



*Yesterday and Today*



“ There are not many universities focused on the needs of small communities that are widely dispersed over a large geographical area. But since opening its doors in 1910, West Texas A&M University has been committed to understanding the aspirations of the young people in these small communities and fully appreciating their view of the future. Their hopes and dreams have always been an important part of our role as a regional university, and we will continue to be responsive to their needs through academic purpose and service.

—Walter V. Wendler, WTAMU President

# YESTERDAY



West Texas A&M University's history began when Texas State Superintendent of Public Education Robert Cousins worked to establish a college to train teachers in West Texas. In 1909, Rep. Thomas J. Barrett of Anson introduced House Bill 5 calling for the establishment of West Texas State Normal College. Barrett's bill passed the House on Feb. 17 of that year and went to the Senate for passage. Twenty-eight towns expressed interest in securing the school, so the Texas Senate decided to add an amendment to the bill requiring bidding towns to provide supplemental funds. The Senate passed the bill on March 4, and Gov. Tom Campbell signed the bill establishing West Texas State Normal College on March 31, 1909. The bill proved to be the road map to a century of excellence in higher education for the Texas Panhandle.

Canyon was the chosen site for the school. The one-building West Texas State Normal School was built through the determination and generosity of the townspeople and erected near the center of a 40-acre plot of land donated by Lincoln and Queenie Victoria Conner. The two-story administration building dominated the wide-open Panhandle sky. It rose above the flat, treeless plain as a sentry to fewer than five homes and countless prairie dogs.

“ Among the achievements of my four years in office, I feel the greatest was the establishment of this institution in this city. In the center of the Plains stands the most attractive and the most substantial institution in the state, not excepting the great University of Texas.

—T.M. Campbell, former Texas governor who signed the bill that created West Texas State Normal College.



## THE FIRST STUDENTS

On a September day in 1910, Mamie Conner, daughter of Lincoln and Queenie Victoria, walked across the street from her home to that awe-inspiring administration building to be the first to register at the new school. Little did she know that she was making history and opening the door to thousands of students who would walk the halls into a second century of education for the Texas Panhandle.

Those students witnessed several name changes through the years that reflected the University's continued growth as well as its ever-expanding role in higher education. West Texas State Normal College became West Texas State Teachers College in 1923 and West Texas State College in 1949. The name changed again in 1963 to West Texas State University before becoming West Texas A&M University in 1993. But throughout the various changes, West Texas has remained a constant part of the University's name. It expresses pride and communicates a commitment to the founding fathers who dreamed of "the establishment, maintenance and government of a state normal school to be located in West Texas."

The school's original 40-acres of land donated by the Connors paved the way for today's 176-acre main campus, and the townspeople's donation of more than \$100,000 to secure the normal school's location in Canyon paved the way for today's presence in Amarillo, increased enrollment and expanded degree programs. West Texas A&M University continues to stand as a symbol of generosity of people like Lincoln and Queenie Victoria Conner and their extraordinary vision of endless possibilities.



