



connect to Central

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UCO Prepares to Host NCUR 2018

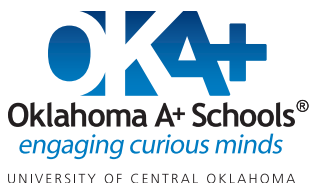
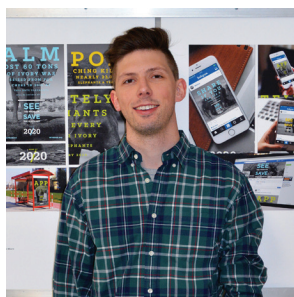
The University of Central Oklahoma will host the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) 2018 April 4-7 on its campus. In preparation for the momentous event, Central is finalizing details and recruiting volunteers across the university. This year's conference, themed "Connection to Place," will begin with a day of pre-conference workshops, continuing with more than 3,500 student presentations, including poster, oral, and performance and visual arts. Central's pledge is to provide a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for all students and participants.

Central Design Students Earn National Recognition

Ten students from UCO's Department of Design were featured in the latest edition of PRINT Magazine's Regional Design Annual for 2017-18, part of the Regional Design Awards (RDA). For the first time since the magazine's founding, PRINT allowed student designers to enter the Winter 2017 RDA competition. UCO design students won big, with works by 10 UCO design students included in the publication, making up more than 20 percent of the total accepted entries. Central design major Austin Moore took home first in the competition, with his work "20/20 Vision." The RDA is among the industry's most prestigious and well-respected American design competitions. Thousands of art directors, studios and creative professionals enter the RDA every year and look to it to find the country's top talent.

OKA+ Schools to Receive \$45,000 Grant

As part of its first major funding announcement for the 2018 fiscal year, the National Endowment for the Arts will award \$25 million in grants, including a \$45,000 Art Works grant to Oklahoma A+ Schools at the University of Central Oklahoma, in an effort to help educators systematically integrate the arts in new schools entering the A+ Schools network. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The project funded by this grant will build and sustain the capacity of teachers to make arts learning part of each day for every child by providing ongoing support to participating new schools.





Central Debate Team Makes University History

The UCO Debate Team received a First Round At-Large Bid for the National Debate Tournament for the first time in university history. A national committee selects 16 university teams and awards them the bid, indicating the selected teams are the top debate teams in the nation, based on their seasonal performance. Central students Derek Hilligoss and Jasmine Stidham will compete at the National Debate Tournament March 20-27. Other first round bid schools include the University of Southern California, Georgetown University and Harvard University.



UCO Nationally Recognized for Scholarship Aid

Central ranked No. 22 on The Student Loan Report's list of "Public Colleges Where Students Earn the Most Scholarship Funding," which included the top 250 public institutions. The report analyzed more than 500 public, four-year colleges with data from Peterson's Financial Aid. According to the report, UCO undergraduates receive, on average, \$1,084 in scholarship aid over their higher education career. Alongside Central, the list's top 25 include The University of Arizona, Tennessee State University and University of Virginia.



Central Kinesiology Professor Awarded for Excellence

Jerel Cowan, Ph.D., a professor in UCO's Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies (KHS), received the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (OAHPERD) Honor Award, the highest recognition given by the association. Other award winners from Central were Tiffany Wise, a KHS instructor and the recipient of the Health Educator – University Award, and True Tu Yang, a physical education/health senior from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the recipient of the Emma Plunkett Scholarship. UCO alumna Samantha Beams, a clinical associate professor of exercise and sports science at The University of Tulsa, also received the Honor Award. Beams earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from Central. Debra Traywick, Ed.D., KHS chair, serves as OAHPERD president.



The Revolution, Mavis Staples Headline Metro Music Fest

The Academy of Contemporary Music at UCO (ACM@UCO) will welcome Prince's iconic band The Revolution and legendary singer Mavis Staples to Oklahoma City for the ninth annual Metro Music Fest Friday, April 6. The Revolution, composed of Wendy Melvoin, Lisa Coleman, Bobby Z, BrownMark and Dr. Fink, is best known as the band behind Prince. After Prince's death in 2016, the band remained united to continue to play in his honor. Two-time Grammy winner and civil rights icon Mavis Staples, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, brings soul and gravitas to the festival this year. Mavis and her five-person band move fluidly between the gospel, soul, rock, rhythm-and-blues and country genres of the American roots music she helped pioneer with her family band, The Staple Singers. ACM@UCO's Metro Music Fest began in 2010 as a showcase of student talent and has grown to a large music festival, hosted in the Oklahoma City metro every April. This year, the festival coincides with the National Council on Undergraduate Research, hosted on Central's campus April 4-7.



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