

# CONNORS

# STATE COLLEGE

NOVEMBER

APRIL  
2013

## LEADING THE NATION

*Oklahoma's New Century Scholar*



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# Meet the Regent:

Compassionate, opinionated, and persevering are all words that can describe OSU A&M Regent Lou Watkins. Growing up in the small town of Cushing, Oklahoma, and being raised by a minister, Regent Watkins learned a lot as a child about what it means to be a leader.

She discovered her passion for political science while in high school, when an American History teacher taught parliamentary procedure. In college, her passion was reinforced by a Political Science professor who was very encouraging and wanted every student to fully understand what they were learning and to have an opinion about it. Regent Watkins used this professor's model of teaching in her own career.

"I originally didn't think that I would like teaching, but after getting my first job, I discovered that I actually enjoyed it," said Watkins, who taught for many years at the high school and college level.

She most enjoyed teaching Political Science classes at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma.

Aspiring to leave a positive mark on her students, Regent Watkins helped raise money to take her classes to Washington D.C. and New York in order for the students to gain a better understanding of the political world. She also was very involved in collegiate student organizations.

Watkins believes in giving back to the world in many different ways, and attributes a former instructor's quote as her life motto:

"When you walk away from the wood pile, it needs to be higher than it was when you found it."

Watkins is a member of a Stillwater, Oklahoma, women's group, for which she hosts a luncheon in her home every year to raise money for CareerTech and scholarships.

Regent Watkins supports students who are willing to go to college and leaves this advice for students at Connors State College: "It sounds a little generic, but don't give up. Learning is a lifelong thing... you never stop learning."

"Don't be afraid to ask for help," Watkins continued. "Most successful people didn't reach their goals alone – someone had to help them along the way."

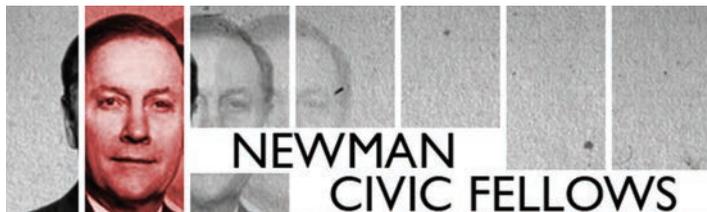
Regent Lou Watkins resides in Stillwater with her husband, former congressman Wes Watkins. They have three children and four grandchildren. She is very family-oriented and enjoys attending her grandkids' activities, which include football, livestock showing and music recitals.

*✦ By Katie Bullard*



*Lou Watkins*

## LaBeef Receives Newman Civic Fellows Award



Connors State College Business Administration major Dylan LaBeef was one of eleven students from across the state to be honored with the 2013 Newman Civic Fellows Award by Campus Compact.

The eleven students from Oklahoma join a group of more than 180 students from 36 states to be part of this program. Students are nominated by their college or university president as inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

The Newman Civic Fellows Award is named for Dr. Frank Newman, one of the founders of Campus Compact, who dedicated his life to creating opportunities for student civic learning and engagement. This award allows college and

university presidents to recognize students with the ability and motivation to create lasting change in our communities.

Dr. Tim Faltyn, Connors State College president, nominated LaBeef for his dedication to the Muskogee Teen Center.

The college submitted the following about LaBeef's efforts: Dylan LaBeef, a Business Administration student at Connors State College, volunteers many hours to the Muskogee Teen Center, while also continuing to balance school, work and family time. He dedicates many afternoons to opening the center so local teens have somewhere to hang out and play basketball. The access to the facility is important to Dylan because he recalls coming to it as a teen and playing basketball with his friends. The game of basketball is not all he teaches, he also provides encouragement and lessons about life to the teens. His initiative to be involved and to become a leader for his community shows the dedication and passion it takes to be successful. Regardless of what career he decides to pursue, his experiences with the Muskogee Teen Center will provide lessons that will last a lifetime.

For more information, visit [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org). *✦*



## Rodeo/Equine Spring Gathering Entertains

On March 30, 2013, the Connors State College equine and rodeo programs held the annual Spring Gathering at the Melvin Self Fieldhouse.

An event that has seen growth each year, this year's barbecue dinner, silent auction and three-prize raffle entertained approximately 300 guests. Those in attendance ranged from current CSC students and staff, alumni, horse owners, prospective students, and other community stakeholders.

"One exciting trend that we have seen from previous years is growing attendance from Connors faculty, staff and students," said Jake Walker, assistant rodeo coach. "We are excited that everyone came out in a major way to support our students and reunite with alumni."