# TIMELINE (1909 - 1993)

**1909**  
House bill establishes a normal college west of the 98th meridian



**1918**  
J.A. Hill, second president

**1932**  
Becomes first teachers college in Texas to offer graduate instruction



**1935**  
Buffalo Courts formally opens



**1948**  
James P. Cornette, third president

**1963**  
Name changes to West Texas State University



**1972**  
Lloyd Watkins, fourth president

**1988**  
University completes Old Main renovation



**1991**  
Barry Thompson, eighth president

**1910**  
West Texas Normal College opens under the leadership of its first president, R.B. Cousins



**1920**  
College completes Cousins Hall, the school's first dormitory



**1916**  
College dedicates new, fireproof, four-story administration building and Georgia O'Keeffe joins faculty



**1933**  
Panhandle-Plains Historical Society Museum opens



**1942**  
The basketball team, dubbed "The Tallest Team in the World," plays at Madison Square Garden

**1949**  
Name changes to West Texas State College



**1950**  
College dedicates J. A. Hill Chapel

**1958**  
Installation of national sorority chapters

**1951**  
Buffs make first Sun Bowl appearance and win 14-13



**1971**  
University receives Nance Ranch donation



**1974**  
The marching band marches 20 miles, earns spot in the Guinness Book of World Records



**1977**  
Max Sherman, fifth president



**1984**  
Ed Roach, seventh president



**1982**  
Gail Shannon, sixth president

**1989**  
Board of Regents votes to affiliate with The Texas A&M University System

**1993**  
Name changes to West Texas A&M University

# TIMELINE (1995 - 2017)

**1995**  
Russell C. Long, ninth president

**2002**  
First United Bank Center opens

**2005**  
Conference championships in volleyball, football and women's basketball

**2006**  
J. Patrick O'Brien, 10th president

**2006**  
Conference championships in volleyball, football and men's basketball

**2006**  
University celebrates Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex grand opening

**2007**  
University marks Stanley Schaeffer Agriculture Education Learning Lab completion, Pedestrian Mall dedication and Buffalo Courts receives official state historical marker

**2007**  
Conference championships in football, volleyball, men's and women's soccer and women's basketball

**2008**  
Officials dedicate Hayward Spirit Tower, and WTAMU Amarillo Center and Buff Hall open

**2008**  
Conference championships in volleyball, women's soccer and women's basketball

**2009**  
University records largest freshman class in its history

**2009**  
Conference championships in volleyball, men's soccer and women's basketball

**2010**  
Centennial Celebration

**2010**  
University opens Buffalo Sports Park for softball, baseball, soccer and track and field

**2012**  
Scientists successfully clone a bull, named Alpha, from the carcass of a steer graded Prime, Yield Grade 1

**2013**  
Groundbreaking for a large-scale wind turbine testing facility at WTAMU's Nance Ranch

**2014**  
University's comprehensive campaign raises \$50.3 million

**2014**  
Lady Buffs claim 2014 Division II Softball National Championship

**2015**  
WTAMU alumna Shanna Peoples is the 2015 National Teacher of the Year

**2015**  
Tuition Revenue Bonds allow for construction of a new agricultural sciences complex and a new permanent home for the WTAMU Amarillo Center

**2016**  
Walter V. Wendler, 11th president

**2016**  
Students vote yes to on-campus football stadium

**2016**  
Ground is broken for new Agricultural Sciences Complex

**2017**  
Women's track and field are 2017 Division II Outdoor Track and Field champs

**2017**  
Engineering program expands with Master of Science in engineering degree

**2017**  
Jonathan Espinoza is the University's first-ever Harry S. Truman Scholarship recipient

**2017**  
WTAMU breaks 10,000 mark with enrollment of 10,169 students

**2017**  
Largest gift in University history—\$1 million a year in perpetuity—from Paul Engler and the Paul and Virginia Engler Foundation

# TODAY



Since its founding in 1910, West Texas A&M University has grown from a small, one-building, teacher-training school to a 176-acre residential campus offering a multitude of exceptional degree programs designed to meet today's ever-changing needs. Over the years, WTAMU has provided a unique experience that has touched the lives of thousands of students by forging friendships, instilling ethics and values and building skills for success, while effectively changing the physical, economic and cultural landscape of the Texas Panhandle region.

“

Growing up in West Texas, I learned the values that are as much a part of this region as the earth itself—work hard; let your word and your handshake be your bond; never seek or settle for second best; have passion for the work you do; and above all else, take care of people, and they'll take care of you. I've always believed these are the same values of West Texas A&M University—the same traits this school has always embodied and taught its students.

”

—Stan Sigman '70, Retired CEO, AT&T Mobility

# WTAMU AT A GLANCE

(Fall 2017)

**8** COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

ESTABLISHED  
**1910**

**444** TEACHING FACULTY

**60** UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS  
**38** Masters **1** Doctorate

## STUDENT PROFILE

Enrollment  
**10,169**

**2,503**  
On-campus residents



**4,399**  
Male



**5,770**  
Female



- White: 60.66%
- Hispanic: 24.19%
- African American: 5.57%
- Asian American: 2.54%
- Native American: 0.53%
- Pacific Islander: 0.17%
- International: 2.54%
- Two or more races: 2.27%
- Other: 1.55%

