

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

# COWLEY COLLEGE

2010-2011



## TRAVIS HAFNER TRAINING CENTER



Cowley ranked as one of the  
nation's top community colleges

# THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL

# Report

2010-2011

# OVERVIEW



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# Welcome to the 2010-11 edition of the President's Annual Report

I'm very proud to tell you that the past academic year was one filled with many outstanding student accomplishments, faculty and staff awards, and growth and improvement in many areas of the college. Our students never cease to amaze me. Some are just naturally gifted individuals who achieve at the highest level and aspire to be highly skilled professionals in their chosen career. Others sacrifice time with their families to gain new skills or finish a degree to become more employable in today's competitive job market.

**“Cowley’s goal is to take care of its students, regardless of their place in life.”**

Cowley’s goal is to take care of its students, regardless of their place in life. Sometimes we fail, and for that I apologize. But, I can tell you that Cowley employees want every student to experience success. How that success is measured depends on the individual.

Jordan Lukert from Clearwater is our 2010-11 Student of the Year. What a smart and talented young man! The business administration major was the school’s September Student of the Month.

Director of Academic Preparation for the Humanities Department, Amy McWhirt, was selected as the seventh recipient of the Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence and Student Learning. While, Natural Science Department Instructor Karolee Weller was the recipient of the Paul Stirnaman Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.

The college has grown significantly during my 25 years as president. We have opened two Centers in Wichita since May, 2008, and have also added two new dormitories on our main campus in Arkansas City.



The college also added men and women’s soccer programs during the 2008-09 academic year and will open the world-class Travis Hafner Training Center in November. The facility will be utilized by all 15 of Cowley’s athletic teams and will benefit current and future student-athletes for years to come.

This report includes many other wonderful highlights from the past year. I invite you to read through it carefully. It is my hope that it will give you a better understanding of what Cowley is all about and the direction we’re heading.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, my fellow administrators, our faculty, staff and students, I want to thank you for your support of Cowley County Community College. It means a great deal to me. The college has always been a viable entity within Arkansas City, Cowley County, and south-central Kansas. We will do our very best to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. McAtee, Ph.D.

# Administration



**Tony Crouch**  
Executive Vice President  
of Business Services



**Slade Griffiths**  
Vice President  
of Academic Affairs



**Charles McKown**  
Vice President  
of Research and Technology



**Sue Saia**  
Vice President  
of Student Affairs



**Tom Saia**  
Athletic Director



**Ben Schears**  
Vice President  
for Institutional  
Advancement

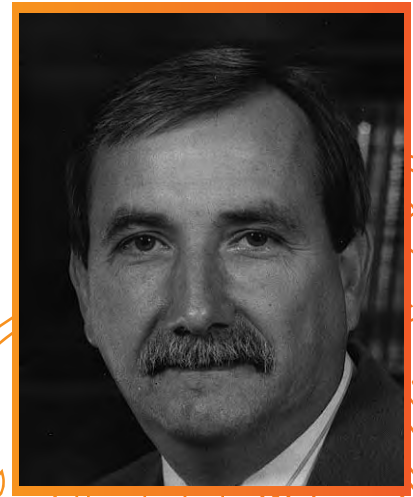
# Board of Trustees



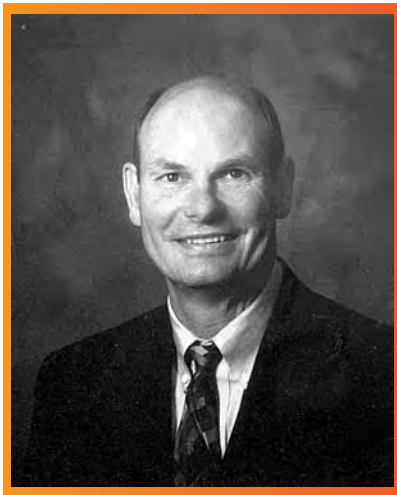
Donna Avery



Albert Bacastow, Jr.



Ron Godsey



Mark Paton



Jim Ramirez



Dennis K. Shurtz

## Bacastow, Jr. re-elected as Chair of the college's Board of Trustees

With a sixth dormitory recently opening and the Travis Hafner Training Center planned completion date in November, many exciting things are taking place at Cowley College. With Albert Bacastow, Jr. having served as Board Chair during these important additions to the college, the school's Board of Trustees recently announced its decision to re-elect Bacastow, Jr. as Chairman. Bacastow, Jr. has served the majority of the past 25 years on the college's Board of Trustees. He graduated from Arkansas

City High School and is a 1965 graduate of Arkansas City Junior College (now Cowley College). Bacastow, Jr. went on to receive a business administration degree from Southwestern College. He is a retired Winfield postmaster and will begin his sixth term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Bacastow, Jr. is pleased with the direction of the college and is looking forward to another year as Chairman of the Board. Officers elected for the upcoming year: Chairman, Albert Bacastow, Jr.; vice chairman, Ron Godsey; Kansas Association

of Community College Trustees voting delegate, Donna Avery; Association of Community College Trustees voting delegate, Jim Ramirez; Board representative for professional negotiations, Mark Paton; trustee designated as the Board representative to the College Endowment Association, Dennis K. Shurtz; and Mark Paton was named trustee designated to open bids received for college purchases. The Board also appointed Libby Palmer as clerk of the Board, Tony Crouch as treasurer of the Board, and David Andreas as Board attorney.

# CORE VALUES

Cowley County Community College and Area Vocational-Technical School is dedicated to the continual pursuit of excellence by embracing our Core Values, the fundamental principles that guide our actions.

## People

- \* We emphasize the importance of human relationships, diversity, and a sense of community.
- \* We provide student-centered instruction.
- \* We provide a safe, learning environment where joy, humor, and teamwork are embraced.
- \* We encourage open communication and the sharing of ideas.

## Leadership

- \* We provide a positive atmosphere that fosters personal and professional growth.
- \* We empower students and employees to be innovative and visionary.
- \* We are an ethical leader in the field of education.

## Integrity

- \* We regard honesty, trust, and respect as essential principles in our academic, personal and professional standards.

## Accountability

- \* Our students will receive a quality education.
- \* The College will provide students the opportunity to take an active role in their success.
- \* All employees are responsible and committed to excellence.
- \* We are accountable to the community to educate students and to sustain and improve society.

# MISSION STATEMENT

Cowley College and Area Vocational-Technical School is committed to learning excellence and personal enrichment in an open access environment.

# STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE

We are committed to maintaining a quality institution by meeting and exceeding the expectations of customers through the following:

### **Academic and Personal Enrichment:**

The college will provide accessible curricula in an environment that promotes individual growth and personal enrichment.

### **Community Development:**

The college will foster development of the community through public service programs and partnerships with business and industry.

### **Ethics:**

The college will emphasize a sense of fairness, citizenship, and tolerance for the views of others.

### **Support Services:**

The college will facilitate academic growth and the development of life skills.

### **Fiscal Soundness:**

The college will secure financial support from various resources and maintain a financially stable institution.



# Cowley creates dual-admissions agreement with Newman

Cowley College and Newman University have created an agreement that will offer a dual-admissions program and a special scholarship for Cowley students who continue their education at Newman.

The agreement allows Cowley students who complete an associate of arts or associate of science degree to transfer to Newman University as juniors with all general education requirements met, with the exception of the philosophy and theology courses required of all Newman students. Cowley students who transfer to Newman will also earn a \$3,000 per year scholarship, which is renewed each academic year so long as academic requirements are met. Under the dual-admissions policy, when students are accepted at Cowley they may submit an application to Newman and an intent to enroll form. Upon graduation from Cowley with an associate of arts or associate of science degree, they are admitted to Newman and can enroll in classes. Students who enroll under the dual-admission policy will also receive the \$3,000 scholarship per year beginning when they transfer to Newman.

