

AGGIELITE

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*Charlee Mays,
a Tishomingo and
concurrent student
at Murray State.*

AGGIELITE

APRIL 2023



Clay Robertson
is the 2023 National
Collegiate Shooting
Sport Athletic High
Overall All American.

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Marshall Barnett is an All-Star on the Academic Quiz Bowl, Community College Championship Tournament team.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beginning each academic year, a map towards success is created.

The pathway to achievement is full of diligence, growth, vision and encouragement. This spring has been a season of great achievement for many in our Murray State family.

Faculty and staff have attended conferences and earned awards to further solidify the advancement of our college. The positive efforts and commitment to Aggie Nation by all have not gone unnoticed. Thank you, for your continued contribution in making Murray State the best it can be.

Whether in the classroom or in competition, our students keep achieving accolades that will forever be a defining legacy. These marks of merit will continue to set the pace for those who follow in the pursuit of excellence.

Graduation is on the horizon. For some, obtaining a degree from Murray State is the ultimate destination in a successful season of collegiate achievement. For others, it's a chapter moment in a life filled with possibility. For me,

it's the best day on our campus, much like harvest is for the farmer. Graduation is a day of gratitude, celebration for the privilege of doing this work. For being blessed to be part of something unique and special, that we refer to as simply, the Aggie Nation.

Taking place in May, the Murray State commencement ceremony is a long-standing tradition that honors the accomplishments and goals achieved by our hardworking students. They have paved their way to success and the recognition of their efforts will be a grand affair. Preparations are underway in making the celebratory festivities full of pomp and circumstance.

In addition, Murray State's Veterinary Nursing and Nursing programs will hold special pinning ceremonies for their respective graduates. This year, our long-standing nursing program is celebrating 50 years of developing and graduating professional healthcare workers. To highlight

this achievement, a special banquet will be held to honor the nursing class of 1973.

“To our graduates... We truly believe that from here, you can go anywhere. You can do anything that you set your mind to achieve with the foundation that you’ve build as a student at Murray.”

Murray State will always be a home for you and one of your greatest supporters in your future endeavors.

We hope to see you at our upcoming celebrations honoring the achievements of our very deserving students, faculty, staff and the excellent communities that support all of us throughout the year.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Faltyn', written over a white background.

DR. TIM FALTYN
President
Murray State
College



2022-2023
MURRAY
STATE
COLLEGE
BOARD OF
REGENTS

SUZIE BREWSTER
Chair

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DILLON SPARKS
MSC Foundation
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Board Member

REGENT HIGHLIGHT



REGENT DILLON SPARKS
2022-23 MSC Foundation
Representative

Regent Sparks is a fourth-generation rancher in southern Oklahoma. He is a Murray State College alum and went on to Oklahoma State University for a bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's in ruminant nutrition.

Sparks manages the Sparks Ranch located in Carter and Murray counties in Oklahoma and is a volunteer firefighter with the Hennepin Volunteer Fire Department.

He and his wife, Katie, live on the Sparks Ranch near Hennepin, Oklahoma with their son and two daughters.

Sparks was appointed by Governor Stitt in 2022 to finish out an unexpired term.

He was recently reappointed by Governor Stitt in 2023 for a full 7-year term.

Term Expiration: 2030

“Dillon treasures the value of higher education. He is able to utilize his knowledge and agricultural background to help ensure that our students get their fundamentals from the best higher education institution in southern Oklahoma.”

SUZIE BREWSTER
Board of Regents Chair



FOUNDATION

The Drummond Family Nursing Endowment was created as a result of a gift from the Drummond Family Foundation in 2001.

Their generous contribution has led to annual financial support of nursing students who graduate and become productive and life-saving members of society.

The Drummond Family Nursing Endowed Scholarship is awarded to students who are full-time nursing students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Preference is given to students who reside in Johnston or Marshall County. The student must have accumulated a minimum of 21 semester hours to be eligible for consideration and must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours each semester. This scholarship is awarded for the fall semesters and available for spring, pending GPA and funding availability.



To contribute to the success of nurses and healthcare education at Murray State's nationally recognized program, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mscfendowments>.

ALUMNI

Mike Grim is a recent graduate of the Murray State College Gunsmithing Program in Tishomingo, Oklahoma; he now resides in Frisco, Texas. The following describes his thoughts on the MSC Gunsmithing Program.



As I began to wind down my corporate business career, I wanted to finally do something just for me that I would enjoy. I had always been around firearms and enjoyed shooting them and tinkering with them, but I really wanted to know the intricacies of firearms. To that end, I took a summer NRA course at Murray State, and I was hooked. I graduated from Oklahoma State University years before with a degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology, so I was able to focus solely on gunsmithing. I asked to apply and was told the incoming freshman class was already full. So, I waited a year, and then applied again and was accepted.

The instructors and the coursework were amazing. My instructors were experts in gunsmithing; they had practical, hands-on experience that they could impart to the students. Although having previously graduated from a formidable program, I believe participating in the gunsmithing program was one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life. To be a gunsmith, you must have experience in (or be able to learn) math, metallurgy, welding, physics, machining, metal forming and shaping, and chemistry, just to name a few. You also must be very inquisitive about how things work.

During my time in the program, my classmates and instructors became life-long friends. In May 2022, I graduated from Murray State with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Gunsmithing. After graduation, I started my own company, Hawk & Dove LLC, in Frisco, Texas.

