New Orleans or Bust

by Jordan Flanagan, special to The Collegian

The “People Mover” pulled out of the Baptist Student Union around 8:30 a.m. to begin its trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, on the 10th of January. There were nine passengers and only one driver (sorry Jay) to make the 20 hour trip. After about 30 minutes down the road we decided to break in our new “entertainment kitchen” which consisted of a small TV, which sat above a roaster oven, which sat above the microwave. Hence, the “entertainment kitchen.” Jay Kindsvater had installed a generator which supplied electricity to the short shuttle bus so that we could watch movies, but also cook our own food on the road. So like I said, we decided to try out our new toy by watching a movie. After about the first preview, we couldn’t help but notice the smoke pouring out of our television. As it turned out, there might have been a little bit too much power for that small TV. After the mini-explosion, we began to think of other things to do on our 20 hour trip.

After we arrived at New Orleans, we found out that our rooms were actually going to be pretty nice compared to what a typical Baptist trip offers. I was privileged enough to share a room with Bryan Smith, Hector Cobos, and John Wyatt. I will never be the same again. Others who attended our expedition were Renee Dickens, Amanda Schrepel, Chase Boyer, Quinton “Q” Williams, and Jeff Flanagan, with Jay as the driver. During our off time in the city, which wasn’t much, we did things such as walk the historical French Quarter and visit the Aquarium of the Americas where our attempt to throw Amanda into the piranha tank failed. Sorry, Jacob. We won’t let you down again. We also revisited a church we helped rebuild a couple of years ago only to find out that they had repainted over the work that we did. Apparently we set the primer. We also didn’t forget to take advantage of the heavenly Cajun food in which Louisiana is so famous. Caution: although Cajun food may appear to be heavenly at first taste, it may prove deadly for those around you (ask “team destruction,” also known as John and Chase).

As I said before, we actually had little time to explore the city. We spent most of our time at the seminar which was our initial purpose for the trip. The main reason that we drove the 40 hour roundtrip was to attend an apologetics seminar at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. This apologetics seminar was a 5 day event in which we were taught many different ways to defend our faith in Jesus Christ.

New Orleans or Bust continued on page 6.
by Rachael Beck

It's August 10, 2008. Never did I think that I would be leaving the desert for the plains. Driving for twelve and a half straight hours, the white dashes in the road have become a blur blending in with the zero edged flatness that surrounds me. My eyes have become irritated from the dryness of my contacts, a cramp has developed in each of my shoulder blades from holding the wheel and although I'm more than ready to unload my life from this little car as well as stretch out my cramped knees, (a quick nap could have been cleanly executed though with the lack of turns I have made in the past four hours), I'm anxious to see what my new home holds for me. I've settled in for a long day on the road when I see that my new school is just ten short miles away. But wait, this can't be right. I hadn't passed a Walmart for at least two hours, I had not smelled the fresh coffee beans of a Starbucks since hours, I had not smelled the fresh passed a Walmart for at least two

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cramp has developed in each of my shoulders, being exposed to new cultures is a way of life for me. Wherever I go, a pen and paper is close to my side. No matter what the scenery, writing has been a way of expression and although my schedule remains busy with basketball, I have always found time to open a page and jot down my thoughts. My plans for the future are to become a high school basketball coach (maybe college someday) and teach English. I find a lot of my passion in helping others find their own spark of creativity. Although my stay in the Panhandle has been short, small town life has revealed its perks to me and I continue learning and enjoying the new ways of life. My name is Rachael Beck and I will be greeting every one of you that chooses to open The Collegian sometime this semester. The Panhandle has all walks of life and I enjoy learning about each one. I look forward to giving each different variety a voice in the newspaper, but the only way to do that is by answering to those of you that have the voice. Feel free to e mail me at racbeck25@hotmail.com with ideas or things that you would like to read about this semester in The Collegian!

Top Hand Rodeo Auction Set

Article courtesy of Laura Hays

Goodwell, Okla. — The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team has set the date for their annual fundraising event, the Top Hand Auction. On Saturday, February 7 at 7 p.m. in the Pickle Creek Center located at 822 N.E. Sixth in Guymon, the fun will get underway with a free barbecue meal provided by Kim Peterson and Hunny’s.

Clay Meyers of Texhoma Livestock will begin the auction by taking bids on rodeo team members who will provide four hours of labor each to the winning bidder. The hard-working young men and women are willing to build fence, clean stalls, clean up tumbleweeds or tackle any other chores.

