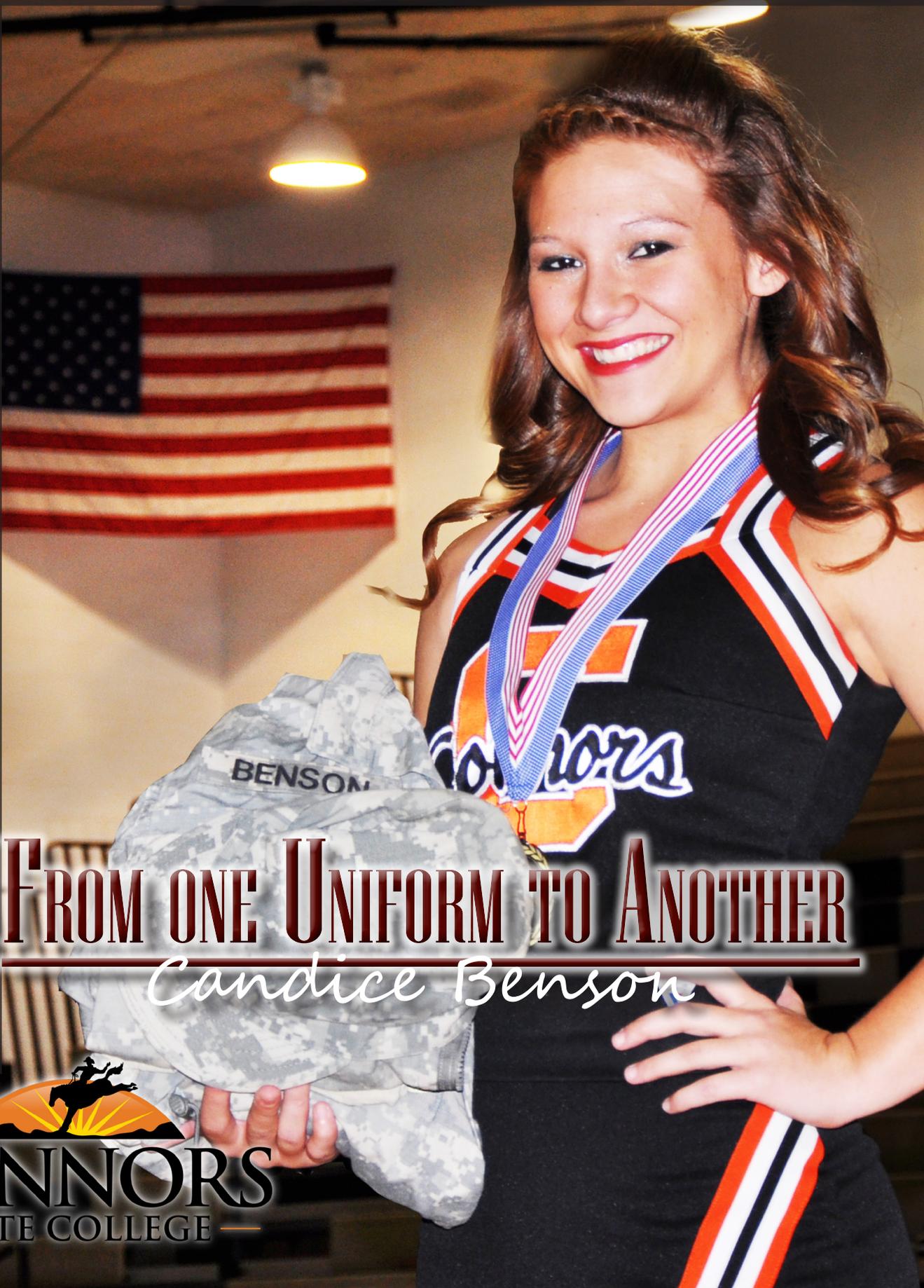


CONNORS STATE COLLEGE

NONIHCENNON

NOV 2011



FROM ONE UNIFORM TO ANOTHER
Candice Benson



CONNORS
— STATE COLLEGE —

CONTENTS

NOV '11



Connors State College Staff attend Veterans Day event on 11-11-11 at the Warner Campus.

1 Two Presidents, One Birthday
Former President Inducted into Hall of Fame

2 Veterans Day 11-11-11 Celebration
Muskogee Mayor Speaks to PLC

3 Staff & Faculty Feature
A True Aviator - Lt. Col. James Sanders
Patrick Clancy, Division Chair Business/CIS

4 Patriotic Night
Former Cowboy Strikes Gold

5 Cover Story
From One Uniform to Another

6 Counselor Round-Up
Meet CSC Recruitment Staff

7 CSC Development Foundation
Over 400 Attend CSC Haunted House
Connors Got Talent

8 Ryan Carlton Visits Warner Elementary

9 Health Tips
New Equipment Arrives at CSC
Fitness Center

Check out our **Featured Alumni**
on the back cover.