I hold a Federal Firearms License (FFL), which means I can buy, sell and trade firearms to clients, but it also requires me to comply at all times with regulations enforced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF.) I have also received Factory Armorer Certifications from Glock and SIG Sauer, a Range Safety Officer Certification from the NRA, and I am a member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and the NRA.

“Murray State is looking to make the gunsmithing program into a four-year program. I heartily endorse this move.”

MIKE GRIM
Murray State Alumni

WORKFORCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT – NITRO-LIFT FABRICATION

Following the launch of its Manufacturing Technology, now the Industrial Engineering, program in 2020, Murray State had been aggressively seeking local industry partners to help guide the formation of the program so that students are equipped with the skillset desired by local industries. Nitro-Lift Fabrication has been a wonderful partner for this initiative.



The collaboration effort was the expansion of a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) lab. At the time, Murray State manufacturing students were sharing their classes and resources with its gunsmithing program. With financial assistance from First United Bank and Ameristate Bank in Tishomingo, Nitro-Lift was able to provide Murray State with the equipment and expertise for the manufacturing students.

Nitro-Lift performs projects across the country, utilizing Computer Aided Design (CAD) programming for nearly all of their contracts. This software can be utilized across multiple industries, including automotive, aerospace, construction and architecture.

Murray State provided an adjunct professorship for Nitro-Lift's CAD designer, and Nitro-Lift hired two interns from the program. One student is now doing real-world design work, and the other student is full-time with Nitro-Lift.

Each semester, Nitro-Lift works to secure an intern to help cover some of their tuition, books and other expenses, while they work in the fabrication shop and learn from their experienced CAD manager. By doing this, they are helping train the people they need while investing back into their community.

“When it comes to retaining students in the classroom and workers at local businesses, there is really nothing better than to get students on-site, learning from company mentors, building brand loyalty and completing their education all at once.”

LONNIE GOFF

Murray State College Industrial Engineering Program Chair

“We can’t say enough good things about how Nitro-Lift Fabrication is helping our program and creating opportunities for students within the manufacturing industry.”



Learn more about the partnership and Nitro-Lift.

IN THE NEWS



TRAVIS NAMED PHI THETA KAPPA 2023 NEW CENTURY WORKFORCE SCHOLAR

Murray State College student Leslie Travis was selected as a Phi Theta Kappa 2023 New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar.

Travis will receive a \$1,250 scholarship and will be recognized during the Association of Community College Trustees' Leadership Congress in October.

This scholarship is the first of its kind to support students at associate degree-granting institutions on a national scale as students plan to enter the workforce upon completion of a degree or certificate. The program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation with additional support provided by Phi Theta Kappa.

More than 2,400 applications were received from more than 1,300 colleges across the nation.

Scholars are selected based on their academic achievement, leadership, service and significant endeavors. Only one scholar was selected from each state. Leslie Harris received the highest score in Oklahoma.

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM PLACES FOURTH, HIGHEST FINISH IN TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Murray State College's Academic Team competed for the first time at the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) Community College Championship Tournament in Chicago, Illinois, and placed fourth out of 24 teams in the nation with an 8-4 record.



Murray State's fourth place finish is the highest finish for any Oklahoma team in the history of the Community College Championship Tournament (CCCT). Marshall Barnett (team captain), Dakota Buford, Cal Keene, Grant Matchen and Caleb Stephenson made up the historic team for Murray State. Barnett led Murray with a 43.93 scoring average, good enough for seventh place in scoring and the tournament All-Star team.

This was the first in-person Community College Championship Tournament in three years. The previous two years saw the CCCT played online due to COVID restrictions on travel. The 24 teams

competed in four pools of six, and then the top teams were placed in a championship pool of eight and played round robin matches against the other teams in the championship pool.

“The Murray State Academic Team is a true testament of the hard work, dedication and talent that make up Aggie Nation.”

DR. TIM FALTYN

Murray State College President.

“This historic team was recognized for their efforts nationally and will always be remembered as having the highest finish of any Oklahoma team in the history of the tournament.”





MURRAY STATE COLLEGE STUDENT SELECTED FOR PHI THETA KAPPA PUBLICATION

Murray State College student Justin Whittington's poem, "The Road," was selected to be published in Phi Theta Kappa's (PTK) honor anthology, *Nota Bene*. It is the only literary journal for community college students.

Nota Bene showcases the outstanding writing of community college students. More than 800 entries were submitted at the 28th edition competition, the most in competition history. Whittington was among the 24 students selected for publishing.

"I had the pleasure of surprising Justin with this great news," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College president. "To be among the most elite students selected goes to show that our students are doing great things here."

The first issue was published in 1994. It is used to spotlight PTK members who exhibit excellence in writing among an already elite group of community college students. Each year, hundreds of students submit works of poetry, research and short stories in hopes of being published in this prestigious anthology.

The Road

I am not the source of your troubles, I'm just the road.

It's no bell but life that takes the toll.

All will travel me, hauling their load.

Along the way some get pushed, pulled, drug or towed,

Never the less, onward you all roll.

I'm not the source of your troubles, I'm just the road.

Along the way some try to make it their abode,

Ignoring all the while the yellow and white lines that scroll.

All will travel me, hauling their load.

Others ignore lights and warning sounds 'till their engines explode.

