

# OLD NORTH

MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

FALL 2015 • VOL. LII, NO. 2



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to the  
Future*

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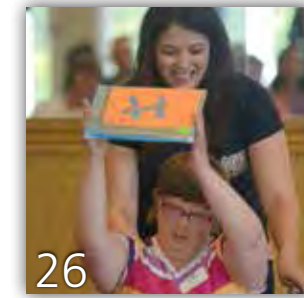
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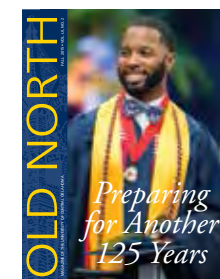
UCO English professor Allen Rice may have been the most surprised when he and crew solved a long-standing mystery.

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In celebrating UCO@125, a new honorary Central organization has started — the UCO Luminary Society.

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

### On the Cover



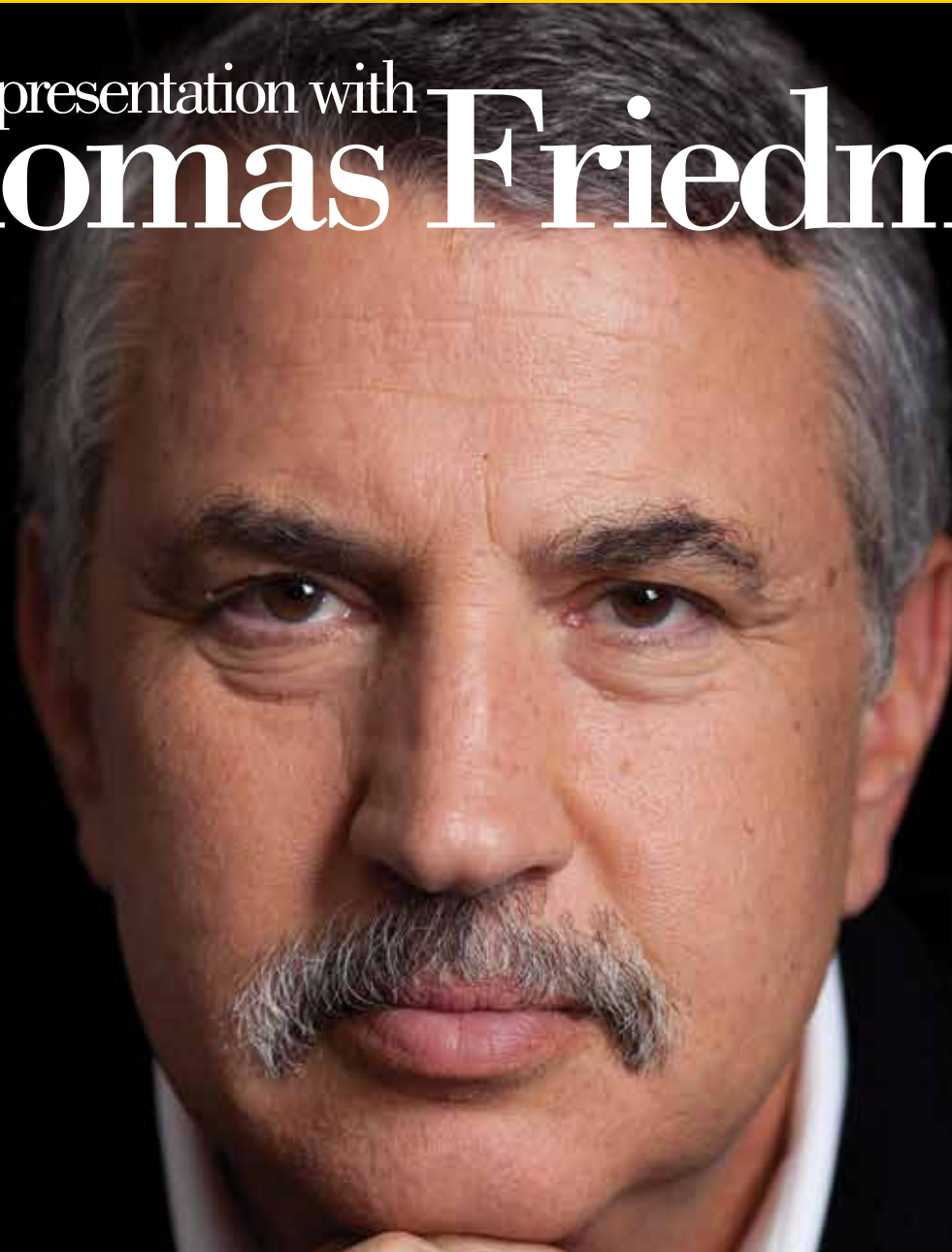
Cliffalvion "Cliff" D. Bradley of Edmond is a 2015 graduate with a master's in Public Administration. UCO had more than 1,600 participate in spring 2015 graduation ceremonies for bachelor's and master's degrees.

Staff Photo by Lauren Hamilton

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# a presentation with Thomas Friedman



## 4pm, Tuesday, November 10

Constitution Hall, Nigh University Center  
University of Central Oklahoma

Best-selling author and columnist for *The New York Times*, Tom Friedman is presenting at the University of Central Oklahoma. Friedman is renowned for his direct reporting and sophisticated analysis of complex issues facing the world. According to the *Foreign Policy* magazine, "Friedman doesn't just report on events; he helps shape them."

Reserve your tickets online at [www.uco.edu/distinguishedspeakerseries](http://www.uco.edu/distinguishedspeakerseries).



## Welcome to Fall 2015 at UCO!

The campus is alive with new and continuing students, activities and projects occurring across the colleges and in student affairs. The sustained heat of the dog days have gradually given way to cooler, breeze-laced mornings and an occasional afternoon shower. The energy here is palpable.

We are now celebrating UCO @ 125, part two. Throughout the coming months, the university will convene unique programs and welcome notable guests to enhance and expand our understanding and awareness of the issues of our time. You are invited to join us as we explore a broad range of relevant topics.

On Oct. 22, Central will host the UCO@125 Gala, an event celebrating the myriad talents of our students, faculty and staff. The gala's centerpiece will be the naming of the first members of UCO's Luminary Society. These are individuals who have left a lasting impression on the institution as it evolved from a normal school to a major regional and metropolitan university. The "Luminarians" will be perpetually honored in a special tribute to be located in the revived Old North. After the first year, 10 new inductees will be annually welcomed into the society at a special ceremony.

This year, we will host a special Homecoming 125 the week of November 2-7. On Nov. 6, we will unveil the 125 reflective park, intended to be a lasting remembrance of this historical moment in Central's storied history. I am convinced that you will find it intriguing and will return to it more than once.

Just a few days before fall classes began, we were delighted to open our newest university facility, the Transformative Learning Quadrangle, known as the "Quad." This living-learning complex hosts 440 students living in a modified residence hall intentionally designed to promote collaboration and connection. There are designated spaces in each of the Quads "neighborhoods" for student engagement in common projects, study areas, shared kitchen and recreation areas. The Quad also hosts classrooms and tutoring and writing labs to assist residents as they take their steps toward realizing their goals of graduation and becoming career and citizen ready.

Most of the Quad residents are freshmen who help form a solid core of student involvement in on-campus programming. Students, faculty and staff were directly involved in the early stages of planning so that we would include their recommendations in the new residence. The Quad is also the location of UCO's largest safety area, able to shelter a thousand occupants if needed. I encourage you to visit the Quad and discover the innovative ways the facility helps students learn as they become valued members of the UCO community.

In our continuing campaign to serve the Oklahoma City metro, we at Central are connecting with Oklahoma City University (OCU) to explore ways we might cooperate and serve residents and the realization of the city's dynamic vision. The initial area for active collaboration would link the OCU School of Law with UCO's Master's in Public Administration. More updates will follow.



There is much more to share. UCO is in a vibrant period of creativity and expanding recognition for many of its programs and accomplishments. Your avid support reinforces our ability and confidence to once again pursue worthy goals in fulfillment of our embraced mission to help students learn and communities thrive.

Please visit us. You are always welcome at Central.

My best wishes,

Don Betz  
President



A group of UCO students had their film “Isabelle’s Garden” in the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. The film later showed at the deadCenter Film Festival in June in Oklahoma City and will premiere in October at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The following is one student’s essay on the Sundance experience.

*By Shannon Taylor  
UCO Senior, Professional Media Major*

When the sloping streets of Park City are lined with trendy cinephiles and the air is filled with smoke and calculated chatter, you know you’ve breached the brink of the annual Sundance Film Festival.

There is an essence of creative community here, a glimmer of eccentric priority. From the Salt Lake City airport-landing tarmac to the luxurious lodges of inner circle Park City, even the snowflakes seem interlaced with the overwhelming desire to create and consume.

I enter into this cool chaos on Jan. 27, on the last week of the festival. Many films that surely will be picked up by Hollywood have premiered already, the celebrity aspect of the event lacking. I am among the rarity who most likely will not be talked about over coffee from Java Cow on Main Street — the student.

However, I will be talked about after Jan. 28.

The day our crew — a small group of Film and Video Club students from the University of Central Oklahoma — arrives into Utah, we are thrown into a spontaneous schedule. Which is to say, we essentially have no schedule.

The nondescript van we ride from our resort into the heart of the ski town holds passengers from Los Angeles and New York City, a few of them wondering what young people from Oklahoma know about film.

One of them worked with James Franco on “I Am Michael,” which premiered the week before.



One of them is a feature columnist for *Paper* magazine.

One of them did sound mixing on a foreign film premiering during the last weekend of the festival.

Still, each one of them gives us that sense of community when they go wide-eyed at our announcement: that we have a short film premiering at the Sundance Institute Short Film Challenge. With genuine “congratulations,” they wave goodbye as we go to explore.

The city is overflowing with artsy types wearing black, wire-framed glasses, plaid shirts and snow boots. I do not pay attention so much to the bodies, but to the conversations.

Different types of intelligence stem from film people, like the way someone describes the use of cinematography in daylight vs. a night capture. These are the things you hear as you roam the streets, stopping once to study a Banksy mural on the outside of a cafe.

I put these thoughts on hold the next day. When 4 p.m. rolls around, we are experts at navigating the metro buses and making our way through sloshy brown snow. We find ourselves standing in a sold-out line outside the Holiday Village Cinema, staring at the marquee where an “Isabelle’s Garden” poster hangs.

We don’t have special Sundance badges or even nametags, but we are known. Our film is the first to be screened out of the five films selected from more than 1,300 submissions.

I realize then, as Isabelle appears on the big screen in an old theater that smells faintly of a concession stand, that Sundance is what fuels dreams.

There is a question-and-answer time after the screening. Our crew stands alongside an Oscar winner and several foreign filmmakers. The audience is looking at us, an adviser and his club of college students from Oklahoma, and they are already talking about us to each other with bright smiles.

I know outside there are bigger names and better films, but inside this theater I am as important as everyone standing beside me. I am known not just for being from Oklahoma or for being a student, but also for helping make a film that premiered at Sundance.

*Shannon Taylor is a UCO senior Mass Communication student. Others who attended Sundance were UCO students Morgan Denny, Central’s Film and Video Club president; Cara Nolan; Youngsun Yun; Min-Kyung Song; and Ryan Salter, along with the group’s adviser and film director Jeffrey Palmer and Lauren Palmer, who was the producer. Isabelle Cox, who starred in the film, also attended with her parents. The film is about Isabelle’s successful garden and its influence on her community.*



# UCO Graduate Program, Meeting the Demand

To prepare students for a high-level demand, UCO's graduate Athletic Training Program was approved in 2007 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Since that time, UCO has had 37 certified athletic trainers graduate.

The program's beginnings trace to 1996 when then UCO athletic trainer and current Graduate Athletic Training Program Director Jeff McKibbin saw a need. Only one other athletic training program was offered in Oklahoma at that time. A few years later, undergraduate programs sprung up at East Central University and Southern Nazarene University. Those led McKibbin to focus on creating the state's first graduate level athletic training program, one of only a handful in the United States.

McKibbin's idea proved accurate. Today, the leading industry accreditation bodies are moving toward requiring a master's degree from an accredited athletic training program. More than 70 percent of certified athletic trainers already hold at least a master's degree.

McKibbin fully supports the master's degree requirement. He,

too, believes the higher level of training is essential for athletic trainers to meet the health care profession's expectations. An advanced level of training provides the credibility needed for athletic trainers who routinely find themselves working with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

In 2010, UCO's program celebrated its first two graduates — Ross McCulloch of Ardmore and Jamie Hume of Enid. The program now routinely graduates 8-10 students a year with plans to grow.

The UCO program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Graduates are eligible to sit for the national board certification exam, enabling graduates to enter the work force as pre-certified athletic trainers.

UCO students have had a 100 percent certification examination pass rate for the last three years, including seven this year who passed on their first try. In fact, the last 20 UCO students have passed on their first attempts. All total, UCO students have a 92 percent first-time pass rate compared to the national average of 80 percent, according to data published by CAATE.

The success on the certification exam is a reflection of the time

**Above, from left: Jeff McKibbin, Ed Sunderland**

and energy McKibbin and his colleague Ed Sunderland have invested in the program. Sunderland is the program's clinical education coordinator.

UCO graduates today are in a variety of settings including professional baseball, professional hockey, professional rodeo, universities, high schools, clinics and hospitals.

A hallmark of UCO's graduate Athletic Training Program is the extensive clinical experience. Students take part in more than 1,200 hours of clinical education, delivering patient care at schools, colleges and sports medicine rehabilitation clinics around the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

McKibbin sees long-term growth and prosperity for a program still in its begin-

*continued on page 10*

## Student Finds Perfect Fit

After just one day of job shadowing, Melissa Wergeles was convinced that her long-held idea to become a dental professional might not be in her best interest. Nonetheless, she was nearing her final year at the University of Central Missouri and pursuing an undergraduate degree in biology.

"It was through my shadowing experience that I began to ask myself, 'Is this something I want to do every day?'" Wergeles said.

Her answer meant going back to the drawing board. She did a meaningful self-appraisal and concluded that medicine and sports were the two disciplines that interested her the most. With a 2012 degree from Central Missouri, she began looking for a school that would jump-start her career as a professional.

"UCO seemed like the perfect fit for me," Wergeles said. "When I met both Ed (Sunderland) and Jeff (McKibbin), it was very evident to me that they truly cared about their students and were determined to make us successful."

UCO's Graduate Athletic Training Program is a close-knit community where students are like family — so much so that Sunderland and McKibbin are often called by their nicknames, "Sunde" and "The Kib." In fact, it was during the group's annual summer barbecue that Wergeles was introduced to Ross McCulloch, one of UCO's first Graduate Athletic Training Program graduates. He's now head athletic trainer at Langston University.

