

FEBRUARY 2019

# Panhandle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Tomorrow's  
Leaders





/ CAMPUS /

## ENROLLMENT NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

According to preliminary enrollment reports, Oklahoma Panhandle State University is up 7 percent in total enrollment compared to a record-setting Spring 2018. This feat followed a 9 percent increase last fall in total enrollment. This enrollment increase marks the third consecutive semester in which Panhandle State has seen increased enrollment figures.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn stated, "I am so proud of the amazing work being done on campus. There are many thanks owed to the overall effort this institution is producing. This is a win for everyone who loves Panhandle!"

The High School and Community Relations Office has been a leader in the collective effort to get the word out about Panhandle State to prospective students. By following in their path, the campus has expanded its recruiting tools and strategies.

Jade Singleton-Reich, the Director of High School and Community Relations, addressed, "Combined efforts across campus and new opportunities for incoming students can be thanked for the significant increase in numbers."

Panhandle State introduced the Panhandle Promise Scholarship last fall, giving education students the opportunity to apply for a gap scholarship that would cover their tuition in whole. The university also hosted a ground-breaking ceremony for the shooting sports facility, which will attract students from across the nation to the anticipated program. The completed turf project drew quite a bit of attention, as well, with the announcement of a new NAIA soccer program in the works.

Dr. Julie Dinger, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, commented, "I can't say enough good things about the Panhandle State family pulling together to improve our retention. One of the things we fight every year is the loss of students between the fall and spring semesters. These reports show us that our hard work to retain students is paying off."

While Panhandle State continues to press forward into a more innovative institution, it also remains true to its slogan, "a tradition of excellence".

*"Combined efforts across campus and new opportunities for incoming students can be thanked for the significant increase in numbers."*

— Jade Singleton-Reich,  
Director of High School &  
Community Relations

The school prides itself on the tight-knit community and true investment that all the employees take in the students' lives and education.

For many Panhandle State students, that is the exact reason why they love the school so much. "I was drawn to OPSU for the rodeo team and its outstanding reputation, but what I didn't realize was how amazing the professors were and how welcoming the community was! The people involved in the college and community are what has kept me here," said Kaylee Smith, a senior biology major on the rodeo team. **P**

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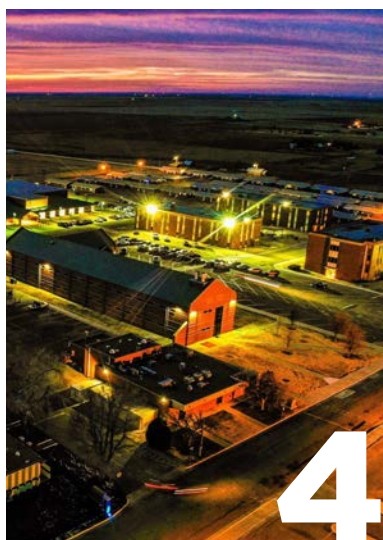
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On the cover: The RN to BSN program, a 100 percent online curriculum, is a stair step to the next level with the value it can add to one's career.



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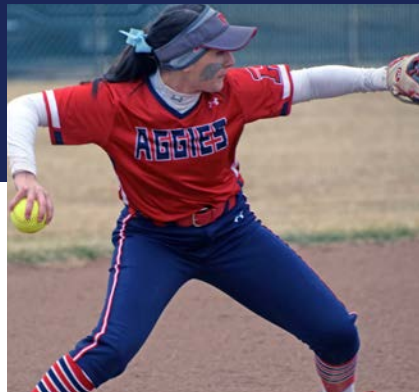
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/CAMPUS/

# AROUND CAMPUS

Spring 2019









/ STAFF /

## DANA COLLINS

**Dana Collins is the Director of Human Resources** at Panhandle State. Collins moved to Guymon, Okla. after her husband accepted a fourth grade teaching job in the Guymon Public Schools. After living in Guymon for awhile, Collins decided to attend Panhandle State and pursue a degree in finance. She graduated *Cum Laude* in 2006 with a Bachelor's of Business Administration. In 2008, She earned a master's degree from Drexel University.

While attending Panhandle State, Collins worked as a student worker for McKee Library before accepting a full time position in the campus bookstore, then served as an Insurance Coordinator/Payroll Clerk and Wellness Coordinator.

Collins said, "I enjoy the people: my co-workers, student workers and the community members. I love the positive impact OPSU has made in so many individuals' lives."

She is currently responsible for employee relations and onboarding, coordinating benefit programs and reconciliation, maintenance of payroll and personnel records, job vacancies and worker's compensation.

"I am currently working with the staff handbook committee and Assessment Coordinator to update handbooks, policies and procedures, and anticipate all job descriptions updated by 2020. My major "wish list" goal is to get all the employee records in electronic format...to go paperless."

Comptroller Liz McMurphy said, "All over campus we've seen numerous positive changes and the Payroll/HR department has seen its fair share of its own changes. One thing that hasn't changed is the person that keeps it all running smoothly behind the scenes. Dana's consistency and commitment has not gone unnoticed. We are very proud of her positive attitude amidst a downsize in staff, changing processes, and other various challenges faced in the past few semesters. We are better because of Dana's contribution to OPSU."

Her personal hobbies include gardening and fitness, "both are very therapeutic." Collins is an active member of the Ultra Runners group in Guymon. She and her family are active in the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Guymon.

She added, "My husband Philip and I enjoy running and participating in Spartan events. We actually started half marathon training in February. It's his first half, so I want to be there to support him." The couple also enjoys watching their daughter in her dance events and taking her swimming. Collins also added, "I love that my son is attending OPSU so I get to see him every day, even when he just needs money for lunch." **P**

/ STUDENT /

## BARIS ULKER

**Combine his 6'8" stature with the intensity** he plays with on the court, and it is a surprise to sit down and visit with such a soft-spoken Baris Ulker off the court.

