FINALS ARE UPON US! - GOOD LUCK!

DON’T FORGET TO ENROLL FOR SPRING 2010 AT OPSU
Campus Quotes
What class will you be most excited to be done with and why?

Hillary Sherwood: “Math for Critical Thinking, I fail it everyday.”

Taiwo Adebesin: “Micro-Economics, because it is at 8 A.M.”

Josiah Royse: “Mariachi Band, I’m a white boy in Mariachi.”

Masara Jobir: “Speech, the way he illustrates.”

Whitney Brooks: “Chemistry, because I do not understand it!”

More Than a Face (Junaid Yisa)
By Chaney Latham
Junaid Yisa came to OPSU from the country of Nigeria, following in his older brother’s footsteps to attend OPSU. Junaid is currently working on his degree in psychology, and he has already obtained a bachelor’s degree in technology as well as a minor in industrial technology.

Mr. Yisa loves to write; he has a passion for it and likes writing about foreign affairs and international relations the most. This young man’s goal for the future is to become a foreign diplomat. He enjoys every type of music from rap to pop to country, and his favorite movie is Men of Honor. If his friends could describe him, they would say he is intelligent, but not easily approachable because he does not smile very often.

He said, “Cut your coat according to your size is my favorite quote.” Which basically means, “Don’t buy a house or car that you can’t afford,” he added.

One of his greatest experiences was his first trip out of Nigeria to Finland. He attended a computer program there for a year where he got to meet new people, make new friends, and learn a new culture. “The hardest part about the trip was getting use to the cold climate,” he stated.

Junaid has a bright future ahead of him which includes going to the University of Texas to get his master’s. If Mr. Yisa could say one thing to the student body it would be: “The college environment needs a social life because it creates a more ethnic and culturally integrated academic environment.” And with such a quaint campus there are many ways to meet new faces, but remember everyone is more than just a face.
From 1909 to 2009: Oh, the Changes We've Seen

By Jennifer Bonner

Originally called the Panhandle Agricultural Institute (PAI) and later the Panhandle State College and, now what we call our school, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, OPSU has undergone many changes. From dorm life to something as necessary as a meal plan, our campus has practically been remodeled through all the changes made.

The first building constructed on the OPSU campus was Old Hesper Hall in 1910. Originally a multi-functional building, it housed the administration, classrooms, an auditorium, and a library. The building was later named Hesper Hall after the Greek name for the leader of all the stars in the heavens, a symbol of what the Panhandle Agricultural Institute was for the High Plains. The building fell into ruins in the 1940s, and bits and pieces of Old Hesper Hall were used to build and repair many farm buildings. No Man’s Land Museum currently houses the building’s cornerstone, its contents, and one of the four stars that decorated OPSU’s very first building.

Our familiar—Hamilton, Carter, Sewell-Loeburrow, Ethelston, and Hefley Halls—were built for classroom learning and administrative work, as they’re currently used.

The Marvin E. McKee Library was not always here; students in our school’s early days had to go by residents and visitors alike. Holter Hall and Field Hall are currently the residence halls used by OPSU students. The dormitory buildings in the early years of OPSU were definitely not coeducational. Built in 1910, Frank Hall was the original girls’ dormitory. Many other buildings here were originally female dormitories: Earle Hall (1914), Anna Jarvis Hall (1922), Mueller Hall (1939), and Holter Hall (1963). Field Hall, named after Leon B. Field, opened as a men’s dormitory in 1951. Now considered outdated with no AC, Field Hall was considered a nicely furnished home for the students. The living complex originally held 100 students. The living complex for more mature college students post-World War II. After seeing this work out nicely for college students, the PMAC (Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College, as OPSU was known at the time) spent $130K to build 10 duplexes (housing 20 families).

The Noble Activity Center, opened in 2003 and costing over $5 million, houses two basketball courts that are also equipped for volleyball, racquetball courts, a walking track, and other fitness equipment such as weight machines, stationary bicycles, treadmills; a saltwater, junior-Olympic sized pool, a computer/TV lounge. Students, staff, and faculty of OPSU may use the facilities for free or with a small membership fee.

Our university has grown, expanded, and improved; so has the campus itself. Building projects and campus enhancements and accoutrements/amenities at OPSU what is it today.

OPSU Rodeo “A Winning Tradition” (A Glimpse from Past to Present)

By Chaney Latham

OPSU Rodeo has become “A Winning Tradition” through the years. Many professional rodeo athletes have walked through OPSU’s halls, including Robert Ellis, Danyell Elliott, current OPSU Rodeo Coach Craig Latham, Jesse Ball, Tommy Reeves, and Joey Bell, just to name a few. Not a recent day professional cowboys include 2007 Saddle Bronc World Champion, Tao Muncy, National Finals Rodeo qualifiers - Cody Tatton, Jeffery Willert, Beau Fransen, Matt Hebbertt, Dusty Hausauer, and current transfer Seth Glauser.