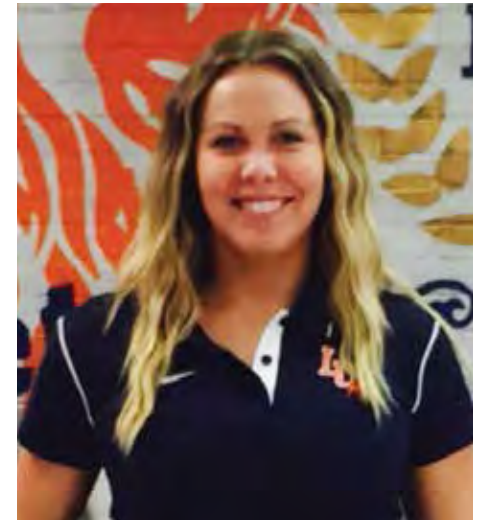
McCulloch talked with Wergeles about a job opportunity that he hoped would become available within his department in the near future. Wergeles was intrigued and again chanced the job shadowing process, following McCulloch for a year.

She did not blink.

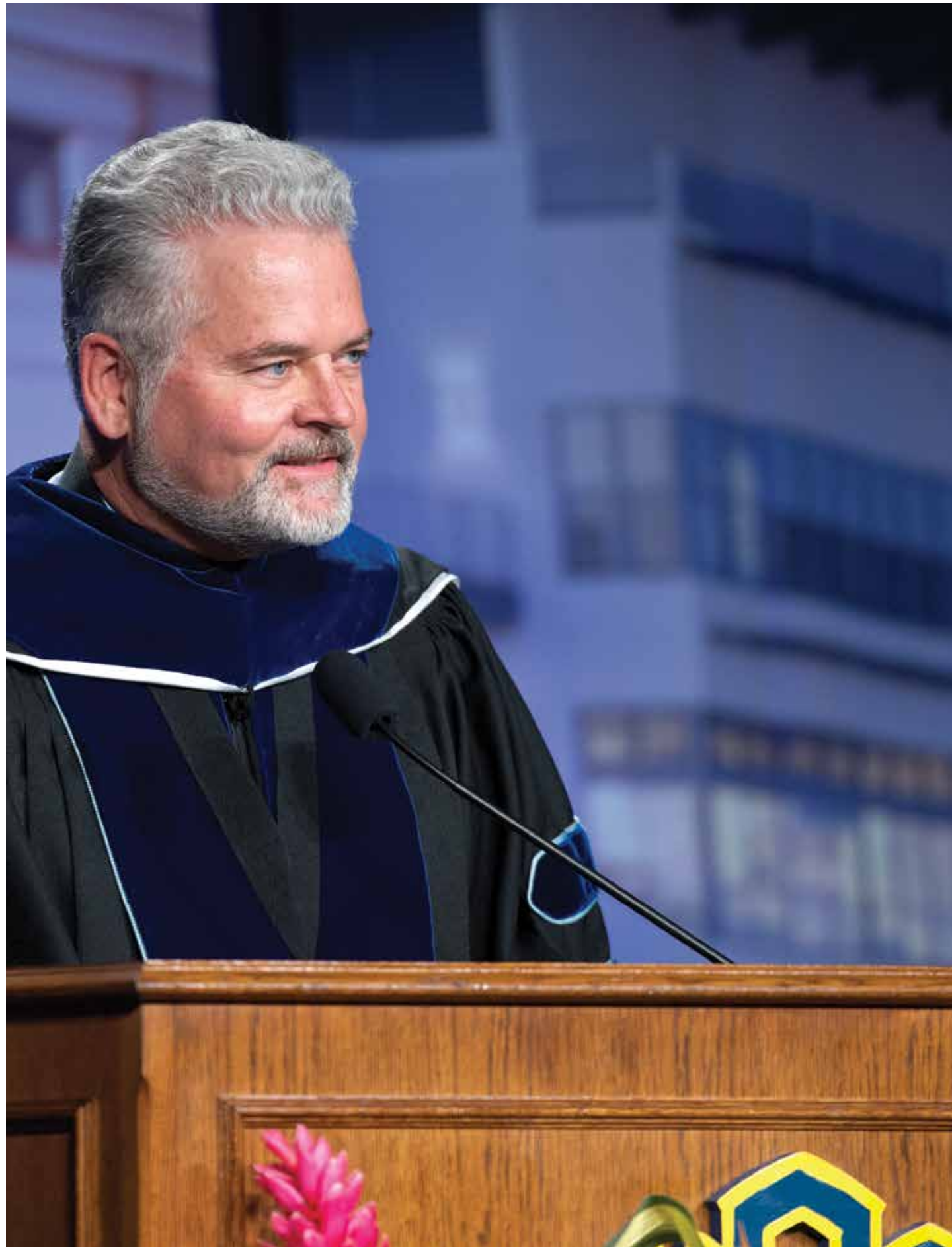
Graduating in 2014, Wergeles had a number of opportunities from suitors across the region. After careful deliberation, she chose McCulloch and the Langston program.

In her first year at Langston, she was primarily responsible for the care of all women student-athletes, including those in volleyball, basketball, softball and track.

"The profession is not your typical desk job," Wergeles said, noting that's one of the things she loves about it. "I learned the basic principles of athletic training from UCO and apply it daily within my framework here at Langston. The decisions I make daily are grounded in a well-constructed foundation that I learned at UCO."



**Melissa Wergeles**



# Q&A with Mark A. Stansberry

Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO)

Mark A. Stansberry is a newly appointed member of UCO's governing body, the Regional University System of Oklahoma. Having served on the RUSO board from 2001-2010, he was recently appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to fill the term of Richard Ogden, who resigned to become a special judge for Oklahoma County. Stansberry will serve to June 2019.

*By Gypsy Hogan  
Publications Editor, University Relations*

**Q: How would you describe your own journey to being a college-educated, business person?**

**A:** My parents, George and Lucy Stansberry, did not attend college. They both wanted my sister, Mary Fern, and me to have the opportunity to attend. My dad was a maintenance engineer at the Elk City Community Hospital for more than 30 years and served as city inspector. My mom was curator of the Old Town Museum in Elk City for more than 30 years. They both grew up on Oklahoma farms. Both of them had a strong work ethic and encouraged me to have one, too. During college, I had up to two jobs at a time and attended on scholarships, graduating in three years. ... It is my personal goal to contribute in providing every person the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of higher education. ... Mentors were and still are important in my journey. I believe in the importance of mentoring and giving back.

*continued on page 10*

## Mark A. Stansberry

Newly appointed member of the Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma

**HOMETOWN:** Elk City, Oklahoma

**RESIDENCE:** Edmond, Oklahoma, since 1988

**WORK:** Founder and chair of The GTD Group (energy investments and international trade development)

**ROLES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:** Past RUSO Regent, 2001-2010; member of the UCO Presidential Advisory Council; member of the UCO Foundation's board of trustees 2010-2015; board trustee for Oklahoma Christian University 2006-2015; recently, elected Life Trustee of Oklahoma Christian

University; previous regent for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, 1988-1993; member of the board of visitors at the School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University; past member of the board of advocates for the Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma; past adjunct professor at Oklahoma Christian University; board member for Tulsa Film, Music, Arts and Culture

**OTHER POSITIONS:** Served as acting chief executive officer, 2013, and 2009-13 chair of People to People International, a nonprofit that promotes world peace through culture, education and understanding, founded by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower; former chair and president of The Oklahoma Royalty Company

**EDUCATION:** Elk City High School graduate; bachelor's, Oklahoma Christian University; completed Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems, Georgetown University; and Directors' College 2008 Executive Program, Stanford University

**FAMILY:** Wife, Nancy; three grown children; and six grandchildren

**OTHER HONORS:** Inductee of the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame; currently chair-elect of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame/Gaylord-Pickens Museum; chair of Oklahoma Governor's International Team, 2007; former board member of The Fund for American Studies; chair of RUSO board of regents, 2006-2007; chair of USAO board of regents, 1990-1991; appointed by Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett to the board of the OKC Port Authority



**Q: What made you want to serve a second time on the RUSO board?**

**A:** I enjoy the work and the challenges. ... I have served on public and private boards. I continue to learn, and, hopefully, I can apply my experiences and knowledge for the further good of higher education.

One study shows that our system produces 38 percent of the bachelor degrees in the state, and 91 percent of those graduates stay in Oklahoma. That's impressive. Economic development and higher education go hand-in-hand. RUSO definitely makes an impact on our state.

**Q: Do you see any big difference(s) from when you last served?**

**A:** One big difference is the source of funding for our system. In 1988, the state

provided 75 percent of the funding for the system. When I became a RUSO regent in 2001, state funding was approximately 60 percent. Now it is closing in on 35 percent. ... Looking to outside sources for funding, which includes businesses/corporations, will be a major part of the system's future. ... It is an honor to serve with eight very dedicated regents. ... Together, for us to make good decisions, we need to have the right and transparent information to review/study. ... This past spring I attended a meeting of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Our system and state are not alone in the challenges facing higher education. Everyone that I visited with from other states faces similar challenges.

**Q: What do you see as a strength for UCO?**

**A:** Being a metropolitan university is a great strength of UCO which really sets

it apart. I believe that it is going to be of great importance with recruitment as well as fundraising. We need to continue to support President Betz and the vision he has for UCO as one of the top metropolitan universities in the nation.

**Q: What is one thing most people don't know about you?**

**A:** I am a singer/songwriter, guitarist/musician. Currently, I am serving a two-year term on the board of the Texas Chapter of the Grammys/Recording Academy, as the only Oklahoman. Since 2007, I have recorded five CDs of my songs and three songs have been on radio play charts nationally. During college days, I taught guitar lessons at Edmond Music Co. In high school, I was a member of the All-State Stageband as a guitarist. Nancy and I have performed together since our marriage in 1977.

## Athletic Training (continued from page 7)

nings, but unique when compared to others.

"The availability of quality resources and preceptors — experts in the field who teach and mentor students in clinical experiences — in our immediate area is an advantage that other schools do not have," McKibbin said. "We have relationships with other local athletic trainers, physical therapists, chiropractors, orthopedic physicians, as well as potential experiences for our students in high schools, universities, hospitals, clinics and professional sports."

UCO students also are exposed to well-known events such as the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, Endeavor Games, Paralympic Sports, Special Olympics and the Redman Triathlon.

Another unique UCO component is the unwavering support from administrative leadership, willing to give students additional tools and ways to map their own success. UCO has financially supported students attending regional and national symposiums in places such as Baltimore, Indianapolis and New Orleans.

"This is a huge benefit both educationally and professionally," McKibbin said. "Students have the opportunity to explore the leading edge of the discipline. Making connections in the athletic training community can be a huge benefit for embarking on a career. Just simply walking around the sessions and attending presentations allows students to get acquainted with the most important recent discoveries in the field."

Sunderland said the national conferences are a tremendous aid to both him and McKibbin, helping them identify potential projects, laboratories and teaching methods for future students.

"Athletic training is a cooperative endeavor. Conferences, workshops and symposiums allow us all to explore the field outside of the classroom and gain new skills," Sunderland said.

McKibbin insists that his students remain grounded in the 'traditional' athletic training profession (high school, college/university, amateur and professional sports). However, he believes even more opportunities will exist in the future.

"We believe more settings for athletic training are evolving in the areas of the military, performing arts, industrial, etc., and that with this foundation, our students can make the transition very effectively," McKibbin said.

Another plus for future UCO graduates, he said, is that UCO alumni are now in positions to make hiring decisions, and they know the quality of UCO graduates.

The tight-knit alumni group, with the help of College of Educational and Professional Studies Development Manager Michelle Moseley, recently raised \$9,000 in 10 days to endow a scholarship in McKibbin's name. The scholarship announcement surprised McKibbin when announced during his induction into UCO's Athletic Hall of Fame last fall.

"I have seen firsthand the power of alumni supporting our students, both financially and opportunitywise," McKibbin said. "We share an amazing support network of family, friends, coaches, doctors, athletic trainers and physical therapists who utilize our program and our students."

# Honoring Our Own

**The UCO Alumni Association will hold its annual Alumni Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in the Grand Ballrooms of the Nigh University Center.**

"This year's group of outstanding alumni are that much more special given our university's historic 125th year," said Anne Holzberlein, UCO vice president for development. "We are so incredibly proud of each of them and look forward to celebrating their achievements with fellow alumni, friends and family."

Receiving the university's first **Young Alumni Award** is **Scott Fischer** (BS '05), chief operating officer of Fischer Enterprises. The award recognizes a UCO graduate who has made significant contributions early in his or her career to their profession or community.

Receiving the **Distinguished Alumni Award** are **Freddy Russian** (BS '98), **Tim Tall Chief** (BA '71, MEd '78) and Brig. Gen. **Alicia Tate-Nadeau** (BS '87). The Distinguished Alumni Award is based on peer recommendations and notable accomplishments in one of three categories: professional, community service and university service. The award presentations started in 1952.

The association also will honor the **Tuepkers** as the 2015 Central **Family of the Year**.

Read more about all of them in the following pages.

Luncheon tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by calling UCO Alumni Relations at 405-974-5056 or registering online at [www.centralconnection.org/homecoming2015](http://www.centralconnection.org/homecoming2015). Tickets must be reserved by Friday, Oct. 23.

For a complete listing of UCO alumni homecoming activities, please visit [www.centralconnection.org/homecoming2015](http://www.centralconnection.org/homecoming2015) or call 405-974-2421.

**Scott Fischer (BS '05)**  
**Chief Operating Officer,**  
**Fischer Enterprises**

New this year, the Young Alumni Award will honor alumni who have made great strides early in their careers. Scott Fischer has done just that. From Dippin' Dots to Crumbs Bake Shop, he is well on his way to being king of his own "snack and treat" retail empire.

Fischer serves as chief operating officer of Fischer Enterprises. He supervised the acquisition of the assets of Dippin' Dots Inc., the iconic maker and franchisor of flash frozen tiny beads of ice cream, from bankruptcy in 2012. Now president and board member, he's leading the business through its expansion into 12 countries. In July 2014, he acquired Doc Popcorn, the world's largest franchised retailer of popcorn, and Crumbs Bake Shop, a specialty cupcake and baked confections retail chain where he now serves on the board.

In 2006, Fischer served as chief operating officer for Pointe-Vista Development, a master planned residential community development. Pointe-Vista was recognized as the fastest growing company in Oklahoma City in the 2010 Metro 50 Awards Banquet by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. As COO, Fischer led the negotiation and creation of the largest Tax Increment Finance district in Oklahoma history and was a key stakeholder in passage of the Modification to the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act. His expertise has been recognized at state, county and local



levels.

The Fischer family is also a major shareholder in Chaparral Energy Inc. where he began his business career as a petroleum landman.

Fischer earned his bachelor's degree from UCO. He holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Management from the University of Phoenix.

Fischer's philanthropic activities include serving as chair of the legislative committee and on the governing board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma. He was awarded the 2015 Judge William R. Saied Founder's Award for his support of the organization. He was

inducted into the class of 2014 Pink Tie Guys for Susan G. Komen of Central and Western Oklahoma, an organization he continues to support, along with the Oklahoma City Ballet.

