KEITH EARNs 1,400TH WIN
Mike Lewis, VP of Finance
Huggins Visits Leadership Muskogee

Regent’s Business Partnership Award

Recognizing Employee Excellence

Honors Night

Muskogee Chili Cookoff & Azalea Festival

Keith Earns Win #1,400

Reasnor & Drew Lead Cowgirls

Rodeo Season In Full Swing

Aggie Day a Success

PTK Induction Ceremony

Bull Sale Breaks Record

Financial Aid’s March Money Madness

Spring Gathering Entertains

Atwood Named All-American

Service Fair Promotes Volunteerism

CSC Presents at HLC Conference

Harold Cagle

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Connors State College is pleased to announce that Mike Lewis, of Lawrence, Kan., has accepted the position of Vice President of Fiscal Services. Lewis has served as the Chief Financial Officer at Haskell University for the past ten years and is excited to return to Oklahoma.

“I grew up in Midwest City, Okla.,” said Lewis, “However; I have roots in eastern Oklahoma as well. My father grew up in Stillwell, Okla., where we visited quite frequently.”

During his time at Haskell, Lewis helped the college overcome many obstacles including gaining their first grants indirect rate, infused technology improvements such as online payments, and provided innovative solutions to many revenue stream challenges.

“I look forward to utilizing that experience at Connors,” Lewis said. “Connors has a great tradition and is well postured for the future. Dr. Faltyn has a terrific vision for the school which I will enjoy supporting.”

Connors State College has experienced tremendous growth in the past two years and Lewis’ arrival is well timed to oversee the college’s many construction projects.

“We are very excited to welcome Mr. Lewis to the Connors family,” said President Tim Faltyn. “I believe his talents and abilities will help us continue our growth and our mission to better serve the students and community.”

Lewis and his wife, Julie, have been married for 29 years and have three children, Jason, 28, Jessica, 27, and Jonathan, 22. When not working he enjoys fishing, reading and building things around the house.

“I am excited about being part of the next phase of growth at Connors,” Lewis said. “Connors’ leadership in health field careers, Connors’ reputation in sports excellence, and their commitment to individual student success will be a great match.”

By Ami Maddocks

Huggins Visits with Connors’ Leadership

Ms. Teresa Huggins, Chief Executive Officer of the Health and Wellness Centers, as well as a Connors State College almonna, spoke with the Leadership Connors class on March 28, 2014.

Huggins, who earned her bachelor’s in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University and a master’s in Business Administration from Northeastern State University, spoke to the class about the challenges and opportunities of leading a clinical healthcare organization spanning five counties and six locations.

Huggins shared her passion for service, and the dedication and determination it takes to be a leader in healthcare, as well as any other venture, in eastern Oklahoma.
On March 11, 2014, Connors State College and the town of Warner were honored for their economic partnership receiving the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Business Partnership Excellence Award. The award, given annually, highlights successful partnerships between Oklahoma institutions of higher education and the business community. Since its founding in 1908, the town of Warner and its residents have been steadfast supporters of CSC and its mission of higher education. On the Warner campus, the town of Warner partnered with CSC to provide $60,000 in signage, infrastructure and road improvements to beautify the college and community. The town of Warner provided an additional $80,000 for a new entrance road to alleviate congestion and increase the safety of students and the community traveling to the campus. Most importantly, the town of Warner has worked to provide more than $1 million for vital infrastructure improvements that ensures CSC provides exceptional facilities and educational opportunities to students and the community for many years to come.

By Ami Maddocks
Connors State College recently hosted an Employee Recognition luncheon in which employees were honored for their length of service to the college as well as for outstanding accomplishments.

“It’s important for us to celebrate our people,” said Connors State College President, Dr. Tim Faltyn. “They work hard each and every day to make Connors a better place for our students.”

The luncheon, sponsored by Sodexo, was emceed by Debi Corrado, Director of Assessment and Student Learning, and by Julie Dinger, Division Chair for the sociology department.

“This year we developed criteria for awards, both individual and departmental,” said Connors’ HR Director, Nate Walker. “A committee of employees and the leadership at Connors did a great job of evaluating the nominations and choosing the winners.”

The Connors Distinguished Recognition award was developed to recognize outstanding programs and departments. This year’s awardees are the Office of Admissions, the Division of Communications and Fine Arts and the Connors Institutional Research department.

