



Voices of 1964:  
Joe Gilliland, Liberal Arts Faculty  
John Pintek, Student Body President



**COCHISE COLLEGE**



# Our Why: Honoring Our Past

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J.D. Rottweiler, PhD

August 12, 2024

# Douglas Dispatch—October 1961

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- October 17<sup>th</sup>—”Tuesday is JC Day In Cochise County—Vote for The Junior College”
  - “Timetable Set On Junior College Plan”
  - Mrs. D.W. Murry, Mrs. V. Stanford, and Mrs. C.A. Sanchez announce willingness to drive car-less voters to the polls
- October 18<sup>th</sup>—”Vote Nearly 7 to 1 In Favor of District” (4562-to-677)
  - “...if we could have a junior college in Cochise County, so many more students would be able to attend and be able to further their education.” (Albert Saenz)
  - “I think Cochise County should have a junior college district for the simple reason anything progressive is good for the whole country and having one would be a step toward that goal.” (N.L. Barnell)
  - “...students who are unable financially to live at a college or university would be offered an opportunity to further their education.” (Patricia Trammel)



# 1<sup>st</sup> Governing Board (appointed)

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- Dr. George Spikes, University of Chicago trained physician (Douglas)
- John Caldwell, pharmacist and manager of Lowell Drug (Bisbee)
- Tom Fleetham, co-owner Willcox Lumber (Willcox)
- Brainard Paige, rancher (Tombstone)
- Don Wattles, purchasing agent for Apache Powder (St. David)

# Impacting Student and Communities for 60 Years

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## 1960 Census—Cochise County

- Population
  - Cochise County—55,039
    - Douglas—11,925
    - Bisbee—9,914
    - Sierra Vista—3,121

## 2020 Census—Cochise County

- Population
  - Cochise County—125,447
    - Sierra Vista—45,308
    - Douglas—16,531
    - Bisbee—5,008

JUNIOR  
COLLEGE  
SURVEY  
**OF  
COCHISE  
COUNTY**

DECEMBER 1961

COCHISE  
COUNTY

- Examined 10 potential college sites in Bisbee, Tombstone, Double Adobe, and Douglas
- At all costs, the college should not be located near “bars and other types of recreation or entertainment that are objectionable to the people of the county.”
- The State Junior College Board selected the Bergmann site because of its large size (320 acres with a possible 160 acres to be added later), access to U.S. highway 80, and its location midway between Bisbee and Douglas.

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JUNIOR  
COLLEGE  
SURVEY  
**OF  
COCHISE  
COUNTY**

COCHISE  
COUNTY

DECEMBER 1961

“The junior college is in a unique position to help the community. It has professional staff members who can make a real contribution in working as individual members of a community in all types of community programs and projects. It can assist in community research activities and can help in bringing public information programs to the community. The junior college that serves all these purposes is truly a community college. To receive this designation is the highest compliment that can be paid to such a junior college.”



# 1963

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- January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dr. Thaddeus C. (T.C.) Johnston selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Cochise College President
  - College offices opened in the Gadsden Hotel



**BREAK GROUND FOR COLLEGE SITE**—Sunday at 1 p.m. copper shovels were used to break ground for Cochise College between Douglas and Bisbee immediately south of Highway 80. Doing the sod turning was the threesome with and between the shovels, Tom Fieforth of Wilcox, Brainard Page of Tombstone and Dr. George Spikes of Douglas, board members. Others officially participating were, left, Dr. John Prince, Phoenix, executive secretary State College Board; John Caldwell, Bisbee, first president Cochise Junior College Board; W. F. Conolly, Tucson, president

Cundly Construction Co., contractor on the project; behind Page and right, Sen. A. R. Spikes, Bisbee and Douglas; Edward L. Varney, Phoenix, Edward L. Varney Associates, architects; Dr. T. C. Johnston, Douglas, college president; Mrs. Barney Boyan, Douglas, member Arizona Board of Regents; Charles Bloomquist, Douglas, president State Junior College Board; Sen. Dan Kitchel, Bisbee; Rep. James A. Elliott, Douglas, Rep. Jack Gilbert of Bisbee, arrived too late to be included in the picture.

