Summer is over, and it’s time to hit the books once again. For returning Connors students, that means another semester of familiar faces and hours of study. For the newcomers, it’s a chance to get accustomed to hectic schedules, busy classes, and life away from home.

Connors State College President, Dr. Donnie L. Nero, would like to welcome all returning and new students and inform them of some of the improvements that have been made to CSC campuses.

“Welcome back to the returning students and for those attending for the first time, I hope you can affirm that Connors was the best choice. We are truly glad you are here and will do our best to accommodate your needs. Connors is fortunate to have an excellent faculty and staff who devote endless hours in assisting you to achieve your goals. Please take advantage of their expertise and wisdom during this crucial first semester. If you don’t ask for help or assistance, you probably will not get it. Also, take advantage of the athletic and team competitions on campus. College is one of the best times you will experience. You will make friends for a lifetime, enjoy many activities and organizations, but please don’t forget why you are here - to get an education! We are glad you are a part of this great institution as we ‘Build Futures One At A Time’.”

There have been many improvements made to the campuses. The most visible one on the Warner campus is the landscaping. There are also new signs to properly direct students and to indicate where certain offices are located. All improvements to CSC have been for the benefit of the students and faculty, and Dr. Nero has been very satisfied with all of them.

Upcoming improvements include additions to the Fine Arts Center, and new equipment for the Fitness Center, which will be coming in two weeks. CSC is also working with NSU-Muskogee in the transferring and aid of educational services.

Overall, the students here at CSC are being well taken care of and can look forward to a great semester.
More Students, Less Parking

Community colleges have always been a sound economical choice for those wanting to further their education. Connors is no exception. Connors has experienced a dramatic increase in enrollment this semester, especially at the Muskogee campuses.

According to unofficial statistics, the Muskogee campuses had 956 students in the fall 2008 semester. This semester there are 1100 students. There has also been an increase in credit hours taken by almost 1800 credit hours.

Rhoda Strode, director of the Muskogee campuses, believes that the increased enrollment is due to several reasons: the nation’s economy is not good, unemployment is higher, and people are looking to further their education for better jobs. “It’s a reality check,” Strode states.

With the increase in students, the Muskogee Downtown Campus is seeing one problem—parking lots are fuller. Some students claim that it is hard to even find parking. However, there is parking available. If the student parking lot is full across from the building, students can park at the overflow parking on the side of the Phoenix building, known as Phoenix Plaza, or at Arrowhead Mall. While the mall parking is two blocks from the downtown building, that is a short walk compared to parking at most universities.

Strode stresses that the Muskogee campuses are striving to meet each student’s needs. “We’re just as good as any other college or university. We really care about the students here.”

2+2 Business Degree

The 2+2 Business Degree Plan at Connors in conjunction with Northeastern State University (NSU) is a great opportunity for both traditional and non-traditional students. A student simply takes the first two years of coursework at Connors culminating in an associate’s degree. Then the final two years are at NSU finishing with a bachelor’s degree. All 61 hours from Connors will transfer if the student follows the 2+2 option in the business plan of study.

The advantage of this plan is that students can complete all or most of the degree in Muskogee at the NSU campus. Most of the courses will be offered at night. That allows those who need to work during the day the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree and continue to work.

If you have any questions or are interested in this program, contact any of the business faculty or pat.clancy@connorsstate.edu, gina.ramming@connorsstate.edu, john.maly@connorsstate.edu, or rhonda.wilson@connorsstate.edu.

PBL Membership Drive

PBL/FBLA is the largest and oldest business student organization in the world! A quarter of a million high school and middle school students, college and university students, faculty, educators, administrators, and business professionals have chosen to be members of the premier business education association preparing students for careers in business.

Why is FBLA-PBL so popular? It’s simple. It is a unique value program that excites students, faculty and administration, and business professionals to join. If you are interested in developing leadership, communication, and team skills, or simply looking for an organization to meet and network with others at the local, state and national levels, then FBLA-PBL is the organization for you.

Contact one of your business or CIS instructors to learn more or e-mail john.maly@connorsstate.edu.
Student Activities

Watch out Cowboys of Connors State College!

There’s a new sheriff in town and his name is Aaron Wright. Wright began his new role as vice-president of student services at the end of the 2009 spring semester. He states that he “loves the family atmosphere that the college provides.” He also states that he has met some “interesting people and is eager to see where life takes them.”