The new agreement also includes course-by-course articulations between Newman and Cowley for various academic programs. This means students will be able to enroll in Cowley courses knowing that, even without an associate's degree, their courses will be accepted at Newman. Students will also receive academic advising from both institutions as well as degree audits from Newman University while they are at Cowley to keep them on track with their degree plan.

Newman already offers a \$1,500 scholarship per year, renewable for a second year, to any student who completes an associate of arts or associate of science degree at a community college in Kansas and surrounding states. Transfer students are also eligible for other Newman scholarships. With the additional \$3,000 scholarship included in the dual-admissions policy, Cowley students can enter Newman with a substantial portion of their tuition covered.

"We are very happy to begin this partnership with Cowley College," said Newman President Noreen M. Carrocci, Ph.D.

"This agreement creates a clear path for

Cowley students who wish to complete a four-year degree at Newman, and gives them support all along the way to help them reach their goals. We look forward to having more Cowley College graduates join in the Newman community."

Slade Griffiths, vice president of academic affairs at Cowley College, looks forward to seeing graduates of Cowley College complete their education at Newman University.

"I was excited to establish a partnership with Newman University because it is a fine school, which offers impressive scholarships for our students and our transfer hours are seamlessly accepted," Griffiths said.

For more information, contact Cowley College director of tutoring and retention services Charlee Wilson at 620-441-5312 or call Newman director of communications Kelly Snedden at 316-942-4291, ext. 2164. Wilson can also be reached at [wilsonc@cowley.edu](mailto:wilsonc@cowley.edu), while Snedden can be reached via e-mail at [sneddenk@newmanu.edu](mailto:sneddenk@newmanu.edu).

# College purchases former Medicalodge North facility

With more than 50 students on the dormitory waiting list at Cowley College, the school recently approved the purchase of the former Medicalodge North building in Arkansas City. The property, located at 2575 Greenway, will house an additional 50 students plus a dorm manager.

"This will be a quick solution to the increased demand for our dorms," said former Board member Lee Gregg, Jr. Along with the purchase of the building, the Board approved the cost of the re-

modeling/renovation of the facility. The college felt good about its investment as the cost was only \$43 per square foot. "The cost per square foot is very favorable in relation to new construction," Gregg, Jr. said.

The Board also approved the construction of a new elevator, which is being installed inside Galle-Johnson, located on Cowley's main campus in Arkansas City.

The school has been in need of a larger elevator and used money it received

through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to cover the cost. Along with the construction of the new elevator, the college also upgraded its fire alarm panels and finished the flooring in the upstairs hallway inside Galle-Johnson. The cost of the work, which was done by Conco Construction, came in under the amount of money the college received through the ARRA.

# Schears named Vice President for Institutional Advancement



Ben Schears is the newest member of Cowley College's administrative team. Schears has been employed at the college since 2003 and now serves as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Having graduated from Cowley College in 2001 and worked at the school since 2003, Ben Schears has developed a passion for the institution. That passion, along with the success he has had as the school's director of admissions and executive director of enrollment and outreach services, led to Schears recently being named the college's Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Schears was the recipient of the 2009 Young Achiever Award by the Cowley County Endowment Association, and was presented the 2005 Beth Tedrow Outstanding New Professional Award by the

Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. He is a member of the Leadership Cowley County Board and is Chair of the Annual Conference Evaluations Committee. He graduated Cum Laude from Emporia State University in 2003 and received his Master's Degree from the school in 2006. Cowley College president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee is confident Schears is the right individual to serve as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

"I feel good that we were able to promote somebody from within to a vice president level," Dr. McAtee said. "Ben is someone

that has done an outstanding job for us in admissions and was wanting another challenge in initiating this new venture." Schears will work with the president and administration in developing and implementing fund-raising activities and directing major gifts, annual giving, planned giving and alumni relations. Schears will also be a member of the administrative council and oversee a Cowley Foundation Board.



# Kuffler named Outstanding Student of Arkansas City for 2011

After being named Cowley College's March Student of the Month, sophomore John Kuffler garnered an even bigger honor as he was named the Outstanding Student of Arkansas City for 2011 during a banquet held in the Earle N. Wright Community Room.

Kuffler was chosen out of a group of finalists from Cowley College, Arkansas City High School and Arkansas City Middle School. He was joined by fellow Cowley students and award finalists, Erin Griffiths, who was named the school's April Student of the Month, and Cowley College's Student of the Year, Jordan Lukert. Other finalists included John Schwartz, Kiley Hernandez, Jordan Nellis, Qi Heng Weng, David Boxman, and Jennifer Mendez. Cowley head men's basketball coach served as the Keynote speaker.



Kuffler was named Outstanding Student of Arkansas City out of a group of nine finalists for the award.

Continued on page 27

## Students of the Month



Jordan Lukert  
September 2010



Starr McLeod  
October 2010



Milissa Crawford  
November 2010



Anne Harmon  
December 2010



Brandon Sparks  
January 2011



Jordan Williams  
February 2011



John Kuffler  
March 2011



Erin Griffiths  
April 2011



## **Cowley listed as one of the fastest growing college's in the state of Kansas**

**E**nrollment figures released by the Kansas Board of Regents show Cowley College to be one of the fastest growing college in the state of Kansas. Cowley's enrollment increased a whopping 21.2 percent from the fall 2009 semester to the fall 2010 semester. Cowley had an increase of 847 students to bring its total to 4,850 students that are taking classes at either the school's main campus in Arkansas City, its Allied Health Center in Winfield, its Mulvane Center, or online. "After what happened to us a couple of years ago with the loss of our Southside Education Center in Wichita, this increase in enrollment was a real blessing and a credit to all of our employees," Cowley president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee said. "When you have success like this it is the result of hard work done by a lot of people."

Cowley's growth was not the norm as eight of the 19 community colleges saw a decrease in enrollment and only one school (Barton County) besides Cowley saw an increase in enrollment of more than 6 percent.

Overall, there was an increase of 3,237 students at the state's 32 public universities, community colleges, and technical colleges. This represents a 1.8% systemwide increase for the 2010 fall academic semester over the 2009 fall academic semester. The systemwide enrollment of 187,398 is reported as of the 20th day of classes.

At the seven public universities, enrollment was up by 364 students, or 0.4%. At the 19 community colleges, enrollment was up by 2,609 students, or 3.3%. At the six technical colleges, enrollment was up by 264 students, or 5.7%.

# Weller receives Stirnaman Award

Providing the tools students need to succeed in their educational pursuits, Cowley College mathematics instructor, Karolee Weller, was recognized as the school's recipient of the Paul Stirnaman Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence. Weller is in her 13th year as an instructor in the Natural Science Department at Cowley College. Previously, she taught several semesters as an adjunct faculty member at Cowley at the Mulvane Center.

"Karolee is very deserving of the Stirnaman Award for Teaching Excellence," Michelle Schoon, Natural Science Department Chair said. "She is an instructor

**"I am so proud to work alongside the people that I do at Cowley and this award reminds me how very proud I am of the profession I have chosen."**

that truly cares about the success of her students and will spend many hours working with students "one-on-one" in her office."

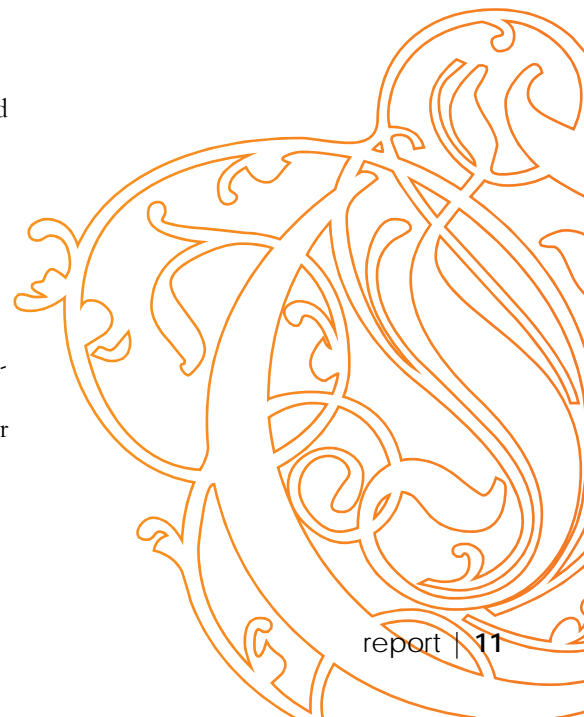
Prior to coming to Cowley, she taught math at Mulvane High School. She and her husband, Joe, still reside in Mulvane and have three sons.

