

WHAT IS SGA DOING?



February, 2025
Third Edition



GET INVOLVED—Join a SGA Committee!

We invite any USAO student to get involved in one of our active committees. These committees are essential for gathering essential feedback and developing solutions to issues that matter most to our campus community.

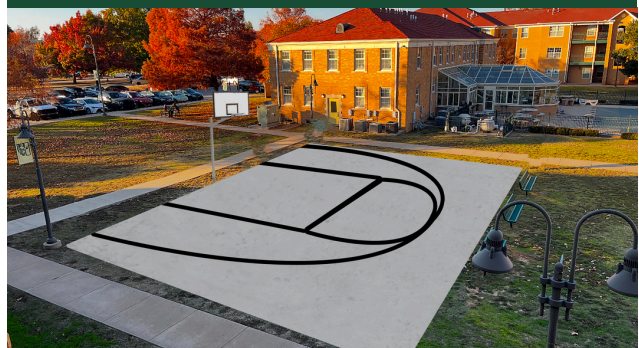
Want more info?
Check out our website:



**SGA Drover
Difference Day 2025**

**Update on Our
Current Initiatives!**

**Student & Staff
Spotlight**



Scroll for more details!



Drover Difference Day

What is Drover Difference Day?

Drover Difference Day is a day of service that allows students, faculty, staff and alumni to volunteer and make a difference throughout the Chickasha community.

When is it?

Drover Difference Day 2025 will be on Friday, March 28th. Whether you're only available for 2 hours or the whole day, we encourage all to sign up!

How can I sign up?

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE!](#)



Be Difference Makers, Drovers!





NEW VENDING MACHINES!

We've teamed up with Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, located in Chickasha, to order 10 new vending machines to campus, ensuring every building is covered! In addition, we've upgraded all our existing machines with card readers for added convenience. The new machines will offer a wider selection of snacks, bottled water, and beverages. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the vending machine survey—we received 90 responses and forwarded them all to DP! New card readers have just been installed in Sparks Hall, and the new machines will be arriving in about 2-3 weeks!

Help Pres. Hale on USAO 5-Year Strategic Plan

As part of the USAO 5-Year Strategic Plan, the SGA has been actively involved in gathering feedback and suggestions from students to help shape the university's priorities for the coming years. President Hale has tasked us with collecting concrete ideas and input from the student body, so we can ensure that your voices are heard, and that the university's focus aligns with your needs and aspirations. We're thrilled to announce that 25 students have already submitted their suggestions through our feedback form! Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts—your input is invaluable, and it will play a key role in the planning process. If you haven't had the chance to submit your ideas yet, it's not too late! We encourage all students to participate and help guide the direction of our university over the next five years. Your feedback truly matters! [SUBMIT FEEDBACK HERE!](#)



Drover Den Renovations-UPDATE

Great news! Renovations for the Drover Den are moving ahead. Our Maintenance crew is currently patching the walls, preparing them for a fresh coat of Green & Gold paint! We've secured a \$10k pledge from both the Business Office and President Hale for new furniture and improved study spaces. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to reach out to the renovations committee chair, Niccolas Manning (nman3922@usao.edu). Our goal is to create a more inviting, comfortable, and functional space for students to relax, study, and collaborate. The plan includes new furniture, updated decor, and better lighting to enhance the overall environment. We're aiming to have the project completed by the end of summer trimester!

Student & Faculty Spotlight

SGA accepts nominations for students, faculty, and staff who regularly go above and beyond their duties and truly exemplify what it means to be a Drover!



