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**EXCELLENT FACULTY
CHANGING THE WORLD**

FALTYN NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

“The Fulbright Program is viewed as one of the most prestigious in the nation. This is a personal honor for Tim, but it is also a very positive achievement for our state’s higher education system.”

— Dr. Glen Johnson,
Oklahoma State Chancellor



Oklahoma Panhandle State University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn has been awarded a Fulbright-NEHRU International Educational Administrators Award to participate in a technical expertise exchange with the nation of India in the spring of 2020.

The Fulbright-NEHRU IEA Program sends U.S. educational leaders to serve as expert consultants on leadership, curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning, and related subjects at overseas academic institutions for a period of two to six weeks to develop exchange and mutually beneficial partner relationships. The Fulbright commission pays for all costs associated with the Fulbright-NEHRU IEA Program.

Regent Tucker Link, Chairman of the Oklahoma A & M Board of Regents commented, “This is an amazing opportunity for not only Tim, but for everyone. There are so many benefits that come from this scholarship, and to experience on the ground learning from a different culture and country is great.”

While in India, Dr. Faltyn anticipates he will meet ambassadors and key leaders of education. “I will be meeting with government, agriculture, education and workforce leaders to discuss ways our two nations can partner to make a better life for the people in India and America,” said Faltyn. Dr. Faltyn is in his fourth year at Panhandle State and has made great improvements in many areas of the University.

Oklahoma Chancellor for Higher Education, Dr. Glen Johnson commented on this great achievement. “The Fulbright Program is viewed as one of the most prestigious in the nation. This is a personal honor for Tim, but it is also a very positive achievement for our state’s higher education system.”

“The Fulbright programs are the best in the country especially for the higher education community.” Dean of Arts and Education, Brad Duren states. “This experience will establish scholarship education exchange programs and could develop greater economic stability in our region.”

Dr. Faltyn is a first-generation college graduate who understands the meaning of hard work and discipline. “Being the first person in their family to attend college, this is one of the greatest academic honors I can imagine,” he said.

“In Dr. Faltyn’s three plus years, he has increased enrollment and has had a record number in fundraising dollars for the University. He initiated the Panhandle Promise Scholarship for future teachers and just broke ground on a facility that is partnered with High Plains Technology Center. This all is transformative for the region,” said Chairman Link.

Dr. Faltyn is excited about this opportunity and is eager to return with knowledge and relationships that will help our region thrive. “I am honored to represent the University, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States in areas that I believe are a key to a better future for all of us. I want to be the best representative of rural America and our way of life I can be during my time in India.” **P**

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On the cover: Tito Aznar



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FACULTY MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE: TITO AZNAR

The hard work and dedication from the faculty at Oklahoma Panhandle State University is what makes them stand out from any other University. From mentoring to coaching, the faculty are always striving to help students where they need it most. Amongst these members, Tito Aznar is an inspiration to the University with his captivating story.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, commented, "Tito exemplifies the sincere, dedicated, and hardworking faculty that make our University the best in America."

Born and raised in Argentina, Tito first studied the English language when he was ten years old. By the time he was thirteen, he was teaching many students what he had learned. Tito stated, "I taught English to a handful of students in my town. They would come to my house, and we would go over things for hours." Explaining his love for teaching, Tito continued, "I fell in love with teaching at an early age. I became so passionate about helping others learn."

After high school, Tito went on to teach English as a second language for 3 to 4 years at an institute near his town. During this time, he was looking at options to pursue an undergraduate degree where he could work toward his bachelor's degree, and OPSU soon discovered OPSU. Tito graduated magna cum laude in 2004 and was named the J.R.P. Sewell award winner. Following graduation, he accepted an English instructor position on campus eager to make a difference in the lives of his students. Tito has taught many courses over his tenure, including Composition I and II, Critical Approaches to Literature, American Drama, Modern Drama, Sentence Diagramming, Analysis of the Short Story, Elementary Spanish I and II, Experiences in Humanities: Santa Fe, Musical Theatre, Forensic Activity, and Conversational Spanish.

When asked what the most challenging part of his job is, Tito answered, "Keeping what we do current. Being able to help the students, regardless of their studies, to see that what we are

teaching is relevant."

Sarah Green, Dean of Academic Resources, stated, "Tito has a passion for education that is evidenced by his commitment to our students. I have been blessed to get to work with him on multiple projects, and I am always impressed by his passion and his drive to help them be the best versions of themselves that they can be."