Biology Professor, Ryan Carlton's son, Morgan Carlton holds one of their many snakes.

Veterans honored at Patriotic Night.



CONNORS

STATE COLLEGE

Building Futures One At A Time Since 1908



Two Presidents, One Birthday



Dr. Carl O. Westbrook, 13th President of Connors State College

In 1978 a man by the name of Dr. Carl O. Westbrook became the 13th president of Connors State College. Thirty three years later, Connors State College appointed the institutions 16th president, Dr. Tim Faltyn. Presidency is not the only commonality these two men share. On October 25th both of these men were born. Westbrook was born in 1922 in Crockett, Texas and 48 years later Faltyn was born in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

This past October Westbrook celebrated his 89th birthday with friends and family. President, Dr. Tim Faltyn received an invitation to attend this special occasion. Faltyn shared this special evening with Westbrook and discussed his vision for the college and listened in as Westbrook enlightened him on his 16 years as President at Connors State College. There were many accomplishments to hear about. Under the direction of Dr. Westbrook, Connors State College built both the indoor and outdoor areas, Muskogee officially became a branch campus offering resident credit college courses, the CSC Ranch was acquired, and enrollment hit 2400 in 1992-93. These were just a few of the achievements reached during the Westbrook era. Since Dr. Faltyn's arrival it has been one of his goals to showcase the schools 100 year history. He believes, "We must know where we've been to know where we are going." This meeting provided valuable insight on the past leadership and success of Connors State College.

Former President Inducted into Hall of Fame

Retirement seems to agree with former Connors State College President, Dr. Donnie Nero. Although he retired last semester, Dr. Nero doesn't believe his work is complete.

He and his wife, Shirley, moved to Clearview, OK, because "it's my wife's hometown and a historic Black town." During his retirement Dr. Nero is still adding to his list of accomplishments. He was officially inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame on October 10.

The Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of higher education in Oklahoma. The Society chronicles the progress of Oklahoma's higher education from territorial days through the present. Annually since 1991, the Society sponsors the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. In collaboration with Oklahoma Historical Society, OHEHS has created an exhibit focusing on higher education in Oklahoma located in the Noble Foundation Gallery on the third floor of the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

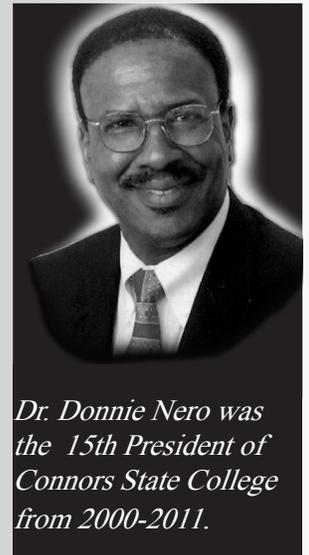
"It's just one of those things that you never think about. You just go through life doing the best you can for everyone and you never expect something like this to happen because of it," Dr. Nero said. He wasn't sure who exactly was responsible for his nomination, but he said, "I think it was a Connors colleague and I'm pretty sure my wife had something to do with it."

More than 150 leaders have been inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame since 1994.

These leaders, living and deceased are men and women who have excelled in higher education and have encouraged others to contribute to the economic development and quality of life in Oklahoma. They have also been employed by one or more institutions for ten or more years. "It's a great honor to be affiliated with all these people and to be presented among them," said Dr. Donnie Nero, former CSC President.

To honor his accomplishment, he received a plaque and certificate, along with monetary gifts from friends. Also his picture now hangs in state offices. Dr. Nero said, "The past twenty-six years have been very beneficial to my life. I worked with great people at CSC and Tulsa Community College. If there is ever anything I can do to help anyone, I extend myself to do that and to do anything I can to help."

Until he is needed elsewhere, he and his wife will continue work on long neglected home improvement projects and go on day trips to places around the area. Dr. Nero also still works with youth in his spare time. He is on several boards including the Office of Juvenile Affairs and the Youth in Agriculture organization. Although he likes working from that perspective, he loves spending time with his grandchildren. Also next fall, Dr. Nero and his wife plan to go on a cruise to the Holy Lands.



Dr. Donnie Nero was the 15th President of Connors State College from 2000-2011.

Veterans Day 11-11-11 Celebration

As the wind blew and the leaves flew on Friday, November 11th, Connors State College gave tribute to the veterans who have served and are presently serving our country and protecting our freedom. The tribute was held at 10:30 a.m. under the gazebo in front of the Student Union on the Warner campus.

