



CSC Alumni & Friends Association



A&F Annual 2010 Reunion Celebrates Moments to Remember

You are cordially invited to attend Connors State College Alumni and Friends Association's annual reunion, Saturday, April 24, 2010. We will be focusing on Moments To Remember. It is the hope of the Alumni and Friends Board and Alumni Membership that you are able to attend the reunion and to participate in remembering the time you spent, or other loved ones have spent at Connors State College. This year the inductee to the Connors Hall of Fame is Ken Ogdon. A registration form is enclosed in this newsletter. If you have "Moments to Remember" that you would like to share and be a part of the "walk down memory lane" please submit to A&F PO Box 1383, Muskogee, OK 74402-1383. Or phone Winnie Bowman 918-682-4957.

..... See you on the 24th!!!

Founders of Connors State College



Ken Ogdon Named Hall of Fame Inductee

Connors State College Alumni and Friends Association announce the 2010 Hall of Fame Recipient, Ken Ogdon. Ken graduated from Central High School in Sallisaw, Oklahoma in the spring of 1953 and enrolled at Connors State that fall. He worked for his room and board as a student secretary in the Journalism department for Mrs. Kline and later for Ms. Marshall.

Graduating from Connors in the spring of 1955, Ken attended Northeastern State College for one year. In the fall of 1956 he married Joyce Randolph and they moved to Wichita, Kansas where he started teaching school in the Wichita school system at the age of 19. Ken and Joyce finished their bachelor degrees at Friends University in Wichita.



Ken Finished his masters degree in education in 1962 from Emporia State College and was appointed principal of Skinner Elementary School at the age of 25 — the youngest principal ever appointed in the Wichita school system. In 1962, Ken was elected to the board of directors of the Kansas State Teacher's Association and in 1967-68 served as chairman of the board of directors. In 1968, Ken took time off from his principal's duties to become the first paid lobbyist for the Kansas State Teachers Association. In the summers of 1965 and 1966, Ken attended the University of Denver and worked toward a doctorate in education. In 1968, Ken and Joyce adopted their daughter Kendra. This ended Joyce's education career as an elementary art teacher and began a new career for her as a stay-at-home mom. In 1970, Ken ended his education career and took a position as a partner in the retail sales department of the Columbian Securities Corporation of Topeka, Kansas. Ken continued to be involved in Education in his new position working with schools and school employees with employee benefits and investments. In 1992, Ken bought his partners out and formed OFG Financial Services, Inc. OFG Financial Services currently has more than 80 active brokers in 10 states who work primarily in the education market. They serve over 300 employers in public schools, universities, colleges and community colleges. OFG Financial Services and its representatives serve more than 40,000 individual clients and have assets under management of more than 1.5 billion dollars. Ken and Joyce still live in Wichita, Kansas and Ken maintains the home office of OFG Financial Services in Topeka, Kansas. Their daughter, Kendra lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A Letter From A&F President, Carole Holestine

Dear Friends and Alumni:

It is reunion time, "Moments to Remember" is our theme this year. This was a popular song in the 1950's. I personally want to invite you to attend the Alumni and Friends Reunion, Saturday, April 24, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at CSC in Warner, Oklahoma. Social gathering and refreshments at 10:00 a.m. and lunch at 12:00 noon, the Student Union Lounge in the Cafeteria. There will be Hall of Fame induction for this year's inductee, Ken Ogdon. Also, a Business Meeting will be held prior to the conclusion of the reunion. If you have any agenda topics please contact us.

As I look back at Connors as a student and remember also my friends it was some of the best years of my life. Great Memories! I have enjoyed being the Alumni Coordinator, volunteer, president and member of the Alumni and Friends Association. I sincerely appreciate all of you and hope to continue to serve in the capacity to which I have been elected. I appreciate all your hard work and loyalty. I look forward to seeing you at the reunion. Please consider not only becoming a member of the Alumni and Friends Association, but also to become involved in the governing board of directors. Your participation and involvement are greatly needed. And will be most appreciated.

Thank you,

Carole (Abel) Holestine,
CSC, Alumni and Friends Association
President 2010.

Greetings from the President of Connors State College, Dr. Donnie L. Nero

Welcome CSC Alumni!

I hope you realize the impact made within the past few years by dedicating your time, efforts, and resources to this outstanding institution. Connors maintains a much better status within our surrounding communities and State because of you.

This spring we have experienced tremendous student growth. These students will one day be in position to follow the paths you have laid, thus it becomes evident of the impact made by your influence and vision. The directions you provide today will have a tremendous impact on the economic viability of Connors. Statistics reveal that our students will enjoy an attractive 23.9% rate of return on their Connors educational investment, and recover all costs (including wages forgone while attending Connors) in 6.3 years. **Never doubt your worth and support as an alumni of Connors State College.**

This fall we will have our visit by the Higher Learning Commission for our institutional reaccreditation. The faculty, staff, administration, and students are maximizing efforts to validate the significant contributions and accomplishments made the last ten years. Also, your input will be solicited as we progress through the study.