Originally from Istanbul, Turkey, the junior forward comes to Goodwell after playing a year of basketball at Gillette College (Wyoming) and then Central Wyoming College.

Ulker came to the United States as a freshman in high school and attended a preparatory school in Winchendon, Mass.

After meeting Head Basketball Coach Aaron Coombs, Panhandle State seemed a natural fit for Ulker as he really liked the way Coombs communicated and ran his ball system.

Coombs commented, "He's an incredible person with a massive heart! He's obviously talented but what he brings to our team that's the most valuable is that he's a great teammate."

While Goodwell obviously has a different pace than that of the 60 million people he grew up with in Istanbul, Ulker enjoys it. He said his favorite thing about Panhandle State is "my teammates honestly and coaches. On and off the court, we have great chemistry. We look out for each other even in class." He also really enjoys being at a school that has a football team as he hasn't been at a school with one before.

Following graduation, the Psychology major would like to first play basketball overseas and then possibly become a counselor or coach all the while remaining active in the sports world.

Ulker's parents have been very instrumental in helping him achieve his goals. His dad has been coaching basketball for ages 4-18 for over 40 years. His mom is a Physical Education teacher who played basketball in college and on an International Club team. Ulker's brother is 16 and plays on one of the top teams in Turkey with goals to come and play in the United States in the future.

Technology has definitely been on the family's side allowing them to see many of Ulker's games via live stream.

"It might be 5 a.m. in Turkey, but they will still be watching my games. They are the first ones that I call and talk to after my games."

While Ulker has been named Aggie Athlete of the week at Panhandle State, some of what he feels are his greatest accomplishments include being invited to an NBA camp called "Basketball without Borders" as one of the top 15 European players in 2014. In 2015, the team he played on in the summer, Team Turkey, finished second place in a European Tournament.

Ulker lives on campus and aside from attending class and playing for the Aggies, enjoys playing video games. **P**





/ FACULTY /

## MATTHEW CARTER

**Industrial Technology (INDT) Chair and Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems (CIS),** Matthew Carter has worked at Panhandle State for 24 years.

Originally from Monahans, Texas, Carter attended Angelo State University before earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1988 and another bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems in 1990, both from Panhandle State. In 1993 Carter completed a master's degree in Instructional Technology from Texas Tech University.

Prior to teaching, Carter worked for DacEasy Accounting Software Company in Dallas and for various certified public accountants.

Carter originally started teaching as an adjunct instructor. "After I taught my first class, I decided that was the job I wanted to do for the rest of my life." The people (including students, faculty, and staff) are his favorite thing about the University.

Carter teaches anywhere from five to six classes a semester and he has taught a variety of core CIS courses as well as numerous video and graphic classes over the years. This year he is team-teaching a plasma cutting class that is being offered for the very first time. In addition to teaching, he also serves as an adviser.

Over his years as a CIS instructor, Carter has been helpful in assisting with the implementation of new courses including Java, HTML, Advanced Web Design, Operating Systems and various other courses. The CIS department focuses on teaching students how to learn, in addition to learning specific programs, in an effort to stay current with ever-changing technology.

Carter commented, "We are a strong program, because we keep up with current technologies."

He has served as the INDT chair for a year and a half. With the addition of a welding certification program, the program has seen growth and Carter was a great fit to keep up the administrative demands of keeping certifications current amongst different parts of the INDT program.

His future goals include "to continue changing people's lives in a positive way."

Dean of Technology Davin Winger commented, "Matt Carter is a blessing to work with. He cares about students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the surrounding community. He likes to stay behind the scenes, but he is always involved in making things successful at the University. He is a graduate of Panhandle State, and is a proud supporter of the Panhandle 'P'."

As for hobbies, he refers to himself as a "hobby junkie!" He enjoys playing guitar and fiddle as well as woodworking, ceramics, leatherworking, soap making, cooking, video, computers, photography, RC airplanes, metalworking and painting. "I literally have dozens and dozens of things I do to keep my mind and hands busy." **P**

/ ALUMNI /

## CHRIS JOHNSTON

**Recently named the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators Agriscience Teacher of the Year,** Chris Johnston is the Agriculture Education Instructor and FFA Advisor at Elk Valley USD 283 in Kansas. He accepted the award at the 2019 Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators Ag Ed Symposium in Dodge City, Kansas on January 26, 2019.

"Being selected for this award is an incredible honor. Competing against other educators that have been teaching for quite some time and being able to stand out among some of the best teachers in the state is extremely humbling."

Johnston, originally from Fort Supply, Okla., graduated from Panhandle State in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education.

"My time at Panhandle State forever changed my outlook. I came to Panhandle State and didn't have much of a path mapped out for my future. Panhandle State has a very special place in my heart and life. I got married, started my family and found something that I had a passion for all during my time there. Once you enroll at Panhandle State, you become part of big family."

Johnston credits the one-on-one learning experiences he had at Panhandle with the superior education he feels he received.

"Dr. Nels Peterson, as well as others played a large role in molding me into the educator that I am today. He shared his years of wisdom in the classroom, allowed us to experience things in the classroom first hand, and got us involved with Ag Ed programs in the state."

The atmosphere at Panhandle State is his favorite thing about the University. "

The professors and staff are so welcoming and willing to facilitate the best education possible. Everyone at OPSU goes above and beyond for the students and they genuinely care for and want to see the students succeed in life after college."

Panhandle State Agriculture Education Professor Dr. Nels Peterson commented on Johnston's recent award as well as the work he is doing in the classroom.

"I am extremely proud of what Chris has accomplished in just two years."