The team members have started collecting donated items for the auction, and many things such as hand-crafted furniture, rustic western decor, original western artwork, jewelry, and tack will be offered. Once again, Coach Craig Latham’s father Paul has contributed one of his signature pieces of rough pine craftsmanship — this year it’s a custom made gun cabinet. One of the top items on the block will be a five day elk and deer combination hunt in Craig, Colorado in the fall of 2009. Other auction entries include jewelry, 15 free colt rides, a hand-knitted OPSU afghan, decorative and practical metalwork items such as hat racks, and a wood buckle cabinet.

The festivities also include the announcement of this year’s Top Hand Sponsors. The honorees are chosen among those who have been instrumental during the past year supporting OPSU Rodeo. The Wooden Nickel Band will take the stage following the auction for a dance.

Money raised at the auction benefits in the team in a variety of ways. It funds scholarships and travel expenses as well as the costs associated with purchasing and maintaining practice stock and continued improvements at the Doc Gardner Memorial Arena.

In the highly competitive Central Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), the OPSU men’s team holds first place and the women are in second place. OPSU boasts at least one member in the top 5 spots in bareback, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, and goat tying; in fact, four of the top five saddle bronc slots currently belong to OPSU. The teams competed in three rodeos in the fall, and have a busy spring schedule with seven more rodeos beginning in Manhattan at the Kansas State University rodeo that begins February 20.

Help the team kick off the spring rodeo season by attending the Top Hand Auction. Support your OPSU Rodeo Team while enjoying a great meal and dance, and bid on some one-of-a-kind auction items!

January 21
Student Senate Meeting

Article by Kim Tuttle

Student senate held their first meeting of the semester on Wednesday, January 21, at 9:30 p.m. in Hamilton Hall room 208. Several clubs reported of activities in the works. The officer position of president pro-tempore was up for nominations and the executive council will appoint from the nominations. The history club, new to senate, had its constitution passed. A psychology club proposal for $2,232 for the national APA conference in Las Vegas was discussed, but no action was taken.

The attendance policy was on the agenda to remind members that they may miss more than three meetings. Missing more than three meetings will result in a probation period and then possible removal from senate in which case the club represented would lose validity of the constitution and any money from senate. Forms for clubs to ask for money and to report their required two free events per semester are available in the senate office or online under the downloads section.

Senate discussed many possible events for this semester. The body approved $600 for a Back to School Dance on Tuesday, January 27. No other events were formally decided upon, only discussed. If you have any brilliant ideas or things you would like to see happen on campus, email senate@opsu.edu with your ideas.

Senate wishes to be flexible and have meetings at a time when the majority of members may attend. Please make recommendations to any executive council members or email senate@opsu.edu.

The next meeting is scheduled for tonight, Wednesday, January 28, at 9:30 p.m. in the Science and Ag Building room 101.
Larry Wright . . .

Larry Wright (at left) and Bobby Jenkins (Oklahoma Panhandle State University Registrar) share a moment together at a recent ceremony in which Wright was named the "OPSU Employee of the Semester." -Laura Hays Photo

An MVP at OPSU

Most sports teams usually come up with a Most Valuable Player (MVP) award each season to recognize a team member for performance, dedication, and work ethic. Larry Wright can easily be regarded as one of the most valuable players (on the employee team) at Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Wright is a computer technician who has been a full time OPSU employee since 1998. He received his degree in Computer Information Systems from OPSU in 1994.

He is one of the most recognizable people on the Goodwell campus because he covers a great deal of territory in his work with the school phone systems. He is also a very well liked man with a great sense of humor.

One of Wright’s biggest fans is Scott Puryear, Business Instructor/Sports Information Director. According to Puryear, “Larry and I have been here about the same amount of time and we have worked together on many projects. In addition to the fine work that he does with our school phone system, he is of great help to us at OPSU athletic events. Whether it might be with telephone lines, internet issues, or other technical situations we may have in the stadiums or the gym, Larry responds promptly, professionally, and always comes through when we need him. He is an asset to Oklahoma Panhandle State University.”

Wright was recently named Employee of the Semester at OPSU, but there would be little objection if he was named Most Valuable Player too.

Firestone Meat Lab Expands Operation

A. J. Ingo, a 2007 OPSU Animal Science graduate, serves as the full time Assistant Meat Lab Manager. Ingo is responsible for the day-to-day activity in the lab, and will be available to assist anyone who would like to purchase the frozen meat the lab produces on the premises. The United States Department of Agriculture inspected beef products for sale include ground beef and ground beef patties, roasts, steaks, and brisket as well as pork products including ground pork, sausage, roast, chops, tenderloin, spare ribs and smoked ham and bacon. The prices are extremely competitive, the quality is top-notch and it is now more convenient to fill your freezer.

