, I wanted our Panhandle students to do something to encourage, show love, and serve in some way. I was pleased with how it all turned out.”

The group left on Thursday, October 25th, first stopping at Beaver, Okla. and performing for students from pre-k through 12th grade in honor of a preschooler battling Leukemia. After dedicating the performance to her and those who are supporting her fight, they got to meet her and get a photo with her.

The next stop was in Alva, Okla. at Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) for an exchange performance with their choir and a service project. Both school groups performed for the other school and received critiques from their director.

Maxine Henderson commented, “It was really cool getting to see and spend time with a different choir. We picked up different ideas and techniques that

we can utilize within our group. Our groups mixed really well and it was so much fun.” Before leaving Alva, the two choral groups made cards, signs, and goodie bags to deliver at one of the planned stops, OK Kids Korral.

The tour continued and the next performance was at the Jimmy Everest Center within the OU Children’s Hospital where they performed for the staff and enjoyed a tour of the facilities. Shortly thereafter, they performed in the main entrance of the hospital for parents and families enjoying a meal provided by a local hotel. They then assisted with some cleaning in the “Kids Zone,” interacting with patients, and assembling coloring packets for patients.

The following morning saw a service at the Kids Korral in Oklahoma City, making breakfast for families and setting up for an event before heading back to the panhandle.

The final stop was in Balko, Okla. in honor of a fourth grade student who

recently won his fight with cancer.

“We wanted to end on a high note, where we could celebrate a battle fought and won, and it was great to meet the young man who had done just that,” said Wilkins.

Darily Carrillo reflected on the trip, “I think it was a really good experience. It really did touch my heart. I didn’t realize how much music could touch someone, especially children. You don’t want to see them have to worry about anything especially sickness and it touched me to see what everyone is doing for them.”

Henderson added, “I’m glad we had the opportunity. We got to see a whole new world. It was eye opening.”

An elite group, students must audition and be selected as a member of the Chamber Singers. They are a highly visible ensemble that gives at least four performances every semester, with frequent off-campus and out-of-class obligations including recruiting visits to area schools and churches and a tours.

Chamber Singers provides vocalists with additional performance experience in a select ensemble. Repertoire may include music drawn from all eras and styles, with emphasis on the a cappella vocal tradition of the 16th through 20th centuries.

Chamber Singers include Chloe Bley, Stacy Jimenez, Madison Judd, Kaylee Johnson, Kristen Perks, Kaley Conner, Grace Sparkman, Maxine Henderson, Darily Carrillo, Jessica Wilkinson, Jax Liebman, Tyler Pfrehm, Jorge Vielmas, Jacob Long, Conner Beims, Reece Player, and Jacob Schmitt. **P**

“I’m glad we had the opportunity. We got to see a whole new world. It was eye opening.”

— Maxine Henderson, Student



The Aggie Wonderland light show is a treat for all ages.

/ EDUCATION /

CHRISTMAS AROUND CAMPUS

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Christmas time is upon Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and with that cheery air comes festivities, and a lot of them! From Aggie Wonderland, to Christmas concerts, the Aggie family has something for all ages.

Holiday events kicked off Friday the 30th of November, as all Panhandle State employees attended the annual Christmas party on campus. The luncheon included a Christmas tree decorating contest, a holiday desert contest, a table decorating contest, and an ugly sweater contest. Employees' families were able to partake in the meal and competitive Christmas atmosphere as well.

The following day, Panhandle State's music department be hosted Tubachristmas. Saturday, December 1st was be a musical experience you didn't want to miss! Proceeds from the event went to support the Panhandle State Band's trip to Tulsa for the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Honor Band Clinic and Concert. Participants had a 3 p.m. rehearsal that afternoon before their performance that evening in the Student Union.

The evening of Saturday, December 1st was an absolute delight. The Panhandle State Music Department is presented its first annual Christmas Gala, an evening of live music and food set in a winter wonderland. The festive night began at 6:30

p.m. in the ballroom with a red carpet entrance, VIP treatment, and resounding entertainment. This family event was one for the books!

Monday, December 3rd was an evening to remember at Panhandle State. To start the night right, Santa came to campus and was available for pictures in the ballroom. After the kids have sat with Santa, Panhandle State invited the community to join them in the Aggie Wonderland lighting ceremony at the clock tower. After campus was merry and bright with Christmas lights, the Panhandle State music department put on its annual Christmas concert at 7 p.m. in Centennial Theater followed by cookies and caroling.