The service began with the hoisting of the American flag by a United States Navy representative and a United States Marine Corps representative. The dedicated plaque was also unveiled during this part of the ceremony. The taps solos were played by Mr. Ted Hines, a World War II veteran. Rebecca Terry, a Checotah High School student, sang two songs, the “National Anthem” and “God Bless America” for the tribute. Retired Lt. Colonel James Sanders of the United States Marine Corps led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayer was given by Mr. Bill Moorer from the V, A. Medical Center.

Representatives from the Armed Forces, United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and the United States Air Force were present at the tribute. After the flag dedication from Colonel James Sanders, the Warner mayor and the Honorable Ed Cannaday said a few words for the tribute. To conclude the ceremony, the Seminole Nation Rifle Squad did a gun salute as a tribute to the departed veterans. Finally, the 138th Tactical Fighter wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard did a flyover to honor the veterans.

-Written by CSC Journalism student, Heather Ranes

Honoring those
who sacrificed
and those
who are now
sacrificing for
our freedoms.

All gave some and
some gave all.

Veterans Upward Bound
Connors State College
Dedicated November 11, 2011

Muskogee Mayor Speaks to CSC President's Leadership Class



Mayor of Muskogee, John Tyler Hammons visited the Warner Campus and addressed the Presidents Leadership Class on Tuesday, Nov. 1. Hammons is the 47th and current mayor of Muskogee. Hammons is among the youngest mayors in United States History and is youngest Mayor in Muskogee History. He was first elected in 2008 at just 19 years old and a freshman at the University of Oklahoma.

Hammons brought great energy and advice to the PLC class by saying, “You not only have to believe in your goals, you have to believe in yourself.” He played a scene from Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back. Afterwards, he spoke about what he called “Yoda Wisdom” and highlighted quotes such as “Do... or do not.

There is no try.” which to him means if you simply try to do something you are planning to fail.

He shared his passion for Roman history and in response to a student's question he chose Julius Caesar as the person from history he'd most like to meet. He also stated that he disagrees with the popular saying that history repeats itself instead stated “History doesn't repeat itself –but it rhymes”

He also addressed topics on leadership, priorities, time management, a life in the spotlight, and how he achieved so much in so little time. “The students seemed to relate to Mayor Hammons,” stated PLC Advisor, Lyndsey Sharp. “They were intrigued and encouraged that someone not much older than them had accomplished so much.” President Faltyn believes that Mayor Hammons is an excellent example for the students. “He is living proof that ambition, perseverance and character can be used in a positive way by serving the people.”

Lt. Col. Jim Sanders

A TRUE AVIATOR

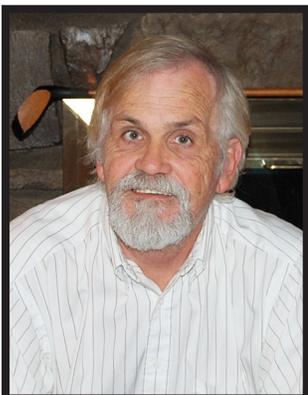
Lieutenant Colonel Jim Sanders can be seen at all Veterans events that Connors State College hosts. As the Director of Veterans Upward Bound and a retired Marine, Sanders sees the importance of keeping patriotism alive on the campus. In 1957 and fresh out of college from Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma, Sanders enlisted into the United States Marine Corps. He decided early in his career that he wanted to fly. Directly following his officer candidate school in Quantico, Virginia, he began the U.S. Navy Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida. During his downtime Sanders fulfilled another passion by playing for the Goshawks football team. "I like to say I played for the same team as legendary hall of famer, Roger Staubach. Before Roger could play for the Dallas Cowboys, he had to complete four years of service for the Navy so he played for the Goshawks a couple years before I got there." His accomplishments far exceed the bragging rights of playing on the same team as Staubach. Lt. Col. Sanders went on to advanced flight training school and eventually used his special talents to complete 185 combat missions during Vietnam in 1967. With over 6,000 flight hours under his belt and numerous promotional titles such as, Captain, Reserve Commission, Selection Officer and Lieutenant Colonel, Sanders retired from the Marines. After retirement He headed to attend graduate school at the University of Iowa and become a grad assistant under the direction of renowned football coach and acquaintance, Hayden Fry.

Sanders was ready to fulfill a coaching passion he had longed for. After three years at the University of Iowa, Sanders left for Texas. He spent a total of five years in Texas coaching before transferring to Kansas, where he coached for an additional six years. Eventually Lt. Col. Sanders found his way back to Oklahoma where he discovered a contact that led him to his current position as the Director of Veterans Upward Bound. Sanders had originally applied for a psychology teaching position at Connors, but shortly after his arrival in Oklahoma, Connors had received a grant for a program called Veterans Upward Bound. This opportunity seemed perfect for a retired military person. Another ironic occurrence happened at this time at Connors. Lt. Col. Sanders met CSC Vice-President, Gary Updyke, and both men discovered they were stationed together during one of their overseas tours and they also played on the same football team on the base in California. Over ten years has passed and Lt. Col. Sanders is still fulfilling his duties to encourage and assist veterans in seeking higher education.