The Connors Impact Awards were developed to award individuals who have exemplified outstanding service to the college and/or the community, and who have demonstrated commitment to Connors’ mission, vision and core values. This year’s awardees are LuAnn Cox, Executive Assistant for Academic Affairs, for Classified Employee of the Year, Colleen Noble, Retention Specialist, for Professional Employee of the Year, and Robin O’Quinn, Division Chair for Developmental Education and Communications, for Teacher of the Year.

“Each of these awardees is so deserving,” said Faltyn. “They work so hard and do an amazing job. I’m very proud to be a part of their team.”

By Ami Maddocks
Connors State College honored several students at the 2014 Honors Night. Students were recognized for their outstanding ability in and out of the classroom setting.

**THIS YEAR’S HONOREES INCLUDE:**

Adair Fox, Connors State Academic Team  
Alicia Castaneda, Excellence in Creative Services  
Alex Keener, President’s Leadership Class  
Allison Tarvin, Excellence in Creative Services  
Amy Garman, General Zoology, Human Physiology  
Amanda Long, Outstanding Composition  
Amber Madewell, English Comp  
Ashley Boykins, Fundamentals of Computer Usage, Desktop Publishing  
Austin Ribbe, Macroeconomics  
Autumn Ingram, Excellence Clinical Performance  
Bailey Pugh, President’s Leadership Class  
Benny Earl Hulsey, Outstanding Veteran  
Blake Miller, President’s Leadership Class  
Brandi Hale, Accounting, Computer Science  
Brandy Duarte, English Comp  
Bryce Hauenstein, Agriculture Economics, Agriculture Ambassador  
Caitlyn Mocha, World Literature  
Callie Shannon, Microcomputers in Agriculture, General Humanities  
Cary Hayes, College Algebra  
Cassidy Allread, Agriculture Economics  
Cassie Holsey, Evolution and Diversity, Human Anatomy  
Christie Jay, Outstanding Student Athletic Trainer  
Colin Marsh, Physics, Calculus 2  
Dakota Macom, Agriculture Ambassador  
Derek Ellis, Anatomy/Physiology, Microbiology, Outstanding Composition  
Derek White, Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II  
Devyn Redford, General Biology  
Elizabeth Holtfreter, Business Law  
Elizabeth McCarter, Art Appreciation  
Emily Kell, Agriculture Economics, Agriculture Leadership  
Erica Vinzetta, College Algebra  
Erin Reynolds, World Literature  
Esther Salters, Fundamentals of Computer Usage, Composition  
Faith Daniels, Introduction to Horticulture  
Greg Broussard, Biology  
Hannah Allen, Excellence in Creative Services  
Hayli Miller, Connors State Academic Team, President’s Leadership Class  
Heather Johnson, Outstanding Comp I Student  
Hilary Dennis, Music Appreciation  
Hunter Dauck, Plant Science  
Isaac Blankenship, Connors State Academic Team, Mr. Connors  
Jacob Green, President’s Leadership Class  
Jaime Hare, Trigonometry  
Jayden Huhler, Fundamentals of Computer Usage, Spreadsheet Analysis  
Jalyn Willis, President’s Leadership Class  
Jennifer Swift, Nursing Theory  
Jessica Mann, College Algebra, English Comp II
“Our students work hard and are very deserving of this honor,” said Connors State College President, Dr. Tim Faltyn. “Our faculty and staff work closely with our students and are able to guide them to success.”

