

OLD NORTH

MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

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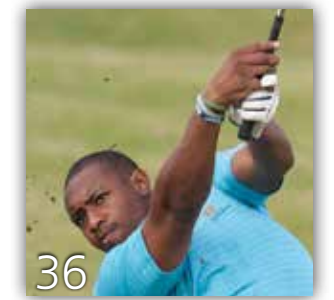


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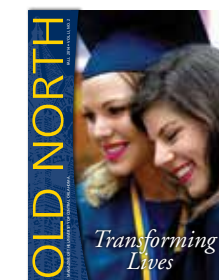


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...a magazine published by the University of Central Oklahoma for its alumni and friends.

On the Cover



ON THE COVER: UCO Director of Photographic Services Daniel Smith, recently won a first place award for his entry of the cover photo — he titled "Mom" — in the 2014 Oklahoma College of Public Relations Association (OCPRA) competition. The commencement photo is a good reminder of how a college degree transforms the lives of whole families.

Editor's Note: The cover photo for the Spring 2014 *Old North*, "Building Bridges," won second place in OCPRA's digitally enhanced photo category. In addition, *Old North* articles captured two first place awards, a second and third in the statewide competition. First places went to Editor Gypsy Hogan for her full-length feature "During the Storm/After the Storm" and in sports writing for "Champions Then and Now." Writer Angela Morris took a second place in featurette writing for "Jay Krottinger," and writer Lindsay Houts earned a third place in featurette writing for "Mapping Lichens."

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UCO, Committed to Transforming Lives

Our fall semester began with energy and enthusiasm well before the Oklahoma summer transitioned to cooler temperatures and soothing autumn colors. Our newest students and their parents were welcomed to UCO life and culture via programs that commenced weeks before the first fall class. Throughout the nation, state colleges and universities like UCO know from experience and research that these early connections can positively influence their capacities to persist in the university environment. This year, our creative and committed Student Affairs team produced a high energy and engaging Stampede Week, highlighted by the FORGE programs for students and their families. The data reminds us that more than 40 percent of our freshmen have parents who either didn't attend or didn't graduate from college. These parents have encouraged their daughters and sons to make the commitment and attend UCO with the goal of a baccalaureate degree.



President Betz gladly participated in the first Freshman Convocation ceremony, an idea he promoted.

We are here to help our students learn and realize the success they and their parents seek — to be a college graduate, creating a pathway to professional and personal success.


This issue of *Old North* focuses on “transforming lives.” Throughout history, many have commented on the power of education to change lives and alter the futures of people and communities alike. We at UCO embrace that maxim via our commitment to **Transformative Learning**, a combination of goals and practices, crafted over the past decade and more, which as a whole broaden and deepen the learning opportunities at the university and prepare committed graduates for a life of active learning.

These pathways are the “Central Six,” and they are the product of years of reflection, analysis and collaboration. We believe, and again the data confirms, that our graduates who have transformative learning opportunities acquire the knowledge, tools, perspectives and attitudes to demonstrably impact their success. In the knowledge-driven, interdependent world in which they will live, a commitment to lifelong learning is a key requisite for success. Adaptability in this perpetually-changing environment will be among the required success qualities, and our graduates will be enhanced by their confidence, derived, in part, from the intentionality of UCO’s transformative learning experiences.

As UCO approaches our historic 125th year in 2015, it is a propitious moment to return to the spirit that animated Central’s founders and leaders from 1890 to today. Central’s distinguished and dedicated faculty and staff have helped students learn SO THAT they may become productive, creative, ethical, and engaged citizens and leaders.

They are our state’s, country’s and world’s most precious and sustainable asset.

UCO’s original and continuing opportunity and duty is to create a transformative culture of learning, leading and serving, preparing our graduates for the challenge of change.



Don Betz
President

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Life membership is a wonderful way to show your commitment to Central. **Your \$750 tax-deductible contribution** supports the programming necessary to keep alumni connected with Central, while also helping Central students through funds such as the UCO Alumni Association Scholarship Program.

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Making 'Aha' Moments Happen

Jeff King, Ed.D., executive director of Central's Center for Excellence in Transformative Teaching and Learning

By Gypsy Hogan
Publications Editor, University Relations

For more than a decade, the words “transformative learning” have moved across the Central campus, initially as a nebulous, multi-purposed idea, then something more concrete, then organized and intent on staying. Today, there may still be many definitions and applications. However, among faculty, there’s a general understanding of transformative learning as a deliberate process, a way to ensure that all students have the greatest potential to have those “aha” moments in every class, with every professor.

Sounds simple, but in many ways, it turns upside down the traditional university methods of “teaching” into a “student-learning” process. And, it challenges the way students are assessed and given credit for what they learn.

In recent months, Central’s work with the concept has brought the university both national and international attention. In September, UCO received a \$7.78 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The funding — spread over five years — is to help Central implement its unique ideas about how to help students track their “aha” moments both in and out of the classroom, allow-

ing them to show future employers more than a grade-point average and a degree.

The grant announcement came on top of UCO President Don Betz earlier this year making two international presentations on Central’s transformative learning work — one to the International Association of University Presidents meeting in the Caribbean and another to the XVII Triennial Conference of the International Association of University Presidents in Yokohama, Japan.

“When faculty understand their students must have beyond-disciplinary skills to succeed in the workplace or in graduate school, they appreciate training in the transformative learning practice,” Betz has told educators worldwide.

Earlier this year, UCO staff presented “Using a Transformative Learning Transcript to Assess High-Impact Practices” at the 2014 Higher Learning Commission Conference, receiving the Best Paper Award on Assessing and Improving Student Learning. In June, Christy Vincent, Ph.D., and Jody Horn, Ph.D., presented “Successful Change Management: A Case Study of the Implementation of a 10-year, Large-Scale Transformative Learning Initiative at a Midwestern U.S. Metropolitan University” to the International Consortium for Educational Development Conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

This fall, UCO began a pilot program to take the transformative learning process to students. Called STLR — pronounced like stel-

lar — it stands for Student Transformative Learning Record, and it is being watched by educators worldwide who want to know if it can really succeed at capturing student success both in and out of the classroom.

UCO leaders are betting that it can — and will.

Making a Record

While a transcript of grades may show a student’s ability to take tests, educators worldwide have struggled to find a system that would show more, offering students the ability to experience and track what some call “deep learning.”

Central’s fall effort introduces the STLR concept to about 450 freshman in 20 classes. Four of these are Success Central classes, where a transformative learning experience will be tied to the annual Little Event. That’s where students gather on a particular day for community volunteer work. Because each transformative learning experience needs to fit at least one of UCO’s Central Six tenets — discipline knowledge; leadership; research, scholarly and creative activities; service learning and civic engagement; global and cultural competencies; and health and wellness — this event will fit the service learning tenet.

Cia Verschelden, Ed.D., is Central’s executive director of Institutional Assessment. December marks her second anniversary in a job focused on collecting data to support what Central says it does. She volunteered to teach one of the fall semester’s Success Central classes because she wants to see firsthand how freshmen understand STLR, how the STLR event works and how well data is collected.

“We say a lot of bold things, but we haven’t had a lot of evidence about the number of students who have been transformed or had these transformative experiences,” she said. “It will be powerful for students to be able to walk away with something that articulates and shows what they have accomplished.”

To get credit on their “STLR e-portfolio,” students will participate in the Little

Event, then write a reflection on what they learned or experienced. Their reflection will be scored using transformative learning attributes related to the service-learning tenet.

Students may not have realized it, but for several years, professors have been required to include at least one of the Central Six tenets in a class project. A student’s success with these class projects also can be moved into their STLR e-portfolio.

Employer Feedback

Employers who have heard about the program are eager to see it succeed — and with good reason, said Jeff King, Ed.D., executive director of Central’s Center for Excellence in Transformative Teaching and Learning.

A 2006 Leadership IQ Study found that the top reasons new hires fail relate to poor interpersonal skills and their inability to accept feedback, and to understand and manage emotions, King said. Transformative learning experiences require collaborations that better equip students with these life skills.

Julie Knutson, president and chief executive of The Oklahoma Academy, agrees. In support of Central receiving its recent \$7.78 million grant to support its STLR program, she wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education. “This grant will directly address an essential needs area for employers by emphasizing and documenting college

graduates’ ‘soft skills’ in such transformative areas as ethical judgment, communication, team work, intellectual flexibility, capacity for continuing learning, appreciation for the complexities of diversity and global cultures, and civic engagement and community commitment,” she wrote.

Tracking Progress

Not only will employers be able to see the mastery of certain life skills with the STLR e-portfolio, but students will have the ability to track their own progress, said King, who is possibly the concept’s biggest champion on a campus now filled with more than just a few.

In 2011, King was working at Texas Christian University (TCU) when he heard Central was looking for someone to direct its faculty enhancement program and help create a new kind of learning environment.

“I’ve had people ask me why would I leave a place like TCU,” King said. “For me, it was easy. My dissertation was about the beliefs in higher education and how they relate to how students see themselves. UCO, with its transformative learning and visionary leadership — it was just a one-two punch that you don’t see in too many places. It was the right-here, right-now opportunity I wanted to help develop a teaching environment that’s about expanding students’ perceptions of themselves.”

continued on page 38



Harvard professor Eric Mazur, Ph.D. — winner of the inaugural Minerva Award for teaching with its \$500,000 check — will be the keynote speaker at UCO’s 2015 Transformative Learning Conference, March 26-27, in Oklahoma City.

Mazur also will lead a preconference workshop, sharing his work in actively engaging students in their learning process. Considered a pioneer in “flipping” classrooms, he is author of *Peer Instruction: A User’s Manual* and an innovator in transformative learning techniques. An example of flipping is having students read material and send in questions BEFORE class.

For more information about the conference, visit www.uco.edu/tlconference.

Rebel *with* Cause

California educators John Tagg and Robert Barr co-authored in 1995 a paper that some believe captured what was to become a nationwide discussion about the “needed shift in higher education, from the instruction paradigm to the learning paradigm.” Since, Tagg has presented at more than a hundred conferences about the pitfalls of teaching for grades vs. helping students learn, really preparing them for careers and more fulfilling lives. Tagg is now a professor emeritus of English at Palomar College, a public two-year community college in Palomar, California. He is also senior editor of *The Journal of Transformative Learning*, a peer-reviewed academic journal published at UCO. Its third annual edition will be released in spring 2015.

Editor’s Note: The following has been edited and condensed.

Q: Is there any defining moment that made you question the traditional education system?

A: I knew it was not working from the beginning. But when I served on a task force in 1987 at Palomar — a vision task force — that’s when I met Bob Barr, who was also a member.

I retired from teaching in 2009 after 27 years at Palomar. I struggled with the process the whole time. Everyone struggles with it.

When I do a workshop or lecture, the first thing I do is break faculty into groups to talk about, “What is the single most important experience you want a student to have before graduation?” I’ve done this at more than a hundred institutions. Every time, they say learning experience and transformation. They want students to have epiphanies, know that they can do something they didn’t think they could do before, see how they can connect to the world in ways that they didn’t before college. What they’re talking about is a deep learning experience, a transformational experience. When I point out that they haven’t really done a very good job at setting up a system for that to happen, most say they don’t see a route for changing where they work, for changing the structure.

When I began teaching, I took a fairly conventional approach. I taught forensic debate students. What I saw was that students who were on the debate teams learned so much more and improved so much faster than students with just a classroom experience. Colleagues in other fields such as journalism and athletics saw the same. I know that part of the difference is self-selection — students choosing something they want to do. But there seemed to be more

to it. I would say they were taking a deeper approach in their out-of-class activities than they were in the classroom.

After I started teaching writing, I would be asking some students to make small changes and others to make large changes, but all in the same timeframe. It didn’t make sense. I also had the sense that what we were asking of them was not always the most important things for them.

In my book and articles, I talk about a deep approach and a surface approach to learning. A surface approach just adds to what you know. We encourage that when we make grades the goal. Testing is not necessarily a bad thing, but one of the problems is that we think of it exclusively as a way of evaluating a student, rather than a way of promoting and reinforcing learning. Grades don’t tell you much about how you’ll do in the future. Deep learning changes the framework of what you know. It’s significant, a fundamental conceptual change that transforms a student.

Q: So what do you advocate?

A: I’d like to see an outcomes transcript, a transcript that gives a better assessment of a student’s progress, his or her learning outcomes, so that we’d know more about how they’re progressing through college.

Q: Do you have any thoughts about what we’re doing here at UCO?

A: STLR at UCO is an attempt to try to reverse the process, to make transparent what is hidden, to organize what you know

about a student and their progress, and that’s very powerful. It goes beyond just a transcript of grades.

It’s very unusual in my experience (for UCO to have found a way to show student activities on a transcript). I think there are a number of reasons your STLR concept is promising. You are assessing not just class work but also extracurricular activities. That’s important for two reasons. One, students get to choose their extracurricular activities. And, two, they get to do it for longer than a semester. They can keep working to develop skills and understanding.

A few years ago, Harvard did a study, asking graduates what was the single transformative event that changed how they thought. Four out of five named something that happened outside of the classroom. Finding a way to encourage those activities and document them better reflects what a student has learned.

Q: What kind of progress have you seen since publishing your article with Barr in 1995?

A: There has been good progress on the periphery. There have been really radical increases in the development of first-year experience programs and learning communities for students. In 1995, assessment was a dirty word. Now it’s a requirement by every major accreditation body.

At the core, however, I’d say it’s disappointing. In most institutions, assessment is being done for accreditation and not for the students. At an institutional level, so much is hidden — what grades mean, how teachers are teaching, how students are learning.

In almost any college, can anyone report how many people are

learning and what they are learning? ... We don’t want to know because if we knew, we’d know we have to do something about it. ... Most institutions still don’t know how teachers are teaching in classes — the percentage lecturing, percentage giving multiple choice tests vs. number of fill-in tests or essays. For the first time in 2008, a HERI (Higher Education Research Institute) survey of faculty found that the majority are using collaborative learning rather than just lecturing. Yet most people are surprised to hear that. And, it was an anonymous survey, so there’s no way to know individual performance. That’s a barrier to progress — we’re still not keeping track of what’s happening on campuses.

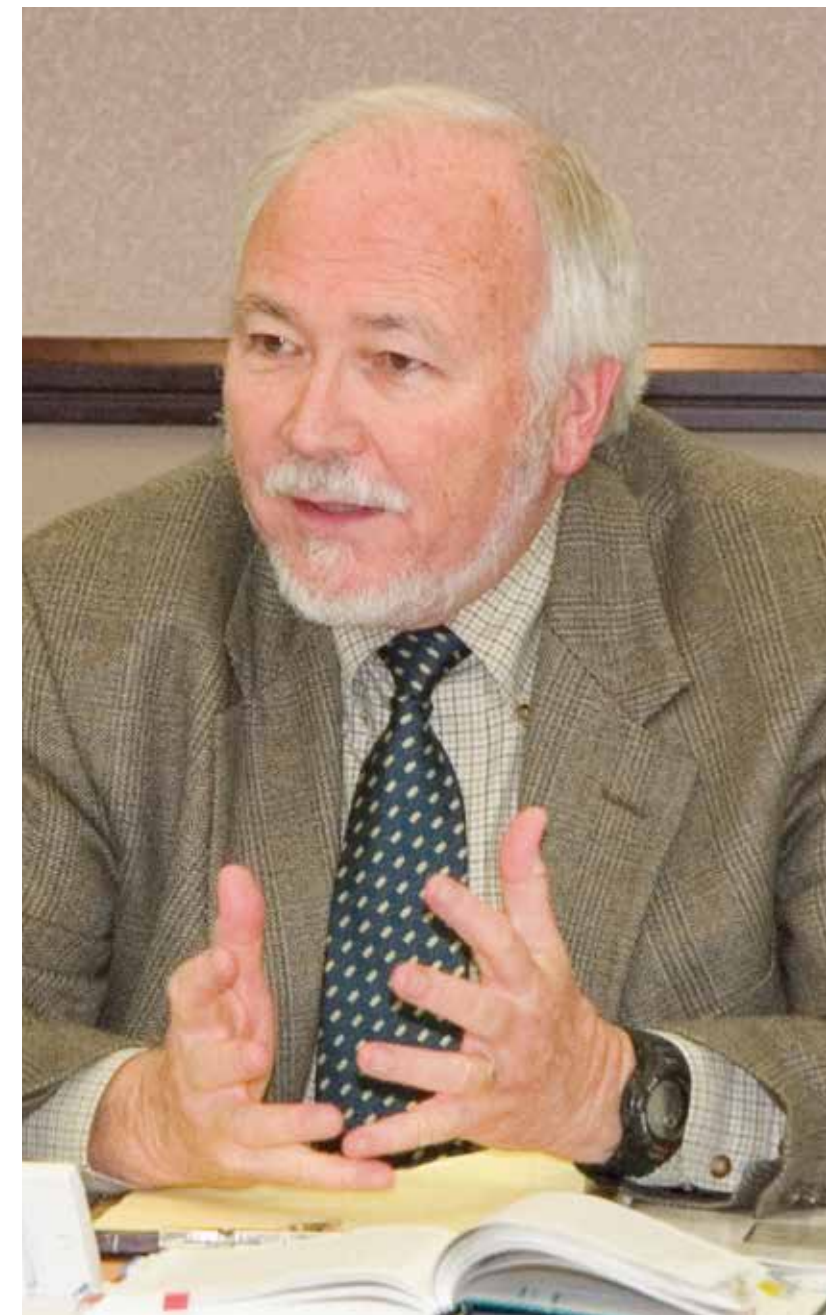
Q: Do you see yourself as a revolutionary in the field of education?

A: No, I see myself as a teacher who has been trying to put learning first. It’s not possible to impose on a student something that’s alien to his or her understanding. He or she must change to take in radically new information, or they’ll just memorize it, repeat it back on a test. Unless you change the fundamental conceptions, you will just be adding data to a flawed framework. You must dislodge wrong notions.

Q: What if I told you a revolutionary by definition is someone who wants

to change things, move them in another direction?

A: Well, maybe I am a revolutionary. I’ll have to think about that.



KUCO 90.1FM, *Still* Oklahoma's Choice for Classical Music

By Kearney Cole
Development Coordinator, College of Fine Arts and Design

In a small-on-paper, but large-in-practice move, UCO's radio station call letters were changed April 1 from KCSC to KUCO, reflecting what has been the university's official acronym since 1991.

Before that, in October, classical KUCO radio became part of UCO's College of Fine Arts and Design, which includes Central's many music, theater and arts programs. The move officially aligned the station's and the college's common missions of promoting the arts in both the metropolitan area as well as the state.



From archives, a 1970s student appears in an early KCSC studio, using the latest reel-to-reel audio tape technology.

Public service announcements, calendars, the Faculty Artist Concert Series with its spotlight interviews, in-studio live interviews with visiting campus artists and special programs on Performance Oklahoma — all are some of the ways KUCO fulfills both its and the college's support of the arts.

The campus station began in 1966 as a training lab for Central broadcasting students who, at that time, were attending Central State College, thus KCSC. The format was some classical, some middle-of-the-road pop and Broncho football. Over the years, it has become "Oklahoma's Choice for Classical Music," a professionally managed public radio station that also offers news and various module programming covering science, the environment and academe.

The all-classical format is currently one of the most successful public radio formats in the U.S., in second place after news/talk/information, said Kimberly Powell, a classical pianist by training who wears several hats at KUCO, including director of programming and host/producer of Performance Oklahoma.

The station started as the dream of then Central professor Max Davis, who received the help he badly needed from supporter Homer Johnson, who gave \$25,000 to get the station up and running with a FM broadcast license. In 1979, it expanded its format to 85 percent classical music, and in 1984 began 24-hour program-



UCO School of Music student performances are recorded and later featured on KUCO's Performance Oklahoma with Kimberly Powell, who also looks across the state for pieces to air. The program is at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 8 a.m. on Saturdays.

ming. The next year, it became a Corporation for Public Broadcasting affiliate.

Davis later described the first broadcast as "little more than a glorified megaphone" with the listening audience barely reaching beyond the campus. The station next moved to a 30-watt broadcast that was intermittently interrupted by vibrations in the building. Davis told *The Edmond Sun*, "We kept having a rumble at various times of the day, and then it dawned on me that that was when classes let out."

In 1995, then-KCSC received the Governor's Arts Award, the first of Oklahoma's public radio stations to be honored. Past opera host Clyde Martin and Powell also have received the award, which acknowledges outstanding contributions to arts in Oklahoma.

In 1999, a repeater station, KBCW 91.9, was established in McAlester with a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce and a gift from the late Clark and Wanda Bass of McAlester.

Today, KUCO has more than 43,900 listeners throughout central and southeastern Oklahoma, as well as listeners streaming its programming across the country and around the world. The station maintains a recording library of more than 25,000 performances and offers live studio broadcasts from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. each weekday. In the evenings and on weekends, Classical KUCO offers award-winning national and regional classical music programming.

KUCO General Manager Brad Ferguson said he and others on campus are excited about the station's future — and the call-letter change. "It better reflects and enhances our relationship with UCO."

The station receives support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, individual members, local underwriters, several grants and UCO.

For more information about KUCO, visit www.kucofm.com.

Q&A with David Short

Principal, KSQ Architects

Construction has started on a 440-bed residence hall, located on the former site of East Hall, just north of the Business building and on the south side of Ayers. The 120,000-square-foot building will be multipurpose with many common living areas, including some for students who don't live on campus. KSQ Architects designed the \$28 million project, meeting a number of Central requests, along with some of the newest trends in residential campus construction. The project is being built with a bond issue with rents paying the debt.

By Gypsy Hogan
Publications Editor, University Relations

Q: How did you get started doing college campus projects?

A: I started about 30-35 years ago with a firm in New York, where I lived for nine years. I had done some hotels when they got a job to do a residence hall at Skidmore College (New York). They put me on the project because they thought it would be similar to a hotel that I'd worked on. More projects followed.

The style of work I was doing hadn't moved to the Midwest, yet. The Northeast had a lot of old student housing that needed updating, so they were the pioneers.

Then I moved back to Oklahoma, and we started marketing to colleges and universities in the region. Now we are doing work all around the country. I'd say about 60 percent of our work is with higher ed, and 90 percent of that is housing, dining and student unions.

Q: How does UCO's new residence hall compare with others you've worked?

A: Your project is innovative in a number of ways.

You're our first client to build a residence hall with excavation for a storm shelter. Typically, we will build basements where the grade allows us to build one without a lot of excavation. A storm shelter was something that the university wanted.

One of the special things about your new building is that it has been designed specifically to encourage student interaction and for the building of communities. It targets the first-year student who arrives on campus and may know only a few people, or none.

Schools across the country are seeing a Renaissance of the more traditional residence hall. They've found that when they



David Short

- Principal, Director, KSQ Architects
- Offices in New York and Tulsa
- Previous KSQ projects at UCO: Wellness Center

Other notable projects nationwide:

- Won the 2013 American Institute of Architects Excellence in Architecture Award for the West Side Dining facility at Stony Brook University in New York;
- Has completed other projects at 50 colleges and universities nationwide, including Illinois, Texas, Missouri, Ohio, Colorado and New York.

build private, self-contained rooms with their own bath and living areas, students tend to stay in their rooms.

The idea of common living areas and baths is that students will have more opportunity for interacting, building community, finding support networks — all key for student retention.

Each room will have two beds with a private sink. Ten students will share a common bath with two toilets and two showers. They will be cleaned by university personnel, solving the problem of depending on students to keep bathrooms clean. Unlike the old dormitory style with a big bath at the end of a long hallway, your common bath areas will be just 10 to 15 steps from any room.

Four sets of these will be grouped into a 'pod' — 40 students with common living areas and private access.

Q: Will all the common areas be within the pods?

A: No. Like most residence halls, there will be floors where students live, and those areas will be secure with card access only. Common living areas will include TV lounges, study areas.

However, this building also will have a wing with access for everyone with a student ID, whether they live on campus or not. And the building's inner courtyard will be an open area. Again, the idea is to build community.

Q: Why so much emphasis on getting students to interact?

A: Millennials are so computer savvy. They have a tendency to get in their own world of texting and emailing and having limited interaction. This building is going to do a great job of pulling students out of their rooms so that they'll interact with others on campus.

We also designed the building with thought given to UCO's Central Six tenets of transformative learning: discipline knowledge, leadership, problem solving, service learning and civic engagement, global and cultural competencies, and health and wellness. Areas have been created with the idea of students being able to incorporate those principles into their daily lives. For example, in looking at health and wellness, we're including a small, hotel-style exercise room in the building for when the Wellness Center isn't open or the student has limited time. Students also will have access to a community kitchen where they can gather to cook meals or bake cookies or pizza. This is really important to those students, like international students, who may not go home over holidays.

Q: Some might think the cost high when priced per bed, at \$63,636 each. What do you think?

A: The community spaces bring up the cost per bed, and there are areas that will be used by more than residents. Plus, your new residence hall has been designed to be a 100-year building — really sturdy frame of concrete and masonry. A \$40,000-a-bed residence hall — the low-end national average price — is typically wood-framed with a 25-year life expectancy. You guys are stepping it up a bit. You have a growing residential campus at UCO, and this building is a step in the right direction.



Officially being named the Transformative Learning Quadrangle, the new residence hall has already been dubbed 'The Quad.' While offering 440 new beds, the structure also will offer common living and study areas, even for non-resident students.

'The Quad' Aims to Build Community

UCO's Josh Overocker looks forward to the completion of Central's new residence hall for a number of reasons.



Josh Overocker

"To me, the most exciting thing is that it's a building that belongs on the UCO campus. It's housing that will meet the needs of our students," said Overocker, Central's executive director of business enterprises,

including student housing. "Plus, it's not going to be just a place for students to live, but a place for them to learn and interact."

Plus, based on past experience, he likes the building's return to common living areas.

"What we have found here is that our best student communities are in Murdaugh and West where students have to look out for each other and come out of their rooms and interact," said Overocker, referring to Central's two oldest residence halls.



Architectural designs include maximizing natural sunlight and creating community, bringing tech-savvy residents out of their rooms and into fellowship.

Murdaugh was a Public Works Administration project, completed in 1937 along with Thatcher Hall at a cost of \$600,000.

"The Commons are where we have our worst student communities," he said, referring to newer student housing that offers apartment-style living.

Central's newest residence hall is expected to be ready for students in fall 2015. Pricing has not been set, Overocker said,

but is expected to be less expensive than The Commons, but more than Murdaugh or West Hall.

Resident parking will be in the lots east of Wantland Stadium.

"Those lots are underutilized, and we believe that with better landscaping and lighting connecting them to the residence hall, they will be a good fit," he said.

Alumni Awards

Continuing its annual tradition, the UCO Alumni Association once again honors outstanding alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award, in addition to naming the UCO Family of the Year for 2014.

The 2014 Distinguished Alumni recipients are:

Tom Daniels (BS '77), path-blazing military leader and broadcaster;

John Gladden (BS '14), insurance industry leader and challenge-taker;

Sharon McCollam (BS '85), national retail business executive and a role model for women leaders.

Being honored as the 2014 Family of the Year are **Ben and Peggy Kates** and their relatives. The couple dated at Central before getting degrees in '73 and '72, respectively, and later started the successful Oklahoma firm Midwest Wrecking Co.

Learn more about the honorees in the following pages. Better yet, meet and congratulate them by attending the Distinguished Alumni Awards Recognition Ceremony and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 31, in the Grand Ballroom of the Nigh University Center.

The ceremony is just one of several events planned for Homecoming 2014, Oct. 25-Nov. 1. For a more complete list of events, turn to page 17.

For more information, contact Alumni Relations by calling 405-974-2421, emailing ucoalum@uco.edu or registering online at CentralConnection.org/homecoming2014.



Tom Daniels
Retired Brigadier General, USAF



Tom Daniels (BA '77)

Brigadier General Tom L. Daniels (BA '77) enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1965, became a pilot and began to break barriers and make history, eventually becoming Oklahoma's first and only African-American Air Force general and Oklahoma City's first African-American anchor on Channel 9.

At age 16, Daniels was interested in radio and journalism. While in high school, he started hosting an hour of radio at KWRW station in Guthrie. In 1965, he enlisted in the Air Force as a C-47 transport crew chief assigned to posts in Texas, North Dakota and Southeast Asia. In 1974, while serving in the Oklahoma Air Guard, he got his start in reporting at KWTW News 9, interviewing artists such as James Brown.

Daniels served in numerous command positions at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., returning to Oklahoma City as a deputy director where he was responsible for rescue and recovery after the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. He then was diagnosed with a 100 percent service-connected disability that resulted in a double lung transplant.

Attending classes while enlisted and also working full time in broadcasting, he used his GI bill to pay for his education. At Central, he was in the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists, graduating in 1977 in Journalism. He also graduated from Troy State University with a master's in personnel management and attended Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

"(I hope UCO) continues to grow and produce outstanding leaders and achievers and enhances the history of Central and its alumni," Daniels recently wrote.

Daniels fondly remembers the many lessons he learned from his former professor Ray Tassin, Ph.D., who continued to give Daniels information that helped in his daily professional life.

Retired and living in Ft. Worth, Texas, with his family, Daniels is an advocate for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Appointed by the White House, he serves on a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs committee. Guthrie, his hometown, has named its airport corridor in his honor. Earlier this year, the Oklahoma History Museum compiled an exhibit about his achievements.

John Gladden (BS '14)

John Gladden (BS '14) always is looking for his next challenge, even while serving as president and chief executive officer of Delta Dental of Oklahoma, the state's oldest and largest dental benefits provider.

One of those challenges was returning to college in 2005 to complete his college degree — at the same time his youngest daughter was a Central student.

Encouraged by former UCO President Roger Webb, J.D., Gladden achieved his degree as a non-traditional student. He took night classes while also working full time in the top position at Delta Dental of Oklahoma.

"My UCO experience helped reinforce the fundamentals of many important subjects that I might not have taken the time to learn on my own. I believe grounding in the fundamentals is important in any discipline," Gladden recently wrote.

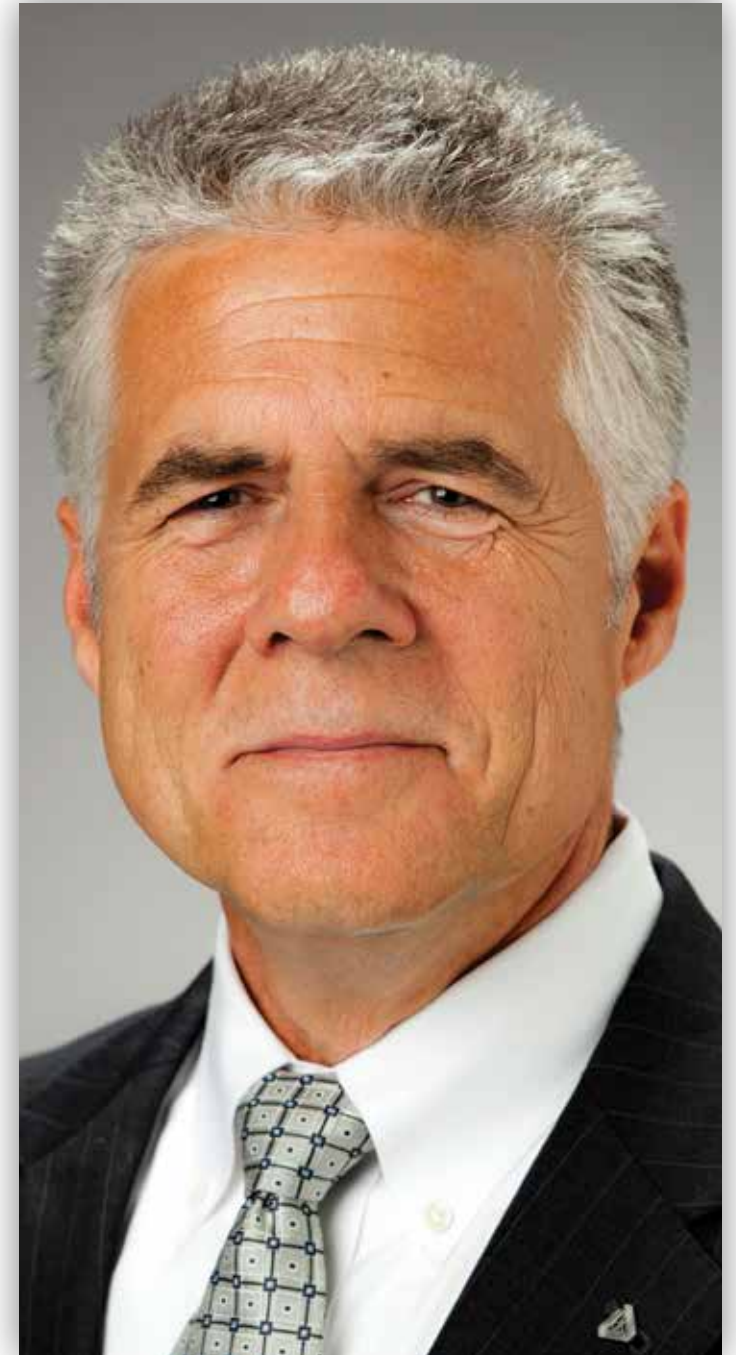
During his time at Central, he got to know many international students from Nepal, Central America and the Middle East and was inspired by their commitment to education.

"They all impressed me with their desire to learn and return home with information to help their nation prosper," he said.

He also met many hard-working American students. He believes it was these encounters that helped restore his faith in the future of America by seeing these students' work ethic and "willingness to put off gratification today in exchange for building a better tomorrow."

Working for a better tomorrow is not a theoretical concept for Gladden. In 1998, he helped found the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Oral Health Foundation. The Foundation exists to improve the oral health of all Oklahomans. They do this in part by educating K-12 students in proper dental hygiene and supporting free and low-cost dental clinics across the state.

Gladden believes alumni should embrace their roles as advocates and ambassadors for the university. He now shares this responsibility with his daughter Katelynd, who graduated from UCO in 2012.



John Gladden
President, Chief Executive Officer
Delta Dental of Oklahoma





Sharon McCollam
Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative and Chief Financial Officer
Best Buy



Sharon McCollam (BS '85)

Sharon McCollam (BS '85) always wanted to do something meaningful. True to her vision, McCollam rose quickly at three Fortune 500 companies before coming out of retirement to serve as Best Buy executive vice president, chief administrative and chief financial officer.

"Don't defeat your destiny by being afraid to visualize yourself in the top job. No job that you can't see yourself in will ever be yours," McCollam said in a 2006 speech at the Berkeley Women in Leadership Conference at the University of California, Berkeley.

After successful careers at Ernst & Young, Ryder and Dole Food Co. Inc., McCollam retired from Williams-Sonoma Inc. as director, executive vice president, chief operating and chief financial officer.

In 2012, Best Buy persuaded her to join one of the most significant transformations in retail history. As a key member of the executive team, McCollam is responsible for all aspects of global finance, supply chain, information technology, real estate and Latin American operations. Additionally, she serves on the boards of two global e-commerce retailers — Privalia Venta Directa and Art.com — and Sutter Health, one of the nation's largest not-for-profit medical networks.

In college, McCollam worked full time while attending night classes and carrying up to 18 to 21 hours a semester. Here, she learned about "giving back" from the adjunct faculty who generously shared their time and expertise with aspiring night students.

"The absolute joy of learning and the opportunity to fully absorb and process it isn't always possible when you have to work so many hours to finance it," McCollam said. To provide that opportunity to others, she and her husband, Craig, established a family education fund so children in their extended families can pursue higher education without financial burdens.

McCollam is also a passionate supporter of children's causes, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Larkin Street Youth Services.

Homecoming 2014 Schedule



SATURDAY, OCT. 25
Day of Service
All Day, Various Community Locations

SUNDAY, OCT. 26
"Dec" the Campus and All American Cookout
10 a.m.-4 p.m., UCO Campus

Cookout and Dodge Ball Tournament
6 p.m., Wellness Center

MONDAY, OCT. 27
"Fill a Fanny"
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Broncho Lake Blue Tent

Talent Show
7 p.m., Nigh University Center Ballrooms

TUESDAY, OCT. 28
Faculty and Staff Dress Down Day
All Day, UCO Campus

UCOSA Blood Drive
11 a.m.-4 p.m., Heritage Room

Bronze and Blueberry Breakfast and Golf Cart Parade
9 a.m., Plunkett Park

Hotdogs and Heroes: Letters to the Troops and Care Packages
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Broncho Lake Blue Tent

Rock the Block
6 p.m., Plunkett Park

"Red, Bright, and Blue" Glow Run
benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project
7:30 p.m., Plunkett Park

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29
UCOSA Blood Drive
11 a.m.-4 p.m., Heritage Room

Ice Cream Social
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Broncho Lake Clock Tower

Comedy Show
7 p.m., Nigh University Center Ballrooms

THURSDAY, OCT. 30
Crafternoon: Old North Canvas Paintings
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Broncho Lake Clock Tower

Old North Ghost Tours
6:30-8 p.m., Plunkett Park

Bonfire
8 p.m., Hamilton Field House Lawn

FRIDAY, OCT. 31
Golden Bronchos Breakfast
9 a.m., Nigh University Center, Ballroom C

Thatcher Museum Tours
10:15 a.m., Room 144, Thatcher Hall

Distinguished Alumni Awards Recognition Ceremony
11:30 a.m., Nigh University Center Ballrooms

Women's Soccer vs. Northeastern State
4 p.m., Thompson Soccer Field

Athletics Hall of Fame Induction
6:30-9:30 p.m., Nigh University Center Ballrooms

Volleyball vs. Washburn
6:30 p.m., Hamilton Field House

Cheer and Dance
9:30 p.m., Hamilton Field House

SATURDAY, NOV. 1
Future Broncho and Coloring Contest Winners' Party
9:15 a.m., St. Mary's Parking Lot

Homecoming Parade
10 a.m., starts at Math and Computer Science Parking Lot

Homecoming Tailgating
11:30 a.m., West of Wantland Stadium

Football vs. Northeastern State
2 p.m., Wantland Stadium

Volleyball Game vs. Emporia
7 p.m., Hamilton Field House

For more information, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 405-974-2421, email ucoalum@uco.edu or visit CentralConnection.org/homecoming2014.

Central's 2014 Family

By Reagan Hamlin
Assistant Vice President for Development

The University of Central Oklahoma has been a part of the Kates family since 1969. That's when Ben Kates (BSEd '73) finished high school in Kansas City, Kansas, and moved to Edmond to live and work with his father.

What was then Central State College was growing, and Ben Kates' father worked for Ehinger Wrecking out of Kansas City. The company had a contract to demolish houses around campus to make room for more classrooms and dorms.

Ben Kates was the first in his family with the chance to attend college, and his father insisted he enroll.

Not only was he lucky enough to attend college, but he considers it good fortune that one of his professors insisted on alphabetical seating. That put Kates by a guy named Gary Karraker. The two became friends quickly, including Karraker taking Kates to church with him. It was there that Kates met his wife to be, Peggy Jameson (BS '72).

At the time, she was a sophomore living in Murdaugh Hall with two other girls. What she remembers is how different dorm life was then as compared to now.

"The rooms were small with a sink in our room and a community bathroom and shower. We had mandatory study hall Monday through Thursday from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and then it was lights out at 10:30 p.m.," she wrote.

The future Mrs. Kates was a Calumet High School valedictorian, able to attend Central on an academic scholarship. She remembers coming to enroll and being called to then Vice President Alvin Alcorn's office. He grew up in Geary, and he recognized her maiden name. She soon learned that he graduated with her uncle. Once that was confirmed, Alcorn made a point to check on how she was doing at Central. Years after graduation, he encouraged her to join



Ben and Peggy Kates married while at Central, where they both got degrees before later starting Midwest Wrecking Co.

the UCO Foundation Board, where today she serves as chair. In addition, she has been an instrumental member of the steering committee for UCO's \$40 million Always Central capital campaign.



Family members from left, back row, are Benjamin Kates III, Kevin Kates, Bettina Kates, Chris Kates, Jean Kates, Jared Taylor, Rebecca Kates Taylor and Tim Kates. Front row are Peggy Kates, Kaylee Kates, Ella Kates, Ben Kates and Remington Kates.

Both Ben and Peggy Kates look back at their time at Central with fond memories. She majored in Biology and Chemistry, departments with several professors she credits with positively influencing her time at Central. These included Warren and Terry Smith and Biology professor Ethel Derrick.

"She (Derrick) was demanding, but you learned. I made sure I had her for several other classes before I graduated," Peggy Kates recently wrote.

Ben Kates worked full time on campus demolition projects while also attending classes. He and Peggy married during spring break of her junior year. The young couple then settled into Central's Faculty/Student Apartments.

Ben Kates' memories include finding a buried time capsule during one of his demolition projects for the expansion of Central's Administration building.

Both of the Kates graduated with degrees in Education. She worked as a Central academic adviser and a teacher in Edmond public schools before they moved to Colorado Springs after the birth of their first child. That's also when the demolition company where Ben Kates had been working went out of business, giving the couple the chance to start Midwest Wrecking Co.

The company's first demolition job was in Pueblo, Colorado, and they were happy to have it. However, they also were eager to move back to Oklahoma.

"I typed more than 5,000 letters on a manual typewriter — to

schools, banks, general contractors and real estate agencies — soliciting work," Peggy Kates recalled.

They finally landed their first move-back-home job in 1982 when they got the contract to demolish the Baptist Children's Home, on the site where the Waterford complex is today at NW 63rd and Pennsylvania in Oklahoma City. Then came contracts throughout Oklahoma City and Edmond, including the demolition of the Murrah Building after the Oklahoma City bombing. Their work also brought them back to Central, where they got the contracts to demolish UCO's East Hall, the Broncho Apartments and even the Student/Faculty Apartments where they had first lived as newlyweds.

The Kates have four children, three of whom live in Edmond, and four grandchildren. Their daughter-in-law Bettina Kates (MED '06) studied Administration for her graduate degree, while daughter-in-law Jean Spitz Kates (BBA '07) studied Business Finance. Peggy Kates' sister Janice Jameson Garlett (BBA '86) graduated with a major in Accounting.

"The quality of graduates from UCO is phenomenal with so many leaders in business and the community. To me, UCO is a hidden gem here in the metropolitan area.

"The quality of education and student and faculty involvement are exceptional," Peggy Kates wrote.

Central honors the Kates as UCO's 2014 Central Family of the Year for their accomplishments and dedication to the university.



Beginning Jan. 1, the University of Central Oklahoma will launch a yearlong celebration of UCO's 125th year. Events will include a speaker series and the opening of the CHKICentral Boathouse. In addition, there will be many opportunities for alumni and friends to enjoy a trip back to campus or to learn more about Central's rich history.

As celebration plans get underway, many on campus are struck by how UCO began as a Territorial Normal School, created for the purpose of training teachers to go out into the many one-room schoolhouses springing up across Oklahoma Territory. As time rolled by, Central began offering more than teaching degrees, but helping students learn remained a core part of UCO, which today is known as a "university where students come first."

Now, almost 125 years later, the university is an emerging Oklahoma metropolitan university with more than 17,000 students in an innovative learning community where students still are able to develop personal relationships with their professors, men and women who enjoy being at an institution where the focus is on student-learning.

Bookmark www.uco.edu/125 to learn more about upcoming 125th celebration events as they're posted.



With the 125-year celebration for the University of Central Oklahoma comes a new society that honors individuals who brought distinction to, or positively influenced the life of the university through their service and/or contributions.

This visionary group of 125 will be recognized throughout the celebration year and formally inducted into the new Luminary Society for the university.

To nominate an individual for the award, please call 405-974-2770.

lu·mi·nar·y
'lōomə,nerē/
noun

1. A person who inspires or influences others, especially one prominent in a particular sphere.
Synonyms: leading light, guiding light, inspiration, role model, hero, heroine, leader, expert, master

A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY

Dec. 24, 1890 – Territorial Gov. George Washington Steele signed legislation creating the Territorial Normal School. The school was to be established in Edmond IF citizens could raise the funds and secure the property. Oklahoma County had to donate \$5,000 in bonds, and Edmond had to donate 40 acres of land within one mile of the town. Ten of those acres had to be set aside for the new school. The remaining land had to be divided into lots that would be sold to raise money for the new school. Once accomplished, the city of Edmond also donated an additional \$2,000 in bonds.

1893 – The first classes were held in Old North, a brick building that became the central part of what is now Old North Tower. Later in 1893, the legislature approved \$15,000 to construct the tower and wings, all completed in June 1894.



June 16, 1902 – The Alumni Association was formed by graduates of the Territorial Normal School.



Dec. 29, 1919 – Renamed Central State Teachers College, Central became a four-year teachers' college conferring bachelor's degrees.



1954 – The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education gave Central permission to offer a master of teaching degree.



Nov. 9, 1972 – Old North Tower was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



2006 – Central became the first major Oklahoma university to have 100 percent of its energy supplied by wind power. UCO also was named an Olympic community partner and Olympic/Paralympic training site.



1890 1891 1893 1897 1902 1904 1919 1939 1954 1971 1972 1990 2006 2013



Nov. 9, 1891 – The first class, a group of 23 students, met for the first time in Edmond's Methodist Episcopal Church at Broadway and Second. Later, in 1915, a marker was placed at Boulevard and Second noting that classes were first held near there.



1897 – The first graduating class — two men and three women — received their Territorial Normal teaching diplomas.



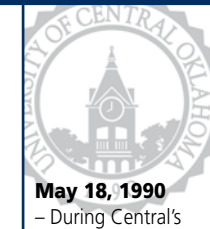
1904 – Territorial Normal became Central State Normal School. Statehood was still three years away.



1939 – Central becomes a four-year liberal arts college, with the name changed to Central State College.



April 13, 1971 – The state legislature officially changed the institution's name to Central State University.



May 18, 1990 – During Central's Centennial Year, legislation was passed changing the name to the University of Central Oklahoma.



2013 – Central was again ranked as the top public regional university in the state according to the 2013 Best Colleges list from the *U.S. News and World Report*. In 2012, Central ranked No. 27 in the list of Tier One institutions in the "Top Public Schools: Regional Universities – West" category. Central also moved to No. 72 in the overall list of regional universities in the West, up from No. 81 the previous year.

GREG WHITE'S

RISING STARR



Kay Starr, A Life in Song

By Angela Morris
Staff Writer, College of Fine Arts and Design



WRITER AND DIRECTOR GREG WHITE, PH.D., STRIKES AGAIN. AFTER THE STAGE SUCCESS OF HIS AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL "FLIPSIDE: THE PATTI PAGE STORY," THE CENTRAL FACULTY MEMBER HAS A NEW WORK READY FOR PRODUCTION ABOUT OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN AND MUSIC SENSATION KAY STARR.

"She just has such a unique sound — a rich voice, heavily jazz influenced, so representative of the iconic late 1940s and 1950s American sound," White explained.

White first met Kay Starr while working on his graduate degree in Musical Theatre at Central in the 1990s. Starr initially visited Central under the tutelage of former president George Nigh.

"To be honest, I hadn't really heard much of Kay Starr prior to her first visit to campus," White said. "I grew up more listening to the music of Patti Page. But once I heard Kay, there was no turning back. Her sound, her presence, her style is so instantly captivating."

White remained a fan of Starr, while working as a professional actor in New York City, while pursuing his doctorate in fine arts at Texas Tech University, and after becoming director of both UCO's Broadway Tonight Series and Central's Music Theatre division.

continued on next page

Now, with the first-ever themed Broadway Tonight series season — “Oklahoma Voices,” a brainchild of White — he has found inspiration in Starr as his next musical topic. The musical’s title: “Rising Starr: Kay Starr, A Life in Song.”

“I’m drawn to write this story narrative through the point of view of a fan,” White said.

Through his passion for Starr, White met Bill Lorance, one of Starr’s good friends dating back to the early 1950s.

“Kay and Bill met in 1951 while Bill was in the military, and he has been there for Kay ever since,” White said.

“He is seriously her biggest fan and has seen her through every hard time imaginable over the last 60 years. Although nothing romantic ever aspired between the two, they both truly love each other. And that kind of love is a story worth telling,” White explained.

While the production will follow this relationship between the fan and the famed, it will also include many of the big Kay Starr hits and her moving melodies.

“The songs chosen will be just as diverse and dynamic as her career was,” White explained.

With more than two dozen top-forty Billboard successes between 1948-1954, Starr pioneered the road of versatility, making hits in the genres of jazz, country, pop, spirituals, rhythm and blues and Broadway tunes. Her gold record “Wheel of Fortune” became the No. 2 top-selling single of 1952. Then in 1956, “The Rock And Roll Waltz” became that year’s No. 2 single in the United States and the No. 1 single in the U.K.

To portray this iconic figure and other characters that will emerge from White’s writing process, a mixture of both Central alumni and current students will be cast.

“It’s a great opportunity for both alumni and students,” White said. “Not only will they each get a chance on the stage, they’ll each get a chance to learn from one another. There’s plenty a student can gain from working with an alumnus from their university and plenty an alumnus can learn from fulfilling the role of a mentor.”

The musical also will incorporate Starr’s Native American heritage.

“To truly celebrate Kay in this production, it’s necessary to celebrate her heritage both as a Native American and an Oklahoman,” White said.

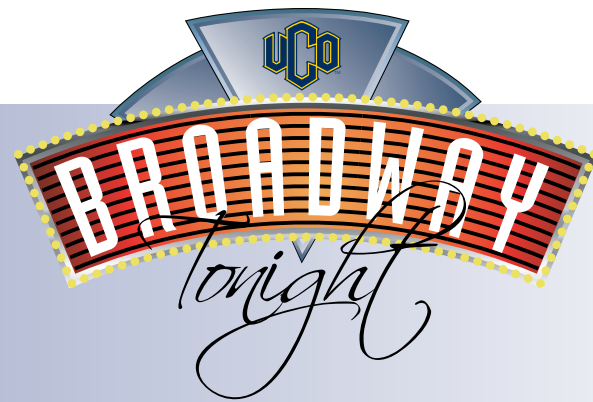
It is a yearning to celebrate Oklahoma that led White to present the Broadway Tonight Series season with a theme.

“Oklahoma Voices” will highlight several important Oklahoma native singers — KT Sullivan, Jimmy Webb, Sandi Patty — and conclude with the world premiere of “Rising Starr,” May 15-17, as the grand finale.

“As an Oklahoma artist, I have a passion for this state and the artists that come out of it,” White said.

“This Broadway Tonight season promises to be one of the most stimulating in our history, brimming with Oklahoma talent and flair.”

To stay updated on Broadway Tonight, the “Oklahoma Voices” season and “Rising Starr: Kay Starr, A Life in Song,” visit www.uco.edu/cfad/broadway.



Don’t miss Central’s 2014-15 Broadway Tonight series, includ-

ing Oklahoma native song writer **Jimmy**

Webb, who will be in concert at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 7, at Mitchell Hall.

Webb is just one of several being featured in the series that for the first time has a theme — “Oklahoma Voices.”

Webb, born in Elk City, is known internationally as a composer, arranger, songwriter and performer with songs like “By the Time I Get to Phoenix,” “Witchita Lineman,” “Galveston,” and “MacArthur Park,” to name just a few.



Other “Oklahoma Voices” being featured include **Sandi Patty** and her performance with the UCO Orchestra and the Young Voices of

Edmond. They will be performing at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 13, at Mitchell Hall.

On May 16, theatergoers can enjoy the world premiere of Greg White’s new musical, “**Rising Starr: Kay Starr, A Life in Song.**” The stage production is being introduced at UCO, just as White did with his earlier show, “Flipside: The Patti Page Story.” That production has since won a Kennedy Center award, been staged off-Broadway and enjoyed success on its across-country tour.

For more information or to order tickets, call 405-974-3375 or visit the Mitchell Hall webpage at www.uco.edu/cfad/mitchell-hall.

Just How Old Are We, Really?

As UCO prepares to celebrate 125 years of serving students, now seemed the perfect time to clear up a few long-standing misconceptions.

For example, there’s the often disseminated idea that Central is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state.

Not true — although Central can certainly be proud of its long history.

According to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in late 1890 created three educational institutions to meet a requirement of the Organic Act of Congress that established the new territory.

Congress required three types of public educational institutions to serve the new territory — one to provide a liberal arts and professional education, another for an agricultural and mechanical education as required by the land grant college provisions of the 1862 Morrill Act, and a third institution to provide teacher training.

Territorial Gov. George Washington Steele signed on Dec. 19, 1890, the bill creating the University of Oklahoma, designated to provide the liberal arts and professional education.

Six days later, on Christmas Day, he signed the bills creating the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater, now Oklahoma State University, as the land grant institution, and the Oklahoma Normal School for Teachers, now UCO, to provide teacher training.