Pat Clancy

Division Chair, Business/CIS



November 11 is a special day to honor Veterans who have served our country. Connors State College would like to recognize Pat Clancy's service to his country and CSC. Clancy served in the Airforce from 1971-1975. Spending three years at the 437th Military Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB, in South Carolina and one year as a part of the 8th Tac Fighter Wing at Ubon RTAFB in Ubon, Thailand. Clancy's father made a career out of the U.S. Air Force so Clancy grew up on Air Force bases and knew it as good way of life.

Ten years ago we were fortunate enough to have Clancy become a professor in our Business Department. Clancy is currently the Division Chair over the Business Department and Computer Information Systems. He enjoys the interaction he gets with the students and their diverse backgrounds. It allows him to work with varying needs on a daily basis. As an employee at CSC he likes the family attitude that each staff and faculty member has toward one another.

As an educational instructor, Clancy knows and believes in the importance of higher education, "As technology continues to advance, people's ability to earn a living is going to be based more on knowledge and analytical skills rather than manual labor. Higher education teaches people the types of skills required to analyze and solve problems." The education that students receive at Connors will allow them to reach this need. "We have a large population area to serve and we provide the people in this area with quality educational opportunities at more affordable prices than most of our competition. One of my favorite things about being at Connors State College, compared to other schools I have worked at, is that people here truly seem to like one another. I think that makes it much easier for the faculty and staff here to work together to accomplish the primary goal of providing student with the quality educational opportunities they deserve," stated Clancy.

Patriotic Night

Patriotic Night was a huge success with the largest turnout in the 10 years that Connors State College has presented the program, according to Veterans Upward Bound Director James W. Sanders, retired Lt. Colonel United States Marine Corps. "We bring in one of the representatives of each one of the services and we honor all the veterans that attend Connors," said Col. Sanders. "We had a great turnout, the largest we've ever had. It was great."

Connors State President Dr. Tim Faltyn, who presented the veterans with a medallion for their service at halftime of the Connors State Cowboys season opening basketball game said, "We were delighted to honor the veterans. "It's my understanding that this was the largest event for the veterans that we've had at the college. We are certainly proud of that and that they support our programs. A lot of these guys have given a lifetime of service. And just to be a part of it, the college is honored," said Dr. Faltyn.

Andy Wallace of Eufaula, a veteran of both the Army and Navy serving during the Vietnam era (1972-75 and 1980-86) said, "This program means quite a bit to me. "It's great that they are honoring the veterans for their service, like in my case the Vietnam War. This means a great deal to me. It's great that the college did this program," said Wallace.

Participating in the Patriotic Night were Muskogee High School R.O.T.C Honor Guard presenting the colors, Ms. Ariana Klassen of Alice Robertson Junior High signing the National Anthem, Lt. Col. James W. Sanders, United States Marine Corps retired and Lt. Col. Cal McCarter, United States Air Force retired and former chaplain gave the prayer.

Representing the branches of the services were former Army staff sergeant Kathy Durland, Navy reserve Petty Officer First Class Glenn Windham, former Marine Corps sergeant Stephanie Anderson, retired Air Force master sergeant Curtis Forbes and Coast Guard Petty Officer second class N. Murray.



Former Cowboy Strikes Gold

Marcus Knecht has struck gold. Pan American gold that is. The former Connors State College baseball player was a member of his native home's Team Canada baseball squad that defeated the United States in the 2011 Pan American Games in Lagos De Moreno, Mexico in October for the Gold Medal. Team Canada defeated the U.S. 2-1 to take home the Gold Medal. The gold was Canada's first at the Pan American Games, a competition that has been dominated by Cuba for 40 years. The Cubans had won 10 straight titles until the United States rolled to a 12-10 victory in the semifinals and had to settle for the bronze. For Knecht it was a culmination of great accomplishments for the former Cowboy outfielder over the past year. A Region II first team selection, Knecht was a one year transfer from Oklahoma State University. In his only season under head coach Perry Keith, Knecht hit .453 with 23 home runs, 20 steals and a .540 on-base percentage. "He had a great career for us and just had great numbers for us," said Keith. "The thing about Marcus is that he was such a hard worker and played very hard. His motor was going all the time. "To win a Gold Medal for his country is a great accomplishment. I know he is very proud," said Keith.

Knecht, who was headed to North Carolina State, after his one season at Connors, never made it to the Atlantic Coast Conference school. Instead he was drafted in the third round of the Major League Baseball draft by the Toronto Blue Jays (113th overall selection). His professional baseball career has taken off since leaving the Warner campus.

