

Distinguished Alumnus 2005
Soland Doenges
Class of 1922

Soland Doenges began work at age 14 at the Tonkawa Ford Garage to help support his family after his father died. Following graduation from University Preparatory School, he attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas and Oklahoma City University where he was Class Marshal and Class Valedictorian.

Married to Helen Lower, he returned to Tonkawa from Arizona after the 1929 stock market crash and bought the Ford Garage with his brother Bill. Later he was a Ford dealer in Miami, Oklahoma and in Colorado Springs where he held memberships in the Rotary Club and the Round Table Society. He served as president of the YMCA and, as president of the Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in bringing the Air Force Academy to Colorado Springs.

A noted philanthropist, Mr. Doenges served on the Boards of Eisenhower Hospital, the Methodist Church, the Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver where a student dormitory is named for him and his wife. He died in 1997.