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Central

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

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## UCO Again Named Certified Healthy Campus

UCO once again has maintained its status as a Certified Healthy Campus for the seventh consecutive year, recognizing the university's efforts to promote health and wellness among its students, faculty and staff. A part of the "Shape Your Future" campaign, driven by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Central was awarded the highest level of certification, garnering the excellence designation. The program recognizes public and private campuses and career technology centers that make a positive impact on the health of their communities.



## Central Professor Awarded NIFA Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded a \$149,000 grant to Kanika Bhargava, Ph.D., associate professor in Central's Human Environmental Sciences Department. The grant, titled "Enhancing Food Science Capacity through Transformative Learning Experiences in Education and Research," will be used to update laboratory equipment, integrate research experiments into curriculum and investigate new technology in the field of food science.

## UCO Student Earns Semester at Swansea

Central student Kalina Popova is one of only six Oklahoma regional university students to be honored as a Brad Henry International Scholar. Established in 2008 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Brad Henry International Scholar program provides a stipend for selected students to participate in semester-long study or research programs affiliated with Swansea University in Wales. Popova, a senior strategic communications major at UCO, currently is studying abroad at Swansea for the Spring 2019 semester. She is a native of Varna, Bulgaria who moved to Ada, Oklahoma as a young child and in May 2018 became a U.S. citizen.



Swansea University  
Prifysgol Abertawe



## Pope Joins African-American History Commission

UCO's Vice President for Student Affairs Myron Pope, Ed.D., was appointed to serve on the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, established by Congress to coordinate the commemoration of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the colonies in 1619. The commission will encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations to come together to participate in anniversary activities.



## UCO Awarded \$6.1 Million 'GEAR UP' Grant

The U.S. Department of Education awarded UCO a seven-year, \$6,115,200 grant under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) – a program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared for postsecondary education. The grant will serve 1,092 low-income students from 11 high-poverty, low-performing middle and high schools in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. GEAR UP students will receive academic counseling, intensive college entrance exam preparation, academic tutoring, mentoring, concurrent enrollment opportunities, application and admissions workshops, campus visits, Oklahoma's Promise workshops and application assistance, financial aid and financial literacy activities, and more.



## Dunham Named Outstanding Civic Leader

UCO Executive Director of the Office of Global Affairs Dennis Dunham, Ph.D., was awarded the Outstanding Civic Leader Award by the Asia Society of Oklahoma, Inc., to recognize his outstanding contributions to further a cultural, civic and business partnership in the quest for a higher quality of life. The objective of the Asia Society is to advance the understanding of Asian heritage and culture, and to promote friendship and exchange of ideas.



## Edmond Chamber Names Betz 'Citizen of the Year'

The Edmond Chamber of Commerce named UCO President Don Betz, Ph.D., the 2018 Citizen of the Year. The recipient of this award must demonstrate one or more of the following to be selected: excellence in their profession, brought state or national acclaim to Edmond, been involved in activities for the betterment of Edmond or served through involvement with civic and service organizations. Betz was selected for matching all three areas. In addition to being named the Edmond Chamber's Citizen of the Year, Betz has received the Oklahoma Political Science Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the World Experiences Foundation Global Citizen Lifetime Achievement Award and was named an Oklahoma Creativity Ambassador, among many other recognitions.