

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 2014

# CONNECTION



CONNORS STATE COLLEGE | BUILDING FUTURES ONE AT A TIME SINCE 1908



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OKLAHOMA

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### ABOUT THE COVER

As part of a staff wellness initiative, Connors employees utilize the Warner Campus fitness center. Next month, CSC will receive top honors as both a Certified Healthy Campus and Business from the Oklahoma Turning Point Coalition and Oklahoma State Department of Health.



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## Meet the Regent: DR. TRUDY MILNER

As a regent, doctor, and mother, Regent Trudy Milner is an inspiring individual. Appointed this past year, Regent Milner is the newest member of the OSU-A&M Board of Regents.

“Although I am the new kid on the block, I’m learning and I’m excited and honored to be a part of this board,” she said.

Milner worked as an RN for many years before deciding that she wanted to go back to medical school. She was a single mother of two girls who were very young at the time, and she knew that going back would be challenging. It was a very big decision to make.

“I asked the physician that I was working for at the time what his opinion about me going back to medical school was,” she said. “He told me that I should do it, and that was ultimately what encouraged me to accept the challenge.”

Milner received her medical degree from the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1988 and is now a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa. Milner enjoys her profession as it presents new things every day and is very rewarding.



When asked to describe herself in one word, Regent Milner replied with “persistent.” Milner added, “Sometimes things change, be persistent. Keep a positive attitude because you can always make things work no matter what the circumstances. Keep striving.”

One of Milner’s favorite things to do is spend time with her daughters and her grandchildren who are one, three, and five. Milner also enjoys going to Broadway productions in Tulsa and loves reading in any spare time she has.

*✍️ By Katie Bullard*

## Regent Milner Visits Leadership Connors

The newest regent appointed to the OSU-A&M Board of Regents, Dr. Trudy Milner, spoke to Connors State College employees in Leadership Connors, Class II.

Leadership Connors meets monthly and allows participants to interact with a different state and/or community leader each time. The year-long program, now in its second year, is designed to enhance the leadership abilities and knowledge of selected Connors employees.

Milner discussed leadership techniques and shared about her position on the Board of Regents.

Pictured are, (L to R): Karen Seabolt, accounting; Lynett Rock, Chair of Mathematics, Science and Physical Education; Spencer Nero, Recruitment; Stacy Pearce, Creative Services; Dr. Gary Grady, Psychology; Regent Milner; Baxter Stewart, Director of Financial Aid; Robin O’Quinn, Chair, Communication, Fine Arts, Development Education and Connors Success Centers; Lisa Wade, Muskogee Difference Healthcare Scholarship, Wellness and Outreach; Angie Lane, Bursar; Teresa Williams, Human Resources.



# CSC Earns Top Honors as **CERTIFIED HEALTHY** CAMPUS AND BUSINESS



No doubt, college is a place to flex mental muscle and boost brainpower. But, all the cerebral gymnastics can also be accompanied by the “freshman 15” for students, and a heavier load for faculty and staff, too.

Connors State College works to buck that trend by creating a healthier environment for students, faculty and staff.

Next month, CSC will receive top honors as both a Certified Healthy Campus and Certified Healthy Business from the Oklahoma Turning Point Coalition and Oklahoma State Department of Health.

“At Connors we know that building futures means investing in the whole person,” said CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn. “Investing in the health of our students and staff is not only good for our people, it’s also smart business.”

According to the OK Turning Point Coalition, the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Campus status recognizes post-secondary public and private institutions of higher learning and career technology centers for their outstanding efforts and achievements in actively creating a safe and healthy environment for faculty, staff, students and visitors.

Three years ago, CSC was unable to apply for consideration because the college didn’t meet a basic requirement of being a tobacco-free campus. Last year, CSC earned “Merit” recognition (similar to silver) as a Certified Healthy Campus. This year, CSC will receive the state’s top honor, “Excellence” recognition, at an awards luncheon in Norman on Feb. 13.

Some of the improvements CSC has made to support campus health include:

- On-Campus Health and Wellness Office: CSC contracts with the Stigler Health and Wellness Center to provide on-campus access to basic medical care.
- Integrating Wellness in the

Classroom: Through Campus Orientation and a number of other classes offered at CSC, healthy living information and campus wellness resources are integrated into academic work.

- Fitness Center Access for all Students: In addition to the fitness center on the Warner campus available to all students, CSC also partners with the Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center to make gym membership available to all students at the drastically reduced price of a \$10 per semester fitness fee.

