

AGGIELITE

FEBRUARY 2024

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SGA President**

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MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the goal of transforming our region always in mind, we've already made great strides in 2024. For the spring semester, we have seen a 19% enrollment increase, broke ground on a student union renovation and expansion project, and kicked off our public fundraising campaign for the Southern Oklahoma Nursing Education Center (SONEC).

The Paul J. Park Student Union was originally constructed in 1964, and it is believed that it has only undergone one minor renovation since then. From banquets to legislative events, proms and career fairs, the building has been a gathering place for people to celebrate and collaborate. Murray State's Student Government Association has been involved in planning since the beginning and were instrumental in determining the design and amenities to come. The renovation and expansion of the Park Student Union and Thomas E. Barnett Ballroom spaces means greater access for all, and will benefit generations of future Aggies.

The United States is experiencing a nursing shortage, and the very real impact of this shortage is felt every day in southern Oklahoma and in

all healthcare systems. This profession has been on Oklahoma's Top 100 Critical Occupations list for years and Murray State College is addressing the issue head on.

The Murray State College Nursing Program is our largest and fastest growing degree program with a 100% job placement rate for graduates. Since 2022, Murray State has expanded from 90 RN graduates annually to more than 200. We are working to meet this need for our region and become the premier nursing education provider for southern Oklahoma.

Murray State College and its Foundation will receive \$5 million from the Southern Oklahoma Memorial Foundation (SOMF) for the construction of the Southern Oklahoma Nursing Education Center (SONEC). This gift represents a historic commitment to our mission and an investment in healthcare education for generations to come. It is also the single largest gift to Murray State in our 116-year history!

SONEC will provide rural students with opportunities to explore a range of healthcare professions. It will be a facility that hosts access to healthcare education from Murray State and its partners, like AirEvac, Langston, SouthernTech and University of Oklahoma, because we are better together. This access will aid in the solution to

the nursing shortage in southern Oklahoma and north Texas.

Our students are at the forefront of all the decisions we make to improve our campuses every day. We appreciate their trust in us to meet their education needs and for choosing us as their college. We would not be as successful as we are without the

hard work of our faculty and staff. They do the hard work day-in and day-out that helps our students achieve their goals. The vision of our Board of Regents, along with the communities we serve, continue to give rise to exciting new projects and programs. Their expertise and commitment to our college makes us all better.

It's always a great day to be an Aggie!

Our students are at the forefront of all the decisions we make to improve our campuses every day.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'T' and 'F'.

DR. TIM FALTYN
President
Murray State
College

REGENT HIGHLIGHT

ESTEEMED ALUMNI

Regent Gray and his wife, Robin, live in Ardmore, Oklahoma; he is a lifelong resident of Carter County, Oklahoma. Both are Murray State College alumni. He went on to attend Texas Christian University for a degree in Ranch Management.

Gray is a third-generation owner/operator of The Gray Companies, a diverse business comprising energy, ranching, media, commercial hunting and real estate investment.

Gray has served as a member or chair of numerous boards: The Hardy Murphy Coliseum, Carousel Productions, Journey Leadership Institute, Ardmore Community Foundation and The Goddard Youth Foundation.

He and his wife love being a part of a thriving community that is Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Gray was appointed by Governor Stitt in 2021.

Term Expiration: 2025



“Regent Gray brings a perspective that is rooted in best business practices and an understanding of our mission of comprehensive student improvement and community enhancement. I value his presence and look forward to future years serving alongside him.”

Leslie Larsen

Murray State College Board of Regent Vice Chair

2023-2024 MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

TREY HAYS, INSPIRING CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Murray State College is proud to shine a spotlight on one of its alumni, Trey Hays, whose journey from Tishomingo to success exemplifies the transformative power of education and passion. Class of 1997, Hays embarked on a remarkable career, leaving an indelible mark on the community and beyond.

A Tishomingo native, Trey Hays graduated from high school in 1994, earning a scholarship to join



Above: "A Proud Moment: Trey Hays Unveiling 'Little Loxi' at the First American Museum"

Left: In this snapshot from 1999, Hays stands alongside the talented cast of Murray State's, "The Crucible" production. The intensity of their performances echoes through the years, showcasing Hays' early commitment to fostering dramatic excellence.

Trey Hays stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and the profound impact an individual can have on a community.

the MSC Entertainers at Murray State College. He graduated with an associate degree in General Studies, laying the foundation for a future dedicated to education and the arts.

Hays continued his educational journey at East Central University, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Delving further into his creative pursuits, he became certified in Drama, Speech and Debate. For more than two decades, Trey has been a beacon of inspiration as an Arts Educator in his hometown of Tishomingo.