In closing, I want to re-emphasize your worth to this institution by encouraging you to seek opportunities which will enhance our mission of educating all who desire. You have become the "change agent" for many students by assisting the College in transforming attitudes and ideologies imperative to student development.

Let us continue the course of empowering others by taking on bolder philanthropic roles, and by doing so, we increase human capital within the Alumni Association and College.

Donnie L. Nero, Ed. D.
President

Building futures one at a time!



Alumni and Friends Board Members 2009/2010

President.....Carole Holistine
Vice PresidentJess Epple
Secretary/Treasurer.....Curtis Pollard

Members:

Earl StrebeckLeonard Wood
John Denny.....Winnie Bowman
Mary Nell Bumpers.....Walter Don Kerr

Committees:

Scholarship Leonard Wood
Special EventsCarole Holistine
Hall of Fame Curtis Pollard
Membership John Denny
Public Relations Winnie Bowman
Nominating..... Carole Holistine

At Large Members:

Orville Stinnett.....Susie Jones
Pat MapleJuanita Ralston
Doris LollisPauline Moore
Bob BranamLavonne Totten

Ex Officio Board Members:

Dr. Donnie Nero, President CSC
Sue Floyd, Executive Director, Foundation



Curtis Pollard, secretary of the Connors State College Alumni and Friends Association, presents Reba Green a plaque, honoring her induction into the Connors Hall of Fame, 2009.

A&F Scholarship News

On behalf of CSC Alumni & Friends Association, we are asking for your support of the A&F Scholarship Fund. Because of contributions of members like you, the Association has been able to offer several scholarships to CSC students each year. Many students with the desire to attend college are unable to do so without financial assistance. Sometimes all it takes is \$200 or \$300 to allow the student to fulfill their dream of a college education. All applicants are thoroughly screened by a scholarship selection committee and then those with a real need are awarded. Your help is needed. Please take this opportunity to contribute. Any amount you can provide will be greatly appreciated and, is tax deductible. You may use the form enclosed to contribute.



Alumni and Friends Association 2009/2010 Alumni Board Members

Back row, left to right: Walter Don Kerr, Mary Nell Bumpers, John Denny, Leonard Wood, Earl Strebeck, Orville Stinnett, Jess Epple, Vice President, Curtis Pollard, Secretary/Treasurer. Front: Winnie Bowman, and Carole Holestine, President

Third Party Comment Concerning Connors' Upcoming Reaccreditation

Connors State College is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit November 1-3, 2010 by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Associate of Colleges and Schools. Connors has been accredited by the Commission since 1963. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments in writing regarding the College to this address:

Public Comment on Connors State College
 The Higher Learning Commission
 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
 Chicago, IL 60602

Comments can also be filed via the Commission's web page at www.ncahlc.org. Click on the "File Third Party Comments" link on the left side of the Commission's main web page. Scroll down and submit your comments under the "Submit a Third Party Comment" heading.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by the Commission by October 1, 2010.



Notes from: Connors Development Foundation

It is that time again!! I am fortunate to have been with Connors State College and to participate in the Alumni and Friends Annual Reunion for the past four-years. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the Board throughout the year(s) as they plan the Annual Reunion to honor and recognize past Alumni with the inductions of honored alumni into the Hall of Fame. The reunion is also a time to rekindle old friendships and relive old memories. As another year passes, I would like to thank all of the Alumni from Connors State College for their continued support and loyalty to the institution. Connors State College continues to be a major economic and community partner for the eastern part of Oklahoma. With an annual budget greater than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) Connors continues to be a major component of the regional economy. Even with a budget of this amount funds are still "tight", as with most community college budgets in the state of Oklahoma. Projections state that the budgets will continue to be tight. For this reason your continued support is needed even more. Connors Foundation, with the support of past alumni and faculty, has awarded within the last ten years over 650 scholarships for \$326,000.00. In addition donations of goods and services, including in-kind donations, have been given to the college in excess of \$1,227,000.00. All donations to the college from the foundation are tax deductible. Connors Development Foundation is initiating a Planned Giving Program to continue to support the college in the future and to sustain its ability to continue to provide scholarships and support to the faculty, staff and college. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If you have any questions as to how to continue to support Connors State College, please contact me at 918-463-6342.

Respectfully, *Sue Floyd, Executive Director*



**Connors Alumni and Friends
Need your Assistance
Please consider joining and
being an active member in
the Association and
remember.....**

Once a "Cowboy" always a "Cowboy"!

CSC Alumni and Friends Association

Nominees are needed for the Hall of Fame. Criteria for nomination and statement of nomination follows.

CSC Alumni and Friends Hall of Fame Criteria

The HALL OF FAME is the highest honor the CSC Alumni and Friends Association can bestow upon an individual. It is given to Connors Alumni in recognition of outstanding achievement in a profession and in society, thus bringing honor and distinction to Connors State College. Contributions to the advancement of CSC and service to the college and the CSC Alumni and Friends Association may be considered. The Hall of Fame induction ceremonies take place the fourth Saturday of April.