## New College Construction Project To Be Finished In One Year

Contracts Reduced To \$1,897,946

Engineers of W. F. Conolly Construction Co. of Tucson, started work today on the Cochise College site, between Douglas and Bisbee.

They will lay out the sites for 12 buildings, roadways and other projects included in the \$1,897,946 contract.

Officials of the firm Sunday stated clearing of the land would start Thursday, to be followed by excavation machinery and other phases of the operation which has a 365-day deadline.

Today is one year and one day from the proposed opening date of the institution, Sept. 24, 1964.

Don Bindenager of Tucson will be project manager and Virgil Baker of Tucson will be superintendent.

Edward L. Varney Associates, Phoenix, architects, will have Dan Walker as its representative on the job during its duration. He is expected to take up residence within two weeks.

A schedule of events leading to start of construction goes back to April 28, 1961, when a decision was made at a public meeting in Bisbee by community groups to try to form a junior college district. This was followed by a vote Oct. 17, 1961, to form the district and a bond vote Aug. 25, 1962. The contract was signed Sept. 18 and the target date for opening is Sept. 24, 1964.

Charles Bloomquist, 1206 11th St., chairman of the State Junior College board, reported to Cochise College board Sunday afternoon at a meeting in the Gadsden Hotel on signing of contracts for construction of the school between Douglas and Bisbee.

The contract signed Wednesday in Tucson and completed here Thursday was for \$1,897,946.

He reported negotiations with the contractor, W. F. Conolly Construction Co., Tucson, resulted in deletion of \$15,044 from the base bid of \$1,912,990.

Making up the deletions were: Revise underground hot and chilled water line from terminal to buildings \$7,500; hardware allowance \$2,000; roll-up counter doors \$978; flag pole \$995; steel lockers \$2,323; soap dispensers \$1,246.

The contractor also agreed to priority of buildings, to be decided as soon as his critical path operations plan is completed. This is a plan setting forth the procedure in construction to expedite work.

The contractor also gave the board a firm price on alternatives 5, 6 and 7 until Dec. 17. The alternatives, covering kitchen and laboratory equipment and cabinet work were not included in the contract.



**MANY SHOW INTEREST**—More than 75 people were present Sunday afternoon when and was turned for Cochise College. The ceremony was brief, consisting of turning the ground without any speechmaking. Engineers for Conolly Construction Co. of Tucson, contractors on the \$1,897,946 project, started work today, with the expectation first machinery will be on the site by Thursday. (Dispatch photos)



September 22, 1963- Douglas Campus groundbreaking

- 12 buildings at a cost of \$1.9M



# 1964

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- January 23<sup>rd</sup>—unexpected death of Dr. T.C. Johnston in a plane crash in the Whetstone Mountains
- March 16<sup>th</sup>—Dr. William B. Harwood begins his duties as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cochise College President
  - Begins U.S. tour to hire faculty
- July—college staff move into the new facilities
- 1964-65 Cochise College Catalog published

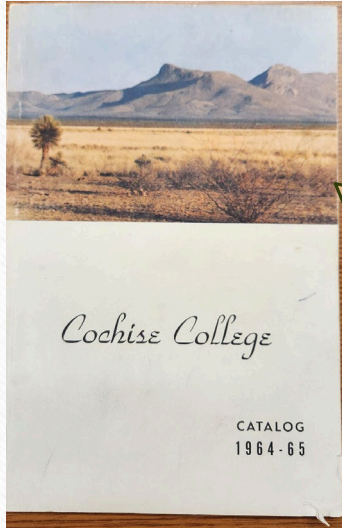


*Cochise College*

CATALOG  
1964-65

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Cochise College is a two-year college, serving students of Cochise County and others who come to it from other geographical areas. It provides free publicly supported education for two years beyond high school. The College affords the youths and adults of the area an opportunity to prepare for careers in vocational, technical, pre-professional, and other fields. As a part of this preparation, students are given an opportunity to gain experience in responsible citizenship through a planned program of student activities.