Jeremiah Leavell, World Literature
Jeremy Barnes, Trigonometry
Jeremy Coltharp, Outstanding Comp I Student
Johnathon Moore, Microeconomics
Jonathan Jack, Nursing, Outstanding Careplan Performance
Jolee Hothouse, Outstanding Comp I student, English Comp II
Juan Rodriguez, Human Anatomy
Kaitlyn Kelley, Microcomputers in Agriculture, President’s Leadership Class
Kallene Brewer, Fundamentals of Computer Usage
Katie Bullard, President’s Leadership Class, Excellence in Creative Services
Kayley Lewis, Opportunity Seeking
Keegan Vander Molen, Agriculture Economics
Keenie Engelbrecht, College Algebra
Kyle Box, Connors State Academic Team
Lauren Irons, Outstanding Academic Performance
Lisa Jack, Nursing, Outstanding Clinical Performance
Madison Peeples, English Comp II
Mallory Smith, President’s Leadership Class
Matthew Kirby, World Literature
Melinda Busch, Nursing, Outstanding Academic Performance
Michael Edgmon, Agriculture Economics
Michael Wilt, Fundamentals of Computer Usage
Morgan Anderson, Excellence in Creative Services
Morgan Cook, CSC Foundation Newsletter, Excellence in Creative Services
Morgan Olimstead, College Algebra
Nella Worthan, President’s Leadership Class, English Comp II, Student Activities
Peyton Reed, Superior Sociology Student of the Year
Rachel Alvord, College Algebra
Rebekah Parnell, Nursing, Outstanding Careplan Performance
Robyn Smalley, President’s Leadership Class
Ronna Bell, President’s Leadership Class
Ryan Echelle, President’s Leadership Class
Sean Friend, President’s Leadership Class, Excellence in Creative Services
Shawna Carrier, Outstanding Business Graduate, Miss Connors
Shelby Strain, President’s Leadership Class
Shelly Clay, Opportunity Seeking
Stevie Larue-Spear, Evolution and Diversity
Steven Ertle, College Algebra
Tabatha Hubler, General Botany, General Zoology
Tabatha Lane, College Algebra
Tareva McCall, Psychology, General Humanities 2223 (renaissance to present day)
Taylor Sparks, Agriculture Engineering
Tonya McNeeley, World Literature
Traye Gann, Soil Science, Agriculture Ambassador
Tyler Scott, Connors State Academic Team
Whitney Andras, Excellence in Creative Services
Zane Webster, Agriculture Ambassador

Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges

Hannah Allen
Katie Anderson
Stephanie Anderson
Natalie Andrews
Willie Atwood
Isaac Blankenship
Ada Bogle
Kristopher Brown
Katie Bullard
Chance Bunch
Brance Burge
Brooke Burkart
Shelby Carlton
Macey Carman
Shawna Carrier
Clint Crane
Hunter Dauck
Jason Dougan
Michael Edgmon
Tyler Fourkiler
Adair Fox
Tiffany Geisler
Taylor Goff
Miesha Gordon
Brandi Hale
Stephanie Hanson
Anna Hardin
Bria Hatton
Justing Hendrix
Janelle Horn
Dylan Humphrey
Lauren Hyslop
Jessica Jacobs
Cheyenne Johnson
Jeffrey Johnson
Kandyce Jones
Lacy Kilgore
Matthew Kirby
Zakary Laubach
Sara Landaverde
Jeremiah Leavell
Tareva McCall
Hayli Miller
Caitlyn Mocha
Samantha Monholland
Kolton Moore
Chetan Munsell
Jennifer Oldham
Samantha Perry
Penni Pittman
Stephanie Rouse
Tyler Scott
Staci Simeroth
Hunter Simpson
Mallory Smith
Eileen Thomas
Erin Toney
Shelby Townsend
Laura Wade
Kayla Townsend
Bethany Williams
Jalyn Willis
Bailey Pugh
Ludventz Yoyo
On Saturday, April 12, 2014, Muskogee hosted its annual Azalea Festival Parade and Chili Cook-Off downtown, at Broadway St. and Okmulgee Ave. The parade began at 11 a.m. while the cook-off ran from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Connors State College was in the number 14 position in the parade of more than 54 entries. The float, pulled by a green John Deere tractor, was orange and ridden by several current CSC students, faculty and staff.

Connors had a booth at the Chili Cook-Off, where team members served brisket and ribs made by Albert Tucker, CSC Desktop Administrator. Shawna Carrier, Miss Connors 2014, helped serve patrons. The ribs were said to have been the best and patrons kept coming back for seconds.

Colleen Noble, a CSC adviser who has been helping with the booth for the last five years, said, “Connors’ barbecue -- it’s the best! Woo woo!”

Jennifer Brewer, Jody Butler, Glen Chairs, Brandy Crissler, Freeman Culver, LeAnn Garland, Dr. Gary Grady, Amanda Gray, Sharon Hendrix, Rebecca Hill, Logan Knapper, Ami Maddocks, Spencer Nero, Lori Palmer, Kim Phillips, Lynett Rock and Whitney Tucker were also on hand to help serve.

Nero, a Connors recruiter, who has been helping with the cook-off for the last three years, was really excited about the event.

“I do a lot of recruiting and meet a lot of different people,” said Nero. “It’s not until large events like this that you realize how many you know.”

The Connors booth has increased in size every year.

“We went to Dr. Faltyn to ask if we could expand, and each year we grow one space and more people show up to help,” said Nero.

Bill Evans, the event’s longstanding emcee, said, “I really like watching the crowd and entertainment, and eating the food, of course.”

All proceeds from the cook-off go to local charities, such as the Muskogee Exchange Club’s Shoe and Coat Fund.

“It’s a really great cause,” said Evans.

This year, Muskogee Mayor Bob Coburn helped announce the cook-off winners, who all received trophies and plaques.

Tiffany Miller, a patron at the event, said, “The weather was beautiful, the food was good. I had a lot of fun and so did my kids.”

The cook-off had plenty of things for kids to do, such as camel and pony rides, a classic rock band featuring teenagers from Rising Stars Productions, and inflatables for children to play on.

By Railey Eastwood
Connors State Cowgirls softball squad with an unbeaten 12-0 record can attribute its early season success to its power at the plate.

The Cowgirls are the nation’s No. 1 slugging team with a .718 percentage. That’s due in part to the hitting of freshman Kristen Reasnor from Quinton, Okla., who is batting .676, fifth in the nation and sophomore Chelsie Drew from Vian, Okla., who is hitting .528 to rank 24th in the NJCAA.

“Rick (Carbone) and his club have worked very hard this year and once again he has proven to be an excellent coach in recruiting excellent talent,” said Connors State Athletic Director Bill Muse. “I look forward to what they will bring to this season.”

By Ami Maddocks

Connors Coach Perry Keith Wins 1,400th Game

Connors State College’s Perry Keith won his 1,400th game as head coach of the Cowboys baseball team, when top-ranked CSC took a 4-3 victory over Carl Albert State College.

Keith, who is in his 29th year at the helm of the Connors State baseball program, is now 1,400-402 following the win.

Concerning the 1,400th victory Keith said, “It’s like any other, it’s good to get. We have just been blessed with good players. Year in and year out the guys have been able to do good things for our program.”

One of the most consistent coaches in NJCAA baseball history, Keith currently ranks first in wins among active NJCAA baseball coaches and is believed to be the youngest collegiate baseball coach to reach 1,000 wins when he accomplished the feat at the age of 42.

Keith has guided the Cowboys to 14 Bi-State East Conference championships, seven Region II titles, five NJCAA South Central District crowns and five appearances at the Division I JUCO World Series, their most recent being a 5th place finish in 2013. The Cowboys have also finished second in Region II eleven times under Keith and have been ranked in the top 10 of the NJCAA Division I Baseball Poll every season since he took over the program in 1985.

For his efforts he has been awarded Bi-State Conference Coach of the Year 14 times, Region II Coach of the Year seven times, and South Central District Coach of the Year on five occasions.

In May of 2008 Keith was awarded the ultimate honor - being inducted into the NJCAA Baseball Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Colo.

Keith has coached 33 NJCAA All-Americans, 29 NJCAA Academic All-Americans and his program boasts a graduation rate of 95 percent.

Keith has also had eleven former players make it to the Major Leagues. More than 95 players have been drafted in the Major League draft since Keith took over in 1985.

Keith, a Pryor native, played at Connors State in 1980-81 and moved on to Missouri State where he was a member of the Bears 1982 College World Series team. Keith graduated from Missouri State with a bachelor’s degree in Business Marketing and received his master’s degree from Northeastern State University.

Perry and his wife Sheri live in Warner and have two children.

By Ami Maddocks

REASONOR AND DREW LEAD Diamond Cowgirls

Connors State Cowgirls softball squad with an unbeaten 12-0 record can attribute its early season success to its power at the plate.

The Cowgirls are the nation’s No. 1 slugging team with a .718 percentage. That’s due in part to the hitting of freshman Kristen Reasnor from Quinton, Okla., who is batting .676, fifth in the nation and sophomore Chelsie Drew from Vian, Okla., who is hitting .528 to rank 24th in the NJCAA.

“Rick (Carbone) and his club have worked very hard to reach our status on the national stage,” said Cowgirls Head Coach Rick Carbone. “Kristen and Chelsie put in the extra work every day to make themselves better players and to help our team continue its success this season.”

Reasnor has 23 base hits in 34 times at the plate, which includes 6 doubles, 2 walks, 15 RBIs while scoring 11 runs. She has an on-base percentage of .703 and a slugging percentage of .853.

Drew has collected 19 base hits in 36 plate appearances with 6 doubles, 3 home runs and has 1 stolen base. She has a .575 on base percentage and a .944 slugging percentage.

“Rick (Carbone) and his club have worked very hard this year and once again he has proven to be an excellent coach in recruiting excellent talent,” said Connors State Athletic Director Bill Muse. “I look forward to what they will bring to this season.”

By Ami Maddocks
The collegiate rodeo season is underway and Connors State College rodeo team members have spent many hours on the road, hoping to bring home their next title and some hardware. During the months of February, March and April, the team will have competed in a total of seven collegiate rodeos.

February 21-23, the CSC Rodeo Team competed at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Baylor Butler, of Checotah, Okla., placed 2nd in the short round and 4th in the average of the steer wrestling. Cheyenne Johnson, of Warner, Okla., placed 4th in the long go in the breakaway roping. Michael Edgmon, of Walters, Okla., and Ronna Bell, of Panama, Okla., made the short round in steer wrestling and barrel racing, respectively. In addition, Lyndsay Wood and Randa Depew, CSC alumni and current students at OSU, also placed in the breakaway roping.

“Making the short go was definitely rewarding for me. My horse gave me his all and I couldn’t have asked for a better run. I’m excited to keep practicing so that we can be more competitive at our upcoming rodeos,” said Bell.

The next weekend, February 28-March 2, the team competed in Garden City, Kan. A heavy snow storm hit the area and the team battled through the snow and extreme cold to compete. It paid off for Dylan Humphrey, of Gore, Okla. He finished 3rd in the long go, 4th in the short, and 4th in the average of the steer wrestling.

Team members returned safely to Warner after an extended stay in Kansas. The team competed March 7-9 in Fort Scott, Kan. Edgmon finished 3rd in the long go, 4th in the short go, and 4th overall in the steer wrestling. Kasey Wagnon, of Beggs, Okla., made the short round and finished 7th overall in the barrel racing. Joel Reimer, of Claremore, Okla., made the short round in the saddle bronc riding, and Dakota Macom, of Stigler, Okla., made the short round in the bull riding.

“With it being my first year to compete in collegiate rodeos, I’ve dedicated myself to the sport and I have the faith and confidence to reach the goals I’ve set for myself thus far,” said Edgmon after being asked how he was feeling about this season. “I’m happy to say that I’m currently sitting 8th in the region and I’m striving to keep moving forward in the next four rodeos so that I can make it to the College National Finals.”

April 3-5, the team did work in Durant, Okla. William Whayne came out 10th in the long round with an 11.7 second run in the tie down roping. Megan Pohlman took 9th in the long round with a 3.5 second run in the breakaway roping. In the team roping, Levi Price and Joel Reimer made an 8.7 second run to place 6th in the long go.

Weatherford, Okla., hosted the next rodeo in the series. April 10-12, 29 CSC rodeo team members competed. Dylan Humphrey took 7th in the short round and 7th in the average of the steer wrestling. Kole Bowman placed 2nd in the long round with a 72 point ride in the bull riding, and ended the evening 2nd overall.

“We’re very proud of our team and how they’ve competed, thus far,” said Co-Rodeo Coach, Jake Lawson. “I’d like to see our students make it to the finals and I’m confident that a few of them will.”

The 2014 Spring Rodeo Team currently has 42 members, but that could change within the next year. Connors State College rodeo tryouts were held March 12, 2014. Twenty-six prospects strutted their stuff in their respective competitions in hopes to make the 2014-2015 CSC Rodeo Team.

Rodeo coaches Jake Walker and Jake Lawson will look at an additional 15-20 prospects before school starts next fall. They will also review videos sent in by students who live out of state.

“There are always new prospects we hear about here and there that we will make contact with. We want to express interest in anyone who we think will excel on our team,” said Lawson.

“Though every student may not make the team, we have a good pool of prospects already to choose from. Our upcoming year looks promising,” added Walker.

There will be many spots on the team opened up by graduating sophomores and waiting to be claimed by incoming freshmen.

By Katie Bullard
The Connors State College Division of Agriculture hosted its annual Aggie Day Interscholastic Competition on Friday, April 4. There were 1,533 high school students present, as well as numerous advisors, drivers, and guests. More than 100 different schools from across Oklahoma and Arkansas were represented during Aggie Day.

A new attendance record was set for the annual Aggie Day. This new record happened after the previous record-breaking number of students in 2013.

“More than 100 different schools and counties across Oklahoma participated in Aggie Day,” said Debby Golden, Chair of the Division of Agriculture. “A few also traveled from Arkansas and Missouri.”

Previously, Aggie Day has been honored to host students from as far away as Florida and Texas. The growing event continues to be the largest draw to the Connors’ Warner campus.