The award is named for Paul Stirnaman, a long-time Social Science Department instructor and strong supporter of the College Education Association. He died June 16, 2000, following a lengthy illness. Weller currently teaches Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and College Algebra. She has worked hard to make the computer aided instructions (CAI) math courses a success and has been mentoring instructors in this method of teaching.



Karolee Weller receives a hug from Greg Nichols after being named the recipient of the Paul Stirnaman Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.

"Teaching at Cowley, I really enjoy the interesting mix of students that enroll in my classes each semester," Weller said. "I am so proud to work alongside the people that I do at Cowley and this award reminds me how very proud I am of the profession I have chosen." Weller's first introduction to Paul Stirnaman was from former Cowley instructor, Chris Vollweider, who painted a colorful picture of a unique, dedicated instructor. "It was clear that he placed great value in his profession as an educator and demonstrated that, in part, by his close involvement with the NEA organization," Weller said. "He was an example to many. So what an honor it is to receive this award in his name."



# Cowley legend named 2011 Outstanding Tiger Alumnus

Having excelled as a student-athlete at Arkansas City Junior College and then at the University of Colorado, Dr. Kermit McMurry has gone on to achieve tremendous success in the area of higher education. Dr. McMurry has been recognized for his achievements by being named this year's recipient of the Outstanding Tiger Alumni Award.

Dr. McMurry, who still holds Cowley's school record with 30 rebounds in a game, was inducted into the school's Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. He has served as the vice chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the past five years and has worked for the organization for 15 years. "We want to make sure that all students have an increased likelihood of being successful in college," Dr. McMurry said. "It is a process of giving back what has already been given to me."

Prior to coming to what was then known as Arkansas City Junior College, McMurry was a standout basketball player at Kansas City Central High School. As an All-City and All-State performer as a senior, McMurry helped the team to a record of 27-2 and a third place finish at the state tournament.

Still, McMurry had no idea as to where he would attend college prior to being recruited by then Tiger head coach Joe Summers. One visit to ACJC was all it took for McMurry to make his college decision.

It wasn't until he got to the school that he realized the direction that he wanted to take as he went on to achieve greatness in the classroom as well as on the court. "At Cowley I found a place so warm and wonderful that I knew it was where I wanted to be," Dr. McMurry said. "I knew it was in my best interest to start at Cowley and it turned out to be the best decision I have made in my life."

McMurry set the school record, which still stands today, with 30 rebounds against Northeastern Oklahoma College on Jan. 18, 1964. In the game verses Northeastern, McMurry also finished



**Dr. Kermit McMurry was recognized for his achievements by being named the school's Outstanding Tiger Alumnus.**

with 31 points in the 121-91 victory. However, his 30 rebounds are the statistic most remembered from that game. McMurry had several nights like that during his two years at the school as he still ranks in the top 10 of three different categories.

His 38 points against Northeastern on Dec. 8, 1964, ranks 10th in the Tigers' single-game scoring records. That same season, he finished with 622 points, which is still the ninth most points scored in a single season at Cowley.

If it were not for injuries McMurry suffered during his sophomore season, he would have made a run at season (723 points) and career (1,323) totals set six years earlier by his former coach Del Heidebrecht. McMurry is currently 12th

on the Tigers' career scoring list with 987 points.

Among all of his basketball accomplishments, McMurry considers being named the team's Most Inspirational Player of the Year during the 1964-65 season to be his most treasured.

"That award means a lot to me, considering it came from my teammates," Dr. McMurry said.

After his time in Arkansas City, McMurry accepted an athletic scholarship to play basketball at the University of Colorado. Colorado was the premier school in the Big Eight Conference for McMurry's academic interests. While finishing his bachelor's degree in education, McMurry was a two-year starter for the Buffaloes.

*Continued on page 26*

# Tiger athletics continue excellence on national level

Known nationally for the incredible success of its athletic program, Cowley College garnered its second straight runner-up finish among 384 community college sports programs in the NATYCAA (National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators) Cup standings. Cowley finished behind only Iowa Central Community College in the standings and will be awarded \$2,000 along with a trophy.

Tom V. Saia, Cowley College's athletic director, strives for excellence among his athletic programs and is proud to have the Tigers recognized as the top athletic department in the state of Kansas. "This is a credit to our coaches and student athletes," Saia said. "It is a great honor to have Cowley College known throughout the United States."

The NATYCAA Cup Program began in 2004 and recognizes excellence in two-

year college athletics based on success in championship competition.

Points for the NATYCAA Cup are calculated based on each colleges finish at NJCAA Tournaments. Each first place finish is worth 20 points, second place 19, third 18, and so on. Total scores for both men's and women's programs are combined for their total score.

During the 2010-2011 season, Cowley College sports teams combined for nine national tournament appearances, eight conference championships, and seven Region VI crowns.

Out of the nine national tournament appearances, the Tigers had eight top-10 finishes, including the men and women's cross country teams capturing the programs' first-ever national championships. Even the program's such as softball, baseball, and men and women's basketball that did not qualify for nation-

als, appeared in the national rankings throughout the season.

"Everybody plays a part in our success," Saia said. "We love doing this and we love Cowley."

This marks the third time Cowley has finished as the runner-up in the NATYCAA Cup standings, while the Tigers have garnered several top-10 finishes during Saia's successful reign.

"We know year in and year out we are going to be near the top of the standings, but my ultimate goal is to be number one," Saia said.



# Nine Tiger sports teams make list of NJCAA All-Academic Teams

Cowley College student athletes proved they strive for the same excellence in the classroom as they do on the playing field as nine Tiger sports teams made the list of NJCAA All-Academic Teams.

A 3.0 grade point average or higher was required to make the list of NJCAA All-Academic Teams.

Cowley College athletic director Tom V. Saia said it is critical to have good student-athletes in order to have a successful athletic program.

"This is a credit to our coaches in the type of student-athletes they recruit," Saia said. "We not only want to be successful on the athletic field but also in the classroom."

Leading the way was the Lady Tiger softball program as their 3.43 GPA was the sixth highest among all community college softball programs.

Cowley's women's indoor and outdoor track teams' GPA's of 3.12 and 3.15 were

the third and fourth highest, respectively. The women's half marathon team finished second with a 3.34 GPA, while the women's cross country team posted a GPA of 3.25.

Other Cowley sports programs to make the list were, volleyball (3.23 GPA), women's soccer (3.06 GPA), women's tennis (3.08 GPA), and women's basketball (3.02 GPA).