- Healthy Food Options and Information: Resident Dining services provided by Sodexo include healthy options at every meal. In addition, the menus are posted online in advance with nutrition information so students can make informed choices.

2013 marked the first year that CSC applied for the Certified Healthy Business designation.

The OK Turning Point Coalition explains that the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business status recognizes businesses working to improve employee health by providing wellness opportunities and implementing policies that lead to healthier lifestyles. Businesses that promote health and wellness see a return on investment with decreased health costs, fewer sick days taken, increased productivity and better morale among staff. According to reports from the Harvard Business Review, investments in workplace wellness earn up to a 6-to-1 return for employers.

These wellness benefits are already apparent at Connors.

Some investments CSC makes to support employee health include:

- Reduced-Price Gym Memberships: Employees and faculty may join the Muskogee Swim & Fitness Center for \$15 per month, and CSC pays the rest.



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**OKLAHOMA**

Staff and faculty in Warner have access to the on-campus fitness center.

- **On-Site Weight Watchers Program:** CSC offers a Weight Watchers at Work program, encourages participation at all three CSC campuses and helps offset the cost for employees.

- **Fitness Incentives:** Through the “Get in Step” program, CSC incentivizes regular, consistent use of the fitness resources by offering incentive prize drawings to employees who frequent the gym at least eight times per month. Two employees are awarded for each month. In addition, employees earn paid time off for regular gym attendance.

- **Education and Awareness:** The “On the Menu” program invites area experts to share with staff information about fitness, nutrition and other relevant wellness topics to encourage healthier living.

- **Healthy Competition:** Through the “Buddy System” and the Campus vs. Campus wellness challenge, CSC supports weight loss with bragging rights and paid time off.

### Campus vs. Campus Challenge: Team SupPORT earns Fall 2013 CHAMPUS Cup

For the Fall 2013 semester, CSC launched its first Campus vs. Campus wellness challenge and encouraged each campus to form a weight loss team. Plans are underway to launch another Campus vs. Campus challenge and to expand on-campus offerings that support the health and wellness of staff, faculty and students alike.

CSC seeks to combine the brainpower of college with powerful wellness programs to help shape a healthier future for students, faculty and staff.

👉 By Lisa Wade

## Cowboys Draw NATIONAL HONOR

Connors State College forward **WILLIE ATWOOD** was named the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I national player of the week for Nov. 25 to Dec. 1.

The 6-foot-8 sophomore from Memphis, Tenn., averages 25.3 points per game, 10.3 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.5 blocks and recorded his fifth double-double of the season in wins over Northern-Enid 79-76, North Lake, Texas, 79-64 and Cowley County, Kan., 93-87.

“I’ve never had an honor like this, even in high school,” Atwood said when hearing the news. “This is a dream come true. My teammates have a lot to do with this. They put the ball in my hands and give me the opportunity. This is a team honor too. They believe in me and I believe in them.”

Head coach Bill Muse said his All-American candidate is very deserving of the honor.

“Willie has worked very hard and it’s well deserved,” said Muse. “He also set a school record for points in a game (49 on Nov. 18 against Independence Community College).

**RONNIE BOYCE**, a 6-foot-4 freshman guard from Oklahoma City, also was named an NJCAA Player of the Week for Jan. 6-12.



Boyce led the Cowboys to an 87-72 Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference victory over Northeastern A&M on Jan. 9, on the Golden Norsemen’s home floor, scoring 31 points, pulling down 9 rebounds with one assist. Boyce’s 31 point production was a career-high at Connors.

Boyce said he was “feeling good” entering the Northeastern A&M game. “When we started playing I hit my first couple of shots and I knew it was going to be a good night. I just got into a zone.” 🏀



Willie Atwood

## Connors Employees PARTICIPATE IN Wellness Challenge

Connors State College recently held a weight loss challenge among its faculty and staff. Each of the three campuses formed a team and competed against one another to see who could lose the most weight during the fall semester.

“We decided to have a little fun with our wellness program,” said CSC Wellness Coordinator Lisa Wade. “We held a semester-long competition between all three campuses. I am very proud of the hard work these teams showed.”

Seventy-nine participants competed across all three of Connors’ campuses losing a total of 203.5 lbs in a 16 week period. In the end it was the Three Rivers Port Campus that took the prize. The Port’s 16 participants lost a total of 90 lbs.