Knecht was selected to the Midwest League's mid-season all-star team in only his first full season of professional baseball. He signed with the Blue Jays for \$250,000 and was assigned to short-season Auburn. While at Auburn he hit 5 home runs while batting .268 in 61 games.

Knecht played so well at Auburn and at spring training that he was promoted to Single-A Lansing. While at Lansing he hit .279, with 31 doubles, 3 triples, 16 home runs and 80 runs-batted-in. "Marcus is on the fast track in pro ball, if he can stay healthy," said Keith. "The guy has all the tools to play." Knecht is expected to be promoted to the high-A level Dunedin Blue Jays in the Florida State League for the start of the 2012 season.

FROM ONE UNIFORM TO ANOTHER

Candice Benson, the oldest sibling of three girls, headed south in September of 2008 after enlisting in the United States Army. “My sisters and I are so close in age I knew it would be hard for my parents to afford college so I knew this is something I had to do,” said Benson. She always had a passion for cheerleading, but knew in order to fulfill this dream she would have to sacrifice some of her time to earn the money for school. “The army did a great job teaching me discipline and independence. Unlike college where if I miss class it is on me, the military was a very structured environment.” Benson was following in the footsteps of her military father and was familiar to the strict rules of the military due to her father’s background in the service. Younger sister, Rachel Benson said, “I was surprised that she had decided to join, but I knew she could handle it.”

Benson stayed in the Army for a total of three years stationed in places such as Ft. Hood Texas to Camp Carroll Korea. Her title was an 92G or a food service specialist. Her duties included preparing food as early as 4:00 a.m. for her fellow soldiers.

She returned in the spring of 2011 and came to enroll for fall semester classes at Connors. Alongside her younger sister Rachel, she also became a part of the CSC Cheerleading squad. The Benson sisters have been cheerleading since they were really young. “My mom actually started a football league for 4th, 5th and 6th graders just so we would have something to cheer for,” said Benson.

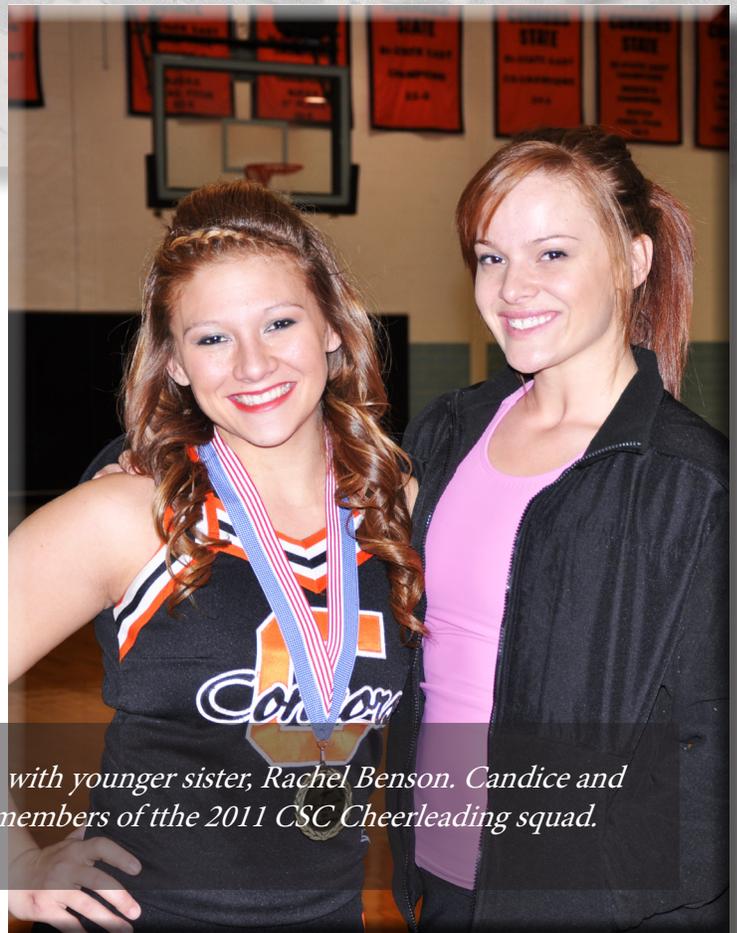
Throughout her time in the Army, Benson spent lots of time talking about and missing cheerleading. “I always found myself defending the sport of cheerleading... yes it’s a sport, Benson said, I would try to convince all the guys how hard it actually was.”

She has combatted a lot more injuries in cheerleading than the military. “I have broken my nose four times and my hand two times during cheer.”