Prior to the event, students sold \$25 raffle tickets, which qualified ticket holders for a chance to win a 40-foot Priefert utility round pen kit worth \$1,600, a Priefert horse stock worth \$1,000, or a 20X black gold hat.

The raffle prizes were claimed by J. Clay Burtrum, Stillwater, Oklahoma [round pen]; Ira Jackson, Warner, Oklahoma [horse stock]; and Holly Gilbreth, Ozark, Arkansas [hat].

The top raffle ticket salesmen were awarded for their efforts: CJae Lenhart took home honors for top salesman, earning a \$250 gift certificate from Mock Brother Saddlery; while Michael Edgmon was reserve – \$100 certificate.

The Division of Agriculture and the Connors Development Foundation announced a new endowed scholarship in honor of longtime faculty member Fred Williams – one of the equine program's pioneers.

A live auction saw several attendees in a bidding war to purchase a 2-year-old horse trained by the Connors equine program; and 20 bales of alfalfa hay.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the evening, however, was the musical performance of Paul Bogart, Nashville recording artist and CSC rodeo alum. To the enjoyment of those on the dance floor, Bogart and his band took the stage at 6:30 p.m. and then gave an extended performance later, when the "business end" of the evening was complete. Also joining him at the microphone and on guitar were the musically inclined rodeo coaches Jake Lawson and Jake Walker, as well as a few current rodeo students. 🤠

## Cowboys Host "World's Best Fieldtrip"

A warm spring day is the perfect occasion for a baseball game, especially one at Biff Thompson Field to watch the Top 10 ranked Connors State Cowboys. For the 135 Hilldale Elementary students it was known as the "World's Best Fieldtrip" and involved tours of campus, free giveaways and a nine inning game against Murray State.

This field trip followed a visit earlier in the week to the elementary by head coach Perry Keith and Cowboys Corey Keith, Daniel Concepcion, Caleb Banks, Christian Perez and Dalton Daniels. Coach Keith and the players spoke to the students about the importance of college, doing your

homework and studying for tests.

Before the game kicked off, the students were greeted by college president Dr. Tim Faltyn and then had the opportunity to charge the field and stand at their favorite position during the national anthem. Representing Hilldale Elementary, fifth grade student, Brooke Sides threw out the first pitch for the Cowboys.

"This is definitely an exciting trip for our students," said fifth grade teacher Danielle Hambrick. "We thought it was important and beneficial to expose our students to college even at this age and get them thinking about their future." 🤠



# A Tradition of Excellence

The phrase “A Tradition of Excellence” can hold a variety of meanings and represent a different standard for various groups of people. For the Connors State College livestock judging program, it means continually developing and producing successful, influential members of the agriculture industry. For decades, the program has produced an impressive number of industry-changing individuals, and the tradition continues.

Every year numerous high school seniors make the decision to continue their education and be a part of the CSC livestock judging team. Their time at Connors will mold them into knowledgeable members of the agriculture community, and will give them a lifetime of opportunities to showcase their passion for the livestock industry.

At the beginning of each school year, judging team members enter into the program with approximately 20 other young agriculturists from various production backgrounds. Students not only form lifelong friendships with their teammates, but also they learn about different aspects of agriculture and broaden their personal horizons. During the two years that students spend at Connors, they have the unique experience of traveling to over 10 different states and meeting countless, well-established cattle, swine, sheep and goat producers, as well as people in the corporate segment of agriculture. Every practice and judging trip is an opportunity to make connections with these influential individuals and see their operations.

Dr. Ryan Rathmann, an assistant professor and the livestock judging coach at Texas Tech University, was a member of the 1998-2000 CSC livestock judging team, and says his time at Connors helped pave the way for his successful career in agriculture.

“When I came to Connors I was eight hours from home and didn’t know anyone,” said Rathmann. “I quickly became close with my teammates and they are now some of my closest friends.

“I also met so many interesting and influential people in the industry, so now I know people everywhere,” Rathmann continued. “The people that I formed relationships with, while at Connors were a huge stepping stone towards where I am today and everything I have accomplished.”

At Connors, livestock judging team members develop and enhance livestock knowledge and leadership skills that are not only beneficial when competing at the collegiate level, but hold an even greater value when out in the real world.

Brandon Gunn, an animal science professor and livestock judging coach at CSC, attended Connors from 2001-2003, and knows firsthand the positive and powerful impact that the CSC livestock judging program has on people.

“It always amazes me how when I introduce myself and say that I’m a CSC alum, people always comment on the history and prestige of our program,” said Gunn. “I have also noticed that as kids on teams that I have coached apply for internships and jobs, they are put on the top of the list. Agriculturists working in the industry know that our values and teachings at Connors go beyond winning judging contests, we practice and prepare for our students to make an impact in the industry.”

