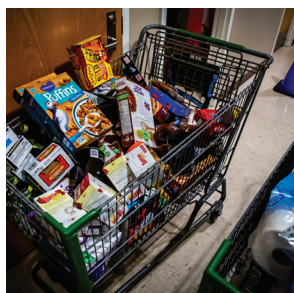




# connect to Central

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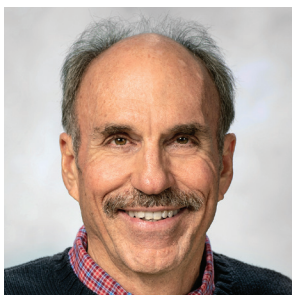
## UCO Launches Emergency Relief Fund

At the end of March, the UCO Foundation kicked off fundraising efforts to support the UCO COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund to help students experiencing unexpected hardships during the global pandemic. Since its launch, the fund has raised more than \$85,000, thanks to more than 250 donors and matching donations from the UCO Foundation, the UCO Student Association and the UCO President's Office. The fund has offered emergency financial assistance, totaling \$75,975, to 267 current UCO students. There are more than 650 students who have submitted applications, which are continually being reviewed.



## Central Community Donates Medical Supplies

Members of the UCO campus community stepped up to fill the need for medical supplies in local hospitals caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as both the UCO Forensic Science Institute (FSI) and UCO Emergency Management donated to INTEGRIS Health Edmond Hospital. FSI provided the hospital with masks, gloves, disposable lab coats and Tyvek suits, which are worn over clothing as a protective measure. Emergency Management also donated multiple gallons of hand sanitizer and nearly 450 masks, as well as additional Tyvek suits.



## UCO Professor Receives 2020 Medal for Excellence

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence has named UCO biology professor David Bass, Ph.D., as one of the winners of its 2020 Oklahoma Medal for Excellence Award. The award honors five outstanding educators in Oklahoma's public schools. Bass is a leading expert in aquatic invertebrates and teaches courses ranging from beginning biology and ecology to invertebrate zoology and aquatic entomology. Bass instructs students to "get out of their human skin" and imagine they are the organisms being studied, in order to gain a greater understanding of organisms and their environment. He also coaches Central's competitive sailing team.

## Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute Receives Boeing Grant

Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners, will award a \$50,000 grant to the UCO Foundation for an Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute (OKA+) at UCO project – the GRE+ Boeing STEAM Challenge. First- and second-grade students from four Oklahoma City area schools, including Britton, Esperanza and Nichols Hills Elementary Schools, as well as Stanley Hupfeld Academy Charter School, will participate in the challenge. Students will read books and find the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) concepts within the reading. A total of six units will be implemented by each participating class this semester, each focusing on different aspects, concepts and STEAM careers.



## Renovated Food Science Lab Offers Opportunities

Central nutrition and food science students will have the opportunity to take part in more research and development opportunities to keep food safe in the university's newly renovated food science lab classroom. The lab is now equipped with updated research equipment and technology used in the food industry. The research conducted in the lab by UCO students and faculty can benefit communities and businesses throughout the country. Students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels will have access to conduct research projects in the lab, with the primary focus centered on developing sustainable food processing and safety technologies that can be used by manufacturers. Effective developments in this area may help reduce future costs associated with food recall and foodborne outbreaks in the produce industry.



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