Consumers can stop at the Meat Lab any weekday from 9 a.m.-Noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. to purchase meat, set up custom packing, or check on availability of products. Current retail product and custom meat packing prices as well as pork and beef cutting order forms are available at www.opsu.edu under the “Downloads” button, and then “Agriculture.”

Plan now to celebrate the expanded operation and enjoy OPSU hospitality on Saturday, January 31!
Men's Basketball Stumbles in Second Half, falls to UTPB

Article by Andres Belandria

The men's basketball squad faced their rivals from UTPB last Thursday, trying to come away with their second win in a row. Unfortunately, a terrible second half turned those aspirations to the ground.

In an energetic first half, both teams came out shooting from the gate. The game quickly became a showdown. The Aggies took high percentage shots, leading them to a small advantage right away. But the UTPB Falcons rallied to tie the game at 15 with 11:48 left in the half. The teams seemed to be evenly matched; though the home team was shooting better but also were giving away the ball too often (12 turnovers in the first period). The score at halftime showed a 33-33 tie that accurately described the action on the court.

The second half was a disappointing one for the Aggie fans. They saw an OPSU team that left its spirit in the locker room. The Falcons were not to give anyone the chance to recover, and with a 17-2 run in the first 6 minutes of the period, they sentenced the game. From then on, the only thing the Aggies did was witness how UTPB’s lead kept increasing, escalating up to 24 points. Towards the end of the game the Aggie players showed some self respect and pushed a bit, demonstrating they still had some fight in them. They did not put their arms down, but it was not enough to shadow this night’s terrible second-half performance. The final score UTPB 83 OPSU 66.

Basketball Takes Two from Lincoln

Article by Andres Belandria

Both the OPSU men and women basketball teams returned to the victory trail after defeating their respective counterparts from Lincoln University on Saturday, January 17, at the Oscar Williams Fieldhouse.

The women's game showcased a dominant home team that lead from start to finish. The Lady Aggies began the game with a 15-4 run and never looked back. At halftime, they already led Lincoln by 17 points. In the second half, the OPSU players never stopped pushing, and increased the lead all the way to an 80-47 victory.

On the men’s side, both teams struggled offensively to the point that, nine minutes into the game, the scoreboard showed only 12 points between the two teams. The game picked up a bit from then on, and with two evenly matched teams, the encounter turned out to be an entertaining one. The halftime horn sounded with the Aggies trailing 27-29.

The second half was a wild one. Lincoln started it with an 11-4 run, but the Aggies immediately responded with a 9-2 scoring drive of their own. The game settled down a bit, and with 7:02 still to play, the score showed Lincoln ahead by one point 48-47. The Aggies then hit another offensive streak to give themselves a 10 point lead of 60-50. The team from Lincoln U. made a final push for it, getting within one point, but at the end, the Aggies did enough to hold the lead. The final scored favored OPSU 68-67.

Baseball Season Around the Corner

Article by Andres Belandria

The Aggies baseball team is preparing to face the challenge of a new season, and ahead of it, I met with Coach Jason Kueffler to talk about the prospects for the team. Here is a transcript of the interview.

—

Coach, what would you say is the strong point of the team?

JK: It is tough to tell right now, because we have such a new team. We don’t have anybody game-tested, a little bit from last year but not enough as whole to know. Up the middle we are going to be strong, because we have upper classmen there. We brought in some good outfielders during the break. Like I said, we have a much deeper pitching staff this year. It kind of depends on when we start playing again against some of those teams down south, then we will see. We are hopping our pitching will be it, but as of now it is hard to tell.

Predictions for this year?

JK: I hate this question.

What do you hope for then?

JK: I hope for 50, 56 wins (the team plays 56 games).

Realistically?

JK: I think we are capable of winning 30 to 35 games. I’m not going to put any guarantees out, but we definitely have the tools to be able to do that. I can say that I am 95% sure that we will be better that last year.

I want to thank Coach Kueffler for his responses and would like to invite everybody to support the baseball team this year. The season opens this Sunday, February 1, at 1:00 p.m. when the Aggies host their counterparts from SWOSU.

Lady Aggies Drop One to UTPB

Article by Andres Belandria

The Lady Aggies hosted UTPB’s women team this past Thursday, January 22, in a match featuring two teams from the bottom half of the table of the Heartland Conference.

In the first half, the game seemed to be played in slow motion. Both teams tried to play a possession-driven game. The women from UTPB had their sniper sights on, and pulled away from the Lady Aggies thanks to a 50% 3-pt shooting rate in the first half. Halftime came along, and the score reflected a 26-18 score in favor of UTPB.