“I am very proud of the Port campus for their dedication to this challenge,” said CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn. “They really came together to offer one another support and encouragement. I know our other two campuses are ready to begin another competition and take the trophy!”



Connors State College held a weight loss challenge as part of its wellness initiative. The three campuses competed for bragging rights and a trophy. The Three Rivers Port Campus won with a loss of 90 lbs among their 16 member team. Pictured are: Front row: Elizabeth Wenger, Lynett Rock, Rhoda Strode, Dr. Faltyn, Jeni Threadgill, Andrea Elliott; Back row: Heather Lindquist, Shawna Carrier, Baxter Stewart, Rhonda Wilson, Suzanne Holloway, Dr. Stuart Woods. Team members not pictured are: Greg Broussard, Freeman Culver, Chelsea Hayes and Kevin Isom.

Connors State College recently received the Certified Healthy Business Award from the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, Oklahoma Turning Point Council, Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Connors took top honors (Excellence) in both the Certified Healthy Business and Certified Healthy Campus categories.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 75 percent of

all health care spending is attributable to lifestyle-related, preventable illnesses. Employee wellness programs are essential to the long-term viability of all businesses. Employee wellness programs have been proven to reduce health care costs and absenteeism and increase productivity.

To learn more about the Certified Healthy Business program, please visit [www.okturningpoint.org](http://www.okturningpoint.org).

 By Ami Maddocks

## TOBACCO POLICY UPDATE INCLUDES VAPING DEVICES

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed an executive order restricting the use of all vaporizing devices on state property effective Jan. 1, 2014. The Governor claims the e-cigarette industry is unregulated and could pose health risks to Oklahomans.

“E-cigarettes release vapor that contains chemicals that can impact employees and visitors to state property,” Fallin said. “Additionally, many electronic cigarettes look like traditional cigarettes and emit a vapor that looks like smoke. This creates confusion for employees and visitors and presents enforcement challenges for state agencies.”

Fallin’s executive order applies to all state-owned and leased property and in state-owned and leased buildings and vehicles. Tobacco use is already prohibited on state property. This includes all Connors State College facilities. Learn more about Connors’ Tobacco Use policy below:

### TOBACCO USE

A. In any form is prohibited on all college campuses. In compliance with the executive order 2012-01, signed by Governor Mary Fallin, Connors State College and all properties owned, or contracted by the State of Oklahoma have been tobacco free since July 1, 2012. Effective January 1, 2014, executive order 2013-43 pro-

hibits the use of electronic cigarettes, vaping devices or any other product packaged for smoking, or the simulation of smoking, throughout all indoor and outdoor areas of property owned by, or under the control of, Connors State College and the State of Oklahoma. This includes college-owned or leased buildings, all indoor areas such as classrooms, laboratories, offices, work areas, vestibules, hallways, enclosed walkways, restrooms, elevators, residential facilities, and stairwells. This policy also includes any outdoor areas on campus including residential breezeways, rodeo arena, athletic fields, farm operations, south ranch, parking lots, and streets and college-owned vehicles.



## Foundation Launches New Campaign

One hundred and five years ago, Connors State School of Agriculture began their first semester of classes in Warner, Okla. Over those years, the name, faces, and campus have changed, but the mission has remained the same: to build futures, one at a time.

To celebrate, the Development Foundation is launching the Connors 105 Campaign with a goal of raising \$105,000 between January and December 2014. The theme of the campaign, "Building the Next Century," builds on the momentum of the last few years as we chart a course of excellence for Connors Second Century.

Funds raised during this campaign will be donor designated to either the Cowboy Legacy Fund, which assists in beautification and facility investment, or to the newly created Presidential Partners Fund. The Presidential Partners Fund will provide book scholarships to Connors State College students so that every student can afford to pursue the promise of their potential.

Connors campuses have already gone through dramatic changes over the

past two and a half years with renovations, new construction, new degree programs, and modern course delivery options. The changes have been remarkable, but they are only the ground work for things to come.

Today, Connors State College enjoys a legacy of excellence built over the last 105 years. And while that legacy is reflected in our campuses, it is the success, memories, and actions of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff that give it life. We invite you to invest in that legacy as we continue to build futures, one at a time.

