There's something new on the 3rd floor at the Muskogee Downtown Campus. The Childhood Development Department has not only moved their offices and classroom to the 3rd floor, but they have also a new demonstration lab for the students.

The classroom is separated into three different learning style sections. The three different sections include a traditional section, a “calm” section, and a “cheery” section. The purpose of the sections is for the students to discover and experience their own particular learning style. The demonstration lab, on the other hand, allows future teachers the experience of teaching in a real classroom setting. This lab was made possible by capital bond money.

“The Childhood Education Program is designed to educate future teachers and child care providers,” says Jan Jobey, Child Development Coordinator and instructor. “We focus on infant, toddler, and preschool ages and how they grow and learn.” She also adds, “I am very proud to say that recently we were accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).”

Kim Phillips, Scholar Coordinator, is in charge of recruiting new students into the program. “The Scholars for Excellence Program awards scholarships to eligible childcare professionals who want to complete their coursework,” Phillips states. “This program pays 80% of tuition fees and 100% of book fees.” There are currently 47 students enrolled in the program.

Melissa Stafford graduated from the program and is now the SECC administrative assistant. “I’ve watched the program grow and I’m very proud to be a part of it,” she says.
Many students decide to come to Connors because it’s close to home and is an easy commute; on the other hand, Connors has a wide selection of “out-of-towners.” CSC’s sports programs, livestock judging teams, and rodeo and equine programs have brought a vast assortment of students from all over the U.S., Canada, and other unique areas.

Personally, I come 4,000 miles away from a small town called Ninilchik, located in Alaska. Many people ask why I decided to go to school in Warner, America, and the main reason is I attended an agricultural summer camp here a few years ago and thought why not. I knew growing up that I wanted to go to an out-of-state college but didn’t want to pay the outrageous out-of-state tuition. Connors provides the same great education for a lower price; nevertheless, I wanted to attend Oklahoma State from the get go. I was a part of programs such as 4H, FFA, and high school rodeo, and these programs gave me the thirst to take part in the big time industry of agriculture. My intended major is agriculture economics with an emphasis in international trade; however, I wasn’t quite ready for the big university.

Coming to Connors was an easy transition since I am from a very small town. The kind of town I come from is the type where everyone waves in passing, there’s no fast food of any kind, and the hometown gym is the place to be on Saturday night. Even though Warner is a bit bigger than my home town, it doesn’t have a scenic view of three volcanoes across the inlet, yet it still has the same humble qualities that make me feel at home. I graduated from high school with the same eighteen kids I went to preschool with, and it never occurred to me that I was a shy person until I moved from my comfortable town of 700 people. When I came to Connors, I knew a few people who were going to school here or lived in the area, and that was my saving grace from running back home from the start.

I came across more unique transitions when moving here last year. Cheaper prices were a big thing not only in gas but in every day items such as the low price of a gallon of milk. Another thing was being able to drive everywhere. Back home it was common for our high school to drive an hour at the very least just to get to the boat dock or airport to go to play a game. I feel spoiled to live so close to every day conveniences.

The climate change wasn’t that big of a deal to me; however, my first “snow days” were taken here last year during the ice storm. Back home no matter if it snowed a foot or if it was forty below zero, we were expected at school. So I wasn’t expecting time off for the little bit of ice we received. My friends laughed at me the morning after the storm wearing only a hoody and flip flops to go eat at Cowgirls since they were bundled as if it was an ice age that just occurred.

Sometimes it is really hard to be far from home when students get to go home on the weekends, and I do get homesick at times. However, good friends have let me go home with them and borrow their families during the holidays. In the long run, I think attending school far from home will help me in many ways, and I’m glad I took the chance to do it.
Fitness Center Now Open

“It’s exciting to have all the new equipment on campus. It’s beneficial to students, faculty, and staff members to assist with fitness goals,” stated Ms. Esther King, Coordinator of Conference and Wellness Services. Studies have shown that people who exercise daily are healthier, more energetic, and have less stress.

The fitness center hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also the pool hours are Monday through Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and closed on all home basketball games. Keep in mind the fitness center is only available to Connors State College students, faculty, and staff members. There are future plans to offer memberships to the community of Warner. For more information on the new fitness center contact Ms. King.

President’s Leadership Class

The President’s Leadership Class, PLC, is headed by Ms. Lynsey Sharp. There are currently eleven members: Charissa Osborn, Miranda Jay, Dakara Graham, Sarah Smithson, Caitlin Olson, Micah “Jed” Baker, Mariah Norwood, Caitlyn Barnett, Brett Isbell, Logan Pritchett, and Shiann Winfield.

The PLC members recently attended a leadership retreat, Leadership and Dynamics Exchange, on October 1st and 2nd. They attended several conferences such as “7 Habits of a Highly Effective Person” and later did reports on the classes they took.

PLC also recently joined the Civitan Club in helping put up handicapped accessible playground equipment at the civitan park. There are additional service projects in the future both on campus and in the community.

The goal of PLC this year is to promote leading by doing.

Same Location, New Face: Fitness Center Now Open

What’s your excuse? Is it the late night snacks, fast food meals, or busy schedules that allow no time for exercise? These are just some of the reasons students pack on the horrid “freshmen 15.” How do you avoid this extra baggage? Come check out Connors State College’s new and improved fitness center which opened Sept. 30th with all new equipment. The fitness center is able to meet the needs of everyone. From walking to toning your biceps, the fitness center can provide you with the right piece of equipment you’ll need to target any area you want to improve.
With practices, community service events, and upcoming games, the CSC cheerleaders are quite busy. Some of their more recent events include a performance at Muskogee High, participating in Red Ribbon Week, Cow Chip Day, and Recycling Month, and attending a club member retreat.

There will be a pep rally for the kick-off of basketball on Nov. 4th with a bonfire at 8:00 p.m. There will also be a tailgate party starting at 11:00 a.m. for the game on the 5th. The games begin at 5:00 p.m.

Members of this year’s cheerleading squad are Erica Jackson, Samantha Miller, Shelby Benson, Casey Bailey, Keeli Blackwood, Jessica Brown, Joe Capps, Tyler Coleman, Amanda Colson, Holly Cordray, Chelsie Gray, Carly Howell, Jasma Jones, Andrea McGee, Kimberly McGee, Jordyn Myers, Bethany Nickell, Charissa Osborn, Richie Owens, Emily Quinton, Chelsey Robbins, Brie Shillingford, Kelsey Taylor, Dakota Umsted, Shawn Vance, Kathryn Walker, Dalton Williams, Layce Williams, and Rachel Ben-son.