

MARCH 2020

Panhandle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

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**EXCELLENT FACULTY
CHANGING THE WORLD**

“This facility will make Goodwell a destination for students and visitors.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President



/ CAMPUS /

PANHANDLE STATE SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX SOFT OPENING

Oklahoma Panhandle State University hosted a soft opening for the Panhandle State Shooting Sports Complex on February 22nd. Nearly 300 guests attended the event.

The Shooting Sports Complex houses five facilities: rifle and pistol range; trap, skeet, and 5-stand; sporting clays; 3-D archery; and Olympic archery. Out of the four facilities open on Saturday, trap and rifle proved to be the most popular.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn stated, “The Soft Opening of the Panhandle State Shooting Complex proved that we are meeting a need in our area with this facility.” He continued by stating, “This facility will make Goodwell a destination for students and visitors.”

David Watkins, with Seaboard Foods, provided hamburgers and hotdogs for the event. Seaboard Foods is a longstanding partner of OPSU.

Vice Mayor of Guymon, Kim Peterson commented, “Words cannot express the awesomeness of the Shooting Sports Facility, and what it means to our community and region.”

Some of the shooting facilities will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1PM to dusk throughout the spring. Additional information for the summer and fall hours will be announced by May.

Chris Hinchey, with the No Man’s Land Rifle and Pistol Association added, “It was a great day at a fantastic facility. Thank you, OPSU for taking on a huge project like this and for inviting the No Man’s Land Rifle and Pistol Association to share in it!”

Financial support for the OPSU Shooting Range Complex was provided by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation through the Wildlife Restoration Grant F17AF00041 (W-186-P-1) and Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

For more information, go to shootingsports.opsu.edu. **P**



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On the cover: Abbas Aboohamidi



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/ PANHANDLE MAGAZINE /

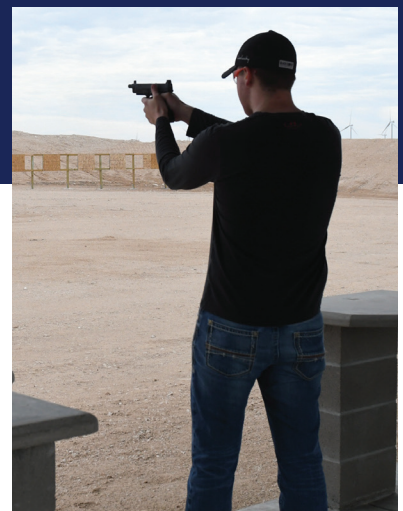
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/ CAMPUS /

CAMPUS LIFE







/ EDUCATION /

FACULTY MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ABBAS ABOOHAMIDI

Dr. Abbas Aboohamidi grew up in southern Iran in a town called Ahwaz. After leaving his hometown in 1999, he found himself in Dallas, Texas. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus in Economics at Texas A&M. Taking his education a few steps further, he went on to receive his Master's degree in Economics and a Ph.D. in Agriculture Applied Economics, both at Texas Tech.

From his education history, it speaks for itself that he is wildly intrigued by the concept of economics. Currently an Agribusiness Professor and Department Head of Agribusiness at Panhandle State, Abbas is always excited to walk into a classroom to teach his students.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "We are excited to have such a knowledgeable professor like Abbas. He has a strong understanding of his students and a passion that we see in many of our faculty members across campus."

Relocating from Texas to Oklahoma was an easy decision for Abbas, "I love living in the rural United States. My children live in Lubbock, Texas, so I can go see them often." He has four children ranging from ages 11 to 17; Adam, Noah, Mckaylah, and Isabelle.

When asked what his favorite part of Panhandle State is, he answered, "When students are in a bigger class setting, you cannot connect one-on-one with them. To have an excellent understanding of what is taught, there needs to be a good discussion in the classroom." He went on to tell of the passion his students have for the subject by saying, "The students are eager to learn and are very respectful."

Dean of College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing, Shawna Tucker stated, "Dr. Abbas is a wonderful addition to the talented faculty in the Agriculture division. He is an excellent and rigorous instructor who truly cares about all of his students. He brings fresh ideas and perspectives to his classes and the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing. He is genuinely kind and a delight to work with."

Abbas teaches several classes, including Ag Marketing, Ag

"We are excited to have such a diverse and knowledgeable professor like Abbas. He has a strong understanding of his students and a passion that we see in many of our faculty members across campus."

