COACH MUSE REACHES 500 WINS
Meet the Regent: Calvin Anthony Regent
Celebrating Coach Muse Feature
Scholars Night
Judgers Head South to Dixie National
Students Intern at National Western Show Team Earns Herdsman Award
American Electric Donates to Scholarship
Aggie Club Shines during Coronation
Bullard Selected for Nigh Academy Student
Mouser Family Contributes to Connors
Baxter Stewart: A Profile Staff
Culver Keynotes History Program Faculty
Freshman Standout DeVonte’ Robinson
Homecoming Royalty Crowned
Shotgun Team Places in Texas
Sophomore Receives Jeltz Scholarship
Duwayne Briley Alumni
MEET THE REGENT:
CALVIN J. ANTHONY

One thing to take away from meeting Regent Calvin J. Anthony would be his sense of care for others. Regent Anthony is a member of the OSU-A&M Board of Regents and is now in the final year of his eight-year term.

“When I would go to campuses and am around students, it was the most refreshing of times… and ultimately that’s what made me decide to become a Regent,” said Anthony.

Regent Anthony received a Bachelor’s in Pharmacy from the University of Oklahoma in 1968. He is currently a retired pharmacist and owns a handful of drug stores in the Stillwater area, one of which is Tiger Drug, where he spent most of his adult life managing and operating as a pharmacist. Anthony originally attended college on a baseball scholarship after turning down an early offer from the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team fresh out of high school.

Regent Anthony is a married man and a proud father of three and grandfather of six children. He enjoys working with his livestock, golfing, quail hunting and being a “cool grandfather” in his spare time.

When asked to describe himself in one word, Regent Anthony replied “caring.” Anthony insisted that being a good listener is key to becoming a great leader. When asked if he had any advice to our students and their careers, Anthony stated, “You have to work hard... and never sell yourself short.”

Regent Anthony credits his success in his career to his parents and a customer of Tiger Drug, Bob Arnold, who had been a mentor for Anthony for several years.

Regent Anthony Visits Connors’ Leadership

Regent Calvin Anthony, on a visit to Connors State College, met with members of Leadership Connors and the President’s Leadership Class. Anthony discussed leadership with the group and the importance of caring for others.

By Sean Friend
CONNORS HONORS MUSE RENAMES COURT

It was a day of celebration on the Connors State College campus Saturday, Feb. 8, as Cowboys coach and athletic director Bill Muse was honored for his 500th coaching victory and his selection into the National Junior College Athletic Association Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Muse is only the third Oklahoman to be inducted into the NJCAA Athletic Hall of Fame joining former Murray State Coach Gene Robbins and Eastern Oklahoma State player Willie Murrell.

“This means a lot to me because I spent 22 years of my life dedicated to Connors State basketball,” said Muse. “We’ve had a lot of good players and assistant coaches who have meant a lot to me. They have been instrumental in my success. It means a whole lot.”

It was also announced that the court at Melvin Self Field House will be named Bill Muse Court. The naming of the court was approved by the Oklahoma State A&M Board of Regents. He also received a proclamation that Sat. Feb. 8 was Bill Muse Day.

“This has been very emotional for me,” said Muse. “Everything has happened in one year and I never expected the 500 wins, the naming of the court, and now the Hall of Fame.”

With the naming of Bill Muse Court, it becomes only the third court in Oklahoma to be named after a coach, joining Oklahoma State’s legendary head coach Eddie Sutton and Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa’s Mick Weinberg.

“It’s very special to have your name put on a basketball court and to join my good friends Eddie Sutton and Mick Weinberg,” said Muse. “I’ve coached against Mick for years and I’ve watched coach Sutton’s team for years. It’s a real honor.”

Muse’s 500th victory was recorded on Jan. 20 at Tishomingo when the Cowboys defeated Murray State 77-72 in overtime.
SCHOLARS NIGHT

Connors State College recently recognized students on the President’s and Vice President’s Honor Rolls at Scholars Night held Feb. 25, 2014.

“I am very proud of our students,” said CSC President, Dr. Tim Faltynt. “They have worked hard to maintain good grades and this is a celebration of their achievement.”

To qualify for the President’s Honor Roll, students must complete at least 12 semester credit hours and maintain a 4.0 GPA.