His commitment to fostering creativity in students has been unwavering. Drawing on his background in visual art, music, drama and creative writing, Hays initially focused on developing drama and music programs at Tishomingo Elementary. His vision extended to the introduction of musical theater productions that celebrated holidays and honored veterans.

In 2022, Hays took a bold step by creating original musicals with his students. Collaborating with teaching artists, he guided students through the process of writing and presenting these unique productions. Hays spearheaded grant writing and fundraising efforts, showcasing his dedication to providing unforgettable experiences for his students.

The pinnacle of these efforts was the presentation of the first original musical at Murray State College. Subsequent

performances reached even greater heights, with more than 700 students in Ada, Oklahoma, experiencing the magic of Hays' creative endeavors.

Hays' creative spirit continued to soar in 2023 with the release of his children's book, "Little Loksi," which integrated Chickasaw language elements. The stage adaptation of the book premiered at the Oklahoma Children's Theatre, while musical scores composed by Chickasaw artist Jerod Tate resonated at the iconic Lincoln Center in New York.



Hays

Witness the magic as Trey Hays proudly unveils his children's book, "Little Loksi," at the First American Museum, the cultural heartbeat of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma. Against the backdrop of cultural richness, Hays' literary creation takes flight, celebrating Chickasaw's heritage and linguistic beauty. A moment etched in history, bridging the worlds of literature and cultural preservation.

Trey Hays stands as a testament to the power of education and the profound impact an individual can have on a community. Murray State College takes pride in Trey's accomplishments and looks forward to seeing the continued influence of his creative endeavors in the years to come. Trey Hays received the 2024 Governor's Arts in Education award.

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHT

WILLIAM D. PENNINGTON PRESIDENTIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. William D. Pennington was president of Murray State College from 2004 to 2007. He believed in young people and enjoyed his role as mentor to all of his students at Murray. As an athlete, Bill Pennington valued teamwork and the tenacity of "stay in the game."



Pennington

As a historian, he treasured the stories and lessons of the past. With a natural curiosity and a quick wit, which was always tempered with gentle humor, he valued the inherent worth of every person.

A number of contributors made the endowment possible in memory of Dr. Pennington, including Murray State College, the Oklahoma Global Education Consortium, and area business owners and friends.

The William D. Pennington Presidential Endowed Scholarship is awarded to sophomore students with preference given to students pursuing a career in education or higher education, and who exhibit leadership qualities. Recipients must be a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), be enrolled as a full-time student and maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.

IN THE NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS WILL HELP MICHELIN EMPLOYEES TRANSITION



Murray State College attended the Michelin Resource Fair in January.

Murray State College is providing a scholarship opportunity to Michelin employees and their spouses and/or children who are interested in attending any programs. The scholarship covers tuition and some fees, and there are no restrictions on the program or the number of credit hours the student may enroll in. The scholarship fund is up to 1 million dollars and can be applied for once the student has been accepted to Murray State College. This opportunity is available on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are depleted. Career Services are available for resume building, career exploration, and guidance on improving career paths (such as job shadowing, part-time/seasonal jobs, and internships). The Academic Resource Center provides academic, online/in-person tutors in Ardmore or Tishomingo, computers, printers, and Wi-Fi.

If you have any questions, please contact Brooklyn Luelf:

Office: (580) 319.0342

Text: (580) 382.7022

Email: bluelf@mscok.edu



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

GIVE BACK PROGRAM

Each month, a portion of each retail purchase will go towards a specific Murray State scholarship and/or program.

Purchases can be made at Murray State's Murray on Main Stores (Ardmore and Tishomingo) or the Tishomingo campus bookstore.

The "Give Back" amount is shown under each month's item.

January	February	March	April	May	June
SHOES	SHIRTS	JEANS/PANTS	BRACELETS	HOME DÉCOR	GREETING CARDS
(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$10)	(\$5)	(\$10)	(\$3)
July	August		September		October
MURRAY STATE	HATS/RINGS		SWEATERS		ALL ORANGE
APPAREL/SUPPLIES	(\$5)		(\$10)		ITEMS (\$10)
(\$5)					

SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE EVENT CENTER

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

DON LOVING

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE SCIENCE PROFESSOR

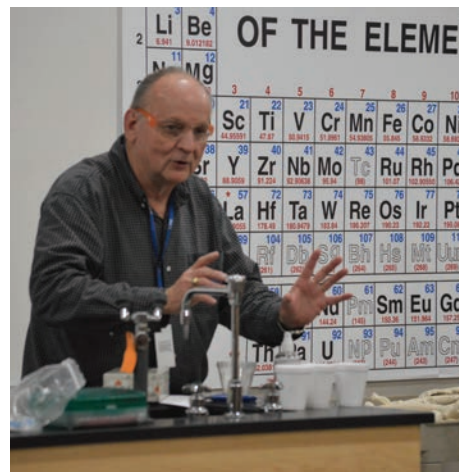
For Don, science is a hook; one that he uses inside the classroom to get the kids interested in improving their own lives through science. It's also his driver. It's not work. It's play.

