

CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

CONNECTION



OCTOBER
2012

CONNORS RANKED #13
OF TOP 100 TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

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VICE PRESIDENT OF
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Regents Approve \$6 Million Student Union Expansion

By Lynsey Meharg • SGA President

A bookstore, a game room, a lounge, the one-and-only-Caf, post office boxes and what was formerly a snack bar. When it was built, the existing Connors State College (CSC) Student Union was state-of-the-art. However, aged-styling combined with a sizable lack of curb-appeal have left students, faculty and staff wondering when the most-used building on the Warner campus will be given a makeover.

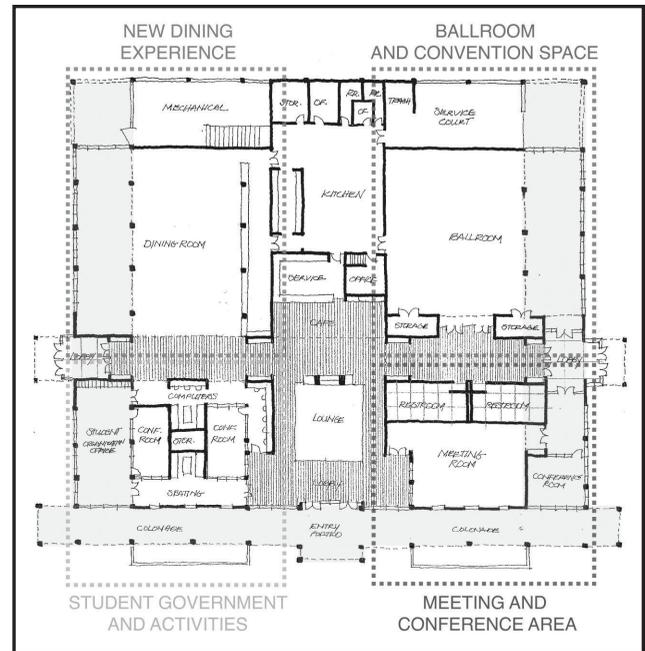
Fret not, Connors supporters!

At the weekly Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on September 26, Dr. Tim Faltyn, CSC President, announced that the Oklahoma State University A&M Board of Regents approved a \$6 million plan to renovate and expand the Student Union. Early plans for the Union include 31,000 square feet to be used as dining space, offices and meeting areas for student organizations, a ballroom for larger functions, as well as plenty of lounge space for students to use the Union as a tool to study and gather.

“The addition of student organization offices will be a giant step toward helping more students become involved on campus,” said SGA Secretary Audery Depre, a sophomore biology major from Checotah, Oklahoma.

Just because plans have begun for this campus addition does not mean students will be ignored in its design. Five student spots have been reserved on design teams for the Warner Student Union and the upcoming addition to the Port Campus – the Nursing and Allied Health Facility. This means that students will be able to voice their opinions on what is necessary in each of these great new spaces.

According to Dr. Faltyn, in addition to these design team openings, \$60,000 has been allocated for the



Renderings of the proposed \$6 Million Connors State College Student Union renovation and expansion.

creation of an art project within the Union. Students are encouraged to design an art feature for the Union with the only requirement being that the artwork remains as timeless as the tradition of success Connors State graduates have earned over the years.

Students already are excited about the new Union.

“The new Student Union will be beneficial on many different levels,” said sophomore agricultural education major Emily Baird.

Baird, of Stillwell, Oklahoma, hopes that the new Union “will allow students to come together and connect as a whole.”

Stay tuned as great things continue happening at Connors State College!

FALTYN KEYNOTES MUSKOGEE PRAYER LUNCHEON

Over 150 people gathered at the Muskogee Civic Center for Mayor Bob Coburn's prayer luncheon on September 12. Begun with the intention of bringing the community together and educating members on various subjects, the focus of this luncheon was students and educators.

Dr. Tim Faltyn, Connors State College President, was the keynote speaker and had many words of wisdom for the audience. During his address, he underlined the importance of "investing in people" saying "it's a recipe for success and we are blessed by God to have it." He also stated, "If you invest in people now, then you will be rewarded in wonderful ways later."

Since Faltyn's arrival to Connors in July 2011, he has capitalized on opportunities to invest in employees and students. For example, the college launched a summer 2012 program targeting students with single digit ACT scores. The program paired 30 incoming students with mentors, helping the students gain an understanding of what they needed to know to excel.

"Ten students from our three campuses were provided with tutors to help them further their education," said Faltyn. "The

10 students from the Warner campus significantly improved their math skills; seven advanced three levels in math, two took on college-level classes and a third tested out of college algebra."

"When you invest in people and you get them to make a relationship and know that there are better ways, great rewards will happen," said Faltyn.

In the context of the City, he said the key is to create a "strategic minority" and bring people together with ideas for bettering Muskogee. Faltyn's speech was met with a standing ovation from luncheon attendees.

Mayor Coburn was "excited and overwhelmed" by the apparent commitment of the attendees to work towards a united Muskogee.

"I think our kids are in pretty good shape; they are all prayed up at this time," said Coburn. "We can make a different city, and we will do it one relationship at a time."



Members of Leadership Connors Class I with Representative Dan Boren

LEADERSHIP CONNORS

September marked the beginning of Leadership Connors, a new faculty and staff professional development program aimed at fostering leadership skills in participants. The inaugural six-person class was selected by Connors State College (CSC) Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and the Vice President of Fiscal Services. Leadership Connors meets each month with state leaders whose organizations impact the college and its missions.

