

APRIL 2020

Panhandle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY

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**FACULTY CHANGING THE
WORLD AMID COVID-19
CRISIS**



/CAMPUS/

OPSU VICE PRESIDENT OF FISCAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



“Benny Dain is such a huge part of the Panhandle Family. He has seen many changes throughout the years at OPSU, and has always tried to better the University.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Vice President of Fiscal Affairs, Benny Dain, announced on April 16, 2020, that he would retire after 30 years of service to the University.

A Hough, OK native, Dain served in the United States Marine Corps from 1975-1979. In 1986, Dain married Mitzi Peterson, also an OPSU graduate. Together, they have a daughter, Bailey, and a son, Braxton.

Benny Dain graduated from OPSU in 1987 with an accounting degree and began working as the University’s Comptroller in 1990. After 25 years as the Comptroller, Dain was named Vice President of Fiscal Affairs in 2015. This position oversees the University Business Office, Physical Plant, and core University functions.

“OPSU has been a very important part of my life, even when I was young, I attended camps and activities here on campus,” Dain stated. “To build a career and life at OPSU, and to be part of the leadership team for the last five years has been a great experience.” He added, “I am excited about the future of the University.”

“Working in higher education, you get to help people achieve their dreams,” Dain stated. “I have always enjoyed the opportunity to watch students pass through OPSU and see them later in life giving back in their community.”

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn stated, “Benny Dain is such a huge part of the Panhandle Family. He has seen many changes throughout the years at OPSU, and has always tried to better the University. He has a heart for the students and stands for the Panhandle way of life. We will miss him on the executive team, but this retirement is well deserved!”

“I have been fortunate to work with some truly great people these last 30 years,” said Dain. “I think that is the part I will miss the most; the people.”

“I feel blessed to have worked with Benny early in my career,” said Liz McMurphy, OPSU Comptroller. “He has molded me into the professional and the person I am today. His compassion, discernment, and knowledge can be seen on a daily basis. Benny has been a source of stability over years of ups and downs with an evident steadiness.”

Laura Duran, Director of OPSU’s Physical Plant, added, “The greatest thing I’ve learned through the years from Benny is to find the calm and look at things through someone else’s eyes. I will miss Benny dearly and the positive impact he brings to our OPSU family.”

“OPSU has been a blessing for my family and me,” Dain states. “Not only did I graduate from here, but my wife, daughter, my son, multiple extended family members, and countless friends in the community, all received a great education here at OPSU.”

Dain will continue to work for the University during his retirement on a part-time basis and will manage several roof replacement projects across campus.

Faltyn added, “What Benny has done to secure the resources for these roofs will be transformative for the University.”

“Of course,” Dain added, “I will be around quite often to cheer on our Aggies, and to support our students, programs, and community as much as possible!” **P**

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On the cover: OPSU PBL works virtually for State and National Conferences