FRESHMEN
Whitney Allen
Emily Bilbrey
Kyle Box
Kallene Brewer
Steven Caldeon
Brandie Center
Caitlin Collins
Jessica Davis
Jason Dennison
Joseph Fallashek
Vanessa Finney
Lauren Brooke
Trisha Flourney
Shawna Glass
Anastasia Hendren
Ashley Hodges
Mary Hicks
Mirenda Jay
Kayelee Joesen
Kaitlyn Kelley
Charmanne Lewis
Amber Madewell
Stephen McClurg
Caitlyn Mocha
Jefferson Moore
Kaillin Naper
James Ortiz
Rolland Pearsall
Madison Peeples
Michele Peet
Sandra Proctor
Kristin Reanor
Danielle Shelton
Mallory Smith
Sidney Smith
Timothy Smithson
Ethan Steele
Trist Waugh
Jennifer Wheeler
Michael Wilt
Brittany Wolfe
Kassi Yazel

SOPHOMORES
Lauren Adair
Teresa Broyles
Brooke Burkart
Rebekah Burriss
Ryan Campbell
Susan Clark
Julie Copes
Stacey Dawes
Hunter Dauck
Renee Dodge
Chelsie Drew
Kara Focht
Sean Friend
Amy Garman
Courtney Giles
Miesha Gordon
Michelle Green
Brandi Hale
Eric Handsery
Heather Hawthorne
Melanie Jackson
Jeffery Johnson
Matthew Kirby
Tareva McCall
Heather Minor
Luis Navaro
Rebecca Owens
Jessica Parham
Kaitlin Prichett
Richard Robbins
Rikley Shook
Danielle Smith
Kimberly Sterling
Erin Toney
Lucretia Toney
Alisha Trickey
Vernon Ray Ward
Derek White
Stephanie Whittmore
Jalyn Willis
Andrea Young
Desiree Young

OTHER
Odell Alexander
Nicholas Asdil
Matthew Bourgeois
Dillon Bundy
Hattie Clink
Donny L. Creekmore
Derek Gurry
Marvin Green
Shane Hancock
Tonya Haumann
Nancy Kendrick
Jacob Ketcher
Danyell Lane
Donay Leach
Chase Martin
Mitchell Oliver
Charles Perry
Sarah Richardson
Cinthia Santos Lopez
Christopher Stout
Shelly Walters
VICE PRESIDENT

To qualify for the Vice President’s Honor Roll, students must complete at least 12 semester credit hours and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

FRESHERMEN

Angela Adams  
Alma Alcazar  
Michael Bailey  
Quantrrel Baker  
Ronnie Bell  
Evetta Bliss  
Jennifer Bowden  
Ronnie Boyce  
Traddon Boylan  
Kristi Breman  
Kristopher Brown  
Clarissa Burnett  
Dillon Burns  
Amber Buttram  
Taylor Canada  
Shelby Carlton  
Alicia Castaneda  
Austin Catterton  
Raul Ceneto  
Robyn Chepklaus  
Jessica Christian  
Brittany Clark  
Kasey Clark  
Coryne Cole  
Jeremy Coltharp  
Morgan Cook  
Kylee Cooper  
Jennifer Coppin