Selection Criteria:

1. Two alumni may be inducted annually, however, the selection committee may choose to also induct posthumously one individual each year.
2. Recipients must attend the induction ceremony, the committee will choose an alternate in the event one of those originally selected cannot attend. The individual originally selected will remain in the nominee pool for consideration.
3. Nominees must have attended Connors State College; they may be graduates or former students.
4. Nominees will be judged according to their contributions to society and their professional accomplishments.
5. While not Mandatory criteria, contributions to the advancement of Connors State College and service to the Connors Alumni and Friends Association may be considered.
6. Officers and directors of the Connors State College Alumni Association Board of Directors are not eligible for this award until two years after they leave the Board.
7. Persons employed by Connors State College; members of the Board of Regents; persons active in positions directly relating to the college operations, such as state officials, state legislators, and members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are not eligible.
8. Any individual or group may submit a nomination to the CSC Alumni and Friends Association Hall of Fame selection committee. Nominees will remain nominated for a total of three years; after that time, their credentials will be placed in an inactive file for possible consideration at a later date.

Method of Reward:

1. Commemorative plaques will be presented during the annual alumni reunion luncheon meeting.
2. A plaque honoring the inductee will be hung in the Hall of Fame Display area.

CONTACT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR A NOMINATION FORM

Connors State College



Hall of Fame Inductees

*Connors State College Alumni and Friends
Hall of Fame Inductees*

- 1997.....Francis Tuttle
- 1998.....Enos N. Vann
- 1999Margarite Yost-Padgett and Glenn “Cat “ Taylor
- 2000Robert Ross and Cecil Roark
- 2001.....Jack C. Herron, Sr. and Eunice C. Warrior
- 2003.....Clarence Lynch and Wayne Easterling
- 2004.....Duwayne Briley
- 2005Bill Lollis and Michael McGee
- 2006.....Troy Anderson and Bernie Jiles
- 2007.....Tom Johnson
- 2008John Simeroth and Ora Lee Kirk
- 2009.....Reba Green and Eugene Oliver Chapman

**MOMENTS TO REMEMBER
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ANNUAL REUNION
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. (Student Union)**

- AGENDA**
- 10:00a.m. Reception/Social and Registration**
 - 12:00noon Lunch**
 - 1:00p.m. Welcome/Introductions**
 - 2:00p.m. Hall of Fame Induction**
 - 3:00p.m. Business Meeting**
 - 4:00p.m. Adjourn**

**ALLUMNI AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION—ANNUAL REUNION REGISTRATION
Saturday in April 24th, 2010**

- _____ Yes, I will attend the annual Alumni and Friends Reunion and Banquet.
- _____ No, I will not attend, but would like to donate to the Alumni and Friends Association

Name: _____ Guest (s) #: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____
 Email: _____

- () Banquet Tickets @ \$15.00 Per Person _____
 - () Annual Dues \$ 10.00 _____
 - () Lifetime Dues \$125.00 _____
 - () Donation to Alumni & Friends Association _____
- Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please send to:
 Alumni and Friends Association—Connors State College
 P.O Box 1383
 Muskogee, OK 74401-1383

For questions or concerns please call Carole Abel Holestine 918-272-3452, Leonard Wood 918-446-5658 or Winnie Bowman 918 -682-4957



The Walton Family Foundation, through ARVEST Bank, awarded Connors State College a grant of \$10,000.00 to help with the relocation of the nursing program from the Warner Campus to the NSU Campus in Muskogee

Connors State College and Northeastern State University Form Partnership

Connors State College and Northeastern State University (NSU) formed a partnership in 2009 to construct a new Student Services facility on the NSU campus in Muskogee. Per Dr. Nero, "The shared facility will meet the needs of students from both colleges". The combination of services will allow the two entities to focus on health care because health care is a major component of both of the institutions. Connors Nursing Department relocated to the existing NSU campus in Muskogee of January 2010. The nursing program at Connors has an above average pass rate from their nursing graduates. The relocation of this program will allow Connors nursing students to proceed on with their bachelors degree offered by NSU located in the same facility. The partnership also allows other services for students such as a bookstore, business office and admissions office. The Muskogee Daily Phoenix quotes Dr. Don Betz of NSU, "The project is about development of an epicenter of continuing education, opportunity and promise. **Connors continues to grow..... Thank you for your continued support !!!!**"



Mark Your Calendars for Graduation 2010!

Graduation for Connors State College will be Friday, May 7, 2010. The graduation ceremonies will take place at the Muskogee Civic Center. The commencement Speaker this year will be Jim Pulliam. Jim is a retired Humanities Instructor from Connors State College and beloved by many. Connors is honored to have Jim as the speaker this year.

Alumni and Friends Association
 Connors State College
 PO Box 1383
 Muskogee, OK 74402-1383

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED