

CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

CONNECTION

**HARD WORK
TAKES STUDENTS
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

JULY 2012



CONNORS
— STATE COLLEGE —

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CONNORS

STATE COLLEGE

Building Futures One At A Time Since 1908



CONNORS, ANYTHING BUT QUIET DURING SUMMER BREAK

The sound of clippers, mooing cattle and the chattering of agriculture students echoed throughout the Connors State College indoor arena as Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb entered the building.



Each summer college students flee the campus to go soak up their summer vacation and shortly after their departure camp participants flood the campus. Connors State College does not stay quiet for long after finals week wraps up. With numerous camps being held during the summer months, most students meet each other coming and going. From the many agriculture camps to athletic camps, there is something going on at Connors that sparks the interest of many students. Over 1000 students have circulated through the Connors campus this summer in hopes of learning valuable information, meeting new friends and having fun. The camps this summer included: Baseball campus, Men's and Women's Basketball Camps, Be a Champ Camp, Gear-up Nature Camps and Tradition in Excellence Livestock Judging Camps.



Lamb was greeted by "Be a Champ Camp," creator and State Representative, Jerry McPeak and Connors President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, Lamb was all smiles as he gazed around the arena at the hardworking and engaged students. Lt. Governor Lamb had made the two and a half hour trip from Oklahoma City to meet with and address the over 150 campers about the importance of what they were involved with. "Agriculture kids are always the best kids. They have a good work ethic and learn responsibility at a young age," said Lamb. After about 20 minutes of Lamb greeting the students, McPeak whistled and the campers hustled around putting up their cattle and hurrying back to the bleachers in anticipation to hear what the Lt. Governor had to say. After short introductions of the camp leaders and members of the Lt. Governor's staff, Lamb began by encouraging and congratulating the camp members for being a part of Agriculture. "Agriculture is one of the most important things you can be a part of; you are learning life skills that you can use forever. I practically had to beg Representative McPeak to let me visit the camp, he didn't believe me at first, but I wanted to come visit with future leaders," said Lamb. "Be a Champ Camp" has been in existence for over 30 years, when Jerry and his wife began the camp in 1980. Over 400 campers attend the 4-day camp each summer and learn key showing, grooming and feeding techniques of the cattle industry. Jerry McPeak served as an Ag instructor and Livestock Judging coach in the 1980's and continued with the camps after he left Connors in the late 1980s.



Lt. Governor Lamb tells the campers about his past career as a secret service agent.



HARD WORK TAKES STUDENTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Fulfilling the promise of their potential is a goal that Connors State College strives to do for its students. As a college, we not only want to provide them with an exceptional education and a true college experience, but also with the confidence and resources necessary to propel them to the next level. The college prides itself on the ability to meet the needs of our diverse student base and it is key in our mission to provide all appropriate avenues to each and every student. Each year a class of new students comes in and other students filter out and scatter across the country and state chasing their goals and dreams. Connors State College is proud to be a part of this journey and these students will take another step forward as they go to the next level.

The Summer Academic Success Academy is in its pilot year this summer and had definitely proved to be successful as a program and most importantly for the students. Twenty three students enrolled in the four week academy that focused on improving their math skills and helping them advance through the developmental math classes. Based on test scores from the ACT and the Compass testing, students are placed in one of the three developmental math classes or right into College Algebra. Any student who tests into a developmental class is eligible to enroll into the Academy and has the opportunity to test out of the one, two or all three developmental classes. "We want to see our students succeed and graduate as quickly as they can. For instance, one student was able to advance through all developmental levels and saved himself 3 semester and nearly one thousand dollars in tuition costs, that is what it is all about," said Director of Developmental Studies, Robin O'Quinn. "We provide the program, but the students have to put in the hard work and I was pleased to see so many students putting in the time and efforts to improve their skills," added O'Quinn.