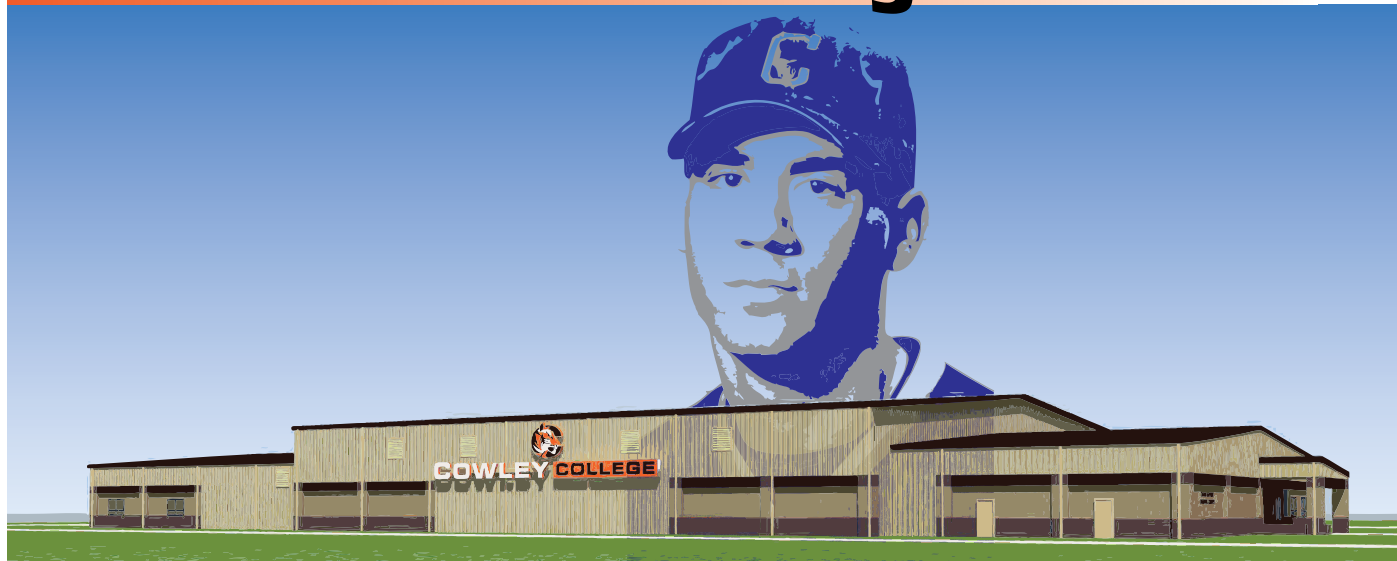
Elly Adamson, who was a member of the national champion Lady Tiger cross country team and top-10 track and field teams, finished the 2010-2011 academic year with a 3.95 GPA and made the NJCAA Superior Academic Achievement list.

Bri Akers, a two-time first-team all-conference softball performer, also made the NJCAA Superior Academic Achievement list as she posted a GPA of 3.92. While, second-team all-conference

softball player, Alyssa Allison, made the Exemplary Academic Achievement list with a GPA of 3.70.



# Capital campaign begins on Travis Hafner Training Center



The Travis Hafner Training Center is set to open in November and will be utilized by all 15 of Cowley's sports teams.

With work on the new Travis Hafner Training Center coming along steadily, Cowley College is kicking off the capital campaign to raise contributions for the construction of the building. Cowley is offering individuals an opportunity to be a part of the facility and have their name on a permanent recognition plaque inside the training center.

The Travis Hafner Training Center will feature a multi-purpose area, batting cages, weight facility, coaches offices, athletic training room, a pair of conference rooms, as well as locker rooms and restrooms.

"This will be one of the top indoor facilities in all of junior college and will give us the No. 1 weight facility among junior colleges," Cowley College athletic director Tom V. Saia said.

To make this project a success and provide championship facilities for the Tiger athletic program, individuals can make gifts of \$500 or more over a three-year period. All gifts of \$500 or more will be acknowledged on a permanent recognition plaque inside the facility.

"Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to help with the construction of the training center, and we're looking for gifts of all sizes to make this a reality," Ben Schears, vice president for institutional advancement said.

With the addition of the track and field and cross country teams in 2001, and the soccer teams in 2008, Cowley has been in need of an additional practice facility, along with the school's recreation building.

The facility will be utilized by all 15 of Cowley's athletic teams and will benefit the school in recruiting in-state and out-of-state student athletes. Hafner, a former Tiger great and member of the Cleveland Indians, provided the school with a remarkable lead gift to get work started on the facility, which is slated for completion in November, 2011.

"Travis (Hafner) loved what Cowley and the baseball program did for him," Saia said. "He never forgot about Cowley." Hafner, a member of the 1997 JUCO World Series winning Tiger baseball team, is having another solid season and has helped the Indians be one of the most surprising teams in all of baseball. Hafner, like so many Cowley athletes, has helped the school become known and respected on the national level.

The Tiger athletic program has combined to win six national championships, 137 conference titles, and 76 region titles. They have also had three national runner-up finishes.

To make a gift that will benefit Cowley College student-athletes and the proud

history of Tiger athletics, please call Tom V. Saia at 620-441-5246, Shannon Massey at 620-441-5319, or Ben Schears at 620-441-5245. Individuals can watch construction progress and also pledge gifts online at [www.cowley.edu/alumni](http://www.cowley.edu/alumni)

"So many people love Cowley and want to buy in and feel a part of it because of the success we have had in the past and will continue to have in the future," Saia said. "This will help us maintain being one of the top athletic programs in the country and be able to bring in quality student athletes to Cowley and the Arkansas City community."

Cowley recently finished second in the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) Cup Standings, which recognizes excellence in two-year college athletics based on success in championship competition. Ben Schears, vice president for institutional advancement, is excited about the opportunity the training center presents for the college and the city.

"It will provide championship training facilities to our student-athletes, and also be one of the most significant visual improvements to the southern entry of Ark City in a generation," Schears said.

# Cowley employees attend NISOD Conference in Texas

Cowley College instructors Joe Clasen and Amy McWhirt recently received Excellence Awards from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development in Austin, Texas.

Clasen has worked at Cowley since 2007 and serves as the director of the Nondestructive Testing program, and McWhirt, who serves as Cowley College's director of academic preparation and an instructor in the Humanities Department, received the awards during NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence held May 29-June 1.

Along with NDT classes, Clasen also teaches courses in Technical Math, Industrial Materials and Blueprint Reading. He has brought the NDT field into the online setting and helped create the world's first NDT associate degree program.

Clasen, who previously attended the NISOD Conference in 2009, was humbled to receive the award.

The conference had hundreds of breakout

sessions, which made it easy for those attending to find something they were interested in learning about.

"I learned a lot from attending the seminars and brought a lot of information back that I can utilize in the classroom," Clasen said.

Along with being an academic advisor, Clasen is also a SkillsUSA advisor and a member of the American Society of Nondestructive Testing.

McWhirt has spent the past seven years at Cowley where she teaches beginning Spanish and Basic English writing courses. As the Director of Academic Preparation, she is responsible for providing support to adjunct instructors and ensuring that the curriculum the school uses in its developmental English courses is the most effective for students.

McWhirt has been a presenter at the NISOD and NADE conferences, and has served on several committees at Cowley. She currently serves as a member of the AQIP Steering Committee, Multi-Cultural Scholars Program Advisory Committee,

chair of the AQIP Category 1 writing team, and co-directs the Multi-Cultural Scholars Mentoring Program.

She also serves as an academic advisor and serves 10 to 15 students each semester.

Marlys Cervantes, Humanities Department Chair; Meg Smith, director of journalism; Mark Flickinger, art instructor; Slade Griffiths, vice president of academic affairs; and president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee also attended the conference.

In 2009, Flickinger decided to take a sabbatical from his teaching position at Cowley and explore personal and professional growth. During the NISOD Conference, Flickinger and Griffiths gave a presentation entitled "The Sabbatical, Making it Count for Faculty and Institution."

During the presentation, Flickinger spoke of how the sabbatical helped re-inspire him and his passion for teaching.



# Former Cowley instructor leaves \$25,000 for endowed scholarship

Having spent 33 years as an instructor at Cowley College, Mary Wilson had a passion for teaching and a love for the school. Wilson, who passed away on March 21 at the age of 88, left the college \$25,000 from her estate to endow a scholarship for business majors.

"Mary's gift is a testament to her love of the college and the students," Cowley College vice president for institutional advancement, Ben Schears said. "Not only did she spend the vast majority of her career at Cowley, but she cared enough to leave behind a legacy that will impact students for years to come."