Looking to the future, Johnston comments, "My main goal would be to continue making a difference in the lives of our youth."

As for time spent outside of work, Johnston and his family raise cattle and show pigs. He and his wife, Torrie, have a 3-year-old daughter and they just welcomed their new son on February 12, 2019. A Panhandle State graduate as well, Torrie earned a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and competed for the Equestrian team during her time as an Aggie. **P**



Higher Ed Day was held February 12, 2019 at the Capitol.



Featured Speaker, President Tim Faltyn, urged audience members that “we are better together than by ourselves.”

/ EDUCATION /

## STUDENTS VISIT THE CAPITOL FOR HIGHER ED DAY

*Submitted by Melody Ethley, Panhandle State Collegian*

**Some of Panhandle State’s finest** joined hundreds of students, faculty, and staff at the state capitol for Higher Education Day. This special day is hosted annually to observe the importance of higher education in our state. Many gathered for the legislative session that was hosted on the House floor of the capitol. State Regents requested \$38.7 million for an increase in faculty salaries, and introduced their proposal for increased financial aid funding.

Panhandle State student Hannah Johnson said that “Higher Ed day was a great experience to project the needs of a school like OPSU...It was a great opportunity to meet the representatives that affect our daily lives and I think we have made a lasting impact on them!”

Speakers at the event included Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Sen. Roger Thompson, Rep. Jadine Nollan, State Regents Chair Jay Helm, Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, and Chair of the State Regents Presidents Council, Oklahoma Panhandle State University President Tim Faltyn. In addition, three different students spoke about their personal experiences. Caitlin Anders, Cameron University; Aleysa Franz, Northwestern Oklahoma State

University; and Palmer Tetley, Tulsa Community College, shared how higher education at Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities has positively impacted their lives.

Vice President of Outreach Dr. Ryan Blanton, commented, “This is a great opportunity not only for our students, but our legislators as well. They enjoy hearing from our students about the issues that are important to them. I am very thankful that they took the time to hear from them.”

As for the Panhandle students, the trip was very enjoyable. On Tuesday, students were able to explore the Capitol on a construction tour. They had an exclusive look on the improvements being made to the historic building, and were able to visit areas of the Capitol that were restricted to the general public. Throughout the day, the students also had the chance to interact with Senator Casey Murdock and Representative Kenton Patzkowsky.

That evening, advisors took the students to have dinner with Dr. Faltyn, Senator Murdock, and Representative Patzkowsky. Students were able to have one-on-one interaction with their

legislators in an informal environment. The day’s activities were one of a kind, and so rewarding.

Student Life Coordinator Emilie Cowan stated, “It is awesome that we have a chance to provide our students with opportunities to go to the Capitol building and meet with the Representative and Senator that help with our University. I am excited to take more students in future years!”

All of the students in attendance were very grateful for their experience and definitely gained a better understanding of what goes into higher education institutions. Students cannot wait for another group of students to attend Higher Education Day and experience a student oriented educational trip.

Panhandle State President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, added, “I am so proud that our students get to participate in this event each year. Their interactions at the state level truly make an impact for the future of higher education.”

The students who were chosen to represent Panhandle State in Oklahoma City were student athletes, leaders, and our very own Panhandle royalty. Nancy Melendez-Trejo, Jasmine Estrada, Melody Ethley, Hannah Johnson, Lukas Holub, Reece Peterson, Jorge Rosas, and Sean Skipton all were in attendance this year. Advisors Kim Tuttle and Emilie Cowan supervised the trip along with Dr. Ryan Blanton. **P**





From left to right: Tyler Pfrehm, Carlie Murley, OIHB Band Director Dr. Rodney Dorsey, Luis Morales, and Maxine Henderson.

/ EDUCATION /

## HONOR BAND SUCCESS

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

**The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Honor Band (OIHB)** was held January 16-17, 2019 at the Doubletree Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa during the Oklahoma Music Educators Association (OMEA) Convention. Oklahoma Panhandle State University was represented by four students in the honor band.

Under the direction of Indiana University Band Director Dr. Rodney Dorsey, the OIHB is an honor band for students who are currently enrolled in college classes. The ensemble was selected from over 150 students nominated by their band directors from 15 Oklahoma colleges and universities.

Panhandle State Music Director Charla Lewis commented, "This is such a valuable learning experience for our students. They get to play in a top tier ensemble with musicians from all over Oklahoma directed by a nationally known conductor. They always come away from this experience excited and rejuvenated to complete the year."

Once students are accepted, they must audition to see what chair they hold in the band. Students generally receive audition music about a month before the event and then they must prepare to perform the music in front of three to four judges at the beginning of the two-day event. Once all the chairs are selected, the rehearsals start and continue through the day and into part of the next day.

The concert was held at 2 p.m. on Thursday January 17th. The group performed

four different pieces called *Lost Vegas*, *La Procession*, *Pale Blue on Deep*, and *Dos Danzas*.

Panhandle State students who participated were Tyler Pfrehm (B flat clarinet), Maxine Henderson (B flat clarinet), Luis Morales (tuba), and Carlie Murley (trumpet). Murley earned the highest chair of the Panhandle State students and was awarded fourth chair out of 14 trumpets.

Murley commented, "Being able to be a part of an ensemble with such a high level of musicianship is a very humbling experience. Not only do you get to work with new and different directors, you get to be a part of a 150-member band with musicians who will only encourage you and not knock you down."

She added, "For me, this event is life changing. I cannot say enough good things about this, and the amount of benefits you gain are unbelievable. My peers and I work very hard at what we do, and it is always good to see our hard work pay off in an event like this." **P**



For every dollar Panhandle State receives from state appropriations, it produces \$7.30 in positive economic impact.

