

100 Years, 100 Memories

Traditions, Changes, and McMurry Pride



1 Opening Day
McMurry University was founded in Abilene, Texas, and opened on September 20, 1923.

The McMurry College, Methodist Institution The Beginning of a Great West Texas College The History of the Institution—The Prospects Indicate That Within a Few Years This College Will Be One of the Lead- ing Institutions of West Texas—By

Rev. J. W. Hunt

Henry W. Grady said: "Every reform comes up through storm and doubt and suspicion. The sun itself when it rises on a summer morn, replaces the radiance of the moon and the stars in a million pendant dew drops that glitter like diamonds upon the blades of grass."

Every enterprise is fraught with something of the same experience. The launching of the movement to build McMurry College was in answer to an absolute demand clearly presented by the needs and the opportunities of this great Western section.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South, has always been among the leaders in educational work. Its phenomenal growth in wealth and in membership has given to it a natural place of leadership.

In 1918, the General Conference met at Atlanta, Ga., and launched the Centenary Educational and Superannuate Endowment movement by which and the institution is being built.

The Administration building which will be one of the very best—certainly there will be no better—within the State of Texas, is now under construction, and will be completed by the first of January, 1923. In the meantime the plans for two dormitories have been drawn and accepted, and these buildings are to be constructed in time for the opening of school in September, 1923.

The college site has been declared by all who have looked upon it to be ideal. Topographically, it is without a superior in the State, and the forty acres donated by the Abilene citizens as the college campus, lie over the dome of a swell in the prairie, in such a manner as to be ideally situated for the location of the buildings, the athletic field and all other accessories of a first class working plan. The water line from Lake Abilene crosses one corner of the campus and passes

here, here on is being built the most beautiful building section of Abilene. Around the college campus lies the fertile prairie land which may be purchased in small lots, in blocks, or in some portions, in small plots of from five to one hundred acres.

The interest in the erection and maintenance of the institution surpasses anything ever known in Methodist circles in this section.

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ABILENE, TEXAS

My dear Friend:

You have doubtless received our small bulletin announcing our opening, - the exact date has been set as Wednesday September 19, 1923.

Our regular catalogue giving more detailed information about the new institution is now going to press, and will soon be ready for distribution. We shall be very glad to mail you one when it is off the press. In the meantime you will be interested to know:

That a well trained and experienced faculty has been selected;
That a beautiful, commodious and well equipped Administration building is practically completed;
That a handsome stucco building, - Hunt Hall, beautifully furnished and with every modern convenience, will be ready for the young ladies long before the date of opening;
That two large frame buildings, Bailey Hall and President Hall, now under construction, will be ready for the young men.

Also, that six years of academic work, four years' academy and two years' college;
That a School of Fine Arts, - Voice, Piano, Harmony, Violin, Expression and Art, and
That a department of Business, are all to be offered.

That all student activities, - football, basket ball, base ball, tennis, glee club, choral club, band, and literary societies are to be given every reasonable consideration.

That only a limited, well-selected student body is being accepted. Every student an individual, yet a student body with a common solidarity.

Yours very truly,
J. W. Hunt, President.

McMurry College, Abilene, Texas. . . . McMurry College, Abilene, Texas.
I am interested in attending your Enclosed find \$5.00 in consid-
institution. Will you mail me a ation of which please reserve
copy of the above mentioned cata- me a room for the session
logue just as soon as it is off of 1923-1924.
the press.
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2 Methodist Roots

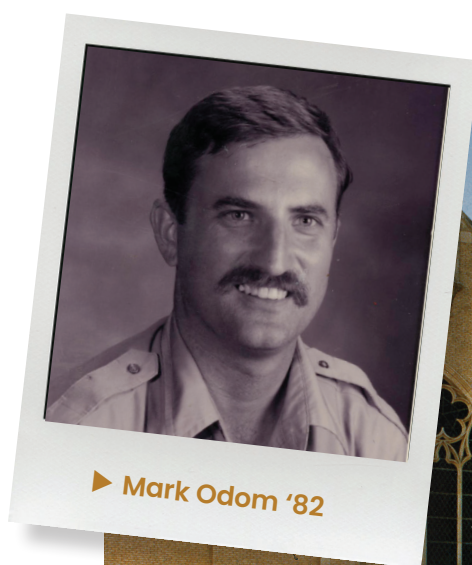
Dr. James Winford Hunt, the first president of McMurry College, was the former president of Stamford College when it burned down in 1918. McMurry is the repository of records from three former area-Methodist institutions - Clarendon, Stamford, and Seth Ward colleges.

3 Holiday Traditions

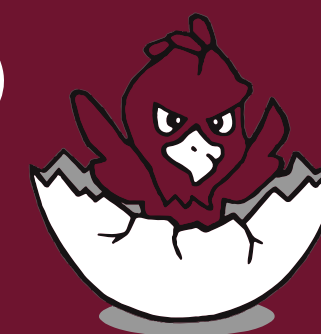
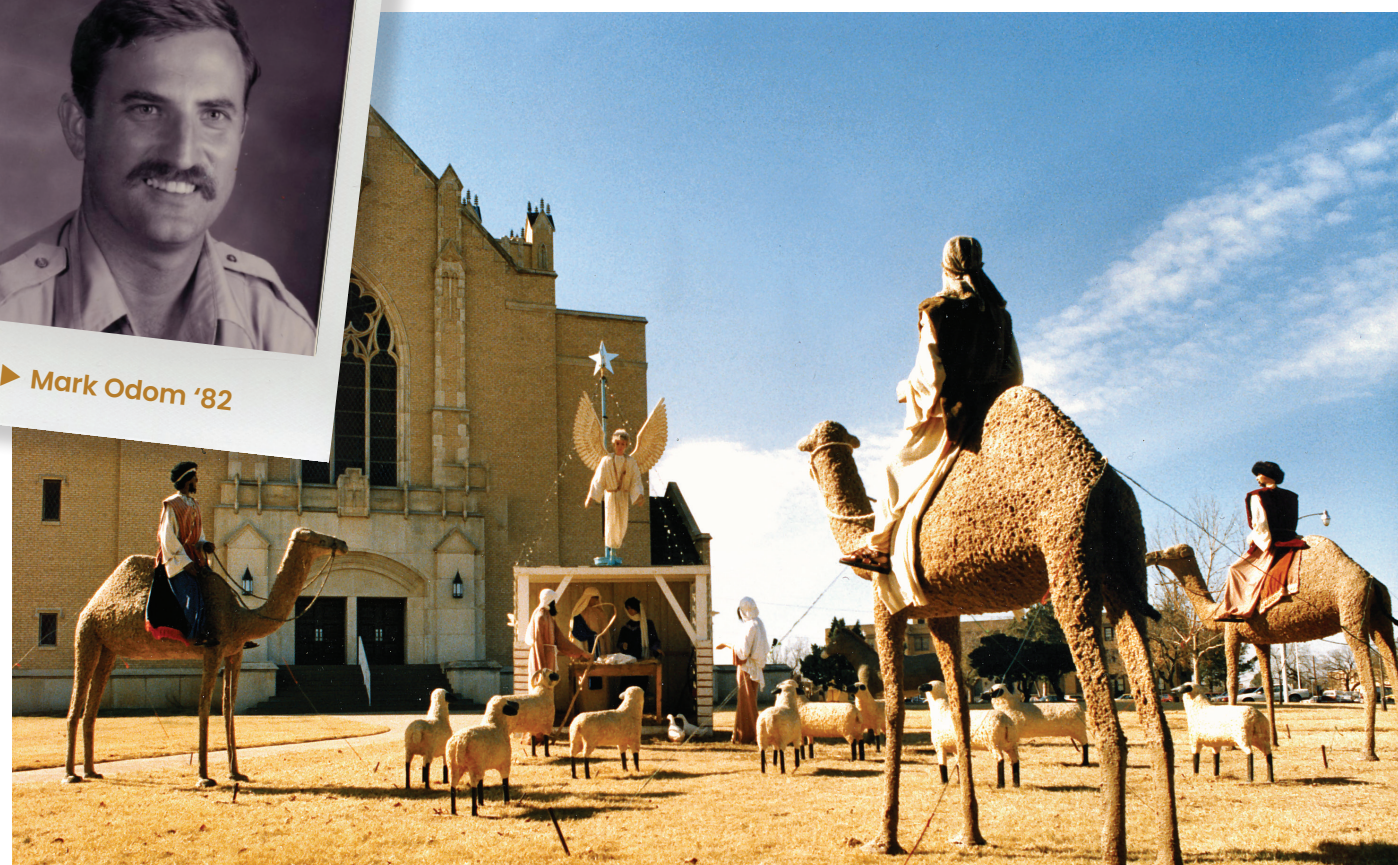
McMurry has long cultivated a festive holiday spirit on campus. In earlier decades, a cherished tradition involved the installation of a life-sized, paper-mâché nativity scene every Christmas season. Today, the McMurry community ushers in the holiday season with a “Deck the Quad” event and nightly illumination of Old Main, creating a joyful ambiance that endures throughout the holiday season and through the new year.

4 Mark Odom '82

During his nearly 40-year tenure as director of security, Mark Odom '82 spent many a December tracking down stolen sheep and camels from the manger – some animals were creatively relocated to the summits of dorm room beds by mischievous McMurry students, and some were held for ransom by students from rival campuses. Even the baby Jesus was absconded with on occasion.



▶ Mark Odom '82



5 Wally

War Hawk Jr., affectionately known as “Wally,” was born in the cozy nest of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hawk Sr. in Radford Tower on August 30, 2011. The younger of two hatchlings, Wally felt a strong connection to McMurry and chose to make Radford Tower his permanent roost when his family relocated to a new nest in 2012. As the beloved school mascot, Wally symbolizes the spirit and pride of McMurry. His presence reminds all students to approach their unique journeys with passion and a commitment to lifelong learning.



6 Talons Up

A gesture of unity that symbolizes the hooked claw of Wally the War Hawk, our mighty mascot, students “Throw the Talon” as a greeting or leaving sign or a cheer in celebration.

Raise a hand, fold down your pinky and ring fingers, and slightly curl your thumb, index, and middle fingers toward each other.



EDITORIAL

The WAR WHOOP

Friday, October 26, 1951.

Homecoming Streamlined

HOME COMING!!!!
Just one of the things at McMurry that needed to be streamlined—that's homecoming.

For years the Reservation has been in a rut on this "most important of important" times. Each year we have a bonfire that we face until well done, and then we turn our backs to be burnt to a crisp. Naturally, lots of moaning and gnashing of teeth is and will take place because we're having no bonfire, but here's two points. First the Abilene Fire Marshal says "No" and secondly the Student Council has something better.

The general idea is to centralize McMurry's homecoming activities around our theme—the Indian theme. The answer is a Teepee Village. There's to be a central Student Council Teepee and smaller ones by various clubs.

Plans are incomplete to date, but other changes are to be made. The freshmen will keep a small council fire burning from Thursday night until gametime Saturday (It's almost as easy for invaders to stop as to start a fire) as well as the usual tom-tom beating starting Friday night.

And that's not all—this year Campus Queen is to be known as Reservation Princess and at least part of the coronation ceremonies will be scheduled for the Teepee Village.

The new idea is limitless in possibilities. As the years go, more and more Indian flavor and equipment can be added. The plan is just to make a start this homecoming.

Point is that it won't work unless the entire Student Body supports it, talks it, does it.

Come on, gang, let's play Injuns!!!!

Homecoming

Homecoming has long been the focal point of fall for the McMurry community with coronation, the bonfire and pep rally, music and theatre performances, art exhibits, and the Homecoming football game, as well as academic, club, and class reunions.

7 Past Traditions

Tipi Village stood as a cherished Homecoming tradition from its founding in 1951 until 2019. Inspired by Dr. James Winford Hunt's connection to Native American culture forged during his upbringing on the Kaw Reservation, McMurry's Homecoming Tipi Village featured authentically crafted and furnished Indian dwellings and campsites. Competition among clubs for the best tipi prizes was fierce. Hundreds of school children visited Wah Wahtaysee Park each year to get a glimpse of long-past Indian life. Tipi Village was even featured in Texas Highways in 1982.

8 New Traditions

With the sunset of Tipi Village, McMurry faculty, staff, and students have worked to establish some fun, new Homecoming traditions.



► 50 Years Later

Peggy Johnson, Reservation Princess '73, came to her class reunion with her husband Jim McGuire and witnessed Baylee Kindrick and Isaiah Ramos become homecoming royalty exactly 50 years later.



► 2023 Fireworks

The special Centennial fireworks display over Radford Auditorium this year was so popular that we plan to make it an annual tradition.

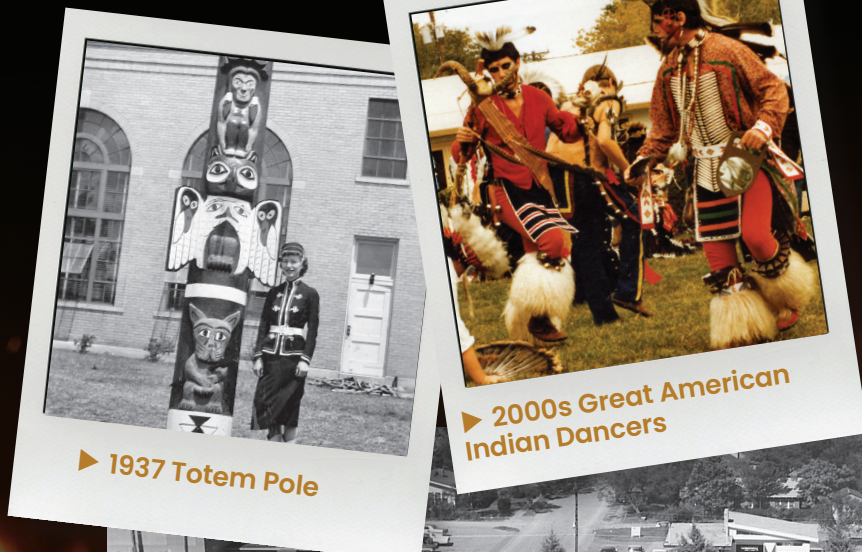


► 2021 Celebrating Together Festival

The Festival on the Quad was introduced as part of the festivities.



► 1980 Firing of the Arrow



► 1937 Totem Pole



► 2000s Great American Indian Dancers



► 2023 Harris Hawk



► 2021 Festival Games, Makona vs. KIVA



► 2022 Bonfire and Lawn Jam Concert

An evening of live music, while lounging outside by the fire with friends.



9 Move-In Day

Move-in day at McMurry is filled with nerves and excitement as first-year students prepare to acclimate to campus life and connect with new people.

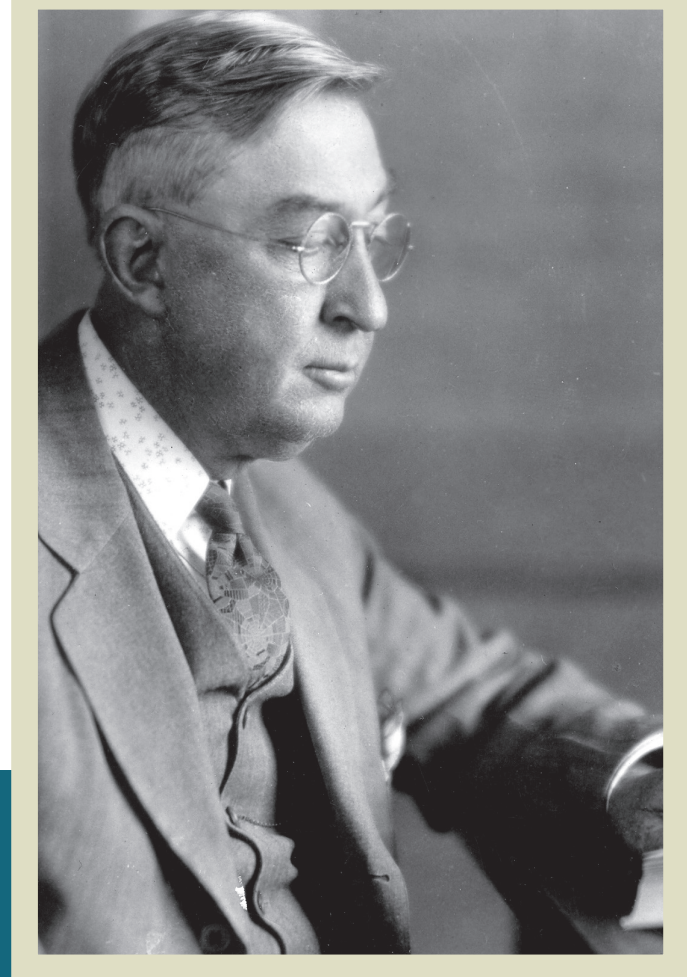
▶ 1970s



▶ 2023

11 Dr. James W. Hunt

Dr. James Winford Hunt, the visionary force behind McMurry College, assumed the role of its inaugural president in 1923 and dedicated himself to the institution until his death on March 12, 1934, at age 56. Dr. Hunt passionately advocated for a Methodist college in Abilene, using his fundraising skills and charismatic leadership to garner widespread support and build backing for the college's establishment, while serving as a minister at St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church.



▶ 1996 KIVA

10 Sliming

Throughout the decades spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, incoming freshmen faced the initiation rites orchestrated by upperclassmen, who dubbed the newcomers as "Fish" or "Slime." Each freshman adorned a distinctive "slime cap," a beanie with the anticipated graduation year on it. Such caps identified freshmen to upperclassmen who could seek them out as new students or give them slime duties. Competing in Slime Olympics, a series of "athletic events" pitting teams of freshmen against upperclassmen that culminated in a muddy tug-of-war, marked the transition from being a "Slime" to achieving esteemed upperclassman status.



▶ 1970



▶ Elizabeth Myatt



▶ Gypsy Ted Sullivan Wylie



▶ Jeanie Tate



▶ Julia Luker



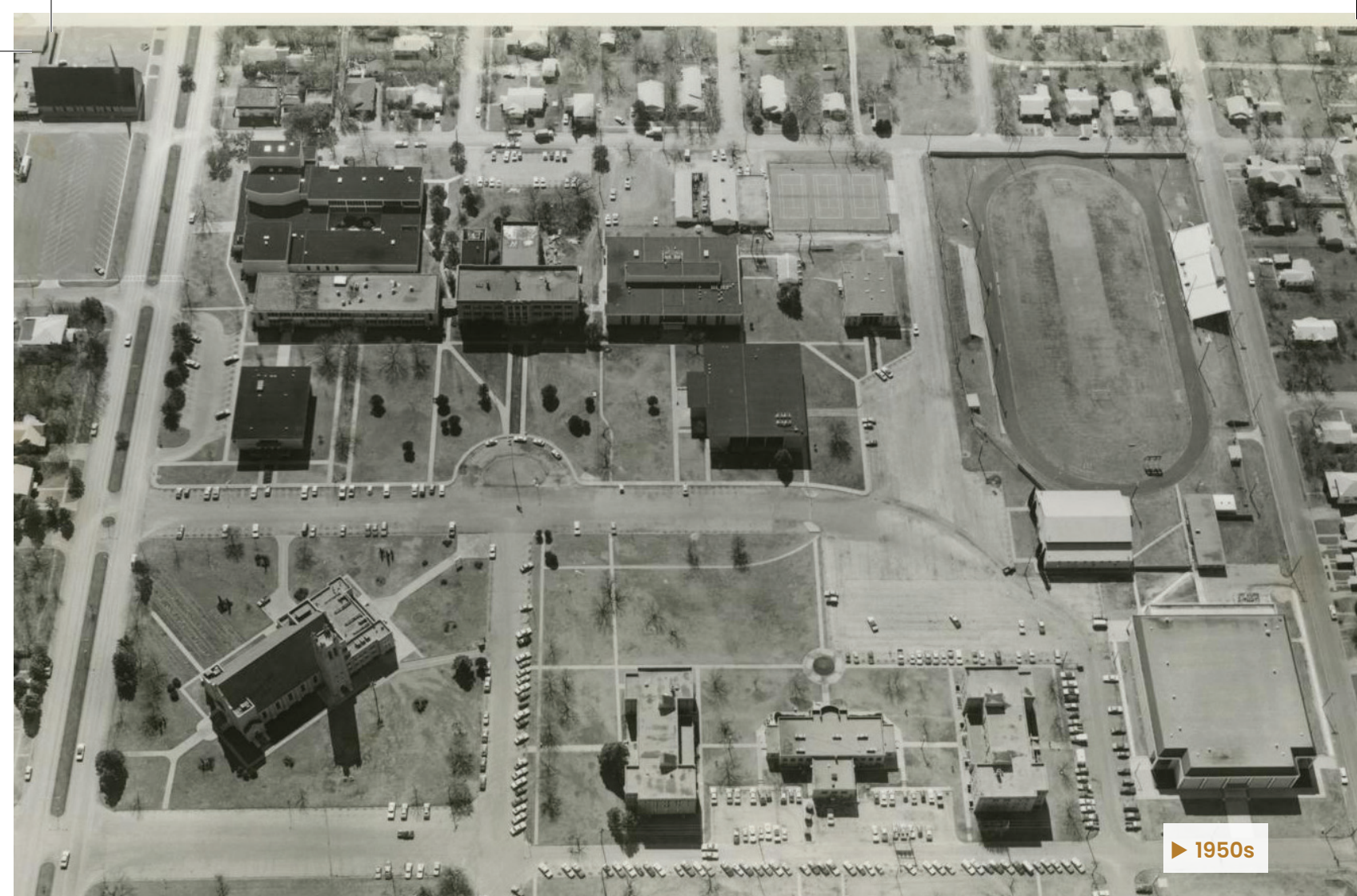
▶ Vernie Newman



▶ Willie Mae Christopher

12 Founding Faculty Women

During McMurry's early years, Julia Luker, Elizabeth Myatt, Gypsy Ted Sullivan Wylie, Jennie Tate, Vernie Newman, and Willie Mae Christopher, collectively known as the "founding faculty women," became integral members of the institution's faculty. "Through the challenging eras of the Great Depression and World War II, these six dedicated educators displayed unwavering commitment, often foregoing half or even the entirety of their salaries during times of distress." All but one of these extraordinary women remained at McMurry until their well-deserved retirements (with one regrettably passing away during her tenure), contributing a combined 218 years of collective service to McMurry.



► 1950s



14 A Charming Oasis

In 1934, funds were raised to create a charming rock garden behind the administration building, now Old Main. This native stone garden featured a fireplace, a wishing well, and a fishpond surrounded by trees. Adjacent to it stood the small rock museum, originally constructed by Dr. William Curry Holden and his history students in the 1920s. The garden, considered an enhancement to campus aesthetics, hosted the 1935 Commencement and remained a beloved spot until the 1960s, even serving as a venue for weddings on the bridge over the fishpond.



► 2000s The Makona Wishing Well replaced the original

13 Campus Beautification

McMurry University was long characterized as “bare,” with a notable absence of trees for several decades. A positive transformation occurred in the late 1990s and early 2002 when oak trees were planted in the Quad and the campus gained access to recycled water from the city of Abilene, significantly enhancing its appeal and contributing to a more aesthetically pleasing environment.

McMurry leaders now understand the importance and utility of a physically thriving and vibrant campus that makes a good impression, instills pride, and creates a sense of unity.



► 2023



15 Ko Sari Oak Grove

In 1982, Ko Sari fraternity presented Dr. Thomas Kim with a commitment from Ko Sari alumni to fully finance a “live oak project,” involving the planting of Southern Live Oak trees on the campus lawn by the club’s 50th anniversary. To fulfill this initiative, five of Ko Sari’s graduating classes contributed and planted over 10 trees, and a four-foot gray granite boulder featuring the club’s crest was placed in the grove on January 3, 1987, marking the club’s anniversary.



► "Prof" Bynum

"I'd rather my students be honest, solid, good people than great musicians – but both are my goals."

16 "Prof" Bynum

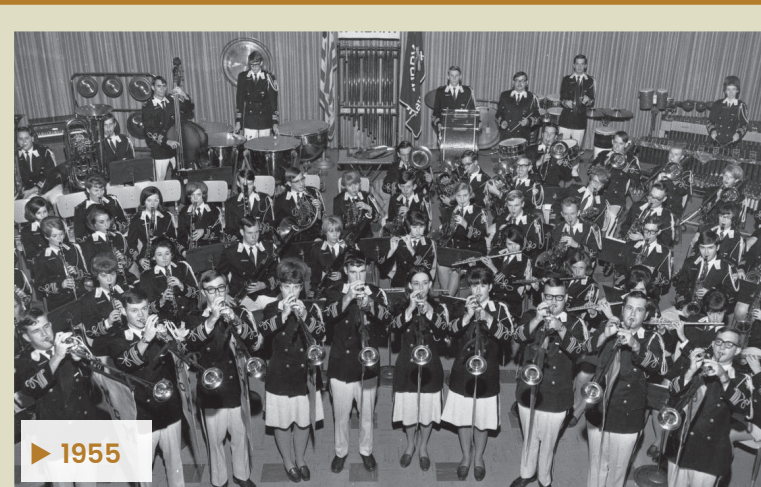
Raymond T. "Prof" Bynum was a beloved professor of music and director of bands at McMurry from 1946 to 1972. His dedication and inspiration led to the naming of the current band hall in his honor. Known as the "Father of the Marching Band," Bynum founded the Abilene High School Eagle Band in 1926 earning the distinction of having the oldest marching band in Texas.



► 2023 Chanters Centennial Choir

17 Chanters

Chanters, the oldest music group at McMurry University, originated in 1928 when Men's Glee and Women's Choral clubs merged. Over the years, Chanters have performed locally and have toured Texas, New Mexico, and internationally. During Homecoming 2023, more than 125 Chanters alumni gathered for a special reunion concert and Centennial Gala performance, highlighting the enduring musical legacy of the group.



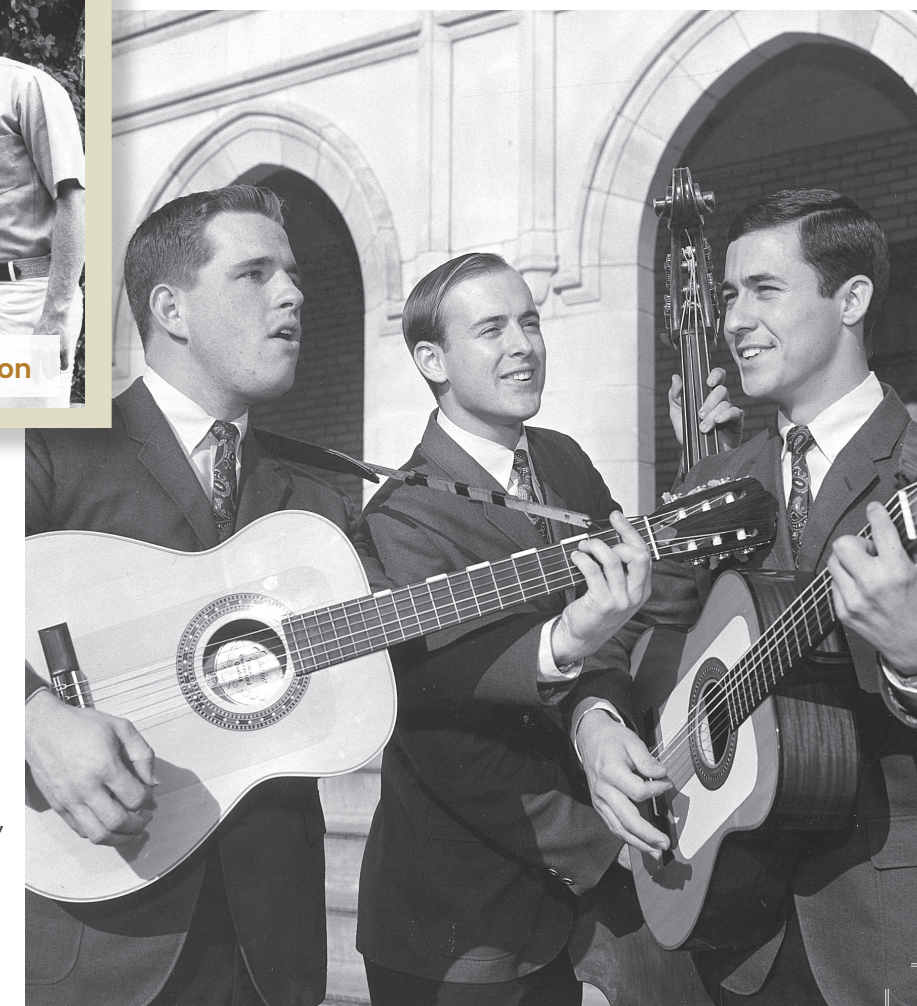
► 1955



► 1960 Clark Walters, Jerrel Elliot, Pat Hamilton

18 Windjammers

McMurry's favorite singing group in the late 1960s was the Windjammers, a male trio of McMurry students. Originally composed of Jerrel Elliot, Clark Walter, and Jack Wilcox (later replaced by Pat Hamilton), the group played assorted instruments from guitars to kazoo's, sang anything from serious love ballads to comedy numbers, and always thrilled their audiences, touring locally, nationally, and internationally.



► 2017

19 Student Enrollment

Approximately 200 students registered for classes when McMurry opened in 1923. Fast forward to 2023, and McMurry celebrated a historic milestone by welcoming the largest headcount in its 100-year history, totaling an impressive 2,556 students.



► 1923 Student Body



► Class of 2027



► 1971 Pi Delta Phi



► 1998 Makona

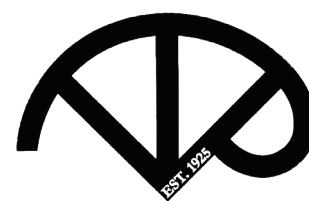


► 1964 KIVA



► 2017 Theta Chi Lambda

Current Fraternities and Sororities



T.I.P. est. 1925



Gamma Sigma est. 1936



Ko Sari est. 1937



KIVA est. 1939



Delta Beta Epsilon est. 1944



Alpha Psi Alpha est. 1954



Chi Omicron (XO) est. 1957



Eta Epsilon Iota (HEI) est. 1962



Pi Omega Phi est. 1965 as Pi Delta Phi



Theta Chi Lambda est. 1966



Makona est. 1978



20 Social Clubs

The inception of social clubs, student-driven alternatives to school-sponsored academic- and religious-related activities, took root with I.H.R. for men in 1924 and T.I.P. for women in 1925. In the 1936-1937 school year, Ko Sari for men and Gamma Sigma for women emerged simultaneously, positioned as rivals or alternatives to the original clubs. Over time, additional social clubs sprang up, reflecting students' shared interests. However, since the mid-2000s, social clubs have experienced a decline in participation. A recent shift to sororities and fraternities was initiated to rekindle interest in these social organizations and infuse them with new vitality. This transition aims to ensure that these groups continue to provide students with avenues for belonging, friendship, leadership, and philanthropy.



► 2023 Delta Beta & XO



► 1998 IHR



► 1984 T.I.P. at Sing Song

21 Sing Song

T.I.P., the campus's oldest sorority, initiated its annual Sing Song production in 1958. The event, featuring men's and women's social clubs, showcases members' talents through musical and dancing acts all in good-natured competition for bragging rights. T.I.P. has diligently overseen and coordinated this lively tradition from its inception through the present day. More recent student-led special events include Makona's Short Film Festival and a Lip-Sync Battle competition by Alpha Psi Alpha.



► 1967 Delta Beta Wins Sing Song



► 2016 "Big James" Pi Omega Phi Sweetheart



► 1998 Sing Song



► 1964 XO

22 A Hub of Student Life

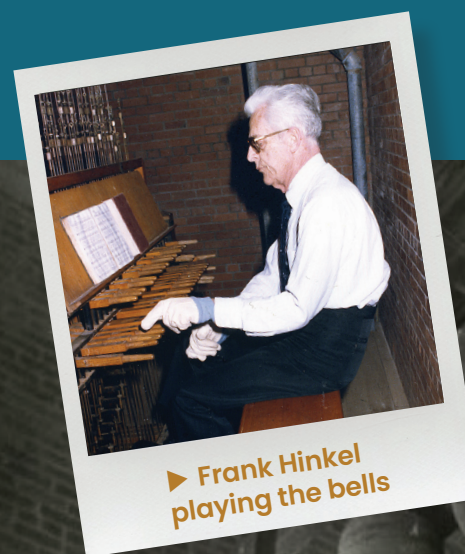
After WWII, McMurry grew tremendously with the influx of soldiers returning from the battlefield. The construction of Radford Memorial Auditorium – a long-awaited student life building – was completed in 1951. Radford has housed the bookstore, post office, snack bar, bowling alley, phone bank, dance floor (especially popular in the disco era, where a glittering disco ball and strobe lights could be seen across campus), office and meeting space, and even an eSports center. The most iconic features of the building are the massive auditorium and the bell tower.



► 2023 Bell tower



► 1950 Construction



► Frank Hinkel playing the bells

► 1965

23 The Carillon

Installed in Radford Tower in 1953, the carillon is comprised of 35 chromatically arranged bronze bells played manually by hands and feet or electrically through an ivory keyboard. After being computerized, the carillon now plays daily at noon and 5 p.m. McMurry's three-octave carillon is the sole true carillon in the Abilene area and was the largest in the Southwest at installation. It remains one of the largest in Texas.

24 Commencement

McMurry University held its 2023 Commencement ceremony on May 12, 2023, conferring degrees upon a graduating class that was one of the largest in our 100-year history.



► 1985 Faculty Processional



► 1949 Commencement in Matthews Auditorium



► 1935 Commencement by the Rock Garden



► Gally Toney '23
First-Generation Graduate



► Taylor Orchard '23 and
Ethan Baird '23 in Centennial stoles

25 Servant Leadership

Since its introduction in 1990, servant leadership has become integral to McMurry's mission and core values. Many students have acquired servant leadership skills through general education coursework, and McMurry boasts one of the nation's few dedicated programs in the field. The Servant Leadership Program, established in 1990, equips students to enhance student organizations and collaborates with the West Texas Homeless Network. In the future, selected students at McMurry will have the chance to receive further training and financial support through the Professional Leadership Program, which grants micro credentials.

Servant Leadership

► 1998

The Servant Leadership Mentor program was established to provide students that have completed the Servant Leadership course the opportunity to expand their role of leadership and service to the University community. Mentors act as an advisory board to the Servant Leadership director, attend and assist with leadership seminars, and support the Friend's Closet. Preceptors for the Servant Leadership class are chosen from this group.



Top Row: Jared Roan, Daniel Brown, Darren Riffe, Stacey Nixon, Jeffrey Britton, Dawn Dunfield, and David Chandler; Middle Row: Rhonda Heilhecker, Allison Parks, Blythe Dotherow, Nani Bridges, Becky Abers, Jenifer Brown, and Brian Rains; Front Row: Kimberly Stansbury, Kelly Noel, Mandy Lopez, Cari Roark, Emily Harris, Sarah Worofka, and Mitzi Archer.



26 Service as the Measure of Life

In 1995, McMurry Student Government initiated the first "Big Event" student-led service project, inspired by a similar endeavor at Texas A&M University. Over time, the Big Event transformed into McMurry Serves – an annual McMurry tradition and a volunteer opportunity for McMurry alumni, students, faculty, staff, and families. Through this community endeavor, volunteers serve in Abilene, Texas, and beyond, exemplifying one of the University's core values – Service as the Measure of Life.



27 Centennial Kickoff

Centennial year celebrations officially began with McMurry's 99th opening Convocation on September 22, 2022. Following the Convocation, approximately 700 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and special guests formed a "100" in the Quad for a drone photo capturing the historic moment before commencing with the Centennial Kickoff Rally and picnic.

The official Centennial logo – a stylized number "100" with a feather at its center – symbolizes the shared traditions of our alumni community. This distinctive logo served as a unifying symbol throughout the Centennial, representing the rich legacy and collective spirit of McMurry University.



► 100 Sculpture

Unveiled at the Centennial Kickoff Rally, this quickly became a popular photo backdrop for many visitors until the Centennial Gala in October 2023.

28 Commemorative Items

Many commemorative items were produced for the Centennial. Event attendees received an assortment of commemorative coins, tote bags, and lapel pins, and a special Centennial ornament and commemorative print were available for purchase.



► Centennial Ornament



► Centennial Coins



29 Dawn of a Generation

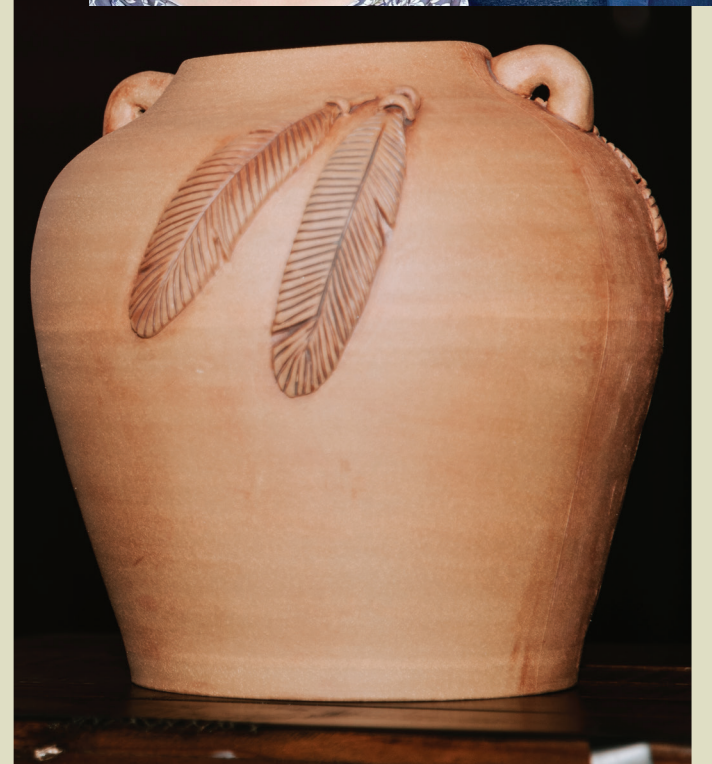
Adam Miller '09 received his Bachelor of Arts in Performance from McMurry and was commissioned to compose a musical opus in honor of the Centennial. His composition entitled "Dawn of a Generation" was first performed by members of the music faculty at the Convocation in September 2023, and the score also served as background music for the featured video production at the Centennial Gala.



► Stacia Plaster Miller '09 & Adam Miller '09

30 Feather Vase

Stacia Plaster Miller '09 (Adam's spouse) received a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and owns a clay art studio in Kyle, Texas. She was commissioned by the University to create an art piece for the Centennial that would resonate with all generations of alumni. Her clay vase featuring feathers as the central theme, remained on display in the Centennial Museum throughout the Centennial year.



31 Centennial Museum

The Centennial Museum, housed in Gypsy Ted Gallery II, opened its doors in August 2022 and welcomed visitors every weekday afternoon throughout the entire Centennial year. Designed and curated by Jennifer Nichols '73, instructor of photography, the museum showcased McMurry's history and cherished traditions through archived items, documents, and contributions donated by McMurry alumni. Notable artifacts included Chief McMurry's Indian headdress, a band uniform worn by legendary band director Raymond T. "Prof" Bynum, and the original *Vision Keepers* painting commissioned for the Centennial by well-known artist, Troy Anderson.



32 Time Capsule

Alumni, faculty, staff, and students were asked to suggest significant items for a time capsule set to be opened in 2048. Various campus departments contributed items that represent the current era in our university's and country's history. A beautifully crafted wooden time capsule, originally used for our 75th anniversary, was repurposed to contain the Centennial time capsule. Among the contents are a COVID-19 face mask, an esports competition map, Centennial memorabilia, and a letter from Dr. Sandra S. Harper to the 2048 president. The time capsule was sealed in a brief ceremony on December 14, 2023.



33 Global Pandemic

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected life at McMurry. The University swiftly transitioned to virtual classrooms, implementing innovative measures to ensure the safety and well-being of faculty, staff, and students. Despite disruptions, the McMurry community exhibited resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment during this unprecedented time.



34 Track & Field

Coach Barbara Crousen made history as the first female coach to lead a men's team to an NCAA national championship, achieving this milestone with McMurry's men's track team in 2008 and repeating the success in 2012. Throughout her tenure, Crousen's teams secured 10 top-four national finishes.

Both the men's and women's teams have been the ASC Champions back-to-back since 2019, with the exception of the 2020 season, which did not happen. As of the Spring 2023, the War Hawks have won 19 championships while the women have won 16 of the 27. McMurry also earned coaching staff of the year for the fourth straight year.



► **Barbara Crousen** wearing all of her McMurry Track & Field Championship rings.



► **1989 Johnny Hester '92**

35 Softball

Edwards Field opened in February 2020 and is home to McMurry's Softball program that was established in 1918. Generously funded by and named after Murray and Kathi Edwards, is current board of trustees chair Edwards Field seats 300 fans with bleachers extending on both sides and designated spaces for fans to set up lawn chairs.



► **2020 Kathi & Murray Edwards** at the opening day ceremony for Edwards Field.



► **Grant Teaff '56**



► **April 2022 Grant Teaff** statue dedication



► **1924 The First Football Team**

Football has been a McMurry athletic tradition since 1924 when Coach R.M. Medley recruited the first football team. He went on to coach football at McMurry for over 20 years.

36 Football

McMurry football was forever transformed by Grant Teaff '56, a former football standout at McMurry before becoming the program's head coach in 1960. Coach Teaff's influence as a leader at McMurry was almost tragically cut short, when he and the 1963 McMurry football team (affectionately known as the B.I.B.L.E. club, which stands for Brotherhood of Indian Belly-Landing Experts) were involved in a harrowing plane crash landing after a game. Teaff's continued contributions to the McMurry Football program led to the unveiling of a statue in his honor, which was dedicated to him on the steps of Radford Auditorium in April 2022.

37 Dr. Sandra S. Harper



Dr. Sandra S. Harper, McMurry University's 10th and first female president, successfully steered the institution from financial hardship to operational prosperity, defying national trends in higher education. Under her leadership, McMurry achieved two consecutive years of record-breaking fundraising, its largest enrollment in history, and financial stability. Dr. Harper also holds the distinction of being the first female president among the three universities in Abilene.



► 1994 Dr. Shimp's inauguration



► 1995 Dr. Lou Rodenberger, Dr. Pug Parris, & Dr. Sandra Harper



► 1947 Dining Hall Dedication



► 2023 Mabee Dining Hall



38 Campus Dining

The Iris Graham Building, originally constructed as the dining hall and currently serving as the education and curriculum center, stands as a tribute to Iris Graham '28 whose association with McMurry spanned from 1925 to 1945, first as a student and then as the college registrar.

The Mabee Dining Hall, designed to replace the Iris Graham Dining Hall, marked the realization of a state-of-the-art dining facility covering 12,000 square feet and seating 500. This cutting-edge culinary space reached its initial completion in 1987, and it underwent further enhancements in 2022.



► Iris Graham

39 Dr. Pug Parris '73

A McMurry campus leader during her student days and as professor of kinesiology for 42 years, Dr. Pug Parris '73 made history as the first woman to carry the ceremonial mace and lead the academic procession.

Renowned as the champion of the iris garden, the Pug Deavenport Parris Centennial Garden was dedicated in her honor in 2022. Many of the varieties of irises in the garden were replanted from her personal collection.



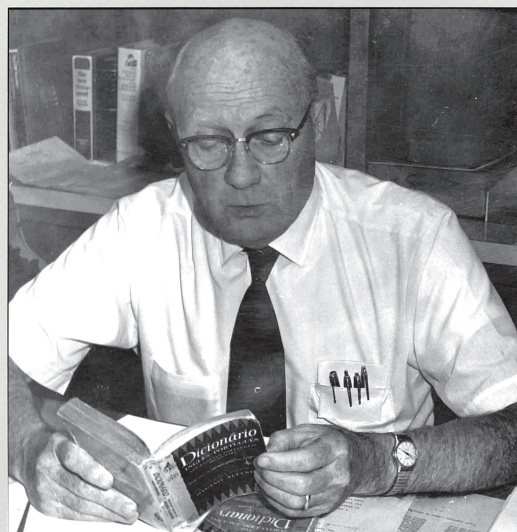
► 2023

Science Scholarship

Two distinguished science faculty members helped establish McMurry's reputation of excellence in the sciences

40 Dr. Virgil E. Bottom

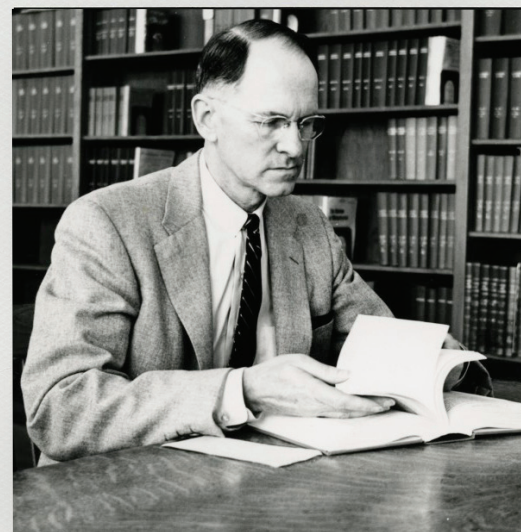
Dr. Virgil E. Bottom, professor of physics from 1958 to 1973, was an experimental physicist whose work contributed to the development of quartz crystal production in the United States and became integral to military technology during World War II, spearheading advancements in navigation, surveillance, and communication systems.



► 1964 Dr. Virgil E. Bottom

41 Dr. W. Norton Jones

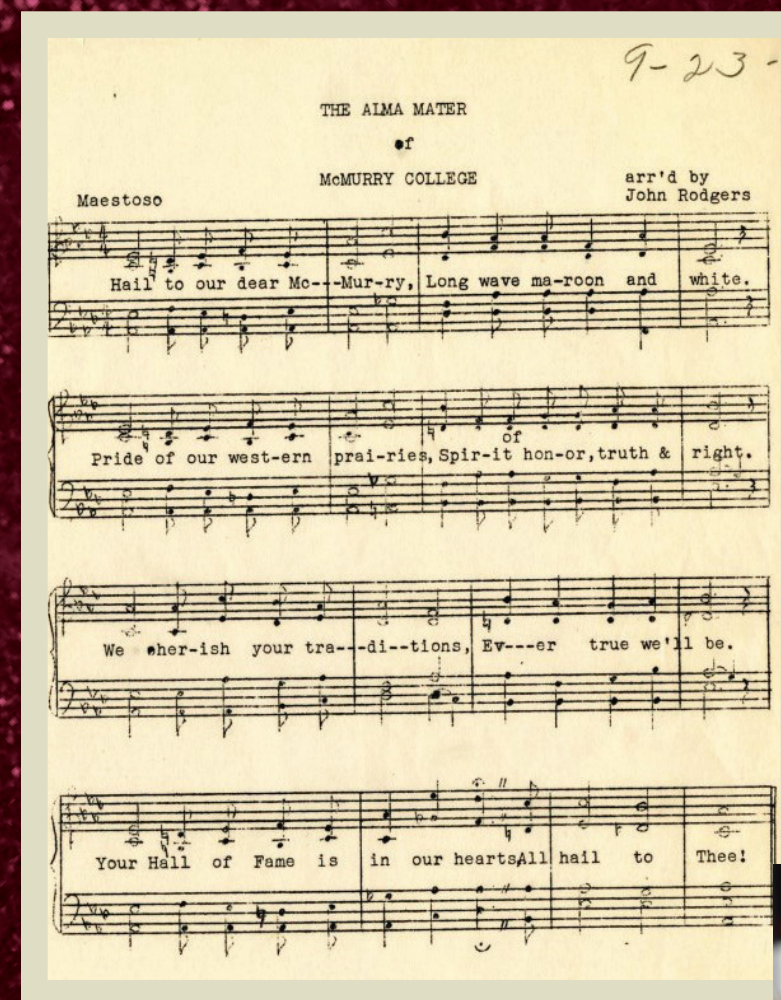
Dr. W. Norton Jones, professor of chemistry from 1948 to 1975, was committed to preparing students for the rigors of graduate and professional schools and was mentor to those who went on to medical careers.



► 1960 Dr. W. Norton Jones



► 2020 Remodeled biochemistry lab in Finch-Gray Science Building



42 Alma Mater

Words and music by
Everett M. Shepherd 1929
Revised arrangement by
John Rodgers 1947

**Hail to our dear McMurry,
Long wave maroon and white.
Pride of our western prairies,
Spirit of honor, truth, and right.
We cherish your traditions,
Ever true we'll be.
Your hall of fame is in our hearts.
All hail to Thee!**



► 2017

ON McMURRY

On McMurry, on McMurry,
Plunge right through that line,
Run the ball clear round old Sul Ross
A touch-down sure this time.

On McMurry, on McMurry,
Fight on for your fame
Fight fellows, fight! fight! fight!
We'll win this game.

RAH, RAH FOR M. C.

Rah Rah for M. C.
M. C. will win
Fight to the finish
Never give in
You do your best boys,
You do your best boys,
We'll do the rest, boys,
Rah, rah for M. C. M.
Rah, rah.

YELLS; ATHLETIC

1. Yea, yea, yea,
Hurray, hurray, hurray.
Maroon and white
Will win, that's right,
So that's why we say
Hu-ra-a-y.
2. INDIVIDUAL
Rah! rah! rah!
3. WAR-WHOOP FOR VICTORY
4. Yea, team,

Yea, team,
Yea, team,
Fight! fight! fight!
5. Go, Indians, go!
Go, Indians go!
Go, Indians go!
Hit 'em high!
Hit 'em ow!
Go, Indians go!

Fight Song

On McMurry

**On McMurry, On McMurry,
break right through that line;
Ever forward, ever onward,
touchdown sure this time,
On McMurry, On McMurry,
fight on for your fame,
Fight fellows, fight, fight, fight!
We'll win this game.**



► 2022



► 2023 Class Favorites



► 1981



► 1949

43 Campus Royalty

McMurry's student body has maintained the tradition of electing class favorites and campus royalty throughout its 100-year history. After Tipi Village was introduced in the early 1950s the once-titled Campus Queen and King became Reservation Princess and Chief McMurry. The Reservation Princess donned a Native American-inspired beaded crown and was draped in a traditional Indian blanket, while Chief McMurry was presented with an Indian headdress created in the likeness of a chieftain's feathers. Today, Mr. and Miss McMurry are crowned with shiny tiaras and crowns that sparkle in the light of the bonfire.



► 2000



► 1950

44 Calliope

The McMurry Calliope with its red and yellow accents brought joy to spectators in many a parade from the 1950s to the early 2000s. However, for the first time in 20 years, the Calliope was in the 2023 Christmas Lights Parade, newly installed and refurbished on the Kiwanis Club of Abilene float.



► 1946 Vet Village



► 1945 Veterans returning to McMurry



► 1948 Home in Vet Village

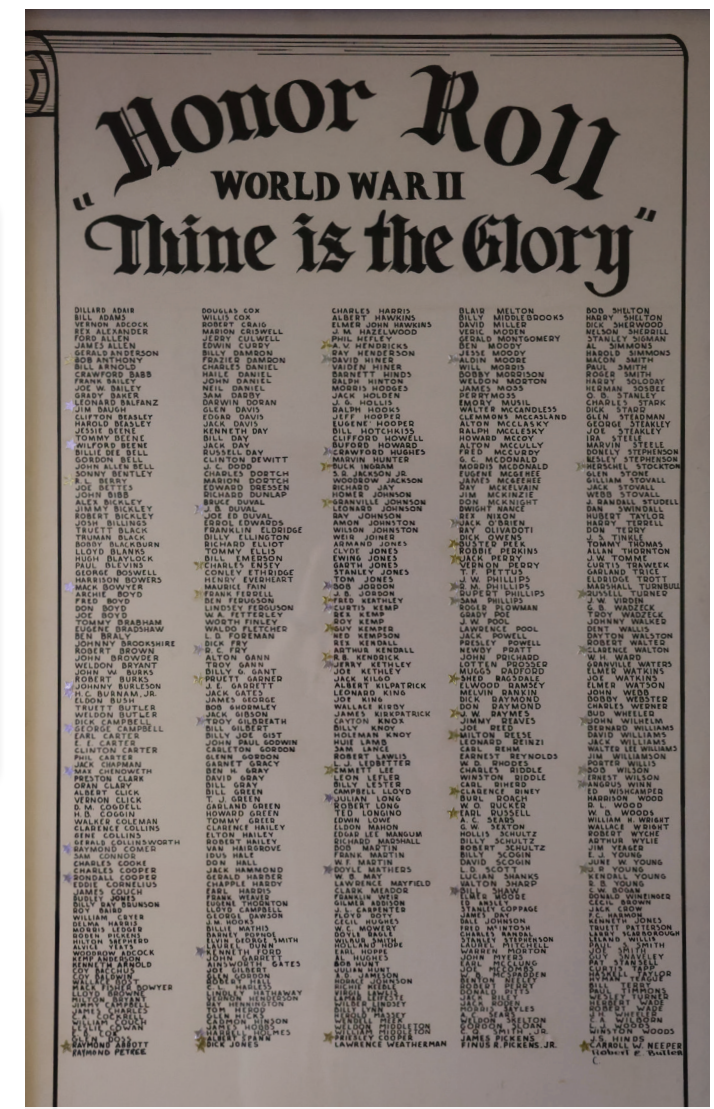


► 1950s Quadrangle with Vet Village and President's residence home in background

45 Post WWII Growth

In spring 1946, McMurry experienced campus housing and classroom shortages due to a 50% surge in enrollment from 87 returning veterans. "Vet Village," comprising 20 houses, 20 trailers, and 15 apartments, was established to provide housing for veterans and their families. It continued to accommodate married students until the construction of Driggers Field in the mid-1990s.

Also in response to post-war enrollment growth "The Quadrangle" – a structure in the form of a hollow square with cracks in the floor that showed the earth beneath – functioned as McMurry's science facility until the Finch-Gray Building was built in the 1960s.



► Gold Star Residence Hall was named in honor of Gold Star families memorialized on this poster inside of Old Main

46 Hershel Kimbrell '50

Hershel Kimbrell holds the record as the longest-serving and most successful basketball coach in McMurry's history, leading the team from 1959 to 1990. During his tenure, the men's basketball team secured the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association (TIAA) title every year but one and Kimbrell celebrated his 400th win as a college coach.

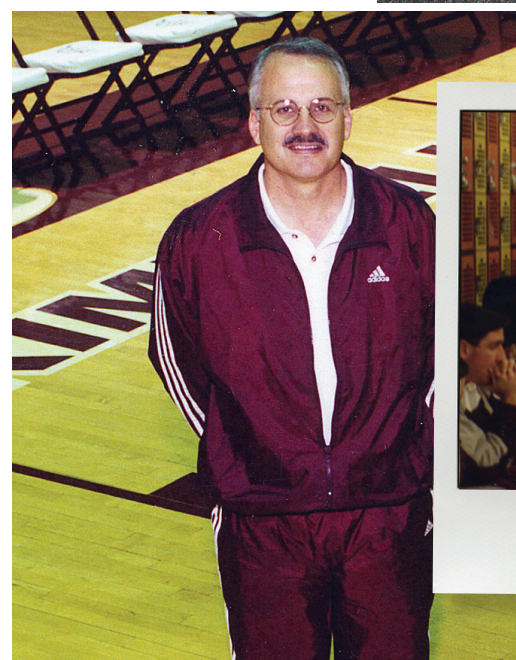


► Hershel Kimbrell '50



47 Ron Holmes '77

As head basketball coach for McMurry from 1990 through 2010, Ron Holmes guided McMurry to five conference championships and played a pivotal role in securing at least a share in seven American Southwest Conference West Division titles. His remarkable .652 winning percentage stands as the highest in McMurry men's basketball history. Holmes is second only to his mentor, Hershel Kimbrell, in total victories.



► Ron Holmes '77

48 Cammie Petree '83

McMurry head volleyball coach Cammie Petree is the winningest coach in school history. Not just volleyball, but any sport. A three-sport letterman while a student at McMurry in basketball, track and volleyball, Petree is the only coach in McMurry athletics history to surpass the 450-win milestone in any sport. Petree completed her 28th season leading the McMurry volleyball program in Fall 2023.



► Cammie Petree '83



49 Chapel & Chaplains

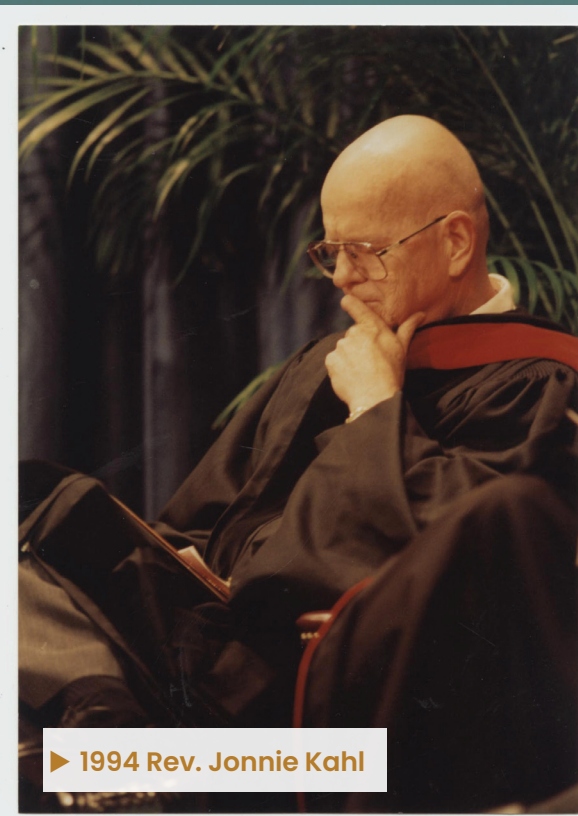
Chapel attendance was once compulsory, then changed to a minimum attendance at various "college series" lectures and events during the semester. Today chapel is offered as a voluntary weekly activity.

The list of McMurry Chaplains includes mostly McMurry alumni:

- Rev. Johnnie Kahl '63 served from 1978 to 1994
- Rev. Jim Wingert served from 1994 to 2003
- Rev. Tim Kennedy '99 served from 2003 to 2014
- Dr. Mark Waters served from 2014 to 2015
- Rev. Jeff Lust '83 served from 2015 to 2017
- Rev. Marty CashBurless '78 served from 2017 to 2023
- Rev. Ricky Harrison '14 is currently serving



► 2022 Praise Team



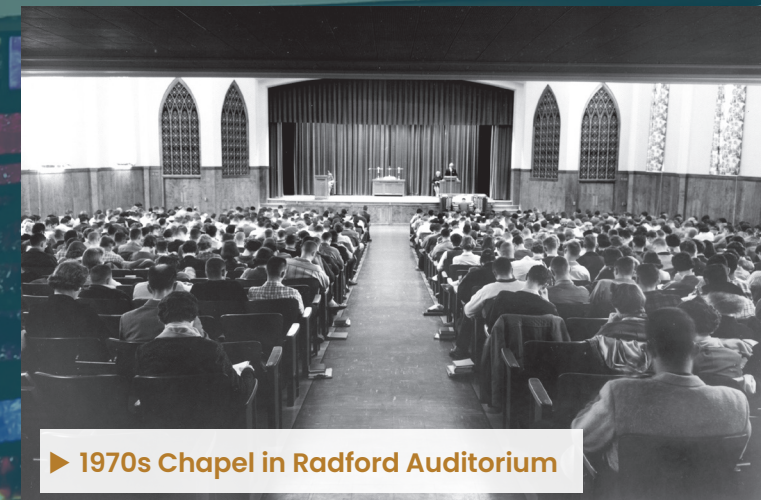
► 1994 Rev. Jonnie Kahl



► 1960s Chapel



► 2022 Rev. Marty CashBurless and Rev. Russell Miller



► 1970s Chapel in Radford Auditorium

50 Sacred Wind

Sacred Wind was created in 1991 by Abilene artist and McMurry alumnus Terry Gilbreth. Located in the center of campus, the statue of the Indian warrior emphasizes the significance of the Native American culture in the founding of McMurry. Through the visual representation of the Indian and the hawk, the statue embodies the past and the present and is a true testament to our shared heritage. In Native American lore, the hawk serves as a messenger from the great holy spirit to human beings.

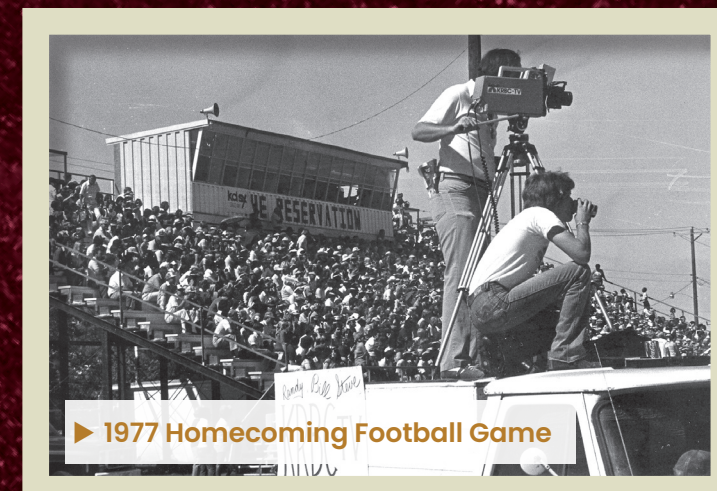
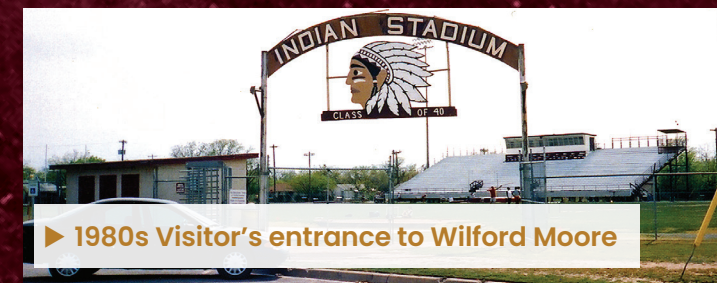


51 Alma Josselet Terrell '40

Alma Josselet Terrell, who earned a degree in elementary education while at McMurry, proudly holds the distinction of being the University's oldest living alum at the remarkable age of 105.



► 1940 Alma Josselet Terrell



► 1980s Visitor's entrance to Wilford Moore

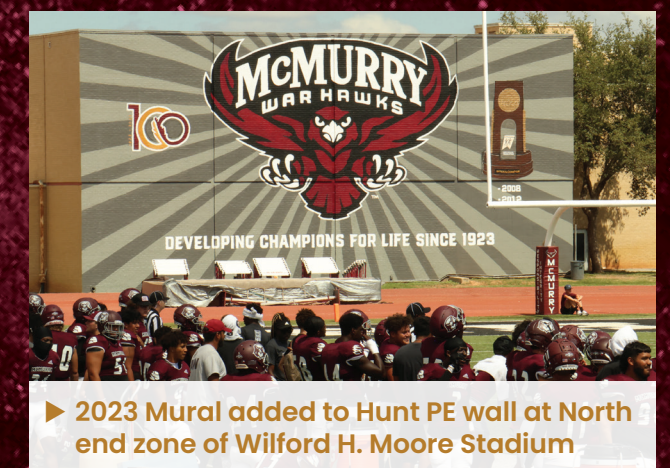
► 1977 Homecoming Football Game

► 2019 Touchdown at the Homecoming game

► 2023 Wilford H. Moore Stadium bird's-eye view

52 The Stadium

Originally opened in 1937, Wilford Moore Stadium was renamed in 2007 in tribute to Wilford H. Moore, one of McMurry's most successful football coaches. Home to McMurry's football, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's track and field teams, the stadium underwent a \$2.2 million renovation in 2012 after the school's most accomplished football season and first-ever NCAA playoff berth in 2011. This upgrade included a new press box, private suites, concession area, restrooms, events deck, elevator, entry concourse, and chair-back stadium seating. In 2021, the stadium received further enhancements with new signage, and in 2022, a mural was added to the north end in celebration of the Centennial.



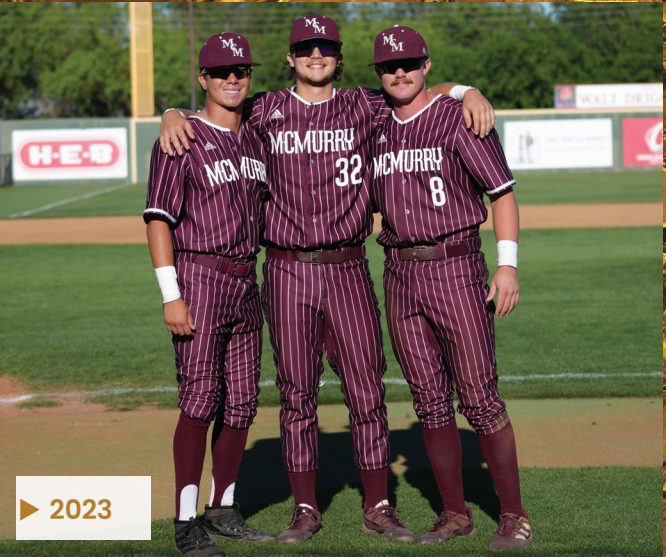
► 2023 Mural added to Hunt PE wall at North end zone of Wilford H. Moore Stadium



► 2005 Driggers Field opened in 1997

53 Baseball

When McMurry brought the baseball program back in 1996 after a 47-year absence, the program received a jumpstart, when by the generous donation of Walt Driggers, the construction of one of the premier NCAA Division III baseball facilities was made possible. Walt Driggers Field seats about 1,000 fans and gives spectators an excellent overhead view of the action. Since its opening, the field has hosted two NCAA West Region Tournaments and was selected as the 2011 West Region Baseball Tournament site.



► 2023



► 1996



► 1924

54 Bishops

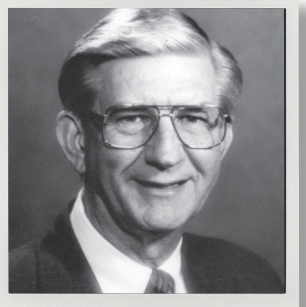
McMurry College was named in honor of Bishop William Fletcher McMurry, who had supported the idea of the Methodist college since the beginning. Four McMurry alumni have since been appointed as United Methodist Bishops.



► Lance Webb '31



► Alsie Carleton '33



► Dan Solomon '58



► Jimmy Nunn '79



55 McMurry Ring

In the fall of 2003, a group of students and alumni representatives met to design a unique ring to represent McMurry University. Their efforts resulted in the official McMurry University Ring, which was unveiled in March 2004. Eligibility to acquire this symbol of academic achievement extends to students and alumni who have amassed at least 60 academic hours.



► 1980s



► 2023



► 2018



▶ 1943

56 The Wah Wahtaysees

In 1926, an exclusive pep squad called the Wah Wahtaysees was formed by invitation only. The name, derived from the Chippewa language, translates to “firefly.” Comprising 50 enthusiastic girls, the squad initially marched at games and public events. Over time, it transformed into a drum corps and eventually evolved into a dynamic women’s service organization.

58 Swimming Pool

In 1988, the Indian Gym, the campus’s third-oldest building with 61 years of service, was razed to pave the way for a modern recreational complex. Completed in 1989, the Phillips Auxiliary Gym facility featured a new swimming pool and a range of courts for badminton, handball, racquetball, basketball, and volleyball. The complex was intended to serve a threefold purpose: providing instruction for the physical education department, offering recreational opportunities for McMurry students, faculty, and staff, and facilitating intercollegiate competition in aquatic sports.



▶ 1988



▶ 2021



▶ 2006



59 Bonfire

The Wah Wahtaysee Park bonfire has been a longstanding Homecoming tradition. Until the mid-1970s, it was ignited symbolically by a flaming arrow shot from Radford Tower. The arrow’s path was facilitated by a wire from the tower to the bonfire, and the role of the “archer” was played by a student dressed as an Indian warrior. In 1975, an unfortunate explosion led to the suspension of the “shooting the arrow” tradition to start the fire. While subsequent bonfires have been smaller, they remain a cherished part of the pep rally held the night before the homecoming game.



▶ 2023

57 Wah Wahtaysee Park

Wah Wahtaysee Park, located at the corner of South 14th Street and Sayles Boulevard, is likely named after the Wah Wahtaysee Pep Squad. Concerts, pep rallies, Slime Olympics, Tipi Village, and the annual Homecoming bonfire have all graced this beloved campus venue. In recent years, the park has hosted a butterfly garden, the Peace Pole, and, in 2023, the southwest corner was transformed into the beautiful Pug Deavenport Parris Centennial Garden.



60 Evolving Technology

The advent of computers streamlined processes, but they introduced new challenges such as breakdowns and the need for extensive manual input, which often prolonged the wait times for students in line.



► 1948 Registration

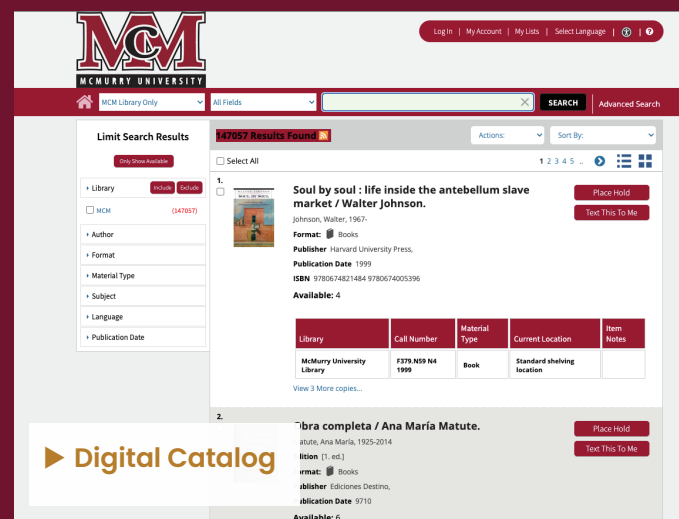
Registration was originally done by hand.



► 1994 Registration Lines



► 1963 Registration



► Digital Catalog

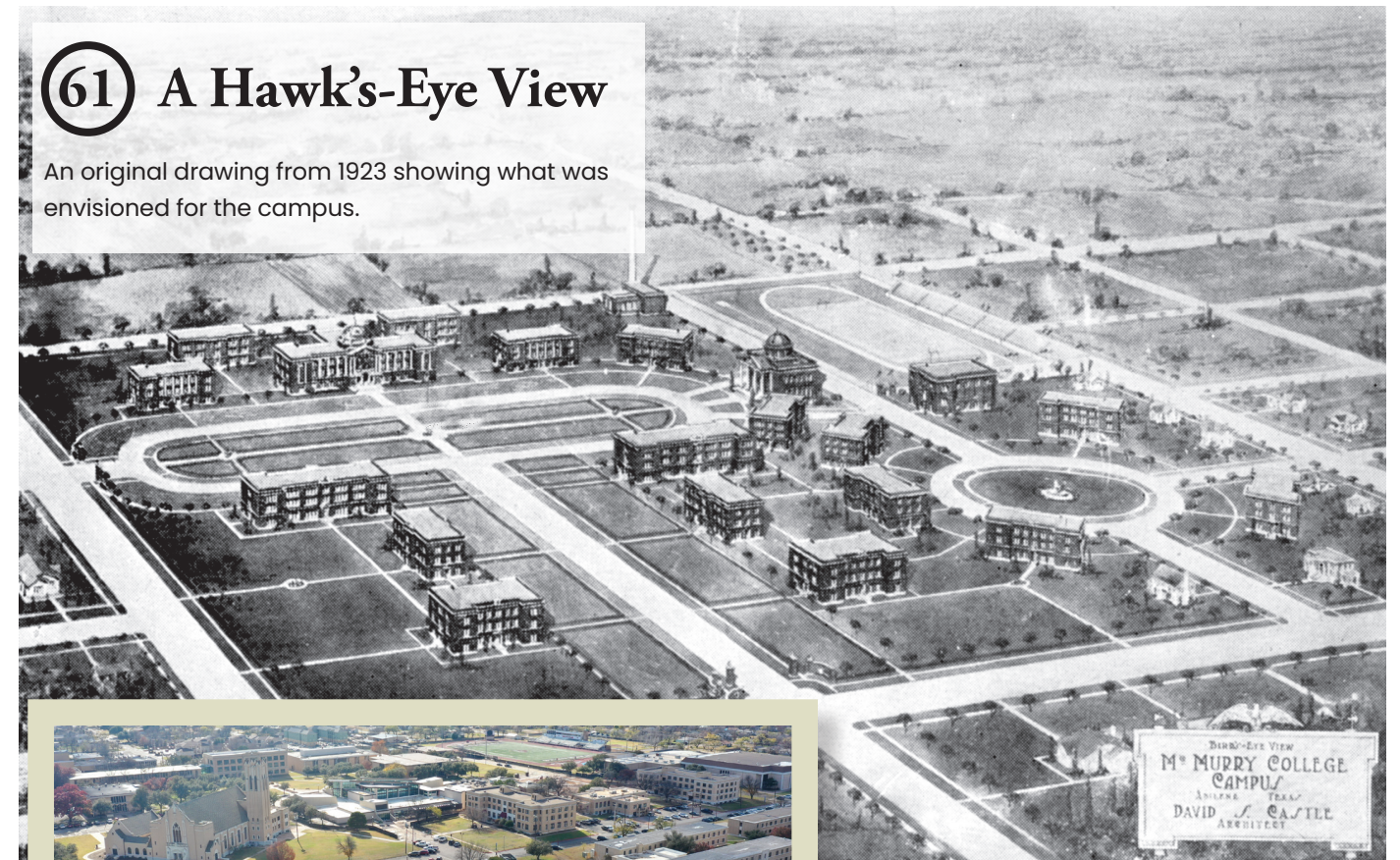
McMurry, HSU, ACU, and the Abilene Public Library established the Abilene Library Consortium in 1986. In 1992, collections of the four libraries were linked into a joint online system. Barcodes were attached to the books from McMurry and the other libraries and linked in a shared operating system.



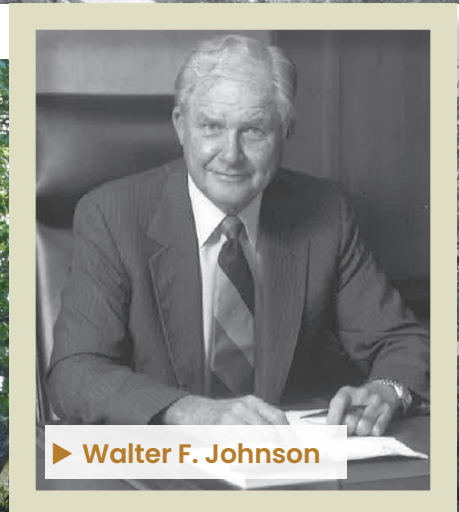
► 1960s Card Catalog

61 A Hawk's-Eye View

An original drawing from 1923 showing what was envisioned for the campus.



► 2023

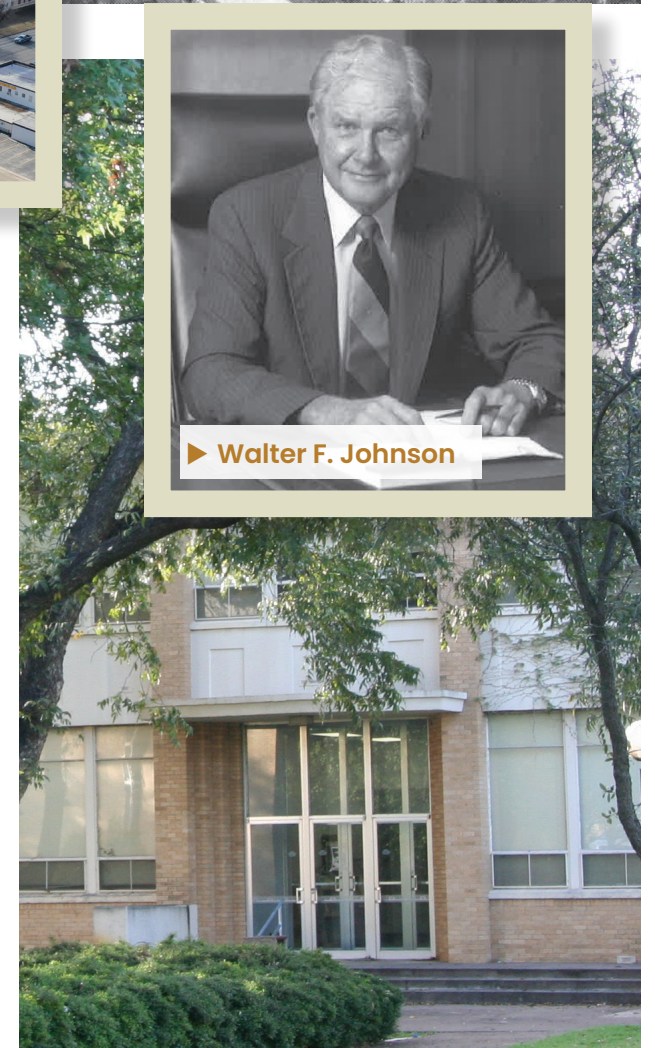


► Walter F. Johnson

62 Walter F. and Virginia Johnson School of Business

In 2016, the school was named in honor of Walter F. Johnson, a dedicated McMurry trustee and the longstanding president of what is now First Financial Bank. Alongside him, his wife, Virginia Johnson, a community leader and volunteer, is also commemorated in the school's name. The deep-rooted connection between the bank and the University predates Johnson's presidency at the bank, beginning with Henry James, who played a pivotal role in the establishment of McMurry in the 1920s.

Since its inception, the Johnson School of Business Endowment has grown, contributing to the expansion of business majors. It has opened new avenues for students, fostering opportunities for study abroad, engaging in international business, exploring entrepreneurship, and delving into economics studies. The legacy of the Johnsons continues to shape the academic landscape of our business programs, leaving a lasting impact on McMurry University.





Big Plans For Little Theater

A lively contemporary comedy such as "The Effect of Gamble Back on Man in the Moon Mountains" may well be the first major production in the McMurry College's new Little Theater at the Arts Center Room Fine Arts Complex.

Dr. Earl Winters, chairman of the speech and theater department and Gary Eldridge, newly arrived theater director, have been getting their heads together over selections in recent days.

Winters hopes to produce a solid modern play in the fall, possibly a group of one acts during January Term and a classic in the spring. He has his eye on Miller's "The Most" for that one.

With Eldridge coming to McMurry from Abilene Community Theater, Winters feels he has the right man for building an outstanding program in the new theater.

Winters and Eldridge agree that they would like to stage each play for a two week run, choosing two or three performers each week on nights when there would be a minimum of conflicts.

More immediately, Eldridge is planning a late summer theater workshop for the Women's Society of Christian Service and another workshop course for area high school teachers.

Eventually, Winters hopes to institute two permanent summer workshops, one in theater and another in forensics.

The overall design of the theater year at McMurry will be what Winters calls "western heritage." He hopes to produce the great Greeks, something from the Renaissance, some Ibsen or Flaubert, a sampling of the great ages of the stage in the western world.

He also has plans for contemporary works. He has suggested two possible modern one acts to Eldridge for January Term.

"Paris on the Battlefield" by Fernand Arrabal, a current Spanish dramatist. This play takes a hard look at the aftermath of war.

"The Ages Shall Inherit the Earth," by Kerter Assington, a current Scandinavian dramatist. This is a bitter comedy about the fate of the earth after mankind destroys itself.

"I hope to stage a program of four plays yearly," says Winters. "Not over that, because we hope to have another program of studio theater, student-involvement things."

Eldridge is enthusiastic about the possibilities of the new theater at McMurry. He points out that only the lighting remains to be finished in the new theater.

Four students have been chosen by the Student Publications Committee to serve as editors for McMurry College publications for the 1971-72 school year.

Stan Kishner, editor-in-chief of the *War Hawk Herald*, cheerleader this year, Frances (Pugi) Davenport asked to move from editorship of the *War Whoop* to more specialized sports editor post. Wendy Trosky will continue as features editor.

Blackburn assisted Hodge without in editing the *Galleon* (Sports). A senior, Blackburn is English major with a specialization in creative writing. He is editing the *Bread Loaf Writer's Conference* in Midland, Texas, this summer.

Davenport has been working as annual staff for three years as chief editor. Last year she worked as an assistant editor, and this summer she will be working as elementary education major in mid-management.

McMurry Publications which makes these lists of Jack Hodges, Dr. Joe Humphrey, Patrick Bennett, Taylor, Sid and Paul

Management Shift For Student Publications

McMurry University *McM* Student Newspaper

War Hawk Herald

Editor at McMurry: Eboo Patel

McMurry University *McM* Student Newspaper

War Hawk Herald

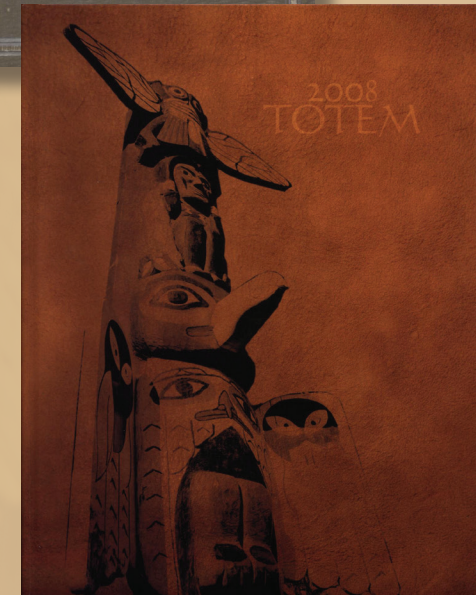
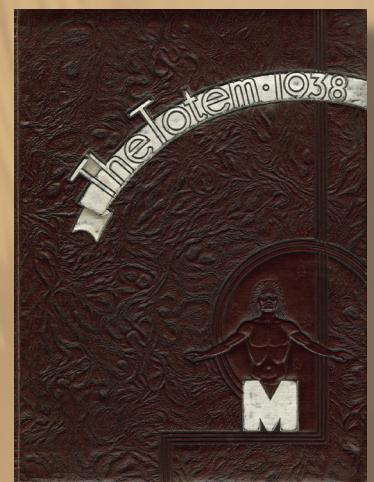
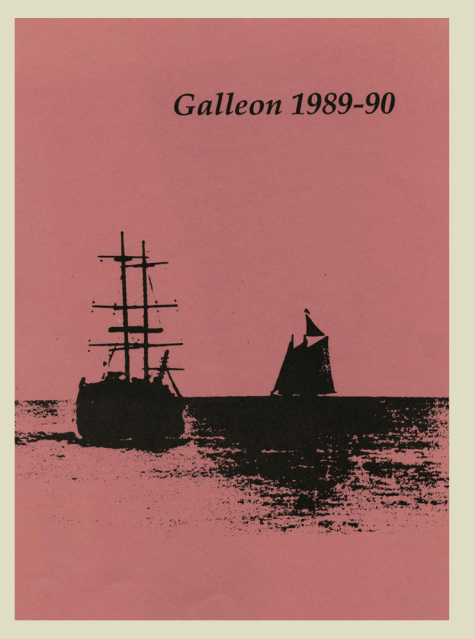
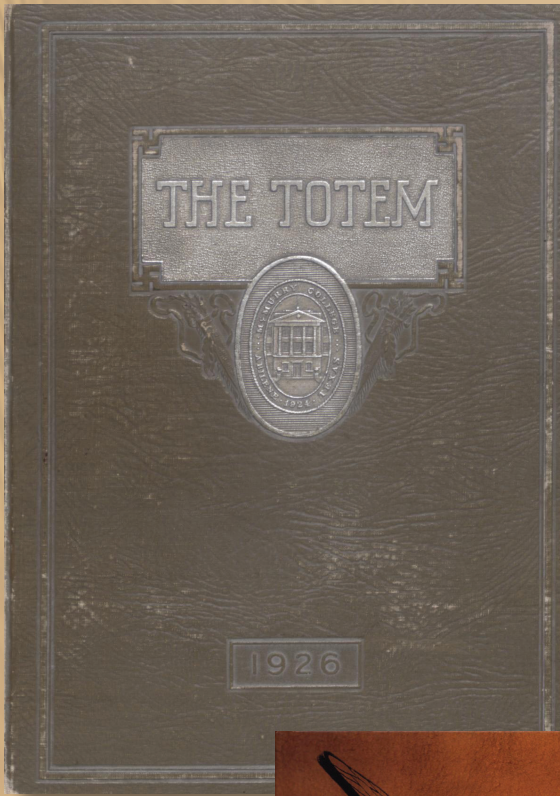
Homecoming

Homecoming at McMurry begins with a parade in the morning, followed by a luncheon and a dance. The parade is held on the main campus and the dance is held at the gymnasium. The homecoming week is a time of celebration and school spirit.

63 McMurry in Print

McMurry's school newspaper, *The War Whoop*, its literary magazine, the *Galleon*, and its yearbook, *The Totem*, were all established in 1923. These publications have played a crucial role in promoting and preserving the vibrant tapestry of campus life throughout the years, while offering invaluable experiential opportunities for their contributors.

The War Whoop began publication in the fall of 1923 and continued in newsprint through the spring of 2006 when it began publishing online. After a brief hiatus, *The War Whoop* was resurrected as *The Tribe Tribune* and eventually transitioned to its current iteration: *The War Hawk Herald*.



64 First-Generation Students

McMurry proudly acknowledges the achievements of its first-generation students, currently comprising approximately 30% of the current student body.



► 2022



► 2023 Admitted Students Day



► 2018



► 2022

65 Hispanic-Serving Institution

McMurry is recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and Minority-Serving Institution (MSI). Our talented graduates are building upon their education to enrich all industry sectors while contributing to the well-being of their fellow citizens.



► 2023

66 Tennis

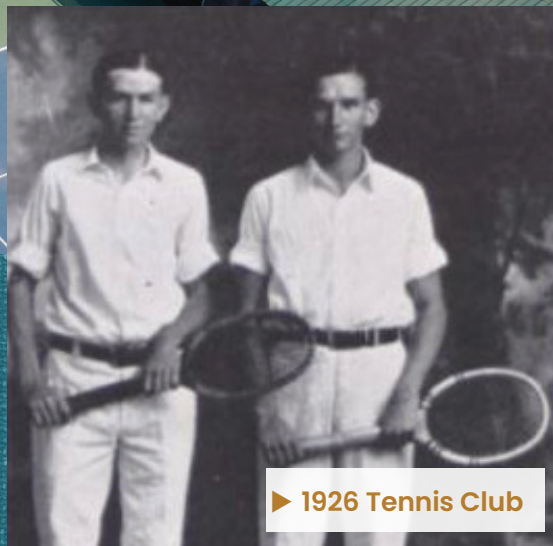
Tennis was organized as a McMurry club sport as far back as 1926. Barbara Seidel Swagerty '56, a dedicated physical education teacher and tennis coach at McMurry for many years, truly transformed tennis into a competitive sport with her passion and love for the University. In 2011, her generosity led to the creation of the Barbara Seidel Swagerty Tennis Center and supported an endowment for maintenance and the addition of a nearby parking lot. Her team secured six state championships and went to nationals in 1997.



► 2017



► 2023



► 1926 Tennis Club

67 Shaping the Future Campaign

In 2008, McMurry University initiated the Shaping the Future campaign, aiming to enhance facilities, attract top-notch faculty and students, and create an optimal learning environment for emerging leaders. The campaign raised over \$37 million, leading to the completion of projects like the Furr Welcome Center and the Seidel Swagerty Tennis Center, as well as renovations to the Bynum Band Hall and Old Main.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN, visit www.shaping.mcm.edu

"We live in a rapidly changing and highly competitive world where consumers focus on value. The Capital Campaign will allow McMurry to continue offering a 'Best Value' education to our students!"
- Rich Brozovic, Instructor of Computer Science

"I'm proud to wear this pin because it shows that I'm proud to be a part of Shaping the Future here at McMurry."
- Felicia Parvules, Secretary for the School of Social Sciences and Religion

"Count me in for the Capital Campaign. I don't want to miss the opportunity to help McMurry get the facilities it needs."
- Bob Gillett, Associate Director of Library Services

McMurry's Shaping the Future Campaign focuses on four primary areas that reflect the priorities of the University and a balanced campaign. In the following pages, we'll explore the different areas and how they will enhance the McMurry Experience for our students.

Responding to the national need for graduates in science and math \$20 MILLION	Increasing endowments for merit and need-based scholarships to attract exceptional students \$6 MILLION
Refining the McMurry Experience through facility improvements and construction \$17 MILLION	Creating endowed chairs for recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members \$10 MILLION

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY | 7

68 Time to Thrive Campaign

In 2022, McMurry launched the Time to Thrive campaign, with the goal of modernizing and expanding the aging campus center. The transformation seeks to go beyond meeting the needs of McMurry's students, faculty, staff, and visitors; it also aims to inspire and engage them, serving as the symbolic and functional heart of campus. The campaign achieved its goal, raising over \$15 million, and the redesigned Garrison United Methodist Campus Center is set to open in early 2024.



► 2023 A Doll's House

69 Theatre Productions

In McMurry's early years, the Dramatic Club presented numerous plays annually. Today, McMurry's Department of Theatre operates like a nonprofit theatre arts company, involving students in the world of theatre through study, practice, performance, and production. Underclassmen frequently perform, while upperclassmen take on roles directing and designing full-length productions, delighting audiences of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the greater Abilene community with four to seven productions each year.



► 1975



► 1970s



► 2023 Exit, Pursued By A Bear

70 Study Abroad

McMurry is committed to helping students – regardless of socioeconomic background or academic major – access a transformative study abroad experience, expanding learning beyond the classroom and enriching their educational experience with captivating cultural excursions and activities.



► 2020 Art Trip to Stonehenge



► 2005 Chanters London Bridge



► 1975 Europe



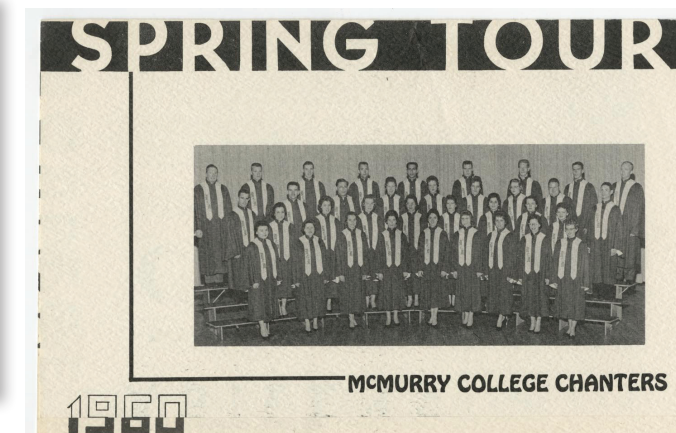
► 2005 London and Paris, Statue of John Wesley



► 2010 Jordan



► 1950s Band Mexico Tour



1960



71 Rev. Bill Libby

In August 2021 McMurry dedicated Libby Plaza in honor of Reverend Bill Libby, a beloved pastor, coach, professor, and mentor. Rev. Libby was dedicated to McMurry University for over 20 years. He was beloved by students and faculty alike for his wisdom, advice, and always being present at integral activities on campus including sporting events, plays, concerts, and Chapel. He was not only generous with his presence but with his treasure. From the elevator in Maedgen Lobby to study abroad scholarships, Rev. Libby made many financial contributions to the advancement of McMurry University.



► Westminster



72 Mey Fete

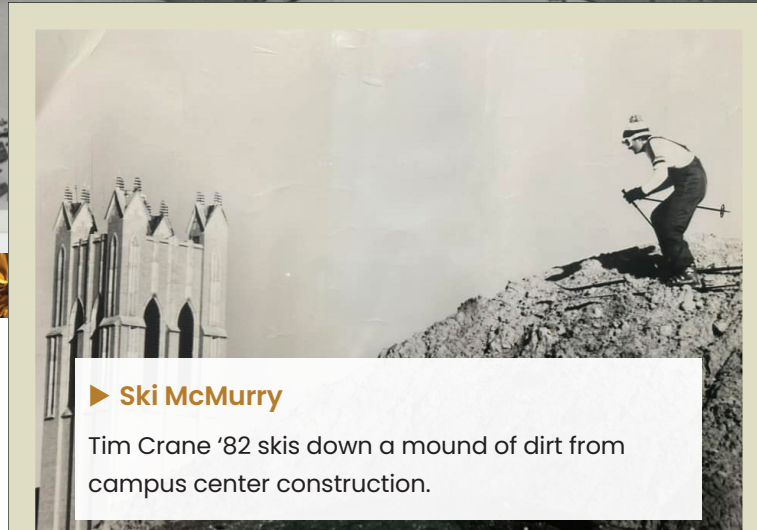
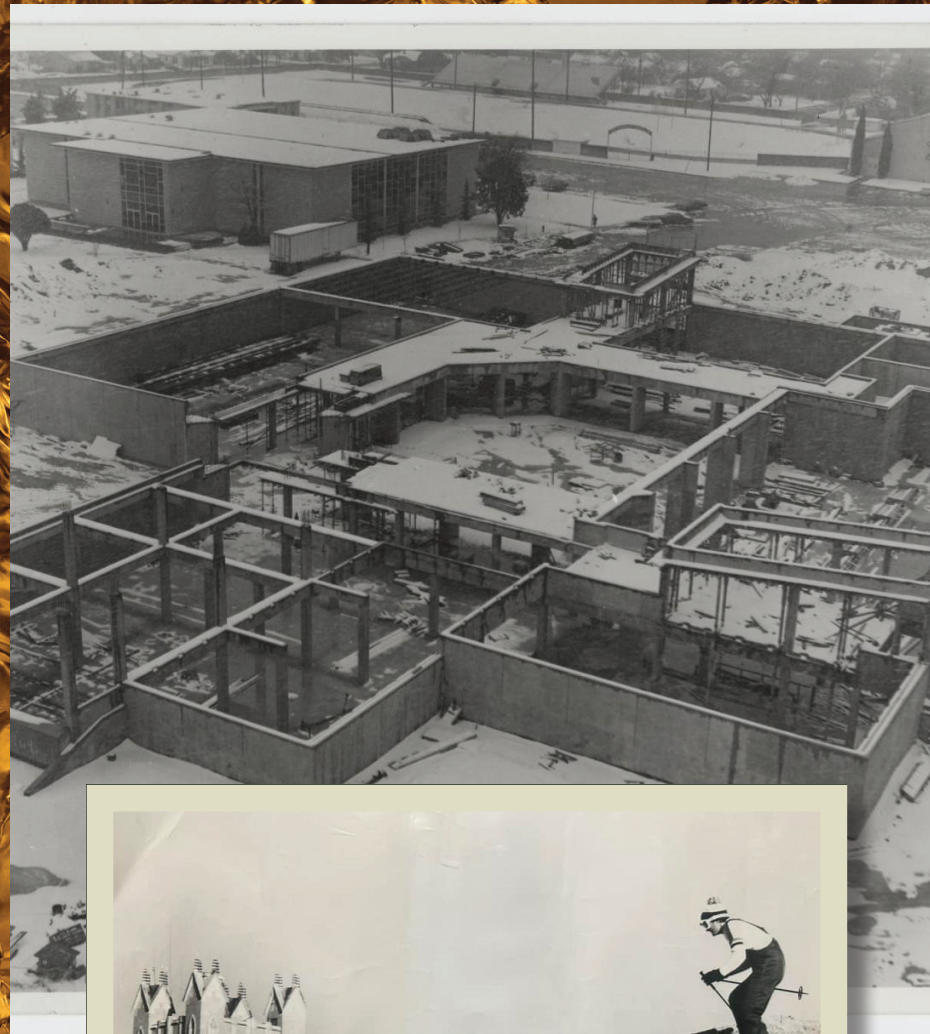
McMurry's May Fete celebration was a traditional festival that involved outdoor activities that included maypole dancing, flower crowning ceremonies, floats, music, and various performances that captivated both the University community and local school children through the 1930s and early 1940s.



► 1920s President Dr. James Winford Hunt crowns Gypsy Ted Sullivan Wylie Queen of May Fete

73 Campus Center

In 1979, McMurry undertook a significant project with the construction of the Shirley L. and Mildred Garrison United Methodist Campus Center. The initial plan included a park-like area on the top of the building that was largely to be constructed below ground level. However, this idea was abandoned when an unexpected layer of rock elevated the structure. Fast forward 40 years, and the campus center has been revamped into the University's "living room," equipped with 21st-century connectivity, a fitness and wellness center, and improved gathering spaces. The reimaged Garrison Campus Center, unlike the original inward-focused design, now boasts 58,000 square feet full of natural light and open spaces that convey confidence, aspiration, and openness.

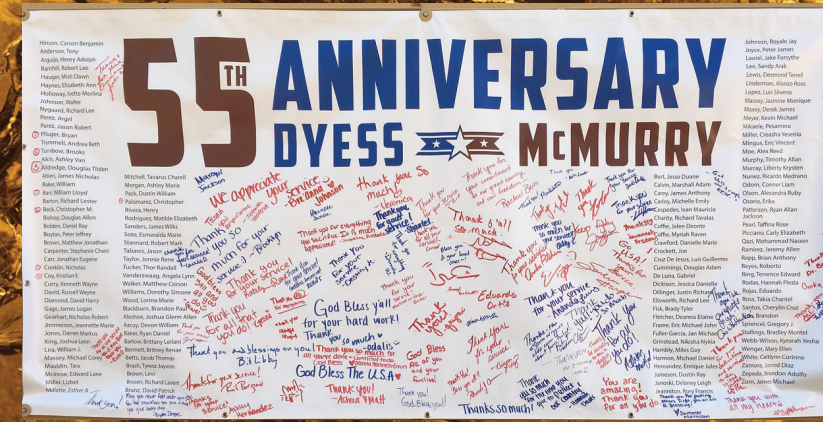


► Ski McMurry

Tim Crane '82 skis down a mound of dirt from campus center construction.

74 Indian Gym

The McMurry basketball team played outdoors before getting an indoor court on campus in 1927. However, that gym was destroyed in May 1930 by a storm with winds of 115 miles per hour. Indian Gym was built in 1930 and remained the home court for the men's basketball team until the construction of Hunt PE Center in 1973, the same year the first women's intercollegiate basketball team was formed.



75 Dyess Program

McMurry and Dyess Air Force Base are proud of their partnership since 1960 that has helped countless active-duty members to achieve their academic goals.



► 2022 Military Appreciation Game

76 Apartments

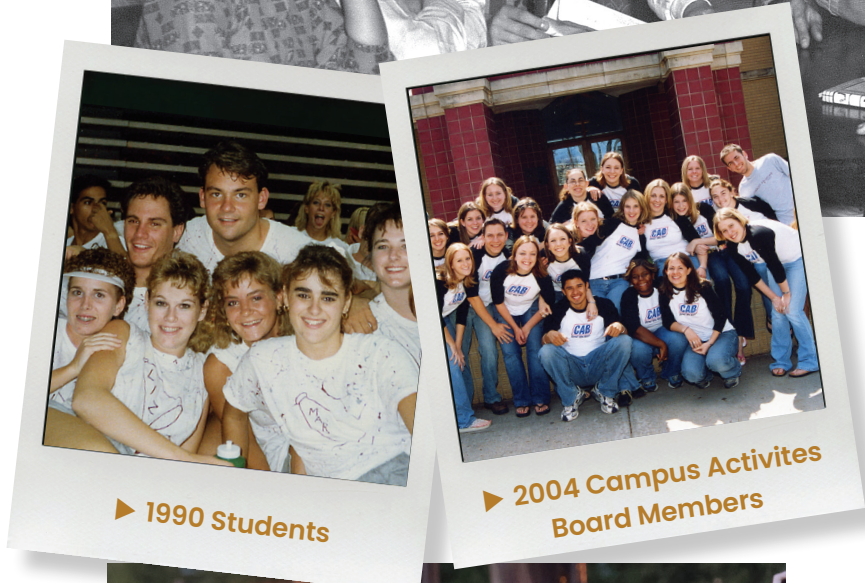
Prior to the fall 2001, on-campus housing options were limited to residence halls. This model shifted with the addition of apartments that provided housing for two and four students. A second apartment complex designed exclusively for upperclassmen featuring four-bedroom apartments was opened in early 2024. The newly erected apartments are aptly named Centennial Commons, a tribute to their completion year coinciding with McMurry's Centennial celebration. The existing apartments have been named Aerie Heights, drawing inspiration from the term 'aerie,' the term for a hawk's nest.



▶ 1960 Student Study Group

77 Students Over the Decades

No matter how much the campus changes, students always find a way to mix fun and study. From hitting the books to discovering new ways to goof off, the good times keep rolling.

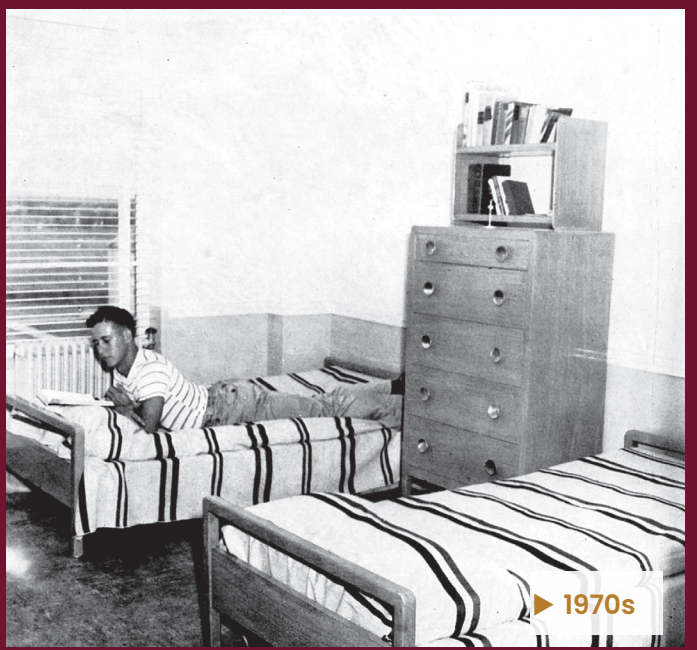


▶ 1990 Students

▶ 2004 Campus Activities Board Members



▶ 2023 Welcome Week



▶ 1970s



▶ 2009

78 Dorm Life

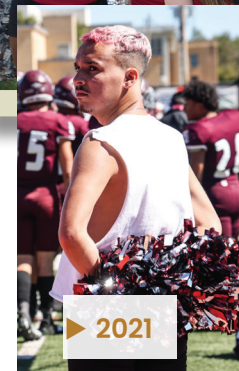
Students who reside on campus connect with peers in similar life stages, fostering bonds that enrich both their educational and social experiences. Journey back in time to see how McMurry students decorated their dorm rooms through the years. For some, decorating dorm rooms has evolved into a thousand-dollar investment.

79 Spirit Squad

The McMurry Talons Dance Team, War Hawk Cheerleaders, and Color Guard embody the spirit and tradition of our students. As ambassadors of the University, these spirit teams support all athletic events and promote enthusiasm and spirit throughout our campus. Go War Hawks!



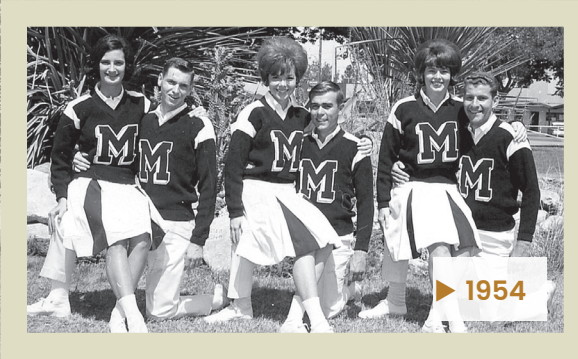
▶ 2016



▶ 2021



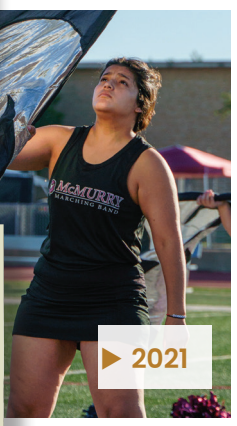
▶ 2021



▶ 1954



▶ 1990s



▶ 2021



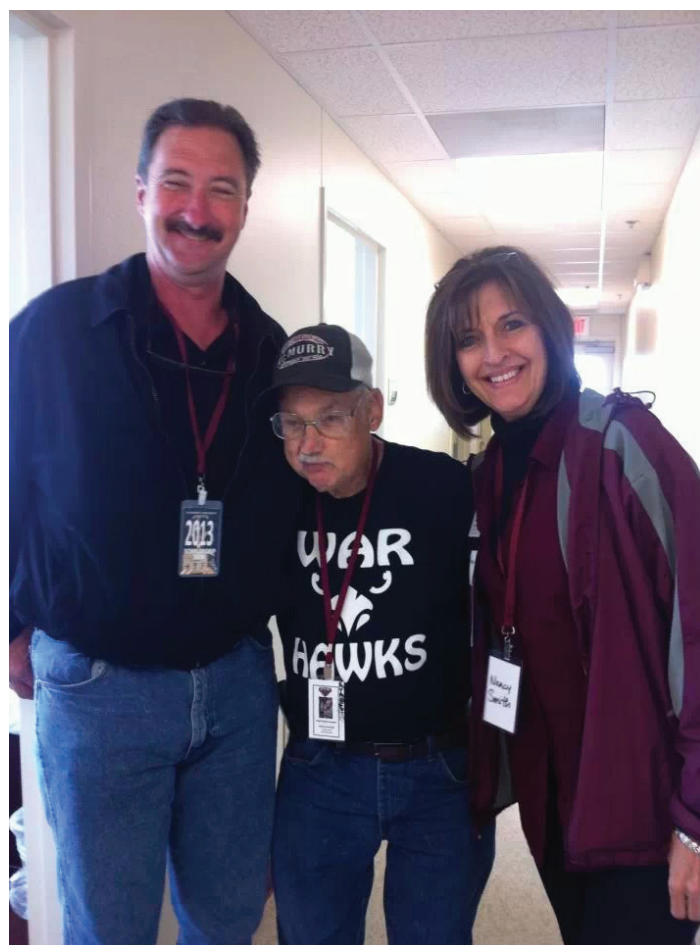
▶ 2023

80 McMurry Student Government (MSG)

Throughout its history, the McMurry student body has engaged in the democratic process by annually electing a representative from each of the classes in addition to an executive council.



▶ 1964



81 Neel Lemond

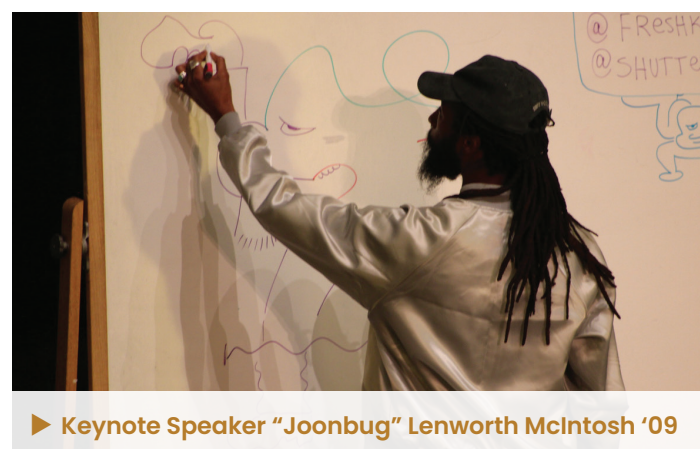
Known affectionately as “Coach Neel” by generations of McMurry students, staff, and faculty, Neel Lemond forged a connection with the University that spanned over 50 years. Neel was a cherished institution at McMurry and was considered “family”, residing across the street from campus from 1957 to 1990. He was a regular at just about every campus event and probably spent more time “working” around the campus athletic facilities than any single coach on the McMurry payroll. Coach Neel was inducted into the McMurry Athletics Hall of Honor in 1996 and named to the McMurry 100.



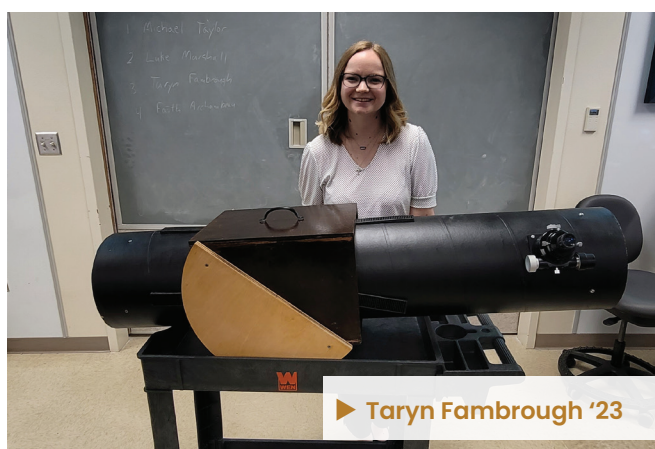
► Rajan Cunningham '23

82 Academic Symposium

In April 2023, McMurry held a special academic conference to celebrate student success and the Centennial year – The Symposium for Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Works. Classes were suspended for the day so the whole campus could participate in a day of learning and community.



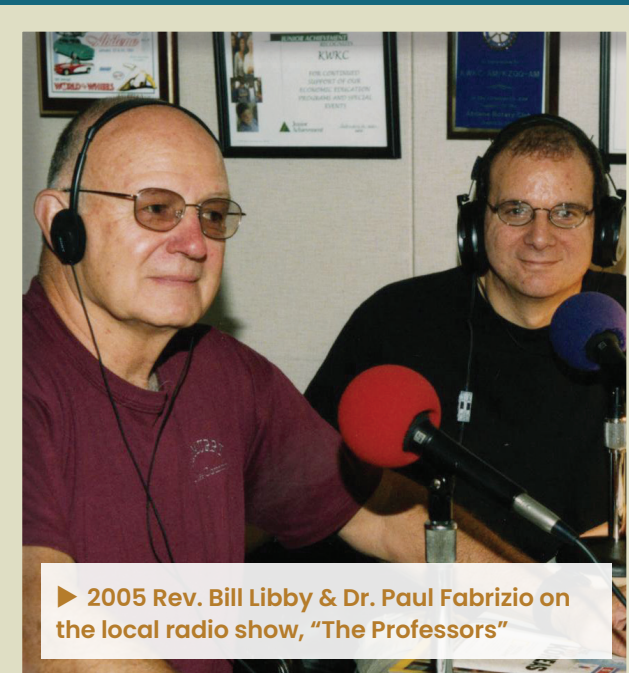
► Keynote Speaker “Joonbug” Lenworth McIntosh '09



► Taryn Fambrough '23

83 Faculty

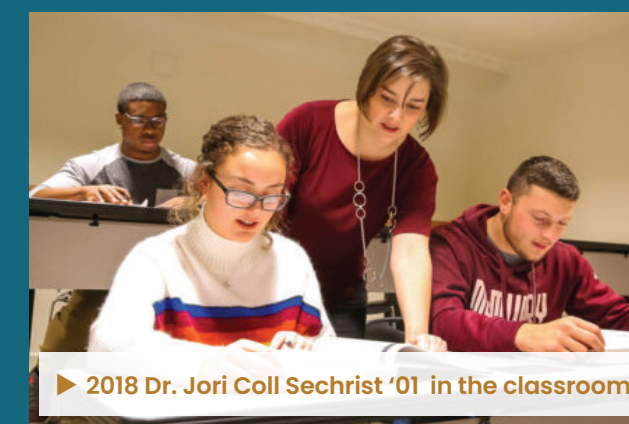
A faculty that started with zero doctorates and only three master's degrees now has 77% of the professors with terminal degrees.



► 2005 Rev. Bill Libby & Dr. Paul Fabrizio on the local radio show, “The Professors”



► Dr. Robert Wallace, Professor of Sociology, longest current tenured faculty



► 2018 Dr. Jori Coll Sechrist '01 in the classroom

84 Classrooms

Today's classrooms are filled with students who grew up with high-speed computers and constant internet access. They navigate TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat in seconds, making educational technology of the past, like chalkboards and overhead projectors, appear laughably antiquated. Technology continues to push educational capabilities to new levels.



► 1975



► 1970



► 2015

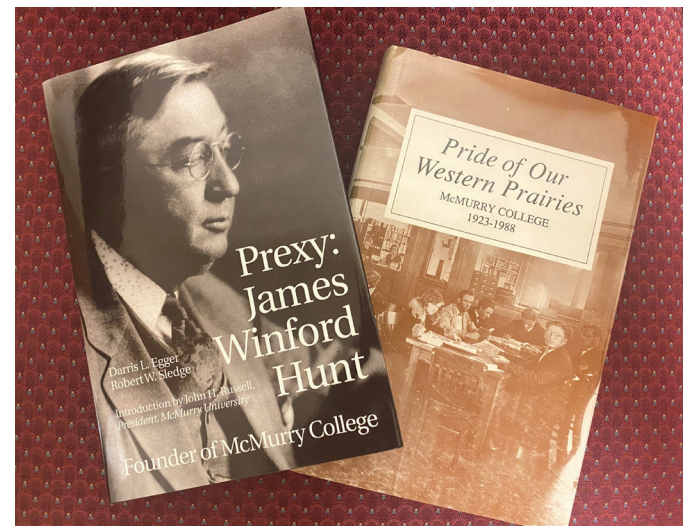


85 Water Feature

In 2019, a water feature was added to the campus landscape as a memorial for Dr. Clifford Trotter '51 and his wife, Irene. They exemplified servant leadership in their ministry and relationships, and left an inspiring legacy for future generations. Named the Reverend Dr. Clifford Trotter and Mrs. Irene Trotter Fountain, it showcases 60-inch-tall stone pillars within a Celtic cross.

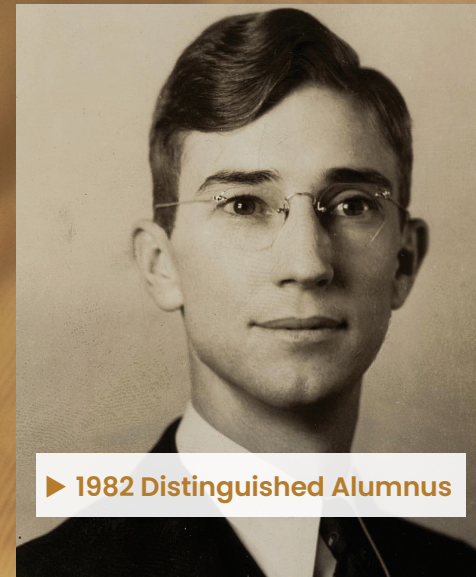
86 Historic Publications

McMurry's most extensive historical publication, "Pride of Our Western Prairies," was published in 1989 with Dr. Fane Downs and Dr. Rober Sledge as editors. Dr. Sledge who served as history professor, faculty leader, and university historian at McMurry from 1969 to 2001, also published "Prexy: James Winford Hunt, Founder of McMurry College" in 2009.

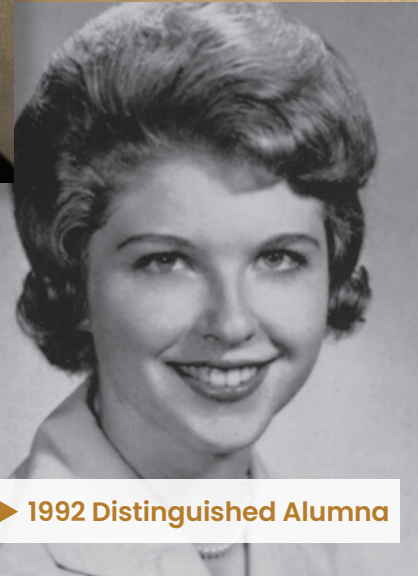


87 New Student Orientation

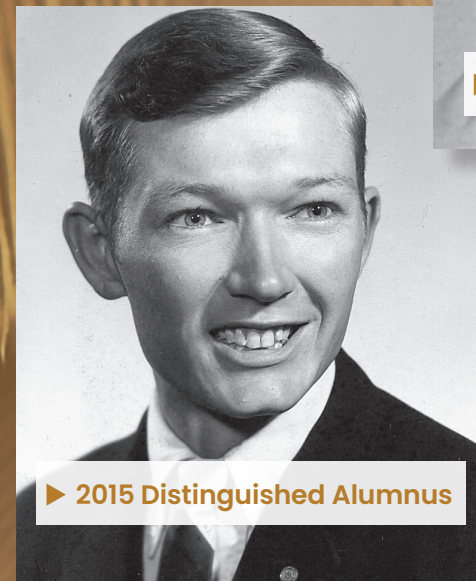
Student Orientation and Registration (SOAR) is a comprehensive two-day summer program designed for incoming first-time freshmen. At SOAR, incoming students get introduced to campus culture, enroll in fall classes, and begin to develop connections with students and staff.



► 1982 Distinguished Alumnus



► 1992 Distinguished Alumna



► 2015 Distinguished Alumnus



► Larry Conlee established the A.C. Sharp Scholarship

88 Dan Dodson '31

Dan Dodson was a champion for civil rights. He contributed to getting the color line dropped in Major League Baseball by helping identify Jackie Robinson as a standout player of interest for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Dodson fought tirelessly for African-American rights in public schools and played a major role in integrating New York's public school system.

89 Sarah Weddington '64

Sarah Weddington achieved prominence as an attorney, legislator, and presidential advisor. In her early legal career, she became the youngest person to argue and win a case before The Supreme Court of the United States. She dedicated herself to developing women leaders by addressing contemporary issues affecting their professional and personal lives, as well as their communities.

90 Roger Ward '67

Roger Ward was a student of Dr. Virgil E. Bottom in the McMurry Physics Department. He became an expert in the field of quartz crystals for electronic applications and went on to have a career in quartz crystal technology that ranged from Hewlett Packard Laboratories to Motorola's pocket pager group and finally to Quartzdyne, Inc. where he helped develop industry-leading pressure sensors for downhole oil and gas wells.

91 Larry F. Conlee '71

Larry F. Conlee served as COO of engineering and manufacturing for Research In Motion Limited (the company that introduced BlackBerry devices to the consumer market) from 2001 to 2009 and was key to the company's platform management strategy.



92 McMurry 100

As part of the Centennial celebration, the University honored individuals who significantly influenced the institution in academic, emotional, financial, leadership, or mission-driven support during its first 100 years. These outstanding individuals represent diverse groups, such as students, faculty, staff, donors, civic leaders, and trustees. The selection process ensured that the honorees embodied McMurry's extensive 100-year history across all 10 decades.



93 All-Century Teams

All-Century Teams include athletes and coaches contributing to winning records, student growth, and national championships. From legendary coach Wilford Moore to record-holding athletes, the All-Century Teams honorees are comprised of those who upheld the NCAA philosophy of excellence. Recipients were honored on October 7, 2023, at a ceremony in Radford Auditorium followed by a field recognition at the football game.



ALL-CENTURY TEAMS



2023 Keynote Sheryl Swoopes



2022 Scholarship Recipients

94 Women's Leadership Luncheon

The 10th Women's Leadership Luncheon was held in Kimbrell Arena on March 23, 2023, with Sheryl Swoopes, former WNBA superstar, as guest speaker. Sheryl's brother, James Swoopes '90, was a standout on McMurry's men's basketball team. The first Women's Leadership Luncheon was held in March 2014 in honor of the inauguration of Dr. Sandra S. Harper as the first woman president of an Abilene university. The inaugural event's proceeds established a scholarship in Dr. Harper's name. Since then, \$5,000 scholarships have been awarded to 17 outstanding female students, and over \$221,000 has been added to the Dr. Sandra S. Harper Women's Leadership Scholarship Endowment.



2014 Planning Committee

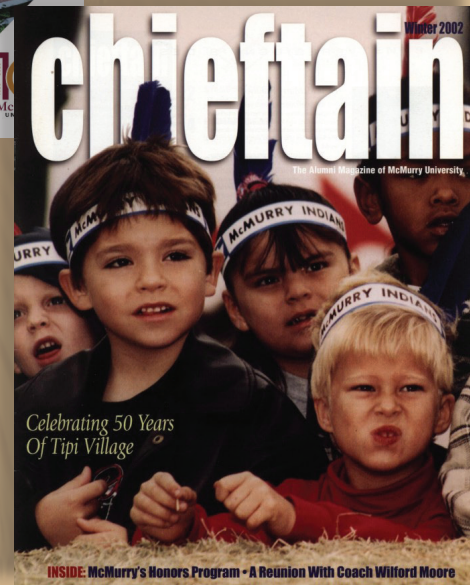


95 Anniversary Celebrations

McMurry celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1998, and sealed a time capsule during that year. Dr. Jori Coll Sechrist '01 can be seen at the 75th anniversary celebration with Jeremy Wallace '01, Kristin Justus '01, and Cortney Grosz '01.

96 Alumni Magazine

The Chieftain began as a quarterly alumni newsletter in 1953. In 1978 it transitioned to magazine format. In 2012 the title changed to *The Messenger* to align with the mascot change. The cover of the first issue of *The Messenger* featured a quote by McMurry alumnus and well-known sculptor, Terry Gilbreath, that is also inscribed on the *Sacred Wind* statue located in the center of campus, "Someone who desires knowledge should always listen to the messenger and keep his eye on the hawk."



97 The Final Ala Cumba

Introduced by Dr. Pug Parris in 2013, the Final Ala Cumba ceremony has become an annual Homecoming event dedicated to honoring the memory of departed McMurry alumni, friends, former students, faculty, and staff. This year's ceremony, held on the Sunday of Homecoming weekend, included a worship service that hosted families paying tribute to their loved ones and a record number of friends from the McMurry community offering support.

98 Chocolate Lizards

Chocolate Lizards is a 2023 American comedy-drama directed by Mark Lambert Bristol. It is based on the 1999 novel of the same name written by Cole Thompson, McMurry professor of English. The storyline centers around an aspiring actor recently fired from his first acting gig. On the road from New Orleans to Los Angeles, his car breaks down outside Buffalo Gap, Texas, and he lands a job working on an oil rig.

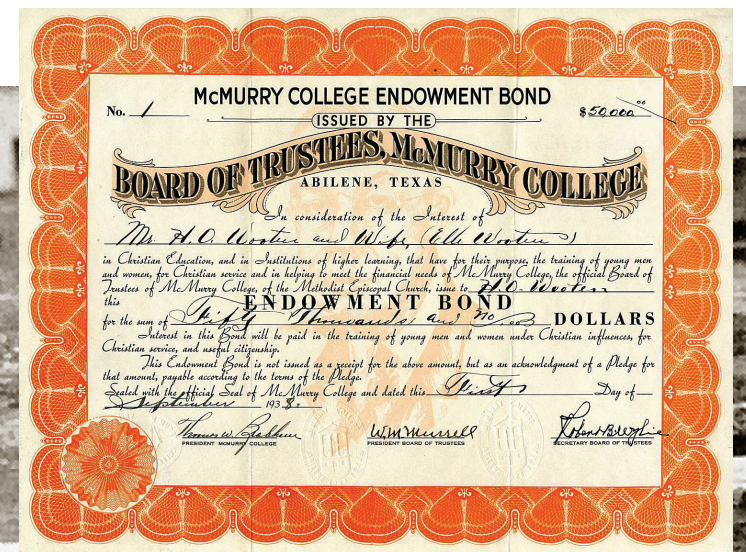


► Dr. Cole Thompson



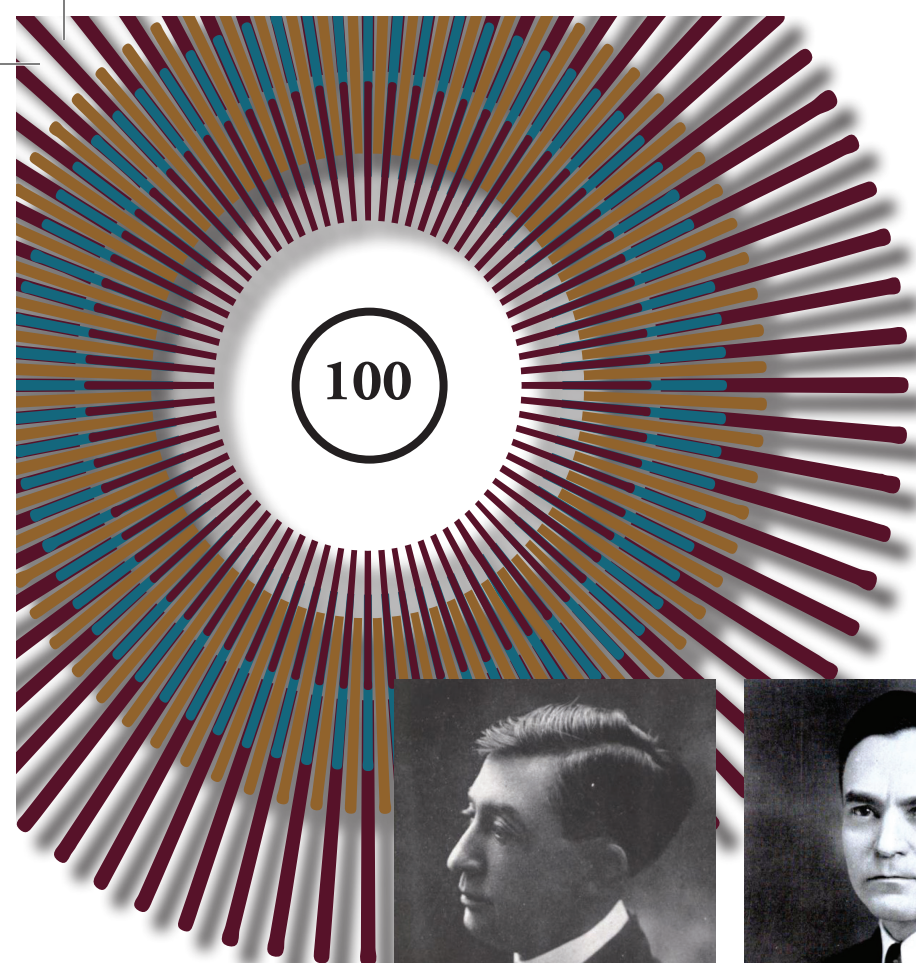
99 Endowment

While McMurry initially struggled to secure an endowment for accreditation with the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools in its early decades, it now claims an endowment of more than \$100,000,000 – a remarkable achievement for a small university.



► April 6, 1935 Founders Day

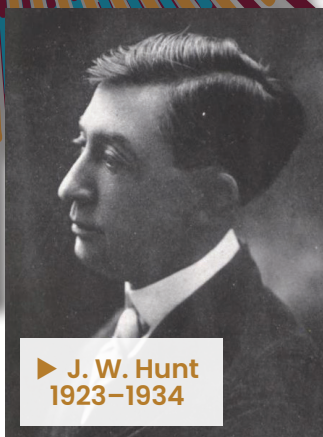
A \$40,000 note burned in the fireplace by the Rock Garden after it had been paid off by McMurry College.



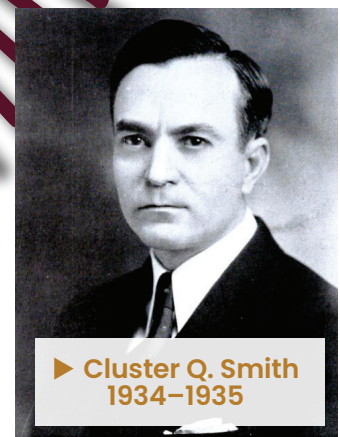
100

McMurry Presidents

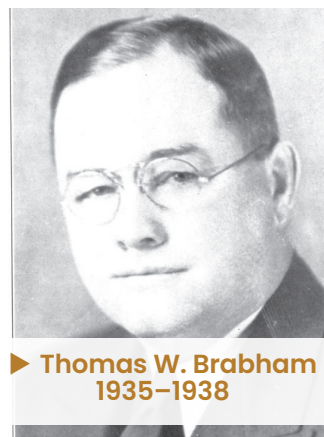
McMurry University has been guided by 10 presidents over the span of a century. Dr. Thomas Kim holds the distinction of being the longest-serving president, dedicating an impressive 23 years to shaping the institution's legacy.



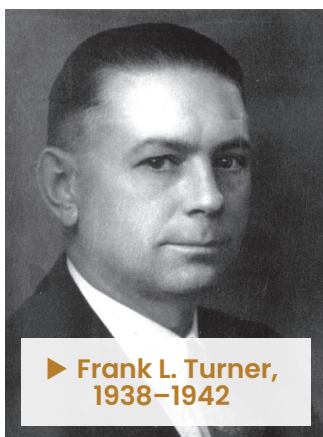
▶ J. W. Hunt
1923-1934



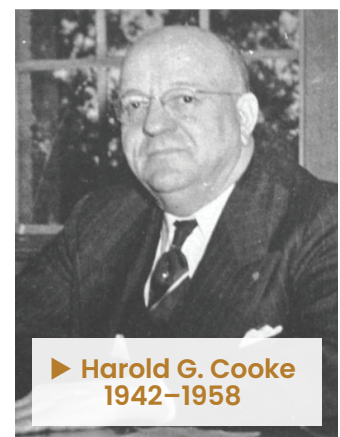
▶ Cluster Q. Smith
1934-1935



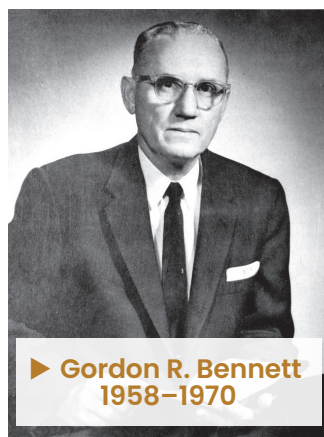
▶ Thomas W. Brabham
1935-1938



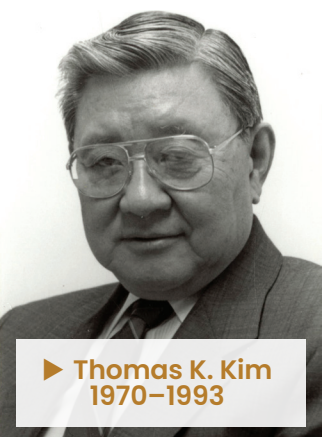
▶ Frank L. Turner,
1938-1942



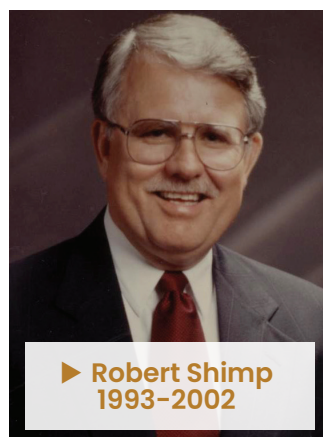
▶ Harold G. Cooke
1942-1958



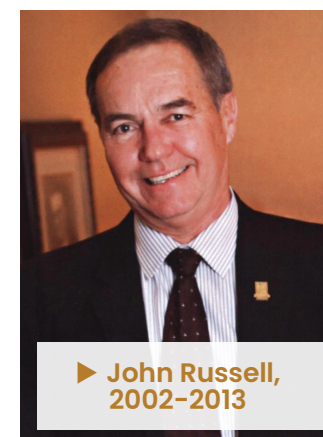
▶ Gordon R. Bennett
1958-1970



▶ Thomas K. Kim
1970-1993



▶ Robert Shimp
1993-2002



▶ John Russell,
2002-2013



▶ Sandra S. Harper
2013-present

Together, We Are McMurry!



▶ 1950s IHR Banquet



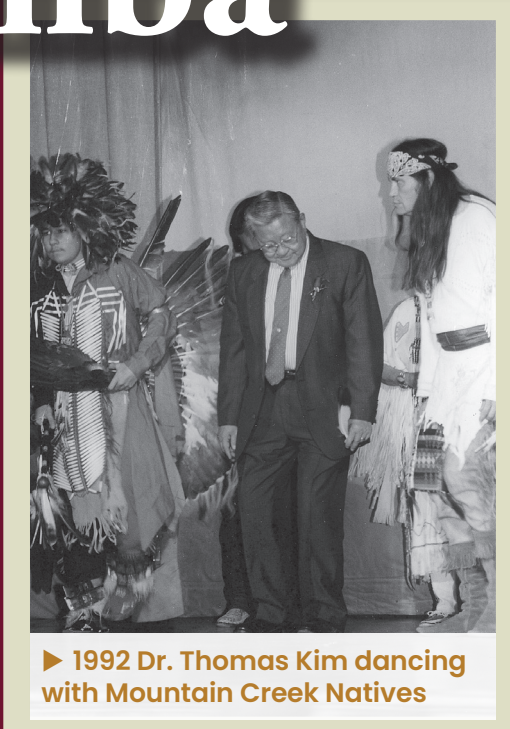
▶ 1950s KIVA



▶ 2013 Homecoming



▶ 2004 APO Pledges



▶ 1992 Dr. Thomas Kim dancing
with Mountain Creek Natives



▶ 2023 McMurry Football



▶ September 11, 2001 Campus Memorial

Ala Cumba

"Ala Cumba" translates to "on to victory" and is typically heard at McMurry sporting events or during special events. The phrase was coined the year Tipi Village was introduced.