When students make the decision to be a part of the CSC livestock judging program, they are not only building livestock skills that will bring accomplishments to the school, but they are joining a proven program that has, is and will continue to uphold “A Tradition of Excellence”.

 By Cassie Godwin

# Excellence



1948



1993-1994



2012-2013

# LEADING THE NATION

## *Anderson Named Oklahoma's New Century Scholar*



Each year the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC) recognizes outstanding students during the All-Oklahoma/USA Community College Academic Team program.

“Thirty-eight Oklahoma two-year college students make up the All-Oklahoma Academic Team for 2013,” said OACC Executive Director Gary Davidson.

At this year’s awards luncheon, March 8 in Oklahoma City, two Connors State College students were recognized. Linda McLaughlin and Stephanie Anderson, both PTK members and honor students, earned “All-USA Academic Team” status.

To be eligible, students must be nominated by their college president, must be eligible to graduate during the 2012-2013 academic year and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. During the luncheon, medallions and certificates were presented to all team members.

“I was proud to nominate these two much deserving students,” said CSC president Dr. Tim Faltyn. “It is nice to be able to award students with honors like these when they work so hard.”

Anderson not only was recognized as a member of the “All-USA Academic Team,” but also she was the highest scoring nominee, which earned her the title of the New Century Scholar for Oklahoma.

“We are certainly proud of Stephanie being named as the New Century Scholar for our state,” said Dr. Faltyn.

Anderson will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and will be featured in AACC’s Community College Times and Community College Journal. One of 50 students in the nation to receive this honor, Anderson will represent Oklahoma at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention in San Francisco, California, April 20-23.

“We are proud of Stephanie’s academic accomplishments and work at Connors State College,” said Davidson. “We believe she is an outstanding representative for our state.”

Oklahoma began taking part in this program in 1994 and is one of 35 participating states. This program is a collaboration between USA, Follett Higher Education Group, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, AACC, and Phi Theta Kappa. 🦋



## Livestock Judges Qualify for All-American Team

For students participating in livestock judging at the junior college level, their year is filled with multiple practices every week in preparation for six national contests that are held throughout the country. Hundreds of students from approximately 30 different institutions work hard and compete at these contests, but only a select group of individuals are named to the prestigious All-American Team. This year the Connors State College (CSC) livestock judging team had three members named to the 2012-2013 All-American Team. Representing CSC, Garrett Foote of Texico, New Mexico, ranked first, with Clay Carlson of Stoneham, Colorado, coming in second and Ian Schaefer of Garden City, Texas, placing eighth out of 15.

The All-American Team is an elite group of individuals that have proven their skills and dedication, not only in livestock judging, but also academically. Students are ranked according to their GPA and then a certain amount of points, which are earned from competing well at four national contests, are added to your score. The people who are ranked in the top 15 are named to the All-American Team at the last contest of the year, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR).

With keeping such a rigorous judging schedule, it requires a great amount of diligence, work ethic and commitment to maintain a high GPA, but the All-American members are examples of what it means to have balance in your life and work hard for your goals.

Foote had a year to remember, never placing out of the top 10 overall, and is very proud of his accomplishments.

“When I started my junior college judging career, I set a goal for myself to be named an All-American,” said Foote. “With



so many talented people competing, I’m proud that I reached that goal, and being named first was an even greater honor.”

*By Cassie Godwin*

*National Merit*

ROBIN O’QUINN

CONNORS SUCCESS CENTER

Named a Certified Learning Center Professional – Level 1, by the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA) Certification Committee

LYNSEY MEHARG

Ranch House Designs Scholar

COACH PERRY KEITH

BASEBALL TEAM

Top 10, National Polls

RYAN BLANTON

CONNORS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

“Achievers Under 40”, one of 39 recognized by *The Journal Record*

WHITNEY ANDRAS

National Hereford Queen

## Shooting Sports Club Competes at Nationals



The Connors State College Shotgun Shooting Sports Club traveled to the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas, to compete in the 2013 ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships, March 25–31, where they finished in the top 20 in American Trap, beating out Harvard University and Hiwassee College.