To give to the campaign, or for more information, please contact:

Ryan Blanton, Executive Director  
Connors State College  
Development Foundation  
700 College Road  
Warner, OK 74469  
918.463.6343  
ryan.blanton@connorsstate.edu

### TARGET GOAL

\$105,000

### TIMELINE

JAN-DEC 2014

### LEVELS OF GIVING

#### CAMPBELL RUSSELL CLUB

\$105,000

*Benefits: Lifetime Alumni & Friends Membership, Recognition, Annual Banquet, Naming Rights to a Project*

#### PRESIDENT'S CLUB

\$10,500

*Benefits: Lifetime Alumni & Friends Membership, Recognition, Annual Banquet, Individual Plaque in Museum*

#### FOUNDATION CLUB

\$1,050

*Benefits: Lifetime Alumni & Friends Membership, Recognition, Annual Banquet, Name on Donor Plaque in Museum*

#### FELLOW'S CLUB

\$105

*Benefits: One-Year Alumni & Friends Membership, Recognition*

#### COWBOY CLUB

\$10.50

*Benefits: One-Year Alumni & Friends Membership (Students Only), Recognition*



## Livestock Judging Team Sweeps **ARIZONA NATIONAL**

The Connors State College livestock judging team rang in the New Year with plaques and ribbons to spare while competing in the 2013 Arizona National Livestock Show on Dec. 30, 2013. CSC was named the overall champion team for the freshman and sophomore junior college division.

The sophomore team swept the contest by winning the swine, sheep, cattle, and reasons divisions. Respectively the sophomore team had six members in the top ten and received numerous honors.

Tucker Malotte of Adair, Okla., was named high individual along with placing second in reasons, third in sheep, and fifth in hogs. To couple his teammate's winnings, Bryson Williams of Earth, Texas, was second overall, first in reasons, first in sheep, and second in swine.

"The Arizona National was a great precursor to Denver and I am very pleased with the success of the team," said Chase Reed, assistant livestock judging coach. "I'm eager to see what the remainder of the season has in store for us and I have high hopes we will

hear our name called again."

CSC was also well represented by its freshman judging team. Along with winning overall champion, the group won the sheep, swine, and reasons divisions, while taking second in cattle. All five team members were ranked in the top ten and had members in the top five of each division.

Zane Webster of San Simon, Ariz., was second overall, first in reasons, third in sheep, and fourth in swine. Bryce Hauenstein of Pryor Okla., was fourth high individual, first in sheep, fourth in reasons, and fifth in swine. Wyatt Smith of Adair, Okla., was seventh overall and fourth in hogs. Alicia Castaneda of Las Cruces, N.M., was eighth overall, second in cattle, and third in swine. Additionally, Preston Ogden of Quinton, Okla., was ninth overall, fifth in reasons, and fifth in swine.

Team members have set their goals high for the remainder of the year, starting with the National Western Livestock Show judging contest in Denver, Colo., on Thursday Jan. 16, 2014.

Coached by Blake Nelson and

Chase Reed, competing sophomore were: Megan Skiles, Bowie, Ariz.; Bryson Williams, Earth, Texas; Kaitlin Pritchett, Kingfisher, Okla.; Michael Buckley, Collins, Miss.; Whitney Andras, Checotah, Okla.; Tucker Malotte, Adair, Okla.; and Kolton Moore, Cave City, Ark.

Competing freshman included: Zane Webster, San Simon, Ariz.; Wyatt Smith, Adair, Okla.; Bryce Hauenstein, Pryor, Okla.; Alicia Castaneda, Las Cruces, N.M.; and Preston Ogden, Quinton, Okla.

Other team members include: Dirk Murphy, Kiowa, Colo.; Zakary Laubach, Guymon, Okla.; Morgan Anderson, Tahlequah, Okla.; Morgan Cook, Reed City, Mich.; Jordan Moubry, Russell, Kan.; Clayton Moubry, Russell, Kan.; Allison Tarvin, Mount Olivet, Ky.; Ross Taylor, Okemah, Okla.; Keegan Vander Molen, Pella, Iowa; Robyn Smalley, Nowata, Okla.; Paydon Kautzman, Wingate, Ind.; and Cassi Allread, Union City, Okla.

 *By Alicia Castaneda*



## Shooting Sports TEAM TAKES AIM

The CSC Shotgun Shooting Sports Team recently completed a successful fall schedule by placing fourth overall in the Upper Midwest Conference Championship, held at the Heartland Shooting Park in Grand Island, Neb.

Wildlife management majors, Reagan Rhodes, Korbin Reich and Ryan Ashcroft lead the CSC shooters, finishing with 236, 232 and 229 broken targets, respectively, over the two-day event. Rhodes shot particularly well in American Skeet, breaking 82 out of 100 targets and

placing 14th in the men's college division.

On a day boasting 45 mph winds, Reich distinguished himself in American Trap, finishing six shots off the lead with 81 broken targets. Ashcroft and Seth Willard also shot well, each breaking 83 out of 100 targets in Sporting Clays.

The Shooting Sports Team will begin spring competition in San Antonio in February. Team members are selected from the CSC Shooting Sports Club, which is open to all students and is currently looking for new members.

Interested students should contact adviser Rob Holtfreter at [rob.holtfreter@connorsstate.edu](mailto:rob.holtfreter@connorsstate.edu).

 By Robert Holtfreter

## SHOW TEAM ROLLS NAILE Competition

Known as the world's largest all-breed, purebred livestock expo, the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) plays host as 10 different species of livestock compete.

Consider it no small feat, then, that Hitch Hiker, a purebred Santa Gertrudis bull bred, owned and raised by CSC, walked away with grand champion honors.

Held Nov. 9-22, the CSC beef show team made an appearance at the NAILE open North American Santa Gertrudis show, where members exhibited Hitch Hiker and CSC Playmaker. Hitch Hiker was named grand champion bull overall, while Playmaker earned champion bull calf honors.

"Hitch Hiker truly is a powerful animal – in conformation, breeding characteristics, and more," said Blake Nelson, director of farm operations and show team coach. "His consistency in earning national honors proves his overall worth to our program, and makes us excited about the breeding potential and future of our cattle herd."

The team also exhibited class-winning heifer, CSC Whitney, and CSC Kelly, third in class.

 By Stacy Pearce





## Bull Test Sale **BREAKS RECORD AVERAGE**

Connors State College concluded its bi-annual Bull Test Sale on Dec. 5, 2013, with over \$200,000 in sales.

Despite harsh weather conditions, cattle breeders and buyers from across the midwest gathered in Warner, making it the most successful sale yet.

The 75 bulls brought an average of \$3,000 per head, a record-breaking number for Connors, which has been holding this sale since 1962.

“My goal for the program has been to reach an average of at least \$3000, and I am proud to say that we did so thanks to an outstanding set of bulls and the continued support of the breeders and buyers,” proudly stated Blake Nelson, the bull test director.

Encouraging producers to buy bulls “the cowboy way,” students within the

college’s agriculture department work alongside Nelson for months in order to prepare for the sale. From advertising to scraping bulls, and from working pens to writing invoices, the students partake in every aspect of the event.

“This was my third time to help with the sale and it is a great hands-on learning experience for those of us expecting to have a future within the cattle industry,” said Michael Buckley, a sophomore animal science major.

This year also was the first to feature a live online aspect, made possible through CattleinMotion.com, in which buyers had the opportunity to purchase bulls from the comfort of their home. Cattle breeders from all over the nation and Mexico tuned in online to view the sale in real time, taking place at the

Connors Bull Test and Sale Facility.

Breeders from across Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri put their bulls on test at Connors in order to reach the most rapid weight gain in a controlled time period. At the end of each test period, the bulls are performance tested, meaning they are ultra-sounded, gain tested, and semen checked before they are allowed to go through the sale.

The sale features many different breeds for buyers to choose from, including Simmental, Angus, Sim-Angus, Charolais, Composite, LimFlex, Hereford, Shorthorn and Maine-Anjou.

 *By Megan Skiles*



## Grady to Present to AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Connors State College's Psychology Professor, Dr. Gary Grady's approach to "hooking" students on psychology will soon be shared with other educators at the Southwest Psychological Association's annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. Grady created a 17-minute video that he shows to his classes at the beginning of each semester.

Grady, who has been a counseling psychologist since 1980, has taught at Connors State College since 2007. In an effort to create interest in the field of psychology he developed a video montage of clips from movies, TV shows and documentaries that answer the question, "Why study psychology?"

"It answers that question by showing how psychology answers 19 different questions we have about human behavior," Grady said. "I use it at the beginning of the semester for my Intro to Psych classes to give them an idea of the kinds of things we will be studying and to whet their appetite for it. It uses humor, the unusual and the unexpected to hook them on psychology."