"I think that transitioning from being an active member of Central's student body to becoming involved with our local chambers of commerce, such as the Edmond Chamber of Commerce, helps graduates become intermingled within the fiber of our community's economy," he wrote.

**Freddy Russian (BS '98)**  
**Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, American Family Legacy Group**

From Venezuela to an Edmond exchange student, Freddy Russian's life trajectory has launched him to success in financial services. He followed his own advice to dream big and work hard and now sits at the helm of a leading wealth management and global investment firm in Tampa, Florida.

Russian is the founder, chief executive officer and managing director of American Family Legacy Group (AFLG) and AFLG Investments Private Equity for global private equity and global market strategies.

In 2009, Russian founded AFLG and AFLG Investments, leading the AFLG Group to become a highly successful and trusted firm that is a powerful player globally.

He began his career in 1991 as a head currency trader managing more than \$1 billion in currencies. He also served in various capacities on Wall Street as a financial analyst, a senior rating bond analyst with Dow Jones, and as an assistant vice president for a private client group with both Bank of America and Merrill Lynch.

Russian has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Finance from UCO, as well as many industry certifications. His awards include the Silver Spur Award from Merrill

Lynch and LPL Financial's Director's Club Award. Russian found UCO when he sought out a university that provided a strong structure, affordability and smaller classes.

"UCO provided me with the tools and knowledge to become a professional," wrote Russian.

It was the dedication of the business faculty that he found most helpful during his time at Central, especially Randall Ice, Ph.D., and Don Fleming, Ph.D.

"They went the extra mile in helping me navigate the university as a foreign exchange student from Venezuela," he wrote.

What advice might he impart to fellow alumni and current students?

"There are no dreams that cannot be accomplished or achieved if you stay focused and motivated. All your dreams can come true. Hard work does pay off."





**Tim Tall Chief  
(BA '71, MEd '78)  
Director of Health  
Services, Citizen  
Potawatomi Nation**

Tim Tall Chief has worn many hats — from grade school student in Old North to serving as a mixed martial arts and professional boxing judge and inspector for the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission. However, his proudest adornment is the ceremonial blanket he wears as a member of the Grayhorse district of the Osage Nation, serving as a master of ceremonies for cultural events and powwows throughout the United States.

Tall Chief currently serves as director of Health Services for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee. He also maintains a faculty

appointment in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Oklahoma. In addition, he is chief executive officer of Outdoor Adventures Unlimited Inc., an adventure- and cultural-based program that trains corporations, tribes and nonprofits nationwide.

Tall Chief was previously the deputy commissioner for administration at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the state director of Native American education for the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

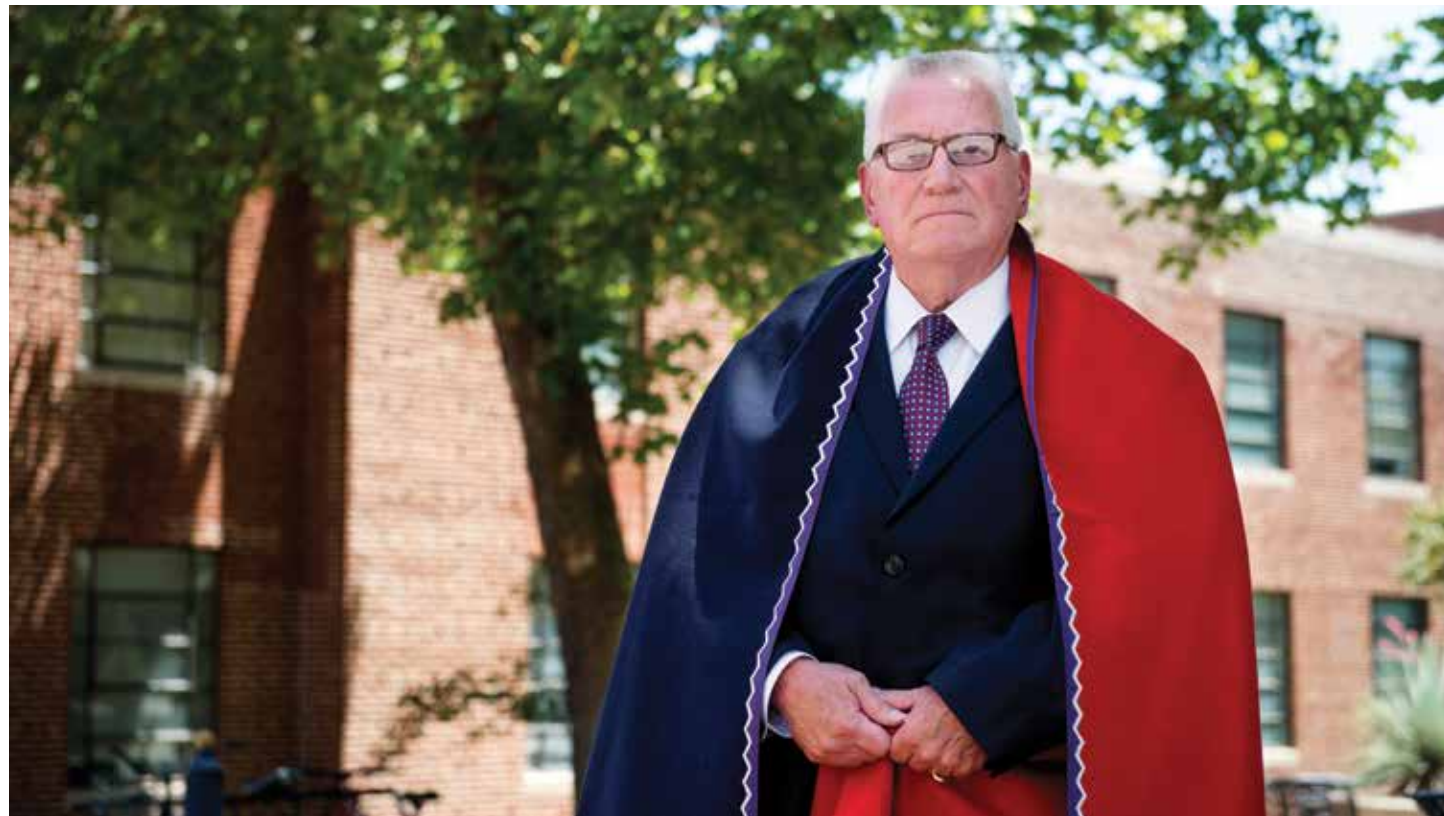
He graduated from Central with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's in Counseling Psychology. While on campus, he was involved with the Native American Student Organization and the Rodeo Club. He says Central has been a constant in his life.

"It was my home. My parents met in the old gym and married in the Y Chapel. In grade

school, I attended the campus school in Old North. It has always been a part of me," he wrote.

Tall Chief remains active, serving as chair of both the Oklahoma City area Inter-Tribal Health Board and the board for the Oklahoma City area Tribal Epidemiology Center; a member of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and Health Services Governing Board and Governors Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan; and vice chair of both the National Indian Health Board and the Osage LLC Investment Branch of the Osage Nation. He credits his time at UCO for helping shape the person he is today.

"UCO had a tremendous influence on my life. During my 13 years spent there, it established lifestyles and attitudes that I practice daily."



**Brig. Gen. Alicia  
Tate-Nadeau  
(BS '87)  
Assistant Adjutant  
General/Director of  
the Joint Staff, Illinois  
National Guard**

Brig. Gen. Alicia Tate-Nadeau didn't set out to become a general. However, from her path from a small town to a chance encounter with a college dean who encouraged her to join the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Tate-Nadeau has made history as the first woman to reach that rank in Illinois.

An Enid native, Tate-Nadeau graduated from UCO with a bachelor's in Health. She received her commission as second lieutenant through the UCO ROTC program. She later earned master's degrees in Health Administration and Strategic Studies from Governors State University and the U.S. Army War College. She also was certified in Homeland Security by the American Board for Certification in Homeland Security and received executive certification in counter-terrorism.

"Being a leader transcends gender and everything else," she said. "I never wanted to be the best female officer. I wanted to be the best officer."

Tate-Nadeau currently serves as the assistant adjutant general/director of the Joint Staff for the Illinois National Guard and as team leader for the Federal Emergency Management Association's (FEMA) Region V Incident



Management Assistance Team, operating as a traditional National Guardsman while serving fulltime in her civilian position with FEMA.

Previously, she served as the National Guard bureau liaison officer to the Israeli Home Front Command in Ramla, Israel. She concurrently served as chief for the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Domestic Preparedness Division for the Army Reserve command in Fort McPherson, Georgia. She was a core member of the Secretary of Defense's "Tiger Team" and the Concept Analysis Agency, while co-authoring Defense Reform Initiative 25. That work gave the Reserve Components the primary mission to train and respond to WMD

incidents, emerge WMD response doctrine; and evaluate National Guard Civil Support Teams.

Tate-Nadeau's honors include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Meritorious Service Medal and numerous federal, state and foreign recognitions.

However, Tate-Nadeau says her greatest accomplishment is her children.

"The men and women I've served have been amazing, but the two people who have taken the brunt every time duty calls are those two kids," she said. "They're my biggest supporters, and I could not have done it without them."

# Tuepkers Given 2015 Family Honors

By Reagan Hamlin  
Assistant Vice President  
UCO Development

The 2015 Family of the Year has had 25 family members attend, work and/or graduate from Central, making the Tuepkers a strong choice for this honor.

The Tuepker story begins with matriarch Helen Frances Lewis Boatright (BS '24, Distinguished Alumna '56) and Lloyd Cecil Boatright Sr., who met while teachers in Tonkawa, Oklahoma. Though they both attended Central, Lloyd Boatright was at Central just a year before Helen Lewis arrived. He completed only one year playing football before eventually obtaining his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma.

"My grandmother's family were

educated people, and she had three sisters who were teachers. She taught at a country school before attending college," said Jan Tuepker (BS '72), the eldest of the five Tuepker children. "We believe she chose Central because it was a teaching school. She worked in the registrar's office to put herself through school."

The Boatrights were from meager beginnings and determined to work toward a better future. They passed a passion for education to their four children, who in turn, passed it to their children.

"Education was important," said Jan Tuepker. "We never even considered not going, and living in Edmond, there was a college right here."

Four of the five Tuepker children graduated from Central. Jan Tuepker earned a bachelor's degree in Home Economics

Education in 1972. She also worked at the university from graduation until retiring in 2010. She remembers fondly her time spent in classes, especially those with professor Mary Alice Fisher.

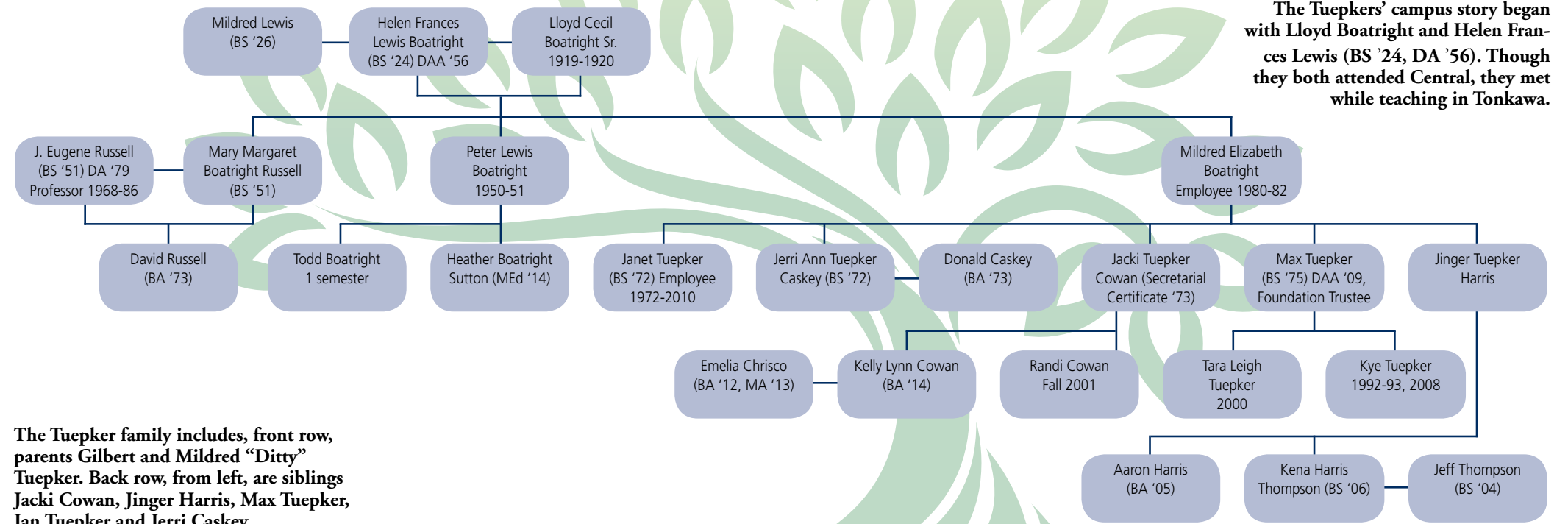
"To this day, I still make every Christmas a recipe — creamed celery — from one of her classes," she said.

Jacki Tuepker Cowan obtained her secretarial certification from Central in 1973.

Brother Max Tuepker (BS '75) played football at Central and graduated with a degree in Business Education. He then earned his law degree and has served as a UCO Foundation Board of Trustee since 1988. In 2009, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus.

The Tuepker siblings remain close, and all but one lives in the area. Jan Tuepker has used her love for solving puzzles and games to help document her family's history. Each year she creates scrapbooks to tell the story for her family gatherings.

Central, she said, will forever remain a mainstay in the Tuepker story.



The Tuepker family includes, front row, parents Gilbert and Mildred "Ditty" Tuepker. Back row, from left, are siblings Jacki Cowan, Jinger Harris, Max Tuepker, Jan Tuepker and Jerri Caskey.

# Honoring Newest Hall of Fame Members

There's a tradition as old as the games themselves — honoring those great athletes and their leaders who have set a standard for others to meet. Meet UCO's 2015 honorees.

The newest members of the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame will be inducted during a banquet on Friday, Nov. 6, in the ballrooms of the Nigh University Center.

The 2015 honorees include the first team to be inducted — **Central's 1962 football squad** that captured the NAIA national title, the first and one of only two nationals for the UCO gridiron. The team won the Camellia Bowl in Sacramento, California, to cinch their claim to fame.

