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**BUILDING A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW**



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/ CAMPUS /

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Class of 2019 was joined by an arena full of family and friends to celebrate the 109th Commencement Ceremony held Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Anchor D Arena in Goodwell.

The ceremony began as faculty members and special guests took their stage seats to the sound of a drum cadence. The Class of 2019 entered to Fanfare and Processional played by the Panhandle State Concert Band and directed by Charla Lewis. The Guymon Fire Department presented the colors and the Panhandle State Chamber Singers sang The Star-Spangled Banner and the Alma Mater-Crimson and Blue under the direction of Dr. Dee Wilkins. Pastor David Jenkins, Panhandle Centenary United Methodist Church in Goodwell gave the invocation.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn welcomed graduates, parents, Board of Regents, honored guests, distinguished faculty and staff to the event and invited everyone to celebrate with enthusiasm, reflecting on the hard work and dedication of the graduates as well as making joyful memories.

Regent Joe Hall brought Greetings from the Oklahoma A&M Regents. Regent Hall is the owner and CEO of Joe D. Hall General Contractors, LLC and is involved in construction/engineering and real estate development in Western Oklahoma as well as ranching operations. Mr. Hall was appointed by Governor Brad Henry in 2003 and reappointed by Governor Mary Fallin in 2011 to serve as a member of the A&M Board of Regents. Mr. Hall received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1983, graduating with honors. The Board has provided wise leadership

and service to Panhandle State since 1944.

Memorial resolution recognition was given to husband and wife team, Joe and Mary Anne Mayer. Mr. Joe Mayer began his career at Panhandle State in 1968 and he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech with a minor in Business Administration in 1972. Mr. and Mrs. Mayer were longtime residents of Guymon, Okla.

Dr. Sandol Johnson was recognized as a retiring faculty member. She first came to Panhandle in 1983 as an Instructor of Animal Science and Firestone Meat Lab Manager. Johnson has been the Department Chair of Animal Science and Professor of Animal Science since 2013. She has been a part of leading the meat judging team and has been an Academic Advisor for the Equestrian Team. One of her proudest accomplishments is when a new student will introduce themselves and say, "You taught my parents years ago and they said I had to take one of your classes."

Jorge Rosas brought greetings as the Student Government Association President. Rosas came to Panhandle State from Felt, Okla. He is a double major in Marketing and Computer Information Systems and he has been a part of Video Game Club, AITP, PBL, and SGA.

A special commencement address was given by Mr. Kim Peterson, a life-long resident of the Oklahoma Panhandle as he is a fourth generation native. Peterson addressed the graduates saying "after tonight you join an elite group. Remember that you will always be Panhandle."

Following Peterson's speech, Perla America Nevarez-Ortiz was named the mortarboard decorating contest winner by Student Services Director Mike Harris.

Additionally, Harris recognized Hannah Hammack as this year's J.R.P. Sewell Award

winner. Hammack was selected from a strong class of graduating seniors. She has been an outstanding presence on campus and will continue her career at Panhandle State as an Admissions Counselor.


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

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger presented the Class of 2019 for graduation and certification.

The graduates recessed to Fanfare and Recessional after the benediction by Pastor Jenkins.

Panhandle State graduated a total of 326 students this year, with 33 and 109 graduating in the summer and fall, respectively, and 142 walking the stage in May.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "Panhandle State has become the fastest growing university in the region, and our ever-increasing number of graduates reflects that. The perseverance of our staff, faculty and deans to change the way we approach recruitment and retention has come to light, and we are going to work together to continue to create an environment to grow our university for future Panhandle State generations to come."

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! 



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8



14

On the cover: Reagan Schlochtermeier, Senior
 Back Cover: (Left to Right) Dean of the College of Business and Technology, Davin Winger; Dean of the College of Arts and Education, Dr. Brad Duren; Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science and Nursing, Shawna Tucker