Peg Williams, who has spent 30 years working at Cowley College, was a student in Wilson's secretarial classes while attending Cowley in the 1960's. Later, Williams and Wilson taught together at the school.

Williams said Wilson was a dedicated teacher that wanted to see her students achieve success in the classroom.

"She expected you to do your work and did expect you to do it correctly," Williams said.

Richard Tredway, who began his career at Cowley College in 1967 as a technical agriculture instructor and retired in 1996 as the school's Business and Service Tech-

nology Division Chairman, spent several years working with Wilson.

"Mary had high standards for her students and conducted herself in a professional manner as she wanted to do the best job possible," Tredway said.

Along with teaching classes at Cowley, Wilson was responsible with helping train students to go into the work force. She also served as sponsor of the school's Phi Beta Lambda organization for many years.

# McWhirt named Cowley College's Endowed Chair

Recognized for her dedication to the teaching profession, Amy McWhirt, Cowley College's Director of Academic Preparation for the Humanities Department, was named the school's Endowed Chair.

McWhirt has spent the past seven years at Cowley. As the Director of Academic Preparation, she is responsible for ensuring that the curriculum the school uses in their developmental English courses is the most effective for students.

As Endowed Chair, McWhirt plans to seek out innovative practices for transforming language instruction. The modern language student is mostly focused on being able to use language in real-life to accomplish tasks. McWhirt is interested in learning more about best practices in this area, and bringing those ideas to Cowley, so that she can help students better reach their learning goals.

"Amy is very deserving of this honor," vice president of academic affairs, Slade Griffiths said. "What has always impressed me about her was her ability to bring new teaching theories into the classroom in an attempt to increase student learning. She is truly dedicated to her students and the college; I am proud to work with her."

McWhirt has been a presenter at the NISOD and NADE conferences, and has served on several committees at Cowley including: The Retention Team, Advisement Team, Orientation Team, Developmental Advising Sub-Committee, AQIP 2-Measuring Institutional Effectiveness, AQIP 7-Honoring Cultural Diversity, and Student Success Team. She currently serves as a member of the AQIP Steering Committee and chair of the AQIP Category 1 Writing Team.

She also serves as an academic advisor and serves 10 to 15 students each semester.

"I feel very honored to be named Endowed Chair," McWhirt said. "I have been very fortunate in my life to have been taught and mentored by exceptional educators, most of whom are/were current or former teachers in Cowley County. I have always attempted to model



**As Endowed Chair, McWhirt plans to seek out innovative practices for transforming language instruction.**

my own teaching as a living legacy to them. This honor is really their honor." She has been the recipient of the National Security Exchange Program Grant to study in Mexico, and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages/Applied Linguistics degree.

Thanks to the generous support of CornerBank, McWhirt will receive \$2,000 a year for each of the next two years. A total of \$500 will be used for professional development, while the other \$1,500 is a cash stipend.

"I want to thank CornerBank for their support of teachers and education," McWhirt said. "This award will allow

me to bring innovative ideas and practices back to Cowley and directly impact students—which is a wonderful way to help strengthen the knowledge base of our community."





# Cowley honors 21 employees for years of service



Dr. Patrick J. McAtee, center, congratulates Cowley employees recognized for 10 years of service. Those pictured are, from left, Shannon Massey, Tracey Williams, Frank Arnold, and Marlys Cervantes.

**T**wenty-one Cowley College employees were honored Jan. 10 for their years of service during a recognition ceremony in the Earle N. Wright Community Room inside the Brown Center.

Employees were honored in five-year increments.

Awards are presented annually to employees who have worked five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 consecutive years.

This year's award recipients:

\*35 years: Pat Mauzey, Business Technology Department instructor.

\*30 years: Mike Crow, MGR Preventive Maintenance/Scheduling/Reporting & Energy.

\*20 years: Beverly Grunder, Department Chair and Director of Business & Industry Training; Mindi Shriver, Administrative Assistant to the Instructional Office; Sally Palmer, Director of Financial Aid.

\*15 years: Sue Saia, Vice President of Student Affairs; Tom V. Saia, Athletic

Director.

\*10 years: Uwe Conrad, Natural Science Department instructor; Shannon Massey, Executive Director of Alumni & Development; Frank Arnold, Social Science Department Instructor; Marlys Cervantes, Humanities Department Chair; Marlys Nelson, Enrollment/Help Desk Specialist; Tracey Williams, Secretary in the Registrars Office.

\*5 years: Chris Cannon, Department Chair & Director of EMS Education; Jeff Fluty, Athletic Trainer; Nancy Ayers, Natural Science Department instructor; Mike Fell, Art instructor; Marvis Gaddie, Secretary for the Business Technology Department; Mike Chattam, Custodian; Somsy Sengvixay, Head Groundskeeper; Criss Kennelley, Custodian.



# Lukert named Cowley College's Student of the Year

Dedicating his time to many activities and organizations on Cowley College's main campus in Arkansas City, sophomore Jordan Lukert was named Cowley College's Student of the Year during the school's annual Honors and Awards Ceremony held April 19 in the Earle N. Wright Community Room.

Lukert, along with the school's other Student of the Month selections, were up for the prestigious honor of Student of the Year.

At Cowley, Lukert was the president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Phi Beta Lambda, and Phi Theta Kappa. He also served as a student ambassador, Cowley Tutor, and was a resident assistant in the Storbeck Dormitory. He was named the school's Student of the Month this past September, was a member of the Dean's Honor Roll, and was the winner of last year's Puttin' on the Hits contest. He also was crowned Homecoming King, was named to the All-Kansas Academic Team for PTK, named Who's Who Among American Students, and placed first at the PBL state competition in Sales Presentation.

"It has been an honor to serve everyone here at Cowley," said Lukert, who was also named Cowley's Tutor of the Year during the banquet. "My being named Student of the Year would not have happened without the individuals here at Cowley that have contributed to my life. My time at Cowley has been a blast!"

A representative from each department at Cowley College honored students that excelled during the 2010-11 academic year during the ceremony.

"We want to recognize and honor the students for their accomplishments as well as thank the instructors and faculty at Cowley for helping them reach their goals," Cowley College president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee said during the ceremony.

Lukert, who posted a 3.89 grade point average at Cowley, plans to transfer to Wichita State University.



Recognized for his outstanding work in the classroom, Jordan Lukert was presented a gift from Cowley College president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee after being named the school's Student of the Year.

**"It has been an honor to serve everyone here at Cowley."**



# Cowley alumnus making the most of his opportunities

**A**mbitious, motivated, inspirational, these are just a few of the words used to describe Cowley College alumnus Manny Thompson, who is excelling in all aspects of his life since graduating from the school in 2009.

The mild-mannered, always smiling student, is now preparing for graduate school at Wichita State University, while boxing professionally, modeling, and taking part in a work-based learning program as an intern for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

While at Cowley, the criminal justice major was involved in Student Government, Multicultural Scholars Program, Black Student Union, IMPACT, Cowley Crazy's, PAWS, and Student Athletic Training for the Cowley College men's basketball team.

He was well liked by faculty, staff and students alike, and was named the school's March 2008 Student of the Month. Shortly after receiving the honor, Thompson was named Arkansas City's Outstanding Student for the 2007-2008 academic year.

"Manny was an outstanding student while at Cowley," Marlys Cervantes, Humanities Department Chair and co-sponsor of the Multicultural Scholars Program said.

"He was, and is, an example for others to follow. I have no doubt that Manny will continue on the road he is on with great success. He has many endeavors right now, and he's doing well in all of them. He's quite an amazing young man."

Cowley College's IMPACT/TRIO staff members would say Thompson could teach their Time Management workshop. Thompson has come a long way since he was a young child growing up in Wichita. He credits his mother, Brenda, with helping him get to where he is today. He also credits his boxing trainer Johnny Papin, who has worked with him since he was 11 years old.