Students are tested three times throughout the four week academy in order to track their progress and move them through the developmental courses. This year's Academy had a 70% success in gaining levels for enrolled students. One moved 3 levels, three moved 2 levels and twelve moved 1 level. The remaining seven showed great improvement in their area. The program has hopes of growing bigger next year and the college is building a newly renovated Success Center to accommodate for the hopeful growth. The new Success Center, which has an estimated completion date of August 1, 2012, will also be available for all students for tutoring services. (Read about the new Success Center in the August's Connection). Some of the comments made by enrolled Academy students were a true testimonial of the success of the program. "Take the course! You will make a dramatic improvement," said one student. "My math skills are now comparable to most college students which is a great improvement from before," added another student.



CLAIRE MARTIN
LIVESTOCK JUDGING/AG
All-American Livestock Judger
Ag-Ambassador, Aggie Club,
2012 CSC Homecoming Queen
NEXT LEVEL-KANSAS
STATE-PRE-VET



JAKE BARTON
BASEBALL
Infielder - BA .313 - 14 doubles - 2 HRs
Connors 32nd Academic All-American
His uncle played at Connors under Coach Keith in 1986-87
NEXT LEVEL-UNIV. OF ARKANSAS
AT LITTLE ROCK



NIKKI LEWIS
COWGIRL BASKETBALL
Two-year Cowgirl Starter
Tahlequah, OK native
Guard
NEXT LEVEL-TABOR
UNIVERSITY

CHRISTOPHER LEEPER
SUCCESS ACADEMY
Moved three levels of math in 4 weeks
Incoming freshman
Checotah, OK native
NEXT LEVEL-COLLEGE
ALGEBRA





CONNORS
APPOINTS NEW
VP

On June 14th the OSU A&M Board of Regents approved the hire of Dr. Ron Ramming as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Connors State College. Ramming grew up on a diversified livestock crop farm in Hinton, OK. Ramming attended Connors State College, graduating in 1985 with an Associate of Science. He then completed his undergraduate studies at Oklahoma State University in 1987 earning his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture (Animal Science). Ramming went on to pursue his Master's Degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee later returning to OSU to obtain his Ph.D. in Agricultural Education/Higher Education Administration. Ramming started his career in higher education in 1990 at Connors State College as an Agriculture Instructor and Assistant Livestock Judging Team Coach. In 1998, he became the Director of Distance and Extended Education and six years later took over as Dean of Enrollment Services. Since 2009 he has served as Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Services and will begin his duties of VP of Academic Affairs immediately.



CLEET
Training



Connors State College has taken another step in ensuring the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. In October 2011, the CSC administration hired James Mendenhall as the coordinator of safety and security. Mendenhall joined Connors State with over 20 years of experience in law enforcement. On June 13th, Mendenhall finished the hours necessary to become a state certified law enforcement officer by completing 14 ½ weeks of intensive on-site training through the Council of Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) in Ada, Oklahoma. The academy consists of 596 hours with days beginning at 6:00 am and lights out at 10:00 pm. The

academy's basic courses included the following training areas: Law Enforcement Driver Training, Firearms, Traffic, Criminal Investigation, Defensive Tactics, and Patrol Tactics, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Out of 61 in the graduating class, Mendenhall finished in the top ten of his class in firearms training and law enforcement driver training. Mendenhall will complete an additional 40 hours of Police Chief Administrative and Command Staff Training in the Fall of 2012.

Hitting the Links for Athletic Scholarships

Connors State College held its first Athletic Department Golf Scramble on Friday, July 13 and it was highly successful, according to CSC Athletic Director Bill Muse.

"I thought for our first ever golfing event it went very well," said Muse. "All the golfers had a great time and enjoyed themselves at Cobble Stone Golf Club. We raised approximately \$5,800 for the athletic department, which will be used for athletic scholarships.

"We can see this tournament growing in the upcoming years, with the help of our good friends who support Connors State," said Muse. "We are already planning on a much larger tournament next year." The tournament drew a field of 32 golfers for the 18-hole event at Cobble Stone Golf Club in Muskogee, which comprised eight, four-man teams.

The tournament was a four-man scramble event.

Taking the top honors was the Veterans/Upward Bound team comprised of Rick Phillips, Ben Phillips, Lana Phillips and Nick Phillips (pictured with Dr. Faltyn, President of CSC and CSC Athletic Director, Bill Muse).