Rachel Countryman  
Adrienne Crabtree  
Zachariah Crow  
Faith Daniels  
Brittney De Los Santos  
Leawna Deary  
Kayla Dillon  
Lindsey Duval  
Brooklyn Dye  
Ryan Ecchel  
Kerry Edens  
Ryon Ezell  
Corey Fabian  
Brandi Farris  
Justin Ferril  
Tylor Fourkiller  
Adair Fox  
Austin Gibson  
Samantha Gillespie  
Jacob Green  
Patrick Gresham  
Charity Guinn  
James Hamlin  
Amanda Handley  
Leslie Harris  
HUNTER HARRISON  
Samantha Harvey  
Jonnaon Hausenstein  
Janet Hill  
Vanessa Hughes  
Rachael Humphrey  
Joe Ibanez  
Elin Isham  
Christie Jay  
Derrick Jostice  
Christopher Johnson  
Heather Johnson  
Clifton Jones III  
Brett Jones  
Michelle Jones  
Emily Kelly  
Casey Kelley  
Ralph Label  
Vivian Lamb  
Lacey Landaverde  
Robin Larsen  
Jeremiah Leavell  
Darrell Levert  
Bethany Lewis  
Bethylene Lewis  
Jessica Lister  
Amada Long  
Cody Mathis  
Keli Maye  
Miakela McGrew  
Dylan McReynolds  
Nathaniel Meeley  
Blake Miller  
Justin Miller  
Tanner Miller  
Macy Milligan  
Randell Mobbs  
Emma Moore  
Ethan Moore  
Jonathon Moore  
Connor Moore  
Clayton Moulhy  
Jordan Mouby  
Kara Muskat  
Jamie Newlin  
Cari North  
Jordan Nunley  
Samantha O’Brien  
Preston Ogden  
Ashley Oiler  
Amanda O’Neal  
Megan Orman  
Johnna Patterson  
Taylor Perdue  
Heather Perry  
Samantha Perry  
Amanda Potts  
Kelvin Potts  
Bailey Pugh  
Skye Ragsdale  
Hannah Ray  
Chase Reed  
Taylor Reed  
Ashley Redford  
Devin Riede  
Scott Rooden  
Danielle Roland  
Kasey Rogers  
Jennifer Rose  
Stefani Ross  
J.L. Samples  
Connor Sampson  
Mayra Sandoval  
Spencer Schmide  
Tyler Scott  
Callie Shannon  
Destiny Shelton  
Gerald Shores  
Rokey Smalley  
Katherine Smith  
Wyatt Smith  
Katie Snyder  
Taylor Sparks  
Rachel Stewart  
Brooke Stridham  
Shelby strain  
Tyler Sutton  
Brittany Swindon  
Winter Symmonds  
Allison Tarvin  
Rebecca Terry  
Malaka Tillery  
Amelia Tinnin  
Jacob Tolbert  
Krystal Toney  
Shenda Toris  
Kegan Vandervolen  
April Verne  
Teresa Walters  
Kaitlon Warren  
Zane Webster  
Kimberly Wellington  
Whitney Whittmore  
Sophia Williams  
Kelsey Willis  
Nicole Winsent  
Nella Worrall  
Amelia Wynn  
Annie Yabloka  
Ludlow Yoyo  
Kory Zehr

SOPHOMORES

Dustin Abel  
Anna Aliya  
Hannah Allen  
Hollie Ampana  
Stephanie Anderson  
Whitney Andrews  
Katherine Andrews  
Emmanuel Arnaud  
Courtney Austin  
Rebecca Berry  
Eric Blevins  
Megan Boren  
Ashley Boykins  
Lauren Brown  
Jenay Bruce  
Laura Bruno  
Juta Bryan  
Charles Buckley  
Katie Bullard  
Chance Bunch  
Brance Burge  
Colton Carlton  
Janie Carman  
Brittany Chester  
Ronnie Clark

Tiffany Clark  
Ricky Clouse  
Amanda Cowden  
Jackie Cox  
JUDY CRAWFORD  
Brandi Crisler  
Christina Damron  
Kaci Dawson  
Steven Dawson  
VANESSA DE HORTA  
Wesley Delong  
Nathan Dillong  
Lindsey Dugan  
Amanda Eakes  
Alexa Estelting  
Sarah Eaton  
Michael Edginmon  
Derek Ellis  
Dustin Ettison  
Calli Fore  
Madison Geiger  
Tiffany Geisler  
Sarah Gilly

Omar Givens  
Kelvin Gonzalez  
Dariel Gonzalez  
Emmanuel Griffin  
Lauren Grubbs  
Bray Harron  
Barry Heath  
Justin Hendrix  
Janelle Horn  
Tabatha Hubler  
Dylan Humphrey  
Lauren Hyslop  
Alexa Ingram  
Lauren Irions  
Jonathan Jack  
Steven Jackson  
Jessica Jacobs  
Jeryne Johnson  
Amanda Jones  
Kandace Jones  
Tina Jones  
Alexandra Keeler  
Robby Keys  
Lacy Kilgore  
Douglas Kilbride

Susan Kirk  
Richard Kirkpatrick  
Stevi Larson-Spear  
Zakary Laubach  
Amanda Lindsey  
Molliea Martin  
Tyson Martin  
Sarah McIntosh  
Kasidy McKinney  
Dottie McReynolds  
Hayli Miller  
Katelyn Miller  
Rebecca Millican  
Link Mock  
Sara Montgomery  
Tiffany Morales  
Heather Morrison  
Kelsey Mose  
Joseph Moundy  
Dirk Murphy  
Judge Muskat  
Michael O’Dell  
Paige Parker  
Katie Parrish  
Clay Payne