Tito is now celebrating his sixteenth year at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. While teaching brought him to the Panhandle, the family feel of the University is what keeps him here. "Family, that is what Panhandle State means to me. I have spent most of my life here. Being an Aggie is a part of me."

During his downtime on campus, he has helped teach many staff members the English language for two semesters. "Members from the maintenance crew wanted to learn English, and they asked me if I would teach them. It worked best for our schedules to do these lessons during our lunchtime. We did this for a few semesters so they could better communicate with people on campus."

Dean of Liberal Arts and Professor of English, Dr. Sara Richter commented, "Tito makes a positive impact on our campus with his vast knowledge and experience, compassion for students, eagerness to help, myriad of talents, tireless research, and wry and sly sense of humor."

Tito is currently serving as an Assurance Argument Editor for OPSU's Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit, which is scheduled for October 2020.

Dr. Sara Hitch, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Business Administration is also working towards the HLC visit. She commented, "Tito epitomizes the phrase 'a scholar and a gentleman.' I have had the privilege of working with him in multiple capacities within the HLC process, and consistently, he has been responsive, supportive, and receptive to all suggestions and requests for help. Tito absolutely has the character that you want helping in this type of activity, and OPSU is so lucky to have him." **P**



“Tito exemplifies the sincere, dedicated, and hard working faculty that make our University the best in America.”

— Dr. Tim Faltny,
University President





/ STAFF /

SHELBIE ROSE

Colorado native, Shelbie Rose has called the panhandle area home for several years. The distinguished rodeo athlete has become a well-known part of Panhandle State.

Rose attended Garden City Community College, where she graduated with her associate degree. She wanted to continue her college rodeo career and education, so naturally, the reputation of Panhandle's college and rodeo team grabbed her attention. Rose said, "I liked the thought of having Robert and Craig for coaches and the opportunities that they provided their athletes." She started to make her impact on campus in 2012 as a student-athlete for the rodeo team. She went on to graduate in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Animal Science.

After graduating, she received a call from Robert Etbuaer, Head Rodeo Coach at OPSU, to inform Shelbie that they were opening a position for an Assistant/Women's Rodeo Coach.

In her fourth year on campus as staff, Rose has been a vital part of building onto the OPSU's rodeo team's reputation with the success of the women's team the highest it's ever been. Robert said, "Shelbie has been a huge asset to the rodeo team in all aspects. She's great help and it doesn't matter where we're at or what we're doing, she's a lot of fun to have around."

Shelbie Rose is known for her support of student-athletes and has proven that one of her favorite parts of Panhandle State is the people. She commented, "There truly are no people like Panhandle people, and being a part of the Aggie family has been one of the biggest blessings in my life."

Shelbie was best known as Coach Weeder, but that all changed when she married her best friend Kalen Rose in March of 2019. They now live in Gruver, Texas, and enjoy spending as much time as they can together and seeing family and friends when they can. Rose's favorite thing to do is rope, which is why she makes for an even better fit for a rodeo coach. If you don't see her in the arena, you will likely catch her on the basketball court or the golf course having fun. **P**



/ STUDENT /

DILLON ROESCH

Dillon Roesch has embraced the student life and serves as a devoted member of the crops judging team and student ambassador for Panhandle State.

Originally from McClave, CO, he will be graduating from OPSU in 2022 with a double major in Agronomy and Ag Business.

Dillon feels extremely fortunate to have attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University. One day he received a call from a professor in the College of Ag, Science, and Nursing asking him to come tour campus, which left a lasting impression on him. He stated, "When Dr. Bensch called, I was excited because he expressed so much passion towards this career field. I credit him for giving me a solid platform to build on my knowledge of agronomy."

Department Chair of Agronomy, Dr. Curtis Bensch eagerly commented, "Dillon is a fantastic student who excels academically. His cheerful attitude and interest in class discussion is what makes him a delightful student to have in class. I expect great things from this young man."

He was immediately drawn to the small-town feel of Goodwell. Dillon says his favorite thing about OPSU is the people and the professors. "I feel like everyone here at Panhandle State truly cares about and has invested in me. I enjoy the fact I know most of the people I go to school with."

As well as being a member of the Crops Judging Team and a campus ambassador, he is also the treasurer of the shooting sports club, works in the OPSU Firestone Meat Lab, and is also an active member of the Methodist Student Center.

As if all that wasn't keeping Dillon busy enough, he still finds time to go hiking in the Colorado mountains, skiing in the winter, and fishing. Mr. Roesch also has his pilot's license and has been known to jump out of a plane or two.