The Veterans/Upward Bound team shot a 55 to win the event. Second place was captured by the team of Bill Fisher, Brad Fisher, Jamie Fisher and Ron Creason. The combined for a team total of 59. Third place was won by Armstrong Bank team with a 61.

Other team scores in the tournament were McPeak 63, Cagle/Evans 63, Northeastern State 64, Woods 70, and Firstar Bank 73.



HEARTLAND CLASSIC BRINGS OVER 150 PLAYERS

The Heartland All-Star Baseball Classic was held on the campus of Connors State College on June 21-25 with 150 players and 13 teams participating in the event from Oklahoma and Arkansas under the direction of Cowboys head baseball coach Perry Keith. It was the 12th year for the Heartland Classic which was played at Connors State's Biff Thompson Field. Defending champion Ontario, Canada, Blue Jays, the defending champions, who have won the tournament title since 2008, was unable to defend its title this season due to a scheduling conflict. The Canadian team, however, is expected to return for the 2013 tournament.

However, the 2012 championship was won by the Oklahoma Navy All-Stars, who captured a 3-2 nine-inning victory over Hilldale, the defending Class 4A State High School Champions. Teams who participated in the four-day tournament where Hilldale High School, Oklahoma White, Oklahoma Royal, Oklahoma Maroon, Oklahoma Black, Oklahoma Teal, Warner High School, Oklahoma Navy, Oklahoma Red, Oklahoma Purple, Oklahoma Green, Oklahoma Gold, and Oklahoma Orange.

OPEN HOUSE

The summer heat was in full swing when the Connors State College Recruiting Department hosted an Open House at the new Muskogee West Campus. The college offered free ice cream to beat the heat and all departments were present to offer information to visitors. Tours of the new campus were given to the more than 100 people who came to the open house. "We were pleased with the turn-out of people," said Logan Knapper, Director of Recruitment, "We had face painting and inflatables so that families felt welcome because we want to let adult students know that we are a family friendly college who can meet the needs of adult students. Two of the lucky visitors earned \$600 scholarships to be used for the fall semester and other drawings produced prizes such as, Ipod nanos, gift certificates, and Connors apparel.



Director of Recruitment, Logan Knapper presents student with a \$600 scholarship.



Potential students visit with Director of Nursing, Charlotte Vaughn.



CSC employee, Andrea Elliot offered free face paintings to open house visitors.

PTK Receives Five Star Level

The Five Star Level is the highest level and chapter can receive from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and Connors State College has been granted this honor for two consecutive years. PTK Advisor, Jolene Armstrong said, "To receive this honor, a chapter must hold meetings at least twice a month during school semesters, have induction ceremonies twice a year, attend regional meetings, participate in the Honors Program, participate in a college project and write about these project, enter an individual category and attend the National Convention." Last years members participated in the process of assisting new and returning students with setting up their CKEY accounts. The assistance from the PTK made the process for new students informational and pleasurable. The Honors Program last year included researching the topic of Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise. The chapter examined what seemed to burden community members, their results showed that poverty seemed to affect the community. Members did a lunch and labor event and donated all proceeds from a taco dinner and a silent auction to United Way. Over 50 students will be returning this fall as members of the Connors State College PTK Honor Society.

LIVE WELL

Open enrollment for this fall's Live Well program is beginning! Information can be picked up at the Warner Fitness Center or Muskogee Swim and Fitness. Monthly drawings are awarded as well as the "On the Menu" seminars that are offered each month. The Warner Fitness Center is free to all employees of Connors and Muskogee Swim and Fitness is \$15/mo for employees and \$15.75 for family members. It is never too late to start!

Students are eligible for **FREE** membership at Muskogee Swim and Fitness! All you have to do is show up with your student ID!

CONNORS BECOMES A TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS



On February 6, 2012, as part of Gov. Mary Fallin's initiative to improve the health of Oklahoma, she issued an Executive Order prohibiting the use of all tobacco products in buildings, land and vehicles owned, leased or contracted for use by Oklahoma state agencies or institutions of the State of Okla., this ban includes Connors State College. The ban of tobacco use on Connors State College property went into effect on July 1, 2012.