Still on they go, disregarding the tax upon their soul.

I'm not the source of your troubles, I'm just the road.

All journeys come to an end, all must pay what is owed.

Not all will hit the mark, many will miss the goal.

All will travel me, hauling their load.

One day all will look back at the path they rode.

Golden streets or lake of fire, which will you stroll?

I am not the source of your troubles, I'm just the road.

All will travel me, hauling their load.

***PTK is made up of more than 3.8 million members,
nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries and approximately
240,000 active members in the nation's colleges.
Murray State has the honor in being one of those chapters.***

IN THE NEWS

YEAGER SELECTED TO OKLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ARTS XII CLASS



Murray State College's School of Arts and Humanities Dean, Susan Yeager is one of 31 Oklahomans selected for membership in the Oklahoma Arts Council Leadership Arts XII.

The state agency's nationally recognized flagship leadership development program is offered every two years and equips 30 individuals from throughout the state to become leaders and advocates for the arts in their communities.

"The 31 individuals selected for Leadership Arts XII have demonstrated great vision and passion and a desire to discover how the arts fuel strong communities," said Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Sharples. "We look forward to equipping them as we broaden this network of leaders."

Yeager and other members will participate in four two-day sessions held in the spring where they will learn strategies for employing the arts as tools for boosting economic development, strengthening education and enriching quality of life.

In 2015, Yeager joined the Murray State faculty as the Chair of the Arts and Humanities Division. She has also been performing professionally for over 20 years all over the world. Yeager is the owner of Susan Pfau Yeager Studios and is the co-owner of Marvin's Place Art Gallery both located in Ardmore's Depot District. She and her husband, Todd live in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

SOUTHERN NURSING

Murray State College and Southern Tech have joined forces to help nursing students and graduates further their education.

During the last 50 years, the Murray State College RN Nursing program and the Southern Tech Practical Nursing program have shared many students. Most of Southern Tech's LPN students successfully complete Murray State's Paramedic to RN Career Mobility Program.

Students can finish their first two years at Southern Tech and then have advanced credit to transfer to Murray State. With this agreement, students who finish the LPN program at Southern Tech will no longer be required to take the Murray State College entrance challenge exam.

Seeing nursing and healthcare shortages, it's even more critical to see what can be done to better facilitate students on their educational highway. It's important to create a better workforce and economy for southern Oklahoma, and education should do just that.

Murray State College will reserve a minimum of 10 seats per semester for Southern Tech's LPN graduates who meet the criteria.



“The students at our institutions are going to have opportunities they’ve never had before. As far as the community goes, we will have more nurses in the community, which leads to better health outcomes and a better southern Oklahoma.”

DR. TIM FALTYN
Murray State College President

FBLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Murray State College Future of Business Leaders Association (FBLA) chapter members recently attended the FBLA State Leadership Conference at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma.



Helen Tosti, Alex Robinson and Theresa Brown competed in performance events, attended workshops and learned how to create their online personal brand. All three members qualified to compete at the FBLA National Leadership Conference at Atlanta, Georgia in June.

Tosti placed first in client service and in the job interview performance events. In the objective tests, she received second place in retail management and third in marketing concepts. Tosti was also bestowed the honor of being included in Who's Who in Oklahoma FBLA.

Robinson placed first in emerging business issues and second in public speaking performance events. In the objective tests, he received third in macroeconomics, fourth in sports management and fourth in retail management. Robinson was also recognized for being included in the National Business Honor Roll.

Brown placed second in help desk and in impromptu speaking performance events. In the objective tests, she received fourth in management concepts.

Kathy Bowen, Murray State College FBLA adviser, was also recognized as being named the Oklahoma FBLA Adviser of the Year.

"Our members performed exceptionally well in their respective events," said Bowen. "They demonstrated their leadership skills in the workshops and activities."

As for her award, Bowen credits Murray State's chapter Chair, Alex Lancaster, for his support and encouragement. It takes a village to support and prepare the students for success.

PAULS VALLEY WINS MURRAY STATE COLLEGE 46TH ANNUAL INVITATIONAL SCHOLASTIC MEET

Murray State College hosted 988 students representing 54 area schools during the 46th Annual Invitational Scholastic meet.

Students gathered on the Murray State campus in Tishomingo to take academic tests in 49 categories. While waiting for their testing times, students were able to become familiar with the campus and play outdoor games with Murray State students and others from different schools. They were ranked highest to lowest with medals going to the first, second and third places in each category and division. The top-ranking senior in each division received a Murray State scholarship award.

The 2023 Murray State College Scholastic Contest Overall Division Winners:

DIVISION I: **PAULS VALLEY**
DIVISION II: **DAVIS**
DIVISION III: **ROCK CREEK**
DIVISION IV: **CANEY**

For more information about the contest and to see previous years' results, visit mscok.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-contests.

SHOTGUN TEAM

The Murray State Shotgun Team competed at the 2023 National Collegiate Shooting Sport Athletic Association Championships.

The 12-person team competed in trap, sporting clays and skeet.



CLAY ROBERTSON



NOLAN MARCUS



ASHTON HUKAKER



DAN HOLLEY



HUNTER CAMPBELL

HIGH OVERALL

CLAY ROBERTSON; score 281

Clay was the highest overall average for 2022-2023 in Division 5. That's a total of the National Championship and the Regional Qualifiers.

SPORTING CLAYS

All American -
CLAY ROBERTSON

Honorable Mention -
NOLAN MARCUS

3rd place individual -
CLAY ROBERTSON; score 89

4th place team -
CLAY ROBERTSON, NOLAN MARCUS, ASHTON HUKAKER, DAN HOLLEY AND HUNTER CAMPBELL

SKEET

6th place -
CLAY ROBERTSON

7th place -
NOLAN MARCUS



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team won the MSC Aggie Invitational.

Logan McCoid won his first collegiate tournament in a playoff. Parker Samuelson was also awarded to the all-tournament team.



MEN'S TEAM

- JUERGEN BALLESTEROS**
- DILYN HART**
- LOGAN MCCOID**

- PARKER SAMUELSON**
- CONNOR SHORT**
- BRENDAN WILLOUGHBY**

The women's golf team was runner-up at the MSC Lady Aggie Invitational.

Kylee Smith and Jaimee Copeland were awarded all-tournament team. Congratulations!



WOMEN'S TEAM

- BRIE BAGGETT**
- JAIMEE COPELAND**
- GRACE LYNCH**

- ARIEL MCDONALD**
- CHLOE REASONER**
- KYLEE SMITH**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Going into the 2022-23 season, the Murray State Lady Aggies were ranked #25. They finished their 2022-23 regular season 23-6 and winners of 16 straight games, and a league streak in home games to 18 straight victories.

In their final (regular season) home game against Northern Oklahoma College-Tonkawa, the Lady Aggies clinched the conference regular season crown and secured the top seed for the region conference tournament.

They won the tournament, beating Redlands, Northeastern and ultimately, Northern Oklahoma College-Enid to claim their second straight NJCAA Region 2 championship.

Advancing to the national championship tournament, for the fifth time, the Lady Aggies fell to McLennan College in overtime, 50-47.



Congratulations to BRIANA KNABE on being selected to Region 2 2nd Team All-Conference. She is from Era, Texas.



Congratulations to JADE MILLAN on being selected as Region 2 Newcomer of the Year. She is a transfer from Mac U. High School



MURRAY STATE RECOGNIZES BASKETBALL SOPHOMORES

Sophomore girls: **BRIANA KNABE, REESE WEBB, PAYTON JAMES, MATTIE BUSBY, LANIE GOOCH, JADE MILLA**



Sophomore boys: **DRAY GRAHAM, AJ RICHARD, TJ GARDNER, KJ BOONE, JAELEN TUCKER**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - NURSING

Murray State College, University of Oklahoma Create Nursing Program Partnership

Murray State College, The Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma have partnered together to build a qualified, educated nursing workforce to address the critical nursing shortage in Oklahoma.

Beginning fall 2023, Murray State will offer a guaranteed admission opportunity to six qualified undergraduate students majoring in nursing to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the OU College of Nursing's educational sites at Cameron University in Lawton and Duncan Regional Hospital. Guaranteed admission students must remain in good academic standing while completing prerequisite nursing courses and meet all other OU College of Nursing admission requirements to be granted full admission.

In addition, this agreement will allow Murray State students who, after attaining their associate degree, want to earn a BSN the option of pursuing OU's RN to BSN program – a degree completion program that is offered 100% online.

“This partnership provides Murray State nursing graduates guaranteed access, both online and in-person, to a career ladder with greater professional opportunities and earning potential. Our RNs will have the ability to pursue bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral nursing degrees with the University of Oklahoma from anywhere they live and work in southern Oklahoma.”

DR. TIM FALTYN

Murray State College President

In fall 2022, Murray State signed a similar partnership with career tech partner, Southern Tech, that guaranteed access for their paramedic and LPN graduates into Murray State's Career Mobility Registered Nursing program.

“As a preferred partner with the University of Oklahoma, we are taking the first step in the creation of the Southern Center for Nursing Education to be located on our Murray State Ardmore campus,” said Faltyn.

This new partnership will contribute to strengthening the nursing workforce, primarily benefiting rural Oklahoma, as students typically begin their careers close to where they received their degree.

“Partnerships like this are the future for Oklahoma education and makes the best possible level of healthcare for all southern Oklahoma and our surrounding region possible,” said Faltyn.

Local Tishomingo high school and concurrent Murray State student, Charlee Mayes, shared her story about her desired path to becoming a CRNA. One that begins with earning her associate's degree in nursing at Murray State and continues to the University of Oklahoma for her bachelor's degree.

“For small town students like me, this is a dream come true. Access is what we need. The chance to pursue what we know that we're meant to do without having to move hundreds of miles from home.”

“After learning about this exciting future for MSC nursing students, I knew I wanted to be a part of this historic moment. This opportunity helps make my dreams a reality.”



Partnerships

MSC's Southern Oklahoma Center for Nursing -

Murray State's Southern Oklahoma Nursing Education Center will be located on Murray's Ardmore campus.

The goal for the Center is to be the nursing workforce training provider for the southern Oklahoma and North Texas regions.



Scan to view the press release

AirEvac Team Training -

Murray's work to become the nursing education center in this region also includes working with the AirEvac Lifeteam on the Ardmore campus. They have access to the classrooms and simulation lab space. They will use these spaces for flight team continuing education and clinical internships of new flight crew members.

The AirEvac team members will be introduced to the MSC Career Mobility Program with an opportunity to pursue a healthcare career as a registered nurse (RN.)

MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

50
Years

of Nursing Excellence

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

MAY 11, 2023

6 P.M.

**MURRAY STATE COLLEGE EVENT CENTER
108 E. MAIN ST, ARDMORE, OK**

**FOR TICKET INFORMATION,
CONTACT MHORTON@MSCOK.EDU**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



BRIAN COTHRAN

Dean

Murray State College School of Agriculture, Business and Occupational Technology

For more than a century, students have graced the halls of Murray State College acquiring the knowledge needed to achieve career hopes and aspirations. Alumni have gone on to achieve great heights all over the world. For some, they make their way back home to Murray to give back to a place that means so much to them in further instilling strong foundations of curriculum and structure to aid in the career development of future generations.

In 1999, proud Murray State alum, Brian Cothran, came back home to Murray State. He began his tenure as an agriculture instructor and has been leaving his influential mark on the lives of his students ever since with his humble, caring and generous nature. Cothran looks forward to serving his Murray family at a higher capacity with being named the new Dean of the Murray State College School of Agriculture, Business and Occupational Technology. He previously served as the Agriculture Program Chair.

“Having been at Murray for 24 years, I think of this place as home,” said Cothran. “This

opportunity will allow me to help my Murray family accomplish their goals and serve our students.”

He is not the only one in his immediate family doing ground-breaking work at Murray State. His wife, Ginger, is the Vice President of the Murray State Ardmore campus. They are a dynamic duo helping all who cross their paths achieve great success. Both Cothran and his wife reside in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and have two adult children, Macy and Cody.

Cothran has not only served as an educator but as a colleague, friend and a fervent advocate for all. His passion for others as well as his educational roots in agriculture run deep having obtained his Master in Agricultural Leadership degree from Oklahoma State University. Cothran is excited to expand the horizons of the programs by further implementing the valuable knowledge he will gain through his new role.

“I am excited to learn more about the variety programs we offer,” said Cothran.

It's important to know how we can continue to have a positive impact on our students and the communities that we serve.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



TRACEY HICKMAN

Dean

Learning and Student Success

As an educator, there is no better feeling than a student and/or group reaching their highest potential. When they are on their journey to success, lending a helping hand or a simple word of encouragement can go a long way. For the past several years at Murray State, Tracey Hickman passionately champions for his students inside or outside of the classroom.

Hickman has served as the Murray State Language Arts Chair. Each semester, he aids students in their quest for excellence in their higher education journey. Now the Dean of Learning and Student Success, Hickman looks forward to impacting current and future Murray students at a higher capacity.

"I look forward to working with all students, not just the ones in my courses," said Hickman.

Hickman already has goals set on how to further grow the departments that he will oversee with working in a more hands-on capacity with the academic resource centers on both Ardmore and Tishomingo campuses.

"Working with career services is new to me, so I am excited to learn more about what they do and help Murray grow in that aspect," said Hickman. "I am planning to mobilize our staff more and make the academic resource center better established."

While he is assuming a new role, Hickman will continue to be the Murray State Academic Team coach. He looks forward to building onto what the team started this year, which led to a very successful year having placed fourth at nationals – the highest score in Oklahoma history.

"The entire team is returning, plus we're adding six new freshmen," Hickman said. "I think we have a real chance to win nationals, and potentially place two teams in the top four."

Hickman is ready to hit the ground running in his new position. Success is a collaborative effort, and he looks forward to working with everyone toward a mission that will elevate Murray State to a place where students can truly go anywhere.

I think we all become a part of this profession because we want to see students succeed, and I think I am in a well-suited position to do that.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

NEW HIRES



ASHTON HEFFINGTON
Ardmore
Recruiter and
Admission
Counselor

*Hometown:
Ardmore,
Oklahoma*

Ashton guides and assists Murray State faculty and staff in specific efforts to recruit and represent the College. She helps assist the Admissions with their process, and Advisement and Outreach teams with campus tours, hosting official guests and representing the college at professional meetings and workshops.



CHRIS FLIPPO
Director of
Campus
Facilities

*Hometown:
Fort Smith,
Arkansas*

Chris is responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of the campus facilities area. Chris and his team will ensure our campus facilities are well maintained and safe.

PROMOTIONS



BOBBY SCHULTZ
Assistant Director of Campus
Facilities

Bobby assists the Director with the day-to-day operations of the Campus Facilities area. Bobby is responsible for accepting work order requests and routing requests to the Campus Facilities team. He also works closely with vendors and oversees their work to ensure timely completion and quality of the projects.



TAMMY MANION
Asst. Director of Campus
Facilities

In addition to assisting the Campus Facilities Director with the day-to-day operations, Tammy coordinates all purchasing activities for the campus facilities team as well as processing all scheduling requests. Additionally, she oversees all Motor Pool operations.



KELLY PERKINSON
Chief of Police/Director of Safety
and Security

Officer Perkinson is responsible for general safety and security of the campus community and property as well as occupational and public safety. Additionally, he will plan, organize, direct and administer the overall police; emergency response; emergency management; and emergency planning and training of the campus community.

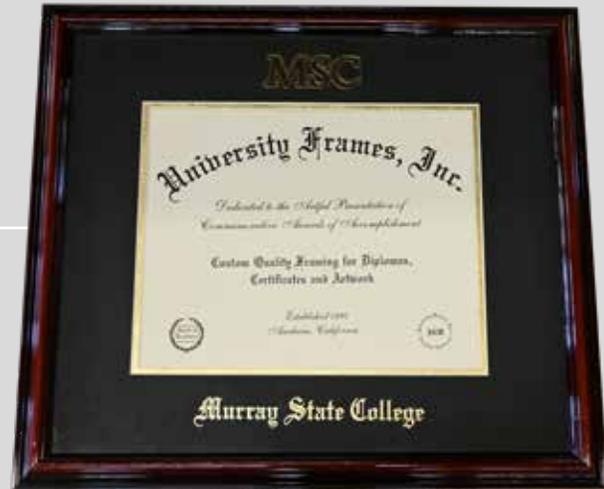
Give Back Promo

In November 2022, Murray State College rolled out a monthly program that allows anyone to give back with a retail purchase at the College's Murray on Main stores (*Ardmore and Tishomingo*) or the Tishomingo campus bookstore.

MAY

Branded diploma frame to benefit MSC Vet Nursing scholarships.

(Cost: \$94.95)



JUNE

Cell phone ID holder to benefit MSC Occupational Therapy Assistant and Physical Therapist Assistant scholarships

(Cost: \$4.28)



JULY

MSC lanyard to benefit non-traditional student scholarships

(Cost: \$4.95)





IN THE NEWS

HIGHER ED DAY:

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

Students had informative discussions with Speaker of the House Charles McCall, and our district State Senators Chris Kidd and Jerry Alvord, and Representatives Josh Cantrell and Tammy Townley.

“The preservation of Higher Education Oklahoma and America is essential for this generation’s confidence and assurance of a strong workforce.”

QUINTON JONES
Murray State College
Executive Director of Student Affairs



ALEX ROBINSON-

During my trip to the Capitol, I was able to share my story to students, faculty, staff and administration from across the state on how college has been significant in my life and for my family. We were also given the opportunity to have conversations with the legislators who represent Murray State to not only share our passion for higher education, but also hear their story about how higher education has been significant to them. We are blessed with great Representatives and Senators at the State Capitol who are advocating for Murray State daily. We were also given the opportunity to hear about the strategic plan from the Chancellor of Education, Allison Garrett and Chair for the State Board of Regents, Michael Turpen.

JAYSEN WELTY-

A day spent at the capitol is always an amazing experience. Learning about the advancements that legislators are working towards to provide students in Oklahoma with the opportunity to receive higher education was remarkable. Students are in good hands to pursue degrees upon graduation from high school. Our legislation is working tirelessly to ensure that college students are the future for Oklahoma to prosper. College presidents are putting in efforts to diversify their respective college with the help of their senator or representative. Higher Education Day was an opportunity that I truly cherished; knowing that as students we have the resources available to receive higher education is exciting.

BRADLEY GOOCH-

I learned how important higher education is in the eyes of the state legislators. These ambassadors expressed their admiration towards the students for embarking on a course to receive degrees. I found the encouragement of our local legislators to empower and solidify my reasoning for attending Murray State. Upon returning, I found myself prouder to be an Aggie than before!

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



ALEX ROBINSON

Where are you from?

Bokchito, Oklahoma

What is your major?

Business

Why did you choose Murray?

I chose Murray because it truly felt like home. Everyone was so welcoming and made it known that they would be there for you, rooting you on, every step of the way.

What has your journey in higher education been like?

I have had a passion for education my entire life because of what my family has instilled in me. Murray State has provided me with ample opportunities to take it to the next level through higher education. I have been blessed with amazing professors for my core classes and those related to my major to enhance my education.

I have had many opportunities to grow as a leader through leadership development in the President's Scholars Program (PSP.) I have been able to apply my leadership skills by serving the student body as the Student Government Association president, as well as being a part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors organization and the Collegiate FBLA Business Organization.

I have been blessed to work directly with Dr. Faltyn to give the student perspective on how we could prosper as a college.

What are two or three of your most memorable experiences while at Murray?

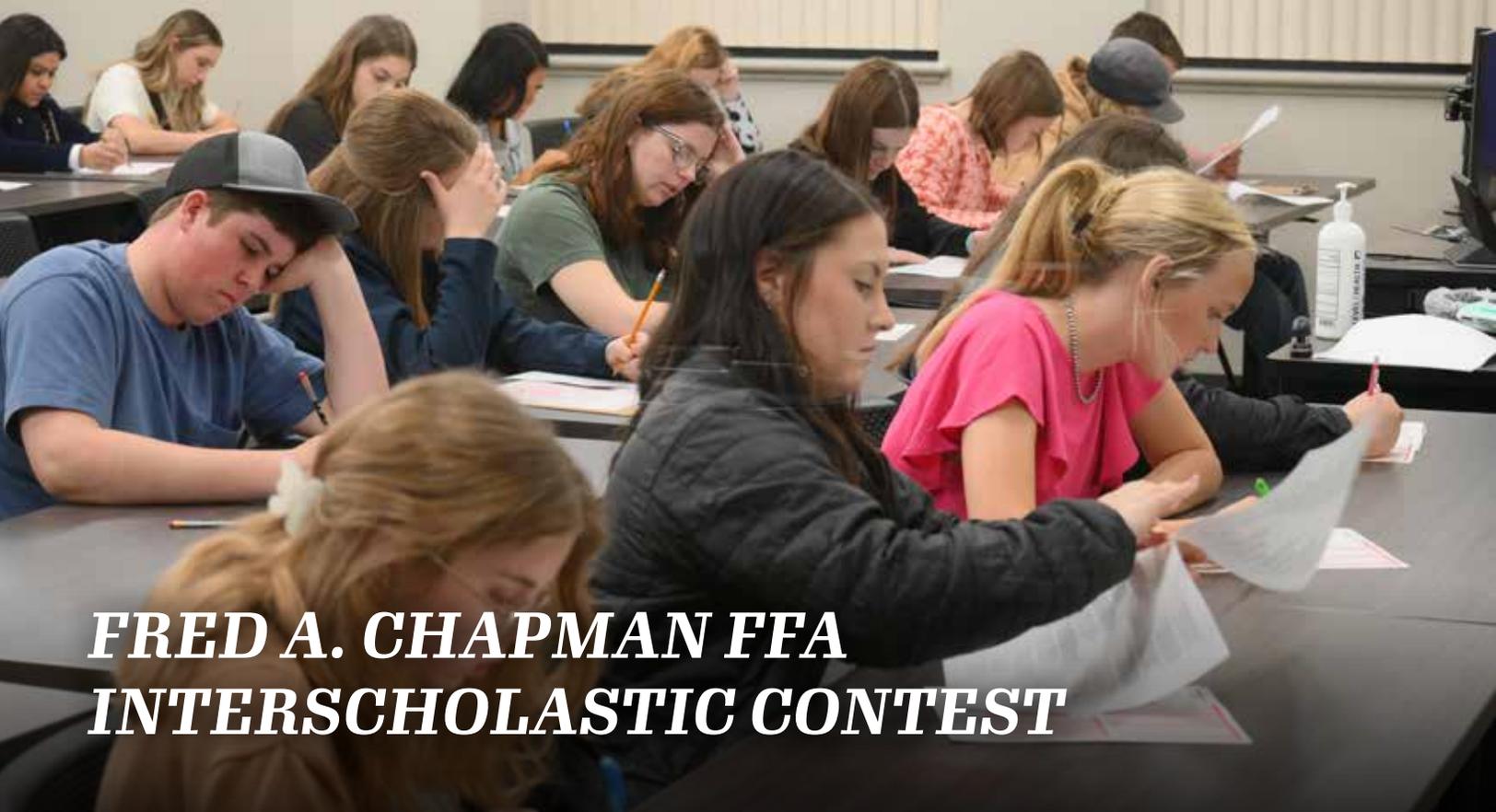
My favorite time of year is homecoming; we get a full week of students being involved and having community engagement. Getting to partake in all of the homecoming festivities with my friends winning the McDaniel cup (a MSC student life contest) two years in a row with PSP will forever be some of my fondest memories.

The spring semester when all of the high school students are touring campus is a close second because you get to share with them how passionate you are for Murray State and all we have to offer.

What are your hopes in the future?

After I graduate this May, I plan to pursue a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma. Then, I would like to further my education at the University of Oklahoma College of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree concentrating in Business, Commerce and Real Estate. I would love to work for a company that shares the beliefs that I do and begin traveling the world.

I plan to truly live out Murray State's motto, "From Here, Go Anywhere!"



FRED A. CHAPMAN FFA INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST

Murray State College hosted 146 schools and 505 teams during the contest. 1,675 students competed in a variety of contests - from livestock judging and soils judging to electricity and floriculture, and more.

Results

(Category, Individual Winner, School Winner)

SWEEPSTAKES WINNER

Byng

AG COMMUNICATIONS

Madison Muller (Lawton)
Lawton

AG SHOP

Lucas Weber (Luther)
Edmond

AGRONOMY

Kenzi Price (Afton)
Dover

ANIMAL SCIENCE QUIZ BOWL

Elmore City-Pernell

ELECTRICITY

Blake Owens (Spiro)
Broken Bow

ENTOMOLOGY

Vladimir Barksdale (Strother)
Strother

ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES

Jet Frye (Byng)
Byng

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Hollis Thompson (Amber-Pocasset)
Amber-Pocasset

FLORICULTURE

Megan Pogue (Byng)
Byng

HOMESITE EVALUATION

Madison Ross (Vian)
Vian

JR. LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Hadley Bell (Madill)
Madill

SR. LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Ridge Garrett (Guthrie)
Guthrie

LAND JUDGING

Emmalee Blagg (Whitesboro)
Vian

MEAT EVALUATION

Colton Burns (Dover)
Dover

MILK QUALITY

Charity Elliot (Broken Bow)
Broken Bow

NURSERY

Tucker Dennis (Byng)
Byng

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Jack Merideth (Apache)
Apache

SOIL & WATER

Spiro

TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

John Poling (Silo)
Silo

VETERINARY SCIENCE

Lauren Sellers (Edmond)
Edmond



CARTER COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

Murray State awarded \$4,000 tuition waivers for the senior showmanship winner in each species.



EMMA REEVES
Fox FFA – Swine



TEGAN HOGGARD
Fox FFA – Sheep



MACY SHELTON
Lone Grove FFA – Goats



ABBY HELMKE
Fox FFA - Cattle

JOHNSTON COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

Murray State awarded \$4,000 tuition waivers for the senior showmanship winner in each species.



TINLEE RAY
Wapanucka – Swine



RHIANNA ROSS
Tishomingo – Sheep



MATTHEW PATTON
Tishomingo – Goats



JOLEE PRENTICE
Tishomingo - Cattle

MURRAY STATE HAPPENINGS



AGGIEGRAS

MSC celebrated Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Aggie-style with "AggieGras."

Students, faculty and staff "let the good times roll" by enjoying great fellowship and a crawfish boil that included other Mardi Gras food favorites like king cake. The celebration continued into the night with a dance and mechanical bull competition where prizes were awarded.



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE AND TISHOMINGO WATER AGREEMENT

Murray State College and the City of Tishomingo recently signed an agreement that paves the way for the use of funds received by the city through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to update and expand its water infrastructure, and eventually allow Murray State to connect into the city's water system.



MURRAY STATE AWARDED THE HEART OF CONSERVATION

The Chickasaw Nation Office of Natural Resources Director Kris Patton presented the Heart of Conservation award to Murray State for the dedicated efforts to ensure natural resources stewardship.

Murray has broken down barriers toward development of an enhanced water supply serving all the citizens of Tishomingo. Renovations to the historic Chickasaw Hall and partnership grant opportunities with the Chickasaw Nation to enhance agricultural outreach has allowed us to be a valued partner in community sustainability across the Chickasaw Nation.



2023 REGIONAL HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SUMMIT

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Associate Professor, Dr. Jayne Campanini, was among the speakers at this year's 2023 Regional Healthcare Workforce Summit at Choctaw Casino and Resort.

Dr. Campanini discussed career pathways, including Pre-K through 12th grade.

The summit also covered other various aspects of the healthcare sector, such as healthcare and behavioral health trends and issues.



BOOTS & BOWTIES FUNDRAISER

Part of Murray State's executive team attended this year's fundraiser, which supports the Carter County Junior Livestock show.

Murray State was a "Top Hand" sponsor.



ARDMORE AND MARSHALL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUETS

Murray State College was a bronze sponsor for the Marshall County Chamber Banquet, and a Gold Sponsor for the Ardmore Chamber banquet.



PRECIOUS PEARLS DEBUTANTE BALL

Murray State was a top level sponsor for the Precious Pearls Debutante Scholarship Ball.

Todd Yeager, Susan Yeager, Ginger Cothran, Dr. Tim Faltyn, MSC Regent Allen Benson, Jessica Baker and Clint Baker were the MSC representatives.

The young ladies are formally presented to society and the Ardmore community.

MURRAY STATE HAPPENINGS



PERFORMING ARTS

Murray State College's School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences students performed the play, "These Shining Lives," to students and local communities.



The play chronicled the strength and determination of the women working at The Radium Dial Company. It was a dream job at a time when not many women were able to be part of the workforce.

MURRAY STATE PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM (PSP) -

The PSP students had the opportunity to tour the Oklahoma Supreme Court and visit with Justices Norma Gurich and Dustin Rowe.

They also toured the state capitol and met with Speaker of the House of Representatives Charles McCall.



PROFESSOR WES REDDISH'S PHYSICAL SCIENCE CLASS

MSC Professor Wes Reddish's physical science students made boats for his lab this past week. They tested each one to see if it would float, and then added weight to see how much it would take to sink or capsize them. The purpose of the activity was to test their understanding of buoyancy and stability.

At the beginning of the semester, Professor Reddish told his students that at the 4-week grade turn-in mark that if every member of the class had their assignments completed and each student had a passing grade, the class could pick a color and he would dye his hair that color.

Two classes showed a significant improvement on those two metrics. One class fulfilled the criteria. The color they picked was pink.

Professor Reddish kept his hair that way until Spring Break.



WOMEN'S HISTORY LUNCHEON-

The first ever women's history luncheon at MSC was held to celebrate Women's History Month.

While everyone enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Great Western Dining Services, there was a panel of professional women: Labeth Nall, Susan Yeager and Kenzie Brown who told their stories and answered questions from the emcee, Quinton Jones.

Discussion included challenges women face in today's society.



Murray Event Center



BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT WITH US

Logistics

INDOOR SPACE

2,600 SQ FT

SEATS 200

CHAIRS AND TABLES

OUTDOOR SPACE

3,000 SQ FT

COURTYARD SPACE

Rates

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR

9 HOURS - \$750

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR

5 HOURS - \$300

INDOOR & OUTDOOR

9 HOURS - \$950

INDOOR & OUTDOOR

5 HOURS - \$400

Deposit

50% OF THE RATE IS

DUE AT THE TIME

OF SCHEDULING

THE EVENT.

Contact Information

580-387-7320

108 E. Main - Ardmore

MURRAYEVENTCENTER@MSCOK.EDU



SAVE THE DATE

GRADUATION 2023



NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

MAY 12 | 1 P.M.
MSC FLETCHER
AUDITORIUM



VETERINARY NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

MAY 12 | 3 P.M.
MSC SCIENCE & AG BUILDING
CHAPMAN CONFERENCE
CENTER





2023

COMMENCEMENT

MAY 12 | 7 P.M.
MURRAY STATE COLLEGE -
TISHOMINGO



Ardmore
2901 Mt. Washington
Ardmore, OK 73401
580-319-0370

Tishomingo
One Murray Campus
Tishomingo, OK 73460
580-387-7000