The OPSU Rodeo Team competes in the Central Plains region which consists of 12 schools in Oklahoma and Kansas. The region spans as far north as Manhattan, Kansas and as far south as Durant, Oklahoma. This region is known as one of the largest regions in the nation, and OPSU has brought home numerous regional titles throughout its history, including four national titles in 1997, 1998, 2000, and 2004. In the spring of 2008, the men’s team finished a perfect 10-0 season while the women’s team finished second. The team has had many individuals walk away from the College National Finals Rodeo, with past and present titles, of which four have been won in the last five years include Tao Muncy in the saddle bronc riding. Trel Ebatt in the steer wrestling, and Krista Johnson standing on top of it all.

Roping, OPSU Rodeo is as much a family tradition as it is a winning tradition with the Ebatters, Latham’s, and Muncys. Rodeo is unlike any other sport. There are no quarters or innings to get another chance. Each cowboy and cowgirl gets one chance until the next rodeo. The events, rules, and rodeo facilities may have changed through the years, but the heart and desire that cowboys and cowgirls have for this sport not only a practice facility, but also a symbol for how the rodeo program at OPSU has successfully grown over the years. OPSU has become a place for professional rodeo athletes to come to, attend today, and not only excel in the rodeo arena, but to also obtain a college degree.

The first college rodeo arena was held in the present 3’ag. Science Center, which is currently located. It was made of wooden wire, cedar posts, and old wooden bucking chutes. Today, the Doc Gardner Rodeo Area is

With a lot of hard work, determination, and passion, OPSU Rodeo Teams in the past have helped build this “Winning Tradition” up to what it is today and will continue to be in the future. One of the key people that helped the rodeo team’s success was none other than “Doc” Gardner. He was a phenomenal person, and it’s because of him that this program has grown to what it is today. He recruited Craig, Danny, Robert, and many other that have contributed greatly to this school and program.” 1966 Rodeo Team Advisor Bill Newman said. He also shared that

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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.
“Staying Focused”
By Josh Edenborough

The OPSU men and women’s basketball teams open their conference seasons this Saturday with tough road games in Odessa, Texas against UT Permian Basin.

The men will be facing a Permian Basin team that is very deliberate in their offensive attack, and will use the entire 35 seconds on the shot clock to get an open look. Keys for the Aggies to beat UTPB is “staying focused defensively and rebounding for the entire 40 minutes of the ball game,” according to Coach Jerry Olson. The Aggies open up conference play before the New Year for the first time, and that will make the first few Heartland Conference games even tougher due to the lack of games played in the season. Usually a team has 10 to 12 games under their belt before they begin conference, and the Aggies will have only played 6 games so far. The Aggies are playing in the very tough Heartland Conference where every game matters, and will look to start things the right way against UTPB. The women, like the men, open up before the New Year for the first time, and they are facing a UTPB team who, being undersized, likes to push the tempo and play a lot of zone defense. Coach Brad Vandenberg Boogaard says the keys to his team winning are “getting back on defense and protecting the basketball.” The Lady Aggies will rely heavily on their senior leadership to guide them through the Heartland Conference led by guard Kariz Bioni, an Honorable Mention All Conference player last year.

In the Heartland Conference, look for all the games to be heavy weight fights as the Aggies’ basketball program’s search to do big things during conference play.

Lady Aggies Lose Twice in Omaha Tournament
By Scott Puryear of OPSU Sports

The Lady Aggie basketball team of Oklahoma Panhandle State University was in Omaha on Friday and Saturday to compete in the Thanksgiving Classic hosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha. On Friday, they lost to the host school 71-28, and on Saturday they went up against Southwest Minnesota State and were defeated 70-51.

71-28 victory. Nicole Candelaria was the leading scorer for the Lady Aggies with 13 and teammate Lauren Cherry had a game high nine rebounds.

Southwest Minnesota 70, OPSU Lady Aggies 51
In Saturday’s round of the UN-O Thanksgiving Classic, the Lady Aggies faced Southwest Minnesota State, a squad that had won two of their first three games. It was a good, even battle in the first half and SMS went to the halftime break with a 26-22 advantage.

In the second half, SMS picked up the pace and at game’s end, they had downed the Lady Aggies by the score of 70-51. Kariz Bioni was the leading scorer for OPSU with 18 points. The senior guard hit seven of her 11 shots from the field and was perfect in her three free throw attempts. Bioni also had five assists and six rebounds and freshman Callie Schaefer was the high rebounder with nine.

The Lady Aggies (2-5) have now lost five straight and will push to get back into the win column on their home court this Thursday against Hillisdale. That contest will be the front half of a women’s/men’s basketball double header. The Lady Aggie game will tip off at 6:00 p.m. and the OPSU men will face the Hillisdale men at 8:00 p.m.