Grady was invited to share his ideas with other teachers by the Southwest



Teachers of Psychology Association (SToP), an organization responsible for one of the tracks at the Southwest Psychological Association's (SWPA) annual conference.

"I am pleased that SToP and SWPA considered my teaching module something that would benefit other teachers of psychology and am happy to share it," said Grady. "I really like opportunities like this because our psych program at Connors gets wider recognition."

This is the second time Grady has been

asked to share this teaching module, having presented it at Oklahoma State University in 2012 at the annual conference of the Oklahoma Network of Teachers in Psychology.

Grady will also present a poster on his research on self-esteem levels of Native American College students at the annual conference of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C., next August.

 By Ami Maddocks

# CSC Honors Former President **JACOB JOHNSON**



*Above: Jacob Johnson served as the longest termed president in the history of Connors State College.*

The landscape of Connors State College has changed recently. The Jacob Johnson Science Building which once stood in the center of campus has been removed and a new courtyard honoring the namesake is underway.

Jacob Johnson, who served as President from 1933-1965, was appointed the tenth president of, then named, Connors State Agricultural College, by Oklahoma's ninth governor William H. Murray. Johnson was referred to as the "Dean of Junior College Presidents" due to his long tenure in Oklahoma's junior colleges.

During his presidency, Connors witnessed a tremendous campus building boom. Many of the current buildings on the Warner campus were built or remodeled during this time, including the Jacob Johnson Library and Science Building.

In 1943, President Jacob Johnson was called into active duty service in WWII as an Army captain in the European Theatre. Johnson served his country on active military duty from August 1943

to Dec. 1945, earning four Bronze Stars, the Victory Medal and the European Theatre Ribbon.

After retiring from Connors, Johnson served as a consultant of junior college programming at the University of Oklahoma from 1965 to 1968 and as president of Oscar Rose Junior College (now Rose State) from 1970-1972.

In 1965 Jacob Johnson was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

"Have you paused lately to inform yourself that you are an important individual? Each and every individual on campus is important and whatever job you perform is important to the whole organization," he was quoted as saying.

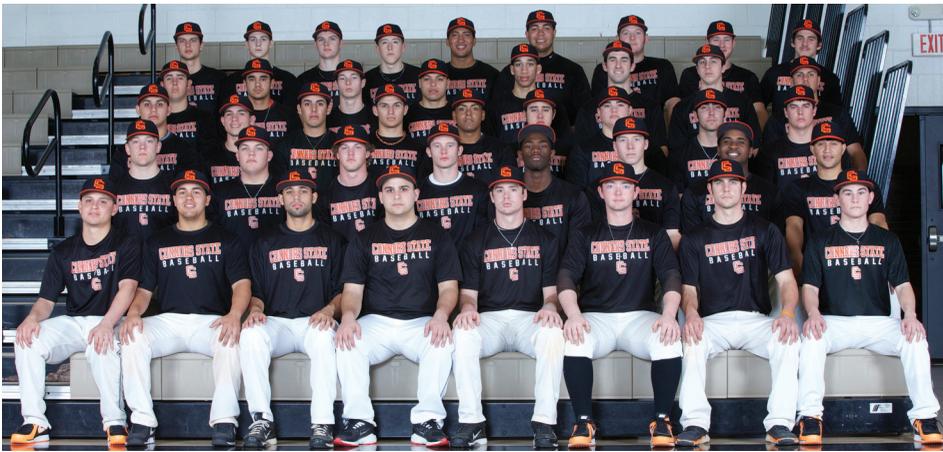
The new courtyard will feature a gazebo, benches, new lighting and a monument honoring Johnson.

"Because we must know where we've been before we can know where we're going," said CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn, "we are committed to honoring our past as we chart a course of greatness for the future."

 *By Ami Maddocks*

*Below: A memorial to Connors State College former president, Jacob Johnson, is currently under construction on the CSC Warner campus.*





# Diamond Cowboys Begin Pre-Season **RANKED NO. 6**

A year ago Connors State Cowboys reached the NJCAA Junior College World Series for the fifth time under head coach Perry Keith.

Connors posted a 53-11 record for the season along with an Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship, Region II Championship and the South Central District crown to earn the trip to the CWS at Grand Junction, Colo.

Although that is in the rear-view mirror entering the 2014 season, Connors has been ranked No. 6 in the nation by Collegiate Baseball in its 2014 preseason national junior college baseball rankings.