When Thompson first met Papin he was struggling in school, but Papin and the eventual love of boxing helped get him on the right path.

"He has not only been a great influence



**Manny Thompson, who graduated from Cowley College in 2009, is excelling in the boxing ring and in the classroom.**

boxing wise, he's helped me learn how to be a man and make the right decisions," Thompson said. "Boxing has influenced me a lot, it has kept me active, fit and healthy."

With his mother's guidance and the support of Papin, Thompson began making the honor roll. At Southeast High School, until he graduated in 2007, Thompson made the honor roll every year.

He was named to the list of Who's Who Among American High School Students and was a talented high school football player before deciding to come to Cowley. "Cowley felt like my home away from home," Thompson said. "I feel blessed to have gotten the opportunity to attend Cowley."

Manny joined the U.S. Army Reserve after his freshman year of college, and

last summer traveled with the U.S. Navy to Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore, delivering medical aid to poor regions.

During his sophomore year at Cowley College he took classes at the school's Mulvane Center and served as a Student Ambassador. It was during this time that Thompson completed almost 1,700 hours of community service with AmeriCorps, a federal work/scholarship program.

He then transferred to Wichita State University and plans to graduate this fall with a bachelor's degree. In May, Thompson was accepted to a master's degree program at WSU to study criminal justice.

Needing only eight more credit hours to graduate from Wichita State, Thompson

**Continued on page 22**

# Athletic Roundup

## Men's Cross Country

With its top-five runners finishing among the top-38 placers at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Championships in Spartanburg, S.C., the Cowley College men's cross country team backed up its No. 1-ranking by bringing home the program's first-ever national title this past November.

Cowley (94 team points) finished 16 points ahead of national runner-up Central Arizona Community College. While, South Plains Community College (118 team points) placed third. There were 36 teams vying for the national title.

Sophomore Josh Gracia capped his stellar career by earning second-team All-American honors by placing seventh in the five-mile race with a time of 24:28. Freshman Cameron Balser (25:03) was the next to cross the finish line as he placed eighth and was also named a second-team All-American.

While, Tiger freshman Brock Hime's time of 25:47 was good enough for 15th place and honorable mention All-American recognition. Winning seven of the eight meets they competed at this season, and with only two of its top-seven runners being sophomores, the Tigers will be poised to defend their title during the upcoming season.

## Women's Cross Country

Leaving no doubt as to who the best junior college women's cross country team was, the Cowley College women's cross country team captured the program's first-ever national championship this past November at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I national championships held in Spartanburg, S.C.

Cowley (75 team points) finished eight points better than national runner-up South Plains Community College (83 points) and 11 points in front of third place Lansing Community College (86 points). There were 38 teams competing in the women's race.

As they did all season, Lady Tiger teammates Purity Cheruiyot and Kaitlyn Belisle, crossed the finish line one right after the other, with Cheruiyot (18:06) placing fourth in the 3.1 mile race and Belisle (18:15) finishing fifth. Both Cheruiyot and Belisle were named first-team All-Americans.

Counting the national championships, the Lady Tigers won six of the eight meets they competed at during the fall.

## Men's Basketball

The Tiger men's basketball team finished the season with a record of 25-8 overall and 14-4 in the Jayhawk Conference Eastern Division. Although Cowley had another successful season, the Tigers saw their three-year run of conference titles come to an end as they

finished one game behind Jayhawk East champion Coffeyville.

Tyrus McGee was named the Jayhawk East Most Valuable Player and a First-Team All-Region VI selection for the second consecutive year. McGee also earned first-team All-American honors and finished his Tiger career as the third leading scorer in school history (1,194 points) and his 662 points this season were the eighth most in a single season.

Cowley will say goodbye to seven sophomores. The sophomores are Ashton Patton, Joseph Wakefield, Kelton Marshall, Romel Kemp, James Watson, Dominick Cornelius and McGee.

## Women's Basketball

Finishing 16-2 in the conference, the Cowley College women's basketball team captured its first conference title since the 2004-2005 season. Led by Ariani Silva being named the Jayhawk Conference Eastern Division Most Valuable Player, Cowley finished the season with a record of 25-8.

Silva finished her Cowley career as the school's all-time leader in three-pointers made in a season and in a career. She also ranks 16th on the school's all-time scoring list with 756 points.

Along with Silva, Cowley will say goodbye to Maylisa Johnson, Maggie Vieyra and Lisa Angell. The four sophomores helped Cowley to 46 wins and a conference title over the past two seasons.

Todd Clark, who was named the Jayhawk East Coach of the Year, will return several talented players, including Breanna Bryant, who was named second-team all-conference.

## Softball

For the second straight year the Cowley College softball team had its hopes of a return to the national tournament dashed by a loss to Highland in the championship game of the Region VI Tournament.

The Lady Tigers, which advanced to the region championship game for the 12th straight season, finished the year with a record of 40-17 overall and finished tied for second in the Jayhawk East with a conference mark of 20-6. Sophomore pitcher Starr McLeod finished the season with a record of 14-5 and went 23-9 on the mound in her career at Cowley. However, with freshmen pitchers Taylor Parsons (15-6, 1.49 ERA) and Haleigh Sills (7-3, 1.58 ERA) returning, the Lady Tigers should be one of the top teams in the region again next year.

## Baseball

For the first time since 2000, the Cowley College baseball team did not advance to the Region VI Tournament in Wichita as the Tigers suffered back-to-back defeats to Garden City in the championship round of the Super-

Regional played in Arkansas City.

The losses to Garden City came on the heels of Cowley capturing its 14th conference title in the past 17 seasons as the Tigers finished the season with a record of 43-15 overall and 30-6 in the Jayhawk Conference Eastern Division. Third baseman Robbie Rea finished a brilliant sophomore season by going 3-for-4 with a home run and two RBI's in his final game in a Tiger uniform. Rea led the team in batting (.398), hits (86), home runs (eight), doubles (14), and RBI's (66).

Sophomore pitcher Andrew Polly also closed out a remarkable sophomore campaign by going 10-0 with an earned run average of 0.94. Polly struck out 63 batters and walked only five in 74 1/3 innings pitched.

Aside from the loss of Polly, Cowley will return the majority of its pitching staff including Storm Marlar, who went 7-0 with a 1.58 ERA in his first season at the school.

## Men's Tennis

Led by Region III Player of the Year Tom Gibaud, the Cowley College men's tennis team captured its first region title since 2003 and placed eighth at the NJCAA Division I Tennis Tournament.

This marks the fifth straight top-10 national finish for the Tigers and the 20th time in the past 22 years that the squad has placed amongst the top-10 teams at nationals.

Cowley will lose only three sophomores from this year's team. The sophomores are, Joan Valls, Bates Baldwin, and Gibaud.

The Tigers will return a great deal of experience for next season and will attempt to defend its Region championship.

## Women's Tennis

Placing in the top-10 nationally for the 11th time in the past 12 years, the Cowley College women's tennis team finished in 10th place at the NJCAA Women's Tennis National Championship in Tucson, AZ.

With six of the eight Lady Tiger tennis players being freshmen, Cowley head coach Josh Cobble was pleased with his team's performance at the 31-team national tourney.

Each of Cowley's singles players won at least one match at the national tournament, while two of the Lady Tigers' three doubles teams picked up wins.

Having captured the region title and placed in the top-10 nationally, Cobble expects even bigger things from the young squad in 2012.

Cobble was named the 2011 NJCAA Wilson/ITA Women's National Tennis Coach of the Year. Joining Cobble as award recipients from Cowley College were freshmen Diana Davitaia and Zsofia Biro. Davitaia lost only two matches at No. 1 singles the entire year and was named the Region 3 Rookie of the Year,

Continued on page 21

## (continued)

while Biro won 11 of her final 13 matches at No. 2 singles and was selected as the ITA Player to Watch for next season.

### Men's Indoor Track

Led by its 4x800-meter relay team placing first and earning NJCAA All-American honors, the Cowley College men's track and field team placed seventh at the NJCAA National Indoor Championships held in Lubbock, Texas.

The 4x800-meter relay team, consisting of Dane DeWitt, Cory Jones, Dylan Filburn, and Charles Ross, ran a time of 7:48.59 and finished more than five seconds in front of the runner-up team from Barton County.

Cowley, hampered by illness, just missed out on finishing in the top-five as they finished a half point behind sixth place Paradise Valley Junior College, and 3 ½ points in back of fifth place Rend Lake.

A bright spot on the track was the performance of freshman Fred Taylor as he became head coach Mark Phillips' first sprinter at Cowley to qualify for the finals. Taylor would break the school record in the 55-meter dash and place fifth in the event with a time of 6.40.

Fellow freshman Cory Jones also ran well and placed third in the 600-meter run (1:19.30), while sophomore Charles James placed third in the shot put (54-1 ¼).

The team also captured its fifth straight Jayhawk Conference Eastern Division title.

### Women's Indoor Track

With Richelle Farley and Kaitlyn Belisle earning All-American honors, the Cowley College women's track and field team finished 11th at the NJCAA National Indoor Championships held in Lubbock, Texas.

As was the case with the men's team, some illnesses kept Cowley from finishing better as a team. Cowley finished just one point behind 10th place Butler County.

Farley, a sophomore from Bridgetown, Barbados, finished second in the pentathlon by ending up only 23 points behind first place finisher Christina Barrett from New Mexico Junior College.

Belisle, who was the conference and region champion in the 3,000 and 5,000-meter runs, earned All-American honors by placing second in the 5,000 (19:03.43). She also placed fifth in the 3,000 (10:34.57) before having to drop out in the middle of the mile run due to an upper respiratory illness.

Finishing just behind Belisle in the 5,000-meter run was sophomore Val Bland from Arkansas City. Bland also ran as part of the Lady Tigers' 4x800-meter relay team, which placed seventh.

Prior to the national championships, the Lady Tigers captured their second straight Region VI title.

### Men's Outdoor Track

Going head-to-head against athletes from 33 schools, the Cowley College men's track and field team finished off another successful season by ending in a tie for seventh place at the NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Hutchinson.

Sophomore Charles James capped a stellar two-year career for the Tigers by winning the national championship in the shot put on his last throw with a school record of 55-5 1/2. Freshman Fred Taylor completed the most successful year for an individual sprinter in Cowley history by finishing as the national runner-up in the 100-meter dash and sixth in one of the toughest 200-meter races in NJCAA history, he also anchored the men's 4x100-meter relay to a seventh place finish.

Cowley, winners of five straight conference titles and this year's region champion, will return nine athletes that competed at this year's national championships.

### Women's Outdoor Track

Putting a cap on a stellar season, the Cowley College women's track and field team placed sixth at the NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Hutchinson.

Leading the way for the Lady Tigers was freshman Kaitlyn Belisle who was the national champion in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter runs. Belisle won the 10,000-meter run by more than 45 seconds and was nearly 15 seconds faster than her nearest competitor in the 5,000-meter run.

Sophomore Richelle Farley, who recently signed with Kansas State University, was the national runner-up in the heptathlon, third in the high jump and sixth in the 100-meter hurdles.

Cowley will return seven freshmen that gained experience at the national meet and helped Cowley win its fifth straight conference title.

### Volleyball

Winning a school-record 29 matches in a row, the Cowley College volleyball team had another stellar season in 2010 as the Lady Tigers finished with a record of 34-4 overall.

Cowley gained a share of its third straight conference title and placed third at the national tournament. The team's .895 winning percentage was the highest in the history of the program.

Jayhawk East Freshman of the Year Emily Barto and starting setter Molley Scanlon highlight the list of returning players in 2011 as well as outside hitter Danika Maggard and defensive specialist Shanna Seyfarth.

Cowley will say goodbye to two-time Jayhawk East Most Valuable Player, Roslandy Acosta, who is now playing volleyball at the University of Arkansas, as well as Elena Berroteran, a first-team all-conference libero, and Lindsey Chandler, a second-team all-conference middle hitter.



Charles James won the national championship in the shot put on his last throw with a school record of 55-5 1/2.

# Who We Serve

## Spring 2010 Semester Enrollment by location

Arkansas City	1,444
Virtual Center	2,397
Mulvane Bloomenshine	1,062
SSEC	41
Winfield	191
Mulvane IT	75
Wellington	36

## Percentage by Gender

Male	39%
Female	61%

## Percentage by Ethnic Group

Black/Non-Hispanic	8.63%
Native American	.56%
Asian	1.94%
Hispanic	7.18%
Caucasian	77.43%
Other	4.26%

## Percentage by Age

Under 18	5.92%
19-22 years old	37.84%
23-29 years old	24.76%
30-49 years old	26.56%
50 and over	4.92%

## 2010-2011 Enrollment Data

Annual Unduplicated Headcount	5,729
Headcount Fall 2009	4,476
Headcount Spring 2010	4,206
Full-time Equivalent Students Fall 2009	2,999.4
FTE Students Spring 2010	2,823.6
International Student Enrollment	105

# Your Return on Investment

## Expenditures by Source 2010-2011 (unaudited)

Instruction	\$7,366,684	39%
Academic Support	\$597,338	3%
Student Services	\$1,586,330	8%
Athletics	\$1,783,010	10%
Institutional Support	\$2,587,735	14%
Operations & Maintenance	\$4,499,812	24%
Grants	\$264,607	2%
Transfers	\$38,383	0%
Total	\$18,716,178	100.0%

## Revenues by Source 2010-2011

Student Sources	\$6,459,267	34%
Grant Sources	\$321,890	2%
State Sources	\$6,425,972	34%
Local Sources	\$4,978,433	26%
Other Sources	\$699,954	4%
Total	\$19,026,809	100.0%

# Foundation Balance Sheet

## ASSETS

Total Cash and Investments	\$3,438,884
Pledges Receivable	\$3,320
Capitalized Assets	\$48,590
Total Assets	\$3,490,794

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$3,320
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## NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$594,803
Temporarily Restricted	\$736,412
Permanently Restricted	\$2,156,259
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,490,794

## Cowley alumnus making the most of his opportunities (continued)

is set to become the first member of his family to obtain a college degree.

"I loved the teachers and advisors at Cowley, they helped make it a smooth transition for me when I transferred to WSU," Thompson said.

With Papin's instruction and his own strong work ethic, Thompson won two Golden Gloves boxing championships and compiled an amateur record of 38 wins and 11 losses.

Now, at the age of 22, he is 6-feet-2, 174 pounds now, a light heavy-weight. In his first professional fight in Albuquerque, NM on Dec. 3 against Christian Bruffy-Holmes, he knocked out his opponent in 58 seconds.

Papin thinks Thompson has a promising future in the ring, but is just as proud of the person he has become outside of the ropes.

"He's become a man any man would want as a son," Papin said.

When Thompson is not busy training in the ring or studying for an exam, he works for Models and Images in Wichita and is hired to model clothes for newspapers and magazines.

While he credits his mother and Papin as playing huge roles in his life, he also credits Cowley with helping get him to where he is today and would recommend the school to anyone unsure of where they would like to attend college.

"The teachers at Cowley make sure the students fulfill their dreams and goals," Thompson said. "They care about you a lot and will do anything they can to help you."

Once done with school, Thompson will continue on with his boxing career and would like to become a special agent for the federal government, perhaps with the DEA, FBI or ICE.

Thompson, still the thoughtful young man that I first met more than three years ago, walks me to the door of Laselva Mixed Martial Arts gym on South Woodlawn before heading back to the ring to continue his pursuit of excellence in whatever it is he finds himself doing at that moment.