From there, the race started to see which school would be the first to hold classes. Edmond proudly won the race, as well as the bragging rights that possibly morphed incorrectly into

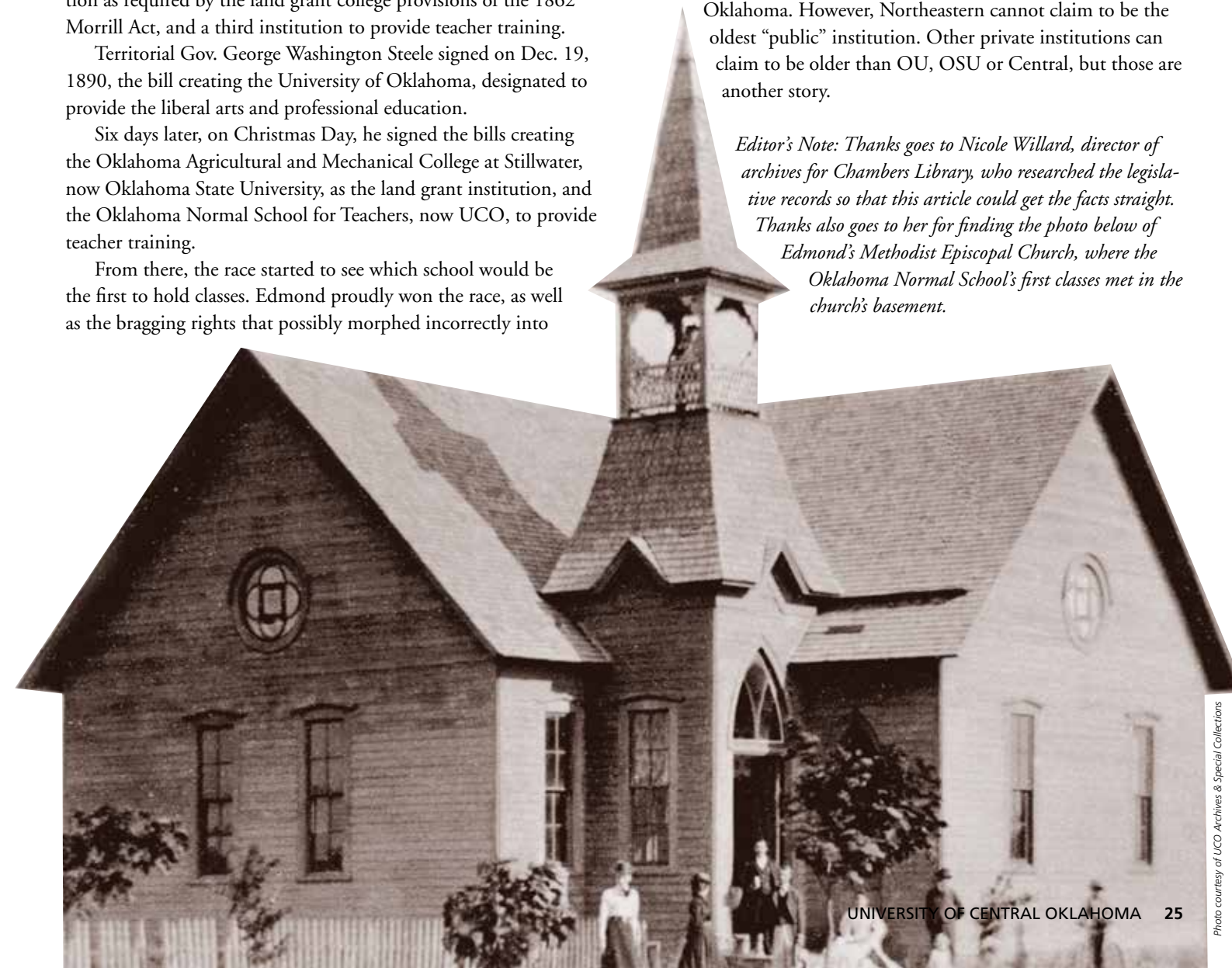
the idea of Central being the oldest.

Central’s first classes were held on Nov. 1, 1891, in the basement of Edmond’s Methodist Episcopal Church. Later, on Dec. 14, the first classes were held at the A&M College in Stillwater. In 1892, the University of Oklahoma started classes in a rented building on Main Street.

The truth? Central was the first public institution created by the Territorial Legislature to train teachers, its bedrock mission for more than fifty years. And Central was the first public institution to hold classes.

It should be noted that all three of these institutions were the Territory’s first “public” institutions of higher learning. Other institutions of learning in the area are older. The Cherokee National Female Seminary was established in 1846. It later became what is now Northeastern State University, giving that institution bragging rights to being the oldest institution of higher learning in Oklahoma. However, Northeastern cannot claim to be the oldest “public” institution. Other private institutions can claim to be older than OU, OSU or Central, but those are another story.

Editor’s Note: Thanks goes to Nicole Willard, director of archives for Chambers Library, who researched the legislative records so that this article could get the facts straight. Thanks also goes to her for finding the photo below of Edmond’s Methodist Episcopal Church, where the Oklahoma Normal School’s first classes met in the church’s basement.





McLaughlin, Job Well Done

*By Stephanie Turner
Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations,
College of Education and Professional Studies*

What began as a one-year contract at the University of Central Oklahoma for Scott McLaughlin, Ph.D., turned into a more than 30-year career developing Central's Speech-Language Pathology program and the Speech and Hearing Clinic. Recently retired, McLaughlin literally leaves his mark at Central with this fall's naming of the Scott F. McLaughlin Speech and Hearing Clinic, which is celebrating 50 years of Central service to the community.

An invitation to work at Central State under a temporary, one-year contract in 1983 offered a young Scott McLaughlin, Ph.D., a chance to "get his feet wet" in higher education teaching. However, as one contract led to another and another, McLaughlin became more and more committed to staying and helping the Central program to realize its full potential.

During McLaughlin's early years at Central, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the major accrediting body for speech-language pathology programs across the country, determined that only graduates of accredited programs could become nationally certified in the field. Accreditation became Central's essential and immediate goal to reach. Without it, the Central program would cease to exist. McLaughlin became passionate about the challenge.

In 1993, the program became nationally certified. The achievement was a career highlight for McLaughlin, and also a turning point.

"That really clinched it for us," said McLaughlin. "It made all the difference to whether or not we had a future." To McLaughlin, it also signaled so many other great things the program could achieve, and he wanted to stay and help make them happen.

Since then, five different certifications have renewed the program's seamless national accreditation for the last 21 years. At the same time, Central's program has earned both a state and national reputation for excellence.

'Skateboard Heaven'

When Old North was closed in 2000, classes and offices in that building were scattered across campus. Included in the displaced was the Speech-Language Pathology program's Speech and Hearing Clinic that had been in place since 1964.

The possible loss of clinic space was no small thing, McLaughlin said. Not only was it important to the many clients who received services, but it was essential for students to be able to put into practice what they were learning and gain valuable experience working with actual clients. The clinic was essential for the development of future clinicians, as such clinics are for many professions. However, finding a new location seemed almost as daunting a task as that first accreditation, McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin credits then-provost and now President Don Betz, Ph.D., for coming to the rescue.

It was Betz who had the idea of taking a wide strip of sidewalk on the south side of Chambers Library — popular with local skateboarders at the time — as space for building a new clinic location.

"Of the many times I ran around campus, a couple of times I thought, 'We have to capture this space,'" Betz remembered. "With the strong reputation and the quality of the program, the opportunities for growth and Scott's leadership, I was delighted to be able to inaugurate the current clinic offices."

Tone for Success

Once plans were drawn for the new clinic, it became clear that despite losing the charm and character of space in Old North, the program was going to gain so much more with the new clinic and office spaces. In addition, new, state-of-the-art equipment was added, offering students even more capabilities for practicing their knowledge.

Today, such additions continue.

"We recently received a new piece of equipment for endoscopic procedures. Students can work with this procedure before they go for their medical experience," said McLaughlin, explaining how much better equipped students are when they are given workplace assignments. "Experiences for clinicians are only getting better here."



From left, Speech-Language Pathology Program Coordinator Linda Sealey-Holtz, Ph.D., and Elaine Martindale, clinic coordinator, with retiring Rebecca Reynolds, clinic coordinator, and Scott F. McLaughlin, Ph.D., retired program director.

Confident Future

McLaughlin said he doesn't worry about the future of Central's program now that he's leaving. The program's success has come from supportive staff, dedicated faculty, the College of Education and Professional Studies itself, as well as countless other individuals, including the several UCO presidents he has served. He leaves many behind who will keep the program strong, he assured.

Linda Sealey-Holtz, Ph.D., has been named program coordinator. A graduate of Central's program, she already was teaching classes at Central when McLaughlin announced his retirement.

Also retiring this year was Rebecca Reynolds, who was the Speech and Hearing Clinic coordinator, helping educate clinicians for 20 years and someone McLaughlin referred to as the "difference maker."

Elaine Martindale (BSED '99, MS '01), another Central graduate who was working at Central's hearing-impaired campus preschool, eagerly stepped forward to become the Speech and Hearing Clinic coordinator.

"Both of these individuals are alumni of our program and take great pride in it," said McLaughlin. "I have great confidence in both of them because they love our program

and want to continue the excellence that they experienced as students here."

Both Sealey-Holtz and Martindale are grateful for the solid foundation McLaughlin leaves behind.

"I believe that the speech-language program at UCO is one of the strongest

"Scott has been a consistent practitioner of leadership, and I admire his commitment throughout the years."

— President Don Betz

in the state," said Sealey-Holtz. "Under the guidance of Dr. McLaughlin, we have emerged as a robust program that holds our graduates to a demanding standard. He has led us to instill in our students a standard of excellence that future employers desire."

So, what is speech-language pathology?

Short answer: It focuses on human communication and its disorders.

Next level answer: Drawing from psychology, linguistics, human anatomy and acoustics, a speech-language pathologist evaluates and treats individuals with stuttering, language disorders, aphasia, voice disorders, articulation disorders and swallowing disorders.

Long-answer: Be prepared to get a bachelor's and a master's degree.

About UCO's Speech-Language Pathology program

- Central's bachelor of science in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) began in 1964; master of science degree started in 1978.
- The program has had continuous national accreditation since 1993 from the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA).
- UCO's SLP master of science graduates have had a 100 percent pass rate for the last four years on the ASHA national Praxis examination, a requirement for becoming a licensed professional.
- Only 45-50 students are accepted into Central's undergraduate program each year.
- Only 25 are accepted for the graduate program.
- UCO's Speech-Language Pathology program was one of the first on campus to receive an endowed chair, funded by Inez Miller in 1997. Miller was a former Oklahoma teacher who developed an awareness of communication disorders as she lost her hearing.
- Central hosts the annual Inez Miller Conference on Communication Sciences and Disorders, attracting 350 participants each year. Approximately 250 of those are full-time speech-language pathologists, many of whom are alumni.
- In 2013, Speech-Language Pathology graduate Nikki Perkins received the E.C. Hall Award for the highest grade point average among all Central '13 graduates of the Jackson College of Graduate Studies.

About UCO's Speech and Hearing Clinic

The clinic is an integral part of Central's Speech-Language Pathology program. Students gain experience working with clients while under the supervision of a licensed professional. Students learn early in their academic journey the demands of the profession in addition to the rewards of helping others.

- Clinic services are provided to clients of all ages. As a community service resource, nominal fees are charged for services.
- Since 1964, the clinic has served the Edmond and Oklahoma City metropolitan areas.
- Students develop individual treatment plans and work with clients under close supervision of licensed and certified faculty and staff.
- Clients are given formal and informal assessments of articulation, language, stuttering, voice and auditory perceptual/processing problems.
- Basic hearing evaluations are done by a staff audiologist (pure-tone screenings, pure-tone air and bone thresholds, tympanometry).
- The clinic is being renamed this fall the Scott F. McLaughlin Speech and Hearing Clinic in honor of the man who has done so much to establish the program's national reputation over the last 30 years.

Fast Facts About Speech-Language Pathologists

2012 median pay: \$69,870 per year/
\$33.59 per hour

Entry-level education: master's degree required

Work experience in a related occupation: none

Number of jobs, 2012: 134,100

Job outlook, 2012-22: 19 percent increase (faster than average)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Helping Children Move

By Lindsay Houts
Staff Writer, University Relations

Computer Science students Sean Smith and Wenxi Zeng didn't know if their work would ever reach beyond the classroom when assistant professor of Computer Science Jicheng Fu, Ph.D., asked them to help him research and create a 3-D wheelchair simulation system for children.

However, their work not only shows promise for young handicapped children, but also has landed the student-researchers a coveted spot in the annual, prestigious "Posters on the Hill" event in Washington, D.C.

Smith, a senior from Tunnel Hill, Georgia, and Zeng, a sophomore from Jianxi, China, presented their work in April to lawmakers and members of the national science community after being selected by the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) for the Washington event.

They were one of just 60 research teams selected from more than 600 applicants nationwide to participate. The event helps members of Congress understand the importance of undergraduate research by giving them the opportunity to talk with students about their research, Fu said.

Smith, Wenxi and Fu met with Rep. James Lankford, staffers for Sens. Tom Coburn and Jim Inhofe, and scientists like Krishan Arora, Ph.D., who leads the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The UCO research team shared not only their 3-D wheelchair simulator, but also their hope that it will change the lives of children with severe motor impairments.

The 3-D simulation is designed to help severely impaired 2- to 5-year-old children practice the skills needed to safely control a joystick-operated wheelchair. Using a wheelchair allows them to increase their independence and mobility. In turn, experts believe they then improve their social, cognitive, perceptual and motor skills.

Previously, parents of young children encountered three barriers to getting their children into power wheelchairs: a steep learning curve, safety concerns and the high cost of a pediatric wheelchair. The simulator — developed with seven levels to ensure the development of critical skills — addresses all three.

"It's much safer for children," Fu explained. "It allows them to understand the system before they use a real wheelchair, and there's

less opportunity for them to hurt themselves — or the wheelchair — by falling or crashing."

And rather than purchasing a costly wheelchair that the child will outgrow, children can learn the fundamentals and graduate into a long-lasting wheelchair.