"Science is fun because you get to play with toys. It's not just lectures all the time. Sometimes, I can get kids involved back into productive activities and to give them some self confidence and direction. That's what I like most about my job."

Loving would like to start doing more community outreach - called citizen science. "We all change as

we go through this journey. I want to expose more people to science outside of a formal classroom setting."

Loving is a Solar System Ambassador (SSA) for the JPL/NASA, an Endeavor Project STEM Teacher, American Meteorological Society Certified Teacher, amongst many other titles. He has more than 40 years of classroom experience, including 30 years teaching science in public schools of all sizes and 14 years as a science instructor at Murray State. His special interests include astronomy, weather and amateur radio.



DON'S PASSION FOR SCIENCE

Don was actually my high school science teacher and the initiator of my science pathway. He is enthusiastic and always eager to show students of all ages the awesome world of science. Don always makes himself available to demonstrate an activity, such as pulling a tablecloth from underneath a table setting, and then lets the students work through the problem and figure it out. He

is patient, allowing the students to make a mistake, walking them through why it didn't work and then having them try again.

I know firsthand that his enthusiasm for science is contagious. From biology, physical science, chemistry or any other science that you have questions about, he is a wealth of knowledge and I am a better teacher because of him.

-Michele Quinton, Murray State College Science Instructor

FOCUSED ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Don is all about the students. He goes above and beyond to make students successful.

He enjoys taking students to conferences, activities and other opportunities that engage them.

"I wish everyone could be like Don, including myself. He's an inspiration and mentor to me."

-Dan Moore, Dean of the School of Health and Science



SAVE THE DATE

**Murray State College
Veterinary Nursing Pinning
Spring 2024**



3:30 PM | MAY 10, 2024

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

**ONE MURRAY CAMPUS
TISHOMINGO, OK 73460**

NURSE PINNING



Murray State College celebrated its sophomore nursing students with a pinning ceremony in December 2023. This occurs at the end of a student's nursing program and signifies the completion of this level of education and official initiation into the profession.



NURSE PINNING



Sierra Davis
Aggie Achievement Award



Ashley Huckeby
Academic Excellence Award



Brionna Kilgore
Aggie Achievement Award



Hanna Powell
Nightingale Award



Kaitlin Rodriquez
Academic Excellence Award



Shanna Tippet
Janet Lorentz Award and
Mercy Nurse Award



Trista Westbrook
Murray State College Nursing
Community Hero Award



SAVE THE DATE

Murray State College

*Nurse Capping
Spring 2024*

MAY 9, 2024

1 PM

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
FLETCHER AUDITORIUM

ONE MURRAY CAMPUS
TISHOMINGO, OK 73460



SAVE THE DATE

Murray State College
Nurse Pinning
Spring 2024

MAY 10, 2024
1 PM

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
FLETCHER AUDITORIUM

ONE MURRAY CAMPUS
TISHOMINGO, OK 73460

NURSE CAPPING



Murray State College freshman nursing students receive their nursing caps after completing two semesters of training. This ceremony helps inspire students to persevere through the rigors of training ahead.

ARDMORE COHORT:



Morgan Copeland
Clinical Award



Jaliyah Horton
Academic Award

DURANT COHORT:



Laura Feurhelm
Spirit of Inquiry Award



Kendra Land
Citizenship Award



Taylor McCarty
Grit Award



Madison Robbins
Spirit of Inquiry Award



Tashona Burcham
Clinical Award



John Roca
Academic Award



Chase Warren
Citizenship Award & Grit Award

OTA PINNING



Murray State College's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program celebrated their 2023 graduates with a pinning ceremony.



Kelly Bailey
Field Educator
of the Year



**Savannah
Ashford**
Salutatorian



**Shay
McCollum**
Fieldwork Student
of the Year



**Jaylon
Sneed**
Valedictorian



Tiona Cohee
Alpha Omega Tao
Honor Society
Inductee



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND, STUDENT UNION

On Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, Murray State College held a groundbreaking ceremony for the student union located on the Tishomingo campus.