No doubt about it, the world is a better place with Manny Thompson in it.

"I want to be able to help other people the way people have helped me in my life," Thompson said.

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# Cowley ranked as one of the nation's top community colleges

With over 1,200 community colleges, Cowley College was listed among the top-120 community colleges in the nation in the D.C. based non-profit Aspen Institute's latest rankings. The top-120 schools, representing the top-10 percent of the country's 1,200 community colleges, are eligible to compete for a \$700,000 prize, which is financially supported by the Joyce Foundation, the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, and the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.

The purpose of the prize is to recognize community colleges with outstanding academic and work-force outcomes. The list represents community colleges that have demonstrated high standards in learning and college completion and have established that they are training grounds for jobs that pay competitive wages. Cowley College president Dr. Patrick J. McAtee was proud to hear of the college's inclusion in the list. "Any time you are recognized for being one of the top colleges it is a huge honor,

but I am not surprised by it," Dr. McAtee said. "We have really good faculty and staff at the college and have been leaders in AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) for the past 15 years. We are always up on the latest trends and have a Board of Trustees that allows us to do what we do." Eight to 10 finalists for the top prize will be named in September, with the final prize winner and two to three runners-up announced in December. The winner will receive \$700,000, while the runners-up will share an additional \$300,000.

## Outstanding Tiger Alumnus (continued)

In 1968, McMurry was named an All-Big Eight performer and was named the team's Most Improved Player. He was offered a graduate assistant scholarship to work on his master's degree while serving as an assistant basketball coach. His master's is in education. While education was opening doors for him, McMurry always thought he wanted to become a head basketball coach. He left Boulder in 1970 for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he worked in the division of student affairs and helped the late Joe Cipriano recruit for his men's basketball team. Still not satisfied with the amount of education he had, McMurry began pursuit of a doctorate for \$1 per semester. "I took advantage of it and before I knew it, I was far down the road to earning a Ph.D.," Dr. McMurry said. After earning his doctorate in higher education administration from UNL in 1975, Dr. McMurry embarked on careers with two Nebraska governors and Grambling State University in Louisiana. He worked for former Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon as head of the coordinating commission for post-secondary education. He then served nine years as executive vice president of Grambling. Then it was back to Nebraska to head up Gov. Kay Orr's higher education policy cabinet. Dr. McMurry organized the governor's position on matters related to higher education.

And it was a connection on Orr's staff that led Dr. McMurry to his current job, vice chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The Regents is the coordinating board of control for 25 colleges and universities in Oklahoma. Dr. McMurry credits Cowley for helping him get to where he is today. "It all starts back at Cowley College," Dr. McMurry said. "Cowley laid the foundation for what I have achieved." Being named the Outstanding Tiger Alumnus for 2011 is a humbling honor for Dr. McMurry. "This is an incredible award and I appreciate the thoughtfulness of being recognized by the college," Dr. McMurry said. "It is a tremendous honor." Dr. McMurry has been honored with numerous other awards. In 1971, he earned the Outstanding Young Men of America award presented by the Jaycees. In 1975, he was named to Who's Who Among Black Americans. And in 1977, he was presented the Pioneer Coordinating Award for Multi-Institutional Planning from UNL. Others include a community service award from Mutual of Omaha in 1989, and the United States President citation for Innovation and Leadership in 1988. In 2001, McMurry received a Quality Recognition Award from the Oklahoma Department of Human Resources. In 2002, he received the governor's commendation for his public service. He also received the award in 2008 and 2009 for

his outstanding leadership. Dr. McMurry has made it back to the Arkansas City campus regularly as he tries to make it back each year to take part in the Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame activities. "It is so rewarding to see how much the college has developed and grown through the years," Dr. McMurry said. Dr. McMurry has two children, Justin 22, and Eleeya 15. He is married to Susie McMurry. Dr. McMurry counts former University of Southern California president, Steve Sample, and former University of Kansas president, Gene Budig, as mentors of his. He also had high praise for former UNL chancellor, Hans Brisch, and Stan Matzke, who was the director of administrative services for former Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon. "I had wonderful mentors that helped lead me in the direction to succeed," Dr. McMurry said. "I did not do this myself. These people said I had a talent and helped cultivate it." Dr. McMurry enjoyed attending Cowley's Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 7 and is proud to be a graduate of the school. "Cowley is a tremendous beacon for education in the state of Kansas, they have done so much for so many," Dr. McMurry said. "Education is a great equalizer and Cowley prepared me to do everything I have done throughout my career."

# Cowley College makes list of Military Friendly Schools

Recognizing the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools which are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students, Cowley College once again made the exclusive list announced by G.I. Jobs magazine of 2011.

The common bond these schools share is their priority of recruiting students with military experience.

Schools on the Military Friendly Schools list also offer additional benefits to student veterans such as on-campus veterans programs, credit for service, military spouse programs and more.

G.I. Jobs polled more than 7,000 schools nationwide in order to compile the list.

Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, Colorado State University, Dallas County Community College, Old Dominion University, Cleveland State University, Lincoln Technical Institute, and Embry Riddle.

Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list included efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students and academic accreditations. "Cowley has a long history of trying to best serve the veterans and military

personnel by encouraging participation in higher education, and developed a relatively seamless articulation of military courses into Cowley credit and financial help as needed," said Slade Griffiths, Cowley College vice president of academic affairs. "All of the faculty, staff and administration welcome these folks at our college. Mark Britton, registrar, has been particularly helpful for the veteran students."

Britton believes it is a positive relationship between the college and the student, who hails from a military background.

"These students have experience in a wide variety of things in life and service

to our country and bring that to our student body," Britton said. "With our economic prices, their (military) benefits go a lot farther here at Cowley."

Griffiths mentioned the college recently piloted a new online speech class that the military had requested.

"These pilots were quite successful so I believe we can further assist our military students," Griffiths said.

A full story and detailed list of Military Friendly Schools will be highlighted in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools and on a poster, both of which will be distributed to hundreds of thousands of active and former military personnel in late September.

## Kuffler named Outstanding Student of Arkansas City for 2011 (continued)

At Cowley Kuffler was involved in ACES (Academic Civic Engagement through Service), and was a member of the Cowley Drumline. He was also a member of the Math and Science Club and Phi Theta Kappa. Along with his involvement in activities at Cowley, Kuffler was a leader in the classroom maintaining a 3.95 grade point average, while also working nearly 30 hours a week at the Two Rivers Coop in Arkansas City.

Heather Allen, Director of Academic Advising, is one of the many people on campus who noticed Kuffler's accomplishments.

"John is an outstanding student and very thoughtful and active in his education," Allen said. "He works and attends classes and rarely misses. He is open about his faith, but quiet and soft spoken in nature."

He graduated from Arkansas City High School in 2009. At ACHS, he was involved in FFA (Future Farmers of America), orchestra, student council, Fel-

lowship of Christian Athletes, SAGE, the Work Ethics Program, was the senior class vice president, and was a member of the soccer team his freshman and sophomore years. After suffering an injury, Kuffler served as the soccer team manager during his last two years of high school.

While in high school Kuffler competed at the state level in food science and dairy food categories. Kuffler placed fourth in dairy foods as a sophomore and finished first at the state competition as a senior. He also was on the food science team, which competed at state for three years, and placed eighth as a member of the meats team.

After debating which college to attend, Kuffler made the decision to stay close to home and attend Cowley. The decision turned out to be a good one according to Kuffler.

"It is nice to be challenged in the class-

room and have teachers that are here to help whether in school or in life," Kuffler said. "The teachers and people here made it worthwhile. There are some really good people here at Cowley."

In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, watching television and playing paintball.

Kuffler plans to transfer to Kansas State University and study within the agricultural field specifically dealing with the dairy food or meat industry.

"Cowley has given me a good head start in that area," Kuffler said.

Kuffler credits his parents' examples and teaching in giving him the foundation to succeed.

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