Michael Peck  
Kelina Phifer  
Kacie Phillips  
Penny Pittman  
Sarah Powers  
Cedra Ragsdale  
Candace Rose  
Ashley Spahr  
Cody Stapelbord  
Andrea Steedley  
Mary Stopp  
Lachelle Stroble  
Alexander Sugg  
Daniel Swanson  
Brittany Swinford

CONNORS CONNECTION  |  7

Tyrone Tackett  
Angie Teal  
Lacy Thompson  
Michelle Walls  
Jordan Whitekiller  
Monika Wiedel  
Bethany Williams  
Aron Wilson  
Dylan Woodruff  
Kaley Young

CONNORS CONNECTION  |  7

Sawyer Wyse

CONNORS CONNECTION  |  7

CONNORS CONNECTION  |  7

CONNORS CONNECTION  |  7
The Connors State College freshman livestock judging team was named reserve high team overall, along with numerous honors at the Dixie National Livestock Judging Contest in Jackson, Miss., on Feb. 8, 2014.

To couple reserve overall, CSC was reserve in the Continental, English, market steers, and reasons divisions.

“I’m really proud of our freshman at Dixie,” said Chase Reed, assistant livestock judging coach. “They were competing against a very talented group of sophomores and definitely were within striking distance. I’m expecting great things from them next year.”

The CSC freshman team came in second under Lakeland College’s sophomore team with a score of 4,658 out of a possible 5,000 points. Team members Preston Ogden, Wyatt Smith, and Alicia Castaneda all brought home hardware individually while several others placed top 10 as well.

Ogden, an agriculture business major of Quinton, Okla., had an impressive run at Dixie. He was not only ranked top 10 in all divisions, but also was second overall.

Ogden was third in English, third in reasons, fourth in Brahman, fifth in Continental, and ninth in market steers.

“We’ve been working really hard and it finally paid off,” said Ogden. “We did really well as a team considering we were competing against sophomores and still managed to have fun.”

Smith, an animal science major from Adair, Okla., stacked up the hardware as well. He was fourth in Continental, sixth in English, eighth in reasons, 10th in Brahman, and fifth overall.

“I’m excited to see what our team will accomplish next year,” said Smith. “Dixie was a great way to end the year and next year should only hold more promise.”

Castaneda, an agriculture education major of Las Cruces, N.M., won the English breed division, was sixth in reasons, and 11th overall.

Robyn Smalley, an agriculture education major of Nowata, Okla., represented CSC well at Dixie, ranking sixth in market steers, and 10th in the Continental breeds.

The team is proud of their accomplishments but stays humble.

The 2014 Dixie National Livestock Judging Contest was the last contest for this freshman team. Connors had a successful year, consistently ranking in the top five overall and receiving countless team and individual awards. As the freshman move toward their sophomore year, goals are set, and a drive for excellence is established.

The freshman livestock judging team is coached by Blake Nelson and Chase Reed.

Teammates include as pictured: (Front) Alicia Castaneda, Las Cruces, N.M.; Ross Taylor, Okemah, Okla.; Robyn Smalley, Nowata, Okla.; Preston Ogden, Quinton, Okla.; Wyatt Smith, Adair, Okla.; Allison Tarvin, Mount Oliver, Ky.; Cassi Allread, Union City, Okla.; (Back) Keegan Vander Molen, Pella, Iowa; Morgan Cook, Reed City, Mich.; Clayton Moubry, Russell, Kan.; Morgan Anderson, Tahlequah, Okla.; Jordan Moubry, Russell, Kan.; Zane Webster, San Simon, Ariz.; Bryce Hauenstein, Pryor, Okla.

By Alicia Castaneda
STUDENTS INTERN AT PRESTIGIOUS
NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Most college students like to spend their break by relaxing and spending time with their family, but these kids spent it taking care of ranch cattle and preparing some for the show ring. Over Christmas break, several of Connors ag students took an opportunity to intern for cattle companies at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. These students were hired by some of the more well-known companies in the industry, including Krebs Ranch of Gordon, Neb., Perks Ranch of Rockford, Ill., and Schenk Farm of Chickasha, Okla.