**25.7 Years** Average age

### Geographic origin

Texas: 81.64%  
Out-of-State: 15.33%  
States represented: 51



International: 3%  
Countries represented: 63

## CAMPUS

**43**

Buildings

**176 acres**

Residential campus

**290 acres**

Adjacent to the main campus for future expansion

**2,310 acres**

Nance Ranch

Library

**Cornette Library**



Museum

**Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**

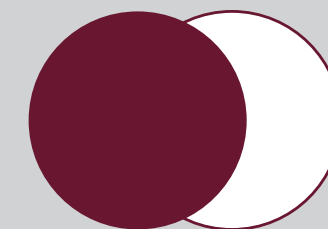
Nickname

**Buffaloes or Buffs**



School Colors

**Maroon and White**



## INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

West Texas A&M University is a member of the NCAA Division II Lone Star Conference and offers 15 men's and women's programs. WTAMU also offers a number of club sports, including bowling and rodeo that are competitive on the national level.







## GROWTH

That small, one-building school is now a bustling University campus with more than \$500 million in new construction, renovations and campus beautification over the past 15 years. Multiple construction projects have transformed the WTAMU landscape with everything from new entrance signs and residence halls to a renovated Jack B. Kelley Student Center and a soon-to-be-completed, state-of-the-art Agricultural Sciences Complex. All campus facilities, from residence halls to labs, are rich in technology, with smart classrooms, ITV video teleconferencing for distance learning, wireless access and more to provide students with the best educational opportunities possible.

## WTAMU Amarillo Center

WTAMU also has expanded to Amarillo. The WTAMU Amarillo Center opened in 2008 and will strengthen its presence even more with a permanent, stand-alone facility scheduled to open in fall 2018. The new facility more than doubles the size of the current WTAMU Amarillo Center and offers the people of the Panhandle unprecedented access to higher education. The facility serves as home to several upper-level academic programs while providing space for multiple University resources all under one roof.

“ People interested in a productive future for Amarillo and the Panhandle recognize the importance and interdependence of Amarillo, Canyon and WT. The WTAMU Amarillo Center will allow WT to serve the people on the I-27 corridor and in the Panhandle from two locations—one in Canyon with certain programs and offerings and another in Amarillo with other programs and offerings. This enables us to expand our presence with a commitment to serve and help the top 26 counties thrive. ”

—Walter V. Wendler, WTAMU President



## A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The University's top-notch facilities provide the perfect setting for students to pursue their hopes and dreams. Just as the campus landscape has expanded with improvements, the University's academic offerings have grown from yesterday's domestic science and manual training classes to a master's program in engineering, top-ranked online programs in business and a Ph.D. in agriculture. A new Doctor of Education in educational leadership is pending approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to prepare visionary and executive professionals to recognize and serve the needs and challenges of rural communities.

## Serving the Panhandle

WTAMU's campus landscape, academic programs and Amarillo facilities reflect ongoing efforts to meet the needs and challenges of the regional community. In addition to the WTAMU Amarillo Center, the University has ties to the Small Business Development Center and the WT Enterprise Center. Both of these Amarillo entities are designed to expand the economic base of the Panhandle region by helping build businesses and new job opportunities. With programs distinctive to the area and a faculty focused on the curricula and research of rural communities, WTAMU is well prepared to play a role in helping build a stronger workforce to drive the economy across the Texas Panhandle.

“ The innovation, entrepreneurship and tenacity of the people of the Texas Panhandle—that’s what I want to be in the DNA of West Texas A&M University. ”

—Walter V. Wendler, WTAMU President

# ALUMNI PROFILES



## ANTJUAN BALL, AKA #48 "CLUTCH"

**Profession:** Professional basketball player and entertainer

**Organization:** Harlem Globetrotters, an exhibition team that combines athleticism, theater and comedy. The team has played in 26,000 games in more than 100 countries and territories. With 30 of the nation's most skilled shooters, they have set nine Guinness World Records in 2016.

**Career:** Ball graduated from WT in 2015 and was invited to a dunk contest sponsored by ESPN in Chicago. He won the national dunk contest in 2015 and the three-point championship inside the historic Hinkle Fieldhouse during Final Four weekend in Indianapolis. Shortly after, he tried out for the Harlem Globetrotters and joined the team on Christmas Day.