Others being inducted are:

- Basketball star **Eddie Robinson**, the only player in Central history to compete in the National Basketball Association. Robinson played five years in the professionals, the last three with the Chicago Bulls;

- Softball standout **Chasidy Horton** (BSEd '99), a four-year starter shortstop for the Bronchos from 1996-99. She finished as one of the best players in school history with records for runs (124), at bat (456), hits (174), doubles (37), homers (23) and average (.382);

- Wrestling All-Americans **Jeff Gowens** (BSEd '92) and **Jack O'Connor** (BSEd '91), who round out the individual awards. Gowens was a three-time All American during his years at Central, 1987-92. He-



Photographed at a fall 2013 gathering are 1962 football champions, front row, from left, Al Jones, Leland Clark, John Kyle, Mike Rollins, Mickey Hoy and Jack Scammahorn. Back row from left are Ed Nowlin, Val Reneau, Art Lambert, Larry Foster, Jerry Brown, Joe Poindexter and Don Hall.

finished 130-56-4, a career that ranks sixth on the school's all-time win list. O'Connor, at Central 1983-86, was a three-time All American who helped lead the Bronchos to three consecutive NAIA national championships;

- Record-breaking baseball skipper **Wendell Simmons** (BSEd '74, MEd '75), named to the coach/administrator category. Simmons won more games than any coach in school history with a 633-375-1 record in his 19 years at Central, 1992-2010; and,

- **Chuck Stumbaugh**, receiving the Friend of Athletics title. Stumbaugh joined Central in 1966, serving 44 years as an Accounting professor while faithfully donating time and money to support UCO athletics.

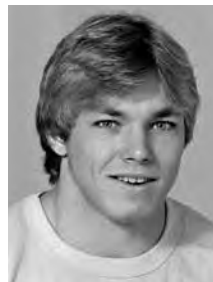
*For tickets to the event, contact Stampede Club Director Al Jones (BEd '66, MEd '74) at [ajones63@uco.edu](mailto:ajones63@uco.edu) or at 405-974-2132.*



Jeff Gowens



Chasidy Horton



Jack O'Connor



Eddie Robinson



Wendell Simmons



Chuck Stumbaugh

# Champion Wrestler Beats Death

By Mike Kirk  
Director of Media Relations, UCO Athletics

It was the perfect climax to an 18-year wrestling odyssey. Unbeaten season. National champion. NCAA Division II Wrestler of the Year.

But the storybook finish to Chris Watson's long career on the mat could have ended in a dramatically different fashion than when his hand was raised in victory after his final match on March 14.

Unknowingly, the Central Oklahoma graduate had competed in the national tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, with a massive blood clot in his right shoulder. The blood clot could have proven fatal had it become dislodged while wrestling, a very real possibility given the physical nature of the sport.

"I didn't lose my life and was able to get a national title, so it ended up working out, but I'm more than fortunate that it did," said the 24-year-old Watson, who earned two degrees (Finance and Marketing) at UCO. "As unfortunate as the circumstances were, a lot of things happened that allowed me to be alive today. By the grace of God, a lot of things went right for me when it could have gone so bad."

Watson was kneed in the shoulder during practice two weeks before the national tournament, which led to the blood clot. He felt noticeably weaker leading up to the final weekend of his career, but attributed it to the normal wear-and-tear of a long season.

"I'd brush my teeth for 10 seconds and be worn out," Watson said. "I'd be at practice and ask somebody to shake my arm trying to get feeling back in it. It was hard for me to hold on to stuff for a prolonged period or to grip anything for a long time."

"At nationals, it wasn't painful, but it was like my muscles didn't have any urgency to go. I didn't feel like I had the same energy, the same attack I had all season."

That was hard to tell from the results. Watson won his four matches by a combined 29-7 margin to capture the 165-pound national title and cap a brilliant 41-0 campaign, easily one of the most dominating seasons in UCO's storied wrestling history.

Soon, however, the swelling in Watson's arm increased. A trip to the UCO athletic training room led to a doctor's visit and a pair of ultrasounds, the second of which finally revealed the life-threatening mass — all 8 inches of it.

On March 25, Chris had the first of two major procedures at Integris Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City to eliminate the clot. One involved sending a tube through his heart. Both operations were



Chris Watson

totally successful, with Watson receiving a clean bill of health.

Threat extinguished. Life renewed.

"Maybe I was arrogant, but when they first told me, I thought they'd put me on blood thinners and that would be it," said Watson. "It wasn't until the doctors told me the enormity of it that it finally registered. It was life changing."

"You learn there are a lot of good people in the world, and that a lot of people care about you."

A three-time All-American on the mat and four-time Academic All-American in the classroom, Watson finished his UCO college career with a 130-28 record.

The Andover, Kansas, native spent six years at UCO, missing two seasons to injury. He started June 1 as a market analyst for Koch Industries in Wichita, Kansas.

Though happy with his new life, Watson can't help but reflect on what he experienced.

"The sad thing is, I never think about the wrestling and about what I was able to accomplish," Chris said. "I think about the whole episode. When you're in the season, it's hard to look outside wrestling. You've got tunnel vision, and that's probably why we didn't catch it in the first place."

"The day they diagnosed the blood clot, I walked through the halls in the field house and ran into some coaches who were congratulating me on winning nationals and everything. Winning is fun, but I'm just glad to be alive."

# Hockey Team Champs

When the Territorial Normal School was founded in 1890, thoughts of ice hockey were far away dreams, along with indoor plumbing and air conditioning. Today, UCO's hockey team has a loyal following, as well as a national championship.

*By Whitt Carter  
Coordinator of Communications and Marketing  
UCO Wellness Center*

In August 2011, hockey player Torey Caldwell made the journey from Oliver, British Columbia, in the southern part of Canada, to join a UCO hockey program that wasn't the most well known.

"I remember our freshman year, we would be trying to promote our team and get people to come to our games, and nobody even knew we had a hockey team," Caldwell said. "We were selling tickets and just hoping a few people would show up."

In March — just four years later — Caldwell and four other seniors celebrated the program's first ACHA Division I National Championship, leaving behind an impressive record.

The Bronchos finished off the best season in school history by winning four games in five days, capped off by a 4-0 victory over Stony Brook in the title game. Central finished 2014-15 at 33-5-1,



**Snapped just after the team won its national championship, UCO hockey team members and leaders share their enthusiasm for a UCO program that just began in 2006.**

which included a 19-0 start to begin the season.

For Caldwell, it was the highlight of a college career where he started every game in four years, as well as being named a four-time team MVP.

"Our program has really changed over the years," said head coach Craig McAlister, who started Central hockey in 2006. "We used to look at the schedule and think, 'Let's try and split here, or maybe we can win this game.' Every year, our mentality began to change, and this year, we stepped on the ice every night expecting to win."



**Torey Caldwell was one of 16 Canadian players who helped the UCO hockey team on the road to its 2015 championship.**

A lot of that change had to do with Caldwell — or TC, as his coach calls him — and his classmates who first put on the bronze and blue.

"At first, we recruited guys who would play hard, battle for us and establish our program as respectable," McAlister said. "And that helped, as we started to recruit guys that could really play. They already had the hard-working mindset in them."

"We started with six Canadians in 2006-07 and had 16 on this year's team. We look for the guys who do the right thing on and off the ice. But it all changed with TC and his group."

In the fourth year of the program, Central advanced to the final four, but had to rebuild in 2010-11 due to the loss of 12 seniors.

However, McAlister knew things were different with his 2011-12 freshmen class. Central bowed out in the quarterfinals the next three years, but everyone was aware that big time gains were being made.

"The first two years were really full of learning experiences for

those young guys," McAlister said. "In 2013-14, we understood we belonged, and we felt that we were one of the best teams in the country and could get to the final four."

However, both Caldwell and McAlister knew things were different even before last season started.

"We knew we had what it took, and we knew we were close. We talked about it for the entirety of training camp, and everyone was on the same page," Caldwell said. "We had something special, and we knew right away if we could put it together, no one could beat us."

And they were right, as Central ripped off 19 straight victories to start the season before finally losing in early December. But one loss wouldn't even come close to fazing this group.

"Our seniors did a tremendous job of leading the younger guys and keeping them grounded," McAlister said. "When we finally got beat, we had no problem rebounding because everyone knew we had tough games coming up, and we had to continue to play well down the stretch."

And they did. UCO entered the national tournament as the No. 2 seed, behind only top-rated Arizona State, who has become Central's rival over the past few seasons.

"We looked at the schedule at nationals, and we really thought it set up well for us," McAlister said. "We had played all of the teams in our way earlier in the year, and we knew that with our speed and the way we were playing defense, it would be tough for someone to beat us."

Central rolled through the opening three rounds, beating Niagara 5-1, Iowa State 5-3 and Minot State 5-1 to advance to the title game.

There was only one problem — the team they expected to play wouldn't be there. No. 5 seed Stony Brook upset Arizona State 2-1 in the semifinals, and many thought they'd beat UCO in the finals to end a storybook season.

"People were calling them a team of destiny," Caldwell said. "No one really gave us a chance, even though we'd been one of the top two teams all year long."

As it turned out, the team of destiny had no answer for the Bronchos, either. UCO used its defense and speed to cruise to a 4-0 win.

"It was a complete team championship, without question," said McAlister, who was named ACHA National Coach of the Year shortly after the season. "We had young guys step up, guys play to their ultimate potential all year long and a great group of senior leaders."

As for going forward, don't worry about UCO hockey. Plenty of people have taken notice.

"The support has grown tremendously, from watch parties to social media to a record-setting crowd against OU at home this year — it's been amazing," Caldwell said.

"It's a testament to what winning and having the right guys in your program will do for you. We wanted to build this program the right way, and I think we did."

# McAlister, National Coach of the Year

By Whitt Carter  
Coordinator of Communications and Marketing  
UCO Wellness Center

In the beginning, UCO Hockey was just another club on campus.

No one really talked about, and most people weren't sure what to think of it.

Enter Craig McAlister.

The former coach at the University of Oklahoma arrived at Central in 2005-06 in the program's fourth year and immediately changed the culture.

"The university didn't really know what to do with us," said McAlister. "We had to explain who we were and that we weren't here for us — we were here for the university."

Even then, McAlister wasn't entirely confident the program would stick around.

"Sure, we educated them on who we were, but I thought they would just expect us to go away after a year or so," McAlister said. "We really had to prove ourselves and show we belong."

Nine years later, McAlister has established one of the top programs in the country with a national championship to show for it — and the title of the 2015 ACHA Division I National Coach of the Year.

"We just kept getting better and better," said McAlister, who doubles as an owner of a local pharmacy. "Coaches can only do so much though. We've been blessed to have great players. We try to recruit the right guys and get quality kids that believe in what we're doing."

"Sure, winning helps, but it takes buy-in from the kids. They have to see us getting better each year as a unit, and it trickles down into the next group of players who come in. They see the success from the older guys and realize they can and want to do that for themselves."

Most of McAlister's roster is from Canada. So, his message to players and their families is important, and, as most would say, as sincere as it gets.



UCO President Don Betz congratulates Coach Craig McAlister on his team's national championship and his national coach of the year title.

"It's important for parents and kids to understand, especially the ones that are crossing the Canadian border to come here, that they have to believe in me, believe in the program and, most importantly, get a quality education from a great school."

His players have certainly listened, as countless players have graduated while playing hockey at UCO. Just last year, six players stayed to finish their degrees after their hockey careers were over.

"It's not just about hockey to these guys," said McAlister. "Sure, that's a huge part of it, but they understand that education is big, and they have the drive to finish school and reach the goals they have in life."

His players are as quick to praise him, as he is to brag about his team — a surprise to no one after spending an hour with McAlister.

"He's the most dedicated guy in our program," said senior Torey Caldwell. "He

juggles his family, his business and this team, but he's never missed or been late. It's easy to follow a guy like him because he shows us what it takes."

"He doesn't have to preach it. He leads by example, and he's taught all of us more than we could've ever imagined."

McAlister has created a top-notch program on the ice and off the ice. And that's even more evident by the continuing effect his players have on the metro community.

"We have a lot of guys that have graduated and are still living around here," McAlister said. "The school has done so much for them and their lives. A lot of former players continue to come to practice and coach in youth leagues in Edmond and around this area."

"It's really rewarding to know we're bringing in the right guys, making a difference in their lives and helping them achieve their dreams."

# Holzberlein — Winning the Battle

Anne Holzberlein likes a challenge. She plays tennis, hikes, zip lines and enjoys white water rafting with friends and family.

In her 11 years as UCO's vice president for Development and president of the UCO Foundation, she has taken on new challenges with the same fervor. So when an easy stroll across campus suddenly became exhausting in spring 2013, she visited the university health center for a blood test.

"I've always been very active and have rarely even needed to take a pill for anything. I knew I wasn't myself," she said.

Late that same evening, a physician called and advised her to go to the emergency room. There, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at the age of 68.

Physicians at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center began initial treatment, but her case was anything but typical. Molecular analysis of her blood showed her cancer to be the most aggressive form of leukemia. The next challenge: She would need a bone marrow transplant, but a full match could not be found among family members or on the national registry.

Her son, Jeffrey Holzbeierlein, M.D., a urologist with The University of Kansas Cancer Center, encouraged her to meet with physicians there to discuss advanced treatment options. (He uses the family's traditional name spelling.)

"She was at extremely high risk for relapse, with zero chance of her leukemia being cured by chemotherapy alone," he said. "With no donor match, our options were pretty limited. We realized the outcome may not be good, but this was the place to explore the options."

Joseph McGuirk, D.O., medical director of the cancer center's blood and marrow transplant (BMT) program, said her timely referral was critical to her favorable outcome. Through McGuirk, the family learned about a clinical trial.

## Looking for answers

The Phase III clinical trial, open to patients age 65 or older with hematologic (blood) cancers, was a perfect fit. Other than her leukemia, Anne Holzberlein was in good health, making her an ideal candidate.

"You have to be in pretty good shape to go through this type of treatment and recovery," her son said.

Participants in the clinical trial are randomly selected to receive one of two types of transplant: one using umbilical cord blood from an unrelated donor or the other using haploidentical bone marrow (a genetic half match) from a relative.

Anne Holzberlein was selected to receive the bone marrow transplant with her son being a half match, and his blood type, health and other variables also compatible.



UCO's Anne Holzberlein credits family support, a determined spirit and a clinical trial for her successful fight against leukemia. In the photo above, she's with her husband, Lynn, a retired Edmond dentist, and their son, Jeffrey, a urologist with The University of Kansas Cancer Center.

## Fighting spirit

Because Holzbeierlein worked on-site, he was able to undergo surgery to harvest his bone marrow one morning and was back at work the next day.

His mother's surgery was followed by a lengthy recovery. Doctors cautioned her she would need to remain in Kansas City for 100 days — away from home, work and a deeply rooted support system.

"It was difficult," she said. "The idea of being away from home and out of my element for such a long time was overwhelming."

After a few weeks in the hospital, she stayed with her son and his wife. The doctor encouraged his mother to walk, ride the exercise bike and push her own limits during the first weeks of recovery when her energy and resolve were at their lowest.

But it was her resolve that helped her pull ahead. During treatment, she managed to work 10-20 hours each week, making calls and sending emails from her hospital bed in the first few days.