By Hannah Allen

The 2013-2014 Phi Theta Kappa officers are: President Tiffany Geisler, Vice-President Katie Bullard, Public Relations Officer Sara Landaverde, and Treasurer Laura Wade.

The 2013-2014 Phi Theta Kappa officers are: President Tiffany Geisler, Vice-President Katie Bullard, Public Relations Officer Sara Landaverde, and Treasurer Laura Wade.

Phi Theta Kappa will be traveling to Orlando, Fl., April 24-26, for the National Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society Convention. Three members and two advisers will make the trip.

“We are excited to go and learn about things that chapters across the nation have been doing so that we can bring the information back and apply new ideas to our own chapter,” said Noble.

By Katie Bullard

Friends, family, faculty, and administration gathered in the library auditorium April 9, to support and honor the spring Phi Theta Kappa inductees. The Mu Chi chapter of Connors State College inducted 52 new members to the elite organization. Chapter Advisers Colleen Noble and Kimberly Phillips were proud to announce that the chapter has grown to more than 150 members.

“We’re very proud of our members in this organization,” said Noble. “We as advisers watch them grow and accomplish great things while they are with us. That is very rewarding as an educator.”

PTK is an exclusive group. Members must be enrolled in a regionally accredited institution offering an associate’s degree program, must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate’s degree, and must generally have a 3.5 GPA. Members must receive an invitation to join from the chapter at the college where presently enrolled and agree to adhere to the moral standards of the society.

“It’s an honor for me to be a qualified member of this organization,” said Danielle Shelton, a CSC student majoring in Business Administration. “As a newly inducted Phi Theta Kappa member, I am patiently awaiting the opportunities to open up to me, not only financially, but also in leadership.”

The Spring Phi Theta Kappa inductees are: Emily Bilbrey, Cheryl Blackdeer, Erika Blanchet, Kyle Box, Ashley Boykins, Brooke Burkart, Michael Byers, CJ Cole, Jeremy Coltharp, Jennifer Coppins, Erica Coward, Kaci Dawson, Ryan Echelle, Derek Ellis, Vanessa Finney, Corey Ford, Samantha Gillespie, Shawna Glass, Amanda Handley, Leslie Harris, Mary Hicks, Tracie Hines, Karen Holder-Todd, Mayra Sandoval, Tyler Scott, Danielle Shelton, Destiny Shelton, Amanda Sherbourne, Taylor Sparks, Stevi Spear-Larue, Shelby Strain, Eileen Thomas, Michelle Walls, Carly Woods and Nella Worthan.
The 80 degree weather made Thursday, April 9, a perfect day at the Connors State College farm. The annual Bull Test Sale was held at one o’clock that afternoon and people were crowding the stands to get the best seat in the house.

Eighty-four bulls, averaging $3,137, paraded through the sale ring to make this year’s sale the highest grossing in the history of the event.

“The combination of a strong cattle market, breeders bringing their best, and the hard work and dedication of the farm crew set the stage for this record setting event,” said Blake Nelson, Director of Farm Operations.

Bulls that are sold at Connors are weighed and semen checked several times throughout their 90-day stay. There were 126 bulls brought to CSC by a multitude of breeders from all over Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, and Kansas to be put on test. The top 84 bulls were selected, ranked by gain and breeding soundness, and sold.

This was the second sale in CSC history to use a live internet bidding system. Conducted by Cattle in Motion, bidders can watch and bid from the comfort of their own home.

“The internet bidders were very active and a great compliment to the live buyers in attendance. Fourteen of the 84 bulls were sold via internet,” said Nelson.

Students in the agriculture division at CSC prepare the bulls for sale from the minute they step off the trailer. From weighing, scraping, torching, and semen checking, students are there every step of the way. On sale day, they prepare meals, write invoices, mingle with buyers and sellers, and load out the bulls.

“Getting to help with the bull sale has been fun for me. The customers are great people to visit with,” said Lindsey Dugan, a sophomore. “It’s an honor to be a part of a tradition that is over 50 years old.”

*Article & Layout by Katie Bullard  
Photos by Whitney Andras*
The Connors State College Financial Aid Office spent the month of March reaching out to students. During March Money Madness, more than 200 students participated in three interactive financial literacy presentations on the West and Warner campuses.

Jennifer Hazelwood, a freshman at Connors stated, “I attended both of the events in Muskogee and found the information very helpful and entertaining. I guess I never really tracked where I was spending my money before. Since Melissa (one of the presenters) gave her presentation, I find myself asking, ‘Do I really need this?’ every time I go to the store.”