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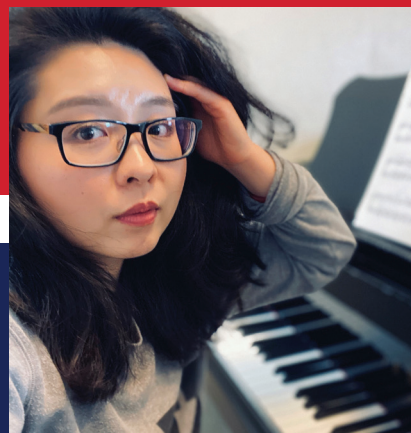
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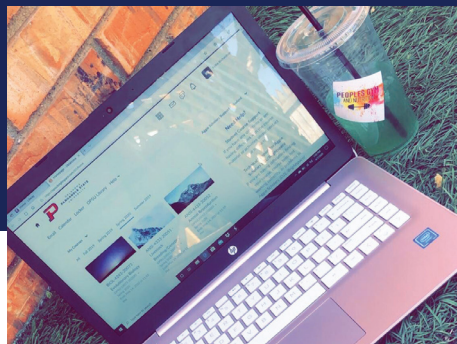
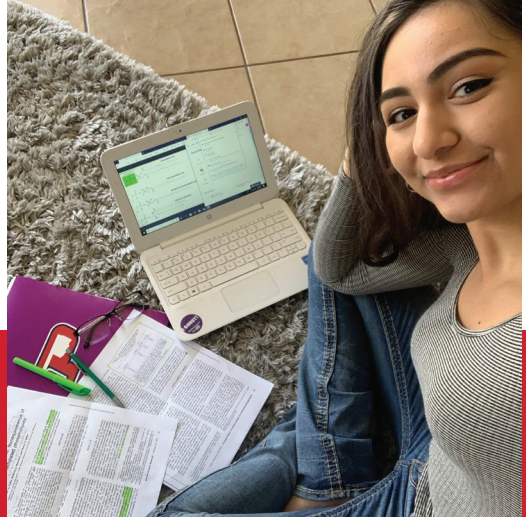
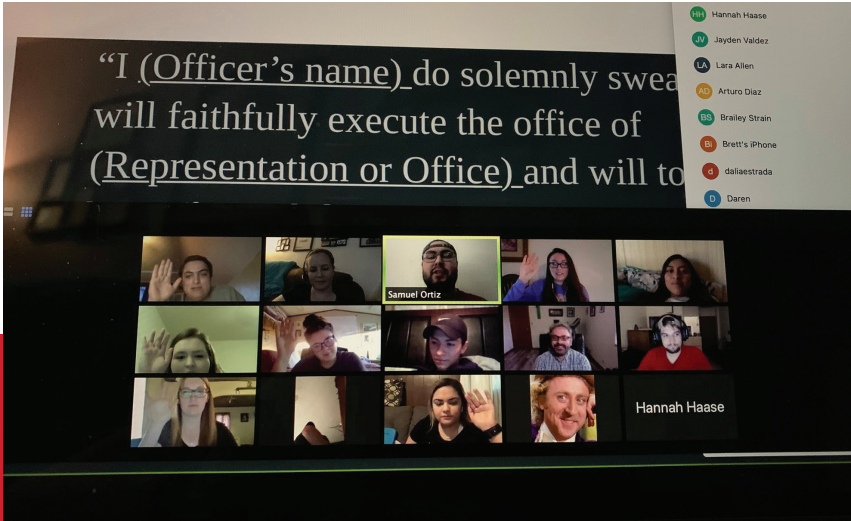
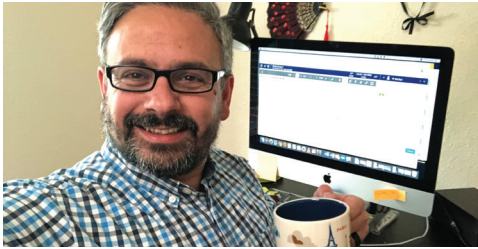
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LIFE AT OPSU DURING QUARANTINE







/ CAMPUS /

FOR OPSU PBL, THE AWARDS MUST GO ON

On January 19, 2020, Oklahoma Panhandle State University's chapter of the business fraternity Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) celebrated its 10th anniversary since reactivating in 2010. In the ten years since, the club has earned 84 state championships, 55 2nd place finishes, and 34 3rd place finishes. OPSU PBL went on to earn their first Top 10 National award at their first NLC on June 27, 2012. Since then, the group has garnered 2 National Championships, 2 Open Event Championships, and 40 Top 10 National placements.

Most past PBL members would tell you that Nationals is the highlight of the year. Former students have been able to travel to Anaheim, CA; Chicago, IL; San Antonio, TX; and Atlanta, GA, to name a few, but to get to Nationals, students have to qualify by placing at SLC. Planning for the Spring 2020 State Leadership Conference started in December of 2019. Sixteen student members committed to attend this year's conference, which was scheduled for March 27-28 in Oklahoma City. Students met on Monday, March 2 to discuss SLC logistics. The US had experienced its first case of Covid-19 by that meeting; however, that topic was not even discussed. Students and advisers excitedly discussed the plans for their trip later in the month.

Tests for State Leadership Conference take three basic forms: objective events—a 1-hour, 100-question multiple choice test; production events—a 1 to 2-hour series of 5-6 questions/exercises; or performance events—a role-playing individual or team experience with judges. Objective events and production events are completed on the student's home campus prior to ever leaving for SLC. By March 13, the Friday before Spring Break, OPSU competitors had taken 36 different tests. In fact, 15 of OPSU's 16 competitors had already taken at least one of their tests. The only tests remaining would be the performance events, which would occur at SLC. However, only a few hours after the final student completed his objective tests, OPSU, after consulting with national, state, community, and campus leaders, moved all classes to virtual instruction until April 6. Students would no longer be traveling to SLC.