"I kept busy," she noted. "I had my phone, my laptop and even a printer. For me, this made a huge difference, to be able to do the things that were part of my daily life. It was a great distraction."

## The power of research

In July, she celebrated an important milestone — two years in remission. Ninety percent of patients who relapse do so within the first six to 12 months. Complications beyond two years are rare.

It is a milestone she credits to the power of research.

*Thanks to freelance writer Susan McCabe and The University of Kansas Cancer Center for Old North's permission to reprint a condensed version of this article, originally written for the center.*

# UCO LAUNCHES -BRONZE VOYAGE'

10-DAY ALASKAN  
CRUISE FOR UCO  
ALUMNI, FRIENDS



UCO alumni and friends on July 8 will begin the inaugural trip for the Alumni Association's new travel program, "Bronze Voyage," encouraging lifelong learning through hands-on experiences while connecting with those who share a passion for UCO.

Organized by Pilgrim Tours, trip prices start at \$3,179 per person, including airfare. Guests will fly from Oklahoma City to Vancouver, Canada, for boarding the ship.

Enjoy 10 days visiting the Tongass National Forest and the famous "Gateway of the Klondike;" the Hubbard Glacier, the longest river of ice in North America and one of the most active glaciers of its kind in Alaska; as well as stops in Skagway and Girdwood, with its Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

For more information, visit [centralconnection.org/bronzevoyage](http://centralconnection.org/bronzevoyage). To suggest future destinations, email [alumni@uco.edu](mailto:alumni@uco.edu).



Students today can celebrate the fact that when they graduate, they'll automatically become members of the UCO Alumni Association, no annual dues needed. The new plan ensures keeping contact with graduates and keeping them informed about UCO.

## Alumni Association, No More Dues!

The UCO Alumni Association has discontinued its annual dues program and now is accepting all 80,000 alumni as members of the Alumni Association at the annual level.

"The decision to move to a non-dues membership model was not taken lightly," said Anne Holzberlein, vice president for Development. "Through working with the Alumni Board and carefully analyzing our current alumni base, we felt this was the best option for the association moving forward."

Before the change, the Alumni Association was communicating with less than 5,000 paid members of the nearly 80,000 possible alumni base.

"We felt this was counterintuitive to the sense of Central family we work to establish here," said Holzberlein. "We are now able to open communication to all graduates and help instill a sense of loyalty to their alma mater. This translates to more mentorship

opportunities for our students, more attendance at alumni events and support for our athletic teams, and a sense of pride that these individuals can take into their everyday lives – which only increases the value of a UCO degree."

Members at the lifetime level will continue to experience benefits unique to their financial commitment. The association is currently reviewing these benefits and lifetime members are encouraged to provide feedback for items they would like to see considered by emailing [alumni@uco.edu](mailto:alumni@uco.edu).

In the meantime, alumni are encouraged to update their information to ensure they have access to benefits as they are added by visiting [www.centralconnection.org/updateinfo](http://www.centralconnection.org/updateinfo).

For more information on the change along with helpful FAQs, visit [www.centralconnection.org/membershipfaqs](http://www.centralconnection.org/membershipfaqs).

# ARTS WITHOUT LIMITS

Special needs adults are experiencing the joys of artistic expression through a UCO collaborative community outreach program that has students, faculty and staff happy to be involved.

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

Fifty audience members filled the back half of the ballroom last spring at Wings: A Special Needs Community, a foundation dedicated to enhancing the lives of adults with developmental disabilities.

Family members, friends, UCO faculty, staff and students all came to watch the community members — primarily diagnosed with autism and Down syndrome — present their personal art, showcase their individual designs, and perform dance and music routines as well as theater exercises.

Community members proudly stood in front of the audience and introduced paintings they had created — vibrant in colors, decorated in gems — and performed synchronized routines stylized by each individual personality, whether that included throwing in an air guitar, stomping with a little extra enthusiasm or releasing creative energy through a roar or a heartfelt fist pump. Audience members clapped and cheered for the performers and their artwork. Community members encouraged one another and displayed camaraderie developed during the last several weeks of painting together and rehearsing for their dance, music and theater performance.

This final showcase, and the several weeks of art education leading up to the main event, were a result of Arts Without Limits, a project organized and implemented by the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education (OCAE), an auxiliary of the UCO College of Fine Arts and Design.

“Wings enrolls 29 special needs adult students and provides them with classes that foster life skills and self-improvement,” said Ines Burnham, director of OCAE and originator of Arts Without Limits. “However, prior to Arts Without Limits, there were no classes available on a consistent basis that exposed Wings community members to the fine arts and design.”

According to Burnham, most, if not all, members of the Wings community were never granted the opportunity to partake in arts programs growing up in the public school system.

“At no fault of wonderful public school teachers, students with

special needs are most likely segregated into classrooms of four or five other special needs students with no option to participate in school choir or band or dance teams or other arts communities,” Burnham said.

Burnham and OCAE decided it was time to fill that void, starting a year ago with a grant written to the Oklahoma Arts Council to fund Arts Without Limits. Thanks to generous funding from the council, Burnham was able to provide the Wings community with 28 weeks of continual arts education, offering weekly, hour-long sessions that rotated within the disciplines of OCAE’s umbrella college: art, dance, design, music and theater arts.

Classes were implemented by UCO faculty and arts education students who hosted workshops teaching basic knowledge in painting, rhythm, movement, music, choreography, design and acting. “UCO faculty and students were able to be involved in civic engagement,” said Burnham.



“Central students gained experience in professional development, utilizing the educational skills they’ve learned in the UCO classroom while demonstrating leadership, organization and giving back to an underserved community through these arts classes.”

According to Burnham, those who gained the most from the program, however, were members of the Wings community.

“Arts education fosters an amazing, beneficial learning opportunity to special needs communities,” said Burnham.

Burnham pointed out some of the educational offerings and personal development the arts provides to its pupils. “Basic music knowledge incorporates math skills for understanding tempo and rhythms. Entry-level movements in dance utilize fine and gross motor skills. Plus, all five disciplines serve as an avenue of expression, emphasize the importance of teamwork and provide an environment that helps with overall communication skills for these special needs members.”

At the final showcase last spring — as participants giggled through the theater exercises, smiled behind paintings they had created, and sung and danced to Katy Perry — friends and family of the performers gleamed through the hour-long event.

“During these last months that Shay has been involved in these art classes at Wings, she’s been dancing around the house,” said Merradyth McAllister about her daughter, who has Down syndrome. “It’s built up her self-esteem, her confidence. She’s become motivated to be more expressive. We’ve seen the joy it brings her, the opportunity it’s provided her.”

“We love working with the community at Wings and look forward to continue offering Arts Without Limits,” Burnham concluded.

**(Left) OCAE Project Assistant Allyson Kubat and Wings member Holly Welte**

**(Top right) Shay McAllister  
(Bottom right) Wings member Preston Olson with OCAE Director Ines Burnham**



# Balancing The Books

By Sarah Ward  
Project Coordinator  
UCO College of Business

Katherine “Kathy” Terrell, Ed.D., and husband, Robert “Bob” Terrell, Ed.D., are legends at Central — and not just in the College of Business where Accounting graduates sing their praises. Their life story very much includes Central and their students.

Few have passed through the halls of UCO’s College of Business without knowing about the husband-wife team of Katherine and Robert Terrell, affectionately referred to as Kathy and Bob by their Accounting students.

“Listening to our alumni and local business leaders, it is pretty clear that no two UCO faculty members have ever had as much of an impact on the Oklahoma accounting profession and on the College of Business as Kathy and Bob have,” said Mickey Hepner, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business. “The impact they have made on this college, this university and this city will reverberate for decades to come.”

Their story is as good as they are.

The couple first met in high school, their first date 50 years ago this year. After graduation, Bob began attending the University of Oklahoma in 1965 and Kathy, as Bob puts it, “stalked him” the following year. They both began their collegiate careers in very different fields of study — pharmacy and medicine — but both graduated as accountants.

Bob and Kathy married in 1968, her second year of college and his third. “Life as a married college student was good, really good! Only thing that changed was we lived in the same place,” said Bob. When asked what makes them such a great couple, they both humorously responded that it’s because they can stand one another — and the fact that she has not killed him yet.

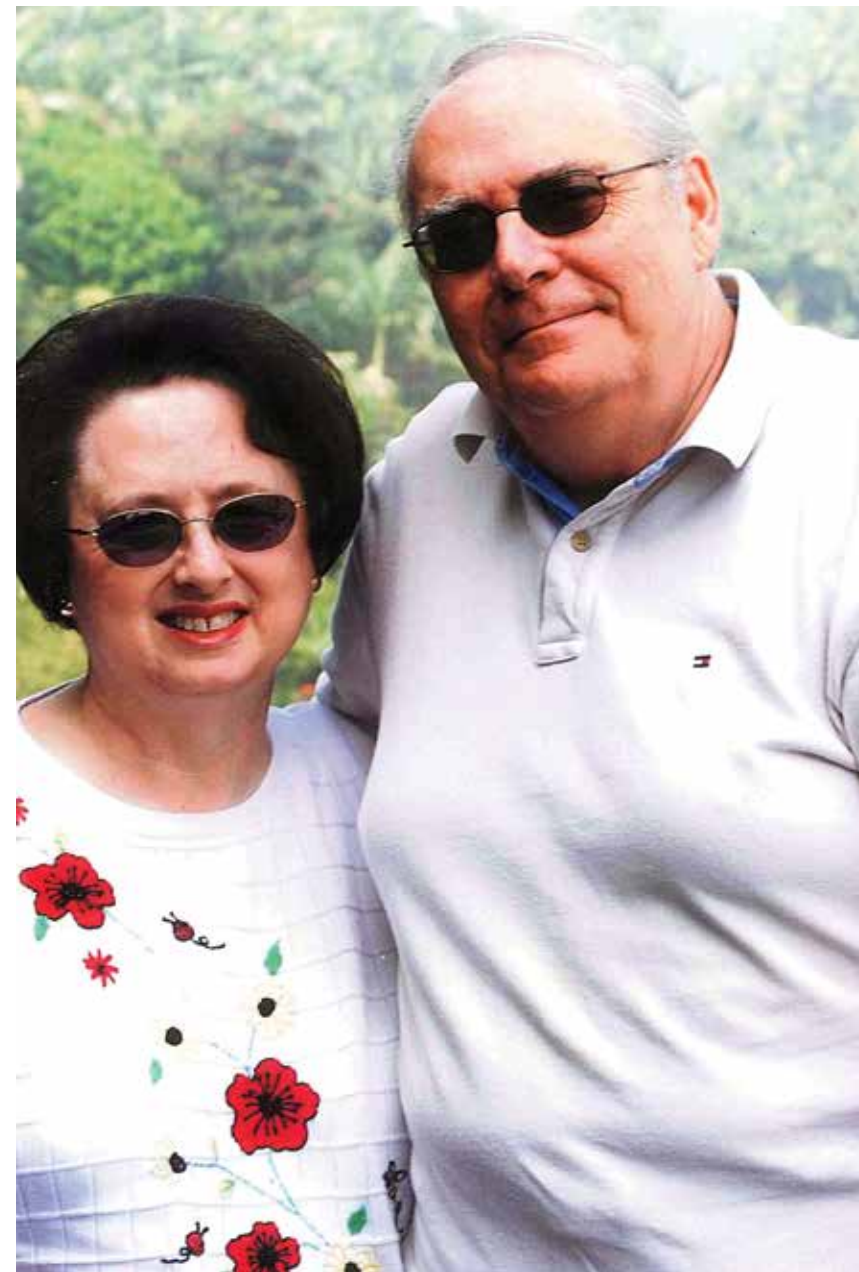
They both graduated from OU in 1969 with bachelor’s degrees in accounting. Bob received his MBA from OU in 1971, and the next year the couple started Terrell and Terrell CPAs, a successful practice for 20 years.

During graduate school, Bob developed a second love — teaching. In 1972, he began his teaching career — or as Kathy calls it, “time to put food on the table” — as an adjunct instructor at Rose State College.

After several months of working at Rose State, Kathy asked Bob if he was ever going to bring home a paycheck. Reflecting back, Bob explained, “I enjoyed what I was doing so much, I didn’t think of it as work. I never thought to go and pick it up!”

During the fall of 1974, Bob began teaching at then Central State as a full-time instructor, mastering the art of

*continued on page 30*



The Terrells shared a number of their favorite photographs showing them at different times in their married life and with their children.



juggling — juggling his practice, his teaching career and his family life.

Life for the Terrells was fantastic. They had a successful accounting practice and were building a name for themselves in the world of accounting. They welcomed their first son, Robert “Rob” Terrell III, in 1975, and their second son, Jonathon “Jon” Terrell, in 1977. Juggling, however, became a little more difficult as their family grew. Bob did not want Kathy to have to take care of both the practice and the children, so he decided to teach part time instead of full time.

In 1985, once the children were a little older, Bob returned to teaching full time, and Kathy began teaching part time in 1988, both at UCO.

It was 1986, and Robert and Kathy had won the respect of the accounting industry and their fellow colleagues. They were at the height of their game. However, during a round of medical examinations, Bob was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.). He first began to show symptoms 18 years prior, while teaching at Rose State College, but was not officially diagnosed until his symptoms had progressed.

Bob’s world began to fall apart as the doctors said he was doing too much. Bob began to hear frequently the word “can’t” — “You can’t continue like this. You can’t teach and have a practice.”

Bob recalled his mother being fond of saying, “God works in mysterious ways, and everything happens for a reason.” Bob found himself asking, “Okay, God, what’s the reason for this?”

Bob finally found the reason.

M.S. allowed him to pursue his dream of teaching. He realized that although he loved his accounting practice, he became rejuvenated while teaching at UCO. So, during the midst of this revela-

## ***“The impact they have made on this college, this university, and this city will reverberate for decades to come.”***

— Mickey Hepner, Ph.D.,  
Dean, College of Business

tion and his diagnosis, he signed up for classes at Oklahoma State University in 1988 and earned his Ed.D. in 1992. Kathy earned her MBA from UCO in 1990 and an Ed.D. from OSU in 1994.

Kathy came from a long line of teachers, but had not shown an interest in the teaching profession. Then an opportunity arose in 1988 to teach at UCO, and she discovered she, too, had a passion for it.

Her students notice. Former student Zachary Sumner wrote, “I first met Dr. Kathy a year ago in Intermediate Accounting II. I quickly viewed her as a fiercely intelligent, capable teacher, one who knew very well the intricacies of her craft. I have been very impressed with her passion for education, as well as for ethical thought and conduct in every aspect of her life.”

The Terrells sold their practice in 1991 so they could focus more on teaching and Bob’s health. Bob has taught full time in the Accounting department at UCO since 1985. Kathy has taught full time since 1990 and has been chair of the department for the past 12 years.

When Bob received the 2008 Oklahoma Professor of the Year

## ***Endowed Terrell Chair, Fundraising Underway***

The UCO College of Business wants to honor the legacy of Robert Terrell, Ed.D., by creating the Dr. Robert Terrell Endowed Chair in Accounting.

Endowed professorships represent a long-term commitment, providing support for new research and pioneer projects that offer great potential for producing breakthroughs and innovations in higher education as well as the industry. Professorships also allow the College of Business to recruit and retain premier business educators, and they establish educational strength, bringing prestige to both the college and university. The income from such a permanently invested fund can be used to support salary, benefits, research and academic travel for the recipient.

“Although we have been together in spirit for more than 50 years, I have only been teaching for 28,” said his wife Katherine “Kathy” Terrell, Ed.D. “So, I am essentially a newcomer compared to him. It is my pleasure to help achieve this endowment in his honor. After all, behind every successful man is a strong woman.”

The Dr. Robert Terrell Endowed Chair would give the college the ability to recruit top professors by providing an additional funding source.

How can you help? To fully endow the Dr. Robert Terrell Endowed Chair in Accounting, \$250,000 is needed. Generous gifts have already been received, but more help is needed to reach this goal.

Please be part of this historic effort to leave a lasting legacy for one of our greatest professors.

For more information, visit [busn.uco.edu/alumni/giving](http://busn.uco.edu/alumni/giving) or contact Elizabeth Zamorano at [ezamorano@uco.edu](mailto:ezamorano@uco.edu) or call 405-974-3776.

award, he humbly said that he shared the award with his students because they provided him with the motivation to do his very best for them every day.

Earlier, Kathy received the 2004 Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA) Outstanding Accounting Educator of the Year Award.

To this day, Bob does not allow his M.S. to control his outlook. He shows up each day with a smile on his face. He says he would never have gone back to school to get his doctorate if it had not been for his M.S. diagnosis.

Both Bob and Kathy have worked countless hours to build the Accounting department to where it is today. Their efforts are felt not only at UCO, but also in the surrounding community.

“It is no surprise to me that when I go out into the business community at large in Oklahoma and I see the wonderful accounting professionals that are leading the way in their places of work and communities, so many of them come from not only UCO, but from Dr. Kathy’s classrooms,” said Sumner.

Both Kathy and Bob plan to retire within the next few years, even though neither is emotionally ready to do so. They both hope that their long hours and hard work will leave a lasting impression. Both agreed that the students are their legacy. “We want everyone to recognize the capabilities and abilities of these students and work hard for them and with them,” Bob said.

Their students return the credit.

“Since graduating in 2007, we have made sure to keep in touch,” said former student Whitney Chaney. “Their constant love, support and encouragement are truly immeasurable. With their motivational push, I finally took the plunge this year and began my CPA journey. As soon as I passed my first section, I could not wait to share it with the both of them. I attribute so much of my success to having Dr. Kathy and Dr. Bob in my life. They are not only amazing teachers, but also incredible mentors and friends.”

## ***Students Share Great Terrell Experiences***

*If it were not for both Dr. Kathy and Dr. Bob, I am not sure I would be where I am today. She encouraged me to get involved with the Accounting Club, and I was able to make connections with people from Devon and ultimately land my dream job. I have been working my way up through Devon ever since.*

— Whitney Chaney, Lead Accountant,  
Accounts Payable, Devon Energy Corp.



*I don’t think you could find any two professors who have impacted so many students so much. Their students will remember them for many years.*

— Karen Price, Administrative Assistant,  
UCO Accounting Department



*Dr. Bob is by far the best professor I have ever had. He genuinely cares for his students and making sure they understand the accounting concepts and are fully prepared for the CPA exam. He is always willing to work with you to ensure you have your best chance at success.*

— Emily S. Anderson, J.D., CPA,  
Tax Specialist at Arledge & Associates P.C.



*Finding a job with a large public accounting firm is challenging for any student because the firms are looking at students from several universities. With the assistance and guidance of the Terrells, I was able to begin my accounting career with an international accounting firm. Networking with the Terrells was definitely a plus for me, and I highly recommend that a student take advantage of what the Terrells can do for them.*

— Joe Walker, CPA, Manager, BKD LLP



*Dr. Bob fostered a fun and interactive learning environment in his classes. He conveyed the learning materials to a level that was practical and useful.*

— Greis Harzheim, 2006 Graduate, KPMG LLP



*The Terrells are wonderful people — they are the cornerstone of UCO’s accounting program. I was fortunate to have classes taught by both Dr. Bob and Dr. Kathy. Besides being incredibly knowledgeable educators, I knew that they genuinely cared about me and my success in college and beyond. I owe them a great deal of gratitude for helping me achieve my educational and professional goals.*

— Haley Dumas, Accountant III, University of Central Oklahoma





# "I AIN'T AFRAID OF NO SPOOKLIGHT!"

## THE BOOMERS SOLVE THEMSELVES A MYSTERY

*by Allen Rice, Ph.D.  
Professor of English, UCO*

*Maybe, dear reader, you've heard of, even wondered yourself, about the mystery known as the Spooklights in far northeastern Oklahoma. One UCO professor and friends decided to solve the puzzle. The following is his humorous account of the team's brave exploits.*

A team of guys searching for mystery and adventure. A ragtag band of thrill-seekers who have gone on three expeditions to find Bigfoot, three treasure hunts to find Jesse James' lost gold, two endeavors to find space aliens in Texas and one trek to sail the slate gray waters of Loch Ness in search of Nessie. Ghostbusters, you may surmise? No, local boys: The Boomers.

Their leader is a bloated, Z movie Sean Connery stand in who tries to quip like Groucho Marx, a UCO English professor named Allen Rice. That's me. I pick the adventure, call up my team, and surprisingly, most of them show up, most of the time. We call ourselves the Boomers for no other reasons than we are all Okies and the name sounds cool.

The Boomers this expedition are me; my son-in-law, Michael "Fergie" Ferguson, an OKC

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high school drama teacher; my close friend and ex-student, Christopher Shaneyfelt, a Rose State academic adviser; and my two nephews, James Cast, a brawny Army veteran from Lawton, and Keon Canada, a UCO undergraduate. Why do these guys go out with me on these ridiculous quests? Are they crazy? Only if they come up empty-handed. This time, we actually solved the mystery!

### What Experts Say

The Joplin Spooklight has been a phenomenon since at least the late 1800's. It appears as a glowing orb the size of a basketball floating down a farm road known as "Spooklight Road" or "The Devil's Promenade." By day, the road is known simply as E-50, and it runs from the Missouri border westward into Oklahoma for about 3 miles. Some nights, dozens of people crowd the grass shoulders of the road hoping to catch a glimpse of the phantom. Sometimes it glows like a kerosene lantern. Other times it beams out like a flashlight. In color it is white, yellow or red, depending upon its mood. Sometimes it is one light, or two, or four or a combination. Sometimes the lights break off and seem to go different directions. It is often elusive. Some nights, you won't see it at all, even if you are up till dawn. Other nights, it appears, disappears and re-appears randomly. That's what makes it interesting. That's what makes it a mystery.

What is it? Dozens of scientists, journalists and paranormal researchers have conducted formal investigations, most famously the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which concluded the phenomenon is real, but of an unknown origin. Everyone has a different answer. Ghosts, mainly. A Native American Romeo and Juliet who died with their love unrequited and who wander restlessly in the afterlife. Or a beheaded Medicine Man carrying the glowing orb of his head. Or a prospector carrying the glowing orb of his lantern looking for his missing family. Others say the light is a mystical door to another dimension. Still others seek the answers in science: it is swamp gas, mineral deposits, will-o'-the-wisps, ball lightning, tectonic strain or high levels of radiation energizing gasses. The Boomers are mostly liberal arts nerds, so we had no idea what any of those things are; the best we could do was bring a third-rate metal detector which we had no idea how to use.

The previous researchers came prepared. They brought television cameras, audio recording equipment, light magnetometers, night-vision cameras, negative ion detectors and even Geiger counters, all to no avail. The Boomers brought three video cameras



(all of which failed at various times), cell phones, binoculars and flashlights. Mainly, we invested our money in snacks. Lots of snacks.

We are all good scholars, and normally I do serious research before undertaking a quest. But this time, I did virtually no research at all. This is because I suspected whatever caused the light had stopped doing its thing years ago. So the Boomers went into this quest spectacularly ignorant and underprepared, horribly unqualified to be the group that finally solved the mystery.

We began our investigation on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014. That night we saw many things we thought might be the Spooklight, but after a few seconds of investigation, we determined them all to be ordinary. A distant barn light being turned on, then off; an airplane light in the muggy sky; and even a few dozen fireflies passing from right to left or left to right across the road in front of us. Most spectacularly, we saw a meteor streak toward us and fall like an orange and blue and purple Roman candle. No Spooklight.

### Then It Happened

About an hour later, a lantern glowed a ghostly aura on the crest of the hill in the middle of the road directly in front of us! We stared at it in shock as it moved toward us while somehow standing still. Is this really the Spooklight? Is this really happening? But IT had to be! The Spooklight always appeared down and to the left of a distant cell, and that was exactly where this phantom aura appeared. We couldn't believe our luck! We stared in amazement and curiosity at the thing. It was as breathtaking as advertised. We shouted to each other, took pictures and video footage, and wondered how long it would last. Then it was gone.

We saw the light three more times that exhausting, timeless night and stumbled into our Joplin hotel beds at 4:30 a.m. still puzzling over what it all meant. In the late morning, we dragged ourselves out of bed and began theorizing like crazy. But theories wouldn't solve this mystery. Everyone had theories, and no one had solved it before. We needed some kind of lead, some kind of evidence, some new approach that had evaded all those smart, scientific minds with all those fancy calibrated instruments.

That Saturday night, Sept. 20, we went back to Spooklight Road, binoculars in hand and looked for new clues. To our great surprise, we found something! We jumped in the van (dubbed "The Scooby Doo Mystery Machine" for the weekend) and drove like the Oklahoma wind, moving our investigation to a new

locale. Maybe, just maybe, we were right! We now had a working theory of what the Spooklight really was and how to prove it. But we needed one more night. We were out of time! We went home exhilarated, frustrated and more than just a little curious if we really had solved this inscrutable mystery.

Weeks passed. Life happened. Getting everyone's schedule coordinated was like herding greasy cats. We began to doubt our theory. How could we really have solved the mystery in 24 hours when some previous investigators had failed after spending weeks conducting their investigations? Finally, nearly three months later, we hit the road on Dec. 13, 2014. We had one shot at this! We took two cars and got into position. It was showtime!

As if on cue, the Spooklight appeared beam-bright like a single flashlight! I began filming. I zoomed in on maximum magnification and hoped the steering wheel I rested the camera upon would be steady enough to keep the light image inside the picture screen. (We weren't smart enough to bring a tripod.)

"I wish that light were brighter," I commented. Miraculously, the Spooklight brightened. "I wish it were dimmer," I countered. Obediently, the Spooklight toned itself down. "Brighter," I commanded. "Dimmer!" The Spooklight obeyed me again and again. "You know what would be great, if that light would change color!" The Spooklight glowed red. I willed it to be white again, and the light meekly complied. The Boomers were dominating the Spooklight! Controlling it!

### The Big Reveal

How? We had sleuthed out the source of the Spooklight and the exact location of that source. Here is the big reveal, the solution to this inscrutable mystery: The Spooklight is nothing more than car headlights and car taillights!

We got our clue on that Saturday night back in September. While looking through binoculars at the Spooklight, I thought I saw in the foreground the slightest hint of yellowish tinted flashing at regular intervals. Did I really see it? If true, then it had to be something man-made marking the vicinity where the Spooklight originated. After some Three Stooges quality brainstorming and some Keystone Cops quality driving, we found what we were looking for. As it turned out, Spooklight Road came to an abrupt end facing a vast forest. Four miles on the other side of that forest, E-50 began again at the bottom of a long,



gradual slope which rose a couple of miles further west, becoming Highway 69. There, looming over the road, was a horizontal metal bar from which flashed two yellow lights warning drivers of a nearby train overpass. If these were the lights I saw from Spooklight Road, then theoretically somewhere around here we could flash some sort of light and it should be able to be seen from the Devil's Promenade. In theory. We had returned home with a mixture of hope and doubt.

Now it was December, and we had just proven our theory correct! Fergie had parked his car at a certain spot and had dimmed and brightened his headlights upon my command over the cell phone. James and Keon had used red filters to cover the headlights when I had wanted the Spooklight to change color. The mysterious Spooklight was merely headlights and taillights from cars and trucks driving eastward down the long three mile ramp of road that begins as Highway 69 and eventually becomes E-50 as it nears Quapaw.

### We Solved It?

How had we solved the mystery when everyone else had failed? If we had done our research, we would have realized that of the dozens of theorizers, seven previous individuals or groups had speculated that the source of the Spooklight might be headlights. But four of these researchers had stopped at mere speculation without trying to prove their theory. The remaining three (Charles W. Graham in 1946, Bob Loftin in 1955 and Robert Gannon in 1965) claimed to have proven the headlight theory by doing exactly what we did, flashing car headlights and viewing them from Spooklight Road. But these three researchers never filmed their car headlights flashing to prove their point, and maddeningly, they never even pinpointed exactly where their car had been located when its headlights were flashing! In each case, these three researchers referred vaguely to Route 66. This is a problem because Route 66 used to go west from current Highway 69 eastward to current E-50, and then it turned due north at Highway 137, which veers around Quapaw. We know that flashing car headlights cannot be seen on parts of E-50 on the west side of the forest, nor can they be seen by cars traveling northward or southward on Highway 137. If any of these three researchers had simply specified a location and filmed their flashing headlight experiment, the mystery would have been solved long ago.

The Boomers, in our ignorance, clumsily re-invented the wheel already long designed by these

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previous researchers, but at least we put a push-pin designating the exact location of our flashing headlights: just a few yards east of the intersection of E-50 and Highway 137. And we proved our theory by putting it all on film for the entire YouTube community to see.

The Boomers' resolution to the Spooklight Mystery answers a number of questions. Why is the Spooklight white, yellow or red in color? Because that is the color of halogen lights, headlights and taillights. Why is the Spooklight seen as one light or through binoculars as sometimes two or four lights? Because at a distance of 5-9 miles away, the human eye sees two or four headlights as one light, and through binoculars, you can make out two or four distinct headlights.

On a particular night, why can you sometimes see the Spooklight and sometimes you can't? Because car headlights from the Highway 69/E-50 ramp line up perfectly at exactly the same height as the top of three hills on Spooklight Road. You can see the Spooklight from the top of these hills, but you can never see the phenomenon from the bottom of a hill because the hill or forest in front of you blocks the distant headlights. So if you park at the bottom of a hill, you have "bad luck" that particular night, but if you park at the top of a hill, you have "good luck," like the Boomers did that humid September night.