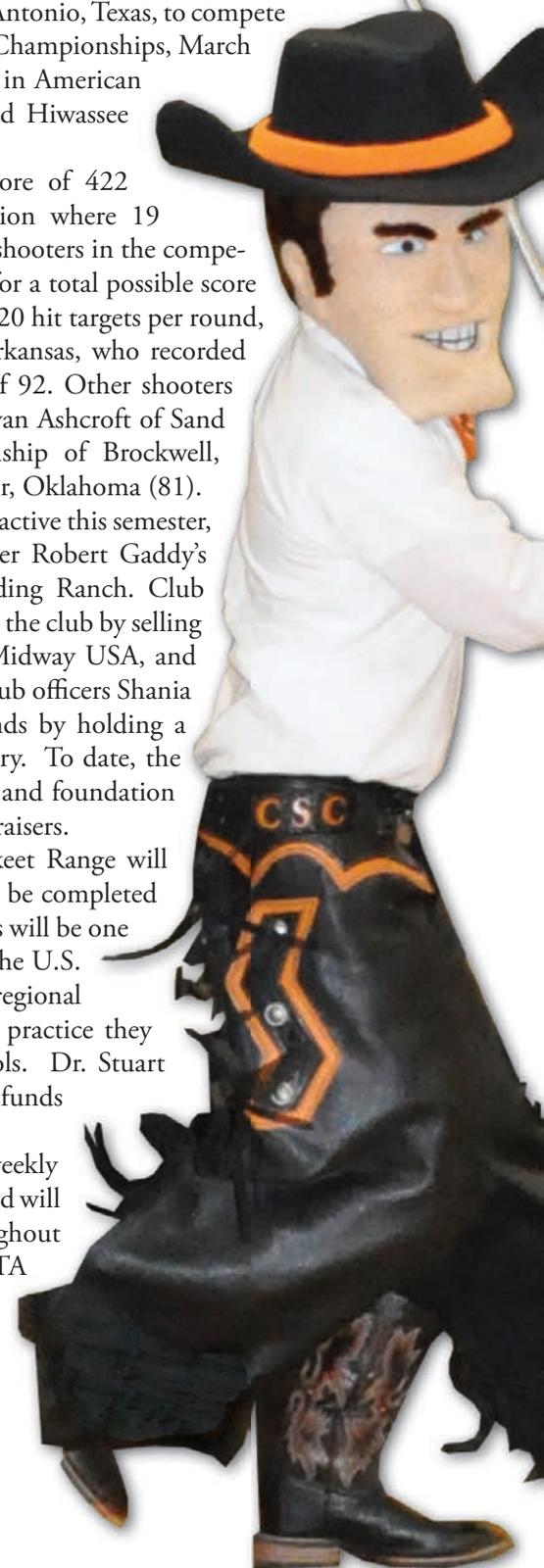
The team finished with an overall score of 422 in American Trap amid fierce competition where 19 shooters posted perfect scores. Individual shooters in the competition shot four rounds of 25 clay targets for a total possible score of 100. Four CSC shooters averaged over 20 hit targets per round, including Hunter Dauck of Maynard, Arkansas, who recorded one perfect round and an overall score of 92. Other shooters that distinguished themselves included Ryan Ashcroft of Sand Springs, Oklahoma (90), Isaac Blankenship of Brockwell, Arkansas (88), and Dalton Self of Wagoner, Oklahoma (81).

The Shooting Sports Club has been very active this semester, holding shoots on a weekly basis at either Robert Gaddy's 5-stand in Muskogee, or at CSC's Harding Ranch. Club members have raised more than \$7,000 for the club by selling raffle tickets for an iPad II, donated by Midway USA, and by hauling scrap metal from the ranch. Club officers Shania Phillips and Robin Blank also raised funds by holding a bake sale at the Student Union in February. To date, the club has raised \$34,700 for their expense and foundation accounts through various grants and fundraisers.

Construction of the CSC Trap and Skeet Range will commence at the end of April and should be completed by the end of May. At that point, Connors will be one of only three collegiate shooting clubs in the U.S. with its own range, allowing CSC to host regional competitions and providing students the practice they need to be competitive with larger schools. Dr. Stuart Woods has raised the majority of the funds necessary for completion of the range.

The Shooting Sports Club will hold weekly shoots for the remainder of the semester, and will travel to five competitions next fall throughout the Midwest, in addition to local ATA/OTA shoots.

The CSC Shotgun Shooting Sports Club is coached by Rob Holtfreter and Dr. Stuart Woods. 



# LEADING THE NATION



## Hitch Hiker Selected International Grand Champion Bull

The Connors State College cattle show team exhibited 12 bulls and heifers at the Houston Livestock Show, February 24-March 3. The week was capped off with CSC Hitch Hiker 127 claiming the Grand Champion International Santa Gertrudis Bull.

“Hitch,” exhibited by show team coach Dale Pitchford, beat out more than 40 bulls to claim the elite title.