The College is committed to a policy of democratic principles as a means of preparing students for responsible citizenship and strengthening the American way of life.

The College is committed to the policy of providing equal educational opportunities, consistent with ability and preparation, for all people beyond high school age.

The College is committed to the policy of granting each individual the maximum possible freedom of choice and the opportunity of exercising personal initiative with the aim of promoting maturity.

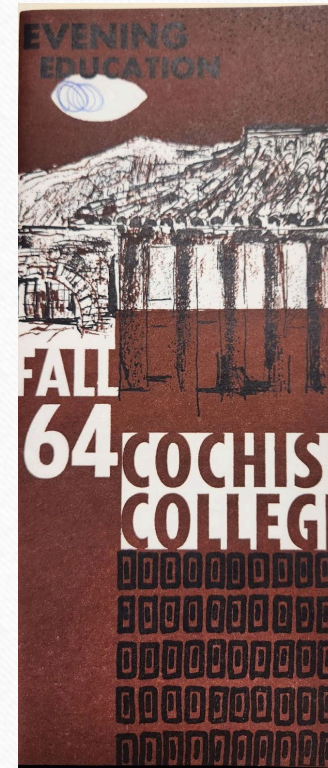
The College is committed to a policy of accepting students at any level of achievement, and providing, when feasible, an educational program geared to the student's progress.

The College is committed to a policy of orderly, thrifty growth as a County Junior College to the end that the citizens of the county and state are economically served.

The College is committed to a policy of providing superior instruction in all departments, and hopes, thereby, to promote excellence in the vocations as well as in the professions.

# 1964

- September 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>—Faculty Orientation
- September 17<sup>th</sup>—College Assembly (Convocation)
- September 21<sup>st</sup>—Cochise College opens its doors
  - 441 students
- Evening Education
  - Buena High School
  - Fort Huachuca Education Center
  - Benson High School
  - Willcox High School



Cochise County Junior College



COCHISE COLLEGE  
EDITION



COLLEGE BOARD 1963-The board members and the president are seen as they gathered Jan. 7, 1963, for the first meeting of the year. They are, from left to right, Dr. George A. Spivey, Douglas, chairman; Dr. T. C. Johnson, Douglas, president; Carl Orr, left; Don Walker, Bisbee; Martin Gentry, Bisbee; Raymond Pope, Tombstone; Tom Furbush, Wilcox; (Opposite page) ...

Administration And Faculty Members At Cochise College

Administration officials and faculty members of Cochise College have been announced by the college week of Douglas on Highway 86. Family members had their attention directed prior to registration, which has been underway this week. Administration: Dr. William B. Harwood, president, Cochise Lake, Bisbee; Mrs. Jane Lakoff, director of ...

Step By Step Record Of Cochise College Development

The chronology of a major educational venture, Cochise College, is set in stone, the articles herein and account of a milestone in people. Cochise College was first mentioned at least 20 years ago, and the actual planning for the institution took place more than 100 years ago after the gold rush. The idea of the development of Cochise College was announced in 1853. The first recorded development in the successful effort was a Douglas newspaper was formed in 1857 of the same time other newspapers named themselves ...

Cuban Exile In Support Of Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The head of a Cuban exile group in Mexico has declared himself as one of the country's fiercest opponents against the Mexican Revolution at the New York World's Fair. Carlos Fernandez Trella, head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in Mexico, County, Monday said "there is no doubt that the revolutionary movement has 80,000 Cuban exiles who will be ready to march against the last four years. We wish to indicate that it is not the government officials of Mexico towards Cuban exile only be opposed with that of the people and government of the United States." Fernandez said: "Thousands of Cuban exiles living in Mexico condemn the attack made against the Mexican Revolution at the World's Fair."