When you pursue the Spooklight, why does it always disappear? Because driving your car forward causes you to dip down into a valley, so the hill or forest in front of you blocks your view of the distant beam of light.

#### Wait Just a Minute!

What about before there were modern lights? Wasn't the Spooklight viewed by people as far back as the 1800s? Well, we don't know for sure. The first reporter interviewed people about the Spooklight in 1936; many claimed that they had seen the lights up to fifty years before, or perhaps they knew someone who had seen them decades earlier. But this is really venturing into the area of folklore and oral tradition. Maybe no one actually saw the glowing orb before the era of modern lights, and they were adding to the growing myth in their own way. Or maybe they really did see the Spooklight way back then. Perhaps the unique topography of those hills lining up perfectly created the same optical illusion in the 19th Century as it does today; maybe a kerosene lantern, a campfire or a bonfire could be seen from the Devil's Promenade area just like a car headlight can be seen today.



One final question: why do some people seem to experience the Spooklight moving left or right or up and down? The Boomers speculate that since Spooklight Road is miles away from light pollution, and its nights are particularly black, any light source might be confused with the Spooklight. Imagine you are pursuing the Spooklight, and it disappears. Suddenly, a light flashes from left to right in front of you. The Spooklight? No, it is merely a firefly or some other mundane phenomenon like the ones the Boomers experienced. The glowing orb disappears and then rises into the sky. The Spooklight? No, an airplane light. It would be easy to mentally connect the two different sources and types of lights in the intensity and eeriness of the moment.

#### The Real Irony

It is a grave injustice that of all the well-prepared, well-equipped and intellectually brilliant researchers who have tried to solve the mystery of the Spooklight that the poorly prepared, pathetically equipped and somewhat dull Boomers should be the ones to solve it. But solve it we did, and we have the video footage to prove it. You can see our little documentary (crafted by our own Christopher Shaneyfelt) on how we solved the mystery.

We don't take ourselves too seriously in the movie, but we think somewhere if he has seen it, Scooby Doo would be proud.

To view the Boomers' video, go to YouTube and search under the heading "Spooklight Mystery Solved."



*Allen Rice, Ph.D., is a professor of English who has taught for 24 years at UCO, where more than one student says he's amusing as well as informative.*



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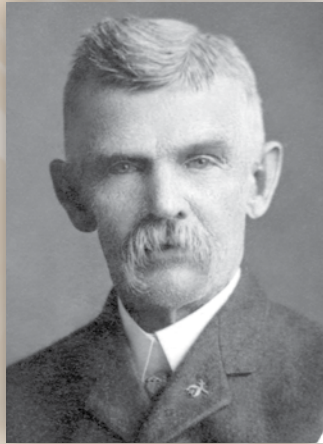
# Luminary Society, Honoring Central Legends

lu·mi·nar·y  
'lōomə,nerē/

*noun*

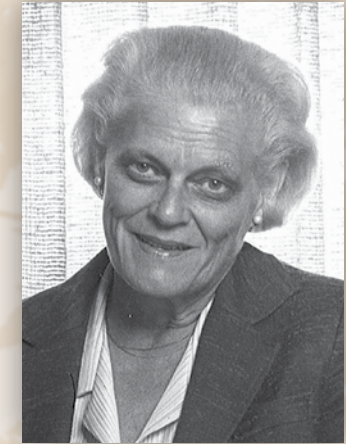
1. A person who inspires or influences others, especially one prominent in a particular sphere.

Synonyms: leading light, guiding light, inspiration, role model, hero, heroine, leader, expert, master



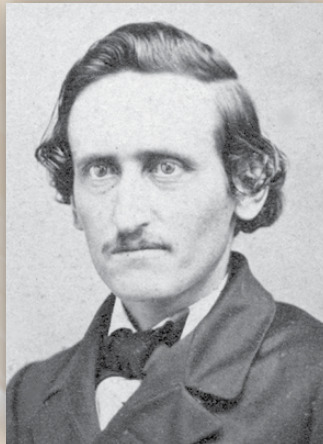
**Richard Thatcher, 1890**

Central's first principal, the man who led the first classes and started construction on Oklahoma's public building for higher education, Old North.



**Marilyn Harris Springer, 1970**

Central artist in residence who helped many students write and publish novels in the 1970s



**Milton Reynolds, 1890**

Editor of the *Edmond Sun*, who advocated for Edmond to be the site of the Oklahoma Territory's normal school.

As Central celebrates its 125th anniversary, the university introduces the Luminary Society, an organization to recognize those who have brought distinction or positively influenced the life of UCO through their service and/or contributions.

Nominations have been taken throughout the year for the inaugural group of 125 honorees. The final list of honorees — including those pictured here — will be announced and honored at a special induction ceremony on Oct. 22.

Invitations have been sent to family members of each of the 125. Remaining tickets, while limited, will be open to the public on a first-come basis. RSVPs are being taken at [centralconnection.org/UCO125Gala](http://centralconnection.org/UCO125Gala).

The celebration will continue with the UCO@125 Gala, starting at 6 p.m. Oct. 22 with cocktails on the terrace of the Nigh University Center, followed by a dinner and entertainment in the ballrooms.



**Joe C. Jackson, 1960**

History professor and first dean of the college. Instrumental in the creation of Central's graduate college, now named in his honor.



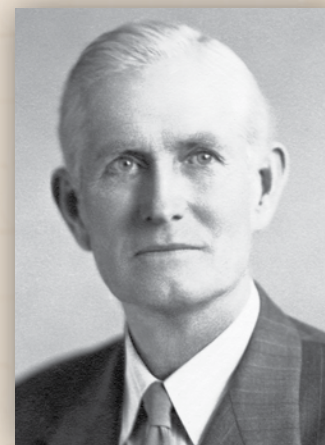
**Lucy Jeston Hampton, 1910**

Central History professor 1910-58. She created the Central Museum and the Laboratory of History. Her handwriting is on the back of many archived photos and artifacts.



**Emma Estill Harbour, 1912**

Professor of History, 1912-52. Sponsor of the Shakespeare Club and the Bronze Book, coordinator of the Indian Club, and organizer of the Triumvirate Club for women debaters.



**F.C. Oakes, 1920**

English professor and adviser of *The Vista*. Author of the "The Story of Central State College."



**Emma Plunkett, 1920**

Professor of Physical Education. Director of Women's Physical Recreation and leader of the Women's Athletic Association.



**Charles Wantland, 1920**

Director of Athletics, first dean of men. Championed the idea of developing character in students. Established a program of eight sports, introducing wrestling. Created the Lettermen's Club.



**Jessie Newby Ray, 1940**

Latin professor, YWCA sponsor. Leader of the fundraising effort to build the Y Chapel.



**Elizabeth Hilton-Threat, 1950**

One of first six African-Americans to enroll in Central. Received her Master of Teaching degree from Central in 1959. She taught high school for 44 years. Luther's public library is named in her honor.

## ALUMNI NOTES

## 1960s

**Tom Pool** (BAEd '62) was named the Progressive Citizen of the Year by the *Claremore Daily Progress*. An educator, he served as the mayor of Claremore and for a brief time, as interim city manager. Retired, he is an active community volunteer, including serving as chair of the Claremore Museum of History. **Jerry Steward**, J.D., (BAEd '67) has been named president of Oklahoma

**Virginia Peters, Ph.D.**

With her usual humor and good nature, Central's Virginia Peters recently shared her 80th birthday with the country's 284th — a great way to keep age in perspective. Peters (BS '57) was a standout Central athlete who joined the faculty in 1958, retiring in 1992 after teaching and coaching for 34 years. The Virginia Peters Endowed Scholarship was established in 2013 in her honor.

City Community College (OCCC). He has worked in a number of administrative roles at OCCC for the past 20 years, most recently as executive vice president. **Mike Mims** (BSEd '69, DA '86) recently retired from Tulsa Public Schools as Booker T. Washington High School's assistant principal, where he oversaw athletics, facilities and discipline. His career included being the head basketball coach at Booker T. Washington, where he coached the team to three state titles. He was an assistant coach for the University of Oklahoma, where *Sports Illustrated* in 1988 named him college basketball's assistant of the year. Also, he was the learning director at Gilcrease Middle School, and, in 2009, he returned to Booker T. Washington to oversee athletics.

## 1970s

**David A. Poarch Jr.**, J.D., (BA '73) is serving as the 2015 president of the Oklahoma Bar Association's Board of Governors. He currently practices with the firm of Bailey and Poarch in Norman. He previously served as the assistant dean for external affairs at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, retiring in 2011. **Steve Murdock**, J.D., (BA '79) was named the 2014 Citizens Bank of Edmond's Citizen of the Year. He has served as Edmond's city attorney since 1987. He is president of the Oklahoma Association of Municipal Attorneys.

## 1980s

Former student, the Rev. **M Price Oswalt**, was installed March 22 as the 13th pastor of St. Joseph's Old Cathedral in downtown Oklahoma City. It is the oldest Catholic church in Oklahoma City and is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. **Randy Page** (BSEd '86) has made the ballot for the College Football Hall of Fame's class of 2016 selection process. The 2016 class will be announced in January. He led Central

**Milt Heflin**

Alumnus Milt Heflin (BS '66) has coauthored with Houston journalist Rick Houston a new book available Dec. 1. *Go, Flight!* is described as a "real-world reminder of where we have been and where we could go again given the right political and social climate." The book draws from Heflin's more than 40-year career with NASA as an engineer and flight director, bringing to life the incredible work done in NASA's legendary third-floor control room.

to a NAIA national championship in 1982 and was named a first-team All-American in 1983. He was inducted into UCO's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. **Keith Kersten** (BBA '87, MBA '97) has been promoted to executive vice president of Arvest Bank. He offices at the bank's west Edmond Road location. He has been with Arvest Bank for more than 15 years and is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City, Class 30. **Traci D. Cook** (BS '88) has been named chief accounting officer for American Energy

Partners. A certified public accountant, she previously worked for Chesapeake Energy Corp. for 19 years, most recently as vice president and division controller — financial analysis and reporting.

## 1990s

**Mike Collison** (BS '91) has joined the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Board of Trustees. He has been vice president and chief financial officer of The Oklahoma Publishing Co. since 2002. **Craig Ricks** (BM '92), a New York-based playwright, actor and director, had his play, *WONDERFUL – A NEW PLAY*, co-written with John Olson, presented with an invitation-only reading on Feb. 26. The cast featured two-time Tony Award winner Judith Light. A member of Dramatists Guild of America, he works regularly as dramaturge for a number of New York- and Chicago-based playwrights. **Amber Price** (BA '99) has joined RealTime HR as vice president of consulting services. She received her MBA from Oklahoma Christian University.

## 2000s



receiving her degree, and wearing a feather

*Beth Buesing* (BBA '01, MEd '06) writes *Alumni Notes and In Memory*. She is business manager of 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](mailto:alumni@uco.edu) with "Alumni Note" in the subject line.

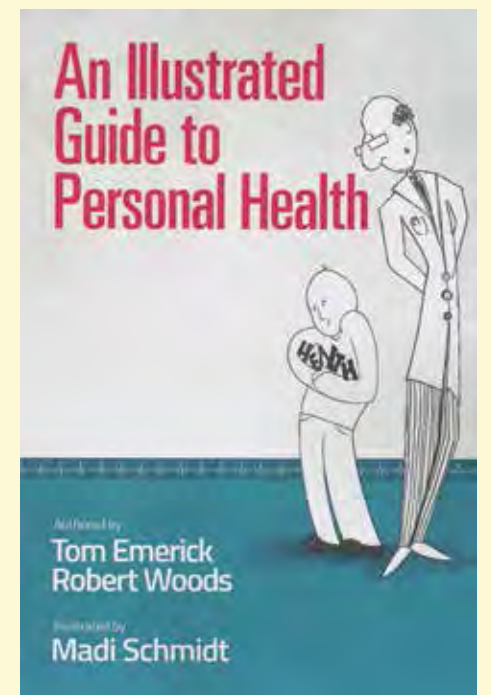
**Kelly Wietelman** (BA '01, BA '08) recently received a master's degree in museum history from the University of Oklahoma. She is pictured, left,

symbolizing her Choctaw heritage. She works for the State of Oklahoma Department of Mental Health. **Geoff Johnson** (BBA '04) has been named vice president and trust officer of the BancFirst Trust and Investment Management staff. He has more than 12 years of financial services experience and is a certified trust and financial adviser. **Laamy Tjadjera**, M.D., (BS '04) has joined Affiliated Community Medical Center in Willmar, Minnesota, as an OB/GYN. She received her doctorate of medicine degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis. **Patrick L. Green** (MBA '06) has been named to the 2015 board of directors for Donor Alliance, the federally designated, non-profit organ procurement organization for the American Association of Tissue Banks, an accredited tissue bank serving Colorado and Wyoming. He is the chief operating officer of St. Anthony Hospital in Lakewood, Colorado, and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. **Megan Spradlin**, APRN-CNP, (BS '09) is an advanced practice registered nurse at Mercy Clinic Primary Care — Edmond Memorial. She received a doctorate of nursing practice, with an emphasis on family medicine, from Oklahoma City University in 2014.

## 2010s

**Jamila Crawford** (MED '11) has been named principal of Edmond's Cross Timbers Elementary School. She previously served as the assistant principal. She also taught first grade for 10 years at Charles Haskell and Ida Freeman elementary schools. **Ian Naylor** (BA '12) has joined the patrol division of the Ardmore Police Department. He previously worked for the Eufaula Police Department. **Daryn Buholt** (BBA '13), a PGA-certified golf pro, has been named golf pro at Schifferdecker Golf Course in Joplin, Missouri. He has worked in the golf industry for 10 years, most

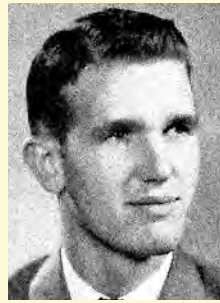
recently as assistant golf pro at Edmond's Kickingbird Golf Club. **Billy Elles** (BFAEd '13) was named Muldrow School District's teacher of the year in January. He is the speech and debate coach for the high school and also heads the school newspaper and yearbook. **Jim Trosper** (BA '14) had his photographs featured in two art shows in Oklahoma City and Tulsa in February. **Scott Martin** (BA '15) has joined the news team at KSWO in Lawton/Wichita Falls. He worked as a reporter and anchor for UCentral News while at UCO.

**Tom Emerick**

Alumnus Tom Emerick (BBA '74, MBA '75, DA '00) has coauthored a new book that teaches "how to manage your own health rather than depend on doctors and medicine." The guide provides 40 common-sense practices — including "Give Your Fork a Rest" and "Let Kids Play in the Dirt" — to improve resilience, reduce stress, and ensure a healthier and happier life. The book is available on Amazon.com.