"This project helps us accomplish a number of things with the needs of our students at the forefront," Faltyn said. "It has been the number one capital project priority for our Board of Regents because of the impact it will have for our students."

Along with President Faltyn, Speaker of the House Charles McCall, Senator Jerry Alvord, Oklahoma State Regent Ann Holloway, Murray State Board of Regent Adisha Chapman and Murray State Student Government Association officers provided remarks.

Oklahoma Speaker of the House Representative Charles McCall remarked, "This is where the future of the state of Oklahoma is going to take place. One thing that helps us leverage great infrastructure



“Transforming the region is no easy task, but it is one that Murray State has taken head on. We are excited for our student union but even more excited about the future of southern Oklahoma.”

Adisha Chapman
Murray State Board of Regent



projects such as this are our current [and future] partnerships.”

Oklahoma State Regent Holloway is an alumna, strong advocate for Murray State College and has dedicated most of her life to higher education. “Today, I’m celebrating the 50th anniversary of completing my associate degree from Murray State,” said Holloway. “It was a wonderful experience and I will always have fond memories of my time here.”

Murray State College Regents strive to make the best decisions to improve the student experience and create opportunities for growth. “Murray State has many exciting projects and programs taking off on both campuses,” Chapman said. “Transforming the region is no easy task, but it is one that Murray State has taken head on. We are excited for our student union but even more excited about the future of southern Oklahoma. I can say with confidence that our best days are still ahead.”

“The changes that have happened and are coming, and the proposed additions to the campus and the curriculum are truly groundbreaking,” Alvord said. “What we’ve seen and are seeing does not happen without really good people doing the work.”



The student union was originally constructed in 1964, and it is believed that it has only undergone one minor renovation since then. The 14,000 square feet of space in the building will be updated, and another 9,260 square feet will be added in new construction. This \$7 million project is funded in part by a student union

fee.

In September 2023, Murray State was approved to assess a student union fee to aid in the renovation and expansion costs associated with the Murray State College Park Student Union, as well as the addition of online collaborative spaces for students and amenities on the Ardmore campus.

“One important component to how the renovation and expansion project has crossed the finish line is thanks to a Murray alum, Thomas E. Barnett,” Faltyn said.

After earning his associate’s degree from Murray State, Barnett spent a lifetime growing as a person and establishing himself as a great businessman. When he passed, a planned gift was sent to Murray State College representing the largest single gift in the history of Murray State. A portion of those funds will help expand the Thomas E. Barnett Ballroom on the Tishomingo campus.

SGA PLAYS KEY ROLE IN SEEING STUDENT UNION PLANS REALIZED

The Student Government Association (SGA) has been involved in the planning for the renovation and expansion of the Park Student Union since the beginning.

President Jaysen Welty: “It has been incredibly encouraging that the voice of the student body is being heard as the needs for these spaces have been discussed. It’s important for students of all walks of life to have a place to gather, socialize, learn, get help or resources and have a meal.”



Welty

Associate Vice President of Ardmore Isabella Harris: “The Ardmore campus has a beautiful building with state-of-the-art science labs, nursing classrooms and simulation equipment. It has been renovated to include an Academic Resource Center with a new testing center, study areas, library and a Murray Market, or resource closet.”



Harris

Media Relations Coordinator Sandra Moseley: “It is my passion to connect online audiences and share helpful information. As part of this project, an online union is being developed. This virtual space is designed to foster a sense of community and connection among our online student body.”



Moseley

Vice President Gavin Crouch: “The renovation and expansion of the student union and ballroom spaces means greater access for all. Proximity to help and services matter. The central location for the student affairs offices will make it easier for students to engage in college activities and programs and receive assistance for things such as referrals for behavioral health services.”



Crouch



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 2024

MAY 10, 2024 | 7 PM

AAITTAFAAMA' ISHTO'
"LARGE MEETING PLACE"

TISHOMINGO, OK



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT GROWTH CONTINUES TO BUILD

For the fifth consecutive semester, Murray State College's enrollment grew, achieving a 19% enrollment increase for the Spring 2024 semester with 2,411 students.

In addition to the College's Tishomingo campus that is filled with traditional students, Murray State's enrollment is helped by strong numbers from Murray's online college and the concurrent classes in 69 high schools. Both nursing programs on Murray State's Ardmore campus doubled in size; the traditional with 22 students and the career mobility with 48 students.