Spencer Miller, a freshman from Council Hill, Okla., interned for Perks Ranch and took care of their Hereford cattle. Whitney McCollum, a sophomore from Westville, Okla., and Katie Bullard, a sophomore from Wister, Okla., both interned for Krebs Ranch and worked with Shorthorn cattle.

These internships are important for students to obtain because it gives them experience in a real-world setting. Whether they were introduced to these internships by Connors or they were able to get it through family friends, the trips are very educational.

“I was very blessed to get the opportunity to work for Perks Ranch,” said Miller. “I’ve been around cattle my whole life, but I still learned a lot of good tips and tricks of the trade from people who are big in the industry.”

By Katie Bullard

SHOW TEAM WINS FWSSR HERDSMAN AWARD

During the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo in Texas, Connors State College’s purebred beef show team was voted herdsman of the year, out of all Santa Gertrudis breeders and exhibitors. The team was presented with a belt buckle during intermission between the heifer and bull show on Jan. 19, 2014.

“Winning herdsman was a great accomplishment for the team,” said coach Dale Pitchford. “The students work hard when they’re at the barn at Connors; winning this award proved that.”

Pitchford mentioned that the judges said not only were the stall areas clean, but also the students were very professional.

During the show, team members exhibited CSC Playmaker, placing first in his early senior bull calf class. CSC Playmaker is out of the well-known Santa Gertrudis bull, Hef-A-Nizer, owned and previously shown by CSC.

During the percentage Simmental show, held Jan. 31, 2014, the team exhibited the Division Champion Senior Bull – CRN Steel Force 178Y, and a Reserve Division Champion Senior Female – CRN Glory 49Y.

“I am really proud of our kids and the job that they have done with the show string,” said coach Blake Nelson. “We were very competitive at the National Simmental Show. Many Simmental breeders appreciate the work and the professionalism of our show team members. Dale and I are so proud of the way they represent Connors.”

By Hannah Allen & Samantha Gillespie
AMERICAN ELECTRIC DONATES TO CSC SCHOLARSHIP

The American Electric Power Public Service Company of Oklahoma Division recently donated $2,500 towards the Fred Williams Equine and Rodeo Endowed Scholarship. The donation was presented by Bobby Mouser, Director of Customer Service and Marketing at American Electric.

Students interested in this scholarship may fill out an application through the Connors State College Development Foundation. Applications are due March 1 and can be found on the Connors State College website, www.connorsstate.edu.

Pictured are CSC Equine Director and Head Rodeo Coach, Jake Lawson, CSC President, Dr. Tim Falty, Mouser, and CSC Equine Instructor and Assistant Rodeo Coach Jake Walker.

By Ami Maddocks

AGGIE CLUB ON PARADE DURING CORONATION

The Connors State College Melvin Self Fieldhouse gym floor was illuminated with the dresses of beauty queens and the shined up boots of cowboys for the 2014 Aggie Coronation on Jan. 23. Families from all over came to the CSC men’s basketball game to watch the Aggie Club students on parade during half time and to witness the crowning of the queen and king, Megan Skiles, of Bowie, Ariz., and her escort Bryson Williams, of Earth, Texas.

Both Skiles and Williams are sophomores at CSC and are active members on the livestock judging team and Aggie Club.

“I was really happy for Megan,” said Williams. “But for the most part, I was glad to be a part of the experience.”

By Morgan Cook
Katie Bullard, a sophomore from Wister, Okla., was selected by Connors State College administration to attend the 2014 Nigh Scholarship Academy in Oklahoma City. Conducted Feb. 7-11, 2014, the purpose of this scholarship academy was to allow each of the two and four year higher educational institutions, both public and private, to select and honor one student each year as a Nigh Scholar. Each student is nominated by the institutional president and receives a one-time $1,000 scholarship.

In 1999, former Governor George Nigh and his wife Donna, along with the state legislature, founded the academy. The academy is an intense mixture of personal development sessions on expanding personal skills and understanding of leadership. The academy provides all program and personal expenses. The scholarships are provided to the scholars at the conclusion of the five-day academy.

Each student was very specifically chosen based on their involvement and acts of leadership on their respective campuses.

“[I] wanted to choose someone who shows exceptional work ethic in their involvements here at Connors,” said President Tim Faltyn.

Though it was a difficult decision, Faltyn is very proud to have had an outstanding pool of individuals to select from.

“It was a true honor to be chosen to represent Connors at such a prestigious event. It’s a pretty big deal to be chosen out of a couple thousand students,” said Bullard. “I can’t thank the administration enough for this opportunity.”

The program is directed by Carl and Glo Reherman. Together, they have directed for 14 years under the guidance of the former governor.

This year’s academy had a spectacular lineup of events. In the first few days, scholars engaged in joint discussions of past and present American politics. George and Donna Nigh gave welcomes and a presentation about their history in office and significant accomplishments they achieved. They also attended an Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game with their scholars who were recognized during the second quarter.

The fourth day, scholars toured the 50-story Devon Energy Tower, which was completed in 2012 and is currently the tallest skyscraper in Oklahoma. Scholars learned about the company and all it offers to its employees.

“I’ve never really thought about Devon as a career choice, but after learning about the company, I’ve been inspired to maybe apply for an internship there. I never would’ve thought about it if I hadn’t attended the Nigh Academy,” said Bullard.

Lunch for the day was provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, while Chancellor Glen Johnson served as a speaker. To conclude the day, scholars received clearance from Tinker Air Force Base to tour a Boeing E-3 Sentry airplane.

On the final day, scholars reported bright and early to the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club to dine with the Oklahoma City Fortune Club. After breakfast, scholars headed to the Capitol to meet with their respective representatives and senators. For the final event, the scholars met with the Oklahoma City Rotary Club and listened to Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker. An Oklahoma City native, Welker’s foundation helps provide new sports facilities to OKC-area schools.

With 31 scholars in attendance, networking was the biggest part of the academy.

“I got to personally know a student from every college in Oklahoma. It was one of the best and most fun ways to network,” said Bullard.

The academy was designed to enable scholars to network with not only students like themselves, but also successful Oklahoma industry leaders.

Bullard is an agricultural communications major who will graduate in May. She is an active member on the beef show team. Bullard is involved in the President’s Leadership Class, Phi Theta Kappa, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Aggie Club, and has served as an Agriculture Ambassador. She recently was accepted at the University of Arkansas where she plans to continue her degree in agricultural communications.

By Katie Bullard
Connors State College supporters Bobby and Vicki Mouser have donated more than $10,500 to the CSC equeine program since 2011. Recently they once again donated a saddle to be auctioned off at the CSC Alumni & Friends Equeine & Rodeo Spring Gathering on March 29.

“The Mousers have been great supporters of our equeine and rodeo programs for several years now,” said Equeine Director and Head Rodeo Coach, Jake Lawson. “They are such wonderful people and we are very grateful to call them friends.”

The saddle the Mousers donated in 2011 brought $2,150 at the Spring Gathering’s silent auction. In 2012 another donated saddle by the Mousers earned $3,100. In addition to the yearly saddle donation, they have donated several horses that were auctioned at the event or later sold. This year the equeine and rodeo programs will auction a bay filly donated by the Mousers.

“It’s important for us to give back to our local programs,” said Bobby Mouser. “If it weren’t for the programs here at Connors State College we would have to go out of state. Connors operates a great program and they have helped me out more times than I can count.”

In addition to supporting CSC through donations, the Mousers have taken a hands-on approach to student learning.

“Bob and Vicki Mouser are great supporters of our program, who have entrusted our program and students to start numerous colts under saddle that are of proven and popular performance horse bloodlines,” said Jake Walker, CSC equeine instructor and assistant rodeo coach. “In addition, they genuinely are concerned about our student’s education and equeine experiences.”

The Connors State College Alumni & Friends Equeine & Rodeo Spring Gathering will be held on March 29 at the Warner campus with a barbecue dinner and entertainment by Nashville musician, Connors alumnus Paul Bogart. For more information contact the CSC Equeine and Rodeo office at (918) 463-6303. By Ami Maddocks
BAXTER STEWART:
A LOOK BEHIND THE FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR

For students, a visit to Gatlin Hall typically includes a trip to financial aid, and for many, a visit with Baxter Stewart, Connors State College Director of Financial Aid.

Stewart has been at CSC for the past three years and was recently promoted to director. He began his journey at CSC with a position as a financial counselor.

Stewart grew up in Fairview, Okla., a small town northwest of Oklahoma City. He lived in the country and graduated with 70 in his class.

To say Stewart fell in love and felt at home on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s campus is true, but to say it was his dream school was not.

His dream was to attend the University of Oklahoma – everything about being a Sooners excited him. After acceptance and touring campus, however, he realized OU just was not for him.

“Southwestern felt like home,” said Stewart. “I felt like I mattered. I still have the same friends from back then. In fact, the friends you make in college last a lot longer than in high school.”

Stewart graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 2010 and 2011 with degrees in accounting and communications.

After graduating, Stewart wanted to be closer to his then fiancé Shayla and conveniently, CSC offered him a position.

Shayla was living in Tahlequah, Okla., and one afternoon, he knew that the time was right to ask for her hand in marriage. Stewart drove to ask for her parents’ permission.

He then met her halfway in Warner, Okla., with no real intentions of asking her that night. As they drove around the small town and past the college, he pulled over and finally asked his fiancé for her hand in marriage.

Happily married, the couple lives in Tahlequah, Okla. When asked about his thoughts on the commute, Stewart responded with words true to his faith.

“Like my job and I like the drive,” says Stewart. “It gives me time to think before I get here, when I go home, and it gives me time to pray.”

Stewart is a man strong in his faith; he leads a ministry group at Northeastern State University called Chi Alpha.

At CSC, graduating with a degree may not be possible for students without the help of Stewart. Although Stewart may have many other responsibilities within his job, he says helping students is his number one goal.

Past the North Face jacket and khakis, Stewart is a man strong in his faith, married to the love of his life, who has a strong passion for the students at CSC.

By Alicia Castaneda

CULVER KEYNOTES BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

Muskoergee’s fifth annual black history program, titled “Sharing our Legacy,” was presented Feb. 15, 2014, in the Grant Foreman Room of Muskogee Public Library. It provided a myriad of information, entertainment and historical relevancy.

Approximately 40 people attended the program, which featured musical performances by Edward Warren and Muriel Saunders, presentations by Shlomibutterfly and Oscar Ray, and a keynote presentation by Freeman Culver, a history instructor at Connors State College.

Culver said his presentation was intended to share the legacy African-Americans have brought to the country.

“Obviously, I can’t address the whole of African-American history,” Culver said. “But I can tell you why it’s important to study black history. I also gave a timeline of key highlights in history that have affected us as Americans.”

Culver also addressed the youth of America, saying that some of them have a false confidence, currently known as “swag.”

“Confidence, to me, is knowing that your people have contributed to society just as much as anyone else,” he said. “This is part of your history. Of black history. Of American history.”

By Travis Sloat
FRESHMAN STANDOUT PLAYS BIG IN THE PAINT

You have all probably heard about the success the Connors State College men’s basketball team is having this year. So, here is a little insider information about one of the key components of the Cowboy team.

His name is DeVonte’ Robinson. He is from Dallas, Texas, and he is having a sensational freshman year for the Cowboys. Although Connors has several very talented freshmen, No. 20 is the starting big man at 6’10” tall.

At the end of the first semester of the season, Robinson was third in the country in field goal percentage at 67 percent. Also, as of more recently, he had 24 points and 10 rebounds in a win against Eastern Oklahoma State College.

It is definitely going to be exciting to see what happens the rest of this standout’s first year of play; as well as what the future could bring to Connors next year. ✨ By Joe Moudy

HOMECOMING ROYALTY CROWNED

On Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, during halftime of a rivalry game against Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, heels, sparkles, and Sunday’s best filled the floor of Melvin Self Fieldhouse. Homecoming was the event, and as the seven couples graced the gym floor that night, bull rider Ryan Mileham and livestock judge Megan Skiles were crowned homecoming royalty.

Other king nominees included Aaron Buckner, Austin Beck, Bryson Williams, Dillon Burns, Jake Green, Isaac Blankenship. Queen candidates included Cheyenne Johnson, Jalyn Willis, Kali Romine, Katie Rogers, Robin Blank and Taylor Goff. ✨ By Alicia Castaneda

SHOTGUN TEAM PLACES IN TEXAS

The CSC Shotgun Shooting Sports Team kicked off the spring semester with a trip to College Station for the Texas A&M Trap & Skeet Invitational.