Fu earlier collaborated on research to create more comfortable wheelchair positions for people with spinal cord injuries. One of his colleagues in that project mentioned to him the problems small children face in learning to use a joystick to control a wheelchair. Fu, who teaches software design and development, left the conversation thinking about how to create a gamelike experience for young children to develop the skills they needed.

So far, the program has had limited testing, but results are promising with a partnership with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center allowing further development. Fu hopes that with additional partnerships, the simulator might be commercialized and widely distributed.

The 3-D simulation system was in development for more than a year thanks to a \$135,000 grant awarded to Fu in 2012 by the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST).

For Fu, the decision to invite Smith and Zeng to work on his research was an easy one. "They have the kind of mature personality that this work requires. When I assign a task to them, I know they'll be able to do it. They have the ability to carry out research independently, and their work has constantly surprised me," Fu said.

For Zeng, his professor's invitation was an opportunity not only to improve his programming skills, but to improve another person's life — something he'd never considered as part of a programmer's job description.

For Smith, "it was an opportunity to learn new things that I wouldn't have otherwise come across in my education. It also showed me just what I was capable of."

Smith graduated from Central in May and is continuing his work in the computer science field. Zeng plans to complete his degree at Central, then seek a master's degree.

"To be a programmer in a big company is my dream job," Zeng said. "I always wanted to program for websites, software and mobile apps, but now I have another choice — video games."



From left, UCO assistant professor of Computer Science Jicheng Fu, Ph.D., and students Wenxi Zeng and Sean Smith with a joystick, an important part of their research to help young children master electric wheelchairs.

CLUB CENTRAL

By Sydney Monday
Student Intern, University Relations

Studies show that students who are active in campus organizations have more friends, are better adjusted, are more involved and — here's the kicker — are more likely to graduate. So, today, UCO finds itself trying to offer a broad range of club choices so that there's something for everyone.

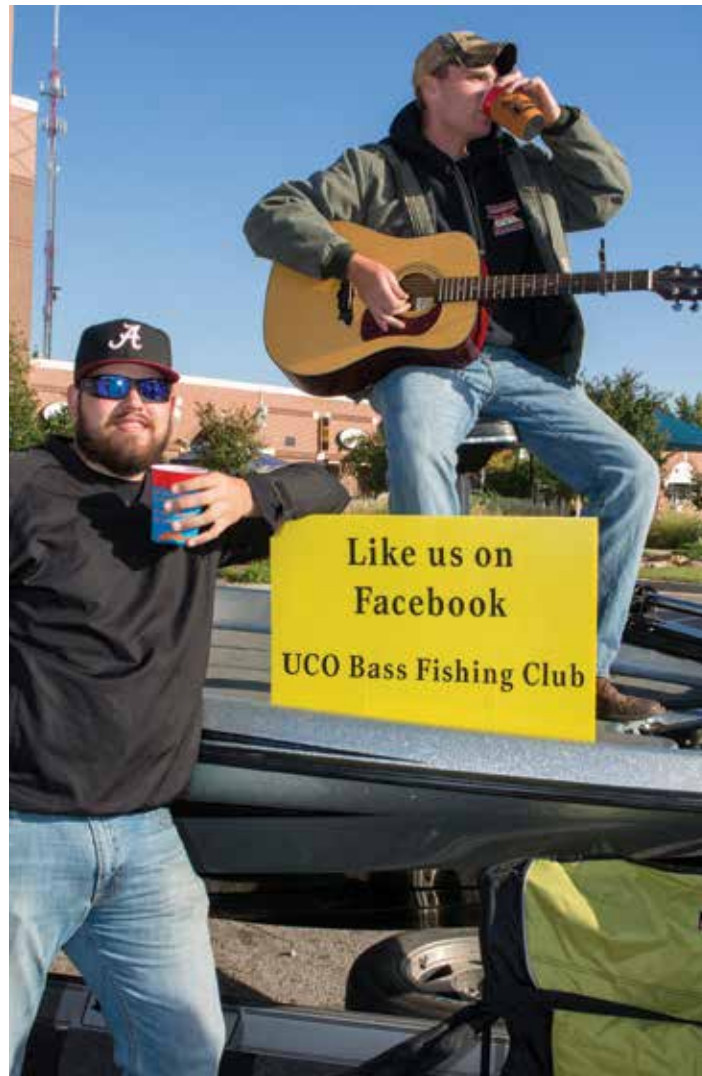
As a result, club choices today might amaze someone on campus just 10 years ago. Club interests range from the traditional professional and social groups to special interest groups focused on things ranging from Japanese martial arts to fandoms to skepticism.

"We are steadily adding new clubs each year," said UCO Student Association Vice President Josh Jarrett.

The UCO Student Association (UCOSA) awarded \$143,000 to various groups that applied for funding for the 2014-15 academic year. UCOSA also helps organizations with organizational development through leadership workshops and organization fairs that allow groups to reach prospective members.

Adrian Rogers is a senior from Tulsa who decided in spring 2013 that he wanted to form a Harry Potter group that provided more Hogwarts experiences than playing Quidditch, an activity already organized on campus for those wanting to play the fantasy game made popular in the J.K. Rowling novel series. Rogers envisioned activities that made students feel like they were at the Hogwarts school for witches and wizards. Yearly activities thus far have included a magic show in the spring, a Halloween ball partnered with the UCO Student Alliance for Equality organization and a Yule Ball in November.

Central has been working to promote student involvement through organizations since 1894 when E.R. Williams, the UCO president at that time, created the first two clubs on campus. Membership in one of those clubs was required. Money raised by these two clubs funded Central's first library.



Bass fishing fans started their own club in 2013, finding membership interest and success at fishing tournaments.



Going beyond the Quidditch Club, the Rowling group seeks creative ways to pretend they are part of the Harry Potter world.

Now, 120 years later, UCO has almost 200 student organizations that are as varied as the students on campus.

The UCO Sailing Club is relatively new, featuring a club sport offered at only two other Oklahoma universities.

David Bass, Ph.D., a Central Biology professor and longtime sailing enthusiast started the group at the request of a student he had coached outside of UCO. However, once the student graduated, the club started to dissipate. Then, five years ago, Bass was approached by UCO to get the club started again. So, Bass and his wife, Donna, have been coaching together since.

The team usually has 10-12 members that practice three days a week year-round. They travel to several out-of-state regattas, while hosting one in the fall at Lake Hefner. The club is partnered with the Oklahoma City Boat Club at Lake Hefner, which allows the use of their boats and equipment for student practices.

Bass said he reminds members every year that they are students first, requiring a 2.0 grade-point average, and to put their academics before sailing.

A newer Central club addition is the UCO Bass Fishing Club, which started in August 2013. The bass-fishing club includes both competitive team fishing and mentorships. Members compete against schools from regional to Division I, with several tournaments televised on outdoor channels.

Josh White, "Broncho Bass" president, describes the group as not just about competition, but also about teaching students "how to work as a team, set a budget, and learn about wildlife conservation and ecosystems."

For students who have never fished, the group offers a mentor-

ship program where seasoned fishermen are paired with novices.

Currently, there are 25 members competing in tournaments throughout the year. Tournament preparation begins a few days before with pre-fishing, which White describes as "a practice session where we break down the lake to try and locate fish that we think will help us win the tournament."

A tournament day is usually about 12 hours with around 150 teams competing. Last year, the club was named the "Okie Challenge Series" Team of the Year, beating the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern State University, Northeastern State University and Oral Roberts University. Needless to say, the Broncho Bass club is catching more than fish.



UCO's Sailing Club practices at Lake Hefner with boats provided by the Oklahoma City Boat Club.



By Adrienne Nobles
Assistant Vice President, University Relations

Moviegoers might see some familiar Central sites on screens this fall.

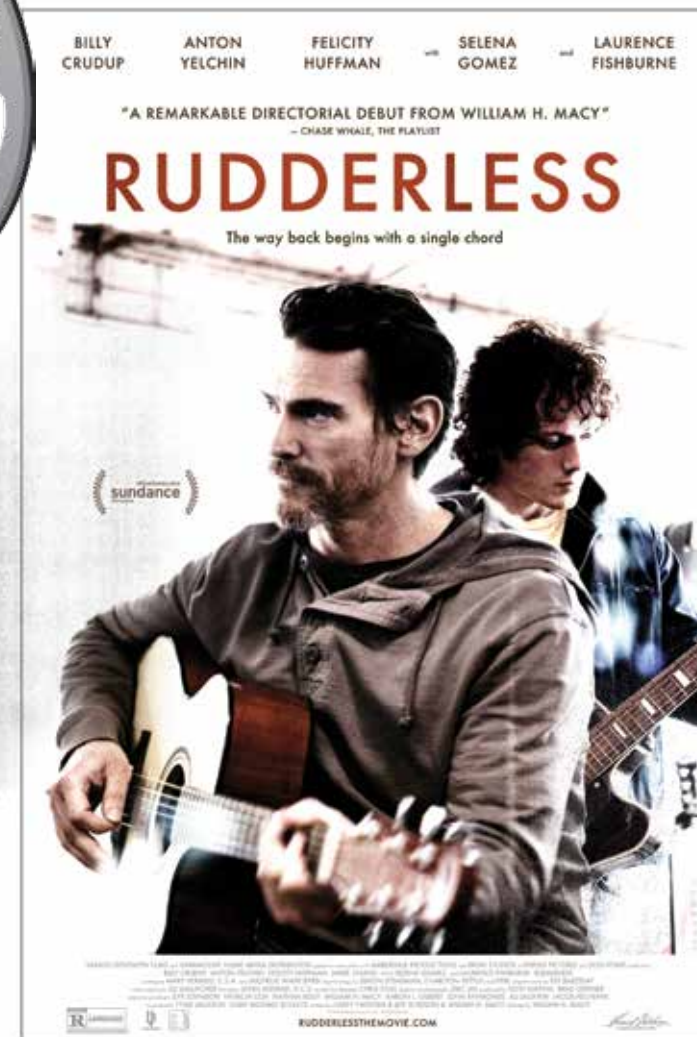
Last spring, the Central campus doubled as a movie set for the feature film "Rudderless," with members of the UCO Police Department, plus some students, faculty and staff serving as extras in various scenes. Old North became "Smythe Hall" and its courtyard the stage for one of the film's most dramatic scenes.

Co-written by Central alumnus Casey Twenter (BA '95), the film brought well-known actors to campus including director and star William H. Macy, his wife Felicity Huffman, Billy Crudup and Selena Gomez.

Due to the nature of the scenes shot on campus, the university made sure to communicate to the campus and surrounding community that there was no actual emergency.

The film debuted to positive reviews earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival and will be released in theaters and On Demand Oct. 17.

1. For the movie, the name Normal on UCO's Old North building was changed to Smythe.
- 2-3. Onlookers enjoyed frequent sightings of director and star William H. Macy, top far right.
4. Co-writer and UCO alumnus Casey Twenter, green shirt, enjoyed being back on campus. Edmond and UCO police officers and their vehicles were extras for the filming.



Staying the Course

By Kristy Blotch
Manager of Communications and Corporate Relations,
College of Business

When former collegiate golfer Justin Watkins transferred to the University of Central Oklahoma, he probably had doubts about whether some of his best collegiate tournament performances could still be ahead of him.

The Oklahoma City-native started his college career playing golf for Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Halfway through his junior year, after difficulties with his coach led Watkins to put his days as a student athlete behind him, he decided to transfer to UCO.

Watkins spent his first semester at Central as a Computer Science major. Before long, however, he realized how much he missed golf. His mom, a professional golf instructor, taught him how to play when he was just 3 years old. The sport had been an incredibly important part of his life.

So, Watkins talked with Bob Phelps, director of UCO's PGA Golf Management (PGM) Program, about becoming a PGM student. Although he wouldn't be playing every day as a student-athlete, the program would give him the opportunity to be around the sport and to learn about how to make a career in golf management.

UCO's rigorous PGA Golf Management program is one of only 18 of its kind in the nation. It's aimed at providing the golf industry with competent and college-educated golf professionals by linking a business education with the knowledge and skills specific to a successful career in the golf industry.

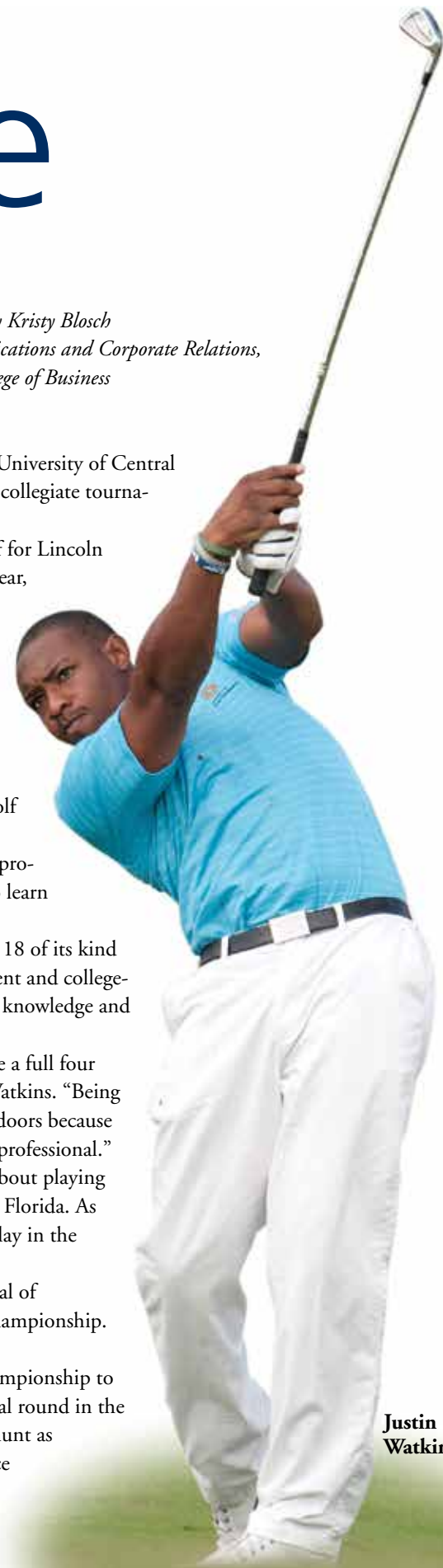
"I knew that even though I was already a junior, it would still be a full four years to complete the program, but I was willing to do that," said Watkins. "Being a graduate of a PGA Golf Management program opens all kinds of doors because of the credibility you gain from earning PGA membership as a golf professional."

