

DECEMBER 2019

Panhandle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

OPSU.edu



**BREAKING GROUND ON
A NEW CHAPTER OF
EXCELLENCE**

/ EDUCATION /
110TH
CENTENNIAL

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications



The Fall 2019 semester marks the 110th year since Oklahoma Panhandle State University first started offering classes in the Oklahoma panhandle. Founded as the Panhandle Agricultural Institute, the names, faces, and campus have changed, but the mission to provide life changing educational opportunities has remained constant.

To celebrate the 110-year anniversary, OPSU is launching a new fundraising campaign, the Century Club, to restore the iconic Sower Statue. Officially Starting November 1st, the Century Club is the first of many annual campaigns to come, with funds dedicated to improving the OPSU campus. This year, those funds will assist the University in providing much needed repairs to the Sower and to have a bronze cast made that will replace the original in the center of the OPSU campus to ensure its presence for another 110 years.

“At Oklahoma Panhandle State University, we pride ourselves on our legacy of excellence, said OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn. “This year, as we celebrate our 110th anniversary, we honor that legacy by restoring one of the most iconic features of our campus, the Sower.”

Designed and gifted to Panhandle Agricultural institute by Frank Ingels, the Sower has been a central part of campus for 104 years. Since its dedication on July 3rd, 1915, the Sower has stood as a campus icon for generations of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members. Designed to honor those who first made the panhandle their home, the Sower serves as a reminder of the hard work and pioneering spirit that Oklahoma Panhandle State University is built upon.

The Century Club is a specially designated group of OPSU supporters who give \$100 or more to OPSU for the Sower restoration project.

With this campaign, we give new life to the Sower. The statue will undergo much needed repairs and a bronze casting will be made to ensure that it continues to be a centerpiece of the OPSU campus for future generations of Aggies.

As part of the Century Club, donors will receive a Century Club decal, a Sower lapel pin, and special recognition as a donor to the project. **P**

“This year, as we celebrate our 110th anniversary, we honor that legacy by restoring one of the most iconic features of our campus, the Sower.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President



P
CENTURY
CLUB

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On the cover: Sean Kouplen, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce & Workforce Development



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13TH ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

NOVEMBER 2019







/ EDUCATION /

OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Released by Panhandle State Campus
Communications

On September 30th, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1.5 million grant to Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU) of Goodwell and High Plains Technology Center (HPTC), in partnership with Guymon Public Schools, to build a new welding technology training center in the Guymon Industrial Park. The grant, to be matched with \$389,504 in local investment, is expected to help create 30 jobs.

On November 22nd, Oklahoma Panhandle State University and High Plains Technology Center formally announced this joint grant, and held a groundbreaking for the new Panhandle Technology Education Center.

The project is designed to set those interested in a career in welding on a degree program that sees them through high school graduation to a bachelor's degree. In partnership with HPTC Center and Guymon Public Schools, students can earn their Welding Certificate at HPTC while also taking classes at OPSU to earn their Associates and Bachelor's Degrees.

Dwight R. Hughes, Superintendent/CEO of HPTC, stated, "High Plains Technology Center is dedicated to serving the workforce needs of NW Oklahoma and doing our part to make Oklahoma a top ten state. This grant will give us the ability to enhance our already existing partnership with OPSU by providing us with a joint facility we both can utilize to bring the best of both worlds together."

Michael Ray, President of the Guymon Public School Board said, "Guymon Public School is proud to be a part of this effort that shows the power of working together to further the education possibilities and opportunities for our kids. We are excited about working with OPSU, High Plains Technology Center and the EDA in bringing this welding technology center to help the entire Panhandle area."

OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, stated, "This is transformative for the region. As a university that continues to grow, we are excited to be a part of this amazing partnership to strengthen both education and our workforce in the panhandle region."

"The welding technology training center will prepare students for the high-quality jobs needed in Oklahoma's growing and diversifying economy."

— Congressman Frank Lucas

"This facility will not only serve the students of the Tri-State region with high level technical certification programs, but will also provide a seamless pathway for students wanting more education to roll their certifications into a degree plan," said Hughes.

"The new welding technology training center in Guymon is a great example of what can be achieved when matching the passion of local leadership with the resources of the federal government," said Congressman Frank Lucas. "Oklahoma Panhandle State University has been a cornerstone of western Oklahoma for over a century and this new facility demonstrates their continued dedication to education and workforce development. The welding technology training center will prepare students for the high-quality jobs needed in Oklahoma's growing and diversifying economy."

OPSU Vice President of Outreach, Dr. Ryan Blanton commented, "This project addresses the direct need for a highly-skilled, technical workforce in our region and this will have a direct impact on our region's economic development and our industries ability to expand their operations."

"This \$1.5 million grant from the Economic Development Administration to build a new welding technology training center in the Guymon Industrial Park is welcome news," said Senator Inhofe. "I am proud of the continued success we are seeing under the Trump Administration and these new jobs are just one more testament to our combined efforts. Congratulations to Oklahoma Panhandle State University on this win—it is well deserved."

Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents Chairman Tucker Link: "Compliments to the teams at Panhandle State and High Plains, and also Commerce's Economic Development Administration for collaborating with us to be able to get it done."

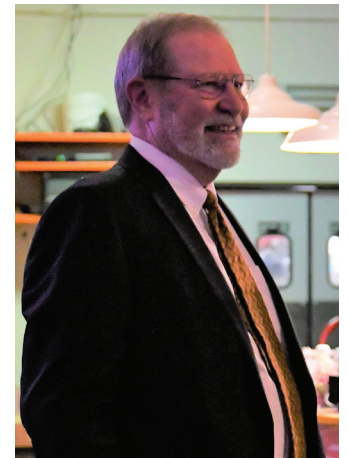
Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development, Sean Kouplen: "Governor Stitt and I believe that collaboration between different educational entities is the future of education in Oklahoma, and this is best example that we have seen so far."

"We are all better together than we are by ourselves apart. The fact that the EDA is investing in this collaborative partnership is proof that we are headed in the right direction", Dr. Faltyn stated. **P**



“As a university that continues to grow, we are excited to be a part of this amazing partnership to strengthen both education and our workforce in the panhandle region.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President





/ STAFF /

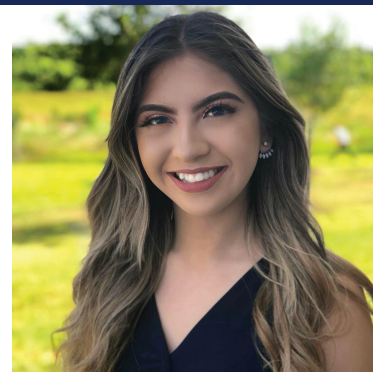
DEREK **BARTON**

Derek J. Barton, known by many as the Voice of the Aggies, was born in Buffalo, Wyoming. Mr. Barton graduated from Sheridan College with a degree in Criminal Justice and Communications. After moving to Guymon in 2017 to take over as General Manager for KGYN Radio, he began working with staff at Oklahoma Panhandle State University on advertising.

However, after a short time, he decided the radio station wasn't a good fit, and began searching for a position elsewhere. In Mr. Barton's own words, he "...had already grown to like the Oklahoma Panhandle..." and so when he was approached about joining OPSU as the Voice of the Aggies, the decision was a no-brainer. As the Voice of the Aggies, Mr. Barton not only acts as the announcer at various athletic and school events, but he also is involved in Athletic Sponsorship; in which he helps get businesses involved with athletics here at the school and helps raise money for the athletic programs.

If one were to ask Mr. Barton what his top interests are, there's a very good chance of hearing two things: music and rodeo. Singing in choir and bands as a youngster, Barton even wrote some lyrics that were recorded by small artists. He is a PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) Gold Card Announcer and has been in the PRCA for over 20 years. He even hosts, owns and produces an internet and radio talk show called Talk Rodeo. It is a three minute a day, five days a week, show in which he discusses the biggest names in rodeo.

Barton has two grown daughters living in Missouri and Tennessee, as well as five grandchildren. When asked about his family, Mr. Barton said, "Out of all the things I have done in my life, being a Dad and Grandpa is what I'm most proud of." **P**



/ STUDENT /

LUPITA **JIMENEZ**

Lupita Jimenez was born and raised in Guymon, OK, just a few minutes down the road from Oklahoma Panhandle State University. As a child, Lupita loved to bake, even though she burned everything. Now that she is older, she still loves to bake, but she doesn't burn the food anymore. Growing up in Guymon, Lupita was able to be concurrently enrolled at OPSU while she was still in high school, which has her set to graduate early. If all goes to plan, she'll be leaving OPSU in May 2021 with a business administration degree with a focus in management. Lupita hopes to work as a Human Resource Manager after graduating.

At first, coming to OPSU was a matter of simplicity for Ms. Jimenez. After her first year on campus, Lupita had grown quite fond of the faculty, organizations, and being so close to home. When asked what her favorite thing about OPSU was, Lupita said "My favorite thing about Panhandle State are the professors. They are all so understanding and care for each of us as an individual. This helps me a lot when I'm looking for someone to be a reference or look over my résumé."

Ms. Jimenez is the reporter for Phi Beta Lambda, which is one of her favorite clubs on campus, and she is also a member of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization, or HALO, and the Art Images club.

Director of Hispanic Student Services and Upward Bound, Teri Mora said, "Lupita is a former Upward Bound Student from Guymon High School and was very engaged in activities and lessons to better herself as she has huge goals of both art and busienss careers, hopefully in a combination of the both. She will be very successful in the future based on her drive, passion, and abilities." **P**



/ FACULTY /

LAURA FRANKS

Laura Franks was born in Midland, TX living there for 19 years before moving to Lubbock, TX where she went to college. Attending Texas Tech as an education major, Laura had her sights set on teaching junior high math, that is, until she worked as a student teacher her last semester of college and decided it wasn't for her. After this revelation, Ms. Franks decided to obtain her master's degree in mathematics, which was awarded to her in 2008 from Texas Tech. After college, Laura taught at Lubbock High School for four years and then at South Plains College for four years. Now, Ms. Franks is an Instructor of Mathematics here at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. When asked about her favorite thing about OPSU, Laura said that it was, quite simply, the people.

Going from an education major in her undergraduate studies, where it was mostly women, into mathematics in graduate school, where it was mostly men, was very interesting to Laura. She decided to look into why this separation occurred. Ms. Franks uses the knowledge she gained from this insight to try and better help her students, saying in her own words, "My job is to channel my student's abilities to integrate information and transform each student into the best that they can be."

Laura and her husband, Mauro Casarez, are the proud owners of two dogs, a Pekingese named Shyling and a Chiweenie named Peanut. Two things Laura loves is watching TV with her husband and dogs, and delicious food. Mexican food is Laura's absolute favorite, but she stresses the point that she loves all kinds of food. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

TRAVIS WOLF

Travis Wolf grew up in the small town of Goodwell, America. He graduated from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in 1988 with a degree in accounting. He is married to Kandi Cain, with two kids, and works for Brown, Graham, & Company, P.C. as a CPA and shareholder. Mr. Wolf came to OPSU specifically because of the accounting program, saying, "They serve the most exciting accounting anywhere." His favorite thing about OPSU is the fact that the faculty and staff "really invest themselves in the students."

When asked what he looks for when hiring accountants, he said, "We want to look at OPSU first. Over the last few years, there seems to be more activities designed specifically to get students in front of potential employers. We have been fortunate to be included in those activities."

Coming to OPSU on a football scholarship, one of Wolf's greatest memories of his time here comes from beating Benedictine College in 1986. At that time, both Benedictine and OPSU were ranked in the top ten nationally, which made for big, exciting game. It's not uncommon to see Mr. Wolf around campus nowadays when he comes for the sporting events. He also recently joined the Foundation Board and will be participating in the Boards meetings on campus. Another way in which Wolf tries to give back to the college is by participating in PBL fundraising events with his firm.

Travis stated, "My advice to current students, is to enjoy themselves. One day they will look back on these days as the most fun they ever had." **P**



/ EDUCATION /

FIRST GENERATION DAY AT PANHANDLE STATE

Submitted by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Faculty and Staff celebrate First Generation Day at the Majors Fair on November 8th.

On November 8th, Oklahoma Panhandle State University celebrated National First-Generation College Student Day.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn spoke on the presence of first-generation students and graduates at Panhandle State, "I am proud to be surrounded by so many first-generation college students and also graduates in our faculty and staff. For me, this day is a big celebration because I am also a first-generation college graduate. As we celebrate the successes and experiences of our students, faculty, and staff I am honored to be a part of this University."

Over 60 students and 30 faculty and staff indicated they are first-generation college students. Karen Rios, student discussed what being a first-generation college student meant to her. "I feel blessed to be the first-generation college student in my family and being able to change my story. This is as much for me as it is for my parents for all of their sacrifices."

Teri Mora, Director of Hispanic Student Services and Upward Bound and Sarah Green, Dean of Academic Resource Center organized the First Generation Day on Campus. Teri Mora is proud to be a first-generation student, "Having a college education has taken me places I never dreamed possible." **P**



Karen Rios
Bachelor of Science, 2020

"For me, this day is a big celebration because I am also a first-generation college graduate. As we celebrate the success and experiences of our students, faculty, and staff I am honored to be a part of this University."

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

/ CAMPUS /

NIKKI STORK'S ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

One of Panhandle State's very own, Nikki Stork, is returning from the White House this week. Nikki was selected to be a team member for the White House Holiday Decorating Volunteers. The trip started on November 27th and ended on the 3rd of December. She also attended a Holiday Reception hosted by Mrs. Melania Trump.

Nikki has been in the decorating business for over 20 years. She has decorated for all kinds of events. Alongside working at OPSU as a Records Clerk, she has her own freelance design business, "No Man's Land Designs". Nikki was encouraged by family and friends to start this journey because they see her passion in her own business.

"We are so very proud of Nikki for being selected as a volunteer at the White House. I know this was a dream of hers. Panhandle State is proud of her and this accomplishment.", Dr. Tim Faltyn, University President.

Decorating the White House has always been something that Nikki dreamed of doing one day. "Ten years ago I bought a Christmas magazine that displayed the White House decorations. Ever since then, I have always wanted to be a part of this event." She is also excited that the US Capitol Christmas Tree that will be placed in front of the Capitol is coming from New Mexico. "The Red River area houses a lot of memories shared with my family at our family cabin."

We are excited for Nikki and this adventure, as she represents Goodwell and Panhandle State! **P**



Nick Watts, the White House Christmas Designer and Nikki Stork.



Nikki Stork in the Diplomatic Room, where she assisted in decorating.



/ATHLETICS/

SENIOR DAY

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Oklahoma Panhandle State University, in what was the career-finale for nine OPSU seniors, closed out the 2019 football season at home versus Lyon College, from Batesville, Ark. Capping their time in the Crimson & Blue that afternoon were: Colton Ellisor, Charoy Joseph, Kyler Musgrave, Carlos Ransburgh, Diamante Pounds, D'Darrin Primes, Tony Redmond, Jasper Smiley, and DJ Scott.

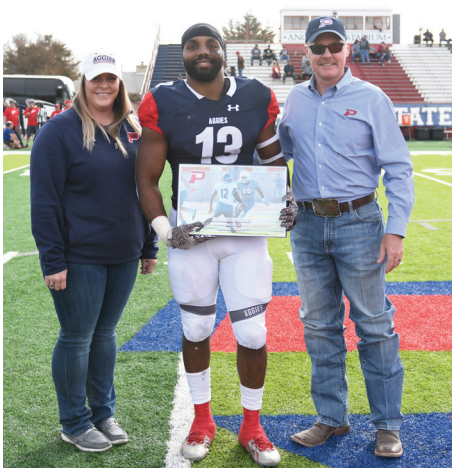
Additional senior athletes honored: Jake Hawkins (Cheer) and Erika Chartrand (Spirit Rider). **P**



Tony **Redmond**



Jasper **Smiley**



Diamante **Pounds**



DJ **Scott**



Colton **Ellisor**



Charoy **Joseph**



Kyler **Musgrave**



D'Darrin **Primes**



Jake **Hawkins**
Cheer



Erika **Chartrand**
Spirit Rider

/ ATHLETICS /

SMILEY EARNS ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE HONOR

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information



Oklahoma Panhandle State University football senior Jasper Smiley (Tecumseh, Okla.) has been selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District team, it has been announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America. As a first team choice, Smiley is now eligible NAIA national Academic All-America consideration (which will be announced mid-December).