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

Economics, Money and Banking, Studies in Ag, and Quantitative Methods in Ag. He spends countless hours studying economics to learn more about the topic. Dr. Michael Hudson is his role model when talking about the study of economics.

Professor of AgEducation, Nels Peterson, commented, "I am extremely impressed by the amount of care Abbas shows for the students. He genuinely cares for them. That goes a long way when teaching."

Abbas can be found either in the classroom, his office, or working out at the Noble Center. In his youth, he dabbled in professional soccer. While having a real passion for economics, he also expressed soccer being another interest of his. "I taught my son Adam, 17, how to play, and he is on his way to playing at the collegiate level. It is exciting to watch your children be so passionate about something like you were."

Of the many personal interests Abbas shared, the ones he highlighted were learning more about other countries and cultures. He expressed that he has always been curious and eager to educate himself about different religions. He has taken the time to gain an understanding of multiple faiths. For himself, he identifies religiously as Agnostic. **P**

OPSU STUDENTS HIGHER ED DAY AT THE CAPITOL



A handful of Panhandle State's brightest attended Higher Education Day at the State Capital. Students and members of the statewide campus community were in attendance. This annual event promotes the value and importance of higher education in the state.

Hannah Haase, Student Government Association President said, "Higher Ed Day was a great learning experience. We got to meet incredible people, hear why Higher Ed is so important, and most importantly, got to see how our voice can be heard."

Speakers included Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell; Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat; House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols; Rep. Jadine Nollan; State Regents vice chair Ann Holloway; Chancellor Glen D. Johnson; and President Jeanie Webb, Rose State College. Four students also spoke sharing how higher education at Oklahoma's public college and universities have positively impacted their lives.

Vice President of Outreach, Dr. Ryan Blanton, stated, "This day is one that our students, faculty, and staff look forward to attending each year. The students are able to have one-on-one interaction with legislators about higher education."

The students who represented Panhandle State were Brenda Jimenez, Brett Munsch, Tayze Ellington, Lara Allen, Yesse Cano, Sarah Wood, Stacy Jimenez, and Hannah Haase.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn added, "These students are eager to learn and experience all that this special day has to offer. Giving them this opportunity to meet the state's representatives and educating them in higher education is so important."

The students enjoyed their time being able to network and see another side of higher education. The advisors accompanying the trip were Kim Smith, Instructor of Business Administration, and Brailey Strain, Student Life Coordinator. Brailey Strain commented, "Higher Ed Day is a great opportunity to show our students that their voices matter and they can make a difference in higher education." **P**

Higher Ed Day was held February 11, 2020 at the Capitol

OPSU COLLEGIAN WRITERS TO BE A VOICE FOR THE STUDENTS



Here at The Collegian, we are making some significant changes. Our current goal is to revamp the school newspaper. In order to do this, we have been spending copious amounts of time surveying students around the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus. so This way we can know what people want to read about, because if no one cares about the content; they are not going to read it.

Because we can spend more time on producing content, we are moving to a more investigative style of journalism. Before, The Collegian mostly just covered events, and, while there was nothing wrong with just covering events, by the time we put the paper out students had already heard about the event multiple times and I believe this is a major factor that contributed to the decline in our readership.

No longer do we want to be JUST a newspaper for students, we want to be the microphone through which students' voices can be heard. **P**



/ STAFF /

AMBER GLASS

An Oktaha, Oklahoma native leaving her mark at Panhandle State, Amber Glass graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in Science: Health Administration and earned her Master's in Business Administration in 2019.

At Panhandle State, Amber is the Registrar and International Student Coordinator. She is always willing to help anyone and enjoys the people who she works with. She said, "One of my favorite things about Panhandle is that I work with some truly amazing people who care about our students. I work with some of the best, and they have helped me grow both professionally and personally."

Dr. Tim Faltyn, University President stated, "We are proud to have Amber and her family a part of the Aggie Family. She goes above and beyond to serve where it is needed. Her willingness to grow and accept a challenge makes her valuable to our team."

When asked what brought her to OPSU, Glass said, "When the Registrar position opened, I believed that I would be a good candidate with my background. I loved what I was doing but missed the academic side, and I was excited about the challenge." There's no doubt that she has already exceeded her expectations and proved herself to be an exceptional candidate for the position.

Glass says that the people at Panhandle State are genuinely one of a kind. She stated, "My family and I are very grateful for this opportunity and appreciate the warm welcome and support we have received from the OPSU family."

Dean of the College of Arts and Education, Dr. Brad Duren commented, "Amber is one of the most helpful people on our campus. She is always willing to assist students and faculty whenever we have questions about 'all things registration.' Her knowledge and understanding, combined with her accessibility and patience, make her an indispensable asset to OPSU and its mission to serve students."

When she's not answering questions that students and staff have, Glass spends her free time reading, listening to podcasts, or watching TV. Amber and her husband of 14 years, Joey, have three daughters named Madison, Sophia, and Hattie. **P**



/ STUDENT /

KALEY CONNER

A true OPSU national champion, Kaley Conner, grew up in the small town of Keyes, OK with a high school graduating class of six people.

The small-town feel and being close to family is why Panhandle State was her choice. She is nearing the end of her college career, as she will graduate this spring with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus in marketing and a minor in English.

While attending OPSU, Kaley has been an active member of many groups on campus, such as the cheer team, a writer and editor of The Collegian, and a member of the Panhandle Chorale. She is currently the vice president of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) and the student government senator. She has brought back two national top-six placements in business competitions with PBL.

PBL Advisor, Kim Smith commented, "Kaley is an exceptional student that will be able to accomplish anything she sets her sights on. It has been a joy to watch her grow and develop through coursework as well as extracurriculars such as PBL, SGA, and competing for Miss Panhandle State among the many things she is actively involved in on and off-campus."

She credits OPSU for the lessons she has learned. "This university has helped me grow as an individual and has equipped me with the tools I need to continue striving for success. Panhandle State has come to feel like home to me."

Dr. Sara Hitch, Department Chair of Business Administration stated, "As a student, Kaley is a dream in class. She is very involved and dedicated, and so incredibly bright. As a PBL member, she has willingly stepped in to help where needed and taken on more leadership roles as the years went on."

When not in classes, Kaley works full time as a reporter for The Guymon Daily Herald. She enjoys taking long drives and listening to music. Outside of work and school, she finds herself writing poetry and hopes to someday become published, whether it be her poetry, scholarly articles, or even a novel. **P**



/ FACULTY /

JARED **BATES**

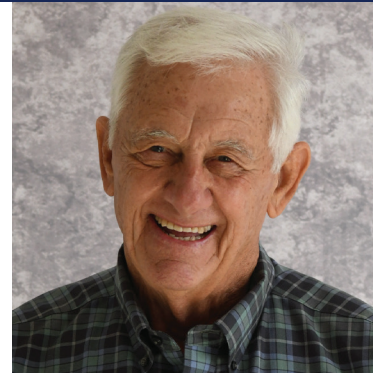
New to Panhandle State, Jared Bates, is already making a lasting impression on the School of Science and Agriculture.

Bates received his Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Oklahoma State University in 2004 and then went off to the University of Nebraska to earn a Master's in Animal Science with a concentration on Breeding and Genetics. After attaining his Master's, he stuck around the University of Nebraska to earn a Ph.D. in Animal Science with a concentration in Breeding and Animal Diseases.

After working in the state government for six years, Dr. Bates decided to work in the agricultural sector and animal science field full-time, which is what brought him to Panhandle State. He is currently serving as Assistant Professor and Department Head of Animal Science. His favorite thing about OPSU is how peaceful the area is and how the people he has met really "...believe in the mission of the university and this community."

Dean of College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing, Shawna Tucker stated, "Jared has been such an asset to the Animal Science Department. He is a seasoned herdsman and has taken on the responsibility of managing the OPSU herd. Under his leadership, the Animal Science faculty are working to create an excellent balance of honoring our heritage while bringing new ideas for the composition of the herd. In addition, he has played an integral role in designing and implementing some necessary updates to farm facilities."

Jared is married and has a three-year-old daughter, that he says, "...will one day be a gymnast." He is an "Okie" through and through. Having grown up in Tecumseh, OK, he has a family line that has lived in Oklahoma for over 100 years. Throughout his family's tenure in Oklahoma, they have been involved in the livestock industry, with his grandfather working for the OSU Extension for 25 years as a Livestock Extension Specialist. It is his family's history and his grandfather's work that inspired him to get into the animal science field. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

JIM **OBLANDER**

Raised in Woodward, Oklahoma, Jim Oblander has considered Goodwell home since first attending Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

As a first generation student, Panhandle State attracted Oblander by the reasonable cost to get an education. With the dream of owning his own farm someday, Jim took the opportunity to work for the school farm and pursue his degree. He graduated with a degree in Agronomy in 1967.

During his time at Panhandle State, Jim was involved in ROTC classes and the rifle team. Jim commented, "Since it was during the draft, I got involved in the ROTC classes so that after graduating I could enter the army as an officer." Oblander said that one of his favorite memories being a student was every Thursday afternoon ROTC went to the drill field and ran drills.

Since Oblander was commissioned as an officer once graduating, he was eligible to apply for flight school with the army. Once he was accepted, Oblander became a helicopter pilot serving four years in Vietnam. After leaving the army, Jim returned to Panhandle State where he received his teaching certificate. He went on to teach in Guymon for several years working to gradually obtain the land to fulfill his dream of farming full time. This dream became a reality in the late seventies, where Jim enjoyed farming and raising a family. He retired a few years ago to enjoy his time spent flying, playing golf, attending bridge games, and staying involved with Panhandle State.

Jim has been an essential member of the community and Panhandle State University with his love of the college as a whole. Oblander has served on the board of the Alumni Association for over a decade and is always willing to lend a hand wherever is needed.

Jim believes that the college experience shapes students for who they become in life. When asked his favorite part of Panhandle State Jim gently stated, "The character that is all around us with students, alumni, staff and community. It is because of this trait I have a deep appreciation for the impact made by this college, and my life was formed here on this campus." **P**



/ CAMPUS /

4TH ANNUAL PERFECT PAIRINGS FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY PBL AND AITP

“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

The fourth annual Perfect Pairings fundraiser set a record raising over \$12,000 with over 50 community members in attendance. The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) hosted the event at Oklahoma Panhandle State University House on Thursday, February 6, 2020. Both organizations are part of the College of Business and Technology.


Perfect Pairings seek to broaden attendees' palates by introducing them to different food and drink pairings that follow an overall theme. This year's theme was Small Batch, which was based on the excellence that comes from the time and attention devoted to small batch craftsmanship. That same mentality drives both organizations at OPSU as these groups of students are mentored to become high-quality graduates honoring the university's time-honored reputation.

The pairings were a huge conversation starter going into the evening's program, where a basket representing each pairing was auctioned. The six baskets included a bottle of the wine or spirit and a sample of the food paired with it. As he has for the past four years, Joel Wilson, Panhandle State Alumni, led the evening's auction.

The program also included testimonials from current students and alumni from each organization. Amanda Blanton, AITP President, was excited to share her thoughts on how being a member of AITP has truly given her so many opportunities. She credited the community and the support given by all of the faculty and staff. Senior PBL member and club Vice President, Kaley Conner, described how going to the National Leadership Conference truly instilled a light in her to pursue her dreams and to never give up. Both alumni speakers, Jorge Moreno and Colby Cochran, are currently working in the banking industry. Jorge, a loan officer at Anchor D Bank and AITP and PBL Alum, spoke about the trips taken with both clubs and how he has used those experiences into the real world. Colby, Senior Banker at First National Bank of Omaha in Colorado, gave credit to Dr. Sara Hitch and Davin Winger for his success in banking. For Colby, being a PBL Alumni means giving back to the people and place that made him who he is today.

The money raised from this event helps offset the costs for the groups to attend their regional and state and national competitions. Steve Martin, AITP co-advisor, CIS Department Chair, and one of the key chefs for this event; said, “The popularity of this event just continues to grow, and as long as it does, we will work to provide an event with unique pairings that allow us to continue to showcase our amazing students.”

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, “These two groups along with their advisors spent countless hours preparing for this event. The amount of thought put into every single detail was truly impeccable.”

Both groups wish to thank Great Western Dining for their help with the event as well as Nikki Stork for the beautiful decorations. Additionally, the event would not have been possible without Dr. and Mrs. Faltyn opening up their home. 



“Benny did an excellent job advocating for the University. These repairs will help insure that our campus buildings can last another 100 years.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

/ CAMPUS /
PANHANDLE STATE
ROOF REPLACEMENT
PROJECT

Over the last three years, OPSU has seen many enhancements across campus. From dorm renovations to new classroom furniture, the administration is continually trying to better campus life. One of the major problems seen across campus is the roofing issue. Serve storms and wind gusts have torn and damaged the roof necessitating a complete replacement.

After months of pushing to get the roof repair project started, Benny Dain, Vice President of Fiscal Affairs facilitated a \$4.87 million insurance settlement on over a decade of leaky roof complaints.

The extensive renovations started in the late weeks of the fall semester and will continue throughout the 2020 year. The first building to see a new slate is the Anchor D Arena. Following will be the Library, Hughes-Strong Auditorium, and faculty row houses.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn stated, “Benny did an excellent job advocating for the University. These repairs will help ensure that our campus buildings can last another 100 years.”

During the renovation project, there will be multiple crews working on campus. Benny Dain stated, “We ask that you stay safe and clear of the areas being repaired. If you come across an issue, please inform us.” **P**



/ CAMPUS /

TOP HAND AUCTION ARTICLE

“Our team members did an outstanding job putting the auction together. We appreciate all of the support shown over the years from our community members.”

— Robert Etbauer,
Rodeo Head Coach

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team hosted the 2020 Top Hand Auction on February 1. Every year friends, family, and community members come together to raise money to support the rodeo team.

The top-selling items this year were the five-day bear hunt donated by Wesley Henderson, which brought \$2,000, 100 bales of alfalfa sold for \$1,100, and a handmade wooden box with western accessories for \$675. These were only a few of the items that made the night a success.

Along with the items, the Panhandle State Rodeo team members were auctioned off in pairs of two or three for a day of work. The highest selling top-hand members were Kassie Kautzma, Sarah Lamplugh, and Sierra Smith for \$750. The second top-selling pair was Jordan Monical and Cooper Thatcher for \$675. With Robert Etbauer and Shelbie Rose following for \$650.

Robert Etbauer commented, “Our team members did an outstanding job putting the auction together. We appreciate all of the support shown over the years from our community members.

The event is made possible with the help of local sponsors and donors. Clay Myers and the Texhoma Livestock Auction were recognized as Top Hand Sponsors of the Year. Kim Peterson, owner of Hunny’s, generously provided a delicious meal for the evening. The night ended with Ken Stonecipher and The Wooden Nickel Band entertaining a full dance floor.

Shelbie Rose stated, “This year was another reminder of how much the community believes in our team and our program. We could not do any of this without their support.”

All proceeds from the Top Hand Auction are put towards the Panhandle State Rodeo Team. These funds will go towards scholarships, practice stock, facility upkeep and the professional rodeo schools.

The Rodeo Team will host the Annual Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo on April 23, 24, and 25 in Guymon, OK, at the Henry C. Hitch Pioneer Arena. **P**



“We are so thankful for Dr. and Mrs. Martin’s tireless work with the Bull Test. The Bull Test and Sale are part of OPSU’s heritage, and Jerry and Gwen are committed to ensuring the research opportunity continues.”

— Shawna Tucker,
Dean of the College of Agriculture,
Science, and Nursing

/ AGRICULTURE /

BEEF BULL SALE

The 68th Annual Oklahoma Panhandle State University Performance Tested Sale was held on February 24, 2020. Fifty-two bulls brought \$139,000.00 for an average of \$2,673.00 per bull.

The bulls went through a 112-day performance test measuring frame score, scrotal circumference, semen characteristics, fat thickness, rib-eye area and marbling in the rib-eye.

Breeds represented are Angus, Herefords and Red Angus. Cooperators participating this year are: B&M Angus, Edmond, OK; Cody and Justin Barrington, Lawton and Canute, OK; Johnny Canaday, Laverne, OK; Bob Chaffin, Davis, OK; Eddie and Dustin Cook, Orlando, OK; Clarence Frey, Mulhall, OK; Mike Frey, Kingfisher, OK; Gerald Fish, Harrah, OK; Raleigh Jobes, Stillwater, OK; Phil Light, Turpin, OK; Galen McCune, Sharon, OK; OPSU, Goodwell, OK; Al Rutledge, Stillwater, OK; and Terry Sedlak, Kingfisher, OK.

OPSU students that worked on the test are Lara Allen, Cara Genebacher, Wyatt Hammack, Madison Hansen, and Mikayla Sharpe.

Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing, Shawna Tucker commented, “We are so thankful for Dr. and Mrs. Martin’s tireless work with the Bull Test. The Bull Test and Sale are part of OPSU’s heritage, and Jerry and Gwen are committed to ensuring the research opportunity continues. The Test and Sale are successful events because of the Martins, along with the help of Daren Stevens, Dr. Jared Bates, Sydney Wilkinson, Dr. Nels Peterson, and the student workers.”

At the sale, an angus bull consigned by Phillip Light of Turpin, OK, was the top selling bull at \$3,900.00. The bull is a son of LAR Payweight and sold to Harry J. Minns of Goodwell, OK. A bull of Clarence Frey, Mulhall, OK, sold to OPSU for \$3,800.00. This bull was sired by Spring Creeks Acclaim.

For more information or a complete report of all of the bulls in the 68th Annual Beef Bull Performance Test and Sale, write or call Jerry or Gwen Martin, OPSU, Box 430, Goodwell, OK, phone 580-349-1500. **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

ALLEN NAMED AGGIES HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Director of Athletics Meghan Mulcahy has announced that veteran volleyball coach Julie Allen has been hired to lead the Aggies' program. Allen assumes the role as the Panhandle State Head Volleyball Coach, after most recently serving in the same capacity at NCAA Division I Eastern Illinois University, for the previous two seasons.

"I am pleased to welcome Coach Allen to the Aggie Family," Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn said. "Coach Allen has an extensive coaching background, as well as a commitment to the student-athletes' academic and personal success."

Allen's other volleyball experiences include serving on staff at Wichita State University (2016-18), the University of Texas-El Paso (2010-16), Arkansas State University (2008-2010), Georgetown University (2006-2008) and Chico State University (2004-2006). While serving in an assistant capacity at each of these, Allen was also entrusted as the interim head coach at Georgetown for eight months during her tenure at the Washington, D.C., university.

"The athletic staff and myself are excited to have Coach Allen joining our team," OPSU Director of Athletics Meghan Mulcahy said. "I believe her experience at NCAA Division I – as well as strong knowledge of volleyball in this region - will bring continued success to the program. Likewise, I believe she will add a breadth of knowledge and stability to the program through her extensive volleyball experience."

"I am honored to be joining the OPSU athletic department and I am excited to lead the Aggie Volleyball team," Allen said. "I want to thank President Dr. Tim Faltyn, Athletic Director Meghan Mulcahy and the search committee for the opportunity to be the Head Volleyball Coach. The immediate impact and leadership shown by Dr. Faltyn, is inspiring and makes it an exciting time to be a part of the Panhandle State University and its Athletics Department. I am grateful for the opportunity, and eager to work with the team, connect with the community and recruit for the future. We will compete on the court, excel in the classroom, and commit to our community. As soon as I set foot on the OPSU campus, I felt the sense of family, commitment and the tight-knit community support." **P**

/ ATHLETICS /

FRESH, NEW TALENT BLOOMS FOR AGGIE BASKETBALL TEAMS



The Panhandle State women's and men's basketball programs have both seen the emergence of some exciting young players from their respective prop of newcomers in 2019-20. And while the teams' won-lost record may not be where either program wants it yet, these new faces bode well for the future of Aggie Basketball.

On the women's side, and as of press time, freshman Shay Audrain (Stratford, Texas/Stratford H.S.) leads the OPSU squad in scoring (10.9 p.p.g.), field goals attempted (272), field goals made (107), three-point field goals attempted (165), three-point field goals made (61) and three-point field goal percentage (37.0). She is also averaging 3.4 rebounds and 1.0 assist per game. Audrain has 17 double-digit scoring games, with a season-best 23 points versus Central Christian.

Similarly, the Aggie men have found some a quartet of new players who have added to the team's cache of talent. The group includes freshmen Jalen Williams (Edmond, Okla./Memorial H.S.) and Auston Chatman (Missouri City, Texas/Shadow Creek H.S.), as well as transfers Quentin Fankhouser (Goodwell, Okla./Copper Mountain C.C.), a sophomore, and junior Daniel Holyfield (Albuquerque, N.M./Northern New Mexico College). **P**

AGGIE BASEBALL SHOWING EARLY DIVIDENDS

When Shawn Joy took over as the Aggies' Head Baseball Coach in time for the 2020 campaign, he emphasized a culture shift toward a team-first commitment and direction from his players. That philosophy of an unselfish and focused style looks to be paying off in the early going of 2020.

Newcomer shortstop Markus Bracey (Little Rock, Ark./Arkansas Baptist J.C.) has been flashy both with the bat and the glove through the team's first 14 outings. Bracey is batting a healthy .388 (19-49) to lead the Aggies, also topping the club in on-base average (.455), thanks to receiving six walks. On defense, he regularly makes plays that can best be described as "Jeter-esque" (a comparison to Yankees' great Derek Jeter).