The Connors squad, including Seth Willard, Korbin Reich, Joey Parisotto, Isaac Blankenship, and Dalton Self, finished seventh overall, surpassing shooters from the Virginia Military Institute, Sam Houston State University, and Mississippi State University. CSC shooters performed particularly well in sporting clays, finishing fourth in the discipline amid stiff competition.

Seth Willard distinguished himself throughout the competition, posting consistent high scores in American trap, skeet and five-stand, and tying for sixth place in sporting clays. Korbin Reich also shot well throughout the competition, as did newcomer Joey Parisotto, who posted competitive scores in his first collegiate competition.

The team will head back to Texas for two more competitions this semester for the regional and national championships hosted at the National Shooting Sports Complex in San Antonio. ✨ By Robert Holtfreter
SOPHOMORE RECEIVES JELTZ SCHOLARSHIP

Connors State College sophomore Tierra Blue was awarded the Wyatt E. and Mattie M. Jeltz Scholarship. The award was presented by Foundation Chairman, Dr. James Mosley. Mosley visited with Blue about the history and meaning behind the scholarship.

“Jeltz wanted to make a difference,” said Mosley. “Mr. and Mrs. Jeltz were black Oklahomans who devoted their lives to education, employment opportunities and community service. They were interested in assisting young people, particularly Black-Americans, to acquire an education and a better life.”

The Jeltz Scholarship was established by an endowment and is incorporated by the State of Oklahoma. The Foundation provides scholarships to assist students in paying college related expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, loan repayment and more. Scholarships are awarded annually in February and October. Application deadlines are December 20 and August 15. Applications can be picked up in the Connors State College Financial Aid office. By Arni Maddocks

CALENDAR
MARCH
1 Application Deadline: Foundation Scholarships
1-2 Rodeo Team @ Garden City Community College, KS
2-9 Show Team and Judging Team @ Houston
3-8 Basketball Region 2 Tournament Shawnee, OK
6 Library: Okla. Private Investigations - Let’s Talk About It
7-9 Rodeo Team @ Ft. Scott CC
12 Intramural Pool Tournament
13 Rodeo Team Tryout Day
15-23 Spring Break
17-22 Basketball NJCAA National Tournament
Salina, KS
18 Baseball v. Bacone
25 Rave Dance Party
25-30 Shooting Sport @ ACU Contest
San Antonio, TX
26 Intramural Volleyball Tournament
27 Library: Okla. Private Investigations - Let’s Talk About It
29 Equine & Rodeo Spring Gathering

APRIL
1 Application Deadline: LPN-RN Nursing Program
2 Traditional Easter Egg Hunt @ West
3 Aggie Day FFA Interscholastics
3-5 Rodeo Team @ OSU
9 Intramural Flag Football Tournament
West Library Brunch & Learn: Career & Financial Planning Discussion
10 Connors Got Talent Auditions
Spring Bull Test Sale
10-12 Rodeo Team @ SWOSU
15-19 Horticulture Plant Sale
16 Extreme Easter Egg Hunt
Peep Eating Contest
West Campus - Muskogee Area Service Organization Fair
17 Library: Okla. Private Investigations - Let’s Talk About It
18-20 Rodeo Team @ Ft. Hayes
22 Earth Day @ Fort
Application Deadline: Ag Ambassador, Fall Semester
23 Intramural Mud Volleyball
24 Connors Got Talent
24-26 Rodeo Team @ Panhandle State
26 Alumni & Friends Reunion

MAY
2 Black Sunset Concert
9 Commencement Nursing Pinning Ceremony
10 Leaders in Ag Barbecue
Duwayne Briley, President and CEO of Ironhorse Financial Group, Inc., the parent company of Armstrong Bank of Muskogee and Republic Bank & Trust of Norman is a 1968 graduate of Connors State College.

Before entering the banking world he taught Vocational Agriculture at Bixby Public Schools. He then entered the banking world and soared through the ranks becoming President of Armstrong Bank in 1986 and later CEO.

In 2006 he took the helm of the holding company, Ironhorse Financial Group, Inc. as President and CEO. In November, 2013 he celebrated 34 years in the Armstrong Bank Family.

Briley is active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and also serves on the Executive Board of the Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts of America and is on the board of directors of Armstrong Bank, Republic Bank & Trust of Norman, Ironhorse Financial Group, Inc. and the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce.

He was elected to the Connors State College Hall of Fame in 2004, and the Connors State College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.