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/CAMPUS/

COMMENCEMENT

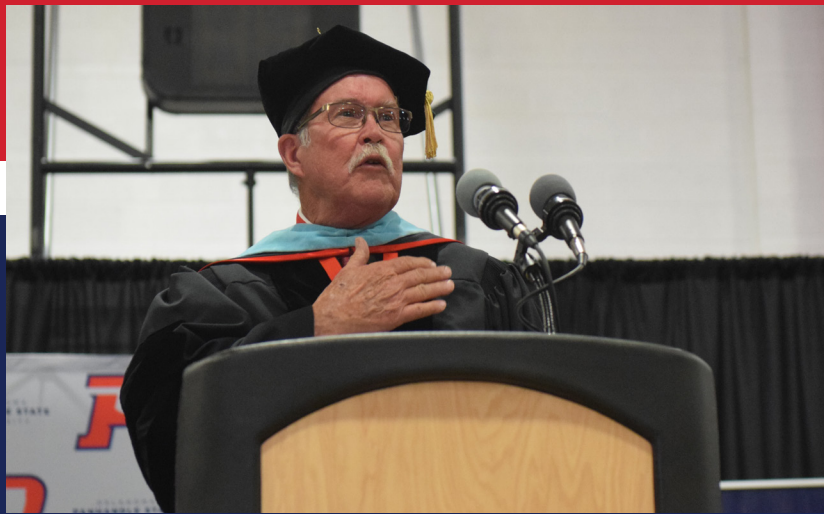
May 2019



/CAMPUS/

COMMENCEMENT

May 2019





Both the men's and women's teams won second place in the Central Plains Region, which allows them to take a full team to the College National Rodeo Finals (CNFR) in June.

/ATHLETICS/

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAMS QUALIFY FOR CNFR

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team hosted the last college rodeo of the year right here in Guymon, Okla. The team put on a great rodeo and was very successful in the arena. The women's team won the rodeo and the men's team placed third. In the year as a whole, both teams won second place in the Central Plains Region, which allows them to take a full team to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) consisting of six men and four women.

Jade Taton had a great weekend in the bareback riding winning the first round with a score of 80 points and placing second in the second round with a score of 68 points. Not only did Taton win the weekend, he also won the year-end title making him a CNFR qualifier.

Hadly McCormick was very consistent this weekend in the tie-down roping. McCormick turned in times of 11.1 seconds in both the long round and the short round giving him the reserve champion title for the weekend. Quint Bell also made the short round in the tie-down roping and won sixth in the short round and sixth in the average.

Five out of the 10 breakaway ropers in the short round were from Panhandle State. Hagen Brunson split for second place in the long round with a time of 2.3 seconds. Brunson placed fourth in the short round with a time of 4.5 seconds giving her the third place in the average. Beau Peterson was 2.6 seconds in the long round and 4.3 seconds in the short round placing her fourth in the

average. Ayvree Smith rode the horse of the year, Rambo, and had a time of 2.1 seconds in the long round and 13 seconds in the short round with a ten second penalty. Smith placed fifth in the average. Sierra Smith and Mariah Dermody also made it to the short round, but unfortunately got no times in the short round.

Dawson Dahm scored 75 points in the long round. Dahm then scored 77 points in the short round placing him second in the round and second in the average. Dahm won the year-end title making him another of our CNFR 2019 qualifiers. Ira Dickinson won fifth in the average. Sam Martin won sixth in the average. Tanner Hays also qualified for the short round, but did not place in the average.

Quint Bell also made the short round in the steer wrestling. Bell placed fourth in the long round with a time of 8.6 seconds. Bell then had a time of 8.9 seconds in the short round placing him third in the average. Lane Giovanetti was also in the steer wrestling short round and placed fifth in the average.

Panhandle State won the first through fourth place in the goat tying this weekend and the first through third place in the year-end. Kaylee Smith had a perfect weekend in the goat tying. Smith won both rounds and the average with the two fastest times of the rodeo. Smith therefore secured her spot as the 2019 Goat-Tying Champion qualifying her for the 2019 CNFR. Baylee Henderson won second in the average. Sierra Smith and Linzie Van Horn tied for third in the average.

Beau Peterson did not have the weekend she expected with her goat getting up in the long round, but still won second in the region followed by Sierra Smith in third place. These three girls will therefore be competing at the CNFR in June.

Luke Meier and his partner won second in the long round of the team roping with a time of 6.9 seconds. The team then placed third in both the short round and the average. Trey Hall and his partner placed sixth in the long round, but did not get a time in the short round.

There is still one spot to fill on the women's team and three spots to fill on the men's team that will be heading to Casper, Wyo. for the CNFR in June. Coach Robert Etbauer and Assistant Coach Shelby Weeder Rose will decide whom the best candidates would be to fill these spots. The rodeo team would like to thank the community for such a great turn out at their rodeo and show appreciation to everyone who has made this successful year possible. The teams will keep up the hard work and be ready to keep the winning tradition alive at the CNFR. **P**

/ATHLETICS/

AGGIE RODEO READY TO RIDE

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University men's and women's rodeo teams will be trying to make some program history when they travel to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) on June 7-15, 2019 in Casper, Wyoming. The Aggie men will be sending six competitors, along with four representatives for the Panhandle ladies, after both squads finished second in the final 2019 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Central Plains Region rankings.

Winners of seven men's team titles over the years, the Aggie cowboys will be looking to wrangle a third-consecutive CNFR national championship in 2019. OPSU won back-to-back crowns in 1997 and 1998, as well as 2017 and 2018. Panhandle State's men will be competing in three events: Saddle Bronc, Bareback and Bull Riding.