To be selected for the Academic All-District 4 team, Smiley was picked by the CoSIDA membership of the District. District 4 covers 15 U.S. states, as well as Canada. To be nominated, a student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve with at least a 3.30 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) at his/her current institution.

"I am so proud of Jasper," Panhandle Head Coach Bob Majeski said. "He is truly the embodiment of what you want a student-athlete to be: good skills, solid in the classroom, gives back to the community, provides leadership to the team and is a role model. There couldn't be a more deserving person for this award."

Smiley is a four-year letterman for the Aggies football program. He is a Health Science and

Physical Education major. Additionally, Smiley will finish his OPSU career as a three-time academic all-conference selection and was nominated for the 2019 Allstate Good Works Team. He was a two-year team captain for the Aggies, as well.

Off the field, Smiley has an extensive history of volunteerism and community involvement. A few of the events to which he has contributed his time and efforts are: Bikes for Kids, Food for Kids, working as a math tutor, as well as the City of Guymon clean-up and Pioneer Days. Smiley, who is of Native American heritage, also has done work with the Native Youth for Summer program.

On the field, Smiley had a banner 2019 season for Panhandle State. Smiley had a career-high 28 tackles – 16 solo – and topped the team with 8.0 sacks for 72 yards in losses. He forced one fumble and recovered two. **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

GLOVER TO RECEIVE ALL-SAC HONORS

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Oklahoma Panhandle State University's young cross country teams closed the books on a very successful 2019 season at the Sooner Athletic Conference championships. The Aggie women placed fifth in the tough league race, with the men finishing seventh, on the Woodson Park course.

The highlight of the day for OPSU was, without a doubt, sophomore Shayna Glover – from Goodwell – finishing 11th in the women's 5K race to earn All-SAC accolades. Glover covered the course in a season-best time of 20:16.5 minutes, to become the first OPSU female runner in at least two decades to earn an all-conference award in cross country.

"I am very proud of our performance as a team," Panhandle Head Coach Denise Levine said. "As for Shayna, she was a different kind of focused today. She was determined and ready and it showed in her race. I am super proud of my whole team, and their commitment this season." **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

AGGIE VOLLEYBALL LANDS TWO ON SAC ALL-CONFERENCE

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The 2019 season was one of continued team success, as the Oklahoma Panhandle State University volleyball team reached the playoffs for the second time in program history. In a further testament to their success, two Aggies earned 2019 All-Sooner Athletic Conference honors.

Senior middle blocker Kendra Butler was named to the second team all-conference roster, while junior right-side hitter Hannah Murray claimed honorable mention recognition for her first campaign in the SAC.

Panhandle State Head Coach Shelby Bartley says, “Kendra and Hannah have worked hard for these awards this year and both deserve the recognition. Even though both of these players play different position they were a threat when they were on the court. This program is going to miss Kendra Butler and her ability, but this program will also be seeing more of Hannah as she enters her senior year in Fall 2020 season.”

In the past two seasons – with Bartley as the head coach this year and assistant coach last year – the Aggies have earned five all-conference honors and two straight conference tournament appearances **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

POUNDS EARNS SPOT ON SAC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

American Diamante Pounds (Plantersville, Miss.) headed a cast of five Oklahoma Panhandle State University players named to the 2019 All-Sooner Athletic Conference Football Team. Pounds repeated as a first team All-SAC linebacker.

“Diamante is flat out a special player,” Panhandle State Head Coach Bob Majeski said. “He just seems to play at another level and has great instincts to get to the football. And that’s not always something that can be taught. His high-level of achievement in his two years as an Aggie is hard to match.

In the NAIA national leaders, Pounds ranks No. 6 in TFL per game and No. 7 in total TFL. He is also 18th among all NAIA defensive players for tackles per game. **P**



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