The second half was pretty even with the Lady Aggies pushing to get close and the UTPB team managing the lead they obtained in the first half. The Lady Aggies were off this night shooting only 35.4% from the field and a mere 48% from the free throw line (12 for 25). In the end, these stats turned out to be quite costly as UTPB ended up taking the game 58-49.

The best players on the court for OPSU were Kariz Bioni with a double-double (23 pts, 10 rbs) and Christy Lang with 9 points and 6 rbs in just 25 minutes played.

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New Orleans or Bust
continued from page 1

We spent nearly 8 hours a day listening to some of the most brilliant and educated apologists speak and lecture on the importance of defending our Christian faith. I’ve explained to some of my friends that I felt like I needed to cover up one ear just so that the information wouldn’t go flowing right on through. And yes, thank you Hector, that is a lot of covering up to do. On the final day of the seminar, we were able to walk the downtown streets of New Orleans talking to locals about the Gospel which was a life changing experience to say the least.

As a whole, the trip was a success despite the “entertainment kitchen” and failing to feed the fish. Just the fact that Jay didn’t fall asleep somewhere during the 40 hour trip (that we know of) was a success in my book. It was quite a privilege to travel with my friends, some old, some new, but a privilege none the less. I would like to say thanks on behalf of our traveling crew to the First Baptist Church of Goodwell for their support, whether it being financial support or prayer. I would also like to thank Jay for all of his personal time and money that he contributed to make the trip happen. And to those of you who have made it this far in the article, thanks for not running away when I started talking “God Business.” If you see any of us around, we would like to tell you more about our trip, except certain things that happened with John, Chase, and Bryan in the hotel room. That’s private.
Campus Quotes
Are you pro-choice or pro-life? Why?

“It depends on the circumstance. If it’s rape or any other threatening circumstance, then it can be considered an alternative. In any other case, they should be responsible for their actions.”

-Adrian Ramirez

“I’m pro-life because I believe that people make the choice to have sex. We were all given life, so who are we to say that we have the right to take a life?”

-Ashley Hegwood

“It depends on the circumstance.”

-Seth Hardwick

“I’m pro-choice because I believe it’s the mother’s choice whether or not to have an abortion.”

-Jami Eder

“I’m supposed to be pro-life because of my religion, but I personally am pro-choice. I don’t believe that I have a right to tell someone that they should or should not have a child due to the fact that I don’t know their circumstances.”

-Jennifer Heredia

“IF YOU CHEAT ON YOUR TAXES, YOU GO TO JAIL. IF YOU HAVE SEX, YOU GET BABIES. IT WORKS NICELY.”

-Jordan Flanagan

The Collegian
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Staff Writer                                       Rachael Beck
Sports Writer                             Andres Belandria
Campus Quotes                            Dasha Guymon
Photography                                     Hector Cobos
Advisor                                                  Laura Hays

Do you have an opinion or comment about something on campus? Is there something we should know or an issue to be addressed? Write your letter to the editor, e-mail it, or bring it by Muller Hall. Letters must include writer’s name, signature, and phone number. Telephone numbers will not be printed. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, libelous statements, and personal attacks.
Attention Seniors

The 2009 Senior Class of Oklahoma Panhandle State University will have class meetings on the following dates and times in the Hughes-Strong Auditorium:

* Thursday, February 5
  @ 12:15 p.m.

During these meetings, decisions will be made concerning the 2009 commencement exercises. By attending these meetings, you can have a voice in and keep abreast of your commencement’s preparations. The 2009 graduation marks the 100th year of OPSU and will be an important event in the Centennial celebration.

It is difficult to find a meeting time that accommodates all seniors’ schedules; therefore, meetings have been scheduled at various times throughout the fall semester. No senior class meetings are scheduled for the spring 2009 semester. If you have questions, please contact Sara Jane Richter or Tito Aznar.

Panhandle State Foundation second semester scholarship disbursements will begin on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

Applications for 2009-2010 Panhandle State Foundation Scholarships are being accepted until March 2, 2009.

Scholarship packets are available in the Foundation Office (SL207) or online at www.opsu.edu. All students are encouraged to apply.

Seniors interested in graduating this semester:

Today, January 28, is the final day to pay your graduation fee and file your graduation application. Visit the Business Office and Registrar’s Office to make arrangements.

Collegian Advertising Rates
Fall 2008 & Spring 2009

Business card- $50 a week
Quarter page- $75 a week
Half page- $125 a week
Full page- $150 a week

Purchase three weeks of ads and receive a free advertisement of the same size.

Classified rates are ten cents a word.
Call or email for a quote.

Each OPSU department is allowed one business card sized advertisement (3.5w x 2h) or classified advertisement free of charge. Larger than business card size or additional advertisements will be charged half the normal rates above.