In Saddle Bronc, Panhandle will be sending the Nos. 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8 ranked riders in the region to Casper. Sophomore Dawson Dahm (Tomahawk, Alberta, Canada) led the Central Plains Region with 870 points in Saddle Bronc, after finishing second in the event at the 2018 CNFR (to teammate Jake Finlay).

Joining Dahm in Saddle Bronc will be sophomore Cooper Thatcher (Darbalara, New South Wales, Australia) at No. 4 in the region, senior Cody Ballard (Tumut, Australia) at No. 6, senior Tanner Hayes (Elkhart, Kan.) at No. 7 and Jade Taton

(Coleman, Texas) at No. 8.

Taton, who earned the Central Plains Region's all-around award in 2019, was also the top regional qualifier in Bareback, earning 1,320 points. Taton is the Aggies' only multi-event participant at the 2019 CNFR.

Senior Dustin Martinez (Guymon, Okla.) rounds out the Panhandle men's entrants. Martinez heads to the CNFR as the No. 3-rated Bull Rider from the Central Plains Region. Martinez placed ninth at last year's CNFR event.

Head coach Robert Etbauer's cowgirls will be looking to help the Aggies' rodeo program complete the "CNFR Slam," needing a championship in Goat Tying to give OPSU an individual national champion in every event offered at the CNFR in its history. If ever there were a chance to reach that benchmark, it is this year as all four Aggie ladies – senior Kaylee Ann Smith (Jay Em, Wyo.), freshman Beau Peterson (Council Grove, Kan.), junior Sierra Smith (Winterset, Iowa) and senior Baylee Henderson (Dusty, N.M.) – are all entered in the Goat Tying competition.

K. Smith, Peterson and S. Smith were the Nos. 1-3-ranked competitors in the region for 2019, with Henderson ranked No. 8. Kaylee Ann Smith placed 23rd at the 2018 CNFR in Goat Tying and racked up a total of 1,055 points heading into the championships in 2019. **P**



Panhandle State Rodeo Head Coach, Robert Etbauer, keeps a watchful eye on his riders at the Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo.



Members of the women's team stand alongside Panhandle State Women's Rodeo Coach, Shelby Weeder.



On April 25, University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, and the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents gathered for the Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo before the Board met at the OPSU campus the following day.



Beau **Peterson**

Class: Freshman
Hometown: Council Grove, Kansas
Event: Goat Tying



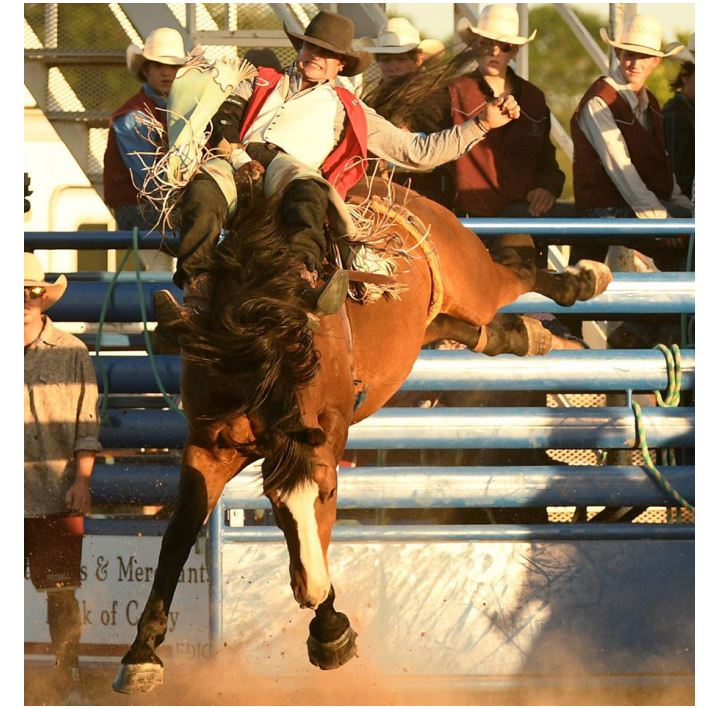
Kaylee Ann **Smith**

Class: Senior
Hometown: Jay Em, Wyoming
Event: Goat Tying



Dawson **Dahm**

Class: Sophomore
Hometown: Tomahawk, Alberta, Canada
Event: Saddle Bronc



Jade **Taton**

Class: Junior
Hometown: Coleman, Texas
Events: Bareback, Saddle Bronc

2019 CNFR **Women's Qualifiers**



GOOD LUCK PANHANDLE STATE RODEO
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAMS!



Sierra Smith
Class: Junior
Hometown: Winterset,
Iowa
Event: Goat Tying



Baylee Henderson
Class: Senior
Hometown: Dusty, New
Mexico
Event: Goat Tying

2019 CNFR **Men's Qualifiers**



Cooper Thatcher
Class: Sophomore
Hometown: Darbalara,
Australia
Event: Saddle Bronc



Cody Ballard
Class: Senior
Hometown: Tumut,
Australia
Event: Saddle Bronc



Tanner Hayes
Class: Senior
Hometown: Elkhart,
Kansas
Event: Saddle Bronc



Dustin Martinez
Class: Senior
Hometown: Guymon,
Oklahoma
Event: Bull Riding



/ STAFF /

MELINDA STEPHENS

Melinda Stephens is pivotal part of the multitude of hard work that goes on behind the scenes of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, but while you may not see her face every day, you certainly eat her food.

As the Food Service Director at Panhandle State, Stephens is at the helm of the Great Western Dining services that provide delicious meals for students, faculty and staff on campus in both the cafeteria and the Aggie Grill. Stephens has also been avidly involved in catering some of the university's biggest banquets and special ceremonial occasions, including the bi-annual Hall of Fame Banquet, Faculty and Staff Welcome Breakfast, and Chi-Alpha Sigma Awards Banquet.. She has been working with the university for nine years and commented that she has loved every moment.

A part of the university since the summer of 2010, Stephens started off as the nights and weekends supervisor before moving to the administration and catering manager. In December of 2017, Great Western Dining became the primary food service provider of Panhandle State. At that time, Stephens was appointed the position of Food Service Director. "I love my job and I love being around the Oklahoma Panhandle State University students, faculty, and staff," said Stephens. She continued, "I love helping people in the Goodwell community with food needs or otherwise."

Stephens was born and raised right here in Goodwell, Okla. and attended school at Guymon High School, so it became a natural step to become a part of the Panhandle State family. Stephens commented that what drew her to the university first was the familial atmosphere and the friendly faculty and staff.

Having grown up around the campus, Stephens says so much has changed, but the feeling of welcoming has always stayed the same. "One thing I love and always puts a smile on my face is that I can walk into most all the buildings on campus and it always brings back the most wonderful childhood memories; even the way the buildings look and smell," she reminisced.

Currently, Stephens is hard at work providing food services to those participating in summer camps on campus, such as the Upward Bound Summer Program. She is also already preparing for the return of students for the fall 2019 semester.

Stephens says another reason that has contributed to her love of the university is that she also met her husband here at Panhandle State, and the two share seven year-old twins and a dog. **P**



/ STUDENT /

NAOMI RODRIGUEZ

Current Oklahoma Panhandle State University junior, Naomi Rodriguez is highly involved all around campus, from athletics to student groups.

A Hooker, Okla. native, Rodriguez attended Hooker High School before setting her sights on Panhandle State. Rodriguez was thrilled to receive a scholarship to play basketball at the university, but what made the excitement even sweeter was the opportunity to stay close to home.

"My favorite thing about Panhandle State is the people," said Rodriguez, "Everyone here at Panhandle are so friendly, the students, coaches, professors, the staff, all the way up to the President. We are all willing to help one another succeed and make Panhandle State a place everyone is happy to call home."

Rodriguez is avidly involved all around the Panhandle campus, including being an active PAC, or Peer Achievement Coach. "I enjoy being a "coach" or mentor to other students, and just being able to let them know I'm here if they need someone to talk to," says Rodriguez. She is also a member of SAAC, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, which she enjoys as the opportunity to act as both a leader and a student athlete, as well as the Health Wellness Committee. Rodriguez also finds time to represent the university as a student ambassador. Rodriguez commented, "I enjoy being able to talk to them about how the university is growing academically as well as in athletics."

While on campus for the summer, Rodriguez is in her third year assisting in the financial aid office. She enjoys becoming more involved with the department and gaining experience in assisting students with questions about financial aid in the registration months of fall and spring. She is also taking summer classes in accordance with her financial aid work to continue to further her education outside of the normal school season.

Rodriguez also currently dons #30 as a guard for the Panhandle State Women's Basketball team. The 5'4 junior played in 29 games last season, sinking 45 field goals and bringing in 152 total points for the Aggies on the season. A fun fact about Rodriguez is that she is actually dominantly right-handed but shoots lefty on the court! In addition to basketball, Rodriguez also makes her athletic mark for Panhandle State Women's Cross Country.

"I am excited to see Naomi grow into the leader of our program," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Victor Esparza, "I believe she is going to take a huge step going into her junior year. She is putting in the work and time to be a great leader both on and off the court. I am proud of the player and the person she is becoming and will continue to become." **P**



/ FACULTY /

DR. JAIMEE MCGUIRE

A Ventura, Calif. native, Dr. Jaimee McGuire has been a part of the Panhandle State family for over a decade, but she just recently accepted the position of Director of Nursing for the RN to BSN program here at the university.