Ball played for the WT Buffs for two seasons from 2012-2015. He started 55 games, totaled 14 double-doubles, shot a career .583 from the field, totaled 472 rebounds, 287 beginning on the defensive end, 66 assists, 64 blocks and had 26 steals while averaging 11.2 points per game. He was a two-time LSC All-Defensive team selection and three-time LSC Defensive Player of the Week.

**Graduated:** 2015, Bachelor of Science, Sports and Exercise Sciences

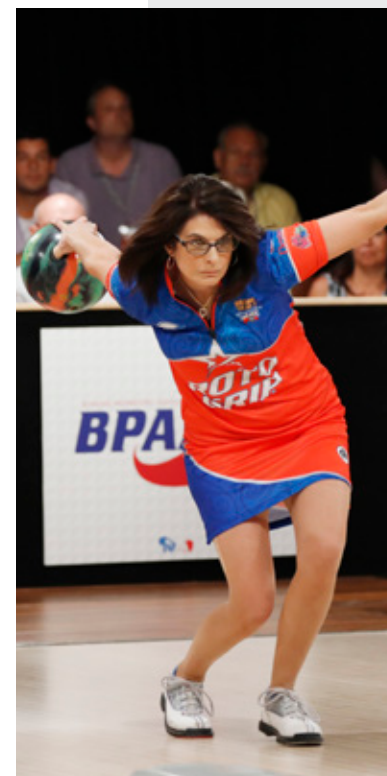
## SHANNA PEEPLES

**Profession:** Educator and curriculum specialist

**Career:** Peeples was a reporter at the Amarillo Globe-News for five years before becoming an English teacher and department chair for the Amarillo Independent School District in 2002. She taught at Palo Duro High School for 14 years and served as an instructional coach to her colleagues for four years. In 2015, she was named National Teacher of the Year and toured the country speaking on education for the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, D.C. She is currently a doctoral student at Harvard University.

**Achievements:** 2015 National Teacher of the Year for the Council of Chief State School Officers, the most prestigious national honors program focused on promoting excellence in teaching.

**Graduated:** 1997, Bachelor of Arts, English



## CAROLYN DORIN-BALLARD

**Profession:** Professional bowler and director of coaching

**Organization:** Professional Women's Bowlers Association (PWBA)

**Career:** Dorin-Ballard bowled her first ball at age six and became one of the top female 10-pin bowlers in the world. She has won 22 professional titles and was the first-ever female to bowl a 300 game in Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) competition. She was named the Female Bowler of the Decade for the 2000s by the *Bowlers Journal* and inducted into the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Hall of Fame in 2008. Currently, she is the pro staff manager for Turbo 2-N-1 Grips and director of coaching for USBC.

**Achievements:** 20 Career PWBA National titles, three-time major champion, three Career PBA Women's Series Titles, five-time member of Team USA, five Career USBC Women's Open Championship Titles, 10-time *Bowlers Journal* All-American, two-time International Bowling Media Association Female Bowler of the Year, two-time PWBA Player of the Year, three-time National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) First-Team All-American with WT, two-time NCBCA All-Tournament Team, two career XBowling Intercollegiate Team Championship titles with WT, 1987 - Linden, N.J. Sportswoman of the Year.

**Graduated:** 1989, Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communications

## RUSSELL D. "RED" STEAGALL

**Profession:** Award-winning songwriter, cowboy poet and entertainer

**Career:** Steagall has a 45-year career in cowboy entertainment that spans the globe. He worked in the agricultural industry before becoming a music industry executive, recording artist, songwriter, author and entertainer. He has received many awards, including a Grammy, for his 24 albums, 200 recorded compositions, 26 charted singles and four books. Since 1994, he has hosted a radio program, "Red Steagall's Cowboy Corner," and television show "Somewhere West of Wall Street." He also hosts the annual Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering near Fort Worth.

**Achievements:** 2018 National Golden Spur Award from the Ranching Heritage Association, 2016 Man of the Year by Western Swing, 2015 W.A. "Bill" King Award for Excellence in Agriculture, 2012 Boss of the Plains Award from the National Ranching Heritage Center, 2011 Charles M. Russell Heritage Award, 2006 Texas Poet Laureate, 2006 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Western Music Hall of Fame, 2006 Charles Goodnight Award, 2005 Grammy Award, 2004 Inductee of the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Hall of Great Westerners, 1999 Spirit of Texas Award and inductee of the Texas Trail of Fame, 1991 Official Cowboy Poet of Texas, eight Wrangler Awards for Best Original Music and Best Traditional Music.

**Graduated:** 1960, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science and Agronomy





## PPHM ORIGINS

- 1920 Hattie Anderson, a history professor at West Texas State Normal College, envisioned a plan to collect oral histories from local pioneers.

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- 1921 Anderson and L.F. Sheffy, head of the history department, recruited seven other faculty members and 30 students and organized the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society (PPHS). Their goal was to collect and preserve the human and natural history of the region.

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- 1929 PPHS announced a capital campaign to build a museum at a cost of \$50,000.

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- 1932 The Texas Legislature provided \$25,000, which was matched by the PPHS, and museum construction began.

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- 1933 The Panhandle-Plains Historical Society Museum opened its doors to the public.

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- 1936 Additional space was needed. Works Progress Administration workers dug a basement, and an addition was funded with a grant from the Texas Centennial Commission, making PPHM a Texas Centennial museum.

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- 1942 James D. Hamlin gifted his collection of fine and decorative arts, making the museum a major force among Texas public art collections.

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- 1950 The Smith Memorial Library was established in the museum with books related to Texas, the Panhandle and the Southwest.

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- 1960 Comanche Chief Quanah Parker's warbonnet and lance were donated by Topay Parker, one of the chief's wives.

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- 1967 PPHM doubled in size, adding a research center, art galleries and Pioneer Town to the museum.

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- 1973 West Texas State University donated its former library for storage space.

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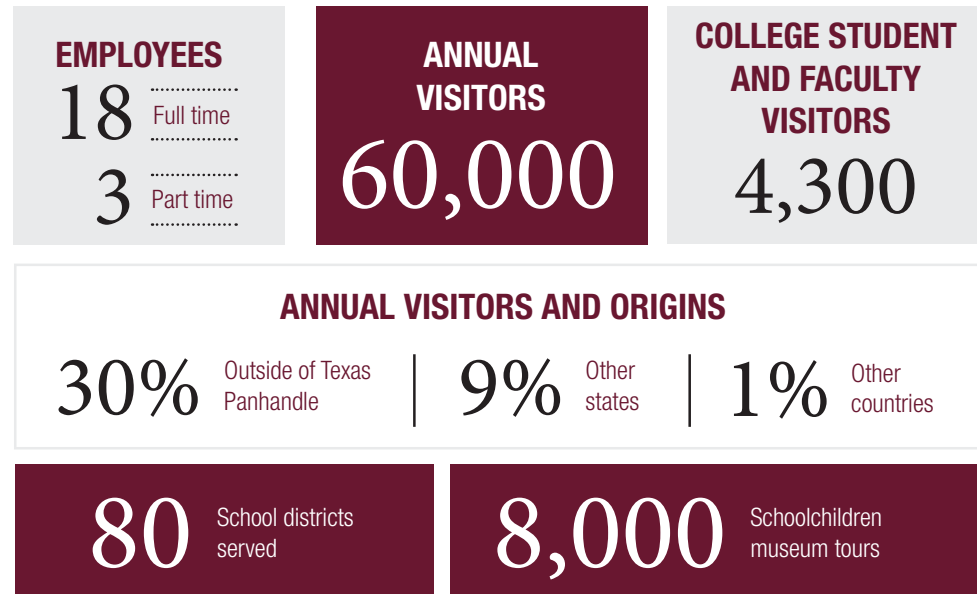
- 1986 Attendance peaked at 156,987 with the opening of the Harrington Petroleum Wing and the Texas Centennial Celebration.

## PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

### MISSION:

To collect, preserve, conserve, exhibit and interpret the historical, ethnological, cultural and scientific heritage of the Panhandle-Plains region of Texas and related areas of the Southwest; to operate and maintain the PPHM in accordance with the rules and regulations of The Texas A&M University Board of Regents; to enlist interest and support in achieving this mission; and to undertake other related activities.