Phi Beta Lambda is a national organization; it is the collegiate version of FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America. The previous listing of OPSU's awards is made all the more impressive when it is known that past

OPSU students have earned placements against their contemporaries from universities all across the US such as Texas A&M, USC, Mizzou, Rutgers, and the University of Alabama, to name just a few. Each state with a PBL chapter has a State Organization that serves as its liaison to Nationals. Oklahoma's leadership is carried out by an organization called TRI Leadership Resources (TeamTRI), a national organization based out of Owasso, OK. This group oversees leadership of FBLA-PBL groups for Washington, California, Oregon, Missouri, Nevada, and Oklahoma.

On March 16, PBL advisers were notified by TeamTRI that SLC was being postponed and possibly switched to a virtual experience. On March 26, the official announcement was made that Oklahoma's SLC would be virtual and would occur from 4/15-5/15. Most of OPSU competitor's events had already been completed; however, performance events remained. Those performance events will require competitors to submit a video of their performance to an online site. Those links will then be sent to judges for placement. While this is not an ideal way to present, students at least still have the opportunity to compete. OPSU PBL has 10 students competing in 9 performance events.

“I am excited that this group of individuals still get to compete in their conferences. They have worked tirelessly preparing for these next few months. This time we are in is very uncertain, but I am glad that these competitive events can continue virtually.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn stated, "I am excited that this group of individuals still get to compete in their conferences. They have worked tirelessly preparing for these next few months. This time we are in is very uncertain, but I am glad that these competitive events can continue virtually."

There can be no doubt that in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, students across the nation have experienced tremendous disappointment through the movement to online classes, the cancellation of spring athletic seasons, and the postponement or even cancellation of graduations. The "official" notification of a virtual SLC brought that disappointment home to OPSU PBL competitors as well; however, all is not lost, and TeamTRI has worked hard to make SLC an amazing experience in spite of its virtualization, and OPSU PBL is grateful. Additionally, because of the option of Virtual SLC, there can be no doubt that OPSU PBL's streak of 8 consecutive years of placements at SLC will go on! Oklahoma's SLC awards are scheduled to be announced on April 22 (objective and production events) at 5:00 p.m. CST and May 5 (performance events) at 6:00 p.m. Live updates will be posted on the PBL at Panhandle State Facebook page.

In the meantime, OPSU PBL advisers Kim Smith and Sara Hitch are working to keep their competitors motivated and informed of the logistics of the virtual format. Zoom sessions and multiple weekly emails are the new norm, and the competitors have made the transition seamlessly and without complaint, a true testament to their maturity and leadership.

On Friday, April 17, Nationals announced that NLC will occur within a virtual format. Further details will be distributed in the coming weeks. For OPSU PBL competitors, the format really doesn't matter. They are ready to continue their legacy and for the awards to go on. **P**



Kim Smith, PBL Advisor



Dr. Sara Hitch, PBL Advisor



/ CAMPUS /

2020-2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTED OFFICERS

The Student Government Association at Oklahoma Panhandle State University held its annual officer elections this spring. The general election filing period was open from March 1 through March 23. All four Association Officer positions ran unopposed and were elected unanimously.

The 2020-2021 elected officers are Hannah Haase, President, Senior, Agribusiness, and Accounting Major from Newman Grove, Nebraska. Mariah Morigeau, Vice President, Senior, Psychology Major from Elgin, Okla. Lara Allen, Secretary, Senior, Ag Education Major from Cushing, Okla. Brianna Anderson, Treasurer, Senior, Ag Education, and Elementary Education Majors from Burlington, Colorado.

The SGA members of 2019-2020 had an excellent year of service to Panhandle State. The SGA campus improvements committee worked with President, Dr. Faltyn, to upgrade water fountains across campus, as well as provided assistance to the Academic Resource Center for the coat and food pantry, as well as toiletry drive supplies.

SGA Advisor, Kim Smith, commented, "It's been a wonderful year assisting the students in seeing their ideas transform into real-life projects. Learning happens everywhere, and SGA is one of those hands-on experiences teaching situational leadership. I'm excited to continue the work in the fall with the newly elected student leaders."