"With the college's newly formed enrollment management area, we are attracting new students at a fast pace," said Becky Henthorn, Murray State College Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, "as well as retaining our students at a higher rate than we have in the past."

Murray State's online college saw the highest increase for the semester at 21%, or 370 students. The increase in students using the online modality is a result of targeted efforts by the enrollment management team.

Murray State's nursing program (ranked #1 in the nation for the second year in a row by

registerednurse.org) has already seen unprecedented enrollment numbers with the highest number in program history, a total of 500 students. Both campuses and off-site program locations saw an increase in both student headcount and credit hours.

"Having nationally recognized programs gives students reasons to choose us for their higher education," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "We focus on our centers of excellence. This has provided us with these historic numbers."

Agriculture is the college's first and longest-running program and is making a strong comeback, enrolling more than 100 students; an increase of 40%.

"These statistics alone is what separates the good colleges from the great colleges," said Murray State College Board of Regents Chair Allen Benson. "Our service is making a difference and word of mouth is spreading about the excellent offerings at Murray State."

"This is not the work of just one person," Faltyn said. "Enrollment is a collective effort of all that reflects our dedication and commitment to our students and our communities."

19%

INCREASE

for the
Spring 2024
semester

21%

INCREASE

in online
students for
Spring 2024
semester

40%

INCREASE

in the agriculture
program for Spring
2024 semester



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF NURSING

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE'S NEW NURSING EDUCATION CENTER AWARDED TRANSFORMATIVE GRANT FROM SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Southern Oklahoma Memorial Foundation (SOMF) awarded \$5 million to Murray State College and its Foundation for the construction of the Southern Oklahoma Nursing Education Center (SONEC).

In February 2023, the Murray State College Foundation submitted a grant application to SOMF, a private foundation based in Ardmore, Oklahoma. In August 2023, Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn presented details of the SONEC project directly to the SOMF Board of Directors.

"The Southern Oklahoma Memorial Foundation is pleased to support the expansion of health-related education in Ardmore. This project falls directly in line with our mission to support health related projects

and services. We look forward to joining with other donors to make this project a reality and ultimately increase the number of nursing graduates," said SOMF President Mary Kate Wilson.

The \$5 million grant is added to the \$1 million provided by the Lynn Colbert Trust and \$1 million committed by Murray State College. The total project cost is \$25.5 million.

The United States is experiencing a nursing shortage, and the very real impact of the shortage is felt every day in southern Oklahoma and all healthcare systems. According to a recent survey done by the federal government, the shortage is expected to continue until 2035.

Murray State College has a strong

partnership with SouthernTech via the Career Mobility (LPN to RN) program. In the spring of 2023, a partnership was established with the University of Oklahoma to allow qualified Murray State graduates to automatically enter into their bachelor's degree program.

"We're in this to transform the region and improve the quality of life for our neighbors. We are pulling together proven education institutions as partners so that we can provide clear pathways for students who wish to excel in healthcare fields of study. SOMF is a champion for Carter County, and we could not do this without them. We take their belief in us seriously and will deliver on the promise to make SONEC a reality," said Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Southern Oklahoma Nursing Education Center (SONEC) will house a number of opportunities for healthcare training from RN to APRN in Ardmore, Oklahoma, thanks to our educational partners: SouthernTech, AirEvac, University of Oklahoma and Langston University.

Murray State College has expanded to include nursing training sites in Ardmore, Duncan, Durant and Tishomingo.

SONEC will provide rural students with opportunities to explore a range of healthcare professions. This access will aid in the solution to the nursing shortage for southern Oklahoma and North Texas. Workforce partners like Mercy are already hiring Murray State graduates at high rates. More Murray State-trained healthcare professionals will contribute to positive health outcomes for our rural communities.



LEARN MORE



GIVE HERE

200

GRADUATES

Nursing is the largest degree program at Murray State and is expected to reach 200 graduates annually by 2025.

2025

EXPECTED GROUNDBREAKING

38

NEW JOBS

Murray State College will provide 38 new jobs to train nursing students each year.

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



NO. 11 LADY AGGIES RACE OUT TO 12-0 START

The Murray State College softball team picked up right where they left off last year as the Lady Aggies have dominated their competition through their first 12 games of the 2024 season. Nine of Murray State's 12 victories have come via run-rule as the Lady Aggies have outscored their opponents 145-10. The No. 11 Lady Aggies will put their 69-game regular season winning streak on the line on Feb. 13 in a huge early season showdown when they visit NJCAA Division I power and currently fifth-ranked Grayson County College.