*“We are proud to be good stewards of the tax payers’ dollars and offer such a return on investment for our regional economy.”*

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,  
University President

/ EDUCATION /

## OKLAHOMA CHAMBER REPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION AN ECONOMY GROWER

*Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications*

**A recent report produced by the State of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce** stated that Oklahoma’s public institutions are becoming increasingly more important to economic growth and development. For every dollar Oklahoma Panhandle State University receives from state appropriations, it produces \$7.30 in positive economic impact.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, “we are proud to be good stewards of the tax payers’ dollars and offer such a return on investment for our regional economy.”

“The Economic Role of Oklahoma’s Public Colleges and Universities” was released with the purpose of providing research outlining the economic output and impact that Oklahoma public colleges and universities have. In FY2016, the report stated that Oklahoma’s higher education supported \$8.21 billion in economic output.

“Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities serve as an anchor in their cities, towns and regions as they contribute to the stability of their communities,” said State Chamber Research Foundation Executive Director, Dr. Jennifer Lepard. “The study shows

what we’ve known to be true for a while—increased higher education is an underlying source of economic growth, both in the U.S. and internationally.”

The study showed that in 2016 Oklahomans who received an associate degree earned 17 percent more income than those who had completed high school with no further education. State residents who received their bachelor’s degree reported earning 60 percent more income than residents with a high school completion. Of the population with a bachelor’s degree, 75.1 percent are currently participating in the workforce; whereas 58.9 percent of those with a high school diploma are currently participating in the workforce.

Higher education in Oklahoma not only improves economic growth from the development of students, but also hosts some of the most highly skilled employees in the state. Staff and faculty at public universities and colleges often hold advanced degrees and work in scientific or technology-related fields. Universities raise the average levels of educational attainment in the towns they are located in.

“The impact of Oklahoma’s colleges

and universities goes far beyond their campus boundaries,” said State Chamber of Oklahoma President and CEO, Fred Morgan. “Oklahoma’s colleges and universities drive local economies and serve as important employers in cities and our state. As we strive to make Oklahoma a top 10 business-friendly state, we are thankful to have them as a vital part of our state’s business community as we work to further Oklahoma’s goals of preparing a modern workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.”

The report showed that higher education increases human capital and student earnings, upsurges worker wages and productivity, and escalates localized economic activity in areas where public colleges and universities reside.

Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn is the Chair of the Council of Presidents at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. He stated, “I know I stand with the other presidents in our state system when I say that higher education is vital to Oklahoma prosperity.”

As Panhandle State continues to increase enrollment and graduation numbers, research like this fuels the motivation across campus. The university’s slogan “progress through knowledge” rings even more true as the state and country push further into the future, expanding and supporting the





/ EDUCATION /

## RN to BSN PROGRAM RANKS AMONG TOP IN THE NATION

*Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications*

**A recent article** published by Best Medical Degrees and written by Susan Kempainen ranked Oklahoma Panhandle State University's RN to BSN program 18th in the nation in terms of best value for an online nursing program.

Program Director Pamela Sandvig said, "We are excited to be recognized as a top RN to BSN Program in the nation. This is definitely an honor. We have been growing in terms of enrollment and, honestly, that is largely due to recommendations from students. Once a student inquires about our program and are responded to quickly and individually they feel welcomed and want to get started. Most students are very excited to realize their goals of becoming an RN but quickly recognize the need for continued education. Often students seek their BSN degree for career and educational opportunities but just as often they work on their BSN for personal fulfillment. This is important to note because although their licensure level does not change they willingly take on additional responsibilities and are looked to as leaders in the profession. Completing the BSN degree at Panhandle State is a very different experience than the students have during their basic or pre-licensure nursing program. The courses are developed with the working RN in mind and are meant to stimulate growth as a person and professional nurse."

As of Fall 2018, the Panhandle State School of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing was responsible for 43 percent of

the university's total enrollment, a figure that can be contributed in large part to the Nursing program. The fall semester also claimed the largest number of students to graduate from the program totaling 51 bringing the program's total number of graduates to nearly 450. There are currently 154 students enrolled in the program.

With an estimated half million nurses retiring from the profession, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected nearly 2,955,200 million nurses will be needed between 2016-26 to meet the need for nurses and this is exactly where Panhandle State's RN to BSN program comes in to the picture.

Training the leaders of tomorrow, Panhandle State's RN to BSN program is a stair step to the next level with the value it can add to one's career. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the salary range for a BSN is estimated between \$60,300-\$75,900 with a median salary of \$70,000. BSN trained nurses are expected to see a rapid job growth rate of 15 percent. The RN to BSN program at Panhandle State provides students the potential to go to grad school and become nurse managers and practitioners as well as the ability to work in magnet status hospitals. Over half of the applicants to the program since Fall of 2018 have applied with the intention to advance their career as an RN in management or leadership positions.

One of the first programs to offer a 100 percent online curriculum, the program started in the 90s and is designed to meet

the needs of students across the country. With no campus attendance required. The program consists of eight BSN core classes and self-directed clinical projects can be completed in each individual's own community. Initial program enrollment can occur in the fall, spring, or summer.

With full-time and part-time options, the key to success is the program's ability to meet the needs of each individual enrolled, allowing students the flexibility to work and raise a family while completing their degree. Faculty members provide each student with an individualized degree plan designed to meet their personal needs. Students can expect one-on-one attention from Panhandle State faculty members who are committed to helping each individual reach their personal, professional, and educational goals.

Fall 2018 graduate John Karlin is among the individuals reaching their goals. Karlin recently won the Excellence in Neonatal Nursing Practice Award from the Academy of Neonatal Nursing, presented once a year to one RN at the National Neonatal Nurses, National Mother Baby Nurses & National Advance Practice Neonatal Nurses Conferences. Karlin is a Registered Nurse at OU Children's NICU. He was nominated for the award by one of his fellow bedside RNs and is the first recipient of this award in the Great Plains Region of the North American Continent including Canada.