This summer, Dillon will be starting an internship as a Crop Protection Sales Representative for Gowan USA, LLC, working in Western Kansas, the Oklahoma Panhandle, and Eastern Colorado. **P**



/ FACULTY /

TYLER STEPHENS

Tyler Stephens graduated from Panhandle State in 2016, being the first graduate with a degree in both Psychology and Criminal Justice.

Stephens was very involved in campus activities as a student and really loved the campus. This made it an easy decision to come back as the Interim Director of Criminal Justice and Instructor of Psychology.

After graduating with his Bachelor's, Tyler went on to get his Masters from the University of Denver in 2018 in Forensic Psychology. He worked in the Denver area as a forensic psychotherapist with specialties in trauma, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

When the Psychology position opened on campus, Tyler was eager to come back. "Since I'm an OPSU alum, I have a lot of love and loyalty for this place. I'm a big believer in giving back, and working as faculty here gives me a chance to give back to the university and also contribute to my field."

One of Tyler's most favorite things about Panhandle State is being a part of the College of Arts and Education. "The other faculty here are very supportive and have been welcoming of me as both a professional and a peer. That speaks to Panhandle culture, and I'm happy to be part of that."

Dean of the Arts and Education College, Dr. Brad Duren commented, "Tye brings both a wealth of experience and knowledge to OPSU. His energy and accessibility make him a natural in the classroom, and I am excited to have him as a part of our faculty."

On a personal note, Tyler loves to spend time cooking, and his major weakness is a good burrito. He travels a lot, exploring new places with his partner Hunter, and their dog Sophie. He also loves a good murder mystery book. "My favorite book is 1984 by George Orwell, and there's still a chalk drawing in McKee Library that has that book on it from when I was a student worker there." **P**



/ ALUMNI /

CHARLES WHITE

Charles White is known as an avid proud supporter of the OPSU Aggie nation.

After high school, Charles was recruited to work for Seaboard, an opportunity that brought him to the panhandle area. While working there, he enrolled in classes at OPSU and subsequently graduated in May of 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Business.

Currently, Charles is the friendly face that you might recognize as your State Farm Agent in Guymon. His aggie pride has been displayed in his office throughout the years. When asked about his favorite part of Panhandle State, there was no hesitation saying, "The people!"

Charles worked full time while enrolled in classes as a non-traditional student, and he has taken advantage of the opportunity to be more involved after graduation. He holds a position on the board for the Alumni Association.

Director of Alumni, Chyanna Black said, "Charles made walking into this position midyear extremely welcoming and shows an enthusiasm for the college that is contagious."

Charles White will always be recognized for his contribution to campus athletic programs, especially when looking at the scoreboard during football and basketball games. Along with his representation at events and generosity of sponsorships, he is also a host family for OPSU aggie athletes.

His wife, Courtney is also an OPSU alumnus. They have been married for 20 years, and in that time they have had two children, Ethan and Emily. Although Charles stays busy locally, he does enjoy escaping to go skiing when he gets the chance. Charles enjoys doing anything involving his kids and has instilled the Aggie spirit in them.

The White family tries to come to as many games and events at Panhandle State as they can. Charles commented, "We enjoy the tailgate and football games the most." Oklahoma Panhandle State University can continue to grow through the inspiration that Charles White embodies through his Aggie Pride. **P**



“The heart of the pantry comes from our community. We live in an area where people go out of their way when there is a need. We are here to serve our students and help them in any way we can.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

/ CAMPUS /
**FOOD PANTRY AT
 PANHANDLE STATE**
 WORKS TO END CAMPUS
 HUNGER

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is proud to announce the Food Pantry on campus is open and ready to serve students, faculty, and staff who are in need. The goal of the pantry is to help students or other members of the OPSU family who are dealing with the reality of food insecurity and not knowing where their next meal will come from.

“We are trying to alleviate that stress for the students so they can focus on their studies,” stated Sarah Green, Dean of the Academic Resource Center.

Panhandle State is working hard to reach out to students who are struggling financially. Director of Counseling, Rene Ramon shared, “We need to take care of their basic needs before we can take care of their educational needs.”

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Julie Dinger noted, “According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office report, food insecurity in college students range well over 50 percent.”

In the Fall Semester of 2019, there was an enormous amount of support for the food pantry and coat closet. The Academic Resource Center hosted a coat and food drive where campus groups helped build the stock pile of items. Additionally, the community helped by donating at the Chili Cookoff.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn said, “The heart of the pantry comes from our community. We live in an area where people go out of their way when there is a need. We are here to serve our students and help them in any way we can.”