In the first session, Dr. Tim Faltyn discussed his leadership philosophy and role as college president. Dr. Faltyn shared his passion for service and stressed that the class find ways to be of service to students and the community. In October, the class met with Muskogee Mayor Bob Coburn and Warner Mayor Jack Tatum to discuss the college's relationship with each city.

Most recently, class members had lunch with U.S.

Representative Dan Boren before his address at the college. Boren shared his experiences in office and discussed the relationship between federal government and higher education.

Future speakers will include Oklahoma Representative Jerry McPeak, Oklahoma Senator Earl Garrison, Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents CEO Jason Ramsey, and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences Provost Kayse Shrum, D.O.

Leadership Connors Class I members include: Debi Corrado, Julie Dinger-Blanton, Heath Hodges, Kimberly Phillips, Kim Ryals and Jenifer Watkins.





Rigney pens Connors History

Margaret Rigney is no stranger to Connors State College. With more than 35 years of employment at the college she can honestly say she has seen it all.

“I know that Connors has made a difference in the lives of many people – probably more than we will ever know,” said Rigney.

“I also know from my own experiences that there have been, and still are, faculty and staff with a deep dedication to Connors and its students. I’m proud to say that I’ve known and worked with quite a few of them. They are the heart and soul of Connors.”

In 1977 under the leadership of Connors’ 12th president, Dr. Melvin Self, Rigney began her career as Federal Programs Secretary. Fast forward four presidents, several position changes and 30-plus years later, to Rigney’s current position as library director.

Rigney has enjoyed many aspects of her career at Connors: “It is difficult to single out just one memory. As admissions adviser, I loved seeing non-traditional women students so terrified about starting school that they could hardly fill out the admission form and enrollment card, only to get their diplomas a couple of years later.”

“As library director, I have enjoyed the challenge of technology’s impact on library services, and the

development of the Muskogee library from a few hard copy indexes and tables in the Holly Building basement, to a fully functioning branch at the West Campus, offering the same level of public service as the main library.”

Aside from her daily duties, Rigney used her knowledge of the college’s history to compose a historical, pictorial coffee table book on Connors State College. She began gathering information for the book prior to the college’s centennial in 2008.

“It struck me that when those of us who began working at Connors in the late 1960s and ‘70s retire, over a third of the college’s institutional memory would go with us,” said Rigney. “Early in our careers, we were privileged to hear stories of faculty and staff who began working here after World War II. So, in reality, we attained a depth of knowledge encompassing well over half the college’s history. Besides, our early history from the school’s creation to World War II, was scarce and physically deteriorating. Connors had a story that needed to be told.”

The completed book, *“The First Century: A Pictorial History of Connors State College”*, includes more than 200 images and 130-plus pages of written content. To purchase this historical book, contact the Connors Development Foundation at (918) 463-6343.

STATEWIDE CONTEST REGISTERS NEW VOTERS



Held September 17-21, Connors State College (CSC) participated in the Oklahoma Campus Compact 2012 Voter Registration Contest. While the contest coincided with Constitution Day (September 17), it met a federal observance requirement of citizenship and civic focus for students.

CSC competed against other small Oklahoma institutions comprised of less

than 3,000 students.

The Office of Campus Life and students from the President’s Leadership Class (PLC) partnered on a booth that provided a place for students to register.

“It was great working with PLC,” said Dare Chronister, coordinator of student activities. “The students did a wonderful job encouraging others to register and answering questions they may have had.”

Connors turned in almost 100 new registration forms. With a large commuter and non-traditional population, most CSC students already were registered.

CONNORS RANKS TOP 100 IN 2012 COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK MAGAZINE REVIEW



#13

Connors State College received top rankings in the 2012 annual review published by *Community College Week* magazine. Of the top 100 associate degree-producers in the United States, the highest ranking in all categories for the college was **#13** – for its graduation rate of **American Indian** students.

Other Oklahoma colleges to rank in the top 100: #5 Tulsa Community College, #19 Carl Albert State College, #21 Northern Oklahoma College, #23 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, #25 Eastern Oklahoma State College, #32 Seminole State College, #38 Oklahoma City Community College, #40 Murray State College, #42 Rose State College, and #69 Redlands Community College.

#38

CSC ranked **#38** of the top 50 **agriculture** associate degree producers.

The only other Oklahoma college to be named in this category was NEO A&M at #25.

CSC ranked **#24** in the top 50 **education** associate degree producers.

Oklahoma colleges in the category include: #5 Tulsa Community College, #26 Eastern Oklahoma State College, #38 Northern Oklahoma College and #39 Carl Albert State College.