Cash and prizes were given away at each event to make them more exciting. The topics covered included budgeting, student loan repayment, and credit reporting. Default Prevention Specialist Greg Jones also hosted a daily “Know What You Owe” booth that rotated among all three campuses all month.

“So many students feel all alone when it comes to financial difficulties,” said Baxter Stewart, Financial Aid Director. “We want to empower our students to not only be able to manage their money while they are in school but also be in the best position possible as they graduate and move forward.”

Students were able to view their student loan debt at the booth and be counseled on repayment options. In addition, student loan assessments were emailed to all CSC students with loans. The assessments detailed lender contact information, amounts borrowed, the interest accrued so far, and estimated future payment amounts.

On March 29, the Connors State College equine and rodeo programs held the annual spring gathering at the Melvin Self Fieldhouse.

This event has seen growth each year, and this year’s barbeque, 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.

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 Joe Fisher, Springdale, Ark. [round pen]; Daniel Edmonds, Morris, Okla. [hat], and Ryan Dirteater, Hulbert, Okla. [horse stock].

The top raffle ticket salesmen were awarded for their efforts; Michael Edgemon, sophomore from Walters, Okla., took home top honors, earning a $250 gift certificate from Mock Brother Saddlery; while Lacy Kilgore, sophomore from Morris, Okla., was reserve and earned a $150 certificate.

A live auction saw several attendees in a bidding war to purchase a 2-year-old horse trained by the CSC equine program; which went for $2,400. More than 100 items were auctioned off that evening.

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.

The meal of the evening was sponsored by Nutrena Cargill with food provided by Warner Super Foods. The meat was smoked by Jerry Stretch, a long time CSC supporter.

By Alicia Castaneda
Connors State College’s 6’8” sophomore, forward Willie Atwood, from Memphis, Tenn., has been named third team National Junior College Athletic Association All-American, announced by the NJCAA committee in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Atwood, who was the Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference and Region II Player of the Year, averaged 20.8 points last season in leading the Cowboys to a 23-7 season record. He was also named to the Region II All-Tournament team.

Atwood is Cowboy head coach Bill Muse’s 14th junior college All-American during his 22-year coaching stint at Connors.

“This is a very deserving honor for Willie,” said Muse, following the announcement. “He has improved each year he has been here and played an instrumental part in our success the past two seasons (which included a trip to the NJCAA National Tournament last season). I know Willie will have a very successful career at the next level at whichever school he will be attending.”

Atwood’s skills are can also be seen off the court.

“He will also be great in the class room,” said Muse. “Willie is an excellent student.”

During Atwood’s two seasons at Connors State he scored 953 points to average 15.6 points per game over two seasons. During his sophomore season he scored a career high 41 points against Independence Community College and had 11 double-doubles during the season.

Atwood shot 57.6 percent from the floor connecting on 175-of-304 attempts, which included 27.3 percent from behind the arc. At the free throw line he drained 270-of-349 attempts for 77.4 percent at the stripe, while pulling down 271 rebounds for a 9.0 per game average.

The sophomore also averaged 2.1 assists per game, while making 20 steals and 8 block shots last year.

By Ami Maddocks

Lisa Wade with the Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship and Eastern Oklahoma Healthcare Coalition describes the services and opportunities offered through her organization.

Connors State College hosted a free service fair at the Muskogee West campus in an effort to increase volunteerism and awareness of the many services offered to those in need. Nineteen community organizations attended the event to talk to students and the public about volunteer opportunities.

“When I was a student I was in a situation where I needed a lot of assistance,” said Becky Rayborn, library technician and event coordinator. “Many of these service organizations were a big part of my life at that time. I wondered how many others had been in the same situation and maybe didn’t know where they could find help.”

Participating vendors included the American Red Cross, Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center, CSC Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship, Eastern Oklahoma Healthcare Coalition, CSC Student Support Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Human Services Child Support Services, Golden Rule, Green Country Mental Health Services, Muskogee Head Start, Indian Capital Vo-tech, Infant Supply Closet, Kibois, McCoys, Muskogee County Transit, Pregnancy Resource Center, River Cross Hospice, Volunteers of America Oklahoma, Women in Safe Home, Inc., and Workforce Oklahoma.