After his first year in the program, Phelps approached Watkins about playing in the 2012 PGA Minority Collegiate Championship in Port Lucie, Florida. As a PGM student and an African-American, Watkins was eligible to play in the Independent Division.

Watkins gladly accepted the opportunity, and with a 54-hole total of 10-over-par 226, he took home the Men's Independent Division Championship. Fellow UCO PGM student Casey Foster came in third.

In 2013, Watkins returned to the PGA Minority Collegiate Championship to defend his title. Although he was six shots back heading into the final round in the second-to-last group, a strong surge gave him the lead, back in the hunt as he headed into the clubhouse. However, an outstanding performance from the final group on the 18th hole sent Watkins into a three-way playoff. After a one-hole playoff, Watkins finished as the runner-up.

In 2014, he returned once more to Port Lucie. Despite an inconsistent performance, he came in second to the 2013 champion.



Justin Watkins

Photos by Montana Pritchard / Courtesy of The PGA of America



"I'm very proud of my performances in these tournaments," said Watkins. "One of the big changes going from being on a collegiate golf team to being in the PGA Golf Management Program is that I don't play golf every day. Between school and work commitments, there's just not an opportunity to work on my game every day. But these performances give me hope that I can still go out and compete with guys that are practicing more."

These days, Watkins is participating in his second internship with the PGA of America Junior Series. He's traveling around the country helping to set up and manage tournaments for the nation's top junior players.

Each summer, as a part of UCO's PGM curriculum, every student is required to have a three-month, paid golf internship to provide them with valuable hands-on experience.

After staying close to home his first year with an internship at the University of Oklahoma's Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club, Watkins decided to do just the opposite for his second year. Thanks to a tip from a contact he made through the UCO PGA Golf Management Program, he headed to

Alaska for an internship with Anchorage Golf Course.

"It was an incredible experience because Alaska is such a beautiful and unique place," said Watkins. "Plus, since the sun never really sets there in the summer, you can play golf late into the night."

For his third internship, Watkins participated in his first summer with The PGA of America Junior Series. After spending the summer traveling the country and developing a love for managing tournaments, he decided to return to the PGA Junior Series for his final summer internship.

"This has been a great opportunity for Justin," said Phelps. "He is a very hard worker and a good student, and it speaks volumes for his abilities that he was asked to return for a second year with such an outstanding organization as The PGA of America, the experts in the business and game of golf."

"Between his performances in the PGA Minority Collegiate Championship and his internships, he has brought great national exposure to the PGA Golf Management program here at UCO."

As Watkins prepares for his final semester, he looks forward to the future and credits UCO's PGA Golf Management program with preparing him for what's ahead. After finishing his final classes and a fall internship, and with support from connections he has made through the UCO program, he plans to play golf professionally.

"I have had so many opportunities and made such great contacts through the UCO PGA Golf Management program, and I know that has helped prepare me for a career in golf, whether that's as a player or as a PGA golf professional."



- The UCO Golf Management program was established in 2002 and received official PGA accreditation in 2008.
- UCO's PGA Golf Management program is one of only 18 of its kind in the country and the only one in Oklahoma.
- Students must complete 137 hours of coursework, including the core requirements for a business management degree and three levels of PGA coursework.
- Students also must demonstrate a high level of playing ability. A handicap of 12 or better is required for admission to the program, and students must pass a playing ability test upon graduation to earn PGA membership.
- Current enrollment is 85 students, one-third of them from out of state.
- In the summer of 2014, students participated in internships in 13 states, from Alaska to Florida.
- Students have achieved 100 percent job placement upon graduation.
- UCO's PGA Golf Management program team has finished in the top five for the last two years at the Jones Cup, a tournament specifically for all PGA Golf Management programs nationwide.

'TL' on Campus, Historically Speaking



Ed Cunliff

Ed Cunliff, Ph.D., is as equipped as anyone to describe how the concept of transformative learning has developed at Central.

"We didn't draw from the theorists. We pretty much have done our own thing," said Cunliff, who has 20 years on campus in Academic Affairs and as a professor of Adult and Higher Education.

"That said, we are very much in line with people like Mezirow and others," he added,

referring to Jack Mezirow, an emeritus professor from Columbia University who is credited with beginning in the late 1970s to develop a framework for the transformative learning concept.

When President Betz was vice president of Academic Affairs and later provost from 1999-2005, he began a planning process that started pulling all the UCO pieces together, Cunliff said.

Those pieces were the various efforts by many different faculty and staff to give students more than a test-taking experience. The American Democracy Project, undergraduate research and service learning were a few of the big pieces, complemented by many more. Factor in UCO's focus on the continuous quality improvement movement, and the recipe was strong.

However, because of its organic roots, Central's transformative learning movement has been confusing to some. There are faculty who have been working with transformative learning concepts for years, maybe without even realizing it.

What's new, supporters say, is that methods are now being identified and encouraged to make sure all professors are using transformative learning, an effort being made in colleges and universities nationally and internationally.

What adds a new twist at UCO is the idea that students will now be able to track their progress and document their development with UCO's new Student Transformative Learning Record

(STLR). Academics are looking to Central to see how well it succeeds at infusing the concept into classwork and out-of-class activities — and at being able to track each student's progress.

Adding to its impreciseness are the limitless ways to give students a transformative experience. Different professors, different classes, different extracurricular activities — all make for different experiences. One professor may make a video showing how bad a basketball player he is, then ask students if they think he can improve if he practices 30 minutes a day. And if so, do they think they can improve their math skills if they practice math 30 minutes a day? Aha!

Another professor may stop students in the middle of a test, giving them a five-minute briefing before sending them into a surveillance and arrest simulation. Such simulations give real-world experience, leadership and teamwork skills, learning through participation — very much some of the many components of transformative learning.

Such has been the development of what UCO faculty bring to the transformative learning table.

Now comes the tracking of those student achievements.

The goal is to have all undergraduate students participating in developing a STLR certificate by 2018 — no small feat!

As part of that effort, UCO staff members also will train to help them spot times when a student has a transformative learning experience. Maybe a student worker learns how to deal with people from a different background or solve a difficult problem in a creative way. Maybe a student volunteer responds to an accident or a medical trauma. The possibilities are endless, but trained staff will encourage that student to reflect on the experience, how it caused them to think differently, write about it and submit it for STLR credit.

In the end, students, as well as others interested in their progress, will be able to see the value of their work.

Transforming (continued from page 5)

His reasons for moving to Central have been well-rewarded, including being asked last year to represent Central on the Evidence for Learning Advisory Committee for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation is working to identify leaders in higher education whose innovations in competency-based education are worth sharing. The organization has identified Central's STLR transcript as worthy.

With the recent Department of Educa-

tion grant, Central now will be able to accelerate its efforts to implement more of its transformative learning initiatives, including building an application that will make it easier for students to find those classes and events that offer ways for them to add to their STLR transcript. In addition, the app will make it easier for them to put proof of their STLR accomplishments into their portfolios.

"We were limited this semester by our

computer capabilities," King said. "Now, with the start of the fall 2015 semester, we'll be able to roll out the program to all freshmen, then keep building every year so that by fall 2018, all of our undergraduates will be STLR-ized," King said.

To learn more about UCO's transformative learning efforts and its STLR concept, visit www.uco.edu/tl.

FRESHMAN CONVOCATION

A new tradition started this fall at Central — Freshman Convocation — where freshmen mark their journey's beginning in the fall with a ceremony very similar to the commencement ceremonies that await them at graduation.

1. Just as graduates now walk through the Central Archway on their way to Commencement, students began Freshman Convocation outside Old North before walking to Hamilton Field House.

2. While students dressed casually, faculty and administrators participated in academic regalia befitting a graduation ceremony.

3. Upon entering the Field House, students were greeted with "high fives" by faculty and staff participants.

4. Students gathered at Broncho Lake for a cookout after the ceremony.



ALUMNI IN CHICAGO

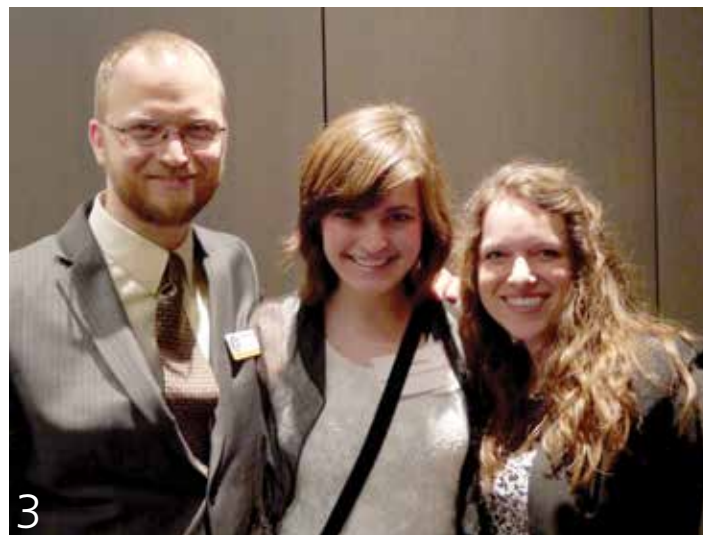


UCO alumni gathered in April at Chicago's Radisson Aqua Blu for a reception hosted by the College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD).

1. CFAD Dean Pamela Washington, Nathan Box, Logan Reynolds
2. Brandon Brandy, Erin Handy, CFAD Development Manager Deborah Baucom with poster of recent design by ADDY-winning student
3. CFAD Assistant Dean Christopher Domanski, Kristen Phillips and friend
4. Seth Knudson, Stacy Kettner-Charnay, Matthew Charnay, Daniel Gilbert, Christopher Domanski



Photos taken by CFAD Associate Dean Rukmini (Ruki) Ravikumar



CLASS MARSHALS



For commencement, each of Central's five undergraduate colleges bestow the title of Class Marshal upon its top graduating senior. A reception is held in their honor for them to invite family, friends and professors who have been important parts of their journey to graduation.

1. President Betz, College of Fine Arts and Design honoree Lena K. Mitchell, College Dean Pamela Washington
2. College of Business Class Marshal Rachel M. Duncan, Professor of Finance Minje Jung
3. Assistant Professor Kristi Archuleta (Frush), College of Education and Professional Studies Class Marshal Bethanie Bird
4. College of Mathematics and Science Class Marshal Candace M. Baker and family
5. President Betz, College of Liberal Arts Class Marshal Kylie B. Collier and College Dean Gary Steward



PUBLIC SERVICE



CENTRAL STANDOUTS

(Above) UCO senior Elizabeth Larios, center, received the 2014 Newman Civic Fellow award for her work in advocating for women's education and empowerment. She's joined by Vice President for Student Affairs Myron Pope and President Betz.

(Right) Congratulations to the UCO Alumni Association's 2014 Central Standouts. Back row, from left, are Mikasa Barnes, Joel Richardson, Kylie Gilcrest, Michael Russell; front row, Alanna Riderer, Kenna Baker.



PRESIDENTIAL PARTNERS



UCO's Presidential Partners luncheon is held each spring, allowing those who fund greatly needed scholarships to meet thankful student recipients.

1. President Betz, former first lady Donna Nigh, student Jernye Werth, Kirkpatrick Foundation Chair Christan Keese, Kirkpatrick Family Fund Director Liz Eickman
2. President Betz, student McKenna Olsen, Judy Love
3. President Betz, student Brooke Edmonds, first lady Susanne Betz
4. Regent Richard Ogden, President Betz, students Joshua Jarrett and Elizabeth Rodriguez, former State Sen. Andrew Rice
5. President Betz, students Ashley Mueller and Marissa Shipman, Sherry Beasley



SENIOR TOAST



1

UCO's Alumni Association invited spring graduates to the first Senior Toast, a celebration at the Alumni House.

1. Participants stood and raised their glasses for a group salute to the May 2014 graduates.
2. Graduates Taylor Roberts, Lindsey Edmonson
3. Student Alumni Association President Stephen Smith, President Betz

BUILDING SIGNS



2



3

Visitors and new students are navigating campus better with the installation of new signs outside most campus buildings. The black granite signs were designed to add a look of historical permanence.

ALUMNI NOTES

1970s

Anita Schlaht (BSEd '75) has been named executive director of the Edmond Historical Society and Museum. She previously served as program director and director of grants and special projects at Prevent Blindness Oklahoma.

1980s

Jerry Sanger (BS '86) has been named chief of the attorney general's public utilities unit by Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt. He joined the Attorney General's Office in April 2013 as an assistant attorney general and previously worked in both private practice and as an environmental attorney at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Col. **Curtis Bohlman** (BBA '89) retired as commander of the 189th Regiment of the Oklahoma Army National Guard after 32 years of service. Previous assignments included serving as commander of the Recruiting Retention Battalion and director of personnel for the Oklahoma Army National Guard. He was awarded the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal at the change of command ceremony held in June. **Joe Highberger** (BS '89) has been appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to the Oklahoma Funeral Board for a five-year term. He is general manager and funeral director at Ladusau-Evans Funeral Home in Enid. **Jeff Wallingford** (BSEd '89) has been named principal of Woodland Park Middle School in Woodland Park, Colorado. He has 20 years of experience in education and previously was a high school principal in Colby, Kansas.

1990s

Col. **Cynthia Tinkham** (BA '92) has been named commander of the 189th Regiment of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.



New Alumni Association Officers

UCO Alumni Association board officers, from left, are **Jena Walla**, vice president; **Jeff Carel**, president; **Cyndi Munson**, secretary; and **Jarrett Jobe**, Ph.D., past president. Not pictured is **Tony Holden**, treasurer. For information on becoming a more active member, call 405-974-2421.

Previous assignments include 645th Personnel Services Company commander and 90th Troop Command executive officer.

2000s

Philip Pittman (BMEd '01) was named band director at Keys middle and high schools. **Haley (Thomas) Murphy**, Ph.D., (BA '04) has joined the faculty at Oklahoma State University as an assistant professor of political science. **Kristy Viravong Portis** (BBA '05) has been promoted to assistant vice president/community engagement manager by Tinker Federal Credit Union, where she previously served as the business development representative for the western territory. She joined the company in 2006. **Heath Selcer** (BA '05) has been named principal at Duke High School in Duke, Oklahoma. He received his master of education in school administration from Southwestern Oklahoma

State University in 2010. First Sgt. **Porctia Tinsley** (BSEd '05) received the First



Sergeant of the Year award for the 137 Air Refueling Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. She joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard in 1995. She

teaches at Kingsgate Elementary in Moore. She became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2011. **Sherrod Wall** (BA '07) has had his first novel, *From Heaven to Earth*, published. The novel is the first in his *The Faith of the Fallen* series. **Brandy Robles** (BA '09) has been named an associate attorney by Horizon Attorneys and Counselors at Law PLC. She specializes in estate planning and business succession planning.

2010s

Bruce Franklin (BMed '12) has been named band director for Frederick Public



Schools. **Carrie Bullard** (BS '13) has been named executive director of Rainbow Fleet, a nonprofit childcare resource and referral agency.

Current/Former Students

Former student **Dillon Rust** won his first professional golf title on the Adams Pro Tour in June. He earned All-America honors in his final two seasons with the Bronchos and was named the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Player of the Year in 2012-13. Current student **Phillip Wilson** signed with the Evansville (Indiana) Otters of the Frontier Independent League to continue his baseball career on the professional level. This past spring, he was a shortstop-pitcher for the Bronchos, earning first team All-America selection and Player of the Year honors in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

2014-15 Legacy Scholarship Recipients

Payden Cloud is a recent graduate of Ponca City High School where he was involved in HOSA, Young Life, and coached a recreational volleyball team. He also graduated with a 3.8 GPA. Cloud also was a certified trainer at Starbucks. At UCO, he is majoring in Biomedical Engineering with later plans to attend medical school. Cloud wrote that he believes in "the value in serving others, and living life by design and not by default." His mother, Toni Cloud, is a 1994 Central graduate.



Payden Cloud



Mackenzie Pruett



Holden Crago

Mackenzie Pruett is a Ponca City High School graduate who was involved in Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Crime Stoppers, Orchestra, National Honor Society and Chorale. She graduated with a 3.8 grade-point average and a 32 on her ACT. She also was active in her church, serving on the Youth Leadership Team and Youth Worship Team, and playing solo and ensemble violin at a variety of civic and religious events. Involved in community causes, she cooks for the homeless and does yard work for the disabled. At UCO, she's majoring in Biomedical Engineering to help her become an interventional radiologist. Her mother, Maurissa Pruett, is a 2004 UCO graduate.

Holden Crago graduated from Bixby High School. Involved in Academic All State, 2013 Oklahoma Boy State and the Bixby High School Varsity Golf Team, Crago graduated with a 3.7 grade-point average. At UCO, he's majoring in Professional Golf Management. He was on the Bixby Varsity Golf Team and the Junior Varsity Track Team, and a member of the Bixby Optimist. As captain of the Varsity Golf Team — what he calls his No. 1 leadership experience — he led the team to the State Championship in 2013. His grandfather, Thomas Johnson, is a UCO alumnus.

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Beth Buesing (BBA '01, MEd '06) writes Alumni Notes and In Memory. She is executive office assistant in UCO's Office of University Relations. If you have information to be included in this section, please send to the UCO Alumni Association, 100 North University Drive, Box 125, Edmond, OK 73034, or email alumni@uco.edu with "Alumni Note" in the subject line.

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IN MEMORY

1930s



Truth N. Colvard (BS '39) died May 8, 2014. She taught school for 30 years at Sexton and Pantall (Stevens) elementary schools in Sterling, Colorado.

1940s



Virginia Lorain Costello Jones (BA '41) died June 27, 2014. She was a teacher, a pilot, a community volunteer, an excellent Army wife and a

beloved mother. **Hazel Elizabeth (Berrey) Roberts** (BA '42) died April 10, 2014. She was an active member of the Edmond First Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday school and had a lifelong love of music. A memorial service for **Betty Jane (Yates)**



Johnston (BA '43) was May 24, 2014. While attending Central, she served as editor of *The Vista*. She taught journalism, English and photography in Bartlesville,

retiring in 1986. **Lorraine Thomas Stinchcomb** (BSEd '48) died March 1, 2014. She taught in several school districts in California and Oklahoma. She was named the Lincoln County Teacher of the Year in 1973.

1950s

Thomas Jefferson Kelly Jr., D.D.S. (BS '54), died March 29, 2014. He received his doctor of dental surgery and was an

endodontic surgeon in the United States Air Force. After retiring from the military, he opened his own dental practice in Moore.

He practiced full time until 2005, but continued serving his patients on a part-time basis until 2012. **Max M. Marquardt**



(MEd '57) died Feb. 7, 2014. He attended Central on a basketball scholarship, also participating in football, baseball, and track and field. He was named Central's

Outstanding Athlete in both his freshman and senior years. He coached basketball and baseball for 20 years at Norman, retiring in 1984. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2001. After retiring from coaching, he owned and operated the Kettle Restaurant in Norman.

1960s



James Louis Stephens (BAEd '64, MEd '74) died May 26, 2014. He began his career with Oklahoma City Public Schools in 1965 as an English teacher

and later served as the district's assistant director of personnel, retiring in 1998.

Phyllis J. (Luman) Hilmer (BSEd '65, MEd '77) died July 3, 2014. She retired in 1993 after a long career in public educa-



tion. **Gwendolyn Marie Casey** (BSEd '66) died April 23, 2014. She retired after 31 years as a school librarian with Wichita (Kansas) Public Schools.

1970s

Jerry Russell (BBA '70) died April 19, 2014. Known as the "The Guitar Picking Salesman," he was a clothes salesman, and an accomplished guitarist and singer.

Harriett Grace Wagnon (BS '70) died May 23, 2014, of cancer. She was an administrative professional for more than 40 years, including 25 years as association executive for the Edmond Board of Realtors. She is survived by her husband, John "Skip" Wagnon, who served Central for more than 30 years and retired in 2003 as athletic director. **Larry G. Hurst, J.D.** (BSEd '71, MEd '79) died May 31, 2014.

He was an Oklahoma deputy attorney general and later served as assistant principal at Edmond Memorial High School. In 1998, he moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, to continue his career in education and coaching. He retired in 2013 as an assistant principal at Sheridan High School. **Joe Paul Chapman** (BBA '72) died Feb. 28,

2014. He was retired from Merrill Lynch Financial Services. **Brenda L. Coffee DeShazer** (BAEd '72) died Feb. 14, 2014. She received her early childhood education degree from Central and after her teaching career, spent her life loving and taking care of her family. **Michael O'Quinn Dunn** (BA '72) died May 26, 2014. He served in the United States Army and was assigned to a special forces airborne unit deployed to combat operations in Vietnam, where he was injured during a night operation and permanently disabled. He spent his career in law enforcement and retired in 2002 from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections as a probation and parole supervisor. **Bobbie Jean Armstrong** (BSEd '74, MA '76) died May 30, 2014. When her youngest child started preschool, she and her oldest daughter together became Central freshmen. After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from Central, she later

attended the University of Oklahoma's Ph.D. program in English. **John W. "Bill" Garrett** (BBA '74) died May 7, 2014. He served in the United States Marine Corps. He was a general contractor until his retirement. **Harold H. "Buddy" Hall Jr.** (BSEd '75, MEd '77) died Feb. 10, 2014. He was a school psychologist with Putnam City Schools for 18 years. **Larry Alan White** (BBA '75) died June 13, 2014. His career included working as a life insurance agent, as Merrill Lynch stock broker and as a web designer. **Richard Lee Alexander** (BSEd '76) died April 23, 2014. He taught history and coached football, wrestling and track for many years in the Putnam City School District. He later managed his father-in-law's family business, Wright's IGA in Norman, until he retired in 2012. **Patricia Kay Kimbrough** (BSEd '76) died June 10, 2014, of brain cancer. She was an analyst at Tinker Air Force Base for 35 years. **Sharon Kay Shipman Philbin** (MEd '77) died May 22, 2014. She received her master's from Central in Counseling Psychology. **Thomas Kent "Tommy" Craig** (MBA '78) died March 9, 2014, of cancer. He served in the U.S. Army. He retired as an insurance claims adjuster, working for The Home and USF&G. **Karen Foley**



Fletcher (BS '79) died April 10, 2014, of cancer. A nurse, her true calling was in the home health care field. She worked for 11 years as director of nursing for the Visiting Nurse Association of Oklahoma. In 1994, she was appointed president of the Oklahoma Association for Home Care and in 1998 was appointed by the governor to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing for five years. She served as the organization's president in 2002.

1980s

Linda Jean Hugg (BA '85) died March 27, 2014, of scleroderma. She was a welfare compliance inspector for the State of Texas until she was unable to work because of the progression of her disease. **Dolores (Dee) Sullivan** (BS '86) died March 24, 2014. She was a talented and prize-winning artist and photographer. **Jan Paul Abshire** (BS '87) died March 29, 2014. During the Vietnam War, he served as a combat medic in the Army Security Agency and later served as head of the respiratory therapy department at St. Anthony Hospital. After completing his degree at Central, he received his master's in public health in epidemiology from Yale University. He contributed to advances made in the prevention and treatment of AIDS, and the nation's bioterrorism preparedness. He helped expand early warning systems and the ability to respond to new variants of the pandemic flu virus. **Carolyn A. Goode** (MA '89) died May 21, 2014. She was devoted to helping others through mental health and education. Her motto was, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," a quote from Mahatma Gandhi. **Cynthia Ann "Cindy" (Newton) Holt** (MEd '89) died March 23, 2014, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She taught elementary school for 26 years, including 25 years at Lee Elementary in the Oklahoma City Public School District. **Rosalind Gail "Abby" Wintermute** (BS '89) died June 28, 2014. She started working at Mercy Health Center while completing her degree in Nursing at Central. She served as a mentor for new nurses and worked as a liaison between health care facilities and insurance companies. Her many accomplishments include being included in the Who's Who in American Nursing and the Sigma Theta Tau honor society of nursing. She was a member of the American Nurses Association.

1990s

Ernest Dwaine Price (BBA '92) died April 24, 2014. He retired from the Kellogg Co. in 2012 after a career in sales. **Greggory Edward McGee** (BA '96) died April 8, 2014, in a plane crash near Bethel, Alaska. He served in the United States Navy. At the time of his death, he had just started a position with Hageland Aviation Services to provide goods and services to 56 surrounding villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, which are only accessible by air and river.

2000s

Tiffany R. Handy (BBA '03) died June 5, 2014. She worked at Tinker Air Force Base for more than 14 years.

Faculty/Staff

Joe Curl died April 14, 2014, after a lengthy battle with heart disease. He was head volleyball coach and assistant men's and women's basketball coach from 1987-89. **Carl Downing**, Ed.D., retired Elementary Education professor, died May 14, 2014. He served Central from 1963-92. **Bonnie Hansen** died April 10, 2014. She had served Central since March 2008 as an administrative assistant for the Department of Psychology. Services for **Jamila "Hana" Hofmann**, Ph.D., D.D.S., were May 7, 2014. She was an adjunct in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies from August 1994 through December 2004. **Iva Mae Holloway** died May 3, 2014. After she retired from the Methodist Church, she worked in Chambers Library as a research library assistant. **Sheryle Marlow** died April 1, 2014. She was an adjunct instructor in the Department of Political Science. **M. Louise Thomas** died Feb. 10, 2014. She served Central from 1990 until her retirement in 2006 as stacks management supervisor at Max Chambers Library.



UCO's new "Olympic/Paralympic Strength" statue was unveiled June 5 as the 2014 UCO Endeavor Games kicked off. The statue is located on the southeast lawn of the UCO Wellness Center. It is a replica of the one that sits at the U.S. Olympic Committee Headquarters in Colorado Springs. An Olympic/Paralympic training site, Central is one of only a few of the venues to have one of these.



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