**This Month's Student Spotlight:
Colton O'Brien, *Math & Science Tutor***

**"He is a senior math and science tutor in the SSC. He is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone, no matter what."
Well done, Colton!**

[Click here to nominate a student to be featured next time!](#)

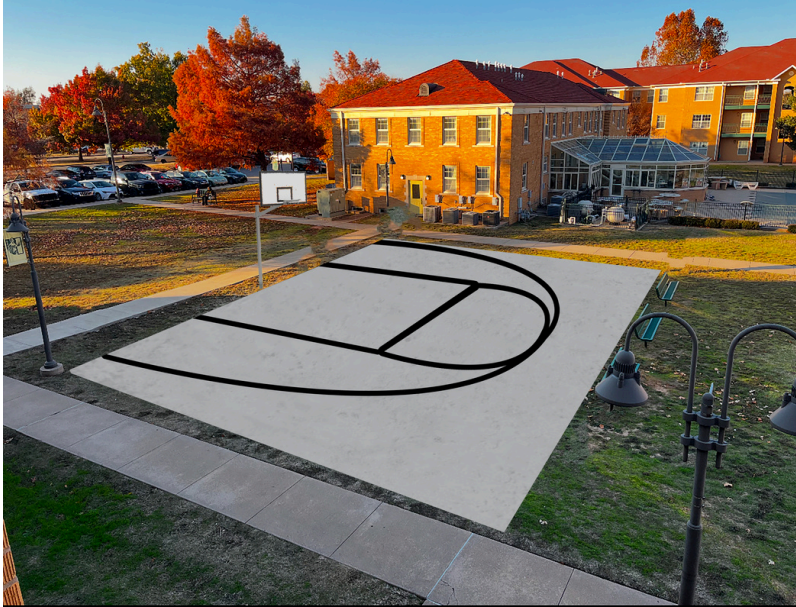
**This Month's Staff/ Faculty Spotlight:
Yunjae Hwang, Associate Professor of Deaf Education**

"Dr. Hwang makes the effort in and out the classroom to make students feel welcome, prepared, and knowledgeable... He is dedicated to his job and students; whether it's research he's conducting on his own, holding the Deaf Ed Department together, or creating positive connections with his students, you can always count on him to be there!" Thank you, Dr. Hwang!

[Click here to nominate a faculty/ staff member to be featured next time!](#)



2025 Senior Gift Project: Half-court Basketball Court



“The University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma’s 2025 Senior Gift Project Committee has announced its fundraising campaign for this year’s project, a half-court basketball court to be installed near Lawson Court. The new space will provide students with an area for recreation and community engagement for years to come.

Harry Cracknell, a communication major from Brighton, England, and Student Government Association president, has worked with the USAO Foundation to develop the idea and seek guidance on the project.

“Our goal is to start a tradition of there being a group of people each year, that come together to make something happen that can make a difference for the next set of students. We don’t want to limit this just to seniors though. It’s open to anyone who wants to participate and make a difference,” Cracknell said.

The committee, composed of Bella Wilson, Emily Loughridge, Kaelynn Torres, Whitney Spitler, Luke Cantrell, and Cracknell, has been working to bring the project to life.

“The idea of doing this had been floating around for a while,” said Bella Wilson, a business major and professional writing minor from Pawnee. “My dad does construction, and he’s built basketball courts among other things, so I told Harry, ‘Let me reach out to some people.’ My dad has different companies and crews he works with, so he got a rough estimate for the concrete and groundwork. The more we looked at it, the more we thought, ‘OK, this is something we can actually do.’ We presented it to President Hale and JP—it was just about working with connections to make it happen.”

Wilson’s father, Troy Wilson, owns 4W Builders LLC, which has been instrumental in the project’s planning. The committee also hopes to involve local Chickasha businesses.

Together, the group released a statement through email yesterday that fully outlines their mission with this project.

“The Senior Gift Project is a long-standing tradition that has been part of many graduating classes before us. The idea is simple: we come together as a class to leave something meaningful behind for the university, and we want to continue this tradition every year, starting with us! This project is about building a legacy that we can all take pride in, and we need your support to make it happen.” – Senior Gift Project Committee.” See more at usao.edu/news/senior-gift2025

***SENIORS can contribute and get their name engraved on a plaque
HERE!***