“Many of the organizations that came today are funded mainly through donations. Those groups need volunteers so that the money they do receive can be used to assist those in need,” said Rayborn. “Volunteering also helps the ones who volunteer as it can teach them discipline and how to appreciate what they have. And in some cases volunteering could bring out a passion in a person for a particular area of service or maybe even a career.”

The event was well attended and attendees left with a wide variety of information.

“I was amazed at how excited all these service organizations were about this fair,” said Rayborn. “They came ready to serve. They wanted to help in any way they could. All of them have a passion for helping people become successes in life. There was a fantastic feeling of caring in the room.”

By Ami Maddocks
CSC PRESENTS AT HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On April 12, Robin O’Quinn, Connors State College’s Division Chair for Communication, Fine Arts, Development Education and Connors Success Centers, and Julie Dinger, CSC Division Chair for Social Sciences, presented a session entitled “A Comprehensive Attack on Retention and Traditional Developmental Education” at the Higher Learning Commission’s Annual Conference in Chicago. Their presentation highlighted the great successes CSC has had in improving student outcomes in developmental courses through the Student Success Centers at all three campuses, enhanced tutoring programs, and redesigned developmental education programs.

The next day, CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn, Dinger and Dr. Ryan Blanton, Director of the CSC Development Foundation, presented their session, “Leadership Gardening: Cultivating Leadership and Communication through Employee Development Programs.” Their presentation focused on the Leadership Connors program as an example of growing leadership from within. They highlighted the unique challenges that rural colleges have in recruiting leadership, and the success CSC has had in growing its own leadership through this professional development program.

“I am very proud of our college,” said President Faltyn. “Getting an opportunity to present at a major conference is a privilege for a college or university, and for us to present twice, it shows that we are doing great things at Connors State College.”

Also attending the HLC conference were Dr. Ron Ramming, Debi Corrado and Dr. Tabatha Hibbs.

By Dr. Ryan Blanton

CALENDAR

APRIL
1 Application Deadline: LPN-RN Nursing Program
2 Traditional Easter Egg Hunt @West
3 Aggie Day FFA Interscholastics
3-5 Rodeo Team @ SEOSU
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 Honors Night
Library: Okla. Private Investigations – Let’s Talk About It
18-20 Rodeo Team @ Ft. Hayes
22 Earth Day @ Port
Application Deadline: Ag Ambassador, Fall Semester
23 Intramural Mud Volleyball
24 SSS Student Appreciation Banquet
24-26 Rodeo Team @ Panhandle State
26 Alumni & Friends Reunion
30 Connors Got Talent

MAY
2 Black Sunset Concert
8 Spring Semester Ends
8-11 Baseball Region II Playoffs
9 Commencement
Nursing Pinning Ceremony
Leaders in Ag Barbecue
10 May Mini-Mester
22 Earth Day @ Port
Application Deadline: Ag Ambassador, Fall Semester
23 Intramural Mud Volleyball
24 SSS Student Appreciation Banquet
24-26 Rodeo Team @ Panhandle State
26 Alumni & Friends Reunion
30 Connors Got Talent

JUNE
3 FFA Cattle Grading Contest
14 Intramural Mud Volleyball
17 West Campus Open House

JULY
12-14 Livestock Judging Camp
Harold Cagle was starting quarterback at Connors State College for two years after graduating from Catoosa High School in 1954.

Cagle transferred to the University of Tulsa following the Cowboys football season to take part in the Golden Hurricane’s spring football season. However, following spring drills at TU he left for Northeastern State University, where he played two seasons, graduating in 1958 with a degree in mathematics and physical education.

He began his coaching career in 1958 at Chetopa, Kan., where he was head football coach and assistant basketball coach for one season.

Cagle then moved to his hometown of Catoosa, where he coached football, basketball, baseball and track. He then took a position at Henryetta before returning to Connors State where he taught math and worked as an assistant football coach before taking over as head coach. He was Dean of Students for a year.

After Connors he made stops at Dodge City Junior College and Berryhill High School before accepting a position as defensive coordinator at Central Missouri University. Cagle then started the football program at Missouri Western University, where he won several conference championships and played in several bowl games. He was the first inductee into the Missouri Western Athletic Hall of Fame.

Cagle then returned to Oklahoma to work and coach at Morris, Beggs, Tulsa Edison, Tulsa Webster and Keifer. He was superintendent at Braggs, Wyandotte and Liberal, Mo.

After retirement he coached one season at Strafford, Okla., and taught golf at Vian High School.

Cagle, who lives in Haskell, has three daughters Cheryl, Tammy and Koleen.