The wins continued for CSC, as the senior herd sire’s [*Hef-A-Nizer*] progeny claimed Champion Get-of-Sire, and one of his offspring [*Remington*] earned Bull Calf Champion honors.

Additional placings included *CSC Kelly 255*, second place, and *CSC Whitney 242*, fourth, out of 30 heifers in class. *CSC Playmaker 286*

came in second in his class of ten bulls.

Connors also made its mark in the Simmental show, exhibiting the Champion Yearling Bull, *Moonshiner Y91*.

“The Houston Livestock Show is one of the largest and most renowned livestock shows in the country,” said Pitchford. “The impact that our college made is priceless. We are not only on the map in the U.S., but made great strides in the international market, as well. Our show team gained valuable experience and maintained professionalism throughout the entire week. I am so proud to be a part of such a great institution.”

Show team members who traveled to Houston and prepped the cattle were Cecile Harris, Hannah Allen, Whitney McCullom, Kylie Duggan, Lindsey Duggan, Issac Blankenship and Hunter Bradley. 🐾

## Cowboys Hoop to National Tourney

Connors State’s 2012-13 basketball season was one of excitement and heartbreak for the Cowboys and Cowgirls.

The Cowboys under head coach Bill Muse posted a 24-9 season record and reached the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, for the seventh time under Muse. The Cowboys lost in the closing seconds of the opening round to Motlow (Tennessee) State 70-66.

The Cowboys placed second in the Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference and played for the Region II championship, losing to Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa in the title game.

It wasn’t an easy road for the Cowboys to the Region II Tournament in Shawnee.

Tragedy struck the Cowboys squad when Anthony Hartfield, a member of the team, was murdered while visiting his father in Oklahoma City in January.

The Cowboys and Cowgirls carried heavy hearts throughout the season, but both dedicated the season to the freshman from OKC and played to the best of the ability for their fallen teammate and friend.

Josh Cameron was a Region II and Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference first team selection. Teammates Hakeem Harris and Denell Henderson were second team All-Region II and OCAC selections.

The Cowgirls overcame numerous injuries during the season to finish with a 16-14 record. Connors advanced to the first round of the NJCAA Region II Tournament in Shawnee, losing to Arkansas Baptist.

Cowgirls’ Tonisha Dean was a second team All-Region and Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference selection. 🐾



## Connors Rocks Muskogee Azalea Festival

The Muskogee Azalea Festival, annually April 1-30, is considered one of America's finest spring events, drawing visitors from around the world. With blooms located at Honor Heights Park and associated events taking place throughout the city, there is plenty of time to get involved in the fun.

Connors State cheerleaders and nursing students took part in the 47th Annual Azalea Festival parade in downtown Muskogee on Saturday, April 13. The CSC float, one of 57 parade entries, had a "Guns and Roses" theme.

Television and movie actor Clu Gulager, who grew up in Muskogee, was the parade's grand marshal.

An event that has an annual attendance of approximately 20,000, Connors also was represented in the festival's 29th Annual Chili Cook-off competition by Albert Tucker, CSC Information Technology Desktop Administrator.

Tucker's first year in the competition pitted him against 80 other competitors, in a five category cook-off. Although he did not place, those who sampled his chili enjoyed it.

Another aspect of the festival included hand-painted banners, portraying the nostalgia of the event, hung on light poles around the city. Sisters Shelly Schoonover, CSC Nursing Instructor, and Sheila Anderson, Instructor, took part in this activity. Schoonover's banner portrayed a guitar with a rose, symbolic of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame – also located in Muskogee – with the words "Real Okie", the city's new slogan. This new moniker replaces Merle Haggard's 1969 release "Okie from Muskogee".

Anderson's inspiration, meanwhile, came from the trees and ponds at Honor Heights Park, where the two fed ducks and fished as children. 🦆





# BLACK SUNSET

## CONNORS STATE CONCERT SERIES

Kinsey Sadler, JB and the Moonshine Band and Bart Crow are the three official entertainers announced to play the Connors State College second annual Black Sunset Concert Series on Thursday, May 9. Free to attend, the event is held south of the Biff Thompson baseball field, with the gates opening at 5:30 p.m. Along with great music, there will also be a variety of food vendors.

The first artist to perform is Kinsey Sadler, who hails from Tulsa. Sadler performs a number of original and cover songs, and is the first female red-dirt singer to

perform in Tulsa's Red Dirt Saloon.

The second act of the day will be JB and the Moonshine Band, which got its start in Tyler, Texas, in 2009. The band is on the rise with a song titled "The Only Drug" currently playing on CMT's Hot 20 Countdown.