Christmas time is special, and Panhandle State would love nothing more than to have you on campus for this special time. Come and experience the largest Christmas light display in the Panhandle, Aggie Wonderland, from December 3rd through December 31st. Walk or drive through the thousands of twinkling lights; the Aggies would be honored to share this holiday season with you! **P**



Benny Dain was presented a Quilt of Valor on Veteran's Day in honor of his service to our country.

/ EDUCATION /

DAIN RECEIVES QUILT OF VALOR

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Vice President of Fiscal Affairs Benny Dain was presented a beautiful quilt on Veteran's Day in recognition and thanks for his service to our country. Dain served in the United States Marine Corps from 1975 to 1979 and was stationed in San Diego, Calif., Memphis, Tenn., Lake Hurst, N.J., Cherry Point, N.C., and Okinawa, Japan as a member of VMA231 Harrier Squadron working as an avionics technician.

His quilt was made by Cheryl Aspaugh, a former Panhandle State employee. Her quilting group has presented over 126 quilts of valor since they started in 2014.

Dain commented, "It is always nice to be recognized for one's military service and this is especially nice since it is, first of all, a beautiful quilt and secondly, it is something that I will have and use forever. In my case it was also made by a special

person who was a fellow worker and has been a friend for a long time. I want to say thank you to Cheryl and all the quilters who spend time making these special quilts."

Quilts of Valor are war time quilts stitched together with love, prayers and patriotism. The QOV Foundation's mission statement is that United States military and veterans affected by war be covered with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. These quilts are a tangible reminder of America's appreciation and gratitude to our military. **P**

/ EDUCATION /

HARRIS ACCEPTED TO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications



Director of Student Affairs Mike Harris was recently accepted as a member of the 2018-19 class of the Council of Student Affairs (COSA) Leadership Academy. The academy promises to provide exceptional personal and professional development opportunities for this year's academy fellows. The Academy is the culmination of COSA's vision to provide advanced, cutting-edge leadership skill development opportunities for student affairs professions at Oklahoma's higher education institutions. The academy will consist of six forums throughout the academic year with topics of discussion geared toward professional development.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "I am so proud of the hard work that Mr. Harris has given into this institution and his career. His membership in the leadership academy and his resources will greatly benefit Panhandle State." **P**



Five former Panhandle State Rodeo team members qualified for the 2018 WNFR.



Clay Elliott



Joe Frost



Orin Larsen



Taos Muncy



Cort Scheer

/ ATHLETICS /

RODEO ALUMNI IN PURSUIT OF WORLD TITLES

Submitted by Kashly Schweer

For ten days, cowboy boots and hats adorn the streets of Las Vegas as the best in the rodeo industry compete for coveted world championship titles. The Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) spans December 6-15 inside the Thomas and Mack Center. Five former Oklahoma Panhandle State University cowboys have earned their spot behind the legendary yellow bucking chutes.

Orin Larsen has become a regular in the bareback riding at the WNFR. This year, Larsen is arriving in the fourth-place position with \$130,655 accumulated throughout the regular season. Although he is \$57,000 behind the leader, Tim O'Connell, anything is possible with the large purse in Vegas.

True to Panhandle's legacy, the saddle bronc riding is clustered with former Aggies. Clay Elliott, Cort Scheer and Taos Muncy all had collegiate success before becoming multi-time WNFR qualifiers. Elliott, a three-time qualifier, broke the \$100,000-mark this season as he is in the lucky #7 spot. He is joined in the top ten by Scheer. This will mark the Nebraska cowboy's sixth trip to the big dance. Rounding out the line-up in the saddle bronc riding is two-time world champion, Muncy, who is making his tenth appearance to the WNFR.

The fifth cowboy to wear the WNFR back number with Panhandle roots is Joe Frost in the bull riding. He is coming into

Vegas in 13th place in the world standings. Known for his ability to cover a large percentage of bulls, Frost will likely continue to move up in the standings throughout the ten days of rodeo action.

In an event that stands alone, Rocky Patterson once again qualified for the Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping held in Mulvane, Kans. November 2-3. Patterson won the fifth round and placed third in the average with a total time of 133.9 seconds on nine head.

To support all the Panhandle State alumni at the WNFR, tune into CBS Sports Network nightly starting at 9 p.m. CST or watch the official streaming broadcast of the rodeo at prorodeotv.com with an annual subscription of \$79.99.

Derek Barton, The Voice of the Aggies, is an award winning PRCA Announcer/ Broadcaster/ interviewer and owner/ host of the radio and internet show Talk Rodeo. Barton has worked the media room at the NFR for 10 plus years, interviewing go-round winners and World Champions. This year Barton will also be hosting "OPSU at the NFR" with video interviews with all Panhandle State Alumni competing at this year's NFR. **P**



Anchor D Stadium played host to an inaugural soccer tournament on October 27, 2018.