Jose Santiago (Salinas, Puerto Rico/PR Baseball Academy) has also logged an impressive .375 batting average, with three doubles and a triple. Senior Chris Schraer (Frisco, Texas/Heritage H.S.) – who missed all of 2019 with an injury – has bounced back to the tune of a .333 clip at the plate and eight runs batted in. Returning all-conference catcher Luis Rodriguez (Kissimmee, Fla./Celebration H.S.) has already amassed a team-leading 13 RBI in 14 games.

Joy has also had his pitching staff turn in some very solid work, as well. Five hurlers have sub-5.00 earned run averages early. Garrison Armstrong (2.25 ERA/San Antonio, Texas/Boerne Champion H.S.) and Austin Horak (2.70 ERA/Southlake, Texas/Murray State) lead the way. Horak has 12 strikeouts and has walked just four opponents. Teammate Joseph Goetze (Coppell, Texas/Dallas Christian College) has an ERA of 4.00 and 13 "K's" to four walks, with relievers Orin McGee (4.50 ERA/Senior/Duke, Okla./Duke H.S.) and Tyler Moore (4.76 ERA/Aledo, Texas/Aledo H.S.) both having a good start in 2020, as well. Another reliever, Nicholas Virido (Brampton, Ontario, Canada/Univ. of British Columbia), leads the Aggies with 14 strikeouts to his credit, walking just five. **P**



NEW-LOOK PANHANDLE STATE SOFTBALL AIMS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH IN 2020



First-year Oklahoma Panhandle State University Head Softball Coach Chad Kerr is looking to build upon the program's recent successes. Early in the 2020 season, he has been able to utilize a core group of six returning seniors, all of whom have made significant contributions to the program.

Additionally, Kerr's newcomers have also been key to the Aggies' efforts. The returning senior list – all of whom were starters last season – includes: Kaylor Battiest (Tulsa, Okla./Connors State), Abby Gregory (Moreland, Okla./Northern Oklahoma College-Enid), Haley Neal (Choctaw, Okla./Connors State), Chrislyn Dovers (Haslet, Texas/Northwest H.S.), Jena Konieczka (Plano, Texas/Paris J.C.) and Brissa Rivera (Brownsville, Texas/Porter H.S.).

As of press time, Battiest, a right-handed pitcher, was leading the Sooner Athletic Conference in strikeouts and looking to follow her success of 2019 that earned all-SAC honors. Gregory, an outfielder was also voted all-conference in 2019 and has a .957 fielding percentage as the Aggies' centerfielder in 2020.

Neal, who caught every inning last season has upped her batting average this year by hitting .303, with two doubles, a triple and seven runs batted in for her 13 games played. Konieczka, who earned all-SAC accolades in 2018 as a sophomore, is batting .250 so far and has scored five runs.

Dovers, the Aggies' starting leftfielder, has yet to commit an error in 20 chances. Infielder Brissa Rivera has had a great start at the plate, hitting .333 with nine runs scored and a .444 on-base average.

Returning junior firstbaseman Kayli Grove (Norman, Okla./North H.S.) is off to a hot start again, batting a comfortable .326 with nine runs scored and eight runs batted in. Junior infielder Jalynn Reyes (Wylie, Texas/Wylie H.S.) checks in a .294 thru the team's first 15 contests of 2020.

Junior transfer Camryn Pryor leads the team with a .444 batting average, along with seven runs scored and seven RBI. Fellow transfer Kinzie Jones is batting .283, with a team-best 13 runs scored and nine RBI, belting five doubles and two home runs for a .522 slugging percentage. **P**

2nd Annual

Alumni Weekend &



AggieFest

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

COLOR RUN

2:00 pm | Walking Trail

ALUMNI MEETING

3:30 pm | Ballroom

GOURMET BURGER COOK-OFF

- ▶ REFS
- ▶ GALLEON
- ▶ OK SMOKE
- ▶ POLLO RANCHERO/RANCHITO

5:00 pm | Anchor D Arena

CONCERT FEATURING

- ▶ LANE HAAS BAND
- ▶ 12 GAUGE BAND
- ▶ KEN STONECIPHER & THE
WOODEN NICKEL BAND

5:30pm | Anchor D Arena