Benson is glad to be back to civilian life as a full time student and is enjoying her time at Connors. She is currently in the pre-vet program at Connors and wants to complete her degree at OSU in hopes of becoming a Veterinarian. “I lived around animals my whole life, and this is something I have always wanted to do,” stated Benson.



Benson huddles with her teammates after her interview with Connors Connection.



Candice Benson, with younger sister, Rachel Benson. Candice and Rachel are both members of the 2011 CSC Cheerleading squad.

“I knew she could handle it”



Pictured above:
 Top: CSC Mug and bouquet of flowers provided by CSC Horticulture Department.
 Middle: Breakfast prepared by Sodexo and sponsored by the National Guard.
 Bottom: Counselor CSC totes prepared by Marcia Hicks



CONNORS

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Counselors Round-Up

The Connors State College Recruiting Department hosted another successful Counselor Round-up event for 2011. Counselors from Sallisaw to Broken Arrow attended this year's round-up event, with the total attendance at 38. Each year, high school counselors from the around the state are invited to the campus for a deluxe breakfast and an informational seminar on what is new and happening at Connors. "The National Guard was generous enough to sponsor the breakfast for this year's event," said Director of Recruitment, Logan Knapper. "This event is a win win situation. The counselors are able to ask department representatives questions and learn about new information pertaining to the school, and we are able to use the time to let them know what our visions are for the future and the opportunities available at Connors."

President of Connors State College, Dr. Tim Faltyn gave the opening remarks and was able to use this opportunity to introduce himself and share his visions for the college. Other speakers included, CSC Registrar, Sonya Baker, Director of Financial Aid, Jennifer Watkins, Financial Aid Counselor, Baxter Stewart, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Service, Dr. Ron Ramming, and Logan Knapper, Director of Recruitment. Additional speakers included representatives from the National Guard and the Thunderbird Youth Academy.

The counselors did not leave empty handed. Connors State College provided them with a new CSC tote, a coffee mug with a bouquet of flowers provided by Debbie Golden and the CSC Horticulture Department, and informational packets that can be used during their advisement to high school students.



Pictured above: Logan Knapper, Director of Recruitment greets a counselor at the 2011 Round-Up event.



Pictured above: CSC President, Dr. Tim Faltyn high fives a counselor that is newer in her job than he is in his.

**SCHOLARSHIP
 DEADLINES ARE
 MARCH 1, 2012**

**RECRUITMENT
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**MEET OUR
 RECRUITMENT STAFF**

Director of Recruitment



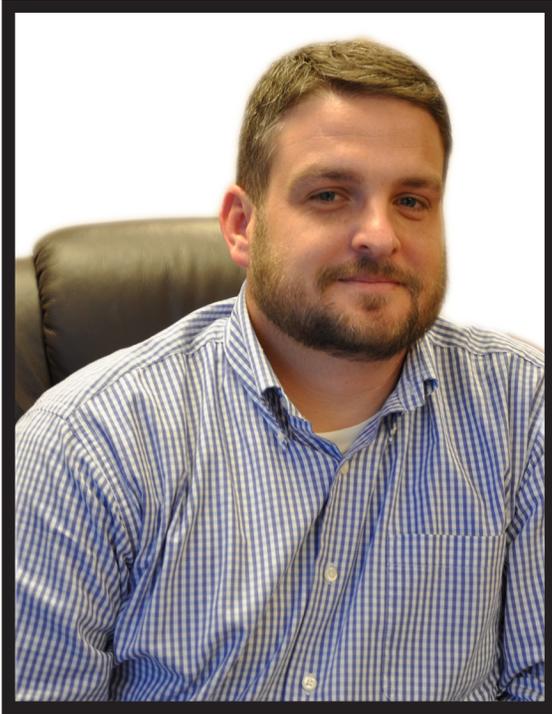
Logan Knapper



Spencer Nera

Recruiter

CONNORS STATE COLLEGE Development Foundation



As the new Executive Director of the Connors Development Foundation (CDF), I am excited to have the opportunity to broaden the mission, goals, and activities of our Foundation. CDF, a non-profit organization created to support and further the mission of Connors State College, manages scholarships, donations, and other gifts to support our students and provide Connors the resources needed to deliver high quality education. I am also excited about Connors Connection, and the opportunity to keep you informed about CDF.

We are working hard to build upon Connors' great legacy, and expand our impact in the future. Keep your eye on us in the coming months for information about employee, alumni, endowment, and capital campaigns. We have great things in store for us here at Connors, and it is the CDF's mission to support Connors in building futures one at a time.