BEST OF SUCCESS  
Cochise College  
We Join With Other Progressive Cochise County Merchants In Welcoming This Great Institute, Its Students And The Faculty!  
FRY LIQUOR STORE  
332 Fry Blvd. SE, Sierra Vista — 458-9958

Congratulations  
BEST WISHES COCHISE College  
We Extend A Hearty Welcome To The Faculty & Students  
Athens - Records - Radio Tapes - Music Accessories  
EDDIE'S MUSIC STORE  
Your RCA Dealer  
TV Sets 364-2971  
Players 731 G Ave.

Congratulations  
and WELCOME Students and Faculty of the COCHISE COLLEGE  
We are here to serve you with all types of athletic equipment, hunting, fishing equipment and a complete line of sporting goods.  
Fair's Sports Shop  
1017 G Ave., Douglas 364-5721

Costly Upkeep  
CAPT. KENNEDY, Ph. (AP)—The Air Force estimate of \$100,000 annually to maintain a modified MiG-19 in inventory. This compares with an upkeep figure of \$1 million a year for each of the earlier MiG-17s, says a spokesman at the ...

Congratulations  
COCHISE College  
STUDENTS - FACULTY - ADMINISTRATION  
The management and staff of Southern Arizona Auto Company of Douglas takes this means to extend a hearty welcome to each and every one of you. May you take your place in Cochise County as an outstanding symbol of the progressive attitude and spirit of this area.  
Our sincere congratulations to the progressive citizens of Cochise County for the truly outstanding cooperative efforts Cochise College represents.  
Featuring The Complete General Motors Line  
• CADILLAC • OLDSMOBILE  
• BUICK • PONTIAC • CHEVROLET  
• GMC and CHEVROLET TRUCKS  
Southern Arizona AUTO CO. OF DOUGLAS  
EST. IN DOUGLAS IN 1914  
1200 G AVE. EM 4-2424  
LOUIS V. MASON, PRES.



# Douglas Dispatch—September 19, 1964

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“Let us not forget opening the doors marks the beginning and not then end. We have in our grasp the opportunity to develop a truly outstanding institution of higher learning that can benefit us by enriching our lives and educating our children.”

Dr. George Spikes  
Clerk of the Board

## “College Philosophy...Outlined by President”

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“In a democratic society a junior college must assist individuals in the community to attain levels and types of leadership and responsibility commensurate with their potentials and with community needs.”

Dr. William B. Harwood

Douglas Dispatch, 9/19/1964



# Dr. Joanna Michelich ('68)



SELECTED SECRETARY—Pretty freshman coed Joanna Kurdeka is the Hellograph's Apache Angel for this issue. Chosen for her photogenic possibilities, her effervescent personality, and her campus activities, Joanna is active in the college band, the pompon team, a member of the yearbook staff, and a member of the senate where she serves as selected secretary and as a member of the Executive Council.

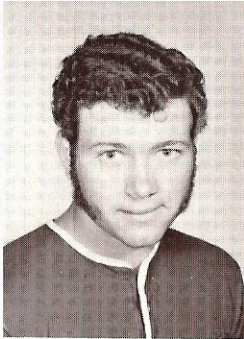
## Higher Education—1970 to 2009

- Asst. Dean of Women, Univ. of North Dakota
- Dean Student Personnel Services, West Shore CC
- Dean of Student Affairs, Central Arizona College
- Campus Dean, Central Arizona College
- Executive Vice President/Provost, Cochise College

## Community Service

- Sierra Vista Regional Hospital Board
- Legacy Foundation Board
- Cochise College Foundation



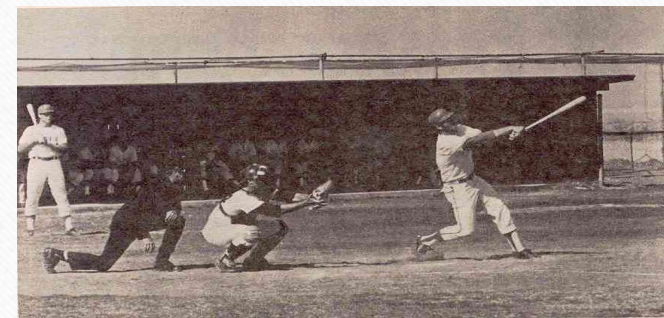


# Dr. James “Bo” Hall (‘71)



Cochise College--1983 to 2022

- Baseball Coach
- Department Chair
- Athletic Director
- Executive Dean of Student Services



**Bo's Bat Booms**

While Dick Bradley and the CC bench look on, Bo Hall displays the type of talent that made the Roughrider Easter Tourney a successful one for the Apaches. CC placed second with a 4-1 record.