In 2015, the program introduced the BSN Connection Scholarship allowing graduates from a scholarship-eligible college with an associate degree in Nursing an active, unrestricted RN license to apply for a scholarship that would potentially pay the difference in the cost of tuition/fees from the college they graduated from and the cost of tuition/fees at Panhandle State. Applicants must be Oklahoma residents who have been accepted into the Panhandle State RN to BSN Nursing program. It is available to students completing full or part-time study options. The scholarship would be applied for two full years of classes including summer.

The Panhandle State RN to BSN Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). **P**



Area students took part in a swine clinic hosted at the Panhandle State farm.

/ EDUCATION /

## SWINE CLINIC GETS START FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

*Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications*

**Great partnerships produce great opportunities** and the Swine Clinic held Saturday, January 19, 2019 was a perfect example of one of these instances. Hosted by Oklahoma Panhandle State University in partnership with Goodwell Public Schools, the event was held at the England Center at the Panhandle State Farm. Nearly 20 students participated despite an early morning start with snow and ice packed roads.

The clinic took birth during a meeting among Panhandle State Administration, Panhandle State Agriculture faculty, Goodwell Schools Administration and faculty, and Goodwell community members brainstorming on opportunities to partner for the future. It seemed to be the right fit for a groundbreaking of such with the bigger plan being to use the clinic as a model for many more partnerships to come.

Panhandle State Professor of Agriculture Education Nels Peterson knew the clinic had the potential to serve as a wonderful hands-on learning experience for Ag Education students enrolled in his "Planning the Community Program." The upper-level class focuses on providing experience within the informal education that is done in the Agriculture Education program. The eight students enrolled in the course were able to help throughout the clinic providing assistance with setup to registration and ring help.

An Ag Education major Bailey Brown of North Platte, Neb. commented on the event, "I think the showmanship clinic was a great opportunity for area 4-H and FFA members to learn. It was also a wonderful opportunity for OPSU to host this event and hopefully we can continue to do things like this in the

future. I saw how an event like this is planned and run, something that will help me as a high school Ag Teacher."

The event kicked-off with registration at 8 a.m. with the clinic following at 9 a.m. Open to residents in the Panhandle and Woodward districts and surrounding counties, the clinic saw a number of local students as well as students from the Woodward area. Each participant could bring their own pig to work with throughout the day.

The clinic was instructed by Blake and Alissa Williams. The Williams grew up showing livestock and Alissa's family has been raising show pigs for many years. She was very successful in the show ring as a contestant earning such honors as Kansas State Fair Grand Champion and Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) Reserve Grand Champion as well as top 5 in showmanship at both the Kansas State Fair and KJLS. She was also the Champion Senior showman at the Kansas City Royal and had numerous showmanship wins at area spring livestock shows. Alissa judged for Seward County Community College (SCCC) where she talked the high set of reasons on Hereford bulls at the National Western Sock Show and the high set of reasons on Maine heifers at the North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE).

Blake is the location manager for Livestock Nutrition Center in Garden City, Kansas. He showed cattle throughout high school, winning Supreme heifer at the NAILE, Cow Palace, Fort Worth, and the National Western Stock Show. He showed hogs and cattle at Texas majors and was a member of the state's winningest FFA chapter. Blake judged at SCCC placing

high consistently in hog classes including high set at NAILE.

Community member Joel Wilson commented on the event, "It isn't often that exhibitors get to learn from people of this caliber. I have taken my kids to some expensive camps and clinics around the country and the level of instruction was just as good right here in my backyard as it was at those camps. I have heard from parents and instructors since the clinic that have indicated to me that not just their youth learned something at the clinic, but they did as well."

Following the instructional portion of the clinic, participants had the opportunity to participate in a Showmanship Contest. The winners were as follows:

### SENIOR-

**Champion- Tyrun Rose- Goodwell FFA  
Reserve- Avery Harrison- Beaver FFA**

### INTERMEDIATE-

**Champion- Kynlea Myers- Texhoma FFA  
Reserve- Deke Wilson- Goodwell FFA**

### JUNIOR-

**Champion- Gunner Wilson- Goodwell 4H  
Reserve- Taggert Berry- Texhoma**

The most improved award went to Jess Brown of Beaver 4-H.

Special thanks go to Wilson and fellow community member Robbie Smith as well as Goodwell Agriculture Teacher and Panhandle State graduate Colt Humbard for helping with all the details and making the event happen.

Peterson commented on Humbard's involvement with the event. "It is really nice to see the young people I teach in Ag classes after they graduate and are out in the workforce as Ag professionals. That is one of the neatest aspects of my job. Colt did a very nice job helping to coordinate the event." **P**





AITP and PBL hosted yet another fantastic Perfect Pairings.

/ EDUCATION /

## PERFECT PAIRINGS SEES ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

*Submitted by Melody Ethley, Panhandle State Collegian*

**Perfect Pairings** is an annual event put on by two prestigious groups on the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus. The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) hosted the annual event on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Every year the students from each organization showcase themselves at the fundraising event which helps support their yearly competitions.

This was the third successful year that the event has taken place. The Perfect Pairings fundraiser was located in Guymon, Okla. at the Hitch Enterprises Annex. Upon arrival, guests were greeted by members of each club and given a wine glass to explore the six different pairing stations. This year guests could choose from the following options; Station 1 featured a Merlot and Bordeaux with Gouda Cheesecake. Station 2 featured a Syrah and a Shiraz with Steak Skewers. Station 3 featured a French Sauvignon Blanc and a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc with a Classic French Brandade. Station 4 featured the Guatemalan Fraijanes Coffee, Truffles, and Biscoti. Station 5 featured a Wild Tree Darjeeling Tea, Baklava, and Chocolate Covered Strawberries. Station 6 featured Japanese Whiskey and Smoked Butterkase Cheese.

After sampling, guests gathered to the floor for the commencement of the evening's program. Each guest had the chance to bid on six different baskets filled with each station's respective items. In the baskets, along with the pairings, were drinkware, customized decorative signs, hand-sewn mug rugs, and wooden P-Logo ornaments. Joel Wilson, Panhandle State Alumnus, conducted the evening's auction.

One of the most anticipated moments of the evening was the testimonials given by current and alumni students from each group. Melody Ethley, PBL President, shared her thoughts on how being in PBL has impacted her collegiate career. She gave lots of kudos to the organization for allowing her networking opportunities, and for increasing her leadership abilities. AITP member Jockson Bilbrey touched on how AITP competitions have given him real world experience that will carry over to his career someday.

PBL alumni Shevin Schramm, a 2012 graduate, is employed at Preferred Beef Group as a Controller. He spoke highly of the lessons he learned while competing with PBL and reminisced on the fond memories that came along with those trips. Although, AITP Alum Claire Tolbert could not make the event, the video testimony she sent in was nothing short of inspiring. Ms. Tolbert is a Software Engineer at Alkami and

also the Director of Women Who Code, an organization based out of Dallas/Ft. Worth. A 2013 graduate, Tolbert also discussed how AITP had helped mold her into the professional she is today.

The event saw over 60 attendees with approximately 40 guests and 26 club members/advisers in attendance. The money raised will go to help offset the costs for the groups to attend their regional and/or state and national competitions. With assistance from local partners, the third annual Perfect Pairings fundraiser was a huge success. Many thanks go to the following local businesses for their help in this year's event: Golden Crown, Urban Bru, Dancer's Fine Wine and Liquor, Shelby Red Corn Massage, Panhandle State Meat Lab, Great Western Dining, and Hitch Enterprises. Thanks also go to Virgil Gibson for selecting this year's pairings and former Panhandle State students Nick Tuttle, Halli Karlin of H. Karlin Designs and Hector Cobos of H&M Pottery for their donations to the auction baskets. Additionally, a big thanks goes to all of the guests for showing their support and the AITP and PBL sponsors for their dedication to the success of the event. Perfect Pairings 2020 is definitely worth looking forward to! **P**



# 2019 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees



/ALUMNI/

## ALUMNI ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME HONOREES

*Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications*

**The 2019 Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame Induction** of the Panhandle State Alumni Association is set for April 13, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom on the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus. All are invited to attend.

The day is sure to be packed with fun for all with AggieFest and a color run kicking off at 9:30 a.m. Gourmet Burgers will follow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A concert at 6:30 p.m. will conclude the evening.

Alumni Director Natasha Eidson said, “This year’s Annual Meeting will be in conjunction with AggieFest and all of its festivities. The Gourmet Burgers will take the place of our meal during the meeting. We are excited for the new experience this will bring to Alumni Weekend.”

Each year, the association takes nominations and honors individuals and families who have contributed to Panhandle State and the community. This year’s Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees are Keith Flanagan and Kim Peterson.

Alumni President Diane Murphey said, “It is an honor to be able to recognize two outstanding graduates of Panhandle State and their service by inducting them into our Alumni & Friends Hall of Fame.”

Dr. Keith Flanagan attended and graduated from Oklahoma Panhandle State University (1970) and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where he was a 1978 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine. He then spent the next two years serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps as group veterinarian for the fifth Special Forces Group (Airborne), in Ft. Bragg, N.C. Following his military service, he worked at the Marlow Veterinarian Clinic, Marlow, Okla. for seven years.

Dr. Flanagan connected with Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) in 1979 and did his first short-term mission trip in 1986 to Haiti. For the next 26 years, he and Jan poured themselves out in ministry and service to the people of Haiti serving in a variety of roles in ministry and development work.

Keith was proud to be from this area and was proud to have attended Panhandle State. He held the university in high regard for his basic training to send him into

veterinary school and spoke highly of it.

Kim L. Peterson has been a lifelong resident of the Oklahoma Panhandle. After graduating from Guymon High School in 1970, Kim followed in his family’s footsteps and attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1974 and went on to attend post-graduate courses at Oklahoma State University.

Kim has been self-employed since 1979, with his expertise ranging from carpentry and construction to barbecue enthusiast at his family’s local restaurant and catering business.

Kim was elected to the City Council of Guymon as Vice Mayor in 2011. In 2013, he was elected Mayor of Guymon and is currently serving a second term.

Peterson is an avid supporter of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He has served on the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Foundation Board of Directors since 2007 and as President of the Board from 2014-2016. Kim enjoys supporting Aggie Athletics and organizations by providing sponsorship for events, assistance with meals and even part-time employment for students.

For full bios, visit [opsu.edu](http://opsu.edu). **P**





Suzie and Bill Brewster of Love County, Okla., were recently honored with the 2019 Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award from the Dallas Safari Club.

/ EDUCATION /

## BREWSTERS PRESENTED CAPSTICK AWARD

*Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications*

**On January 19th at the annual Dallas Safari Club** Convention and Expo, Wildlife Commissioner Bill Brewster and his wife, Suzie Brewster, were awarded with the Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award. The Brewsters have been supporters of Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Shooting Sports facility project since the beginning.

Wildlife Commissioner Bill Brewster was a significantly influential part of awarding the grant which has allowed Panhandle State to execute its shooting sports complex plan. He has served as the District 3 representative on the Oklahoma Wildlife Department of Wildlife Conservation and is a proponent of safe and responsible gun use.

Wildlife Commissioner J.D. Strong commented, "No one has done more to protect and introduce new people to our hunting heritage, whether in Oklahoma or abroad, than Bill and Suzie Brewster. It therefore makes abundant sense that this formidable team earned Dallas Safari Club's prestigious Capstick Award, and we are proud and fortunate to call them part of our ODWC team."

The Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award honors individuals and families that have shown a strong commitment over the years to hunting heritage through education, humanitarian causes, hunting involvement, and giving. The Brewsters embody these qualifications and then some through their long-

term support of hunting and wildlife conservation.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn said, "Bill Brewster played such an important role in obtaining the grant for our shooting sports facility; him and his wife are well-deserved for this prestigious award and we are honored to have his support at Panhandle State."

Bill Brewster served as a US House Representative as well as an Oklahoma House Representative, where he advocated for wildlife conservation and helped shape what that looks like on a national level. He has recently been selected as chairman of the International Wildlife Conservation Council and is providing advice to the Secretary of Interior.

Suzie Brewster has been a public school educator for 21 years and was very influential in the relationships she made with her students. She co-founded the national Congressional Staff Shoot in 1999, which is an event that teaches and promotes shooting skills to its participants. Currently, Mrs. Brewster is serving on the National Rifle Association Women's Policy Committee and helped found the Women on Target Hunting Program. **P**



Mike Branson, Jack Strain, and Lanny Wilson were recognized as Top Hand Sponsors of the Year.

/ ATHLETICS /

## ANNUAL TOP HAND AUCTION SETS RECORD

Submitted by Erika Chartrand

*“This year was the best we have ever had. We cannot thank the community enough for all their support. Our team members did an outstanding job putting it on.”* – Robert Etbauer, Head Rodeo Coach

The 2019 Top Hand Auction hosted by the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team was the most successful one yet. A record-breaking amount of money was raised through auction items, raffle tickets, and student pairs. Friends, family and the whole community came together once again to support the rodeo team.

The top selling item this year was the five-day bear hunt donated by team member Baylee Henderson’s dad, Wesley, which brought \$3900. 100 bales of alfalfa sold for \$1000, a stud fee for six-time Central Plains Region Horse of the Year (Rambo) sold for \$800, a western print quilt sold for \$775, and a boot rack and boot certificate sold for \$650. These were only a few of the items that made this night a success.

Along with these items, the Panhandle State Rodeo team members were auctioned off in pairs of two or three for a day of work. The top selling top-hand pair was Caitlyn Wiswell and Kaylee Smith for a total of \$1000 and the second highest was Zane Grigsby, Trey Hall, and Matt Goings for \$825. On top of the generous bids on the team members, Coaches Robert Etbauer and Shelbie Weeder sold for a grand total of \$1800.

Mike Branson, Jack Strain, and Lanny Wilson were recognized as Top Hand Sponsors of the Year. The rodeo team would like to thank them once again, as well as all of the other sponsors that allow the team so many opportunities.

Clay Myers of Texhoma Livestock Auction did an outstanding job once again keeping the crowd entertained and the auction rolling. Tate Cobb and Derek Barton assisted him.

As always, Hunny’s barbecue did not disappoint. The room was full of friends and family and always an incredible sponsor, Hunny’s supplied everyone with a plateful of their delicious buffet.

To end a great night, Ken Stonecipher and The Wooden Nickel Band provided musical entertainment that got everyone out of their seats and onto the dance floor. The event keeps getting bigger and bigger and it is exciting to look to the years to come.

The team is proud to announce that the evening brought a total profit of \$37,135 which is \$4,410 more than last year and has become the best year so far. All proceeds from the Top Hand Auction are put towards the Panhandle State Rodeo Team. These funds will go towards scholarships, practice stock, facility upkeep and the professional rodeo schools.

Etbauer commented, “This year was the best we have ever had. We cannot thank the community enough for all their support. Our team members did an outstanding job putting it on.”

The Rodeo Team kicked off the spring semester with their first college rodeo on February 15, 16, and 17 in Manhattan, Kan. at Kansas State University. The weekly jackpots are underway as well. **P**





/ATHLETICS/

## AGGIE CHEER TEAM TAKES FIRST AT INAUGURAL COMPETITION

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The Aggie Cheer team entered its first collegiate competition on January 26, 2019 and finished in first place at the Tabor College Invitational in Hillsboro, Kan. The team received an average of 57.3 from the two judges and were given zero deductions.

Head Coach Alyssa Freeman stated that the team had been working diligently in the months leading up to their first invitational, practicing three times a week with focus on each aspect of the routine including dance, tumbling and stunts. The team also took part in strength and conditioning and saw ample time in the weight room to prepare for the extensive routine and high-energy movements of the dance portion.

Freeman noted that she was particularly proud that her team expertly executed their most difficult pyramid at the invitational. "The pyramid was solid at competition," said Freeman, "They overcame that obstacle and hit it perfectly and you could just tell as soon as they completed it and started the dance portion, they were so excited and fell into their groove."

On February 1, the team traveled to Oklahoma City to take part in the Oklahoma City Classic. "That week was more challenging since we faced two teams that have gone to nationals and hold national titles, but I think that pushed my team to work harder in and out of practice," said Freeman. She continued, "I don't want to focus on how many wins other teams have but instead focus on how competing against these teams can only make us better."

The OCU Classic saw three teams, including the host team, Oklahoma City, Bethel College and Panhandle State.

The Aggies performed stunts and a dance portion, accruing a combined total of 42.73 from three judges after deductions. The team scored well in pyramids and jumps, and received high marks for overall execution of choreography. All three judges scored the Aggies

*"I don't want to focus on how many wins other teams have but instead focus on how competing against these teams can only make us better."*

— Alyssa Freeman, Head Cheer Coach

high in showmanship and overall impression. Panhandle State then competed in a dual with OCU, scoring a combined total of 55.7 with only .5 in deductions.

The next competition saw Aggie Cheer at the Sterling College Competition on February 7 followed by the Bethel College Competition on February 8.

The Aggies placed eighth overall and received a combined average score of 53.8 at the Sterling College Competition, coming in just ahead of Tabor University and Wayland Baptist.

At the Bethel College Competition, Panhandle accrued a combined average score of 53.16 to place seventh, just 6/10th of a point behind Wayland Baptist.

Regionals will be held at in Oklahoma City at OCU on February 23, followed by the NAIA National Cheer & Dance Competition, which will take place over March 8-9 in Davenport, Iowa, with preliminary rounds for cheer taking place at 4:30 p.m. on the 8th.

Speaking proudly of her team and their accomplishments, Freeman stated, "We have overcome a lot of adversity since May and have come a long way since we first started working on this routine in the fall. We have a family bond that is prevalent now more than ever." **P**

OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE

Welcomes

DAVE BEYER



/ATHLETICS/

# DAVE BEYER NAMED SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is proud to welcome Dave Beyer as the new Sports Information Director.

Beyer hails from Abilene, Texas, most recently from McMurry University, where he held the title of Director of Communications and Operations since 2012. Prior to his tenure at McMurry, Beyer built an impressive 28-year career as a Sports Information Director spanning Mercer University, Benedictine College, Rockford College, Aurora University, Cal State San Bernardino, Rancho Santiago Community College, and Biola University. He also served as the Conference Publicist for the Northern-Iowa Conference, an NCAA III League.

A 25-Year College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) awardee, Beyer has also been a CoSIDA Academic All-America Committee member since 1998 and a CoSIDA Publications Committee Member since 2001.

Beyer is passionate about the sports industry as a whole and is excited to join the Aggie Athletics family. "I am very to have Dave join our athletic staff," said Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy, "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the department." P



## AGGIE — 2018-19 — BASKETBALL SENIOR CLASS

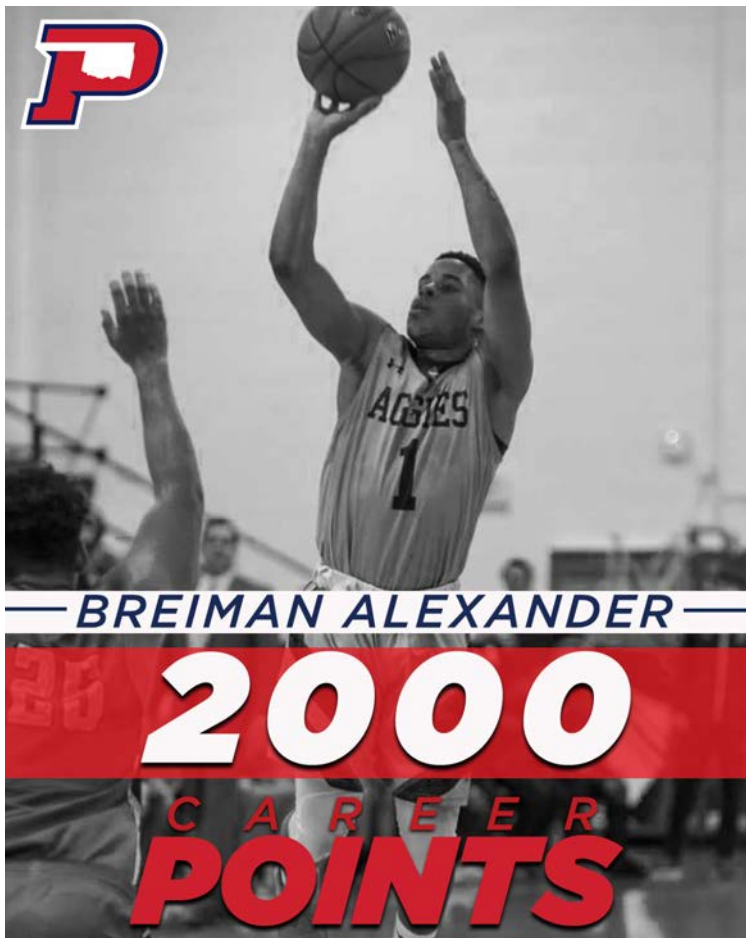
Monti Regier, Taylor Acosta  
Hannah Faulks, Shambri Kelso

Alexander Breiman, Alan Hodge Jr.





## ALEXANDER HITS 2000 CAREER POINTS



Ten minutes into the first half against Southwestern Christian, Head Coach Aaron Coombs called his first time out of the game, but instead of taking the full to convene with his team, the entire capacity of Anchor D Arena erupted with applause as it was announced that senior Breiman Alexander just surpassed **2,000** career points.

## REGIER SETS SCHOOL RECORD



Congratulations to Monti Regier who set a new Panhandle State record for the **most 3-point shots** made in one game by sinking 10 in the contest against Bacone!

## AGGIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



SHAUNA ADAMS  
WEEK 17: Cheer



KHALID EDWARDS  
WEEK 17: Basketball



ADDISON MUNSCH  
WEEK 18: Basketball



KARAH ORTIZ  
WEEK 18: Softball



MONTI REGIER  
WEEK 19: Basketball



JARED MAYEDA  
WEEK 19: Baseball



ABBY GREGORY  
WEEK 20: Softball



BREIMAN ALEXANDER  
WEEK 20: Basketball

A complete listing of Athlete of the Week recipients can be found at [opsuaggies.com](http://opsuaggies.com)



OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# 2019

## "Doc" Gardner Memorial Rodeo

April  
25

at 7pm

April  
26

at 7pm

April  
27

at 2pm

Hitch Pioneer Arena in Guymon, OK