Over 400 Attend CSC Haunted House



Over 400 people came to the Warner campus to make their way through the college's free haunted house. The college hosted the haunted house on Saturday, October 29 and the event was open to the public. Students and staff spent a couple weeks putting the haunted house together. It had six themed areas from a surgery room to a Freddy Krueger room. "We had remarkable participation from students and staff to make this event possible. Then we saw the line stretching from Jacob Johnson to the Student Union and we knew our hard work had paid off," stated Director of Residential Life, Aaron Wright. "Connors State will continue to host events which will be open to the students as well as the public. We want the Warner community to know that this is their campus too," said President Dr. Tim Faltny.

"We want the Warner community to know that this is their campus too."

-Dr. Tim Faltny

Upcoming events include "lighting the campus" for the holiday season, an Acrudunk show during halftime of a Cowboys basketball game and many more.

Connors Got Talent

The Roxy Theatre in Muskogee was filled with talent as Connors Got Talent participants took the stage. Dancers, singers, and comedians took the stage to compete for the top talent. There were 13 acts that entertained for more than two hours to an audience of over 100 people. The following were the category winners:

Non-Vocal Category

- 1st Eileen Thomas
- 2nd Sunny King

Band Category

- 1st The Beautiful Side
- 2nd Tell & Chance

Solo Category

- 1st Shea Bellis
- 2nd Cody Richardson
- 3rd Kassandra Johnson



Participants backstage waiting for votes to be tallied.



Biology Professor,

Ryan Carlton & Snakes

Visit Warner Elementary

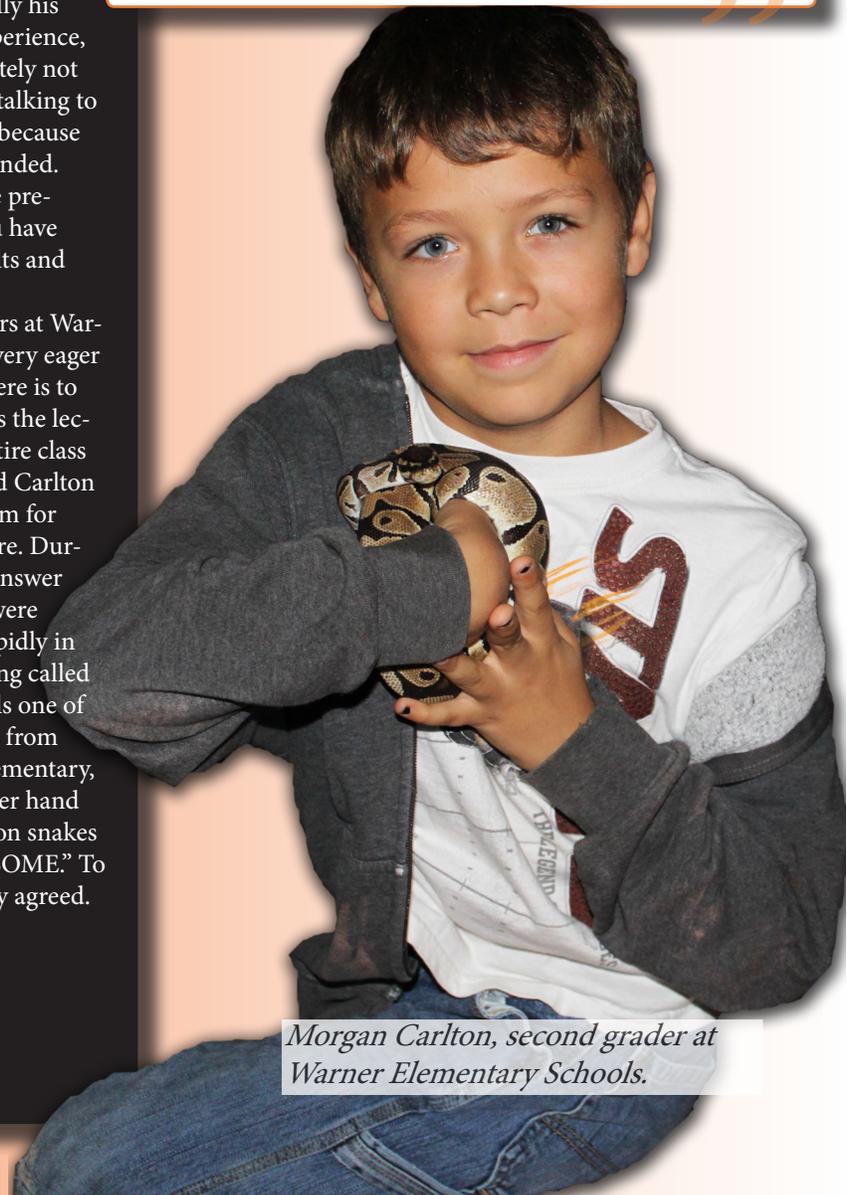
“My opinion on snakes is—
THEY ARE AWESOME”

Ryan Carlton packed up his snakes and headed over to Warner Elementary to teach the second grade class all there is to know about his slithery friends. “Ryan’s son, Morgan is in our second grade class so we thought it would be neat if his dad could be a guest speaker, said second grade teacher, Mrs. Terrell. “Morgan has been very excited all week for his dad to come speak to the class.”