Already Wright and fellow coworkers have made improvements to better student life, such as dorm repairs, longer pool hours, more zest to the café menu, extended hours in the game hall/café, and more school-wide activities.

Nevertheless, a sheriff is nothing without his handy deputy, head of student activities director, Lynsey Sharp. Sharp is not only busy planning activities for all three campuses but also is advisor of the President Leadership Class and coaches the CSC cheerleading squad.

The stress of moving in, adjusting to new roommates, and waking up on your own for class can be overwhelming the first week of college. However, this year’s welcome back activities helped the transition.

In Warner the welcome back activities included a cookout, karaoke/pool party, poster sales, movie on the big screen, dodge ball tournament, and lots of freebies. On the Muskogee campuses, there were hot dog cookouts, pizza and soda night, and an ice cream social.

Wright and Sharp are planning many more student activities throughout the year. Wright is very excited and wants the students to take empowerment over their campuses and voice their ideas and opinions. If you have any ideas for a school-wide function or would like to be a part of student government, feel free to stop by their offices located at Miller’s Crossing or give them a call at 463-6296 (Wright) or 463-6351 (Sharp).

Aggies at Connors

A new semester means new faces for the Agriculture Ambassadors and Aggie Club officer teams. The successful spring semester has led to high goals and expectations for this 2009 fall semester. With activities being planned around every corner, the participants can only prepare for a busy schedule this semester.

Agriculture Ambassadors are a select group of agriculture students dedicated to further enhancing the image and interest of the agriculture industries and the Division of Agriculture at Connors State College. Each semester eight to fourteen individuals are chosen to be Agriculture Ambassadors through application and interview processes. Once chosen, each member commits to fulfilling their duties. This semester ten individuals were chosen: Michael Hodges, Travis O’Dell, Jacob Shaw, Logan Pritchett, Josh Carter, Tom Devine, Logan James, Morgan Thomason, Katie Lents, and Crystal Whisner.

Also, this semester has already kicked off for the Aggie Club. The first meeting was held on August 19th with an outstanding number of members present.

The Aggie Club hosted a campus-wide volleyball tournament on Thursday, August 20th, marking the beginning of many activities this semester. The second meeting was held on August 26th. At this meeting new officers were elected. New officers are President, Michael Hodges; Vice President, Rachel Gidrey; Secretary/Treasurer, Blaize Wynn; Reporter, Connor Newton; Freshman Rep, Charity Pennington; and Sophomore Rep, Logan Pritchett.
There are many activities sponsored by the Baptist Student Collegiate Ministries (BCM). Free lunches are available at the BCM building in Warner every Wednesday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. At the Muskogee Downtown Campus, the lunches are September 21st, October 19th, and November 16th. At the Port Campus, the free lunch was September 3rd and will be October 1st. The lunches are provided by local Baptist churches.

There are many other activities such as Tuesday night Bible study in Warner at 9 p.m., Momentum on September 11th, and See You at the Pole on September 23rd. The See You at the Pole Rally is at the Muskogee Civic Center at 7 p.m. and rides are available. Also on September 12th in Warner, there will be a Paint and Plant. Students will be painting the bridge, planting shrubs, and mulching. At the end of the day, there will be a cookout or pizza.

There are many other activities, trips, and tournaments coming throughout the year. Students can contact Rowdy Morris at bcmguy@bcglobal.net or at 918-787-1229. Rowdy has directed the BCM, in Warner and Muskogee for the last four years.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

—“Don’t wait until the last minute to enroll or work on financial aid.”
Tracy Stevens
Major: Accounting

—“Go to class!”
Brent Goodman
Major: Nursing

—“Be prepared. Don’t get behind. Form a study group.”
Heidi Serpa
Major: Nursing

—“Go to your classes, study hard, and don’t let it overwhelm you.”
Danny Basham
Major: Psychology

—“Take school seriously. Set priorities, and use time management.”
Lisa Clark
Major: Nursing

—“Set some goals for achievement and stick to those goals. You can always have fun later.”
Muriel Saunders
Adjunct Instructor

—“Be open to new ideas, and remember your opinions count too.”
Brian Fowler
Major: Pre-Ed

—“Go to class, and do the work!”
Melanie Hawkins
Major: Math