## IN MEMORY

## 1950s



**Charles Emory Compton Jr.** (BAEd '50, DA '78) died June 3, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952-54. He taught math and physics in Andrews,

Texas, for 10 years, and he was a traveling science teacher with the National Science Foundation for one year. For 37 years, he worked for several major publishing companies in textbook sales, as a division manager and as a vice president. **Alice Rose Clark** (BSEd '57) died Jan. 14, 2015. She taught for Edmond Public Schools' Russell Dougherty Elementary for 22 years and Will Rogers Elementary for three years. After retirement, she worked in the jewelry department at Wal-Mart. She served on the Oklahoma Election Board from 1988-2002 and was a member of Edmond's First Church of the Nazarene for more than 80 years. **Wesley**



**L. Holley** (BS '57) died April 4, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy. He worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories and retired from

the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Arlington, Texas. He was a diplomat of the American Academy of Health Physics and was certified by the American Board of Health Physics as a health physicist. **Billy Joe Siler, D.Ed.**, (BS '56) died Feb. 15, 2015. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1951-53. An educator, he began working for the State Department of Education in 1966 and was the administrator of teacher

certification for many years. He also worked for Teacher Accreditation and North Central School Accreditation. He retired in 1997.

**Laurel Anne Van Horn Jaworsky, Ph.D.**, (BAEd '58) died March 14, 2015. She was a licensed clinical psychologist. In 1995, she co-founded Community Pathways Unlimited, a private mental health agency. She was a member of the Oklahoma Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association and the Oklahoma Society of Psychoanalytic Studies. **Charles Berton "Bert" Wheeler** (BS '58) died Jan. 26, 2015. He worked more than 34 years at Tinker Air Force Base, retiring in 1993 at the executive level in their financial management organization. After retirement, he helped open a branch office of Karta Technologies in Midwest City, serving 10 years. **Charles Witty** (BS '58, MEd '61) died March 9, 2015, of cancer. Active in his community, he was a teacher and coach. He spent most of his career at Stroud High School. He is survived by his wife of 57 ½ years, Sylvia Johnson Witty (BS '61).

## 1960s



**Leigh Myrtle Ellis** (BAEd '62) died May 13, 2015. While at Central, she served as a staff writer and editor of the school newspaper, *The Vista*. An Edmond resident

for more than 55 years, she was a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, the Edmond Iris and Garden Society, the Oklahoma Iris Society and the American Iris Society. **Dennis Ray Mask Sr.**, M.D., (BS '64) died May 17, 2015, after fighting Parkinson's disease for 16 years. He practiced medicine in the field of nephrology in Oklahoma City, retiring in 1998. He also taught at the University of Oklahoma as an

assistant professor of medicine and served on the board of the Oklahoma County Medical Society.

## 1970s



**Donovan LeRoy Gant** (BBA '72) died Feb. 18, 2015. He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the National Guard, serving in the 179th

Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division. His career included working as a computer programmer at Standard Life Insurance, a systems analyst for Sperry-Univac and in data processing management for MetFirst and MetLife, retiring in 2002. **James Chakah Roberts Jr.** (BBA '73) died May 22, 2015. He was a member of both the Osage and Pawnee Tribes. **Rex Scott Tomlinson** (BA '74) died Feb. 12, 2015. An educator, his 35-year career was at Broken Bow High School and Edmond Memorial High School. **James Franklin Woods Sr.** (BS '74) died May 29, 2015. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He spent the majority of his career in the food and restaurant business. **Dorothea Lorraine Lindahl Lewis** (MEd '76) died Feb. 7, 2015. An educator for 50 years, she began her teaching career in 1955 as a first grade teacher in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She later was coordinator of early childhood for Putnam City Schools, where she was honored with the Golden Apple Teacher Award. **David Clark Monk** (MBA '77) died Feb. 5, 2015. He began working for the City of Oklahoma City in 1992 and most recently worked for the Oklahoma City Fire Department in the administration office. **Allen Wayne O'Dell** (BS '77) died March 11, 2015, of cancer. He served 34 years in the military and retired from the U.S. Army in 2003. His awards and decorations include The Legion of Merit

Award, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Joint Service Commendation Medal. **Elizabeth Anne "Sissy" Williams, M.D.**, (BS '77) died June 7, 2015. She received her nursing degree from Central and worked in the neo-natal intensive care unit at Integris Baptist Hospital. She received her medical degree in 1988 and upon completion of her residency, joined Northwest Anesthesiology, retiring in 2007. **Lois Ann Jeffries** (MEd '79) died May 15, 2015. She taught math at Taft and Hefner junior high schools in Oklahoma City, retiring in 1996.

## 1980s

**Donald Kevin Funnell, J.D.**, (BBA '80) died April 28, 2015. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma and was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar in 1984. He was a partner with the law firm of Lytle Soule & Curlee. **Gary Don Curtis** (BA '82) died March 29, 2015. He served in the Marine Corps. He worked for the Oklahoma City Fire Department for 29 years and achieved the rank of fire marshal. He retired in 1995. **Billy Ray Bateman Jr.** (BA '86) died March 27, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army for five years. He received his journalism degree from Central.

## 1990s

**Kimberly Michelle Wolfe Kerr** (BS '97) died June 6, 2015. She spent most of her time raising a family and volunteering.

## 2000s

**Stephanie Joan Eggeling** (BA '00) died April 29, 2015. She received her degree in Journalism from Central and her career included public relations, pharmaceutical sales and cake decorating. **Clifton "Lee" Wayne Ruth** (BS '02) died March 23, 2015. He worked for the OU Health Sciences Center as a microbiologist for 13 years. **Sharon Ann (Parsons) Bean** (BS '04) died March

23, 2015. She worked in the healthcare field and in sales. She retired from Dillard's in 2012, where she worked in the children's department. **Stephen "Steve" Ned Vandemeer** (BS '04) died Feb. 14, 2015. He retired from the Oklahoma County tax assessor's office after 36 years. **Cary Scott Peck** (BBA '05) died Jan. 15, 2015. He was an artist and photographer, and worked in the marketing industry. **Justin Evan Waganer** (BA '05) died March 10, 2015, of cancer. He earned his English degree from Central. **Apryl Maureen Kastens** (BA '07) died June 21, 2015. The majority of her professional career was in sales.

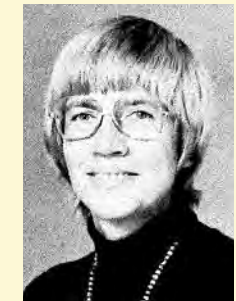
## 2010s

**Paula Jeane Buffington Young** (BA '10) died Feb. 11, 2015, of cancer. A self-taught graphic artist, she started her own company, Cactus Graphics. She later closed her business, began a new job with Convergys, and went back to school, earning her degree in Psychology from Central. She was in her second year of graduate school, working on her master's degree in Psychology, when her cancer returned.

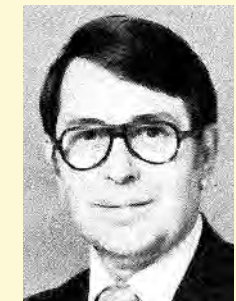
## Faculty/Staff

**Gratia Lee Bowen** (BS '45) died June 9, 2015. She began working at Central in 1961 in admissions and records. Later, she worked in the special education department, retiring in 1984. **Dale Michael Hellwege, Ph.D.**, died May 30, 2015. He served Central as a professor of Chemistry

for more than 40 years, retiring in 2009.



**Muriel Herbrand** (BSEd '55) died June 13, 2015. She taught at UCO from 1957-86, retiring as associate professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education. **Whit Marks, Ph.D.**, (BS '49) died June 18, 2015. He was a professor emeritus in the Department of Engineering and Physics. He taught



at UCO from 1955-88. **Jack Reid, Ph.D.**, died April 29, 2015. He was a professor of Political Science from 1972-91. **Ethel-Jean Stacy** died May 4, 2015. She was an administration secretary for admissions and records from 1988-97. Former coach and



athletic director **John "Skip" Wagnon** (BSEd '70) died June 24, 2015. He retired from UCO in 2003 after more than 30 years with the university, including 17 as athletic director. Services for **Darwin Waterman, Ed.D.**, were July 29, 2015. He taught at Central for 28 years, retiring in 2000.

## Old North Staff

**UCO President** Don Betz  
**Vice President for Development**  
 Anne Holzberlein (BS '78, MS '88)  
**Editor** Gypsy Hogan (BA '74)  
**Art Director** Craig Beuchaw (BA '92)  
**Photographic Services** Daniel Smith  
 (BA '77, MEd '93)  
**Alumni Records** Wendy Lackmeyer

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# From Our Readers...

Nothing is better than getting feedback — the good and the bad — because it lets us know that readers care. So, please, kind reader, send us your thoughts, by mail or email. Thanks!

Gypsy Hogan (BA '74)  
Editor, *Old North* magazine  
ghogan@uco.edu  
University of Central Oklahoma  
100 North University Drive,  
Edmond, OK 73034

This magazine is ALWAYS of the highest quality, both content and looks. Thanks for the extra copies and the electronic version. I passed that on to Eric Berger of the *Houston Chronicle*.

— From alumnus Milt Heftin (BS '66),  
retired NASA engineer and flight director,  
and a loyal reader and sometime *Old North*  
contributor from Houston, Texas

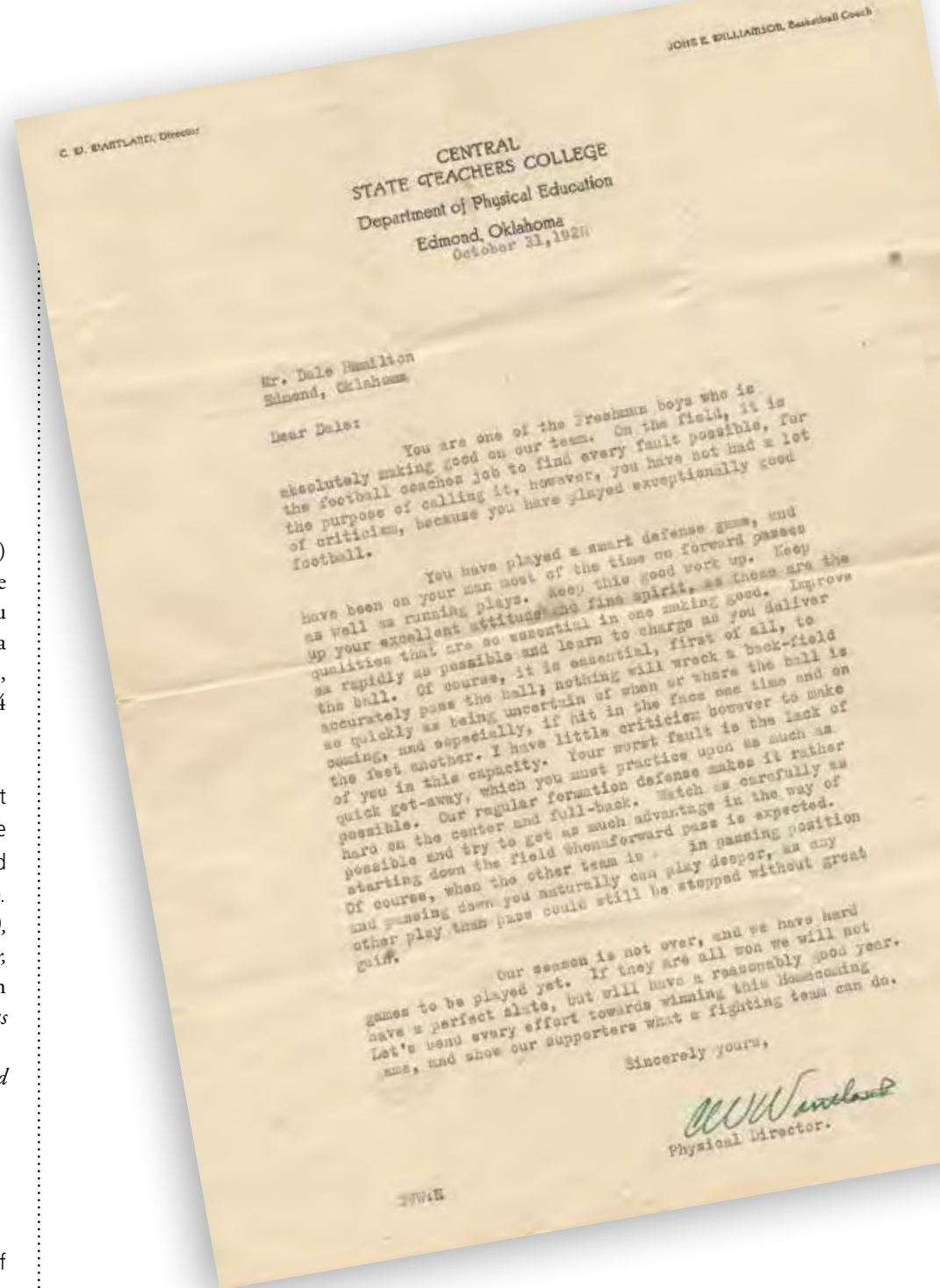
**Editor's Note:** We most regret a misspelled word in our recent article on Richard Thatcher, Central's first principal, but we incorrectly used the word's homonym, principle. Readers let us know! We now shall never forget the old adage: A principal is a pal.

Good Morning! I noticed the misspelling of "Principle" in the article in my *Old North* magazine, and I don't believe it was spelled that way in 1891.

— From Mike Muns (BBA '67), a financial consultant in San Antonio

I was aghast when I turned the pages of your spring magazine, *Old North*, to see the Richard Thatcher article on Page 18. ... What an egregious — and embarrassing — error for an educational publication!

— From Anita G. Barrett, Ph.D., (BSEd '54)  
of Fort Worth, Texas



## Speaking of great letters...

Larry Reed of Norman, grandson of Central legend Dale Hamilton, recently found the above letter in a box of family papers.

Typed on Central State Teachers College letterhead and dated Oct. 31, 1928, the letter was written by another Central legend, C. W. Wantland. (Think Hamilton Field House, Wantland Hall and Wantland Stadium!)

The letter made Reed think about how times have changed. He recalled that his grandfather was a big guy for his time — 6-foot-4 and weighing 220 pounds. In high school, his nickname was "Big Ham." Players in Hamilton's time also played both offense and defense, with Wantland's letter giving Hamilton advice on both. Even getting a typed letter from an athletics director to a player might be hard to come by in today's world — maybe an email?

For Reed, finding the letter from one Central great to another was rich. Copies have been sent to happy family members — including the UCO family!



THE BIG EVENT — UCO students will engage in the 14th annual Big Event on April 2. Last year, more than 700 students volunteered for a day of community service as a way to say thank you to their surrounding community. They painted, cleaned, put together care packages, visited the homebound and elderly, and planted shrubs and flowers as a way of showing their gratitude and sense of public service. Applications for 2016 volunteer sites will be available beginning in January. Visit the UCO website ([uco.edu/bigevent](http://uco.edu/bigevent)) to find more information or call the UCO Volunteer Service Learning Center at 405-974-2621.





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