To comply with this executive order, officials at Connors formed a committee that developed an institutional policy and a plan for implementing the ban of tobacco use.

The campus boundaries have been established with the construction of pillars and signage has been placed around campus to serve as a reminder for students, faculty, staff and visitors of the change. Campus police will be responsible for enforcing the executive order on Connors State College property. To help tobacco user's transition to the ban of tobacco use, information about tobacco cessation for state employees is available around campus as well as the human resources office.

Visit www.ok.gov for more information about Gov. Fallin's executive order.



FORMER CSC PRESIDENT

Dr. Westbrook Donates Heifer to CSC



From left to right, Dr. Tim Faltyn, Dr. Westbrook and Vince Westbrook gather in the new Flag area on campus.



From left to right, Vince Westbrook, Dr. Westbrook and Dr. Faltyn ride around campus checking out all the new renovations and improvements to campus.

With over 1400 acres, 140 head of cattle and 5 different animal breeds, The farm at Connors State College continues to grow. On a hot Oklahoma summer day, former president, Carl O. Westbrook traveled over 200 miles to add a touch of his ranch to CSC.

Dr. Carl Westbrook served as president at Connors State College from 1978 to 1994, as his Connors career ended, his love for the college has continued on.

Throughout his service at Connors State College, Westbrook was strong supporter of Agriculture and can be noted as the president responsible for rebuilding the Division of Agriculture as we know it today. Westbrook continues to operate his personal ranch in north-eastern Oklahoma and his most recent support to the college came with a donation of a registered Santa Gertrudis heifer, sired by his famous bull "Icon". "The college is thankful for the generosity of Dr. Westbrook. Adding first class heifers to our program will continue to help us become a national leader in agriculture," said current president, Dr. Tim Faltyn.



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*Left to Right front row;
Joann Watson, Patsy Roe, Sidelth Brown,
Connie Redford, Julia Webster, and Janet
Ridley
Left to Right, back row;
Calvin Moore, Martin Moore, Ronnie
Moore, and Jack Moore.*

Julia Moore Webster, daughter of Leonard and Claudia Moore, was raised in Porum, Oklahoma along with her nine siblings. Their parents always emphasized the importance of education; they felt it was the greatest gift they could give their children. Joan Moore Watson enrolled at Connors State College in 1954, Calvin Moore in 1956, Patsy Moore Roe in 1958, and Sildeth Moore Brown in 1960. At that time Leonard and Claudia had four children living in the dorms and knew they would have to move the family Warner so all of their children could take advantage of a quality education so close to home...but they needed to be close enough they could walk there. Following their move Martin Moore attended Connors in 1965, Jack Moore and twins Connie Moore Redford and Ronnie Moore in 1966, and Julia Moore Webster followed 1967.

During her time at Connors State College, Julia Moore Webster enjoyed the student dances, the high school tournaments, the football games and “so enjoyed the tennis courts.” After completing her education at Connors State College, Mrs. Webster continued her education at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, earning a bachelors degree in education. Mrs. Webster taught at Warner Public Schools, and later became the high school counselor. While serving as the high school counselor, she often suggested Connors to her students. She felt that Connors was “like a big high school for the surrounding schools,” small enough that students could feel at home there, but still provided a great education. Mrs. Webster’s time at Connors State College was only a small link in a long chain of family members that attended Connors State College. Her sister, Janet Moore Ridley followed her

footsteps in 1968. Mrs. Webster’s husband, Jack Webster, and several of her sibling’s spouses also attended Connors. This pathway of education was passed on to Mrs. Webster’s son, Jared Webster, and daughter Jill Webster Murr also attended Connors, as did many nieces and nephews. The continuing association of the Moore family with Connors State College has reminded them that the educational endeavors and accomplishments of one large family at one small college proved to be the stepping stone. Leonard and Claudia Moore would be proud to see that what began as a small gift to their ten children has grown into a huge gift to their grandchildren, and countless other children’s lives touched by Mrs. Julia Webster.

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