“It’s good to be recognized for the

upcoming season, but we have a lot of work ahead us to earn that ranking,” said Keith, who is entering his 28th year as head coach of the Cowboys. He has posted a 1375-399 win loss record over his career, all at Connors State.

The Cowboys must replace 10 players from the 2013 College World Series team, including ace pitcher Daniel Concepcion, who is now at Virginia Commonwealth University and outfielder Phil Diedrick, who moved on to Western Kentucky University.

“We will be a young ball club, but we expect to mature and be in the race toward the end of the season,” said Keith.

 By Wayne Bunch



## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 13 Spring Semester Begins
- 15 Welcome Back Bonfire
- 16 Welcome Back Cookout, West  
Basketball v. NOC  
Judging Team Competes  
@ NWSS, Denver
- 18 Shooting Sports Team Competes  
in Savanna, Georgia
- 19 National Santa Gertrudis Show,  
Fort Worth, Texas
- 20 Basketball @ Murray State
- 21 Call of Duty Tournament
- 22 Transfer Day  
Leadership Muskogee, Class 2  
Hotdog Eating Contest, Warner  
Welcome Back Cookout @ Port  
Red Cross Blood Drive @ West  
Intramural Glow-in-the-Dark  
Dodgeball Tourney
- 23 Aggie Coronation  
Basketball v. CASC  
Library: Okla. Private Investigations  
– Let’s Talk About It
- 27 Basketball @ WOSC, Altus
- 28 Josh McVicar  
The Trickster Hypnotist
- 29 Toga Dance
- 30 Basketball v. NOC
- 31 National Simmental Bull Show,  
Fort Worth, Texas

### FEBRUARY

- 3 Basketball v. EOSC
- 4 Senior Day  
Cafe Luau Grocery Bingo
- 5 Black History Month Movie
- 6 Basketball @ RCC, El Reno
- 8 Former (Basketball) Players Day  
Women’s Basketball v. Bacone  
Men’s Basketball v. Arkansas Baptist
- 10 Basketball v. NEO A&M
- 11 Fantasy Rodeo
- 12 Intramural 3-on-3 Basketball
- 13 Valentine’s Dance  
Library: Okla. Private Investigations  
– Let’s Talk About It
- 13-17 Show Team & Judging Team  
compete @ Dixie National,  
Jackson, MS
- 15 Nursing Program Applications Due
- 17 Basketball @ Seminole State
- 19 Black History Month Speaker/Band
- 20 Basketball @ NOC-Tonkawa
- 21-23 Rodeo Team @ KSU, Manhattan, KS
- 24 Basketball v. Murray State
- 26 Intramural 5-on-5 Basketball
- 27 Basketball @ CASC, Poteau
- 28 Rodeo Team @ Garden City  
Community College, KS



## For Connors Diners, **A SUBSTITUTION** *FORMER DORM BECOMES TEMPORARY CAFETERIA*

Connors State College students returned for the spring semester to find a relocated cafeteria. The dining facilities moved to Russell Hall, a former dormitory, while the student union undergoes renovation.

“We worked furiously to get the temporary dining facility finished,” said Dr. Ron Ramming, CSC vice president for academic and student affairs.

Classes started Jan. 13, and students began moving onto the campus Saturday, Ramming said.

Before the facility could open

to students, it underwent proper inspections.

As late as Thursday before classes began, Russell Hall’s first floor was gutted to the bare walls and columns. Parts of the kitchen, including a walk-in freezer, sinks, fryers and serving lines, were moved from the student union to their temporary location.

The temporary kitchen is “fairly full-service,” Ramming said. “Students shouldn’t notice much difference.”

He said students would have fewer serving lines.

Workers also are installing a safe-room storm shelter in Russell Hall’s lowest floor. CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn said it would be big enough for at least 350 people. Workers also poured concrete for new steps, handicap access ramps and stoops at the former dormitory.

Once the dining area was relocated, contractors began gutting and renovating the student union. Renovations include expanding the space by nearly one third to 31,550 square feet, Faltyn said. The student union also will include a ball-room, lounge, computer lab, community conference room and new exterior. Food service venues also will be modernized. The student union has not had a major upgrade since it was built in 1962.

Faltyn said he hopes the student union renovations could be completed this fall.