## PPHM BY THE NUMBERS



# PPHM AT A GLANCE

More than two million artifacts in the collection, including:

## Frank Reaugh Collection

Paintings, photographs and archives belonging to the Dean of Texas Artists



## Original PPHM building

Southwestern Deco structure with New Deal murals



## Charles Goodnight Collection

Saddle, Texas Ranger rifle, personal effects and archives belonging to the founder of the first ranch in the Texas Panhandle

## XIT Ranch papers

Records from the business dealings of what was once the largest ranch in the world at more than 3,000,000 acres

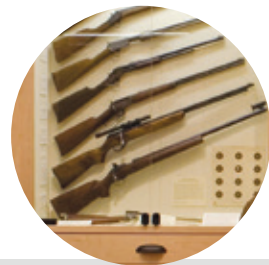


## Cable tool drilling rig

Part of The Panhandle Petroleum Story exhibit

## Ethnology Collection

Extensive collection of Southern Plains material culture, predominantly Comanche and Kiowa, including a Spanish/Comanche hybrid shield



## Firearms

Largest public collection in the state of Texas

## Bugbee Family Collection

Artifacts and archives related to the pioneer ranching family and H.D. Bugbee, artist and illustrator of the American West and first art curator at PPHM



## Georgia O'Keeffe

First museum in the nation to provide three-dimensional art for sight-impaired visitors with spring debut of Georgia O'Keeffe Red Landscape



## Historic Texas Art

Largest, oldest and most comprehensive collection in the state

# PPHM RECOGNITION

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It is a landmark institution in innumerable ways ... acclaimed and internationally recognized art collections, the deeply layered archaeological record of human activity in the Panhandle, including early man in North America, irreplaceable archives, and a historical collection that documents and rivals any other in its scope and coverage for the Southern Plains and the western experience. It is a state treasure.

”

P. Lynn Denton, Ph.D., Director, Public History Program & Center for Texas Public History, Texas State University and Founding Director, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

## HIGHLIGHTS

Art from PPHM is loaned to U.S. embassies worldwide—most recently to Brussels for the office of Kay Bailey Hutchison, Permanent U.S. Representative to NATO.

Michael R. Grauer, PPHM Curator of Art and Western Heritage, is a nationally recognized speaker and expert on Western Heritage, artist Frank Reaugh and historic Texas Art.

Archaeologists and paleontologists from across the United States, Canada and Europe come to PPHM to do research.

The PPHM Research Center is a source of special collections and archives that draw authors, historians and graduate students from across the country, in addition to serving students and faculty at WTAMU.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Best Pioneer History Collection —True West Magazine
- Best Western Art Collection —True West Magazine
- No. 2 of Top Ten Western Museums —True West Magazine
- Certificate of Excellence —Trip Advisor
- Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums

“

The PPHM is my single favorite museum and a huge source of inspiration to me as a historian. Touring it is an amazing learning experience.

”

S.C. Gwynne  
Author of New York Times bestseller and Pulitzer Prize nominee Empire of the Summer Moon



## CLOSING REMARKS

*From President Wendler*

**Our history is remarkable. Since 1910, we have labored to be of value to the Texas Panhandle, the state of Texas and beyond.**

In many areas, we have been successful. We educate the Panhandle, producing three of four public school teachers and leaders in the top 26 counties. Our agricultural roots are present everywhere in this region of our great state. Excellent faculty in the arts, the humanities and performance disciplines create and celebrate the cultural record of the Panhandle. Our nurses and those in related health care professions provide expert care for our people. Engineering builds the Panhandle, and business leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators create economic opportunities. All this presents a challenge for our future. In order to continue to serve, we must grow and develop to meet the changing environment of the coming decades. The mission that will evolve—**WT125: From the Panhandle to the World**—requires all of us to exhibit the West Texas determination that has marked WT for more than a century. This gift of tenacity will not change, but will guide us toward an even brighter future. This is our job, and it is WT.

*Walter V. Wendler*





[wtamu.edu/WT125](http://wtamu.edu/WT125)