SOFTBALL COACHES RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

During the 2023 NFCA Softball Convention, Coach Mullens and Coach Crawford received the ATEC/NFCA NJCAA Division II National Coaching Staff of the Year award at the NFCA Awards Brunch. Coach Mullens and Coach Crawford led the Murray State College softball team to a whopping 105 victories over the last two seasons. Coach Crawford was also named the NJCAA Division II Easton/NFCA Assistant Coach of the Year.



THE MURRAY STATE BASEBALL TEAM WON TWO OF THEIR FIRST THREE GAMES

The Murray State College baseball team swept Grayson County College to begin the 2024 season. Following Grayson College, the Aggies have competed valiantly against some of the nation's best teams.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL IN FOURTH PLACE HALFWAY THROUGH REGION 2 ACTION

The Murray State College women's basketball team won three of their last four Region 2 games to jump into a tie for third place in the league standings. The Lady Aggies are now 5-5 in league action. The women's basketball team has seven games remaining to determine the Region 2 Regular-Season Champion and seeding for the Region 2 Postseason Tournament.



AGGIES ARE OFF TO A STRONG START IN REGION 2

The Murray State College men's basketball team began Region 2 play winning their first three league games with victories over Seminole State College, NOC-Tonkawa and Redlands Community College. The Aggies are now 6-4 in league action and in third place in the Region 2 standings. The men's basketball team has seven games remaining to determine the Region 2 Regular-Season Champion and seeding for the Region 2 Postseason Tournament.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING WINS BIG IN ARIZONA



Murray State College Livestock Show Team member Kirsten Walck exhibited the Champion Market Lamb at the Arizona National Livestock Show.

Haiden Thayn was named the high individual in the overall division and finished second place in sheep and goats, swine, cattle and reasons.

Other notable results included:

Crae McPhie - High individual in reasons and cattle

Eli Stamps - 5th Overall

Andrea Pruitt - 5th Overall

Connor Hamilton - 4th in Swine

Carli Doerge - 5th in sheep and goats

COMBS WINS HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Sophomore Ryleigh Combs won High Individual in the Swine Division at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show.

The Murray State College Livestock Judging Team also placed first in the swine division, fourth overall as a team, fourth in horses, and fifth in the sheep and goats category. Ryan Ball also performed well for the Aggies as she finished in the No. 11 spot in the horses division.



MURRAY STATE HOSTS NAQT SECTIONALS

The Murray State College Academic A Team placed second and Murray's B Team came in third at NAQT Sectionals. Kanyon Beck was the tournament's high scorer.

The A Team claimed the No. 2 seed for the Community College National Championship Tournament, while the Murray State B Team earned the No. 7 seed.



AGGIES RECORD FOUR TOP-10 FINISHES

The Murray State College Bass Fishing Team has competed in two tournaments. The Aggies began the semester in Georgia at the Clark Hills Reservoir where the team picked up some great points while competing against 244 teams. At the Lake Tenkiller tournament in February, four Aggie teams finished in the Top-10 in scoring.

IN THE NEWS



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE DEAN BRIAN COTHRAN RECEIVES CONSERVATION AWARD

Murray State College's Dean of the School of Agriculture, Business and Occupational Technology Brian Cothran received the Chickasaw Nation Heart of Conservation Award for excellence in the field of natural resources.

"Dean Cothran was instrumental in the development of a \$5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture Climate Smart grant awarded to the Chickasaw Nation and Murray State College," said Kris Patton, Chickasaw Nation Director of Natural Resources. "Brian's commitment to ensuring engagement by the next generation in sustainably managing our natural resources is a daily inspiration!"

The grant will provide \$400,000 in agricultural scholarships and bring two new academic positions to Murray State College. Murray State will provide training to rural, underserved students to become verified and/or engaged in sustainable farming practices. The program will also assist with improving watershed health and marketing local grown pecans.

"This grant helps us advance sustainable agricultural practice and education in a myriad of ways for our students and communities," Cothran said. "We would not be successful without our partners at the Chickasaw Nation. They have been incredible advocates of these practices."

The Climate Smart grant provides start-up funding for the Small Farm and Ranch Institute, which will be located on the Murray State College Ardmore campus.

SHOTGUN TEAM BEGINS SPRING COMPETITION SEASON

The Murray State College Shotgun Team kicked off the second half of their 2023-2024 season on February 11, 2024, at the Winter Classic in Dallas, Texas. The team will compete in the second leg of the Tri-State Championship on February 24, 2024 in Oklahoma City. Wrapping up the season will be the ACUI National Clay Target Championship on March 20-24, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas.

"We had a great start to the season," said Scott Robertson, Murray State College Shotgun Team Coach. "This is a new conference for us to compete in, but I know this team can handle the new challenges that come with the different tournament styles."

The team has a new addition that will help them continue to succeed - increased practice space. Thanks to the continual renovations to Murray State's Shotgun Training Facility, they have additional practice space to use in preparation for their spring competitions. The space allowed the addition

of 12 sporting clay stations and a new skeet field that is in progress. This facility is designed for the Murray State College national-qualifying shotgun team.

"Our new facility will make us one of only three colleges with our own shooting range on campus," said Scott Robertson, Murray State Shotgun Team Coach. "Our goal is to be national champions within three years. This will give us the opportunity to practice like champions."

"We have some of the best shooters in the nation on our shotgun team," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "Having a nationally recognized team gives students reasons to choose us for their higher education and join the team."

To stay up to date on the success of the team, visit the team website at mscaggies.com/sports/shooting-sports. The Murray State College Shooting Center will be fully operational by March 1, 2024.



HAPPENINGS



HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

Murray State College students attended Higher Ed Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol in February.

They visited with Speaker of the House Charles McCall, Representatives Josh Cantrell and Tammy Townley, and Senator Jerry Alvord.

The students also heard from Oklahoma Chancellor Allison Garrett, Governor Stitt and other legislators during a special program in the House of Representatives chamber.

The students enjoyed hearing from Speaker of the House of Representatives Charles McCall about his role as speaker.

Representatives Josh Cantrell and Tammy Townley explained how bills work and what bills they were working on.

Senator Alvord also talked about the bills he is working on and how the process works in the Senate.



ARDMORE STUDENTS DONATE TO ANIMAL SHELTER

The students, faculty and staff donated more than 300 pounds of food and treats to the Ardmore Animal Shelter. They delivered the items and spent some time volunteering.



LEGISLATIVE TOUR

Murray State College students and staff were joined by Senator Jerry Alvord, and Representatives Tammy Townley and Josh Cantrell, and Regent Ann Holloway for a Legislative Tour.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Allison Garrett covered the legislative agenda and appropriations requests.

HAPPENINGS

BOARD OF REGENTS RECOGNIZE SELFLESS ACTS AND RECORD-SETTING YEARS



At their December meeting, the Murray State College Board of Regents toured the indoor golf facility and weight room prior to dinner.

Trista Westbrook, Murray State Nursing student, and Kylie Gregg received a citation from the State of Oklahoma for their selfless acts of assisting to administer CPR to a woman who collapsed during a Rexroat Baptist Church

service. Thanks to Westbrook's and Gregg's quick action, the woman who collapsed would make a full recovery.

Murray State College Men's and Women's Head Soccer Coach John Connor was presented with an engraved soccer ball and his Coach of the Year awards for leading the Aggies to record-setting seasons this year.



SHOWING OFF THOSE BOOTS & BOWTIES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Murray State College faculty and staff attended the Boots & Bowties annual fundraiser for the Carter County Junior Livestock show.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION APPROVES MURRAY STATE COLLEGE'S FUNCTION CHANGE TO OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREE

The Higher Learning Commission has approved Murray State College's function change request for their new Bachelor of Applied Technology in Gunsmithing program.

In April, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved the college's request to offer the bachelor's degree, and in August, the documents were filed with the Higher Learning Commission.

"It's my honor to announce this good news to everyone," said Regent Allen Benson, Murray State College Board of Regents Chair. "This degree program is designed to strengthen the students' depth of knowledge, and add more advanced and industry-driven skill sets as well as leadership coursework."

"Murray State's gunsmithing program is one of our greatest centers of excellence," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "Our bachelor's degree graduates will be eligible for federal employment and career advancement that is much needed in today's workforce."

Murray State is one of only 4 NRA-accredited schools in the nation; the associate degree program is one of 14 in America. The college is now accepting students into the bachelor's degree program. A groundbreaking was held in October on a new state-of-the-art education facility to host the gunsmithing programs. It is expected to be completed in the summer of 2025.

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE REGENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ATTENDED LOCAL CHAMBER BANQUETS IN FEBRUARY.



ARDMORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



MURRAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HAPPENINGS



SAFE SCHOOLS TRAINING

Tishomingo Police Chief Shannon Smith presented to Murray State faculty about how to handle active shooters depending on their location on campus. He provided numerous examples and scenarios, as well as his life-experienced expertise in the field as firearms training supervisor.



VOICE OF FREEDOM

Judge David Lewis, the first African American to serve as presiding judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Affairs, traveled to Murray State to talk to students.