Prior to her time in Goodwell, McGuire attended Modesto College in 2005. She then extended her education path to Panhandle State and graduated from the RN to BSN program herself in 2007 and obtained her Associate Degree in Nursing. In 2008, she received her Master of Science in Nursing from the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Missouri State University and was recruited by the then Panhandle State Nursing director, Dr. Lynna Brakhage, to begin working as an adjunct for the OPSU nursing program.

She went on to earn her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in 2010 from Chatham University before becoming a full-time faculty member at OPSU in 2013.

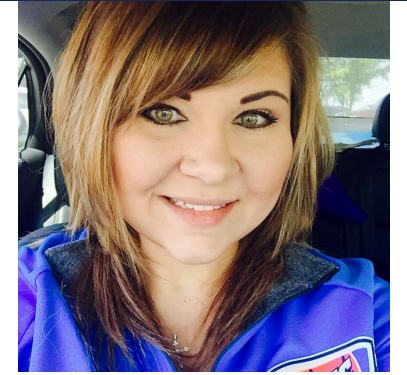
McGuire has been an RN for nearly fifteen years and has practiced in neurotrauma nursing, hospice and operating room. She expounded on her already expansive career, stating that she spent the first six years as a nurse practitioner as an HIV specialist, is well-versed in urgent care, primary care and addiction medicine, and also possesses experience as a health care and security officer.

McGuire commented on her favorite aspects of Panhandle State, saying, "I really like the smaller feel of the school. I can get to know my students on a more personal basis and have more time for interaction in the classroom setting."

"I really want to continue with the trend of moving toward more streamlined courses that make for more efficient learning experiences for our adult distance learners," said McGuire, "The biggest short-term goal currently is to finish preparing for our upcoming ACEN accreditation visit in March 2020."

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Julie Dinger, expounded, "Students and faculty admire what Jaimee has accomplished in and out of the classroom. She has a vision for the nursing program that I think is going to keep building the excellence of one of our flagship programs."

Working in an off-campus fashion, McGuire now resides in Rogersville, Mo. with her husband and their daughter. Her daughter is following in her mother's footsteps and has already begun her nursing career while being a mother herself to three children. When asked about her favorite hobbies, McGuire commented that she is an avid reader, a huge Disney fan, an animal activist, and lover of all things Harry Potter. She and her husband are avid travelers and have big plans to tour the U.S. in the future. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

KATY GEORGE

With a story deeply ingrained in memories of OPSU, Katy George is among a long line of Panhandle alumni within her family.

George's father also lived in Goodwell and attended Panhandle State in 1995. "It didn't take long for the Panhandle State campus to become like a second home for me growing up," George reminisced.

She continued, "The professors and art students at the time were always so nice and encouraging when they spoke to me about my love for art as a child. They helped plant that artistic seed in my heart as a young girl and when I was ready to make a change in my adult life, the same professors, Bryon Test and David Elder, as well as one particular alumni, Brent Shoulders, were all there for me, still encouraging me to pursue my artistic dreams. I guess you can say that is what brought me to Panhandle; the amazing people who I truly felt believed in me and wanted to help me reach my goals and create a successful future for myself."

George was highly involved in Images Art Club and assisted in event traditions still carried on today- Dorm of Doom, Paul Farrell Art Auction and the Panhandle Area Art Jubilee. One of George's creative painted works can still be seen in the mural on the Pub on the Bricks in Guymon.

She also served as a student aid for Professors Bryon Test and Yvonne Sangster, and assistant taught Fundamentals of Art, Drawing, and Airbrush Illustration courses, and was active as a representative for Panhandle Student Council. "I also worked one summer for the Upward Bound program with Teri Mora, which also helped spark the love I have for working with high school-aged kids," said George.

She graduated *magna cum laude* from Panhandle State in the spring of 2013 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in Painting. George was nominated for the prestigious Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities and was given the Fine Arts Student of the Year Award by Panhandle State in her senior year.

George then went on to pursue her Masters of Fine Arts at Texas A&M University and had an opportunity to study abroad in Spain and Morocco in 2014. Soon after, George felt the call to teaching and put her MFA on hold when she was hired as the Spearman High School Art Teacher. She was lovingly nominated by her students and received the Teachers on the Rise Award. She currently resides in Spearman with her husband Derek, and they share two beautiful daughters, Hannah and Brynlee. Katy and Derek are soon welcoming a son, Bryson, in late July. **P**

Regent Joe Hall visited campus on April 22nd and spoke with student leaders.