Bart Crow, the final act, founded in Austin, Texas, in 2006. The band's album Heartworn Tragedy had two No. 1 hits titled "Saying Goodbye" and "Run with the Devil". Their new single, "Dandelion," is currently catching radio play. ✨ *By Jake Neighbors*



## CSC Alum, OSU Dean Visits Leadership Connors

On March 29, Dr. Kayse Shrum, Dean for the College of Osteopathic Medicine and a Professor of Pediatrics at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS), visited with Leadership Connors, discussing her experience as a Connors State College alumna as well as her leadership philosophy. Dr. Shrum graduated

from CSC before studying at Northeastern State University, the University of Arkansas and OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, becoming a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Connors science classes definitely prepared me for my studies as a doctor, it is actually where I received my only B as a college student," commented Shrum. "I loved it here and I had the opportunity to play softball while going to school here – it just felt like home."

Dr. Shrum became Provost in 2011, taking on a long list of responsibilities, including: serving as Chief Academic Officer of OSU-CHS; developing and implementing current, innovative medical school curriculum; maintaining positive, productive relationships with various constituencies and state and local government as directed by the president; admitting new students, and conferring degrees and certificates. Prior to her current position, Dr. Shrum had an impressive

résumé, serving as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chairman for the Department of Pediatrics, Associate Professor, Assistant Residency Program Director, Co-Course Coordinator for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and a Pediatrician at the Muskogee Children's Clinic.

"I became a doctor because I wanted to help people, and I discovered that by becoming a professor at OSU, I can extend my reach further in that goal," commented Shrum.

Leadership Connors gained tremendous insight into Dr. Shrum's life and her path to where she is today. The class had the opportunity to ask questions about her leadership style and philosophy. Dr. Shrum shared her favorite and least favorite things about her job, the legacy she'd like to leave, and what a typical work day is like. Based on her accomplishments alone, the entire class was honored to meet with Dr. Shrum. After the meeting, her professional and personal ability to advance proved to be inspirational. ✨





# A LIVESTOCK JUDGING FIELD DAY AT KIAMICHILINK RANCH



It is a rarity for students to have the opportunity to explore a 15,000 acre ranch with the most up-to-date equipment, labs and an elite Angus herd. However, members of the Connors State College livestock judging team and agriculture students are now at an advantage thanks to KiamichiLink Ranch owners, OSU A&M Regent Tucker Link and wife Vickie, and KLR staff.

“The opportunity that Regent Link and the KLR Staff afford our students is one that almost no other college or university students get to experience,” said CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn. “Tucker Link’s cattle operation and generosity with his time and ranch is world-class. We are blessed to be a part of this event.”

The family invited this specific group of students from CSC and their counterparts from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) to participate in a day of competitions and tours. Students were exposed to high-tech labs used for embryo transfer, cloning and in-vitro fertilization. Ranch manager Josh Walker explained the process of impregnating cattle through these scientific procedures. Students also watched an ultrasound of a bovine fetus at 45 days.

“This field trip is another opportunity to enrich the educational experience for our students,” said Blake Nelson, CSC Director of Farm Operations and show team coach. “A lot of students studying agriculture will never have the opportunity to see this type of a ranch operation, so this means a lot to our program at Connors. We know it takes a lot of preparation to host this event and we are thankful for the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Link and the entire KLR staff.”

This is the second year that KLR has hosted these two programs for the day, with hopes

of continuing it for years to come.

The traveling trophy for the livestock judging competition will stay in Connors’ possession for the second consecutive year, as head coach Brandon Gunn had eight members of his team place in the top ten. The high individual also was from CSC, awarded to sophomore All-American Clay Carlson.

“It is always an honor to go to KiamichiLink Ranch,” said Carlson. “It gives us an opportunity to visit with experts in the Angus industry and learn what is new in ranching and breeding practices.”

As far as the competition goes, we work all year and this is a great way to end the year,” Carlson continued. “Our hard work paid off and it all came together at KLR.”

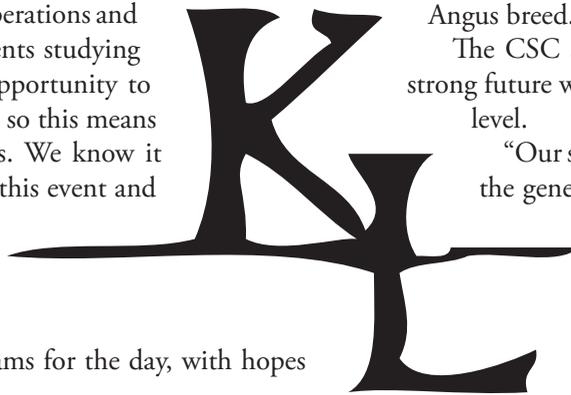
“Our team has looked forward to this field trip and competition since last spring,” said Gunn. “This is not only about the competition, but also the learning experience that KLR offers.”

This field trip is not the only connection CSC has with KLR. In the beef show team’s inaugural season, KLR has proven to be a vital supporter by allowing the college to show some cattle from their elite Angus herd.

“Mr. Link and his staff have assembled some of the top donor cows in the Angus breed,” said Nelson. “Offspring from these cows will be the most sought after genetics in the Angus breed.”

The CSC show team has shown much promise for a strong future with numerous wins at the state and national level.

“Our success would not have been possible without the generosity of Regent Link,” added Nelson. “His group of cattle is some the best in the industry and allowing our students to show them has been extremely beneficial for the launch of our team.”







## A Family Affair: Golden Girls Take CSC Honors

American FFA Degree, bestowed in 2012.

Under her instruction, more than 100 high school students obtained State FFA Degrees, over 20 obtained American FFA Degrees, and more than 50 received state proficiency and agriscience awards. She also coached four state-winning, national-competing floriculture/nursery landscape teams.

During her tenure at CSC, Golden started the Agriculture Ambassador Program; restarted the Horticulture program; and was promoted to the chair of the Division of Agriculture.

Under her direction, the Division has significantly grown its annual Aggie Day; initiated a separate Junior Aggie Day and Cattle Grading Field Day; added 11 options to the agriculture degree; and has grown to seven full time instructors, one adjunct and an assistant coach.

Golden met her husband of 27 years while at OSU. Bill is the ag instructor at Morris High School. They have two daughters: Katelyn, a junior at the University of Oklahoma, and Kendall, who will graduate from CSC and transfer to OSU in the fall.

Following her mother's lead, Kendall has excelled during her tenure at CSC. An outstanding student, she recently was selected by faculty as 2013 Ms. Connors.

Kendall maintained a 3.99 GPA, earning the Vice-President's List distinction and Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. A Horticulture major, Kendall is an Agriculture Ambassador, in President's Leadership Class, Phi Theta Kappa, and Aggie Club. In 2012, she earned FFA National Gold honors in the Specialty Crop Production proficiency area. A graduate of Morris High School, Kendall was her FFA chapter president, attended Washington Leadership Conference and earned numerous accolades, including: State FFA Degree, State Winning and National Gold Floriculture Judging Team and Individual, Chapter Star Farmer, Agribusinessman and Greenhand.  By Katie Bullard

**N**amed Connors State College's 2013 Faculty of the Year, it can be said that Debby Golden, who taught 17 years of high school agricultural education and 11 years at CSC, has made an impact throughout her career.

A graduate of Beggs High School, she was one of two girls to join the ag program in 1976. Her instructor Larry Harvey, a Connors alum, encouraged her to enter the ag field.

Golden attended Oklahoma State University, earning a B.S. in Agriculture Education in 1984 and a M.S. in Agriculture Education in 1985. Recognized for various reasons throughout her academic career, Golden was named both the Outstanding Graduate and Outstanding Graduate Student for the department in successive years.

While she was in college, Joe Raunika, CareerTech's northeast district program specialist, advised Golden to pursue an emphasis in horticulture so she would be marketable in a predominantly male field.

"He was very wise; and his advice has served me my entire career," said Golden. "I enrolled in several horticulture classes to broaden my knowledge and experience. Later, I was hired as the first female ag ed instructor in Mr. Raunika's district."

Over the years, Golden has garnered numerous accolades, including the Oklahoma Agriscience Teacher of the Year, the Oklahoma Honorary State FFA Degree, and the Honorary

## Muskogee Area Educational Consortium

Connors State College's Warner Campus was the host site for the Muskogee Area Educational Consortium, April 5. Representatives from Warner, Muskogee, Fort Gibson and Hilldale High Schools were in attendance, as well as from Indian Capital Technology Center, Northeastern State University, CSC and Oklahoma School for the Blind. The consortium brings education representatives from all sectors of Muskogee County to build strong partnerships in an effort to provide more benefits to students. Dr. Tim Faltyn, CSC president, opened the meeting with discussion on upcoming projects in both Warner and Muskogee, and the valuable tools used on campus to gain support or funding for special projects. Meeting attendees also obtained legislative updates from Representative Jerry McPeak, discussing upcoming bills that could affect education. School administrators also voiced their



opinions on proposed bill details and each one's impact on local schools and colleges.