Wrapping up the fall semester, the OPSU Christmas Committee put together food baskets to give to students who would be staying on campus over the Christmas Break. With the help of the housing office and the student life office, almost a dozen baskets containing soups, crackers, noodles, and snack items were delivered to the dorms, making each students stay a little easier.

“This is just another way to show that offices across campus are coming together to better our students’ lives,” said Brailey Strain, Student Life Coordinator.

The food pantry is open to current students, faculty, and staff who are in need of assistance. The Academic Resource Center and the Student Affairs office can help anyone in need and can also assist in accepting donations. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

OPSU ALUMS AT NATIONAL FINALS RODEO



Jake Watson, Photo Courtesy of the PRCA ProRodeo



Orin Larsen, Photo Courtesy of the PRCA ProRodeo

Former Oklahoma Panhandle State University rodeo cowboys – competing as members of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) – once again, did their alma mater proud at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) in Las Vegas on December 3-12, 2019. The WNFR is the traditional season-ending rodeo for the PRCA circuit – and widely regarded as the world’s premier rodeo event.

Four former Aggie cowboys competed in the 2019 WNFR. Among the group was Orin Larsen, Jake Watson, and Josh Frost. Spencer Wright, who rodeoed for Panhandle State one year, rounds out the quartet.

At this year’s WNFR, held at the Thomas & Mack Center as it has been since 1985, Larsen emerged as a big winner in bareback riding. Larsen was fourth in the overall average with a composite score of 857.5 and was one of the seven competitors who covered on all 10 of their rides. He earned top-6 money six times and had a win in the fourth go-round of the event, giving him a total of \$81,230.77 in go-round earnings alone.

Larsen vaulted up the world standings to the No. 2 position after his WNFR performance, with total winnings of nearly \$280,000 for 2019 in bareback riding.

In saddle bronc riding, it was the equine athletes who won the day, as only one WNFR cowboy made it through unscathed for all 10 days. Wright was second in the average (762.5) and had nine good rides to his credit and finishing in the go-round money seven times, putting him fourth in the world in saddle bronc riding after the WNFR.

Watson finished sixth in the average (610.5) of saddle bronc riding. Watson made it to the whistle seven times and had six money rides, winning the fifth and eighth go-rounds. His efforts were good for better than \$100,000 in go-round winnings and moved him up to No. 6 in the world rankings.

While Frost did not finish among the leaders in bull riding, he still was ranked No. 14 in the world after the WNFR, with 2019 earnings of nearly \$130,000.

The strong effort by former Aggie cowboys at the WNFR is a good reminder that this year’s Panhandle State Rodeo Team will resume the second half of its 2019-20 slate on February 14-15 at Kansas State University. The program’s annual fundraiser – the Top Hand Auction - will be held on Saturday, February 1, at the Pickle Creek Event Center in Guymon. **P**



/ATHLETICS/

SPECIAL GAME DAY

“We wanted these very special individuals to enjoy the feel of competing in an athletic venue and have a memorable time with our players. This is just as much of a blessing for our student-athletes as it was for the participants.”

— Shawn Joy,
Baseball Coach

On Sunday, January 12, the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Baseball Team took part in a “Special Game Day” open to area special needs children (and their siblings) to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with the Aggies. This was the third-consecutive year that OPSU’s Baseball program has been involved in the event.

In conjunction with Main Street Guymon, the special needs children and siblings squared off versus the OPSU baseball players in a rousing game of kickball. Afterward, the participants came together for a sports tradition of feasting on hot dogs, courtesy of Seaboard Foods.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, was excited about the event, “Aggie Athletics is amazing! The special game day blew my mind. The heart and character that these young men and women have shown is what being an Aggie is all about! Thank you, Coach Joy!”

The OPSU cheerleaders were also on hand to do face painting for participants. Members of Panhandle State’s other athletics teams were also present to interact and cheer on these amazing young people.

Melyn Johnson, Director of Main Street Guymon, explains the nexus of the Special Game Day this way: “This all began when a mother of a profoundly special needs child said one of the things parents of special needs children often don’t get to experience is seeing their child on a sports court/field/arena and watching others yelling for them. So members of the community have come together to provide this opportunity for kids.”

Panhandle State Baseball Head Coach Shawn Joy views the opportunity to host the special needs children and their families as a privilege for his team.