/ EDUCATION /

SOCCER TOURNAMENT INAUGURATES ANCHOR D STADIUM FOR **UPCOMING NAIA GAMES**

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

In what turned out to be a perfect, bright and sunny day, seven soccer teams from around the area took the field at Anchor D Stadium on Saturday, October 27, 2018 for the first of many anticipated soccer games to be played on the new turf. The teams were participating in the first “Annual Soctober Soccer Tournament” sponsored by the Panhandle Hispanic Alumni and Panhandle State’s Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO).

It was an intense day of play as the first game started at 10 a.m. and the trophies and medals were awarded at 9:30 p.m. following the championship game. The invitation to compete was open to co-ed teams from around the area ages 15 and up. The championship game teams were determined after 11 games throughout the day; Atletico San Pancho from Guymon, Okla., and Dodge City FC Fury from Dodge City, Kan. competed for the first place trophy. Dodge City won 1-0. First and second place trophies and medals were awarded.

Vice President of Outreach Dr. Ryan Blanton commented, “It’s amazing to see how our alumni worked with our student groups to make something special happen for our community. I was so pleased by the participation and by how far the teams traveled to participate. Hopefully, this is the first of many tournaments to come.

There was fun for everyone with kids’ games including a bouncy house, hamster balls and mini soccer running concurrently with the soccer tournament. Additionally, HALO hosted a concession stand.

Hispanic Student Services Director Teri Mora commented on the event, “It was so much fun to be able to inaugurate the field for soccer use. The players loved how the field played. We all look forward to a regular soccer season

here and to continued tournaments to benefit student scholarships.”

Geraldine Sanchez graduated from Panhandle State in 2007 and has been instrumental in forming the Guymon Soccer Club and in getting soccer fields installed in Guymon. She reminded players of how far their soccer dreams have come. “From our beginning of playing on old corn fields converted to dirt soccer fields, on Saturday we played, participated, organized, and cheered on from the stands and field of a UNIVERSITY STADIUM. I hope you felt the epicness of this event like I did. I cannot wait to have another tournament at OPSU and to encourage young players to come play at OPSU with scholarships.”

Special thanks to Panhandle State Student Affairs for their donation to help make the tournament a success and to Geraldine Sanchez for organizing the tournament. Proceeds will be deposited into an account with Panhandle Hispanic Alumni for future scholarships. **P**



KENDRA BUTLER

#1 OVERALL HITTING PERCENTAGE .280
#7 KILLS 198
#7 KILLS/SET 2.9
#13 BLOCKS 40

MCKENNA CLEMENT

#1 DIGS 395
#1 DIGS/SET 5.7
#7 SERVICE ACES 25

CAILYN BERRY

#4 ASSISTS/SET 8.5
#5 ASSISTS 579

QUIARA POINDEXTER

#13 KILLS 165
#17 KILLS/SET 2.4



KENDRA BUTLER
2ND TEAM ALL-SAC



MCKENNA CLEMENT
2ND TEAM ALL-SAC



CAILYN BERRY
HON MEN ALL-SAC

/ATHLETICS/

AGGIES SET NEW SCORE FOR PANHANDLE VOLLEYBALL

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Aggie volleyball faced trials and adversity throughout their season, but while their path was arduous, the end of their journey made the hard work well worth it. Capping off their season record at 9-21 and going 9-13 in conference, the Aggies set record highs for Panhandle State University Volleyball and attained their own individual and team goals along the way.

Signe Coombs was welcomed as Head Coach just one week prior to the start of the 2018 school year, stepping in when the Aggies needed her most, and rising to the occasion of an inherited team and a radically swift start to the season. She has continuously commended her team on their acceptance of her headship of the program and their espousal of her new philosophies. Coombs, assistant coach Shelby Bartley, and the Lady Aggies took the challenge head on and reached levels of success never before accomplished of the sport at Panhandle State. The team culminated their overall season with a record-high nine wins, and for the first time in recorded history, the Aggies made a post season appearance. The team traveled to Oklahoma City for a contest against the Oklahoma City University Stars in the Sooner Athletic Conference qualifying match. The Stars proved to be a tough contender, overcoming the Aggies in three hard-fought sets, and eventually continuing on to take the SAC crown by taking down Texas Wesleyan in the championship match-up.

The Aggies returned to a campus community full of pride in their team and their accomplishments in Aggie Athletics. University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, who attended the game in Oklahoma City, doted, "It was so exciting to be there as our volleyball team made history going to the conference tournament for the first time." He continued, acknowledging the tough road the team traversed to exceed their goals, "Our team overcame so much to get there and how they represented us was nothing short of excellence. A special thanks to Coach Coombs and Coach Bartley for a great season."

