

Distinguished Alumna 2002
Eleanor Hays
Class of 1931

Eleanor Jones was born in 1911 and graduated from Tonkawa High School in 1929. She earned an elementary life teaching certificate from University Preparatory School-Junior College where she served as Student Body President her sophomore year. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Married to Donald Hays, she taught for 21 years and was named an Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1972. She was appointed in 1967 to the Governor's Commission of the Status of Women. Mrs. Hays was a founding member of the St. Joseph Medical Foundation-Via Christi Hospital in Ponca City. In memory of her husband, she established an athletic scholarship through the NOC Foundation. The Eleanor Hays Art Gallery pays tribute to her generous financial support of her alma mater.

In recognition of her work with many civic, church and educational organizations in the community, the Tonkawa Chamber Commerce accorded her the Lifetime Service Award in 2002.