

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

AGGREGATE

APRIL 2026



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

***Eric Chapman and
Elise Chapman Stumpff***

Fred Chapman, Jr.'s Son and Daughter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPRINT TO COMMENCEMENT

As we turn the page into April, there is an unmistakable energy fills campus—a growing sense of momentum felt in every hallway, classroom and gathering space. Spring has long been a season of renewal, but in higher education, it takes on additional meaning. It's the time when months—sometimes years—of hard work start to turn into achievement. We often call this period the “sprint to commencement,” a fitting phrase for a time marked by focus, intensity and purpose.

Across campus, that energy is on full display. Classrooms are vibrant with final projects that show not only what students have learned but also how they have grown. Performances highlight creativity and discipline developed through hours of practice. Presentations reveal not just knowledge but confidence and the ability to convey ideas clearly and convincingly. Behind the scenes, faculty and staff work tirelessly—mentoring, advising, encouraging and making sure every student has the support needed to reach their goals. It is a team effort that demonstrates the strength of a community dedicated to student success.

Commencement is at the heart of everything. It is, without a doubt, my favorite professional day of the year. There is something deeply meaningful about watching students walk across the stage, with each step symbolizing a

journey that is uniquely theirs. For many, that journey has involved balancing coursework with jobs, family responsibilities and personal challenges. For others, it has meant discovering new passions, redefining goals or finding a sense of belonging they hadn't experienced before. No matter the path, commencement is a moment when all those stories come together in a shared celebration.

It is also a strong reminder of why our work matters. Each graduate symbolizes more than an academic milestone; they represent resilience, growth and the promise of generational impact. When students earn their degrees or certificates, they are not only changing their own lives—they are opening new doors for their families and communities. That ripple effect is one of the most significant results of education, and it is clearly visible as proud family members and friends gather to celebrate with them.

This year, that celebration feels especially meaningful because of the many achievements our students have reached along the way. Academically, they keep setting themselves apart, earning honors and scholarships, gaining acceptance into competitive transfer programs, and entering the workforce with confidence. Their success shows not only their personal dedication but also the quality of instruction and support

they receive during their time here.

Our student-athletes have also contributed to this sense of pride and momentum. Competing at a high level requires discipline, resilience, and teamwork. They have represented the college with excellence on the national stage while staying committed to their academic responsibilities, reinforcing the idea that success is based on balance, accountability and a strong work ethic.

What makes this moment truly significant, however, is the understanding that none of it occurs by chance. The momentum we experience across campus stems from a shared commitment—one that unites students, faculty, staff and supporters around a common purpose. It is cultivated through daily effort, intentional support and a belief in what our students are capable of achieving.

As we approach commencement, we celebrate not only where our students are headed but also all they have already accomplished. We honor the late nights, the challenges they've overcome, the goals they've reached and the growth that often can't be measured. As we send this next class of graduates forward, we do so with confidence—knowing they are prepared, capable and ready to make a lasting impact wherever their paths may take them.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, positioned above the printed name.

DR. TIM FALTYN
President
Murray State
College

REGENTS HONOR STUDENTS

At the February Board of Regents meeting, three Murray State College students were recognized for their recent accomplishments.

Bass Fishing team members Gabe Morrow and Jackson Roumbanis were recognized for representing Murray State and Team USA in the largest international youth fishing tournament in South Africa. Team USA won the tournament, and Jackson won the individual championship.

Student Government Association President Caden Coombs was recognized for being selected as a George and Donna Nigh Leadership Scholar.



Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn and Board of Regents Vice Chair Keith Gray and Secretary Clay McCall attended the Association of Community College Trustees conference. It was there that Dr. Faltyn received news of the Murray State Shotgun Team's win at the national tournament. The conference attendees made a video and sent it to the team, congratulating them on their back-to-back win.



2025-2026 MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

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EMPOWERING OUR EDUCATORS

The Elizabeth Stobaugh Pyle Faculty Enhancement Grant, facilitated by the Murray State College Foundation, supports early-career faculty in strengthening their teaching and instructional practices. The grant provides up to \$2,000—matched 1:1 by the college—for as much as \$4,000 in professional development. The program is designed to enhance learning experiences, foster excellence in the classroom and online, and support new educators as they grow in their field.



**SHEENA
CONNOLLY**

**Science Assistant
Professor**

The Elizabeth Stobaugh Pyle Faculty Enhancement Grant has given me the opportunity to pursue my MBA and continue growing both professionally and as an educator. This experience is expanding my perspective beyond the sciences, allowing me to bring leadership, business and real-world applications into my classroom.

I'm excited to use these insights to better prepare my students for careers in healthcare, science, and beyond. This investment is not only advancing my career, it's strengthening the impact I can have on my students.



**GINA
HATFIELD**

**OTA Fieldwork
Coordinator**

The Pyle Grant is meaningful to me because it directly supports my ability to stay current, relevant and impactful in an area of practice that is rapidly evolving. Pediatric occupational therapy, particularly in the area of autism, continues to grow in both complexity and demand. I believe it is essential that my teaching reflects the most up-to-date, evidence-informed approaches available. As an Occupational Therapy Assistant educator, my goal is to bridge the gap between theory and practice for my students. The Pyle Grant will help me create richer learning experiences, such as case-based instruction, hands-on skill development and updated teaching materials that better prepare students to confidently support children and families.



**ADAM
WRIGHT**

**Language Arts
Instructor**

After nearly two years at Murray State College, I've grown to truly value this community and the opportunity to learn alongside our students, faculty and staff. I'm honored to receive an Elizabeth Stobaugh Pyle Faculty Enhancement Grant, which will support the final stages of my doctoral degree in the humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas.

My research explores how reality is not just represented in media, but actively shaped through it—especially in documentary storytelling. Alongside my written work, I'm producing a short film examining how evolving technologies are changing the way we write, think and interpret the world.

Together, these projects reflect a central idea: we don't simply observe reality—we help construct it through the stories we tell.

BUILT ON PURPOSE

FROM AGGIE ROOTS TO GLOBAL REACH

At Murray State College, every student's journey looks a little different. Dr. Cade Wilson's path is a powerful example of how purpose, hard work and adaptability can shape a meaningful career. Today, he is a veterinarian, business owner, entrepreneur, consultant, public speaker, writer, certified personal trainer and nutritionist. But his story didn't begin with everything figured out.