TOP 100 ASSOCIATE DEGREE PRODUCERS | 2011

ASSOCIATE DEGREES: All Disciplines — American Indian

| 2011 RANK | INSTITUTION | STATE | 2009-2010 TOTAL | 2010-2011 NEW | 2010-2011 TOTAL | PERCENT CHANGE |
|-----------|--|-------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Michigan Community College | | 110 | 362 | 472 | 470% |
| 2 | Northern Virginia Community College | VA | 26 | 134 | 223 | 367% |
| 3 | Tulsa Community College | OK | 6 | 82 | 104 | 182% |
| 4 | San Juan College | N.M. | 157 | 80 | 110 | 81% |
| 5 | Central New Mexico Community College | N.M. | 88 | 72 | 169 | 193% |
| 6 | Central Texas College | TX | 21 | 74 | 93 | 124% |
| 7 | University Technical Institute of Arizona Inc. | AZ | 68 | 104 | 176 | 256% |
| 8 | University of New Mexico-Salt Lake Campus | UT | 88 | 84 | 100 | 127% |
| 9 | Midwest Community College | MO | 53 | 47 | 71 | 109% |
| 10 | Adams Community College | OK | 4 | 27 | 31 | 775% |
| 11 | Carl Albert State College | OK | 100 | 36 | 83 | 207% |
| 12 | Northern Oklahoma College | OK | 50 | 36 | 83 | 166% |
| 13 | Connors State College | OK | 81 | 30 | 82 | 199% |
| 14 | Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College | OK | 43 | 31 | 45 | 105% |
| 15 | Arizona Community College | AZ | 71 | 26 | 39 | 71% |
| 16 | Mississippi Community College | MS | 27 | 27 | 41 | 52% |
| 17 | Oklahoma State University | OK | 50 | 25 | 39 | 100% |
| 18 | University of Phoenix | AZ | 78 | 19 | 39 | 65% |
| 19 | San Diego State College | CA | 48 | 29 | 49 | 85% |
| 20 | University of Utah | UT | 31 | 19 | 44 | 102% |
| 21 | University of North Carolina | NC | 84 | 21 | 41 | 81% |
| 22 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 27 | 17 | 37 | 137% |
| 23 | University of Illinois | IL | 53 | 17 | 37 | 170% |
| 24 | University of Minnesota | MN | 47 | 15 | 35 | 111% |
| 25 | University of Michigan | MI | 42 | 18 | 30 | 115% |
| 26 | University of Texas | TX | 24 | 8 | 27 | 113% |
| 27 | University of California | CA | 31 | 13 | 21 | 111% |
| 28 | University of Florida | FL | 32 | 9 | 21 | 106% |
| 29 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 24 | 8 | 17 | 108% |
| 30 | University of North Carolina | NC | 13 | 3 | 11 | 108% |
| 31 | University of Michigan | MI | 19 | 3 | 11 | 105% |
| 32 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 15 | 2 | 11 | 107% |
| 33 | University of Michigan | MI | 14 | 2 | 11 | 107% |
| 34 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 13 | 2 | 11 | 108% |
| 35 | University of Michigan | MI | 12 | 2 | 11 | 108% |
| 36 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 11 | 2 | 11 | 110% |
| 37 | University of Michigan | MI | 10 | 2 | 11 | 110% |
| 38 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 9 | 2 | 11 | 111% |
| 39 | University of Michigan | MI | 8 | 2 | 11 | 112% |
| 40 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 7 | 2 | 11 | 113% |
| 41 | University of Michigan | MI | 6 | 2 | 11 | 114% |
| 42 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 5 | 2 | 11 | 115% |
| 43 | University of Michigan | MI | 4 | 2 | 11 | 116% |
| 44 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 3 | 2 | 11 | 117% |
| 45 | University of Michigan | MI | 2 | 2 | 11 | 118% |
| 46 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 1 | 2 | 11 | 119% |
| 47 | University of Michigan | MI | 0 | 2 | 11 | 120% |
| 48 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 0 | 2 | 11 | 121% |
| 49 | University of Michigan | MI | 0 | 2 | 11 | 122% |
| 50 | University of Wisconsin | WI | 0 | 2 | 11 | 123% |

TOP 50 ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Agriculture, Agricultural Operations, & Related Sciences

| 2011 RANK | INSTITUTION | STATE | 2009-2010 TOTAL | 2010-2011 NEW | 2010-2011 TOTAL | PERCENT CHANGE |
|-----------|--|-------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute | OH | 102 | 78 | 152 | 27% |
| 2 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 3 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 4 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 5 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 6 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 7 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 8 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 9 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 10 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 11 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 12 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 13 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 14 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 15 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 16 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 17 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 18 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 19 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 20 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 21 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 22 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 23 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 24 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 25 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 26 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 27 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 28 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 29 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 30 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 31 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 32 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 33 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 34 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 35 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 36 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 37 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 38 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 39 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 40 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 41 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 42 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 43 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 44 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 45 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 46 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 47 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 48 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 49 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |
| 50 | Michigan Community College | MI | 110 | 362 | 472 | 32% |

TOP 50 ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Education

| 2011 RANK | INSTITUTION | STATE | 2009-2010 TOTAL | 2010-2011 NEW | 2010-2011 TOTAL | PERCENT CHANGE |
|-----------|--|-------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College | MS | 207 | 90 | 213 | 30% |
| 2 | Tulsa Community College | OK | 241 | 45 | 212 | 29% |
| 3 | Boise State Community College | ID | 224 | 52 | 200 | 28% |
| 4 | EF Pace Community College | TX | 275 | 20 | 247 | 27% |
| 5 | Lower Merion Community College | PA | 179 | 38 | 200 | 26% |
| 6 | CUVY Borough of Manhattan Community College | N.Y. | 125 | 3 | 180 | 24% |
| 7 | Carroll County College | N.J. | 140 | 40 | 140 | 23% |
| 8 | Itawamba Community College | MS | 62 | 46 | 124 | 19% |
| 9 | East Central Community College | OK | 152 | 25 | 158 | 18% |
| 10 | Sulphur Community College | LA | 152 | 22 | 151 | 18% |
| 11 | Delaware County Community College | PA | 150 | 20 | 150 | 16% |
| 12 | CUVY Kingsborough Community College | N.Y. | 115 | 31 | 121 | 15% |
| 13 | Montana Community College | MT | 139 | 36 | 91 | 12% |
| 14 | Midmore Community College | N.J. | 142 | 19 | 107 | 11% |
| 15 | Gloucester County College | N.J. | 152 | 30 | 91 | 11% |
| 16 | Raritan Valley Community College | N.J. | 98 | 27 | 93 | 10% |
| 17 | Harrisburg Area Community College-Harrisburg | PA | 133 | 14 | 103 | 11% |
| 18 | Black County Community College | PA | 139 | 29 | 84 | 11% |
| 19 | Lehigh Carbon Community College | PA | 91 | 12 | 87 | 9% |
| 20 | Orange Technical Community College | MO | 65 | 27 | 69 | 10% |
| 21 | CUVY Westchester Community College | N.Y. | 70 | 6 | 89 | 9% |
| 22 | Northern Mesquite Community College | N.M. | 73 | 56 | 77 | 9% |
| 23 | Central New Mexico Community College | N.M. | 73 | 56 | 77 | 9% |
| 24 | Henry Ford Community College | MI | 92 | 14 | 79 | 9% |
| 25 | Holmes Community College | MS | 91 | 14 | 79 | 9% |
| 26 | Nassau Community College | NY | 105 | 34 | 79 | 9% |
| 27 | Great Basin Community College | MT | 86 | 34 | 79 | 9% |
| 28 | Northern Oklahoma College | OK | 96 | 10 | 60 | 7% |
| 29 | Carl Albert State College | OK | 91 | 26 | 52 | 7% |
| 30 | Lawrence County Community College | PA | 44 | 13 | 42 | 7% |
| 31 | York University | PA | 26 | 14 | 61 | 7% |
| 32 | CUVY Bronx Community College | N.Y. | 52 | 8 | 64 | 7% |
| 33 | Montgomery Community College-Central Campus | PA | 73 | 23 | 47 | 4% |
| 34 | Schoolcraft Community College | MI | 79 | 12 | 56 | 7% |
| 35 | Urban College of Boston | MA | 53 | 3 | 66 | 6% |
| 36 | San Diego State College | CA | 69 | 5 | 60 | 6% |
| 37 | Northern Oklahoma College | OK | 61 | 8 | 69 | 6% |
| 38 | Montgomery College | MD | 45 | 8 | 59 | 6% |
| 39 | Harold County College District | NC | 48 | 1 | 61 | 6% |
| 40 | Community College of Philadelphia | PA | 59 | 14 | 51 | 6% |
| 41 | University of Phoenix-Online Campus | AZ | 1792 | 204 | 2098 | 50% |
| 42 | Kaplan University-Davenport Campus | IA | 0 | 33 | 652 | 695% |
| 43 | South Texas College | TX | 0 | 0 | 264 | 68% |
| 44 | College of Southern Nevada | NV | 0 | 27 | 111 | 138% |
| 45 | The University of Texas at Brownsville | TX | 177 | 30 | 117 | 150% |
| 46 | Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology-Oklahoma | OK | 123 | 30 | 64 | 263% |
| 47 | Ramapo Community College-Minerva | NJ | 0 | 1 | 80 | 81% |
| 48 | Cleveland University | OH | 0 | 0 | 37 | 93% |
| 49 | Saint Augustine College | IL | 44 | 0 | 70 | 93% |

#24

CSC CATTLE SHOW TEAM ASSISTS WITH KLR KIAMICHLINK RANCH FALL SALE

Comprised of more than 13,000 sprawling acres in beautiful southeastern Oklahoma, the premiere KiamichiLink Ranch (KLR) played host to more than 200 Angus breeders and enthusiasts during its fall Angus Female Sale. Held Sunday, October 7, the production sale offered more than 250 head highlighted with numerous donor females, spring pairs, heavy fall-bred females, and elite heifer calves produced through the ranch's Embryo Transfer program.

To help with sale weekend preparations, nine members of the Connors State College (CSC) cattle show team and coach Dale Pitchford were on hand at the Finley, Oklahoma, ranch, beginning early Friday morning. The only collegiate workers for the event, the students assisted with everything from sorting cows to rinsing and grooming heifers, to cleaning and setting up the sale facility.

"The KiamichiLink Ranch experience presents a great opportunity for our students to be involved with one of the elite purebred cattle operations in the United States," said Blake Nelson, director of CSC Purebred Ranch Operations. "The contacts they make and the experiences they are presented with are invaluable."

The sale, which grossed \$759,000 – a \$4,540 per lot

average – under the direction of legendary auctioneer Steve Dorran, provided CSC students with the opportunity to witness valuable cattle going through the ring. Students also were privileged to work with the expert staff at KLR and to meet many prominent Angus breeders from across the United States.

Owned by Oklahoma State University Regent Tucker Link and wife Vickie, the ranch seeks to become a top provider of Angus genetics to the beef industry through strategic partnerships and superior genetic management.

"We would like to thank Regent Link for the opportunity to work at such a prestigious event," said Nelson. "Our purebred operation has gained great momentum with his investment in both our students and cattle herd."

Likewise, Connors students impressed the KLR staff with their work ethic and have been invited to be involved at future events.

"It was a sincere pleasure to work with the Connors show team on this exciting sale," said sale manager Rance Long. "The students pulled their own weight and definitely made the preparations easier on the entire KLR staff."

To learn more about the KiamichiLink Ranch, visit KLRanch.com.

HATTON AWARDED JELTZ SCHOLARSHIP

Connors State College (CSC) sophomore Bria Hatton recently was awarded the Wyatt F. and Mattie M. Jeltz Scholarship. Before an award presentation by Dr. James Mosley, Jeltz Foundation chairman, Hatton learned the history of 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.”

Hatton will receive \$900 per year as long as she remains in good standing with requested requirements.

Hatton is actively involved in the Student Government Association (SGA) as Connors’ Vice President and northeastern director for Oklahoma SGA. Additionally, she’s a member of Math & Science Club, attends Baptist Collegiate Ministries events, serves as a campus tutor and work-study for



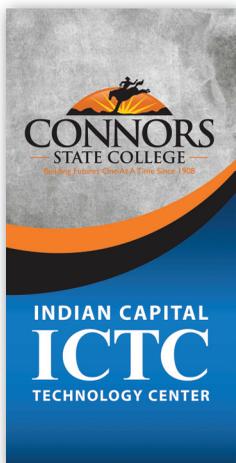
the admissions office.

“I applied for many scholarships and never thought I was going to get one, but when the Jeltz foundation called and said I got this one, I was ecstatic,” said Hatton. “I am honored to receive this scholarship.”

A transfer student from Tulsa Community College, Hatton plans to apply to CSC’s Registered Nurse program.

“When I started looking at nursing programs, Connors had one of the best programs in the state with high pass scores and small classes, so I knew I wanted to try and get in here,” said Hatton. Happy with her move to Connors, “the most difficult thing was the transition to a school where I didn’t know anyone; but I enjoy the people – the staff and faculty are helpful – and small class sizes are great.”

The Jeltz Foundation awards 12 to 15 scholarships per year. Applications can be picked up in the financial aid office.



THERAPY PROGRAMS THE TOPIC OF JOINT SUMMIT

Connors State College (CSC) and Indian Capital Technology Center (ICTC) are taking the necessary steps to build a partnership for students to obtain associate degrees and become Occupational or Physical Therapy Assistants (OTA/PTA).

Forty-seven individuals attended an informational summit to discuss plans for implementation of PTA and OTA programs.

In attendance were representatives from a variety of clinical agencies in the Muskogee/Tahlequah region and administrators from CSC, ICTC and Northeastern State University (NSU).

“We are just starting down the path to implement these programs,” said Dr. Ron Ramming, CSC Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. “This summit started a conversation about clinical sites and developing partnerships within the industry.”

“Both are cooperative alliance programs where Connors will provide support and general education courses, while technical courses will be taught at ICTC,” Ramming continued. “A student that completes the program will earn an Associate of Applied Science and be eligible to sit for certification exams.”

According to Debra Bartel, ICTC District Administrator for Nursing and Health Careers, the day was a great success. “The feedback received from the clinical representatives, who are experts in the field, will be invaluable during the planning and implementation process for these two programs,” said Bartel.



REPRESENTATIVE BOREN ADDRESSES CONNORS

On October 10, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren visited Connors State College and spoke with students, faculty and staff about his experiences in office and his views on current political issues. Students and faculty filled the Westbrook Library Learning Center Auditorium, while dozens of students at Muskogee West and Port campuses participated via live-streaming video. Representative Boren gave a brief history of his political life, which included serving the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 2002 to 2004 and his current service in the U.S. House of Representatives for Oklahoma's Second District.

Representative Boren called upon students to seek opportunities for campus leadership and, more importantly, to return home after college and provide leadership to their towns, counties and state. Boren took questions from the audience, discussing the

tough choices he's made in voting on key political issues. Questions ranged from the impact of the Affordable Care Act, welfare reform, the economy and veterans affairs.

A common problem with addressing these issues, he noted, was the lack of willingness to hold discussions in a bipartisan manner to come up with solutions acceptable to each side. He also said that while he is a Democrat, he made his voting decisions based on what his district's citizens preferred, many times conflicting with his own party. Representative Boren was named the most bipartisan member of the House of Representatives by *Congressional Quarterly* in 2012, a distinction he is proud of and was an underlying theme to his presentation.

"We need to put partisan issues aside for the sake of the country," said Representative Boren.

Congressman Boren did not seek reelection this year, and will go to work for the Chickasaw Nation in 2013.



I AM CONNORS

I am Connors . . .

By Brandi Farris



IAN SCHAEFER

Sophomore Ian Schaefer, 19 years old, of Garden City, Texas, originally heard about Connors while attending a camp at which a CSC livestock judging coach was an adviser. When that coach offered Schaefer a scholarship several years later, he readily accepted in order to obtain an animal science degree and meet people from many different states.

Schaefer says the largest obstacle he faces at Connors is being eight hours from home. In his spare time, he enjoys writing, judging livestock shows, sports and hanging out with his friends. In the future, Schaefer would like to contribute to the agricultural industry, which has shaped him into who he is today.

Schaefer describes himself as trustworthy, friendly and respectful. What sets him apart from others is his patient, understanding and nonjudgmental attitude, which allows him to make friends with ease.

While Schaefer may not quite live by this quote, he says it hit him hard when he first heard it: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I can’t change, the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Courtney Medcalf, age 19, attended Wilburton (Oklahoma) High School. She says she chose Connors because it gave her a great opportunity to play collegiate basketball, while Connors State instructors would help her to succeed in the classroom. Currently majoring in nursing, Medcalf hopes to obtain her RN license, get married, and have two children in the future.

Medcalf plays basketball because it forces her to endure physical, as well as mental, strengthening. She says that her role models in life are her parents and two siblings, who have been with her through everything. Medcalf’s hobbies include fishing and singing, though she’s too shy to sing in public. She admires tumbling and barrel racing, but has not personally attempted either sport.

She describes herself in three words as outgoing, bubbly and sweet, and at 6’2”, her height is what makes her particularly unique.

Courtney lives by the quote: “Happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them come true.” – Leon Joseph Suenens



COURTNEY MEDCALF

I am Connors ...

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

INAUGURAL BANQUET HONORS FORMER PLAYERS



Connors State College inducted eight former student athletes, its 1985 Cowgirls National Championship basketball team and awarded an Outstanding Leadership award at its first Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday evening, October 6, at the Muskogee Country Club.

Inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame for basketball was Lou Henson, who played at Connors and had an outstanding coaching career at New Mexico State and the University of Illinois. He was joined by NJCAA All-American Horatio Webster, who was unable to make the trip due a flight cancellation in Chicago. Rhonda Smith, who was a two-time All-American for the Cowgirls basketball team represented the women, but didn't make the trip due to a family illness.

Also inducted were softball players Michel Taylor-Ashlock, and Cassie Tipton, baseball players Jeff Turtle and Clint Sodowsky. V. David Miller, CEO of Cross Communication received the Outstanding Leadership Award.

CSC President Dr. Tim Faltyn expressed his appreciation to the packed ballroom for their "continued support of Connors State athletics and to the college."

"This was well overdue (Athletic Hall of Fame) and to me personally one more sentence in a chapter of excellence that we are building at Connors State," said Dr. Faltyn.

The highlight of the evening was Henson, who grew up in Okay and came to Connors in 1951 to play basketball.

"Connors was the foundation for my coaching career and the stepping stone for my life," said Henson. "My playing days

at Connors sparked my interest in coaching."

Henson, who said he believed in giving back to what help him through life, donated \$5,000 to the men's basketball program it was announced by Athletic Director Bill Muse.

Kim Davis-Barton, who played for the Cowgirls from 1980-82, where she was named an NJCAA All-American, said "I am truly blessed to be honored tonight and be here. I thank God for giving me the ability to play basketball.

"It was Coach (Monte) Madewell who helped perfect my game. There is no better place than Connors State. It will always be in my heart," said Davis-Barton.



Top Left (L-R): Dr. Faltyn, Clint Sodowsky, Jeff Turtle, Coach Perry Keith. Top Center: 1985 NJCAA National Championship women's basketball team with Dr. Faltyn and Coach Monte Madewell. Top Right (L-R): Dr. Faltyn, Kim Davis-Barton, Coach Monte Madewell.

Above: Dr. Faltyn, Coach & Mrs. Henson, Coach Bill Muse



CONNORS CELEBRATES WARNER COW CHIP DAY

In spite of cold weather, the 25th Annual Warner Cow Chip Day proved to be a success. On Saturday, October 6, more than 200 participants arrived in running gear to take part in an inaugural 5K Bull Run sponsored by Connors State College (CSC).

Participants began the race in the parking lot east of Melvin Self Fieldhouse, ran down the road by the Connors baseball field, continued around the campus perimeter, then headed west past the Bull Test facility—hence the name “Bull Run”. At the conclusion of the 5K, runners were replenished with bottled water and bananas.

The 5k Bull Run was only the beginning of the festivities planned by city and college officials. The crowd next migrated to downtown Warner in preparation for the annual parade. High school sports teams, local officials, Connors State College and many other organizations participated in this year’s festive procession.

The CSC parade float was constructed by Dare Chronister, student activities coordinator, as well as numerous students and campus life organizations. The float, which was filled with students and pulled by the farm tractor, was declared the winner at the close of the parade.

Cow Chip Day celebrations continued at Rogers Park with pony rides and popcorn stands, a pumpkin decorating station sponsored by the CSC Presidents Leadership Class, and numerous other student- and organization-sponsored booths.

Warner citizens also welcomed home a special guest – Warner native and Connors alumna, Cassie Mitchell, Ph.D. A member of the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Team, Mitchell competed in London in the T52 100m, the T52 200m and the F51-52-3 Discus. She placed fourth in all events.

The City of Warner memorialized Mitchell’s accomplishments by renaming a street in her honor. The new “Cassie Mitchell Way” is now lined with maroon and gold “Hometown Hero” banners, hung from each of the street’s light poles.



CATTLE SHOW TEAM WINS BIG AT STATE FAIRS

The Connors State College (CSC) inaugural cattle show team garnered several big wins during the Tulsa State Fair open cattle shows, September 28-30.

After being awarded a champion ribbon in the yearling division, CSC Hitch Hiker was named grand champion bull of the Santa Gertrudis open show. This marks the second consecutive year for Connors to attain this honor at the Tulsa fair. The 2011 title-winning bull, H&B Hef-A-Nizer, received 2012 breed accolades as well – champion get-of-sire.