Kendra Butler, McKenna Clement and Cailyn Berry all earned conference nominations, and Quiara Poindexter joined the trio in a multitude of SAC rankings in the top twenty. Butler secured the No. 1 spot with the highest Hitting Percentage overall on the season with .280, ranked No. 7 in Kills with 198 and No. 7 in Kills/Set with an average of 2.9 per game. Butler also ranked No. 13 in Blocks with 40 in conference play. Clement topped the charts at No. 1 in Digs with an astounding 395 over the twenty conference games played. Accordingly, she also scored the No. 1 spot in Digs/Set, averaging 5.7 per game. Taking the No. 4 and No. 5 spots Assists and Assists/Set was Berry, accruing an momentous total of 579 assists over conference games, averaging 8.5 per contest. Poindexter joined Butler on the rankings for Kills at No. 13 with 165, also snagging the No. 17 spot for Kills/Set with an average of 2.4 per outing.

Bartley made an apt assessment of her team, saying that each player was a puzzle piece, coming together to create a bigger picture for the team. She and Coach Coombs are reveling in the historic season, but also looking toward the future of Aggie Volleyball with a promising outlook. Coombs affirmed, "We took a step forward this fall and put Panhandle Volleyball on the map," stated Coombs, "Our team embraced the changes, trusted in the process and ultimately we saw results. We still have improvements to make with physical technique, mental toughness and team chemistry. There are certain aspects of the game that we will be able to focus on more in the off-season to be able to grow as a team."

Both coaches are projecting making strides in the off-season and adding new recruits to their player puzzle. "We are excited for those returning and to get our recruits in here to continue moving the program forward," stated Coombs. **P**



/ATHLETICS/

VRANA NAMED SAC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR AS SEVEN AGGIES RECEIVE ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

In their first season as members of the Sooner Athletic Conference, the Panhandle State football team posted seven players to the 2018 SAC All-Conference teams.

Appearing in seven of the Aggies' 11 outings in 2018, freshman quarterback Martez Vrana proved himself to be the go-to guy as the season progressed. Hailing from Wichita Falls, Texas, Vrana earned starter status throughout most of the conference stretch and helped put Panhandle in a position to compete for the SAC Championship. His much-merited recognition as Sooner Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year came by way of over 1,100 passing yards (1,118) and a 60 percent completion rating over his seven-game stint. Vrana threw for seven touchdowns and held on to score four rushing TDs and total 351 yards with his feet. He ranks No. 3 in the SAC in Total Offense/Game averaging 224 yards per game and third in Pass Efficiency (137.7). Within the SAC he stands at No. 6 in Passing/Game, No. 8 in Passing and is listed at No. 12 in Rushing.

Head Coach Russell Gaskamp extolled Vrana's efforts stating, "It was great to see Martez [Vrana] take on the leadership role for the offense. Many of

the coaches in the league talked about his dual-threat ability and poise as a freshman; we think the sky is the limit with his play in the future."

First Team honors went to Dominique Coutee-Thomas, senior offensive lineman from Austin, Texas. Thomas has served as a staunch component of the Aggies' offensive unit for the last four years, starting the last 31 games and emerging as one of the teams' leaders. As the o-line coach, Gaskamp spoke on Thomas adding, "DT has been a great player for us the past several years. One coach at the meetings told me he thought he was the best overall o-lineman in the league. He is very deserving of the recognition."

Receiving First Team recognition on the defensive side of the ball, linebacker Diamante Pounds and safety De'Adryelle Fites are well-deserved recipients. A junior from Plantersville, Mo., Pounds led the team in tackles (61), tackles for loss (17.5) and sacks (10), and also came away with one interception and three fumble recoveries. Pounds holds the No. 3 post in NAIA Division I for Fumbles Forced per Game (.400) and stands at No. 8 in the nation for Sacks per Game (1.0). He also finished the season sitting at No. 9 in Tackles

for Loss per Game (1.8) among all NAIA players, No. 10 in Total Sacks and No. 15 in Total Tackles for Loss. Within the Sooner Athletic Conference, Pounds posts a No. 2 standing for Tackles for Loss, Sacks and Sacks/Game; he owns the No. 1 spot in Fumbles Forced (4) and Tackles for Loss/Game.


"Pounds had a great year for us," Gaskamp offered. "We had to ask him to do a lot of different things for us with the injuries we dealt with throughout the year. I think him and Kenneth Steele from OUAZ were the top-two defensive players in the league."