# Danny Ortega ('82)



- Born and Raised in Douglas
- IBM Systems Engineer
- Manage the Family Business
  - Ortega, Inc
- Douglas School Board (12 years)
  - Board President (8 years)
- Cochise College Board
- Mayor of Douglas (2012-2016)
- Southwest Division Manager, APS
  - President, Greater Yuma Economic Council
  - V.P, Yuma Community Food Bank

# Sheriff Mark Dannels ('85)



- 40 Years of Law Enforcement
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Sheriff of Cochise County (2012-present)
  - Chief of Police, Coquille, OR
  - Deputy, CCSO
  - Officer, Bisbee PD
- United States Army Veteran





## Senator David Gowan ('02)

- Arizona Senate 2020-present  
Arizona House of Representatives 2008-2016
- 52<sup>nd</sup> Speaker of the House 2015-2016



# Melany Edwards-Barton ('08)



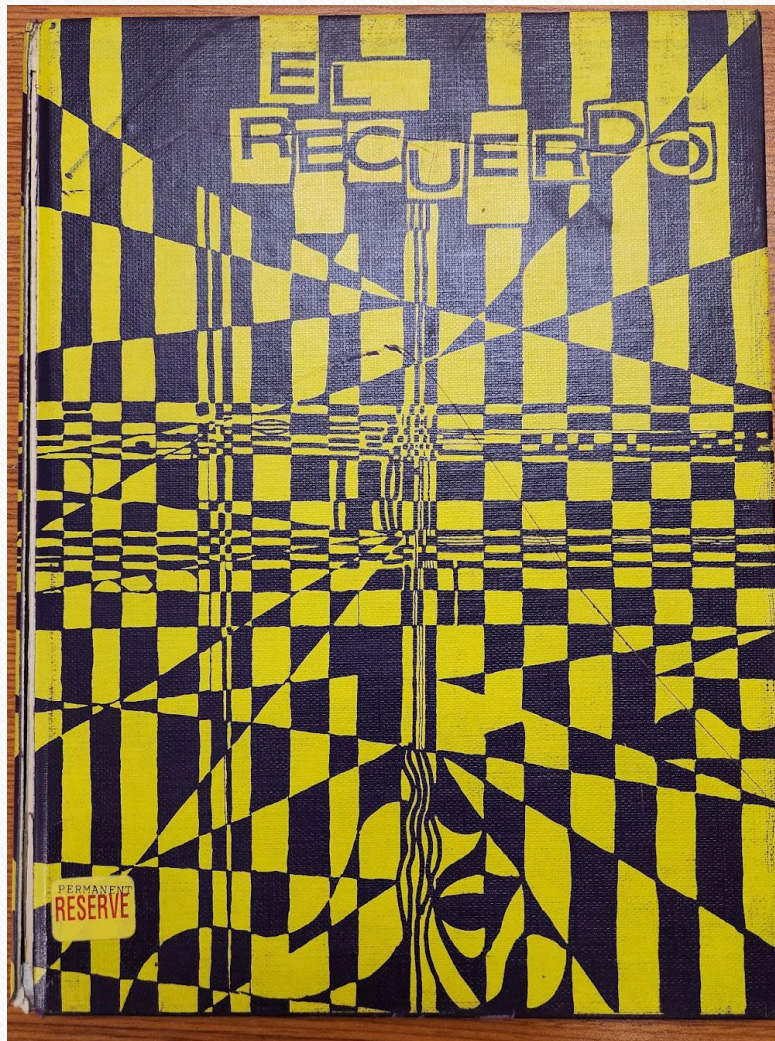
- CEO, Sky Island Regional Partnership (Chamber of Commerce)
- Real Estate Agent
- Gold Star Wife



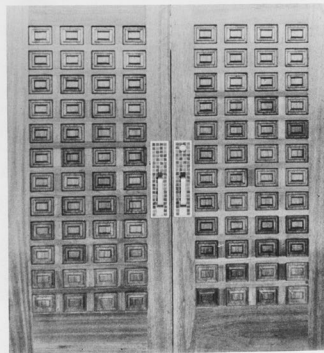
# Jason Bowling ('12)



- CEO, Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Cooperation (SSVEC)
- Board Member, Arizona@Work
- Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce



*The Door That May Be Opened*



There are many types of doors. There are large massive doors, that once opened, reveal things that are well beyond the imagination prior to their opening. There are small doors that open into small places but even these may reveal things that are unbelievable. There are doors that open to a completely new world.

One of the doors that may open a whole new world are those at the entrance of Cochise College. These in turn will allow you to open the portals of your mind and there you may discover the worlds of knowledge, Freedom of thought and who knows, a whole new life before you.

How wide you open these doors and how far you go through them, will depend on you.

It is our thought that the theme of this, the first yearbook of Cochise College, shall be THE DOOR THAT MAY BE OPENED!

*This Book Is Dedicated to ---*

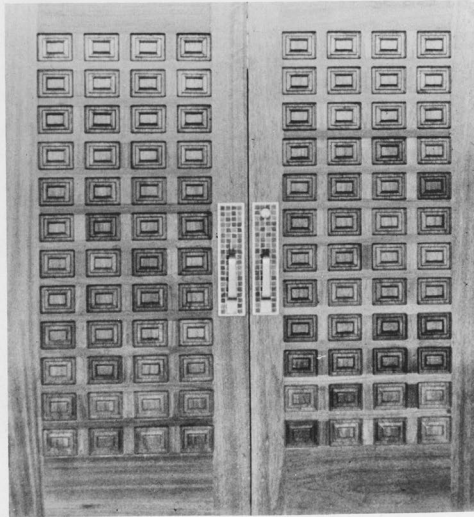


*The Farsighted Citizens of Cochise County*

To those people who, when given an opportunity, voted overwhelmingly to establish a Junior College within their County. These people wished something better for the county and for their children. They were willing to pay for the bonded indebtedness to build this college, and to obligate themselves in the future for the necessary taxes to maintain and operate it. They could see where their children, their County, and their Country, through education, would progress. They have shown the same spirit displayed by their pioneer ancestors who settled this country.

We are pleased to dedicate this, the first yearbook of Cochise College, to those citizens and ask that the people who attend here live up to the high ideals these people intended.

## *The Door That May Be Opened*



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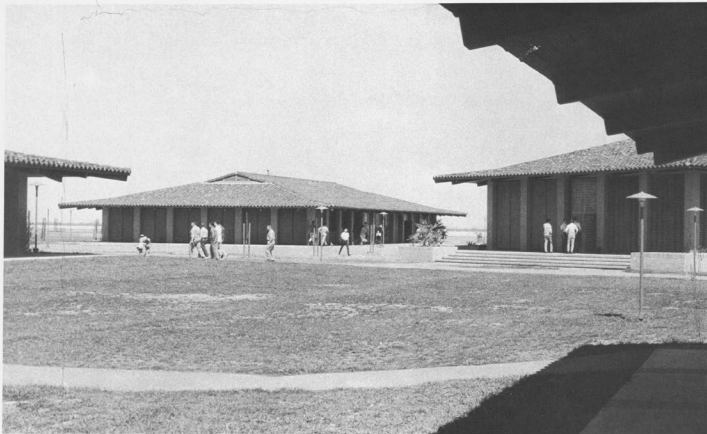
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# Our Why:

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*To inspire passion and purpose  
through the education of individuals  
so that we enhance our community.*