The CSC show team, made up of 21 freshmen and sophomore students, also exhibited animals in the Simmental, percentage Simmental and Maine-Anjou breeding shows.

Simmental open show awards included: reserve champion spring yearling heifer with CSC Ms Momentum 106Y; champion junior yearling bull with CSC Momentum 101Y; and champion senior bull calf with Moonshiner Y91. CRN Steel Force 178Y was named the reserve grand champion bull during the percentage Simmental show.

Show team members also claimed victory with a pair of Maine-Anjou bulls owned by former CSC livestock judging coach, Representative Jerry McPeak. Grand champion Maine-Anjou bull was awarded to Renegade, while reserve grand honors went to the younger MLOW Pokerface.

Achievements at Tulsa came just one week after big wins in the open Santa Gertrudis show at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. The first event for the newly-formed CSC show team was deemed a success after members exhibited the champion bull calf, CSC Pawn Star, while CSC Hitch Hiker claimed division, yearling and grand champion bull honors.

The CSC show team is an integral part of the Purebred Ranch Operations program, designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for success in the seedstock segment of the beef cattle industry. Used as a marketing tool for the Connors beef herd, the show team will exhibit cattle at five shows per year across the United States. Under the advisement of Blake Nelson, CSC's director of farm operations, with assistance from cowherd manager and show team coach, Dale Pitchford, team members for the 2012-2013 year include: Clayton Edgemon, Hunter Bradley, Hunter Dauck, Aaron Grimes, Cecile Harris, Kylie Duggan, Lindsey Dugan, Haleigh Caldwell, Hannah Allen, Cole Webster, Austyn Tucker, Christina Damron, Isaac Blankenship, Kaitlyn Merriman, Katie Bullard, Landon Bolin, Matt Lowrimore, Shanna Estes, Stuart Symes, Traye Gann and Whitney McCollum.

The show team will be back on the road November 3-4 for competition at The American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri.



Above: CSC Hitch Hiker
Right: CRN Steel Force 178Y



Rob Holtfreter

HOLTFRETER'S SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB

On October 9, Connors State College (CSC) hosted a Shotgun Training and Education Program (STEP) at the South Ranch. The event, which kicked off at 12:30 p.m., brought more than 15 participants for the instructional shoot taught by Craig Endicott of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Pizza was served at the start of the event, followed by a short gun safety briefing and the shoot. Attendees had the opportunity to hone their clay-shooting skills before competing against each other for prizes.

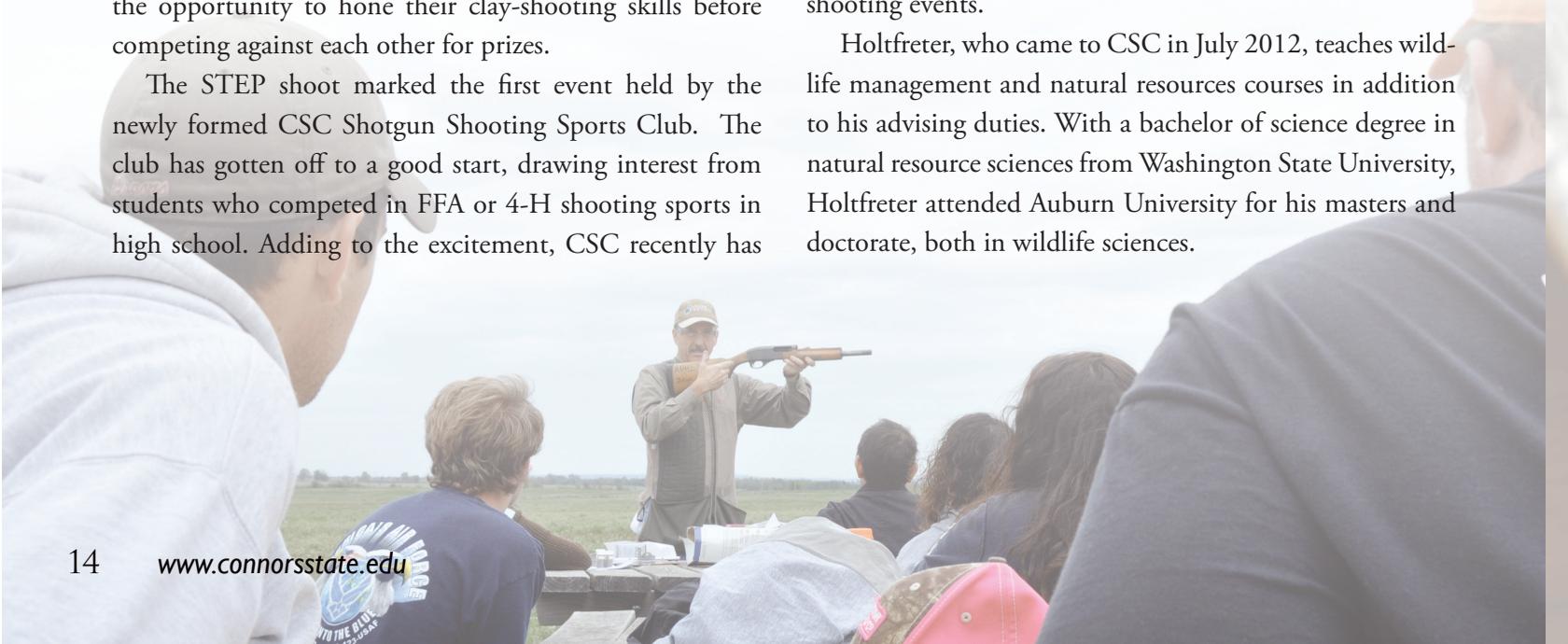
The STEP shoot marked the first event held by the newly formed CSC Shotgun Shooting Sports Club. The club has gotten off to a good start, drawing interest from students who competed in FFA or 4-H shooting sports in high school. Adding to the excitement, CSC recently has

broken ground on a state-of-the-art combination trap and skeet range that will be located at the South Ranch.