/ CAMPUS /

REGENT HALL VISITS WITH STUDENT LEADERS

Submitted by Dillon Roesch, Panhandle State Collegian

As President of the State Board of Agriculture, Mr. Joe D. Hall is one of the nine appointed members of the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, and on Monday, April 22, 2019 Mr. Hall visited the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus and sat down with about 25 Panhandle State students, including representatives from all college departments on campus.

"Regent Hall has had a significant impact in my life and it was an honor to have him here on campus to share his wisdom and knowledge with our students. He is a great man and his passion for higher education is inspiring," said Dr. Tim Faltyn.

After being welcomed by President Faltyn, Mr. Hall took a few moments to introduce himself to those in attendance and then quickly turned his focus to the students. Students introduced themselves, noting their home state and town, which ranged from Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, and even as far as Australia and the Czech Republic. Hall used the diversity in the room as an opportunity to explain a bit more of his philosophy on higher education stating, "That's what education is about at this level. Academics are a priority, but higher education becomes a broadening of your life. You may not realize what you are learning about yourself, your peers, and their cultures every day."

Mr. Hall briefly discussed growing up in Elk City, Okla., his time as a student at Oklahoma State University, and his current family dynamics. He also took some time to talk about his business, Joe D. Hall General Contractors, LLC, which he founded in 1985 and is involved in construction/engineering and real estate development in western Oklahoma, including the Panhandle. The remainder of the one-hour session was treated as a question and answer discussion in which students asked questions on a wide variety of topics, including the specifics of Mr. Hall's business, the purpose and powers of the State Board of Regents, and how he successfully manages his busy schedule. Mr. Hall answered all of the questions in a conscientious and thoughtful manner, and expressed his commitment multiple times in continuing to provide accessibility to higher education for students in outlying areas of Oklahoma.

Mr. Hall explained how his life experiences led him to the life he lives now, noting that he is a believer that you never know where life is going to take you, so you should embrace every moment in which you find yourself.

He also stressed his view that money is not the source of all life's happiness and that you must find purpose and meaning in the things that you do every day. Mr. Hall expressed the importance of higher education in today's job market where good employees are a hot commodity, stating, "A college education proves that you have the discipline and the intelligence to achieve the goals that you have set for yourself. Because of this you will have unlimited opportunities as to where you can go."

Mr. Hall concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of treating people right and handling your personal and business affairs fairly and honestly, noting that many things in life and business come full circle, and going on to say, "If you provide a good service you will not need to worry about profit." His last remark was about being a lifelong learner and then pouring all of the knowledge that you accumulate into other people. He stated, "Oftentimes the person teaching a class will benefit more than the person they are teaching, because of the preparation they put in." Everyone in attendance, both faculty and students, were very appreciative of Mr. Hall's time and words of wisdom. **P**



Alicia Allen (center) is pictured here with Dean Shawna Tucker (left) and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Julie Dinger (right).

/ CAMPUS /

AG STUDENTS HONORED AT ANNUAL BANQUET

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Departmental Awards:

Agronomy- Allison Jones
Ag Education- Alicia Allen Carpenter
Agribusiness- Sequoia Smith
Animal Science- Sidney Tigler

Agribusiness:

Kathleen Johnson, *cum laude*
Reagan Schlochtermeyer, *cum laude*
Sequoia Smith, *cum laude*
Agricultural Education:
Alicia Allen, *magna cum laude*
Sydney Dougherty, *magna cum laude*
Chelsea Lewis, *cum laude*

Agronomy:

Allison Jones, *magna cum laude*
John Paul Kain, *cum laude*
Kierra Smartt, *cum laude*

Animal Science:

Kyra Cathcart, *cum laude*
Hannah Hammack, *cum laude*
Philip Kirongo, *cum laude*
Kaylee Smith, *summa cum laude*
Sequoia Smith, *cum laude*
Sidney Tigler, *magna cum laude*
Shayla Walker, *magna cum laude* **P**

/ EDUCATION /

TOP FIVE FINISHES FOR AGRONOMY AT NACTA

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications



Agronomy students finished third in the Precision Agriculture Contest and fourth in the Crops Judging Contest at NACTA.

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Agronomy Department made a great showing at the annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference. The event was held at Murray State University in Murray, Ky. April 10-13, 2019.

Agronomy Department Chair and Coach Dr. Curtis Bensch along with Assistant Coach Daren Stephens accompanied students John Paul Kain, Coleman Sintas, Kierra Smartt, Ross Brown, and Allison Jones competed in three different contests.

The first of which was the Precision Agriculture competition, and Kain, Brown, Sintas, and Jones finished as the third highest team overall. The students excelled individually as well with Kain finishing second in the Harvesting section, Brown finishing third in the Planting section, Sintas finishing fifth highest overall in the UAS section, and Jones finishing seventh in the Spraying category.

The students also competed in the Crops Judging Contest. The team of Kain, Brown, Smartt, and Jones finished a commending fourth overall out of 15 universities. Kain earned an impressive sixth place individual finish.

Panhandle State was also represented in the Knowledge Bowl contest consisting of questions focusing on agribusiness and farm management, ag mechanics, precision agriculture, animal science, crops and soils, horticulture, and current agricultural events. The team did well winning several rounds.

Coach Curtis Bensch was extremely proud of the students and their finishes at the NACTA contests. "The students put in a lot of hard work in preparation for these events and in turn get a great deal of practical hands-on experience which is great for them as they prepare to start their careers as professional agronomists. I am already looking forward to next year and the upcoming group of what I feel will be another great group of young agronomists." **P**



Hannah Hammack (right) was named the 2019 J.R.P. Sewell award winner during the 109th Panhandle State Commencement.

/ EDUCATION /

HAMMACK RECEIVES J.R.P. SEWELL AWARD

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

2019 Graduate Hannah Hammack was named this year's J.R.P. Sewell Award winner at the 109th Oklahoma Panhandle State University Commencement on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

Hammack was selected from a strong class of graduating seniors. She has been an outstanding presence on campus as a Student Ambassador, an officer in Block and Bridle, an officer in the Shooting Sports club, a Residential Assistant (RA) for three years and Head RA for one year.

In addition, Hammack competed as a member of the Equestrian Team, earning regional honors at two Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competitions. Through her campus involvement, she served as a representative for the University by going to the Higher Education Day at the State Capital and the National FFA Convention in Indiana. Hannah received the 2018 Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award for the American Society of Animal Science and is Panhandle State's Outstanding Animal Science Student for 2019.

Hammack graduated with honors (cum laude) earning a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and she is continuing her career at Panhandle State as an Admissions Counselor.

"What an absolute honor it is to receive

such a prestigious award. I was completely shocked. I knew I was one of the top five finalists but I didn't think anything of it. I will always love being a part of the Panhandle family," Hammack commented.

Originally from Mead, Colo., Hannah great enjoys Panhandle especially "how nice and kind the people are. I have grown up in a small agricultural town, so going to school in one makes me feel at home."

In the future, Hammack would like to pursue a master's degree in Animal Science. Currently, she is most excited to continue her career at Panhandle State, a place that is so near and dear to her. "I love showing prospective students what an amazing University OPSU is and why I love it."

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

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

This award was established to promote and honor scholarship, leadership, and citizenship among students attending

"What an absolute honor it is to receive such a prestigious award. I will always love being a part of the Panhandle Family."

— Hannah Hammack, J.R.P. Sewell Award 2019 Recipient



Students in the Teacher Education Program gathered for a special convocation on May 8.

/ EDUCATION /

EDUCATION STUDENTS CELEBRATED IN CONVOCATION

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Class of 2018-2019 students in the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Teacher Education Program participated in a special convocation ceremony on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 3 p.m. in Centennial Theatre.

Following a processional played by Joe Piontek and prayer led by Assistant Professor of Education Shelly Worm, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger welcomed the students and their guests to the event and introduced the speaker, University President Dr. Tim Faltyn.

Dr. Faltyn addressed the students and their special guests saying, "Education is the difference maker and as teachers you have the ability to shape the future."

Dean of Arts and Education, Dr. Brad Duren, presented the Class of 2018-2019.

Elementary Education graduates include Kathryn Brooks, Ely Esquivel, Sarah Evans, Lizet Gutierrez, Christy Oldham, Tierra Roberson, Marcala Steckel, Taryna Strydom, and Yesenia Vera.

Agricultural Education graduates include Alicia Allen, Sydney Dougherty-Hayes, Matthew Evans, and Chelsea Lewis.

Music Education graduates include Jasmine Brown-Jutras.

Dr. Duren commented, "Our Education graduates are a source of pride and joy for the College of Arts and Education and OPSU in general. Their dedication to excellence will be a tremendous benefit both to their future students and schools. I salute the hard work and guidance of our outstanding Education faculty and their director, Dr. Jerry Mihelic."

A reception followed after closing remarks by Dr. Duren and a postlude by Piontek. P



"Our Education graduates are a source of pride and joy for the College of Arts and Education and OPSU in general."

— Dr. Brad Duren, Dean of the College of Arts and Education



Sophomore softball player Jewell Lee (left) and Senior basketball player Breiman Alexander were the 2019 recipients of the Athlete of the Year awards.

/ATHLETICS/

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR HONORED AT 'NIGHT OF THE AGGIES' AWARD CEREMONY

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Athletics Department took some time to honor its own at its annual awards event - the Night of the Aggies - held Monday evening on campus at the Hughes-Strong Auditorium. In all, a total of 31 presentations were made to various individuals and teams, recognizing not only athletic prowess, but also community service and academic excellence.