MURRAY STATE AND TUBACEX AMERICA PARTNER

Murray State has partnered with Tubacex America to offer internships to industrial engineering students.



BROOKS WINS 2023 MURRAY STATE MASTER DESIGNER AWARD

Danielle Brooks received the 2023 Master Designer Award. She has built Murray State College's previous four floats and all have placed, some winning first.

She will open up her own plant nursery in March 2024.



SOUTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE SUMMIT

Murray State College joined the Ardmore Development Authority and SouthernTech in co-hosting the South Central Oklahoma Workforce Summit at the Murray State Event Center. The Summit focused on career exploration and internship opportunities.

STUDENTS SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS AT AGGIES GOT TALENT

During the Aggies student talent show, seven students competed for the coveted win. From signing to playing the piano and reciting a poem.

Special thanks to our celebrity judges:

Greg Upchurch, Drummer for 3 Doors Down

Adara Kay (in red shirt), Spotify artist

Bailey Rae, (in black dress), contestant on the Voice season 19, singer & songwriter

First Place: Noah Choi, pianist



Second Place: Cal Keene, poet



Third Place: Lilly Cordell, singer



SHOT SHOW

Murray State College President Faltyn, faculty and students met with various companies within the firearms industry earlier this week. General Brent Wright, Former Chief of Staff for the Oklahoma Air National Guard, and Rob Cox, Oklahoma Department of Commerce team up with Murray State College's Gunsmithing Department, represented by Jordyn Frazier and Darrell Riley.



"DOLLY DAY"

Murray State College Foundation participated in "Dolly Day." "Dolly Day" is a celebration of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.





HOLIDAY PARTY

Murray State College employees and their families enjoyed a time of fellowship, fun and food before the holiday break.







MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

2024 FRED A. CHAPMAN FFA INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

**PRE-REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 26
AT [JUDGINGCARD.COM](https://judgingcard.com)**

Check-In Information

Contest Check-In
will take place at contest
site at 8AM to 9AM.

Site Locations

Ag-Science Building
Classroom Building
Health Science Building
Horse Center
Johnston Co. Fair Barn

CONTESTS OFFERED

The fee is \$25 per team or \$10 per individual. Scantrons will be provided.

- Agricultural Shop
- Agricultural Communications
- Agronomy
- Animal Science Quiz Bowl
- Electricity
- Entomology
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Farm Business Management
- Floriculture
- Homesite Judging
- Land Judging
- Meat Evaluation
- Milk Quality and Products
- Nursery and Landscape
- Rangeland Judging
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Turfgrass Management
- Veterinary Science

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Jr Division: 7th grade and below (questions)

Intermediate Division: 8th - 10th grade (2 sets of reasons)

Senior Division: 11th -12th grades (4 sets of reasons)

New for 2024

We will have a non-reason contest for each age division.

The fee is \$50 per team or \$30 per individual. Scantrons will be provided.

Late Fee- \$75 per team or \$40 per individual.

For more information, contact:

Blaine Red

bred@mscok.edu or 580-371-8450

Contact Information

Brian Cothran

bcothran@mscok.edu

580-387-7403

Shauni Kimbro

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MURRAY
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Digital Job Board

Scan the Code below to find jobs in your area, or scan "Career Services..." for resources and information about upcoming events.

For more information or questions, please get in touch with Brooklyn Luelf at Blueluf@mscok.edu or call 580-319-0342



All Counties
(Various Areas)



Ada Area



Ardmore Area



Atoka Area



Coalgate
Area



Davis/Sulphur
Area



Durant Area



Marietta Area

GO
Aggies!



Madill Area



Pauls Valley
Area



Tishomingo
Area



Remote Jobs



Seasonal Jobs

Would you like to
post something to
our job board?
Please contact
Brooklyn Luelf at
Blueluf@mscok.edu

MURRAY
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Career Services
and Events

Internships

Scan the QR Code here for Internship opportunities in the surrounding areas. For more information or questions, please contact Brooklyn Luelf at Blueluf@mscok.edu or call 580-319-0342



Agricultural/
Wildlife



Business



Chickasaw
Nation



Choctaw
Nation



Health Care



Miscellaneous



Seasonal



Manufacturing



Remote



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

Would you like to add something to our Internships board? Please contact Brooklyn Luelf at Blueluf@mscok.edu



RFD CONSTRUCTION, LTD.
General Contractors

*Charles McCall,
Oklahoma Speaker
of the House of
Representatives,
District 22*



MURRAY
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