**DR. CADE
WILSON**

While attending Murray State, Dr. Wilson balanced a full academic load with more than 35 hours of work each week, leaving little time for traditional college involvement but building a foundation of discipline and resilience. Originally pursuing a business degree, he reached a turning point during a conversation with his father, who challenged him to think more intentionally about his future. By identifying what he genuinely enjoyed working with animals, being outdoors and having an interest in medicine and aligning those passions with the kind of life he wanted to build, he discovered a path in veterinary medicine.

That decision led him to transfer to Oklahoma State University, where he completed his degree in animal science before continuing into veterinary school. During that time, he demonstrated strong leadership, serving as class president throughout his veterinary program. After graduating, he gained experience in Texas and later returned to southern Oklahoma, where he took a leap of faith and opened Carter County Animal

Hospital in Ardmore. Now approaching its 20th year, the practice has grown into a trusted, multi-doctor clinic serving the region.

Driven by curiosity and a desire to improve how work gets done, Dr. Wilson expanded beyond the clinic into innovation. He developed Skoped Micro, a product that connects smartphones to traditional microscopes, allowing users to capture images, record video and collaborate in real

time from anywhere in the world. What began as an idea inside his own practice has grown into a tool used across nearly every continent, reflecting both his entrepreneurial mindset and his belief in the power of technology to create new opportunities.

He encourages current and future Aggies to stay open-minded and intentional about their path, often reminding them to "date their ideas." Rather than committing too quickly, he believes students should spend time in their chosen field, exploring it from different angles to ensure it truly aligns with their long-term goals. It's not just about choosing a direction; it's about continually evaluating it.

In a world where technology and opportunity are constantly evolving, he emphasizes the importance of looking for better, more efficient ways to do things and identifying gaps others may overlook. By staying curious and adaptable, students can refine their path over time and position themselves for lasting success.

Dr. Wilson's journey is a reminder that success doesn't come from having a perfect plan from the start. It comes from being willing to adapt, work hard and pursue what genuinely matters.

Dr. Wilson's journey is a reminder that success doesn't come from having a perfect plan from the start. It comes from being willing to adapt, work hard and pursue what genuinely matters. From his time as a working student at Murray State to building a thriving veterinary practice and launching a globally used product, he represents the determination and forward-thinking spirit that define Aggie alumni.

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

NEW ERA FOR CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY



NEW HEART OF CAMPUS LIFE IS AN INVESTMENT IN FUTURE CONNECTIONS AND LASTING MEMORIES

Murray State College officially opened the renovated Paul J. Park Student Union with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that highlighted the facility's role as the center of campus life and a catalyst for deeper community connection.

The renovation and addition are designed to create a more engaging student experience—one that encourages involvement, connection and growth beyond the classroom. College leaders emphasized that when students feel connected, they are more likely to succeed

academically, personally and professionally.

A key feature of the project, the Thomas E. Barnett Ballroom, positions the college as a destination for both campus and community events. The space will host banquets, conferences, celebrations and public gatherings, strengthening partnerships and expanding opportunities for collaboration.

Murray State College Regent Dillon Sparks underscored the project's broader impact.



At its core, a college is not just a place where students attend classes. It is about the connections that will be formed, the discovery of purpose, and the building of a sense of belonging.

DR. TIM FALTYN

Murray State College President



“This ribbon-cutting represents more than a new building—it’s an investment in people.”

**REGENT
DILLON SPARKS**
Murray State College
Board of Regents

“This facility will serve as the heart of campus life, where students connect, ideas are shared and lasting memories are made, said Sparks.”

He also noted the ballroom’s versatility as a space that brings together students, organizations and community members, creating opportunities for engagement that extend beyond campus.

For students, the building represents something more personal.

Murray State student DrewAnn White reflected on the meaning behind the new space.

“A student union isn’t just a building. It’s where connections are made, where students find their place and where a sense of belonging begins,” said White.

White emphasized that the space will serve as a place where students can find support, build relationships and gain confidence—experiences that shape their journey well beyond graduation.

The impact also resonated with community leaders.

Tishomingo City Manager Bryce Jones highlighted the partnership between the college and the city.

“This facility is more than a campus space—it’s a community asset,” Jones said. “A strong college contributes directly to a strong city, and this investment opens the door to new opportunities, connections and a stronger future for all of us.”

As the ribbon was cut, the moment marked not just the opening of a building, but the beginning of a new chapter—one centered on connection, collaboration and shared success for both Murray State College and the community it serves.



“This is a statement that students matter here—that our experience matters.”

**DREWANN
WHITE**
2025-2026 Murray
State College
SGA Secretary

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



THOMAS E. BARNETT BALLROOM

A native of Shawnee, Thomas E. Barnett's journey reflects determination, service and entrepreneurial vision. He began his connection to Murray State College in 1955 as a student-athlete on the track team and a feature editor for the Aggielite, earning his associate degree in arts and science.

After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Barnett returned to Oklahoma in the late 1960s to begin a career with Oilfield Specialty Distributors. With the support of the company's owner—who invested in his education at Oklahoma City University—Barnett developed a deep understanding of the industry and ultimately became owner and CEO.

Known as "Mr. Oilfield," he built the business over five decades, earning



respect for his integrity, generosity and humor before retiring at age 83.

Following his passing in 2020, Barnett made a transformational impact on Murray State College through a planned gift exceeding

\$1 million—the largest single gift in the college's history at the time. That legacy lives on through the Thomas E. Barnett Ballroom, a space designed to bring people together and strengthen both campus and community.

PAUL J. PARK STUDENT UNION

The Paul J. Park Student Union carries the legacy of a beloved educator whose impact still resonates on campus today.

Paul J. Park served as a chemistry faculty member and department chair from 1935 until his passing in

1969. Known for his sharp wit and engaging teaching style, he left a lasting impression on generations of students. Beyond campus, Park served his country during World War II as a United States Navy pharmacist's mate.

He married Mary Ann Henderson in 1937, and together they remained closely connected to the college community. The Park family was

present for the original building's ribbon-cutting in 1966—a moment that reflected both his contributions and the college's growth.

In the early 1980s, the facility was officially named in his honor. During that ceremony, Miss Lela, as a young girl, cut the ribbon—symbolizing the enduring connection between the Park family and the student life center that continues to bear his name.



The Masonic Lodge of Oklahoma performed a traditional cornerstone ceremony for the facility that included members of the Board of Regents, administration, faculty, staff and community, hosted by Tishomingo Lodge #91.

"We were honored to be a part of this Masonic Lodge tradition."

DR. TIM FALTYN

Murray State College President

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FOR THE FOUNDATION

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION LEGACY
GALA RAISES \$50,000, SCHOLARSHIPS

The Murray State College Foundation hosted its annual Legacy Gala, raising more than \$50,000 for Murray State student scholarships.

The event featured a live and silent auction, dinner and remarks from students who discussed the importance of education and people who encourage them in their lives and those of their peers.

"The gala is about celebrating the power of higher education and the accomplishments of the giants that we stand on the shoulders of, as well as those who are just starting their journey," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "Our Foundation is an important partner, and we are grateful for the ways that they support our students through scholarships."





Murray State College students Ayli Minor and Kason Mitchell remarked on their journeys and how Murray State has played an essential role in developing a path forward.

"There were times along the way where I didn't get the support I needed. But when I arrived at Murray State, I felt something different," Mitchell said. "The faculty and staff here really care. They work with you. They want to see you succeed."

"Transitioning from high school to college challenged me," said Minor. "But I've learned that when you're in the right environment, you grow into who you're meant to be. And that's exactly what Murray gave me – the space to grow, to adjust, and to find my place and build on my passion."

Gala guests demonstrated remarkable philanthropy throughout the evening, participating in auctions and games. The gifts will ensure the foundation's

long-term sustainability and give students critical dollars to further their education.

"I am always in awe of the support we receive from our community," said Jordyn Frazier, Murray State College Foundation Executive Director.

"Ayli and Kason represent an entire student population who aren't just dreaming of what's possible, they are pursuing it. We are grateful to our donors and partners who are giving back to invest in their future."



MAKE AN IMPACT



If you are interested in joining the community of donors who make a generational impact in the lives of Murray State students, please visit <https://mscok.edu/community/foundation/index> or contact Jordyn Frazier at jfrazier@mscok.edu or (580) 387-7142.



The evening concluded with President Faltyn honoring Fred Chapman, Jr., a longstanding partner to Murray State College, with the Legacy Award. The award was created to recognize those whose enduring support has significantly enriched the communities impacted by Murray State. It highlights contributions beyond the ordinary, reflecting a profound impact on the college's mission and the advancement of its goals.

"The Chapman Family's support of our college over the years has made a true impact on our students and will be generations," said President Faltyn. "The incredible life of Mr. Chapman is an example for us all. One of service, civic duty, leadership, and the pursuit of building up the next generation of farmers and ranchers. He is a mentor, friend, and great American."

Legacy Gala

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



THE
CHAPMAN
FAMILY



MILES
ARCHITECTURE



DAN'S MINI STORAGE

**CHAPMAN
ENERGY**

**LEE
CONSULTING**

RFD CONSTRUCTION



FORT SILL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
KELLY J. NORMAN - OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU
CITIZENS BANK & TRUST CO.
BANCFIRST

MERCY HOSPITAL TISHOMINGO
DAKOTA & JAMY COLE
JOY & DOUG ALDRIDGE

THE BIG REVEAL



As part of Murray State College's America250 celebration, President Dr. Tim Faltyn unveiled the mural that will be painted at Murray on Main in Tishomingo.

Eight mural options were created featuring Murray State's campus landmarks: Clyde Kindell Farm, Chickasaw Hall, Haskell Lucas Hall, the water tower, the clock and the campus sign. The Ardmore and Tishomingo campuses were also included.

A poll was sent out via email and social media for people to vote for their

favorite. "Our plan was to select the mural that received the most public votes," Faltyn said. "What we didn't anticipate was a near tie, with the Clyde Kindell Farm and the Murray State College campus sign separated by less than one-tenth of a percentage point."

After a runoff vote, the official mural design winner was Clyde Kindell Farm. The artist will start painting it next month.

"The Clyde Kindell Farm design reflects the deep roots and enduring legacy of agriculture at Murray State," Faltyn said. "It connects our local story

to a broader national narrative – celebrating the role of agriculture, education and community in shaping our country while honoring Murray State's unique contributions."

Details for other individual events will be announced throughout the year. Community members, alumni and friends of the college are encouraged to watch for upcoming announcements and join in celebrating this historic milestone. For more information and updates on America250 events, follow Murray State College on social media.



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE KICKS OFF YEAR-LONG AMERICA250 CELEBRATION

Murray State College joins communities across the nation in commemorating America's 250th anniversary with a year-long America250 celebration.

The celebration will include special unveiling ceremonies and community gatherings centered on engagement and American history. A highlight of the year will be a special tribute to veterans, recognizing the service and sacrifice of those who defended our nation.

The celebration includes art shows and special performances, a commemorative America250 Collection at Murray on Main locations, speaker events, the unveiling of permanent campus and community installations honoring our nation's treasured veterans and symbols, as well as an opportunity for the community to vote on a design for a local mural that is to be painted at Murray on Main in Tishomingo.

"We're celebrating America250 because institutions like Murray State College play a vital role in the American story," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "For generations, our college has expanded opportunity, strengthened families and supported the growth of our region. These events allow us to honor that legacy while inspiring our students and community to carry those ideals of service, resilience and progress into the next 250 years."

Details for individual events will be announced throughout the year. Community members, alumni and friends of the College are encouraged to watch for upcoming announcements and join in celebrating this historic milestone.

For more information and updates on America250 events, follow Murray State College on social media.





MURRAY STATE COLLEGE SPRING 2026 NURSING CAPPING

MAY 7, 2026
1:00 P.M.



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

**MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
FLETCHER AUDITORIUM**

**1 CAMPUS DR.
TISHOMINGO, OK**



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE SPRING 2026 NURSING PINNING

MAY 8, 2026
1 P.M.



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

**CHICKASAW NATION
AITAFAMA' ISHTO**

**502 W. 7TH ST.
TISHOMINGO, OK**

McCain Named Dean of Learning and Student Success

FORMER ONLINE DEAN ELEVATED DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

With the elevation of former dean Tracey Hickman to Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Murray State College has named Amy McCain as the new Dean of Learning and Student Success.

McCain previously served as Dean of the Online School, where she helped guide the growth and development of Murray Online and services for distance learners. Representing more than half of total enrollment, online students participate in general education courses as well as the 16 fully online programs offered at Murray State.

"Amy has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success and innovation in higher education," said Becky Henthorn, Murray State College Provost. "Her experience expanding our online programs and supporting students in new ways makes her well-suited to lead initiatives that strengthen learning resources and academic support across the college."

In her new role, she will oversee the college's Academic Resource Centers (ARC) in Ardmore, Tishomingo and online, which aim to enhance the college-going experience by

connecting students with tools and resources to support their academic success. Services include tutoring, study labs, online library resources, ADA assistance, testing services and other student-focused support.

McCain will work closely with students, faculty and staff to ensure the ARC continues to meet the evolving needs of Murray State students both on campus and online. Her appointment is also part of Murray State College's ongoing succession planning strategy, which focuses on developing leaders from within the institution and placing them in positions they are passionate about and that capitalize on their skill sets. By investing in experienced faculty and staff leaders, the college aims to ensure continuity, strengthen institutional knowledge and support long-term growth.

"I am honored and excited to serve our students and dedicate my skills to a role that has been so well managed up to now," McCain said. "I believe this is where I am supposed to be and look forward to working with the ARC team to create even more opportunities for our students to succeed."



AMY MCCAIN

With the transition of McCain comes the elevation of Terri Greer to Assistant Dean of Learning and Student Success.

Formerly the Librarian, Greer's role will now be more comprehensive, providing support services and a targeted focus on workforce-specific career opportunities for students.

The search now begins for a new Online Dean. This role will focus on continuing the good work of McCain, building sustainability, expanding online programs and developing support resources for students engaging online.

"Amy and Terri have consistently demonstrated a commitment to helping students succeed," said Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn. "Their leadership will be instrumental in ensuring our students have access to the academic resources and services that make a meaningful difference in their college experience."

The job description for the Online Dean is available on the Murray State College website. The college's goal is to have someone in place by July 1.

STUDENT LEADERS REPRESENT COLLEGE AT STATEWIDE RETREAT

Murray State College proudly sent 15 student leaders to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Student Leadership Retreat held in Stillwater. The retreat provided students with an opportunity to engage in high-impact workshops, connect with peers from across the state, and strengthen their leadership capacity.

One of the featured sessions attended by MSC students was led

by Jose Chacon from the President's Leadership Academy. His session, "Leading with Purpose, Boundaries, Values, and Sustainable Leadership," challenged students to think critically about what it means to lead not just effectively—but sustainably.

Students explored how aligning personal values with leadership actions, establishing healthy boundaries, and leading with intentional purpose

can create long-term impact both on campus and beyond. The session emphasized that leadership is not just about performance, but about consistency, self-awareness, and longevity.

MSC students returned with renewed energy, practical strategies, and a deeper understanding of how to lead with purpose in their organizations and communities.

COLLABORATION RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD

Murray State College President Dr. Tim Faltyn, alongside SouthernTech Superintendent Dr. Eric Ward, received The President's Award for Outstanding Service for their service through their collaborative commitment to the growth and betterment of the Ardmore community.

Murray State College and SouthernTech have built a strong, collaborative partnership focused on expanding educational access, strengthening workforce readiness and creating lasting economic impact for the Ardmore community.

Murray State College Regents and college leadership attended the event.



Passion for arts leads to launch of Murray State Singers choir group

Murray State College is expanding opportunities in the arts with the launch of a new choir program, beginning Fall 2026.

Students attending Murray State in Ardmore, Online and Tishomingo are encouraged to participate. Those interested in joining the Murray State Singers must audition for placement and scholarship consideration. The program will be held at the Murray Event Center in Ardmore and the Margaret Lokey Fine Arts Building in Tishomingo.

"We want our activities open to all of our students, no matter their location," said Becky Henthorn, Murray State College Provost. "Most of our online students live within our service area. This is another way for us to engage our students in an effort to retain them and give those with a passion for music the best possible student experience."

The Murray State College Choir adds another dimension to Murray State's performing arts offerings, creating

"Adding a choir program is about more than music—it's about building community and encouraging creativity across our campus."

DR. TIM FALTYN
Murray State College President.

additional opportunities for students to engage in music while strengthening the college's commitment to creative expression on campus.

"We know the intrinsic power of the arts on human beings and the advantages that arts participation gives students who are majoring in other fields," said Susan Yeager, Dean

of the School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences. "One of the top three things employers are looking for is creativity. If they have applicants with similar qualifications, they will take the applicant who has been in a music class, such as choir, over the rest."

The choir scholarships were created to ensure that students who love music can still participate while pursuing other career paths.

"Adding a choir program is about more than music—it's about building community and encouraging creativity across our campus," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "This investment in the performing arts gives students from all academic backgrounds the opportunity to collaborate, express themselves and be part of something meaningful."

Students interested in auditioning or learning more about scholarship opportunities can contact the Murray State Arts & Humanities Department for further information.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Rowe Named Commencement Speaker

Murray State College has announced that Supreme Court Chief Justice Dustin Rowe will be this year's 102nd commencement speaker.

Rowe is a Tishomingo native who started his career in public service at age 18. While still a high school senior, he was elected Mayor of Tishomingo and served two terms as the youngest mayor in the state.

Rowe practiced law in Tishomingo from 2001 to 2019, for 18 years. He served as a special judge of the Chickasaw Nation District Court from 2005 to 2011, and as their District Judge from 2011 to 2019. Rowe was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Kevin Stitt in 2019 and served as Vice-Chief Justice from 2023 to 2024. He was elected Chief Justice in January 2025.

"We are so honored to have Chief

Justice Rowe give this year's commencement address," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "This is a remarkable opportunity for our graduates to hear from a leader whose life's work reflects integrity, service and a steadfast commitment to justice. As our students prepare to step into their futures, I can't think of a better example of principled leadership and civic responsibility to inspire them on this important day."

Rowe earned his bachelor's degree with honors from East Central University and was named a distinguished alumnus

in 2025. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where he was

awarded the Joseph Rarick Award and recognized as a Lee B. Thompson scholar.

Rowe is an alumnus of the National Judicial College in Reno, NV, where he serves on the faculty. He also is an adjunct faculty member at Oklahoma City University School of Law and serves on the Board of Visitors for the University of Oklahoma College of Law.



**DUSTIN
ROWE**

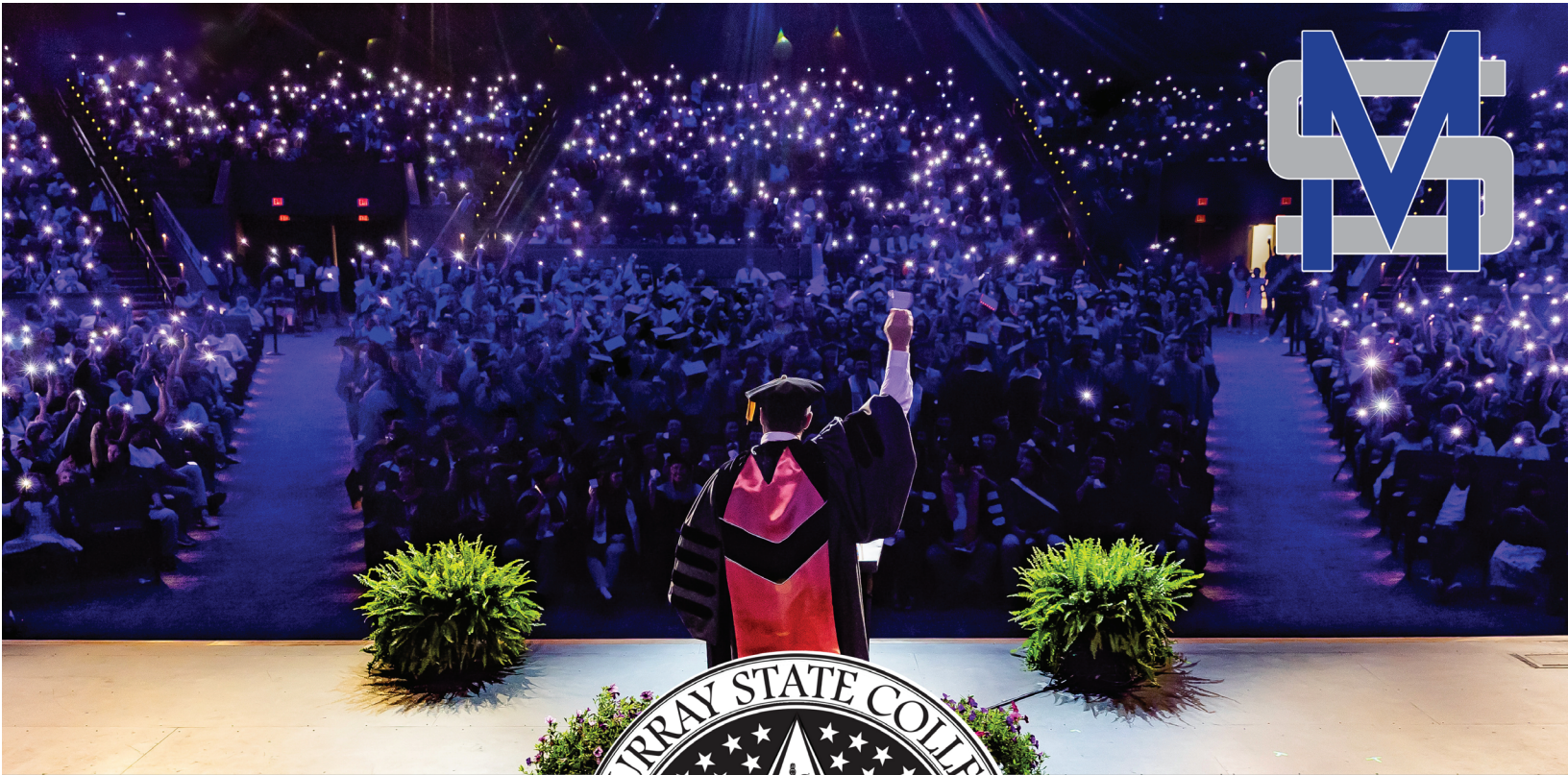
Murray State College's 102nd Commencement will take place at 7 p.m. on May 8, 2026, at the Aaitafama' Ishto' in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.



Boutique Hotel, Timelessly Done.

The
1919
HOTEL
AT HISTORIC CHICKASAW HALL

Coming Soon | Fall 2026



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 2026

MAY 8, 2026 | 7 PM

AAITTAFAAMA' ISHTO'
"LARGE MEETING PLACE"

TISHOMINGO, OK

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

SPRING 2026

**VETERINARY NURSE
PINNING**

3:30 P.M. MAY 8, 2026



**MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
THOMAS E. BARNETT
BALLROOM**

**1 MURRAY CAMPUS
TISHOMINGO, OK 73460**

HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The champion senior showmanship winners at the Carter County and Johnston County Junior Livestock Shows each received \$2,000 scholarships to further their education at Murray State College.

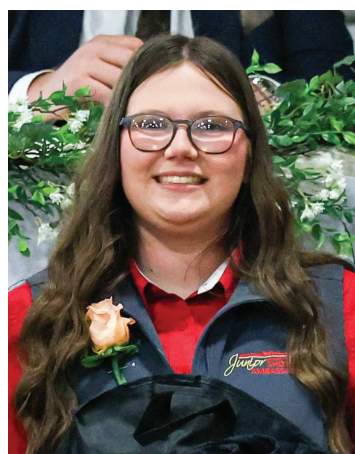
Johnston County Junior Livestock Show

Cattle: Keaton Slover, Tishomingo

Swine: Carli Upton, Tishomingo

Sheep: Lexi Courtney

Goats: Allison Collins, Coleman



Carter County Junior Livestock Show

Cattle: Breckyn Scruggs, Dickson

Swine: Ava Peal, Fox

Sheep: Hailey Helmke, Fox

Goats: Breckyn Scruggs, Dickson



HIGHER EDUCATION DAY AT THE OKLAHOMA CAPITOL

Murray State College students attended Higher Education Day at the Oklahoma Capitol. Students had informative discussions with Senators Jerry Alvord and Spencer Kern, and Representatives Josh Cantrell, Ryan Eaves and Tammy Townley. The students also heard from Oklahoma Chancellor Sean Burrage, Governor Stitt and other legislators during a special program in the House of Representatives chamber.



BOOK KNOWLEDGE ABOUNDS AT TRIVIA NIGHT

Murray State College was a sponsor of the MORE Foundation's Get Smart Trivia Night to help raise scholarship money for Carter County graduates.

In attendance for Murray State were (l-r): Staci and Brandon Bettes, Ginger and Brian Cothran, Kelly Garrett, Whitney Ground, and Ashton and Kelly Norman.



LADIES LUNCHEON SERVES UP THOUGHTS ON SUCCESS

Murray State's Student Affairs team hosted a luncheon in honor of National Women's Day. A panel of professional Lady Aggies shared their thoughts on dealing with stress and success.

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

ACADEMIC AWARDS

2026



6 PM

APRIL 30, 2026



**MURRAY STATE COLLEGE
FLETCHER AUDITORIUM**

**1 MURRAY CAMPUS
TISHOMINGO, OK 73460**

Murray State Brings Flag Football to Ardmore

FIRST PUBLIC COLLEGIATE PROGRAM IN OKLAHOMA

Murray State College is bringing men's and women's flag football to Ardmore this fall, expanding athletic opportunities for students and paving the way for a new collegiate sport in the state of Oklahoma.

For the program's inaugural year, Ardmore City Schools has partnered with Murray State College to provide access to its high school football stadium, allowing student-athletes to compete in a quality venue while the college pursues a major investment to expand on-campus athletic facilities in cooperation with the Lynn Colbert Board of Trustees. Their support is vitally important and appreciated. An announcement will be made this spring about the future development of these spaces.

"We're making a significant investment in facilities of our own that will give flag football a permanent home in Ardmore while serving our students and the broader community," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, president of Murray State College. "Flag football opens new doors for students to engage, compete and grow, and creates an opportunity for further investment in Ardmore."

The addition of flag football reflects Murray State's continued commitment to providing meaningful, student-centered opportunities while delivering high-quality educational and extracurricular experiences — a point of pride for the community.



Over the last four years, the implementation of programs such as shotgun sports, bass fishing, cross-country and wrestling has created opportunities for students to engage with their peers and build a high standard of excellence across activity programs.

"We are confident in the program's future trajectory based on Murray State's history of successfully launching new athletic programs that have quickly earned regional and national recognition," said Faltyn. "That proven model of strategic planning and comprehensive student-athlete support provides a strong foundation as flag football prepares to take the field in the years ahead."

With national momentum building toward flag football's debut on the Olympic stage in 2028, Murray State's early investment positions the Aggies to lead the sport's continued growth at the collegiate level. Over the next year, more than 200 colleges and universities nationwide are expected to sponsor flag football at the varsity or club

level. Flag football also brings a new spectator experience for families and fans throughout southern Oklahoma. The accessible, fast-moving format is designed to draw strong community interest and further strengthen Murray State's connection with the Ardmore area.

This is an emerging sport in Oklahoma," Faltyn said. "We're proud to lead the way as the first public collegiate program in the state."

Murray State will begin an immediate search for a head coach. "Our number one priority is putting the right leadership in place to build this program the right way," said Justin Cellum, Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations and acting Athletic Director. "We have created a culture of winning and excellence within our collegiate athletic culture, and we expect that to continue with the addition of flag football."

The head coach position will be posted on mscok.edu/careers.



New Leadership in Athletics to Continue Commitment to Excellence

FORMER NMJC ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WILL BRING LEADERSHIP AND VISION TO MURRAY STATE

Murray State College has named Deron Clark as its new athletic director.

Clark joins Murray State from New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) in Hobbs, New Mexico. He started at NMJC in 2016 after a 28-year career as a baseball coach and athletic director.

"This is a place where the standard of excellence is evident across the board—from the athletic programs to the broader college community," Clark said. "That alignment made this opportunity especially meaningful for me, both professionally and personally. Finding an institution that shares your values and offers a strong environment for your family matters, and Murray State delivers on both."

Murray State College's continued growth and forward momentum are attracting high-quality candidates who are eager to contribute to a program on the rise. The college's clear direction, strong leadership and commitment to excellence are positioning it as a destination for professionals seeking to be part of long-term success.

"This selection is about leadership and vision that reflects the college's values and direction," said Justin Cellum, Murray State College Executive Vice President of Operations and Finance. "We were intentional in identifying

someone who understands how to build culture, inspire people and guide a program forward."

Under his leadership, the NMJC athletic program has achieved numerous milestones, including 16 national championships, 17 national runner-up finishes, and the addition of four new athletic programs, bringing the total to 12. NMJC also hosted the NJCAA National Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 2019 and 2023, as well as the Men's Division I Golf Championship in 2024. Clark oversaw more than \$20 million in athletic facility upgrades.

"Deron Clark has built a reputation across the NJCAA for developing strong programs and supporting student-athletes both competitively and academically," said Chris Parker, NJCAA Region 2 Commissioner. "Murray State College is gaining a leader who understands how to build sustainable success while keeping student development at the center of athletics."

Clark began his career at Northwood University in Cedar Hill, Texas, as an assistant baseball coach and sports information director. Prior to NMJC, he was the head baseball coach and athletic director at Paris Junior College, overseeing and assisting in the development and growth of an eight-

"Murray State College is gaining a leader who understands how to build sustainable success while keeping student development at the center of athletics."

CHRIS PARKER

NJCAA Region 2 Commissioner.

team NJCAA athletic department. Clark has managed six Major League Baseball players during his 28-year career.

Clark earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from John Brown University. Clark received a master's degree in exercise science from the University of Arkansas. He is an NJCAA Board of Regents member for Region 5 and sits on the NJCAA Eligibility Committee.

"Executive Vice President Justin Cellum has been an excellent interim athletic director and bringing on Mr. Clark will allow him to focus on taking our operations to the next level," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "The knowledge and experience that Deron will be bringing to Murray State further elevates our ability to provide world-class athletic programming, raising the bar as we build an environment for champions on the field, court, and in life."



DERON CLARK



MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

ATHLETIC COMMENCEMENT 2026

MAY 4, 2026 | 6:30 PM

FLETCHER AUDITORIUM
MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

TISHOMINGO, OK



AGGIE ATHLETICS



SHOTGUN TEAM



BACK-TO-BACK NATIONAL TITLES

SHOTGUN TEAM A DOMINANT FORCE ON NATIONAL STAGE

The Murray State College Shotgun Team secured the 2026 ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Division IV National Championship for the second year in a row. The team won the title in the following categories: Classic All-Around Team, Sporting Clay and Super Sport.

"We're incredibly proud of what this team has accomplished, especially in just our third season," said the shotgun coach," said Scott Robertson, Murray State College Shotgun Team Coach. "Back-to-back national titles speak to their dedication and the culture of excellence they've built.

Sporting Clay Team: Tate Boyd, Hayden Hilliary, Hunter Miller, Brett Pray and Owen Robertson.

Super Sport Team: Tate Boyd, Justin Jones, Hunter Miller, Brett Pray and Owen Robertson.

Murray State's team competed against 16 other teams from across the country.

"The team has quickly established a standard of excellence and a strong competitive identity," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. "Their commitment, focus and

teamwork continue to set them apart. They've elevated our profile, energized our campus and shown what's possible when a program is built with purpose from the ground up. Their success is creating new opportunities for our student-athletes and strengthening the future of our athletics program."

Individually, Hunter Miller earned a runner-up finish, and Tate Boyd placed third.

Owen Robertson placed third in the Sporting Clays competition.

SHOTGUN TEAM

SHOTGUN TEAM MEMBERS:

Tate Boyd, Colbert, OK

Cole Bridgeman,
Kingston, OK

James Rhett Coble,
Kingston, OK

Dayla Coker,
Colbert, OK

Logan Duffy, Keller, TX

Hannah Favors, Wilson,
OK

Grant Gill, Kingston, OK

Noah Gray, Ada, OK

Landon Hardcastle,
Decatur, TX

Hayden Hilliary,
Lawton, OK

Reagan Holloway,
Bokchito, OK

Justin Jones, Keller, TX

Matt Manners,
Durant, OK

Jack Mason,
Lewisville, TX

Tommy McKibben,
Afton, OK

Hunter Miller,
Marlow, OK

Alex Orgain, Elk City, OK

Connor Perkins,
Duncan, OK

Brett Pray,
Bartonville, TX

Kenneth Owen
Robertson, Argyle, TX

Dakota Sliger,
Kingston, OK

Mason Tucker,
Sweetwater, OK

Dalton Weston, Ada, OK

Will Winnett,
Colbert, OK

Drew Wollenberg,
Marlow, OK



TATE BOYD



***“We’re incredibly proud
of what this team has
accomplished, especially
in just our third season.”***

SCOTT ROBERTSON

Murray State College
Shotgun Team Coach



HUNTER MILLER

FISHING



The Murray State College Bass Fishing Team was recognized on the State of Oklahoma House and Senate floors for becoming the 2025 NABF JUCO National Champions.

ANOTHER BIG WIN FOR MURRAY STATE ANGLERS

Murray State's Bass Fishing Team earned a major victory and a strong hold on its overall season standings.

Anglers Riley Motrych and Carl Robbins captured the win of the fourth leg of the Oklahoma College BASS Championship on Lake Texoma.

This is the fifth consecutive win for the anglers.



Aggie Rodeo Team makes finals at K-State College event

Five Murray State College Rodeo Team members made the short-go finals at the K-State College Rodeo. Case Phillips, Jaycee Pritchett, KK Smith, Brenna Beauchamp and Luke Pearce pictured after the event in Manhattan, Kansas.

Short-Go Finals:

Phillips - Teamroping

Pritchett - Barrelracing

Smith - Goat Tying

Beauchamp - Barrelracing

Pearce - Saddlebronc Riding

Long Round Finals:

Case Phillips - Team Roping

Pritchett - Barrel racing

Murray State team member Jaycee Pritchett won the barrel racing at the Garden City Community College rodeo in Garden City, Kansas.



BASKETBALL



Murray State recognized this year's men's basketball sophomores. Ashton Smith, Malachi Schilreff, Devon MacCollister, Abeeng Agot and Oliver Wilson were honored at a recent ceremony.



Murray State's men's basketball team had a strong regular season, earning the Region 2 title. Unfortunately, they fell to Northern Oklahoma College-Enid in the Region 2 Tournament quarterfinals.

The Aggies closed the season 22-8 overall and 11-5 in conference play.



Josh Davis

NJCAA Region 2
Coach of
the Year



Ashton Smith

All-Region
Honorable
Mention



Haki
Muhammad II

All-Region
Team



Murray State recognized this year's three women's basketball sophomores. Jordyn McNeal, Keshanti Gordon and Elena Hairston were honored at a recent ceremony.

The Lady Aggies started their Region 2 Tournament battle against No. 8 Eastern Oklahoma State, picking up the win. They faced Seminole State College in the semifinals, winning 71-64. Advancing to the championship, the Lady Aggies were edged out by NEO, 54-43.

The Lady Aggies finished the regular season with a 24-6 overall record and 15-1 in conference play.



Nate Levine

NJCAA Region 2
Coach of the Year



SPRING FLING

MURRAY STATE GOLF HOSTS TOURNAMENT AT DORNICK HILLS



Murray State College hosted the Bruzzy's Spring Fling Golf Tournament at Dornick Hills in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The Murray State Women's Team were runners-up. Isabella Stevens was selected to the All-Tournament team.



ISABELLA STEVENS

Murray State Golfers Luca Bardoni and Shashank Koirola were selected to the All-Tournament team.

TEAM EFFORT



The Murray State College golf teams Region 2 Tournament, highlighted by a championship from the men's team and a narrow runner-up finish for the Lady Aggies.

MEN:

The Murray State Men's Golf Team captured the Region 2 title after posting a two-round total of 562.

Individually, Murray State was led by Shashank Koirala, who delivered a dominant performance to finish with a two-round total of 135. Koirala's strong play earned him Region 2 Player of the Year honors. Koirala was joined on the All-Region Team by Tallentire, Lopez, and Bordoni, who all performed strongly throughout the season and tournament.



LUKE COPPEDGE
Region 2 Coach
of the Year

The success of the Aggie men's team also earned Coach Coppedge the Region 2 Coach of the Year award.

WOMEN:

On the women's side, the Lady Aggies finished just one stroke shy of a Region 2 Championship, placing second with a two-round total of 610.

Paula Gorostiaga led the Lady Aggies with rounds of 78 and an impressive 70 to finish with a team-best total of 148. Gorostiaga's consistent play earned her Region 2 Player of the Year honors.

Emma Hardison and Hana Cunnane were both recognized for their great play by being named to the All-Region Team.



SHASHANK KOIRALA



PAULA GOROSTIAGA



COACH OF THE YEAR

MURRAY STATE'S HEAD SOCCER COLLEGE HONORED FOR DOMINANT 2025 SEASON

The Murray State College men's soccer head coach - Sam Winning - has been named the Mid-South District Coach of the Year following a historic season for the Aggies.

Winning guided Murray State College to a 12-4-3 overall record in 2025, highlighted by a dominant run through the postseason. The Aggies captured both the Region 2 regular season championship and the Region 2 Tournament title, establishing themselves as one of the top programs in the country.

Murray State continued its momentum at the district level, claiming the Mid-South District Championship and earning a coveted berth to the NJCAA National Tournament.



**SAM
WINNING**



INAUGURAL SEASON

MURRAY STATE WRESTLING'S FIRST SEASON ENDS WITH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BERTH

The inaugural season of Murray State College's Women's Wrestling Team concluded with an impressive performance at the 2026 NJCAA Women's Wrestling National Championships, highlighted by All-American honors and a fifth-place finish.

Gabby Akers, Vivian Hays and Dixie Holliday finished as national runners-up in their respective weight classes.

Murray State College finished the tournament with seven All-Americans, marking a significant milestone for the program's first season.

Three Aggie wrestlers also competed at the national tournament, wrapping up their inaugural season.

Nathan Brown, Kade Carter, Nate Jean

ALL-AMERICAN HONORS



Gabby Akers



Adrianna Chronister



Vivian Hayes



Dixie Holliday



Zolie Kurena

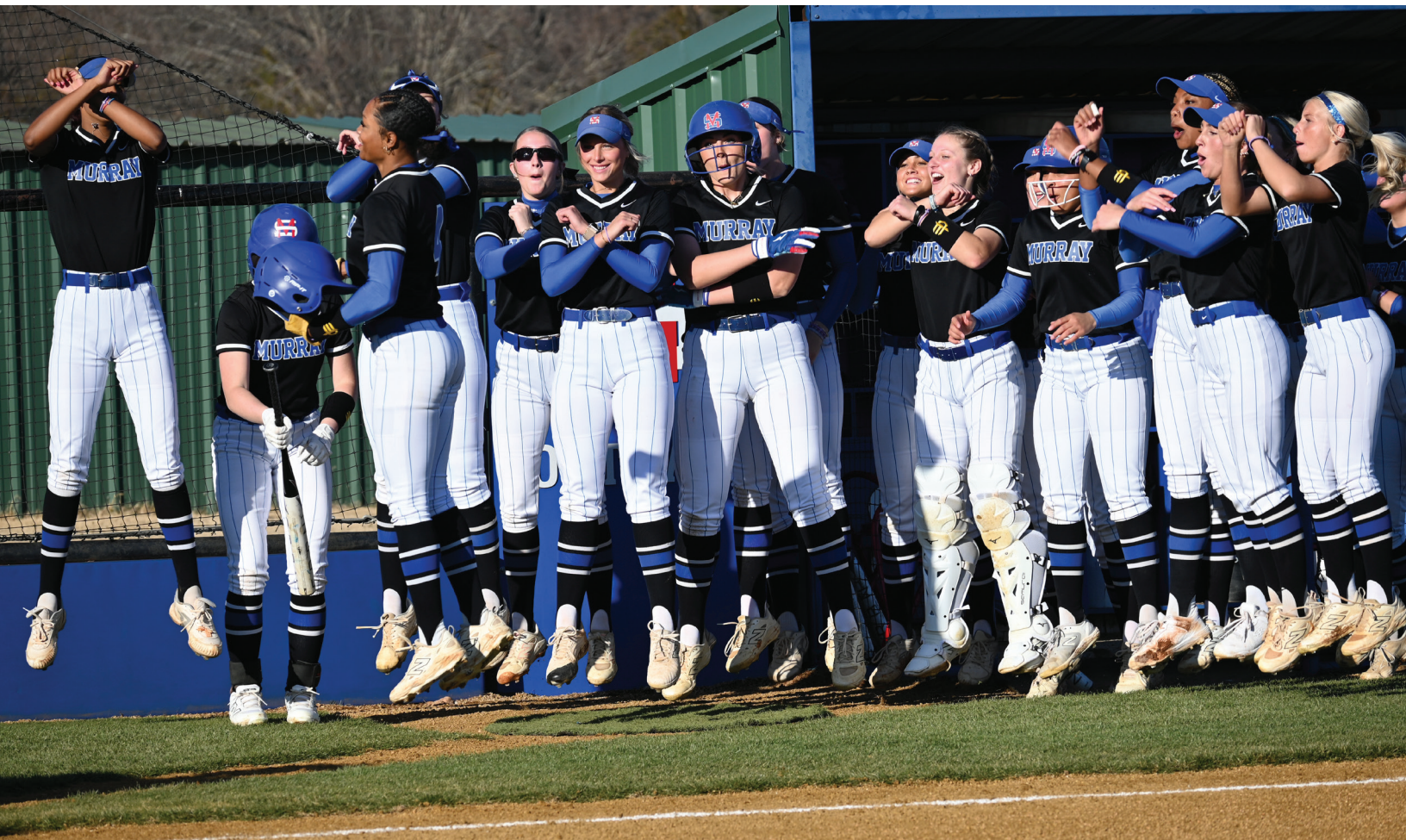


Caris Morris



Olivia Sandoval

SOFTBALL



Mullens hits big milestone

Head Coach Aaron Mullens earned his 400th win against Dodge City Community College in late February. The team is 43-1 in regular play with a 12-0 conference play record.



400 WINS
Aaron Mullens,
Softball Head
Coach

PITCHERS OF THE WEEK



Isabella
Hardeman 4x

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Cady Ammons



Lilly Wyche 2x



Carolyn
Overton



Kaylee
Carter



Jaliyah
Simmons



BASEBALL STARTING OFF STRONG

The Aggies are mid-way through their season with some big wins and recognition. Their overall record is 28-9 in the regular season, and 10-3 in conference play.



PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Michael
Barham



NJCAA REGION 2 PITCHERS OF THE WEEK



Eli Ramirez
Region II and
DII Pitcher of the Week



Tayte
Dome

ACADEMIC TEAM



Murray State A-Team named NAQT team of the week

The Murray State College Academic Team's "A-Team" was named the NAQT Collegiate Team of the Week following a dominant performance at the 2026 NAQT Oklahoma Community College Sectional Championship Tournament.

The Aggies captured the sectional championship, securing strong positioning heading into the upcoming Community College Championship Tournament (CCCT).

STRONG SHOWING NAQT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Murray State College Academic Team members Kanyon Beck and William Day earned All-American recognition at the 2026 NAQT Community College Championships.

The team finished in second place. Individually, Beck finished as the second-highest scorer, and Day placed seventh overall.

The Murray State College Academic Team's "A-Team" was named the NAQT Collegiate Team of the Week following a dominant performance at the 2026 NAQT Oklahoma Community College Sectional Championship Tournament.



Kanyon Beck
All-American



William Day
All-American



KANGAROO TRACK CLUB SHARES THOUGHTS ON BUILDING A NEW BUSINESS

The students, sponsors and leadership of Murray State's President's Scholars Program participated in a professional dining experience with guest speakers Hugo and Jenna Munoz, owners of the Kangaroo Track Club in Tishomingo.

The students engaged the couple in thoughtful questions about

entrepreneurship and building a new business.

Hugo shared that his lifelong love of sport and devotion to family have shaped his work in developing international training centers, including their newest indoor facility.



LIMAN INDUCTED INTO ALPHA OMEGA TAO HONOR SOCIETY

Murray State College Occupational Therapy Assistant student Trinity Linam was inducted into the Alpha Omega Tao (AOT) honor society.

AOT is a specialized OTA honor society that recognizes and encourages scholastic, service, and leadership excellence and contributes to the advancement of the occupational therapy field.

Trinity is also on Murray State's Bass Fishing Team.



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

***Ayli Minor and
Kason Mitchell***

Murray State Students