“The response from the student body has been very positive, 30 students signed up to join the club prior to our first meeting,” said club advisor Robert Holtfreter.

Shotgun Shooting Sports Club members already are planning to hold several more shoots this semester, in addition to volunteering their time to help out at local 4-H shooting events.

Holtfreter, who came to CSC in July 2012, teaches wildlife management and natural resources courses in addition to his advising duties. With a bachelor of science degree in natural resource sciences from Washington State University, Holtfreter attended Auburn University for his masters and doctorate, both in wildlife sciences.





JUDGING TEAM WINS NATIONAL BARROW SHOW CONTEST

By Ian Schaefer

The Connors State College (CSC) livestock judging team finished in first place at the 66th National Barrow Show Swine Judging Contest in Austin, Minnesota, on September 10, 2012.

With a team total of 3,249 points out of a possible 3,500, CSC won first place honors by a margin of 19 points over second place Black Hawk East Community College, Kewanee, Illinois. Redlands Community College placed third and Lakeland College was fourth with team scores of 3,226 and 3,162, respectively.

Winning this contest marks the first time to do so in school history. Given that the Midwest is the heart of commercial hog production, the fact that a team so far from industry roots was named champion marks quite a feat in the timeline of the National Barrow Show.

Prior to 1974, community/junior colleges and universities competed in one unified “collegiate” division. In the 38 years since the junior college division was introduced, no Oklahoma team has won champion honors. Connors’ win is a first for all Oklahoma community and junior college teams.

“I’m extremely proud of these students for the amount of hard work and dedication they’ve put into this group effort,” said coach Brandon Gunn. “To see that level of commitment on a daily basis from them and for it to all pay off, just makes this so rewarding.”

Connors also had three team members who placed in the top 10, individually. Team member Dakota Moyers of Newcastle, Oklahoma, secured the second-high overall individual award, while teammate Jacob McKillip of Lafayette, Indiana, was third-high individual. Tyler Mackey of Blum, Texas, was 10th-high individual, and

Ian Schaefer of Garden City, Texas, and Clay Carlson of Stoneham, Colorado, finished 11th and 13th, respectively.

The contest consisted of six traditional classes of breeding gilts and market hogs, along with classes of performance boars, keep/cull gilts and one class of truckload hogs. The boar and gilt classes were equipped with scanned data measuring carcass strength and growth and maternal performance of the swine. Portraying a realistic scenario for swine farmers, the keep/cull class required participants to choose four females from a group of eight that they would retain as breeding stock and four they would cull.

This year, the National Barrow Show also installed a truckload hogs class, in which participants ranked a group of six hogs as a whole in relation to other groups. According to Gunn, this is consistent with the daily tasks of commercial hog farmers in their finishing barns.

At the conclusion of class placing, contestants presented oral reasons on three classes and performance boars.

Coached by Gunn and Dodge Nichols, livestock judging team members include: Dakota Moyers, Newcastle, Oklahoma; Jacob McKillip, Lafayette, Indiana; Tyler Mackey, Blum, Texas; Ian Schaefer, Garden City, Texas; Clay Carlson, Stoneham, Colorado; Garrett Foote, Texico, New Mexico; Cassie Godwin, Prescott, Arkansas; Brad Isbell, Braggs, Oklahoma; Trey Lockhart, Haworth, Oklahoma; Josh Walton, Opelika, Alaska; Brazos Williams, Memphis, Texas; Matthew Murdoch, Marion, Texas; and Gavin Wisecarver, Frankfort, Missouri.

For more information on Connors State College, visit www.connorsstate.edu. Follow college updates on Facebook at facebook.com/connorsstate.



A Love of Connors

A LOVE OF SERVICE



Carole Able Holsetine

Carole Able Holsetine loved Connors State College. During her freshman year, 1954-1955, she was a member of the Art Club and Glee Club Ensemble, reporter for Russell Belles – a freshman girls club, vice president of the Homemakers Club and Devotional Chair of the Young Women’s Auxiliary. In her sophomore year, she added Tri Psi, Pep Club, Square Dance Club and Girls Trio to her impressive list of activities and leadership roles.

After college, Carole raised a family while directing and teaching preschool at Sandusky Avenue Christian Church in Tulsa. She was an active Girl Scout Leader and a member of the PTA. Carole’s love of Connors continued,

and she became a member of the board of directors for the Connors State College Alumni Association. Carole served in multiple positions including several years as president.

Carole Able Holsetine passed away in May at the age of 78. Her husband, Robert, said, “Her happiest days were at Connors; she loved Connors and the good friends she met there.”

The current board of directors credits Carole and her hard work for the success of the CSC Alumni and Friends Association and its recent annual reunions.

Thank you, Carole, for your dedication and service to Connors State College.



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