Work on the student union and Russell Hall was delayed fall 2013. Those projects, as well as an allied health facility on Connors’ Port Campus, were part of the Oklahoma State Board of Regents’ 2013 master lease program. The master lease program, a major funding source for state college capital programs, faced legal questions in 2013. In September, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled the master lease program was constitutional.

Faltyn said the legal battle “set us back 90 to 100 days.”

“We were approved by the state bond council Dec. 19,” he said.

Once the student union is reopened, the space in Russell Hall will be home of a historic museum for CSC, Faltyn said. The dormitory was built in 1939.

“We received a nice big gift for a museum,” he said.

Ken Ogden, a 1955 Connors graduate, gave the Connors Development Foundation \$100,000 to develop the museum.

Ramming said CSC has no immediate plans for Russell Hall’s third floor.

 *By Cathy Spaulding, Reprinted from the Muskogee Phoenix*



# Faltyn Moderates MUSKOGEE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES FORUM



Connors State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn moderated the Muskogee Legislative Candidates Forum on Jan. 13. Faltyn questioned seven of the nine participating candidates about their qualifications and asked about their reasons for entering the race. Faltyn also queried candidates about their positions regarding sales tax and capital improvement issues, code enforcement, economic development, labor issues and housing.

“I have been moderating legislative forums for 25 years,” said Faltyn. “I do it because I believe in politics and I believe in the City of Muskogee.”

The forum, sponsored by the Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce, featured fast-paced question-and-answer segments. This year’s municipal election was the first to abolish at-large voting for ward representatives, so candidates were quizzed in groups to offer side-by-side comparisons. 🐾 By Ami Maddocks



## CALENDAR

### MARCH

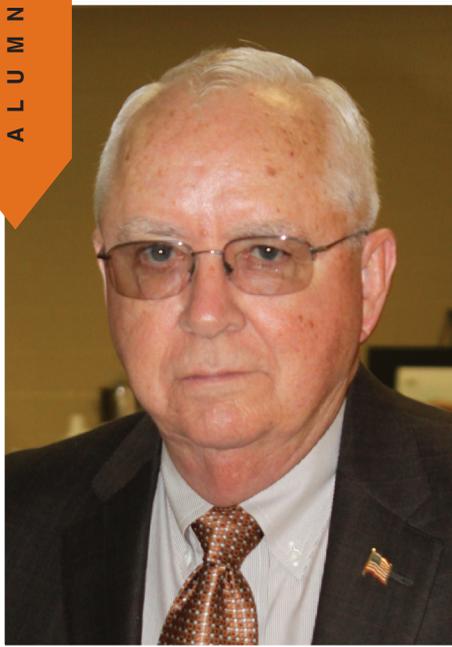
- 1 Application Deadline:  
Foundation Scholarships
- 1-2 Rodeo Team @ Garden City  
Community College, KS
- 2-9 Show Team and Judging Team  
@Houston
- 3-8 Basketball Region 2 Tournament  
Shawnee, OK
- 6 Library: Okla. Private Investigations  
– Let’s Talk About It
- 7-9 Rodeo Team @ Ft. Scott CC
-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



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

# KEN OGDON

Ken Ogdon graduated from Connors in 1955, and attended Northeastern State University the following year. In 1956, he married his wife Joyce, and they moved to Wichita, Kansas, to begin their teaching careers.

In 1970, Ogdon began working for Columbian Securities Cooperation, working with schools and school employees with benefits and investments. In 1992, he bought out his partners, and formed OFG Financial Services, Inc.

Ogdon was inducted into the Connors State College Alumni and Friends Hall of Fame in April 2010. He has always been appreciative of the fond memories of his time at Connors and the life-long friends that he and his wife made on campus.

“We have been very fortunate in our lives, and it is important to us to give back to an institution that was so

instrumental in our lives,” said Ogdon.

In 2013, Ogdon donated \$105,000 to Connors State College. Five thousand dollars was provided to the Alumni and Friends Association Operating Fund, and \$100,000 was provided to develop a museum on the Warner Campus.

“The generosity of this gift allows us to provide a wonderful opportunity to our students and community,” said Dr. Tim Faltyn, CSC president. “It exemplifies the impact Connors has had on its alumni.”

“This gift allows the college an opportunity to honor our legacy of excellence that would not have been possible otherwise,” says Ryan Blanton, Executive Director of the Foundation. “As we proceed with the Connors 105 Campaign, we hope Mr. Ogdon’s generosity will inspire others to invest in “Building the Next Century.” 🏇



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