Panhandle State's top award for female and male Athletes of the Year were very tough choices, with ample quality performances. But in the end, sophomore softball player Jewell Lee and senior men's basketball standout Breiman Alexander won the honors.

These awards represent superlative athletic accomplishments by the individual.

Lee has led her team to the SAC post season in both 2018 and 2019. Last year, she became the first-ever All-American in OPSU program school history and was also honored as all-region and all-SAC. The centerfielder ranked within the top-20 of the conference standings for Fielding Percentage (.963) and was the SAC's No. 1-ranked hitter with a batting average of .456 for the season. She ranked sixth in the nation for Total Hits (88) and finished first in the conference for Triples with six.

Alexander was an All-American and All-SAC selection this season. He led the nation in three-point field goals made, ranking second in scoring and setting an NAIA All-Star Game record for three-point field goals in a game to earn MVP honors. Alexander led the SAC in scoring (23.8 p.p.g.), total points scored (642), three-point field goals made (116) and three-point field goals made per game (4.3). He was seventh in the SAC in three-point field goal percentage (38.2%) and ninth in free-throw percentage (78.2%).

He was also 12th in assists per game (2.6 a.p.g.), 16th in total assists (70) and 13th in field goal percentage (44.1%).

Dr. Julie Dinger, OPSU Vice-President for Academics and Student Affairs, gave a welcome and remarks on behalf of the University's administration. Master of Ceremonies Derek Barton, the "Voice of the Aggies," began the evening's festivities with a review of highlights from 2018-19. From there, each program presented its Aggie Award, followed by the roster of Athletics department-wide awards.



FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

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

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019

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

CONTACT DAVE BEYER FOR INFORMATION: 580-349-1354

/COMMUNITY/

ANNUAL BELLY OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR JULY 12 & 13



Members of Panhandle State Baseball and Softball wrap up post-season play.

/ATHLETICS/

SAC HONORS NUMEROUS FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

As the Panhandle State baseball and softball post-season play wrap up, both teams boasted numerous All-Sooner Athletic Conference honorees.

Six Panhandle State Baseball athletes have earned recognition as the All-Sooner conference teams and Gold Glove selections were announced Wednesday (May 8) afternoon.

Catcher Luis Rodriguez has helped the Aggie Baseball team make history as he earned baseball's first-ever First Team All-Conference nod. Rodriguez had a spectacular sophomore year, leading the Aggies in batting average at .372 gaining him the No. 10 ranking in the SAC. Rodriguez also tops the team in RBI with 43 on the season, putting him at 13th in the rankings, as well as six-spot in RBI/Game, averaging .96 per outing. Over his 45 games played, Rodriguez produced seven doubles and eight home runs, earned 32 walks and 85 total bases, and concluded the season with only 13 strikeouts on his 145 at-bats. Rodriguez' excellent agility behind the plate earned him a .983 fielding percentage and a spot at No. 12 in the conference rankings.

The Aggies also featured three Second Team All-Conference selections in center fielder Payton Rhodes, pitcher Yesiel Valdez and second baseman Gerson Padilla. Panhandle also pulled in three Gold Glove winners in left fielder Bradley Ruiz, first baseman Jared Mayeda and Gerson Padilla also earned the accolade in addition to his second-team recognition.

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University softball team, fresh off of its best season in program history, had four of its players - Jewell Lee, Brittany Thomas, Kaylor Battiest, and Abby Gregory earn All-Sooner Athletic Conference honors. Additionally, Thomas was voted as the SAC's Freshman of the Year. For Lee, a sophomore centerfielder who was an NAIA All-American second team as a freshman, it was her second-consecutive first team All-SAC recognition. Lee finished the season with a .335 batting average and had a team-leading 48 runs scored, which ranked seventh in the league. She had 13 extra-base hits (8 doubles, 4 triples and a home run) and drove in 31 runs. Lee sported a .416 on-base average and drew 22 walks, as well.

Thomas, a freshman designated player who also made a few spot appearances from the circle, earned All-SAC first team and the Freshman of the Year award after leading the Aggies with a .372 batting average (45-121). Thomas ranked No. 12 in the SAC for batting average and was 17th in homers. She also had eight doubles and a triple to her credit, driving in 28 runs (ranking 14th in the SAC in RBI per game. She was also 13th in total bases per game and 20th in doubles per game among the SAC stats.



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

AGGIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



KAYLOR BATTIEST
WEEK 25: Softball



JOSEPH GOETZE
WEEK 25: Baseball



JAYLINN REYES
WEEK 26: Softball



JADE TATON
WEEK 26: Rodeo



BEAU PETERSON
WEEK 27: Rodeo



GERSON PADILLA
WEEK 27: Baseball



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