This cooperative effort of school administrators has not gone unnoticed. This consortium was recently awarded the "Collaboration Award" during the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Alliance Summit. 

# Jeltz Memorial Foundation Scholarship Awarded



Connors State College students Michaela Perkins and Tierra Blue were awarded the Wyatt F. and Mattie M. Jeltz Scholarship, by foundation chairman, Dr. James Mosley. Dr. Mosley visited with Perkins and Blue about the history and meaning behind the scholarship.

“Jeltz wanted to make a difference,” said Dr. 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, in acquiring an education and a better life. The student application criteria set forth by the Jeltz Foundation includes: a 2.8 GPA; sophomore or higher standing; and a display of good personal character.

“We call faculty members to ask about applicants before awarding the scholarship,” commented Mosley. “The communication with them gives us a feel that the applicant is displaying good character in the academic setting.”

Perkins and Blue will receive \$900 per year as long as they remain in good standing with requested requirements.

Michaela Perkins, a Checotah resident, is a sophomore studying criminal justice. Perkins was surprised that she had received the award, “I’ve applied for so many scholarships and finally received one, I am very honored.”

Tierra Blue a sophomore nursing student resides in Warner and is excited about being a recipient of the Jeltz Memorial Scholarship, “I am happy to have it, every little bit helps. It is my first scholarship ever!” 🌟

# Connors Hosted Successful Aggie Day Competitions

For the past 66 years, Connors State College has hosted Aggie Day, welcoming hundreds of students to campus for a fun, educational experience. On April 4, more than 1,400 FFA and 4-H members filled the Warner campus to attend the 2013 competitions. With 157 schools from across Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas, it is safe to say that the event was a success.

Students travel to compete in a variety of skills contests, including: floriculture, nursery and landscape, farm survey, poultry, rangeland judging, crops, livestock judging, land judging, electricity, farm business management, entomology, meats judging and dairy evaluation. This event gives students the opportunity to develop and perfect skills before competing in state contests.

Aggie Day is not only a productive learning experience for FFA and 4-H members, but also a recruiting opportunity for CSC. The day allows faculty, staff and students the opportunity to interact with potential recruits, while high schoolers get to spend the entire day on campus and see first-hand the great things Connors has to offer.

Debby Golden, Director of the CSC Division of Agriculture, was extremely pleased with the day’s events.

“Aggie Day is the largest campus event that we host, and is our greatest recruiting tool,” said Golden. “So many of our students are past participants of Aggie Day, and that is how they became familiar with our school’s amazing students and faculty.”

With the influx of middle and high school students to campus, it takes countless volunteers to administer each of the contests, as well as run the hospitality room for attending FFA Advisers and 4-H Extension Educators.

🌟 By Cassie Godwin





# Alumni Feature

## HARRY JACKSON

Elected his senior class president, Harry Jackson graduated in 1949 from Crooked Oak High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball.

In the fall of 1949, Jackson enrolled at Connors State College. Jackson was a starter on the football team, at right tackle, and played center for the Cowboy basketball team.

After graduating from Connors, Jackson played football at Central State; and graduated in 1953 with a B.S. in education and a minor in English.

From 1953-1956 Jackson coached football and basketball at Ringling High School. In 1956, he added baseball to his repertoire, in a move to coach at Checotah High School. While there, Jackson led the 1957-58 Wildcats to an undefeated football season.

Fall 1959, Jackson was selected to coach football and baseball at Connors State College, which he did until 1965. Jackson led the baseball team to the 1963 National Tournament in Grand Junction, Colorado.

In 1968, Jackson was appointed Dean of Students at Connors. During this time, he also served as athletic director and registrar. In 1978, Jackson was appointed Academic Dean and served in that position until he retired in 1988. That decade saw Connors begin offering classes in Muskogee, of which Jackson was instrumental in accomplishing. He often met with regents and political leaders in Muskogee.

Jackson served under three different presidents while at Connors, beginning with Jacob Johnson.

A fast-pitch softball pitcher, Jackson pitched for some of the top teams in the nation, and was selected MVP at numerous national tournaments. Jackson and many coaches from Connors and NE Oklahoma played on a team which was recognized as one of the best in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Involved in many civic activities in Warner and the Muskogee area, Jackson established and was the first president of the Warner Quarterback Club. He served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce twice and was often sought to take leadership roles for activities in the community.

Jackson continued to support Connors after his retirement, serving three times as the Alumni Association president.

Jackson met his wife Colleen while attending Connors. Seven other members of Jackson's family attended or graduated from CSC. ✌



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