“It truly is our honor to be able to be involved with these amazing youngsters and their families,” Joy said. “We wanted these very special individuals to enjoy the feel of competing in an athletic venue and have a memorable time with our players. This is just as much of a blessing for our student-athletes as it was for the participants.” **P**



“The heart and character that these young men and women are showing is what being an Aggie is all about!”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President





/ ATHLETICS /

INAUGURAL MEN'S SOCCER SEASON ONE FOR THE BOOKS

The very first season for the Oklahoma Panhandle State University men's soccer team was one that was successful by most any barometer. Forget having an “infancy” stage for the program. The Aggies burst onto the 2019 soccer scene with a maturity that belied the fact that OPSU had never fielded an intercollegiate team in its history.

Its crowning achievement was, no doubt, earning a spot in the Sooner Athletic Conference post-season tournament in its first try. Panhandle finished the season at an even .500 (4-4-1) in league play - good for sixth place in the SAC standings – and was 9-6-2 overall. Despite losing its first-round SAC tournament game to USAO (2-1 in overtime), OPSU served notice that its program could not be taken lightly.

The Aggies' fans also responded to their new team in droves. Attendance of several hundred was not uncommon at home matches, with Panhandle State posting a record of 6-1-1 in the friendly confines of Anchor D Stadium. Of course, as could be expected, there were plenty of other “firsts” and highlights in the inaugural season. Four players earned SAC Player of the Week accolades: Manuel DePierola (the first player so honored), Carollisen, Alan Gamboa, and Cristhofer Monje. Carollisen was Panhandle State's first all-conference honoree, earning first-team SAC accolades.

The OPSU team's multicultural aspect also had a strong appeal to the campus, community, and region, no doubt bolstering Panhandle's popularity. The heritage of no less than 20 countries were represented on Head Coach Brandon Misuraca's roster, with each player's nationality honored by a flag flying behind the Aggies' bench at all home games, for what is one of the world's most popular sports.

With the team's philosophy of “Brick by Brick,” 2019 laid a firm foundation for its program. And the future holds nothing but excitement as the “building” continues in 2020! **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

WOMEN'S SOCCER EARNS UNITED SOCCER COACHES TEAM AWARD



United Soccer Coaches announced its 2019 Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award recipients for college soccer programs, tabbing Oklahoma Panhandle State University Women's Soccer among its honorees. The Aggie ladies – playing their inaugural season this past fall – were the lone representative on the USC list from the Sooner Athletic Conference.

Panhandle State's Silver Award is also the highest accolade from among the three Oklahoma schools to be honored. Also recognized were NCAA Division II schools University of Central Oklahoma and East Central University, both of which earned Bronze Awards.

“I am very proud to have our program receive this honor,” OPSU Head Coach Mike Rosso stated. “Win, lose or draw, it is always our objective to represent the Crimson and Blue in a manner befitting the name we wear across our uniform. I am thankful for every one of the members of our program for making this possible.”

“Congratulations to Coach Rosso and the women's soccer program,” Director of Athletics Meghan Mulcahy said. “I am proud of the team for overcoming obstacles this season to receive this recognition and represent the Sooner Athletic Conference on this list.”

The 2019 United Soccer Coaches awards recognize a total of 95 college teams – at all levels (JUCO through NCAA Division I) – from across the country for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and adherence to the laws of the game. **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

AGGIE BASKETBALL TEAMS

DISCOVER YOUNG TALENT IN THE EARLY GOING



Both the women's and men's basketball teams have struggled a bit in the early going of 2019-20. The programs looked to blend a handful of veteran players with some talented newcomers who have assumed significant roles. At press time the Aggie ladies were 4-11 and men 3-11. However, as the programs look to fill the breaches after last season, some very talented newcomers have shown themselves to be game ready.

On the women's side, freshman Shay Audrain came to Panhandle by way of nearby Stratford (Texas) High School. Audrain leads the team in scoring and ranks among the NAIA leaders in three-point field goal percentage (45.1), is No. 30 in three-point field goals made per game (2.47) and No. 37 in total three-point field goals made (37) near the season's midway point.

For the Aggie men, freshman Jalen Williams has been a delightful addition. The Edmond Memorial High School product currently ranks among OPSU's offensive leaders in scoring and free throw percentage, topping the team in both assists and steals, as well.

Along with Williams, Quentin Fankhouser has been a great asset to the team. Goodwell, Oklahoma native, has provided stability to a roster that saw a significant turnover from 2018-19. He has played in all of the team's first 13 games and started 10. He averages a blue collar-like 6.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. **P**



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