The “second 100 years” began for Connors when the faculty reported to the campus for meetings on August 13th.

On the second day of meetings, a good portion of the morning was spent reminiscing about CSC’s past. Guest speakers were Reba Green, a 1948 CSC graduate, and Jim Pulliam, a CSC alumni and instructor for 28 years.

Ms. Green, a long-time educator from Sallisaw, was the 1949 football queen at Connors. In her presentation, she said her experiences at Connors were responsible for her success today. “I credit Connors with the many good things that have happened in my life,” she said. “[Connors] is a small college and it has lots of benefits for area students who are coming to college and getting away from home for the first time just like I experienced. Connors was a fun place for me. We were family here and I hope that is true today.”

Jim Pulliam recalled his days as a student and then as an instructor, entertaining the audience with some of his memories at Connors. Pulliam emphasized that staff and teachers should realize that they have a tremendous influence over a student’s life. “You don’t know it, but students do remember what you say to them. Although I am retired, I bump into former students all the time and they have memories of my classes.”

Also recognized during the meeting was Connors baseball coach Perry Keith, who was inducted in the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame in May. Coach Keith was also one of Pulliam’s students.
Duwayne Briley, a 1968 graduate of Connors State College, is CEO/Chairman of the Board of Armstrong Bank. He and his wife Kathy have been blessed with six children and fourteen grandchildren.

According to Briley, he was an ill-prepared college student on entering college. He credits many faculty members at CSC for helping him become a goal-oriented person with a “can do” attitude for his future. He states that the faculty “cared about each student. We were not treated as just a number. Each of my instructors helped us become the best we could be. They were willing to sacrifice personal time to nurture, inspire, and give counsel to each of us.”

One of the most influential faculty members at Connors for Briley was his freshman English instructor, Mr. Jim Pulliam. “Mr. Pulliam went far beyond any call of duty. He cared,” states Briley. He says that Mr. Pulliam taught a special tutoring class for those struggling in his class. Briley also mentions instructors Bob Hodges, Charles Wallace, and Harry Jackson as great mentors at CSC.

While at CSC Briley was involved in the Aggie Club and baseball. After graduating from Connors, he attended OSU. He taught for three years but then entered the world of banking.

Connors State College will be holding a Voter’s Registration Day on September 17th at the Warner Campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All colleges in Oklahoma will be participating in recognition of Constitution Day and in conjunction with “I vote.” Students are encouraged to bring the competitive team spirit because Connors will be competing with the other colleges to see which one can produce the most new voter sign-ups. This will be a contest based on percentage rather than numbers and each college will be competing against colleges in the same league. For instance, community colleges will be running against other community colleges.

November’s Presidential election is right around the corner. Students are encouraged to vote and make their voices be heard.

The Business-CIS department faculty have announced that the PBL club will begin meeting again. PBL is a business club that fosters education in business and computer technology. The meeting time is the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. in ITV 108 in Warner and Room 7 at the Port Campus. The club dues total $15 a year.

Some of the activities will include a seminar in Tulsa featuring Zig Ziglar, Joe Montana, Colin Powell and other motivational speakers. Other activities include attending the state convention and participating in skill competitions, fund raisers, and other college-sponsored events.

Those students interested in joining or finding out more about PBL can contact any Business-CIS faculty member. Further information about PBL can be found on their website.
Muskogee Director - Ms. Rhoda Strode

New at the helm of the Muskogee campuses is Ms. Rhoda Strode.

Ms. Strode is a graduate of NEO in Miami, and OSU. Her master’s degree is in student personnel and guidance.

Rhoda brings a total of 22 years of higher education advisement experience to Connors. Before coming to CSC, she was the Academic Advisor at the University of New Mexico. Some of the other places that she worked are East Central Oklahoma University, Oklahoma State Tech, and Umpqua Community College in Oregon.

Ms. Strode is a devotee to positive change models such as Appreciative Inquiry. She says, “I believe that looking at an individual’s strengths and focusing on them is far more productive than looking at deficiencies.”

One of her favorite quotes is in the Cherokee story of two fighting wolves. One wolf is evil (fear, anger, envy, greed, etc.); the other is good (joy, serenity, humility, truth gentleness, etc.). When a child asks a Cherokee elder who will win, he replies, “The one you feed.”

Club Fest

The CSC Club Fest was held on September 10th at the Warner campus from 10:30-2:00.

Sponsored by the Student Senate, various clubs were represented to inform students of the opportunities for involvement.

Congratulations to the Connors State Baseball Team, Co-Champions of the Bi-State Conference with a record of 40-16, who again earned a trip to the JUCO World Series!

Announcements

- CSC will be hosting the Muskogee Area-Wide College Fair on Wednesday, September 24th. The fair will be held at the Warner campus Melvin Self Field House from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- The NAEC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Associate Degree Accreditation visit for the Child Development Department will be October 5-8.
Welcome Week gave returning CSC students the opportunity to get back into the swing of college life. It also provided a way for new students to meet fellow classmates as well as some of the CSC staff.

Dr. Nero and Dr. Digranes visited with students at the evening’s first event, the Cookout, held at the new patio at the Warner Student Union. According to Student Life Coordinator, Laura Hazen, and judging by the turnout, this event was by far the most successful. “It was a great way to welcome everyone back,” said Hazen.

A first at Connors was Swim Night. The Muskogee pool party helped kick off a new year in a relaxed atmosphere. One hundred and five students attended this fun-filled evening in the water.

Although Movie Night was supposed to be held outdoors, the weather caused the event to be moved indoors.

That’s right! The Student Support Services Program took eight lucky program students to see the Eagles Concert on the opening night, Sept. 6th, at the new BOK Center in Tulsa. The SSS staff obtained eight tickets for a drawing. A letter was sent to all SSS students requesting they come to the SSS office during the first two weeks of school to make contact with the advisors and at that time they could register for the drawing. On August 29th, the names were drawn by student, Mary Joyce Thompson. The lucky winners were Kim Littledave, Buffy Hall, Jamie Hall, Shannon Deerinwater, Lacey Ward, Ella Nichols, Clara Clay, and Miranda Farley. The concert was the first event held at the BOK. Everyone had a great time. The music critics agreed with the CSC attendees—the Eagles received great reviews.

Student Support Services offers many academic services and sometimes just plain fun. If you are interested in being a part of this group, you can contact the SSS offices in Warner and Muskogee. The main number is 918-463-6219.