Carlton has been intrigued with snakes since he was a kid. In his younger days he would just catch and release all the snakes he found. He did not get his first “full-time” pet snake until he was in college, but Connors was really where the education aspect of his hobby took off. A few years ago he assigned students to catch specimens and write reports over them for extra credit. Carlton would keep the snakes for display purposes before releasing them. One summer, Biology instructor, Dr. Stuart Woods asked him to talk to a science camp about snakes. The snake lecture turned out to be a big hit and he has been doing it every summer since.

Carlton’s visit to Warner Elementary was actually his first school setting experience, but he says, “It’s definitely not my last. I really enjoy talking to kids about the snakes because they are very open-minded. They don’t have all the pre-conceived notions you have to overcome with adults and young adults.”

The second graders at Warner Elementary were very eager to learn everything there is to know about snakes. As the lecture proceeded the entire class shifted forward toward Carlton until there was no room for them to move any more. During the question and answer section, the students were waving their hands rapidly in the air in hopes of being called on next. Carlton recalls one of his favorite comments from his time at Warner Elementary, “one little girl raised her hand and said ‘my opinion on snakes is –THEY ARE AWESOME.’” To which, Carlton quickly agreed.



Morgan Carlton, second grader at Warner Elementary Schools.

HEALTH TIPS

BY: LYNDSLEY SULLIVAN

THIS YEAR, I WILL

New Year's resolutions are quickly approaching. Have you figured out what positive change you want to make in 2012? Have you figured out how you will accomplish these resolutions? Statistics have shown that after 6 months only 46% of people are successful at their New Year resolutions. These statistics are substantially alarming, and they leave a person feeling disappointed and a deflated self esteem. It's a new beginning and a time to stop putting your needs on the back burner.

So how can you ensure a successful resolution? First, figure out the positive change you want to make. Think about your past resolutions and figure out what has worked and what hasn't. Next, be sure this goal is an attainable one. For instance, if you want to lose weight, make a goal to stop drinking pop or limit fast food to a couple times a month. These goals are more specific and will ultimately help you lose weight but can be managed more easily. Other popular resolutions are: smoking cessation, more family time, to eat more fruits and vegetables, save money, try something new and going back to school. Don't be afraid of failure. Make a resolution that is realistic and be sure to keep your goal as a priority in your life. Let's make 2012 the best yet!

New Equipment Arrives at CSC Fitness Center

"The new equipment is finally here," said civil engineering student, Adam Hosseini. "I was like a kid on Christmas day!" The new state-of-the-art Nautilus equipment has arrived to the Warner Campus Fitness Center. The center has added new cardio and weight equipment including treadmills, an elliptical, a recumbent bike, and a variety of new weight machines. "This is our first step in creating a healthy environment here at Connors, expressed new president, Dr. Timothy Faltyn. Exercise improves all aspects of life, and we want to have an adequate and inviting place for our students and employees to use."

The fitness center is open Monday-Thursday from 7am to 9pm and Fridays from 7am-5pm. Pre-Nursing student, Tina Anzlovar stated that, "Adding new cardio equipment means that students will not have to wait as long to use the machines. The new weight equipment has also given me more options to work all muscle groups."





CONNORS

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Building Futures One At A Time Since 1908

Our Alumni



CONNORS
STATE COLLEGE

A Place for Family

Judy Moore's ('78) family knows Connors well. Her grandfather drove the school bus for Connors, and her father, Charley Ross, graduated from Connors in 1935. Gatlin Hall is named after one of several cousins who attended Connors, and her husband is also a graduate. Judy, a former teacher and now a counselor at Hilldale High School, studied English at Connors and went on to earn her Bachelors and Master's degree from Northeastern State University. "Everything I taught in the classroom came from Connors," Judy says, "The faculty at Connors made English literature come to life." While at Connors, Judy was the editor of the school newspaper, and even interviewed Jimmy Carter while he was in Muskogee running for President. "Connors let me be me, everything started when I went to Connors."

After graduation, Judy dedicated her life to teaching, and now as a counselor, is truly doing what she loves. "My heart is in high school." She has taught English, among other subjects at Porum and Braggs, and even taught Spanish for the Muskogee school system. Judy also taught at Connors as an Adjunct English Instructor and worked with Upward Bound. Judy's children also attended Connors, where they were members of the Livestock Judging Team and Phi Theta Kappa. "Connors, and especially Coach McPeak, was very important in my children's success." Judy's family kept the tradition going, with two grandchildren having recently gone to Connors. "For us, Connors is a family place."

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