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June 2018

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Central Rowing Team Wins National Championship

The UCO rowing team recently won the 2018 NCAA Division II national championship, capturing the first title in program history. This is the second consecutive year the Broncho eight-rower team has won a gold medal in the championship. Central took second place in the team standings last year, missing the title by one point. The national championship win comes just ten years after the team competed in its first race in 2008.



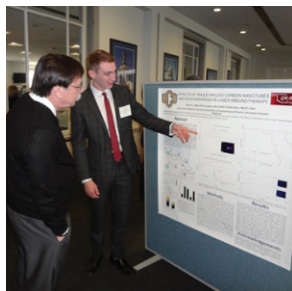
Governor Fallin Recognizes UCO for Service to Veterans

Gov. Mary Fallin recently recognized the University of Central Oklahoma for its support of Oklahoma veterans during the Force 50 Foundation's inaugural awards banquet in May. UCO President Don Betz accepted the award, recognizing Central's work to support veterans and their families as a higher education institution. In addition, Mark Kinders, Ed.D., Central's Vice President for Public Affairs and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, received a special commendation and medallion for co-chairing Gov. Fallin's Veterans Access Task Force. Gov. Fallin created the task force to review access to health care for Oklahoma's 400,000 veterans, reservists, National Guard members and active duty military. Additionally, Tracy Morris, Ph.D., assistant department chair and professor for Central's Department of Mathematics and Statistics, served as a co-principal investigator for a statewide veterans survey, in support of the task force's recommendations for improvement.



UCO Receives Oklahoma House and Senate Citation

Central recently received a citation from the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate for showcasing Oklahoma and Oklahoma City, as it hosted the 2018 National Conference on Undergraduate Research, April 4-7. Sen. Adam Pugh and Reps. Mike Osburn and Ryan Martinez co-sponsored and presented the citation to a delegation of UCO leadership.



Central Student Presents at Posters on the Hill

Connor West, a UCO chemistry student, presented a poster entitled “Effects of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes and Gold Nanorods in Laser Immunotherapy,” at Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. for the annual “Posters on the Hill” event. Each year, 60 student researchers are selected out of hundreds of applications to present their research. West was the only student from Oklahoma selected to attend this year’s event. Alongside UCO Professor and College of Mathematics and Science Dean Wei Chen, Ph.D., West has conducted cancer research since 2014.



Center for eLearning and Connected Environments

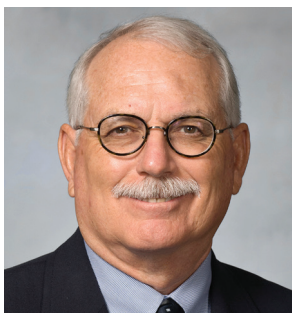
UCO Learning Environments Awarded for Excellence

Central’s Institute for Learning Environment Design (ILED), part of the university’s Center for eLearning and Connected Environments (CeCE), once again earned recognition for its excellence, as the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) awarded Central staff members Bucky Dodd and Stacy Southerland, Ph.D., with the 2018 OLC Effective Practice Award. OLC recognized Dodd, Central’s chief learning innovation officer, and Southerland, a professor and CeCE faculty liaison at Central, for their work, “A Visual Language and Method for Designing Successful Learning Experiences,” detailing ILED’s Learning Environment Modeling (LEM) system, which allows users to create a visual “blueprint” to plan, communicate and lead program development and innovation. LEM helps provide development for curriculums and other learner-focused courses and promotes improved user engagement and professional development.



Central Students Place First in National Competition

A team of UCO students recently placed first in the EdVenture Partners and American Petroleum Institute’s (API) “Educating Our Energy Future” national competition, aimed at increasing awareness about the role that natural gas and oil play in everyday life. This is Central’s third consecutive first-place finish in an EdVenture Partners competition. The UCO team, advised by Central Mass Communication professor Sandra Martin, developed the enPower Project as their entry for the API competition. With a tagline of “Energy From Within,” the project was designed to introduce America’s youth, specifically Generation Z (born between 1998-2016), to how many petroleum-, natural gas- or fossil fuel-based products contribute to their daily lifestyles. For their first-place finish, the team received a \$10,000 prize.



Sunderland Named to Athletic Trainers’ Hall of Fame

Ed Sunderland, clinical coordinator for Central’s graduate Athletic Training program, recently was inducted into the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers’ Association (OATA) Hall of Fame. Sunderland joined Central in 2007 and has played a key role in developing UCO’s Athletic Training program. A Certified Athletic Trainer for more than 40 years, Sunderland exemplifies a commitment to public service, serving as a medical volunteer at the Susan G. Komen Three-Day event, UCO Endeavor Games, Special Olympics and Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, where he took on a larger role as the on-course medical coordinator. In addition to teaching and volunteering, Sunderland formerly served as a medical observer at the University of Oklahoma’s football games.