Not pictured, but elected virtually on April 15 from the Senate Body, is the rest of the executive council: Maribel Esquivel, President ProTemp, Senior, Business Admin. Marketing Major from Guymon, Okla. Yesenie Cano, Correspondence Secretary, Junior, Mathematics Major from Hooker, Okla. Jayden Valdez, Parliamentarian, Sophomore, CIS Major from Adams, Okla.

Congratulations to the entire Executive Council for the academic year 2020-2021. **P**



/ STAFF /

MAKENZE ANDERSON

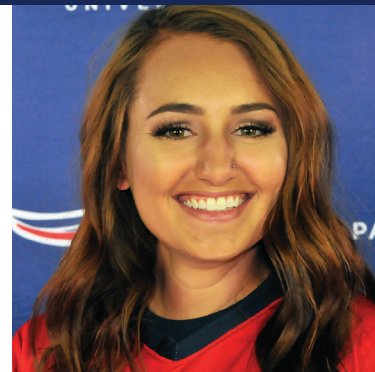
Makenze Anderson, from Boise City, Oklahoma, has brought her eagerness to help students to Oklahoma Panhandle State University as the Academic Resource Center Coordinator.

Anderson attended NWOSU her first semester but knew it wasn't where she was meant to finish her college career as she missed the Panhandle area. She knew that by staying strong in her faith, the right path would reveal itself. Makenze attended the OPSU Chili Cook-Off one weekend to help Anchor D Bank and Dr. Nels Peterson uncovered her desire to come back, so he gave her a scholarship. Anderson commented, "I am forever indebted to him assisting me in getting back to OPSU."

Makenze was involved around campus with several clubs and working on the school farm for four years. She graduated in December 2017 with a Bachelor of Science, double majoring in Animal Science and Agribusiness.

Makenze met her husband Ramy, a Panhandle State alum, on-campus, and they both loved it so much they are planning on staying for the long run. They live in Goodwell, where they serve as the Directors at OPSU Methodist Student Center and lead the Youth Group at their church. Anderson enjoys spending time with their two dogs that they consider their kids, Gracee and Kodah, as well as supporting Panhandle State and Goodwell Eagle students at all events.

When asked her favorite part about Panhandle State, she replied, "My favorite thing about Panhandle State is the people. In the beginning, I chose OPSU because I love the Panhandle, but I stayed because of the education, the people, the opportunities, and the values of those surrounding me. I still believe today that OPSU is invaluable to our region." **P**



/ STUDENT /

JENA KONIECZKA

Jena Konieczka grew up in Plano, Texas with parents Joe and Annette, and the middle child between sisters, Megan and Belle.

After a visit to campus, she knew that Oklahoma Panhandle State University was the place for her. Konieczka loved the small town with strong community support that would provide her with an excellent education.

This spring, she's finishing her studies in Political Science with a minor in history. Jena was not always interested in history, but her first class with Dr. Duren was the game-changer. She recapped, "I'll never forget the day that he handed back my first Historical Analysis paper and asked me if I had ever thought about majoring in history. I hadn't, but he told me that I had a knack for history, that I was a natural."

Jena played softball for Panhandle State, although their season was cut short. She believes that the girl's and coach's dedication had them set up for a season of success. As an athlete, she found that one of her favorite things about Panhandle State was be the sporting events. Konieczka said one of her favorite memories was being crowned 2019 Panhandle State Homecoming Queen. With a joking tone, she said, "Dr. Faltyn loved to bring it up in front of his ENTIRE CLASS of 100+ students so they would clap for me, on the most random days, and I would be so embarrassed!"

After graduating this spring, Jena plans to stay in the Panhandle. She was able to obtain an internship last summer with the City of Guymon. She will start a full-time position once classes are finished.

Jena is one of the many seniors that will continue moving forward. She acknowledged, "As I finish my classes this spring, I want to thank all of the faculty who believed in me. Sometimes, all anyone needs is one person to believe in them so they can start to flourish. I got that support here at OPSU. I would not be where I am today or have the opportunities that I do without all of the people who supported me. So thank you, thank you, thank you, and go Aggies!" **P**



/ FACULTY /

DAVID FERRELL

David Ferrell, originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, has brought an enthusiasm for science to Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Ferrell attended Wabash College, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1998. He went on to obtain his Masters in 2002 and his Doctorate in 2007, both with his focus in Evolutionary Ecology from Florida State University.

David came to Oklahoma Panhandle State University because of the opportunity to teach the biology classes that he is most passionate about as an Assistant Professor of Biology. He currently teaches courses in both General Biology, General Ecology, Zoology, Conservation Biology, and Natural History. His interest in evolution has kept him continually learning with hopes to teach classes on this in the future

Through the years, David has grown to value the process of mentoring. He commented, "I've benefited greatly from wonderful mentors, and they have enhanced my quality of life, in and out of the classroom, perhaps especially outside of the classroom." With the appreciation of mentors, he has enjoyed the opportunity to act as a mentor to students at Panhandle State University.

Ferrell has a fire for science, but it is second, only to his passion for his family. He is a proud father to daughter Emily. David also idolizes his parents as they just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He stated, "Without my parent's consistent support, I truly could not have achieved some of the academic goals that are so important to me." He has two brothers that also are at the top of his list to brag on.

David has pushed himself to be the best teacher he can be, but he does enjoy being outside the classroom as well. If he's not teaching, he can be found hiking, camping, enjoying music, and writing creative fiction. **P**



/ ALUMNI /

TOMMY JOHNSON

Tommy Johnson, born and raised in Elk City, Oklahoma, has established a presence at NASA for Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Johnson began his journey at Panhandle State University in 2000 after Diane Murphey offered him a scholarship to OPSU. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems in May of 2004.

After graduating from Panhandle State, Tommy went on to work at NASA Protective Services Division. For the past 16 years, he has been a contractor for the department managing and maintaining the security system for Johnson Space Center. Johnson recently moved into a new position to begin his next chapter with NASA as a civil servant in a Security Specialist position.

Johnson's responsibilities have made it difficult to return to campus, but kept in contact with his mentor and OPSU Alumni President, Diane Murphey, throughout the years. He looked back on his favorite memory at Panhandle; that they would turn the computer graphics lab into a gaming lab on the weekends. He said, "Students and teachers would all play games like Ghost Recon or Day of Defeat."

Tommy is a real example of how the relationship developed between instructors and students sets Oklahoma Panhandle State University apart from other colleges. He stated, "I loved the smaller classrooms and getting a lot of one on one time with the instructors if it was needed. They always seemed available if you needed them."

When Johnson isn't at NASA, he can be found restoring his 1970 Chevy truck. He has developed an affection for old things over the years, and has also restored a 1960 coke. With the start of his new position opening up more spare time, he hopes to be able to go hunting and fishing more. **P**



Left to Right: Chancellor Glen Johnson, Ann Holloway, Dr. Tim Faltyn, Liz McMurphy, Dwight Hughes, Barclay Holt, Jason Ramsey, Dr. Ryan Blanton

/ CAMPUS /

STATE REGENTS RECOGNIZE INSTITUTION, BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Twenty-seven business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized as innovative collaborations that further the education of Oklahoma's workforce.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Oklahoma State Regent Mike Turpen served as master of ceremonies for the event. Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell and State Regent Ann Holloway also participated.

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses; internships that enable current students to work at the partnering businesses; faculty externships with the partnering businesses; and/or enhancement of the partnerships with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers.

"Our colleges and universities collaborate with leaders in the private, public and nonprofit sectors to strengthen our workforce," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "These partnerships between businesses and our state system institutions advance Oklahoma's efforts to build the skilled workforce required to compete in today's global economy."

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration recently awarded a \$1.5 million grant to OPSU and High Plains Technology Center (HPTC) to build a new welding technology training center in Guymon. The grant, to be matched with \$389,504 in local investment, is expected to create 30 jobs. Students can earn their welding certificate through HPTC while also taking classes at OPSU to earn an associate or bachelor's degree. Under this project, OPSU and HPTC schools work together to provide much-needed skills training opportunities to the three-county Panhandle region. The partnership will develop a career path for individuals to enter the high-demand welding workforce. The program creates opportunities for economic development and individual prosperity by producing a pipeline of knowledgeable, industry-certified trade workers and managers who are desperately needed in the larger regional economy. **P**

FASTEST GROWING UNIVERSITY IN THE REGION FOR THIRD YEAR



Oklahoma Panhandle State University is, for the third year in a row, the fastest growing university in the region. The region extends 220 miles from the OPSU campus and covers parts of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico.

University President Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "Our strategy of giving people reasons to choose and support our university is working. We are constantly trying to be better for our students and region."

Panhandle State reported a twelve percent increase from academic years beginning from 2017, 2018, and 2019. This increase is due in part to the significant efforts taken to increase the level of outreach across the US, as well as the addition of new academic and activity programs.

Director of Admissions Jade Houtz stated, "In the past few years our office has expanded our area of recruitment extensively. We have been able to connect with more students across the country than before. It's so exciting for us to be out on the road recruiting and have people recognize how special Panhandle State is, and to be able to provide students with a first-class option for their higher education goals."

Other key factors to this growth were an emphasis on online education programs and access programs like high school concurrent enrollment.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Julie Dinger stated, "This amazing achievement is thanks to the great faculty and staff who work tirelessly to make Panhandle State the university of choice for our region."

Dean of the College of Arts and Education, Dr. Brad Duren added, "As Panhandle State continues to grow and strive, more effort has also been made to increase retention of current students, to ensure that once they start, they are better equipped to continue their education to graduation and beyond." **P**

OPSU MAINTENANCE CREWS GETTING READY FOR THE FALL SEMESTER



Since the spring semester was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, crews across the OPSU campus are working hard to get everything ready for students again in the Fall.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "Our campus crews have been working so hard to get dorm rooms, apartments, and multiple areas across campus ready for students in the fall semester." **P**





/ CAMPUS /

20TH ANNUAL ART AUCTION

“Each year, the community comes to support our students, faculty, and alumni, and we could not be more grateful. We are thankful for the community sponsors that help this yearly event thrive.”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Art Department hosted the 20th annual Paul Farrell Memorial Art Auction. The event was held at Pickle Creek Event Center, paired with a steak dinner catered by Hunny's, and silent and live auctions.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, “This year we celebrated 20 years of hosting the annual OPSU Art Auction. Each year, the community comes to support our students, faculty, and alumni, and we could not be more grateful. We are thankful for the community sponsors that help this yearly event thrive.”

The event was very successful, as it brought in around \$39,000. The money raised at the auction is split with 50 percent going to the artists, and the other 50 percent is placed in various scholarships, awards, and departmental equipment expenses. The highest selling piece was painted by Yvonne Sangster and brought in a bid of \$2,000.

Department Chair of Art, Brent Shoulders said, “This year marked the 20th year we have had the privilege of honoring the late Paul Farrell, fellow artist, and OPSU student. It feels like yesterday that we began with such humble beginnings to share our love for Paul. To see how much we have grown and how much this event has helped our students is humbling. The community, our patrons, are truly the reason for our successes and growth, and we offer our sincerest gratitude for partnering with the Art Department all these years. They have helped us change the lives and the trajectory of our students' futures, and for that, we are beyond thankful! Thank you!” **P**



/ CAMPUS /

OPSU VIEWBOOK RECEIVES AMERICAN ADVERTISING AWARD

An award banquet sponsored by the Amarillo Advertising Federation was held on February 21st, where the OPSU Viewbook received a Gold Addy. OPSU's advertising Partner, Cenveo, was in attendance that evening to receive an award for their work on producing the 2019-2020 OPSU Viewbook.

University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn said, "This Viewbook is one of the many reasons we are the fastest growing university in the region for the third year in a row. I applaud our OPSU team, who built this recruitment guide and who continue to make the Oklahoma Panhandle a destination."

The Admissions Office and the graphic design team at Cenveo made this publication possible.

Jade Houtz, Director of Admissions, commented, "The Viewbook plays a huge role in the Admissions Offices' ability to recruit students to OPSU. Therefore, creating a Viewbook that could stand out while also being functional was always our goal. We are very proud of the final product and very thankful to work with such a wonderful team at Cenveo."

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Julie Dinger, stated, "We are so proud of the hard work that Jade's office put into making this Viewbook. Our students have loved it, and so have our faculty and staff."

The Viewbook was also recognized with a Judges Honorable Mention. It was built to be a useful recruiting guide that is not only informational but also appealing to the eye.

Sales Manager of the Amarillo Cenveo Branch, Tony Freeman, stated, "The Oklahoma Panhandle State University viewbook is one of the most unique, functional and elegant pieces that I have ever seen anywhere. Obviously, the judges (from the Dallas / Ft. Worth area) all felt the same way. The really cool thing too is that the OPSU staff members that we had the pleasure of working with were equally as excited as we were during the production of this project, and their creative input was invaluable." **P**

OPSU RODEO CENTRAL PLAINS REGION CHAMPIONS & CNFR QUALIFIERS

CNFR QUALIFIERS



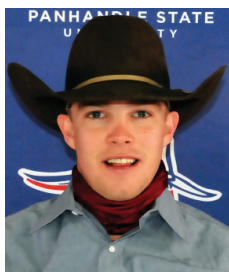
The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) announced that the 2020 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation, making it the first time in 71 years that there will not be college rodeo champion crowned. Oklahoma Panhandle State University's Rodeo teams – which are both ranked No. 1 in the tough NIRA Central Plains Region – were both expected to make a strong run at national championships at the event, which was due to take place this June in Casper, Wyoming.

OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn commented, "It is certainly heartbreaking to learn that our rodeo teams will not have the opportunity to compete for the national championship at the CNFR. While disappointing, it certainly does not detract from what the OPSU rodeo teams already accomplished in 2019-20. We are so proud of the job Coach (Robert) Etbauer, Coach (Shelbie) Rose and Sue (Etbauer) – as well as all the young women and men on our teams – did in representing our University and community this season, and doing so at a high level of achievement."

Assistant Coach/Women's Coach Shelbie Rose said, "I'm disappointed that our athletes won't have the chance to compete for a national title. But I'm grateful for the season that we had and that (the team members) are all safe and healthy. This situation is out of our control and all we can do is move forward and get ready for next season."

OPSU's Head Coach Robert Etbauer echoed those sentiments. "It's unimaginable not having the College National Finals Rodeo," Etbauer said. "Never would I have imagined that something like this would ever happen. We had good men's and women's teams; we had lots of confidence going into the CNFR. But you have to play the cards you are dealt. We will look forward to coming back even stronger next year." **P**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019-2020 OPSU RODEO CENTRAL PLAINS REGION CHAMPIONS



COOPER THATCHER, 2019-20 SADDLE BRONC RIDING CHAMPION

Cooper Thatcher (Darbalara, New South Wales, Australia), a junior, dominated the region in Saddle Bronc Riding, an event where OPSU cowboys were 6 of the top 10. Thatcher rolled up 610.5 points in the event, having a lead of 80 points when the season came to a close. The Aggies' man showed he was the region's best at staying atop his draws, earning the 2019-20 Saddle Bronc Riding Champion. **P**



SAM GOINGS, 2019-20 TEAM ROPING HEELER CHAMPION

Sam Goings (Fallon, Nev.), a junior, topped the NIRA charts as the best Team Roping heeler for 2019-20. Goings claimed the title from the runner-up roper, 380 to 377, in the final tally. As a Heeler, Goings made the Aggies' CNFR lineup for 2020. **P**



BEAU PETERSON,
2019-20 WOMEN'S
ALL-AROUND CHAMPION

Sophomore cowgirl Beau Peterson (Council Grove, Kan.) – the CNFR defending national champ in Goat Tying – topped the Central Region chart with 1,178 points, holding a lead of 418 points over second place in the NIRA Central Plains Region Women's All-Around standings. She also qualified for the CNFR in Barrel Racing and Breakaway Roping, making her the only Aggie to reach in three events in 2020. **P**



EAN PRICE,
2019-20 MEN'S
ALL-AROUND CHAMPION

Ean Price (Leedey, Okla.) earned the NIRA Men's All-Around title by amazing 730 points over the course of the season. Price took hold of the all-around title and qualified for the CNFR in both Steer Wrestling and Saddle Bronc Riding. He finished No. 4 in Steer Wrestling at 225 points and came in third in a Saddle Bronc (370 points) field that sported Aggie cowboys in six of the top-10 spots! **P**



JADE TATON,
2019-20 BAREBACK
RIDING CHAMPION

Senior cowboy Jade Taton (Coleman, Texas) won the 2020 regional crown in Bareback Riding and did so in convincing fashion. Through just six rodeos, Taton had accumulated 840 points in Bareback, a lead of 305 points over the No. 2-ranked competitor. He had four event wins in Bareback Riding, including three-consecutive victories to open the season, on his way as another CNFR qualifier. **P**





**FASTEST
GROWING
UNIVERSITY
IN THE REGION
3RD YEAR IN A ROW**