The head coach continued his countenance for the defensive honorees speaking on De'Adryelle Fites. "Fites was definitely the glue that held our defense together this year, especially with all of the new guys that played in our secondary. He is fearless, a great open-field tackler, and we will rely heavily on him again next year." Fites came to Panhandle from Dallas, Texas and showed substantial growth during his sophomore season. The First Team All-Conference honoree participated in eleven games this year and led the Aggies in interceptions with three. He totaled 45 tackles including 25 solos, and was credited with seven pass breakups. Fites finished at No. 3 in the league for Interceptions and Interceptions/Game and ranks No. 2 of Passes Defended/Game.

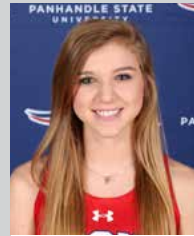
Linebackers Jawan Purifoy and D'Darrin Primes earned Second Team All-Conference titles, and fall second and third respectively, within the Aggies' defensive listings. Purifoy put in a stellar senior season, totaling 55 tackles over ten games played; 40 of which were solo efforts. He tallied 13.5 tackles for loss and had four sacks, one interception and one recovery. Primes wrapped up his junior year averaging 5.4 tackles per game, combining for 49 tackles over nine games; he totaled 12.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks. Purifoy and Primes hold the No. 17 and No. 18 positions in the SAC for Tackles/Game, and Purifoy ranks No. 7 in Tackles for Loss and Tackles for Loss/Game.

Gaskamp expounded on the two defensive standouts stating, "With our preseason defensive player of the year in Nate Leithead being on the shelf for most of the season these two guys had to step up and play multiple positions and did so without skipping a beat. Jawan [Purifoy] has been an excellent player for us the last three years; we will miss him a ton." He noted, "With a great offseason we think Primes can be a dominant force in the league next year."

Honorable Mention acknowledgment went to senior wide receiver Nick West. West, a Discovery Bay, Calif. Native, arrived at Panhandle State in 2017 as a transfer from Diablo Valley College and arose as the teams' leading receiver during both of his years as an Aggie. "Nick has been our best offensive player over the last two years," revels Gaskamp. "He was as talented as any receiver in the league, and was incredibly unselfish and never complained about his opportunities while we played musical chairs at QB over the last two years. He will surely be missed." West started all 11 games this season and amassed 544 yards receiving to average 14.3 yards on 38 receptions totaling two passing touchdowns. He also accumulated one rushing TD, averaging 5.4 yards per carry on the ground. In conference play, West lists at No. 10 for Receptions, Receptions/Game and Receiving Yards.

Congratulations to the entire Aggie football team and coaching staff for a successful and memorable season in the SAC. The complete listing of 2018 Sooner Athletic Conference All-Conference athletes is available online at soonerathletic.org. 

AGGIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



SHAYNA GLOVER
WEEKS 7 & 10: Cross Country



LAUREN HASTINGS
WEEK 8: Volleyball



CAILYN BERRY
WEEK 9 & 11: Volleyball



KASSIDY WEAVER
WEEK 12: Equestrian



ALAN HODGE
WEEK 11: Basketball



MARTEZ VRANA
WEEK 7: Football



NICK WEST
WEEK 8: Football



DAWSON DAHM
WEEK 9: Rodeo



DIAMANTE POUNDS
WEEK 10: Football



BREIMAN ALEXANDER
WEEK 12: Basketball



Two Aggie Basketball players received Player of the Week recognition by the Sooner Athletic Conference for their stellar performances Nov. 19-25. Senior guard Breiman Alexander had his second consecutive 40-point game against Our Lady of the Lake University and senior women's guard Monti Regier totaled a game-high of 23 points versus Northern New Mexico College (21 on three-point shots).

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

SHOOTING SPORTS COMING 2019

John Groendyke is the Chairman of the Board of Groendyke Transport, one of the nation's largest motor carriers. An avid upland game hunter, he has served on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Commission since 1976.

The longest serving Wildlife Commissioner in our state's history, Groendyke's Oklahoma Panhandle roots run deep. His father, Harold C. Groendyke, graduated from Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College (later termed "Oklahoma Panhandle State University") in 1931. Groendyke's mother, originally from Guymon, as well as her siblings attended Panhandle State in the 1930s.

At the November 29, 2018 groundbreaking ceremony for the Panhandle State Shooting Sports Complex, it was announced that the building would be named the "John D. Groendyke Wildlife Conservation Center." Dr. Tim Faltyn said in the announcement, "the OPSU Shooting Sports Complex would not be happening if it had not been for the tireless support and generosity of John D. Groendyke."

